



Atlantic Billfish Recreational Landings Update 3rd Quarter 2011 Fishing Year

The table below provides preliminary landings estimates in whole fish for Atlantic blue and white marlin, roundscale spearfish, and western Atlantic sailfish for the 2011 fishing year, through **September 30, 2011**. Landings are compiled using self-reported angler reports from the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Non-Tournament Recreational Swordfish and Billfish Landings Database and tournament landings from the Recreational Billfish Survey (RBS). Please note that estimates are subject to late reporting and may not include billfish catch card reports from North Carolina or Maryland, or individual billfish intercepted by the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Fishing Statistical Survey (MRFSS). As specified in § 635.27(d) (1), the recreational billfish fishery is limited to maximum of 250 Atlantic blue and white marlin landings, combined, per year. Effective January 2011, annual landings of roundscale spearfish are also included the 250 marlin count.

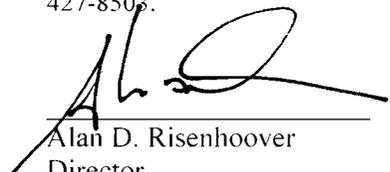
| | 2010 | 2011 | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Preliminary Landings ¹ | Non-Tournament Landings Reports | RBS Landings | Total Landings to Date | Remaining Landings Limit |
| ATLANTIC BLUE, WHITE MARLIN, AND ROUNDSCALE SPEARFISH | | | | | |
| Atlantic Blue Marlin | 28 | 3 | 26 | 29 | - |
| Atlantic White Marlin | 72 | 5 | 32 | 37 | - |
| Roundscale Spearfish ² | - | 0 | 3 | 3 | - |
| Total | 100 | 8 | 61 | 69 | 181 (of 250) |
| WESTERN ATLANTIC SAILFISH | | | | | |
| Western Atlantic Sailfish ³ | 189 | 131 | 5 | 136 | - |

¹Includes data from all available sources (2010 sailfish and roundscale spearfish data include RBS and HMS non-tournament landings only)

² Roundscale spearfish were added to the HMS management unit (September, 22, 2010, 75 FR 57698) and are included in the 250 fish domestic landings limit for Atlantic blue and white marlins. Roundscale spearfish landings are reported to ICCAT.

³Western Atlantic sailfish are not included in the 250 fish landings limit for Atlantic blue and white marlins.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic billfish 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/> or contact Peter Cooper at (301) 427-8503.


 Alan D. Risenhoover
 Director
 Office of Sustainable Fisheries

10/12/11
 Date

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