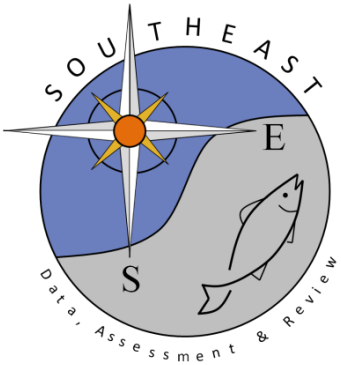
Public comments received via the online comment form during the data process

SEDAR101-DW-31

26 August 2026



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Assessment

SEDAR 101 Highly Migratory Species Sandbar Sharks

SEDAR 101 addresses the stock assessment for Highly Migratory Species Sandbar Sharks. Data Scoping for this project will be held in February 2026 with an in-person Data Workshop in April 2026. The Assessment Stage will be conducted external to SEDAR, followed by a CIE desk review in March 2027. For more information on the assessment process, please contact the SEDAR Coordinator for this project, Emily Ott: Emily.Ott@safmc.net

Submit Date	Submitted By	Comment
3/11/2025	First Name: Mike Last Name: Penate Email:	Sandbar sharks are way over populated we can't get away from them even causing a quickly escalating danger to divers open this species up to commercial and recreational harvest.

3/11/2025	First Name: Bill Last Name: Dantuono Email: Billdantuono@gmail.co	Been spearfishing and fishing recreationally, charter and commercially in the gulf out of Naples Florida for over a decade. There is absolutely no shortage of sandbar sharks in the Gulf in my region. They destroy many fishing trips, predation from sandbar sharks is astronomical. I can guarantee you I will run into a sandbar shark at least once a trip red snapper fishing. They are a problem in 45 feet to 450 feet (which is about the range of my operation) Thank you for reading my comment Captain Bill D'Antuono
3/12/2025	First Name: Scott Last Name: Stark Email: Scottstark78@gmail.com	Too many. Every dive I see at least 2. 10 years ago I would run across one or two a whole day.
3/12/2025	First Name: Kevin Last Name: Onysko Email:	GOA, I'm loosing bottom fish Every trip to Sandbars especially outside of 50 feet to about 150 feet of water.

3/27/2025	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Bastion Email:	I am an avid SCUBA diver and shark fisherman with experience in the Gulf of America and along both South and North Carolina coast. I've noticed even experienced fishermen and SCUBA divers constantly misidentify shark species. For some reason in the Carolinas fishermen have made their own shark species called the sandshark I've seen numerous fishermen and divers refer to bull shark, sandbar sharks, Atlantic sharpnose, blacktips and others species as sand shark. I think more education is needed to inform people about shark species to stop confusing sandbars. I only occasionally see adult sandbar sharks and notice diver constantly mis id them. I think the population needs to be reassessed to see their current levels and more training should be given to divers and fishermen so they know what they are catching.
4/2/2025	First Name: David Last Name: Ernst Email: ernstdave2@gmail.com	Please open up SB Sharks to harvest at pre 2005 levels. They are fully rebuilt and overpopulated to the point you cannot harvest bottom fish without loosing every other fish to the Sandbars. Thank You

4/2/2025	First Name: Tom Last Name: Rowe Email: Chathamrowe@Hotmail.com	Over abundance, open the season.
4/2/2025	First Name: Sam Last Name: Jones Email: Bjorn2sword@gmail.com	Open sand bars for commercial harvest
4/10/2026	First Name: Jeff Last Name: Adams Email: Jadams203@yahoo.com	Here in Florida the number of sandbar sharks has increased dramatically and are becoming increasingly a nuisance while fishing. We loose a lot of fish that are eaten on a regular basis. Some spots are so bad, I can’t even fish there anymore. There needs to be a harvest season on the sandbar shark.

4/10/2026	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Klotz Email: danielklotz220@gmail.com	I fish and dive regularly and over the last few years the population has exploded. We have had to pretty much quit diving deeper water because of how aggressive the sandbar sharks have gotten. Fishing you're guaranteed to get your catch stolen because there are so many large sharks who have become accustomed to the sound of divers and fishermen. I suggest that commercial and recreational sandbar sharks is opened up.
4/10/2026	First Name: Forrest Last Name: Harmon Email: forrest_harmon@hotmail.com	I reef and tuna fish out of Orange Beach and you lose 1 of 2 fish to sharks. The population is out of control and must be thinned

4/10/2026	First Name: Joel Last Name: Hara Email: Joel.hara808@gmail.com	Inside 175 ft, shark numbers are extremely high. I've personally counted up to 50 sharks under the boat when stopped, mostly sandbars and bulls. Bull sharks are eating multiple sailfish in a single trip, which shouldn't be happening. There are clearly too many dusky, sandbar, and bull sharks in these areas.
4/10/2026	First Name: Corey Last Name: Beekman Email: Beekman0856@gmail.com	I lose half of my reef fish hook up every snapper season to sand bar

4/10/2026	First Name: Eric Last Name: Leech Email: Fish1403@aol.com	I'm a private boat captain in south Florida. I fish about 180 days a year . In the last 8 years the amout of sharks eating our catch is astounding. Mostly sandbar and bull sharks. Even sailfish are getting eaten by sharks and the meat fish (tuna, kings, grouper and snapper) we lose 35% of fish we hook to the sharks.
4/10/2026	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Medina Email: Captdanielmedina@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks have become a giant nuisance on nearly Every fishing trip we do. They are literally the most common shark we see, hook and catch. They take a handful or 2 of good fish nearly every trip. Fish come up bitten in half or get eaten/broken off. They seem to key in on our bigger catches: red grouper, amberjacks and American red snapper however they regularly chase and attack just about everything we hook. There are too many of them. What used to be a cool shark to show up has now become a direct liability. Please do something to help curtail their numbers.

4/10/2026	First Name: Stephen Last Name: Corns Email: Stephenpopcorn54321@gmail.com	I've been a commercial fisherman on a rod and reel boat and a longline boat for 5 years. The amount of sharks is insane, you can't even get a Fish to the boat, it's it gonna take more people getting bit for you all to finally do something about it. And I mean big sharks, most over 8feet. Not to mention those fish are my livelihood and when 200/ 500 hooks are sharks on the line and another 150 are fish ate in half by sharks. It becomes alarming. I don't know who logs the amount of sharks there are in the ocean but they should be fucking drug tested. Sincerely, every commercial fisherman In the state of Florida.
4/10/2026	First Name: Thomas Last Name: Roseberry Email: roseberrykeep7@gmail.com	I am the Captain of the Thunder party boat out of Hernando Beach, but spent the past 7 years as a mate at Gulfstar out of Tarpon Springs, as well as occasionally going out on private boats. Sandbar sharks make up the vast majority of sharks I've encountered while fishing. I estimate that sharks are present and eating fish off the line at about 80% of the spots we fish of depths between 40 ft and 240 ft between the northern middlegrounds and the souther tip of the elbow. Out of those, about 90% of them are sandbars. The other 10% being comprised mainly of Caribbean reef sharks, with fewer sightings of lemons, tigers, and hammers, with bull sharks and blacktips typically only sighted in 60ft or less. I would hope to see a reduction in numbers of sandbar sharks, Caribbean Reef sharks, and bull sharks. Please keep all regulations on hammers. We do not see enough of any species of hammerhead. Night sharks are also a problem. Night sharks are present on only about 10% of the fishable bottom and only at night, but when they are present it is nearly impossible to catch anything else. I would hope to maintain the night shark population at its current number

4/11/2026	First Name: Justin Last Name: Hoyle Email: Jchoyle30@gmail.com	Sharks are out of control in recreational waters of the gulf. As a recreational fisherman we lose half our catch to shark predation when catching fish. The government needs to allow more shark fishing.
4/11/2026	First Name: Joseph Last Name: Curtis Email: Jaxbeachfishing@gmail.com	Sandbar Sharks should be opened to recreational and commercial harvest.

4/11/2026	First Name: Allen Last Name: Engelman Email: Surfnfish420@gmail.com	I could write a book about the overpopulation of sharks on the east coast of florida. Instead im gonna keep it short and simple. I fish from sebastion to boyton inlet. Bottom line is the second you hook any kind of fish from a blue runner, snapper, to king or even a sail. It gets eaten in 10 seconds. As fast as you can hook em the sharks are eating them. This goes for my boat and the 100 boats out there everyday for the last 10 years. Something must be done. I feel that the ecosystem if off balanced.
4/11/2026	First Name: Jeff Last Name: Marinko Email: Putridinnards@hotmail.com	NC commercial spearfishermen here. In the last 8 years the sandbar numbers have gotten to an unsafe level. We've had more close calls in the past 2 years than we have in the last 20 combined. It's only a matter of time before one of us get bit. I hope you take this serious this time and listen to the public and do something sooner than later before these sharks eat us out of house and home. They have all these sharp teeth and it ain't for eating plants. I also have to say our sand tiger population is way out of control also. Thank you

4/11/2026	First Name: Grant Last Name: Stancil Email: grantstancil@gmail.com	they need to bring back longline shaking the population is out of hand
4/11/2026	First Name: Bryan Last Name: Kennedy Email: southeastern84@gmail.com	Don't you think enough is enough. I'm a commercial diver and it's safe to say there's plenty of all species an that your assessments are not correct. I'm pretty sure sandbars we're not over fished you closed it. Also it's time to lift the ban on the export of fins and the state line crossing deal. I fished the research programs and it was obvious there was no shortage of sandbars.

4/11/2026	First Name: Capt Davey Last Name: Wright Email: Captdavey2@aol.com	Dusky, Sandbars, Silky, Bulls, Spinners, Blacktips, Hammers eat 50%-70% off our hookups on the Reefs. Need to get rid of the Regs on them. I see thousands of sharks behind every shrimp boat when they're culling it's crazy nothing there but sharks and porpoise.
4/11/2026	First Name: Doug Last Name: Covin Email: Captaindouglas@hotmail.com	I am offshore of palm beach over 100 days a year. There isn't a day that goes by where I don't have an encounter with a shark. It has become impossible to fish any type of bottom bait without hooking a sandbar. The bull sharks eat every pelagic we hook, and the sandbars eat every snapper or grouper. If we do manage to catch an undersized bottom fish, or cobia, the get eaten when we release them. This makes all size and catch limits for other fish useless. Our ecosystem is completely out of balance, and in dire need of correction.

4/11/2026	First Name: Bill Last Name: Nunya Email: Nunyabizness	Sandbar sharks are ruining my business. Charter Fishing off port canaveral. They are eating all of the other fish and everything we hook. Please open them and the fin trade to normalize the population. There is an imbalance and they are hurting other FISH species.
4/11/2026	First Name: michael Last Name: Bursten Email: mikeb@traditionaltitle.com	since i moved to jupiter fl in 2020 i've fished over 5000 hrs inshore near shore and offshore . what i learned right away is shark feeding has caused sharks to use the sound of your boat as a dinner bell . they eat just about 95% of any keeper fish that fight more than 1 min and or destroy your catch mauling it . The issue has become worse every year and now sharks are so bad in 0-150 ft that if you stop your boat from more than 3 min and drift sharks will appear under your boat . due to no commercial access within 3 miles the issue has gone to a point where it's almost impossible to bottom fish or troll near shore not to mention how many sailfish are being eaten after release . I have noted a decrease in sailfish over the last 6 years alone while other who lived here for ever tell me the the body of sailfish are way down from previous years probably mostly due to a high mortality rate from shark infested waters. At a minimum a limited commercial entry needs to be advanced inside 3 miles to bring a once migratory fish back under control were sharks are not destroying fishing for all let alone diving .

4/12/2026	First Name: Billy Last Name: Goode Email: Goodehunter2141@gmail.com	Please allow the harvest of this fish !!!I kill more red snapper grouper etc. releasing them or trying to catch them than I actually ever get to harvest ,and almost every dive I go on I am harassed by sandbars, sometimes multiple at a time which makes diving alone extremely dangerous even having multiple people in the water now is getting dangerous
4/12/2026	First Name: Cormac Last Name: Stubbs Email: Cormac.stu@icloud.com	I've been fishing all of my life both commercial and recreational, and well I'm only 19 years old I have seen a MAJOR difference in our shark population or how they respond to certain things. I'm not sure wether the problem stems from an overpopulation problem or it comes from the dive boats that go out there and feed the sharks, but over the last few years it has nearly gotten impossible to get any sort of reef fish past the sharks especially in areas such as the ledge. At this point the sharks are practically programmed to associate boats with being fed and it's beginning to become unfishable in places like Jupiter.

4/13/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Pickett Email: Pickettspestcontrol@gmail.com	Excessive Sandbars at every structure location off the Texas coast. Following anything (that hasn't been eaten by sharks already) all the way the boat… every drop, every spot. I've personally fished out of Port Aransas for decades. The shark problem today is like I've never seen and is progressively worsening every year.
4/14/2026	First Name: Corey Last Name: Kramer Email: ckramer@osc-eng.com	i have been fishing out of Port Canaveral for over 30 years and the population of Sandbar sharks has exploded in the last 5 or so years. You cannot fish in any areas with multiple boats, they seem to hear the activity and swarm. If that happens you move a few miles and there is another group of them waiting. It is completely out of control. Something must be done. Thank you.

4/14/2026	First Name: James Last Name: Barton Email: Airboater270@icloud.com	I'm on the water 260 days a year charter fishing off the coast of Jupiter fl. The amount of sharks in the past 10 years has gotten so out of hand We have seen a decrease in business due to people not wanting to have 80% of their catch eaten by sharks. As soon as you stop the boat sandbar Lemmon and bull sharks are already surrounded the boat. I believe in my heart they need to be thinned out to insure their survival as a species and our future in the charter boat and tourism industry.
4/15/2026	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Crowley Email: Bulldogfishingwpb@gmail.com	Career charter captain of 25 years. My business does about 600 charters a year between 2 boats. The shark population is out of control. Apex predators out of control is going to have major consequences. From the outer banks to Texas everyone sees what's happening with social media it being shared so often from the entire coast. Commercial shark fishing with fin sales needs to be opened back up periodically. The amount of sandbar sharks here in Florida on any given day is insane. The videos people have of them trying to reel up a fish and hundreds of sandbars chasing that one fish to the boat. Decimating our recourses here.

4/15/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Meek Email: Cmshine58@yahoo.com	To Whom It May Concern, I'm writing as a longtime recreational fisherman and commercial fisherman in South Florida to raise serious concern about the growing issue of shark depredation, specifically involving sandbar sharks. Over the past several years—but especially recently—the number of sharks interacting with hooked fish has increased to the point where it is significantly impacting our ability to fish. It is now common to lose multiple fish per trip to sharks before they can even be brought to the boat. In many cases, once sharks show up, the area becomes unfishable. This is not an isolated experience. Many anglers in our area are seeing the same pattern: • Sharks following boats and targeting hooked fish • Increased frequency of depredation events • Loss of catch, time, and gear • Disruption of historically productive fishing grounds While I understand and support conservation efforts, the current situation feels out of balance. These sharks appear to be highly conditioned to associate fishing activity with an easy food source, and their population presence seems significantly higher than in previous years. I would strongly encourage NOAA to: • Increase research into shark especially sandbars,depredation and population trends!
4/15/2026	First Name: Andy Last Name: Wilkinson Email: andywilkinson4@gmail.com	The shark problem in the Gulf has steadily gotten worse over the past 5 years. I have fished the gulf for 50 years. It used to be a shark taking your catch while reeling up maybe once in every 5 trips and only on bigger wrecks or reefs. Now it's 5 lost fish and tackle virtually every trip and they occupy even very small reefs. It is undeniable there is a major shark problem in the Gulf.

4/17/2026	First Name: Bob Last Name: Laney Email: Flatsslambob @gmail.com	I'm a lifelong resident of Daytona Beach Florida, I've been an avid offshore diver since 1970, I have been fishing the local reefs since 1970, the sharks in general are out of control, the amount of fish we lose to sharks is unacceptable. Something needs to be done and it needs to be done immediately.
4/18/2026	First Name: Paul Last Name: Nelson IV Email: Bloodlinesportfishinginc@gmail.com	Good evening, I will start off by saying thank you for allowing public comment on this matter, even though my personal opinion is it will fall on deaf ears. It's a hard job to assess fish stocks from an office. It's even harder to complete actual science when funding comes from areas that have a certain view on the way things need to be. That being said, I'm a lifetime waterman in the south east Atlantic. When I started on the boats, it was an oddity to see sharks or even catch one. Now it has gone 180 degrees in the opposite direction and it has been 1 more thing we have had to avoid to make a living. The number 1 shark encountered on all my trips are sandbars. It's as if they are used to a boat motor being a dinner bell. We can speculate on where they have learned that behavior, but I'm saying it's the boats that chum the waters to attract sharks so paying patrons can snap a picture. Much like the flawed science and stock assessments of the red snapper, we are in an uphill battle. Not only with the government, but with red snapper and sharks in the south east Atlantic. The sharks are becoming used to eating hooked fish, some may say this is like feeding the bears. This makes it nearly impossible to get any fish to the boat whole. In some instances, I have seen so many in one spot, it becomes literally unfishable. As soon as a boat pulls up, there are multiple sharks waiting for the first hook up. Our charter and commercial fishing industry here in the south east Atlantic is already dwindling. There needs to be a healthy and sustainable harvest on not just the sandbars, but the other sharks that have the same survival and reproduction rates. If something isn't done, I'm afraid the red snapper and the sharks with eat and reproduce to a point of no return. Please listen to the people who spend time and hard earned money on the water and the hardworking, barely surviving captains, mates, commercial boats, and watermen who live their life on the ocean. We know more then we are given credit for.

4/18/2026	First Name: Steven Last Name: Parsell Email: steve@skylineelevators.com	There is an overpopulation of sandbar sharks in our waters from Ponce Inlet to Fort Pierce and I'm sure elsewhere also but that's where I normally go fishing from. If it's not myself it's the person to either side of me reeling in a fish that gets eaten it's about time to allow these fish to be harvested and thin down the numbers.
4/18/2026	First Name: M Last Name: Hamilton Email: Hamhocks904@yahoo.com	Sandbar sharks are not overfished nor were they ever. I understand you can say these comments are anecdotal, but as many that spend significant time on the water will tell you they are prevalent between 60 and 240 feet of water (perhaps other zones that's just where my experience lies as those are typically the depths we fish). There are sharks in numbers on every single piece of bottom structure no matter the size. Most often there are 2+ animals visible. No telling what you can't see. I've owned a commercial vessel, worked on a charter vessel, and been a recreational fisherman. Of all the shark species sandbars have always been the most common we encounter, with dome days now 30+ encounters. They are out of control and are now trained to humans.

4/18/2026	First Name: Anthony Last Name: Colletti Email: Almostthere8639@yahoo.com	I commercial fish from Cape Canaveral on the east coast of FL to Cameron LA in the Gulf the one thing Every fisherman /women will agree on is there are too many sharks and they need to be thinned out the East coast and West coast are overrun by sharks there is not a single trip that we are not seeing XL sandbar sharks eating king mackerel grouper and snapper sharks are being seen in backwaters places you would not expect to see them we need to start thining them out!!
4/18/2026	First Name: Mike Last Name: K Email: Surfmedic67@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks need to be harvested and actively managed because their growing abundance is creating real impacts on both fisheries and safety. We're seeing a significant increase in lost fish and damaged gear due to sharks taking hooked fish before they can be landed, which not only hurts recreational and charter fishing but also contributes to unnecessary waste. Even while spearfishing, the number of sandbar sharks present has become hard to ignore, they're consistently showing up in large numbers and quickly moving in on catches. Responsible, regulated harvest would help balance the ecosystem, reduce depredation, and support sustainable fishing without allowing one species to dominate to the detriment of others.

4/19/2026	First Name: Greg Last Name: Rapp Email: captain@sealeveler.com	I want to start off by saying I love sharks and that includes sandbar sharks. They deserve to be properly managed and management should lean more toward the conservation side of things. That being said, the population in my area of Cape Canaveral and other places I have fished North and South has exploded. We deal mostly with sandbar sharks in our cases of fish depredation but bull sharks are also a huge problem. It has gotten to the point where we commonly have days that we can barely land a keeper fish. This is the case no matter how much we move around, change depth or fishing styles within our time and budget limitations. We can't get target species past the sharks. This is a huge concern for the future of my business because it it limiting my ability to gain repeat customers. If I can't get my customers a few fish to keep, they will not charter fish with me again. It is actually starting to impact the tourism that offshore fishing brings to Florida. You need to open up sandbar sharks to commercial harvest and help rebuild the commercial shark fishing industry. sandbar sharks and bull sharks need to be open to commercial harvest. I know bull sharks are but there is no market for them now with the fin ban. Most recreational anglers have no interest in keeping large sharks. I do support opening sandbar sharks up to recreational harvest but much like bull sharks very few people want to harvest them or are capable. Please do something before it is too late. We are on the cusp of irreparable damage due to overall bad management decisions or management that is to slow to act.
4/19/2026	First Name: Adam Last Name: Sadr Email: Mightydolphin84@yahoo.com	Too many sandbars has become a big issue

4/19/2026	First Name: Tyler Last Name: Howes Email: Duckkey116@aol.com	There are way to many sandbar and bull sharks out off our coast out of port Canaveral. As a charter captain having such a dangerous animal trained to the boats and the sharks knowing what the boat means (Food). Every fish should be regulated if we regulate fish, sharks should be regulated as well(sandbars and bulls are the main problem)
4/19/2026	First Name: Stan Last Name: Mickle Email: Stan@sealeveler.com	Please open the sandbar sharks for commercial and recreational harvesting, they eat so many of our fish while reeling them in it's unbelievable, I'm getting tired of telling my paying customers- well you had a nice fish but he's GONE again. Reel in I'll retie your line, days when the fishing is tough and you get 4-5 opportunities and catch 1 fish and the other 4 get eaten makes it hard. We used to do some commercial fishing when we were not charter fishing but can't catch an amberjack anymore even with the electric reels cause the sharks eat them Please do anything you can to get this problem back under control. Thank you

4/19/2026	First Name: Noah Last Name: Van Epp Email: noahvanepp@gmail.com	I have been fishing out of Port Canaveral Florida since 2006, and my family has been fishing out of Port Canaveral since the early 70s. Sandbar shark encounters while diving or fishing were a rare occurrence but did happen on occasion, which was probably an indicator of overfishing and a poor stock. For the last decade and a half their population offshore of Port Canaveral has increased exponentially. I spent years working on local headboats and other charter operations, and I can't think of a trip that didn't include hooking a Sandbar shark at one point. I love the sharks and I want them to remain, but we're at a point where they have become a nuisance, and are harassing fishermen and divers alike. These sharks may be highly migratory, but I can guarantee that these sharks are learning to associate boats with free meals and have the local reefs and wrecks covered. It seems that we have reached a point where the population has rebounded, and now it is impacting not only anglers, but the health of the habitat that they are in. I feel as if sandbar shark populations have reached a point that sustainable recreational and commercial harvest can take place, and this resource can be responsibly managed.
4/19/2026	First Name: Matthew Last Name: Hardy Email: Matt.hardy.csep@gmail.com	Open up Sandbar sharks. We catch them every single trip while not fishing for them.

4/19/2026	First Name: Mark Last Name: Rowe Email: fishnhuntallday@gmail.com	I have fished and mated on the east coast And west coast of Florida for almost 40yrs, since 2005 ish , The amount of sandbar sharks we see on a daily basis and the crazy amount of hooked fish they eat is ridiculous. Kingfish, grouper, snapper, amberjack doesn't matter we lose honestly 90% of fish on a rod and reel. It's not just a single shark most of the time you can look over the side and see several swarming your fish . Something HAS to be done.
4/19/2026	First Name: Michael Last Name: Adkins Email: Captainmikedkins@gmail.com	As a charter/commercial business owner the out of control population of sandbar shark has greatly affected my livelihood. Navigating around weather and space x launches when we do get a window to fish the the sandbar sharks eat everything we hook from 5 to 40 miles out. This has caused many struggles for my business. If something is not done to change this gross mismanagement of the sandbar I will loose my boat and business

4/19/2026	First Name: Russ Last Name: sinclair Email: russ.sinclair77@gmail.com	holding a grouper snapper permit for the last 15 years, I very rarely to almost never participate in the group or snapper fishery and Amber Jack's due to the large volume of sandbar sharks, especially during the winter months I also hold a directed Shark permit and I happen to catch a large volume of these sharks anywhere from 3 miles out to 300 feet of water which off the Cape is a span of 25 miles
4/19/2026	First Name: Mark Last Name: Marlow Email: Fishndude@hotmail.com	I've fished off Central Florida's east coast my whole life, since the mid 70's and I've never seen sharks in these numbers. If they don't thin the number of these Sandbar sharks , then there is really no purpose in lowering size limits and bag limits because the sharks eat 8 out of 10 fish that you hook before you can even get it to the boat to release it.

4/19/2026	First Name: Mike Last Name: Penate Email: Mikepenate@hotmail.com	The sandbar population is out of control making it almost impossible to land any fish they need to be thinned out . Commercial and recreational seasons need to be opened.
4/19/2026	First Name: William Last Name: Golt Email: Williamgolt@ymail.com	There is obviously a shark problem that should be addressed if you have fished offshore in the last 5 years you'd see for your self . Not sure how population is assessed but there is more sharks now than I have seen in the pas 20 years of fishing on reefs and even pelagic makes fishing very hard

4/19/2026	First Name: Last Name: Email:	Hello, when I'm bottom fishing and up to 250 feet of water, we encounter sandbar or bull sharks roughly on half the catches. I've caught sand bar sharks trolling as well in 100 to 250 feet of water. The sharks are more than a nuisance, but they are depleting fish stocks, and frustrating anglers. There should be an opportunity to harvest sharks to thin the herd. Thank you
4/19/2026	First Name: Maek Last Name: Dash Email: markdash01@gmail.com	I have been diving out of Port Canaveral for 40 years. There are way more sharks today than 30-40 years ago. Sandy's and bulls. It use to be e rare to see them now we see them on nearly ever dive. They have become more and more aggressive and often need to be jabbed with a spear to keep them away from you. WAY TOO MANY!

4/19/2026	First Name: Travis Last Name: Tanner Email: Capttravis5454@gmail.com	The number of sand bar sharks has gotten out of control, its ha4d to catch anything past them anymore
4/19/2026	First Name: Dustin Last Name: Rapp Email: Tightworkcaptain@yahoo.com	Sandbar and bull shark population has exploded the last 15yrs it’s really almost sickening the amount of fish we lose to them. And if it’s not blatantly obvious, just do a simple search to any fishing channel on YouTube they all say the same thing “sharks ate this” “sharks ate that”. let them commercial shark guys work.

4/19/2026	First Name: Alex Last Name: Myers Email: Xalxxyo@yahoo.com	The sand bar shark population is out of control. These sharks are eating all the species fisherman are trying to target. Years ago I never lost so many fish to these sharks, it's not worth even fishing at this point because we were loosing all our trophy fish to these sharks. I personally gave up charter fishing because there's no money in loosing every fish you hook for clients.
4/19/2026	First Name: Jeff Last Name: Emery Email: Jse360@aol.com	I have been commercial fishing and diving since 1988 offshore of Ponce inlet. There has been a drastic increase in sandbar sharks over the past decade! There's just so many you can't get away from them even if you move spots! I used to see one per year while diving now I see sometimes seven or eight per dive. So many fish are lost to shark predation it's almost not worth going fishing anymore! Please reopen this fishery as soon as possible both commercially and recreationally.

4/19/2026	First Name: Matthew Last Name: Costin Email: matthewcostin1@gmail.com	I fish and dive in the Florida panhandle and the most prevalent shark species we see offshore is sandbar sharks. Their population has steadily increased over the years and they've begun to be a nuisance for fishermen. They will hang around boats and eat the fish off of fisherman's lines. I would say that the sandbar shark should be given a high stock assessment in the gulf based off of my opinion
4/19/2026	First Name: Eugene Last Name: Harris Email: fishkatdady45@gmail.com	Predation of hooked fish by these sharks has gotten progressively worse over the last 12 years. To the point they eat your fish within 3-5 cranks on high speed reels. Spear fishing is more like tug of war with sharks. Past time to address this problem

4/19/2026	First Name: Rick Last Name: Martin Email: Captrickmartin@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks are getting worse and worse every year.. Seems like they're getting smarter and intentionally wait till you hook into a fish to get an easy meal.. from north Florida to where I now fish in the keys, these sandbar sharks are ridiculously over populated and aggressive!
4/19/2026	First Name: Ronnie Last Name: Rapp Email: Bigfisher32one@gmail.com	Hello, my name is Captain Ronnie Rapp, owner and operator of Catch Dog Sportfishing Charters out of Port Canaveral, Florida. I'm submitting this comment in hopes of seeing meaningful action taken regarding the growing population of sandbar sharks. From my experience on the water, this species has become extremely overabundant. They are present on nearly every major reef and most wrecks we fish, which makes it increasingly difficult to target other species. This often leads to frustrating trips and dissatisfied clients. I fully support conservation efforts and understand that sharks play a vital role in the marine ecosystem. However, the current population of sandbar sharks appears to be out of balance and needs to be managed more effectively. At this point, it's impacting both the health of our fisheries and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. There is a significant, sustainable resource here that could be better utilized while also helping restore balance. I strongly encourage NOAA to consider management strategies that allow for responsible population control of this species. Thank you for your time and consideration and please let's do something about this!

4/19/2026	First Name: Antonio Last Name: Giambanco Email: antoniogiambanco@me.com	I’ve been long lining sharks for the last 15 years. The sandbars are always a shark that we caught outside of 30 fathoms now I’m catching them on the 3 mile line mixed in with the black tips and when the water gets cold in the low 60° I’m catching 5 to 10 pound sand bars and it’s this way from Key West all the way up to New York and Maine. They’re catching the sandbars everywhere in places where they’ve never seen them before they’re catching them also in the sounds and the estuary up to the north. They even in New York eating the striped bass. needs to be a mandatory opening of the sandbar fishery and go back to the 4000 pound trip limit that we were on.
4/19/2026	First Name: Christopher Last Name: Eunice Email: Chrispocean@gmail.com	First and foremost, thank you for allowing us a platform to address the ongoing issues we're experiencing in our local waters. Along Florida’s Space Coast, fishing has long been both a pastime and a livelihood, but in recent years many anglers have noticed a frustrating trend: an apparent overabundance of sandbar sharks interfering with their catches. Known locally as “sandbags,” these sharks have become increasingly bold, often stealing fish directly off hooks before they can be reeled in. For fishermen, this is more than just an inconvenience—it represents lost time, wasted resources, and a growing challenge to an already unpredictable activity. The rise in these encounters may be linked to conservation efforts and stricter protections on shark populations, which have helped certain species recover. While this is a positive development from an environmental standpoint, it has also created unintended consequences. Sandbar sharks are opportunistic predators, and the vibrations of a struggling fish on a line make for an easy target. Over time, they may even learn to associate fishing activity with food, reinforcing the behavior. For recreational and commercial fishermen alike, the impact is significant. Losing a catch to a shark not only wastes bait and effort but can also damage gear and discourage participation in the sport. Some anglers report altering their fishing habits, such as changing locations or avoiding certain times of day, in an attempt to reduce shark interactions. However, these adjustments are not always effective, and the problem persists. Addressing this issue requires a balanced approach. Protecting shark populations remains important for maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, but there may also be room for better management strategies, increased research, or education on how to minimize shark encounters while fishing. Ultimately, the goal should be coexistence—ensuring that both marine life and the fishing

4/19/2026	First Name: Ian Last Name: schurman Email:	Sandbar Sharks are clearly overpopulated. Many days you cannot get any fish to the boat without being eaten. Diving has become dangerous. Commercial and recreational harvest should be opened to regulate the sandbar shark population! Thank you for your time
4/19/2026	First Name: Harrison Last Name: Hernandez Email: Gator7578@me.com	The sandbar shark population has extremely exploded in the last 10 years or so and is a huge threat to fish populations and anglers. Since the sandbar shark commercial fisherman closure they have completely over run the reefs and wrecks offshore of the east and west coast. Now we have to kill way more fish then ever before to have a good day of fishing because some days half or more of what we hook gets mauled by packs of hungry sharks. All populations must be kept in check, especially the ones the can hurt the ocean more rather then help it.

4/19/2026	First Name: Kc Last Name: Back Email: Kcback91@gmail.com	The sandbar population is out of control any reef wreck or anything holding fish is loaded with big sandbars just waiting for a fish to be hooked they have not only become a problem with just massive numbers of them but also evolving to follow around boats picking off easy meals one after another making it near impossible to bottom fish anymore it’s become a very serious problem over the last handful of years and something needs to be done about it
4/19/2026	First Name: Michael Last Name: Stiltner Email: Triggerrichfishing@gmail.com	The sandbars have gotten to be out of control the last 3-4 years. When you go fishing at wrecks or natural bottom as soon as you get a fish close to the boat a sandbar is eating it. Those sharks are so big you don’t even stand a chance to get the hook out of its mouth or even your lead weight back.

4/19/2026	First Name: Dylan Last Name: Anderson Email: Dylanjanderson22gmail.com	Deal with them everyday eating clients fish need to do something!
4/19/2026	First Name: Scott Last Name: Sheffield Email: Scottsheffield1985@yahoo.com	These sharks are by far the most common I encounter past 90 ft. They are literally everywhere and I can’t even keep one. I’m lucky to catch 2-3 fish on a spot before several show up and eat anything I hook into. This increasing the mortality of reef fish being targeted. The shark population and namely the sandbars is completely out of control and needs immediate action to make a more balanced ecosystem.

4/19/2026	First Name: Logan Last Name: Anderson Email: Logan.Anderson11@aol.com	These sandbar sharks out of Port Canaveral have officially ruined offshore bottom fishing. Drop a rig on any decent wreck or reef for snapper, grouper, or whatever's biting, and it's game over the second that fish starts fighting. They have been holding thick, swarming boats, stealing catches right at the surface, and even following your boat everywhere you go. They're turning every decent bite into a free buffet for them while we reel in nothing but cut leaders and frustration. Time to rethink the whole game plan. Thank you for your time
4/19/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Cameron Email: firedupcharters@gmail.com	I am writing to you on behalf of the local fishing community to express our growing concern regarding the escalating sandbar shark population in our waters and its profound impact on our fishery. Over the past 30 years, I have witnessed firsthand the changes in our ecosystem. In the early days, sandbar sharks were a spectacle—occasionally blowing up a kingfish at the boat, which was an incredible sight. However, what was once a rare event has now become the new normal. Today, these sharks are omnipresent, and their presence has become a significant obstacle for our fishing operations. Currently, sandbar sharks are consuming a large portion of our targeted species such as grouper, snapper, and other reef fish. We have observed them not only offshore but now along the beaches, with many caught with long-line hooks. This overabundance has led to a decline in catch rates and has negatively impacted our ability to operate fishing charters, which are vital to our local economy. Many of our customers have expressed their disappointment, and some have even raised concerns about the sharks themselves. We believe that the current population levels of sandbar sharks are unsustainable and require management interventions to restore balance to our ecosystem. We respectfully request that appropriate measures be considered to control the sandbar shark population. This may include regulated fishing, targeted removals, or other conservation strategies to help reduce their numbers to sustainable levels.

4/19/2026	First Name: Nathan Last Name: Brady Email: Brady350@hotmail.com	The sandbar shark as well as bull shark population are both flourishing. This has only been noticed after certain regulations were put into place with the commercial fisherman that would target these species. The protection of the sandbar shark and the banning of shark fin sales are to blame in the restock of these species. I agree that sharks play an important part of the oceans ecosystem, but just like how a shortage of sharks affects the ecosystem a surplus of sharks also affects it as well as well as making the waters more dangerous to get in for divers and such. These sharks have become aggressive in ways we've never seen before, not only eating the fish we hook on a daily basis but also attacking things that are not fish such as trolling motors, down rigger balls, inline planers and even trim tabs as they are in a frenzy trying to eat. Something needs to be done to get this imbalance fixed right away.
4/19/2026	First Name: Riley Last Name: McKenna Email: Rmck22@live.com	Most trips it’s hard to get more than one or two fish off the bottom before every fish get hit almost instantly from Boca to the keys. The Everglades shark issues have rose as well

4/19/2026	First Name: Haley Last Name: Straney Email: haleystraney@gmail.com	The sharks are absolutely horrible here out of port canaveral, fl. I have lost countless fish to the sandbar sharks.
4/20/2026	First Name: Adrian Last Name: Martinez Email: Thefishhandler@gmail.com	The sandbar shark situation in the state of Florida is something that I've watched developed over the last 25 years. When I was younger, we would see them. But never did I believe that they would get us out of control as they are now. You can't find a single angler that doesn't have a run in with multiple sandbar sharks per day while fishing. Certain fishing spots are pretty much unusable anymore because of how many sandbars congregate around some of the shipwrecks. The reason why this is happening is because they haven't allowed the harvest of the shark for a very long time due to incorrect data, and a moratorium on the sale of shark fins. I think in today's modern day and age we can effectively regulate commercial shark fishing and the sale of shark fins to do it in a sustainable fashion. If we don't many of the species that are very important to Florida, economies and ecosystems are going to be threatened. One of the problems that no one speaks about is that because of the sharks in order for a fisherman to put a nice catch together a lot of times they will continue to try to beat the sharks to the boat, which causes a lot more fish to die for the fisherman to even come close to catching his limit. But more often than not it just ruins everybody's day and takes away prized fish from fisherman. Many fisherman are leaving the sport because the juice isn't worth the squeeze. Please reconsider opening the harvest of Sanbar sharks in a controlled fashion for the commercial sector, To help thin the population that is completely out of control. Multiple times a day I have multiple sharks chasing a fish to the surface and most of the time they get it. I've had to resort to using electric reels with very heavy line to have any chance of catching something. But in certain types of Fishing or like Tackle necessary it pretty much is 100% lost to the sharks.

4/20/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Sumrall Email: Csumrall84@gmail.com	Something needs to be done with these sharks. They are a nuisance to our fishery. Many times I have had a nice grouper or snapper hooked up and only get half of it to the boat. It’s a waste of fish at that point. We need balance.
4/20/2026	First Name: Nick Last Name: Clay Email: redfish1559@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks are taking 90% of our catches. Fished on 4/19/2026 out of Port Canaveral, and every stop we made we were greeted by multiple sandbar sharks. They are taking our fish and destroying our takle. Please do something to help our fishery.

4/20/2026	First Name: Arcy Last Name: Raptoulis Email: Arthur.raptoulis1@icloud.com	I work on a head boat out of port canaveral. These things eat probably 75-80% of the decent fish we hook. Negatively impacting the environment, businesses, and recreational fishermen. It’s absolutely out of control. If you’d like to witness it get back to me and I’ll show you first hand.
4/20/2026	First Name: Carl Last Name: Richards Email: aquaholic75@hotmail.com	Shark / angler interactions are having a negative impact on on many fish species populations. What I see as a fishing charter guide, is that 8 out of 10 fish hook ups will be taken by sharks

4/20/2026	First Name: James Last Name: Ross Email: Captjimross@cfl.rr.com	Please allow some form of recreational and/or commercial harvest of sandbar sharks in the Atlantic Ocean. Their population is increasing rapidly and they are now becoming a major problem for anglers trying to catch fish on just about every reef or wreck in the 60 to 250 foot depths. It's frustrating to hook a nice Cobia or king mackerel and get it taken from you but these overly aggressive sharks. I don't even try to bottom fish anymore because they eat everything I hook. I'm not going to reward bad behavior on their part by continuing to fish and feed these things when they feel that struggle in the other end of my line.
4/20/2026	First Name: Edward Last Name: Manen Email: eddiemanen80@gmail.com	There is never a trip the tax man doesn't show up on. My last trip out, on Mayport Majesty there were 7 sandbar sharks caught and of course successfully released and another 10-12 that were seen in the water. The issue was that 4 amber jacks, 2 cobia and 7 red snappers were ravaged by the sharks.

4/20/2026	First Name: Jesse Last Name: Bowling Email: Jessebowling218@gmail.com	I have only been reef fishing for about 5 years now and the sharks problem is unbearable in some spots around 21 fathom reef in Port Canaveral it is very discouraging to ride 30 miles to get there trying to catch trigger fish or vermillion snapper and keep pulling on red snapper which end up being eaten by sharks. Then you have to move spots cause they will swarm your boat by the dozens. I had a great spot there 4 or 5 years ago but we really cant even fish it anymore cause all we are doing is feeding red snapper (which have also over run the reef) to the sharks. If i move deeper to the 27 usually the same issues shallower all red snapper. Always closed for some reason though🙃
4/20/2026	First Name: David Last Name: C Email: David.carlyle1982@hotmail.com	Sandbars are protected for a reason! Inconveniencing a fisherman is not a reason to play god. We don’t dictate when something’s overpopulated. Catch and release safely only!

4/20/2026	First Name: Lance Last Name: Email:	The over abundance of sharks along the Florida’s coast are extremely high. The sharks make it extremely difficult to catch anything without being eaten first. Please move forward a means to cull some of these problematic sharks.
4/20/2026	First Name: Benjamin Last Name: ONeal Email: Benfish22@hotmail.com	Im in East central Florida sandbar sharks are out of control I do alot of diving and fishing and reefs and wrecks are absolutely inundated with them. Sharpnose sharks used to be our most prevalent shark they are almost non existent anymore so the conservation of one species has decimated another.

4/20/2026	First Name: Rene Last Name: Gonzalez Email: Rg84930311@gmail.com	We loose 7 out of 10 fish in Southwest Florida to these sharks every trip now. They seem to just get worse year after year. This last Thursday we lost 6 big red groupers trying to reel them in and sandbar sharks would take them.
4/20/2026	First Name: Ethan Last Name: Negron Email: Negronethan40@gmail.com	Absolutely mind blowing that NOAA won't admit that there is a serious overpopulation in sandbar sharks. Over the past 5 years that I have been a charter fishing captain the sandbar sharks have gotten so bad to the point they will eat everything over 5 pounds if it is hooked. You have zero chance at catching anything large fishing over ship wrecks. I have personally counted 12 sharks over one amberjack and that doesn't even scratch the surface. Even trolling over our reefs we have to work as fast as possible to pull a fish to the boat or it turns into a beacon on the surface for sandbar sharks to rally to. Either way there needs to be an effort to bring these animals to a hault.

4/20/2026	First Name: Jenn Last Name: Lenderman Email: Jenn_lenderman@bellsouth.net	Anywhere we fish offshore, we are bombarded by sandbar sharks. Whether it’s a catch and release or an intentional harvest, most fish are attacked by this type of shark while we are reeling it in. In the rare occasion the fish survives, they are attacked following release back into the water. This species of shark is overpopulated.
4/20/2026	First Name: Austin Last Name: Vanderpool Email: avanderpool321@gmail.com	It's pretty simple to see they're over populated and need proper management.

4/20/2026	First Name: Steve Last Name: Collins Email: collinssteve270@gmail.com	The sandbar sharks are out of control. They swarm like packs of wolves to almost every fish that gets hooked and you rarely get a whole fish to the boat. Most times it’s just the head. They needs to be harvested now.
4/20/2026	First Name: Jason Last Name: Harlow Email: jasonharlow54@yahoo.com	The abundance of sand bar sharks is overwhelming. Every trip where I bottom fish we run into more than one. It is time to do something.

4/20/2026	First Name: Jon Last Name: Lauda Email: Jlauda@icloud.com	These sharks are on every bottom spot we fish. Can’t hardly get anything up past them. They are eating everything that we hook. Make me not want to fish anymore
4/20/2026	First Name: Haley Last Name: Scott Email: Poncefishnetwork@gmail.com	As owner of Ponce Fish Network, I represent media for 15 charter vessels out of Ponce Inlet, and sandbar shark depredation has become an increasingly serious issue for our fleet. Captains are dealing with it at levels that feel unprecedented in recent years, especially around reef species. There is a legitimate argument here locally that red snapper discard mortality is being directly increased by sandbar shark depredation during release. That repeated firsthand experience deserves stronger consideration in the stock assessment process.

4/20/2026	First Name: Alek Last Name: Turko Email: alekturko@yahoo.com	I have fished the Space Coast/Treasure coast for 15 years. The number of sharks in the past 5 years has gotten completely out of control. At times there are 3-5 sharks swimming around the boat on most trips. Every trip i am losing 5-8 nice snappers to sharks, mainly sandbar sharks and bulls. something must be done to control the population.
4/20/2026	First Name: Joey Last Name: Spoerle Email: Jspoerle@gmail.com	I started out in the fishing industry roughly 18 years ago out of Port Canaveral, Florida. Since then it has been my full time career and I have spent thousands of hours on the ocean. In the last 18 years I have seen many changes, the most notable and dramatic is the increase in the sandbar shark population. I would like to note, Sandbars and Bulls are the only species of shark whose numbers have increased to the point of a major economic and environmental disaster. 18 years ago it was super cool to see a shark eat a fish while the angler was catching it, it happened once every so often and added a little excitement to the trip. Today, they are practically eating the boat and it is no longer exciting. I began to grow very concerned with this issue about 5 years ago when they started following our boats and eating pelagic species such as sailfish and mahi. It has gotten to the point that we can hardly harvest a fish most days and our commercial and charter fishing business is suffering as a result. I ask that researchers, lawmakers, scientists, and whoever needs to see it with they're own 2 eyes put down the computers, false data, and objectives and come see the issue we deal with daily. I volunteer my vessel, expenses, and even lunch to anybody that needs to see first hand the unbalanced ecosystem these bans on sharks have created. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Harold J. Spoerle

4/20/2026	First Name: Jonathan Last Name: Sorensen Email: jonsorensenSR@gmail.com	The Sandbar Shark numbers have exploded, and appear very much out of balance at present. The depredation by sandbar sharks (and bull sharks) make it virtually impossible to land any fish, and it would appear some reduction in the population of Sandbar sharks is necessary to restore balance.
4/20/2026	First Name: William Last Name: Knight Email: Knighttommie@bellsouth.net	I have been fishing out of port Canaveral since te mid 70s the sharks are very bad lose about 60% of reef fish and day. All so numerous pelagics

4/20/2026	First Name: Rick Last Name: Case Email: oursea123@yahoo.com	Allow commercially regulated harvest of sharks. They eat every fish regardless of size or season. I am a 100 Ton USCG Captain for 40 years on Atlantic coast.
4/20/2026	First Name: Bob Last Name: Straney Email:	The over population of sharks out of Port Canaveral has changed the way my family and friends enjoy the Atlantic Ocean. We use to scuba dive 8a and Pelican for lobster and fish all the time, but now we don’t because we are very concerned with what could happen with that many sharks around us and a stringer full of fish!! And of course the bottom fishing is hit or miss. The sharks are definitely enjoying the fish we hook up more than we are!!!

4/20/2026	First Name: Eric Last Name: Simmons Email: Ericdustinlane@bellsouth.net	The sandbar shark assessment is way too low. They are numerous on any structure, natural or man made. You can hardly fish without them destroying the fish tackle etc. We have seen them eating other there are so many. Please reduce the restrictions, when you go to fish and all you can hook are red snapper and sandbar sharks the balance of the ecosystem is out of balance.
4/20/2026	First Name: Jeremy Last Name: Smith Email: red4067@gmail.com	Please put some type of management program on sand bar sharks I've fished the east coast of Florida for 40 years and have never seen the shark population as bad as it has been for the last 10 years it's gotten to the point that roughly 30 to 40% {and that is a estimate could very well be higher}of all bottom fish hooked are eaten before they can be harvested by the anglers and of that percentage probably 90% of which are from sand bar sharks

4/20/2026	First Name: Kurt Last Name: Boyken Email: kurtboyken@gmail.com	When I first started fishing offshore over a decade ago in my area of Port Canaveral, it was uncommon to lose fish to sandbar shark depredation. The sandbar shark population has increased substantially every year in 40 to 300 ft of water. Around the late 2010s, I stopped fishing a few excellent bottom fishing spots due to sandbar shark depredation. As of the past few years, there's very few spots you can target larger bottom fish without dealing with sandbar sharks eating most or every fish you hook. Even king mackerel fishing over the reefs is becoming harder due to sandbar and bull shark depredation. I appreciate seeing the success of conservation bringing back a concerningly low population of sharks, but it is time for a managed sandbar shark harvest to keep the population balanced. There are hundreds if not thousands of sandbars sharks in every offshore structure along the whole east coast of Florida. The sandbar shark depredation issue is destroying the offshore fishing industry in Florida and displacing people to fish other more pressured fisheries such as in coastal estuaries. Please open a managed harvest of sandbar sharks.
4/20/2026	First Name: Hunter Last Name: Fields Email:	The shark population in the gulf has done nothing but increased even since we started fishing heavily 4 years ago. There are not many if any reefs available to catch multiple reef fish species from snapper to grouper without atleast half the fish you hook getting ate by a shark. This leads to people simply discarding the remains and keep fishing yielding harvest number data that is unrealistic. This issue needs addressed through limit changes and possible bounty rewards. Thank you for your time.

4/20/2026	First Name: Jeff Last Name: Rathey Email: jeffrathey@gmail.com	On the topic of Sandbar sharks, there are way too many of them, bring back commercial harvest. It's getting ridiculous, not only are they eating our discarded fish, they're eating them off the line. They follow the boat, so you can't just go to a new spot. I know this because I had one follow me for an entire outing, it had a leader hanging out of its mouth, so it was very obvious that it was the same shark. The only way to lose one is to turn off the sounder and run several miles, they hone in on the clicking of the transducer. I've done both commercial and Charter over the past 30 years, and it's completely out of control. It's bad enough we have to compete with the Dolphins, but the sharks take it to a whole different level to almost jumping into the boat to get your fish!
4/20/2026	First Name: Ian Last Name: Dils Email: Firstmatemarinefl@gmail.com	The growth in shark population and their blatant boldness has increasingly become an issue on the east coast of FL. A re assessment of sandbar shark management is highly welcomed

4/20/2026	First Name: Last Name: Email:	Sandbar along with many other species of sharks are very overpopulated in the NE Florida region
4/20/2026	First Name: Sean Last Name: Strahlo Email:	The amount of sandbar sharks seem to have exploded in the last 10 years. It is now virtually impossible to land any bottom fish of size without shark predation. Balance needs to be restored in our fisheries.

4/20/2026	First Name: Justin Last Name: Ferreira Email: Justinferreira42@gmail.com	Yes we are tired of the sharks overpopulation and destroying the other fish species population. Thanks for the attention to the matter
4/20/2026	First Name: Daniel Last Name: DeGrazia Email: degrazia.daniel@yahoo.com	East coast Florida commercial. Born and raised here. I've never seen sandbars at this level. They have become unpredictable and bold, unlike most other species we encounter. It's simply become unsafe. I've got a chewed up speargun to prove it.

4/20/2026	First Name: Micah Last Name: Tolliver Email: Bluewatermrt@yahoo.com	Thank you for hearing us. , I have always loved catching Sharks I think they are exciting & my clients really enjoy seeing and catching them. I know that we have been protecting them for a decades, that's a good thing. Unfortunately now it seems like the Sharks are overpopulated in Central Florida. They definitely make it hard to get fish to the boat and a lot of times if we release a fish that is not in season or undersized , the Sharks eat it on the side of the boat or on its way down. please open a season on sandbars, thank you, Capt Micah Tolliver
4/20/2026	First Name: David Last Name: Clay Email: David9clay@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks are horrible for the reef, eat 75% of the fish we hook

4/20/2026	First Name: Nic Last Name: Stephens Email: Nssurfer22@aol.com	I am a Headboat owner/operator out of N.E. florida and I cannot put into words how detrimental the Sandbar sharks have been to my operation. Been doing this for 20 years and we went from maybe 10 to 15 sandbarshark encounters per year in 2004 to about 2018 to now 5 to 40 encounters PER DAY from 2019-2026. If this new stock assessment on sand bar sharks shows that they are still undergoing over fishing or that they are considered over fished than the data you are using is either old or too old and flawed and a new stock assessment (after this one0 should start again IMMEDIATELY. - the law preventing the sell of shark fins should be reversed immediately!! (should have never happened) -Unvalidated Trip tickets (dealer reports) should not be used at all in the stock assessment process!!! Trip tickets prior to 2007/2008. had no "species separation requirement" meaning these fish houses were reporting all of their shark catches as sandbar sharks on their trip tickets which would give stock assessments a false sense of actual biomass of a species. These trip tickets are NOT REAL VALIDATED DATA!!!! Those arent scientests or observers that filled out those trip tickets!!! DO NOT USE AS DATA OR SCIENCE because its not. open sandbar sharks commercially and recreationally and reverse the fin ban. We have let the wolves in the hen house long enough. thank you.
4/20/2026	First Name: Brent Last Name: Kempton Email: Hoogboats@aol.com	Sandbar sharks are the most common shark seen underwater while diving and spearfishing off the Gulfcoast in the Tampa Bay area. We rarely saw any sharks 10+ years ago. Now it is a 100% chance of seeing them anytime we dive in the Gulf, all months of the year. They are very aggressive and have attempted to attack us twice.

4/20/2026	First Name: Don Last Name: Hoekstra Email: Donhoekjr@gmail.com	The sandbars are getting insane. We've had them eat lobster bags. My buddy had hogfish eaten off his side while he was swimming. They're getting kinda wild a tons of them. We need responsible shark fishing again.
4/20/2026	First Name: Joel Last Name: McDaniel Email: McDaniel8402@gmail.com	I am an avid scuba diver and fisherman on both coasts of Florida. On any given dive at any offshore location on either coast, the sandbar sharks have become so numerous as to pose a real risk during diving or spearfishing. When fishing with rod & reel, it has become very difficult to pull a fish off of a wreck or reef without having the fish cut off by sharks. Although species vary, the sandbar sharks are the most numerous and most prominent. I support harvest of the sandbar sharks to help manage their numbers, preserve biodiversity on reefs and wrecks, and make fishing and diving safer and more enjoyable

4/20/2026	First Name: Tommy Last Name: Eberhardt Email: Tomeberhardt14@gmail.com	Last time I was fishing the rock we had what seemed to be a school of smaller sandbar sharks and spinner sharks eating all the fish we hooked onto. Later that afternoon we workout out to manacamp wreck where I could guarantee 10 sharks swarming sandbars and bull sharks well over 8 fts, which we caught a cobia on but later got eaten after being caught due to the sharks. There has been a massive increase in shark populations and the sharks eating fish we are trying to catch.
4/20/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Akers Email: Johnakers1@gmail.com	From Cedar Key to the Tortugas 10 miles to 130 miles offshore the Sandbar shark populations are so out of balance they are jeopardizing our entire Gulf fishery. We have days where every number we fish it is impossible to get a bottom fish to the surface, we are simply feeding the Sandbars. Common sense is needed to open a season and publicize this fishery. They are decimating our fishery in the Gulf.

4/20/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Stark Email: stark.john.131@gmail.com	As a charter captain in the gulf we do alot of bottom fishing on reefs, in recent years it has become more and more of a shark problem. It was more consistently sandbar sharks. More than bulls spinners all of them it has been mostly sandbars eating our reef fish. It is not uncommon to have encounters with them multiple times a day. Something needs to be done it’s getting worse.
4/20/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Stark Email: stark.john.131@gmail.com	As a charter captain in the gulf we do alot of bottom fishing on reefs, in recent years it has become more and more of a shark problem. It was more consistently sandbar sharks. More than bulls spinners all of them it has been mostly sandbars eating our reef fish. It is not uncommon to have encounters with them multiple times a day. Something needs to be done it’s getting worse.

4/20/2026	First Name: Adam Last Name: Mooty Email: Mootyblues88@gmail.com	I have charter and commercial fished out of port canaveral since 2009 and key west from 2014-2017. The population of sandbar sharks out of port Canaveral has gotten completely out of control. Doesn't matter if you are bottom fishing or trolling from 40' of water out to 400' you lose fish due to depredation from sandbar sharks. Every spot you fish we are losing fish to sandbar sharks. My 3 years spent charter and commercial fishing in key west they got very bad as well. When I first started fishing key west you would lose fish every so often to sandbars, by 2017 we were losing fish to sandbars every single trip. Take into consideration opening sandbar sharks to commercial and recreational harvests for the sakes of the livelihoods of many fisherman.
4/20/2026	First Name: Don Last Name: Miller Email: dlminsf@aol.com	I'm a Retired US Navy, 100% disabled (T&P). I spend approximately $1800.00 a year fishing the Port Canaveral on a Charter Boat. This equates to 26 trips a year or twice a month. When we (25 - 50 people on board) go out, almost half of the fish (Groupers, Kingfish, Mutton, Red and Mangrove Snapper) or more we catch get "Sharked". Sharked is a term we use because it happens all the time. Your hooked fish gets eaten by a shark. A hooked fish can't evade the shark. This gives an unfair and dangerous advantage to the shark. You spend hours catching them only to have your catch eaten. Many of them are Red Snapper, when out of season we throw them back. The sharks eat them before we can do that. Please open shark harvesting ASAP before the recreational fishing ends because of these issues. Last time I went fishing, 5 hook ups, 5 fish "Sharked"

4/20/2026	First Name: Logan Last Name: Bussart Email: Loganbussart@bellsouth.net	Please regulate the charges and figure out something real about this problem. We are all having as fisherman.
4/20/2026	First Name: adam Last Name: lyons Email: adam@alazama.com	The sandbar shark population is far too high and this rich marine resource should be open to commercial and recreational fishing. They are often the number one suspect for reef fish depredation in the gulf.

4/20/2026	First Name: Kyle Last Name: Boise Email: Truegrif@gmail.com	More sharks means more fish. Leave them alone. We need to fund classes to teach people how to fish for specific species apparently.
4/20/2026	First Name: Aidan Last Name: Callahan Email: Aidan@anglerenvy.com	We need less sandbars hard to have happy customers and happy fish when they all get eaten by sharks under the boat

4/20/2026	First Name: Keith Last Name: Kalbfleisch Email: 4keith.k@gmail.com	I believe that sarks are an important part of a healthy marine ecosystem. However, wino control the populations have gotten out of hand. Please look at responsible ways of harvesting them and controlling their populations. Thank you
4/20/2026	First Name: Connor Last Name: MacDonald Email: cmacdonald@marinetowing.com	Sandbar sharks and Bull sharks are wreaking havoc in the South Atlantic and the Gulf coast waters. Whether bottom fishing or trolling, it is a struggle to get fish past these sharks. I have charter fished, commercially fished, and now strictly recreationally fish and every year the shark problem gets worse. Something needs to be done to put the shark population in control. It is a guarantee that you will lose fish to sharks while offshore fishing.

4/20/2026	First Name: Tony Last Name: Grillo Email: CaptainTonyGrillo1@yahoo.com	I've been fishing out of Port Canaveral since I was a kid, and now it's 66, I've seen firsthand how much things have changed. We used to hardly see sharks, but overtime their numbers have exploded due to poor management. In my experience, and in talking with others along the coast it feels like they've become far more common from Maine to Texas. While protecting sharks is important, I believe the current approach may be out of balance. Sharks are aggressive predators, and they're growing present, seems to be affecting reef, ecosystems, and other fish populations. I think there needs to be a more balanced approach, using more accurate science and thoughtful management, to ensure the overall health of the ocean.
4/20/2026	First Name: Richard Last Name: Briles 2 Email: Richbriles@gmail.com	We have way to many sharks here in ponce inlet and all the way down the east coast. No matter the day you best believe a shark is going to steal your catch atleast once that trip and everyone next to you as well. There is no getting away from them. We need regulations for these predators. They only eat the good fish being caught and destroys a perfectly good dinner that could of been had and that was the point of the trip. A memory that got eaten in front of you instead of you eating it with your family to finish making that memory and the taste of a fresh catch.

4/20/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Borys Email: John_borys@comcast.net	Shark populations are regulated by the same ecological principles that govern every apex predator on the planet. They have slow reproductive rates, late sexual maturity, long gestation periods, and small litter sizes relative to their prey species. Bull sharks specifically don't reach sexual maturity until around 8 to 10 years of age, and a female might produce only 1 to 13 pups per litter after a roughly 12-month gestation. Compare that to the reproductive output of the baitfish and prey species they feed on. This is Ecology 101: Apex predator populations are governed by what's called top-down and bottom-up regulation. Their numbers are limited by prey availability, territory, intraspecific competition, and environmental carrying capacity. The ocean doesn't produce more apex predators than it can sustain. It never has. That self-regulating balance is the product of hundreds of millions of years of evolutionary refinement. The idea that sharks are somehow breeding out of control and exceeding what the ecosystem can handle contradicts everything known about predator-prey dynamics. When someone says sharks are overpopulated, what they almost always mean is "I'm seeing more of them than I used to".
4/20/2026	First Name: Jon Last Name: Wright Email: Jonmcs1@msn.com	The sandbar shark population in southeast Florida has become a threat to fish populations especially over the last 3-5 years. When more than half of the fish caught are eaten by predominantly this species of sharks before they can be brought to the boat, then more fish are dying than need to. These sharks are apex predators and getting very smart about associating the sound of boats to an easy meal. Hundreds and hundreds of fellow fishermen in the gulf are all experiencing the same thing. Changing the number of fish we can catch and keep will only exasperate the problem as more and more are lost to sharks in search of one or two keeper fish. Perhaps it’s time to allow harvesting of sandbar sharks to equalize the fisheries to a level of sustainability for ALL fish populations. Please listen to all the captains and fellow recreational fisherman like myself on this topic, as we are all out there, all the time, and can give a TRUE account as to the health of the fisheries. Thank you.

4/21/2026	First Name: Hayley Last Name: Shinn Email: Hayleyshinn2@gmail.com	Too many sharks out of port canaveral. There needs to be a cull/ or higher regulations for this species. You cannot bottom fish without having a shark chase your bait every time.
4/21/2026	First Name: Philip Last Name: Lombardi Email: Surferp52@gmail.com	There are way too many sandbsr sharks. You can't even bottom fish anymore without getting shared. .

4/21/2026	First Name: Marvin Last Name: Tyler Email: Mtyler647@gmail.com	I fish regularly each week out of Cape Canaveral. Over the past ten years I have seen the general increase in the shark population become a growing problem. Especially the sand bar sharks have now made many of the traditional spots unfishable. Every trip out of if you are bottom fishing or trolling you are going to lose fish to the sharks. It is past time that the shark regulations were lifted.
4/21/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Trulock Email: John.trulock@yahoo.com	I am a recreational fisherman in central florida. We fish the Atlantic off of port canaveral. With regards to the sandbar shark, I have to say I was surprised to learn that it’s a migratory species. I thought they lived on our reefs in the 75-80’ range. Because they are consistently on the reefs year round and they make it difficult to get fish to the boat without getting eaten by sandbars. I have been fishing these waters for 15 years. And I’ve noticed the last 2-3 have been really bad. Definitely a problem and they certainly seems to be over populated.

4/21/2026	First Name: Scott Last Name: Carullo Email: Scott@flhsi.com	There are way too many sharks that constantly eat just about everything you try to catch in many areas. I've been fishing off Canaveral for over 40 years and it's worse than it has ever been. Not just a few spots, but almost anywhere you drop from 30 feet to 300 feet there's a better than average change you will get sharked. They have learned to follow boats and eat their catch. Time to get rid of the ones that have learned that tactic. Appreciate your consideration.
4/21/2026	First Name: Michael Last Name: Nolan Email: solution.1@live.com	Sandbar sharks on Florida East Coast are exponentially higher population than even 10 years ago. I don't remember losing a fish to sharks back then and now it's uncommon not to get bitten of by sharks. I think a season to harvest them is essential to increase other species of fish populations

4/21/2026	First Name: J Last Name: C Email:	Sharks are out of control. Something major needs to be done, they are a nuisance everywhere
4/21/2026	First Name: Sandy Last Name: Bussen Email: Bussmando1@gmail.com	Need to bring back the domestic sale of fins. This could reestablish the Comercial side of shark fishing
4/21/2026	First Name: Michael Last Name: Murray Email: mike@murrayventilation.com	I believe the stock assessment for the sandbar shark is way under what the population actually is. From South Florida to the Mid Atlantic, I have had depredation of hooked fish from sandbar sharks, both bottom fish as well as pelagic. Common sense management through regulated commercial fishing could balance the population, in my opinion.

4/21/2026	First Name: Wil Last Name: Recob Email: wrecob@yahoo.com	These sharks are plentiful in waters 150-250’ around Sebastian. Lose fish to them all year long
4/21/2026	First Name: Rodney Last Name: Raw Email: rodneyraw@gmail.com	I have been diving/spearfishing primarily off Canaveral, Ponce & Sebastian since 1978 (and some off the Central West Coast). Sandbar sharks (and Bull sharks) have greatly multiplied in numbers and in the last few/several years have become much, much more aggressive. My perspective (maybe right, maybe wrong), is that they just aren't harvested anymore and the population has exploded as they likely have few (if any), natural predators. I think attacks on swimmers, surfers and divers will only increase at a high rate if something is not done to address their numbers. And, it appears that the "Environmentalists" have so much say that a bad outcome for those who like to spend time in the water is a foregone conclusion.

4/21/2026	First Name: Tom Last Name: Caskey Email: Romuless@live.com	Thanks for taking the time to read this. I am a recreational fisherman and spearfish. I fish out of Sebastian inlet from the beach to the east side of the gulf stream. 50’ to 250’ the sandbar and bull sharks are prolific when bottom fishing and trolling. 1-2 landed fish out of 20 or more hooked. They key in on boats, post up 20’ below and wait for your catch to to bring them their meal. Something needs to be done there are definitely too many.
4/21/2026	First Name: Garren Last Name: Malin Email: Garrenclemmonmalin@gmail.com	Unfortunately there has become a huge imbalance with the fisherie here out of port Canaveral and the east coast of Florida in general mostly due to the over Abundance of sandbar sharks! As a career charter captain it’s not only aggravating and unfair to my clients when 85% of the fish we hook get eat’in but it’s scary knowing that I can’t do my job anymore and if this continues there is no more future in charter/commercial fishing for myself or anyone…we have a viable resource that could be great for food banks or local restaurants to eat shark if you would open the commercial harvest of sandbar sharks and we can take back are once great fisherie!

4/21/2026	First Name: Aaron Last Name: Frattin Email: Frattin2@gmail.com	If you don’t start to control them we will.
4/21/2026	First Name: Jack Last Name: Hall Email:	I have lost over thousands of kingfish and red snapper along with thousands of dollars of fish due the sharks out of port Canaveral you guys must do something.

4/21/2026	First Name: Austin Last Name: Waddell Email: sticksnstones150@aol.com	The catch rate would be quadrupled if it weren't for the sharks. The amount of money and time lost in tackle is truly disgusting at this point and it has truly taken the toll on all recreational and commercial fisherman. Something has to be done as the sharks are ruining all opportunities, thus killing the sport and less fresh seafood on families tables.
4/21/2026	First Name: Austin Last Name: Hurley Email: Ahurley3006@gmail.com	Anytime we go fishing in the Atlantic it is very hard to have a successful trip due to the massive amount of Sand bar sharks I believe there definitely needs to be something done as weather or not you are catching a legal fish or not majority of the time it is eaten by a sandbar shark if you are bottom fishing.

4/21/2026	First Name: James Last Name: Lloyd Email: jlloyd386@gmail.com	I am 64 years old and have been fishing offshore of Ponce Inlet my entire life. The sandbar shark population in recent years has exploded. I can absolutely guarantee a sandbar will appear if you are fishing for amberjack, grouper, snapper or any other bottom fish. They are not isolated to wrecks, they are everywhere. Enough is enough. Thank you.
4/21/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Perri Email: perricj@gmail.com	Too many fish are being taken by sharks at all offshore reefs and wrecks! The sharks literally congregate as soon as they sense a boat and endlessly circle and take fish no matter what the species or size. This has increased significantly over the past 5 or more years.

4/21/2026	First Name: Lew Last Name: Childre Email: Apexsharkcharter@gmail.com	This resources in our opinion has been over protected for much to long, we need HMS to be much more flexible in the foreseeable future. All LCS species including sandbars still have such low trip limits that we still have no possible way of catching the quota. Other species such as Blacknose have not had a "decent" stock assessment since 2011 and yet we still throw thousand of dollars of fish over each month.
4/21/2026	First Name: donald Last Name: wagner Email: donaldwagner3rd@yahoo.com	please allow harvesting of sandbar sharks. there are way too many

4/21/2026	First Name: Mike Last Name: Chavez Jr Email: Chavezjr.Mike@GMail.com	The amount of pounds we lose on commercial trips, primarily to sandbars, is an incredible waste of our resources. Motors off, live bait only, moving around, fast electric reels, it doesn't matter. A couple bottom fish make it up then every one is eaten on the way up. Move, same thing. Hundreds of pounds of "harvested" reef fish not accounted for, income lost, gear lost, fish not hitting the plates of consumers. All due to shark predation. I am 3rd generation on the gulf with 40 years in myself and no one has seen anything like this. It's completely unsustainable. Same with for hire and rec. We can't keep taking the prey and leaving the predators this wildly out of balance. The true biomass harvested is likely 2x the TAC from all human sectors.
4/21/2026	First Name: Brett Last Name: Easterling Email: brett@southernseafoodmarket.com	Commercial fisherman in the NE Gulf. I would estimate that half of the total pounds of reef fish that we hooked from May to October this past year were eaten by sharks, mostly sandbars. From depths of 50 ft to 400ft, they are everywhere. Every commercial, charter, and recreational fisherman I know is having the exact same issue. All of the pounds of reef fish that are killed due to shark depredation are not accounted for in commercial landings nor recreational limits. Every year the problem seems to be worse than the previous. They are on live and natural bottom areas that we used to encounter sharks at. The sharks, sandbars specifically, are having an extremely detrimental effect on the snapper and grouper biomass as well as the livelihoods of the people that depend on the resource.

4/21/2026	First Name: Jake Last Name: Worthington Email: pelagicslayer@gmail.com	I work on an offshore sportfishing vessel based out of Oregon Inlet, North Carolina. In addition to dealing with an over abundance of Dusky Sharks we have noticed high numbers of Sandbar Shark depredation on blackfin tunas, king mackerels, and in one instance a sailfish when fishing inside 100 fathoms. In my free time I frequently beach and pier fish for adult Red Drum on Hatteras Island and the amount of Sandbar sharks I and others may encounter on any given day is absolutely abhorrent. Just this past Saturday 4/18/26 while sightfishing schools of Red Drum from a boat I witnessed Sandbar depredation of adult Red Drum that were hooked almost immediately after being hooked. After speaking with a few of the nearshore guides that fish out of Hatteras they have been seeing a significant increase in this activity as well. I hope that the data supports action on these and other sharks because I fear we have reached a breaking point in the sportfishing industry with shark depredation as a whole.
4/21/2026	First Name: Kyle Last Name: Adkins Email: snappertrapper927@gmail.com	As a head boat captain out of Port Canaveral I can attest over the last 10 years the shark population has become overwhelming I can safely say that 91% of my catch over 5 lbs get sharked on the way up and this is 7 days a week no matter where I drive the boat to in the ocean it's gotten to the point to where if a bait goes over the side free floating it gets eaten on the surface the fish never stand the chance for survival while fishing they've become too easy for the sharks to eat creating a larger biomass due to the overwhelming amount of Sandbar sharks on the reef there is no direction that I can leave out of Port Canaveral and be out of the sharks it is frustrating to the fisherman and myself in a balance needs to be established

4/21/2026	First Name: Kevin Last Name: Walker Email: Walkerkb23@gmail.com	The Sandbar Sharks are out of control. Big, everywhere, steal any fish you bring up. Should be a commercial harvest at least. Sell or give to food banks. Sharks are fine to eat. All my fishing buddies have same problem.
4/21/2026	First Name: Gary Last Name: DeSanti Email: Glstreesgary@yahoo.com	It is ridiculous that sharks are being scapegoated this way over these fishermens' greed and callousness. If we do not stop that mentality and realize that the oceans are vital to our own survival and the ecosystems in the ocean are dependent upon sharks to keep the balance. If we drive the sharks to extinction, we will fundamentally change that ecosystem and it will be a human calamity with very dire consequences for us as well.

4/21/2026	First Name: George Last Name: Clooney Email: Sharkdave72@yahoo.com	The sandbar population has exploded over the recent years . Further proof of their resilience in making a comeback much sooner than anyone expected. Or maybe , there wasn't a problem to begin with. Now that all the directed shark fishermen are out of business and the markets are lost due to all the regulation on sharks, maybe now HMS will do something productive about it. HMS told the commercial shark fishermen 15 years ago , " if you will just wait a few years , you'll get the quota back ". That was a lie , and it only got worse. They regulated everyone out of business. A far cry from what was intended in the Magnuson act. What will HMS do now ? Now that there is no fishermen left in the industry , no shark meat markets ? And the fin sales elimination act buried so deep in a 1600 page national defense bill that Trump can't even overturn it. I would hope HMS would do the right thing for a change and take off the binders that tie up the working man. The very ones that you now need to make a difference are no longer around. Most of the knowledge that is needed to harvest these sharks back to manageable levels is dead or gone. I don't know what possible solution you could ever come up with , short of allowing foreign fleets to come in to harvest sharks , because the damage is already done. The entire recreational and commercial industry is in an outright uproar It's past time to rectify this situation. We expect nothing less than HMS to drag their feet a lil longer.
4/22/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Wilke Email: Crwilke@att.net	We need more commercial shark harvest because anytime we go fishing. Offshore sharks are maths occurring a reef fish that we are catching it. You can't even throw them back in the water or reel them in before it's shark has ripped it in half and then you were not keeping any fish. Sometimes we can keep one fish for every five that is eaten by a shark before we get it to the boat. Please increase shark harvesting everywhere and open up more permits or other boats to harvest sharks.

4/22/2026	First Name: Jay Last Name: Wilson Email: cowboy1432127@yahoo.com	Been fishing out of Ponce inlet for over 35 years and within the past 10-12 years the shark predation has severely increased. Lots of legal snapper/grouper being wasted to the amount of shark interaction. Something needs to be done.
4/22/2026	First Name: Jonathan Last Name: Reynolds Email: Dekefisher@gmail.com	I have been fishing out of ponce inlet my whole life. Over the past 5 years the sharks have been getting worse. We can’t get any quality fish to the boat without sandbar sharks eating the whole fish or just half. It doesn’t matter what depths we fish at or what wrecks or reefs. Everywhere you go there are lots of sharks. If you get a fish to the boat without it being eaten there are at least 5 sharks after it

4/22/2026	First Name: Paul Last Name: Smith Email: Smittyson452@gmail.com	I have been fishing in the Gulf of Mexico for over 40 years. The shark population is out of control. If something is not done soon, the sharks are going to eat everything in the water. One day there will be nothing but sharks and porpoises.
4/22/2026	First Name: Ben Last Name: Cohn Email: londonbreaksbc@gmail.com	I am a recreational fisherman out of Cape Canaveral Florida. 50yr old and have been actively fishing FL waters for decades with Canaveral has home base. I have participated multiple with multiple EFP permits and do appreciate the opportunity to participate in the active real live study of our fisheries. Depredidation from Sandbar sharks is actually astonishing. We utilize all the best tackle and techniques to effectively harvest species from our fishery safely and effectively; however, the population of these sharks and others is extremely challenging to overcome. I appreciate and respect all fish however spending absorbent resources to enjoy our local waters and fish and then to be overtaken by the sharks on a daily basis it's ultimately out of control. We lose countless dollars in tackle which is not the important part it's the the fish that we are losing and wasting to depreditation that is ultimately the sad part. It is my hope and the hope of many others that you will strongly consider the local fishermen comments in your assessment of this fishery. Best regards, Ben

4/22/2026	First Name: Phil Last Name: Silver Email: Phillip.silver@gmail.com	The sharks are out of control where I fish off brevard county. Having a fish taken by sharks was rare for me 15-20 years ago. Now days I lose a fish to sharks every trip and sometimes multiple times a trip. I'm losing both bottom fish and pelagic fish.
4/22/2026	First Name: Careyc Last Name: Chen Email: Marlinarts@icloud.com	I've been living in Florida for more than 40 years and have fished the Keys, Miami, Ft Lauderdale, Palm Beach where I currently live and in the last 15 years I've never seen such a increase of the shark population in my life especially in Jupiter where the divers feed these sharks to make money while the fisherman suffers from sharks eating their catches. There has to be balance and these sharks have to be managed especially the sandbars which are out of control. The divers say they are endangered and will never say they are overpopulated because of their shark feeding business. This spreads to people who don't live near the ocean and it becomes false news. As a full time fisherman fishing over 200 days a year all over the world I can say the shark population has doubled on the east coast of the United States and gulf something has to be done to make a balance

4/22/2026	First Name: Robert Last Name: Londeree Email: Blonderee@live.com	The sandbar shark population on our reefs are quite abundant. They prove to be a very large nuisance on every fishing trip. A large tac should be established to balance their population.
4/22/2026	First Name: Carl Last Name: Torresson Email: Slobcityinc@gmail.com	Please do something about the sharks !!!! I run a charter and it’s absolutely sickening how many fish are eaten … please

4/22/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Reynolds Email: Chrisp.reynolds@yahoo.com	In regards to the sandbar shark population and the impact of the abundance of current populations affecting fisherman targeting reef species. Over the past few years every trip I have taken out to 60-100 ft the sandbar sharks (and bull sharks) are so overpopulated that we can NOT retrieve a snapper above 4 lbs from the bottom to the boat without several sandbar sharks swarming our fish and eating it immediately. We have upgraded our tackle to heavier tackle and still have not been able to retrieve fish from the bottom. With every 1 fish we land on average 6 will get eaten by the sharks. The population has grown out of control with the strict regulations on sharks the problem will only continue to get worse and harm our ability to fish.
4/22/2026	First Name: Maranda Last Name: Email:	The population of sandbar sharks is not exceeding what it should be. Yes, shark depredation is a common occurrence, but this has always been an issue. There are more people fishing today than there ever has been, so it is expected that there will be more encounters and conflict with sharks and humans. We depleted the shark populations when commercial fishing for sharks was opened in the early-mid 1900s. Sharks started being managed once a major decline in landings was seen around 1989-1990. 30 years later, sandbar sharks are finally showing preliminary signs of recovery. Yes, there are more sharks in the water now than there was 20 years ago due to the start of management. There are certainly not more sharks in the water than there was before we started commercially fishing for them in the early 1900s. Many fishermen who are fishing today, were not fishing before the start of commercial shark fishing, when the sharks as a whole were at a healthy population. Therefore, it seems to them that the shark population is “out of control” and “more than it’s ever been”. They did not experience the healthy shark populations that existed before commercial shark fishing. Moving forward, it needs to be about co-existing. There are ways fishermen can avoid depredation. Sharks have high site fidelity and have learned where hot spots for fishing are. When shark depredation is a problem at a very populated fishing spot, fishermen need to leave those areas and go to areas with less people fishing and less depredation. Many fishermen also comment on fish being feasted on by sharks upon release. In a study done by North Carolina Sea Grant, 1,096 fish were released with descending devices and sharks got none of them. Descending devices are required in many circumstances, but they are rarely actually used. Lastly, sandbar sharks should not be opened to commercial fishing. Every year, NOAA sets a quota for the commercial shark fisheries, and it has not been met in recent years. In 2024, only about 50% of the quota was utilized.

4/22/2026	First Name: john Last Name: borys Email: john_borys@comcast.net	Shark populations are regulated by the same ecological principles that govern every apex predator on the planet. They have slow reproductive rates, late sexual maturity, long gestation periods, and small litter sizes relative to their prey species. Bull sharks specifically don't reach sexual maturity until around 8 to 10 years of age, and a female might produce only 1 to 13 pups per litter after a roughly 12-month gestation. Compare that to the reproductive output of the baitfish and prey species they feed on. This is basic ecology. Apex predator populations are governed by what's called top-down and bottom-up regulation. Their numbers are limited by prey availability, territory, intraspecific competition, and environmental carrying capacity. The ocean doesn't produce more apex predators than it can sustain. It never has. That self-regulating balance is the product of hundreds of millions of years of evolutionary refinement. The idea that bull sharks are somehow breeding out of control and exceeding what the ecosystem can handle contradicts everything we understand about predator-prey dynamics. When someone says bull sharks are overpopulated, what they almost always mean is "I'm seeing more of them than I used to" or "I'm encountering them in places I didn't expect." And there are explanations for that which have nothing to do with runaway shark populations. Frankly, if localized bull shark numbers are healthy or recovering in certain areas, that's a conservation success story, not a crisis. That's the ecosystem functioning as it should. Let's call it what it is. When someone claims that an apex predator is overpopulated, the implied conclusion is always the same: therefore we need to remove some. It's the same argument that gets used against wolves,
4/23/2026	First Name: Ernie Last Name: Small Email: Loxclan1@gmail.com	Please open season. Cannot get a fish to the boat because of the over abundance of these sharks. They have became so common they follow your boat to wait for a fish….

4/23/2026	First Name: Dan Last Name: Kovalchik Email: rangerattus@gmail.com	These sharks have been sucking the joy out of my offshore fishing for a couple of years now. It's so frustrating to put so much time, money, and effort into an offshore excursion only to lose half of your hookups (and tackle!) to these sharks. Please find a way to manage their population!
4/23/2026	First Name: Spencer Last Name: Roberts Email: spencer.roberts@miami.edu	Sandbar sharks are not overpopulated. They are heavily depleted. The last SEDAR assessment estimated their 2017 spawning fecundity at 527,000 – down from a baseline of over 1,530,000 as recently as 1980 – a depletion rate of nearly 70% in less than 50 years. Trends show a modest recovery of sandbar sharks, which should be celebrated and allowed to rebuild on predetermined time frames. Instead, other critical assessments have been postponed to prioritize assessing sandbars, due to complaints from fishermen about sharks biting fish off their hooks. Financially invested interests have been quick to explain this trend as a problem of ‘overpopulation’, which is an incoherent concept for a species of such high trophic level, with little susceptibility to predator release. However, increased conflict can also be driven by an increase in recreational fishing pressure, which has steadily climbed in Florida over the past several decades. These patterns of conflict can also be explained by the critical depletion of sharks’ prey. 13/15 length-based population reconstructions of groupers, snappers, and grunts on Florida reefs are depleted below 40% spawning potential ratio (Ault et al., 2022). Ten of these species are at less than 20% their historic spawning biomass, with some as low as 5%. Industry interests have campaigned to influence these regulation processes, hoping that repealing the sandbar shark retention ban will provide incentive to revive the directed shark longlining sector, “thinning out” sandbar sharks, and taking other species with them. As NOAA demersal longline survey data make clear, many other rare, imperiled, charismatic, and endangered species are caught and killed by this gear, including tiger sharks, hammerheads, sawfish,

4/23/2026	First Name: Josiah Last Name: Roberts Email: Josiahproberts@gmail.com	You must retain the sandbar shark fishing ban. These sharks are not overpopulated and this talking point has been used by fisherman to blame sharks for their own overfishing. We must protect these sharks, please do not repeal!
4/23/2026	First Name: scott Last Name: redmond Email: ssjr103@live.com	too many of them and every pther shark need a season on them

4/23/2026	First Name: Weston Last Name: Roberts Email: westonfroberts@gmail.com	Hello, I would like to submit a complaint about the prospect of lifting the longlining ban and the misinformation pushed by the fishing community concerning sandbar shark populations. These sharks are not in an abundance, they are at just 30% of their historic population. These incidents with fishermen are happening on account of depleted fish populations from fisheries everywhere. Sharks are becoming more desperate and are enganging in depredation to keep themselves from starving. It would be foolish to lift the longlining ban, especially when we take into account the broad variety of life that does as externalities due to this form of fishing. Please do not cave to the pressure of one very biased group pushing to exterminate wildlife that are in reality in a fragile state.
4/23/2026	First Name: Melody Last Name: Moore Email: melodymoore8@gmail.com	Reversing this Sandbar Retention Band would be a disastrous mistake. Within one generation, the Global shark populations have declined by 90% due to commercial exploitation, finning and indiscriminate longlining, which threatens not only Sandbars but also critically endangered species like Hammerheads. This destruction of apex predators destabilizes marine ecosystems. We must prioritize long-term ocean health over short-term commercial profit to prevent irreversible ecological collapse. The sharks need protection from US. We should NOT allow these beautiful creatures to be destroyed for economic or social gain. PLEASE protect these sharks!

4/23/2026	First Name: Christina Last Name: Sbrocchi Email: Christina.sbrocchi@gmail.com	Please do not repeal the sandbar shark retention ban. Please retain all protections in place for sharks of various species and ensure that longlining (commercial or otherwise) is prohibited. Doing so is cornerstone to ocean health and, in turn, economic health generated by ocean tourism.
4/23/2026	First Name: Jenna Last Name: Green Email: Jennaelectric@gmail.com	I support keeping the sandbar shark retention ban in place. Sandbar sharks are not overpopulated—they're still recovering from years of overfishing. They grow slowly, take years to mature, and don't reproduce quickly. That means even small increases in fishing pressure can undo decades of progress. The retention ban is working. That recovery didn't happen by accident—it happened because protections were put in place. Weakening those protections now risks putting this species right back where it was. And sharks aren't the real problem here—overfishing is. When we remove too many fish from the ocean, we disrupt the balance of the entire system. Then sharks show up in the wrong place at the wrong time, and suddenly they're the issue. But they're not—they're responding to what we've already changed. And when you target one species, you don't just get one species. You get everything that lives alongside them. That means hammerheads—species that are far more vulnerable and often don't survive the stress of capture. It means tiger sharks. It means animals that were never the target in the first place, but pay the price anyway. This isn't just about sandbar sharks. It's about the ripple effect of putting more pressure on animals that the ocean is still trying to recover. I've spent time in the water with sharks. I've seen what a healthy ocean looks like with them in it. They're not something to manage down—they're something we should still be protecting. Recovery isn't a green light to start taking again. It's proof that protection works. Please keep the sandbar shark retention ban in place. — Jenna Green

4/23/2026	First Name: Brittany Last Name: Powell Email: Jabrittany@msn.com	Don’t allow fishing of sharks, they are already depleted
4/23/2026	First Name: Sofía Last Name: Dumat Email: sofiadumat@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks are not overpopulated. They are heavily depleted. Do not reopen season on sandbar sharks and unleash commercial longlining on our fragile deep sea ecosystems and imperiled shark populations. Conflicts between sharks and fishermen are driven by shark prey depletion. A problem caused by fishing cannot be solved by more fishing. Maintain the sandbar shark retention ban.

4/24/2026	First Name: Jay Last Name: Tretter Email: jtretter97@gmail.com	Dear NOAA Fisheries / NMFS, I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the current sandbar shark retention ban. Sandbar sharks are a slow-growing and late-maturing species, with males and females reaching maturity around 13 to 14 years old and living approximately 30 years. Because of these life history traits, sandbar shark populations are especially vulnerable to overfishing and can take decades to recover once depleted. NOAA Fisheries has recognized that sandbar sharks were overfished, and although later assessments found that overfishing was no longer occurring, the stock remained overfished. The existing prohibition on retention outside the shark research fishery is a prudent, science-based measure designed to allow the stock to rebuild. Maintaining the ban also supports responsible fisheries management. The limited shark research fishery already provides a pathway to collect needed scientific data under controlled conditions, while preventing broader commercial or recreational retention from undermining recovery. For these reasons, I urge NOAA Fisheries to maintain the sandbar shark retention ban. The ecological value of healthy shark populations, the slow recovery potential of sandbar sharks, and the need for precautionary management all support keeping the current protections in place. Thank you for considering my comment.
4/24/2026	First Name: Peter Last Name: Kazeck Email: ghosthondo@gmail.com	Keep this longline ban In Place !! Instead of looking at the supposed number of sharks, NOAA needs to look at the number of fish in these areas ! It would seem to me that if the number of fish are down, the problem is the commercial fishermen, NOT the sharks. And .. what happens to the ecosystem if you keep removing the sharks ? Sharks are already under extreme pressure from those that kill them just for their fins or for sport.

4/24/2026	First Name: Kortney Last Name: Key Email: 2pinkieflowers@gmail.com	Only FISHERMAN are complaining there are to many sandbar sharks! It's insane to me to complain about too many creatures in the wild. The sharks belong in the ocean they self regulate we should not be taking them out. Fisherman are not above the law of Wildlife. Please do not allow this to happen as it is, our sharks are being killed off in massive numbers. Our oceans are overfished and if you allow this to happen, it’s because you all are being paid off and we will follow the money and you will be called out eventually.
4/24/2026	First Name: Charles Last Name: Veith Email: crvlily@me.com	Several studies show that protecting sharks helps promote other fisheries. In terms of sheer economy, leaving the sharks alone is the best thing to do. Keep up the protections and the good work. There is not enough incentive to start dropping long lines that can take out not just sandbar sharks, but many other protected species such as Great Hammerheads. Keeping up these protections is in your best interest. Unless there is something I don’t know, don’t be foolish for 5 seconds of abject greed. Thanks.

4/24/2026	First Name: Jeremy Last Name: Herz Email: herz.jeremy@yahoo.com	The data regarding the population of sandbar sharks does not match with the statement that they are overpopulated. Sandbar sharks are severely depleted, both according to field studies and the accompanying data of the marine biologists presenting their findings. To reestablish any sort of longline fishery for them sets not only a dangerous precedent, but also will negatively impact their recovery as well as the Ecotourism industry. Sharks are more valuable alive than dead, and Eco tourism to dive with them, brings in more money than any fishing industry focusing on harvesting these animals could ever hope to make. More stringent protection is needed for the recovery of this and the vast majority of all shark species. Beyond this, the shark fishing industry Often fails to take into the account, the heavy metal buildup in the bloodstream, tissue and meat of the sharks it harvests. High levels of mercury, arsenic, and cadmium present a high risk to humans through consumption of shark meat, likewise presenting health risks too great to overlook, ignore, or disregard. To that end, I highly recommend that any proposed longline industry for sandbar sharks be discarded, especially given the low reproductive rates and slow maturity rate of sandbar sharks, as they take around 12 to 13 years to mature, give birth to relatively few offspring every three years, and generally live about 35 to 40 years.
4/24/2026	First Name: Luis Last Name: Ramos Email: lxr2213@icloud.com	Please understand that the majority of the comments left here are victim to shifting baseline syndrome. These sharks are not overpopulated, fishermen have just experienced the dangerously low abundance of these species and believe that that's how it should always be because it what they are used to seeing. Sandbar sharks do not need to be managed as though they were pests through long-lining. The data is very clear, the more sharks are left alone, the healthier the fish stocks and the rest of the ecosystem. Many of these comments are misguided and uninformed. I implore you to please not open up the sandbar population to commercial fishing.

4/24/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Kamendy Email: johnnykamendy@gmail.com	Harvesting of sandbar sharks must be opened up, every single offshore fish we hook out of Jupiter is getting sharked by a sandbar or lemon. Hurting local fish populations as we have to hook 10 fish just to land one
4/24/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Kamendy Email: johnnykamendy@gmail.com	Harvesting of sandbar sharks must be opened up, every single offshore fish we hook out of Jupiter is getting sharked by a sandbar or lemon. Hurting local fish populations as we have to hook 10 fish just to land one

4/24/2026	First Name: Margaret Last Name: Howell Email: Margarethowellnyc@gmail.com	I am writing to urge the maintenance of strong protections for sandbar sharks (Carcharhinus plumbeus). As the SEDAR 101 process reviews the latest data, I request that the following factors be prioritized: Vulnerability to Overfishing: Sandbar sharks are exceptionally slow-growing, reaching maturity only after 13–16 years, with long reproductive cycles (pupping every 2–3 years). This biological "limit" means the population cannot recover quickly from even moderate increases in fishing pressure. Status as Overfished: Per the most recent assessments, this stock remains overfished. The current rebuilding plan aims for a target date of 2070. Any premature loosening of protections could jeopardize decades of conservation efforts. Ecosystem Importance: As apex predators, sandbar sharks are "ocean doctors" that maintain the health of coral reefs and seagrass beds. Their presence regulates prey species and supports the resilience of marine habitats against climate change. International Significance: Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, the U.S. population is a vital stronghold for the species globally. I urge the panel to continue the precautionary approach to ensure this species reaches its 2070 rebuilding goals. Sincerely, Margaret Howell
4/24/2026	First Name: A. Last Name: O'Brien Email: anjelicaobrien@gmail.com	There is no good reason to bring back longline fishing. Commercial fishing and sport fishing is already decimating critically endangered species; now you want to bring back a form of fishing that is banned in other countries and highly regulated in the U.S. FOR A REASON. Populations of mammals, seabirds, and critically endangered sharks that have existed for *longer than trees have been on the earth* are already facing unprecedented threats from commercial fishing practices and the regulations you've reversed; bringing back longline fishing in banned areas guarantees extinction for these animals, creating an unknown threat to the ecosystems they uphold. https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/oceanic-sharks-and-rays-collapsed-by-seventy-percent https://www.audubon.org/magazine/longline-fishings-unintended-victims-billfish-sharks-and-tuna https://sharkresearch.earth.miami.edu/longlining-a-destructive-fishing-technique/ Destroy the ocean at your own risk. With prices going up, wages going down, and a mandatory draft law being enacted soon, people have less and less to lose every day, and more and more to be angry about. You are *hugely* underestimating the amount of anger there is toward the fishing industry in this country; they've obviously bought off all of our politicians, and are being allowed to get away with ecocides that will have unintended consequences for future generations.

4/24/2026	First Name: Kimberly Last Name: Rognlie Email: kimberly.rognlie@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks are not overpopulated. They are heavily depleted. Do not reopen season on sandbar sharks and unleash commercial longlining on our fragile deep sea ecosystems and imperiled shark populations. Conflicts between sharks and fishermen are driven by shark prey depletion. A problem caused by fishing cannot be solved by more fishing. Maintain the sandbar shark retention ban. The people looking to repeal this ban and open the sharks to harvest are also people who do not understand the biology of a healthy ecosystem which needs to maintain a presence of the apex predator, whether or not it effects their ability to bring fish up from the bottom. I would be afraid for an ocean without these animals constantly being present as we all should be. Where there are more sharks, there are more fish. That is scientifically proven and we should not be messing with that. Do not repeal a good thing. It takes long, hard work by many, many people to put good measures in place such as these and repealing this ban would be a big step backwards. Thank you for your time and consideration on this highly important matter.
4/24/2026	First Name: Kym Last Name: Clark Email: Kymaclark@gmail.com	Given their depleted status and limited reproductive capacity, precautionary management is essential for sandbar sharks. Reducing or eliminating longline interactions with sandbar sharks is critical to allowing populations the time needed to recover. Recovery for this species is not measured in years, but in decades. Protecting native apex and mesopredators like sandbar sharks is vital for maintaining balanced marine ecosystems. I strongly urge continued and enhanced protections for this species, including minimizing longline impacts and prioritizing conservation-based management decisions grounded in their biological vulnerability.

4/24/2026	First Name: Guadalupe Last Name: Juarez Email: lupita201ggg@gmail.com	Leave the Sandbar shark alone. Stop overfishing!
4/24/2026	First Name: Amy Last Name: Godfrey Email: Amykgodfrey@yahoo.com	Do not repeal protections for sandbar sharks.
4/24/2026	First Name: Jaime Last Name: Email:	Do not allow commercial longlining on sandbar sharks! Keep the ban in place!

4/24/2026	First Name: Nathan Last Name: Email:	In contrast to some of the comments submitted by disgruntled fishers, sandbar sharks are not overpopulated. Their numbers are heavily depleted compared to historic population levels and removing more runs the risk of disrupting an already imperiled ecosystem. I understand it’s frustrating when a shark “steals” the catch (they’re just trying to eat, it’s not stealing), but this is their home. They deserve the chance to live and repopulate without being punished for existing in the same state they always have.
4/24/2026	First Name: Victoria Last Name: Wilson Email: vawdragon@hotmail.com	Commercial shark long lining needs to remain banned as Atlantic sandbar sharks still had a 70% depletion in their populations in 2017. They are still considered an endangered species and this will have dire consequences for the ecosystem. An ecosystem without sharks will die and there will be no more fish to be able to fish up.

4/24/2026	First Name: Margaret Last Name: Boyle Email: margaretnmboyle@gmail.com	Sharks are worth more alive than dead— both economically and environmentally. Sandbar sharks are one of the scores of sharks which bolster both ecotourism and ecosystems in areas wherein they populate. Removing protections of sandbar sharks will only return their populations to the same reduced status before the protection. Sandbar sharks already face anthropogenic threats with the protections, through bycatch, fish stock reduction, pollution, environmental degradation, and poaching. Removing the protections will only exacerbate these issues towards this species. I implore you to reconsider removing protections from the sandbar shark and consider the harmful effects on the species that would result. Thank you for your time.
4/24/2026	First Name: Grace Last Name: Van de Pas Email: Gvandepas@gmail.com	I have been fortunate enough to be someone who has spent time in the ocean with a sandbar shark. Iwas struck by how beautiful, intelligent, and gregarious they were. They are curious, but shy. They have the most elegant, long dorsal fin, which makes them a tragic target for shark finning. While I have had this fortune, I know fewer and fewer people will get to have this experience if we remove the protections this species has. The argument to open a longline fishery for them is exceptionally short sighted considering that the species doesn't reach reproductive maturity until their teens, and only reproduce every couple of years. In months, generations could be wiped out. It is clear the motive of moving this action forward- revenge against sharks for eating their already depleted prey, and to allow the United States to grow as a seller of shark parts- something that your average American is disgusted by with approximately 8/10 Americans stating they want a full ban of shark fin sales. The very part of sandbar sharks so sought after by the humans targeting them. I truly believe that if more people were aware of what is at risk, there would be a massive uprising in defense of our sharks. But this comment period has been intentionally left in the shadows to avoid the ocean lovers around the United States who would be appalled at this proposal. I urge you to recognize that we are fortunate to see our sharks show any rebound in their numbers, and that any loss of their protections is a great loss to us all.

4/24/2026	First Name: Tiana-Rae Last Name: Bordenave Email: Tianaraeb@gmail.com.	Do not reopen open season on our sandbar sharks and unleash the commercial fisherman to our fragile ecosystems. This species is critical to balancing our ecosystems and are not overpopulated. They are extremely depleted, some say by 70% of historical records. Conflicts between sharks and fishermen are driven by prey depletion caused by fisherman, not sharks. Maintain the sandbar shark retention ban!
4/24/2026	First Name: Adrian Last Name: Sanchez Email: adriansanchezhelp97@gmail.com	Please ban shark fishing, because sharks don't want to die and is killing them even necessary?
4/24/2026	First Name: Adrian Last Name: Sanchez Email: adriansanchezhelp97@gmail.com	How can we be a peaceful society if we are normalizing unnecessary violence?

4/24/2026	First Name: James Last Name: Mooney Email: Surfmooneys@gmail.com	Commendable protections being removed from our wild animals to make things more convenient for fisherman is deplorable. There are repellant technologies that can today be invested in and if commercial fisheries aren't willing to invest to protect our apex predators and rather lobby for protections to be lifted, they aren't fit to work anywhere near our oceans. Sandbar sharks and all sharks deserve protections from killing for convenience and sport.
4/24/2026	First Name: Mme Last Name: Walker Email: Reliantmobilerepair@yahoo.com	Hello, I wanted to post my family's frustration of loosing catches to sharks that seem to be growing every year. We have issue with this every time we go out all day everyday

4/25/2026	First Name: Emmeline Last Name: Hill Email: eshill93@gmail.com	These sharks are not overpopulated and are a critical part of a sustainable ecosystem!!! If we want fish populations to survive into the future we actually NEED sharks!! DO NOT RE-ALLOW LONG LINING!
4/25/2026	First Name: Erin Last Name: Turley Email: Erinalasha@gmail.com	It’s ridiculous that such a devastating method is coming back into consideration. Overfishing is not solved by more fishing. At some point, you have to care more about sustainability than the financial interests of the demanding fishing industry.

4/25/2026	First Name: Melissa Last Name: Spivey Email: melissanspivey@gmail.com	As the daughter of an avid fisherman who herself enjoys sport fishing as well as diving, wildlife photography, and wildlife conservation, I'd like to pose a slightly different view than most of the comments here. Two things can be true at once: just because sandbar shark interactions and sightings have increased does not necessarily mean the population has drastically increased to historically healthy numbers. Shifting baselines for wildlife populations are largely ignored in sportsman circles and not taken into consideration, which ignores the history of our incredible planet and science itself, as well as undermines true population recovery for a wild population. In short, a shifting baseline for any species population means that what people historically "remember" as a normal amount of a species in an area, is viewed as normal. However, due to the dramatic over harvesting of the past, many species that are just now beginning to recover are being seen and experienced more frequently than they were when their numbers were at an all time low. Even with increased frequency of appearance, these species have still not recovered to their historic populations that many generations of people have forgotten or never experienced, and trying to lower their numbers is at best a foolish setback to a recovering population and at worst a gateway to extinction. Like several others have suggested, I think it would be wise to target the actual problem rather than to declare open season on an opportunistic keystone species. Rather than allowing the harvest of an endangered species (which will never get removed from the endangered list if increased harvesting is allowed), it would be much more intelligent and worthwhile to target the root of the problems people are having. Utilizing shark deterrents when fishing (such as magnetic and electric devices) to discourage and disorient the sharks senses and decrease shark depredation overall is an extremely promising route that could serve fisherman and sharks alike. Why start fishing for sharks (which will increase their presence in an area, which is currently the problem) when you
4/25/2026	First Name: Bruce Last Name: Fuhrmann Email:	Hello I am highly concerned about the new regulations preposed for the sandbar shark. Since 1970 sandbar shark populations had declined over 70% until protections were put in place. But since 2006 their populations have recovered some. This legislation will undo that. Sharks can generate massive amounts of tourism revenue over their lifetime and will often be worth more alive than dead. Please listen to this and save the sandbar.

4/25/2026	First Name: Alex Last Name: Poulson Email: alexbl4k3@gmail.com	The anecdotal evidence of "I saw a shark during a dive/fishing trip" is simply not enough to determine that sandbar sharks are in overabundance. What other fish do you see every day? Do you think that they are a nuisance? When you go into the environment for something you are entering into that ecosystems food web. There is no reason to single out an already declining species for them acting out their part in that food web.
4/25/2026	First Name: Connor Last Name: Mimnaugh Email: conmarto06@gmail.com	I strongly disagree with the notion that sandbar sharks should be allowed to be fished. They are currently listed as "vulnerable" and despite some recovery since the 90's, they still lost 80% of their numbers and remain overfished. Any statement otherwise is just anecdotal. Predators competing with humans for a food source they've hunted for millions of years aren't the problem. The problem is the commercial fishers extracting too much from the ocean and putting ecological pressure on species to adapt or die. We've seen this with sea lions hunting salmon, and it's the same here. We can't just kill everything that might be a "nuisance". They're trying to eat too. They're only now starting to recover from our actions decades ago and only due to the rebuilding plans we implemented. Their numbers are still below historic levels and we should be trying to allow this species to recover, not culling it for convenience.

4/25/2026	First Name: Victoria Last Name: Email:	It is truly ridiculous the NOAA feels the need to bring back commercial shark longlining. Humans fish and fish and deplete natural resources and blame the very creatures that bring balance. YOU ARE NOT THE BALANCE. leave those animals alone. YOU enter THEIR territory. YOU take away their food. YOU complain about lack of catch when it is YOU who deplete the resources and then blame THEM for YOUR absolute IRRESPONSIBILITY. LEAVE. THEM. ALONE.
4/25/2026	First Name: Casey Last Name: Stuart Email: Casey.wallerstein@gmail.com	Sandbar, sharks and other sharks need to remain protected from long line fishing. The numbers are far from where they should be for a healthy environment. They're at 30% of what would be considered abundance and in fact, they're being depleted by our oceans being over fish in a lack of food resources available to them. We need to protect our environment so that fish and sharks will be healthy for future populations. The sharks keep our oceans in homeostasis and are a critical predator needed within the ocean to keep it healthy. The complaints are coming from fisherman, which is a commercial industry that is bleeding the natural resources of our environment

4/25/2026	First Name: Maru Last Name: Newby Email: me@maru.ca	The retention ban on the sandbar shark, the primary target of directed shark longlining, has protected thousands of endangered sharks, turtles, sawfish, and more from being killed by seafloor longlines. Those in support of removing this ban would be well advised to educate themselves on how biodiversity is of critical importance to maintaining adjacent populations of commercial species both now and in the future. The sustainable future of commercial fishing depends on good policy to maintain that biodiversity.
4/25/2026	First Name: Jim Last Name: Abernethy Email: info@scuba-adventures.com	I am submitting this comment in strong opposition to any repeal of the current sandbar shark retention ban. The sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) is classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List, reflecting a high risk of extinction due largely to fishing pressure. More broadly, over one-third of sharks and rays globally are threatened with extinction, highlighting their vulnerability to increased mortality. The current retention ban has been a key measure limiting fishing pressure and constraining expansion of commercial shark longlining in U.S. waters. Repealing it would likely increase mortality not only for sandbar sharks but also for other vulnerable species such as hammerheads and duskies. Calls to lift protections are being driven in part by stakeholders with direct financial interests in increased shark harvest. While stakeholder input is important, such incentives inherently favor higher catch levels and can conflict with long-term conservation goals for slow-growing shark species. Management decisions should therefore remain grounded in independent science and precautionary principles. There is no credible scientific evidence that sandbar sharks are overly abundant. Increased interactions with fisheries are more plausibly linked to declines in prey species and broader ecosystem imbalance. Given the Endangered status of sandbar sharks and ongoing ecosystem pressures, removing existing protections would be premature and risky. I urge NOAA Fisheries to maintain the retention ban and prioritize long-term ecosystem stability and bycatch reduction.

4/25/2026	First Name: Nathan Last Name: Eaton-Benterud Email: Nathaneatonbenterud@gmail.com	The population decline of sandbar sharks has declined by 70% as of the 2010s. Harvesting of this already vulnerable species cannot be allow, lest they face an irreversible decline. The people calling for the hunting of these sharks have no interest in preserving the oceanic ecosystems they are a part of.
4/25/2026	First Name: Deborah Last Name: Grinnell Email: diverdeb40@gmail.com	Sandbar and other sharks are not overabundant. They need protecting and longlining is not something that should be instated. Longlines will kill other shark species such as hammerheads and dusky sharks. Shark populations are in decline worldwide. Please show leadership and protect sharks instead of killing them to appease some fishermen.

4/26/2026	First Name: Steven Last Name: Wood Email: CaptKylewood@gmail.com	Harvest sandbar sharks.
4/26/2026	First Name: Lee Last Name: Starling Email: seanaleekw@aol.com	All sharks are out of control . esp bulls . the amount of predation on food fish is ridiculous. Also diving. pull the trigger and they show up immediately We need a cull or harvest . Places where I rarely saw sharks , Now have residence . They never leave . Most aren't even hungry. They maul , shred the fish and spit it out . . closed seasons don't make up for the loss of a mature fish , taken by a shark.

4/26/2026	First Name: David Last Name: Carlyle Email: David.carlyle1982@hotmail.com	The shark regulations and conservation MUST continue! The only people upset and complaining are charter fisherman that only care about their money and trip. They have no regard for sharks or fish conservation in general. Several comments already saying they will just illegally shoot them on their Facebook posts. Keep the shark conservation a priority!!!!'l sharks are a must. Fishing charters are NOT.
4/26/2026	First Name: Ben Last Name: Breslow Email: bbb3.1415@gmail.com	I am an american citizen who believes sandbar sharks should be protected and this rule should not be removed

4/27/2026	First Name: Riccardo Last Name: Benvenuti Email: Sailfishraider@gmail.com	Please pass this bill to protect vulnerable shark species that rarely survive being caught on beaches. Also fishing from beaches can create a hazard to beachgoers by attracting and training sharks that these areas have food due to bait usage while fishing for sharks.
4/27/2026	First Name: Evan Last Name: Johnston Email: Evan123@sky.com	Completely illogical. Sandbar sharks are slow growing, slow to mature, longlining opens up chance of bycatch in areas of sensitive areas for migratory sharks. Seriously disappointing this is open for discussion

4/27/2026	First Name: Daniella Last Name: Rascon Email: Darascon@gmail.com	The ocean does not belong to humans who complain about a sharknstealing their catch. In fact the humans are overpopulated and need to be regulated as to who, when, and how they can fish and the humans should never have a chance to kill animals that are just living as God intended them to.
4/28/2026	First Name: L Last Name: Albano Email: Whiteshark902@yahoo.com	The idea that shark populations are exploding is ludicrous-the biology/reproduction capacity of most sharks along with the overfishing and exploitation going on goes against that. And numerous scientists say the exact opposite. Thanks, I'll believe them over fishers, whose only concern is making money or their hobby at the expense of our wildlife. Fishers are stealing their food and sharks have learned to take advantage of these situations for easy meals-so tired of hearing about fishermans' depredation claims. Sharks should continue to be protected period.

4/29/2026	First Name: Ginger Last Name: Westhouse Email: Collagenmama@gmail.com	As a concerned citizen, I urge the SEDAR 101 assessment panel to recognize the critical ecological role sandbar sharks play in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. As one of the largest coastal shark species in the western Atlantic, sandbar sharks are apex predators that help regulate prey populations and maintain balance throughout the food web. Their slow reproductive rate and late sexual maturity make them especially vulnerable to population decline — and especially slow to recover. A robust, precautionary stock assessment is essential to ensure this keystone species is protected for future generations. I strongly encourage management decisions that prioritize the long-term health of the sandbar shark population.
5/1/2026	First Name: Kelly Last Name: White Email: Kelly.White87@gmail.com	Leave animals alone!!!

5/7/2026	First Name: CPWF Last Name: Chicago and Illinois Email: illinois@paulwatsonfoundation.org	After carefully reviewing the aforementioned proposal by SEDAR, The Captain Paul Watson Foundation (CPWF) Chapter for Chicago and Illinois announces it vehemently opposes this proposed rule to loosen protections for Sandbar sharks (Carcharhinus plumbeus) in U.S. waters and we recommend this proposal by SEDAR is not implemented in anyway, shape, or form. Sharks are vital components of aquatic ecosystems throughout the world including in the U.S., controlling populations of other fish species and ensuring ecosystem balance. Largely due to overfishing, shark populations globally are in decline and the Sandbar shark populations are no exception. In the year 1994 alone, the Western North Atlantic saw around 129,300 Sandbar sharks taken in the Western North Atlantic by commercial fishermen before the population there started to decline even more rapidly than before. The species has experienced a 60-79% population decline in just the last 50-75 years and the species is currently listed as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. It takes roughly 12-15 years (sometime more than 16+ years) for an Individual Sandbar shark to reach sexual maturity and they only reproduce every 2-3 years. Though they can have litter (or birth amounts) of 1-14 pups usually, only 1 in every 100 (and even at times 1 out of every 1,000) baby Sandbar sharks will make it to adulthood. This is an ecologically, slow growing species that can't afford any sort of large scale population losses, especially to commercial fishing. The uptick in more frequent encounters with fishermen and Sandbar sharks in the waters of the Southeast U.S. is easily explained by the growing scarcity (due to overfishing) of their food sources sharks getting more desperate and competing for depleting food sources. This includes the very same fish that commercial fishermen also catch at currently unsustainable levels such as Red grouper (Epinephelus morio) and Cubera snappers (Lutjanus cycanopterus). The risk of bycatch for other, even threatened species by this proposal to restart long-lining for Sandbar sharks is
5/8/2026	First Name: Addison Last Name: Smith Email: 60.tickets-empty@icloud.com	Sandbar sharks are extremely overpopulated in the gulf. They've been protected since 1993 and even noaa has said their numbers are no longer depleted. Come fishing with me and I will show you they are in high numbers. It is really bad out here off the coast of Texas.

5/19/2026	First Name: Kerwin Last Name: Arenas Email: Kerwin.arenas@gmail.com	Please do not increase catch limits for any shark species. I strongly oppose flexible recreational retention limits and urge NOAA to support alternative D1, to maintain existing limits for Atlantic sharks. More than half of the populations proposed for potential catch increases have never been assessed by NOAA. More than two thirds of shark species permitted for take in the Atlantic are internationally recognized threatened species on the IUCN redlist. Furthermore, I oppose increasing commercial catch limits for blacknose sharks and urge NOAA to support alternative C1, maintaining existing limits. Available assessments show blacknose sharks are heavily depleted and have only just begun to recover. The rebuilding of our Atlantic shark populations will take decades and has only just begun. I urge the National Marine Fisheries Service and broader NOAA leadership to seek solutions to shark/fishery conflicts that do not compromise rebuilding plans, keeping in mind that the steady increase in recreational fishing pressure and depletion of sharks' prey cannot be ignored as a factor
5/19/2026	First Name: Miriam Last Name: Auer Email: Miriam.auer@hotmail.com	This proposal is absolutely devastating for the ocean and for people. Sharks are vital for healthy marine ecosystems, so we must protect them not kill them and I am firmly opposed to any plan that increases shark fishing quotas.

5/22/2026	First Name: Pascale Last Name: Labarie Email: Emmalabarie@gmail.com	Please do not increase catch limits for any shark species. I strongly oppose flexible recreational retention limits and urge NOAA to support alternative D1, to maintain existing limits for Atlantic sharks. More than half of the populations proposed for potential catch increases have never been assessed by NOAA. More than two thirds of shark species permitted for take in the Atlantic are internationally recognized threatened species on the IUCN redlist. Furthermore, I oppose increasing commercial catch limits for blacknose sharks and urge NOAA to support alternative C1, maintaining existing limits. Available assessments show blacknose sharks are heavily depleted and have only just begun to recover. The rebuilding of our Atlantic shark populations will take decades and has only just begun. I urge the National Marine Fisheries Service and broader NOAA leadership to seek solutions to shark/fishery conflicts that do not compromise rebuilding plans, keeping in mind that the steady increase in recreational fishing pressure and depletion of sharks' prey cannot be ignored as a factor.
5/23/2026	First Name: Rebecca Last Name: Fetter Email: Bharding23@gmail.com	I love Sharks and believe it is vital for us to protect them. They are an important part of our ecological system

5/26/2026	First Name: Taylor Last Name: Stoner Email: Taystoner@gmail.com	This has to stop!!! We need sharks to keep the ocean in balance. When the Last Tree Is Cut Down, the Last Fish Eaten, and the Last Stream Poisoned, You Will Realize That You Cannot Eat Money. Our planet and future humans matter.
6/11/2026	First Name: Alma Last Name: Zimberoff Email: alma.zimberoff@gmail.com	I have been made aware that there are currently people advocating to raise kill limits for Sandbar sharks (as well as many other shark species) due to their population increases. Population increases by any other endangered and threatened species would be considered a cause for celebration, not a license to kill, but because they're sharks, for some insane and incomprehensible reason, we see their returning to stable populations as a threat. Sandbar sharks need to live 12-13 years to reach sexual maturity, these sharks (like most sharks) are not able to repopulate quickly after decades of unregulated overfishing, the fact that their populations are able to make a comeback is a glimmer of hope in a bleak world where countless animals are on the brink of extinction, and environmental protections are being ruthlessly stripped faster than they can be put in place. Sandbar sharks, like all sharks, are completely not interested in harming humans, and are some of the most beautiful, wonderful creatures that we get to share the world with. We already let fishermen kill certain numbers of sharks, what exactly are they fighting for? Sharks are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem, sharks have been on earth literally longer than trees, and human meddling has only caused catastrophic harm, overpopulated prey species, and countless dead and maimed sharks (hundreds of millions. Hundreds of millions.) The beauty and importance of these fish does not come from my love and appreciation for them, but I just want to share as a final note, that so many people truly love sharks, and want what is best for them, and that shouldn't be the reason for not driving them to extinction, we shouldn't need justifications to protect life on earth, but the ocean ecosystem needs sharks, and we do rely on the ocean for food and air. Please do not allow more sharks to be killed. We all know that legal regulations are the Only protections these animals have, and their only fighting

7/1/2026	First Name: Robin Last Name: Fotenos Email: rfotenos@yahoo.com	Please stop the useless killing. Please protect our wildlife. Without our wildlife, our planet cannot survive.
7/1/2026	First Name: Diana Last Name: Barreto Email: Diana.m.barreto@gmail.com	Protect Sandbar sharks
8/6/2026	First Name: James Last Name: Walsh Email: jdavidwalsh@gmail.com	I'm a recreational angler fishing southeastern Connecticut waters (Groton, Fishers Island Sound, and eastern Long Island Sound) regularly throughout the 2026 season. I'm submitting this comment to add first-hand, dated field observations to the record. Observations, 2026 season: Multiple reports this season of sandbar shark encounters directly tied to striped bass fishing — sharks taking hooked stripers off the line, or taking eels rigged for bass — in the waters around Fishers Island and the eastern CT shoreline. One specific report from Fishers Island of repeated difficulty landing hooked striped bass due to shark interception before fish could be brought to the boat. A trade-press fishing report (The Fisherman magazine, Aug. 3, 2026, AW Marina) independently corroborated shark-related striper depredation in this same area, alongside a separate thresher shark report just south of Fishers Island. These reports have been frequent and consistent enough this season that I've personally changed my own fishing practices — avoiding chunk/bunker bait specifically to reduce the chance of drawing sharks in, and fishing for other species entirely to conserve the striped bass fishery.

8/10/2026	First Name: Dave Last Name: Anderson Email: Danderson@thefisherman.com	I am the editor of a regional fishing magazine called The Fisherman (New England Edition) and we are seeing unprecedented numbers of sandbar sharks in the waters stretching from Cape Cod to Long Island. In some areas, Block Island, Newport RI, Fishers Island, Eastern Long Island Sound and Montauk, their numbers have steadily increased over the past 5 years to the point that, in some areas (Block Island being the worst) it has become impossible to fish for striped bass. These sharks seem to be tracking fishing boats and attacking every striper they hook. They are taking hundreds of bass per day across the region, and these fish are all our protected breeding age bass. It has gotten to the point now where I am advising our readers and followers not to fish for stripers in some of the most popular striper spots in the Northeast because the mortality rate is somewhere near 90%. That's a strange predicament for someone whose job it is to encourage people to get out and fish. Our charter captains are having to cancel trips because their clients want to fish for stripers, but they can't ethically take them to fish for bass and this is costing them thousands! You may not be aware that the striped bass has been experiencing an extended period of poor recruitment, it's been 8 years since we had a decent spawn. And quite frankly, we can't afford to lose all these spawning age fish. I know there's little you can do to curb the depredation in real time, but one thing that clearly needs to be read into record, is that your efforts to rebuild the sandbar shark stocks have worked 44 years in advance of your 2070 rebuild goal. And now it's time to take these sharks off the list of protected species, allow anglers to fish for them again and allow anglers to harvest them, as well. At this point, it's unlikely that any regulatory adjustments could enact any meaningful change that would work on behalf of our recreational striper fishermen and the thousands of affected charter captains, but if these sharks have recovered as much as they have in less than 20 years (protected since 2008), we all shudder to think what it might look like if they
8/24/2026	First Name: David Last Name: Prockop Email: dprockop@gmail.com	Anyone and everyone who fishes the Rhode Island coast knows that the number of sandbar sharks has climbed a great deal in the past few years. It used to be rare to see one but now, so many striped bass are hooked by anglers and then chomped by sharks that fishing near Block Island is nothing more than killing breeding-size stripers. This problem is not isolated to Block Island - I have seen the same thing taking place along the Newport coast. These sharks are everywhere and there can be no doubt that they will put an additional dent in the already-depleted striped bass population. If anglers are allowed to target sandbar sharks, it will provide an additional target to help sustain the recreational fishing industry through a time of very slow striper fishing while also giving the striper population a better chance of rebuilding. Please lift the restrictions on fishing for sandbar sharks! Thanks for your consideration, Dave in RI

8/25/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: McIntee Email: mcinteechris@gmail.com	I am a fishing guide in Rhode Island targeting inshore species like Striped Bass, Fluke, Bonito, etc. Over the last 4-5 years we began to see a new phenomenon that involved Sandbar Sharks eating Striped Bass that we were catching. It started out managable, happening here and there.. avoidable. But now, Every school of Stripers is surrounded, and every Striped Bass hooked is being killed by sometimes up to 10 Sharks competing over the Bass. I have cancelled all my summer striper trips at this point, and I occassionally stop by a Striper School to check on the Sharks, just last week the first bass we hooked was followed up, and destroyed, by 6 Sandbar Sharks. I left. I told my cliets we cant fish here. The Sharks are out of control. This was also the first year we lost a Summer Flounder to a Sandbar Shark. At this rate we will not have a fishery of any sort, be it Striper fishing or Bottom fishing, from early july through mid September. I fish all over RI and these sharks are everywhere I fish. Huge problem, we 100% need to be able to legally harvest these sharks. We have completely lost our Menhaden, I have seen 0, not a single Adult Menhaden this season, which is these shark primary food source. We also harvest all the mid tier fish like Fluke, Seabass, Stripers, etc to the brink of sustainability, while protecting the Apex Predators, and the the imbalance is clear. Please allow us to legally thin the herd on Sandbar Sharks, otherwise the New England Fishing Fleet will all become pirates, or, we will watch our fishery disappear. We've already lost the Striper Fishery.
8/25/2026	First Name: Brian Last Name: O’Neil Email: Boneil1@gmail.com	These sharks are overpopulated

8/25/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Kuderka Email: jjk5135@gmail.com	Please open the season on sandbar sharks. They have destroyed summer striped bass fishing. They are decimating the striped bass fishery. I am a full time fishing guide and I personally watch them eat 5-10 adult striped bass every day.
8/25/2026	First Name: Jack Last Name: Reynolds Email: Jhreynolds23@yahoo.com	The explosion in brown shark population throughout the entirety of southern New England has been nothing short of alarming. While many are claiming the presence of these sharks is a good sign it could not be farther from the truth. In particular the boom in sandbar sharks is a huge threat to the striped bass fishery, which is almost unanimously the most recognizable fishery on the entirety of the east coast, providing recreation and economic value for tackle shops, charter boats, guide services and more. These sharks are quite literally shadowing almost every school of striped bass in block island sound, the cape, and eastern Long Island sound, while reports in the western sound that used to be nonexistent are now common. Fisherman targeting striped bass are losing up to a dozen or more. yes DOZEN, striped bass per day due to these sharks eating them off of there line when this number was once 0-1. This population boom is causing conservatively 5x striper mortality in southern New England, not counting those bass eaten without being hooked, and those being eaten after release. Brown sharks offer very little value to fishermen unlike striper bass and it is clear they are on their way to wiping them out. Effectively wiping out all those businesses and recreational fisherman that have built lives around these fish. There MUST be a harvest on sandbar sharks. Predator management is a very real concept and not one made to wipe out a single species by rather protect others. The east coast fishery literally runs on striped bass, we need to do everything possible to protect that.

8/25/2026	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Washlick Email: danthefisherman75@gmail.com	we need to harvest sandbar sharks
8/25/2026	First Name: Kyle Last Name: Landers Email: Landerskyle@yahoo.com	We need to reduce the amount of sharks!
8/25/2026	First Name: Kyle Last Name: Rudnicki Email: Kylerud@icloud.com	There needs to be some kind of regulation and culling of the sandbar sharks. The striped bass population is already in critical condition and these sharks are more prevalent than ever. Every fisherman and every captain I speak with deals with them almost every single trip.

8/25/2026	First Name: Drew Last Name: Hansen Email: dmhansen28@gmail.com	Wouldn’t want a world where there aren’t striped bass in it. Open up a harvest for SANDBAR SHARKS. Save the species everyone loves.
8/25/2026	First Name: Mac Last Name: Hoggan Email: Mwh1990@gmail.com	Have had multiple striped bass eaten by brown shark this year
8/25/2026	First Name: Dylan Last Name: Savarese Email: Dylansavarese8@gmail.com	The brown sharks are wreaking havoc on our striped bass population we need to be able to harvest them and they need to come off the protected species list

8/25/2026	First Name: Ivan Last Name: Leybag Email: Van2leybag@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks are ruining the New England fishery.
8/25/2026	First Name: Randy Last Name: Schmidt Email: Randys22093@aol.com	Something needs to be done about the population. Just 5 years ago we would lose a striped bass to a sandbar shark maybe 2 times a summer. This year we have been losing 5-8 a trip day and night. There in the shallows and out deep.The striper population is starting to take a major hit because of them. We can’t get away from them, they seem to associate the boats with food.

8/25/2026	First Name: James Last Name: Presser Email:	The sandbar shark population is out of control. The striped bass are getting destroyed by them daily from Montauk to Block Island to Cape Cod. We need to open them for harvest immediately.
8/25/2026	First Name: Kevin Last Name: Sndrew Email: Kmandrew14@gmail.com	The sheer number of sharks off of Nantucket is staggering. Hundreds of sharks feet off of a popular beach stealing fish from surf and boat anglers

8/25/2026	First Name: Shane Last Name: Munizza Email: Shane.munizza@outlook.com	Too many sharks in our waters eating the fish we care about
8/25/2026	First Name: Matt Last Name: Kim Email: Mhkim696@aol.com	These things have ruined stripper fishing from boat and shore. You can’t catch bass without running into them and eating half of your fish. Make it legal to harvest some.
8/25/2026	First Name: Stan Last Name: Glowacki Email: sglowacki3@gmail.com	Please consider opening a season on brown/sandbar sharks

8/25/2026	First Name: Nick Last Name: Lombardi Email: nicholashenrylombardi@gmail.com	Please consider an open season for harvesting brown sharks. They are more than plentiful and are seriously hurting the Striped bass fishery, which is already in decline. Thank you.
8/25/2026	First Name: Justin Last Name: Kudlacik Email: Justin.kudlacik@gmail.com	Brown Sharks/Sandbar Sharks in the northeast need to have an aggressive management plan enacted. They’re too prolific and are destroying the ecosystem

8/25/2026	First Name: Matthew Last Name: Browne Email: Mbrowne06@sbcglobal.net	We need to eliminate some sharks before this population ruins inshore fishing
8/25/2026	First Name: Last Name: Email:	Over the last 2 years, the recreational fishing contingent here in Rhode Island (along with charter captains, etc) have witnessed an infiltration of sandbar sharks, and it’s quickly become an issue both for safety and for the health of the striped bass fishery in particular. we want these sharks dead, we need an open season to thin the herd, we've lost the summer block island Striper fishery, and half the Striper fishery throughout the rest of southern New England. There's no way any less then 200-300 adult stripers are being killed each day by sandbars through ct/ny/ri/mass. These sharks will come for our fluke and Tuna next, once the Bass go extinct..please make a motion to have an open sandbar shark season before it’s too late
8/25/2026	First Name: Last Name: Email:	Overpopulated killing other species that are in need of recovery

8/25/2026	First Name: Thomas Last Name: Nakonechny Email: Tommynako@gmail.com	Shark population is more than thriving while striper population and recent spawns do not hit the expected numbers and is struggling
8/25/2026	First Name: Shannon Last Name: Ford Email: Shannontford@icloud.com	Sand sharks are abundant and how about commercial fisherman target them Instead of fluke and sea bass which there are hardly any the size limit bc of them.

8/25/2026	First Name: Jack Last Name: Gapper Email: Jack.Gapper@outlook.com	The sharks are terrible for our northern ecosystem. We've never had them this thick ever in history. We don't want our fishery to be like Florida. We're more than half the fish that were real and get killed before the fisherman even gets it. Our dying tribe bass population is definitely gonna be negatively affected from this. If we're allowed to keep a few and keep the population down. I only see positive impact from that.
8/25/2026	First Name: Mario Last Name: Minder Email:	Didn't listen to the crying striper fisherman, listen to the biologists and science. Don't let the public with zero education dictate the species

8/25/2026	First Name: Ryan Last Name: Sullivan Email: Sullivan2989@gmail.com	As a Connecticut kayak angler, I want to highlight a major blind spot in this assessment: the heavy sandbar shark population in Long Island Sound is completely underrepresented by models leaning on southern data. In eastern and central LIS, sandbar sharks are a massive summer presence in shallow water and tidal rips. Crucially, broad surveys miss how heavily these sharks impact our fisheries through depredation. When we're targeting stripers with live eels, sharks constantly intercept our fish, skewing catch-and-release success and increasing discard mortality. You cannot rely strictly on southern or offshore metrics while ignoring the robust summer inshore populations in northern estuaries. Please factor in real-world local feedback on how these predators are shaping our ecosystems, and consider implementing a strictly managed permit or special tag harvest season to help address local population pressures. Thank you
8/25/2026	First Name: Anthony Last Name: Agro Email: ajagro23@gmail.com	There needs to be an open season on these sharks there killing striped bass in mass quantities every day something needs to change.

8/25/2026	First Name: Josh Last Name: Cohn Email: Joshccohn404@gmail.com	Keep the sharks protected. Anglers do not have more of a right to fish than sharks. These depredations are largely a result of changing ocean conditions brought on by human activities. Without robust fisheries management that stewards stocks to abundance, there will continue to be lashing out for scapegoats or alternative actions that do not result in reduced fishing access for anglers. Killing sharks, seals, or whatever other animal competes with humans for prey is not a realistic management policy unless the goal is continuing to deplete nearshore fisheries.
8/25/2026	First Name: John Last Name: Del sordo Email: Johndelsordo@gmail.com	Worried about exploding population of sandbar sharks in regards to striped bass. We get “sharked” (shark eats striper) often last 2 years. Never used to happen in jersey.

8/25/2026	First Name: Adam Last Name: Jannetti Email: Adamj109109@gmail.com	These sharks are destroying our fishery. Montauk is overrun with them, and the problem is only growing. I have witnessed firsthand a large number of super-spawning striped bass but in half from these sharks. We must do something before it is too late.
8/25/2026	First Name: Stefanos Last Name: Spiratos Email: stefanos.spiratos@gmail.com	We need an open season for sandbar sharks. They are wrecking havoc on our local striper population.

8/25/2026	First Name: Brayden Last Name: Steere Email: Brayden.steere@gmail.com	I believe sandbar sharks are a big threat to other fisheries in the Northeast especially the striped bass fishery. It seems like every year they get worse and worse in population, and are definitely hurting stocks of fish like the striped bass. Im a New Jersey angler, and it sucks to see what's happening up and down the coast from Jersey-NH
8/25/2026	First Name: Robbie Last Name: Caradonna Email: Robbiecaradonna09@gmail.com	The sandbar sharks are too prolific in our waters and are killing large numbers of striped bass. Action needs to be taken to reduce the population of these sharks

8/25/2026	First Name: Chris Last Name: Prozor Email: Cpro72503@gmail.com	Before all the striper are dead, can we begi thinnning out the brown shark? If you dint allow open season, it will destroy our fisheries.
8/25/2026	First Name: Zachary Last Name: Pesetsky Email: Zpesetsky@gmail.com	Sandbar sharks are putting serious pressure on Rhode Island's striped bass fishery. Spearfishing, I've personally seen them on Brenton Reef and right along the shoreline during striper blitzes, actively feeding on bass. Around Block Island, it's gotten especially bad—anglers are regularly losing hooked stripers to sharks, with estimates of 200–300 bass being killed by sharks on heavy fishing days. Striped bass are also a major economic driver for Rhode Island. They bring in recreational anglers from across the region and support charter captains, tackle shops, marinas, bait shops, restaurants, hotels, and other coastal businesses. When you start losing large numbers of bass to concentrated shark predation, it's not just a fisheries issue—it has real economic consequences for communities that depend on a healthy and productive striper fishery. The Block Island striper fishery is becoming a prime example of how dramatically the ecosystem has changed and why this issue deserves serious attention.

8/25/2026	First Name: Nicholas Last Name: Hutchinson Email: nhutch23@yahoo.com	I have observed a concerning and significant increase in the brown shark population in recent years, and it is having a noticeable impact on my fishing this season. I have unintentionally hooked or had sharks take my bait on numerous occasions, and I am finding that areas where striped bass were previously common are now much less productive, possibly due to the increased shark presence. I have also experienced several dangerous encounters, one while kayak fishing. On one occasion, a shark took a striped bass immediately off the bow of my kayak and struck the kayak hard enough that I nearly tipped into the water. This appears to be a growing problem. The shark activity this season is noticeably worse than last year, which was itself noticeably worse than the year before. The increasing shark population is significantly affecting both the quality and safety of my fishing experience.
8/25/2026	First Name: Collin Last Name: Revercomb Email: Collinrevercomb@gmail.com	The shark problem is out of control. Every single one of my shallow water summer striped bass spots is completely unfishable. From central Long Island sound to point Judith I cannot find a single rock pile without sandbars on them. It goes beyond the sharks just eating the hooked bass, they are legitimately feeding on them like baitfish. I've seen multiple times now on low tide where sandbars will push 40-50 inch striped bass into the rocks and feed on them as if they are a bunker. It is mind blowing that no legislative action change is occurring due to how special and fragile our striped bass fishery is. If action is not taken I genuinely see this fishery being destroyed beyond repair sooner than expected.

8/25/2026	First Name: Michael Last Name: Phelan Email: Mphelan8888@gmail.com	We need to kill the sand bar sharks
8/25/2026	First Name: Zachary Last Name: Hintz Email: Zahsbaitandtackle@gmail.com	Brown sharks need to be removed from the protected/ endangered list. They are more prevalent than ever. You can't go fishing in long island sound during the summer without having a shark encounter of some kind, whether it be biting half your fish off, swimming around your boat, eating your bait intended for other species, or spooking schools of gamefish. They are eating just about everything and are detrimental to the striped bass fishery which is already on the decline. Please consider an open season on brown sharks, sandbar sharks, sand tigers and / or dusky sharks. We need to do something to thin their numbers before they completely wipe out the striper population in Southern New England. Thank you.

8/25/2026	First Name: Jake Last Name: Krongard Email: jakekrongard@gmail.com	The Sandbar shark population is out of control in the North East. Tens of thousands of striped bass and other extremely important recreational/commercial fish species are getting slaughtered by these sharks. More and more fishermen and swimmers are being bit every summer as well. A sandbar shark season needs to be opened up. This will also help the mako and thresher sharks that need a break from all the recent pressure theyve been getting.
8/25/2026	First Name: Justin Last Name: Gibbons Email: Justingibbons318@yahoo.com	Although once a rare occurrence, sandbar sharks have become quite an issue in the northeast. There is no argument that the striper fishery is in rough shape and the shark issue is certainly not helping. Many bass are being eaten by the sharks as fisherman are reeling them in. Some locations are practically unfishable as there are so many sharks present. This is presenting a hazard for both the fisherman and the striped bass being reeled in. Not many fisherman keep sharks so I see no problem is opening up the sandbar shark to harvesting. It will only have a minimal impact on the shark population while potentially helping other populations such as striped bass.
8/25/2026	First Name: Last Name: Email:	Have an open season to thin the population

8/25/2026	First Name: Marie-France Last Name: McIntee Email: Mfmcintee@gmail.com	We need to conserve fish species off the coast of Rhode Island. Striper are affected currently… what's next? Please take action to reverse the loss of fish in the waters of RI!
8/25/2026	First Name: Ervin Last Name: Ray Email: Rayervin3@gmail.com	Open the season
8/25/2026	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Lemos Email: Danlemosjr@gmail.com	Can't reel in a fish south of block island anymore

8/25/2026	First Name: Anthony Last Name: Pisciotta Email: Apisciotta4@gmail.com	These sharks are ruining the fishery. Cant fish for striped bass. Sea bass, fluke, taug, or scup for more than 30min-1h at most spots before the sharks show up. I've had all of them taken by sharks just in the last few weeks.
8/25/2026	First Name: Jason Last Name: Golderer Email: Jason.golderer@gmail.com	We need an open season on sandbar sharks before there is no striped bass left.

