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# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Current Actions

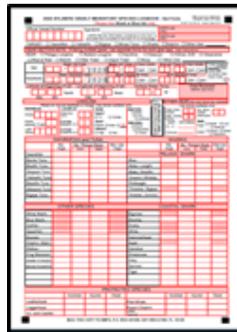
Karyl Brewster Geisz  
Highly Migratory Species Management Division

June 2023

# This presentation is an update on various actions...

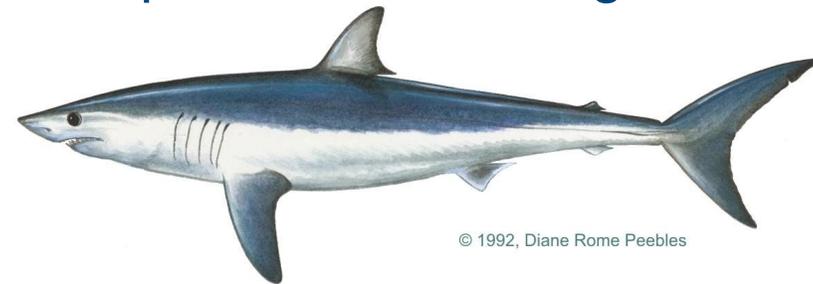
## Proposed Action

- Amendment 15 to the HMS FMP (Spatial management and electronic monitoring)



## Scoping Phase Actions

- Amendment 16 to the HMS FMP (Shark quotas and management) - Scoping
- Electronic reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

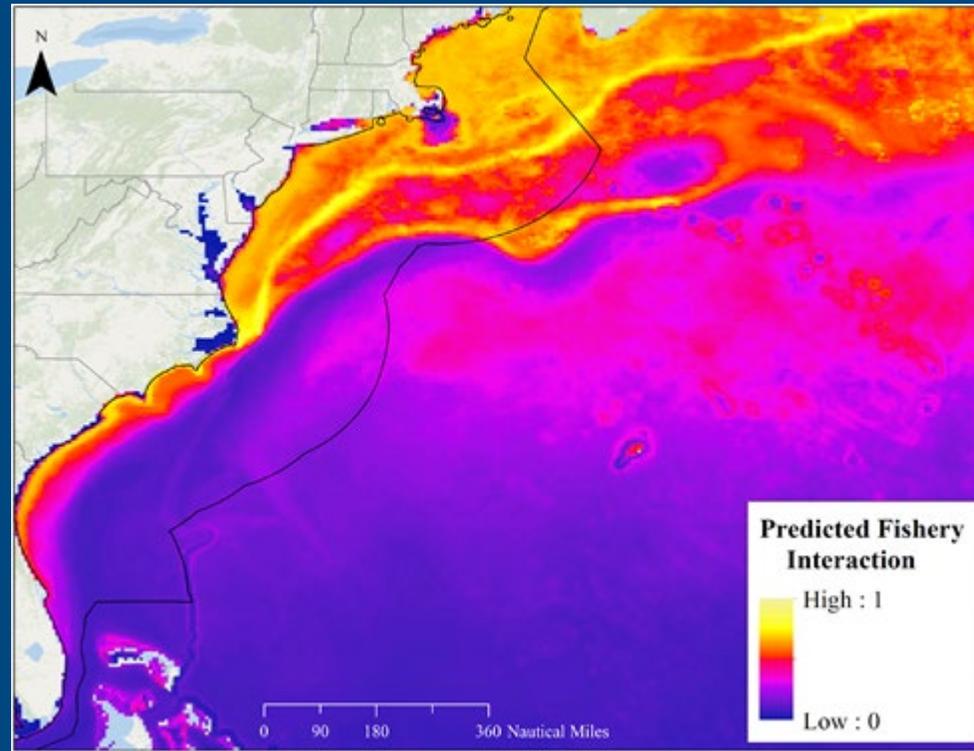


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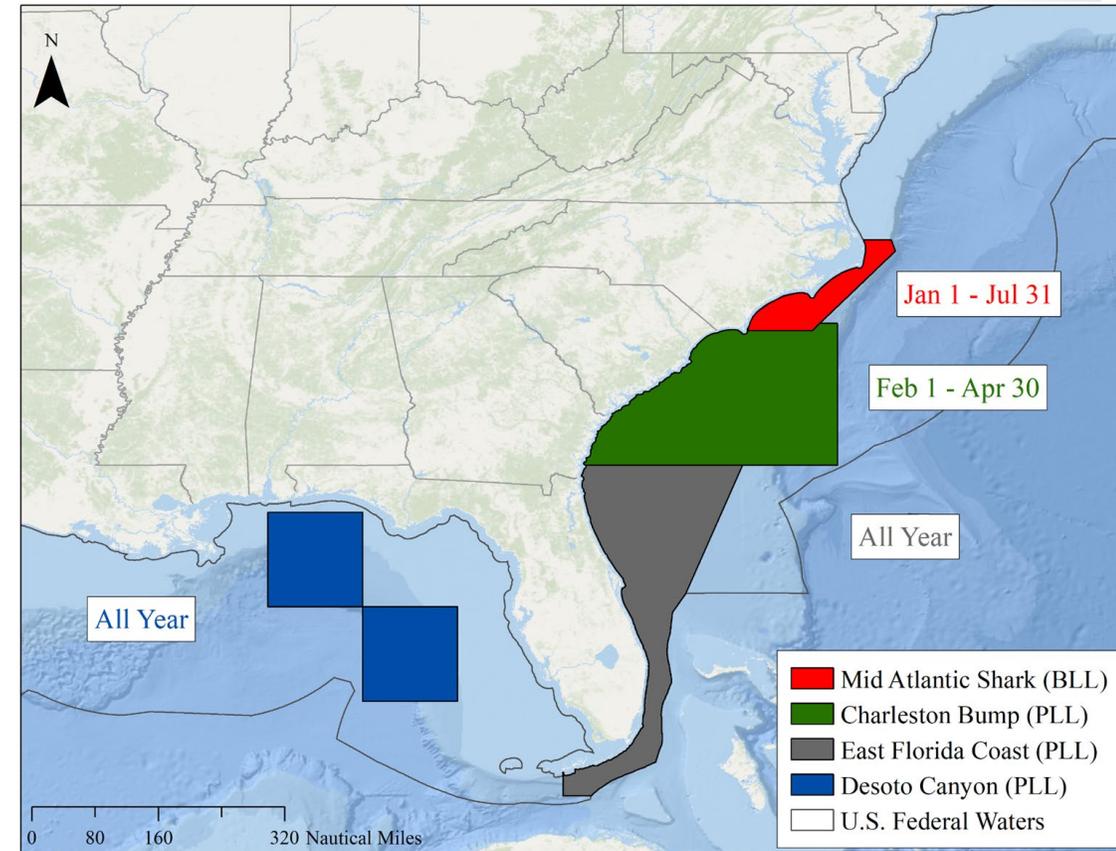
# Proposed Action



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# Amendment 15 - Spatial Management and Electronic Monitoring

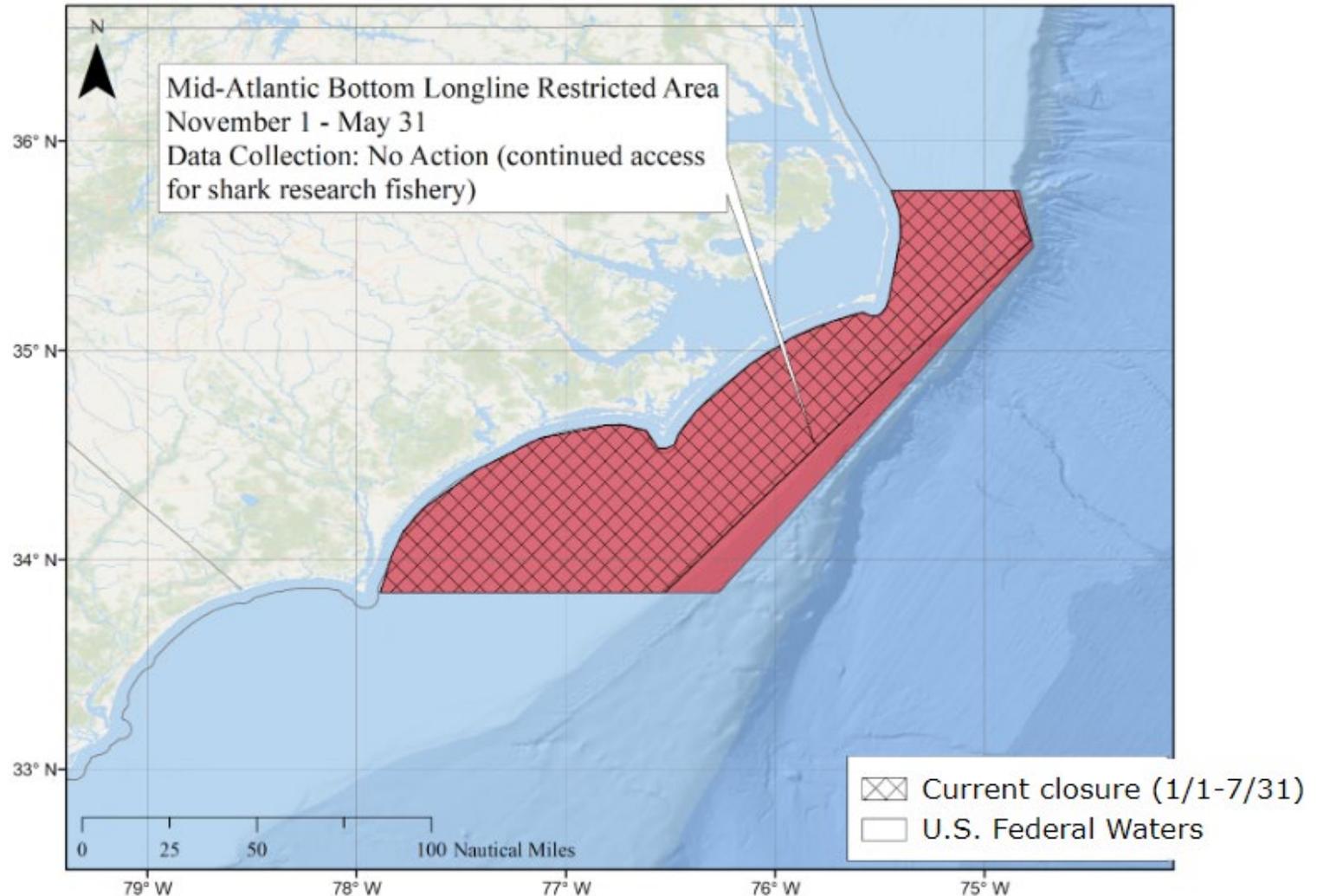
- Proposed rule published 05/05/2023; comment period ends 09/15/2023
- [www.tinyurl.com/A15homepage](http://www.tinyurl.com/A15homepage)
- Two broad components:
  - Spatial management: consider modifications, data collection, and assessment for 4 spatial management areas
  - Pelagic longline electronic monitoring (EM) cost allocation: consider shifting pelagic longline EM sampling costs from the Agency to industry



# Spatial Management Preferred Alternative Packages

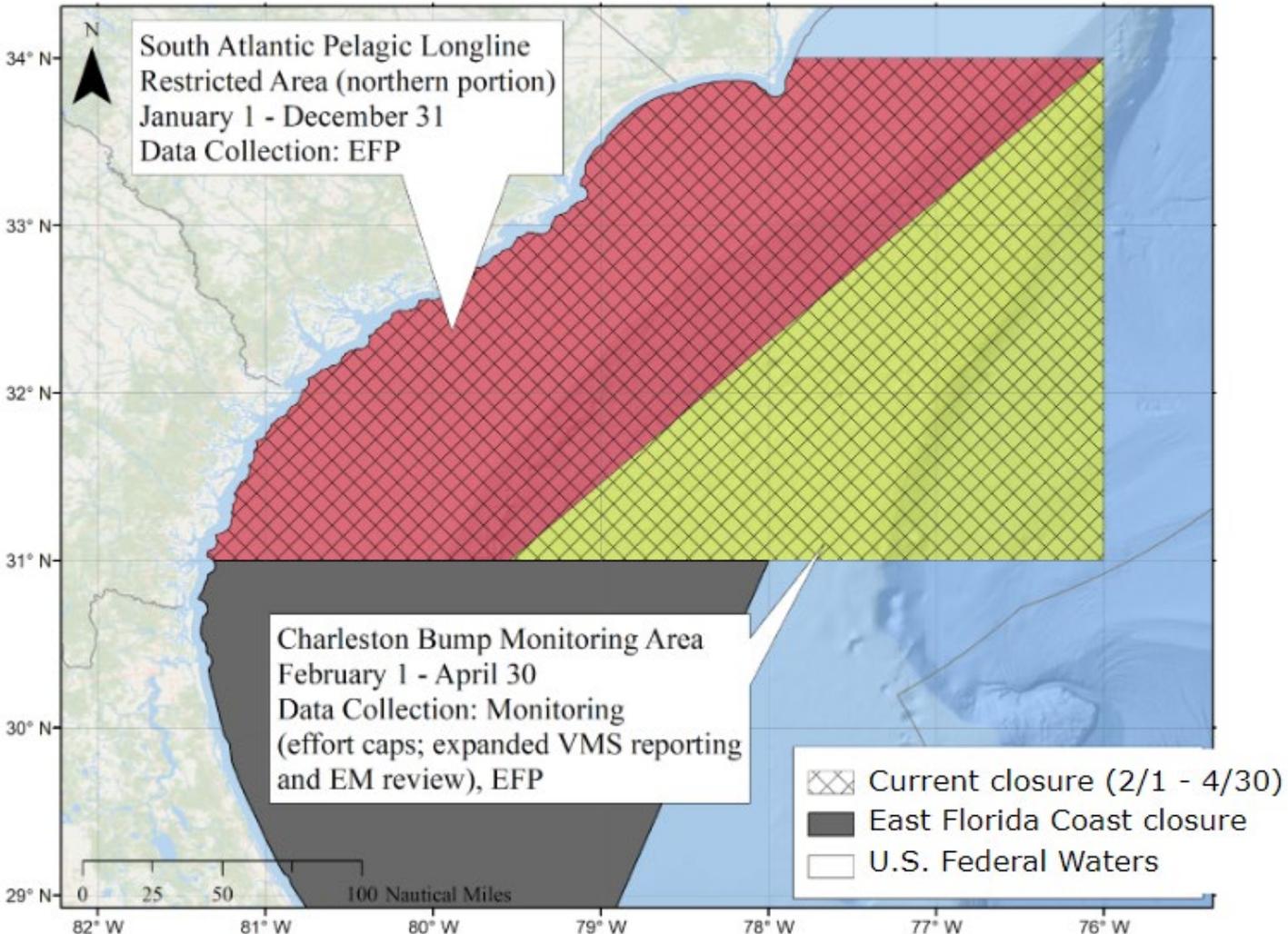
## Mid-Atlantic Spatial Management Area

- The preferred alternative packages for each spatial management area include
  - Modification of the area based on bycatch risk
  - Bycatch-risk-appropriate data collection programs
  - Timing of future evaluations of the areas



# Spatial Management Preferred Alternative Packages

## Charleston Bump Spatial Management Area



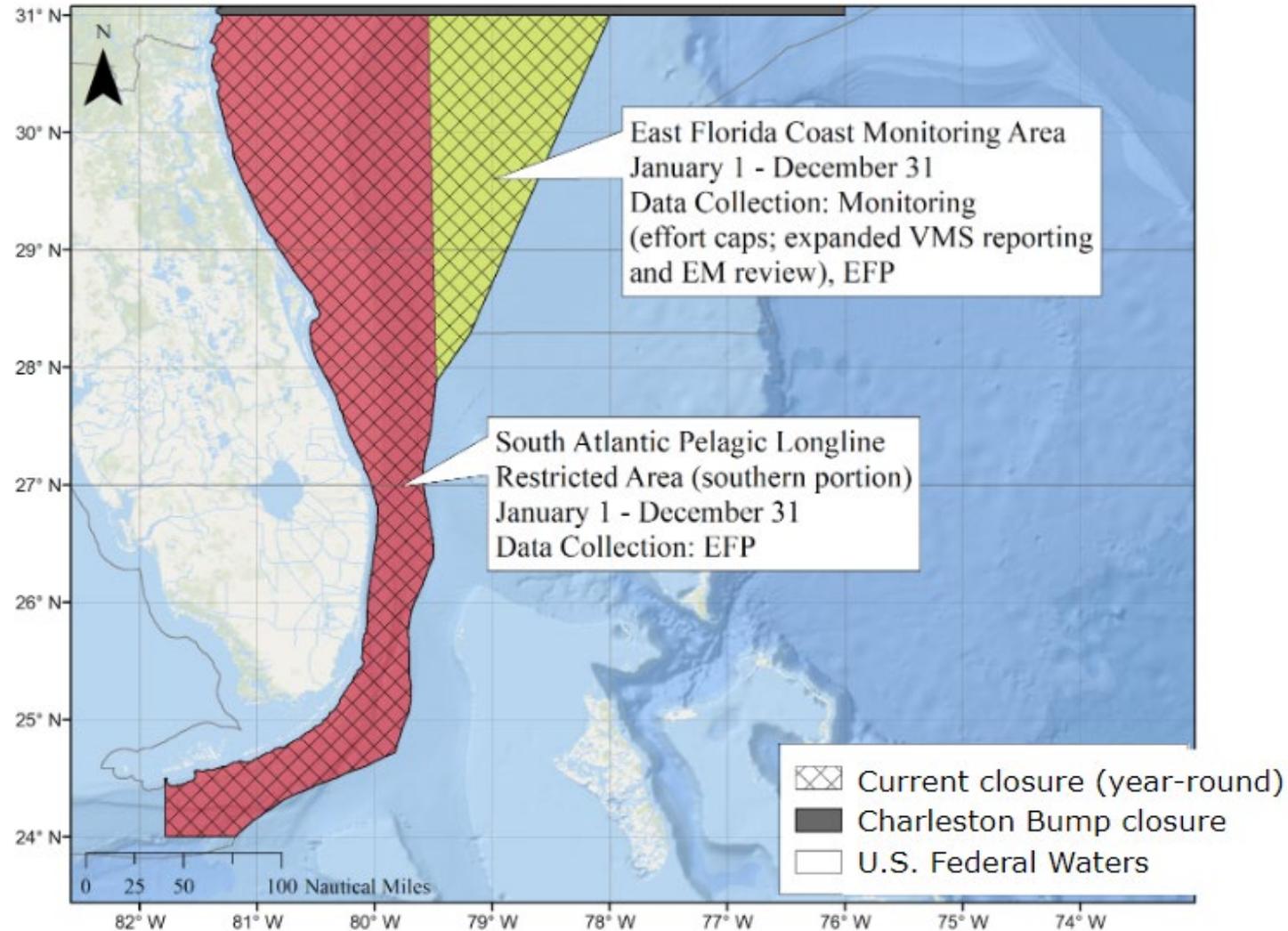
### Monitoring Area

(Special access area for data collection)

- Limited pelagic longline effort to collect data
  - Enhanced reporting requirements
  - Report select spp interactions after each set
  - Electronic monitoring video from 100% of sets reviewed
- Cap on total effort
  - Charleston Bump: 69 sets, 2/1 - 4/30
- Can close and/or not reopen if conditions warrant

# Spatial Management Preferred Alternative Packages

## East Florida Coast Spatial Management Area



### Monitoring Area

(Special access area for data collection)

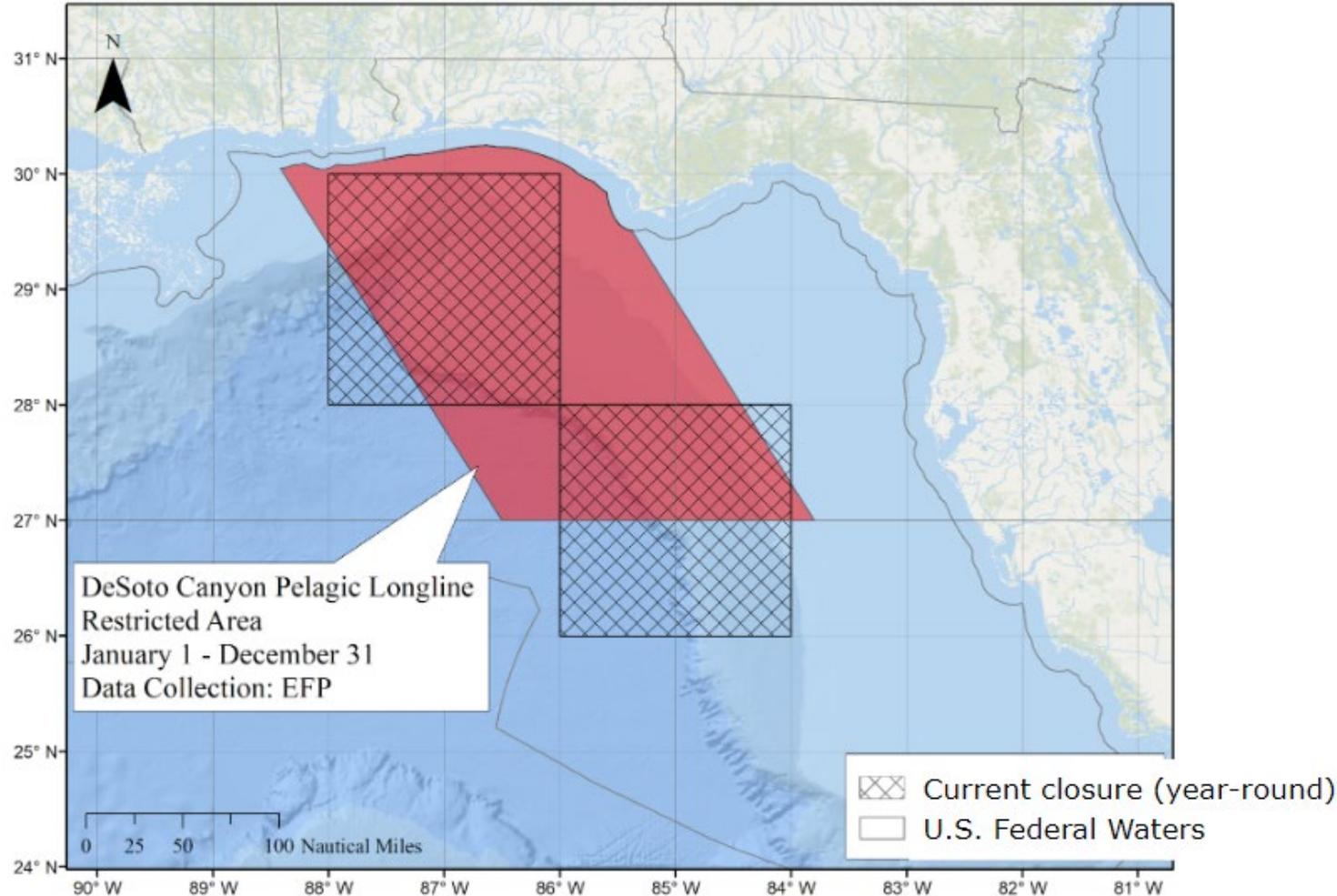
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# Other spatial management preferred alternatives:

## DeSoto Canyon Spatial Management Area



## Spatial Management Area Regulatory Provisions

- **Alternative E2:** Add regulatory provisions for review of spatial management areas to 50 CFR 635.35(c)

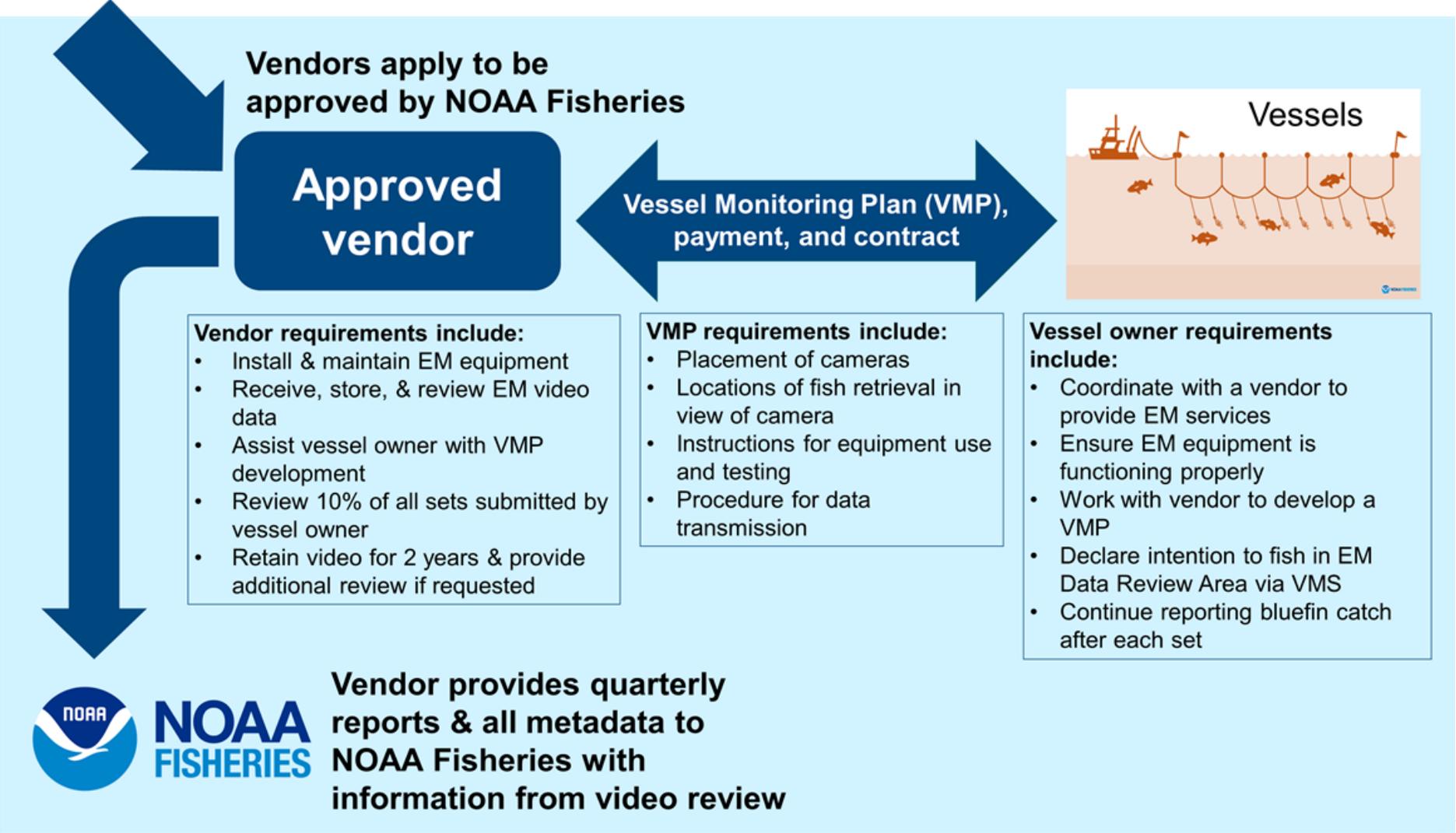
# Electronic Monitoring Preferred Alternative Packages

- **Alternative F2: Transfer EM Sampling Costs to Industry**
  - Industry pays 100% of sampling costs (e.g., equipment purchase, installation, maintenance; video review and storage; service provider fees)
  - Phased in over 3 years
  - 4 components to this alternative:
    - vendor requirements
    - vessel requirements
    - vessel monitoring plan
    - modification of EM spatial/temporal requirements



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# Electronic Monitoring Preferred Alternative Packages



# *Scoping Phase* Actions



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# Background for Amendment 16

Amendment 14: Released on 01/24/2023 (88 FR 4157)

- Established a new framework to use to implement acceptable biological catch (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for Atlantic shark fisheries
- Operational changes as a result of Amendment 14 will be considered in Amendment 16 (and future rulemakings)

Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) Document: Released on 03/20/2023 (88 FR 16944)

- Examined a variety of factors affecting the fishery, including all aspects of commercial and recreational shark fisheries conservation and management, and shark depredation
- Identifies areas of success, concerns, and potential modifications to regulations and management measures in the future

## External Factors

- 2022 CITES listing of bonnethead sharks (effective now) and all remaining *Carcharhinidae* species (with a 12-month implementation delay) on Appendix II
- Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act



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# Amendment 16 - Shark Quotas and Management - Scoping

- Notice published 05/8/2023; comment period ends 08/18/2023
- Consistent with Amendment 14 and Scientific Advice, the purpose of Amendment 16 is to...
  - Establish ABCs and ACLs for non-prohibited shark species
  - Optimize the ability for the commercial and recreational shark fisheries to harvest quotas to the extent practicable
  - Increase management flexibility to react to additional factors impacting the fisheries and account for changes in the distribution of harvest among sectors



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# Amendment 16 Looks At *Everything*

- Establishing ACLs for stock under various tiers
  - Examples in the scoping document include Atlantic blacktip (tier 1), bull (tier 4), sandbar (rebuilding)
- Management group structure
  - Options include status quo, creating groups for assessed vs. unassessed stocks, creating groups for stocks caught together
- Regional and sub-regional splits
  - Considers Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (GOM) split; blacknose Atlantic boundary
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) quotas including changes to shark research fishery
- Commercial retention limits (revise/remove depending on species and permit)
- Recreational retention and size limits (revise/remove depending on species)

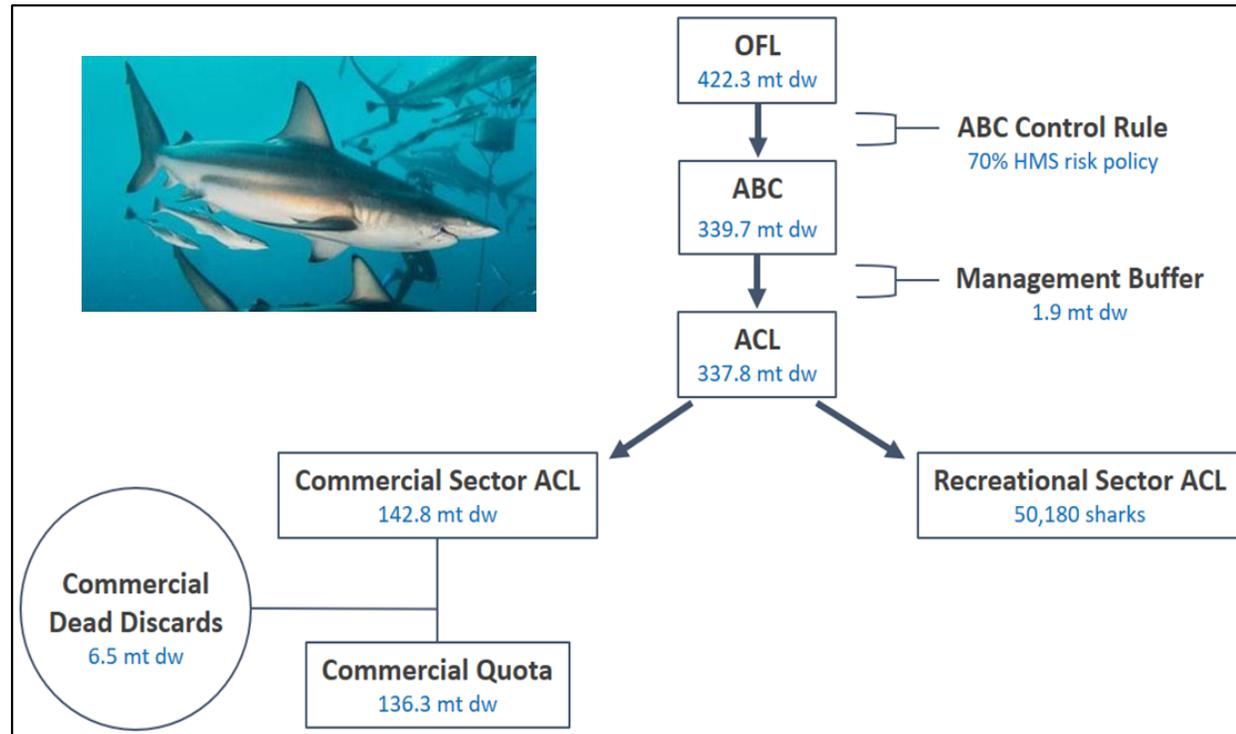


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# Amendment 16 - Atlantic Blacktip Example

Tier 1 stock with an HMS risk policy of 70% (Option B1)

- Commercial quota = 136.3 mt dw; current harvest level ~38%
- Rec. Sector Annual Catch Limit (ACL) = 50,180 sharks; current harvest level ~89%



# Electronic Reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- Notice published 05/12/2023; comment period ends 08/18/2023
- Purpose:
  - Streamline and modernize logbook reporting
  - Expand logbook reporting to for-hire and commercial vessel owners via electronic logbooks
  - Collect additional vessel and dealer information for fishery management
  - Incentivize HMS reporting compliance
  - Offer an electronic reporting platform for HMS EFP Program permit holders
- Potential changes to vessel reporting (all commercial fisheries, charter/headboat, and angling), dealer reporting, and HMS EFP Program reporting

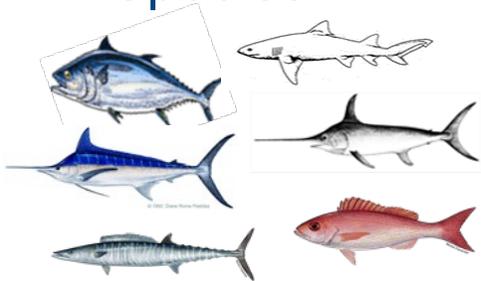


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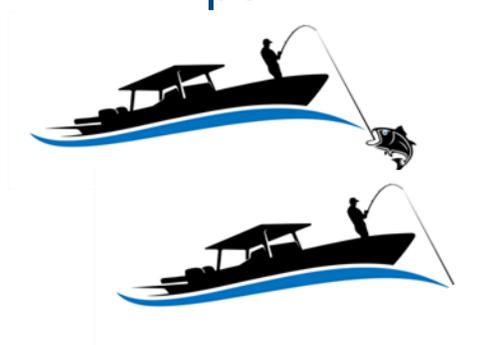
# Electronic Reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

- Would work toward *One Stop Reporting*, or submission of a single electronic report that could satisfy overlapping requirements
- Considering various reporting options for commercial and recreational entities including expanding requirements and timing of submitting reports
- Options for reporting requirements take into account current requirements across regions, for example:

- Species



- Trips



- Timing



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# Request for Public Comment



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# Public Comments

Please submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> by:

Amendment 16 (NOAA-NMFS-2023-0010): **August 18, 2023**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/scoping-amendment-16-2006-consolidated-atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-management>

Electronic Reporting (NOAA-NMFS-2023-0047): **August 18, 2023**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-electronic-reporting-requirements>

Amendment 15 (NOAA-NMFS-2019-0035): **September 15, 2023**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-15-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-spatial-management-EM>



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# Public Webinars and Hearings

Action	Date, Time and Location
Amendment 15 - Spatial management and Electronic Monitoring (Proposed)	June 15 (2-4 pm): Webinar July 20 (5-8 pm): Jupiter, FL August 17 (2-4 pm): Webinar August 22 (5-8 pm): Manteo, NC
Amendment 16 - Shark Quotas and Management (Scoping)	June 21 (5-8 pm): Cocoa Beach, FL July 25 (5:30-8:30 pm): Manteo, NC August 7 (2-4 pm): Webinar
Electronic Reporting (ANPR)	June 6 (5-8 pm): Fort Lauderdale, FL June 13 (2-4 pm): Webinar June 21 (5:30-8:30 pm): Manteo, NC July 27 (2-4 pm): Webinar



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# Questions?

## HMS Management Division - Regulations Branch

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**Thank you!**



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