

ASMFC Press Release**SPINY DOGFISH & COASTAL SHARKS MANAGEMENT BOARD****(November 10, 2011)*****Meeting Summary***

In addition to setting a 30 million pound spiny dogfish quota for 2012/2013 with a 3,000 pound maximum possession limit in the northern region and 33 non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS) coastal sharks possession limit, the Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board considered a coastal sharks *de minimis* request from Massachusetts, provided feedback for upcoming federal waters shark measures, and postponed a smooth dogfish state shares addendum. Massachusetts submitted a *de minimis* proposal asking for an exemption from the LCS possession limit requirement of the FMP. The proposal outlines that the LCS possession limit requirement is an unnecessary regulatory burden because LCS species are rarely found in Massachusetts state waters and there is no active commercial fishery for them. The Coastal Sharks FMP does not include specific *de minimis* criteria but allows for consideration on a case-by-case basis when implementation of a regulation is unnecessary for attainment of the FMP's objectives and conservation of the resource. The Coastal Sharks Technical Committee (Coastal Sharks TC) reviewed the proposal and recommended Board approval because Massachusetts has implemented all other FMP measures which will adequately prevent overfishing of the LCS resource. Specifically, federal dealer permits are required and all fins must remain attached naturally through landing to ensure that all sharks are accurately counted in the landings database, and the fishery will close when the federal quota is projected to be harvested. The Board unanimously approved the *de minimis* proposal following the TC's recommendations. Karyl Brewster-Geisz of NMFS Division of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) presented the Board with an overview of upcoming federal waters measures including implementation of the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, a smooth dogfish commercial quota, and potential measures based on the SEDAR 21 assessment. NMFS will implement the Shark Conservation Act and a smooth dogfish commercial quota as part of Amendment 3. Due to delays implementing the Shark Conservation Act measures, Amendment 3 and the associated smooth dogfish quota will not be implemented by the original implementation date of 24 January 1, 2012. The smooth dogfish base quota of 715.5 metric tons (1.5 million pounds) was calculated from the largest annual landings from 1998 – 2007 plus two standard deviations, however landings increased significantly since 2007 and a 715.5 metric ton quota would be a 40% reduction based on 2010 smooth dogfish commercial landings. HMS clarified that the delay implementing the Shark Conservation Act is not related to a reconsideration of the 12% commercial smooth dogfish fin-to-carcass ratio and they also plan to update the smooth dogfish base quota using updated landings. The Board was considering a smooth dogfish state shares addendum but postponed approving the document for public comment until the proposed federal commercial smooth dogfish quota is published. Board members commented that they cannot make an informed decision regarding smooth dogfish until the quota is known and the federal delay makes implementation of smooth dogfish state shares less urgent. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or cvonderweidt@asmfc.org.

Motions

Main Motion:

Move that the Board accept the TC recommended quota of 35.694 million pounds for 2012/2013, and a daily trip limit of 3,000 pounds for the northern region.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Fote. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend:

Move to amend the quota to 30 million pounds.

Motion made by Mr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Grout. Motion passes (7 in favor, 5 opposed, 3 null, 1 abstention).

Main Motion as Amended:

Move that the Board set the quota of 30 million pounds for 2012/2013, and a daily trip limit at 3,000 pounds for the northern region.

Motion passes.

Move to approve MA *de minimis* request.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Dr. Rhodes. Motion passes without objection.

Move to set a 33 fish non sandbar LCS possession limit for 2012.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion passes without objection.