

Atlantic Commercial Shark Fishery Update

Below are landings estimates in metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark fisheries for the 1st season of 2004 (January through June). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of February 27, 2004. Any state landings and over/underharvests from this season will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Additionally, any unclassified landings are considered, at this time, to be large coastal sharks.

Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated landings	Percent of quota taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED on February 29	190.3 mt dw (419,535.4 lbs dw)	176.2 mt dw (388,483 lbs dw)	92.6
	South Atlantic	CLOSED on February 15	244.7 mt dw (539,465.6 lbs dw)	122.4 mt dw (269920 lbs dw)	51.2
	North Atlantic	April 15, 2004	18.1 mt dw (39,903.3 lbs dw)	0 mt dw (0 lbs dw)	0
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	11.2 mt dw (24,691.5 lbs dw)	20.7 mt dw (45,553 lbs dw)	184.5
	South Atlantic		233.2 mt dw (514,112.7 lbs dw)	7.25 mt dw (15,986 lbs dw)	3.1
	North Atlantic		36.5 mt dw (80,467.9 lbs dw)	0 mt dw (0 lbs dw)	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	136.5 mt dw (300,927.9 lbs dw)	13.9 mt dw (30,574 lbs dw)	3.3
Porbeagle sharks			46 mt dw (101,411.6 lbs dw)		
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			244 mt dw (537,922.4 lbs dw)		

As a reminder, the large coastal shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico region closed on Sunday, February 29, 2004, at 11:30 pm local time. Based on preliminary landings reports, it appears the small coastal shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico region has exceeded the quota for the 1st season. Accordingly, NOAA Fisheries will be issuing a closure notice for the commercial small coastal shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. The closure notice announcing a closure date will be published in the Federal Register shortly.

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 Karyl Brewster-Geisz at (301)713-2347 x111.

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Dated