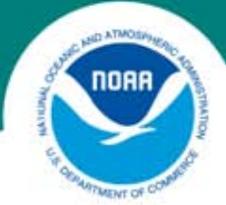
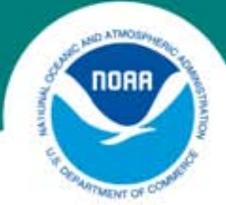


**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Atlantic HMS Tournaments Update

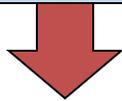
Katie.Davis@noaa.gov
Fall 2012 HMS AP Meeting
Silver Spring, MD



Tournament Compliance Process

1

Register Tournament

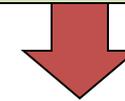


HMS Management Division
(St. Petersburg, FL)

- At least 4 weeks in advance

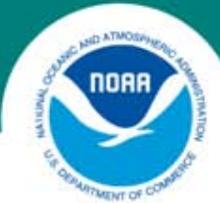
2

If Selected, Report Catch



NMFS Southeast
Fisheries Science Centers
(Panama City Beach and
Miami, FL)

- Within 7 days after fishing ends



Reminder to Register

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species *Science, Service, Stewardship*



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reminds tournament operators to register their Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) tournaments for 2012. This includes tournaments occurring on the U.S. East Coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the U.S. Caribbean. HMS tournament registration and reporting facilitates the collection of important recreational catch and effort information which is used to analyze the impacts of potential fishery management actions, assess the status of Atlantic HMS, and to assist the United States in complying with international fishery management obligations. Federal regulations require that all tournaments awarding points or prizes for Atlantic HMS, including **tunas, sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish**, regardless of whether or not the fish are retained, register with NMFS.

**REMINDER:
REGISTER YOUR 2012 TOURNAMENTS**

Registration is due at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the tournament.

Some tournaments have already registered for 2012. If you have not already done so, please complete an Atlantic HMS tournament registration form and mail, fax, or e-mail it to:

HMS Tournament Registry
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Fax (727) 824-5399
HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov

You must receive a confirmation number to complete registration.
Tournament operators should retain this number until the end of the fishing year.

HMS tournament participants must have an HMS permit to fish. NMFS urges tournament operators to remind participants that in order to participate in an Atlantic HMS tournament, fishermen must have one of the following: (1) HMS Angling; (2) HMS Charter/Headboat; or (3) Atlantic Tunas General category permit.

HMS informational materials are available for distribution. Be sure to check the box near the bottom of the registration form and indicate how many you need in the space provided [If your tournament is registered with a P.O. Box, please also provide a physical mailing address for UPS at the bottom of the form].

HMS has a new tournaments website:
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments

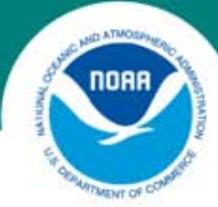
- See what's coming up on our list of registered tournaments.
- Obtain registration forms, reporting forms, and permits.
- Read regulatory requirements for tournament operators and participants.
- Watch a video about the circle hook, required for all billfish tournament participants when fishing with natural or artificial/natural combination bait.

You will be notified if your HMS tournament is selected for catch reporting. All billfish tournaments are selected for reporting. NMFS reporting forms must be completed and returned no later than seven days after fishing has ended. For more information about tournament reporting, including obtaining reporting forms, please visit the website above or call (305) 361-4214.

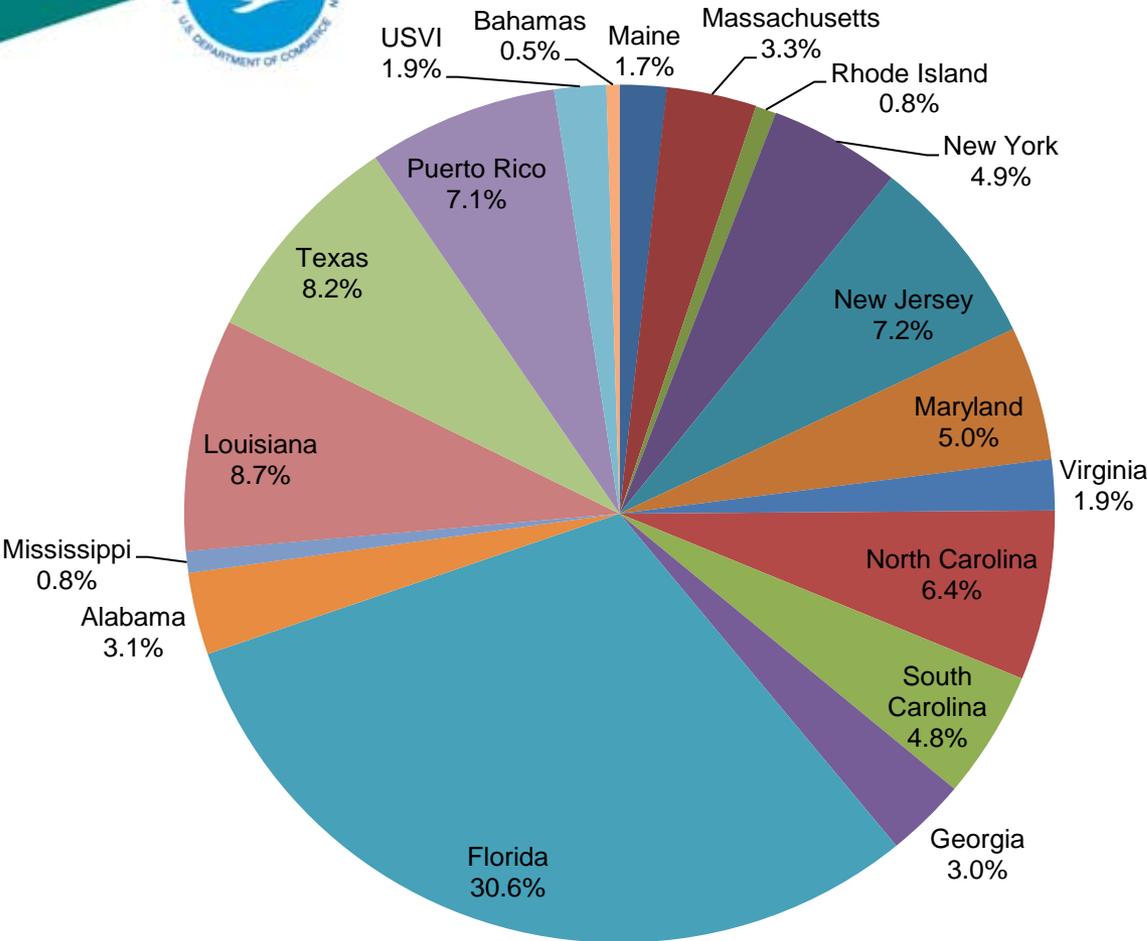
Thank you, in advance, for registering your 2012 Atlantic HMS tournaments!

Highly Migratory Species Management Division | Phone (727) 824-5399

- Reminder sent two months in advance of past tournament start date
- Includes printed registration form



Tournament Registration History



| Year | Total |
|-------|-------|
| 2003 | 244 |
| 2004 | 215 |
| 2005 | 256 |
| 2006 | 259 |
| 2007 | 299 |
| 2008 | 267 |
| 2009 | 270 |
| 2010 | 270 |
| 2011 | 248 |
| 2012* | 231 |

*as of September 2012

| 2011 HMS Tournaments | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Billfishes | 72% |
| Tunas | 59% |
| Swordfish | 31% |
| Sharks | 27% |

Source: HMS Tournament Registry Database, 2003-2011; states and foreign tournaments <0.5% excluded, including New Hampshire (0.00%), Connecticut (0.1%), Delaware (0.3%), Bermuda (0.05%), and Turks/Caicos



Tournament Outreach

**ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS)
TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
 Name _____
 Port/City _____ State _____ Date(s) _____
 Has this event occurred before? (Y/N) _____ Most recent year _____

OPERATOR/DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION
 Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Phone () - _____ FAX () - _____
 Email Address _____

Check the boxes next to the species for which points or prizes will be awarded:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SWORDFISH | SHARKS | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER FISH SPECIES** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BILLFISH | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Coastal Sharks | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Marlin | <input type="checkbox"/> Ridgback | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Marlin* | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-ridgback | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roundscale Spearfish* | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Coastal Sharks | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Marlin/ | <input type="checkbox"/> Pelagic Sharks | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roundscale Spearfish | TUNAS | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (not differentiated)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Bluefin | _____ |
| <small>*These species are very similar in appearance. If the tournament will not identify the species separately, select "not differentiated."</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Bigeye | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sailfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Albacore | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Longbill Spearfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellowfin | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Skipjack | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Blackfin | _____ |
| | <small>** Registration is optional for these species.</small> | |

Please send _____ (#) copies of Atlantic HMS regulation booklets and other outreach materials for tournament participants.

Please send confirmation of HMS tournament registration via email (for fastest reply).

Operator/Director signature _____ Date _____
A list of registered tournaments, including tournament names, dates, cities, states, and target species, is posted for public viewing at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Tournaments.

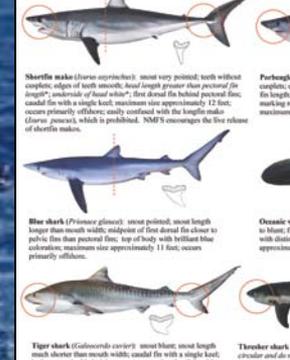
Submit form via one of the following:
 E-mail: HMS.TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov
 Mail: HMS Tournament Registry, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
 FAX: (727) 824-5396

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0121 OMB EXPIRATION DATE: ***/2015



Managed shark species that can be legally retained by recreational anglers in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico

If you don't know, let it go.
Some sharks not listed on this placard are prohibited, may not be landed, and must be released.
For a more complete list of species and species complexes, please visit <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.



Science, Service, Stewardship

**HMS
Recreational
Compliance
Guide**

Guide for Complying with the Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, Sharks, and Billfish Regulations

Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species
Management Division

(As of August 3, 2010)

Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

How to Identify a Shortfin Mako Shark

If You're Going to Keep it, Keep it Real Big.

If you are going to keep a shortfin mako, target male sharks over 150 pounds (73" fork length). The bigger the shark, the more likely it has already had a chance to reproduce. Most makos at the current minimum size (54" fork length) are not sexually mature and have not contributed to the population. Big females are necessary for keeping the population strong.

Shortfin mako (*Isurus paucus*): stout very pointed, teeth without complex edges of teeth smooth; head length greater than pectoral fin length; underside of head white; first dorsal fin behind pectoral fins, caudal fin with a single keel, maximum size approximately 12 feet, occurs primarily offshore, easily confused with the longfin mako (*Isurus paucus*), which is prohibited. NMF's population strong.

Interested in participating in shortfin mako tagging programs or sharing information on your shortfin mako shark releases? Please go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/shortfinmako/index.htm>

- ✓ Please send 65 (#) copies of Atlantic HMS regulation booklets and other outreach materials for tournament participants.
- ✓ Please send confirmation of HMS tournament registration via email (for fastest reply).



Tournament Outreach: New in 2012



Identification of Atlantic Tunas

**BILLFISH/
SWORDFISH**

Identification of Atlantic Swordfish and Billfishes

- Upper bill flat; Single caudal keel → **Swordfish**
- Upper bill round; Double caudal keels
 - 1st Dorsal fin height at mid-body more than body depth
 - **Sailfish**
 - 1st Dorsal fin pointed in front
 - Anal fin triangular (pointed) → **Blue marlin**
 - Anal fin rounded (club-shaped) → **Longbill spearfish ***
 - 1st Dorsal fin rounded in front
 - Distance from anus to anal fin less than half height of anal fin → **White marlin ****
 - Distance from anus to anal fin more than half height of anal fin → **Roundscale spearfish ****
 - 1st Dorsal fin height at mid-body less than body depth

ANATOMY OF A BILLFISH

Labels: Caudal keels, 2nd Dorsal fin, 1st Dorsal fin, Upper bill, Lower jaw, Pectoral fin, Pelvic fins, Anus, Anal fin, Caudal fin.

Measurements: Cleithrum to caudal keel (CK), Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL).

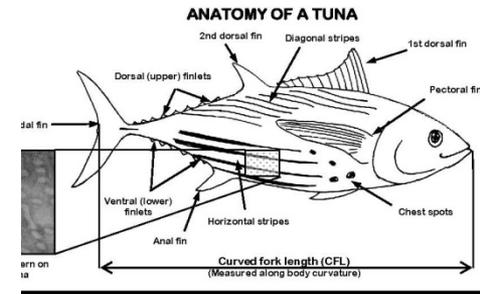
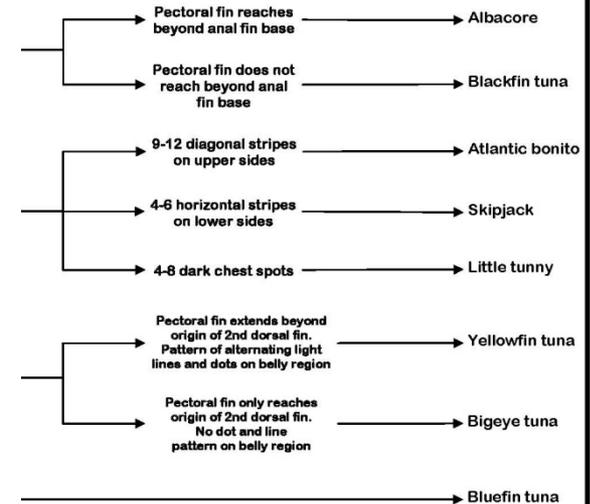
*** Possession prohibited.**
**** Special notes:**
 Roundscale spearfish— Scales on front end of mid-body round and soft
 White marlin— Scales on front end of mid-body pointed and stiff

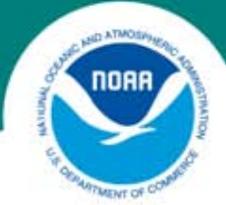
FEDERAL SWORDFISH AND BILLFISH REGULATIONS

Guides to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Federal regulations are located at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms. The official regulations are located in the Federal Register under Title 50 Part 635. Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with current regulations.

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
 (301) 427-8503
 NOAA Fisheries Service
 1315 East West Highway
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

August 2012





Tournament Operator Survey



Atlantic HMS Tournament Operator Survey 2012

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is improving the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournament registration and reporting process and wants your feedback! Please take a moment to complete the survey below. Use the "Comments" boxes for any additional explanation or suggestions regarding the answers you select. Completion of this survey is optional and answers to these questions are anonymous. Any identifying information obtained will not be recorded. Thank you for helping NMFS better serve you and other HMS tournament operators.

Submit surveys by mail to the HMS Tournament Registry, 263 13th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701; by e-mail to HMS TournamentRegistry@noaa.gov; by FAX to (727) 824-5398; or take the survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RBVMGHH>

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. HMS Tournament Operators/Directors | 1 | 2 | 3+ |
| How many years have you operated an HMS tournament? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| How many HMS tournaments do you usually operate in one year? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. HMS Tournament Registration Reminders | YES | NO | N/A |
| Did you receive a reminder to register and a blank registration form in the mail this year? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Do/would you find these reminders helpful? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Would you prefer to have future notifications/reminders emailed to you (vs. mailed)? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Comments:

- Satisfaction Survey sent to 175 tournament operators that registered in 2012
- Link on HMS tournaments website
- Sending with monthly reminders to register

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RBVMGHH>



Survey Preliminary Results

- 32 Responses
- 84% of responders have been HMS tourney operators for > 3 yr
- 72% received a reminder to register
- 61% knew they could email their registration, 39% did not know
- While 77% would prefer to have registration confirmation emailed to them, 100% would prefer to register online.
- 65% of the responders requested and received outreach in 2012
- 94% of responders would prefer to report their catch online

NMFS is considering options for online registration and reporting.



What do you think?

Tournament Operator Survey

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RBVMGHH>

Email Suggestions

Katie.Davis@noaa.gov