**Shark Identification and Federal Regulations**

for the Recreational Fishery of the U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean

Federal fishing permit required in federal waters. Purchase at hmspermits.noaa.gov.
HMS recreational permit holders that fish for sharks will need to obtain a shark endorsement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorized species</th>
<th>Minimum size (fork length)</th>
<th>Bag limit (per trip)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoothhound Shark</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic sharpnose Shark</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnethead Shark</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammerheads (great, scalloped, and smooth)</td>
<td>78 inches</td>
<td>1 hammerhead, or other shark per vessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sharks</td>
<td>54 inches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recreational anglers are required to use non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks except when fishing with flies or artificial lures.

All ridgeback sharks are prohibited, except Tiger, Oceanic Whitetip, and Smoothhound.
Prohibited ridgeback sharks include Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Dusky, Galapagos, Night, Sandbar, and Silky. For more details on prohibited species, please refer to the Prohibited Species Placard.

Ridgeback sharks have an interdorsal ridge (a visible line, or crease of raised skin between dorsal fins)

Tiger Shark: Snout length much shorter than mouth width; markings fade with age; max. size 15 feet; coastal and offshore

Oceanic Whitetip Shark: Young sharks have black mottling on most fins; does not always have interdorsal ridge; max. size 8 ft; offshore Cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish, or billfish are onboard

Spiny Dogfish: Max. size 4 ft; coastal and offshore There are no recreational restrictions for Spiny Dogfish

Scalloped Hammerheads, Great Hammerheads, and Smooth Hammerheads

Cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish, or billfish are onboard

The is no minimum size for Atlantic Sharpnose or Bonnethead Sharks

Atlantic Sharpnose Shark: Max. size 3 ft; coastal and offshore; similar species: Smalltail sharks have very reduced labial furrows and Caribbean Sharpnose sharks lack white spots.

Bonnethead: small, black spots on body; max. size 4 ft; mostly coastal

If you don’t know, let it go
Porbeagle: Max. size 11 ft; mostly offshore

Blue Shark: Max. size 11 ft; mostly offshore

Bull Shark: Max. size 9 ft; mostly coastal, but can be offshore

Finetooth Shark: Max. size 5 ft; mostly coastal

Blacknose Shark: Max. size 4 ft; coastal and offshore

Sharpnose Seven-gill Shark: (pictured) Max. size 4 ft; offshore deepwater, or Sixgill Shark (not pictured)

Atlantic Angel Shark: Max. size 5 ft; offshore deepwater

Whale Shark: Max. size 45 ft; mostly offshore

Lemon Shark: Max. size 10 ft; mostly coastal

Nurse Shark: Max. size 10 ft; mostly coastal

Use this key to identify non-ridgeback sharks

If you don't know, let it go

All species that may be retained in Federal waters are shown on this placard | Prohibited species are underlined in red

Porbeagle sharks must be released alive and unharmed if swordfish, tunas, or billfish are onboard.

NO

YES

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