

**RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES**  
**REGULATIONS**  
**Finfish**

**7.15 Spiny dogfish**

7.15.1 Commercial:

(A) Seasons, allocations, and possession limit: RI is currently designated as a state that is part of the Northern region. A Northern region **possession limit and quota for spiny dogfish will be established annually by the ASMFC. The Northern region quota for spiny dogfish** ~~and~~ shall be the most recent allocation by the ASMFC ~~and/or the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce as published in the Federal Register~~, which is currently set at 58% of the coastwide quota.

(1) Season: May 1 until April 30 of the following year.

(2) Possession limit: ~~4,000~~ **5,000** pounds per vessel per calendar day. When notified that the quota in the Northern region has been harvested, or projected to be harvested, as determined by the NOAA Fisheries or the ASMFC, the DFW shall close the fishery for the remainder of the designated period.

(3) DFW is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with the other Northern Region States for the purpose of establishing seasons and possession limits governing the taking of spiny dogfish, and may make adjustments as deemed necessary to comply with said agreements. DFW will consult with the Rhode Island state-water spiny dogfish fishers prior to negotiating the subject agreements.

(B) Prohibition of Finning: Finning is defined as the act of taking a spiny dogfish, removing the fins, and returning the remainder of the spiny dogfish to the sea. Finning spiny dogfish ~~shall be is~~ prohibited in ~~all~~ state waters. ~~Vessels that land spiny dogfish must land fins in proportion to carcasses, with a maximum 5% fin to carcass ratio, by weight. Fins may be removed at sea, but the corresponding carcass must be retained. All fins and carcasses must be landed at the same time and in the same location.~~ **In addition, removing any fin of spiny dogfish at-sea is prohibited (including the tail). All spiny dogfish must be landed with fins-naturally-attached to the corresponding carcass. Gutting fish at-sea is permitted, so long as the fins remain attached by a portion of uncut skin.**