

STATE REGULATIONS

HMS permit holders must abide by all applicable Federal regulations, regardless of where fishing occurs, including in state waters. However, when fishing in the waters of a state with more restrictive regulations, vessels must abide by the more restrictive state regulations.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is finalizing an Atlantic coast-wide shark Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for state waters. For more information call Chris Vonderweight at (202) 289-6400 or visit their website <http://www.asafc.org/>

LARGE PELAGIC SURVEY (LPS)

NMFS collects data on recreational fishing catch and effort through the LPS. The LPS consists of randomly selected weekly telephone and dockside intercept interviews. Participation is mandatory. This information is necessary for accurate stock assessments. If contacted, please support and cooperate with this effort. For more information about the LPS, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RECENT UPDATES

Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan - Available now
HMS Identification Guide - Available now
Schedule for Small Coastal Shark I.D. and Safe Handling and Release Workshops – Scheduled Quarterly
Small Coastal Shark Assessment – Available now
Small Coastal Shark Amendment 3 Scoping – Summer 2008
Small Coastal Shark Amendment 3 - 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Karyl Brewster-Geisz Jackie Wilson
Mike Clark (240) 338-3936
(301) 713-2347

If you or your marina or fishing club would like to receive regular shark postings from our Atlantic HMS News email listserve, please subscribe at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/> or contact the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347. Information about *all* Federal fisheries, including the shark fishery, can be obtained electronically via FISHNEWS. Please see www.nmfs.noaa.gov to sign up for this service.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Enforcement Hotline	800-853-1964
Southeast HMS Office	727-824-5399
Northeast HMS Office	978-281-9260
HMS Headquarters Office	301-713-2347
HMS Infoline	800-894-5528
Southeast Permits Office	727-824-5326
HMS Permits Customer Service	888-872-8862

This pamphlet was prepared in June 2008 to provide interested fishermen a summary of the recreational fishing regulations for Atlantic sharks. Complete regulations may be found at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/. The official regulations can be found in 50 CFR part 635 and the *Federal Register*. Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with current official regulations. This brochure is produced in compliance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

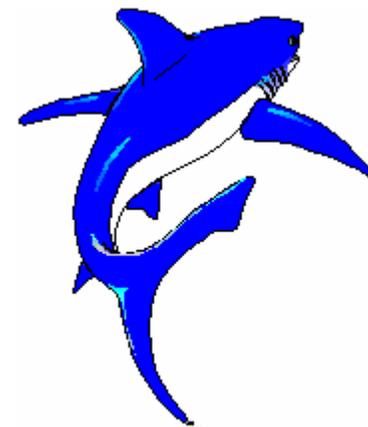


We value interest, questions, and comments.
Please feel free to contact us.
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
(301) 713-2347
NOAA Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Science, Service, Stewardship

Atlantic Shark Recreational Fishery Regulations



June 2008

Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species
Management Division



HMS ANGLING PERMITS

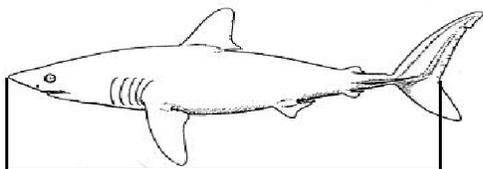
Owners of private vessels used to fish recreationally for Atlantic HMS (Atlantic tunas, billfish, sharks, and swordfish) in federal waters are required to obtain an HMS Angling category permit from NMFS. The angling permit can be purchased online at www.hmspermits.gov or by calling 888-872-8862.

NO SALE PROVISION

Recreational fishermen (those fishermen who do not have a limited access commercial shark permit) are not allowed to sell, barter, or trade Atlantic shark or shark pieces.

BAG LIMIT AND MINIMUM SIZE

ONE shark (of any species, except prohibited species) per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 54", 4.5 ft, or 1.37m fork length; plus ONE Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size); plus ONE bonnethead shark per person per trip (no minimum size).



Fork length

AUTHORIZED GEARS

Rod and reel and handline are the only fishing gears that may be used by recreational anglers. If handlines are used they must remain attached to, or in contact with, the fishing vessel.

LANDING RESTRICTIONS

Harvested sharks must have all fins, head, and tail naturally attached through landing. Sharks may be bled and gutted as long as the required parts are still attached. This regulation aids species-specific identification of landed sharks dockside, which is important for stock assessments.

RELEASE INFORMATION

If you catch a prohibited species or an undersized shark, you must release that fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury and without removing the fish from the water. If you are not sure of the species and whether you may keep it, release it. Recreational fishermen can no longer retain sandbar or "brown" sharks or silky sharks.

SPECIES THAT MAY BE KEPT

Large Coastal Sharks

Blacktip	Spinner
Bull	Scalloped Hammerhead
Lemon	Smooth Hammerhead
Nurse	Great Hammerhead
Tiger	

Small Coastal Sharks

Atlantic Sharpnose	Blacknose
Bonnethead	Finetooth

Pelagic Sharks

Shortfin mako	Oceanic whitetip
Blue	Common thresher
Porbeagle	

SPECIES THAT MUST BE RELEASED*

Atlantic Angel	Basking
Bigeye sand tiger	Bigeye sixgill
Bigeye thresher	Bignose
Caribbean reef sharpnose	Caribbean
Dusky	Galapagos
Longfin mako	Narrowtooth
Night	Sandbar
Sand tiger	Sevengill
Silky	Sixgill
Smalltail	Whale
White	

*Prohibited species must be released immediately with minimum injury and without removing them from the water.

HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMITS

If you own or operate a Charter/headboat (CHB) vessel that fishes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, you must have an Atlantic HMS CHB permit. The permit can be purchased online at www.hmspermits.gov or by calling 888-872-8862. Sale of fish by CHB permit holders is prohibited unless the vessel also has a limited access permit and the fishing season is open. NMFS will select a percentage of permitted CHB to complete a logbook for each trip. If you would like to volunteer to carry an observer to monitor catch and release rates and condition of released fish, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

HMS TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

The tournament operator responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, must register the tournament with NMFS at least four weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. Call the HMS Management Division at (727) 824-5399 or visit the website www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms to receive a registration form.

NMFS will select certain tournaments for reporting. If your tournament is selected, NMFS will send you a reporting form that must be returned to NMFS within 7 days after tournament fishing has been completed.

TAGGING INFORMATION

To obtain shark tags and information on the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, visit www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov or write to:

Apex Predators Program
NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service
28 Tarzwell Drive
Narragansett, RI 02882-1199