

I. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC SHARK REGULATIONS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES
<p><u>Large Coastal Sharks (LCS)</u>: Blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, spinner, silky, hammerheads (great, scalloped, and smooth), tiger sharks</p> <p><u>Small Coastal Sharks (SCS)</u>: Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, bonnethead, finetooth</p> <p><u>Pelagic Sharks</u>: blue, common thresher, oceanic whitetip, shortfin mako, porbeagle</p>
PROHIBITED SPECIES
<p>Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar*, sand tiger, sevengill, sixgill, smalltail, whale, and white sharks.</p> <p>* Only vessels selected to participate in the shark research fishery are allowed to harvest sandbar sharks subject to the retention limits set forth by NMFS and only when a NMFS-approved observer is onboard.</p>
PERMITS
<p>Commercial fishermen must possess a valid Atlantic shark Directed or Incidental permit for the vessel they are using to harvest Atlantic sharks. Under the limited access program, NMFS is no longer issuing new commercial shark permits. Prior to renewing or obtaining a shark limited access permit, fishermen must become certified at a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release and Identification workshop if fishing with longline or gillnet gear (see Section XIII). Contact the Southeast Regional Office at (727) 824-5326 for information on commercial shark permits.</p>
RETENTION LIMITS
<p><u>Directed Permit</u>: 33 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip. No retention limits for pelagic or SCS.</p> <p><u>Incidental Permit</u>: 3 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip. 16 pelagic or SCS (combined) per vessel per trip.</p>
AUTHORIZED GEARS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longline**: Bottom or pelagic • Handgear: Rod and reel, handline, and bandit gear • Gillnet: A gillnet cannot be longer than 2.5 km, must be attached to the vessel at one end while fishing, and is subject to additional restrictions in place during the Right Whale Calving season/region off the southeast United States between November 15 and April 15 every year. Gillnet checks must be conducted every 1-2 hours. <p>** All commercial longline vessels must have handling and release gear and corrodible hooks on board. Circle hooks are required for pelagic longline gear. Bait restrictions also apply.</p>
MINIMUM SIZES
<p>At this time there is no commercial minimum size for Atlantic sharks.</p>
LANDING RESTRICTIONS
<p>All sharks must have their fins naturally attached through offloading. Fins may be cut as long as they remain naturally attached to the carcass with at least a small flap of uncut skin. Sharks may be eviscerated and the heads may be removed, but they cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea</p> <p><u>Additional remarks:</u></p> <p>There are two regions [GOM (which includes the U.S. Caribbean) and Atlantic] for non-sandbar LCS; there is one region for SCS and pelagic sharks.</p> <p>Commercial fishing season is approximately January 1 through December 31. Individual shark seasons will close when 80% of quota is reached, with 5 days' notice.</p> <p>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements apply for bottom longline and shark gillnet vessels.</p> <p>There are several closed areas. See the appropriate section of this guide, the HMS webpage, or 50 CFR part 635 for more details and locations of area closures.</p>

Please see 50 CFR part 635 for the current Atlantic HMS regulations, as regulations are subject to change. October 2008