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1. Correspondence (June 22-24, 2021) M

#13a.1

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

May 25, 2021

This Presentation...

Brief Update of Recent Actions

- Inseason Actions
- Litigation Update
- PLL Bluefin Tuna Area-Based and Weak Hook Management Measures
- Shark Update
- Paperwork Reduction Act

Updates from Other Offices

- OPR – ESA Shortfin Mako 90-day Finding
- OHC – DWH Oceanic Fish Restoration Project
- Enforcement

AP Meeting Discussion...

Discussion Items

- Bluefin Tuna Restricted-fishing Days (2021)
- Amendment 13
- Tunas: Maine/ATCA Rule
- Shark Fishery Update (SHARE)
- Shark and Swordfish Retention Limit Rule
- Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) framework document
- HMS Electronic Technologies Plan
- Fisheries Economic Situation Report



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EO 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

- President Biden's Executive Order, dated January 27, 2021.
- Section 216(c) directs NOAA to collect recommendations on how to make fisheries, including aquaculture, and protected resources more resilient to climate change, including changes in management and conservation measures, and improvements in science, monitoring, and cooperative research.
- NOAA's 30-day comment period ended April 2, 2021, and Council listening sessions were held. We anticipate this effort to be part of a long-term process for responding to the pervasive impacts of climate change on marine resources and the communities that depend upon them.
- Input will inform the next series of Regional Action Plans under the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy.
- NMFS Leadership will speak to this issue further on Thursday.



Rulemaking since the Fall 2020 AP Meeting

| Rulemaking | Type |
|--|--|
| Maine/Atlantic Tunas Convention Act | Proposed Rule – Comments due June 10, 2021 |
| 2021 Bluefin Tuna Restricted-fishing Days | Proposed Rule – Comments due June 11, 2021 |
| Amendment 13 | Proposed Rule – Comments due July 20, 2021 |
| Swordfish and Shark Retention Limits | Final Rule – Effective June 1, 2021 |
| 2021 Shark Quotas, Retention Limits, and Opening Dates | Final Rule – Effective January 1, 2021 |
| 2020 Northern Albacore, North and South Atlantic Swordfish, and Bluefin Tuna Reserve Category Quota | Final Rule – Effective October 1, 2020 (Adjusted quotas for 2020) |



Inseason Actions since the Fall AP Meeting

| Inseason Actions | Fishery |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Retention Limit Adjustments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SWO General Commercial• BFT Angling category, General category• Atl Agg LCS and HH increase |
| Closures/Reopenings | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT: 2020: Several General category closures/reopenings;• BFT 2021: Angling category Trophy South, Gulf of Mexico, and North• WGOM Agg LCS and HH closure |
| Quota Transfers/Reallocation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT: 2020: Several transfers to the General category; 2021: 2 transfers to General category Jan-Mar); Annual reallocation (Purse Seine to Reserve) |

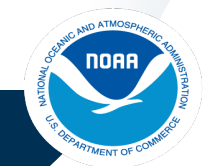


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Operations since the Fall 2020 AP Meeting

Through May 10, 2021

| Operations: | # |
|--|---------------|
| EFP/SRP/LOA | 24 |
| Shark Research Fishery Permits | 4 |
| HMS Tournaments Registered | 146 |
| Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops | 26 |
| Atlantic HMS News Subscribers | 5,803 |
| Recreational Shark Endorsements | 15,200 (~59%) |
| CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements | 1,415 (~44%) |
| Restructure of HMSpermits.NOAA.gov | |



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Litigation: PLL Bluefin Tuna Area-Based and Weak Hook Management Measures

- Lawsuit filed by EarthJustice, on behalf of Healthy Gulf and Turtle Island Network
- Filed on April 29, 2020
- Administrative record filed June 18, 2020
- Supplement to the record filed August 25, 2020
- Briefing completed in December 2020
- Awaiting judge's ruling



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2021 Appropriations Act Joint Explanatory Statement (JES)

– Spring Gulf of Mexico Monitoring Area

- Language in the JES directed NOAA Fisheries to reconsider the GRA-WH Rule decision to open the Spring Gulf of Mexico Monitoring Area or to increase monitoring in the area.
- NOAA Fisheries will publish a public request for any information not considered in development of the final rule
- NOAA Fisheries will accept comments for 30 days and will review the comments submitted and consider whether additional action is necessary.
- We are seeking any information not considered in the final rule from the AP at this meeting.
- Bluefin tuna catch data is posted on the GRA/WH [rulemaking page](#)



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2021 Appropriations Act Joint Explanatory Statement

– Shark and Marine Mammal Interactions (Depredation)

- Congress has directed the Agency to undertake a review “...to assess and better understand the occurrence of conflicts between dolphins and sharks and commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishing vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.”
- NOAA Fisheries is working on such a review.
- We expect to share a draft of the review with the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and the HMS AP in the Fall.
- Note: SHARE (to be discussed later at this meeting) also considers shark depredation.



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Shark Updates

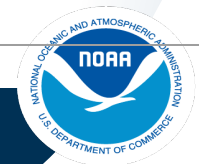
- Amendment 5b - dusky sharks
 - Oceana first challenged Amendment 5b in this case in May 2017
 - On March 30, 2021, the District Court (for D.C.) fully upheld Amendment 5b
- Shark Fin Bills - continue to be considered by Congress and states
 - S. 1106/H.R. 2811 and S. 1372
 - FL bill effective January 2021; exemption for federal shark dealers/fishermen/exporters who held a permit as of January 2020
 - NJ bill effective January 2021
- Assessments: Atlantic blacktip (SEDAR) and Porbeagle (ICCAT) complete, results preliminary; Hammerhead research track underway
- Amendment 14 (ABC Control Rule): Reviewing comments; drafting final documents



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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 |



2020 Landings of Blue and White Marlin and Roundscale Spearfish – Update since the December 2020 AP Meeting

- NMFS monitors landings throughout the fishing year to ensure that the U.S. recreational fishery remains within the ICCAT-established limit of 250 landings for all these species combined
- Unique 2020 QA/QC issue - integration of eTrips data and tournament landing trend
 - Released fish incorrectly reported via eTrips as landings (corrected)
 - High levels of tournament landings in summer 2020
- Final 2020 landings estimate (as of April 2021) = 235 billfish
 - 74 blue marlin, 95 white marlin, 66 roundscale spearfish
 - No minimum size limit warranted for 2021
 - Will monitor 2021 landings closely and adjust if necessary



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Paperwork Reduction Act

- We are seeking public comment on PRA renewals for multiple HMS data collections under the following OMB Control Numbers:
 - 0648-0040 - HMS Dealer and Bluefin Tuna Trade Reporting
 - 0648-0677 - Individual Bluefin Tuna Quota Reporting
 - 0648-0372 - MS Electronic Monitoring and Vessel Monitoring Systems
 - 0648-0327 - HMS Permit Family of Forms
- Specifically, we are interested in comments on:
 - the utility of the data collected
 - the accuracy of our burden (time and cost) estimates
 - ways to enhance the quality of the data collected
 - ways to minimize reporting burden
- Comments can be sent to Adrienne.Thomas@noaa.gov and should include the corresponding OMB Control Number; contact Cliff Hutt (cliff.hutt@noaa.gov) for further information



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Shark Communications Campaign (#KnowSharksBetter)

- A summer-long social media campaign focused on providing fact-based shark information to the public
- Content will also address misperceptions about commercial and recreational shark fishing and the status of U.S. shark populations
- Follow @NOAAFisheries on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for content
- Look for the hashtag #KnowSharksBetter
- Participate by promoting our content on your social media platforms



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HMS AP Member Terms

- Considering limits on *consecutive* terms on the AP (currently none)
- Looking to balance incorporating new voices with maintaining institutional knowledge
- Welcome your feedback on approaches



There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

NOAA Fisheries recognizes that economic conditions have continued to change over the course of the year. An upcoming agenda item will allow for a more detailed discussion.

Some other things might impact HMS fisheries

- Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan Changes: [Proposed rule](#) published 12/15/2020
- Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Possible Changes: Modifying model to look at gillnet gear; various public meetings happened in April; expect more meetings in future
- Expansion of Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary
 - Final Rule published January 19, 2021 (86 FR 4937).
 - Adds ~104 sq mi, protects 14 additional reefs and banks in the Gulf of Mexico.



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Some other things might impact HMS fisheries

- [Gulf of Mexico Coral Amendment 9](#): final rule published 10/16/2020
- [Expansion of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#): DEIS and [Restoration Blueprint](#) released 8/20/19 and comment period ended 1/31/2020
- [Aquaculture](#): HMS Management Division is participating in a Southeast IPT for Aquaculture; Agency actively involved in multiple consultations and in site analyses
- [Modification of Fishing Access in Eastern Gulf of Mexico MPAs \(Madison-Swanson / Steamboat Lumps\)](#): request for commensurate regulations for Atlantic HMS from the Gulf Council
- [NE Canyons and Seamounts](#): Pursuant to E.O. 13990, Sec. of Interior must review the June 5, 2020 Presidential Proclamation that lifted the prohibition on commercial fishing in the Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monuments



Southeast For-Hire Electronic Logbook Reporting

South Atlantic final rule published February 24, 2020

- Effective January 4, 2021 for Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo; South Atlantic Pelagic Fish and Snapper/Grouper permit holders.

Gulf of Mexico and VMS type-approval final rules published July 2020

- Effective January 4, 2021 for Gulf of Mexico CHB Pelagic Fish and Reef Fish permits. VMS implementation date is TBD.

HMS Division continues to work with ACCSP and GARFO to incorporate HMS Catch Reporting data elements to eTRIPS and eVTR to eliminate need for duplicate reporting; work is being done through One Stop Reporting initiative.

SE Website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/recreational-fishing-data/southeast-hire-electronic-reporting-program>



Electronic Vessel Reporting

The HMS Management Division is involved with the One Stop Reporting (OSR) initiative to streamline and create electronic vessel reporting.

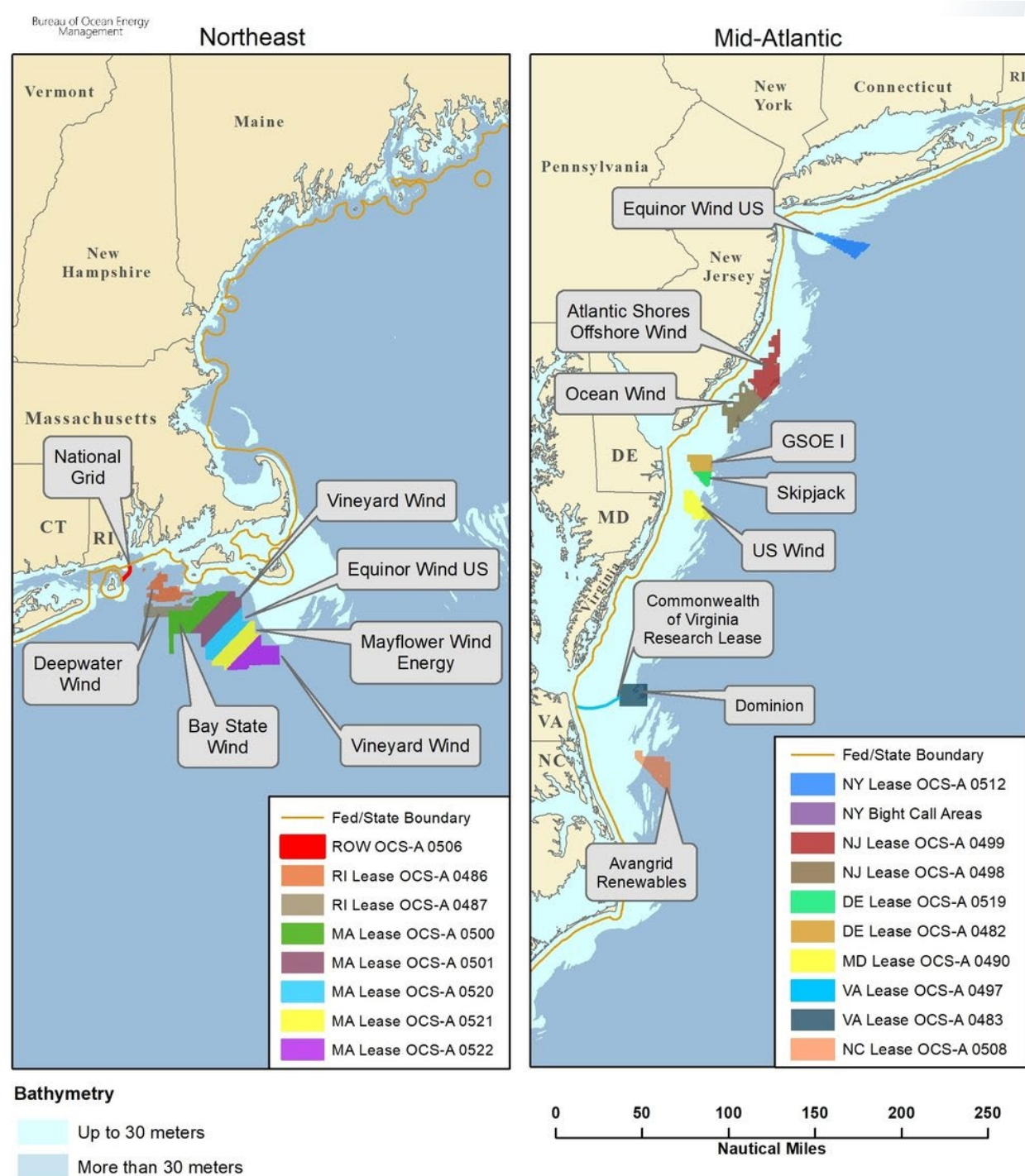
- The OSR team is working on ways to create streamlined electronic reporting for vessels that have multiple permits
- This involves creating electronic reporting programs that can accommodate reporting requirements for multiple fisheries in different regions
- Driven by GARFO's need to have a simplified electronic vessel reporting system by the Summer of 2021
- Currently, the eTrips program fulfills reporting requirements associated with GARFO, HMS handgear, and SEFHEIR fishing permits; in the near future the Southeast Coastal Fisheries and HMS Logbooks requirements will also be included in eTrips



Offshore Wind

Many projects moving forward under “One Federal Decision” with BOEM

- HMS Division is coordinating with GARFO, SERO, and Science Centers on project reviews, impact assessments
- Stay informed and submit comments:
 - BOEM: https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-fishing-industry-communication-and-engagement?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
 - Councils: <https://www.mafmc.org/northeast-offshore-wind>
 - ICES Working Group: <http://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGOWDF.aspx>
 - RODA: <https://rodafisheries.org/>



Looking Ahead

Upcoming Dates:

- ATCA/Maine - comment period ends June 10
- BFT Restricted-Fishing Days - comment period ends June 11
- SHARE webinar - Summer 2021
- Amendment 13 public hearings - Summer 2021; comment period ends July 20
- Request for new information for JES response - GOM Monitoring Area - early summer

Upcoming Rules/Actions/Notices:

- SHARE – expected release soon
- Final Amendment 12 – expected mid-summer
- 2021 Annual NALB, SWO, and BFT Reserve Quota Adjustment – expected late summer
- Final Amendment 14 – expected by the end of the year
- Spatial Management Data Collection Proposed Rule – expected early 2022
- BSIA - expected in Fall 2021
- 2022 Shark specifications - Proposed Rule expected in summer



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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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Contacting the HMS Management Division

- **All HMS staff are working remotely; HQ and regional offices are closed**
- If you need to contact us, you can:
 - Email specific staff
 - Call the main phone line (301-427-8503) and leave a voicemail
- While we're not physically in the office, we are monitoring voicemails and will call/email people back



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Conclusion/Looking Forward

In conclusion,

- We are covering a lot of ground at this meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

Looking forward,

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



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Questions?

Thank you!



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