

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
2026 Commercial Shark Catch Limits — Effective 1/1/2026

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources announces commercial catch limits for large coastal sharks and blacknose sharks.

LARGE COASTAL SHARK COMMERCIAL CATCH LIMIT

The commercial catch limit is fifty-five (55) large coastal sharks per vessel per trip. Large coastal sharks include all of the sharks in the aggregated large coastal and hammerhead management groups defined in COMAR 08.02.22.03A(6) and (7). The species in the two management groups include: Silky; Tiger; Blacktip; Spinner; Bull; Lemon; Nurse; Scalloped hammerhead; Great hammerhead; and Smooth hammerhead.

BLACKNOSE SHARK COMMERCIAL CATCH LIMIT

The blacknose shark commercial catch limit is 8 sharks per vessel per trip.

WHY THIS IS NECESSARY

This is necessary to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This applies to all individuals who catch sharks commercially.

EFFECTIVE TIME AND DATE

The new commercial catch limit is effective at 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2026. The National Marine Fisheries Service anticipates in-season trip limit modifications based on harvest. If modifications are made, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will follow with modifications for state waters. A new public notice will be issued if modifications are made.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.22.04

JOSH KURTZ
Secretary of Natural Resources