



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

### NMFS Announces a Final Rule for North and South Atlantic Swordfish

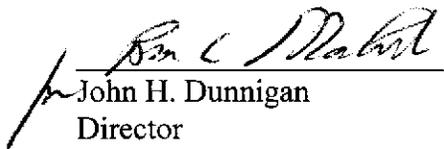
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) promulgates regulations to implement North and South Atlantic swordfish recommendations resulting from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting in 2002. This final rule will:

- Increase the United States North Atlantic swordfish quota to 3,877 mt ww (2,915 mt dw) in 2003 and 3,907 mt ww (2,937 mt dw) in 2004 and 2005;
- Allow 200 mt ww (150.4 mt dw) of the North Atlantic swordfish catch limit to be harvested from an area between 5 degrees North latitude and 5 degrees South latitude;
- Allocate the United States a 80 mt ww (60.2 mt dw) dead discard allowance for 2003 in addition to the country specific quota allocation for North Atlantic swordfish;
- Transfer 25 mt ww (18.8 mt dw) of North Atlantic swordfish quota to Canada in 2003, 2004, and 2005; and,
- Allocate the United States 100 mt ww (75.2 mt dw) of South Atlantic swordfish quota in 2003, 2004, and 2005 and 120 mt ww (90.2 mt dw) in 2006.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to the 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 Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and its requirements, contact Chris Rilling at 301-713-2347. Copies of the final rule and environmental assessment and regulatory impact review 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/>

NOV - 5 2004

Date

  
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