

**Migratory Species Committee Report
November 30, 2020
Dr. Greg Stunz, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab M, No. 1**) as written and approved the minutes (**Tab M, No. 2**) of the January 2020 meeting as written.

Presentation on Draft Amendment 14 to the 2006 HMS Species FMP (Tab M, No. 4 and 4a)

Mr. Guy DuBeck from the NOAA office of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) provided an overview presentation of Draft Amendment 14 which will create a new framework action for the establishment of acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual catch limits (ACL) for Atlantic shark fisheries. Management measures included in the draft amendment include the creation of an ABC control rule along with options of a phase-in ABC control rule for any modification in ABC, ACL development, options for carry-over provisions, and exploration of multi-year overfishing status determination criteria. Mr. DuBeck included a preliminary implementation timeline and indicated that public comment would be open until December 31, 2020.

The Council is similarly considering modifications to its ABC Control Rule and the Committee indicated it would be useful for HMS and Council staff to communicate about potential approaches for an ABC Control Rule. Ms. Leann Bosarge stressed the importance of continued collaboration between HMS and the Council on future stock assessments especially regarding public comment on management options. Mr. Kevin Anson asked for clarification about the carry-over option for overfished stocks (Option D6) and Dr. Tom Frazer inquired what proportion of HMS stocks were considered data-poor or unknown. Mr. DuBeck indicated that stocks considered undergoing overfishing were eligible for a carry-over but that an option of multi-year overfishing status determination criteria (Option E3) would help inform carry-over decisions. Mr. DuBeck stated that individual stock assessments had been completed for a few shark stocks, but that most species are included in broader coastal aggregated stocks; and therefore, are considered unknown. The Committee agreed to postpone further discussion on draft Amendment 14 until after public testimony to help inform any potential comment letter to HMS.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.