



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Implements the 2011 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Recommendation on Silky Sharks

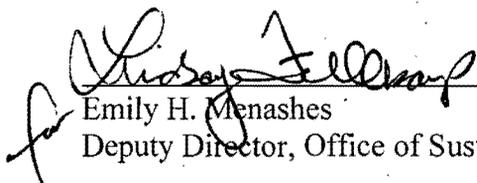
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the implementation of Recommendation 11-08 of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which requires fishing vessels operating in ICCAT-managed fisheries to release all silky sharks whether dead or alive, and prohibits retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of a silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*). In order to facilitate domestic compliance and enforcement, NMFS is also implementing the prohibition of storing, selling, and purchasing the species, consistent with the similar regulations finalized last year regarding oceanic whitetip and most hammerhead sharks.

As of November 5, 2012:

- NMFS prohibits the retention of silky sharks on vessels in commercial ICCAT fisheries (i.e., pelagic longline vessels and vessels issued both an HMS Charter/Headboat permit and a commercial shark permit, when tuna, swordfish or billfish are on board the vessel)
- NMFS prohibits the storing, selling, or purchasing of silky sharks from pelagic longline vessels and from vessels issued both an HMS Charter/Headboat permit and a commercial shark permit, when tuna, swordfish or billfish are on board the vessel.

This rule would affect the commercial ICCAT fisheries, primarily the commercial Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) pelagic longline fishery for tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. The rule will not affect recreational fishermen as silky sharks are already prohibited in that fishery.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about shark fisheries. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information, contact the HMS Management Division at (301) 427-8503. This notice is intended to provide a plain language summary of how to comply with the rule and is published in compliance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. To view the final rule and supporting documents, see:
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breaking_news.htm.


Emily H. Menashes
Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

10/2/12
Date

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>

