



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

## NMFS Announces the Opening Date of the Commercial Atlantic Region Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Fishery

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will open the commercial Atlantic region non-sandbar LCS fishery on **July 15, 2012**. On January 24, 2012 (77 FR 3393), we published a final rule that established quota levels and opening dates for the 2012 Atlantic commercial shark fisheries. In the final rule, we stated that the 2012 Atlantic non-sandbar large coastal shark (LCS) fishery would open on either the effective date of the final rule implementing the Atlantic HMS electronic dealer reporting system (76 FR 37750; June 28, 2011) or July 15, 2012, whichever occurs first.

We are still working on integrating the Atlantic HMS electronic dealer reporting system with other existing and new electronic programs in the Northeast and Southeast regions. Once the electronic dealer system is available, we will conduct training workshops and webinars to introduce and train dealers how to use the new system before implementation. Thus, we do not expect the system to be in place before July 15, and will open the commercial Atlantic region non-sandbar LCS fishery on July 15, 2012.

This notice does not change the opening or closing dates of any other region, complex, or species. All shark fisheries will remain open until December 31, 2012, unless landings have reached, or are projected to reach, 80 percent of the available quota. In that case, we 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 the fishery. For further information on this landings update or the closure, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Guý DuBeck at 301-427-8503. The information will also be posted at:  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

  
Emily H. Menashes  
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUN 13 2012  
Date

### SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>



Printed on Recycled Paper

