



2014

# Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report

for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

**2014**  
**Stock Assessment and**  
**Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for**  
**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species**



Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division  
December 2014

**For HMS permitting information and regulations:**

*HMS Recreational, Commercial, and Dealer compliance guides*

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/guides/>

*Regulatory updates for tunas*

<https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>

**To purchase or renew an HMS permit:**

NOAA Fisheries, (888) 872-8862

<https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>

*Open access permits: HMS Charter/headboat, Atlantic tunas (General, Harpoon, Purse Seine, and Trap categories), North Atlantic swordfish (General Commercial), and HMS Angling (recreational)*

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, (727) 824-5326

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations\\_management\\_information\\_services/constituency\\_services\\_branch/permits/](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituency_services_branch/permits/)

*Limited access permits: Atlantic sharks, Swordfish, and Tunas longline*

*Open access permit: HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat*

*Dealer permits: Sharks and Swordfish*

NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Office, (978) 281-9370

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/dealer/>

*Dealer permits: Tunas*

**For HMS SAFE Reports (2000 – current):**

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/documents/safe\\_reports](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/documents/safe_reports).

For hard copies of this document and the referenced literature:

Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Phone (301) 427-8503, Fax (301) 713-1917

Cover images (from top left): Recreational fishing vessel in tournament; tournament-caught yellowfin tuna (photo credits: Katie Davis); tiger shark in cradle during the 2014 NOAA R/V *Oregon II* bottom longline cruise (photo credit: Alexis Jackson); and recreationally-caught sailfish boatside before release (photo credit: Randy Blankinship).

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## LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AA	Assistant Administrator for Fisheries	EIS	Environmental impact statement
ABC	Acceptable biological catch	EO	Executive order
ACCSP	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program	ESA	Endangered Species Act
ACL	Annual catch limit	F	Instantaneous fishing mortality
ACS	Angler consumer surplus	FAD	Fish aggregating device
ACT	Annual catch target	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ALWTRT/P	Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team/Plan	FEC	Florida East coast
AM	Accountability measure	FEIS	Final environmental impact statement
ANPR	Advanced notice of proposed rulemaking	FL	Fork length
AOCTRP	Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan	FMP	Fishery management plan
AP	Advisory panel	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Instantaneous fishing mortality rate expected to yield maximum sustainable yield
APA	Administrative Procedure Act	FMU	Fishery management unit
ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission	F <sub>OY</sub>	Fishing mortality rate expected to yield optimum yield
ATCA	Atlantic Tunas Convention Act	FR	Federal Register
B	Biomass	FRFA	Final regulatory flexibility analysis
BAYS	Bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, skipjack tunas	GOM	Gulf of Mexico
BFT	Bluefin tuna	GSAFF	Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Foundation
BiOp	Biological opinion	GMFMC	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
B <sub>MSY</sub>	Biomass expected to yield maximum sustainable yield	GULFSPAN	Gulf of Mexico Shark Pupping and Nursery survey
B <sub>OY</sub>	Biomass expected to yield optimum yield	GSMFC	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
CAR	Caribbean	HAPC	Habitat area of particular concern
CFMC	Caribbean Fishery Management Council	HMS	Highly migratory species: Atlantic sharks, tunas, swordfish, and billfish
CFL	Curved fork length	HMS FMP	Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
CHB	Charter/headboat	IMO	International Maritime Organization
CIE	Center for Independent Experts	IPOA	International plan of action
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	IRFA	Initial regulatory flexibility analysis
COASTSPAN	Cooperative Atlantic States Shark Pupping and Nursery survey	ITP	International trade permit
CPC	Contracting parties, non-contracting parties, entities, or fishing entities	ITQ	Individual transferable quota
CPUE	Catch per unit effort	ITS	Incidental take statement
CSFOP	Commercial shark fishery observer program	IUU	Illegal, unreported, unregulated
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act	LAP	Limited access permit
DEIS	Draft environmental impact statement	LCS	Large coastal sharks
DPS	Distinct population segment	LOA	Letter of acknowledgment
dw	Dressed weight	LPS	Large Pelagics Survey
EA	Environmental assessment	LWTRT/P	Large Whale Take Reduction Team/Plan
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone	MAB	Mid Atlantic Bight
EFH	Essential fish habitat	MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
EFP	Exempted fishing permit		

Magnuson-Stevens Act	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act	SCS	Small coastal sharks
MFMT	Maximum fishing mortality threshold	SDC	Status determination criteria
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act	SEFSC	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
MPA	Marine protected area	SEIS	Supplemental environmental impact statement
MRFSS	Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey	SERO	Southeast Regional Office
MRIP	Marine Recreational Information Program	SEW	Stock evaluation workshop
MSST	Minimum stock size threshold	SFA	Sustainable Fisheries Act
MSY	Maximum sustainable yield	SFL	Straight fork length
mt	Metric tons	SRP	Scientific research permit
NCA	North Central Atlantic	SSB	Spawning stock biomass
NEC	Northeast Coastal	SWO	Swordfish
NED	Northeast Distant Waters	TAC	Total allowable catch
NEFMC	New England Fishery Management Council	TAL	Total allowable landings
NEFSC	Northeast Fisheries Science Center	TCs	Terms and Conditions
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	TL	Total length
GARFO	Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office	TUN	Tuna North
NGO	Non-governmental organization	TUS	Tuna South
nmi	Nautical mile	USCG	United States Coast Guard
NOA	Notice of Availability	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service	UVI	Unique Vessel Identifier
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	VMS	Vessel monitoring system
NOI	Notice of Intent	VTR	Vessel trip report
NPOA	National Plan of Action	WTP	Willingness to pay
NS	National Standards	ww	Whole weight
NWGB	National Working Group on Bycatch	YOY	Young of the year
OSF	Office of Sustainable Fisheries		
OY	Optimum yield		
PLTRT/P	Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team/Plan		
PLL	Pelagic longline		
POP	Pelagic observer program		
OPR	Office of Protected Resources		
PRA	Paperwork Reduction Act		
Reg Flex Act	Regulatory Flexibility Act		
RFMO	Regional Fishery Management Organization		
RIR	Regulatory Impact Review		
RPAs	Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives		
RPMs	Reasonable and Prudent Measures		
SAB	South Atlantic Bight		
SAFE	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation		
SAFMC	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council		
SAR	Sargasso		
SBRM	Standardized bycatch reporting methodology		
SCRS	Standing Committee for Research and Statistics		