

## **SHARKS — Shortfin Mako Creel Limit**

### **What is being considered?**

The Department is considering implementing a zero creel limit for shortfin mako. This would mean that a person could catch a shortfin mako, but they would need to immediately release it. They could not retain it.

### **Why is this change necessary?**

Implementing the zero creel limit is necessary to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. This limit has been in place since July 10, 2022, by public notice. Public notices are generally used to make changes to a fishery that last one year or one season. Since the limit is not anticipated to change in the foreseeable future, the Department needs to make the change in the Code of Maryland Regulations. Having the creel limit in regulation will be clearer to anglers and harvesters because they will only need to look in one location for the limit.

### **Who will this affect?**

This applies to all individuals who catch sharks recreationally or commercially.

### **When would this be effective?**

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the spring of 2025. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal [procedures](#) if this concept moves forward.

### **Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies?**

1. This was discussed at the Coastal Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Forums on October 4, 2024.
2. This idea was scoped with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their meetings in October 2024.

### **Additional Information**

[Public Notice](#) establishing the Recreational and Commercial Shortfin Mako Catch Limit