



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

NMFS ANNOUNCES PROPOSED RULE TO ADJUST THE 2010 NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH QUOTAS

This proposed rule would, consistent with ICCAT recommendations 09-02 and 09-03:

- adjust the North Atlantic quota to 4,406.4 mt dw based on 2009 underharvest,
- adjust the South Atlantic quota to 75.2 mt dw (under recommendation 09-03, 100 mt ww (75.2 mt dw) of 2009 underharvest was transferred to Namibia (50 mt ww, 37.6 mt dw), Cote d' Ivore (25 mt ww, 18.8 mt dw) and Belize (25 mt ww, 18.8 dw)), and
- transfer 18.8 mt dw from the North Atlantic reserve to Canada.

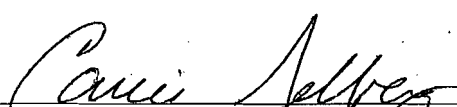
Specifics on landings and quotas can be found in Table 1.

If you are interested in having NMFS hold public hearings for the proposed rule, please contact Delisse Ortiz or Karyl Brewster-Geisz by phone 301-713-2347.

The comment period for this proposed rule is open until July 22, 2010. Written comments, identified by "0648-XV31", 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 will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (e.g., 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 HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your 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 and its requirements, contact Delisse Ortiz or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule and supporting documents 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/>.

per 
Emily H. Menashes, Acting Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

6/21/10
Date

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Table 1. Landings and Quotas for the Atlantic U.S. Swordfish Fisheries (2005 – 2010).

North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009**	2010
Baseline Quota		2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6
Quota Carried Over		3,359.1	4,691.2	1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8
Adjusted quota		6,296.7	7,628.8	4,406.4	4,406.4	4,406.4	4,406.4
Quota Allocation	Directed Category	5,895.2	7,246.1	3,601.9	3,620.7	3,639.5	3,658.3
	Incidental Category	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0
	Reserve Category	101.5	82.7	504.5	485.7	466.9	448.1
Utilized Quota	Landings	1,471.8	1,291.5	1,167.5	1,695.7	1,863.4	TBD
	Reserve Transfer to Canada	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8
Total Underharvest		4,806.1	6,318.5	3,220.1	2,691.9	2,524.20	TBD
Dead Discards		114.9	154.9	149.2	149.8	TBD	TBD
Carryover Available ⁺		4,691.2	1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8	TBD
South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Baseline Quota		75.2	90.2	75.2	75.2	75.2	75.2
Quota Carried Over		319.3	394.5	75.2	75.2	75.2	0.0
Adjusted quota		394.5	484.7	150.4	150.4	75.2	75.2
Landings		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	TBD
Carryover Available		394.5	75.2	75.2	75.2	0.0*	TBD

+ Underharvest is capped at 50 percent of the baseline quota allocation for the North Atlantic and 100 mt ww (75.2 dw) for the South Atlantic.

* Under 09-03, 100 mt ww of the U.S. underharvests transferred to Namibia (50 mt ww, 37.6 mt dw), Cote d' Ivore (25 mt ww, 18.8 mt dw), and Belize (25 mt ww, 18.8 mt dw).

**2009 data are preliminary.