



Photo credit: Heidi Thoricht



Shark Fishing in Florida

January 13, 2015

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Importance of Sharks

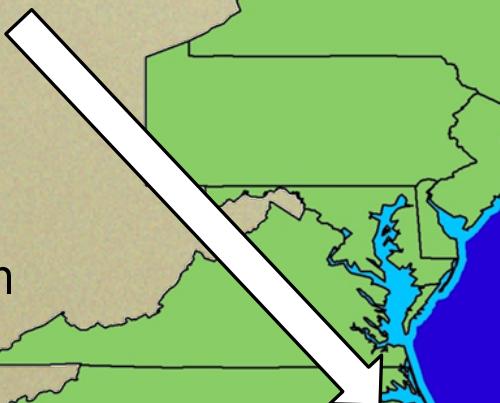
- Vital role in marine ecosystems
 - Apex predators
 - Keystone species
- Economic value
 - Recreation
 - Commercial/food
- Florida's coastal waters are Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
 - Pregnant females enter state waters to pup at known times of year
 - Critical nursery habitat is often found in shallow state waters



Who Manages Sharks?

Each Atlantic coastal state manages sharks from shore to 3 miles

Florida
manages
sharks from
shore to 9
miles in
Gulf



Manages interstate fisheries
from shore to 3 miles on
Atlantic Coast



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Division of Highly Migratory Species
(HMS)

Manages tunas, swordfish, billfish,
and sharks in federal waters

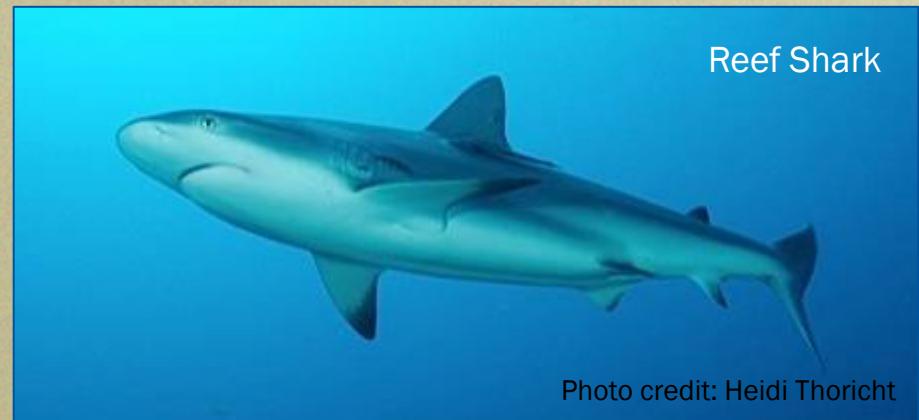
Shark Fishing from Shore

- Allowed in Florida with a recreational saltwater fishing license
- Public perception that fishing from shore alters shark behavior in nearshore waters
- Fear among the public that fishing from shore could increase the likelihood of shark attacks
- Land based anglers chum from shore and fishing piers when targeting other species, including baitfish and snappers
 - Shark anglers report they rarely chum, as it is ineffective due to current and wave action
- 2011 received request from county government to look at shore based regulations
 - No evidence showing an increase in shark attacks associated with fishing from shore
 - Ultimately, Commission did not take action



Shark Fishing in Florida

- Economically important in Florida
 - Exciting sport, drawing participants worldwide
 - Opportunities for shark fishing that can't be found elsewhere
- Commission values access to our shared resources for all user groups
- Commission recognizes the public's perception regarding safety issues
- Using non-regulatory approach to educate anglers and the public on “Shark-Smart Fishing”



Shark-Smart Fishing

Goal: Maximize public safety – Use common sense, be respectful!

- If swimmers or surfers are present, do not fish for sharks
- If fishers are present, do not swim or surf
- Anglers should avoid fishing near swimmers
- Anglers should not chum near swimmers
- If fishing from a pier or bridge:
 - Do not bring a large shark onto a pier or bridge
 - Cut the line as close to the shark as possible



Shark-Smart Fishing

Goal: Minimize shark mortality

- Use proper tackle
- Minimize fight and handling time
- Keep sharks in the water
- Minimize release time and avoid excessive picture posing
- Use a dehooking device when possible



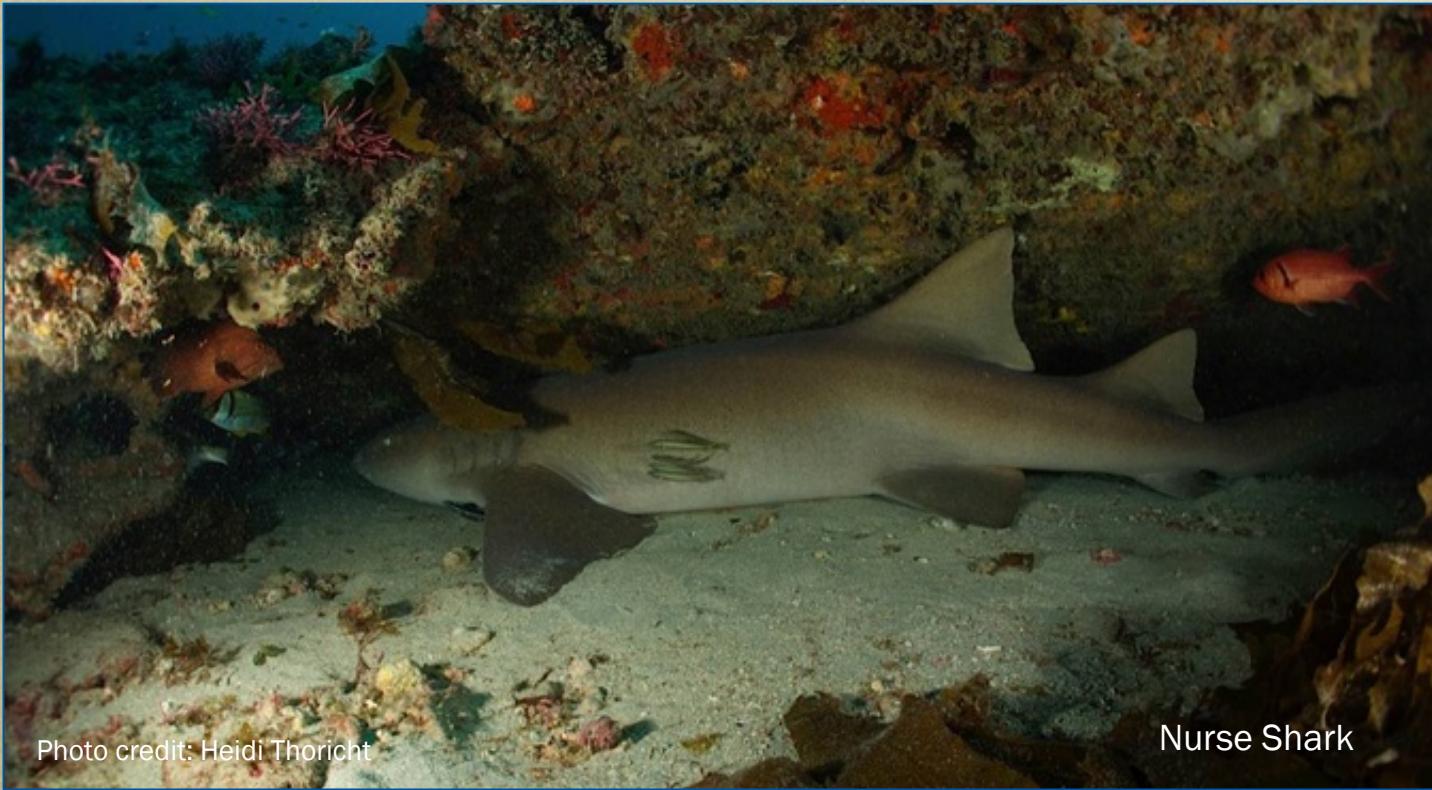


Photo credit: Heidi Thoricht

Nurse Shark



FWC Prohibited Shark Species

Pelagic Species

Bigeye sixgill shark
Bigeye thresher shark
Longfin mako shark
Sevengill shark
Sixgill shark

Others

Spiny dogfish
Manta ray
Spotted eagle ray
Smalltooth sawfish
Largetooth sawfish

Small Coastal Species

Atlantic angel shark
Smalltail shark
Caribbean sharpnose shark



White Shark

Zooplanktivores

Basking shark
Whale shark

Large Coastal Species

Galapagos shark
White shark
Sand tiger shark
Narrowtooth shark
Bigeye sand tiger
Bignose shark
Caribbean reef shark
Dusky shark
Night shark
Lemon shark
Sandbar shark
Silky shark
Great hammerhead
Scalloped hammerhead
Smooth hammerhead
Tiger shark

FWC Managed Shark Species

Pelagic species:

Porbeagle shark

Shortfin mako

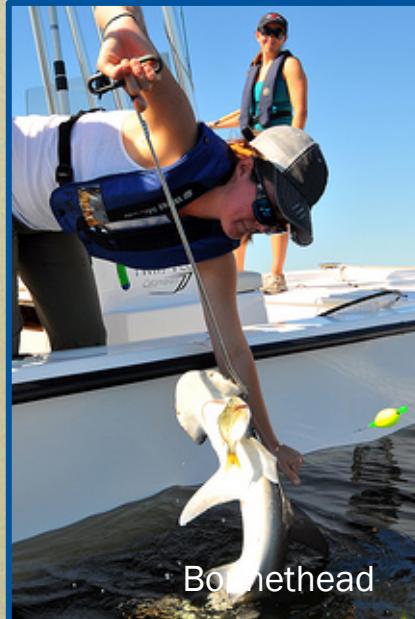
Blue shark

Oceanic whitetip
shark

Thresher shark

Other

Smooth dogfish



Small coastal species:

Bonnethead

Atlantic sharpnose
shark

Blacknose shark

Finetooth shark

Large coastal species:

Nurse shark

Blacktip shark

Bull shark

Spinner shark

