



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

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE ANNOUNCES A PROPOSED RULE REGARDING THE TRADE OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

In this action, we propose to remove the Atlantic bigeye tuna import prohibitions from the countries of Bolivia and Georgia, consistent with International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Recommendation 11-19. In 2004, as a result of ICCAT Recommendations, we prohibited the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna from Bolivia and Georgia to address the issue of illegal, unreported, and unregulated catches of tuna. At its 2011 annual meeting, ICCAT examined recent actions of Bolivia and Georgia, and determined that the actions of their vessels no longer diminish the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation and management measures. Thus, the Commission adopted Recommendation 11-19 concerning the lifting of trade restrictive measures against Bolivia and Georgia.

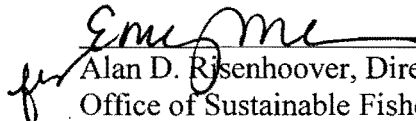
We also propose administrative changes in support of the International Trade Permit program. Specifically, we are considering modifying the section relating to highly migratory species products covered under the International Trade Permit to ensure it is consistent with the recent changes to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. Permit holders must include the species-specific harmonized tariff codes on the necessary trade documentation when trading these species. The harmonized tariff codes are updated every five years, and the most recent update occurred in 2012.

The comment period for this proposed rule is open until July 26, 2012. Due to the administrative nature of this rulemaking, we have not scheduled public hearings.

Written comments, identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2012-0117", may be submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>, or sent by fax or mail to the contact information included below. All comments received are a part of the public record and generally will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.



This notice is a courtesy to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule, contact LeAnn Hogan at 301-427-8503 or Thomas Warren at 978-281-9260. Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from the HMS Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-427-8503, 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

JUN 26 2012

Date

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