



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

March 29, 2016

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

**FROM: Ashton Harp, FMP Coordinator**

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

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is reducing the retention limit for the commercial aggregated large coastal shark (LCS) and hammerhead shark management groups for directed shark limited access permit holders in the Atlantic region from 36 to 3 large coastal sharks (other than sandbar sharks) per vessel per trip as of 11:30 p.m. on **April 2, 2016**. 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 retention limit.

NMFS takes this action because 24% or 6.6 mt dressed weight (dw) of the available quota for the hammerhead shark fishery has been harvested (Appendix 1). If the average catch rate continues, it is projected that landings would reach 80% of the quota by mid-May. The LCS management group is affected because the quotas for the LCS and hammerhead shark management groups are linked.

The retention limit for the LCS and hammerhead shark management groups will remain at 3 large coastal sharks (other than sandbar sharks) per vessel per trip in the Atlantic region (federal and state waters) through the remainder of the 2016 fishing season or until NMFS announces via the Federal Register that another adjustment to the retention limit or a fishery closure is warranted. As previously stated, NMFS intends to increase the commercial retention limit around July 15, 2016, as this was the date used for recent prior season opening dates. However, any future change in the retention limit will not be made unless deemed appropriate.

Please contact Ashton Harp at (703) 842-0740 or [aharp@asmfc.org](mailto:aharp@asmfc.org) if you have questions.

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## Appendix 1 Atlantic Region

- Includes any landings north of 25° 20.4' N. lat.
- The retention limit for directed permit holders can change throughout the season.

Shark Management Group	2016 Quota	Estimated Landings Through 3/18/2016	% of 2016 Quota	2015 Landings through same reporting period
Aggregated Large Coastal (quota linked to Hammerhead)	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	16.6 mt dw (36,535 lb dw)	10%	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)
Hammerhead (quota linked to Agg. Large Coastal)	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	6.6 mt dw (14,546 lb dw)	24%	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)
Non-Blacknose Small Coastal (quota linked to Blacknose south of 34° N. lat. only)	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	23.0 mt dw (50,710 lb dw)	9%	56.4 mt dw (124,287 lb dw)
Blacknose (South of 34° N. lat. only)	15.7 mt dw (34,653 lb dw)	1.4 mt dw (3,152 lb dw)	9%	3.4 mt dw (7,462 lb dw)

### No Regional Quotas

Shark Management Group	2016 Quota	Estimated Landings Through 3/18/2016	% of 2016 Quota	2015 Landings through same reporting period
Shark Research Fishery (Aggregated LCS)	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	<2.5 mt dw (5,511 lb dw)	< 5%	3.9 mt dw (8,516 lb dw)
Shark Research Fishery (Sandbar only)	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)	4.5 mt dw (<9,997 lb dw)	< 5%	22.3 mt dw (49,249 lb dw)
Blue	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	0%	0.4 mt dw (889 lb dw)
Porbeagle	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	0%	Closed in 2015
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	19.0 mt dw (41,883 lb dw)	4%	12.0 mt dw (26,380 lb dw)