

U.S. SHARKS ARE IN TROUBLE

SHARKS NEED A STOCK STATUS, NOT A QUESTION MARK

7.6%

5 STOCKS ARE OVERFISHED AND EXPERIENCING OVERFISHING

22.7%

15 STOCKS ARE NOT OVERFISHED AND NOT EXPERIENCING OVERFISHING

54.5%

36 STOCKS HAVE "UNKNOWN" OVERFISHED AND OVERFISHING STATUS

15.2%

10 STOCKS HAVE MIXED STATUS

NOTE:

Of these unknown stocks in the U.S., the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies 75% as **vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered on a global scale.**¹

DEFINITIONS

STOCK: A stock is a species, subspecies, geographical grouping, or other category of fish capable of management as a unit²

OVERFISHING: The population is caught at a faster rate than it can reproduce²

OVERFISHED: The population is too small to recover to sustainable levels without intervention²

BACKGROUND

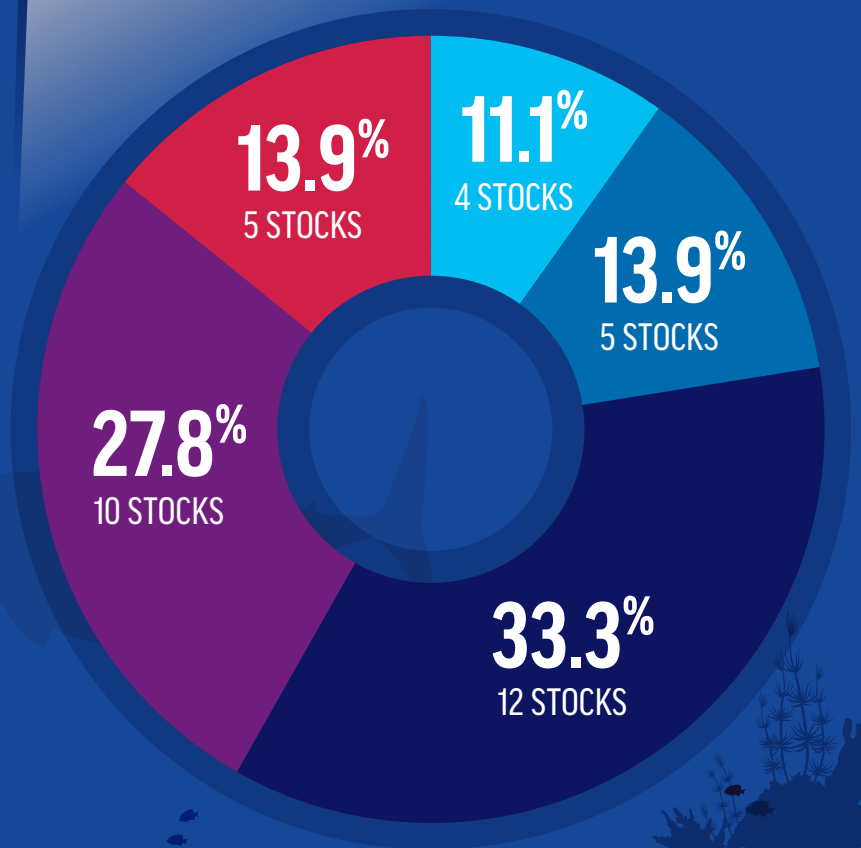
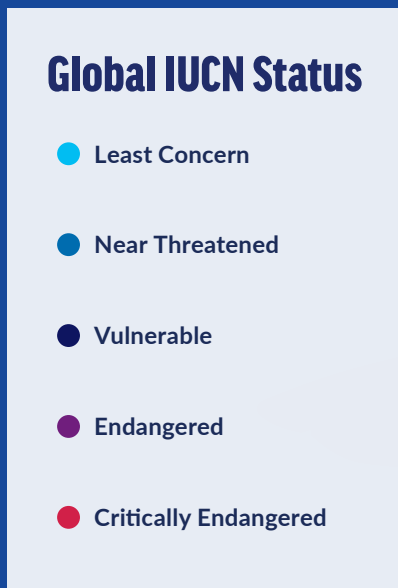
ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT "STATUS OF STOCKS" REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), THERE ARE 66 SHARK STOCKS LISTED IN U.S. WATERS.² **ONLY AROUND ONE-FIFTH ARE NOT OVERFISHED AND NOT EXPERIENCING OVERFISHING.**

Under federal law, U.S. fisheries are required to use science-based catch limits to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks. To do this, we need to know how many fish are in the water and how many are caught, sharks included. Unfortunately, we lack this key information for many shark stocks in the U.S. **"Unknown status" is not an acceptable category for U.S. shark stocks.**

- Dusky sharks³ in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico and porbeagle sharks⁴ in the northwestern Atlantic could take around 100 years to rebuild to sustainable levels.

- Over one-third of sharks and their relatives are threatened with extinction globally.⁵

BREAKDOWN OF THE 36 "UNKNOWN" U.S. SHARK STOCKS BY IUCN STATUS:



BREAKDOWN OF ALL U.S. SHARK STOCKS BY NOAA AND IUCN STATUSES:

LEAST CONCERN

NEAR THREATENED

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

19.7% | 13 STOCKS

19.7% | 13 STOCKS

27.3% | 18 STOCKS

22.7% | 15 STOCKS

10.6% | 7 STOCKS

IUCN STATUS

NOAA STATUS

STOCK

OVERFISHING?

OVERFISHED?

IUCN STATUS

Blacknose shark - Atlantic	Yes	Yes	Endangered
Dusky shark - Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	Yes	Yes	Endangered
Scalloped hammerhead - Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	Yes	Yes	Critically Endangered
Shortfin mako - North Atlantic	Yes	Yes	Endangered
Oceanic whitetip shark - Western and Central Pacific	Yes	Yes	Critically Endangered
Silky shark - Western and Central Pacific	Yes	No	Vulnerable
Porbeagle - Northwestern Atlantic	No	Yes	Vulnerable
Sandbar shark - Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	No	Yes	Endangered
Pacific sleeper shark - Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands Shark Complex	No	Unknown	Near Threatened
Salmon shark - Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands Shark Complex	No	Unknown	Least Concern
Spiny dogfish - Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands Shark Complex	No	Unknown	Least Concern
Pacific sleeper shark - Gulf of Alaska Shark Complex	No	Unknown	Near Threatened
Salmon shark - Gulf of Alaska Shark Complex	No	Unknown	Least Concern
Spiny dogfish - Gulf of Alaska Shark Complex	No	Unknown	Least Concern
Leopard shark - Pacific Coast Other Groundfish Complex	No	Unknown	Least Concern
Tope (soupfin) shark- Pacific Coast Groundfish Ecosystem Component Species	Unknown	Unknown	Critically Endangered
Spinner shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Silky shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Bull shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Tiger shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Near Threatened
Lemon shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Nurse shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Great hammerhead shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Critically Endangered
Smooth hammerhead shark - Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Blacknose shark - Gulf of Mexico	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Bonnethead - Atlantic	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Bonnethead - Gulf of Mexico	Unknown	Unknown	Least Concern
Oceanic whitetip shark - Atlantic Pelagic Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Critically Endangered
Thresher shark - Atlantic Pelagic Shark Complex	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Atlantic angel shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Least Concern
Basking shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Bigeye sand tiger shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Least Concern
Bigeye sixgill - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Near Threatened
Bigeye thresher shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Bignose shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Near Threatened
Caribbean reef shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Caribbean sharpnose shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Galapagos shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Least Concern
Longfin mako shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Narrowtooth shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Night shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Sand tiger shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Critically Endangered
Sevengill shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Near Threatened
Sixgill shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Near Threatened
Smalltail shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Critically Endangered
Whale shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
White shark - Atlantic Prohibited Species	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Bigeye thresher - Pacific	Unknown	Unknown	Vulnerable
Pelagic thresher - North Pacific	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Longfin mako - North Pacific	Unknown	Unknown	Endangered
Salmon shark - North Pacific	Unknown	Unknown	Least Concern
Atlantic sharpnose shark - Atlantic	No	No	Least Concern
Shortfin mako - North Pacific	No	No	Endangered
Blacktip shark - Atlantic	No	No	Vulnerable
Atlantic sharpnose shark - Gulf of Mexico	No	No	Least Concern
Blacktip shark - Gulf of Mexico	No	No	Vulnerable
Blue shark - North Atlantic	No	No	Near Threatened
Finetooth shark - Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico	No	No	Near Threatened
Smooth dogfish - Gulf Smoothhound Complex	No	No	Near Threatened
Florida smoothhound - Gulf Smoothhound Complex	No	No	Near Threatened
Gulf smoothhound - Gulf Smoothhound Complex	No	No	Least Concern
Smooth dogfish - Atlantic	No	No	Near Threatened
Spiny dogfish - Atlantic Coast	No	No	Vulnerable
Spiny dogfish - Pacific Coast	No	No	Least Concern
Blue shark - North Pacific	No	No	Near Threatened
Thresher shark - North Pacific	No	No	Vulnerable

Note: Data based on NOAA Fisheries' most recent Status of Stocks report, 2021. Available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/status-stocks-2021>.

Visit USA.Oceana.org/Sharks to learn more.

Oceana is the largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation. Oceana is rebuilding abundant and biodiverse oceans by winning science-based policies in countries that control one-third of the world's wild fish catch. With more than 225 victories that stop overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and the killing of threatened species like turtles and sharks, Oceana's campaigns are delivering results. A restored ocean means that 1 billion people can enjoy a healthy seafood meal, every day, forever. Together, we can save the oceans and help feed the world.

¹ IUCN. 2022. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2022-1. <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Accessed on 7 July 2022.

² NOAA Fisheries Status of Stocks Report. 2021. Available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/status-stocks-2021>

³ Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures; Final Amendment 5b. 2017. Available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/04/04/2017-06591/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-atlantic-shark-management-measures-final-amendment-5b>

⁴ Dulvy, Nicholas K., et al. "You can swim but you can't hide: the global status and conservation of oceanic pelagic sharks and rays." *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 18.5 (2008): 459-482.

⁵ Dulvy, Nicholas K., et al. "Overfishing drives over one-third of all sharks and rays toward a global extinction crisis." *Current Biology* 31.21 (2021): 4773-4787.