

HOUSEKEEPING – Shortline Cleanup

What is being considered?

The Department is considering making minor changes to its shark regulations by removing certain shortline rules duplicated in the Department's gear regulation and moving certain shortline rules from the Shark chapter to the Gear chapter which are better suited there.

Why is this change necessary?

Some of the current shortline regulations are duplicated in both the Shark and Gear chapters. The Department believes removing the duplicated rules regarding shortlines from the Shark chapter and keeping the rules in the Gear chapter will make the most logical sense and aid in enforcement issues.

Who will this affect?

This action will affect commercial harvesters using shortline gear.

When will this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the fall-winter of 2023. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

This change will be discussed with ASMFC at their August meeting.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulations .01 and .03 under COMAR 08.02.22 Sharks and Regulation .06 under COMAR 08.02.25 Gear.