



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Enforcement Updates

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting
April 2024

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

04/01/2024

AD Manny Antonaras

DSAC Paige Casey

D1 – South Atlantic, FL Keys, & Caribbean SAs
(ASAC – 4 SAs, 2 Vacancies)

D2 – St. Pete/Miami SAs
(ASAC – 4 SAs, 1 Vacancy)

D3 – Gulf SAs
(ASAC – 5 SAs)

D4 – South Atlantic & Caribbean EOs
(SEO – 6 EOs)

D5 – West Coast FL & Keys EOs
(SEO 7 EOs)

D6 – Gulf EOs
(SEO Vacant – 7 EOs)

NED

SED

New Bern
SA VACANT
EO

Charleston

SEO
SA
EO

Savannah
EO

Jacksonville
ASAC
SA
SA VACANT

Cape Canaveral
EO

Sunrise/Miami
SA
SA
SA
EO

FL Keys
SA
EO
EO

Mobile
EO

Slidell
SA

Houma
EO

Niceville
SA
EO

Panama City
SA
EO

League City
ASAC
SA
SEO VACANT
EO EO

St. Petersburg
ASAC
SA
SA VACANT
SEO
EO
EO

Corpus Christi
SA
EO

Ft Myers
EO

Harlingen
EO
EO

SED

Caribbean





Sanctuary Focus



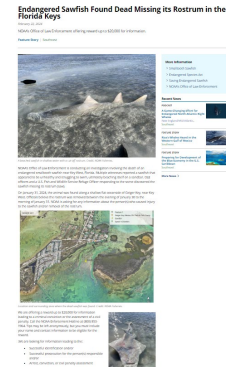
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

High Volume of Referrals

- Areas to Be Avoided
- Groundings
- Prohibited Fishing/Gear Use

Sawfish Story Released February

- **\$20,000 Reward**
- Geiger Key area
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/endangered-sawfish-found-dead-missing-its-rostrum-florida-keys>



Unlawful to possess, sell, carry or transport
Endangered Species-includes parts



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Sanctuary Focus



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Re-Education and Outreach-**2021 Expansion**

- No Anchoring Allowed
- Hook and Line Allowed-no longline gear
- Use Provided Mooring Buoys
- Sanctuary Staff and USCG assistance

BE AWARE OF SANCTUARY BOUNDARIES

Fishing Clinic Outreach

- Military Families
- Replicate in Keys?

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary expanded its boundaries in 2021. In order to avoid potential fines and penalties, be aware of fishing requirements when in and around the sanctuary.

SANCTUARY REMINDERS

- NO ANCHORING**
Anchoring is prohibited for any vessel within the sanctuary.
- HOOK AND LINE ALLOWED**
Includes electrical/hydraulic bandit reels-all other fishing gear prohibited, including longline gear.
- MOORING**
Locations spread throughout sanctuary, be sure to properly secure vessels up to 100ft to available mooring buoys.

BOUNDARY AREAS

- 19 Protected Areas-off TX and LA
- Scan bar code for coordinates

CONTACT INFORMATION

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Compliance Questions: (727) 432-2009
Report a Violation: (800) 853-1984

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
(409) 624-5151, press 0 to leave a message

Tips provided on this handout serve as a general reminder and do not specify all required regulations. Refer to appropriate regulations and/or contact NOAA for clarification.




OBSERVER PROGRAM SAFETY

- Training
- Sexual Assault/Harassment
- Coverage and Fishery Violations



Notice to Owners/Operators

- Prevention
- Response
- Reporting



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
5500 RIVERSIDE BLVD. #20101
COLUMBIA, MD 21046

NOTICE TO ALL VESSEL OWNERS AND OPERATORS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY FISHERIES OBSERVERS

This NOTICE is a reminder to all vessel owners and operators of the responsibility to provide a safe working environment for fisheries observers carried on their vessels.

Mistreatment of observers is unlawful and the detection and prosecution of such violations is one of our highest enforcement priorities.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations, it is illegal to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with any observer on a vessel or data collector. These prohibitions apply to everyone onboard your vessel during an observed fishing trip. Federal law also requires the reporting of complaints or incidents of unlawful harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual assault on documented vessels.

Owners and operators whose vessels are subject to observer coverage have a key role in providing a safe working environment. Failing to prevent, or properly respond to, observer mistreatment aboard your vessel can result in substantial penalties.

In the event of observer mistreatment, NOAA will assess your culpability, as the owner or operator of a federally-regulated fishing vessel, based on your actions. This NOTICE provides guidance on steps you can take to protect observers and facilitate compliance with federal law that applies to vessels that are subject to observer coverage.

Prevention

Owners and operators should take proactive measures to prevent any instances of observer mistreatment from occurring on their vessels, including:

1. Screening applicants to avoid hiring operators or crewmembers who may pose a risk;
2. Providing guidance and training to employees regarding appropriate interaction with observers and consequences for any mistreatment of fisheries observers;
3. Supervising employees to ensure observer mistreatment is not taking place.

Response

When a vessel owner or operator learns of potential observer mistreatment, prompt action is critical. Appropriate responses may include:

1. Separating the suspected offender(s) from the observer;



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UNPERMITTED CHARTERS

Captains Meetings



Outreach



Patrols



Recent Outcomes

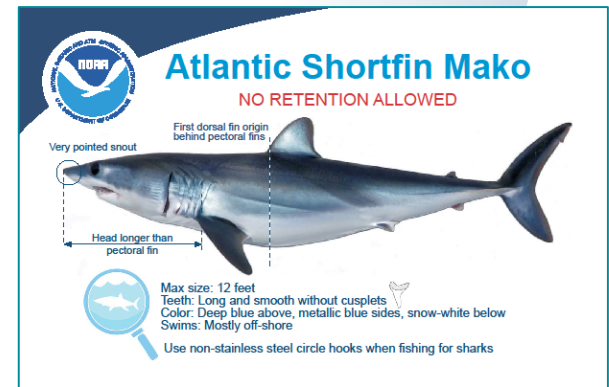
Multiple Civil Penalties \$5,750-\$20,200



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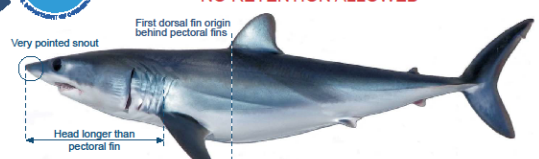


OUTREACH

Atlantic Shortfin Mako
NO RETENTION ALLOWED

Very pointed snout
First dorsal fin origin behind pectoral fins
Head longer than pectoral fin



Max size: 12 feet
Teeth: Long and smooth without cusplets
Color: Deep blue above, metallic blue sides, snow-white below
Swims: Mostly off-shore
Use non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for sharks



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Partnerships

GMFMC Enforcement Partners



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TARGETED OPERATIONS

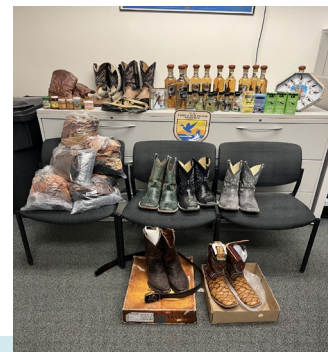
SEAFOOD IMPORTS

- Port of Panama City, FL
- Inspections/Training



Ports of Entry-El Paso, TX

- Inspected local seafood dealers
- >600 lbs oysters, exotic species leather and prohibited products seized





Report A Violation

NOAA's Law Enforcement Hotline,
available 24/7 at
(800) 853-1964

- Location, time, and date of the activity.
- Description of the activity.
- Name(s) of the vessel, owner/operator, captain, crew, or additional witnesses.



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QUESTIONS



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