



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## NEWS RELEASE

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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### **ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Board Approves Addendum V to Ensure Consistency with the Shark Conservation Act**

Mystic, CT – The Commission’s Spiny Dogfish Management Board approved Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish. The Addendum ensures consistency in spiny dogfish management with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 by prohibiting processing at-sea, including the removal of fins. Prior to approval, states could process spiny dogfish at-sea, so long as the ratio of fins aboard the vessel did not exceed 5% of the ratio of carcasses aboard the vessel. The Board set an implementation date of May 1, 2015 for states to promulgate this measure.

In related business, the Coastal Sharks Management Board approved a July 1, 2015 opening date for the large coastal sharks species group. All other species groups will open in conjunction with federal waters’ fisheries (Table 1). Additionally, based on the recommendation of its Coastal Sharks Technical Committee, the Board approved a 36 fish possession limit for sharks in the large coastal sharks species group (silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead sharks) for 2015.

**Table 1: Opening dates for commercial coastal sharks species groups, 2015 fishing season.**

<b>Species Group</b>	<b>Opening Date 2015</b>
<b>Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks</b>	July 1, 2015
<b>Hammerhead sharks</b>	June 1, 2015
<b>Pelagic Sharks</b>	January 1, 2015
<b>Non-blacknose Small Coastal Sharks</b>	
<b>Blacknose sharks</b>	
<b>Blue sharks</b>	
<b>Porbeagle sharks</b>	

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.