

The BRIDGE: Using On-Line Oceanographic Data

September Data Tip - Commercial Shark Landings

Objective: To graph the commercial shark landings over the past decade.

Procedure:

1. From the September 1999 shark data tip page, click on the **Commercial Fisheries data** link in the fourth paragraph.
2. On the Annual Commercial Landings Statistics page, fill in the following information:
 - Species* - enter **shark, tiger** (or species of your choice). Note: to find other species of sharks listed in the database, click on the SpeciesLocator button and enter **shark** in the name search box.
 - Year Range* - select **1988 to 1998** (or dates of your choice).
 - State/Area* - select **Atlantic and Gulf** (or area of your choice).
 - Output Form* - select **DOWNLOAD ASCII FILE - PC**. Hit **Submit Query** button.

FOR NETSCAPE:

3. A *Save As* window will appear. Type the name as you wish to save it (for example shark.txt), be sure to end with the extension **.txt**. If you have choices in *File Type*, make sure **Text** is selected. Also, be sure to note what directory it is saved under. Hit **Save**.

FOR MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER:


3. Go to **File, Save As**. Type the name you wish to save it as it (for example shark.txt), be sure to end with the extension **.txt**. If you have choices in *File Type*, make sure **Text** is selected. Also, be sure to note what directory it is saved under. Hit **Save**.

4. Open Microsoft Excel. Open the file you just saved (be sure you have selected Text in the *File Type*). You will get the Text Import Wizard.



Step 1 - Select **Delimited, Start Import at Row: 1, and File Origin: Windows (ANSI)**. Hit **Next**.

Step 2 - Select **Delimiters: Comma and Text Qualifier: "**. Hit **Next**.

Step 3 - Select **Column Data Format: General**. Hit **Finish**. If you see "#####" in a cell(s) instead of numbers, do not panic. This just means your columns are not wide enough to display the whole number so you need to make the columns wider by clicking and dragging the line between the letters at the top of the column.

5. Go to an empty cell, G1 for instance, and click on the  (chart wizard) icon.

Step 1 - Under *Standard Types* select **Chart Type: Lines**. Under *Chart Sub-type* select the chart in the second row (curved lines with dots). Hit **Next**.

Step 2 - Under *Data Range* click on the  (collapse dialog) icon. We are going to look at the metric tons per year data, so highlight the three columns of data starting with the year "1988" cell (**Column A, Row 6**) and ending with the metric ton "6.3" cell (**Column C, Row 15**) at the bottom of that column. Click on the  (open dialog) icon. Make sure *Series In: Columns* is selected.

Open the *Series* tab. Under the *Category (X) axis labels*: we are going to change the "B"

to an "A". This will change the entire thing from something like "=shark!\$A\$6:\$B\$15" to "=shark!\$A\$6:\$A\$15". (We are doing this because the species column that lists "shark" is unnecessary for our graph, so we are eliminating it here). Hit **Next**.

Step 3 - These are the chart options. Enter the titles, legend, etc. that you wish. Hit **Next**.

Step 4 - Select *Place Chart As New Sheet: Chart 1*. Hit **Finish**.

10. To save your spreadsheet and plots, go to **File, Save As**. Select *File Type Microsoft Excel Workbook (*.xls)*.

You have just graphed the 1988-1998 commercial tiger shark landings for the Atlantic and Gulf! At this point you can refer back to the Bridge data tip for discussion questions and ideas and for more links on related subjects. This exercise can be repeated for any species, dates, or locations.

