



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

NMFS Proposes to Adjust Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permitting and Reporting

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has proposed to modify permitting and reporting requirements for the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) International Trade Permit (ITP) program to increase program efficacy and enforcement, and implement a new ICCAT recommendation. The main proposed adjustments to the program are as follows:

- Replace the ICCAT bluefin tuna statistical document program with a catch document program, with additional reporting requirements for certain re-exports;
- Require that shark fin importers/exporters/re-exporters obtain the HMS ITP;
- Require that a U.S. resident agent or corporate surety provider obtain the HMS ITP when a foreign entity is importing/exporting/re-exporting covered product;
- Adjust reporting deadlines from “postmark dates” to date of receipt;
- Implement the definition of “import” in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act;
- Incorporate recently updated Harmonized Tariff Schedule codes;
- Allow non-original reports to be submitted by fax.

The following public hearings for the proposed rule are scheduled (local times):

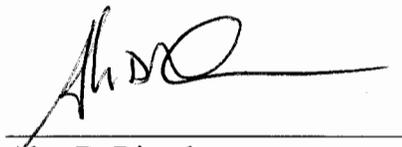
1. April 23, 2008, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., NMFS, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Rosa Field Office, 777 Sonoma Ave., **Santa Rosa, CA 95404**
2. April 24, 2008, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., NMFS, Southwest Regional Office, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, **Long Beach, CA 90802.**
3. April 25, 2008, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Dr., **Gloucester, MA 01930.**
4. April 28, 2008, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Embassy Suites Hotel, 3974 Northwest South River Dr., **Miami, FL 33142.**
5. April 29, 2008, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 3500 Delwood Beach Rd., **Panama City, FL 32408.**

The comment period for this proposed rule is open until May 5, 2008. Written comments, identified by “0648-AU88”, may be submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>, or sent by fax or mail to the contact information included below. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to



<http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (e.g., name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and its requirements, contact Dianne Stephan at 978-281-9260. Copies of the proposed rule and Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analyses are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, One Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930 (phone: 978-281-9260, fax: 978-281-9340). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/International_Trade_Permit.htm.



Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

APR 04 2008

Date

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