

Excerpts from

**R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations
PART VII - MINIMUM SIZES OF FISH/SHELLFISH**

7.15 Spiny dogfish

7.15.1 Commercial Season and Possession Limits – The commercial season shall extend from May 1 until April 30 of the following year. RI is currently designated as a state that is part of the Northern region. A Northern region quota for spiny dogfish will be established annually and shall be the most recent allocation by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (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. It shall be unlawful to possess aboard or land from a vessel, in any one calendar day, more than ~~3,000~~ **4,000** pounds of spiny dogfish. When notified that the quota in the Northern region has been harvested, or projected to be harvested, as determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Division of Fish and Wildlife shall file a notice with the Office of the Secretary of State prohibiting the commercial landings, harvest and possession of spiny dogfish in state waters for the remainder of the designated period.

(a) The Division 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. Pursuant to the authority of Part III Section 3.2.1, the Division is further authorized to adjust season(s) and possession limits governing the taking of spiny dogfish as may be deemed necessary to comply with said agreements. The Division will consult with the Rhode Island state-water spiny dogfish fishers prior to negotiating the subject agreements.

7.15.2 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 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.

RIMF REGULATIONS [Penalty – Part 3.3 (RIGL 20-1-16)]

7.24 Coastal Sharks

7.24.1 – Commercial

7.24.1-1 Commercial Species Groupings - Species managed under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Coastal Sharks shall be grouped into six commercial “species groups” for management purposes, hereafter referred to as: Prohibited Species, Research Species, Smooth Dogfish, Small Coastal Sharks, Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks, and Pelagic Sharks. These groupings apply to all commercial shark fisheries in state waters.

7.24.1-2 Commercial Fishing Year - The commercial shark fishery shall operate on a January 1 through December 31 fishing year.

7.24.1-3 Commercial Possession Limits – Possession limits, quotas, and seasonal periods for commercial shark fisheries will be established annually either through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). In accordance therewith:

- a. Properly licensed commercial fishermen may possess any of the species of sharks listed in Table 7.1 below in the Smooth Dogfish, Small Coastal Sharks, Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks and Pelagic Sharks species groups.
- b. There are no commercial trip limits or possession limits for Smooth Dogfish, or for the sharks listed in the Small Coastal Sharks and the Pelagic Species groups.
- a. No person shall possess more than ~~33~~ **36** sharks, per vessel per calendar day, regardless of species, from the Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks species group.

Table 7.1 Sharks in the Smooth Dogfish, Small Coastal Sharks, Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks, and Pelagic Species Groups.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Smooth dogfish	
Smooth Dogfish	<i>Mustelus canis</i>
Small Coastal Sharks (SCS)	
Atlantic sharpnose	<i>Rhizoprionodon terraenovae</i>
Finetooth	<i>Carcharhinus isodon</i>
Blacknose	<i>Carcharhinus acronotus</i>

Bonnethead	<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks (LCS)	
Silky	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>
Tiger	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>
Blacktip	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>
Spinner	<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>
Bull	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>
Lemon	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>
Nurse	<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>
Scalloped hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>
Great hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>
Smooth hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>
Pelagic Sharks	
Shortfin mako	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>
Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>
Common thresher	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>
Oceanic whitetip	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>
Blue	<i>Prionace glauca</i>