

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2024 Commercial Large Coastal Sharks Daily Possession Limit Adjustment

Louisiana's commercial fishery for large coastal sharks (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse shark, blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, sandbar shark, silky shark, spinner shark, and tiger shark) is scheduled to open on January 1, 2024 with a daily possession limit of 55 sharks, combined, for all large coastal sharks. NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the daily possession limit for the commercial harvest of large coastal sharks at the opening of the 2024 season will be 55 daily, which is an increase from the published 45 sharks daily limit in regulations.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:962, which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, and the authority given to the secretary by the commission in LAC 76:VII.357.H.2 to modify commercial large coastal shark possession limits if notified by NOAA Fisheries of such an adjustment, the secretary hereby declares:

Effective 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2024, the daily bag limit for the commercial harvest of large coastal sharks (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse shark, blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, sandbar shark, silky shark, spinner shark, and tiger shark) shall be 55 sharks per day until further notice. Persons harvesting large coastal sharks commercially may not possess sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid federal shark research permit under 50 CFR 635.32(1).

Robert E. Shadoin
Secretary