



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Announces the Availability of an Issues Options Presentation and Scoping Meetings for Management of Atlantic Shark Fisheries

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 for sustainable shark fisheries.

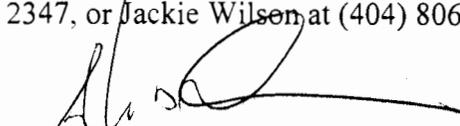
On November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65086), NMFS published a Notice of Intent to amend the Consolidated HMS FMP which included summary information on the recent stock assessments, announced NMFS' determination of several overfished shark stocks, and requested comments from the public on possible options for management of shark fisheries.

An issues and options presentation, which describes potential management measures that may be included in the upcoming amendment to the Consolidated HMS FMP, is now available on the HMS website (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/index.htm>). NMFS will be holding seven scoping meetings to attain comments from the public on shark management measures. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

1. Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.
2. Thursday, January 18, 2007, 6-9 p.m. City of Madeira Beach, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, Florida 33708.
3. Thursday, January 18, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Manahawkin Public Library, 129 North Main Street, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.
4. Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Avenue, Destin, FL 32541.
5. Thursday, January 25, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Bayou Black Recreational Center. 3688 Southdown Mandalay Road, Houma, LA 70360.
6. Tuesday, January 30, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Fort Pierce Library, 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce, FL 34950.
7. Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Manteo Town Hall, 407 Budleigh Street, Manteo, NC 27954.

Comments can be submitted to Michael Clark, 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.

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


Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JAN 3 2007
Date