



## **NOAA Fisheries Cancels and Reschedules Shark Public Hearings and Extends Comment Period**

Due to concern over the path of Hurricane Isabel, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is canceling and rescheduling two of the public hearings for the Atlantic shark proposed rule, which published on August 1, 2003 (68 FR 45196), and Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks.

The Pawleys Island, South Carolina hearing that was originally planned for September 17, 2003, is now rescheduled for October 2, 2003.

The Manteo, North Carolina hearing that was originally planned for September 22, 2003, is now rescheduled for October 1, 2003.

The schedule for all other hearings is unchanged. Additionally, this is a reminder that there is a Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel meeting scheduled for September 30, 2003 (August 27, 2003, 68 FR 51560), to discuss this rulemaking. The public is welcome to attend this meeting.

Additionally, in order to incorporate the rescheduled hearings during the public comment period, the comment period has been extended to 5 p.m. on October 3, 2003.

The remaining public hearings are:

Thursday, September 25, 2003 - Atlantic Beach, FL, 7-9 p.m.

City of Atlantic Beach, Atlantic Beach City Chambers, 800 Seminole Rd., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

Wednesday, October 1, 2003 - Manteo, NC, 7-9 p.m.

North Carolina Aquarium, Roanoke Island, Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954

Thursday, October 2, 2003 - Pawleys Island, SC, 7-9 p.m.

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library, 24 Commerce Dr., Pawleys Island, SC 29585

This FAX notice is a courtesy to Atlantic Shark Fisheries 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, Heather Stirratt, or Chris Rilling at (301) 713-2347 or Greg Fairclough at (727) 570-5447.

Bruce Morehead for  
John H. Dunnigan  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

September 16, 2003  
Date