



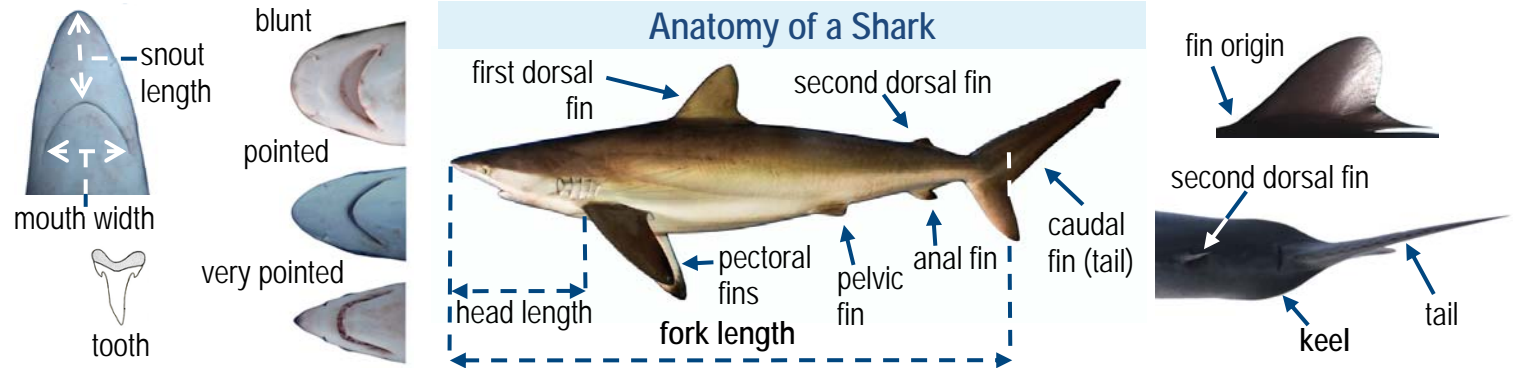
Shark Identification

If you don't know, let it go

and Federal Regulations for the Recreational Fishery of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico

Prohibited species are underlined in red

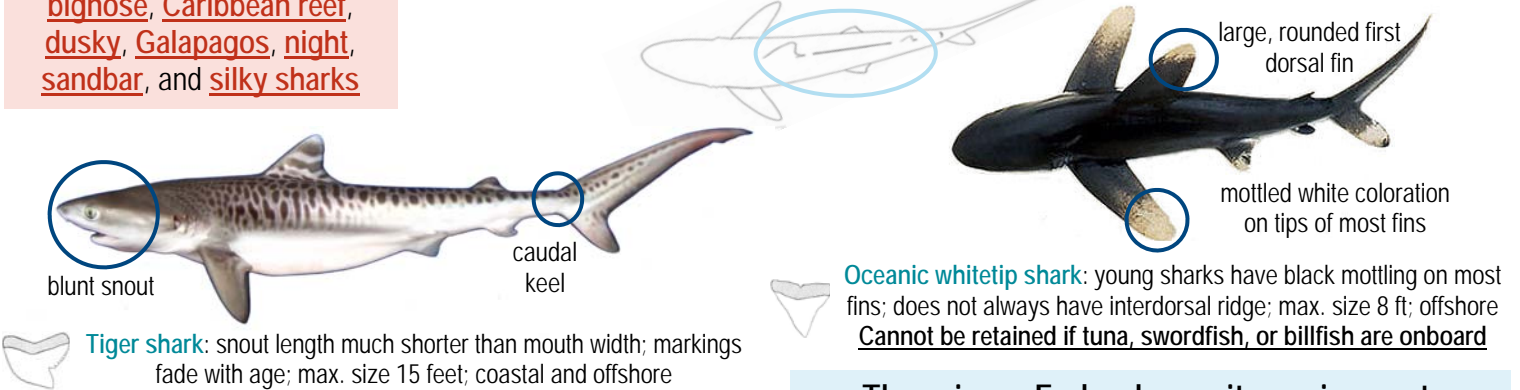
Federal fishing permit required in Federal waters Purchase at hmspermits.noaa.gov		
Authorized Species	Minimum Size (fork length)	Bag Limit (per trip)
Smoothhound shark	None	None
Atlantic sharpnose shark	None	1 per person
Bonnethead	None	1 per person
Hammerheads (great, scalloped, and smooth)	78 inches	1 per vessel (hammerhead OR other shark)
Other sharks	54 inches	



All ridgeback sharks are prohibited, except for **tiger**, **oceanic whitetip**, or **smoothhound sharks**

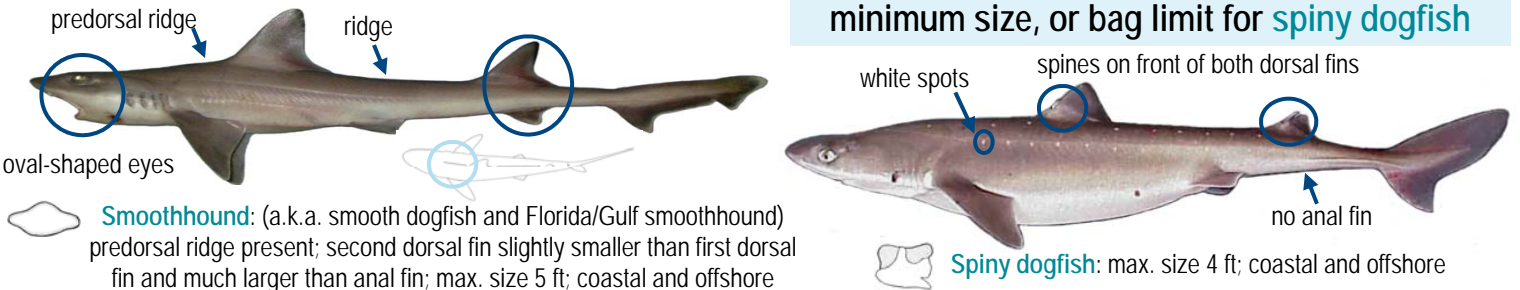
Prohibited ridgeback sharks: **bignose**, **Caribbean reef**, **dusky**, **Galapagos**, **night**, **sandbar**, and **silky sharks**

Ridgeback sharks are sharks with an interdorsal ridge (a visible line of raised skin between dorsal fins)



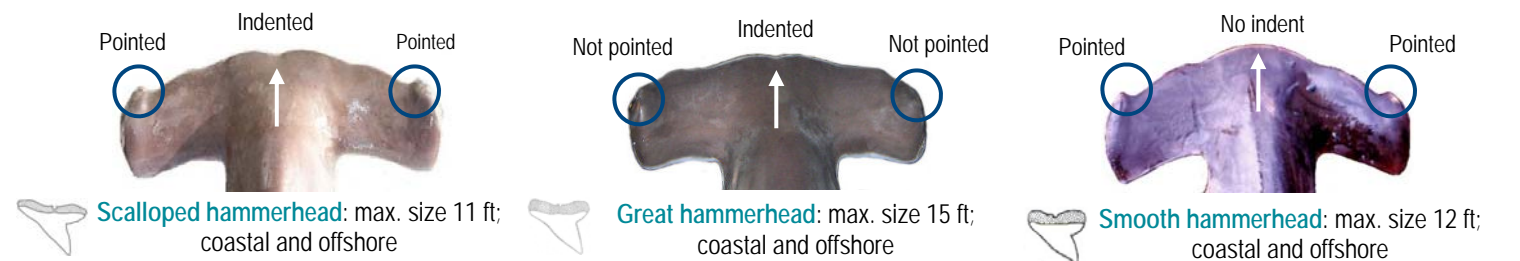
Oceanic whitetip shark: young sharks have black mottling on most fins; does not always have interdorsal ridge; max. size 8 ft; offshore
Cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish, or billfish are onboard

There is no Federal permit requirement, minimum size, or bag limit for **spiny dogfish**



Spiny dogfish: max. size 4 ft; coastal and offshore

Scalloped hammerheads, great hammerheads, and smooth hammerheads cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish, or billfish are onboard

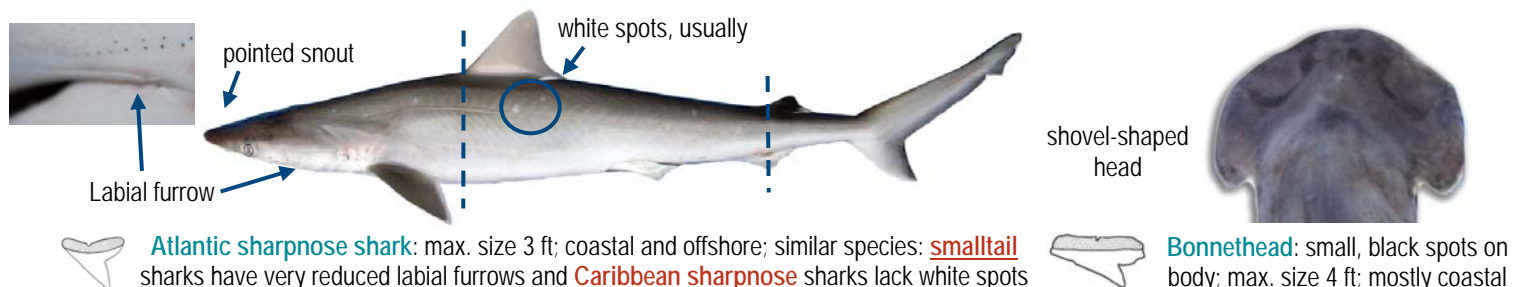


Scalloped hammerhead: max. size 11 ft; coastal and offshore

Great hammerhead: max. size 15 ft; coastal and offshore

Smooth hammerhead: max. size 12 ft; coastal and offshore

There is no minimum size for **Atlantic sharpnose sharks** or **bonnetheads**

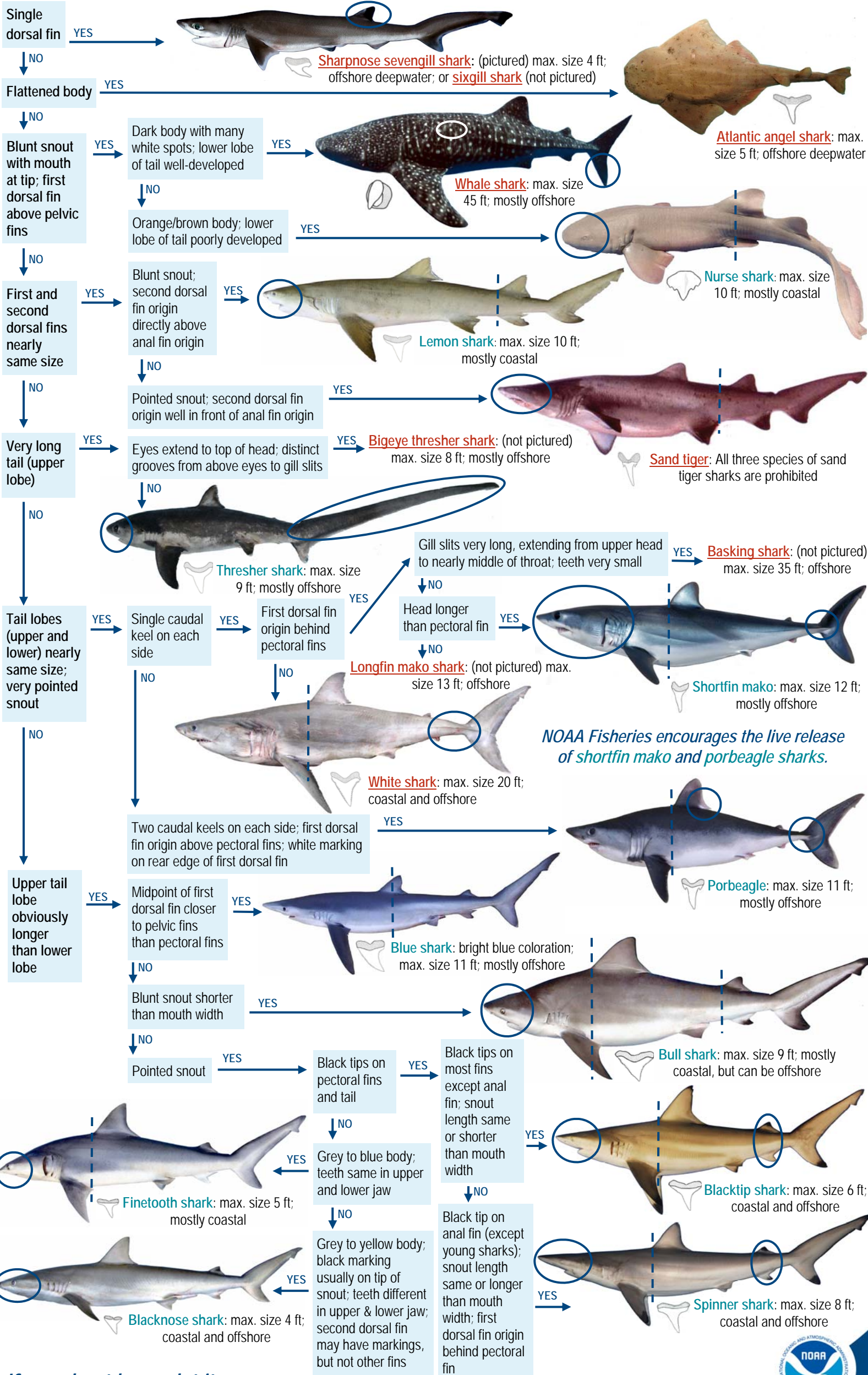


Atlantic sharpnose shark: max. size 3 ft; coastal and offshore; similar species: **smalltail** sharks have very reduced labial furrows and **Caribbean sharpnose** sharks lack white spots

Bonnethead: small, black spots on body; max. size 4 ft; mostly coastal

All sharks within a species are not identical; however, these are common characteristics for the majority of individuals.
Young sharks can vary in appearance from adults. Maximum sizes are approximate.

Use this key to identify non-ridgeback sharks



If you don't know, let it go

All species that may be retained in Federal waters are shown on this placard | Prohibited species are underlined in red

