



NMFS Announces a Final Rule to Adjust the 2013 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas

This final rule establishes the 2013 adjusted North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas taking into account the carryover of allowable underharvest and international quota transfers, consistent with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Recommendations 11-02 and 12-01.

The final North and South Atlantic swordfish adjusted quotas are 3,559.2 and 75.2 mt dw, respectively. Specifics on landings and quotas can be found below.

North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2012	2013
Baseline Quota		2,937.6	2,937.6
Quota Transfer to Morocco		(-)112.8	(-)112.8
Total Underharvest from Previous Year ⁺		1,388.5	1,169.6
Underharvest Carryover from Previous Year ⁺		(+)734.4	(+)734.4
Adjusted Quota		3,559.2	3,559.2
Quota Allocation	Directed Category	3,209.2	3,209.2
	Incidental Category	300	300
	Reserve Category	50	50
South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)		2012	2013
Baseline Quota		75.2	75.2
International Quota Transfers*		(-)75.2	(-)75.2
Total Underharvest from Previous Year ⁺		75.2	75.2
Underharvest Carryover from Previous Year ⁺		75.2	75.2
Adjusted quota		75.2	75.2

+ Underharvest carryover is capped at 25 percent of the baseline quota allocation for the North Atlantic and 100 percent of the baseline quota allocation for the South Atlantic. The 2012 underharvest data is current as of February 28, 2013 and does not include dead discards.

* Under Recommendation 12-01, 100 mt ww of the United States underharvest and base quota, as necessary, was transferred to Namibia (37.6 mt dw, 50 mt ww), Côte d'Ivoire (18.8 mt dw, 25 mt ww), and Belize (18.8 mt dw, 25 mt ww).

This notice is a courtesy to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule, contact Steve Durkee at 202-670-6637 or Jennifer Cudney at 301-427-8503. 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: 301-427-8503, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

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