

**SUMMARY REPORT
FROM THE HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES COMMITTEE
MYRTLE BEACH, SC
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**

The Highly Migratory Species Committee met September 15, 2016 and completed the following activities:

- Received a presentation on a proposed rule to modify the commercial retention limit for blacknose and non-blacknose small coastal sharks in the Atlantic Region.
The proposed rule will implement a commercial retention limit for blacknose sharks that is intended to allow for the better utilization of available non-blacknose small coastal shark quota due to quota linkages between the two groups while also rebuilding and preventing overfishing of blacknose sharks.

The Committee discussed the presentation and passed a motion to send a letter of support to Highly Migratory Species for the proposed retention limits.

- Received a presentation on Draft Amendment 10 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan: Essential Fish Habitat.
The amendment will potentially modify and/or create new Essential Fish Habitat for bluefin tuna and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern for sandbar sharks and lemon sharks in the South Atlantic Region.

The Highly Migratory Species Committee approved the following motion as a recommendation to the Council:

MOTION: MOVE TO SEND LETTER OF SUPPORT TO HMS FOR BLACKNOSE SHARK RETENTION LIMITS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Timing and Tasks

- Work with the Council to draft and send a letter to HMS in support of the commercial retention limits for blacknose sharks prior to the close of the public comment period on September 20th, 2016.