



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# **Proposed Rule to Revise Commercial Atlantic Blacknose Shark & Recreational Atlantic Shark Fisheries Management Measures**

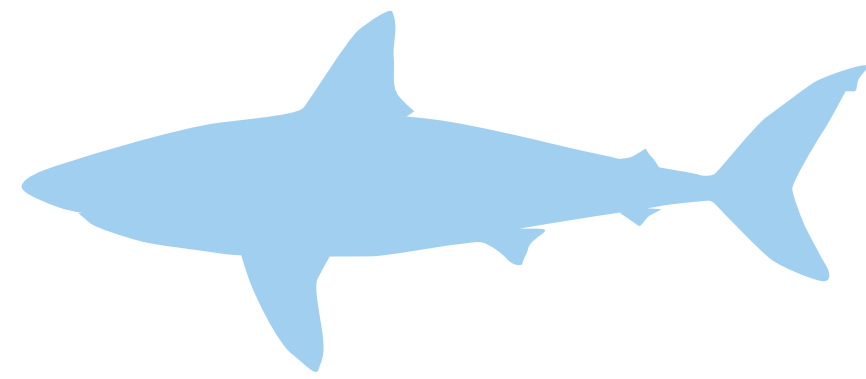
**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species  
ASMFC Meeting  
May 2026**

# Outline



- Purpose & Need for Action
- Background
- Proposed Measures & Alternatives
  - Commercial Fishery
  - Recreational Fishery
- Anticipated Timing
- Request for Public Comments

# Purpose & Need for Action



## Purpose of rulemaking:

- Increase management flexibility to react to additional factors affecting Atlantic shark fisheries
- Optimize the ability of the commercial and recreational shark fisheries to harvest available quota to the extent practicable

## Need: To be responsive to -

- The framework for implementing management measures established in Amendment 14
- Findings from the Atlantic Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) document
- Some of the public comments from scoping for Amendment 16
- Recent domestic laws and international agreements that are having direct and indirect effects on the commercial fishery



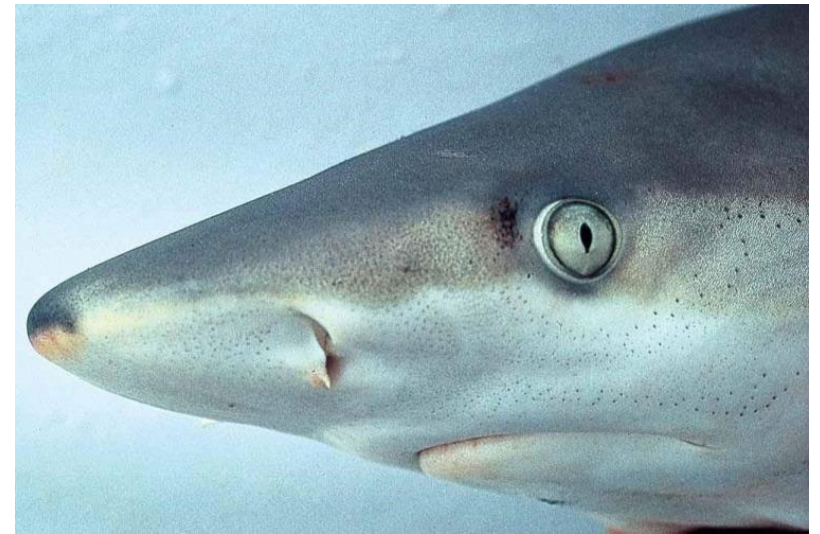
# Background - Commercial Fishery

**2010:** SouthEast Data Assessment Review assesses **blacknose sharks** (SEDAR 21)

- Atlantic stock: overfished with overfishing occurring
- Gulf of America stock: unknown

**2013:** Amendment 5a to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

- Created regional (Atlantic and Gulf) blacknose and non-blacknose small coastal shark quotas
- Established regional quota linkages between management groups

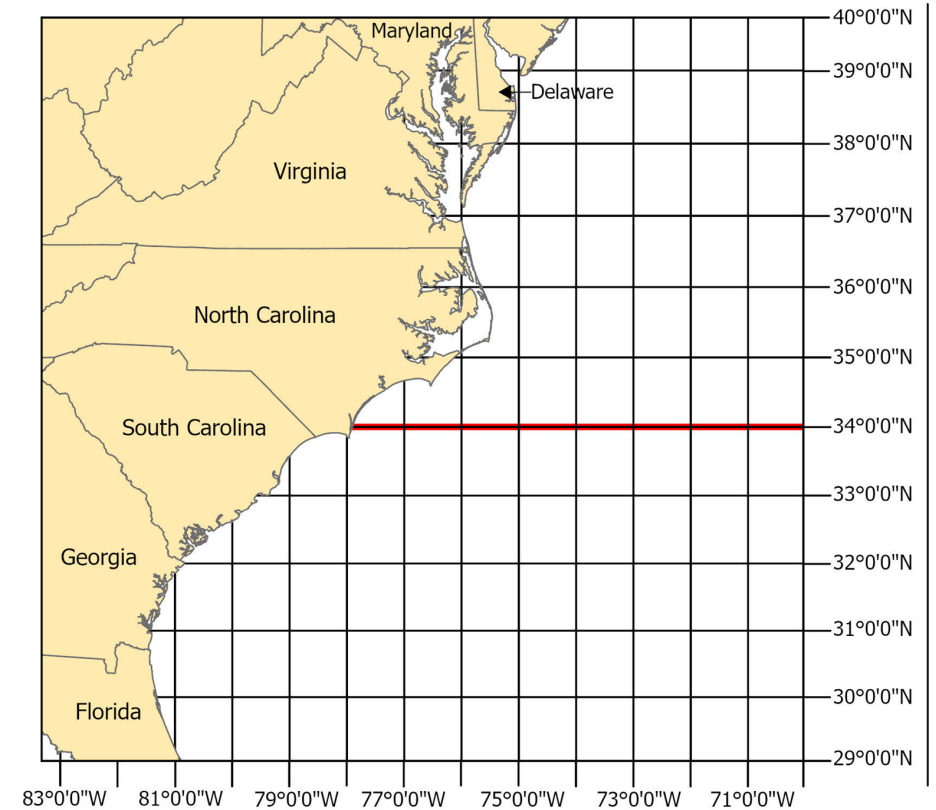


# Background - Commercial Fishery

## 2015: Amendment 6 to the HMS FMP

- Established a management boundary in the Atlantic region along N lat. 34°00' (approximately Wilmington, North Carolina)

**2017:** Established a commercial retention limit of 8 blacknose sharks for all Directed and Incidental shark limited access permit holders



# Background - Recreational Fishery

## 1999: 1999 FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks

- Established a recreational minimum size limit for most shark species of 54 inches (137 cm) fork length (FL)
- Reduced recreational retention limits for all sharks to one shark per vessel per trip

## 2008: Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP

- Expanded the shark species authorized for recreational retention and modified recreational retention limits
- One Atlantic sharpnose shark and one bonnethead shark per person per trip with no minimum size
- One per vessel per trip for all other authorized shark species greater than 54 inches (137 cm) FL

## 2013: Amendment 5a to the HMS FMP

- Revised the recreational minimum size limit for all hammerhead sharks to 78 inches (198.1 cm) FL

## 2015: Amendment 9 to the HMS FMP

- Established no recreational retention limit for smoothhound sharks with no minimum size limit

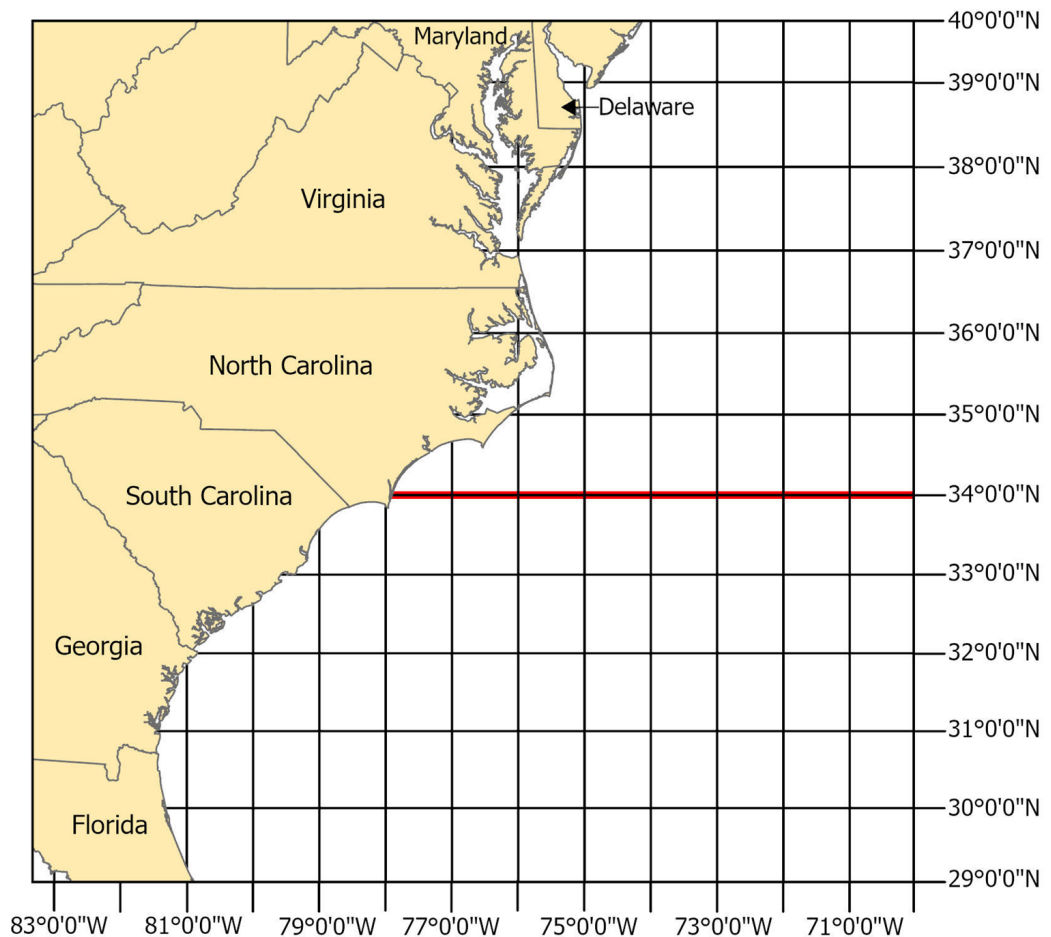


# Commercial Shark Fishery



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Blacknose Shark Management Boundary



**Alternative A1:** Keep the blacknose shark management boundary - *no action*

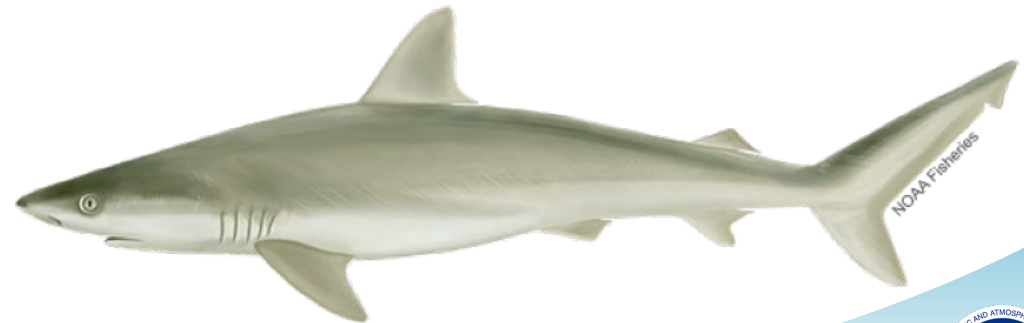
**Alternative A2:** Remove the blacknose shark management boundary - *preferred*

# Blacknose Shark Commercial Retention Limit

**Alternative B1:** Keep the current commercial retention limit for blacknose sharks (8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip) - *no action*

**Alternative B2:** Establish a flexible commercial retention limit of 0 to 60 blacknose sharks with a default limit of 25 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip - *preferred*

**Alternative B3:** Remove the commercial retention limit for blacknose sharks



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Recreational Shark Fishery



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Current Recreational Minimum Size Limits



## Current minimum size limits:

- All sharks, unless otherwise specified, must be at least 54 inches (137 cm) FL
- All hammerhead sharks (other than bonnethead sharks) must be at least 78 inches (198.1 cm) FL
- There is no size limit for Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, or smoothhound sharks



# Shark Species Female Size at Maturity

Species	Size at Maturity (FL) (inches (cm))	Species	Size at Maturity (FL) (inches (cm))
Atlantic sharpnose	25 (63.5)	Hammerhead, great	81 (205.7)
Blacknose	34 (86.4)	Hammerhead, scalloped	72 (182.9)
Blacktip	48 (121.9)	Hammerhead, smooth	79 (200.7)
Blue	73 (185.4)	Lemon	76 (193)
Bonnethead	29 (73.7)	Nurse	89 (226.1)
Bull	75 (190.5)	Porbeagle	82 (208.3)
Common thresher	83 (236.2)	Smoothhound	35 (88.9)
Finetooth	40 (101.6)	Spinner	59 (149.9)
		Tiger	103 (261.6)



# Recreational Minimum Size Limits

**Alternative C1:** Keep the current recreational minimum size limits - *no action*

**Alternative C2:** Establish recreational minimum size limits for sharks based on each species' female size at maturity

**Alternative C3:** Establish recreational minimum size limits for shark groups based on grouped species' female sizes at maturity

**Alternative C4:** Establish flexible recreational minimum size limits for shark groups based on grouped species' female sizes at maturity - *preferred*

**Alternative C5:** Remove recreational minimum size limits

*\* This action would not consider changes to regulations for prohibited sharks or shortfin mako sharks*

# Recreational Minimum Size Limits Under Preferred Alternative C4

Shark Group	Minimum Size Limit (FL) (inches (cm))	
	Range	Default
Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, and smoothhound	Up to 54 (137.2), or no limit	No limit
Blacknose and finetooth	Up to 54 (137.2), or no limit	38 (96.5)
Blacktip and spinner	Up to 70 (177.8), or no limit	48 (121.9)
Great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead	Up to 115 (292.1), or no limit	78 (198.1)
Bull, lemon, nurse, and tiger	Up to 115 (292.1), or no limit	54 (137.2)
Blue, common thresher, and porbeagle	Up to 95 (241.3), or no limit	54 (137.2)



# Current Recreational Retention Limits

## Current retention limits:

- One shark from the following list per vessel per trip: Atlantic blacktip, Gulf blacktip, bull, great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, lemon, nurse, spinner, tiger, blue, thresher, porbeagle, Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, Atlantic blacknose, Gulf blacknose, and bonnethead
- One Atlantic sharpnose shark and one bonnethead shark per person per trip
- There is no limit for smoothhound sharks

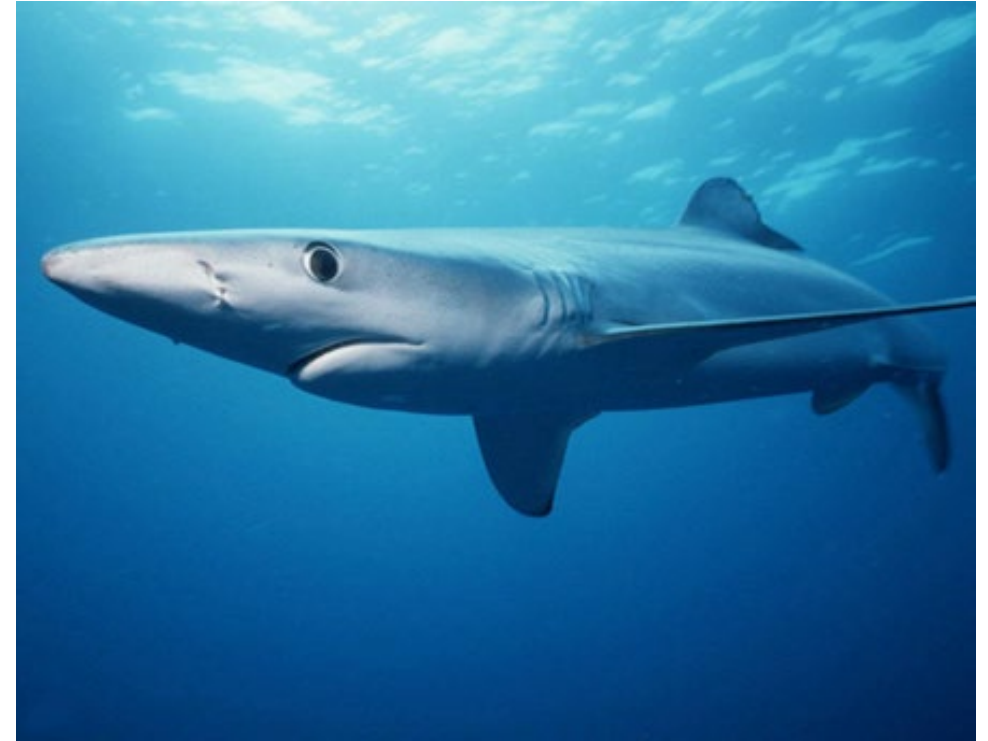


# Recreational Retention Limits

**Alternative D1:** Keep the current recreational retention limits - *no action*

**Alternative D2:** Establish flexible recreational retention limits for sharks - *preferred*

**Alternative D3:** Remove recreational retention limits for sharks



*\* This action would not consider changes to regulations for prohibited sharks or shortfin mako sharks*

# Recreational Retention Limits Under Preferred Alternative D2

Shark Species	Recreational Retention Limit (Sharks/Vessel/Trip)	
	Range	Default
Sharks from the following list: blacknose, blue, bull, common thresher, finetooth, great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, lemon, nurse, porbeagle, spinner, and tiger	Up to 3, or no limit	1
Atlantic sharpnose	Up to 4, or no limit	1
Bonnethead	Up to 4, or no limit	1
Blacktip	Up to 5, or no limit	1
Smoothhound	Up to 4, or no limit	No limit



# Miscellaneous Regulatory Changes



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Commercial Management Group Quota Linkages

- Remove commercial management group quota linkages
- In Amendment 14, NOAA Fisheries approved a management option to remove commercial management group quota linkages to allow fisheries to remain open all year and ensure that each shark management group or species' quota is fully utilized
- Once an annual catch limit is reached, NOAA Fisheries would close that fishery to prevent overharvest

## Management groups that are currently linked:

- Atlantic: hammerhead sharks and aggregated large coastal sharks
- Eastern Gulf of America: hammerhead sharks and aggregated large coastal sharks
- Western Gulf of America: hammerhead sharks and aggregated large coastal sharks
- Atlantic: blacknose sharks and non-blacknose small coastal sharks

# Other Miscellaneous Regulatory Changes



- Clarify some of the existing references to thresher shark in the regulations to specify which species of thresher shark (common or bigeye) the regulations apply
- Update the name of the management group “pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle” to “common thresher and shortfin mako (when authorized) sharks”
- Remove references to oceanic whitetip sharks in commercial fishery regulations

# Anticipated Timing & Request for Public Comments

- The proposed rule published on January 5, 2026 (91 FR 215)
- Comment period extended on February 25, 2026 (91 FR 9237)
- Written comment must be received by May 29, 2026
- Submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov>
  - Search “NOAA-NMFS-2024-0039”
- The final rule is expected in late 2026

## Reg Action Webpage:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/proposed-rule-revisions-commercial-atlantic-blacknose-and-recreational-atlantic-shark>



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Comments to Date

## Atlantic Blacknose Shark:

- Overall support for the preferred management measures to optimize quotas and reduce regulatory discards

## Recreational Shark Fishing:

- General support for creating management flexibility and establishing size limits based on size at maturity
- Some concern that NOAA Fisheries could adjust minimum size and retention limits without prior notification or frequently; concern that states may not be able to make parallel changes
- Some questions regarding the proposed shark groupings, the scientific basis for the proposed changes, and how the proposed changes would work
- Suggestions to keep “per person” retention limits for Atlantic sharpnose shark and bonnethead shark retention limits

# Questions?

**For more information:**

[Guy.DuBeck@noaa.gov](mailto:Guy.DuBeck@noaa.gov)

**Or**

[Karyl.Brewster-Geisz@noaa.gov](mailto:Karyl.Brewster-Geisz@noaa.gov)

**HMS main phone line: 301-427-8503**



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



**U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
International Affairs

# **CITES Implementation for the U.S. Atlantic Smoothhound Fishery**

**Michelle Turton and Matthew Titlow**  
Division of Management Authority

**Debra Abercrombie**  
Division of  
Scientific Authority

**Daniel Sahakian**  
Office of  
Law Enforcement





## What is CITES?

CITES is an international agreement among governments, which aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of CITES-listed animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. It establishes a **legal framework** together with common procedural mechanisms to **regulate international trade in listed plants and animals** to ensure **legality, biological sustainability, and traceability.**



## How does CITES work?

CITES regulates the **export, re-export, and import, and introduction from the sea**, of specimens of species, including live and dead animals and plants and their parts and derivatives, of **species included in its Appendices** (Appendix I, II, and III).

It regulates international trade through a system of **permits and certificates** that:

- Are only issued if certain conditions are met.
- Must be presented when leaving and entering a country.





## CITES Appendices

**Appendix I:** International trade for primarily commercial purposes is prohibited, with limited exceptions.

**Appendix II:** Commercial and non-commercial international trade allowed through issuance of permits and certificates.

Prior to issuing permits and certificates for species included in CITES Appendices I or II, the CITES authorities of the exporting country must determine that:

- The specimens to be exported were **legally acquired**.
- International trade in the species will **not be detrimental to its survival in the wild**.





# Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP)

The Parties meet every two to three years at a CoP. During this 2-week meeting, they review and vote on:

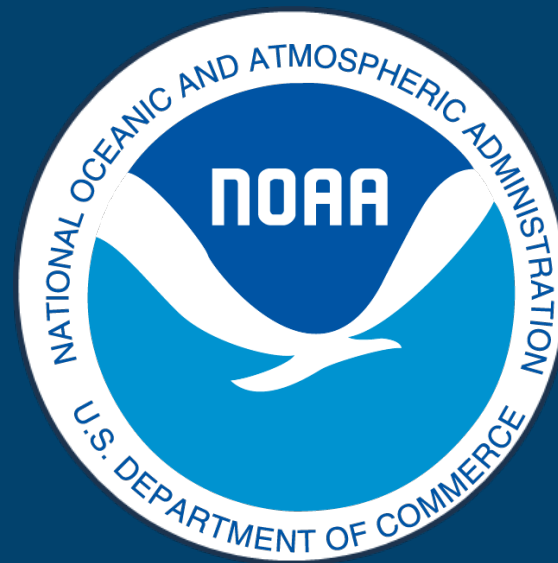
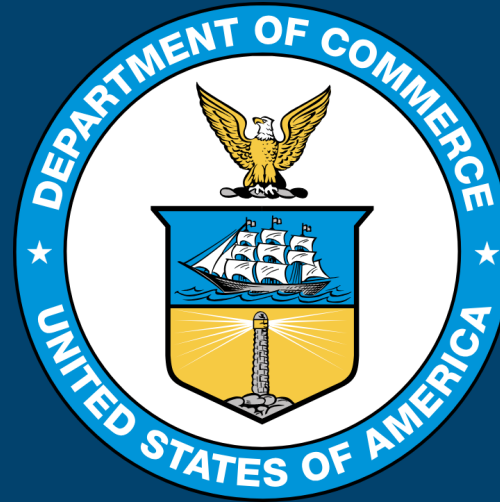
- Proposed resolutions and decisions to improve the effectiveness of CITES
- **Amendments to CITES Appendix I and Appendix II**
  - Changes to Appendices I and II must be proposed at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) and agreed to by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting at the CoP.



COP

Conferencia M  
sobre la Vida S





# U.S. Atlantic Smoothhound Fishery

## Smoothhounds (*Mustelus spp.*)

- Smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*)
- Florida smoothhound (*Mustelus norrisi*)
- Gulf smoothhound (*Mustelus sinusmexicanus*)

A proposal was adopted at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP20) for inclusion in **Appendix II**.

- Submitted by Brazil, Ecuador, European Union, Panama and Senegal
- Adopted by consensus
- Delayed implementation date of 18 months (**June 5, 2027**)



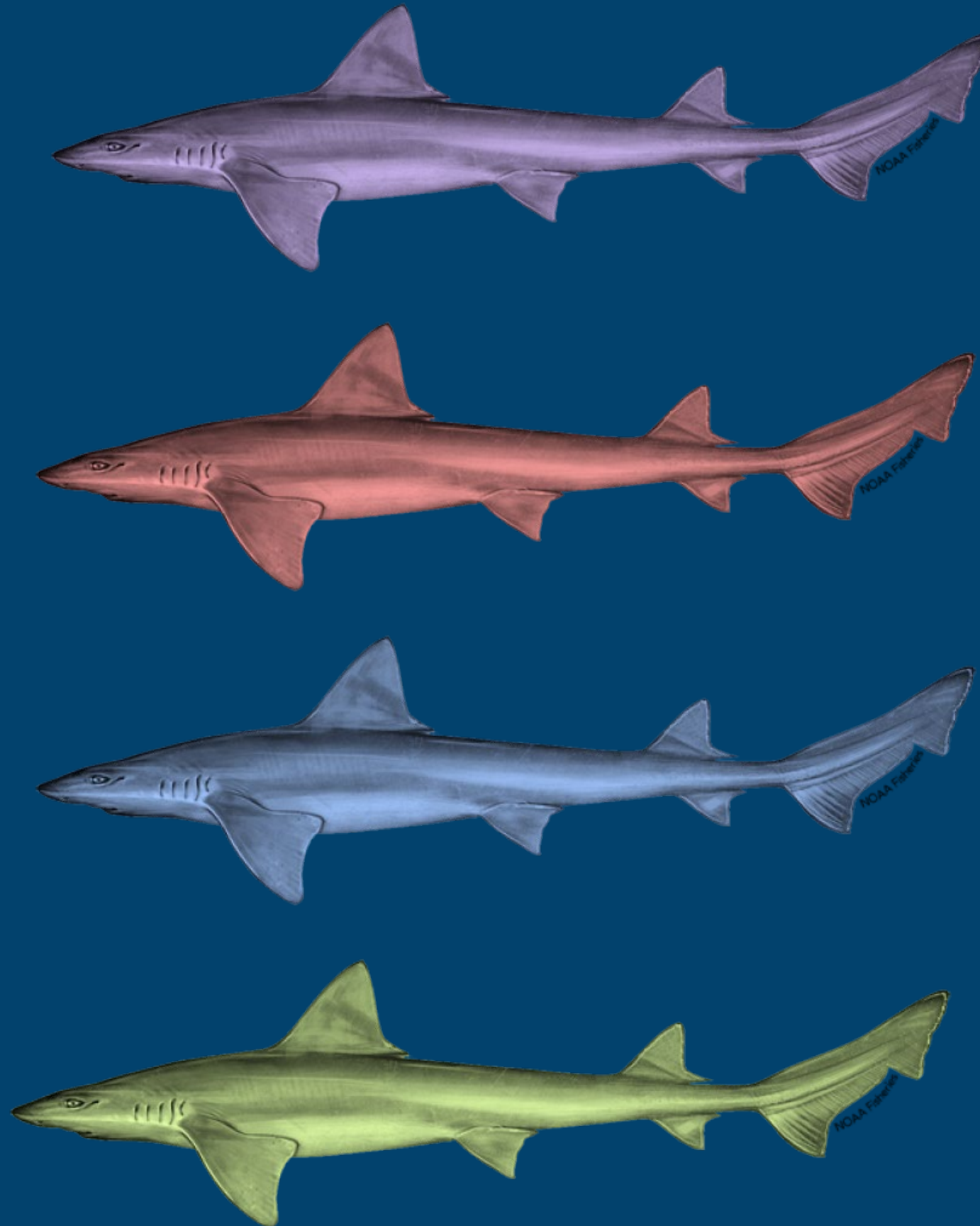


# U.S. Atlantic Smoothhounds Fishery

International trade may be authorized by the granting of a CITES export permit, re-export certificate, or introduction from the sea certificate.

- **Introduction from the Sea:** means transportation into a country of specimens of any species that were taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any country, i.e. high seas, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

**No import permit** is necessary for these species under CITES (although a permit is needed in some countries that have enacted stricter domestic measures than CITES requires).



The permit process is time-intensive and can vary depending upon several factors such as the animal or plant species, its level of protection, and the complexity and legality of the proposed activity. Please apply at least 60-90 days prior to needing the permit.

## The information below can help put YOU in the driver's seat!



\*This will add time to the process.

\*\*Please respond to each inquiry within 45 days to maintain an active application.



# CITES Export Permits

Exports from the United States of smoothhounds, **whether alive or dead, and any parts or derivatives** must be accompanied by a CITES export permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service starting on June 5, 2027

Permit application form **3-200-27: Export of Wildlife Removed from the Wild (Live/Samples/Parts/Products)** under CITES

- Individual or a business can apply
- Single use or multi-use

Annex 2 Standard CITES form

<b>CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA</b>		<b>PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		Original 2. Valid until											
3. Issuing agency name and address		4. Specimen/exporter name, address and contact													
5a. Agency stamp		Signature of the applicant													
5. Special conditions		6. Name, address, national jurisdiction and country of Management Authority													
For live animals, the permit or certificate is only valid if transport conditions conform to the standards for transport of live animals set in the Convention or Appendix, or the IATA Live Animals Regulations.															
7a. Species of the transaction (scientific name)		7b. Scientific name var.													
7. Scientific name(s) and authority, and approximate date of birth or year		8. Sex(es) of specimen(s), including identifying marks or colour against black		9. Approximate age and sex (all females)											
		10. Quantity (including wild)		11a. Total number/Date											
A		12a. Country of origin ** Permit no.		12b. No. of the specimen ** (in case of re-exportation) ***											
B		12a. Country of origin ** Permit no.		12b. No. of the specimen ** (in case of re-exportation) ***											
C		12a. Country of origin ** Permit no.		12b. No. of the specimen ** (in case of re-exportation) ***											
D		12a. Country of origin ** Permit no.		12b. No. of the specimen ** (in case of re-exportation) ***											
* Quantity of each specimen was taken from the total number of specimens of that species, or from the total number of specimens of that species, or from the total number of specimens of that species, or from the total number of specimens of that species. ** Only the quantities of specimens reported here in this permit or certificate are eligible for trade. *** For re-exportation purposes.															
13. The permit/certificate is issued by:															
Name		Date		Scientific name, signature and official seal											
14. Export authorization		15. Wild category export number													
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Class</th> <th>Quantity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Class	Quantity	A		B		C		D		Full of export      Date      Signature      Official stamp and seal			
Class	Quantity														
A															
B															
C															
D															



## CITES Export Permits

- Scientific name (genus and species) and common name;
- **Approximate age and sex (if known);**
- Description – type, quantity, and container;
- **Specific location of where, when, and by whom the animal was removed from the wild;**
- A description of the method of removal from the wild;
- **Purpose of removal;**
- Copy of any permits, licenses, or other documents from the State or local wildlife authorities required to remove the specimen(s) from the wild;
- **Documentation showing that the specimens were legally obtained by the applicant ; and**
- Copies of any applicable State permits or licenses that are required to house, maintain, breed, and/or sell the specimens.





## Master Files

For businesses or individuals that export **frequently and have large inventories** of items containing CITES-listed specimens (e.g., large collections of frozen whole carcasses, fillets, etc.)

Master files “pre-authorize” a business or individual to export their legally acquired specimens

Valid for **up to 3 years**

Authorize exporters to **send variable quantities** of the authorized specimens to any recipient



## Master Files

Clones are identical except for permit number and are **valid for 6 months**.

Master file holders are held to certain terms and conditions, presented in a letter upon establishment of the file.

In many instances, we **limit the total quantity** authorized for export and have reporting requirements for renewal or amending a Master File.





# After Application Submission

The applicant will receive an acknowledgement letter/email.

USFWS reviews the export application which includes:

- **A legal acquisition finding (LAF)**
- **A non-detriment finding (NDF)**
- **Consultation with NOAA/NMFS, State(s) and Tribe(s), as applicable**
- **Contacting applicant if additional information is needed**

Export permit is **issued or denied**.

- **If denied, a letter is sent with reason for the denial.**
- **There is a reconsideration process available for denials.**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Service ePermits**

Balancing use and conservation of protected  
species

Login

Permittees and applicants login  
below. Create a new account if  
this is the first time you are  
visiting this site.

Login/Register



# Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF)

Prior to the issuance of a CITES export permit, **the Management Authority (MA) of the exporting country** must determine that the specimen **was legally acquired (i.e., not obtained in contravention of national laws)**.

In the United States, these include all applicable local, State, Federal, Tribal, and foreign laws.

**50 CFR 23.60 – Factors Considered in Making a LAF**





# Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF)

Conducting a risk assessment helps to assess the level of scrutiny and amount of information the MA needs to make a LAF.

Risk factors considered include:

- **Status of the species** (Appendix I, II, or III);
- **Origin** of specimen (collected from the wild, bred in captivity, or artificially propagated);
- **Range of the species** (native to North America vs. non-native);
- **Volume of illegal trade** (rare in trade vs. commonly traded);
- **Type of trade** (commercial vs. noncommercial);
- Ability of the species to be **bred or propagated in a controlled environment**; and
- **Genetic status** of the specimen (purebred species vs. hybrid).





## Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF)

Ultimately, we request documentation to establish an unbroken chain of custody with no evidence of illegal transactions involving the specimen.

Examples of possibly relevant information that may be requested for **smoothhounds**:

- Quotas (federal, state, and Tribal)
- Supplier's commercial buyers license
- Harvest reports
- Timing and location of the catch
- Transfer of ownership documentation
- Fishing licenses and permits (Federal, State, and Tribal)
- Fishing agreements
- Vessel registration
- Description of shipping container





# Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)

Parties have a legal obligation to undertake NDFs for:

- import of specimens derived from species included in **Appendix I**
- export or Introduction from the Sea of specimens derived from species included in **Appendix I & II**

A NDF can take many forms:

- A written advice from the Scientific Authority
- A verbal advice from the Scientific Authority
- Quota agreed by the Scientific Authority

Note: A NDF is not required for trade (import/export/Introduction from the Sea) in specimens derived from species included in **Appendix III**





# Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)

Evaluate biological and ecological factors, based on best available information.

- **Species biology/life history characteristics/role in the ecosystem**
- **Distribution (historical and current)**
- **Population structure/status/trends (national, regional, global)**
- **Main threats to the species, including (known, inferred, projected, estimated) international trade impacts**
- **Management measures and population monitoring in place or proposed that ensure sustainable harvesting practices**
- **Conservation status**

FWS often consults with the **States, Tribes, other Federal agencies, scientists, experts, and the range countries** of the species during the NDF process.

# Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)



## Decision-making Process = Risk Assessment

The **degree of risk** to the species determines the **relative degree of scrutiny** in making a non-detriment determination.

Higher risk species receive greater scrutiny:

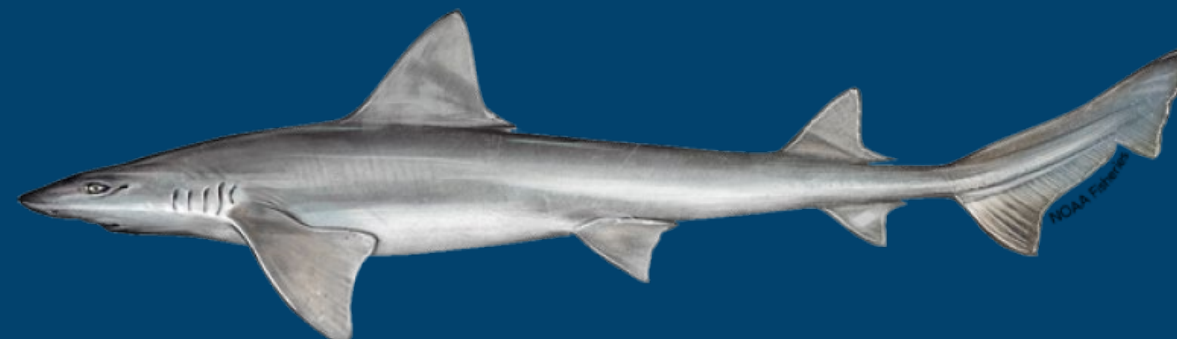
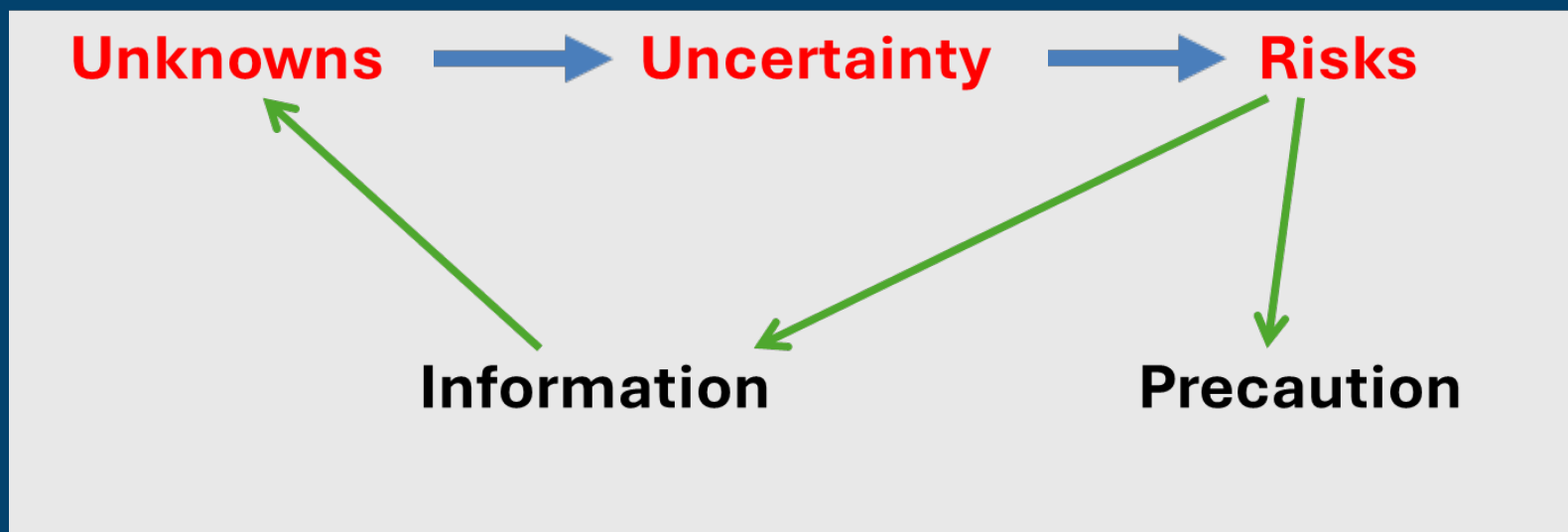
- **Appendix I (higher) versus Appendix II**
- **Wild-harvested (higher) versus artificially propagated/captive-bred**
- **Commercial versus non-commercial trade**
- **Native species versus non-native (exotics)**





# Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)

Essence of an NDF assessment = Managing the level of risk





## Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)

**NDFs for sharks included in Appendix II of CITES are based on U.S. fisheries management implemented at the federal and state level.**

**As applicable, U.S. fishers and dealers must:**

- Obtain permits, report catch, attend shark identification and/or handling and release workshops.
- Adhere to science-based quotas, retention prohibitions, gear restrictions, time-area closures, as outlined in fishery management plans (FMPs).
- Land sharks with fins naturally-attached for accurate species identification and catch reports, enforcement **EXCEPT smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*)**



## Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)

### U.S. Example – NDF requirements for export of products derived from requiem sharks commercially harvested in the Atlantic Shark Fishery:

Copies of licenses/permits required to purchase, sell and internationally export products derived from these species

- a valid federal Atlantic Shark Dealer Fishing Permit issued by NMFS to the applicant (including SERO Dealer Number; expiration dates, etc.);
- valid federal limited access Shark Directed Permit (SKD) permits issued by NMFS to all vessels from which the applicant purchased products from; and
- an import/export license issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement is required by the applicant for all wildlife products.

# Declaration Procedures

## Wildlife Declaration 3-177

- Account on FWS EDECS
- Document Submission
  - Invoice
  - Licenses
  - Permits
  - Shipping information
  - **Must present physical CITES permit**

## Import/Export Licenses

- Companies or individuals
- Commercially import/ export to/from the United States shipments containing wildlife

USFWS Form 3-177 (Rev. 04/2024) O.M.B. No. 1018-0012 (Exp. Date: 09/30/2027)

1. Date of Import/Export:  
07/30/2025

2a. Import/Export License Number:  
123456


3. Indicate One:  
 Import  Export

4. Port of Clearance:  
NW

5. Purpose Code:  
T

6. Customs Document Number(s):

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



**DECLARATION FOR IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION OF FISH OR WILDLIFE**

7. Name of Carrier:  
FWS airlines

8. Air Waybill/Bill of Lading/Container No.:  
Master: 6875309  
House:  
Container No.:

9. Transportation Code: A  
License No.  
State or Province:

10. Bonded Location for Inspection:  
FWS HQ

11. Number of Cartons Containing Wildlife:  
12

12. Markings on Cartons Containing Wildlife: FWS Wildlife

13. (indicate one)  U.S. Importer  U.S. Exporter

NUMBER 1 WILDLIFE TRADE GROUP CORPORATION LLC  
EXAMPLE TESTER  
987 ROAD ST  
FAKETOWN, \*\* 12345  
Example@test.com

13b. Identifier Number: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Type: \_\_\_\_\_

14. (indicate one)  Foreign Importer  Foreign Exporter

SELLER  
541 STREET LN  
UNKNOWNVILLE, XX

14c. Identifier Number: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Type: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Customs Broker, Shipping Agent or Freight Forwarder:  
NOT SKETCHY BROKERAGE GROUP

15b. Identifier Number: 123445 ID Type: DUNS

Phone Number / Fax Number / Email Address:  
3013013011 / nosketch@gmail.com

15c. Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Species Code	16a. Scientific Name 16b. Common Name	17a. Foreign CITES Permit Num. 17b. U.S. CITES Permit Num. 17c. CITES Tag/Marking Num. 17d. Other U.S. Permits	18a. Description Code 18b. Source	19a. Quantity/Units 19b. Total Monetary Value	20. Country of Species Origin Code (ISO Code)	21. Venomous Live Wildlife Indicator
ALLM ( )	ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS AMERICAN ALLIGATOR	25US12356E/9	LPL W	10.00 NO \$1,000	US	<input type="checkbox"/>
PTCR ( )	PTYAS CARINATUS KEELED RAT SNAKE		LPS W	2.00 NO \$20	ID	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>

22. I certify under penalty of perjury that the information furnished is true and correct:  
Filed Electronically 07/15/2025 ConfirmNum 2025NW76147

Status: LOCKED  
Printed: 04/09/2026

Action/Comments:

Wildlife Inspected: None  
Service K-9 Utilized: No  
Inspected By: WI0483 Sahakian

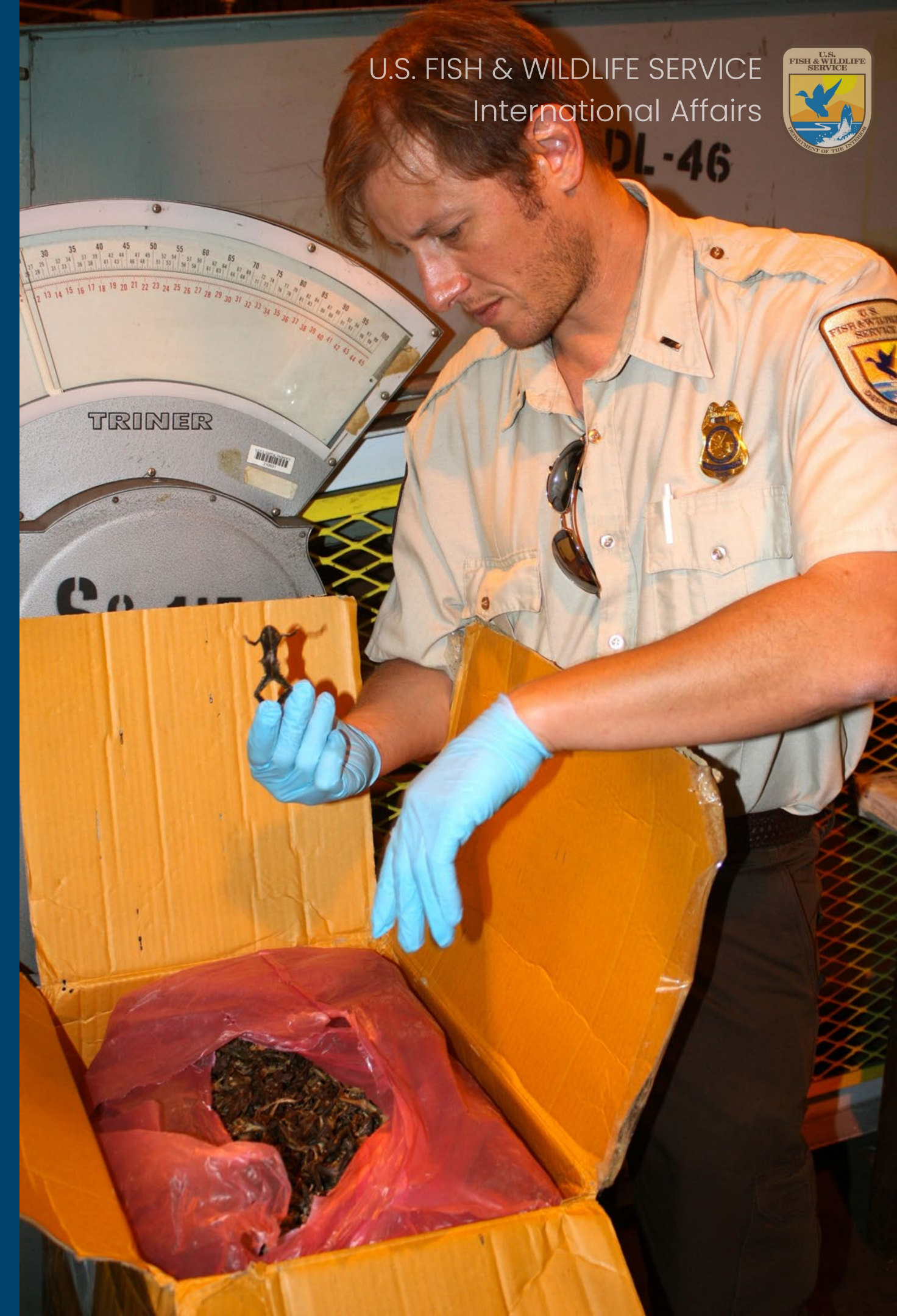
# Declaration Procedures

Shipments should move through Designated Ports

- 50 CFR 14.12
- **Designated Port Exception Permit (DPEP)**

Early Notice Requirements for Live/Perishable shipments

- 48 Hours at Designated Ports
- 72 hours non-designated ports
- **Communicate with the Port Office**





# Inspection Procedures

- Documents review
- Physical inspection if required
  - Location based on port and type of shipment
- Permit Validation
- Declaration Processing

7/8. Common Name and Scientific name (genus and species) of Animal or Plant		9. Description of Part or Derivative, including identifying marks or numbers (age/sex if live)		10. Appendix No. and Source							
A. Common Name AMERICAN ALLIGATOR		9. RE-EXPORT: WATCH STRAPS.		10. 2 C							
Scientific Name ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS				11. Quantity (including units) NO							
12. Country of Origin		Permit/Certificate No. SEE INVENTORY PAGE	Date of Issue	12b. Breeding Operation No.							
12a. Country of Last Re-export		Re-export Certificate No. SEE INVENTORY PAGE	Date of Issue	12c. Pre-Convention: Date of Acquisition							
B. Common Name AMERICAN ALLIGATOR		9. RE-EXPORT: WATCH STRAPS.		10. 2 W							
Scientific Name ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS				11. Quantity (including units) NO							
12. Country of Origin		Permit/Certificate No. SEE INVENTORY PAGE	Date of Issue	12b. Breeding Operation No.							
12a. Country of Last Re-export		Re-export Certificate No. SEE INVENTORY PAGE	Date of Issue	12c. Pre-Convention: Date of Acquisition							
13. Export / Re-export Endorsement: The official who inspects shipment upon exportation / re-exportation must enter the total quantities of specimens being exported / re-exported in this block.		14. Bill of Lading/Air Way-Bill Number 724-7598-0950		15. This document valid only with inspecting official's ORIGINAL stamp, signature and date in this block.							
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>See Block 7</th> <th>Quantity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td><del>1</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>1 NO</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		See Block 7	Quantity	A	<del>1</del>	B	1 NO	Port of Exportation / Re-exportation JFLIA Total No. of Shipping Containers 1		Date of Issue 1/2/2015 Inspecting Official's Stamp, Signature and Date 	
See Block 7	Quantity										
A	<del>1</del>										
B	1 NO										



# Helpful Links

- **USFWS International Affairs Website:**  
<https://www.fws.gov/program/international-affairs>
- **CITES Overview:**  
<https://www.fws.gov/media/cites-overview>
- **Understanding CITES: CITES Appendix II Supports Sustainable Use:**  
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-04/factsheet-cites-appendix-ii-2024.pdf>
- **Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Certificates Needed for CITES-listed Sharks and Rays**  
<https://www.fws.gov/question-answer/frequently-asked-questions-concerning-certificates-needed-cites-listed-sharks-and#:~:text=Will%20I%20need%20an%20Import,CITES%20or%20another%20U.S.%20law>
- **Species included in CITES Appendices:**  
<https://www.speciesplus.net/>

# Contact us!

- **Division of Management Authority**  
([ManagementAuthority@fws.gov](mailto:ManagementAuthority@fws.gov))
- **Division of Scientific Authority**  
([ScientificAuthority@fws.gov](mailto:ScientificAuthority@fws.gov))
- **FWS Office of Law Enforcement**  
([LawEnforcement@fws.gov](mailto:LawEnforcement@fws.gov))

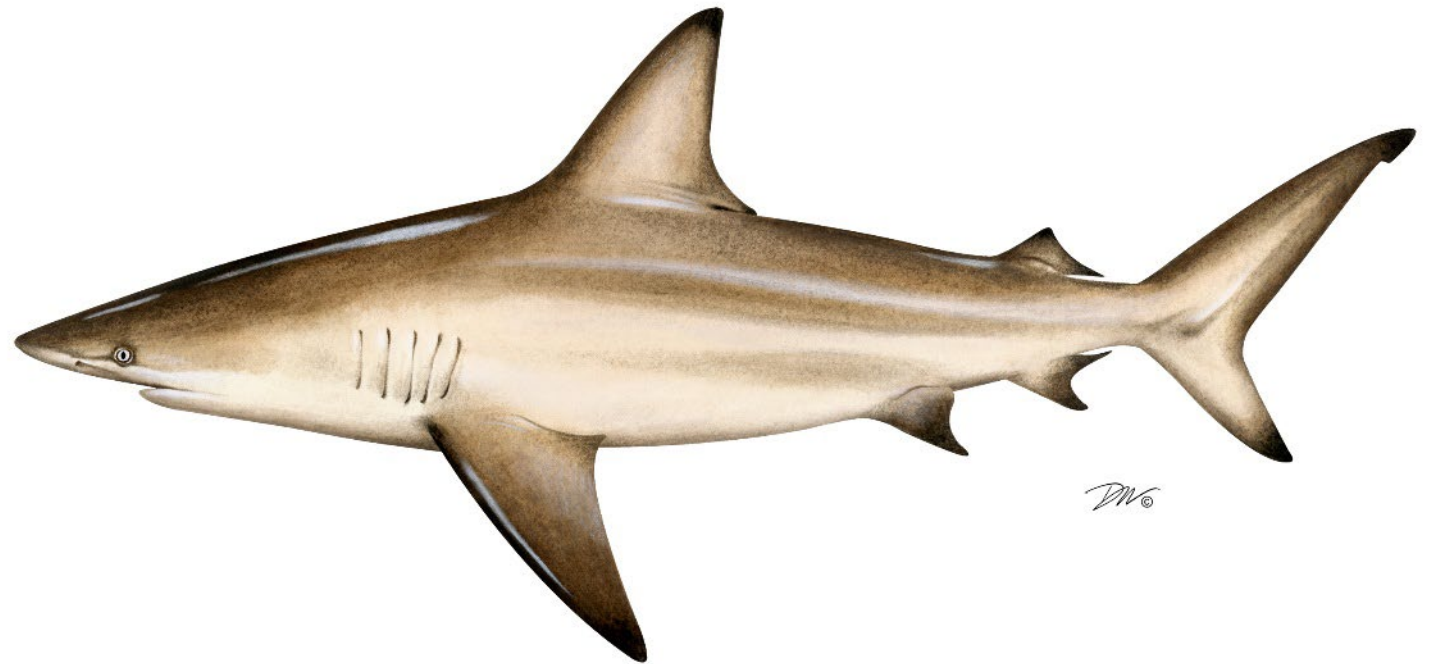


Thank you



# FMP Review of the 2024 Fishing Year for Coastal Sharks

May 2026



- Status of FMP
- Status of Stocks
- Status of the Fishery
- Status of Research and Monitoring
- *De Minimis* Requests
- Implementation of FMP Requirements
- PRT Recommendations

- Recent changes
  - 2022: Zero retention in state waters for shortfin mako sharks
  - 2024: Zero possession limit for oceanic whitetip sharks for commercial/recreational fisheries

- Research track assessment of the hammerhead complex (SEDAR 77) completed in 2024

Species	SEDAR 77 Overfished/Overfishing Status in Terminal Year (2019)
Scalloped hammerhead	Not overfished /not experiencing overfishing
Smooth hammerhead*	Unknown, rebuilding since 2000 / overfishing most likely not occurring*
Great hammerhead	Overfished / not experiencing overfishing

\*Data limited assessment

Preliminary 2024 commercial shark landings, Atlantic Region  
(Source: NOAA HMS)

<b>Shark Management Group</b>	<b>2024 Quota (dw)</b>	<b>Estimated Landings (dw)</b>	<b>% of Quota</b>	<b>2023 Landings (dw)</b>
<b>Aggregated LCS</b>	168.9 mt (372,552 lb)	84.2 mt (185,731 lb)	50%	120.3 mt (265,198 lb)
<b>Hammerhead</b>	27.1 mt (59,736 lb)	17.8 mt (39,191 lb)	66%	24.1 mt (53,203 lb)
<b>Non-Blacknose SCS</b>	264.1 mt (582,333 lb)	77.7 mt (171,377 lb)	29%	85.2 mt (187,938 lb)
<b>Blacknose</b>	17.2 mt (37,921 lb)	5.4 mt (11,852 lb)	31%	5.9 mt (13,104 lb)
<b>Smoothhound</b>	1,802.6 mt (3,973,902 lb)	333.8 mt (735,890 lb)	19%	410.0 mt (903,951 lb)

# Status of the Fisheries

Preliminary 2024 commercial shark landings, No Regional Quotas  
(Source: NOAA HMS)

<b>Shark Management Group</b>	<b>2024 Quota (dw)</b>	<b>Estimated Landings (dw)</b>	<b>% of Quota</b>	<b>2023 Landings (dw)</b>
<b>Shark Research Fishery (Aggregated LCS)</b>	50.0 mt (110,230 lb)	9.1 mt (20,016 lb)	18%	2.7 mt (5,911 lb)
<b>Shark Research Fishery (Sandbar Only)</b>	90.7 mt (199,943 lb)	56 mt (123,059 lb)	62%	<23 mt (<50,706 lb)
<b>Blue</b>	273.0 mt (601,856 lb)	<1 mt (< 2,205 lb)	<1%	<2 mt (<4,408 lb)
<b>Porbeagle</b>	1.7 mt (3,748 lb)	<1 mt (< 2,205 lb)	<30%	<1 mt (< 2,205 lb)
<b>Common Thresher</b>	488.0 mt (1,075,856 lb)	16.3 mt (35,963 lb)	3%	20.1 mt (44,323 lb)

- States provided recreational landings estimates for 2024
- Most estimates are from MRIP with high PSE values

- States can request *de minimis* status on a case-by-case basis.
- Massachusetts is requesting continuation of *de minimis* status for the Aggregated Large Coastal species group and the Hammerhead species group

- PRT recommends that *de minimis* status be granted to MA for large coastal and hammerhead sharks
- GA regulations do not establish a zero-retention limit for shortfin mako sharks.
  - Federally-permitted harvesters required to comply with the federal regulations regardless of where they are fishing.
  - However, the regulations appear to allow harvest of shortfin mako in state waters by non-federally permitted commercial and recreational harvesters.
- Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maryland did not report shark landings by month including number of trips.
- With the exceptions noted above, all states have implemented regulations consistent with the FMP requirements.

- Approve *de minimis* status for Massachusetts
- Approve FMP Review and state compliance for the 2024 Fishing Year

Questions?

