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# Guide for Complying with the Atlantic Shark Fisheries Regulations in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP



National Marine Fisheries Service  
Highly Migratory Species Division  
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(301) 713-2347

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**INTRODUCTION** – Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) including tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce, with consideration for the domestic and international aspects of these fisheries.

NMFS has recently amended regulations for Atlantic shark fisheries based on recent stock assessments. The final measures implement a shark research fishery which allows NMFS to select a limited number of commercial shark vessels on an annual basis to collect life history data and data for future stock assessments. Furthermore, the revised measures affect quotas, retention limits, and authorized species in commercial shark fisheries; affect authorized species in recreational shark fisheries; modify time/area closures for commercial shark vessels deploying bottom longline gear; require that all sharks be landed with all fins naturally attached; and modify regions, seasons, and shark dealer reporting frequency in the commercial shark fishery.

This guide is intended to provide a plain-language summary of how to comply with only the new regulations and is produced in compliance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. Table 1 summarizes how regulations apply to different permit and gear types. For the official and complete set of regulations, please see 50 CFR Part 635 and other relevant parts of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and the *Federal Register* (FR) (electronic versions of both the CFR and FR are available at [www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov)). Since fishery rules frequently change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulatory updates and are responsible for complying with the current official regulations. If there is a discrepancy between the regulations in 50 CFR Part 635 or other applicable CFR parts and the answers in this Guide, the regulations will take precedence.

You may request a copy of a particular rule or current updates by calling the NMFS HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347 or by viewing the HMS website at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms).

**All measures included in the final rule for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP are effective July 24, 2008.**

The management measures for Atlantic sharks include, but are not limited to:

- Revised quotas, retention limits, and authorized species for the commercial shark fishery;
- Establishing a shark research fishery;
- Limiting retention of sandbar sharks to participants in the shark research fishery;
- Requiring that all sharks be landed with all fins naturally attached;
- Revised authorized species for the recreational shark fishery;
- Complementary time/area closures for bottom longline gear that were included in Amendment 14 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management plan and are being implemented by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council;
- Modified seasons and regions for the commercial shark fishery;
- updates to handling and release protocols for smalltooth sawfish;
- Clarification of the definition of a “first receiver” for shark dealers; and,
- Modifications to the stock assessment schedule and timing of release for the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.

## **I. SHARK RESEARCH FISHERY**

*Q1. What is the shark research fishery?*

A. Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) establishes a shark research fishery. The shark research fishery allows for the collection of fishery-dependent data for future stock assessments while also allowing NMFS and commercial shark fishermen to conduct cooperative research to meet the shark research objectives for NMFS. Each year, NMFS will select approximately five to ten commercial shark fishermen to participate in the research fishery. The shark research fishery is subject to 100% observer coverage. The numbers of trips authorized under the shark research fishery are limited by availability of the selected qualified participants and observers, the amount of quota available, and the spatial and temporal research needs.

*Q2. How can I participate in the shark research fishery?*

A. All commercial shark permit holders (incidental and directed) can apply to participate on an annual basis. Applications can be obtained from the HMS Management Division either by calling (301) 713-2347 or by downloading one from the HMS Management Division’s webpage at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>. A request for applications, published annually in the Federal Register, describes the date that applications are due, the research objectives, the selection criteria and the selection process. Qualified applicants who are selected to participate will receive a shark research permit for use on a particular vessel. A shark research permit will only be valid for the vessel and owner(s) and terms and conditions listed on the permit, and thus, cannot be transferred to another vessel or owner(s).

*Q3. If I am selected to participate in the shark research fishery, will there be specific retention limits and authorized species?*

A. Only commercial shark fishermen participating in the shark research fishery with an observer onboard would be able to land sandbar sharks in addition to non-prohibited shark species. Retention limits will vary for shark research fishery participants depending on the available quotas and research needs. Commercial fishermen not participating in the shark research fishery, or research fishery participants fishing without an observer onboard, may only land non-sandbar Large Coastal Sharks (LCS), Small Coastal Sharks (SCS), and pelagic sharks. These species are listed in Table 1. Participants in the shark research fishery are not authorized to possess any species of shark that are prohibited for the commercial fishery (see Q7, section II).

*Q4. Who is eligible to participate and what are the requirements for participating in the shark research fishery?*

A: NMFS will only consider commercial shark fishermen who meet all relevant regulatory requirements at 50 CFR Parts 600 and 635, including, but not limited to:

- A valid federal Atlantic shark incidental or directed limited access permit;
- A valid United States Coast Guard (USCG) safety inspection decal;
- No history of criminal or civil charges (i.e., issued a Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) or Notice of Permit Sanction) for any HMS related violation with such charges resulting in a final, adverse administrative or judicial order, guilty plea, or settlement agreement;
- If previously selected for observer coverage in the two years prior to implementation of the shark research fishery, compliance with all requirements of the observer program; and,
- Adequate sleeping and life-raft space to accommodate an observer.

## **II. COMMERCIAL QUOTAS, AUTHORIZED SPECIES, AND RETENTION LIMITS**

*Q1. How many sharks may I keep if I have an incidental or directed shark permit?*

A: Directed permit holders are limited to 33 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip. Incidental permit holders are limited to 3 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip. On January 1, 2013, retention limits will increase to 36 non-sandbar LCS per vessel/trip for directed permit holders and remain at 3 for incidental permit holders. If the permit holder also has both a shark research permit and a NMFS-approved observer onboard, trip limits may vary. In those instances, the trip limit will be specified on the shark research permit.

*Q2. What species may I keep if I have an incidental or directed shark permit?*

A. As long as the appropriate season is open, all vessels with an incidental or directed shark permit may keep non-sandbar LCS (i.e., bull, blacktip, spinner, silky, lemon, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, tiger, and nurse sharks), pelagic sharks (i.e., blue, shortfin mako, thresher, oceanic whitetip, and porbeagle sharks), and SCS (i.e.,

Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, and bonnethead sharks). Only vessels participating in the shark research fishery and carrying an observer are authorized to land sandbar sharks.

*Q3. What are the prohibited species for the commercial shark fishery?*

A. Commercial permit holders are not authorized to possess 19 species of shark, including: whale, basking, sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, white, dusky, night, bignose, Galapagos, Caribbean reef, narrowtooth, longfin mako, bigeye thresher, sevengill, sixgill, bigeye sixgill, Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, and Atlantic angel sharks. Sandbar sharks are prohibited, with the exception of vessels participating in the shark research fishery and carrying an observer.

*Q4. May I remove fins from sharks while onboard my vessel?*

A. No. All sharks must have all fins naturally attached through landing and offloading. Atlantic shark fins are not allowed on a vessel unless they are naturally attached to a carcass. Shark fins may be partially cut and folded against the carcass to allow for packing in ice but must remain attached to the carcass by at least a small portion of uncut skin. Commercial vessels may remove the head and gut and bleed sharks at sea.

*Q5. What if I remove the fins from sharks after offloading and the fin to carcass ratio is greater than five percent?*

The Shark Finning Prohibition Act (SFPA) of 2000 established a rebuttable presumption that any shark fins possessed on board a U.S. fishing vessel, or landed from any fishing vessel, were taken, held, or landed in violation of the law if the total weight of the shark fins exceeds 5 percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed from or found on board the vessel. This statutory requirement was implemented by final rule in 2002. See Regulation Implementing the SFPA of 2000 (67 FR 6194, February 11, 2002).

Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP requires that all fins be naturally attached through offloading. All dealer reports must be species specific and specify the total shark fin weight separately from the weight of the shark carcasses. The SFPA provides that if the total weight of the fins exceeds five percent of the total weight of the landed shark carcasses, this would trigger the rebuttable presumption in the SFPA. However, dealer forms were modified to include a check box that indicates whether or not the fins were naturally attached to the carcass at landing and through offloading.

*Q6. What are the base and adjusted quotas for commercial shark fisheries?*

A. As described below, the quota structure has changed as a result of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. Sandbar sharks have been removed from the LCS complex and given their own quota based on the latest sandbar shark stock assessment. Only vessels participating in the research fishery and carrying an observer are authorized to land sandbar sharks. The remaining species in the LCS complex are now referred to as “non-sandbar LCS.” Fishermen inside and outside the shark research fishery are allowed to retain non-sandbar LCS, pelagic, and SCS as long as they have a valid directed or incidental shark permit and the non-sandbar LCS

shark season is open. Only non-sandbar LCS have regional quotas (Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic).

The reduced adjusted quotas, which account for previous years' overharvests, will be in effect from the effective date of Amendment 2 through at least December 31, 2012. The base quotas will go into effect on January 1, 2013, although they may be adjusted to account for any future overharvests. The following are the base and adjusted commercial shark quotas:

LCS Inside the Shark Research Fishery:

- Sandbar sharks = 116.6 mt dw/year (base quota) (adjusted quota = 87.9 mt dw/year)
- Non-sandbar LCS = 50 mt dw/year (base quota) (adjusted quota = 37.5 mt dw/year)

Non-Sandbar LCS Outside the Shark Research Fishery:

- Gulf of Mexico Region = 439.5 mt dw/year (base quota) (adjusted quota = 390.5 mt dw/year)
- Atlantic Region = 188.3 mt dw/year (base quota) (adjusted quota = 187.8/year)

Porbeagle Shark = 1.7 mt dw/year\*

Shortfin mako, oceanic whitetip, and common thresher = 273 mt/year\*

Blue shark quota = 488 mt dw/year\*

Small Coastal Sharks = 454 mt dw/year\*

\* Quotas for pelagic and small coastal sharks are adjusted on an annual basis, therefore, no adjusted quotas are listed at this time.

*Q7. Why did NMFS adjust the base quotas already?*

A. The base quotas are the available quota for each species/complex without accounting for overharvests. NMFS split the 2007 overharvests equally across five years and adjusted the 2008 through 2012 base quotas accordingly for several reasons, including: it allows the fishery to open in 2008 without more extensive closures, it is consistent with rebuilding plans for overfished shark stocks, and it accounts for previous overharvests. These adjusted quotas will be in effect from the effective date of Amendment 2 in 2008 through December 31, 2012, and may be adjusted further to account for any future overharvests. The LCS quotas will revert to the base quotas on January 1, 2013.

### **III. COMMERCIAL REGIONS AND SEASONS**

*Q1. What are the regions for the commercial shark fishery?*

A. There are no regions for the shark research, SCS, or pelagic shark fisheries. There are two regions for non-sandbar LCS: a Gulf of Mexico region and an Atlantic region. The boundary for these regions is located on the east coast of Florida at the split between Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties starting at the mainland at 25°20.4' N. lat. and proceeding due east. Any water and land to the south and west of that boundary is considered to be within the Gulf of Mexico region. Any water and land to the north and east of that boundary is considered to be within the Atlantic

region. Figure 2 shows the boundary between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic for non-sandbar LCS.

*Q2. What are the seasons for the commercial shark fishery?*

A. Seasons for all shark species should open on or around January 1 every year (except 2008) contingent upon available quota. The season will not open until NMFS publishes in the Federal Register the opening date and available quota. Once NMFS estimates that 80 percent of an individual species/complex's quota has been caught the season will be closed within five days of filing in the Federal Register. NMFS will publish a notice in the Federal Register, send out a notice to the HMS listserve, and post the announcement on the website five days ahead of when a season is going to be closed.

*Q3. Can dealers buy non-sandbar LCS if their facilities are in a region that is closed?*

A. Federally permitted dealers can only buy non-sandbar LCS sharks from fishermen with federal shark limited access permits if their facility is located in a region that is open. Federally permitted dealers who also possess the appropriate state dealer permits are allowed to buy non-sandbar LCS sharks from fishermen who do not have a Federal shark limited access permit if the fishermen fish exclusively in state waters and are following state regulations. If a fisherman possesses a Federal shark permit then they are subject to all Federal regulations regardless of where fishing activities occurred and whether or not they possess state permits.

*Q4. How can dealers determine if they are purchasing a legally landed sandbar shark?*

A. The only Federally permitted vessels that are authorized to possess sandbar sharks are those vessels with a valid shark research fishery permit that also had an observer onboard during the trip when sandbar sharks were landed. Dealers must verify that the product they are purchasing came from a vessel has both the shark research fishery permit and carried an observer during that particular trip. If the vessel did not carry an observer during that trip, any sandbar sharks taken are illegal and may not be purchased even if the vessel has a valid shark research fishery permit. Vessels that possess only a state permit and were fishing in accordance with state regulations may also be authorized to possess sandbar sharks, depending on the state.

#### **IV. TIME/AREA CLOSURES**

*Q1. Are there any additional time/area closures for the commercial shark fishery?*

A. Existing time and area closures, including the bottom longline closure off North Carolina and the bottom longline closures near Puerto Rico, remain in effect. Additionally, NMFS is closing eight Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the South Atlantic region to bottom longline gear to complement regulations being implemented in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Amendment 14 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. The MPAs in that amendment are being implemented to reduce bycatch and protect essential fish habitat of several species of snapper and grouper. Figure 1 provides a map of the MPAs. 50 CFR Part 635.21 (d) (1) (A-H) provides the detailed coordinates for each MPA.

*Q2. Is a vessel monitoring system (VMS) required for these new MPAs?*

A. No. Consistent with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Amendment 14 to the Snapper Grouper FMP, NMFS will not require the use VMS by vessels fishing near the eight MPAs.

## **V. REPORTING**

*Q1. Are there any new vessel reporting requirements in this rulemaking?*

A. Shark research fishery permit holders, authorized to harvest sandbar sharks and fish under increased retention limits, are subject to 100 percent observer coverage on all trips taken under the auspices of the shark research fishery. Fishermen inside and outside the research fishery are still required to submit commercial logbooks within seven days of completing a fishing trip.

*Q2. Are there any new reporting requirements for HMS dealers in this rulemaking?*

A. Shark, tuna, and swordfish dealer reports must be *received* by NMFS no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month for the first reporting period (documenting products purchased from the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month) and by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the subsequent month for the second reporting period (documenting products purchased from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month). If no HMS were purchased during a given month, a no-fishing report must be submitted to the Agency according the same deadlines. Shark dealers must report carcass weights and fin weights separately on the dealer reporting form. Dealer forms include a check box that indicates whether or not the fins were naturally attached to the carcass at landing and through offloading.

*Q3. Who is considered a "first receiver" and how does that affect who needs to get a shark dealer permit?*

A. A first receiver is any entity, person, or company that takes, for commercial purposes (other than solely for transport), immediate possession of the fish, or any part of the fish, as the fish are offloaded from a fishing vessel of the United States, as defined under 50 CFR § 600.10, whose owner or operator has been issued or should have been issued a valid commercial shark fishing permit. First receivers must have a valid shark dealer permit, comply with relevant reporting requirements, and attend a shark identification workshop.

Individuals who simply transport sharks from a vessel to the dealer are not considered first receivers and are not required to have a dealer permit since they are only transporting the sharks. The facility to which these sharks are being transported will be required to possess a shark dealer permit, complete the shark identification workshop, and submit shark dealer reports under the current regulations. Individuals responsible solely for transporting sharks must have a copy of the first receiver's shark dealer permit and the first receiver's shark identification workshop certificate in their possession during transport. If a region is closed, dealers whose facilities are located only in the closed region cannot purchase sharks.

## **VI. RECREATIONAL MEASURES**

*Q1. What species of sharks are authorized for recreational anglers (i.e., vessels with an HMS Angling, HMS Charter/Headboat, or General Category if fishing for sharks in a registered HMS tournament)?*

A. Recreational anglers are authorized to possess all non-ridgeback LCS (blacktip, bull, spinner, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, lemon, nurse), tiger sharks; SCS (blacknose, finetooth, Atlantic sharpnose, and bonnethead sharks); and, pelagic sharks (blue, shortfin mako, common thresher, oceanic whitetip, and porbeagle). Amendment 2 prohibits all recreational anglers from possessing sandbar sharks and silky sharks, in addition to all prohibited species of sharks. Prohibited shark species are listed under Q3, Section II.

*Q2. Did the size limit or trip limit change as a result of Amendment 2?*

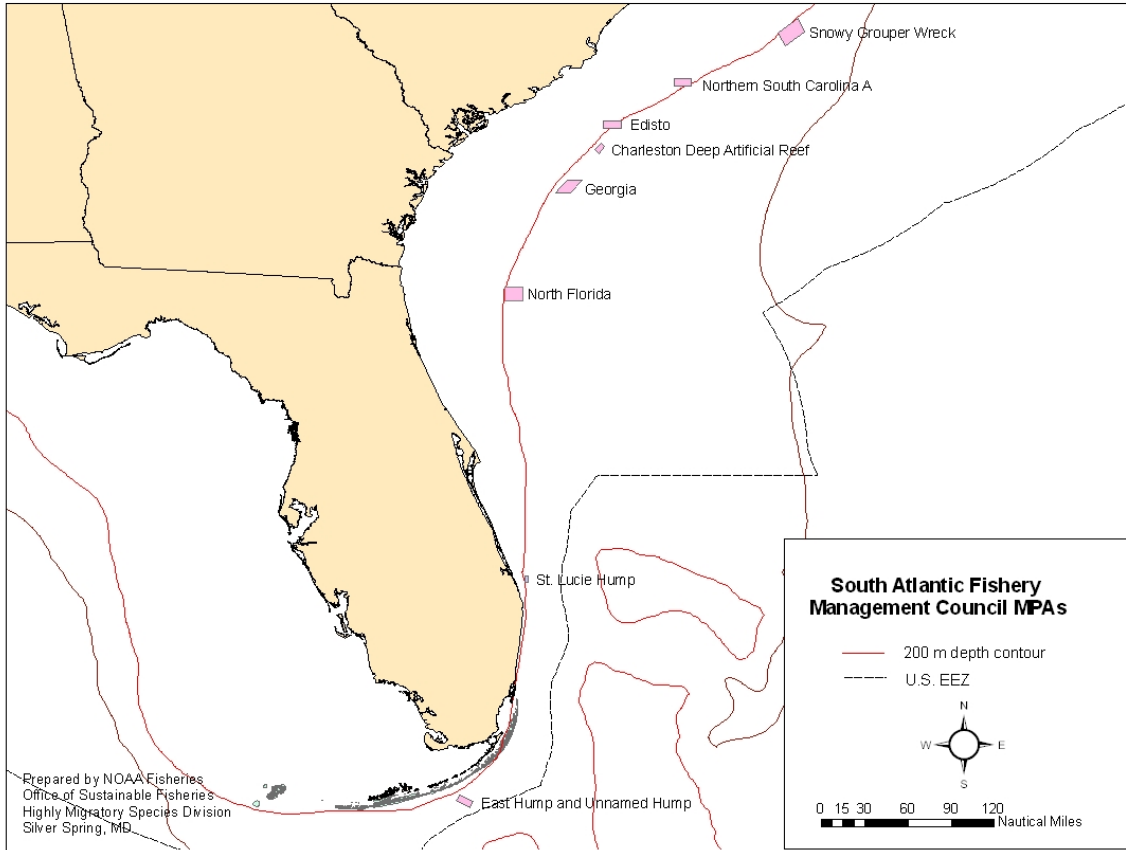
A. No. Recreational anglers are allowed one shark of an authorized species >54" fork length (FL) per vessel per day and one Atlantic sharpnose and one bonnethead shark per person per day. There is no minimum size for Atlantic sharpnose or bonnethead sharks. Recreational anglers are required to have an HMS angling permit, Charter/Headboat permit, or General Category permit (only authorizes fishing for sharks in a registered HMS tournament).

## **VIII. SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF PROTECTED RESOURCES/PROHIBITED SHARKS**

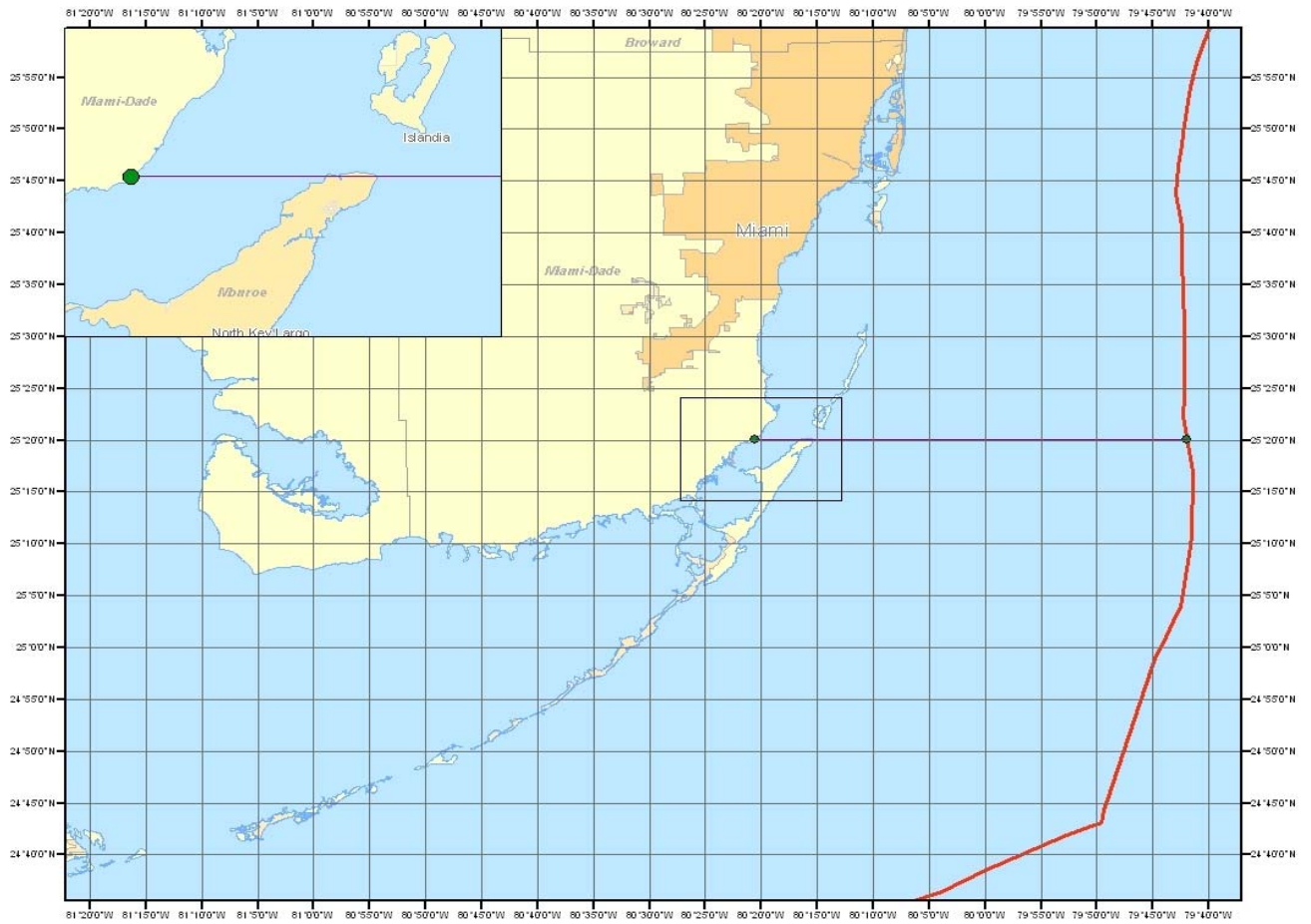
*Q1. Can I attempt to dehook a smalltooth sawfish caught on longline gear?*

A. Yes. While attempting to dehook a smalltooth sawfish, the fish should be kept in the water while maintaining water flow over the gills and examined for research tags. All smalltooth sawfish must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water. The animal should not be dehooked if the hook is in the rostrum; if the animal cannot be dehooked, cut the line as close to the hook as possible. Prohibited sharks must be released, using handling and release equipment (if necessary), in a manner that maximizes their chances of survival.





**Figure 1** Map showing the SAFMC MPAs. A total of eight MPAs were preferred in SAFMC’s final action for Amendment 14. Exact coordinates are available in the final rule at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>



**Figure 2** Map showing the boundary between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions for non-sandbar LCS. The boundary for these regions is located on the east coast of Florida at the split between Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties starting at the mainland at 25°20.4' N. lat. and proceeding due east.

## XI. CONTACT LIST

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

HMS information line (*recorded information only*): (800) 894-5528

Topics	Office	Phone Number and Address
Commercial Swordfish Sharks Exempted fishing permits Atlantic HMS News List Pelagic and bottom longline Protected Species Shark and Swordfish Limited Access permits	HMS Headquarters Office	Phone: (301) 713-2347; Fax: (301) 713-1917  Address: 1315 East-West Highway, NMFS/SF1 Silver Spring, MD 20910
Atlantic tunas Atlantic tunas dealer reporting Bluefin tuna Statistical Document Program Charter/Headboat operations International Trade Permit Tuna Longline Permits	HMS Gloucester Office	Phone: (978) 281-9260; Fax: (978) 281-9340  Address: One Blackburn Drive, NMFS/SF1 Gloucester, MA 01930-2298
Billfish Recreational Swordfish Tournament registration Billfish Certificate of Eligibilities Pelagic Longline Shark and Swordfish Limited Access Permit Upgrading Restrictions	HMS St. Petersburg Office	Phone: (727) 824-5399 Fax: (727) 824-5398  Address: 263 13 <sup>th</sup> Ave. South St. Petersburg, FL 33701

<b>FISHING AND DEALER PERMITS</b>		
<i>- for Atlantic Shark and Swordfish Vessel and Dealer permits</i>	NMFS Southeast Regional Permit Office Webpage: <a href="http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/fishery/permits/permit.htm">http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/fishery/permits/permit.htm</a>	Phone: (727) 824-5326  Address: 263 13 <sup>th</sup> Ave. South St. Petersburg, FL 33701
<i>- for Atlantic tunas, Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat and HMS Angling Vessel Permits -</i>	Automated Permitting System Webpage: <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov/">http://www.hmspermits.gov/</a>	Phone: (888) 872-8862
<i>- for Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permits</i>	NMFS Northeast Region Permit Office Webpage: <a href="http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso/permits/init ialapp1.htm">www.nero.noaa.gov/fso/permits/init ialapp1.htm</a>	Phone: (978) 281-9370; Fax: (978) 281-9366  One Blackburn Drive Gloucester, MA 01930
<b>Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)</b>		
Jonathan Pinkerton	National VMS Program Manager	(301) 427-2300
Patrick O'Shaugnessy	Southeast VMS Program Manager	(727) 824-5347

**Table 1. What does Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP mean to you?**

Requirement for Specific Fishery	Retention Limits	Quotas	Other Requirements
<b>Inside the Commercial Shark Research Fishery</b>	<p><b>Sandbar:</b> Trip limit is specific to each vessel and owner(s) combination and is listed on the Shark Research Permit.</p> <p><b>Non-sandbar LCS:</b> Trip limit is specific to each vessel and owner (s) combination and is listed on the Shark Research Permit.</p> <p><b>SCS &amp; Pelagic Sharks:</b>  <u>Directed Permits:</u>                      No trip limit for pelagic sharks &amp; SCS  <u>Incidental Permits:</u>                      16 pelagic sharks/SCS combined</p>	<p><b>Sandbar:</b>  <u>Adjusted Quota:</u> 87.9 mt dw  <u>Base Quota:</u> 116.6 mt dw</p> <p><b>Non-sandbar LCS:</b>  <u>Adjusted Quota:</u> 37.5 mt dw  <u>Base Quota:</u> 50 mt dw</p> <p><b>SCS:</b>454 mt dw/year</p> <p><b>Pelagic Sharks:</b>  <u>Pelagic sharks (not blue and porbeagle):</u> 273 mt dw/year  <u>Blue sharks:</u> 488 mt dw  <u>Porbeagle sharks:</u> 1.7 mt dw/year</p>	<p>- Need Shark Research Fishery Permit</p> <p>-100 percent observer coverage when participating in research fishery</p> <p>- Adjusted quotas (established through Dec. 31, 2012) may be further adjusted based on future overharvests, if any.</p>
<b>Outside the Commercial Shark Research Fishery</b>	<p><b>Non-sandbar LCS Until Dec. 31, 2012:</b>  <u>Directed Permit:</u> 33 non-sandbar LCS/vessel/trip  <u>Incidental Permit:</u> 3 non-sandbar LCS/vessel/trip</p> <p><b>Non-sandbar LCS As of Jan. 1, 2013:</b>  <u>Directed Permit:</u> 36 non-sandbar LCS/vessel/trip  <u>Incidental Permit:</u> 3 non-sandbar LCS/vessel/trip</p> <p><b>SCS &amp; Pelagic Sharks:</b>  <u>Directed Permits:</u>                      No trip limit for pelagic sharks &amp; SCS  <u>Incidental Permits:</u>                      16 pelagic sharks/SCS combined</p>	<p><b>Non-sandbar LCS:</b>  <u>Adjusted Quota:</u>                      Gulf of Mexico Region: 390.5 mt dw/year;                      Atlantic Region: 187.8 mt dw/year</p> <p><u>Base Quota:</u>                      Gulf of Mexico Region: 439.5 mt dw/year;                      Atlantic Region: 188.3 mt dw/year</p> <p><b>SCS:</b> 454 mt dw/year</p> <p><b>Pelagic Sharks:</b>  <u>Pelagic sharks (not blue and porbeagle):</u> 273 mt dw/year  <u>Blue sharks:</u> 488 mt dw  <u>Porbeagle sharks:</u> 1.7 mt dw/year</p>	<p>-Vessels subject to observer coverage, if selected</p> <p>- Adjusted quotas (established through Dec. 31, 2012) may be further adjusted based on future overharvests, if any.</p>
<b>All Commercial Shark Fisheries</b>	<p><b>Gears Allowed:</b> Gillnet; Bottom/Pelagic Longline; Rod and Reel; Handline; Bandit Gear</p> <p><b>Authorized Species:</b> Non-sandbar LCS (silky, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and tiger sharks), pelagic sharks (porbeagle, common thresher, shortfin mako, oceanic whitetip, and blue sharks), and SCS (bonnethead, finetooth, blacknose, and Atlantic sharpnose sharks)</p> <p><b>Landings condition:</b> All sharks (sandbar, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks) must have <i>fins naturally attached</i> through offloading; fins can be cut slightly for storage but must remain attached to the carcass via at least a small amount of uncut skin; shark carcasses must remain in whole or log form through offloading. Sharks can have the heads removed but the tails must remain naturally attached.</p> <p><b>Permits Required:</b> Commercial Directed or Incidental Shark Permit</p> <p><b>Reporting Requirements:</b> All commercial fishermen must submit commercial logbooks</p>		
<b>All Recreational Shark Fisheries</b>	<p><b>Gears Allowed:</b> Rod and Reel; Handline</p> <p><b>Authorized Species:</b> Non-ridgeback LCS (blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead); tiger sharks; pelagic sharks (porbeagle, common thresher, shortfin mako, oceanic whitetip, and blue sharks); and SCS (bonnethead, finetooth, blacknose, and Atlantic sharpnose sharks)</p> <p><b>Landing condition:</b> Sharks must be landed with head, fins, and tail naturally attached</p> <p><b>Retention limits:</b> 1 shark &gt; 54" FL vessel/trip, plus 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead per person/trip (no minimum size)</p> <p><b>Permits Required:</b> HMS Angling; HMS Charter/Headboat; and, General Category Permit Holders (fishing in a shark tournament)</p> <p><b>Reporting Requirements:</b> Participate in MRFSS and LPS if contacted</p>		

Definitions of Acronyms in Table 1: Fork Length (FL); Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Large Coastal Sharks (LCS); Large Pelagic Survey (LPS); Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS); Small Coastal Sharks (SCS).

