



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

February 27, 2018

TO: Coastal Sharks Management Board, Advisory Panel, Technical Committee

FROM: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator

RE: 2018 Coastal Shark Specifications

This memorandum serves as notification of the results of the electronic ballot to set the 2018 specifications for the coastal sharks fishery. As voted on by the Coastal Sharks Management Board, the following motion carries without objection:

Move to adopt the 2018 coastal shark specifications as specified in the National Marine Fisheries Service final rule for the 2018 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season published on November 22, 2017. The fishing season will open on January 1, 2018 with a commercial possession limit of 25 large coastal sharks (LCS) per vessel per trip (i.e. aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups). The commercial possession limit is subject to change; states will follow NMFS for inseason changes to the commercial possession limit.

This action complements the National Marine Fisheries Service's final rule for the 2018 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season, which can be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/11/22/2017-25203/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-2018-atlantic-shark-commercial-fishing-season>

The coastal shark fishing season in state and federal waters opened on January 1, 2018. The commercial possession limit for large coastal sharks (i.e. aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups) is 25 sharks per vessel per trip. There may be in-season changes to the commercial possession limit depending on catch rates. For example, if the quota is landed too quickly (i.e., if approximately 20 percent of the quota is caught at the beginning of the year), the commercial possession limit may be lowered.

If you have any questions, please contact me at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Table 1. NMFS final adjusted quotas, retention limits, and opening dates for the 2018 coastal shark fishery.

Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2018 Annual Adjusted Quota*	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits for Directed Shark Limited Access Permit Holders (inseason adjustments are possible)	Season Opening Dates
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	Linked	25 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip (If quota is landed too quickly (e.g. if approximately 20 percent of quota is caught at the beginning of the year), NMFS anticipates considering an inseason reduction (e.g. to 3 or fewer LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip), and later considering an inseason increase to 36 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip around July 15, 2018)	January 1, 2018
	Hammerhead Sharks	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)			
	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	Linked (South of 34° N. lat. only)	N/A	January 1, 2018
	Blacknose Sharks (South of 34° N. lat. only)	17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw)		8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip (applies to directed and incidental permit holders; inseason adjustments not possible)	
	Smoothhound sharks	1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	January 1, 2018
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	Linked	N/A	January 1, 2018
	Sandbar Shark Research	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)			
	Blue Sharks	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	
	Porbeagle Sharks	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)			
	Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)			

*1 mt dw = 2,204.6 lb dw