

Information Paper: NSW Ocean Trap and Line Fishery

Sharks taken in the NSW Ocean Trap and Line Fishery – January 2022

Various programs are in place to manage the commercial harvest and handling of sharks in NSW. One of these involves limiting commercial catch of specified shark species in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery. This paper described this program and changes to optimise industry compliance and reduce red-tape for fishers.

Introduction

The program described in this paper involves weekly and annual shark catch limits set at levels so that fishers in the Ocean Trap and Line (OTL) Fishery can continue to enjoy the economic benefits from taking sharks as expected catch or as byproduct when fishing for other species.

The program applies to commercial fishers fishing under the following endorsements:

- a line fishing western zone endorsement,
- a line fishing eastern zone endorsement, or
- a demersal fish trap endorsement.

The species of shark that this program applies to can be found in Attachment A.

Key components of the program

Key components of the program include:

- a weekly catch limit of 750 kg whole weight or 500 kg if any of the catch is headed, gutted, or headed and gutted
- an annual 'trigger limit' of 70 tonnes processed weight, after which a two-carcass trip limit applies
- a notional annual Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 85.9 tonnes processed weight, after which no sharks can be taken

DPI monitors total shark catch against the 'trigger limit' and TACC throughout the fishing period. The fishing period extends from 1 February to 31 January in the following year.

The weekly catch limit applies from midnight Sunday to midnight the following Sunday.

Processing sharks

A shark may be processed by removing its head including gills and gut.

If processing a shark, other than Gulper sharks, Dogfishes, or Catsharks:

- the head and gills should be removed by a cut in front of the last gill slit and pectoral fin with the cut being perpendicular to the long axis of the fish, and
- the belly flaps must not be removed.

Changes to optimise industry self-compliance and reduce red-tape

Reporting shark catch – removing red tape

The requirement to record any shark taken in a logbook prior to moving the shark more than 50 metres from the boat from which it was taken and fax or email that record to DPI within 24 hours of landing the catch has been removed.

Any shark taken must be reported either online or in the paper-based logbook and submitted to DPI within 28 days of the end of the relevant month, consistent with the standard reporting requirements that apply to other species that are not subject to quota.

Enhancing industry self-compliance:

Throughout the upcoming season DPI Officers will engage with fishers who take larger quantities of shark to help them understand the current rules to enhance self-compliance.

Fisheries Officers will also go about their normal duties to ensure that all fishers are complying with the weekly catch limit and possession limit and completing accurate catch, effort, and disposal records.

New possession limit order:

It is an offence to be in possession of more than the weekly catch limit of shark at any time.

More Information

The current fishing closure and new possession limit order can be found on the DPI website.

For enquiries concerning this program please contact your local Fisheries Office or the Commercial Fisheries hotline on 1300 726 488.

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Attachment A: species of shark subject to this program

The species of shark subject to this program include all sharks contained within the families in Column 1 and Column 2 of the following table, excluding the species in Column 3.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Family	Common name	Species excluded from this program
ALOPIIDAE	Thresher sharks	
BRACHAELURIDAE	Blind sharks	
CARCHARHINIDAE	Whaler sharks	
CENTROPHORIDAE	Gulper sharks	Harrison's Dogfish (<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i>) Endeavour Dogfish (<i>Centrophorus moluccensis</i>) Southern Dogfish (<i>Centrophorus zeehaani</i>)
CETORHINIDAE	Basking sharks	
CHLAMYDOSELACHIDAE	Frill sharks	
DALATIIDAE	Sleeper sharks	
ECHINORHINIDAE	Bramble sharks	
ETMOPTERIDAE	Lantern sharks	
GINGLYMOSTOMATIDAE	Nurse sharks	
HEMIGALEIDAE	Weasel sharks	
HEMISCYLLIDAE	Longtail carpet sharks	
HETERODONTIDAE	Horn sharks	
HEXANCHIDAE	Sixgill, Sevengill and Broadnose sharks	
LAMNIDAE	Mackerel sharks	
MEGACHASMIDAE	Megamouth sharks	
MITSUKURINIDAE	Goblin sharks	
OXYNOTIDAE	Roughsharks / prickly dogfishes	
PARASCYLLIDAE	Collared carpet sharks	
PRISTIOPHORIDAE	Sawsharks	
PSEUDOCARCHARIDAE	Crocodile sharks	
SCYLIORHINIDAE	Catsharks	
SOMNIOSIDAE	Sleeper sharks	
SPHYRNIDAE	Hammerhead sharks	
SQUALIDAE	Dogfishes	Greeneye Spurdog (<i>Squalus coloroculus</i>)
SQUATINIDAE	Angelsharks	
STEGOSTOMATIDAE	Zebra sharks	
TRIAKIDAE	Hound sharks	School Shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>) Gummy Shark (<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>)