



# Draft Addendum VII

## *Commercial Management: Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch*



Spiny Dogfish Management Board  
February 2025

# Overview



- Management Options & Public Comment Summary
- AP and LEC Reports
- Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum VII



# Draft Addendum VII Timeline



August 2024	Spiny Dogfish Board Tasks Staff to Develop Draft Addendum VII
August – October 2024	Staff Develops Draft Addendum VII for Board Review
October 2024	Spiny Dogfish Board Reviews Draft Addendum VII and Considers Its Approval for Public Comment
November 2024 – January 2025	Board Solicits Public Comment and States Conduct Public Hearings
<b>February 2025</b>	<b>Board Reviews Public Comment, Selects Management Options and Considers Final Approval of Addendum VII</b>
TBD	Provisions of Addendum VII are Implemented

# Background



- Proposed rule published by NOAA Fisheries in August 2024
  - Area-based gear requirements include both federal and state waters
- FMP strives for complementary management of spiny dogfish in federal and state waters
- Final Rule published December 18, 2024.
  - Implementation May 1, 2025

# No Overnight Soaks (8pm-5am) for Federal Spiny Dogfish Permit Holders

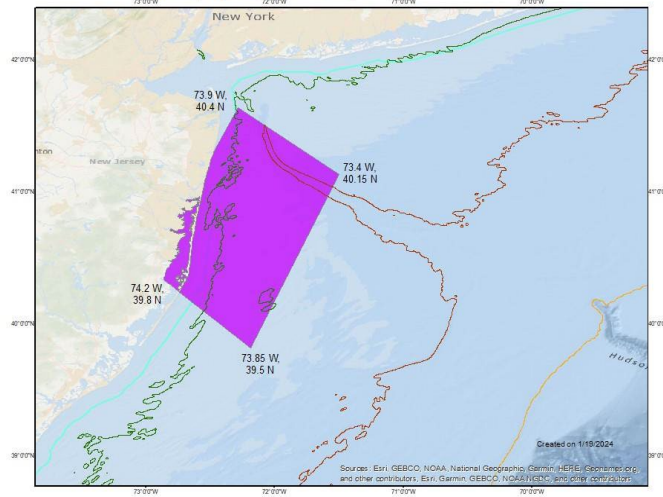
Area

**NJ**

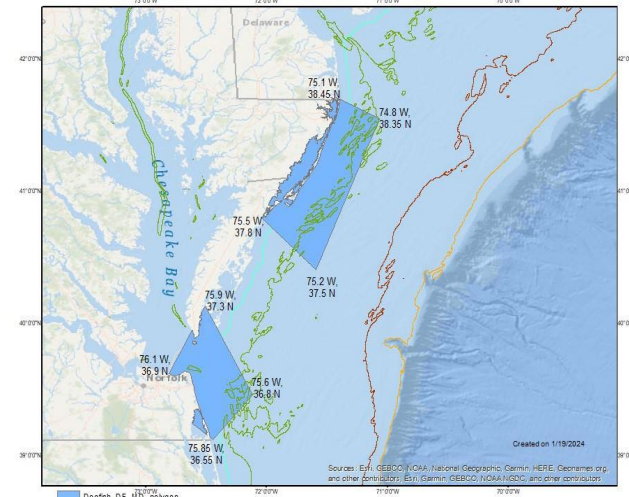
**DelMarVA**

Range of  
Affected Areas

New Jersey Bycatch Hotspot Polygon - Monkfish Fishery and Spiny Dogfish Fishery



Delaware, Maryland, Virginia Bycatch Hotspot Polygons - Spiny Dogfish Fishery Only



Time of Year

May and November

November-March

Mesh Size

5-10"

5.25-10"

# State Permitting Structures



State	Permits that May Land Spiny Dogfish	Number of Permittees that use Gillnets	Other Gillnet Species in Permit
NJ	Gillnet	585	Shark, Large Skate, Smooth Dogfish, Bluefish
MD	Finfish (1,000 lb trip limit)	Unknown	Bluefish
	Striped Bass (2,500 lb trip limit)	52	Striped Bass
	Spiny Dogfish (10,000 lb trip limit)	25	N/A
VA	Spiny Dogfish	75	N/A

# Option 1



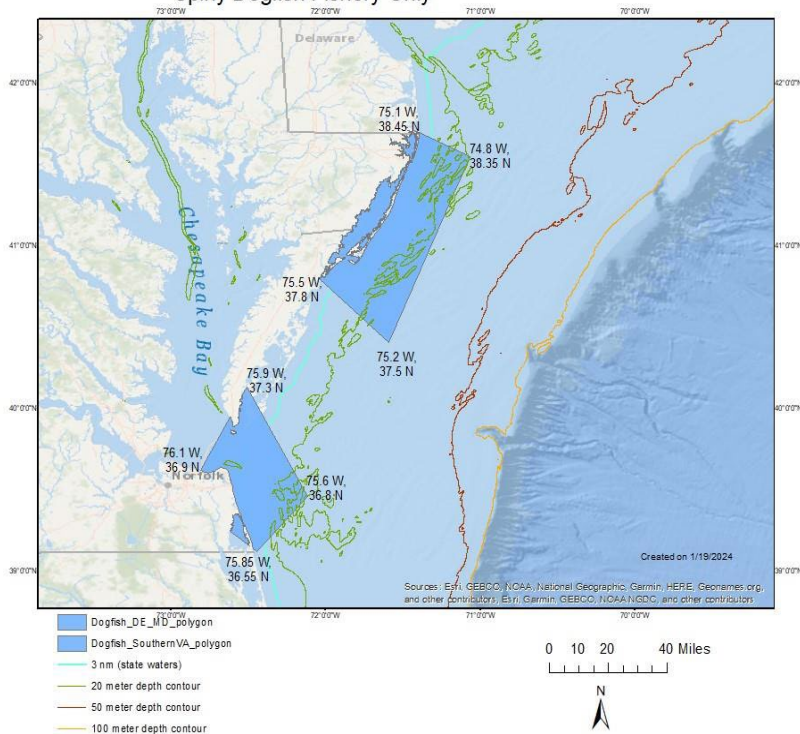
Status Quo: All gillnet harvesters of spiny dogfish that do not possess a federal spiny dogfish permit and only harvest in state waters may continue to soak nets overnight in the state waters portion of the bycatch reduction areas.

# Option 2



## Delaware/Maryland and Virginia Areas

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia Bycatch Hotspot Polygons -  
Spiny Dogfish Fishery Only



November-March

5.25-10" mesh size

## Maryland and Virginia

Prohibit overnight soaks (8pm-5am) of roundfish gillnets of mesh size between 5.25-10" from November through March for spiny dogfish permit holders within the Bycatch Reduction Areas.

## New Jersey

No action required.



# Option 3



## New Jersey

Prohibit harvest or possession of spiny dogfish caught using roundfish gillnets of mesh size between 5-10 inches that were left in the water for any portion of the time period between 8:00 p.m. ET each day and 5:00 a.m. ET the following day from May 1 through May 31 and November 1 through November 30 within the New Jersey Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction Area.

## Maryland and Virginia

Prohibit harvest or possession of spiny dogfish caught using roundfish gillnets of mesh size between 5.25-10" that were left in the water for any portion of the time period between 8:00 p.m. ET each day and 5:00 a.m. ET the following day from November through March within the Delaware and Maryland, and Virginia Bycatch Reduction Areas.

# No Harvest or Possession from Overnight Soaks (8pm-5am)

**Area**

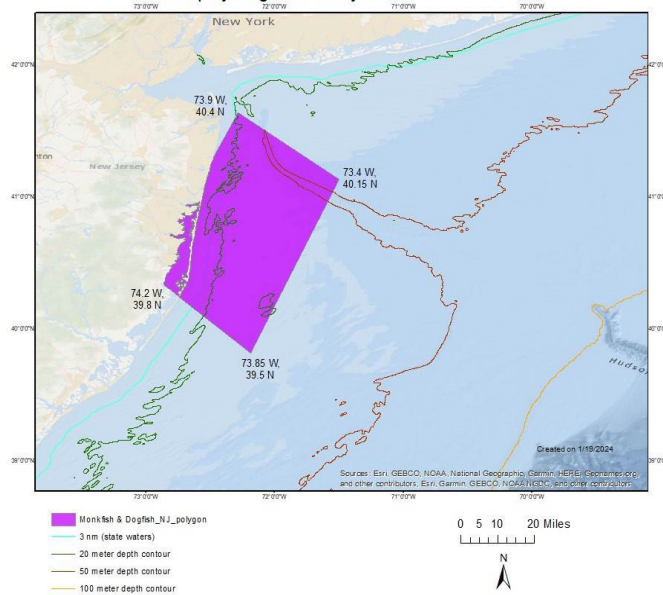
**Range of Affected Areas**

**Time of Year**

**Mesh Size**

## NJ

New Jersey Bycatch Hotspot Polygon - Monkfish Fishery and Spiny Dogfish Fishery

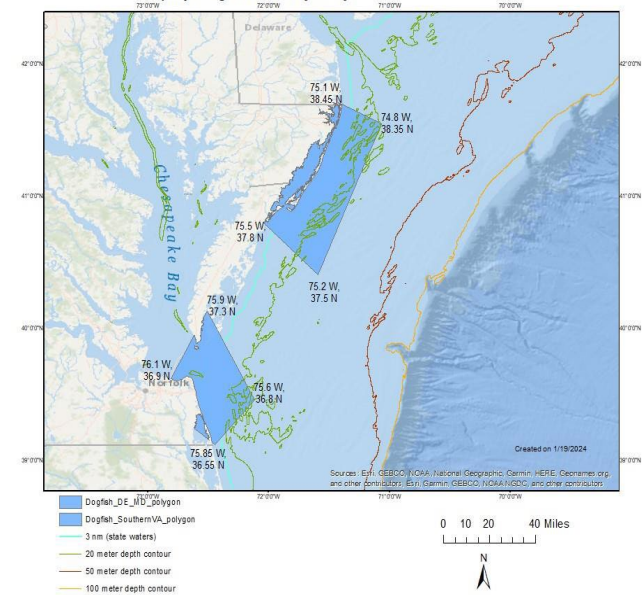


May and November

5-10"

## DelMarVA

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia Bycatch Hotspot Polygons - Spiny Dogfish Fishery Only



November-March

5.25-10"

# Public Hearing Overview



- 3 public hearings were held from December 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>
  - One attended
- VA hearing
  - 4 public participants
    - Not including state staff, Commissioners/Proxies, ASMFC staff
  - All comments and 3/3 survey respondents favored Option 1: status quo
  - Further comments supported increasing minimum mesh size to 5.5”

# AP Report



- 2 AP members present at the meeting
- One member supported Option 2
  - Expressed need to protect Atlantic sturgeon
- One member expressed concern over the potential impacts to a subset of the MD striped bass fishery and did not select a preferred option



**Questions?**



# 2025/2026 Revised Commercial Quota



Spiny Dogfish Management Board  
February 2025

# Background



- January 2024: Board approves quota of 10,972,394 pounds for 2025/2026 FY “pending their approval by NOAA Fisheries.”
- September 2024: Revised projections lower ABC due to higher catch estimates
- December 2024: MAFMC and NEFMC recommend a revised commercial quota of 9,338,770 pounds for the 2025/2026 fishing year corresponding to ABC=OFL

# Board Action to Consider



1. Consider revising FY 2025/2026 quota to 9,338,770 pounds.
  - Requires 2/3 majority
2. Approve revised quota over email after NOAA approval





**Questions?**