



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

NMFS Announces the Extension of the Scoping Comment Period for Management of Atlantic Shark Fisheries

On May 7, 2008 (73 FR 25665), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to initiate an amendment to the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), including an Environmental Impact Statement. On July 2, 2008 (73 FR 37932), NMFS published a notice that announced the availability of an issues and options scoping presentation describing potential measures for inclusion in Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP and provided details for four scoping meetings to discuss and collect comments on these issues. Based on the July 2, 2008, notice, the comment period was scheduled to conclude on October 31, 2008. NMFS is now extending the comment period until November 14, 2008. Comments received by NMFS on the NOI and issues and options scoping presentation as well as in the scoping meetings will be used in the development of Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP.

Due to the timing of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's meeting at the end of October, NMFS is extending the scoping comment period to provide additional opportunity for the public, the Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, and other interested parties to comment on potential small coastal shark management measures. These comments will assist NMFS in determining the options for rulemaking to conserve and manage shark resources and fisheries, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP.

The comment period for the NOI and scoping presentation has been extended to **5 p.m. on November 14, 2008**. Comments can be submitted to Karyl Brewster-Geisz, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please mark the outside of the envelope "Scoping Comments on Amendment 3 to Consolidated HMS FMP." Comments can also be submitted via e-mail at SCS_Scoping@noaa.gov, or via FAX at (301) 713-1917.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic Shark Fisheries interests to keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such a notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Jessica Beck at (301) 713-2347, or Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.

OCT 29 2009

Emily Menashe
for Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date

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