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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Activities and 2022 ICCAT Meeting

MAFMC Meeting
February 8, 2023

Presentation Outline

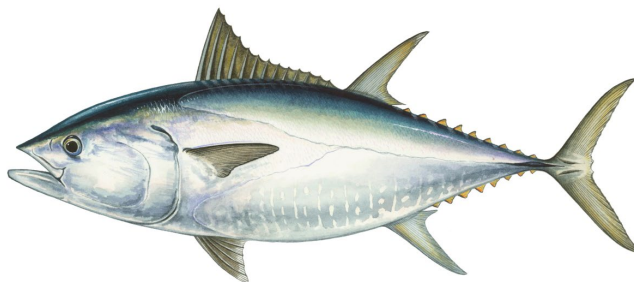
- Recently finalized management initiatives
- Current and upcoming domestic management initiatives
- Outcomes of 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting



Final Amendment 13 (Bluefin Tuna)

- Refined the Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) Program
- Reallocated bluefin tuna quotas, including discontinuation of the Purse Seine category; and
 - Other regulatory provisions re: the directed and incidental fisheries
- FEIS published May 6, 2022
- Final rule published October 3, 2022 (87 FR 59966)

More Information: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-13-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-bluefin-management-measures



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Shortfin Mako Shark Retention Limit

Final rule (87 FR 39373, July 1, 2022):

- Flexible retention limit with default of zero in place unless changed after consideration of regulatory criteria and consistent with any ICCAT retention allowance under Rec. 21-09
- Retention limit applies to:
 - Recreational HMS permit holders
 - Commercial vessels using pelagic longline, bottom longline, or gillnet gear
 - Existing prohibition on commercial retention by other gear types would remain in place
- Research and sampling would be allowed under EFPs and SRPs on a case-by-case basis

More Information: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/proposed-changes-atlantic-shortfin-mako-shark-retention-limits



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Research and Data Collection to Support Spatial Fishery Management (Draft Amendment 15)

- Investigating strategies to conduct research and collect data in areas that restrict or prohibit some HMS fishing
- Scoping: Issues/Options paper and Notice of Intent published May 16, 2019 (84 FR 22112); comment period ended July 31, 2019
- Proposed rule anticipated ~spring 2023
- Action supported by HMS Predictive Spatial Modeling (PRiSM) tool that predicts fishery interactions with select species

More Information: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/research-and-data-collection-support-spatial-fisheries-management



Final Amendment 14 (Shark)

- Establishes a new framework to implement acceptable biological catch (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs)
- Creates the process to account for carryover or underharvests of quotas along with the option to phase-in ABC control rules and to adopt multi-year overfishing status determination criteria
- Released on January 24, 2023 (88 FR 4157)

Draft Amendment 16 (Shark)

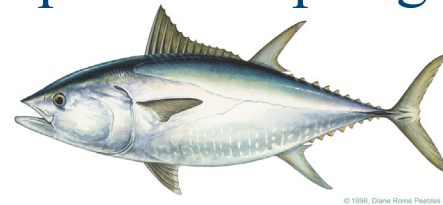
- Would incorporate the framework of Amendment 14 and the findings from the Atlantic shark fishery review (SHARE)
- Would increased management flexibility to factors impacting the shark fisheries and account for changes in the distribution of shark harvest among sectors
- Scoping document anticipated in spring 2023



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5-Year Review of HMS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

- Announced initiation of the 5-year review on April 4, 2022
- Purpose: Evaluate the EFH provisions of the HMS FMP, as amended, and determine whether updates are warranted
- Solicited information from the public (through June 6, 2022) to have best data available as basis for the review
- Review considers new information, literature, and data not previously included in recent updates to Atlantic HMS EFH, or that has become available since Final Amendment 10 in 2017
- Draft 5-year review document anticipated in Spring 2023



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International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

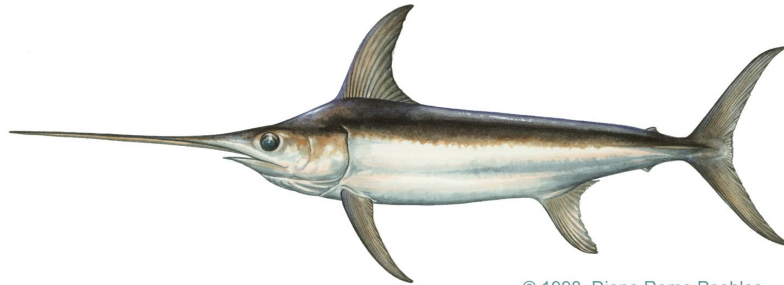
- Management recommendations for tunas, billfish, swordfish, and sharks caught in ICCAT fisheries, as well as bycatch (seabirds, sea turtles)
- Recommendations binding and decisions are typically made by consensus
- Currently 52 Contracting Parties
- NOAA Fisheries' Atlantic HMS Management Division implements ICCAT recommendations



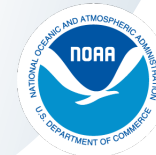
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International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

- Met in Vale do Lobo, Portugal, November 2022
 - Successful hybrid meeting
 - First “annual” meeting with an in-person component since 2019
- None of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 2022 meeting require changes to U.S. regulations



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2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Procedure (MP)

In a historic agreement, ICCAT adopted its first MP for both the eastern and western stocks

Rec. 22-09:

- Applies a pre-agreed framework for actions, such as setting catch limits, designed to achieve specific objectives (re: stock status, safety, stability, and yield)
- Establishes annual total allowable catches (TACs) for 2023 through 2025 for each stock
- Maintains the 2022 TAC of 2,726 metric tons for the western area



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2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

Rec. 22-10:

- Includes the TAC established under the BFT MP (2,726 mt)
- Maintains the existing allocations, including U.S. quota of 1,341 mt
- Updated the research provisions in line with activities identified by ICCAT's scientific body, including supporting priority work needed to facilitate the future reconditioning of the management strategy evaluation (MSE) operating models and review of the MP by 2028



2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

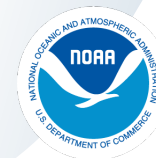
Sharks

South Atlantic shortfin mako (Rec. 22-11):

- Total retention allowance of 1,295 mt for 2023-2024 with individual CPC allowances
- Total mortality level to be established following 2024 assessment to maintain health stock status
- Many provisions mirror North Atlantic shortfin mako Rec. 21-09, including establishing a process to evaluate future retention allowance

Fins naturally attached

- The United States and many other parties advocated for adoption of this proposal, but it was ultimately blocked



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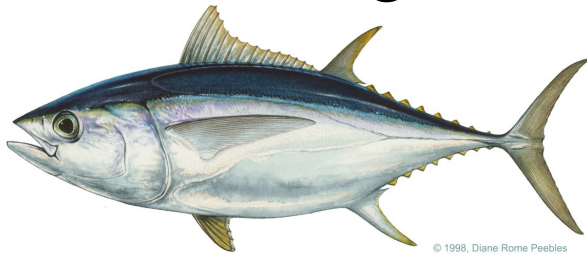
2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas

Rec. 22-01, a one-year extension of the Conservation and Management Plan for Tropical Tunas:

- Maintains the bigeye tuna TAC at 62,000 mt
- Maintains the yellowfin tuna TAC at 110,000 mt

The TAC, allocation, and other management measures are expected to be revisited in 2023, including at an intersessional meeting of Panel 1.



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2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

North Atlantic Swordfish

Rec. 22-03, a one-year rollover recommendation:

- Maintains the current TAC of 13,200 mt and extends the current management measures from Recommendation 17-02 through 2023
- Maintains the U.S. quota of 3,907 mt
- Scientific work continues on developing management strategy evaluation for this important stock
- ICCAT aims to adopt an MP for North Atlantic swordfish in 2023 that will determine TACs for 2024 onward



2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

Improvement of Fisheries Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance to Combat Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

ICCAT adopted several proposals that will:

- Require ICCAT parties to investigate and take action to address allegations of IUU fishing by their citizens
 - will cover those *benefitting from or supporting* IUU activity
- Provide common standards (Schedule of Compliance Actions) for evaluating severity of non-compliance incidents and applying responsive actions in a fair and transparent manner
 - will further strengthen ICCAT's compliance process
- Require e-reporting for certain scientific and compliance-related data
 - will improve the efficiency of operations/accessibility of information



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2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

Climate Change (Res. 22-13)

- ICCAT adopted a U.S.-led proposal that calls on the Commission to account for the impacts of climate change on ICCAT-managed species and related ecosystems
- The proposal kick-starts a process to identify available information, data gaps, and research needs that will better inform the Commission's future management of ICCAT species
- In 2023, ICCAT will convene a joint meeting of scientists and managers, Chaired by the United States, to begin this important conversation



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2022 Meeting – Key Outcomes

Mitigating Bycatch of Endangered and Threatened Sea Turtles, Rec. 22-12

- Led by the United States, ICCAT adopted its first measure on gear and bait modifications to mitigate the impacts of fishing interactions on sea turtles
- Requires science-based mitigation measures, such as the use of circle hooks in shallow-set longline fisheries, in the Atlantic Ocean
- Will reduce bycatch and increase post-release survival



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2022 Meeting – U.S. Priorities Addressed

High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI)

- Progress on developing a joint HSBI scheme for the ICCAT Convention Area
- Although no consensus was reached, the discussions represented a significant step forward in efforts to adopt a crucial tool to combat IUU fishing and monitor compliance with ICCAT rules in international waters



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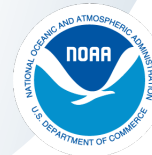
ICCAT - Work Ahead

Other

- The United States will continue to push ICCAT and its parties to be forward leaning and to prioritize the implementation of measures to conserve and manage ICCAT species

Key 2023 Intersessional Meetings:

- Panel 1 (tropical tunas) – TAC, allocation, and other management measures; western skipjack MSE
- Panel 2 (bluefin tuna) – exceptional circumstances protocol; eastern allocations
- Panel 4 (swordfish, etc.) – North Atlantic swordfish MSE
- Climate Change Joint Experts Meeting



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For more information:

Atlantic HMS website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>

ICCAT website: www.iccat.int

Or contact:

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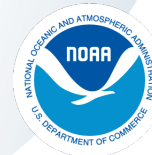
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Questions?

Thank you!



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