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

Agenda item IV: Presentation of Proposed HMS Rule and Management Scoping Progress

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: The Committee will receive a presentation from NOAA HMS outlining four upcoming management actions. Scoping documents for Amendment 13 and Amendment 14 have been drafted for public input with several scoping meetings and webinars being held from May 28 – July 30. The purpose of Amendment 13 is to consider changes to the Individual Bluefin Quota Program based on evaluation of the first 3 years of the program's operation in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico pelagic longline fisheries. The purpose of Amendment 14 is to explore options for modifying or establishing reference points and increase management flexibility for the Atlantic shark fisheries. Additionally, a draft regulatory amendment to modify pelagic longline bluefin tuna area-based and weak hook management measures has been proposed by the HMS division. Lastly, an issues and options paper has been created to explore different approaches to conduct research and collect data in closed areas in support of HMS management. The Committee should ask questions and provide feedback on these four management actions for consideration to the division of HMS. If desired, the Committee can have Council staff write letters regarding these actions to be submitted to the office of HMS during the scoping process.