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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Overview

September 4, 2024

This Presentation...

Brief status update on

- Staff Changes
- HMS Rulemaking
- Best Scientific Information Available
- Operations
- HMS Catch Reporting Options
- HMS Advisory Panel Term Limits
- Ecosystem Products and Services
- Updates beyond HMS Management Division
- OSF EEJ Implementation Plan
- HMS Outreach in the Caribbean
- Travel receipts needed by Sept. 13

AP Meeting Discussion...

HMS staff presentations

- eReporting
- Economic Update

External presentations

- National Marine Sanctuaries Update
- CITES Update
- Offshore Wind HMS Research Update
- Marine Recreational Information Program Re-Envisioning Presentation/Listening Session
- National Environmental Policy Act Rule Update
- Office of Law Enforcement/U.S. Coast Guard Enforcement Update



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Staff Changes

- New faces
 - Rob Kuvinka - Fisheries Reporting and Monitoring Branch
- Departures
 - Lisa Crawford - recently moved to Policy Office of NOAA Fisheries



Rulemaking and Inseason Actions (2024)

As of mid-August:

- 21 actions completed including:
 - 2 final actions (Scalloped Hammerhead and Oceanic Whitetip Sharks Rule; 2024 bluefin tuna restricted-fishing days/effort control rule)
 - 10 inseason actions (all bluefin tuna)
- 10 rulemakings/actions ongoing and upcoming
- 1 listening session on harpoon issues
- 3 public webinars conducted on scoping actions
- 2 Council and Commission meetings attended to collect comments on scoping actions



Ongoing Rules and Actions

- Amendment 15 (spatial management and electronic monitoring cost allocation) - Final Environmental Impact Statement released on 5/10/24; final rule pending
- eReporting - Presentation later in the meeting; scoping ended on 8/18/23
- Fishing gear considerations - Scoping ended 7/31/24
- Updating Sea Turtle Safe Handling Requirements - Comment period ended 5/8/24
- Amendment 16 (sharks) - Scoping ended 8/18/23
- Amendment 17 (EFH) - Initiated 4/18/24



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Upcoming Rules and Actions

- 2024 Annual swordfish, albacore, and bluefin quota adjustment
- Consideration of pelagic and bottom longline indicator species list
- 2025 Annual shark quota adjustment
- Other shark action (specific issues pulled from Amendment 16)

Reminder: Longline vessel owners should keep their contact information up to date in the Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) System.



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Best Scientific Information Available

- 2019 - NOAA Fisheries Framework for Determining that Stock Status Determinations and Catch Specifications are Based on Best Scientific Information Available (link [here](#)) - *national framework*
- 2022- HMS BSIA Framework (link [here](#)) - *“regional” framework*
 - Describes how HMS stock assessment processes (ICCAT, SEDAR, external) align with the 6 major BSIA steps identified in the national framework.
 - We will review the HMS BSIA Framework at least every 2 years.
 - The review will analyze the HMS BSIA Framework against new or updated stock assessment, stock status, and catch specification processes.
 - NOAA Fisheries will notify the public if updates are warranted. Results of the review will be provided in the 2024 HMS SAFE Report (i.e., in 2025).
 - We will post an updated HMS BSIA Framework online if necessary.

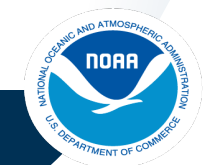


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Operations in 2024 by the Numbers

(through August 2, 2024)

Operations:	Number
EFP/SRP/LOA	47
Shark Research Fishery Permits	3
HMS Tournaments Registered	163
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	16
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~20,000
Open Access Vessel permits	28,071
Recreational Shark Endorsements	15,462 (55%)
CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements	1,973 (49%)



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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



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HMS Catch Reporting Options

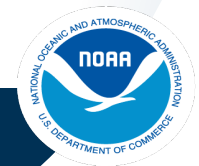
- HMS Angling, Charter/Headboat, and Atlantic Tunas General/Harpoon category permit holders can now submit catch reports for bluefin tuna, billfish, and swordfish via:
 - [HMS Permit Shop website](#)
 - [HMS Catch Reporting smartphone app](#)
 - [SAFIS eTrips Mobile and Online](#) – available for HMS open access permit holders that submit state or Federal vessel trip reports via eTrips
 - No matter which option is used, **HMS catch reports must be submitted within 24 hours of returning from a trip**
- Currently, the commonly used GARFO FishOnline (FOL) and Bluefin Data, LLC “VESL” reporting platforms do not collect all the data needed to satisfy HMS Catch Reporting requirements, but both programs are actively working to add them
 - Those using these platforms will need to continue submitting separate HMS catch reports via the HMS Catch Reporting app or Permit Shop website until further notice
- For now, HMS Commercial Logbook participants must continue to submit paper logbooks



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HMS Catch Reporting Options - Catch Cards

- North Carolina is discontinuing its HMS Catch Card program effective **April 1, 2025**, after the winter bluefin tuna season ends.
 - Federal HMS catch reporting requirements will automatically apply to HMS permit holders in NC using the options outlined in the previous slide.
 - Most permit holders reporting via the NC catch card program are for-hire captains. If they have South Atlantic logbook requirements, then SAFIS eTrips would currently be their best reporting option.
 - HMS Angling permit holders in NC would no longer be required to submit reports for billfish and swordfish caught during registered HMS tournaments.
 - NC plans to send a letter to all permit holders this fall outlining their federal reporting options, and HMS is preparing additional outreach efforts.
- Maryland is continuing their HMS Catch Card program with plans to transition it to an electronic format. Implementation timing still TBD.



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HMS Advisory Panel Term Limits

- AP members who have served 3 consecutive terms, and whose terms are expiring, will not be eligible for re-nomination at that time
- Members who reach a term limit must wait 1 year before being eligible for re-nomination to the AP
- Three members with expiring terms at the end of this year (Dec. 31) will reach the consecutive term limit:
 - Robert Navarro
 - Michael Pierdinock
 - Rick Weber



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Ecosystem Products and Services

Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM)

- EBFM Road Map was available for public comment through August 31, 2024
- More information available here:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/ecosystem-based-fisheries-management-road-map-update>

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 5-Year Review

- Currently soliciting data to be used in Amendment 17 (EFH update) analyses
- 213 Total dataset requests; 71 received
(For 2017 5-Year Review, 38 datasets requested; 27 received)
- Please submit requested data ASAP

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

- Submitted to PLOS Climate in August 2024



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There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

HMS Recreational Data Update

- Pilot testing for the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) redesign from NH to VA was completed in 2023. Pilot testing is currently being conducted in Maine. Staff from NOAA Fisheries' Office of Science and Technology and statistical consultants are analyzing the data, and preparing to submit the new design to the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) for certification by the end of this summer.
- Following certification, the next step will be to evaluate and develop a calibrated LPS time series of catch estimates back to 2002. This will be evaluated by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) before new estimates and indices are submitted to ICCAT.
- The historic LPS design will be conducted at least through 2024 to facilitate ICCAT's bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation process. The new design could be implemented in 2026 pending MRIP certification, and SEFSC review of the calibrated estimate time series.



There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee

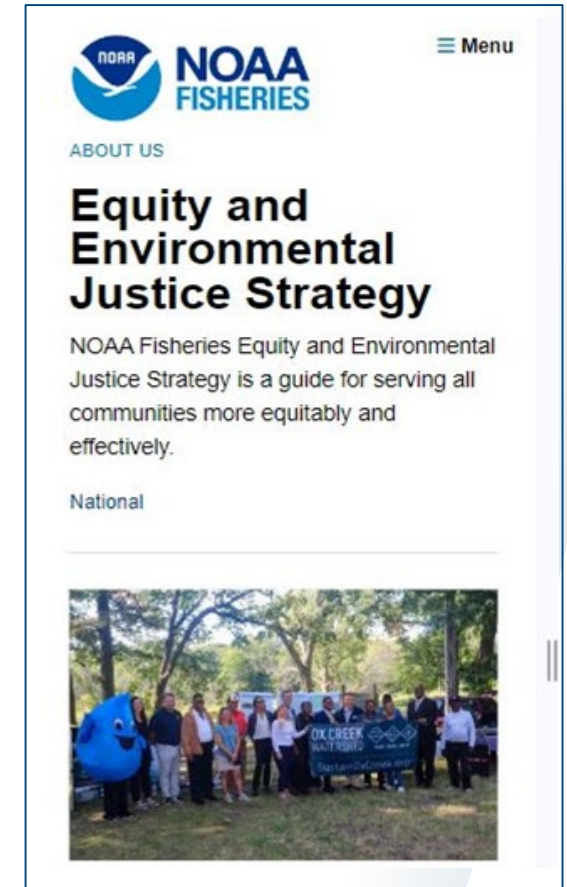
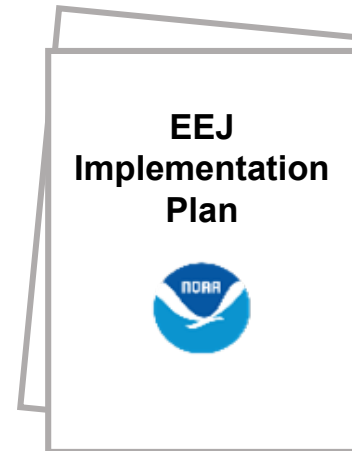
- NOAA Fisheries' Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce is soliciting nominations (which may include self-nominations) for the U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee. They are also soliciting nominations for Technical Advisors to the Advisory Committee's species working groups:
 - Bigeye, Yellowfin, and Skipjack Tunas
 - Bluefin and Albacore Tunas
 - Swordfish/Sharks
 - Billfish
- Nominations must be received by September 13, 2024.
- For details, see the [Federal Register notice](#) or contact Bryan Keller at bryan.keller@noaa.gov.



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Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ)

- In May 2023, NOAA Fisheries released its National EEJ Strategy – it is the Agency’s framework to incorporate EEJ into our daily activities ([Webpage](#))
- Regional and Program Offices (including the Office of Sustainable Fisheries) prepared their initial EEJ Implementation Plans; they were released on August 13, 2024
- The plans are designed to be living documents that will be updated to ensure they address evolving community needs
- NOAA Fisheries:
 - Knows that it will take time to achieve these plans;
 - Is committed to making that progress; and
 - Will continue engaging with communities throughout the regions on our efforts and share progress with partners



Office of Sustainable Fisheries EEJ Implementation Plan

- OSF is working proactively to incorporate EEJ in everyday operations. We believe that by including EEJ considerations in all of our regulatory roles and programs (e.g., resource allocations, research and grant programs, and education and outreach materials), we can reduce or remove barriers for traditionally underserved communities and stakeholders. Near-term efforts will focus on the following stakeholders and underserved communities:
 - U.S. Caribbean HMS commercial and recreational fishermen
 - Vietnamese pelagic longline community (Gulf of Mexico)
 - West Coast and Alaska tribes (Fishery Resource Disaster Program)
 - Council-related stakeholders (council appointments/member diversity)
 - Minority Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP) Outreach)
 - Underserved communities at large
- We will continue to engage with communities, and underserved communities in particular, to implement the national EEJ Strategy at the OSF level and advance EEJ through our role within NOAA Fisheries.



OSF/HMS Outreach in the Caribbean

As part of our ongoing Outreach and Engagement efforts in the U.S. Caribbean, Division staff:

- Carried out 5 island-wide outreach workshops in Puerto Rico (April 26-May 3, 2024), with total attendance of 100 participants, and helped issue 50 HMS fishing/dealer permits
- Participated in the first Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) workshop conducted in St. Croix, USVI in May 2024
- August 2024 - Five additional workshops along the southeast and northeast coast of Puerto Rico
- August 23-25, 2024 - MREP workshop in Fajardo, Puerto Rico



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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Travelers: Receipts Due September 13!

Google Voucher Form: <https://forms.gle/Rrje4iUZ8Xp1GJCf7>

Email receipts to: peter.cooper@noaa.gov

Instructions to come via email immediately after the meeting



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Conclusion/Looking Forward

In conclusion:

- We are covering a lot of ground at this in-person/virtual hybrid meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

Looking forward:

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



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Questions?

Thank you!



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