



Illegal Harvest

ASMFC

February 2017

Illegal Harvest



- Illegal harvest occurs in both the commercial and recreational sectors
- There are no standard practices or policies in how to treat the illegally harvested fish

Illegal Harvest: Questions



- How does the state define illegal harvest?
 - Seized and prosecuted cases?
 - Other?
- How does illegal harvest count against the overall quota for the state?
 - Does the same practice occur for both sectors (commercial and recreational)?
- If illegal harvest does not count against the quota does it get reported as landings for the stock assessment?

Illegal Harvest: Moving Forward



- Is there interest in discussing standard practices for what happens to illegal harvest?



Blacknose Shark Commercial Retention Limit South of 34°00' N. Latitude

- NMFS established a commercial retention limit of **8** blacknose sharks per vessel per trip for Atlantic shark limited access permit holders in the Atlantic region south of 34°00' N. latitude.
- **The Policy Board can choose to complement these measures in state waters for the 2017 fishing season.**
- **Justification for blacknose commercial retention limit:**
 - The blacknose and small coastal shark (SCS) quotas are linked, meaning if one exceeds 80% of the available quota then both will close.



Proposed Threatened Listing Determination for the Oceanic Whitetip Shark Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

“Based on the best scientific and commercial information available, including the status review report (Young et al., 2016), and after taking into account efforts being made to protect the species, we (NMFS) have determined that the oceanic whitetip shark warrants listing as a threatened species. We (NMFS) conclude that the oceanic whitetip shark is likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future.”

Comments on this proposed rule must be received by March 29, 2017. Public hearing requests must be requested by February 13, 2017.

Looking for oceanic whitetip shark information regarding:

1. New or updated information regarding the range, distribution, abundance, population structure or genetics
2. Habitat within the range of the oceanic whitetip shark that was present in the past, but may have been lost over time
3. New or updated biological or other relevant data concerning any threats (e.g., post-release mortality rates, finning rates in commercial fisheries, etc.)
4. Current or planned activities within its range and their possible impact on the species
5. Recent observations or samples
6. Efforts being made to protect the oceanic whitetip shark



Questions