

FEDERAL ATLANTIC SHARK RESEARCH PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____ *Phone Number:* _____

_____ *Fax Number:* _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____ *Email Address:* _____

Atlantic Shark Research Fishery

Things to consider before submitting your shark research fishery application:

- a) You must submit a copy of your vessel documentation and Federal fishing permit with this application in order for your application to be deemed complete.
- b) Your vessel must have a current, valid USCG safety inspection decal (50 CFR 700.746 (d)) in order to be considered for the shark research fishery.
- c) If you have been charged criminally or civilly (*e.g.*, issued a Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) or Notice of Permit Sanction) for any HMS related violation with such charges resulting in a final, adverse administrative or judicial order, guilty plea, or settlement agreement, your vessel will not be considered for the shark research fishery.
- d) Providing an e-mail address will allow NMFS to contact you to inform you if your application is complete, to ask for additional information, or to send your permit, if applicable.
- e) Please be sure to sign the application

1)

What type of commercial permit do you possess?	Vessel 1 ID _____	Vessel 2 ID _____	Vessel 3 ID _____
Shark Directed			
Shark Incidental			
Other permits held			

2) **Does your vessel meet all the requirements specified in 50 CFR 635.7 to carry an observer during all shark fishing trips pursuant to these permits?**

___ Yes ___ No

Do your vessels have the following?	Vessel 1 ID _____	Vessel 2 ID _____	Vessel 3 ID _____
Survival craft to accommodate observer (50 CFR 600.746 (f) (6))	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Appropriate bunk space/ sleeping accommodations (50 CFR 635.7 (e) (1))	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____

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- 3a) **Have you been selected to carry an observer in the past 2 years?** ___ Yes ___ No
- 3b) **If yes, have you carried an observer in the past 2 years?** ___ Yes ___ No
- 4) **Have you fished for sharks commercially in the past 2 years?** ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, approximately how many trips have you taken per year? _____

5) Fishing gear typically deployed from vessel(s)	Vessel 1 ID_____	Vessel 2 ID_____	Vessel 3 ID_____
Gillnet			
Bottom Longline			
Pelagic Longline			
Handgear			
Other (please specify)			

6) Regions fished for sharks in the past	Vessel 1 ID_____	Vessel 2 ID_____	Vessel 3 ID_____
Gulf of Mexico			
South Atlantic			
North Atlantic			
Other (please specify)			

7) Availability	Vessel 1 ID_____	Vessel 2 ID_____	Vessel 3 ID_____
In what month(s) is your vessel(s) available?			
In what area/region(s) is your vessel available?			

- 8) **Will you attend meetings required by NMFS to describe the objectives and/or research protocols regarding the shark research fishery?**
 ___ Yes ___ No
- 9) **Will you carry out the research objectives set forth by the Agency?**
 ___ Yes ___ No
- 10) **Can you carry out research in the Mid-Atlantic shark time/area closure area off the coast of North Carolina?**
 ___ Yes ___ No

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Vessel Information

Applications will be deemed incomplete if a signature and valid vessel documentation are not included. If the applicant's name is different from the owner's name, please fill in the appropriate information.

Participating Vessel(s)¹:

1. **Vessel Name** _____ **Owner's Name:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Owner's Address:** _____

Operator's Name: _____

Vessel Documentation Included? Yes ___ **No**² ___ **Vessel ID #:** _____

2. **Vessel Name** _____ **Owner's Name:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Owner's Address:** _____

Operator's Name: _____

Vessel Documentation Included? Yes ___ **No** ___ **Vessel ID#:** _____

3. **Vessel Name** _____ **Owner's Name:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Owner's Address:** _____

Operator's Name: _____

Vessel Documentation Included? Yes ___ **No** ___ **Vessel ID#:** _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ ***Date:*** _____

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Collection of information through an exempted fishing permit program provides essential information for the conservation and management of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish. Information on distribution and migratory patterns will be used for stock assessment and in developing international catch sharing agreements. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 40 minutes per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Reporting of exempted fishing permit activity is required under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act. It is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NAO 216-100). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. OMB Control #0648-0471 Expires 03/31/2021.

¹ Include additional sheets if more than three vessels are needed for the exempted fishing activity or shark research fishery.
² Application will not be deemed complete until all information is provided to NMFS. Please attach documentation (U.S. Coast Guard documentation, state license, or registration, and HMS permit) for each vessel to this application.

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Shark Research Fishery

Regulations governing the issuance of a Federal shark research fishery permit are contained in 50 CFR Part 635. NMFS will publish annually in the Federal Register a notice describing, for the following year, the expected research objectives. In general, shark research fishery permits are issued each year to qualified applicants who have submitted a complete application to NMFS and are selected to participate. The shark research fishery would allow NMFS and commercial shark fishermen to conduct cooperative research to collect fishery-dependent data for management of the Atlantic shark fishery.

Shark Research Fishery Permit: A valid shark research fishery permit is required to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic sharks, including sandbar sharks, in excess of retention limits described in 635.24 (a). A shark research fishery permit is only valid for the vessel, owner, and operator(s) specified and cannot be transferred to another vessel, owner, or operator(s). A shark research fishery permit is only valid for the retention limits, time, area, and gear specified on the permit, and only when a NMFS-approved observer is on board. Issuance of a shark research fishery permit does not guarantee that the holder will be issued a NMFS-approved observer on any particular trip. Rather, issuance indicates that a vessel may be issued a NMFS-approved observer for a particular trip and on such trips may be allowed to harvest Atlantic sharks, including sandbar sharks, in excess of retention limits specified in 635.24 (a).

Requirements

Per the HMS regulations, a valid shark research fishery permit must be on board the harvesting vessel and must be available when animals are landed.

An application will not be deemed complete until all of the information on the application is submitted to the HMS Management Division in writing. An incomplete application will not be considered until corrected in writing.

A shark research fishery permit is valid only for the specific authorized vessel(s), samplers, time, area, gear, and species indicated on the permit. Except for the regulatory exemptions specifically referenced on the permit, all HMS regulations at 50 CFR Part 635 shall apply during the conduct of the fishing activity. All private vessels listed on a shark research permit should have a valid HMS recreational or commercial HMS permit.

Once 80 percent of the commercial sandbar shark quota has been reached based on scientific observer reports, the shark research fishery will be closed.

The issuance of a shark research fishery permit in no way confers any right to collect/harvest species in waters under state jurisdiction. The appropriate state agency must be contacted regarding any collection in state waters, as separate state permits may be required for collection/harvest in state waters.

Fishermen with a shark research fishery permit should report their commercial catch in the appropriate logbook.

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Atlantic Shark Research Fishery Contact Information

Please submit any Shark Research Fishery applications with all required information to:

Lauren Latchford
Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1)
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
NMFS.research.fishery@noaa.gov

For additional Shark Research Fishery Information please contact Lauren Latchford, Guý DuBeck, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-427-8503. Applications may be faxed to 301-713-1917.

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