

NDFs for CITES-listed shark species harvested in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean

U.S. Atlantic shark fisheries have been federally managed since 1993, when the first fishery management plan for sharks of the Atlantic Ocean was finalized (58 FR 21931, April 26, 1993). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Scientific Authority consults closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) when making NDFs for CITES-listed sharks. This example illustrates the value of long-term population monitoring for adaptive management and robust NDFs and highlights the critical importance of collaboration between national CITES and fisheries authorities when making NDFs for migratory species.



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CITES permit application for shark

FWS - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service MA - Management Authority **SA** – Scientific Authority **NOAA Fisheries** - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service **IFS** - Introduction from the Sea **EEZ** – Exclusive Economic Zone HMS - Highly Migratory Species **ICCAT** – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

import/export/re-export/IFS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service **CITES Authorities**

NOAA Fisheries

Legal acquisition Consultation with finding (MA) and nondetriment finding (SA)

Issuance or denial of CITES permit or certificate

For the Export of specimens of CITES-listed sharks caught in the U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean and IFS of sharks caught on the high seas by U.S. vessels, FWS uses science-based management measures put in place by NOAA Fisheries, which include the following:

NOAA Fisheries has regulatory and stewardship authority for U.S. federal fisheries and protected resources that extends beyond the U.S. EEZ to international waters through various international agreements.

- Permits are required for U.S. fishers and dealers.
- Reporting of catch is required.
- Commercial and recreational quotas, retention limits, and other restrictions are established. • As needed based on scientific information, time-area closures or species prohibitions are put in place.
- Sharks must be landed with their fins naturally attached for proper species identification, accurate reporting, and enforcement.
- Commercial federal shark permit holders may only sell sharks to a federal Atlantic shark dealer and only when the fishery for that species/management group is open.
- Federal shark dealers must attend shark identification workshops and must report purchases.

2006 Consolidated **Atlantic HMS Fishery**

Contains a range of management measures for Atlantic HMS species - tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks

U.S. Atlantic Shark Fishery Management and Scientific Assessment

ICCAT Standing

Conducts stock

Management Plan

Committee on Research and Statistics

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fisheries **Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks**

SouthEast Data, **Assessment, and Review** (SEDAR) Process

Regulates and manages shark fisheries operating in state waters from Florida to Maine. Note, federally-permitted shark fishermen must follow federal regulations in all waters unless state regulations are stricter.

Collaborative process to assess Atlantic shark stocks. Managed by the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Councils in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions.

Atlantic Tunas Convention Act

assessments for some CITES-listed pelagic sharks, including the blue shark.

Requires NOAA Fisheries to implement ICCAT's binding measures for the conservation and management of some requiem sharks species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries through domestic regulations.