



## 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 since January 1, 2008. These preliminary landings estimates include landing reports received through November 26, 2008. The landings presented below are total landings reported through the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) (previously known as the Quota Monitoring System), and the Accumulated Landings System (ALS) (previously known as the general canvass). The estimates include landings by both state only permitted vessels and federally permitted vessels as well as landings from the 2008 shark research fishery. Due to the privacy regulations of North Carolina (NC), NMFS is unable to remove all instances where NC dealers report in both the PDC and ALS. As a result, some NC landings may be inflated. Please note that for the November 7, 2008, landings update (released November 14, 2008), smooth dogfish landings in North Carolina were incorrectly referred to as spiny dogfish. NMFS reminds fishermen and dealers that they are required to identify all landed sharks to species.

**All 2008 shark fisheries will close as of 11:30 p.m. local time on December 31, 2008 (i.e., at the end of the fishing year).** Any quota overages which occur before this time may result in early closure of that fishery. Quotas and opening dates for the 2009 fishery will be announced in an upcoming final rule.

Under 50 CFR 635.28(b)(3), when the fishery for a shark species group and/or region is closed, a fishing vessel, issued an Atlantic Shark limited access permit (LAP) pursuant to 635.4, may not possess or sell a shark of that species group and/or region, except under the conditions specified in 50 CFR 635.22(a) and (c) or if the vessel possesses a valid shark research permit under 635.32 and an NMFS-approved observer is onboard. A shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant to 635.4, may not purchase or receive a shark of that species group and/or region from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. Additionally, a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess non-sandbar sharks that were harvested by a vessel issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard as long as the non-sandbar shark research fishery is open. Under a closure for a shark species group, a shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant to 635.4 may, in accordance with state regulations, purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel that fishes only in state waters and that has not been issued a Shark LAP, HMS Angling permit, or HMS Charter/Headboat permit pursuant to 635.4. Additionally, under a closure for a shark species group and/or regional closure, a shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant, to 635.4 may purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel issued a valid shark research permit (per 635.32) that had a NMFS-approved observer on board during the trip sharks were collected.

Species Group	Region	CLOSURE DATE	Quota	80% of Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks (390.5 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008	390.5 mt dw (860,896 lb dw)	312.4 (688,717 lb dw)	268.4 mt dw (591,682 lb dw)	68.7%
	Atlantic	11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008	187.8 mt dw (414,024 lb dw)	150.2 (331,131 lb dw)	127.0 mt dw (279,998 lb dw)	67.6%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Non-Sandbar LCS)	No regional quotas	11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008	37.5 mt dw (82,673 lb dw)	30.0 (66,138 lb dw)	5.9 mt dw (13,107 lb dw)	15.9%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Sandbar only)		11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008	87.9 mt dw (193,784 lb dw)	70.3 (154,983 lb dw)	Inside SRF 8.8 mt dw (19,371 lb dw)	72.0%
		11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008			Outside SRF * 54.5 mt dw (120,212 lb dw)	
Small Coastal Sharks	No regional quotas	11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008	454 mt dw (1,000,888 lb dw)	363.2 (800,710 lb dw)	245.5 mt dw (541,120 lb dw)	54.0%
Blue Sharks	No regional quotas	11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008	273 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	218.4 (481,485 lb dw)	1.5 mt dw (3,212 lb dw)	0.5%
Porbeagle Sharks		<b>CLOSED Nov 18, 2008</b>	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)	1.36 (2,998 lb dw)	2.0 mt dw (4,349 lb dw)	116.0 %
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		11:30 p.m. local time Dec 31, 2008	488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	390.4 (860,676 lb dw)	101.0 mt dw (222,774 lb dw)	20.7%

\* These landings are from state landings.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your 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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 per Alan D. Risenhoover  
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DEC 11 2008  
 Date

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