

Science, Service, Stewardship



ICCAT 2013

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Domestic Implementation of 2013 ICCAT Recommendations

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA



2013 ICCAT Recommendations

Domestic Rulemaking Required

- 13-02 – North Atlantic Swordfish
- 13-03 – South Atlantic Swordfish
- 13-05 – North Atlantic Albacore
- 13-09 – Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
- 13-13 – Unique Vessel Identifier for 20-meter vessel list
- 13-17 – Electronic Bluefin Catch Document (eBCD) Program



2013 ICCAT Recommendations

No Domestic Rulemaking Needed

- 13-01 – Conservation and management for bigeye and yellowfin tunas
- 13-04 – Conservation and management for Mediterranean swordfish
- 13-06 – Catch limits for southern albacore
- 13-07 – Recovery plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean BFT
- 13-11 – Bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT Fisheries
- 13-14 – Vessel chartering



13-02 North Atlantic Swordfish

- Maintained TAC at 13,700 t through 2016; total allocated is 15,345 t
- U.S. North Atlantic swordfish quota unchanged (3,907 mt ww)
- Carry over limit for CPCs with quotas greater than 500 t decreased from 25% to 15%, beginning in 2015; all other CPCs = 50%
- 25 t annual transfer from U.S. to Mauritania to help them develop their swordfish fishery
- CPCs must submit fishery management plans by Sept 15 each year
- Retained U.S. ability to harvest up to 200 mt of quota between 5 deg. N & 5 deg. S
- Calls on the SCRS to continue development of limit reference point and harvest control rules



13-03 South Atlantic Swordfish

- Maintained TAC at 15,000 t through 2016
- U.S. South Atlantic swordfish quota unchanged (100 t)
- U.S. can carry over underharvested quota up to 100 t
- Annual transfer of United States underharvest to other CPCs unchanged, as follows:
 - 50 t to Namibia
 - 25 t to Cote d'Ivoire
 - 25 t to Belize



2014 Swordfish Specifications

- Proposed rule on swordfish quotas should publish in the spring

SWO SPECS	2013	2014
NSWO Base	2,937.6 mt dw	2,937.6 mt dw
NSWO Adjusted	3,559.2 mt dw	3,653.2 mt dw*
SSWO Base	75.2 mt dw	75.2 mt dw
SSWO Adjusted	75.2 mt dw	75.1 mt dw

* The 2014 NSWO adjusted quota increased because the 150 mt to Morocco was eliminated



13-05 Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Albacore

- Continues the 2010-2019 rebuilding program
- Maintains annual TAC at 28,000 mt for 2014-2016
 - U.S. quota continues to be 527 mt
- Maintains:
 - Limit on underharvest that can be carried forward: 25% of initial quota (and clarified must be used within 2 years from year of catch)
 - Japan's bycatch limit of 4% of bigeye tuna catch
- Calls on the SCRS to continue development of limit reference points and harvest control rules
- U.S. quota will be implemented as part of Amendment 7



13-09 Rebuilding Program for Western Bluefin Tuna (WBFT)

- One-year rollover of 1,750-mt TAC (inclusive of dead discards)
 - Expected to allow for continued stock growth under both the low and high recruitment scenarios
 - U.S. baseline quota continues to be 923.7 mt
 - Total U.S. quota, including 25 mt to account for bycatch related to pelagic longline fisheries in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area, continues to be 948.7 mt
- Maintains school BFT limit of no more than 10% by weight (US: 94.9 mt)
 - (U.S. 2011-2012 average was 6.3%; preliminary 2013 est.: 3.3%)
- Maintains 10% cap on underharvest carried forward (US = 94.9 mt)



13-09 Rebuilding Program for Western Bluefin Tuna (WBFT)

- Calls on each CPC to prepare research plans to develop BFT fishery independent indices of abundance and share them by April 30
- WBFT CPC scientists will exchange views on the plans prior to the 2nd Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the WBFT Stock Assessment, in July 2014
- Maintains quota transfer provisions (for cooperative research only) of up to:
 - 86.5 mt MEX to CAN; 8 mt UK to US; 8 mt FRA to CAN
- Prohibits the sale of recreationally harvested fish of any size
- Reiterates existing requirement that all vessels use a data recording system



Bluefin Tuna 2014 (to date)

2014 Specifications:

- Proposed rule published April 4, 2014 (79 FR 18870)
- Comment period ends May 5, 2014

2014 Inseason Actions:

- General category daily retention limit of 2 large medium/giant BFT for “January” subperiod (78 FR 77362, Dec. 23, 2013)
- General category “January” fishery closed March 21 (79 FR 15924, March 24, 2014)
- Angling category southern area trophy fishery closed April 11 (79 FR 20108, April 11, 2014)
- Angling category daily retention limit adjustment being prepared
- Next: General category daily retention limit adjustment for June-Aug



Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

- We continue to develop Amendment 7, intended to address several BFT fishery management issues consistent with the need to end overfishing and rebuild the stock
- Amendment 7 measures would address several of the long-standing challenges facing the fishery and will examine, among other things:
 - revisiting quota allocations
 - reducing and accounting for dead discards
 - adding or modifying time/area closures or gear-restricted areas; and
 - improving the reporting and monitoring of dead discards and landings in all categories
- Proposed rule published August 21, 2013; comment period now closed
- Anticipating final rule mid-2014, with varying implementation dates



2013 ICCAT Recommendations -- Operations & Rulemaking

- Recommendation 13-10 on biological sampling of prohibited shark species
 - Will submit research plans for prohibited shark species sampling by Atlantic HMS observers to SCRS
- Recommendation 13-13 on Unique Vessel Identifiers for vessels on the ICCAT authorized vessel list starting January 2016
 - Working on domestic rulemaking to make HMS regulations consistent with ICCAT Recommendations on Port State Measures, Transshipment, and Unique Vessel Identifiers
- Recommendation 13-17 on eBCD
 - Working on rulemaking to require the use of the eBCD system, as part of the International Trade Data System rulemaking



Discussion

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

Comments?

Concerns?