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

Atlantic Swordfish Landings Update: Commercial and Recreational
2008 Fishing Year

The table below provides preliminary landings estimates and remaining quotas as of February 29, 2008, in pounds (lb) and metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic swordfish fisheries for the 2008 fishing year. Please note that these estimates are subject to late reporting and do not include discards. The 2008 annual directed landings quota seen below has not been adjusted for 2007 underharvests; NMFS is currently working on a proposed rule to adjust the 2008 base quota for these underharvests.

Per the request of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel members, NMFS is now incorporating recreational swordfish landings into these updates. These recreational landing estimates are reported by anglers in the HMS Non-Tournament Recreational Swordfish and Billfish Landings Database and the Recreational Billfish Survey. Reported lengths are converted to pounds dressed weight using standard International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' (ICCAT) formulas (formulas can be found at http://www.iccat.int/main.htm). As specified in § 635.27(c)(i)(B), all recreational landings are counted against the incidental quota.

	Quota mt dw†		Landings mt dw (lb dw)	Remaining Quota mt dw (lb dw)	Percent of Quota Taken
	NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH				
Directed Fishery First Season (Jan 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008)	1,066.5	Commercial Landings	154.2 (339,888)	912.3 (2,011,318)	14%
Directed Fishery Second Season (July 1, 2008 - Dec 31, 2008)	1,066.5	Commercial Landings	0	1,066.5 (2,351,206)	0%
Incidental Fishery (annual quota)	300	Commercial Landings	0.0	297.1 (655,023)	1.0%
		Recreational Landings	2.9 (6,357)		
Total	2,937.5*		157.1 (346,245)	2,780.4 (6,129,767)	5.3%
	SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH				
Directed Fishery (annual quota)	75.2	Commercial Landings	0	75.2 (165,786)	0%

† Unadjusted 2008 North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas were published on October 5, 2007 (72 FR 56929);

*Includes 504.5 mt dw allocated to the reserve; 150.4 mt dw North Atlantic swordfish quota may be caught between 5 degrees North latitude and 5 degrees South latitude

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This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic swordfish fishery 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. To view catch statistics from previous months, please visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/swordfish_quotas/swordfish_catch_statistics.htm or contact Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.

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Alan D. Risenhoover
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Date

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