

1. INTRODUCTION

The Magnuson-Stevens Act is the primary Federal legislation governing the management and executive processes for marine fisheries of the United States. The National Standard (NS) 2 guidelines (50 CFR 600.315) require NMFS to prepare a SAFE Report, or similar document, review it annually, and make changes as necessary for each fishery management plan (FMP). This document constitutes the 2015 SAFE Report for Atlantic HMS managed under the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP and its amendments (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1 Species Managed under the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan and its Amendments

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Sandbar shark	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Smalltail shark	<i>Carcharhinus porosus</i>
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Night shark	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>
Bigeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Sand tiger	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>
Bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	White shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>
		Basking shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>
Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Tiger shark	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>
		Nurse shark	<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>
Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	Sevengill shark	<i>Heptranchias perlo</i>
White marlin	<i>Kajikia albida</i>	Sixgill shark	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>
Blue marlin	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	Bigeye sixgill shark	<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>
Roundscale spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus georgii</i>	Shortfin mako	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>
Longbill spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus pfluegeri</i>	Longfin mako	<i>Isurus paucus</i>
		Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>
Bigeye thresher shark	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Smooth dogfish	<i>Mustelus canis</i>
Thresher shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Florida smoothhound	<i>Mustelus norrisi</i>
Blacknose shark	<i>Carcharhinus acronotus</i>	Gulf smoothhound	<i>Mustelus sinusmexicanus</i>
Bignose shark	<i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>	Lemon shark	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>
Narrowtooth shark	<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>	Bigeye sand tiger	<i>Odontaspis noronhai</i>
Spinner shark	<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>	Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>
Silky shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Whale shark	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>
Galapagos shark	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	Caribbean sharpnose shark	<i>Rhizoprionodon porosus</i>
Finetooth shark	<i>Carcharhinus isodon</i>	Atlantic sharpnose shark	<i>Rhizoprionodon terraenovae</i>
Bull shark	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	Scalloped hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>
Blacktip shark	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	Great hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>
Oceanic whitetip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Bonnethead	<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>
Dusky shark	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	Smooth hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>
Caribbean reef shark	<i>Carcharhinus perezii</i>	Atlantic angel shark	<i>Squatina dumerili</i>

Consistent with the NS 2 guidelines, this SAFE Report provides a comprehensive summary of the most recent data on the condition of Atlantic HMS stocks, marine ecosystems, and fisheries managed under Federal regulation from a variety of sources across a wide range of disciplines. This includes information from the latest stock assessment data, and a summary of recommendations and resolutions from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and its Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). It also provides updated information regarding the economic status of HMS fisheries, fishing communities, and industries, as well as the socio-economic and environmental impacts of recently implemented regulations.

1.1 Agency Activities and Regulatory Actions for HMS

Since the publication of the 2014 SAFE Report, NMFS proposed or implemented a number of actions with regard to Atlantic HMS. These actions were published in the Federal Register and are listed in Table 1.2 and the major actions are discussed below. Most documents related to these and previous actions are available on the Atlantic HMS website at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/> or by calling the HMS Management Division at (301) 427-8503.

NMFS held two Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel meetings in 2015: March 10-12 in Bethesda, MD, and September 9-10 in Silver Spring, MD. These meetings provided valuable opportunities for comments on a suite of management actions that NMFS pursued or considered in 2015. Meeting presentations and transcripts are posted on the HMS website.

NMFS published a final rule on December 24, 2014 (79 FR 77339) that codified the type-approval specifications, revised latency standards, and established initial type-approval, renewal, revocation, and appeals processes for industry and constituents. The final rule became effective January 23, 2015. For more information, go to http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/about/our_programs/vessel_monitoring.html.

On May 5, 2015, NMFS published final North and South Atlantic swordfish specifications (80 FR 25609) that adjusted the 2015 fishing season quotas for North and South Atlantic swordfish based upon 2014 commercial quota underharvests and international quota transfers consistent with ICCAT Recommendations 13-02 and 13-03. The proposed rule for this action published on February 19, 2015 (80 FR 8838) and the public comment period ended on March 23, 2015.

On June 1, 2015, Amendment 7 electronic monitoring requirements (for vessels fishing with pelagic longline gear) became effective. These regulations had been published on December 2, 2014, in the final rule implementing Amendment 7, but the effective date was delayed until June 1, 2015. As of June 1, 2015, a vessel with an Atlantic Tunas Longline permit may not depart on a fishing trip with pelagic longline gear onboard unless it has an installed, operable, and certified electronic monitoring system. Beginning in January 2015, a NMFS contractor, Saltwater, Inc., installed the required electronic monitoring systems (i.e., specialized equipment including video cameras, computer with data storage, GPS unit, and sensors) on eligible pelagic longline vessels to support the Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) program implemented by Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (Amendment 7; December

2, 2014; 79 FR 71510). By the end of November 2015, electronic monitoring systems were installed on a total of 112 vessels.

On July 1, 2015, NMFS announced the availability of the final Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 5-Year Review and the Agency's intent to initiate an amendment to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to revise Atlantic HMS EFH descriptions and designations in a Federal Register notice (80 FR 37598). In reviewing literature that has become available since 2009, new data emerged for certain Atlantic HMS, which warrants revision to those species' EFH descriptions and designations. For other Atlantic HMS, new data were either unavailable or it was determined that the new data did not warrant revisions to EFH descriptions and designations. However, in the upcoming amendment, new observer, survey, and tag/recapture data collected since 2009 will be used to revise EFH geographic boundaries for all species. The draft EFH 5-year Review was published on March 5, 2015 (80 FR 11981) and the public comment period ended on April 6, 2015.

On August 20, 2015, NMFS published a final rule (80 FR 50074) for Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP. The final action implemented modifications to retention limits for LCS, a new management boundary for SCS in the Atlantic region, sub-regional commercial quotas for LCS in the Gulf of Mexico region, modifications to quota linkages between blacknose and non-blacknose SCS in both the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions, modifications to the TACs and commercial quotas for non-blacknose SCS in both the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions, and modifications to vessel upgrading restrictions. As a result of these modifications to the commercial quotas and the creation of a management boundary in the Atlantic region, the non-blacknose SCS fisheries in the Gulf and Atlantic regions were re-opened. The proposed rule for this action published on January 20, 2015 (80 FR 2648) and the public comment period ended on April 3, 2015.

On August 28, 2015, NMFS published a final rule (80 FR 52198) that increased the baseline annual U.S. Atlantic bluefin tuna quota from 923.7 mt (as established in 2011) by 135 mt to 1,058.79 mt, as recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for 2015 and 2016. NMFS adjusted and codified the baseline annual subquotas for the domestic fishing categories consistent with the process established in Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP (79 FR 71510, December 2, 2014). The final rule also included minor modifications to the regulations regarding Atlantic tunas purse seine auxiliary vessel activity under the "transfer at sea" provisions. In the same notice and specifically for 2015, NMFS augmented the Reserve category quota with available underharvest of the 2014 adjusted U.S. Atlantic bluefin tuna quota and recalculated the Purse Seine and Reserve category quotas that were announced on February 11, 2015 (80 FR 7547), consistent with the Amendment 7 annual reallocation process and to reflect the increased U.S. quota. The proposed rule for this action published on June 12, 2015 (80 FR 33467) and the public comment period ended on July 13, 2015.

On September 23, 2015, the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council published the Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments. The plan includes 10 projects that have a combined estimated cost of \$134 million. The proposed projects will benefit sea turtles, birds, and fish; increase recreational opportunities; and improve nearshore and reef habitats. One of those projects is the Pelagic Longline Bycatch

Reduction Project. The goal of the Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project is to restore pelagic fish. Many species of pelagic fish were likely exposed to oil and dispersants that were released during the Deepwater Horizon spill and response. The project aims to reduce bycatch by compensating fishers in the Gulf for voluntarily refraining from pelagic longline fishing for a six-month period each year, known as the “repose period.” The project will also provide participating fishermen with two alternative types of gear—greenstick and buoy gear—which are less likely to impact non-target species. Fishers participating in the repose will use the alternative gears to continue harvesting yellowfin tuna and swordfish during the repose period. Fishers will be provided with training and technical support on alternative gears throughout their period of participation. The project includes components designed to improve alternative gear catch efficiency in the Gulf of Mexico and technical assistance to educate fishers on improvements identified as a result of these efforts. The project includes a monitoring plan that will use fishery observers, vessel logbooks, and vessel monitoring systems has been developed to assess the benefits of the project. The estimated cost of the project is \$20 million. For more information, go to <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/phase-iv/>.

On October 9, 2015, NMFS published a proposed rule for implementation of the ICCAT electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation system (eBCD system) (80 FR 61146). NMFS proposed to revise the regulations governing international trade documentation and tracking programs for Atlantic bluefin tuna to implement recommendations adopted at recent ICCAT meetings. The proposed rule would transition the current ICCAT paper-based bluefin tuna catch documentation program, used in the United States by HMS international trade permit holders, to use of the electronic system. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on November 9, 2015, and a final rule is expected in 2016.

On November 24, 2015, NMFS published a final rule (80 FR 73128) for Amendment 9 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP. This final rule implemented: (1) an effective date for previously-adopted smoothhound shark management measures finalized in Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP and in the 2011 HMS Trawl Rule; (2) commercial quotas for Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico smoothhound sharks based on the results of recent stock assessments; (3) the smooth dogfish-specific provisions of the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 to allow limited removal of smooth dogfish fins while at sea; (4) shark gillnet fishing requirements to comply with the 2012 Shark Biological Opinion; and, (5) modifications to the Atlantic shark gillnet VMS requirements, consistent with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan requirements. The Amendment 9 measures will be effective on March 15, 2016.

On December 1, 2015, NMFS published a final rule (80 FR 74999) that establishes quotas and opening dates for the 2016 Atlantic commercial shark fisheries. The quota adjustments are based on over- and/or underharvests experienced during 2015 and previous fishing seasons. NMFS is re-opening all of the 2016 Atlantic commercial shark fisheries on January 1, 2016. The large coastal shark (LCS) retention limit for directed shark limited access permit holders will start at 45 LCS other than sandbar sharks per trip in the Gulf of Mexico region and at 36 LCS other than sandbar sharks per trip in the Atlantic region. These retention limits for directed shark limited access permit holders may decrease or increase during the year to provide, to the extent practicable, fishing opportunities for commercial shark fishermen in all regions and areas.

Table 1.2 Atlantic HMS Federal Management Actions (Dec 18, 2014 to Dec 16, 2015)

Federal Register Cite	Date	Rule or Notice
HMS Fisheries (General)		
79 FR 78310	12/30/2014	NMFS Announces the Location for Installation of Electronic Monitoring Equipment
80 FR 10058	2/25/2015	Notice of Public Meeting for the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
80 FR 11981	3/5/2015	NMFS Announces the Draft Atlantic HMS Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review
80 FR 12152	3/6/2015	Notice to Reschedule the Norfolk, VA Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop and Notice for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops, and Protected Species, Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshops
80 FR 26196	5/7/2015	NMFS Announces the Location for Installation of Electronic Monitoring Equipment
80 FR 27288	5/13/2015	Notice to Reschedule the Louisiana Protected Species, Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshop
80 FR 32941	6/10/2015	Notice for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops, and Protected Species, Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshops
80 FR 37598	7/1/2015	NMFS Announces the Availability of the Final Atlantic HMS Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review and Notice of Intent to Amend the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP
80 FR 46544	8/5/2015	Notice of Public Meeting for the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
80 FR 49211	8/17/2015	Correction Notice of Public Meeting for the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
80 FR 54533	9/10/2015	Notice for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops, and Protected Species, Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshops
80 FR 60124	10/5/2015	Notice to Request Nominations for the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel for Atlantic HMS SEDAR Workshops
80 FR 60566	10/7/2015	Technical Amendment to the Atlantic HMS Regulations
80 FR 63747	10/21/2015	Notice for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop
80 FR 68297	11/4/2015	Notice of Intent to Issue Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), Scientific Research Permits (SRPs), Display Permits, Letter of Acknowledgement (LOAs), and Chartering Permits
80 FR 68515	11/5/2015	Notice of Request Nominations for Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
80 FR 75975	12/7/2015	Notice for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops, and Protected Species, Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshops
Bluefin and BAYS Tunas		
79 FR 77943	12/29/2014	Inseason Action to Transfer Subquota for the General Category (Commercial) Atlantic Bluefin Tuna and Adjust the Retention Limit for January 2015
80 FR 5991	2/4/2015	Correction Notice to Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP
80 FR 7547	2/11/2015	Annual Adjustment of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Purse Seine and Reserve Category Quotas and Reminder of the New Reporting Requirements Implemented in Amendment 7
80 FR 27863	5/15/2015	Inseason Action to Adjust Daily Retention Limits for Angling Category, Harpoon Category, and for General Category for June-August Subquota Period, and Announce Start Date for Purse Seine Category Fishery
80 FR 32478	6/9/2015	Inseason Action to Close the Angling Category Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Southern Area Trophy Fishery
80 FR 33467	6/12/2015	Proposed Rule for the 2015 Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications
80 FR 45098	7/29/2015	Inseason Action to Transfer Atlantic Bluefin Quota from Reserve Category to the Longline Category
80 FR 46516	8/5/2015	Inseason Action to Transfer Atlantic Bluefin Quota from Reserve Category to the Harpoon Category
80 FR 51959	8/27/2015	Inseason Action to Maintain the Four-Fish General Category Daily Retention Limit for September-December 2015

Federal Register Cite	Date	Rule or Notice
80 FR 52198	8/28/2015	Final Rule for the 2015 Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications
80 FR 61146	10/9/2015	Proposed Rule to Implement the ICCAT Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation System
80 FR 68265	11/4/2015	Inseason Action to Transfer Atlantic Bluefin Quota from the Harpoon and Reserve Category to the General Category
80 FR 7499	12/1/2015	Inseason Action to Transfer Atlantic Bluefin Quota from the Reserve Category to the General Category and Adjust the Retention Limit
80 FR 77264	12/14/2015	Inseason Action to Transfer Atlantic Bluefin General Category Quota from the December 2016 Subquota to the January 2016 Subquota and Adjust the Retention Limit
Sharks		
80 FR 2648	1/20/2015	Proposed Rule for Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP
80 FR 2916	1/21/2015	Notice of Intent for Applications from the Gulf of Mexico Region to the 2015 Shark Research Fishery
80 FR 3221	1/22/2015	Public Meeting for Selected Participants of the 2015 Shark Research Fishery
80 FR 11379	3/3/2015	90-Day Finding on Petition to List the Common Thresher Shark as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act
80 FR 12394	3/9/2015	Notice to Reschedule the Manteo, NC Public Hearing for Draft Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP
80 FR 16356	3/27/2015	90-Day Finding on Petition to List the Porbeagle Shark as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act
80 FR 24836	5/1/2015	NMFS Closes the Gulf of Mexico Aggregated LCS and Hammerhead Shark Management Groups
80 FR 32040	6/5/2015	Closure of the Commercial Blacknose Shark and Non-Blacknose SCS Management Groups in the Atlantic Region
80 FR 36974	6/29/2015	Stock Status Determination for Atlantic Smooth Dogfish Shark and the Gulf of Mexico Smoothhound Shark Complex
80 FR 38016	7/2/2015	Closure of the Commercial Blacknose Shark and Non-Blacknose SCS Management Groups in the Gulf of Mexico Region
80 FR 48053	8/11/2015	90-Day Finding on Petition to List the Smooth Hammerhead Shark as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act
80 FR 48061	8/11/2015	90-Day Finding on Petition to List the Bigeye Thresher Shark as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act
80 FR 50074	8/18/2015	Final Rule for Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP
80 FR 49974	8/18/2015	Proposed Rule to Establish the Quotas and Opening Dates for the 2016 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season
80 FR 68513	11/5/2015	Notice of Intent for Applications to the 2016 Shark Research Fishery
80 FR 73128	11/24/2015	Smoothhound Shark and Atlantic Shark Management Measures
80 FR 74999	12/1/2015	Final Rule to Establish the Quotas and Opening Dates for the 2016 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season
80 FR 75436	12/2/2015	Inseason Action to Close the Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark Fishery in the Gulf of Mexico Region
Swordfish and Billfishes		
80 FR 8838	2/19/2015	Proposed Rule to Adjust the 2015 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas
80 FR 25609	5/5/2015	Final Rule to Adjust the 2015 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas
80 FR 44884	7/28/2015	Inseason Action to Adjust the Retention Limits for Vessels Issued Swordfish General Commercial Permits or HMS Charter/Headboat Permits

1.2 2015 Accomplishments of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is a regional fishery management organization (RFMO) with 50 members, including the United States. The 24th Regular Meeting of ICCAT was held in St. Julian's, Malta November 10-17, 2015. The United States helped develop recommendations aimed at promoting the conservation, management, and rebuilding of Atlantic highly migratory fish stocks (e.g., tunas, billfish, swordfish, sharks), including those important to U.S. fishermen. ICCAT made progress on a number of issues, including, tropical tunas, sharks, marlins, monitoring, control and surveillance measures, compliance issues and management evaluation strategies.

Tunas: The Commission adopted Recommendation 15-01 for Atlantic bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas, taking into consideration the recently updated status of the bigeye tuna stock following the 2015 stock assessment (i.e., overfished with overfishing occurring). The recommendation reduces the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) from 85,000 to 65,000 mt. Under the revised catch limits, the United States shall endeavor to maintain its annual catch of bigeye tuna to less than 1,575 mt. Other new or revised provisions include: expansion of the time/area closure in the Gulf of Guinea that is in effect from January 1 through February 28 each year, revised capacity measures, a reduction in the amount of underharvest that can be carried over from 30 percent to 15 percent, limits on the number of fish aggregating devices (FADs) that can be active at any one time, new FAD reporting requirements, and new observer requirements. The Atlantic yellowfin tuna and northern albacore tuna assessments will be conducted by the SCRS in 2016. For both bluefin tuna stocks, the next benchmark assessment is scheduled for 2017.

Sharks: The Commission adopted Recommendation 15-06 for Atlantic porbeagle sharks. This recommendation requires ICCAT parties to release any incidental catches of porbeagle sharks that are alive when brought alongside the vessels, and directs the Commission to consider additional measures if catches of porbeagle sharks increases beyond 2014 levels. The shortfin mako stock assessment will be conducted by the SCRS in 2017.

Marlins: The Commission adopted Recommendation 15-05 for Atlantic blue and white marlins that will maintain the current Atlantic-wide TAC levels for both stocks until new scientific advice is available in 2018. The new Recommendation also requires ICCAT parties to provide estimates of live and dead discards, and all available data including observer data on landings and discards for blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish, annually by July 31st. The SCRS shall review the data and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortalities by commercial fisheries (including longline and purse seine), recreational fisheries, and artisanal fisheries. The Recommendation directs the SCRS to develop a new data collection initiative as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues of those fisheries; in particular, artisanal fisheries of developing countries.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Measures: The Commission adopted Recommendation 15-10 on the implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation (eBCD) system. This Recommendation sets out an implementation deadline mandating use of the electronic system starting May 1, 2016, unless, based on examination of the status of the system, the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) advises the Commission that the system is not sufficiently ready for implementation. If the TWG so advises the Commission,

ICCAT parties must use the eBCD system to the fullest extent practicable, but paper BCD documents will continue to be accepted until the TWG advises the Commission that the system is sufficiently ready to be implemented.

Compliance: The Commission invested a significant amount of time and effort to review the compliance of the 50 ICCAT parties with existing obligations, evaluating various reporting requirements as well as conservation and management measures. There was demonstrated improvement in ICCAT parties' reporting of catch data and other information this year, but there is further work to do to ensure that all parties are in full compliance with all reporting obligations. The Compliance Committee agreed that 26 contracting parties and 1 cooperating non-contracting party will receive letters from the Commission concerning compliance issues. ICCAT adopted Resolution 15-09 regarding the guidelines on the implementation of Recommendation 11-15 (No Data, No Fish), including reporting zero catch. The additional issues discussed during the Compliance Committee meetings included the requirements of the Port Inspection program, lack of reporting on observer coverage, implementation of shark measures, and clarification on retroactive vessel listing.

Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation: Agreement was reached on the development of harvest control rules and management strategy evaluation as important tools to support future decision-making. The Commission adopted Recommendation 15-07, which details the process by which alternative biological reference points (i.e., threshold and limit biomass levels, and the target fishing mortality rate) will be identified and tested by SCRS on a stock-by-stock basis, for, among others, northern albacore, bluefin tuna, North Atlantic swordfish, and tropical tunas. North Atlantic albacore will be the first stock; a management objective has been defined (Recommendation 15-04) and the development of harvest control rules will continue in 2016. The Commission will provide specific input in three areas for individual stocks: (1) management objectives; (2) acceptable levels of probability (e.g., of achieving targets or avoiding limits); and (3) timeframes for ending overfishing and/or rebuilding.

1.3 State Regulations

Table 1.3 outlines the state regulations regarding HMS as of November 5, 2015. While the HMS Management Division updates this table annually, persons interested in the current regulations for any state should contact that state directly.

Atlantic tunas (bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas) are under federal jurisdiction from the outer boundary of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to the shoreline, including state waters, with the following three exceptions: state waters of Maine, Connecticut, and Mississippi (50 CFR 635.1(b)). Federal regulations for Atlantic tunas apply in all other state waters of the U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. NMFS periodically reviews state tuna regulations for federal consistency as required under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). Table 1.3 describes the state regulations as stated in available source material and makes no statement about the consistency of the specific, individual fishery regulations with Federal regulations.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is composed of 15 member states along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries

Commission (GSMFC) is composed of five member states along the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas. Through the Commissions, member states coordinate fisheries management measures to create consistent regulations and ensure stocks are protected across state boundaries. In August 2008, the ASMFC approved the Interstate FMP for Atlantic Coastal Sharks, effective as of January 1, 2010. This FMP was modified via Coastal Sharks Addendum I in September 2009 to allow for limited at-sea processing of smoothhound sharks and to remove recreational smoothhound shark possession limits. The ASMFC Interstate FMP was also modified via Addendum II in May 2013 to establish state shares of any future federal smoothhound shark quota and to allow smoothhound sharks to be fully processed at sea provided the fin to carcass ratio does not exceed 12 percent. In October 2013, the Interstate FMP was further modified through Addendum III to reorganize some shark complexes consistent with federal regulations. All management measures for coastal shark species in the Interstate FMP and its addendums have been implemented by ASMFC members, unless they have been granted *de minimus* status (Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire) or have equivalent conservation measures in place. Member states can implement more restrictive management measures. A state can request permission to implement an alternative to any mandatory compliance measure only if that state can show to the ASMFC Board's satisfaction that its alternative proposal will have the same conservation value as the measure contained in this management plan or any addenda prepared under Adaptive Management.

Some Atlantic states have also adopted legislative bans on the possession and trade of shark fins, including Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York, although some allow limited exemptions for certain species such as smoothhound sharks. Some states on the west coast of the United States, several U.S. territories, and Illinois have similar restrictions.

Table 1.3 State Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Atlantic HMS

State regulations are subject to change. Please contact the appropriate state personnel to ensure that the regulations listed below are current. X = Regulations in Effect; n = Regulation Repealed; FL = Fork Length; CL = Carcass Length; TL = Total Length; LJFL = Lower Jaw Fork Length; CFL = Curved Fork Length; DW = Dressed Weight; and SCS = Small Coastal Sharks; LCS = Large Coastal Sharks. * Regulations, references, and contact information not confirmed by state before publication of this year's Report. Please see state resources for more information.

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
ME*	X			X	<p>Tuna - ME Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 12, " 6001, 6502, and 6551</p> <p>Sharks - Code ME R. 13-188 ' 50.01, 50.04 and 50.10</p>	<p>Tuna - Retention limit - 1 tuna/year – non-resident special tuna permit holder; Unlawful to fish for tuna with gear other than harpoon or hook and line or possess tuna taken in unlawful manner; retention limits and size limits mirror federal regulations.</p> <p>Sharks –Commercial harvest of sharks (except spiny dogfish) in state waters prohibited; finning prohibited; sharks harvested elsewhere but landed in Maine, or sharks landed recreationally, must be landed with head, fins, and tail naturally attached to the carcass; porbeagle cannot be landed commercially after federal quota closes. Dealers who purchase sharks must obtain a federal dealer permit. Recreational anglers must possess a federal HMS angling permits.</p>	<p>ME Department of Marine Resources Phone: (207) 624-6550 Fax: (207) 624-6024</p>
NH			X	X	<p>Billfish - FIS 603.13</p> <p>Sharks - FIS 603.20</p>	<p>Billfish - Possession limit - 1 billfish/trip; Minimum size (LJFL) - Blue marlin – 99"; White marlin - 66"; Sailfish – 57"; May be taken by rod and reel only; Unlawful to sell billfish (blue or white marlin, sailfish, roundscale spearfish, and longbill spearfish), personal use only</p> <p>Sharks – See list for prohibited sharks (http://gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/fis600.html) – no take, landings, or possession of prohibited shark species; NH Wholesale Marine Species License and a Federal Dealer permit required for all dealers purchasing listed sharks; Porbeagle sharks can only be taken by recreational fishing from state waters; Head, fins and tail must remain attached to all shark species through landing</p>	<p>NH Fish and Game Douglas Grout Phone: (603) 868-1095 Fax: (603) 868-3305</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
MA	X			X	Bluefin Tuna - 322 CMR 6.04 Sharks – 322 CMR 6.37	Bluefin Tuna - References ATCA and federal regulations; Bluefin tuna may be retained if caught in a trap as incidental catch; Fishing for bluefin tuna by means of any net is prohibited prior to September 1 of the year; Fishing for tuna by means of purse seine is allowed in state waters if the vessel is compliant with the registration requirements set forth in 322 CMR 6.04(4); Purse seining for bluefin tuna is prohibited in Cape Cod Bay. Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan (no shark species may be landed with tails or fins removed 322 CMR 6.37(3)(d)) All MA commercial and recreational fishing regulations are at: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/commercialfishing/cmr_index.htm	MA Division of Marine Fisheries Jared Silva Phone: (617) 626-1534 Fax: (617) 626-1509
RI*				X	Sharks - RIMFC Regulations part VII 7.24	Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan RI commercial fishing license or landing permit required to harvest or land HMS All RI commercial and recreational marine fisheries regulations are at: http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimftoc.htm RIMFC Regulations part VII 7.24 are at: http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf7.pdf	RI Dept of Environment Management, Div of Fish and Wildlife Eric Schneider Phone: (401) 423-1933
CT				X	Sharks – Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 26-159a-1; Connecticut General Statutes §26-102, Declaration 15-04	Sharks – Prohibited species same as federal regulations; Possession of sandbar shark (<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>) prohibited except by permit for research and display purposes	CT Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection David Simpson Phone: (860) 434-6043 Fax: (860) 434-6150

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
NY			X	X	Billfish - NY Environmental Conservation ' 13-0339 (5) Sharks - NY Environmental Conservation ' 13-0338; State of NY Codes, Rules and Regulations (Section 40.7)	Billfish - Blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, and longbill spearfish shall not be bought, sold or offered for sale; Striped marlin, black marlin, shortbill spearfish shall not be bought, sold or offered for sale unless tagged and identified prior to entry into the state Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan. Separate requirement that No person shall possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute a shark fin; provided, however, that this prohibition shall not apply to any shark fin that was taken from a spiny dogfish (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>) or a smooth dogfish (<i>Mustelus canis</i>) lawfully caught by a licensed commercial fisherman; a shark fin may be possessed by any person if the shark was lawfully caught and the person has a recreational marine fishing registration or a license or permit from the department for bona fide scientific research or educational purposes	NY Department of Environmental Conservation Stephen W. Heins Phone: (631) 444-0435 Fax: (631) 444-0449
NJ*				X	Sharks - NJ Admin Code, Title 7. Dept of Environmental Protection, NJAC 7:25-18.1 and 7:25-18.12(d)	Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	NJ Fish and Wildlife Russ Babb Phone: (609)748-2020 Fax: (609) 748-2032
DE*			X	X	Billfish - DE Code Ann. tit. 7, ' 1310 Sharks - DE Code Regulations 3541	Billfish - Prohibition on sale of Atlantic sailfish and blue/white/striped marlin Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	DE Division of Fish and Wildlife John Clark Phone: (302) 739-9914

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
MD	X	X	X	X	Code of Maryland Regulations: Bluefin tuna - 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.05.23 Swordfish - 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.05.27 Billfish - 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.05.26 Sharks - 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.22.01-.04	Bluefin tuna - Federal regulations used to control size and seasons and recreational catch required to be tagged Swordfish - Federal regulations used to control size and seasons and recreational catch required to be tagged Billfish (blue/white marlin and sailfish) - Federal regulations control size and seasons and recreational catch required to be tagged Sharks – Recreational catch required to be tagged; ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan; all recreationally harvested sharks must have heads, tails, and fins attached naturally to the carcass through landing; all commercially harvested sharks other than smoothhounds must have tails and fins attached naturally to carcass through landing; smoothhound sharks harvested commercially may have dorsal, pectoral and caudal fins removed (caudal fins may not exceed 4% of total dressed weight of smoothhound shark carcasses on board; dorsal and pectoral fins may not exceed 8% of total dressed weight of smoothhound shark carcasses on board)	MD Department of Natural Resources Gina Hunt Phone: (410) 260-8326
VA			X	X	Billfish - 4 VA Admin Code 20-350-10 Sharks - 4 VA Admin Code 20-490-10	Billfish - Prohibition on sale of billfish Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	VA Marine Resources Commission Robert O'Reilly Phone: (757) 247-2247 Fax: (757) 247-2002
NC*	X		X	X	NC Admin Code: Tunas - title 15A 03M.0520 Billfish - title 15A, r.3M.0507 & 03M.0507 Sharks -title 15A, NCAC, 03M .0512 Compliance w/FMPs	Tuna – Commercial and recreational minimum size: yellowfin tuna – 27" CFL, bigeye tuna - 27" CFL, bluefin tuna – 73" CFL; Recreational bag limit: 3 yellowfin tuna/day Billfish - Recreational possession limit - 1 blue or white marlin/vessel/trip; 1 sailfish/person/day; Minimum size - blue marlin - 99", white marlin - 66", sailfish - 63"; Unlawful to sell or offer for sale blue or white marlin and sailfish Sharks - Director may impose restrictions for size, seasons, areas, quantity, etc. via proclamation; ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan; additionally: longline in the shark fishery shall not exceed 500 yd or have more than 50 hooks	NC Division of Marine Fisheries Randy Gregory Phone: (252) 726-7021 Fax: (252) 726-0254

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
SC	X	X	X	X	SC Code Ann: Tuna/Swordfish - 50-5-2725 and 2730 Billfish - 50-5-1700, 1705, 2725 and 2730; 50-1-30 (7) Sharks - 50-5-2725, 2730	Tuna/Swordfish – Defer to federal regulations Billfish – Defer to federal regulations; Unlawful to sell billfish; Hook and line gear only; Unlawful to possess while transporting gillnets, seines, or other commercial gear Sharks – Defer to federal regulations; Gillnets may not be used in the shark fishery in state waters; State permit required for shark fishing in state waters	SC Department of Natural Resources Wallace Jenkins Phone: (843) 953-9835 Fax: (843) 953-9386
GA			X	X	GA Code Ann: Gear Restrictions/Prohib - 27-4-7; Billfish - 27-4-130.2; GA Comp. R. & Regs. ' 391-2-4-.04 Sharks - 27-4-130.1; GA Comp. R. & Regs. ' 391-2-4-.04	Gear Restrictions/Prohibs - Use of gillnets and longlines is prohibited in state waters Billfish - Possession prohibited in state waters, except for catch and release Sharks – Commercial/Recreational: 1/person for sharks from the Small Shark Composite (bonnethead, Atlantic sharpnose, and spiny dogfish), min size 30" FL. All other sharks - 1 shark/person or boat, whichever is less, min size 54" FL. Hammerheads (great, scalloped and smooth)-1/person or boat, whichever is less, minimum size – 78" FL. Prohibited Species: same as federal, plus silky sharks; All species must be landed head and fins intact; Sharks may not be landed in Georgia if harvested using gillnets; ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	GA Department of Natural Resources Carolyn Belcher Phone: (912) 264-7218 Fax: (912) 262-3143

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
FL		X	X	X	<p>Sharks - FL Administrative Code 68B-44</p> <p>Billfish and Spearfish - FL Administrative Code 68B-33</p> <p>Swordfish – FL Administrative Code 68B-58</p>	<p>Billfish – Longbill and Mediterranean– harvest/possession/landing/purchase/sale/exchange prohibited</p> <p>Blue/white marlin, roundscale spearfish, and sailfish – Sale prohibited; Aggregate possession of 1 fish/person/day; Gear restriction (hook and line only); Minimum size limit (blue marlin – 99" LJFL; white marlin – 66" LJFL; roundscale spearfish – 66" LJFL; sailfish – 63" LJFL); Recreational catch reporting requirement (all non-tournament landings must be reported NOAA within 24 hours); Must land in whole condition (gutting allowed)</p> <p>Swordfish - Minimum size – 47" LJFL/25" CK; Authorized fishing gear for swordfish is hook and line in state waters, Recreational possession limit 1 fish/person/day or 4 fish/vessel/day (with 4 or more persons onboard) on private boats, limit of 1 fish/paying customer/day up to 15 fish/vessel/day on for-hire vessels; Captain and crew on for-hire vessels have zero bag limit. Commercial harvest and sale allowed only with Florida saltwater products license, restricted species endorsement, and a federal commercial permit for swordfish, so federal regulations apply in state waters unless state regulations are more restrictive, Wholesale dealers purchasing swordfish must possess a federal Atlantic Swordfish Dealer permit; Recreational catch reporting requirement (all recreational landings must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours)</p> <p>Sharks – Commercial/recreational: min size – 54" except no min. size on blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, smooth dogfish, finetooth, Atlantic sharpnose; Commercial/recreational possession limit – 1 shark/person/day, max; 2 sharks/vessel on any vessel with 2 or more persons on board; Allowable gear – hook and line only; State waters close to commercial harvest when adjacent federal waters close; Federal permit required for commercial harvest, so federal regulations apply in state waters unless state regulations are more restrictive; Finning, removing heads and tails, and filleting prohibited (gutting allowed); Prohibited species same as federal regulations plus prohibition on harvest of spiny dogfish, lemon, sandbar, silky, tiger, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and scalloped hammerhead sharks, direct and continuous transit through state waters to place of landing for spiny dogfish, lemon, sandbar, silky, tiger, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and scalloped hammerhead sharks legally caught in federal waters is allowed.</p>	<p>FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</p> <p>Martha Bademan</p> <p>Phone: (850) 487-0554</p> <p>Fax: (850) 487-4847</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
AL	X	X	X	X	<p>Tunas/Swordfish/Billfish/ Sharks – AL Administrative Code r.220-3-.30</p> <p>Sharks - AL Administrative Code r.220-3-.30, r.220-3-.37, and r.220-2-.77</p>	<p>All HMS - Reference to federal landing form regulations. Any vessel or individual required to possess a federal permit to harvest or retain marine aquatic species must possess such permit to possess or land such marine aquatic species in Alabama</p> <p>Tuna - Recreational and commercial fishermen must have a federal permit to fish for tunas; Yellowfin and bigeye – 27" CFL min size</p> <p>Sharks – Recreational: bag limit – 1 sharpnose/person/day and 1 bonnethead/person/day; no min size; great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead 1/person/day - 78" FL; all other sharks – 1/person/day; min size – 54" FL or 30" dressed; Commercial - no size limit and no possession limit on any non-prohibited species. Restrictions of chumming and shore-based angling if creating unsafe bathing conditions; Prohibited species: Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, largetooth sawfish, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandtiger, smalltooth sawfish, smalltail, sevengill, sixgill, spotted eagle ray, whale, white sandbar (unless fisherman possess a federal shark research fishery permit), silky (unless fisherman possess a Federal Atlantic shark fisheries permit). Commercial-state waters close, by species, when federal season closes; no shark fishing on weekends, Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day; Regardless of open or closed season, gillnet fishermen targeting other fish may retain sharks with a dressed weight not exceeding 10% of total catch.</p>	<p>AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division</p> <p>Major Scott Bannon Phone: (251) 861-2882 www.outdooralabama.com</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
LA	X	X	X	X	<p>Tunas - LA Administrative Code Title 76, Pt. VII, Ch. 3, § 361</p> <p>Swordfish/Billfish - LA Administrative Code Title 76, Pt. VII, Ch. 3, § 355</p> <p>Sharks - LA Administrative Code Title 76, Pt. VII, Ch. 3, § 357</p>	<p>Tunas - Recreational and commercial minimum size for yellowfin and bigeye is 27" CFL; Recreational bag limits – 3 yellowfin/person. Recreational minimum size for bluefin tuna is 73" CFL and bag limit is 1/vessel/year. Recreational and commercial tuna fishing requires a federal permit. LA Admin Code States: "No person who, pursuant to state or federal law, is subject to the jurisdiction of this state shall violate any federal law, rule or regulation particularly those rules and regulations enacted pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act and published in the Code of Federal Regulations as amended Title 50 and 15, for tunas while fishing in the EEZ, or possess, purchase, sell, barter, trade, or exchange tunas within or without the territorial boundaries of Louisiana in violation of any state or federal law, rule or regulation particularly those rules and regulations enacted pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act and published in the Code of Federal Regulations as amended Title 50 and 15 law."</p> <p>Billfish/Swordfish - Minimum size: blue marlin (99" LJFL), white marlin (66" LJFL), sailfish (63" LJFL), swordfish (29" carcass length or 33 lb dw, 47" LJFL if not dressed); Recreational creel limit - 5 swordfish/vessel/trip; Federal swordfish permit required for commercial swordfish fishing; Dealers must have federal permit to buy swordfish; state swordfish fishery closes with federal fishery; reference to federal billfish regulations</p> <p>Sharks - Recreational: min size – 54" FL, except Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead which have no size limit; bag limit - 1 sharpnose or bonnethead/person/day, all other sharks, except sandbar, silky and all prohibited sharks – 1 fish/person/day in aggregate including SCS, LCS, and pelagic sharks; Commercial: 36/vessel/day limit; no min size; Com & rec harvest prohibited: Apr 1 - Jun 30; Prohibited species: same as federal regulations; Fins must remain naturally attached to carcass though off-loading. Commercial shark fishing requires annual state shark permit. Owners/operators of vessels other than those taking sharks in compliance with state or federal commercial permits are restricted to no more than one shark from either the large coastal, small coastal, or pelagic group per vessel per trip within or without Louisiana waters.</p>	<p>LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries</p> <p>Jason Adriance</p> <p>Phone: (504) 284-2032 or 225 765-2889</p> <p>Fax: (504) 284-5263 or (225) 765-2489</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
MS*	X		X	X	Tunas/Billfish/Sharks - MS Code Title-22 part 7	<p>Tunas – No directed bluefin tuna fishing; only recreational anglers can retain incidentally-caught bluefin tuna up to 1/boat/week; Recreational and commercial min size for yellowfin and bigeye is 27" CFL; Recreational retention limit for yellowfin is 3/person (possession limit)</p> <p>Billfish – Unlawful to sell blue and white marlin and sailfish without proper federal documentation; Recreational min size: blue marlin 99" LJFL; white marlin 66" LJFL; sailfish 63" LJFL; No possession for longbill spearfish; No limit for recreational take</p> <p>Sharks – Recreational min size: LCS/Pelagics 37" TL; SCS 25" TL; possession limit: LCS/Pelagics 1/person up to 3/vessel; SCS 4/person; Commercial and prohibited species same as federal regulations; Prohibition on finning</p>	<p>MS Department of Marine Resources Kerwin Cuevas Phone: (228) 374-5000</p>
TX		X	X	X	Billfish/Swordfish/Sharks - TX Administrative Code Title 31, Part 2, Parks and Wildlife Code Title 5, Parks and Wildlife Proclamations 57.971, 57.973 and 57.981	<p>Blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, sharks, longbill spearfish, and broadbill swordfish are gamefish and may only be taken with pole and line (including rod and reel); Blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, and longbill spearfish may not be sold for any purpose</p> <p>Billfish – No bag limit; min size (TL): blue marlin 131"; white marlin 86"; sailfish 84"</p> <p>Sharks - Commercial/recreational: bag limit - 1 shark/person/day; possession limit is twice the daily bag limit (i.e., 2 sharks/person/day); min size 24" TL for Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, and bonnethead sharks and 64" TL for all other lawful sharks. Prohib species: same as federal regulations</p>	<p>TX Parks & Wildlife Department Mark Lingo Phone: (512) 389-4668 Fax: (512) 389-8762</p>
Puerto Rico	X	X	X	X	Regulation #7949 Article 13 – Commercial Fishing Limits Article 18 – Recreational Fishing Limits	<p>Illegal to sell, offer for sale, or traffic in any billfish or marlin, either whole or processed, captured in jurisdictional waters of Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Swordfish or billfish, tuna, and shark are covered under the federal Atlantic HMS regulations (50 CFR, Part 635), which also apply in territorial waters; Fishers who capture these species are required to comply with said regulation; billfish captured incidentally with long line must be released by cutting the line close to the fishhook, avoiding the removal of the fish from the water; in the case of tuna and swordfish, fishers shall obtain a permit according to the requirements of the federal government; Year-round closed season on nurse sharks.</p>	<p>Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources Craig Lilyestrom Phone: (787) 772-2022</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tunas	Swordfish	Billfishes	Sharks			
U.S. Virgin Islands*	X	X	X	X	V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A.	Federal regulations and federal permit requirements apply in territorial waters. http://caribbeanfmc.com/pdfs/booklet%20usvi%20Commercial%202009.pdf	6291 Estate Nazareth St. Thomas, VI 00802 Phone: (340) 775-6762 45 Mars Hill Complex Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI 00840 Phone: (340) 773-1082