



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# National Standard 1 Guidelines Final Rule

## Implications for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division

Advisory Panel Meeting

May 2017



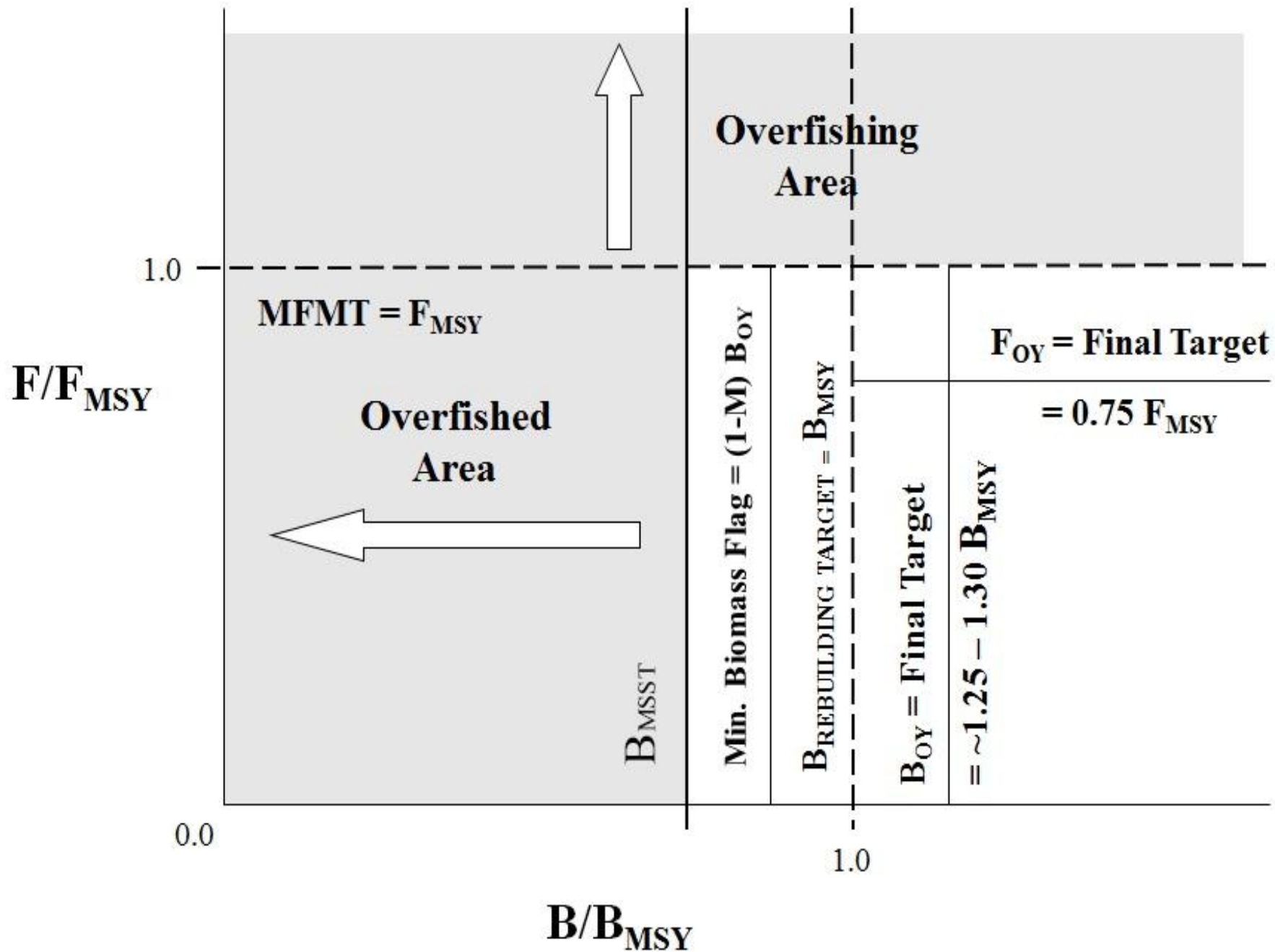
**NOAA FISHERIES**

# History of HMS Thresholds

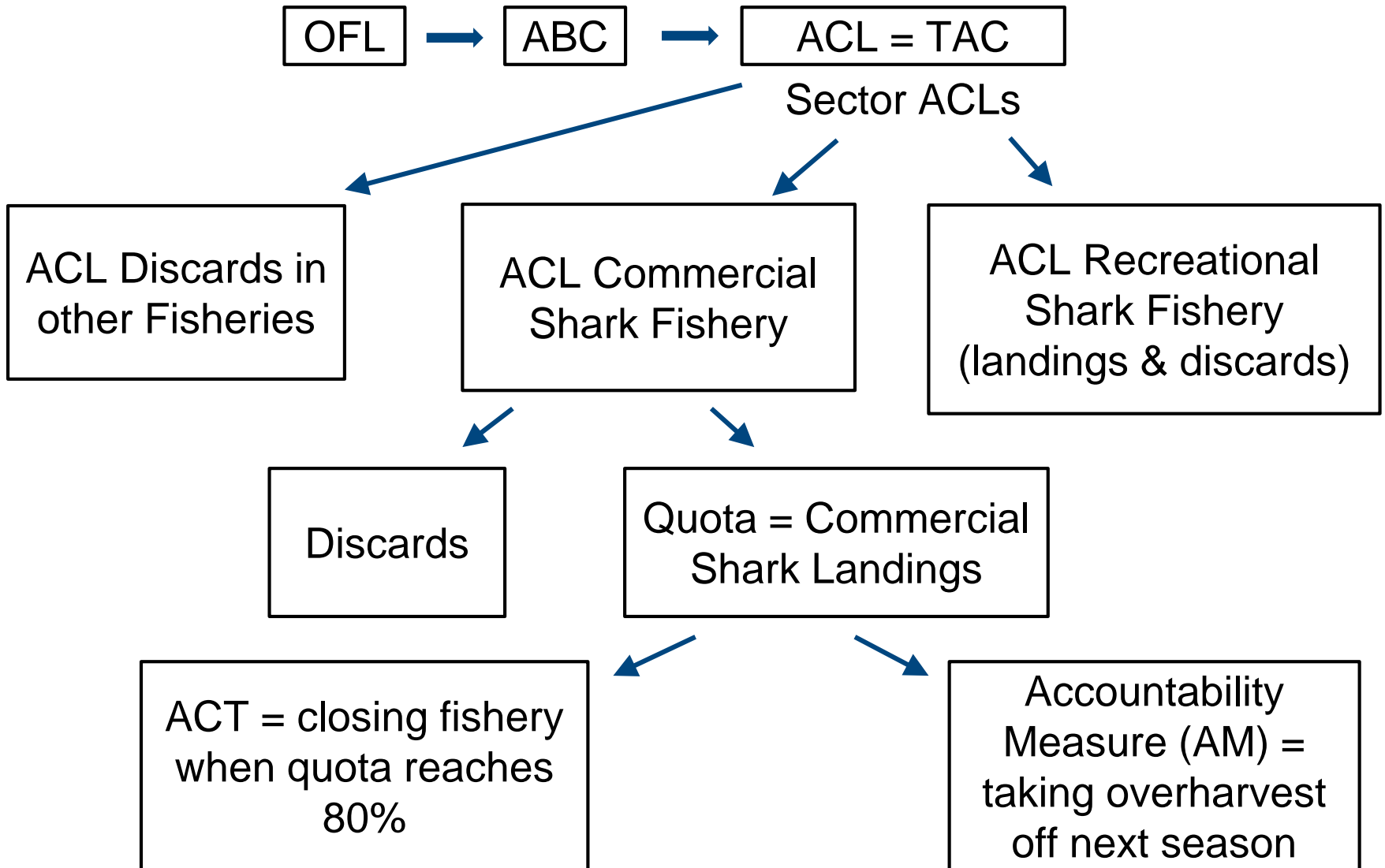
- FMP objectives, Status Determination Criteria (SDC), and other thresholds were defined in 1999 FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks and the 1999 Billfish FMP Amendment
- SDCs and thresholds were incorporated without changes into the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP; FMP objectives were updated
- Mechanism for establishing Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for sharks added in Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP and clarified in Amendment 5b for prohibited sharks
- We are currently reviewing the NS1 final rule and consulting with NOAA Fisheries' Domestic Fisheries Division staff and NOAA General Counsel to see what changes are necessary for HMS management

# Current HMS Domestic SDCs & Thresholds

- $MFMT = F_{limit} = F_{MSY}$
- Overfishing is occurring when  $F_{year} > F_{MSY}$
- $MSST = B_{limit} = (1-M)B_{MSY}$  when  $M < 0.5$ ;  $MSST = 0.5B_{MSY}$  when  $M \geq 0.5$ ; specific values for billfish
- Biomass target during rebuilding =  $B_{MSY}$
- Fishing mortality during rebuilding  $< F_{MSY}$
- Fishing mortality for healthy stocks =  $0.75F_{MSY} = F_{OY}$
- Biomass for healthy stocks =  $B_{OY} \approx 1.25$  to  $1.30B_{MSY}$
- Level of certainty of *at least* 50% but depends on species and circumstances (sharks generally 70%)
- Proxies allowed for biomass



# ACL Mechanism for Sharks



# International Exceptions

- The MSA specifies that ACLs and AMs apply to all fisheries “unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates”
- This exception applies to stocks or stock complexes subject to management under an international agreement, which is defined as “any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement which relates to fishing and to which the United States is a party”
- For these stocks, the NS1 Guidelines provide that the Council/NMFS may decide to use the SDCs defined by the relevant international body (e.g., International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and billfish)
  - These stocks still need to have MSY and OY

# HMS Stock Status Summaries: Domestic and International (Examples)

Species	International Threshold	International Stock Status	Domestic Threshold	Domestic Stock Status
Atlantic bigeye tuna	$B_{MSY}$	Overfished	$0.6B_{MSY}$	Not overfished
North Atlantic swordfish	$B_{MSY}$	Not overfished	$0.8B_{MSY}$	Not overfished
West Atlantic sailfish	$B_{MSY}$	Not likely overfished	$0.75B_{MSY}$	Not overfished - rebuilding
Sandbar shark	NA	NA	$0.86SSF_{MSY}$	Overfished

# Domestic vs. International Status Determinations - Two Examples

## Atlantic bigeye tuna: 2015 assessment

- ICCAT status: "overfishing occurring"; "overfished" because  $B_{2014} < B_{MSY}$
- Domestic status: "overfishing occurring"; "not overfished – rebuilding" because  $B_{2014} > MSST$ ; not rebuilt because  $B_{2014} < B_{MSY}$
- Issue: Different threshold for "overfished" status

## West Atlantic Sailfish: 2016 assessment

- ICCAT status: "overfishing is not likely occurring"; "not likely overfished"
- Domestic status: "overfishing not occurring"; "not overfished - rebuilding"
- Issue: Domestic SDC terminology does not include "likely"

**Consideration:** Thoughts on domestic v. international standard? See 50 CFR 600.310(e)(2)(ii)



# Defining Optimum Yield (OY): Another Example

## Current HMS definitions re: OY

- OY = Yield from fishery that will provide the greatest benefit to the nation
- $F_{OY} = F_{MSY}$  as reduced by relevant social, economic, or ecological factors  
=  $0.75F_{MSY}$
- $B_{OY}$  = average biomass that corresponds to  $F_{OY}$

## New information re: OY from 2016 NS1 Guidelines Final rule (50 CFR 600.310(e)(3))

- No change to OY definition
- Assessing OY = determine the relevant social, economic, or ecological factors needed to calculate OY; provide specific examples of these factors
- Specifying OY = can be expressed in numbers or weight of fish; when not possible, can describe qualitatively; consideration for aggregate MSY estimates

# Other Issues to Consider/ Next steps?

Issue	For example...
FMP objectives (600.305(b))	Last updated in 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP; further changes may be needed; Councils considering use of “living” FMP documents
Species in need of conservation and management and Ecosystem Component (EC) species (600.305(c))	Are there species that should be included in our management? Are there species that should be considered EC species (e.g., “Data collection” sharks)?
Control rules, Scientific uncertainty, and Risk policy (600.310(f))	Risk policy = Generally at least 50% for HMS, and 70% for sharks. Still appropriate?
And more.....	Stay tuned at future AP meetings...

# Questions

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