



NMFS ANNOUNCES PROPOSED SEASON LENGTHS AND QUOTAS FOR THE 2005 SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTER COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHERY

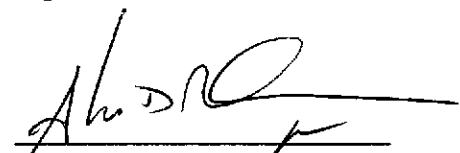
The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division proposes to adjust the 2005 second and third trimester season quotas for large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS) based on over- or underharvests from the 2004 fishing seasons, and announces proposed season opening and closing dates for the second and third trimester seasons of 2005.

Second Trimester Season				
Species Group	Region	Opening Date	Closure date	Quota
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	August 1, 2005	August 31, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time	148 mt dw (326,280 lb dw)
	South Atlantic	July 1, 2005	August 31, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time	182 mt dw (401,237 lb dw)
	North Atlantic	July 15, 2005	August 31, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time	65.2 mt dw (143,739 lb dw)
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	May 1, 2005	To be determined, as necessary	30.5 mt dw (67,240 lb dw)
	South Atlantic			281.3 mt dw (620,153 lb dw)
	North Atlantic			23 mt dw (50,706 lb dw)
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	May 1, 2005	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)				30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)				162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)
Third Trimester Season				
Species Group	Region	Opening Date	Closure date	Quota
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	September 1, 2005	October 31, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time	167.7 mt dw (369,711 lb dw)
	South Atlantic	September 1, 2005	December 15, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time	187.5 mt dw (413,362 lb dw)
	North Atlantic	September 1, 2005	September 14, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time	4.8 mt dw (10,582 lb dw)
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	September 1, 2005	To be determined, as necessary	31.7 mt dw (69,885 lb dw)
	South Atlantic			201.1 mt dw (443,345 lb dw)
	North Atlantic			15.9 mt dw (35,053 lb dw)
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	September 1, 2005	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)				30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)				162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)



The comment period for this proposed rule is open for 14 days and will close on March 25, 2005. Written comments may be submitted to the address below or emailed to: SF1.020205F@noaa.gov. NMFS will hold a single public hearing to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding these proposed quotas and season opening and closure dates. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2005, Holiday Inn, Silver Spring, MD 2:45-3:45 p.m.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule, contact Chris Rilling, Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.



John H. Dunnigan
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

MAR - 2 2005

Date