

I. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC SHARK REGULATIONS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES ^{5,6}			
Large Coastal Sharks (LCS)*		Small Coastal Sharks (SCS)*	Pelagic Sharks
Blacktip	Nurse	Atlantic sharpnose	Blue
Bull	Sandbar***	Blacknose****	Common thresher
Hammerhead, great**	Silky**	Bonnethead	Oceanic whitetip**
Hammerhead, scalloped**	Spinner	Finetooth	Porbeagle
Hammerhead, smooth**	Tiger		Shortfin mako
Lemon			
<p>* These species are divided into regional management groups (Section XIV).</p> <p>** These sharks may not be possessed, retained, transshipped, landed, stored, or sold by vessels with pelagic longline gear onboard.⁷ Charter/headboat vessels may not possess these sharks while in possession of tunas, swordfish, or billfishes.⁸</p> <p>*** Sandbar sharks can only be retained by vessels selected to participate in the shark research fishery (Section XIV), subject to the retention limits established by NOAA Fisheries and only when a NOAA Fisheries-approved observer is onboard (Section XVIII).⁹</p> <p>**** Blacknose sharks may only be harvested in the Atlantic region south of 34° 00' N. latitude.¹⁰</p>			
PROHIBITED SPECIES ^{11,12}			
<p>The following sharks may not be possessed or retained in any form.¹³ If one of these species is caught, it must be released immediately with minimal injury, without removing it from the water, and in a manner that maximizes its chances of survival.¹⁴</p>			
Atlantic angel	Bignose	Longfin mako	Sixgill
Basking	Caribbean reef	Narrowtooth	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Caribbean sharpnose	Night	Whale
Bigeye sixgill	Dusky	Sand tiger	White
Bigeye thresher	Galapagos	Sevengill	
PERMITS ^{15,16}			
<p>To commercially harvest Atlantic sharks, vessel owners must obtain a valid Atlantic shark Directed or Incidental limited access permit.</p> <p>When the relevant retention limit allows, an open access HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit may be used to harvest Atlantic sharks. The shark retention limit is set at zero for this permit at this time.¹⁷</p> <p>Requirements for these permits are described in Sections V and XIV.</p>			
RETENTION LIMITS ¹⁸ (per vessel per trip)			
	LCS	SCS	Pelagic Sharks
Directed permit	45	No limit	
Incidental permit	3	16 (combined SCS and pelagic)	
HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit	0 (no shark retention)		
<p>NMFS may adjust the above default retention limits for LCS during the fishing year.¹⁹ Visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call 301-427-8503 for more information. The commercial fishing year is January 1 through December 31. Open fishing seasons vary depending on available quota and other factors.^{20,21} Specified shark fishing seasons will close when 80% of quota is reached or</p>			

projected to be reached, with 5 days' notice (details in Section XIV).²²

AUTHORIZED GEARS²³

Shark Directed or Incidental permit	Bottom longline (Section IX) or pelagic longline (Section VII)
	Handgear: rod and reel, handline, and bandit gear
	Gillnet (Section X)
HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit	Rod and reel, handline, and bandit gear.

MINIMUM SIZES

At this time, there is no commercial minimum size for Atlantic sharks.

LANDING RESTRICTIONS

All sharks must have their fins naturally attached through offloading. Fins may be cut as long as they remain naturally attached to the carcass by at least a small flap of uncut skin. Shark carcasses must otherwise remain intact except that sharks may be eviscerated and the heads may be removed. Sharks cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea (details in Section XIV).²⁴