

Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are landings estimates in metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the 1st season of 2004 (January through June). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of March 26, 2004. Any state landings and over/underharvests from this season will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Additionally, any unclassified landings are considered, at this time, to be large coastal sharks.

Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated landings	Percent of quota taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED February 29	190.3 mt dw (419,535.4 lbs dw)	270.8 mt dw (596,907 lbs dw)	142.3
	South Atlantic	CLOSED February 15	244.7 mt dw (539,465.6 lbs dw)	153.7 mt dw (338,835 lbs dw)	63.7
	North Atlantic	April 15, 2004	18.1 mt dw (39,903.3 lbs dw)	0 mt dw (0 lbs dw)	0
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED March 18	11.2 mt dw (24,691.5 lbs dw)	31.22 mt dw (68,827 lbs dw)	278.7
	South Atlantic	To be determined, as necessary	233.2 mt dw (514,112.7 lbs dw)	7.72 mt dw (17,017 lbs dw)	3.3
	North Atlantic		36.5 mt dw (80,467.9 lbs dw)	0 mt dw (0 lbs dw)	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	136.5 mt dw (300,927.9 lbs dw)	22.1 mt dw (48,819 lbs dw)	5.2
Porbeagle sharks			46 mt dw (101,411.6 lbs dw)		
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			244 mt dw (537,922.4 lbs dw)		

As a reminder, the large coastal shark fishery in the North Atlantic region closes on Thursday, April 15, 2004, at 11:30 pm local time. Approximately 30 days prior to the start of the second semi-annual 2004 fishing season, NOAA Fisheries will publish the season's length (closing date) in the Federal Register, consistent with requirements at 50 CFR 635.27(b)(1)(iv).

This FAX notice is a courtesy to Atlantic shark fishery interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347.

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John H. Dunnigan, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

April 6, 2004
Date