



Atlantic Swordfish Landings Update: Commercial and Recreational 2009 Fishing Year

The table below provides preliminary landings estimates and remaining quotas as of May 31, 2009, in pounds (lb) and metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic swordfish fisheries for the 2009 fishing year. Please note that these estimates are subject to late reporting and do not include discards. The 2009 annual directed landings quota seen below has not been adjusted for 2008 underharvests; NMFS is currently working on a proposed rule to adjust the 2009 base quota for these underharvests.

Recreational landing estimates are reported by anglers in the HMS Non-Tournament Recreational Swordfish and Billfish Landings Database and the Recreational Billfish Survey. Reported lengths are converted to pounds dressed weight using standard International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' (ICCAT) formulas (formulas can be found at <http://www.iccat.int/main.htm>). As specified in § 635.27(c)(i)(B), all recreational landings are counted against the incidental quota.

	Quota mt dw		Landings	Remaining Quota	Percent of Quota Taken
			mt dw (lb dw)	mt dw (lb dw)	
NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH					
Directed Fishery First Season (Jan 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009)	1,066.5	Commercial Landings	538.1 (1,186,249)	528.4 (1,164,957)	50%
Directed Fishery Second Season (July 1, 2009 - Dec 31, 2009)	1,066.5	Commercial Landings	0.0 (0.0)	1,066.5 (2,351,206)	0%
Incidental Fishery (annual quota)	300	Commercial Landings	0.2 (448)	295.8 (652,161)	1.4%
		Recreational Landings	4.0 (8,771)		
Total	2,937.5*		542.3 (1,195,468)	2,395.2 (5,280,544)	18.5%
SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH					
Directed Fishery (annual quota)	75.2	Commercial Landings	0	75.2 (165,786)	0%

*Includes 504.5 mt dw allocated to the reserve; 150.4 mt dw North Atlantic swordfish quota may be caught between 5 degrees North latitude and 5 degrees South latitude



This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic swordfish fishery 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. To view catch statistics from previous months, please visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/swordfish_quotas/swordfish_catch_statistics.htm or contact Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.

Alap D. Risenhoover
for Alap D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

7/9/09
Date

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Commercial North Atlantic Swordfish landings in dressed weight (pounds) for fish from North of 35N and South of 35N. All Swordfish are from North of 5N.

Area	Month	Directed						Incidental			Monthly Total
		Longline	Harpoon	Hand Line	Rod & Reel	Buoy Gear	Total	OtterTrawl	Other	Total	
N of 35N	Jan-09	4,927	0	0	0	0	4,927	69	0	69	4,996
N of 35N	Feb-09	3,038	0	0	0	0	3,038	0	0	0	3,038
N of 35N	Mar-09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N of 35N	Apr-09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N of 35N	May-09	23,783	0	0	0	0	23,783	0	0	0	23,783
N of 35N	Jun-09										0
S of 35N	Jan-09	205,268	0	0	1,225	7,831	214,324	0	0	0	214,324
S of 35N	Feb-09	189,908	0	0	1,351	6,575	197,834	0	0	0	197,834
S of 35N	Mar-09	275,928	0	0	1,154	11,158	288,240	0	0	0	288,240
S of 35N	Apr-09	241,729	0	0	1,192	3,280	246,201		379	379	246,580
S of 35N	May-09	200,717	0	0	3,352	3,833	207,902	0	0	0	207,902
S of 35N	Jun-09										0
Gear Total		1,145,298	0	0	8,274	32,677	1,186,249	69	379	448	1,186,697
											Six Month Total

Area	Month	Directed						Incidental			Monthly Total
		Longline	Harpoon	Hand Line	Rod & Reel	Buoy Gear	Total	Otter Trawl	Other	Total	
N of 35N	Jul-09						0			0	0
N of 35N	Aug-09						0			0	0
N of 35N	Sep-09						0			0	0
N of 35N	Oct-09						0			0	0
N of 35N	Nov-09						0			0	0
N of 35N	Dec-09						0			0	0
S of 35N	Jul-09						0			0	0
S of 35N	Aug-09						0			0	0
S of 35N	Sep-09						0			0	0
S of 35N	Oct-09						0			0	0
S of 35N	Nov-09						0			0	0
S of 35N	Dec-09						0			0	0
Gear Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
											Six Month Total

1,186,249
Yearly Directed

448	1,186,697
Yearly Incidenta	Yearly Total

Commercial South Atlantic Swordfish landings in dressed weight (pounds). All Swordfish are from South of 5N.

	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09
Directed	0	0	0	0	0							

0
Yearly Total

Unadjusted 2009 Fishing Year Quota (undadjusted for underharvest in 2008)

North Atlantic Swordfish Directed Quota:	1 Jan, 2009 -30 June, 2009	2,351,316
	1 July, 2009 - 31 Dec, 2009	2,351,316
	Annual Total	4,702,632
North Atlantic Swordfish Incidental Quota:	Annual Total	661,380
South Atlantic Swordfish Directed Quota:	Annual Total	165,786



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

Dear Consulting Party:

JUL 15 2009

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability of the proposed rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Amendment 3 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The proposed rule and DEIS describe a range of management measures that could impact shark fishermen and dealers. After considering comments on the scoping and Predraft materials, NMFS considered a range of alternatives that would reduce fishing effort and fishing mortality of blacknose and shortfin mako sharks and implement federal management of smooth dogfish. NMFS analyzed the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of a range of commercial and recreational alternatives for small coastal sharks (SCS), pelagic sharks, smooth dogfish, and commercial gear restrictions for the Atlantic shark fishery. The range of alternatives considered include but are not limited to: no action; removing blacknose and shortfin mako sharks from their current quota groups and implementing species-specific quotas, placing shortfin mako sharks on the prohibited species list, reducing the overall SCS quota, prohibiting gillnet gear in the Atlantic shark fishery, prohibiting retention of blacknose and shortfin mako sharks in the recreational fishery, implementing size limits for shortfin mako sharks in the commercial fishery, modifying the recreational minimum size for blacknose sharks and shortfin mako sharks, closing the entire SCS fishery, and addressing overfishing through cooperation with other nations through international negotiations. In addition, NMFS considered alternatives for smooth dogfish including, no action, adding it under HMS management, and implementing federal management measures, including a permit requirement and establishing commercial quotas.

Under 304(g)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), NMFS is required to consult with affected Fishery Management Councils, advisory groups, and the Advisory Panels established under the Magnuson-Stevens Act regarding amendments to the FMPs for HMS. As such, we are requesting your comments on the proposed rule and the DEIS. The proposed rule is expected to publish in the Federal Register on July 24, 2009. These documents will be available electronically on the HMS Management Division's webpage at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

We appreciate your comments. The public comment period will close 60 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register. Please submit written comments to LeAnn Southward Hogan, HMS Management Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or fax to (301) 427-2592. For further information contact: Karyl Brewster-Geisz or LeAnn Southward Hogan, at (301) 713-2347 or Jackie Wilson, at (240) 338-3936.

Sincerely,

Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief
Highly Migratory Species Management Division



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