



Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are **preliminary** landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lbs) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the **2nd and 3rd trimester** seasons of **2006**. **The landings estimates include landing reports received as of January 16, 2007; however, these reports represent preliminary landings, as some dealers have not yet reported.** The landings presented below are total landings reported through the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) and the Automated Landings Reporting System (ALS), often referred to as the Quota Monitoring System and General Canvass, respectively. Quotas, season lengths, and opening dates for the second and third trimester season will be announced in an upcoming proposed rule.

Second Trimester Season 2006					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota (mt dw)	Estimated Landings (mt dw)	% Quota Taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, and hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED 31-Jul	201.1 (396,828 lbs dw)	343.9 (758,332 lbs dw)	171.0%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED Aug. 16	151.7 (334,438 lbs dw)	207.4 (457,269 lbs dw)	136.7%
	North Atlantic	CLOSED Aug. 6	66.3 (146,165 lbs dw)	59.9 (132,158 lbs dw)	90.3%
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined as necessary	38.9 (85,759 lbs dw)	80.1 (176,658 lbs dw)	205.9%
	South Atlantic		333.5 (735,234 lbs dw)	74.8 (164,986 lbs dw)	22.4%
	North Atlantic		35.9 (53,351 lbs dw)	0.0 (0.0 lbs dw)	0.0%
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined as necessary	91.0 (200,619 lbs dw)	0.2 (410 lbs dw)	0.2%
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 (67,681 lbs dw)	0.3 (669 lbs dw)	1.0%
Pelagic sharks- other than above			162.7 (358,688 lbs dw)	24.5 (53,998 lbs dw)	15.1%



Third Trimester Season 2006					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota (mt dw)	Estimated Landings (mt ww)	% Quota Taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, and hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED Nov. 7, 2006	225.6 (497,358 lbs dw)	351.8 (775,444 lbs dw)	155.9%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED Oct. 3, 2006	50.3 (110,891 lbs dw)	108.7 (239,519 lbs dw)	216.1%
	North Atlantic	CLOSED	3.3 (0 lbs dw)	5.8 (12,747 lbs dw)	175.8%
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined as necessary	30.8 (67,902 lbs dw)	23.0 (50,711 lbs dw)	74.7%
	South Atlantic		263.7 (581,353 lbs dw)	40.3 (88,941 lbs dw)	15.3%
	North Atlantic		28.2 (62,170 lbs dw)	0.0 (0.0 lbs dw)	0.0%
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined as necessary	91.0 (200,619 lbs dw)	0.0 (14 lbs dw)	0.0%
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 (67,681 lbs dw)	0.8 (1,775 lbs dw)	2.6%
Pelagic sharks- other than blue or porbeagle			162.7 (358,688 lbs dw)	21.4 (47,261 lbs dw)	13.2%

The results of recent shark stock assessments necessitate changes to current shark management measures. NMFS is holding scoping hearings during January 2007 to identify issues and options for an amendment to the Consolidated HMS FMP that will specifically focus on Atlantic shark fisheries. Please submit written comments on this specific issue to NMFS by 5:00 pm Monday, February 5, 2007. Written comments may be submitted via the following:

Email: SF1.092806A@noaa.gov

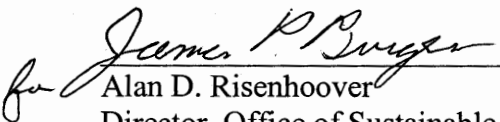
Mail: 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Fax: (301) 713-1917

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Include "I.D. 092806A" in the subject line

This 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, please contact Michael Clark or Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2347, or see the HMS webpage (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>).


 Alan D. Risenhoover
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries
 National Marine Fisheries Service

JAN 18 2007

Date