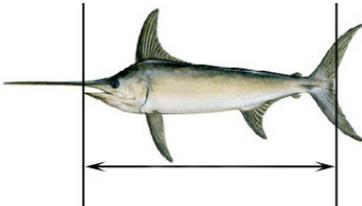


III. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC SWORDFISH REGULATIONS

PERMITS									
<p>Vessel owners must obtain a valid swordfish limited access permit (Directed, Incidental, or Handgear), an open access HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit (valid only in the U.S. Caribbean Region⁴³), an open access Swordfish General Commercial permit, or an HMS Charter/Headboat permit (valid on non-for-hire trips only)⁴⁴ for the vessel they are using to commercially harvest Atlantic swordfish.</p> <p>An Incidental HMS Squid Trawl permit may be obtained by valid <i>Illex</i> squid moratorium permit holders and authorizes the retention of swordfish caught incidentally using trawl gear, subject to target catch requirements.⁴⁵</p>									
RETENTION LIMITS (per vessel per trip)									
North Atlantic Swordfish (north of 5° N latitude)									
Directed permit	No trip limit (when the directed fishery closes, vessels may retain 15 per pelagic longline trip, 2 per handgear trip, and no swordfish per harpoon trip) ⁴⁶								
Incidental permit ⁴⁷	30								
Handgear permit	No trip limit (when the directed fishery is closed, fishermen may retain two swordfish per handgear trip, and no swordfish per harpoon trip) ⁴⁸								
HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit ⁴⁹	2								
Swordfish General Commercial permit	Default regional retention limits are listed below and may be adjusted during the fishing season. Visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ or call 301-427-8503 or 727-824-5399 for more information. ⁵⁰								
HMS Charter/Headboat permit (on non-for-hire trip)	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Northwest Atlantic:</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U.S. Caribbean:</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gulf of Mexico:</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Florida Swordfish Mgmt. Area:</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table> <p>(Map on page 7)</p>	Northwest Atlantic:	3	U.S. Caribbean:	2	Gulf of Mexico:	3	Florida Swordfish Mgmt. Area:	0
Northwest Atlantic:	3								
U.S. Caribbean:	2								
Gulf of Mexico:	3								
Florida Swordfish Mgmt. Area:	0								
Incidental HMS Squid Trawl permit	15, including during a directed fishery closure (provided squid constitute not less than 75 percent of the total catch on board and trawl gear is the only gear onboard the vessel) ⁵¹								
South Atlantic Swordfish									
(south of 5° N latitude; only vessels fishing with pelagic longline gear may retain swordfish) ⁵²									
Directed permit	No trip limit (when the directed fishery closes, no swordfish may be retained) ⁵³								
Incidental permit	No retention allowed ⁵⁴								
AUTHORIZED GEARS ⁵⁵									
North Atlantic Swordfish									
Directed permit	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, buoy gear, longline								
Incidental permit	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, longline								
Handgear permit	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, buoy gear								

HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, buoy gear
Swordfish General Commercial permit	Bandit, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, green-stick
HMS Charter/Headboat permit (on non-for-hire trip)	Handline, rod and reel
Incidental HMS Squid Trawl permit	Squid trawl
South Atlantic Swordfish may only be taken with pelagic longline. ⁵⁶	
<u>Other Gear Notes:</u> You cannot retain or possess any swordfish when gillnet is onboard; if gillnet is onboard, it will be assumed that any swordfish onboard, or offloaded from, the vessel were caught using gillnet gear. ⁵⁷ See Sections VII and IX for longline restrictions.	
MINIMUM SIZES	
	
Cleithrum to Caudal Keel (CK) - a curved measurement, from the point on the cleithrum that provides the shortest possible measurement along the body contour to the anterior portion of the caudal keel. ⁵⁸	Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) - a straight line measurement, not following the body contour, from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the caudal fin. ⁵⁹
North and South Atlantic Swordfish	
Head (or any portion of head) removed ⁶⁰	25 inches (63 cm) CK ⁶¹
Head attached	47 inches (119 cm) LJFL. ⁶² The bill of the swordfish may be removed forward of the anterior tip of the lower jaw. ⁶³
Shark-bitten	A swordfish that has been damaged by shark bites may be retained only if the remainder of the carcass meets the appropriate minimum size. ⁶⁴
LANDING RESTRICTIONS	
Swordfish must be kept in whole or dressed form through landing. ⁶⁵ Dressed indicates a fish with the head, guts, and fins removed but does not include removing the backbone, halving or otherwise reducing the carcass. ⁶⁶ Swordfish cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea. ⁶⁷	