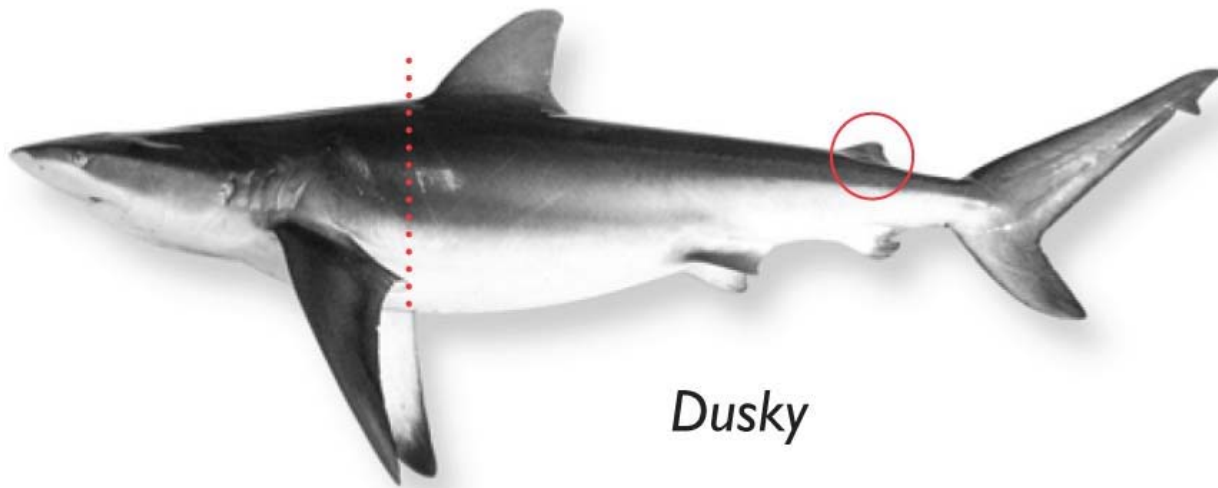




**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Amendment 5b - Dusky Sharks:  
Final Measures &  
Implementation



*Dusky*

Presented to:  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
May 2017

# Outline

- Brief Background
- Summary of Public Comments
- Final A5b Measures
- Request for Complementary Measures



# Brief Background

- SEDAR 21 Stock Assessment Update – July-September 2016
  - Determined dusky sharks were overfished, experiencing overfishing
  - Mortality reduction of 12% needed to end overfishing
  - Mortality reduction of 35% needed to rebuild by 2107 (90 years)
- Proposed Rule published October 18, 2016 (81 FR 71672)
  - Comments accepted through December 22, 2016
  - Public Hearings: RI, NJ, NC, FL, LA, TX, Webinar, Councils, & ASMFC
  - Advisory Panel meeting December 1-2, 2016
  - 76 submissions, including petitions with 32,860 total signatures
- Final EIS released February 24, 2017 – 30-day “review” period
- Final Rule published April 4, 2017 (82 FR 16478)
  - Some measures effective June 5, 2017; remainder January 1, 2018

# Summary of Public Comments

- **Recreational Measures**

- General support for Shark Endorsement, but should be short, focused on dusky sharks
- Many comments regarding circle hooks
- NMFS needs to improve recreational catch estimates of dusky sharks (and other species)

- **Commercial Measures**

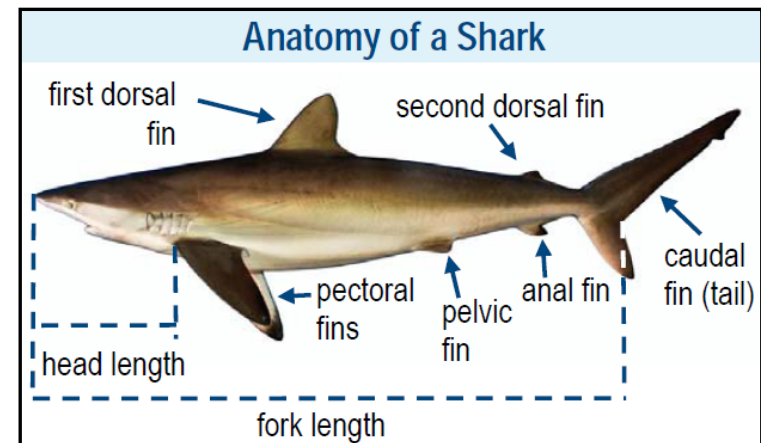
- Cutting PLL gangions less than 3 feet from the hook has safety concerns
- Concern that 1 nautical mile is not enough distance to reduce bycatch after a dusky interaction
- Some concern about effectiveness of circle hooks on bottom longline gear

- **Other Comments**

- Several comments about dusky shark bycatch in non-HMS fisheries, bycatch levels, and what the appropriate ACL should be
- Support for hotspot closed areas
- Questions about monitoring effectiveness of the final measures

# Final Recreational Measures

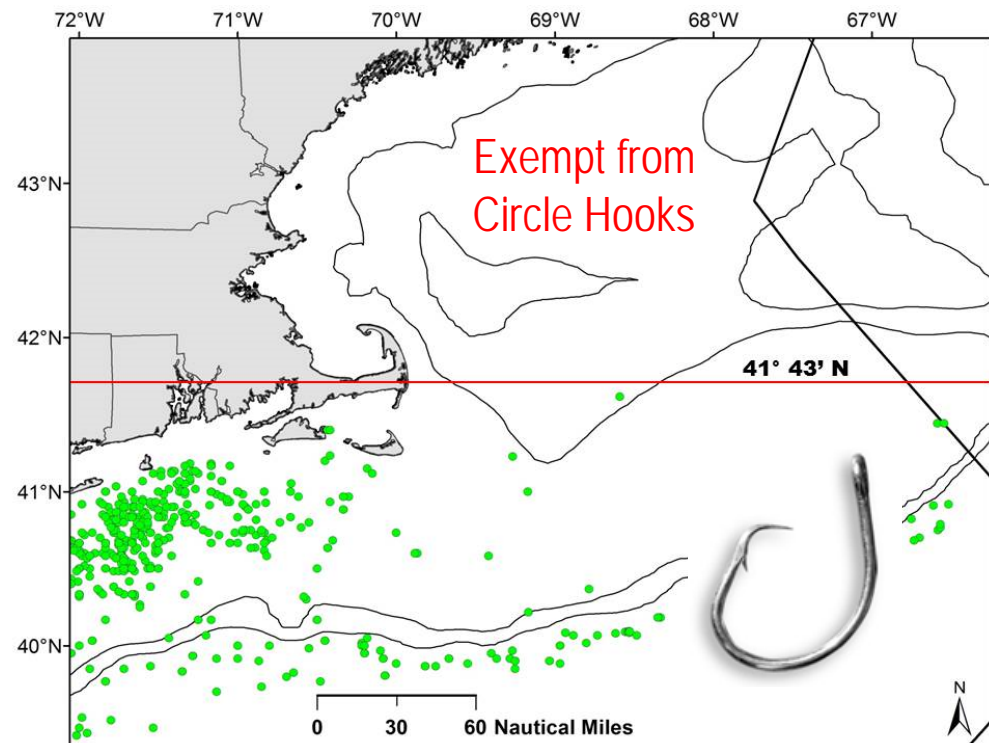
- **Alternative A2:** Require HMS permit holders fishing for sharks recreationally to obtain a **shark endorsement**, which requires completion of an online shark identification and fishing regulation training course, in order to retain sharks - **Effective January 1, 2018**
  - Built into permit application/renewal website
  - Educational video (~2 minutes)
    - Dusky (Ridgeback) Shark ID
    - Safe handling and release
    - Circle hook requirements
    - Recreational regulations
  - Quiz (~7 multiple choice questions)
    - Educational tool; Everyone passes
  - Additional recreational outreach materials



# Final Recreational Measures

- **Alternative A6d:** Require the use of non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks by all HMS permit holders with a shark endorsement when fishing for sharks recreationally south of 41° 43' N latitude, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures – **Effective January 1, 2018**

- Sharks incidentally caught on J-hooks must be released
- Line-by-line basis for circle hooks



# Final Commercial Measures

- **Alternative B3:** Fishermen with an Atlantic shark limited access permit with pelagic longline gear must release all sharks not being retained using a dehooker or by cutting the gangion less than three feet from the hook, *as safely as practicable* – **Effective June 5, 2017**
- **Alternative B5:** Require completion of shark identification and fishing regulation training as a new part of the Safe Handling, Identification, and Release Workshop for vessel owners and operators of a HMS limited access permitted vessel that fishes with pelagic longline, bottom longline, or shark gillnet gear – **Effective June 5, 2017**
- **Alternative B6:** Increase dusky shark outreach and awareness through development of additional commercial fishery outreach materials, and require pelagic longline, bottom longline, and shark gillnet vessels with shark limited access permits to abide by a dusky shark fleet communication and relocation protocol – **Effective June 5, 2017**
- **Alternative B9:** Require the use of circle hooks by all shark directed limited access permit holders using bottom longline gear – **Effective January 1, 2018**



# Summary

- The final measures will:
  - End overfishing immediately
  - Achieve mortality reduction target recommended by the stock assessment update to rebuild by 2107

## Final Recreational Measures

### Alternative A2

Shark Endorsement Training and Quiz  
– **Effective Jan. 1, 2018**

### Alternative A6d

Non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks for all HMS permit holders with a shark endorsement when fishing for sharks recreationally south of 41° 43' N latitude, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures – **Effective Jan. 1, 2018**

## Final Commercial Measures

### Alternative B3

Shark limited access permit holders fishing with PLL must release all sharks not being retained using a dehooker or cutting the gangion less than three feet from the hook, as safely as practicable – **Effective June 5, 2017**

### Alternative B5

Safe Handling, Identification, and Release Workshops for HMS pelagic longline, bottom longline, and shark gillnet vessel owners and operators  
– **Effective June 5, 2017**

### Alternative B6

Commercial outreach, and require HMS PLL, BLL, and shark gillnet vessels to abide by a dusky shark fleet communication and relocation protocol  
– **Effective June 5, 2017**

### Alternative B9

Require the use of circle hooks by all HMS directed shark permit holders using bottom longline gear – **Effective Jan. 1, 2018**



## Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) & Accountability Measures (AMs)

- ACLs and AMs established for all sharks in Amendment 3 (2010)
- Amendment 5b clarifies ACLs and AMs for the 19 prohibited sharks

**ACL = 0**

|  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Basking</b><br><i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>            | <b>Dusky</b><br><i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>         | <b>Sand Tiger</b><br><i>Carcharias taurus</i>    | <b>Sevengill</b><br><i>Heptanchias perlo</i>                | <b>Bigeye Sand Tiger</b><br><i>Odontaspis noronhai</i> |
| <b>Bigeye Thresher</b><br><i>Alopias superciliosus</i> | <b>Galapagos</b><br><i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i> | <b>Whale</b><br><i>Rhincodon typus</i>           | <b>Sixgill</b><br><i>Hexanchus griseus</i>                  | <b>Bigeye Sixgill</b><br><i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>    |
| <b>Bignose</b><br><i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>          | <b>Longfin Mako</b><br><i>Isurus paucus</i>          | <b>White</b><br><i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>    | <b>Narrowtooth</b><br><i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>        | <b>Smalltail</b><br><i>Carcharhinus porosus</i>        |
| <b>Caribbean Reef</b><br><i>Carcharhinus perezii</i>   | <b>Night</b><br><i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>         | <b>Atlantic Angel</b><br><i>Squatina dumeril</i> | <b>Caribbean Sharpnose</b><br><i>Rhizoprionodon porosus</i> |  |

# Request for Complementary Measures

- Assist with outreach and education; provide links to NOAA Fisheries materials
- Collaborate on development of best practices for the handling and release of sharks when shore and pier fishing
- Consider requiring circle hooks in various state hook and line fisheries (e.g., recreational, short lines, commercial handgear)
- Consider requiring fishermen to maximize gear removal before releasing sharks
- Consider cooperative research with NOAA Fisheries to improve estimates of dusky (and other) sharks caught in state water fisheries – maybe via the shark research fishery

# Questions?



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