

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM 1f. **COMMERCIAL COASTAL SHARKS**

73.24.2 Commercial:

(A) Commercial Species Groupings: ~~Species managed under the ASMFC Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic~~ Coastal Sharks ~~shall be~~ **are** grouped into eight commercial “species groups” for management purposes, hereafter referred to as: Prohibited Species, Research Species, Smoothhound Sharks, Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks, Blacknose Sharks, Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks, Hammerhead Sharks, and Pelagic Sharks. These groupings apply to all commercial shark fisheries in state waters.

(1) Properly licensed commercial fishermen may possess any of the species of sharks listed in Table 3.4 below in the Smoothhound Sharks, Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks, Blacknose Sharks, Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks, Hammerhead Sharks, and Pelagic Sharks species groups.

(B) Fishing Year: ~~The commercial shark fishery shall operate on a~~ January 1 through December 31 ~~fishing year.~~

(C) Quota Specification:

(1) Smoothhound sharks: A total annual statewide quota will be established for the State by the ASMFC and/or NOAA Fisheries.

(2) Quotas for coastal shark commercial species and species groups **except Smoothhound sharks** will be established annually by the ASMFC and/or NOAA Fisheries. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any species of shark in state waters when ~~the~~ NOAA Fisheries prohibits the possession of that species in federal waters.

(D) Seasons: Seasonal periods for commercial shark fisheries may be established annually either through NOAA Fisheries, ASMFC, or DFW.

(E) Commercial Possession Limits: Possession limits, ~~quotas, and seasonal periods for commercial shark fisheries~~ will be established annually **either through the by** NOAA Fisheries, ASMFC, or DFW. ~~in accordance therewith:~~

~~(1) Properly licensed commercial fishermen may possess any of the species of sharks listed in Table 7.4 below in the Smoothhound Sharks, Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks, Blacknose Sharks, Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks, Hammerhead Sharks, and Pelagic Sharks species groups.~~

(21) There are no commercial ~~trip limits or~~ possession limits for Smoothhound Sharks, ~~or for the sharks listed in the~~ Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks, Blacknose Sharks, and Pelagic Species groups.

(32) ~~No person shall possess more than thirty six (36) sharks per vessel per calendar day, regardless of species, from the Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks or Hammerhead Sharks species group.~~ **Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks and Hammerhead Sharks species groups: Forty five (45) sharks per vessel per day, adjusting to between fifty five (55) and zero (0) sharks per vessel per day during the fishing year as determined by NOAA Fisheries.**