



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Announces a Final Rule to Implement the 2010 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Recommendations on Sharks

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the implementation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations 10-07 and 10-08, which prohibit the retention, transshipping, landing, storing, or selling of hammerhead sharks in the family *Sphyrnidae* (except for bonnethead sharks, *Sphyrna tiburo*) and oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT. This rule affects the commercial Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) pelagic longline (PLL) fishery and recreational HMS fisheries for tunas, swordfish, and/or billfish in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

As of September 28, 2011, the retention of hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks will be prohibited for:

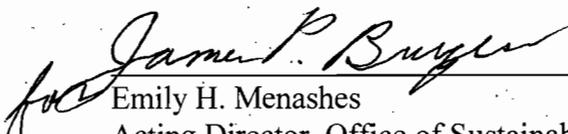
- Atlantic HMS commercially permitted vessels that have PLL gear on board; and
- Recreational fishermen fishing with a General Category permit when participating in a HMS tournament or fishing under an HMS Angling or Charter/Headboat permit where tunas, swordfish, and/or billfish are also retained.

The retention of hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks are still allowed for the following activities because they target sharks and are not associated with ICCAT fisheries:

- Shark recreational fisheries when tunas, swordfish, and billfish are not retained; and
- Commercial shark bottom longline, gillnet, or handgear fisheries.

This notice is a courtesy to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and draft EA, contact Peter Cooper at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule and draft EA are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

AUG 29 2011


for Emily H. Menashes
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date

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