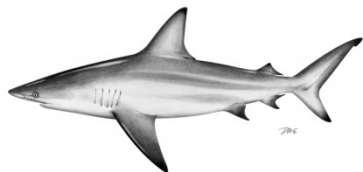


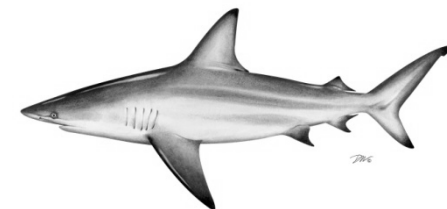
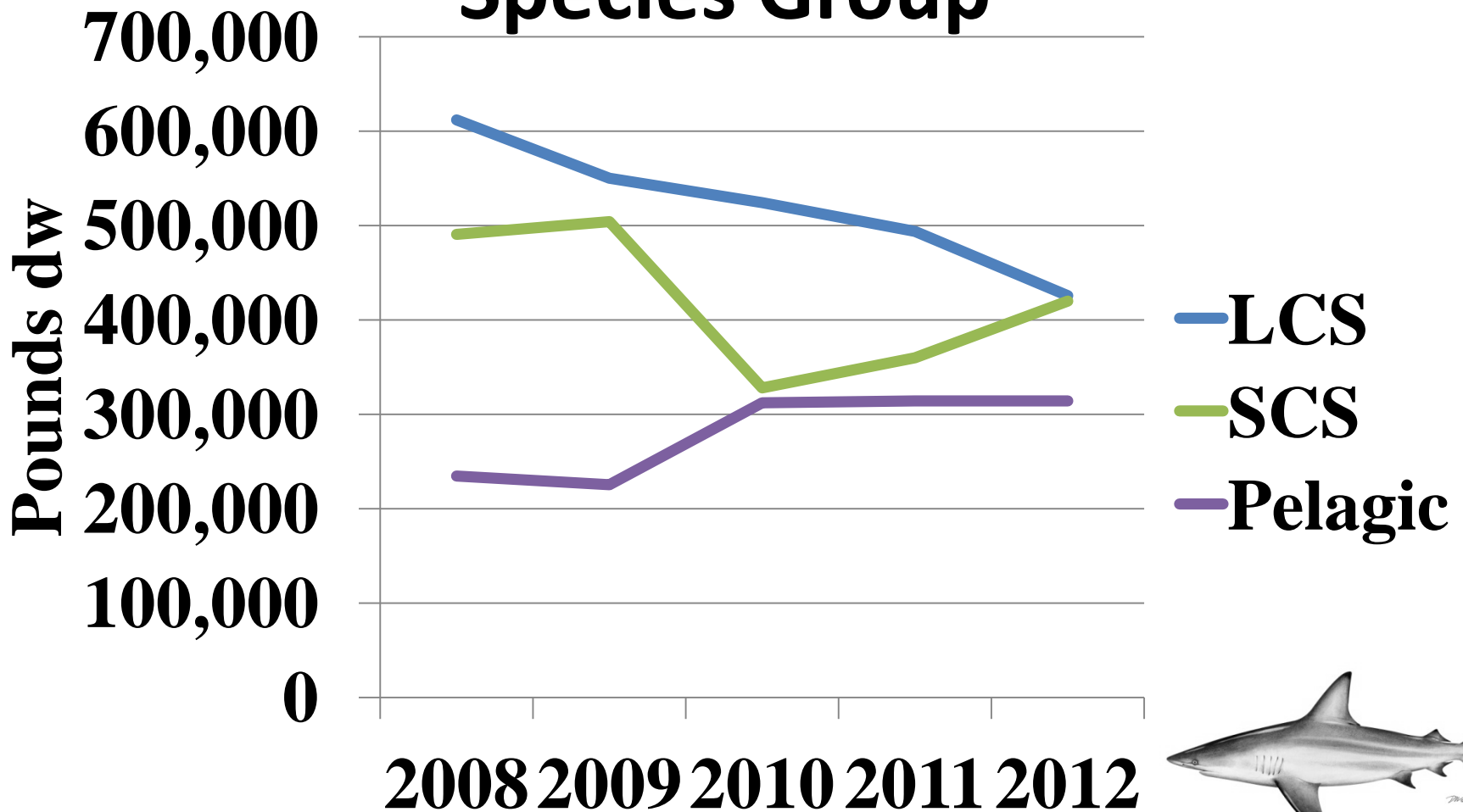


2013 Coastal Sharks FMP Review and State Compliance

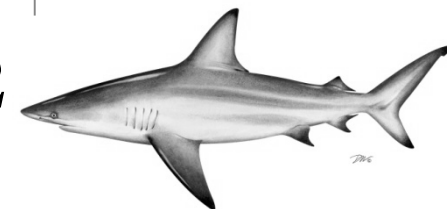
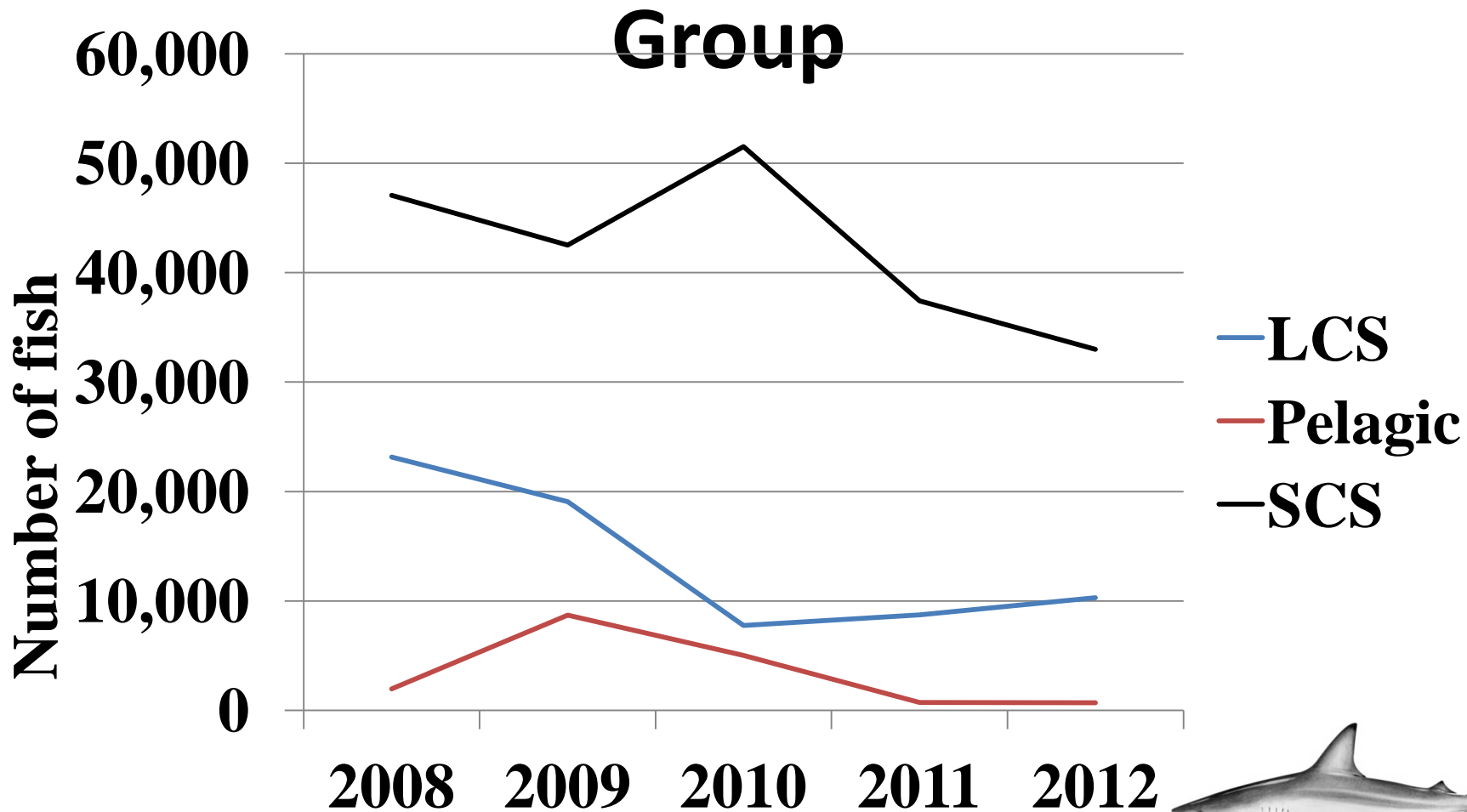
**Presented to Spiny Dogfish and
Coastal Sharks Board
February 6, 2014**



Commercial Landings by Species Group

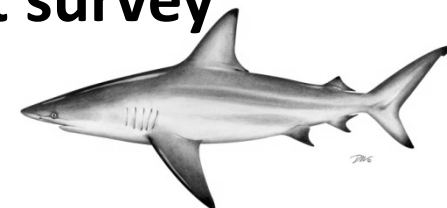


Recreational Harvest by Species



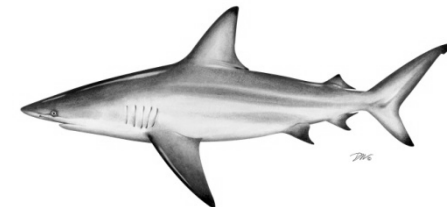
Monitoring

- **There are no specific surveys aimed at coastal sharks, however, 5 surveys encountered sharks in 2012**
- **Of these surveys, there were trends in two of them (DE and SC)**
 - **Sand tiger catch per mile remained high**
 - **Sandbar and smooth dogfish catches continued to increase**
 - **Highest recorded CPUE of LCS in SC gillnet survey since 1998**



State Compliance

- **PRT reviewed all state compliance reports**
- **All states that submitted reports had regulations consistent with the FMP**
 - **CT has not submitted reports**
 - **Last year, CT had not implemented the appropriate recreational measures (currently in the middle of it)**

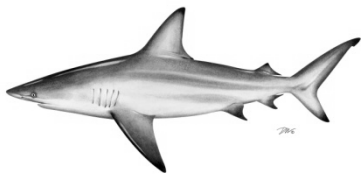




Implementation Plans for Addendum III to the Coastal Sharks

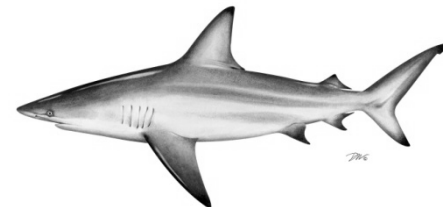
Presented to Spiny Dogfish and
Coastal Sharks Board

February 6, 2014



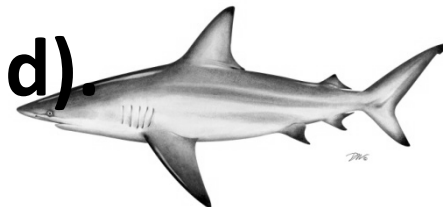
Overview

- **Addendum III was approved in October 2013, and will be implemented March 1, 2014**
- **States submitted implementation plans by January 6, 2014 to meet the requirements of Addendum III**
- **PRT reviewed implementation plans and has the following recommendations**



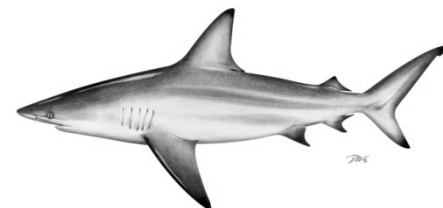
Elements of Compliance

- 1) Follow NOAA Fisheries openings and closures for the following groups: Aggregated Large Coastal, Hammerhead, Blacknose, Non-Blacknose Small Coastal, Pelagic.**
- 2) Enforce a minimum recreational size limit of 78 inches for all hammerhead shark species (smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead and great hammerhead).**



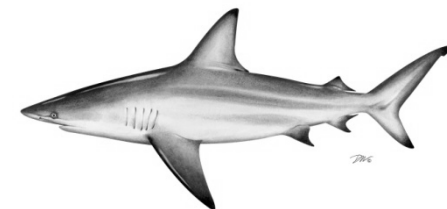
Quotas and Possession Limits

- **All states have the ability to follow NOAA Fisheries' openings and closures by March 1, 2014**



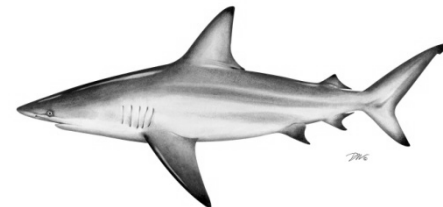
Recreational Size Limit

- **Most state plans allow for enforcement of minimum size limit by March 1, 2014**
 - **RI will not have language in place until May 1**
 - **This did not concern the PRT because RI does not encounter coastal sharks prior to that date**



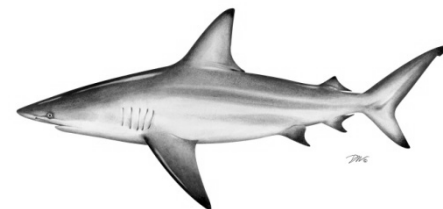
Maine and New Hampshire's *de minimis* requests

- ME and NH requested *de minimis* for Addendum III
- Sharks addressed in Addendum III do not occur in these state's waters
- PRT and TC recommend granting *de minimis*



General Recommendations

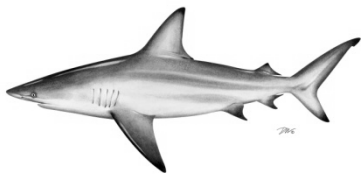
- **Approve implementation plans for all states and confirm compliance during the next FMP Review**
- **Approve Maine's and New Hampshire's *de minimis* requests**





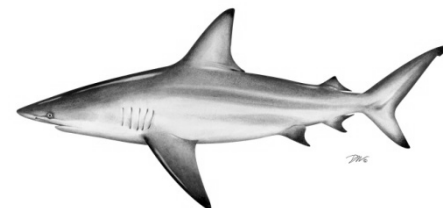
Sharks Season and Possession Limits

Presented to Spiny Dogfish and
Coastal Sharks Board
February 6, 2014



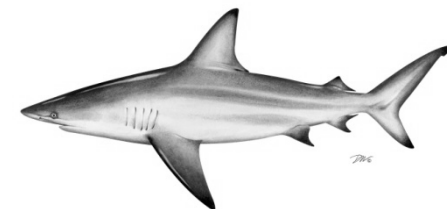
Background

- **Board directed PDT to develop a white paper on season and possession limit options in response to repeated conversations at Board meetings**
 - PDT held a conference call and made following recommendations
- **Board follows NOAA Fisheries but this is subject to change under adaptive management**



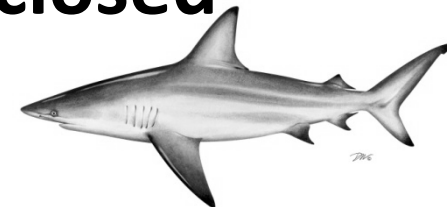
Seasons - Problem

- **Board has discussed and had issue with NOAA Fisheries' season at multiple Board meetings**
- **Setting a specific date could help to streamline this process and eliminate repeat conversations**



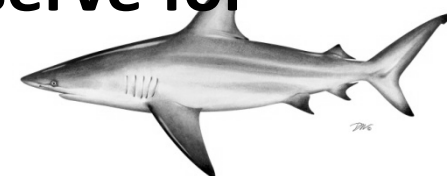
Possible Issues with Various Opening Dates

- FL fishermen have expressed concern with January 1 – targeting other species at that time
- Time/area closures for bottom longline fishermen in federal waters off NC (1/1 – 7/31)
- VA, MD, DE and NJ state waters are closed 5/15-7/15



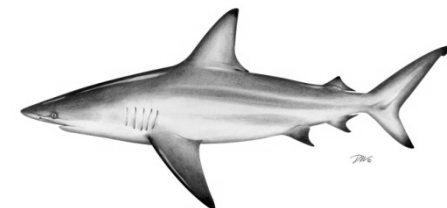
PDT Discussions

- **Different seasons for state and federal waters would be difficult to manage, monitor and enforce**
 - **Some states allow federal permit holders to land sharks during state closed seasons (enforcement issues)**
- **PDT recommends writing a letter outlining a set date**
 - **Letter could be written every year, or serve for multiple years**



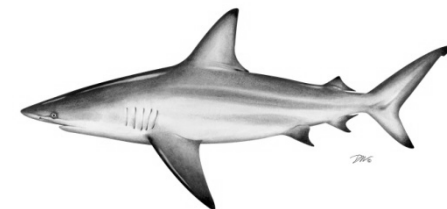
Optimal Date?

- **PDT investigated landings for each species group since 2008 (due to recent changes in management) to determine what “always open after” date would be effective**
 - **LCS is the only species group that has posed problems**
 - **Other species groups could continue to follow NOAA Fisheries**

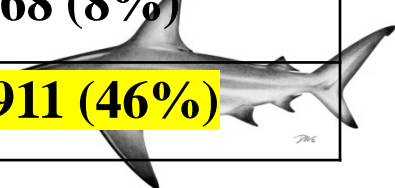


Large Coastal Sharks

- **Average season length for 2008-2012 is 151 days, with three years (2008, 2011 and 2012) reaching 80% of the quota.**
 - **NOAA fisheries closes a fishery when 80% of the quota is projected to be reached.**
- **In order to prevent an early closure, this would require an opening date of August 2 at the latest.**

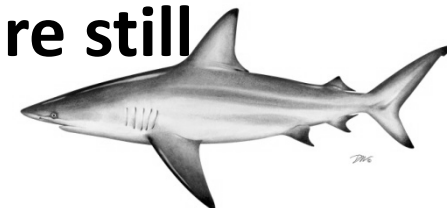


State	Pounds lost per year based on data from 2008-2012 (% of state landings)		
	Season opens on June 1	Season opens on July 1	Season opens on Aug 1 (after NC closed area re-opens)
NY	24.90 (< 1%)	138.3 (5%)	175.2 (7%)
NJ	20.6 (1%)	118.6 (7%)	921.2 (52%)
MD	0	36.42 (7%)	227.7 (42%)
VA	2,542 (5%)	8,447 (16%)	16,460 (32%)
NC	5,148 (5%)	18,154 (19%)	33,481 (34%)
SC	755 (2%)	1,313 (3%)	10,674 (25%)
GA	0	9.2 (<1%)	1,468 (8%)
FL	94,352 (27%)	113,974 (32%)	161,911 (46%)



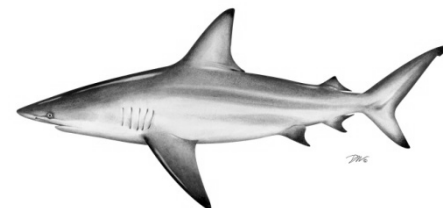
PDT Recommendations - Seasons

- **June or July 1 “always open after” date would impact FL**
 - PDT agreed on a recommendation of March 1 to minimize impact on FL
- **Discussion with FL TC representatives confirmed that this “always open after” date would not significantly affect FL’s fishery**
 - Sharks still are found in FL waters, so are still available to FL fishermen



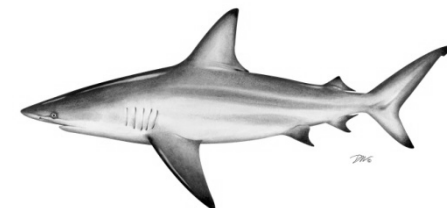
PDT Recommendations - Seasons

- **The PDT recommends that the Board send a letter to NOAA Fisheries each year, or write one letter for multiple years, requesting a March 1 as the “always open after” date**



Adjustable Possession Limits

- **NOAA Fisheries has the ability to change possession limit in-season**
 - This flexibility has not been used
- **Board discussed this in 2011 and determined that most states have the flexibility to address this without an addendum**
 - It is unclear how quickly states could respond



Discussion?

