



NOAA
FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

Amendment 5b (A5b) to the
2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species
Fishery Management Plan

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
April 4, 2014

Background on Amendment 5b



Amendment 5 Comments

- Numerous comments on the proposed dusky shark measures regarding the data sources used and the analyses of these data
- Numerous comments to consider significantly different approaches to those previously analyzed, such as:
 - Exemptions to a recreational minimum size increase to allow landings of other shark species (ex. blacktip sharks, shortfin mako or thresher sharks)
 - Implementing gear restrictions instead of additional pelagic longline closures

Amendment 5 Comments

- After reviewing the comments received, we decided not to proceed with the dusky shark management measures as proposed

Amendment 5 was split into two rulemakings (Feb 20, 2013)

Amendment 5a

Sandbar, scalloped hammerhead, blacknose
and Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks



Amendment 5a FEIS
April 18, 2013



Final Rule - July 3, 2013
Commercial measures effective: July 3, 2013
Recreational measures effective: Aug. 2, 2013

Amendment 5b

Dusky sharks



Notice of Intent to prepare DEIS
April 24, 2013



Proposed rule in development
Expected Fall 2014

Development of A5b Management Measures

Results from SEDAR stock assessment for dusky sharks (2011)



- Dusky sharks are overfished with overfishing occurring
 - Confirms results from 2006 stock assessment
- New rebuilding timeline = 100 years
- Need to reduce fishing mortality by 58%

Management Measures in A5b Predraft

- NMFS considered public comments on dusky sharks received on Draft Amendment 5 to develop reasonable alternatives.
- Reasonable alternatives –
 - 1) Consistent with 10 National Standards in Magnuson-Stevens Act
 - 2) Must be administratively feasible
 - 3) Cannot violate other laws
 - 4) Must be consistent with the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan and its amendments

Management Measures in A5b Predraft

The alternatives included would meet the purpose and need of A5b.

➤ Purpose

- Manage fishery resources in a manner that maximizes resource sustainability, while minimizing, to the greatest extent possible, the socioeconomic impacts on affected fisheries

➤ Need

- 1) End overfishing and achieve optimum yield for dusky sharks
- 2) Modify the current rebuilding plan for dusky sharks to ensure that fishing mortality levels for dusky sharks are maintained at or below levels that would result in a 70 percent probability of rebuilding in the timeframe recommended by the assessment

Potential Amendment 5b Recreational Management Measures



Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A1

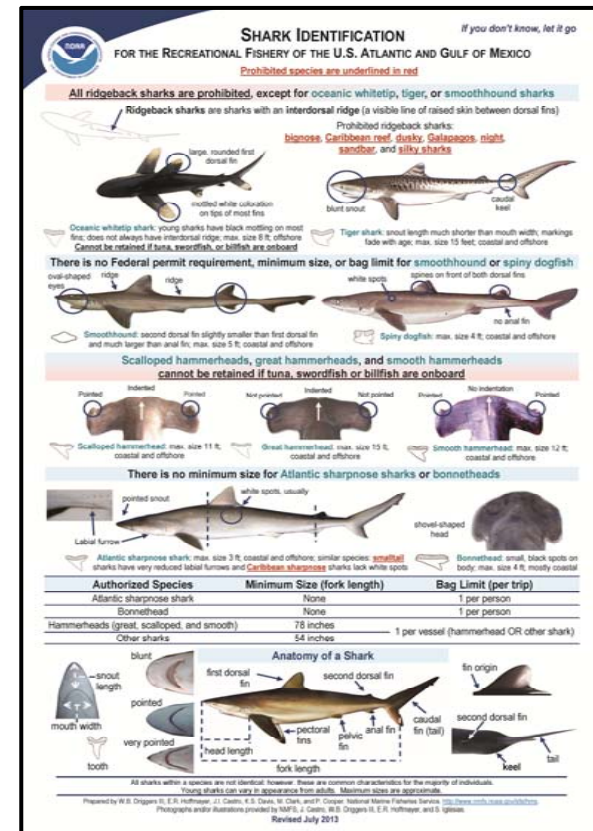
- *No Action. Do not implement management measures to end overfishing of dusky sharks in the Atlantic recreational shark fishery*
- Recreational measures for sharks would remain the same



Authorized Species	Minimum Size (fork length)	Bag Limit (per trip)
Atlantic sharpnose shark	None	1 per person
Bonnethead shark	None	1 per person
Hammerhead sharks (great, scalloped, and smooth)	78 inches	1 per vessel (hammerhead or other shark)
Other sharks	54 inches	

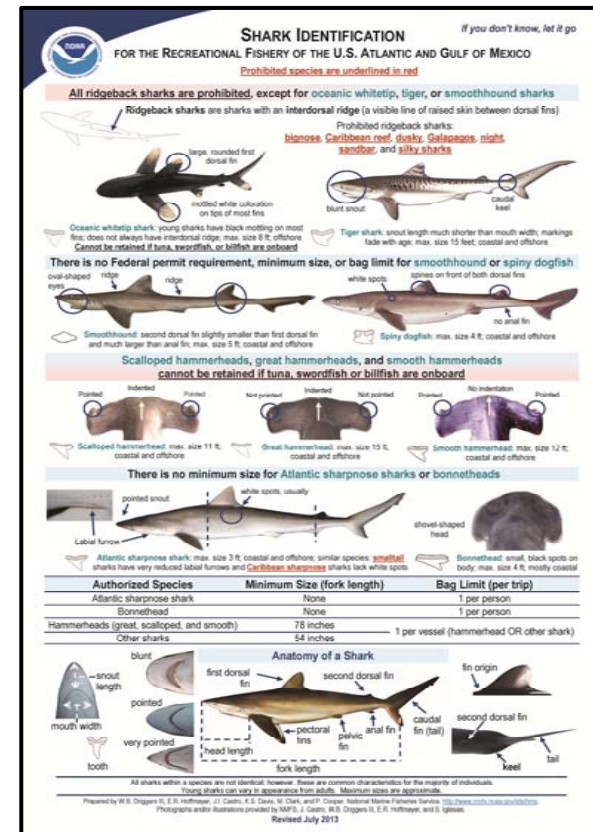
Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A2

- *Require HMS Angling and Charter/Headboat permit holders to obtain a shark endorsement and to have a NMFS-approved shark identification placard on board to retain sharks*
- Limit shark fishing to only those permit holders that indicate they intend to fish for sharks
- Shark endorsement would come with additional requirements (i.e., shark identification placard onboard) to retain sharks
- Increase awareness of current regulations and shark identification to help reduce incidental landings of dusky sharks
- Included based on public comment



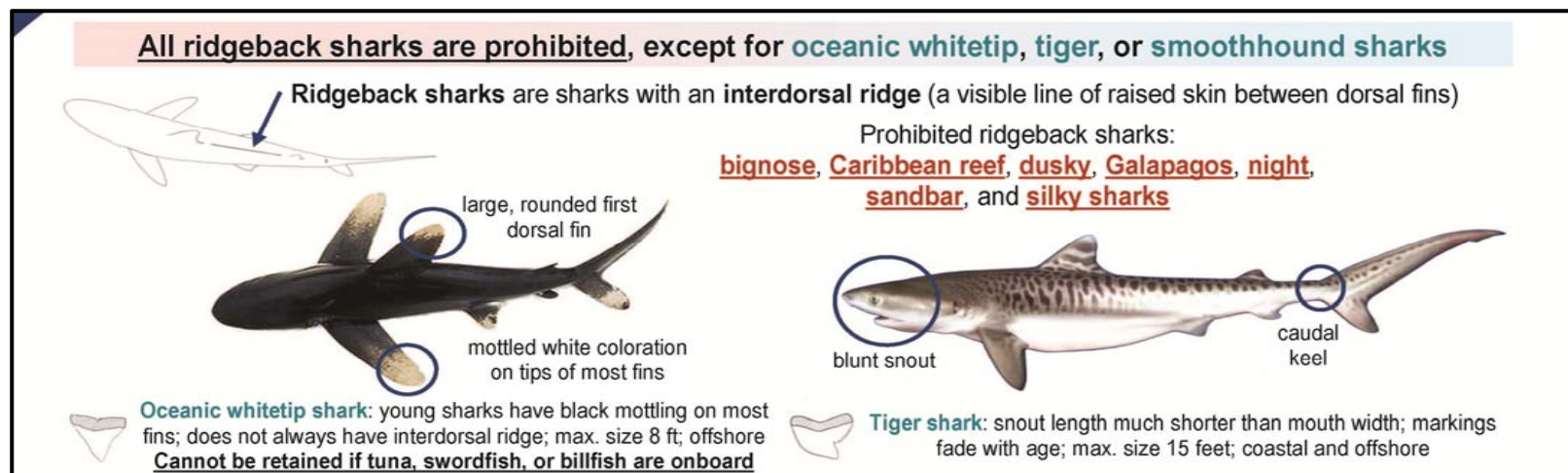
Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A3

- *Increase public outreach to recreational anglers through the development of additional online shark identification and regulatory outreach materials*
- Increase awareness of current regulations and shark identification to help reduce the number of incidental landings
- Included based on public comment



Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A4

- *Prohibit retention of all ridgeback sharks in the Atlantic recreational shark fishery*
- Would simplify compliance and reduce species misidentification to decrease incidental landings of dusky sharks
 - Prohibition on retention would be extended to include oceanic whitetip and tiger sharks
- Management measures would not apply to smooth dogfish
- Included based on public comment



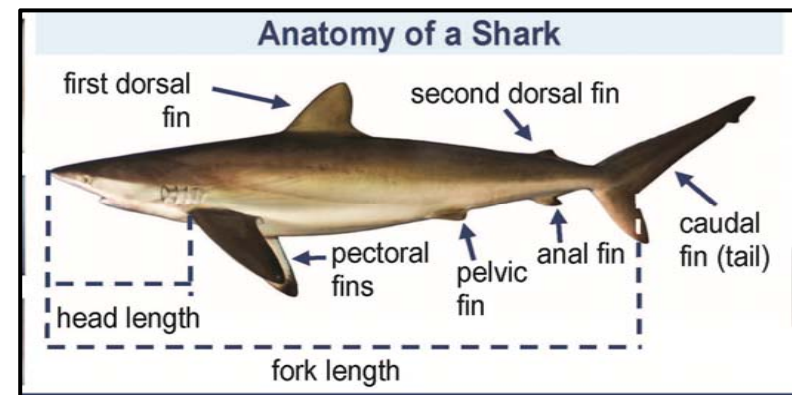
Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A5

- *Request that certain states (NJ, DE, MD, VA) and the ASMFC extend end of existing shark closure from July 15 to July 31*
- Provide extra protection for sandbar and dusky sharks in nursery areas around the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays



Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A6

- *Increase minimum size to 89 inches fork length for all sharks*
- Measure modified from Draft A5 based on best available science on female dusky shark size-at-maturity and public comment to decrease incidental landings of dusky sharks
- Included based on public comment



Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A7

- *Allow only catch and release of all Atlantic HMS managed sharks. Retention of recreationally-caught sharks prohibited*
- All sharks required to be released in a manner that maximizes the chance of survival to help reduce the number of incidental landings of dusky sharks



Potential Recreational Measures – Alternative A8

- *Close the Atlantic recreational shark fishery*
- All Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean recreational shark fisheries would be closed to help reduce the number of incidental landings of dusky sharks



Potential Amendment 5b Commercial Management Measures



Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B1



- *No Action. Do not implement management measures to end overfishing of dusky sharks in the Atlantic commercial shark fishery*
- Commercial measures for longline gear would remain the same

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B2



- *Fishermen with an Atlantic shark commercial permit with pelagic longline (PLL) gear onboard would be limited to 750 hooks per set and no more than 800 assembled gangions*
- Capping the number of hooks that can be deployed on PLL gear could limit interactions with dusky sharks
- Included based on public comment

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B3



- *Fishermen with an Atlantic shark commercial permit with PLL gear onboard must release all sharks not being retained using a dehooker or cutting the gangion < 3 feet from hook*
- Release techniques would likely increase the chance of post-release survival of all sharks, including dusky sharks

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B4



- *Require the use of weak hooks in HMS PLL fishery*
- Using weak hooks may decrease the number of mature dusky sharks that are caught on PLL gear
- Included based on public comment

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B5

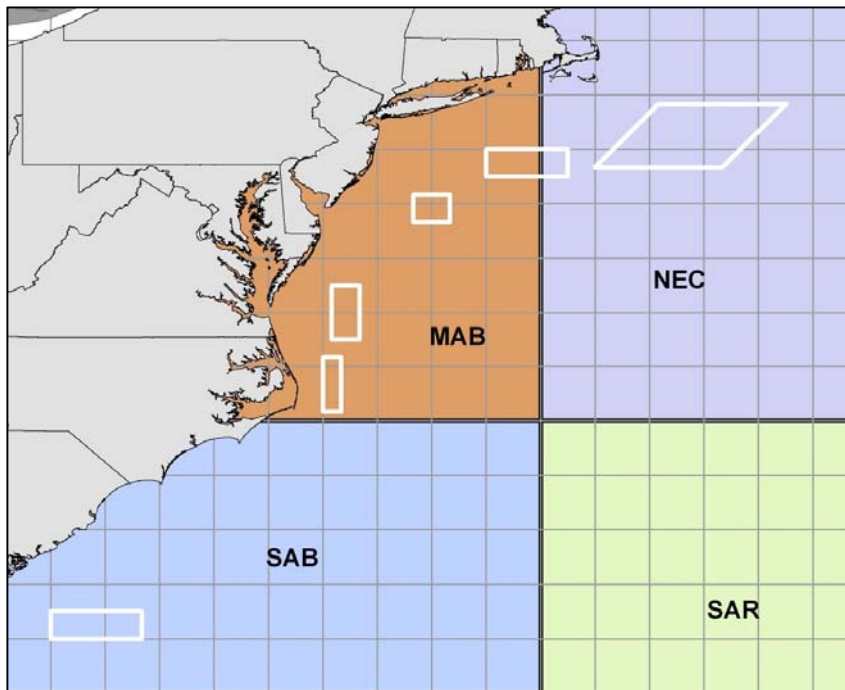
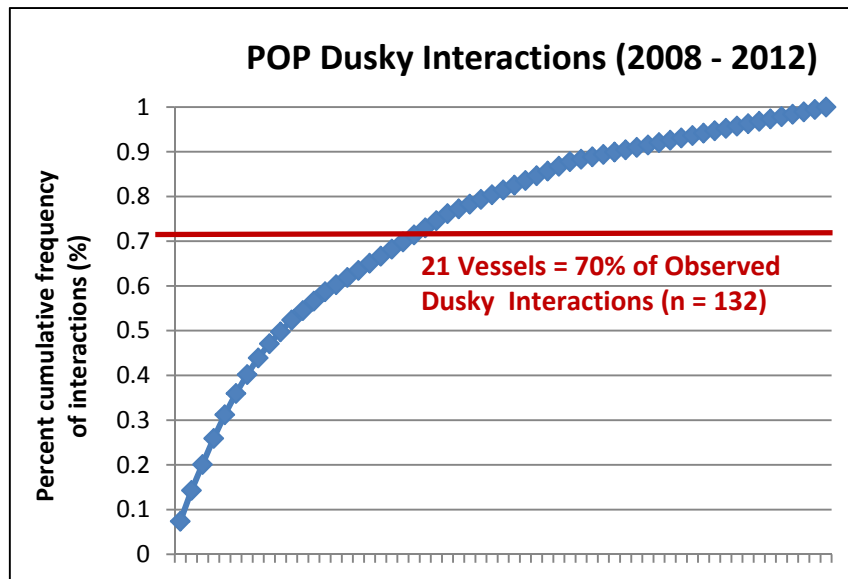


Image depicts A5 proposed closures and the domestic fishing regions originally used for redistribution analyses

- *Develop dusky shark hotspot closure areas for HMS vessels with PLL gear*
- Hotspot closures would be in areas where recent HMS logbook and observer data have shown high levels of interactions with dusky sharks on PLL gear
- No HMS commercial permit holders could fish with PLL in these areas
- Analysis of hotspots would use the most recent redistribution methodologies

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B6



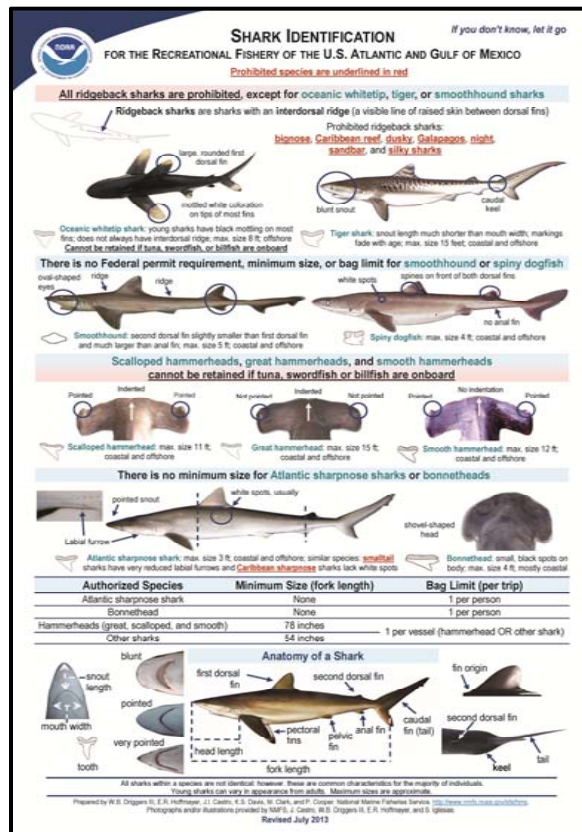
- *Allow conditional access to dusky shark hotspot closure areas for HMS vessels with PLL gear*
- Primary objective is to provide strong incentives to avoid dusky sharks and reduce interactions by modifying fishing behavior
- Secondary objective is to balance reducing dusky shark interactions with providing reasonable fishing opportunity

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B7



- *Fishermen holding an Atlantic shark commercial permit prohibited from fishing with PLL in waters shallower than 100 fathoms*
- Restriction would reduce the number of dusky sharks caught on PLL gear in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico
- Included based on public comment

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B8



- *Increase dusky shark outreach and awareness through development of additional outreach materials*
- *Requiring all vessels with Atlantic shark commercial permits –*
 - *Have shark ID placard*
 - *Abide by dusky shark fleet communication and relocation protocol (TBD)*
- *Included based on public comment*

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B9



- *Request that certain states (NJ, DE, MD, VA) and the ASMFC extend end of existing shark closure from July 15 to July 31*
- Provide extra protection to protect nursery and pupping areas for sandbar and dusky sharks

Potential Commercial Measures – Alternative B10



- *Remove PLL as authorized gear for commercial Atlantic shark permit holders*
- Would remove PLL as authorized gear in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean
- Would reduce bycatch of dusky sharks



NOAA
FISHERIES

Suggestions? Ideas? Comments? Questions?

Please share them with us!

Send comments on the Predraft for Amendment 5b by April 30, 2014.

Peter Cooper, George Silva, Jackie Wilson, Guý DuBeck,
Steve Durkee, Jennifer Cudney, Cliff Hutt,
Carrie Soltanoff or Alexis Jackson

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division
301-427-8503