



Atlantic Swordfish Landings Update: Commercial and Recreational 2008 Fishing Year

The table below provides preliminary landings estimates and remaining quotas as of December 31, 2008, in pounds (lb) and metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic swordfish fisheries for the 2008 fishing year. Please note that these estimates are subject to late reporting and do not include discards. The 2008 annual directed landings quota seen below has not been adjusted for 2007 underharvests; NMFS published a proposed rule to adjust the 2008 base quota for these underharvests on November 18, 2008 (73 FR 68398). The comment period for this proposed rule was extended and ended on January 16, 2009 (December 11, 2008, 73 FR 75382).

Recreational landing estimates are reported by anglers in the HMS Non-Tournament Recreational Swordfish and Billfish Landings Database and the Recreational Billfish Survey. Reported lengths are converted to pounds dressed weight using standard International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' (ICCAT) formulas (formulas can be found at <http://www.iccat.int/main.htm>). As specified in § 635.27(c)(i)(B), all recreational landings are counted against the incidental quota.

	Quota mt dw [†]		Landings	Remaining Quota	Percent of Quota Taken
			mt dw (lb dw)	mt dw (lb dw)	
NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH					
Directed Fishery First Season (Jan 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008)	1,066.5	Commercial Landings	640.0 (1,410,981)	426.5 (940,225)	60%
Directed Fishery Second Season (July 1, 2008 - Dec 31, 2008)	1,066.5	Commercial Landings	911.9 (2,010,391)	154.6 (340,815)	86%
Incidental Fishery (annual quota)	300	Commercial Landings	5.3 (11,653)	275.5 (607,444)	8.2%
		Recreational Landings	19.2 (42,284)		
Total	2,937.5*		1,576.4 (3,475,309)	1,361.1 (3,000,704)	53.7%
SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH					
Directed Fishery (annual quota)	75.2	Commercial Landings	0	75.2 (165,786)	0%

[†] Unadjusted 2008 North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas were published on October 5, 2007 (72 FR 56929)

*Includes 504.5 mt dw allocated to the reserve; 150.4 mt dw North Atlantic swordfish quota may be caught between 5 degrees North latitude and 5 degrees South latitude



This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic swordfish fishery interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. To view catch statistics from previous months, please visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/swordfish_quotas/swordfish_catch_statistics.htm or contact Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.

for Emily Menashe
Alan D. Risenhoover
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Date

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