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Final Rule: Zero Shortfin Mako Shark Retention Limit

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ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

June 30, 2022

Zero Shortfin Mako Shark Retention Limit Established in Final Rule

No shortfin mako sharks may be landed or retained in any U.S. Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) fishery until further notice.

What does this final rule do?

This final rule establishes a shortfin mako shark retention limit of zero in the commercial and recreational Atlantic HMS fisheries, consistent with the management measure adopted in 2021 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). If ICCAT provides for U.S. harvest in the future, NOAA Fisheries could increase the shortfin mako shark retention limit, based on regulatory criteria and the amount of retention allowed by ICCAT. Until that happens, the retention limit will remain at zero.

Read the full description of the final action in the [final rule and supporting Environmental Assessment](#)

Who is affected?

- Any commercial fishermen with HMS permits

- Any commercial fishermen with HMS permits.

- Any recreational fishermen with HMS permits.
- Any dealers who buy or sell sharks or shark products.

What do fishermen need to do to comply with new requirements?

To comply with this rule, commercial and recreational fishermen (including those fishing in tournaments or on for-hire vessels) with HMS permits must release any shortfin mako sharks captured while the retention limit is zero, whether the shark is dead or alive at haulback. NOAA Fisheries will notify the public of any change to the commercial and/or recreational shortfin mako shark retention limit via Federal Register notice and [email](#). Fishermen must continue to follow other relevant fishery regulations, which are summarized in the Atlantic HMS [compliance guides](#).

Effective Date

This rule will be effective on July 5, 2022.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

For more information, contact Carrie Soltanoff, carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov, (301) 427-8503.

Federal Register Notice

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