

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Kelly Denit - NOAA Federal <kelly.denit@noaa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 10:26 AM

Subject: NOAA Fisheries Announces the Publication of a Scientific Article on Shark Depredation in Atlantic Recreational Fisheries

Good morning all,

A new scientific paper published in the [*ICES Journal of Marine Science*](#) provides a comprehensive overview of the breadth of shark depredation in recreational fisheries in U.S. Atlantic waters over the past 100 years. NOAA Fisheries collaborated with regional experts combining their collective knowledge and data to characterize shark depredation across the Atlantic from Maine to Texas, and the U.S. Caribbean.

The goal was to clarify high-level drivers of historic trends in shark depredation and identify the species and management entities affected. The team identified at least 51 target recreational fish stocks affected by 22 species of shark depredators. The most prevalent shark depredators were species that span distinct habitats (e.g., coastal vs. pelagic) and regions (e.g., northeastern vs. southeastern United States). These sharks also have different management measures in place, which makes mitigating depredation challenging.

While shark depredation has impacted U.S. fishermen for generations, both commercial and recreational [anglers are increasingly concerned](#) with economic losses from shark depredation as shark populations rebuild.

There is no ideal shark depredation solution that will work across all the species and fishery scenarios identified in the analysis. The researchers recommend continued testing of shark deterrents and optimizing harvest of sustainable shark fisheries. Scientists, fishermen, and fishery managers affected by shark depredation should continue to work together to develop options to mitigate depredation.

Cheers,
Kelly

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