



Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

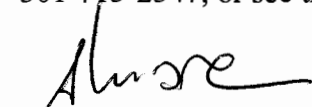
Below are preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lb) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the 2nd and 3rd trimester seasons of 2005. These landings estimates include landing reports received as of January 13, 2006. Any state landings and overharvests from these seasons will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Any over- or underharvests from the 2nd trimester season in a region will be carried over to the 2006 2nd trimester season for the same region, and any over- or underharvests from the 3rd trimester season in a region will be carried over to the 2006 3rd trimester season for the same region.

Second Trimester Season					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated landings	% Quota Taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED July 23	148 mt dw (326,280 lb dw)	123.4 mt dw (272,048 lb dw)	83
	South Atlantic	CLOSED Aug 31	182 mt dw (401,237 lb dw)	169.2 mt dw (373,680 lb dw)	93
	North Atlantic		65.2 mt dw (143,739 lb dw)	61.3 mt dw (135,142 lb dw)	94
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED Aug 31	30.5 mt dw (67,240 lb dw)	6.8 mt dw (14,991 lb dw)	22
	South Atlantic		281.3 mt dw (620,153 lb dw)	79.3 mt dw (174,825 lb dw)	28
	North Atlantic		23 mt dw (50,706 dw)	<1 mt dw (10 lb dw)	<1
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	CLOSED Aug 31	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	.26 mt dw (573.2 lb dw)	<1
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	3.1 mt dw (6834 lb dw)	10
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	81.4 mt dw (179,454 lb dw)	50

Third Trimester Season					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated landings	% Quota Taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED Oct 31	168 mt dw (369,711 lb dw)	117.5 mt dw (259,040 lb dw)	70
	South Atlantic	CLOSED Nov 15	188 mt dw (413,362 lb dw)	270.7 mt dw (596,785 lb dw)	144
	North Atlantic	CLOSED Sept 15	5 mt dw (10,582 lb dw)	7.4 mt dw (16,314 lb dw)	148
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED Dec 31	32 mt dw (69,885 lb dw)	16.3 mt dw (35,935 lb dw)	51
	South Atlantic		201.1 mt dw (443,345 lb dw)	68.8 mt dw (151,676 lb dw)	34
	North Atlantic		16 mt dw (35,053 lb dw)	0	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	CLOSED Dec 31	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0	0
Porbeagle sharks			31 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	.71 mt dw (1,565 lb dw)	2
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			163 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	21.9 mt dw (48,281 dw)	13

A proposed rule announcing the 2006 2nd and 3rd trimester season dates and quotas is expected to publish soon. The comment period on the Draft Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan is open until March 1, 2005. Please send comments to SF1.060303D@noaa.gov.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to Atlantic shark fishery interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Chris Rilling or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347, or see the HMS webpage (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>).


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 Date