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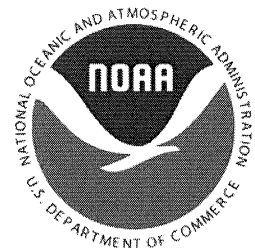
**AMENDMENT 3 TO THE CONSOLIDATED
ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Including:

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
A Draft Regulatory Impact Review,
An Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis,
A Draft Social Impact Analysis

July 2009

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910



Amendment 3 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

Actions: Implement management measures consistent with recent stock assessments for small coastal sharks (SCS) and shortfin mako sharks; establish a rebuilding plan for blacknose sharks; implement commercial quota limits consistent with stock assessment recommendations to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks; modify commercial gear restrictions to reduce fishing mortality of overfished/overfishing stocks; modify recreational measures or prohibit the retention of overfished stocks; and, modify the Atlantic HMS management unit to include smooth dogfish.

Type of Statement: Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Initial Regulatory Impact Review; Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis; Initial Social Impact Statement

Lead Agency: National Marine Fisheries Service

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Abstract: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is amending the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan based on several stock assessments that were completed in 2007 and 2008. Assessments for finetooth, Atlantic sharpnose, and bonnethead sharks indicated that these species are not overfished with no overfishing occurring. The assessment for blacknose sharks indicated that this species is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The assessment for shortfin mako sharks indicated that this species is not overfished, but is approaching an overfished status and is experiencing overfishing. Section 301(a) (National Standard 1) and Section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Agency to implement management measures that prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, as necessary. Section 304(i) applies in place of Section 304(e) to fisheries in or approaching an overfished condition due to excessive international fishing pressure. Based on the new stock assessments, and after considering comments received during scoping and on a Predraft document, NMFS is proposing measures that will reduce fishing mortality and effort in order to rebuild overfished Atlantic shark species while ensuring that a limited shark fishery can be maintained. Additionally, NMFS is proposing adding smooth dogfish under NMFS management due to growing concerns regarding the status of this unmanaged species.