

Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the 2nd season of 2004 (July through Dec). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of July 30, 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	August 15, 2004, 11:30 pm local time	287.4 mt dw (633,602 lbs dw)	53.9 mt dw (118,827.9 lbs dw)	18.8
	South Atlantic	September 30, 2004, 11:30 pm local time	369.5 mt dw (814,599.7 lbs dw)	51.3 mt dw (113,096 lbs dw)	13.9
	North Atlantic	CLOSED July 15	39.6 mt dw (87,302.2 lbs dw)	34.6 mt dw (76,279.2 lbs dw)	87.5
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	10.2 mt dw (22,486.9 lbs dw)	0 mt dw (22 lbs dw)	.14
	South Atlantic		212.2 mt dw (467,816.1 lbs dw)	7.4 mt dw (16,314 lbs dw)	3.5
	North Atlantic		33.2 mt dw (73,192.7 lbs dw)	0 mt dw	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	136.5 mt dw (300,927.9 lbs dw)	6.0 mt dw (13,227.6 lbs dw)	1.4
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 closes on Sunday, August 15, 2004, at 11:30 pm local time. Prior to the start of the first trimester 2005 fishing season, NOAA Fisheries will publish the season's length (closing date) in the Federal Register. A proposed rule regarding regional and trimester quota adjustments should be available soon.

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 or Chris Rilling at 301-713-2347, or see the HMS webpage at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

Alan D. Risenhoover
John H. Dunnigan, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

August 13, 2004
Date