

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**



# **Atlantic HMS Tournaments Update and Website Overview**

Katie.Davis@noaa.gov

Spring 2012 HMS AP Meeting

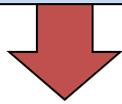
Silver Spring, MD



## Tournament Compliance Process

1

Register Tournament

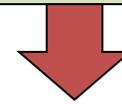


HMS Management Division  
(St. Petersburg, FL)

- At least 4 weeks in advance

2

Report Catch

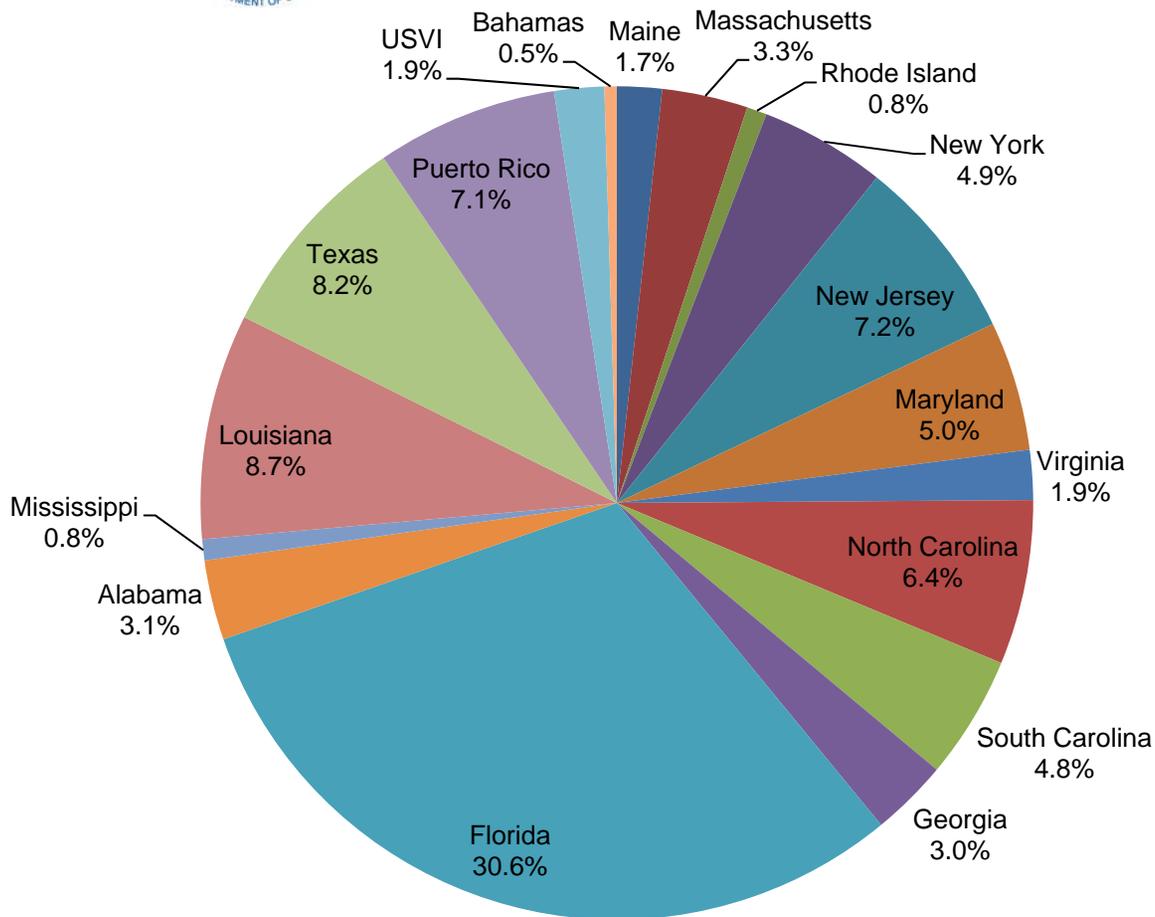


NMFS Southeast  
Fisheries Science Centers  
(Panama City Beach and  
Miami, FL)

- Within 7 days after fishing ends



## Tournament Registration History



<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>247</b>

Source: HMS Tournament Registry Database; states and foreign tournaments <0.5% excluded, including New Hampshire (0.00%), Connecticut (0.1%), Delaware (0.3%), Bermuda (0.05%), and Turks/Caicos (0.05%).



## HMS Tournaments Website Access

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments/>

NOAA Fisheries  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Office of Sustainable Fisheries

- Highly Migratory Species
  - Breaking News
  - Bycatch Reduction
  - Protected Species
  - Regulations
  - Permits
  - Reporting Forms
  - Documents
  - Workshops
  - ICCAT
  - Atlantic HMS Newslist
  - Contact
  - Federal Register Notices
- Domestic Fisheries
- Regulatory Services
- Partnerships and Communications

### ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service manages Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS); including tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish. Management of HMS requires international cooperation, and rebuilding programs must reflect traditional participation in the fisheries by U.S. fishermen, relative to foreign fleets. Along with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, U.S. fisheries management must be consistent with the requirements of other laws including the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and several other Federal laws.

[Introduction](#)

[Sign Up for Atlantic HMS News -](#)  
And receive emails informing you of the latest HMS-related actions and regulations

**ATTENTION: For the most recent actions or**

[Tunas](#)  
[Sharks](#)  
[Swordfish](#)  
[Billfish](#)  
[Vessel Monitoring Systems](#)  
[Exempted Fishing Permits](#)  
[International Trade Permit](#)  
[Tagging Programs](#)  
[Tournaments](#)  
[Advisory Panel](#)

**Shortfin Mako Shark**  
Live Release Webpage

**?**  
Ask a Manager  
HMS Division  
Staff by Speciality

- From the main HMS site
- Copy and paste direct address
- Search for “HMS Tournaments”



## HMS Tournaments Website

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments/>

NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Office of Sustainable Fisheries

### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishing Tournaments

An Atlantic HMS tournament is defined as any fishing competition involving Atlantic HMS in which participants must register or otherwise enter, or in which a prize or award is offered for catching or landing HMS. This includes fishing tournaments where the target species is not an Atlantic HMS, but where points, prizes, or awards are received for catching Atlantic HMS. Tournaments may take place in ports within any Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico coastal state, as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and are required to register with the NMFS HMS Management Division.

[HMS Tournament Registry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMS Tournament Registry@noaa.gov)  
(727) 824-5399

Registration Registered Tournaments Regulations Catch Reporting

Atlantic HMS tournament operators are required to register their tournament with the HMS Management Division of NMFS **at least four weeks prior** to the start of the tournament. The **tournament operator** is the person or entity responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes, regardless of whether fish are retained.

[Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Form \[pdf\]](#)

- Registration forms and instructions
- List of registered tournaments
- Federal regulations
- Catch reporting forms and instructions

# NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



## Tournaments Website: Registration

**Registration** | **Registered Tournaments** | **Regulations** | **Catch Reporting**

Atlantic HMS tournament operators are required to register their tournament with the HMS Management Division of NMFS **at least four weeks prior** to the start of the tournament. The **tournament operator** is the person or entity responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes, regardless of whether fish are retained.

[Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Form \[pdf\]](#)

To register a tournament, an Atlantic HMS Tournament registration form must be completed, signed, and sent to the Atlantic HMS Management Division via one of the following:

**E-mail:**  
[HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov)

**Mailing Address:**  
HMS Tournament Registration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
263 13th Avenue S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**Fax:**  
(727) 824-5398

### ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Thank you for registering your Atlantic HMS fishing tournament with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Please send this completed and signed form via one of the following:

**Mail:**  
HMS Tournament Registration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
263 13th Avenue S.  
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701

**E-mail:**  
[HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov)

**Fax:**  
(727) 824-5398

Additional information is available at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms) or [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com).

**Tournament Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tournament Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
City State

**Tournament Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/P.O. Box  
City State Zip

**Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has this tournament operated in previous years? (Y/N)** \_\_\_\_\_; **Most recent year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Former Event Name (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the HMS box below for which points or prizes are awarded for either fish released or landed.

<b>Billfish</b>		<b>Swordfish</b>	
White Marlin.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swordfish.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue Marlin.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sailfish.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Longbill Spearfish.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Roundscale Spearfish.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		<b>Tunas</b>	
		Bluefin Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Yellowfin Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Bigeye Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Albacore.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Skipjack Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sharks</b>			
Large Coastal Sharks:			
Ridgeback Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Non-Ridgeback Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Small Coastal Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Pelagic Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		

NMFS will post tournament information, such as tournament name, date(s), city, state, and target species, for public viewing at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments/index.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments/index.htm). Please direct website corrections to (727) 824-5399.

Check if you wish to have Atlantic HMS regulation booklets and other outreach materials sent to you. Please provide the number of people you expect to distribute this information to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Director/Operator** \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Signature Date

OMB NUMBER: 0648-0323 OMB EXPIRATION DATE: 11/30/2012

Forms may be submitted via:

- Email, mail, or fax
- [HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov)

# NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



## Tournaments Website: Registration

Registration Registered Tournaments Regulations Catch Reporting

Atlantic HMS tournament operators are required to register their tournament with the HMS Management Division of NMFS **at least four weeks prior** to the start of the tournament. The **tournament operator** is the person or entity responsible for maintaining records of participants and results used for awarding tournament points or prizes, regardless of whether fish are retained.

[Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Form \[pdf\]](#)

To register a tournament, an Atlantic HMS Tournament registration form must be completed, signed, and sent to the Atlantic HMS Management Division via [one](#) of the following:

E-mail:  
[HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov)

Mailing Address:  
HMS Tournament Registration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
263 13th Avenue S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Fax:  
(727) 824-5398

Upon receiving and processing the registration form, a unique Atlantic HMS tournament **confirmation number** will be produced and provided to the tournament operator. Please note that registration is not complete unless the operator has received a confirmation number from the HMS Management Division of NMFS.

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service  
Highly Migratory Species Management Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**Confirmation Number**

John Doe  
123 Sailfish Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 34565

Regist. # **10793** - John Doe's Billfish Extravaganza  
Tournament Dates: Jan. 19, 2008 - Jan. 21, 2008

Thank you for registering your Highly Migratory Species fishing tournament. NMFS will contact you if you are selected to report tournament activity. If you need additional information, please contact us at 727-824-5399.

NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service  
Highly Migratory Species Management Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**Confirmation Number**

John Doe  
123 Sailfish Street  
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# NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



## Tournaments Website: Registered Tournaments

Registration | **Registered Tournaments** | Regulations | Catch Reporting

List of registered tournaments:

Please Select Tournament Year ▼

If you are having trouble viewing this PDF, please try a different browser (Explorer/Firefox/Safari).

Operators: if your tournament is on the Atlantic HMS Registered Tournaments list, but you have not yet received your confirmation number, please contact the HMS Management Division at (727) 824-5399. **You must receive a confirmation number for your registration to be complete.**

NMFS will notify tournament operators in writing if their tournament has been selected for catch reporting.

Tournament Name	City	State	Start Date	End Date	White Marlin	Blue Marlin	Sailfish	Longbill Spearfish	Roundscale Spearfish	Ridgeback Sharks	Non-Ridgeback Sharks	Small Coastal Sharks	Pelagic Sharks	Swordfish	Bluefin Tuna	Yellowfin Tuna	Bigeye Tuna	Albacore Tuna	Skipjack Tuna
WICKED WINTER	HOUST	TX	1-Jan	15-Apr															
LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF U	METAIRI	LA	1-Jan	31-Dec										X		X	X	X	X
PELICAN YACHT CLUB 32N	FT	FL	3-Jan	7-Jan	X	X	X												
BAYBOAT BILFISH TOURN	ISLAMO	FL	4-Jan	4-Jan			X												

2012 Registered Highly Migratory Species Tournaments as of 24-February-2012

Tournament Name	City	State	Start Date	End Date	White Marlin	Blue Marlin	Sailfish	Longbill Spearfish	Roundscale Spearfish	Ridgeback Sharks	Non-Ridgeback Sharks	Small Coastal Sharks	Pelagic Sharks	Swordfish	Bluefin Tuna	Yellowfin Tuna	Bigeye Tuna	Albacore Tuna	Skipjack Tuna
WICKED WINTER	HOUSTON	TX	1-Jan	15-Apr															
LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF UNDERWATER DIVI CLUBS	METAIRIE	LA	1-Jan	31-Dec															
PELICAN YACHT CLUB 32N ANNUAL INVITATIONAL BILFISH TOURNEY	FT PIERCE	FL	3-Jan	7-Jan	X	X	X												
BAYBOAT BILFISH TOURNAMENT SERIES	ISLAMORADA	FL	4-Jan	4-Jan			X												
75TH ANNUAL SILVER SALFISH DERBY (W PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB)	PALM BEACH SHORES	FL	5-Jan	7-Jan															
BARTENDER SALFISH OPEN	ISLAMORADA	FL	9-Jan	9-Jan															
FLUPTER BILFISH TOURNAMENT	JURTEE	FL	11-Jan	13-Jan	X	X	X												
GOLD CUP TEAM FISHING TOURNAMENT	PALM BEACH	FL	11-Jan	14-Jan															
PALM BEACH DOUBLES HOT (BUCCANEER CUP AND FL FISH FOR LIFE)	PALM BEACH SHORES	FL	19-Jan	21-Jan	X	X	X												
CHECOA LODGE AND SPA PRESIDENTIAL SALFISH TOURNAMENT	ISLAMORADA	FL	21-Jan	22-Jan															
YACHT CLUB SALFISH TOURNAMENT	MIAMI	FL	21-Jan	21-Jan															
ALL FLUTE OVER THE HILL SALFISH TOURNAMENT	TAVERNIER	FL	24-Jan	24-Jan															
ISLAMORADA FISHING CLUB SALFISH 2012	ISLAMORADA	FL	26-Jan	26-Jan															
BLACKTIP CHALLENGE	WEST PALM BEACH	FL	26-Jan	28-Jan						X	X	X							
SUPERS SALFISH BOWL	WEST PALM BEACH	FL	27-Jan	28-Jan						X									
SALFISH OPEN	WEST PALM BEACH	FL	1-Feb	3-Feb						X									
BAYBOAT BILFISH TOURNAMENT SERIES	ISLAMORADA	FL	8-Feb	8-Feb															
GOLDEN HOOK CHALLENGE	CHRISTIANSTED	VI	11-Feb	12-Feb	X	X	X							X					
SALFISH CHALLENGE	POMPADOUR BEACH	FL	25-Feb	25-Feb	X	X	X												
BAYBOAT BILFISH TOURNAMENT SERIES	ISLAMORADA	FL	26-Feb	26-Feb															
132ND ANNUAL BACARDI RUM BILFISH TOURNAMENT	FREETPORT	BS	12-Mar	16-Mar	X	X	X												X
KEY WEST FISHING TOURNAMENT KICK OFF	KEY WEST	FL	17-Mar	18-Mar	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
KEY WEST FISHING TOURNAMENT	KEY WEST	FL	19-Mar	30-Nov	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TAMAHU CONTINENTAL MIAMI BILFISH TOURNAMENT	MIAMI BEACH	FL	22-Mar	24-Mar	X	X	X				X	X	X						
GOLDEN HOOK FISH CLUB - COOLFIN TOURNAMENT	CHRISTIANSTED	VI	31-Mar	31-Mar	X	X	X							X					
FISHER ISLAND SALFISH TOURNAMENT	MIAMI	FL	14-Apr	14-Apr															
WORLD SALFISH CHAMPIONSHIP	KEY WEST	FL	17-Apr	21-Apr															
GET THE NET BIG GAME FISHING TOURNAMENT	ISLAMORADA	FL	26-Apr	28-Apr	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SALFISH PRESSURE FINALE	MIAMI	FL	29-Apr	30-Apr															
CUADRAGESIMO PRIMER CLASIFICACION AZUL	LAJAS	PR	3-May	5-May	X	X	X												
REELIN FOR RESEARCH	MOREHEAD CITY	NC	5-May	5-May										X					
MAD DOGS MANDICH FISHING CLASSIC	MIAMI BEACH	FL	11-May	12-May											X	X			
GULF BREEZE OPTIMIST CLUB 37TH ANNUAL FISHING RODEO	GULF BREEZE	FL	19-May	20-May											X	X	X	X	X
TORNADO DE PESCA VORAZ CLUB DEL CARIBE 2012	PONCE	PR	19-May	20-May															
SWANBORO ROTARY 12ND ANNUAL BLUEWATER TOURNAMENT	SWANBORO	NC	19-May	21-May	X	X	X												
NEW SMYRNA/CLIFTONA BEACH STRIKER	NEW SMYRNA BEACH	FL	24-May	27-May															X
CAULIN CANYON BILFISH CLASSIC	VENICE	LA	29-May	3-Jun	X	X	X												X
TIMPS BAIT BUCKLE SHARK TOURNAMENT	CAPE MAY	NJ	2-Jun	2-Jun															
NOBISFC JET TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	2-Jun	9-Jun	X	X	X												X
BIG BOY BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT	MOREHEAD CITY	NC	8-Jun	16-Jun	X	X	X												X
41ST ANNUAL OLD SALT ALL RELEASE LOOP TOURNAMENT	MADERIA BEACH	FL	13-Jun	17-Jun	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X
NOBISFC INVITATIONAL BILFISH TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	15-Jun	16-Jun	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
16TH ANNUAL FREETPORT HUDSON SHARK ANGLERS TOURNAMENT	FREETPORT	VI	16-Jun	16-Jun															X
MAKO MANIA	PT PLEASANT	VI	23-Jun	24-Jun															X
	CHARLESTON, MT PLEASANT, AND				X	X	X												X
CAROLINA BILFISH CLASSIC	GREENLETOWN	VA	27-Jun	30-Jun															
VIRGINIA BEACH TUNA TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA	27-Jun	30-Jun											X	X	X	X	X
NOBISFC JULY 4TH TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	29-Jun	30-Jun	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X
MEGADOCK BILFISHING TOURNAMENT	CHARLESTON	SC	11-Jul	14-Jul	X	X	X												X
BASTANTE TOURNAMENT, LLC	ROCKPORT	TX	12-Jul	14-Jul	X	X	X												X
NOBISFC LADIES TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	13-Jul	15-Jul	X	X	X												X
20TH ANNUAL OAK BILFISH MONSTER SHARK TOURNAMENT	OAK BLUFFS	MA	19-Jul	21-Jul															X
LONE STAR SHOOTOUT	PORT O'CONNOR	TX	24-Jul	26-Jul	X	X	X							X					
VIRGINIA BEACH INVITATIONAL MARLIN TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA	23-Jul	28-Jul	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
EDISTO MARINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILFISHING TOURNAMENT	EDISTO BEACH	SC	26-Jul	28-Jul	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
NOBISFC GRAND BILFISH TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	26-Jul	28-Jul	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
WHITE MARLIN OPEN	OCEAN CITY	MD	6-Aug	10-Aug	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
NOBISFC YOUTH TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	10-Aug	11-Aug	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
HAMPTONS OFFSHORE INVITATIONAL	HAMPTON BAY	NY	10-Aug	19-Aug															X
28TH ANNUAL BLUE KEY BILFISH TOURNAMENT	MANHATTAN	NC	12-Aug	12-Aug															X
28TH ANNUAL FRISBEE DOVE BIG GAME TOURNAMENT	MANHATTAN	NC	14-Aug	17-Aug	X	X	X												X
VIRGINIA BEACH BILFISH TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA	22-Aug	25-Aug	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
EMPIRE 5 PASS TARPON RODEO	EMPIRE	LA	23-Aug	25-Aug	X	X	X												X
NOBISFC LABOR DAY TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	1-Sep	2-Sep	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
NOBISFC SEPTEMBER TOURNAMENT	VENICE	LA	14-Sep	15-Sep	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
GOLDEN HOOK FISH CLUB - BILFISH TOURNAMENT	CHRISTIANSTED	VI	29-Sep	30-Sep	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X
GOLDEN HOOK FISH CLUB - WAHOO FINALE TOURNAMENT	CHRISTIANSTED	VI	10-Nov	10-Nov	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X

# NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



## Tournament Outreach

### ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Thank you for registering your Atlantic HMS fishing tournament with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Please send this completed and signed form via one of the following:

**Mail:** HMS Tournament Registration, National Marine Fisheries Service, 243 13th Avenue S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
**E-mail:** HMStournamentregistry@noaa.gov  
**Fax:** (727) 824-5398

Additional information is available at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms) or [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com)

**Tournament Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tournament Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tournament Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Street/P.O. Box** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has this tournament operated in previous years?** (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_; **Most recent year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Former Event Name (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the HMS box below for which points or prizes are awarded for either fish released or landed.

<b>Billfish</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Swordfish</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Marlin.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Blue Marlin.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sailfin.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Longbill Spearfish.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tunas</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roundscale Spearfish.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bluefin Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Yellowfin Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Bigeye Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Albacore.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Skippack Tuna.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sharks</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Large Coastal Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ridgeback Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Non-Ridgeback Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Small Coastal Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Pelagic Sharks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		

NMFS will post tournament information, such as tournament name, date(s), city, state, and target species, for public viewing at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms). Phone: (727) 824-5399

Check if you wish to have Atlantic HMS regulation booklets and other outreach materials sent to you. Please provide the number of people you expect to distribute this information to: \_\_\_\_\_

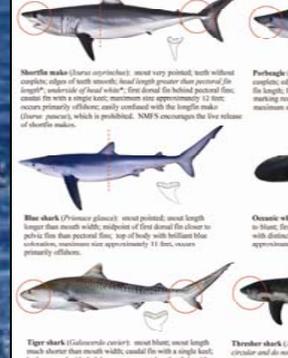
**Director's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

OMB NUMBER: 0648-0523 OMB EXPIRATION DATE: 11/30/2012



Managed shark species that can be legally retained by recreational anglers in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico

*If you don't know, let it go.*  
 Some sharks not listed on this placard are prohibited, may not be landed, and must be released. For a more complete list of species and species complexes, please visit <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>

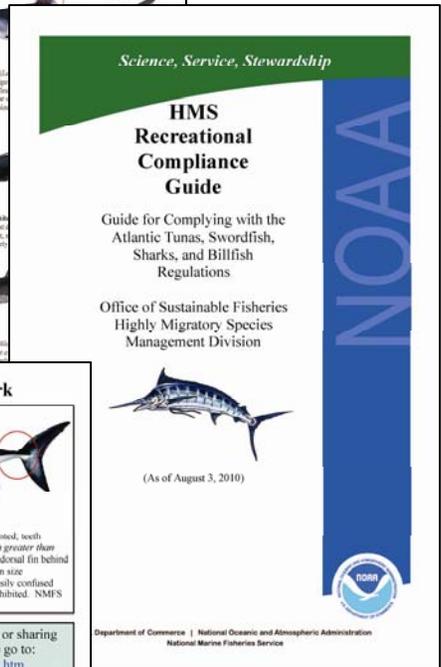


### How to Identify a Shortfin Mako Shark

**If You're Going to Keep it, Keep it Real Big.**  
 If you are going to keep a shortfin mako, target male sharks over 150 pounds (73" fork length). The bigger the shark, the more likely it has already had a chance to reproduce. Most makos at the current minimum size (54" fork length) are not sexually mature and have not contributed to the population. Big females are necessary for keeping the population strong.

**Shortfin mako (*Isurus paucus*):** snout very pointed, teeth without cusps, edges of teeth smooth. *Anal length greater than pectoral fin length*; underside of head white; first dorsal fin behind pectoral fins, caudal fin with a single keel, maximum size approximately 12 feet, occurs primarily offshore, easily confused with the longfin mako (*Isurus paucus*), which is prohibited. NMFS encourages the live release of shortfin makos.

Interested in participating in shortfin mako tagging programs or sharing information on your shortfin mako shark releases? Please go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/shortfinmako/index.htm>



Check if you wish to have Atlantic HMS regulation booklets and other outreach materials sent to you. Please provide the number of people you expect to distribute this information to: 65



# Tournaments Website: Regulations

Registration Registered Tournaments **Regulations** Catch Reporting

Official regulations can be found on the online Federal Register (e-CFR):  
[CFR Title 50 Part 635](#)

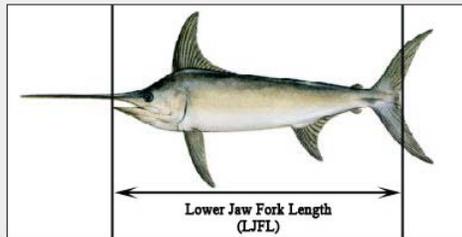
#### Tournament Participants

To participate in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament, fishermen must have one of the following: (1) HMS Angling; (2) HMS Charter/Headboat; or (3) Atlantic Tunas General category permit. \* [NMFS Permit Shop](#)

\*Atlantic Tunas General category permit holders are prohibited from fishing under HMS Angling category regulations except when participating in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament. When fishing in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament, Atlantic Tunas General category permit holders must comply with HMS Angling category regulations for swordfish, sharks, and billfish, and with General category regulations for Atlantic tunas (i.e., General category permit holders may not fish for or land bluefin tuna <73" CFL under any circumstances).

#### General Tournament Restrictions

All Atlantic HMS recreational fishing regulations (e.g., size limits, bag limits, gear restrictions, possession restrictions) apply to Atlantic HMS tournament participants.



A billfish tournament is defined as any fishing tournament that awards points or prizes for billfish, even if billfish are not the main species targeted in the tournament. Anglers fishing from Atlantic HMS permitted vessels and participating in Atlantic billfish tournaments must use **only non-offset circle hooks when deploying natural bait or natural bait/artificial lure combinations**. Billfish tournament anglers **may only deploy "J"-hooks with the use of artificial lures**. NMFS encourages the use of circle hooks by non-tournament anglers to reduce post-release mortality of Atlantic billfish.



Circle Hook Videos (excerpts from DVD):  
[About the Circle Hook](#) | [Rigging a Ballyhoo](#)

Learn how to rig circle hooks. You can order this free DVD at:

<http://ncseagrant.org/s/circlehook>

or by contacting the HMS Management Division at (727) 824-5399.

#### Atlantic HMS Literature

Atlantic HMS regulation booklets and other informational materials are freely available to tournament operators from the Atlantic HMS Management Division. In order to request these materials, please mark the box at the bottom of the tournament registration form and indicate how many you would like to receive. If the tournament is registered with a P.O. Box, please provide an additional (physical) address to which these materials can be mailed.

[Atlantic HMS Recreational Compliance Guide](#) [pdf]  
[Careful Catch and Release Brochure](#) [pdf]  
[Shark Identification Placard \(Pelagics/Ridgebacks\)](#) [pdf]   
[Shark Identification Placard \(Non-ridgebacks/Hammerheads\)](#) [pdf]   
[Recreational Shark ID Placard](#)

- Permit requirements for participants
- General tournament restrictions
- Circle hook information
- HMS outreach materials



# NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



## Reminder to Register

**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species**

Science, Service, Stewardship

**REMINDER:  
REGISTER YOUR 2012 TOURNAMENTS**

Registration is due at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the tournament.

Some tournaments have already registered for 2012. If you have not already done so, please complete an Atlantic HMS tournament registration form and mail, fax, or e-mail it to:

**HMS Tournament Registry**  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
Fax (727) 824-5399  
[HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov)

**You must receive a confirmation number to complete registration.**  
Tournament operators should retain this number until the end of the fishing year.

**HMS tournament participants must have an HMS permit to fish.** NMFS urges tournament operators to remind participants that in order to participate in an Atlantic HMS tournament, fishermen must have one of the following: (1) HMS Angling; (2) HMS Charter/Headboat; or (3) Atlantic Tunas General category permit.

**HMS informational materials are available for distribution.** Be sure to check the box near the bottom of the registration form and indicate how many you need in the space provided [If your tournament is registered with a P.O. Box, please also provide a physical mailing address for UPS at the bottom of the form].

**HMS has a new tournaments website:**  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments)

- See what's coming up on our list of registered tournaments.
- Obtain registration forms, reporting forms, and permits.
- Read regulatory requirements for tournament operators and participants.
- Watch a video about the circle hook, required for all billfish tournament participants when fishing with natural or artificial/natural combination bait.

**You will be notified if your HMS tournament is selected for catch reporting.** All billfish tournaments are selected for reporting. NMFS reporting forms must be completed and returned no later than seven days after fishing has ended. For more information about tournament reporting, including obtaining reporting forms, please visit the website above or call (305) 361-4214.

*Thank you, in advance, for registering your 2012 Atlantic HMS tournaments!*

Highly Migratory Species Management Division | Phone (727) 824-5399

- Reminder sent two months in advance of past tournament start date
- Includes printed registration form



## Suggestions for Improvement?

- Online registration system?
- Outreach outlets?
- Improving registration compliance?
- Others?

Please send comments and suggestions to:

[Katie.Davis@noaa.gov](mailto:Katie.Davis@noaa.gov)