

**Data Update to Illegal Shark Fishing off the coast of Texas by Mexican Lanchas**

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**Abstract**

Update to United States Coast Guard detected fishery-related lancha incursions data reported in *Illegal Shark Fishing off the Coast of Texas by Mexican Lanchas* document (LCS05/06-DW-07) from SEDAR-11 Large Coastal Shark Complex, Blacktip, and Sandbar Shark Stock Assessment

## 1.0 Background

Since the mid-1990s, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) has been aware of Mexican fishing vessels fishing for sharks and other species in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coast of Texas. These vessels are usually open fiberglass-hulled with an outboard engine and are approximately 25 to 35 feet in length. Each vessel has a crew of approximately three people. The vessels originate from Matamoros, Mexico, and fish in the area surrounding South Padre Island, Texas, anywhere from zero to twenty miles offshore.

These vessels, or lanchas, fish during the day with gillnet and longline gear in U.S. waters for shark and red snapper, which are believed to be more prevalent in the U.S. EEZ off Texas than in the Mexican EEZ near Matamoros. The sharks are finned and the fins are sold.

The previous 2005/2006 large coastal shark (LCS) stock assessments considered these catches and included United States Coast Guard data on fishery-related incursion numbers. This document updates the 2005 data and adds 2006-2010 (to date) data to Table 1 of *Illegal Shark Fishing Off the Coast of Texas by Mexican Lanchas* document (LCS05/06-DW-07) from SEDAR-11 Large Coastal Shark Complex, Blacktip, and Sandbar Shark Stock Assessment.

**Table 1 USCG Detected Fishery-Related Lancha Incursions from FY2000 to FY2005**

Fiscal Year	Number of Detected Incursions
2000	100
2001	147
2002	139
2003	131
2004	212
2005	157
2006	149
2007	99
2008	67
2009	85
2010 (to date)	26

## References

Brewster-Geisz, K. and M. Eycheson. 2005. *Illegal Shark Fishing Off the Coast of Texas by Mexican Lanchas* document (LCS05/06-DW-07) from SEDAR-11 Large Coastal Shark Complex, Blacktip, and Sandbar Shark Stock Assessment.