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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Overview

September 6, 2023

This Presentation...

Brief status update on

- Staff Changes
- Status of Monitoring Areas
- Rulemaking and Inseason Actions
- Upcoming Rules
- HMS Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review
- HMS Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Operations
- HMS Catch Reporting Options
- Electronic Monitoring Pgm Changes
- HMS Advisory Panel Term Limits
- Updates beyond HMS Mgmt Division
- Travel receipts needed by Sept. 11

AP Meeting Discussion...

Discussion Items

- Amendment 15 (Spatial management and electronic monitoring) DEIS and Proposed Rule
- Bluefin tuna (BFT) 2023 Year in Review
 - IBQ
 - Restricted-fishing days (RFDs)
 - State dealer permit issue
 - Harpoon category request for rulemaking



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Staff Changes

- New faces
 - Dr. Becky Curtis - Rulemaking Branch
 - Elsa Gutierrez - Products and Services Branch
- Departures
 - Tiffany Weidner has joined a Mississippi state agency
 - Dan Crear has joined the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission



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Rulemaking and Inseason Actions (2023)

As of mid-August:

- 22 actions completed including:
 - 2 final actions (Amendment 14 - shark ABC control rule; 2023 BFT RFDs)
 - 13 inseason actions (primarily BFT; one shark quota transfer)
- 8 rulemakings ongoing
- 21 public hearings and webinars conducted on proposed or scoping actions
- 7 Council and Commission meetings attended to collect comments on proposed or scoping actions



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Upcoming Rules

- 2023 Annual swordfish, albacore, and bluefin quota adjustment - *Final rule ~Fall*
- 2024 Shark specifications - *Final rule ~Fall*
- Prohibition of oceanic whitetip (everywhere) and hammerhead sharks (Caribbean only) - *Final rule ~Fall/Winter*
- Updating Sea Turtle Safe Handling Requirements consistent with two NOAA (Southeast Fisheries Science Center) [Technical Memoranda](#) - *Final rule ~Fall/Winter*
- Consideration of pelagic and bottom longline indicator species list - *Proposed rule ~Fall/Winter*
- Consideration of various gear changes (e.g., powered haulback of buoy gear; expanded authorization of speargun) - *Scoping ~Fall/Winter*



Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 5-Year Review Update

Preliminary findings (88 FR 28531, May 4, 2023):

- EFH updates may be warranted based on new scientific information
- Technical changes to analysis methods may be warranted
- No new scientific information concerning adverse effects of fishing on EFH
- Potential for conservation & enhancement of EFH adversely affected by marine sand/minerals mining, aquaculture, and renewable energy production
- Changes to existing Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) may not be warranted; new HAPC for white shark (New York Bight) may be warranted

5 Comments Received (Spring HMS AP meeting & through Regs.gov)

- Suggestions on EFH delineation methodology, predator-prey information, new data (Maine DNR), and analysis of adverse effects of pollution on EFH

[Click Here For More Information](#)



Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) update

HMS CVA Workshop: May 16-18th, 2023 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

- Purpose: evaluate life history or behavioral characteristics (“sensitivity attributes”) that influence the vulnerability of HMS to climate change
- Fisheries managers, climate policy specialists, and a 15-member scientific panel from within NOAA and various academic institutions

Results calculated and synthesized in June and July

- Exposure & Sensitivity Rankings
- Overall Vulnerability Rankings
- Directional Effects & Distribution Potential

Ongoing products: Manuscript, Species Narratives, NMFS Office of Science & Technology CVA website

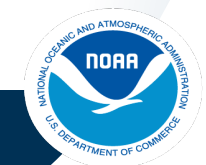
[Click Here For More Information](#)



Operations in 2023 by the Numbers

(through August 15, 2023)

Operations:	Number
EFP/SRP/LOA	44
Shark Research Fishery Permits	3
HMS Tournaments Registered	209
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	7
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~17,000
Open Access Vessel permits	29,248
Recreational Shark Endorsements	15,932 (56%)
CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements	1,772 (46%)



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Landings & Tournaments Updates

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



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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 (FOL) and Bluefin Data, LLC “VESL” reporting platforms do not collect all the data needed to satisfy HMS Catch Reporting requirements, but both programs are actively working to add them. Those using these platforms will need to continue submitting separate HMS catch reports via the HMS Catch Reporting app or Permit Shop website until further notice.
- HMS Commercial Logbook participants must continue to submit paper logbooks at this time



Electronic Monitoring Program Changes

- Vendor change for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Pelagic Longline Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program
 - IBSS now providing EM data services (as of April 1, 2023)
 - New England Marine Monitoring (NEMM) providing all vessel technical support, replacing Saltwater Inc.
 - NEMM Support Line (207) 370-9791 or email hms@nemarinemonitoring.com for technical support with your EM system or to schedule a visit from a technician
 - Continue to mail your hard drives to:
 - ERT – HMS Tuna Data, 8380 Colesville Road, Suite 100A, Silver Spring, MD 20910
- Amendment 13 changes (requirements):
 - Mail EM hard drive after every two trips
 - Installation of booms to mount the rail camera
 - Installation of measuring grids on deck



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HMS Advisory Panel Term Limits

- AP members who have served 3 consecutive terms, and whose terms are expiring, will not be eligible for re-nomination at that time
- Members who reach a term limit must wait 1 year before being eligible for re-nomination to the AP
- Some terms expiring at the end of this year (Dec. 31, 2023) and those AP members were notified via email before this AP meeting
 - Sonja Fordham
 - Tim Pickett
 - George Purmont
 - Mark Sampson
 - Rick Weber



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There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

Hudson Canyon Sanctuary/Sanctuary Advisory Council

- In June 2022, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) published its Notice of Intent to conduct scoping and prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Hudson Canyon sanctuary.
- Pursuant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, ONMS sought HMS Division's input on whether it would be necessary to prepare draft fishing regulations to implement the proposed sanctuary designation. ONMS made a presentation at the September 2022 HMS AP meeting.
- We responded that additional fishing regulations are NOT needed. Current HMS regulations in the area support the goals and objectives of the proposed sanctuary.
- We are participating in Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. ONMS anticipates preparing a DEIS, Draft Management Plan, and proposed rule in 2024.



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There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

Northeast Canyons Monument

- U.S. FWS 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.



There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

HMS Recreational Data Issues

- AP and IAC feedback incorporated into the HMS Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Regional Implementation Plan. The plan is undergoing internal drafting and review, and will be distributed to agency partners for review this fall.
- An extra year of pilot testing is currently being completed for the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) redesign in NY and NJ due to low sampling productivity in those states in summer 2022. Full implementation of new design is anticipated for 2025.
- Contractor has completed sampling on the 2022 HMS Angling Expenditure Survey with over 1,900 completed surveys. NOAA Fisheries received the final data in August, and will analyze data this fall. Anticipate presenting to AP in Spring 2024.



There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

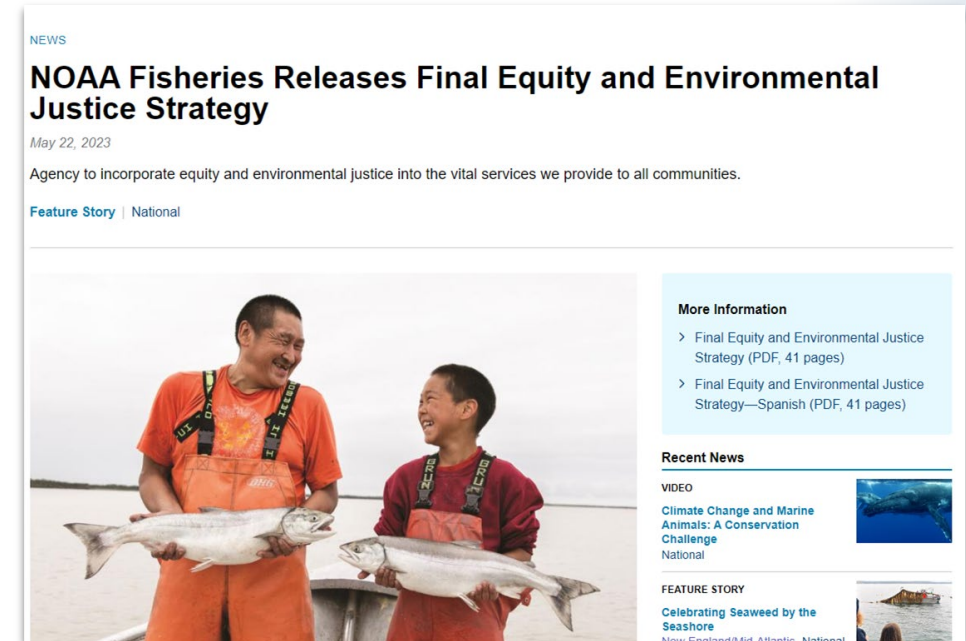
Pelagic Longline Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Spring Observer Coverage

- Enhanced observer coverage has occurred since 2007 - characterize bluefin tuna interactions in GOM
- NOAA Fisheries is assessing relative observer coverage levels among fisheries observed by the SEFSC given limited observer funds and required coverage levels for some fisheries
- May mean that coverage level could be adjusted for the PLL GOM in spring
- This assessment will not change the existing requirements for observer coverage in the PLL fishery:
 - Biological Opinion requires 8 percent fleetwide
 - ICCAT Rec. 22-01 requires 10 percent for vessels ≥ 20 m targeting tropical tunas



NOAA Fisheries' Final National Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Strategy Document

- Is the Agency's framework to incorporate EEJ into our daily activities
 - Released May 22, 2023
 - Available in English and Spanish; executive summary available in over 10 languages.
- [Webpage](#)
- Regional/Program Offices planning engagement and will develop implementation plans by the end of this year



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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Travelers: Receipts Due September 11!

Due to financial system changes, travel voucher info and receipts must be submitted by Monday, September 11 (yes, next Monday!)...otherwise you may not get reimbursed for a loooooong time.

Google Voucher Form: <https://forms.gle/eMJhtMuHLBdgs9FD8>

Email receipts to: peter.cooper@noaa.gov

Instructions to come via email immediately after the meeting.



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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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