



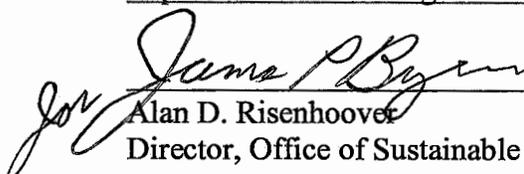
**NMFS Announces a Closure of the
 Small Coastal Shark Fishery in the Gulf of Mexico Region**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) estimates that the small coastal shark fishery quota in the Gulf of Mexico region will likely be exceeded in early-February. As such, NMFS is closing the small coastal shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico from 11:30 pm local time February 23, 2007 through the end of the fishing season on April 30, 2007. Small coastal shark fisheries in the South Atlantic and North Atlantic regions are not affected by this closure.

Below are preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lb) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the 1st trimester season of 2007. The landings estimates include landing reports received as of January 26, 2007. At this time, there are still a significant number of shark dealers that have not reported. The landings are from the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) database only and will be updated in the future as additional PDC and Accumulated Landing System (ALS) landings are received. Large coastal shark landings include landings reported as unidentified.

Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED, January 15	62.3 mt dw (137,347 lb dw)	38.9 mt dw (85,766 lb dw)	62.4%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED, January 1	- 112.9 mt dw (248,899 lb dw)	0.9 mt dw (1,957 lb dw)	--
	North Atlantic	April 30, 2007 11:30 p.m. local time	7.9 mt dw (17,416 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	February 23, 2007 11:30 p.m. local time, CLOSED	15.1 mt dw (33,289 lb dw)	6.6 mt dw (14,500 lb dw)	43.7%
	South Atlantic	To be determined, as necessary	308.4 mt dw (679,899 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
	North Atlantic		18.8 mt dw (41,446 dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. For further information on this landings update or the closure, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.


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 Date

