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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Current Actions

Highly Migratory Species Management Division

August 2023

This presentation is an update on various actions...

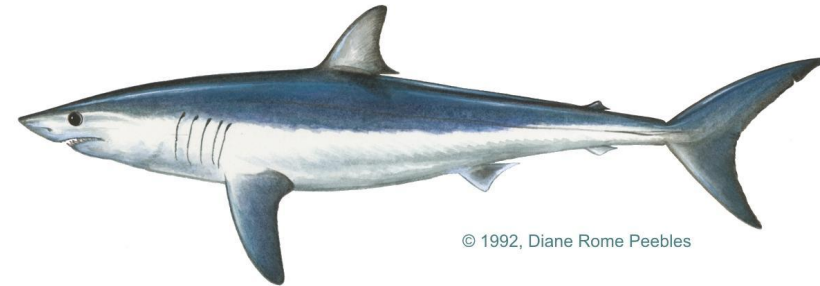
Proposed Action

- Amendment 15 to the HMS FMP (Spatial management and electronic monitoring)



Scoping Phase Actions

- Amendment 16 to the HMS FMP (Shark quotas and management) - Scoping
- Electronic reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

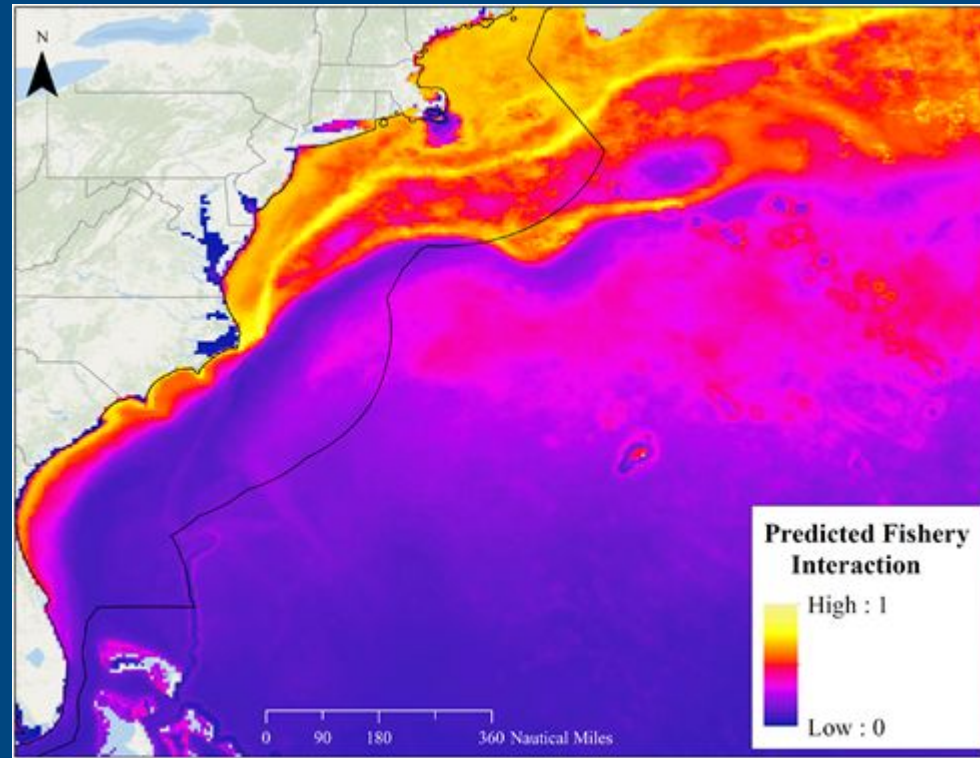


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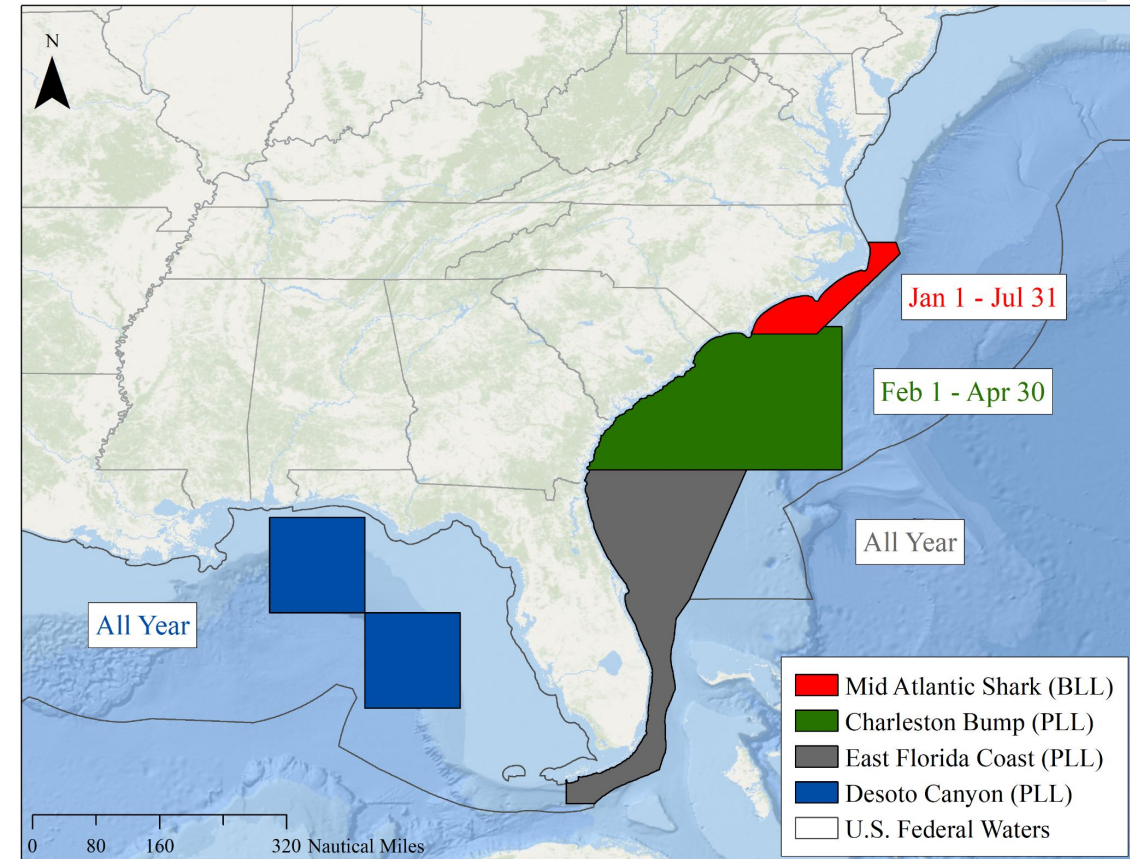
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Proposed Action



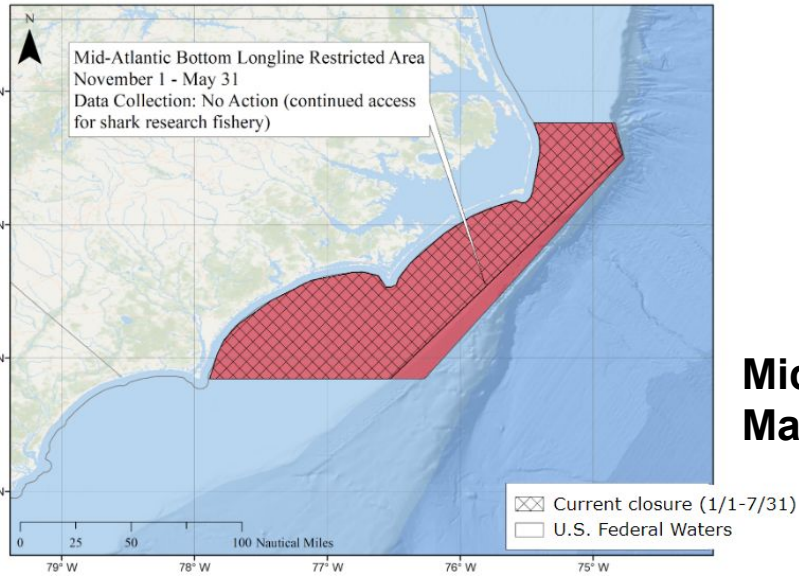
Amendment 15 - Spatial Management and Electronic Monitoring

- Proposed rule published 05/05/2023; comment period ends 09/15/2023
- www.tinyurl.com/A15homepage
- Two broad components:
 - Spatial management: consider modifications, data collection, and assessment for 4 spatial management areas
 - Pelagic longline electronic monitoring (EM) cost allocation: consider shifting pelagic longline EM sampling costs from the Agency to industry

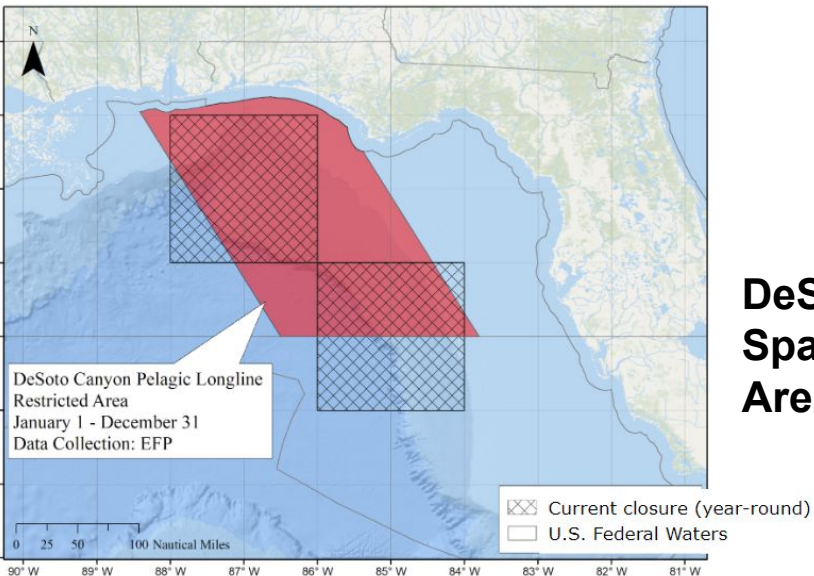
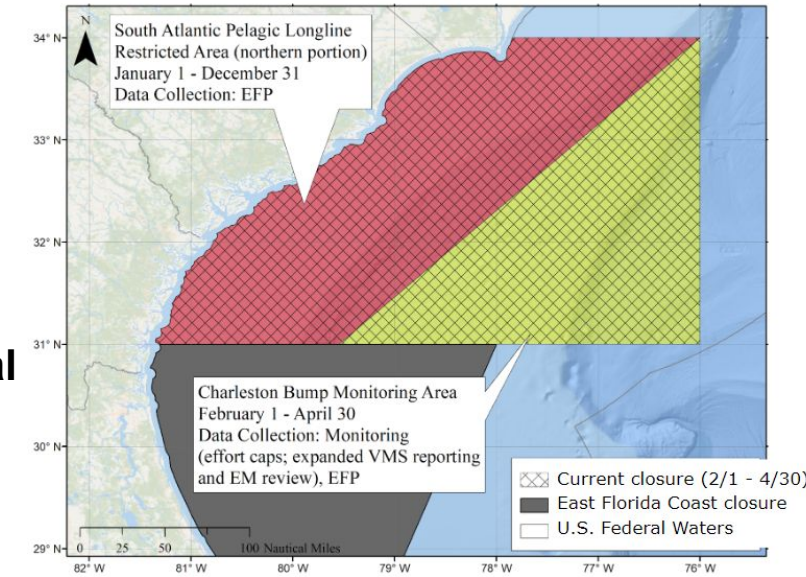


Spatial Management Preferred Alternative Packages

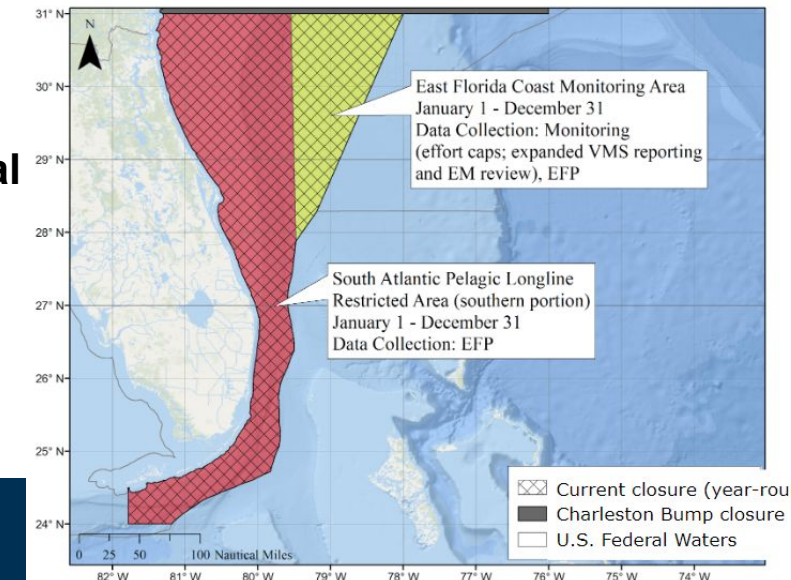
- The preferred alternative packages include
 - Modification of the area based on bycatch risk
 - Bycatch-risk-appropriate data collection programs
 - Future evaluation timing of the areas



Charleston Bump Spatial Management Area



East Florida Coast Spatial Management Area



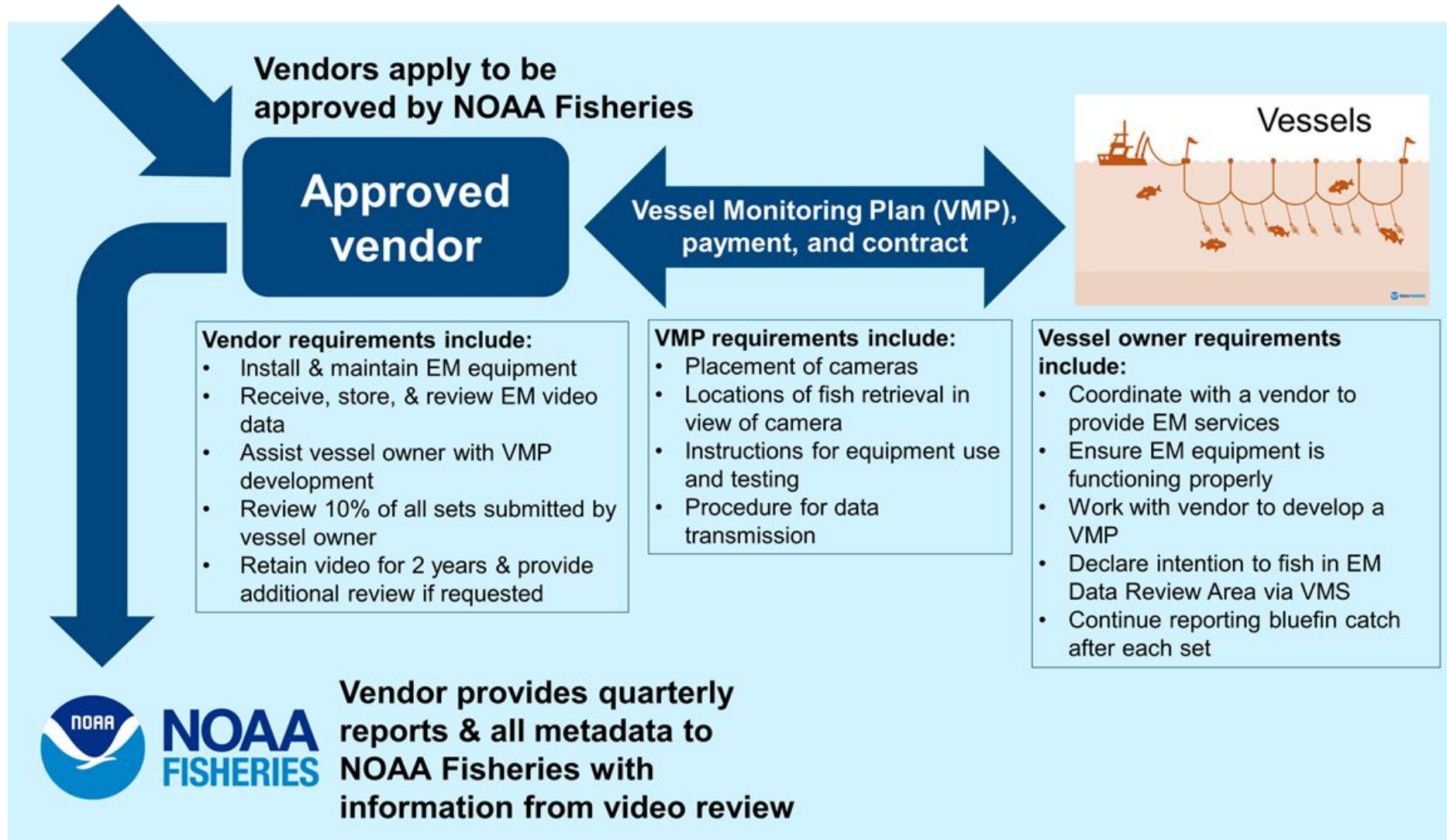
Electronic Monitoring Preferred Alternative Packages

- **Alternative F2: Transfer EM Sampling Costs to Industry**
 - Industry pays 100% of sampling costs (e.g., equipment purchase, installation, maintenance; video review and storage; service provider fees)
 - Phased in over 3 years
 - 4 components to this alternative:
 - vendor requirements
 - vessel requirements
 - vessel monitoring plan
 - modification of EM spatial/temporal requirements



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Electronic Monitoring Preferred Alternative Packages



Scoping Phase Actions



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Background for Amendment 16

Amendment 14: Released on 01/24/2023 (88 FR 4157)

- Established a new framework to use to implement acceptable biological catch (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for Atlantic shark fisheries
- Operational changes as a result of Amendment 14 will be considered in Amendment 16 (and future rulemakings)

Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) Document: Released on 03/20/2023 (88 FR 16944)

- Examined a variety of factors affecting the fishery, including all aspects of commercial and recreational shark fisheries conservation and management, and shark depredation
- Identifies areas of success, concerns, and potential modifications to regulations and management measures in the future

External Factors

- 2022 CITES listing of bonnethead sharks (effective now) and all remaining *Carcharhinidae* species (with a 12-month implementation delay) on Appendix II
- Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act



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Amendment 16 (Shark Quotas and Management) - Scoping

- Notice published 05/8/2023; comment period ends 08/18/2023
- Consistent with Amendment 14 and Scientific Advice, the purpose of Amendment 16 is to...
 - Establish ABCs and ACLs for non-prohibited shark species
 - Optimize the ability for the commercial and recreational shark fisheries to harvest quotas to the extent practicable
 - Increase management flexibility to react to additional factors impacting the fisheries and account for changes in the distribution of harvest among sectors



Amendment 16 Looks At *Everything*

- Establishing ACLs for stock under various tiers
 - Examples in the scoping document include Atlantic blacktip (tier 1), bull (tier 4), sandbar (rebuilding)
- Management group structure
 - Options include status quo, creating groups for assessed vs. unassessed stocks, creating groups for stocks caught together
- Regional and sub-regional splits
 - Considers Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (GOM) split; blacknose Atlantic boundary
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) quotas including changes to shark research fishery
- Commercial retention limits (revise/remove depending on species and permit)
- Recreational retention and size limits (revise/remove depending on species)

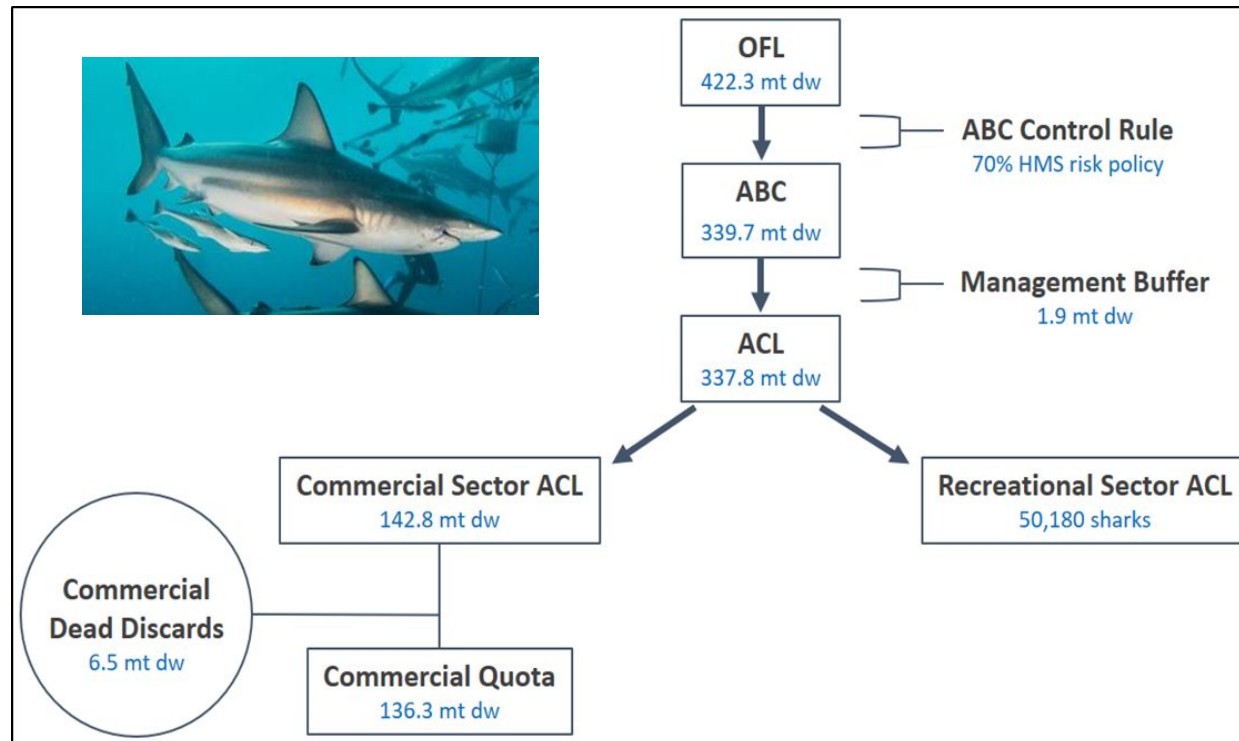


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Amendment 16 - Atlantic Blacktip Example

Tier 1 stock with an HMS risk policy of 70% (Option B1)

- Commercial quota = 136.3 mt dw; current harvest level ~38%
- Rec. Sector Annual Catch Limit (ACL) = 50,180 sharks; current harvest level ~89%



Electronic Reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- Notice published 05/12/2023; comment period ends 08/18/2023
- Purpose:
 - Streamline and modernize logbook reporting
 - Expand logbook reporting to for-hire and commercial vessel owners via electronic logbooks
 - Collect additional vessel and dealer information for fishery management
 - Incentivize HMS reporting compliance
 - Offer an electronic reporting platform for HMS EFP Program permit holders
- Potential changes to vessel reporting (all commercial fisheries, charter/headboat, and angling), dealer reporting, and HMS EFP Program reporting

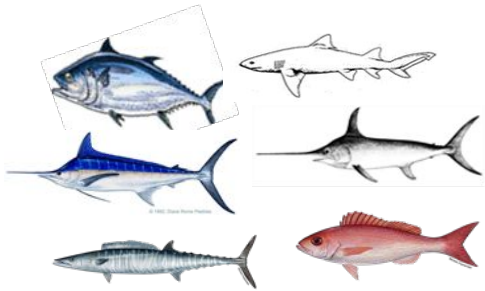


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Electronic Reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- Would work toward *One Stop Reporting*, or submission of a single electronic report that could satisfy overlapping requirements
- Considering various reporting options for commercial and recreational entities including expanding requirements and timing of submitting reports
- Options for reporting requirements take into account current requirements across regions, for example:

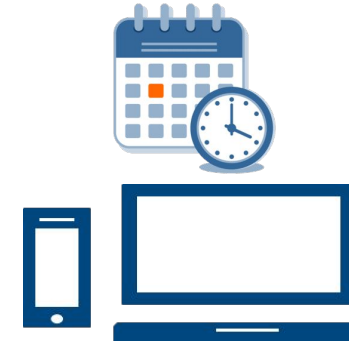
- Species



Trips



Timing



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Request for Public Comment



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Public Comments

Please submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> by:

Amendment 16 (NOAA-NMFS-2023-0010): August 18, 2023

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/scoping-amendment-16-2006-consolidated-atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-management>

Electronic Reporting (NOAA-NMFS-2023-0047): August 18, 2023

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-electronic-reporting-requirements>

Amendment 15 (NOAA-NMFS-2019-0035): September 15, 2023

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-15-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-spatial-management-EM>



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Remaining Public Webinars and Hearings

Action	Date, Time and Location
Amendment 15 - Spatial management and Electronic Monitoring (Proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● August 17 (2-4 pm): Webinar● August 29 (5-8 pm): Panama City, FL
Amendment 16 - Shark Quotas and Management (Scoping)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● August 16 (5:30 - 8:30 pm): San Juan, Puerto Rico



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Questions?

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Thank you!



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