

# HMS Dealer & Importer/Exporter Compliance Guide

Guide for Complying with the Atlantic  
Tuna, Swordfish, Shark, and Billfish  
Regulations

Published January 2023

Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
Highly Migratory Species  
Management Division



# Introduction to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management

This guide provides a plain language summary of federal regulations for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish. Atlantic HMS, including tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish, are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce, considering both the domestic and international aspects of these fisheries.

Fishery rules change frequently. Check <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-hms-fishery-compliance-guides> to be sure you have the most recent version of this guide. It is **your responsibility to be familiar with the latest regulatory updates and to comply with the current official regulations.** For a comprehensive list of updated Atlantic HMS regulations, please refer to the *electronic Code of Federal Regulations* (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-635>). *If there is a discrepancy between this summary and the regulations, the regulations take precedence.*

To stay up-to-date with HMS regulations, sign up for **Atlantic HMS News** at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USNOAAFISHERIES\\_18](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/subscriber/new?topic_id=USNOAAFISHERIES_18)

**Endnotes** (<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>, etc.) are in the final chapter of this guide, and refer to the location of the regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50 Wildlife and Fisheries. In the electronic version of this guide, clicking the endnote text in the final chapter will open your internet browser to the cited section of the electronic CFR.

## **NEW in this guide**

### **Shortfin Mako Retention Limit Final Rule:**

Effective July 5, 2022, this final rule established a shortfin mako shark retention limit of zero in the commercial and recreational Atlantic HMS fisheries, consistent with the 2021 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendation. When the commercial retention limit is zero, dealers may not purchase shortfin mako from fishermen. If ICCAT provides for U.S. harvest in the future, NMFS could increase the shortfin mako shark retention limit, based on regulatory criteria and the amount of retention allowed by ICCAT. Until that happens, the retention limit is zero and no shortfin mako sharks may be possessed.

### **Online Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops**

A dealer must be certified in shark identification at an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop before an Atlantic Shark Dealer Permit will be issued. A new online option is available for recertification for shark dealers and proxies. Dealers or proxies must have previously attended an in-person course in order to be eligible for the online recertification.

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## I. PERMITS

Federal dealer permits are required to purchase, trade, or barter any HMS from a U.S. fishing vessel, even if the HMS product is landed in a foreign port. HMS product that was caught and retained by a U.S. fishing vessel is generally considered a domestic product and is not considered an import, even when the product is landed in a foreign port and crosses the U.S. border after landing. *(For information on landings of HMS listed on Appendix II of CITES that may be considered imports, see Section IV.)*

International trade of some HMS requires the International Fisheries Trade Permit. International trade generally means the importation or exportation of HMS product that was landed by a foreign fishing vessel in a foreign port.

If a product landed by a U.S. vessel in a foreign port is processed from its original form before it is brought into the United States, the product may be considered an import, and the International Fisheries Trade Permit may be required. A description of HMS permits follows.

### **ATLANTIC TUNAS DEALER PERMIT<sup>1</sup>**



Atlantic tunas dealers must obtain a federal Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit in order to purchase, trade, or barter Atlantic bluefin, or bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, or skipjack (BAYS) tunas from a vessel.

Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permits are valid for one year and are available from the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Office by calling (978) 282-8438 or at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/vessel-and-dealer-permitting-greater-atlantic-region>

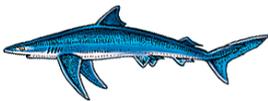
### **ATLANTIC SWORDFISH DEALER PERMIT<sup>2</sup>**



Atlantic swordfish dealers must obtain a federal Atlantic Swordfish Dealer Permit in order to purchase, trade, or barter for Atlantic swordfish from a federally-permitted vessel.

Atlantic Swordfish Dealer Permits are valid for one year and are available from the NMFS Southeast Regional Permits Office at (877) 376-4877 or <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/resources-fishing/southeast-fisheries-permits>

### **ATLANTIC SHARKS DEALER PERMIT<sup>3</sup>**



Atlantic shark dealers must obtain a federal Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit in order to purchase, trade, or barter any of the Atlantic sharks listed below from a federally-permitted vessel. Shark identification workshop requirements are also described below.

Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permits are valid for one year and are available from the NMFS Southeast Regional Permits Office at (877) 376-4877 or <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/resources-fishing/southeast-fisheries-permits>

**Atlantic shark species authorized for purchase with Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit:**

Large Coastal Sharks (LCS) (non-ridgeback LCS & tiger)		Small Coastal Sharks (SCS)	Pelagic Sharks	Smoothhound Sharks
Blacktip	Lemon	Atlantic sharpnose	Blue	Smooth dogfish
Spinner	Nurse	Blacknose**	Oceanic whitetip*	Florida
Bull	Silky*	Bonnethead	Porbeagle	smoothhound
Tiger		Finetooth	Thresher	Gulf smoothhound
Hammerhead, great*				
Hammerhead, scalloped*				
Hammerhead, smooth*				

\*See Section IV. Restrictions; Atlantic Shark Restrictions; Oceanic Whitetip, Silky, Hammerhead , and Shortfin Mako Sharks

\*\*See Section IV. Restrictions; Atlantic Shark Restrictions; Blacknose Sharks

Shark dealers may not purchase prohibited shark species (identified in Section IV. Restrictions). Some sharks caught beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, i.e., greater than 200 miles from shore) may be subject to additional permitting requirements under CITES. Please see Section IV. Restrictions.

**Shark Identification Workshop Requirements for Atlantic Shark Dealers**

A dealer must be certified in shark identification at an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop before an Atlantic Shark Dealer Permit will be issued. For further information, see Section IV. Restrictions – Required Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops. A new online option is available for recertification for shark dealers and proxies. Dealers or proxies must have previously attended an in-person course in order to be eligible for the online recertification. Workshop information is available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-shark-identification-workshops>

**INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES TRADE PERMIT<sup>4</sup>**

An International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP) is required for trade of the following HMS:

Import, Export and Re-export	Import only*
Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern bluefin tuna	BAYS Tunas (bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, skipjack)
Swordfish	Sharks
Frozen bigeye tuna	
Shark fins	

\*For further information, see the NMFS Tuna Tracking and Verification

Program and NMFS Seafood Import Monitoring Program at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international/seafood-import-monitoring-program> IFTPs are issued online via the NMFS National Permit System ([https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub\\_cmn\\_login/index\\_live.jsp](https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub_cmn_login/index_live.jsp)). A User Guide for obtaining an IFTP is available at this link: <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/iftp-user-guide.pdf>

Permits are valid for one year from the date of issuance. For information about reporting requirements, see *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-exporting HMS under the HMS International Trade Program*.

## **ATLANTIC BILLFISHES**

The purchase of Atlantic billfish from a fishing vessel is prohibited.<sup>5</sup> For further information on the sale of billfish, see *Section IV. Restrictions*.

## II. DEALER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – Atlantic Sharks, Atlantic Swordfish, and Atlantic BAYS Tunas<sup>6</sup>

Dealer reporting regulations apply to all dealers who “first receive” HMS products. In the HMS regulations, “first receive” means to take possession for commercial purposes, of any HMS or any part thereof, by purchasing, trading or bartering for it from the fishing vessel owner or operator once it is offloaded, except when such possession is solely for transport.<sup>7</sup>

The purpose of using the term “first receive” in the regulations is to clarify that reporting requirements do apply at the point of the first commercial transaction but do not apply to individuals (i.e., transportation companies) that take custody of a product solely for transport. These reporting requirements apply to any HMS product that is “first received” by a U.S. entity from a U.S. fishing vessel, even if the product was landed in a foreign port (unless that vessel is operating under a chartering agreement with another country). If the HMS product was landed by a U.S. fishing vessel, even outside of the United States, the HMS product is not considered an import, and the “first receiver” must have a federal dealer permit and comply with the dealer reporting requirements described below.

In most cases, dealers purchase product directly from a fisherman without transportation of the product from fisherman to dealer via a third party transportation company. To reflect this, and to simplify the terminology in this guide, NMFS used the term “purchase” broadly to include any product that was “first received.”

Dealers must submit *weekly electronic* reports for purchases of HMS. The reporting period consists of a week that begins Sunday and runs through the following Saturday. Reports for each week must be submitted no later than midnight (local time) on Tuesday of the following week (see Table below for example).

If no purchases were made during a week, dealers must submit a negative (i.e., no purchase) report by the same deadline. NMFS requires negative reports to verify that dealers did not purchase any HMS during the previous week. Without a negative report, it is assumed that HMS were purchased and that the dealer did not report.

Dealers may purchase Atlantic swordfish, sharks, and BAYS tunas only if they have submitted all required weekly electronic reports to NMFS. Any delinquent (i.e., late or missing) reports must be submitted to NMFS before a dealer can lawfully purchase Atlantic swordfish, sharks, and BAYS tunas.

**Example of reporting week and respective due dates for weekly electronic dealer reports:**

Week #	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1							
2			<i>Week #1 Report due</i>				
3 (etc.)			<i>Week #2 Report due</i>				

Although a dealer may lawfully purchase Atlantic Swordfish, sharks, and BAYS Tunas from a fishing vessel, late reporting is still a violation of the regulations and could result in an enforcement action. Submission of delinquent reports will allow a dealer to lawfully purchase Atlantic swordfish, sharks, and BAYS tunas from a fishing vessel, late reporting is still a violation of the regulations and could result in enforcement action, including the revocation, suspension or modification of the dealer permit or the denial of any future permits. Dealers are required to submit weekly reports through one of the approved electronic reporting systems. The required data elements include but are not limited to:

- Fishing vessel ID number
- Fishing vessel name
- Logbook ID or VTR number
- Landings from the Atlantic Shark Research Fishery
- Southeast Observer log ID number
- Gear type
- HMS catch area
- Landing date
- Purchase price
- Information on whether shark fins were naturally attached at the time of landing
- Explanation for a late, modified and/or negative report
- Total sales price (see below)

These elements allow for verification across various data sets (e.g., between vessel logbooks, dealer reports, and observer logs) and improve management of HMS fisheries. Submission of incomplete reports is a violation and may result in enforcement action, including revocation, suspension or modification of the dealer permit, or denial of any future applications.

Each electronic dealer report must include a Logbook identification number, also known as a Vessel Trip Report (VTR) number or “VTR #,” which dealers must obtain from the fisherman who sold the catch. In some regions, the VTR # will be supplied by an electronic logbook reporting program. In other regions fishermen may be reporting on paper and submitting those logbooks to NMFS. As such, an HMS fisherman may use one of three types of logbooks. Each type

of logbook has a unique ID number that is used as the VTR # for dealer reporting:

1) in the “Fishing Vessel Logbook Record Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries” (also known as the HMS Pelagic Longline Logbook), the VTR # is found in the area labeled “HMS VTR#/Schedule #” on the Trip Summary Report form;

2) in the Coastal Fisheries logbook, the VTR #, which starts with an R, is shown on the Southeast Coastal Fisheries Trip Report Form;

3) for electronic Vessel Trip Reports (eVTRs), the eVTR Serial Number on the Fishing Vessel Trip Report should be used.

If a VTR number is not available, dealers will need to indicate the reason why on their electronic dealer report (such as you purchased fish from a state-only vessel), and NMFS will contact the dealer to follow up.

Dealers are required to report how much vessel owners were paid for any purchased fish (“purchased price”). While a dealer must provide this price information in each electronic dealer report, the dealer may update price information on a previously submitted report (unless prohibited by state regulations) for up to 30 days from the submission of that report, in order to provide the most accurate price information available. In the Trip Ticket versions of the electronic reporting programs, dealers may select the “no sale” check box if the dealer provides a purchase price.

If dealers do not provide a purchase price then dealers must provide a total sales price. The total sales price is the amount of money received for HMS product sold to a third party (e.g., restaurant, HMS dealer, grocery store). Total sales price typically applies in two situations: 1) one person is both the fisherman and the dealer, so there is no transaction between the fisherman and dealer; or 2) live fish are being sold for the aquarium trade, and the total sales price is a more appropriate estimate of the transaction than a price per pound.

If dealers encounter a problem while submitting electronic dealer reports or encounter problems in reporting due to a power outage, natural disaster, or other circumstance beyond their control, dealers should contact NMFS as soon as possible by calling 301-427-8590 or emailing [HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov](mailto:HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov).

Official correspondence from NMFS regarding late reports or other reporting issues is via email. Dealers should keep their email address up to date and notify NMFS at [HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov](mailto:HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov) or 301-427-8590 regarding any changes to their email address.

Dealers must retain all reports at their place of business for a period of two years after they are required to be submitted to NMFS.<sup>8</sup>

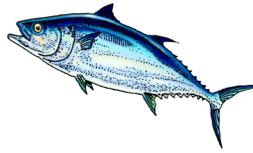
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### III. DEALER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS Atlantic Bluefin Tuna<sup>9</sup>



#### LANDINGS REPORTS AND TAGS

Atlantic bluefin tuna dealers must submit a daily landing report to NMFS for each bluefin tuna that is received from a U.S. vessel authorized to harvest Atlantic tunas. Daily landing reports must be submitted via the SAFIS electronic dealer reporting (eDR) web application ([https://safis.accsp.org/safis\\_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101](https://safis.accsp.org/safis_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101)).

Landing reports must be received by NMFS no later than 24 hours after a dealer receives a bluefin tuna. Most SAFIS data fields must be submitted within 24 hours of landing; however, others must be submitted within 10 days of the end of a biweekly reporting period (see *Biweekly Reports* below for more information on biweekly reporting periods).

<b>Data fields required within 24 hours</b>	<b>Data fields required within 10 days after the end of a biweekly reporting period</b> (i.e., either the 25 <sup>th</sup> of the month or 10 <sup>th</sup> of the following month)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landing date</li> <li>• Vessel information (<i>USCG documentation number or State Registration Number is best</i>)</li> <li>• Gear type</li> <li>• Grade (<i>dressed or round</i>)</li> <li>• Tag Number</li> <li>• Length</li> <li>• Measurement type</li> <li>• Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price</li> <li>• Destination (<i>export or domestic</i>)</li> <li>• Sale type (<i>dockside or consignment</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>OPTIONAL FIELDS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshness</li> <li>• Fat</li> <li>• Color</li> <li>• Shape</li> </ul>

A user guide for submitting bluefin tuna landings via the SAFIS interface is available at the following link: <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/user-manual-ebft-dealer-reporting-system.pdf>

Assistance is also available by calling the HMS eDealer customer service line at (301) 427-8590.

NMFS issues numbered dealer tags to each permitted Atlantic tuna dealer. A dealer tag is not transferable and is usable only by the dealer to whom it was issued. One of these tags must be affixed to each bluefin tuna immediately after offloading. If the fish is on the vessel, and the vessel is trailered, then the fish must be tagged as soon as the vessel is removed from the water.

Tags must be attached to the bluefin tuna between the fifth dorsal finlet and the caudal keel, and must remain on the bluefin tuna until the fish is cut into portions. If the bluefin tuna or its parts are packaged for transport, then the number of the dealer tag must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of the package.

Dealer tags may not be reused once affixed to a tuna or recorded on a package, container, or report. See *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-Exporting HMS* for information on importing or exporting a tagged bluefin tuna.

## BIWEEKLY REPORTS

In addition to electronic landing reports, bi-weekly reports must be completed by all dealers that purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna, and may be obtained by emailing [BFTReporting@noaa.gov](mailto:BFTReporting@noaa.gov) or at the following website:

[https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/bi-weekly\\_atl\\_bft\\_landings\\_report.pdf](https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/bi-weekly_atl_bft_landings_report.pdf)

A report for the first reporting period of the month covers day 1-15, and the second reporting period covers day 16 to the end of the month. Reports must be received by NMFS no later than 10 days after the last day of the reporting period.

Biweekly Reporting Period Begins:	Biweekly Reporting Period Ends:	Report Due Date:
1 <sup>st</sup> of Month	15 <sup>th</sup> of Month	25 <sup>th</sup> of Month
16 <sup>th</sup> of Month	Last day of Month	10 <sup>th</sup> of Following Month
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>		
16 July 2023	31 July 2023	10 August 2023

## BLUEFIN TUNA CAUGHT BY PELAGIC LONGLINE



## **IV. RESTRICTIONS**

### **HMS RESTRICTIONS**

Dealers may purchase HMS only from a vessel that has a valid commercial permit in the appropriate category or fishery, and only when that category or fishery (or species, management group, region, and/or sub-region) is open. HMS Charter/Headboat permit holders must have a commercial sale endorsement to be authorized to sell Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas and swordfish.<sup>11</sup> HMS Charter/Headboat permit holders must have a Charter/Headboat commercial sale endorsement in addition to a commercial shark permit to sell Atlantic sharks.

### **ATLANTIC TUNAS RESTRICTIONS**

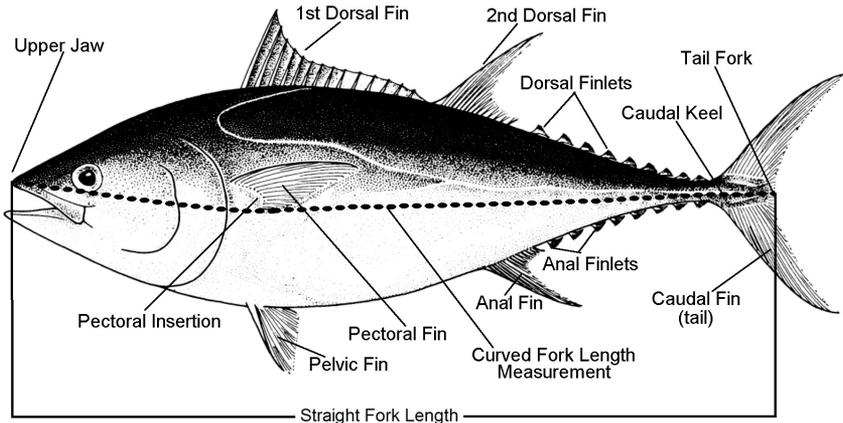
Atlantic tunas dealers may only purchase Atlantic tunas from properly permitted commercial Atlantic tunas permit holders, and may not purchase tunas harvested with a speargun.<sup>12</sup>

All tunas must be landed with at least the tail and one pectoral fin attached. The upper and lower lobes of the tuna tail may be removed for storage purposes as long as the fork of the tail remains intact.<sup>13</sup>

### **ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA RESTRICTIONS**

In addition to the restrictions above, Atlantic bluefin tuna dealers may only purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna that are at least 73" curved fork length (CFL) (equivalent to 54" pectoral fin curved fork length (PFCFL)) and only from commercially permitted U.S. vessels.<sup>14</sup> CFL means the length of the fish measured from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail in a line that runs along the contour of the body, along the tops of the pectoral and caudal keel. PFCFL is the length of a fish measured from the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin to the fork of the tail, in a line that runs along the contour of the body along the tops of the pectoral fin and caudal keel.<sup>15</sup>

During restricted fishing days dealers may not purchase bluefin tuna from Atlantic Tunas General category or HMS Charter/Headboat category permitted vessels.



Dealers may not purchase bluefin tuna harvested by a vessel with a General category or HMS Charter/Headboat permit when that vessel is fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, or when the General category fishery is closed.<sup>16</sup>

Dealers may purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna from vessels issued an Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit only when the tuna were taken incidentally while fishing for other species and if both the dealer and vessel have access to the electronic IBQ system and have set up an IBQ account on that system.<sup>17</sup>

Effective January 1, 2016, dealers may purchase bluefin tuna from vessels issued an Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit only if the Longline category is open *and* the vessel has met the minimum quota allocation and accounting requirements.

### ATLANTIC SHARKS RESTRICTIONS

Federal shark dealers may *not* purchase the following **shark species that are prohibited from being retained:**

Atlantic angel	Caribbean reef	Night	Sixgill
Basking	Caribbean sharpnose	Sandbar*	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Dusky	Sand tiger	Whale
Bigeye sixgill	Galapagos	Sevengill	White
Bigeye thresher	Longfin mako	Shortfin	
Bignose	Narrowtooth	mako**	
		Silky	

\*Sandbar sharks are prohibited from being retained, except for vessels participating in the shark research fishery while carrying a NMFS-approved observer (see *Sandbar Sharks* below).

\*\*The shortfin mako shark retention limit is zero in the commercial and recreational Atlantic HMS fisheries, consistent with the 2021 ICCAT recommendation. This retention limit may change based on criteria at 635.24(a)(8). When the commercial retention limit is zero, dealers may not purchase shortfin mako sharks from fishermen (see *Shortfin Mako Sharks* below).

### Shark Fins<sup>18</sup>

A dealer may not purchase shark fins or carcasses from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel issued a federal Atlantic commercial shark permit unless such fins were naturally attached to the corresponding carcass through offloading and depending on local state regulations (for information on importing or exporting shark fins, see *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-Exporting HMS*).

There is one limited exception to this rule because of provisions Congress enacted in the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 related to smooth dogfish. Fishermen may remove smooth dogfish fins from the smooth dogfish carcass before offloading provided the following conditions are met: 1) the vessel has been issued a Federal commercial smoothhound shark permit, 2) the fisherman/vessel has been issued a state commercial fishing permit valid for smooth dogfish fishing, 3) the smooth dogfish are caught within 50 nm of shore from Maine through the boundary in Florida at 25°20.4' N. lat., proceeding due east, 4) at least 25% of the retained catch, by weight, is smooth dogfish, and 5) the weight of smooth dogfish fins on board does not exceed 12% of the smooth dogfish carcass weight. If all these conditions are met, a dealer may purchase smooth dogfish from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel who lands smooth dogfish without the fins naturally attached to the carcass. This provision applies only to smooth dogfish and not to other types of smoothhound sharks.

#### Blacknose Sharks<sup>19</sup>

Federally permitted vessels operating south of 34°00' N. lat. in the Atlantic region may retain, possess, land, or sell blacknose sharks if the respective blacknose and non-blacknose small coastal shark management groups are open. In addition, federally permitted vessels operating in the Gulf of Mexico region may *not* retain, possess, land, or sell any blacknose sharks. Dealers may not purchase blacknose sharks from a vessel if they are landed north of 34°00' N. lat. in the Atlantic region or if blacknose sharks are landed in the Gulf of Mexico region.

#### Oceanic Whitetip, Silky and Hammerhead Sharks<sup>20</sup>

A dealer may not purchase oceanic whitetip sharks, silky sharks, or scalloped, smooth, or great hammerhead sharks from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel with pelagic longline gear on board. A dealer may not purchase these sharks from the owner of a fishing vessel issued both an HMS Charter/Headboat permit and a commercial shark permit when tuna, swordfish, or billfish are on board the vessel, offloaded from the vessel, or being offloaded from the vessel.

#### Sandbar Sharks<sup>21</sup>

The *only* federally permitted vessels that are authorized to possess sandbar sharks are those vessels with a valid shark research fishery permit that also have a NMFS-approved observer onboard during the trip when sandbar sharks were landed. When buying sandbar sharks, dealers *must* verify that the product they are purchasing came from a vessel that has the shark research fishery permit,

which authorizes a specific trip limit for sandbar sharks, and that the vessel carried an observer during that particular trip. ***If the vessel did not carry an observer during that trip, any sandbar sharks taken are illegal and may not be purchased, even if the vessel has a valid shark research fishery permit.***

Vessels that possess only a state permit and **do not** have a federal directed or incidental shark permit and were fishing in state waters and in accordance with state regulations may also be authorized to possess sandbar sharks, depending on the state.

### Shortfin Mako Sharks<sup>22</sup>

Commercial and recreational Atlantic HMS fishermen cannot retain shortfin mako sharks, and dealers may not purchase shortfin mako sharks, consistent with the management measure adopted in 2021 by ICCAT. If ICCAT provides for U.S. harvest in the future, NMFS could increase the shortfin mako shark retention limit, based on regulatory criteria and the amount of retention allowed by ICCAT. Until that happens, the retention limit is zero.

### Non-sandbar Large Coastal Sharks (LCS)

The trip limit for fishermen with a federal directed shark limited access permit can change throughout the year from 0 to 55 non-sandbar LCS. ***If*** the species, management group, and/or region is open, federally permitted dealers can purchase up to the then-specified regulatory trip limit of non-sandbar LCS sharks per vessel per trip from fishermen with a federal directed shark limited access permit and no more than 3 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip from a fishermen with a federal incidental shark limited access permit.<sup>23</sup>

Federally permitted dealers who also possess the appropriate state dealer permits can buy non-sandbar LCS sharks from fishermen who do not have a federal shark limited access permit, ***if*** the fishermen fish exclusively in state waters and are following state regulations.<sup>24</sup>

NOTE: Atlantic states (Maine through Florida) mirror most federal shark regulations, and also require that any dealers buying sharks must hold a federal shark dealer permit in addition to any state requirements, per the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Shark Plan. Visit [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) or call (202) 289-6400 for more information. Other states (i.e., Gulf of Mexico states) also mirror most federal regulations measures such as seasons, trip limits, sandbar sharks, and prohibited species. Dealers should contact their state fishery resource management agency if they have questions about the state regulations. State agencies are listed in *Section VI. Contact List*.

### Sharks Listed in Appendix II of CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that trade does not threaten the survival of listed animals and plants in the wild. Species listed on Appendix II are those for which trade must be controlled in order to avoid “use incompatible with their

survival.” Sharks listed in Appendix II are: **basking, whale, oceanic whitetip, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead, porbeagle, and, starting in October 2017, silky and thresher sharks.**

Any sharks listed on Appendix II (identified above) that are caught on the “High Seas” (i.e., outside the U.S. EEZ) are considered “imports” for CITES purposes and must be landed only at a designated port and with an “Introduction From the Sea” (IFS) Certificate issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-31.pdf>).

IFS applications may take more than 90 days to process. Please see the following link for further information:

<https://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>  
or call 800-358-2104 or email: [managementauthority@fws.gov](mailto:managementauthority@fws.gov).

### Required Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops<sup>25</sup>

Federally permitted Atlantic shark dealers, or a proxy for each of the dealer’s locations that purchase sharks, must attend an *Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop* in order to renew their Atlantic shark dealer permit. The objective of these workshops is to reduce the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks reported in the dealer reporting form, and to increase the accuracy of species-specific dealer reported information, quota monitoring, and the data used in stock assessments.

These workshops will train shark dealer permit holders, or their proxies, to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses. *Shark dealer proxies* are persons currently employed at a location that purchases sharks under a shark dealer permit.<sup>26</sup> This proxy must be the primary participant in identifying, weighing, and/or first receipt of fish as they are received. The proxy must also be involved in completing dealer reports. If a dealer opts to send a proxy to the workshop, the dealer must designate at least one proxy from each place of business listed on the dealer permit which purchases Atlantic sharks. NMFS also encourages all dealer employees who may be involved in shark identification to attend a shark identification workshop.

Persons holding an expired Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit, and persons who intend to apply for a new Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit, will be issued a “participant” certificate in their name upon successful completion of the Atlantic shark identification workshop.<sup>27</sup> A participant certificate may be used only to apply for an Atlantic Shark Dealer Permit. An Atlantic shark dealer may not purchase Atlantic sharks without a valid “dealer” or “proxy” Atlantic shark identification workshop certificate issued to the dealer or proxy.

After an Atlantic Shark Dealer Permit is issued to a person using an Atlantic shark identification workshop participant certificate, such person may obtain an Atlantic shark identification workshop dealer certificate for each location which purchases Atlantic sharks by contacting NMFS at (301) 427-8539.

Atlantic shark identification workshops are held quarterly and occur throughout

the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. A new online option is available for recertification for shark dealers and proxies. Dealers or proxies must have previously attended an in-person course in order to be eligible for the online recertification. More information on in-person and online workshops, including upcoming locations and dates, can be found on the HMS Management Division's webpage: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-shark-identification-workshops>.

To pre-register for an in-person workshop, please call Eric Sander at (386) 852-8588 and email a completed pre-registration form to Eric Sander at [ericssharkguide@yahoo.com](mailto:ericssharkguide@yahoo.com), or bring it with you to the workshop.

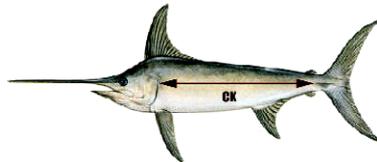
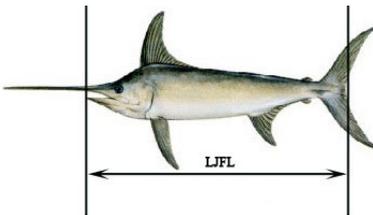
## ATLANTIC SWORDFISH RESTRICTIONS

Atlantic swordfish dealers may only purchase swordfish from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has a federal commercial permit for swordfish.<sup>28</sup> Such swordfish must meet the minimum size requirements.<sup>29</sup> The measurement used to determine if a swordfish is of legal size depends on whether or not the head is naturally attached to the carcass.

*If the head is naturally attached, the fish must be at least 47" (119 cm) lower jaw fork length (LJFL).* LJFL is a straight line measurement from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail (see figure). "Naturally attached" means that the whole head is fully attached to the carcass except for the bill, which may be removed provided it has been removed forward of the front tip of the lower jaw.



*If the head is removed prior to or at the time of landing, the fish must be at least 25" (63 cm) cleithrum to caudal keel (CK) length.* CK is the curved length measurement from cleithrum to the caudal keel.



### Importing or Exporting Atlantic Swordfish

For information on importing or exporting swordfish, see *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-Exporting HMS*.

**RESTRICTIONS ON SALE OF ATLANTIC BILLFISH**

The purchase of Atlantic billfish from a fishing vessel is prohibited.<sup>30</sup>

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## **V. IMPORTING, EXPORTING AND RE-EXPORTING HMS UNDER THE HMS INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROGRAM**

NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 300 subpart M pertain to the HMS International Trade Program (ITP), and cover importing, exporting, and re-exporting the following HMS:<sup>31</sup>

- (1) Bluefin tuna,\*
- (2) Southern bluefin tuna,\*
- (3) Frozen bigeye tuna,\*
- (4) Swordfish,\* and
- (5) Shark fins.

\*For these HMS, fish parts other than meat (e.g., heads, eyes, roe, guts, and tails) may be imported without documentation.

NMFS regulations for several other programs may also apply to imports of HMS. The Tuna Tracking and Verification Program applies to all imported frozen or processed tuna and authenticates dolphin-safe labelling. Requirements of this program and further information are available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/dolphin-safe>.

The Seafood Import Monitoring Program applies to imports of bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna, swordfish, and sharks.

NMFS launched an online tool to help seafood traders easily identify trade monitoring requirements for their products. The Seafood Import and Export Tool assists users in determining which NOAA trade monitoring program(s) a specific species and product falls under based on user-provided information.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/seafood-import-export-tool>.

NMFS regulations for other programs may also apply to imports of HMS. The Tuna Tracking and Verification Program (TTVP) applies to all imported frozen or processed tuna and authenticates dolphin-safe labeling. Requirements of this program and further information are available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/dolphin-safe>.

The Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) applies to imports of bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna, swordfish, and sharks. Please see the SIMP resources online for the full species list and additional program information at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international/seafood-import-monitoring-program>.

Please note, if the above HMS were landed by a U.S. fishing vessel in a foreign port and are not processed before being transported into the United States, the

HMS are not considered an import, and the “first receiver” (i.e., U.S. dealer purchasing the product) must have a federal dealer permit, as described under the “Permits” section. In addition, the federal dealer must comply with the dealer reporting requirements as described under the “Dealer Reporting Requirements” section. If the HMS are landed by a U.S. fishing vessel in a foreign port and are processed from their original form before being transported into the United States, the HMS may be considered an import and an IFTP may be required.

**HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE**

When imported or exported, products of the HMS listed above must be classified under the appropriate heading or subheading code from the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States. Importers of these products are required to use the most descriptive HTS code for the product that is traded.

The HTS is updated approximately every five years. In order to obtain the current HTS and to check for any changes please refer to the International Trade Commission’s website at <https://hts.usitc.gov/current>.

**HTS codes**

<b>Highly Migratory Species</b>		<b>HTS Code</b>
<b>Bluefin Tuna</b>	Live Atlantic and Pacific	0301.94.01.00
	Fresh or chilled Atlantic and Pacific	0302.35.01.00
	Frozen Atlantic	0303.45.01.10
	Frozen Pacific	0303.45.01.50
<b>Bluefin Tuna, Southern</b>	Live	0301.95.00.00
	Fresh or chilled	0302.36.00.00
	Frozen	0303.46.00.00
<b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	Frozen	0303.44.00.00
	Frozen fillets and other fish meat	0304.87.00.00
<b>Swordfish</b>	Fresh or chilled steaks	0302.47.00.10

Fresh or chilled other	0302.47.00.90
Frozen steaks	0303.57.00.10
Frozen other	0303.57.00.90
Fresh or chilled fillets	0304.45.00.00
Fresh or chilled other meat	0304.54.00.00
Frozen fillets	0304.84.00.00
In bulk (frozen)	0304.91.10.00
Other (i.e., frozen, fish meat other than fillets or in bulk)	0304.91.90.00
<b>Shark Fin</b>	0305.71.00.00
	0305.76.00.00

## INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES TRADE PERMIT

Importers, exporters and re-exporters of Atlantic bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, Pacific bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, swordfish, and shark fins must obtain an IFTP.<sup>32</sup> The IFTP must be applied for online at:

[https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub\\_cmn\\_login/index\\_live.jsp](https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub_cmn_login/index_live.jsp).

Permits are valid for a period of one year from issuance. For IFTP application assistance, call the following number: (301) 427-8301 or see the user guide at:

[https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/iftp-user-guide\\_revised\\_2019.pdf](https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/iftp-user-guide_revised_2019.pdf)

An **importer** is the principal party responsible for the import of product into a country. For imports into the United States, “importer” means the consignee as identified on entry documentation or any authorized, equivalent electronic medium required for release of shipments from the customs authority of the United States or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession. If a consignee is not declared, then the importer of record is considered to be the consignee.<sup>33</sup>

An **exporter** is defined as the principal party in interest, meaning the party that receives the primary benefit, monetary or otherwise, of the export transaction. For exports from the United States, the exporter is the U.S. principal party in interest, as identified in Part 30 of title 15 of the CFR. An exporter is subject to all of the requirements outlined in subpart M of Part 300 of title 50 of the CFR, even if exports are exempt from statistical reporting requirements under Part 30

of title 15.<sup>34</sup>

A **re-export** is defined as the export of goods that were previously entered for consumption into the customs territory of a country.<sup>35</sup>

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Documentation required at the time of import, export, or re-export of HMS covered by the HMS ITP must be submitted electronically. Documentation required for the trade of HMS under the HMS International Trade Program includes consignment documents such as ICCAT statistical and/or catch documents. Import documentation must be submitted using the Automated Customs Environment (ACE) data management system supported by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.<sup>36</sup> If you need help with ACE, please see the website <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated/ace-support>, or call the ACE Help Desk (866) 530-4172 or email [ACE.Support@CBP.dhs.gov](mailto:ACE.Support@CBP.dhs.gov).

Export documentation must be submitted via the Automated Export System (AES) managed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Assistance with filing AES Electronic Export Information (EEI) is available at <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/index.html>, or by calling (800) 549-0595 or emailing [AskAES@census.gov](mailto:AskAES@census.gov)

### Biweekly Reports<sup>37</sup>

Per 50 CFR § 300.183 (a), Any person trading fish and fish products regulated under this subpart and required to obtain a trade permit under § 300.322 must submit to NMFS, on forms supplied by NMFS, a biweekly report of entries for consumption, exports and re-exports of fish and fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins.

The forms supplied by NMFS are web-based and are accessible via the NMFS' Trade Monitoring System. To get started, and access these forms, visit <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> and click the purple Request Account button. The account request wizard will ask a few questions and allow you to include details for a primary account for your business. Important: the email you use to set up your account will be the email where communication about Biweekly Report submissions will be sent. Please have your IFTP available prior to using the account request wizard.

Once approved, the system will email you account login details and give you the opportunity to add secondary users to your company account. A User Guide for the system can be accessed via the following: <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov/resources/pdf/DBWPublicUserGuide.pdf>. Should you have questions or need help in setting up an account or creating your bi-weekly reporting please email [nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov).

### **Biweekly Reporting to NMFS**

**Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern  
Bluefin Tunas, Frozen Bigeye  
Tuna, and Swordfish**

Trade Monitoring System  
HMS Biweekly Reporting  
<https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov>

[nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov)

For assistance please email :

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## ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA TRADE

NMFS implemented the ICCAT's electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation program (eBCD) in 2016 to enhance the traceability of Atlantic bluefin tuna from catch through trade. In very limited circumstances the use of hard copy documents is allowed. If you are uncertain about whether a paper document is acceptable, please call the eBCD helpline at (301) 427-8589 or email [nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov). The website for the eBCD system is <https://etuna.iccat.int>.

### Importing Atlantic bluefin tuna<sup>38</sup>

Each consignment of Atlantic bluefin tuna imported into the United States must be documented in the ICCAT eBCD system, and importers are **prohibited** from accepting an import that is not properly documented.

A user guide for the eBCD system is available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/outreach-materials/electronic-bluefin-tuna-catch-document-system-user-guide>. Assistance is available from the eBCD customer service number: (301) 427-8589 or [nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov).

The eBCD document number must be included in the customs entry filing via ACE at the time of import.

In addition to documentation in ACE at the time of import, all required information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS via the Trade Monitoring System at <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> within 10 days after the end of the reporting period

To access these forms, visit <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> and click the purple Request Account button to set up an account. The account request wizard will ask a few questions and allow you to include details for your business. Should you have questions or need help please email [nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov).

### Exporting Atlantic bluefin tuna

Each U.S. commercially-caught Atlantic bluefin tuna must be tagged by an Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder with a NMFS-issued tag. The fish must be documented in the eBCD system prior to export, and the document number must be included in the export filing in the AES. The eBCDs for tagged fish do not

need to be validated.

In addition to documentation in AES at the time of export, all requested information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS at [BFTRreporting@noaa.gov](mailto:BFTRreporting@noaa.gov) or by mail to the National Seafood Inspection Lab, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION (see address above) within 10 days after the end of the reporting period<sup>39</sup>. Biweekly reports are available on the HMS ITP homepage:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade>.

The exporter should fill out a separate eBCD for each vessel's catch. If the export consignment contains bluefin tuna captured by more than one vessel, then a separate eBCD must be completed for the catch from each vessel. All information should be entered following the system instructions. The exporter may need to contact the Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder who first received the bluefin to obtain vessel information such as the vessel's Atlantic Tunas Vessel Permit Number (ATVP No.) and the ICCAT Record Number (for vessels over 20 meters in length).

#### Re-exporting Atlantic bluefin tuna<sup>40</sup>

Bluefin tuna that was imported with an eBCD and is to be re-exported from the United States must be documented with an electronic re-export certificate in the eBCD system. The re-exporter must complete the electronic re-export certificate and submit it for validation in the eBCD system. The re-export number must be included when the re-export is documented in the AES.

In addition to documentation at time of re-export in AES, all required information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS via the Trade Monitoring System at <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. To access these forms, visit <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> and click the purple Request Account button to set up an account. The account request wizard will ask a few questions and allow you to include details for your business. Should you have questions or need help please email [nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov).

## **PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA, SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA, FROZEN BIGEYE TUNA, AND SWORDFISH TRADE**

HMS trade regulations for Pacific bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish apply to United States trade of product that originated from any ocean area. The United States implemented the ICCAT Statistical Document programs along with a southern bluefin tuna catch document program adopted by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna to monitor trade, and better understand the impact of the international market on these species. Since the reporting and recordkeeping requirements are similar for these species, they are addressed together below.

Additionally, for the import, export, and re-export of shark fins, an IFTP is required, but ITP reporting requirements are not in effect for shark fin trade.

Importing Pacific bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish<sup>41</sup>

Each consignment imported into the United States must be accompanied by an approved, original, species-specific, completed consignment document (CD, i.e., statistical or catch document), issued and validated by the country of the vessel of harvest. Instructions for completing CDs for each species are available on the HMS ITP homepage. ***It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that each CD for an imported consignment is complete and accurate.*** Importers are ***prohibited*** from accepting an import that is not accompanied by an approved, original, species-specific, completed, and properly validated CD.

The following links may be helpful to importers in determining the validity of a CD:

ICCAT IUU Vessel List <http://www.iccat.int/en/IUU.asp>

ICCAT Record Number <http://www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp>

As per 50 CFR § 300.185 it is the responsibility of the permit holder/importer (and/or their agent) "at the time of presenting entry documentation for clearance by customs authorities (e.g., electronic filing via ACE or other documentation required by the port director) be accompanied by an original, complete, accurate, approved and properly validated, species-specific Consignment Document (CD). An image of such a document and the required data set must be filed electronically with CBP via ACE. Note: the importer must sign the CD at the bottom of the document and complete the Importer/Buyer's section of the document and a copy of the completed, signed document must be provided via the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) at the time of import.

In addition to documentation at time of import in ACE, all required information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS via the Trade Monitoring System at <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. To access these forms, visit <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> and click the purple Request Account button to set up an account. The account request wizard will ask a few questions and allow you to include details for your business. Should you have questions or need help please email [nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov).

Swordfish may only be imported whole or in pieces that weigh at least 33 lb.<sup>42</sup>

Exporting Pacific bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish<sup>43</sup>

Consignment documents (CDs) for use in exporting these species are available on the HMS ITP homepage. All information should be entered following the

instructions on the back of the form. Please note that for swordfish or bigeye originating from the Pacific or Indian oceans, the description of fish and exporter certification are not required. All export documents must be government validated (see “Government Validation Services” below).

The original document should accompany the shipment, and a copy of the document must be submitted via the U.S. Census Bureau’s AES data collection system at time of export.

In addition to documentation in AES at the time of export, all required information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS via the Trade Monitoring System at <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. To access these forms, visit <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> and click the purple Request Account button to set up an account. The account request wizard will ask a few questions and allow you to include details for your business. Should you have questions or need help please email [nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov).

#### Re-exporting Pacific bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish<sup>44</sup>

The CD that accompanied the import is the only documentation required to re-export an imported consignment from the United States *that has not been subdivided or consolidated with another consignment*. The re-exporter should ensure that the intermediate importer certification is completed as required and send the original consignment document with the re-exported consignment. A copy of the CD must be submitted via the U.S. Census Bureau’s AES data collection system at the time of re-export.

If an import has been subdivided or consolidated with another consignment, then a re-export certificate must be prepared. Re-export certificates are available on the HMS ITP website. The re-exporter must complete the re-export certificate following the instructions on the reverse side of the document, have it validated, and attach it to the original CD to accompany the consignment. A copy of the CD must be submitted via the U.S. Census Bureau’s AES data collection system at the time of re-export.

In addition to documentation in AES at the time of re-export, all required information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS via the Trade Monitoring System at <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. To access these forms, visit <https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov> and click the purple Request Account button to set up an account. The account request wizard will ask a few questions and allow you to include details for your business. Should you have questions or need help please email [nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.tms.accounts@noaa.gov).

## GOVERNMENT VALIDATION<sup>45</sup>

Government validation is now available Monday through Friday during business hours only. To obtain validation, scan your documents and send via email to the following email address with “REQUEST FOR VALIDATION” in the subject line: [BFTreporting@noaa.gov](mailto:BFTreporting@noaa.gov). The document must be complete and contact information must be included. Validated documents will be returned via email. Please note that assistance in preparing a complete document is available at the same email address.

NMFS regulations also provide for validation by non-government entities, once the entities have been authorized as validating officials by NMFS. To apply for status as a validating official, please submit a request in writing to: NMFS, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION, 3209 Frederic St., Pascagoula, MS 39567, Phone: (228) 769-8964, email: [BFTreporting@noaa.gov](mailto:BFTreporting@noaa.gov).

The request must specify the following information:

- 1) Names, addresses, and telephone/fax numbers of individuals who would perform validation;
- 2) Procedures to be used to notify NMFS of validations; and
- 3) An example of the stamp or seal to be applied.

NMFS will then make a determination and notify the applicant if they are granted an authorization as a validating official.

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## **VI. Contacts**

### **National Marine Fisheries Service Atlantic HMS Management Division**

Chief: Randy Blankinship  
(301) 427-8503

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>

#### **Office Contact Information:**

Atlantic HMS Headquarters:

Phone: (301) 427-8539

NMFS/SF1  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Atlantic HMS Gloucester

Phone: (978) 281-9260  
Fax: (978) 281-9340

NMFS/SF1  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Atlantic HMS St. Petersburg

Phone: (727) 824-5399  
Fax: (727) 824-5398

NMFS HMS  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## Dealer and Trade Permits

Shark and swordfish vessel and dealer permits	<p style="text-align: center;">NMFS Southeast Regional Permit Office</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/permits.htm">http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/permits.htm</a></p>	<p>Phone: (877) 376-487 (toll free)</p> <p>263 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. South St. Petersburg, FL 33701</p>
Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit	<p style="text-align: center;">NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Permit Office</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/">http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a></p>	<p>Phone: (978) 281-9370 Fax: (978) 281-9366</p> <p>55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930</p>
International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP)	<p style="text-align: center;">National Permit System</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub_cmn_login/index_live.jsp">https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub_cmn_login/index_live.jsp</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:Fisheriespermits@noaa.gov">Fisheriespermits@noaa.gov</a></p>	<p>Phone: (301) 427-8301</p>

## HMS Dealer Reporting

Bluefin tuna	<p>Phone: (978) 281-9260 Email: <a href="mailto:BFTreporting@noaa.gov">BFTreporting@noaa.gov</a> Biweekly FAX: (987) 281-9340 SAFIS Website: <a href="https://safis.accsp.org/safis_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101">https://safis.accsp.org/safis_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101</a> SAFIS Helpline: (978) 281-9212</p>
BAYS tuna, shark, & swordfish (eDealer)	<p>Phone: (301) 427-8590 Email: <a href="mailto:HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov">HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov</a> Web: <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-dealer-reporting#:~:text=If%20you%20are%20a%20dealer%20who%20is%20new%20to%20electronic.a.m.%20to%205%3A00%20p.m.">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-dealer-reporting#:~:text=If%20you%20are%20a%20dealer%20who%20is%20new%20to%20electronic.a.m.%20to%205%3A00%20p.m.</a></p>

Individual bluefin quota (IBQ)	Phone: (301) 427-8591 Email: NMFS.HMS.IBQ@noaa.gov Reporting Website: <a href="https://secatchshares.fisheries.noaa.gov/home">https://secatchshares.fisheries.noaa.gov/home</a>
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**HMS Trade Reporting**

International trade	Seafood Import and Export Tool <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/seafood-import-export-tool">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/seafood-import-export-tool</a> HMS ITP Website: <a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade</a> Trade Monitoring System <a href="https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov/">https://tmp.fisheries.noaa.gov/</a>
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**24-Hour Law Enforcement Hotline: (800) 853-1964**

The NMFS Office of Law Enforcement maintains a 24-hour hotline for the public to report potential violations of Atlantic HMS regulations. This number should be used only to report potential violations, not for general information, concerning Atlantic HMS.

**NMFS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES (for general information only)**

FL	Key West	(305) 809-4734	MD	Salisbury	(443) 736-7158
	Niceville	(850) 729-8628	ME	Portland	(207) 780-3241
	St. Petersburg	(727) 824-5344	NJ	Northfield	(609) 415-2941
	Sunrise	(954) 746-4160		Wall	(732) 280-6490
LA	Slidell	(985) 643-6232	NH	New Castle	(603) 427-0832
MA	East Falmouth	(508) 495-2147	SC	Charleston	(843) 740-1228
	Gloucester	(978) 281-9213	VA	Newport News	(757) 595-2692
	New Bedford	(508) 992-7711	NY	Bellport	(631) 776-1734
	Scituate	(781) 545-8026			

**U.S. COAST GUARD**

*Commercial vessels are subject to the Fishing Vessel Safety Act of 1988.* Coast Guard Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program: [www.fishsafe.info](http://www.fishsafe.info)

Local Coast Guard offices:

Maine to New York	(617) 223-8440
New Jersey to North Carolina	(757) 398-6554
South Carolina to Florida	(305) 415-6868
Gulf of Mexico	(504) 671-2154

## STATE FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

State	Agency and Website	Phone
Maine	Department of Marine Resources <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dmr/">http://www.maine.gov/dmr/</a>	(207) 624-6550
New Hampshire	Fish and Game <a href="http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/">http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/</a>	(603) 868-1095
Massachusetts	Division of Marine Fisheries <a href="https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-marine-fisheries">https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-marine-fisheries</a>	(617) 626-1520
Rhode Island	Department of Environmental Management <a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/marine-fisheries/">http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/marine-fisheries/</a>	(401) 222-4700
Connecticut	Department of Environmental Protection <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Saltwater/Current-Recreational-Marine-Fisheries-Regulations">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Saltwater/Current-Recreational-Marine-Fisheries-Regulations</a>	(860) 424-3000
New York	Division of Marine Resources <a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7755.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7755.html</a>	(631) 444-0430
New Jersey	Fish and Wildlife <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fqw/">http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fqw/</a>	(609) 292-2083
Delaware	Division of Fish and Wildlife <a href="https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/">https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/</a>	(302) 739-9910
Maryland	Department of Natural Resources <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/</a>	(410) 260-8367 (877) 620-8367
Virginia	Marine Resources Commission <a href="https://mrc.virginia.gov/">https://mrc.virginia.gov/</a>	(757) 247-2200
North Carolina	Division of Marine Fisheries <a href="http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/">http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/</a>	(252) 726-7021 (800) 682-2632
South Carolina	Department of Natural Resources <a href="http://www.dnr.sc.gov/">http://www.dnr.sc.gov/</a>	(843) 953-9312
Georgia	Department of Natural Resources <a href="http://www.gadnr.org/">http://www.gadnr.org/</a>	(912) 264-7218
Florida	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission <a href="http://myfwc.com">http://myfwc.com</a>	(850) 488-4676
Alabama	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources <a href="http://www.outdooralabama.com/">http://www.outdooralabama.com/</a>	(251) 861-2882 (251) 968-7576
Louisiana	Department of Wildlife and Fisheries <a href="http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/">http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/</a>	(225) 765-2800
Mississippi	Department of Marine Resources <a href="https://dmr.ms.gov/">https://dmr.ms.gov/</a>	(228) 374-5000
Texas	Parks and Wildlife Department <a href="https://tpwd.texas.gov/">https://tpwd.texas.gov/</a>	(512) 389-4800 (800) 792-1112
Puerto Rico	Caribbean Fishery Management Council	(787) 766-5927

State	Agency and Website	Phone
U.S. Virgin Islands	Caribbean Fishery Management Council <a href="http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/">http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/</a>	(787) 766-5927

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## **VII. CITATIONS TO THE ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

The following references are linked to the electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR). Each endnote (<sup>1, 2, 3,</sup> etc.) within this guide directs you to a specific citation in the list below. By clicking the links below, your internet browser will be directed to the specific location in the eCFR that supports the information provided in this compliance guide.

### **Title 50 Wildlife and Fisheries**

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- 1 [635.4\(g\)\(1\)](#)
  - 2 [635.4\(g\)\(3\)](#)
  - 3 [635.4\(g\)\(2\)](#)
  - 4 [300.182 and 300.184](#)
  - 5 [635.31\(b\)\(1\)](#)
  - 6 [635.5\(b\)\(1\)](#)
  - 7 [635.2](#)
  - 8 [635.5\(b\)\(3\)](#)
  - 9 [635.5\(b\)\(2\)](#)
  - 10 [635.5\(b\)\(3\)](#)
  - 11 [635.31](#)
  - 12 [635.31\(a\)](#)
  - 13 [635.30\(a\)](#)
  - 14 [635.31\(a\)\(2\) and \(3\)](#)
  - 15 [635.2](#)
  - 16 [635.31\(a\)](#)
  - 17 [635.31\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)\(B\) and 635.15\(a\)\(2\)](#)
  - 18 [635.31\(c\)](#)
  - 19 [635.24\(a\)\(4\)\(ii\)](#)
  - 20 [635.31\(c\)\(6\)](#)
  - 21 [635.31\(c\)\(4\)](#)
  - 22 [635.22\(c\)\(8\), 635.24\(a\)\(4\)\(i\), 635.24\(a\)\(4\)\(iii\), and 635.24\(a\)\(4\)\(v\)](#)
  - 23 [635.24\(a\), 635.28\(b\)\(5\), and 635.31\(c\)\(4\)](#)
  - 24 [635.28\(b\)\(5\) and 635.31\(c\)\(4\)](#)
  - 25 [635.8\(b\), 635.8\(c\)\(4\)](#)
  - 26 [635.8\(b\)\(4\)](#)
  - 27 [635.8\(b\)\(6\)](#)
  - 28 [635.31\(d\)\(2\)](#)
  - 29 [635.20\(f\)](#)
  - 30 [635.31\(b\)](#)
  - 31 [300.184](#)
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  - 40 [300.185\(c\)](#)
  - 41 [300.185\(a\)](#)
  - 42 [635.20\(f\)\(3\)](#)
  - 43 [300.185\(b\)](#)
  - 44 [300.185\(c\)](#)
  - 45 [300.187](#)

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