



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Fact Sheet for Dealers: International Trade of Swordfish and Tuna

Who is affected? Dealers who import, export or re-export bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, or frozen bigeye tuna are affected by these regulations.

Where can I find the regulations? The regulations were published in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 2004 (69 FR 67268) and are codified at 50 C.F.R. parts 300 and 635. They can be accessed at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> or http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/HMS_ITP_regulations.pdf. A brief summary of the key provisions is given below. Please see the full regulatory text for a complete review of the requirements.

What do the regulations require? Dealers who import, export, or re-export fresh or frozen bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, and/or frozen bigeye tuna (NOT including fresh bigeye tuna) regardless of ocean area of origin, must comply with the following permitting and reporting requirements:

- hold a valid Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permit;
- complete and submit statistical documents or statistical document/re-export certificate sets, including validation for exports, for each shipment of the named species;
- complete and submit summary reports of trade activity for the named species;
- comply with all applicable record-keeping and reporting requirements.

What is the purpose of the regulations? The purpose of these regulations is to help track the international trade of highly migratory species, thus reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, improving conservation and management measures, and enhancing the scientific evaluation of these stocks.

How do I obtain an HMS International Trade Permit? Download an application from the following website: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/International_Trade_Permit.htm, or write to this address: NMFS Permit Team, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Ave., South, St. Petersburg, FL, 333701; or call this number: 727/824-5326.

How much does the permit cost? The permit costs \$25.00 and may be purchased with a check or money order made out to the U.S. Treasury.

What are the reporting requirements? Each import, export, and re-export of the named species must be accompanied by a statistical document (and re-export certificate when applicable) that has been validated by an approved authority, and the original (imports) or a copy (exports) must be provided to NMFS. Summary reports must be submitted at biweekly intervals, and copies of statistical documents, re-export certificates, and summary reports must be maintained for two years. For further information, including instructions for validation, please see the reporting instructions at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/ITP_Reporting_Requirements_2-27-07.pdf

How do I obtain reporting documents? Reporting documents and complete instructions will be distributed to dealers when they obtain an HMS International Trade Permit. These documents are also posted on the website www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms under the link "International Trade."

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