



## Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are the preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lb) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic Shark commercial fisheries January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. These preliminary landings estimates include landing reports received through December 31, 2009. The landings presented below are total landings reported through the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) (previously known as the Quota Monitoring System), and the Accumulated Landings System (ALS) (previously known as the general canvass). Landings within the shark research fishery were determined from trip tickets provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) by scientific observers. The estimates include landings by state-only permitted vessels, federally permitted vessels, and the 2009 shark research fishery participants. Due to the privacy regulations of North Carolina (NC), NMFS is unable to remove all instances where NC dealers report in both the PDC and ALS. As a result, some NC landings may be inflated. NMFS reminds fishermen and dealers that they are required to identify all landed sharks to species.

The estimated landings for the non-sandbar LCS in the Atlantic region declined by 2.6 mt dw when compared to the landings used in the 2010 final shark specifications (75 FR 250, January 5, 2010). This decline is due to normal quality control procedures that occur when updated data is supplied. Additionally, since the last landings update used in the 2010 final shark specifications, the porbeagle landings were exceeded. NMFS intends to adjust the 2011 quotas for non-sandbar LCS and porbeagle sharks to account for these changes, as appropriate.

### The preliminary 2009 commercial shark fishing season landings.

Species Group	Region	2009 Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	390.5 mt dw (860,896 lb dw)	320.5 mt dw † (706,670 lb dw)	82.1% <b>Closed</b>
	Atlantic	187.8 mt dw (414,024 lb dw)	203.3 mt dw ‡ (448,293 lb dw)	108.3% <b>Closed</b>
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Non-Sandbar LCS)	No regional quotas	37.5 mt dw (82,673 lb dw)	37 mt dw ‡ (81,572 lb dw)	98.7% <b>Closed</b>
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Sandbar only)		87.9 mt dw (193,784 lb dw)	Inside SRF Δ 70.5 mt dw (155,416 lb dw)  Outside SRF * 9.4 mt dw (20,675 dw)	90.9% <b>Closed</b>
Small Coastal Sharks	No regional quotas	454 mt dw (1,000,888 lb dw)	285 mt dw (628,339 lb dw)	62.8%
Blue Sharks	No regional quotas	273 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	2.2 mt dw (4,793 lb dw)	<1%



Species Group	Region	2009 Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
Porbeagle Sharks		1.4 mt dw (3,147 lb dw)	1.6 mt dw (3,525 lb dw)	112%
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	94.9 mt dw (209,147 lb dw)	19.4%

† Fishery closed at 11:30 p.m. local time on June 6, 2009 (74 FR 26803).

‡ Fishery closed at 11:30 p.m. local time on July 1, 2009 (74 FR 30479).

Δ Fishery closed at 11:30 p.m. local time on October 13, 2009 (74 FR 51241).

\* These landings are from state landings and/or unclassified sharks.

**Quotas and opening dates for the 2010 commercial shark fishing season.**

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

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

JAN 25 2010

*for* Emil Menashes  
 Alan D. Risenhoover  
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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 Date

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