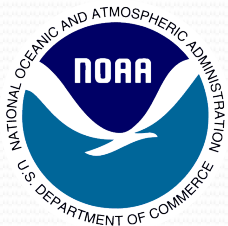




# U.S. Approach to Making NDFs for Appendix-II Listed Sharks in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

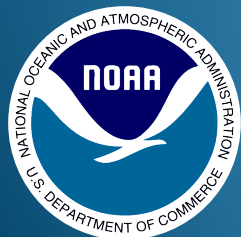
**CITES Technical workshop on Non-detriment findings  
for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas  
beyond national jurisdiction...**

25-26 April 2024

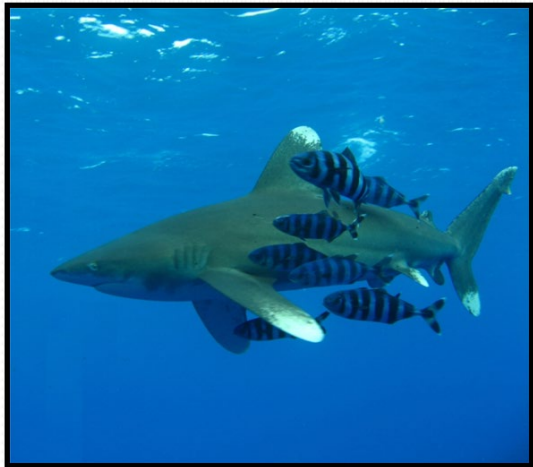


# Outline of Presentation

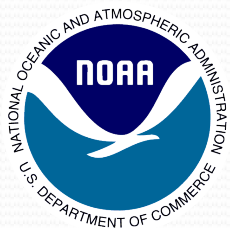
- **U.S. Approach to Making NDFs for Appendix II-Listed Marine Species, including in ABNJ**
- **U.S. Examples**
  - **U.S. General Advice for Porbeagle shark (NW Atlantic stock)**
  - **U.S. General Advice for Requiem Sharks Harvested in the Atlantic**
  - **U.S. General Advice for Biological Research Samples of Sharks**
- **Conclusion**



# U.S. Approach to Making NDFs for Appendix II-Listed Sharks, including in ABNJ

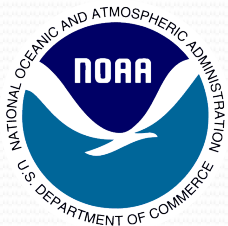


- U.S. CITES Authorities at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) collaborate with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) on CITES implementation for marine species
- U.S. Scientific Authority consults NOAA Fisheries when making NDFs for CITES-listed sharks



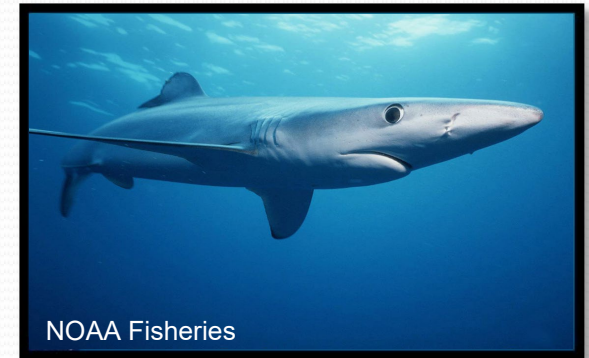
# U.S. Approach to Making NDFs for Appendix II-Listed Sharks, including in ABNJ

- **NDFs for CITES-listed sharks are based upon U.S. fisheries management by NOAA Fisheries**
- **As applicable, U.S. fishers and dealers must:**
  - Obtain permits, report catch, attend shark identification and/or handling and release workshops
  - Land sharks with fins naturally-attached for accurate species identification and catch reports, enforcement
  - Adhere to science-based quotas, retention prohibitions (e.g., RFMO measures), time-area closures



# U.S. Approach to Making NDFs for Appendix II-Listed Sharks, including in ABNJ

- **U.S. Scientific Authority may make positive NDFs with conditions**
  - NDF is subject to certain precautionary conditions (ex. quota) to help ensure harvest is sustainable
  - Allows international trade to occur even if data are limited



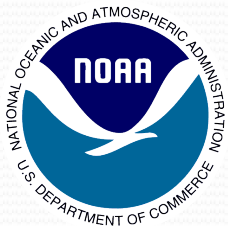
# U.S. Examples of NDFs





# U.S. Examples – NDF for Porbeagle Shark

- In USA, porbeagle primarily caught as bycatch
- Landings, stocks assessments are scientific basis for U.S. management under a rebuilding plan:
  - Total allowable catch (TAC) of 11.3 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw)
  - Commercial quota of 1.7 mt dw
  - Recreational gear restrictions, trip limit, minimum size
  - Regulations apply to U.S. fishers in ABNJ
- **ICCAT Rec. 15-06 requires release under conditions**



# U.S. Examples – NDF for Porbeagle Shark

- **Harvest limits are monitored through reporting by fishers and dealers:**
  - Commercial fishers must report directed and incidental catch to NOAA Fisheries within 7 days of landing at the dock
  - Dealers must report within 10 days of purchase
  - When ~80% of annual commercial quota is landed, fishery is closed to further harvest
  - Buffer of 20% to account for late reporting and to ensure quota is not exceeded





# U.S. Examples – NDF for Porbeagle Shark

Based on information and data available, the U.S. Scientific Authority issued positive finding that export and Introduction from the Sea (IFS) of porbeagle shark harvested by U.S. fishers were non-detrimental to its survival in the wild, provided that harvest is in compliance with NOAA Fisheries' management plan and relevant regulations

See: <https://cites.org/eng/virtual-college/ndf-wild-porbeagle-shark-commercial-harvest>



# U.S. Examples – U.S. General Advice for Requiem Sharks Harvested in the Atlantic

NOAA Fisheries' fishery management plan for sharks harvested in the Atlantic establish:

- Permitting, reporting, landing, training requirements
- Commercial quotas and recreational bag limits
  - Quotas based on stock assessments (SEDAR, ICCAT)
- Prohibition on retention of several species
- Authorization for specific gear types
- Requirements for research and aquaria



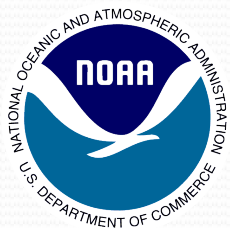
# U.S. Examples – U.S. General Advice for Requiem Sharks Harvested in the Atlantic

Based on information and data available, the U.S. Scientific Authority issued general advice that export and IFS of 10 species of requiem sharks harvested in the Atlantic Ocean are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, provided that harvest is in compliance with NOAA Fisheries' management and any applicable federal and state regulations



# U.S. Examples – U.S. General Advice for Biological Research Samples from Sharks

- NOAA conducts scientific research surveys and biological sampling of species in CITES Appendices, including Appendix II-listed sharks in ABNJ
- NOAA applies science-based conservation and management, standard protocols and best practices
- Researchers have technical expertise and are required to adhere to federal/state requirements (permits, training, oversight, data stewardship)



# U.S. Examples – U.S. General Advice for Biological Research Samples from Sharks

Based on its review over the last five years of previous applications, the U.S. Scientific Authority issued a general advice that the import, export, and IFS of biological samples collected CITES-listed species encountered in the wild for research purposes by NOAA will not be detrimental to the survival of these species



# Conclusion

- **U.S. Scientific Authority collaborates with NOAA Fisheries, facilitating the exchange of information and data to inform NDFs**
- **U.S. Scientific Authority uses fisheries management measures as basis for making NDFs**
- **Landings and stock assessments (including RFMO assessments) inform the establishment of sustainable harvest quotas for Appendix-II listed sharks in ABNJ**

