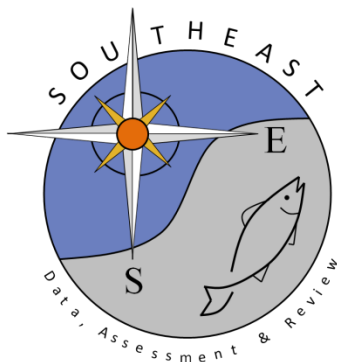


# Highly Migratory Species Sandbar Sharks Management History

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## 1. Summary of the Management of Sandbar Sharks through 2024

This summary describes the management and stock status determinations of the sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) in U.S. federal waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of America<sup>1</sup> and Caribbean Sea, through 2024. NMFS provides this summary to help the scientists who are conducting the SouthEast Data Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) sandbar shark stock assessment (SEDAR 101). For more information on sandbar shark management, see the referenced fishery management plans, amendments, rulemakings, and Federal Register notices. Management does not always address the needs of a particular species; therefore, much of the management history is not specific to sandbar sharks. The following summary, to the extent possible, focuses only on those management actions that likely affected sandbar sharks. See Table 1 for a summary of the relevant management measures implemented under fishery management plans and amendments.

### 1.1. Management History

#### *Preliminary Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Billfish and Sharks*

The U.S. Atlantic shark fisheries developed rapidly in the late 1970s due to increased demand for their meat, fins, and cartilage worldwide. At the time, sharks were perceived to be an underutilized fishery resource. Eventually, tuna and swordfish fishing vessels began retaining a greater proportion of their shark incidental catch and some directed fishery effort expanded as well. The high commercial value of shark fins led to the controversial practice of “shark finning,” or removing the valuable fins from sharks and discarding the carcasses at sea.

In January 1978, NMFS published the Preliminary Fishery Management Plan (PMP) for Atlantic Billfish and Sharks (43 FR 3818, January 27, 1978). The PMP for Atlantic Billfish and Sharks was a Secretarial effort (i.e., it was not conducted by the Regional Fishery Management Councils). NMFS designed the management measures contained in the PMP to:

1. Minimize conflict between domestic and foreign users of billfish and shark resources;
2. Encourage development of an international management regime; and
3. Maintain availability of billfishes and sharks to the expanding U.S. fisheries.

The primary shark management measures in the PMP for Atlantic Billfish and Sharks included:

- Mandatory data reporting requirements for foreign vessels.
- A hard cap on shark catch by foreign vessels, which when achieved would prohibit further landings of sharks by foreign vessels.
- Permit requirements for foreign vessels to fish in an established 200-mile Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ) of the United States (later amended to change the geographical area of coverage to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)).
- Required radio checks by foreign vessels upon entering and leaving the FCZ.
- Boarding and inspection privileges for U.S. observers.
- A prohibition on the intentional discard of fishing gears by foreign fishing vessels within the FCZ that may pose environmental or navigational hazards.

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<sup>1</sup> Consistent with Executive Order (E.O.) 14172 (Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness), this document uses Gulf of America for all references to the area known as the Gulf of Mexico in the specific regulations at 50 CFR part 635.

In the 1980s, the five Atlantic-based Regional Fishery Management Councils were responsible for the management of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS), including sharks. As catches accelerated through the 1980s, shark stocks started to show signs of decline. Commercial landings of large coastal and pelagic sharks peaked in 1989. The Councils were concerned about the late maturity and low fecundity of sharks, the increase in fishing mortality, and the possibility that overfishing was occurring. Thus, in 1989, the five Councils asked the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to develop a shark fishery management plan (FMP) that included a cap on commercial fishing effort, recreational retention limit (also known as a bag limit), prohibition on shark finning, and a data collection system.

On November 28, 1990, the President of the United States signed into law the Fishery Conservation Amendments of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-627). This law amended the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, later renamed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and transferred the authority to manage HMS, including sharks, in the U.S. EEZ of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of America and Caribbean Sea, from the Councils to the Secretary. The Secretary then delegated the authority to manage HMS to NMFS.

### ***1993 FMP for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean***

In 1992, NMFS, in consultation with the Councils and interested parties, completed a stock assessment for large coastal sharks (LCS). The assessment looked at the LCS complex as a whole and included sandbar sharks. Based on the results of the stock assessment, NMFS determined that LCS were overfished. In 1993, NMFS implemented the first FMP for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean (1993 FMP) (58 FR 21931, April 26, 1993). The 1993 FMP included management measures that:

- Established a fishery management unit consisting of 39 frequently caught species of Atlantic sharks, separated into three groups for assessment and regulatory purposes (LCS, small coastal sharks (SCS), and pelagic sharks). NMFS included sandbar shark in the LCS management group.
- Established calendar year commercial quotas for LCS and pelagic sharks and divided the annual quota into two equal half-year quotas that applied to the following two fishing periods – January 1 through June 30 and July 1 through December 31.
- Established a recreational trip limit of four sharks per vessel per trip for LCS or pelagic shark species groups.
- Required that fishermen release all sharks not taken as part of a commercial or recreational fishery uninjured.
- Established a framework procedure for adjusting commercial quotas, recreational retention limits, species minimum size limits, management units, fishing years, species groups, estimates of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and permitting and reporting requirements.
- Prohibited shark finning by requiring that the ratio between wet fins/dressed carcass weight not exceed 5 percent.
- Prohibited the sale, by recreational fishermen, of sharks or shark products (meat and fins) caught in the U.S. EEZ.
- Required annual commercial permits for fishermen who harvest and sell shark products.
- Established a permit eligibility requirement for vessel owners or operators (including charter vessel and headboat owners/operators who intend to sell their catch). Vessel owners or operators must show proof that at least 50 percent of their earned income is derived from the sale of fish or fish products, or that their charter vessel and/or headboat operations earned at least \$20,000 from the sale of fish during one of three years preceding the permit request.

- Required trip reports by permitted fishermen and persons conducting shark tournaments, and required fishermen to provide information to NMFS under the Trip Interview Program.
- Required NMFS observers on selected shark fishing vessels to document mortality of marine mammals and endangered species.

Additionally, based on the results of the 1992 LCS stock assessment, in the 1993 FMP, NMFS established a rebuilding plan and an LCS commercial quota of 2,436 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw). Under the rebuilding plan, the LCS commercial quota was expected to increase in 1994 and 1995 up to the MSY estimated in the 1992 stock assessment (3,800 mt dw).

In the year following implementation of the 1993 FMP, the commercial shark fishery faced multiple challenges that resulted in short seasons and low ex-vessel prices. For example, one month after implementation of the 1993 FMP, the commercial fishery exceeded the January through June LCS quota and, as a result, the fishery closed and the July through December time period opened with an adjusted quota of 875 mt dw and also closed a month after opening (Table 2). Derby-style fishing, coupled with what some fishery participants observed to be an unusual abundance or availability of sharks, led to the intense and short fishing season for LCS. Although fin prices remained strong throughout the brief season, the oversupply of shark carcasses led to record low meat prices. The LCS season was significantly shorter than what the industry anticipated, and a number of commercial fishermen and dealers indicated that they were adversely affected by the early closure. The intense season also complicated NMFS ability to monitor the LCS quota and close the season with the required advance notice.

To address these problems, NMFS implemented an LCS commercial trip limit of 4,000 lb dw (1.8 mt dw) for permit holders (58 FR 68556, December 28, 1993) and established a control date of February 22, 1994 for entry into the Atlantic shark fishery (59 FR 8457, February 22, 1994). Additionally, NMFS published a final rule (59 FR 52453, October 18, 1994) that implemented measures as authorized by the 1993 FMP, including measures that:

- Clarified operation of vessels with a federal commercial permit.
- Established the fishing year.
- Consolidated the regulations for drift gillnets.
- Required dealers to obtain a permit to purchase sharks.
- Required dealer reports.
- Established recreational retention limits.
- Established quotas for commercial landings.
- Provided for commercial fishery closures once fishermen harvested available quotas.

In 1994, consistent with the rebuilding plan implementing in the 1993 FMP, NMFS increased the LCS commercial quota to 2,570 mt dw. However, a 1994 LCS stock assessment suggested that recovery to 1970s levels could take as long as 30 years, and concluded that “increases in the [Total Allowable Catch (TAC)] for sharks [are] considered risk-prone with respect to promoting stock recovery.” Thus, in May 1995, NMFS capped the LCS commercial quota at the 1994 level (60 FR 21468, May 2, 1995).

In 1996, NMFS conducted another stock assessment to examine the status of LCS. In addition to considering the LCS complex, this assessment also considered sandbar and blacktip (*C. limbatus*) sharks individually. The 1996 stock assessment found no clear evidence that LCS stocks were rebuilding and concluded that “[a]nalyse indicate that recovery is more likely to occur with reductions in effective fishing mortality rate of 50 [percent] or more.” Additionally, in 1996, Congress amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act to modify the definition of overfishing and establish new provisions to halt overfishing and

rebuild overfished stocks, minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality to the extent practicable, and identify and protect essential fish habitat (EFH). In 1997, consistent with the new provisions and results of the 1996 stock assessment, NMFS reduced the LCS commercial quota by 50 percent to 1,285 lb dw and reduced the recreational retention limit for LCS and pelagic sharks to two LCS, SCS (except Atlantic sharpnose shark), and pelagic sharks combined per vessel per trip (62 FR 16648, April 7, 1997).

On May 2, 1997, the Southern Offshore Fishing Association (SOFA) and other commercial fishermen and dealers sued the Secretary on the April 1997 regulations. A year later, in May 1998, NMFS submitted an analysis on the economic effects of the 1997 LCS commercial quotas on commercial fishermen to the court. In the analysis, NMFS concluded that the 1997 LCS quotas may have had a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, but there were no other available alternatives that would both mitigate those economic impacts and ensure the viability of the LCS stocks. Based on these findings, the court allowed NMFS to maintain the 1997 LCS quotas while SOFA et al. and NMFS settled the case in combination with litigation mentioned below regarding the 1999 FMP.

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

In 1998, NMFS conducted another LCS stock assessment. This stock assessment once again considered sandbar and blacktip sharks individually. The results of the 1998 stock assessment indicated that LCS as a whole were overfished and would not rebuild under 1997 harvest levels. Specific to sandbar sharks, the assessment found that the "...sandbar current stock size was estimated to be between 58 and 70 [percent] of [maximum sustainable yield (MSY)]" and recommended management approaches to reduce fishing mortality on individuals in the large juvenile and subadult life stages. In 1999, NMFS published the 1999 FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (1999 FMP) (64 FR 29090, May 28, 1999), which included numerous measures to rebuild or prevent overfishing of sharks in commercial and recreational fisheries. The 1999 FMP amended and replaced the 1993 FMP. Specific to sharks, the 1999 FMP:

- Reduced the LCS commercial quota to 1,285 mt dw.
- Established ridgeback (e.g., sandbar) and non-ridgeback (e.g., hammerhead species; family *Sphyrnidae*) categories of LCS.
- Implemented a commercial minimum size limit of 54 inches fork length (FL) for ridgeback LCS.
- Reduced recreational retention limits for all sharks to one shark per vessel.
- Established a recreational minimum size limit of 54 inches FL for all sharks except Atlantic sharpnose shark.
- Established EFH for 39 species of sharks, including sandbar shark, and established a habitat area of particular concern (HAPC) for sandbar shark nursery and pupping grounds.
- Implemented HMS limited access permits (LAP) in commercial fisheries.
- Established a shark public display quota.
- Established new procedures for counting dead discards, including counting state landings of sharks after federal fishing season closures against federal quotas.
- Established season-specific over- and underharvest adjustment procedures.

In the 1999 FMP, NMFS also committed to implementing an area closed to pelagic longline gear that would effectively protect small swordfish in a future rule, and began to work towards this goal shortly after the publication of the 1999 FMP. While pelagic longline is not a primary gear used to target LCS, fishermen often catch sandbar and dusky sharks on pelagic longline gear when targeting swordfish and tuna. Therefore, regulations affecting the pelagic longline fishery could affect dusky and sandbar catches. Following the lawsuits that claimed, among other things, that NMFS had not done enough to reduce

bycatch in HMS fisheries, NMFS expanded the goals of the rule to reduce all bycatch and bycatch mortality in the HMS pelagic longline fishery, to the extent practicable. NMFS developed following objectives for this effort:

- Maximize the reduction of finfish bycatch;
- Minimize the reduction of the target catch of swordfish and other species;
- Consider impacts on the incidental catch of other species to minimize or reduce incidental catch levels; and
- Optimize survival of bycatch and incidental catch species.

In June 1999, several different entities sued NMFS multiple times regarding the commercial and recreational management measures in the 1999 FMP. Due to the overlap of one of those lawsuits with the 1997 litigation, on June 30, 1999, the court prohibited NMFS from enforcing the 1999 regulations with respect to the shark commercial quotas and fish-counting methods. This prohibition on enforcement applied to the counting of dead discards and state commercial landings after federal fishing season closures, which differed from the commercial quotas and fish counting methods prescribed by the April 1997 regulations. Due to the injunction, NMFS was unable to implement measures that would have: established limited access in commercial fisheries, created ridgeback and non-ridgeback categories of LCS, set a commercial minimum size limit of 54 inches FL for ridgeback LCS (including sandbar sharks), and reduced the LCS commercial quota to 1,285 mt dw.

In August 2000, NMFS published a final rule, and the first regulatory amendment to the 1999 FMP, that focused on addressing bycatch in the pelagic longline fishery (65 FR 47214, August 1, 2000). This action created pelagic longline closed areas to protect swordfish and reduce bycatch, which NMFS committed to in the 1999 FMP. Specifically, the final rule closed three large areas (Desoto Canyon, Florida East Coast, and Charleston Bump) to commercial pelagic longline fishing and prohibited the use of live bait in the Gulf of America. The DeSoto Canyon closure was effective on November 1, 2000 and the Florida East Coast and Charleston Bump closures were effective on March 1, 2001. Because fishermen often catch sharks, including sandbar sharks, on pelagic longline gear, the closure of these three commercially important areas minimized the incidental catch, bycatch, and mortality of non-target species such as sandbar sharks. Before the closures went into effect, the pelagic longline fleet exceeded the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) allowance for sea turtle bycatch that NMFS established during the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation for the 1999 FMP.

On September 25, 2000, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ruled against the plaintiffs regarding the commercial pelagic shark management measures in the 1999 FMP, stating that the regulations were consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

On November 21, 2000, SOFA et al. and NMFS reached a settlement agreement for the May 1997 and June 1999 lawsuits. On December 7, 2000, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida entered an order approving the settlement agreement and lifting the injunction. The settlement agreement required, among other things, an independent (i.e., non-NMFS) review of the 1998 LCS stock assessment. The settlement agreement did not address any regulations affecting recreational shark fisheries, which included a recreational minimum size limit of 54 inches FL for all sharks except Atlantic sharpnose shark. The court listed the injunction on January 1, 2001 (66 FR 55). On March 6, 2001, NMFS published an emergency rule (66 FR 13441) to implement the settlement agreement, and re-establish the LCS and SCS commercial quotas and catch accounting and monitoring procedures at 1997 levels. The emergency rule expired on September 4, 2001.

On September 20, 2001, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ruled against different plaintiffs regarding the recreational shark retention limits in the 1999 FMP, again stating that the regulations were consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These recreational shark retention limits established a recreational minimum size limit of 54 inches FL for all sharks, except Atlantic sharpnose shark.

In late 2001, NMFS received the results of the independent peer review of the 1998 LCS stock assessment. The peer review found that the stock assessment was not based on the best available science for LCS. Considering the settlement agreement, the results of the peer review, catch rates, and the best scientific information available at the time (not including the 1998 stock assessment projections), NMFS implemented another emergency rule for the 2002 fishing year (66 FR 67118, December 28, 2001; extended 67 FR 37354, May 29, 2002). The emergency rule suspended certain measures pending completion of new LCS and SCS stock assessments and a peer review of the LCS stock assessment. Specifically, NMFS maintained the 1997 LCS commercial quota (1,285 mt dw), suspended the commercial ridgeback LCS minimum size limit, suspended the counting of dead discards and state landings of sharks against the federal quota after a federal closure, and replaced season-specific quota-accounting methods with subsequent-season quota accounting methods. The emergency rule expired on December 30, 2002.

In May 2002, NMFS announced the availability of a modeling document that evaluated the range of sensitivity trials and alternative model structures, following recommendations outlined in peer reviews of the 1998 LCS stock assessment (67 FR 36858, May 28, 2002). NMFS then held a 2002 LCS stock assessment workshop in June 2002. On October 17, 2002, NMFS announced the availability of the 2002 LCS stock assessment and the workshop meeting report (67 FR 64098). The results of this stock assessment indicated that LCS were still overfished and experiencing overfishing. Additionally, the 2002 LCS stock assessment found that sandbar sharks were overfished, but not experiencing overfishing. NMFS received positive results from the peer review of the 2002 LCS stock assessment in December 2002.

Based on the results of the 2002 LCS stock assessment, NMFS implemented an emergency rule to ensure that the commercial management measures in place for the 2003 fishing year were based on the best available science (67 FR 78990, December 27, 2002; extended 68 FR 31987, May 29, 2003). The emergency rule was an interim measure to maintain the LCS stock status pending an amendment to the 1999 FMP that would re-evaluate the management measures in the context of a rebuilding plan. Consistent with the 1999 FMP, the emergency rule: implemented, for the first and only time, ridgeback and non-ridgeback classifications of LCS (Table 3); suspended the commercial ridgeback shark minimum size limit; and implemented a provision to count dead discards and state landings of sharks against the federal quotas after federal fishing season closures. To calculate the commercial quotas for these groups, NMFS took the average landings for each individual species from 1999 through 2001 and either increased or decreased them by certain percentages, as suggested by scenarios presented in the 2002 LCS stock assessment. The stock assessment scenarios suggested that an increase in blacktip shark catch would not cause overfishing and current sandbar shark catch would not increase overfishing. Considering this information, and the fact that these are the two LCS species that commercial fishermen primarily target, this method resulted in an increase in the overall quota implemented in the emergency rule. During the public comment period on the emergency rule and scoping for Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP (67 FR 69180, November 15, 2002), NMFS received comments regarding, among other things, the quota levels

under the emergency rule, concern over secondary species and discards, the ability of fishermen to target certain species, and impacts of the different season length for ridgeback and non-ridgeback LCS. NMFS responded to these comments when extending the emergency rule and further considered these comments when examining the alternatives presented in the amendment to the 1999 FMP.

### ***Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks***

In 2002, NMFS convened another LCS stock assessment. Based on the results of the 2002 stock assessment, NMFS implemented Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP (68 FR 74746, December 24, 2003), which included management measures that affected all aspects of shark management. Amendment 1, among other things:

- Re-aggregated the LCS complex (i.e., removed the ridgeback and non-ridgeback categories of LCS).
- Divided LCS and SCS management and commercial quotas between three regions: South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Gulf of America. The South Atlantic region included all waters east of the Gulf of America region north to the border between North Carolina and Virginia (roughly 36°30' N. lat.), including the waters surrounding the Caribbean. The North Atlantic region included all waters north of the North Carolina and Virginia border at roughly 36°30' N. lat. The Gulf of America region included all waters of the U.S. EEZ west and north of the boundary stipulated at 50 CFR 600.105(c).
- Established MSY as a basis for setting commercial quotas.
- Eliminated the commercial minimum size limit.
- Established regional commercial quotas and trimester commercial fishing seasons.
- Adjusted the recreational retention and minimum size limits.
- Established gear restrictions to reduce bycatch or reduce bycatch mortality.
- Established a time/area closure off the coast of North Carolina to reduce fishing mortality of dusky sharks and juvenile sandbar sharks.
- Updated EFH for sandbar, blacktip, finetooth, dusky, and nurse sharks.
- Changed the administrative process for issuing exempted fishing permits to collect sharks for display purposes.

In July 2004, NMFS took additional steps to reduce sea turtle bycatch after the pelagic longline fleet exceeded the ITS allowance for sea turtle bycatch, and after considering new information on sea turtles and the uncertainty regarding how the area closures would affect sea turtles. Specifically, NMFS implemented a management measure to reduce sea turtle bycatch in the pelagic longline fishery and avoid jeopardy (69 FR 40734, July 6, 2004). The final rule required the use of circle hooks for the entire U.S. pelagic longline fleet. Although NMFS initially adopted this requirement to protect sea turtles, research showed that their use could benefit other bycatch species (e.g., blue marlin).

In November 2004, NMFS published a final rule (69 FR 6954, November 30, 2004) that changed various management measures for LCS. Specifically, the final rule adjusted the LCS commercial quota allocations for each region, modified the seasonal commercial quota split for the North Atlantic region based on historical landing patterns of LCS, established a methodology to change the commercial quota split between regions and/or seasons, and established a methodology to adjust from semi-annual to trimester fishing seasons.

In February 2006, NMFS published a temporary final rule (71 FR 8223, February 16, 2006), effective from February 15, 2006 through March 31, 2006, that prohibited any vessel from fishing with gillnet gear in the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area. The Southeast U.S. Restricted Area is defined as Atlantic Ocean waters between 32°00' N. Lat. (near Savannah, GA) and 27°51' N. Lat. (near Sebastian Inlet, FL), extending from the shore eastward out to 80°00' W. long. This action was taken pursuant to the authority of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (50 CFR 229.32(g)) and the Endangered Species Act. This action was necessary to protect North Atlantic right whales from further serious injury or mortality from entanglement in gillnet gear in the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area, following a right whale mortality in January 2006.

### ***2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In October 2006, NMFS published the Consolidated HMS FMP (71 FR 58058, October 2, 2006). The 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP combined the management measures for all Atlantic HMS (i.e., tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish) into one comprehensive FMP, adjusted the regulatory framework measures, maintained the process for updating HMS EFH, and combined and simplified the objectives of the previous FMPs. Specific to sharks, the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP:

- Established mandatory protected species safe handling, release, and identification workshops and certification for HMS pelagic longline, bottom longline, and shark gillnet vessel owners and operators with mandatory certification renewal every three years.
- Established mandatory shark identification workshops for all federally permitted shark dealers with a mandatory certification renewal every three years.
- Established a differentiation between pelagic longline and bottom longline gear based upon the species composition of the catch on board or landed.
- Required that the second dorsal fin and the anal fin remain attached to the shark carcass on all sharks through landing.
- Prohibited the sale or purchase of any HMS that was offloaded from an individual vessel in excess of the retention limits specified in §§ 635.23 and 635.24.

### ***Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In 2006, NMFS completed a stock assessment on the LCS complex, blacktip sharks, and sandbar shark (SEDAR 11). SEDAR 11 indicated that the sandbar shark was overfished and experiencing overfishing. Thus, NMFS implemented management measures, consistent in part with the results of SEDAR 11 stock assessment, in Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (73 FR 35778, June 24, 2008; corrected 73 FR 40658, July 15, 2008). Amendment 2, among other things:

- Initiated a rebuilding plan for sandbar sharks consistent with the results of the SEDAR 11 stock assessment.
- Established a shark research fishery to collect shark life history information.
- Prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks in recreational fisheries.
- Prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks in commercial fisheries unless participants were part of the shark research fishery. Shark research fishery participants were required to have 100 percent observer coverage and meet specific gear and fishing restrictions, consistent with their shark research fishery permit.
- Implemented a commercial quota of 87.9 mt dw for sandbar sharks harvested in the shark research fishery.
- Required that fishermen offload all sharks with their fins naturally attached.

- Established a boundary between the Gulf of America region and the Atlantic region, defined as a line beginning on the east coast of Florida at the mainland at 25°20.4' N. lat., proceeding due east. NMFS considered any water and land to the south and west of that boundary to be within the Gulf of America and any water and land to the north and east of that boundary line to be within the Atlantic region.
- Implemented time/area closures recommended by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

In February 2007, NMFS expanded the equipment required for the safe handling, release, and disentanglement of sea turtles caught in the shark bottom longline fishery (72 FR 5633, February 7, 2007). Specifically, the final rule created consistency in the equipment requirements (e.g., those related to dehookers and line cutters) for the bottom longline and pelagic longline fisheries. Additionally, the final rule created several year-round bottom longline closed areas off the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to protect EFH for reef-dwelling species, consistent with management measures by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

***Amendment 5a to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In 2011, SEDAR assessed sandbar, dusky, and blacknose sharks (SEDAR 21). Based on the results of the SEDAR 21 stock assessment, NMFS determined sandbar shark overfished, but no longer experiencing overfishing. NMFS announced their intent to prepare Amendment 5 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (76 FR 62331, October 7, 2011), which would, among other things, address the results of the SEDAR 21 stock assessment. However, due to several factors, including public comments received on draft Amendment 5 (77 FR 70552), NMFS split the management measures into two separation actions. Amendment 5a would address scalloped hammerhead, sandbar, blacknose, and Gulf of America blacktip sharks and Amendment 5b would address dusky sharks.

In July 2013, NMFS finalized Amendment 5a to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (78 FR 40318, July 3, 2013). Amendment 5a did not change any management measures specifically for sandbar sharks; however, the changes could affect sandbar shark bycatch. Specifically, Amendment 5a:

- Established new regional shark management groups and quotas for the commercial fishery, including annual regional quotas for the aggregated LCS, hammerhead sharks, Gulf of America blacktip sharks, blacknose sharks, and non-blacknose SCS sharks.
- Established regional quota linkages between management groups whose species are often caught together in the same fisheries to prevent exceeding the newly established quotas through discarded bycatch.

***Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In September 2011, NMFS published a notice of intent to prepare Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (76 FR 57709, September 16, 2011), which would consider catch shares for shark fisheries. The notice also established a control date for eligibility to participate in a shark catch share program, announced the availability of a white paper on catch share programs and issues specific to shark fisheries, and requested public comment on the implementation of catch shares in the shark fisheries. NMFS received public comments on a variety of modifications to the existing management structure of shark fisheries, including programs such as catch shares, limited access privilege programs, individual fishing quotas, and sectors. Fishermen requested, for allocation purposes, that sandbar shark landings be included when determining landings history. Additionally, fishermen requested, if an individual fishing quota allocation was implemented, that the sandbar shark research fishery quota be equally distributed to all

qualified shark fishermen and that they would be allowed to land all sandbar sharks caught in the research fishery.

In August 2015, NMFS implemented Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (80 FR 50074, August 18, 2015). Amendment 6 did not implement any catch share program. Amendment 6:

- Adjusted the sandbar shark research fishery quota from 116.6 mt dw to 90.7 mt dw.
- Increased the LCS retention limit for directed permit holders.
- Apportioned the Gulf of America regional commercial quotas for aggregated LCS, blacktip, and hammerhead sharks into western and eastern sub-regional quotas along 88° 00' W. long.
- Removed the upgrading restrictions for shark LAP holders.

#### ***Amendment 10 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In September 2017, NMFS published Amendment 10 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (82 FR 42329, September 7, 2017). Amendment 10 updated EFH boundaries and descriptions for HMS, including sandbar shark, and analyzed fishing and non-fishing impacts on EFH. In particular, Amendment 10 updated the boundaries of the sandbar shark HAPC.

In July 2018, NMFS published a final rule that would allow commercial shark fisheries to remain open after a fishery's landings have reached or are projected to reach 80 percent of the available overall, regional, and/or sub-regional quota, if the fishery's landings are not projected to reach 100 percent of the applicable quota before the end of the season (83 FR 31677, July 9, 2018). The final rule also revised the minimum notice time between the date of filing a closure with the Office of the Federal Register and the closure effective date from five days to four days.

#### ***Amendment 14 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In January 2023, NMFS finalized Amendment 14 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (88 FR 4157, January 24, 2023). In Amendment 14, NMFS set forth a revised framework for establishing quotas and related management measures for Atlantic shark fisheries and incorporated, for potential use, several optional fishery management tools that NMFS adopted in the revised guidelines for implementing National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (81 FR 71858, October 18, 2016). While the framework management measures are not specific to sandbar sharks, some of them could result in changes to fishing practices that would affect sandbar sharks. Specifically, Amendment 14 established a framework to:

- Create a tiered ABC control rule.
- Allow consideration of phase-in ABC control rules for any modifications in ABC.
- Actively manage all sector ACLs (commercial and recreational).
- Establish an ACL for each Atlantic shark management group, without commercial ACL quota linkages.
- Allow carry-over, and only for underharvest of the commercial quotas (landings only) under certain conditions.
- Compare a three-year average of fishing mortality estimates to the overfishing limit to determine overfishing status.

Amendment 14 did not have any implementing regulations. However, NMFS may implement the revised framework for establishing quotas and related management measures for Atlantic shark fisheries, as established in Amendment 14, through Amendment 16 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (Notice of

Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; 88 FR 29617, May 8, 2023) and other future rulemakings. These future management measures could affect sandbar sharks.

***Amendment 16 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In May 2023, NMFS announced the availability of a scoping document for Amendment 16 (88 FR 29617, May 8, 2023). The scoping document for Amendment 16 considered extensive changes to commercial and recreational shark fisheries management. The management options presented for public comment included changes to commercial and recreational shark management measures related to commercial and recreational quotas, management groups, retention limits, and minimum size limits. During scoping for Amendment 16, a number of commenters noted that Amendment 16 was too large and recommended that NMFS split the management measures into multiple smaller actions. Amendment 16 and related future rulemakings could affect sandbar sharks.

***Amendment 15 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP***

In May 2024, NMFS released a final environmental impact statement for Amendment 15 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (89 FR 40481, May 10, 2024). Amendment 15, among other things, considers the modification, data collection, and assessment of four spatial management areas that restrict commercial longline fishing (Mid-Atlantic Shark, Charleston Bump, East Florida Coast, and DeSoto Canyon closed areas). To address the lack of fishery-dependent data inside these closed areas and to assess their effectiveness, Amendment 15 considers potential modifications to the boundaries and/or timing of the closed areas, data collection programs in the high- and low-by-catch-risk areas, and a process for routine evaluation of spatial management areas to identify whether conservation and management needs are being met. Amendment 15 and any implementing regulations could affect sandbar sharks.

**Table 1. FMP amendments and their implementing regulations that affect sandbar sharks.**

<b>Effective Date*</b>	<b>FMP/Amendment</b>	<b>Description</b>
January 1978	PMP for Atlantic Billfish and Sharks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory data reporting requirements for foreign vessels.</li> <li>• A hard cap on shark catch by foreign vessels, which when achieved would prohibit further landings of sharks by foreign vessels.</li> <li>• Permit requirements for foreign vessels to fish in an established 200-mile FCZ.</li> <li>• Required radio checks by foreign vessels upon entering and leaving the FCZ.</li> <li>• Boarding and inspection privileges for U.S. observers.</li> <li>• A prohibition on the intentional discard of fishing gears by foreign fishing vessels within the FCZ that may pose environmental or navigational hazards.</li> </ul>
April 26, 1993*	FMP for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established a fishery management unit consisting of 39 frequently caught species of Atlantic sharks, separated into three groups for assessment and regulatory purposes (LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks).</li> <li>• Established calendar year commercial quotas for LCS and pelagic sharks and divided the annual quota into two equal half-year quotas that applied to the following two fishing periods – January 1 through June 30 and July 1 through December 31.</li> <li>• Established a recreational trip limit of four sharks per vessel per trip for LCS or pelagic shark species groups.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required that fishermen release all sharks not taken as part of a commercial or recreational fishery uninjured.</li> <li>• Established a framework procedure for adjusting commercial quotas, recreational retention limits, species minimum size limits, management units, fishing years, species groups, estimates of MSY, and permitting and reporting requirements.</li> <li>• Prohibited shark finning by requiring that the ratio between wet fins/dressed carcass weight not exceed 5 percent (effective May 26, 1993).</li> <li>• Prohibited the sale, by recreational fishermen, of sharks or shark products (meat and fins) caught in the U.S. EEZ.</li> <li>• Required annual commercial permits for fishermen who harvest and sell shark products (effective July 1, 1993).</li> <li>• Established a permit eligibility requirement for vessel owners or operators (including charter vessel and headboat owners/operators who intend to sell their catch). Vessel owners or operators must show proof that at least 50 percent of their earned income is derived from the sale of fish or fish products, or that their charter vessel and/or headboat operations earned at least \$20,000 from the sale of fish during one of three years preceding the permit request.</li> <li>• Required trip reports by permitted fishermen and persons conducting shark tournaments, and required fishermen to provide information to NMFS under the Trip Interview Program (effective July 1, 1993).</li> <li>• Required NMFS observers on selected shark fishing vessels to document mortality of marine mammals and endangered species (effective July 1, 1993).</li> </ul>
July 1, 1999*	FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced the LCS commercial quota to 1,285 mt dw.</li> <li>• Established ridgeback and non-ridgeback categories of LCS (931 mt dw ridgeback LCS quota) (effective January 1, 2003; suspended after 2003 fishing year).</li> <li>• Implemented a commercial minimum size limit of 54 inches FL for ridgeback LCS (suspended).</li> <li>• Reduced recreational retention limits for all sharks to one shark per vessel.</li> <li>• Established a recreational minimum size limit of 54 inches FL for all sharks except Atlantic sharpnose shark.</li> <li>• Established EFH for 39 species of sharks, including sandbar shark, and established a HAPC for sandbar shark nursery and pupping grounds.</li> <li>• Implemented HMS LAP in commercial fisheries (LAPs issued immediately; application and appeals processed over the next year).</li> <li>• Established a shark public display quota (60 mt ww).</li> <li>• Established new procedures for counting dead discards, including counting state landings of sharks after federal fishing season closures against federal quotas (effective January 1, 2003).</li> <li>• Established season-specific over- and underharvest adjustment procedures.</li> </ul>
February 1, 2004*	Amendment 1 to the FMP for Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-aggregated the LCS complex.</li> </ul>

	Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divided LCS and SCS management and commercial quotas between three regions: South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Gulf of America.</li> <li>• Established MSY as a basis for setting commercial quotas (LCS quota = 1,017 mt dw) (effective December 30, 2003).</li> <li>• Eliminated the commercial minimum size limit.</li> <li>• Established regional commercial quotas and trimester commercial fishing seasons (trimesters not implemented until January 1, 2005).</li> <li>• Adjusted the recreational retention and minimum size limits.</li> <li>• Established gear restrictions to reduce bycatch or reduce bycatch mortality.</li> <li>• Established a time/area closure off the coast of North Carolina (effective January 1, 2005).</li> <li>• Updated EFH for sandbar, blacktip, finetooth, dusky, and nurse sharks.</li> <li>• Changed the administrative process for issuing exempted fishing permits to collect sharks for display purposes.</li> </ul>
November 1, 2006*	2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established mandatory protected species safe handling, release, and identification workshops and certification for HMS pelagic longline, bottom longline, and shark gillnet vessel owners and operators with mandatory certification renewal every three years (effective January 1, 2007).</li> <li>• Established mandatory shark identification workshops for all federally permitted shark dealers with a mandatory certification renewal every three years (effective January 1, 2007).</li> <li>• Established a differentiation between pelagic longline and bottom longline gear based upon the species composition of the catch on board or landed.</li> <li>• Required that the second dorsal fin and the anal fin remain attached to the shark carcass on all sharks through landing.</li> <li>• Prohibited the sale or purchase of any HMS that was offloaded from an individual vessel in excess of the retention limits specified in §§ 635.23 and 635.24.</li> </ul>
July 24, 2008	Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiated a rebuilding plan for sandbar sharks.</li> <li>• Established a shark research fishery to collect shark life history information.</li> <li>• Prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks in recreational fisheries.</li> <li>• Prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks in commercial fisheries unless participants were part of the shark research fishery. Shark research fishery participants were required to have 100 percent observer coverage and meet specific gear and fishing restrictions, consistent with their shark research fishery permit.</li> <li>• Implemented a commercial quota of 87.9 mt dw for sandbar sharks harvested in the shark research fishery.</li> <li>• Required that fishermen offload all sharks with their fins naturally attached.</li> <li>• Established a boundary between the Gulf of America region and the Atlantic region, defined as a line beginning</li> </ul>

		<p>on the east coast of Florida at the mainland at 25°20.4' N. lat., proceeding due east. NMFS considered any water and land to the south and west of that boundary to be within the Gulf of America and any water and land to the north and east of that boundary line to be within the Atlantic region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented time/area closures recommended by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.</li> </ul>
July 13, 2013	Amendment 5a to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established new regional shark management groups and quotas for the commercial fishery.</li> <li>• Established regional quota linkages between management groups whose species are often caught together in the same fisheries to prevent exceeding the newly established quotas through discarded bycatch.</li> </ul>
August 18, 2015	Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjusted the sandbar shark research fishery quota to 90.7 mt dw.</li> <li>• Increased the LCS retention limit for directed permit holders.</li> <li>• Apportioned the Gulf of America regional commercial quotas for aggregated LCS, blacktip, and hammerhead sharks into western and eastern sub-regional quotas along 88° 00' W. long.</li> <li>• Removed the upgrading restrictions for shark LAP holders.</li> </ul>
September 7, 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Amendment 10 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated EFH designations for HMS, including sandbar shark, and updated the boundaries of the sandbar shark HAPC.</li> </ul>
January 24, 2023 <sup>1</sup>	Amendment 14 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a tiered ABC control rule.</li> <li>• Allow consideration of phase-in ABC control rules for any modifications in ABC.</li> <li>• Actively manage all sector ACLs (commercial and recreational).</li> <li>• Establish an ACL for each Atlantic shark management group, without commercial ACL quota linkages.</li> <li>• Allow carry-over, and only for underharvest of the commercial quotas (landings only) under certain conditions.</li> <li>• Compare a three-year average of fishing mortality estimates to the overfishing limit to determine overfishing status.</li> </ul>
May 10, 2024 <sup>2</sup>	Amendment 15 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected to revise timing and boundaries for some spatial management areas to create low- and/or high-bycatch-risk areas.</li> <li>• Expected to establish effort caps and require monitoring for pelagic longline vessels for all or part of a trip in low-bycatch-risk/monitoring areas and require these vessels to pay for electronic monitoring sampling costs in these areas.</li> <li>• Expected to allow cooperative research data collection via an exempted fishing permit for high- and low-bycatch-risk areas in the Charleston Bump and East Florida Coast spatial management areas, and the entirety of the high-bycatch-risk DeSoto Canyon spatial management area.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans for evaluating spatial management area effectiveness regularly, when three years of final catch and effort data are available (or earlier).</li> <li>Expected to add regulatory provisions for review of spatial management areas, and maintain the status-quo for funding of the HMS Electronic Monitoring Program (both administrative and sampling costs).</li> </ul>
May 8, 2023 <sup>3</sup>	Amendment 16 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considered extensive changes to commercial and recreational shark fisheries management, including changes to commercial and recreational shark management measures related to commercial and recreational quotas, management groups, retention limits, and minimum size limits.</li> </ul>

\*The effective date applies to all measures unless otherwise noted in the “Description” column.

<sup>1</sup> Amendment 10 and Amendment 14 have no implementing regulations and therefore do not have effective dates. The dates in the “Effective Date” column for these actions reflect the date of publication for the notice of agency decision and approval of the final amendments.

<sup>2</sup> At this time, NMFS has not finalized Amendment 15 and therefore there is no effective date. The date in the “Effective Date” column reflects the date of publication for the notice of availability of the FEIS.

<sup>3</sup> At this time, NMFS has not finalized Amendment 16 and therefore there is no effective date. The date in the “Effective Date” column reflects the date of publication for the scoping document.

**Table 2. List of LCS or sandbar shark seasons, 1993-2024.**

Year	Management Group	Open Dates	Quota (mt dw)
1993	LCS	January 1 - May 15	1,218
		July 1 - July 31	875
1994	LCS	January 1 - May 17	1,285
		July 1 - August 10 September 1 - November 4	1,318
1995	LCS	January 1 - May 31	1,285
		July 1 - September 30	968
1996	LCS	January 1 - May 17	1,285
		July 1 - August 31	1,168
1997	LCS	January 1 - April 7	642
		July 1 - July 21	326
1998	LCS	January 1 - March 31	642
		July 1 - August 4	600
1999	LCS	January 1 - March 31	642
		July 1 - July 28 September 1 - October 15	585
2000	LCS	January 1 - March 31	642
		July 1 - August 15	542

2001	LCS	January 1 - March 24	642
		July 1 - September 4	697
2002	LCS	January 1 - April 15	735.5
		July 1 - September 15	655.5
2003	Ridgeback LCS	January 1 - April 15	391.5
		July 1 - September 15	424
2004	LCS	GOA: January 1 - February 29 S. Atl: January 1 - February 15 N. Atl: January 1 - April 15	190.3 244.7 18.1
		GOA: July 1 - August 15 S. Atl: July 1 - September 30 N. Atl: July 1 - July 15	287.4 369.5 39.6
2005	LCS	GOA: January 1 - February 28 S. Atl: January 1 - February 15 N. Atl: January 1 - April 30	156.3 133.3 6.3
		GOA: July 6 - July 23 S. Atl: July 6 - August 31 N. Atl: July 21 - August 31	147.8 182 65.2
		GOA: September 1 - October 31 S. Atl: September 1 - November 15 N. Atl: September 1 - September 15	167.7 187.5 4.9
2006	LCS	GOA: January 1 - April 15 S. Atl: January 1 - March 15 N. Atl: January 1 - April 30	222.8 141.3 5.3
		GOA: July 6 - July 31 S. Atl: July 6 - August 16 N. Atl: July 6 - August 6	180 151.7 66.3
		GOA: September 1 - November 7 S. Atl: September 1 - October 3 N. Atl: Closed	225.6 50.3 N/A
2007	LCS	GOA: January 1 - January 15 S. Atl: Closed N. Atl: January 1 - April 30	62.3 N/A 7.9
		GOA: September 1 - September 22 S. Atl: July 15 - August 15 N. Atl: July 6 - July 31	83.1 163.1 69.0
		GOA: merged with second season S. Atl: merged with second season N. Atl: Closed	N/A N/A N/A
2008	LCS	GOA: Closed to July 23 S. Atl: Closed to July 23 N. Atl: Closed to July 23	Closed (51) Closed (16.3) Closed (10.7)
	Sandbar Shark	August 14 - December 31	87.9
2009	Sandbar Shark	January 14 - October 13	87.9
2010	Sandbar Shark	January 6 - December 31	87.9

2011	Sandbar Shark	January 1 - December 31	87.9
2012	Sandbar Shark	February 8 - December 31	87.9
2013	Sandbar Shark	February 27 - December 31	116.6
2014	Sandbar Shark	February 26 - December 31	116.6
2015	Sandbar Shark	January 16 - December 31	116.6 / 90.7
2016	Sandbar Shark	January 13 - December 31	90.7
2017	Sandbar Shark	March 6 - December 31	90.7
2018	Sandbar Shark	February 1 - December 31	90.7
2019	Sandbar Shark	March 13 - December 31	90.7
2020	Sandbar Shark	February 28 - December 31	90.7
2021	Sandbar Shark	March 12 - December 31	90.7
2022	Sandbar Shark	March 21 - December 31	90.7
2023	Sandbar Shark	March 16 - December 31	90.7
2024	Sandbar Shark	June 28 - December 31	90.7

Note: NMFS managed sandbar sharks in the LCS management group from 1993 through 2002 and 2004 through 2007. In 2003, NMFS split the LCS management group into ridgeback (e.g., sandbar sharks) and non-ridgeback sharks. In 2008, NMFS prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks outside of the shark research fishery. Acronyms: GOA = Gulf of America; N. Atl = North Atlantic; and S. Atl = South Atlantic.

**Table 3. Species that are currently in the LCS complex and species that were in the LCS complex that are now prohibited species.**

Common Name	Species Name
<b><i>Species that are currently in the LCS complex</i></b>	
<i>Ridgeback species</i>	
Sandbar	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>
Silky	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>
Tiger	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>
<i>Non-ridgeback species</i>	
Blacktip	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>
Bull	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>
Great hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>
Lemon	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>
Nurse	<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>
Scalloped hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>
Smooth hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>
Spinner	<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>
<b><i>Species that were in the LCS complex that are now prohibited species</i></b>	
Basking <sup>1</sup>	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>
Bigeye sand tiger <sup>1</sup>	<i>Odontaspis noronhai</i>
Bignose <sup>2</sup>	<i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>
Caribbean reef <sup>2</sup>	<i>Carcharhinus perezii</i>
Dusky <sup>2</sup>	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>
Galapagos <sup>2</sup>	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>
Narrowtooth <sup>2</sup>	<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>

Night <sup>2</sup>	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>
Sand tiger <sup>1</sup>	<i>Odontaspis taurus</i>
Whale <sup>1</sup>	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>
White <sup>1</sup>	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>

<sup>1</sup> These species were part of the LCS complex until NMFS added them to the Prohibited Sharks complex in 1997.

<sup>2</sup> These species were part of the LCS complex until NMFS added them to the Prohibited Sharks Complex in 1999.

**Table 4. Summary of 2024 shark regulations affecting sandbar sharks.**

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Retention Limits</b>	<b>Quota<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Other Requirements</b>
Inside the commercial shark research fishery	Specific to each vessel and owner(s) combination as identified in the shark research fishery permit	90.7mt dw <sup>2</sup>	- Shark research fishery permit - 100-percent observer coverage when participating in the shark research fishery
Outside the commercial shark research fishery	N/A - sandbar sharks cannot be retained in the commercial shark fishery, outside of the shark research fishery		
All commercial shark fisheries	<b>Authorized gears:</b> bottom longline, pelagic longline, handgear (rod and reel, handline, and bandit gear), and gillnet		
	<b>Authorized species:</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-sandbar LCS: blacktip, bull, great hammerhead<sup>3</sup>, scalloped hammerhead<sup>3</sup>, smooth hammerhead<sup>3</sup>, lemon, nurse, silky<sup>3</sup>, spinner, and tiger</li> <li>• SCS: Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, bonnethead, and finetooth</li> <li>• Pelagic sharks: blue, common thresher, and porbeagle</li> </ul>		
	<b>Landings condition:</b> All sharks must have their fins naturally attached through offloading, with the limited exception of some smooth dogfish under limited circumstances. Fins may be cut as long as they remain naturally attached to the carcass by at least a small flap of uncut skin through offloading. Shark carcasses must otherwise remain intact except that sharks may be eviscerated and the heads may be removed.		
	The Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, signed into law on December 23, 2022, provides that, with certain exceptions, “no person shall possess, acquire, receive, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase a shark fin or a product containing a shark fin” P.L. 117-263 § 5946(b)(1). Under the Act, “shark fin” is defined to mean “the unprocessed, dried, or otherwise processed detached fin or tail of a shark.” Id. at § 5946(b)(8). The Act includes an exemption for smooth dogfish, under which a person may “possess, acquire, receive, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase a shark fin of a smooth dogfish.” Id. at § 5946(b)(4).		
<b>Permits:</b> Atlantic shark Directed or Incidental limited access permit			
<b>Reporting requirements:</b> All commercial fishermen must submit commercial logbooks; all dealers must report weekly.			
All recreational shark fisheries	N/A - sandbar sharks cannot be retained in recreational shark fisheries		

<sup>1</sup> NMFS may adjust commercial quotas, including the sandbar shark quota, based on overharvest, if applicable.

<sup>2</sup> NMFS implemented the sandbar shark commercial quota for the shark research fishery on August 18, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Participants in the pelagic longline fishery cannot retain these species.

## 1.2. Control Date Notices

February 22, 1994 (59 FR 8457), September 16, 2011 (76 FR 57709)

## 1.3. Management Program Specifications

**Table 5. General management information for sandbar shark.**

<b>Species</b>	Sandbar shark ( <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i> )
<b>Management Unit</b>	Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of America, and Caribbean Sea
<b>Management Unit Definition</b>	All federal waters within the U.S. EEZ of the western North Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of America and the Caribbean Sea
<b>Management Entity</b>	NMFS, Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division
<b>Management Contacts</b>	Karyl Brewster-Geisz
<b>SERO / Council</b>	N/A
<b>Current stock exploitation status</b>	Overfishing not occurring
<b>Current stock biomass status</b>	Overfished

**Table 6. Specific management criteria for sandbar shark.**

Criteria	Value
Current Relative Biomass Level	$SSF_{2015}/SSF_{MSY} = 0.77$
Domestic Minimum Stock Size Threshold	595,000 (1-M( $SSF_{MSY}$ ))
Rebuilding Start Date	January 1, 2005
Rebuilding End Date	2070
Current Relative Fishing Mortality	$F_{2015}/F_{MSY} = 0.58$
Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold	0.07
$B_{MSY}$	$SSF_{MSY} = 681,000$ (numbers of sharks)

#### 1.4. Current Quota

Sandbar sharks may only be landed in the shark research fishery. The current sandbar shark quota is based on the TAC calculated during SEDAR 11 (158.3 mt dw) as reduced by estimates of dead discards in the commercial fisheries and any recreational harvest. The current quota is 90.7 mt dw. The details on how this quota was calculated is described in Amendment 2 (73 FR 40658, July 15, 2008, corrected at 73 FR 40658, July 15, 2008) and Amendment 6 (80 FR 50074, August 18, 2015).

**Table 7. Quota calculation details for sandbar shark.**

<b>Current Commercial Landings Quota Value</b>	90.7 mt dw*
<b>Next Scheduled Quota Change</b>	N/A
<b>Annual or average quota?</b>	Annual
<b>If averaged, number of years to average</b>	NA
<b>Does the quota include bycatch/discard?</b>	No; the commercial quota is a subset of the overall TAC (158.3 mt dw) and the remainder of the TAC is partitioned between dead discards and recreational harvest

\*NMFS implemented this quota on August 18, 2015.

#### 1.5. Management and Regulatory Timeline

The following tables provide a timeline of federal management actions by fishery. Federally permitted fishermen must follow federal regulations unless state regulations are more restrictive.

**Table 8. Commercial sandbar shark regulatory summary.**

Year	Management Group <sup>1</sup>	Annual Base Quota (mt dw)	Fishing Year	Retention Limit
1993	LCS	2,436 mt dw	one region; calendar year with two fishing periods	None

1994	LCS	2,346 mt dw	one region; calendar year with two fishing periods	4,000 lb dw LCS/vessel/trip
1995-1996	LCS	2,570 mt dw	one region; calendar year with two fishing periods	4,000 lb dw LCS/vessel/trip
1997-2000	LCS	1,285 mt dw	one region; calendar year with two fishing periods	4,000 lb dw LCS/vessel/trip
1999-2002	LCS	1,285 mt dw	one region; calendar year with two fishing periods	Directed LAP: 4,000 lb dw LCS/vessel/trip; Incidental LAP: 5 LCS/vessel/trip <sup>2</sup>
2003	Ridgeback LCS	783 mt dw	one region; calendar year with two fishing periods	Directed LAP: 4,000 lb dw LCS/vessel/trip; Incidental LAP: 5 LCS/vessel/trip
2004	LCS	1,107 mt dw	regions <sup>3</sup> with two fishing seasons	Directed LAP: 4,000 lb dw LCS/vessel/trip; Incidental LAP: 5 LCS/vessel/trip
2005-2007	LCS	1,107 mt dw	regions with trimesters	Directed LAP: 4,000 lb dw LCS/vessel/trip; Incidental LAP: 5 LCS/vessel/trip
2008	Sandbar Shark	87.9 mt dw	one region; calendar year	2,750 lb dw of LCS/vessel/trip of which no more than 2,000 lb dw could be sandbar sharks
2009	Sandbar Shark	87.9 mt dw	one region; calendar year	45 sandbar sharks/vessel/trip
2010-2011	Sandbar Shark	87.9 mt dw	one region; calendar year	33 sandbar sharks/vessel/trip
2013-2014	Sandbar Shark	116.6 mt dw	one region; calendar year	None
2015-2024	Sandbar Shark	90.7 mt dw	one region; calendar year	None

<sup>1</sup> NMFS managed sandbar sharks in the LCS management group from 1993 through 2002 and 2004 through 2007. In 2003, NMFS split the LCS management group into ridgeback (e.g., sandbar sharks) and non-ridgeback sharks. In 2008, NMFS prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks outside of the shark research fishery.

<sup>2</sup> NMFS implemented LAPs for shark fisheries in the 1999 FMP.

<sup>3</sup> Regions = Gulf of America, North Atlantic, and South Atlantic.

**Table 9. Recreational sandbar shark regulatory summary.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Minimum Size Limit</b>	<b>Retention Limit (sharks/vessel/trip)</b>
1993 – 1996	None	4 LCS/pelagic sharks
1997 – 1999	None	2 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks
2000 – 2007	54 inches FL	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic shark
2008 – 2024	NA*	NA*

\*NMFS prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks in the recreational fishery in Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, effective July 24, 2008.

**Table 10. Sandbar shark commercial regulatory history.**

Year	Annual Quota (mt dw)	Seasonal Quota (mt dw)	ACL (units)	Days Open/Closed	Fishing Season	Reason for Closure	Season Start Date (first day implemented)	Season End Date (last day effective)	Minimum Size Limit (units and length type, indicate maximum or natural length)	Minimum Size Limit Start Date	Minimum Size Limit End Date	Retention Limit (units)	Retention Limit Start Date	Retention Limit End Date	Aggregate Retention Limit (units)	Aggregate Retention Limit Start Date	Aggregate Retention Limit End Date		
1993 A, B, C	2,436	1,218	NA	135	Open		1/1/1993	5/15/1993	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
			NA	46	Closed	Met seasonal quota	5/16/1993	6/30/1993	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		875	NA	31	Open		7/1/1993	7/31/1993	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
			NA	153	Closed	Met seasonal quota	8/1/1993	12/31/1993	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1994 A, B, C	2,436	1,285	NA	137	Open		1/1/1994	5/17/1994	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	1/1/1994	5/17/1994		
			NA	44	Closed	Met seasonal quota	5/18/1994	6/30/1994	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		1,318	NA	41	Open		7/1/1994	8/10/1994	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	7/1/1994	8/10/1994	
			NA	21	Closed	Met seasonal quota	8/11/1994	8/31/1994	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
			NA	65	Open		9/1/1994	11/4/1994	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	9/1/1994	11/4/1994
			NA	57	Closed	Met seasonal quota	11/5/1994	12/31/1994	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1995 A, C, E	2,570	1,285	NA	151	Open		1/1/1995	5/31/1995	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	1/1/1995	5/31/1995		
			NA	30	Closed	Met seasonal quota	6/1/1995	6/30/1995	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		968	NA	92	Open		7/1/1995	9/30/1995	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	7/1/1995	8/31/1994		

			NA	92	Closed	Met seasonal quota	10/1/1995	12/31/1995	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1996 A, C, E	2,570	1,285	NA	138	Open		1/1/1996	5/17/1996	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	1/1/1996	5/17/1996
			NA	44	Closed	Met seasonal quota	5/18/1996	6/30/1996	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		1,168	NA	62	Open		7/1/1996	8/31/1996	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	7/1/1996	8/31/1996
			NA	122	Closed	Met seasonal quota	9/1/1996	12/31/1996	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1997 A, C, F	1,285	642	NA	97	Open		1/1/1997	4/7/1997	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	1/1/1997	4/7/1997
			NA	84	Closed	Met seasonal quota	4/8/1997	6/30/1997	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		326	NA	21	Open		7/1/1997	7/21/1997	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	7/1/1997	7/21/1997
			NA	163	Closed	Met seasonal quota	7/22/1997	12/31/1997	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
1998 A, C, F	1,285	642	NA	90	Open		1/1/1998	3/31/1998	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	1/1/1998	3/31/1998
			NA	91	Closed	Met seasonal quota	4/1/1998	6/30/1998	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		600	NA	35	Open		7/1/1998	8/4/1998	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip <sup>D</sup>	7/1/1998	8/4/1998
			NA	148	Closed	Met seasonal quota	8/5/1998	12/30/1998	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
1999 A, C, D, F	1,285	642	NA	90	Open		1/1/1999	3/31/1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/1999	3/31/1999
			NA	91	Closed	Met seasonal quota	4/1/1999	6/30/1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		585	NA	28	Open		7/1/1999	7/28/1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/1/1999	7/28/1999

			NA	34	Closed	Met seasonal quota	7/29/1999	8/31/1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
			NA	45	Open		9/1/1999	10/15/1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	9/1/1999	10/15/1999
			NA	77	Closed	Met seasonal quota	10/16/1999	12/31/1999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2000 A, C, D, F	1,285	642	NA	91	Open		1/1/2000	3/31/2000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	1/1/2000	3/31/2000
			NA	91	Closed	Met seasonal quota	4/1/2000	6/30/2000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		542	NA	46	Open		7/1/2000	8/15/2000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	7/1/2000	8/15/2000
			NA	138	Closed	Met seasonal quota	8/16/2000	12/31/2000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2001 A, C, D, F	1,285	642	NA	83	Open		1/1/2001	3/24/2001	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	1/1/2001	3/24/2001
			NA	98	Closed	Met seasonal quota	3/25/2001	6/30/2001	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		697	NA	66	Open		7/1/2001	9/4/2001	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	7/1/2001	9/4/2001
			NA	118	Closed	Met seasonal quota	9/5/2001	12/31/2001	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

2002 A, C, D, F	1,285	735.5	NA	105	Open		1/1/2002	4/15/2002	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2002	4/15/2002
			NA	76	Closed	Met seasonal quota	4/16/2002	6/30/2002	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		655.5	NA	77	Open		7/1/2002	9/15/2002	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/1/2002	9/15/2002
			NA	107	Closed	Met seasonal quota	9/16/2002	12/31/2002	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2003 A, C, D, H	783	391.5	NA	105	Open - Ridgeback LCS		1/1/2003	4/15/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2003	4/15/2003	
			NA	76	Closed - Ridgeback LCS	Met seasonal quota	4/16/2003	6/30/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		424	NA	77	Open - Ridgeback LCS		7/1/2003	9/15/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/1/2003	9/15/2003	
			NA	107	Closed - Ridgeback LCS	Met seasonal quota	9/16/2003	12/31/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		465.5	NA	135	Open - Non-ridgeback LCS		1/1/2003	5/15/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2003	5/15/2003	
			NA	46	Closed - Non-ridgeback LCS	Met seasonal quota	5/16/2003	6/30/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		498	NA	77	Open - Non-ridgeback LCS		7/1/2003	9/15/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/1/2003	9/15/2003	

			NA	107	Closed - Non-ridgeback LCS	Met seasonal quota	9/16/2003	12/31/2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
2004 A, C, D, L, J	1,107	244.7	NA	46	Open - SATL		1/1/2004	2/15/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/15/2004	
			NA	136	Closed - SATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	2/16/2004	6/30/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		369.5	NA	92	Open - SATL		7/1/2004	9/30/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/1/2004	9/30/2004
			NA	92	Closed - SATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	10/1/2004	12/31/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		18.1	NA	106	Open - NATL		1/1/2004	4/15/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	4/15/2004
			NA	76	Closed - NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	4/16/2004	6/30/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		39.6	NA	15	Open - NATL		7/1/2004	7/15/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/1/2004	7/15/2004
			NA	169	Closed - NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	7/16/2004	12/31/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		190.3	NA	60	Open - GOA		1/1/2004	2/29/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004
			NA	122	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	3/1/2004	6/30/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

		287.4	NA	46	Open - GOA		7/1/2004	8/15/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	7/1/2004	8/15/2004
			NA	138	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	8/16/2004	12/31/2004	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2005 A,D,I, J	1,107	133.3	NA	46	Open - SATL		1/1/2005	2/15/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	1/1/2005	2/15/2005
			NA	140	Closed - SATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	2/16/2005	7/5/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		182	NA	57	Open - SATL		7/6/2005	8/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	7/6/2005	8/31/2005
		187.5	NA	76	Open - SATL		9/1/2005	11/15/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	9/1/2005	11/15/2005
			NA	46	Closed - SATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	11/16/2005	12/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		6.3	NA	120	Open - NATL		1/1/2005	4/30/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	1/1/2005	4/30/2005
			NA	81	Closed - NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	5/1/2005	7/20/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		65.2	NA	42	Open - NATL		7/21/2005	8/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	7/21/2005	8/31/2005

		4.9	NA	15	Open - NATL		9/1/2005	9/15/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	9/1/2005	9/15/2005	
			NA	107	Closed -NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	9/16/2005	12/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		156.3	NA	59	Open - GOA		1/1/2005	2/28/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004	
			NA	127	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	3/1/2005	7/5/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		147.8	NA	18	Open - GOA		7/6/2005	7/23/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004	
			NA	39	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	7/24/2005	8/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		167.7	NA	61	Open - GOA		9/1/2005	10/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004	
			NA	61	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	11/1/2005	12/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
		2006 A, D, L, J	1,107	141.3	NA	74	Open - SATL		1/1/2006	3/15/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D,H</sup>	1/1/2006	3/15/2006
					NA	112	Closed - SATL	Met seasonal/regional quota; quota exceeded by 136.7%	3/16/2006	7/5/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

151.7	NA	42	Open - SATL		7/6/2006	8/16/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/6/2006	8/16/2006
50.3	NA	33	Open - SATL		9/1/2006	10/3/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	9/1/2006	10/3/2006
	NA	89	Closed - SATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	10/4/2006	12/31/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
5.3	NA	120	Open - NATL		1/1/2006	4/30/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2006	4/30/2006
	NA	66	Closed - NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	5/1/2006	7/5/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
66.3	NA	32	Open - NATL		7/6/2006	8/6/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/6/2006	8/6/2006
	NA	147	Closed - NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	8/7/2006	12/31/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
222.8	NA	105	Open - GOA		1/1/2006	4/15/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004
	NA	81	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal quota	4/16/2006	7/5/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
180	NA	42	Open - GOA		7/6/2006	8/16/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004
	NA	15	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal quota	8/17/2006	8/31/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
225.6	NA	68	Open - GOA		9/1/2006	11/7/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004

			NA	54	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	11/8/2006	12/31/2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
2007 A, D, L J	1,107	0	NA	195	SATL - Closed	Met seasonal/regional quota	1/1/2007	7/14/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		163.1	NA	32	Open - SATL		7/15/2007	8/15/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/15/2007	8/15/2007	
			NA	138	Closed - SATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	8/16/2007	12/31/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		7.9	NA	120	NATL - Open		1/1/2007	4/30/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2007	4/30/2007	
			NA	66	Closed - NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	5/1/2007	7/5/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		69	NA	26	Open - NATL		7/6/2007	7/31/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	7/6/2007	7/31/2007	
			NA	153	Closed - NATL	Met seasonal/regional quota	8/1/2007	12/31/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		62.3	NA	15	Open - GOA		1/1/2007	1/15/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004	
			NA	228	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	1/16/2007	8/31/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		83.1	NA	22	Open - GOA		9/1/2007	9/22/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,000 lb dw LCS combined/trip; 5 LCS for incidental permit holders <sup>D, G</sup>	1/1/2004	2/29/2004	
			NA	100	Closed - GOA	Met seasonal/regional quota	9/23/2007	12/31/2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		2008 K	87.9	87.9	NA	226	Closed - Sandbar	No quota	1/1/2008	8/13/2008	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

				140	Open - Sandbar		8/14/2008	12/31/2008	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,750 lb dw LCS combined/trip of which no more than 2,000 lb dw could be sandbar shark <sup>L</sup>	8/14/2008	12/31/2008
2009 <sub>k</sub>	87.9	87.5	NA	13	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2009	1/13/2009	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				273	Open - Sandbar		1/14/2009	10/13/2009	NA	NA	NA	45 sandbar sharks/trip <sup>L</sup>	1/14/2009	10/13/2009	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				80	Closed - Sandbar	Met quota	10/13/2009	12/31/2009	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
2010 <sub>k</sub>	87.9	87.9	NA	5	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2010	1/5/2010	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				360	Open - Sandbar		1/6/2010	12/31/2010	NA	NA	NA	33 sandbar sharks/trip <sup>L</sup>	1/6/2010	12/31/2010	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
2011 <sub>k</sub>	87.9	87.9	NA	365	Open - Sandbar		1/1/2011	12/31/2011	NA	NA	NA	33 sandbar sharks/trip <sup>L</sup>	1/1/2011	12/31/2011	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
2012 <sub>k</sub>	87.9	87.9	NA	38	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2012	2/7/2012	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				328	Open - Sandbar		2/8/2012	12/31/2012									
2013	116.6	116.6	NA	57	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2013	2/26/2013	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				308	Open - Sandbar		2/27/2013	12/31/2013									
2014	116.6	116.6	NA	56	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2014	2/25/2014	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				309	Open - Sandbar		2/26/2014	12/31/2014									
2015	116.6	116.6	NA	15	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2015	1/15/2015	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				350	Open - Sandbar		1/16/2015	12/31/2015									
2016 <sub>M</sub>	90.7	90.7	NA	12	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2016	1/12/2016	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				354	Open - Sandbar		1/13/2016	12/31/2016									
2017 <sub>M</sub>	90.7	90.7	NA	64	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2017	3/5/2017	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA
				301	Open - Sandbar		3/6/2017	12/31/2017									
2018 <sub>M</sub>	90.7	90.7	NA	31	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2018	1/31/2018	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA

				334	Open - Sandbar		2/1/2018	12/31/2018										
2019 M	90.7	90.7	NA	71	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2019	3/12/2019	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	
				294	Open - Sandbar		3/13/2019	12/31/2019										
2020 M	90.7	90.7	NA	58	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2020	2/27/2020	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	
				308	Open - Sandbar		2/28/2020	12/31/2020										
2021 M	90.7	90.7	NA	70	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2021	3/11/2021	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	
				295	Open - Sandbar		3/12/2021	12/31/2021										
2022 M	90.7	90.7	NA	79	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2022	3/20/2022	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	
				286	Open - Sandbar		3/21/2022	12/31/2022										
2023 M	90.7	90.7	NA	74	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2023	3/15/2023	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	
				291	Open - Sandbar		3/16/2023	12/31/2023										
2024 M	90.7	90.7	NA	179	Closed - Sandbar	SRF permits not yet issued	1/1/2024	6/27/2024	NA	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	NA <sup>L</sup>	NA	NA	
				187	Open - Sandbar		6/28/2024	12/31/2024										

A = NMFS established a fishery management unit consisting of 39 frequently caught species of Atlantic sharks, separated into three groups for assessment and regulatory purposes (LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks) (1993 FMP; effective April 26, 1993). The species included in the LCS management group change throughout the time series. NMFS included sandbar shark in the LCS management group from 1993 until 2007.

B = NMFS established a calendar year commercial quota of 2,436 mt dw for LCS (1993 FMP; effective April 26, 1993).

C = NMFS divided the annual quota into two equal half-year quotas that apply to the following two fishing periods – January 1 through June 30 and July 1 through December 31 (1993 FMP; effective date April 26, 1993).

D = NMFS implemented a commercial trip limit of 4,000 lb for permitted vessels (58 FR 68556, effective December 28, 1993).

E = NMFS increased the LCS quota to 2,570 mt dw (rulemaking: 60 FR 21468, May 1, 1995; effective May 2, 1995).

F = NMFS reduced the LCS commercial quota by 50 percent to 1,285 mt dw (rulemaking: 62 FR 16648, April 2, 1997; effective April 2, 1997).

G = NMFS implemented limited access in commercial shark fisheries and reduced the annual LCS quota to 1,285 mt dw (1999 FMP; effective July 1, 1999).

H = NMFS established ridgeback and non-ridgeback categories of LCS and managed sandbar shark as part of the ridgeback shark complex (annual quotas of 783 mt dw for non-ridgeback LCS and 931 mt dw for ridgeback LCS) (1999 FMP, but not implemented until an emergency rulemaking, effective May 29, 2003).

I = NMFS established commercial shark quotas using maximum sustainable yield as a basis for setting commercial shark quotas (LCS quota=1,017 mt dw) (Amendment 1, effective December 30, 2003).

J = NMFS established regional commercial quotas and trimester commercial fishing seasons (Amendment 1; trimesters not implemented until January 1, 2005, 69 FR 6964).

K = NMFS required all Atlantic sharks to be offloaded with fins naturally attached, established a sandbar shark specific commercial research quota ( sandbar research annual quota = 87.9 mt dw). and prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks outside of the research fishery (Amendment 2; effective date July 24, 2008).

L = NMFS sets retention limits within sandbar research fishery annually (Amendment 2).

M = NMFS reduced the sandbar shark quota to 90.7 mt dw (Amendment 6, effective August 18, 2015).

Acronyms: GOA = Gulf of America, NATL = North Atlantic, SATL = South Atlantic, SFR = Shark Research Fishery.

**Table 11: Sandbar shark recreational regulatory history.**

Year	Quota (units)	ACL (units)	Days Open	Fishing Season	Season Start Date (first day implemented)	Season End Date (last day effective)	Reason for Closure	Minimum Size Limit (FL, inches)	Minimum Size Limit Start Date	Minimum Size Limit End Date	Retention Limit (# fish)	Retention Limit Start Date	Retention Limit End Date	Aggregate Retention Limit <sup>1</sup> (sharks/vessel/trip)	Aggregate Retention Limit Start Date	Aggregate Retention Limit End Date
1993	NA	NA	184	Open	7/1/1993	12/31/1993	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4 LCS/pelagic sharks <sup>A</sup>	7/1/1993	12/31/1993
1994	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/1994	12/31/1994	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4 LCS/pelagic sharks <sup>A</sup>	1/1/1994	12/31/1994
1995	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/1995	12/31/1995	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4 LCS/pelagic sharks <sup>A</sup>	1/1/1995	12/31/1995
1996	NA	NA	366	Open	1/1/1996	12/31/1996	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4 LCS/pelagic sharks <sup>A</sup>	1/1/1996	12/31/1996
1997	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/1997	12/31/1997	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4 LCS/pelagic sharks <sup>A</sup>	1/1/1997	4/1/1997
														2 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>B</sup>	4/2/1997	12/31/1997
1998	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/1998	12/31/1998	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>B</sup>	1/1/1998	12/31/1998
1999	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/1999	12/31/1999	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>B</sup>	1/1/1999	6/30/1999
														1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C</sup>	7/1/1999	12/31/1999
2000	NA	NA	366	Open	1/1/2000	12/31/2000	NA	54 <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2000	12/31/2000	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2000	12/31/2000
2001	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/2001	12/31/2001	NA	54 <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2001	12/31/2001	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2001	12/31/2001
2002	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/2002	12/31/2002	NA	54 <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2002	12/31/2002	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2002	12/31/2002
2003	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/2003	12/31/2003	NA	54 <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2003	12/31/2003	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C</sup>	1/1/2003	12/29/2003
														1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C,D</sup>	12/30/2003	12/31/2003
2004	NA	NA	366	Open	1/1/2004	12/31/2004	NA	54 <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2004	12/31/2004	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2004	12/31/2004
2005	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/2005	12/31/2005	NA	54 <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2005	12/31/2005	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2005	12/31/2005
2006	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/2006	12/31/2006	NA	54 <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2006	12/31/2006	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2006	12/31/2006
2007	NA	NA	365	Open	1/1/2007	12/31/2007	NA	54 <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2007	12/31/2007	NA	NA	NA	1 LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks <sup>C,D</sup>	1/1/2007	12/31/2007
2008	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2009	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2010	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2011	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2012	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2013	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2014	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

2015	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2016	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2017	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2020	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2022	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2023	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	NA	0	Closed <sup>E</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

1 = The aggregated recreational bag limit includes several species (LCS: sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead; SCS: bonnethead, Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, and blacknose; pelagic sharks: porbeagle, thresher, shortfin mako, blue, and oceanic whitetip) that change within the aggregate bag limit throughout the time series.

A = NMFS established a recreational retention limit of four LCS or pelagic sharks per vessel (1993 FMP; effective April 26, 1993).

B = NMFS reduced the recreational retention limit for all sharks to two LCS/SCS/pelagic sharks combined per trip (effective April 2, 1997).

C = NMFS reduced the recreational retention limit for all sharks to one shark per vessel per trip except for Atlantic sharpnose sharks (one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip) and established a recreational minimum size limit for all sharks, except Atlantic sharpnose shark, of 54 inches FL (1999 FMP; effective July 1, 1999).

D = NMFS adjusted the recreational retention limits and minimum size limits to allow one bonnethead per person per trip in addition to one Atlantic sharpnose per person per trip with no minimum size limit for either species (Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP; effective December 30, 2003).

E = NMFS prohibited the retention of sandbar sharks in the recreational fishery (Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP; effective July 24, 2008).

**Table 12: Atlantic States Sandbar Shark regulations.**

State	Confirmed for the SEDAR 101 2025 sandbar shark assessment through information collected for Atlantic HMS SAFE Report	pre-1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Atlantic Region</b>															
<b>Connecticut</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations
<b>Delaware</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	Commercial shark fishermen must hold a federal shark permit even when fishing in state waters, therefore, state regulations match federal regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Creel limit on regulated sharks of 1 shark per vessel per day; creel limit for sharpnose is 2 sharks per day; minimum size on regulated sharks is 54	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

				<p>ons; sharks must be landed with meat and fins intact, but head can be remove d; any shark not kept must be released in a manner that maximi zes survival ; taking of basking , white, whale, sand tiger, and bigeye sand tiger prohibit ed; seasona l gillnet restricti ons. Recreati onal regulati ons: no more than two sharks per vessel</p>	<p>inches FL; fins must be naturall y attached ; 14 prohibit ed species added (Atlanti c angel shark, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher , bignose shark, Caribbe an reef shark, Caribbe an sharpno se shark, dusky shark, Galapag os shark, longfin mako, narrowt ooth shark, night shark, sevengil l shark, sixgill shark, smalltai l shark)</p>								
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					except that 2 sharpnose can also be landed; prohibition on finning and filleting or taking of the 5 prohibited species										
<b>Florida</b>	Y	1992: first shark-specific regulations: must hold federal shark permit; commercial and recreational possession limit of 1 shark per person per day or 2 sharks per vessel per day, whichever is less (virtually no commercial shark fishery)	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By 1998: ban on longlines; 1998: Added sand tiger, bigeye sandtiger, and white sharks to prohibited species list; prohibition on filleting sharks at sea.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	March: Same prohibited species as federal regulations, except Caribbean sharpnose is not included	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations



	<p>federal shark fishery; 1994: prior to landing, fins cannot be removed from a shark harvested in state waters; fishermen returning from federal waters with sharks or shark parts harvested in federal waters, cannot fish in state waters; 1995: ban on the use of entanglement nets larger than 500 square feet</p>												
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Georgia	Y	1950s: ban on gillnets and longlines ; All finfish spp. must be landed with head and fins intact	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	First shark regulation: prohibition on taking sand tiger sharks; Small Shark Composite (Atl. Sharpnose, bonnethead, spiny dogfish) 30"TL min. size; Creel: 2/person/day All other sharks 2/person/day or 2 /boat/day, whichever is less. 54"TL min. size, only one shark over 84" TL	No new relevant shark regulations	Sharks may not be landed in Georgia if harvested using gillnets	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
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<b>Maine</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	By 1998: large state water closures to gillnets resulting in virtually no gillnet fishery; 1998: no shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
<b>Maryland</b>	Y	No shark regulations	4000 lb shark limit per person per day; fins must accompany carcass and not exceed 5% fin-to-carcass ratio, state shark fishery closes with federal shark fishery	No new relevant shark regulations	Size limit of 58 inches FL or a carcass less than 31 inches; recreational bag limit of one shark per person per day; by 1998: maximum gillnet mesh size of 6 inches; no longlining in	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Feb 2004: minimum FL reduced to 54 inches, carcass length the same (31 inches); recreational catch limit of 1 shark per person per day; reference to federal regs 50 CFR 635.	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

					tidal waters.										
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	Regulations apply to Spiny dogfish; Prohibition on harvest, catch, take, possession, transportation, selling or offer to sell any basking, dusky, sand tiger, or white sharks.	Prohibition on harvest, catch, take, possession, transportation, selling or offer to sell any basking, dusky, sand tiger, or white sharks.	No new relevant shark regulations	By Oct 2008: Regulations apply to Spiny and Smooth dogfish; Prohibition on harvest, catch, take, possession, transportation, selling or offer to sell any basking, dusky, sand tiger, or white sharks (unchanged).
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations

<b>New Jersey</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark-specific regulations; by 1998: no longline fishing; restrictions on the use of gillnets	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Feb 2004: commercial/recreational possession limit of 2 sharks per vessel; prohibition on finning; dorsal fin to pre-caudal pit must be at least 23 inches in length; total length must be 48 inches in length	No new relevant shark regulations	No sale during federal closures; Finning prohibited; Prohibited Species: basking, bigeye sand tiger, sand tiger, whale and white sharks	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
<b>New York</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	By 1998: prohibition on finning sharks; no other shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Feb 2004: reference to federal regs 50 CFR part 635; prohibited sharks listed	No new relevant shark regulations	By May 2006: No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
<b>North Carolina</b>	Y	1990: prohibition on finning 1990 – 7500 lbs per trip, dogfish exempt; unlawful to land fins without carcass; fins no more than 10%; unlawful to land dried fins; required	No new relevant shark regulations	No sharks, except Atlantic sharpnose and pelagic sharks, can be taken by commercial gear in state waters; fins must be landed with the carcass; maximum	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	One shark per vessel per day with commercial gear (except Atlantic sharpnose and dogfish) while federal waters are open for species group; 84 inch	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	April: Prohibited ridgebacks (sandbar, silky, and tiger sharks) from Large Coastal Group	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Open seasons and species groups same as federal; 4000 lb trip limit for LCS; retain fins with carcass through point of landing; longline shall only be used to harvest LCS during open season, shall not exceed 500 yds or have more than 50 hooks (state waters reopened to commercial fishing);	No new relevant shark regulations	July: Adopted federal regulations of 33 Large Coastal sharks per trip and fins must be naturally attached to carcass



							shortfin mako and hammer head species) ; Prohibited species – basking, white, sand tiger and whale sharks								
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations

<b>South Carolina</b>	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	By 1998: federal regs adopted by reference; use of gillnets prohibited in the shark fishery	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Feb 2004: retention limit of 2 Atlantic sharpnose per person per day and 1 bonnethead per person per day; no min size for recreationally caught bonnethead sharks; reference to federal commercial regulations and closures	No new relevant shark regulations	By May 2006: non-Atlantic sharpnose/bonnethead sharks – 1 shark/boat/trip, min size – 54” FL	No new relevant shark regulations	By Oct 2008: No new relevant shark regulations
<b>Virginia</b>	Y	1991: no longlines in state waters; recreational bag limit of 1 shark per person per day; established a commercial trip limit of; 1993: mandatory reporting of all shark landings	No new relevant shark regulations	7500 lb commercial trip limit; minimum size of 58 inches FL or 31 inches carcass length (but can keep up to 200 lbs dw of sharks per day less than 31 inches carcass length); prohibition on finning; recreational:	By 1998: no longlining in state waters	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By May 2006: Recreational: bag limit – 1 LCS, SCS, or pelagic shark/vessel/day with a min size of 54” FL or 30” CL; 1 Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead/person/day with no min size; Commercial: possession limit - 4000 lb dw/day, min size - 58" FL or 31" CL west of the COLREGS line and no min size limit east of the COLREGS line; Prohibitions: fillet at sea, finning, longlining, same	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

				possession limit of 1 shark per person per day									prohibited shark species as federal regulations		
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State	Confirmed for the SEDAR 101 2025 sandbar shark assessment through information collected for Atlantic HMS SAFE Report	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Atlantic Region															
Connecticut	Y	July: No possession or landing of large coastal shark species by any commercial fishing gear or for commercial purposes.	Feb: Commercial possession of prohibited Small Coastal Sharks: Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead until a 2010 quota is set by NMFS; Sandbar shark take prohibited in the commercial and	Prohibited species same as federal regulations; No commercial fishing for large coastal sharks; No commercial small coastal shark fishing until further notice	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Prohibited species same as federal regulations; Possession of sandbar shark (Carcharhinus plumbeus) prohibited except by permit	Prohibited species same as federal regulations; Possession of sandbar sharks prohibited except by permit for research and display	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

			recreational fisheries per ASMFC FMP except under Scientific Collection Permit					for research and display purposes	purpose s. No commercial fishing for large coastal sharks; No commercial small coastal shark fishing until further notice						
<b>Delaware</b>	Y	ASMF C Plan	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMF C Coastal Shark Plan. Shark fins may be possessed, but cannot be sold.	No new relevant shark regulations	It is unlawful to land or possess any species of shark in state waters that is illegal to catch or land or possess in federal waters.

Florida	Y	No new relevant shark regulations	Jan: Commercial/recreational min size – 54” except no min. size on blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, smooth dogfish, finetooth, bonnethead, smooth dogfish, finetooth, Atlantic sharpnose; Allowable gear – hook and line only; prohibition on the removal of shark heads and tails in state waters; prohibition on harvest of sandbar, silky, and Caribbean sharpnose sharks in state waters; March: prohibition on all harvest of lemon sharks in state waters.	– 54” except no min. size on blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, smooth dogfish, finetooth, Atlantic sharpnose; Commercial/recreational possession limit – 1 shark/person/day, max. 2 sharks/vessel on any vessel with 2 or more persons on board; Allowable gear – hook and line only; State waters close to commercial harvest when adjacent federal waters close; Federal permit required for commercial harvest, so federal regulations apply in state waters unless state regulations are more restrictive; Finning, removing heads and tails, and filleting prohibited; Prohibited	Effective January 1, 2012: Prohibition species same as federal regulations plus harvest of lemon, sandbar, tiger sharks and Hammerheads (Great, smooth, scalloped) from state waters.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Direct and continuous transit through state waters to place of landing for spiny dogfish, lemon, sandbar, silky, tiger, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and scalloped hammerhead sharks legally caught in federal waters is allowed; Prohibited species same as federal regulations plus prohibition on harvest	It is unlawful to harvest any shark with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait and unlawful to harvest shark by snagging (snatch hooking)	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Hook and line only; A no-cost, annual shore-based shark fishing permit is mandatory for all shore-based shark fishing anglers ages 16 and up; Shore anglers are prohibited from chumming and delaying the release of prohibited sharks; All shore- and vessel-based shark fishermen are required to keep prohibited sharks in the	Effective January 1, 2020: minimum size of 83” for shortfin mako. Effective Jan 1, 2021, the possession, import, export, and sale of shark fins are prohibited with the following 2 exceptions: 1) shark fins may be sold by commercial fishermen who harvested sharks from a vessel holding a valid federal shark fishing permit	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
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				species same as federal regulations plus prohibition on harvest of lemon and sandbar sharks in state waters, direct and continuous transit through state waters to place of landing of lemon sharks and sandbar sharks legally caught in federal waters is allowed.				of spiny dogfish, lemon, sandbar, silky, tiger, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and scalloped hammerhead sharks.				waters, use circle hooks in state waters, and possess /use appropriate cutters.	on January 1, 2020 and 2) shark fins may be exported and sold by any wholesale dealer holding a valid federal Atlantic shark dealer permit on January 1, 2020.		
<b>Georgia</b>	Y	Recreational: 1 shark from the Small Shark Composite (bonnethead, sharpnose, and spiny dogfish, min size 30" FL; and spiny dogfish, min size 30" FL; All other sharks - 1 shark/person or boat, whichever is less, min size 54" FL; Prohibited Species: sand tiger sharks, sandbar, silky, bigeye sandtiger, whale,	Commercial/ Recreational: 1 shark from the Small Shark Composite (bonnethead, sharpnose, and spiny dogfish, min size 30" FL; All other sharks - 1 shark/person or boat, whichever is less, min size 54" FL; Prohibited Species: sand tiger sharks, sandbar, silky, bigeye sandtiger, whale,	Commercial/ Recreational: 2/person/boat for sharks from the Small Shark Composite (bonnethead, sharpnose, and spiny dogfish, min size 30" FL; All other sharks - 2 shark/person or boat, whichever is less, min size 48" FL; unlawful to have in possession more than one shark greater than eighty-	Commercial/ Recreational: 1/person/boat for sharks from the Small Shark Composite (bonnethead, sharpnose, and spiny dogfish, min size 30" FL; All other sharks - 1 shark/person or boat, whichever is less, min size 54" FL; Prohibited Species: same as federal, plus silky sharks; All species must	No new relevant shark regulations	Commercial/ Recreational: 1/person for sharks from the Small Shark Composite (bonnethead, Atlantic sharpnose, and spiny dogfish), min size 30" FL. All other sharks - 1 shark/person or boat, whichever is less, min size 54" FL. Hammerheads (great, scalloped and smooth)- 1/person,	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Prohibited Species: same as federal plus Oceanic Whitetip	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

	<p>or boat, whichever is less, min size 54" FL, Prohibited Species: sand tiger sharks, sandbar, silky, bigeye sandtiger, whale, basking, white, dusky, bignose, Galapagos, night, reef, narrow tooth, Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, Atlantic angel, longfin mako, bigeye thresher, sharpnose sevengill, bluntnose sixgill, and bigeye sixgill; All species must be landed head and fins intact; Sharks may not be landed in Georgia if harvested using gill nets</p>	<p>four inches (84") total length; Prohibited Species: same as federal, plus silky sharks; All species must be landed head and fins intact; Sharks may not be landed in Georgia if harvested using gillnets</p>	<p>be landed head and fins intact; Sharks may not be landed in Georgia if harvested using gillnets; ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan</p>		<p>minimum size – 78" FL. Prohibited Species: same as federal, plus silky sharks; All species must be landed head and fins intact; Sharks may not be landed in Georgia if harvested using gillnets; ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan; Great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead recreational minimum size of 78" FL</p>									
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		<p>sevengill, bluntnose sixgill, and bigeye sixgill.</p> <p>species: same as federal regulations; Fins must remain naturally attached to carcass though off-loading</p> <p>Fins of coastal sharks can be removed at sea, but fin weight may not exceed 5% of the carcass weight</p> <p>Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan</p> <p>ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan except that the tails and fins of smooth dogfish must remain attached through landing</p> <p>Recreational: min size - LCS/Pelagics 37" TL; SCS 25" TL; bag limit - LCS/Pelagics 1/person/day up to 3/vessel/day; SCS 4/person/day; Commercial and prohibited species – same as</p>												
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			federal regulations; Prohibition on finning Prohibited sharks listed; Federal Dealer permit required for all shark dealers; Porbeagle sharks can only be taken by recreational fishing; Head, fins and tail must remain attached to all shark species through landing ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan												
<b>Maine</b>	Y	Maximum 5 % fin-to-carcass ratio	– Fins of coastal sharks can be removed at sea, but fin weight may not exceed 5% of the carcass weight	Prohibited species same as federal, plus silky and sandbar; commercial harvest of porbeagle sharks prohibited in state waters, porbeagle cannot be landed after federal quota closes; sharks must be landed with head, fins, and tail naturally attached to the carcass	Commercial harvest of sharks (except spiny dogfish) in state waters prohibited; finning prohibited; sharks harvested elsewhere but landed in Maine, or sharks landed recreationally, must be landed with head, fins, and tail naturally attached to the carcass; porbeagle cannot be landed	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Commercial harvest of coastal sharks in state waters is prohibited; Unlawful to harvest, land or possess more than 5,000 lb of spiny dogfish per calendar	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

					commercially after federal quota closes dealers who purchase sharks must obtain a federal dealer permit. Recreational anglers must possess a federal HMS angling permit							<p>r day or 24-hour period commercially; one dogfish per day for personal use; Recreational harvest of porbeagle sharks shall only be taken from state waters when open; Finning prohibited (unchanged); coastal sharks, porbeagle or spiny dogfish harvested elsewhere but landed in Maine, or sharks landed recreationally, must</p>			
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												<p>have the head, fins and tail attached naturally to the carcass through landing ; Dealers who purchase sharks must obtain a federal dealer permit (unchanged); Recreational anglers must possess a federal HMS angling permit (unchanged).</p>			
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Maryland	Y	Regulations for those Squaliformes listed in need of conservation in ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan added to state regulations.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	Recreational catch required to be tagged; ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	Recreational catch required to be tagged; ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan; all recreationally harvested sharks must have heads, tails, and fins attached naturally to the carcass through landing; all commercially harvested sharks other than smoothhounds must have tails and fins attached naturally to carcass through landing; smoothhound sharks harvested commercially may have dorsal, pectoral and caudal fins removed (caudal fins may not exceed 4% of total dressed weight of smoothhound shark carcasses on board; dorsal and pectoral fins may not exceed 8% of total dressed	No new relevant shark regulations	Commercial - During the period of May 15-July 15 an individual may not harvest the species listed in §A(6) and (7) of this regulation from State waters or transport the species listed in §A(6) and (7) of this regulation in State waters, unless the shark was harvested from federal waters provided: (i) The vessel	Closure for certain species from May 15-July 15 unless the shark was legally harvested from waters and gear is stowed; closed to harvest when federal waters are closed.	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan, with additional measures to complement HMS regulations. Recreational: Except when fishing with artificial flies or artificial lures, an angler must use corrosion-resistant circle hooks and have in possession at least one device capable of quickly cutting either leader or	Shark fin prohibition: no person shall possess, sell, offer for sale, trade or distribute a shark fin, excluding spiny dogfish and smoothhound. Commercial fishermen with a license and permit issued by the State to take or land sharks for commercial purposes may possess or distribute, but not sell within Delaware.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
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							weight of smoothhound shark carcasses on board); Great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead recreational minimum size of 78" FL		does not engage in fishing within the closed area while possessing the species listed in §A(6) and (7) of this regulation; (ii) The sharks possessed were not caught in the closed area; and (iii) All fishing gear is stowed as described in §D(4) of this regulation and not available for immediate use.		hook; any shark, except smooth dogfish, not being kept must be released in water; for any shark that will be released, an individual may not (a) sit on shark, (b) hold shark's mouth open, (c) put shark on dry sand, (d) the shark on a boat deck, or (e) use a gaff; catch must be tagged and reported using catch cards; all recreati	Recreational fishermen may possess shark fins for personal use.		
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												<p>onally harvest ed sharks must have heads, tails, and fins attache d naturall y to carcass through landing . Comme rcial: If smooth hound fins are remove d, the total wet weight of caudal fins may not exceed 4 percent of total dw of smooth hound carcass es landed or found on board vessel, and dorsal and</p>			
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												pectoral fins may not exceed 8 percent of the total dw of smooth hound carcasses landed or found on board a vessel.			
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Y	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan no shark species may be landed with tails or fins removed except that the tails and fins of smooth dogfish must remain attached through landing (322 CMR 6.37(3)(d))	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan (no shark species may be landed with tails or fins removed 322 CMR 6.37(3)(d));	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Y	No commercial take of porbeagle	Prohibited sharks listed; Federal Dealer permit required for all shark dealers; Porbeagle sharks can only be taken by recreational fishing; Head,	No new relevant shark regulations	no take, landings, or possession of prohibited shark species; NH Wholesale Marine Species License and a Federal Dealer permit required for	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Recreational minimum size limit for North Atlantic shortfin mako set at 71" FL	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

			fins and tail must remain attached to all shark species through landing		all dealers purchasing listed sharks; Porbeagle sharks can only be taken by recreational fishing; Head, fins and tail must remain attached to all shark species through landing.							for males and 83"FL for females . Non-offset, corrodible circle hooks required for recreational shark fishing.			
<b>New Jersey</b>	Y	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Sharks ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Sharks may be harvested in the recreational fishery only by angling with a handline or rod and reel. Sharks may be harvested in the commercial fishery only by gillnets, trawl nets, and pound nets. State waters	No new relevant shark regulations





														of all marine species, by weight, is comprised of smooth dogfish. Effective January 1, 2021 the possession and sale of shark fins is prohibited.	
<b>New York</b>	Y	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan. Separate requirement that No person shall possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute a shark fin; provided, however	Non-stainless, non-offset circle hooks must be used when taking sharks.	No new relevant shark regulations	Commercial fishermen must attend NOAA Fisheries' Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

								<p>r, that  this  prohibi  tion  shall  not  apply  to any  shark  fin that  was  taken  from a  spiny  dogfish  (Squalu  s  acanthi  as) or a  smooth  dogfish  (Mustel  us  canis)  lawfull  y  caught  by a  license  d  comme  rcial  fisherm  an; a  shark  fin may  be  possess  ed by  any  person  if the  shark  was  lawfull  y  caught  and the  person  has a</p>							
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								recreational marine fishing registration or a license or permit from the department for bona fide scientific research or educational purposes.							
<b>North Carolina</b>	Y	Fins must be naturally attached to shark carcass	Director may impose restrictions for size, seasons, areas, quantity, etc. via proclamation; Commercial: open seasons and species groups same as federal; 33 non-sandbar LCS retention limit; no retention of sandbar sharks; fins naturally attached to shark carcass, except for smooth dogfish; LL	Director may impose restrictions for size, seasons, areas, quantity, etc. via proclamation; ASMFC Coastal Shark IFMP; additionally: LL in the shark fishery shall not exceed 500 yds or have more than 50 hooks	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

		<p>shall only be used to harvest LCS during open season, shall not exceed 500 yds or have more than 50 hooks;</p> <p>Recreational: LCS (54" FL min size) - no more than 1 shark/vessel/day or 1 shark/person/day, SCS (no min size) – no more than 1 finetooth or blacknose shark/vessel/day and no more than 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead/person/day, pelagics (no min size) -1 shark/vessel/day; Same prohibited shark species as federal regulations</p>													
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Rhode Island	Y	No shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Sharks - RIMF C Regulations part VII 7.24	No new relevant shark regulations	RI commercial fishing license or landing permit required to harvest or land HMS	No person fishing recreationally shall possess a shark with a fork length less than 54 inches, with the exception of Atlantic sharpnose, bonnet head, and smooth hound, which have no minimum size limit; No person shall possess a sandbar shark.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan, with additional measures to complement HMS regulations; commercial fishing license or landing permit required to harvest or land sharks (unchanged); no person fishing commercially shall possess shortfin mako or species listed in the prohibited or research commercial species groups;	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
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												no person fishing recreationally shall possess a shark listed in prohibited or research species groups (unchanged); Hammethead (Great, smooth, scalloped) minimum FL size of 78", shortfin mako minimum FL size 83", no minimum FL sizes for Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, and smoothhound; all other sharks minimum			
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												m FL size of 54"; any person fishing recreationally for sharks with rod and reel must use corrodible circle hooks and maximize gear removal as safely as possible when releasing sharks.			
<b>South Carolina</b>	Y	No new relevant shark regulations	Defer to federal regulations; Gillnets may not be used in the shark fishery in state waters; State permit required for shark fishing in state waters	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations

Virginia	Y	ASMF C Plan	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
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**Table 13. Gulf States Sandbar Shark regulations.**

State	Confirmed for the SEDAR 101 2025 sandbar shark assessment through information collected for Atlantic HMS SAFE Report	pre-1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Gulf of America Region																

Alabama	Y	No shark regulations	First shark regulations implemented: state shark fishery closes with the federal shark fishery	No new relevant shark regulations	By 1998: only short lines in state waters; time/area and size restrictions on the recreational use of gillnets	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Feb 2004: Recreational daily bag limit - 2 sharpnose/person/day; all other species - 1 fish/person/day; Recreational minimum size all sharks (except sharpnose) - 54" FL	No new relevant shark regulations	By May 2006: Recreational & Commercial non-sharpnose min size – 54" FL or 30" dressed; Prohibition: Atlantic angel, bigeye thresher, dusky, longfin mako, sand tiger, basking, whale, white, and nurse sharks	No new relevant shark regulations	By Oct 2008: no new regs	Recreational & commercial sharpnose bag limit dropped to 1 sharpnose per person per day; no shark fishing on weekends, Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day
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Louisiana	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	Ban on entanglement nets	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Feb 2004: Minimum size - 54" except sharpnose; Possession limit - 1 fish/vessel/trip; Trip limit 4,000 lbs dw LCS; Reference to federal regulations; State waters closed to rec/commercial April 1 through June 30	No new relevant shark regulations	By May 2006: Recreational: min size – 54" FL, except Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead; bag limit - 1 sharpnose/person/day; all other sharks – 1 fish/person/day; Commercial: 4,000 lb LCS trip limit, no min size; Com & Rec Harvest Prohibited: 4/1-6/30; Prohibition: same as federal regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Oct 2008: Commercial: 33 per vessel per trip limit, no min size	No new relevant shark regulations
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Mississippi	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	prohibit taking and possession of sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, whale, basking, and white sharks; Recreational: bag limit of 4 small coastal sharks (Atlantic sharpnose, Caribbean sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, smalltail, bonnethead and Atlantic angel shark) per person per day; limit of 3 large coastal and pelagic sharks,	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Feb 2004: No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By May 2006: No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Oct 2008: Recreational bag limit - LCS/Pelagics 1/person up to 3/vessel ; SCS 4/person; Commercial & Prohibited Species - Reference to federal regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
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				in aggregate per vessel per day, same prohibited species as commercial fishers; minimum size of 25 inches total length for small coastal sharks and 37 inches total length for large coastal sharks															
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Texas	Y	Sept. 1989: Bag limit set at five sharks per day for both rec and commercial anglers ; Sept 1992: Bag limit increased to ten sharks per day. Trotlines were added as allowable gear for sharks.	No new relevant shark regulations	1997: Commercial bag limit of 5 sharks; possession limit of 10 sharks; no min or max size. Recreational bag, possession, and lack of size restrictions same as commercial	1998: commercial fishing for sharks can only be done with rod and reel; no entanglement nets	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Sept: Commercial/Recreational retention limit 1 fish/person/day; Commercial/Recreational possession limit is twice the daily bag limit (i.e., 1 fish/person/day ); Commercial/Recreational minimum size 24 in TL	No new relevant shark regulations	By May 2006: No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	By Oct 2008: No new relevant shark regulations	Sept: Min size 24" TL for Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, and bonnethead sharks and 64" TL for all other lawful sharks. Prohibited species: same as federal regulations
Puerto Rico	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	Year-round closed season on nurse sharks Shark "finning" is prohibited. PR regulations indicate the need for compliance by local fishers with federal shark regulations.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	

U.S. Virgin Islands	Y	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	No shark regulations	Federal regulations and federal permit requirements apply in territorial waters.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
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State	Confirmed for the SEDAR 101 2025 sandbar shark assessment through information collected for Atlantic HMS SAFE Report	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gulf of America Region												

Alabama	Y	<p>Recreational &amp; commercial: bag limit – 1 sharpnose/person/day and 1 bonnethead/person/day; no min size; all other sharks – 1/person/day; min size – 54” FL or 30” dressed; state waters close when federal season closes; no shark fishing on weekends, Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day; Prohibited species: dusky, sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, basking, whale, and white sharks; Restrictions of chumming and shore-based angling if creating unsafe bathing conditions; Regardless of open or closed season, gillnet fishermen targeting other fish may retain sharks with a dressed weight not exceeding 10% of total catch</p>	<p>No new relevant shark regulations</p>	<p>Commercial-state waters close when federal season closes; Prohibited species: Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, largetooth sawfish, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandtiger, smalltooth sawfish, smalltail, sevengill, sixgill, spotted eagle ray, whale, white</p>	<p>No new relevant shark regulations</p>	<p>All sharks (besides great, smooth, and scalloped hammerheads) – 1/person/day; min size – 54” FL or 30” dressed; Commercial - no size limit and no possession limit on any non-prohibited species.</p>	<p>No new relevant shark regulations</p>	<p>No new relevant shark regulations</p>	<p>No new relevant shark regulations</p>	<p>No new relevant shark regulations</p>	<p>Male shortfin mako bag limit of one/person/day with 71” FL minimum size; female shortfin mako bag limit of one/person/day with 83” FL minimum size; When using natural bait in state waters to fish for sharks, anglers must use non-offset non-stainless-steel circle hooks.</p>	<p>No new relevant shark regulations</p>
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Louisiana	Y	Recreational: min size – 54" FL, except Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead; bag limit - 1 sharpnose/person/trip, all other sharks – 1 fish/person/day; Commercial: 33 per vessel per trip limit; no min size; Com & rec harvest prohibited: 4/1-6/30; Prohibited species: same as federal regulations; Fins must remain naturally attached to carcass though off-loading	Commercial shark fishing requires annual state shark permit. Owners/operators of vessels other than those taking sharks in compliance with state or federal commercial permits are restricted to no more than one shark from either the large coastal, small coastal, or pelagic group per vessel per trip within or without Louisiana waters.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Commercial: 33/vessel/day limit (36/vessel/day by mid-2013); no min size; Com & rec harvest prohibited: Apr 1 - Jun 30	Commercial: 36/vessel/day limit; no min size; Com & rec harvest prohibited: Apr 1 - Jun 30; Prohibited species: same as federal regulations; Fins must remain naturally attached to carcass though offloading.	Commercial: 45/vessel/day limit; no min size; Com & rec prohibited: Apr 1 - Jun 30; Prohibited species: same as federal regulations; Fins must remain naturally attached to carcass though off-loading. Commercial shark fishing requires annual state shark permit. Owners/operators of vessels other than those taking sharks in compliance with state or federal commercial permits are restricted to no more than one shark from either the large coastal, small coastal, or pelagic group per vessel per trip within or without Louisiana waters, except Atlantic	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Recreational: male shortfin mako sharks must be at least 71 inches fork length and female sharks must be at least 83 inches fork length.
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								sharpnose and bonnethead which are allowed at one/person/d ay.				
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Mississippi	Y	Recreational: min size - LCS/Pelagics 37" TL; SCS 25" TL; bag limit - LCS/Pelagics 1/person/day up to 3/vessel/day; SCS 4/person/day; Commercial and prohibited species – same as federal regulations; Prohibition on finning	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	It is unlawful for commercial fishermen to possess sandbar sharks. Prohibition on finning	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Bag limit is 25 small and large coastal sharks in aggregate per endorsed individual per day; Seasons are set to run concurrently with the federal shark fisheries; To qualify for a Commercial Shark Endorsement, anglers must attend an ID and Safe Handling Course and pass an exam.
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<b>Texas</b>	Y	Commercial/recreational: bag limit - 1 shark/person/day; Commercial/recreational possession limit is twice the daily bag limit (i.e., 2 sharks/person/day); min size 24" TL for Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, and bonnethead sharks and 64" TL for all other lawful sharks. Prohibited species: same as federal regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Buying, selling, offering to buy or sell, or possessing a for the purpose of sale, transport, or shipment a shark fin is prohibited.	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	Non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks must be used when fishing for sharks in state waters.	No new relevant shark regulations
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	Y	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>	Y	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations	No new relevant shark regulations