



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Coastal Sharks Management Board
FROM: Caitlin Starks, Senior FMP Coordinator
DATE: November 12, 2024
RE: 2025 Coastal Shark Specifications and Smooth Dogfish State Shares

This memorandum serves as notification of the results of the electronic ballot to set the 2025 specifications for the coastal shark fishery, and 2025 smooth dogfish state quota shares. As voted on by the Coastal Sharks Management Board, the following motion carries without objection:

Move to adopt the 2025 coastal shark specifications matching the default season start date and retention limits as specified by the National Marine Fisheries Service final rule published on November 8, 2023. The fishing season will open on January 1, 2025 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 is consistent with the National Marine Fisheries Service's final rule published November 11, 2023 for management measures for the 2024 and future fishing years. More information can be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/11/08/2023-24307/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-2024-atlantic-shark-commercial-fishing-year>
and [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-635#p-635.24\(a\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-635#p-635.24(a))

The 2025 specifications for the coastal shark fishery are summarized in Table 1. The commercial fishing season will open on January 1, 2025. 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 base quotas and default retention limits for the 2025 coastal shark fishery. Atlantic shark fisheries will automatically open on January 1, 2025 unless adjusted by NMFS.

Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2025 Annual Quota	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits for Directed Shark Limited Access Permit Holders (in-season adjustments are possible)
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.
	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
	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
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	Linked	N/A
	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

Smooth Dogfish State Shares

The base federal coastwide quota for the 2025 Atlantic smooth dogfish fishery is 1,802.6 dressed weight (dw) metric tons (3,973,902 dw lbs). The coastwide quota remains unchanged from 2017-2024.

Under Addendum II to the Interstate Coastal Sharks FMP, the coastwide Atlantic smooth dogfish quota is allocated into state shares. Rollover of unused state shares is not permitted because it could result in overages of the federal coastwide quota. The 2025 state shares are shown in Table 2. Please note that the state shares in pounds do not add up to 3,973,902 due to a rounding error in converting from metric tons to pounds. If you have any questions, please contact Caitlin Starks at cstarks@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Table 2. State shares¹ of the coastwide smooth dogfish quota in the 2025 fishing year (January – December).

	State Share Percentages	State Share (dw mt)	State Share (dw lbs)
ME	0.021%	0.4	817
MA	0.433%	7.8	17,195
RI	1.363%	24.6	54,163
CT	0.234%	4.2	9,282
NY	7.953%	143.4	316,037
NJ	18.828%	339.4	748,214
DE	0.339%	6.1	13,464
MD	6.703%	120.8	266,362
VA	34.803%	627.4	1,383,026
NC	28.583%	515.2	1,135,860
SC	0.742%	13.4	29,481
TOTAL	100%	1,802.6	3,973,902

¹ State shares are based on total landings by state from 1998-2010