

## Performance of 2011/2012 Spiny Dogfish Fishery

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This document is to provide information regarding performance of the 2011/2012 spiny dogfish commercial fishery. It is intended to facilitate discussion at the February 9, 2012 Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board (Board) Meeting. Several Board members requested a review of fishery performance be added to the meeting due to concerns regarding the 2011/2012 Northern Region quota overage.

### FEDERAL WATERS REGULATIONS AND LANDINGS IN 2011/2012 FISHING YEAR:

- Fishing year: May 1 – April 30.
- 20 million pound quota and 3,000 pound possession limit in 2011/2012
- Seasonal quota allocation.
- Period 1: May 1 – October 31 allocated 57.9% of Coastwide (= 11,580,000 lbs).
- Period 2: November 1 – April 30 allocated 42.1% of Quota (=8,420,000 lbs).
- Overages paid back by period, but fishery closes when annual quota (20,000,000 lbs) is reached.
- Federal dealers are required to report (enter) landings into the SAFIS database for the previous week (Sunday - Saturday) by midnight on the following Tuesday.

Table 1. 2011/2012 landings, quota, and closure dates. Landings Source: SAFIS Dealer reports queried on January 31, 2012

	Landings (Pounds)	Quota (Pounds)	Overage (Pounds)	2011/2012 Closure Date	2010/2011 Closure Date	Possession Limit
<b>Federal Period 1</b>	12,800,377	11,580,000	1,220,377	26-Aug-11	27-Aug-10	3,000 lbs
<b>Federal Period 2</b>	6,981,982	8,420,000		13-Jan-12	1-Apr-11	3,000 lbs
<b>Total</b>	19,782,280	20,000,000				

### ASMFC REGULATIONS AND LANDINGS IN 2011/2012 FISHING YEAR:

- Fishing year: May 1 – April 30.
- 20,000,000 million pound quota
- Northern Region: Maine – Connecticut; allocated 58% of the coastwide quota = 11,600,000 lbs (prior to overage deductions for 2010/2011 season).
- Northern Region possession limit = 3,000 pounds.
- Addendum III, effective for the 2011/2012 fishing season established state shares for NY – NC. 2011/2012 is first season under state shares.
- NY – NC set their own possession limit.
- Overages are paid back by region or state the following season. A state does not lose quota if another region/state exceeds their allocation earlier in a fishing season.
- Rollovers up to 5%.
- States are required to report weekly to NMFS through SAFIS.

Table 2. ASMFC landings, allocations, quotas, and closure dates. Landings Source: SAFIS query run on January 31, 2012. NC landings from personal communication with NC DMF staff on January 13, 2012.

	<b>2011_2012 Landings</b>	<b>Percent Allocation</b>	<b>2011/2012 Quotas Adjusted for 2010/2011 overages (Pounds)</b>	<b>2011/2012 Remaining Quota (negative value indicates overage)</b>	<b>2011/2012 (Current Season) Closure Date</b>	<b>2010/2011 (Last Year) Closure Date</b>
<b>ME</b>	350,437	58%	11,145,453	-1,280,157	01-Sep-11	25-Aug-10
<b>NH</b>	1,526,288					
<b>MA</b>	9,095,274					
<b>RI</b>	1,266,654					
<b>CT</b>	186,957					
<b>NY</b>	351,250	2.707%	538,698	187,448	Open	25-Mar-11 (was Southern Region in 2010/2011)
<b>NJ</b>	1,555,338	7.644%	1,521,170	-34,168	08-Jan-12	
<b>DE</b>	20,769	0.896%	178,306	157,537	Open	
<b>MD</b>	959,325	5.920%	1,178,091	218,766	Open	
<b>VA</b>	2,228,366	10.795%	2,148,224	-80,142	07-Dec-11	
<b>NC</b>	2,241,622	14.036%	2,738,552	496,930	Variable	Variable
<b>Total</b>	19,782,280					

**SOURCE OF THE NORTHERN REGION OVERAGE**

**Landing Rates**

In previous years, overages were thought to be a combination of: 1) increased landings rates in the week prior to the closure date; and 2) late reports. Northern region overages are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Northern region overages 2008-2011 in pounds.

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>Coastwide Quota</b>	<b>Northern Region Quota</b>	<b>Northern Region Overage</b>	<b>% of Northern Quota</b>	<b>% of Coastwide Quota</b>
<b>2008/2009</b>	8,000,000	4,572,067	49,619	1.1%	0.6%
<b>2009/2010</b>	12,000,000	6,910,381	427,552	6.2%	3.6%
<b>2010/2011</b>	15,000,000	8,272,448	454,547	5.5%	3.0%
<b>2011/2012</b>	20,000,000	11,145,453	1,280,157	11.5%	6.4%

The NMFS issued a Period I (May – October) closure notice on August 22, 2011 for the August 26 closure and the ASMFC issued a northern region closure notice on August 23, 2011 for the September 1 closing date. If the 2011/2012 overage was caused by increased landings the final week prior to the closure, then catch rates would have increased the week of August 20 – 27. However, weekly landings decreased in this week (Figure 1).

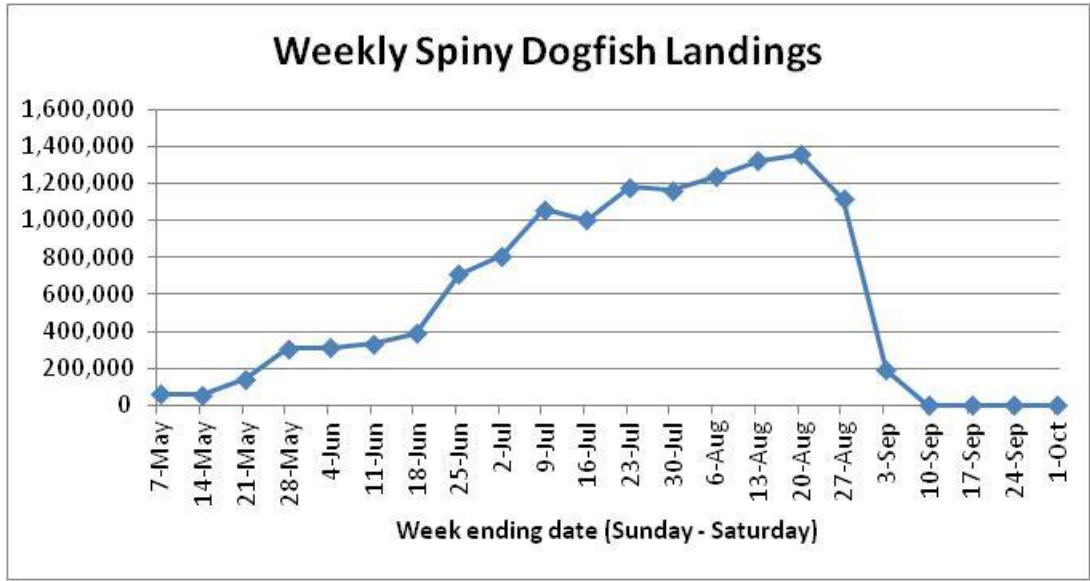


Figure 1. Weekly landings (pounds) by week from May 1 – October 31, 2012. Weeks based on dealer reporting requirement. Source: SAFIS Dealer Reports.

Additionally, there was speculation that the overage occurred because of significant landings between the August 26 NMFS closure and September 1 ASMFC closure<sup>1</sup> but landings data does not substantiate this claim as SAFIS landings indicate only 282,737 pounds of dogfish were landed between August 26 - 31.

**Late Reports**

The other suspected cause of the 2011/2012 Northern Region quota overage is late reporting. Dealers are required to report weekly landings (through SAFIS) for Saturday – Sunday of a week by midnight of the following Tuesday. Dealers are required to enter the weight and date landed, and the SAFIS database automatically records the date that the landings were entered into the system. A simple query of landing date suggests that few landings occurred after the Northern Region was closed on September 1, 2012 (Table 4).

Table 4. Landings from September 1, 2011 through present in pounds by state. Source: SAFIS Dealer reports queried on January 31, 2012

State	Sept 1 - present (after closure)
ME	
NH	
MA	4,847
RI	316
CT	
Total	5,163

<sup>1</sup> The ASMFC and NMFS have different quota allocation schemes and are not required to close on the same date.

A significant weight of dogfish may have been reported after the required date (Table 5). Dealers are required to report (enter) landings into the SAFIS database for the previous week (Sunday - Saturday) by midnight on the following Tuesday. Therefore, landings for the last week of the NMFS August 26 closure should have been reported by August 30 (the following Tuesday) and landing for the last week of the September 1 ASMFC closure should have been reported by September 6.

Table 5. Landings (pounds) entered after August 31 (Tuesday after NMFS closure) and September 7 (Tuesday after ASMFC Closure). Landings entered after these dates may be late reports. Source: SAFIS Dealer reports. \*\*\*represents data that could not be shown due to confidentiality rules.

State	August 31 - Present	September 7 - Present
ME	60,021	***
NH	***	***
MA	808,033	246,773
RI	58,601	3,283
CT	***	
Total	1,054,916	383,136

Dealers are required to report the previous weeks (Sunday – Saturday) landings by midnight on the following Tuesday, allowing for a maximum difference of 9 days between landing and reporting date to comply with reporting requirements. A report that was entered 10 or more days after the reported landing date does not comply with weekly dealer reporting requirements and could be considered a late report.

Table 6. Landings (pounds) by state that were entered 10 or more days after the reported landing date. \*\*\*represents data that could not be shown due to confidentiality rules.

Month	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	Total
May			115,780	36,949	1,530	154,259
June	30,266	***	462,790	66,419	18,810	581,065
July	81,644	29,191	1,138,542	20,934		1,270,311
August	13,467	80,783	765,458	7,653	1,300	868,661
September			***			584
Oct				***		15
Dec			***			3,000
Total	125,377	112,754	2,486,154	131,970	21,640	2,877,895

Table 7. number of reports by state that were entered 10 or more days after the reported landing date. \*\*\*represents data that could not be shown due to confidentiality rules.

Month	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	Total
May			204	71	3	278
June	20	***	344	117	12	494
July	42	17	503	74		636
August	6	32	343	34	2	417
September			***			***
Oct				***		***
Dec			***			***
Total	68	50	1,396	297	17	1828