

## Large Pelagic Survey (LPS)

NOAA Fisheries collects data on recreational fishing effort through the LPS. The LPS consists of randomly selected weekly telephone and dockside intercept interviews. This information is necessary for accurate stock assessments. Please support and cooperate with this effort. For more information about the LPS, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

## Coming Soon

Amendment to Shark Regulations in HMS FMP  
(Proposed Rule 2003; Effective 2004)  
International Pelagic Shark Stock Assessment - 2004

For more information about Atlantic sharks, please contact:

Karyl Brewster-Geisz	Greg Fairclough
Heather Stirratt	St. Petersburg, FL
Silver Spring, MD	(727) 570-5447
(301) 713-2347	

If your marina or fishing club would like to receive regular shark postings from our HMS FAX network, please contact HMS at (301) 713-2347. Alternatively, information about *all* Federal fisheries, including the shark fishery, can be obtained electronically via FISHNEWS. Please see [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov) to sign up for this service.

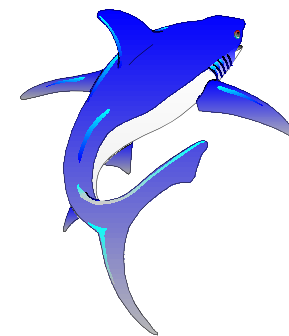
## Important Phone Numbers

Enforcement Hotline	800-853-1964
Coast Guard Hotline	800-SAVE-FISH
Southeast HMS Office	727-570-5447
Northeast HMS Office	978-281-9260
HMS Headquarters Office	301-713-2347
HMS Infoline	800-894-5528

*This pamphlet was prepared in April 2003 to provide interested fishermen a summary of the recreational fishing regulations for Atlantic sharks. Complete regulations may be found at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmosp.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmosp.html). Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with current official regulations.*

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Highly Migratory Species Management Division  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

# Atlantic Shark Recreational Fishery Regulations



April 2003

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
Highly Migratory Species (HMS)  
Management Division



## HMS Angling Permits

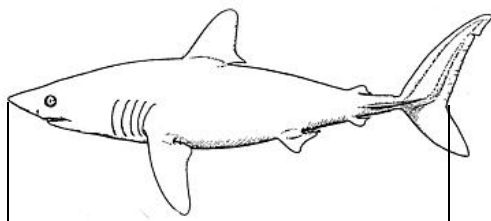
Owners of private vessels used to fish recreationally for Atlantic HMS (Atlantic tunas, billfish, sharks, and swordfish) are required to obtain a HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries. Vessels for hire refer to Charter/Headboat permit information. The angling permit can be purchased online at [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com) or by calling 888-872-8862. The cost of permit is \$22.00 and will be valid through May 31, 2004. For Atlantic sharks, this permit requirement is applicable only when fishing in Federal waters, although state regulations may also apply.

## No Sale Provision

Recreational fishermen (those fishermen who do not have a commercial shark permit) are not allowed to sell, barter, or trade Atlantic shark or shark pieces.

## Bag Limit and Minimum Size

ONE shark (any species that may be kept) per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 54" or 4.5 feet fork length; plus ONE Atlantic sharpnose shark per person per trip (no minimum size).



Fork length

## Authorized Gears

Rod and reel, handline, bandit gear.

## Landing Restrictions

Harvested sharks must have fins, head, and tail attached through landing. Sharks may be bled and gutted if the tail is still attached. This regulation will aid species-specific identification of landed sharks dockside.

## Release Information

If you catch a prohibited species or an undersized shark, you must release that fish to the sea immediately with a minimum of injury and without removing the fish from the water. If you are not sure of the species and whether you may keep it, release it. Shark identification guides will be available soon from RI Seagrant

## Species That May Be Kept

### Large Coastal Sharks

Sandbar	Lemon
Blacktip	Bull
Spinner	Great hammerhead
Tiger	Smooth hammerhead
Silky	Scalloped hammerhead
Nurse	

### Small Coastal Sharks

Atlantic sharpnose	Blacknose
Finetooth	Bonnethead

### Pelagic Sharks

Shortfin mako	Oceanic whitetip
Common thresher	Blue
Porbeagle	

## Species That MUST Be Released\*

White	Narrowtooth
Dusky	Caribbean sharpnose
Sand tiger	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Atlantic angel
Whale	Longfin mako
Basking	Bigeye thresher
Bignose	Sevengill
Galapagos	Sixgill
Night	Bigeye sixgill
Caribbean reef	

\*Sharks must be released immediately with minimum injury and without removing them from the water.

## HMS Charter/Headboat Permits

If you own or operate a charter/headboat vessel that fishes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, you must have an Atlantic HMS Charter/ Headboat permit. The permit can be purchased online at [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com) or by calling 888-872-8862. The 2003 Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit costs \$22.00 and will be valid from the date of issuance through May 31, 2004. Sale of fish by charter/headboat permit holders is prohibited unless the vessel also has a limited access permit. NOAA Fisheries will select a percentage of permitted charter/headboats to complete a logbook for each trip. To volunteer to carry an observer to monitor catch and release rates and condition of released fish, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

## HMS Tournament Registration

The tournament operator responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes for Atlantic HMS, including sharks, must register the tournament with NOAA Fisheries at least four weeks prior to commencement of the tournament. Call HMS Management Division at (727) 570-5447 or visit the website [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmsgpg.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmsgpg.html) to receive a registration form.

NOAA Fisheries will select certain tournaments for reporting. If your tournament is selected, NOAA Fisheries will send you a reporting form that must be returned to NOAA Fisheries within 7 days after tournament fishing has been completed.

## Tagging Information

To obtain shark tags and information on the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program, write:

Apex Predators Program  
NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service  
28 Tarzwell Drive  
Narragansett, RI 02882-1199

or visit [www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov](http://www.nefscsharks.nmfs.gov)