

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> season of 2004 (July through Dec). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of September 20, 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 August 15	287.4 mt dw (633,602 lbs dw)	232.9 mt dw (513,451 lbs dw)	81
	South Atlantic	September 30, 2004, 11:30 pm local time	369.5 mt dw (814,599.7 lbs dw)	197.7 mt dw (435,849 lbs dw)	54
	North Atlantic	CLOSED July 15	39.6 mt dw (87,302.2 lbs dw)	38.8 mt dw (85,538 lbs dw)	98
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)	2.8 mt dw (6,172.8 lbs dw)	27
	South Atlantic		212.2 mt dw (467,816.1 lbs dw)	38 mt dw (83,774.8 lbs dw)	18
	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)	11.2 mt dw (24,691 lbs dw)	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 South Atlantic region closes on Thursday, September 30, 2004, at 11:30 pm local time. A proposed rule regarding regional and trimester quota adjustments was published on September 17, 2004 (69 FR 56024).

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>.

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September 29, 2004  
Date