



NDFs for CITES-listed shark species harvested in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean

U.S. Atlantic shark fisheries have been federally managed since 1993, when the first fishery management plan for sharks of the Atlantic Ocean was finalized (58 FR 21931, April 26, 1993). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Scientific Authority consults closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) when making NDFs for CITES-listed sharks. This example illustrates the value of long-term population monitoring for adaptive management and robust NDFs and highlights the critical importance of collaboration between national CITES and fisheries authorities when making NDFs for migratory species.



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Key Terms

- FWS** – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- MA** – Management Authority
- SA** – Scientific Authority
- NOAA Fisheries** – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service
- IFS** – Introduction from the Sea
- EEZ** – Exclusive Economic Zone
- HMS** – Highly Migratory Species
- ICCAT** – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

CITES permit application for shark import/export/re-export/IFS



For the Export of specimens of CITES-listed sharks caught in the U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean and IFS of sharks caught on the high seas by U.S. vessels, FWS uses science-based management measures put in place by NOAA Fisheries, which include the following:

- Permits are required for U.S. fishers and dealers.
- Reporting of catch is required.
- Commercial and recreational quotas, retention limits, and other restrictions are established.
- As needed based on scientific information, time-area closures or species prohibitions are put in place.
- Sharks must be landed with their fins naturally attached for proper species identification, accurate reporting, and enforcement.
- Commercial federal shark permit holders may only sell sharks to a federal Atlantic shark dealer and only when the fishery for that species/management group is open.
- Federal shark dealers must attend shark identification workshops and must report purchases.

NOAA Fisheries has regulatory and stewardship authority for U.S. federal fisheries and protected resources that extends beyond the U.S. EEZ to international waters through various international agreements.

U.S. Atlantic Shark Fishery Management and Scientific Assessment

