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# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

**HMS Overview**

May 9, 2023

# This Presentation...

## Brief status update on

- Staff Changes
- Status of Monitoring Areas
- Operations
- HMS Catch Reporting Options
- Updates beyond HMS Mgmt Division

## Next Presentation...

- Rulemaking Update

# AP Meeting Discussion...

## Discussion Items

- Bluefin tuna 2022 Year in Rvw & 2023 Mgmt
- Amendment 16 (Shark quotas and management) Scoping
- Amendment 15 (Spatial management and electronic monitoring) DEIS and Proposed Rule
- e-Reporting ANPR
- EFH 5-Year Review
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment for HMS



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# Staff Changes

- New faces
  - Dr. Lisa Crawford, Knauss Fellow - Rulemaking Branch
  - Tyler Loughran - Products and Services Branch
- Departures
  - Tom Warren has fully retired
  - Craig Cockrell has moved to another NOAA Fisheries office
  - Ben Duffin has moved to another agency
  - Ian Miller recently became the Operations Branch Chief within the Office of Sustainable Fisheries
  - Nick Velseboer will be leaving at the end of May to join a state agency



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# Status of Monitoring Areas

- Northeastern United States Pelagic Longline Monitoring Area
- Spring Gulf of Mexico Pelagic Longline Monitoring Areas
- From April 2, 2020-December 31, 2022, vessels could fish with pelagic longline gear in these areas until the annual IBQ allocation threshold for the monitoring area had been reached or was projected to be reached (50 CFR 635.21(c)(3))
- The thresholds were not reached in either area in any year
- After December 31, 2022, since no closure of a particular monitoring area has been implemented, vessels with pelagic longline gear on board may continue to deploy pelagic longline gear in these areas
- We are considering next steps



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# Operations in 2023 by the Numbers

(through April 11, 2023)

Operations:	Number
EFP/SRP/LOA	34
Shark Research Fishery Permits	3
HMS Tournaments Registered	117
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	7
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~8,800
Open Access Vessel permits	12,606
Recreational Shark Endorsements	7,090 (57%)
CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements	896 (42%)



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# Landings & Tournaments Updates

<b>Species</b>	<b>Link to Monthly/Annual Landings Updates and Tournament Information</b>
Swordfish, BAYS Tunas, Sharks, Bluefin Tuna, and Billfish	<a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates</a>
Tournaments	<a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-tournaments">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-tournaments</a>
Daily Bluefin Tuna Landing Updates	<a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a>
Minimum Sizes and Bag Limits	<a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits</a>



# HMS Catch Reporting Options

- HMS Angling, Charter/Headboat, and Atlantic Tunas General/Harpoon category permit holders can now submit catch reports for bluefin tuna, billfish, and swordfish via:
  - [HMS Permit Shop website](#)
  - [HMS Catch Reporting smartphone app](#)
  - [SAFIS eTrips Mobile and Online](#) – now available for HMS open access permit holders that submit state or Federal vessel trip reports via eTrips
  - No matter which option is used, **HMS catch reports must be submitted within 24 hours of returning from a trip**
- NC and MD fishermen are still required to complete state HMS Catch Cards
- Currently, the commonly used GARFO FishOnline (eVTR) and Bluefin Data, LLC “VESL” reporting platforms do not collect all the data needed to satisfy HMS Catch Reporting requirements. Those using these platforms will need to submit separate HMS catch reports via the HMS Catch Reporting app or Permit Shop website.
- HMS Commercial Logbook participants must continue to submit paper logbooks at this time



# There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

## Some things might impact HMS fisheries

- [Shortfin mako ESA 12-month finding](#): Listing is not warranted (87 FR 68236, November 14, 2022)
- [Oceanic whitetip shark draft recovery plan](#): Comments accepted through March 27, 2023 (88 FR 4817, January 25, 2023)
- [Right Whale Take Reduction Plan proposed rule](#): NOAA Fisheries is preparing a proposed rule that is expected to reduce mortality and serious injury of right whales to a level below potential biological removal level (PBR) by December of 2024. Might impact gillnet fisheries.



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# There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

## Hudson Canyon Sanctuary

- In June 2022, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) published a Notice of Intent to conduct scoping and prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Hudson Canyon national marine sanctuary (87 FR 34853)
- Pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. § 1434(a)(5)), ONMS sought HMS Management Division's input on whether it would be necessary to prepare draft regulations for fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone to implement the proposed sanctuary designation. ONMS made a presentation to the HMS AP in September 2022.
- Summary of our response:

Additional fishing regulations are NOT needed. Current HMS regulations in the area support the goals and objectives of the proposed sanctuary



# There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

## Northeast Canyons Monument

- USFWS and NOAA Fisheries are working on a Monument Management Plan and codifying commercial fishing prohibition in the Magnuson-Stevens Act-related regulations, vs. respective GARFO, HMS, SERO sections
- NOAA Fisheries is looking to maintain all permitting authorities for activities within Monument Boundary Area. Stay tuned for more details.

## Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act (SFSEA)

- Effective immediately when President Biden signed the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act on December 23, 2022
- Makes it unlawful to possess, buy, sell, or transport shark fins or any product containing shark fins—with the exception of smooth or spiny dogfish fins and other limited exceptions
- The Agency is currently developing draft regulations and anticipates issuing a proposed rule in the fall of 2023



# There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

## Marine Recreational Information Program HMS Regional Implementation Plan update

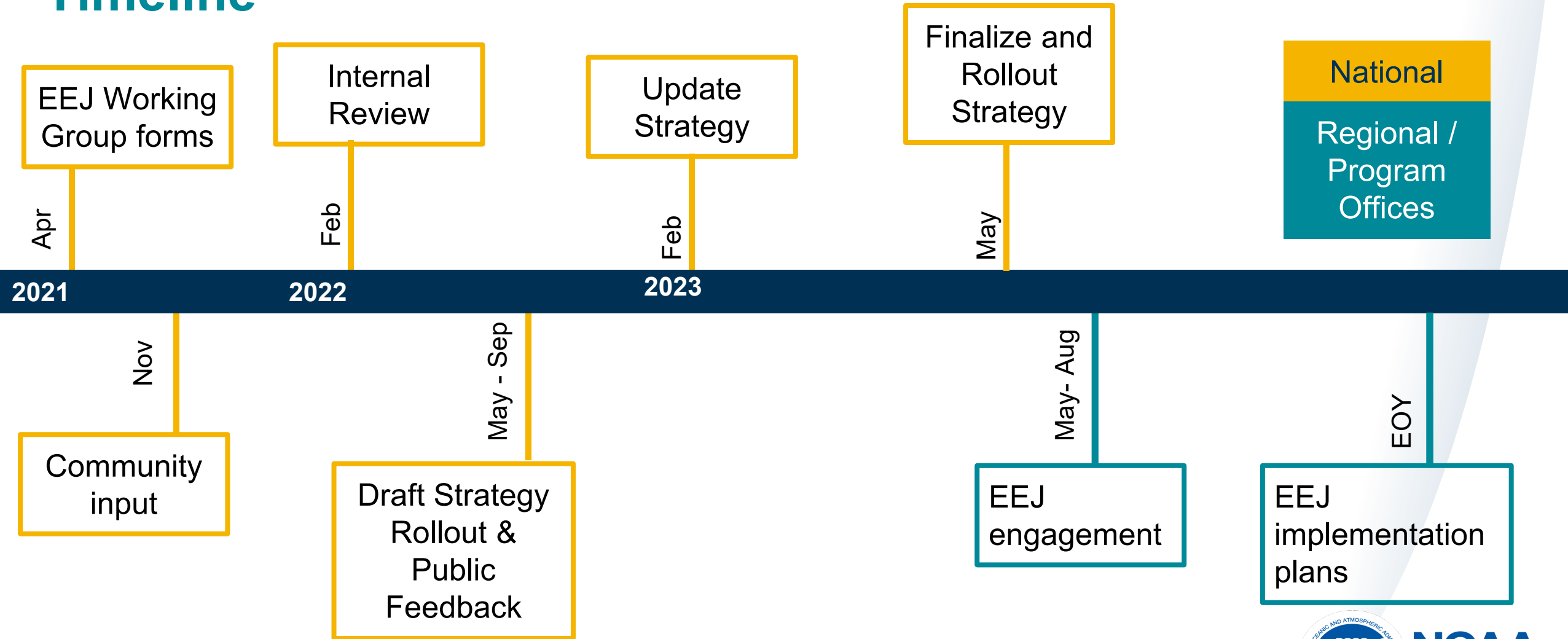
- AP and IAC feedback has been incorporated. HMS regional plan is undergoing internal review.
- An extra year of pilot testing is being conducted for the LPS redesign in NY and NJ due to low sampling productivity in those states last summer. This will delay full implementation of the new design until at least 2025.
- Contractor has completed sampling on the 2022 HMS Angling Expenditure Survey with over 1,800 completed surveys. NOAA Fisheries is awaiting delivery of the final data to conduct economic impact analyses.

## Mackerel/Vessel Trip Report (GARFO)

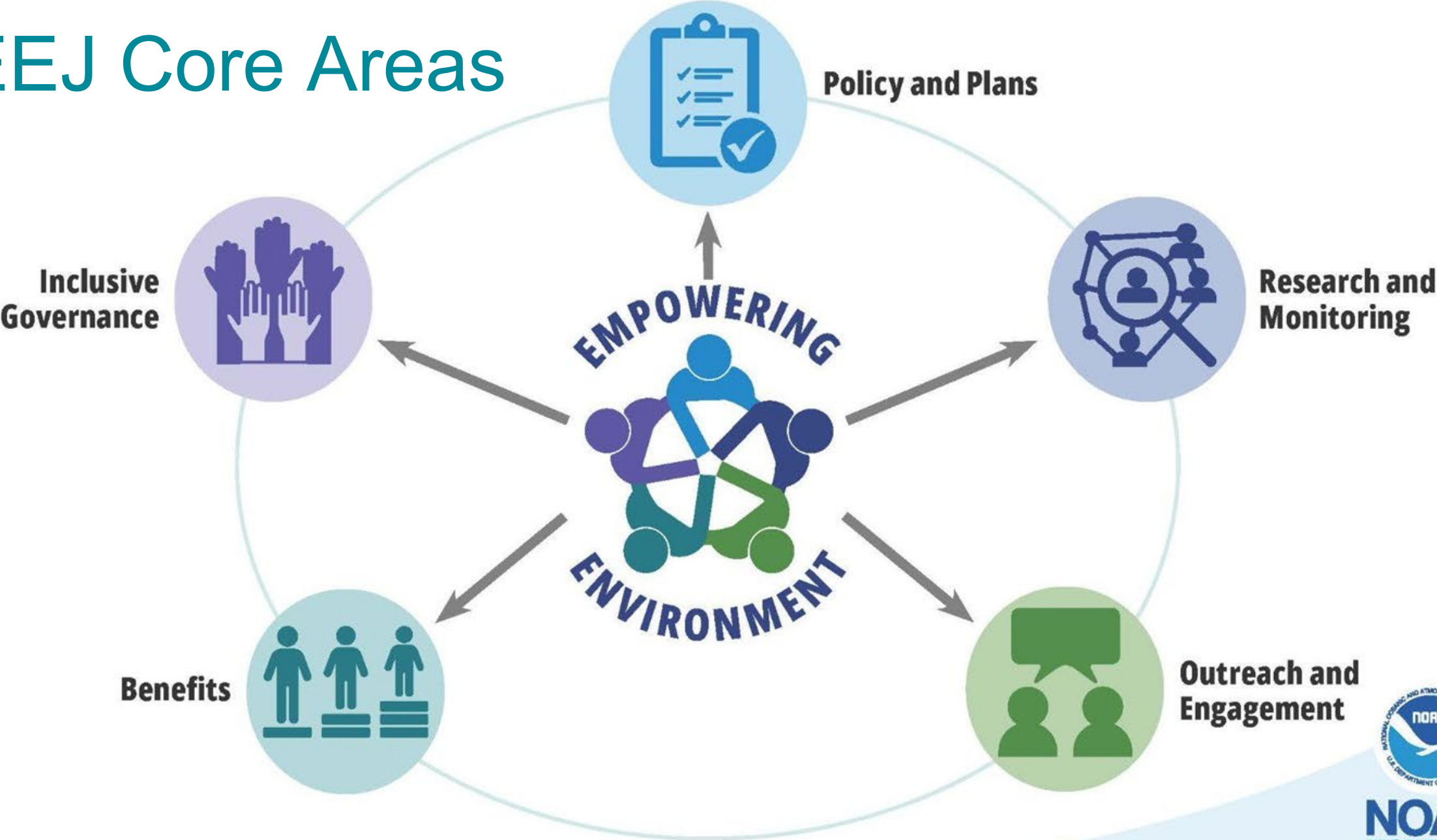
- New Atlantic Mackerel Recreational Possession Limit: 20 fish/person/trip. Check for state permit/reporting requirements.



# NOAA Fisheries' Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ): Timeline



# EEJ Core Areas



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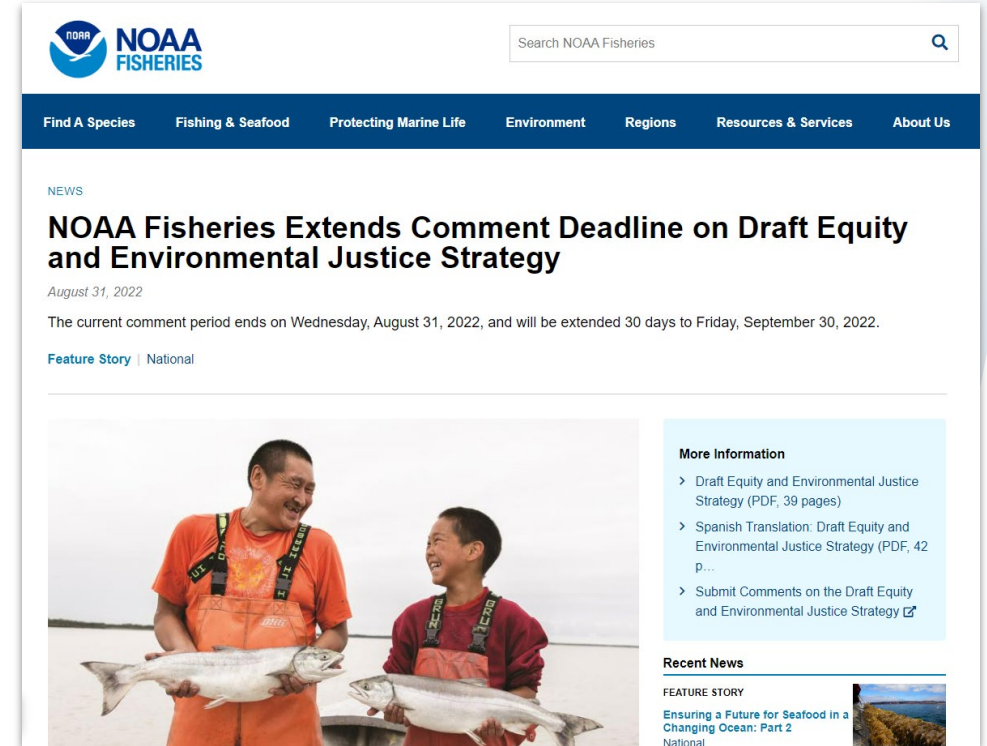
# NOAA Fisheries' EEJ Resources

## Available now

- Internal [Webpage](#) & [Podcast](#)
- Internal guidance for Office and Regional
  - EEJ Engagement plans
  - EEJ Implementation plan

## Available soon

- Final National EEJ Strategy in English and Spanish
- Final EEJ executive summary available in 15+ languages



# Communication Goal: No Surprises

- **Goals for All**
  - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
  - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
  - R-E-S-P-E-C-T
- **AP Member Role**
  - Listen and engage in discussions
  - Share with your constituents
  - Bring ideas to and advise Agency
- **Agency Role**
  - Ensure compliance with all domestic & international requirements
  - Raise issues and inform AP and public
  - Listen and engage in discussions
  - Make decisions considering feedback



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# Conclusion/Looking Forward

## *In conclusion:*

- We are covering a lot of ground at this in-person/virtual hybrid meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

## *Looking forward:*

- We value your input and want your input on priorities and potential solutions

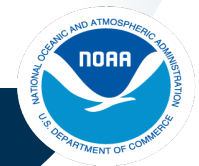


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# Questions?

## Thank you!



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