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

NMFS Requests Nominations for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is soliciting nominations for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP). NMFS consults with, and considers the comments and views of the AP when preparing and implementing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks. Nominations for the AP will be accepted to allow representation from Atlantic HMS recreational and commercial fishing interests, the conservation community, and the scientific community. AP Members serve three-year terms, with approximately one-third (11) of the total AP members' terms expiring on December 31 of each year.

Individuals with definable interests in the recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, environmental community, academia, and non-governmental organizations will be considered for membership in the AP. Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups. Nomination packages should include:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of his/her interest or expertise in HMS or in particular species of sharks, swordfish, tunas, or billfish;
2. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
3. A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the AP; and
4. A list of outreach resources that the applicant has at his/her disposal to communicate HMS issues to various interest groups.

NMFS seeks to fill 1 academic, 4 commercial, 2 environmental, and 3 recreational vacancies by December 31, 2008 (Table 1). NMFS will seek to fill vacancies based primarily on maintaining the current representation from each of the sectors, and secondarily by species expertise and/or representation from the regions. The species expertise listed in the Table indicates the current makeup on the HMS AP and does not necessarily indicate a requirement for expertise in that particular species.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fisheries interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Margo Schulze-Haugen or Chris Rilling at (301) 713-2347.

Emily Menashes
for Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date

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Table 1. Current representation on the HMS AP by sector and species. Terms that are expiring or vacant are in bold.

Sector	Species	Date Appointed	Date Term Expires
Academic	Tuna	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Academic	Shark	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Academic	**Billfish**	**1/1/2006**	**12/31/2008**
Academic	Tuna/Shark	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Commercial	**HMS**	**1/1/2006**	**12/31/2008**
Commercial	Swordfish/Tuna	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Commercial	Swordfish/Tuna	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Commercial	**HMS**	**1/1/2003**	**12/31/2008**
Commercial	Tuna	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Commercial	Shark	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Commercial	HMS	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Commercial	**HMS**	**1/1/2006**	**12/31/2008**
Commercial	HMS	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Commercial	Swordfish	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Commercial	**Tuna**	**VACANT**	
Commercial	HMS	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Environmental	**Shark**	**1/1/2006**	**12/31/2008**
Environmental	HMS	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Environmental	HMS	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Environmental	**HMS**	**VACANT**	
Recreational	HMS	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Recreational	Swordfish	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Recreational	HMS	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Recreational	HMS	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Recreational	Billfish	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Recreational	**Tuna**	**1/1/2006**	**12/31/2008**
Recreational	HMS	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Recreational	**HMS**	**1/1/2006**	**12/31/2008**
Recreational	HMS	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
Recreational	**HMS**	**1/1/2006**	**12/31/2008**
Recreational	HMS	1/1/2007	12/31/2009
Recreational	Billfish	1/1/2008	12/31/2010
ICCAT Chair	HMS		

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