Actions for Council

1. Comments on *DEIS for Proposed Rule to Modify Pelagic Longline Bluefin Tuna Area Based and Weak Hook Management Measures*

2. Scoping Comments
   1. Regulatory Amendment for Spatial Management & Research
   2. Amendment 13 - Bluefin Tuna Management
   3. Amendment 14 - Shark Stock Assessments
DEIS for Draft Regulatory Amendment to Modify Pelagic Longline Bluefin Tuna Area-Based and Weak Hook Management Measures

Request for Comments
Pelagic Longline Deployment
- Northeastern United States Closed Area
- Cape Hatteras Gear Restricted Area
- Gulf of Mexico Gear Restricted Area

Gear Configuration
- Weak Hooks in Gulf of Mexico
### Area Based Alternatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Based Alternatives</th>
<th>Alternative Description</th>
<th>Preferred Alternative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Action</td>
<td>Maintain current regulations for all Areas</td>
<td>Not Preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow Performance-Based Access</td>
<td>Apply performance metrics to the Northeastern United States Closed Area and the Gulf of Mexico Gear Restricted Areas</td>
<td>Not Preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modify Current Spatial Coverage</td>
<td>Change the boundaries of the Northeastern United States Closed Area</td>
<td>Not Preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake a Review Process</td>
<td>Undertake a review process to evaluate the continued need for area-based management measures</td>
<td>Northeastern United States Closed Area, Gulf of Mexico Gear Restricted Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elimination of the Area</td>
<td>Remove current regulations</td>
<td>Cape Hatteras Gear Restricted Area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Gulf of Mexico Weak Hook Alternatives

• **D1: Retain Current Regulations (Year Round) – No Action**

• **D2: Seasonal Requirement for Weak Hooks* (January - June) – Preferred**

• **D3: Remove Weak Hook Requirement**
For more information....

Visit the NOAA Fisheries webpage for the DEIS and proposed rule (once it publishes):


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Jennifer.Cudney@noaa.gov          (727)  824-5399
Options for Data Collection and Research to Support Spatial Fisheries Management

Scoping Comments
Background

• Spatial Fisheries Management
  • Spatial fisheries management includes a range of management tools often designed to control adverse ecological fishing impacts
  • Time/area closures, closed areas, controlled access areas, marine monuments, and gear restricted areas (GRAs) are all types of spatial fisheries management
  • Closed areas can be an effective management tool
  • However, closed areas can also proportionally reduce fishery-dependent data collection and research
  • Fishery-dependent data collection is often the most cost effective method
Pelagic Longline Closed Areas and GRAs
Purpose and Need

- Data Collection and Research in Closed Areas
  - Fisheries management needs scientifically rigorous and up-to-date research
  - Ensures that original goals of the closure are still being met
  - Closures affecting HMS are geographically stationary in a changing ocean with migratory species
  - Regular monitoring of closed areas can help ensure that the intended species are protected in the appropriate areas while maximizing U.S. fishermen’s access to target resources
Potential Options

- Data Collection and Research
  - Option 1 – Continue to authorize any closed area research through the current HMS exempted fishing permit (EFP) program – NO ACTION
  - Option 2 – Authorize closed area research through a streamlined HMS EFP process
  - Option 3 – Collect data on closed area catch through an observed access program
  - Option 4 – Institute a closed area research program, similar to the current shark research fishery
  - Option 5 – Conduct closed area research through public/private partnerships, partially funded by NOAA Fisheries, similar to the 2003 NED research program
  - Option 6 – Conduct closed area research through a research program led by NOAA Fisheries, using NOAA or contract vessels
  - Option 7 – Performance-based closed area access
Next Steps

Public comment period ends **July 31, 2019**

- Issues and options paper
- Scoping meetings
- Consider publishing a proposed rule
- Submit comments through: [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
  - Keyword - “NOAA-NMFS-2019-0035

For further information, please contact:

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Tobey.Curtis@noaa.gov

Scoping Comments
Options for
Amendment 13
to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

Bluefin Tuna Management
Scoping Comments
Background

Bluefin Tuna Management

• Pelagic longline fishery: targets swordfish, yellowfin and bigeye tunas, with bluefin tuna bycatch managed by the Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) program implemented in 2015 under Amendment 7

• Purse Seine fishery for bluefin tuna is currently inactive

• Other directed categories with quota include Harpoon, General, and Angling
Purpose and Need

New information & changing conditions prompting questions:

• Draft Three-Year Review of Individual Bluefin Quota Program *(should the Program be modified? If so how?)*

• Purse seine fishery has been relatively inactive for several years *(should this fishery be discontinued or phased-out?)*

• Other management options – recent fishery trends *(can changes be made to optimize fishing opportunity?)*
Potential Options

- **Individual Bluefin Tuna (IBQ) Program** (pelagic longline fishery)
  - Quota shares and/or allocation method
  - IBQ share or allocation caps; allow permanent sale of shares
  - Other aspects of IBQ program

- **Purse Seine Fishery**
  - Discontinue fishery? Timing? Reallocation of purse seine quota?

- **Modify General Category Quota Allocations**
Potential Options (continued)

• Modify bluefin quota allocations (all gears and categories)

• Modify Angling category trophy areas or allocations

• Other allocation ideas

• Handgear fishery – other aspects such as gear use
Next Steps

Public comment period ends **July 31, 2019**

- Issues and options paper
- Scoping meetings
- Consider publishing a proposed rule
- Submit comments through: [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
  - Keyword - “NOAA-NMFS-2019-0042”

For further information, please contact:

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Options for Amendment 14 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

Shark Quota Management Scoping Comments
Purpose and Need

• Shark Quota Management

1. Shark harvest has historically been variable; need to review the process for setting HMS ABCs as related to OFL and ACLs to determine if changes are needed; potential AM modifications

2. The 2016 NS1 guidelines provided guidance on phase-ins, carry-overs, and overfishing determinations; need to review current HMS process to determine if HMS should incorporate these changes
Objectives

1. Consider the need to revise the ABC control rule to ensure harvest does not exceed the OFL or equivalent measurement/proxy

2. Evaluate the process for establishing ACLs for all non-prohibited shark species within the HMS management unit

3. Evaluate the process for determining acceptable levels for rebuilding success

4. Consider a process for addressing the distribution of under- and over-utilized sector ACLs for shark species within the HMS management unit

5. Consider increasing management flexibility to account for changes in harvest of sharks by sector
Exploration of NS1 Components to meet Amendment 14 Objectives:

- **ABC Control Rules** – e.g., standard or tiered approach
- **Phase-in ABC Provisions** – e.g., phase-in depending on stock status
- **TACs and ACLs** – e.g., actively manage all sectors, species-specific ACLs
- **Carry-over ABC Provisions** – e.g., based on stock status, distribute to the relevant sector
- **Multi-year Overfishing Determinations** – e.g., catch levels could determine overfishing status
Next Steps

Public comment period ends **July 31, 2019**

- Issues and options paper
- Scoping meetings
- Consider publishing a proposed rule
- Submit comments through: [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
  - Keyword - “NOAA-NMFS-2019-0040”

For further information, please contact:

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- Guy.DuBeck@noaa.gov
- Karyl.Brewster-Geisz@noaa.gov

Scoping Comments
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location and Street Address</th>
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| Amendment 13            | June 3, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | Gulf of Maine Research Institute  
350 Commercial Street  
Portland, ME 04101 |
| Amendment 13            | June 4, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | National Marine Fisheries Service  
Greater Atlantic Regional Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930 |
| Amendment 13 Spatial Management Research | June 18, 2019 | 5:00-8:00 PM  | Chatham Community Center  
702 Main Street  
Chatham, MA 02633 |
| Amendment 13            | June 19, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor  
180 Water Street  
Plymouth, MA 02360 |
| Amendment 14            | June 24, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13th Avenue South  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701 |
| All                     | June 25, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | Susan Broom Kilmer Branch Library  
101 Melody Lane  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950 |
| Amendment 13            | July 9, 2019 | 5:00-8:00 PM  | NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
5285 Highway 70  
Morehead City, NC 28557 |
| All                     | July 10, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | Dare County Administration Building,  
954 Marshall Collins Drive  
Commissioners Meeting Room  
Manteo, NC 27954 |
| All                     | July 25, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | Terrebonne Parish Library (Main Branch)  
151 Library Drive  
Houma, LA 70360 |
| Amendment 13            | July 30, 2019| 5:00-8:00 PM  | Ocean County Library, Toms River Branch  
101 Washington Street  
Toms River, NJ 08753 |
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<th>ACTION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
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| Amendment 13       | June 10, 2019 | 2:00-4:00 PM | Link: [https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e25072f282e22bc58188f278a9328285e](https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e25072f282e22bc58188f278a9328285e)  
Dial In: 800-369-1177  
Passcode: 2046577   |
| Amendment 14       | May 28, 2019  | 1:00-3:00 PM | Link: [https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed71080c2cb6d03424331aaa808865f0f](https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed71080c2cb6d03424331aaa808865f0f)  
Dial In: 888-282-0428  
Passcode: 4913538   |
| Spatial Management Research | June 19, 2019 | 2:00-4:00 PM | Link: [https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e90547c85b1c1d30c8adedba286178d7d](https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e90547c85b1c1d30c8adedba286178d7d)  
Dial In: 888-324-8014  
Passcode: 5920937.  |