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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Overview

May 14, 2024

This Presentation...

Brief status update on

- Staff Changes
- Response to Petition for Rulemaking
- HMS Climate Vulnerability Assessment update
- Operations
- HMS Catch Reporting Options
- HMS Advisory Panel Term Limits
- Updates beyond HMS Mgmt Division
- Travel receipts needed by May 23

AP Meeting Discussion...

Discussion Items

- Management and trends updates for Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery
- Rulemaking Update
- Final HMS EFH-5 Year Review
- Final Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 15 (Spatial management and electronic monitoring)
- Management and trends updates for Atlantic shark fishery
- Gear considerations (scoping)



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Staff Changes

- New faces
 - Daniel Daye - Fisheries Reporting and Monitoring Branch
 - Jodie York - Fisheries Reporting and Monitoring Branch
 - Becky Jauch - Fisheries Reporting and Monitoring Branch
 - Rob Kuvinka - Fisheries Reporting and Monitoring Branch
- Same face, new team
 - Lisa Crawford - now on Products and Services Branch



Response to Petition for Rulemaking

- In September 2023, we received a petition to ban:
 - “harpooning at night, harpooning within 100 yards of a mobile-gear fishing vessel, and harpooning using bait to lure fish to the surface in the Harpoon-only category. More specifically, this means no harpooning from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, and no harpooning near mobile gear vessels or using their gurry stream or bycatch as an attractant for harpooning.”
- A similar petition was received in 2021 and was denied
- The 2023 petition was discussed at the Fall 2023 HMS AP meeting
- On March 28, 2024, NMFS held a listening session (i.e., a public meeting to listen to concerns and gather input regarding the Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category fishery (89 FR 18375, March 13, 2024))
- The 2023 petition has been denied (no demonstrated need to modify the regulations via rulemaking at this time)



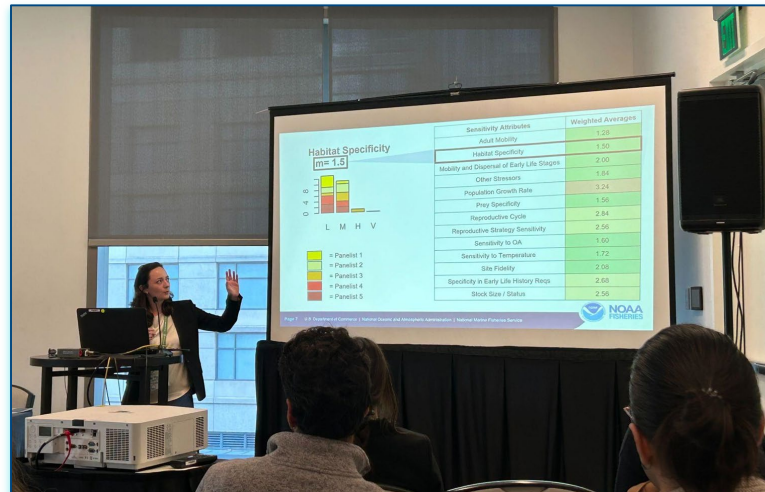
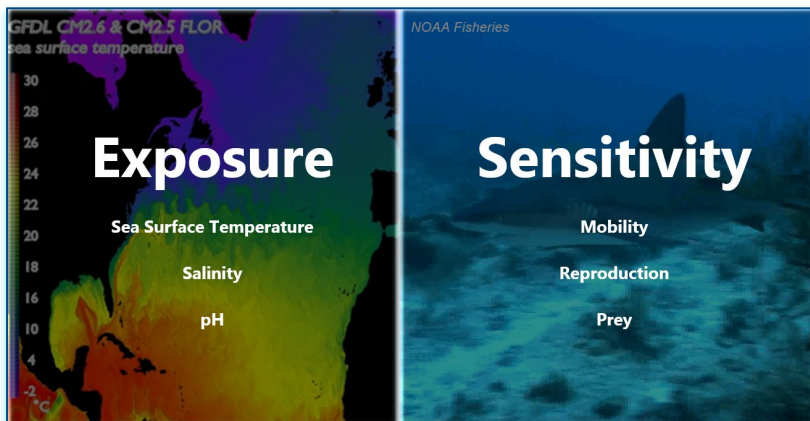
Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) update

HMS CVA Products: *Currently in Internal Review*

- Manuscript
 - Describes methods, results, and highlights trends
- Species Narratives
 - Visualizes results by species and stock
 - Climate effects on abundance and distribution
 - Life history overview

Outreach:

- World Fisheries Congress
- FishSCORE 2030 Workshop
- AFS Honolulu 2024



Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Climate Vulnerability Assessment

A climate vulnerability assessment for highly migratory fishes in the North Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea

NOAA Fisheries uses Climate Vulnerability Assessments (CVAs) to assess the vulnerability of fish stocks and protected species (e.g., marine mammals, sea turtles) to changing climate and ocean conditions. CVAs identify what species may be most vulnerable based on their exposure to projected changes in the environment and their adaptability to handle those changes.

The Atlantic Highly Migratory Species CVA evaluates the vulnerability of 58 species and stocks managed by the HMS Management Division of NOAA Fisheries. The HMS CVA follows eight completed CVAs for fish, invertebrates, and cetacean stocks across the Pacific Islands, West Coast, and Atlantic regions.

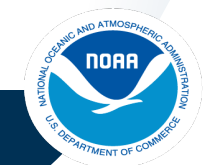
Assessment results can help identify areas where additional research and action is needed to reduce impacts on vulnerable species.



Operations in 2024 by the Numbers

(through April 16, 2024)

Operations:	Number
EFP/SRP/LOA	24
Shark Research Fishery Permits	3
HMS Tournaments Registered	94
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	7
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~20,000
Open Access Vessel permits	13,685
Recreational Shark Endorsements	7,463 (55%)
CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements	1,068 (44%)



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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 for 2024
- 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



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 (DEIS) 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 ~ Fall 2024

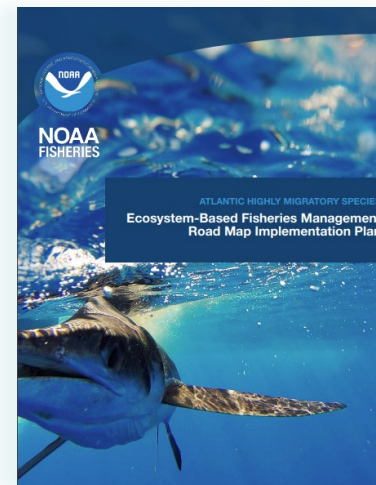
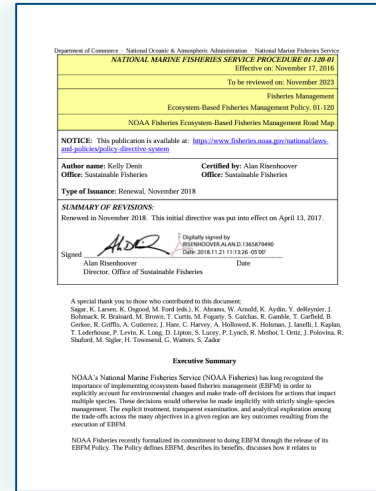


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There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM)

- The original EBFM Road Map and Policy were intended to span 2018-2022
- Revisions to the Policy were finalized in January 2024 ([NMFS Policy 01-120](#))
- Division staff are assisting with the development of a new Road Map which implements the new 2024 EBFM Policy
- The HMS EBFM Implementation Plan has continued to implement v1 of the Road Map, and will be used until new processes are established



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

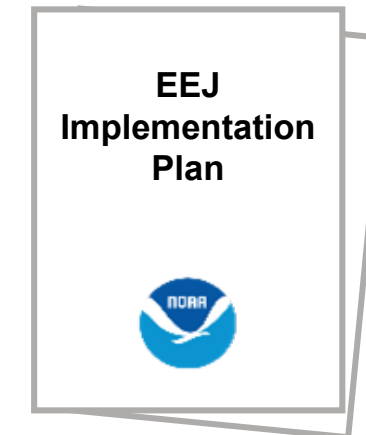
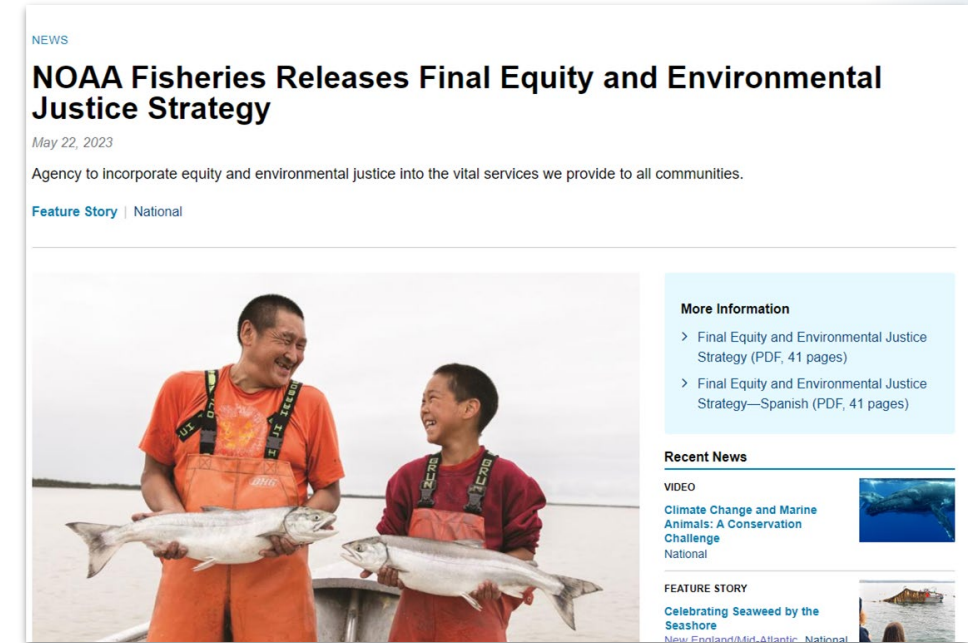
HMS Recreational Data Update

- Pilot testing for the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) redesign was completed in 2023. Staff from the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology and statistical consultants are analyzing the data, and preparing to submit the new design to the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) for certification by the end of this summer.
- Following certification, the next step will be to develop a calibrated LPS time series of catch estimates going back to 2002. This will be evaluated by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) before new estimates and indices are submitted to ICCAT.
- The historic LPS design will be conducted in 2024 to facilitate the bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation process at ICCAT. The new design could be implemented in either 2025 or 2026 pending MRIP certification, and SEFSC review of the calibrated estimate time series.



Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ)

- In May 2023, NOAA Fisheries released its National EEJ Strategy – it is the Agency’s framework to incorporate EEJ into our daily activities ([Webpage](#))
- Regional and Program Offices (including the Office of Sustainable Fisheries) have been working on their Implementation Plans, and we anticipate public release of the plans in June 2024.
- The plans are designed to be living documents that will be updated to ensure they address evolving community needs.
- NOAA Fisheries:
 - knows that it will take time to achieve these implementation plans;
 - is committed to making that progress; and
 - will continue engaging with communities throughout the regions on our efforts and share progress with partners.



OSF/HMS Outreach in the Caribbean

As part of our ongoing Outreach and Engagement efforts in the U.S. Caribbean, Division staff:

- Carried out 5 island-wide outreach workshops in Puerto Rico (April 26-May 3, 2024), with total attendance of 100 participants, and helped issue 50 HMS fishing/dealer permits.



Future outreach includes:

- May 14-16, 2024 - Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) workshop in St. Croix, USVI
- August 2024 - Five additional workshops along the southeast and northeast coast of Puerto Rico
- August 23-25, 2024 - MREP workshop in Fajardo, Puerto Rico



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 May 23!

Google Voucher Form: <https://forms.gle/ozciHnY3a6vNNZANA>

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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