

Tab M, No. 4



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Current Actions

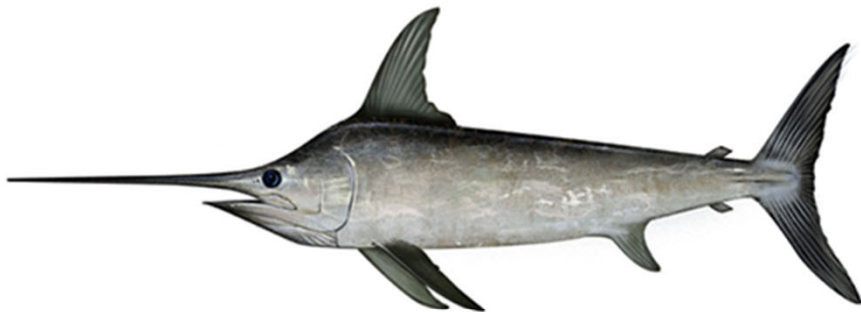
**Karyl Brewster-Geisz**  
**Highly Migratory Species Management Division**

August 2023

# This presentation is an update on various actions...

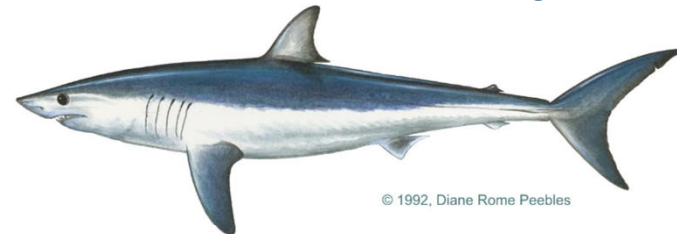
## Proposed Action

- Amendment 15 to the HMS FMP (Spatial management and electronic monitoring)



## Scoping Phase Actions

- Amendment 16 to the HMS FMP (Shark quotas and management) - Scoping
- Electronic reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

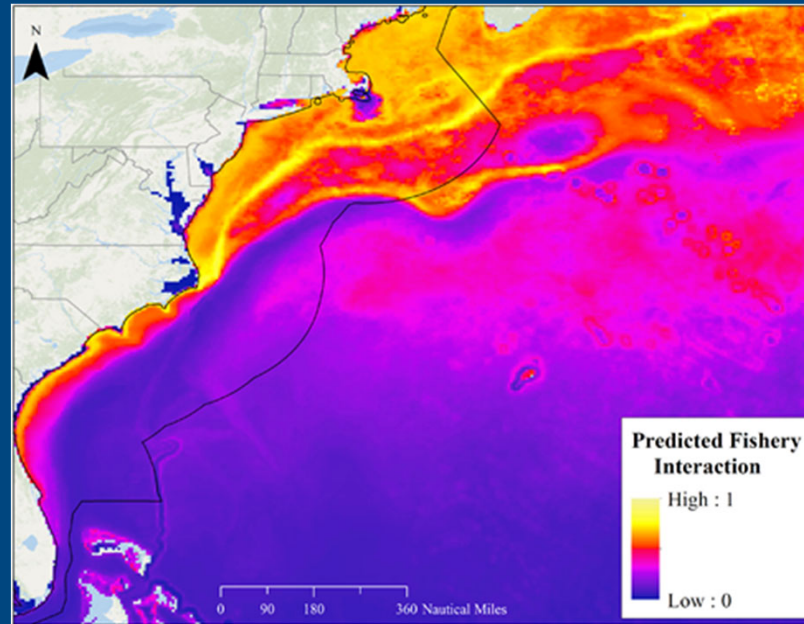


© 1992, Diane Rome Peebles



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

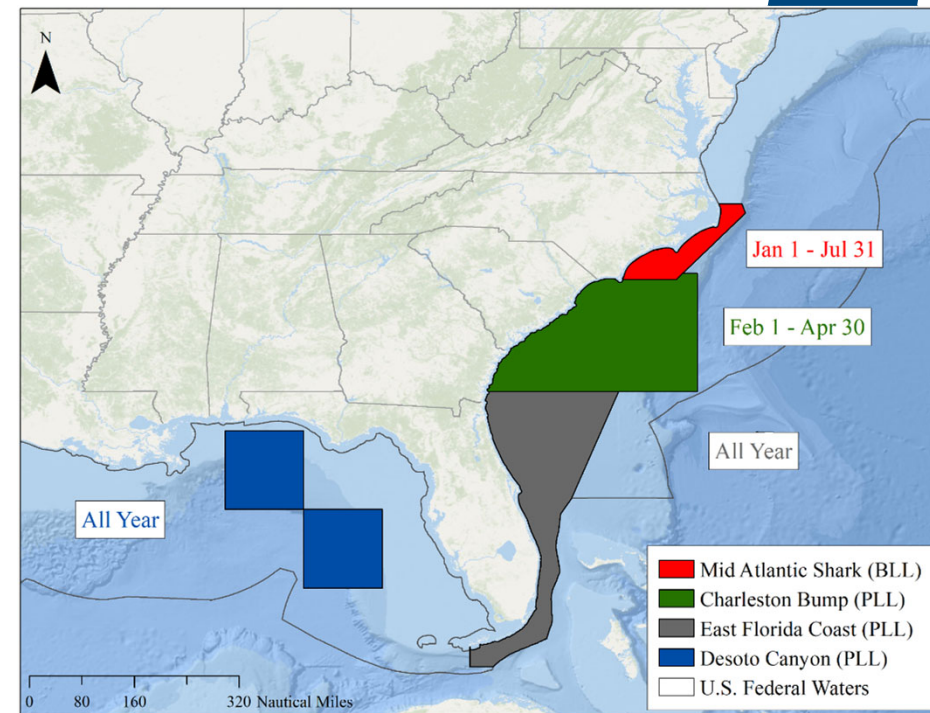
# Proposed Action



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Amendment 15 - Spatial Management and Electronic Monitoring

- Proposed rule published 05/05/2023; comment period ends 09/15/2023
- [www.tinyurl.com/A15homepage](http://www.tinyurl.com/A15homepage)
- Two broad components:
  - Spatial management: consider modifications, data collection, and assessment for 4 spatial management areas
  - Pelagic longline electronic monitoring (EM) cost allocation: consider shifting pelagic longline EM sampling costs from the Agency to industry

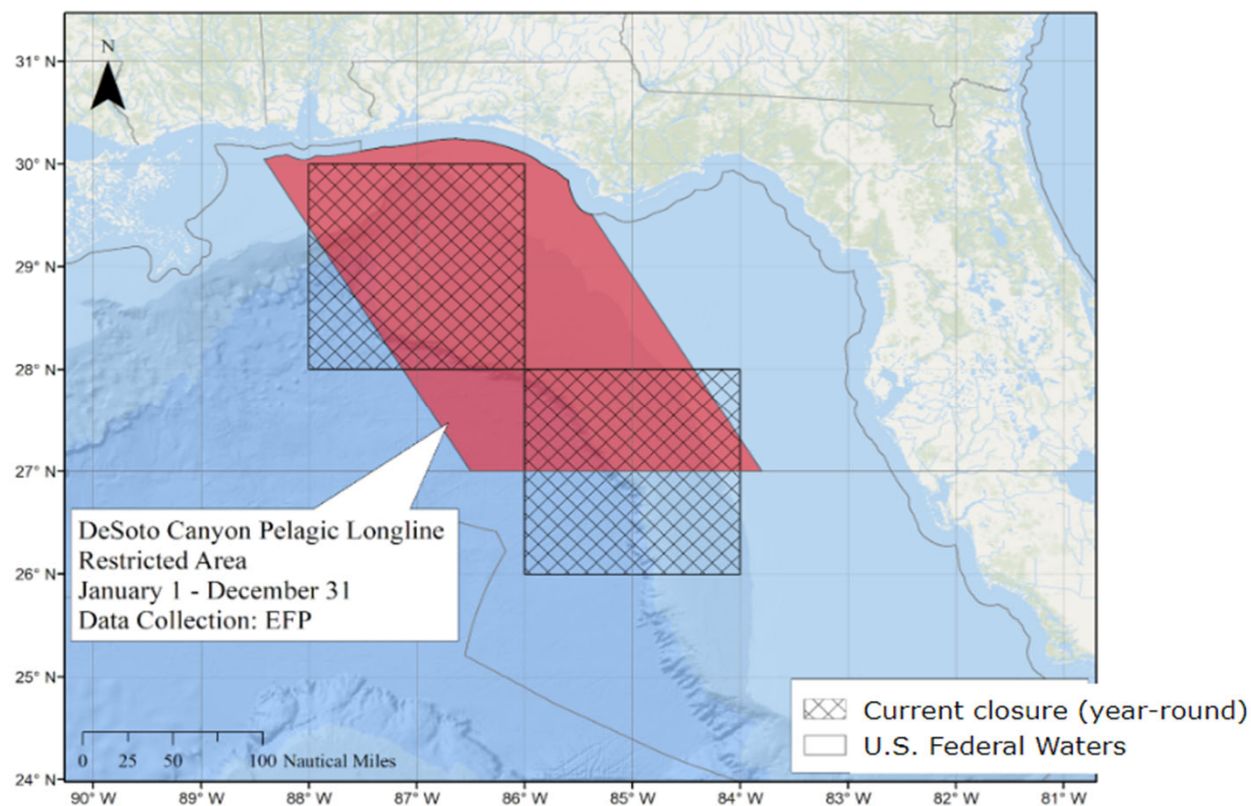


# Spatial Management Preferred Alternative Packages

## Desoto Canyon Spatial Management Area

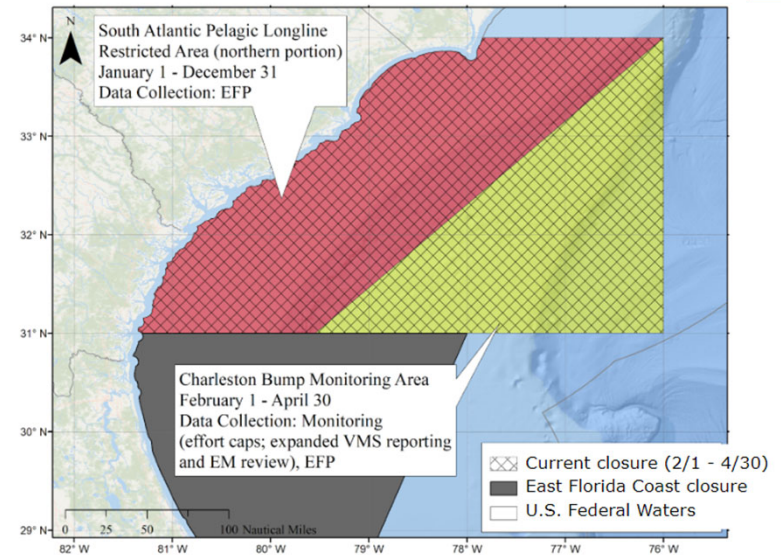
The preferred alternative packages for each spatial management area include

- Modification of the area based on bycatch risk
- Bycatch-risk-appropriate data collection programs
- Future evaluation timing of the areas

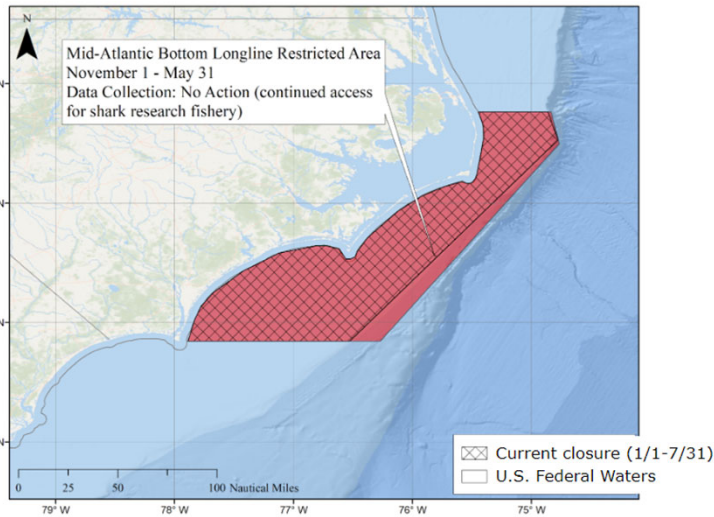


# Other spatial management preferred alternatives:

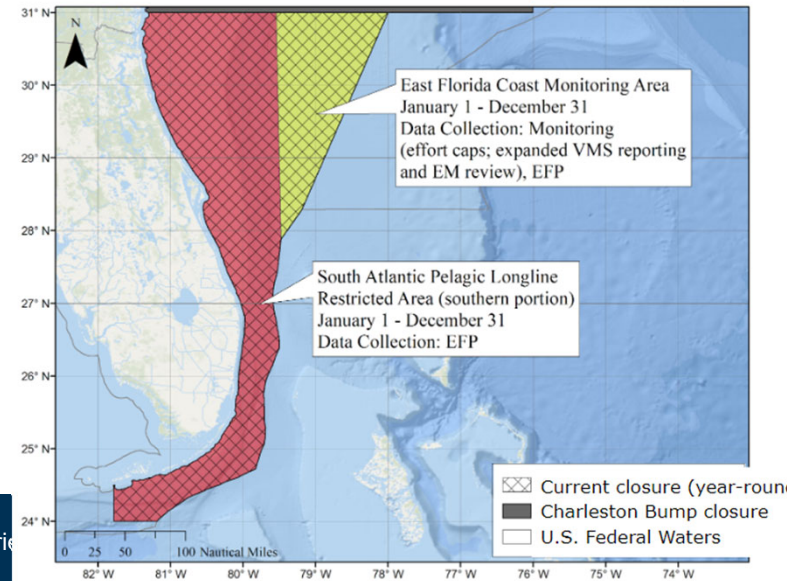
## Charleston Bump Spatial Management Area



## Mid-Atlantic Spatial Management Area



## East Florida Coast Spatial Management Area



# Electronic Monitoring Preferred Alternative Packages

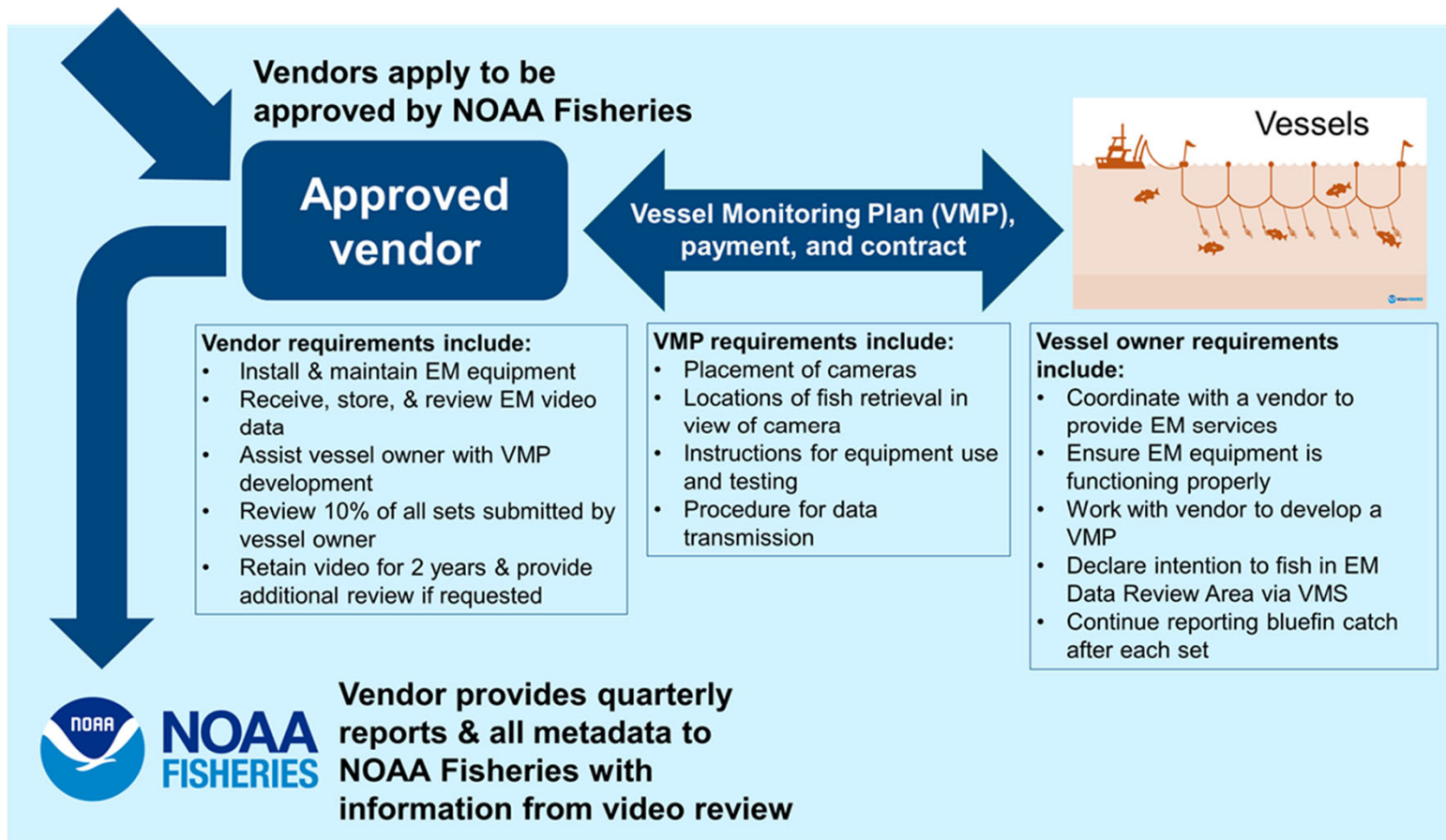
## Alternative F2: Transfer EM Sampling Costs to Industry

- Industry pays 100% of sampling costs (e.g., equipment purchase, installation, maintenance; video review and storage; service provider fees)
- Phased in over 3 years
- 4 components to this alternative:
  - vendor requirements
  - vessel requirements
  - vessel monitoring plan
  - modification of EM spatial/temporal requirements



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Electronic Monitoring Preferred Alternative Packages



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

**Vendor provides quarterly reports & all metadata to NOAA Fisheries with information from video review**

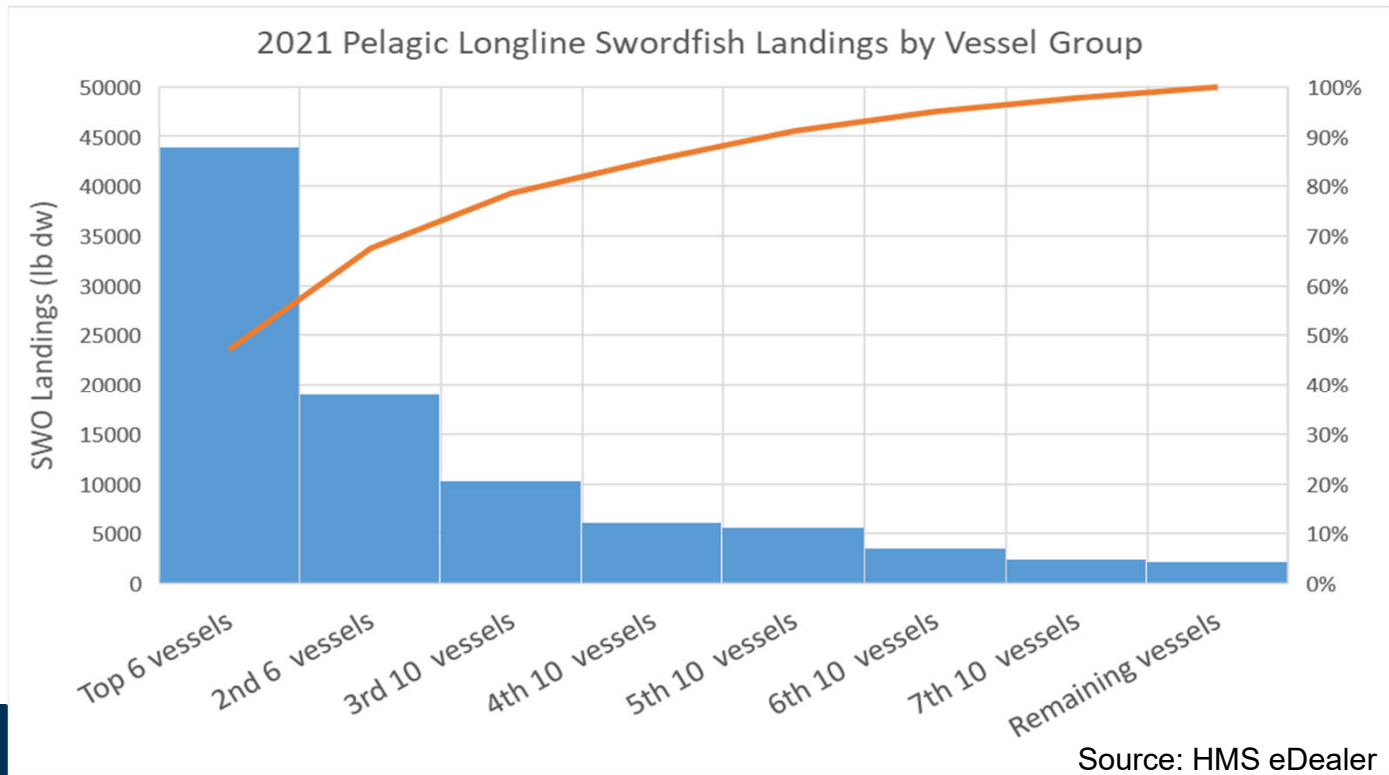


**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**



# HMS Pelagic Longline Fleet

- 82 active vessels (from 2018 through 2020)
- 710 mt dw pelagic longline swordfish landings (2021)
  - Swordfish data provided as an example
  - There are other target HMS (e.g., yellowfin and bigeye tuna) that are not included



Top 6 and 12 vessels responsible for 62% and ~70% of landings, respectively

Source: HMS eDealer



NOAA FISHERIES

# Scoping Phase Actions



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Background for Amendment 16

Amendment 14: Released on 01/24/2023 (88 FR 4157)

- Established a new framework to use to implement acceptable biological catch (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for Atlantic shark fisheries
- Operational changes as a result of Amendment 14 will be considered in Amendment 16 (and future rulemakings)

Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) Document: Released on 03/20/2023 (88 FR 1694)

- Examined a variety of factors affecting the fishery, including all aspects of commercial and recreational shark fisheries conservation and management, and shark depredation
- Identifies areas of success, concerns, and potential modifications to regulations and management measures in the future

## External Factors

- 2022 CITES listing of bonnethead sharks (effective now) and all remaining *Carcharhinidae* species (with a 12-month implementation delay) on Appendix II
- Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Amendment 16 (Shark Quotas and Management) - Scoping

- Notice published 05/8/2023; comment period ends 08/18/2023
- Consistent with Amendment 14 and Scientific Advice, the purpose of Amendment 16 is to...
  - Establish ABCs and ACLs for non-prohibited shark species
  - Optimize the ability for the commercial and recreational shark fisheries to harvest quotas to the extent practicable
  - Increase management flexibility to react to additional factors impacting the fishery and account for changes in the distribution of harvest among sectors



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Amendment 16 Looks At *Everything*

- Establishing ACLs for stock under various tiers
  - Examples in the scoping document include Atlantic blacktip (tier 1), bull (tier 4), sandbar (rebuilding)
- Management group structure
  - Options include status quo, creating groups for assessed vs. unassessed stocks, creating groups for stocks caught together
- Regional and sub-regional splits
  - Considers Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (GOM) split; blacknose Atlantic boundary
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) quotas including changes to shark research fishery
- Commercial retention limits (revise/remove depending on species and per
- Recreational retention and size limits (revise/remove depending on speci

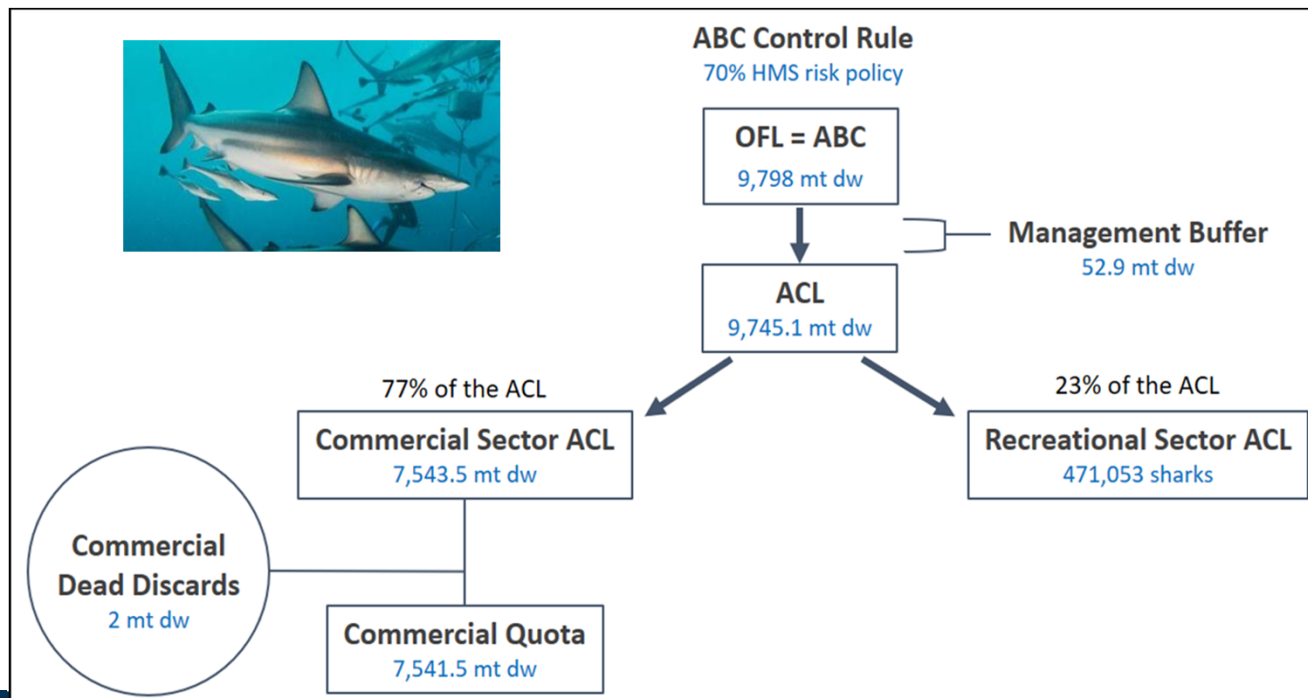


**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Amendment 16 - Gulf of Mexico Blacktip Example

Tier 2 stock with an HMS risk policy of 70% (Option B1)

- Commercial quota = 7,541.5 mt dw; current harvest level ~2%
- Rec. Sector Annual Catch Limit (ACL) = 471,053 sharks; current harvest level ~10%



# Electronic Reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- Notice published 05/12/2023; comment period ends 08/18/2023
- Purpose:
  - Streamline and modernize logbook reporting
  - Expand logbook reporting to for-hire and commercial vessel owners via electronic logbooks
  - Collect additional vessel and dealer information for fishery management
  - Incentivize HMS reporting compliance
  - Offer an electronic reporting platform for HMS EFP Program permit holders
- Potential changes to vessel reporting (all commercial fisheries, charter/headboat, and angling), dealer reporting, and HMS EFP Program reporting

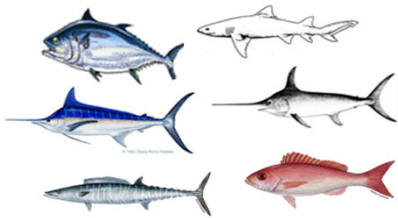


**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Electronic Reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- Would work toward *One Stop Reporting*, or submission of a single electronic report that could satisfy overlapping requirements
- Considering various reporting options for commercial and recreational entities including expanding requirements and timing of submitting reports
- Options for reporting requirements take into account current requirements across regions, for example:

## Species



## Trips



## Timing



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES



# Request for Public Comment



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Public Comments

Please submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> by:

Amendment 16 (NOAA-NMFS-2023-0010): **August 18, 2023**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/scoping-amendment-16-2006-consolidated-atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-management>

Electronic Reporting (NOAA-NMFS-2023-0047): **August 18, 2023**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-electronic-reporting-requirements>

Amendment 15 (NOAA-NMFS-2019-0035): **September 15, 2023**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-15-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-spatial-management-EM>



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

## Remaining Public Webinars and Hearings

Action	Date, Time and Location
Amendment 15 - Spatial management and Electronic Monitoring (Proposed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● August 17 (2-4 pm): Webinar</li><li>● August 29 (5-8 pm): Panama City, FL</li></ul>
Amendment 16 - Shark Quotas and Management (Scoping)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● August 16 (5:30 - 8:30 pm): San Juan, Puerto Rico</li></ul>



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Questions?

## HMS Management Division - Regulations Branch

(301) 427-8503

Branch Chief: Karyl Brewster-Geisz, [karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov](mailto:karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov)

### Amendment 15:

Steve Durkee, [steve.durkee@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.durkee@noaa.gov)

Larry Redd, Jr., [larry.redd@noaa.gov](mailto:larry.redd@noaa.gov)

### Amendment 16:

Guy DuBeck, [guy.dubeck@noaa.gov](mailto:guy.dubeck@noaa.gov)

Ann Williamson, [ann.williamson@noaa.gov](mailto:ann.williamson@noaa.gov)

### Electronic Reporting:

Carrie Soltanoff, [carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov](mailto:carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov)

Thank you



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**