



NMFS Announces the Availability of the Final SEDAR 21 Stock Assessment Reports for Dusky, Sandbar, and Blacknose Sharks.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability of the stock assessment reports for dusky, sandbar, and blacknose sharks in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The assessments followed the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process. The reports summarize the consensus of an independent Review Panel, describe methodologies used to determine stock statuses, and detail relevant working documents, including copies of Data and Assessment workshop reports.

Sandbar and dusky sharks were each assessed as one stock whereas, for the first time, blacknose sharks were assessed as two separate stocks, an Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico stock. The stock assessments provide information on the status of the stocks and project their future abundance under a variety of catch levels in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. The 2010 assessments include updated catch estimates, new biological data, and a number of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent catch rate series for each species.

The Review Panel for the Review Workshop of SEDAR 21 found that the data and methods used were appropriate and the best available for the dusky, sandbar, and Atlantic blacknose shark assessments. However, because the assessment model for the Gulf of Mexico blacknose stock was unable to fit the apparent trends in some of the abundance indices and there was a fundamental lack of fit of the model to some of the input data, the Review Panel did not accept the stock assessment for the Gulf of Mexico blacknose stock. Based on these assessments, NMFS will be making stock status determinations in an upcoming Federal Register notice for four separate stocks: 1) dusky sharks, 2) sandbar sharks, 3) Gulf of Mexico blacknose sharks, and 4) Atlantic blacknose sharks.

Electronic copies of the assessment reports and all supporting documents are available on the internet at: <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/>. For more information on the methods, data, and results of the stock assessment, contact Peter Cooper at (301) 427-8503.



This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic Shark Fisheries interests to keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Peter Cooper or Karyl Brewster-Geisz, at (301) 427-8503, or Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.



For Emily Menashes
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

OCT 03 2011

Date

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