



NMFS Requests Comments on Options to Manage Atlantic Shark Fisheries

Based on the latest 2005/2006 stock assessment of large coastal shark (LCS), 2006 stock assessment of dusky sharks, and the Canadian 2005 stock assessment of porbeagle sharks, NMFS is making the following determinations of the status of several shark species:

Species	Overfished	Overfishing
LCS Complex	Unknown	Unknown
Sandbar Sharks	Yes (rebuild in 70 yrs)	Yes
Gulf of Mexico Blacktip Sharks	No	No
Atlantic Blacktip Sharks	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky Sharks	Yes (rebuild in 100-400 yrs)	Yes
Porbeagle Sharks	Yes (rebuild in 100 yrs)	No

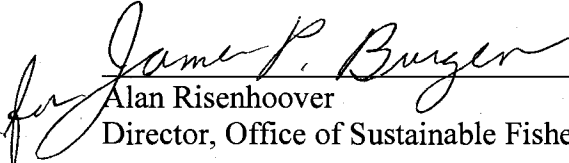
Copies of the assessments can be obtained by writing the address listed below.

Based on the 2005 and 2006 stock assessments, NMFS believes the implementation of new management measures via an amendment to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is necessary to rebuild sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks while providing an opportunity for the sustainable harvest of blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico. As part of the process to amend the Consolidated HMS FMP, NMFS is requesting comments on a variety of management options for this action. Specifically, NMFS requests comments on commercial management options including, but not limited to, quota levels, regional and seasonal quotas, trip limits, minimum sizes, quota monitoring, applying dead discards and state landings after a Federal closure to the quota, counting quota over- and underages, authorized gears, permit structure, prohibited species, and the Mid-Atlantic shark closure. In addition, NMFS is seeking comments on recreational management options including retention limits, minimum sizes, authorized gears, and landing requirements. NMFS also seeks comments on display quotas and collection of sharks through exempted fishing permits, display permits, and scientific research permits. Comments can be submitted to Karyl Brewster-Geisz, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 by 5pm on February 5, 2007. Please mark the outside of the envelope "Scoping Comments on Amendment 2 to HMS FMP." Comments can also be submitted via e-mail at SF1.082906A@noaa.gov, or via FAX at (301) 713-1917.

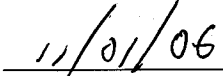
Within the comment period established in this action, NMFS will hold scoping meetings to gather public comment on the implementation of new management measures for Atlantic sharks (time and location details of which will be announced in a subsequent Federal Register notification).



This 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, at (301) 713-2347, or Jackie Wilson at (404) 806-7622.



Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries



Date