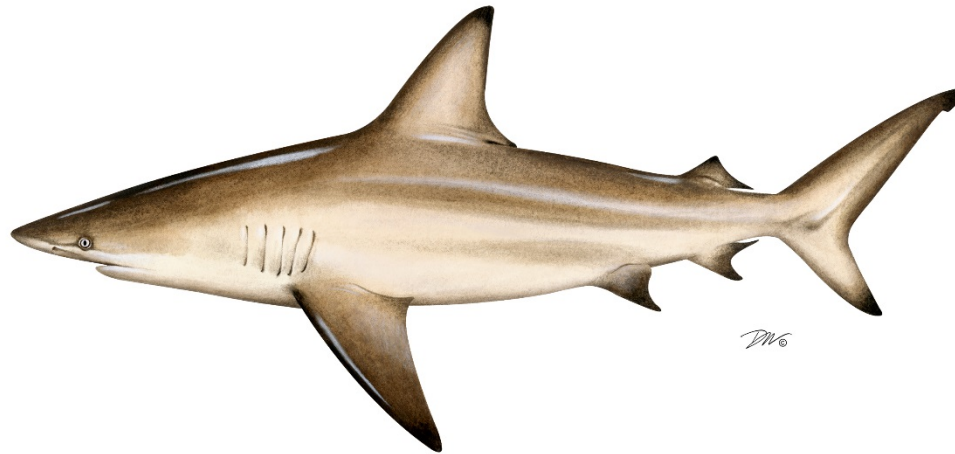




Consideration of Postponed Motion on Circle Hook Requirement



**Coastal Sharks Management Board
New Castle, New Hampshire
October 30, 2019**

Outline



- Overview
- Background
- AP Report
- LEC Report
- Questions
- Consideration of Postponed Motion

Overview



Board will consider today the following postponed motion (from May 2019) for recreational shark fishing:

Move to require, for state waters, the use of circle hooks on lines intended to catch sharks

- Board had requested Law Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel provide feedback to help inform consideration of this action

Background



- NOAA HMS Amendment 11 (2019)
 - Implements new commercial and recreational measures for HMS permit holders to address overfishing and rebuild the overfished North Atlantic shortfin mako shark stock
 - Recreational measures
 - New minimum size limit for shortfin mako sharks of 71 inches FL for males, 83 inches FL for females
 - Require use of circle hooks for HMS recreational permit holders in all areas
 - Request from NOAA Fisheries to implement complementary measures in state waters for consistency

Circle Hook Requirement



- Requirement has been in place since 2017 (Amendment 5b)
 - Use non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks
 - Except when fishing with flies or artificial lures
 - Area specific (south of 41°43' N latitude (near Chatham, MA))*
- Aim is to reduce discard mortality
- Research demonstrates circle hooks reduce gut-hooking and increase post-release survival for shortfin mako sharks (French et al., 2015)
- *Amendment 11 extends the requirement to all areas

Advisory Panel Report



- 4 AP members met via conference call on Oct 1
- Summary
 - All AP members indicated support for requiring circle hooks for the recreational shark fishery
 - A number of states have already implemented the measures
 - No enforcement issue; rather challenge would be if its not implemented for both state and federal waters
- **Recommendation:** Require the use of circle hooks for the recreational fishery and two requirements
 - 1) mirror the federal regulatory language on circle hook requirements for recreational HMS permit holders
 - 2) allow an exemption when fishing using files or artificial lures.

Federal Regulations



The regulatory text from Amendment 11 final rule:

Sec 635.21 (k)

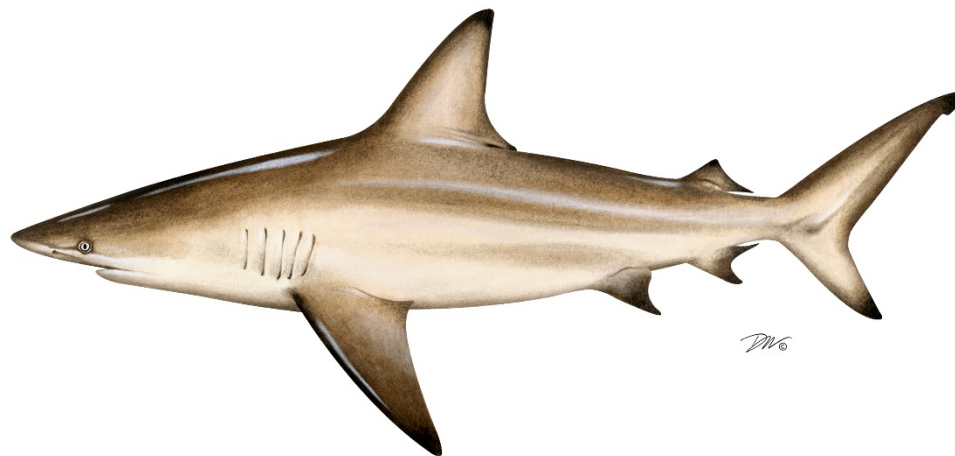
“(1) A person on board a vessel that has been issued or is required to be issued a permit with a shark endorsement under this part and who is participating in an HMS registered tournament that bestows points, prizes, or awards for Atlantic sharks must deploy only non-offset, corrodible circle hooks when fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing sharks, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures.”

Plain language from the NOAA compliance guide:

“All HMS permit holders are required to use non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for sharks recreationally, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures, in federal waters.”



2020 Commercial Specifications



Coastal Sharks Management Board
New Castle, New Hampshire
October 30, 2019

Background



- Proposed rule was published on September 19
- Status Quo Quotas from 2017-19
- Proposed to open all shark management groups on 1/1/2020
- Status Quo retention limits - start at 25 LCS other than sandbar sharks/vessel/trip and adjust as needed, as was done the past few years.

2020 Quotas



Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2020 Proposed Annual Quota	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits for Directed Shark Limited Access Permit Holders	Season Opening Dates
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	Linked	25 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip (If quota is landed too quickly, NMFS anticipates considering an in-season reduction, and later considering an in-season increase to 36 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip around July 15, 2020)	Jan 1, 2020
	Hammerhead Sharks	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)			
	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	Linked (South of 34° N. lat. only)	N/A	Jan 1, 2020
	Blacknose Sharks (South of 34° N. lat. only)	17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw)		8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip (applies to directed and incidental permit holders; in-season adjustments not possible)	
	Smoothhound sharks	1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	Jan 1, 2020

2020 Quotas



Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2020 Proposed Annual Quota	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits for Directed Shark Limited Access Permit Holders	Season Opening Dates
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	Linked	N/A	January 1, 2020
	Sandbar Shark Research	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)			
	Blue Sharks	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	
	Porbeagle Sharks	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)			
	Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)			

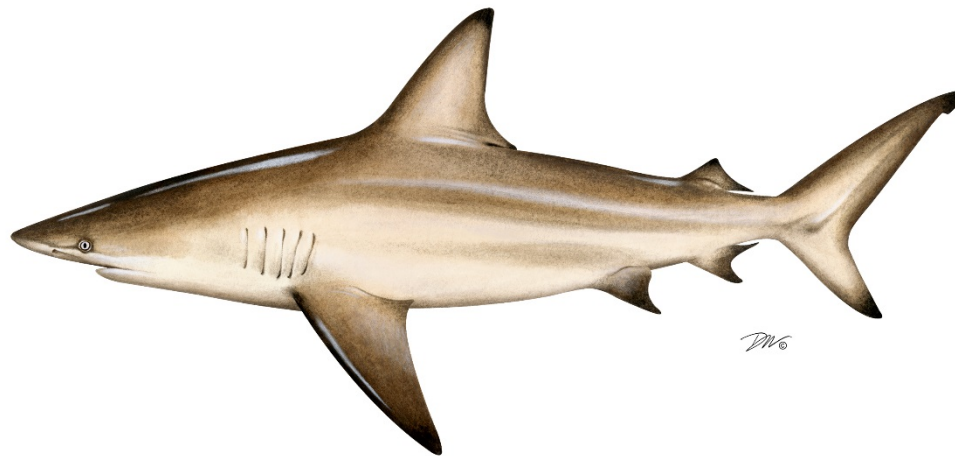


Next Steps

- The Final Rule will be published later this fall
 - The Board can approve the specifications by email vote once the final rule is published



2019 FMP Review



Coastal Sharks Management Board
New Castle, New Hampshire
October 30, 2019

Outline



- Status of the FMP
- Status of the Stocks
- Commercial and Recreational Landings
- Compliance
 - Status of implementing new Shortfin Mako measures

Status of the FMP



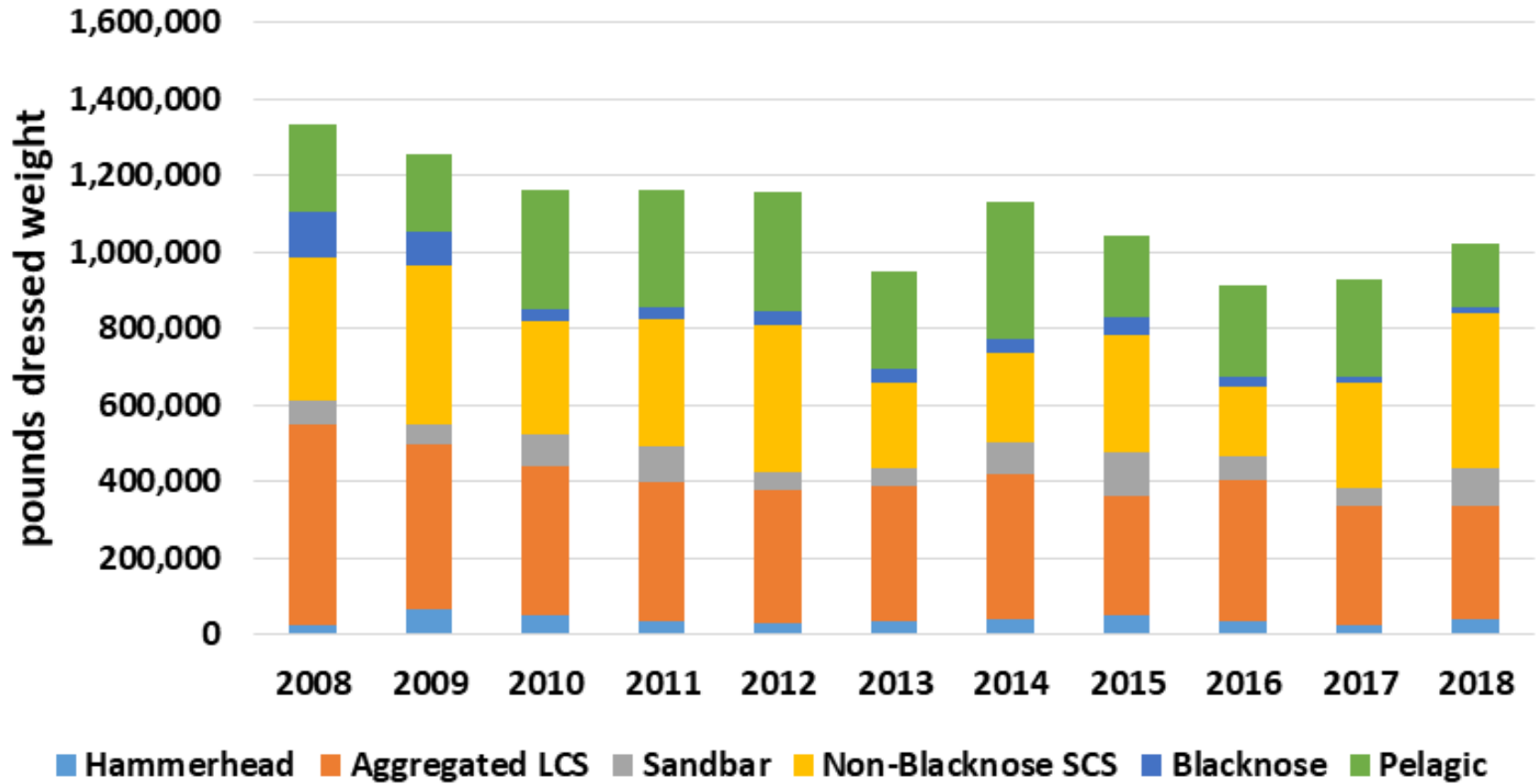
- Complementary FMP to NOAA HMS Coastal Sharks Management
 - Commission FMP approved in 2008
- Managed through Addenda I-V
- Addendum V (2018)
 - Provides flexibility in adjusting measures through Board Action for consistent state/ federal management
- 2019: Board approved new Shortfin mako recreational size limit

Status of the Stocks

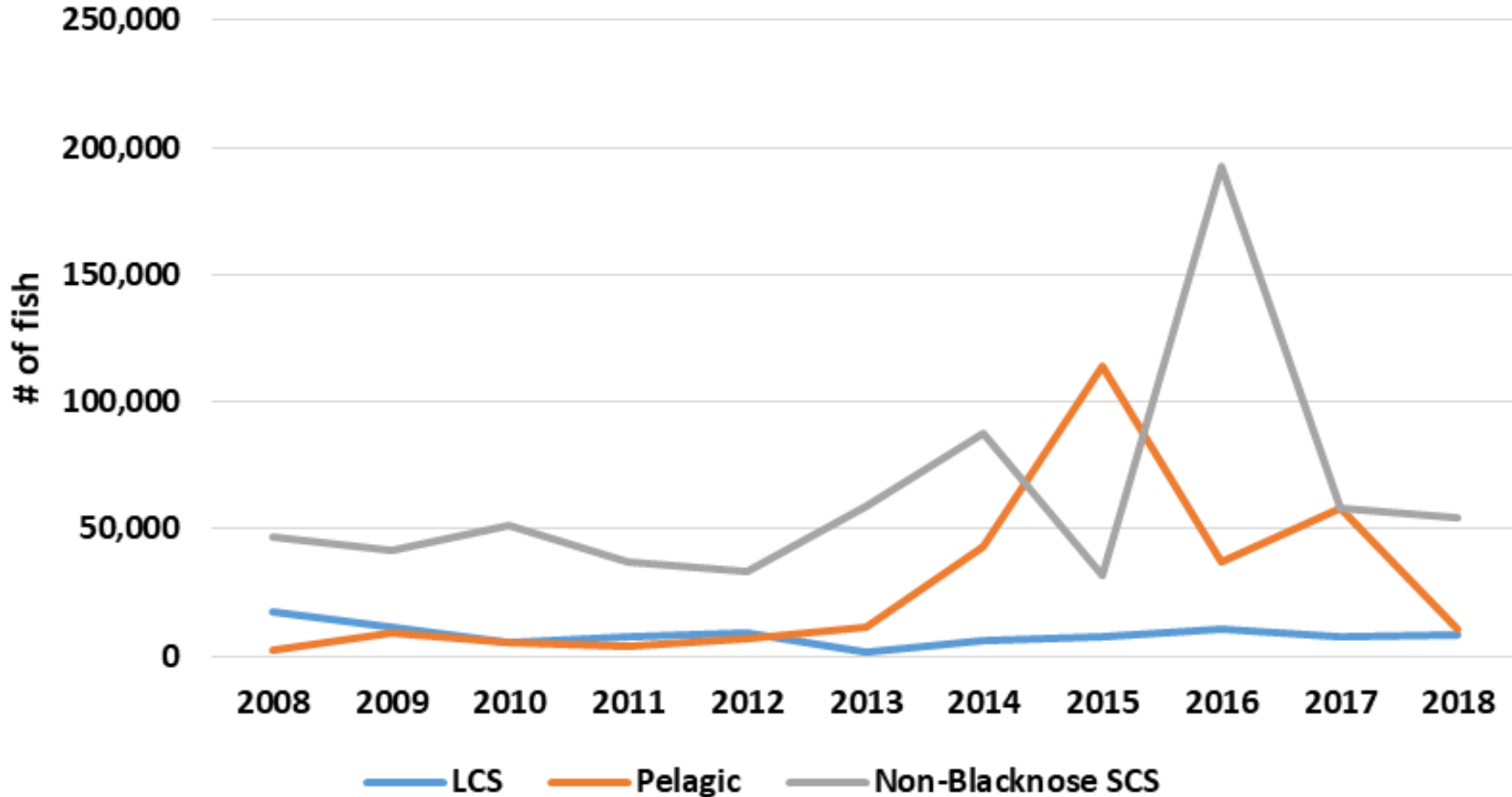


- Multiple species, not all have been assessed
- Recent Assessments
 - Shortfin Mako (2017, ICCAT) is overfished and experiencing overfishing
 - Sandbar (2017, SEDAR 54) is overfished but not experiencing overfishing
 - Dusky (2016, SEDAR 21) is overfished and experiencing overfishing

Commercial Landings



Recreational Landings





Compliance and *De Minimis*

- All states have implemented measures for the 2018
- MA requests continuation of *de minimis* status



Update on Shortfin Mako Rec Measures

- 2019: NOAA implemented different size limits for shortfin mako sharks for recreational federal permit holders
 - 71” fork length for males
 - 83” fork length for females
- Board approved the same measures for state waters, with implementation of Jan 1, 2020



Implementation of Shortfin Mako Recreational Measures

- Nearly all states have begun process of implementing regulations or have done so
- Have not heard from CT
- States can provide any further updates today



Board Action for Consideration

- Accept the 2019 FMP Review for Coastal Sharks, state compliance reports, *de minimis* status for Massachusetts