

## VIII. RECREATIONAL SHARK FISHING

### AUTHORIZED SPECIES

Large coastal (LC) non-ridgeback sharks (sharks that do not have a ridge between their first and second dorsal fin) plus tiger sharks may be retained recreationally. The LC non-ridgeback sharks include blacktip, bull, great hammerhead, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and spinner sharks. Small coastal shark species that may be retained include Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, bonnethead, and finetooth sharks. Pelagic shark species that may be retained include blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako, and thresher sharks. A shark identification guide for recreational anglers is available online at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/2008/Rec\\_shark\\_ID\\_placard\\_09\\_04\\_2008.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/2008/Rec_shark_ID_placard_09_04_2008.pdf)

### FISHING GEARS AND TECHNIQUES

Authorized fishing gears and permit(s) required for recreational harvest of Atlantic sharks are listed below. Detailed definitions of each gear type can be found in Section II.

**Rod and reel**: HMS Angling **OR** HMS Charter/Headboat **OR** Atlantic tunas General category (when fishing in a registered HMS Tournament).

**Handline**: HMS Angling **OR** HMS Charter/Headboat **OR** Atlantic tunas General category (when fishing in a registered HMS Tournament).

Fishermen may use rod and reel and handline gear to fish for Atlantic sharks. Downriggers may be used when fishing hook and line gears. If handlines are used, they must remain attached to, or in contact with, the fishing vessel. Downriggers, wire lines, planers, or similar devices may **not** be used while trolling in the Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps closed areas. Please see Section III for more information. **There are no restrictions on the types of hooks that may be used to catch Atlantic sharks.**

### MINIMUM SIZES

Most authorized species of sharks that may be kept recreationally have a minimum size of 54 inches (4.5 feet) fork length, which is the straight-line distance between the tip of the shark's nose and the fork of the tail (see image below). The only exceptions are for Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks, which have no size limit. Sharks that are under the minimum size limit cannot be possessed and must be released using a method that maximizes their chance of survival, without removing them from the water.



### RETENTION LIMITS

The possession limits for Atlantic sharks are one shark of any authorized species per vessel per trip that meets the minimum size limits, plus one Atlantic sharpnose and one bonnethead shark per person per vessel per trip.

If an Atlantic shark is caught by a hook and not retained, the fish must be released by cutting the line near the hook or by using a dehooking device, in either case without removing the fish from the water.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

If contacted on the dock or by phone, recreational anglers must cooperate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP, formerly MRFSS) to facilitate scientific research and catch monitoring on these species.

### **LANDING REQUIREMENTS**

Recreational fishermen **must** land sharks with the head, fins, and tail naturally attached. Sharks may be gutted and bled by making an incision at the base of the tail as long as the caudal (tail) fin is still naturally attached by at least a small flap of uncut skin.

## **IX. RECREATIONAL TUNA FISHING**

### **FISHING GEARS AND TECHNIQUES**

Authorized fishing gears and permit(s) required for recreational harvest of Atlantic tunas are listed below. Detailed definitions of each gear type can be found in Section II.

**Bandit gear**: HMS Charter/Headboat Permit

**Rod and reel**: HMS Angling **OR** HMS Charter/Headboat **OR** Atlantic tunas General category (when fishing in a registered HMS Tournament).

**Handline**: HMS Angling **OR** HMS Charter/Headboat **OR** Atlantic tunas General category (when fishing in a registered HMS Tournament).

**Speargun**: HMS Angling **OR** HMS Charter/Headboat. Can only be used for BAYS tunas.

**Greenstick**: HMS Charter/Headboat **OR** Atlantic tunas General category (when fishing in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament).

An Atlantic tunas General category permit may be used to fish for Atlantic tunas during a registered HMS tournament; however, General category regulations, including authorized gears, techniques, and size limits apply. Bluefin tuna less than 73" may not be retained aboard General category permitted vessels.

Fishermen may use rod and reel, greenstick, and handline gears to fish for Atlantic tunas. Downriggers may be used when fishing hook and line gears. If handlines are used, they must remain attached to, or in contact with, the fishing vessel. Downriggers, wire lines, planers, or similar devices may **not** be used while trolling in the Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps closed areas. Please see Section III for more information. There are no restrictions on the types of hooks that may be used to catch Atlantic tunas.

### **MINIMUM SIZES**

The minimum size is 27 inches curved fork length (CFL) for bluefin, yellowfin, and bigeye tunas. There is currently no minimum size for albacore or skipjack tuna.

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