



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

NMFS Announces a Closure of the Commercial Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Research Fishery

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) projects that the landings for the commercial non-sandbar large coastal shark (LCS) shark research fishery have exceeded 80 percent of the available quota. As required by NMFS regulations, 50 CFR 635.28(b)(2), NMFS is closing the commercial non-sandbar LCS shark research fishery as of 11:30 p.m. local time **October 12, 2010**. From the effective date and time of the closure until and if NMFS announces, via a notice in the Federal Register, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, this fishery for that specific quota is closed, even across fishing years.

On January 5, 2010 (75 FR 250), NMFS announced that the commercial non-sandbar LCS shark research fishery for the 2010 fishing year was open and the available commercial non-sandbar LCS shark research quota was 37.5 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (82,673 lb dw). Dealer reports through the August 31, 2010, reporting period indicate that 31.8 mt dw or 85 percent of the available commercial non-sandbar LCS shark research fishery quota has been landed, which exceeds the 80 percent limit specified in the regulations. Accordingly, NMFS is closing the commercial non-sandbar LCS shark research fishery as of 11:30 p.m. local time 5 days after the date of filing notice with the Office of the Federal Register.

During the closure, persons engaged in a shark research fishery trip aboard a vessel that was issued a shark research permit under 50 CFR 635.32(f) with a NMFS-approved observer onboard, may not retain non-sandbar LCS. Vessels issued a shark research permit that are engaged in a commercial shark fishing trip outside of the shark research fishery may retain non-sandbar LCS caught in the Atlantic region, as long as the non-sandbar LCS fishery in the Atlantic region remains open for commercial harvest of non-sandbar LCS by Atlantic shark limited access permit holders. A shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may not purchase or receive non-sandbar LCS from a vessel issued a shark research permit returning from a shark research fishery trip with a NMFS-approved observer on board. Permitted shark dealers or processors may possess non-sandbar LCS that were harvested during a shark research fishery trip, as long as the non-sandbar LCS were off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage.

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 or Peter Cooper at 301-713-2347. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

Emily Menashes

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Date

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