

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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

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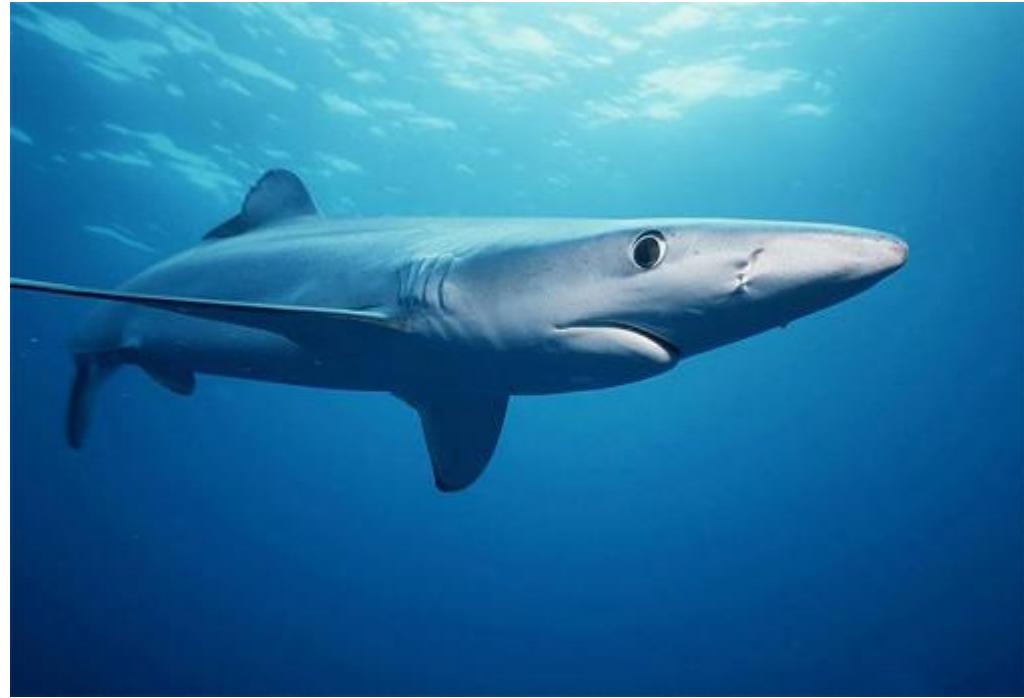
Shark Fishery Review (SHARE)

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting

May 2021

Outline

- What is SHARE?
- Brief Description of the Fishery
 - Commercial
 - Recreational
 - Shark Depredation
 - Other/"Outside" Factors
- Potential Ways Forward
- Next Steps



What is SHARE?

- Complete review of the Atlantic shark fishery with focus on recent years

What years were reviewed?

- 2014 through 2019

What are the goals?

- Review current state of the Atlantic shark fishery
- Identify areas of success
- Identify areas of concern
- Identify ways to improve the fishery



Commercial Fishery

Data reviewed in SHARE:

- Limited access and open access permits
- Permit type, trips, and gear used to target or retain sharks
- Shark landings
- Dealer permits
- Markets



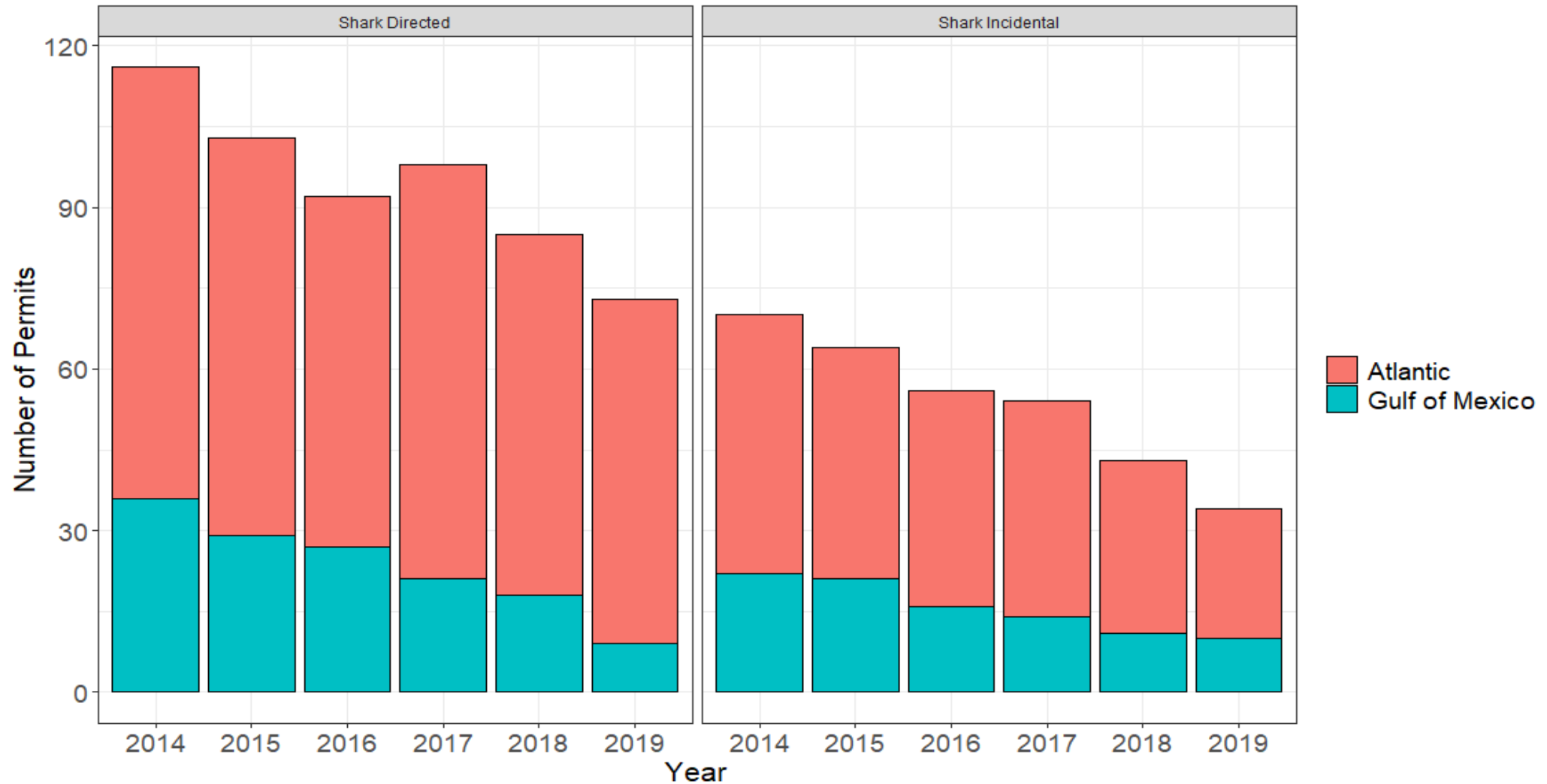
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Commercial Fishery – Current State

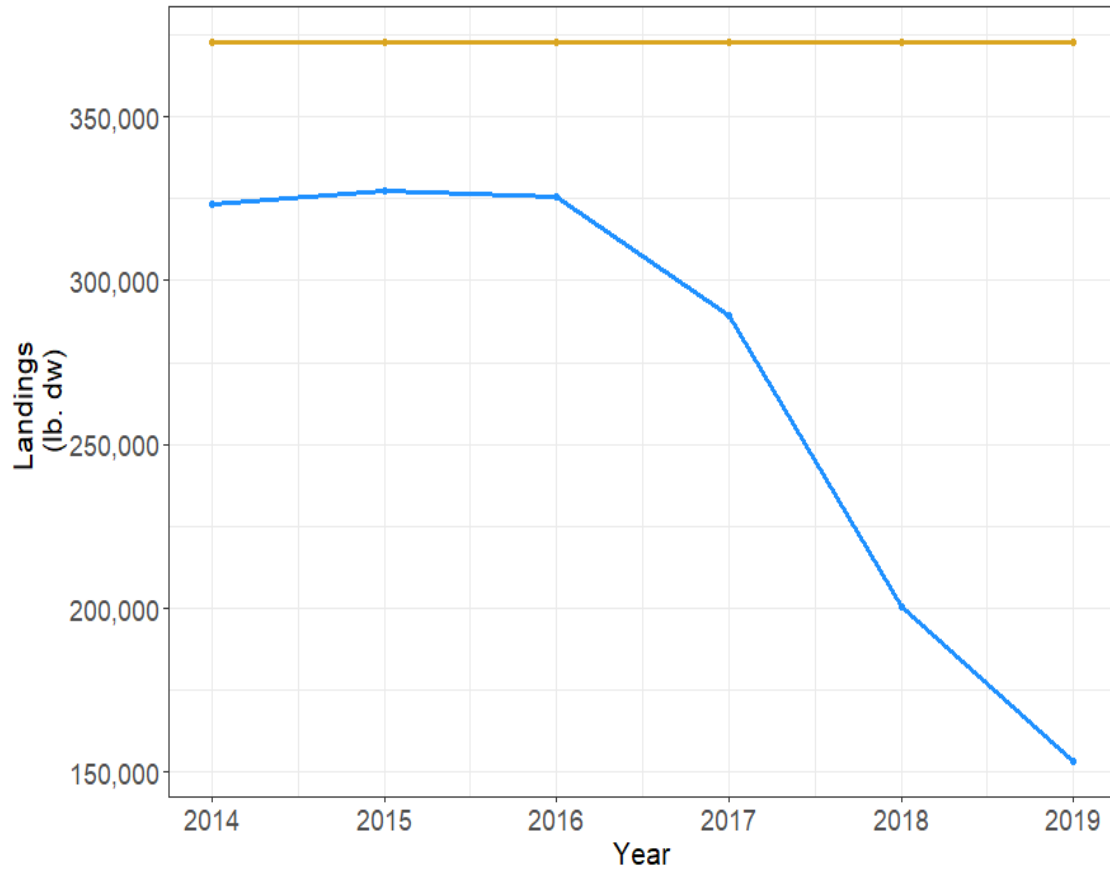
- The number of active permit holders has declined
- The number of trips landing and targeting sharks has declined
- Shark landings are at all-time lows
- Shark product prices, revenues to fishermen and dealers, and trade in shark products have dropped



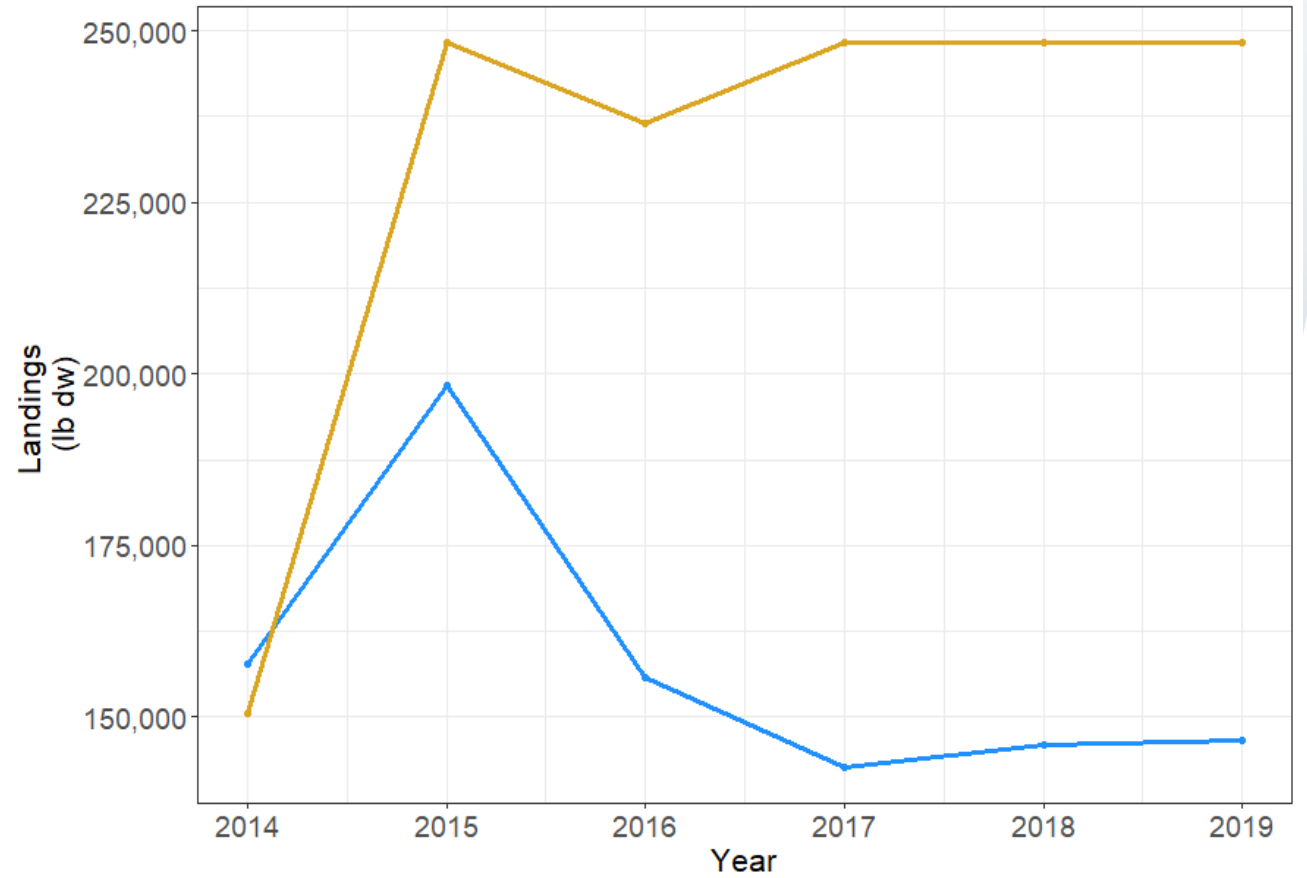
Number of Active Limited Access Permits by Region



Atlantic Aggregated LCS Quota and Landings



Gulf of Mexico Non-Blacknose SCS Quota and Landings



Commercial Fishery – Areas of Success/Concern

Success

- Year-round shark fishery has added stability to the fishery
- Quotas are not being exceeded
- Some shark populations are increasing*

*As noted by recent stock assessments.

Concern

- Participation in the shark fishery has declined
- Some measures have had greater effort than intended
- Market decline and lower revenues are forcing fishermen into other fisheries

Recreational Fishery

Data reviewed in SHARE:

- Shark endorsement permits
- Fishing effort (directed and non-directed)
- Survey data
- Tournament landings

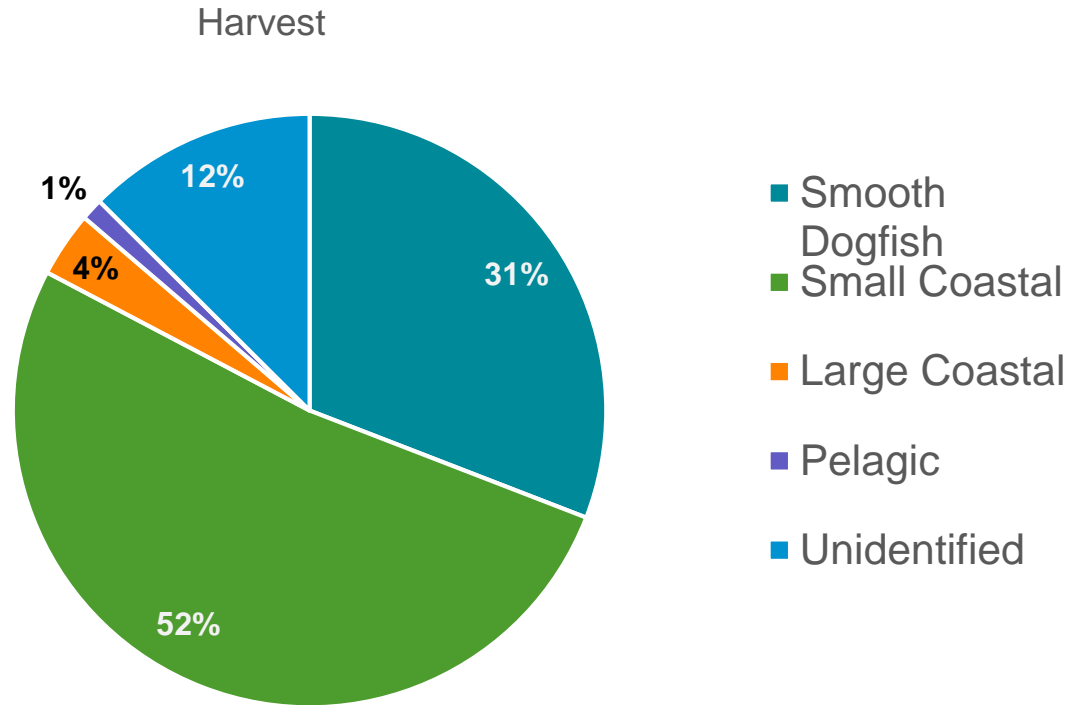


Recreational Fishery – Current State

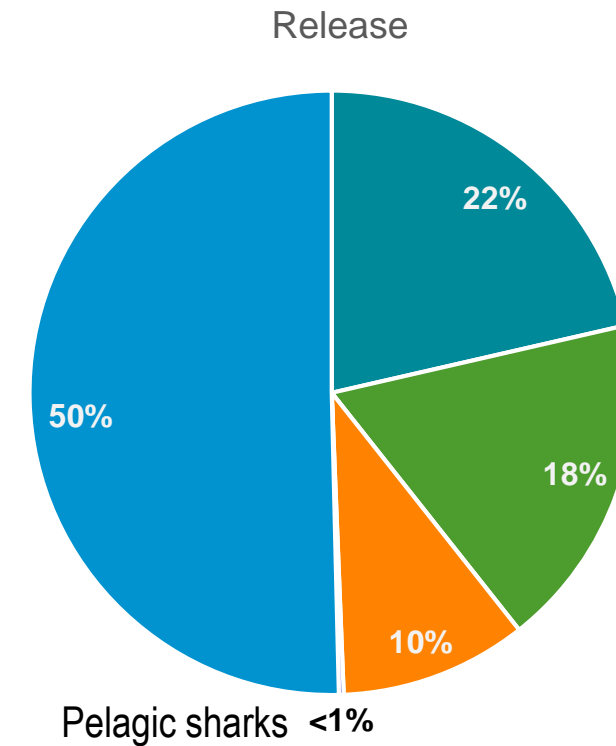
- Non-directed trips (~80%) are catching and releasing the most sharks (in number)
- There has been an increased effort by state-water or shore-based fishermen with ~95% of trips catching coastal sharks occurring in state waters
- Small coastal sharks (SCS) and smooth dogfish account for ~80% of harvested HMS-managed sharks
- Directed trips targeting pelagic sharks and tournament landings have declined since implementation of restrictive size limits for shortfin mako sharks



Percentage of Sharks Harvested and Released in the Atlantic (2014-2019)



Number of sharks: ~241,000



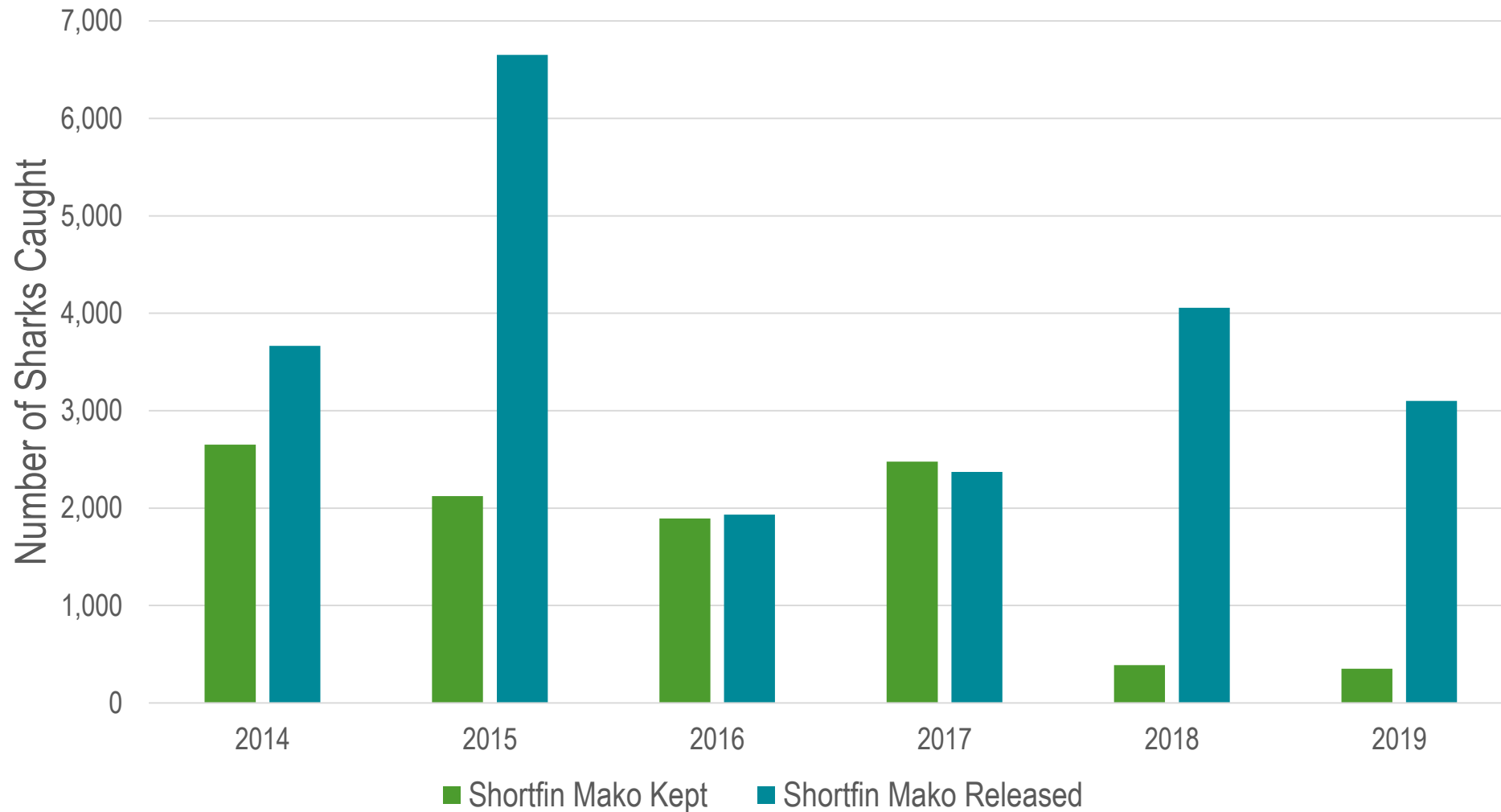
Number of sharks: ~13 million

- Smooth Dogfish
- Small Coastal
- Large Coastal
- Pelagic
- Unidentified

Sources: MRIP, LPS, SRHS



Shortfin Mako Shark Kept and Release Estimates By Year



Source: U.S. Atlantic recreational fisheries



Recreational Fishery – Area of Success/Concern

Success

- Most permit holders are obtaining the shark endorsement and viewing the education materials
- U.S. shortfin mako harvests reduced by 85%
- Decrease in unidentified sharks harvested

Concern

- Difference between federal and state regulations
- Some non-HMS anglers are not familiar with shark identification or different regulations
- 50% of released sharks are unidentified



Shark Depredation

Information reviewed in SHARE:

- Extent of depredation (comments received by HMS)
- Depredation mitigation techniques
- Shark populations/conservation requirements
- Ongoing research
- Future research avenues



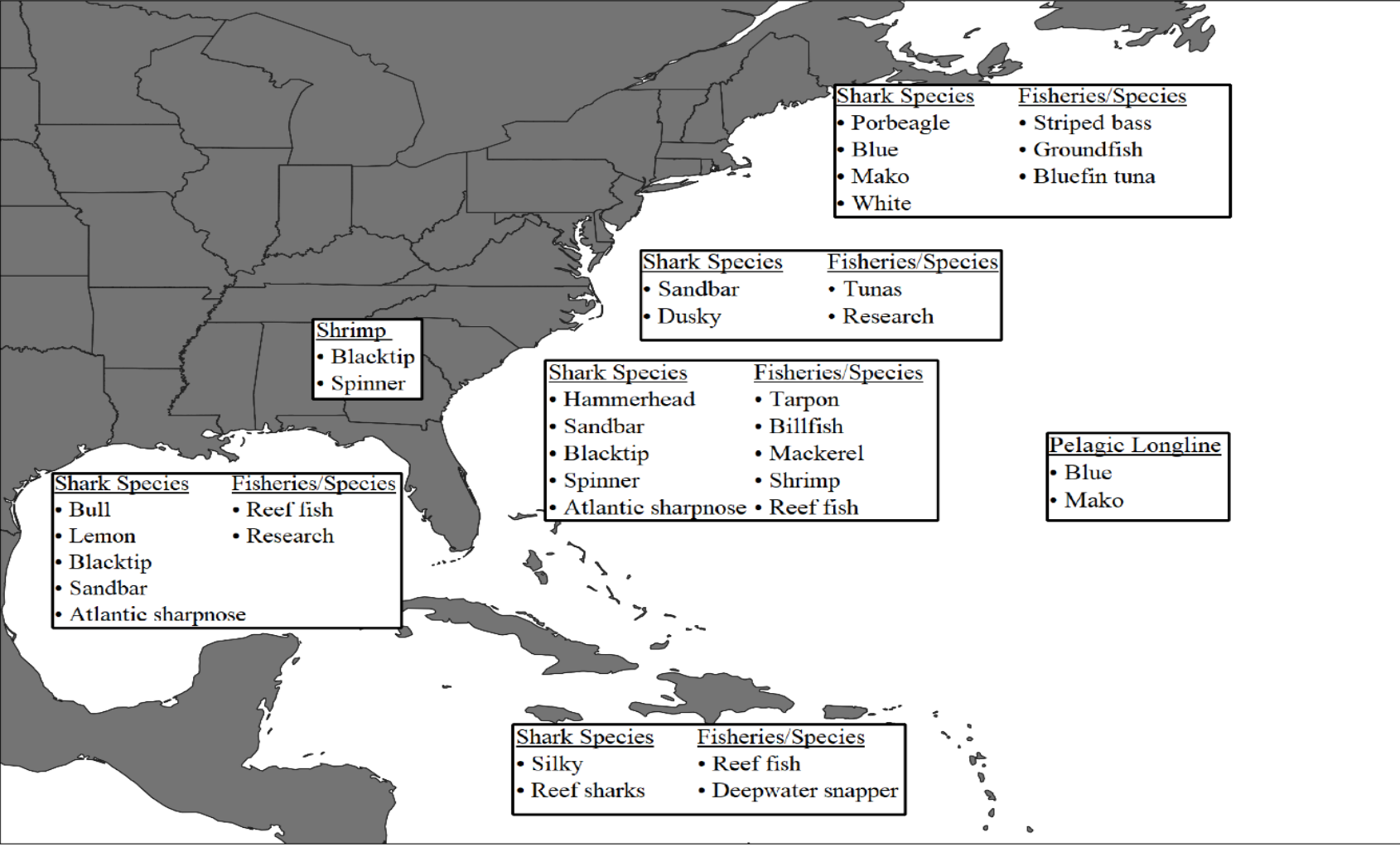
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Shark Depredation – Current State

- Increasing and widespread reports of depredation
- Congressional directive to review “...the occurrence of conflicts between dolphins and sharks and commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishing vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.”
- Data suggest a stable trend in depredation in pelagic longline fishery and upward trend in Gulf of Mexico reef fish fisheries
- Loss of revenue experienced by fishermen due to little-to-no market value for fish damaged by predators



Shark Depredation – Comments Received on the Shark Species and Affected Fisheries/Species



Shark Depredation – Area of Success/Concern

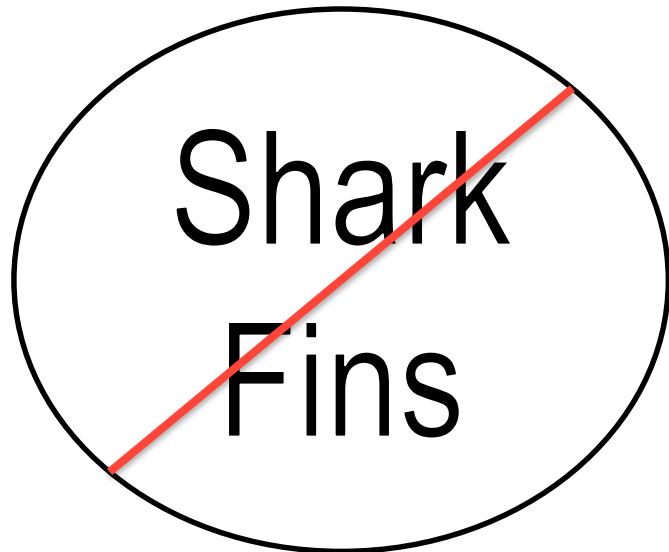
Success

- Improvements in citizen science
- Increased data collection and ongoing research
- Increased and broadened stakeholder engagement

Concern

- Lack of data on shark interactions to identify shark species and extent of depredation
- Lack of methods to deter shark depredation
- Reduced effort in the shark fishery

Other/"Outside" Factors



Other Factors – Current State

- Timing and higher revenue of other fisheries has affected participation in the shark fishery
- State shark fin bans have created confusion and market uncertainty for federal and state fishermen
- The United States and U.S. fishermen have been doing their part to help rebuild shark stocks worldwide

Other Factors – Area of Success/Concern

Success

- Many of the outside factors are helping rebuild shark stocks
- Some shark fishermen and dealers are able to navigate the outside factors and continue to participate in the fishery

Concern

- Outside factors impacting the fishery are beyond HMS management authority
- State shark fin bans are having direct and indirect impacts
- International measures are impacting U.S. fishermen

Potential Ways Forward

Potential modifications to:

- Vessel permit structure: Changing incidental limited access permits to open access permits
- Commercial retention limits: LCS, blacknose, and other
- Regional and sub-regional quotas
- Recreational size and retention limits

Additionally, beyond the regulations, NOAA Fisheries could:

- Improve communication and outreach within and outside the shark fishery (#KnowSharksBetter)
- Communicate best practices for commercial and recreational fishermen to mitigate shark depredation events



Timing of Next Steps

- Summer 2021: Release Draft SHARE, conduct public webinar
- Late 2021/Early 2022: Release Final SHARE
- 2022: Begin future rulemakings* based on SHARE findings

*These future rules would not affect Amendment 14 (Shark ABC Control Rule), Amendment 14 follow-on (establishing new quotas), or 2022 shark specifications

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