



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 2011 NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH QUOTAS

This proposed rule would, consistent with ICCAT recommendations 10-02 and 09-03:

- adjust the North Atlantic quota to 4,406.4 mt dw based on 2010 underharvest,
- transfer 18.8 mt dw from the North Atlantic reserve category to Canada,
- adjust the South Atlantic quota to 75.0 mt dw, and
- transfer 75.0 mt dw of 2010 South Atlantic underharvest and 0.2 mt of 2011 South Atlantic baseline quota to Namibia (50 mt ww, 37.6 mt dw), Cote d'Ivoire (25 mt ww, 18.8 mt dw) and Belize (25 mt ww, 18.8 dw).

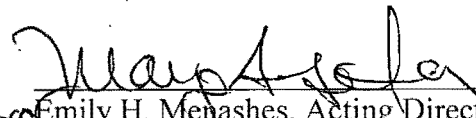
Specifics on landings and quotas can be found in Table 1.

Public hearings are currently not scheduled. If you are interested in having NMFS hold public hearings for the proposed rule, please contact Jennifer Cudney or Karyl Brewster-Geisz by phone 301-713-2347.

The comment period for this proposed rule is open until July 25, 2011. Written comments, identified by "0648-BA90", 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 Jennifer Cudney 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/>.

JUN 23 2011


Emily H. Menashes, Acting Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date _____

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Table 1. Landings and Quotas for the Atlantic U.S. Swordfish Fisheries (2007 – 2011). Values are in metric tons of dressed weight (dw).

North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2007	2008	2009	2010**	2011
Baseline Quota		2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6
Quota Carried Over		1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8
Adjusted quota		4,406.4	4,406.4	4,406.4	4,406.4	4,406.4
Quota Allocation	Directed Category	3,601.9	3,620.7	3,639.5	3,658.3	3,677.1
	Incidental Category	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0
	Reserve Category	504.5	485.7	466.9	448.1	429.3
Utilized Quota	Landings	1,907.3	1,752.7	2,027.0	1,466.5**	TBD
	Reserve Transfer to Canada	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8
Total Underharvest		2,480.3	2,634.9	2,360.6	2,921.1**	TBD
Dead Discards		109.8	149.8	106.8	TBD	TBD
Carryover Available ⁺		1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8	1,468.8	TBD
South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2007	2008	2009	2010**	2011
Baseline Quota		75.2	75.2	75.2	75.2	75.2
Quota Carried Over		75.2	75.2	75.2	0.0*	-0.2*
Adjusted quota		150.4	150.4	75.2	75.2	75.0
Landings		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2**	TBD
Carryover Available		75.2	75.2	75.2	75.0	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. underharvest and base quota, as necessary, transferred to Namibia (50 mt ww, 37.6 mt dw), Cote d'Ivoire (25 mt ww, 18.8 mt dw), and Belize (25 mt ww, 18.8 mt dw).

**2010 data are preliminary and are subject to change based on the 2011 ICCAT National Report.