



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

## **NMFS ANNOUNCES FINAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH QUOTAS**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will implement 2006 ICCAT recommendations for quotas and carryover caps:

- NMFS will extend the 2,937.6 mt dw yearly baseline quota for the North Atlantic based on ICCAT recommendation 06-02 and will also decrease the South Atlantic baseline quota to 75.2 mt dw based on ICCAT recommendation 06-03.
- ICCAT recommendations 06-02 and 06-03 place caps on underharvest carryovers for 2007 and 2008. For the North Atlantic, carryover would be capped at 50 percent of the baseline quota (1,468.8 mt dw). For the South Atlantic, carryover would be capped at 75.2 mt dw.
- NMFS will implement a one-time transfer of 15 percent of the North Atlantic baseline allocation (440.6 mt dw) for 2007 to the reserve category.
- NMFS will include the option of an internet website as an additional method for complying with the Atlantic HMS Angling or Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat category's 24 hour reporting requirement.

It is important to note that the final quota for the 2007 swordfish fisheries will be apportioned into one fishing season, as the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP established an abbreviated 2007 fishing year to allow for conversion to a calendar year in the U.S. swordfish fisheries starting January 2008. The abbreviated fishing year started June 1, 2007, and extends through December 31, 2007. After December 31, 2007, the annual quota is subdivided into two equal semi-annual quotas: one for January 1 through June 30, and the other for July 1 through December 31.

The public comment period for the proposed rule closed on July 18, 2007. During the comment period, NMFS received comments on quota and underharvest carryover alternatives which included support for following ICCAT recommendations. The comments received on the transfer provision alternatives included both support and disagreement on the preferred alternative that would transfer 15 percent of the 2007 North Atlantic baseline quota into the reserve category, which would allow it to be transferred to another ICCAT CPC. None of the alternatives have been modified based on comments received.

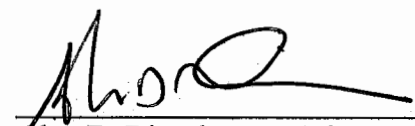


**Landings and Quotas for the Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries (2004 – 2007)**

North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2004 final	2005 preliminary	2006 preliminary	2007 preliminary
Baseline Quota		2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6
Quota Carried Over		2,275.1	3,359.1	4,691.2	1,468.8 <sup>+</sup>
<b>Total Quota</b>		<b>5,212.7</b>	<b>6,296.7</b>	<b>7,628.8</b>	<b>4,406.4</b>
Quota Allocation	Directed Category	4,792.4	5,895.2	7,246.1	3,601.9
	Incidental Category	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0
	Reserve Category	120.3	101.5	82.7	504.5
Utilized Quota	Landings	1,665.1	1,471.8	1291.5 to date	TBD
	Reserve Transfer to Canada	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8
Total Underharvest		3,528.8	4,806.1	6,318.5 to date	TBD
Dead Discards		-169.8	-114.9	TBD	TBD
Carryover Available		3,359.1	4,691.2	1,468.8 <sup>+</sup>	1,468.8 <sup>+</sup>
South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2004 final	2005 preliminary	2006 preliminary	2007 preliminary
Baseline Quota		75.2	75.2	90.2	75.2
Quota Carried Over		259.1	319.3	394.5	75.2
<b>Total Quota</b>		<b>334.3</b>	<b>394.5</b>	<b>484.7</b>	<b>150.4</b>
Landings		15.0	0.0	0.0 to date	TBD
Carryover Available		319.3	394.5	75.2	75.2

<sup>+</sup>ICCAT recommends an underharvest cap of 50 percent of the baseline quota allocation for the North Atlantic in 2007 and 2008, and a cap of 75.2 mt dw for the South Atlantic.

This EMAIL notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information on this final rule and its requirements, contact Heather Ann Halter or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the final rule and Final Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

  
 Alan D. Risenhoover, Director  
 Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SEP 21 2007

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