



NMFS ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ATLANTIC SHARK FISHERY

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is issuing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to provide background information and request public comment on potential adjustments to the regulations governing the U.S. Atlantic shark fishery to address current fishery issues and to begin to identify specific long term shark fishery goals. NMFS is requesting public comment regarding the potential implementation of changes to the quota and/or permit structures that are currently in place for the Atlantic shark fishery including, but not limited to:

Quota structure

- Species complexes only;
- Species-specific quotas;
- Moving individual species to different species complexes;
- Regional quotas; and
- Bycatch quotas.

Permit structure

- Permit stacking;
- Use or lose permits; and
- Matching capacity to shark quotas.

Catch shares

- Individual Fishing Quotas;
- Sectors; and
- Others.

NMFS will hold 6 public meetings as listed below to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding this ANPR. All of the meetings listed below, with the exception of the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel meeting, will begin with an opportunity for individuals to view information on the issues raised in the ANPR and ask questions followed by a presentation and opportunity for public comment. The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

Date	Location	Time
September 22, 2010	Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel Meeting, 8777 Georgia	1:30 – 5:00 p.m.



	Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	
October 21, 2010	Ocean County Library, Stafford Branch, 129 North Main Street, Manahawkin, NJ, 08050	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
October 26, 2010	Manteo Town Hall, 407 Budleigh Street, Manteo, North Carolina, 27954	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
November 8, 2010	Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, Louisiana, 70037	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
December 15, 2010	West St. Petersburg Community Library, 6605 5 th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
December 16, 2010	Fort Pierce Library, 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce, FL 34950	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The public comment period for the ANPR closes on January 14, 2011. Copies of the ANPR are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this ANPR, contact LeAnn Southward Hogan, Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Delisse Ortiz at 301-713-2347.

for James P. Burgen
 Emily H. Menashes
 Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SEP 20 2010

Date

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 actions --