

Science, Service, Stewardship



2010 Shark Season Rule

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

November 2010



Overview



- Background
- Need for Action
- Landings and Proposed Quotas
- Why did LCS close early in 2009?
- SCS Alternatives
- Non-Sandbar LCS Alternatives
- Request for Public Comments



Background

- In Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, NMFS modified quota management as follows:
 - For LCS, there are 2 regions – GOM and Atlantic;
 - There is one season that lasts for the entire year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31);
 - The season does not open until NMFS announces quota is available;
 - The season closes when NMFS projects that 80 percent of the quota has been taken;
 - For LCS, the season openings and closings can differ between regions.



Need for Action

- **SCS:**
 - NMFS announced that blacknose sharks were overfished with overfishing occurring.
 - Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, stocks declared to be overfished before 2009, must have ACLs in place by the 2010 fishing season.

- **Non-Sandbar LCS:**
 - In the Atlantic region, the LCS fishery closed on July 1.
 - Fishery participants in the North Atlantic have state and federal water closure to protect shark nursery areas.
 - In the Gulf of Mexico region, the LCS fishery closed on June 6.
 - Many fishery participants experience state water closures from April through June to protect shark nursery areas.



Landings Up to Sept. 15

Species Group	Region	2009 Annual Quota (mt dw)	Preliminary 2009 Landings (mt dw)	Quota Percentage
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	390.5 (860,896 lb dw)	317.2 (699,366 lb dw)	81.2% CLOSED
	Atlantic	187.8 (414,024 lb dw)	200.8 (442,790 lb dw)	106.9% CLOSED
Non-Sandbar LCS Research Quota	No regional quotas	37.5 (82,673 lb dw)	37 (81,572 lb dw)	98.7% CLOSED
Sandbar Research Quota		87.9 (193,784 lb dw)	79.7 (175,627 lb dw)	90.6% CLOSED



Landings Up to Sept. 15

Species Group	Region	2009 Annual Quota (mt dw)	Preliminary 2009 Landings (mt dw)	Quota Percentage
Small Coastal Sharks	No regional quotas	454 (1,000,888 lb dw)	180.1 (397,190 lb dw)	39.7%
Blue Sharks		273 (601,856 lb dw)	1.4 (3,122 lb dw)	< 1%
Porbeagle Sharks		1.4 (3,086 lb dw)	0.2 (383 lb dw)	12.2%
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 (1,075,856 lb dw)	69.7 (153,723 lb dw)	14.3%



2010 Expected Quotas

Species Group	Region	2009 Annual Quota	Preliminary 2009 Landings	Overharvest	2010 Expected Quota
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	390.5 (860,896 lb dw)	317.2 (699,366 lb dw)	-	390.5 (860,896 lb dw)
	Atlantic	187.8 (414,024 lb dw)	200.8 (442,790 lb dw)	13	174.8 (385,364 lb dw)
Non-Sandbar LCS Research Quota	No regional quotas	37.5 (82,673 lb dw)	37 (81,572 lb dw)	-	37.5 (82,673 lb dw)
Sandbar Research Quota		87.9 (193,784 lb dw)	79.7 (175,627 lb dw)	-	87.9 (193,784 lb dw)



2010 Expected Quotas

Species Group	Region	2009 Annual Quota	Preliminary 2009 Landings	Overharvest	2010 Expected Quota
Small Coastal Sharks	No regional quotas	454 (1,000,888 lb dw)	180.1 (397,190 lb dw)	-	454 (1,000,888 lb dw)
Blue Sharks		273 (601,856 lb dw)	1.4 (3,122 lb dw)	-	273 (601,856 lb dw)
Porbeagle Sharks		1.4 (3,086 lb dw)	0.2 (383 lb dw)	0.2	1.5 (3,307 lb dw)
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 (1,075,856 lb dw)	69.7 (153,723 lb dw)	-	488 (1,075,856 lb dw)

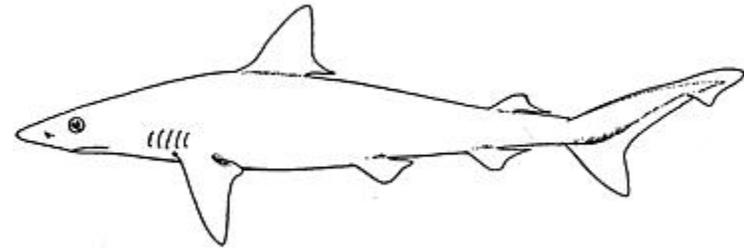


Why Did LCS Close Early in 2009?

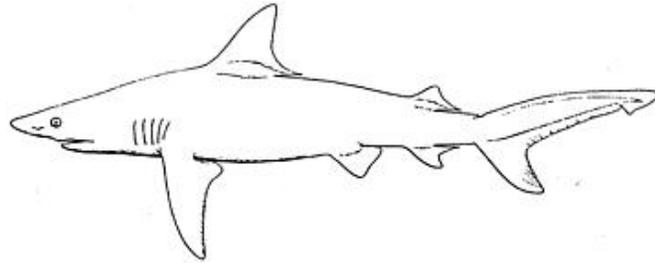
- NMFS is looking at potential reasons and considering options.
- Some of the questions are:
 - Landing different species
 - Landing sharks with fins and belly flaps attached
 - High grading
 - Multiple trips per day



SCS Alternatives



- A1--No Action. Allow the 2010 SCS fishing season to open on the effective date of the final rule for the 2010 Atlantic shark specifications
- A2--*Open the 2010 SCS fishing season on the effective date of the final rule for Amendment 3 to the Consolidated HMS FMP – Preferred Alternative*



Non-Sandbar LCS Alternatives

- B1--No Action. Allow the 2010 non-sandbar LCS fishery in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions to open on the effective date of the final rule for the 2010 Atlantic shark specifications
- B2--Open the 2010 non-sandbar LCS fishery in the Atlantic region on July 15, 2009; open the 2010 non-sandbar LCS fishery in the Gulf of Mexico region upon the effective date of the final rule for the 2010 Atlantic shark specifications
- B3--*Open the 2010 non-sandbar LCS fishery in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions on July 15, 2009 – Preferred Alternative*



2010 Shark Research Fishery

- Request for applications published on October 30
- Deadline for applications is November 30
- ~ 10 applicants will receive permits
- Requirements for qualified vessels are:
 - Complete application received by deadline
 - Valid safety decal
 - Landings history of sharks in logbooks
 - No HMS-related NOVA or Permit Sanction
 - Complied with observer program in the past 2 years



Public Hearing Locations

Date	Time	Hearing Location
Nov 16, 2009	5 – 8 pm	Manteo Town Hall Manteo, NC
Nov 18, 2009	5 – 8 pm	Belle Chasse Auditorium Belle Chasse, LA
Nov 23, 2009	5 – 8 pm	Jupiter Branch Library Jupiter, FL

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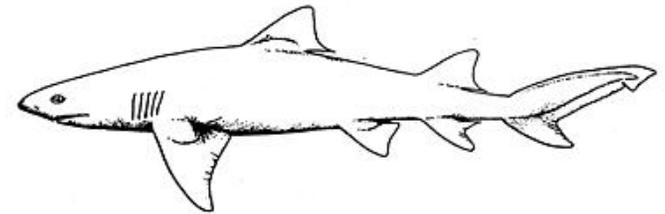


Request for Comments

Please submit comments to:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Keyword - "0648-AX95"



Comment period closes on November 27, 2009

Comments can also be submitted via fax:

301-713-1917, Attn: Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Guý DuBeck

Or Mail:

NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please identify comments with 0648-AX65

For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>