

COMPLIANCE GUIDE
AMENDMENT 5a TO THE 2006 CONSOLIDATED
ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
July 1, 2013

I. COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHING

NEW SHARK MANAGEMENT GROUPS AND QUOTAS LINKAGES

Amendment 5a establishes several new regional shark management groups and quotas that become effective on July 3, 2013. Both regions, the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, are described in the map below (Figure 1). The species and quotas for each new management group are listed in the figure below by region (Figure 2). Quotas will continue to be adjusted annually to account for over- and/or under-harvests. Additionally, Amendment 5a implements regional quota linkages between management groups whose species are often caught together to prevent exceeding the quotas through discarded bycatch. Linked quotas are represented in the below graphic by gray boxes. When landings of either of two linked management groups reach, or are expected to reach, 80 percent of the quota, fishing for both management groups will close. Similarly, when landings reach, or are expected to reach, 80 percent of the quota of any unlinked management group (e.g., Gulf of Mexico blacktip or pelagic sharks), that management group will close.

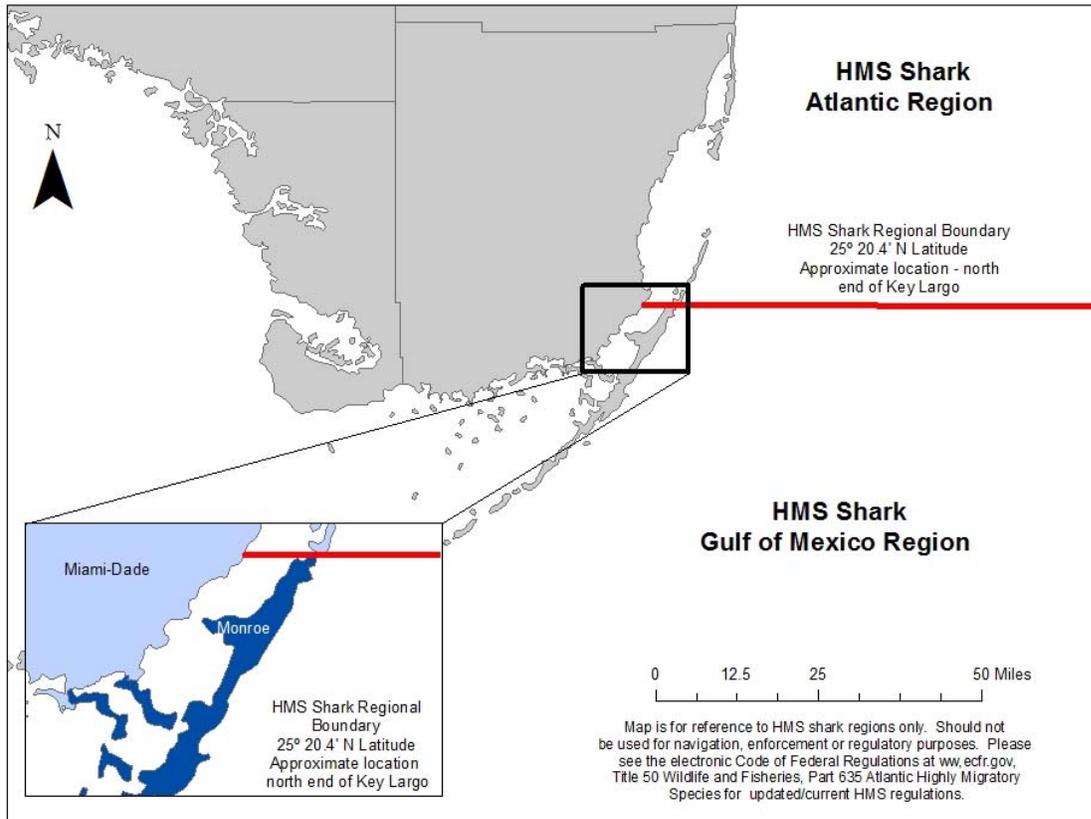


Figure 1. Map illustrating the boundary line between Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions for the purpose of distinguishing between shark management groups and quota monitoring.

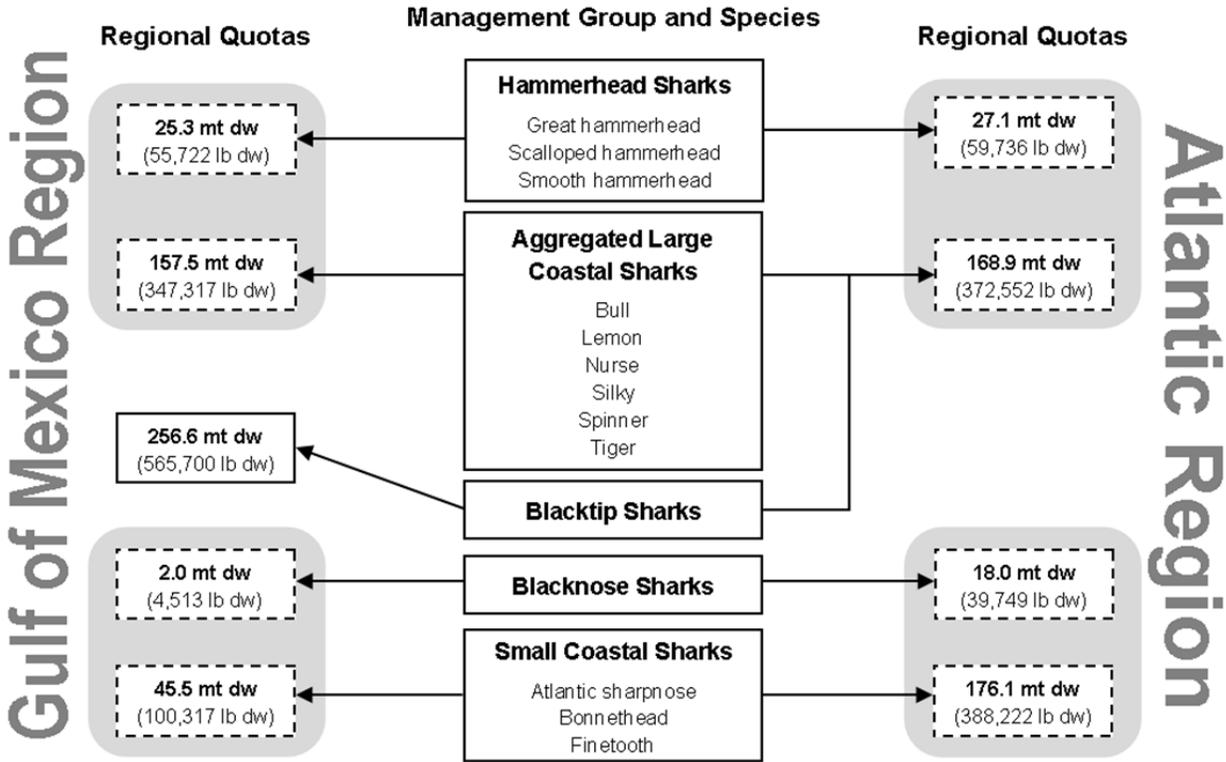


Figure 2. Commercial shark fishing quotas and linkages for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions.

II. RECREATIONAL SHARK FISHING

NEW MINIMUM SIZE

Amendment 5a established a new minimum size limit for the large hammerhead shark species (great, smooth, and scalloped) of 78 inches (6.5 feet) fork length (FL), which becomes effective on August 2, 2013. The fork length measurement is the straight-line distance between the tip of the shark's nose and the fork of the tail (Figure 3). As described in the table below, the size limit for other shark species and the retention limits remain the same. Please note that oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks cannot be possessed or landed by a vessel that also possesses or lands any tunas, billfish, or swordfish.

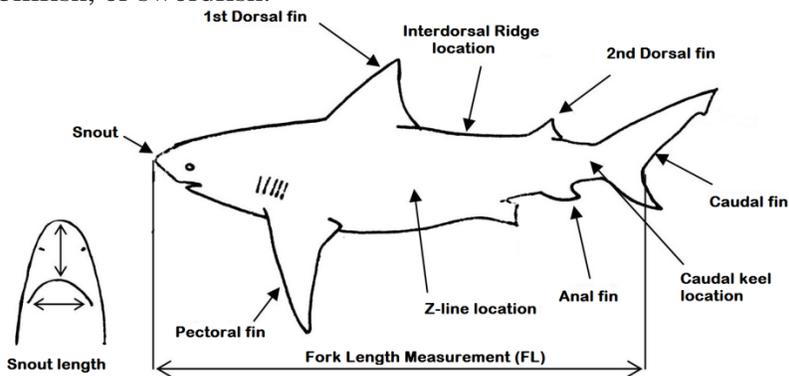


Figure 3. Illustration of external shark anatomy and fork length measurement.

Table 1. Recreational fishing minimum size and retention limits for Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico sharks.

Minimum Size	Species Authorized for Retention	Retention Limit
54 inches FL	Shortfin mako, Porbeagle, Blue, Oceanic whitetip, Tiger, Thresher, Nurse, Lemon, Blacktip, Spinner, Bull, Finetooth, Blacknose	1 shark per vessel per trip
78 inches FL	Great hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead, Scalloped hammerhead	
None	Bonnethead, Atlantic sharpnose	1 each per person per vessel per trip

Please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 427-8503 for further details. Any adjustments to the above measures will be posted on the HMS website (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>) under “Breaking News,” and will also be published in the Federal Register and sent to the *Atlantic HMS News* listserv.