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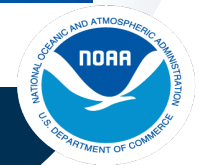
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Rulemaking Update

May 14, 2024

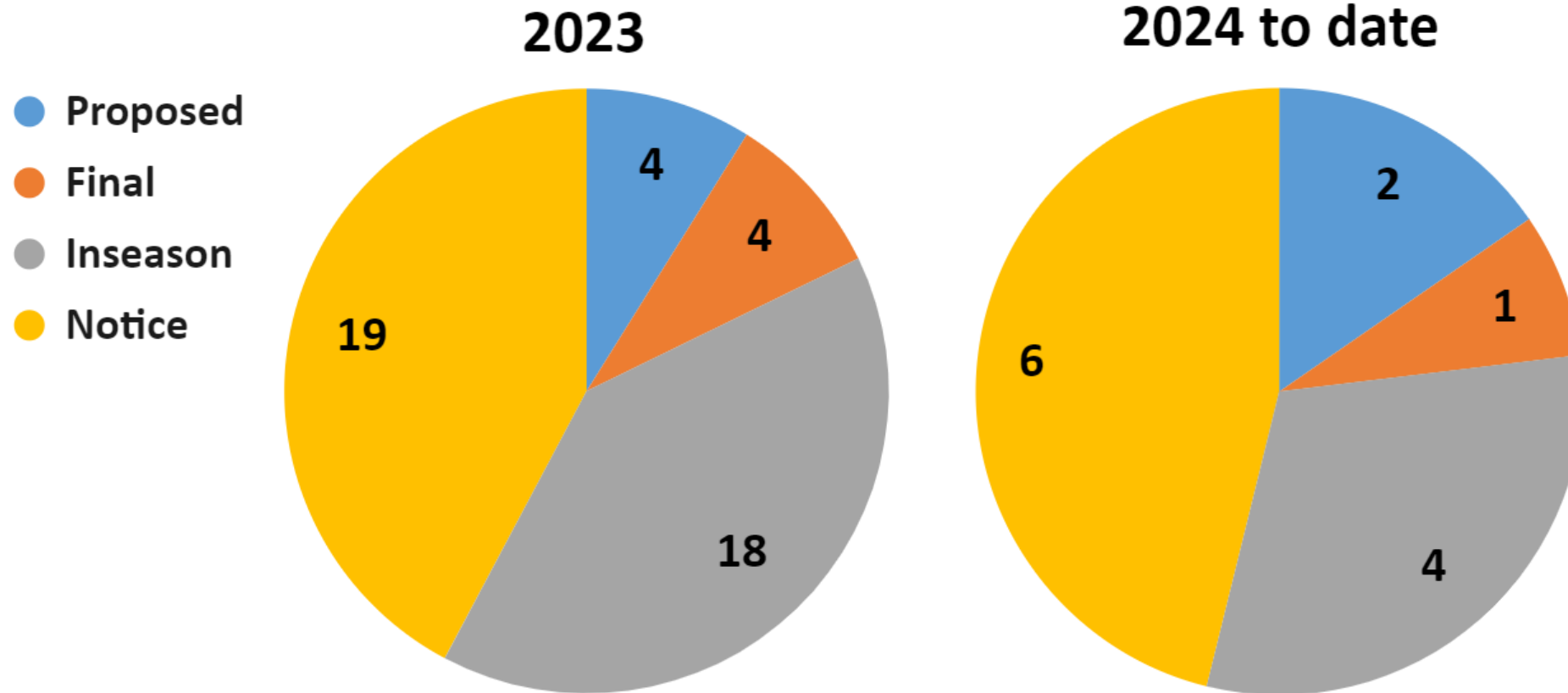
This Presentation...

- Completed Actions
- Recent Actions
- Upcoming Actions
- Public Hearing Attendance
- Further Information and Contacts



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HMS Completed Actions in 2023 and 2024



Final Actions since the Fall 2023 AP Meeting

Bluefin Tuna (BFT) Inseason Actions

2023 General category

- Sep. quota transfer and closure
- Oct. - Nov. quota transfer
- Oct. - Nov. closure
- Dec. quota transfer and adjustment
- Dec. closure

2024 General category

- Jan. - Mar. quota transfer and adjustment
- Jan. - Mar. closure

2024 Angling category

- Trophy South closure
- Southern New England Trophy closure

Final Actions

Adjustments to 2023 North Atlantic Albacore Tuna, North and South Atlantic Swordfish, and Atlantic BFT Reserve Category Quotas - 09/20/2023

2024 Shark Commercial Fishery Quotas, Opening Dates, Retention Limits - 11/08/2023

Prohibition of Oceanic Whitetip and Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks - 01/03/2024

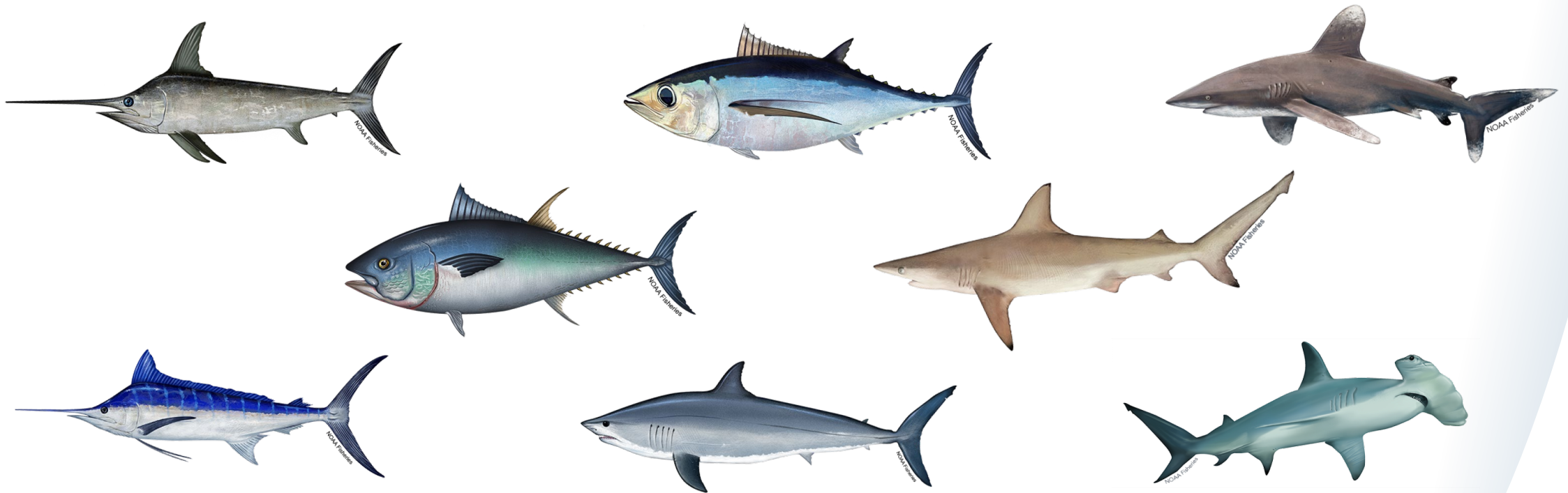
Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review and Initiation of Amendment 17 - 04/18/2024



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Actions Proposed and Not Yet Final

(not being discussed later in the meeting)



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Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on Electronic Reporting

- ANPR published 05/12/2023; comment period ended 08/18/2023
- 11 written comments received
- Numerous oral comments received during 7 in-person and virtual public hearings, and presentations to 5 regional fishery management councils and the HMS Advisory Panel
- This action considers modifying or expanding electronic reporting requirements for HMS commercial and recreational vessel owners and dealers, consistent with the “One Stop Reporting” initiative



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Summary of Public Comments on Electronic Reporting ANPR

- Some commercial and recreational fishing groups supported this rulemaking in general, while others supported maintaining status quo reporting requirements
- Overall, commenters supported electronic “One Stop Reporting”
- Commenters requested clear rationale for any changes in reporting requirements, and how data will be used for science or management
- Some commercial groups called for more equitable reporting across sectors
- Several commenters encouraged collaboration with our partners (e.g., regional offices, states, fishery management councils) or working with industry on outreach and education
- Commenters encouraged consideration of how new data streams would be calibrated with existing data, time series, and surveys
- *Where are we now?* Proposed rule expected later in 2024



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Proposed Rule on BFT General Category Effort Controls

- Proposed rule published 02/23/2024; comment period ended 03/25/2024
- 36 written comments received
- Proposed rule would:
 - Codify every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday as restricted-fishing days (RFDs) from July 1 through November 30 for the 2024 fishing year and subsequent years
 - Establish a General category default retention limit of 3 large medium or giant BFT for June and 1 large medium or giant BFT for all other months in time periods when the fishery is open
 - Clarify HMS dealer and dealer agent requirements on an RFD
- On an RFD, Atlantic Tunas General category permitted vessels may not fish for (including catch-and-release or tag-and-release fishing), possess, retain, land, or sell BFT
- On an RFD, HMS Charter/Headboat vessels with a commercial sale endorsement are also subject to these restrictions, but they may fish for, possess, retain, or land BFT when fishing recreationally under applicable HMS Angling category rules
- *Where are we now?* Final rule expected shortly



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Proposed Rule on Sea Turtle Careful Release Requirements in Longline Fisheries

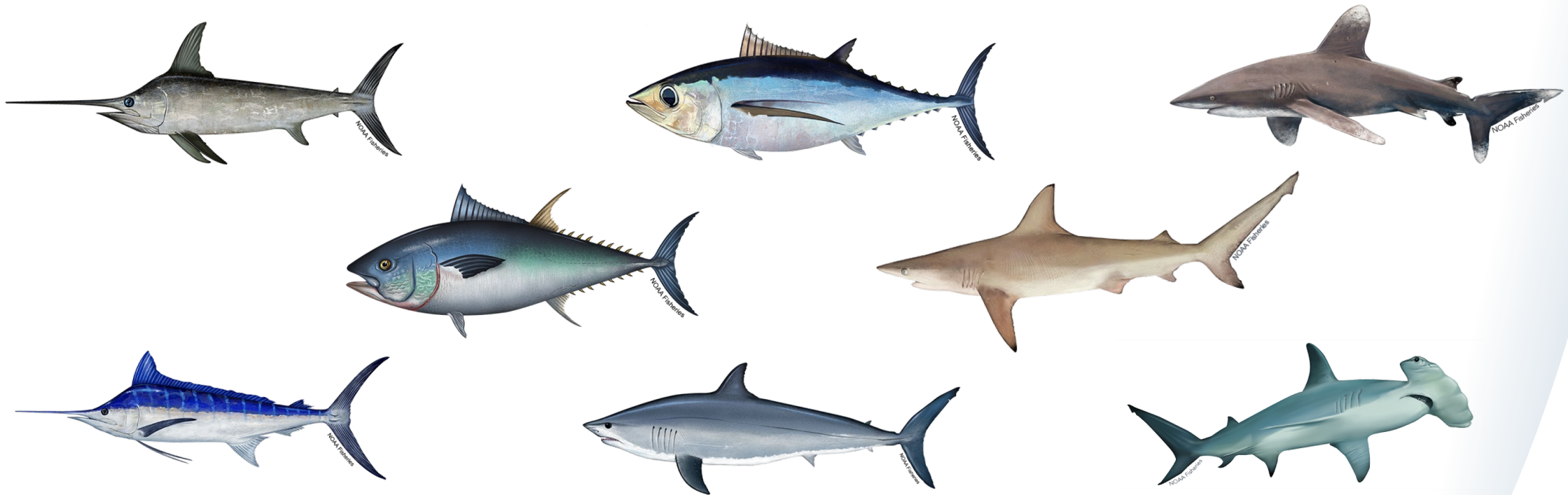
- Proposed rule published 04/08/2024; comment period ended 05/08/2024
- 5 written comments received
- Would update the HMS regulations regarding sea turtle safe handling and release requirements based on two technical memoranda published by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center
- Would not change any of the current operation requirements of HMS fisheries
- All previously authorized sea turtle bycatch mitigation tools and gear removal protocols remain approved for use
- *Where are we now?* Final rule expected later in 2024



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Upcoming Rules

(not being discussed later in the meeting)



Northern Albacore, Swordfish, and BFT Quotas

- Annual adjustment of baseline quotas for:
 - North Atlantic albacore tuna (northern albacore),
 - North and South Atlantic swordfish, and
 - Atlantic BFT Reserve category
- Quota adjustment for 2024 would be based on:
 - Underharvest of 2023 adjusted U.S. quotas and limitations set by ICCAT on what can be carried forward, and
 - Swordfish quota transfers, per ICCAT recommendations
- Would increase baseline quota for northern albacore in the regulations, from 711.5 mt to 889.4 mt, per ICCAT Rec. 23-05

ICCAT = International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas



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Upcoming Rule Timing:

- BFT General category effort controls - *Final rule ~June*
- Amendment 15 (spatial management) - *Final rule ~Summer*
- Electronic reporting - *Proposed rule ~Summer/Fall*
- 2024 Annual swordfish, albacore, and BFT quota adjustment and albacore quota increase - *Final rule ~Summer/Fall*
- Updating Sea Turtle Safe Handling Requirements consistent with the Technical Memorandum - *Final rule ~Fall/Winter*
- Consideration of pelagic and bottom longline indicator species list - *Proposed rule ~Fall/Winter*
- Amendment 16 (sharks) - *Proposed rule ~Winter/Spring*



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Open Review/Comment Periods:

- Amendment 15 - Spatial management - Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) - *EPA review period ends 06/10/2024*
- Gear considerations - Scoping - *Comment period ends 07/31/2024*



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Public Hearing Attendance in 2023 and 2024

In-person Hearings		
Amendment 15	Amendment 16	eReporting
Manteo, NC 42	Manteo, NC 12	Manteo, NC 12
Houma, LA 4	Belle Chasse, LA 20	Belle Chasse, LA 0
Jupiter, FL 4	Cocoa Beach, FL 3	Ft Lauderdale, FL 1
Panama City, FL 5	San Juan, PR 1	Toms River, NJ 1
		Gloucester, MA 1

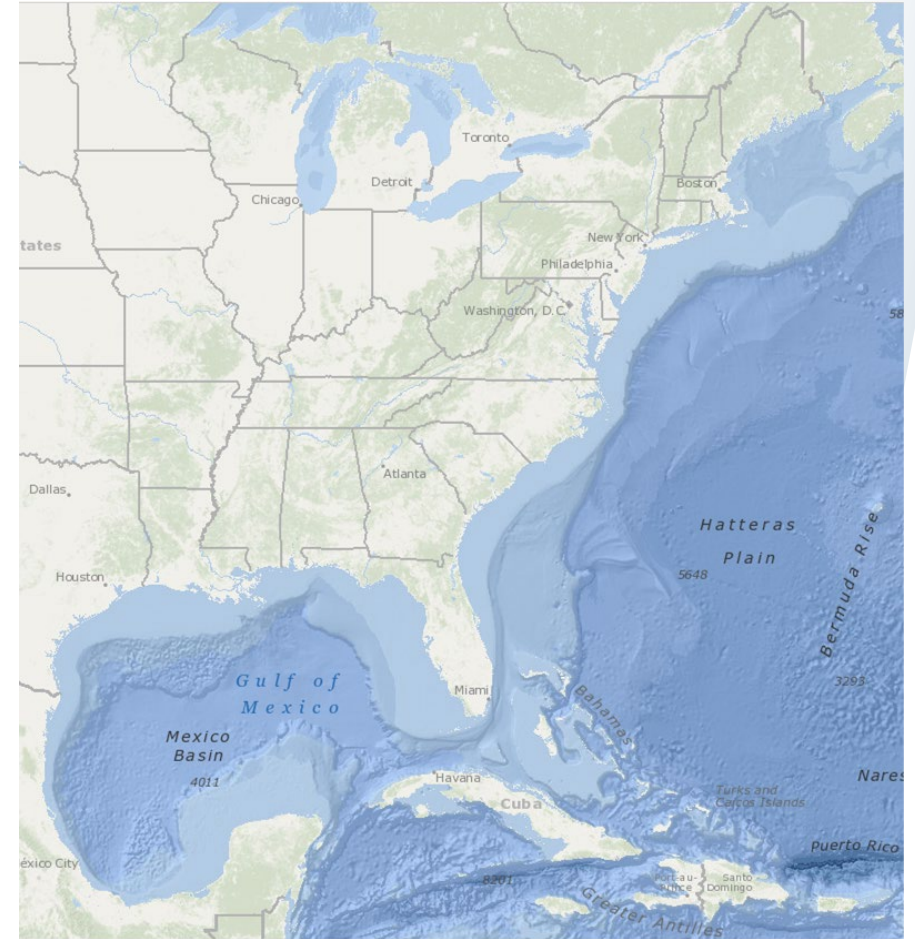
Webinars		
Amendment 15	Amendment 16	eReporting
1st Webinar 16	1st Webinar 5	1st Webinar 22
2nd Webinar 25	2nd Webinar 51	2nd Webinar 15

Other Webinars
2023 BFT General category RFDs - 14
Oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks - 24
2024 BFT General category effort controls - 25
BFT Harpoon category listening session - 61



Public Hearing Attendance

- Receiving public comment is critical for all rules; however, in-person attendance is down
- We welcome suggestions on how to increase participation, particularly in regard to location, timing, and notification



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Further Information Available:

Action	Webpage
Amendment 15 - Spatial management (FEIS)	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-15-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-spatial-fisheries-management-and
Amendment 16 - Sharks (Scoping)	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-16-2006-consolidated-atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-management-plan
eReporting (ANPR)	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-electronic-reporting-requirements
BFT General category effort controls (Proposed)	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/proposed-rule-set-general-category-effort-controls-and-clarify-related-atlantic-bluefin-tuna
Sea turtle careful release (Proposed)	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/public-comment-requested-sea-turtle-careful-release-requirements-highly-migratory-species
Gear considerations (Scoping)	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/public-comment-requested-gear-considerations-atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fisheries



Questions?

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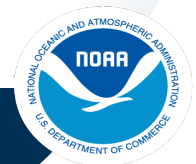
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Thank you!



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