



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Board Approves Addendum VII to Ensure Consistency with the Councils' Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment 6

Arlington, VA – The Commission's Spiny Dogfish Management Board approved Addendum VII to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish. The Addendum implements measures to maintain consistency with the federal FMP in response to [Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment 6](#).

The Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils developed Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment 6 in response to a 2021 Biological Opinion and 2022 Action Plan that called for reducing bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon in spiny dogfish gillnet fisheries. The coastwide Atlantic sturgeon population is made up of five distinct population segments, all of which are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and Atlantic sturgeon harvest has been under a coastwide moratorium in federal and state waters since 1998. The Commission's Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic sturgeon maintains the moratorium through at least 2038, and while [the 2024 stock assessment update](#) showed signs of improvement, the stock remains depleted coastwide.

The Framework prohibits overnight soaks for federal spiny dogfish permit holders on gillnets with 5"-10" mesh in November and May for a certain area of state and federal waters off of New Jersey (see figure 1 on next page), as well as for gillnets of 5.25"-10" mesh in November through March in specified areas off of Maryland and Virginia (see figure 2 on next page). Addendum VII ensures consistency by applying those overnight soak restrictions for harvesters who have state spiny dogfish permits in Maryland and Virginia but do not possess a federal spiny dogfish permit. New Jersey does not issue permits by species, but due to New Jersey's permitting rules, any person or vessel selling spiny dogfish in the state is required to have a federal permit and follow the regulations in the bycatch reduction area, including state waters of the area. The Addendum's measures are effective May 1, 2025.

Addendum VII will be available on the Commission's website (<https://asmfc.org>) on the Spiny Dogfish webpage in late February. For more information, please contact James Boyle, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at jboyle@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

Figure 1: New Jersey Bycatch Hotspot Polygon – Monkfish and Spiny Dogfish Fisheries

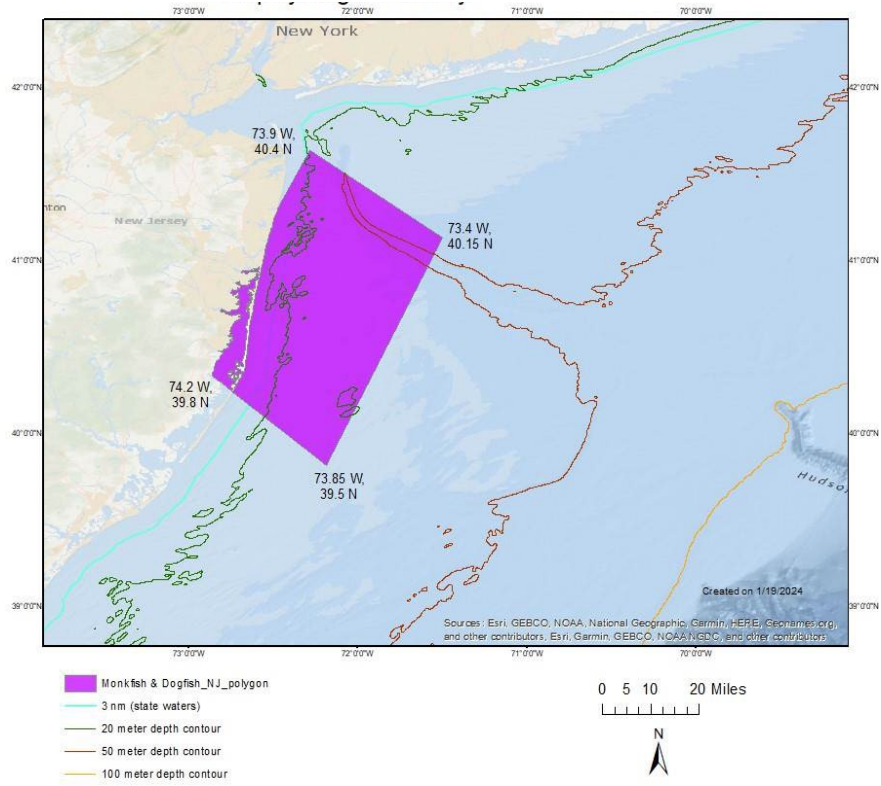


Figure 2: Delaware, Maryland and Virginia Bycatch Hotspot Polygons – Spiny Dogfish Fishery Only

