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

Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are **preliminary** landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and (lbs) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic Shark commercial fisheries for the **1st and 2nd trimester** seasons of 2007. **The landings estimates include landing reports received as of July 31, 2007; however, these reports present preliminary landings, as some dealers have not yet reported.** The landings presented below are total landings reported through the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) (previously known as the Quota Monitoring System), and the Automated Landings Reporting System (ALS) (previously known as the General Canvass).

First Trimester Season 2007					
Species Group	**Region**	**Closure date**	**Quota**	**Estimated Landings**	**% of Quota**
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED, January 15	62.3 mt dw (137,347 lb dw)	186.1 mt dw (410,353 lb dw)	299%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED, January 1	—	9.7 mt dw (21,449 lb dw)	—
	North Atlantic	CLOSED, April 30	7.9 mt dw (17,416 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED, February 23	15.1 mt dw (33,289 lb dw)	14.5 mt dw (31,989 lb dw)	96%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED, April 30	308.4 mt dw (679,899 lb dw)	27.6 mt dw (60,811 lb dw)	8.9%
	North Atlantic		18.8 mt dw (41,446 dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	CLOSED, April 30	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0 mt dw	> 0.1 %
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	0.1 mt dw (139 lb dw)	0.3%
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	30.6 mt dw (67,364lb dw)	19%

Second and Third Trimester Season 2007					
Species Group	**Region**	**Closure date**	**Quota**	**Estimated Landings**	**% of Quota**
*Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	[1,2] Gulf of Mexico	OPENS September 1, 2007; CLOSES September 22, 2007	83.1 mt dw (183,202 lb dw)	144.6 mt dw [2] (318,864 lb dw)	174%[1]
	[2]South Atlantic	CLOSED, August 15	163.70 mt dw (360,893 lb dw)	35.8 mt dw [2] (78,923 lb dw)	22%
	North Atlantic	CLOSED, July 31	69.0 mt dw (152,117 lb dw)	74.8 mt dw (164,905 lb dw)	108%

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Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	72.6 mt dw (160,054 lb dw)	0.8 mt dw (1,733 lb dw)	1.1%
	South Atlantic		291.6 mt dw (642,861 lb dw)	47.1 mt dw (103,816lb dw)	16.1%
	North Atlantic		36.2 mt dw (79,807 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	91.0 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	> 0.1 mt dw (208 lb dw)	0%
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	40.8 mt dw (90,016 lb dw)	25.1%

* Please note that for LCS, the 2nd and 3rd seasons of 2007 are merged for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions. In the 2nd season, the North Atlantic region opened on July 6 and closed on July 31st. During the 3rd season, the North Atlantic region is closed for LCS.

[1] Although the Gulf of Mexico large coastal shark fishery does not open until September 1st, landings from vessels fishing in state waters have occurred in this region. Per 50 CFR § 635.27(b)(1), state landings are counted against the Federal quota. NMFS is working with individual states to resolve these issues and will be taking these overharvests into consideration through future regulations including Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

[2] Please note that dealers located in closed regions are not permitted to purchase sharks landed in open regions [50 CFR § 635.28(b)(3)] and may be subject to enforcement actions. However, NMFS continues to see incidences of cross-region purchasing during closed seasons. For example, during the 2007 second trimester, NMFS originally received reports from Gulf of Mexico dealers totaling 45.5 mt dw of large coastal landings. Upon further inspection, NMFS observed that 9.7 mt dw of the reported 45.5 mt dw amount were landed in the South Atlantic region. The 9.7 mt dw of large coastal shark has therefore been reallocated towards the South Atlantic quota.

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

Notification of important actions, rules, policies and programs that may be of interest can be sent electronically through FishNews, an automated, e-mail-based newsletter. This weekly newsletter is coordinated by the Partnerships and Communications Division at NOAA Fisheries Service. Participation is entirely voluntary and free of charge and may be found at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishnews.htm.

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for Alan D. Risenhoover
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9/4/2007
Date