



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester seasons of 2005. These landings estimates include landing reports received as of July 21, 2005. Any state landings and overharvests from this season will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Any over- or underharvests from the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester season in a region will be carried over to the 2006 1<sup>st</sup> trimester season for the same region, and any over- or underharvests from the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester season in a region will be carried over to the 2006 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	CLOSED February 28	156.3 mt dw (344,579 lb dw)	109.6 mt dw (241,624 lb dw)	70
	South Atlantic	CLOSED February 15	133.3 mt dw (293,873 lb dw)	130.9 (286,818 lb dw)	98
	North Atlantic	CLOSED April 30	6.3 mt dw (13,889 lb dw)	9.4 (20,723 lb dw)	149
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico		13.9 mt dw (30,644 lb dw)	14.2 mt dw (31,305 lb dw)	102
	South Atlantic		213.5 mt dw (470,682 lb dw)	60.4 mt dw (133,157 lb dw)	28
	North Atlantic		18.6 mt dw (41,056 lb dw)	0	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas		91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0	0
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	.22 mt dw (485 lb dw)	<1
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	22.7 (50,044 dw)	14

Second 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	CLOSED July 23	148 mt dw (326,280 lb dw)	9.1 mt dw (20,061 lb dw)	6
	South Atlantic	None - Closes at end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Season	182 mt dw (401,237 lb dw)	13.1 (28,880 lb dw)	7
	North Atlantic		65.2 mt dw (143,739 lb dw)	3.1 (6,834 lb dw)	5
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	30.5 mt dw (67,240 lb dw)	0.6 mt dw (1,322 lb dw)	2
	South Atlantic		281.3 mt dw (620,153 lb dw)	18.8 mt dw (41,446 lb dw)	7
	North Atlantic		23 mt dw (50,706 dw)	0	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0	0
Porbeagle sharks			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	0	0
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	25 (55,118 dw)	15

These preliminary landings estimates do not represent the total anticipated landings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester season. Reports of Atlantic sharks received by dealers from vessels on the first through the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month must be postmarked no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of that month. Reports of fish received on the 16<sup>th</sup> through the last day of the month must be postmarked not later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Thus, NMFS expects to provide a more comprehensive landings update later in August.

The final rule announcing the 2005 second and third trimester season lengths and quotas published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2005 (69 FR 21673). A proposed rule announcing the 2006 1<sup>st</sup> trimester season dates and quotas is expected to publish this fall. NMFS also expects to publish a proposed rule this fall that will require shark bottom longline fishermen to have and use a dehooking device similar to the requirements in the pelagic longline fishery.

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>).

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Date