

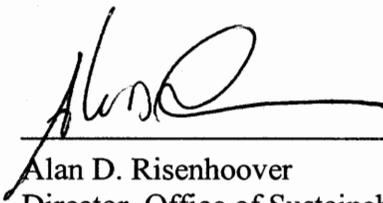


**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

## **NMFS ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF THE MEETING SUMMARY FROM THE OCTOBER 2006 HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY PANEL MEETING**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has summarized the major discussion and comments received at the October 2006 meeting of the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP). This meeting was focused on current resource management challenges facing Atlantic tunas, swordfish, shark, and billfish fisheries. The meeting acted as a venue to allow the AP to discuss management alternatives and provide feedback on the direction of future rulemaking. The meeting was structured to allow small breakout groups, which then reported their discussion to HMS staff and the entire AP. Topics discussed included new regulations implementing the Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP), implementation of a circle hook requirement in Atlantic billfish tournaments, current shark stock assessments, scheduling scoping meetings to discuss management options for the U.S. Atlantic commercial shark fishery, shark overharvests during the first trimester season of 2006, and management measures that may help revitalize the U.S. Atlantic swordfish fishery.

Copies of the AP comment summary are available on the internet at <http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>. Please contact Sarah McTee, (301) 713-2347 for further information or to request hard copies of the comment summary.



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Alan D. Risenhoover  
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DEC 28 2006

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