



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Southeast  
Regional Office

**About the Species:**

**Endangered** Eastern Pacific Distinct Population Segment

**Threatened** Central & Southwest Atlantic Distinct Population Segment, and Indo-West Pacific Distinct Population Segment

**Range:** Offshore in tropical and sub-tropical waters.

**Threats:**

- Bycatch
- Harvest for international shark fin trade.

**For information about the location of the listed populations visit:**

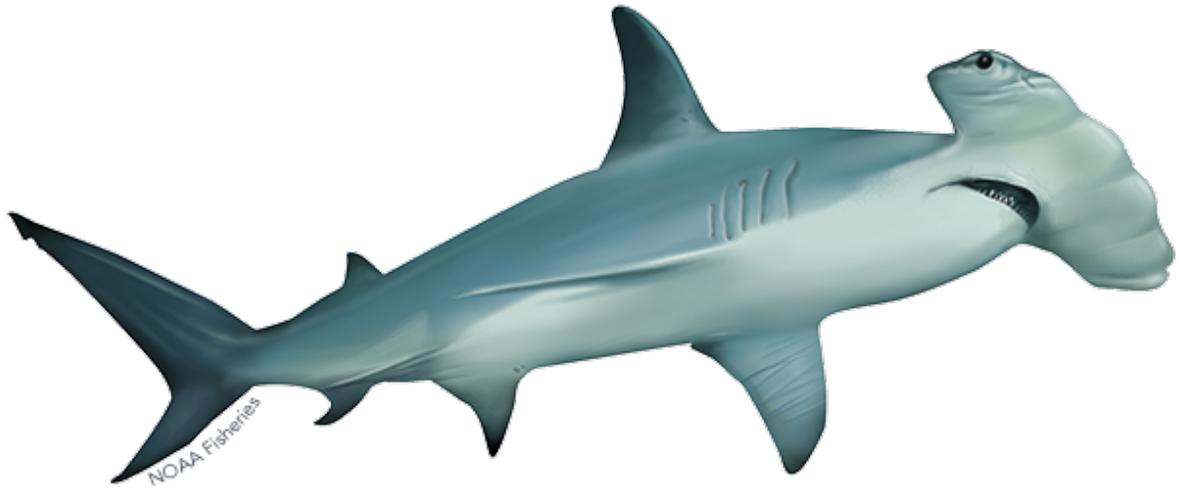
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/scalloped-hammerhead-shark>

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# Scalloped Hammerhead Shark Handling and Release Procedures

*For Commercial and Recreational Vessels*



Most scalloped hammerhead populations are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. In the U.S. Caribbean, they should not be targeted by fishermen and must be released in a manner that will promote their survival after any interaction.

**Follow these procedures to safely release scalloped hammerhead sharks:**

- Keep the shark in the water.
- Do not gaff.
- Use the leader or net to maneuver the shark.
- Allow water to flow over the gills by moving the shark forward in the water, or by positioning the shark so the current flows into its mouth.

**Hook and line release:**

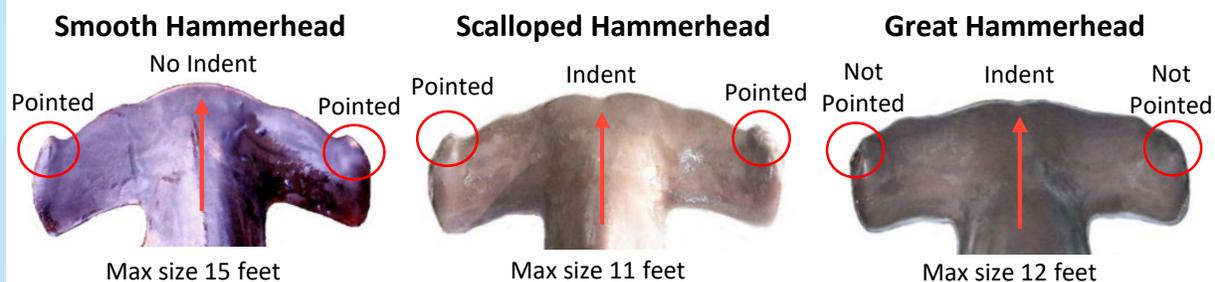
- Remove the hook using a dehooking device. If removing the hook would cause danger to yourself or the shark, cut the hook or cut the leader close to the hook to minimize any trailing line.

**Net release:**

- Cut away netting using a knife or cutting tool. Remove and disentangle as much netting as possible.
- Do not throw the netting remains overboard.

Report Discards to Applicable Logbook Program

**Hammerhead Shark Species Identification**



**If you don't know, let it go!**

Photo: Dr. W.B. Driggers, NMFS