

## I. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC SHARK REGULATIONS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES <sup>5,6</sup>				
Large Coastal Sharks (LCS) <sup>I</sup>		Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) <sup>I</sup>	Pelagic Sharks	Smoothhound Sharks <sup>V</sup>
Blacktip	Nurse	Atlantic sharpnose	Blue	Smooth dogfish
Bull	Sandbar <sup>III</sup>	Blacknose <sup>IV</sup>	Common thresher	Florida smoothhound
Hammerhead, great <sup>II</sup>	Silky <sup>II</sup>	Bonnethead	Oceanic whitetip <sup>II</sup>	Gulf smoothhound
Hammerhead, scalloped <sup>II</sup>	Spinner	Finetooth	Porbeagle	
Hammerhead, smooth <sup>II</sup>	Tiger		Shortfin mako	
Lemon				
<p><sup>I</sup> These species are divided into regional management groups (Section XIV).</p> <p><sup>II</sup> These sharks may not be possessed, retained, transshipped, landed, stored, or sold by vessels with pelagic longline gear onboard. <sup>7</sup> Charter/headboat vessels may not possess these sharks while in possession of tunas, swordfish, or billfishes. <sup>8</sup></p> <p><sup>III</sup> Sandbar sharks can only be retained by vessels selected to participate in the shark research fishery (Section XIV), subject to the retention limits established by NOAA Fisheries and only when a NOAA Fisheries-approved observer is onboard (Section XVIII).<sup>9</sup></p> <p><sup>IV</sup> Blacknose sharks may only be harvested in the Atlantic region south of 34° 00' N. latitude.<sup>10</sup></p> <p><sup>V</sup> Effective March 15, 2016.</p>				
PROHIBITED SPECIES <sup>11,12</sup>				
<p>The following sharks may <b>not</b> be possessed or retained in any form.<sup>13</sup> If one of these species is caught, it must be released immediately with minimal injury, without removing it from the water, and in a manner that maximizes its chances of survival.<sup>14</sup></p>				
Atlantic angel	Bignose	Longfin mako	Sixgill	
Basking	Caribbean reef	Narrowtooth	Smalltail	
Bigeye sand tiger	Caribbean	Night	Whale	
Bigeye sixgill	sharpnose	Sand tiger	White	
Bigeye thresher	Dusky	Sevengill		
	Galapagos			
PERMITS <sup>15,16</sup>				
<p>To commercially harvest Atlantic sharks, vessel owners must obtain a valid Atlantic shark <b>Directed</b> or <b>Incidental</b> limited access permit or a <b>Smoothhound Shark</b> open access permit (as of March 15, 2016). When the relevant retention limit allows, an open access <b>HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit</b> may be used to harvest Atlantic sharks. The shark retention limit is set at zero for this permit at this time.<sup>17</sup></p> <p>Requirements for these permits are described in Sections V and XIV.</p>				

RETENTION LIMITS <sup>18</sup> (per vessel per trip)			
	LCS*	SCS	Pelagic Sharks Smoothhound Sharks**
<b>Directed permit</b>	45		No limit
<b>Incidental permit</b>	3	16 (combined SCS and pelagic)	
<b>HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit</b>	0 (no shark retention; the Caribbean Small Boat permit cannot be held in conjunction with any other commercial shark permit)		
<b>Smoothhound shark permit</b>	0 (shark limited access permit required for retention of LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks; smoothhound permit can be held in conjunction with limited access permit)		No limit (except when caught with trawl gear where retained catch cannot exceed 25% of total catch)
<p>* NMFS may adjust the above default retention limits for LCS during the fishing year.<sup>19</sup> Visit <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call 301-427-8503 for more information. ** Effective March 15, 2016.</p> <p>Note: The commercial fishing year is January 1 through December 31. Open fishing seasons vary depending on available quota and other factors.<sup>20 21</sup> Specified shark fishing seasons will close when 80% of quota is reached or projected to be reached, with 5 days' notice (details in Section XIV).<sup>22</sup></p>			
AUTHORIZED GEARS <sup>23</sup>			
<b>Shark Directed or Incidental permit</b>	Bottom longline (Section IX) or pelagic longline (Section VII)		
	Handgear: rod and reel, handline, and bandit gear		
	Gillnet (Section X)		
<b>HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit</b>	Rod and reel, handline, and bandit gear.		
<b>Smoothhound shark permit</b>	Bottom longline (Section IX) or pelagic longline (Section VII)		
	Handgear: rod and reel, handline, and bandit gear		
	Gillnet (Section X)		
	Trawl gear, provided retained smoothhound shark catch does not exceed 25 % of total catch (Section XIV)		
MINIMUM SIZES			
At this time, there is no commercial minimum size for Atlantic sharks.			
LANDING RESTRICTIONS			
<p><b>All sharks must have their fins naturally attached through offloading</b>, with the limited exception of some smooth dogfish under limited circumstances, as outlined below. Fins may be cut as long as they remain naturally attached to the carcass by at least a small flap of uncut skin through offloading. Shark carcasses must otherwise remain intact except that sharks may be eviscerated and the heads may be removed. Sharks cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea (details in Section XIV).<sup>24</sup></p> <p>Smooth dogfish fins may be removed at sea only if the following conditions are met: 1) vessel holds a Federal commercial smoothhound shark permit, 2) fisherman/vessel holds a state commercial fishing permit valid for smooth dogfish fishing, 3) smooth dogfish are caught within 50 nm of shore from Maine through the boundary in Florida at 25° 20.4' N. lat., proceeding due east, 4) at least 25 % of the retained catch, by weight, is smooth dogfish, 5) weight of smooth dogfish fins on board does not exceed 12 % of the smooth dogfish carcass weight.<sup>25</sup></p>			