



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) ANNOUNCES A PROPOSED RULE TO
ADJUST THE 2012 NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH QUOTAS AND OTHER MEASURES**

Based on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Recommendation 11-02 for North Atlantic swordfish and Recommendation 09-03 for South Atlantic swordfish, NMFS proposes to:

For North Atlantic Quotas:

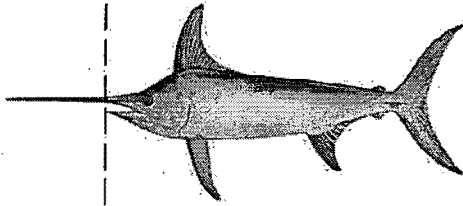
- Maintain the existing U.S. baseline quota at 2,937 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw);
- Transfer 112.8 mt dw to Morocco;
- Change the underharvest carry over from 50 percent of the baseline quota to 25 percent of the baseline quota (734.3 mt dw); and,
- For 2012, adjust the baseline quota to 3,672 mt dw.

For South Atlantic Quotas:

- Maintain the existing U.S. baseline quota at 75.2 mt dw, carryover allowances, quota transfers, and other regulations; and
- For 2012, adjust the baseline quota to 75.2 mt dw.

For Commercial and Recreational Minimum Sizes:

- Implement a 25 inch cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement per ICCAT Recommendation 11-02;
- Allow the existing 47 inch lower jaw fork length (LJFL) measurement to apply to swordfish without a bill; and



- Consider a range of other minimum sizes.



Table 1. 2012 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas

North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2012
Baseline Quota		2,937.6
Quota Transfer to Morocco		(-)112.8
Total Underharvest from Previous Year ⁺		2,750.1
Underharvest Carryover from Previous Year ⁺		734.4
Adjusted Quota		3,559.2
Quota Allocation	Directed Category	3,209.2
	Incidental Category	300
	Reserve Category	50
South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2012
Baseline Quota		75.2
International Quota Transfers*		(-)75.2
Total Underharvest from Previous Year ⁺		75.2
Underharvest Carryover from Previous Year ⁺		75.2
Adjusted quota		75.2

+ Under harvest is capped at 25 percent of the baseline quota allocation for the North Atlantic and 75.2 dw (100 mt ww) for the South Atlantic.

* Under 09-03, 100 mt ww of the U.S. underharvest and base quota, as necessary, was transferred to Namibia (37.6 mt dw, 50 mt ww), Cote d'Ivoire (18.8 mt dw, 25 mt ww), and Belize (18.8 mt dw, 25 mt ww).

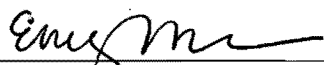
The comment period for this proposed rule is open until June 5, 2012. Public hearings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

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

Written comments, identified by “NOAA-NMFS-2012-0094”, 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 and draft EA, contact LeAnn Hogan, Delisse Ortiz or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-427-8503. Copies of the proposed rule and draft EA 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/>.



Emily H. Menashes, Acting Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

MAY 01 2012

Date