

Science, Service, Stewardship



Scoping for Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Summer/Fall 2008



Presentation Objectives

Purpose: to listen to your ideas on the issues and options for shark management measures in the upcoming amendment on small coastal sharks.

This presentation will give you:

- The current status of small coastal sharks (SCS)
- A summary of current regulations and comments received to date
- Some potential options and issues for the upcoming Amendment 3 for SCS
- Give a quick overview of Amendment 4, an amendment specific for the Caribbean region

Information on where to send comments will be given at the end of this presentation.



Latest Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) Stock Assessment

Species	Overfished	Overfishing
Atlantic sharpnose	No	No
Blacknose	Yes (rebuild in 11 yrs)	Yes
Bonnethead	No	No
Finetooth	No	No



Blacknose Mortality by Gear Type from 1999-2005

Commercial						Recreational
Average wt = 4.97 lbs dw						Average wt = 1.5 lbs dw
Longline (number)	Nets (number)	Lines (number)	BLL Discards (number)	GOM Shrimp bycatch (number)	SA Shrimp bycatch (number)	Landings (number)
8,091	19,041	352	5,007	38,626	4,856	10,408
9%	22%	0%	6%	45%	6%	12%



Need for Action

- Based on latest SCS stock assessment, new management measures are needed because blacknose sharks are overfished with overfishing occurring
- Expected Timeframe: Final measures effective January 1, 2010
- Potential objectives
 - Rebuild/prevent overfishing of blacknose and other spp. as needed
 - Sustainable fishery for other SCS
 - Improve monitoring and compliance



Current Commercial Management Measures for SCS

- Quotas – 1 region & 1 season; adjusted annually based on over- and underharvests, depending on status
- No SCS trip limit for directed permit holders; 16 SCS and pelagic sharks (combined) for incidental permit holders
- Fins must be naturally attached through offloading
- Authorized gears (gillnet, longline, handline, bandit gear)
- Vessel Limited Access Permits – directed and incidental & upgrading restrictions
- Vessel reporting & observer requirements
- Dealer permits, reporting, carcass ID certification, & handling and release workshops



Other Current Shark Management Measures

Recreational Management Measures Include:

- Authorized gears
- Authorized species
- Landing requirements (incl. fins naturally attached)
- Minimum sizes
- Retention limits

Additional Management Measures Include:

Display quotas and collection of sharks through exempted fishing permits, display permits, and scientific research permits



New Shark Management Measures

- Comments received to date regarding the Notice of Intent (May 7, 2008, [73 FR 25665](#)) are summarized in the next few slides.
- Based on the comments to date and the stock assessments, NMFS has identified some potential issues and options.



Comments Received To Date

- Blacknose sharks are not overfished
- Blacknose sharks could be vulnerable to overfishing in certain areas (e.g., off the coast of South Carolina)
- SCS catch in the past may have been inflated due to mis-identifying LCS as SCS (to preserve LCS quota)
- NMFS should work towards species-specific and/or regional management for SCS
- NMFS should consider gear restrictions to limit dead discards of sharks
- NMFS should institute an individual transfer quota (ITQ) system
- Prohibiting blacknose sharks will put gillnet fishermen out of business



Issues and Options

Issue: Rebuild blacknose sharks

Options:

Commercial fisheries

- Remove blacknose sharks from commercial SCS quota
- Create a blacknose-specific quota
- Establish bycatch caps
- Work with GOM and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils to reduce blacknose bycatch mortality in shrimp trawls and other fisheries, if needed
- Establish an Individual Fishing Quota system



Issues and Options

Issue: Rebuild blacknose sharks (continued)

Options:

Commercial fisheries

- Consider time/area closures
- Revise trip limits for incidental commercial fishermen
- Gillnet endorsement (limit future gillnet effort)
- Commercial gear modifications (circle hook requirement, number of hooks, length of longline, gillnet length, mesh size) to reduce blacknose discards
- Others?



Issues and Options

Issue: Rebuild blacknose sharks

Options:

Recreational fisheries

- Outreach to recreational anglers on regulations and spp. identification
- Revise bag limit
- Do not allow possession of blacknose sharks in the recreational fishery



Issues and Options

Issue: Rebuild blacknose sharks (continued)

Options:

Recreational fisheries

- Create seasons and/or closed areas for the recreational fishery
- Require reporting for recreationally landed shark species
- Others?



Issues and Options

Issue: Additional Species Considerations

Options:

- Add smooth dogfish to management unit
- Add ragged-tooth sharks (*Odontaspis ferox*) to the prohibited species list
- Add Deepwater sharks to management unit
- Additional management measures for common thresher
- Additional management measures for pelagic sharks
- Others?



Issues and Options

Issue: Increase compliance with HMS regulations and improve Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reporting and vessel reporting

Options:

- Establish electronic vessel reporting
- Increase VMS transmission frequency
- Add hail-in & hail-out requirements
- Others?



Issues and Options

Issue: Improve agency's ability to monitor and implement appropriate quotas

Options:

- Establish regions for SCS
- Establish electronic dealer reporting
- Modify dealer reporting time
- Require all shark product to be offloaded to a dealer
- Others?



Issues and Options

Any additional comments and/or issues and options?



Scoping Meetings – Summer/Fall 2008

Date	Time	Meeting Locations	Address
7/30/08	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Freeport Branch Library	410 Brazosport Blvd, Freeport, TX 77541
8/27/08	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office	263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701
8/28/08	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Fort Pierce Library	101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
10/9/08	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	NOAA Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office	1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930



Tentative Timeline

- Scoping: Summer/Fall 2008
- Predraft: December 2008/January 2009
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Rule: Summer 2009, 60 day comment period
- Final EIS: November 2009
- Final Rule: December 2009; Effective Jan. 1, 2010



Comments/Questions

Send Comments by 5pm, October 31, 2008

Mail:

- Karyl Brewster-Geisz, HMS Management Division, F/SF1, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 – indicate “Scoping Comments on Amendment 3 to the HMS FMP” on envelope

Email box:

- SCS_Scoping@noaa.gov

FAX:

- 301-713-1917
- Indicate “Scoping Comments on Amendment 3 to the HMS FMP”



Caribbean Specific Amendment

- NMFS believes that interest in HMS resources is increasing in the U.S. Caribbean. This may be due to depletion of shelf resources.
- However, NMFS recognizes that many HMS regulations established for the continental United States do not well fit the Caribbean region
- NMFS is developing an amendment to address the issues that are unique to the Caribbean, such as improving permitting and data collection and enhancing enforcement of regulations
- Such changes are needed to ensure that the United States is in compliance with multilateral treaties relating to HMS



Issues Unique to the Caribbean Region

- Small, artisanal fisheries mostly in territorial waters
- Many fishermen sell their catch directly to restaurants or individuals that are not Federally permitted dealers
- Due to the expense of limited access permits, many Caribbean fishermen cannot afford to enter HMS commercial fisheries
- If fishermen do not have Federal permits, they are not reporting to NMFS, and NMFS is not receiving data on catch amount or catch composition in the Caribbean region
- Fish aggregation devices (FADs) are being encouraged in the Caribbean region to target pelagics. The effect of FADs on pelagic stocks is not well understood.



Caribbean Specific Amendment

- NMFS is currently scoping for this amendment; the issues raised during scoping include:
 - Vessel Permitting
 - Dealer Permitting
 - Commercial Reporting
 - Recreational Reporting
 - Authorized Gear

- Comment period closes on October 31, 2008



Tentative Timeline for Caribbean Amendment

Comments:

- Mail: Greg Fairclough, HMS Management Division, 26313th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
- E-mail: noi.hms.caribbean@noaa.gov
- FAX: (727) 824-5398

Timeline:

- Scoping: Summer/Fall 2008
- Predraft: Spring 2008
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Rule: Summer 2009, 60 day comment period
- Final EIS: Winter 2010
- Final Rule: Spring 2010