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# Domestic Management Update

ICCAT Advisory Committee

October 17-18, 2018



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Office of  
Sustainable  
Fisheries

# 2017 ICCAT Recommendations

## Domestic implementation:

- Northern albacore (Rec 17-04)
- Bluefin tuna (Rec 17-06)
- Shortfin mako shark (Rec 17-08)
- North Swordfish and South Swordfish regulations already consistent with Recs 17-02 and 17-03
- New provisions that do not require regulatory changes:
  - Modification of eBCD requirements (Rec 17-09)
- Measures that did not require domestic implementation changes:
  - Prohibition on discards of tropical tunas caught by purse seiners (Rec 17-01)

# ICCAT Rec 17-04: Northern Albacore Harvest Control Rule (HCR)

- ICCAT adopted an HCR for northern albacore on an *interim basis*
- Application of the HCR resulted in a TAC increase from 28,000 mt to 33,600 mt for each of 2018, 2019, and 2020
  - Consistent with the stability clause of the HCR, which limits the TAC increase to 20%
  - **U.S. baseline quota increased from 527 mt to 632.4 mt**
- The SCRS will continue to develop the management strategy evaluation (MSE) over the 2018-2020 period, and the Commission will review the interim HCR in 2020 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedures at that point

# ICCAT Rec 17-06: Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Interim Conservation and Management Plan

- Intended to be responsive to the scientific advice while recognizing the need for a transition between the 20-year rebuilding program adopted in 1998 and a future approach to managing the stock that relies on management procedures
- **Increased overall TAC from 2,000 mt to 2,350 mt (inclusive of dead discards) for each of 2018, 2019, and 2020**
  - Adopted TAC is consistent with the SCRS recommendations
  - U.S. baseline quota increased from 1,058.79 mt to 1,247.86 mt
  - Total U.S. quota, including 25 mt to account for bycatch related to pelagic longline fisheries in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area, increased to 1,272.86 mt
- Maintained other provisions of prior recommendation (Rec 16-08), including:
  - School BFT limit of no more than 10% by weight (US: 127.3 mt)
  - 10% cap on underharvest carried forward (108.4 mt in 2018; 127.3 mt in 2019)



# Bluefin Tuna Final Quota Rule

- Effective October 10, 2018
- Modifies baseline annual U.S. quota and subquotas for Atlantic bluefin tuna, as well as the baseline annual U.S. northern albacore quota.
- Makes minor change to the Atlantic tunas size limit regulations to address retention, possession, and landing of bigeye and yellowfin tunas damaged through predation by sharks and other marine species.
- Adjusts the bluefin tuna Reserve category quota and the northern albacore baseline quota with available underharvest from previous year.

# BFT 2018 to Date – Inseason Actions

- 6 Quota transfers
- 5 Closures
- 1 Re-opening
- 3 Retention limit adjustments
- Annual recalculation of Purse Seine category quota based on previous year's catch

# Pelagic Longline Fishery Management

## Gear Restricted Area (GRA) & Weak Hook Management Measures

- Determine if existing area-based and weak hook management measures are the best means of achieving the current management objectives and providing flexibility to adapt to fishing variability in the future
- NOA and Scoping comment period (83 FR 8969; March 2, 2018)
- Proposed rule, DEIS anticipated – Spring 2019
- Final rule & FEIS – Fall 2019

## Data Collection and Research to Support Spatial Fishery Management

- Collect data in areas that currently restrict comm. and/or rec. fishing
- Currently drafting an Issues/Options paper to more fully consider ways to collect data in closed areas comprehensively; likely completed later this year for distribution and public comment

# 17-08 Conservation of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Shark

- Maximizes live releases
- Retention allowed under limited circumstances
  - If dead at haulback (requires observer and/or electronic monitoring (EM) system)
  - Minimum Size Limits: 180 cm FL male, 210 cm FL female
- November 2018 - review first six months of 2018 catches
- 2019 – SCRS evaluation of measure effectiveness, establish rebuilding plan



# Shortfin Mako Shark Emergency Rule

## Interim Final Measures

### Commercial:

- Live release of shortfin mako sharks in pelagic longline fishery
  - Retention only if shark is dead at haulback and vessel has functioning EM
- Prohibits retention of shortfin mako sharks caught on commercial gears other than pelagic longline (bottom longline, gillnet, etc.)
- Estimated 75% reduction in U.S. commercial landings

### Recreational:

- Increase rec. min. size limit from 54 in to 83 in FL (straight line)
- Estimated 83% reduction in U.S. recreational landings

Effective through March 3, 2019 or until Am. 11 is in place, whichever occurs first.

# Shortfin Mako Shark Amendment 11

- **Purpose:** Implement management measures to address overfishing and help rebuild the North Atlantic shortfin mako shark stock
- Alternatives cover a range of potential options for commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, monitoring, and rebuilding
- Proposed Rule public comment period closed Oct. 8, 2018
- Six public hearings; presentations at NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC, and GMFMC; and a public webinar
- Final rule anticipated Spring 2019



# Swordfish Quota Adjustment

- Temporary final rule published Oct. 1, 2018 (83 FR 37446)
- Adjusted the North swordfish (NSWO) and South swordfish (SSWO) baseline quotas for 2018 based on available underharvest from the 2017 adjusted U.S. quotas and international quota transfers
  - Adjusted 2018 NSWO quota:  $2,937.6 + 440.6 = 3,378.2$  mt dw
  - Adjusted 2018 SSWO quota: 75.1 mt dw

# Landings & Tournaments Updates

| Species  | Link to Landings Information / Updates  |
|--|---|
| Swordfish,<br>BAYS tunas,<br>Sharks,<br>Bluefin tuna,<br>and<br>Billfish | <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates</a> |
| Tournaments  | <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-tournaments">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-tournaments</a>           |
| Tuna Info  | <a href="https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/">https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/</a>   |

# Questions?

Thank you!