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Shark Fishery Review (SHARE)

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 2020

Outline

- Quick management history, 2014-present
- Objectives for SHARE
- Brief Description of the Fishery
 - Commercial
 - Recreational
 - Market Prices
- Next Steps

Quick Management History, 2014-present

- Amendments 6, 5b, 9, and 11 (Draft Am. 14 underway)
- Blacknose shark retention limit
- Annual Shark Season Rules
 - Establishes annual opening date, starting retention limits, adjusted quotas, and percentage threshold (for Atlantic only)
- Inseason Actions
 - 14 Retention limit adjustments (average 2 adjustments/yr)
 - 16 Closure notices (average over 2 closures/yr)

Objectives of SHARE

- Review of all aspects of the Atlantic shark fishery
 - **Note:** General approach to shark ACLs/AMs/ABC Control Rule are being addressed in upcoming Draft Amendment 14. Comments on those aspects of shark management should be made during the Draft Amendment 14 public comment period.
- Identify areas of concern in the fishery
- Use to help prioritize future management actions

Work is ongoing. Only some information is presented here.



Commercial Fishery



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Commercial Fishery

Generally, from 2014-2019...

- The number of active permit holders has declined
- The number of trips landing and targeting sharks has declined
- Mean landings per trip (by weight) have declined
- A small number of shark fishermen account for a large portion of landings

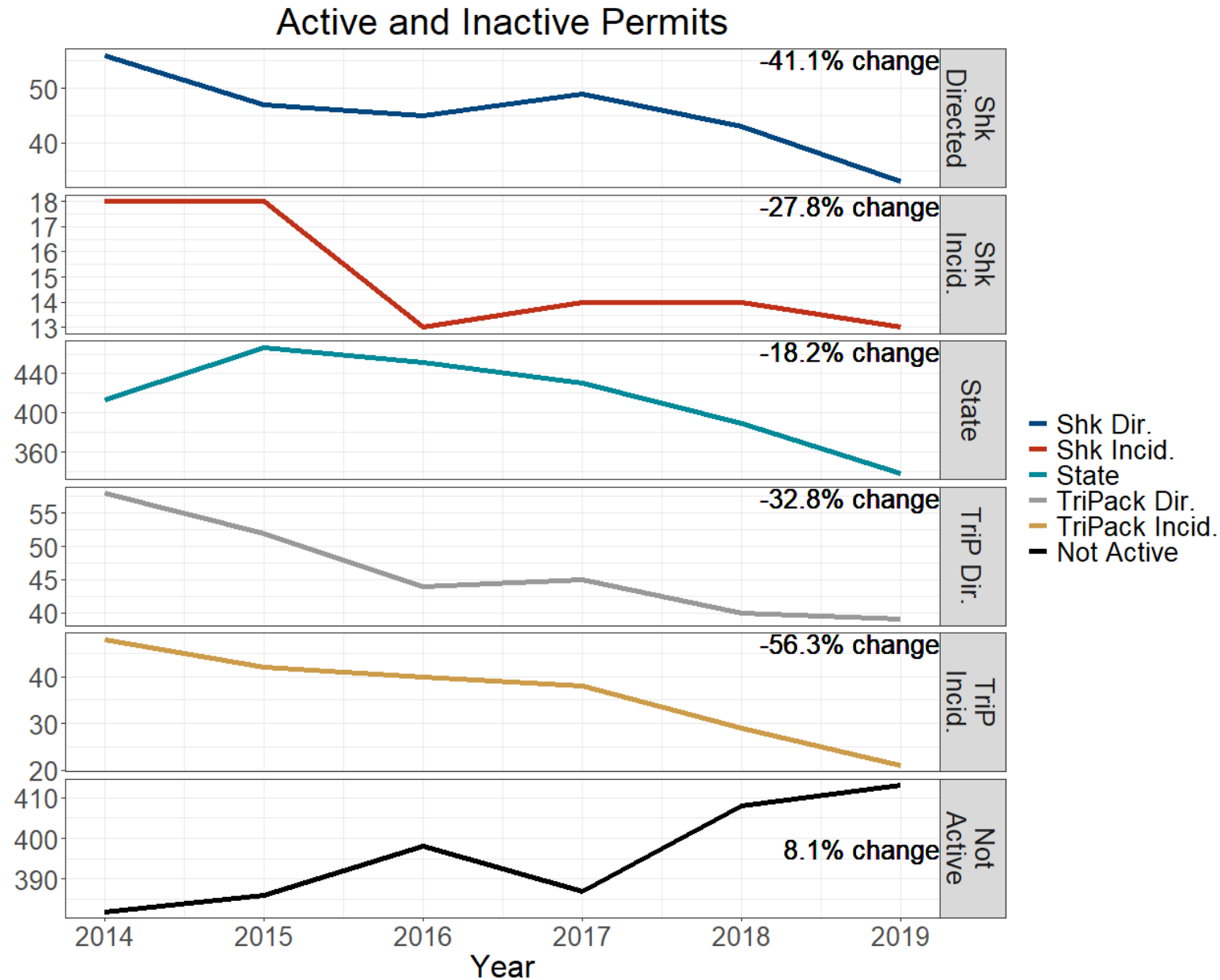
Commercial Permits

- 41% reduction of active permits
- Total number of issued* shark directed and incidental decreased >10%

* Issued permits includes active and inactive

TriPack Dir. = Shark Directed Permit carried with Swordfish and Atlantic Tuna Longline Permits

TriPack Incid. = Shark Incidental Permit carried with Swordfish and Atlantic Tuna Longline Permits

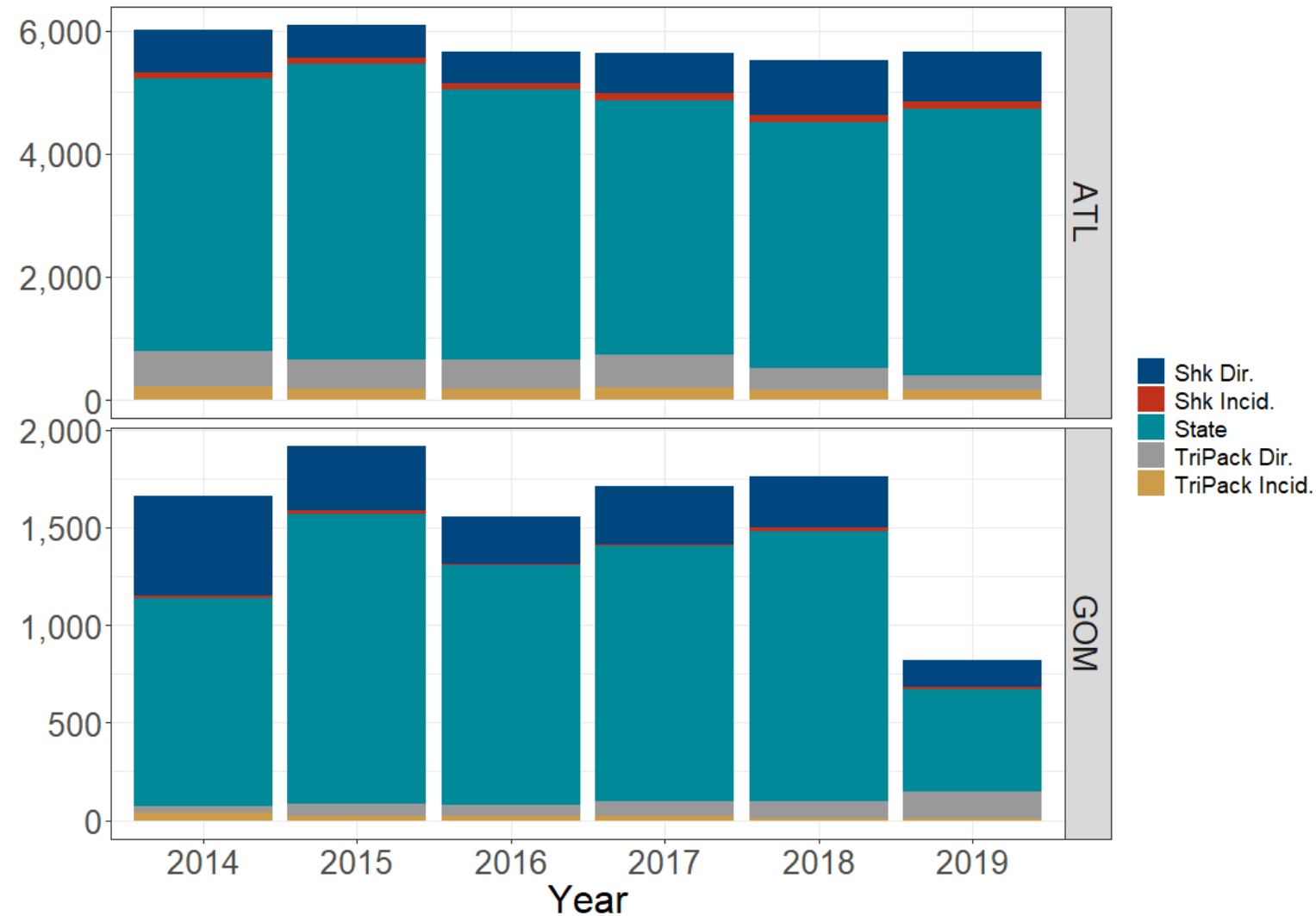


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Commercial Trips

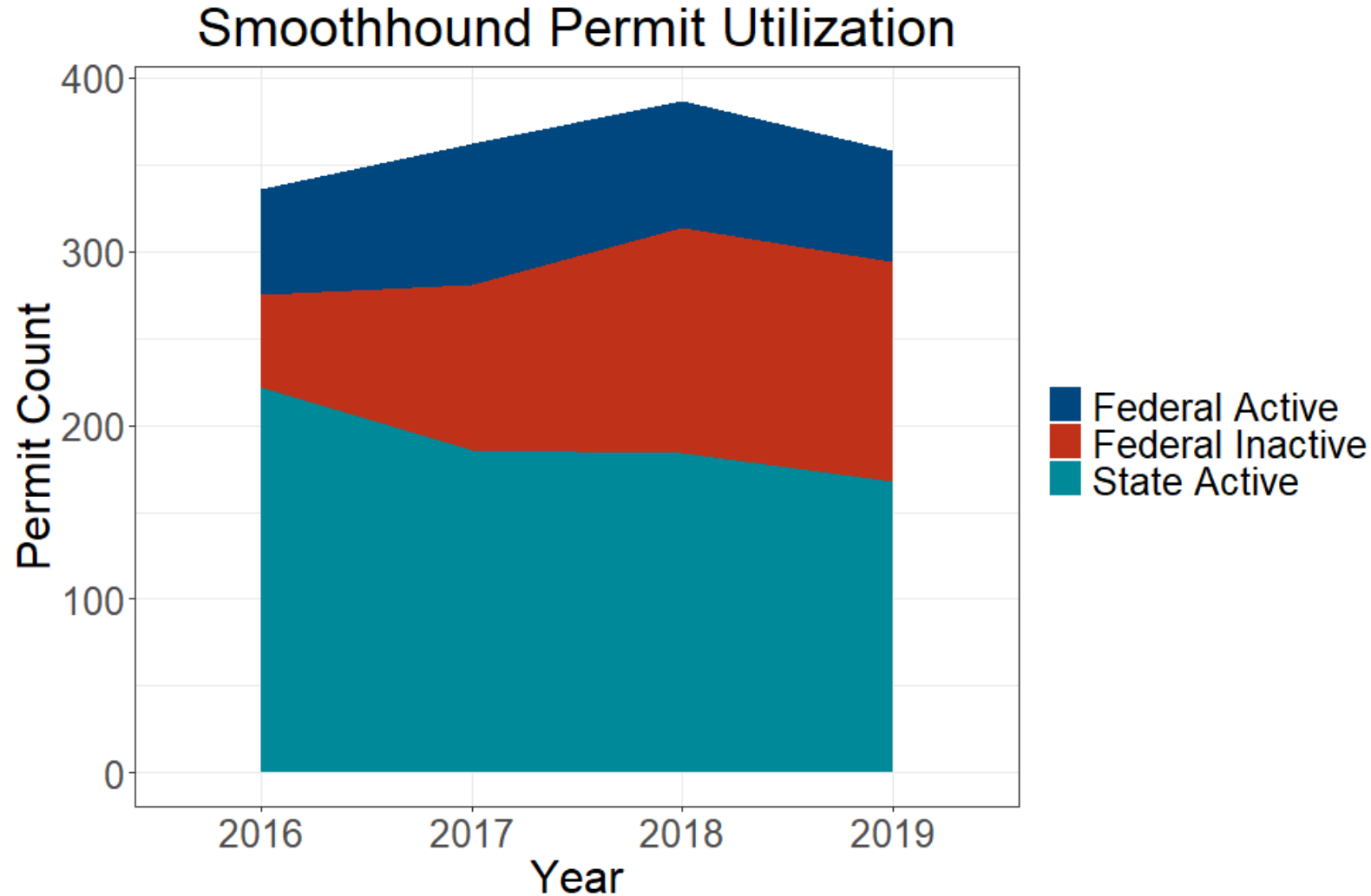
- Includes trips with any shark landings
- Most trips conducted by State fishermen
- Large decline in number of trips in Gulf of Mexico in 2019

Number of Trips with Shark Landings by Permit Type



Smoothhound Shark Commercial Fishing Permit

- Open access permit; required since 2016
- Fishery primarily focused on smooth dogfish in Atlantic
- Still examining issues with this permit/fishery

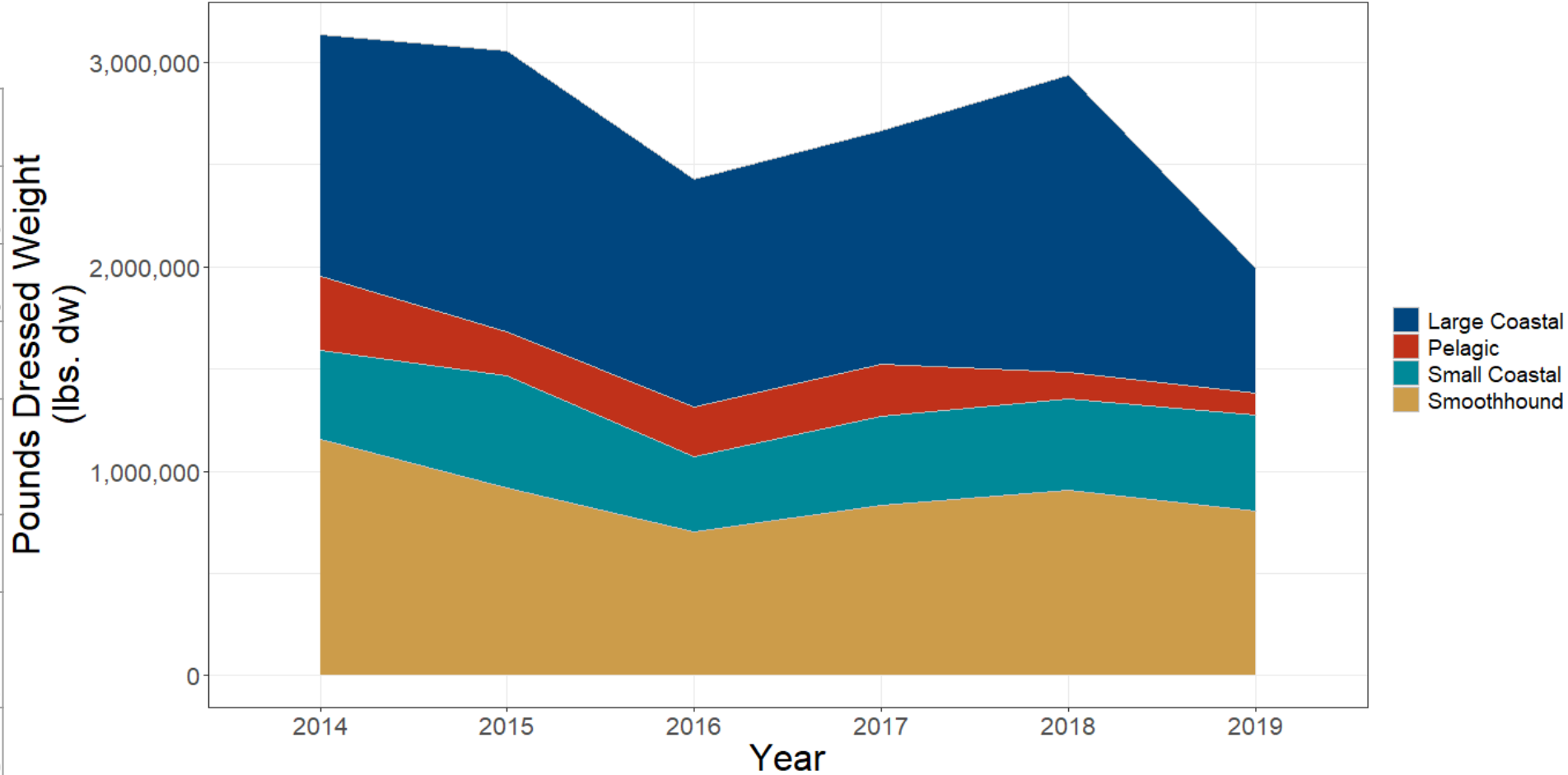


Commercial Landings

Top Species Landed from each Management Group, all Years

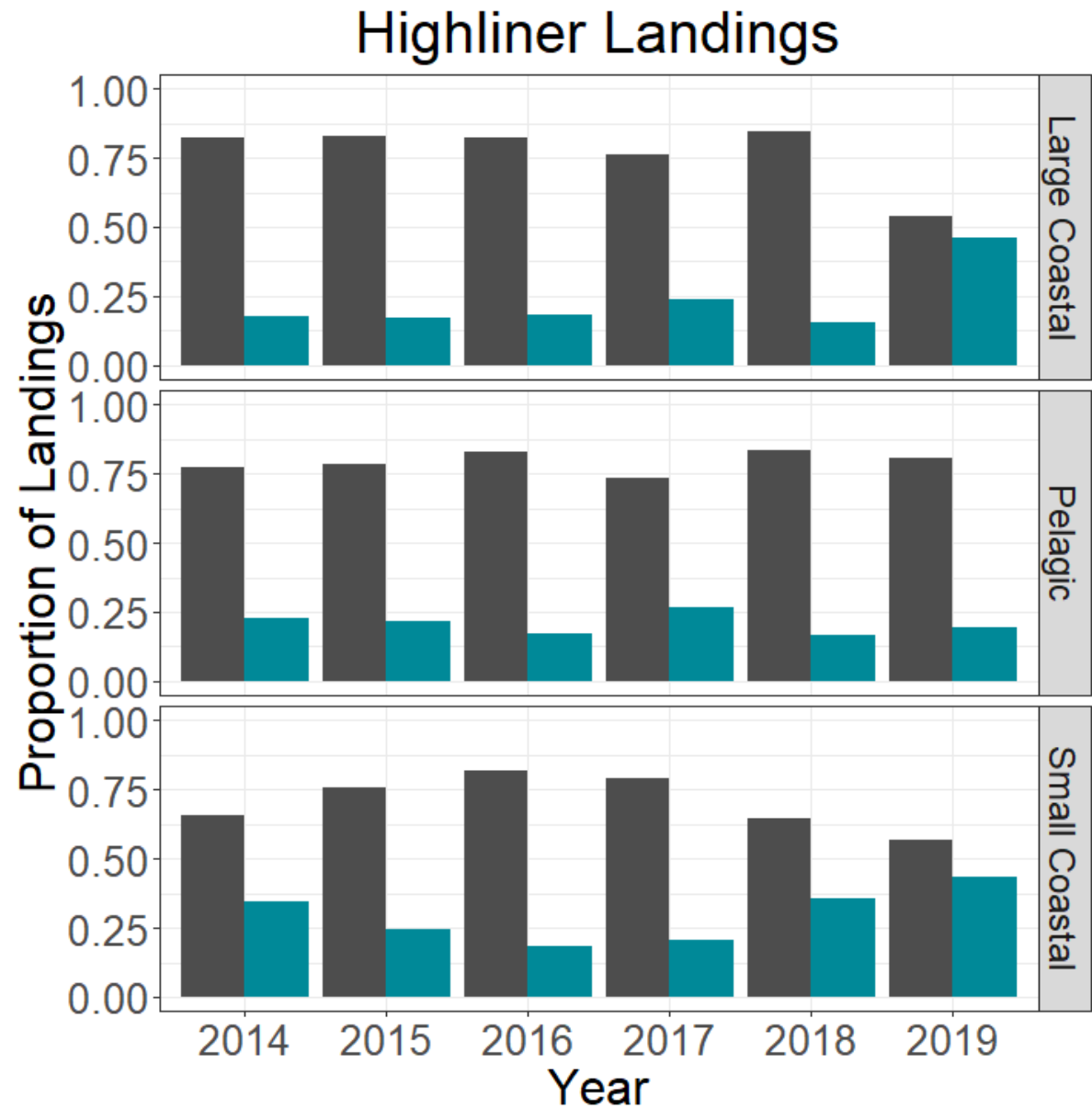
Management Group	Species	Dressed Weight (lbs.)
Large Coastal	Blacktip	4,144,076
Large Coastal	Bull	1,223,225
Large Coastal	Spinner	641,420
Pelagic	Shortfin Mako	817,572
Pelagic	Thresher	443,532
Small Coastal	Atlantic Sharpnose	2,059,684
Small Coastal	Finetooth	444,940
Smoothhound	Smooth Dogfish	5,321,260

Landings by Management Group



Highliner Landings

- Top 3 vessels in terms of landings in green
- Top landing vessels make up >15% of annual landings for each management group
- Still looking at smoothhound information



Commercial Fishery Summary

From 2014 to 2019:

- The number of inactive permits has increased
- The total number of permits issued has decreased
- Shark landings by weight and the number of trips landing sharks have decreased, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico
- For each management group, the top three vessels landed approximately 15% of annual landings

Commercial Fishery

Brief break for questions on commercial shark fishery

What are your greatest concerns with the commercial fishery?

- A. Permit usage
- B. Landings decline
- C. Retention limits
- D. Overall state of the fishery
- E. Other

Recreational Fishery



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Recreational Fishery

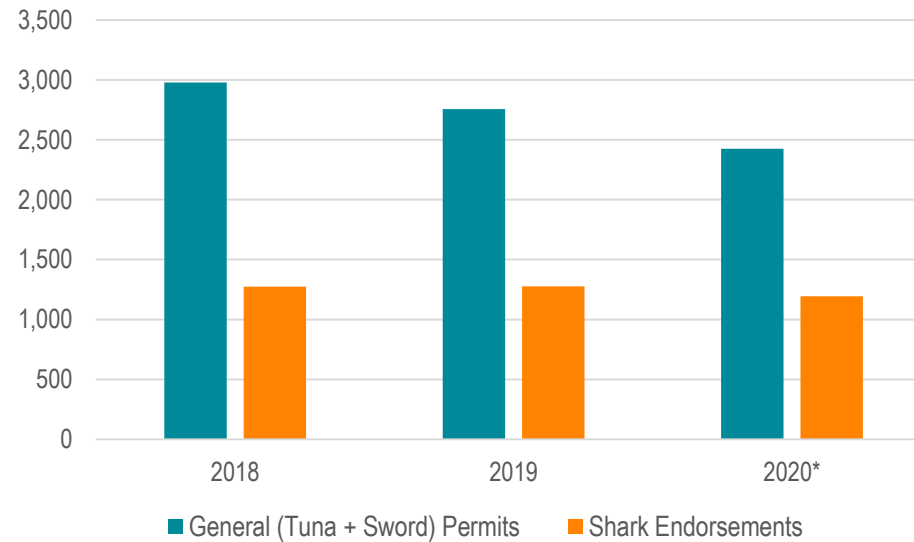
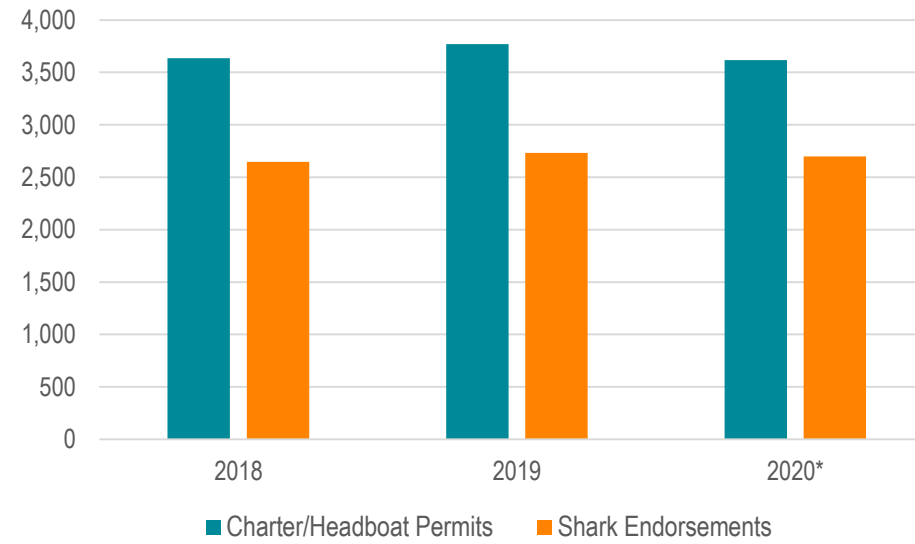
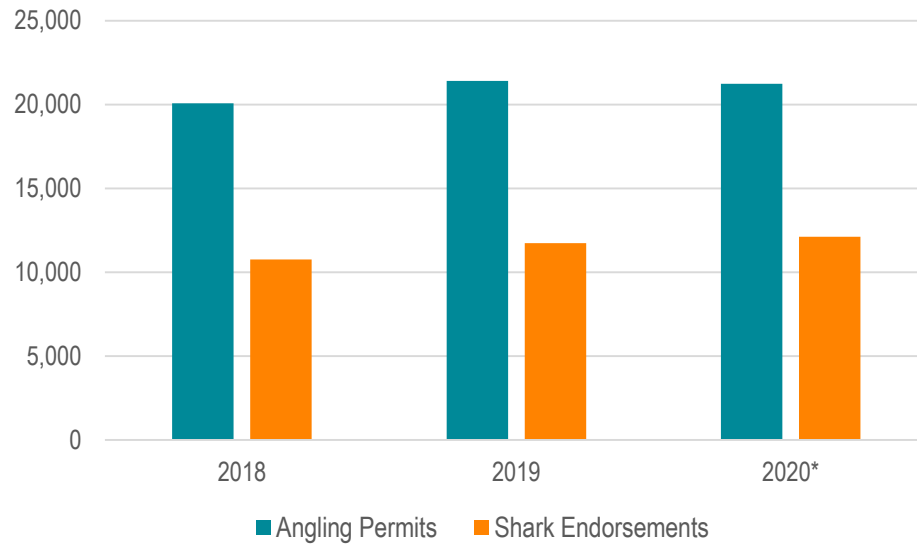
Generally, from 2014-2020...

- The number of permit holders with shark endorsements did not change from 2018 to 2020
- The number of directed shark trips has declined in the last 6 years
- Overall, smoothhound, Atlantic sharpnose, and bonnethead sharks are the most caught shark species
- Most sharks caught are released, and may not be identified to species



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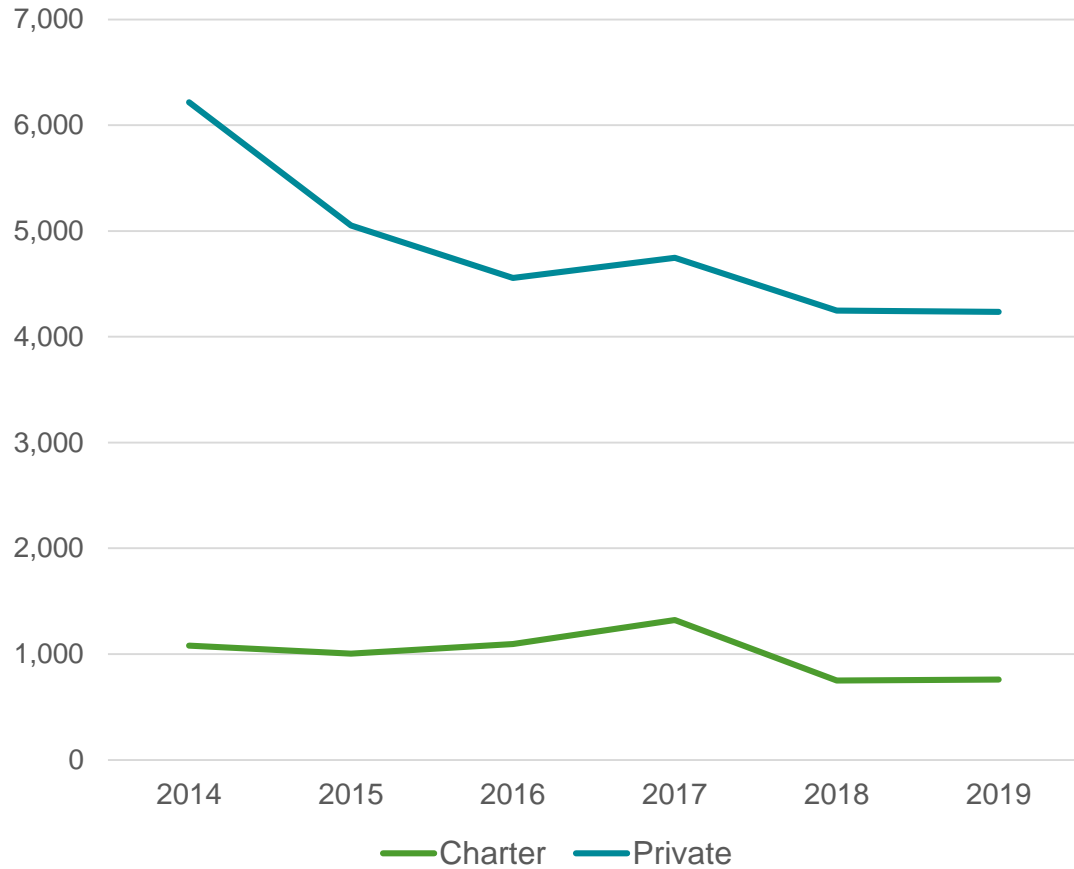
Shark Endorsement Holders by Category



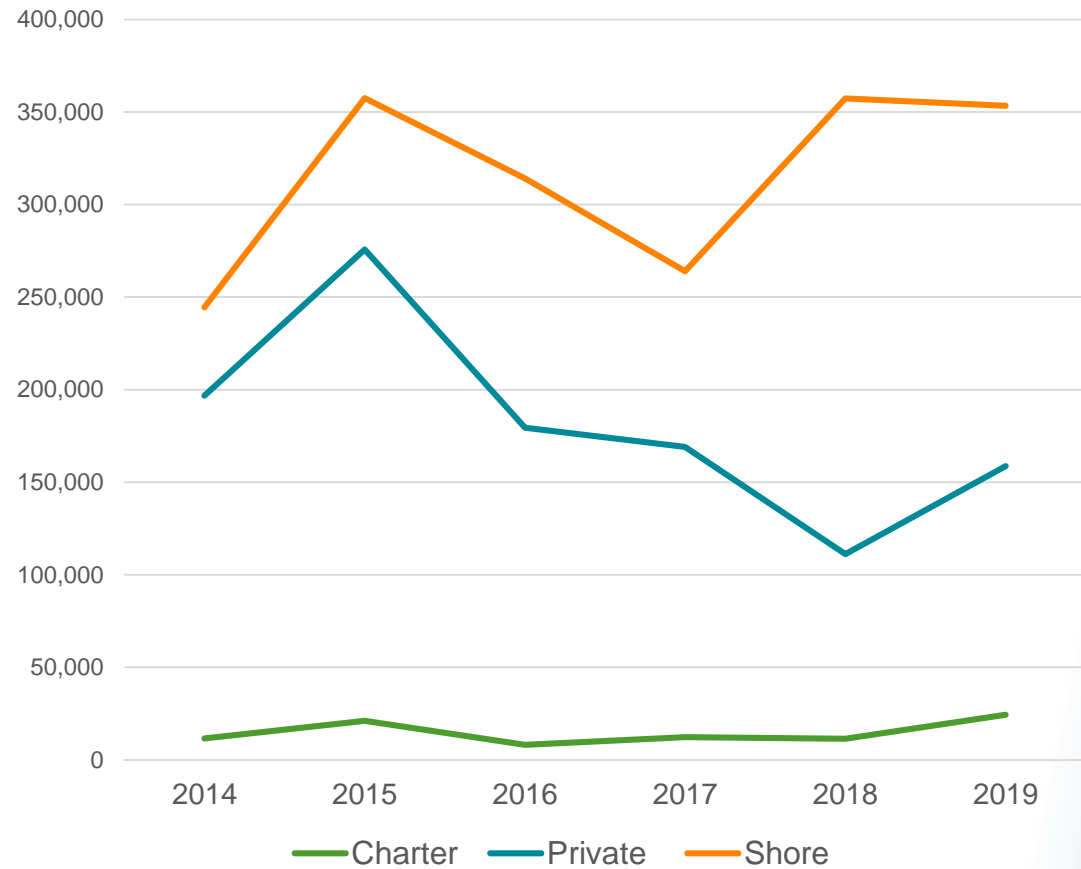
* Preliminary number of HMS permits and shark endorsements issued through August 12, 2020

Targeted Shark Recreational Fishery Effort

LPS Targeted Pelagic Shark Trips



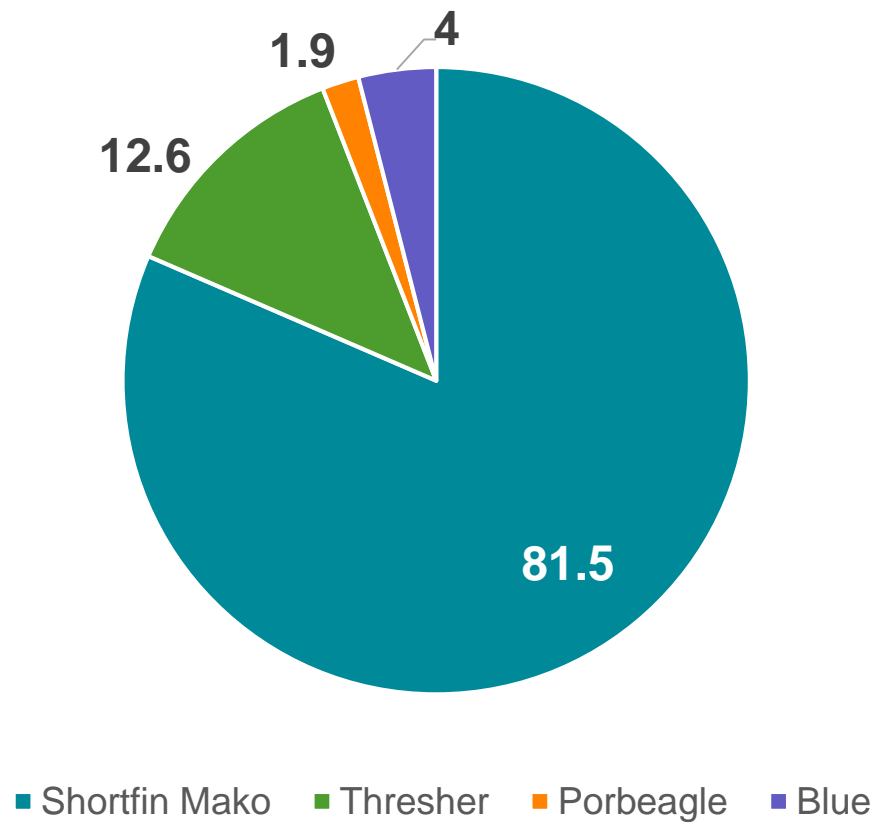
MRIP Targeted Coastal Shark Trips



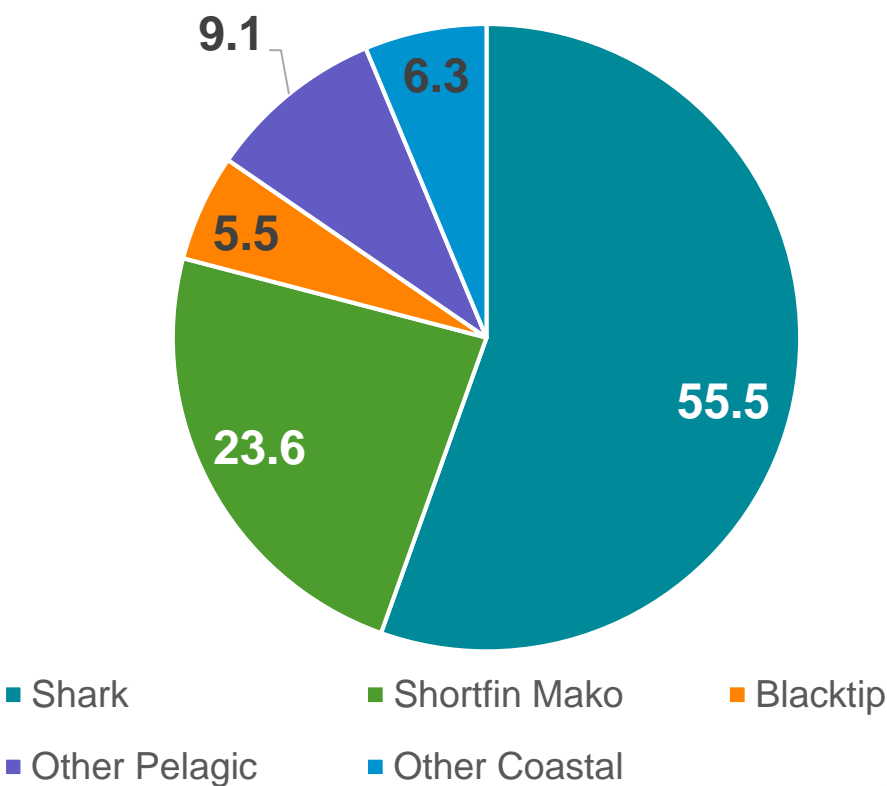
Private boat effort is declining for all sharks. Shore trips dominate coastal shark effort.

Shark Fishery Recreational Target Species (2014-2019)

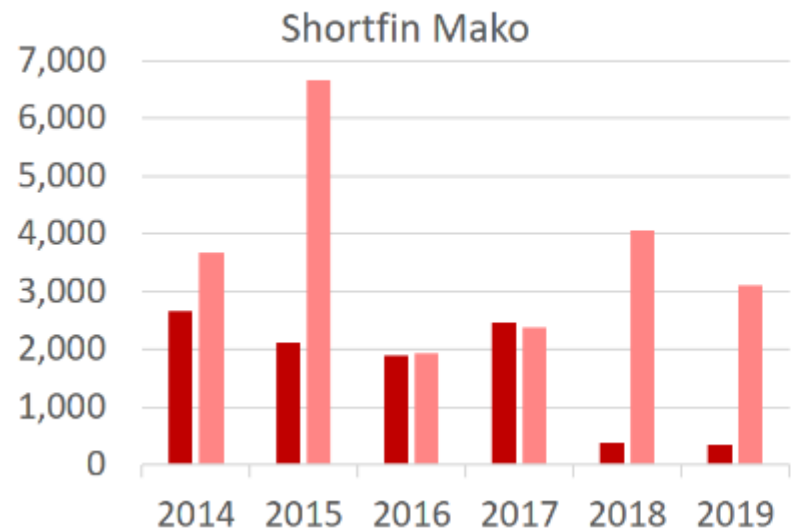
LPS Shark Trips by Primary Target Species



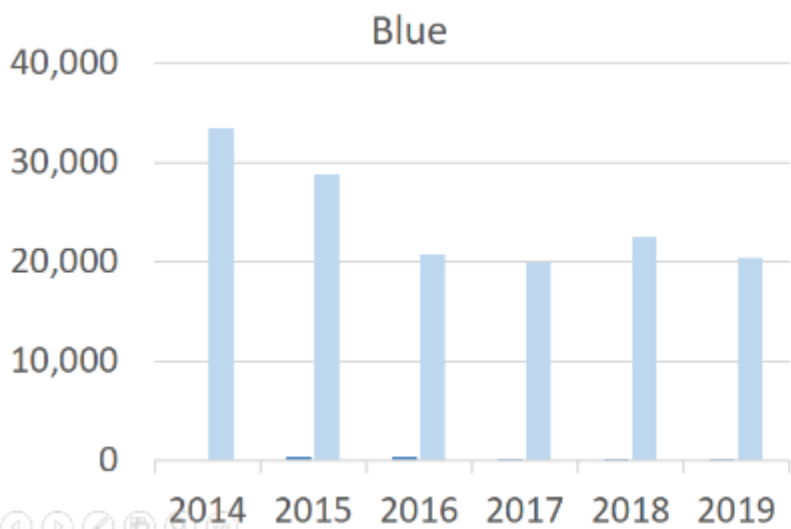
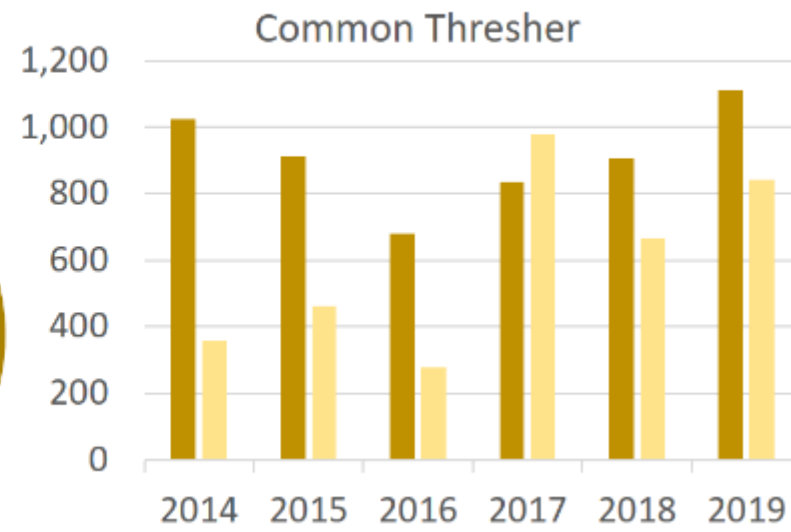
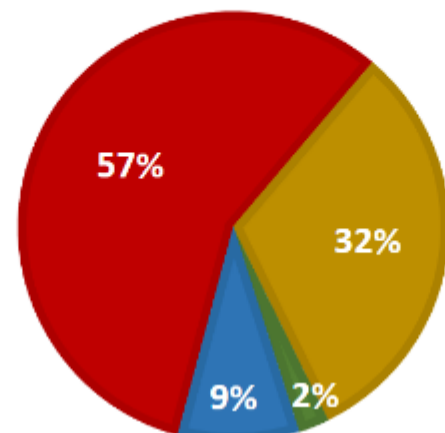
MRIP Shark Trips by Primary Target Species



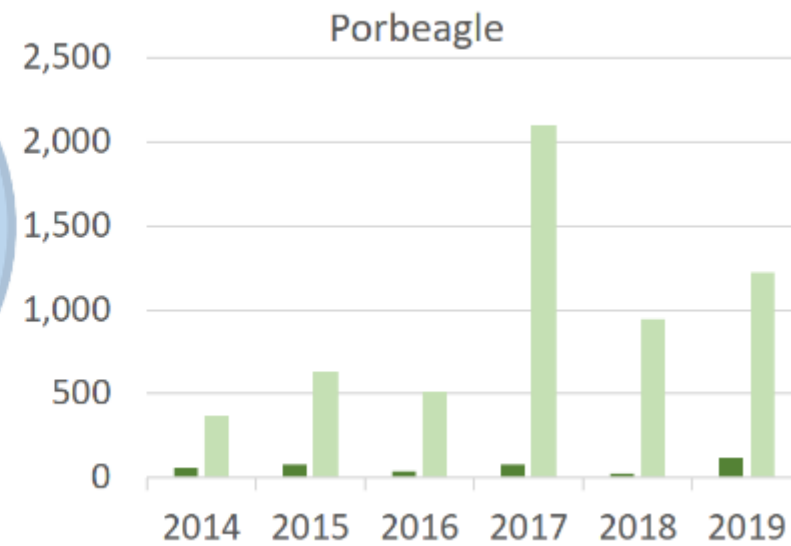
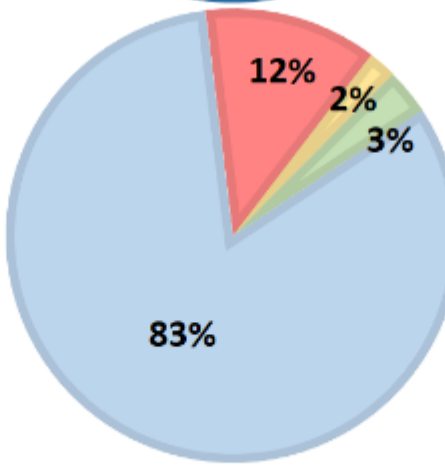
Disposition of Pelagic Shark Catch (LPS)



HARVESTED SHARKS 2014-2019

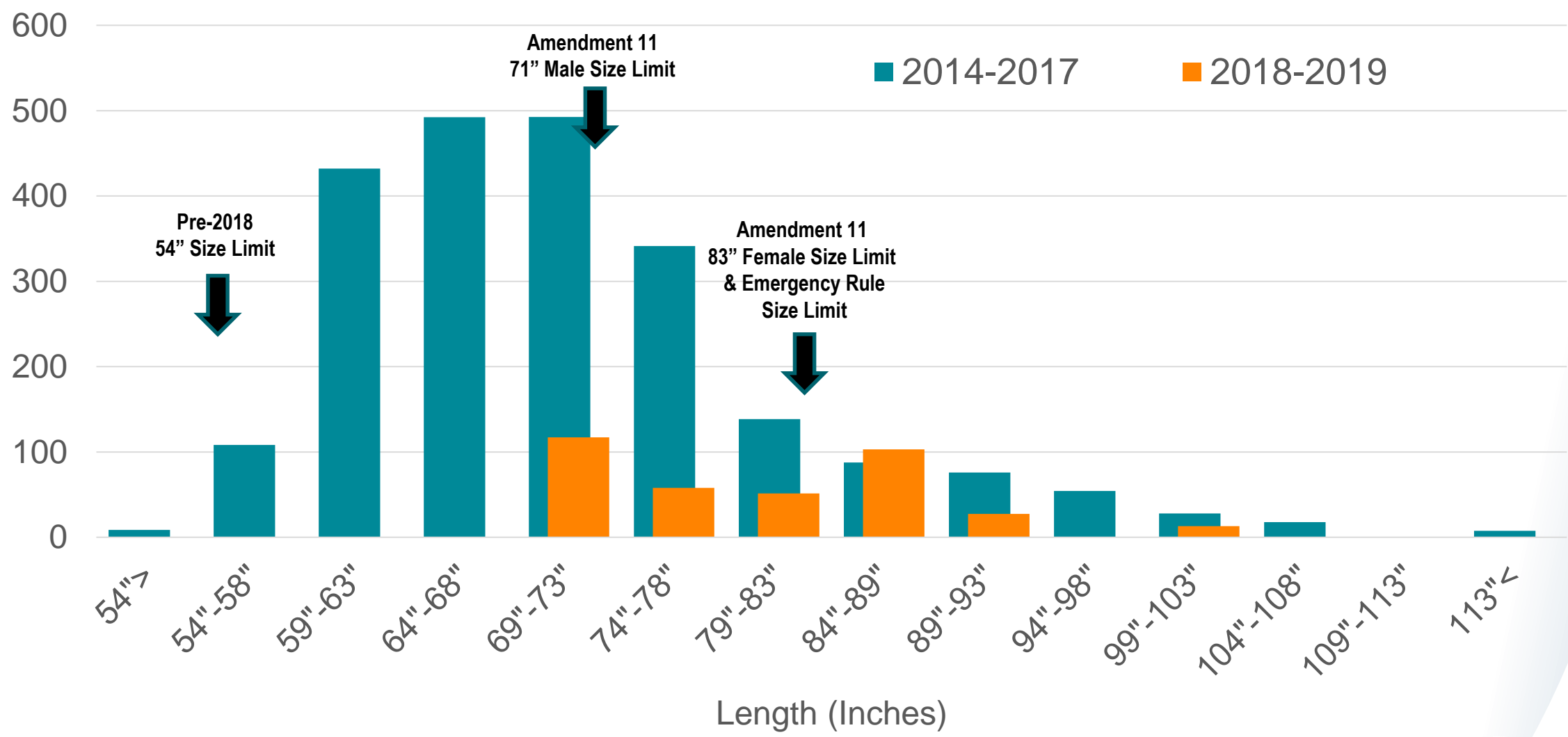


RELEASED SHARKS 2014-2019

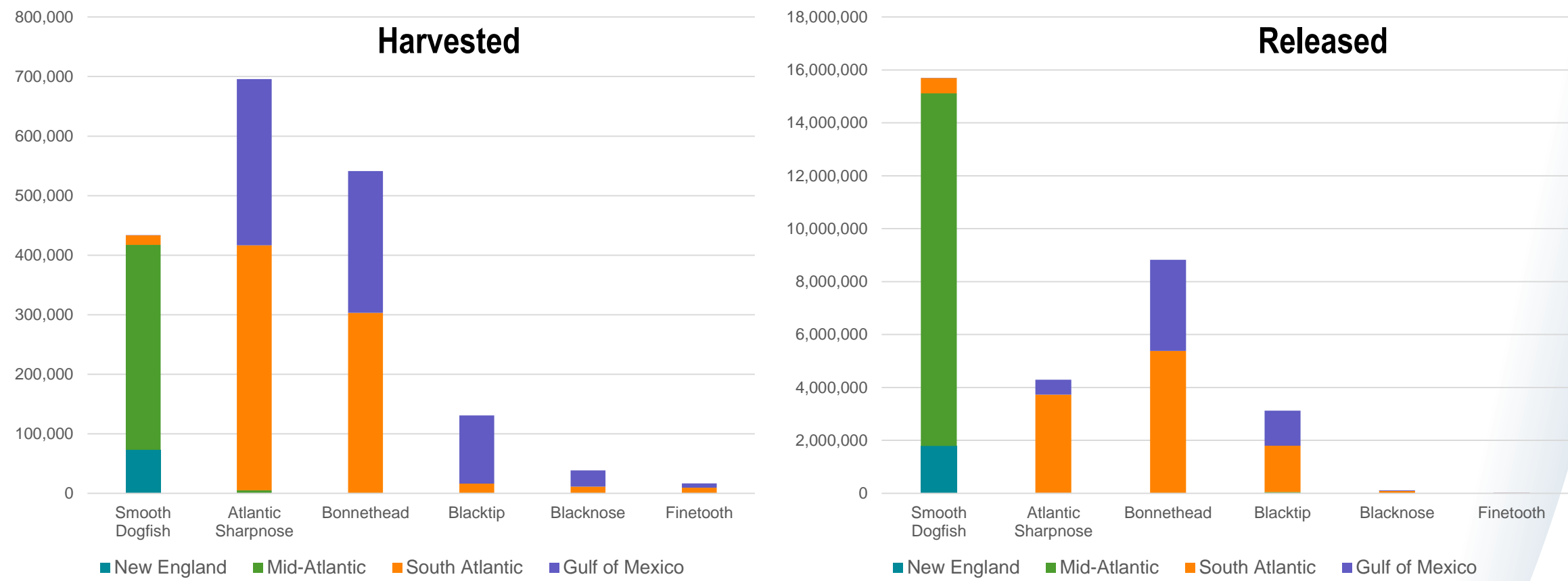


Note: Darker bars are harvested, lighter bars are released.

Harvested Shortfin Mako Shark Size Distribution (LPS)



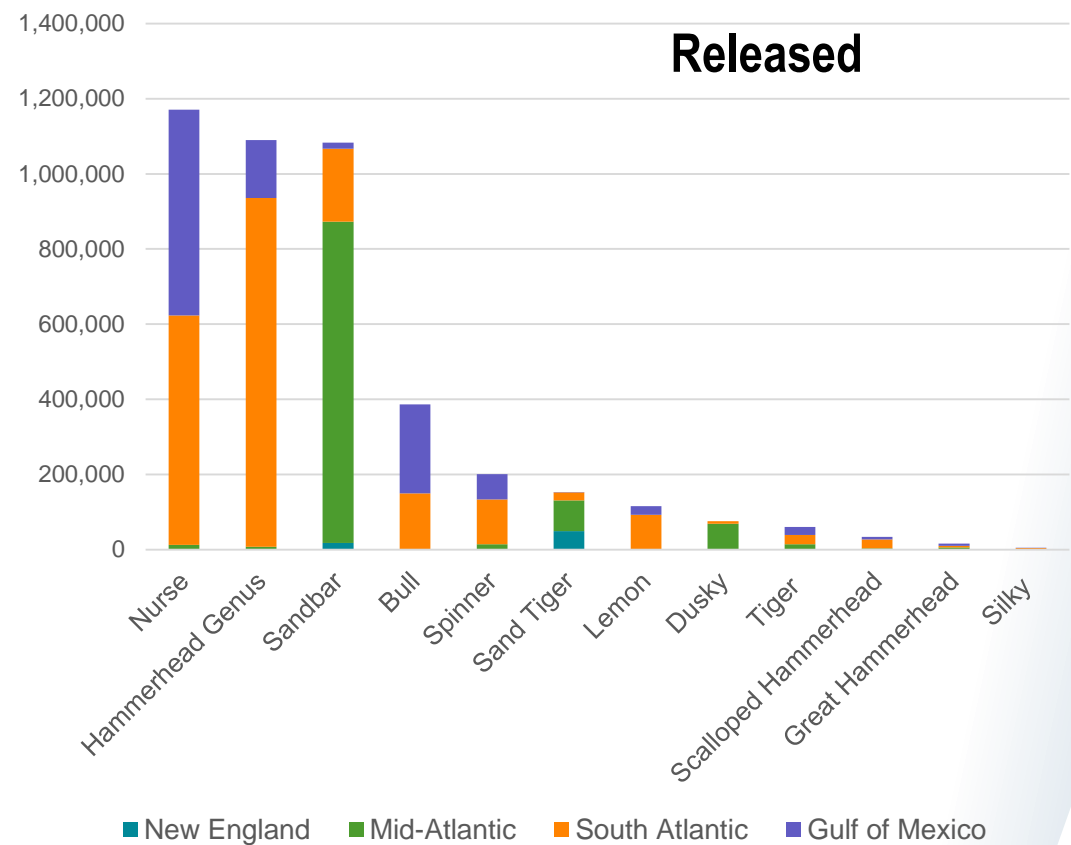
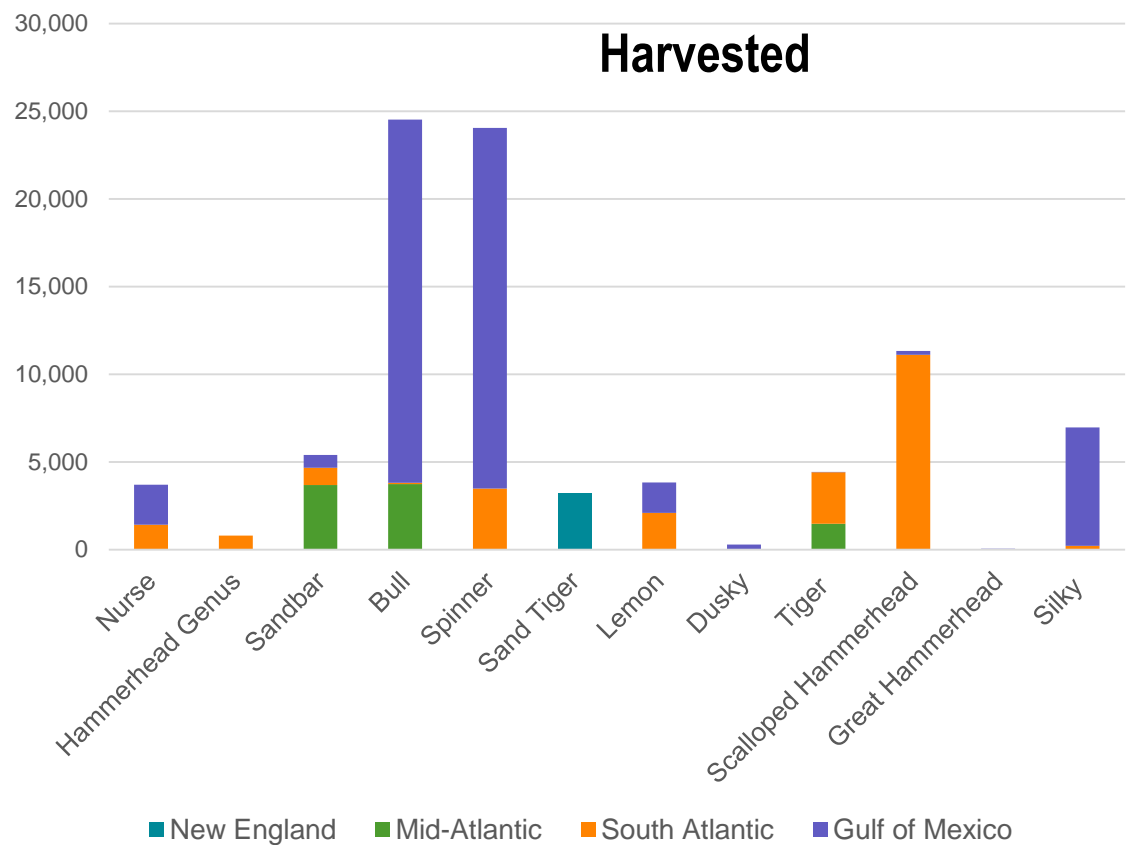
Disposition of Smooth Dogfish, Blacktip, and SCS



95% of these shark species are released (2014-2019)



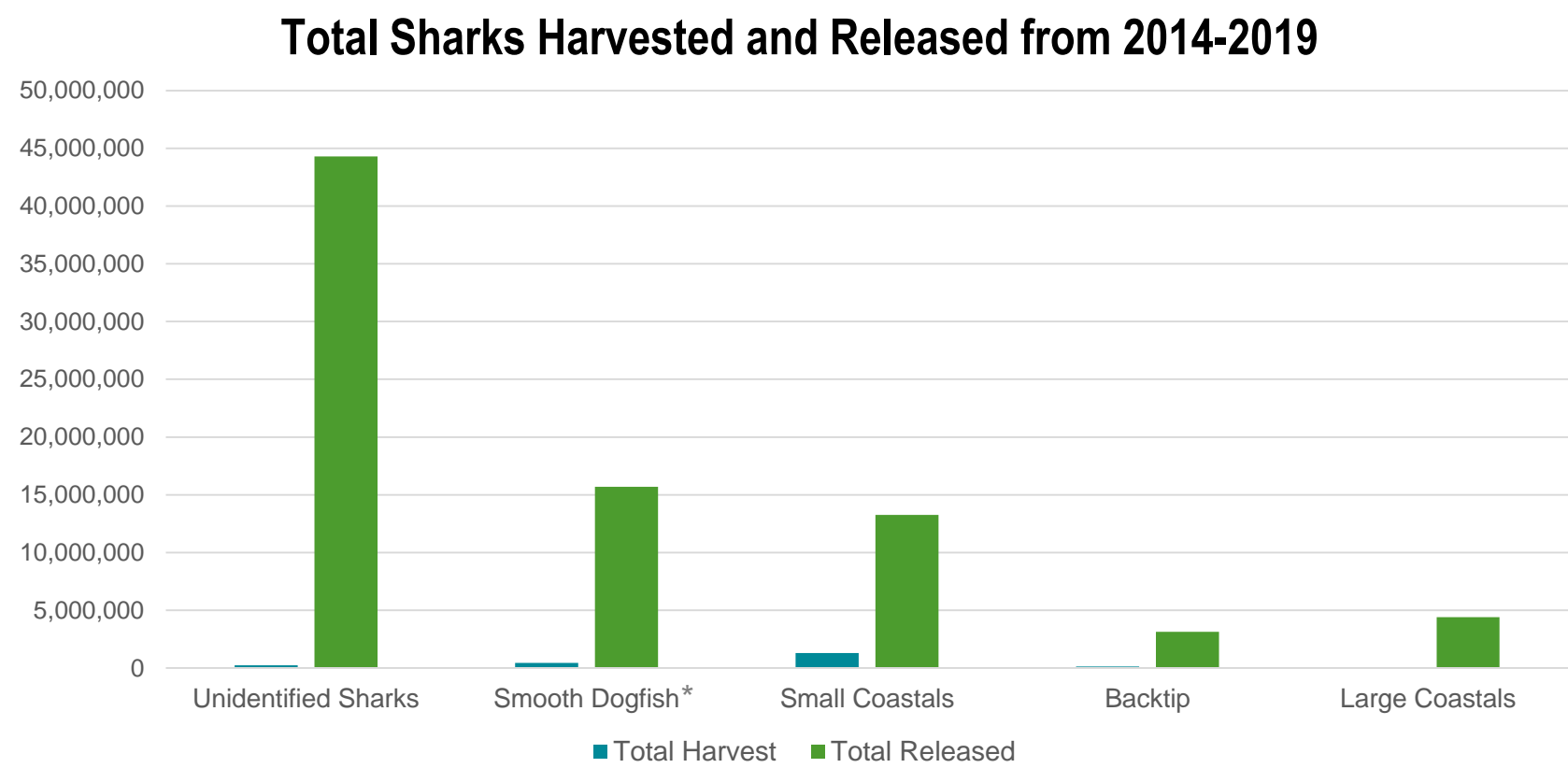
Disposition of Large Coastal Shark Catch (MRIP)



98% of these shark species are released (2014-2019)



Unidentified Sharks in U.S. Recreational Fisheries (MRIP)



* This includes Smooth Dogfish and Gulf of Mexico Smoothhounds

This data excludes pelagic sharks, as unidentified sharks are not an issue in the LPS.



Recreational Fishery – Summary

- The majority of HMS recreational permit holders have the shark endorsement, and the numbers have remained steady since 2018
- For-hire and shore effort for sharks has remained steady while private boat effort is showing a declining trend
- The recreational shark fishery is overwhelmingly a catch-and-release fishery, and largely an incidental fishery for most species
- A large number of released sharks are reported as “unidentified.”



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Recreational Fishery

Brief break for questions on the recreational shark fishery

What are your greatest concerns with the recreational fishery?

- A. Reporting of unidentified sharks
- B. Minimum size limit/retention limit
- C. Post-release mortality
- D. Better education and outreach about HMS regulations
- E. Other



Market Prices

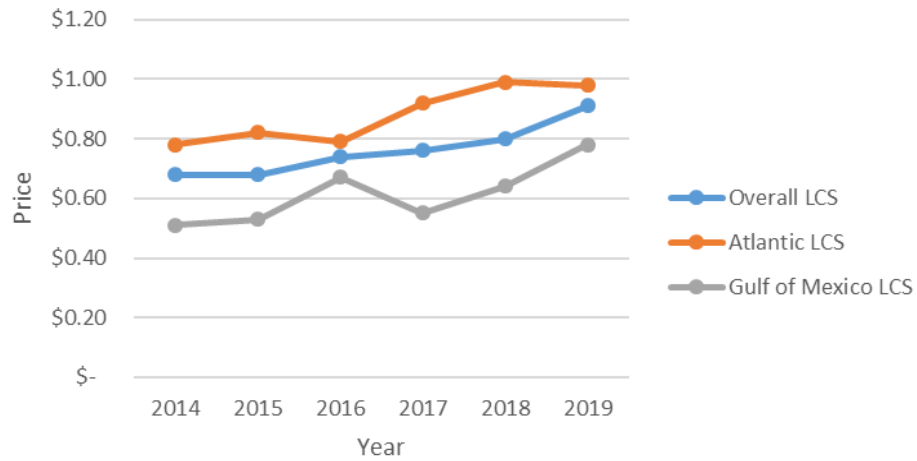


Market Prices

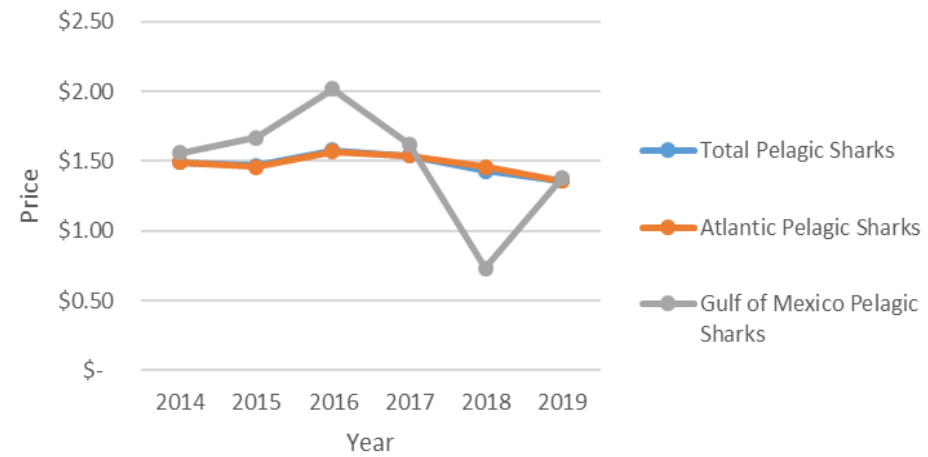
- From 2014-2019:
 - Ex-vessel price for shark meat generally increased.
 - Ex-vessel price of fins remained consistent overall.

Meat Prices

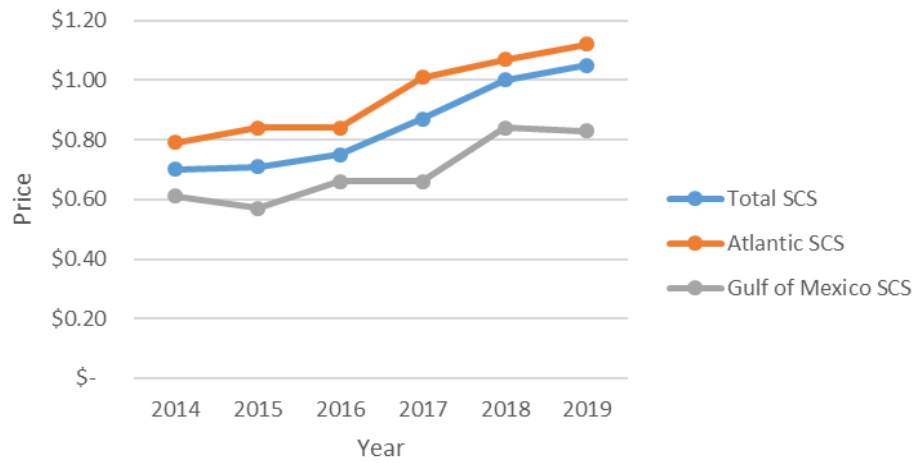
Average Large Coastal Shark (LCS) Meat Prices



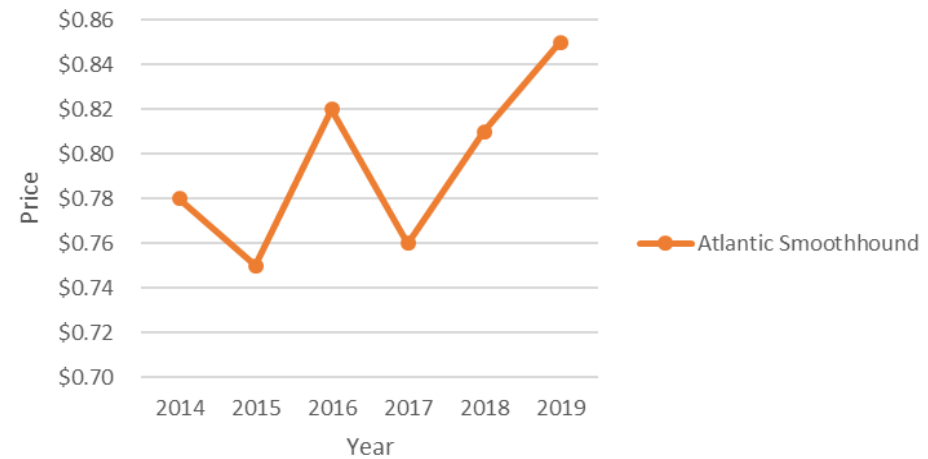
Average Pelagic Shark Meat Prices



Average Small Coastal Shark (SCS) Meat Prices

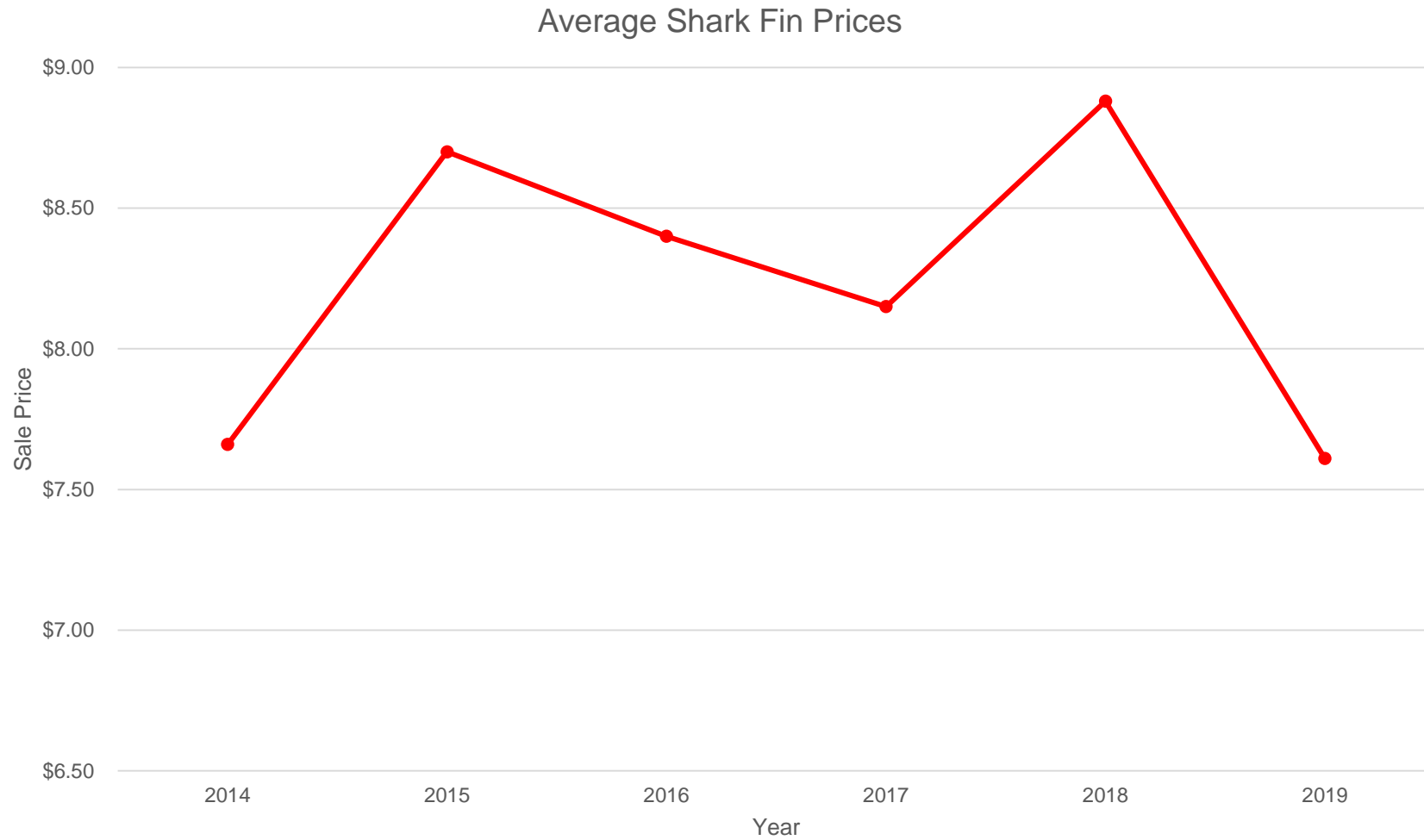


Average Atlantic Smoothhound Shark Meat Prices



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Fin Prices



Market Prices

Brief break for questions on market prices

What are your greatest concerns with the market?

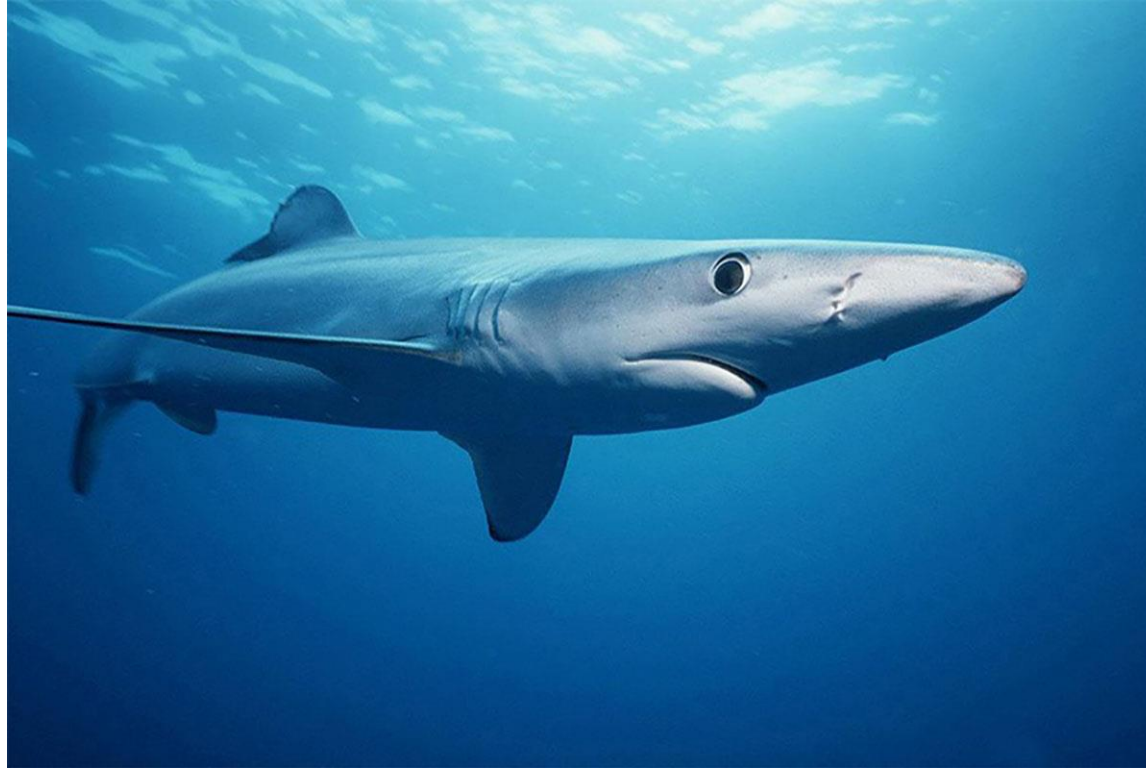
- A. International seafood driving prices down
- B. Market volatility
- C. Demand for shark products decreasing
- D. Other

Next Steps

- Early 2021: Draft White Paper expanding on SHARE analysis
 - Expect to include additional information not presented here
- Late 2021: Final White Paper; Begin Considering Future Actions

Questions

- What regulations/restrictions hinder commercial or recreational fishermen the most?
- Are there any regulations that should change? Remain the same?





If you have any other comments, please contact

Guy DuBeck, guy.dubeck@noaa.gov

Or

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov

301-427-8503



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