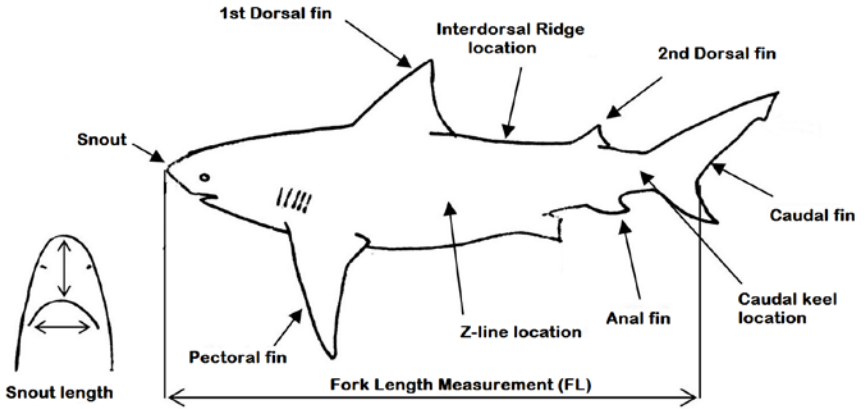
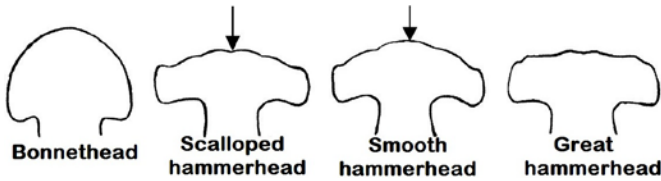


VI. SHARKS

ANATOMY OF A SHARK



IDENTIFICATION OF HAMMERHEAD SHARKS



Sharks can be difficult to identify, even for experts. To make sure you do not accidentally retain a prohibited species, release any sharks you are not sure you can identify correctly. Remember: *If you don't know, let it go.* For help with shark identification, download the Recreational Atlantic HMS Shark ID Placard (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/sharks/index.html>), or contact the Atlantic HMS Management Division at 301-427-8503 to request a waterproof hard copy of the placard.

AUTHORIZED SPECIES⁵⁰ (retention allowed)

Large Coastal Sharks (LCS) (non-ridgeback LCS* & tiger)		Small Coastal Sharks (SCS)	Pelagic Sharks
Blacktip	Lemon	Atlantic sharpnose	Blue
Bull	Nurse	Blacknose	Oceanic whitetip**
Hammerhead, great**	Spinner	Bonnethead	Porbeagle
Hammerhead, scalloped**	Tiger	Finetooth	Shortfin mako
Hammerhead, smooth**			Thresher

* Sharks that do not have an interdorsal ridge.

** Anglers cannot possess these sharks while in possession of tunas, billfish or swordfish.⁵¹



PROHIBITED SPECIES⁵² (must be released)

Atlantic angel	Caribbean reef	Night	Sixgill
Basking	Caribbean sharpnose	Sandbar	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Dusky	Sand tiger	Whale
Bigeye sixgill	Galapagos	Sevengill	White*
Bigeye thresher	Longfin mako	Silky	
Bignose	Narrowtooth		

* A person may fish for white sharks with rod and reel, but must release the fish immediately, with minimal injury, and without removing it from the water.⁵³

PERMITS AND GEARS

Permit	Gear ⁵⁴
1. HMS Angling, ⁵⁵ OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat, ⁵⁶ OR 3. Atlantic Tunas General category ⁵⁷ OR Swordfish General Commercial ⁵⁸ ONLY if participating in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament.	Handline and Rod and reel

SIZE/BAG LIMITS AND SEASONS

Permits	Species	Minimum Size ⁵⁹ (Fork Length)	Trip Bag Limit** ⁶⁰	Season
HMS Angling, Charter/Headboat, Atlantic Tunas General Category*, or Swordfish General Commercial*	Atlantic sharpnose	None	1 per person	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
	Bonnethead	None	1 per person	
	Hammerheads (Great, Smooth, and Scalloped)	78"	1 per vessel	
	All other sharks	54"		

*Only if participating in a registered HMS tournament.

**For example, if there are 3 passengers on a trip, the vessel may retain up to 3 Atlantic sharpnose, 3 bonnethead, and 1 hammerhead or other shark (7 sharks total).

LANDING RESTRICTIONS⁶¹

All sharks must be landed intact with the head, tail, and all fins naturally attached. The shark may be gutted and bled (by making an incision at the base of the tail) at sea.⁶² "Naturally attached" means attached to the shark carcass by at least some portion of uncut skin.⁶³

If an Atlantic shark is caught but not kept, it must be released immediately to improve its chances of survival without removing it from the water.⁶⁴

NOAA Fisheries encourages the live release of shortfin mako sharks.

Fishermen can download a free "Release Mako" application (app) to report live releases of shortfin mako sharks using their Android mobile devices. Fishermen



can also report shortfin mako releases on the Atlantic HMS website <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/shortfinmako/index.html>, by phone, or by fax.

A vessel that has been issued an Atlantic Tunas General category or Swordfish General Commercial permit may be used to fish recreationally for Atlantic sharks during a registered Atlantic HMS tournament. HMS Angling category regulations for Atlantic sharks apply, including those addressing authorized gears, techniques, bag limits and size limits.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS⁶⁵

- The Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP, formerly MRFSS) may survey anglers at the dock or by phone.⁶⁶ If contacted, anglers are required to participate in these surveys.
- Anglers in Maryland must report all recreational shark landings at a state-operated reporting station (state contact information is in Section XI).

RESTRICTED AREAS⁶⁷

- Tortugas Marine Reserves (closed year-round)
- Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps closed areas (closed year-round; except for surface trolling, allowed May-October)
- Edges 40 Fathom Contour closed area (closed January-April)

