



NMFS Requests Comments on the Issuance of Exempted Fishing Permits, Scientific Research Permits, Display Permits, Letters of Acknowledgment, and Chartering Permits for the Collection of Atlantic HMS During 2012

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces its intent to issue Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), Scientific Research Permits (SRPs), Display Permits, Letters of Acknowledgment (LOAs), and Chartering Permits for the collection of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) in 2012. In general, EFPs and related permits would authorize collection of a limited number of tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico for the purposes of scientific data collection and public display. Chartering permits allow the collection of HMS on the high seas or in the Exclusive Economic Zone of other nations.

The HMS Management Division issued 28 EFPs, SRPs, Display Permits, and LOAs in 2010 and has issued 32 such permits in 2011 to date. These permits were issued to NMFS and non-NMFS scientists, educational institutions, public aquaria, and public display collectors acquiring HMS. In 2011, the HMS Management Division also issued scientific research permits for research related to the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and as of November 2011, issued seven such permits.

Written comments on these proposed collection, research, and fishing activities will be considered by NMFS when issuing EFPs, SRPs, Display Permits, and Chartering Permits if received on or before 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, December 27, 2011. Please send comments to Craig Cockrell, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The permit applications and copies of the regulations pertaining to EFPs, SRPs, LOAs, Display Permits, and Chartering Permits may also be requested from this address. Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (301) 713-1917 or by e-mail to HMSEFP.2012@noaa.gov.

This notice is a courtesy to individuals interested in HMS fisheries activities 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. For further information, contact Craig Cockrell at (301) 427-8503 or Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.

Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

NOV 25 2011

Date

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>

