



## National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Fact Sheet for Dealers: International Trade of Swordfish, Tuna & Shark Fins

**Who is affected?** Dealers who import, export or re-export bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, frozen bigeye tuna, or shark fins are affected by these regulations.

**Where can I find the regulations?** The regulations were published in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 2004 (69 FR 67268) and amended on June 2, 2008 (73 FR 31380) and are codified at 50 C.F.R. parts 300 subpart M and 635. They can be accessed at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP>. A brief summary of the key provisions is given below. Please see the full regulatory text for a complete review of the requirements.

**What do the regulations require?** Dealers who import, export, or re-export fresh or frozen bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, and/or frozen bigeye tuna (NOT including fresh bigeye tuna) regardless of ocean area of origin, must comply with the following permitting and reporting requirements:

- hold a valid HMS International Trade Permit;
- complete and submit consignment documents (statistical documents or catch documents) and re-export certificates (if applicable), including validation for exports and re-exports from the United States, for each shipment of the named species;
- complete and submit summary bi-weekly reports of trade activity for the named species;
- comply with all applicable record-keeping and reporting requirements.

**What is the purpose of the regulations?** The purpose of these regulations is to help track the catch and/or international trade of highly migratory species, thus reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, improving conservation and management measures, and enhancing the scientific evaluation of these stocks.

**How do I obtain an HMS International Trade Permit?** Download an application from the following website: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP> or write to this address: NMFS Permit Team, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., South, St. Petersburg, FL, 333701; or call this number: 727/824-5326.

**How much does the permit cost?** The permit costs \$25.00 and may be purchased with a check or money order made out to the U.S. Treasury.

**What are the reporting requirements?** Each import, export, and re-export of the named species (except shark fins) must be accompanied by a consignment document (and re-export certificate when applicable) that has been validated by an approved authority, and the original (imports) or a copy (exports) must be provided to NMFS. Summary reports must be submitted at biweekly intervals, and copies of consignment documents, re-export certificates, and summary reports must be maintained for two years. For further information, including instructions for validation, please see the Compliance Guide at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/index.htm>.

**How do I obtain reporting documents?** Reporting documents and complete instructions will be distributed to dealers when they obtain an HMS International Trade Permit. These documents are also posted on the website <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP>.

**Further Information:** Tuna & Swordfish Trade Reporting, National Seafood Inspection Lab (228) 769-8964.