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Shark Management Update for ASMFC

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management
November 2015

September 2015

Outline

- Amendment 6
- Proposed Shark Specifications for 2016
- Amendment 9



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Amendment 6

Final rule published 8/18/15 (80 FR 50073)

Final rule effective 8/18/15

Need for Action & Management Objectives

- Purpose and Need - Consider short-term, flexible management measures to better address the current issues facing the fishery.
- Objectives of Amendment 6:
 - Increasing the efficiency in the large coastal shark (LCS) and small coastal shark (SCS) fisheries;
 - Maintaining or increasing equity across all shark fishermen and regions;
 - Promoting economic viability for the shark fishery participants;
 - Obtaining optimum yield from the LCS and SCS fisheries;
 - Maintaining or increasing management flexibility for the shark fisheries;
 - Decreasing dead discards of sharks;
 - Continuing to rebuild overfished shark stocks; and
 - Preventing overfishing of shark stocks.

Summary of Amendment 6 – Atlantic Focus

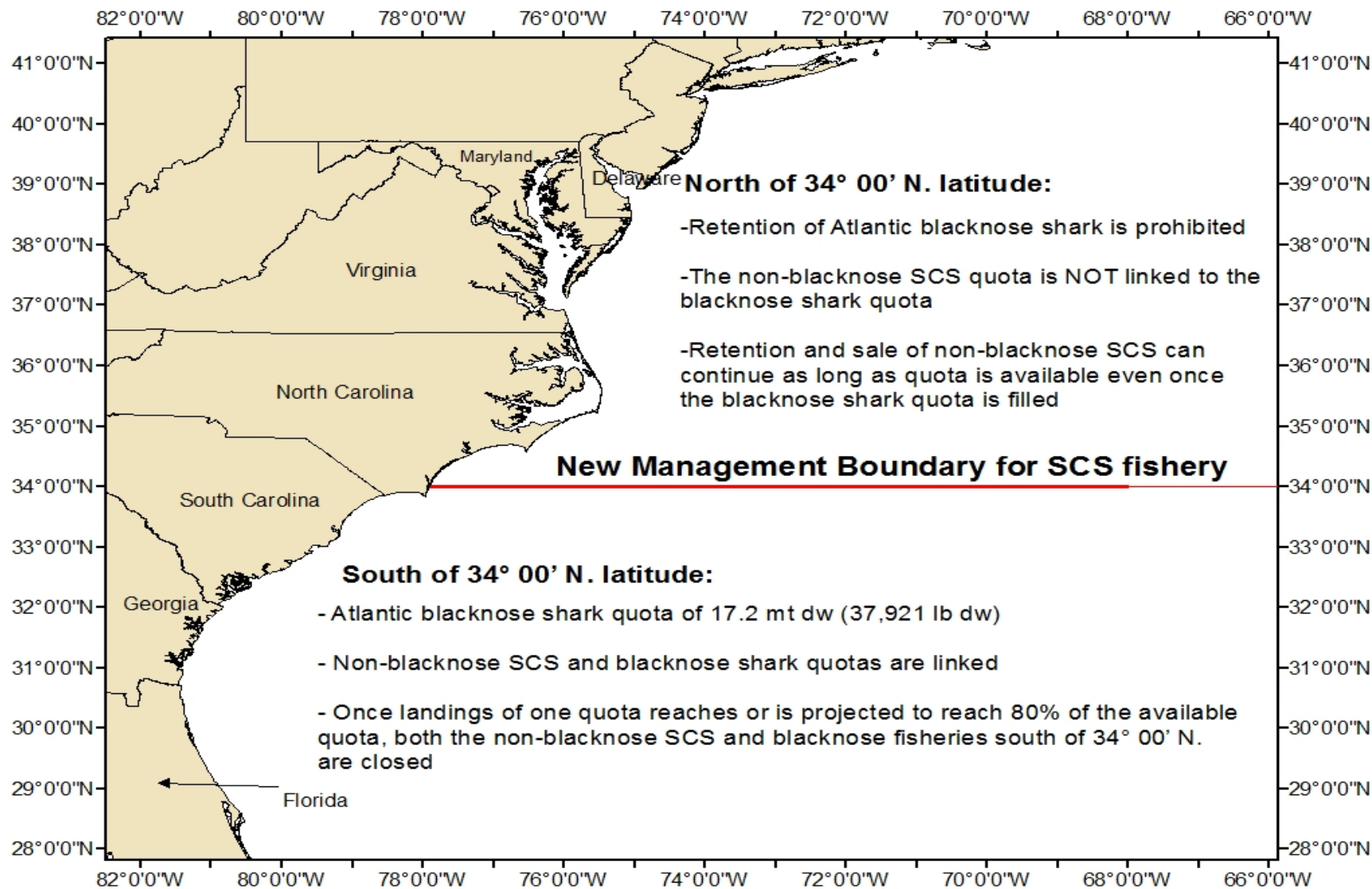
Overall:

- Retention limit default at 45 LCS/trip and can be increased to a max of 55 LCS/trip
- No upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permit holders

Atlantic Region:

- No sub-regional quotas
- Non-blacknose SCS commercial quota increased to 264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)
- Management boundary along 34° N. latitude for the SCS fishery; Blacknose sharks prohibited north of the 34° N. latitude
- Non-blacknose SCS fishery (north of 34° Lat.) reopened Aug. 18

Final Atlantic SCS Actions





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Proposed Rule 2016 Shark Specifications

Proposed rule published August 18, 2015 (80 FR 49974)

Comment period ended September 17, 2015

Final rule expected shortly

Shark 2016 Proposed Specifications

Commercial Fishery

- Open all shark management groups on or about January 1, 2015
- Start the 2016 shark fishing season with a retention limit of 45 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip for directed permit holders.
- Adjust the retention limit inseason as needed.
- Decrease the Atlantic blacknose quota over a 5 year timeframe based on an overharvest in 2012 and further decrease the quota over a 3 year timeframe based on an additional overharvest in 2015.

2016 Proposed Shark Quotas cont'd

Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2015 Annual Quota (A)	Preliminary 2015 Landings (B)	Adjustments (C)	2016 Base Annual Quota (D)	2016 Proposed Annual Quota (D+C)	Season Opening Dates
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	12.3 mt dw (27,100 lb dw)	-	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	January 1, 2016
	Hammerhead Sharks	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	0.7 mt dw (1,476 lb dw)	-	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	
	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	176.1 mt dw (388,222 lb dw)	98.6 mt dw (217,360 lb dw)	-	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	
	Blacknose Sharks (South of 34° N. lat. only)	17.5 mt dw (38,638 lb dw)	20.4 mt dw (44,966 lb dw)	-1.5 mt dw (-3,221 lb dw)	17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw)	15.7 mt dw (34,700 lb dw)	
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	14.8 mt dw (32,593 lb dw)	-	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	January 1, 2016
	Sandbar Shark Research	116.6 mt dw (257,056 lb dw)	60.6 mt dw (133,496 lb dw)	-	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)	
	Blue Sharks	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	0.5 mt dw (1,114 lb dw)	-	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	
	Porbeagle Sharks	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	-	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)	
	Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	50.7 mt dw (111,701 lb dw)	-	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	

Potential Shark Inseason Action

Adjust the LCS commercial retention limit – an example:

- The Atlantic aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups open in January.
- NMFS could allow approximately 30% of the quota to be landed.
- Once the quota reaches about 30%, NMFS could reduce the retention limit to incidental levels (e.g., 3 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip) or another level calculated to reduce the harvest of LCS (e.g., 0 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip).
- At some point later in the year (e.g., July 1 or July 15), NMFS could increase the retention limit to the default level (45 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip) or another amount up to a maximum of 55 LCS/trip.
- If the quota is being harvested too quickly or too slowly, NMFS could adjust the retention limit appropriately to ensure the fishery remains open most of the rest of the year.



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Amendment 9

Proposed rule published Aug. 7, 2014 (79 FR 46217)

Comment period ended Nov. 14, 2014

Stock assessment determination published June 29, 2015 (80 FR 36974)

Final rule expected shortly

Retrospective

- June 2010: Amendment 3 brought smoothhound sharks under federal management, but delayed the effective date of smoothhound shark measures
- January 2011: Shark Conservation Act of 2010 signed
- August 2011: HMS Trawl Rule allowed limited retention of smoothhound sharks caught in trawl gear; effective date delayed
- November 2011: Smoothhound measures delayed to allow time to consider SCA and finalize ESA consultation (BiOp)
- December 2012: 2012 Shark BiOp finalized
- August 2014: Draft Amendment 9 published, comment period ended November 14, 2014
- March 2015: SEDAR 39 smoothhound shark stock assessments complete
- June 2015: Determination that smoothhound sharks are not overfished or experiencing overfishing all

Amendment 9 Proposed Measures

- Establish effective date for previously-adopted smoothhound shark measures in Amendment 3 (2010) & HMS Trawl Rule (2011)
- Implement smooth dogfish-specific provision of the Shark Conservation Act (SCA) of 2010
 - Catch composition
 - State permits
 - Geographic applicability
- Implement smoothhound shark quotas based on updated data
- Implement 2012 Shark Biological Opinion (BiOp) sink and drift gillnet requirements
- Adjust shark gillnet Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirement consistent with Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)

Comments Received

- Received ~ 500 comments
- Mixed support and opposition for most of the proposed measures
- Most comments focused on quota, percent catch composition requirement, and “no other sharks on board” provision

SEDAR 39 – Atlantic Smooth Dogfish

- Completed March 2015
- Status: not overfished and are not experiencing overfishing
- Recent harvest levels likely sustainable:
 - Atlantic: TAC of 550,000 sharks has at least a 70 % probability of maintaining SSF above SSF_{MSY} during the years 2013-2022
 - 2012 commercial catch was 414,963 fish

Implementation Timing Targets

- Publish Final Rule in late fall or early winter
- Effective date early 2016 for all smoothhound shark (including smooth dogfish) measures, including:
 - Permit requirements – fishermen and dealers
 - Commercial quota
 - Observer requirements
 - Smooth dogfish provisions of the Shark Conservation Act

Upcoming Shark Identification Workshops

- All workshops are held from noon to 4 p.m.
- More info:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/workshops/shark_dealer_workshop/index.html
- November 12, 2015
Hampton Inn & Suites
1104 Isle of Palms Connector
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
- December 3, 2015
Hampton Inn & Suites
100 East Bay Drive
Largo, FL 33770
- December 10, 2015
LaQuinta Inn & Suites
10 Aero Road
Bohemia, NY 11706



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Questions?

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Additional Information



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Amendment 5b

SEDAR 21 Stock Assessment – Dusky Sharks

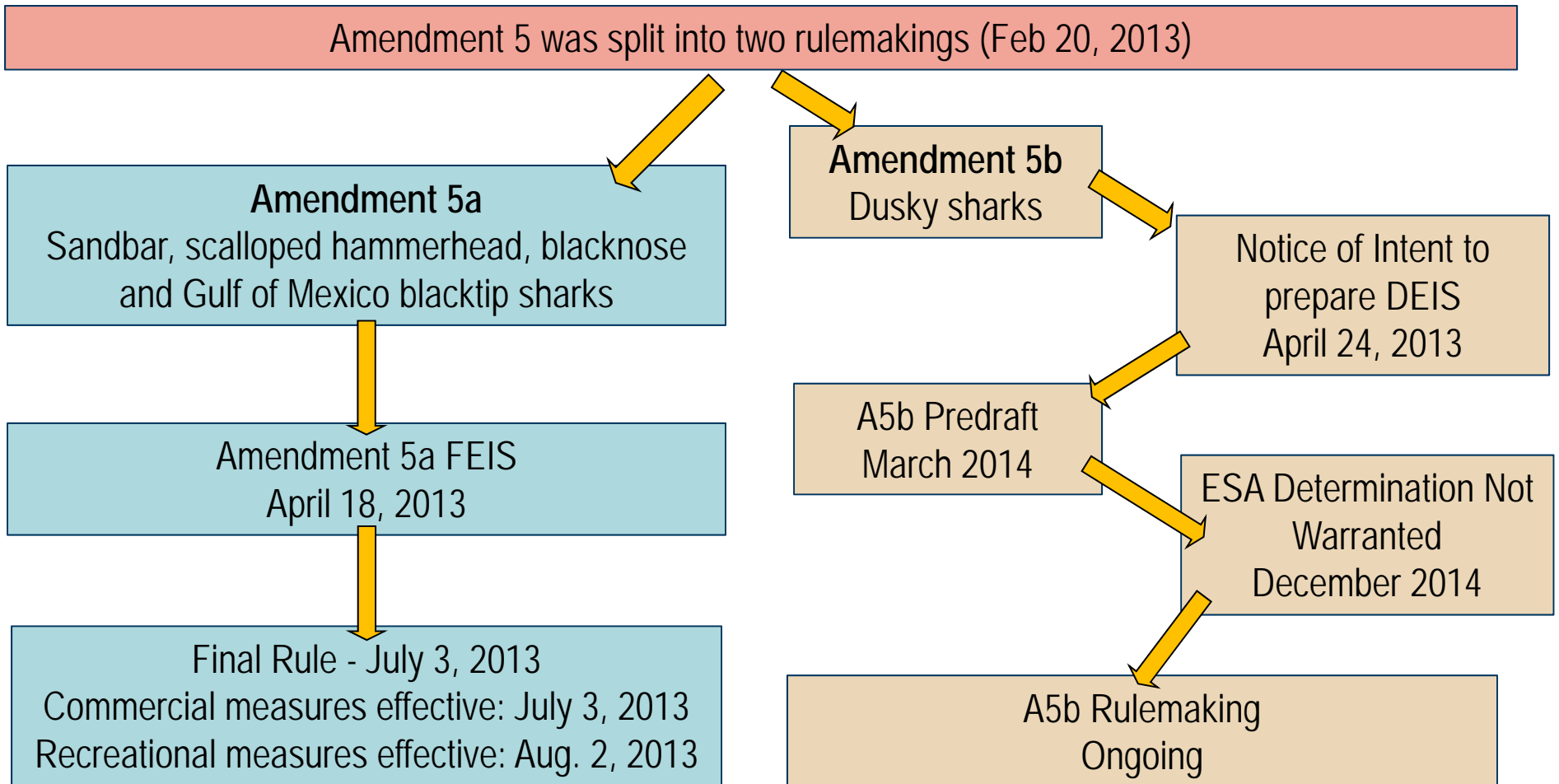
Results from SEDAR stock assessment for dusky sharks (2011)



- Dusky sharks are overfished with overfishing occurring
 - Same status as 2006 stock assessment
- New rebuilding timeline = 100 years
 - Rebuilding plan implemented in 2008 (Amendment 2); had rebuilding time of 400 years
- Need to reduce fishing mortality by 58%
- Stock assessment used data through 2009

Amendment 5 Comments

- After reviewing the public comments received, we decided not to proceed with the dusky shark management measures as proposed

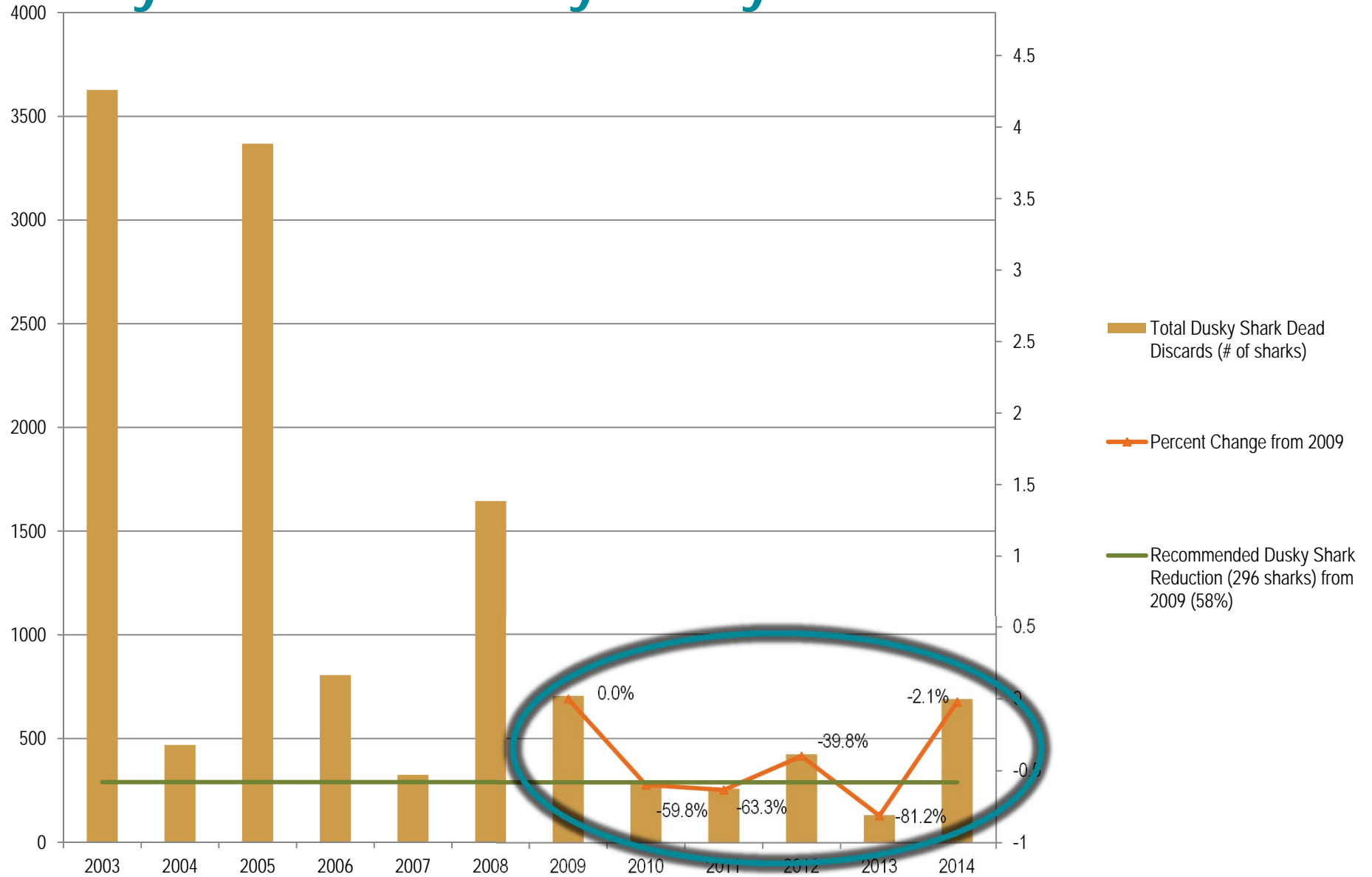


Dusky Shark Mortality Analysis – Data

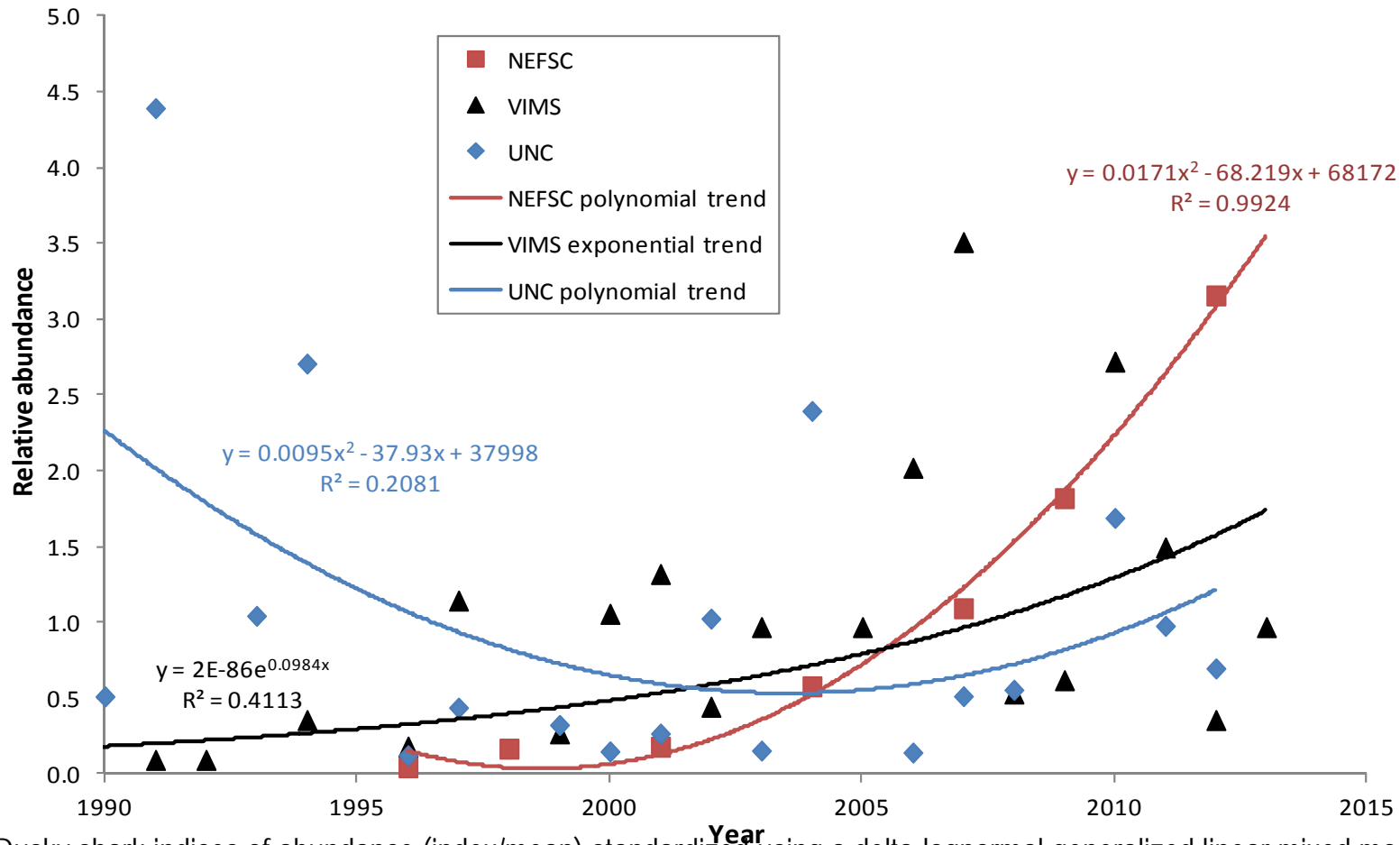
- Total Dusky Shark Mortality

Year	Dead Discards Within Research Fishery (# of sharks)	Estimated Dead Discards on Directed LCS Trips (# of sharks)	Dead Discards on PLL Gear (# of sharks)	Total observed Gillnet Discards (# of sharks)	Discards from Snapper/ Grouper & Tilefish BLL Fisheries (# of sharks)	Estimated Recreational Landings (# of dusky sharks)	Total Dusky Dead Discards (# of sharks)
2003	0	726	124	0	0	2777	3627
2004	0	291	142	0	0	36	469
2005	0	285	43	0	0	3040	3368
2006	0	515	76	21	0	194	806
2007	0	124	89	0	0	112	325
2008	21	26	36	3	0	1559	1645
2009	54	36	68	1	0	546	705
2010	124	32	35	1	0	91	283
2011	60	39	12	0	0	148	259
2012	211	41	114	1	0	57	424
2013	8	50	38	0	0	36	132
2014	34	46	11	0	0	599	690

Dusky Shark Mortality Analysis – Data

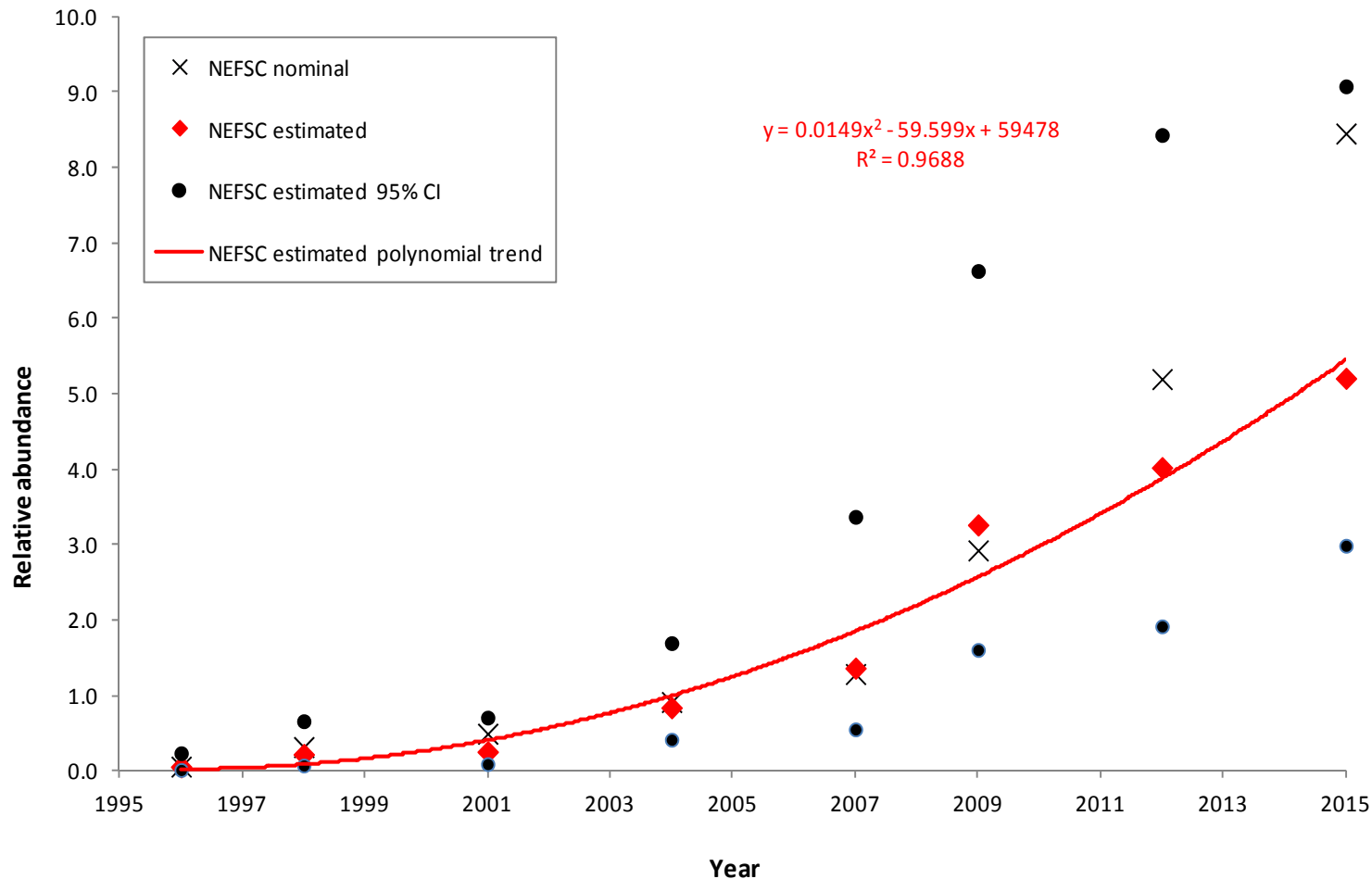


Dusky Shark ESA Status Review – Survey Data



Dusky shark indices of abundance (index/mean) standardized using a delta-lognormal generalized linear mixed model plotted by year for three fishery-independent time series: NEFSC = Northeast Fisheries Science Center Coastal Shark Bottom Longline Survey, VIMS = Virginia Institute of Marine Science Shark Longline Survey, and UNC = University of North Carolina Shark Longline Survey. Trend lines are best fit regression models of the standardized data (exponential for VIMS and second order polynomial for NEFSC and UNC).

2015 Apex Shark Survey Results - Dusky



Dusky shark nominal and estimated (modeled using a delta-lognormal generalized linear model) indices of abundance from the NEFSC Coastal Shark Bottom Longline Survey from 1996 to 2015 divided by the mean index values for each time series with 95% confidence interval (CI) for the estimated time series

Petition for Rulemaking



Earthjustice, on behalf of Oceana

Submitted on July 22, 2015

Take Immediate Action

- Rebuild the stock and end overfishing
- Establish annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs)

Draft Amendment 5b will address these issues and is underway. A5b deemed significant by OMB



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Upcoming Shark Stock Assessments

Upcoming Assessments

Year	Species	ICCAT	SEDAR
2015	Blue sharks	X	
	Smoothhound sharks -two stocks		X Benchmark Started – 2014 Finalized – 2015
2016	Dusky sharks		X Update
2017	Shortfin mako *	X	
	Blacktip sharks – Gulf of Mexico region		X Update
2018	Atlantic blacktip, Possibility of Sandbar		X Benchmark Finalized – 2019
2019	Porbeagle *	X	

* Tentative, in SCRS Report, Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2015