

Overview of Stock Status Coastal Sharks

Species or Complex Name	Stock Status		References/Comments
	Overfished	Overfishing is Occurring	
Porbeagle	Approaching	N	Porbeagle Stock Assessment, ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics Report (2009)
Dusky	Y	Y	SEDAR 21 (2011); designated a prohibited species
Large Coastal Sharks	Unknown	Unknown	SEDAR 11 (2006); difficult to assess as a species complex due to various life history characteristics/ lack of available data
Blacktip	Unknown	Unknown	SEDAR 11 (2006)
Sandbar	Y	N	SEDAR 21 (2011)
Atlantic Sharpnose	N	N	SEDAR 34 (2013)
Blacknose	Y	Y	SEDAR 21 (2011)
Bonnethead	N	N	SEDAR 34 (2013)
Finetooth	N	N	SEDAR 13 (2007)
Smooth Dogfish	Unknown	Unknown	No assessment; benchmark assessment scheduled for 2015

Management Considerations

Condition: See table (left) for stock status information by species and species group.

FMP Status: FMP (2008), Addendum I (2000), Addenda II & III (2013)

Primary Management Measures

Commercial and recreational fishermen are prohibited from possessing silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead sharks species from May 15 – July 15 from VA-NJ to protect pupping females. All fishermen, with the exception of commercial fishermen who land smooth dogfish, are required to keep the fins attached to the carcass through landing. Addendum I modifies the FMP to allow commercial fishermen to process (remove the fins) smooth dogfish at sea from March – June of each year but requires a 95-5% carcass to fin ratio for all dressed smooth dogfish carcasses. Addendum II modifies the FMP to allow commercial fishermen to process smooth dogfish year round but requires a 12-88% fin-to-carcass ratio. Addendum III updated the species groupings to ensure consistency with NOAA Fisheries and increased the recreational size limit for hammerhead sharks.

Recreational fishermen are prohibited from harvesting any species that is illegal to land in federal waters. Smooth dogfish are not prohibited (or currently managed) in federal waters and anglers may harvest them. Recreational fishing is controlled through possession limits with a 4.5' fork length size limit for all

species except for Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, and bonnethead which do not have a size limit. In addition, recreational anglers can only harvest sharks caught with a handline or rod & reel.

The commercial fishery is managed based on MSY using quotas and possession limits to control harvest level and effort. Sharks are split into eight commercial species groups based on fisheries, biology, and stock status — prohibited, research, small coastal, blacknose, aggregated large coastal, hammerhead, pelagic, and smooth dogfish (see table for species by species grouping). ASMFC does not set quotas for the blacknose, hammerhead, SCS, LCS, or pelagic species groups but rather opens and closes the fishery in response to the federal quota. The Board may set a quota for smooth dogfish but is not required to. Fishing effort for the smoothhound, blacknose, hammerhead, SCS, LCS, and pelagic species groups is controlled through possession limits; fishermen may harvest species within these groups as long as the fishery is open and all sharks are caught according to the regulations contained in the FMP.

Commercial fishermen must have a general state commercial fishing license or permit to harvest sharks. Dealers are required to hold a federal Commercial Shark Dealer permit to buy and sell sharks. Federal dealer permits were required in order to monitor the quota as efficiently as possible and reduce the chance of quota overages. Fishermen may use handlines, gillnets, trawl nets, shortlines, pound nets/fish traps, and weirs to harvest sharks commercially. Captains and vessel owners must use circle hooks and attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop offered by NOAA Fisheries in order to harvest sharks using shortlines.

Species Groups	Species Within Group
Prohibited	Sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, whale, basking, white, dusky, bignose, Galapagos, night, reef, narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, Atlantic angel, longfin mako, bigeye thresher, sharpnose sevengill, bluntnose sixgill, and bigeye sixgill sharks
Research	Sandbar sharks
Small coastal	Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, and bonnethead sharks
Blacknose	Blacknose
Aggregated large coastal	Silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, and nurse
Hammerhead	scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead sharks
Pelagic	Shortfin mako, porbeagle, common thresher, oceanic whitetip, and blue sharks
Smoothhound	Smooth dogfish, Florida smoothhound