UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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, and 2nd trimester seasons of 2006,** and the season dates and quotas for the **3rd trimester**. The landings estimates include landing reports received as of August 24, 2006. Unusually high landings of large coastal sharks (LCS) were reported for the South Atlantic during the first trimester season of 2006. NMFS has examined all available data sources to ensure that the landings reported below are correct. A proposed rule will likely be published in September/October 2006 announcing the season dates and quotas for the first trimester of 2007.

First Trimester Season 2006					
Species Group	**Region**	**Closure date**	**Quota mt dw**	**Estimated Landings mt dw**	**% Quota taken**
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, and hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED April 15	**222.8** (491,185 lbs dw)	**103.1** (227,413 lbs dw)	46.3%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED March 15	**141.3** (311,510 lbs dw)	**326.1** (718,818 lbs dw)	230.8%
	North Atlantic	CLOSED April 30	**5.3** (11,684 lbs dw)	**0.3** (661 lbs dw)	5.7%
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, and bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined as necessary	**14.8** (32,628 lbs dw)	**5.0** (11,030 lbs dw)	33.8%
	South Atlantic		**284.6** (627,429 lbs dw)	**42.1** (92,814 lbs dw)	14.8%
	North Atlantic		**18.7** (41,226 lbs dw)	**0.1** (220.5 lbs dw)	0.5%
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined as necessary	**91.0** (200,619 lbs dw)	**0.04** (82 lbs dw)	0.0%
Porbeagle sharks			**30.7** (67,681 lbs dw)	**0.5** (1,017 lbs dw)	1.6%
Pelagic sharks- other than blue or porbeagle			**162.7** (358,688 lbs dw)	**19.8** (43,600 lbs dw)	12.2%

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Second Trimester Season 2006					
Species Group	**Region**	**Closure Date**	**Quota mt dw**	**Estimated Landings mt dw**	**% Quota Taken**
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, and hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED 31-Jul	**180** (396,828 lbs dw)	**137.3** (302,692 mt dw)	76.3%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED Aug. 16	**151.7** (334,438 lbs dw)	**105.2** (231,923 mt dw)	69.3%
	North Atlantic	CLOSED Aug. 6	**66.3** (146,165 lbs dw)	**59.2** (130,512 mt dw)	89.3%
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, and bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined as necessary	**38.9** (85,759 lbs dw)	**5.0** (11,023 lbs dw)	12.9%
	South Atlantic		**333.5** (735,234 lbs dw)	**42.1** (92,813 lb dw)	12.6%
	North Atlantic		**35.9** (53,351 lbs dw)	**0.1** (220.5 mt dw)	0.3%
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined as necessary	**91.0** (200,619 lbs dw)	**0.20** (441 lbs dw)	0.2%
Porbeagle sharks			**30.7** (67,681 lbs dw)	**0.3** (661.4 lbs dw)	1.0%
Pelagic sharks- other than blue or porbeagle			**162.7** (358,688 lbs dw)	**16.3** (35,934 lbs dw)	10.0%

Third Trimester Season 2006				
Species Group	**Region**	**Opening date**	**Closure date**	**Quota mt dw**
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, and hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	September 1, 2006	Nov. 7, 2006 11:30 pm local time	**225.6** (497,358 lbs dw)
	South Atlantic		Oct. 3, 2006 11:30 pm local time	**50.3** (110,891 lbs dw)
	North Atlantic	**CLOSED**		
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	September 1, 2006	To be determined as necessary	**30.8** (67,902 lbs dw)
	South Atlantic			**263.7** (581,353lbs dw)
	North Atlantic			**28.2** (62,170 lbs dw)

Blue sharks	No regional quotas	September 1, 2006	To be determined as necessary	**91.0** (200,619 lbs dw)
Porbeagle sharks				**30.7** (67,681 lbs dw)
Pelagic sharks- other than blue or porbeagle				**162.7** (358,688 lbs dw)

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 Sarah McTee or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347, or see the HMS webpage (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms).

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS
-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/
For those who receive email notifications, you will continue to receive fax notices until October 31, 2006, at which time the fax network will be discontinued.

Alan D. Risenhoover
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National Marine Fisheries Service

9/1/06
Date