



SEDAR 77
HMS Atlantic Hammerhead
Stock ID Process
Terms of Reference

December 2020

Process Goal: Review hammerhead shark species stock structure and unit stock definitions, and consider appropriate stock definitions.

1. Review relevant information on stock structure for all *Sphyrna* species located in U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean, with the exception of *S. tiburo*, *S. tudes*, and *S. media*. Potential sources include genetic studies, growth patterns, movement and migration, existing stock definitions, vertebral chemistry, oceanographic and habitat characteristics, and hotspot maps of landings or catch per unit effort (CPUE).
2. Make recommendations on biological stock structure and the assessment unit stock or stocks to be addressed through SEDAR 77, and document the rationale behind the recommendations. The boundaries for the species assessments will be determined after examination of the current stock boundaries used in management and conservation under the ESA and additional analysis of biological and genetic stock structure.
3. Discuss the strength of evidence in support of stock ID recommendations with particular attention paid to recommendations if they result in a mismatch of biological stock structure, assessment unit stock, and existing management or conservation boundaries.
4. Provide recommendations for future research on stock structure.
5. Prepare a report providing complete documentation of workshop recommendations and decisions.