



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 1st trimester season of 2008. These preliminary landings estimates include landing reports received as of June 11, 2008. These landings all appear to be from state permitted vessels, not federally permitted vessels. The landings presented below are total landings reported through the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) (previously known as the Quota Monitoring System), and the Automated Landings Reporting System (ALS) (previously known as the General Canvass). Due to the privacy regulations of some states such as North Carolina, NMFS is unable to remove all instances where dealers report in both the PDC and ALS. As a result, some landings may be inflated.

First Trimester Season 2008					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED; January 1	—	20.2 mt dw (44,523.0 lb dw)	—
	South Atlantic		—	35.7 mt dw (78,717.0 lb dw)	—
	North Atlantic		—	1.1 mt dw (2,336.0 lb dw)	—
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	73.2 mt dw (161,377 lb dw)	5.6 mt dw (12,441.0 lb dw)	7.7%
	South Atlantic		354.9 mt dw (782,413 lb dw)	25.1 mt dw (55,442.0 lb dw)	7.1%
	North Atlantic		19.3 mt dw (42,549 dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	0.1 mt dw (169.0 lb dw)	0.3%
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	52.9 mt dw (116,730.2 lb dw)	32.5%

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.

Please note that the Final Amendment 2 to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) will be effective July 24, 2008. All landings data will be accounted for as necessary. Also, a Federal Register notice announcing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Amendment 3 to the HMS FMP for small coastal sharks (SCS)

published on May 7, 2008 (FR 73 25665). Scoping meetings for this action are being scheduled and will be published in a future Federal Register notice.

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 LeAnn Southward-Hogan 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>.

Emily Menashes

for Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUN 19 2008

Date

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