



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS ANNOUNCES PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH QUOTAS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement 2006 ICCAT recommendations and to modify the 2006 North and South Atlantic Swordfish quotas based on underharvests and updated landings information. NMFS proposes to extend the 2,937.6 mt dw yearly baseline quota for the North Atlantic into 2007, 2008, and beyond based on ICCAT recommendation 06-02 and will also decrease the South Atlantic baseline quota to 75.2 mt dw for 2007, 2008, and beyond based on ICCAT recommendation 06-03. In addition, recommendations 06-02 and 06-03 place caps on underharvest carryovers for 2007 and 2008. For the North Atlantic, carryover would be capped at 50 percent of the baseline quota for each year 2007, 2008, and beyond (1,468.8 mt dw). For the South Atlantic, carryover would be capped at 100 percent of the baseline quota for each year 2007, 2008, and beyond (75.2 mt dw). NMFS also proposes a one-time transfer of 15 percent of the baseline allocation (440.6 mt dw) for 2007, 2008, or beyond to the reserve category. Furthermore, based on updated landings information and underharvest carryover, the adjusted North Atlantic quota for 2006 would be 7,628.8 mt dw. The adjusted South Atlantic quota for 2006 would be 90.2 mt dw.

It is important to note that the proposed quota for the swordfish fisheries would be apportioned into one fishing season, as the 2006 FMP established an abbreviated 2007 fishing year to allow for conversion to a calendar year in the U.S. swordfish fisheries starting January 2008. The abbreviated fishing year starts June 1, 2007 and extends through December 31, 2007. After December 31, 2007, the annual quota is subdivided into two equal semi-annual quotas: one for January 1 through June 30, and the other for July 1 through December 31.



Landings and Quotas for the Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries (2004 – 2007).

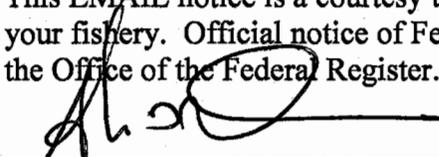
North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2004 final	2005 preliminary	2006 preliminary	2007 preliminary
Baseline Quota		2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6	2,937.6
Quota Carried Over		2,275.1	3,359.1	4,691.2	1,468.8 ⁺
Total Quota		5,212.7	6,296.7	7,628.8	4,406.4
Quota Allocation	Directed Category	4,792.4	5,895.2	7,246.1	4,042.5
	Incidental Category	300.0	300.0	300.0	300.0
	Reserve Category	120.3	101.5	82.7	63.9
Utilized Quota	Landings	1,665.1	1,471.8	TBD	TBD
	Reserve Transfer to Canada	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8
Total Underharvest		3,528.8	4,806.1	TBD	TBD
Dead Discards		-169.8	-114.9	TBD	TBD
Carryover Available		3,359.1	4,691.2	1,468.8	TBD
South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2004 final	2005 preliminary	2006 preliminary	2007 preliminary
Baseline Quota		75.2	75.2	90.2	75.2
Quota Carried Over		259.1	319.3	394.5	75.2 ⁺
Total Quota		334.3	394.5	484.7	150.4
Landings		15.0	0.0	TBD*	TBD
Carryover Available		319.3	394.5	75.2	TBD

⁺ICCAT recommends an underharvest cap of 50 percent of the original quota allocation for the North Atlantic and 100 percent of the original quota allocation for the South Atlantic.

*Landings estimates for the South Atlantic swordfish are not currently available for the 2006 fishing year.

The comment period for this proposed rule is open for 30 days and will close on July 18, 2007. Three public hearings are scheduled: Monday, July 9, 2007 3-5 p.m., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, SSMC III 1311B, 1301 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Tuesday, July 10, 2007 6-8 p.m., Fort Pierce Library, 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce, FL 34950; and Thursday, July 12, 2007 3-5 p.m., Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Written comments may be submitted to the address below or emailed to: SF1.020607C@noaa.gov. For further information on this proposed rule, contact Heather Ann Halter or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347; fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

This EMAIL notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register.



Alan D. Risenhoover, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUN 18 2007

Date