



NMFS Announces Training Workshops for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Electronic Dealer Reporting System

This notice announces the National Marine Fisheries Services' (NMFS) intent to conduct public workshops on the new Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) electronic dealer reporting system being implemented in 2013.

The purpose of the workshop is to train HMS dealers how to use the new system and help ease the transition from the current paper format to the new HMS electronic reporting system.

On June 28, 2011 (76 FR 37750), we published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that considered requiring, among other things, Federal Atlantic swordfish, shark, and tunas dealers (except for dealers reporting Atlantic bluefin tuna) to report commercially-harvested Atlantic sharks, swordfish, and BAYS tunas through one centralized electronic reporting system. Under this new system, dealers would submit HMS data electronically instead of in a paper format and include additional information that is necessary for management of HMS (e.g., vessel and logbook information).

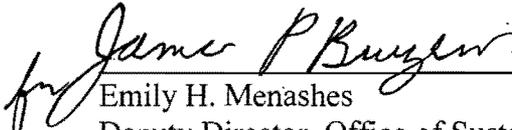
In order to give sufficient time for dealers to adjust to implementation of the new system and the additional requirements, we proposed delaying implementation of the new HMS electronic reporting system for all federally-permitted HMS dealers until 2013. Additionally, we are conducting training workshops and outreach to dealers to teach them how to use the new HMS electronic reporting system. We conducted an initial training workshop for HMS dealers in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands (U.S.V.I.) on December 14, 2011. On June 29, 2012, we announce the date and location of nine upcoming training workshops in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic, and Caribbean regions. In this notice, we are announcing the date, time, and location of an additional training workshop in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I (see table).

Date	Time	Location
August 29, 2012	1:30 – 4:30pm	Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Office of the Commissioner, 8100 Lindberg Bay, Suite #61, Cyril E. King Airport, Terminal Bldg., Second Floor, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., 00802

Future training workshops will be held throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions at a later date and will be announced separately.



This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. For further information on this notice, contact Delisse Ortiz or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-427-8503 or Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.



Emily H. Menashes
Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUL 30 2012

Date

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