

Science, Service, Stewardship



Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Transshipment, Port Inspection, and Vessel Identification

Proposed Rule

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

September 10, 2014



Outline

- **Background** - ICCAT Recommendations 12-06; 12-07; & 13-13
- **Proposed Regulatory Changes**
 - Transshipment
 - International Port Inspection
 - Unique Vessel Identifier
 - International Maritime Organization (IMO)/Lloyd's Registry (LR) Number
- **Ecological & Socio-Economic Impacts**
- **Timeline**
- **Information on Submitting Comments**



ICCAT Recommendation 12-06: Transshipment

- Strengthens ICCAT's program for transshipment
- Expands coverage to all ICCAT species whether transshipped within or outside ICCAT Convention Area
- Eliminates a broad exemption for vessels under 24 meters
- Increases observer access to documents onboard both transshipping and carrier vessels



ICCAT Recommendation 12-07: International Port Inspection

Port State Responsibilities

- Requires the designation of ports where foreign fishing vessels can land or transship ICCAT-managed species
- Requires advance notice from foreign fishing vessels seeking to enter those ports
- Allows Port States to decide whether or not to grant entry to such vessels in consideration of the information received



ICCAT Recommendation 12-07: International Port Inspection (cont.)

Flag State Responsibilities

- Take necessary action to facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel by authorized officers of Port State
- Cooperate with the competent authorities of Port State
- Facilitate inspection and communication and not interfere with Port State inspectors in execution of their duties
- Provide access to additional areas & items on vessel



ICCAT Recommendation 13-13: Unique Vessel Identifier

- Among other measures, requires vessels ≥ 20 meters to obtain an International Maritime Organization (IMO)/Lloyd's Registry (LR) number by no later than January 1, 2016



Proposed Regulatory Changes

- 1) Transshipment** – Amend HMS regulations to: (1) prohibit the transfer of tuna, tuna-like species, or other HMS both in port and at sea; and, (2) expand the prohibition to include transfers of these species outside of the Atlantic Ocean and its surrounding seas
- 2) International Port Inspection** – Inform U.S. vessel owner/operators of updated information regarding notification prior to foreign port arrival, items that may be inspected by authorized official of a Port State, and procedures for reporting the results of any port inspection
- 3) Unique Vessel Identifier** - Inform owners of U.S. vessels ≥ 20 meters of the need to obtain an IMO/LR number and to include that number on their permit application by no later than January 1, 2016



Ecological & Socio-Economic Impacts

- No Significant Effect on the Environment.....No Significant Economic Impact.....Subject to Further Consideration After Public Comment
 - Transfer at sea is already prohibited
 - Transfer in port is already effectively prohibited because HMS may only be sold or offloaded to permitted dealers
 - There have been no known transfers of Atlantic HMS by U.S. vessels outside of Atlantic Ocean
- Port State measures inform constituents on what may be expected when landing HMS in foreign ports, but impose no new requirements
- NMFS is informing constituents of the need to obtain IMO/LR number



Timeline

Goal → Publish final rule before November 2014
ICCAT annual meeting

Purpose → Ensure U.S. compliance with ICCAT
Recommendations and facilitate implementation of
International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance
Measures for Atlantic HMS



Public Hearing Schedule

Date	Time	Meeting Locations
September 19, 2014	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Conference Call/Webinar

To participate in conference call:

(888) 282-0568

Passcode: 3095296

To participate in webinar:

<https://noaa-meets.webex.com/noaa-meets/j.php?MTID=m49d28c3aebcdf2f294fb4ddb86f27506>

Meeting number: 998 128 071

Meeting password: NOAA



Request for Public Comments

Please submit comments to: <http://www.regulations.gov>
Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2014-0063"

or

Mail: Atlantic HMS Management Division, 263 13th Avenue
South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2014-0063

Comment Period Closes: October 14, 2014

For more information: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>
or by calling 727-824-5399



Thank You!

- Questions
- Comments