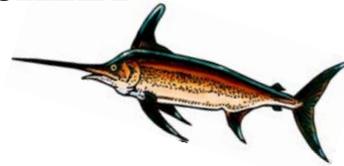


VI. SWORDFISH QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

- Swordfish



PERMITS AND GEARS

Authorized Permits	Gear	Species
1. HMS Angling, OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat, OR 3. Atlantic tunas General category ONLY if participating in an Atlantic HMS registered tournament.	Handline, and Rod and Reel*	Swordfish

* Rod and Reel includes downriggers

SIZE/BAG LIMITS AND SEASONS

Permit	Size Limit**	Bag Limit	Season
HMS Angling OR Atlantic tunas General category***	47" LJFL or 29" CK	1 per person, up to 4 per vessel per trip.	Jan 1-Dec. 31
HMS Charter/Headboat (Charter Vessels)	47" LJFL or 29" CK	1 per paying passenger, up to 6 per vessel per trip.	Jan 1-Dec. 31
HMS Charter/Headboat (Headboat Vessels)	47" LJFL or 29" CK	1 per paying passenger, up to 15 per vessel per trip.	Jan 1-Dec. 31

** LJFL = Lower Jaw Fork Length; CK = Cleithrum to Caudal Keel. See Section X for other measurements.

*** General category landings only in a tournament.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- All non-tournament recreational swordfish landings (except in MD and NC) must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at www.hmspermits.gov, or by calling (800) 894-5528.
 - Fishermen in MD and NC must report their swordfish catch at a state-operated reporting station (see Section X for details).
- If contacted, fishermen must participate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP, formerly MRFSS). Survey contact may occur at the dock or by phone.

RESTRICTED AREAS

- Tortugas Marine Reserves (year-round)
- Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps closed areas (year-round) (surface trolling without downriggers allowed May-October)
- South of 5° N latitude (year-round)

LANDING RESTRICTIONS

Swordfish may be headed and gutted at sea, but dressed swordfish are subject to alternative measurements to determine if they are of legal size (see Section X). An Atlantic swordfish harvested from its management unit that is not retained must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water.

Please see 50 CFR part 635 for the current Atlantic HMS regulations, as regulations are subject to change. October 2008