

for Atlantic tunas (*i.e.*, General category permit holders may not fish for or land bluefin tuna <73" CFL under any circumstances).

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

All Atlantic HMS recreational fishing regulations (*e.g.*, size limits, bag limits, gear restrictions, possession restrictions) apply to Atlantic HMS tournament participants. Anglers fishing from Atlantic HMS permitted vessels and participating in Atlantic billfish tournaments must use only non-offset circle hooks when deploying natural bait or natural bait/artificial lure combinations. A billfish tournament is defined as any fishing tournament that awards points or prizes for billfish, even if billfish are not the main species targeted in the tournament. Billfish tournament anglers may deploy "J"-hooks only with artificial lures. NMFS encourages the use of circle hooks by non-tournament anglers to reduce post-release mortality of Atlantic billfish.

XIV. NATIONAL SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRY

A registry of saltwater anglers began on January 1, 2010 that will be used as the basis for conducting surveys of saltwater recreational fishermen to find out how often they fish. Many saltwater recreational fishermen are required to register, but if you have a HMS Angling permit or HMS Charter/Headboat permit, you do not have to register. Also, if you have a state saltwater fishing license, you may already be part of the registry.

For more information about the Angler Registry, please go to <http://www.countryfish.noaa.gov> or call the toll-free registration line at 1-888-MRIP411 (1-888-674-7411) from 4:00 am to 12 midnight EST daily.

Following are several points of clarification about the relationship between anglers/vessels with Atlantic HMS permits and the Angler Registry:

- Individuals who fish exclusively on state- or NMFS-licensed for-hire vessels (*e.g.*, on a charter or headboat) are exempted from registering because fishing data can be obtained from the vessel operator.
- In the case of HMS Angling permit holders, only the individual permit holder is exempt. Other anglers fishing aboard the vessel will need to register.
- Individuals who hold a commercial or subsistence fishing license or permit issued by NOAA Fisheries or a state/territory will need to register if they intend to fish recreationally. These individuals do not need to register while fishing pursuant to their commercial or subsistence fishing license or permit.