

V. BILLFISH

No Atlantic billfish may be purchased or sold.

Any Pacific billfish that does not remain in the state of landing, or any Pacific billfish that is imported, must be documented with a certificate of eligibility (COE) indicating that the fish is **not an Atlantic billfish**. The COE remains with the fish through commerce. Billfish COEs are available at the HMS Management Division's website at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Linkpages/reporting_forms.htm. A dealer permit is **not** required in order to buy Pacific billfish.

VI. IMPORTING, EXPORTING, AND RE-EXPORTING **HMS**

INTERNATIONAL 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 HMS International Trade Permit (ITP). NMFS will mail renewal notification and a prefilled application approximately 60 days prior to when the permit is scheduled to expire.

ITP applications are available on the ITP homepage at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/index.htm>. Applications can also be obtained from the NMFS Permits Team, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue, South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, or by calling (727) 824-5326.

An **importer** is the principal party responsible for the import of product into a country (see 50 CFR 300 subpart M). 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.

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, even if exports are exempt from statistical reporting requirements under Part 30 of title 15 of the CFR.

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

ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

HMS trade regulations for bluefin tuna apply to bluefin from both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The International Commission for the Conservation of