

8.0 HMS PERMITS AND TOURNAMENTS

This section provides updates for the number of permits that were issued in conjunction with HMS fishing activities as of October 2011. HMS fisheries permit numbers (Table 8.1 through Table 8.8), and dealer permit numbers for shark, swordfish, and tunas are updated through October 2011. Section 8.7, Atlantic HMS Tournaments, provides a comprehensive synthesis of recreational fishing tournaments and their role in the context of HMS management. These tables have been updated since the 2010 SAFE Report, which listed numbers of permits as of October 2010.

8.1 HMS Commercial Fishing Permits

The LAP program was implemented in the 1999 FMP and became effective on July, 1 1999 (64 FR 29090, May 28, 1999). The program established six different permit types for limited access provisions: Swordfish Directed, Swordfish Incidental, Swordfish Handgear, Shark Directed, Shark Incidental, and Atlantic Tuna Longline. To reduce bycatch concerns in the PLL fishery, these permits were designed so that the Swordfish Directed and Incidental permits are valid only if the permit holder also holds both an Atlantic Tuna Longline and a shark permit. Similarly, the Atlantic Tuna Longline permit is valid only if the permit holder also holds both a swordfish (Directed or Incidental, not Handgear) and a shark permit. No additional LAPs are required to make a Swordfish Handgear or any of the shark permits valid. The Atlantic Tuna Longline permit is now being issued from NMFS Southeast Regional Office Permits Branch to facilitate more efficient issuance of all LAPs. There was a slight decrease in the number of permits issued between October 2010 and October 2011, from 1,052 to 1,044 (Table 8.1).

The number of commercial Atlantic tunas permit holders by category is listed in Table 8.2. The overall number of commercial tuna permits slightly decreased between October 2010 and October 2011 (Table 8.2). On August 4, 2008 (73 FR 38144, July 3, 2008) NMFS published a rule that eliminated the “sunset” provision for Atlantic Tuna Longline Category permits. This rule allows the most recent shark and swordfish LAP holders on record to renew previously expired Longline permits as long as other requirements for renewal were met. Distributions for General Category permits can be found in (Table 8.3). Trap Category permits (six total) occur from Mississippi to New Jersey. Harpoon Category permits (24 total) occur from Massachusetts north to Maine and with the exception of one permit holder in Puerto Rico (likely an error when applicant selected the permit category). Although there are five entities eligible to participate in the purse seine tuna fishery, two vessels have been sold and only three Purse Seine Category permits were issued in 2011.

Table 8.1 Distribution of Shark, Swordfish, and Atlantic Tuna longline Limited Access Permits Between 2004 and 2011. Permit numbers as of October 2011.

State	# Directed Swordfish	# Incidental Swordfish	# Swordfish Handgear	# Directed Shark	# Incidental Shark	# Tuna Longline	# Permit Holders/# Permits
ME	5	-	1	2	5	5	8/18
NH	-	-	-	-	1	-	1/1
MA	7	1	9	3	9	9	21/38
RI	-	-	12	-	3	-	12/15
CT	1	-	-	-	1	1	1/3
NY	16	3	3	10	11	19	24/62
PA	1	-	-	-	1	1	1/3
NJ	25	12	4	23	27	38	53/129
DE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-/-
MD	4	-	-	2	3	4	5/13
VA	1	-	-	1	1	1	2/4
NC	11	6	-	16	11	17	27/61
SC	4	1	-	8	11	5	19/29
GA	-	-	-	2	1	-	3/3
FL	72	36	49	133	135	105	317/530
AL	-	-	-	6	1	-	7/7
MS	-	-	-	-	1	-	1/1
LA	31	4	-	8	35	33	44/111
TX	-	4	-	3	4	3	7/14
CA	-	-	-	-	1	1	2/2
*Totals 2011	178	67	78	217	262	242	555/1044
2010	177	72	75	215	265	248	566/1052
2009	187	72	81	223	285	259	636/1107
2008	181	76	81	214	285	241	628/1079
2007	180	79	82	231	296	218	613/1086
2006	191	86	88	240	312	214	604/1131
2005	190	91	92	235	320	200	639/1128
2004	195	99	96	241	348	222	657/1201

* Number of permit holders in each category, and state, is subject to change as permits are renewed or expire.

Table 8.2 The number of commercial Atlantic tuna permit holders in each category are listed for 2004 through 2011. Permit numbers for 2011 are as of October 2011.

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*
Longline	222	200	214	218	241	259	248	242
Harpoon	49	40	40	26	26	23	29	24
Trap	2	7	7	9	9	4	6	6
General	5,057	4,494	4,824	3,616	4,031	3,824	3,849	3,764
Purse Seine	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	3
Total	5,335	4,746	5,090	3,873	4,311	4,113	4,135	4,039

*The actual number of 2011 permit holders in each category is subject to change as individuals renew or allow their permits to expire.

Table 8.3 General Category permits as of October 2011

State	General Category permits	State	General Category permits
AL	30	NC	407
AZ	1	NH	231
CA	4	NJ	191
CT	73	NY	183
DE	31	OH	2
FL	220	OR	1
GA	4	PA	6
IN	1	PR	87
LA	43	RI	160
MA	1,325	SC	37
MD	34	TX	24
ME	593	VA	42
MI	1	VI	13
MS	18	WV	1
Total			3,763

8.2 Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat Permits

In 2002, NMFS published a final rule (67 FR 77434, Dec. 18, 2002) expanding the HMS recreational permit from tuna only to include all HMS and defining HMS charter/headboat operations. This permit was effective March 2003 and established a requirement that owners of charter boats or headboats that are used to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish, or billfish must obtain a Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit. This permit replaced the Atlantic Tunas Charter/Headboat permit. A vessel issued an Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit for a fishing year will not be issued an HMS Angling permit or any Atlantic Tunas permit in any category for that same fishing year, even if there is a change in the vessel's ownership. The total number of Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permits increased slightly between 2010 and 2011. The distribution of Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permits can be seen in Table 8.4.

Table 8.4 Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat Permits by State as of October 2011.

State	Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat	State	Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat
AL	77	NJ	550
CT	83	NY	335
DE	108	OH	1
FL	639	OK	1
GA	20	PA	25
ID	1	PR	27
KY	1	RI	172
LA	88	SC	141
MA	838	TX	155
MD	125	VA	101
ME	130	VI	23
MI	4	VT	1
MN	1	WV	4
MS	25	WY	1
NC	420	Total	4,194
NH	96		

8.3 HMS Angling Permit

Since March 2003 (67 FR 77434, Dec. 18, 2002), the HMS Angling Permit has been required to fish for, retain, or possess, including catch and release fishing, any federally regulated HMS. Species authorized for harvest with an HMS Angling permit include: sharks, swordfish, white and blue marlin, sailfish, spearfish, and federally regulated Atlantic tunas BFT, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore). Atlantic HMS caught, retained, possessed, or landed by persons on board vessels with an HMS Angling Category permit may not be sold or transferred to any person for a commercial purpose. By definition, recreational landings of Atlantic HMS are those that cannot be marketed through commercial channels, therefore it is not possible to monitor anglers' catches through ex-vessel transactions as in the commercial fishery. Instead, NMFS conducts statistical sampling surveys of the recreational fisheries. These survey programs have been used for over a decade and include the MRFSS and the LPS. A vessel issued an HMS Angling Category permit for a fishing year will not be issued an HMS Charter/ Headboat permit or an Atlantic Tunas permit in any category for that same fishing year, regardless of any change in the vessel's ownership. The total number of Atlantic HMS Angling permits decreased slightly between 2010 and 2011. The distribution of Atlantic HMS Angling permits can be seen in Table 8.5.

Table 8.5 Atlantic HMS Angling permits as of October 2011

State	Permits by Home Port*	Permits by Residence**	State	Permits by Home Port*	Permits by Residence**
AK	4	-	NC	1628	1519
AL	412	394	ND	1	1
AR	9	11	NE	-	4
AZ	-	2	NH	401	479
BVI	8	6	NJ	3397	2862
CA	5	7	NV	2	6
CO	4	9	NY	1688	1811
CT	604	691	OH	18	32
DC*	1	6	OK	7	12
DE	865	532	OR	1	-
FL	4035	3761	PA	246	1244
GA	132	215	PR	674	701
IA	2	4	RI	629	453
IL	5	25	SC	714	688
ID	1	2	SD	1	3
IN	7	10	TN	21	36
KS	2	5	TX	739	759
KY	6	10	UT	1	3
LA	606	613	VA	949	1020
MA	3318	3268	USVI	56	28
MD	1187	1142	VT	24	45
ME	494	429	WA	3	1
MI	16	30	WI	4	8
MN	3	9	WV	5	10
MO	8	14	WY	2	4
MS	185	203	Canada	5	8
MT	3	3	Total	23,138	23,138

*The home port is identified for the Atlantic HMS Angling permit are listed as the port where the vessel is stored submitted by the permit holder

**The residence identified for the Atlantic HMS Angling permit are listed as the bill to state submitted by the permit holder

8.4 Dealer Permits

Dealer permits are required for commercial receipt of Atlantic tuna, swordfish, and sharks, and are described in further detail in the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. Dealer permits are open access. An Atlantic shark dealer permit is required for any entity, person, or company that is the “first receiver” of any Atlantic shark or part of an Atlantic shark. A first receiver is any entity, person, or company that takes, for commercial purposes (other than solely for transport), immediate possession of the fish, or any part of the fish, as the fish are offloaded from a fishing vessel of the United States. Shark dealers, or a proxy for each location that first receives sharks, must attend and successfully complete an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop, and be issued a certificate in order to obtain or renew their shark dealer permit. Also, trucks or other conveyances which are extensions of a shark dealer’s place of business must possess a copy of a valid Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop Certificate. All permitted dealers are required to submit reports detailing the nature of their business. Swordfish and shark dealer permit holders must submit bi-weekly dealer reports on all HMS they purchase. Swordfish and shark dealer permit numbers and distributions are listed in Table 8.6. Tuna dealers must submit, within 24 hours of the receipt of a BFT, a landing report for each BFT purchased from U.S. fishermen. Dealers must also submit bi-weekly reports that include additional information on tunas they purchase. To facilitate quota monitoring, “negative reports” for shark and swordfish are also required from dealers when no purchases are made (*i.e.*, NMFS can determine who has not purchased fish versus who has neglected to report). Tuna dealer permit numbers and distributions can be found in Table 8.6. NMFS continues to automate and improve its permitting and dealer reporting systems and plans to make additional permit applications and renewals available online in the near future. On June 28, 2011, NMFS proposed requiring electronic reporting for shark, swordfish, and BAYS tunas dealers (76 FR 37750). This rule also proposed more frequent reporting and changes to the definition of a shark dealer. NMFS is working on the final rule now and hopes to implement the system in mid-2012.

Table 8.6 Number of domestic Atlantic shark and swordfish dealer permits issued in each between 2004 and 2011. Permits for 2011 are as of October 2011. The actual number of permits per state may change as permit holders move or sell their businesses.

State/Country	Bluefin Only *	BAYS Only	Bluefin and BAYS	Atlantic swordfish	Atlantic sharks	Total # of permits
AL	-	-	1	3	3	7
CA	2	-	1	4	-	7
CT	-	2	2	1	-	5
DE	-	1	-	-	-	1
FL	2	-	16	79	39	136
GA	-	-	2	1	1	4
HI	-	-	2	3	-	5
LA	-	-	7	13	9	29
MA	9	6	88	17	7	127
MD	-	-	9	3	3	15
ME	9	1	13	4	2	30
NC	5	4	24	15	15	63
NH	-	-	5	-	-	5
NJ	2	11	36	10	8	67
NY	2	18	58	11	5	94
PA	-	1	2	1	-	3
PR	-	6	1	-	-	7
RI	1	7	31	8	2	49
SC	-	1	2	8	15	26
TX	-	2	1	5	3	11
VA	1	4	12	4	5	26

State/Country	Bluefin Only *	BAYS Only	Bluefin and BAYS	Atlantic swordfish	Atlantic sharks	Total # of permits
VI	-	3	2	-	-	5
WA	-	-	1	1	-	2
Totals 2011	33	67	316	191	117	724
2010	32	58	323	181	108	702
2009	32	55	289	177	106	659
2008	30	62	303	171	128	694
2007	9	22	255	269	206	761
2006	43	60	313	285	336	1037
2005	68	66	332	294	228	988
2004	-	-	-	321	230	1075**

*Does not include Pacific bluefin tuna dealer permits which were eliminated July 1, 2005.

**Total includes sum of all Atlantic tuna dealer permits but total number of permit holders with BAYS and bluefin dealer permits were not calculated.

8.5 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), Display Permits, Letters of Acknowledgement (LOAs) Chartering Permits, and Scientific Research Permits (SRPs)

EFPs, display permits, LOAs and SRPs are issued under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and/or ATCA (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). EFPs are issued to individuals for the purpose of conducting research or other fishing activities using private (non-NOAA) vessels, whereas an SRP would be issued to agency scientists who are using NOAA vessels as their research platform. Similar to SRPs, LOAs are issued to individuals conducting research from “bona fide” research vessels on species that are only regulated by Magnuson-Stevens Act and not ATCA. NMFS does request research plans for these activities and indicates concurrence by issuing an LOA. Display permits are issued to individuals who are fishing for, catching, and then transporting HMS to certified aquariums for public display. Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity with respect to Atlantic HMS. Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP implemented and created a separate display permitting system, which operates apart from the exempted fishing activities that are focusing on scientific research. The application process for display permits is similar to that required for EFPs and SRPs. When NMFS implemented Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (73 FR 35788 June, 24 2008), the shark quota for EFPs, display permits, and SRPs remained the same. However, the quota for sandbar shark was reduced to 1.39 mt. authorized for display and 1.39 mt authorized for research under EFPs and SRPs.

The HMS Management Division has continued to work closely with agency researchers and outside researchers to assess the Deepwater Horizon/BP Oil Spill. Many EFPs and SRPs were issued to sample and monitor HMS for oil contamination. The numbers of permits associated with the oil spill are included in the numbers of permits in Table 8.7.

Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP also implemented a shark research fishery. This research fishery is conducted under the auspices of the exempted fishing program. Research fishery permit holders assist NMFS in collecting valuable shark life history data and data for future shark stock assessments. Fishermen must fill out an application for a shark research permit under the exempted fishing program to participate in the shark research fishery. In 2010, NMFS received 12 applications. Based on the qualification criteria, 9 were chosen to participate in the shark research fishery. Shark research fishery participants are subject to 100 percent observer coverage in addition to other terms and conditions.

Issuance of EFPs, display permits, and SRPs may be necessary because possession of certain shark and billfish species are otherwise prohibited, possession of billfishes onboard commercial fishing vessels is prohibited, the commercial fisheries for BFT, swordfish and large coastal sharks may be closed for extended periods during which collection of live animals and/or biological samples would otherwise be prohibited, or for other reasons. These EFPs, SRPs, and display permits would authorize collections of tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico for the purposes of scientific data collection and public display. In addition, NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 635.32 regarding

implantation or attachment of pop-up satellite archival tags in Atlantic HMS require prior authorization and a report on implantation activities.

In order to implement the chartering recommendations of ICCAT, NMFS published a rule on December 6, 2004 (69 FR 70396), requiring U.S. vessel owners with HMS permits to apply for and obtain a chartering permit before fishing under a chartering arrangement outside U.S. waters. These permits are issued in a manner similar to other EFPs. Under this final rule and consistent with the ICCAT recommendations, vessels issued a chartering permit are not authorized to use the quota or entitlement of the United States until the chartering permit expires or is terminated. This is because of the fact that under a chartering arrangement that U.S. vessels have attained authorization to harvest another ICCAT CPCs' quota. Having a chartering permit does not obviate the need to obtain a fishing license, permits, or other authorizations issued by the chartering nation in order to fish in foreign waters, or obtain other authorizations such as a High Seas Fishing Compliance Act Permit, 50 CFR 300.10 *et seq.* A U.S. vessel shall not be authorized to fish under more than one chartering arrangement at the same time. NMFS will issue chartering permits only if it determines that the chartering arrangement is in conformance with ICCAT's conservation and management programs.

The number of EFPs, display permits, and SRPs issued from 2007 – 2011 by category and species are listed in Table 8.7. Year-end reports for permits issued for 2011 are required, and are expected to be submitted to NMFS in early 2012.

Table 8.7 Number of Atlantic HMS Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), Display Permits, and Scientific Research Permits (SRPs) issued between 2007 and 2011.

Permit type		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*
Exempted Fishing Permit	Sharks for display	6	5	4	2	3
	HMS for display	3	1	2	2	2
	Tunas for display	0	0	0	0	0
	Shark research on a non-scientific vessel	4	4	4	9	8
	Tuna research on a non-scientific vessel	4	4	4	5	5
	HMS research on a non-scientific vessel	9	7	5	2	2
	Billfish research on a non-scientific vessel	3	3	1	2	2
	Shark Fishing	0	0	0	0	0
	HMS Chartering	0	0	0	0	0
	Tuna Fishing	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	29	24	20	22	22
Scientific Research Permit	Shark research	2	0	4	1	3
	Tuna research	1	0	0	1	1
	Billfish research	0	0	0	0	0
	HMS (multi-species) research	1	1	0	4	6
	TOTAL	4	1	4	6	10
Letters of Acknowledgement	Shark research	8	6	5	8	7
	TOTAL	8	6	5	8	7

*Permit numbers for 2011 are as of November 1, 2011.

8.6 Atlantic HMS Tournaments

Fishing tournaments are an important component of HMS recreational fisheries. HMS regulations define a tournament 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 such fish. Atlantic HMS tournaments are conducted from ports along the U.S. Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean (i.e., the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico). Some foreign tournaments (i.e., those held in the Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Turks and Caicos) voluntarily register because their participants are mostly U.S. citizens. Since 1999, Federal regulations have required that tournament registration with NMFS take place at least four weeks prior to the commencement of tournament fishing activities. Tournament operators may be selected for reporting, in which case a record of tournament catch and effort must be maintained and submitted to NMFS within seven days of the conclusion of the tournament.

Tournament registration and reporting is necessary because it provides an important source of information used for the assessment of HMS fish stocks and estimation of HMS annual catch. NMFS may use the information to plan for the assignment of tournament observers to assist in catch/effort data compilation, including the collection of biological data and samples from landed fish (length/weight, stomach contents, injuries, parasites, hard and soft tissue samples for age determination, genetic and microconstituent analysis, spawning condition, fecundity, etc.). NMFS may also use registration information to assess the practicality of educational outreach to anglers at tournament events, including the distribution of written informational materials, notification of public hearings, and explanation of HMS regulations. The Atlantic HMS tournament registration form currently includes an option for tournament operators to request HMS regulation booklets and other outreach materials. In 2010, nearly 100 tournaments requested and received outreach materials from the HMS Management Division. As of December 2011, more than 100 tournaments had requested and received outreach materials during the 2011 tournament season. HMS tournament registration and reporting information further allows NMFS, in the course of developing fishery management plans, to evaluate the social and economic impact of tournament angling in relation to other types of angling (e.g., commercial and non-tournament recreational) and the relative effect of tournament angling on populations of various regulated HMS. Finally, the information is essential for the United States to meet its reporting obligations to ICCAT.

All billfish tournaments are selected for reporting to the Recreational Billfish Survey (RBS). The information collected by the RBS is critical to the calculation of U.S. billfish landings for ICCAT compliance purposes. Tournament registration and reporting forms are available at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments>.

Atlantic HMS tournaments vary in size. They may range from relatively small, “members-only” club events with as few as ten participating boats (40 – 60 anglers) to larger, statewide tournaments with 250 or more participating vessels (1,000 – 1,500 anglers). Larger tournaments often involve corporate sponsorship from tackle manufacturers, marinas, boat dealers, marine suppliers, beverage distributors, resorts, radio stations, publications, chambers of commerce, restaurants, and other local businesses.

As of January 1, 2008, anglers fishing from an HMS permitted vessel in any tournament awarding points or prizes for Atlantic billfish are required to deploy only non-offset circle hooks when using natural bait or natural bait/artificial lure combinations. Many HMS fishing tournaments, particularly those that target billfish, promote strict conservation principles in their tournament rules. For example, a significant number of blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish tournaments are “release-only,” utilizing observers, angler affidavits, polygraph tests, photographs, or digital video camcorders to document the live release of billfish. Further, many tournaments require a larger size for landed fish than the minimum size required by state and/or Federal regulations. Because fishing tournament participants are often well known and respected anglers, these conservation trends likely influence the general angling population in a positive manner.

The total number of tournaments that registered with the Atlantic HMS tournament registry for each year from 2003 to 2010 is shown in Table 8.8. On annual average, 260 HMS tournaments register each year. In 2010, 270 tournaments that were conducted along the U.S. Atlantic coast, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, registered with the HMS Management Division. This number matches that of 2009. The highest number of HMS tournament registrations received in one year was 299 in 2007.

Table 8.8 **Number of registered Atlantic HMS tournaments by year (2003-2010).**
 Source: NMFS Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Database.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average
Total	244	215	256	259	299	267	270	270	260

Figure 8.1 shows the distribution of HMS fishing tournaments among the coastal states along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal states, as well as the Caribbean, based on data from 2003-2010. In 2010, most HMS fishing tournaments were conducted in Florida (89), Texas (21), Louisiana (21), New Jersey (20), North Carolina (17), Puerto Rico (16), South Carolina (15), New York (14), Maryland (12), Massachusetts (13), and Alabama (7). Since 2003, Florida has consistently been the state with the highest number of registered HMS tournaments.

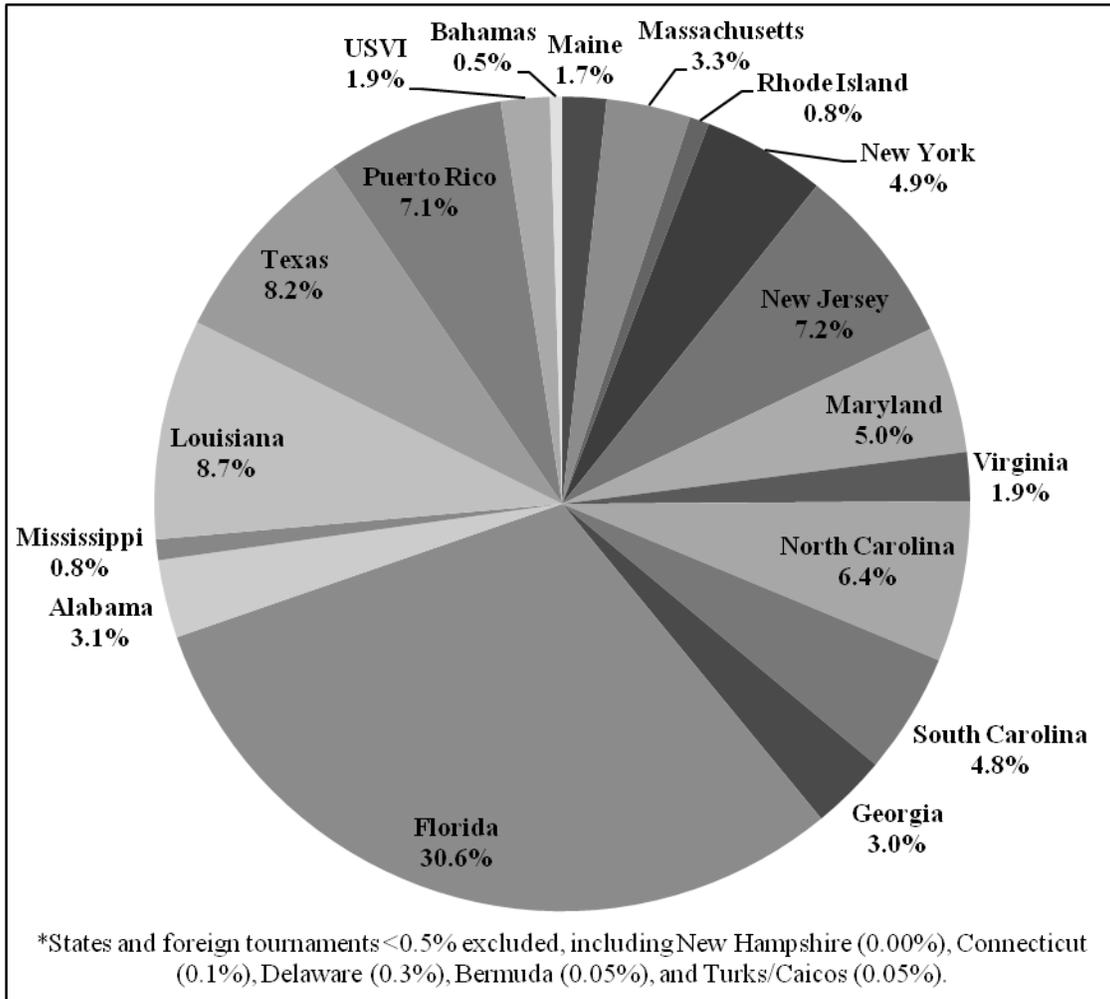


Figure 8.1 Percentage of Atlantic HMS tournaments from 2003 to 2010 by state.
 Source: NMFS Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Database.

Atlantic HMS are listed in Table 8.9, along with the number of HMS tournaments in 2009 and 2010 that indicated points or prizes would be awarded for the catch or landing of each species. From 2009 to 2010, the number of tournaments decreased for longbill spearfish, sailfish, and swordfish; increased for blue marlin and white marlin; increased for all sharks; and increased for all tunas except yellowfin. The most dramatic increase in tournament numbers per species was for bigeye tuna, which was registered as a category in 26 more tournaments in 2010 than it was in 2009. Roundscale spearfish was not added to the list of HMS until the end of the 2010 tournament season; therefore, it was not indicated as a target species in any 2010 tournament registrations and is not listed below.

Table 8.9 Number of 2009 and 2010 Atlantic HMS tournaments by species. Source: NMFS Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Database.

Species	2009	2010
Blue Marlin	155	157
White Marlin	142	146
Longbill Spearfish	76	75
Sailfish	170	160
Swordfish	89	83
Bigeye Tuna	57	83
Albacore Tuna	31	40
Yellowfin Tuna	154	151
Skipjack Tuna	17	23
Bluefin Tuna	86	91
Pelagic Sharks	51	69
Small Coastal Sharks	12	18
Non-Ridgeback Sharks	10	21
Ridgeback Sharks	10	20

As is shown in Figure 8.2, sailfish, blue marlin, yellowfin tuna, and white marlin are the predominant target species in HMS fishing tournaments. Between 2009 and 2010, the percentage of tournaments that registered to award points or prizes increased for each category of sharks, and most dramatically for the category of bigeye tuna.

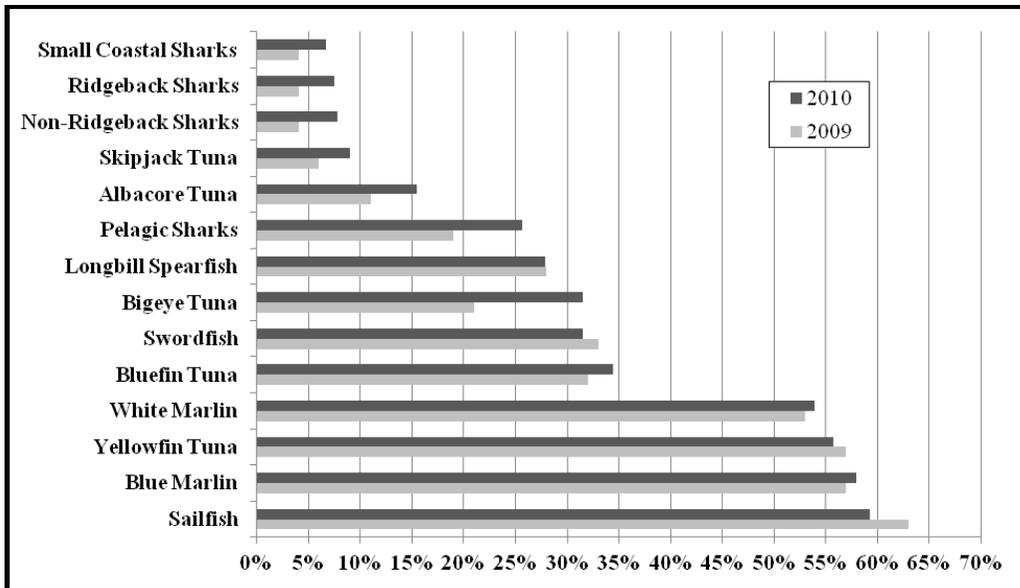


Figure 8.2 Percentage of total Atlantic HMS tournaments registered in 2009 (270) and 2010 (270) by species. Source: NMFS Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Database.

The following three figures show the number of tournaments in 2010 that indicated points or prizes would be awarded for the catch or landing of sailfish (Figure 8.3), blue marlin (Figure 8.4), and white marlin (Figure 8.5). These graphs indicate that Florida is the leading state in terms of numbers of registered billfish tournaments, followed by Louisiana and Texas.

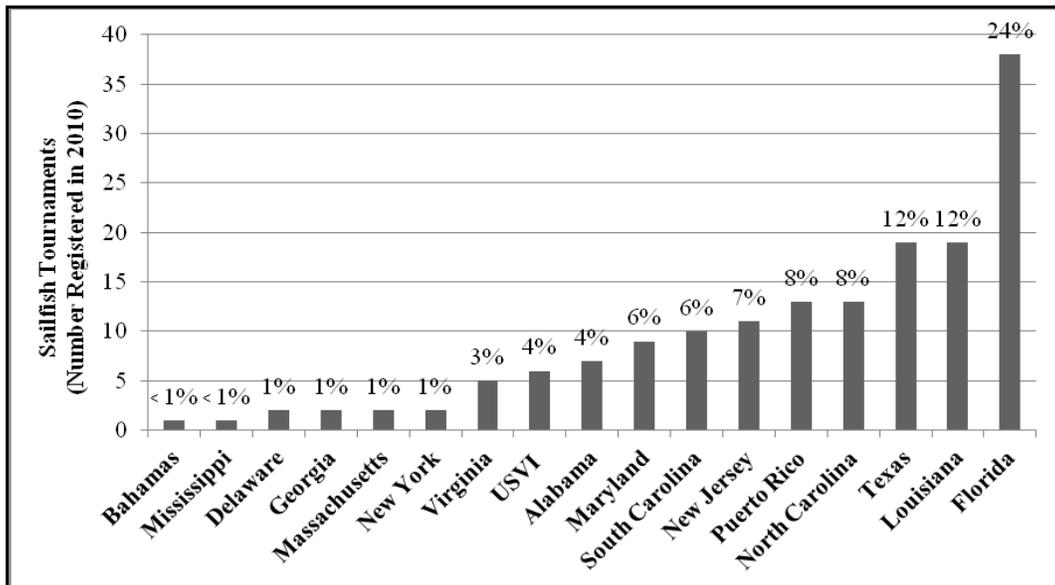


Figure 8.3 Number and percentage of total 2010 registered Atlantic sailfish tournaments by state. Source: NMFS Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Database.

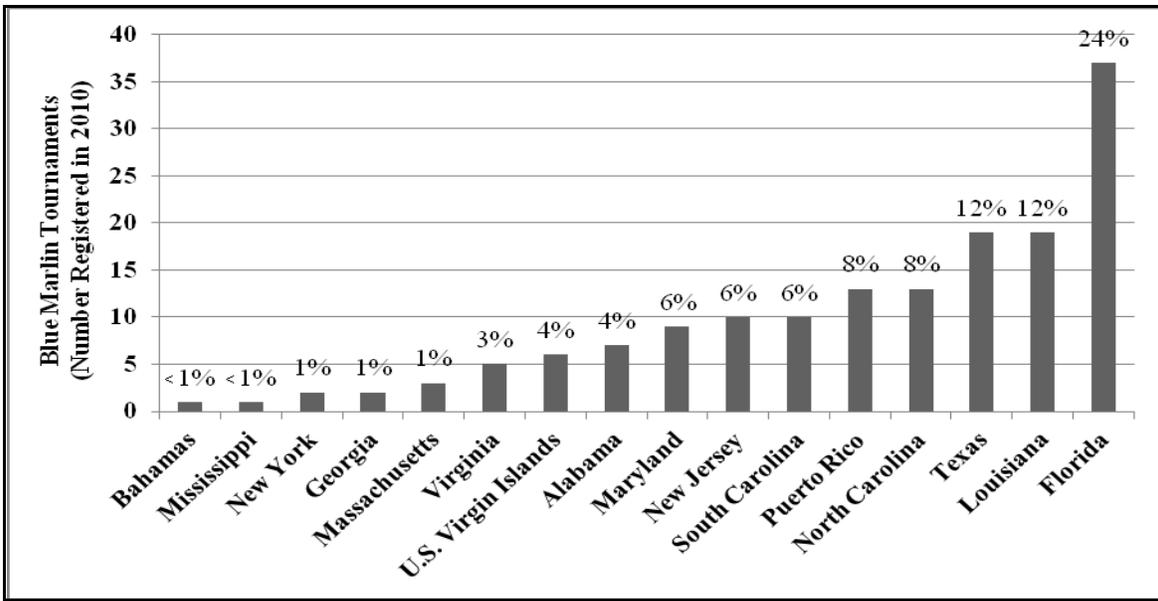


Figure 8.4 Number and percentage of total 2010 registered Atlantic blue marlin tournaments by state. Source: NMFS Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Database.

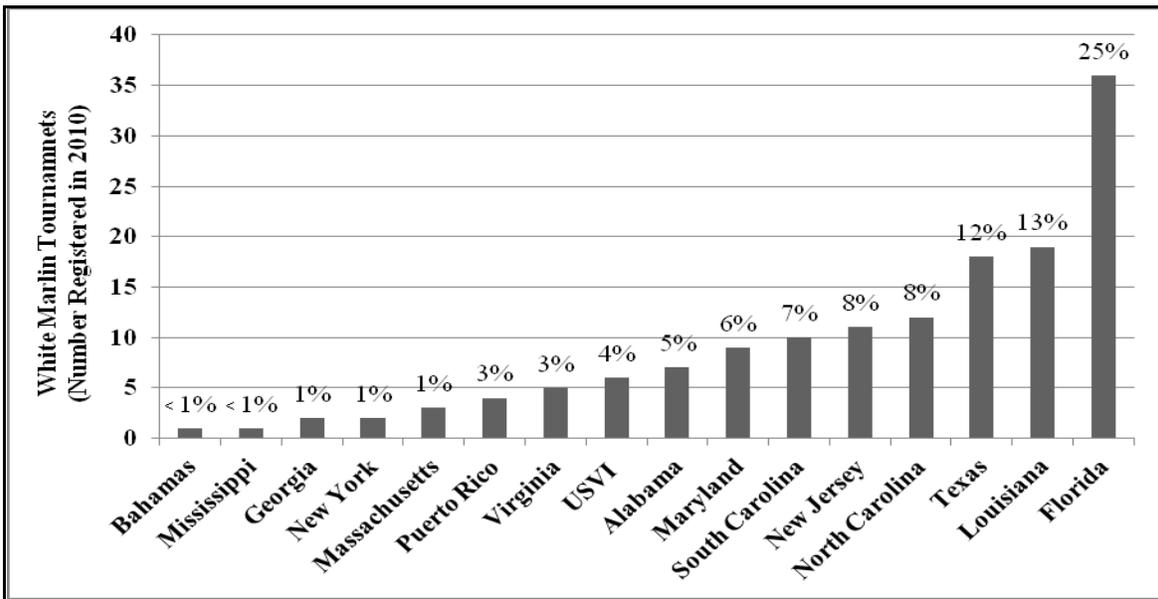


Figure 8.5 Number and percentage of total 2010 registered white marlin tournaments by state. Source: NMFS Atlantic HMS Tournament Registration Database.