



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

March 29, 2019

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

FROM: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator

RE: Retention Limit of Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Hammerhead Shark Management Groups Reduced to 3 Sharks per Trip

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reduced the retention limit for the commercial aggregated large coastal shark and hammerhead shark management groups (Appendix 1) for directed shark limited access permit holders in the Atlantic region from 25 to 3 sharks (other than sandbar sharks) per vessel per trip effective 11:30 p.m. April 1, 2019. The revised retention limit will remain in effect for the rest of the 2019 fishing season or until NMFS announces another adjustment to the retention limit, which is expected around July 15th.

NMFS takes this action because 24% or 6.54 mt dressed weight of the available quota for the Hammerhead sharks fishery has been harvested. The adjusted retention limit is intended to promote equitable fishing opportunities throughout the Atlantic region.

As agreed upon by the Commission's Coastal Sharks Management Board (in December 2015), the Commission will follow NMFS for in-season changes to the commercial retention limit, therefore, no more than 3 sharks per vessel per trip may be retained from the aggregated large coastal and hammerhead management groups by **a state licensed fishermen** effective 11:30 p.m. April 1, 2019.

The Federal Register commercial retention limit notification will be published on April 2 at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-06369>. Shark landings can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/2019-atlantic-shark-commercial-fishery-landings-and-retention>.

Please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (703) 842-0740 or krootes-murdy@asmfc.org if you have questions.

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Appendix 1

The list of the species within the aggregated large coastal shark and hammerhead management groups.

Aggregated Large Coastal	
Silky	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>
Tiger	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>
Blacktip	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>
Spinner	<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>
Bull	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>
Lemon	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>
Nurse	<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>
Hammerhead	
Scalloped hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>
Great hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>
Smooth hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>