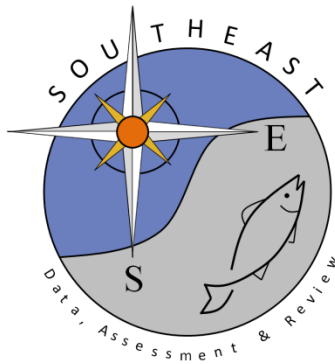


Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc. A Saltwater Fisheries Consulting Company: Some Large Hammerhead shark information based on shark fin business knowledge from the mid-1980's through to September 1997 from Rusty Hudson.

Rusty Hudson

SEDAR77-SID06

Received: 7/5/2021



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# **DIRECTED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, INC.**

## **A SALTWATER FISHERIES CONSULTING COMPANY**

05 July 2021

Re: Some Large Hammerhead shark information based on shark fin business knowledge from the mid-1980's through to September 1997 from Rusty Hudson.

My history of buying, and/or selling shark fins from various commercial fishing fleets, is with a focus on the four North Atlantic species of large hammerhead sharks caught by the commercial shark fisheries located from New York to Texas for this SEDAR 77 stock assessment. In the order of my frequency with encounter by numbers based on a primary set of fins from the Scalloped Hammerhead was first, the Great Hammerhead was second by number, though the size by weight of the set of primary shark fins are very much larger than any other adult large Hammerhead. Very infrequently purchased, the Smooth Hammerhead was third by number with catch generally coming from commercial shark fishing fleets of different sorts between NC and Florida east coasts, and adult catch coming from offshore where the pelagic longline fleets operated off the US east coast. Last, and generally very rare encounters were with what is called the Carolina Hammerhead, usually caught offshore of the Carolinas if my memory is clear.

The Scalloped Hammerhead markings on the pectoral fin underside has a distinct black pattern on the end tip of the fin. Also, the lower tail (caudal) fin has a distinct dark tip. When compared to the Smooth Hammerhead, the underside of the pectoral has a dusty and diffuse black tip shading, as does the lower tail fin tip. Also, both species rear edge of the pectorals has a straight-line shape. When comparing an adult dorsal fin between the Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead sharks, both have a rounded top of the dorsal, but there is a rounded angular difference with roughly a 10% angle variation between the two species dorsal with if I remember correctly where the Smooth angles back further than the Scalloped, though you may wish to doublecheck to see if I am remembering this backwards. It has been a quarter century since I quit buying shark fins. The Carolina Hammerhead has a very similar markings on the pectorals like the Scalloped Hammerhead, but the pectoral shape of the CHH though smaller, but appears more extended in length than a similar sized Scalloped HH. For several years I just thought they were a weird shaped Scalloped HH, but by later 1996 I started separating some CHH samples due to the differences, but when my business closed, I shipped all the dry shark fins to my California employer.

The Great Hammerhead has a distinctly large and pointed dorsal, and all of the primary fins, and secondary fins are much larger than the fins from any other Hammerhead sharks. The adults are over double the size of adult Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead sharks. The GHH pectorals rear side of the pectorals has a distinct curvature to its shape. No morphological confusion with the other Hammerhead sharks based on the dorsal, pectorals and lower caudal.

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*Rusty*

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Sixth Generation Waterman from Central Florida (FL) East Coast  
Seafood Coalition (SFC) member  
American Elasmobranch Society (AES) member 2004-2021  
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCS) Advisory Committee FL member  
ACCS Biological Review Panel (BRP) member  
ACCS Bycatch Prioritization Committee (BPC) member  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Coastal Shark (CS) Advisory Panel (AP) FL Commercial & For-hire recreational member [former Chair of CS AP]  
ASMFC Bluefish AP FL Commercial member  
IWMC World Conservation Trust Vice-President – Marine Fish Species, especially Sharks  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species (HMS) AP Commercial Shark member 2019-2021  
NMFS HMS SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) AP Pool member 2021-2026  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) SEDAR AP Pool member no term limits  
SAFMC Fisheries Citizen Science Program Participant 2016-2021  
SAFMC Mackerel-Cobia AP FL Commercial member 2018-2021  
SAFMC Snapper-Grouper (SG) AP FL Commercial member 2015-2021  
SAFMC System Management Plan (SMP) Workgroup FL Commercial member 2018-2021  
SAFMC Marine Protected Area (MPA) Expert Work Group (EWG) participant 2012-2013  
Former SAFMC MPA AP FL Commercial member  
Former NMFS Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team FL participant (ALWTRT)  
Former NMFS Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team FL participant (BDTRT)  
Participant, observer and/or contributor to US coastal shark stock assessments during 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010-2015, 2017 & 2019-2021.  
Participant, observer and/or contributor SEDAR 11 (Large Coastal Sharks), 13 (Small Coastal Sharks), 16 (King Mackerel), 19 (Red Grouper/Black Grouper), 21 (Large Coastal Sharks/Small Coastal Sharks), 24 (Red Snapper), 25 (Black Sea Bass/Golden Tilefish), 28 (Spanish Mackerel/Cobia), 29 (Gulf Blacktip Sharks), 32 (Gray Triggerfish/Blueline Tilefish), 34 (Atlantic Sharpnose Sharks/Bonnethead Sharks), 36 (Snowy Grouper), 38 (King Mackerel), 39 (Smoothhound Sharks), 41 (Atlantic Red Snapper/Gray Triggerfish), 50 (Blueline Tilefish), 53 (Red Grouper), 54 (Sandbar Sharks), 56 (Black Sea Bass), 65 (Atlantic Blacktip Sharks), 66 (Golden Tilefish) 73 (Atlantic Red Snapper), 77 (Large Hammerhead Sharks, i.e., Carolina, Great, Scalloped and Smooth Hammerheads), and SEDAR 78 (Atlantic Spanish Mackerel).





Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, 1967



Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, 6/27/1964





Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, date unknown







Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, 5/21/1965

5-21-65



Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, date unknown







Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, various dates





Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, date unknown



Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, 4/20/1964



04-20-64



Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, 7/14/1971





Credit: Rusty Hudson, Daytona beach, 6/19/1971







Credit Dave Campo  
while commercial shark fishing  
originally received on 12 June 2011