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Fishery Management Council Presentation

Spring 2019

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Current Actions

Actions for Council

1. Comments on *DEIS for Proposed Rule to Modify Pelagic Longline Bluefin Tuna Area Based and Weak Hook Management Measures*

2. Scoping Comments
   1. Regulatory Amendment for Spatial Management & Research
   2. Amendment 13 - Bluefin Tuna Management
   3. Amendment 14 - Shark Stock Assessments

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DEIS for Draft Regulatory Amendment to

Modify Pelagic Longline Bluefin Tuna Area-Based and Weak Hook Management Measures

Request for Comments

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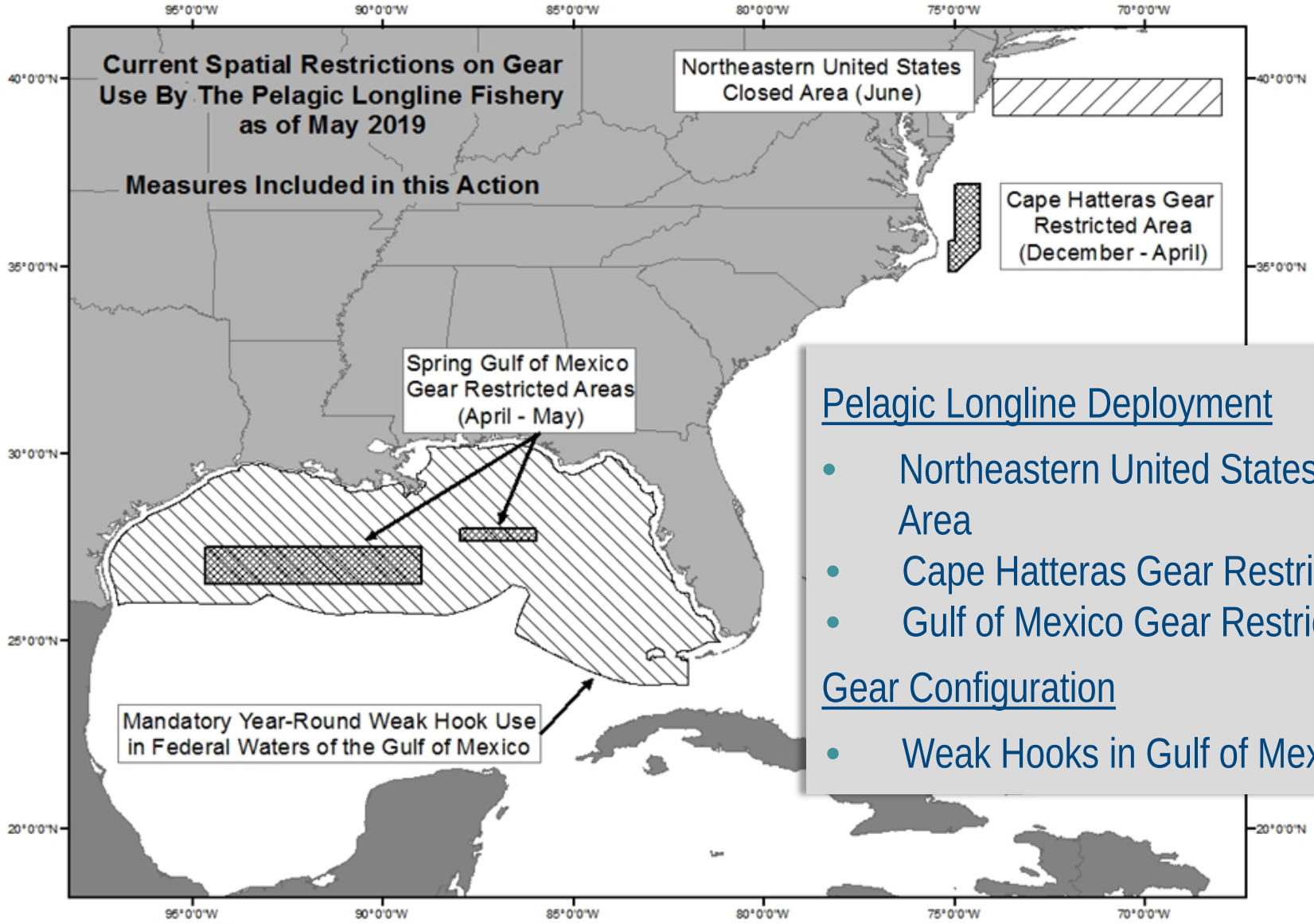

Pelagic Longline Deployment

- Northeastern United States Closed Area
- Cape Hatteras Gear Restricted Area
- Gulf of Mexico Gear Restricted Area

Gear Configuration

- Weak Hooks in Gulf of Mexico

Area Based Alternatives

Area Based Alternatives	Alternative Description	Preferred Alternative
No Action	Maintain current regulations for all Areas	Not Preferred
Allow Performance-Based Access	Apply performance metrics to the Northeastern United States Closed Area and the Gulf of Mexico Gear Restricted Areas	Not Preferred
Modify Current Spatial Coverage	Change the boundaries of the Northeastern United States Closed Area	Not Preferred
Undertake a Review Process	Undertake a review process to evaluate the continued need for area-based management measures	Northeastern United States Closed Area, Gulf of Mexico Gear Restricted Areas
Elimination of the Area	Remove current regulations	Cape Hatteras Gear Restricted Area

Gulf of Mexico Weak Hook Alternatives

- D1: Retain Current Regulations (Year Round) – No Action
- *D2: Seasonal Requirement for Weak Hooks* (January - June) – Preferred*
- D3: Remove Weak Hook Requirement

For more information….

Visit the NOAA Fisheries webpage for the DEIS and proposed rule (once it publishes):

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/pelagic-longline-bluefin-tuna-area-based-and-weak-hook-management-measures

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Options for

Data Collection and Research to Support Spatial Fisheries Management

Scoping Comments

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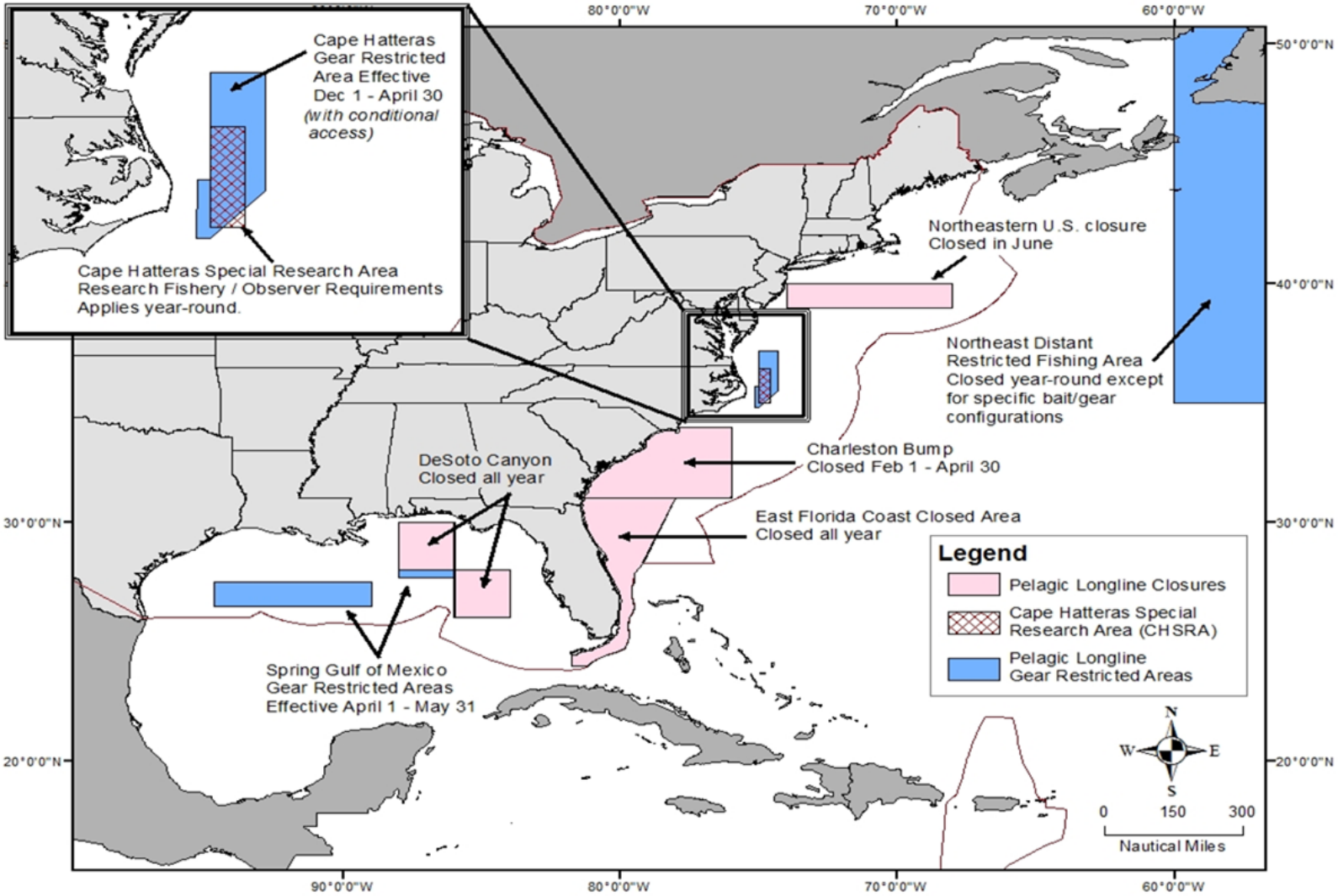
Background

- Spatial Fisheries Management
  - Spatial fisheries management includes a range of management tools often designed to control adverse ecological fishing impacts
  - Time/area closures, closed areas, controlled access areas, marine monuments, and gear restricted areas (GRAs) are all types of spatial fisheries management
  - Closed areas can be an effective management tool
  - However, closed areas can also proportionally reduce fishery-dependent data collection and research
  - Fishery-dependent data collection is often the most cost effective method



Pelagic Longline Closed Areas and GRAs

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Purpose and Need

- Data Collection and Research in Closed Areas
  - Fisheries management needs scientifically rigorous and up-to-date research
  - Ensures that original goals of the closure are still being met
  - Closures affecting HMS are geographically stationary in a changing ocean with migratory species
  - Regular monitoring of closed areas can help ensure that the intended species are protected in the appropriate areas while maximizing U.S. fishermen's access to target resources

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Potential Options

- Data Collection and Research
  - Option 1 – Continue to authorize any closed area research through the current HMS exempted fishing permit (EFP) program – NO ACTION
  - Option 2 – Authorize closed area research through a streamlined HMS EFP process
  - Option 3 – Collect data on closed area catch through an observed access program
  - Option 4 – Institute a closed area research program, similar to the current shark research fishery
  - Option 5 – Conduct closed area research through public/private partnerships, partially funded by NOAA Fisheries, similar to the 2003 NED research program
  - Option 6 – Conduct closed area research through a research program led by NOAA Fisheries, using NOAA or contract vessels
  - Option 7 – Performance-based closed area access

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Next Steps

Public comment period ends ***July 31, 2019***

- Issues and options paper
- Scoping meetings
- Consider publishing a proposed rule
- Submit comments through: http://www.regulations.gov
  - Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2019-0035

For further information, please contact:

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Scoping Comments

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Options for

Amendment 13

to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

Bluefin Tuna Management

Scoping Comments

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Background

Bluefin Tuna Management

- Pelagic longline fishery: targets swordfish, yellowfin and bigeye tunas, with bluefin tuna bycatch managed by the Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) program implemented in 2015 under Amendment 7
- Purse Seine fishery for bluefin tuna is currently inactive
- Other directed categories with quota include Harpoon, General, and Angling

Purpose and Need

New information & changing conditions prompting questions:

- **Draft Three-Year Review of Individual Bluefin Quota Program** *(should the Program be modified? If so how?)*
- Purse seine fishery has been relatively inactive for several years *(should this fishery be discontinued or phased-out?)*
- Other management options – recent fishery trends *(can changes be made to optimize fishing opportunity?)*

Potential Options

- Individual Bluefin Tuna (IBQ) Program (pelagic longline fishery)
  - Quota shares and/or allocation method
  - IBQ share or allocation caps; allow permanent sale of shares
  - Other aspects of IBQ program
- Purse Seine Fishery
  - Discontinue fishery? Timing? Reallocation of purse seine quota?
- Modify General Category Quota Allocations

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Potential Options (continued)

- Modify bluefin quota allocations (all gears and categories)
- Modify Angling category trophy areas or allocations
- Other allocation ideas
- Handgear fishery – other aspects such as gear use

Next Steps

Public comment period ends ***July 31, 2019***

- Issues and options paper
- Scoping meetings
- Consider publishing a proposed rule
- Submit comments through: http://www.regulations.gov
  - Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2019-0042"

For further information, please contact:

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Scoping Comments

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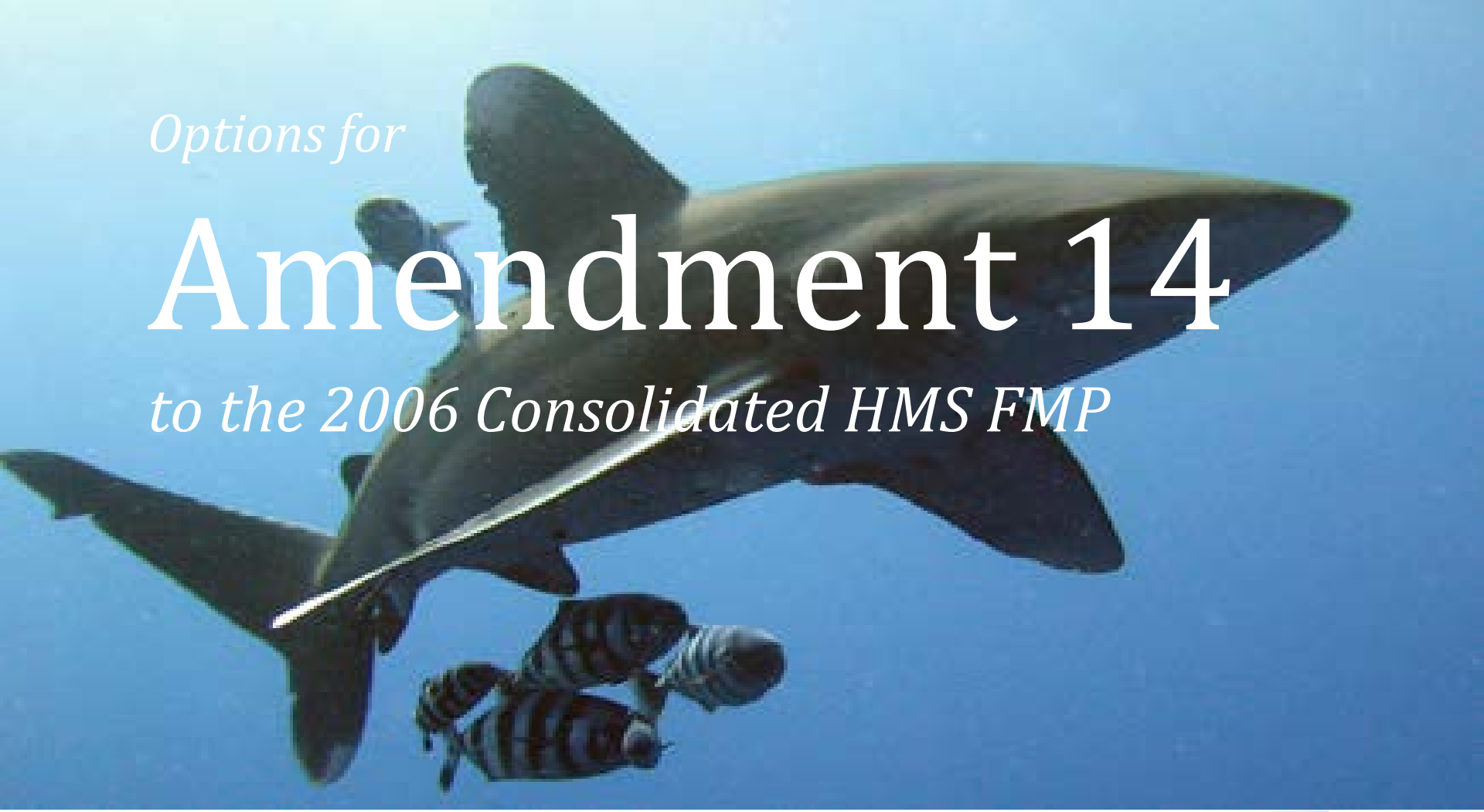

Options for

Amendment 14

to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

Shark Quota Management

Scoping Comments

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Purpose and Need

- Shark Quota Management

1. Shark harvest has historically been variable; need to review the process for setting HMS ABCs as related to OFL and ACLs to determine if changes are needed; potential AM modifications
2. The 2016 NS1 guidelines provided guidance on phase-ins, carry-overs, and overfishing determinations; need to review current HMS process to determine if HMS should incorporate these changes

Objectives

1. Consider the need to revise the ABC control rule to ensure harvest does not exceed the OFL or equivalent measurement/proxy
2. Evaluate the process for establishing ACLs for all non-prohibited shark species within the HMS management unit
3. Evaluate the process for determining acceptable levels for rebuilding success
4. Consider a process for addressing the distribution of under- and over-utilized sector ACLs for shark species within the HMS management unit
5. Consider increasing management flexibility to account for changes in harvest of sharks by sector

Exploration of NS1 Components

to meet Amendment 14 Objectives:

- ABC Control Rules – e.g., standard or tiered approach
- Phase-in ABC Provisions – e.g., phase-in depending on stock status
- TACs and ACLs – e.g., actively manage all sectors, species-specific ACLs
- Carry-over ABC Provisions – e.g., based on stock status, distribute to the relevant sector
- Multi-year Overfishing Determinations – e.g., catch levels could determine overfishing status

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Next Steps

Public comment period ends ***July 31, 2019***

- Issues and options paper
- Scoping meetings
- Consider publishing a proposed rule
- Submit comments through: http://www.regulations.gov
  - Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2019-0040"

For further information, please contact:

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Scoping Comments

Scoping Meetings

Action	Date	Time	Location and Street Address
Amendment 13	June 3, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	Gulf of Maine Research Institute 350 Commercial Street Portland, ME 04101
Amendment 13 Spatial Management Research	June 4, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Office 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930
Amendment 13	June 18, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	Chatham Community Center 702 Main Street Chatham, MA 02633
Amendment 13	June 19, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor 180 Water Street Plymouth, MA 02360
Amendment 14	June 24, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
All	June 25, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	Susan Broom Kilmer Branch Library 101 Melody Lane Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Amendment 13	July 9, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	NC Division of Marine Fisheries 5285 Highway 70 Morehead City, NC 28557
All	July 10, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	Dare County Administration Building, 954 Marshall Collins Drive Commissioners Meeting Room Manteo, NC 27954
All	July 25, 2019	5:00- 8:00 PM	Terrebonne Parish Library (Main Branch) 151 Library Drive Houma, LA 70360
Amendment 13	July 30, 2019	5:00-8:00 PM	Ocean County Library, Toms River Branch 101 Washington Street Toms River, NJ 08753

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ACTION	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Amendment 13	June 10, 2019	2:00-4:00 PM	Link: https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e25072f282e22bc58188f278a9328285e Dial In: 800-369-1177 Passcode: 2046577
Amendment 14	May 28, 2019	1:00-3:00 PM	Link: https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed71080c2cb6d03424331aaa808865f0f Dial In: 888-282-0428 Passcode: 4913538
Spatial Management Research	June 19, 2019	2:00-4:00 PM	Link: https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e90547c85b1c1d30c8adedba286178d7d Dial In: 888-324-8014 Passcode: 5920937.

Scoping Webinars

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