

COMPLIANCE GUIDE
AMENDMENT 9 TO THE 2006 CONSOLIDATED
ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
November 23, 2015

I. PERMITS

As of **March 15, 2016**, the following federal permits and reporting will be required:

- Commercial smoothhound shark permit for commercial fishing and retention.
 - Applications for the smoothhound shark permit will be available in December 2015. At that time, contact the Southeast Regional Office Permit Office at 877-376-4877 or go to the following website for an application:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituent_services_branch/permits/permit_apps/
 - Commercial smoothhound permit holders may only sell catch to federally-permitted shark dealers.
- Atlantic Shark Dealer permit to purchase smoothhound sharks.
 - Contact the Southeast Regional Office Permit Office at 877-376-4877 or go to the following website for an application:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituent_services_branch/permits/permit_apps/
 - Dealers must report smoothhound shark purchases (contact eDealer Customer Service at (301) 427-8590 or HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov for more information on how to report);
- HMS Angling or HMS Charter/Headboat recreational permit for retention of recreationally-caught smoothhound sharks.
 - Permits can be obtained at the following website:
<https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/permitlist.asp>
 - There are no recreational size or retention limits for smoothhound sharks at this time.
 - Recreationally-caught smoothhound sharks cannot be sold.

II. COMMERCIAL QUOTAS

As of **March 15, 2016**, the commercial quotas for the smoothhound shark fisheries will be:

- 1,201.7 mt dw in the Atlantic region, and
- 336.4 mt dw in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The fisheries will close once 80% of the quota is harvested or projected to be harvested.

III. AT-SEA FIN REMOVAL OF ATLANTIC SMOOTH DOGFISH

As of **March 15, 2016**, fishermen may remove the fins of smooth dogfish if they meet the following criteria, consistent with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 (SCA):

- 25 percent of retained catch on board the vessel must be smooth dogfish. Other non-smooth dogfish species of sharks can be retained onboard the vessel;
- Federally-permitted smooth dogfish fishermen must possess a State commercial fishing license that allows fishing for smooth dogfish;
- The vessel is located between the shore and 50 nm and is along the Atlantic Coast (Maine through the east coast of Florida); and
- The fin-to-carcass ratio does not exceed 12 percent.

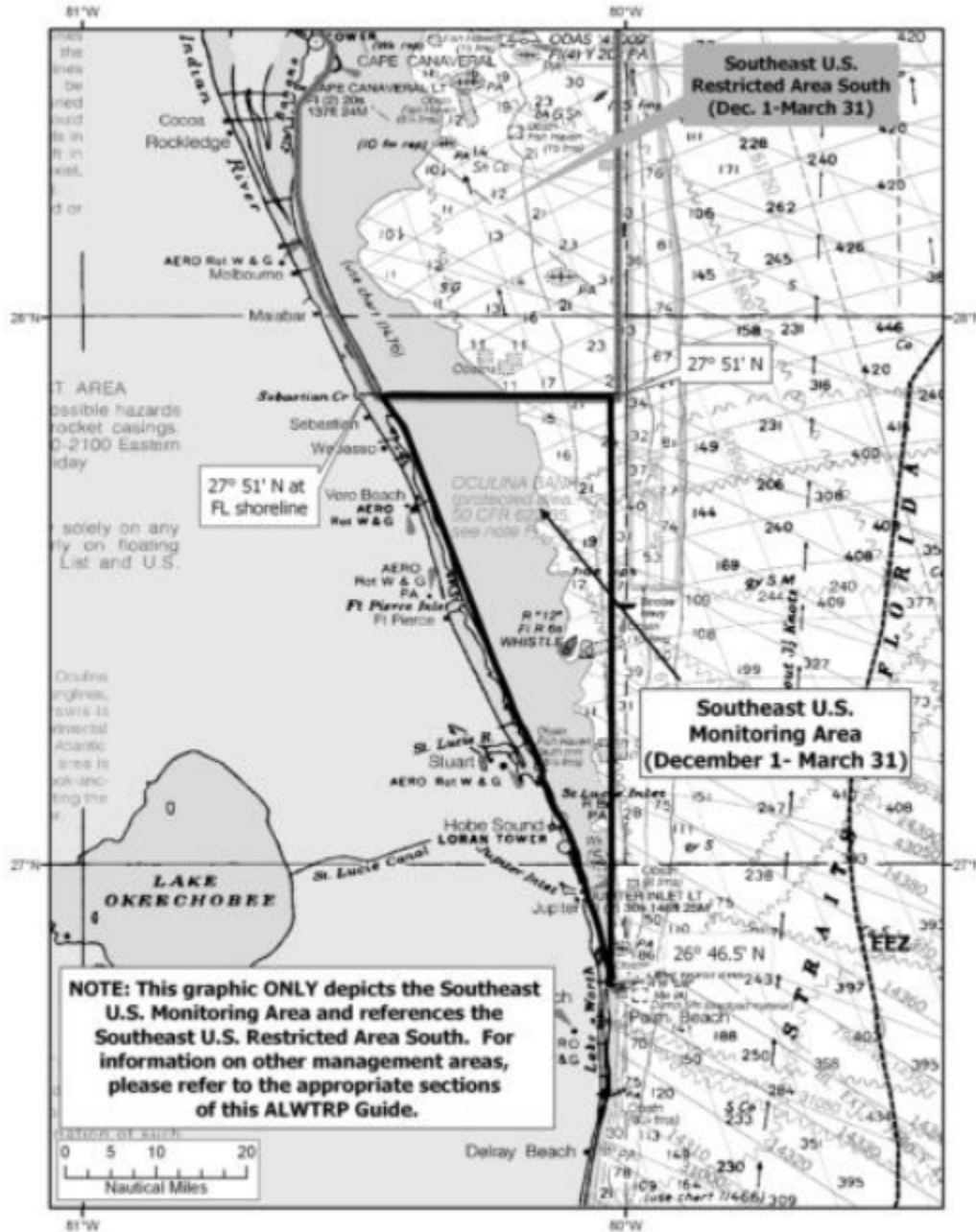
Fishermen who do not meet these criteria can still harvest smooth dogfish but must maintain all fins naturally attached to the carcass through offloading.

IV. SHARK GILLNET MEASURES

As of **March 15, 2016** fishermen using gillnet gear must limit soak times to 24 hours when using sink gillnet gear and conduct a net check at least every 2 hours when using drift gillnet gear.

- A sink gillnet is defined gillnet that is designed to be or is fished on or near the bottom in the lower third of the water column by means of a weight line or enough weights and/or anchors that the bottom of the gillnet sinks to, on, or near the ocean bottom.
- A drift gillnet is defined as a gillnet that is floating unattached to the ocean bottom and not anchored, secured, or weighted to the ocean bottom.

As of **December 1, 2016**, fishermen with a federal directed Atlantic shark limited access permit and gillnet gear on board are now required to use a vessel monitoring system *only in the vicinity of the Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area* (see figure below), consistent with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan.



V. OTHER – OBSERVER REQUIREMENTS AND RETENTION OF SMOOTHOUND SHARKS IN TRAWL GEAR

As of **March 15, 2016**, vessels fishing for smoothhound sharks are required to carry an observer if selected by NMFS. In addition, smoothhound sharks incidentally caught in trawl gear may be retained only if the total smoothhound catch on board or offloaded does not exceed 25 percent of the total catch by weight.