

North Carolina Recreational Catch Card Program

Presentation to the South Atlantic
Fishery Management Council

December, 2014



Background and Need

- Rapidly Developing Winter Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABT) Fishery mid-90's (no other sampling program in place during Jan-Feb)
- LPS/MRFSS Surveying Initiated During 1996
 - Surveys Conducted For 2 years
 - Results Lacked Industry Support And Were Very Controversial
 - Resulted in ABT Fishery Closures
- Led To Development Of Carcass Tagging Program (census)



Approach

- Carcass Tagging Program Developed by Charterboat Captains, Anglers, NMFS, and DMF
- Meetings Held To Work-Out Process
- Mandatory Reporting Established By NMFS (50CFR635)
 - All ABT Landed Must Be Reported

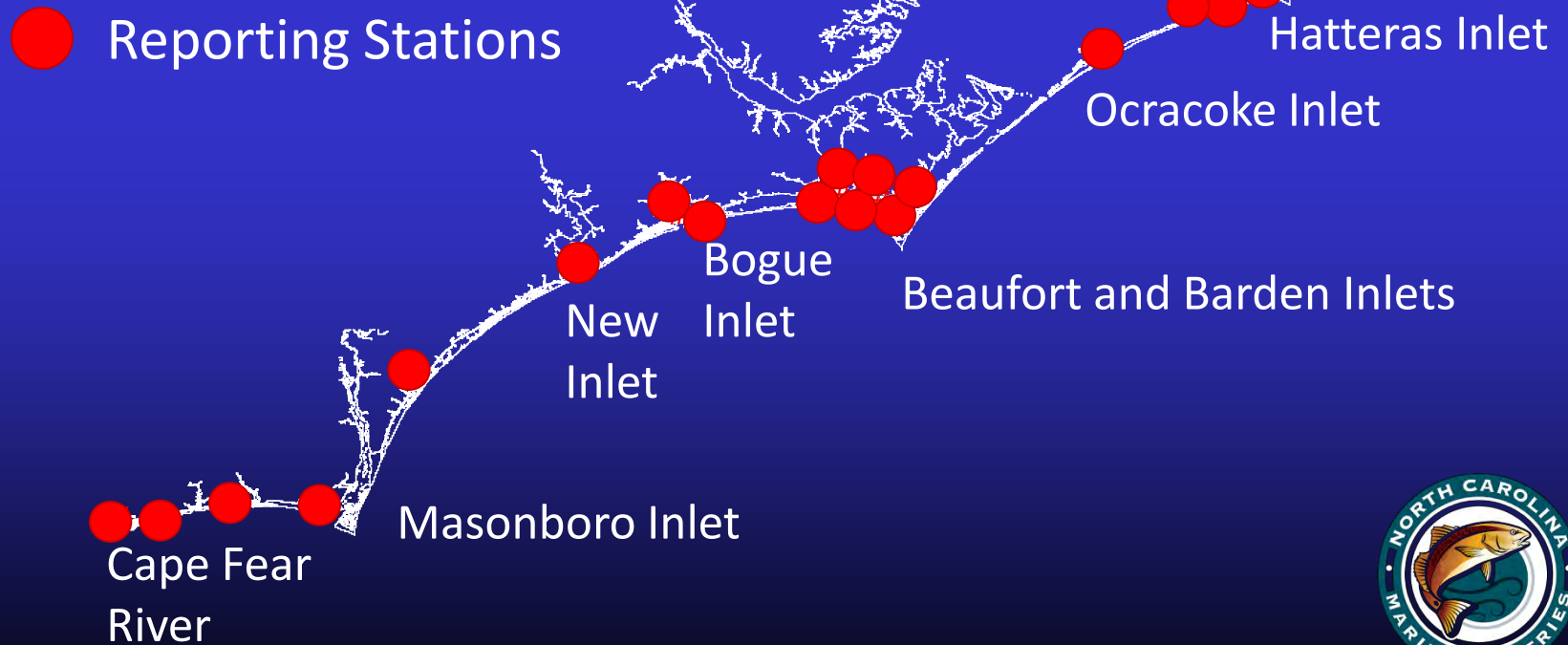


Approach (cont')

- ABT Reporting Stations (25) Established Coastwide
 - Catch Card Must be Completed In Exchange For Landing Tag
 - Only Tagged Fish May Be Removed From Vessel
 - Port Agents Collect Cards When Needed
- Weekly Summaries to NMFS (web-based access to landings)



North Carolina HMS Catch Card Reporting Station Locations

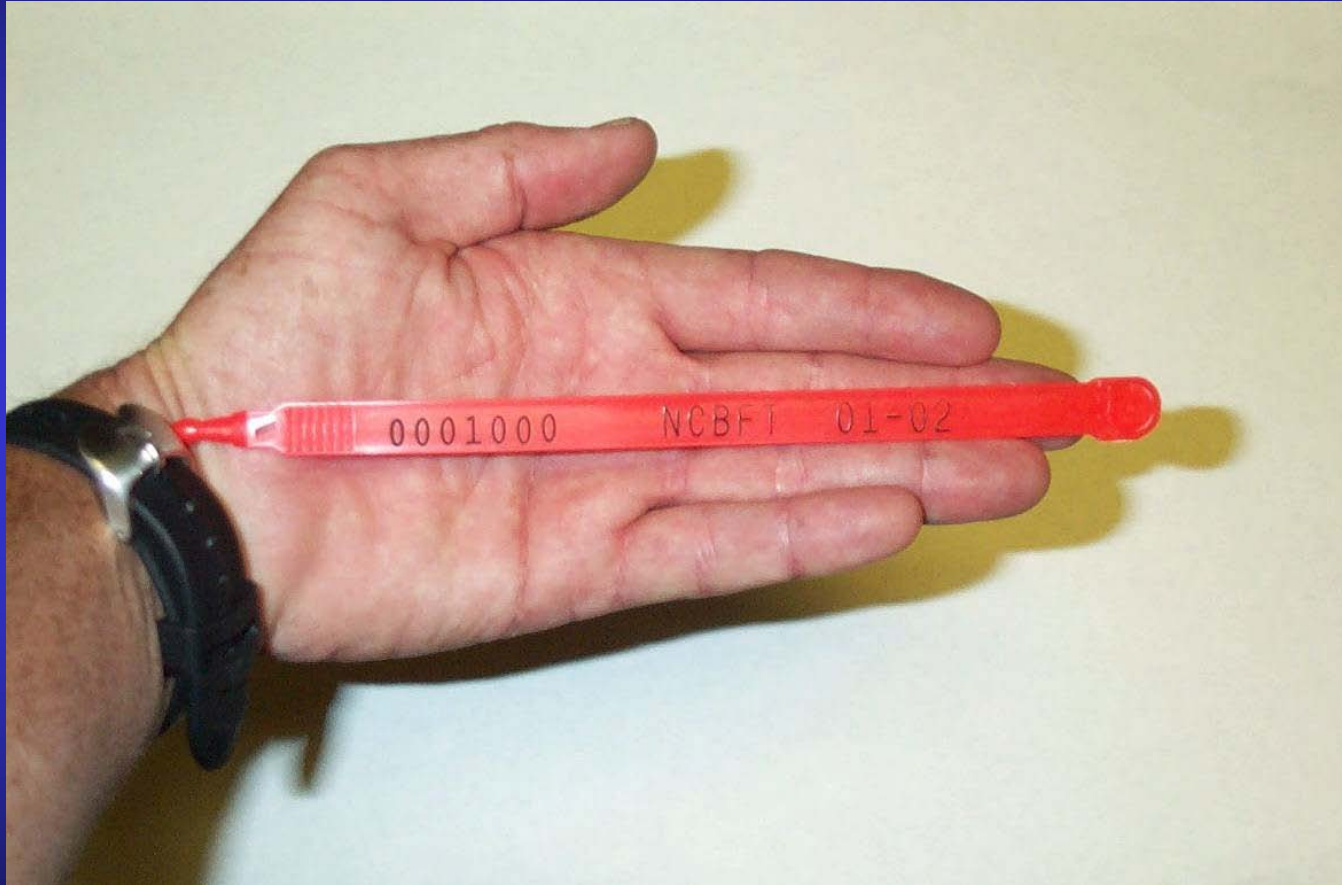


Catch Card Data Elements

- Reporting Station Identification
- Date of Landing
- Landing Tag Number
- Highly Migratory Species Permit Number
- Vessel Name and Type
- Length of Fish (weight optional)



NC HMS Landing Tag





NC Highly Migratory Species Catch Card

NOT FOR COMMERCIAL Reporting Station Copy



Year Month Day
Date 2014

Reporting Station _____

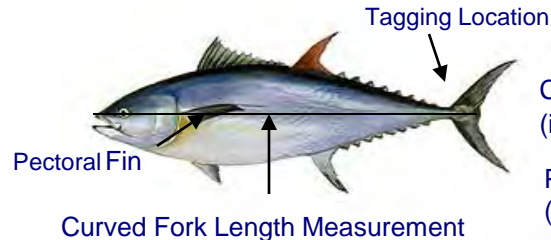
Permit Number _____

Vessel Name _____

Trip Type (check one) Charter ☐
Private ☐
Headboat ☐

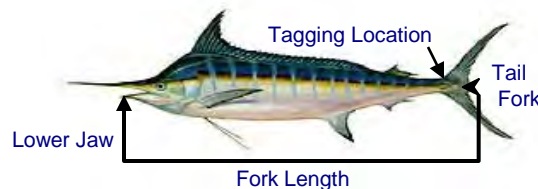
Tournament ☐ Yes
☐ No

Tag Number _____
(obtained at reporting station)



Bluefin tuna should be measured from the tip of upper jaw, over the top side of the pectoral fin to the fork of the tail.

Curved Fork Length (inches) _____
Pounds (optional) _____



Billfishes should be measured from the tip of the lower jaw to middle of the fork of the caudal (tail) fin.

Fork Length (inches) (any billfish species) _____
Pounds (optional) _____



Blue Marlin ☐



White Marlin ☐



Sailfish ☐



Swordfish ☐

All the above Highly Migratory Species (HMS) landed in North Carolina must have a Landing Tag affixed before removal from the vessel. Tags are available at all LPS Reporting Stations. To obtain a Landing Tag, Captains or operators of permitted vessel must complete and submit a catch card for every HMS landed. This information collection is approved under OMB Control #0648-0328 (expires 09/30/2010).

Preforation
Line

Catch Card (Top Tear-off Portion)



NC Highly Migratory Species Catch Card Tag Receipt

Angler's Copy

Official Use Only

Tag Number (from above) _____

Anglers should keep this receipt in hand while in possession of the fish

NC HMS Catch Card Contact Information

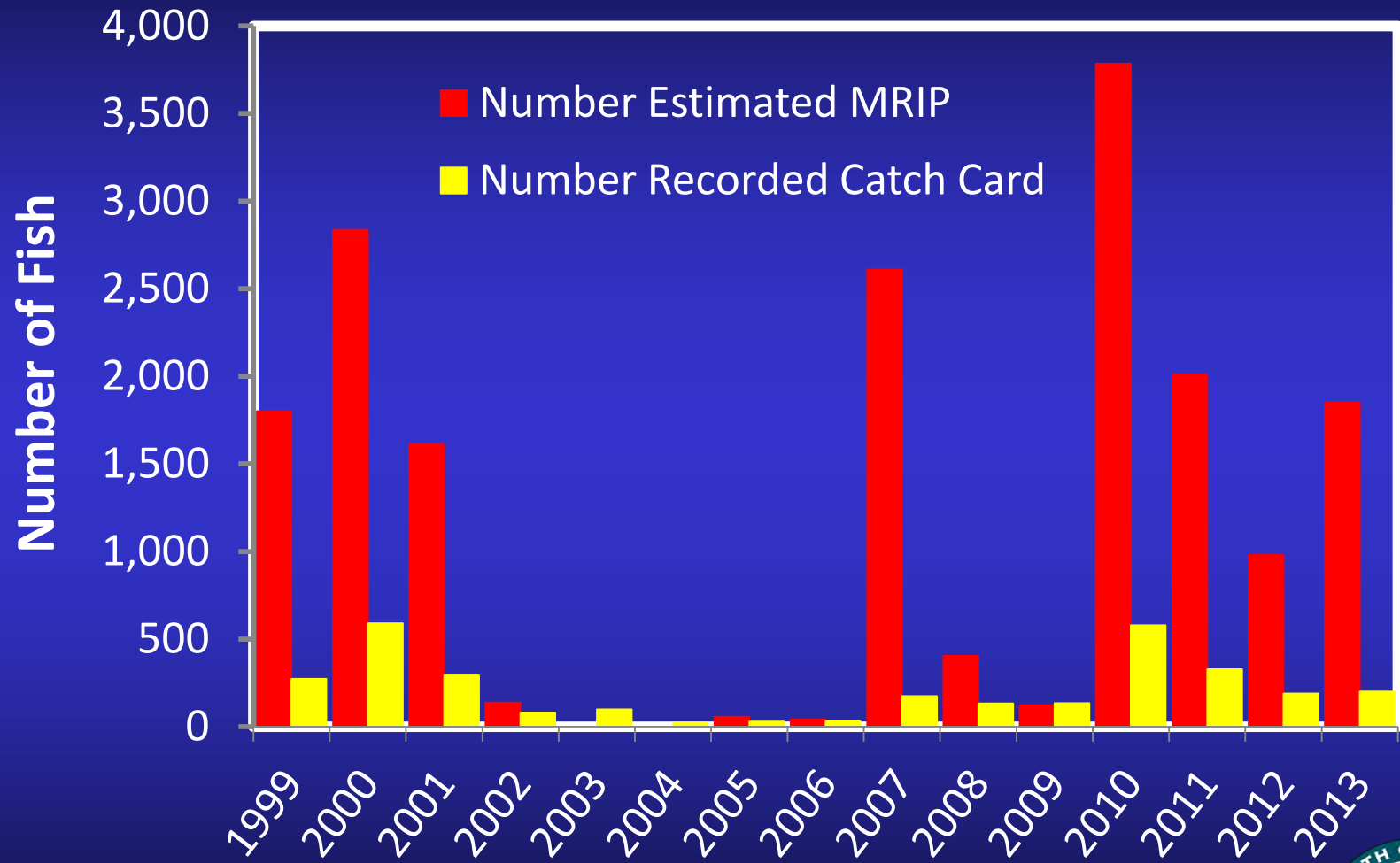
Name	Telephone Number	E-mail
Doug Mumford Chris Wilson	800-338-7804 252-946-6481	Doug.Mumford@ncdenr.gov Chris.Wilson@ncdenr.gov
NOAA		
Ron Salz	301-713-2328	Ron.Salz@noaa.gov
HMS Permits		
Renewals/New	888-872-8862	http://hmspermits.noaa.gov/
After Hours Reporting		
800-682-2632	Use only when no other option available	

REPORTING SITE	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
Seawater Marina	Atlantic Beach	252-726-1637
Captain Stacy's Fishing Center	Atlantic Beach	252-726-4675
Anchorage Marina	Atlantic Beach	252-726-4423
Town Creek Marina	Beaufort	252-728-6111
Olde Towne Yacht Club	Beaufort	252-726-3066
Hurricane Fishing Center	Calabash	910-579-3660
Island Harbor Marina	Emerald Isle	252-354-3106
Harker's Island Fishing Center	Harker's Island	252-728-3907
Oden's Dock	Hatteras	252-986-2555
Hatteras Harbor Marina	Hatteras	252-986-2166
Village Marina	Hatteras	252-986-2522
Teach's Lair Marina	Hatteras	252-986-2460
Hatteras Landing Marina	Hatteras	252-986-2077
Holden Beach Marina	Holden Beach	910-842-5447
Pirates Cove	Manteo	252-473-3906
Oregon Inlet Fishing Center	Manteo	252-441-6301
Portside Marina	Morehead City	252-726-7678
Gulf Dock	Morehead City	252-726-5461
Ocean Isle Fishing Center	Ocean Isle	910-575-3474
Anchorage Marina	Ocracoke	252-928-6661
New River Marina	Sneads Ferry	910-327-2106
Southport Marina	Southport	910-457-9900
Nancy Lee Fishing Center	Swansboro	910-326-4304
Broad Creek Marina	Wanchese	252-473-9991
Bridge Tender Marina	Wrightsville Beach	910-256-6550
Creekside Yacht Club	Wrightsville Beach	910-350-0023

Fish are often dressed and placed in bags separating the angler from the tag. Receipt indicates reporting compliance.



Census verses Estimate



Landing Tags and Catch Cards

(The Bigger Picture)

- Census versus Estimate
 - Used where estimates highly variable
 - Not applicable for common species
 - Specialized Fisheries (area/targets)
 - Availability of Results (weekly or less if needed)
 - Simple Design (public understanding)
 - Angler, Captain, and Industry Participation
 - Requires Less Funding



Needed Improvements

- Outreach
 - News Releases, Fishing Club Contacts
 - Internet Access to Landings and Reporting requirements
 - Reporting Station Expansion
- Validation of Results
 - Law Enforcement (coordinate with NMFS Enforcement)
 - Port Agent Sampling (utilize dockside validation)
- Continued QA and QC



Limitations of Tagging Program

- Catch rate only available for harvest (number released not obtained)*
- No Socio-Economic Data*
- No Angler Demographics*
- No Measures of Uncertainty

*Additional reporting requirements could affect compliance



Implementing Regional Catch Card Program

Program Administration

- Secure Support From States
 - 2016 ACCSP/State Conduct Intercept Survey
- Engage Council/NOAA/STATES Outreach Systems
- Consider National Program For Reporting Rare Event Species
 - Catch Card Onsite Reporting
 - Electronic Offsite Reporting



Implementing Regional Catch Card Program

Development and Implementation

- Determine Which Species to Include
- Evaluate Magnitude and Geographic Distribution of Catch to be Reported Region Wide
- Design Catch Cards
- Identify Reporting Stations
 - Prominent Marinas Near Inlets



The End

Questions ?

