

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Coastal Sharks Technical Committee Call

Draft Agenda

Wednesday March 28, 2018

1:30 -3:30 p.m.

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

Webinar URL: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/796984333>

Join the conference call:

Phone: 1-888-394-8197 **followed by the Passcode:** 815277

- 1) **Welcome/Review draft agenda** (*K. Rootes-Murdy*) 1:30-1:35 p.m.
- 2) **Presentation on Atlantic shortfin mako shark stock assessment and emergency rule** (*K. Brewster-Geisz*) 1:35-1:55 p.m.
 - **Questions** 1:55- 2:05 p.m.
 - **Discuss Board Chair Task** 2:05-2:25 p.m.
 - **Draft Response** 2:25 -2:35 p.m.
- 3) **Presentation on sandbar shark stock assessment** (*K. Brewster-Geisz*) 2:35-2:55 p.m.
 - **Questions** 2:55- 3:00 p.m.
 - **Discuss Board Chair Task** 3:00-3:10 p.m.
 - **Draft Response** 3:10 -3:20 p.m.
- 4) **Update on Oceanic Whitetip Sharks ESA Status** (*K. Brewster-Geisz*) 3:20-3:25 p.m.
 - **Discuss Board Chair Task** 3:25-3:30 p.m.
- 5) **Any other business**
- 6) **Adjourn** 3:30 p.m. or earlier

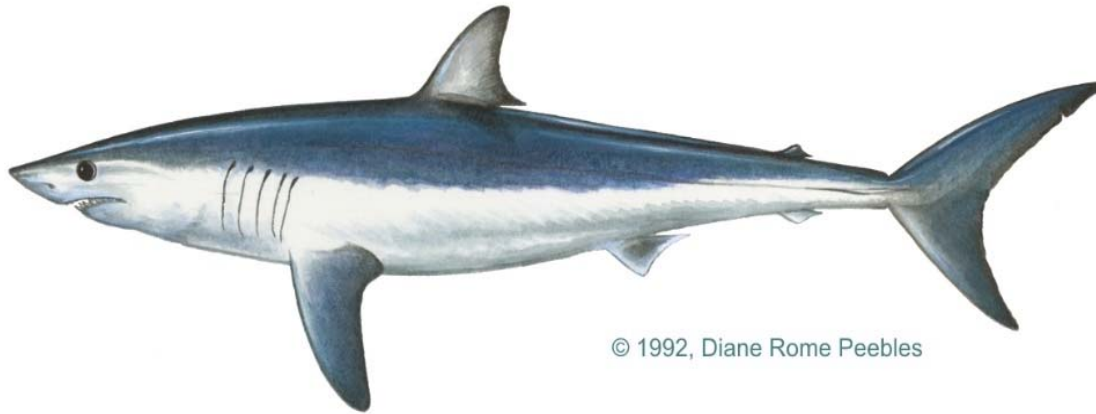


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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Shortfin Mako Shark

Emergency Interim Final Rule



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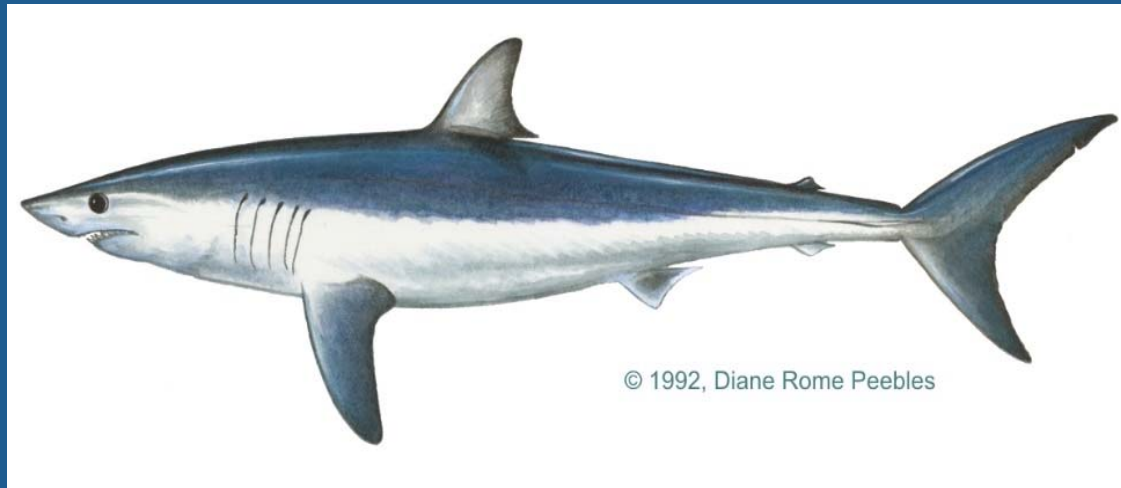
March 2018

Outline

- Shortfin Mako Management Background and Stock Status
 - 2017 ICCAT Stock Assessment
 - ICCAT Recommendation 17-08
- Emergency Interim Final Measures
 - Fishery Impacts
- Next Steps
- Public Hearing



Management History and Stock Status



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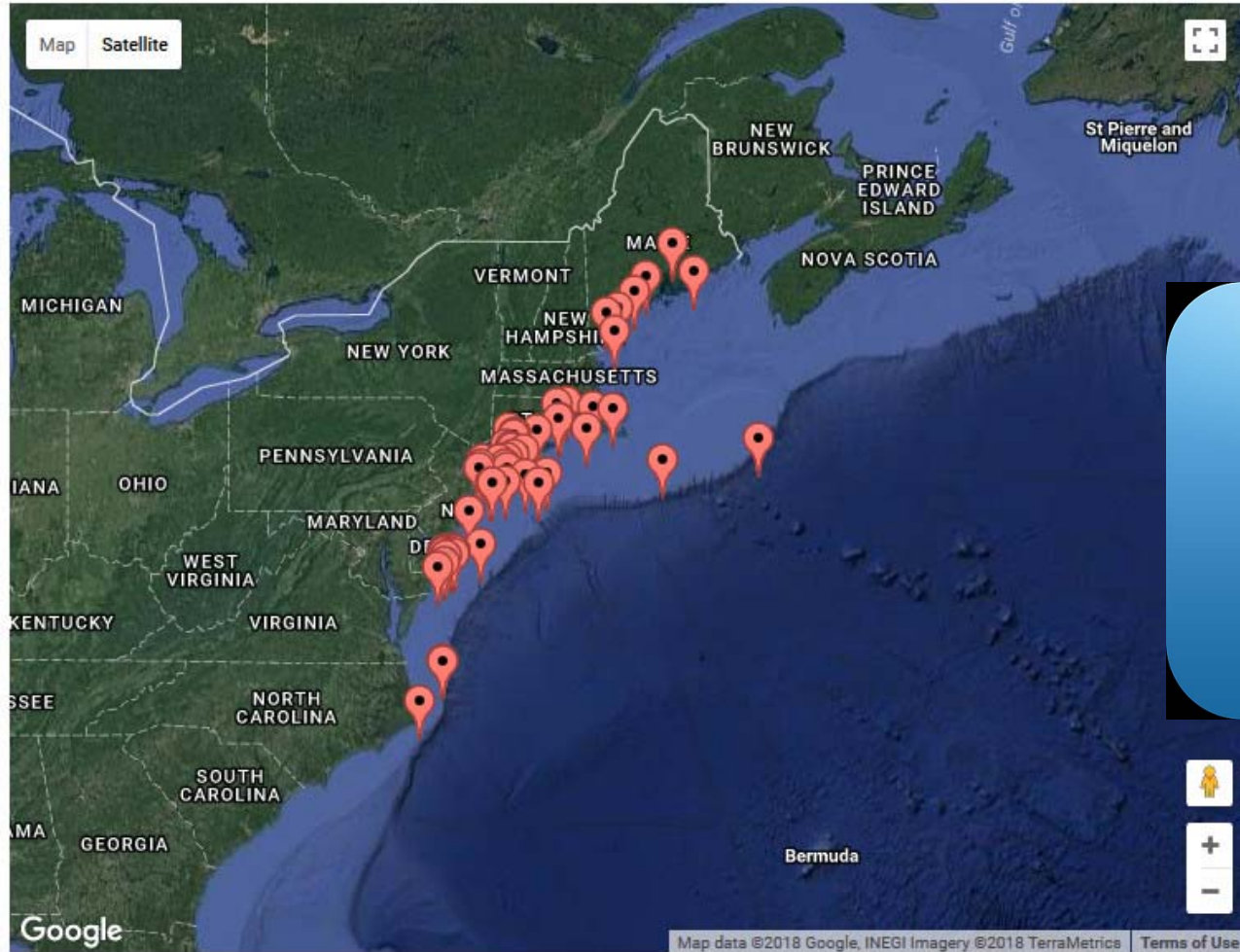
Management History

- 1993: 1993 Shark FMP
 - Shortfin mako sharks managed as part of the Pelagic Shark group
 - Implemented quotas for pelagic sharks (580 mt)
- 1999: 1999 FMP
 - Removed porbeagle and blue sharks from pelagic shark quota; Reduced pelagic shark quota accordingly (488 mt dw)
- 2008: ICCAT Stock Assessment for North Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks
 - Not overfished, overfishing occurring
- 2010: Amendment 3
 - Encouraged live release of shortfin mako sharks
- 2012: ICCAT Stock Assessment for North Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks
 - Not overfished, No overfishing occurring
 - NMFS continued to encourage live release of Shortfin Mako sharks



Management History

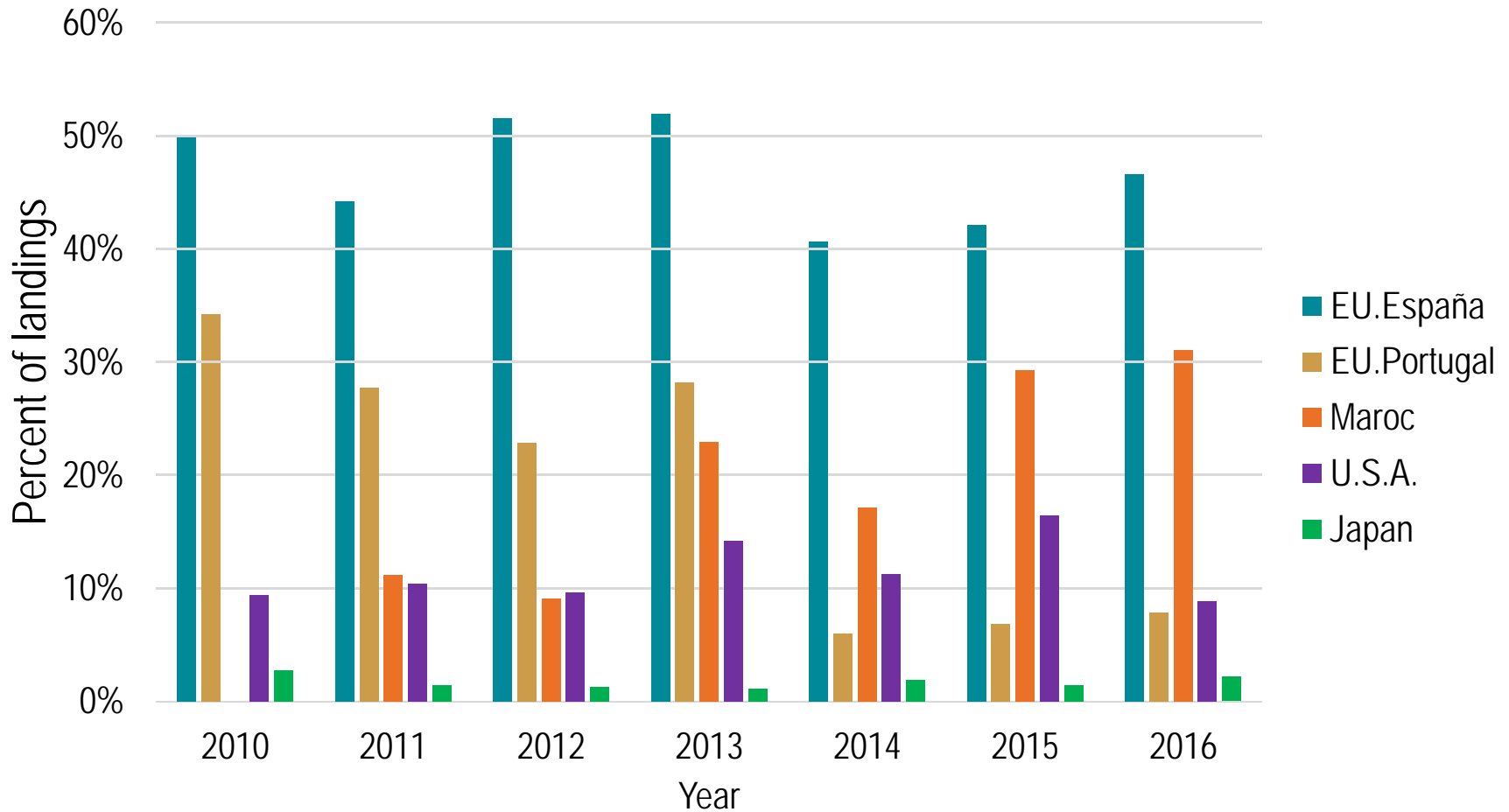
- Release Mako smartphone app (2011)



Management History

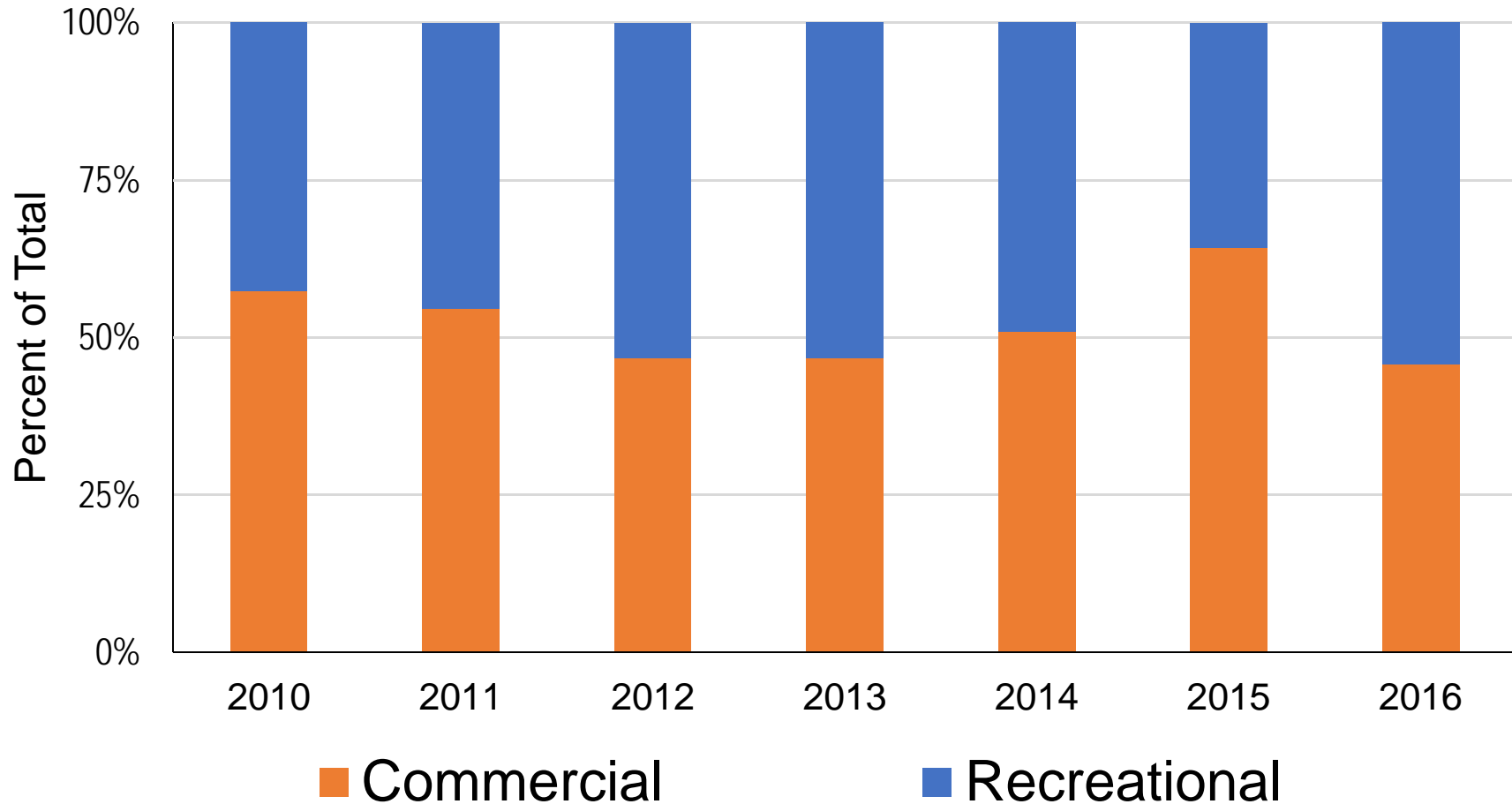
- U.S. shortfin mako catches represent ~11% of total North Atlantic catch

North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Shark Harvest by Country (ICCAT statistics)



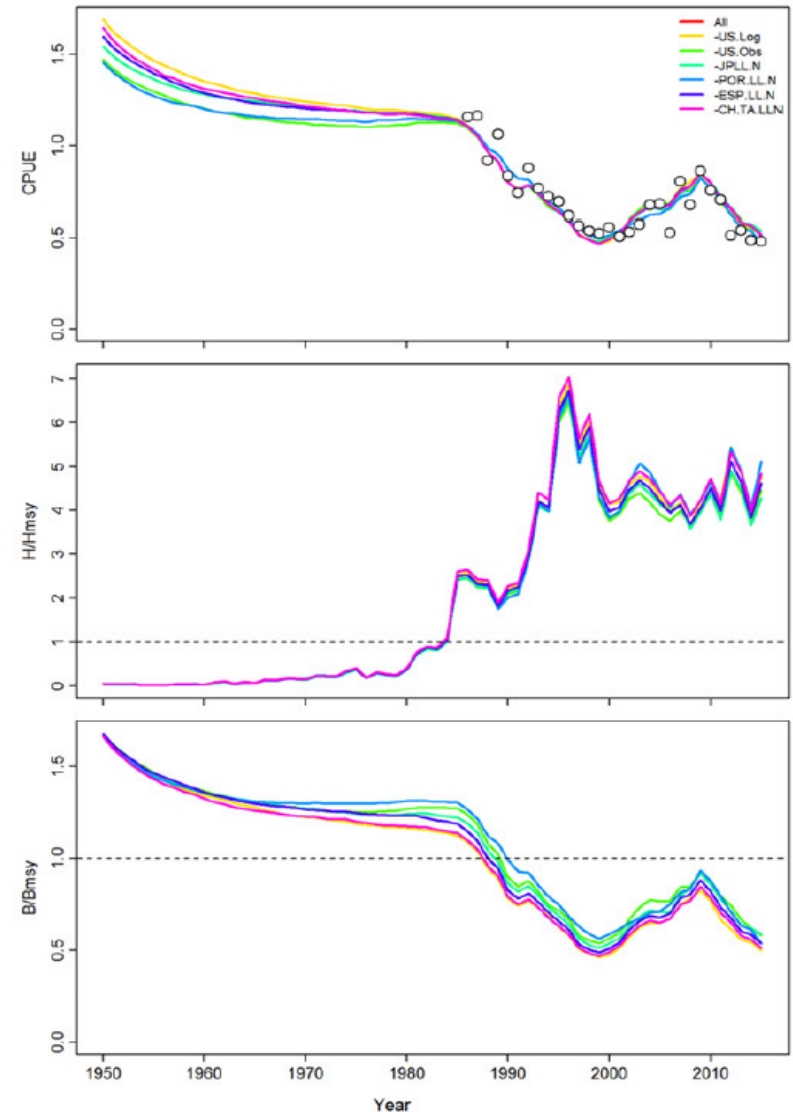
Management History

- U.S. commercial and recreational harvests are evenly split



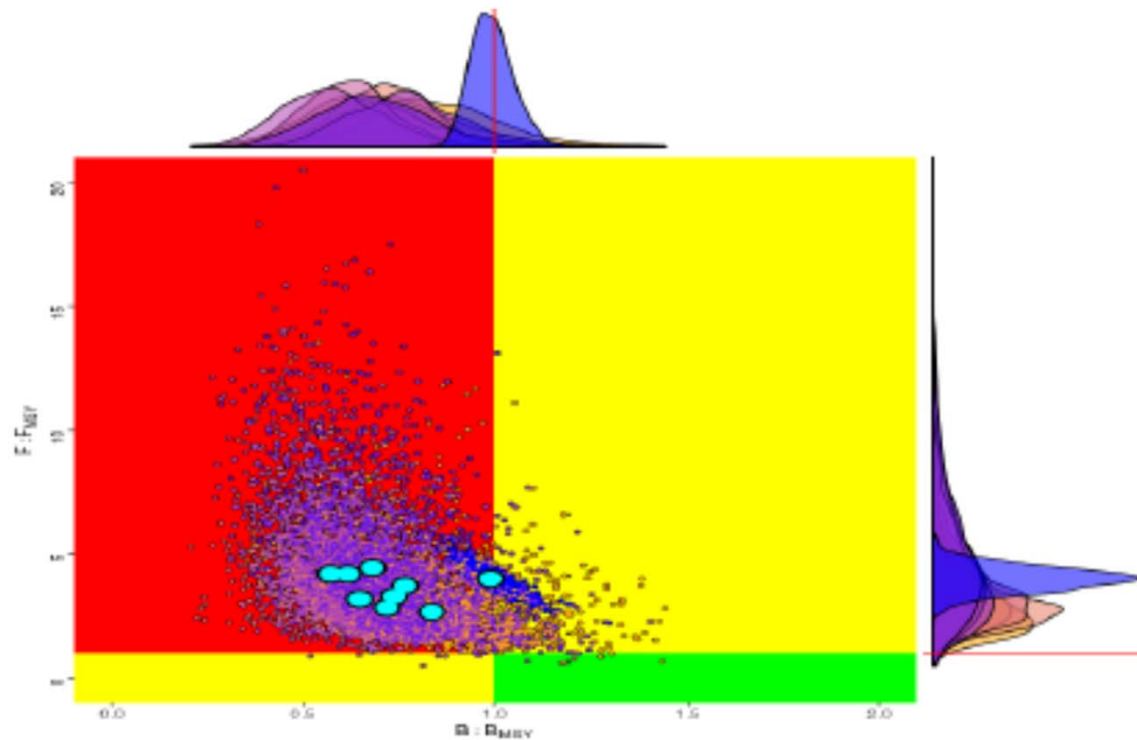
ICCAT 2017 Stock Assessment

- ICCAT's SCRS conducted the assessment in Summer 2017
- Significant data updates from previous assessment (2012)
 - New model structure
 - Longer catch series (1950-2015)
 - Sex-specific biological parameters
 - Updated length compositions
 - New satellite tagging data



ICCAT 2017 Stock Assessment

- Overfished
 - $B_{2015}/B_{MSY} = 0.57-0.85$, $SSF_{2015}/SSF_{MSY} = 0.95$
- Overfishing is occurring
 - $F_{2015}/F_{MSY} = 1.93-4.38$



ICCAT 2017 Stock Assessment

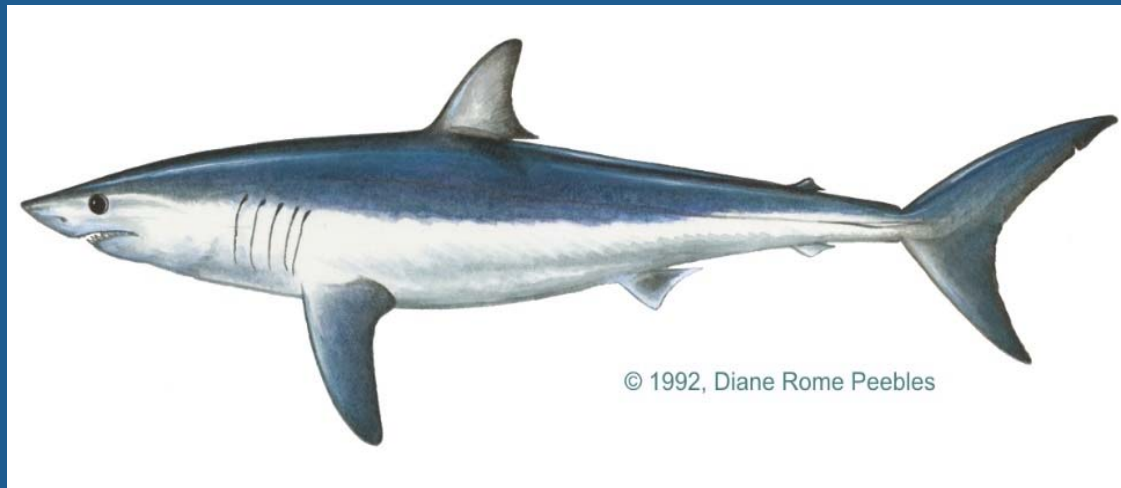
- Recent catches (all nations) are 3,600-4,750 mt per year
- Assessment indicates that catches should be reduced below 1,000 mt (72-79 percent reductions) to prevent further population declines
- A total allowable catch of 0 mt would be necessary to rebuild the stock by 2040



ICCAT Recommendation 17-08

- Adopted in November 2017
- Maximizes live releases
- Retention allowed under limited circumstances
 - If dead at haulback (requires observer and/or electronic monitoring (EM))
 - Minimum Size Limits: 180 cm FL male, 210 cm FL female
- November 2018 - review first six months of 2018 catches
- 2019 – SCRS evaluation of measure effectiveness, establish rebuilding plan
- U.S. is obligated to implement ICCAT recommendations as necessary and appropriate under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act

Emergency Interim Final Rule (effective March 2, 2018)



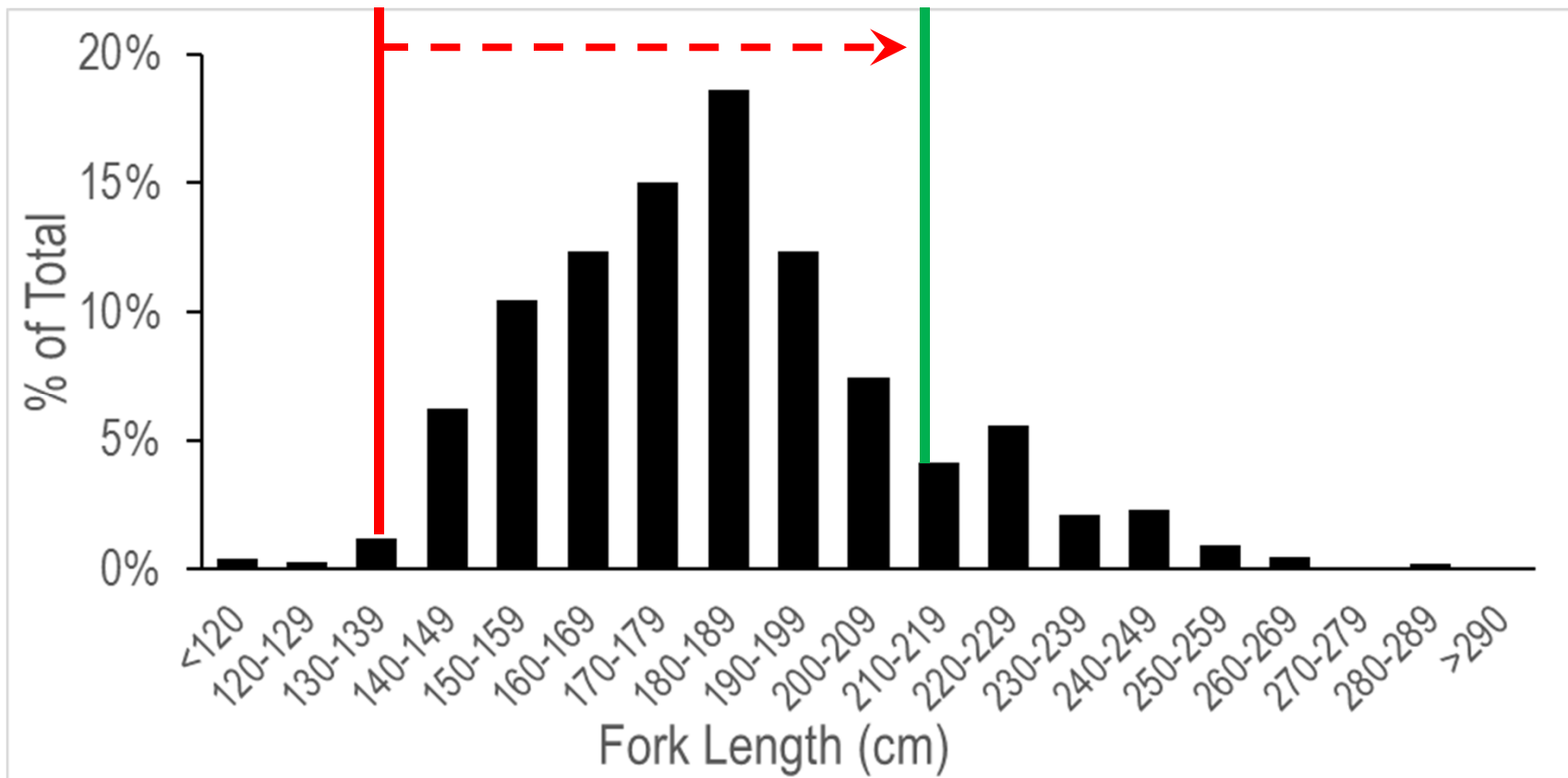
Interim Final Measures

- Live release of shortfin mako sharks in commercial pelagic longline fishery
 - Retention only if shark is dead at haulback and vessel has functioning EM
- Prohibition on retention of shortfin mako sharks caught on commercial gears other than pelagic longline (bottom longline, gillnet, etc.)
- Estimated 75% reduction in U.S. commercial landings



Interim Final Measures

- Increase recreational minimum size limit from 54 in to 83 in FL
- Estimated 83% reduction in U.S. recreational landings



Interim Final Measures

➤ Commercial Fishery Impacts

- 2016 commercial ex-vessel shortfin mako revenues = \$348,000
- ~14% of all commercial shark revenue, ~1% of all HMS commercial revenue
- 75% reduction = losses of ~\$261,000 per year for commercial fishery



Interim Final Measures

- **Recreational Fishery Impacts**
 - Total economic output for recreational shark fisheries (all species and areas) estimated at ~\$5.4 million per year (2011)
 - 5% of charter and 7% of headboat vessels target pelagic sharks (including shortfin mako sharks)
 - 70-80 tournaments per year with pelagic shark categories
 - Recreational catch and release will continue, but fewer opportunities to land a shortfin mako shark of legal size



Next Steps

- Emergency interim final rule is effective for 180 days (until August 29, 2018), with a possible extension of 186 days additional days (until March 3, 2019)
- Accepting public comments until May 7, 2018
- ICCAT will evaluate measures in November 2018
- Emergency interim final rule measures are expected to be replaced/updated by Amendment 11 (normal rulemaking process)



Summary

- Shortfin mako shark is overfished and experiencing overfishing
- ICCAT has recommended management measures
- NMFS has implemented an emergency interim final rule
 - Live release in commercial fisheries
 - Retention on pelagic longline vessels with EM if dead at haulback
 - 83 in FL minimum size limit in recreational fishery
 - ~79% reduction in U.S. landings
- ICCAT will evaluate measures in November 2018
- Emergency interim final rule expected to be replaced by Amendment 11



Request for Public Comments

Comment period closes on:

May 7, 2018

Please submit comments to:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2018-0010"

Or Mail: NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2018-0010

For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/> or contact Tobey Curtis tobey.curtis@noaa.gov or Karyl Brewster-Geisz karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov at (301) 427-8503

Public Hearing



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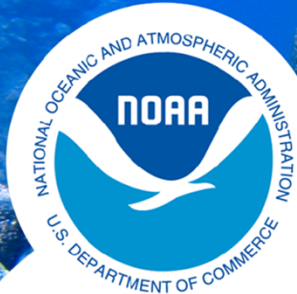
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Listing the Oceanic Whitetip Shark as Threatened under the ESA

Carcharhinus longimanus





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U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973

“...to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered and threatened species...”

Endangered species = any species which is **in danger** of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

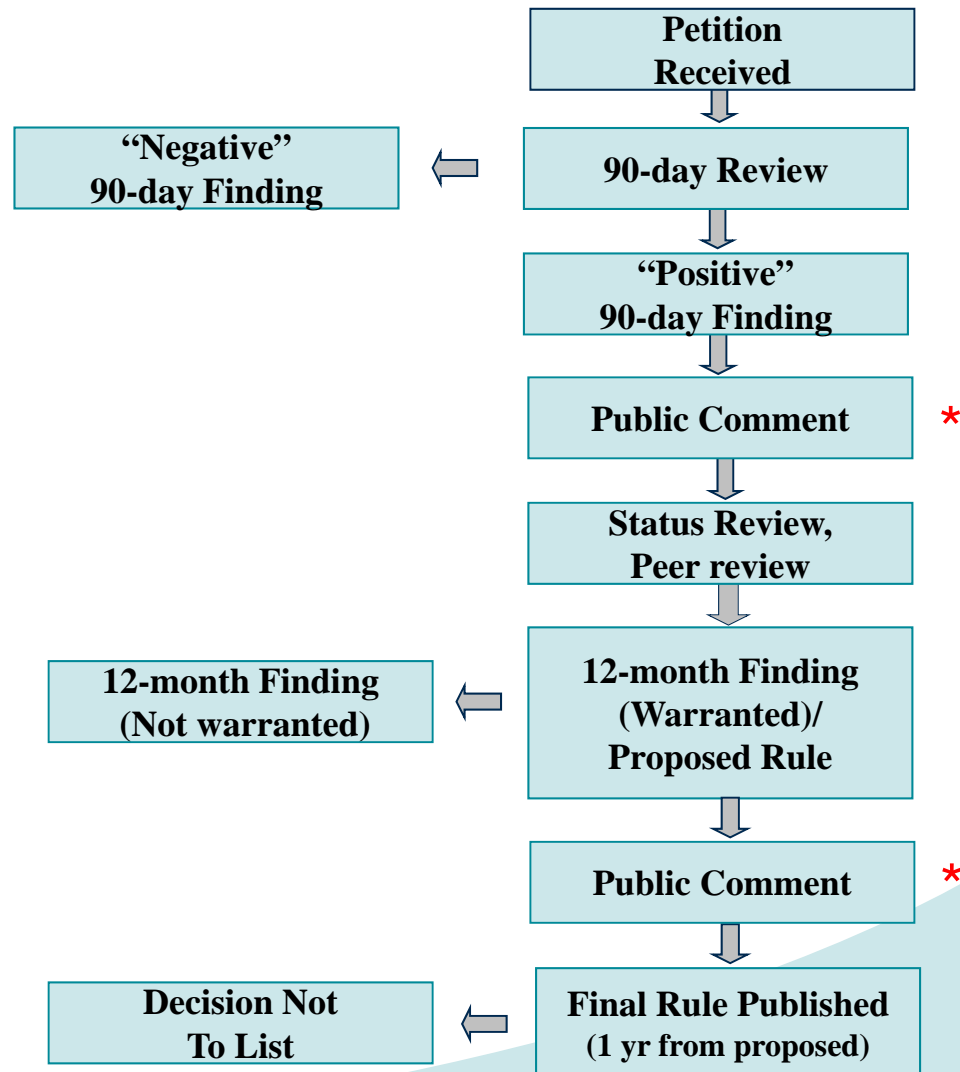
Threatened species = any species which is **likely to become an endangered** species **within the foreseeable future** throughout all or a significant portion of its range



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Listing Process under the ESA

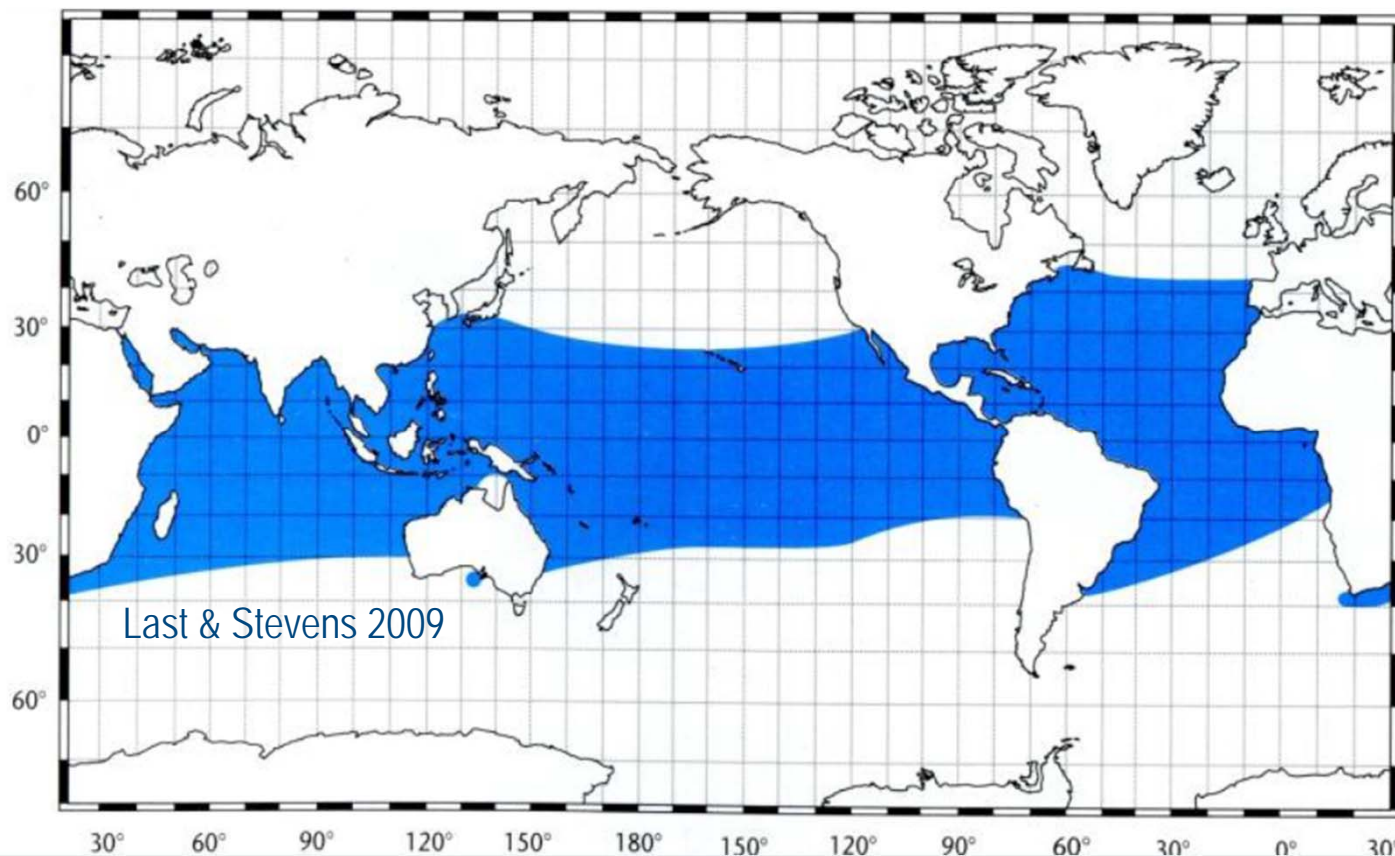


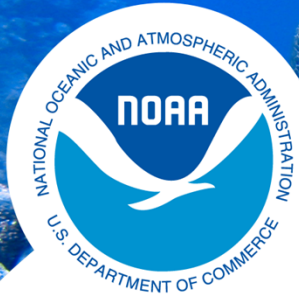
Background & Timeline

- September 21, 2015 – Defenders of Wildlife submitted petition to list global species OR 2 Distinct Population Segments (DPSs; Atlantic & Indo-Pacific)
- Positive 90-day finding on global species in January 2016
- Convened ERA Team in July 2016 comprised of 6 members from OPR, HMS, NEFSC, SEFSC, SWFSC, PIFSC
- Sent Status Review Report for peer review in August 2016: received 5 peer reviews and 2 regional reviews (PIRO; HMS)
- Proposed rule published December 29, 2016
- Final rule published January 30, 2018
- Effective date March 1, 2018

Global Distribution

- Clear preference for open ocean waters between 10°S and 10°N
- Depth distribution = upper mixed layer (1-152 m) but considered surface-dwelling shark
- Temperature preference = $>20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$





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Life History Parameters

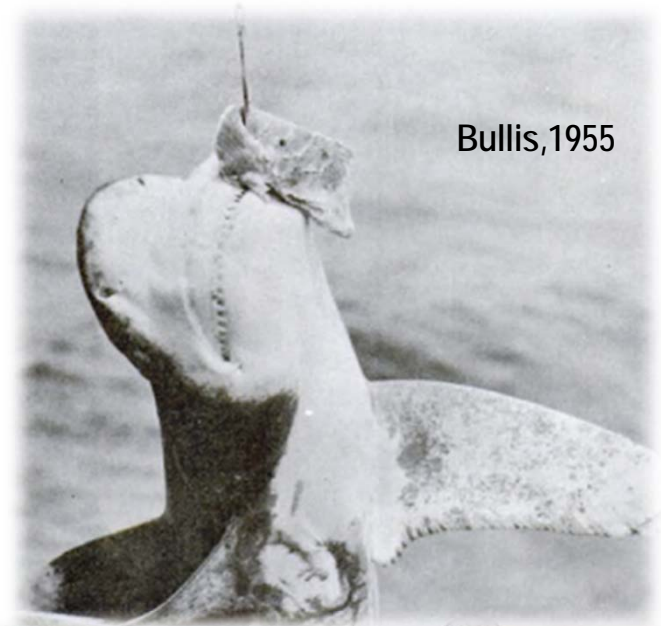
- Long lived (up to 20 years)
- Late age of maturity
 - 6-7 years (both sexes; SW Atlantic)
 - 8-9 years (females; N. Pacific)
- Lengthy gestation (9-12 months)
- Low fecundity (1-14 pups with average of 5-6 pups per year for 2 years)

Region	Historical	Current	% decline	Source
Eastern Pacific	↓	↓	80-95% (since 1990s)	Declines in tropical purse seine fishery (Hall and Roman 2013; IATTC observer database)
Western & Central Pacific	↓	↓	86 - >90% (since 1995)	Declines in LL and purse seine fisheries (Rice and Harley 2012; Brodziak et al. 2013) Rice et al. 2015)
NW Atlantic	↓	Likely stable →	57-70% (1992-2005;1992-2000)	Declines in pelagic LL fishery (Baum et al. 2003; Baum & Myers 2004; Cortés 2007)
Gulf of Mexico	↓		88% (1950s-1990s)	
South Atlantic	↓	Uncertain, but likely ↓	50-85% (since 1990s)	Declines in Brazil LL fishery (Hazin et al. 2007; ICCAT database; Santana et al. 2004)
Indian Ocean	↓	Uncertain, but likely ↓	25-90% (various; mainly since 1990s)	Longline and purse seine fisheries (Ramos-Cartelle et al. 2012; Semba and Yokawa 2012; Anderson et al. 2011; Tolotti et al. 2015)

Threats

Overutilization in commercial fisheries

- **Bycatch**
 - Caught in large numbers globally in longline and purse seine fisheries (among others); large majority are juveniles
 - At-vessel mortality rates 23-58% in longlines; >85% in purse seines
 - Unknown post-release mortality
- **Fin Trade**
 - Considered “preferred” species for fins
 - Obtains US \$45-85 per kg = main economic driver for retention
 - Comprises approximately 2% of global fin trade



Bullis, 1955

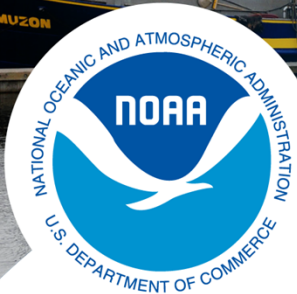


Threats cont...

Inadequate regulations

- **Retention bans**
 - Only shark species that has a no-retention measure in every RFMO
 - Does not prevent capture/mortality
 - Variable implementation/enforcement
 - Partially effective
- **Finning bans/regulations**
- **CITES Appendix II listing**
 - Several confiscated shipments to Hong Kong since 2014 listing
 - Colombia, Seychelles, UAE
- **IUU fishing and trafficking**
 - Illegal fins seized from Indonesia, Costa Rica, Taiwan (in Marshall Islands)





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Extinction Risk

Considering a foreseeable future of ~30 years:

Significant historical and ongoing abundance declines in all three ocean basins

+

slow growth, late maturity, low fecundity, and low genetic diversity

+

ongoing threats of overutilization and largely inadequate regulatory mechanisms

=

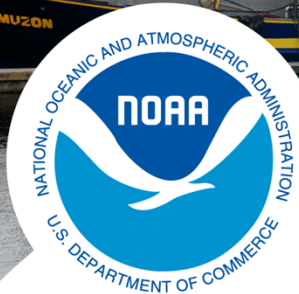
Moderate risk of extinction → proposed and final **threatened** listing under the ESA

What happens next?

- **Section 7 consultations**
 - Required for any federal action that may affect the species
 - Already underway for Atlantic HMS PLL fishery and HMS All Other Gears
- **Critical habitat designation**
 - 1-year extension
 - Would be open to public comment/input
- **Protective regulations aka 4(d) rule**
 - Not developing a 4(d) rule at this time
 - May consider in the future if necessary for conservation
 - Would be open to public comment/input
- **Recovery planning**



Implications



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- “Take” is currently not prohibited under this listing
 - U.S. fishermen do not have to do anything different under current laws if/when they accidentally catch an oceanic whitetip
 - U.S. fishermen continue to operate under Federal fisheries regulations and RFMO measures they are currently subject to
- Fisheries that may affect the oceanic whitetip will undergo Section 7 consultation



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Questions?



Photo: Andy Mann

Contact: Chelsey Young – chelsey.young@noaa.gov