

NOAA Fisheries Adjusts the Atlantic Large Coastal Shark (LCS) Seasonal Quota for the North Atlantic Management Region for the 2004 Fishing Year

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has submitted to the Office of the Federal Register a final rule that adjusts the Atlantic LCS seasonal quota for the North Atlantic management region for the 2004 fishing year. This rule is expected to publish shortly. Specifically, the final rule would adjust the split for the North Atlantic region, as outlined in Amendment 1, from a 50/50 split to a 20/80 split between the two semi-annual fishing seasons and announces the closure of the LCS fishery in the North Atlantic region. The quotas and fishing seasons for all regions and species are below:

Species Group	Region	Semiannual quota level		Closure date
		mt dw	lbs dw	
Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	287.4	633,602	August 15, 2004, 11:30 pm local time
	South Atlantic	369.5	814,599.7	September 30, 2004, 11:30 pm local time
	North Atlantic	39.6	87,302.2	July 15, 2004, 11:30 pm local time
Small Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	10.2	22,486.9	To be determined, as necessary
	South Atlantic	212.2	467,816.1	
	North Atlantic	33.2	73,192.7	
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	136.5	300,927.9	
Porbeagle sharks	No regional quotas	46	101,411.6	
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle	No regional quotas	244	537,922.4	

This FAX notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. For further information regarding this final rule contact Chris Rilling, Heather Stirratt, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at (301) 713-2347 or go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register.

Alan D. Risenhoover for _____
John H. Dunnigan
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June 3, 2004 _____
Dated