

Science, Service, Stewardship



Swordfish Quotas, Minimum Size, and Other Measures

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division

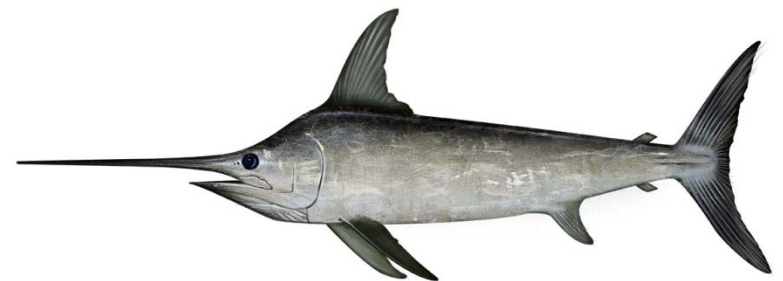
May 2012

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Outline

- ICCAT Recommendation 11-02 quota measures and alternatives
- ICCAT Recommendation 11-02 swordfish minimum size measure and alternatives
- Timeline
- Public hearings
- Request for comments





ICCAT Recommendation 11-02

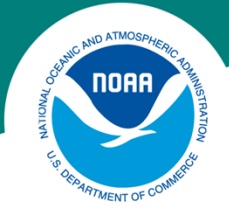
Quota Measures:

- Maintained:
 - North Atlantic total allowable catch (TAC) of 13,700 mt ww
 - U.S. baseline allocation of 3,907 mt ww
- Removed annual quota transfer from U.S. to Canada
- Established 150 mt ww quota transfer from U.S. to Morocco
- Altered the underharvest carryover limit
 - CPCs with an allocation greater than 500 mt ww limited to underharvest carryover of 25 %
 - All other CPCs underharvest carryover limit maintained at 50%
- Established through 2013



Proposed Quota Alternatives

- Alternative 1: No Action, maintain current baseline quota of 3,907 mt ww and 50% underharvest carry over provision
- Alternative 2: *Implement ICCAT quota provisions – preferred alternative*
 - U.S. baseline quota of 3,907 mt ww
 - 150 mt ww quota transfer to Morocco
 - Underharvest carryover reduction from 50% to 25%



ICCAT Recommendation 11-02

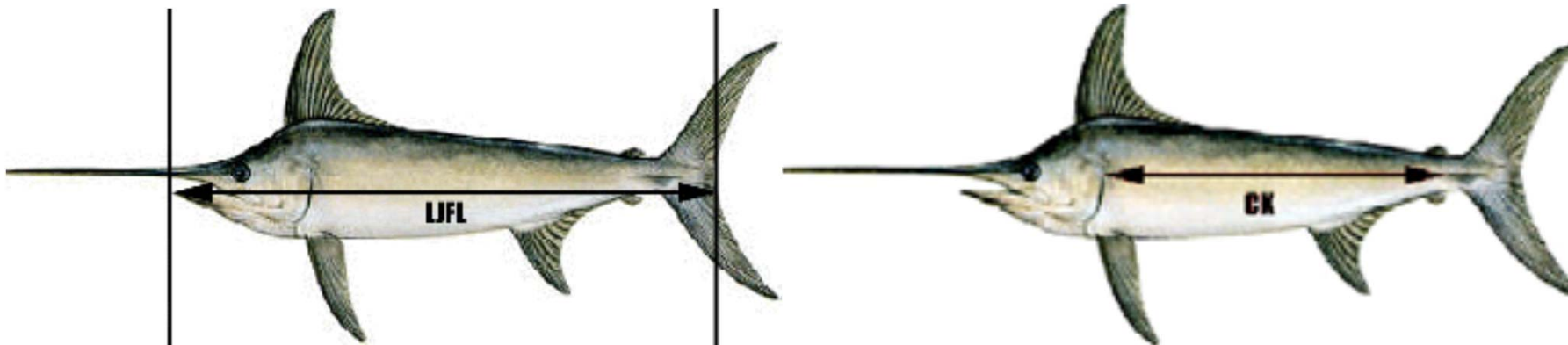
Minimum Size Measure:

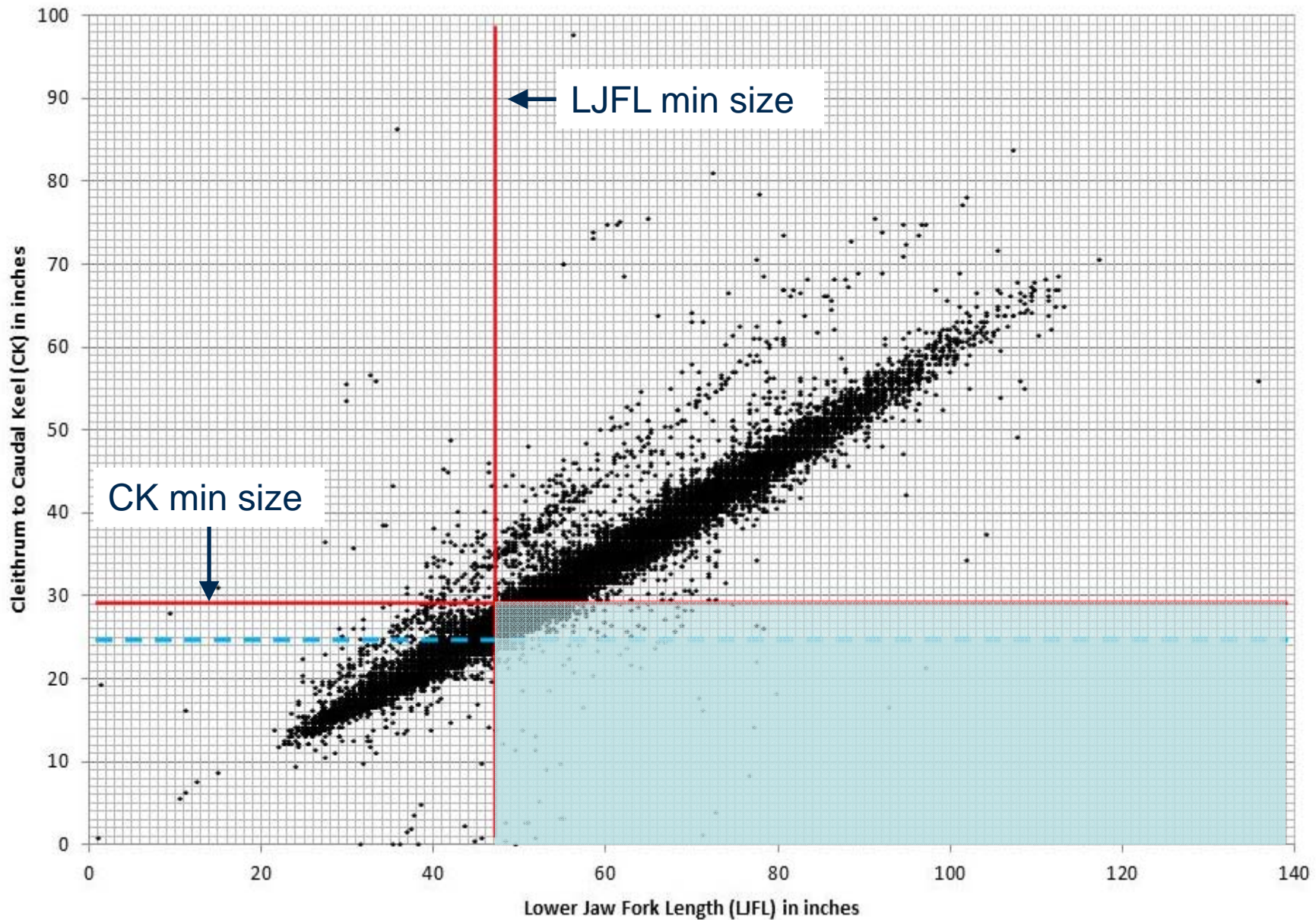
- New alternative minimum size of 25” cleithrum-caudal keel (CK)



Swordfish Minimum Size Considerations

- Currently, the LJFL measurement applies to fish with the head naturally attached; CK applies to fish with the head removed
- Existing U.S. 29" CK minimum length was domestically calculated to ensure near 100% compliance with the 47" LJFL measurement
- 25" CK minimum length introduced to better accommodate dressed fish





LJFL vs CK measurements for individual swordfish. Vertical line = current LJFL minimum size, solid horizontal line = current CK minimum size, and dashed horizontal line = new alternative CK length;
Source: Pelagic Observer Program Data, 1992-2009.



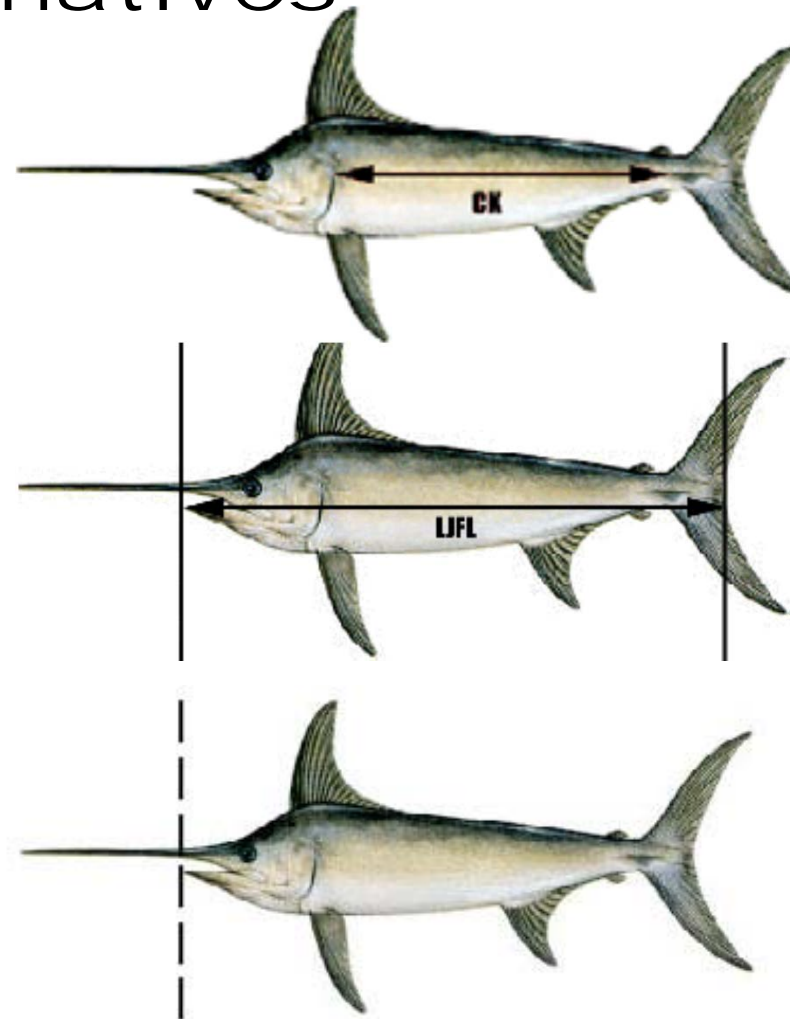
Proposed Minimum Size Alternatives

Alternative 3: *Implement the new 25" CK minimum size – preferred alternative*

- Alternative 4: No longer use the LJFL minimum size, use CK as the sole minimum size standard
- *Alternative 5: Allow the LJFL minimum size to be applied to swordfish without a bill – preferred alternative*
- Alternative 6: Reintroduce the 33 lb minimum weight

Other:

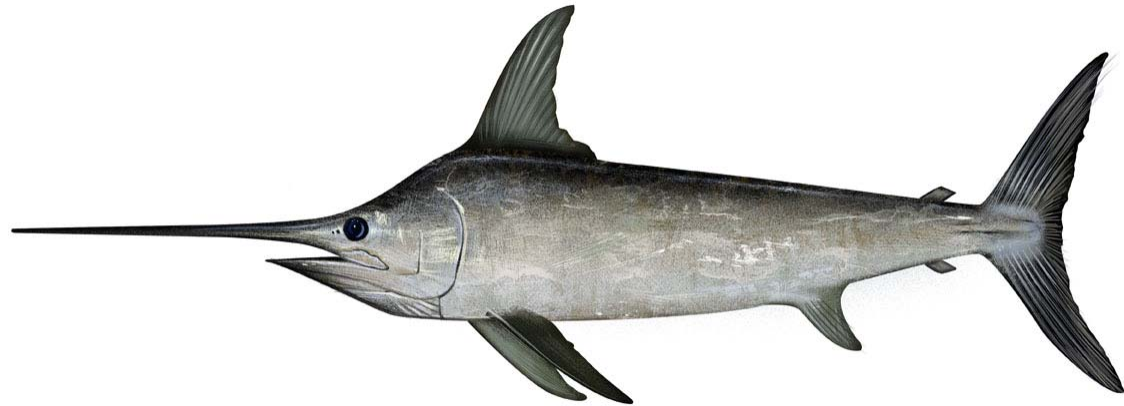
- Enforce the minimum size beyond the point of offloading, until the point that the carcass is altered from the measurable, round form





Timeline

- Proposed Rule Published May 1st
- Comment Period Ends June 5th
- Final Rule should publish in late summer
- Measures would become effective 30 days after Final Rule publication





Public Hearings

Location	Date	Time	Address
Conference call	May 22, 2012	2:30 – 5:30 pm	Conference line: 888-957-9840 Passcode: 3094714
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	May 23, 2012	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Broward County Main Library 100 S. Andrews Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Silver Spring, MD	May 25, 2012	2:00 – 5:00 pm	NMFS Science Center 1301 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910
Manahawkin, NJ	May 31, 2012	5:00 – 8:00 pm	Stafford Branch Library 129 N. Main Street Manahawkin, NJ 08050



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Request for Comments

Please submit comments to:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Keyword - "0648-BB75"

**Comment
Period Closes
June 5th**

Comments can also be submitted via fax:

301-713-1917, Attn: Steve Durkee

Or Mail:

NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please identify comments with 0648-BB75

For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>



The Alternatives

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not implement the 2011 ICCAT North Atlantic swordfish Recommendation 11-02 or any other new management measures

Alternative 2: ***Implement the 2011 ICCAT North Atlantic swordfish Recommendation 11-02, which includes an annual quota transfer of 112.8 mt dw from the U.S. to Morocco and an annual underharvest carryover limit of 25 percent of the base quota (annual carryover limit of 734.4 mt dw); maintain status quo for North Atlantic quotas – Preferred Alternative***

Alternative 3: ***Implement the alternative swordfish CK minimum size measurement of 25 inches per the 2011 ICCAT North Atlantic swordfish Recommendation 11-02 – Preferred Alternative***

Alternative 4: Use the CK measurement as the sole minimum size and discontinue the use of the LJFL minimum length standard in U.S. domestic fisheries

Alternative 5: ***Allow the LJFL minimum size to be applied to swordfish without a bill, provided the bill has been removed forward of the anterior tip of the lower jaw– Preferred Alternative***

Alternative 6: Reintroduce the 33 pound minimum weight standard