

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 091599C]

National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of National Plan of Action Outline and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States is developing a National Plan of Action (NPOA) pursuant to the endorsement of the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Ministerial Meeting in March 1999. Noting the increased concern about the expanding catches of sharks and their potential negative impacts on shark populations, this IPOA calls on COFI member states to voluntarily develop national plans to ensure the conservation and management of sharks for their long-term sustainable use. The United States has committed to developing this national plan, and reporting on its implementation to COFI, no later than the 25th COFI session in February 2001. This document provides a time frame for the completion of this project and an outline of the contents of this NPOA. The public is invited to provide written comments and suggestions for items to be incorporated and addressed within the NPOA. Specifically the public is encouraged to provide NMFS with comments on the level of interactions between sharks and U.S. fisherman in the fisheries listed in the outline or whether the management measures already in place in these fisheries significantly decrease the occurrence of these interactions.

DATES: Comments on the Shark NPOA will be accepted from September 30, 1999 through November 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Robyn Wingrove, NOAA Fisheries / SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robyn Wingrove, 301-713-2347, ext. 118, or fax 301-713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Shark IPOA was endorsed in principle at the 23rd FAO COFI session in February

1999 and also at the Fisheries Ministerial in March 1999. As with the two other IPOAs on seabirds and fishing capacity, the Shark IPOA calls on members to voluntarily develop an NPOA on this issue. For the purposes of this document, the term "shark" includes all species of sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras.

The FAO Fisheries Department will, to the extent directed by its Conference, support the development and implementation of the Shark NPOAs through specific, in-country technical assistance projects with Regular Programme funds and by use of extra-budgetary funds made available to the Organization for this purpose. FAO will assist its members by: (1) providing a list of experts and a mechanism of technical assistance while preparing NPOAs, and (2) assisting in the reporting process to COFI.

Many measures have already been taken in the United States to ensure that shark catches from directed and non-directed fisheries are sustainable as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). These are entirely consistent with, and may in some cases exceed, the measures suggested in the IPOA. The U.S. NPOA is currently under development by NMFS, with a draft Shark NPOA tentatively due for publication in the *Federal Register* in December 1999 and full completion by February 2000.

Written comments on the Shark NPOA are encouraged (see **ADDRESSES**).

Proposed Schedule

October 1999—Release approved schedule and outline to public via a *Federal Register* notice.

November 1999—Collect and incorporate review comments.

December 1999—Release Draft NPOA for public comment.

February 2000—Respond to public comments and release final version of Shark NPOA.

Proposed Outline of Shark NPOA*Executive Summary*

I. Introduction: Description of the Problem

II. History of IPOA and NPOA Process

A. FAO Involvement

B. Delegation of National Authority and Cooperative Efforts

III. Methods Used in NPOA Development Process

A. Role of NMFS Headquarters and Regional Fishery Management Councils

B. Feedback and Constituent Input Process

IV. Implementation Framework

A. International : Role of Member Countries

B. International: Role of Fisheries Organizations

C. Domestic: Regional Fishery Management Councils, Secretarial Management, Fishery Management Plans, and Other Regulatory Documents

V. Biological Characteristics: General Overview

VI. Directed and Non-directed Shark Fisheries of the United States: Descriptions, Regulations, and Current Management, by Fishery Management Councils(FMC), Secretary of Commerce Management and / or International Agreements.

A. Directed Fisheries:

1. New England FMC: Dogfish (Fishery Management Plan (FMP)); Atlantic Skate (non FMP)

2. Mid-Atlantic FMC: Dogfish (FMP)

3. Gulf of Mexico FMC: Inshore Coastal Gillnet Fishery (non-FMP)

4. Caribbean FMC: Caribbean Pelagics Fishery (non-FMP)

5. Pacific FMC: Shark/Bonito Longline/Setline Fishery (non FMP); California Angel Shark/ Halibut and other species Large-Mesh Set Net Fishery (non-FMP); CA/OR Thresher shark / Swordfish Drift Gillnet Fishery (non-FMP); OR Blue shark Floating Longline Fishery

6. Western Pacific (WP) FMC:WP Pelagics Fishery (FMP and non-FMP); WP Coastal Pelagics Fishery (non-FMP)

7. Secretary of Commerce Authority: Atlantic and Gulf Sharks Fisheries (FMP)

B. Non-Directed Fisheries:

1. New England FMC: Northeast Multispecies Fishery (FMP); Atlantic Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery (non-FMP); Atlantic Halibut Fishery (non-FMP); Atlantic Herring Fishery (non-FMP); Weakfish Fishery (non-FMP); Monkfish(FMP)

2. Mid-Atlantic FMC: Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Fishery (FMP); Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Fishery (FMP); Atlantic Bluefish Fishery (FMP); Tilefish Fishery (non-FMP); Atlantic Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery (non-FMP); Northern Shrimp Trawl Fishery (non-FMP); Monkfish Fishery (FMP); Coastal Gillnet Fishery (non-FMP); Mixed Species Trawl Fishery (non-FMP)

3. South Atlantic FMC: Snapper / Grouper Complex Fishery (FMP), South Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery (FMP); Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP); Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats (FMP)

4. Gulf of Mexico FMC: Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery (FMP); Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery (FMP); Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery (FMP); Mullet Fishery (non-FMP); Coastal Herring Trawl Fishery (non-FMP); Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Purse Fishery (non-FMP); Gulf of Mexico Groundfish Fishery (non-FMP); Butterfish Trawl Fishery (non-FMP); Sardine Purse Seine Fishery (non-FMP); Non-Groundfish Finfish Fishery (non-FMP); Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery (FMP).

5. Caribbean FMC: Caribbean Shallow Water Reef Fish Fishery (FMP)

6. Pacific FMC: Washington, Oregon, and California Salmon Fishery (FMP); West Coast Groundfish Fishery (FMP); Pacific Shrimp/Prawn Fishery (non-FMP); California Halibut Trawl and Trammel Net Fishery (non-FMP); Pacific Halibut (non-FMP); Pacific Albacore, Other Tuna Hook and Line Fishery (non-FMP); Pacific Yellowfin, Skipjack Tuna, Purse Seine Fishery (non-FMP); Coastal Pelagics Fishery (FMP).

7. North Pacific FMC: Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery (FMP); Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery (FMP); Octopus / Squid Longline Fishery (non-FMP); Alaska High Seas Salmon Fishery (FMP); Alaska Salmon Fishery (non-FMP); Finfish Purse Seine Fishery (non-FMP); Finfish Handline/Hook and Line Fishery (non-FMP)

8. Western Pacific (WP) FMC: WP Bottomfish/Seamount Groundfish Fishery (FMP); WP Pacific Shallow Reef Fishery (non-FMP)

9. Secretary of Commerce Control: Atlantic Tunas, and Swordfish Fisheries (FMP) C. International Fisheries Agreements

1. International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

2. International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

3. Latin America Organization for Fishery Development (OLDEPESCA)

4. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

5. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

6. South Pacific Commission (SPC)

VII. References

VIII. Appendices

A. International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks

B. 1998 Report of the Stock Evaluation Workshop

C. NMFS National Bycatch Plan, Executive Summary

D. Summary of Magnuson-Stevens Act

E. NMFS Regional Science Center and Management Council Contact Information

Dated: September 27, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Cambodia

September 27, 1999.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for swing.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the **CORRELATION:** Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Also see 64 FR 6050, published on February 8, 1999.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

September 27, 1999.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on February 1, 1999, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Cambodia and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1999 and extends through December 31, 1999.

Effective on September 30, 1999, you are directed to adjust the current limits for the following categories, as provided for under the terms of the current bilateral textile agreement between the Governments of the United States and Cambodia:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
331/631	1,300,000 dozen pairs.
338/339	2,800,000 dozen.
347/348/647/648	3,360,000 dozen.
438	96,300 dozen.
645/646	171,875 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1998.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

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BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Indonesia

September 27, 1999.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 6, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S.