

Science, Service, Stewardship



UPDATE: Outreach Activities

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

September 2, 2009

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HMS Management Division Outreach Plan 2008-2013



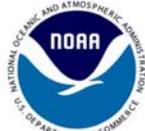
--Completed October 2007--



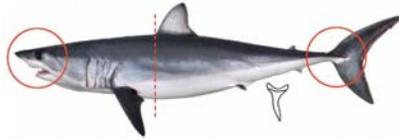
Accomplishments

Goal 1: Facilitate public understanding of the HMS Management Division’s regulations, including public access to clear, complete, concise and timely information.

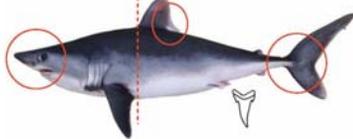
- NOAA ‘marketing’ campaign
- Leveraging tournaments to reach recreational anglers
- Compliance guide update and restructuring
- Shark ID placards
- Guide to Sharks, Tunas and Billfishes of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico – back in print



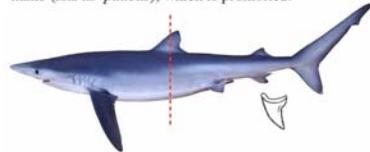
Sharks that can be legally retained by recreational anglers in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico



Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*): snout very pointed; teeth without cusplets; edges of teeth smooth; *head length greater than pectoral fin length**; underside of head *white**; first dorsal fin behind pectoral fins; caudal fin with a single keel; maximum size approximately 12 feet; occurs primarily offshore; easily confused with the longfin mako (*Isurus paucus*), which is prohibited.



Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*): snout very pointed; teeth with cusplets; edges of teeth smooth; head length greater than pectoral fin length; first dorsal fin above pectoral fins; distinct white marking rear edge of first dorsal fin; caudal fin with two keels; maximum size approximately 11 feet; occurs primarily offshore.



Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*): snout pointed; snout length longer than mouth width; midpoint of first dorsal fin closer to pelvic fins than pectoral fins; top of body with brilliant blue coloration; maximum size approximately 11 feet; occurs primarily offshore.



Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*): snout pointed to blunt; first dorsal fin large and rounded at tip; tips of most fins with distinct, mottled white coloration; maximum size approximately 10 feet; occurs primarily offshore.



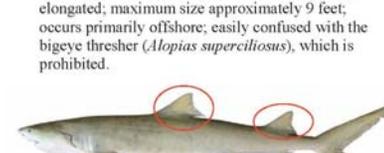
Tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*): snout blunt; snout length much shorter than mouth width; caudal fin with a single keel; body covered with dark bars, spots or patches; maximum size approximately 17 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.



Thresher shark (*Alopias vulpinus*): snout pointed to blunt; *eye sockets are circular and do not extend onto top of head**; top of head does not have deep grooves extending from eyes to pectoral fins*; first dorsal fin does not extend to pelvic fins*; caudal fin greatly elongated; maximum size approximately 9 feet; occurs primarily offshore; easily confused with the bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*), which is prohibited.



Nurse shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*): snout blunt; mouth at tip of snout; eyes very small; first dorsal fin above pelvic fins; lower lobe of caudal fin poorly developed; body is orange to brown in color; maximum size approximately 10 feet (length from tip of snout to tip of tail); occurs primarily in inshore.

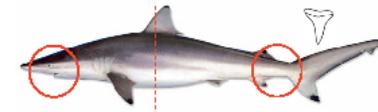


Lemon shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*): snout blunt; snout length shorter than mouth width; teeth without cusplets; both dorsal fins approximately equal in size; body yellowish-brown in color; maximum size approximately 10 feet; occurs primarily in inshore.

Recreational vessels must possess a valid HMS Angling or HMS Charter/Headboat permit to fish for sharks. Vessels are limited to one shark greater than 54" fork length per day, PLUS one bonnethead and one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per day (no size minimum). Sharks not listed on this placard may not be landed and must be released.



Blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*): snout pointed; snout length approximately equal to mouth width; first dorsal fin over pectoral fins; anal fin *does not* have black tip; maximum size approximately 6 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.



Spinner shark (*Carcharhinus brevipinna*): snout pointed; snout length approximately equal to mouth width; first dorsal fin originates behind pectoral fins; anal fin *has* distinct black tip; maximum size approximately 7 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.



Bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*): snout blunt; snout length much shorter than mouth width; first dorsal fin above pectoral fins; maximum size approximately 9 feet; occurs primarily inshore but not uncommon offshore.



Finetooth shark (*Carcharhinus isodon*): snout pointed; teeth are needle-like and similar in upper and lower jaw; edges of teeth smooth; gill slits noticeably long; all fins lack distinct markings; body blue to grey in color; maximum size approximately 5 feet; occurs primarily inshore.



Blacknose shark (*Carcharhinus acronotus*): snout pointed; tip of snout usually has distinct black marking; dorsal fin behind pectoral fins; fins lack distinct marking with possible exception of second dorsal fin; body grey to yellow in color; maximum size approximately 4 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.



Atlantic sharpnose shark (*Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*): snout pointed; first dorsal fin behind pectoral fins; second dorsal fin originates over midpoint of anal fin; body usually with several to many conspicuous white spots except for very small individuals; maximum size approximately 3 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.



Scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*): front of head with a central indentation; sides of head project past front of head; maximum size approximately 11 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.

Great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*): front of head with a central indentation; sides of head do not project past front of head; maximum size approximately 15 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.

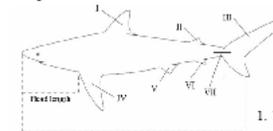
Smooth hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*): front of head without a central indentation; sides of head project past front of head; maximum size approximately 12 feet; occurs inshore and offshore.

Bonnethead (*Sphyrna tiburo*): head shovel-shaped; sides of body covered with numerous black spots; maximum size approximately 4 feet; primarily occurs inshore.

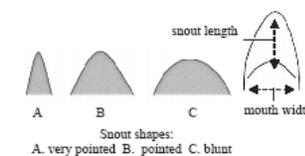
Lengths reported in fork length, except nurse shark. All species listed, except oceanic whitetip and tiger sharks, *do not* have an interdorsal ridge. Teeth illustrated are the largest in upper jaw. * Similar species, indicated as "easily confused with", will not share characteristics listed in italics. + characteristic does not apply to some individuals less than 54" fork length. All sharks of a given species are not identical in appearance (i.e. first dorsal fin position), however, characteristics provided are correct for the majority of individuals.

Technical terms:

- I. first dorsal fin
- II. second dorsal fin
- III. caudal fin
- IV. pectoral fin
- V. pelvic fin
- VI. anal fin
- VII. keel



Fork length



Snout shapes:
A. very pointed B. pointed C. blunt



interdorsal ridge

Prepared by William B. Driggers III¹ and Eric R. Hoffmayer²

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 2. University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
- Photographs and drawings provided by NMFS, E. Hoffmayer, S. Iglesias and R. McAuley



Accomplishments

- Goal 2:** Promote constituent stewardship of HMS and HMS fisheries, including participation in HMS management actions and fishery-dependent research.
- Public information and scoping meetings to engage constituents early in the rulemaking process
 - Greenstick authorization
 - Caribbean Amendment 4 – five scoping meetings in Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico

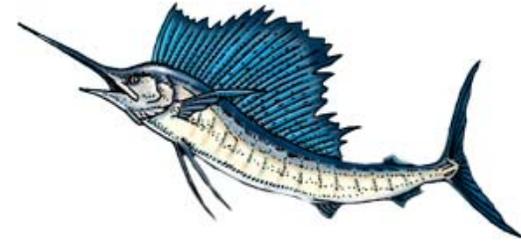
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Compliance Guides



Compliance Guides



- Separate Commercial and Recreational Guides
- Dealer and Importer/Exporter Guide
- NOAA 'marketing' campaign
- Organized by category (no longer Q&A format)
- Regulatory changes highlighted in Introduction
- Quick reference section(s)



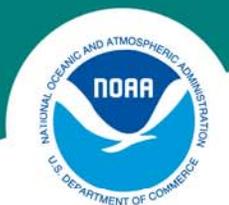
Commercial Guide

- Quick Reference sheets
- Gear definitions
- Restrictions
- Commercial Fishing Permits
- Commercial Fishing regulations
- Charter/Headboat Fishing regulations
- Observer Coverage, HMS Workshops
- Contact List

III. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC SWORDFISH REGULATIONS

PERMITS
Commercial fishermen must possess a valid swordfish limited access permit for the vessel they are operating in order to fish for, take, or retain Atlantic swordfish. All commercial swordfish permits are issued under a limited access system. To enter the fishery, fishermen must obtain a permit from someone who is leaving the fishery. Limited access permits are transferred between vessels and are subject to upgrading restrictions. Atlantic Directed and Incidental swordfish permits are valid only when held in conjunction with both a shark limited access and tuna longline permit. Prior to renewing or obtaining an Atlantic Directed or Incidental swordfish limited access permit, fishermen must become certified at a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release and Identification workshop if fishing with longline or gillnet gear. For more information regarding commercial swordfish permits, please call the NMFS Southeast Regional Office at (727) 824-5326.
RETENTION LIMITS
North Atlantic Swordfish (north of 5°N latitude): <u>Directed</u> : No trip limit (when the directed fishery closes, fishermen may retain 15 swordfish per pelagic longline trip, two swordfish per handgear trip, and no swordfish per harpoon trip) <u>Incidental</u> : 30 swordfish per trip, or no more than 15 if fishing with squid trawl
South Atlantic Swordfish (south of 5°N latitude): <u>Directed</u> : No trip limit (when the directed fishery closes, no swordfish may be retained) <u>Incidental</u> : No retention allowed
AUTHORIZED GEARS
<u>North Atlantic Swordfish</u> can only be taken with handgear (bandit gear, handline, harpoon, rod and reel), buoy gear (directed or handgear permit holders only), or longline, except that a limited number of swordfish may be taken incidentally on a vessel with squid trawl. <u>South Atlantic Swordfish</u> can only be taken with longline. 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.
MINIMUM SIZES
North and South Atlantic swordfish must be larger than 29 inches (73 cm) cleithrum to caudal keel, <i>or</i> 47 inches (119 cm) lower jaw fork length, <i>or</i> 33 lb (15 kg) dressed weight. A swordfish that is damaged by shark bites may be retained only if the remainder of the carcass meets the minimum size. The swordfish may be dressed (gutted and head and fins removed), but the dressed weight of the swordfish must be greater than 33 lbs. Fishermen may not cut the remaining carcass into pieces while on the vessel.

LANDING RESTRICTIONS
Swordfish must be kept in whole or dressed form through landing ("dressed" indicates a headed/gutted fish with some or all fins removed). Swordfish harvested from the management unit cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea. There are several closed areas. See the appropriate section of this guide, HMS webpage, or 50 CFR part 635 for more details and locations of area closures.



Recreational Guide

- Permits
- Gear Definitions
- General Restrictions
- Quick Reference sections
- Recreational Fishing regulations
- Charter/Headboat Fishing, HMS Tournaments
- Contact List



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.
- **Small Coastal Sharks (SCS):** Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, bonnethead, and finetooth sharks.
- **Pelagic Sharks:** blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako, and thresher sharks.

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 the person releases such fish to the sea immediately with minimum of injury, and that such fish may not be removed from the water.

PERMITS AND GEARS

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

** Rod and Reel includes downriggers

SEASON, SIZE, AND BAG LIMITS

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

*** Fork Length measurement

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

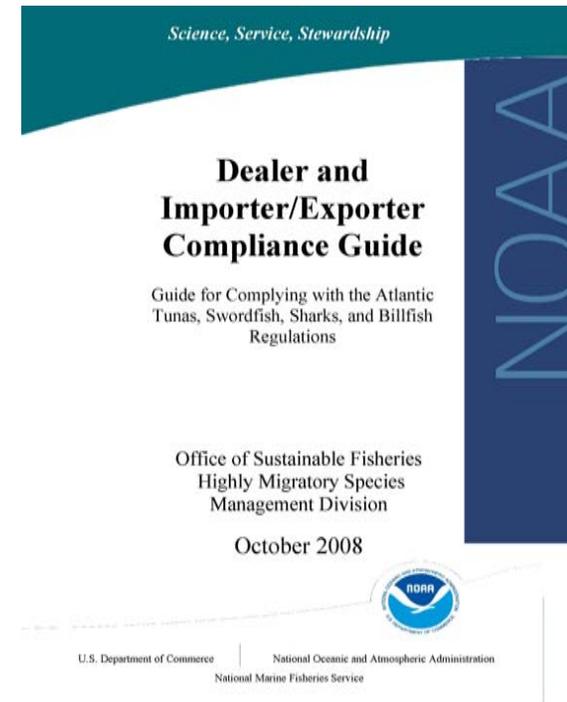
LANDING RESTRICTIONS

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.

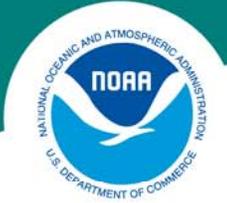


Dealer and Importer/Exporter Guide

- Permits
- Tunas
- Sharks
- Swordfish
- Billfish
- Importing, Exporting, and Re-exporting HMS
- Contact List



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Questions or Comments?

Outreach Plan

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