

Science, Service, Stewardship



Swordfish Quotas, Minimum Size, and Other Measures

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

March 2012

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Outline

- North Atlantic Swordfish ICCAT Recommendation 11-02
 - Quota measures
 - Other measures, including the new swordfish minimum size measure
- Swordfish minimum size considerations
- Next Steps





ICCAT Recommendation 11-02

Quota Measures:

- Maintained North Atlantic total allowable catch (TAC) of 13,700 mt ww
- Maintained United States baseline allocation of 3,907 mt ww
- Removed annual quota transfer from U.S. to Canada
- Established 150 mt ww quota transfer from U.S. to Morocco
- Altered the underharvest carryover limit
 - CPCs with an allocation greater than 500 mt ww limited to underharvest carryover of 25 %
 - All other CPCs underharvest carryover limit maintained at 50%
- Established through 2013

3



ICCAT Recommendation 11-02

Other Measures:

- Japan-specific measures
- CPC reporting requirements
- Inter-CPC quota transfers
- CPCs must submit development or fishing/management plan by September 15, 2012
- New alternative minimum size of 25" cleithrum-caudal keel (CK)

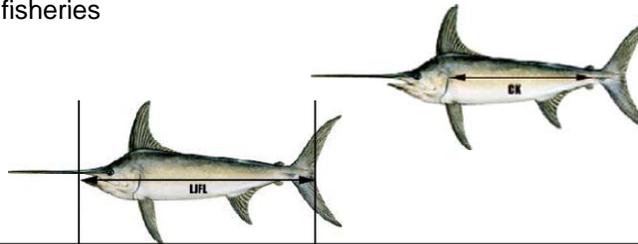
4



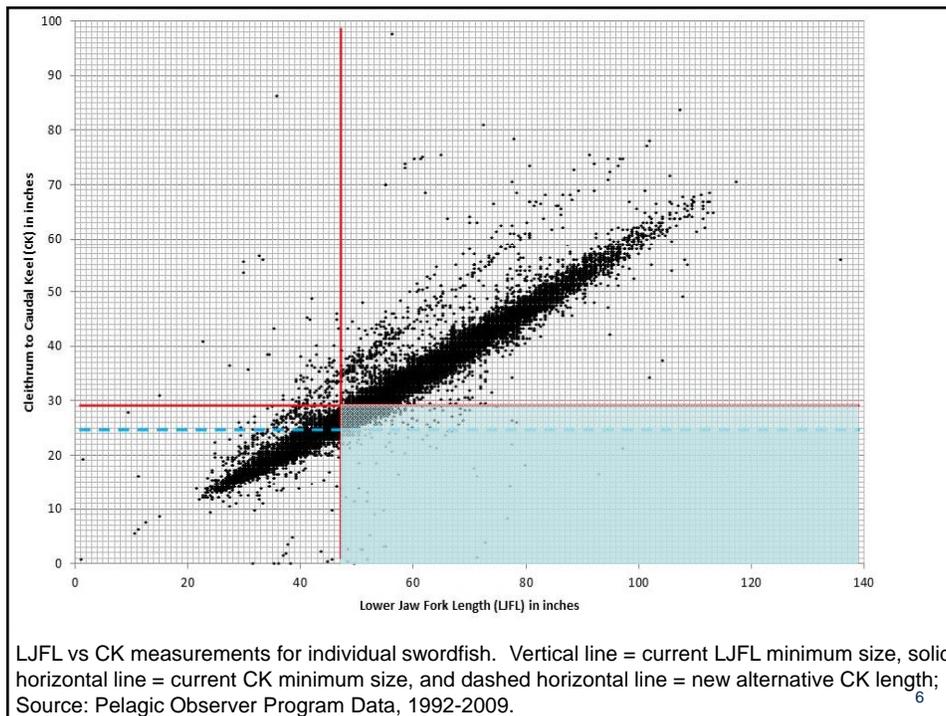
Swordfish Minimum Size

New Alternative Minimum Size:

- Currently, the LJFL measurement applies to fish with the head naturally attached; CK applies to fish with the head removed
- Existing U.S. 29" CK minimum length was domestically calculated to ensure near 100% compliance with the 47" LJFL measurement
- 25" CK minimum length introduced to better accommodate dressed fish in the commercial fisheries



5



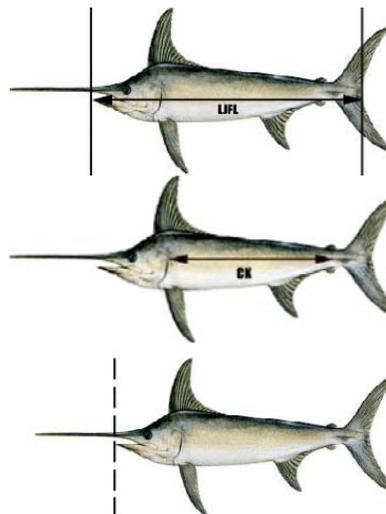
LJFL vs CK measurements for individual swordfish. Vertical line = current LJFL minimum size, solid horizontal line = current CK minimum size, and dashed horizontal line = new alternative CK length;
Source: Pelagic Observer Program Data, 1992-2009.

6



Swordfish Minimum Size

- Minimum size measures NMFS could consider include:
 - 25" CK minimum size
 - Allow the LJFL minimum size to be applied to swordfish without a bill
 - No longer use the LJFL minimum size, use CK as the sole minimum size standard
 - Reintroduce the 33 lb minimum weight
 - Enforce the minimum size beyond the point of offloading, until the point that the carcass is altered from the measurable, round form



Contact Information

Steve Durkee - 202-670-6637

steve.durkee@noaa.gov

LeAnn Southward-Hogan - 301-427-8503

leann.southward-hogan@noaa.gov

Delisse Ortiz - 301-427-8503

delisse.ortiz@noaa.gov