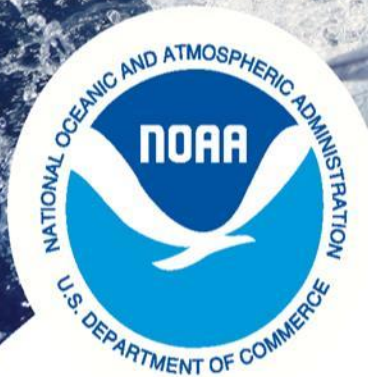


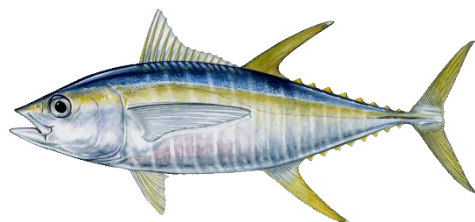


# Introduction to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

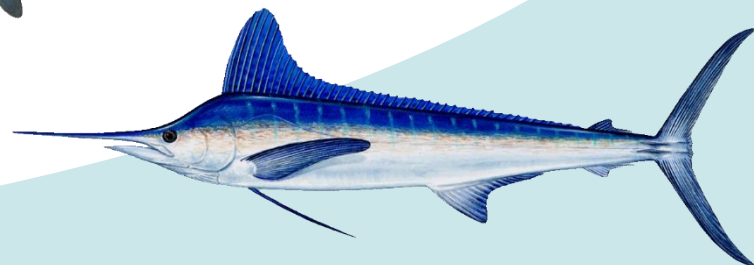
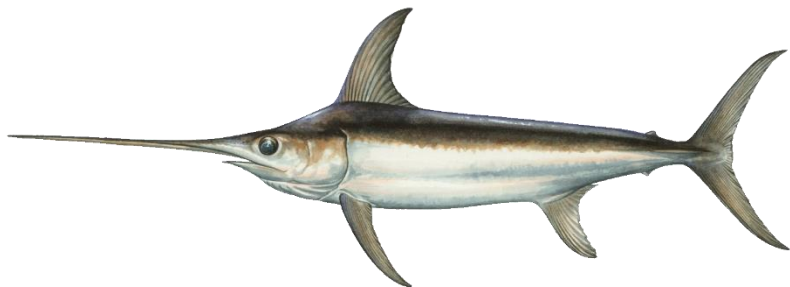
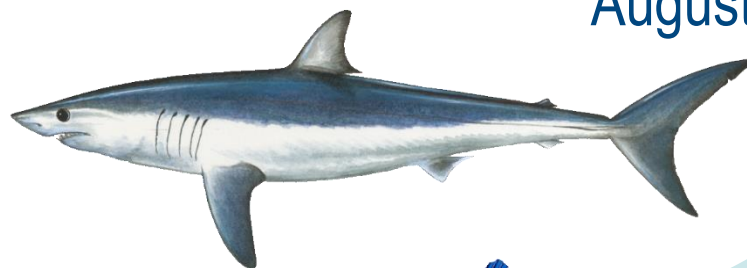


**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

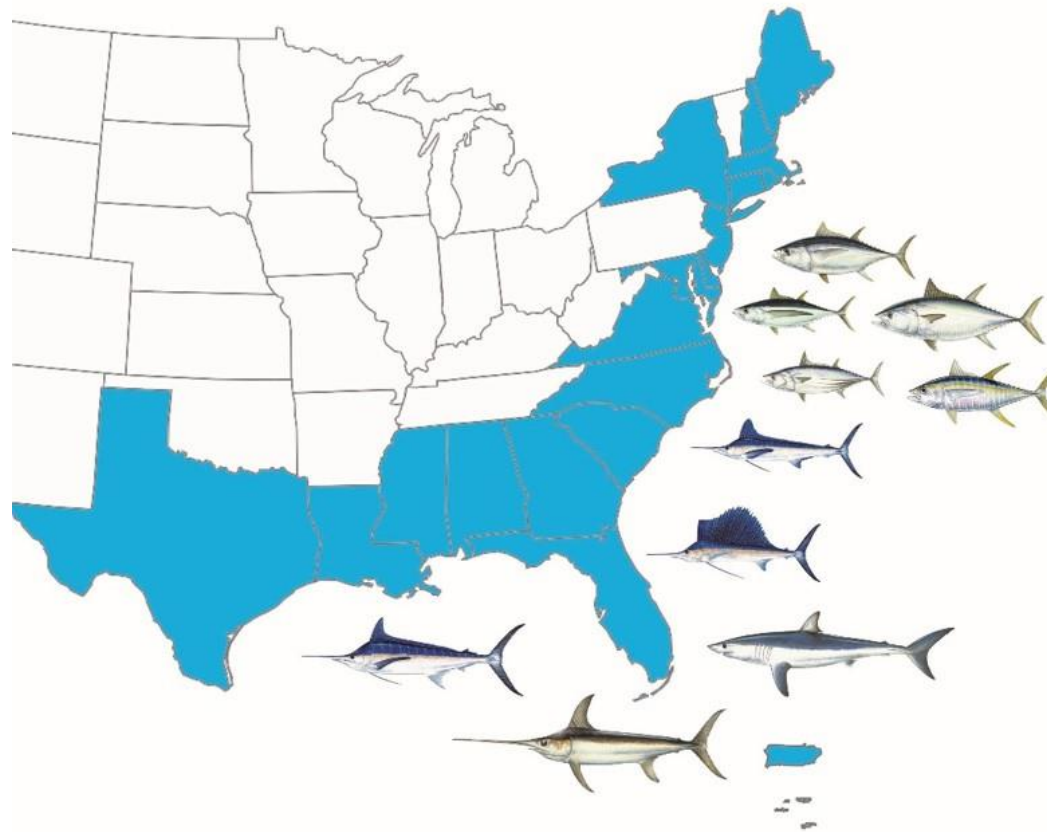
Office of  
Sustainable  
Fisheries



August 2022



# Atlantic HMS Management – Maine to Texas and U.S. Caribbean; U.S. Flagged Vessels on the High Seas



- Tunas: Bluefin, Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, Skipjack
- Billfish: Blue and White Marlin, Roundscale Spearfish, Sailfish
- Swordfish
- Sharks: 42 species (46 stocks) including Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Blacktip, Bull, and Tiger

# Atlantic HMS are Managed Directly by NOAA Fisheries

Provisions of Magnuson-Stevens Act apply to HMS management (except Council-specific requirements)

- National Standards (Sec. 301)
  - Prevent overfishing
  - Promote safety at sea
  - Minimize bycatch
  - Use best scientific information available
- FMP content requirements (Sec. 303)
  - Contain measures necessary to rebuild overfished stocks
  - Describe and identify essential fish habitat
  - Cumulative impact assessment

Some provisions unique to HMS

- Advisory Panel (Sec. 302(g)(4))
- International considerations and FMP Requirements (Sec. 304(g)(1))

# HMS vs. Council Process

<u>HMS Process</u>	<u>Regional Council Process</u>
HMS Advisory Panel recommendations <i>advisory</i> in nature	Council members <i>vote</i> to approve/disapprove actions to submit to NOAA Fisheries
NOAA Fisheries decides what actions to consider and implement	NOAA Fisheries approves or disapproves action
HMS staff seek input of Science Center staff and other experts; there is no Scientific & Statistical Committee	Scientific & Statistical Committees provide expert advice to Council
HMS Advisory Panel meets approximately 2x/year	Councils meet approximately 4x/year
<i>Anyone</i> can nominate themselves to be considered for the HMS Advisory Panel	Council member nominations must be submitted by state or territory governors

# HMS Management has an International Component

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

- Management recommendations for tunas, billfish, swordfish, and (increasingly) sharks (generally as bycatch)
- Recommendations binding for United States (quotas, minimum sizes, trade restrictions, statistical documents, vessel lists, etc.)
- HMS Management Division implements ICCAT recommendations as necessary & appropriate through regulations under ATCA

Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) – 1975

- Domestic legislative authority to implement ICCAT recommendations
- Regulates all fishing activities (including research)
- Limits subsequent action that could increase or decrease any U.S. allocation, quota, or fishing mortality level agreed to at ICCAT





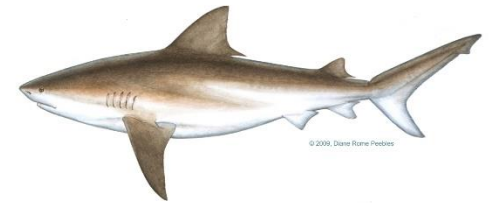
**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Regarding Sharks....



# Shark Species

- Large Coastal -11 species; 12 stocks  
Blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads, sandbar, silky, tiger
- Small Coastal - 4 species; 7 stocks  
Sharpnose, blacknose, finetooth, bonnethead
- Pelagic - 5 species, 5 stocks  
Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako, thresher
- Smoothhound - 3 species, 2 stocks  
Smooth dogfish, Florida smoothhound, Gulf smoothhound
- Prohibited – 19 species, 19 stocks  
Dusky, white, whale, Atlantic angel, etc.
- For management purposes and due to different stocks, the species are split into complexes, management groups, regions, sub-regions



# Required Shark Permits - Commercial

Permit Type	Total Number of Permits	States with the Most Permits
Directed	213	FL (116), NC (23), and LA (20)
Incidental	256	FL (127), LA (28), and NJ (22)
Smoothhound	168	NC (60), NJ (29), and FL (21)
Commercial Caribbean Small Boat	37	Only valid in Caribbean
Dealer	89	FL (26), NC (15), and NY, NJ, SC (9 each)

Numbers as of Oct. 2021





# Required Shark Permits - Recreational

Anglers who retain or land sharks must use have a shark endorsement.

Permit Type	Total Number of Permits	Number of Shark Endorsements	States with the Most Permits
HMS Angling	23,632	13,543	FL (4,402), NJ (4,197), and NY (2,735)
HMS Charter/Headboat	4,055	3,021	MA (791), FL (782), and NJ (407)
If participating in a tournament (and only during a tournament)	Tunas General (2,730) or Swordfish General (701)	400	--

Numbers as of Oct. 2021

# Lots of Different Management Measures

Management Measure	Commercial	Recreational
Fins naturally attached	Yes	Yes
Quotas	Yes	Not yet
Bag limits	Yes	Yes
Size limits	No	Yes
Season closures	Yes	No
Time/area closures	Yes	Consistent with Councils
Gear restrictions	Yes	Yes
Prohibited species	Yes	Yes
Differences between state and federal regulations	Yes	Yes

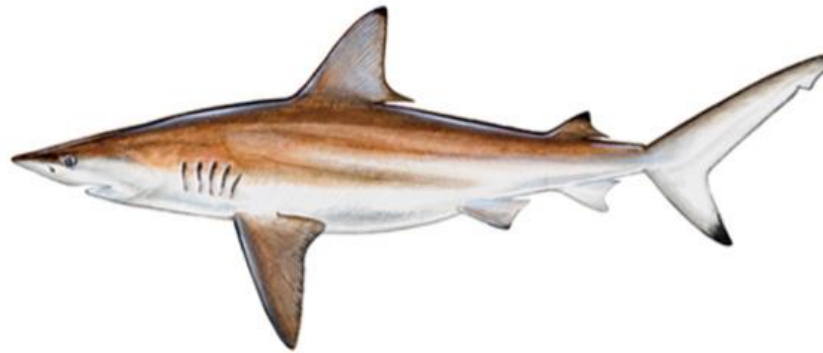
# Shark Stock Assessment Process

- Domestically – conducted through SEDAR
  - SEDAR 21 – Dusky
  - SEDAR 29 – Gulf blacktip
  - SEDAR 34 – Sharpnose and bonnethead
  - SEDAR 39 – Smoothhounds
  - SEDAR 54 – Sandbar shark
  - SEDAR 77 – Hammerheads – ongoing
  - TBD – Bull, spinner, tiger, finetooth – starting ~2024
- Internationally – conducted through ICCAT's scientific body (SCRS)
  - Blue, shortfin mako, porbeagle

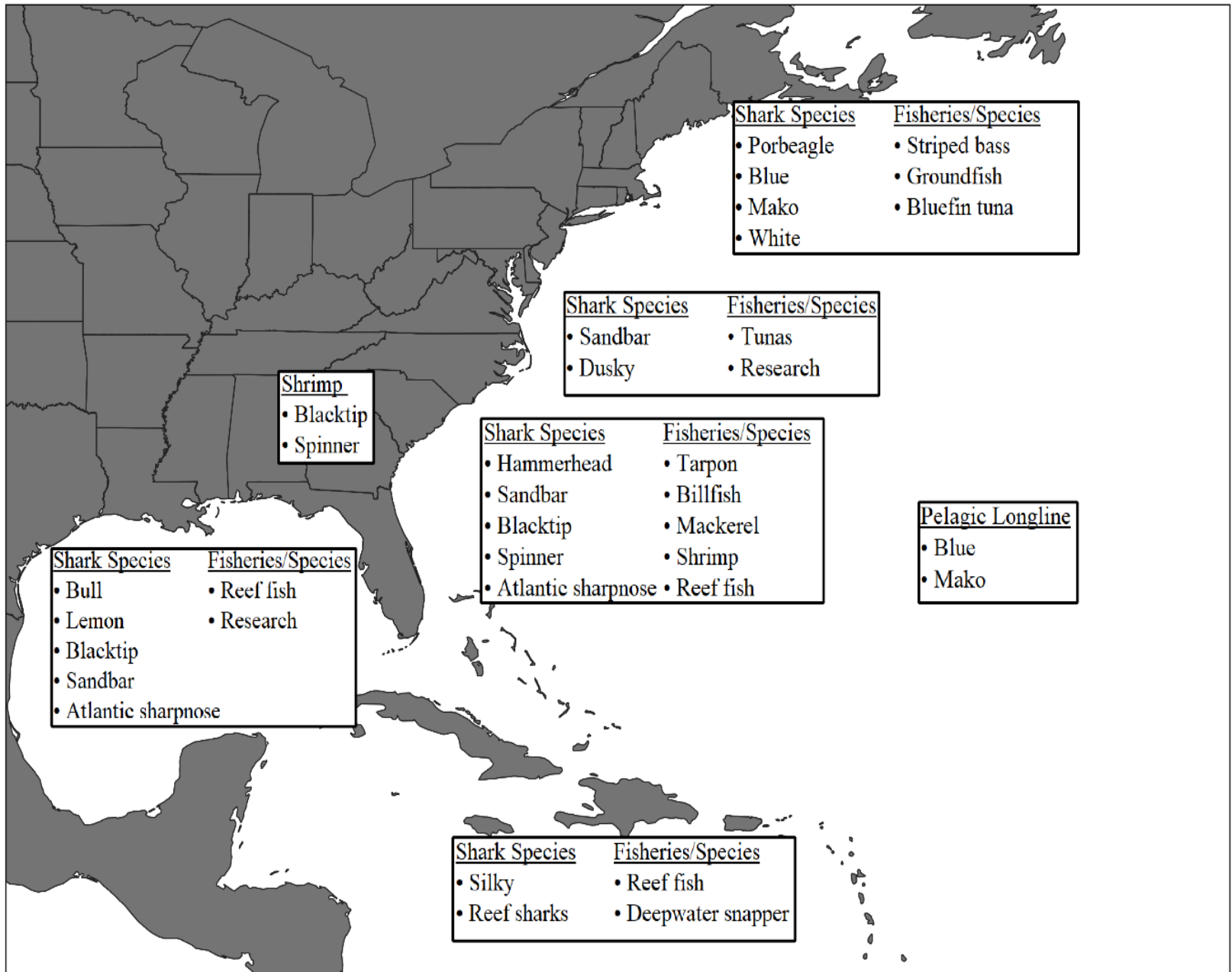


# Upcoming Shark Actions

- Finalize Amendment 14 to the HMS FMP (and then start Amendment 16) – Shark ABC Control Rule and Quotas
- Finalize our Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) and consider next steps



# Depletion



# Collection of Depredation Information

- Why?
  - Different shark species often react differently to various stimuli
- What will we collect?
  - Where and when it is happening
  - What species and fishing techniques are involved
- What can you do?
  - Try different fishing techniques and report results back to us
  - Participate in different studies - e.g., "A citizen-science approach to characterize shark depredation in recreational fisheries," led by M. Ajemian (FAU) and M. Drymon (MSU)

# Questions?

Contact:

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