



Differences in the Federal and State Management Measures for Smoothhound (smooth dogfish) as a Result of Amendment 9 Final Rule

Presented to the ASMFC Coastal Sharks Board
February 3, 2016

Federal/State Quotas



Commercial Quota for the Atlantic Region: 2,649,268 lbs (1201.7 mt)

State	%	mt dw	lbs dw
ME	0.021%	0.25	551
MA	0.433%	5.20	11,464
RI	1.363%	16.38	36,111
CT	0.234%	2.81	6,195
NY	7.953%	95.57	210,694
NJ	18.828%	226.26	498,813
DE	0.339%	4.07	8,973
MD	6.703%	80.55	177,581
VA	34.803%	418.23	922,030
NC	28.583%	343.48	757,236
SC	0.742%	8.90	19,621

Federal/State Quotas



- Final Rule for Amendment 9 will become effective on March 15, 2016
- Commercial Quota for the Atlantic Region: 2,649,268 lbs
 - Federal waters/federal permit holders – 80%
 - State waters/state commercial fishing license – 100%

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- Commercial Quota for the Atlantic Region: 2,649,268 lbs
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- Board will take action to set the 2016 smoothhound quota because this was not included in the Atlantic shark specifications that were approved in November

Recreational Permits



- **Amendment 9 requires recreational anglers fishing in federal waters to have a HMS Angling or HMS Charter/Headboat recreational permit for retention of recreationally-caught smoothhound sharks.**
- Consistent with the Federal FMP; the Coastal Sharks FMP does not have specific management measures for recreationally caught smoothhound sharks. There are no minimum recreational size limits or possession limits for smoothhound sharks.

Commercial Permits



- **Amendment 9 requires commercial fisherman that fish for smoothhounds in federal waters to obtain a federal smoothhound commercial permit.**
- The federal smoothhound commercial permit is an open access permit. Having only a directed shark limited access permit will not allow fishermen to fish for smoothhounds in federal waters. Federal permit will be required after March 15, 2016.

Commercial Possession Limits



- **Amendment 9 did not set a commercial retention limit for smoothhounds.**
- As stated in Addendum II to the Coastal Sharks FMP, the Board will not set possession limits for smoothhound sharks once the federal coastwide quota has been implemented. States can establish a specific management program to achieve but not exceed their state quota.

Processing at Sea



- Amendment 9 allows commercial federal fishermen to remove the fins of smooth dogfish if:
 1. Fishermen have a federal commercial smoothhound permit and possess a state commercial fishing license
 2. At least 25 percent of retained catch on the vessel is smooth dogfish
 3. Vessel is located between the shore and 50 nautical miles
 4. Fin-to-carcass ratio does not exceed 12 percent

Dealer Permits



- **Amendment 9 requires dealers to possess an Atlantic Shark Dealer permit to purchase smoothhound sharks. Permits are available through the Southeast Regional Office Permit Office. Dealers must report smoothhound shark purchases on a weekly basis.**
- As stated in the Coastal Sharks FMP, a federal Commercial Shark Dealer Permit is required to buy and sell any shark caught in state waters.

Gillnet Gear



- **Amendment 9 requires smoothhound fishermen to limit soak times to 24 hours when using sink gillnet gear, and conduct a net check at least every 2 hours when using drift gillnet gear.**

- The Coastal Sharks FMP does not define sink or drift gillnet, rather it identifies small mesh versus large mesh gillnets. Addendum 1 removed the 2-hour net check requirement for commercial fishermen using large mesh gillnets (defined as having a stretch mesh size greater than or equal to 5 inches).

Issues for Consideration



- If the Board would like state waters regulations to be consistent with federal measures it will require an addendum to the Coastal Sharks FMP.
 - *Processing at sea* – at least 25% retained catch on the vessel is smoothhound
 - *Gillnet gear* – sink gillnet (24 hours) and drift gillnet (2 hours)



Questions