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# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **NOAA Announces Recovery of Spiny Dogfish Stock**

### **Increased Catch Limits for 2010**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced on June 23, 2010 that the jointly managed (Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils) spiny dogfish stock has been rebuilt. The consequence of this success is that the federal waters catch level for the dogfish fishery will increase from 12 million pounds to 15 million pounds this year. This revised catch level is consistent with the level set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) for state waters. Vessel trip limits will remain at 3,000 pounds for the fishing year from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011.

New scientific information defining the size for a rebuilt dogfish stock became available in April, after catch level recommendations were made by the New England and Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. The Councils, which consist of fishing industry, state agency and non-government organization representatives jointly develop management measures for this species that must be approved by NOAA. The Councils recommended that NOAA Fisheries Service set a quota that would allow for more stability in future landings in this fishery. The higher landing limit will allow a larger harvest while still accounting for concerns about relatively low numbers of mature females expected to enter the spawning population in the next few years.

Dogfish join nine other stocks of fish managed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Council (Council) that are fully rebuilt. Of the stocks for which status can be determined, all stocks managed by the Council are now fully rebuilt but for summer flounder which is 77% rebuilt. It is anticipated that summer flounder will be fully rebuilt by 2013 per the Council's rebuilding plan. In addition, no stocks managed by the Council are subject to overfishing.

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