

Description of Estimates of Unreported Catches

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Large Coastal Shark Complex Estimates:

These data were initially included in the summary of total catches for the LCS in 1996. Text reprinted from Table 3 in Anonymous (1996):

“These data are from a single source, which owned a fleet of vessels that fished in the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of North Carolina. The estimate for 1988 was determined from company landing records. The estimates for other years were prorated based on the 1988 landings record and financial statements indexing income from shark fishing (SB-III-30). The Working Group did not have any way of determining the amount, if any, of these catches that were included. Therefore, the Working Group made the assumption that none of the catches were included and kept these data separate, listing them as unreported. The implicit assumption in doing this is that the landings were off-loaded in Alabama docks, but not sold to Alabama dealers.”

The following estimates were derived for Unreported Catches:

Year	# (fish in thousands)
1986	24.9
1987	70.3
1988	113.3
1989	96.3
1990	52.1
1991	11.3

Copies of SB-III-13, which contains the number of fish landed in 1988, and SB-III-30, mentioned in the text above, are included.

Species-specific Estimates for Blacktip and Sandbar Sharks:

Estimates of unreported catches for blacktip and sandbar sharks were first derived in 1998. Text reprinted from in Anonymous (1998):

“Unreported landings were based on the assumed proportions of the values reported in Table 1 of SB-IV-12: 75% for blacktip and 25% sandbar for the period 1986-1987, and 50% blacktip, 50% sandbar for the period 1988-1991.”

The following estimates were derived for species-specific Unreported Catches:

	<i># fish</i>	<i># fish</i>
Year	Blacktip	Sandbar
1886	18675	6225
1987	52725	17575
1988	56650	56650
1989	48150	48150
1990	26050	26050
1991	5650	5650

A copy of Table 1 from SB-IV-12 is included.

Attachments:

SB-III-13: Hester, F. 1996. Landings and effort from a specific dealer. 1 page.

SB-III-30: Hester, F. 1996. Shark fin landings and conversions from selected dealers. 5 pages.

SB-IV-12: Scott, G. J. Bennett, B. Slater, and P. Phares. 1998. Recent recreational and commercial catches of sharks along the US east and Gulf of Mexico coasts. Sustainable Fisheries Division Contribution SFD-97/98-11. 9 pages.

Literature Cited:

Anonymous. 1996. 1996 Report of the Shark Evaluation Workshop. 80 pages.

Anonymous. 1998. 1998 Report of the Shark Evaluation Workshop. 109 pages.