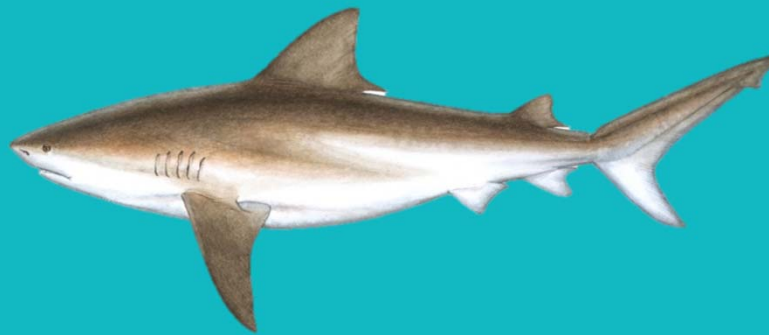




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Tab M, No. 4(b)

# Atlantic Shark Fishery Management Update



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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division  
August 2022

# Background



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- Presentation January 2020
  - Focused on shark depredation
  - Noted need for data collection
- What has happened since then?
  - Amendment 14 to the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) FMP
  - Draft Shark Fishery Review (SHARE)
  - Dusky Shark Litigation Conclusion
  - Shortfin Mako Shark Final Rule
  - Report to Congress on Shark and Dolphin Interactions
- What are our next steps?

## As a reminder:

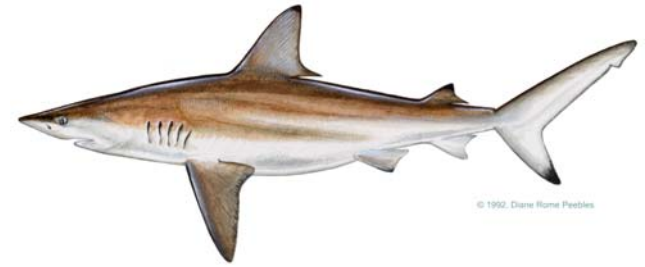
- There is no Fishery Management Council for sharks
- Atlantic sharks are managed by NOAA Fisheries
- Shark management is bound by MSA requirements
  - Overfished stocks must be rebuilt
  - Overfishing is not permitted
  - Any management must be consistent with the 10 National Standards
- Sharks are increasingly managed under ICCAT
  - The United States is required to implement binding recommendations



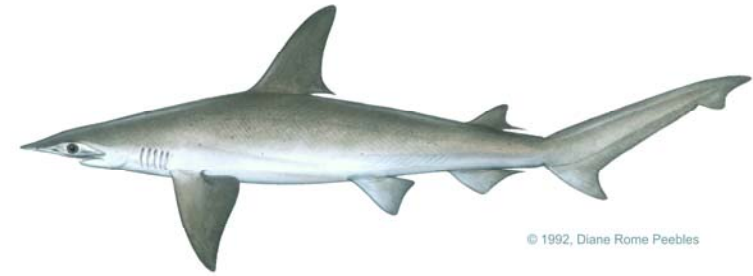
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# Amendment 14 to the HMS FMP Shark ABC Control Rule

- Draft released 9/24/2020; Comment period ended 12/31/2020
- Supplement released 1/24/2022; Comment period ended 3/10/2022
- Preferred measures include:
  - Tiered ABC control rule
  - Actively manage commercial and recreational ACLs
  - Remove quota linkages
  - Allow carry-over of underharvests
  - Allow stock status changes between assessments
- Final expected later this year



# SHARE?



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- What is SHARE?

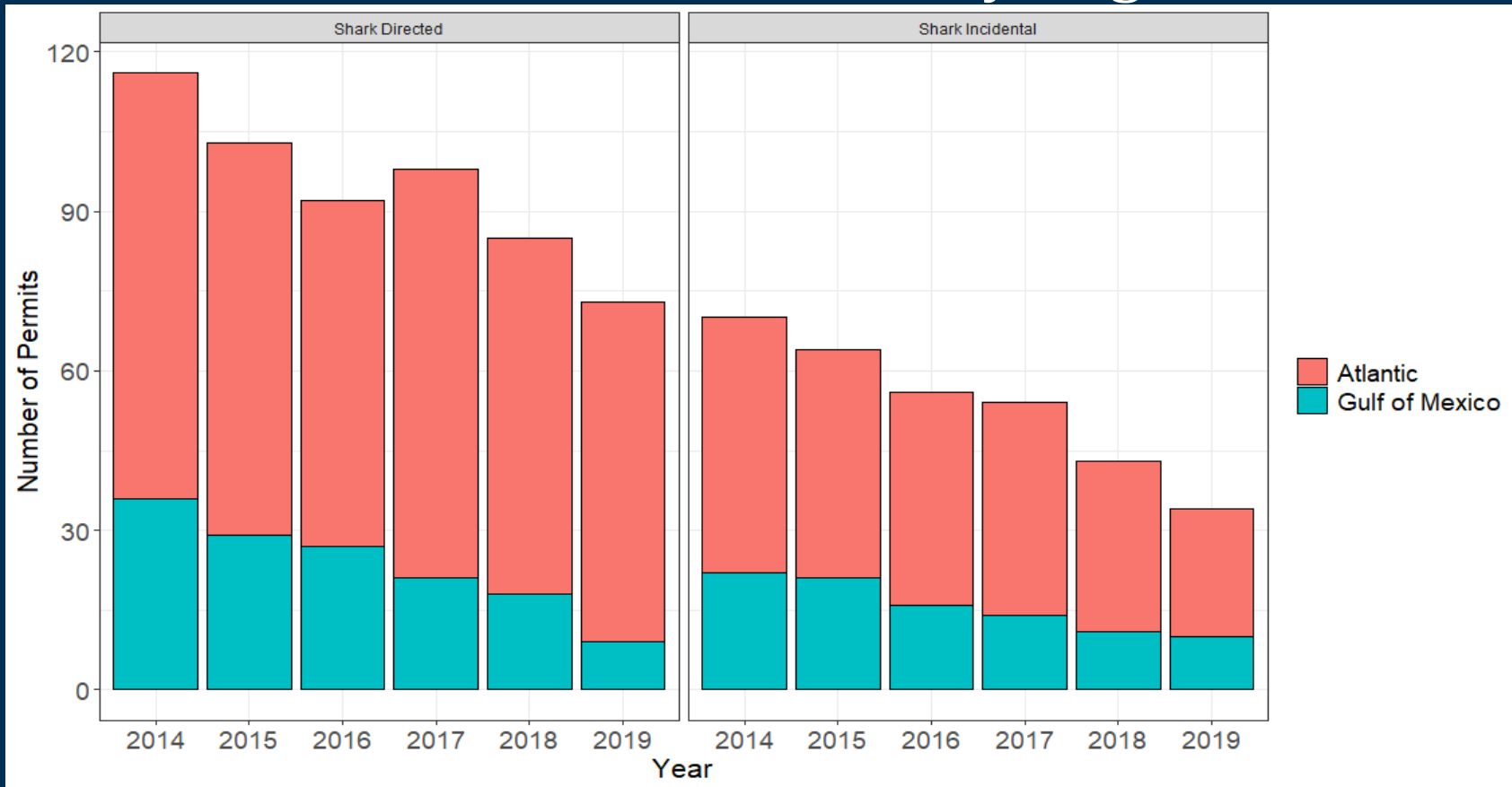
Complete review of the Atlantic shark fishery with a focus on recent years (2014-2019) covering conservation and management measures within the commercial and recreational fisheries, shark dealers and imports, and shark depredation issues

- Draft released 10/25/2021; Comment period closed 1/3/2022
- Final expected later this year

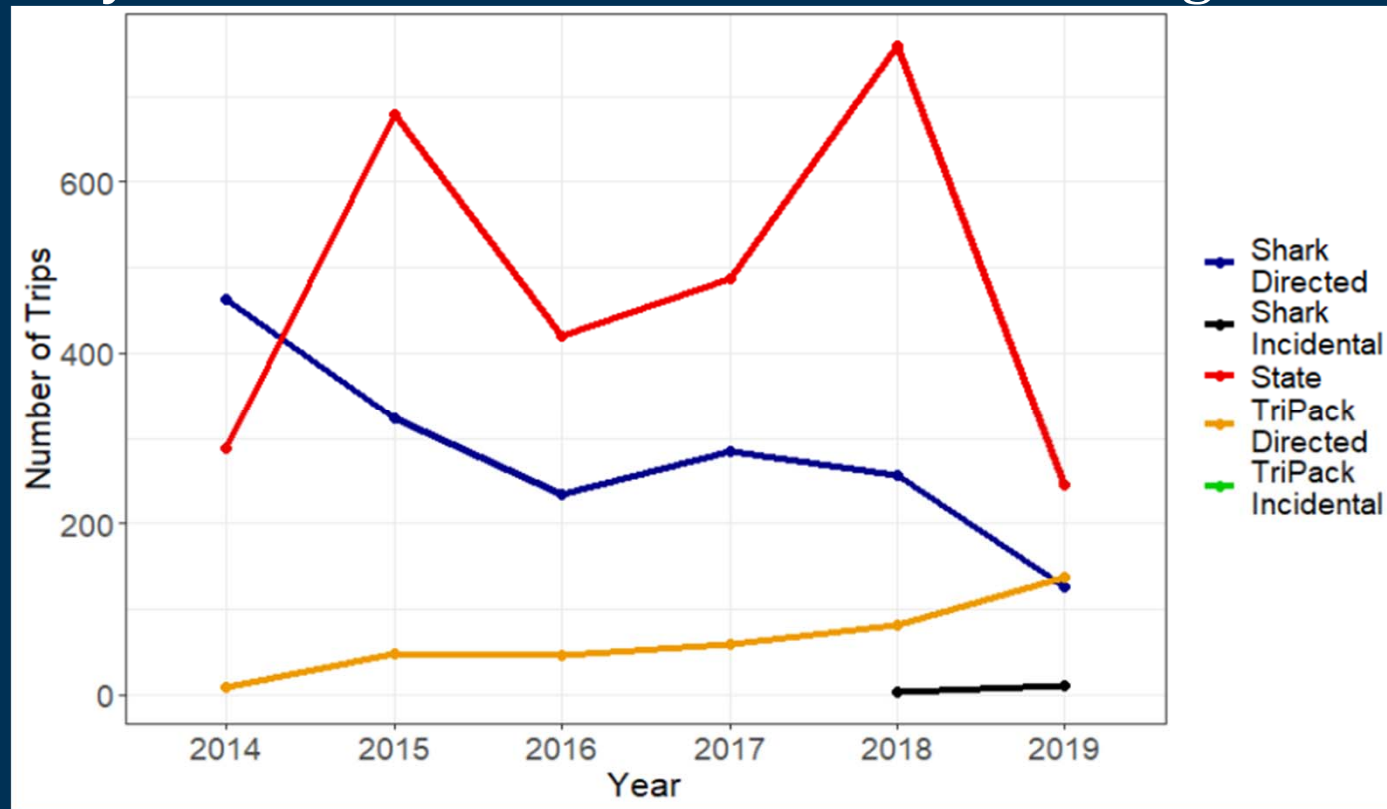


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# Commercial: Number of Active Limited Access Permits by Region

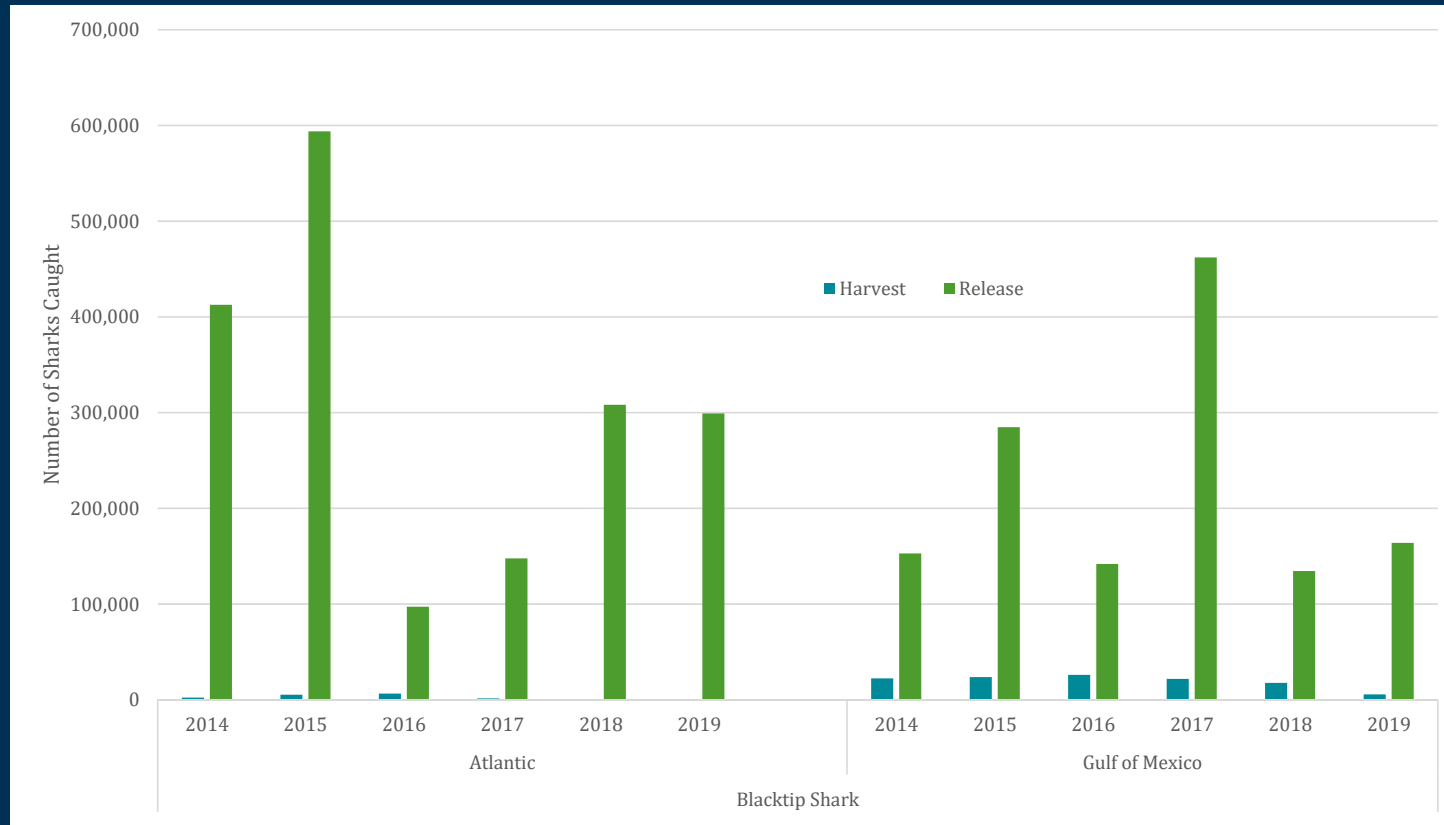


# Commercial: Number of Trips Landing Blacktip Shark, Aggregated LCS, and Hammerhead Shark Management Groups by Permit Holder in the Gulf of Mexico Region



Note: Not all of the trips by incidental shark permit holders were displayed due to confidentiality requirements.

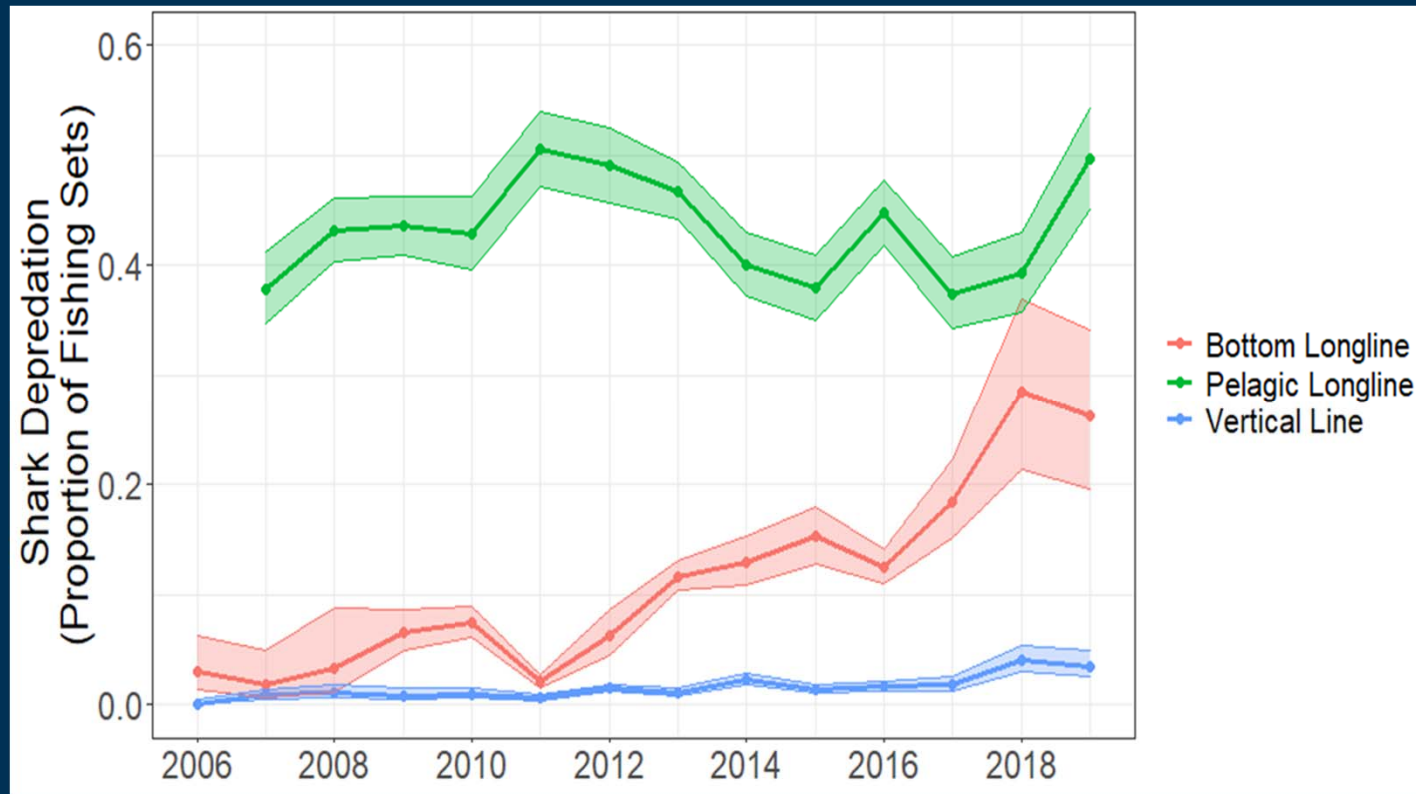
# Recreational: Number of Blacktip Sharks Harvested and Released by Year in the Atlantic and Gulf Of Mexico Regions



Source: MRIP, SRHS, LA Creel, TPWD.



# Shark Depredation – Proportion of Fishing Sets with Interactions



Note: All the data are with 95-percent confidence intervals.

# Dusky Sharks



- Prohibited since 2000
- 2016 Updated Stock Assessment: Overfished, Overfishing
- April 2017: Final rule for Amendment 5b to the HMS FMP  
Numerous measures taken to maximize survival and minimize interactions
- May 2017: Oceana lawsuit  
Amendment 5b “...failed to establish measures necessary to end overfishing and rebuild the dusky shark population to a healthy level...”
- March 2021: The D.C. District Court upheld Amendment 5b
- May 2021: Oceana appealed the decision to the D.C. Circuit
- June 2022: The D.C. Circuit Court again upheld Amendment 5b

# Shortfin Mako Sharks



- 2017 Stock Assessment: Overfished, Overfishing
- November 2017: ICCAT adopted Rec. 17-08 – Measures to maximize live release, allow retention in certain limited circumstances, and improve data collection
- March 2019: Amendment 11 to the HMS FMP
  - Commercially: All live sharks must be released
  - Recreationally: Male minimum size = 71” (180 cm) FL; Female minimum size = 83” (210 cm) FL
- November 2021: ICCAT adopted Rec. 21-09 - Prohibits retention of shortfin mako sharks in 2022 and 2023; Limited retention of shortfin mako sharks may be allowed in 2023 and future years if fishing mortality is reduced
- July 5, 2022: Final rule establishing a flexible shortfin mako shark retention limit with a default limit of zero in commercial and recreational HMS fisheries

# Report to Congress



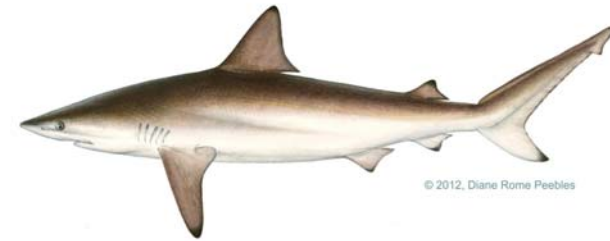
- NOAA Fisheries directed to “undertake a review to assess and better understand the occurrence of conflicts between dolphins and sharks and commercial, for-hire, and recreational fishing vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic”
- Report includes: type, qualification, and consequences of shark interactions; recommendations for non-lethal deterrents; and research needs



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# Next Steps

- Finalize Amendment 14
- Begin Amendment 16 - will use measures in Amendment 14 to revise all shark quotas
- Finalize SHARE and consider next steps
- Collect depredation information
  - Why? Different shark species often react differently to various stimuli
  - What will we collect?
    - Where and when is it happening
    - What species and fishing techniques were 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?

For more information:

301-427-8503

or

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<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>

