

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

Agenda Item IV: Update on Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Measures

Timeline Status: Presentation and information

Council input and next steps: HMS staff will provide a presentation updating the Committee on the development of three HMS management measures. 1) Amendment 15, currently in the proposed rule stage, will include changes to data collection and assessment of four spatial management areas. Alternative A would modify the spatial and/or temporal closure restrictions for each of these four management areas. Alternative B would describe monitoring areas that would allow data collection by limited commercial fishing with enhanced monitoring and reporting requirements in and around these four management areas. These collected data would be used to inform NOAA Fisheries and use its authority to further restrict or end access to the monitoring areas for those vessels if warranted by conservation or management concerns. Alternative C would consider the timing of when to evaluate whether the spatial management areas are effective and meeting their respective management goals.

2) An Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will consider a number of options including transitioning existing commercial paper logbooks to electronic submissions, collect additional information through existing electronic reporting for dealers and recreational permit holders, facilitate HMS reporting through incentives and/or penalties, and provide electronic reporting for HMS Exempted Fishing Permit Program permit holders.

3) Amendment 16, currently in the scoping phase, will consider a range of issues including options for both the commercial and recreational fishery based on the revised catch limits for shark stocks. These include potential revisions to the commercial fishery quotas and retention limits and modifications to management of the recreational sector including implementation of catch limits, revision of the authorized species list, and considering minimum size and bag limits. The Committee should listen to the presentation, ask questions of HMS staff, and provide an input as necessary. If the Committee wants to provide formal comment on any of these regulatory actions they should direct staff to do so.
