



Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Landings Update January 1 – May 17, 2012

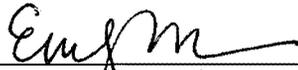
Below are the preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lb) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries. These preliminary estimates are based on dealer reports and other information received from January 1 through May 17, 2012. The estimates include landings by state-only permitted vessels, federally permitted vessels, and the 2012 shark research fishery participants.

Species Group	Region	2012 Season Opening Date	2012 Quota	Estimated Landings in 2012	% of 2012 Quota
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	February 15	392.8 mt dw (866,063 lb dw)	268.4 mt dw (591,806 lb dw)	68%
	Atlantic	Effective Date for HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting System or July 15, 2012, whichever comes first	183.2 mt dw (403,889 lb dw)	0.5 mt dw (1,010 lb dw)	<1%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Non-Sandbar LCS)	No regional quotas	January 24	37.5 mt dw (82,673 lb dw)	4.5 mt dw (9,916 lb dw)	12%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Sandbar only)		January 24	87.9 mt dw (193,784 lb dw)	Inside SRF 11.3 mt dw (24,905 lb dw) Outside SRF * 0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	13%
Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	No regional quotas	January 24	332.4 mt dw (732,808 lb dw)	41.9 mt dw (92,312 lb dw)	13%
Blacknose Sharks		January 24	19.9 mt dw (43,872 lb dw)	1.7 mt dw (3,782 lb dw)	9%
Blue Sharks	No regional quotas	January 24	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	8.1 mt dw (17,945 lb dw)	3%
Porbeagle Sharks		January 24	0.7 mt dw (1,585 lb dw)	0.6 mt dw (1,479 lb dw)	93%
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		January 24	488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	56.5 mt dw (124,478 lb dw)	12%

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



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>.



Emily Menashes
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

MAY 21 2012

Date

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