



## NMFS Announces a Proposed Rule to Adjust the 2013 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas

This proposed rule would establish adjusted North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas taking into account the carryover of allowable underharvest and international quota transfers, consistent with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Recommendations 11-02 and 12-01.

The proposed North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas are 3,559.2 and 75.2 mt dw, respectively. Specifics on landings and quotas can be found below.

<b>North Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Baseline Quota		2,937.6	2,937.6
Quota Transfer to Morocco		(-)112.8	(-)112.8
Total Underharvest from Previous Year <sup>+</sup>		1,388.5	1,209.4
Underharvest Carryover from Previous Year <sup>+</sup>		(+)734.4	(+)734.4
Adjusted Quota		3,559.2	3,559.2
Quota Allocation	Directed Category	3,209.2	3,209.2
	Incidental Category	300	300
	Reserve Category	50	50
<b>South Atlantic Swordfish Quota (mt dw)</b>		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Baseline Quota		75.2	75.2
International Quota Transfers*		(-)75.2	(-)75.2
Total Underharvest from Previous Year <sup>+</sup>		75.2	75.2
Underharvest Carryover from Previous Year <sup>+</sup>		75.2	75.2
Adjusted quota		75.2	75.2

+ Underharvest carryover is capped at 25 percent of the baseline quota allocation for the North Atlantic and 75.2 dw (100 mt ww) for the South Atlantic. The 2012 underharvest amount is current as of December 31, 2012 and does not include dead discards.

\* Under Recommendation 12-01, 100 mt ww of the United States underharvest and base quota, as necessary, was transferred to Namibia (37.6 mt dw, 50 mt ww), Côte d'Ivoire (18.8 mt dw, 25 mt ww), and Belize (18.8 mt dw, 25 mt ww).

One public hearing is currently scheduled to be held on March 14, 2013 at the NMFS Science Center at 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring MD, 20910 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. This hearing will be held in conjunction with the public hearing for the proposed Amendment 8 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. If you are interested in having NMFS hold additional public hearings or a conference call for the proposed rule, please contact Steve Durkee (202-670-6637) or Jennifer Cudney (301-427-8503) by phone.

The comment period closes on March 27, 2013. Written public comments can be submitted electronically, by mail, or by fax. Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov#!documentDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2012-0030>, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Submit written comments to Steve Durkee / Jennifer Cudney, NMFS/SF1, Room 13505, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, please mark the outside of the envelope “Comments on the Draft Amendment 5 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP.” Comments may also be faxed to 301-713-1917 (Attn: Steve Durkee / Jennifer Cudney).

This notice is a courtesy to the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery participants to help keep you informed about the 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, contact Steve Durkee at 202-670-6637 or Jennifer Cudney at 301-427-8503. Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-427-8503, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

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