



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

JAN 22 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Alex Chester
 Acting Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

FROM: Alan Risenhoover
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SUBJECT: Management Needs for Upcoming Small Coastal Shark (SCS)
 Stock Assessment

Thank you for conducting a small coastal shark (SCS) stock assessment in 2007 following the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process. The Office of Sustainable Fisheries (SF) appreciates the work of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) staff with regard to sharks. As was done for the 2005/2006 large coastal shark (LCS) stock assessment, SF is providing this memo to outline SF's needs in order to use fully the results of the stock assessment to manage the SCS fishery.

1. As it did with the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment, SF requests that the final SCS stock assessment report explicitly include the stock status determination relative to the threshold criteria provided on pages 3-3 through 3-15 of the 1999 Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (e.g., the stock is or is not overfished). SF can provide copies of those criteria if needed.
2. SF would also like the stock assessment to include, based on the chosen stock assessment model, final estimates of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), F_{MSY} , B_{MSY} , $F_{current}$, $B_{current}$, and other threshold points, as appropriate.
3. SF requests that if any stocks are found to be overfished that the stock assessment includes projections to determine the length of time to rebuilding. Such projections should consider catch strategies such as harvest (including commercial landings, dead discards, and recreational harvest) remaining the same, increasing, or decreasing. Under the FMP, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required to take action to ensure a greater than 70 percent probability of rebuilding within the rebuilding timeframe.
4. The 2002 SCS stock assessment included assessments of Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead, and those four species together as the SCS complex. SF would like those assessments to continue. As time allows, SF would also like the workshop participants to consider providing, as possible, any additional information on the three species that used to be in the SCS complex and are now prohibited. Those species are the Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, and Atlantic angel sharks. This information will help SF determine if those three species should remain on the prohibited species list or if other management measures are practicable.
5. SF requests that the stock assessment consider and examine all sources of fishing mortality, particularly those outlined for finetooth sharks on pages 2-26 to 2-30 and 4-131 to 4-158 of the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. Copies can be provided if needed.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz of my staff at (301) 713-2347 x111.

CC: Pete, Sheridan, Gerry Scott, Enric Cortes, Julie Neer, Margo Schulze-Haugen

