

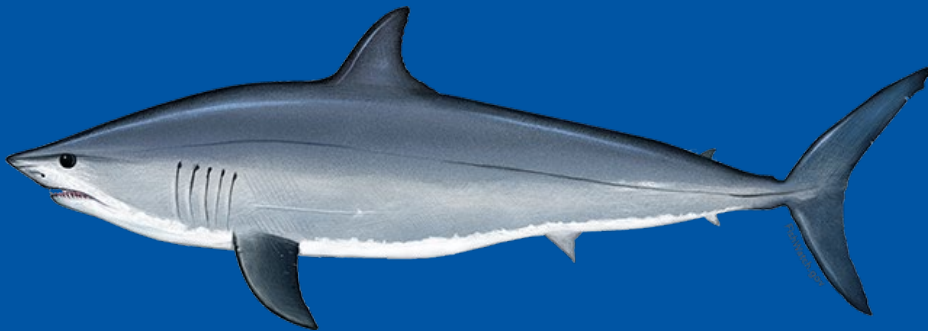


NOAA
FISHERIES

Proposed Rule on Retention Limits for Shortfin Mako Sharks

Highly Migratory Species Management Division

April 27, 2022



Outline

- Purpose and Need
- Background
- Proposed Measures and Alternatives
- Anticipated Timing
- Request for Public Comments



Purpose and Need for Action

- Implement shortfin mako shark management measures in Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries based on the 2021 ICCAT recommendation (Rec. 21-09)
- Current HMS regulations allow retention of shortfin mako sharks in certain limited circumstances in HMS fisheries, but new ICCAT requirements were adopted in 2021

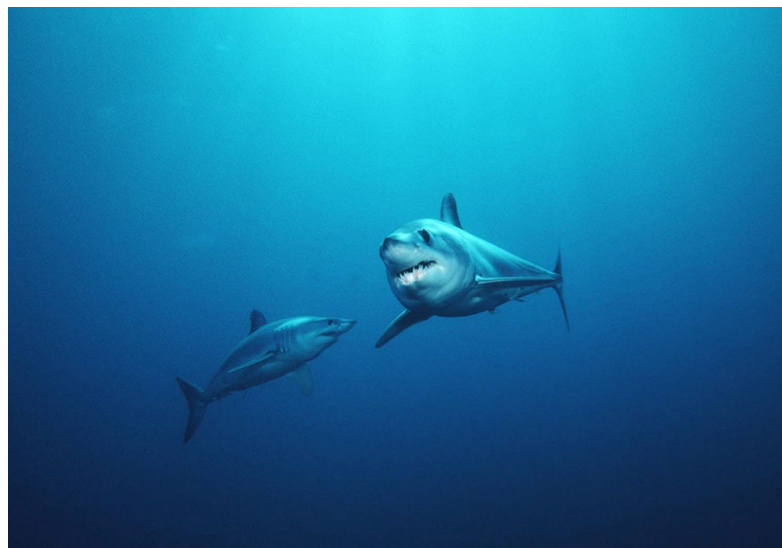


Background: Stock Assessment and ICCAT Recommendations

- **2017** - ICCAT's scientific body, the SCRS, assessed the North Atlantic shortfin mako shark stock
 - Status: overfished and experiencing overfishing
 - ICCAT adopted **Rec. 17-08** – measures to maximize live release, allow retention in certain limited circumstances, and improve data collection
- **2019** - SCRS completed stock assessment update, which provided rebuilding timeframe through 2070
 - SCRS recommended ICCAT adopt a non-retention policy “to accelerate the rate of recovery and to increase the probability of success”

Background: Stock Assessment and ICCAT Recommendations continued

- **2019** - ICCAT adopted **Rec. 19-06** – maintained measures in Rec. 17-08 and called for additional measures to establish rebuilding plan
- **2021** – Additional needed measures adopted by ICCAT in **Rec. 21-09**



ICCAT Rec. 21-09: Conservation of the North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

- Prohibits retention of shortfin mako sharks in 2022 and 2023
- Limited retention of shortfin mako sharks may be allowed in 2023 and future years if fishing mortality is reduced
- Aims to limit fishing mortality to no more than 250 mt
- SCRS will calculate allowable retention (if any) each year after 2021

Individual retention allowances would be calculated based on overall retention allowance and average catches 2013-2016

- Additional measures



Background: Domestic Implementation of Rec. 17-08

- **2018** – NOAA Fisheries took emergency action to immediately address overfishing and begin to rebuild the shortfin mako shark stock
- **2019** – NOAA Fisheries finalized Amendment 11, which allows retention in limited circumstances

Commercial: allow retention with pelagic longline gear only if shark is dead at haulback with electronic monitoring system on board

Allow retention with bottom longline or gillnet gear only if shark is dead at haulback

Recreational: increased minimum size limit to 71 inches fork length (FL) for males and 83 inches FL for females

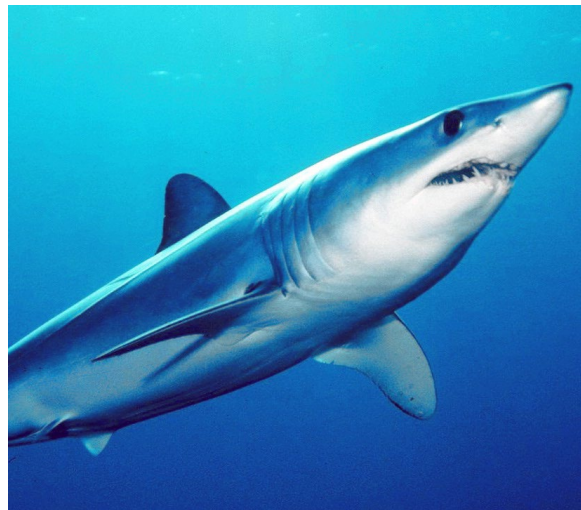
Expanded circle hook requirement



Background: Impacts of Domestic Management

- Prior to the 2017 stock assessment, U.S. catch represented approximately 14%, on average, of total North Atlantic shortfin mako shark catch
- By 2020, U.S. catch was reduced to approximately 3% of total catch

Reduction of 90% from 2013-2017 average catch



Proposed Measures

- Preferred Alternative 2: Flexible shortfin mako shark retention limit with a default limit of zero in commercial and recreational HMS fisheries
- Retention limit of zero would be in place unless changed after consideration of regulatory criteria and consistent with any ICCAT retention allowance under Rec. 21-09
- Retention limit would apply to:
 - Recreational HMS permit holders
 - Commercial vessels issued a Directed or Incidental shark limited access permit using pelagic longline, bottom longline, or gillnet gear
 - Existing prohibition on commercial retention by other gear types would remain in place

Proposed Measures continued

- During the fishing year, NOAA Fisheries could increase the shortfin mako shark retention limit from the default, and/or subsequently decrease the retention limit, for the commercial fishery, the recreational fishery, or both

Based on consideration of the inseason trip limit adjustment criteria and to extent retention is allowed by ICCAT

- Research and sampling of shortfin mako sharks would continue to be allowed under exempted fishing permits (EFPs) and scientific research permits (SRPs)

Applications would be considered on a case-by-case basis

Only non-lethal sampling would be permitted on shortfin mako sharks that are alive at haulback



Other Alternatives Analyzed

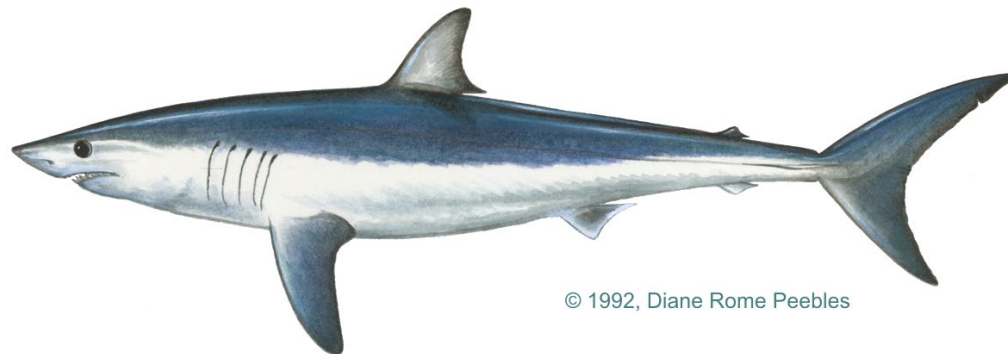
- Alternative 1: No action
Maintain Amendment 11 measures
- Alternative 3: Prohibit retention of shortfin mako sharks
Add species to the HMS prohibited sharks list
- Concluded Alternatives 1 and 3 would not be consistent with purpose of this action



Anticipated Timing

- Proposed rule published April 11, 2022 (87 FR 21077)
- Comment period ends May 11, 2022
- Intend to publish final rule in June 2022

- ICCAT will hold a Panel 4 intersessional meeting in November 2022 to test and confirm the appropriateness of the approach in Rec. 21-09 for allowing retention and to discuss possible retention for 2023

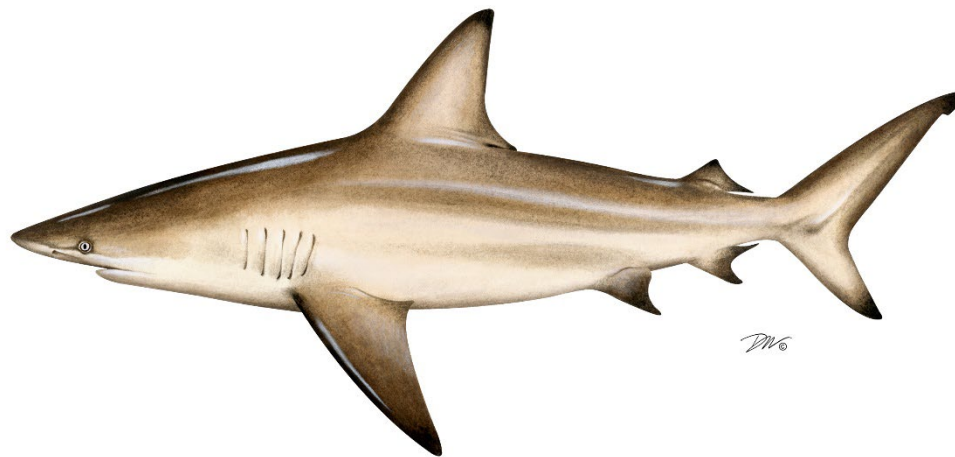


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Request for Public Comments

- Comment period closes on **May 11, 2022**
- Please submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov> (Search “NOAA-NMFS-2022-0015”)
- Action webpage:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/proposed-changes-atlantic-shortfin-mako-shark-retention-limits>
- For more information contact:
Carrie Soltanoff (carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov) or
Guy DuBeck (guy.dubeck@noaa.gov)





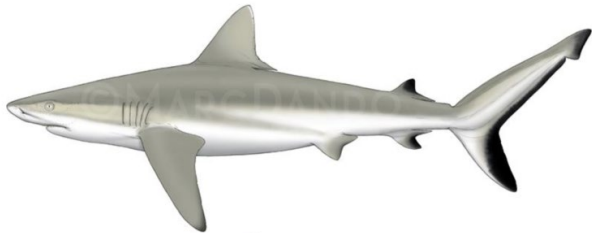
Coastal Sharks Management Board

May 4, 2022

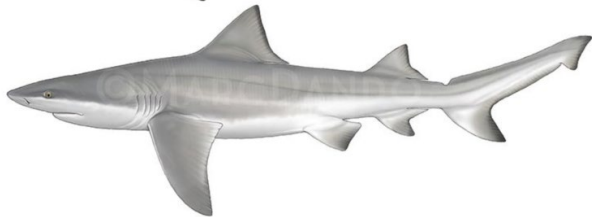
CITES Proposal



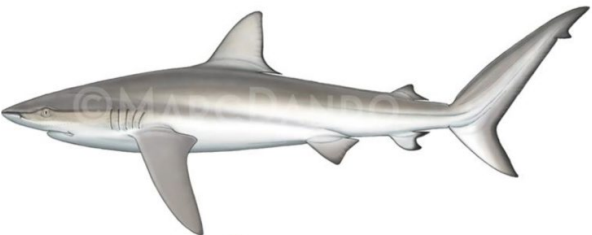
- Panama is proposing the listing of four IUCN listed shark species to CITES Appendix II



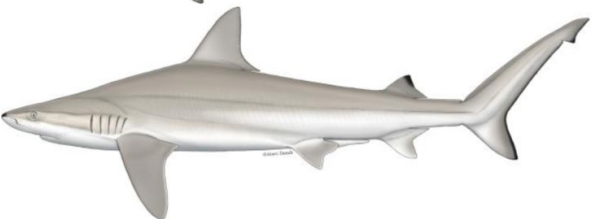
Grey reef shark



Ganges shark



Dusky shark



Smalltail shark

CITES Proposal



- Proposal includes the remaining members of the family (50 species)
 - Fins and meat lookalike and are challenging to differentiate for countries with limited customs enforcement capacity



CITES Appendix II



- International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.



CITES



**CONVENTION
ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE IN ENDANGERED
SPECIES OF WILD
FAUNA AND FLORA**

Commission Managed Species



- 12 Species are currently managed by the Commission

Species Group	Species within Group
Pelagic	Blue
Aggregated Large Coastal	Bull, Blacktip, Lemon
Non-blacknose Small Coastal	Finetooth, Atlantic Sharpnose
Blacknose	Blacknose
Prohibited	Smalltail, Dusky, Carribbean Reef, Bignose, Galapagos

Species or Complex Name	Stock Status		References/Comments
	Overfished	Overfishing is Occurring	
Pelagic			
Blue	No	No	ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics Report (2015)
Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks (LCS)			
Atlantic Blacktip	No	No	SEDAR 65 (2020)
Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks - Atlantic Region	Unknown	Unknown	SEDAR 11 (2006); difficult to assess as a species complex due to various life history characteristics/ lack of available data
Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks (SCS)			
Atlantic Sharpnose	No	No	SEDAR 34 (2013)
Finetooth	No	No	SEDAR 13 (2007)
Blacknose			
Blacknose	Yes	Yes	SEDAR 21 (2010); Rebuilding ends in 2043 (HMS Am. 5a)
Prohibited			
Dusky	Yes	Yes	SEDAR 21 update (2016); Rebuilding ends in 2108 (HMS 5b)
All other prohibited sharks	Unknown	Unknown	



Commercial landings of authorized sharks by species off the Atlantic coast of the US (lbs dw), 2012-2020.

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Blue	607	4272	C	0	0
Blacktip	248,470	205,138	125,129	88,655	131,962
Bull	31,417	23,802	16,707	14,677	17,703
Lemon	19,205	12,005	8,910	5,096	4,479
Finetooth	5,647	19,874	17,071	9,688	7,793
Atl. Sharpnose	175,890	251,289	268,395	292,694	214,303
Blacknose	26,842	17,241	11,335	18,910	10,644

Source: NOAA Fisheries Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation Report, March 2022



Board Consideration

- Should the Commission comment on the proposal?



Questions?



Backup Slides

Species Range



Grey Reef Shark



Dusky Shark



Smalltail Shark



Ganges Shark



Criteria for Inclusion



Annex 2a, Criterion A. It is known, or can be inferred or projected, that the regulation of trade in the species is necessary to avoid it becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future:

- All four species are assessed as Endangered or Critically Endangered

Criteria for Inclusion



Annex 2a, Criterion B. It is known, or can be inferred or projected, that regulation of trade in the species is required to ensure that the harvest of specimens from the wild is not reducing the wild population to a level at which its survival might be threatened by continued harvesting or other influences.

- High value of dried shark fin driving trade
- Proposal suggests that there is limited fisheries management measures in place across their known ranges

Criteria for Inclusion



Annex 2b, Criterion A: The specimens of the species in the form in which they are traded resemble specimens of a species included in Appendix II under the provisions of Article II, paragraph 2 (a), or in Appendix I, so that enforcement officers who encounter specimens of CITES-listed species are unlikely to be able to distinguish between them.