

7.0 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FISH PROCESSING

Several regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs), including ICCAT, have taken steps to improve the collection of international trade data to further international conservation policy for the management of HMS. While RFMOs cannot re-create information about stock production based on trade data, this information can be used provisionally to estimate landings related to these fisheries, and to identify potential compliance problems with certain RFMO management measures. United States participation in HMS related international trade programs, as well as a review of trade activity, is discussed in this section. This section also includes a review of the available information on the processing industry for Atlantic HMS species.

7.1 Overview of International Trade for Atlantic HMS

7.1.1 Trade Monitoring

The United States collects general trade monitoring data through the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP; imports) and the U.S. Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau; exports and imports). These programs collect data on the amount and value of imports and exports categorized under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS). Many HMS have distinct HTS codes, and some species are further subdivided by product (*e.g.*, fresh or frozen, fillets, steaks, etc.). NMFS provides Census Bureau trade data for marine fish products online for the public at <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/trade/index.html>. Some species are combined into groups (*e.g.*, sharks), which can limit the value of these data for fisheries management when species-specific information is needed. These data are further limited since the ocean area of origin for each product is not distinguished. For example, the HTS code for Atlantic, Pacific, and even Indian Ocean bigeye tuna is the same.

Trade data for Atlantic HMS are more useful as a conservation tool when they include more detailed information, such as the flag of the harvesting vessel, the ocean of origin, and the species for each transaction. Under the authority of ATCA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS collects this more detailed information while monitoring international trade of bluefin tuna, swordfish, southern bluefin tuna, and frozen bigeye tuna. Under NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 300 subpart M, NMFS requires traders of these species and shark fins to obtain the HMS International Trade Permit. These programs implement ICCAT recommendations and support rebuilding efforts by collecting data necessary to identify nations and individuals that may be fishing in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT fishery conservation and management measures. Copies of all trade monitoring documents associated with these programs may be found on the NMFS HMS Management Division webpage at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>. These and several other trade monitoring programs established by NMFS for HMS are described in further detail below.

7.1.2 Bluefin Tuna Catch Document

For over a decade, the trade of bluefin tuna was tracked internationally under ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BSD) program (Recommendation 92-01). In 2007, ICCAT adopted a more rigorous bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) program (Recommendation 07-10) which tracks bluefin from capture, through farming operations, landing, and trade. NMFS implemented the program in July 2008 (73 CFR 31380, June 2, 2008). The intent of the program is to support the ICCAT Rebuilding Program by accounting for all bluefin tuna harvested and available in the marketplace, or held in cages.

A BCD is required to be generated at the harvest of all bluefin tuna. In the United States, bluefin tuna are tagged when landed, and landing data associated with the tag number is transmitted to NMFS. The tag stays on the fish until it is cut up into portions to be consumed, and the associated landings data can be retrieved at any time by referencing the tag number. If a bluefin is exported, then a BCD document is generated to accompany the export, and remains with the fish until it is consumed abroad. Exporters must also be permitted under the HMS International Trade Program.

BCDs are required to accompany the import of any bluefin tuna into the United States. Importers are first required to obtain an HMS International Trade Permit from NMFS, and must report any trade of bluefin tuna or other covered species. NMFS routinely consults import data generated by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to check against BCD data and ensure that importers are abiding by BCD and other NMFS regulations implementing ICCAT requirements.

7.1.3 Swordfish Statistical Document

In 2005, the ICCAT swordfish statistical document (SD) program was implemented by the United States to track trade of Atlantic swordfish and assist in implementing the ICCAT minimum size of 14.9 kg dw. The swordfish SD program is based on a 2001 ICCAT recommendation (01-22), and ensures that all imported swordfish are greater than the minimum size of 14.9 kg (33 lb) dw, and identifies the flag of the harvesting vessel and ocean area of origin. Similar to the BCD program, CBP data on swordfish imports is also used to obtain missing data and identify dealers that are not following the required reporting procedures. Previously during the time period from 1999-2005, a certificate of eligibility was required for swordfish imports into the United States, which ensured that all imports were greater than the required minimum size.

7.1.4 Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document

Like the two previous trade monitoring programs discussed above, the bigeye tuna SD program is used to track movement of internationally traded bigeye tuna to its final destination. ICCAT recommended the implementation of a bigeye tuna SD program in 2001 (recommendation 01-21). The initial program was implemented in 2005 along with the swordfish SD, and applies only to frozen bigeye tuna. It may be expanded to cover fresh product in the future. Other RFMOs, including the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, have also adopted frozen bigeye SD programs.

7.1.5 Dolphin-safe Tuna Imports

For every shipment of frozen or processed tuna imported into the United States, a completed Fisheries Certificate of Origin (NOAA Form 370) is required to be submitted to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the time of importation. In some cases, an additional certification signed by a representative of a nation participating in the International Dolphin Conservation Program or a Captain's Statement is required to accompany the NOAA Form 370. Since the late 1970s, NOAA Form 370 has been used to document imports of fresh tuna and other species of tuna for the purpose of protecting dolphins in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. Form 370 is filed with other documents necessary for entry of yellowfin tuna into the United States. The form is *not* required for fresh tuna, animal food, or canned petfood made from tuna. Further information is available on the website <http://dolphinsafe.gov/>.

7.1.6 Billfish Certificate of Eligibility

The Billfish Certificate of Eligibility is used to ensure that any billfish being imported or sold in the United States (outside of the Pacific states) is not of Atlantic origin. In the Pacific states, billfish involved in trade are presumed to be of Pacific origin. Any statement that contains the specified information is sufficient to meet the certificate of eligibility documentation requirements; it is not necessary to use the form available from NMFS or to submit the form to NMFS upon final disposition of the billfish.

7.2 U.S. Exports of HMS

“Exports” may include merchandise of both domestic and foreign origin. The Census Bureau defines exports of "domestic" merchandise to include commodities which are grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States (*e.g.*, fish caught by U.S. fishermen). For statistical purposes, domestic exports also include commodities of foreign origin which have been altered in the United States from the form in which they were imported, or which have been enhanced in value by further manufacture in the United States. The value of an export is the f.a.s. (free alongside ship) value defined as the value at the port of export based on a transaction price including inland freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in placing the merchandise alongside the carrier. It excludes the cost of loading the merchandise, freight, insurance, and other charges or transportation costs beyond the port of exportation.

7.2.1 Atlantic and Pacific Bluefin Tuna Exports

As discussed in the previous section, NMFS collects detailed export data on bluefin tuna (Atlantic and Pacific) through the BCD program. Table 7.1 gives bluefin tuna export data for exports from the United States. Recent decreases in Atlantic BFT exports since 1999 could in part be a result of the growing U.S. market for high-quality fresh bluefin tuna meat. Since 2004, exports could also have been reduced because of a reduction in U.S. Atlantic bluefin tuna landings.

Table 7.1 includes data from the NMFS BCD program, and Census Bureau data. Census Bureau data are consistently greater in value than data reported by the BCD program. This has

been determined to be a result of NMFS' additional quality control measures that ensure data for other species (*e.g.*, Southern bluefin tuna) or other transaction types (*e.g.*, re-exports) are not erroneously included with bluefin export data. BFT re-export data are listed separately in Table 7.7.

Table 7.1 United States Exports of Atlantic and Pacific Bluefin Tuna, 1999-2007. (Sources: NMFS BCD Program, NERO, and Census Bureau.)

Year	Atlantic Commercial Landings (NERO, MT, DW)	Atlantic BFT Exports (BSD, MT, DW)	Pacific BFT Exports (BSD, MT, DW)	Total U.S. Exports (BSD, MT, DW)	Total U.S. Exports (Census Bureau, MT)	Value of U.S. Exports (Census Bureau, \$ million)
1999	876.0	735.6	95.7	831.3	1,183	9.37
2000	903.9	758.0	76.0	834.0	1,044	11.20
2001	987.0	812.3	67.0	879.0	1,020	10.70
2002	964.0	730.4	0.1	730.5	922	10.74
2003	756.9	578.7	2.1	580.8	998	11.36
2004	428.6	247.3	0.0	247.3	370	4.50
2005	419.4	245.7	125.1	370.8	454	5.30
2006	204.6	93.1	0.0	93.1	281	3.60
2007	196.4	85.4	8.2	93.6	238	2.90

Note: most exports of Pacific BFT were in round (whole) form, although some exports were of dressed and gilled/gutted fish; Atlantic exports included whole, dressed, and product forms (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

7.2.2 Other Tuna Exports

Export data for other tunas is gathered by the Census Bureau, and includes trade data for albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna from all ocean areas of origin combined. In 2001, albacore tuna first replaced bluefin tuna as the most valuable tuna export from the United States (Table 7.2), according to Census Bureau information. Albacore has remained a higher value export than bluefin tuna since 2003. Comparing the last five years, the amount and value of exported albacore was greatest for the year 2004, and second greatest in 2007. During the time period covered by this table, the annual amount and value of frozen exports exceeded fresh exports for every year.

Table 7.2 Amount and Value of U.S. Exports of Albacore Tuna From All Ocean Areas, 1999-2007 (Census Bureau data) and U.S. Landings of North Atlantic Albacore Tuna (2008 U.S. National Report to ICCAT).

Year	Atlantic Landings (mt ww)	U.S. Exports (from all ocean areas)					
		Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Exports	
		MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	317	517	1.01	2,743	5.52	3,260	6.54
2000	407	263	0.78	2,747	6.04	3,010	6.83
2001	324	1,542	3.62	4,609	9.83	6,151	13.45
2002	488	680	1.50	4,483	8.28	5,163	9.78
2003	448	894	1.86	9,731	18.85	10,624	20.71
2004	640	1,360	3.28	10,737	24.11	12,097	27.38
2005	486	549	1.61	7,402	16.99	7,951	18.60
2006	400	378	1.04	8,810	19.56	9,187	20.60
2007	532	275	0.84	11,731	25.52	12,006	26.35

Note: Landings may be calculated on a calendar or fishing year basis; exports may be in whole (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

Table 7.3 and Table 7.4 show U.S. Atlantic landings and U.S. exports from all ocean areas combined for yellowfin and skipjack tuna, respectively. Yellowfin exports were greater and more valuable than exports for skipjack or bigeye tuna (Table 7.5), although yellowfin tuna exports decreased markedly in 2004 and have continued to decline through 2007. The amount of fresh yellowfin product exported usually exceeds the amount of frozen yellowfin product annually. Fresh product and overall exports were highest in 2002 and 2003. The amount and value of exported fresh and frozen skipjack tuna has varied over the nine year period covered in Table 7.4, without any discernable trends. Exports and landings of skipjack in 1999 far exceeded values for the following years.

Table 7.3 Amount and Value of U.S. Exports of Yellowfin Tuna From All Ocean Areas, 1999-2007 (Census Bureau data) and U.S. Landings of Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna (2008 U.S. National Report to ICCAT).

Year	Atlantic Landings (mt ww)	U.S. Exports (from all ocean areas)					
		Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Exports	
		MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	7,569	947	2.09	390	.84	1337	2.93
2000	7,051	412	1.12	406	.76	819	1.89
2001	6,703	290	.71	834	1.45	1124	2.17
2002	5,646	1612	2.37	420	.81	2033	3.19
2003	7,685	1792	2.93	176	.68	1968	3.62
2004	6,437	306	1.54	242	.31	549	1.86
2005	5,562	158	1.70	291	.97	449	2.67
2006	7,090	183	1.96	108	.37	291	2.32
2007	5,559	148	1.75	138	.44	286	2.19

Note: Landings may be calculated on a calendar or fishing year basis; exports may be in whole (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

Table 7.4 Amount and Value of U.S. Exports of Skipjack Tuna From All Ocean Areas, 1999-2007 (Census Bureau data) and U.S. Landings of West Atlantic Skipjack Tuna (2008 U.S. National Report to ICCAT).

Year	Atlantic Landings (mt ww)	U.S. Exports (from all ocean areas)					
		Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Exports	
		MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	152	88	.20	1092	.89	1,181	1.10
2000	44	7	.01	83	.05	91	.06
2001	69	82	.15	34	.04	117	.20
2002	66	66	.17	11	.01	77	.18
2003	77	81	.22	0	0	81	.22
2004	102	55	.30	140	.18	196	.48
2005	30	35	.14	-	-	35	.14
2006	61	6	.02	23	.04	30	.06
2007	66	17	.06	77	.12	94	.18

Note: Landings data may have been ported on either a fishing year or calendar year basis; exports may be in whole (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

Bigeeye tuna exports and Atlantic landings are given in Table 7.5. No data were available for bigeye tuna exports in 2001, and prior to 2001 bigeye exports were included in the category of unspecified tuna. Annually, bigeye tuna exports include more fresh than frozen product.

Table 7.5 Amount and Value of U.S. Exports of Bigeye Tuna From All Ocean Areas, 2002-2007 (Census Bureau data) and U.S. Landings of Atlantic Bigeye Tuna (2008 U.S. National Report to ICCAT).

Year	Atlantic Landings (mt ww)	U.S. Exports (from all ocean areas)					
		Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Exports	
		MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
2002	600	95	.22	8	.01	104	.24
2003	480	255	.47	40	.08	295	.56
2004	419	361	1.40	48	.10	410	1.51
2005	484	431	1.95	50	.12	481	2.07
2006	991	223	1.69	76	.20	299	1.89
2007	523	128	1.38	65	.14	193	1.52

NOTE: Landings data may have been reported on either a fishing year or calendar year basis; exports may be in whole (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

7.2.3 Shark Exports

Export data for sharks is gathered by the Census Bureau, and includes trade data for sharks from any ocean area of origin. Shark exports are not categorized down to the species level, with the exception of dogfish, and are not identified by specific product code other than fresh or frozen meat and fins. Due to the popular trade in shark fins and their high relative value compared to shark meat, a specific HTS code was assigned to shark fins in 1998. It should be

noted that there is no tracking of other shark products besides meat and fins. Therefore, NMFS cannot track trade in shark leather, oil, or shark cartilage products.

Table 7.6 indicates the magnitude and value of shark exports by the United States from 1999 – 2007. The reduction in shark fin exports from 2002 to 2007 is of particular note, as is the increase in the unit value of shark fins during this time period. Decreases in shark fin trade were expected as the result of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act, which was enacted in December of 2000 and implemented by final rule (67 FR 6194, February 11, 2002).

Table 7.6 Amount and Value of U.S. Shark Product Exports From 1999-2007. (Source: Census Bureau.)

Yr	Shark Fins Dried			Non-specified Fresh Shark			Non-specified Frozen Shark			Total for all Exports	
	MT	US\$ (million)	\$/K G	MT	US\$ (million)	\$/KG	MT	US\$ (million)	\$/K G	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	106	.91	8.54	270	.48	1.80	155	.46	2.97	532	1.86
2000	365	3.51	9.62	430	.78	1.82	345	.81	2.35	1140	5.10
2001	335	3.16	9.44	332	.54	1.64	634	2.34	3.69	1301	6.04
2002	123	3.46	28.00	968	1.47	1.52	982	2.34	2.38	2075	7.28
2003	45	4.03	87.79	837	1.31	1.57	592	1.34	2.28	1476	6.70
2004	63	3.02	47.53	536	1.18	2.21	472	.98	2.09	1071	5.18
2005	31	2.37	76.93	377	1.03	2.73	494	1.06	2.15	902	4.46
2006	34	3.17	94.66	816	1.62	1.99	747	1.38	1.85	1597	6.17
2007	19	1.78	93.68	502	1.05	2.09	695	1.35	1.94	1216	4.18

Note: Exports may be in whole (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

7.2.4 Re-exports of Atlantic HMS

For purposes of international trade tracking of HMS, the term “re-export” refers to a product that has been entered for consumption into the United States and then exported to another country, with or without further processing in the United States (from 50 CFR Part 300, Subpart M, International Trade Documentation and Tracking Programs for HMS). For most HMS species for most years, re-export activity is a small fraction of export activity and well below relative reference points of 1000 mt and/or one million dollars annually. Exceptions to this include fresh yellowfin tuna re-exports which were valued at \$1.5 million in 2003 and fresh and frozen yellowfin tuna valued at \$1.1 million in 2002 (Census Bureau data). In 2004, dried shark fin re-exports reached a six year maximum value of \$1.8 million (29 mt, down from 34 mt in 2003).

Bluefin tuna re-exports reached a five year maximum in 2003 (Table 7.7), at 691 mt, which exceeded the amount of bluefin exports for the year, for the first time in the history of the BSD program (K. Goldsmith, pers. com.). Further investigation into BSD program data found that the increases in bluefin re-exports from 2003-2005 reflected the growth of the Mexican farming/mariculture industry which exports product to the United States for re-export to Japan. Implementation of the HMS International Trade Permit regulations in 2005 (69 FR 67268,

November 17, 2004) changed the way re-exports and transshipments were distinguished, and probably resulted in the decrease in re-exports since 2005.

7.2.5 Summary of Atlantic HMS Exports

Nationally, the value of HMS exports (from all ocean areas combined) is dominated by tuna products. In 2007, fresh and frozen tuna products accounted for 17,332 mt dw or 1.5 percent of the 1,128,746 mt dw of fresh and frozen seafood products exported from the United States, as indicated in *Fisheries of the United States, 2007*. The value of these HMS products accounted for \$56.97 million, out of a national total of \$3.4 billion.

Data reflecting international trade of HMS species harvested from all ocean areas are of limited value for describing trade of HMS harvested from the Atlantic Ocean. For example, Atlantic landings of albacore tuna (commercial and recreational) for 2003 were reported in the 2004 U.S. National Report to ICCAT as 448 mt (Table 7.2). National trade data show that over 10,000 mt of albacore were exported, which indicates that the majority of albacore exports were Pacific Ocean product. Trade tracking programs such as the bluefin tuna, swordfish, and bigeye tuna statistical document programs are much more useful for describing the international disposition of Atlantic HMS.

7.3 U.S. Imports of Atlantic HMS

All import shipments must be reported to the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. "General" imports are reported when a commodity enters the country, and "consumption" imports consist of entries into the United States for immediate consumption combined with withdrawals from CBP bonded warehouses. "Consumption" import data reflect the actual entry of commodities originating outside the United States into U.S. channels of consumption. As discussed previously, CBP data for certain products are provided to NMFS for use in implementing statistical document programs. U.S. Census Bureau import data are used by NMFS as well.

7.3.1 Bluefin Tuna Imports

United States imports and re-exports of bluefin tuna for 1999 through 2007, as reported through both CBP and BCD program data, are shown in Table 7.7. The difference in import numbers between the CBP and BCD data may be explained by a lack of knowledge and compliance with the BCD program by importers, especially those on the Pacific coast.

The rise in popularity of sashimi in the United States has generated increased imports of bluefin tuna, and dealers are reporting an expanded domestic market for both locally-caught and imported raw tuna. As discussed previously, the large amount of re-exports in the mid-2000's resulted from the increase in importation of farmed bluefin from Mexico and re-exportation to Japan. The subsequent decrease is presumed to be a reflection of the change in the way transshipments and re-exports are distinguished.

Table 7.7 Imports of Atlantic and Pacific Bluefin Tuna into the United States: 1999-2007. (Sources: NMFS BSD program and CBP data.)

YEAR	NMFS BSD Program		U.S. CBP Data	
	Imports (MT)	Re-exports (MT)	Imports (MT)	VALUE (US\$ million)
1999	411.9	16.6	558.6	3.02
2000	361.9	99.3	453.4	7.67
2001	512.9	7.0	532.3	8.21
2002	529.3	94.1	605.0	9.75
2003	649.9	691.0	780.3	11.67
2004	823.4	684.8	886.1	15.25
2005	966.1	496.0	1064.0	19.96
2006	791.5	18.5	865.2	17.05
2007	584.6	17.7	697.1	13.97

Note: Most imports of BFT were in dressed form, and some were round and gilled/gutted fish, fillets or belly meat (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change. Southern bluefin tuna trade was included in figures for Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna trade prior to 2002.

7.3.2 Other Tuna Imports

Since January 2001, CBP has been collecting species-specific import information for bigeye tuna (grouped to include all ocean areas). Previously, bigeye tuna had been grouped with other tuna under general tuna imports. The total amount of bigeye tuna imports has ranged between 4800 and 7900 mt over the last seven years, as shown in Table 7.8. No trends are identifiable.

Table 7.8 Imports of Bigeye Tuna Into the United States From All Ocean Areas Combined: 2001-2007.
(Source: Census Bureau data.)

Year	Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Imports	
	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
2001	4684	25.70	135	.32	4,820	26.02
2002	6312	39.84	319	.70	6,632	40.55
2003	7312	51.01	560	1.48	7,872	52.49
2004	6752	49.10	1175	2.62	7,928	51.73
2005	5040	38.18	1539	3.33	6,579	41.51
2006	4920	36.55	1522.6	3.15	6,442	39.70
2007	5617	42.30	1512	3.19	7,129	45.49

Note: Imports may be whole weight (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

Annual yellowfin tuna imports into the United States for all ocean areas combined are given in Table 7.9. As indicated by the data in this section, yellowfin tuna are imported in the greatest quantity of all fresh and frozen tuna products. The annual value and total amount of yellowfin imports has increased gradually from 1999 – 2007. Most imported yellowfin products are fresh.

Table 7.9 Imports of Yellowfin Tuna Into the United States From All Ocean Areas Combined: 1999-2007. (Source: Census Bureau data.)

Year	Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Imports	
	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	11,756	63.04	9411	24.90	21,168	87.94
2000	13,153	70.27	3290	18.73	16,443	89.00
2001	15,563	85.50	3967	23.45	19,530	108.95
2002	15,966	95.22	4619	29.31	20,585	124.53
2003	15,299	94.03	5579	39.67	20,878	133.71
2004	15,624	99.41	5833	35.35	21,457	134.96
2005	17,064	116.58	6002	46.89	23,066	163.47
2006	17,792	126.47	5442	42.78	23,234	169.25
2007	17,985	137.42	5506	44.26	23,492	181.69

NOTE: Imports may be whole weight (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

The amount of albacore imports from all ocean areas has generally been declining since 1999 (Table 7.10). In 1999, albacore imports were valued at \$144 million while in 2005 the value dropped to approximately \$5 million. Import amounts and value have been fairly stable

over the last several years. (Products in airtight containers (e.g., cans or foil pouches) are not included in these data.)

Table 7.10 Imports of Albacore Tuna into the United States From All Ocean Areas Combined: 1999-2007. (Source: Census Bureau data.)

Year	Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Imports	
	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	1776	5.39	63,284	139.50	65,060	144.89
2000	1843	6.42	51,001	127.33	52,845	133.76
2001	1107	3.85	40,428	105.58	41,536	109.43
2002	1296	4.81	11,903	24.49	13,200	29.31
2003	1062	4.11	12,569	25.90	13,632	30.02
2004	1004	3.12	4943	11.67	5947	14.80
2005	706	2.38	1016	2.96	1722	5.34
2006	876	3.54	667	1.71	1543	5.25
2007	945	3.86	718	1.98	1664	5.86

Note: Imports may be whole weight (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

Skipjack tuna imports into the United States are comprised mainly of frozen product (Table 7.11). Like albacore tuna, the amount and value of skipjack imports have also decreased dramatically since 1999, but have rebounded slightly in the last two years. The amount of product imported fell from over 8,000 mt dw in 1999 to 112 mt dw in 2004, but climbed back up to 1,023 mt dw in 2006. Likewise, the value of these products during this time period fell from \$6.3 million to \$0.98 million. (Products in airtight containers (e.g., cans or foil pouches) are not included in these data.)

Table 7.11 Imports of Skipjack Tuna From All Ocean Areas Combined Into the United States: 1999-2007. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau data.)

Year	Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Imports	
	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	0	0	8,238	6.30	8,238	6.30
2000	0	0	904	2.75	904	2.75
2001	<1	<0.01	377	0.61	378	0.62
2002	<1	0.01	824	0.83	825	0.84
2003	0	0	224	0.43	224	0.43
2004	<1	<0.01	110	0.26	112	0.27
2005	0	0	652	0.67	652	0.67

Year	Fresh		Frozen		Total for all Imports	
	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
2006	140	0.14	883	0.84	1,023	0.98
2007	31	0.06	835	0.73	866	0.79

Note: Imports may be whole weight (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

7.3.3 Swordfish Imports

Table 7.12 summarizes swordfish import data collected by NMFS' Swordfish Statistical Document Program for the 2007 calendar year. According to these data, most swordfish imports were Pacific Ocean product. For Atlantic product, most imports came from Canada, followed by Brazil. CBP data located at the bottom of the table reflect a larger amount of imports than reported by the import monitoring program, and may be used by NMFS staff to follow up with importers, collect statistical documents that have not been submitted, and enforce dealer reporting requirements.

Table 7.12 Swordfish Import Data for the 2007 Calendar Year Collected Under the NMFS Swordfish Statistical Document Program.

Flag of Harvesting Vessel	Ocean Area of Origin								Total (mt dw)
	Atlantic (mt dw)	North Atlantic (mt dw)	South Atlantic (mt dw)	Med. (mt dw)	Pacific (mt dw)	Western Pacific (mt dw)	Indian (mt dw)	Not Provided (mt dw)	
Australia	-	-	-	-	0.5	66.6	28.4	-	95.4
Belize	-	-	-	-	29.6	-	-	-	29.6
Brazil	11.3	-	312.2	-	11.6	-	-	0.5	335.6
Canada	-	478.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	478.5
Chile	-	-	-	-	580.1	-	3.4	-	583.5
Columbia	-	-	-	-	2.9	-	-	-	2.9
Costa Rica	-	-	-	0.5	225.0	-	-	1.0	226.5
Ecuador	-	-	0.1	22.8	293.3	-	0.1	2.3	318.6
Fiji Islands	-	-	-	-	18.2	14.3	1.0	2.3	35.8
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	224.3	-	-	-	224.3
Japan	-	-	-	-	4.9	-	4.7	-	9.6
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	0.9	-	62.4	-	63.3
Mexico	-	0.1	-	-	314.5	-	-	-	314.6
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	0.7	55.2	-	0.5	56.5
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	33.5	-	-	-	33.5
Panama	-	-	-	-	708.0	-	-	-	708.0
Philippines	-	-	-	-	2.6	-	-	-	2.6
South Africa	16.4	0.3	18.0	-	-	-	56.6	0.7	92.1
St. Vincent	-	27.9	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	33.4
Taiwan	-	7.2	-	-	14.1	-	-	-	21.3
Trinidad & Tobago	-	5.3	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	6.2
Uruguay	2.8	-	44.8	-	-	-	-	-	47.6
Venezuela	-	16.1	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	17.4
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	164.7	-	-	-	164.7
np	-	-	1.8	16.0	241.8	0.3	12.9	12.6	285.3
Total Imports Reported by SDs	30.6	535.4	383.7	39.2	2,871.0	136.4	169.5	20.9	4,186.7
Total Imports Reported by U.S. Customs & Border Protection									9,841.6
Total Imports Not Reported by SDs									5,654.9

SD Data as of 10/22/08

Table 7.13 indicates the amount and value of swordfish products imported by the United States from 1999 – 2007, as recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau, for all ocean areas combined. New import product categories were added in 2007. The amount of each product imported per year and annual totals for product and value were fairly consistent over the past several years. Total imports fell by approximately 900 mt in 2007.

Table 7.13 Imported Swordfish Products by Year: 1999-2007. (Source: Census Bureau data.)

Year	Fresh (MT)		Frozen (MT)					Total for all Imports		
	Steaks	Other	Fillets	Steaks	Other			MT	US\$ (million)	
1999	81	8595	4377	401	386			13,842	71.70	
2000	161	8626	4833	524	167			14,314	85.57	
2001	71	8982	3814	710	119			13,697	81.89	
2002	195	9726	4156	956	677			15,711	88.26	
2003	147	8079	3929	433	560			13,150	75.62	
2004	157	6568	3261	387	351			10,726	70.95	
2005	172	6388	2957	367	304			10,187	77.17	
2006	77	6830	2875	351	201			10,334	75.63	
*New Categories in 2007	*Fillets	Steaks	Other	Fillets	Steaks	*Meat >6.8 kg	*Meat <=6.8 kg	Other		
2007	174	84	5412	2520	171	118	737	205	9,422	70.85

NOTE: Imports may be whole weight (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

7.3.4 Shark Imports

Similar to tuna imports other than bluefin tuna and frozen bigeye tuna, NMFS does not require shark importers to collect and submit information regarding the ocean area of catch. Shark imports are also not categorized by species, and lack specific product information on imported shark meat such as the proportion of fillets and steaks. The condition of shark fin imports; e.g., wet, dried, or further processed products such as canned shark fin soup, is also not collected. There is no longer a separate tariff code for shark leather, so its trade is not tracked by CBP or Census Bureau data.

The United States may be an important trans-shipment port for shark fins, which may be imported wet, processed, and then exported dried. It is also probable that U.S.-caught shark fins are exported to Hong Kong or Singapore for processing, and then imported back into the United States for consumption by urban-dwelling Asian Americans (Rose, 1996).

Table 7.14 summarizes Census Bureau data on shark imports for 1999 through 2007. Imports of fresh shark products and shark fins have decreased significantly since 1999. As of July 2, 2008, shark importers, exporters, and re-exporters are required to be permitted under NMFS' HMS International Trade Permit regulations (73 FR 31380). Permitting of shark fin traders was implemented to assist in enforcement and monitoring trade of this valuable commodity.

From 1999 to 2007, the overall annual amount and value of shark imports has fluctuated. Imports of dried shark fins has been increasing gradually since 2003.

Table 7.14 U.S. Imports of Shark Products From All Ocean Areas Combined: 1999-2007. (Source: Census Bureau data.)

Year	Shark Fins Dried		Non-specified Fresh Shark		Non-specified Frozen Shark		Total For All Imports	
	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)	MT	US\$ (million)
1999	59	2.10	1,095	2.03	105	.62	1,260	4.76
2000	66	2.35	1,066	1.85	90	.57	1,222	4.79
2001	50	1.08	913	1.38	123	1.78	1,087	4.25
2002	39	1.02	797	1.24	91	1.09	928	3.35
2003	11	0.01	515	0.72	100	0.99	626	1.82
2004	14	0.34	650	1.00	156	2.35	821	3.70
2005	27	0.75	537	1.02	147	2.27	711	4.04
2006	28	1.38	338	0.68	93	1.35	459	3.41
2007	29	1.68	548	1.03	174	1.04	751	3.75

NOTE: Imports may be whole weight (ww) or product weight (dw); data are preliminary and subject to change.

7.3.5 Summary of U.S. Imports of Atlantic HMS

The import data in this section show that many HMS species are part of a valuable import market. As discussed previously regarding exports, most data documenting imports include products harvested from many ocean areas, not just the Atlantic Ocean. However, the statistical document programs for bluefin tuna, swordfish, and frozen bigeye tuna provide information specifically about product harvested from the Atlantic Ocean and imported into the United States.

7.4 The Use of Trade Data for Conservation Purposes

Trade data has been used in a number of ways to support the international management of HMS. When appropriate, the SCRS uses trade data on bluefin tuna, swordfish, bigeye tuna, and yellowfin tuna that are submitted to ICCAT as an indication of landings trends. These data can then be used to augment estimates of fishing mortality of these species, which improves scientific stock assessments. In addition, these data can be used to assist in assessing compliance with ICCAT recommendations and identify those countries whose fishing practices diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. On several occasions, ICCAT has adopted recommendations to address the lack of compliance with management programs for the bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and North and South Atlantic swordfish fisheries by ICCAT members. Penalties for non-compliance or fishing in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures may include catch limit reductions and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures.

For example, an analysis of vessel sighting and Japanese bluefin statistical document data led to the 1996 determination that fishing vessels from the countries of Panama, Honduras, and Belize were fishing in a manner that diminished the effectiveness of the bluefin tuna rebuilding program, and resulted in a 1996 ICCAT recommendation for sanctions against the import of bluefin tuna from these countries (Table 7.15). In 1999, ICCAT recommended this trade restriction on Panama be lifted as a result of the Government of Panama's efforts to substantially reduce fishing vessel activities deemed inconsistent with ICCAT measures. In 2001, Honduras became a member of ICCAT, and based on this change in status and Honduras' significant efforts to control its fleet and address ICCAT concerns, ICCAT recommended lifting trade sanctions for bluefin tuna. The bluefin sanction for Belize was lifted by ICCAT in 2002.

In another example, import data from 1997–1999 revealed significant Atlantic bluefin tuna exports from Equatorial Guinea despite the fact that a zero catch limit was in effect for that country. The government of Equatorial Guinea had not responded to ICCAT inquiries and had reported no bluefin tuna catch data to ICCAT, and as a result ICCAT recommended trade restrictions as a penalty for non-compliance. Based on information regarding improved compliance presented by Equatorial Guinea at the 2004 ICCAT meeting, specifically, that Equatorial Guinea had canceled licenses and flags of large-scale longline vessels previously participating in IUU tuna fishing in the Convention area and guaranteed compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, the trade sanction was lifted by ICCAT. As indicated in Table 7.15, most of the trade sanctions recommended by ICCAT since 1996 have been lifted. In fact, only trade sanctions for Bolivia and Georgia remain in effect.

Table 7.15 Summary and Current Status of ICCAT Recommended Trade Sanctions for Bluefin Tuna, Swordfish, and Bigeye Tuna Implemented by the United States.

Country	Species	ICCAT Recommended Sanction	U.S. Sanction Implemented	ICCAT Sanction Lifted	U.S. Sanction Lifted
Panama	Bluefin	1996	1997	1999	2000
Honduras	Bluefin	1996	1997	2001	2004
	Bigeye	2000	2002	2002	2004
	Swordfish	1999	2000	2001	2004
Belize	Bluefin	1996	1997	2002	2004
	Swordfish	1999	2000	2002	2004
	Bigeye	2000	2002	2002	2004
Equatorial Guinea	Bluefin	1999	2000	2004	2005
	Bigeye	2000	2002	2004	2005
Cambodia	Bigeye	2000	2002	2004	2005
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Bigeye	2000	2002	2002	2004
Bolivia	Bigeye	2002	2004	In effect	In effect
Sierra Leone	Bluefin	2002	2004	2004	2005
	Bigeye	2002	2004	2004	2005
	Swordfish	2002	2004	2004	2005
Georgia	Bigeye	2003	2004	In effect	In effect

7.5 Overview of the Processing Industry for Atlantic HMS

Understanding the harvesting and processing sectors is essential when analyzing world trade in highly migratory fish species. The processing related entities that depend on Atlantic HMS are as diverse as the species and products themselves. Processing techniques range from the simple dressing and icing of swordfish at sea, to elaborate grading and processing schemes for bluefin tuna, to processing shark fins. Like all other seafood, HMS are perishable and may pose health hazards if not handled properly. Products range from those having a long shelf-life, such as swordfish, to highly perishable species like yellowfin tuna. Improperly handled yellowfin tuna can produce histamine, and shark meat requires careful handling due to the high concentrations of urea in the body of the shark. In addition, swordfish and sharks may contain high levels of mercury. Processing companies are aware of these characteristics and their costs of doing business vary accordingly to protect consumers. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) works closely with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement to monitor incoming shipments of seafood, including highly migratory species.

FDA's Seafood Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program implemented regulations that require processors of fish and fishery products to operate preventive control systems to ensure human food safety. Among other things, processors must effectively maintain the safety of their products, systematically monitor the operation of critical control points to ensure that they are working as they should, and keep records of the results of that monitoring. Processors must also develop written HACCP plans that describe the details and operation of their HACCP systems. Each processor may tailor its HACCP system to meet its own circumstances. The best way for FDA to determine whether a processor is effectively operating a HACCP system is by inspecting the processor. Federal review of monitoring and other records generated by the HACCP system is a critical component of an inspection because it allows the inspector to match records against the practices and conditions being observed in the plant and it discourages fraud. NMFS works closely with the FDA, in support of the HACCP program.

Just as HACCP plans vary between processors, transportation of the seafood to market also varies widely from the direct domestic sale of some shark or swordfish meat by a fisherman to a restaurant (carried by truck) to the quick, and sometimes complicated, export of bluefin tuna from fisherman to dealer to broker to the Japanese auction (carried by a commercial airline carrier). Frozen swordfish and tunas are often brought to the United States by overseas shipping companies and sharks and other products may be exported from the United States, processed overseas, and imported in a final product form.

It is unknown how many U.S. companies economically depend on HMS fisheries, other than the registered dealers who buy fish directly from U.S. fishermen and/or who import bluefin tuna or swordfish. The proportion of those companies that depend solely on Atlantic HMS versus those that handle other seafood and/or products is also unknown. This section provides a summary of the most recent trade data that NMFS has analyzed, as well as a brief description of the processing and trade industries employed in delivering Atlantic HMS from the ocean to the plate.

7.5.1 Processing and Wholesale Sectors

NMFS has limited quantitative information on the processing sector, including the amount of HMS products sold in processed forms. In addition, knowledge regarding the utilization of Atlantic HMS is largely limited to the major or most valuable product forms, such as export-quality bluefin tuna.

Much of the processing of export-quality Atlantic bluefin tuna occurs onboard the vessel harvesting the fish, which serves to maximize fish quality. Bluefin are gutted and bled, and protected from the heat and sunlight by immersion in ice or an icy brine. Upon landing, bluefin are immediately graded and prepared for export to Japan's fresh fish market. The fish are either refrigerated or exported immediately in insulated crates or "coffins" filled with ice or icepacks.

Other Atlantic tunas, especially bigeye tuna, are frequently shipped fresh to Japan in dressed form. Swordfish are sold fresh and frozen in dressed form and as processed products (*e.g.*, steaks and fillets). The utilization of sharks is not well known since trade statistics frequently do not indicate product forms such as skins and leather, jaws, fishmeal and fertilizer, liver oil, and cartilage (Rose, 1996). Domestically-landed shark meat may be sold to supermarkets and processors of frozen fish products (this meat is generally labeled as either blacktip or mako shark, regardless of the actual species). Shark fins are generally dried and then exported. NMFS continues to work with industry to collect information specific to U.S. and foreign processing of Atlantic HMS to better track markets, conserve stocks, and manage sustainable fisheries.

The U.S. processing and wholesale sectors are dependent upon both U.S. and international HMS fisheries. Individuals involved in these businesses buy the seafood, cut it into pieces that transform it into a consumer product, and then sell it to restaurants or retail outlets. Employment varies widely among processing firms. Often employment is seasonal unless the firms also process imported seafood or a wide range of domestic seafood. The majority of firms handle other types of seafood and are not solely dependent on HMS. Other participants in the commercial trade sector include brokers, freight forwarders, and carriers (primarily commercial airlines, trucking, and shipping companies). Swordfish, tunas, and sharks are important commodities on world markets, generating significant amounts in export earnings in recent years.

NMFS has recently observed that many seafood dealers that buy and sell HMS and other seafood products have expanded their operations into internet-powered trading platforms specifically designed to meet the needs of other seafood professionals. Through these platforms, interested parties can conduct very detailed negotiations with many trading partners simultaneously. Buyers and sellers can bargain over all relevant elements of a market transaction (not just price) and can specify the product needed to buy or sell in detail, using seafood-specific terminology. The platforms are purportedly very easy to use because they mimic the pattern of traditional negotiations in the seafood industry. NMFS expects that the use of the internet will continue to change the way HMS trade occurs in the future.

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