



Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are preliminary landings in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lbs) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic Shark commercial fisheries since January 1, 2008. These preliminary landings include landing reports received as of September 23, 2008. The landings presented below are total landings reported through the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) system (previously known as the Quota Monitoring System), the Accumulated Landings System (ALS) (previously known as the general canvass data), SAFIS (Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System) and other northeast data collection systems. The landings include both state-only licensed vessels and federally permitted vessels as well as landings from the 2008 shark research fishery. Due to the privacy regulations of North Carolina, NMFS is unable to account for duplicate data and therefore some landings may be inflated.

Species Group	Region	Quota	80% of Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks (390.5 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	390.5 mt dw (860,896 lb dw)	312.4 (688,717 lb dw)	96.4 mt dw (212,652 lb dw)	24.7%
	Atlantic	187.8 mt dw (414,024 lb dw)	150.2 (331,131 lb dw)	118.6 mt dw (261,466 lb dw)	63.2%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Non-Sandbar LCS)	No regional quotas	37.5 mt dw (82,673 lb dw)	30.0 (66,138 lb dw)	3.3 mt dw (7,275 lb dw)	8.8%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Sandbar only)		87.9 mt dw (193,784 lb dw)	70.3 (154,983 lb dw)	27.2 mt dw (59,965 lb dw)	30.9%
Small Coastal Sharks	No regional quotas	454 mt dw (1,000,888 lb dw)	363.2 (800,710 lb dw)	154.7 mt dw (341,054 lb dw)	34.1%
Blue Sharks		273 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	218.4 (481,485 lb dw)	0.6 mt dw (1,224 lb dw)	0.2%
Porbeagle Sharks		1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)	1.36 (2,998 lb dw)	0.9 mt dw (1,888 lb dw)	52.9%
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	390.4 (860,676 lb dw)	103.5 mt dw (228,139 lb dw)	21.2%

Per 50 CFR § 635.27(b)(1), state landings are counted against the Federal quota. Please note that dealers located in closed regions are not permitted to purchase sharks landed in open regions (50 CFR § 635.28(b)(3)) and may be subject to enforcement actions. Per 50 CFR § 635.28(b), NMFS will close the shark fisheries when 80% of the available quota is reached or projected to be reached. Such a closure will be effective no fewer than five days from the date of filing in the Federal Register and will last until NMFS announces that additional quota is available.



NMFS is currently working on a proposed rule for the 2009 shark fishing season and available quotas. NMFS is also working on a notice requesting applicants for 2009 shark research fishery permits. Both of these should publish in the Federal Register in October 2008.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. For further information on this landings update or the closure, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Jess Beck at 301-713-2347. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

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Date

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