U.S. fishermen (Table 1). Of this amount none was taken outside the FCZ and 0.4 percent was taken from state waters. The U.S. and Canada together accounted for almost 90 percent of the annual western North Atlantic swordfish harvest between 1978 and 1982. This trend is expected to have continued through 1984 (Tables 1 and 2).

Swordfish are separated from other billfish for purposes of management because virtually all swordfish are taken on longline or with harpoons commercially, while virtually all billfish are taken on rod and reel recreationally.

6.0 PROBLEMS

1. Growth overfishing as measured by yield-per-recruit analysis is occurring or probably about to occur. This reduces landings by weight and significantly reduces landings by value because there are fewer larger fish preferred by the market. Since 1980 there has been an increase (both relative and absolute) in the catch of smaller fish (under 50 pounds dressed weight). There would be a gain in weight and value landed if these fish were harvested at a larger size.
2. There is intense competition for fishing space that results in gear entanglement and loss. This occurs between:
   - domestic longliners
   - domestic longliners, drift nets, and fixed lobster gear in the northeast
   - domestic longliners and foreign tuna longliners
3. There is an incidental swordfish catch by foreign tuna longlines and squid trawls that is lost to domestic fishermen.

Table 1. Swordfish catches (pounds) from the western North Atlantic.* (Source: FAO, Yearbook of Fishery Statistics.)

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Canada	6,730,643	6,547,662	4,153,466	1,272,054	2,078,938
Cuba	881,840	220,460	471,784	350,531	235,892
Japan	593,037	577,606	815,702	683,426	568,787
Korea Republic	24,251	a	a	a	57,320
Morocco	a	a	a	a	a
Poland	13,228	a	2,205	a	a
Spain	a	a	a	a	4,409[b]
Togo/Ghana	a	a	a	a	a
USA	7,125,267	7,321,476	8,095,291	8,004,903	8,258,431
USSR	a	a	a	a	a
Venezuela	101,412	147,708	88,184	55,115	55,115
Portugal	a	a	a	a	a
France	a	a	a	a	a
Liberia	a	a	a	a	a
Other[b]	352,736	617,288	357,145	354,941	326,281
TOTALS	15,822,414	15,432,200	13,983,777	10,720,970	11,585,173

* FAO statistical reporting areas 21 and 31
a None reported
b FAO estimate

Table 2. Annual domestic swordfish landings (pounds whole weight) by Council area 1960-1983 and by management area 1977-1983.

	GMFMC	SAFMC	MAFMC	NEFMC	TOTAL ALL AREAS
1960	-	-	69,000	942,000	1,011,000
1961	-	-	72,000	829,000	901,000
1962	-	-	67,000	867,000	934,000
1963	-	1,000	423,000	2,331,000	2,755,000
1964	-	483,000	1,113,000	1,456,000	3,052,000
1965	-	524,000	1,391,000	788,000	2,703,000
1966	-	77,000	425,000	855,000	1,357,000
1967	-	-	404,000	641,000	1,045,000
1968	-	-	216,000	389,000	605,000
1969	2,000	-	40,000	336,000	378,000
1970	346,000	-	18,000	268,000	632,000
1971	1,000	1,000	4,000	73,000	78,000
1972	-	-	-	541,000	541,000
1973	14,000	-	7,000	873,000	894,000
1974	86,000	-	76,000	3,353,000	3,515,000
1975	149,000	-	149,000	4,294,000	4,592,000
1976	391,000	262,000	187,000	3,408,000	4,248,000
1977	2,321	233,000	222,278	1,306,000	1,763,599
1978	52,708	1,559,470	511,000	5,022,000	7,145,178
1979	378,000	2,384,147	343,554	4,412,000	7,517,701
1980	1,725,975	3,469,715	589,313	2,651,000	8,436,003
1981	1,164,504	3,658,644	596,232	2,373,029	7,792,409
1982	1,255,775	4,251,728	1,081,892	2,442,255	9,031,650
1983	716,731	4,163,042	1,458,155	2,925,954	9,263,882

	MANAGEMENT AREA				
	GULF MEXICO	GA/FL TO GULF OF MEXICO	CAPE HATTERAS TO GA/FL	NORTH OF CAPE HATTERAS	TOTAL ALL AREAS
1977	2,321	113,000	0	1,648,278	1,763,599
1978	52,708	536,000	584,164	5,972,306	7,145,178
1979	378,000	1,391,000	822,711	4,925,990	7,517,701
1980	1,725,975	2,308,042	845,097	3,556,889	8,436,003
1981	1,164,504	2,718,871	688,345	3,220,689	7,792,409
1982	1,255,775	2,946,805	1,158,358	3,670,712	9,031,650
1983	716,731	2,817,983	1,181,144	4,548,024	9,263,882