

Notice to Highly Migratory Species Fishermen

NMFS proposed regulations to implement recommendations resulting from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) November 2000 meeting. This proposed rule, if finalized, would:

- Establish a North Atlantic swordfish reserve quota of 400 mt ww (301 mt dw);
- Establish a 2001 fishing year South Atlantic swordfish quota;
- Prohibit persons and vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States from possessing fish taken in violation of ICCAT recommendations or from violating another country's fisheries regulations pertaining to species managed by ICCAT.
- Clarify that U.S. fishermen may not harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic Ocean;
- Establish bigeye tuna trade restrictions;
- Include bigeye tuna as a species for which specific ports of entry may be designated;
- Make a technical change to the dates for which dead discard allowances apply (consistent with the ICCAT recommendation);
- Make technical changes to existing trade restrictions so that they apply only to Atlantic swordfish that are imported into the United States.

Comments are invited through December 24, 2001. Please submit comments to Chris Rogers, NMFS F/SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or by fax to 301-713-1917. Public hearings are scheduled for November 26, 2001, 7-9 p.m. at the Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Bienes Center, 6th floor, Fort Lauderdale, FL, and Holiday Inn Express, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA. A third hearing is scheduled for December 10, 2001, 7-9 p.m., at the Barnegat Light First Aid Squad, West Tenth St., Barnegat Light, NJ.

For further information please refer to the Federal Register publication, available on-line at www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html, or you can contact Jill Stevenson (301) 713-2347 or Pat Scida (978) 281-9260 or by e-mail at jill.stevenson@noaa.gov or pasquale.scida@noaa.gov.

Bruce C. Morehead
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date