



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Coastal Sharks Management Board  
**FROM:** Caitlin Starks, Senior FMP Coordinator  
**DATE:** December 1, 2023  
**RE:** 2024 Coastal Shark Specifications

This memorandum serves as notification of the results of the electronic ballot to set the 2024 specifications for the coastal shark fishery. As voted on by the Coastal Sharks Management Board, the following motion carries without objection:

*Move to adopt the 2024 coastal shark specifications as specified in the National Marine Fisheries Service final rule for the 2024 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season published on November 18, 2023. The fishing season will open on January 1, 2024 with a commercial possession limit of 55 large coastal sharks (LCS) other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip (i.e. aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups) and 8 blacknose sharks per vessel trip. The commercial possession limit is subject to change; states will follow NMFS for in-season changes to the commercial possession limit.*

This action complements the National Marine Fisheries Service's final rule for the 2022 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season, which can be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/11/08/2023-24307/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-2024-atlantic-shark-commercial-fishing-year>

The commercial fishing season will open on January 1, 2024. The commercial possession limit at the start of the season will be 55 large coastal sharks (LCS) other than sandbar sharks (i.e. aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups) per vessel per trip. The commercial possession limit at the start of the season will be 8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip. NMFS may consider in-season adjustments to the commercial possession limits depending on catch rates.

**Table 1. NMFS final adjusted quotas, retention limits, and opening dates for the 2024 coastal shark fishery.**

Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2024 Annual Adjusted Quota*	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits for Directed Shark Limited Access Permit Holders (in-season adjustments are possible)	Season Opening Dates
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	Linked	55 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip. If the quota is landed too quickly, NMFS will consider in-season reduction as needed	January 1, 2024
	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	January 1, 2024
	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)	
	Smoothhound sharks	1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	January 1, 2024
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	Linked	N/A	January 1, 2024
	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)			

\*1 mt dw = 2,204.6 lb dw