

Maryland's 2013 Atlantic Coastal Sharks Compliance Report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

II. Previous calendar year's fishery

a. Report total landings for the previous fishing year in the commercial and recreational sectors

- i. **Commercial** – Total commercial landings were 144,278 live pounds (ACCSP Data Warehouse, 7/21/2014). Those landings will likely be adjusted when Maryland submits updated data in September 2014. Smooth Dogfish comprised 92% of the commercial landings and Shortfin Mako Sharks were another 4%. The composition of the remaining 6% of the landings is confidential.
- ii. **Recreational** - As of May 27, 2013 recreational anglers in Maryland were required to report 19 species of sharks using the Catch Card and Tagging Program. Landings included 69 sharks and were comprised of 47 Shortfin Makos, 13 Atlantic Sharpnose, 8 Common Thresher Sharks, and one Spinner Shark.

Maryland recreational landings from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP; Personal communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics Division. 7/21/2014) reported a final total catch estimate of 711 (PSE 30.5) dogfish sharks (Smooth Dogfish and Spiny Dogfish) in state waters and 3,235 (PSE 78.1) from Federal waters from March 2013 through December 2013. All of those dogfish sharks were released alive by shore anglers, private boats, or rental boats. NMFS reported other sharks with an observed harvest of 352 (PSE 21.8) in state waters as well as reported harvest of 6,659 sharks (PSE 71.9) and 23,643 sharks (PSE 47.3) released alive in Federal waters. Party boats, shore anglers, private boats, or rental boats harvests' were included with those results.

b. Report harvest for scientific or educational use for the previous year

The State of Maryland issued two Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) for sharks in 2013.



III. Planned management programs for the current calendar year

a. Summarize any changes from previous years.

- i. Maryland listed sharks as in need of conservation in 1994. Updates were made to reflect the current taxonomy, ASMFC, and federal groupings. The common

name for Smooth Dogfish was updated to smoothhound in Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). This change was effective on March 3, 2014.

- ii. Amendment 5a to the HMS Consolidated Sharks FMP and the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks Addendum III changed the recreational minimum size for all hammerhead sharks to 78" (from 54"). Additionally, the minimum size of Finetooth and Blacknose Sharks increased to 54" (from no minimum) to match federal requirements. This change was effective on March 3, 2014.
- iii. For the commercial fishery groupings of sharks were updated to reflect the new federal groups. The action replaces the specific creel limits with a general statement that an individual may not have more than the federal permit allows. All limits are determined by federal regulation. The action also adds the ability to remove dorsal, pectoral and caudal fins of smoothhound sharks outlined in the Shark Conservation Act (SCA) and ASMFC's Addendum II to the ISFMP for coastal sharks. The action allows 8% fin to carcass ratio for the combined fin sets of the dorsal and pectoral fins, and 4% for caudal fins. This would allow for 12% if all three fin sets are separated from the smoothhound sharks. This change was effective on March 3, 2014.

b. Summarize monitoring programs that will occur and results from the previous year's monitoring program

There was no specific at sea sampling program for Atlantic coastal sharks in Maryland. Limited biological sampling of commercial catch onboard commercial offshore trawlers does occur but zero sharks were encountered. No fishery independent monitoring for Atlantic coastal sharks was conducted in Maryland state waters.