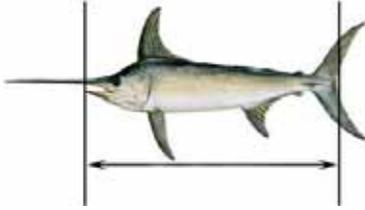


### III. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC SWORDFISH REGULATIONS

PERMITS	
<p>Vessel owners must obtain a valid swordfish limited access permit (<b>Directed, Incidental, or Handgear</b>), an open access <b>HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit</b> (valid only in the U.S. Caribbean Region<sup>42</sup>), an open access <b>Swordfish General Commercial permit</b>, or an <b>HMS Charter/Headboat permit</b> (valid on non-for-hire trips only)<sup>43</sup> for the vessel they are using to commercially harvest Atlantic swordfish.</p> <p>An <b>Incidental HMS Squid Trawl permit</b> may be obtained by valid <i>Illex</i> squid moratorium permit holders and authorizes the retention of swordfish caught incidentally using trawl gear, subject to target catch requirements.<sup>44</sup></p>	
RETENTION LIMITS (per vessel per trip)	
North Atlantic Swordfish (north of 5° N latitude)	
<b>Directed permit</b>	No trip limit (when the directed fishery closes, vessels may retain 15 per pelagic longline trip, 2 per handgear trip, and no swordfish per harpoon trip) <sup>45</sup>
<b>Incidental permit</b> <sup>46</sup>	30
<b>Handgear permit</b>	No trip limit (when the directed fishery is closed, fishermen may retain two swordfish per handgear trip, and no swordfish per harpoon trip) <sup>47</sup>
<b>HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit</b> <sup>48</sup>	2
<b>Swordfish General Commercial permit</b>	Default regional retention limits are listed below and may be adjusted during the fishing season. Visit <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/</a> or call 301-427-8503 or 727-824-5399 for more information. <sup>49</sup>
<b>HMS Charter/Headboat permit</b> (on non-for-hire trip)	Northwest Atlantic: 3 U.S. Caribbean: 2 Gulf of Mexico: 3 Florida Swordfish Mgmt. Area: 0 (Map on page 7)
<b>Incidental HMS Squid Trawl permit</b>	15, including during a directed fishery closure (provided squid constitute not less than 75 percent of the total catch on board and trawl gear is the only gear onboard the vessel) <sup>50</sup>
South Atlantic Swordfish	
(south of 5° N latitude; only vessels fishing with pelagic longline gear may retain swordfish) <sup>51</sup>	
<b>Directed permit</b>	No trip limit (when the directed fishery closes, no swordfish may be retained) <sup>52</sup>
<b>Incidental permit</b>	No retention allowed <sup>53</sup>
AUTHORIZED GEARS <sup>54</sup>	
North Atlantic Swordfish	
<b>Directed permit</b>	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, buoy gear*, longline**
<b>Incidental permit</b>	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, longline**
<b>Handgear permit</b>	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, buoy gear*

<b>HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit</b>	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, buoy gear*
<b>Swordfish General Commercial permit</b>	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, green-stick
<b>HMS Charter/Headboat permit</b> (on non-for-hire trip)	Handline, rod and reel
<b>Incidental HMS Squid Trawl permit</b>	Squid trawl
<b>South Atlantic Swordfish</b> may only be taken with pelagic longline. <sup>55</sup>	
<u>Other Gear Notes:</u> <b>You cannot retain or possess any swordfish when gillnet is onboard;</b> if gillnet is onboard, it will be assumed that any swordfish onboard, or offloaded from, the vessel were caught using gillnet gear. <sup>56</sup> See Sections VII and IX for longline restrictions.	
<b>MINIMUM SIZES</b>	
	
<b>Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK)</b> - a curved measurement, from the point on the cleithrum that provides the shortest possible measurement along the body contour to the anterior portion of the caudal keel. <sup>57</sup>	<b>Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)</b> - a straight line measurement, not following the body contour, from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the caudal fin. <sup>58</sup>
<b>North and South Atlantic Swordfish</b>	
Head (or any portion of head) removed <sup>59</sup>	25 inches (63 cm) CK <sup>60</sup>
Head attached	47 inches (119 cm) LJFL. <sup>61</sup> The bill of the swordfish may be removed forward of the anterior tip of the lower jaw. <sup>62</sup>
Shark-bitten	A swordfish that has been damaged by shark bites may be retained only if the remainder of the carcass meets the appropriate minimum size. <sup>63</sup>
<b>LANDING RESTRICTIONS</b>	
Swordfish must be kept in whole or dressed form through landing. <sup>64</sup> <b>Dressed</b> indicates a fish with the head, guts, and fins removed but does not include removing the backbone, halving or otherwise reducing the carcass. <sup>65</sup> Swordfish cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea. <sup>66</sup>	

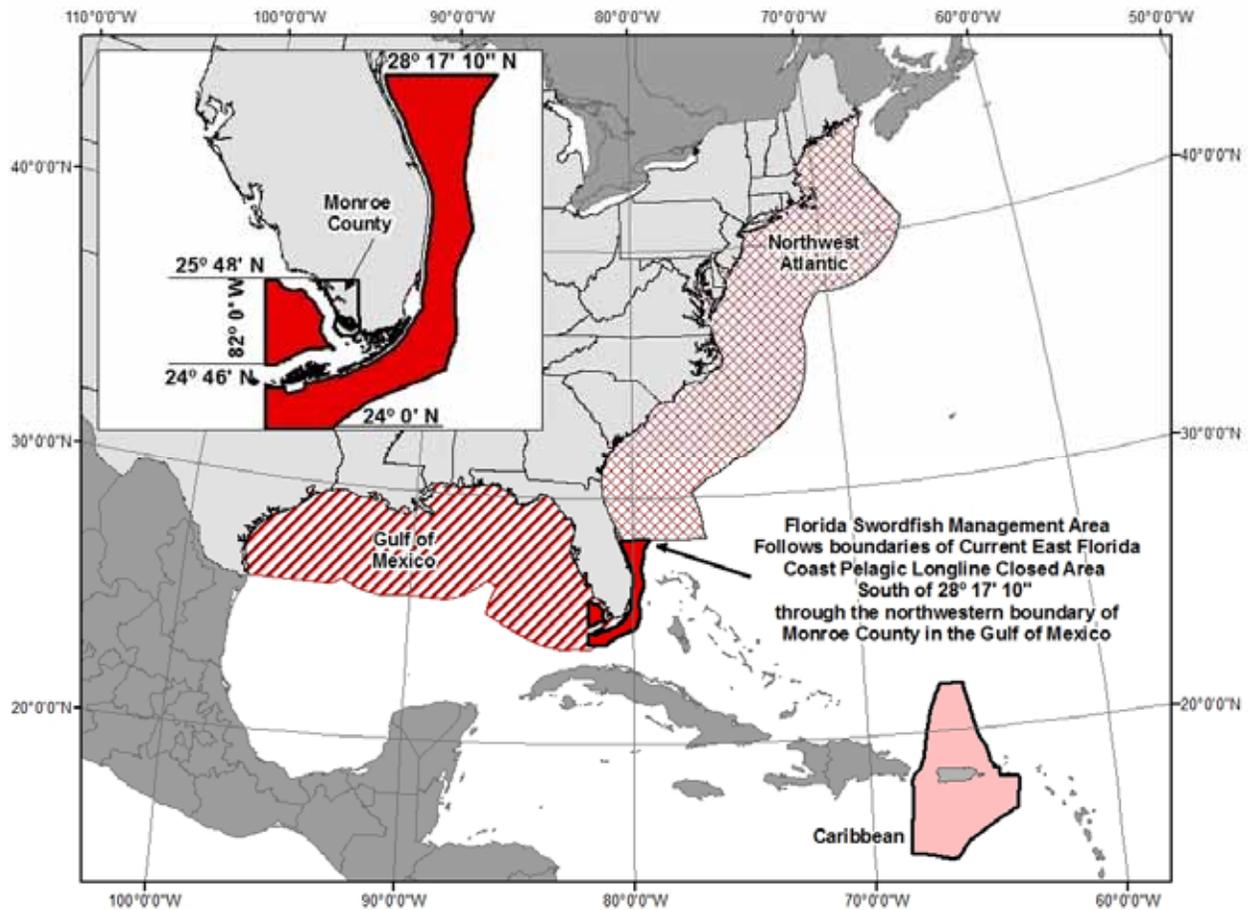


Figure 1 Swordfish Management Regions for Vessels Issued a Swordfish General Commercial Permit or an HMS Charter/Headboat Permit (on a non-for-hire trip)

For vessels issued a Swordfish General Commercial permit or an HMS Charter/Headboat permit (on a non-for-hire trip), retention limits are established regionally. The regions are: the Florida Swordfish Management Area; the Northwest Atlantic region (federal waters along the entire Atlantic coast of the United States north of 28°17'10" N. latitude); the Gulf of Mexico region (any water located in the EEZ in the entire Gulf of Mexico west of 82° W. longitude); and the Caribbean region (the U.S. territorial waters within the Caribbean).<sup>67</sup> The regional retention limits may be adjusted in-season using pre-established criteria.<sup>68</sup>