

5.0 ECONOMIC STATUS OF HMS FISHERIES

The review of each rule, and of HMS fisheries as a whole, is facilitated when there is an economic baseline against which the rule or fishery may be evaluated. In this analysis, NMFS used the past eight years of data to facilitate the analysis of trends. It also should be noted that all dollar figures are reported in nominal dollars (*i.e.*, current dollars). If analysis of real dollar (*i.e.*, constant dollar) trends controlled for inflation is desired, price indexes for 2000 to 2007 are provided in Table 5.1. To determine the real price in base year dollars, divide the base year price index by the current year price index, and then multiply this result by the price that is being adjusted for inflation. From 1996 to 2004, the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) indicates that prices have risen by 20.4 percent, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Implicit Price Deflator indicates that prices have risen 16.3 percent, and the Producer Price Index (PPI) for unprocessed finfish indicates a 20.8 percent rise in prices. From 2004 to 2005, the CPI, GDP Deflator, and the PPI for unprocessed finfish indicate prices rose by 3.4 percent, 3.2 percent, and 12.9 percent respectively. From 2005 to 2006, the CPI, GDP Deflator, and the PPI for unprocessed finfish indicate prices rose by 3.2 percent, 3.2 percent, and 32.2 percent respectively. From 2006 to 2007, the CPI, GDP Deflator, and the PPI for unprocessed finfish indicate prices rose by 2.6 percent, 2.7 percent, and -4.9 percent.

Table 5.1 Inflation Price Indexes. The CPI-U is the standard Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (1982-1984=100) produced by U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. The source of the Producer Price Index (PPI) for unprocessed finfish (1982=100) is also the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Gross Domestic Product Implicit Price Deflator (2000=100) is produced by the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis and obtained from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (<http://www.stlouisfed.org/>).

Year	CPI-U	GDP Deflator	PPI Unprocessed Finfish
2000	172.2	100.0	182.4
2001	177.1	102.4	176.1
2002	179.9	104.2	201.5
2003	184	106.4	195.8
2004	188.9	109.5	224.1
2005	195.3	113.0	253.1
2006	201.6	116.7	334.6
2007	207.3	119.8	318.1

5.1 Commercial Fisheries²

In 2007, the total commercial landings of all fish species by U.S. fishermen at ports in the 50 states were 9.2 billion pounds valued at \$4.1 billion. In 2006, the total commercial landings

² All the information and data presented in this section were obtained from NMFS 2008b.

by U.S. fishermen at ports in the 50 states were 9.5 billion pounds and were valued at \$4.0 billion. The overall value of landings between 2006 and 2007 had increased by two percent. The total value of commercial HMS landings in 2007 was \$41.9 million (Table 5.4). The 2007 ex-vessel price index indicated that 21 of the 32 finfish species groups tracked had increasing ex-vessel prices, 9 species groups had decreasing ex-vessel prices, and 2 species groups remained unchanged since 2006. The total edible finfish ex-vessel price index for 2007 was up 9 percent from 2006.

The estimated value of the 2007 domestic production of all fishery products was \$8.3 billion. This is \$261.7 million less than the estimated value in 2006. The total import value of fishery products was \$28.8 billion in 2007. This is an increase of \$1.1 billion from 2006. The total import value in 1996 was \$13.1 billion. By 2007, total import value has grown to \$28.8 billion. The total export value of fishery products was \$20.1 billion in 2007. This is an increase of \$2.3 billion from 2006. In comparison, the total export value in 1996 was only \$8.7 billion.

Consumers spent an estimated \$68.4 billion for fishery products in 2007, including \$45.8 billion at food service establishments, \$22.1 billion in retail sales for home consumption, and \$474.2 million for industrial fish products. The commercial marine fishing industry contributed \$34.2 billion (in value added) to the U.S. Gross National Product in 2007. For comparison, in 1996 consumers spent an estimated \$41.2 billion, including \$27.8 billion at food service establishments, \$13.2 billion for home consumption, and \$283.9 billion for industrial fish products. The commercial marine fishing industry contributed \$21.0 billion to the U.S. Gross National Product in 1996.

5.1.1 Ex-Vessel Prices

The average ex-vessel prices per pound dressed weight (dw) for 2000 to 2007 by area, Atlantic HMS, and major fishing gear types are summarized in Table 5.2. The average ex-vessel prices per lb dw for 2000 to 2007 by species and area are summarized in Table 5.3. For both of these tables, prices are reported in nominal dollars. The ex-vessel price depends on a number of factors including the quality of the fish (*e.g.*, freshness, fat content, method of storage), the weight of the fish, the supply of fish, and consumer demand.

Table 5.2 Average Ex-vessel Prices per lb dw for Atlantic HMS by Gear and Area. (Source: Dealer weighout slips from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and bluefin tuna dealer reports from the Northeast Regional Office. HND=Handline, harpoon, spears, trot lines, and trolls, PLL=Pelagic longline, BLL=Bottom longline, Net=Gillnets and pound nets, TWL=Trawls, SEN=Seines, TRP=Pots and traps, DRG=Dredge, and UNK=Unknown. Gulf of Mexico includes: TX, LA, MS, AL, and the west coast of FL. S. Atlantic includes: east coast of FL. GA, SC, and NC dealers reporting to Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Mid-Atlantic includes: NC dealers reporting to Northeast Fisheries Science Center, VA, MD, DE, NJ, NY, and CT. N. Atlantic includes: RI, MA, NH, and ME. For bluefin tuna, all NC landings are included in the Mid-Atlantic.)

Gulf of Mexico									
Species	Gear	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bigeye tuna	HND	\$1.83	\$1.82	\$1.44	\$1.25	\$3.45	\$1.40	\$3.45	\$2.00
	PLL	\$2.82	\$2.64	\$5.09	\$3.41	\$4.58	\$5.19	\$4.58	\$3.20
	BLL	\$2.31	\$0.50	\$4.24	\$3.53	\$5.67	\$6.00	\$5.67	\$4.21
Bluefin tuna	HND	\$1.86	\$1.25	\$2.69	-	-	-	-	\$1.73
	PLL	-	-	\$6.40	\$6.32	\$4.64	\$4.67	\$4.39	\$5.87
	BLL	-	-	\$4.50	-	-	-	-	\$3.00
Yellowfin tuna	HND	\$2.48	\$2.55	\$2.83	\$2.34	\$2.56	\$2.27	\$2.56	\$2.67
	PLL	\$3.40	\$3.25	\$3.68	\$3.64	\$4.01	\$4.00	\$4.01	\$3.93
	BLL	\$3.68	\$3.31	\$3.23	\$3.73	\$4.01	\$3.84	\$4.01	\$3.34
Other tunas	HND	\$0.76	\$0.79	\$0.91	\$0.87	\$1.04	\$1.06	\$1.04	\$1.21
	PLL	\$0.72	\$0.70	\$0.79	\$0.66	\$0.58	\$0.65	\$0.58	\$0.53
	BLL	\$0.85	\$0.74	\$0.75	\$0.55	\$0.65	\$0.85	\$0.65	\$0.63
	NET	\$0.58	\$0.33	\$0.83	\$0.29	\$0.41	\$0.41	\$0.41	\$0.53
	TWL	\$0.61	\$0.78	\$0.40	\$0.30	-	\$0.24	-	-
	SEN	-	\$0.61	\$0.19	-	\$0.21	\$0.20	\$0.21	\$0.23
	TRP	-	-	\$0.30	\$0.30	-	\$1.00	-	-
Swordfish	HND	\$3.91	\$2.84	\$3.19	\$3.68	\$3.38	\$3.98	\$3.38	\$4.08
	PLL	\$3.33	\$3.41	\$2.94	\$2.91	\$3.32	\$3.15	\$3.32	\$3.04
	BLL	\$3.10	\$3.25	\$2.88	\$2.67	\$2.89	\$2.37	\$2.89	\$2.52
Large coastal sharks	HND	\$0.59	\$0.51	\$0.44	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.58	\$0.45	\$0.72
	PLL	\$0.48	\$0.45	\$0.36	\$0.38	\$0.53	\$0.54	\$0.53	\$0.44
	BLL	\$0.43	\$0.44	\$0.36	\$0.38	\$0.34	\$0.44	\$0.34	\$0.43
	NET	\$0.48	\$0.50	\$0.39	\$0.43	\$0.39	\$0.45	\$0.39	\$0.56
	TWL	\$0.15	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.26	\$0.25	-
Pelagic sharks	HND	\$1.38	\$1.48	\$0.93	\$1.04	\$1.21	\$1.25	\$1.21	\$1.39
	PLL	\$1.27	\$1.32	\$1.06	\$1.11	\$1.08	\$1.07	\$1.08	\$1.12
	BLL	\$1.31	\$1.42	\$1.19	\$1.15	\$1.03	\$1.14	\$1.03	\$1.16
Small coastal sharks	HND	\$0.93	\$0.37	\$0.38	\$0.32	\$0.59	\$0.51	\$0.59	\$0.56
	PLL	\$0.47	\$0.74	\$0.32	\$0.33	\$0.37	\$0.47	\$0.37	\$0.69
	BLL	\$0.41	\$0.61	\$0.53	\$0.50	\$0.45	\$0.51	\$0.45	\$0.54
	NET	-	\$0.45	\$0.46	\$0.36	\$0.50	\$0.72	\$0.50	\$0.49
	TRP	-	\$0.74	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shark fins	HND	\$21.57	\$15.90	\$21.28	\$13.97	\$12.49	\$16.62	\$12.49	\$12.09
	PLL	\$15.65	\$21.08	-	\$15.21	\$17.81	\$14.31	\$17.81	\$14.58

	BLL	\$15.89	\$21.50	\$22.72	\$20.17	\$21.95	\$22.16	\$21.95	\$18.43
	NET	\$15.50	\$11.02	-	\$6.05	\$5.86	\$6.91	\$5.86	\$10.42
	TWL	\$9.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Atlantic									
Species	Gear	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bigeye tuna	HND	\$1.02	\$2.14	\$2.29	\$1.89	\$2.97	\$2.80	\$2.97	\$3.13
	PLL	\$2.27	\$2.78	\$2.33	\$2.26	\$2.85	\$3.41	\$2.85	\$3.42
	BLL	\$1.87	\$2.63	\$2.74	\$2.66	-	\$3.04	-	\$3.12
Bluefin tuna	HND	\$7.99	\$3.52	\$3.35	-	\$5.94	-	\$11.35	\$6.19
	PLL	\$5.36	\$4.82	\$4.95	\$4.11	\$4.91	\$4.60	\$6.06	\$7.07
	BLL	-	\$3.61	\$5.15	-	-	-	-	-
Yellowfin tuna	HND	\$1.56	\$1.41	\$1.54	\$1.54	\$1.24	\$1.52	\$1.24	\$1.80
	PLL	\$2.23	\$2.14	\$1.89	\$2.09	\$2.00	\$2.83	\$2.00	\$2.57
	BLL	\$2.29	\$2.45	\$2.29	\$2.60	\$0.90	\$1.19	\$0.90	\$1.42
	NET	-	\$1.21	\$1.12	-	-	\$0.87	-	-
	TWL	-	-	\$0.44	-	-	-	-	-
Other tunas	HND	\$0.59	\$0.61	\$0.47	\$0.58	\$0.52	\$0.53	\$0.52	\$0.59
	PLL	\$1.31	\$1.33	\$1.09	\$1.26	\$1.28	\$1.53	\$1.28	\$1.25
	BLL	\$1.49	\$1.86	\$1.67	\$1.13	\$0.48	\$0.67	\$0.48	\$0.30
	NET	\$0.20	\$0.23	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.20	\$0.31	\$0.20	\$0.37
	TWL	\$0.25	\$0.47	\$0.26	-	\$0.20	-	\$0.20	\$0.39
	TRP	-	\$0.18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swordfish	HND	\$3.92	\$4.24	\$3.93	\$3.91	\$4.44	\$4.72	\$4.44	\$4.47
	PLL	\$3.12	\$3.27	\$2.84	\$2.98	\$3.18	\$3.32	\$3.18	\$3.53
	BLL	\$3.42	\$3.14	\$2.76	\$3.19	-	\$2.36	-	\$3.61
	NET	-	-	\$2.50	-	-	-	-	-
Large coastal sharks	HND	\$0.59	\$0.96	\$1.01	\$0.49	\$0.43	\$0.48	\$0.43	\$0.45
	PLL	\$1.21	\$1.69	\$2.63	\$0.35	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.54	\$0.62
	BLL	\$0.78	\$0.89	\$1.10	\$0.39	\$0.44	\$0.51	\$0.44	\$0.44
	NET	\$0.91	\$1.49	\$1.59	\$0.30	\$0.35	\$0.45	\$0.35	\$0.32
	TWL	\$0.49	\$0.51	\$0.81	\$0.41	\$0.71	\$0.43	\$0.71	\$0.64
	TRP	-	-	\$0.23	-	-	\$0.30	-	-
Pelagic sharks	HND	\$0.78	\$0.71	\$0.68	\$0.84	\$0.97	\$0.87	\$0.97	\$0.77
	PLL	\$0.95	\$0.95	\$0.93	\$0.93	\$0.84	\$0.96	\$0.84	\$1.18
	BLL	\$0.90	\$0.78	\$0.75	\$0.87	\$0.81	\$0.77	\$0.81	\$2.08
	NET	\$0.35	\$0.36	\$0.34	\$0.34	\$0.29	\$0.37	\$0.29	\$0.45
	TWL	\$0.20	\$0.26	\$0.26	-	-	\$0.22	-	\$0.40
Small coastal sharks	HND	\$0.40	\$0.46	\$0.53	\$0.49	\$0.44	\$0.60	\$0.44	\$0.59
	PLL	\$0.57	\$0.63	\$0.41	\$0.24	-	\$0.19	-	\$0.69
	BLL	\$0.56	\$0.53	\$0.54	\$3.19	\$0.61	\$0.60	\$0.61	\$0.57
	NET	\$0.48	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.53	\$0.65	\$0.64	\$0.65	\$0.66
	TWL	\$0.23	\$0.23	-	-	-	\$0.20	-	-
Shark fins	HND	\$11.92	\$19.75	\$15.53	\$17.17	\$20.31	\$18.71	\$20.31	\$17.30
	PLL	\$10.34	\$11.44	\$6.81	\$12.72	\$9.91	\$13.52	\$9.91	\$7.00
	BLL	\$17.57	\$22.21	\$22.26	\$17.83	\$19.48	\$22.85	\$19.48	\$21.86
	NET	\$6.95	\$10.60	\$10.41	\$12.85	\$8.76	\$8.89	\$8.76	\$7.40
	TWL	-	\$12.17	\$14.00	\$10.77	\$5.90	\$10.85	\$5.90	\$10.38

Mid-Atlantic									
Species	Gear	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bigeye tuna	HND	\$4.45	\$4.32	\$3.97	\$3.79	\$4.93	\$4.57	\$4.33	\$4.92
	PLL	\$4.30	\$3.81	\$4.12	\$3.92	\$4.48	\$4.76	\$4.49	-
	BLL	\$3.45	\$4.37	\$2.84	\$3.91	\$4.34	\$4.61	\$5.02	\$6.08
	NET	\$5.55	\$4.50	-	-	-	-	\$3.99	\$6.95
	TWL	\$5.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$5.33
	DRG	-	-	\$1.50	-	-	-	-	\$5.78
	UNK	-	-	\$5.00	-	\$5.36	\$4.95	\$5.40	
Bluefin tuna	HND	\$6.60	\$4.93	\$4.06	\$7.54	\$10.25	\$11.07	\$10.40	\$11.26
	PLL	\$5.73	\$6.83	\$5.72	\$6.25	\$6.03	\$5.41	\$7.53	\$7.09
	NET	-	\$2.23	-	-	-	-	-	-
	BLL	-	\$7.00	\$7.00	-	-	-	-	-
Yellowfin tuna	HND	\$2.14	\$2.11	\$2.00	\$1.93	\$1.76	\$1.99	\$2.33	\$2.73
	PLL	\$2.32	\$2.30	\$2.14	\$2.00	\$1.91	\$2.20	\$2.19	-
	BLL	\$1.86	\$2.11	\$1.81	\$1.89	\$2.20	\$2.40	\$2.76	\$2.88
	NET	\$1.77	\$1.49	\$1.81	\$1.50	\$2.08	\$2.23	\$1.81	\$2.34
	TWL	\$1.56	\$1.53	-	\$1.48	-	\$3.33	\$1.95	\$2.18
	TRP	-	-	\$1.97	\$1.57	\$1.59	-	-	-
	DRG	-	-	\$1.94	-	-	-	\$4.22	\$3.22
	UNK	-	-	\$2.75	-	\$2.62	\$3.70	\$2.57	\$2.99
Other tunas	HND	\$0.94	\$0.89	\$0.69	\$0.66	\$0.65	\$0.74	\$0.74	\$0.75
	PLL	\$1.03	\$0.88	\$0.86	\$0.93	\$1.09	\$0.86	\$0.92	\$1.68
	BLL	\$1.17	\$0.78	\$0.83	\$1.08	\$0.97	\$0.91	\$1.17	\$1.21
	NET	\$0.44	\$0.49	\$0.75	\$0.48	\$0.35	\$0.66	\$0.58	\$0.59
	TWL	\$0.70	\$0.47	\$0.42	\$0.62	\$0.52	\$1.11	\$0.62	\$0.51
	TRP	-	-	\$0.57	\$0.47	\$0.58	\$0.60	\$0.67	\$0.55
	DRG	-	-	\$1.00	-	-	-	\$1.50	\$1.25
	UNK	-	-	\$1.03	\$1.69	\$0.65	\$1.13	\$0.74	\$0.77
Swordfish	HND	\$3.25	\$3.70	-	-	-	\$3.29	\$3.52	\$4.00
	PLL	\$3.59	\$3.47	\$3.18	\$2.97	\$2.86	\$3.60	\$3.47	\$5.25
	BLL	\$2.91	\$3.45	\$4.00	-	\$3.43	\$3.80	\$3.70	\$4.33
	NET	-	\$4.19	\$3.51	-	-	\$3.26	\$3.59	\$3.83
	UNK	-	-	-	-	-	\$4.37	\$3.49	\$3.17
	TWL	\$3.94	\$2.86	\$3.34	\$3.21	\$3.55	\$3.31	\$3.60	\$3.89
Large coastal sharks	HND	\$0.50	\$0.88	\$2.09	\$2.19	\$1.06	\$1.60	\$0.96	\$0.60
	PLL	\$0.45	\$2.62	\$2.78	\$2.32	\$3.37	\$2.33	\$2.19	-
	BLL	\$0.41	\$0.55	\$1.11	\$2.08	\$2.32	\$3.03	\$4.01	\$0.71
	NET	\$0.53	\$0.89	\$1.02	\$1.02	\$1.52	\$0.84	\$1.37	\$0.67
	TWL	\$0.72	\$0.55	\$0.52	\$0.50	\$0.80	\$1.67	\$0.87	\$0.56
	TRP	-	-	\$2.50	-	-	-	-	-
	SEN	-	-	\$1.26	-	-	-	-	\$1.08
	UNK	-	-	\$0.50	-	\$0.68	\$2.69	\$0.85	\$0.63
Pelagic sharks	HND	\$1.41	\$1.26	\$1.41	\$1.57	\$1.26	\$1.33	\$1.38	\$1.69
	PLL	\$1.45	\$1.56	\$1.31	\$1.32	\$1.22	\$1.40	\$1.45	\$1.57
	BLL	\$1.24	\$0.97	\$1.12	\$1.17	\$1.41	\$1.50	\$1.82	\$1.51

	NET	\$1.02	\$1.02	\$0.97	\$1.08	\$1.32	\$1.42	\$1.03	\$1.12
	TWL	\$0.90	\$0.69	\$1.03	\$0.88	\$0.55	\$1.08	\$0.78	\$0.94
	TRP	-	\$0.40	-	\$1.43	-	-	-	-
	DRG	-	\$0.49	\$2.00	-	-	-	-	-
	UNK	-	-	-	\$0.57	\$1.78	\$1.22	\$1.30	\$1.52
Small coastal sharks	HND	\$0.38	\$0.51	\$0.45	\$0.36	\$0.50	\$0.44	\$0.44	-
	PLL	\$0.20	\$0.44	\$0.50	\$0.39	-	\$0.46	\$0.44	-
	BLL	-	\$0.95	-	-	-	-	\$0.50	-
	NET	\$0.40	-	\$0.42	\$0.39	\$0.44	\$0.39	\$0.47	\$0.75
	TWL	-	-	\$1.26	-	-	-	-	-
North Atlantic									
Species	Gear	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bigeye tuna	HND	\$4.22	\$6.00	-	-	\$4.89	-	\$5.95	\$4.51
	PLL	\$4.39	\$3.42	\$4.08	\$3.50	\$3.79	\$4.79	\$5.06	-
	BLL	-	-	-	-	\$4.30	\$3.87	\$3.97	\$4.46
	NET	\$0.42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TWL	\$3.87	\$3.54	\$3.76	-	-	\$5.26	-	\$7.54
Bluefin tuna	HND	\$10.02	\$8.21	\$7.94	\$6.33	\$7.79	\$8.03	\$8.20	\$8.63
	PLL	\$5.65	\$5.24	\$5.96	\$4.21	\$5.38	\$4.61	\$5.24	\$5.00
	NET	-	\$4.26	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SEN	\$7.80	\$7.43	\$6.61	\$4.92	\$5.92	\$3.33	\$5.24	\$8.92
	TWL	-	\$3.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellowfin tuna	HND	\$2.66	\$2.87	\$3.25	\$1.90	\$2.90	\$3.35	\$2.57	\$3.69
	PLL	\$2.77	\$3.01	\$2.76	\$2.57	\$2.89	\$3.83	\$2.93	\$4.40
	BLL	\$2.32	\$3.77	-	-	\$2.51	\$3.18	\$2.69	\$2.95
	NET	-	-	\$4.75	-	-	-	-	\$2.50
	TWL	\$2.31	\$2.10	\$2.19	\$1.65	\$3.25	\$4.31	\$2.87	\$2.54
	TRP	-	-	\$4.50	\$3.10	-	\$1.49	-	\$2.29
Other tunas	HND	\$1.59	\$2.39	\$2.03	\$1.56	\$1.78	\$1.29	\$1.00	\$1.32
	PLL	\$1.13	\$0.70	\$1.15	\$1.00	\$1.17	\$1.25	\$1.43	\$1.11
	BLL	\$0.50	\$3.00	-	-	\$0.66	\$0.91	\$1.24	\$1.48
	NET	\$0.50	\$0.36	\$0.70	\$1.14	\$0.44	\$0.52	\$0.71	\$0.54
	TWL	\$0.22	\$0.80	\$0.69	\$0.37	\$0.89	\$0.75	\$0.32	\$1.03
	TRP	-	-	\$0.34	\$0.44	-	\$0.75	\$0.94	\$0.41
	DRG	-	-	\$3.00	-	-	-	-	-
Swordfish	HND	\$8.00	\$5.69	\$5.32	-	\$4.79	-	\$4.39	\$5.37
	PLL	\$3.67	\$3.58	\$3.30	\$3.36	\$3.85	\$4.20	\$4.18	\$4.07
	BLL	\$2.00	-	-	-	\$3.75	\$3.73	\$3.87	\$4.36
	NET	-	-	\$4.25	-	-	-	-	-
	TWL	\$4.05	\$4.75	\$3.05	\$3.18	\$4.89	\$3.64	\$2.75	\$2.39
	TRP	-	-	\$3.74	-	-	-	-	-
Large coastal sharks	HND	-	\$0.50	\$0.45	\$0.74	-	\$0.20	-	-
	PLL	\$1.00	\$1.21	\$0.29	\$0.28	\$1.03	\$0.28	-	-
	BLL	\$0.65	\$1.43	\$1.00	-	-	-	-	-
	NET	\$1.06	\$0.99	\$0.89	\$0.89	\$0.68	\$0.81	-	\$0.47

	TWL	\$1.08	\$0.93	\$0.86	\$0.66	\$0.56	\$0.66	-	\$1.08
	UNK	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.95	\$1.27	\$0.98
	TRP	-	-	\$0.28	\$0.22	-	-	-	-
Pelagic sharks	HND	-	\$1.38	\$1.71	-	-	\$5.77	\$1.50	\$0.76
	PLL	\$1.38	\$1.37	\$1.31	\$1.30	\$1.34	\$1.48	\$1.48	\$0.87
	BLL	\$1.50	-	\$0.65	-	\$1.07	\$1.46	\$1.57	\$1.28
	NET	\$0.82	\$0.98	\$0.60	\$1.30	\$1.99	\$0.78	\$1.23	\$0.60
	TWL	\$0.97	\$1.19	\$0.81	\$0.63	\$0.78	\$0.78	\$0.75	\$0.55
	UNK	-	-	-	-	-	\$1.24	\$1.47	\$1.00
	TRP	-	-	\$0.69	\$0.68	-	-	-	-
Small coastal sharks	HND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NET	-	\$1.51	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TWL	-	-	\$0.58	-	-	\$0.50	-	-

Table 5.3 Average Ex-vessel Prices per lb for Atlantic HMS by Area.

Species	Area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bigeye tuna	Gulf of Mexico	\$2.26	\$1.94	\$4.33	\$3.29	\$4.54	\$4.81	\$4.58	\$3.19
	S. Atlantic	\$1.98	\$2.57	\$2.45	\$2.24	\$2.86	\$3.32	\$3.20	\$3.36
	Mid-Atlantic	\$4.39	\$4.26	\$3.82	\$3.77	\$4.56	\$4.72	\$4.73	\$5.76
	N. Atlantic	\$4.12	\$4.32	\$4.03	\$3.45	\$4.42	\$4.65	\$4.88	\$4.87
Bluefin tuna	Gulf of Mexico	\$1.86	\$1.25	\$5.56	\$6.32	\$4.64	\$4.67	\$4.39	\$5.87
	S. Atlantic	\$6.83	\$4.00	\$3.77	\$4.11	\$4.91	\$4.60	\$6.36	\$7.07
	Mid-Atlantic	\$5.98	\$5.25	\$4.70	\$7.38	\$9.62	\$10.30	\$9.81	\$10.05
	N. Atlantic	\$8.94	\$5.79	\$7.31	\$5.71	\$7.42	\$5.57	\$7.92	\$8.31
Yellowfin tuna	Gulf of Mexico	\$3.22	\$2.98	\$3.23	\$3.31	\$3.75	\$3.60	\$3.71	\$3.65
	S. Atlantic	\$1.88	\$1.70	\$1.73	\$1.76	\$1.53	\$2.10	\$1.85	\$2.22
	Mid-Atlantic	\$2.12	\$1.91	\$2.02	\$1.91	\$1.98	\$2.42	\$2.53	\$2.78
	N. Atlantic	\$2.65	\$2.93	\$2.90	\$2.38	\$2.65	\$3.15	\$2.54	\$3.38
Other tunas	Gulf of Mexico	\$0.74	\$0.76	\$0.84	\$0.75	\$0.89	\$0.92	\$0.91	\$0.97
	S. Atlantic	\$0.58	\$0.58	\$0.49	\$0.59	\$0.49	\$0.59	\$0.53	\$0.59
	Mid-Atlantic	\$0.76	\$0.70	\$0.73	\$0.70	\$0.63	\$0.81	\$0.82	\$0.80
	N. Atlantic	\$0.93	\$1.46	\$1.17	\$0.95	\$0.94	\$0.85	\$0.84	\$0.88
Swordfish	Gulf of Mexico	\$3.25	\$3.31	\$2.91	\$2.95	\$3.31	\$3.18	\$3.06	\$3.23
	S. Atlantic	\$3.24	\$3.43	\$3.14	\$3.26	\$3.52	\$3.73	\$3.77	\$3.96
	Mid-Atlantic	\$3.67	\$3.53	\$3.25	\$2.97	\$3.37	\$3.70	\$3.62	\$4.09
	N. Atlantic	\$3.87	\$4.67	\$3.47	\$3.33	\$4.06	\$3.78	\$3.87	\$4.22
Large coastal sharks	Gulf of Mexico	\$0.43	\$0.44	\$0.36	\$0.38	\$0.37	\$0.46	\$0.43	\$0.51
	S. Atlantic	\$0.78	\$1.12	\$1.27	\$0.39	\$0.44	\$0.50	\$0.40	\$0.45
	Mid-Atlantic	\$0.53	\$1.09	\$1.56	\$1.62	\$1.93	\$1.75	\$1.71	\$0.64
	N. Atlantic	\$1.01	\$1.02	\$0.77	\$0.72	\$0.70	\$0.74	\$1.02	\$0.70
Pelagic sharks	Gulf of Mexico	\$1.31	\$1.42	\$1.11	\$1.13	\$1.08	\$1.12	\$1.21	\$1.17
	S. Atlantic	\$0.76	\$0.68	\$0.67	\$0.71	\$0.65	\$0.73	\$0.72	\$0.86
	Mid-Atlantic	\$1.20	\$1.09	\$1.17	\$1.21	\$1.29	\$1.39	\$1.38	\$1.39
	N. Atlantic	\$1.10	\$1.23	\$1.00	\$1.12	\$1.46	\$1.40	\$1.26	\$0.97
Small coastal sharks	Gulf of Mexico	\$0.52	\$0.58	\$0.48	\$0.40	\$0.45	\$0.55	\$0.53	\$0.51
	S. Atlantic	\$0.48	\$0.52	\$0.53	\$0.51	\$0.61	\$0.62	\$0.55	\$0.63
	Mid-Atlantic	\$0.38	\$0.55	\$0.48	\$0.38	\$0.44	\$0.42	\$0.45	\$0.73
	N. Atlantic	-	\$1.51	\$0.58	-	-	\$0.50	-	-
Shark fins	Gulf of Mexico	\$15.99	\$20.90	\$22.64	\$18.12	\$17.93	\$20.24	\$20.76	\$15.12
	S. Atlantic	\$14.16	\$18.43	\$17.10	\$15.85	\$14.57	\$16.12	\$16.30	\$12.55
	Mid-Atlantic	\$4.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	N. Atlantic	\$6.83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5.2 and Table 5.3 indicate that the average ex-vessel prices for bigeye tuna have generally increased since 2000. Price changes from 2006 to 2007 were on average moderate and varied in direction for all four regions. The gears used also influenced the average price of bigeye tuna.

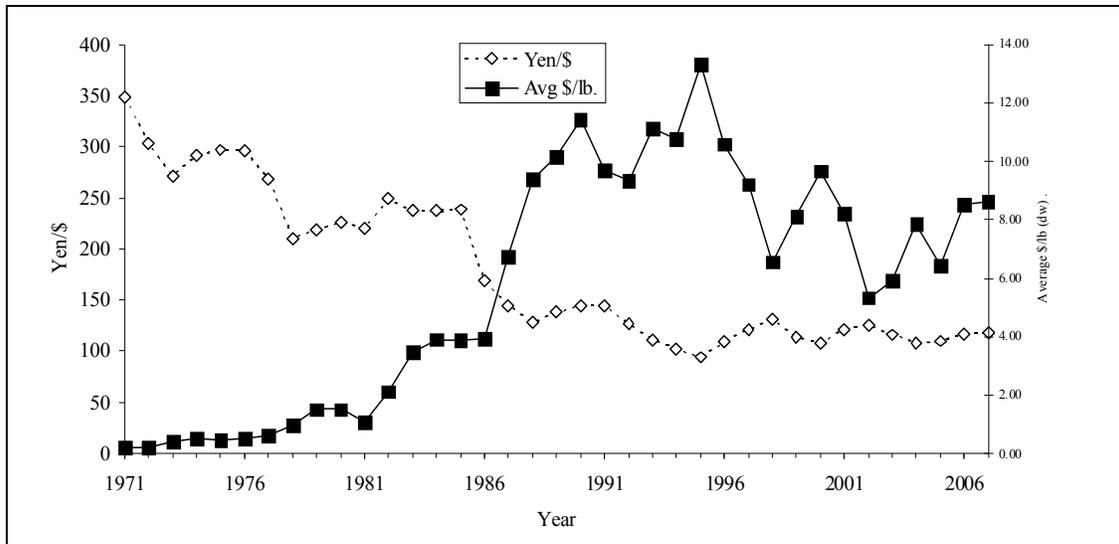


Figure 5.1 Average Annual Yen/\$ Exchange Rate and Average U.S. BFT Ex-vessel \$/lb (dw) for All Gears: 1971-2003. Source: Federal Reserve Bank (www.stls.frb.org) and Northeast Regional Office.

Average ex-vessel prices for bluefin tuna have not displayed a consistent trend since 2000. Since 2002, however, prices increased in all regions (Table 5.3). The gear used also made a difference in the ex-vessel price (Table 5.2). In the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic, bluefin tuna caught with handgear had higher average prices than those caught with longline. This trend has been fairly consistent over the years between 2000 and 2007. The ex-vessel prices for bluefin tuna can be influenced by many factors, including market supply and the Japanese Yen/U.S. Dollar (¥/\$) exchange rate. Figure 5.1 shows the average ¥/\$ exchange rate, plotted with average ex-vessel bluefin tuna prices, from 1971 to 2007.

The average ex-vessel prices for yellowfin tuna have increased in 2007 except in the Gulf of Mexico (Table 5.3). Yellowfin tuna caught with longline gear had higher average ex-vessel prices than fish caught with other gear types in 2007 (Table 5.2). The average ex-vessel price for other tunas increased in all regions in 2007 (Table 5.3). The average price of other tunas is lowest in the South Atlantic compared to other regions. The type of gear used did not appear to consistently influence the average ex-vessel prices of other tuna. Average ex-vessel prices for swordfish increased in 2007 in all regions (Table 5.3).

The average ex-vessel price for LCS slightly increased in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions in 2007 (Table 5.3). The average ex-vessel prices for pelagic sharks decreased in the Gulf of Mexico and North Atlantic regions in 2007 (Table 5.3). The average ex-vessel prices for SCS increased from 2006 to 2007 in the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions, but decreased slightly in the Gulf of Mexico region (Table 5.3). Gear type did not consistently affect the ex-vessel price of small coastal sharks in 2007 (Table 5.2).

5.1.2 Revenues

Table 5.4 summarizes the average annual revenues of the Atlantic HMS fisheries based on average ex-vessel prices and the weight reported landed as per the U.S. National Report (NMFS, 2008), the information used in the shark stock assessments, information given to ICCAT (Cortes, 2008), as well as price and weight reported to the NMFS Northeast Regional Office by Atlantic bluefin tuna dealers. These values indicate that the estimated total annual revenue of Atlantic HMS fisheries has increased in 2007 to \$41.9 million from \$39.4 million in 2006. From 2006 to 2007, the tuna fishery's total revenue increased by \$2 million. A majority of that increase can be attributed to increased commercial landings and ex-vessel price of yellowfin tuna. From 2006 to 2007, the annual revenues from shark decreased by 50 percent. In contrast, the annual revenues from swordfish from 2006 to 2007 increased by 42 percent.

Table 5.4 Estimates of the Total Ex-vessel Annual Revenues of Atlantic HMS Fisheries. Sources: NMFS, 1997; NMFS 2007a; Cortés pers. comm.; and bluefin tuna dealer reports from the Northeast Regional Office.

Species		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bigeye tuna	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$3.18	\$3.27	\$3.66	\$3.19	\$4.10	\$4.38	\$4.35	\$4.30
	Weight lb dw	950,986	1,139,510	810,087	433,353	530,972	563,375	960,895	697,693
	Fishery Revenue	\$3,024,135	\$3,726,198	\$2,964,918	\$1,382,396	\$2,176,985	\$2,467,583	\$4,179,893	\$3,000,080
Bluefin tuna	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$9.66	\$8.23	\$5.33	\$5.91	\$7.86	\$6.41	\$8.51	\$8.62
	Weight lb dw	1,930,720	1,653,820	2,255,241	1,963,172	1,010,599	816,592	643,750	635,108
	Fishery Revenue	\$18,650,755	\$13,610,939	\$12,020,435	\$11,602,347	\$7,943,308	\$5,234,355	\$5,478,313	\$5,474,631
Yellowfin tuna	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$2.46	\$2.38	\$2.48	\$2.34	\$2.48	\$3.06	\$2.66	\$3.01
	Weight lb dw	5,624,433	4,366,011	4,887,240	4,101,055	4,831,675	3,370,398	3,851,003	4,520,594
	Fishery Revenue	\$13,836,105	\$10,391,106	\$12,120,355	\$9,596,469	\$11,982,554	\$10,313,418	\$10,243,668	\$13,606,988
Other tunas*	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$0.75	\$0.87	\$0.81	\$0.75	\$0.74	\$0.79	\$0.78	\$0.81
	Weight lb dw	301,328	382,240	306,325	227,175	307,006	258,860	225,111	269,764
	Fishery Revenue	\$225,996	\$332,549	\$248,123	\$170,381	\$227,184	\$204,499	\$175,587	\$218,509
Total tuna	Fishery Revenue	\$35,736,992	\$28,060,791	\$27,353,831	\$22,751,593	\$22,330,032	\$18,219,855	\$20,077,460	\$22,300,208
Swordfish	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$3.51	\$3.74	\$3.20	\$3.13	\$3.57	\$3.60	\$3.58	\$3.88
	Weight lb dw	4,955,760	3,676,287	3,914,951	4,155,799	3,902,639	3,479,844	3,017,574	3,954,570
	Fishery Revenue	\$17,394,718	\$13,749,313	\$12,527,843	\$13,007,651	\$13,932,421	\$12,527,438	\$10,802,915	\$15,343,732
Large coastal sharks	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$0.68	\$0.91	\$0.99	\$0.78	\$0.86	\$0.86	\$0.89	\$0.58
	Weight lb dw	3,713,125	3,414,967	4,151,594	4,292,403	3,213,896	3,306,583	3,852,124	2,308,018
	Fishery Revenue	\$2,524,925	\$3,107,620	\$4,110,078	\$3,348,074	\$2,763,951	\$2,843,661	\$3,428,390	\$1,338,650
Pelagic sharks	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$1.09	\$1.11	\$0.99	\$1.04	\$1.12	\$1.16	\$1.14	\$1.10
	Weight lb dw	350,705	345,895	467,682	637,324	679,469	235,600	185,266	263,765
	Fishery Revenue	\$382,268	\$383,943	\$463,005	\$662,817	\$761,005	\$273,296	\$211,203	\$290,142
Small coastal sharks	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$0.46	\$0.79	\$0.52	\$0.43	\$0.50	\$0.52	\$0.51	\$0.63
	Weight lb dw	593,027	724,332	615,915	534,523	451,651	650,202	823,353	654,099
	Fishery Revenue	\$272,792	\$572,222	\$320,276	\$229,845	\$225,826	\$338,105	\$419,910	\$412,082
Shark fins (weight = 5% of all sharks landed)	Ex-vessel \$/lb dw	\$10.47	\$19.67	\$19.87	\$17.09	\$16.25	\$18.18	\$18.53	\$13.84
	Weight lb dw	232,843	224,260	261,760	273,213	217,251	209,619	243,037	161,294
	Fishery Revenue	\$2,437,865	\$4,411,188	\$5,201,162	\$4,669,202	\$3,530,326	\$3,810,878	\$4,503,478	\$2,232,310
Total sharks	Fishery Revenue	\$5,617,851	\$8,474,974	\$10,094,521	\$8,909,938	\$7,281,107	\$7,265,940	\$8,562,982	\$4,273,185
Total HMS	Fishery Revenue	\$58,749,560	\$50,285,079	\$49,976,196	\$44,669,181	\$43,543,560	\$38,013,233	\$39,443,357	\$41,917,124

Note: Average ex-vessel prices may have some weighting errors, except for bluefin tuna which is based on a fleet-wide average. Other tunas includes skipjack and albacore.

5.2 Recreational Fisheries

Although NMFS believes that recreational fisheries have a large influence on the economies of coastal communities, NMFS has only recently been able to gather additional information on the costs and expenditures of anglers or the businesses that rely on them. The following information is taken from the Consolidated HMS FMP.

An economic survey done by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2006 found that for the entire United States 7.7 million saltwater anglers (including anglers in state waters) went on approximately 67 million fishing trips and spent approximately \$8.9 billion (USFWS, 2006). These participation rates are down from the 2001 survey which found 9.1 million saltwater anglers (including anglers in state waters) went on approximately 72 million fishing trips and spent approximately \$8.4 billion (USFWS, 2001). The 2006 survey found saltwater anglers spent \$5.3 billion on trip-related costs and \$3.6 billion on equipment (USFWS, 2006). Expenditure on trip-related costs increased 17 percent from 2001, but equipment expenditures have declined 7 percent. These expenditures included lodging, transportation to and from the coastal community, vessel fees, equipment rental, bait, auxiliary purchases (e.g., binoculars, cameras, film, foul weather clothing, etc.), and fishing licenses. Approximately 79 percent of the saltwater anglers surveyed fished in their home state in 2006, compared to 76 percent in 2001 (USFWS, 2001).

Specific information regarding angler expenditures for trips targeting HMS species was extracted from the recreational fishing expenditure survey add-on (1998 in the Northeast, 1999 – 2000 in the Southeast) to the NMFS' Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). These angler expenditure data were analyzed on a per person per trip-day level and reported in 2003 dollars. The expenditure data include the costs of tackle, food, lodging, bait, ice, boat fuel, processing, transportation, party/charter fees, access/boat launching, and equipment rental. The overall average expenditure on HMS related trips is estimated to be \$122 per person per day. Specifically, expenditures are estimated to be \$686 per person per day on billfish directed trips (based on a low sample size), \$85 on pelagic shark directed trips, \$95 on LCS directed trips, \$81 on SCS directed trips, and \$106 on tuna directed trips.

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) also has a report listing the 2006 economic impact of sportfishing on specific states. This report states that all sportfishing (in both Federal and state waters) has an overall economic importance of \$125 billion dollars. ASA estimates 8,528,000 anglers participate in saltwater fishing. These saltwater anglers spent \$11 billion in retail sales, resulting in 263,000 jobs, and \$9 billion in salaries, wages, and business earnings in 2006. Saltwater fishing contributed \$30 billion of the overall economic impact estimated. Florida, Texas, South Carolina, and North Carolina are among the top ten states in terms of overall economic expenditures for both saltwater and freshwater fishing. Florida is also one of the top states in terms of economic impact of saltwater fishing with \$3.0 billion in angler expenditures, \$5.1 billion in overall economic impact, \$1.6 billion in salaries and wages related to fishing, and 51,588 fishing related jobs (ASA, 2008).

At the end of 2004, NMFS collected market information regarding advertised charterboat rates. The analysis of this data collected focused on observations of advertised rates on the

internet for full day charters. Full day charters vary from six to 14 hours long with a typical trip being 10 hours. Most vessels can accommodate six passengers, but this also varies from two to 12 passengers. The average price for a full day boat charter was \$1,053 in 2004. Sutton *et al.*, (1999) surveyed charterboats throughout Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas in 1998 and found the average charterboat base fee to be \$762 for a full day trip. Holland *et al.* (1999) conducted a similar study on charterboats in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina and found the average fee for full day trips to be \$554, \$562, \$661, and \$701, respectively. Comparing these two studies conducted in the late 1990s to the average advertised daily HMS charterboat rate in 2004, it is apparent that there has been a significant gain in charterboat rates.

In 2003, Ditton and Stoll published a paper that surveyed the literature regarding what is currently known about the social and economic aspects of recreational billfish fisheries. It was estimated that 230,000 anglers in the United States spent 2,136,899 days fishing for billfish in 1991. This is approximately 3.6 percent of all saltwater anglers over age 16. The states with the highest number of billfish anglers are Florida, California, North Carolina, Hawaii, and Texas, in descending order. Billfish anglers studied in the U.S. Atlantic, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica fished between 39 and 43 days per year.

Billfish recreational anglers tend to spend a great deal of money on trips. Ditton and Stoll (2003) report that a 1990 study of U.S. total trip costs for a typical billfish angler estimated a mean expenditure of \$2,105 per trip for the Atlantic and \$1,052 per trip for Puerto Rico. The aggregate economic impact of billfish fishing trips in the U.S. Atlantic is conservatively estimated to be \$22.7 million annually.

In addition to the economic impact of recreational billfish angling, Ditton and Stoll (2003), using a contingent valuation method, estimated consumer's surplus or net economic benefit to maintain current billfish populations in the U.S. Atlantic to be \$497 per billfish angler per year in the U.S. Atlantic and \$480 in Puerto Rico. They also estimate that the number of annual billfish anglers in the U.S. Atlantic to be 7,915 and 1,627 in Puerto Rico. The aggregate willingness-to-pay for maintaining current billfish populations is \$3.93 million in the U.S. Atlantic and 0.78 million in Puerto Rico. The aggregate direct impact of billfish expenditures is estimated to be \$15.13 million for the U.S. Atlantic and \$32.40 million for Puerto Rico. Thus, the total aggregate economic value of billfish angler fishing is \$19.06 million per year for the U.S. Atlantic and \$33.18 million per year for Puerto Rico.

Generally, HMS tournaments last from three to seven days, but lengths can range from one day to an entire fishing season. Similarly, average entry fees can range from approximately \$0 to \$5,000 per boat (average approximately \$500/boat – \$1,000/boat), depending largely upon the magnitude of the prize money that is being awarded. The entry fee would pay for a maximum of two to six anglers per team during the course of the tournament. Additional anglers can, in some tournaments, join the team at a reduced rate of between \$50 and \$450. The team entry fee did not appear to be directly proportional to the number of anglers per team, but rather with the amount of money available for prizes and, possibly, the species being targeted. Prizes may include citations, T-shirts, trophies, fishing tackle, automobiles, boats, or other similar items, but most often consists of cash awards. In general, it appears that billfish and tuna

tournaments charge higher entry fees and award more prize money than shark and swordfish tournaments, although all species have a wide range.

Cash awards distributed in HMS tournaments can be quite substantial. Several of the largest tournaments, some of which are described below, are part of the World Billfish Series Tournament Trail whereby regional winners are invited to compete in the World Billfish Series Grand Championship for a new automobile and a bronze sculpture. Other tournament series include the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Rolex Tournament of Champions, and the South Carolina Governor's Cup. White marlin is a top billfish species from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to the eastern tip of Georges Bank from June through October each year. The White Marlin Open in Ocean City, Maryland, which is billed as the "world's richest fishing tournament," established a new world record payout for catching a fish when it awarded \$1.32 million in 2004 to the vessel catching the largest white marlin. The 21st Annual Pirates Cove Billfish Tournament in North Carolina awarded over \$1 million in prizes in 2004, with the top boat garnering over \$400,000 for winning in six categories. Total prize money awarded in the Big Rock Tournament in North Carolina has exceeded \$1 million since 1998.

Blue marlin, sailfish, and tunas are also often targeted in fishing tournaments, including those discussed above. In 2004, blue marlin was the HMS most frequently identified as a prize category in registered HMS tournaments. Forty-five teams participated in the 2004 Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Classic at Sandestin, Florida, with over \$482,000 in cash prizes and the top boat receiving over \$58,000. The 34th Annual Pensacola (Florida) International Billfish Tournament indicated that it would award over \$325,000 in cash and prizes in 2004. The World Sailfish Championship in Key West, Florida had a \$100,000 guaranteed first prize for 2005. In South Carolina, the Megadock Billfishing Tournament offered a \$1,000,000 prize for any boat exceeding the current blue marlin state record. The 2004 Florida Billfish Masters Tournament in Miami, Florida awarded over \$123,000 in prize money, with the top boat receiving over \$74,000. Sixty-two boats competed in the 2003 Babylon Tuna Club Invitational in Babylon, New York for over \$75,000 in cash prizes, and the Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament sponsored by the South Jersey Marina in Cape May, New Jersey anticipates awarding over \$25,000 in prizes in 2005.

Several tournaments target sharks. Many shark tournaments occur in New England, New York, and New Jersey, although other regions hold shark tournaments as well. In 2004, the 24th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament hosted over 200 boats and awarded over \$220,000 in prize money, with an entry fee of \$450 per boat. The "Mako Fever" tournament, sponsored by the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, in 2004 awarded over \$55,000 in prizes, with the first place vessel receiving \$25,000. In 2004, the 18th Annual Monster Shark Tournament in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts was broadcast on ESPN, and featured a new fishing boat valued at over \$130,000 awarded to the winner.

While fishing tournaments are an important component of Atlantic HMS recreational fisheries and provide socioeconomic benefits to associated communities, there are some organizations that oppose these tournaments. For the past several years, for example, the Humane Society of the United States has petitioned NMFS to halt all shark tournaments.

Swordfish tournaments have gained increased popularity in recent years, especially on the east coast of Florida, as the swordfish population has recovered. Events include the Islamorada Swordfish Tournament that began in 2004, and the Miami Swordfish Tournament that began in 2003. Both of these tournaments anticipated awarding over \$30,000 in total cash and prizes, assuming that 50 boats would participate.

In addition to official prize money, many fishing tournaments may also conduct a “calcutta” whereby anglers pay from \$200 to \$5,000 to win more money than the advertised tournament prizes for a particular fish. Tournament participants do not have to enter calcuttas. Tournaments with calcuttas generally offer different levels depending upon the amount of money an angler is willing to put down. Calcutta prize money is distributed based on the percentage of the total amount entered into that Calcutta. Therefore, first place winner of a low level Calcutta (entry fee ~\$200) could win less than a last place winner in a high level calcutta (entry fee ~\$1000). On the tournament websites, it was not always clear if the total amount of prizes distributed by the tournament included prize money from the calcuttas or the estimated price of any equipment. As such, the range of prizes discussed above could be a combination of fish prize money, Calcutta prize money, and equipment/trophies.

Fishing tournaments can sometimes generate a substantial amount of money for surrounding communities and local businesses. Besides the entry fee to the tournament and possibly the calcutta, anglers may also pay for marina space and gas (if they have their own vessel), vessel rental (if they do not have their own vessel), meals and awards dinners (if not covered by the entry fee), hotel, fishing equipment, travel costs to and from the tournament, camera equipment, and other miscellaneous expenses. Fisher and Ditton (1992) found that the average angler who attended a billfish tournament spent \$2,147 per trip (2.59 days), and that billfish tournament anglers spent an estimated \$180 million (tournament and non-tournament trips) in 1989. Ditton and Clark (1994) estimated annual expenditures for Puerto Rican billfish fishing trips (tournaments and non-tournaments) at \$21.5 million. More recently, Ditton *et al.*, (2000) estimated that the total expenditure (direct economic impact) associated with the 1999 Pirates Cove Billfish Tournament, not including registration fees, was approximately \$2,072,518. The total expenditure (direct economic impact) associated with the 2000 Virginia Beach Red, White, and Blue Tournament was estimated at approximately \$450,359 (Thailing *et al.*, 2001). These estimated direct expenditures do not include economic effects that may ripple through the local economy leading to a total impact exceeding that of the original purchases by anglers (i.e., the multiplier effect). Less direct, but equally important, fishing tournaments may serve to generally promote the local tourist industry in coastal communities. In a survey of participants in the 1999 Pirates Cove Billfish Tournament, Ditton *et al.*, (2000) found that almost 80 percent of tournament anglers were from outside of the tournament’s county. For this reason, tourism bureaus, chambers of commerce, resorts, and state and local governments often sponsor fishing tournaments.

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