

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 2003 (January through June). Dead discards and any overages/underages from this season will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Additionally, any unclassified landings are split equally between the ridgeback and non-ridgeback large coastal shark (LCS) species groups. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) may change this proportion between the ridgeback and non-ridgeback LCS species groups in the future.

Species Group	1 st Semi-annual quota level	Estimated landings	2 st Semi-annual quota level	Closure Date
Ridgeback LCS (sandbar, silky, tiger)	391.5 mt dw	429.2 mt dw (110%)	424 mt dw	September 15, 2003; 11:30 pm local time
Non-Ridgeback LCS (blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, and the hammerheads)	465.5 mt dw	458.0 mt dw (98%)	498 mt dw	
Small Coastal Sharks	163 mt dw	100.4 mt dw (62%)	163 mt dw	To be determined, as necessary
Blue sharks	136.5 mt dw	34.5 mt dw (8%)	136.5 mt dw	
Porbeagle sharks	46 mt dw		46 mt dw	
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle	244 mt dw		244 mt dw	

NOAA Fisheries will be mailing a Commercial Shark Fishery Regulations brochure (dated July 2003) to all current permit holders the week of July 14th. If you do not receive one by August 8th, please contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz at (301) 713-2347 x111. Also, NOAA Fisheries is working on a proposed rule for draft Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks. This proposed rule could affect all shark regulations and should be released shortly with a 60 day comment period.

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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