

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting



Fishery Evaluation

July 2014

Spiny Dogfish Industry Meeting

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome/Announcements
2. Review of Operating Guidelines/Ground Rules/Fisheries Management Principles
3. 2013/2014 Fishery Recap
 - a. Landings – Angel Willey
 - b. Enforcement
4. Future
 - a. 10,000lb eligibility/transfer requirement – Group Discussion
 - b. Trip Limits – Group Discussion
- i. MAFMC – Amendment 3
 - ii. ASMFC – Draft Addendum V - Angel Willey
 - iii. § 4-747 Shark Fin Law from 2013 General Assembly
 - iv. Definition of Operator – Tammy O’Connell/Group Discussion
 - v. Declaration Period
5. Other Business / Public Comment / Adjourn

Guidelines / Ground Rules

- **Motions:**

- Work group members should make a motion when recommending action to Fisheries Service, e.g. Jeff Eustler motions that Fisheries Service consider making the spiny dogfish fishery limited entry. Motion is seconded by Sonny Gwin.
- Discussion will follow and will be limited to the merits of the motion.
- Motion should be approved by the majority. A tie or a failed motion provides us as much information as a passed motion.
- Will need to document reasons why passed, failed, or tied. If not unanimous, the work group should report on all reason(s) for the dissenting vote.

Guidelines / Ground Rules

- One workgroup member will speak at a time. Please raise your hand, and we (the facilitators) will ensure each member has an opportunity to talk.
- For topics not on the agenda, there will be time under "other business" to bring items to our attention.
- On discussion outside of the meeting: recommendations made to the Department outside of the workgroup meeting will not be considered.

2013/2014 Fishery Recap

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May 2013 - April 2014 Permits

- 27 permits were issued to 24 people
- 18 vessels reported landings
- 59% of the vessels reporting Spiny Dogfish had permits
- 41% of permittees landed $\geq 10,000$ lbs
- 33% of permittees landed $\geq 20,000$ lbs

May 2013 - April 2014 Permits

- 2013/2014 Permit Cards are **PAST** due.

- Permit Coordinator – **NEW** Contact Info

Christopher Jones

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May 2013-April 2014 Preliminary Landings

Landed 932,210 lbs
= 37% of the 2,523,500 lb quota

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Enforcement

We are not aware of any enforcement issues last season.

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Future

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10,000 lb Eligibility/Transfer Requirement

E. Spiny Dogfish Landing Permit

(c) The individual, beginning March 2015, has declared an intent to fish for spiny dogfish in accordance with § D of this regulation within 2 years of the current declaration, not transferred the permit, and owned a vessel that landed a minimum of **10,000 pounds of spiny dogfish within 2 years of the current declaration period; or**

Permanent Transfer of a Landing Permit.

(1) A commercial tidal fish licensee may permanently transfer a spiny dogfish landing permit if:

(ii) Held the permit for 4 or more consecutive years; and

(iii) Harvested a minimum of **20,000 pounds within the previous 4-year period on the same vessel that qualified for the permit under § E(1) of this regulation;**

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2014/2015 Trip Limits

- NOAA: Unlimited <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-05-13/pdf/2014-11049.pdf>
- Maryland: 5,000 lbs
- Northern Region (ME-CT) 4,000 lbs
- DE 10K
- NC 10K – end of last season
- VA – 4,000 lbs

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Trip Limits

- Perspectives
 - Fishermen – Enough to cover expenses, profit
 - Dealer – Landings, market, profit
 - Processor – Handling capacity, profit
 - MDNR – Regulatory obligations, needs of constituents
 - ASMFC – FMP, needs of constituents, Board Votes
 - ASMFC Technical Committee – Trip limits are a management decision because there is no scientific justification for a large or small possession limit. Smaller trip limits are easier for quota monitoring than large ones, which could result in overharvesting.
 - NEFMC/MAFMC – FMP, large area, NOAA approval
 - NOAA – MSA, 2 councils, ASMFC, large area, fishermen, public input

Regulation Updates

MAFMC Amendment 3 to the FMP – Approved by NOAA, Final Rule will be published in the *Federal Register* soon

1. Add an option for allocation of a small percentage (up to 3 percent) of the commercial quota for use in the Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program;
2. update the definitions of essential fish habitat (EFH) for all life stages;
3. maintain existing annual management measures until replaced via rulemaking (i.e., quota rollover); and
4. eliminate the seasonal allocation of the commercial quota in order to minimize conflicts with Spiny Dogfish fishing operations that occur in both state and Federal waters. The commercial quota will now be managed on an annual, coastwide basis. This last action will improve alignment with the ASMFC FMP.

Regulation Updates

Shark Conservation Act of 2010

– NOAA Proposed Rule May 2, 2013

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-02/pdf/2013-10439.pdf>

- Prohibits any person from removing any of the fins of a shark at sea, possessing shark fins on board a fishing vessel unless they are naturally attached to the corresponding carcass, transferring or receiving fins from one vessel to another at sea unless the fins are naturally attached to the corresponding carcass, or landing shark carcasses without their fins naturally attached.
- As a result of the SCA and the desire for complimentary management, ASMFC is developing Draft Addendum V for approval at the August Board meeting.

Regulation Updates Draft Addendum V

- Goal: consistency between the SCA Proposed Rule and ASMFC by removing the 5:95 fin-to-carcass ratio.
 - DRAFT Option A – status quo
 - Federal permit holders have to abide by the most restrictive rules.
 - DRAFT Option B – all fins remain naturally attached at sea including the tail. Allows gutting.
- Do you want to have a public hearing?

Regulation Updates

- Finning: During Maryland's 2013 Legislative Session, a bill was passed (§ 4-747) to address the international trade of illegal shark fins. This statute limits the sale of legally-harvested shark fins in Maryland.
- We are not planning to adopt any new regulations.

Regulation Updates

- Definition of operator

(6) Operators.

(a) An operator means an individual who is not a permittee and who acts as an agent of a permittee.

(b) The name of the vessel on which the operator is working shall be declared on the Maryland spiny dogfish landing permit.

(c) An operator may catch, possess, or land spiny dogfish for commercial purposes on a vessel owned by a permittee if they are in possession of that permittee's permit.

(7) Temporary transfers of spiny dogfish landing permits are not permitted.

Regulation Updates

Declaration Period Change

Emergency regulation to change the declaration period for the commercial spiny dogfish permit from March 1 - March 31 to August 1 – March 31st.

Purpose: to coincide with the commercial license renewal period and save a trip to the licensing center.

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Other Business

NEW Contact Information

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Other Business

- Public Comment
- Adjourn