

From: John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2019 4:01 PM
To: Lori Stelzer <LStelzer@Venicegov.com>
Cc: Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>; Kelly Fernandez - Persson & Cohen <kfernandez@swflgovlaw.com>
Subject: Fwd: Juno Pier

Lori,

Please put this on the next agenda under council discussion. I am going to request that council allow me to have a presentation in the near future from FWC and DOH on changes in the law regarding shark fishing.

John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice
401 W. Venice Ave.
Venice, FL 34285
Office: 941-882-7402
Cell: 941-303-3357

From: Gmail
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:19 PM
To: John Holic
Subject: Re: Juno Pier

Hi Mayor Holic,

You may remember we chatted a few times in 2017 about land based shark fishing and how I was part of a group that was pushing for regulations. At that time your city commissioners were considering prohibiting shark fishing from your pier.

Well, as you may know, our group has been extremely successful in working with FWC to get solid regulations established for this fishery that will be going into effect July 1, 2019. I am attaching a copy of the FWC press release below that outlines some of the new regulations.

During this past month, two IUCN red listed endangered great hammerheads have washed up dead on your beach in Venice by Sharkey's Pier. These two dead hammers are a direct result of the shark fishing from that same pier. I can provide specific information about these two recent shark mortality events (one was just yesterday) if you are unaware of these events or need more information. Hammerhead sharks are not only endangered, but they are extremely fragile and prohibited from harvest by FWC.

There is absolutely no possible, safe way to shark fish from a pier and ensure the safety and well being of these fragile species of sharks. In addition, with the new regulations, shark anglers will no longer be able to remove the prohibited sharks from the water for ANY reason. For obvious reasons, shark fishing from elevated structures (such as your pier) present additional challenges

for shark anglers, and with the new regulations, it just doesn't make sense to continue to allow this type of fishing.

In addition, shark fishing from piers and bridges is already NOT recommended by FWC.

I am also attaching two screenshots from different reports that were presented by our group to FWC prior to the FWC Commissioner's meetings over the past two years.

I'd like to respectfully ask that you perhaps consider taking a good look at this issue again, as the two recent dead hammerheads emphasize the importance of this. Since FWC is now cracking down on this sport, and has established solid regulations, this is the perfect time for Venice to revisit this and perhaps take action!

Different municipalities statewide are now revisiting this issue, including my own home, Palm Beach County. This past month, PBC Commissioners just established an ordinance that prohibits shark fishing from county beaches, and many other areas are following suit.

Please consider prohibiting shark fishing from your pier. There is simply no good way to do this type of fishing from elevated structures, while preserving the health and well-being of fragile, prohibited from harvest species of sharks, not to mention the other concerns the City of Venice has historically had regarding this activity. If you have any questions, or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance.



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

FWC Commission addresses shore-based shark fishing concerns with new regulations/educational component

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission sent this bulletin at 02/20/2019 04:52 PM EST



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

(Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](#).)

Suggested Tweet: The @MyFWC Commission approved rule changes for #shark #fishing that go into effect July 1, includes permit/educational component:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWC/bulletins/2313056>

FWC Commission addresses shore-based shark fishing concerns with new regulations/educational component

At its February meeting in Gainesville, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved changes to shark fishing regulations, including management changes for the shore-based shark fishery. Some minor changes to the original proposal were also made, as noted below. These rules are intended to increase survival of released sharks, improve information gathering for the fishery and address some of the public safety concerns related to the fishery.

The rule changes go into effect July 1, 2019, and include:

- Creating a mandatory, no-cost, annual shore-based shark fishing permit. (CHANGE: This permit will be required for all shore-based shark anglers age 16 and older, including those 65 and older who are normally exempt from needing a fishing license.)
- CHANGE: Requiring those under 16 to take the educational requirement associated with the permit unless they are fishing with an adult who already holds the permit.
- Prohibiting chumming when fishing for any species from the beach.
- Requiring immediate release of prohibited shark species when fishing from the shore. (CHANGE: Requiring anglers to cut the leader, line or hook to prevent delaying release of prohibited species).
- Requiring that prohibited shark species remain in the water (when fishing from shore or from a vessel).
- Requiring the use of non-offset, non-stainless-steel circle hooks to target or harvest sharks when using live or dead natural bait (when fishing from shore and from a vessel).
- Requiring the possession/use of a device capable of quickly cutting the leader or hook when targeting sharks (when fishing from shore or a vessel).
- Defining beach, chumming and shore-based shark fisher (CHANGE: includes changes to how shore-based shark fisher is defined).
- Cleaning up and updating ~~the summary in language~~



September 10, 2018 8' dead tiger shark, found with a bird's nest worth of fishing line in its mouth, left dangling from a Panama City Pier.



4. SHARK FISHING FROM ELEVATED STRUCTURES SUCH AS PIERS, JETTIES AND BRIDGES

Not really much to say on this topic. Really a no-brainer. Why? Because FWC already spells it out online at myfwc.com where they clearly acknowledge the difficulties associated with this type of fishing and DO NOT RECOMMEND shark fishing from piers and bridges. Here's a screenshot of the actual FWC language online in the myfwc.com "Shark Smart Fishing" guide:

Fish Shark-Smart from a pier:

- Most piers and bridges are high above the water, making handling and release difficult. Catch-and-release shark fishing is not recommended from these locations.
- Do NOT bring a large shark onto a pier or bridge. Instead, walk the shark to the base of the bridge/pier before removing the hook or cutting the line.

Source: Myfwc.com

In addition, at the Keys shark fishing workshop, an FWC officer spoke up and stated that he did not see common sense practices prevail in his encounters with those shark fishing from bridges in the Keys. He referenced sharks and anglers alike being injured while fishing from bridges and was clearly not supportive of the practice. Another angler, during the Panama City workshop, proudly bragged about his sharks fishing techniques from the local pier. His account of his techniques was an especially *cringe worthy* moment during the course of the all the workshops. Here's what he had to say: *"Over time and through thinking, we have developed ways of taking a fish out of the water, cleaning him and getting him back in the water. Out there with a hammerhead, you have three choices. You can turn him loose dragging a 30 foot leader, that's a death sentence. I've seen it happen. You can take him all the way to the beach, which is 1500 feet and god knows how many pilings, and he's beating his head against every one of them all the way up there. That is a death sentence. I have seen it happen. Through thinking and coming up with ideas, when we catch a hammerhead out there, a larist rope around his head, pick him straight up over the rail and gently put him down on the deck, take the hooks out, take another soft rope, go around his head and under his hammer and lower him right down into the water and loosen the rope."*

I AM CERTAINLY NO SCIENTIST, BUT I CAN SAY IT IS NEVER OK TO HEAD ROPE A HAMMERHEAD AND DRAG ITS DEAD WEIGHT UP AND OVER A RAIL. Kinda makes the alternative of beaching a hammerhead on the sand sound like a day at the spa.

FWC Commissioners, please consider prohibiting all shark fishing from elevated structures such as piers and bridges. It is already NOT recommended by FWC, so please take the extra step to protect our fragile sharks from unnecessary and avoidable harm, and prohibit this activity altogether.

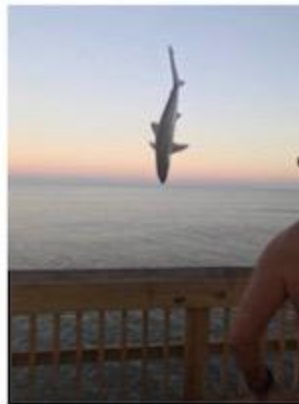
FWC SHARK SMART FISHING
FWC does not recommend shark fishing from a pier or bridge because of the difficulties associated with this activity.

Fish Shark-Smart from a pier:

- Most piers and bridges are high above the water, making handling and release difficult. Catch-and-release shark fishing is not recommended from these locations.
- Do NOT bring a large shark onto a pier or bridge. Instead, walk the shark to the base of the bridge/pier before removing the hook or cutting the line.

17. Fishing from Manmade Structures

"Most piers and bridges are high above the water, making handling and release difficult. Catch-and-release shark fishing is NOT recommended from these locations," according to the FWC Shark Smart Fishing Guidelines. **Since it is already recognized as problematic, why not simply prohibit this type of fishing from manmade structures?** It's worth mentioning, The Juno Beach Pier in Juno Beach, Florida prohibits shark fishing from their pier, and if a shark is unintentionally caught, the use of their pier nets for any sharks is prohibited. This is because sharks destroy their expensive nets by thrashing around and ripping the netting with their sharp teeth. There currently is no available gear to ensure the health and safety of all sharks when fishing from an elevated structure. **SPEARFISHING IS ILLEGAL AT PIERS, WHY NOT SHARK FISHING?**



On Aug 25, 2017, at 3:56 AM, John Holic <JHolic@venicegov.com> wrote:

Thank you for the information. I had a full schedule yesterday, however, I have time to make some calls today.

John

John Holic

Mayor, City of Venice

From: Gmail

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2017 9:57:26

PM

To: John Holic

Subject: Juno Pier

Hi Mayor Holic,

I spoke tonight with my friend Meg Robinson that worked several years on the Juno Pier.

Here's what she told me.

The pier is owned by Palm Beach County. It's leased by and managed by Loggerhead Marinelife Center.

Shark fishing is prohibited on the pier, and large reels and heavy tackle are also prohibited.

She stated that as far as she knows, there isn't any specific ordinance, just a simple Pier rule. She stated that the Marinelife Center makes the rules and it is enforceable.

If an angler is caught shark fishing on pier, first time warning, second time ban from pier.

She stated that this has never been challenged, since the county owns the pier, they can apply any rules they want.

While we are not lawyers and your situation may be different, I'm thinking it should be fairly simple to establish this.

I will work on getting a copy of the pier rules for you to see.

Did you have any luck talking to anyone?

Ruben Cruz from Juno might not be a good person to call, as he's with Juno Beach and it's the county that owns the pier apparently.

A call to Palm Beach County Parks and Rec may be a good try too!

Thanks,