



## NMFS Establishes the 2010 Commercial Quotas and Opening Dates for the Atlantic Shark Fisheries

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces a final rule that would establish quota levels and opening dates for the 2010 Atlantic commercial shark fisheries. Based in part on public comments, NMFS changed from the proposed rule the opening date for the non-sandbar large coastal shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico region. The final opening dates and quotas will be:

| Species Group                               | Region             | 2010 Annual Quota        | Season Opening Dates                     |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks            | Gulf of Mexico     | 390.5<br>(860,896 lb dw) | February 4, 2010                         |
|   | Atlantic           | 169.7<br>(374,121 lb dw) | July 15, 2010                            |
| Non-Sandbar LCS Research Quota              | No regional quotas | 37.5<br>(82,673 lb dw)   | January 5, 2010                          |
| Sandbar Research Quota                      |                    | 87.9<br>(193,784 lb dw)  | January 5, 2010                          |
| Small Coastal Sharks                        |                    | 454<br>(1,000,888 lb dw) | Effective date of Amendment 3 final rule |
| Blue Sharks                                 |                    | 273<br>(601,856 lb dw)   | January 5, 2010                          |
| Porbeagle Sharks                            |                    | 1.5<br>(3,307 lb dw)     | January 5, 2010                          |
| Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue |                    | 488<br>(1,075,856 lb dw) | January 5, 2010                          |

\*Change from proposed rule

All of the shark fisheries will remain open until December 31, 2009, unless NMFS calculates that the fishing season landings has reached, or is projected to reach, 80 percent of the available quota. In that case, NMFS will publish a notice in the federal register of the closure for that shark species group that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from the date of filing.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. More details on the reasons regarding the decisions and responses to the public comments received are provided in the final rule and Final Supplemental Environmental



Assessment for this action. Copies of these documents 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) or on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>. For further information on this final rule and its requirements, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Guý DuBeck at 301-713-2347. This email notice is intended to provide a plain-language summary of how to comply with only the new regulations and is produced in compliance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

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Date