

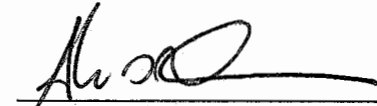


Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

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**. These landings estimates include landing reports received as of March 3, 2006. Any state landings and overharvests from these seasons will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Any over- or underharvests from the 1st trimester season in a region will be carried over to the 2007 1st trimester season for the same region.

First Trimester Season					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated landings	% Quota Taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	April 15, 2006	222.8 mt dw (491,185 lb dw)	35.62 mt dw (78,538 lb dw)	16
	South Atlantic	Closed March 15, 2006	141.3 mt dw (311,510 lb dw)	89.46 mt dw (197,231 lb dw)	63
	North Atlantic	April 30, 2006	5.3 mt dw (11,684 lb dw)	.15 mt dw (331 lb dw)	3
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	14.8 mt dw (32,628 lb dw)	2.46 mt dw (5,428 lb dw)	17
	South Atlantic		284.6 mt dw (627,429 lb dw)	4.86 mt dw (10,721 lb dw)	2
	North Atlantic		18.7 mt dw (41,226 lb dw)	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	.04 mt dw (82 lb dw)	<1
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	.24 mt dw (531 lb dw)	<1
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	5.4 mt dw (11,826 lb dw)	3

A final rule announcing the 2006 2nd and 3rd trimester season dates and quotas is expected to publish by April 1, 2006. 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 Chris Rilling 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

3/27/06
 Date

