

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2019 Commercial Large Coastal Shark 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) opened on January 1, 2019 with a daily possession limit of 45 sharks and is open until further notice. NOAA Fisheries has informed the secretary that the daily possession limit for large coastal sharks has been increased from 45 daily to 55 daily through the remainder of the season which is currently scheduled to end on December 31, 2019.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953, 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 large coastal shark possession limits if notified by NOAA Fisheries of such an adjustment, the secretary hereby declares:

Effective 12:01 a.m., August 12, 2019, 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 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2019. 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).

Jack Montoucet
Secretary

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