

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2
3 MIGRATORY SPECIES COMMITTEE

4
5 Opal Key Resort & Marina and Virtual Key West, Florida

6
7 June 21, 2021

8
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

- 10 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 11 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
- 12 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
- 13 Robin Riechers.....Texas
- 14 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 15 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi
- 16 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS
- 17 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- 18 Troy Williamson.....Texas

19
20 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- 21 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 22 Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
- 23 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 24 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 25 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 26 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 27 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 28 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 29 Bob Shipp.....Alabama

30
31 **STAFF**

- 32 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 33 Matt Freeman.....Economist
- 34 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
- 35 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- 36 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
- 37 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- 38 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 39 Jessica Matos.....Document Editor & Administrative Assistant
- 40 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
- 41 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- 42 Kathy Pereira.....Meeting Planning - Travel Coordinator
- 43 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
- 44 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 45 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director
- 46 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist

47
48 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

1 Chester Brewer.....SAFMC
2 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
3 Tom Warren.....NMFS HMS

4
5
6

- - -

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
2
3 Table of Contents.....3
4
5 Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes and Action Guide and
6 Next Steps.....4
7
8 Highly Migratory Species Amendment 13: Three-Year Review of the
9 Individual Bluefin Quota Program that Addresses the Directed
10 Fisheries for Bluefin Tuna and the Incidental Catch of Bluefin
11 by the Pelagic Longline Fishery.....4
12
13 Other Business.....13
14
15 Adjournment.....15
16
17 - - -
18

1 The Migratory Species Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
2 Management Council convened on Monday afternoon, June 21, 2021,
3 and was called to order by Chairman Greg Stunz.

4
5 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
6 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
7 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
8

9 **CHAIRMAN GREG STUNZ:** I would like to call to order the
10 Migratory Species Committee. The members of that committee
11 include myself, Mr. Riechers as Vice Chair, Ms. Boggs, Mr.
12 Dugas, Mr. Nadeau/Motoi, Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Spraggins, Mr.
13 Strelcheck, Mr. Swindell, and Mr. Williamson.

14
15 Our first item of business today is the Adoption of the Agenda.
16 For the committee members, are there any items to add to the
17 agenda? Hearing none, would someone like to make a motion to
18 accept the agenda as written?

19
20 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** I make a motion to accept the agenda as
21 written.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** It's so moved. Is there a second?

24
25 **MR. TROY WILLIAMSON:** I will second it.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** We have a second by Mr. Williamson. Are there
28 any objections to that motion? Hearing none, the agenda is
29 approved. Our next order of business is Approval of the
30 November Minutes. If everyone has had time to review the
31 minutes, is there any modifications or edits to the minutes?
32 Hearing none, could we please have a motion to approve the
33 minutes?

34
35 **MS. BOGGS:** So moved.

36
37 **MR. JOHN SANCHEZ:** Second.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Thank you, Mr. Sanchez. Any opposition to the
40 minutes? Hearing none, the minutes are approved. Our next
41 step, and we have a relatively short agenda today, which is
42 primarily a presentation that we'll hear about in just a minute,
43 but, Dr. Hollensead, would you like to talk us through the
44 Action Guide and other issues related before this committee
45 today?

46
47 **DR. LISA HOLLENSEAD:** Yes, and thank you, Mr. Chair. To

1 reiterate, we just have one item on the docket today, and this
2 is Highly Migratory Species, or HMS, Amendment 13 for Bluefin
3 Tuna. It was developed in response to a recent three-year
4 review of the individual bluefin quota, as well as recent
5 changes in the bluefin fishery, moving away from purse seining
6 to primarily hand-gear fisheries, and input from the HMS AP and
7 the public.

8
9 The amendment has four objectives. Number one is to evaluate
10 and optimize allocations of the U.S. bluefin quota among
11 categories. Number two is to maintain flexibility of the
12 regulations to account for the highly variable nature of the
13 bluefin fisheries and maintain fairness among permit and quota
14 categories. Number three is continue to manage the Atlantic
15 pelagic longline fishery consistent with the IBQ program
16 objectives, and Number four is modify the management of the
17 pelagic longline fisheries as informed by the three-year review
18 and important relevant prevailing trends.

19
20 Today, we have Mr. Thomas Warren from the HMS Office, and he
21 will provide an overview presentation of the amendment, and
22 public comment on this amendment will be collected until July 20
23 of this year. The committee should review the amendment and ask
24 any questions of Mr. Warren, and, if the committee deems
25 necessary, provide formal comment on the amendment, and so, with
26 that, I will be happy to take any questions on the action guide,
27 if there is any, Mr. Chair.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Hollensead. Before we
30 proceed with the presentation from Mr. Warren, is there any
31 questions from the committee? Hearing none, Mr. Warren, are you
32 ready for the presentation?

33
34 **HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AMENDMENT 13: THREE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE**
35 **INDIVIDUAL BLUEFIN QUOTA PROGRAM THAT ADDRESSES THE DIRECTED**
36 **FISHERIES FOR BLUEFIN TUNA AND THE INCIDENTAL CATCH OF BLUEFIN**
37 **BY THE PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERY**

38
39 **MR. THOMAS WARREN:** I'm Tom Warren with the HMS Management
40 Division, and I am based in Gloucester, and I'm going to provide
41 a brief overview of Amendment 13, which focuses on bluefin tuna
42 management. I will kind of skip through a lot of this fairly
43 quickly, and then, as you're interested in specific topics, you
44 can ask me more detailed questions.

45
46 We published a proposed rule on May 21, and, briefly, why are
47 management measures needed, what the management measures are,

1 and the next steps are going to be the major topics of my
2 presentation.

3
4 As briefly noted, the individual bluefin quota has had many
5 suggestions over the years from longline fishermen, and we did a
6 formal three-year review of the program, and the purse seine
7 fishery has been active since 2015, and, meanwhile, other
8 fisheries that are very active need bluefin quota, and, on the
9 third topic, the directed fisheries, there's been interest in
10 the method of allocation in the context of increased landings in
11 highly numbers of permit holders.

12
13 The formal regulatory process began in 2019, and we released an
14 issues and options document that provided an indication of some
15 of our ideas and provided the public with some notion of
16 addressing where we're headed with this amendment. We released
17 a three-year review and recommendations, and the HMS Advisory
18 Panel had made suggestions, and then, more recently, we
19 completed a draft environmental impact statement that analyzed a
20 number of alternatives and the social and economic impacts.

21
22 I won't go over these objectives again, as they were just
23 stated, and, first off, the bluefin allocation procedure that
24 would affect all the quota categories basically is a minor step
25 in the allocation procedure. Instead of subtracting a fixed
26 amount from each quota category, such as the annual, the
27 general, the purse seine, and longline, we would instead do a
28 different mathematical method and make a slight change in the
29 percentages for all the quota categories.

30
31 Switching gears to the longline category directly in the
32 individual bluefin quota program, since 2015, this catch share
33 program has allocated a fixed amount to vessels, but there's
34 been a relatively high amount of this allocation that has been
35 allocated to non-active vessels, and so we're proposing a more
36 dynamic method that would allocate annually only to active
37 vessels, and this allocation would be based on target species
38 landings, and specific ones at that.

39
40 Each vessel would be assigned to four percentage share tiers,
41 and this is based on their catch relative to the fleet-wide
42 total, and so, basically, we rank vessels landings percentages
43 relative to the whole and divide them up into four groups and
44 determine four specific shares for that year. For example,
45 based on 2015 to 2018 data, the share percentages that each
46 vessel would be assigned were these 2.09, 1.18, 0.64, and 0.12,
47 and these would change annually.

1
2 Currently, all vessels shares are designated as either Gulf of
3 Mexico or Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico shares can be used in the
4 Gulf and the Atlantic. However, Atlantic shares can only be
5 used to account for bluefin catch in the Atlantic, in order to
6 prevent increases of effort in the Gulf of Mexico.

7
8 This designation and those rules would continue, but what would
9 change would be how shares would be designated, and so this
10 would be more dynamic, instead of fixed under the current
11 system, and annual shares would be modified, depending on the
12 location of fishing effort. However, we would maintain an
13 overall cap on the Gulf of Mexico shares, in order to cap the
14 amount of bluefin catch in the Gulf of Mexico.

15
16 There are other allocation alternatives that I won't get into.
17 Instead of basing allocation on landings, we analyze those based
18 on hooks, or numbers of sets, or divided equally, or rewriting
19 the current formula.

20
21 We are proposing to cap the amount of shares that can be issued
22 to an individual or, specifically, an entity, and, although
23 shares cannot be bought and sold or transferred independent from
24 a permit, because limited access longline permits may be bought
25 and sold or transferred, then, indirectly, shares can
26 accumulate. Now, we haven't seen a problem in accumulation of
27 shares, but this would just prevent future problems from
28 arising.

29
30 We're proposing to change the reporting requirements. Dealers
31 would be no longer required to put in a PIN or dead discard
32 information, to streamline things for the dealer. The vessels
33 have successfully reported data on dead discards real time,
34 through their VMS, and so we're making things more streamlined
35 for the dealers. With the electronic monitoring video camera
36 program, we're streamlining that a little bit, by proposing that
37 vessels be required to mail in the hard drives after every two
38 trips instead of after every trip.

39
40 We are proposing authorization to mount cameras on booms, if
41 necessary, to obtain an optimal view, and, also, put some kind
42 of measuring grid on the deck to serve as a size reference, and
43 that would be especially handy for automated computer review of
44 the information.

45
46 Another aspect of the IBQ program that we're proposing changes
47 is implementing a cost recovery program, as required by

1 Magnuson. Vessels would pay a nominal fee, based on bluefin
2 landed and average price, and Magnuson limits that to 3 percent
3 of ex-vessel value, but what is different, a little bit, about
4 this program is it wouldn't necessarily be charged every year.

5
6 Because bluefin is a bycatch species, not a lot of bluefin is
7 landed. The net amount of value that could be derived through a
8 cost recovery program is relatively low, and so, if it didn't
9 make economic sense to charge a fee to vessels, for example if
10 it costed a similar amount for us to actually run the cost
11 recovery program as the cost -- As the fee that could be
12 recouped, it wouldn't make any sense for anyone, and so we would
13 make an annual determine on that basis.

14
15 Lastly, for the IBQ program, clarifying -- The current rules are
16 not clear with respect to the use of greenstick gear by longline
17 vessels, and so this would clarify the rules that one legally-
18 sized bluefin could be caught incidentally on greenstick gear,
19 but they would need to account for that and report that.

20
21 Switching gears to the purse seine fishery, as mentioned before,
22 the purse seine fishery has been largely inactive for a decade-
23 and-a-half and totally inactive since 2015, and this fishery was
24 created in 1982, and this fishery was a limited access fishery,
25 and there were only five historical participants granted these
26 permits, and these were five participants that were financially
27 dependent, and these limited access permits were non-
28 transferable.

29
30 Because this fishery has been inactive, and there was a
31 meaningful amount of quota tied up in it, we're proposing that
32 this quota be redistributed to the directed bluefin categories,
33 namely the general, harpoon, angling, and reserve. However, not
34 redistributing to the longline or trap categories, because they
35 are incidental categories, and, in a moment, I will show you the
36 revised percentages.

37
38 The angling, or recreational, fishery, we're proposing some
39 modifications, and the angling, or recreational, category for
40 bluefin targets these smaller-sized bluefin between twenty-seven
41 and seventy-three inches, whereas the commercial fishery targets
42 those greater than seventy-three.

43
44 However, in the recreational fishery, there is a small amount of
45 incidental catch of these larger-sized bluefin that is allowed,
46 and there is a small quota set aside in three geographic areas,
47 one in the Gulf and one in the North Atlantic and one in the

1 South Atlantic.

2

3 What we're doing is proposing to divide that northern trophy
4 area into two zones and provide each a quota, in order to
5 provide a little bit more opportunity for those fishing in the
6 more northern areas that haven't had much opportunity, by virtue
7 of the fact that it's a small quota, and it's mostly caught
8 before the fish arrive in those northern waters.

9

10 Here, in blue, you can see the proposed two new trophy areas,
11 Gulf of Maine trophy and Southern New England trophy, that would
12 each have a small amount of quota associated.

13

14 For the harpoon category, we're proposing a change in retention
15 limits, and we would maintain the current limit on the large
16 medium fish, but what is new is that, currently, the giant
17 bluefin, there is no retention limit per day. Although there is
18 an overall cap on the quota for harpoon, there's not a limit on
19 a per-day basis, and so, in order to hopefully create more
20 fishing opportunity, and potentially lengthen the season, and
21 maybe have more participants, this would set the total number of
22 bluefin per day that could be retained, but it provides some
23 combination of flexibility of the two size classes.

24

25 Then an administrative change that would affect those applying
26 to a permit is, if folks make a mistake applying to a permit, a
27 limited-access permit specifically, right now, they can't make
28 any changes, if they discover their error after forty-five days,
29 and so this would allow changes to permit categories, due to
30 errors, anytime during the fishing year, but with the caveat
31 that the vessel has not landed any bluefin.

32

33 This, also, we analyzed some other alternatives affecting the
34 general category, although we did not propose any, such as
35 different ways to modify the general category subquotas, twelve
36 equal months, more quota to the -- Excuse me. A longer period
37 for the January to March subquota period, increasing January to
38 March, or increasing September and October, basically different
39 methods of slicing and dicing the bluefin quota for the general
40 category.

41

42 To summarize the proposed quota percentages that we're
43 proposing, the pie chart on the left is the current situation.
44 The proposed pie chart on the right is the proposed. The things
45 to note are the orange slice, the purse seine slice, on the
46 current regulations would no longer exist under the proposed
47 regulations, and I would also note that all of the categories

1 would have a larger percentage. Now, the longline category
2 wouldn't get reallocated, or any of this purse seine, but they
3 have a slightly higher percentage, due to the math change that I
4 mentioned.

5
6 For those of you who don't like pie charts, this shows the
7 current percentages, the left-hand column. Those that would
8 result from the slight mathematical change, you can see they're
9 relatively minor, but then, more importantly, the net proposed
10 quota percentages are in the right-hand category.

11
12 For example, the general category would go from 47.1 to 55.8,
13 and the purse seine would go from 18.6 percent of the bluefin
14 quota to zero, the angling category from 19.7 to 23.3.

15
16 We will be accepting comments through July 20, and you can
17 submit comments as shown here, or feel free to contact HMS staff
18 for instructions. We will be developing the final environmental
19 impact statement and the final rule, and we hope to implement
20 new measures as of January 1, 2022. We have held one public
21 hearing webinar to-date, and there will be two more, one on July
22 8 and one on July 14. Thank you for allowing me to run through
23 this, a lot of information, hastily, while hopefully allowing
24 some time for some questions.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Well, thank you, Tom, for that interesting
27 presentation. I'm sure there will be a few questions from the
28 committee, and so, if the committee has any questions, go ahead.
29 I don't know if we're going to put our hands-up list, or, Tom,
30 if you're willing to -- Tom Frazer, the Chair, is willing to
31 call on people for me, that would be great, there in-person.

32
33 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Okay, Greg, and so I will kind of monitor
34 hands-up on our end here. I am keeping an eye out right now.
35 Ms. Boggs.

36
37 **MS. BOGGS:** I'm not a bluefin fisherman, but I do have a
38 question about the pie chart. What is the category of general?
39 What does that entail?

40
41 **MR. WARREN:** That is the commercial category, predominantly the
42 hook-and-line fishermen, and it's an open-access category, and
43 most of this activity is in two areas off of North Carolina and
44 off of New England, and there are some harpoon vessel
45 participants, and, mainly, the harpoon vessels choose to
46 participate in a separate harpoon category that's only allowed
47 harpoon gear.

1
2 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you, Mr. Warren, for that answer. We have a
3 question from Mr. Strelcheck.
4
5 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** Thanks for the presentation. Can you go
6 back to your slide showing the dynamic redistribution? It was
7 fairly early on.
8
9 **MR. WARREN:** There were two relevant slides. This is the first
10 of the two slides.
11
12 **MR. STRELCHECK:** My understanding is this kind of built off of
13 the same conversation that we were having about cyclical
14 distribution in the for-hire sector at one time, and so I'm just
15 curious if you can kind of talk a little bit more specifically
16 about this and how this would be implemented, in practice, going
17 forward for bluefin.
18
19 **MR. WARREN:** Sure. As I mentioned, this arose from a fair
20 amount of -- Up to even 30 percent of the quota being allocated
21 to vessels that were inactive, and so it would make more use of
22 this quota and optimize the ability of the active vessels to
23 fish and account for bluefin, and we're proposing a dynamic
24 system that so that, every year, we would use the three most
25 recent previous years of data, and, in this case, the designated
26 species of swordfish, bigeye, yellowfin, and albacore and
27 skipjack tuna, and so dealer landings data -- We would compile
28 it every year, looking at a three-year moving window, basically.
29
30 Then we would make a determination of shares based on
31 essentially the percentage each vessel constitutes in relation
32 to the whole, and then do that every single year, and so it
33 enables a dynamic system, whereby it really reflects most recent
34 levels of fishing activity, and therefore it optimizes the use
35 of a quota and, arguably, makes it fair for those who are
36 investing in the fishery currently.
37
38 **DR. FRAZER:** Andy, did that get to heart of your question?
39 Thank you, Mr. Warren, for the answer. We have Mr. Anson next.
40
41 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Thank you. I'm not on the committee. Thank
42 you, Mr. Warren, for the presentation. I wonder if you can go
43 to Slide 10, or page 10, where you talk about the increase to
44 the Gulf of Mexico for shares, but yet it caps, and so it kind
45 of covers both bases, if you will.
46
47 On one hand, it's good that Gulf of Mexico fishermen are able to

1 harvest more bluefin, but I thought I heard, several years ago
2 at least, there was some concern about the amount of harvest
3 that was occurring in the Gulf and that there was some concern
4 that those fish in the Gulf are kind of coming back to the Gulf,
5 and they're pretty much coming back to spawn, and so did that
6 come into play, or how did that come to be, where you allowed an
7 increase, but yet capped it?

8
9 **MR. WARREN:** There is a current cap of 35 percent, and so, from
10 that perspective, it stays the same. What we're also proposing
11 though is that this cap be reduced, if necessary, but we don't
12 anticipate a lot of effort increase, because there's really only
13 less than a handful of vessels from the Atlantic who are
14 interested in fishing in the Gulf and for whom this would
15 facilitate operations.

16
17 By virtue of the dynamic system, if they don't have any quota
18 designated Gulf of Mexico, but they fish there, using leased
19 quota, the next year, they would earn, so to speak, a little bit
20 of Gulf of Mexico quota and could fish there.

21
22 The overall catch level of bluefin in the Gulf of Mexico by the
23 longline fishery is very low, and so we don't anticipate a real
24 concern about bumping up against this 35 percent category, or
25 actually getting anywhere near it.

26
27 **DR. FRAZER:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Warren. Are there any other
28 questions? I am going to look over at staff, real quick,
29 because I can't see the folks that are on the webinar. Seeing
30 none over there, I have one quick question with regard to
31 angling effort in the Gulf of Mexico. Can you just elaborate a
32 little bit on how much angling effort we might actually see, as
33 it relates to the total quota for bluefin?

34
35 **MR. WARREN:** Well, there's really not directed effort on bluefin
36 in the Gulf of Mexico. The angling is the directed fishery
37 specifically in the Atlantic, and so it's really just an
38 incidental fishery, and so there is very little, and so what
39 we're talking for the proposed measures are incidental catch of
40 a few trophy category fish.

41
42 **DR. FRAZER:** Okay. Thank you. I am not seeing any other hands
43 up at the moment, and so, Mr. Warren, thank you very much for
44 the presentation. I thought it was an excellent one, and
45 hopefully you'll get an opportunity to update us in the future.

46
47 **MR. WARREN:** Thank you. I appreciate the time on your agenda,

1 and don't hesitate to reach out, if you all have any questions.

2
3 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you. Greg, I'm going to turn it back to you.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay, and, yes, thank you, Mr. Warren. That
6 brings us to our next item, and that is Other Business. I
7 didn't hear any other business items when we were talking about
8 the agenda earlier, and so I will just pause here for a minute,
9 just to make sure there is no other business that needs to come
10 before this committee.

11
12 **DR. FRAZER:** I think we have a quick question from Ms. Bosarge.
13 Leann.

14
15 **OTHER BUSINESS**

16
17 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Thank you. I'm not on your committee, but,
18 while we had a representative from HMS on the line, because we
19 don't get to speak to you all at every single meeting, and,
20 Greg, I'm sorry, and I guess I should be on the webinar too
21 raising my hand, and I don't know, and it's kind of difficult,
22 but, anyway, I just wanted to mention something to our HMS
23 staff, while they were on the line.

24
25 It's not relative to tuna, and it's relative to sharks, but I
26 would like to use this opportunity just the same. You know,
27 we've had a lot of feedback from our fishermen, both commercial
28 and for-hire, about sharks and their presence and their
29 abundance here in the past and currently, and I just wanted to
30 give you a quick story.

31
32 The last trip we made shrimping, and I'm from the shrimp fleet,
33 and it was about a thirty-day trip, and so about four weeks,
34 and, when we got home, we had to bring all the nets home with
35 us, and bring them to our net man, and, by the time he got done
36 fixing those nets from all the shark damage, and the sharks are
37 outside the net and not inside the net, but they're outside the
38 net biting holes in it to get to what's in the net, but it was
39 \$6,000 worth of damage, and so that is the presence that we are
40 feeling of sharks, and the net man came over to get his check,
41 and I was talking to him, and I said, my gosh, \$6,000 for one
42 trip in shark damage, and he said, Leann, I honestly, in all my
43 years, and he's seventy years old, and so he's been doing this
44 for quite some time, and he said, I've never seen it this bad.

45
46 He was telling me about another boat that had that same type of
47 damage, and now, that last trip, we were in the Atlantic, the

1 South Atlantic, and I said, was he in the South Atlantic too,
2 and he said, nope, and he was in the Gulf. He said it's that
3 way everywhere, and he said that I have just never seen the
4 sharks like they are right now, and so he's not been doing this
5 for five years or ten years. I mean, the man started sewing
6 nets probably before he could drive, and so he's been doing this
7 for a long, long time.

8
9 I know that you probably hear that a lot, but I thought maybe if
10 I put a dollar value on the damage that maybe that would help
11 people understand just how serious and substantial it is at this
12 point.

13
14 **MR. WARREN:** Thank you. We have heard a fair amount of concern
15 about depredation. I personally haven't heard it with respect
16 to beaten-up shrimp nets, and so this is useful information that
17 I will share with my colleagues who are focused on this issue,
18 and so I appreciate the information, as well as the dollar
19 figure.

20
21 **DR. FRAZER:** Greg, I'm not seeing any more hands up here.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Well, not seeing any more hands or other
24 business, that concludes the business for this committee. Mr.
25 Chairman, I will turn it back over to you.

26
27 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you, but J.D. actually put his hand up here
28 right at the last minute, and so I will give him an opportunity
29 to chime in.

30
31 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Adding to Leann's
32 comments, the recreational anglers and the charter fishermen are
33 complaining a lot that the sharks are becoming a safety issue,
34 and so I just wanted to throw that out there, too.

35
36 **DR. FRAZER:** A safety issue in what regard, J.D.?

37
38 **MR. DUGAS:** Just having kids onboard and clients in the charter
39 business, and I'm specifically talking off of Venice. There's a
40 lot of complaints and I hate to say it, but the charter captains
41 take matters into their own hands with sharks. It's a huge
42 problem at the end of the river.

43
44 **DR. FRAZER:** I will get to Ms. Boggs, but I just want to ask
45 another question, J.D., and I'm not -- The safety issue comes
46 into play when you land the shark, and it's not -- You're not
47 afraid of somebody falling over the boat or something, and so

1 it's actually on the boat? All right. I've got you. Ms.
2 Boggs.

3
4 **MS. BOGGS:** I just wanted to reiterate. Up in the Orange Beach
5 area, I know the sharks have been an issue, and it's not a
6 safety issue that I have heard of, but it is an issue when
7 you're out fishing. The sharks come and take your lines and run
8 them -- You know, it's a deterrent for the type of fishing that
9 we're trying to do, and I know that I have heard a lot off of
10 the state park pier there in Gulf Shores, that all they're
11 catching are sharks. Thank you.

12
13 **DR. FRAZER:** All right. Thank you, Susan, for those comments.
14 All right. I am not seeing any other hands up at this time, and
15 so we are going to go ahead and adjourn for our regular meeting.

16
17 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 21, 2021.)

18
19

- - -