



NOAA
FISHERIES



2016 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quota Specifications and Public Notice Change

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
NOAA Fisheries

Outline

- North Atlantic Swordfish Quota Calculations
- South Atlantic Swordfish Quota Calculations
- Change to Public Notification Process
- Timeline
- Request for Comments

ICCAT Recommendation 13-02: North Atlantic Swordfish

- Atlantic-wide TAC of 10,300.8 mt dw (13,700 mt ww)
- U.S. base quota allocation is 2,937.6 mt dw
- Maximum underharvest carryover of 15% of the baseline quota (440.6 mt dw)
- Annual quota transfer of 18.8 mt dw from the United States to Mauritania
- This Recommendation applies to 2014, 2015 and 2016

North Atlantic Swordfish Quota Calculations

2015 Adj Quota	-----	3,359.4 mt dw
2015 Landings	-----	1,177.8 mt dw
2015 Underharvest	-----	2,181.6 mt dw

Base Quota 2,937.6 mt dw

Max Underharvest Carryover + 440.6 mt dw

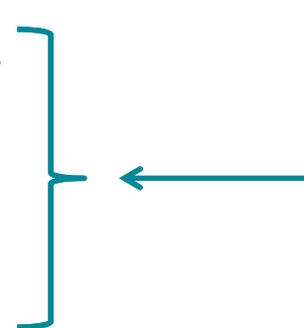
Quota Transfer to Mauritania - 18.8 mt dw

Adjusted Quota 3,359.4 mt dw

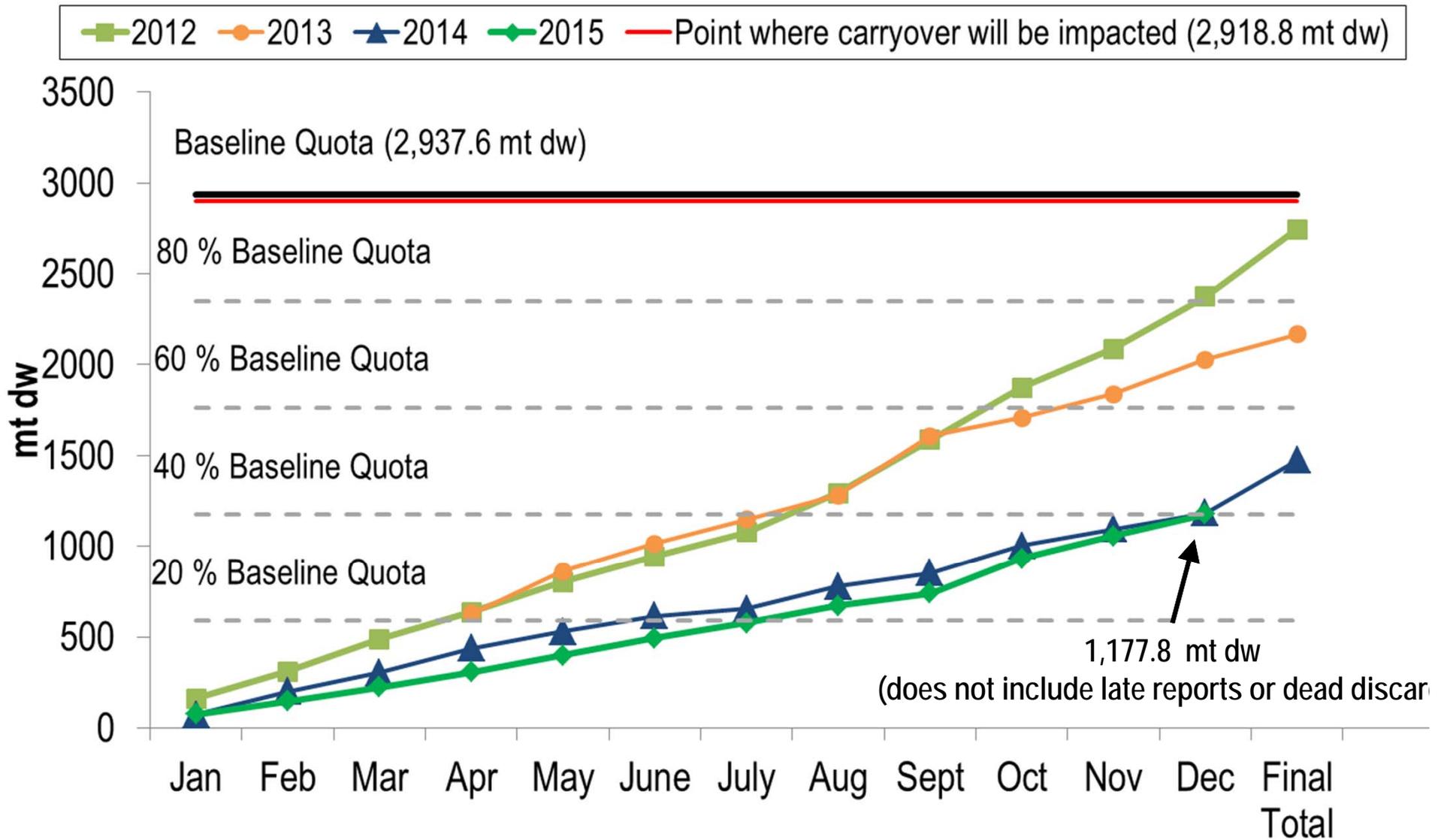
Directed Category - 3,009.4 mt dw

Incidental Category - 300 mt dw

Reserve Category - 50 mt dw



2015 North Atlantic Swordfish Quota Utilization



ICCAT Recommendation 13-03: South Atlantic Swordfish

- Atlantic-wide TAC of 11,278.2 mt dw (15,000 mt ww)
- U.S. base quota allocation is 75.2 mt dw
- Maximum allowable U.S. underharvest carryover of 100% of the baseline quota (75.2 mt dw)
- Annual 75.2 mt dw quota transfer from the United States to other countries
- This Recommendation applies to 2014, 2015 and 2016

South Atlantic Swordfish Quota Calculations

2015 Adj Quota	-----	75.1 mt dw
2015 Landings	-----	0.0 mt dw
2015 Underharvest	-----	75.1 mt dw

Base Quota	75.2 mt dw
Max Underharvest Carryover	+ 75.1 mt dw
International Quota Transfers	- 75.2 mt dw
Adjusted Quota	75.1 mt dw

Public Notice Provisions

- Currently, NMFS publishes both a proposed rule with a public comment period and a final rule as part of annual swordfish specifications to adjust quotas for underharvests
- Beginning next year, NMFS is considering instead issuing a temporary rule to adjust annual swordfish quotas, effective for the entire fishing year, when the adjustments follow the existing regulatory formula
 - The public will have been given an opportunity for notice and comment when the quotas and adjustment methodology were established;
 - Additional notice and comment, where the agency retains no discretion to alter the quota or formula, has been a source of confusion for the regulated community;
 - Thus, we propose that when the adjustments follow the existing regulatory formula, public comment would not be requested. Any changes to the formula, such as changes to the underharvest carryover, international quota transfers, or domestic allocation, would still undergo full rulemaking with a proposed rule, final rule, and public comment period.

Timeline

- Proposed Rule Published June 6, 2016
- Comment Period Ends July 7, 2016
- Final Rule should publish in the late summer/early fall

Request for Public Comments

Comment period closes on **July 7, 2016**

Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2016-0051

Please submit comments to: <http://www.regulations.gov>,
Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2016-0051"

Comments can also be submitted by mail: Attn: Margo Schulze-Haugen,
NMFS/SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, National Marine Fisheries Service, SSMC3,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>

Additional Questions?

Email steve.durkee@noaa.gov or call 202-670-6637



Backup Slides



Number of Permit Holders Authorized to Land Swordfish (as of Oct 2015)

- Directed Swordfish Permit 188
- Incidental Swordfish Permit 72
- Swordfish Handgear Permit 83
- Swordfish General Commercial Permit 651
- Incidental HMS Squid Trawl Permit 66
- Caribbean Small Boat Permit 20
- HMS Charter/Headboat 3,596
- HMS Angling 20,193

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

RECALLING the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02], the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 10-02] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 11-02];

CONSIDERING that following the 2013 stock assessment, the SCRS indicates that the stock is currently not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring;

NOTING that Recommendation [11-02] requests the Commission to establish at its 2013 meeting conservation and management measures for a next three-year period on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment as well as the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Rec. 01-25].

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the concern of the SCRS that the allowable country-specific catch levels agreed in [Rec. 11-02] exceed the TAC adopted by the Commission and the scientific recommendation;

DETERMINED to ensure that the total catch for any one year during the management period does not exceed the TAC of 13,700 t;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Contracting Parties, and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall take measures to ensure the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish with the goal of maintaining B_{MSY} , with greater than 50% probability.
2. TAC and catch limits
 - a) A total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,700 t for North Atlantic swordfish for 2014, 2015 and 2016.
 - b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the three-year period.

	<i>Catch limit** (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,718*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom (OTs)	35
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	75
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Philippines	25

Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Vanuatu	25
Chinese Taipei	270

* Catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3.c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02].

** The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

From Japan to Morocco: 50 t
 From Japan to Canada: 35 t
 From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon) : 40 t
 From Senegal to Canada: 125 t
 From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t
 From Philippines to China: 25t
 From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t
 From Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States to Mauritania: 25 t, each for a total of 100 t per year

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

*** Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit

- c) The total TACs for 2014-2016 shall not be exceeded. For this purpose, if the total annual catch exceeds the TAC of 13,700 t, CPCs who have exceeded their individual adjusted catch limits shall pay back their overharvest. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limits of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table in 2.b) above.
3. The Commission shall establish at its 2016 meeting conservation and management measures for a next three-year period on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment as well as the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]. In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs in 2014, 2015 and 2016 so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures in 2016, as appropriate. Each CPC shall submit its development or fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15 of each year.
4. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission in 2016, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.
5. The SCRS and the Commission shall begin a dialogue to allow for the development of harvest control rules (HCRs) for consideration in any subsequent recommendations. Further, while the HCRs are being developed, should the biomass approach the level which triggered the establishment of the previous rebuilding plan [Rec 99-02] then management measures should be considered to avoid further decline and begin to rebuild the stock.
6. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of the initial catch limit for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 50% for other CPCs. By derogation, the maximum underage in 2013 that a Party may carryover until 2015 shall not exceed 25% of the initial catch limit for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t.

7. If Japan's landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the three-year period commencing in 2014. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same three-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2011-2013 management period shall be applied to the three-year management period specified herein.
8. All CPCs catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.
9. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.
10. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 10, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/ 125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.
11. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual individual catch limits established above, the CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each CPC.
12. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a TAC allocation of North Atlantic swordfish, as per section 2 may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations, consistent with domestic obligation and conservation considerations. Any such transfer may not be used to cover over harvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limits transfer may not retransfer that catch limits.
13. This *Recommendation replaces the Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 11-02].

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON
SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH CATCH LIMITS**

CONSIDERING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that substantial unquantified uncertainties affect this stock, in particular due to lack or inconsistencies of available data;

CONSCIOUS that the SCRS underlined that due to the existing uncertainties there is no room to increase the existing TAC;

RECOGNIZING that this multi-annual approach for the management of South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25], adopted by the Commission in 2001, for the period concerned;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. For 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

(Unit: t)	
TAC ⁽¹⁾	15,000
Brazil ⁽²⁾	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States ⁽³⁾	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	263
Chinese Taipei ⁽³⁾	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan ⁽³⁾	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tome & Principe	100
Senegal	417
Philippines	50
Korea	50
Belize	125

(1) The total catch for the three-year management period of 2014-2016 shall not exceed 45,000 t (15,000 t x 3). If the yearly total catch of any of the three years exceeds 15,000 t, the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the three-year total will not exceed 45,000 t. If the total catch in 2016 exceeds 15,000 t and if the three-year total catch exceeds 45,000 t, the exceeded amount for three years shall be adjusted in the next management period. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorata reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).

(2) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.

(3) Japan's, U.S.A.'s and Chinese Taipei's undercatch in 2013 may be carried over to 2015 up to 800 t, 100 t and 400 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2014-2016 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

2. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for South Atlantic swordfish:

Catch Year	Adjustment Year
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum undercatch that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 30% of the quota of previous year. By derogation, the maximum undercatch that a party may carryover in 2015 shall not exceed 50% of the quota in 2013.

- Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is east of 35 degrees W and south of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
- The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the North Atlantic management area against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
- The 50 t quota transfers from South Africa, Japan and United States to Namibia (total: 150 t), the 25 t quota transfers from United States to Côte d'Ivoire, the 25 t quota transfer from United States and the 50 t quota transfers from Brazil and Uruguay to Belize (total: 125 t) shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.
- None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic swordfish.
- CPCs shall endeavor to recover any missing catch data for years up to 2012, including reliable Task I and Task II data. CPCs will make available the above data to the SCRS as soon as possible, and not later than one month before the SCRS meeting. From 2013 onwards, CPCs will ensure accurate and timely data submission.
- The *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits* [Rec. 12-01] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.