

V. COMMERCIAL FISHING PERMITS

The type of permit(s) required to commercially harvest and sell HMS depends upon the species being targeted and the gear being used. See the table below and the appropriate section(s) in this guide to determine which permit(s) are required. Please note that Federal commercial HMS permit holders may also need a state permit in order to sell HMS. For more information, check with the relevant state marine fisheries or natural resource management office.

Species	Gears	Permit(s) Needed
Swordfish	Longline or Handgear ¹¹⁶ (not including speargun) ¹¹⁷	1. Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks) or Incidental (limited number of sharks allowed per trip) AND 2. Swordfish Limited Access Permit: Directed (authorizes targeting of swordfish; authorizes use of buoy gear) or Incidental (authorizes limited number of swordfish per trip; does not authorize use of buoy gear) AND 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category Permit (allows targeting of tunas other than bluefin). NOTE: An Atlantic Tunas General category permit may not be substituted for the tuna Longline category permit. ¹¹⁸
	Handgear only ¹¹⁹ (Handline, Buoy gear, Harpoon, Rod and reel, or Bandit gear only; not including Speargun ¹²⁰)	1. Swordfish Handgear Limited Access Permit (allows targeting of swordfish with handgear) OR 2. HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit ¹²¹
	Rod and reel, Handline, Harpoon, Bandit gear, or Green-stick ¹²²	Swordfish General Commercial permit ¹²³
	Rod and reel or Handline	HMS Charter/Headboat permit (non-for-hire trips only) ¹²⁴
	Trawl ¹²⁵	Incidental HMS Squid Trawl Permit (available to all valid <i>Illex squid moratorium</i> permit holders) ¹²⁶
Sharks	Longline or Gillnet ¹²⁷	Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks) or Incidental (limited number of sharks allowed per trip) ¹²⁸
	Rod and reel, Handline, or Bandit gear	1. Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks) or Incidental (limited number of sharks allowed per trip) OR 2. HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit (shark retention limit set at zero at this time)

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Species	Gears	Permit(s) Needed
Bluefin tuna ¹²⁹	Rod and reel, Handline, and/or Bandit gear ¹³⁰	1. Atlantic Tunas General category vessel permit OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat permit ¹³¹
	Green-stick	1. Atlantic Tunas General category permit OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat permit OR 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit (allows retention of incidentally-caught bluefin tuna, subject to retention restrictions)
	Purse seine	Atlantic tunas Purse Seine permit
	Harpoon	1. Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit OR 2. Atlantic Tunas General category permit
	Pound net / Fish weir	Atlantic Tunas Trap category permit – Incidental only ¹³²
	Longline	1. Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks within quota or a limited number, depending on the species) or Incidental (limited number of sharks allowed per trip) AND 2. Swordfish Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of swordfish) or Incidental (limited number of swordfish allowed per trip) AND 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category Permit (allows for targeting of tunas other than bluefin). NOTE: An Atlantic Tunas General category permit may not be substituted for the tuna Longline category permit.

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Species	Gears	Permit(s) Needed
Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, and Skipjack (BAYS) tunas¹³³	Harpoon	1. Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit OR 2. Atlantic Tunas General category permit OR 3. HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit
	Green-stick ¹³⁴	1. Atlantic Tunas General category permit OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat permit OR 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit OR 4. HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit
	Handgear (Rod and reel, Handline, and/or Bandit gear)	1. Atlantic Tunas General category permit OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat permit (including speargun for recreational use only) OR 3. Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit OR 4. HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit (including buoy gear)
	Purse seine	Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine category
	Longline	1. Shark Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of sharks within quota or a limited number, depending on the species) or Incidental (limited number of shark allowed per trip) AND 2. Swordfish Limited Access Permit: Directed (allows for targeting of swordfish) or Incidental (limited number of swordfish allowed per trip) AND 3. Atlantic Tunas Longline category Permit (allows for targeting of tunas other than bluefin). NOTE: An Atlantic Tunas General category permit may not be substituted for the Tunas Longline category permit.