

Atlantic Commercial Shark Fishery Update

Below are landings estimates in metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark fisheries for the 1st season of 2004 (January through June). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of February 6, 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	February 29, 2004	190.3 mt dw (419,535.4 lbs dw)	76.9 mt dw (169,571 lbs dw)	40.4
	South Atlantic	February 15, 2004	244.7 mt dw (539,465.6 lbs dw)	81.4 mt dw (179,441 lbs dw)	34.0
	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	To be determined, as necessary	11.2 mt dw (24,691.5 lbs dw)	1.7 mt dw (3,672 lbs dw)	14.9
	South Atlantic		233.2 mt dw (514,112.7 lbs dw)	6.23 mt dw (13,725 lbs dw)	2.7
	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)	6.8 mt dw (14,972 lbs dw)	1.6
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 South Atlantic region closes on Sunday, February 15, 2004, at 11:30 pm local time. Additionally, as of February 1, 2004, all bottom longline vessels should have onboard corrodible, non-stainless steel hooks, line cutters, and dipnets. All fishermen should have received in the mail a revised shark commercial fishing brochure in January. These brochures and other information regarding shark regulations can be found on the Highly Migratory Species Management Division web page at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

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 x111.

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Dated