

IV. SWORDFISH

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Bi-weekly reports must be completed by all federally permitted dealers that receive Atlantic swordfish from a vessel. Reporting forms are distributed to dealers following the receipt of their permits. For information on additional reporting forms, see below.

Bi-weekly reports for any Atlantic swordfish that are received by a permitted Atlantic swordfish dealer between the 1st and 15th of each month must be completed and received by the appropriate NMFS office by the 25th of that month. Bi-weekly reports for swordfish received between the 16th and the last day of each month must be completed and received by the appropriate NMFS office by the 10th day of the following month. **NOTE:** If no swordfish were received during a reporting period, dealers must still submit a report stating no swordfish species were received for that period (*i.e.*, “no fish” requirement).

Dealers must keep copies of all reports for a period of two years from the date that the report was required to be received by NMFS.

Southeast region

Dealers located in the Southeast Region (North Carolina through Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) must fax (305) 361-4460, electronically send (Heather.Balchowsky@noaa.gov), or mail completed reports to NMFS at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Dr. Miami, FL 33149, or in the pre-addressed envelopes included with reporting supplies.

Additional reporting forms for the dealers in the Southeast Region can be obtained at the following website: <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/flsformsdownload.jsp> under “Dealer Logbook Forms” and selecting “HMS_Dealer.pdf” (bottom of the page) or by contacting the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center at (305) 361-4581.

Northeast region

Dealers located in the Northeast Region (Virginia through Maine) may utilize several methods to submit their information. Dealers that have another Federal permit issued by the Northeast Regional Office (NERO), and are required to report electronically, must also report all landed fish through any of the approved electronic reporting methods (to NERO or SAFIS). Atlantic swordfish dealers that do not also have a NERO dealer permit must submit a bi-weekly report to their local port office.

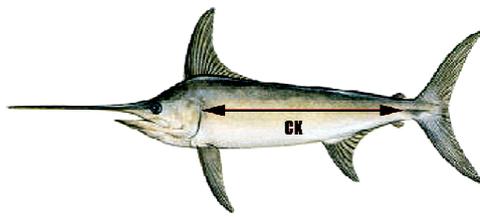
Additional reporting forms for dealers in the Northeast Region can be obtained by contacting their local port office or by email to: reporting.ne@noaa.gov.

RESTRICTIONS

Atlantic swordfish dealers may only receive swordfish that are of the legal size limit for commercial swordfish fishermen. If the fish is whole, it must measure at least 47” lower jaw fork length (LJFL). When swordfish are dressed, they must measure at least 29” from the cleithrum to the caudal keel or weigh at least 33 lbs dressed weight (dw). “Dressed” indicates a headed/gutted fish with some or all fins removed.



Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL)



Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK)

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 the 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.