

Migratory Species Committee: Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab M

Agenda item IV: Report from the HMS AP and ICCAT AC Meetings

Timeline Status: Information and Discussion

Council input and next steps: In September 2019, the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) met to discuss a number of management issues. These discussions ranged from the progress of several amendments in the scoping process, stock assessment updates for a number of HMS species, and presentations on shark abundance and depredation. Also in September 2019, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee (AC) also convened. The ICCAT AC was updated on recent stock assessments for shortfin mako shark, white marlin, yellowfin tuna, and bluefin tuna. Dr. Greg Stunz will provide a brief verbal summary of these meetings and update the Committee on current HMS and ICCAT business. After the update, the Committee should ask questions or clarification about the recent HMS or ICCAT advisory meetings.

Agenda item V: Presentation on Shark Population Abundance Trends and Depredation

Timeline Status: Information and Discussion

Council input and next steps: Recently, a number of concerns have been raised related to an increased number of sharks observed on fishing trips and depredation of catch from sharks. These concerns have been brought up by a number of fishermen during public testimony in both the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Council's jurisdictions. Ms. Brewster-Geisz from the HMS division will provide the Committee a presentation on recent trends of abundance for several common shark species in the Gulf of Mexico (**Tab M, No. 4**). Additionally, Ms. Brewster-Geisz will present information regarding shark depredation as related to public concerns. After the presentation, the Committee should ask questions and provide recommendations on how the HMS division can address the issue of depredation of catch from sharks.