



# Coastal Sharks: Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment

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Presented to the Coastal Sharks Board  
May 5, 2016

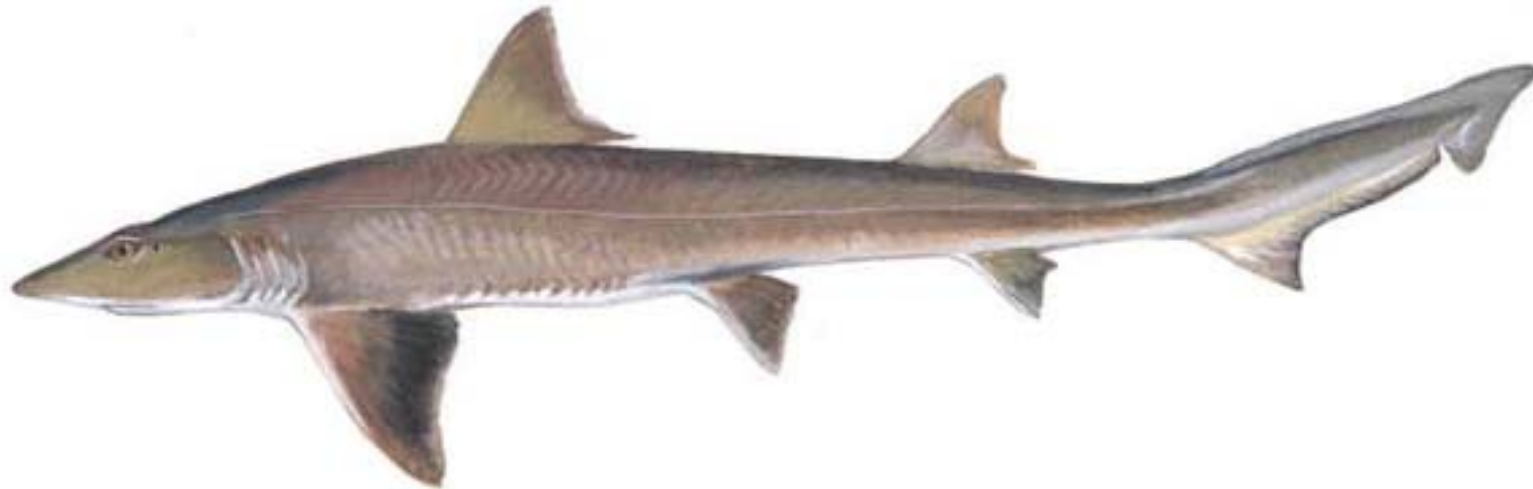
# Outline of Presentation



1. Smooth Dogfish Background
2. Catch Composition Analysis
3. Smooth Dogfish Management Options

Potential Action: Board approval of Draft Addendum IV for public comment

# 1. Smooth Dogfish



- Smooth dogfish is the only species within the smoothhound complex found in the Atlantic
- Shark Conservation Act includes a limited exception on the fins naturally attached policy; it allows an “individual engaged in commercial fishing for smooth dogfish” to remove fins at sea
- Prior to 2016, only managed in state waters

# 1. State Waters



Commercial fishermen can land smooth dogfish carcasses with corresponding fins removed from the carcass provided:

- Possess a valid state commercial fishing license
- Total weight of fins landed does not exceed 12% of the total dressed weight of smooth dogfish carcasses

Addendum II, 2013, is consistent with the SCA

# 1. NOAA Fisheries Amendment 9



- Smooth dogfish is now a federally managed species, effective March 15, 2016
- Inclusion of a smooth dogfish catch composition requirement for federally permitted vessels in order to remove smooth dogfish fins at sea
  - NOAA Fisheries interprets the Shark Conservation Act phrase “commercial fishing for smooth dogfish” to mean...
    - a trip where smooth dogfish comprise at least 25 percent, by weight, of the total retained catch on board at the time of landing

# 1. February Motion



*Move to initiate an addendum to the coastal sharks FMP to address a disconnect of the processing at sea. Commercial fisherman can fully dress (remove head and fin and gut at sea) smooth dogfish if at least 25% of retained catch is smooth dogfish.*

The motion **carried** (14/0/0)

Intent to draft an option that would maintain consistency between the federal and state FMPs on this issue

## 2. Statement of the Problem



- There are differing regulations in state versus federal waters with respect to smooth dogfish. Currently...
  - Vessels with a federal smoothhound commercial permit must comply with the 25% catch composition requirement
  - Fishermen with a state commercial fishing license are not held to any catch composition requirement

## 2. Why 25%?



Public comment during the Amendment 9 rulemaking process and landings data indicate the smooth dogfish fishery is a mixed fishery.

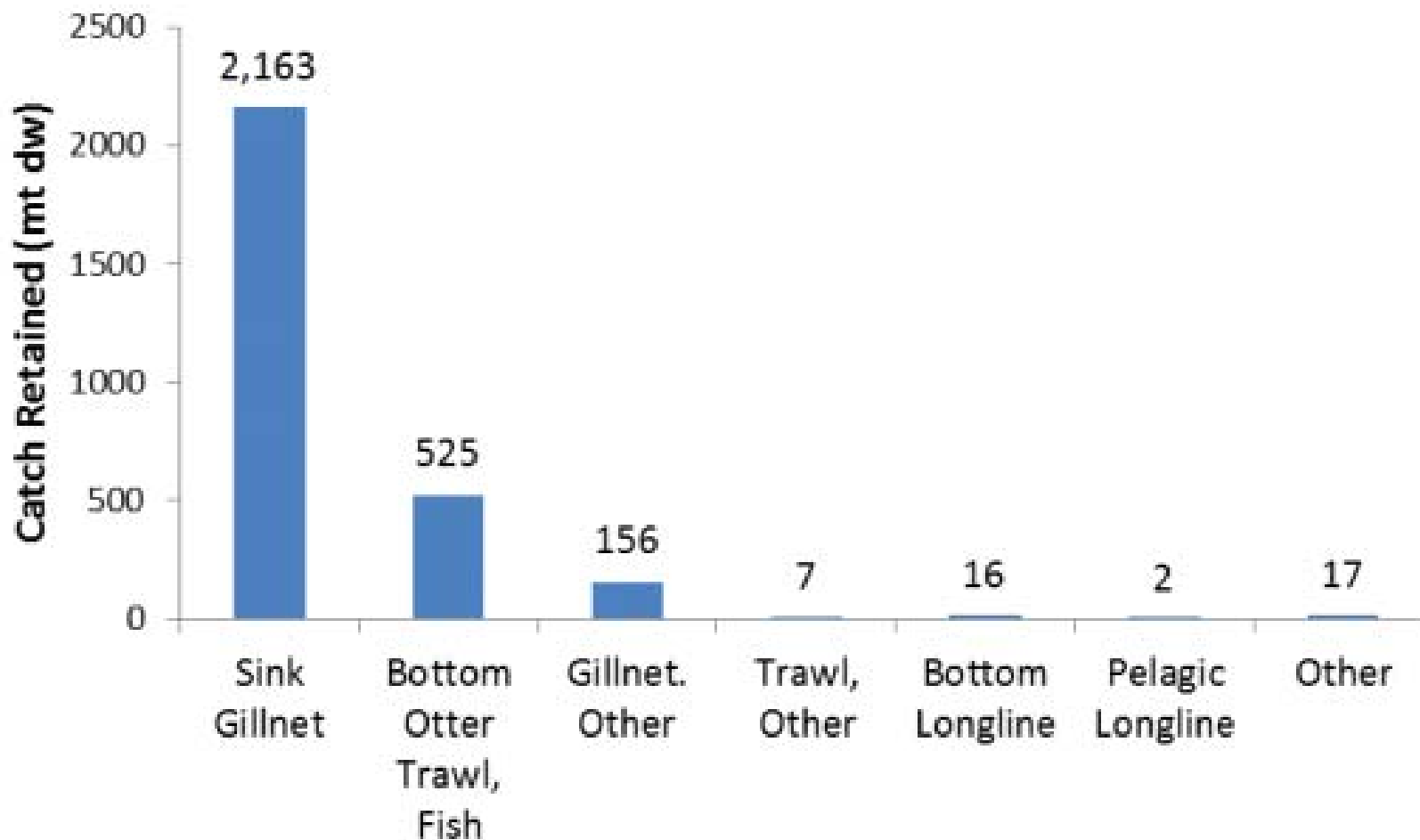


## 2. Data availability



- PDT used the available data from federal vessel trip reports to analyze catch composition on smooth dogfish trips
- Due to data limitations the PDT could not provide a state-by-state or a coastwide (state waters) catch composition analysis

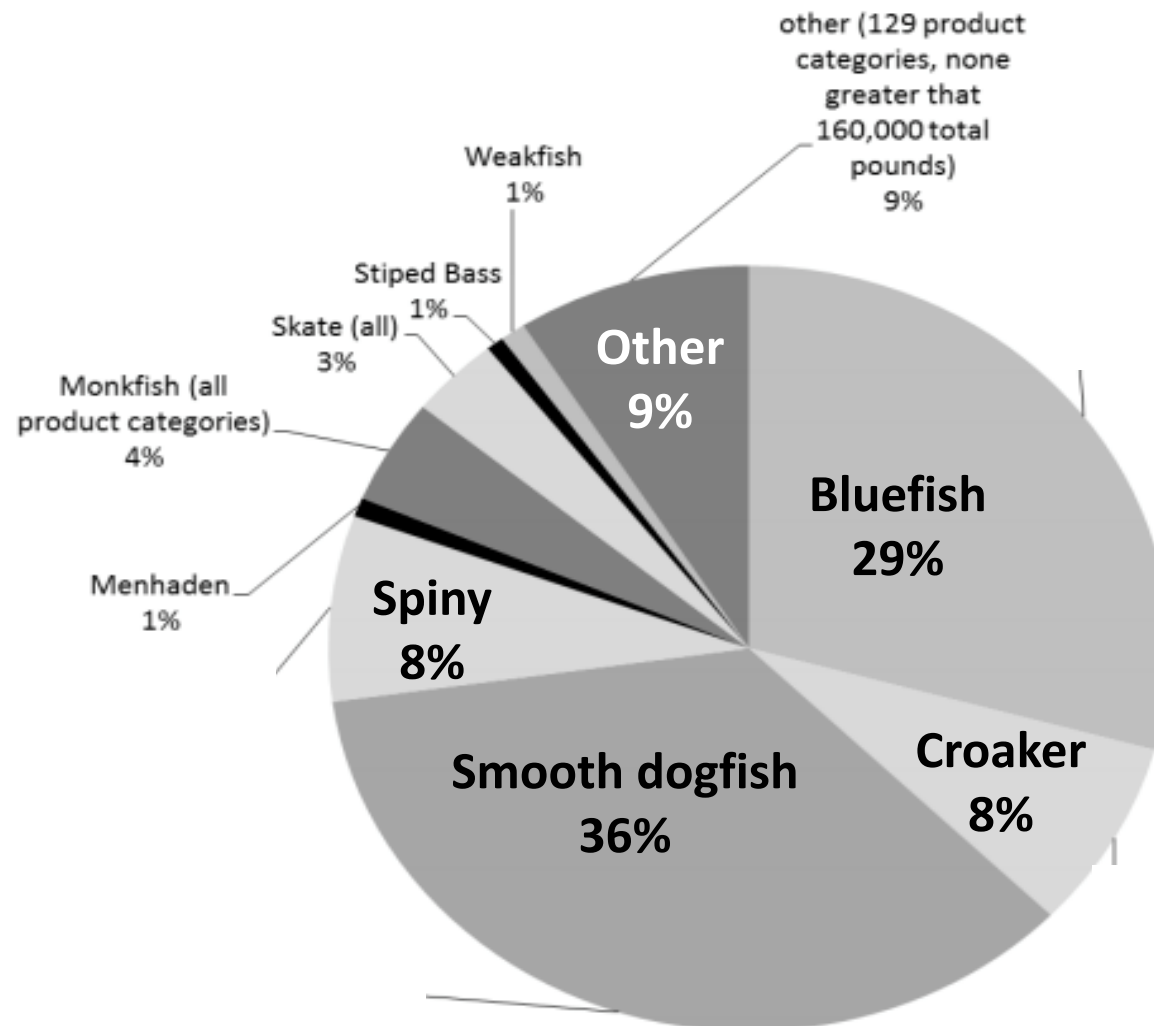
## 2. Landings by Gear Type



### Smooth Dogfish Landings by Gear Type (2003-2014)

Source: Vessel Trip Report (VTR) data, 2003-2014

## 2. Species caught in sink gillnet gear



**Species caught with smooth dogfish in sink gillnet gear, relative levels; Source: VTR data, 2003-2014**

## 2. Sink gillnet trips landing smooth dogfish



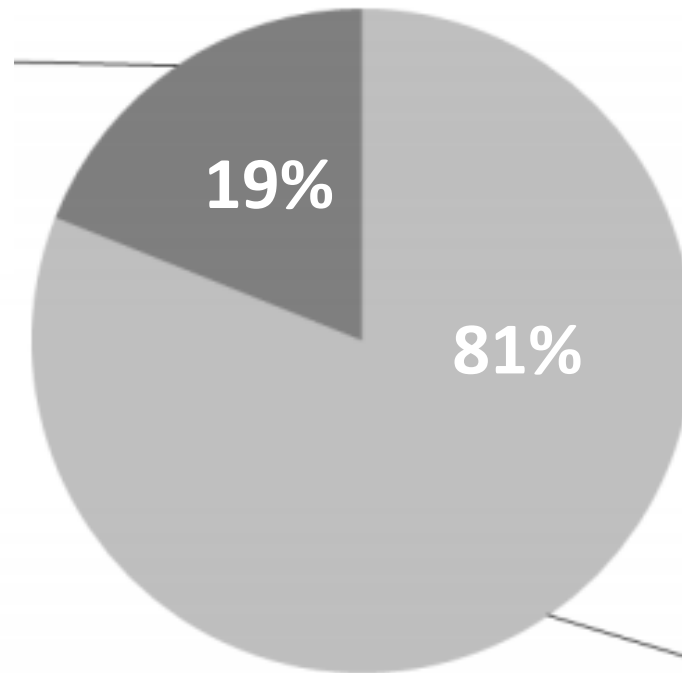
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
# of trips	590	633	548	677	626	550	878	1,184	1,207	1,237	1,282	1,295
% of trips that landed $\geq$ 25 % smooth dogfish	53%	58%	42%	30%	42%	47%	51%	60%	54%	51%	47%	45%

Number and percentage of trips landing smooth dogfish in sink gillnet gear, by year; Source: VTR data, 2003-2014

## 2. Sink gillnet landings with $<$ or $\geq$ 75% smooth dogfish



Sink gillnet trips  
with  $<$  75% smooth  
dogfish  
(1,308,135 lb dw)



Sink gillnet trips  
with  $\geq$  75% smooth  
dogfish  
(5,592,623 lb dw)

**Proportion of smooth dogfish landings from trips using sink gillnets where the percent of the catch retained was greater than or less than 75 percent smooth dogfish; Source: VTR Data, 2003-2014**

## 2. Fishery Considerations



- Based on the VTR analysis of sink gillnet trips, the majority of smooth dogfish landings were caught on trips that retained at least 75 percent smooth dogfish
- Almost half of the trips that landed smooth dogfish in sink gillnet gear would be considered a 'directed' smooth dogfish trip
- 25 percent catch composition is unlikely to change fishing effort to a great extent

# 3. Management Program Options



## **Option A: Status Quo**

Fishermen in state waters and in possession of a valid state commercial fishing license can eviscerate and remove the head and fins of smooth dogfish while at sea in accordance with *Section 3.5* of Addendum II to the Coastal Sharks Interstate FMP, which stipulates “commercial fishermen may remove all smoothhound shark fins year round.”

# 3. Management Program Options



## **Option B: Establish a Catch Composition Requirement for Commercial Processing of Smooth Dogfish at Sea**

***The following text will be added to Addendum II, Section 3.5 Smooth Dogfish Shark Commercial Processing at Sea***

Fishermen in state waters and in possession of a valid state commercial fishing license can eviscerate and remove the head and all shark fins of smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*) while at sea provided smooth dogfish make up at least 25 percent, by weight, of total catch on board at the time of landing. Fishermen may retain other sharks on board provided the fins of other shark species remain naturally attached to the carcass through offloading, as described in *Section 4.3.11* of the Coastal Sharks FMP.