



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## NMFS ANNOUNCES PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH QUOTAS

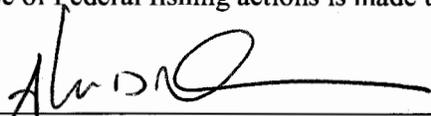
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to adjust the 2005 North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas based on updated information for the 2003 fishing year and to account for the underharvest in the 2004 fishing year. The adjusted 2005 North Atlantic swordfish directed fishery quota (5,953.4 mt dw) would be divided equally between two semiannual periods (June 1 - November 30 and December 1 - May 31). The adjusted 2005 South Atlantic swordfish quota would be 409.5 mt dw. Additionally, NMFS proposes extend the 2005 North Atlantic swordfish management measures pursuant to the 2004 ICCAT recommendation (04-02). Therefore, the North Atlantic swordfish baseline commercial quota would be 2,937.6 mt dw for the 2006 fishing year.

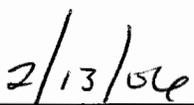
### Landings and Quotas for the Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries (2003 - 2006).

| North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw) |                            | 2003 preliminary | 2003 final | 2004 preliminary | 2005 preliminary | 2006 preliminary |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Baseline Quota                         |                            | 2,915.0          | 2,915.0    | 2,937.6          | 2,937.6          | 2,937.6          |
| Quota Carried Over                     |                            | 1,348.6          | 1,348.6    | 2,275.1          | 3,398.5          | TBD              |
| Total Quota                            |                            | 4,263.6          | 4,263.6    | 5,212.7          | 6,336.1          | 2,937.6          |
| Quota Allocation                       | Directed Category          | 3,824.5          | 3,824.5    | 4,792.4          | 5,934.6          | 2,554.9          |
|  | Incidental Category        | 300.0            | 300.0      | 300.0            | 300.0            | 300.0            |
|  | Reserve Category           | 139.1            | 139.1      | 120.3            | 101.5            | 82.7             |
| Utilized Quota                         | Landings                   | 1,509.0          | 1,822.5    | 1,475.0          | TBD              | TBD              |
|  | Reserve Transfer to Canada | 18.8             | 18.8       | 18.8             | 18.8             | 18.8             |
| Total Underharvest                     |                            | 2,735.8          | 2,422.3    | 3,718.9          | TBD              | TBD              |
| Dead Discards                          | Allowance                  | 60.0             | 60.0       | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
|  | Actual Harvest             | 278.0            | 207.2      | 320.4            | TBD              | TBD              |
|  | Difference                 | -218.0           | -147.2     | -320.4           | TBD              | TBD              |
| Carryover Available                    |                            | 2,517.8          | 2,275.1    | 3,398.5          | TBD              | TBD              |
| South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw) |                            | 2003 preliminary | 2003 final | 2004 preliminary | 2005 preliminary | 2006 preliminary |
| Baseline Quota                         |                            | 75.2             | 75.2       | 75.2             | 75.2             | 90.2             |
| Quota Carried Over                     |                            | 195.2            | 195.2      | 259.1            | 334.3            | TBD              |
| Total Quota                            |                            | 270.4            | 270.4      | 334.3            | 409.5            | 90.2             |
| Landings                               |                            | 11.3             | 11.3       | 0.0              | TBD              | TBD              |
| Carryover Available                    |                            | 259.1            | 259.1      | 334.3            | TBD              | TBD              |

The comment period for this proposed rule is open for 45 days and will close on March 30, 2006. Two public hearings are scheduled: Monday, March 13, 2006, 4-6 p.m., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, SSMC IV, NOAA Auditorium, 1301 East West Highway, Silver Spring 20910; and Friday, March 17, 2006, 2-5:30 p.m., Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Written comments may be submitted to the address below or emailed to: [SF1.100405C@noaa.gov](mailto:SF1.100405C@noaa.gov). For further information on this proposed rule, contact Megan Caldwell or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register.

  
Alan D. Risenhoover, Acting Director  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

  
Date