



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

October 16, 2012

To: Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Fisheries Management Board
From: Coastal Sharks Technical Committee
Subject: Recommendations for 2013 Coastal Shark specifications

The Coastal Sharks Technical Committee met, via conference call, on Monday, October 15, 2012, to review the proposed rule from NOAA's Highly Migratory Species on 2013 specifications for the coastal shark fishery. Significant areas of change to note are below:

- The porbeagle shark fishery will remain closed due to a small quota, due to past overages (259% overage in 2012), and difficulties in monitoring.
- The five-year quota reduction to account for overharvest of non-sandbar large coastal and sandbar fisheries (Amendment 2) expires Dec 31, 2012.
 - Quotas will increase to the base levels denoted in Amendment 2.
 - The retention limit for non-sandbar large coastal sharks will increase to 36 from 33 sharks per trip.
- All species, except for porbeagle, will begin the 2013 season on or about January 1, 2013. This is in contrast to past seasons, especially non-sandbar large coastal sharks, which had delayed openings.
 - In-season trip limit adjustments will be used, if needed, to ensure equitable access among the fishermen.
- Adjustments in the quota will be made for the under harvest of non-blacknose small coastal sharks complex.
 - No adjustment for under harvesting of the following groups will occur, due to their current status of overfished: sandbar, non-sandbar large coastal, blacknose, blue, and pelagic (other than porbeagle or blue).

The Coastal Sharks Technical Committee recommends the Board approve these measures as the 2013 Coastal Shark specifications.