



Atlantic Billfish Recreational Landings Update 4th Quarter 2012 Fishing Year March 19, 2013

The table below provides preliminary landings in numbers of fish for Atlantic blue and white marlin, roundscale spearfish, and western Atlantic sailfish for the 2012 fishing year, through **December 31, 2012**. Landings are compiled using self-reported angler reports from the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Non-Tournament Recreational Swordfish and Billfish Landings Database, tournament landings from the Recreational Billfish Survey (RBS), catch card reports from North Carolina and Maryland, and individual billfish intercepted by the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) and Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). Please note that estimates are subject to late reporting. As specified in § 635.27(d) (1), the recreational billfish fishery is limited to maximum of 250 Atlantic blue and white marlin landings, combined, per year. Effective January 2011, annual landings of roundscale spearfish are also included the 250 marlin count.

	2011	2012	
	Landings ¹	Total Landings to Date	Remaining Landings Limit
	ATLANTIC BLUE MARLIN, WHITE MARLIN, AND ROUNDSCALE SPEARFISH		
Atlantic Blue Marlin	43	63	-
Atlantic White Marlin	56	30	-
Roundscale Spearfish ²	7	4	-
Total	106	97	153 (of 250)
	WESTERN ATLANTIC SAILFISH		
Western Atlantic Sailfish ³	173	184	-

¹Includes data from all available sources (2011 sailfish and roundscale spearfish data include RBS and HMS non-tournament landings only)

² Roundscale spearfish were added to the HMS management unit (September, 22, 2010, 75 FR 57698) and are included in the 250 fish domestic landings limit for Atlantic blue and white marlins. Roundscale spearfish landings are reported to ICCAT.

³Western Atlantic sailfish are not included in the 250 fish landings limit for Atlantic blue and white marlins.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic billfish fishery interests to keep you informed about the 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/> or contact Randy Blankinship at (727) 824-5399.

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