

HMS Dealer & Importer/Exporter Compliance Guide

Guide for Complying with the Atlantic
Tuna, Swordfish, Shark, and Billfish
Regulations



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Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species
Management Division



Introduction to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS), including tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish, are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce, with consideration for the domestic and international aspects of these fisheries.

This guide provides a plain-language summary of federal Atlantic HMS Dealer and Importer/Exporter regulations for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish. The guide amends all dealer and importer/exporter sections of previous guides and is produced in compliance with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. Since regulations frequently change, it is ***your responsibility*** to become familiar with the latest regulatory updates and to comply with all current regulations. For a comprehensive list of updated Atlantic HMS regulations, please refer to the *electronic code of federal regulations* (<http://www.ecfr.gov>). ***If there is a discrepancy between this summary and the regulations, the regulations take precedence.***

For updates affecting HMS Dealers and Importers/Exporters, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 427-8503, or visit the HMS website at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>. Stay up-to-date on HMS regulations by subscribing to *Atlantic HMS News* at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>.

Endnotes (^{1, 2, 3}, etc.) are in the final chapter of this guide, and refer to the location of the regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50 Wildlife and Fisheries. In the electronic version of this guide, clicking the endnote text in the final chapter will open your internet browser to the section containing the citation in the electronic CFR.

NEW as of January 2016:

Smoothhound Shark Federal Management: Effective March 15, 2016, smoothhound sharks (smooth dogfish, Florida smoothhound, and Gulf smoothhound) are under Federal management. Dealers wishing to purchase smoothhound sharks must obtain an Atlantic shark dealer permit, which requires attendance at an Atlantic Shark Identification workshop. Regional smoothhound shark commercial quotas in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico are effective as well. In limited circumstances, smooth dogfish fins may be removed at sea, provided certain criteria are met. Please see Section IV for details.