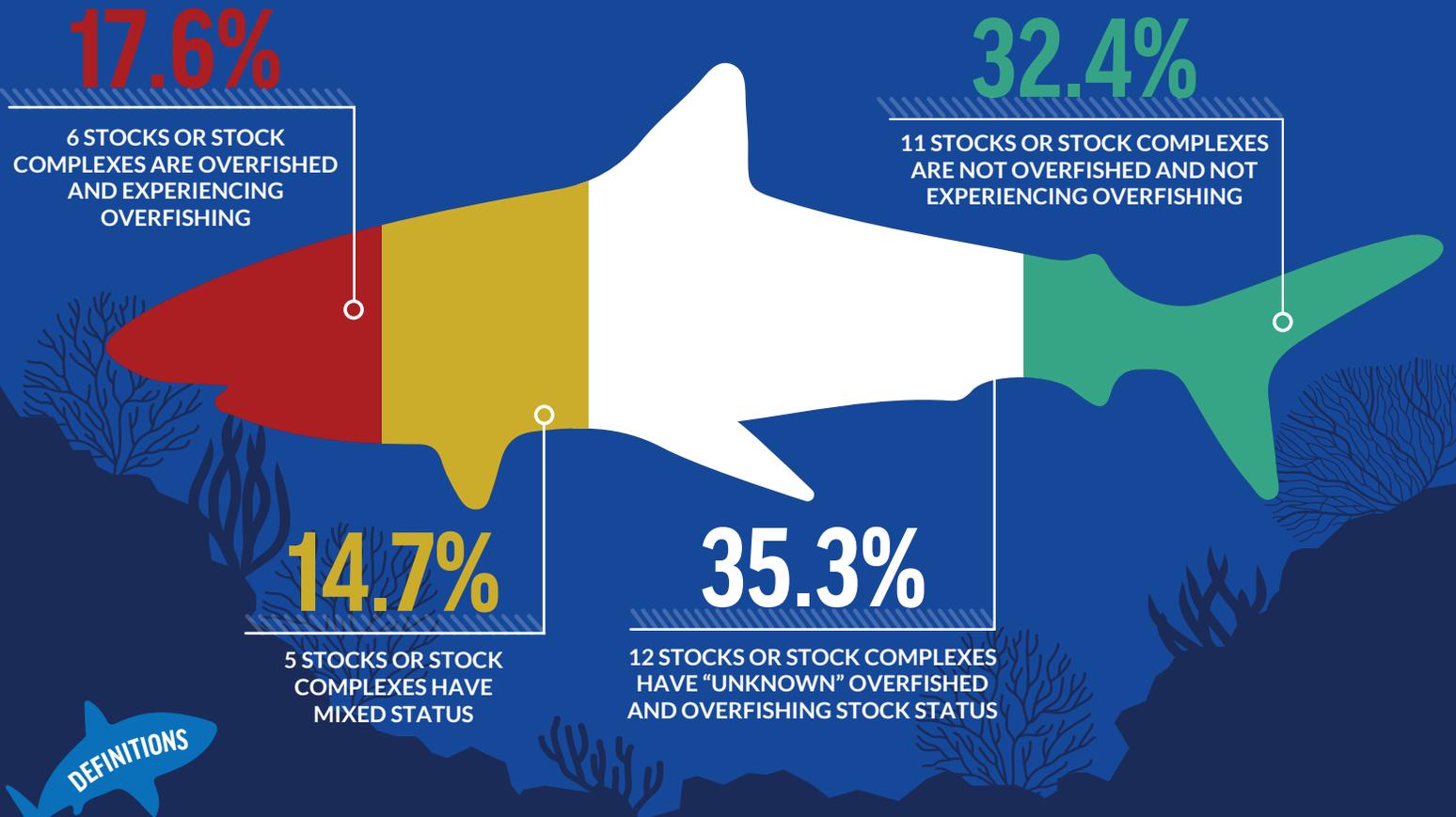


# ARE U.S. SHARK STOCKS IN TROUBLE?

LESS THAN ONE THIRD OF STOCKS OR STOCK COMPLEXES ARE NOT OVERFISHED AND NOT EXPERIENCING OVERFISHING



**STOCK OR STOCK COMPLEX:** A stock is a species, subspecies, geographical grouping or category of fish managed as a unit (e.g. Atlantic blacktip sharks); a complex is a group of stocks (e.g. Atlantic Large Coastal Shark Complex includes 8 shark stocks)

**OVERFISHING:** The population is caught at a faster rate than it can reproduce<sup>1</sup>

**OVERFISHED:** The population is too small to recover to sustainable levels without intervention<sup>2</sup>

## BACKGROUND

ACCORDING TO THE US GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE 34 SHARK STOCKS OR STOCK COMPLEXES LISTED IN U.S. WATERS.<sup>3</sup> OF THOSE 34, LESS THAN ONE THIRD OF THEM 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.

- The U.S. government allows fishing on many stocks with an unknown status.
- Because shark stocks are often grouped in complexes, we lack key information on individual stocks, like how many sharks are in the water and how fishing is impacting them.
- In order to get the full picture of the status of all U.S. shark stocks, we must know the overfished and overfishing status for each stock.

# LIST OF U.S. SHARK STOCKS AND STOCK COMPLEXES\*

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

\*Boxes within the chart represent species belonging to the same stock complex.

Note: Data based on NOAA Report to Congress: Status of United States Shark Fisheries, 2020 Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/nmfs-shark-stock-assessment/d633b625-4961-4ee2-a50d-83f7f16a3908/>

<sup>1</sup> Pew Fact Sheet available at [http://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2017/07/usoc\\_us\\_has\\_made\\_progress\\_in\\_restoring\\_ocean\\_fish.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2017/07/usoc_us_has_made_progress_in_restoring_ocean_fish.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> NOAA Status of U.S. Fisheries available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/population-assessments/status-us-fisheries#status-determinations>

<sup>3</sup> NOAA Report to Congress: Status of United States Shark Fisheries, 2020 Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/nmfs-shark-stock-assessment/d633b625-4961-4ee2-a50d-83f7f16a3908/>

<sup>4</sup> Dulvy, N.K., Fowler, S.L., Musick, J.A., Cavanagh, R.D., Kyne, P.M., Harrison, L.R., Carlson, J.K., Davidson, L.N., Fordham, S.V., Francis, M.P. and Pollock, C.M., 2014. Extinction risk and conservation of the world's sharks and rays. *Elife*, 3