

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) is the primary Federal legislation governing the management and executive processes for marine fisheries of the United States. The National Standard (NS) 2 guidelines (50 CFR 600.315) require the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to prepare a Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report, or similar document, review it annually, and make changes as necessary for each fishery management plan (FMP). This document constitutes the 2010 SAFE Report for Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) managed under the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its amendments.

Consistent with the NS 2 guidelines, this 2010 SAFE Report provides a summary of the best available scientific information on the condition of HMS stocks, marine ecosystems, and fisheries managed under Federal regulation. It also provides updated information regarding the economic status of HMS fisheries, fishing communities, and industries, as well as the socio-economic and environmental impacts of recently implemented regulations.

This document is one method utilized by NMFS to introduce new information, identify potential new management issues, and begin a preliminary assessment and evaluation of fishery regulations. This SAFE Report includes the latest stock assessment data, recommendations, and resolutions from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and its Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). The report also includes the latest domestic shark assessment information. In compliance with the NS 2 guidelines, the report presents a comprehensive summary of the most recent Atlantic HMS fisheries-related data from a variety of sources across a wide range of disciplines.

1.1 Summary and Update on HMS Management Division Activities and Regulatory Actions In 2010

Table 1.1 provides a list of most of the abbreviations and acronyms that are used in this document or that are commonly used in fisheries management.

From January 1 through November 2, 2010, NMFS enacted or proposed a number of actions with regard to Atlantic HMS. All such actions published in the Federal Register during that timeframe are listed in Table 1.2. Additionally, actions published in the Federal Register from December 3 - 31, 2009, are included, as these actions were published after release of the 2009 HMS SAFE Report. Most documents related to these actions can be found on the Atlantic HMS webpage at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>. Actions taken before December 3, 2009, are noted in similar tables in previous SAFE reports. A summary of the actions listed in the table is presented below.

NMFS held HMS Advisory Panel meetings on May 11 - 13, 2010, and September 21 - 23, 2010, in Silver Spring, MD (April 14, 2010, 75 FR 19369; July 27, 2010, 75 FR 43928, respectively). These meetings provided valuable comments on a suite of management actions that NMFS pursued or considered in 2010. Once available, summaries of these discussions and comments can be found on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>, along with

the meeting transcripts. These documents are also available by calling the HMS Management Division at 301-713-2347.

On June 1, 2010, NMFS published a final rule for Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (75 FR 30484) for small coastal sharks (SCS), pelagic sharks, and smooth dogfish. The final rule and amendment implemented measures to rebuild blacknose sharks, prevent overfishing of shortfin mako and blacknose sharks, and implement management measures for smooth dogfish. The amendment also created the smoothhound shark management complex, which consists of smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*) and Florida smoothhound (*Mustelus norrisi*) sharks. Conservation and management measures implemented by the amendment for smoothhounds include a requirement to offload smoothhounds with their fins naturally attached, Federal dealers to reporting landings of smoothhounds, and a Federal permit requirement for the commercial and recreational retention of smoothhound sharks. These smoothhound requirements will be effective at the beginning of the smoothhound fishing season in 2012. Other measures in the final rule for Amendment 3 were effective in June and July 2010.

On September 22, 2010, NMFS published a rule that changed the genus of Atlantic white marlin from *Tetrapturus* to *Kajikia* (Sept. 22, 2010, 75 FR 57698). NMFS adopted the genus change for white marlin with no effect on the management of Atlantic white marlin. Additionally, in the same rulemaking, NMFS added the roundscale spearfish, *Tetrapturus georgii*, to the Atlantic billfish management unit and implemented regulations for this newly recognized species identical to those currently in place for white marlin.

In June and September, NMFS released the proposed and final annual swordfish specifications, respectively (June 22, 2010, 75 FR 35432; September 21, 2010, 75 FR 57407). In March, NMFS published a notice closing the commercial non-sandbar large coastal shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico (March 17, 2010, 75 FR 12700). In October, NMFS published a notice closing the non-sandbar portion of the shark research fishery and Atlantic region (October 13, 2010, 75 FR 62690). The porbeagle fishery closed in September (September 2, 2010, 75 FR 53871). NMFS issued 2010 fishing year specifications (June 2, 2010, 75 FR 30732) and inseason retention limits for bluefin tuna (June 2, 2010, 75 FR 30730 and June 14, 2010, 75 FR 33531) in June and in July (July 20, 2010, 75 FR 41995) and August (August 19, 2010, 75 FR 51182). In February, May, and September, NMFS announced additional Atlantic shark identification and protected species safe handling, release, and identification workshops (February 24, 2010, 75 FR 8304; May 28, 2010, 75 FR 29991; September 1, 2010, 75 FR 53665). On September 20, 2010, NMFS issued a proposed rule for the 2011 Shark Specifications (75 FR 57240), and on September 20, 2010, NMFS announced its intention to issue shark research fishery permits and requested applications (75 FR 57259). NMFS also requested nominations for the HMS Advisory Panel on October 21, 2010 (75 FR 64994).

While not specific to Atlantic HMS, NMFS has also released a number of rules to implement measures in the Magnuson-Stevens Act that could impact Atlantic HMS management. These rules include, but are not limited to, the Experimental Permitting Process, Exempted Fishing Permits, and Scientific Research Activity.

Table 1.1 List of Commonly Used Fishery Management Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Initials.

AA	Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
ABC	Acceptable biological catch
ACCSP	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
ACL	Annual catch limit
ACS	Angler consumer surplus
ACT	Annual catch target
AM	Accountability measure
ANPR	Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
AOCTRP	Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan
AOCTRT	Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Team
AP	Advisory Panel
APA	Administrative Procedure Act
ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
ATCA	Atlantic Tunas Convention Act
B	Biomass
BAYS	Bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, skipjack tunas
BiOp	Biological Opinion
B _{MSY}	Biomass expected to yield maximum sustainable yield
B _{OY}	Biomass expected to yield optimum yield
CAR	Caribbean
CFMC	Caribbean Fishery Management Council
CFL	Curved fork length
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHB	Charter/Headboat
CIE	Center for Independent Experts
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CPUE	Catch per unit effort
CSFOP	Commercial shark fishery observer program
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement

DPS	Distinct population segment
dw	Dressed weight
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
EFH	Essential fish habitat
EFP	Exempted fishing permit
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
F	Instantaneous fishing mortality
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEC	Florida East Coast
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FL	Fork Length
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
F_{MSY}	Instantaneous fishing mortality rate expected to yield maximum sustainable yield
FMU	Fishery management unit
F_{OY}	Fishing mortality rate expected to yield optimum yield
FR	Federal Register
FRFA	Final regulatory flexibility analysis
GOM	Gulf of Mexico
GSAFF	Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Foundation
GMFMC or GOMFMC	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
GSMFC	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
HAPC	Habitat area of particular concern
HMS	Highly migratory species: Atlantic sharks, tunas, swordfish, and billfish
HMS FMP	Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IPOA	International Plan of Action
IRFA	Initial regulatory flexibility analysis

ITP	International trade permit
ITQ	Individual transferable quota
ITS	Incidental take statement
IUU	Illegal, unreported, unregulated
LAP	Limited access permit
LCS	Large coastal sharks
LOA	Letter of acknowledgment
LPS	Large Pelagic Survey
LWTRP	Large Whale Take Reduction Plan
LWTRT	Large Whale Take Reduction Team
MAB	Mid Atlantic Bight
MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Magnuson-Stevens Act	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MFMT	Maximum fishing mortality threshold
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MPA	Marine protected area
MRFSS	Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey
MSST	Minimum stock size threshold
MSY	Maximum sustainable yield
mt	Metric tons
NCA	North Central Atlantic
NEC	Northeast Coastal
NED	Northeast Distant Waters
NEFMC	New England Fishery Management Council
NEFSC	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERO	Northeast Regional Office
NGO	Non-governmental organization
nmi	Nautical mile
NOA	Notice of Availability
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

NOI	Notice of Intent
NPOA	National Plan of Action
NS	National Standards
NWGB	National Working Group on Bycatch
OSF	Office of Sustainable Fisheries
OY	Optimum yield
PLL	Pelagic longline
POP	Pelagic observer program
OPR	Office of Protected Resources
PRA	Paperwork Reduction Act
Reg Flex Act	Regulatory Flexibility Act
RFMO	Regional Fishery Management Organization
RIR	Regulatory Impact Review
RPAs	Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives
RPMs	Reasonable and Prudent Measures
SAB	South Atlantic Bight
SAFE Report	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation report
SAFMC	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
SAR	Sargasso
SBRM	Standardized bycatch reporting methodology
SCRS	Standing Committee for Research and Statistics
SCS	Small coastal sharks
SDC	Status determination criteria
SEFSC	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
SEIS	Supplemental environmental impact statement
SERO	Southeast Regional Office
SEW	Stock evaluation workshop
SFA	Sustainable Fisheries Act
SFL	Straight fork length
SK Program	Saltonstall-Kennedy Program
SRP	Scientific research permit
SSB	Spawning stock biomass
TAC	Total allowable catch

TAL	Total allowable landings
TCs	Terms and Conditions
TL	Total length
TUN	Tuna North
TUS	Tuna South
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMS	Vessel monitoring system
VTR	Vessel trip report
WTP	Willingness to pay
ww	Whole weight

Table 1.2 Summary of NMFS' Atlantic HMS Fisheries Actions as of November 2, 2010.

Action Type Regulatory Identification Number (RIN)	50 CFR Part	Action Description	Publication Info
Notice RIN 0648-XS88	N/A	Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identifications Workshops	Dec. 08, 2009 74 FR 64664
Final Rule RIN 0648-AX07	635	North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas	Dec. 16, 2009 74 FR 66585
Proposed Rule RIN 0648-AX85	635	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Season and Retention Limit Adjustments	Dec. 24, 2009 74 FR 68414
Temporary Rule RIN 0648-XT23	635	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Inseason Retention Limit Adjustment	Dec. 29, 2009 74 FR 68709
Final Rule RIN 0648-AX95	635	Atlantic Shark Commercial Management Measures	Jan. 05, 2010 75 FR 250
Notice RIN 0648-XS98	N/A	SEDAR HMS AP Nomination Request	Jan. 19, 2010 75 FR 2856
Notice RIN 0648-XS88	N/A	Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identifications Workshops; Correction	Feb. 24, 2010 75 FR 8304
Notice RIN 0648-XU40	N/A	Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identifications Workshops	March 05, 2010 75 FR 10217
Fishery Closure RIN 0648-XU90	635	Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Gulf of Mexico Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Fishery	March 17, 2010 75 FR 12700
Notice RIN 0648-XV75	N/A	Meeting of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel	April 14, 2010 75 FR 19369
Notice RIN 0648-XV13	N/A	Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; Atlantic Coastal Shark Fishery	April 27, 2010 75 FR 22103
Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking RIN 0648-AY15	216	Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act	April 30, 2010 75 FR 22731

Action Type Regulatory Identification Number (RIN)	50 CFR Part	Action Description	Publication Info
Notice RIN 0648-XW25	N/A	Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review Public Meeting	May 04, 2010 75 FR 23676
Notice	N/A	Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Highly Migratory Species Dealer Reporting Family of Forms	May 14, 2010 75 FR 27296
Notice RIN 0648-XW44	N/A	Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identifications Workshops	May 28, 2010 75 FR 29991
Final Rule RIN 0649-AW65	600; 635	Atlantic Shark Management Measures; Amendment 3	June 01, 2010 75 FR 30484
Temporary Rule RIN 0648-XW54	635	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna General Category Retention Limit Adjustment	June 02, 2010 75 FR 30730
Final Rule RIN 0648-AY77	635	2010 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications	June 02, 2010 75 FR 30732
Temporary Rule RIN 0648-XW79	635	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Inseason Angling Category Retention Adjustment; Southern Area Trophy Fishery Closure; Quota Transfer	June 14, 2010 75 FR 33531
Correction RIN 0648-AY77	635	2010 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications	June 15, 2010 75 FR 33731
Proposed Rule RIN 0648-XV31	635	North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas	June 22, 2010 75 FR 35432
Fishery Closure RIN 0648-XX26	635	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Angling Category Trophy North Fishery Closure	July 20, 2010 75 FR 41995
Notice RIN 0648-XX81	N/A	Meeting of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel	July 27, 2010 75 FR 43928
Temporary Rule RIN 0648-XY10	635	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Inseason General Category Retention Limit Adjustment	Aug. 19, 2010 75 FR 51182
Notice RIN 0648-XY59	N/A	Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identifications Workshops	Sept. 01, 2010 75 FR 53665
Fishery Closure RIN 0648-XY56	635	Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Porbeagle Shark Fishery	Sept. 02, 2010 75 FR 53871

Action Type Regulatory Identification Number (RIN)	50 CFR Part	Action Description	Publication Info
Notice RIN 0648-XY43	N/A	Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review for Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Sandbar, Dusky, and Blacknose Sharks	Aug. 26, 2010 75 FR 52510
Notice RIN 0648-XW44	N/A	Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identifications Workshops; Correction	Sept. 08, 2010 75 FR 54598
Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking RIN 0648-BA17	635	Atlantic Shark Management Measures	Sept. 20, 2010 75 FR 57235
Proposed Rule RIN 0648-AY98	635	2011 Commercial Fishing Season and Adaptive Management Measures for the Atlantic Shark Fishery	Sept. 20, 2010 75 FR 57240
Notice of Intent RIN 0648-XY54	N/A	Atlantic Shark Management Measures; 2011 Research Fishery	Sept. 20, 2010 75 FR 57259
Final Rule RIN 0648-XV31	635	North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas	Sept. 21, 2010 75 FR 57407
Interpretive Rule and Final Action RIN 0648-BA12	600; 635	Atlantic Billfish Management, White Marlin (<i>Kajikia albidus</i>), Roundscale Spearfish (<i>Tetrapturus georgii</i>)	Sept. 22, 2010 75 FR 57698
Fishery Closure RIN 0648-XZ43	635	Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Non-sandbar Large Coastal Shark Research Fishery	Oct. 13, 2010 75 FR 62690
Notice RIN 0648-XZ75	N/A	Highly Migratory Species; Advisory Panel; Solicitation of Nominations	Oct. 21, 2010 75 FR 64994
Fishery Closure RIN 0648-XZ95	635	Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Blacknose Shark and Non-blacknose Small Coastal Fisheries	Nov. 02, 2010 75 FR 67251

1.2 2010 Accomplishments of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

ICCAT is an international regional fishery management organization (RFMO) with 49 members, including the United States. The 17th Special Meeting of ICCAT was held in Paris, France, November 17-27, 2010. It was preceded by two days of Compliance Committee meetings. The United States helped develop recommendations aimed at promoting the

conservation, management, and rebuilding of Atlantic highly migratory fish stocks (e.g., tunas, swordfish, sharks), including those critical to U.S. fishermen. ICCAT made progress on a number of issues, including bluefin tuna, sharks, sea turtles, compliance issues and action to address the decline of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna.

North Atlantic Swordfish: In 2010, Recommendation 10-02 was adopted which maintains the total allowable catch (TAC) at 13,700 mt, in line with scientific advice for 2011. Previous North Atlantic swordfish recommendations (06-02, 08-02, 09-02) allocated 1,345 mt of U.S. underharvest from the previous management period to the TAC for the next management period in an effort to accommodate interest expressed by a number of developing Contracting Parties, Co-operating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing (CPCs) to develop fisheries for North Atlantic swordfish. Although Recommendation 10-02 essentially extends ICCAT Recommendation 06-02 through 2011, it does not allocate U.S. underharvest to developing CPCs rather it provides permanent quota allocations for these parties for the duration of the one-year measure. The recommendation continues the United States' previous allocation of 3,907 mt whole weight (ww), and continues the underharvest carry forward caps for all CPCs. The maximum underharvest that a CPC may carry forward cannot exceed 50 percent of its initial quota allocation, which is 1,953.5 mt ww for the United States. Furthermore, it extends a clause that allows CPCs with a TAC allocation to make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15 percent of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations. The recommendation also extends a provision allowing the United States to harvest up to 200 mt of its annual catch limit between 5 degrees North latitude and 5 degrees South latitude, and a provision transferring 25 mt ww from the United States to Canada. Finally, Recommendation 10-02 includes a new provision that requires CPCs to submit a fishery management/development plan to ICCAT by September 2011.

Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna: In 2010, Recommendation 10-03 was adopted setting the western Atlantic bluefin tuna TAC at 1,750 mt ww for 2011 and for 2012. These TACs represent a less than 3 percent reduction from the 2010 TAC of 1,800 mt ww. This reduced TAC takes into account a new growth curve and the two recruitment scenarios in the recent SCRS stock assessment for WBFT. Under the low recruitment scenario, the stock is at the biomass level that can support MSY and under the high recruitment scenario, higher sustainable yields are possible in the future but the stock remains overfished with overfishing occurring. A clause was added, similar to the one added in 2009 to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean BFT recommendation, that if ICCAT's scientific body detects a serious threat of stock collapse, ICCAT shall suspend all BFT fisheries in the western Atlantic for the following year. Recommendation 10-xx puts all parties with a directed allocation onto the allocation table. It also includes provisions for Mexico to transfer 86.5 mt ww of its quota to Canada as a special arrangement in 2011 and 2012. The recommendation further calls on parties to contribute to ICCAT's Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Program, including the enhancement of biological sampling. It also requests that ICCAT's scientific body provide additional information in the future on the identification of specific spawning areas and the potential effects of fish size measures on the stock. The next western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment and subsequent renegotiation of the recommendation will occur in 2012.

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna: The Commission adopted Recommendation 10-04, amending the recovery plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Recommendation 10-04 reduces the TAC for Mediterranean bluefin tuna from the 2010 level of 13,500 to 12,900 mt ww for 2011, until changed. The recommendation includes a revised allocation scheme that changed the allocations for Algeria, Egypt, Libya, and Turkey. It also makes several changes to the monitoring and control measures, such as the Regional Observer Program, that are expected to improve the tracking of Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna trade, particularly of farmed fish. Recommendation 10-04 maintains the 11 month closure of the Mediterranean purse seine fishery, with a one month opening from mid-May through mid-June. Additional measures were included to fully address fishing capacity issues by 2013.

Bigeye Tuna: The Commission adopted Recommendation 10-01, which maintained the TAC at 85,000 mt ww, in conformance with scientific recommendations. The Commission failed to implement an improved time and area closure to protect juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas in the Gulf of Guinea. Recommendation 10-01 caps the amount of underharvest that can be carried forward to 30 percent of allocations and maintains the other provisions in Recommendation 09-01.

North Atlantic Albacore: No new recommendations were adopted for North Atlantic albacore in 2010. In 2009, the Commission adopted Recommendation 09-05, which established a rebuilding plan for Northern albacore tuna that included TACs for 2010 and 2011. The TAC was reduced from 30,200 to 28,000 mt ww in conformance with scientific advice and, notably, accounted for catches of minor harvesters. In 2009, the United States' quota was reduced by 11 mt ww, or 2 percent, from 538 to 527 mt ww. Carry forward remains limited to no more than 25 percent of base allocations was retained.

Blue and White Marlin: The Commission adopted Recommendation 10-XX which extends through 2011 the terms of Recommendation 06-09. The recommendation also commits CPCs to establishing at the 2011 Commission meeting a multi-year plan to rebuild blue and white marlin populations on the basis of SCRS advice.

Sharks: The Commission adopted Recommendation 10-06 on Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries, which requires CPCs to report to ICCAT on implementation of existing shark recommendations and steps taken to improve Task I and Task II data collection. This measure also includes a provision that prohibits CPCs from retaining shortfin mako sharks if they do not report Task I data, starting in 2013. In addition, the recommendation requests that SCRS conduct a shortfin mako stock assessment in 2012, advise on annual catch levels and other appropriate conservation measures, and complete the shark identification guide and circulate it to CPCs.

The Commission adopted Recommendation 10-07 that prohibits retention of oceanic whitetip sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT convention area and requires CPCs to collect and report the number of discards and releases of this species.

The Commission also adopted Recommendation 10-08 on hammerhead sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT. This recommendation requires CPCs to prohibit retention of those hammerhead sharks in the family *Sphyrindae* (except for *Sphyrna tiburo*, the bonnethead shark) taken in the Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries. The measure also requires CPCs to release hammerhead sharks when brought along side the vessel to the extent practicable. Recommendation 10-08 provides an exemption to the prohibition for developing coastal CPCs for local consumption provided that these hammerhead sharks do not enter international trade and developing coastal CPCs submit data to the Commission. In addition, the measure requires all CPCs to collect and submit to ICCAT discard and release data and where possible, to implement research on hammerhead sharks in the Convention area.

Sea Turtles: The Commission adopted Recommendation 10-09 on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries. This measure requires CPCs to collect and annually report to ICCAT information on interactions of its fleet with sea turtles by gear type. The recommendation requires CPCs fishing with purse seine vessels to avoid encircling sea turtles and to release sea turtles that are captured. In addition, CPCs fishing with pelagic longline vessels must carry on board safe-handling and release equipment and be trained in safe-handling and release techniques. Based on information provided by CPCs, the measure requests SCRS to advise the Commission on sea turtle mitigation measures and to initiate an assessment of the impact of the incidental catch of sea turtles from ICCAT fisheries.

Trade related measures: No new trade restrictive measures under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation [06-13] were adopted by the Commission at the 2010 meeting. While some compliance improvements were noted, many parties did not fully meet their obligations to provide data to ICCAT's scientific committee or provide fishery management reports to the Commission. The Compliance Committee recommended that letters be sent to all but two parties, including 23 letters of identification under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation and 23 letters of concern. The United States will receive another letter of concern from ICCAT, this time for minor issues associated with implementation of the swordfish statistical document program. The letters require a written response to the Commission on how implementation of measures will be improved in 2011. With respect to ICCAT non-Parties, at the recommendation of ICCAT's Permanent Working Group, ICCAT maintained its recommendation of trade sanctions on bigeye from Georgia and Bolivia, and will send a letter of identification to Cambodia as well as letters of concern to two other non-Parties.

An EU proposal for development of an electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme received broad support and work will be undertaken intersessionally on this matter with the intent of having a fully operational system by 2012. It is envisioned that the program will enable verification of the legitimacy of the product in near real-time and reduce the burden on the seafood industry, governments, and the ICCAT Secretariat associated with a paper-based system.

1.3 Existing State Regulations

Table 1.3 outlines the existing state regulations as of October 20, 2010, with regard to HMS species. While the HMS Management Division updates this table periodically throughout the year, persons interested in the current regulations for any state should contact that state directly.

Atlantic tunas (bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas) are under federal jurisdiction from the outer boundary of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to the shoreline, including state waters, with the following three exceptions: state waters of Maine, Connecticut, and Mississippi (50 CFR 635.1(b)). Federal HMS regulations apply in all other state waters of the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. NMFS periodically reviews state tuna regulations for federal consistency as required under the Atlantic Tuna Convention Act (ATCA). Table 1.3 describes the state regulations as stated in available source material and makes no statement about the consistency of the specific, individual fishery regulations with Federal regulations.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is composed of 15 member states along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is composed of five member states along the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Texas. Through the Commissions, member states coordinate fisheries management measures to create consistent regulations and ensure stocks are protected across state boundaries. In August 2008, the ASMFC approved the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. This FMP was modified via Coastal Sharks Addendum I in September 2009 and was effective as of January 1, 2010. All management measures for coastal shark species in the FMP and Addendum I have been implemented by ASMFC members, unless they have been granted *de minimus* status (Maine and New Hampshire) or have equivalent conservation measures in place. Member states can implement more restrictive management measures. The measures in the Interstate FMP for Coastal Sharks, as summarized from the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP Executive Summary, include:

Recreational Measures:

1. Recreational anglers are prohibited from possessing silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead in the state waters of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey from May 15 through July 15—regardless of where the shark was caught
2. Recreational anglers are prohibited from possessing any shark species that is illegal to catch or land by recreational anglers in federal waters.
3. All sharks caught by recreational fishermen must have head, tail, and fins attached to the carcass.
4. Sharks caught in the recreational fishery must have a fork length of at least 4.5 feet with the exception of Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, finetooth, bonnethead, and smooth dogfish.
5. Recreational anglers may only use handlines and rod and reel.
6. Each recreational shore-angler is allowed a maximum harvest of one shark from the federal recreationally permitted species, plus one additional bonnethead, and one additional Atlantic sharpnose, per calendar day. Recreational fishing vessels are allowed a maximum harvest of one shark from the federal recreationally permitted species plus one additional bonnethead,

and one Atlantic sharpnose, per trip, regardless of the number of people on board the vessel. Smooth dogfish do not count toward the retention limit.

Commercial Measures:

7. All commercial fishermen are prohibited from possessing silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, scalloped hammerhead, great hammerhead, and smooth hammerhead in the state waters of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey from May 15 through July 15.
8. States will close the fishery for any shark species when NMFS closes the fishery in federal waters.
9. States will implement possession limits as annually specified.
10. Commercial shark fishermen must hold a state commercial license or permit in order to commercially catch and sell sharks in state waters.
11. States may grant exemptions from the seasonal closure, quota, possession limit, size limit, gear restrictions, and prohibited species restrictions contained in this plan through a state display or research permit system.
12. A federal Commercial Shark Dealer Permit is required to buy and sell any shark caught in state waters.
13. Prohibits the use of any gear type other than rod and reel, handlines, small mesh gillnets, large mesh gillnets, trawl nets, shortlines, pound nets/fish traps, or weirs.
14. States must implement shortline and gillnet bycatch reduction measures
15. All sharks caught by commercial fishermen must have tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass through landing, except for smooth dogfish. Commercial fishermen may completely remove the fins of smooth dogfish from March through June of each year. If fins are removed, the total wet weight of the shark fins may not exceed 5 percent of the total dressed weight of smooth dogfish carcasses. From July through February each year, commercial fishermen may completely remove the head, tail, pectoral fins, pelvic (ventral) fins, anal fin, and second dorsal fin, but must keep the dorsal fin attached naturally to the carcass through landing.

A state can request permission to implement an alternative to any mandatory compliance measure only if that state can show to the Board's satisfaction that its alternative proposal will have the same conservation value as the measure contained in this management plan or any addenda prepared under Adaptive Management.

Table 1.3 State Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Atlantic HMS.

Please note that state regulations are subject to change. Please contact the appropriate state personnel to ensure that the regulations listed below remain current. X = Regulations in Effect; n = Regulation Repealed; FL = Fork Length; CL = Carcass Length; TL = Total Length; LJFL = Lower Jaw Fork Length; CFL = Curved Fork Length; DW = Dressed Weight; and SCS = Small Coastal Sharks; LCS = Large Coastal Sharks.

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
ME	X			X	<p>Tuna -ME Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 12, " 6001, 6502, and 6551</p> <p>Sharks - Code ME R. 13-188 ' 50.01(1) and 50.10</p>	<p>Tuna - Retention limit - 1 tuna/year – non-resident special tuna permit holder; Unlawful to fish for tuna with gear other than harpoon or hook and line or possess tuna taken in unlawful manner; No minimum size limits</p> <p>Sharks – Fins of coastal sharks can be removed at sea, but fin weight may not exceed 5% of the carcass weight</p>	<p>ME Department of Marine Resources George Lapointe Phone: (207) 624-6553 Fax: (207) 624-6024</p>
NH			X	X	<p>Tuna - FIS 603.10 (REPEALED)</p> <p>Billfish - FIS 603.13</p> <p>Sharks - FIS 603.20</p>	<p>Billfish - Possession limit - 1 billfish/trip; Minimum size (LJFL) - Blue marlin - 99"; White marlin - 66"; Sailfish - 57"; May be taken by hook and line only; Unlawful to sell billfish</p> <p>Sharks - Prohibited sharks listed; Federal Dealer permit required for all shark dealers; Porbeagle sharks can only be taken by recreational fishing; Head, fins and tail must remain attached to all shark species through landing</p>	<p>NH Fish and Game Douglas Grout Phone: (603) 868-1095 Fax: (603) 868-3305</p>
MA	X			X	<p>Bluefin Tuna - 322 CMR 6.04</p> <p>Billfish – (REPEALED)</p> <p>Sharks – 322 CMR 6.37</p>	<p>Bluefin Tuna - References ATCA and federal regulations; Bluefin tuna may be retained if caught in a trap as incidental catch; Fishing for bluefin tuna by means of any net is prohibited prior to September 1 of the year; Fishing for tuna by means of purse seine is allowed in state waters if the vessel is compliant with the registration requirements set forth in 322 CMR 6.04(4); Purse seining for bluefin tuna is prohibited in Cape Cod Bay.</p>	<p>MA Division of Marine Fisheries Melanie Griffin Phone: (617) 626-1528 Fax: (617) 626-1509</p> <p>All MA commercial and recreational fishing</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
						Billfish – Repealed as of December 2005 Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan except that the tails and fins of smooth dogfish must remain attached through landing	regulations can be found online: http://www.mass.gov/dfwel/e/dmf/commercialfishing/cm_index.htm
RI				X	Sharks - RIMFC Regulations part VII 7.24	Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	RI Department of Environment Management Brian Murphy Phone: (401) 783-2304
CT				X	Sharks – Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 26-159a-1; Connecticut General Statutes §26-142a(d) Declarations: 10-03, 10-05, 10-07	Sharks – Prohibited species same as federal regulations; No commercial fishing for large coastal sharks; No commercial small coastal shark fishing until further notice	CT Department of Environmental Protection David Simpson Phone: (860) 434-6043 Fax: (860) 434-6150
NY			X	X	Billfish -NY Environmental Conservation ' 13-0339 (5) Sharks - NY Environmental Conservation ' 13-0338; State of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (Section 40.7)	Billfish - Blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, and longbill spearfish shall not be bought, sold or offered for sale; Striped marlin, black marlin, shortbill spearfish shall not be bought, sold or offered for sale unless tagged and identified prior to entry into the state Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	NY Department of Environmental Conservation Stephen W. Heins Phone: (631) 444-0430 Fax: (631) 444-0449
NJ				X	Sharks -NJ Administrative Code, Title 7. Department of Environmental Protection, NJAC 7:25-18.1 and 7:25-18.12(d)	Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	NJ Fish and Wildlife Hugh Carberry Phone: (609)748-2020 Fax: (609) 748-2032

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
DE			X	X	Billfish - DE Code Ann. tit. 7, '1310 Sharks - DE Code Regulations 3541	Billfish - Prohibition on sale of Atlantic sailfish and blue/white/striped marlin Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	DE Division of Fish and Wildlife Craig Shirey Phone: (302) 739-9914
MD	X	X	X	X	Tuna - Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.05.23 Swordfish - Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.05.27 Billfish - Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.05.26 Sharks - Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.12.03 and 08.02.22.01-.04	Tuna - Federal regulations used to control size and seasons and recreational catch required to be tagged Swordfish - Federal regulations used to control size and seasons and recreational catch required to be tagged Billfish (blue and white marlin and sailfish) - Federal regulations control size and seasons and recreational catch required to be tagged Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	MD Department of Natural Resources Gina Hunt Phone: (410) 260-8326
VA			X	X	Billfish - 4 VA Administrative Code 20-350-10 Sharks - 4 VA Administrative Code 20-490-10	Billfish - Prohibition on sale of billfish Sharks – ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan	VA Marine Resources Commission Jack Travelstead Phone: (757) 247-2247 Fax: (757) 247-2020

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
NC	X		X	X	<p>Tuna - NC Administrative Code tit. 15A 03M.0520</p> <p>Billfish -NC Administrative Code tit. 15A, r.3M.0507 and 15A 03M.0507</p> <p>Sharks -NC Administrative Code tit. 15A, r.3M.0505</p>	<p>Tuna – Commercial and recreational minimum size: yellowfin tuna – 27” CFL, bigeye tuna - 27” CFL, bluefin tuna – 73” CFL; Recreational bag limit: 3 yellowfin tuna/day</p> <p>Billfish - Recreational possession limit - 1 blue or white marlin/vessel/trip; 1 sailfish/person/day; Minimum size - blue marlin - 99", white marlin - 66", sailfish - 63"; Unlawful to sell or offer for sale blue or white marlin and sailfish</p> <p>Sharks - Director may impose restrictions for size, seasons, areas, quantity, <i>etc.</i> via proclamation; Commercial: open seasons and species groups same as federal; 33 non-sandbar LCS retention limit; no retention of sandbar sharks; fins naturally attached to shark carcass, except for smooth dogfish; LL shall only be used to harvest LCS during open season, shall not exceed 500 yds or have more than 50 hooks; Recreational: LCS (54” FL min size) - no more than 1 shark/vessel/day or 1 shark/person/day, SCS (no min size) – no more than 1 finetooth or blacknose shark/vessel/day and no more than 1 Atlantic sharpnose and 1 bonnethead/person/day, pelagics (no min size) -1 shark/vessel/day; Same prohibited shark species as federal regulations</p>	<p>NC Division of Marine Fisheries Randy Gregory Phone: (252) 726-7021 Fax: (252) 726-0254</p>
SC	X	X	X	X	<p>Tuna/Swordfish -SC Code Ann. ' 50-5-2725 and 2730</p> <p>Billfish - SC Code Ann. ' 50-5-1700, 1705, 2725 and 2730 ; 50-1-30 (6)</p> <p>Sharks -SC Code Ann. ' 50-5-2725, 2730</p>	<p>Tuna/Swordfish – Defer to federal regulations</p> <p>Billfish – Defer to federal regulations; Unlawful to sell billfish; Hook and line gear only; Unlawful to possess while transporting gillnets, seines, or other commercial gear</p> <p>Sharks – Defer to federal regulations; Gillnets may not be used in the shark fishery in state waters; State permit required for shark fishing in state waters</p>	<p>SC Department of Natural Resources Josh Loefer Phone: (843) 953-9835 Fax: (843) 953-9386</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
GA			X	X	<p>Gear Restrictions/Prohibitions - GA Code Ann. ' 27-4-7;</p> <p>Billfish - GA Code Ann. ' 27-4-130.2; GA Comp. R. & Regs. ' 391-2-4-.04</p> <p>Sharks - GA Code Ann. ' 27-4-130.1; GA Comp. R. & Regs. ' 391-2-4-.04</p>	<p>Gear Restrictions/Prohibitions - Use of gillnets and longlines is prohibited in state waters</p> <p>Billfish - Possession prohibited in state waters, except for catch and release</p> <p>Sharks – Commercial/Recreational: 1 shark from the Small Shark Composite (bonnethead, sharpnose, and spiny dogfish, min size 30” FL; All other sharks - 1 shark/person or boat, whichever is less, min size 54” FL, Prohibited Species: sand tiger sharks, sandbar, silky, bigeye sandtiger, whale, basking, white, dusky, bignose, Galapagos, night, reef, narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, Atlantic angel, longfin mako, bigeye thresher, sharpnose sevengill, bluntnose sixgill, and bigeye sixgill; All species must be landed head and fins intact; Sharks may not be landed in Georgia if harvested using gill nets</p>	<p>GA Department of Natural Resources Carolyn Belcher Phone: (912) 264-7218 Fax: (912) 262-3143</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
FL		X	X	X	<p>Sharks -FL Administrative Code Ann. r.68B-44, F.A.C</p> <p>Swordfish/ Billfish - FL Administrative Cod Ann. r. 68B-33 F.A.C</p>	<p>Billfish – Longbill/Mediterranean/roundscale spearfish – harvest/possession/landing/purchase/sale/exchange prohibited</p> <p>Blue/white marlin and sailfish – Sale prohibited; Aggregate possession of 1 fish/person/day; Gear restriction (hook and line only); Minimum size limit (blue marlin – 99” LJFL; white marlin – 66” LJFL; sailfish – 63” LJFL); Recreational catch reporting requirement (all non-tournament landings must be reported NOAA within 24 hours); Must land in whole condition (gutting allowed)</p> <p>Swordfish - Minimum size - 47 in LJFL/29” cleithrum to keel; Possession limit 1 fish/person/day or 4 fish/vessel/day (with 4 or more persons onboard); Commercial harvest and sale allowed only with Florida saltwater products license and a federal LAP for swordfish; Recreational catch reporting requirement (all non-tournament landings must be reported NOAA within 24 hours)</p> <p>Sharks – Commercial/recreational: min size – 54” except no min. size on blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, smooth dogfish, finetooth, Atlantic sharpnose; Possession limit – 1 shark/person/day, max. 2 sharks/vessel on any vessel with 2 or more persons on board; Allowable gear – hook and line only; State waters close to commercial harvest when adjacent federal waters close; Federal permit required for commercial harvest, so federal regulations apply in state waters unless state regulations are more restrictive; Finning & filleting prohibited; Prohibited species same as federal regulations except for Caribbean sharpnose shark; prohibition on all harvest of lemon sharks in state waters</p>	<p>FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Lisa Gregg Phone: (850) 487-0554 Fax: (850) 487-4847</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	<i>Tuna</i>	<i>Swords</i>	<i>Billfish</i>	<i>Sharks</i>			
AL	X	X	X	X	<p>Tuna/Swordfish/Billfish/Shark – AL Administrative Code r.220-3-.30(6)</p> <p>Tuna - AL Administrative Code r.2203.30</p> <p>Sharks - AL Administrative Code r.220-3-.30, r.220-3-.37, r.220-3-.42, and r.220-2-.77</p>	<p>Tuna/swordfish/billfish/sharks - Reference to federal landing form regulations</p> <p>Tuna - Recreational and commercial fishermen must have a federal permit to fish for tunas; Yellowfin and bigeye – 27” CFL min size</p> <p>Sharks – Recreational & commercial: bag limit – 1 sharpnose/person/day and 1 bonnethead/person/day; no min size; all other sharks – 1/person/day; min size – 54” FL or 30” dressed; state waters close when federal season closes; no shark fishing on weekends, Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day; Prohibited species: dusky, sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, basking, whale, and white sharks; Restrictions of chumming and shore-based angling if creating unsafe bathing conditions; Regardless of open or closed season, gillnet fishermen targeting other fish may retain sharks with a dressed weight not exceeding 10% of total catch</p>	<p>AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Vernon Minton Vernon.Minton@dcnr.alabama.gov Phone: (251) 861 2882</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
LA	X	X	X	X	<p>Tuna -LA Administrative Code Title 76, Pt. VII, Ch. 3, § 361</p> <p>Swords/Billfish - LA Administrative Code Title76, Pt. VII, Ch. 3, § 355</p> <p>Sharks - LA Administrative Code Title 76, Pt. VII, Ch. 3, § 357</p>	<p>Tuna - Recreational and commercial minimum size for yellowfin, bigeye, and bluefin is 27” CFL; Recreational bag limits – 3 yellowfin/person. Recreational and commercial tuna fishing requires a federal permit</p> <p>Billfish/Swordfish - Minimum size: blue marlin (99 in LJFL), white marlin (66" LJFL), sailfish (63 in LJFL), swordfish (29 in carcass length or 33 lbs dw); Recreational creel limit - 5 swordfish/vessel/trip; Federal swordfish permit required for commercial swordfish fishing; Dealers must have federal permit to buy swordfish; state swordfish fishery closes with federal fishery; reference to federal billfish regulations</p> <p>Sharks - Recreational: min size – 54” FL, except Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead; bag limit - 1 sharpnose/person/trip, all other sharks – 1 fish/person/day; Commercial: 33 per vessel per trip limit; no min size; Com & rec harvest prohibited: 4/1-6/30; Prohibited species: same as federal regulations; Fins must remain naturally attached to carcass though off-loading</p>	<p>LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Jason Adriance (504) 284-2032 or 225 765-2889 Fax(504) 284-5263 or (225) 765-2489 jadriance@wlf.la.gov</p>
MS	X		X	X	<p>Tuna/Billfish/Sharks - MS Code Title-22 part 7</p>	<p>Tuna – No directed BFT fishing; only recreational anglers can retain incidentally caught BFT up to 1/boat/week; Recreational and commercial min size for yellowfin and bigeye is 27” CFL; Recreational retention limit for yellowfin is 3/person/day</p> <p>Billfish – Unlawful to sell blue and white marlin and sailfish without proper federal documentation; Recreational minimum size: blue marlin 99” LJFL; white marlin 66” LJFL; sailfish 63” LJFL; No possession for longbill spear fish; No limit for recreational take</p> <p>Sharks – Recreational: min size - LCS/Pelagics 37” TL; SCS 25” TL; bag limit - LCS/Pelagics 1/person/day up to 3/vessel/day; SCS 4/person/day; Commercial and prohibited species – same as federal regulations; Prohibition on finning</p>	<p>MS Department of Marine Resources Kerwin Cuevas Phone: (228) 374-5000</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	Tuna	Swords	Billfish	Sharks			
TX		X	X	X	<p>Billfish/Swordfish/Sharks - TX Administrative Code Title 31, Part 2, Parks and Wildlife Code Title 5, Parks and Wildlife Proclamations 57.971, 57.973 and 57.981</p>	<p>Blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, sharks, longbill spearfish, and broadbill swordfish are gamefish and may only be taken with pole and line (including rod and reel); Blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, and longbill spearfish may not be sold for any purpose</p> <p>Billfish - Bag limit none; min size blue marlin – 131” TL; white marlin – 86” TL; sailfish – 84” TL</p> <p>Sharks - Commercial/recreational: bag limit - 1 shark/person/day; Commercial/recreational possession limit is twice the daily bag limit (<i>i.e.</i>, 2 sharks/person/day); min size 24” TL for Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, and bonnethead sharks and 64” TL for all other lawful sharks. Prohibited species: same as federal regulations</p>	<p>TX Parks & Wildlife Department Mark Lingo Phone: (956) 350-4490 Fax: (956) 350-3470</p>
Puerto Rico	X	X	X	X	<p>Regulation #6768 Article 8 – General Fishing Limits Article 13 – Limitations Article 17 – Permits for Recreational Fishing (March 2004)</p>	<p>Illegal to sell, offer for sale, or traffic in any billfish or marlin, either whole or processed, captured in jurisdictional waters of Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Swordfish or billfish, tuna and shark are covered under the federal Atlantic HMS regulations (50 CFR, Part 635); Fishers who capture these species are required to comply with said regulation; billfish captured incidentally with long line must be released by cutting the line close to the fishhook, avoiding the removal of the fish from the water; in the case of tuna and swordfish, fishers shall obtain a permit according to the requirements of the federal government; Year-round closed season on nurse sharks</p>	<p>Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources Craig Lilyestrom Phone: (787) 999-2200 x2689 Fax: (787) 999-2271</p> <p>http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/REGULATIONS%20PR-USVI/reg%20pesca%20pr/Rg6768-%20feb%202004.pdf</p>

State	Species				Cite Reference	Regulatory Details	Contact Information
	<i>Tuna</i>	<i>Swords</i>	<i>Billfish</i>	<i>Sharks</i>			
U.S. Virgin Islands	X	X	X	X	US VI Commercial and Recreational Fisher's Information Booklet Revised July 2006	Federal regulations and federal permit requirements apply in territorial waters.	www.caribbeanfmc.com http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/REGULATIONS%20PR-USVI/usvi%20booklet/regs%20usvi06.pdf