



January 5, 2026

Re: Federal Consistency Determination for a Proposed Rule to Revise Commercial Atlantic Blacknose Shark and Recreational Atlantic Shark Fisheries Management Measures (RIN 0648-BM88)

Dear Coastal Zone Program Manager:

This document provides your State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) consistency determination under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) § 307(c) for a proposed rule that would consider options to: (1) remove the blacknose shark management boundary in the Atlantic region, (2) modify the commercial retention limit for blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region, (3) revise the recreational minimum size limits for Atlantic shark species, and (4) revise the recreational retention limits for Atlantic shark species. This proposed rule would also remove commercial management group quota linkages, consistent with management measures established in Amendment 14 to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (88 FR 4157, January 24, 2023).

This action is necessary to be responsive to the framework for implementing management measures established in Amendment 14, findings from the Atlantic Shark Fishery Review document (88 FR 16944, March 21, 2023), public comments from scoping for Amendment 16 to the HMS FMP (Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; 88 FR 29617, May 8, 2023), and recent domestic laws and international agreements that are having direct and indirect impacts on shark fisheries, and to achieve domestic management objectives under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on January 5, 2026. The comment period for the proposed rule is open until March 6, 2026.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.36(e), NMFS is providing one consistency determination that addresses the commonalities and differences of each state's enforceable policies. Pursuant to 15 CFR part 923 subparts (B) through (F), NMFS has reviewed the enforceable policies relevant to this action of each state along the Atlantic coast, Gulf of America, and Caribbean. As described below, NMFS finds this action to be consistent with the following policies contained in each state's CZMP: uses subject to management; special management areas; boundaries; authorities and organizations; and public involvement and national interest. In addition, NMFS finds this action to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies to manage, preserve, and protect the coastal natural resources, including fish and wildlife, and to provide recreational opportunities through public access to waters off the coastal areas. Specifically, under these enforceable policies, this proposed action is intended to increase management flexibility to react to additional factors impacting Atlantic shark fisheries and optimize the ability of the commercial and recreational shark fisheries to harvest available quota to the extent practicable.



Consistent with 15 CFR 930.41(a), NMFS requests that, once you have received our consistency determination and accompanying information, you review this information in 60 days and advise us of your agreement or disagreement with our consistency determination. Please refer to the subject line in your reply to this letter. In the event that there is no response from your agency within 60 days of receipt of this package, we will presume your agency's concurrence with our determination of consistency. Please contact Guy DuBeck, guy.dubeck@noaa.gov, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz, karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov, at 301-427-8503 if you have any questions on the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Kelly Denit

Kelly Denit
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service