



NMFS Establishes the 2010 Commercial Quotas and Opening Dates for the Atlantic Shark Fisheries

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces a final rule that would establish quota levels and opening dates for the 2010 Atlantic commercial shark fisheries. Based in part on public comments, NMFS changed from the proposed rule the opening date for the non-sandbar large coastal shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico region. The final opening dates and quotas will be:

Species Group	Region	2010 Annual Quota	Season Opening Dates
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	390.5 (860,896 lb dw)	February 4, 2010
	Atlantic	169.7 (374,121 lb dw)	July 15, 2010
Non-Sandbar LCS Research Quota	No regional quotas	37.5 (82,673 lb dw)	January 5, 2010
Sandbar Research Quota		87.9 (193,784 lb dw)	January 5, 2010
Small Coastal Sharks		454 (1,000,888 lb dw)	Effective date of Amendment 3 final rule
Blue Sharks		273 (601,856 lb dw)	January 5, 2010
Porbeagle Sharks		1.5 (3,307 lb dw)	January 5, 2010
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 (1,075,856 lb dw)	January 5, 2010

*Change from proposed rule

All of the shark fisheries will remain open until December 31, 2009, unless NMFS calculates that the fishing season landings has reached, or is projected to reach, 80 percent of the available quota. In that case, NMFS will publish a notice in the federal register of the closure for that shark species group that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from the date of filing.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. More details on the reasons regarding the decisions and responses to the public comments received are provided in the final rule and Final Supplemental Environmental

Assessment for this action. Copies of these documents are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917) or on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>. For further information on this final rule and its requirements, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Guý DuBeck at 301-713-2347. This email notice is intended to provide a plain-language summary of how to comply with only the new regulations and is produced in compliance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

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Date