



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

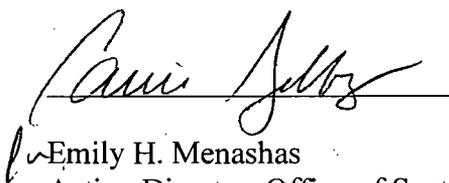
NMFS Announces Final Action to Add the Roundscale Spearfish (*Tetrapturus georgii*) to the Atlantic Billfish Management Unit and Recognize the Change of the Genus of White Marlin from *Tetrapturus* to *Kajikia*

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces a final action (RIN: 0648-BA12) to recognize changes in the Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) management unit. This final action will add the recently recognized species, roundscale spearfish (*Tetrapturus georgii*), to the definitions in the implementing regulations of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Atlantic HMS regulations. This action will also recognize the change of the genus of white marlin from *Tetrapturus* to *Kajikia* in the implementing regulations of the MSA and the Atlantic HMS regulations to reflect a recent taxonomic change.

The purpose of this action is to recognize the change of the genus of white marlin from *Tetrapturus* to *Kajikia* and to add roundbill spearfish, *Tetrapturus georgii*, to the management unit, consistent with congressional intent, recent scientific findings, and nomenclature changes. These changes are consistent with input and advice from billfish experts in the scientific community. These changes will allow the Atlantic HMS Management Division to more accurately and appropriately classify Atlantic billfish species using the latest taxonomic classification nomenclature and species determinations, but will have little, if any, practical effect on species management. Changes to the billfish management unit are anticipated to be implemented by January 1, 2011.

Please go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breaking_news.htm to view the supporting documents.

This notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact the HMS Management Division at (727) 824-5399.



Emily H. Menashas
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SEP 22 2010

Date _____

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