

Atlantic Commercial Shark Fishery Update

Below are landings estimates in metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark fisheries for the 1st and 2nd seasons of 2003 (January through June; July through December). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of October 9, 2003. The percent of the quota taken is listed in parentheses under the landings estimate. Dead discards and any over- or underharvests 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 allocation of unclassified landings between the ridgeback and non-ridgeback LCS species groups in the future, based on additional data.

Species Group	1 st Semi-annual quota level	Estimated landings	2 st Semi-annual quota level	Estimated landings	Closure Date
Ridgeback LCS - i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger	391.5 mt dw	451.3 mt dw (115%)	424 mt dw	316.9 mt dw (75%)	September 15, 2003
Non-Ridgeback LCS - i.e., blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	465.5 mt dw	461.1 mt dw (99%)	498 mt dw	373 mt dw (75%)	
Small Coastal Sharks	163 mt dw	109 mt dw (67%)	163 mt dw	97.4 mt dw (60%)	To be determined, as necessary
Blue sharks	136.5 mt dw	38.7 mt dw (9%)	136.5 mt dw	47.1 mt dw (11%)	
Porbeagle sharks	46 mt dw		46 mt dw		
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle	244 mt dw		244 mt dw		

The comment period on the proposed a rule for draft Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks closed on October 3, 2003. NOAA Fisheries is considering comments and plans to have commercial quota levels and other management measures effective by the start of the 2004 fishing year. More information regarding this rulemaking can be found on our 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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 John H. Dunnigan
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 Dated