**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Notice of Administrative Change**

**Marine Fisheries**

**Modification of Spiny Dogfish Trip Limits**

**N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12**

**Take Notice** that, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(r), the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (Commissioner), with the approval of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (Council) at its July 10, 2025 meeting, has modified the commercial trip limits for spiny dogfish. The actions for spiny dogfish have been taken to achieve optimal utilization of available spiny dogfish quota.

At the January 9, 2025 Council meeting, the Council requested to increase New Jersey’s spiny dogfish quota through a state transfer if quota was available. Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish allows for quota transfers between Southern Region states, which include New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. Additionally, Addendum III established the ability of Southern Region states to set state-specific trip limits based on the needs of their fisheries. (https://asmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/spinyDogfishAddendumIII.pdf)

Accordingly, under a mutual agreement, New Jersey received a quota transfer of 300,000 pounds from North Carolina bringing New Jersey’s spiny dogfish quota to 1,013,917 for the 2025-2026 commercial fishing year. The spiny dogfish fishery operates from May 1 through April 30 under an annual quota.

At its July 10, 2025 meeting, the Council considered establishing new trip limits based upon the increased annual quota. The trip limits are established at levels intended to result in the harvest of the portion of the quota necessary to achieve full utilization of the quota throughout the 2025-2026 fishing season. Accordingly, the Council approved increasing the daily trip limit from 4,000 pounds per day to XXXX pounds per day.

These changes will be reflected in the Fish and Wildlife rules at N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(g). As required in N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(r), changes to N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12 will be published in the New Jersey Register, the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife commercial regulation publication, on the Department’s website, and through email to commercial license holders.

**Full text** of the changed rule follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**, deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

7:25-18.12 Size, season, and possession limits

(a) – (f) (No change.)

(g) The following provisions are applicable to the commercial harvest of spiny dogfish:

1. – 2. (No change.)

3. No person or vessel shall have in possession or land and no dealer shall accept from any one vessel more than the daily trip limit set by the National Marine Fisheries Service or the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission.

i. In accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish, which authorizes southern region states (NY to NC) to set state-specific trip limits based on the needs of their fisheries, no person or vessel shall have in possession or land more than [4,000]**XXXX** pounds of spiny dogfish per day, and no dealer shall accept more than [4,000]**XXXX** pounds of spiny dogfish per day from any one vessel.

4. (No change.)

1. – (r) (No change.)

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner

Department of Environmental Protection