

IV. SHARK QUICK REFERENCE SHEET



AUTHORIZED SPECIES (species that may be retained)

Large Coastal Sharks (LCS): blacktip, bull, great hammerhead*, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead*, smooth hammerhead*, spinner, and tiger sharks (non-ridgeback LCS plus tiger).

Small Coastal Sharks (SCS): Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, bonnethead, and finetooth sharks.

Pelagic Sharks: blue, oceanic whitetip*, porbeagle, shortfin mako**, and thresher sharks.

*HMS Angling and charter/headboat permit holders cannot simultaneously possess hammerhead (great, scalloped, or smooth) or oceanic whitetip sharks AND tunas, billfish and/or swordfish.

** NMFS encourages the live release of shortfin mako sharks and has developed a free application (app) called “Release Mako” that fishermen can use to share information on the water about shortfin mako releases using their Android mobile devices. Information can also be submitted via the Atlantic HMS website (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/shortfinmako/index.htm>), telephone, or fax.

PROHIBITED SPECIES (species that must be released)

Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean sharpnose, Caribbean reef, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, sandtiger, bigeye sandtiger, sevengill, silky, sixgill, bigeye sixgill, smalltail, whale, and white sharks*.

* A person may fish for white sharks with rod and reel, provided that the person releases such fish to the sea immediately with minimal injury and does not remove the fish from the water.

PERMITS AND GEARS

Authorized Permits in Federal Waters	Gear	Species
1. HMS Angling, OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat, OR 3. Atlantic Tunas General category ONLY if participating in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament.	Handline, and Rod and Reel*	LCS, SCS, and Pelagic sharks

* Rod and Reel includes downriggers

SIZE/BAG LIMITS AND SEASONS

Permits	Size Limit*	Bag Limit**	Season
All permits listed above	>54" FL	1 shark (any authorized species) per vessel per trip	Jan. 1- Dec. 31
	None	1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead per person per trip	

*Fork Length measurement

**No more than three sharks per vessel per trip if one is an Atlantic sharpnose and one is a bonnethead shark

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If contacted, fishermen must participate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP, formerly MRFSS). Survey contact may occur at the dock or by phone.

RESTRICTED AREAS

- Tortugas Marine Reserves (year-round)
- Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps closed areas (year-round) (surface trolling without downriggers allowed May-October)
- Edges 40 Fathom Contour closed area (closed January-April)

LANDING RESTRICTIONS

All sharks must be landed with the head, fins, and tail naturally attached, but may be gutted and bled at sea. An Atlantic shark harvested from its management unit that is not retained must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water.

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