



Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

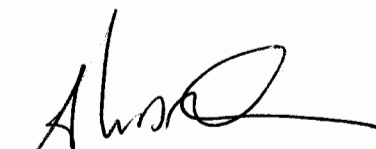
Below are **preliminary** landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lb) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the **1st trimester season of 2006** and the season dates and quotas for the **2nd trimester season of 2006**. The landings estimates include landing reports received as of May 16, 2006.

Unusually high landings of large coastal sharks were reported for the South Atlantic during the first trimester season of 2006. NMFS has been working during the past month to verify these numbers and will continue to examine all available data sources to ensure that the landings reported below are correct. Although landings in the South Atlantic region during 2006 were significantly greater than shark landings during the same season in 2004 and 2005, examination of historical landings indicate that individual dealer activity was not abnormally high, with increased landings evenly distributed among all dealers. To date, all dealer reporting forms have been double checked for entry errors including counting Gulf of Mexico catch towards the South Atlantic quota, duplicate entries, and inclusion of catch from other seasons. Upon examining the dealer report forms, it became evident that seven of the reports included landings from both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. State trip tickets are currently being examined to attempt to determine the ratio of the purchases that originated in each region. Additional shark fishery updates will be released as further work is completed to eliminate the possibility of errors in landing estimates. No determinations have been made regarding the effect of this overharvest on the 2007 1st trimester fishing season.

First 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	April 15	222.8 (491,185 lbs dw)	102.6 (226,387 lbs dw)	46.1%
	South Atlantic	March 15	141.3 (311,510 lbs dw)	325.0 (716,427 lbs dw)	230.0%
	North Atlantic	April 30	5.3 (11,684 lbs dw)	< 1	< 1%
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	April 30	14.8 (32,628 lbs dw)	5.0 (10,991 lbs dw)	33.8%
	South Atlantic		284.6 (627,429 lbs dw)	33.7 (74,345 lbs dw)	11.8%
	North Atlantic		18.7 (41,226 lbs dw)	< 1	< 1%
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	April 30	91.0 (200,619 lbs dw)	0.04 (82 lbs dw)	< 0.1%
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 (67,681 lbs dw)	0	0.0%
Pelagic sharks- other than blue or porbeagle			162.7 (358,688 lbs dw)	19.2 (42,261 lbs dw)	11.8%

Second Trimester Season 2006						
Species Group	Region	Opening date	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	July 6, 2006	July 31, 2006	180 (396,828 lbs dw)	0	0.0%
	South Atlantic		Aug. 16, 2006	151.7 (334,438 lbs dw)	0	0.0%
	North Atlantic		Aug. 6, 2006	66.3 (146,165 lbs dw)	Not yet reported	
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	May 1, 2006	To be determined as necessary	38.9 (85,759 lbs dw)	0.016 (36 lbs dw)	< 0.1%
	South Atlantic			333.5 (735,234 lbs dw)	0	0.0%
	North Atlantic			35.9 (53,351 lbs dw)	Not yet reported	
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	May 1, 2006	To be determined as necessary	91.0 (200,619 lbs dw)	0.04 (82 lbs dw)	< 0.1%
Porbeagle sharks				30.7 (67,681 lbs dw)	0	0.0%
Pelagic sharks- other than blue or porbeagle				162.7 (358,688 lbs dw)	19.2 (42,261 lbs dw)	11.8%

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 Sarah McTee or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347, or see the HMS webpage (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>).


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

8/2/06
 Date