

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Coastal Sharks Management Board

May 2, 2024
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary

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| 1. Welcome/Call to Order (<i>M. Luisi</i>) | 8:00 a.m. |
| 2. Board Consent | 8:00 a.m. |
| • Approval of Agenda | |
| • Approval of Proceedings from October 2023 | |
| 3. Public Comment | 8:05 a.m. |
| 4. Progress Update on Ongoing Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan Actions (<i>K. Brewster-Geisz</i>) | 8:15 a.m. |
| 5. Consider Implementing Complementary State Waters Measures to Prohibit Retention of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks (<i>C. Starks</i>) Action | 8:30 a.m. |
| 6. Other Business/Adjourn | 8:45 a.m. |

The meeting will be held at The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA; 703.486.1111, and via webinar; click [here](#) for details.

MEETING OVERVIEW

Coastal Sharks Management Board

May 2, 2024

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

Chair: Erika Burgess (FL) Assumed Chairmanship: 05/23	Technical Committee Chair: Angel Willey (MD)	Law Enforcement Committee Rep: Greg Garner (SC)
Vice Chair: Mike Luisi (MD)	Advisory Panel Chair: VACANT	Previous Board Meeting: October 17, 2023
Voting Members: MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS (13 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from October 2023

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting, public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance, the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Progress Update on Ongoing Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan Actions (8:15-8:30 a.m.)

Background

- NOAA Fisheries is working on several actions for the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) FMP relevant to coastal sharks.
- Amendment 15 addresses modification, data collection, and assessment of four commercial longline spatial management areas, and administration and funding of the HMS pelagic longline electronic monitoring program.
- Amendment 16 could result in large changes to the entire commercial and recreational shark fishery including changes to commercial and recreational shark quotas, shark management groups, shark retention or bag limits, and shark minimum size limits.

Presentations

- Update on Ongoing Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan Actions by K. Brewster-Geisz

5. Consider Implementing Complementary State Waters Measures to Prohibit Retention of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks (8:30-8:45 a.m.) Action

Background

- A [final rule](#) was issued in January prohibiting the retention and possession of oceanic whitetip sharks in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean, effective February 2, 2024.
- As a result, the federal regulations and the Commission’s Coastal Sharks FMP are no longer consistent.

Presentations

- Options for Implementing Complementary State Waters Measures to Prohibit Retention of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks by C. Starks

Board actions for consideration at this meeting

- Consider Implementing Complementary State Waters Measures to Prohibit Retention of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks

6. Other Business/Adjourn

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
COASTAL SHARKS MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**Beaufort Hotel
Beaufort, North Carolina
Hybrid Meeting**

October 17, 2023

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Coastal Sharks Management Board.
The Board will review the minutes during its next meeting.

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1. **Approval of Agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **Approval of Proceedings of August 1, 2023** by consent (Page 1).
3. **Move to approve the 2024 coastal sharks specifications via an email vote after NOAA Fisheries publishes the final rule for the 2024 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing season** (Page 2). Motion by John Clark; second by Mike Luisi. Motion carries by unanimous consent (Page 2).
4. **Move to nominate Mike Luisi as Vice-Chair of the Coastal Sharks Board** (Page 2). Motion by John Clark; second by Nichola Meserve. Motion passes by unanimous consent (Page 2).
5. **Move to adjourn** by consent (Page ____).

ATTENDANCE TO BE FILLED ON A LATER DATE

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The Coastal Sharks Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Rachel Carson Ballroom via hybrid meeting, in-person and webinar; Tuesday, October 17, 2023, and was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Erika Burgess.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR ERIKA BURGESS: At this time, I'll call to order the Coastal Sharks Management Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIR BURGESS: The first item on our agenda is the approval of the agenda. Is there any opposition to the agenda or any additions to the agenda? Seeing none.

APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR BURGESS: Next up is the approval of the proceedings from August, 2023. Is there any objection to approving the proceedings? Seeing none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR BURGESS: We'll now open the floor to public comment. I see a few people in the audience. Is there anyone in the room who wishes to give public comment to the Coastal Sharks Management Board? Seeing none; I'll look online. None online, all right.

SET SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2024 FISHING YEAR

CHAIR BURGESS: That brings us to our fourth agenda item, which is to set specifications for the 2024 fishing year, and I will ask Caitlin to give a presentation.

MS. CAITLIN STARKS: Thank you, Madam Chair. This should be pretty quick and painless. The NOAA Highly Migratory Species Division published their Proposed Rule for the 2024 coastal shark specifications on August 2nd this year, and the Final Rule is expected to publish later this fall. In that proposed rule, the quota for the shark's species relevant to this Board remain status quo from last

year, and the proposed opening date is January 1, 2024.

In addition to the specifications, the Proposed Rule considers options for the 2024 fishing years and beyond to automatically open the commercial fishing season on January 1st of each year, under base quotas and default retention limits. It also considers increasing the default commercial retention limit for the large coastal shark fisheries.

These are the 2024 proposed quotas for aggregated large coastal shark; hammerhead shark, non-blacknose, small coastal shark, blacknose shark, and smoothhound shark. For the LCS group and the blacknose group, the proposed retention limits are status quo from 2023 at 55 large coastal sharks other than sandbar sharks and 8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip.

Next, so the proposed 2024 quotas for the non-sandbar LCS research group, sandbar shark research group, blue shark, porbeagle sharks and other pelagic sharks. These are also status quo from 2023. Regarding the proposed default measures in a proposed rule. The proposed option or preferred option is to automatically open the fisheries on January 1st of each year, with base quotas and default retention limits. This option would increase the default possession limit for the large coastal sharks' group to 55 sharks per vessel per trip, rather than the current default of 45. The default possession limit for blacknose would stay at eight, and in this option, NOAA could still adjust the start date quotas and retention limits as needed, either before or during the season. Similar to last year, the Board can consider whether to approve the 2024 coastal sharks' specifications via an e-mail vote after NOAA Fisheries publishes the final rule for the 2024 Atlantic coastal sharks commercial fishing season later this year. I can take any questions.

CHAIR BURGESS: Any questions for Caitlin regarding her presentation or the proposed specifications? Mr. Clark.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. If there are no questions, I think there is a prepared motion

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that I would be glad to make. Okay, **move to approve the 2024 Coastal Sharks Specifications via an e-mail vote after NOAA Fisheries publishes the Final Rule for the 2024 Atlantic shark commercial fishing season.**

CHAIR BURGESS: I saw a second from Mike Luisi. Is there any discussion on the motion? One thing I want to bring forward, to make sure everyone on the Board is aware. Caitlin and I have discussed this. The ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan for coastal sharks requires us to set a fishing season start date each year.

Although NOAAs Proposed Rule would set it at January 1st, for each year, this Board would still have to go through the formal process of voting on a season each year. We can leave that in place, if that's all right. If we want to change it that would require an addendum. An addendum is not necessary, but if everyone is comfortable with that.

I just want to make sure that the Board is aware that that would be the practice moving forward. **Any opposition to this motion? Seeing none; this motion is approved,** and be on the lookout for an e-mail from Caitlin to vote for that. The next to last action is to elect a Vice-Chair. John, is your arm, okay?

MR. CLARK: Thanks to all the candy I have regained my strength, Madam Chair. At this time, it is my honor to **nominate my neighbor, the multitalented Mike Luisi as Vice-Chair of the Coastal Sharks Board.**

CHAIR BURGESS: I see a second from Nichola Meserve. **Any opposition to this motion?** Mike, you can't put your hand up. **Seeing none; I'll consider that motion approved.**

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR BURGESS: Is there any other business to come before this Board? Seeing none, I'll ask for a motion to adjourn. So moved, thank you.

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m. on October 17, 2023)

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