



**NMFS ANNOUNCES FINAL SEASON LENGTHS AND QUOTAS FOR THE 2006 SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTER COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHERY**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the 2006 second and third trimester season quotas for large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS) based on over- or underharvests from the 2005 fishing season, and announces the season opening and closing dates for the second and third trimester seasons of 2006.

| <b>Final Second Trimester Season</b>   |                       |                     |   |                                |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Species Group</b>   | <b>Region</b>         | <b>Opening Date</b> | <b>Closing date</b>                       | <b>Quota</b>                   |
| Large Coastal Sharks-<br>i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger,<br>blacktip, spinner, bull,<br>lemon, nurse, hammerheads<br>(annual quota 1,017 mt dw) | Gulf of Mexico        | July 6, 2006        | July 31, 2006<br>11:30 p.m. local time    | 201.1 mt dw<br>(443,345 lb dw) |
|  | South Atlantic        |                     | August 16, 2006<br>11:30 p.m. local time  | 151.7 mt dw<br>(334,438 lb dw) |
|  | North Atlantic        |                     | August 6, 2006<br>11:30 p.m. local time   | 66.3 mt dw<br>(146,165 lb dw)  |
| Small Coastal Sharks-<br>i.e., Atlantic sharpnose,<br>finetooth, blacknose,<br>bonnethead<br>(annual quota 454 mt dw)                        | Gulf of Mexico        | May 1, 2006         | To be determined, as<br>necessary         | 38.9 mt dw<br>(85,759 lb dw)   |
|  | South Atlantic        |                     |   | 333.5 mt dw<br>(735,234 lb dw) |
|  | North Atlantic        |                     |   | 24.2 mt dw<br>(53,351 lb dw)   |
| Blue sharks<br>(annual quota 273 mt dw)  | No regional<br>quotas | May 1, 2006         | To be determined, as<br>necessary         | 91 mt dw<br>(200,619 lb dw)    |
| Porbeagle sharks (annual<br>quota 92 mt dw)  |                       |                     |   | 30.7 mt dw<br>(67,681 lb dw)   |
| Pelagic sharks other than<br>blue or porbeagle<br>(annual quota 488 mt dw)   |                       |                     |   | 162.7 mt dw<br>(358,688 lb dw) |
| <b>Final Third Trimester Season</b>  |                       |                     |   |                                |
| Large Coastal Sharks-<br>i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger,<br>blacktip, spinner, bull,<br>lemon, nurse, hammerheads<br>(annual quota 1,017 mt dw) | Gulf of Mexico        | September 1, 2006   | November 7, 2006<br>11:30 p.m. local time | 225.6 mt dw<br>(497,358 lb dw) |
|  | South Atlantic        |                     | October 3, 2006<br>11:30 p.m. local time  | 50.3 mt dw<br>(11,089 lb dw)   |
|  | North Atlantic        | CLOSED <sup>1</sup> |   |                                |
| Small Coastal Sharks-<br>i.e., Atlantic sharpnose,<br>finetooth, blacknose,<br>bonnethead<br>(annual quota 454 mt dw)                        | Gulf of Mexico        | September 1, 2006   | To be determined, as<br>necessary         | 30.8 mt dw<br>(67,902 lb dw)   |
|  | South Atlantic        |                     |   | 263.7 mt dw<br>(581,353 lb dw) |
|  | North Atlantic        |                     |   | 28.2 mt dw<br>(62,170 lb dw)   |
| Blue sharks<br>(annual quota 273 mt dw)  | No regional<br>quotas | September 1, 2006   | To be determined, as<br>necessary         | 91 mt dw<br>(200,619 lb dw)    |
| Porbeagle sharks (annual<br>quota 92 mt dw)  |                       |                     |   | 30.7 mt dw<br>(67,681 lb dw)   |
| Pelagic sharks other than<br>blue or porbeagle<br>(annual quota 488 mt dw)   |                       |                     |   | 162.7 mt dw<br>(358,688 lb dw) |

<sup>1</sup> Since opening the LCS fishery in the North Atlantic for even one week could result in an overharvest, NMFS proposes to keep the North Atlantic LCS fishery closed during the third trimester season.



This FAX notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this final rule, contact Chris Rilling or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the final rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

*for James P. Burgess*  
Alan D. Risenhoover

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

3/17/06  
Date