



## Atlantic Swordfish Landings Update: Commercial and Recreational January 1 – March 31, 2012

The table below provides preliminary landings estimates and remaining quotas as of March 31, 2012, in pounds (lb) and metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic swordfish fisheries for the 2012 fishing year. We estimate landings using commercial dealer reports and reports by anglers in the HMS Non-Tournament Recreational Swordfish and Billfish Landings Database and the Recreational Billfish Survey. Please note that these estimates are subject to late reporting and do not include discards.

We have not yet adjusted the 2012 annual directed landings quota seen below for 2011 underharvests, the reserve category allocation, or any international quota transfer. We recently published a proposed rule (77 FR 25669) that would adjust the 2012 base quota for these factors and implement other measures based on recommendations from the November 2011 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The comment period for this proposed rule closes on June 5th.

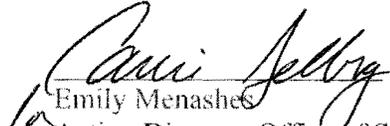
Preliminary commercial and recreational North Atlantic swordfish landings (not including discards) for the 2011 fishing year were 3,890,541 lb dw or 1,764.7 mt dw.

	2012 Baseline Quota mt dw (lb dw)		2012 Landings	Percent of 2012 Baseline Quota Taken
			mt dw (lb dw)	
<b>NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH</b>				
Directed Fishery First Season (Jan. 1 – June 30)	1,318.8 (2,907,426)	Commercial Landings	485.1 (1,069,468)	36.8%
Directed Fishery Second Season (July 1 – Dec. 31)	1,318.8 (2,907,426)	Commercial Landings	0.0 (0)	0.0%
Incidental Fishery (annual quota)	300 (661,380)	Commercial Landings	0.1 (279)	1.1%
		Recreational Landings	3.2 (6,982)	
Total	2,937.6 <sup>*</sup> (6,476,233)		488.4 (1,076,729)	16.6%
<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH</b>				
Directed Fishery (annual quota)	75.2 (165,786)	Commercial Landings	0.0 (0)	0.0%

<sup>\*</sup> 150.4 mt dw North Atlantic swordfish quota may be caught between 5 degrees North latitude and 5 degrees South latitude



This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic swordfish fishery interests to 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. To view catch statistics from previous months, please visit [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/hmsdocument\\_files/SWORDFISH.htm#Landings](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/hmsdocument_files/SWORDFISH.htm#Landings) or contact Steve Durkee at (202) 670-6637.

  
Emily Menashes

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

5/9/12  
Date

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