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 the preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and pounds (lb) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic Shark commercial fisheries January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008. These preliminary landings estimates include landing reports received through December 31, 2008. 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). The estimates include landings by both state only permitted vessels and federally permitted vessels as well as landings from the 2008 shark research fishery. 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.

**All 2009 shark fisheries, including the shark research fishery, opened on Friday, January 23, 2009.** Despite closing on November 18, 2008, porbeagle shark landings have continued to occur. As such, NMFS intends to adjust the 2009 quota for porbeagle sharks to account for the additional overharvest experienced since the fishery closure.

| Species Group | Region | 2008 Quota | Estimated Landings | % of Quota |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks | Gulf of Mexico | 390.5 mt dw (860,896 lb dw) | 302.8 mt dw (667,608 lb dw) | 78% |
| | Atlantic | 187.8 mt dw (414,024 lb dw) | 164.4 mt dw (362,453 lb dw) | 88% |
| Shark Research Fishery Quota (Non-Sandbar LCS) | No regional quotas | 37.5 mt dw (82,673 lb dw) | 17.1 mt dw (37,781 lb dw) | 46% |
| Shark Research Fishery Quota (Sandbar only) | | 87.9 mt dw (193,784 lb dw) | Inside SRF 13.9 mt dw (30,558 lb dw) | 78% |
| | | | Outside SRF * 54.9 mt dw (120,939 lb dw) | |
| Small Coastal Sharks | No regional quotas | 454 mt dw (1,000,888 lb dw) | 282.2 mt dw (622,193 lb dw) | 62% |
| Blue Sharks | No regional quotas | 273 mt dw (601,856 lb dw) | 1.5 mt dw (3,229 lb dw) | 0.5% |
| Porbeagle Sharks | | 1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw) | 2.2 mt dw (4,771 lb dw) | 127% |
| Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue | | 488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw) | 108.2 mt dw (238,469 lb dw) | 22% |

* These landings are from state landings.

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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 or Jackie Wilson at 240-338-3936. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms.

JAN 2 3 2009

Emily Menashes

for Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date

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