

**Migratory Species Committee  
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab M**

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**Agenda Item IV:** Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Proposed Rule on shark management measures

**Timeline Status:** Presentation and feedback requested

**Council input and next steps:** HMS staff will provide a presentation (**Tab M, No. 5a**) on a proposed rule published earlier this year. The office of HMS has extended the proposed rule comment deadline to accommodate a presentation to the Gulf Council at this meeting. In the proposed rule HMS is considering modifying commercial and recreational measures for several shark species. Commercial changes would affect the management boundary and retention limit for black nose sharks in the Atlantic region and remove commercial management group quota linkages. Modifications to the recreational minimize size and retention limits for several species, including bonnethead and Atlantic sharpnose sharks, are also included in the proposed rule. Draft comment letters from both the Gulf (**Tab M, No. 5b**) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (**Tab M, No. 5c**) are available for review. Committee members should review the proposed rule and HMS presentation, consider the Councils' draft comment letters, ask any questions of staff, and provide direction on any edits to be incorporated in the finalized comment letter. The comment period has been extended until May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

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**Agenda Item V:** Update on Modifying HMS Charter/For-hire Electronic Reporting

**Timeline Status:** Information only

**Council input and next steps:** On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, HMS issued a proposed rule considering electronic reporting requirements for all sectors (commercial, charter/for-hire, and private) for several HMS managed species. HMS staff provided a presentation reviewing the proposed rule at its November 2024 meeting (**Tab M, No. 5a**) and the Council submitted a formal comment letter on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 (**Tab M, No. 5b**). The Committee will receive an update report from HMS staff on the status of this proposed rule. This update is for information only and no action is required by the Committee.

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