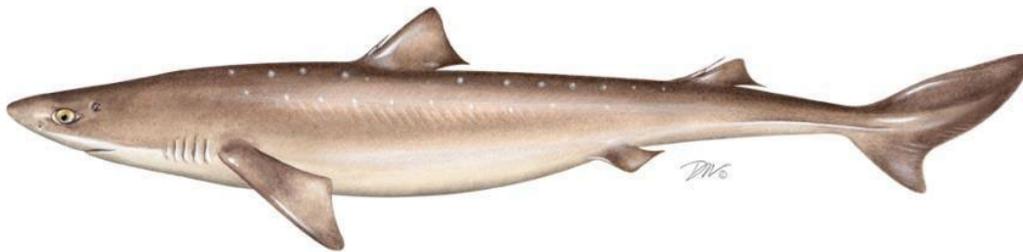


ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
REVIEW OF THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR SPINY DOGFISH
(Squalus acanthias)

2023/2024 and 2024/2025 FISHING YEARS



Prepared by the Plan Review Team

Approved March 30, 2026



Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

**REVIEW OF THE ASMFC FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STATE COMPLIANCE FOR SPINY DOGFISH
(*Squalus acanthias*) FOR THE 2023/2024 FISHERY**

Management Summary

<u>Date of FMP Approval:</u>	November 2002
<u>Amendments:</u>	None
<u>Addenda:</u>	Addendum I (November 2005) Addendum II October 2008) Addendum III (April 2011) Addendum IV (August 2012) Addendum V (October 2014) Addendum VI (October 2019) Addendum VII (February 2025)
<u>Management Unit:</u>	Entire coastwide distribution of the resource from the estuaries eastward to the inshore boundary of the EEZ
<u>States with Declared Interest:</u>	Maine – North Carolina
<u>Active Boards/Committees:</u>	Spiny Dogfish Management Board, Advisory Panel, Technical Committee, and Plan Review Team

I. Status of the Fishery Management Plan

In 1998, NMFS declared spiny dogfish overfished and initiated the development of a joint fishery management plan (FMP) between the Mid-Atlantic (MAFMC) and New England Fishery Management Councils (NEFMC) in 1999. NMFS approved the Federal Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in September 1999, but implementation did not begin until May 2000 at the start of the 2000/2001 fishing year.

In August 2000, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) took emergency action to close state waters to the commercial harvest, landing, and possession of spiny dogfish when Federal waters closed in response to the quota being fully harvested. With the emergency action in place, the Commission had time to develop an interstate FMP, which prevented the undermining of the Federal FMP and further overharvest of the coastwide spiny dogfish population. Needing additional time to complete the interstate FMP, the Commission extended the emergency action twice through January 2003. During that time, most spiny dogfish landings were from state waters because states had either no possession limits or less conservative possession limits than those of the Federal FMP.

The Commission approved the [Interstate FMP for Spiny Dogfish](#) in November 2002 (first implemented for the 2003-2004 fishing year). In general, the Interstate FMP (FMP) for spiny dogfish complements

the Federal FMP. The goal of the FMP is “to promote stock rebuilding and management of the spiny dogfish fishery in a manner that is biologically, economically, socially, and ecologically sound.” In support of this goal, the FMP established the following objectives:

1. Reduce fishing mortality and rebuild the spawning stock biomass to prevent recruitment failure and support a more sustainable fishery.
2. Coordinate management activities between state, Federal, and Canadian waters to ensure complementary regulations throughout the species’ range.
3. Minimize the regulatory discards and bycatch of spiny dogfish within state waters.
4. Allocate the available resource in a biologically sustainable manner that is equitable to all the fishers.
5. Obtain biological and fishery related data from state waters to improve the spiny dogfish stock assessment that currently depends upon data from the Federal bottom trawl survey.

The original Interstate and Federal FMPs established an annual quota that was allocated via fixed percentages between two seasonal periods: 57.9% to Period I (May 1st to October 31st) and 42.1% to Period II (November 1st to April 30th). When the quota allocated to a period is exceeded, the amount over the allocation is deducted from the same period in the subsequent fishing year. The periods could have separate possession limits that were specified on an annual basis. The FMPs also allowed for a five percent rollover of the annual coastwide quota once the stock is rebuilt, and allows each state to harvest up to 1,000 spiny dogfish for biomedical supply or scientific research.

[Addendum I \(November 2005\)](#)

Addendum I to the Interstate FMP for Spiny Dogfish allows the Board to set the quota and trip limit for up to 5 years. This addendum was developed to provide fishermen with the ability to set long term business plans and goals for their fishery operations. The Board may adjust specifications during a fishing season with a two-thirds majority vote.

[Addendum II \(October 2008\)](#)

Addendum II replaces the seasonal allocation with a regional distribution of the quota. The regional allocation distributes quota with 58% to Maine – Connecticut, 26% to New York – Virginia, and 16% to North Carolina. Paybacks to regional quota overages are applied in the subsequent fishing seasons.

[Addendum III \(April 2011\)](#)

Addendum III divides the southern region’s annual quota of 42% into state-specific shares (see table below). It also allows for quota transfer between states, rollovers of up to 5% and state-specified possession limits, and includes a three-year reevaluation of the measures. The Addendum’s provisions apply only to states in the southern region (New York through North Carolina) and do not modify the northern region allocation. The states of Maine to Connecticut will continue to share 58% of the annual quota as specified in Addendum II.

Southern Region State Shares. Quota allocation differs slightly from specific options presented in the draft addendum and are based on needs of states in the southern region with a consideration of historic landings.

	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC
Percent of Annual Coastwide Quota	2.707%	7.644%	0.896%	5.920%	10.795%	14.036%

[Addendum IV \(August 2012\)](#)

The Addendum updates the definition of overfishing to be consistent with that of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and provides the Board the flexibility to update or modify the management program’s overfishing definition through Board action based on the recommendations of its Technical Committee. The prior overfishing definition, adopted in 2002, was based on the number of pups per female that recruit to the stock. The updated definition will now be based on maximum sustainable yield or a reasonable proxy, consistent with the best available science. Although there are no immediate impacts to regulations, the change allows the Commission and Council to work from the same starting point when determining annual specifications. The Board considered modifying the management program’s 5% rollover provision to either preclude rollovers entirely without specific Board approval or to allow rollovers beyond the current 5% maximum with Board approval. The Board voted to maintain the 5% maximum rollover. Any rollover is predicated on a rebuilt stock.

[Addendum V \(October 2014\)](#)

Addendum V ensures consistency in spiny dogfish management with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 by prohibiting processing at-sea, including the removal of fins. Prior to approval, states could process spiny dogfish at-sea if the fin to carcass ratio aboard the vessel did not exceed five percent by weight. The Board set an implementation date of May 1, 2015 for states to promulgate this measure.

[Addendum VI \(October 2019\)](#)

Addendum VI allows commercial quota to be transferred between all regions and states to enable full utilization of the coastwide commercial quota and avoid payback for unintended quota overages. Prior to this addendum, quota transfers were only possible between states with individual state quotas, whereas regions have not been granted the authority to donate or receive quota via transfers. Consequently, regions were unable to share in the benefits of quota transfers. For the northern region to participate in quota transfers, the Director of each state’s marine fisheries agency within the region must agree to the transfer in writing. As with transfers between states, transfers involving regions do not permanently affect the shares of the coastwide quota. Additionally, the Addendum extends the timeframe for when quota transfers can occur up to 45 days after the end of the fishing year to allow for late reporting of landings data.

[Addendum VII \(February 2025\)](#)

Addendum VII implements consistent measures with Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment 6 by prohibiting overnight soaks for state spiny dogfish permit holders on gillnets with mesh equal to or greater than 5.25” and less than 10” from November through March in specified areas off of Maryland and Virginia. The Addendum’s measures are effective May 1, 2025.

II. Status of the Stocks

Based on the results of the 2023 management track assessment, spiny dogfish are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring (NEFSC 2023). The management track assessment updated the 2022 research track assessment, which introduced the use of the Stock Synthesis 3 (SS3) model due to its ability to model sexes separately and to accommodate length-based approaches (NMFS 2022), and incorporated data from 1924-2022. From the recommendations of that assessment, stock status is determined using spawners-per-recruit (SPR) reference points associated with SPR60%, which equates to a spawning output of 188 million pups and a fishing mortality (F) of 0.0246. Spiny dogfish was declared rebuilt in 2008 when female SSB exceeded the target level for the first time since implementation of the Interstate FMP. Spawning output has remained above the threshold level and was estimated to be 190.8 million pups in 2022, which is 101% of its target (188 million pups) (Table 1 and Figure 1). While the assessment found that F was below the threshold in the terminal year at 0.02, which is 81% of the overfishing threshold, overfishing was occurring from 2012-2021 (Table 1 and Figure 2).

	Spawning Output	Fishing Mortality (F)
Target	SSB _{msy} Proxy = SPR60% Proxy = 188 million pups	There is no F target defined for management use at this time
Threshold	½ of SSB _{msy} Proxy = 94 million pups	F _{msy} Proxy = 0.0246

III. Status of the Fishery

In the U.S., the majority of spiny dogfish commercial fisheries operate in state waters targeting aggregations of large females. As a result, an estimated 81% of the commercial landings (Sosebee, 2022) are comprised of females, which is consistent with the long-term pattern (NEFSC 2018).

For the 2023 fishing year (May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024), total U.S. commercial landings based on state compliance reports were estimated at 8.2 million pounds (3,714 mt), which is approximately 68% of the coastwide quota (12.01 million pounds) and a 35% decrease relative to the previous season (Table 4). Massachusetts (34%), Virginia (46%), and New Jersey (10%) accounted for the majority of commercial landings by weight (Table 4).

For the 2024 fishing year (May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025), total U.S. commercial landings based on state compliance reports were estimated at 7.7 million pounds (3,471 mt), which is approximately 71% of the coastwide quota including rollover (10.8 million pounds) and a 7% decrease relative to the previous year (Table 5). Massachusetts (26%), Virginia (56%), and New Jersey (9%) accounted for the majority of commercial landings by weight (Table 5).

Atlantic coast landings from Canada were significant from the early 1990s to the mid-late 2000s, hovering around 4.5 million pounds or 2,000 metric tons, but have declined significantly since 2008. Commercial landings from Canada were estimated to be one metric ton in 2022 and have been

reported together with other groundfish since 2023. Distant Water fleets since 2019 are not available at this time.

Recreational harvest is estimated via the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). In the 2023 fishing year, recreational harvest of spiny dogfish on the Atlantic coast was estimated at 28,897 fish or an estimated 150,499 pounds (68 metric tons) which is a 44% decrease relative to FY 2022 (270,606 pounds). In the 2024 fishing year, recreational harvest of spiny dogfish on the Atlantic coast was estimated at 18,648 fish or an estimated 98,219 pounds (45 metric tons), which is a 35% decrease relative to FY 2023. Calendar year landings estimates for the U.S. commercial and recreational sectors are provided in Table 2.

In 2023, dead discards from the U.S. commercial fishery were estimated at 8,295,639 pounds, which represents a 39% increase from 2022 and 42% above the previous 5-year average. Recreational releases for the 2023 fishing year (fish caught by recreational anglers and released back to the water) were estimated at 9.9 million pounds (4,506 metric tons). Applying a 20% post-release mortality rate (NEFSC 2018), 2023 recreational dead discards were estimated at 1.99 million pounds (902 metric tons), which is a 19% decrease relative to 2022 levels (2.45 million pounds).

In 2024, dead discards from the U.S. commercial fishery were estimated at 4,506,955 pounds, which represents a 46% decrease from 2023 and 28% below the previous 5-year average. Recreational releases for the 2024 fishing year (fish caught by recreational anglers and released back to the water) were estimated at 15.5 million pounds (7,038 metric tons). Applying a 20% post-release mortality rate (NEFSC 2018), 2024 recreational dead discards were estimated at 3.1 million pounds (1,408 metric tons), which is a 56% increase relative to 2023.

IV. Status of Management Measures and Issues

Specifications

The spiny dogfish commercial fishery runs from May 1-April 30. The coastwide quota was set at 12.01 million pounds for the 2023/2024 season and 10.25 million pounds in 2024/2025. For the northern region, the maximum possession limit in state waters was set at 7,500 pounds, consistent with the federal waters possession limit. Possession limits for states of New York-North Carolina vary by state and are detailed in Table 7.

Quotas

Under Addendum III, 58% of the annual quota is allocated to the northern region (states from Maine-Connecticut), and the remaining 42% is allocated to the states of New York-North Carolina via fixed percentages. Tables 4 and 5 detail the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 commercial quotas by region and state. All regions and states harvested within their quota in FY 2022/2023; therefore, no deductions were applied to 2023/2024 quotas. Quota transfers are allowed under Addendum III and until recently have been uncommon. For the 2023/2024 season, the Northern Region and North Carolina transferred 3,000,000 pounds and 700,000 pounds, respectively, to Virginia. Since the 2023 management track assessment estimated that the stock was above the biomass target, in FY 2024/2025, 600,649 pounds of quota was eligible for rollover per Addendum IV. New York and New Jersey declined the rollover

option, resulting in 538,467 pounds rolled over. Additionally, the Northern Region transferred 3,500,000 pounds to Virginia and North Carolina transferred 500,000 pounds to Maryland.

From 2000-2011, the U.S. spiny dogfish commercial fishery had, for the most part, fully utilized its quota (MAFMC 2018a). However, in recent years (2012-2024), the commercial fishery has significantly underutilized its quota. The MAFMC Advisory Panel (2018b) noted that markets are critical for stimulating fishing activity and that the low level of harvest relative to the quota in recent years is primarily due to low price per pound and effort, not biomass. Vessels generally have no problem catching their limits. Being such a low value fishery (hovering around \$0.20/pound over the last 10-years; MAFMC 2018b), even a small increase in price could stimulate fishing activity. Reasons for decreased participation in the fishery include increased fuel costs, fewer processors, and general public sentiment regarding sharks and shark fins which has created regulatory issues (e.g., foreign and domestic import and shipping bans) and other barriers to the market (e.g., the species common name dissuades many consumers).

V. Status of Research and Monitoring

Under the Interstate FMP for Spiny Dogfish, the states are not required to conduct any fishery-dependent or independent studies. The Interstate FMP requires an annual review of recruitment, spawning stock biomass, and fishing mortality, which relies heavily on the NEFSC's spring trawl survey data. However, states are encouraged to submit any spiny dogfish information collected while surveying for other species. Table 6 details state-implemented fishery-independent monitoring information relative to spiny dogfish compiled from annual state compliance reports. Please see individual reports for more information.

Exempted Fishing Permits (scientific/education permits)

States may issue exempted fishing permits (EFPs) for the purpose of biomedical supply, educational, or other scientific purposes. In 2023 and 2024, Rhode Island issued 5 EFPs for scientific and/or educational purposes for spiny dogfish, and 12 spiny dogfish were collected (all in 2023; 2024 fish were released). New Jersey issued three scientific collection permits in both 2023 and 2024. In 2023, 3,149 spiny dogfish were collected and 240 were retained. In 2024, 6,327 were collected and 32 retained. In 2023, North Carolina issued 51 scientific and educational permits, one of which reported 54 spiny dogfish captured and released. In 2024, 56 permits were issued; however, North Carolina did not provide the number that were captured and released.

VI. Annual State Compliance

The following lists the specific compliance criteria that a state or jurisdiction must implement to be in compliance with the Interstate FMP for Spiny Dogfish (*Section 5.1*):

1. States are required to close state waters to the commercial landing, harvest, and possession of spiny dogfish for the duration of the seasonal period when the commercial quota is projected to be harvested in their state or region.
2. States are required to report landings weekly to NOAA Fisheries or SAFIS.

3. Dealer permits issued pursuant to state regulations must submit weekly reports showing at least the quantity of spiny dogfish purchased (in pounds), the name, and permit number of the individuals from whom the spiny dogfish were purchased.
4. States are required to implement possession limits as determined through the annual specification process.
5. States may issue exempted fishing permits for the purpose of biomedical supply not to exceed 1,000 spiny dogfish per year.
6. State regulations must prohibit “finning” as described in Addendum V.

Additionally, each state must submit a compliance report detailing its spiny dogfish fisheries and management program for the previous fishing year. Compliance reports are due annually on July 1st (Table 7) and must include at a minimum:

1. the previous fishing year’s fishery and management program including activity and results of monitoring, regulations that were in effect and harvest, including estimates of non-harvest losses;
2. the planned management program for the current fishing year summarizing regulations that will be in effect and monitoring programs that will be performed, highlighting any changes from the previous year; and
3. the number of spiny dogfish exempted fishing permits issued in the previous fishing year, the actual amount (in numbers of fish and pounds) collected under each exempted fishing permit, as well as any other pertinent information (i.e., sex, when and how the spiny dogfish were collected). The report should also indicate the number of exempted fishing permits issued for the current fishing year.

Under the Spiny Dogfish FMP, a state may request *de minimis* status if its commercial landings of spiny dogfish are less than 1% of the coastwide commercial total. If granted, the state is exempt from the monitoring requirements of the commercial spiny dogfish fishery for the following fishing year. However, all states, including those granted *de minimis* status, must continue to report any spiny dogfish commercial or recreational landings within their jurisdiction via annual state compliance reports. Delaware requested and qualified for *de minimis* status for the 2025/2026 fishing season (Table 7). New York also requested for *de minimis* status, but their commercial landings represent about 1.2% of the coastwide total in 2024/2025 and 1.3% over both fishing years.

VII. Plan Review Team Recommendations

While all states within the management unit satisfied the weekly reporting requirements through either SAFIS or NOAA Fisheries, Delaware did not clearly provide their reporting regulations. Moving forward, the PRT recommends that states specifically reference regulations requiring weekly dealer and landings reporting in their compliance reports. Additionally, Connecticut’s compliance report did not include information on any exempted fishing permits issued. The PRT also noted that Connecticut regulations allow for monthly reporting for state-only dealers, and this could create an inconsistency in reporting if non-federally permitted harvesters begin reporting landings. Currently, all state landings of spiny dogfish came from federal reporting, meaning the harvesters reported within 48 hours and the

dealers within their weekly reporting mandate, which is consistent with the reporting requirements in the FMP.

Furthermore, three states reported spiny dogfish harvest under exempted fishing permits, with no state approaching the 1,000 fish limit for “biomedical supply” as loosely defined in the FMP. However, North Carolina did not provide the number that were captured and released. The PRT notes that states are reporting harvest under a variety of purposes including research and education. The PRT may require Board input on the categories of harvest to count towards this limit in the future should any state near the limit.

Other than the issues described above, the PRT found that all states that submitted compliance reports have implemented regulations consistent with the requirements of the Interstate FMP for Spiny Dogfish and Addenda I-VI. Additionally, the Board should consider the current *de minimis* provisions and what the purpose of designation is given all states still must report annual landings.

Members of the PRT noted that states have improved in providing compliance reports that are standardized and uniform in format and should continue doing so moving forward. Staff will continue to provide states with a template for compliance reports to aid with consistency. Additionally, the PRT emphasized the need to continue monitoring the resource based on the results of the 2023 management track assessment, which estimated the spawning output to be at only 101% of the target in the terminal year of 2022.

VIII. Research Recommendations

The following research priorities pertaining to spiny dogfish were identified in the Research Track Stock Assessment (NMFS, 2022). The Board does not need to take action on these recommendations currently.

1. Develop a consistent sampling program for ageing Atlantic spiny dogfish. Sampling should occur at minimum annually, and ideally include samples from both spring and fall seasons. Fish over the species' entire size range should be sampled. This includes near-term embryos, in order to assess timing, identification criteria, and spine base diameter at first annulus deposition to better inform ageing of young fish. It is also imperative to ensure that large spiny dogfish are obtained to get a better sense of maximum ages and inform parameterization (e.g., L_{∞} estimates). Lacking appropriate growth information will result in increased uncertainty in the assessment model's estimates of stock size and mortality rates. Such growth investigations should include size at birth and maturity, as those are intricately related to growth. Investigation into alternate ageing methods should continue, owing to the large uncertainty inherent in ages estimated from worn spines using current methods. Finally, improve routine cleaning protocols for spine sampling in order to reduce potential damage to spine enamel and enable more accurate ageing.

2. Continue exploration into the spatial distribution of spiny dogfish. Such work should expand upon the analyses discussed and presented herein regarding the environmental drivers on spiny dogfish movement by sex and size, and whether such relationships have resulted in changes in distribution

over time. Directed research should also be conducted on the seasonal or intra-annual movement of spiny dogfish. Questions remain regarding what component of the spiny dogfish population exists outside of the federal trawl survey bounds off the shelf, and whether such biomass varies seasonally or interannually. Such knowledge will allow for informing survey catchability. If possible, exploring environmental correlations to the degree of on- and off-shelf distribution may allow for predicting this dynamic over time, and provide a catchability time series for stock assessment model use.

3. Further explore the sensitivity of the SS3 model parameterization and configuration.
4. Conduct directed studies that estimate discard mortality rates for spiny dogfish by commercial and recreational harvesting gear type.
5. Develop state-space models that can tune to lengths. Such a model is worth considering if/when the tools are developed within SS3. When available, a review of results from the State-Space Research Track Working Group should be conducted to evaluate the efficacy of developed tools for spiny dogfish.
6. Investigate prospective contributors to the decline in maturity over time for female spiny dogfish. Analyses could include but are not limited to assessing environmental drivers and harvest effects.
7. Coordinate a biological sampling program targeting spiny dogfish from additional locations and habitats outside those sampled by the NEFSC trawl surveys to understand the various factors that influence their life history (e.g., growth, maturity, fecundity)
8. Continue developing the VAST models presented to assess additional environmental variables that may influence abundance and distribution, and better predict the size composition for models that include multiple datasets.
9. Investigate datasets enumerating the abundance or diet of known spiny dogfish predators for comparison to natural mortality assumptions, and as potential proxies for dogfish natural mortality rates.

IX. References

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X. Tables

Table 1. Spiny dogfish spawning output in millions of pups and fully selected fishing mortality (F_{Full}), 2013-2022. Source: NEFSC 2023.

Year	Spawning Output	F_{Full}
2013	311.4	0.03
2014	283.3	0.046
2015	253.8	0.033
2016	233.5	0.044
2017	212.6	0.038
2018	200	0.031
2019	193.6	0.042
2020	188.9	0.042
2021	186.6	0.027
2022	190.8	0.02

Table 2. Calendar Year Landings estimates (pounds) of spiny dogfish off the Atlantic coast by commercial fisheries of the United States, Canada, and foreign fleets, and U.S. recreational harvest, 1989-2024. Source: Commercial Data through 2018 provided by NEFSC 2018. 2019-2022 U.S. Commercial landings provided through ACCSP. Recreational Data from MRIP. Canadian landings from 2019-2022 provided by NEFSC.

Year	Canada	Distant Water Fleets	U.S. Commercial	U.S. Recreational	Total Landings
1989	368,172	564,383	9,758,700	947,769	11,639,024
1990	2,885,848	866,416	32,158,915	948,070	36,859,249
1991	676,818	515,881	25,433,105	753,259	27,379,063
1992	1,913,610	147,710	25,130,717	1,048,767	28,240,804
1993	3,163,630	59,525	35,800,043	480,204	39,503,402
1994	4,012,408	4,409	30,820,339	308,029	35,145,185
1995	2,107,617	30,865	42,990,104	218,908	45,347,494
1996	950,191	520,290	53,156,131	66,290	54,692,902
1997	983,261	471,789	43,177,848	240,496	44,873,394
1998	2,325,874	1,338,204	45,365,659	214,912	49,244,649
1999	4,609,860	1,221,359	33,463,598	158,006	39,452,823
2000	6,042,863	886,257	20,910,865	13,055	27,853,040
2001	8,421,648	1,492,528	4,920,944	47,935	14,883,055
2002	7,901,358	1,044,990	4,651,562	652,335	14,250,245
2003	2,870,415	1,417,571	2,352,291	103,962	6,744,239
2004	5,207,312	727,525	2,231,631	591,518	8,757,986
2005	5,004,487	727,525	2,503,047	107,477	8,342,536
2006	5,377,068	22,046	5,312,438	218,100	10,929,652
2007	5,255,814	68,343	6,537,566	287,978	12,149,701
2008	3,466,368	288,805	9,060,729	565,461	13,381,363
2009	249,122	180,779	12,145,049	235,674	12,810,624
2010	13,228	279,987	12,693,572	88,111	13,074,898
2011	273,373	315,261	21,600,293	203,366	22,392,293
2012	143,300	302,033	23,871,759	104,548	24,421,640
2013		134,482	16,063,726	190,810	16,389,018
2014	119,049	68,343	23,752,640	263,396	24,203,428
2015	2,205	50,706	20,113,655	137,037	20,303,603
2016	81,571	52,911	27,158,288	523,139	27,815,909
2017	119,049		19,259,449	319,009	19,697,507
2018	99,208		15,299,201	136,094	15,534,503
2019	79,366	NA	17,462,685	116,376	17,658,427
2020	2,205	NA	17,410,979	263,594	17,676,778
2021	30,865	NA	10,253,530	471,864	10,756,259
2022	2,205	NA	10,824,396	35,879	10,862,480
2023	NA	NA	10,988,350	296,909	11,285,259
2024	NA	NA	8,434,676	193,409	8,628,085

Table 3. Total calendar year dead discards estimates (pounds) from the U.S. Atlantic coast spiny dogfish fishery by sector, 1990-2024. *CAMS reporting beginning in 2017. Source: MRIP and NEFSC.

Year	Commercial	Recreational (20% B2)	Total Dead Discards
1990	41,754,621	830,701	42,585,322
1991	28,668,217	1,146,402	29,814,619
1992	41,401,992	577,170	41,979,161
1993	25,898,443	858,479	26,756,922
1994	18,435,804	654,331	19,090,135
1995	23,812,762	392,863	24,205,625
1996	13,136,779	205,030	13,341,809
1997	9,255,656	537,045	9,792,702
1998	7,305,008	460,325	7,765,333
1999	9,865,123	399,477	10,264,600
2000	6,128,182	370,376	6,498,558
2001	10,236,492	1,271,184	11,507,675
2002	10,392,799	1,099,664	11,492,464
2003	7,998,031	1,746,500	9,744,531
2004	12,011,321	2,982,410	14,993,731
2005	10,775,411	2,186,542	12,961,953
2006	10,847,557	2,574,996	13,422,553
2007	12,456,478	2,660,094	15,116,572
2008	9,843,805	2,442,719	12,286,524
2009	11,735,909	3,180,385	14,916,294
2010	8,146,291	2,134,513	10,280,804
2011	9,533,163	2,615,120	12,148,283
2012	10,081,275	1,903,028	11,984,303
2013	9,875,386	5,295,056	15,170,442
2014	10,657,861	7,724,988	18,382,849
2015	6,783,726	1,886,273	8,669,999
2016	7,122,686	4,001,826	11,124,513
2017*	5,980,637	1,572,335	7,552,972
2018	6,128,970	1,642,883	7,771,853
2019	6,119,505	2,555,481	8,674,986
2020	6,547,892	1,717,694	8,265,586
2021	4,558,387	2,611,890	7,170,277
2022	5,956,792	1,962,308	7,919,100
2023	8,295,639	1,986,695	10,282,334
2024	4,506,955	3,103,079	7,610,034

Table 4. Commercial quotas and landings estimates in pounds for May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024 by region and state. There was no adjustment to quotas due to the biomass estimate was below the target prior to the 2023 management track assessment. Source: State Compliance Reports.

State	Fixed Percent Allocation	Preliminary Quota	Adjusted Quota	Estimated Landings
Northern Region	58.00%	6,967,525	3,967,525	2,939,997
NY	2.71%	325,287	325,287	114,901
NJ	7.64%	918,350	918,350	793,246
DE	0.90%	107,641	107,641	Confidential
MD	5.92%	711,171	711,171	397,796
VA	10.80%	1,296,826	4,996,826	3,790,097
NC	14.04%	1,686,173	986,173	151,733
Total	100%			8,187,770
% of quota harvested				68%
% diff. relative to 2022/2023 fishing year landings (12,598,716 lbs.)				-35%

Table 5. Commercial quotas and landings estimates in pounds for May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025 by region and state. Adjusted quotas include 5% rollover for all jurisdictions except NY and NJ. Source: State Compliance Reports.

State	Fixed Percent Allocation	Preliminary Quota	Adjusted Quota	Estimated Landings
Northern Region	58.00%	5,944,571	2,642,947	2,061,107
NY	2.71%	277,529	277,529	92,444
NJ	7.64%	783,521	783,521	667,995
DE	0.90%	91,837	97,220	0
MD	5.92%	606,759	1,142,318	562,704
VA	10.80%	1,106,430	4,856,271	4,269,280
NC	14.04%	1,438,614	987,922	Confidential
Total	100%			7,653,530
% of quota harvested				71%
% diff. relative to 2023/2024 fishing year landings				-7%

Table 6. State implemented fishery-independent monitoring programs that encounter spiny dogfish. Source: State Compliance Reports. Note: this list is not comprehensive.

Fishery-Independent Monitoring Programs That Encounter Spiny Dogfish	# Spiny Dogfish Encountered 2023	# Spiny Dogfish Encountered 2024	Comments
ME-NH Inshore Trawl survey	445	211	excludes 2024 spring data
RI DFW, Coastal Trawl Survey	0	0	Surveys operated normally.
CT Long Island Sound Trawl Survey			In the last ten years (2014-2024) a total of 31 spiny dogfish were captured from 985 total spring tows (3.15% positive tows). A spiny dogfish has not been caught by the LISTS since spring 2019.
NY DEC Multispecies Ocean Trawl Survey	9,608	2,307	Sampling did not occur in October 2024 because of limited boat crew availability, or in February because of vessel repairs.
NJ Ocean Stock Assessment (trawl) Survey	6,298	758	Survey not completed in October 2024 due to boat mechanical issues, but was completed the rest of the year.
DE Bay Bottom Trawl (30- and 16-foot)	387	427	72 tows in 2023; 81 tows in 2024
NC DMF Gill Net Survey	9	54	17 gillnet samples

Table 7. State-by-state compliance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 reporting periods. Source: State Compliance Reports. Y = Yes, met compliance requirement; N = No, did not meet compliance requirement; NA = Not applicable.

State	Report Submitted (Due July 1)	<i>De Minimis</i> Request	Exempted Fishing Permit Harvest	Finning Prohibition	Possession limit# (lbs)
Maine	Y	NA	Y	Y	7,500
New Hampshire	Y	NA	NA	Y	7,500
Massachusetts	Y	NA	NA	Y	7,500
Rhode Island	Y	NA	Y	Y	7,500
Connecticut	Y	NA	NA	Y	7,500
New York	Y	Y	NA	Y	7,500
New Jersey	Y	NA	Y	Y	7,500
Delaware	Y	Y	NA	Y	10,000
Maryland	Y	NA	NA	Y	up to 10,000*
Virginia	Y	NA	NA	Y	7,500
North Carolina	Y	NA	Y	Y	15,000

#Federal permit holders are restricted to 7,500 pounds regardless of fishing location.

*Maryland has a tiered permitting system that allows spiny dogfish harvest at reduced trip limits for finfish and striped bass permit holders. The maximum trip limit applies only to state spiny dogfish permit holders.

XI. Figures

Figure 1. Trends in spawning output of Atlantic Spiny Dogfish between 1924 and 2022 from the current (solid line) and previous (dashed line) assessment and the corresponding SSBThreshold (SSBMSY proxy; horizontal dashed line) as well as SSBTarget (SSBMSY proxy; horizontal dotted line) based on the 2023 assessment. The approximate 95% gamma confidence intervals are shown. Source: NEFSC, 2023.

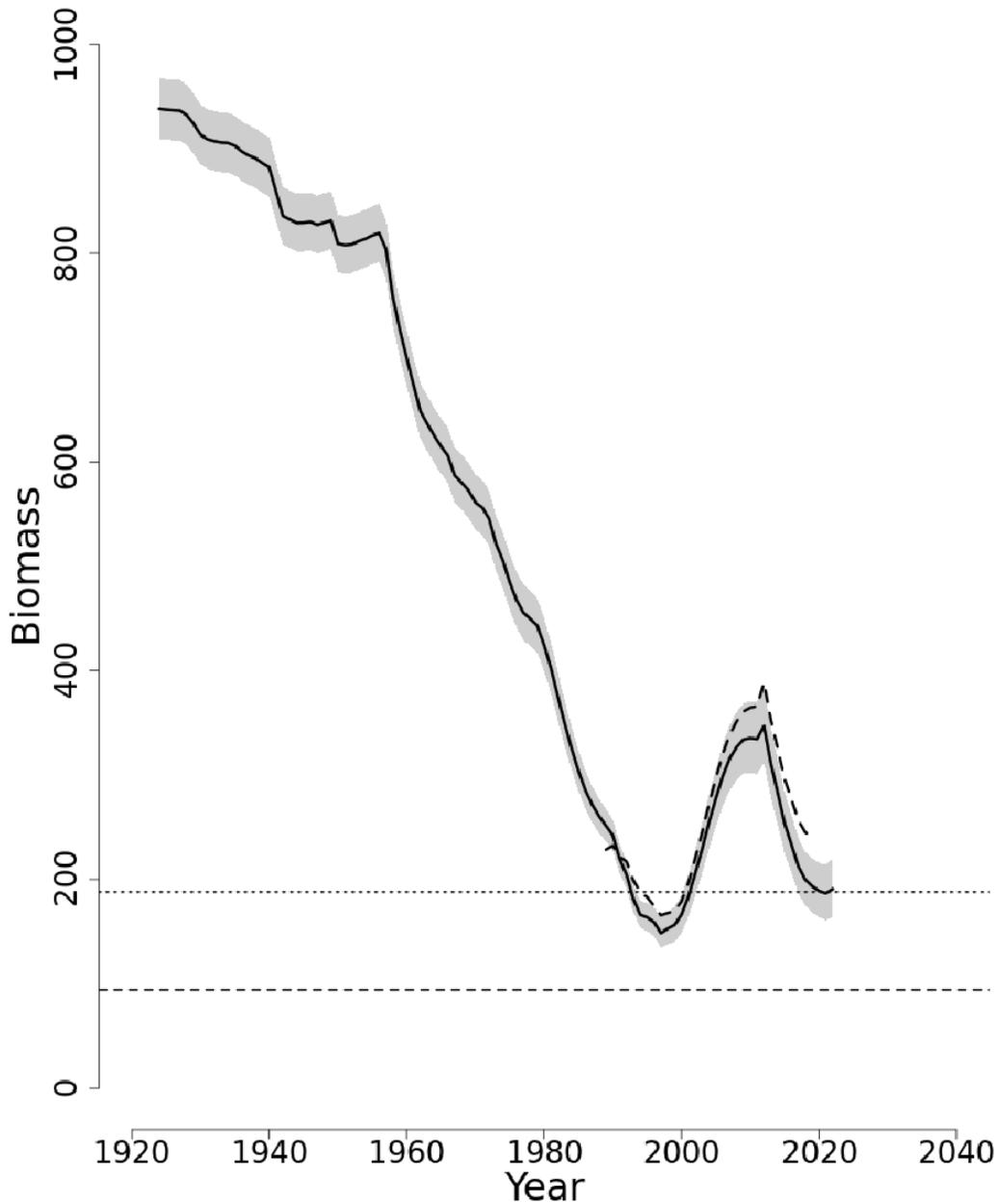


Figure 2. Trends in the fully selected fishing mortality (FFull) of Atlantic Spiny Dogfish between 1924 and 2022 from the current (solid line) and previous (dashed line) assessment and the

corresponding FThreshold (FMSY proxy=0.0246; horizontal dashed line). based on the 2023 assessment. The approximate 95% gamma confidence intervals are shown. Source: NEFSC, 2023.

