2009 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS
REGARDING

ATLANTIC
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Pursuant to the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act
of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq*.)

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

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2009 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS REGARDING ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

REPORT REQUIREMENTS

The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq*.) requires that the Secretary of Commerce prepare an annual report to the Congress that provides information on:

(1) Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Catch & U.S. Imports - details for the previous 10-year period the catches and exports to the United States of highly migratory species (including tunas, swordfish, marlin, and sharks) from nations fishing on Atlantic stocks of such species that are subject to management by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);

(2) ICCAT Trade Sanctions - identifies those fishing nations whose harvests are inconsistent with conservation and management recommendations of the Commission;

(3) National Marine Fisheries Service Trade Monitoring Requirements - describes the reporting requirements established by the Secretary of Commerce to ensure that imported fish products are in compliance with all international management measures, including minimum size requirements, established by the Commission and other international fishery organizations to which the United States is a party; and

(4) National Marine Fisheries Service Actions in 2008 Pursuant to ATCA - describes the actions taken by the Secretary of Commerce in the prior year under section 971d of the ATCA.

REPORT CONTENTS

This report provides the required information for 2009, as follows:

(1) Atlantic HMS Catch & U.S. Imports - Tables detailing the previous 10-year period of catches and exports to the United States of highly migratory species from nations fishing on Atlantic stocks of such species subject to management by the Commission are provided in Appendix 1A (catches by species) and Appendix 1B (U.S. imports by species).

(2) ICCAT Trade Sanctions - The U.S. fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean for tuna and tuna-like species are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the authority of ATCA and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). ATCA authorizes the promulgation of regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to implement conservation and management recommendations adopted by ICCAT. Paragraph (c)(6) of Section 971d requires the Secretary to identify those nations whose fishing vessels are fishing, or have fished during the preceding calendar year, within the Convention area in a manner or under such circumstances that diminish the effectiveness of a conservation recommendation. No nations were so identified under ATCA in 2008. Potential identifications of fishing nations whose

harvests are inconsistent with conservation and management recommendations of the Commission are currently being considered for 2009. A list of any nations so identified will be published by July 1, 2009, as required under ATCA Section 971d (c) (6). Actions taken by the Secretary through NMFS in 2009 relative to this requirement will be reported in the 2010 Annual Report to the Congress.

Although no identifications have been made under ATCA authority in this reporting period, actions have been taken through ICCAT under its current trade measures resolution as well as its predecessors, and these multilateral actions are consistent with ATCA identification provisions. ICCAT's recommendations concerning this matter guide NMFS in rulemaking to impose or lift trade prohibitions. Background information on ICCAT actions in this regard is provided below.

Belize (ICCAT member since 2005)

ICCAT recommended a ban on bluefin tuna imports from Belize in 1996, swordfish imports in 1999, and bigeye tuna imports in 2000. NMFS implemented these recommendations on August 21, 1997 (62 FR 44422), December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77523), and November 20, 2002 (67 FR 70023), respectively. At the 2002 ICCAT meeting, efforts by Belize to control its fleet and address ICCAT concerns resulted in a recommendation to lift all trade restrictions by 2004 pending demonstrated progress. At the 2003 meeting, ICCAT finalized its recommendation to lift the bans, and NMFS implemented it on December 6, 2004 (69 FR 70396).

Bolivia (ICCAT non-member)

ICCAT recommended a ban on bigeye tuna imports from Bolivia in 2002, which NMFS implemented on December 6, 2004 (69 FR 70396). In 2008, ICCAT recommended that these sanctions be maintained, and a letter was sent to Bolivia informing them of this decision and requesting Bolivia to rectify the situation.

Cambodia (ICCAT non-member)

ICCAT recommended a measure in 2000 to ban imports of bigeye tuna from Cambodia. NMFS implemented this ban in a final rule published on November 20, 2002 (67 FR 70023). ICCAT recommended lifting the ban in 2004, and NMFS lifted this ban, effective July 2, 2005, in a final rule published on May 17, 2005 (70 FR 28218). ICCAT once again identified Cambodia under its trade measures resolution in 2006 for diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT and maintained this identification at its 2007 meeting. At the 2008 meeting, ICCAT decided that there was insufficient information on the fishing and trade activities of Cambodia to warrant new action. ICCAT maintained the identification and sent a letter to Cambodia informing them of this decision and requesting the information required by the Commission. The Commission will review this matter again in 2009 and may recommend new sanctions if Cambodia has not rectified the situation.

Equatorial Guinea (ICCAT member since 1987)

ICCAT recommended a ban on bluefin tuna from Equatorial Guinea in 1999 and bigeye tuna (2000) imports. NMFS implemented these bans in final rules published by NMFS on December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77523) and November 20, 2002 (67 FR 70023), respectively. In 2004, ICCAT recommended lifting these bans, and NMFS implemented this recommendation, effective July 2,

2005, in a final rule published on May 17, 2005 (70 FR 28218).

Georgia (ICCAT non-member)

In 2003, ICCAT recommended banning imports of bigeye tuna from Georgia. NMFS implemented this sanction on December 6, 2004 (69 FR 70396). In 2008, ICCAT recommended that these sanctions be maintained, and a letter was sent to Georgia informing them of this decision and requesting Georgia to rectify the situation.

Honduras (ICCAT member since 2001)

ICCAT recommended banning imports of bluefin tuna from Honduras in 1996, swordfish in 1999, and bigeye tuna in 2000. NMFS implemented these recommendations on August 21, 1997 (62 FR 44422), December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77523), and November 20, 2002 (67 FR 70023), respectively. Honduras became an ICCAT member in 2001 and, in recognition of its new status and progress in addressing problem fishing activities, ICCAT recommended lifting the bluefin tuna and swordfish bans. At the 2002 meeting, ICCAT recommended lifting the ban on bigeye tuna. NMFS implemented these recommendations on December 6, 2004 (69 FR 70396).

Sierra Leone (ICCAT member since 2008)

In 2002, ICCAT recommended banning imports of bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and swordfish from Sierra Leone. NMFS implemented these restrictions on December 6, 2004 (69 FR 70396). In 2004, ICCAT recommended lifting these trade restrictions and NMFS implemented this recommendation, effective July 2, 2005, in a final rule published on May 17, 2005 (70 FR 28218). ICCAT once again identified Sierra Leone under its trade measures resolution in 2006 for diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT. ICCAT maintained this identification at its 2008 meeting. The Commission will review this matter again in 2009 and may recommend new sanctions if Sierra Leone has not rectified the situation. Since the 2008 ICCAT meeting, Sierra Leone joined the Commission.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines (ICCAT member since 2006)

ICCAT recommended banning imports of bigeye tuna from St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the 2000 meeting. NMFS published a rule implementing this ban on November 20, 2002 (67 FR 70023). Significant progress has been made with regard to implementation, monitoring, control, and surveillance of the fleet resulting in the 2002 decision by ICCAT to lift the ban imposed on bigeye tuna in January 2004. NMFS lifted the trade restriction on December 6, 2004 (69 FR 70396). St. Vincent and the Grenadines joined ICCAT during its 2006 Annual Meeting. The 2005 identification of St. Vincent and the Grenadines under the ICCAT trade measures resolution was revoked due to efforts by that country to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by its fleet and its commitment to abide by ICCAT rules.

Togo (ICCAT non-member)

Given concerns about possible IUU activities in the Convention area and the fact that Togo has not been responsive to ICCAT communications seeking clarification of the situation, ICCAT identified Togo at its 2007 meeting under the trade measures recommendation for diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT. At its 2008 meeting, the Commission considered new information received from Togo regarding action that country had taken to de-register IUU vessels. Based on these actions, the Commission lifted the identification. In its correspondence with ICCAT,

Togo also expressed interest in becoming a member of ICCAT.

Other Countries:

In 2005, ICCAT identified or re-identified Cuba, Costa Rica, and Singapore under its trade measures resolution for diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT. At its 2006 meeting, ICCAT reviewed the situation of these countries and revoked the identifications. Specifically, Singapore had responded to the Commission's concerns with regard to implementation of the statistical document program. Regarding Cuba and Costa Rica, no new evidence was available indicating fishing activity by their vessels in the Convention area. In 2008, the Commission received a letter from Cuba outlining that country's monitoring and control measures in place and reporting its catches up to 2006. The Commission determined that no new action was warranted with regard to Cuba.

At the 2008 annual meeting, ICCAT took additional steps to control and eliminate IUU fishing activities that are inconsistent with Convention directives. Specifically, ICCAT (1) amended its catch documentation scheme for bluefin tuna to improve overall catch and trade data collection and reporting; (2) adopted a series of new monitoring, control, and surveillance measures for the eastern bluefin tuna fishery, including a regional observer program and an improved at sea boarding and inspection scheme; (3) agreed to convene a special intersessional Compliance Committee meeting to intensively assess and address compliance in the bluefin tuna fishery; and (4) adopted a measure to harmonize the measurement of vessels. NMFS implemented the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme on July 2, 2008 (73 FR 31380). NMFS will implement ICCAT recommendations from the 2008 meeting through regulatory or non-regulatory means, as appropriate.

Under authority of sections 971d(c)(1) and (2) of ATCA, NMFS promulgated the trade-related regulations described above. Although no formal identifications have been made under ATCA section 971d(c)(6), the promulgation of regulations to implement ICCAT's trade sanction decisions is consistent with the requirement in ATCA to identify countries whose fishing vessels are fishing, or have fished during the preceding calendar year, within the Convention area in a manner or under such circumstances that diminish the effectiveness of a conservation recommendation. Additional information on the implementation of the ICCAT decisions and on the results of the 2009 ATCA identification review will be reported in the 2010 edition of this report.

Actions taken by the United States under the international provisions of the reauthorized Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act concerning illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities were included in a separate report to Congress, available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/docs/biennial_report011309.pdf.

(3) National Marine Fisheries Service Trade Monitoring Requirements - Under international agreements and domestic law, the Untied States implements recommendations of regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Both these RFMOs have implemented consignment tracking such as statistical document trade-tracking programs to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing

of internationally managed species. Consignment tracking programs also help to further understand trade and markets effects on commerce of these species. Statistical documents are required when a product is exported and include information on the shipped product such as product type, species, amount, and flag nation of the harvesting vessel. The documents must accompany the product until the product is sold to a consumer, and participating nations must collect the final statistical documents and submit summarized data to the relevant RFMO for use in fishery management.

A statistical document program for Atlantic bluefin tuna was implemented in the United States (60 FR 14381; March 17, 1995) pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 92-01. The 1992 ICCAT recommendation for tracking Atlantic bluefin tuna commerce only included statistical document requirements for imports and exports of frozen product. In 1993, the program was expanded to cover fresh products (ICCAT Recommendation 93-03), and in 1997, ICCAT recommended the addition of a re-export certificate to the program (97-04). The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) implemented a statistical document program for SBT and requested non-members such as the United States to support this program. The United States implemented this program in 2005 (69 FR 67268, November 17, 2004).

Based on the experience gained with the bluefin tuna statistical document program, ICCAT recommended statistical document programs for frozen bigeye tuna and swordfish in 2000 (00-22) and established these programs in 2001 (ICCAT Recommendations 01-21 and 22, respectively). The swordfish statistical document program replaced the previously required swordfish certificate of eligibility, which had been established to enforce a minimum size on imported product and monitor trade of Atlantic swordfish (64 FR 12903, March 16, 1999). The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (Recommendation 01/06) and IATTC (Recommendation C-03-01) both adopted a statistical document program for frozen bigeye tuna similar to the ICCAT program. The United States implemented these statistical document programs for swordfish and frozen bigeye tuna in 2005 (69 FR 67268, November 17, 2004).

The United States implemented several statistical document programs in 2005 (69 FR 67268, November 17, 2004). The same rulemaking served to consolidate the new and previously existing statistical document programs into one place in the regulations (50 CFR part 300 subpart M), and unify parts of their administrative implementation. Under the 2005 rulemaking, individuals who imported, exported, or re-exported any of the covered species (bluefin tuna, swordfish, SBT, frozen bigeye tuna) were required to obtain the HMS ITP. Associated reporting requirements included completion and filing of statistical documents, re-export certificates, and biweekly reports.

ICCAT adopted Recommendation 07-10 at its 2007 annual meeting to implement a bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) program. The BCD program expands the ICCAT bluefin tuna statistical document program to further track bluefin tuna consignments, beginning at the point of catch and including transit through farming operations, unlike the previous statistical document program, which only tracked consignments through trade to the final importer. As implemented in the previous statistical document program, the BCD program continues to track bluefin tuna consignments through trade to the final importer. The intent of this program expansion is to further reduce IUU fishing, obtain better catch and farming data, and more effectively implement

the Atlantic bluefin tuna recovery program. NMFS implemented the BCD program in July 2008 (73 FR 31380, June 2, 2008).

In 2008, ICCAT amended the BCD program (Recommendation 08-12) to improve its effectiveness and administration. Domestic implementation of this amendment is being considered.

Where necessary and appropriate, NMFS has requested that specific tariff codes be established to determine the level of imports by species and product type (e.g., processed swordfish imports versus whole fish). NMFS has a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection that provides NMFS with monthly access to import data on an individual entry level. In addition, NMFS is exploring other ways to improve data collection on imports of highly migratory species for fishery monitoring purposes. To this end, NMFS has recently taken steps to become a Participating Government Agency in the International Trade Data System.

Trade data collected under the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, the ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document Program and the ICCAT and IATTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programs are presented in detail in Appendix 2.

(4) National Marine Fisheries Service Actions in 2008 Pursuant to ATCA - Paragraph 1 of Section 971d(c) of the ATCA charges the Secretary with the promulgation of regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out recommendations adopted by ICCAT and accepted by the United States. The procedures to be used when promulgating such recommendations are specified in Paragraph 2. Paragraph 3 specifies the types of management measures which may be promulgated, such as requiring fishermen to obtain permits, to carry observers, etc. Paragraphs 4 and 5 provide for the promulgation of regulations that would allow the United States to prohibit the import of fish covered by the ICCAT Convention under certain circumstances. Paragraph 6 pertains to the identification of nations whose vessels are fishing or have fished in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT recommendations.

Copies of the *Federal Register* notices for final regulations relative to Atlantic highly migratory species that were published in 2008 are included in Appendix 3.

A description of actions taken under paragraph 6 of ATCA Section 971d is discussed under Section 2 of this report.

Appendix 1A

CATCHES BY SPECIES
(All harvesters reporting to ICCAT)

The following tables are from the 2008 report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics, submitted to ICCAT in October 2008. The tables are organized by species and detail reported catches from dates ranging between 1983 to 2007 by nations fishing on Atlantic stocks of such species subject to management by ICCAT. The catch figures are listed by region, gear type, and country. The SCRS report is available at http://www.iccat.es.

YFT-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of yellowfin tuna *(Thunnus albacares)* by major area, gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL			165857	114050	156619	146673	145361	136265	162247	193448	166901	163760	162753	172551	153246	153040	137211	148564	140366	136235	164650	140279	125515	119936	107256	108160	96580
ATE			125540	76217	113803	108839	113379	101671	125345	160717	130004	126048	124009	124336	117973	119984	104871	117644	109656	101725	124363	110619	100595	88794	81295	79801	73932
ATW			40318	37833	42815	37834	31982	34594	36902	32731	36897	37712	38745	48215	35274	33056	32341	30919	30710	34510	40287	29660	24920	31143	25961	28359	22648
Landings	ATE	Bait boat	11507	14694	16120	15301	16750	16020	12168	19560	17772	15095	18471	15652	13496	13804	12907	17330	19256	13267	19071	13432	11513	15354	12012	10434	7879
		Longline	6143	8146	9520	5779	6624	8956	7566	10253	9082	6516	8537	14605	13718	14233	10488	13869	13561	11364	7570	5790	9075	11501	7446	7433	13183
		Other surf.	3904	2407	1516	2296	2932	2646	2586	2175	3748	2450	2122	2030	1989	2065	2136	1674	1580	2424	2074	1826	2540	2928	3062	3615	2726
		Purse seine	103986	50970	86648	85464	87074	74049	103025	128729	99402	101987	94880	92050	88770	89882	79339	84771	75260	74670	95648	89572	77468	59011	58776	58319	50144
	ATW	Bait boat	3603	3698	5478	2421	5468	5822	4834	4718	5359	6276	6383	7094	5297	4560	4275	5511	5349	5649	5315	6009	3764	4868	3867	2695	2304
		Longline	7620	8855	10193	18490	14291	19046	17128	18851	13667	16594	11439	11343	10059	11111	11554	11671	13326	15760	14872	11921	10136	15953	14392	14337	12031
		Other surf.	3345	2077	6150	7101	5557	3692	3293	2362	3457	3483	4842	10166	13580	6601	4801	4581	5345	5231	7027	3763	6413	7104	5069	6880	5965
		Purse seine	25749	23203	20994	9822	6665	6034	11647	6800	14414	11359	16081	19612	6338	10784	11710	9157	6523	7870	13072	7966	4607	3217	2634	4442	2341
Discards	ATW	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	167	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6
Landings	ATE	Angola	788	237	350	59	51	246	67	292	510	441	211	137	216	78	70	115	170	35	34	34	34	34	111	0	405
		Benin	49	65	60	19	3	2	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cape Verde	4341	2820	1901	3326	2675	2468	2870	2136	1932	1426	1536	1727	1781	1448	1721	1418	1663	1851	1684	1802	1855	3236	7154	8112	4057
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	156	200	124	84	71	1535	1652	586	262	1033	1030	1112	1017	1000
		Chinese Taipei	452	87	146	254	193	207	96	2244	2163	1554	1301	3851	2681	3985	2993	3643	3389	4014	2787	3363	4946	4145	2327	830	1791
		Congo	0	0	11	20	15	15	21	22	17	18	17	14	13	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cuba	1916	1467	1585	1332	1295	1694	703	798	658	653	541	238	212	257	269	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	673	213	99	302	565	175	482	216
		EC.España	51946	40049	66874	61878	66093	50167	61649	68603	53464	49902	40403	40612	38278	34879	24550	31337	19947	24681	31105	31469	24884	21414	11795	11606	13584
		EC.Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	234	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.France	40470	7946	12304	17756	17491	21323	30807	45684	34840	33964	36064	35468	29567	33819	29966	30739	31246	29789	32211	32753	32429	23949	22672	18940	12514
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	255	54	16	0	55	151	223	97	25	36	72	334	334	334	334	334	
		EC.Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	1333	1527	36	295	278	188	182	179	328	195	128	126	231	288	176	267	177	194	4	6	4	5	16	274	865
		Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	88	218	225	225	295	225	162	270	245	44	44	44	44	
		Gambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	16	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	22	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ghana	7689	9039	12550	11821	10830	8555	7035	11988	9254	9331	13283	9984	9268	11720	15437	17657	25268	17662	33546	23674	18457	15054	17493	11931	12954
		Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2906	6560	3461
		Guinea Ecuatorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	3062	4344	5765	3634	4521	5808	5882	5887	4467	2961	2627	4194	4770	4246	2733	4092	2101	2286	1550	1534	1999	5066	3088	4416	9031
		Korea Rep.	1629	1917	1668	965	1221	1248	1480	324	259	174	169	436	453	297	101	23	94	142	3	8	209	984	95	4	
		Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	208	73	73	73	73	73	
		Maroc	2331	614	2270	2266	1529	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	108	95	183	95	102
		Mixed flags (FR+ES)	484	110	72	138	933	932	825	1056	2220	2455	2750	1898	1172	1166	981	1124	1369	1892	1427	599	992	1052	933	1063	655
		NEI (ETRO)	5388	1104	0	0	2077	3140	5436	12513	4856	10921	9875	8544	8970	9567	6706	7225	5418	5448	10205	8209	5396	4294	1781	219	
		NEI (Flag related)	103	54	76	150	285	206	280	1115	2310	1315	1157	2524	2975	3588	3368	5464	5679	3072	2090	133	466	0	0	0	
		Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	72	69	3	147	59	165	89	139	85	135	59	26
		Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3183	6082	6110	3962	5441	4793	4035	6185	4161	0	1939	1429
		Norway	0	0	0	813	418	493	1787	1790	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	1568	1653	3100	1944	1858	1239	901	1498	7976	8338	10973	12066	13442	7713	4293	2111	1315	1103	574	1022	0	1887	6170	8557	9363
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	126	173	86	0	50	9	68	69	30	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3200	1862	2160	1503	2936	2696	4275	4931	4359	737	0	0	0	0	4	42	211
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	194	177	180	180	178	298	299	164	187	170	181	125	135	120	109	124	114	122	122	122	122	134	145	137	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	90	132	40	19	6	20	41	208	251	834	252	295	447	279	681	1301	1262	819
		Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	
		Seychelles (foreign obs.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		South Africa	456	759	382	55	68	137	671	624	52	69	266	486	183	157	116	240	320	191	342	152	298	402	1156	1187	1063
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	101	209
		U.S.S.R.	1282	2168	3768	1851	1275	3207	4246	3615	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UK.Sta Helena	59	80	72	82	93	98	100	92	100	166	171	150	181	151	109	181	116	136	72	9	0	0	0	344	177

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	215	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	145	
		Venezuela	0	0	634	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATW	Argentina	0	0	44	23	18	66	33	23	34	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	327	327	0	
		Barbados	51	90	57	39	57	236	62	89	108	179	161	156	255	160	149	150	155	155	142	115	116	116	116	197	154
		Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	1164
		Brasil	2844	2149	2947	1837	2266	2512	2533	1758	1838	4228	5131	4169	4021	2767	2705	2514	4127	6145	6239	6172	3503	6985	7223	3790	5468
		Canada	0	0	0	2	40	30	7	7	29	25	71	52	174	155	100	57	22	105	125	70	73	304	240	293	276
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	628	655	22	470	435	17	275	74	68	124
		Chinese Taipei	87	559	780	1156	709	1641	762	5221	2009	2974	2895	2809	2017	2668	1473	1685	1022	1647	2018	1296	1540	1679	1269	430	156
		Colombia	29	0	180	211	258	206	136	237	92	95	2404	3418	7172	238	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	
		Cuba	793	2538	1906	2081	1062	98	91	53	18	11	1	14	54	40	40	15	15	0	0	65	65	65	65	65	
		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	12	23	30	31	9	0	0	0	80	78	120	169	119	81	119	65	103
		Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	220	226	226	226	226	226	226	226	
		EC.España	1957	3976	1000	0	0	1	3	2	1462	1314	989	7	4	36	34	46	30	171	0	0	0	0	0	1	84
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	60	88
		Grenada	169	146	170	506	186	215	235	530	620	595	858	385	410	523	302	484	430	403	759	593	749	460	492	502	633
		Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	1218	1030	2169	2103	1647	2395	3178	1734	1698	1591	469	589	457	1004	806	1081	1304	1775	1141	571	755	1194	1159	455	309
		Korea Rep.	1920	989	1655	853	236	120	1055	484	1	45	11	0	0	84	156	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	580	279	
		Mexico	612	1059	562	658	33	283	345	112	433	742	855	1093	1126	771	826	788	1283	1390	1084	1133	1313	1208	1050	938	890
		NEI (Flag related)	651	352	450	806	1012	2118	2500	2985	2008	2521	1514	1880	1227	2374	2732	2875	1730	2197	793	42	112	0	0	0	
		Netherlands Antilles	173	173	150	150	160	170	170	170	150	160	170	155	140	130	130	130	130	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	62	246	0	5278	3289	2192	1595	2651	2249	2297	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2804	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	106	78	12	79	145	299	299	234	
		Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	40	48	22	65	16	43	37	35	48	38	1989	1365	1160	568	4251	0	2680	2989
		Sta. Lucia	23	56	79	125	76	97	70	58	49	58	92	130	144	110	110	276	123	134	145	94	139	147	172	103	82
		Trinidad and Tobago	232	31	0	0	0	1	11	304	543	4	4	120	79	183	223	213	163	112	122	125	186	224	295	459	615
		U.S.A.	2553	2180	9735	9938	9661	11064	8462	5666	6914	6938	6283	8298	8131	7745	7674	5621	7567	7051	6703	5710	7695	6516	5568	7091	5529
		UK.Bermuda	10	11	42	44	25	23	22	15	17	42	58	44	44	67	55	53	59	31	37	48	47	82	61	31	30
		UK.British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
		UK.Turks and Caicos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Uruguay	357	368	354	270	109	177	64	18	62	74	20	59	53	171	53	88	45	45	90	91	95	204	644	218	35
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	681	689	661	
		Venezuela	26576	21879	20535	11755	11137	10949	15567	10556	16503	13773	16663	24789	9714	13772	14671	13995	11187	10549	18651	11421	7411	5774	5097	6514	3911
Discards	ATW	Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	167	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

BET-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of bigeye tuna *(Thunnus obesus)* by major area, gear and flag.

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL		59546	71092	78241	65447	56315	66140	78376	84727	96074	99330	112572	132918	126716	121559	109230	110423	128305	103651	94291	77177	91949	86921	72345	66575	67172
Landings	Bait boat	9796	11439	17651	15618	12631	9710	12672	18106	17750	16248	16467	20290	25552	18959	21037	21381	25868	12634	15842	8367	13437	18879	15092	14671	11549
	Longline	33757	43303	52595	39942	35570	47758	58389	56537	61556	62359	62871	78296	74816	74900	68251	71836	76527	71193	55265	46438	54464	48379	38125	34887	42037
	Other surf.	163	247	415	550	626	474	644	293	437	607	652	977	567	357	536	434	1377	1226	1628	1479	1318	1245	533	559	436
	Purse seine	15830	16103	7580	9336	7487	8198	6671	9791	16331	20116	32582	33355	25782	27343	19406	16771	24533	18599	21556	20894	22731	18417	18595	16457	13150
	Angola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	476	75	0	
	Argentina	0	0	100	41	72	50	17	78	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	17	18	18	6	11	11	0	0	18	14
	Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	60
	Benin	0	0	0	15	6	7	8	10	10	7	8	9	9	9	30	13	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Brasil	521	656	419	873	756	946	512	591	350	790	1256	601	1935	1707	1237	644	2024	2768	2659	2582	2455	1496	1081	1479	1593
	Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Canada	0	0	0	11	144	95	31	10	26	67	124	111	148	144	166	120	263	327	241	279	182	143	187	196	144
	Cape Verde	293	167	112	86	60	117	100	52	151	105	85	209	66	16	10	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1092	1437	1147
	China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	428	476	520	427	1503	7347	6564	7210	5840	7890	6555	6200	7200	7399
	Chinese Taipei	1623	925	1220	1125	1488	1469	940	5755	13850	11546	13426	19680	18023	21850	19242	16314	16837	16795	16429	18483	21563	17717	11984	2965	12116
	Congo	0	0	8	19	10	10	14	15	12	12	14	9	9	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Cuba	421	447	239	171	190	151	87	62	34	56	36	7	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	0	0	0	
	Côte D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	
	EC.España	8794	13617	10340	10884	8875	8475	8263	10355	14705	14656	16782	22096	17849	15393	12513	7115	13739	11250	10134	10524	10969	8251	7618	7464	6608
	EC.France	8124	4254	4615	4266	3905	4161	3261	5023	5581	6888	12719	12263	8363	9171	5980	5624	5529	5949	4948	4293	3940	2926	2816	2984	2031
	EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	33	0	
	EC.Portugal	4075	4354	6457	7428	5036	2818	5295	6233	5718	5796	5616	3099	9662	5810	5437	6334	3314	1498	1605	2590	1655	3204	4053	5068	5505
	EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
	FR.St Pierre et Miquelon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	28	6	0	
	Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	87	10	0	0	0	184	150	121	0	0	0	0	0	
	Ghana	491	2162	1887	1720	1178	1214	2158	5031	4090	2866	3577	4738	5517	5805	9829	13370	17764	5910	12042	7106	13557	14901	13917	9141	4633
	Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	25	20	10	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1003	923	836
	Guinea Ecuatorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Japan	15212	24870	32103	23081	18961	32064	39540	35231	30356	34722	35053	38503	35477	33171	26490	24330	21833	24605	18087	15306	19572	18509	14026	16440	18443
	Korea Rep.	9383	8989	10704	6084	4438	4919	7896	2690	802	866	377	386	423	1250	796	163	124	43	1	87	143	629	770	2067	
	Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	0	206	16	13	42	65	53	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	0	0	0	
	Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	508	1085	500	400	400	400	400	400	400	31	593	593	0	0	4	
	Maroc	552	120	30	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	700	770	857	913	889	929	519	887	700
	Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	6	8	6	2	2	7	4	5	4	3	3
	Mixed flags (FR+ES)	176	40	26	50	339	339	300	384	807	893	1000	690	426	424	357	409	498	688	519	218	361	383	339	386	238
	NEI (ETRO)	1141	157	0	0	85	20	93	785	1221	2138	4594	5034	5137	5839	2746	1685	4011	2285	3027	2248	2504	1387	294	81	
	NEI (Flag related)	46	369	354	758	1406	2155	4650	5856	8982	6151	4378	8964	10697	11862	16569	24896	24060	15092	8470	531	0	0	0	0	
	NEI (UK.OT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	29	7	46	16	423	589	640	274	215	177	307	283	41
	Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1893	2890	2919	3428	2359	2803	1879	2758	3343	0	416	251
	Norway	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Panama	2732	3165	4461	5173	5616	3847	3157	5258	7446	9991	10138	13234	9927	4777	2098	1252	580	952	89	63	0	1521	2310	2415	2922
	Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1154	2113	975	377	837	855	1854	1855	1816	
	Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	38	4	8	91	0	0	0	0	1	1	26
	S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	6	3	4	4	3	6	4	5	6	5	4	4	4	4	11	6	4	
	Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	9	126	237	138	258	730	1473	1131	1308	565	474	561	721	1267	805
	Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	162	0	0	0	0	
	Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	
	South Africa	187	60	102	168	200	553	367	296	72	43	88	76	27	7	10	53	55	249	239	341	113	270	221	84	171
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	2	2	1	1216	506	15	103	18	0	114	567

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	2	0	
Togo	14	52	18	24	22	7	12	12	6	2	86	23	6	33	33	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trinidad and Tobago	191	41	22	0	0	1	19	57	263	0	3	29	27	37	36	24	19	5	11	30	6	5	9	12	27
U.S.A.	315	539	639	1085	1074	1127	847	623	975	813	1090	1402	1209	882	1138	929	1263	574	1085	601	482	416	484	991	522
U.S.S.R.	352	1233	870	1071	1887	1077	424	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
UK.Sta Helena	14	19	0	0	5	1	1	3	3	10	6	6	10	10	12	17	6	8	5	5	0	0	0	25	18
Uruguay	605	714	597	177	204	120	55	38	20	56	48	37	80	124	69	59	28	25	51	67	59	40	62	83	22
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	109	52	
Venezuela	4284	4142	2918	1136	349	332	115	161	476	270	809	457	457	189	274	222	140	226	708	629	516	1060	243	261	318

SKJ-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of skipjack tuna *(Katsuwonus pelamis)* by major area, gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL			137458	127376	119071	122865	119229	144796	120419	144118	219733	170708	205685	185014	167381	154127	146082	151699	166488	148598	155767	116781	145293	158707	162241	142177	150848
ATE			105442	91770	78786	90711	95052	121060	94037	118008	186329	140554	172462	155065	145479	126557	114367	122436	139079	119202	124239	95144	120412	131085	133597	115703	125338
MED			2	10	13	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	43	9	4	176	53	90	77	37	132	161	127	20	66
ATW			32015	35596	40272	32151	24164	23736	26382	26110	33404	30155	33221	29949	21859	27562	31712	29087	27356	29307	31451	21600	24749	27461	28517	26454	25443
Landings	ATE	Bait boat	34873	28075	29868	30009	38803	48015	41000	36569	41611	35660	31656	37817	33691	32047	37293	42045	37696	29967	46281	27590	29847	39539	43603	41175	34452
		Longline	417	22	6	19	6	4	9	0	5	3	2	10	3	7	47	85	42	48	53	56	66	316	458	2957	1599
		Other surf.	2240	1328	206	1638	1027	1506	1643	1357	2067	1602	1223	501	445	501	304	923	417	2423	764	681	551	816	1898	2402	2172
		Purse seine	67912	62345	48706	59045	55216	71535	51385	80082	142646	103288	139581	116737	111340	94002	76722	79383	100925	86763	77142	66817	89948	90414	87638	69170	87114
	ATW	Bait boat	20057	16771	28490	25278	18675	21057	23292	22246	23972	20852	19697	22645	17744	23741	26797	24724	23881	25754	25142	18737	21990	24082	26028	23749	22865
		Longline	184	25	24	8	6	9	25	23	33	29	20	16	33	19	12	21	58	23	60	349	95	206	207	287	52
		Other surf.	653	842	567	1657	518	355	600	600	872	764	710	1577	2023	452	556	516	481	466	951	398	367	404	316	372	1317
		Purse seine	11121	17958	11191	5208	4964	2315	2466	3241	8527	8509	12794	5712	2059	3349	4347	3826	2936	3063	5297	2116	2296	2769	1967	2045	1209
	MED	Bait boat	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	17	21	13	8	20
		Other surf.	2	0	13	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	43	9	4	176	53	90	77	32	12	40	16	12	28
		Purse seine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	103	101	99	0	19
Landings	ATE	Angola	318	46	131	56	80	30	85	69	66	41	13	7	3	15	52	2	32	14	14	14	14	10	0	0	
		Benin	38	10	20	11	5	3	7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cape Verde	1400	1391	2030	877	2076	1456	971	806	1333	864	860	1007	1314	470	591	684	962	789	794	398	343	1097	7504	7930	6026
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Chinese Taipei	2	7	4	0	0	1	3	0	5	3	2	10	3	5	47	73	39	41	24	23	26	16	10	8	14
		Congo	5	10	8	8	8	8	11	12	9	9	10	7	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cuba	135	310	246	569	81	206	331	86	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1173	259	292	143	559	1259	1565	1817
		EC.Bulgaria	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	28933	46649	35100	41992	33076	47643	35300	47834	79908	53319	63660	50538	51594	38538	38513	36008	44520	37226	30954	25456	44837	38725	28139	22206	23670
		EC.Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.France	29727	12994	13645	13045	17114	16504	15211	17099	33271	21890	33735	32779	25188	23107	17023	18382	20344	18183	16593	16615	19899	21879	14850	7034	5124
		EC.Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	14	
		EC.Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	1113	3974	2409	5446	8420	14257	7725	3987	8059	7477	5651	7528	4996	8297	4399	4544	1810	1302	2167	2958	4315	8504	4735	11158	8995
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	51	26	0	59	76	21	101	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ghana	24376	20697	19082	22268	24347	26597	22751	24251	25052	18967	20225	21258	18607	19602	26336	34183	40216	28974	42489	30499	24597	25727	44671	30236	45709
		Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6389	5162	5546
		Japan	6002	1504	2098	2031	1982	3200	2243	2566	4792	2378	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Korea Rep.	1908	699	153	5	6	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Maroc	2531	885	1002	1220	1028	428	295	1197	254	559	310	248	4981	675	4509	2481	848	1198	268	280	523	807	1893	3779	1570
		Mixed flags (FR+ES)	2420	550	358	692	4663	4660	4125	5280	11101	12273	13750	9492	5862	5831	4905	5621	6845	9461	7137	2995	4959	5262	4666	5313	3275
		NEI (ETRO)	3383	927	590	540	791	2994	2263	10516	11335	12409	20291	17418	16235	16211	6161	6748	8893	7127	8122	8550	9688	11137	2873	629	
		Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	
		Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7096	8444	8553	9932	10008	13370	5427	10092	8708	0	3042	1252
		Norway	0	0	0	0	581	738	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Panama	1611	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8312	8719	13027	12978	14853	5855	1300	572	1308	1559	281	342	0	7126	11490	13468	18821
		Rumania	0	0	0	3	0	0	59	142	349	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1175	1110	540	1471	1450	381	1146	2086	1426	374	0	0	0	0	0	392	1130
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	103	18	20	20	20	195	196	204	201	178	212	190	180	187	178	169	181	179	179	179	179	117	166	143	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	134	652	260	95	59	18	163	455	1963	1631	1506	1271	1053	733	1333	4874	3534	2278
		South Africa	104	14	66	101	88	157	96	17	15	7	6	4	4	1	6	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
		U.S.S.R.	1223	1000	1404	1688	547	1822	1915	3635	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UK.Sta Helena	103	85	62	139	139	158	397	171	24	16	65	55	115	86	294	298	13	64	205	63	63	63	63	88	110
		Venezuela	0	0	358	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATW	Argentina	243	505	101	138	90	7	111	106	272	123	50	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	30	0	0	
		Barbados	39	48	36	33	21	3	9	11	14	5	6	6	6	5	5	10	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	15945	13567	25101	23155	16286	17316	20750	20130	20548	18535	17771	20588	16560	22528	26564	23789	23188	25164	24146	18338	20416	23037	26388	23270	24191
		Chinese Taipei	6	6	3	1	2	7	19	0	32	26	9	7	2	10	1	2	1	0	1	16	14	27	28	30	2
		Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2074	789	1583	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Cuba	1700	1248	1632	1277	1101	1631	1449	1443	1596	1638	1017	1268	886	1000	1000	651	651	651	0	0	624	545	514	536	
	Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	38	41	24	43	33	33	33	33	85	86	45	55	51	30	20	28	32
	Dominican Republic	106	68	204	600	62	63	117	110	156	135	143	257	146	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	EC.España	209	2610	500	0	0	0	0	0	1592	1120	397	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	EC.Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	3	3	5	21	11
	Grenada	15	12	7	9	5	22	11	23	25	30	25	11	12	11	15	23	23	23	15	14	16	21	22	15	26
	Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Korea Rep.	175	17	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Mexico	25	30	48	11	13	10	14	4	9	8	1	1	0	2	3	6	51	13	54	71	75	9	7	10	7
	Netherlands Antilles	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	45	40	35	30	30	30	30	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	17	28	29	27	20	66	56	53	37	42	57	37	68	97	357	92	251	251	355	90
	Sta. Lucia	35	64	53	76	60	53	38	37	51	39	53	86	72	38	100	263	153	216	151	106	132	137	159	120	89
	Trinidad and Tobago	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	U.S.A.	697	853	1814	1115	734	57	73	304	858	560	367	99	81	85	84	106	152	44	70	88	79	103	30	61	66
	UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Venezuela	12778	16526	10712	5690	5750	4509	3723	3813	8146	7834	11172	6697	2387	3574	3834	4114	2981	3003	6870	2554	3247	3270	1093	2008	921
MED	Algerie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	43	89	77	0	0	0	0	0	
	EC.España	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	26	10	15	44
	EC.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	
	EC.Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	99	99	0	
	EC.Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	29	34	17	0	
	Maroc	1	0	13	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	43	9	4	5	10	1	0	1	1	2	1	5	22

ALB-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of albacore *(Thunnus alalunga)* by major area, gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL			67643	59850	76052	88554	82738	67229	63342	67167	56343	69598	73078	71613	67512	60353	59560	58888	67045	71157	69916	60094	61530	53359	57619	67434	48127
ATN			51490	41800	40826	47554	38115	33059	32070	36557	27949	30861	38135	35149	38376	28803	28997	25595	34551	34199	26254	22741	25642	25958	35260	37017	21549
ATS			14918	14599	31097	37288	40630	30107	27212	28714	26016	36533	32813	35115	27549	28426	28022	30595	27642	31380	38796	31746	27995	22527	18829	24469	20032
MED			1235	3451	4129	3712	3993	4063	4060	1896	2378	2203	2130	1349	1587	3125	2541	2698	4851	5577	4866	5608	7893	4874	3529	5947	6546
Landings	ATN	Bait boat	21108	8313	12589	15202	18756	15933	15374	18625	8985	12448	15646	11967	16411	11338	9821	7562	8780	12148	6104	6638	7918	8128	10458	14273	8497
		Longline	16863	19709	17413	21232	7296	3013	2238	2683	5315	3152	7093	7308	4857	4641	4051	3884	6710	7321	7372	6180	7698	6909	6890	5251	2794
		Other surf.	367	2194	108	213	343	994	1652	3865	3999	5172	7279	7506	3555	3337	4378	6846	6817	5970	2828	422	550	696	622	625	526
		Purse seine	364	555	59	60	1	97	12	1	222	139	229	278	278	263	0	91	56	191	264	118	211	355	65	188	198
		Trawl	0	0	2	0	262	1693	2240	1033	469	2603	1779	2131	3049	2571	2877	1318	5343	3547	5374	5376	3846	2369	7001	6385	3429
		Troll	12788	11029	10654	10847	11457	11329	10554	10350	8959	7348	6109	5959	10226	6652	7870	5894	6845	5023	4312	4007	5419	7501	10224	10296	6105
	ATS	Bait boat	1794	4166	7909	6829	8181	7696	7393	5981	3454	6490	7379	8947	7091	6960	8110	10353	6709	6873	10355	9712	6973	7475	5084	5876	3374
		Longline	11941	9834	22672	29815	30964	21828	19407	21590	22008	27133	23947	24607	20036	21000	19547	19799	20626	24398	28039	21671	20619	14735	12925	17757	14851
		Other surf.	484	234	334	400	537	398	411	1139	137	393	39	483	10	209	127	0	73	58	377	323	82	299	288	395	1762
		Purse seine	699	365	182	244	948	185	0	4	416	2517	1448	1078	412	257	117	434	183	51	25	39	309	0	533	441	45
		Trawl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	9	52	0	0	0	12	18	0	0	
	MED	Bait boat	535	1331	243	0	0	0	0	83	499	171	231	81	163	205	0	33	96	88	77	29	0	0	0	0	0
		Longline	0	226	375	150	161	168	165	624	523	442	402	350	87	366	348	194	417	2800	2597	3706	4248	2345	2012	3010	4113
		Other surf.	700	1753	2973	3552	3782	3879	3879	1098	1198	1534	879	766	1031	2435	1991	2426	4265	2689	2193	1755	3166	2176	1200	134	1400
		Purse seine	0	141	274	10	50	16	16	91	110	6	559	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	478	353	317	2803	1033
		Troll	0	0	264	0	0	0	0	0	48	50	59	129	306	119	202	45	73	0	0	117	0	0	0	0	
Landings	ATN	Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	5	5	0	0	9	7
		Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
		Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Canada	0	0	0	1	21	47	22	6	5	1	9	32	12	24	31	23	38	122	51	113	56	27	52	27	25
		Cape Verde	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	8	20	0	0	21	16	57	196	155	32	112	202	59
		Chinese Taipei	14254	14923	14899	19646	6636	2117	1294	3005	4318	2209	6300	6409	3977	3905	3330	3098	5785	5299	4399	4330	4557	4278	2540	2357	1297
		Cuba	38	69	20	31	15	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	322	435	424	527	
		Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	323	121	73	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	29557	15656	20672	24387	28206	26738	25424	25792	17233	18174	18380	16998	20197	16324	17295	13285	15363	16000	9177	8952	12530	15379	20447	24538	14582
		EC.France	2391	2797	1860	1200	1921	2805	4050	3300	4123	6924	6293	5934	5304	4694	4618	3711	6888	5718	6006	4345	3456	2455	7232	6585	3179
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	451	1946	2534	918	874	1913	3750	4858	3464	2093	1100	755	175	306	521	596
		EC.Portugal	1778	775	657	498	433	184	169	3185	709	1638	3385	974	6470	1634	395	91	324	278	1175	1953	553	513	556	119	184
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	499	613	196	49	33	117	343	15	0	0	0	0	6	19	30
		FR.St Pierre et Miquelon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	7	2	0	
		Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	7	6	12	21	23	46	25	29	19	20
		Japan	1156	576	844	470	494	723	764	737	691	466	485	505	386	466	414	446	425	688	1126	711	681	893	1336	809	261
		Korea Rep.	478	967	390	373	18	16	53	34	1	0	8	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	45	
		Maroc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	81	120	178	98	96
		Mexico	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		NEI (Flag related)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	19	13	10	8	11	3	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	357	2551	601	525	44	0	0	0	0	29	60	103	73	11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	0	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	704	1370	300	1555	89	802	76	263
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	10	0	2	2	2
		Trinidad and Tobago	268	194	318	0	0	0	0	4	0	247	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	11	9	12	12	9	12	18
		U.S.A.	347	2206	98	251	301	288	243	357	479	438	509	741	545	472	577	829	315	406	322	480	444	646	488	400	532
		UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	414	507	235	
		Venezuela	823	1076	467	172	26	137	41	95	319	205	246	282	279	315	49	107	91	1374	349	162	424	457	175	321	375
	ATS	Argentina	55	209	153	356	469	344	354	151	60	306	0	2	0	0	120	9	52	0	0	0	12	18	0	0	
		Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	32
		Belize (foreign obs.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	731	732	382	520	395	421	435	514	1113	2710	3613	1227	923	819	652	3418	1872	4411	6862	3228	2647	522	556	361	535
		Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	89	26	30	26	112	95	100	35
		Chinese Taipei	9502	7889	19643	27592	28790	20746	18386	21369	19883	23063	19400	22573	18351	18956	18165	16106	17377	17221	15833	17321	17351	13288	10730	12293	13146

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Cuba	36	67	27	24	10	2	1	2	17	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	EC.España	295	307	155	200	807	185	0	0	280	1943	783	831	457	184	256	193	1027	282	573	836	376	81	285	367	758
	EC.France	372	7	18	35	100	0	0	0	50	449	564	129	82	190	38	40	13	23	11	18	63	0	478	347	12
	EC.Portugal	0	741	1357	1029	899	1153	557	732	81	184	483	1185	655	494	256	124	232	486	41	433	415	9	43	8	13
	Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	
	Honduras (foreign obs.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Japan	188	224	623	739	357	405	450	587	654	583	467	651	389	435	424	418	601	554	341	231	315	509	312	333	236
	Korea Rep.	599	348	511	321	383	180	54	19	31	5	20	0	0	18	4	7	0	18	1	0	5	37	42	66	
	Maroc	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	122	68	55	63	41	5	27	0	0	10	14	53	0	15	46	15
	NEI (Flag related)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149	262	146	123	102	169	47	42	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	915	950	982	1199	1429	1162	2418	3419	2962	3152	3328	2344	5100	1196
	Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	192	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Panama	0	0	0	280	924	0	0	0	240	482	318	472	228	380	53	60	14	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	18
	Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	South Africa	2760	3540	6697	5930	7275	6570	6890	5280	3410	6360	6881	6931	5214	5634	6708	8412	5101	3610	7236	6507	3469	4502	3198	3735	3797
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2116	4292	44	0	0	0	65	160
	U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	1	1	2	8	2	1	0	0	
	UK.Sta Helena	7	9	0	0	2	1	1	1	5	28	38	5	82	47	18	1	1	58	12	2	0	0	0	62	46
	Uruguay	373	526	1531	262	178	100	83	55	34	31	28	16	49	75	56	110	90	90	135	111	108	120	32	93	34
	Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	684	1400	
MED	EC.Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	12	30	255	425	507	712
	EC.España	535	1368	531	0	0	3	0	84	547	228	290	218	475	404	380	126	284	152	200	209	1	138	189	382	516
	EC.France	0	141	250	20	60	31	31	121	140	11	64	23	3	0	5	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	EC.Greece	0	0	0	484	500	500	500	500	500	500	1	1	0	952	741	1152	2005	1786	1840	1352	950	773	623	402	448
	EC.Italy	700	1942	3348	3208	3433	3529	3529	1191	1191	1464	1275	1107	1109	1769	1414	1414	2561	3630	2826	4032	6912	3671	2248	4584	4017
	EC.Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	2	0	10	15	0	1
	NEI-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	30	73	852

BFT-Table 1. Reported catches(t) including fish transferred to farms of northern bluefin tuna *(Thunnus thynnus)* by major area, gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
TOTAL			24344	26716	24680	21373	20699	27016	23690	26027	29350	34131	36636	48853	49714	53302	49485	42375	35228	36541	37390	37089	33469	33502	37602	32459	34030
ATE+MED			21802	24427	21995	19051	18199	24118	20952	23247	26429	31849	34268	46740	47291	50807	47151	39718	32456	33766	34605	33770	31163	31377	35845	30647	32398
ATE			8152	7395	4792	4491	4435	6951	5324	6040	6556	7619	9367	6930	9650	12663	13539	11376	9628	10528	10086	10347	7362	7407	9036	7493	8035
MED			13650	17032	17203	14560	13764	17167	15628	17207	19872	24230	24901	39810	37640	38144	33612	28342	22828	23238	24519	23424	23801	23970	26810	23154	24363
ATW			2542	2289	2685	2322	2500	2898	2738	2780	2921	2282	2368	2113	2423	2495	2334	2657	2772	2775	2785	3319	2306	2125	1756	1811	1632
Landings	ATE	Bait boat	1882	2262	2004	1414	1821	1936	1971	1693	1445	1141	3447	1980	2601	4985	3521	2550	1492	1822	2275	2567	1371	1790	2018	1116	2033
		Longline	2626	1541	535	770	904	1169	853	1496	3197	3817	2717	2176	4392	4788	4534	4300	4020	3736	3303	2896	2750	2071	2713	2406	1698
		Other surf.	1426	948	536	972	668	1221	1020	562	347	834	1548	932	1047	646	511	621	498	703	712	701	560	402	1014	1047	506
		Purse seine	262	373	86	276	0	0	0	54	46	462	24	213	458	323	828	692	726	1147	150	884	490	1078	871	332	
		Sport (HL+RR)	0	0	1	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	162	28	33	126	61	63	109	87	11	4	10
		Traps	1956	2271	1630	1057	1040	2624	1478	2234	1522	1365	1631	1630	1152	1921	3982	3185	2859	2996	3585	3235	2082	1978	2408	2588	3788
	MED	Bait boat	0	1699	278	0	0	0	0	25	148	158	48	0	206	5	4	11	4	0	0	1	9	17	5	0	
		Longline	980	1196	1228	678	799	1227	1121	1026	2869	2599	2342	7048	8475	8171	5672	2749	2463	3317	3750	2614	2476	2564	3101	2202	2470
		Other surf.	674	1738	3211	3544	2762	2870	3289	1212	1401	1894	1607	3218	1043	1197	1033	1880	2976	1067	1096	990	2536	1106	480	301	699
		Purse seine	10484	9888	11219	9333	8857	11198	9450	11250	13245	17807	19297	26083	23588	26021	24178	21291	14910	16195	17174	17656	17167	18785	22475	20020	21030
		Sport (HL+RR)	194	275	507	322	433	838	457	1552	738	951	1237	2257	3556	2149	2340	1336	1622	1921	1321	1647	1392	1339	634	503	70
		Traps	1318	2236	760	683	913	1034	1311	2142	1471	821	370	1204	772	601	385	1074	852	739	1177	515	221	159	115	129	95
	ATW	Longline	829	832	1245	764	1134	1373	678	739	895	674	696	539	466	528	382	764	914	859	610	730	186	644	425	565	423
		Other surf.	514	377	293	166	156	425	755	536	578	509	406	307	384	433	295	344	281	283	202	108	140	97	89	85	63
		Purse seine	384	401	377	360	367	383	385	384	237	300	295	301	249	245	250	249	248	275	196	208	265	32	178	4	28
		Sport (HL+RR)	808	676	750	518	726	601	786	1004	1083	586	854	804	1114	1028	1179	1106	1124	1120	1649	2035	1398	1139	924	1005	1023
		Traps	7	3	20	0	17	14	1	2	0	1	29	79	72	90	59	68	44	16	16	28	84	32	8	3	4
Discards	ATW	Longline	0	0	0	514	99	102	119	115	128	211	88	83	138	167	155	123	160	222	105	211	232	181	131	149	91
		Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Sport (HL+RR)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	
Landings	ATE	Cape Verde	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	103	80	68	39	19	41	24	0	72
		Chinese Taipei	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	20	8	61	226	350	222	144	304	158	0	0	10	4	
		EC.Denmark	0	0	37	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	4587	4804	3628	2876	2479	4567	3565	3557	2272	2319	5078	3137	3819	6174	6201	3800	3360	3474	3633	4089	2138	2801	3102	2033	3269
		EC.France	400	602	490	348	533	724	460	510	565	894	1099	336	725	563	269	613	588	542	629	755	648	561	818	1218	634
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	21	52	22	8	15	3	1	1	2	1
		EC.Portugal	174	34	29	193	163	48	3	27	117	38	25	240	35	199	712	323	411	441	404	186	61	27	79	97	29
		EC.Sweden	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	104	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Guinée Conakry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	27	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	2609	1514	420	739	900	1169	838	1464	2981	3350	2484	2075	3971	3341	2905	3195	2690	2895	2425	2536	2695	2015	2598	1896	1612
		Korea Rep.	3	0	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	205	92	203	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	1	
		Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	312	0	0	0	576	477	511	450	487	0	0	0	0	0	47	
		Maroc	365	171	86	288	356	437	451	408	531	562	415	720	678	1035	2068	2341	1591	2228	2497	2565	1797	1961	2405	2196	2418
		NEI (ETRO)	0	6	3	4	0	5	6	74	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NEI (Flag related)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	144	223	68	189	71	208	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Norway	1	243	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	0	17	22	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	19	550	255	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
		Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	118	0	0	0	0	0	
	MED	Algerie	252	254	260	566	420	677	820	782	800	1104	1097	1560	156	156	157	1947	2142	2330	2012	1710	1586	1208	1530	1038	1511
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97	137	93	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	328	709	494	411	278	106	27	169	329	508	445	51	267	5	
		Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1418	1076	1058	1410	1220	1360	1105	906	970	930	903	977	1139	827	1017	1022	821
		EC.Cyprus	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	14	10	10	10	10	21	31	61	85	91	79	105	149	110	1
		EC.España	812	2743	1460	701	1178	1428	1645	1822	1392	2165	2018	2741	4607	2588	2205	2000	2003	2772	2234	2215	2512	2353	2758	2689	2414
		EC.France	3660	3600	5430	3490	4330	5780	4434	4713	4620	7376	6995	11843	9604	9171	8235	7122	6156	6794	6167	5832	5859	6471	8638	7663	10157
		EC.Greece	0	0	11	131	156	159	182	201	175	447	439	886	1004	874	1217	286	248	622	361	438	422	389	318	255	285
		EC.Italy	5865	7140	7199	7576	4607	4201	4317	4110	3783	5005	5328	6882	7062	10006	9548	4059	3279	3845	4377	4628	4973	4686	4841	4695	4621

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
		EC.Malta	31	21	21	41	36	24	29	81	105	80	251	572	587	399	393	407	447	376	219	240	255	264	346	263	334
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	278	320	183	428	446	274	37	54	76	61	64	0	2	0	0	11	
		Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	677	1036	1006	341	280	258	127	172	85	123	793	536	813	765	185	361	381	136	152	390	316	638	378	556	466
		Korea Rep.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	684	458	591	410	66	0	0	0	0	0	700	1145	26	
		Libya	270	274	300	300	300	300	84	328	370	425	635	1422	1540	812	552	820	745	1063	1941	638	752	1300	1091	1280	
		Maroc	1	4	12	56	116	140	295	1149	925	205	79	1092	1035	586	535	687	636	695	511	421	760	819	92	190	641
		NEI (ETRO)	0	19	0	168	183	633	757	341	1750	1349	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NEI (Flag related)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	427	639	171	1066	825	140	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NEI (combined)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	773	211	0	101	1030	1995	109	571	508	610	709	0	0	
		NEI-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	49	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	0	0	0	0	72	67	0	74	287	484	467	1499	1498	2850	236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Serbia & Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Tunisie	293	307	369	315	456	624	661	406	1366	1195	2132	2773	1897	2393	2200	1745	2352	2184	2493	2528	791	2376	3249	2545	2195
		Turkey	557	869	41	69	972	1343	1707	2059	2459	2817	3084	3466	4220	4616	5093	5899	1200	1070	2100	2300	3300	1075	990	806	918
		Yugoslavia Fed.	1222	755	1084	796	648	1523	560	940	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATW	Argentina	0	0	6	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Canada	433	264	142	73	83	393	619	438	485	443	459	392	576	597	503	595	576	549	524	604	557	537	600	733	491
		Chinese Taipei	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	11	19	27	19	
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7***
		FR.St Pierre et Miquelon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	10	5	0	
		Japan	711	696	1092	584	960	1109	468	550	688	512	581	427	387	436	322	691	365	492	506	575	57	470	265	376	277
		Korea Rep.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	52	
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	8	14	29	10	12	22	9	10	14	7
		NEI (ETRO)	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	24	23	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NEI (Flag related)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	429	270	49	0	0	0	0	0	
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	14	14	14	2	43	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		U.S.A.	1394	1320	1424	1142	1352	1289	1483	1636	1582	1085	1237	1163	1311	1285	1334	1235	1213	1212	1583	1840	1426	899	717	468	758
		UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	0	9	16	6	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Discards	ATW	Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16	11	46	13	37	14	15	0	2	0**
		Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	514	99	102	119	115	128	211	88	83	138	171	155	110	149	176	98	174	218	167	131	147	91

* DATA reported in 2007 are provisional.
** Canada's Task I included 0.75 t in 2007 for dead discards. This does not appear in the Task I summary table.
*** The seven tonnes of EC-Spain must go to ATE.

BUM-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of Atlantic blue marlin*(Makaira nigricans)* by major area, gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL BUM			2130	2748	3311	1993	2053	2764	4234	4541	4152	2985	3045	4131	4085	5208	5490	5513	5096	4859	3672	2874	3519	2130	3436	2182	2303
ATS			749	1252	1623	789	1085	1718	2549	2396	2604	1789	1828	2454	2376	3141	3370	2883	2983	2710	2611	2108	2546	1439	1886	1412	1506
ATN			1214	1378	1566	1069	836	909	1540	1946	1411	1080	1071	1544	1583	1971	1985	2549	1992	2015	982	767	766	692	1549	771	797
UNK			167	118	122	135	132	137	144	199	137	116	146	133	126	96	135	80	121	134	79	0	207	0	1	0	0
Landings	ATN	Longline	809	920	1223	695	327	415	1009	1601	981	628	614	1099	974	1347	1353	1310	1076	866	461	413	462	518	556	486	465
		Other surf.	206	252	174	160	190	184	197	137	225	223	217	212	379	362	480	1133	797	1053	409	216	263	111	949	186	267
		Sport (HL+RR)	199	206	169	214	181	186	143	50	63	83	113	122	77	66	56	56	38	36	87	89	22	29	18	62	27
	ATS	Longline	533	975	1362	661	964	1530	2017	1958	2286	1490	1419	1764	1679	2193	2519	2068	1973	1774	1446	896	1212	844	997	742	1242
		Other surf.	216	276	260	127	121	187	531	435	316	298	407	688	696	945	781	813	1007	935	1165	1212	1334	595	887	666	255
		Sport (HL+RR)	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	2	2	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	9
	UNK	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
		Other surf.	167	118	122	135	132	137	144	199	137	116	146	133	126	96	135	80	121	134	79	0	207	0	0	0	
Discards	ATN	Longline	0	0	0	0	138	124	191	159	142	146	127	111	153	196	97	49	81	60	22	37	19	34	24	36	39
		Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	11	0	1	1	0	
	ATS	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	42	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Landings	ATN	Barbados	126	126	10	14	13	46	3	18	12	18	21	19	31	25	30	25	19	19	18	11	11	0	0	25	
		Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Canada	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	48	41	51	79	133	9	31	15	17	10	49	0	4
		Chinese Taipei	125	102	148	117	52	26	11	937	716	336	281	272	187	170	355	80	44	64	65	48	66	104	38	35	29
		Cuba	273	214	246	103	68	94	74	112	127	135	69	39	85	43	0	12	0	0	0	34	3	4	7	7	
		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	69	75	36	44	55	58
		Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	71	29	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	0	3	4	1	0	8	7	5	1	6	7	6	2	25	5	36	15	25	8	1	6	27	12	23	14
		EC.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	776	0	
		EC.Portugal	2	1	8	12	8	2	1	1	4	2	15	11	10	7	3	47	8	15	17	1	31	27	24	64	56
		Grenada	6	8	11	36	33	34	40	52	64	52	58	52	50	26	47	60	100	87	104	69	72	45	42	33	49
		Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	192	351	409	174	78	206	593	250	145	193	207	532	496	798	625	656	427	442	155	125	148	174	251	209	188
		Korea Rep.	43	110	154	36	13	14	252	240	34	11	2	16	16	41	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	148	148	701	420	712	235	158	115	0	0	0	
		Maroc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	13	13	13	27	35	68	37	50	70	90	86	64	91
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	134	149	178	225	330	312	202	112	7	6	0	0	0	
		Netherlands Antilles	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	38	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	1
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	10	5	0	18	17	21	53	46
		Trinidad and Tobago	3	8	3	17	2	0	28	4	6	4	3	27	46	21	81	70	33	55	17	16	4	11	5	12	14
	*	U.S.A.	215	280	295	273	291	221	124	29	33	51	80	88	43	43	46	50	37	24	16	17	19	26	16	17	
		U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	7	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UK.Bermuda	7	8	9	11	6	8	15	17	18	19	11	15	15	15	3	5	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		UK.British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
		UK.Turks and Caicos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
		Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	
		Venezuela	172	117	219	218	60	76	149	70	49	66	74	122	106	137	130	205	220	108	72	76	84	83	138	131	206
	ATS	Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
		Benin	0	9	10	7	4	12	0	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	27	32	33	46	51	74	60	52	61	125	147	81	180	331	193	486	509	452	780	387	577	195	612	298	262
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	25	21	27	41	68	15	61	73	72	49	47	0	61
		Chinese Taipei	47	70	165	98	265	266	462	767	956	488	404	391	280	490	1123	498	442	421	175	246	253	211	113	64	204
		Cuba	123	159	205	111	137	191	77	90	62	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	100	100	100	100	130	82	88	105	79	139	212	177	157	222	182	275	206	196	78	109	115	107	178	150
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	12	40	37	49	38	133	117	159	110	115	86	27	6	24	12	68	25

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	1	0	24	69	79
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	304	5	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	
		Ghana	216	166	150	16	5	7	430	324	126	123	236	441	471	422	491	447	624	639	795	999	415	470	759	405	
		Japan	248	482	691	335	362	617	962	967	755	824	719	991	913	881	724	529	363	441	180	142	294	366	191	301	721
		Korea Rep.	88	234	262	60	139	361	437	84	503	13	11	40	40	103	40	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	192	214	256	323	474	449	290	162	10	8	0	0	0	
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	0	0	0	0	28	19	17	18	21	25	28	33	36	35	33	30	32	32	32	32	9	21	26	
		South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
		Togo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	73	53	141	103	775	0	0	0	
		U.S.S.R.	0	0	7	16	22	32	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	UNK	Cuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	38	55	56	0	0	0	0	0	
		Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	207	0	0	0	
		Mixed flags (FR+ES)	167	118	122	135	132	137	144	199	137	116	146	133	126	96	82	80	83	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Discards	ATN	Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	138	124	191	159	142	146	127	111	153	196	97	50	81	60	25	49	19	35	25	36	38
	ATS	Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	42	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

* USA, reported additional figures of rod and reel landings of 9.001 t for 2007 in the North Atlantic.

WHM-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of Atlantic white marlin *(Tetrapturus albidus)* by major area, gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL WHM			1771	1200	1727	1611	1491	1366	1821	1653	1624	1462	1543	2100	1742	1562	1373	1672	1556	1325	888	889	676	594	596	387	302
ATN			1280	653	860	905	587	406	368	401	236	610	542	650	621	658	451	520	476	430	353	287	237	252	257	186	142
ATS			461	526	844	680	879	935	1426	1215	1377	843	990	1440	1112	897	915	1143	1069	874	534	602	438	342	339	201	160
UNK			31	22	23	25	25	25	27	37	11	10	12	11	9	7	7	9	11	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Landings	ATN	Longline	1196	570	788	812	433	167	234	259	106	466	412	520	455	543	358	465	386	347	308	226	193	204	225	153	106
		Other surf.	5	17	29	61	54	150	11	40	21	35	34	57	48	31	50	17	26	42	24	22	27	20	14	21	28
		Sport (HL+RR)	79	66	43	32	38	29	16	21	19	21	30	30	18	20	9	6	6	1	4	6	1	1	1	2	1
	ATS	Longline	308	471	825	654	870	832	1333	1152	1328	805	950	1417	1086	859	828	979	1021	827	471	496	394	318	304	165	133
		Other surf.	153	55	19	26	9	103	92	59	49	38	40	22	22	33	50	164	47	47	63	107	44	23	35	34	9
		Sport (HL+RR)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UNK	Other surf.	31	22	23	25	25	25	27	37	11	10	12	11	9	7	7	9	11	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Discards	ATN	Longline	0	0	0	0	62	60	107	81	90	88	66	42	100	64	33	31	57	41	16	29	17	27	17	9	7
		Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
	ATS	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	19
Landings	ATN	Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	117	11	39	17	24	29	26	43	15	41	33	25	25	24	15	15	0	0	33	
		Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Canada	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	8	8	8	5	5	3	2	1	2	5	3	2
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	6	7	10	20	1	7	4	2	1	4	0	0
		Chinese Taipei	203	96	128	319	153	0	4	85	13	92	123	270	181	146	62	105	80	59	68	61	15	45	19	17	1
		Cuba	728	241	296	225	30	13	21	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	0	9	14	0	0	61	12	12	9	18	15	25	17	97	89	91	74	118	43	4	19	19	48	28	32
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	11	30	3	2
		Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	8	14	33	10	12	11
		Japan	27	52	45	56	60	68	73	34	45	180	33	41	31	80	29	39	25	66	15	10	21	23	28	29	8
		Korea Rep.	6	18	147	37	2	2	82	39	1	9	4	23	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	
		Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	8	4	3	4	3	0	0	0	
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	8	0	5	6	11	18	44	15	15	28	25	16	13
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	43	47	57	72	105	100	64	36	2	2	0	0	0	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	9	6	5	5	12
	*	U.S.A.	81	81	75	116	124	42	10	17	13	11	19	13	7	12	8	5	5	1	3	6	1	1	1	1	
		UK.Bermuda	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
		UK.British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
		Venezuela	234	155	155	151	154	42	47	79	47	187	226	148	171	164	90	80	61	25	72	110	55	55	60	26	52
	ATS	Argentina	0	0	4	4	0	0	8	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Belize (foreign obs.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	81	61	87	143	93	149	204	205	377	211	301	91	105	75	105	217	158	105	172	407	266	80	244	90	52
		Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	4	5	10	1	13	19	6	6	4	0	10
		Chinese Taipei	87	124	172	196	613	565	979	810	790	506	493	1080	726	420	379	401	385	378	84	117	89	127	37	27	53
		Cuba	112	153	216	192	62	24	22	6	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	5	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	1
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	17	6	12	2	19	54	4	10	45	68	18	2	3	45	10	23	14
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	19	0
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ghana	142	54	15	22	6	88	68	31	17	14	22	1	2	1	3	7	6	8	21	2	1	1	1	0	
		Honduras (foreign obs.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	17	24	81	73	74	76	73	92	77	68	49	51	26	32	29	17	15	17	41	5	12	13	6	12	11
		Korea Rep.	9	44	225	34	25	17	53	42	56	1	4	20	20	52	18	0	0	0	0	0	11	40	3	0	
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	171	190	228	288	421	399	258	144	9	7	0	0	0	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	0	0	0	0	14	16	19	26	24	17	21	21	30	45	40	36	37	37	37	37	21	33	29	
		South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
		Togo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	13	65	44	16	6	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

SAI-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of Atlantic sailfish *(Istiophorus albicans)* and spearfish by major area, gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL SAI			4976	3713	3421	3386	3761	3446	2815	3637	2779	3344	4032	2613	3089	3465	2597	2839	2993	2929	2975	3559	3084	3289	3241	2707	1980
ATW			1231	1221	1093	1281	1171	1297	1065	1226	1200	1345	1447	1278	1246	1170	1168	1393	1366	1534	1475	2019	1328	1407	1455	1045	920
ATE			3745	2492	2328	2105	2590	2148	1750	2411	1580	1999	2585	1334	1843	2295	1429	1446	1627	1395	1501	1540	1756	1882	1786	1662	1060
Landings	ATE	Longline	277	224	148	140	136	132	152	153	71	267	552	215	287	239	301	349	384	242	306	374	295	274	319	483	588
		Other surf.	2962	2107	1940	1394	1870	1479	1153	1240	1002	995	1201	892	968	1531	580	834	836	746	928	1028	1100	1345	1214	886	472
		Sport (HL+RR)	506	161	240	571	584	537	445	1018	507	738	833	227	588	524	548	263	407	407	266	138	361	263	254	292	
	ATW	Longline	356	512	506	489	451	561	417	382	244	377	654	565	461	389	328	545	517	811	1002	1303	883	757	1083	663	656
		Other surf.	141	173	274	295	187	208	238	514	521	599	498	468	410	482	433	553	615	602	401	603	440	642	368	374	248
		Sport (HL+RR)	735	536	313	497	491	471	353	267	371	333	232	217	347	230	350	267	163	76	60	106	0	0	0	2	8
Discards	ATW	Longline	0	0	0	0	42	57	57	62	64	36	63	28	29	69	57	27	72	45	11	7	5	7	3	5	7
		Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landings	ATE	Benin	51	53	50	25	32	40	8	21	20	21	20	20	20	19	6	4	5	5	12	2	2	5	3	3	
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	5	9	4	5	11	4	4	8	0	8
		Chinese Taipei	20	8	9	1	5	6	7	13	10	215	420	101	155	65	150	117	178	120	101	124	74	30	50	73	131
		Cuba	200	115	19	55	50	22	53	61	184	200	77	83	72	533	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	40	40	40	40	66	55	58	38	69	40	54	66	91	65	35	80	45	47	65	121	73	93	78	52
		EC.España	7	4	7	9	19	28	14	0	13	3	42	8	13	42	38	15	20	8	150	210	183	148	177	200	257
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	27	53	11	3	8	13	19	11	136	43
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	110	218	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	
		Ghana	2408	1658	1485	925	1392	837	465	395	463	297	693	450	353	303	196	351	305	275	568	592	566	521	542	282	420
		Japan	47	63	84	71	37	57	57	63	16	42	58	45	52	47	19	58	16	26	6	20	21	70	50	64	143
		Korea Rep.	3	34	29	2	20	15	17	16	30	3	3	6	6	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	85	43	136	122	154	56	133	127	106	122	118	
		Maroc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	
		Mixed flags (FR+ES)	499	354	364	403	394	408	432	595	174	150	182	160	128	97	110	138	131	98	44	39	44	41	35	32	
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	51	57	69	86	127	120	77	43	3	2	16	7	8	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	0	0	0	0	78	86	97	84	78	81	88	92	96	139	141	141	136	136	136	136	515	346	292	
		Senegal	510	163	241	572	596	587	552	1092	546	917	936	260	678	610	556	270	412	412	266	138	361	263	254	292	2
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5
		Togo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22	36	23	62	55	95	71	73	80	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	2	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATW	Aruba	30	30	30	30	23	20	16	13	9	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	45	29	42	50	46	74	25	71	58	44	44	42	26	27	26	42	58	
		Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	12
		Brasil	60	121	187	292	174	152	147	301	90	351	243	129	245	310	137	184	356	598	412	547	585	534	416	139	123
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	9	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
		Chinese Taipei	31	45	39	64	31	300	171	83	73	33	223	233	38	37	4	129	33	22	57	70	25	19	41	22	34
		Cuba	28	169	130	50	171	78	55	126	83	70	42	46	37	37	40	28	196	208	68	32	18	50	72	47	
		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	1	0	3	3
		Dominican Republic	50	49	46	18	40	44	44	40	31	98	50	90	40	40	101	89	27	67	81	260	91	144	165	133	
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	13	13	19	36	5	30	42	7	14	354	449	196	181	113	148	184
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	12	12	110	19	53
		Grenada	37	66	164	211	104	114	98	218	316	310	246	151	119	56	83	151	148	164	187	151	171	112	147	159	174
		Japan	22	34	38	28	6	22	22	25	73	1	2	8	2	4	17	3	10	12	3	3	8	5	22	4	2
		Korea Rep.	36	52	72	14	1	3	17	25	1	3	6	8	8	22	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	19	19	10	9	65	40	118	36	34	45	51	55	41	46
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	27	30	36	46	67	64	41	23	1	1	9	4	4	
		Netherlands Antilles	21	21	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	4	4	2	1	3	0	1	0	2	164	3	86	73	59	18
		Trinidad and Tobago	64	58	14	25	35	24	11	9	4	4	56	101	101	104	10	7	4	3	7	6	8	10	9	17	13
		U.S.A.	734	495	282	462	454	451	324	242	343	294	202	179	345	231	349	267	163	76	58	103	0	0	0	0	2
		Venezuela	119	81	81	77	80	22	24	24	65	71	206	162	93	155	175	248	169	83	126	159	133	158	178	184	248
Discards	ATW	Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	42	57	57	62	64	36	63	28	29	69	57	27	72	45	11	7	5	7	4	5	7

SWO-ATL-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of Atlantic swordfish *(Xiphias gladius)* by gear and flag.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL			19929	21930	23969	24380	26266	32685	34305	32976	28826	29204	32861	34437	38803	33489	31567	26222	27115	27166	25139	23758	24064	25228	25603	25782	27354
ATS			5402	9139	9586	5894	6030	13172	17055	17304	13893	13810	16130	18936	21930	18289	18542	13998	15497	15728	15128	14104	12633	13068	13152	14277	15416
ATN			14527	12791	14383	18486	20236	19513	17250	15672	14934	15394	16731	15501	16872	15200	13025	12223	11619	11439	10011	9654	11431	12160	12451	11504	11938
Landings	ATN	Longline	14023	12664	14240	18269	20022	18927	15348	14026	14208	14288	15641	14309	15765	13787	12186	10783	10449	9642	8425	8664	9988	11393	11503	10872	11122
		Other surf.	504	127	143	217	214	586	1902	1646	511	723	683	484	581	825	388	956	640	659	685	374	820	447	615	409	544
	ATS	Longline	5307	8920	8863	4951	5446	12404	16398	16705	13287	13173	15547	17365	20806	17799	18239	13720	14819	15448	14302	13576	11712	12485	12915	13757	14956
		Other surf.	95	219	723	943	584	768	657	599	606	637	583	1571	1124	489	282	269	672	278	825	527	920	582	238	520	369
Discards	ATN	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	215	383	408	708	526	562	439	476	525	1137	896	607	618	313	323	215	264
		Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	12	9	4	1	6	8	5	7	10	8	8
	ATS	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	21	10	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	91
Landings	ATN	Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	16	16	12	13	19	10	10	10	10	39	27
		Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
		Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Canada	1088	499	585	1059	954	898	1247	911	1026	1547	2234	1676	1610	739	1089	1115	1119	968	1079	959	1285	1203	1558	1404	1348*
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	86	104	132	40	337	304	22	102	90	316	56	108	72	85
		Chinese Taipei	272	164	152	157	52	23	17	270	577	441	127	507	489	521	509	286	285	347	299	310	257	30	140	172	103
		Cuba	410	206	162	636	910	832	87	47	23	27	16	50	86	7	7	7	7	0	0	10	3	3	2	2	
		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.España	7100	6315	7441	9719	11135	9799	6648	6386	6633	6672	6598	6185	6953	5547	5140	4079	3993	4595	3968	3957	4586	5376	5521	5448	5564
		EC.France	0	1	4	4	0	0	0	75	75	75	95	46	84	97	164	110	104	122	0	74	169	102	178	92	46
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	132	81	35	17	5	12	1	1	3	2
		EC.Portugal	9	14	22	468	994	617	300	475	773	542	1961	1599	1617	1703	903	773	777	732	735	766	1032	1320	900	949	778
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	5	11	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		FR.St Pierre et Miquelon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	36	48	0	
		Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	56	5	1	2	3	13	0	1	4	15	15	42	84	0	54	88	73	56	30	26
		Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	537	665	921	807	413	621	1572	1051	992	1064	1126	933	1043	1494	1218	1391	1089	161	0	0	0	575	705	688	800
		Korea Rep.	53	32	160	68	60	30	320	51	3	3	19	16	16	19	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	65	
		Liberia	53	0	24	16	30	19	35	3	0	7	14	26	28	28	28	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
		Maroc	129	81	137	181	197	196	222	91	110	69	39	36	79	462	267	191	119	114	523	223	329	335	334	341	237
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	14	0	0	14	28	24	37	27	34	32	44	41	31	35
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	76	112	529	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NEI-2	0	0	0	14	3	131	190	185	43	35	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	44	5	5	8	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	108	108	0	38
		Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	23	0	4	3	1	0	1	0	22	22	7	7	7	0	51
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
		Trinidad and Tobago	21	26	6	45	151	42	79	66	71	562	11	180	150	158	110	130	138	41	75	92	78	83	91	19	29
		U.S.A.	4820	4749	4705	5210	5247	6171	6411	5519	4310	3852	3783	3366	4026	3559	2987	3058	2908	2863	2217	2384	2513	2380	2160	1873	2454
		U.S.S.R.	0	16	13	18	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	5	3	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	3
		UK.British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	7	
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	29	14	
		Venezuela	35	23	51	84	86	2	4	9	75	103	73	69	54	85	20	37	30	30	21	34	45	53	55	22	30
	ATS	Angola	0	26	228	815	84	84	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
		Argentina	0	0	361	31	351	198	175	230	88	88	14	24	0	0	0	0	38	0	5	10	8	0	0	0	
		Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120
		Belize (foreign obs.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Benin	0	86	90	39	13	19	26	28	28	26	28	25	24	24	10	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	781	468	562	753	947	1162	1168	1696	1312	2609	2013	1571	1975	1892	4100	3847	4721	4579	4082	2910	2920	2998	3785	4430	4153
		Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	534	344	200	423	353	278	91	300	473
		Chinese Taipei	261	199	280	216	338	798	610	900	1453	1686	846	2829	2876	2873	2562	1147	1168	1303	1149	1164	1254	745	744	377	671
		Cuba	818	1161	1301	95	173	159	830	448	209	246	192	452	778	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	10	10	10	10	12	7	8	18	13	14	20	19	26	18	25	26	20	19	19	43	29	31	39	17
		EC.España	0	0	0	66	0	4393	7725	6166	5760	5651	6974	7937	11290	9622	8461	5832	5758	6388	5789	5741	4527	5483	5402	5300	5283
		EC.Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	794	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	380	389	441	384	381	392	393	380	354	345	493	440	428
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	
		Ghana	5	15	25	13	123	235	156	146	73	69	121	51	103	140	44	106	121	117	531	372	734	343	55	32	
		Guinea Ecuatorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Honduras (foreign obs.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	5	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	1908	4395	4613	2913	2620	4453	4019	6708	4459	2870	5256	4699	3619	2197	1494	1186	775	790	685	833	924	686	480	1124	2461
		Korea Rep.	409	625	917	369	666	1012	776	50	147	147	198	164	164	7	18	7	0	10	0	2	24	70	36	94	
		Mixed flags (FR+ES)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	856	439	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	730	469	751	504	191	549	832	1118	1038
		Nigeria	83	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	8	1	1	4	
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	0	0	0	0	216	207	181	179	177	202	190	178	166	148	135	129	120	120	120	120	126	147	138	
		Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	
		South Africa	7	0	8	5	5	4	0	0	5	9	4	1	4	1	1	240	143	328	547	649	293	295	199	186	207
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
		Togo	0	0	6	32	1	0	2	3	5	5	8	14	14	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	396	160	179	142	43	200	21	15	0	0	
		U.S.S.R.	46	158	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UK.Sta Helena	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	4	0	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	1084	1927	1125	537	699	427	414	302	156	210	260	165	499	644	760	889	650	713	789	768	850	1105	843	620	464
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	26	
Discards	ATN	Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	52	35	50	26	33	79	45	106	38	61
		Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	598	567	319	263	0	0	0	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	215	383	408	708	526	588	446	433	494	490	308	263	282	275	227	185	212
	ATS	Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	21	10	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	

* Canada landings in 2007 include 82 t caught under charter arrangements with FR-St. Pierre and Miquelon.

SWO-MED-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of swordfish *(Xiphias gladius)* in the Mediterranean Sea by gear and flag.

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
TOTAL		6896	13666	15292	16765	18320	20365	17762	16018	15746	14709	13265	16082	13015	12053	14693	14369	13699	15569	15006	12814	15674	14405	14600	14893	14190
Landings	Longline	6313	6749	6493	7505	8007	9476	7065	7184	7393	7631	7377	8985	6319	5884	5389	6496	6097	6963	7180	7767	10765	11053	11273	11638	11429
	Other surf.	583	6917	8799	9260	10313	10889	10697	8834	8353	7078	5888	7097	6696	6169	9304	7873	7602	8606	7826	5047	4909	3343	3214	3239	2741
Discards	Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	113	16	19
Landings	Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Algerie	877	884	890	847	1820	2621	590	712	562	395	562	600	807	807	807	825	709	816	1081	814	665	564	635	702	601
	Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	EC.Cyprus	28	63	71	154	84	121	139	173	162	56	116	159	89	40	51	61	92	82	135	104	47	49	53	43	67
	EC.España	1322	1245	1227	1337	1134	1762	1337	1523	1171	822	1358	1503	1379	1186	1264	1443	906	1436	1484	1498	1226	951	910	1462	1697
	EC.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	27	0	19	0	0	14
	EC.Greece	772	1081	1036	1714	1303	1008	1120	1344	1904	1456	1568	2520	974	1237	750	1650	1520	1960	1730	1680	1230	1120	1311	1358	1887
	EC.Italy	3026	9360	10863	11413	12325	13010	13009	9101	8538	7595	6330	7765	7310	5286	6104	6104	6312	7515	6388	3539	8395	6942	7460	7626	6518
	EC.Malta	59	94	172	144	163	233	122	135	129	85	91	47	72	72	100	153	187	175	102	257	163	195	362	239	213
	EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	115	8	1	120	14	16	
	Japan	6	19	14	7	3	4	1	2	1	2	4	2	4	5	5	7	4	2	1	1	0	2	4	0	3
	Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	8	6	0	10	2	0	14	
	Maroc	43	39	38	92	40	62	97	1249	1706	2692	2589	2654	1696	2734	4900	3228	3238	2708	3026	3379	3300	3253	2523	2058	1722
	NEI-2	532	771	730	767	828	875	979	1360	1292	1292	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Tunisie	15	15	61	64	63	80	159	176	181	178	354	298	378	352	346	414	468	483	567	1138	288	791	791	949	1024
	Turkey	216	95	190	226	557	589	209	243	100	136	292	533	306	320	350	450	230	370	360	370	350	386	425	410	423
Discards	EC.Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	113	16	19

SMT-Table 1. Best scientific estimates based on Task I.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
BLF			1738	1908	1403	2822	3462	3322	2834	3888	4202	4353	3535	2719	4051	4488	3027	3238	3185	2358	4034	4756	1303	1926	1031	1937	1548
Thunnus atlanticus		Brasil	57	203	133	172	254	229	120	335	130	49	22	38	153	649	418	55	55	38	149	1669	1	118	91	242	233
		Cuba	558	487	157	486	634	332	318	487	318	196	54	223	156	287	287	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	19	10	14	15	19	30	0	0	0	79	83	54	78	42	20	38	47	29
		Dominican Republic	144	106	90	123	199	4	564	520	536	110	133	239	892	892	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	307	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.France	809	821	755	729	669	816	855	865	1210	1170	1140	1330	1370	1040	1040	1040	1040	1040	1040	1040	0	0	0	0	
		Grenada	102	232	193	256	141	220	134	293	195	146	253	189	123	164	126	233	94	164	223	255	335	268	306	371	291
		Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	229	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	10	9	10	10	12
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		Netherlands Antilles	55	55	55	60	60	70	70	70	60	60	65	60	50	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	0	0	0	0	0
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	19	15	38	11	7	53	19	20	18	22	17	15	23	24	24	0	0	0	0	24
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	17	14	13	16	82	47	35	40	100	41	45	108	96	169	96	126	182	151
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5
		U.S.A.	7	0	11	32	44	154	87	81	112	127	508	492	582	447	547	707	617	326	474	334	414	675	225	831	19
		UK.Bermuda	6	4	9	17	11	7	14	13	8	6	5	7	4	5	4	6	6	5	4	5	9	4	5	8	7
		UK.British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
		Venezuela	0	0	0	947	1448	1240	652	1150	1598	2148	1224	21	624	758	498	1034	1192	589	1902	1210	319	732	225	237	777
BLT			0	0	0	2	0	357	723	3634	2206	814	394	177	0	0	0	1700	579	1230	1577	950	1348	686	1950	1920	2692
Auxis rochei		EC.Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	263	494	208	166	231	300	791	867	849
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2171	814	70	100	0	0	0	1672	0	420	1053	468	128	102	139	22	5
		Tunisie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	989	1760	1	766	842
		Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	324	77	0	0	0	0	316	316	316	316	0	284	1020	1031	993
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	0	0	357	723	3634	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BON			42386	21907	24905	21320	29712	46382	29721	28941	33561	22025	30584	21505	20841	24692	24641	44897	36196	28306	28533	25400	14228	14222	77067	35504	16828
Sarda sarda	ATL TOTAL		6840	6849	6946	5892	7395	22354	17766	6844	8306	6914	4587	5823	5652	7497	10563	15167	8026	6334	6297	9684	3112	2975	2692	3764	5475
		Angola	124	225	120	101	144	180	168	128	102	4	49	20	9	39	32	0	2	118	118	118	0	0	138	0	931
		Argentina	310	2058	1399	699	1607	2794	1327	1207	1794	1559	434	4	138	108	130	12	68	19	235	1	129	269	110	0	
		Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	
		Benin	16	25	30	6	3	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	0	187	179	523	345	214	273	226	71	86	142	142	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	
		Cuba	0	0	0	0	23	173	26	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16	16
		EC.Bulgaria	46	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	414	173	398	145	41	91	57	18	8	39	5	3	2	2	1	0	12	12	10	5	23	9	2	15	14
		EC.Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	668	859	187	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.France	547	569	492	431	331	395	427	430	820	770	1052	990	990	610	610	610	24	32	0	18	0	0	0	0	122
		EC.Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	714	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	
		EC.Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	1191	1164	221	7	4	0	3	19	301	887	318	0	416	396	639	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	1041	762	162	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	793	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	344
		EC.Poland	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	225	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	86	56	50	168	371	377	80	202	315	133	145	56	78	83	49	98	98	162	47	61	40	50	38	318	439
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	287	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	
		Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	39	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Germany Democratic Rep.	274	26	40	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ghana	13	8	10	0	943	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	6	14	16	7	10	10	0	0	0	0	
		Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	
		Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		Maroc	561	310	268	251	241	589	566	492	794	1068	1246	584	699	894	1259	1557	1390	2163	1700	2019	928	989	1411	1655	1053
		Mexico	567	744	212	241	391	356	338	215	200	657	779	674	1144	1312	1312	1632	1861	1293	1113	1032	1238	1066	654	1303	1188
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Rumania	192	8	32	71	3	255	111	8	212	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	948	29	0	0	0	0	0	4960	0	0	574	1441	461	16	79	316	259
		Senegal	497	200	495	510	463	2066	869	525	597	345	171	814	732	1,012	1,289	2,213	2,558	286	545	621	195	197	486	2304	996
		Sierra Leone	5	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	245	44	0	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	18	0	16	23
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	3	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
		Togo	0	0	254	138	245	400	256	177	172	107	311	254	145	197	197	197	197	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	703	169	266	220	30	117	117	56	452	188	280	81	7	7
		U.S.A.	253	217	110	84	130	90	278	299	469	498	171	128	116	156	182	76	83	142	120	139	44	70	68	40	64
		U.S.S.R.	2375	1290	2073	1085	1083	8882	7363	706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	1385	985	0	0	25	0	0	0	342	2786	1918	1114	399	231	1312	30	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Venezuela	554	748	774	1401	1020	1153	1783	1514	1518	1454	5	1661	1651	1359	1379	1659	1602	2	0	61	13	0	16	18	19
	MED TOTAL		35546	15058	17959	15428	22317	24028	11955	22097	25255	15111	25997	15682	15189	17195	14078	29730	28170	21972	22236	15716	11117	11247	74375	31740	11352
		Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Algerie	867	874	880	459	203	625	1528	1307	261	315	471	418	506	277	357	511	475	405	350	597	0	609	575	684	910
		Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	128	6	70	0	0	0	25	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Bulgaria	24	1	1	0	13	0	0	17	17	20	8	0	25	33	16	51	20	35	35	35	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	10	10	6	4	3	
		EC.España	1225	984	1045	729	51	962	609	712	686	228	200	344	632	690	628	333	433	342	349	461	544	272	215	429	531
		EC.France	33	16	0	0	0	10	0	1	10	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	15
		EC.Greece	1367	1732	1321	1027	1848	1254	2534	2534	2690	2690	2690	1581	2116	1752	1559	945	2135	1914	1550	1420	1538	1321	1390	845	1123
		EC.Italy	1806	2777	1437	1437	2148	2242	1369	1244	1087	1288	1238	1828	1512	2233	2233	2233	4159	4159	4159	4579	2091	2009	1356	1543	1601
		EC.Malta	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		Egypt	14	48	62	68	35	17	358	598	574	518	640	648	697	985	725	724	1442	1442	1128	1128	0	0	0	0	
		Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Maroc	92	75	57	51	127	108	28	69	69	31	25	93	37	67	45	39	120	115	5	61	85	78	38	89	87
		NEI-2	452	694	359	359	537	561	342	311	311	311	300	300	300	300	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Serbia & Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	3	2	6	10	12	12	14	17	17	0	0	0	0	0	
		Tunisie	600	600	482	504	500	600	422	488	305	643	792	305	413	560	611	855	1350	1528	1183	1112	848	1251	1666	1205	1119
		Turkey	29034	7220	12281	10756	16793	17613	4667	14737	19151	8863	19548	10093	8944	10284	7810	24000	17900	12000	13460	6286	6000	5701	70797	29690	5965
		Yugoslavia Fed.	31	37	34	38	62	36	98	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
BOP			38	49	133	87	564	1482	1116	457	588	600	601	775	640	2136	476	159	844	1193	984	917	729	513	139	3	867
Orcynopsis unicolor	ATL TOTAL		38	49	124	86	538	1474	1109	420	487	424	349	599	525	2004	249	29	627	1048	830	780	706	506	137	3	695
		Benin	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	1
		Maroc	0	0	83	33	487	1422	1058	369	486	423	348	598	524	2003	246	28	626	1048	830	780	706	503	132	0	634
		Mauritania	37	40	40	50	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	20	41	29	16	63	60	5	18	24	14	28	6	7	67	85	29	60
	MED TOTAL		0	0	9	1	26	8	7	37	101	176	252	176	115	132	227	130	217	145	154	137	23	8	2	0	172
		Algerie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	135	198	153	92	119	224	128	216	135	145	128	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
		Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Maroc	0	0	9	1	26	8	7	37	14	1	14	23	23	13	3	2	1	10	9	9	20	7	1	0	172
		Tunisie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	0
BRS			6632	8129	3501	6549	6212	9510	10778	7698	8856	6051	8049	7161	7006	8435	8004	7923	5754	4785	4553	7750	5137	3410	3712	3587	2341
Scomberomorus brasiliensis		Brasil	4511	6259	1504	5011	4741	5063	5927	2767	1437	1149	842	1149	1308	3047	2125	1516	1516	988	251	3071	2881	814	471	1432	563
		Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	211	571	625	1143	308	329	441	389	494	521	377	
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	2704	2864	2471	2749	2130	2130	2130	1816	1568	1699	2130	1328	1722	2207	2472	1867	2103	2720	1778	1778
		Venezuela	2121	1870	1997	1538	1471	1743	1987	2460	4670	2772	5077	3882	3882	3609	3609	3651	1766	1766	1766	1766	0	0	0	0	
CER			677	680	574	500	392	219	234	225	375	390	450	490	429	279	250	250	0	3	5	1	2	1	1	1	0
Scomberomorus regalis		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
		Dominican Republic	110	106	63	52	48	57	59	50	45	79	50	90	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.France	567	574	511	448	344	162	175	175	330	310	400	400	400	250	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	2	0	1	0	0
FRI			22482	26083	22993	20533	24933	26699	22798	25096	16928	11268	15672	13520	11836	19717	18024	16483	15065	15603	17000	16727	7015	10694	6585	7085	4346
Auxis thazard	ATL TOTAL		16662	19746	17753	15476	21193	20573	16411	16736	10357	6367	12645	8397	7535	13808	14954	14197	12998	12909	12758	11627	4565	5163	4096	4926	4346
		Angola	212	256	90	21	115	20	70	28	1	0	4	6	21	29	12	31	2	38	38	38	0	0	0	0	95
		Benin	32	49	50	1	3	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	11	634	623	941	1260	1904	700	592	746	291	608	906	558	527	215	162	166	106	98	1117	860	414	532	603	202
		Cape Verde	0	0	0	0	2	86	105	75	135	82	115	86	13	6	22	191	154	81	171	278	321	344	475	544	498
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	170	135
		EC.Bulgaria	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	2691	5746	3702	3164	4538	3938	1877	2240	541	228	362	297	386	947	581	570	23	17	722	438	635	34	166	73	267
		EC.Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	198	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.France	0	640	416	1904	3392	3392	3008	3872	0	121	63	105	126	161	147	146	0	91	127	91	0	168	47	6	98
		EC.Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	290	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	14	30	32	2	2	4	26	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	31	5	9	28	5	4	6	0	3	3
		Germany Democratic Rep.	55	40	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ghana	5632	4530	4500	3256	4689	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	
		Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
		Maroc	1271	198	424	302	465	194	599	1045	1131	332	274	122	645	543	2614	2137	494	582	418	441	184	542	61	48	135
		Mixed flags (FIS)	2800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Mixed flags (FR+ES)	792	180	117	227	1526	1525	1350	1728	3633	4017	9674	3107	1919	7177	6063	6342	8012	9864	9104	7748	1623	1722	1527	1739	1072
		NEI (ETRO)	333	46	0	0	17	381	155	237	1	4	32	68	70	180	120	309	491	291	420	186	71	180	297	149	238
		Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	590	1157	1030	1159	1122	989	710	505	474	0	150	25
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	57	118	341	328	240	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	394	975	970	1349
		Rumania	0	0	0	51	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1078	627	150	405	456	46	500	761	477	0	0	300	50	56	63	6	1
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	32	0	0	0	23	32	35	41	39	33	37	48	79	223	197	209	200	200	200	200	234	215	290	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	810	784	94	4	0	33	10	0	0	0	0	7	0	4	0	13	285	159	83	176
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	56	199	368	127	138	245	0	0	0	414	0	0	
		U.S.S.R.	1655	5903	6055	3465	2905	5638	5054	2739	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	48	0	43	0	0	0	0	
		Venezuela	1171	1478	1746	2109	2264	2654	2670	3037	1762	368	886	2609	2601	3083	2839	2164	1631	215	444	32	113	182	42	165	52
NOTE	MED TOTAL		5820	6337	5240	5057	3740	6126	6387	8360	6571	4901	3027	5123	4301	5909	3070	2286	2067	2694	4242	5099	2450	5531	2488	2159	1047
THIS GROUP BELONGS TO Auxix rochei		Algerie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	270	348	306	230	237	179	299	173	225	230	481	0	391	547	586	477
in the BLT group, Tunisie data was already update		Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	21	52	22	28	26	26	26	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	2135	2301	2047	1555	631	2669	2581	2985	2226	1210	648	1124	1472	2296	604	487	669	1024	861	493	495	1009	845	1101	
		EC.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Greece	1887	2060	1419	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1426	1426	0	0	196	125	120	246	226	180	274	157
		EC.Italy	1494	1610	1344	1344	906	609	509	494	432	305	379	531	531	229	229	229	462	462	462	2452	1463	1819	866	385	378
		EC.Malta	11	4	1	13	5	8	18	21	20	11	10	1	2	3	6	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Maroc	57	52	48	175	178	811	1177	2452	1289	1644	170	1726	621	1673	562	1140	682	763	256	621	246	326	50	199	35
		Serbia & Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	0	0	2	6	6	6	7	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	
		Tunisie	218	294	367	538	606	588	660	985	985	35	20	13	14	13	32	93	45	15	2300	932	0				
		Yugoslavia Fed.	18	16	14	32	14	41	42	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
KGM			14607	13182	9964	12187	11890	13038	10835	12232	11530	12439	14462	13868	14916	17775	19712	16392	17678	16161	15349	17277	15855	12667	11609	8185	17708
Scomberomorus cavalla		Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Brasil	2695	2588	806	2890	2173	2029	2102	2070	962	979	1380	1365	1328	2890	2398	3595	3595	2344	1251	2316	3311	247	202	316	33
		Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	35	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	20	29	33	34	47	52	0	0	0	589	288	230	226	226	226	0	0	0	0	0
		Grenada	40	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	28	14	9	4	5	0	0	0	0	3
		Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	270	440	398	214	239	267	390	312	245	168	
		Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0
		Mexico	2874	2164	2303	2643	3067	3100	2300	2689	2147	3014	3289	3097	3214	4661	4661	3583	4121	3688	4200	4453	4369	4564	3447	4201	3526
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	9	1	1	0	1	1	1	2
		Trinidad and Tobago	20	43	11	38	82	752	541	432	657	0	1192	0	471	1029	875	746	447	432	410	1457	802	578	747	661	661
		U.S.A.	7068	7444	6011	7486	7530	7100	5681	4127	8213	9344	9616	7831	7360	7058	8720	7373	6453	6780	6603	6061	6991	7129	7123	2837	13482

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		UK.British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
		Venezuela	1910	924	833	933	940	1330	1500	1069	1228	1308	801	2484	2558	2140	2139	340	2424	2424	2424	2424	0	0	0	0	
KGX			20	485	22	149	261	491	105	131	225	266	301	508	512	824	156	251	1	229	48	0	15	0	1	26	16
Scomberomorus spp		Barbados	0	0	0	138	159	332	68	51	45	51	55	36	42	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Colombia	20	485	22	11	102	159	37	25	7	12	21	148	111	539	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Cuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	16
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	145	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	155	0	0	44	48	0	0	0	0	0	
		Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	84	86	134	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	79	150	141	98	80	50	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
LTA			22742	20745	12974	8960	20759	26182	30791	15563	13378	24280	16721	13718	13348	16058	15108	15775	14871	15834	14584	17680	12342	14142	9494	5024	17024
Euthynnus alletteratus	ATL TOTAL		21181	19095	10934	6794	18335	23777	28756	12946	11055	22524	15455	12513	11446	13939	13504	12861	11996	12540	11721	15038	11660	12705	8454	3422	13860
		Angola	1632	1632	1433	1167	1345	1148	1225	285	306	14	175	121	117	235	75	406	118	132	132	132	0	0	2	0	4365
		Argentina	0	0	11	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Benin	20	31	30	90	14	7	43	66	61	49	53	60	58	58	196	83	69	69	69	69	0	0	0	0	0
		Brasil	0	765	785	479	187	108	74	685	779	935	985	1225	1059	834	507	920	930	615	615	615	0	320	280	0	
		Cape Verde	34	16	160	29	14	1	18	65	74	148	17	23	72	63	86	110	776	491	178	262	168	137	269	269	187
		Cuba	6	15	16	24	55	53	113	88	63	33	13	15	27	23	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	0	0	20	5300	38	4900	2800	100	142	339	251	253	250	114	108	0	108	0	0	0	0	270	298	404
		EC.España	2	27	34	12	11	7	11	55	81	1	0	0	10	55	27	110	6	2	22	8	1	489	50	16	0
		EC.Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.France	0	0	0	0	0	0	195	0	74	13	8	54	59	22	215	21	696	631	610	613	0	10	27	12	
		EC.Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
		EC.Poland	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	80	21	86	91	2	61	73	45	72	72	218	320	171	14	50	0	2	16	19	21	24	43
		Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	182	0	18	159	301	213	57	173	0	0	0	0
		Germany Democratic Rep.	543	99	40	10	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Ghana	5009	5966	901	649	5551	11588	12511	323	201	11608	359	994	513	113	2025	359	306	707	730	4768	8541	7060	5738	216	4449
		Israel	282	271	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Maroc	19	15	447	47	108	49	14	367	57	370	44	43	230	588	195	189	67	101	87	308	76	91	33	0	40
		Mauritania	54	60	60	50	50	50	50	50	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Mixed flags (FR+ES)	528	120	78	151	1017	1017	900	1152	2422	2678	4975	2071	1279	3359	2836	2936	3846	4745	4238	3334	1082	1148	1018	1159	715
		NEI (ETRO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	2	0	22	0	0
		Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Rumania	216	266	126	81	7	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	617	306	265	189	96	49	0	88	0	0	0	74	13	0	0	0	0
		S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	101	0	0	0	30	36	52	46	48	41	40	43	40	50	39	37	33	33	33	33	178	182	179	
		Senegal	5623	8408	4566	2392	2985	6343	6512	4184	2955	3137	3913	4238	3560	1972	2734	3372	1398	3336	4969	2659	4394	4160	2 166	3826	3384
		South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	10	1	0	0	1	0
		U.S.A.	107	41	74	104	118	204	129	173	228	597	1286	1142	1312	2230	2015	1546	1623	1209	1451	1366	1492	1382	765	1351	259
		U.S.S.R.	6528	613	1040	271	61	1707	543	667	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		UK.Bermuda	5	5	7	13	13	17	14	8	10	11	5	6	6	7	6	5	4	2	1	5	4	5	7	5	
		Venezuela	573	644	1050	1123	1467	1236	1374	1294	1963	1409	1889	2115	2115	1840	1840	2815	2247	2247	2247	2254	50	0	0	0	0
	MED TOTAL		1561	1650	2040	2166	2424	2405	2035	2617	2323	1756	1266	1205	1902	2119	1604	2914	2875	3294	2863	2642	682	1438	1040	1602	3165
		Algerie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	522	585	495	459	552	554	448	384	562	494	407	148	0	158	116	187	96
		Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		EC.Cyprus	17	31	32	13	25	41	20	23	25	21	11	23	10	19	19	19	16	19	19	19	0	0	0	0	6
		EC.España	0	32	12	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	18	9	15	0	8	82	32	0	41	262	116	203

		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	EC.Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	132	0	0	112	69	72
	EC.Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	24	38	34	513	615
	EC.Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	8	8	8	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Israel	35	60	259	284	273	135	124	129	108	126	119	119	215	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	0	0	0	0	0
	Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	52	0	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	
	Maroc	0	1	0	0	0	12	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	14	8	0	0	3	1	0	9	0	331
	NEI-2	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Palestina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	59	61	60	60	60	129	0	0	0	0	0
	Serbia & Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	28	21	35	22	18	20	18	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Syrian Arab Republic	80	96	95	73	121	99	121	127	110	156	161	156	155	270	350	417	390	370	370	330	0	0	0	0	0
	Tunisie	1228	1224	1441	1590	1803	1908	1566	2113	1343	664	242	204	696	824	333	1113	752	1453	1036	960	657	633	496	569	1056
	Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	750	750	750	750	0	568	507	1230	785
	Yugoslavia Fed.	1	6	1	1	2	5	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAW		4716	4498	3989	3292	1799	3921	2938	5616	3788	1530	1780	1276	1270	1272	878	1116	732	754	733	1073	18	397	12	14	338
Scomberomorus tritor	Benin	30	46	50	104	17	13	334	211	214	202	214	194	188	188	362	511	205	205	205	205	0	0	0	0	0
	EC.Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	EC.Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	208	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	EC.Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	298	0	0	0	0	0
	Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Germany Democratic Rep.	537	33	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ghana	2225	3022	3000	1453	0	1457	1457	1500	2778	899	466	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	143	195	1032	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	6	5	3	5	6	6	8	7	8	5	6	6	6	6	21	12	13	13
	Senegal	754	1174	732	1516	1754	2159	753	1220	520	1225	1019	939	1614	1318	837	522	491	778	408	584	532	288	489	196	324
	U.S.S.R.	1170	223	206	219	28	143	195	1240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	42	12	0	0	0	0
SSM		9574	11362	11590	14117	14531	12712	13946	14500	15546	16346	16231	14777	13857	16725	15501	8723	9973	8336	8492	9461	9853	13582	10334	6282	6102
Scomberomorus maculatus	Colombia	10	77	101	81	72	151	112	76	37	95	58	69	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Cuba	689	544	443	621	1606	803	746	665	538	611	310	409	548	613	613	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Dominican Republic	168	1058	1267	1271	1321	1415	1401	1290	728	735	739	1330	2042	2042	231	191	125	158	158	158	0	0	0	0	
	Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	265	0	0	0	0	
	Grenada	1	1	4	17	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Mexico	5922	5777	5789	6170	6461	5246	7242	8194	8360	9181	10066	8300	7673	11050	11050	5483	6431	4168	3701	4350	5242	3641	5723	3856	3955
	Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	0	0	0	0	0
	U.S.A.	2784	3905	3986	6047	5001	5056	4343	2554	5655	5663	5143	4380	3363	2866	3509	2968	3282	3893	4524	4613	4552	4477	4747	2425	2147
WAH		2366	2159	920	1151	1235	1635	1527	1498	1721	1834	2607	2143	2408	2515	3085	2487	2952	2020	2296	2202	2049	2535	1665	1610	708
Acanthocybium solandri	Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Aruba	115	115	115	120	90	80	80	70	60	50	50	125	40	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	
	Barbados	222	219	120	138	159	332	51	51	60	51	91	82	42	35	52	52	41	41	0	0	43	0	0	41	36
	Benin	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Brasil	0	0	21	141	133	58	92	52	64	71	33	26	1	16	58	41	0	0	0	0	405	519	449	111	75
	Cape Verde	1588	1365	142	205	306	340	631	458	351	350	326	361	408	503	603	429	587	487	578	500	340	458	522	537	454
	Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	43	59	59	59	58	58	58	58	50	46	11	37	10	6	8	15	14
	Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	9	13	7	0	0	0	325	112	31	35	35	35	0	0	0	0	
	EC.España	0	0	4	9	9	32	18	23	28	32	22	20	15	25	25	29	28	32	38	46	48	305	237	110	65
	EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
	Grenada	94	50	51	82	54	137	57	54	77	104	96	46	49	56	56	59	82	51	71	59	44	0	0	0	64
	Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	
	Netherlands Antilles	215	215	245	250	260	280	280	280	250	260	270	250	230	230	230	230	230	230	230	230	0	0	0	0	
	Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	
	S. Tomé e Príncipe	0	0	0	0	0	23	20	28	34	27	36	39	46	80	52	56	62	52	52	52	52	94	88	76	
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	7	0	
	Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	2	64	0	0	1	0	1	5	0	0		7	0	0	1	0
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	28	33	33	41	28	16	23	10	65	52	46	311	17	40	60	0	241	29
	Sta. Lucia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	79	150	141	98	80	221	223	223	310	243	213	217	169	238	169	187	211
	Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	118	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	9	7	6	6	7	7
	U.S.A.	0	0	13	13	57	128	110	82	134	203	827	391	764	608	750	614	858	640	633	846	789	712	558	89	86
	UK.Bermuda	49	46	46	65	43	61	63	74	67	80	58	50	93	99	105	108	104	61	56	91	87	88	83	86	124

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
UK.British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
UK.Sta Helena	16	23	15	15	18	18	17	18	12	17	35	26	25	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	66	125	147	113	106	141	101	159	302	333	514	542	540	487	488	360	467	4	17	13	9	7	16	13	33

SHK-Table 1. Estimated catches (t) of major sharks species (BSH,SMA,POR) by major area, gear and flag (v.03 Oct. 1, 2008). Shaded cells indicate new figures included/changed after the sharks assessmet.

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
BSH Total			613	121	380	1482	1614	1835	1810	3028	4307	3643	9577	16658	14509	16304	43742	40047	39413	43310	37811	34908	40329	40152	45671	45116	45623
ATN			613	121	380	1482	1614	1835	1810	3028	4299	3536	9566	9559	9739	11010	32454	30153	27631	30372	23137	21525	24858	23574	23752	25207	25655
ATS			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	107	10	7093	4762	5293	11140	9833	11762	12893	14627	13367	15460	16452	21848	19730	19916
MED			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	2	148	61	20	44	47	17	10	125	72	178	51
Landings	ATN	Other surf.	613	121	380	1482	1088	1414	1330	900	1270	1768	2696	1632	1793	1086	1255	1030	1228	1355	904	1543	975	1372	1258	1080	905
		longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1387	2257	1583	5734	5307	5348	5280	27622	25671	24418	26515	20093	18662	22007	20306	20706	22506	24712
	ATS	Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	27	0	1	4	6	99	3	59	10
		longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	107	10	1570	1360	2344	8362	7089	9170	11108	13342	12431	12578	14401	20739	17326	19846
	MED	Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	0	95	2
		longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	2	148	61	20	44	47	17	10	44	72	83	49
Discards	ATN	Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	0	22	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
		longline	0	0	0	0	526	421	480	741	772	184	1136	2620	2598	4541	3577	3431	1981	2502	2140	1320	1876	1895	1788	1621	38
	ATS	longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5523	3402	2949	2772	2741	2566	1785	1283	932	2877	1952	1105	2345	60
Landings	ATN	Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Canada	0	0	0	320	147	968	978	680	774	1277	1702	1260	1494	528	831	612	547	624	581	836	346	965	1134	977	843
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	185	104	148	0	0	0	367
		Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	206	240	595	320
		EC.Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	3	1	1	0	2	1	13	5	1	0	0	
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24497	22504	21811	24112	17362	15666	15975	17314	15006	15464	17038
		EC.France	8	14	39	50	67	91	79	130	187	276	322	350	266	278	213	163	399	395	207	221	57	106	120	99	167
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	31	66	11	2	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1387	2257	1583	5726	4669	4722	4843	2630	2440	2227	2081	2110	2265	5643	2025	4027	4338	5283
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	0	12	9	6	4	6	5	3	6
		*Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	630	622	431	493	722	370	315	430	622	629	1037	1402	1843	1531
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	254	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	456	0	0	0	0	43
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	2	1	1	0
		U.S.A.	605	107	341	1112	874	355	271	87	308	215	680	29	23	283	211	255	217	291	39	0	0	7	2	2	1
		UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Venezuela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	26	10	18
	ATS	Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	259	0	236
		Benin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	743	1103	0	179	1683	2173	1971	2166	1667	2523	2591	2258
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	565	316	452	0	0	0	585
		Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	521	800	866	1788	2019
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5272	5574	7173	6951	7743	5368	6626	7366	6410	8724	8942
		EC.Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	847	867	1336	876	1110	2134	2562	2324	1841	1863	3184	2751	4493
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	239	
		*Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1486	456	475	470	368	401	238	148	96	264	271	337	970	902
		Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2213	0	1906	6616	0	
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	
		South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	21	0	83	63	232	128	154	90	82
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	107	10	84	57	259	180	248	118	81	66	85	480	462	376	232	337
	MED	EC.Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	3	6	5	0	
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	146	59	20	31	6	3	3	4	8	61	3
		EC.Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113	1	95	46
		EC.Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	41	14	3	0	56	22	
		Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	
Discards	ATN	*Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2048	1977	3939	3397	3261	1877	2365	2035	1252	1876	1832	1722	1576	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	526	421	480	741	772	184	1136	572	618	704	180	192	100	137	106	68	0	65	66	45	38
		UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATS	Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
		*Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5523	3402	2942	2767	2737	2565	1785	1283	932	2877	1952	1105	2345	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SMA Total			975	1793	3803	1951	1028	1562	1648	1349	1326	1446	2966	2025	2984	1717	5204	4563	3982	4750	4618	4939	7205	6956	6566	6419	6452
ATN			569	1112	3143	1481	766	1014	1011	785	797	953	2193	1417	2632	1373	3334	3083	2689	2482	2646	3071	3797	4802	3353	3318	3822
ATS			405	680	661	471	262	548	637	564	529	493	773	608	352	344	1864	1471	1289	2264	1965	1866	3405	2153	3197	3092	2628
MED			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	5	4	7	2	2	2	17	10	2
Landings	ATN	Other surf.	368	929	2949	1297	462	795	681	278	213	254	670	331	1447	248	177	168	91	313	227	266	104	308	18	8	10
		longline	201	183	194	184	295	214	321	497	573	660	1499	1028	1096	1018	3156	2816	2563	2147	2371	2744	3589	4275	3271	3238	3771

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	ATS	Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	13	10	20	13	15	23	10	10	9	18	15	31	76	14	43	25
		longline	405	680	661	471	262	548	637	564	519	480	763	195	205	293	1815	1426	1238	2208	1948	1841	3326	1999	3145	2998	2603
	MED	longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	5	4	7	2	2	2	17	10	2
Discards	ATN	Other surf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		longline	0	0	0	0	9	5	9	10	11	38	24	57	89	107	2	99	33	21	48	61	105	219	64	72	39
	ATS	longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	393	134	36	27	35	41	47	0	10	48	78	38	50	
Landings	ATN	Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	111	67	110	69	70	78	69	78	73	80	91	71	72
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81
		Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	57	19	31	27
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2416	2199	2051	1566	1684	2047	2068	3404	1751	1918	1816
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	193	314	220	796	649	657	691	354	307	327	318	378	415	1249	473	1109	951	1540
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
		*Japan	159	141	142	120	218	113	207	221	157	318	425	69	55	38	45	60	38	31	52	53	64	92	99	132	
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	16	0	10	6	9	5	8
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
		St. Vincent and Grenadines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	1	2	1	1
		U.S.A.	410	971	3001	1361	540	896	795	360	315	376	948	642	1710	469	407	347	159	454	395	415	142	411	187	130	215
		UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Venezuela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	20	6	11
	ATS	Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	17
		Brasil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	190	0	27	219	409	226	283	238	426	210	36
		China P.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	45	23	27	19	74	126	305	22	208	260	0	0	0	77
		Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	626	121	128	141	199
		Côte D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	13	10	20	13	15	23	10	10	9	15	15	30	15	14	16	25
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1356	1141	861	1200	1235	811	1158	703	584	664	654
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	94	165	116	119	388	140	56	625	13	242	493	375
		EC.United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
		*Japan	252	462	540	428	234	525	618	538	506	460	701	138	74	63	62	51	44	59	25	25	49	50	29	88	
		Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	459	0	509	1415	1243	1002
		Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	13	0	79	19	138	126	125	99	208
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	153	218	121	43	28	23	19	26	13	20	28	12	17	26	20	23	21	35	40	38	188	249	146	68	36
		Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	12	13	
	MED	EC.Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	5	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	1
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	15	5	
Discards	ATN	*Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	60	106	2	99	33	21	48	61	105	219	64	72	
		Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	9	5	9	10	11	38	24	21	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
		UK.Bermuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATS	*Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	393	134	36	27	35	41	47	0	10	48	78	38	50	
POR Total			1141	706	664	706	813	957	971	1282	1944	2588	1886	2673	2120	1517	1859	1468	1403	1468	1000	848	636	727	571	503	490
MED			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	0
ATS			0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	26	17	10	11	1	11	43	17	31	37	8
ATN			1141	706	664	706	813	955	971	1282	1943	2588	1885	2670	2117	1513	1833	1450	1393	1456	999	838	592	707	539	466	482
Landings	ATN	All gears	1141	706	664	706	813	955	971	1282	1943	2586	1885	2669	2117	1513	1833	1450	1393	1456	999	838	592	707	539	466	482
	ATS	All gears	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	26	16	9	11	1	11	43	17	31	37	8
	MED	All gears	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	0
Discards	ATN	All gears	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATS	All gears	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Landings	ATN	Canada	9	20	26	24	59	83	73	78	329	813	919	1575	1353	1051	1334	1070	965	902	499	237	142	232	202	192	93
		EC.Denmark	45	38	72	114	56	33	33	46	85	80	91	93	86	72	69	85	107	73	76	42	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25	18	13	24	54	27	11	14	34	8
		EC.France	791	411	254	260	280	446	341	551	300	496	633	820	565	267	315	219	240	410	361	461	303	413	276	194	354
		EC.Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	3	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	3	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	10	101	50	14	6	0
		EC.Sweden	5	9	10	8	5	3	3	2	2	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.United Kingdom	2	5	12	6	3	3	15	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	8	12	10	0	0	24	11	26
		Faroe Islands	256	126	210	270	381	373	477	550	1189	1149	165	48	44	8	9	7	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Iceland	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	3	2	3	3	2	4	2	0	1	0	1	

			1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Norway	33	96	80	24	25	11	25	43	32	41	24	24	26	28	17	27	32	22	11	14	19	0	8	27	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	5	1	50	106	35	78	56	13	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
	ATS	Benin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.España	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	7	1	2	9	4	0	3	5
		EC.Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		EC.Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	
		Falklands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Japan	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	13	2	4	0	8	34	8	28	34	3
	MED	EC.Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	
		EC.Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Discards	ATN	EC.Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		U.S.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ATS	Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

* Japanese catch series (1996-2006 for BSH and SMA) used in the assessment were obtained from scientific estimations presented on documents SCRS/2008/150 & SCRS/2008/151.

Appendix 1B

U.S. IMPORTS BY SPECIES

The following tables provide the 10-year period of United States imports of highly migratory species from nations fishing on Atlantic stocks of such species subject to management by ICCAT. The information in the tables is taken from U.S. Bureau of Census data and can be found at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/trade/index.html. Under the current import data collection and reporting system, it is not possible to distinguish the geographic origin of fish; therefore, the tables also include U.S. imports from waters other than the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, no import tables are available regarding any billfish species (white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish, or spearfish) because the amount of U.S. imports is insignificant. The tables are organized in three sections: tunas, swordfish, and sharks.

National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division

You asked for the following

Trade Type:	IMPORTS
From:	1999
Through:	2008
Product:	TUNA ALBACORE
Countries:	ALL COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY

Note: If a month is not listed, then we do not have data for that month. Current data through December, 2008.

Country	Product Name	Kilos	Dollars
1999			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	29,426	160,442
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**29,426**	**160,442**
BARBADOS	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,408	14,873
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**2,408**	**14,873**
BELIZE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	97,873	149,772
Subtotal: BELIZE		**97,873**	**149,772**
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	18,472	40,067
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**18,472**	**40,067**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	21,305	64,269
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,010,531	1,905,504
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	11,517	116,562
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,043,353**	**2,086,335**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	116,640	182,699
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	15,838	58,100
Subtotal: CHINA		**132,478**	**240,799**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	40,404,464	92,372,744
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	79,018	245,847
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	31,955	123,688
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**40,515,437**	**92,742,279**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	15,603	60,200
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**15,603**	**60,200**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	63,066	327,599
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	411,325	950,676
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	15,211	55,890
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	766,234	3,197,481
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**1,255,836**	**4,531,646**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	737,693	2,136,703
Subtotal: FIJI		**737,693**	**2,136,703**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	22,007	72,044
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**22,007**	**72,044**
GREECE	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	163	2,153
Subtotal: GREECE		**163**	**2,153**
INDIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	16,243	68,805

Subtotal: INDIA		**16,243**	**68,805**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	15,705	119,550
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	8,808	64,742
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	1,097,901	3,685,106
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,033,300	6,621,551
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,155,714**	**10,490,949**
JAPAN	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	7,748,916	16,084,901
Subtotal: JAPAN		**7,748,916**	**16,084,901**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	396,292	1,516,431
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	744,351	2,437,003
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**1,140,643**	**3,953,434**
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	14,080	21,120
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	8,001	13,112
Subtotal: MEXICO		**22,081**	**34,232**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	6,615,992	14,570,383
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**6,615,992**	**14,570,383**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	10,289	35,949
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**10,289**	**35,949**
NICARAGUA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	693	2,857
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**693**	**2,857**
OMAN	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	32,561	218,090
Subtotal: OMAN		**32,561**	**218,090**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	5,516	14,595
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	64,985	131,612
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**70,501**	**146,207**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	902	7,936
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	84,078	190,428
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	505,559	1,146,885
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**590,539**	**1,345,249**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	7,169	12,611
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**7,169**	**12,611**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,630,936	3,848,733
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	12,134	46,010
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**1,643,070**	**3,894,743**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	13,366	106,220
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	4,460,070	7,699,139
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**4,473,436**	**7,805,359**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	599,044	1,251,618
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	56,771	164,535
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**655,815**	**1,416,153**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	5,726	27,862
Subtotal: SPAIN		**5,726**	**27,862**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,180	7,101
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	3,389,740	12,411,173

THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,894,366	28,893,905
Subtotal: THAILAND		**11,285,286**	**41,312,179**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	31,783	145,151
Subtotal: TONGA		**31,783**	**145,151**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	322	5,146
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	116,789	263,058
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**117,111**	**268,204**
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	10,013	23,629
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	12,830	26,631
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**22,843**	**50,260**
VENEZUELA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	305,349	687,257
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**305,349**	**687,257**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	589	3,736
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**589**	**3,736**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	464,591	1,223,301
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,651	8,182
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**466,242**	**1,231,483**
Grand Total: 1999		**82,289,340**	**206,043,367**
2000			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	41,438	129,893
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**41,438**	**129,893**
BARBADOS	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,723	10,144
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**1,723**	**10,144**
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	5,935	20,800
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	61,181	140,683
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**67,116**	**161,483**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	32,973	123,051
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,129,067	2,400,557
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,693	31,659
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,164,733**	**2,555,267**
CHILE	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,095	8,549
Subtotal: CHILE		**1,095**	**8,549**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	127,820	273,946
Subtotal: CHINA		**127,820**	**273,946**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,058	11,361
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	28,278,435	71,010,001
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**28,279,493**	**71,021,362**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	995	5,306
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**995**	**5,306**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	27,295	117,277
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	581,014	1,418,108
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	5,949	6,750
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	105,963	287,469
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**720,221**	**1,829,604**

FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	762,186	2,183,189
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	233,363	534,141
Subtotal: FIJI		**995,549**	**2,717,330**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	152,726	583,031
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	72,999	214,579
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**225,725**	**797,610**
GRENADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,365	26,953
Subtotal: GRENADA		**3,365**	**26,953**
HONDURAS	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	171,184	418,710
Subtotal: HONDURAS		**171,184**	**418,710**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,663	27,095
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	72,295	185,452
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	792,610	2,703,875
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,497,368	8,624,433
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,365,936**	**11,540,855**
JAPAN	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	4,015,402	9,752,722
Subtotal: JAPAN		**4,015,402**	**9,752,722**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	336,605	1,256,772
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	574,393	2,341,707
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**910,998**	**3,598,479**
MAURITIUS	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	4,444,815	10,477,600
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**4,444,815**	**10,477,600**
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	52,441	93,334
Subtotal: MEXICO		**52,441**	**93,334**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	5,828,869	15,601,337
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**5,828,869**	**15,601,337**
OMAN	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	12,888	90,318
Subtotal: OMAN		**12,888**	**90,318**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,631	44,083
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	14,149	48,966
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	52,121	53,393
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**69,901**	**146,442**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,406,761	3,937,397
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**1,406,761**	**3,937,397**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	97,601	771,664
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	2,723,854	5,971,654
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**2,821,455**	**6,743,318**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	445,925	1,064,132
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,908	23,036
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**449,833**	**1,087,168**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	5,580	11,159
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	8,667	27,287
Subtotal: SPAIN		**14,247**	**38,446**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	2,905,144	10,526,804

THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,059,972	29,251,695
Subtotal: THAILAND		**9,965,116**	**39,778,499**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	92,942	412,765
Subtotal: TONGA		**92,942**	**412,765**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	6,722	36,741
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	237,143	704,152
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**243,865**	**740,893**
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	6,313	15,447
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,119,222	3,133,859
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**1,125,535**	**3,149,306**
VENEZUELA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	118,669	287,139
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**118,669**	**287,139**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	465,188	1,508,093
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**465,188**	**1,508,093**
Grand Total: 2000		**67,205,318**	**188,940,268**
2001			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	20,881	49,276
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**20,881**	**49,276**
BARBADOS	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	2,483	8,712
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**2,483**	**8,712**
BELIZE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	317,518	800,096
Subtotal: BELIZE		**317,518**	**800,096**
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,081	6,162
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	653,672	1,558,410
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**656,753**	**1,564,572**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	11,754	70,076
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	965,804	2,243,236
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	4,488	49,500
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	32,283	102,385
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,014,329**	**2,465,197**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	121,331	299,923
Subtotal: CHINA		**121,331**	**299,923**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	25,035,458	66,427,815
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**25,035,458**	**66,427,815**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	23,795	107,111
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**23,795**	**107,111**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,337	6,387
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,836,284	11,348,282
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**2,837,621**	**11,354,669**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	3,364	12,104
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**3,364**	**12,104**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	277,111	844,563
Subtotal: FIJI		**277,111**	**844,563**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	406,093	1,570,534

Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**406,093**	**1,570,534**
GRENADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	823	2,727
Subtotal: GRENADA		**823**	**2,727**
INDIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,579	32,260
Subtotal: INDIA		**7,579**	**32,260**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	129,170	313,282
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	1,145,744	4,274,649
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,603,720	10,592,757
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,878,634**	**15,180,688**
JAPAN	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	629,323	1,621,458
Subtotal: JAPAN		**629,323**	**1,621,458**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	140,534	613,453
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	709,064	3,134,805
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**849,598**	**3,748,258**
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	12,337	22,511
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	12,000	9,797
Subtotal: MEXICO		**24,337**	**32,308**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	221,692	465,160
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**221,692**	**465,160**
NEW CALEDONIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	387	2,709
Subtotal: NEW CALEDONIA		**387**	**2,709**
NICARAGUA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,460	6,819
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**1,460**	**6,819**
PERU	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	791	4,000
Subtotal: PERU		**791**	**4,000**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	92,152	152,973
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	188,019	303,012
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**280,171**	**455,985**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	28,843	152,380
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**28,843**	**152,380**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,914	4,213
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	4,808,009	11,826,923
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**4,809,923**	**11,831,136**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	182,730	478,562
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	11,995	51,087
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	23,420	174,956
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**218,145**	**704,605**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	14,933	49,014
Subtotal: SPAIN		**14,933**	**49,014**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	6,880,372	18,234,720
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**6,880,372**	**18,234,720**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	997	3,147
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	1,405,979	6,680,170
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	10,304,767	51,418,782

Subtotal: THAILAND		**11,711,743**	**58,102,099**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	74,068	334,833
Subtotal: TONGA		**74,068**	**334,833**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	436,306	1,113,091
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**436,306**	**1,113,091**
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	5,949	16,738
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**5,949**	**16,738**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,951	32,710
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**3,951**	**32,710**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	273,252	788,834
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**273,252**	**788,834**
Grand Total: 2001		**61,069,017**	**198,417,104**
2002			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	15,155	39,746
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**15,155**	**39,746**
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,676	11,082
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	792,200	1,830,222
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**793,876**	**1,841,304**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	8,823	25,822
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,059,547	1,986,395
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	1,778	19,800
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	50,226	285,285
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,120,374**	**2,317,302**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	12,008	56,799
Subtotal: CHINA		**12,008**	**56,799**
CHINA - HONG KONG	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	14,394	30,870
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**14,394**	**30,870**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	2,531,496	5,002,093
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**2,531,496**	**5,002,093**
COOK IS.	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	49,808	154,442
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**49,808**	**154,442**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	6,103	45,901
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**6,103**	**45,901**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	157,590	681,225
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,690,679	13,425,588
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,632,582	33,386,703
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**11,480,851**	**47,493,516**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	218,799	633,868
Subtotal: FIJI		**218,799**	**633,868**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	528,013	2,027,613
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	9,542	38,577
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**537,555**	**2,066,190**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	26,586	71,261
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	81,319	280,335

INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	819,120	3,214,205
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,042,238	9,240,102
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,969,263**	**12,805,903**
ISRAEL	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,098	6,374
Subtotal: ISRAEL		**2,098**	**6,374**
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	536	3,445
Subtotal: ITALY		**536**	**3,445**
JAPAN	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	907	4,707
Subtotal: JAPAN		**907**	**4,707**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	173,298	694,164
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	589,691	1,891,185
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**762,989**	**2,585,349**
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,042	7,264
Subtotal: MEXICO		**3,042**	**7,264**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,249,779	2,547,030
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**1,249,779**	**2,547,030**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,880	9,227
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**3,880**	**9,227**
PERU	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,666	2,499
Subtotal: PERU		**1,666**	**2,499**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	100,064	145,820
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	27,065	147,354
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	39,328	66,028
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**166,457**	**359,202**
PORTUGAL	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	907	2,400
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**907**	**2,400**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	7,093	69,666
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	19,307	95,588
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**26,400**	**165,254**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	350	2,100
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**350**	**2,100**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	24,377	283,350
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	9,996	75,734
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	11,258	75,936
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**45,631**	**435,020**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	794	4,290
Subtotal: SPAIN		**794**	**4,290**
SRI LANKA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,454	8,693
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**2,454**	**8,693**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	4,348,026	8,998,697
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**4,348,026**	**8,998,697**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	752,685	3,140,549
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	3,418,390	14,183,240
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	10,056,586	35,488,738

Subtotal: THAILAND		**14,227,661**	**52,812,527**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	45,952	221,148
Subtotal: TONGA		**45,952**	**221,148**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,270,754	2,621,533
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**1,270,754**	**2,621,533**
VANUATU	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	580,713	1,232,369
Subtotal: VANUATU		**580,713**	**1,232,369**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	32,676	38,750
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**32,676**	**38,750**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	226,590	602,918
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**226,590**	**602,918**
Grand Total: 2002		**43,749,944**	**145,158,730**
2003			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,710	12,082
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**2,710**	**12,082**
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,333	3,314
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	738,293	1,396,069
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**739,626**	**1,399,383**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	18,473	66,994
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	3,401,549	5,933,011
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	189	2,048
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	435	4,657
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	101,044	915,015
Subtotal: CANADA		**3,521,690**	**6,921,725**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,023,008	2,357,808
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**1,023,008**	**2,357,808**
COOK IS.	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	109,740	447,536
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**109,740**	**447,536**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	3,513	10,921
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	8,712	21,670
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**12,225**	**32,591**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	269,582	1,043,091
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	16,004	58,776
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	4,650,080	21,422,420
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	5,008,703	19,834,012
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**9,944,369**	**42,358,299**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	215,829	509,985
Subtotal: FIJI		**215,829**	**509,985**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	289,902	1,290,558
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**289,902**	**1,290,558**
GERMANY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	4,049	4,433
Subtotal: GERMANY		**4,049**	**4,433**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	248,228	469,262
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	512,095	1,755,736

INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	32,623	97,710
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	5,561,541	17,125,477
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**6,354,487**	**19,448,185**
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	42,503	238,254
Subtotal: ITALY		**42,503**	**238,254**
JAPAN	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	115	5,984
Subtotal: JAPAN		**115**	**5,984**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	15,394	43,015
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	649,650	2,087,620
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**665,044**	**2,130,635**
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	24,140	41,560
Subtotal: MEXICO		**24,140**	**41,560**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	3,714,793	7,882,097
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**3,714,793**	**7,882,097**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	184	9,107
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**184**	**9,107**
PANAMA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,019	17,046
Subtotal: PANAMA		**2,019**	**17,046**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	671	2,802
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	63,793	112,651
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	168,138	275,050
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**232,602**	**390,503**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	769	7,360
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	85,542	447,645
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**86,311**	**455,005**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	779	5,109
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**779**	**5,109**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	49,841	387,618
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	68,518	132,875
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	17,992	99,658
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	2,170	9,054
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**138,521**	**629,205**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	157,595	326,094
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	8,662	90,863
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	432	3,828
Subtotal: SPAIN		**166,689**	**420,785**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	420,200	903,881
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**420,200**	**903,881**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	15,194	48,729
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,843,822	16,537,447
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	14,402	26,093
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	34,912	73,788
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	8,596,649	28,387,446
Subtotal: THAILAND		**12,504,979**	**45,073,503**

TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	25,166	117,199
Subtotal: TONGA		**25,166**	**117,199**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	395	3,484
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	2,695,448	5,981,837
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**2,695,843**	**5,985,321**
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,364	6,445
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**1,364**	**6,445**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,301	16,922
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	32,759	48,462
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**35,060**	**65,384**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	71,983	175,249
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**71,983**	**175,249**
Grand Total: 2003		**43,045,930**	**139,334,857**
2004			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	7,865	31,838
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**7,865**	**31,838**
BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	4,184	13,091
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**4,184**	**13,091**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	316,992	857,789
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	2,255,835	5,524,782
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	38,493	229,241
Subtotal: CANADA		**2,611,320**	**6,611,812**
COOK IS.	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	25,618	117,899
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**25,618**	**117,899**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	1,500	5,040
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,500**	**5,040**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	25,440	47,326
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,319,438	18,995,913
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,816,849	14,502,659
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**7,161,727**	**33,545,898**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	307,831	836,777
Subtotal: FIJI		**307,831**	**836,777**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	138,559	631,385
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**138,559**	**631,385**
GERMANY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,398	26,909
Subtotal: GERMANY		**7,398**	**26,909**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,951	18,615
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	703	4,250
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	633,647	2,416,736
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	5,486,773	20,452,966
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**6,123,074**	**22,892,567**
IRAN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	2,255	9,135
Subtotal: IRAN		**2,255**	**9,135**
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	81,983	539,080

Subtotal: ITALY		**81,983**	**539,080**
JAPAN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	250	6,577
Subtotal: JAPAN		**250**	**6,577**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	23,818	129,983
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,252,508	4,453,039
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**1,276,326**	**4,583,022**
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,191	2,619
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	26,600	59,808
Subtotal: MEXICO		**27,791**	**62,427**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	401,591	905,550
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**401,591**	**905,550**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,852	9,264
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,852**	**9,264**
OMAN	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	25,994	182,219
Subtotal: OMAN		**25,994**	**182,219**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	384	2,538
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	124,968	316,072
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	310,610	549,202
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**435,962**	**867,812**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	39,321	178,898
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**39,321**	**178,898**
SOLOMON IS.	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,742	3,938
Subtotal: SOLOMON IS.		**3,742**	**3,938**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	49,659	95,450
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	11,995	43,747
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	22,759	47,426
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	9,139	32,256
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**93,552**	**218,879**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	45,443	371,558
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	14,902	86,607
Subtotal: SPAIN		**60,345**	**458,165**
SRI LANKA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	653	5,527
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**653**	**5,527**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,746,482	21,266,950
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	18,185	42,289
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	7,770	15,313
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	9,897,476	34,450,953
Subtotal: THAILAND		**13,669,913**	**55,775,505**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	9,732	38,359
Subtotal: TONGA		**9,732**	**38,359**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	2,171,076	4,919,431
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**2,171,076**	**4,919,431**
TUNISIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,486	14,476
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**2,486**	**14,476**

URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	934	7,157
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**934**	**7,157**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	5,734	35,152
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	83,479	244,645
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**89,213**	**279,797**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	148,364	318,354
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**148,364**	**318,354**
Grand Total: 2004		**34,932,411**	**134,096,788**
2005			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,863	16,762
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**2,863**	**16,762**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	27,523	111,524
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	990,151	2,887,319
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,513	32,068
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	32,182	116,983
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	252	3,608
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	37,208	150,787
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,089,829**	**3,302,289**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	89,147	213,999
Subtotal: CHINA		**89,147**	**213,999**
COOK IS.	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	4,166	14,184
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**4,166**	**14,184**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	1,100	4,060
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,100**	**4,060**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	20,678	43,793
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,878,544	16,961,093
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,862,359	6,879,877
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**4,761,581**	**23,884,763**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	473,686	1,479,751
Subtotal: FIJI		**473,686**	**1,479,751**
FRANCE	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	63	2,637
Subtotal: FRANCE		**63**	**2,637**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	99,562	486,497
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**99,562**	**486,497**
INDIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	9,527	33,589
Subtotal: INDIA		**9,527**	**33,589**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	355,582	1,316,540
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,060,605	26,809,854
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**7,416,187**	**28,126,394**
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	88,664	602,546
Subtotal: ITALY		**88,664**	**602,546**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	906,486	3,553,469
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**906,486**	**3,553,469**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,604	13,731

Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**2,604**	**13,731**
PERU	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,148	2,155
Subtotal: PERU		**1,148**	**2,155**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	4,213	13,357
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	45,739	138,826
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	504,095	1,115,420
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**554,047**	**1,267,603**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	4,926	23,744
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**4,926**	**23,744**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	15,492	80,489
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	6,383	16,549
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**21,875**	**97,038**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	16,948	140,184
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	12,887	71,731
Subtotal: SPAIN		**29,835**	**211,915**
SRI LANKA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	5,699	27,973
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**5,699**	**27,973**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,164,929	19,427,586
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	44,408	203,914
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,975,973	31,504,945
Subtotal: THAILAND		**11,185,310**	**51,136,445**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,512	10,419
Subtotal: TONGA		**3,512**	**10,419**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,562	12,480
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	236,098	1,434,070
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**237,660**	**1,446,550**
TUNISIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	11,293	22,586
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**11,293**	**22,586**
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	473	4,523
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**473**	**4,523**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,921	19,574
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,157	3,953
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	32,148	70,346
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	518,948	1,768,990
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**555,174**	**1,862,863**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	57,887	126,123
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**57,887**	**126,123**
Grand Total: 2005		**27,614,304**	**117,974,608**
2006			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	185,810	1,014,045
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**185,810**	**1,014,045**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	18,351	89,229
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	550,824	1,422,379
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	13,357	60,985

CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	44,168	411,295
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	63,187	276,064
Subtotal: CANADA		**689,887**	**2,259,952**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	464,688	1,869,162
Subtotal: CHINA		**464,688**	**1,869,162**
CHINA - HONG KONG	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	16,074	80,413
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**16,074**	**80,413**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	9,088	30,223
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**9,088**	**30,223**
COOK IS.	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,801	4,484
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**2,801**	**4,484**
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	1,689	5,711
COSTA RICA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,730	16,755
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**4,419**	**22,466**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	2,684	25,130
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,222,543	24,814,559
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,283,698	4,477,649
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**4,508,925**	**29,317,338**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	436,826	1,353,475
Subtotal: FIJI		**436,826**	**1,353,475**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	112,178	502,499
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**112,178**	**502,499**
INDIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	19,025	78,749
INDIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	17,055	84,223
Subtotal: INDIA		**36,080**	**162,972**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,003,984	4,288,055
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	4,791,082	20,829,222
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**5,795,066**	**25,117,277**
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	611	6,568
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	72,624	546,288
Subtotal: ITALY		**73,235**	**552,856**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	48,360	213,180
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	664,345	2,924,016
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**712,705**	**3,137,196**
MAURITIUS	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	16,733	29,436
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**16,733**	**29,436**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	494	2,318
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	342	3,570
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,783	12,072
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**2,619**	**17,960**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	66,918	148,320
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**66,918**	**148,320**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	20,621	114,419
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	70,213	123,515

PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	14,054	38,097
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	476,216	1,113,329
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**581,104**	**1,389,360**
SENEGAL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	13,263	41,212
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**13,263**	**41,212**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	26,151	127,591
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	16,074	41,870
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**42,225**	**169,461**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	713	3,661
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**713**	**3,661**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	12,595	89,514
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	1,652	3,366
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,932	25,800
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**18,179**	**118,680**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	47,596	337,867
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	17,277	107,698
Subtotal: SPAIN		**64,873**	**445,565**
SRI LANKA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	10,886	70,803
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**10,886**	**70,803**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	6,792	53,190
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,585,750	15,410,560
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	62,536	217,937
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	7,991,428	34,703,461
Subtotal: THAILAND		**10,646,506**	**50,385,148**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	42,468	165,082
Subtotal: TONGA		**42,468**	**165,082**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	2,818	7,507
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	515,633	2,754,515
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**518,451**	**2,762,022**
TURKEY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	369	9,840
Subtotal: TURKEY		**369**	**9,840**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,210	4,840
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**1,210**	**4,840**
URUGUAY	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	927	5,207
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**927**	**5,207**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	184,177	451,497
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,268,438	5,232,073
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,452,615**	**5,683,570**
Grand Total: 2006		**26,527,841**	**126,874,525**
2007			
ARGENTINA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	16,628	64,695
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**16,628**	**64,695**
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	125,611	714,618
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**125,611**	**714,618**

BRAZIL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,753	8,047
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,753**	**8,047**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	6,577	48,647
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	536,039	1,364,090
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	11,412	45,519
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	14,098	155,130
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	202	2,166
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	70,779	602,549
Subtotal: CANADA		**639,107**	**2,218,101**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	366	2,137
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,029	7,122
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	33,256	110,602
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	539,381	1,806,867
Subtotal: CHINA		**574,032**	**1,926,728**
CHINA - HONG KONG	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	44,841	217,350
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**44,841**	**217,350**
CROATIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	1,250	15,570
CROATIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	1,045	5,520
Subtotal: CROATIA		**2,295**	**21,090**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,027	13,489
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	3,285,185	24,036,586
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	6,541	17,474
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,064,553	4,102,778
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**4,357,306**	**28,170,327**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	528,116	1,876,524
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	117,199	491,432
Subtotal: FIJI		**645,315**	**2,367,956**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	217,769	922,645
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**217,769**	**922,645**
INDIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	12,564	60,768
INDIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	17,055	57,950
Subtotal: INDIA		**29,619**	**118,718**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	538,791	1,968,508
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	6,547,371	24,189,867
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**7,086,162**	**26,158,375**
ISRAEL	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	18,450	37,171
Subtotal: ISRAEL		**18,450**	**37,171**
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	11,903	101,386
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	70,246	494,063
Subtotal: ITALY		**82,149**	**595,449**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	38,867	279,207
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	549,920	2,171,565
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**588,787**	**2,450,772**
MAURITIUS	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,481	13,776

MAURITIUS	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	39,256	69,056
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**40,737**	**82,832**
MEXICO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	900	2,888
Subtotal: MEXICO		**900**	**2,888**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	212	5,149
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**212**	**5,149**
NIUE	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,844	16,203
Subtotal: NIUE		**3,844**	**16,203**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	50,177	127,058
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**50,177**	**127,058**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,390	4,598
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	64,909	211,493
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	862,294	2,073,981
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**928,593**	**2,290,072**
PORTUGAL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	3,506	4,153
PORTUGAL	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	7,265	43,951
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**10,771**	**48,104**
SENEGAL	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	6,714	25,502
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**6,714**	**25,502**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,722	15,393
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	23,882	48,701
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**25,604**	**64,094**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	19,001	126,955
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**19,001**	**126,955**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	600	2,969
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	47,676	351,085
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	18,470	116,500
Subtotal: SPAIN		**66,746**	**470,554**
SRI LANKA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	15,260	62,832
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**15,260**	**62,832**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,241,634	12,430,054
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	26,863	125,103
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	4,572	18,200
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	9,130,162	35,474,645
Subtotal: THAILAND		**11,403,231**	**48,048,002**
TONGA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	16,311	65,535
Subtotal: TONGA		**16,311**	**65,535**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	950	2,375
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	285,993	1,561,999
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**286,943**	**1,564,374**
TUNISIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	1,733	2,892
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**1,733**	**2,892**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	50,503	166,832
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,306,652	4,913,908

Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,357,155**	**5,080,740**
Grand Total: 2007		**28,663,756**	**124,075,828**
2008			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	84,010	512,701
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**84,010**	**512,701**
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	16,445	47,041
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	1,611,990	4,685,910
CANADA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	68,178	531,185
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,696,613**	**5,264,136**
CHINA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	307,272	1,180,047
Subtotal: CHINA		**307,272**	**1,180,047**
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	363	3,737
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	2,354,578	17,423,171
ECUADOR	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	279,607	1,100,378
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**2,634,548**	**18,527,286**
FIJI	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	505,857	1,960,820
Subtotal: FIJI		**505,857**	**1,960,820**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	78,774	354,162
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**78,774**	**354,162**
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	909	6,138
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	379,320	1,516,961
INDONESIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	6,173,948	23,523,391
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**6,554,177**	**25,046,490**
ISRAEL	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	6,850	30,912
Subtotal: ISRAEL		**6,850**	**30,912**
ITALY	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	79,866	674,536
Subtotal: ITALY		**79,866**	**674,536**
JAPAN	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	499	5,112
Subtotal: JAPAN		**499**	**5,112**
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE FROZEN	17,727	31,185
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	16,626	62,034
MALAYSIA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	273,371	1,026,093
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**307,724**	**1,119,312**
MAURITIUS	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	10,138	118,272
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**10,138**	**118,272**
MOROCCO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	14,362	109,316
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**14,362**	**109,316**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	529	2,876
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**529**	**2,876**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	190,406	551,569
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**190,406**	**551,569**
PERU	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	5,130	21,151
Subtotal: PERU		**5,130**	**21,151**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	33,408	138,910

PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL IN QUOTA	6,475	17,024
PHILIPPINES	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	757,592	2,353,520
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**797,475**	**2,509,454**
SINGAPORE	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	17,055	72,013
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**17,055**	**72,013**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	10,000	66,532
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**10,000**	**66,532**
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	40,431	362,251
SPAIN	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	15,373	67,917
Subtotal: SPAIN		**55,804**	**430,168**
SRI LANKA	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	16,850	73,132
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**16,850**	**73,132**
SURINAME	TUNA ALBACORE FRESH	172	2,085
Subtotal: SURINAME		**172**	**2,085**
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,894,613	10,384,847
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) IN OIL	312,421	1,878,904
THAILAND	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	9,968,541	41,076,294
Subtotal: THAILAND		**12,175,575**	**53,340,045**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	384,709	2,190,038
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**384,709**	**2,190,038**
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (FOIL OR FLEXIBLE) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	85,275	288,637
VIET NAM	TUNA ALBACORE IN ATC (OTHER) NOT IN OIL OVER QUOTA	1,072,399	4,074,675
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,157,674**	**4,363,312**
Grand Total: 2008		**27,092,069**	**118,525,477**

National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division

You asked for the following

Trade Type:	IMPORTS
From:	1999
Through:	2008
Product:	TUNA BIGEYE
Countries:	ALL COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY

Note: If a month is not listed, then we do not have data for that month. Current data through December, 2008.

Country	Product Name	Kilos	Dollars
No Data For 1999			
No Data For 2000			
2001			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	11,830	109,969
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**11,830**	**109,969**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	4,514	39,620
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**4,514**	**39,620**
BOTSWANA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	12,417	67,062
Subtotal: BOTSWANA		**12,417**	**67,062**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	902,778	3,098,769
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	789	3,386
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**903,567**	**3,102,155**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	193,885	1,448,778
Subtotal: CANADA		**193,885**	**1,448,778**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	26,344	74,858
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**26,344**	**74,858**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	905,560	5,593,325
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	18,509	34,293
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**924,069**	**5,627,618**
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	101,986	873,477
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**101,986**	**873,477**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	544	4,200
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**544**	**4,200**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	9,946	74,401
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	28,814	70,635
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**38,760**	**145,036**
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	22,322	68,109
Subtotal: FIJI		**22,322**	**68,109**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	52,646	363,129
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**52,646**	**363,129**
GRENADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	9,935	37,520
Subtotal: GRENADA		**9,935**	**37,520**
GUYANA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,315	7,252
Subtotal: GUYANA		**1,315**	**7,252**

INDIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	680	4,080
Subtotal: INDIA		**680**	**4,080**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	72,068	301,829
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**72,068**	**301,829**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	90	2,034
Subtotal: JAPAN		**90**	**2,034**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	23,305	103,582
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**23,305**	**103,582**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,336	7,526
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**2,336**	**7,526**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	3,269	33,458
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**3,269**	**33,458**
MARTINIQUE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,069	6,562
Subtotal: MARTINIQUE		**1,069**	**6,562**
MEXICO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	4,463	12,200
Subtotal: MEXICO		**4,463**	**12,200**
NAMIBIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	6,908	20,720
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**6,908**	**20,720**
NETHERLANDS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,402	15,857
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS		**1,402**	**15,857**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,202	16,500
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**1,202**	**16,500**
NEW CALEDONIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	416	3,347
Subtotal: NEW CALEDONIA		**416**	**3,347**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	4,584	23,600
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**4,584**	**23,600**
NICARAGUA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	978	4,857
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**978**	**4,857**
PALAU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,607	74,395
Subtotal: PALAU		**7,607**	**74,395**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	417,845	2,706,823
Subtotal: PANAMA		**417,845**	**2,706,823**
PERU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,361	4,500
Subtotal: PERU		**1,361**	**4,500**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	15,040	76,234
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	4,990	8,009
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**20,030**	**84,243**
PORTUGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,335	76,745
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**7,335**	**76,745**
SINGAPORE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,510	7,690
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**1,510**	**7,690**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	66,678	218,703
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**66,678**	**218,703**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	14,552	80,206

Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**14,552**	**80,206**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	6,881	28,409
Subtotal: THAILAND		**6,881**	**28,409**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	116,788	613,412
Subtotal: TONGA		**116,788**	**613,412**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,447,085	8,392,648
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	43,998	136,315
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**1,491,083**	**8,528,963**
TURKEY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,497	23,935
Subtotal: TURKEY		**2,497**	**23,935**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	22,121	120,187
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**22,121**	**120,187**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	68,651	244,803
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**68,651**	**244,803**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	98,035	519,129
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	38,092	69,520
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**136,127**	**588,649**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	12,069	98,565
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**12,069**	**98,565**
Grand Total: 2001		**4,820,039**	**26,025,163**
2002			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,749	75,035
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**7,749**	**75,035**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	945	10,425
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**945**	**10,425**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,082,299	4,055,326
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,082,299**	**4,055,326**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	198,627	1,988,893
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,038	10,608
Subtotal: CANADA		**199,665**	**1,999,501**
CHILE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,032	14,853
Subtotal: CHILE		**1,032**	**14,853**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,717	22,486
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	41,217	45,542
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**46,934**	**68,028**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	971,089	6,836,661
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**971,089**	**6,836,661**
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	288,455	2,582,968
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**288,455**	**2,582,968**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,871	44,891
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**5,871**	**44,891**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,075	2,150
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	24,702	56,069
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**25,777**	**58,219**

FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	66,399	191,103
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	67,200	47,408
Subtotal: FIJI		**133,599**	**238,511**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	81,410	626,467
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**81,410**	**626,467**
GRENADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	3,509	14,490
Subtotal: GRENADA		**3,509**	**14,490**
GUATEMALA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	877	5,084
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**877**	**5,084**
HONDURAS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,418	4,844
Subtotal: HONDURAS		**1,418**	**4,844**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	26,015	177,128
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,818	13,424
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**27,833**	**190,552**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	52,724	146,145
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	122,658	379,417
Subtotal: JAPAN		**175,382**	**525,562**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	8,244	104,083
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**8,244**	**104,083**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,289	11,445
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**2,289**	**11,445**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	552,677	3,470,276
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**552,677**	**3,470,276**
NAMIBIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	31,436	94,423
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**31,436**	**94,423**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	3,586	8,713
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**3,586**	**8,713**
PALAU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,991	62,277
Subtotal: PALAU		**5,991**	**62,277**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	839,265	6,667,598
Subtotal: PANAMA		**839,265**	**6,667,598**
PERU	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	6,880	41,280
Subtotal: PERU		**6,880**	**41,280**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	18,168	160,537
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**18,168**	**160,537**
PORTUGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,081	11,596
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**1,081**	**11,596**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	106,028	784,068
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**106,028**	**784,068**
SINGAPORE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	57,409	336,928
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**57,409**	**336,928**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	177,075	659,017
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	9,822	42,242
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**186,897**	**701,259**

SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	21,271	42,541
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**21,271**	**42,541**
SPAIN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	3,106	37,068
Subtotal: SPAIN		**3,106**	**37,068**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	50,724	387,935
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**50,724**	**387,935**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	89,781	692,363
Subtotal: THAILAND		**89,781**	**692,363**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	56,190	410,146
Subtotal: TONGA		**56,190**	**410,146**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,208,490	7,381,927
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	15,967	19,401
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**1,224,457**	**7,401,328**
TURKEY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	960	6,344
Subtotal: TURKEY		**960**	**6,344**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	34,752	211,553
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**34,752**	**211,553**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	90,495	307,238
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**90,495**	**307,238**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	164,592	1,130,964
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	6,658	10,731
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**171,250**	**1,141,695**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	15,438	107,676
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**15,438**	**107,676**
Grand Total: 2002		**6,632,219**	**40,551,787**
2003			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,428	11,769
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**1,428**	**11,769**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	752	7,566
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**752**	**7,566**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	693,149	2,651,973
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,806	6,928
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**694,955**	**2,658,901**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	119,111	1,202,978
Subtotal: CANADA		**119,111**	**1,202,978**
CHILE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,533	46,093
Subtotal: CHILE		**5,533**	**46,093**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	9,373	107,670
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	47,265	94,528
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**56,638**	**202,198**
COOK IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	8,768	47,443
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**8,768**	**47,443**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	806,836	4,670,652
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**806,836**	**4,670,652**

ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,134,914	17,082,530
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	16,900	100,180
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**2,151,814**	**17,182,710**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	20,048	139,879
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**20,048**	**139,879**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	18,201	43,266
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	16,699	39,957
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**34,900**	**83,223**
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	83,659	223,617
Subtotal: FIJI		**83,659**	**223,617**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	22,540	190,796
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**22,540**	**190,796**
GRENADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,490	4,470
Subtotal: GRENADA		**1,490**	**4,470**
HONDURAS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	19,960	71,032
Subtotal: HONDURAS		**19,960**	**71,032**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	10,007	63,726
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	6,036	34,161
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**16,043**	**97,887**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	20,496	61,118
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	389,163	987,503
Subtotal: JAPAN		**409,659**	**1,048,621**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	31,706	289,309
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**31,706**	**289,309**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,173	5,865
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**1,173**	**5,865**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	470,712	2,465,051
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**470,712**	**2,465,051**
MEXICO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	921	7,730
Subtotal: MEXICO		**921**	**7,730**
NAMIBIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	900	2,699
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**900**	**2,699**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	532	2,346
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**532**	**2,346**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,458,754	12,486,340
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,458,754**	**12,486,340**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	535	2,464
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**535**	**2,464**
PERU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,450	6,670
Subtotal: PERU		**1,450**	**6,670**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	20,571	155,093
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**20,571**	**155,093**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	93,580	830,185
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**93,580**	**830,185**

SINGAPORE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	9,859	72,526
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**9,859**	**72,526**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	50,394	165,486
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	2,972	10,556
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**53,366**	**176,042**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	65,503	135,378
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**65,503**	**135,378**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	138,896	948,373
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**138,896**	**948,373**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	15,075	75,220
Subtotal: THAILAND		**15,075**	**75,220**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	18,469	91,597
Subtotal: TONGA		**18,469**	**91,597**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	556,270	3,804,872
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**556,270**	**3,804,872**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	700	2,101
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**700**	**2,101**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	37,381	241,487
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	987	2,628
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**38,368**	**244,115**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	26,381	57,900
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**26,381**	**57,900**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	400,042	2,662,236
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	13,307	69,698
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**413,349**	**2,731,934**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,504	13,229
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**1,504**	**13,229**
Grand Total: 2003		**7,872,708**	**52,496,874**
2004			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,896	39,058
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**2,896**	**39,058**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	529	5,835
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**529**	**5,835**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	674,123	3,060,479
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**674,123**	**3,060,479**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	112,298	1,103,723
Subtotal: CANADA		**112,298**	**1,103,723**
CHILE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,271	51,549
Subtotal: CHILE		**7,271**	**51,549**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	33,195	354,675
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**33,195**	**354,675**
COLOMBIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	406	2,450
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**406**	**2,450**
COOK IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	8,560	68,096

Subtotal: COOK IS.		**8,560**	**68,096**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,091,752	6,710,423
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,091,752**	**6,710,423**
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	618,851	4,985,150
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	53,837	112,447
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**672,688**	**5,097,597**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	15,833	84,442
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**15,833**	**84,442**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	21,782	42,899
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	20,594	48,124
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**42,376**	**91,023**
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	77,041	286,776
Subtotal: FIJI		**77,041**	**286,776**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	23,924	182,615
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**23,924**	**182,615**
GRENADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	604	4,068
Subtotal: GRENADA		**604**	**4,068**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	128,909	913,604
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,152	11,098
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**130,061**	**924,702**
ITALY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	928	10,028
Subtotal: ITALY		**928**	**10,028**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	35,669	75,897
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	377,632	894,797
Subtotal: JAPAN		**413,301**	**970,694**
KIRIBATI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	430	3,796
Subtotal: KIRIBATI		**430**	**3,796**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	4,501	39,150
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**4,501**	**39,150**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	20,454	193,845
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**20,454**	**193,845**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	555,540	3,361,508
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**555,540**	**3,361,508**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	549	2,821
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**549**	**2,821**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,531,887	14,826,903
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,531,887**	**14,826,903**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	30,166	250,573
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	27,262	64,724
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**57,428**	**315,297**
PORTUGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	140	2,100
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**140**	**2,100**
SINGAPORE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,963	8,723
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**1,963**	**8,723**

SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	124,208	674,087
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	12,513	85,592
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**136,721**	**759,679**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,988	9,865
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	665,641	1,371,257
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**667,629**	**1,381,122**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	57,320	609,415
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**57,320**	**609,415**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	115,588	606,641
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,446	9,371
Subtotal: THAILAND		**117,034**	**616,012**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	13,619	50,259
Subtotal: TONGA		**13,619**	**50,259**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	283,069	2,230,407
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**283,069**	**2,230,407**
TUNISIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	349	2,682
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**349**	**2,682**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	10,940	70,800
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**10,940**	**70,800**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	47,225	99,146
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**47,225**	**99,146**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,097,562	8,077,548
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	15,683	28,804
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,113,245**	**8,106,352**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	463	4,018
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**463**	**4,018**
Grand Total: 2004		**7,928,292**	**51,732,268**
2005			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,023	11,060
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**1,023**	**11,060**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	3,694	36,848
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**3,694**	**36,848**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	372,261	2,108,489
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**372,261**	**2,108,489**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	136,896	1,356,649
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	935	9,449
Subtotal: CANADA		**137,831**	**1,366,098**
CHILE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,401	35,478
Subtotal: CHILE		**5,401**	**35,478**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	8,481	42,060
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**8,481**	**42,060**
COOK IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	25,022	167,383
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**25,022**	**167,383**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	347,847	3,182,847

Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**347,847**	**3,182,847**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,971	4,465
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**1,971**	**4,465**
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	287,908	2,478,330
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**287,908**	**2,478,330**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	9,364	38,115
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**9,364**	**38,115**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,180	20,341
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	4,587	10,614
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**6,767**	**30,955**
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	81,972	320,092
Subtotal: FIJI		**81,972**	**320,092**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	9,600	79,708
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**9,600**	**79,708**
GRENADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,220	11,624
Subtotal: GRENADA		**1,220**	**11,624**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	174,785	1,215,554
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**174,785**	**1,215,554**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	13,008	41,249
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	312,968	703,286
Subtotal: JAPAN		**325,976**	**744,535**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	19,095	181,627
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**19,095**	**181,627**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	560,773	3,011,491
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	4,157	16,579
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**564,930**	**3,028,070**
MAURITIUS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,576	50,094
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**5,576**	**50,094**
MEXICO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,000	9,372
Subtotal: MEXICO		**2,000**	**9,372**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,227	5,603
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,227**	**5,603**
PALAU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	35,448	112,703
Subtotal: PALAU		**35,448**	**112,703**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,122,488	10,996,658
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,122,488**	**10,996,658**
PERU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	9,750	59,119
Subtotal: PERU		**9,750**	**59,119**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	98,906	736,325
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	80,011	153,210
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**178,917**	**889,535**
PORTUGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,012	106,781
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**7,012**	**106,781**
SENEGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	56,129	259,297

SENEGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	536	2,982
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**56,665**	**262,279**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	6,294	60,722
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**6,294**	**60,722**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	272,017	1,400,091
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	880	7,527
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**272,897**	**1,407,618**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,962	34,411
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,123,700	2,328,026
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**1,125,662**	**2,362,437**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	62,485	500,308
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**62,485**	**500,308**
SURINAME	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,588	9,686
Subtotal: SURINAME		**2,588**	**9,686**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	31,600	273,004
Subtotal: THAILAND		**31,600**	**273,004**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	26,264	109,463
Subtotal: TONGA		**26,264**	**109,463**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	294,761	2,222,404
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**294,761**	**2,222,404**
TUNISIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	300	2,234
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**300**	**2,234**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	33,588	220,059
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	851	2,291
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**34,439**	**222,350**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	13,358	43,891
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**13,358**	**43,891**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	891,482	6,617,834
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	9,963	91,265
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**901,445**	**6,709,099**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,204	10,792
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**2,204**	**10,792**
Grand Total: 2005		**6,578,528**	**41,509,490**
2006			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	3,889	37,569
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**3,889**	**37,569**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,998	25,856
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**2,998**	**25,856**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	489,993	2,589,637
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**489,993**	**2,589,637**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	133,350	1,427,001
Subtotal: CANADA		**133,350**	**1,427,001**
CHILE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	4,816	46,337
Subtotal: CHILE		**4,816**	**46,337**

CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	40,451	192,973
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**40,451**	**192,973**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	258,504	2,068,982
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**258,504**	**2,068,982**
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	328,052	3,288,470
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	2,822	29,504
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**330,874**	**3,317,974**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	129,830	220,288
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**129,830**	**220,288**
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	32,218	136,802
Subtotal: FIJI		**32,218**	**136,802**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	21,748	143,336
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**21,748**	**143,336**
GRENADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,560	38,430
Subtotal: GRENADA		**1,560**	**38,430**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	58,663	460,645
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	169,868	340,450
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**228,531**	**801,095**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	881	31,016
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	161,002	380,076
Subtotal: JAPAN		**161,883**	**411,092**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	30,125	296,130
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**30,125**	**296,130**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,588	42,509
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**5,588**	**42,509**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	492,486	2,020,914
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	9,247	34,422
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**501,733**	**2,055,336**
MAURITIUS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	63,693	606,602
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**63,693**	**606,602**
MEXICO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,995	39,761
Subtotal: MEXICO		**1,995**	**39,761**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,414	23,503
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**2,414**	**23,503**
OMAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,080	11,308
Subtotal: OMAN		**1,080**	**11,308**
PALAU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	161,532	373,189
Subtotal: PALAU		**161,532**	**373,189**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	737,246	7,562,823
Subtotal: PANAMA		**737,246**	**7,562,823**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	247,810	1,756,220
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	61,940	116,300
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**309,750**	**1,872,520**
REUNION	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	513	5,190

Subtotal: REUNION		**513**	**5,190**
SENEGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	4,785	25,189
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**4,785**	**25,189**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	119,892	754,707
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**119,892**	**754,707**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	29,686	470,837
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,115,981	2,231,950
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**1,145,667**	**2,702,787**
SPAIN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	381	9,458
Subtotal: SPAIN		**381**	**9,458**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	191,930	1,709,296
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**191,930**	**1,709,296**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	22,851	176,123
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,072	10,720
Subtotal: THAILAND		**23,923**	**186,843**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	26,028	116,831
Subtotal: TONGA		**26,028**	**116,831**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	614,731	4,890,750
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**614,731**	**4,890,750**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	3,365	28,559
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**3,365**	**28,559**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	45,018	236,420
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**45,018**	**236,420**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	609,709	4,684,176
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	678	7,758
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**610,387**	**4,691,934**
Grand Total: 2006		**6,442,421**	**39,699,017**
2007			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	24,988	188,018
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**24,988**	**188,018**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	654	4,667
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**654**	**4,667**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	470,991	2,302,166
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**470,991**	**2,302,166**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	95,643	1,154,168
Subtotal: CANADA		**95,643**	**1,154,168**
CHILE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	4,458	67,875
Subtotal: CHILE		**4,458**	**67,875**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	43,413	290,249
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**43,413**	**290,249**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	81,324	767,383
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	249	2,194
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**81,573**	**769,577**
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	622,273	7,991,672

Subtotal: ECUADOR		**622,273**	**7,991,672**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	523,146	1,066,119
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**523,146**	**1,066,119**
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	154,519	713,767
Subtotal: FIJI		**154,519**	**713,767**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	15,856	140,999
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**15,856**	**140,999**
GUYANA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,917	4,754
Subtotal: GUYANA		**1,917**	**4,754**
INDIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,095	5,475
Subtotal: INDIA		**1,095**	**5,475**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	46,797	306,826
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	592,344	1,311,957
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**639,141**	**1,618,783**
ITALY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,133	9,838
Subtotal: ITALY		**1,133**	**9,838**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	236	4,130
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	97,706	235,861
Subtotal: JAPAN		**97,942**	**239,991**
LIBERIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,118	13,551
Subtotal: LIBERIA		**1,118**	**13,551**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	48,758	488,379
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**48,758**	**488,379**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	36,627	188,889
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**36,627**	**188,889**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	720,380	1,604,648
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**720,380**	**1,604,648**
MAURITIUS	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	580	5,631
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**580**	**5,631**
MOROCCO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,631	51,576
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**7,631**	**51,576**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,146	14,024
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**2,146**	**14,024**
NIUE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	12,402	43,297
Subtotal: NIUE		**12,402**	**43,297**
PALAU	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	32,139	63,839
Subtotal: PALAU		**32,139**	**63,839**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	698,165	8,563,160
Subtotal: PANAMA		**698,165**	**8,563,160**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	255,508	1,834,872
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	59,942	114,407
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**315,450**	**1,949,279**
SENEGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	49,009	182,674
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**49,009**	**182,674**

SINGAPORE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	8,248	28,440
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**8,248**	**28,440**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	44,047	258,397
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**44,047**	**258,397**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	61,907	803,250
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	761,423	1,522,835
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**823,330**	**2,326,085**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	97,710	980,796
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**97,710**	**980,796**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	454	5,000
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**454**	**5,000**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	61,192	364,263
Subtotal: THAILAND		**61,192**	**364,263**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	23,306	138,237
Subtotal: TONGA		**23,306**	**138,237**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	703,940	6,481,153
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**703,940**	**6,481,153**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,800	29,891
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**7,800**	**29,891**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	48,980	586,974
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**48,980**	**586,974**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	607,185	4,556,889
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**607,185**	**4,556,889**
Grand Total: 2007		**7,129,339**	**45,493,190**
2008			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,310	73,639
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**5,310**	**73,639**
BARBADOS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,938	14,638
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**1,938**	**14,638**
BRAZIL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	288,702	1,652,404
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**288,702**	**1,652,404**
CANADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	89,019	1,076,367
Subtotal: CANADA		**89,019**	**1,076,367**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	47,902	267,197
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**47,902**	**267,197**
COLOMBIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	430	4,271
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**430**	**4,271**
COOK IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	408	2,330
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**408**	**2,330**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	47,951	370,604
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**47,951**	**370,604**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	247	2,995
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**247**	**2,995**
ECUADOR	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	572,977	6,988,776

Subtotal: ECUADOR		**572,977**	**6,988,776**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	407,467	791,261
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**407,467**	**791,261**
FIJI	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	124,413	600,657
Subtotal: FIJI		**124,413**	**600,657**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	12,690	100,728
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**12,690**	**100,728**
GRENADA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,696	69,068
Subtotal: GRENADA		**5,696**	**69,068**
INDIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,103	27,448
Subtotal: INDIA		**2,103**	**27,448**
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	358,714	3,423,314
INDONESIA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	128,784	264,040
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**487,498**	**3,687,354**
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	2,343	54,082
JAPAN	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	124,942	287,654
Subtotal: JAPAN		**127,285**	**341,736**
LIBERIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	564	6,848
Subtotal: LIBERIA		**564**	**6,848**
MALAYSIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	65,868	610,777
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**65,868**	**610,777**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	7,303	77,049
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**7,303**	**77,049**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	903,192	1,761,143
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**903,192**	**1,761,143**
MAURITIUS	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	235	2,190
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**235**	**2,190**
MEXICO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	984	9,760
Subtotal: MEXICO		**984**	**9,760**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,023	5,639
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,023**	**5,639**
PANAMA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	781,727	9,657,238
Subtotal: PANAMA		**781,727**	**9,657,238**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	312,234	3,003,984
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	1,692	2,205
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**313,926**	**3,006,189**
SAUDI ARABIA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	489	3,200
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**489**	**3,200**
SENEGAL	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	5,969	23,876
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**5,969**	**23,876**
SINGAPORE	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	291,828	1,173,528
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**291,828**	**1,173,528**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	161,922	1,228,734
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**161,922**	**1,228,734**

SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	17,210	221,151
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BIGEYE FROZEN	2,341,793	4,754,503
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**2,359,003**	**4,975,654**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	96,896	1,119,937
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**96,896**	**1,119,937**
SURINAME	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	475	5,758
Subtotal: SURINAME		**475**	**5,758**
THAILAND	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	35,260	335,641
Subtotal: THAILAND		**35,260**	**335,641**
TONGA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	1,852	19,402
Subtotal: TONGA		**1,852**	**19,402**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	368,412	3,027,852
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**368,412**	**3,027,852**
URUGUAY	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	14,072	88,355
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**14,072**	**88,355**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	10,668	128,646
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**10,668**	**128,646**
VIET NAM	TUNA BIGEYE FRESH	415,156	3,399,698
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**415,156**	**3,399,698**
Grand Total: 2008		**8,058,860**	**46,738,587**

National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division

You asked for the following

Trade Type:	IMPORTS
From:	1999
Through:	2008
Product:	TUNA BLUEFIN
Countries:	ALL COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY

Note: If a month is not listed, then we do not have data for that month. Current data through December, 2008.

Country	Product Name	Kilos	Dollars
1999			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	2,126	31,668
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**2,126**	**31,668**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	103,834	956,501
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	11,769	119,465
Subtotal: CANADA		**115,603**	**1,075,966**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,240	4,767
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**1,240**	**4,767**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	374	2,415
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**374**	**2,415**
FRANCE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	2,343	39,202
Subtotal: FRANCE		**2,343**	**39,202**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	2,320	21,505
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	753	7,530
Subtotal: GREECE		**3,073**	**29,035**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	21,845	283,621
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	3,511	65,061
Subtotal: ITALY		**25,356**	**348,682**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	913	24,359
Subtotal: JAPAN		**913**	**24,359**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	311,188	875,256
Subtotal: MEXICO		**311,188**	**875,256**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	41,898	652,452
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	79,137	840,383
Subtotal: SPAIN		**121,035**	**1,492,835**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	735	7,419
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**735**	**7,419**
Grand Total: 1999		**583,986**	**3,931,604**
2000			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	19,589	491,094
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**19,589**	**491,094**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	138,991	2,697,437
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	483	7,046
Subtotal: CANADA		**139,474**	**2,704,483**

CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	4,351	74,852
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**4,351**	**74,852**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	2,761	34,484
Subtotal: GREECE		**2,761**	**34,484**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	12,029	230,661
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	3,030	30,551
Subtotal: ITALY		**15,059**	**261,212**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	354	24,536
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	11,498	86,472
Subtotal: JAPAN		**11,852**	**111,008**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	60,193	936,957
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	1,395	18,830
Subtotal: MEXICO		**61,588**	**955,787**
PORTUGAL	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,179	9,475
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**1,179**	**9,475**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	6,188	40,249
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**6,188**	**40,249**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	106,962	1,924,415
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	26,338	527,146
Subtotal: SPAIN		**133,300**	**2,451,561**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,198	10,582
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**1,198**	**10,582**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,644	10,875
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**1,644**	**10,875**
VIET NAM	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	2,250	21,453
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**2,250**	**21,453**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	165	4,537
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**165**	**4,537**
Grand Total: 2000		**400,598**	**7,181,652**
2001			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	69,881	1,610,679
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	326	7,985
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**70,207**	**1,618,664**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	131,073	2,464,619
Subtotal: CANADA		**131,073**	**2,464,619**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	997	19,940
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**997**	**19,940**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	718	2,148
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**718**	**2,148**
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	2,009	42,451
Subtotal: CROATIA		**2,009**	**42,451**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	8,214	138,579
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**8,214**	**138,579**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	29,401	271,164

Subtotal: GREECE		**29,401**	**271,164**
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	2,472	17,301
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**2,472**	**17,301**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	24,535	388,885
Subtotal: ITALY		**24,535**	**388,885**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	157	13,104
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	11,486	245,873
Subtotal: JAPAN		**11,643**	**258,977**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,054	9,585
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**1,054**	**9,585**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	37,487	332,250
Subtotal: MEXICO		**37,487**	**332,250**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	697	3,030
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**697**	**3,030**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	2,422	7,285
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**2,422**	**7,285**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	187,076	2,869,682
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	57,689	1,035,315
Subtotal: SPAIN		**244,765**	**3,904,997**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	5,286	79,513
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**5,286**	**79,513**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	53,274	371,798
Subtotal: TURKEY		**53,274**	**371,798**
VIET NAM	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	499	3,098
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**499**	**3,098**
Grand Total: 2001		**626,753**	**9,934,284**
2002			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	443,655	1,357,565
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	137,776	275,550
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**581,431**	**1,633,115**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	183,531	3,268,811
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	7,841	100,025
Subtotal: CANADA		**191,372**	**3,368,836**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	9,840	123,442
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**9,840**	**123,442**
ECUADOR	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,498	7,404
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**1,498**	**7,404**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	842	4,876
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**842**	**4,876**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	17,465	132,499
Subtotal: GREECE		**17,465**	**132,499**
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	454	5,339
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	16,993	50,769
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**17,447**	**56,108**

ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	24,128	353,277
Subtotal: ITALY		**24,128**	**353,277**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	11,049	159,915
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	16,717	199,213
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	18	2,670
Subtotal: JAPAN		**27,784**	**361,798**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,496	2,992
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**1,496**	**2,992**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	143,094	1,668,873
Subtotal: MEXICO		**143,094**	**1,668,873**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	1,022	5,502
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,022**	**5,502**
SINGAPORE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	994	11,880
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**994**	**11,880**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	911	2,571
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**911**	**2,571**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	282,240	4,561,396
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	30,959	548,062
Subtotal: SPAIN		**313,199**	**5,109,458**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	527	8,701
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**527**	**8,701**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	3,238	29,052
Subtotal: TURKEY		**3,238**	**29,052**
VIET NAM	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	3,448	36,540
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**3,448**	**36,540**
Grand Total: 2002		**1,339,736**	**12,916,924**
2003			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	183,388	784,431
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**183,388**	**784,431**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	173,210	2,754,028
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	712	5,748
Subtotal: CANADA		**173,922**	**2,759,776**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	512	17,069
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**512**	**17,069**
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,074	19,421
Subtotal: CROATIA		**1,074**	**19,421**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	2,745	36,930
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	655	8,395
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**3,400**	**45,325**
FRANCE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	702	14,774
Subtotal: FRANCE		**702**	**14,774**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	10,969	139,582
Subtotal: GREECE		**10,969**	**139,582**
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	88,200	176,400

Subtotal: INDONESIA		**88,200**	**176,400**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	30,128	510,219
Subtotal: ITALY		**30,128**	**510,219**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	31,335	507,310
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	49,202	587,742
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	277	6,330
Subtotal: JAPAN		**80,814**	**1,101,382**
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,014	10,840
Subtotal: MALTA		**1,014**	**10,840**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	840,495	8,965,549
Subtotal: MEXICO		**840,495**	**8,965,549**
MOROCCO	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	6,187	43,308
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**6,187**	**43,308**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	264,364	4,544,270
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	32,291	227,847
Subtotal: SPAIN		**296,655**	**4,772,117**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	46,638	794,192
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	1,432	10,023
Subtotal: TURKEY		**48,070**	**804,215**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,310	29,437
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**1,310**	**29,437**
VIET NAM	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	958	5,304
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**958**	**5,304**
Grand Total: 2003		**1,767,798**	**20,199,149**
2004			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	175,683	1,005,145
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	1,991	29,008
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**177,674**	**1,034,153**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	157,751	2,567,105
Subtotal: CANADA		**157,751**	**2,567,105**
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	29,821	208,742
Subtotal: CROATIA		**29,821**	**208,742**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	4,969	97,913
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**4,969**	**97,913**
FRANCE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	319	14,049
Subtotal: FRANCE		**319**	**14,049**
GERMANY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	2,782	32,643
Subtotal: GERMANY		**2,782**	**32,643**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	585	5,000
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	586	6,965
Subtotal: GREECE		**1,171**	**11,965**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	59,570	949,373
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	18,800	194,755
Subtotal: ITALY		**78,370**	**1,144,128**

JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	23,361	274,221
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	136,311	1,290,057
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	1,200	25,245
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	5,529	14,658
Subtotal: JAPAN		**166,401**	**1,604,181**
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,423	21,003
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	103	4,429
Subtotal: MALTA		**1,526**	**25,432**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	987,800	12,166,325
Subtotal: MEXICO		**987,800**	**12,166,325**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	7,206	40,720
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**7,206**	**40,720**
PORTUGAL	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	144	3,168
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**144**	**3,168**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	680	4,069
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**680**	**4,069**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	200,121	3,833,285
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	12,757	111,974
Subtotal: SPAIN		**212,878**	**3,945,259**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	11,093	156,107
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	2,061	20,072
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**13,154**	**176,179**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	36,688	767,947
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	14,942	187,043
Subtotal: TURKEY		**51,630**	**954,990**
Grand Total: 2004		**1,894,276**	**24,031,021**
2005			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	82,871	1,352,462
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	1,098	24,358
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**83,969**	**1,376,820**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	223,200	3,512,864
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	3,046	54,792
Subtotal: CANADA		**226,246**	**3,567,656**
COOK IS.	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	142	2,258
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**142**	**2,258**
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	14,929	315,023
Subtotal: CROATIA		**14,929**	**315,023**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	5,588	83,816
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**5,588**	**83,816**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,364	18,175
Subtotal: GREECE		**1,364**	**18,175**
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	750	12,580
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	19,700	388,464
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	156,990	2,400,416

Subtotal: INDONESIA		**177,440**	**2,801,460**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	24,838	435,577
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	4,691	173,286
Subtotal: ITALY		**29,529**	**608,863**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	8,876	513,092
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	62,281	2,078,617
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	176	10,065
Subtotal: JAPAN		**71,333**	**2,601,774**
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	16,965	348,312
Subtotal: MALTA		**16,965**	**348,312**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,053,413	12,630,119
Subtotal: MEXICO		**1,053,413**	**12,630,119**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	1,894	14,120
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,894**	**14,120**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	611	10,390
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	1,630	20,760
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**2,241**	**31,150**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	264,661	5,704,288
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	24,237	499,572
Subtotal: SPAIN		**288,898**	**6,203,860**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	35,941	630,108
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**35,941**	**630,108**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	8,172	165,569
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	4,286	98,583
Subtotal: TURKEY		**12,458**	**264,152**
VENEZUELA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	358	7,450
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**358**	**7,450**
Grand Total: 2005		**2,022,708**	**31,505,116**
2006			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	4,857	81,043
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	65,442	1,194,672
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	1,015	19,295
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**71,314**	**1,295,010**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	238,017	3,715,638
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	507	6,037
Subtotal: CANADA		**238,524**	**3,721,675**
COSTA RICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,505	5,310
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,505**	**5,310**
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	29,033	841,657
Subtotal: CROATIA		**29,033**	**841,657**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	4,962	79,572
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	3,150	200,933
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**8,112**	**280,505**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	1,124	29,009

Subtotal: GREECE		**1,124**	**29,009**
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	53,620	1,055,834
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**53,620**	**1,055,834**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	22,305	294,857
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	4,977	74,657
Subtotal: ITALY		**27,282**	**369,514**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	11,751	672,872
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	62,404	1,645,443
Subtotal: JAPAN		**74,155**	**2,318,315**
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	76,860	1,467,818
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	300	18,807
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	298	4,053
Subtotal: MALTA		**77,458**	**1,490,678**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	426,631	4,034,204
Subtotal: MEXICO		**426,631**	**4,034,204**
MOROCCO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	6,466	50,282
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**6,466**	**50,282**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	3,057	27,341
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**3,057**	**27,341**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	1,161	4,606
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**1,161**	**4,606**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	348	14,967
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**348**	**14,967**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	228,242	4,582,637
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	7,032	107,146
Subtotal: SPAIN		**235,274**	**4,689,783**
THAILAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	6,560	77,289
Subtotal: THAILAND		**6,560**	**77,289**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	147	3,230
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**147**	**3,230**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	44,071	1,012,324
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**44,071**	**1,012,324**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,215	31,459
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	1,029	67,161
Subtotal: TURKEY		**2,244**	**98,620**
VIET NAM	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	418	2,240
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**418**	**2,240**
Grand Total: 2006		**1,308,504**	**21,422,393**
2007			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	214	11,291
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	22,860	366,782
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	3,096	149,785
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**26,170**	**527,858**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	143,839	2,597,782

Subtotal: CANADA		**143,839**	**2,597,782**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	10,240	143,245
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**10,240**	**143,245**
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	9,783	274,062
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	29,558	1,319,600
Subtotal: CROATIA		**39,341**	**1,593,662**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	5,705	283,774
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**5,705**	**283,774**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,467	9,974
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**1,467**	**9,974**
GREECE	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	878	16,689
Subtotal: GREECE		**878**	**16,689**
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	38,510	495,820
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	109,550	1,802,423
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**148,060**	**2,298,243**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	29,152	458,896
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	1,493	101,949
Subtotal: ITALY		**30,645**	**560,845**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	18,509	696,502
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	25,218	1,150,034
Subtotal: JAPAN		**43,727**	**1,846,536**
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	25,471	749,491
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	5,455	303,998
Subtotal: MALTA		**30,926**	**1,053,489**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	703,150	5,759,222
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	5,233	57,564
Subtotal: MEXICO		**708,383**	**5,816,786**
MOROCCO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	16,940	170,125
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**16,940**	**170,125**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	1,567	11,011
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,567**	**11,011**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,299	10,948
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	220	2,179
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**1,519**	**13,127**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	2,423	44,661
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**2,423**	**44,661**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	172,932	2,482,682
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	451	12,177
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	476	16,184
Subtotal: SPAIN		**173,859**	**2,511,043**
SRI LANKA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,878	11,803
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**1,878**	**11,803**
THAILAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	13,710	154,630
Subtotal: THAILAND		**13,710**	**154,630**

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	147	4,212
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**147**	**4,212**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	3,517	99,090
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**3,517**	**99,090**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	10,678	337,588
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	4,875	279,658
Subtotal: TURKEY		**15,553**	**617,246**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	644	4,544
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**644**	**4,544**
URUGUAY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	448	2,460
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**448**	**2,460**
Grand Total: 2007		**1,421,586**	**20,392,835**
2008			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	8,031	147,979
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	3,184	178,715
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	25,494	558,799
AUSTRALIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	15,579	681,517
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**52,288**	**1,567,010**
BRAZIL	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	256	2,932
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**256**	**2,932**
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	151,003	2,135,293
CANADA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FRESH	2,409	26,560
Subtotal: CANADA		**153,412**	**2,161,853**
CHINA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	301	5,947
Subtotal: CHINA		**301**	**5,947**
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,000	47,993
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	30,637	848,592
CROATIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	2,012	114,653
Subtotal: CROATIA		**33,649**	**1,011,238**
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	4,543	65,869
CYPRUS	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	11,072	205,129
Subtotal: CYPRUS		**15,615**	**270,998**
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	5,853	89,013
INDONESIA	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	40,490	629,954
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**46,343**	**718,967**
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	30,179	538,255
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	288	17,035
ITALY	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	1,015	46,815
Subtotal: ITALY		**31,482**	**602,105**
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	14,838	527,032
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	6,143	286,037
JAPAN	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	8,931	466,427
Subtotal: JAPAN		**29,912**	**1,279,496**
MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	64,709	1,831,627

MALTA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	45,568	1,229,603
Subtotal: MALTA		**110,277**	**3,061,230**
MEXICO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	59,168	838,164
Subtotal: MEXICO		**59,168**	**838,164**
MOROCCO	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	7,708	132,722
MOROCCO	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	54	3,326
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**7,762**	**136,048**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	947	12,098
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**947**	**12,098**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	1,969	17,171
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**1,969**	**17,171**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	8,323	98,519
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**8,323**	**98,519**
SPAIN	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	75,819	2,051,969
Subtotal: SPAIN		**75,819**	**2,051,969**
THAILAND	TUNA BLUEFIN SOUTHERN FROZEN	8,630	91,235
Subtotal: THAILAND		**8,630**	**91,235**
TUNISIA	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	5,064	111,414
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**5,064**	**111,414**
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	979	31,507
TURKEY	TUNA BLUEFIN FROZEN	2,849	148,403
Subtotal: TURKEY		**3,828**	**179,910**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA BLUEFIN FRESH	800	4,400
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**800**	**4,400**
Grand Total: 2008		**645,845**	**14,222,704**

National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division

You asked for the following

Trade Type:	IMPORTS
From:	1999
Through:	2008
Product:	TUNA SKIPJACK
Countries:	ALL COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY

Note: If a month is not listed, then we do not have data for that month. Current data through December, 2008.

Country	Product Name	Kilos	Dollars
1999			
CHINA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	58,007	38,167
Subtotal: CHINA		**58,007**	**38,167**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	2,067,903	1,362,885
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**2,067,903**	**1,362,885**
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	336,354	431,249
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**336,354**	**431,249**
INDIA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	3,620	3,760
Subtotal: INDIA		**3,620**	**3,760**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	4,175,174	3,172,142
Subtotal: JAPAN		**4,175,174**	**3,172,142**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	530,708	249,224
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**530,708**	**249,224**
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	322,026	104,292
Subtotal: MEXICO		**322,026**	**104,292**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	1,800	5,692
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**1,800**	**5,692**
PANAMA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	13,013	18,458
Subtotal: PANAMA		**13,013**	**18,458**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	110,086	329,280
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**110,086**	**329,280**
SINGAPORE	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	619,614	585,973
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**619,614**	**585,973**
Grand Total: 1999		**8,238,305**	**6,301,122**
2000			
CHINA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	19,051	14,754
Subtotal: CHINA		**19,051**	**14,754**
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	657,842	2,207,295
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**657,842**	**2,207,295**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	174,379	509,338
Subtotal: JAPAN		**174,379**	**509,338**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	17,280	5,184
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**17,280**	**5,184**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	12,701	5,050

Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**12,701**	**5,050**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	510	2,409
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**510**	**2,409**
SPAIN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	15,760	3,940
Subtotal: SPAIN		**15,760**	**3,940**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	7,466	2,987
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**7,466**	**2,987**
Grand Total: 2000		**904,989**	**2,750,957**
2001			
COLOMBIA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	74,997	166,643
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**74,997**	**166,643**
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	101,161	75,471
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**101,161**	**75,471**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	257	4,740
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	130,610	339,906
Subtotal: JAPAN		**130,867**	**344,646**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	57,024	15,396
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**57,024**	**15,396**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	14,129	15,768
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**14,129**	**15,768**
Grand Total: 2001		**378,178**	**617,924**
2002			
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	63,991	39,239
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**63,991**	**39,239**
FIJI	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	602,803	425,261
Subtotal: FIJI		**602,803**	**425,261**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	130,129	331,669
Subtotal: JAPAN		**130,129**	**331,669**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	27,646	36,423
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**27,646**	**36,423**
VIET NAM	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	496	5,470
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**496**	**5,470**
Grand Total: 2002		**825,065**	**838,062**
2003			
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	19,718	12,897
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**19,718**	**12,897**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	111,811	315,486
Subtotal: JAPAN		**111,811**	**315,486**
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	37,817	39,038
Subtotal: MEXICO		**37,817**	**39,038**
PANAMA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	31,468	31,702
Subtotal: PANAMA		**31,468**	**31,702**
PERU	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	2,140	6,206
Subtotal: PERU		**2,140**	**6,206**

PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	17,947	24,387
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**17,947**	**24,387**
VIET NAM	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	3,798	3,988
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**3,798**	**3,988**
Grand Total: 2003		**224,699**	**433,704**
2004			
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	8,920	5,506
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**8,920**	**5,506**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	67,417	204,663
Subtotal: JAPAN		**67,417**	**204,663**
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	862	2,185
Subtotal: MEXICO		**862**	**2,185**
PANAMA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	7,167	7,900
Subtotal: PANAMA		**7,167**	**7,900**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	27,039	47,410
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**27,039**	**47,410**
VIET NAM	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	1,175	5,640
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,175**	**5,640**
Grand Total: 2004		**112,580**	**273,304**
2005			
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	62,384	173,851
Subtotal: JAPAN		**62,384**	**173,851**
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	539,062	392,790
Subtotal: MEXICO		**539,062**	**392,790**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	40,753	73,184
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**40,753**	**73,184**
VIET NAM	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	9,787	25,670
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**9,787**	**25,670**
Grand Total: 2005		**651,986**	**665,495**
2006			
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	103	6,381
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**103**	**6,381**
INDONESIA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	40,824	45,000
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**40,824**	**45,000**
ITALY	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	198	2,059
Subtotal: ITALY		**198**	**2,059**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	500	4,380
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	54,671	170,405
Subtotal: JAPAN		**55,171**	**174,785**
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	139,447	131,845
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	665,582	461,881
Subtotal: MEXICO		**805,029**	**593,726**
PANAMA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	5,375	8,295
Subtotal: PANAMA		**5,375**	**8,295**

PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	19,408	34,953
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**19,408**	**34,953**
VIET NAM	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	97,542	118,620
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**97,542**	**118,620**
Grand Total: 2006		**1,023,650**	**983,819**
2007			
COLOMBIA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	296,031	148,017
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**296,031**	**148,017**
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	3,906	51,269
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	5,511	4,253
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**9,417**	**55,522**
INDONESIA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	10,473	12,164
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**10,473**	**12,164**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	34,367	108,075
Subtotal: JAPAN		**34,367**	**108,075**
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	27,485	13,212
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	149,227	127,148
Subtotal: MEXICO		**176,712**	**140,360**
PANAMA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	84,345	78,431
Subtotal: PANAMA		**84,345**	**78,431**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	43,460	52,179
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**43,460**	**52,179**
SOLOMON IS.	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	106,688	53,344
Subtotal: SOLOMON IS.		**106,688**	**53,344**
VIET NAM	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	105,110	146,634
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**105,110**	**146,634**
Grand Total: 2007		**866,603**	**794,726**
2008			
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	8,750	23,100
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**8,750**	**23,100**
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	190	2,250
ECUADOR	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	94,178	93,588
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**94,368**	**95,838**
JAPAN	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	20,928	82,799
Subtotal: JAPAN		**20,928**	**82,799**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	2,254	2,240
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**2,254**	**2,240**
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	4,039	6,999
MEXICO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	374,239	321,985
Subtotal: MEXICO		**378,278**	**328,984**
NETHERLANDS	TUNA SKIPJACK FRESH	9,973	12,093
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS		**9,973**	**12,093**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	3,187	3,167
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**3,187**	**3,167**

PANAMA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	32,482	47,208
Subtotal: PANAMA		**32,482**	**47,208**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	15,110	32,218
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**15,110**	**32,218**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	115,396	141,937
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**115,396**	**141,937**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA SKIPJACK FROZEN	18,164	18,164
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**18,164**	**18,164**
Grand Total: 2008		**698,890**	**787,748**

National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division

You asked for the following

Trade Type:	IMPORTS
From:	1999
Through:	2008
Product:	TUNA YELLOWFIN
Countries:	ALL COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY

Note: If a month is not listed, then we do not have data for that month. Current data through December, 2008.

Country	Product Name	Kilos	Dollars
1999			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	178,016	1,382,523
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	1,206	11,173
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,881	15,446
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**181,103**	**1,409,142**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	39,526	245,699
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**39,526**	**245,699**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	109,501	228,001
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**109,501**	**228,001**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	14,549	102,833
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	30,216	89,841
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	499	3,300
Subtotal: CANADA		**45,264**	**195,974**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	170,541	894,797
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	2,449	8,807
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	83,503	443,617
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	2,826,817	2,890,441
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**3,083,310**	**4,237,662**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	21,778	143,138
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	24,310	94,531
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**46,088**	**237,669**
DENMARK	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	37,381	330,986
Subtotal: DENMARK		**37,381**	**330,986**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	106,116	745,737
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	21,412	15,660
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	394,330	132,356
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**521,858**	**893,753**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	14,212	45,317
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	48,756	144,628
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**62,968**	**189,945**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	211,431	890,430
Subtotal: FIJI		**211,431**	**890,430**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	23,644	170,475
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**23,644**	**170,475**

GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	154,941	635,957
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	323	2,133
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	11,438	87,403
Subtotal: GRENADA		**166,702**	**725,493**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,865	4,051
Subtotal: INDIA		**2,865**	**4,051**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,073,202	5,186,173
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	228,453	2,619,693
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,204,477	6,457,034
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**2,506,132**	**14,262,900**
ISRAEL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	6,184	17,050
Subtotal: ISRAEL		**6,184**	**17,050**
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,638	23,206
Subtotal: ITALY		**2,638**	**23,206**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	9,668	156,111
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	31,668	334,820
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	1,651,185	2,868,237
Subtotal: JAPAN		**1,692,521**	**3,359,168**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	181,805	1,462,024
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	43,440	142,868
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**225,245**	**1,604,892**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,978	17,856
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**2,978**	**17,856**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	430,917	402,786
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**430,917**	**402,786**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,438,436	4,574,725
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	107,307	35,782
Subtotal: MEXICO		**1,545,743**	**4,610,507**
MONGOLIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	16,665	165,451
Subtotal: MONGOLIA		**16,665**	**165,451**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	48,000	67,200
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	45,359	46,550
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**93,359**	**113,750**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	14,516	56,999
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**14,516**	**56,999**
NICARAGUA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,854	20,304
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**2,854**	**20,304**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	24,739	150,868
Subtotal: OMAN		**24,739**	**150,868**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	472,161	3,307,673
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	16,870	4,892
Subtotal: PANAMA		**489,031**	**3,312,565**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	16,103	51,628
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**16,103**	**51,628**

PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,393,951	13,522,035
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	746,283	4,801,255
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	2,030	14,919
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**3,142,264**	**18,338,209**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	380	7,153
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**380**	**7,153**
SAUDI ARABIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	662	2,150
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**662**	**2,150**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	10,593	24,003
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**10,593**	**24,003**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	374,894	2,145,555
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	91,314	259,750
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	576,344	1,976,629
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	187,339	230,588
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**1,229,891**	**4,612,522**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	128,905	301,795
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**128,905**	**301,795**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	471,541	413,907
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**471,541**	**413,907**
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,688	23,542
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	34,510	10,008
Subtotal: SPAIN		**36,198**	**33,550**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	6,527	33,908
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**6,527**	**33,908**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,977	41,712
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**8,977**	**41,712**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	62,993	309,478
Subtotal: THAILAND		**62,993**	**309,478**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	13,130	70,662
Subtotal: TONGA		**13,130**	**70,662**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,361,821	21,050,485
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	364	3,751
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**3,362,185**	**21,054,236**
TUNISIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,546	36,297
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**3,546**	**36,297**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	9,154	35,477
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**9,154**	**35,477**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	7,936	26,820
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**7,936**	**26,820**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	165,113	659,052
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**165,113**	**659,052**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	768,038	3,040,631
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	5,302	18,511
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**773,340**	**3,059,142**

WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	132,111	943,195
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,782	9,815
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**133,893**	**953,010**
Grand Total: 1999		**21,168,494**	**87,942,293**
2000			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	88,234	633,933
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**88,234**	**633,933**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	99,431	843,364
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**99,431**	**843,364**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	438,147	1,293,732
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**438,147**	**1,293,732**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	73,354	601,426
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,286	15,223
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	454	3,900
Subtotal: CANADA		**76,094**	**620,549**
CAPE VERDE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	12,526	92,483
Subtotal: CAPE VERDE		**12,526**	**92,483**
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	886	4,428
Subtotal: CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.		**886**	**4,428**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	409	2,612
Subtotal: CHILE		**409**	**2,612**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	7,900	89,100
Subtotal: CHINA		**7,900**	**89,100**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	146,212	761,033
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	19,958	64,000
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	122,415	303,871
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	54,099	64,621
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**342,684**	**1,193,525**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	31,541	222,931
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,577	11,278
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**33,118**	**234,209**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	286,813	2,173,575
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	6,065	24,518
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	277,637	964,243
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**570,515**	**3,162,336**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	24,586	200,005
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**24,586**	**200,005**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	20,375	65,262
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	177	2,895
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**20,552**	**68,157**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	986,252	3,124,518
Subtotal: FIJI		**986,252**	**3,124,518**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	67,967	545,508
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**67,967**	**545,508**

GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	165,825	874,455
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,922	15,431
Subtotal: GRENADA		**167,747**	**889,886**
ICELAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,979	5,682
Subtotal: ICELAND		**1,979**	**5,682**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	545	4,804
Subtotal: INDIA		**545**	**4,804**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	766,237	4,441,504
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	288,010	3,412,955
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,170,754	7,549,331
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	38,503	151,809
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**2,263,504**	**15,555,599**
IVORY COAST	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	7,048	35,962
Subtotal: IVORY COAST		**7,048**	**35,962**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	275	6,519
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	530	4,470
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	75,000	189,674
Subtotal: JAPAN		**75,805**	**200,663**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	127,545	1,100,041
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**127,545**	**1,100,041**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	17,205	105,804
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**17,205**	**105,804**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,852	5,666
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**1,852**	**5,666**
MARTINIQUE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,175	5,180
Subtotal: MARTINIQUE		**1,175**	**5,180**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,119,564	4,528,833
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,744	8,396
Subtotal: MEXICO		**1,122,308**	**4,537,229**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	18,000	25,200
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**18,000**	**25,200**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,753	6,563
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,753**	**6,563**
NORWAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,368	19,236
Subtotal: NORWAY		**2,368**	**19,236**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	21,491	101,086
Subtotal: OMAN		**21,491**	**101,086**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	811,314	4,898,634
Subtotal: PANAMA		**811,314**	**4,898,634**
PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	26,669	120,848
PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,069	6,755
Subtotal: PERU		**27,738**	**127,603**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,247,116	14,494,892
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	658,064	3,882,498

PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	343	3,405
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**2,905,523**	**18,380,795**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	7,816	59,215
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**7,816**	**59,215**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	140,015	838,524
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	331,373	1,253,589
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	57,075	179,645
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**528,463**	**2,271,758**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	231,586	859,703
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	4,802	33,683
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	997	7,592
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**237,385**	**900,978**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	37,260	53,760
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	45,560	101,905
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**82,820**	**155,665**
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	12,339	152,141
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,310	4,008
Subtotal: SPAIN		**13,649**	**156,149**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	17,517	112,781
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**17,517**	**112,781**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	13,521	81,152
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**13,521**	**81,152**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	77,068	402,610
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	32,376	207,128
Subtotal: THAILAND		**109,444**	**609,738**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	78,197	388,519
Subtotal: TONGA		**78,197**	**388,519**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,900,393	14,626,504
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**2,900,393**	**14,626,504**
TUNISIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	14,856	152,780
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**14,856**	**152,780**
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,068	7,168
Subtotal: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		**1,068**	**7,168**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	9,764	60,598
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	27,427	24,640
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**37,191**	**85,238**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	298,077	1,252,892
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**298,077**	**1,252,892**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,483,146	8,954,221
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	20,000	54,000
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,503,146**	**9,008,221**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	256,148	1,022,057
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**256,148**	**1,022,057**
Grand Total: 2000		**16,443,892**	**89,004,907**

2001			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	214,309	1,500,952
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**214,309**	**1,500,952**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	135,979	1,148,546
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**135,979**	**1,148,546**
BOTSWANA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,037	11,001
Subtotal: BOTSWANA		**2,037**	**11,001**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,235,739	3,700,757
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,235,739**	**3,700,757**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	93,551	666,809
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,475	14,625
Subtotal: CANADA		**95,026**	**681,434**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	500	3,498
Subtotal: CHILE		**500**	**3,498**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,124	17,601
Subtotal: CHINA		**3,124**	**17,601**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	237,498	1,417,855
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	11,127	35,220
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	5,499	4,941
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**254,124**	**1,458,016**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	198,411	1,106,294
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**198,411**	**1,106,294**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	402,211	3,025,689
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	21,500	16,125
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**423,711**	**3,041,814**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,622	35,665
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**4,622**	**35,665**
FALKLAND IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	10,110	84,577
Subtotal: FALKLAND IS.		**10,110**	**84,577**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,741	18,976
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	83,882	252,706
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**85,623**	**271,682**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	799,113	2,509,822
Subtotal: FIJI		**799,113**	**2,509,822**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	200,965	1,502,500
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**200,965**	**1,502,500**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	428,860	2,319,760
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	12,413	85,283
Subtotal: GRENADA		**441,273**	**2,405,043**
GUATEMALA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,897	17,565
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**3,897**	**17,565**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	708,674	4,422,140
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	563,847	6,593,102
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,065,980	7,044,823

INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	717,262	1,636,131
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,055,763**	**19,696,196**
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,331	66,002
Subtotal: ITALY		**8,331**	**66,002**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,399	36,320
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,268	10,447
Subtotal: JAPAN		**5,667**	**46,767**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	83,409	672,488
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**83,409**	**672,488**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	70,000	603,445
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**70,000**	**603,445**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,411	13,351
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**1,411**	**13,351**
MARTINIQUE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,827	29,638
Subtotal: MARTINIQUE		**4,827**	**29,638**
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	799	8,013
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**799**	**8,013**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	914,931	3,771,488
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,637	9,211
Subtotal: MEXICO		**917,568**	**3,780,699**
NAMIBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,912	30,471
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**8,912**	**30,471**
NETHERLANDS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	14,722	165,685
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS		**14,722**	**165,685**
NEW CALEDONIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	19,808	155,238
Subtotal: NEW CALEDONIA		**19,808**	**155,238**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,119	48,441
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**8,119**	**48,441**
NICARAGUA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	5,177	23,801
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**5,177**	**23,801**
NORWAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	12,100	18,392
Subtotal: NORWAY		**12,100**	**18,392**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	91,504	697,798
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	500	3,762
Subtotal: OMAN		**92,004**	**701,560**
PALAU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,900	28,661
Subtotal: PALAU		**3,900**	**28,661**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	807,552	5,320,215
Subtotal: PANAMA		**807,552**	**5,320,215**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	569	3,138
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**569**	**3,138**
PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	16,241	98,349
Subtotal: PERU		**16,241**	**98,349**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,034,197	13,082,256

PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,036,156	6,076,215
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	38,287	76,447
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**3,108,640**	**19,234,918**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,824	18,500
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**2,824**	**18,500**
SAUDI ARABIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,221	3,662
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**1,221**	**3,662**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	98,029	521,262
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	253,444	1,115,391
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	57,111	190,420
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**408,584**	**1,827,073**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	241,343	1,245,226
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,040	4,508
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**242,383**	**1,249,734**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	8,981	23,144
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**8,981**	**23,144**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	25,970	191,455
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**25,970**	**191,455**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	34,318	153,997
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**34,318**	**153,997**
SURINAME	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	25,927	38,891
Subtotal: SURINAME		**25,927**	**38,891**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	105,233	552,069
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	13,500	61,467
Subtotal: THAILAND		**118,733**	**613,536**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	191,022	1,008,760
Subtotal: TONGA		**191,022**	**1,008,760**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,480,900	12,743,105
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	28,465	60,065
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**2,509,365**	**12,803,170**
UGANDA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,107	11,065
Subtotal: UGANDA		**1,107**	**11,065**
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	515	6,328
Subtotal: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		**515**	**6,328**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	18,817	127,642
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**18,817**	**127,642**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	674,157	2,668,685
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**674,157**	**2,668,685**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,319,428	15,205,928
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	29,543	115,402
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**2,348,971**	**15,321,330**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	563,882	2,637,814
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**563,882**	**2,637,814**
Grand Total: 2001		**19,530,859**	**108,947,021**

2002			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	152,000	1,073,160
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	998	9,480
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**152,998**	**1,082,640**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	102,351	903,651
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**102,351**	**903,651**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	947,938	3,108,782
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**947,938**	**3,108,782**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	47,571	361,255
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,041	18,450
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	5,295	25,706
Subtotal: CANADA		**54,907**	**405,411**
CAPE VERDE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,013	5,927
Subtotal: CAPE VERDE		**1,013**	**5,927**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	886	5,759
Subtotal: CHILE		**886**	**5,759**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	6,201	49,606
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	44,770	89,540
Subtotal: CHINA		**50,971**	**139,146**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	72,322	388,303
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	5,460	61,563
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	9,179	10,618
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**86,961**	**460,484**
COLOMBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,198	15,386
COLOMBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	12,590	88,130
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**14,788**	**103,516**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,091,476	5,840,791
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,091,476**	**5,840,791**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	737,496	5,240,564
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	8,324	64,755
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	206,376	229,461
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**952,196**	**5,534,780**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	16,593	126,825
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**16,593**	**126,825**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,984	19,860
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	20,888	69,374
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**22,872**	**89,234**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	804,129	2,289,833
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	96,628	79,335
Subtotal: FIJI		**900,757**	**2,369,168**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	111,619	788,596
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	13,733	59,056
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**125,352**	**847,652**
GREECE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	220	3,960

Subtotal: GREECE		**220**	**3,960**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	353,135	2,016,005
Subtotal: GRENADA		**353,135**	**2,016,005**
GUATEMALA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,866	7,439
GUATEMALA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	25,370	25,370
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**29,236**	**32,809**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	768,675	4,573,834
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	330,060	3,566,637
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,808,667	12,180,535
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	129,853	383,027
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,037,255**	**20,704,033**
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	310	4,601
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	18,234	203,960
Subtotal: ITALY		**18,544**	**208,561**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,939	40,618
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	39	3,002
Subtotal: JAPAN		**3,978**	**43,620**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	15,616	196,254
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**15,616**	**196,254**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	67,229	378,807
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**67,229**	**378,807**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	107,540	492,831
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**107,540**	**492,831**
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,707	34,014
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**8,707**	**34,014**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	995,802	4,365,541
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	5,950	29,750
Subtotal: MEXICO		**1,001,752**	**4,395,291**
NETHERLANDS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,460	10,802
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS		**1,460**	**10,802**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	19,000	23,100
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**19,000**	**23,100**
NEW CALEDONIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	7,980	22,890
Subtotal: NEW CALEDONIA		**7,980**	**22,890**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	5,480	15,489
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**5,480**	**15,489**
NICARAGUA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	5,705	38,422
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**5,705**	**38,422**
NIUE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,298	4,133
Subtotal: NIUE		**1,298**	**4,133**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,555	34,914
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	450	3,119
Subtotal: OMAN		**4,005**	**38,033**
PALAU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,481	24,225

Subtotal: PALAU		**2,481**	**24,225**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,023,301	7,042,229
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,023,301**	**7,042,229**
PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	1,914	5,742
Subtotal: PERU		**1,914**	**5,742**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,764,647	11,394,953
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,032,258	8,399,063
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	1,072	5,360
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**2,797,977**	**19,799,376**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,189	47,796
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**4,189**	**47,796**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	96,825	713,479
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**96,825**	**713,479**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	282,703	1,747,940
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	653,517	2,755,957
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**936,220**	**4,503,897**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	191,582	893,253
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**191,582**	**893,253**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	6,198	52,524
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	65,363	130,725
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**71,561**	**183,249**
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,270	33,593
Subtotal: SPAIN		**2,270**	**33,593**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	111,573	562,418
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**111,573**	**562,418**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	123,811	707,580
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	54,005	580,049
Subtotal: THAILAND		**177,816**	**1,287,629**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	119,679	625,704
Subtotal: TONGA		**119,679**	**625,704**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,448,433	13,529,847
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	25,521	112,530
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**2,473,954**	**13,642,377**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,348	4,017
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**1,348**	**4,017**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	19,888	142,398
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**19,888**	**142,398**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	473,774	1,767,958
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	214	2,317
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**473,988**	**1,770,275**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,528,220	21,781,130
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	13,284	26,567
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**2,541,504**	**21,807,697**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	327,468	1,757,898

Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**327,468**	**1,757,898**
Grand Total: 2002		**20,585,737**	**124,530,072**
2003			
ARGENTINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	956	3,824
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**956**	**3,824**
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	105,957	1,009,481
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**105,957**	**1,009,481**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	122,057	951,994
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**122,057**	**951,994**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	770,419	2,873,049
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**770,419**	**2,873,049**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	57,684	437,026
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,238	13,650
Subtotal: CANADA		**58,922**	**450,676**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,879	23,592
Subtotal: CHILE		**3,879**	**23,592**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,320	9,423
Subtotal: CHINA		**1,320**	**9,423**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	168,069	872,487
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	41,373	202,358
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**209,442**	**1,074,845**
COLOMBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,758	10,548
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**1,758**	**10,548**
COOK IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	14,453	64,434
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**14,453**	**64,434**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,056,667	5,695,673
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,056,667**	**5,695,673**
CROATIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	13,608	106,906
Subtotal: CROATIA		**13,608**	**106,906**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	756,796	5,453,460
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	86,528	418,076
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**843,324**	**5,871,536**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	32,622	233,272
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**32,622**	**233,272**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	264	2,640
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	53,088	155,243
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**53,352**	**157,883**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	529,415	1,482,645
Subtotal: FIJI		**529,415**	**1,482,645**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	70,147	473,159
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**70,147**	**473,159**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	462,137	3,094,369
Subtotal: GRENADA		**462,137**	**3,094,369**
HONDURAS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	10,902	38,885

Subtotal: HONDURAS		**10,902**	**38,885**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	967	9,593
Subtotal: INDIA		**967**	**9,593**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	379,734	2,442,104
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	266,560	2,862,642
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,103,968	15,559,594
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	67,643	308,430
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**2,817,905**	**21,172,770**
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	12,732	84,095
Subtotal: ITALY		**12,732**	**84,095**
IVORY COAST	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,580	3,640
Subtotal: IVORY COAST		**1,580**	**3,640**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,891	25,767
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	11,481	156,032
Subtotal: JAPAN		**13,372**	**181,799**
KIRIBATI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	773	7,919
Subtotal: KIRIBATI		**773**	**7,919**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	119,766	1,014,661
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,225	12,648
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**120,991**	**1,027,309**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	64,347	330,039
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**64,347**	**330,039**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	70,352	214,391
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**70,352**	**214,391**
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	5,910	19,740
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**5,910**	**19,740**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	897,177	3,364,976
Subtotal: MEXICO		**897,177**	**3,364,976**
NAMIBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	920	2,779
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**920**	**2,779**
NEW CALEDONIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,489	16,493
Subtotal: NEW CALEDONIA		**2,489**	**16,493**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	5,047	15,381
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**5,047**	**15,381**
NICARAGUA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,468	11,037
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**1,468**	**11,037**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	361	3,552
Subtotal: OMAN		**361**	**3,552**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,292,516	10,331,665
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	11,196	32,520
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	3,800	11,894
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,307,512**	**10,376,079**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	75,374	436,566
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**75,374**	**436,566**

PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	783	6,902
Subtotal: PERU		**783**	**6,902**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,522,710	10,548,963
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,496,632	12,746,778
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	728	2,409
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**3,020,070**	**23,298,150**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,904	12,992
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**1,904**	**12,992**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	76,487	657,724
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**76,487**	**657,724**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	344,022	2,256,582
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	805,722	3,953,218
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	116,565	409,088
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**1,266,309**	**6,618,888**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	375,969	1,550,856
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**375,969**	**1,550,856**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,406	46,868
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	8,680	105,588
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**13,086**	**152,456**
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	370	5,360
Subtotal: SPAIN		**370**	**5,360**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	190,938	1,112,342
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**190,938**	**1,112,342**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	307,946	1,703,710
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	87,250	641,418
Subtotal: THAILAND		**395,196**	**2,345,128**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	97,428	459,995
Subtotal: TONGA		**97,428**	**459,995**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,808,536	11,877,044
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	45,694	203,473
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**1,854,230**	**12,080,517**
UKRAINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,132	5,195
Subtotal: UKRAINE		**1,132**	**5,195**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	846	2,537
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**846**	**2,537**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	42,389	300,780
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**42,389**	**300,780**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	489,180	1,568,306
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**489,180**	**1,568,306**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,700,309	19,652,036
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	298,413	1,579,964
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	54,539	176,123
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**3,053,261**	**21,408,123**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	238,669	1,220,933

Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**238,669**	**1,220,933**
Grand Total: 2003		**20,878,861**	**133,711,536**
2004			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	28,253	313,341
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**28,253**	**313,341**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	143,739	1,134,934
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**143,739**	**1,134,934**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,238,881	7,735,211
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,238,881**	**7,735,211**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	219,314	2,048,777
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	2,913	32,496
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	4,919	54,061
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	39,268	113,420
Subtotal: CANADA		**266,414**	**2,248,754**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,052	56,587
Subtotal: CHILE		**8,052**	**56,587**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	41,695	165,015
Subtotal: CHINA		**41,695**	**165,015**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	197,954	1,140,750
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**197,954**	**1,140,750**
COLOMBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,393	18,290
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**2,393**	**18,290**
COOK IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	18,966	151,065
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**18,966**	**151,065**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,211,262	6,864,357
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,211,262**	**6,864,357**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,741	11,887
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**1,741**	**11,887**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	361,242	2,540,624
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	65,070	429,664
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**426,312**	**2,970,288**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	69,905	277,652
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**69,905**	**277,652**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	34,890	89,853
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**34,890**	**89,853**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	692,070	2,284,581
Subtotal: FIJI		**692,070**	**2,284,581**
FRANCE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	513	5,137
Subtotal: FRANCE		**513**	**5,137**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	59,015	350,818
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**59,015**	**350,818**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	261,191	1,760,080
Subtotal: GRENADA		**261,191**	**1,760,080**
GUATEMALA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	6,399	46,504

Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**6,399**	**46,504**
GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,705	12,093
Subtotal: GUINEA		**1,705**	**12,093**
HONDURAS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	1,237	2,721
Subtotal: HONDURAS		**1,237**	**2,721**
ICELAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,137	4,361
Subtotal: ICELAND		**1,137**	**4,361**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,167	13,835
Subtotal: INDIA		**3,167**	**13,835**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	671,304	4,920,913
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	94,080	912,655
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,147,042	16,626,218
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	847,853	3,796,724
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,760,279**	**26,256,510**
ISRAEL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	768	3,900
Subtotal: ISRAEL		**768**	**3,900**
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,383	27,476
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	250	2,448
Subtotal: ITALY		**3,633**	**29,924**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	12,512	122,974
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	537	7,125
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	12,000	149,835
Subtotal: JAPAN		**25,049**	**279,934**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	167,485	1,478,339
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	18,144	139,250
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**185,629**	**1,617,589**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	162,329	1,080,496
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**162,329**	**1,080,496**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	109,340	334,996
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**109,340**	**334,996**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,153,542	4,787,369
Subtotal: MEXICO		**1,153,542**	**4,787,369**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,376	13,729
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**3,376**	**13,729**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	16,351	115,788
Subtotal: OMAN		**16,351**	**115,788**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	938,865	8,171,169
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,000	2,832
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	7,433	14,865
Subtotal: PANAMA		**947,298**	**8,188,866**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	39,556	222,721
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**39,556**	**222,721**
PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	770	3,500
Subtotal: PERU		**770**	**3,500**

PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,762,559	12,043,958
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	779,213	6,227,829
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	716,090	1,529,345
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**3,257,862**	**19,801,132**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	12,767	204,899
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**12,767**	**204,899**
SENEGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	413	4,134
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**413**	**4,134**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	19,716	112,745
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	282,873	1,163,471
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**302,589**	**1,276,216**
SOLOMON IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,545	7,462
Subtotal: SOLOMON IS.		**3,545**	**7,462**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	134,503	549,001
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**134,503**	**549,001**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,095	26,028
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	2,152	19,369
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	10,820	115,677
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**16,067**	**161,074**
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,979	47,378
Subtotal: SPAIN		**2,979**	**47,378**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	116,732	1,221,122
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**116,732**	**1,221,122**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	372,147	1,956,935
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	15,196	144,800
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	43,348	278,789
Subtotal: THAILAND		**430,691**	**2,380,524**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	32,952	133,854
Subtotal: TONGA		**32,952**	**133,854**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,198,742	15,836,718
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	65,332	288,039
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**2,264,074**	**16,124,757**
TUNISIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	575	5,852
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**575**	**5,852**
TURKEY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	7,548	37,738
Subtotal: TURKEY		**7,548**	**37,738**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	44,818	294,731
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,252	6,756
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**47,070**	**301,487**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	668,436	2,333,980
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	7,728	53,640
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**676,164**	**2,387,620**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,217,011	15,523,656
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	18,244	85,444

VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	298,598	2,274,459
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	273,264	628,105
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**2,807,117**	**18,511,664**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	218,997	1,016,078
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**218,997**	**1,016,078**
Grand Total: 2004		**21,457,456**	**134,765,428**
2005			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	32,927	431,837
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**32,927**	**431,837**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	186,425	1,527,576
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**186,425**	**1,527,576**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,462,077	10,834,481
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,462,077**	**10,834,481**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	174,142	1,544,337
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	2,062	20,250
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	4,513	41,863
Subtotal: CANADA		**180,717**	**1,606,450**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	20,530	130,900
Subtotal: CHILE		**20,530**	**130,900**
CHINA - HONG KONG	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	935	8,699
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**935**	**8,699**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	251,000	1,278,717
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	18,289	105,059
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**269,289**	**1,383,776**
COLOMBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,934	26,310
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**2,934**	**26,310**
COOK IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	51,833	381,062
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**51,833**	**381,062**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,206,862	9,695,715
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,206,862**	**9,695,715**
DOMINICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,270	14,000
Subtotal: DOMINICA		**1,270**	**14,000**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	904	2,048
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**904**	**2,048**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	371,164	2,757,808
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	80,008	495,889
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	8,688	17,376
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**459,860**	**3,271,073**
EL SALVADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	5,043	23,834
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**5,043**	**23,834**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	13,476	40,322
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**13,476**	**40,322**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	653,952	2,047,723
Subtotal: FIJI		**653,952**	**2,047,723**

FRANCE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	492	3,932
Subtotal: FRANCE		**492**	**3,932**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	11,701	105,822
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**11,701**	**105,822**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	266,237	2,032,887
Subtotal: GRENADA		**266,237**	**2,032,887**
GUYANA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,568	10,371
Subtotal: GUYANA		**1,568**	**10,371**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,316	15,442
Subtotal: INDIA		**4,316**	**15,442**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	466,548	3,457,038
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	3,562,816	29,165,574
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**4,029,364**	**32,622,612**
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,552	47,849
Subtotal: ITALY		**8,552**	**47,849**
IVORY COAST	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	788	5,043
Subtotal: IVORY COAST		**788**	**5,043**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,895	102,186
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	15,918	53,269
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	1,723	17,467
Subtotal: JAPAN		**26,536**	**172,922**
MADAGASCAR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,635	9,001
Subtotal: MADAGASCAR		**1,635**	**9,001**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	141,106	1,314,465
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	52,843	395,029
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**193,949**	**1,709,494**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	25,462	155,462
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**25,462**	**155,462**
MALTA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,466	46,560
Subtotal: MALTA		**4,466**	**46,560**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	342,209	1,153,734
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**342,209**	**1,153,734**
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	31,378	282,330
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**31,378**	**282,330**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	999,637	4,570,729
Subtotal: MEXICO		**999,637**	**4,570,729**
NETHERLANDS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	510	12,596
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS		**510**	**12,596**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,540	9,976
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**2,540**	**9,976**
NIUE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	411	2,053
Subtotal: NIUE		**411**	**2,053**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,678	20,348
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	136,946	961,434

Subtotal: OMAN		**139,624**	**981,782**
PALAU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	55,666	131,789
Subtotal: PALAU		**55,666**	**131,789**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	619,379	5,603,319
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	12,971	106,974
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	20,670	41,340
Subtotal: PANAMA		**653,020**	**5,751,633**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	14,940	78,466
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**14,940**	**78,466**
PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,102	10,026
Subtotal: PERU		**2,102**	**10,026**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,544,784	16,403,322
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,317,617	11,414,711
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	183,642	379,539
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**4,046,043**	**28,197,572**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	267	4,806
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**267**	**4,806**
SENEGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	22,148	69,427
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**22,148**	**69,427**
SEYCHELLES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,437	12,471
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**1,437**	**12,471**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	229,719	1,364,977
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	93,266	403,620
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**322,985**	**1,768,597**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	258,921	1,611,427
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**258,921**	**1,611,427**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	21,581	151,130
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**21,581**	**151,130**
SPAIN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	10,758	179,821
Subtotal: SPAIN		**10,758**	**179,821**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	389,901	3,368,495
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**389,901**	**3,368,495**
SURINAME	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	58,621	195,802
Subtotal: SURINAME		**58,621**	**195,802**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	206,503	1,427,654
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	217,056	1,511,954
Subtotal: THAILAND		**423,559**	**2,939,608**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	20,894	104,316
Subtotal: TONGA		**20,894**	**104,316**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,635,426	20,860,674
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	48,198	228,359
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**2,683,624**	**21,089,033**
TUNISIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,864	50,380
Subtotal: TUNISIA		**2,864**	**50,380**

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	662	6,469
Subtotal: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		**662**	**6,469**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	320,530	1,755,952
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**320,530**	**1,755,952**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	420,577	2,151,772
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**420,577**	**2,151,772**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,377,510	16,500,008
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	188,027	1,330,377
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**2,565,537**	**17,830,385**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	129,396	638,743
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**129,396**	**638,743**
Grand Total: 2005		**23,066,442**	**163,474,523**
2006			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	69,313	682,142
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**69,313**	**682,142**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	147,129	1,111,744
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**147,129**	**1,111,744**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	949,934	7,092,411
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**949,934**	**7,092,411**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	220,170	2,359,140
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	272	2,242
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	311	4,362
Subtotal: CANADA		**220,753**	**2,365,744**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,834	40,490
Subtotal: CHILE		**4,834**	**40,490**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,173	5,865
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	9,871	46,814
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	40,732	51,800
Subtotal: CHINA		**51,776**	**104,479**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	125,250	625,971
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	79,545	641,337
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**204,795**	**1,267,308**
COLOMBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	465	4,218
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**465**	**4,218**
COOK IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,172	10,860
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**2,172**	**10,860**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,058,146	8,454,200
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	37,309	236,286
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	1,235	8,151
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**1,096,690**	**8,698,637**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,680	29,481
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**8,680**	**29,481**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	216,852	1,886,450
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	148,446	1,202,879

Subtotal: ECUADOR		**365,298**	**3,089,329**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	25,870	52,034
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**25,870**	**52,034**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	754,387	2,223,011
Subtotal: FIJI		**754,387**	**2,223,011**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	21,707	135,619
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**21,707**	**135,619**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	300,173	2,420,588
Subtotal: GRENADA		**300,173**	**2,420,588**
GUATEMALA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,479	8,874
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**1,479**	**8,874**
ICELAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,458	15,337
Subtotal: ICELAND		**2,458**	**15,337**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	26,362	132,326
Subtotal: INDIA		**26,362**	**132,326**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	236,770	1,595,613
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,354,266	18,979,715
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	13,836	99,416
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**2,604,872**	**20,674,744**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	20,160	357,202
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	10,817	139,972
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	5,518	11,036
Subtotal: JAPAN		**36,495**	**508,210**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	140,216	1,368,057
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	18,266	122,066
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	18,144	139,355
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**176,626**	**1,629,478**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	182,640	855,327
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,105	4,973
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**183,745**	**860,300**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	360,690	764,490
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	683	2,721
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**361,373**	**767,211**
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	15,126	128,141
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**15,126**	**128,141**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	815,797	3,976,400
Subtotal: MEXICO		**815,797**	**3,976,400**
MOROCCO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,015	10,639
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**1,015**	**10,639**
NETHERLANDS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	100	2,184
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS		**100**	**2,184**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	10,066	61,493
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**10,066**	**61,493**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	6,171	59,493

OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	172,313	1,343,648
Subtotal: OMAN		**178,484**	**1,403,141**
PALAU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	24,652	49,304
Subtotal: PALAU		**24,652**	**49,304**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	702,671	5,506,452
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,443	11,993
Subtotal: PANAMA		**704,114**	**5,518,445**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	11,828	34,966
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**11,828**	**34,966**
PERU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,562	16,655
Subtotal: PERU		**2,562**	**16,655**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,427,206	21,208,472
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,765,398	14,725,525
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**5,192,604**	**35,933,997**
SENEGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	202,856	1,435,111
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**202,856**	**1,435,111**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	159,182	930,980
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	196,907	1,053,644
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**356,089**	**1,984,624**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	349,515	2,143,469
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,649	26,266
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**352,164**	**2,169,735**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	16,486	237,312
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	16,915	227,941
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**33,401**	**465,253**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	615,074	5,201,449
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**615,074**	**5,201,449**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	10,036	139,765
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**10,036**	**139,765**
SURINAME	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	860	6,639
Subtotal: SURINAME		**860**	**6,639**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	280,623	1,877,678
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	170,245	1,091,717
Subtotal: THAILAND		**450,868**	**2,969,395**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	62,148	269,514
Subtotal: TONGA		**62,148**	**269,514**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,010,614	36,847,260
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	139,494	643,940
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**4,150,108**	**37,491,200**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	83,559	429,958
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**83,559**	**429,958**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	463,798	2,345,320
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**463,798**	**2,345,320**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,505,514	10,889,441

VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	192,905	1,534,761
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	16,884	51,209
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,715,303**	**12,475,411**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	163,826	803,171
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**163,826**	**803,171**
Grand Total: 2006		**23,233,824**	**169,246,485**
2007			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	25,243	268,956
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**25,243**	**268,956**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	103,673	799,753
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**103,673**	**799,753**
BELIZE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	14,477	254,228
Subtotal: BELIZE		**14,477**	**254,228**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	258,416	1,288,247
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**258,416**	**1,288,247**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	222,194	2,360,467
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,752	19,642
Subtotal: CANADA		**223,946**	**2,380,109**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	7,306	59,581
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	19,958	148,800
Subtotal: CHILE		**27,264**	**208,381**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	960	4,395
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	102,721	610,848
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	903	3,333
Subtotal: CHINA		**104,584**	**618,576**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	258,664	1,338,096
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	31,169	262,098
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**289,833**	**1,600,194**
COOK IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	994	2,256
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**994**	**2,256**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	836,912	7,328,071
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,455	9,227
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**838,367**	**7,337,298**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,889	18,600
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**3,889**	**18,600**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	196,807	1,727,836
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	14,646	116,503
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**211,453**	**1,844,339**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	78,513	157,975
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**78,513**	**157,975**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	565,034	2,010,395
Subtotal: FIJI		**565,034**	**2,010,395**
FRANCE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	11,496	52,574
Subtotal: FRANCE		**11,496**	**52,574**

FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,448	68,170
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**8,448**	**68,170**
GHANA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	282,044	2,861,750
Subtotal: GHANA		**282,044**	**2,861,750**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	536,519	4,377,774
Subtotal: GRENADA		**536,519**	**4,377,774**
GUYANA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	5,069	27,938
Subtotal: GUYANA		**5,069**	**27,938**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	29,840	200,953
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	54,879	374,164
Subtotal: INDIA		**84,719**	**575,117**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	287,450	1,686,462
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	5,344	48,507
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	2,263,036	20,116,219
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	20,140	153,200
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**2,575,970**	**22,004,388**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,167	98,064
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	900	19,819
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	350	2,191
Subtotal: JAPAN		**5,417**	**120,074**
LIBERIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	15,748	190,941
Subtotal: LIBERIA		**15,748**	**190,941**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	409,828	3,748,525
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	56,996	427,883
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**466,824**	**4,176,408**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	248,711	1,244,255
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	834	3,753
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**249,545**	**1,248,008**
MALTA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	19,761	98,808
Subtotal: MALTA		**19,761**	**98,808**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	113,160	233,994
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**113,160**	**233,994**
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	12,659	128,827
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	46,615	352,166
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**59,274**	**480,993**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	741,130	3,443,939
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	9,977	19,700
Subtotal: MEXICO		**751,107**	**3,463,639**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,684	13,423
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**4,684**	**13,423**
NIUE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	20,997	98,938
Subtotal: NIUE		**20,997**	**98,938**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,921	12,167
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	151,623	1,173,505

Subtotal: OMAN		**153,544**	**1,185,672**
PALAU	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	8,175	16,348
Subtotal: PALAU		**8,175**	**16,348**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,689,194	15,457,599
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,689,194**	**15,457,599**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	24,834	139,610
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**24,834**	**139,610**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,487,758	23,435,642
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,662,783	13,091,030
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**5,150,541**	**36,526,672**
SENEGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,141,323	7,975,709
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**1,141,323**	**7,975,709**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	51,074	295,720
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	8,716	94,098
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**59,790**	**389,818**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	236,934	1,477,702
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**236,934**	**1,477,702**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,613	43,497
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	12,275	154,005
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	81,896	323,514
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**98,784**	**521,016**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	748,963	6,810,946
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	10,590	94,831
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**759,553**	**6,905,777**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,658	29,299
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	7,977	140,254
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**10,635**	**169,553**
SURINAME	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,229	13,546
Subtotal: SURINAME		**1,229**	**13,546**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	183,272	1,368,555
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	456,383	3,766,411
Subtotal: THAILAND		**639,655**	**5,134,966**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	21,696	111,265
Subtotal: TONGA		**21,696**	**111,265**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,713,469	25,085,912
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	330,990	1,485,532
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**3,044,459**	**26,571,444**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	9,781	17,090
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**9,781**	**17,090**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	614,625	7,059,669
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**614,625**	**7,059,669**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,582,250	11,397,236
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	112,187	858,049
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,694,437**	**12,255,285**

WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	176,208	874,563
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**176,208**	**874,563**
Grand Total: 2007		**23,491,865**	**181,685,548**
2008			
AUSTRALIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	38,053	418,106
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**38,053**	**418,106**
BARBADOS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	79,936	585,003
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**79,936**	**585,003**
BELGIUM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	3,026	53,141
Subtotal: BELGIUM		**3,026**	**53,141**
BELIZE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	32,162	564,512
Subtotal: BELIZE		**32,162**	**564,512**
BRAZIL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	209,420	1,150,238
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**209,420**	**1,150,238**
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	128,819	1,461,038
CANADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,150	20,212
Subtotal: CANADA		**129,969**	**1,481,250**
CAPE VERDE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,576	27,051
Subtotal: CAPE VERDE		**2,576**	**27,051**
CHILE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,006	17,899
Subtotal: CHILE		**2,006**	**17,899**
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	6,368	18,398
CHINA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	10,248	21,974
Subtotal: CHINA		**16,616**	**40,372**
CHINA - HONG KONG	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	934	8,852
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**934**	**8,852**
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	70,577	390,821
CHINA - TAIPEI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	7,685	100,157
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**78,262**	**490,978**
COLOMBIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,114	9,820
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**1,114**	**9,820**
COSTA RICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	876,068	7,455,959
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**876,068**	**7,455,959**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	247	2,995
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**247**	**2,995**
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	781,652	6,537,838
ECUADOR	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	21,221	292,661
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**802,873**	**6,830,499**
FED STATES OF MICRON	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	53,478	104,069
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**53,478**	**104,069**
FIJI	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	901,319	3,317,074
Subtotal: FIJI		**901,319**	**3,317,074**
FRENCH POLYNESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	7,175	62,435
Subtotal: FRENCH POLYNESIA		**7,175**	**62,435**

GHANA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,180,817	11,788,211
Subtotal: GHANA		**1,180,817**	**11,788,211**
GRENADA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	498,449	4,073,955
Subtotal: GRENADA		**498,449**	**4,073,955**
INDIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	61,738	685,335
Subtotal: INDIA		**61,738**	**685,335**
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	566,980	4,874,483
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	5,700	73,200
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	997,702	9,632,730
INDONESIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	481,491	962,981
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**2,051,873**	**15,543,394**
ITALY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	4,532	58,839
Subtotal: ITALY		**4,532**	**58,839**
JAPAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	11,731	103,900
Subtotal: JAPAN		**11,731**	**103,900**
LIBERIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	16,740	205,180
Subtotal: LIBERIA		**16,740**	**205,180**
MALAYSIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	530,982	5,403,281
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**530,982**	**5,403,281**
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	55,162	375,418
MALDIVE IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	93,360	782,543
Subtotal: MALDIVE IS.		**148,522**	**1,157,961**
MARSHALL IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	78,428	154,237
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**78,428**	**154,237**
MAURITIUS	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,915	25,930
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**2,915**	**25,930**
MEXICO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	792,972	3,754,860
Subtotal: MEXICO		**792,972**	**3,754,860**
NEW ZEALAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,044	9,780
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,044**	**9,780**
OMAN	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	113,946	935,034
Subtotal: OMAN		**113,946**	**935,034**
PANAMA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	888,658	7,435,751
Subtotal: PANAMA		**888,658**	**7,435,751**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	71,472	520,999
Subtotal: PAPUA NEW GUINEA		**71,472**	**520,999**
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	2,769,318	20,619,904
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,065,328	7,934,743
PHILIPPINES	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	76,898	153,796
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**3,911,544**	**28,708,443**
PITCAIRN IS.	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,017	6,122
Subtotal: PITCAIRN IS.		**1,017**	**6,122**
PORTUGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	723	6,136
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**723**	**6,136**

SAUDI ARABIA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	398	2,602
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**398**	**2,602**
SENEGAL	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	75,043	382,364
Subtotal: SENEGAL		**75,043**	**382,364**
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	193,577	1,137,374
SINGAPORE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	42,642	206,167
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**236,219**	**1,343,541**
SOUTH AFRICA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	103,691	735,301
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**103,691**	**735,301**
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	3,031	42,240
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	4,640	64,086
SOUTH KOREA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	6,540	114,250
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**14,211**	**220,576**
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	517,396	5,331,872
SRI LANKA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	7,097	79,729
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**524,493**	**5,411,601**
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	588	6,851
ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	1,483	26,092
Subtotal: ST.VINCENT-GRENADINE		**2,071**	**32,943**
SURINAME	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	493,313	4,360,180
Subtotal: SURINAME		**493,313**	**4,360,180**
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	277,422	2,494,457
THAILAND	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	215,992	1,958,956
Subtotal: THAILAND		**493,414**	**4,453,413**
TONGA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	32,894	194,181
Subtotal: TONGA		**32,894**	**194,181**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,644,139	15,695,905
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	293,020	1,291,564
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN WHOLE	13,718	54,872
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**1,950,877**	**17,042,341**
UNITED KINGDOM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	943	5,185
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**943**	**5,185**
URUGUAY	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	24,683	102,862
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**24,683**	**102,862**
VENEZUELA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	692,662	8,320,213
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**692,662**	**8,320,213**
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	1,127,899	9,150,882
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN EVISCERATED HEAD-ON	18,479	163,987
VIET NAM	TUNA YELLOWFIN FROZEN OTHER PREPARATIONS	255,170	1,943,587
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,401,548**	**11,258,456**
WESTERN SAMOA	TUNA YELLOWFIN FRESH	100,332	499,185
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**100,332**	**499,185**
Grand Total: 2008		**19,750,129**	**157,562,545**

National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division

You asked for the following

Trade Type:	IMPORTS
From:	1999
Through:	2008
Product:	SWORDFISH
Countries:	ALL COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY

Note: If a month is not listed, then we do not have data for that month. Current data through December, 2008.

Country	Product Name	Kilos	Dollars
1999			
ARGENTINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	18,144	33,600
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**18,144**	**33,600**
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,130,579	6,579,856
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	25,393	150,270
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	9,438	36,070
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**1,165,410**	**6,766,196**
BARBADOS	SWORDFISH FRESH	38,565	251,075
BARBADOS	SWORDFISH FROZEN	8,772	58,017
BARBADOS	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	520	3,441
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**47,857**	**312,533**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,690,462	4,233,250
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FROZEN	110,187	256,269
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	3,465	8,050
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,804,114**	**4,497,569**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	805,223	5,823,403
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	20,147	152,316
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	1,134	8,135
Subtotal: CANADA		**826,504**	**5,983,854**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	21,699	111,378
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,196,540	8,513,125
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	38,317	293,124
Subtotal: CHILE		**1,256,556**	**8,917,627**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	247,732	1,000,094
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	106,945	576,252
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FROZEN	16,523	75,846
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**371,200**	**1,652,192**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	163,665	1,020,367
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	13,194	112,252
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,377	7,443
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**178,236**	**1,140,062**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	126,805	667,794
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	5,752	44,022
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**132,557**	**711,816**

EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	7,263	37,840
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**7,263**	**37,840**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	30,841	149,589
Subtotal: FIJI		**30,841**	**149,589**
GRENADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,151	6,641
Subtotal: GRENADA		**3,151**	**6,641**
GUATEMALA	SWORDFISH FRESH	389	2,022
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**389**	**2,022**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	119,443	706,254
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**119,443**	**706,254**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	121,802	1,083,913
JAPAN	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	69,620	786,289
Subtotal: JAPAN		**191,422**	**1,870,202**
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	18,597	169,456
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**18,597**	**169,456**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	878,099	4,171,301
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FROZEN	3,638	16,007
Subtotal: MEXICO		**881,737**	**4,187,308**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	315,518	1,444,379
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,386	11,878
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**316,904**	**1,456,257**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	5,766	34,766
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**5,766**	**34,766**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	789	2,998
Subtotal: PANAMA		**789**	**2,998**
PERU	SWORDFISH FRESH	10,604	58,246
PERU	SWORDFISH FROZEN	6,105	35,482
Subtotal: PERU		**16,709**	**93,728**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	33,689	303,920
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	9,020	79,764
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**42,709**	**383,684**
SAUDI ARABIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,369	7,694
SAUDI ARABIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,575	4,720
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**3,944**	**12,414**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,814,650	21,078,155
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	134,297	752,164
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	302,986	2,068,898
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**4,251,933**	**23,899,217**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	991,167	2,111,087
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	50,289	151,136
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**1,041,456**	**2,262,223**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	518,080	3,859,779
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FROZEN	7,849	63,997
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**525,929**	**3,923,776**

URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	566,634	2,439,327
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FROZEN	7,657	30,628
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,896	7,582
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	513	2,898
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**576,700**	**2,480,435**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	6,389	29,919
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**6,389**	**29,919**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	321	2,088
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**321**	**2,088**
Grand Total: 1999		**13,842,970**	**71,726,266**
2000			
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	932,859	5,929,047
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	16,676	155,196
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,095	10,635
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	8,883	83,443
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**959,513**	**6,178,321**
BARBADOS	SWORDFISH FRESH	20,793	143,018
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**20,793**	**143,018**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,443,547	4,163,474
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FROZEN	6,815	15,675
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,450,362**	**4,179,149**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	682,929	6,107,396
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	50,660	446,962
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	2,064	14,504
Subtotal: CANADA		**735,653**	**6,568,862**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,038,647	8,133,166
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	30,414	253,516
Subtotal: CHILE		**1,069,061**	**8,386,682**
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	4,934	4,097
Subtotal: CHINA		**4,934**	**4,097**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	493,400	2,614,524
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	43,260	301,641
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FROZEN	39,141	230,926
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**575,801**	**3,147,091**
COLOMBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	408	2,697
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**408**	**2,697**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	393,083	2,504,142
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	680	5,984
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	817	6,382
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**394,580**	**2,516,508**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	36,981	120,620
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	330,748	2,116,877
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FROZEN	5,334	9,172
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	15,119	123,274

Subtotal: ECUADOR		**388,182**	**2,369,943**
EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	39,575	206,371
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**39,575**	**206,371**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	438	2,348
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	26,011	103,726
Subtotal: FIJI		**26,449**	**106,074**
GRENADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	32,654	284,453
Subtotal: GRENADA		**32,654**	**284,453**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	154,936	998,927
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	8,543	61,794
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	27,486	203,592
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**190,965**	**1,264,313**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	126,098	1,157,680
JAPAN	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	58,628	653,758
Subtotal: JAPAN		**184,726**	**1,811,438**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,609,244	8,229,992
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FROZEN	13,290	41,968
Subtotal: MEXICO		**1,622,534**	**8,271,960**
NAMIBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,646	16,765
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**3,646**	**16,765**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	345,453	1,700,653
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	8,792	46,485
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**354,245**	**1,747,138**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	20,752	122,081
Subtotal: PANAMA		**20,752**	**122,081**
PERU	SWORDFISH FRESH	468	2,500
PERU	SWORDFISH FROZEN	985	3,855
Subtotal: PERU		**1,453**	**6,355**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	33,143	307,055
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	698	4,188
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	7,897	70,875
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**41,738**	**382,118**
SAUDI ARABIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	2,113	8,368
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**2,113**	**8,368**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,962,032	25,926,463
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	48,184	334,662
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	29,208	183,198
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	419,190	3,397,569
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**4,458,614**	**29,841,892**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	885,450	2,913,402
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	24,487	83,726
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**909,937**	**2,997,128**
SPAIN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	451	7,431
Subtotal: SPAIN		**451**	**7,431**

THAILAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	19,957	113,227
Subtotal: THAILAND		**19,957**	**113,227**
TONGA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,683	8,270
Subtotal: TONGA		**1,683**	**8,270**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	291,329	2,205,040
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**291,329**	**2,205,040**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	426,921	2,199,096
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,193	4,770
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**428,114**	**2,203,866**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	53,488	290,505
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**53,488**	**290,505**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	1,497	6,131
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,210	12,543
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	25,658	169,614
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**30,365**	**188,288**
Grand Total: 2000		**14,314,075**	**85,579,449**
2001			
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	883,945	6,286,440
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	4,509	42,239
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**888,454**	**6,328,679**
BARBADOS	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,458	16,203
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**2,458**	**16,203**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,231,387	3,807,014
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,231,387**	**3,807,014**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	822,570	6,488,992
Subtotal: CANADA		**822,570**	**6,488,992**
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.	SWORDFISH FRESH	112	6,741
Subtotal: CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.		**112**	**6,741**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	946,257	6,971,682
CHILE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	342	4,235
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	27,362	245,712
Subtotal: CHILE		**973,961**	**7,221,629**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	144,010	774,062
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	26,126	144,981
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**170,136**	**919,043**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	8,979	37,458
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	769,938	4,960,858
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	316	2,869
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**779,233**	**5,001,185**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	82,480	286,975
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,209,906	7,721,265
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	27,015	201,904
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	7,207	20,179
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**1,326,608**	**8,230,323**

EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	33,231	181,646
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**33,231**	**181,646**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	5,526	21,392
Subtotal: FIJI		**5,526**	**21,392**
GRENADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	8,753	73,032
Subtotal: GRENADA		**8,753**	**73,032**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	118,707	700,056
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	19,406	160,831
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	2,631	24,058
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	18,602	165,057
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**159,346**	**1,050,002**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	75,514	689,764
JAPAN	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	35,252	397,353
Subtotal: JAPAN		**110,766**	**1,087,117**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	734,339	3,759,096
Subtotal: MEXICO		**734,339**	**3,759,096**
NAMIBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	22,880	74,211
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**22,880**	**74,211**
NETHERLANDS	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,396	10,158
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS		**1,396**	**10,158**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	394,206	1,825,344
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**394,206**	**1,825,344**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,270	18,824
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	401	3,076
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**2,671**	**21,900**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	224,947	1,449,161
Subtotal: PANAMA		**224,947**	**1,449,161**
PERU	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,203	26,420
Subtotal: PERU		**3,203**	**26,420**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	23,898	220,468
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,853	11,206
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FROZEN	8,587	77,682
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	45,786	419,201
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**81,124**	**728,557**
SAUDI ARABIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	11,076	33,228
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**11,076**	**33,228**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,348,671	19,703,103
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	90,876	609,320
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	603,156	4,584,125
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**4,042,703**	**24,896,548**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	791,046	3,376,529
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	519	4,242
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**791,565**	**3,380,771**
TONGA	SWORDFISH FRESH	8,582	32,262

Subtotal: TONGA		**8,582**	**32,262**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	225,100	1,655,958
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**225,100**	**1,655,958**
UGANDA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,392	9,744
Subtotal: UGANDA		**1,392**	**9,744**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	508,691	2,587,776
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,831	7,324
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**510,522**	**2,595,100**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	48,511	340,548
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**48,511**	**340,548**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	12,195	50,194
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	61,900	532,343
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	6,739	44,571
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**80,834**	**627,108**
Grand Total: 2001		**13,697,592**	**81,899,112**
2002			
ARGENTINA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,374	10,908
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**1,374**	**10,908**
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	876,942	6,764,621
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**876,942**	**6,764,621**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,348,338	4,364,540
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**1,348,338**	**4,364,540**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	732,855	6,210,517
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	17,619	135,844
Subtotal: CANADA		**750,474**	**6,346,361**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	33,539	226,383
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	809,620	5,107,360
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	57,833	444,536
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	4,536	28,974
Subtotal: CHILE		**905,528**	**5,807,253**
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	11,945	45,018
Subtotal: CHINA		**11,945**	**45,018**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	141,231	509,115
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	63,874	316,333
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,465	2,378
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**206,570**	**827,826**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	810,226	5,382,980
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	99,554	220,072
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,573	9,900
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**911,353**	**5,612,952**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	26,342	158,249
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,327,797	9,055,229
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FROZEN	5,386	20,779
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	83,880	664,859

ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	30,028	111,903
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**1,473,433**	**10,011,019**
EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	21,582	123,923
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**21,582**	**123,923**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	7,812	21,636
Subtotal: FIJI		**7,812**	**21,636**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	112,333	525,636
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,595	33,868
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	13,197	84,707
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	16,715	92,716
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**145,840**	**736,927**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	30,226	267,625
JAPAN	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	12,093	130,510
Subtotal: JAPAN		**42,319**	**398,135**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	384,441	1,940,841
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FROZEN	51,339	176,770
Subtotal: MEXICO		**435,780**	**2,117,611**
NAMIBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	43,976	128,992
NAMIBIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	133,378	264,575
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**177,354**	**393,567**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	18,305	151,759
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	423,571	1,871,478
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**441,876**	**2,023,237**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	5,712	39,861
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	369	2,627
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**6,081**	**42,488**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,129,716	7,576,124
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	21,892	41,412
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,151,608**	**7,617,536**
PERU	SWORDFISH FROZEN	6,217	24,868
Subtotal: PERU		**6,217**	**24,868**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	6,480	28,990
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	18,032	76,241
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FROZEN	646	5,351
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	18,158	163,408
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	7,638	24,208
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**50,954**	**298,198**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,775,673	17,894,461
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FRESH	10,049	79,599
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	277,955	1,246,163
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	872,381	6,100,173
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**4,936,058**	**25,320,396**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	906,369	3,390,501
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	66,322	237,257

SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	11,533	86,330
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	9,491	12,650
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**993,715**	**3,726,738**
SPAIN	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	703	3,875
Subtotal: SPAIN		**703**	**3,875**
TONGA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,775	11,191
Subtotal: TONGA		**1,775**	**11,191**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	170,295	1,363,781
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	2,874	12,672
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**173,169**	**1,376,453**
UKRAINE	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,262	8,596
Subtotal: UKRAINE		**1,262**	**8,596**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	398,830	2,121,382
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	4,246	15,691
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**403,076**	**2,137,073**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	125,419	1,031,243
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**125,419**	**1,031,243**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	681	2,302
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	102,737	1,060,396
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**103,418**	**1,062,698**
Grand Total: 2002		**15,711,975**	**88,266,887**
2003			
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	559,051	4,282,062
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**559,051**	**4,282,062**
BARBADOS	SWORDFISH FRESH	548	4,828
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**548**	**4,828**
BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,537	4,611
Subtotal: BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA		**1,537**	**4,611**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	818,028	2,529,287
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**818,028**	**2,529,287**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	952,142	7,676,060
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	25,584	203,463
Subtotal: CANADA		**977,726**	**7,879,523**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	19,769	109,587
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,140,743	8,153,583
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	25,226	199,612
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	10,585	59,852
Subtotal: CHILE		**1,196,323**	**8,522,634**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SWORDFISH FROZEN	4,000	9,882
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**4,000**	**9,882**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	30,411	85,131
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	19,596	108,331
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**50,007**	**193,462**
COOK IS.	SWORDFISH FRESH	52,273	232,587

Subtotal: COOK IS.		**52,273**	**232,587**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	414,658	2,498,589
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	36,684	119,803
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	5,195	32,081
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**456,537**	**2,650,473**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	10,098	84,411
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	372,835	2,743,480
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FROZEN	21,807	168,421
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	33,363	286,469
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	10,950	48,845
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**449,053**	**3,331,626**
EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	25,314	174,909
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**25,314**	**174,909**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,130	4,260
Subtotal: FIJI		**2,130**	**4,260**
HONDURAS	SWORDFISH FRESH	6,256	43,792
Subtotal: HONDURAS		**6,256**	**43,792**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	99,025	498,463
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,010	12,343
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	27,059	187,006
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	26,948	223,778
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**155,042**	**921,590**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	22,317	173,400
JAPAN	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	2,177	22,740
Subtotal: JAPAN		**24,494**	**196,140**
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	18,144	149,800
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	6,804	55,292
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**24,948**	**205,092**
MARSHALL IS.	SWORDFISH FRESH	946	9,460
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**946**	**9,460**
MAURITIUS	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	1,290	14,632
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**1,290**	**14,632**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	483,262	1,971,337
Subtotal: MEXICO		**483,262**	**1,971,337**
NAMIBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	14,972	44,739
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**14,972**	**44,739**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	283,468	1,277,314
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**283,468**	**1,277,314**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	363	2,804
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,275	8,137
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**1,638**	**10,941**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	5,398	26,775
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,441,260	10,561,176
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,446,658**	**10,587,951**

PERU	SWORDFISH FRESH	447	2,347
PERU	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,626	5,297
Subtotal: PERU		**2,073**	**7,644**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	13,874	105,474
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FROZEN	11,670	107,011
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	20,447	175,893
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**45,991**	**388,378**
SAUDI ARABIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	4,020	13,910
Subtotal: SAUDI ARABIA		**4,020**	**13,910**
SEYCHELLES	SWORDFISH FRESH	49,220	397,255
Subtotal: SEYCHELLES		**49,220**	**397,255**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,652,359	17,446,402
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FRESH	4,899	12,654
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	289,966	1,218,413
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	39,125	363,071
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	323,111	2,281,530
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**4,309,460**	**21,322,070**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	738,556	2,723,553
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	51,484	182,338
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	17,879	148,368
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**807,919**	**3,054,259**
SPAIN	SWORDFISH FROZEN	3,452	11,242
Subtotal: SPAIN		**3,452**	**11,242**
SRI LANKA	SWORDFISH FRESH	22,252	175,867
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**22,252**	**175,867**
THAILAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	15,736	100,053
THAILAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	12,327	86,488
THAILAND	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	1,724	12,160
Subtotal: THAILAND		**29,787**	**198,701**
TONGA	SWORDFISH FRESH	484	3,401
Subtotal: TONGA		**484**	**3,401**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	157,985	1,325,437
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,620	3,240
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	287	2,841
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**159,892**	**1,331,518**
UNITED KINGDOM	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,581	14,973
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**3,581**	**14,973**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	296,532	1,814,672
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**296,532**	**1,814,672**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	31,005	148,143
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**31,005**	**148,143**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	74,273	378,604
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	134,634	856,698
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FROZEN	111,241	252,567

VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	28,991	155,303
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**349,139**	**1,643,172**
Grand Total: 2003		**13,150,308**	**75,628,337**
2004			
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	410,641	3,979,222
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**410,641**	**3,979,222**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	800,381	2,626,797
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**800,381**	**2,626,797**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	876,295	7,626,944
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	60,432	608,064
Subtotal: CANADA		**936,727**	**8,235,008**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	5,271	49,400
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	758,805	5,858,150
CHILE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	2,300	16,977
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	29,107	252,035
Subtotal: CHILE		**795,483**	**6,176,562**
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	9,049	57,855
Subtotal: CHINA		**9,049**	**57,855**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	30,468	151,528
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FROZEN	20,900	17,750
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**51,368**	**169,278**
COLOMBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	834	5,284
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**834**	**5,284**
COOK IS.	SWORDFISH FRESH	115,048	615,611
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**115,048**	**615,611**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	19,237	118,699
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	209,583	1,633,134
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	7,488	23,229
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	6,629	59,688
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	1,042	6,877
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**243,979**	**1,841,627**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,212	21,242
Subtotal: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		**3,212**	**21,242**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,502	18,927
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	192,928	1,614,215
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FROZEN	885	5,361
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	12,343	116,471
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	2,006	15,661
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**211,664**	**1,770,635**
EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	11,456	51,583
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**11,456**	**51,583**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,203	2,407
Subtotal: FIJI		**1,203**	**2,407**
HONDURAS	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,279	5,756

Subtotal: HONDURAS		**1,279**	**5,756**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	91,064	579,774
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	24,486	159,656
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	30,599	248,391
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	18,143	60,000
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	26,843	227,599
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**191,135**	**1,275,420**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	8,618	73,033
JAPAN	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	5,216	54,369
Subtotal: JAPAN		**13,834**	**127,402**
KENYA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,119	12,115
Subtotal: KENYA		**1,119**	**12,115**
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	4,536	37,091
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**4,536**	**37,091**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	19,404	68,385
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	508,171	2,283,725
Subtotal: MEXICO		**527,575**	**2,352,110**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	23,520	235,860
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	260,115	1,144,120
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**283,635**	**1,379,980**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	312	2,061
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**312**	**2,061**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,004,671	9,855,302
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	11,635	93,623
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,016,306**	**9,948,925**
PERU	SWORDFISH FRESH	13,478	68,634
Subtotal: PERU		**13,478**	**68,634**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	5,193	37,466
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FROZEN	4,345	36,397
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	15,584	108,542
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**25,122**	**182,405**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	2,882,617	17,492,928
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FRESH	62,145	464,165
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	174,923	770,871
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	17,816	141,180
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	240,198	1,896,128
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**3,377,699**	**20,765,272**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	344,679	1,577,817
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	85,121	374,776
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	3,687	21,528
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	694	5,625
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**434,181**	**1,979,746**
SOUTH KOREA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,669	5,153
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**1,669**	**5,153**

SRI LANKA	SWORDFISH FRESH	470	5,640
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**470**	**5,640**
THAILAND	SWORDFISH FROZEN	4,990	36,850
THAILAND	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	8,542	39,007
THAILAND	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	49,782	311,531
Subtotal: THAILAND		**63,314**	**387,388**
TONGA	SWORDFISH FRESH	20,371	118,117
Subtotal: TONGA		**20,371**	**118,117**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	144,840	1,257,392
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	905	8,959
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**145,745**	**1,266,351**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	561,355	2,835,973
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**561,355**	**2,835,973**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	70,739	435,197
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**70,739**	**435,197**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	198,762	1,035,814
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	134,279	862,843
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FROZEN	6,661	40,711
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	41,812	269,374
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**381,514**	**2,208,742**
Grand Total: 2004		**10,726,433**	**70,952,589**
2005			
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	375,485	4,014,609
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**375,485**	**4,014,609**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	509,075	1,547,781
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**509,075**	**1,547,781**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,194,392	10,905,337
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	37,033	329,882
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,231,425**	**11,235,219**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	118,058	981,688
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	724,376	5,541,406
CHILE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	57,288	433,564
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	10,537	96,369
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	39,760	341,278
Subtotal: CHILE		**950,019**	**7,394,305**
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	14,994	55,783
Subtotal: CHINA		**14,994**	**55,783**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	16,860	97,054
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	33,241	177,169
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**50,101**	**274,223**
COLOMBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	8,640	60,096
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**8,640**	**60,096**
COOK IS.	SWORDFISH FRESH	51,678	337,760
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**51,678**	**337,760**

COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,029	21,203
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	242,711	1,865,546
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	36,453	135,566
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	15,667	147,705
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**297,860**	**2,170,020**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	12,709	90,215
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	246,595	1,858,520
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	2,596	20,922
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	11,879	105,897
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**273,779**	**2,075,554**
EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,082	8,330
EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FROZEN	5,111	20,876
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**7,193**	**29,206**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,030	2,060
Subtotal: FIJI		**1,030**	**2,060**
GRENADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	296	2,965
Subtotal: GRENADA		**296**	**2,965**
HONDURAS	SWORDFISH FROZEN	10,374	44,828
Subtotal: HONDURAS		**10,374**	**44,828**
INDIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	20,956	60,060
INDIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	38,033	106,490
INDIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	39,122	109,875
Subtotal: INDIA		**98,111**	**276,425**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	76,738	596,487
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	47,634	382,706
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	21,818	143,380
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	64,410	232,710
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	44,541	285,220
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**255,141**	**1,640,503**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	25,945	260,522
Subtotal: JAPAN		**25,945**	**260,522**
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	19,645	148,248
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	12,779	90,018
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**32,424**	**238,266**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	567,083	2,571,535
Subtotal: MEXICO		**567,083**	**2,571,535**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	3,000	16,244
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	147,027	658,955
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**150,027**	**675,199**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	729	3,142
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**729**	**3,142**
PAKISTAN	SWORDFISH FRESH	23,128	129,511
Subtotal: PAKISTAN		**23,128**	**129,511**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,182,498	11,570,472

PANAMA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	10,572	110,485
PANAMA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	18,651	127,355
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,211,721**	**11,808,312**
PERU	SWORDFISH FROZEN	2,978	14,060
Subtotal: PERU		**2,978**	**14,060**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,456	7,342
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FROZEN	776	6,780
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	323	2,840
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**2,555**	**16,962**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	2,558,020	20,775,661
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FRESH	6,258	49,938
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	120,539	897,254
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	199,145	1,893,092
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**2,883,962**	**23,615,945**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	298,886	1,308,965
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	2,182	17,063
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**301,068**	**1,326,028**
SRI LANKA	SWORDFISH FRESH	661	7,335
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**661**	**7,335**
THAILAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	10,578	57,408
THAILAND	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	1,045	8,233
Subtotal: THAILAND		**11,623**	**65,641**
TONGA	SWORDFISH FRESH	732	3,230
Subtotal: TONGA		**732**	**3,230**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	128,754	1,070,519
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**128,754**	**1,070,519**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	367,545	1,619,182
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**367,545**	**1,619,182**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	86,457	589,271
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**86,457**	**589,271**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	117,089	1,013,074
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	98,495	605,704
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	38,660	371,940
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**254,244**	**1,990,718**
Grand Total: 2005		**10,186,837**	**77,166,715**
2006			
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	174,735	1,791,432
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**174,735**	**1,791,432**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	455,102	1,804,877
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FROZEN	2,273	16,195
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**457,375**	**1,821,072**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,016,929	10,859,305
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	20,982	198,849
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,037,911**	**11,058,154**

CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	79,524	585,418
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	449,900	3,265,158
CHILE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	31,968	222,843
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,850	16,308
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	69,948	512,720
Subtotal: CHILE		**633,190**	**4,602,447**
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	18,551	50,400
CHINA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	816	6,605
Subtotal: CHINA		**19,367**	**57,005**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	66,673	301,863
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FROZEN	19,958	75,015
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**86,631**	**376,878**
COLOMBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,722	13,069
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**1,722**	**13,069**
COOK IS.	SWORDFISH FRESH	3,736	20,400
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**3,736**	**20,400**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	14,662	130,029
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	701,680	4,958,221
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	27,082	135,307
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	7,286	63,295
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	92,134	694,483
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**842,844**	**5,981,335**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	34,654	176,787
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	426,204	3,065,124
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	9,561	80,158
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	10,593	88,533
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**481,012**	**3,410,602**
EL SALVADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,081	6,687
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**1,081**	**6,687**
GUADELOUPE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	18,462	148,907
Subtotal: GUADELOUPE		**18,462**	**148,907**
INDIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	36,236	87,540
Subtotal: INDIA		**36,236**	**87,540**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	134,314	1,045,617
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	26,252	219,651
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	11,431	111,193
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	18,145	168,550
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	6,705	58,920
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**196,847**	**1,603,931**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	11,404	109,343
Subtotal: JAPAN		**11,404**	**109,343**
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	41,865	418,560
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	4,536	36,905
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**46,401**	**455,465**

MAURITIUS	SWORDFISH FRESH	10,579	89,781
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**10,579**	**89,781**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	806,659	3,387,220
Subtotal: MEXICO		**806,659**	**3,387,220**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	2,310	24,073
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	263,352	1,369,781
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	2,082	8,032
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**267,744**	**1,401,886**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	820	6,248
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	605	6,546
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**1,425**	**12,794**
PAKISTAN	SWORDFISH FRESH	4,171	23,855
Subtotal: PAKISTAN		**4,171**	**23,855**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,699,168	15,421,431
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,699,168**	**15,421,431**
PERU	SWORDFISH FRESH	965	6,137
Subtotal: PERU		**965**	**6,137**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	10,565	102,851
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,553	12,978
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	16,924	156,497
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**30,042**	**272,326**
PORTUGAL	SWORDFISH FROZEN	6,574	19,406
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**6,574**	**19,406**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	2,510,887	17,793,925
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FRESH	17,043	74,192
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	60,175	374,852
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	112,215	927,924
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**2,700,320**	**19,170,893**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	241,253	1,270,459
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	16,659	113,546
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**257,912**	**1,384,005**
SOUTH KOREA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	607	8,884
SOUTH KOREA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	400	5,022
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**1,007**	**13,906**
SPAIN	SWORDFISH FROZEN	2,603	13,565
Subtotal: SPAIN		**2,603**	**13,565**
SRI LANKA	SWORDFISH FRESH	24,516	289,332
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**24,516**	**289,332**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	14,347	127,749
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**14,347**	**127,749**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	271,331	1,055,658
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**271,331**	**1,055,658**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	57,340	398,505
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**57,340**	**398,505**

VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	57,754	492,696
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	50,130	325,118
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FROZEN	2,541	20,150
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	18,321	159,354
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**128,746**	**997,318**
Grand Total: 2006		**10,334,403**	**75,630,034**
2007			
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	214,278	2,238,711
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	2,577	20,402
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**216,855**	**2,259,113**
BERMUDA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,030	15,546
Subtotal: BERMUDA		**2,030**	**15,546**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	523,038	3,038,750
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	879	6,342
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**523,917**	**3,045,092**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	19,822	43,530
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	965,771	10,370,088
CANADA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	4,985	65,820
CANADA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	231,392	540,308
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	50,203	629,113
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,272,173**	**11,648,859**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	130,772	1,170,118
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	55,401	436,433
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	478,841	3,444,116
CHILE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	39,271	259,697
CHILE	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	17,387	205,304
CHILE	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	8,054	62,086
CHILE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	2,744	23,087
Subtotal: CHILE		**732,470**	**5,600,841**
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	19,236	80,450
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	17,191	123,010
CHINA	SWORDFISH FRESH	718	8,914
CHINA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	20,570	97,190
CHINA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	33,234	111,816
CHINA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	95,855	326,274
Subtotal: CHINA		**186,804**	**747,654**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	41,931	210,638
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**41,931**	**210,638**
COLOMBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,241	21,730
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**2,241**	**21,730**
COOK IS.	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,874	17,242
Subtotal: COOK IS.		**2,874**	**17,242**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	4,892	42,289
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	69,507	580,635

COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	332,481	2,888,343
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	9,552	73,102
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	5,688	52,805
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	1,023	6,138
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**423,143**	**3,643,312**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	7,304	65,310
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	34,723	168,697
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	605,056	4,447,819
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	7,383	51,608
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	606	6,406
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**655,072**	**4,739,840**
GUYANA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	2,823	2,614
Subtotal: GUYANA		**2,823**	**2,614**
INDIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	19,949	53,656
Subtotal: INDIA		**19,949**	**53,656**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	128,354	1,007,306
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	5,979	53,630
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	48,960	172,704
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	10,714	104,634
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**194,007**	**1,338,274**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	17,326	184,094
JAPAN	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	3,811	44,430
Subtotal: JAPAN		**21,137**	**228,524**
LITHUANIA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	4,408	12,342
Subtotal: LITHUANIA		**4,408**	**12,342**
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	11,974	102,170
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	68,933	699,080
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	17,505	116,102
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	3,298	23,991
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**101,710**	**941,343**
MAURITIUS	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	25,764	184,805
MAURITIUS	SWORDFISH FRESH	183	2,013
MAURITIUS	SWORDFISH FROZEN	3,447	31,442
Subtotal: MAURITIUS		**29,394**	**218,260**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	459,287	2,288,989
MEXICO	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	35,399	60,554
Subtotal: MEXICO		**494,686**	**2,349,543**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	200,918	1,266,544
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	4,940	14,688
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**205,858**	**1,281,232**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,793	25,567
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**2,793**	**25,567**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	892,944	8,543,076
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,044	5,320

PANAMA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	6,208	61,577
Subtotal: PANAMA		**900,196**	**8,609,973**
PERU	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	1,722	4,827
PERU	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	10,945	31,379
Subtotal: PERU		**12,667**	**36,206**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	864	3,447
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	9,347	88,778
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FRESH	449	4,802
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**10,660**	**97,027**
PORTUGAL	SWORDFISH FROZEN	225	3,250
Subtotal: PORTUGAL		**225**	**3,250**
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	20,000	46,800
Subtotal: RUSSIAN FEDERATION		**20,000**	**46,800**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	11,028	72,286
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	2,024,193	14,554,991
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	118,572	755,479
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	33,933	237,117
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	325,493	2,298,294
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**2,513,219**	**17,918,167**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	297,300	1,893,891
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,603	15,525
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**298,903**	**1,909,416**
SOUTH KOREA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	9,420	82,151
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**9,420**	**82,151**
SRI LANKA	SWORDFISH FRESH	80,769	825,259
SRI LANKA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	6,719	65,394
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**87,488**	**890,653**
THAILAND	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	11,739	106,443
Subtotal: THAILAND		**11,739**	**106,443**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	51,642	418,082
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,267	9,779
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**52,909**	**427,861**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	152,803	533,509
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**152,803**	**533,509**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	15,698	129,995
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**15,698**	**129,995**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	94,306	771,439
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	13,151	79,145
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	26,647	210,245
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,579	5,622
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	63,789	590,796
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**199,472**	**1,657,247**
Grand Total: 2007		**9,421,674**	**70,849,920**
2008			

AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	124,166	1,317,274
AUSTRALIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	634	7,684
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**124,800**	**1,324,958**
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	863	7,336
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	10,034	77,293
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH FRESH	494,479	3,024,309
BRAZIL	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	523	2,309
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**505,899**	**3,111,247**
CANADA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,029,979	11,636,020
CANADA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	25,175	39,250
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	10,500	133,762
CANADA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	16,638	183,400
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,082,292**	**11,992,432**
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	81,815	618,741
CHILE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	38,887	342,045
CHILE	SWORDFISH FRESH	233,356	1,505,114
CHILE	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	12,671	98,740
Subtotal: CHILE		**366,729**	**2,564,640**
CHINA	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	3,904	19,351
CHINA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	13,948	27,983
Subtotal: CHINA		**17,852**	**47,334**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SWORDFISH FRESH	13,048	65,238
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**13,048**	**65,238**
COLOMBIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,735	17,213
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**1,735**	**17,213**
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	1,124	9,827
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	35,264	304,914
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	247,734	1,642,060
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	23,905	215,192
COSTA RICA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	1,499	14,246
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**309,526**	**2,186,239**
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	4,798	32,734
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	110,985	668,624
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FRESH	678,775	4,428,891
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH FROZEN	1,152	19,186
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	907	4,000
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	6,520	31,372
ECUADOR	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	472	4,858
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**803,609**	**5,189,665**
FIJI	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,173	2,346
Subtotal: FIJI		**1,173**	**2,346**
GUATEMALA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,282	17,188
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**2,282**	**17,188**
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	143,761	1,137,267

INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,833	28,104
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	5,703	47,428
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	14,084	118,917
INDONESIA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	25,150	221,432
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**191,531**	**1,553,148**
JAPAN	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	7,166	68,350
Subtotal: JAPAN		**7,166**	**68,350**
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	20,995	169,528
MALAYSIA	SWORDFISH FRESH	58,418	573,273
Subtotal: MALAYSIA		**79,413**	**742,801**
MEXICO	SWORDFISH FRESH	416,839	1,755,412
MEXICO	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	25,869	104,684
Subtotal: MEXICO		**442,708**	**1,860,096**
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FRESH	135,742	1,137,518
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH FROZEN	983	9,337
NEW ZEALAND	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	2,334	18,837
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**139,059**	**1,165,692**
NICARAGUA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,618	11,115
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**1,618**	**11,115**
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,745,570	14,541,120
PANAMA	SWORDFISH FROZEN	646	3,640
PANAMA	SWORDFISH STEAKS FRESH	1,514	14,807
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,747,730**	**14,559,567**
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FRESH	4,299	17,153
PHILIPPINES	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	9,385	69,724
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**13,684**	**86,877**
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	2,127,651	15,662,379
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH FROZEN	68,682	435,774
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN NOT > 6.8KG	134,460	940,488
SINGAPORE	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	99,859	1,119,645
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**2,430,652**	**18,158,286**
SOUTH AFRICA	SWORDFISH FRESH	254,330	1,228,590
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**254,330**	**1,228,590**
SRI LANKA	SWORDFISH FRESH	17,192	161,619
Subtotal: SRI LANKA		**17,192**	**161,619**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SWORDFISH FRESH	36,172	334,049
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**36,172**	**334,049**
URUGUAY	SWORDFISH FRESH	159,494	744,018
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**159,494**	**744,018**
VENEZUELA	SWORDFISH FRESH	2,331	26,147
Subtotal: VENEZUELA		**2,331**	**26,147**
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FILLET FROZEN	168,980	1,324,807
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FRESH	1,625	12,126
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH FROZEN	10,854	136,773

VIET NAM	SWORDFISH MEAT FROZEN > 6.8KG	1,365	11,881
VIET NAM	SWORDFISH STEAKS FROZEN	27,906	271,442
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**210,730**	**1,757,029**
Grand Total: 2008		**8,962,755**	**68,975,884**

National Marine Fisheries Service
Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division

You asked for the following

Trade Type:	IMPORTS
From:	1999
Through:	2008
Product:	SHARK
Countries:	ALL COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY

Note: If a month is not listed, then we do not have data for that month. Current data through December, 2008.

Country	Product Name	Kilos	Dollars
1999			
ARGENTINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	15,362	196,780
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**15,362**	**196,780**
AUSTRALIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	7,565	692,620
AUSTRALIA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	4,409	13,967
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**11,974**	**706,587**
BRAZIL	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,800	131,915
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**2,800**	**131,915**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	372,477	160,825
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	73,726	201,977
CANADA	SHARK FINS DRIED	5,283	73,653
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	189,311	396,517
Subtotal: CANADA		**640,797**	**832,972**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	26,411	98,808
Subtotal: CHILE		**26,411**	**98,808**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,906	110,274
Subtotal: CHINA		**2,906**	**110,274**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	6,789	271,320
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,448	108,081
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**8,237**	**379,401**
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	44,845	129,835
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	15,605	44,284
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**60,450**	**174,119**
ECUADOR	SHARK FINS DRIED	419	5,373
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	241,829	843,738
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	3,452	12,988
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**245,700**	**862,099**
EL SALVADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,210	5,175
Subtotal: EL SALVADOR		**1,210**	**5,175**
FIJI	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,624	4,388
Subtotal: FIJI		**1,624**	**4,388**
GUATEMALA	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,657	40,782
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**2,657**	**40,782**
GUYANA	SHARK FINS DRIED	698	35,353

Subtotal: GUYANA		**698**	**35,353**
JAPAN	SHARK FINS DRIED	4,854	304,410
Subtotal: JAPAN		**4,854**	**304,410**
MEXICO	SHARK FINS DRIED	5,820	83,453
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	571,283	481,910
Subtotal: MEXICO		**577,103**	**565,363**
NICARAGUA	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,678	63,407
NICARAGUA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	6,006	30,560
NICARAGUA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	10,303	45,428
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**18,987**	**139,395**
PANAMA	SHARK FINS DRIED	379	20,536
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	33,775	91,515
Subtotal: PANAMA		**34,154**	**112,051**
PERU	SHARK NSPF FRESH	4,155	13,679
Subtotal: PERU		**4,155**	**13,679**
PHILIPPINES	SHARK FINS DRIED	200	3,450
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**200**	**3,450**
SINGAPORE	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	346	3,824
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**346**	**3,824**
SPAIN	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	22,145	190,747
Subtotal: SPAIN		**22,145**	**190,747**
THAILAND	SHARK FINS DRIED	60	16,321
THAILAND	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	3,310	7,649
Subtotal: THAILAND		**3,370**	**23,970**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,402	55,199
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	932	2,497
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	15,014	116,983
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**17,348**	**174,679**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	3,104	16,942
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**3,104**	**16,942**
Grand Total: 1999		**1,706,592**	**5,127,163**
2000			
ARGENTINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	24,684	651,743
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**24,684**	**651,743**
AUSTRALIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,100	13,750
AUSTRALIA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	834	5,119
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**1,934**	**18,869**
BRAZIL	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,350	60,000
BRAZIL	SHARK NSPF FRESH	3,801	4,561
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**5,151**	**64,561**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	1,186,969	700,085
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	18,797	55,645
CANADA	SHARK FINS DRIED	7,449	349,098
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	143,233	305,743

CANADA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	3,116	81,420
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,359,564**	**1,491,991**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	18,412	79,659
Subtotal: CHILE		**18,412**	**79,659**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,614	88,481
Subtotal: CHINA		**1,614**	**88,481**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	4,242	530,047
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FRESH	14,645	49,719
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**18,887**	**579,766**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	55,338	89,796
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**55,338**	**89,796**
COSTA RICA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,100	25,970
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,797	13,263
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**3,897**	**39,233**
ECUADOR	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,832	5,700
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	203,551	710,779
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,013	4,210
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**206,396**	**720,689**
GUATEMALA	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,097	31,360
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**2,097**	**31,360**
INDIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	3,981	24,068
Subtotal: INDIA		**3,981**	**24,068**
INDONESIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,500	16,875
INDONESIA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,447	5,794
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**3,947**	**22,669**
JAPAN	SHARK FINS DRIED	6,414	423,992
Subtotal: JAPAN		**6,414**	**423,992**
LAOS	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,471	5,571
Subtotal: LAOS		**1,471**	**5,571**
MEXICO	SHARK FINS DRIED	6,781	104,959
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	671,159	663,794
Subtotal: MEXICO		**677,940**	**768,753**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,226	4,469
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,226**	**4,469**
NICARAGUA	SHARK FINS DRIED	204	11,739
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**204**	**11,739**
PANAMA	SHARK FINS DRIED	204	11,125
Subtotal: PANAMA		**204**	**11,125**
PERU	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,708	7,298
PERU	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	11,899	204,685
Subtotal: PERU		**14,607**	**211,983**
SPAIN	SHARK FINS DRIED	180	4,587
Subtotal: SPAIN		**180**	**4,587**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK FINS DRIED	375	2,081

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	14,651	182,609
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**15,026**	**184,690**
UNITED KINGDOM	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	2,702	6,712
Subtotal: UNITED KINGDOM		**2,702**	**6,712**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,307	9,228
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**2,307**	**9,228**
Grand Total: 2000		**2,428,183**	**5,545,734**
2001			
ARGENTINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	7,656	97,495
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**7,656**	**97,495**
BRAZIL	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,200	49,740
BRAZIL	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,105	2,309
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**3,305**	**52,049**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	1,500,181	1,003,294
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	35,560	333,455
CANADA	SHARK FINS DRIED	6,811	53,848
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	101,722	206,838
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	6,200	361,174
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,650,474**	**1,958,609**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	16,304	67,634
Subtotal: CHILE		**16,304**	**67,634**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,204	32,210
Subtotal: CHINA		**1,204**	**32,210**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,300	403,742
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	455	25,000
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**2,755**	**428,742**
COSTA RICA	SHARK FINS DRIED	756	22,857
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	13,174	37,987
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**13,930**	**60,844**
ECUADOR	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,634	8,147
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	87,453	318,890
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	9,952	23,535
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**100,039**	**350,572**
FRANCE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,195	5,270
FRANCE	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	9,020	39,776
Subtotal: FRANCE		**10,215**	**45,046**
INDIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	7,488	35,601
Subtotal: INDIA		**7,488**	**35,601**
JAPAN	SHARK FINS DRIED	5,728	221,387
Subtotal: JAPAN		**5,728**	**221,387**
MEXICO	SHARK FINS DRIED	7,306	109,620
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	682,217	711,349
Subtotal: MEXICO		**689,523**	**820,969**
MOROCCO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	9,000	67,500

Subtotal: MOROCCO		**9,000**	**67,500**
PANAMA	SHARK FINS DRIED	4,218	27,600
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	3,109	7,556
Subtotal: PANAMA		**7,327**	**35,156**
PERU	SHARK FINS DRIED	38	2,674
PERU	SHARK NSPF FRESH	3,033	9,808
PERU	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	12,000	173,875
Subtotal: PERU		**15,071**	**186,357**
SINGAPORE	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,200	13,220
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**2,200**	**13,220**
SOUTH AFRICA	SHARK FINS DRIED	125	8,575
SOUTH AFRICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,022	3,068
Subtotal: SOUTH AFRICA		**1,147**	**11,643**
SPAIN	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	50,262	663,027
Subtotal: SPAIN		**50,262**	**663,027**
THAILAND	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,240	2,995
Subtotal: THAILAND		**1,240**	**2,995**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	680	8,900
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	25,680	423,844
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**26,360**	**432,744**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,407	9,445
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**2,407**	**9,445**
Grand Total: 2001		**2,623,635**	**5,593,245**
2002			
AUSTRALIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,018	12,232
AUSTRALIA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,974	14,617
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**2,992**	**26,849**
BANGLADESH	SHARK FINS DRIED	52	5,303
Subtotal: BANGLADESH		**52**	**5,303**
BRAZIL	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,820	3,620
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**2,820**	**3,620**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	1,039,653	552,385
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	61,598	419,131
CANADA	SHARK FINS DRIED	697	39,879
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	166,258	313,003
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	8,421	147,130
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,276,627**	**1,471,528**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	38,305	159,283
Subtotal: CHILE		**38,305**	**159,283**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	20,756	578,052
CHINA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	82	5,746
Subtotal: CHINA		**20,838**	**583,798**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	135,272	275,742
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,637	144,746

CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	3,295	267,788
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**141,204**	**688,276**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,361	6,450
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**1,361**	**6,450**
COSTA RICA	SHARK FINS DRIED	110	2,700
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	4,490	13,023
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**4,600**	**15,723**
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	59,230	195,199
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**59,230**	**195,199**
INDIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	4,212	22,292
Subtotal: INDIA		**4,212**	**22,292**
JAPAN	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,498	108,104
Subtotal: JAPAN		**1,498**	**108,104**
MADAGASCAR	SHARK FINS DRIED	190	7,441
Subtotal: MADAGASCAR		**190**	**7,441**
MEXICO	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,760	34,370
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	516,954	518,310
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	136	2,850
Subtotal: MEXICO		**519,850**	**555,530**
MOROCCO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	18,940	123,110
Subtotal: MOROCCO		**18,940**	**123,110**
NAMIBIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	130	7,450
Subtotal: NAMIBIA		**130**	**7,450**
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	4,500	9,000
Subtotal: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		**4,500**	**9,000**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,257	9,388
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**2,257**	**9,388**
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	4,137	9,413
Subtotal: PANAMA		**4,137**	**9,413**
PERU	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	184	9,870
Subtotal: PERU		**184**	**9,870**
SINGAPORE	SHARK FINS DRIED	5,081	61,345
SINGAPORE	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	6,804	23,731
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**11,885**	**85,076**
SPAIN	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	8,390	105,950
Subtotal: SPAIN		**8,390**	**105,950**
THAILAND	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	3,500	11,900
Subtotal: THAILAND		**3,500**	**11,900**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	31,100	374,668
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**31,100**	**374,668**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,113	4,794
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**1,113**	**4,794**
WESTERN SAMOA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	5,079	2,235
Subtotal: WESTERN SAMOA		**5,079**	**2,235**

Grand Total: 2002		**2,164,994**	**4,602,250**
2003			
ARGENTINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	450	7,425
ARGENTINA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	4,975	6,965
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**5,425**	**14,390**
AUSTRALIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	475	9,675
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**475**	**9,675**
BANGLADESH	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	694	2,396
Subtotal: BANGLADESH		**694**	**2,396**
BRAZIL	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	7,213	24,044
BRAZIL	SHARK FINS DRIED	353	2,001
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**7,566**	**26,045**
BURMA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	22,301	57,122
Subtotal: BURMA		**22,301**	**57,122**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	256,340	293,248
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	63,776	283,295
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	35,270	82,720
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	78	6,660
Subtotal: CANADA		**355,464**	**665,923**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	15,680	63,340
Subtotal: CHILE		**15,680**	**63,340**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,157	41,017
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	7,073	439,149
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**8,230**	**480,166**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SHARK FINS DRIED	200	4,796
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**200**	**4,796**
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	12,390	34,314
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**12,390**	**34,314**
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	39,116	135,129
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	588	3,008
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**39,704**	**138,137**
INDIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	5,686	30,000
Subtotal: INDIA		**5,686**	**30,000**
INDONESIA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	4,768	8,595
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**4,768**	**8,595**
MARSHALL IS.	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	35,384	355,338
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**35,384**	**355,338**
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	403,890	383,027
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	136	3,000
Subtotal: MEXICO		**404,026**	**386,027**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,707	6,190
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,707**	**6,190**
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,360	5,155
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	19,250	28,361

Subtotal: PANAMA		**21,610**	**33,516**
PERU	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	151	11,512
Subtotal: PERU		**151**	**11,512**
PHILIPPINES	SHARK FINS DRIED	998	3,383
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**998**	**3,383**
SPAIN	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	840	17,086
Subtotal: SPAIN		**840**	**17,086**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	4,273	51,280
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**4,273**	**51,280**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	4,709	18,424
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**4,709**	**18,424**
VIET NAM	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,918	11,849
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**1,918**	**11,849**
Grand Total: 2003		**954,199**	**2,429,504**
2004			
AUSTRALIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	28	2,592
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**28**	**2,592**
BARBADOS	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	478	2,636
Subtotal: BARBADOS		**478**	**2,636**
BRAZIL	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	913	2,034
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**913**	**2,034**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	464,894	462,226
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	23,523	70,204
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	189,162	304,103
Subtotal: CANADA		**677,579**	**836,533**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	12,911	45,632
Subtotal: CHILE		**12,911**	**45,632**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,565	19,211
Subtotal: CHINA		**1,565**	**19,211**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	4,893	106,573
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	9,484	512,998
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**14,377**	**619,571**
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	28,294	88,477
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**28,294**	**88,477**
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	30,154	115,091
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**30,154**	**115,091**
FED STATES OF MICRON	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	9,250	101,750
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**9,250**	**101,750**
INDIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,808	16,500
Subtotal: INDIA		**2,808**	**16,500**
JAPAN	SHARK FINS DRIED	489	28,013
JAPAN	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	600	36,840
Subtotal: JAPAN		**1,089**	**64,853**
MARSHALL IS.	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	112,365	1,395,344

Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**112,365**	**1,395,344**
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	347,189	345,788
Subtotal: MEXICO		**347,189**	**345,788**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK NSPF FRESH	464	2,117
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**464**	**2,117**
PANAMA	SHARK FINS DRIED	4,119	160,034
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	37,002	86,685
Subtotal: PANAMA		**41,121**	**246,719**
SURINAME	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,704	3,197
Subtotal: SURINAME		**1,704**	**3,197**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	570	4,567
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	17,947	278,185
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**18,517**	**282,752**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	2,615	7,705
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	984	2,121
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**3,599**	**9,826**
VIET NAM	SHARK FINS DRIED	551	10,767
VIET NAM	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	5,697	23,864
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**6,248**	**34,631**
Grand Total: 2004		**1,310,653**	**4,235,254**
2005			
AUSTRALIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	192	11,286
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**192**	**11,286**
BRAZIL	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	9,343	5,551
BRAZIL	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,269	30,867
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**11,612**	**36,418**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	293,489	169,296
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	88,360	568,191
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	140,120	227,077
Subtotal: CANADA		**521,969**	**964,564**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	7,886	32,660
Subtotal: CHILE		**7,886**	**32,660**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	150	8,004
Subtotal: CHINA		**150**	**8,004**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	7,124	524,463
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	16,736	765,215
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**23,860**	**1,289,678**
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	38,388	121,170
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**38,388**	**121,170**
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	49,139	181,068
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**49,139**	**181,068**
GUATEMALA	SHARK FINS DRIED	102	2,120
Subtotal: GUATEMALA		**102**	**2,120**
INDONESIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	524	12,135

Subtotal: INDONESIA		**524**	**12,135**
MARSHALL IS.	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	109,898	1,210,385
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**109,898**	**1,210,385**
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	265,819	379,583
Subtotal: MEXICO		**265,819**	**379,583**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK NSPF FRESH	723	3,015
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**723**	**3,015**
NICARAGUA	SHARK FINS DRIED	506	23,130
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**506**	**23,130**
PANAMA	SHARK FINS DRIED	585	72,975
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	11,854	40,552
Subtotal: PANAMA		**12,439**	**113,527**
PERU	SHARK NSPF FRESH	3,923	16,720
Subtotal: PERU		**3,923**	**16,720**
PHILIPPINES	SHARK FINS DRIED	15,866	67,101
Subtotal: PHILIPPINES		**15,866**	**67,101**
SINGAPORE	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	2,114	9,619
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**2,114**	**9,619**
SURINAME	SHARK NSPF FRESH	17,758	13,073
Subtotal: SURINAME		**17,758**	**13,073**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	17,959	287,342
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**17,959**	**287,342**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,469	6,750
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**1,469**	**6,750**
Grand Total: 2005		**1,102,296**	**4,789,348**
2006			
BRAZIL	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	2,672	11,704
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**2,672**	**11,704**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	1,043,280	588,928
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	46,798	438,572
CANADA	SHARK FINS DRIED	88	4,719
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	158,028	269,773
Subtotal: CANADA		**1,248,194**	**1,301,992**
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	735	3,160
Subtotal: CHILE		**735**	**3,160**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	3,567	132,312
Subtotal: CHINA		**3,567**	**132,312**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	16,240	1,053,272
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	31,061	557,677
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**47,301**	**1,610,949**
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	38,846	133,379
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**38,846**	**133,379**
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	25,768	101,973
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**25,768**	**101,973**

JAPAN	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	12,169	196,304
Subtotal: JAPAN		**12,169**	**196,304**
MARSHALL IS.	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	47,611	585,928
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**47,611**	**585,928**
MEXICO	SHARK FINS DRIED	406	4,054
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	107,369	144,341
Subtotal: MEXICO		**107,775**	**148,395**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,003	26,400
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,003**	**26,400**
NICARAGUA	SHARK FINS DRIED	456	22,158
Subtotal: NICARAGUA		**456**	**22,158**
PANAMA	SHARK FINS DRIED	6,964	138,875
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	5,300	18,421
Subtotal: PANAMA		**12,264**	**157,296**
SINGAPORE	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	2,635	10,045
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**2,635**	**10,045**
URUGUAY	SHARK NSPF FRESH	1,585	8,293
Subtotal: URUGUAY		**1,585**	**8,293**
Grand Total: 2006		**1,552,581**	**4,450,288**
2007			
ARGENTINA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	16,615	30,212
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**16,615**	**30,212**
AUSTRALIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	500	12,550
Subtotal: AUSTRALIA		**500**	**12,550**
BRAZIL	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	13,314	54,983
BRAZIL	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	24,000	121,474
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**37,314**	**176,457**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	573,909	303,294
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	43,058	438,555
CANADA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,636	10,700
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	224,430	349,885
Subtotal: CANADA		**843,033**	**1,102,434**
CHILE	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	2,000	7,080
CHILE	SHARK NSPF FRESH	4,294	18,910
Subtotal: CHILE		**6,294**	**25,990**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	5,397	655,983
CHINA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	19,749	27,946
CHINA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	20,800	26,393
Subtotal: CHINA		**45,946**	**710,322**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	19,879	954,062
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	18,997	78,861
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**38,876**	**1,032,923**
CHINA - TAIPEI	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	2,468	10,741
Subtotal: CHINA - TAIPEI		**2,468**	**10,741**

COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	24,635	78,420
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	2,645	9,258
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**27,280**	**87,678**
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	41,658	179,767
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**41,658**	**179,767**
FED STATES OF MICRON	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	8,953	116,112
Subtotal: FED STATES OF MICRON		**8,953**	**116,112**
INDONESIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	28	7,000
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**28**	**7,000**
MARSHALL IS.	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	59,034	604,036
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**59,034**	**604,036**
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	228,681	352,746
Subtotal: MEXICO		**228,681**	**352,746**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK NSPF FRESH	999	2,267
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**999**	**2,267**
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	3,232	14,544
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	12,713	18,013
Subtotal: PANAMA		**15,945**	**32,557**
PERU	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,512	36,308
Subtotal: PERU		**1,512**	**36,308**
SINGAPORE	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	6,794	17,658
Subtotal: SINGAPORE		**6,794**	**17,658**
SURINAME	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,080	3,975
Subtotal: SURINAME		**1,080**	**3,975**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	340	3,000
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**340**	**3,000**
Grand Total: 2007		**1,383,350**	**4,544,733**
2008			
ARGENTINA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	40,965	66,175
Subtotal: ARGENTINA		**40,965**	**66,175**
BRAZIL	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	8,005	39,259
Subtotal: BRAZIL		**8,005**	**39,259**
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FRESH	534,458	219,482
CANADA	SHARK DOGFISH FROZEN	14,258	21,017
CANADA	SHARK FINS DRIED	50	19,840
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	139,794	294,686
CANADA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	599	13,200
Subtotal: CANADA		**689,159**	**568,225**
CHINA	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,430	58,510
CHINA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	18,271	74,518
Subtotal: CHINA		**19,701**	**133,028**
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK FINS DRIED	23,048	1,522,463
CHINA - HONG KONG	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	13,824	121,784
Subtotal: CHINA - HONG KONG		**36,872**	**1,644,247**

COLOMBIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	29	4,120
Subtotal: COLOMBIA		**29**	**4,120**
COSTA RICA	SHARK NSPF FRESH	10,482	37,387
Subtotal: COSTA RICA		**10,482**	**37,387**
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FRESH	20,690	91,866
ECUADOR	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,021	3,901
Subtotal: ECUADOR		**21,711**	**95,767**
INDONESIA	SHARK FINS DRIED	42	7,770
Subtotal: INDONESIA		**42**	**7,770**
JAPAN	SHARK FINS DRIED	1,769	82,427
Subtotal: JAPAN		**1,769**	**82,427**
MARSHALL IS.	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	110,267	1,591,530
Subtotal: MARSHALL IS.		**110,267**	**1,591,530**
MEXICO	SHARK NSPF FRESH	171,938	270,335
Subtotal: MEXICO		**171,938**	**270,335**
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK FINS DRIED	500	13,531
NEW ZEALAND	SHARK NSPF FRESH	690	3,455
Subtotal: NEW ZEALAND		**1,190**	**16,986**
PANAMA	SHARK FINS DRIED	36	4,350
PANAMA	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	1,038	4,875
Subtotal: PANAMA		**1,074**	**9,225**
PERU	SHARK NSPF FRESH	4,670	21,622
Subtotal: PERU		**4,670**	**21,622**
SOUTH KOREA	SHARK FINS DRIED	2,353	18,769
Subtotal: SOUTH KOREA		**2,353**	**18,769**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	SHARK NSPF FROZEN	3,725	3,725
Subtotal: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		**3,725**	**3,725**
VIET NAM	SHARK FINS DRIED	13	5,680
Subtotal: VIET NAM		**13**	**5,680**
Grand Total: 2008		**1,123,965**	**4,616,277**

Appendix 2

TRADE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This appendix includes the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BSD) report submitted by the United States to ICCAT for the 2007 calendar year, the Swordfish Statistical Document report submitted by the United States to ICCAT for the 2007 calendar year, and the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document report submitted by the United States to ICCAT for the 2007 calendar year. These reports are submitted annually to ICCAT. ICCAT recommendations regarding these trade monitoring programs are available at http://www.iccat.es.

NOAA FISHERIES
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Annual Report

From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Export	**GULF OF MEXICO**	**LL**	**USA**	USA	MA	BOSTON	F	DR		232	
				Country Total:						**232**	
			Gear Total:							**232**	
		Area Total								**232**	
	PACIFIC	**PS**	**USA**	USA	CA	LOS ANGELES	FR	RD		8192	
				Country Total:						**8192**	
			Gear Total:							**8192**	
		Area Total								**8192**	
	WEST ATLANTIC	**HARP**	**USA**	USA	MA	BOSTON	F	DR		2000	
				USA	NJ	NEWARK	F	DR		512	
				USA	NY	JAMAICA	F	DR		1678	
				Country Total:						**4190**	
			Gear Total:							**4190**	
		LL	**USA**	USA	MA	BOSTON	F	DR		382	
				USA	NJ	NEWARK	F	DR		158	
				USA	NY	JAMAICA	F	DR		1309	
				USA	NY	NEW YORK	F	DR		94	
				USA	VA	DULLES	F	DR		168	
				Country Total:						**2111**	
			Gear Total:							**2111**	
		PS	**USA**	USA	MA	BOSTON	F	DR		19513	
				USA	NJ	NEWARK	F	DR		1350	
				USA	NY	JAMAICA	F	DR		435	
				Country Total:						**21298**	
			Gear Total:							**21298**	
		RR	**USA**	USA	AK	ANCHORAGE	F	DR		920	
				USA	DC	WASHINGTON	F	DR		720	
				USA	MA	BOSTON	F	DR		13312	
				USA	NC	RALEIGH	F	DR		29221	
				USA	NJ	NEWARK	F	DR		4732	
				USA	NY	JAMAICA	F	DR		2370	
				USA	NY	NEW YORK	F	DR		3006	
				USA	VA	DULLES	F	DR		3259	
				Country Total:						**57540**	
			Gear Total:							**57540**	
		Area Total								**85139**	
	Export Total:									**93563**	

NOAA FISHERIES
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Annual Report

From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Import	**EAST ATLANTIC**	**PS**	**ESPANA**	SPAIN	JAPAN	TARIFA	FR	OT	BLOCK	23	USA
				Country Total:						**23**	
			Gear Total:							**23**	
		TRAP	**ESPANA**	SPAIN	JAPAN	TARIFA	FR	OT	BLOCK	177	USA
				SPAIN	JAPAN	TARIFA	FR	OT	LOIN	500	USA
				Country Total:						**677**	
			MAROC	MOROCCO	SPAIN	TANGER	F	DR		155	USA
				MOROCCO		CASABLANCA	F	DR		24392	USA
				MOROCCO		CASABLANCA	F	GG		9808	USA
				Country Total:						**34355**	
			Gear Total:							**35032**	
		Area Total								**35055**	
	GULF OF MEXICO	**LL**	**MEXICO**	MEXICO		TUXPAN	F	DR		3773	USA
				Country Total:						**3773**	
			Gear Total:							**3773**	
		Area Total								**3773**	
	MEDITERRANEAN	**LL**	**ESPANA**	SPAIN	KOREA		FR	FL		14	USA
				SPAIN		CARTAGENA	F	DR		10937	USA
				SPAIN		LOS ALCAZARES	F	DR		2344	USA
				SPAIN		MADRID	F	DR		7693	USA
				Country Total:						**20988**	
			GREECE	GREECE		CASTELLI	F	GG		614	USA
				Country Total:						**614**	
			ITALY	ITALY		ROME	F	DR		2985	USA
				Country Total:						**2985**	
			MAROC	MOROCCO	SPAIN	TANGER	F	DR		2825	USA
				Country Total:						**2825**	
			Gear Total:							**27412**	
		OT	**ESPANA**	SPAIN		ALICANTE	F	GG		4058	USA
				SPAIN		MADRID	F	DR		1389	USA
				SPAIN		MADRID	F	GG		906	USA
				Country Total:						**6353**	
			FRANCE	ITALY	JAPAN	CORIGLIANO CALABRO	FR	ST		225	USA
				Country Total:						**225**	
			GREECE	GREECE	JAPAN	KEFALONIA	FR	FL		607	USA
				GREECE	JAPAN	KEFALONIA	FR	ST		424	USA
				Country Total:						**1031**	

NOAA FISHERIES
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Annual Report

From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Import	**MEDITERRANEAN**	**OT**	**ITALY**	INTERNATIONAL SEA	CROATIA		F	DR		9786	USA
				ITALY	JAPAN	CAMEROTA	FR	FL		1205	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	ST PAULS BAY	FR	OT	BLOCK	92	USA
				INTERNATIONAL WATERS	JAPAN		FR	FL		1579	USA
				ITALY		ROME	F	DR		24193	USA
							F	DR		205	USA
				Country Total:						**37060**	
			TUNISIE	TUNISIA	JAPAN	HERGLA	FR	FL		658	USA
				TUNISIA	JAPAN	HERGLA	FR	ST		692	USA
				TUNISIA	JAPAN	MAHDIA	FR	OT	BLOCK	2132	USA
				TUNISIA		MAHDIA	F	DR		2081	USA
				Country Total:						**5563**	
			Gear Total:							**50232**	
		PS	**CROATIA**	CROATIA	JAPAN	BIOGRAD	FR	ST		527	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	BIOGRAD	FR	FL		23467	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	BIOGRAD	FR	OT	LOIN	4027	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	SPLIT	FR	OT	MEAT CUT, LOIN	2849	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	SPLIT	FR	FL		5160	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	SPLIT	FR	OT	HARAMO	641	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	SPLIT	FR	OT	LOIN	603	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	SPLIT	FR	OT	BLOCK	2710	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	ZADAR	FR	FL		194	USA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	ZADAR	FR	OT	BLOCK	544	USA
				Country Total:						**40722**	
			CYPRUS	CYPRUS	JAPAN	LIMASSOL	FR	OT	BELLY (TORO)	553	USA
				CYPRUS	JAPAN	LIMASSOL	FR	OT	LOIN	430	USA
				CYPRUS	JAPAN	LIMASSOL	FR	OT	BLOCK	1843	USA
				CYPRUS	JAPAN	LIMASSOL	FR	OT	STEAK	1261	USA
				Country Total:						**4087**	

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Annual Report

From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Import	**MEDITERRANEAN**	**PS**	**ESPANA**	SPAIN	JAPAN	CARTAGENA	FR	OT	BLOCK	1002	USA
				SPAIN		CARTAGENA	F	DR		126299	USA
				SPAIN		L'AMETLLA DE MAR	F	DR		10867	USA
				Country Total:						**138168**	
			FRANCE	MALTA	JAPAN	KIRKOP	FR	OT	TENMI	281	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	KIRKOP	FR	FL		2309	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	KIRKOP	FR	OT	BELLY (TORO)	478	USA
				FRANCE	JAPAN	SETE	FR	OT	BLOCK	661	USA
				FRANCE	JAPAN	SETE	FR	OT	STEAK	13	USA
				FRANCE	JAPAN	SETE	FR	ST		853	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	VALLETTA	FR	OT	BLOCK	1424	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	ZURRIEQ	FR	FL		1518	USA
				FRANCE	TURKEY	SETE	F	GG		2473	USA
				MALTA		KIRKOP	F	DR		21208	USA
				MALTA		ST PAULS BAY	F	DR		1200	USA
				MALTA		ST PAULS BAY	F	DR		454	USA
				Country Total:						**32872**	
			ITALY	MALTA	JAPAN	KIRKOP	FR	OT	BELLY (TORO)	1053	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	KIRKOP	FR	OT	TENMI	619	USA
				ITALY	JAPAN	MILAZZO	FR	ST		294	USA
				TUNISIA		MAHDIA	F	DR		510	USA
				ITALY		MILANO	F	DR		496	USA
				Country Total:						**2972**	
			KOREA	TURKEY	JAPAN	IZMIR	FR	OT	BLOCK	739	USA
				TURKEY	JAPAN/ KOREA	IZMIR	FR	OT	LOIN	102	USA
				TURKEY	TURKEY	IZMIR	F	GG		884	USA
				Country Total:						**1725**	

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Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Import	**MEDITERRANEAN**	**PS**	**LIBYA**	LIBYA	JAPAN	SIRTE	FR	FL		2825	USA
				LIBYA	JAPAN	SIRTE	FR	OT	LOIN	315	USA
				LIBYA	JAPAN	SIRTE	FR	OT	BLOCK	22	USA
				LIBYA	JAPAN	TRIPOLI	FR	OT	BLOCK	294	USA
				LIBYA	JAPAN	TRIPOLI	FR	OT	STEAK	1330	USA
				LIBYA	JAPAN	TRIPOLI	FR	ST		505	USA
				LIBYA	JAPAN	TRIPOLI	FR	OT	BLOCK-MINCED	2303	USA
				LIBYA	MALTA	TRIPOLI	F	DR		433	USA
				Country Total:						**8027**	
			MALTA	MALTA	JAPAN	ST PAULS BAY	FR	OT	LOIN	752	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	ST PAULS BAY	FR	OT	BLOCK	469	USA
				MALTA	JAPAN	ST PAULS BAY	FR	OT	STEAK	1100	USA
				MALTA		ST PAULS BAY	F	DR		547	USA
				Country Total:						**2868**	
			TUNISIE	TUNISIA	JAPAN	SFAX	FR	FL		27	USA
				TUNISIA	JAPAN	SFAX	FR	OT	LOIN	169	USA
				TUNISIA	JAPAN	SFAX	FR	OT	BLOCK	306	USA
				TUNISIA	TURKEY	SFAX	F	DR		7546	USA
				TUNISIA		MAHDIA	F	DR		1435	USA
				Country Total:						**9483**	
			TURKEY	TURKEY	JAPAN	ANTALYA	FR	OT	BLOCK	300	USA
				TURKEY	JAPAN	ANTALYA	FR	OT	STEAK	210	USA
				TURKEY	JAPAN	ANTALYA	FR	FL		1641	USA
				TURKEY	JAPAN	GAZIPASA	FR	OT	BLOCK	246	USA
				Country Total:						**2397**	
			Gear Total:							**243321**	
		TRAP	**ESPANA**	SPAIN		MADRID	F	DR		2831	USA
				Country Total:						**2831**	
			MAROC	MOROCCO		CASABLANCA	F	GG		1844	USA
				Country Total:						**1844**	
			Gear Total:							**4675**	
		Area Total								**325640**	
	PACIFIC	**OT**									

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From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Import	**PACIFIC**	**OT**	**JAPAN**	JAPAN		FUKUOKA	F	DR		5263	USA
				JAPAN		KAGOSHIMA	F	GG		72	USA
				JAPAN		NARITA	F	GG		6745	USA
				JAPAN		TOKYO	F	GG		1537	USA
				Country Total:						**13617**	
			MEXICO	MEXICO		BAHIA SALSIPUEDES	F	GG		918	USA
				MEXICO		CORONADO ISLAND	F	GG		447	USA
				MEXICO		ENSENADA	F	GG		47764	USA
				MEXICO		ENSENADA	F	FL		620	USA
				Country Total:						**49749**	
			Gear Total:							**63366**	
		PS	**JAPAN**	JAPAN		AMAKUSA	F	GG		571	USA
				Country Total:						**571**	
			MEXICO	MEXICO		ENSENADA	F	GG		24693	USA
				MEXICO		ENSENADA	F	FL		404	USA
				Country Total:						**25097**	
			Gear Total:							**25668**	
		Area Total								**89034**	
	WEST ATLANTIC	**HAND**	**CANADA**	CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		1855	USA
				Country Total:						**1855**	
			Gear Total:							**1855**	
		HARP	**CANADA**	CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		555	USA
				CANADA		TIGNISH	F	DR		737	USA
				CANADA		WOODS HARBOUR	F	DR		3356	USA
				Country Total:						**4648**	
			Gear Total:							**4648**	
		LL									

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From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Import	**WEST ATLANTIC**	**LL**	**CANADA**	CANADA		CLARKS HARBOUR	F	DR		1812	USA
				CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		5625	USA
				CANADA		LOCKEPORT	F	DR		928	USA
				CANADA		SAMBRO	F	DR		6648	USA
				CANADA		SOUTH SIDE	F	DR		716	USA
				CANADA		TIGNISH	F	DR		494	USA
				CANADA		WOODS HARBOUR	F	DR		4873	USA
				CANADA		YARMOUTH	F	DR		479	USA
				Country Total:						**21575**	
			MEXICO	MEXICO		TUXPAN	F	DR		798	USA
				Country Total:						**798**	
			PANAMA	TRINIDAD		PORT OF SPAIN	F	HG		147	USA
				Country Total:						**147**	
			Gear Total:							**22520**	
		OT	**CANADA**	CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		794	USA
				Country Total:						**794**	
			Gear Total:							**794**	
		RR									

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Annual Report

From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Import	**WEST ATLANTIC**	**RR**	**CANADA**	CANADA		ALBERTON	F	DR		522	USA
				CANADA		CLARKS HARBOUR	F	DR		16530	USA
				CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		38901	USA
				CANADA		LOWER EAST PUBNICO	F	GG		399	USA
				CANADA		MACHONS POINT	F	DR		1414	USA
				CANADA		NORTH LAKE	F	DR		2170	USA
				CANADA		PORT HOOD	F	DR		874	USA
				CANADA		SAMBRO	F	DR		933	USA
				CANADA		SANDY POINT	F	DR		2951	USA
				CANADA		SANDY POINT	F	GG		6495	USA
				CANADA		SHELBURNE	F	DR		4258	USA
				CANADA		SOUTH SIDE	F	DR		60	USA
				CANADA		TIGNISH	F	DR		12820	USA
				CANADA		WEST HEAD	F	DR		241	USA
				CANADA		WOODS HARBOUR	F	DR		9482	USA
				CANADA		YARMOUTH	F	DR		1253	USA
				Country Total:						**99303**	
			Gear Total:							**99303**	
		TL	**CANADA**	CANADA		CLARKS HARBOUR	F	DR		704	USA
				Country Total:						**704**	
			Gear Total:							**704**	
		TRAP	**CANADA**	CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		562	USA
				Country Total:						**562**	
			Gear Total:							**562**	
		UNCL	**CANADA**	CANADA		YARMOUTH	F	DR		889	USA
				Country Total:						**889**	
			Gear Total:							**889**	
		Area Total								**131275**	
	Import Total:									**584777**	
Re-export	**MEDITERRANEAN**	**LL**	**ESPANA**	SPAIN		CARTAGENA	F	DR		344	JAPAN
				Country Total:						**344**	
			Gear Total:							**344**	
		OT	**ITALY**	ITALY		ROME	F	DR		1780	JAPAN
				Country Total:						**1780**	
			Gear Total:							**1780**	

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From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Trade Type	Area	Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	State of Export / Intermediate Nation	City of Export	Product Form Type	Product Form Shape	Other Shape	Total Weight (kg)	Country of Final Import
Re-export	**MEDITERRANEAN**	**PS**	**CROATIA**	CROATIA	JAPAN	SPLIT	FR	OT	BLOCK	61	CANADA
				CROATIA	JAPAN	ZADAR	FR	OT	BLOCK	285	CANADA
				Country Total:						**346**	
			CYPRUS	CYPRUS	JAPAN	LIMASSOL	FR	OT	BELLY (TORO)	131	CANADA
				CYPRUS	JAPAN	LIMASSOL	FR	OT	LOIN	54	CANADA
				CYPRUS	JAPAN	LIMASSOL	FR	OT	STEAK	535	CANADA
				Country Total:						**720**	
			FRANCE	MALTA	JAPAN	VALLETTA	FR	OT	BLOCK	49	CANADA
				Country Total:						**49**	
			MALTA	MALTA	JAPAN	ST PAULS BAY	FR	OT	BLOCK	65	CANADA
				MALTA	JAPAN	ST PAULS BAY	FR	OT	LOIN	68	CANADA
				Country Total:						**133**	
			Gear Total:							**1248**	
		Area Total								**3372**	
	WEST ATLANTIC	**HARP**	**CANADA**	CANADA		WOODS HARBOUR	F	DR		363	JAPAN
				Country Total:						**363**	
			Gear Total:							**363**	
		LL	**CANADA**	CANADA		CLARKS HARBOUR	F	DR		420	JAPAN
				CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		608	JAPAN
				Country Total:						**1028**	
			Gear Total:							**1028**	
		RR	**CANADA**	CANADA		CLARKS HARBOUR	F	DR		256	JAPAN
				CANADA		HALIFAX	F	DR		2294	JAPAN
				CANADA		SANDY POINT	F	GG		7239	JAPAN
				CANADA		SANDY POINT	F	DR		575	JAPAN
				CANADA		SHELBURNE	F	DR		179	JAPAN
				CANADA		WOODS HARBOUR	F	DR		873	JAPAN
				CANADA		YARMOUTH	F	DR		1543	JAPAN
				Country Total:						**12959**	
			Gear Total:							**12959**	
		Area Total								**14350**	
	Re-export Total:									**17722**	
Total:										**696062**	

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From: JAN-01-2007 To: DEC-31-2007

Gear Codes

BB	Bait Boat	PS	Purse Seine	TRAP	Trap
GILL	Gillnet	RR	Rod & Reel	TROL	Troll
HAND	Handline	SPHL	Sport Handline	UNCL	Unspecified
HARP	Harpoon	SPOR	Sport Unclassfied	OT	Other
LL	Longline	SURF	Surface Unclassified		
MWT	Mid-water Trawl	TL	Tended Line		

Product Form

Type

F	Fresh
FR	Frozen

Shape

RD	Round
GG	Gilled & Gutted
DR	Dressed
FL	Fillet
ST	Steak
OT	Other

Annual Report
Data: ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates (BET leaving US) Jan-Dec 2007
Generated by: NOAA NMFS NSIL
Date Generated: 3/24/08

Note: np means data was not provided or legible.

Area	Country Flag	Re-Export Country	Re-Export City	Import Country	Import City	Type	Shape	BET weight (kg)	Summaries	Total Weigth (kg)
East Pacific	np	JAPAN	YOKOUAMA, JAPAN	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	np	FR	OT	2,215.4		
									Country Area	2,215.4
Indian	np	JAPAN	YOKOHAMA, JAPAN	TAIWAN	np	FR	OT	10,240.3		
									Country Area	10,240.3
np	USA	JAPAN	YOKOHAMA	TAIWAN	GARDENA	FR	OT	1,000.0		
									Country Area	1,000.0
									Grand Total	13,455.7

Annual Report
Data: ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates (BET entering US) Jan-Dec 2007
Generated by: NOAA NMFS NSIL
Date Generated: 3/24/08

Note: np means data was not provided or legible.

Area	Country Flag	Re-Export Country	Re-Export City	Import Country	Import City	Type	Shape	BET weight (kg)	Summaries	Total Weigth (kg)
Indian	np	USA	NEW JERSEY	TAIWAN	np	FR	OT	4,581.0		
Indian	np	USA	NEW JERSEY	np	np	FR	OT	6,901.0		
									Country Area	11,482.0
Pacific	np	USA	NEW JERSEY	KOREA	np	FR	OT	984.5		
Pacific	np	USA	NEW JERSEY, USA	KOREA	np	FR	OT	748.0		
									Country Area	1,732.5
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY	KOREA	MISSASSAGUA	FR	OT	510.5		
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY	KOREA	MISSISSAGUA	FR	OT	279.6		
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY, USA	KOREA	MISSASSAGUA	FR	OT	231.7		
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY, USA	KOREA	np	FR	OT	411.9		
									Country Area	1,433.7
									Grand Total	14,648.2

Annual Report
Data: ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates (BET leaving US) Jan-Dec 2007
Generated by: NOAA NMFS NSIL
Date Generated: 3/24/08

Note: np means data was not provided or legible.

Area	Country Flag	Re-Export Country	Re-Export City	Import Country	Import City	Type	Shape	BET weight (kg)	Summaries	Total Weigth (kg)
East Pacific	np	JAPAN	YOKOUAMA, JAPAN	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	np	FR	OT	2,215.4		
									Country Area	2,215.4
Indian	np	JAPAN	YOKOHAMA, JAPAN	TAIWAN	np	FR	OT	10,240.3		
									Country Area	10,240.3
np	USA	JAPAN	YOKOHAMA	TAIWAN	GARDENA	FR	OT	1,000.0		
									Country Area	1,000.0
									Grand Total	13,455.7

Annual Report
Data: ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates (BET entering US) Jan-Dec 2007
Generated by: NOAA NMFS NSIL
Date Generated: 3/24/08

Note: np means data was not provided or legible.

Area	Country Flag	Re-Export Country	Re-Export City	Import Country	Import City	Type	Shape	BET weight (kg)	Summaries	Total Weigth (kg)
Indian	np	USA	NEW JERSEY	TAIWAN	np	FR	OT	4,581.0		
Indian	np	USA	NEW JERSEY	np	np	FR	OT	6,901.0		
									Country Area	11,482.0
Pacific	np	USA	NEW JERSEY	KOREA	np	FR	OT	984.5		
Pacific	np	USA	NEW JERSEY, USA	KOREA	np	FR	OT	748.0		
									Country Area	1,732.5
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY	KOREA	MISSASSAGUA	FR	OT	510.5		
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY	KOREA	MISSISSAGUA	FR	OT	279.6		
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY, USA	KOREA	MISSASSAGUA	FR	OT	231.7		
Pacific	CANADA	USA	NEW JERSEY, USA	KOREA	np	FR	OT	411.9		
									Country Area	1,433.7
									Grand Total	14,648.2

Annual Report
Data: ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Documents Jan-Dec 2007
Date Generated: 3/21/08
Generated by: NOAA NMFS NSIL

Note: np means data was not provided or legible.

Area	Gear	Other Gear	Country Flag	Country of Export	City of Export	Type	Shape	Other Shape	Imported SWO weight (kg)	Summaries	SWO Total Weigth (kg)	Country Imported Into
waters	gear	gear_ot	entity	point_st	pnt_city	cond	prod	type_ot	sum_nt_kg			
np	np	np	np	np	np	F	GG	np	11,340.0			USA
np	np	np	np	COSTA RICA	PUNTARENAS	F	GG	np	1,220.0			USA
np	np	np	Costa Rica	np	np	F	GG	np	1,040.0			USA
np	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	GG	np	2,346.6			USA
np	np	np	New Zealand	np	np	F	GG	np	124.0			USA
np	np	np	South Africa	np	np	F	GG	np	719.0			USA
np	np	np	Trinidad & Tobago	TRINIDAD AND TOBA(	PORT OF SPAIN	F	DR	np	951.6			USA
										Gear Area	17,741.2	
np	LL	np	Brazil	np	np	F	GG	np	486.8			USA
np	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI ISLANDS	NADI	F	GG	np	2,141.0			USA
np	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI ISLANDS	SUVA	F	DR	np	119.0			USA
np	LL	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	AUCKLAND	F	DR	np	219.0			USA
np	LL	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	AUCKLAND	F	GG	np	188.5			USA
										Gear Area	3,154.3	
										Area	20,895.5	
Atlantic	np	np	Brazil	np	np	F	GG	np	10,434.0			USA
Atlantic	np	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	NATAL	F	GG	np	873.0			USA
Atlantic	np	np	South Africa	np	np	F	GG	np	15,425.5			USA
Atlantic	np	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	np	F	GG	np	1,018.5			USA
Atlantic	np	np	Uruguay	np	np	F	GG	np	2,460.0			USA
										Gear Area	30,211.0	
Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	MONTEVIDEO	F	DR	np	171.8			
Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	MONTEVIDEO	F	GG	np	202.0			
										Gear Area	373.8	
										Area	30,584.8	
Indian	np	np	np	INDONESIA	MAKASSAR	FR	OT	np	6,701.0			
Indian	np	np	Chile	CHILE	SANTIAGO	F	GG	np	3,431.0			
Indian	np	np	Indonesia	INDONESIA	MAKASSAR	FR	OT	np	3,405.0			
Indian	np	np	South Africa	np	np	F	GG	np	30,164.0			
Indian	np	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	np	np	np	np	413.5			
Indian	np	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	np	F	GG	np	9,354.5			
										Gear Area	53,469.0	
Indian	LL	np	np	np	np	F	GG	np	3,173.0			
Indian	LL	np	np	AUSTRALIA	np	F	DR	np	123.0			
Indian	LL	np	np	MALAYSIA	PENANG	FR	OT	np	2,903.0			
Indian	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	np	F	DR	np	398.5			

Indian	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	BRISBANE	F	DR	np	18,014.5		
Indian	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	BRISBANE	F	GG	np	5,321.5		
Indian	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	MOOLOOLABA	F	DR	np	2,458.7		
Indian	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	MOOLOOLABA	F	GG	np	2,171.7		
Indian	LL	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	GG	np	64.0		
Indian	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI ISLANDS	NADI	F	GG	np	985.5		
Indian	LL	np	Indonesia	SRI LANKA	COLOMBO	F	GG	np	80,045.0		
Indian	LL	np	Indonesia	INDONESIA	DENPASAR	F	DR	np	1,435.0		
Indian	LL	np	Indonesia	INDONESIA	DENPASAR	F	OT	np	150.0		
Indian	LL	np	Indonesia	INDONESIA	DENPASAR	FR	FL	np	30,571.9		
Indian	LL	np	Indonesia	INDONESIA	DENPASAR	FR	GG	np	12,333.0		
Indian	LL	np	Indonesia	INDONESIA	DENPASAR	FR	OT	np	89,481.4		
Indian	LL	np	Indonesia	INDONESIA	DENPASAR	OT	OT	np	6,854.5		
Indian	LL	np	Japan	JAPAN	OHI	FR	FL	np	4,717.3		
Indian	LL	np	Malaysia	np	np	F	GG	np	313.0		
Indian	LL	np	Malaysia	MALAYSIA	np	F	GG	np	46,465.0		
Indian	LL	np	Malaysia	MALAYSIA	PENANG	F	GG	np	4,095.0		
Indian	LL	np	Malaysia	MALAYSIA	PENANG	FR	OT	np	11,516.9		
Indian	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	GAULANG	F	DR	np	4,818.0		
Indian	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	GAUTANCI	F	GG	np	2,519.0		
Indian	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	GAUTENG	F	DR	np	1,653.0		
Indian	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	GAUTENG	F	GG	np	2,013.0		
Indian	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	JOHANNESBURG	FR	DR	np	4,577.0		
Indian	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	JOHANNESBURG	FR	GG	np	1,133.5		
										Gear Area	340,304.9
										Area	393,773.9
Mediterranean	np	np	np	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	14,660.1		
Mediterranean	np	np	np	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	OT	np	1,303.0		
Mediterranean	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	np	F	GG	np	478.0		
Mediterranean	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	17,120.1		
Mediterranean	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	OT	np	5,616.8		
Mediterranean	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	OT	LOINS	50.5		
										Gear Area	39,228.5
										Area	39,228.5
North Atlantic	np	np	Taiwan	TAIWAN	np	FR	OT	np	7,153.0		
										Gear Area	7,153.0
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	np	np	F	DR	np	845.6		
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	CANADA	CLARKS HARBOUR	F	DR	np	2,385.9		
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	CANADA	EAST JEDDORE	F	DR	np	1,517.0		
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	CANADA	INGOMAR	F	DR	np	2,871.3		
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	CANADA	PORT MEDWAY	F	DR	np	7,899.0		
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	CANADA	SAMBRO	F	DR	np	14,976.0		
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	CANADA	WOODS HARBOUR	F	GG	np	53,458.0		
North Atlantic	HARP	np	Canada	CANADA	YARMOUTH	F	DR	np	5,591.5		
										Gear Area	89,544.3
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	np	np	F	DR	np	26,551.1		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	np	np	F	GG	np	2,208.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	np	np	FR	DR	np	11,119.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	CLARKS HARBOUR	F	DR	np	1,546.0		

North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	EAST JEDDORE	F	DR	np	2,207.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	HALIFAX	F	DR	np	137,921.8		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	HALIFAX	F	GG	np	471.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	LOCKEPORT	F	DR	np	26,498.2		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	NOVA SCOTIA	F	DR	np	7,687.2		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	SAMBRO	F	DR	np	69,971.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	SOUTH SIDE	F	DR	np	4,183.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	WOODS HARBOUR	F	np	np	6,716.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	WOODS HARBOUR	F	DR	np	3,485.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	WOODS HARBOUR	F	GG	np	87,667.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Canada	CANADA	YARMOUTH	F	DR	np	752.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Mexico	MEXICO	PROGRESSO	F	GG	np	94.6		
North Atlantic	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	CAPE TOWN	F	GG	np	276.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	St. Vincent	TRINIDAD AND TOBA(	PORT OF SPAIN	F	DR	np	27,516.2		
North Atlantic	LL	np	St. Vincent	TRINIDAD AND TOBA(	PORT OF SPAIN	F	GG	np	433.6		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Trinidad & Tobago	np	np	F	DR	np	181.0		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Trinidad & Tobago	TRINIDAD AND TOBA(	PIARCO	F	DR	np	53.2		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Trinidad & Tobago	TRINIDAD AND TOBA(	PORT OF SPAIN	F	DR	np	4,519.5		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Trinidad & Tobago	TRINIDAD AND TOBA(	PORT OF SPAIN	FR	DR	np	539.7		
North Atlantic	LL	np	Venezuela	VENEZUELA	LA GUAIRA	F	GG	np	16,099.4		
										Gear Area	438,696.5
										Area	535,393.8
Pacific	np	np	np	np	np	F	DR	np	106,104.3		
Pacific	np	np	np	np	np	F	GG	np	6,692.5		
Pacific	np	np	np	COSTA RICA	np	F	GG	np	524.0		
Pacific	np	np	np	ECUADOR	np	F	GG	np	1,937.0		
Pacific	np	np	np	MEXICO	ENSENADA	F	GG	np	14,732.0		
Pacific	np	np	np	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	DR	np	339.7		
Pacific	np	np	np	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	DR	np	24,330.5		
Pacific	np	np	np	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	14,829.9		
Pacific	np	np	np	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	OT	np	929.9		
Pacific	np	np	np	MEXICO	MAZATLAN	F	GG	np	400.0		
Pacific	np	np	np	COSTA RICA	PUNTARENAS	F	np	np	367.0		
Pacific	np	np	np	COSTA RICA	PUNTARENAS	F	GG	np	47,526.6		
Pacific	np	np	np	COSTA RICA	PUNTARENAS	F	OT	np	403.0		
Pacific	np	np	np	CHILE	SANTIAGO	F	OT	np	929.9		
Pacific	np	np	np	COLOMBIA	TUMACO	F	GG	np	100.9		
Pacific	np	np	Belize	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	F	GG	np	8,977.8		
Pacific	np	np	Belize	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	FR	OT	np	20,573.1		
Pacific	np	np	Brazil	np	np	F	DR	np	4,102.3		
Pacific	np	np	Brazil	np	np	F	GG	np	7,483.6		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	np	np	F	OT	np	929.9		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	CHILE	np	F	GG	np	600.0		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	CHILE	SAN ANTONIO	F	GG	np	4,254.9		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	CHILE	SAN ANTONIO	FR	OT	np	30,606.9		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	CHILE	SANTIAGO	F	FL	np	3,024.6		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	CHILE	SANTIAGO	F	GG	np	399,327.3		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	CHILE	SANTIAGO	F	OT	np	120,331.0		
Pacific	np	np	Chile	CHILE	SANTIAGO	FR	OT	np	20,100.3		
Pacific	np	np	Columbia	np	np	F	GG	np	1,276.0		
Pacific	np	np	Columbia	COLOMBIA	TUMACO	F	GG	np	1,595.5		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	np	np	F	GG	np	980.0		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	np	F	np	np	764.0		

Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	np	F	GG	np	76,741.9		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	np	F	OT	np	1,178.0		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	np	FR	OT	np	4,626.5		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	F	GG	np	59,631.3		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	FR	GG	np	460.0		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	FR	OT	np	25,707.8		
Pacific	np	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	PUNTARENAS	F	GG	np	45,889.4		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	np	np	F	DR	np	8,448.0		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	np	np	F	GG	np	9,558.6		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	np	F	GG	np	6,406.2		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	np	np	2,598.7		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	DR	np	71,899.4		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	GG	np	72,964.8		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	OT	np	2,753.5		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAS	F	DR	np	1,816.8		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	DR	np	14,936.5		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	329.0		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	QUITO	F	GG	np	88,562.0		
Pacific	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	SANTA ROSA	F	GG	np	141.7		
Pacific	np	np	Mexico	np	np	F	GG	np	12,400.0		
Pacific	np	np	Mexico	MEXICO	np	F	GG	np	41,466.0		
Pacific	np	np	Mexico	MEXICO	ENSENADA	np	np	np	3,968.0		
Pacific	np	np	Mexico	MEXICO	ENSENADA	F	GG	np	168,507.0		
Pacific	np	np	Mexico	MEXICO	MAZATLAN	F	GG	np	40,341.0		
Pacific	np	np	Mexico	MEXICO	PUERTO SAN CARLOS	F	GG	np	7,845.0		
Pacific	np	np	Mexico	MEXICO	TIJUANA	F	GG	np	34,584.0		
Pacific	np	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	np	F	GG	np	200.2		
Pacific	np	np	Nicaragua	NICARAGUA	MANAGUA	F	GG	np	33,523.1		
Pacific	np	np	Panama	np	np	F	GG	np	31,341.9		
Pacific	np	np	Panama	PANAMA	PANAMA	F	GG	np	676,528.4		
Pacific	np	np	Philippines	np	np	F	GG	np	344.0		
Pacific	np	np	Taiwan	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	F	GG	np	2,457.0		
Pacific	np	np	Taiwan	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	FR	OT	np	11,559.3		
Pacific	np	np	Vietnam	VIETNAM	HO CHI MINH	F	np	np	1,246.0		
Pacific	np	np	Vietnam	VIETNAM	HO CHI MINH	F	GG	np	27,022.6		
Pacific	np	np	Vietnam	VIETNAM	HO CHI MINH	FR	GG	np	18,840.0		
Pacific	np	np	Vietnam	VIETNAM	HO CHI MINH	FR	OT	np	1,993.0		
										Gear Area	2,453,891.0
Pacific	HAND	np	np	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	GG	np	3,025.3		
Pacific	HAND	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	np	F	GG	np	80.0		
Pacific	HAND	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	GG	np	437.3		
Pacific	HAND	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	271.4		
										Gear Area	3,814.0
Pacific	LL	np	np	np	np	F	DR	np	625.0		
Pacific	LL	np	np	CHINA	MAJURO	F	DR	np	9,123.5		
Pacific	LL	np	np	CHINA	MAJURO	F	FL	np	1,135.8		
Pacific	LL	np	np	MICRONESIA	MAJURO	F	DR	np	341.4		
Pacific	LL	np	np	ECUADOR	QUITO	F	GG	np	2,306.8		
Pacific	LL	np	np	MEXICO	TIJUANA	F	GG	np	5,130.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	MOOLOOLABA	F	DR	np	466.5		
Pacific	LL	np	Chile	CHILE	SANTIAGO	F	GG	np	933.5		
Pacific	LL	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	F	DR	np	1,145.0		

Pacific	LL	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	F	GG	np	7,723.1		
Pacific	LL	np	Costa Rica	COSTA RICA	ALAJUELA	FR	GG	np	53.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	DR	np	5,465.9		
Pacific	LL	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	GG	np	1,201.6		
Pacific	LL	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAQUIL	F	OT	np	76.6		
Pacific	LL	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	GUAYAS	F	GG	np	3,244.1		
Pacific	LL	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	1,367.1		
Pacific	LL	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	QUITO	F	GG	np	1,154.1		
Pacific	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI	SUVA	F	DR	np	53.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI ISLANDS	SUVA	F	DR	np	12,922.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI ISLANDS	SUVA	F	GG	np	5,247.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Japan	JAPAN	OHI	FR	FL	np	4,798.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Japan	JAPAN	OHI	FR	OT	np	68.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Malaysia	MALAYSIA	np	F	GG	np	902.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Mexico	MEXICO	np	F	GG	np	2,021.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Mexico	MEXICO	TIJUANA	F	GG	np	3,331.0		
Pacific	LL	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	AUCKLAND	F	GG	np	512.8		
Pacific	LL	np	Panama	np	np	F	OT	np	80.2		
Pacific	LL	np	Philippines	PHILIPPINES	DAVAO	F	GG	np	1,869.4		
Pacific	LL	np	Philippines	PHILIPPINES	DAVAO	F	OT	np	337.2		
Pacific	LL	np	Taiwan	TAIWAN	PING TUNG COUNTY	FR	FL	np	91.0		
Pacific	LL	np	Vietnam	VIETNAM	HO CHI MINH	FR	OT	np	19,585.1		
Pacific	LL	np	Vietnam	VIETNAM	NHA TRANG	F	GG	np	5,778.6		
Pacific	LL	np	Vietnam	VIETNAM	NHA TRANG	FR	OT	np	90,280.0		
										Gear Area	189,369.3
										Area	2,647,074.3
SOUTH ATLAN	np	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	NATAL	F	GG	np	1,647.5		
South Atlantic	np	np	np	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	1,445.1		
South Atlantic	np	np	np	BRAZIL	NATAL	F	GG	np	360.0		
South Atlantic	np	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	np	F	GG	np	630.0		
South Atlantic	np	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	NATAL	F	GG	np	113,283.0		
South Atlantic	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	GG	np	65.0		
South Atlantic	np	np	Ecuador	ECUADOR	MANTA	F	OT	np	50.9		
South Atlantic	np	np	South Africa	np	np	F	GG	np	481.0		
South Atlantic	np	np	Venezuela	VENEZUELA	LA GUAIRA	F	GG	np	1,324.0		
										Gear Area	119,286.5
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	np	np	F	GG	np	5,137.6		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	ITAJAI/SC/BRASIL	F	DR	np	70,679.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	ITAJAI/SC/BRASIL	F	GG	np	7,237.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	ITAPEMIRIM	F	GG	np	16,759.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	ITAPEMIRIM	F	OT	np	4,728.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	NATAL	F	GG	np	9,940.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	RECIFE	F	DR	np	3,207.7		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	RIO GRANDE/RS	F	GG	np	949.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	SANTOS/SAO PAULO	F	GG	np	54,763.4		
South Atlantic	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	CAPE TOWN	F	DR	np	13,456.5		
South Atlantic	LL	np	South Africa	SOUTH AFRICA	CAPE TOWN	F	GG	np	4,067.5		
South Atlantic	LL	np	St. Vincent	TRINIDAD AND TOBA(	PORT OF SPAIN	F	DR	np	5,457.1		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	np	np	F	DR	np	3,325.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	np	F	DR	np	2,124.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	np	F	GG	np	2,815.5		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	MONTEVIDEO	F	DR	np	13,208.0		

South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	MONTEVIDEO	F	GG	np	8,495.6		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	MONTEVIDEO	FR	DR	np	3,400.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	MONTEVIDEO	FR	GG	np	3,413.0		
South Atlantic	LL	np	Uruguay	URUGUAY	MUDO	F	GG	np	8,025.7		
South Atlantic	TL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	ITAPEMIRIM	F	GG	np	23,944.0		
South Atlantic	TL	np	Brazil	BRAZIL	ITAPEMIRIM	F	OT	np	198.0		
										Gear Area	265,330.6
										Area	384,617.1
Western Pacific	np	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	BRISBANE	F	DR	np	645.4		
Western Pacific	np	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	AUCKLAND	F	GG	np	586.3		
										Gear Area	1,231.7
Western Pacific	LL	np	np	AUSTRALIA	MOOLOOLABA	F	DR	np	271.5		
Western Pacific	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	BRISBANE	F	DR	np	50,020.7		
Western Pacific	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	MOOLOOLABA	F	DR	np	14,025.9		
Western Pacific	LL	np	Australia	AUSTRALIA	MOOLOOLABA	F	GG	np	1,868.3		
Western Pacific	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI	NADI	F	GG	np	1,195.5		
Western Pacific	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI ISLANDS	NADI	F	GG	np	12,830.5		
Western Pacific	LL	np	Fiji Islands	FIJI ISLANDS	SUVA	F	DR	np	316.0		
Western Pacific	LL	np	New Zealand	np	np	F	GG	np	740.5		
Western Pacific	LL	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	AUCKLAND	F	DR	np	33,555.9		
Western Pacific	LL	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	AUCKLAND	F	GG	np	19,918.4		
Western Pacific	LL	np	New Zealand	NEW ZEALAND	GISBORNE	F	GG	np	424.5		
										Gear Area	135,167.7
										Area	136,399.4
										Grand Tota	4,187,967.3

Annual Report
Data: ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificates (SWO Leaving US) Jan-Dec 2007
Generated by: NOAA NMFS NSIL
Date Generated: 3/24/08

Note: np means data was not provided or legible.

AREA	Country Flag	Re-Export Cou	Re-Export City	Import Country	Import City	Type	Shape	SWO weight (kg)	Summaries	SWO Total Weigth (kg)
np	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	BOSTON	FR	OT	15,431.0		
np	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	15,863.7		
np	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	NEW YORK	FR	OT	6,559.8		
									Country Area	37,854.5
									Area	37,854.5
Atlantic	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	8,223.0		
									Country Area	8,223.0
									Area	8,223.0
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	CHINA	LOS ANGELE	FR	FL	22,695.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	CHINA	LONG BEACH	FR	OT	18,260.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	CHINA	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	13,685.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	MIAMI	FR	DR	79,892.6		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	LOS ANGELE	FR	FL	96,847.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	NEW YORK	FR	FL	18,155.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	SAN PEDRO	FR	FL	13,272.2		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	SEATTLE	FR	FL	57,698.6		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	LONG BEACH	FR	OT	23,800.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	NEW YORK	FR	OT	75,909.2		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	SAN PEDRO	FR	OT	4,903.9		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	SEATTLE	FR	OT	31,933.0		
Indian	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	INDONESIA	SEATTLE	FR	OT	6,662.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	FL	7,878.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	36,916.8		
Indian	United States	Korea	SINGAPORE	KOREA	TACOMA	FR	OT	4,100.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	KOREA	NEW YORK	FR	FL	26,287.3		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	KOREA	SEATTLE	FR	FL	3,565.8		

Indian	United States	Oman	SINGAPORE	OMAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	18,714.2		
Indian	United States	Oman	SINGAPORE	OMAN	LONG BEACH	FR	OT	7,983.3		
Indian	United States	Oman	SINGAPORE	OMAN	SEATTLE	FR	OT	16.8		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	OMAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	17,841.8		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	OMAN	LONG BEACH	FR	OT	29,425.1		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	PHILIPPINES	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	18,184.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	SEYCHELLES	NEW YORK	FR	FL	100.0		
Indian	United States	China	YANTAI	TAIWAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	580.0		
Indian	United States	Korea	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	TACOMA	FR	OT	9,800.2		
Indian	United States	Oman	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	3,615.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LONG BEACH	FR	FL	13,661.3		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	FL	158,729.8		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	NEW YORK	FR	FL	600.0		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	19,174.1		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LONG BEACH	FR	OT	4,009.5		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	35,009.8		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	NEW YORK	FR	OT	49,354.8		
Indian	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	OT	14,084.1		
Indian	United States	TAIWAN	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	NEWARK	FR	OT	18,207.3		
Indian	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	22,067.8		
Indian	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	np	FR	FL	1,381.3		
Indian	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	31,824.2		
Indian	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	MIAMI	FR	OT	19,047.3		
Indian	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	OT	75,838.1		
Indian	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	np	FR	OT	22,024.4		
									Country Area	1,133,735.6
									Area	1,133,735.6
North Atlantic	United States	Senegal	SINGAPORE	SENEGAL	SEATTLE	FR	OT	14,851.0		
									Country Area	14,851.0
									Area	14,851.0
Pacific	np	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	np	F	GG	254.0		
									Country Area	254.0
Pacific	United States	Chinese Taipei	SINGAPORE	CHIINA	NEW YORK	FR	FL	3,490.0		
Pacific	United States	Chinese Taipei	SINGAPORE	CHINESE TAIPEI	NEW YORK	FR	FL	4,305.8		
Pacific	United States	Chinese Taipei	SINGAPORE	CHINESE TAIPEI	np	FR	FL	3,490.0		
Pacific	United States	Philippines	DAVAO	PHILIPPINES	NEWARK	FR	OT	9,668.1		
Pacific	United States	Chinese Taipei	SINGAPORE	SEYCHELLES TAI\	np	FR	FL	3,181.0		

Pacific	United States	Chinese Taipei	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	np	FR	FL	2,360.0		
Pacific	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	FL	36,447.0		
Pacific	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LONG BEACH	FR	OT	11,808.0		
Pacific	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	NEW YORK	FR	OT	880.0		
Pacific	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	286.0		
Pacific	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	OT	11,663.8		
Pacific	United States	Taiwan	VIETNAM	TAIWAN	MIAMI	FR	OT	3,908.8		
									Country Area	91,488.5
									Area	91,742.5
South Atlantic	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	JAPAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	10,087.5		
South Atlantic	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	KOREA	SEATTLE	FR	FL	2,000.0		
South Atlantic	United States	Singapore	SINGAPORE	ST HELENA ISLAN	NEWARK	FR	OT	12,158.6		
South Atlantic	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	FL	15,345.8		
South Atlantic	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	2,919.3		
South Atlantic	United States	Taiwan	SINGAPORE	TAIWAN	SEATTLE	FR	OT	13,718.7		
									Country Area	56,229.9
									Area	56,229.9
									Grand Total	1,342,636.5

Annual Report
Data: ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificates (SWO entering US) Jan-Dec 2007
Generated by: NOAA NMFS NSIL
Date Generated: 3/24/08

Note: np means data was not provided or legible.

AREA	***Country Flag***	***Re-Export Cou***	***Re-Export City***	***Import Country***	***Import City***	***Type***	***Shape***	***SWO weight (kg)***	***Summaries***	***SWO Total Weigth (kg)***
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMACIA	MALAYSIA	DORVAL	F	GG	277.0		
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMAICA	MALAYSIA	DORVAL	F	GG	217.0		
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMAICA	MALAYSIA	MONTREAL	F	GG	182.0		
Indian	Canada	United States	NEW YORK	MALAYSIA	MONTREAL	F	GG	642.9		
									Country Area	1,318.9

Indian	United States	Mauritius	PORT LOUIS	MALAYSIA	LOS ANGELE	FR	OT	3,234.0		
									Country Area	3,234.0
Indian	np	United States	JAMACIA	MALAYSIA	np	F	GG	122.0		
Indian	np	United States	JAMACIA	SRI LANKA	np	F	GG	154.0		
Indian	np	United States	JAMAICA	SRI LANKA	MONTREAL	F	GG	103.0		
Indian	np	United States	JAMAICA	SRI LANKA	np	F	GG	87.0		
									Country Area	466.0
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMACIA	SRI LANKA	DORVAL	F	GG	235.0		
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMACIA	SRI LANKA	MONTREAL	F	GG	667.0		
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMAICA	SRI LANKA	DORVAL	F	GG	195.0		
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMAICA	SRI LANKA	MONTREAL	F	GG	563.0		
Indian	Canada	United States	JAMAICA	SRI LANKA	TORONTO	F	GG	301.0		
									Country Area	1,961.0
									Area	6,979.9
North Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	BRAZIL	np	F	DR	987.9		
North Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	PORT SPAIN	np	F	DR	158.7		
North Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	TRINIDAD	np	F	DR	132.8		
									Country Area	1,279.4
									Area	1,279.4
Pacific	Canada	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	DORVAL	F	GG	849.4		
Pacific	Canada	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	MONTREAL	F	GG	4,004.9		
Pacific	Canada	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	ST.LAURENT	F	GG	61.7		
Pacific	Canada	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	TORONTO	F	GG	1,955.1		
Pacific	Canada	United States	np	PANAMA	MONTREAL	F	GG	198.0		
									Country Area	7,069.1
Pacific	np	United States	MIAMI	ECUADOR	np	F	OT	100.2		
Pacific	np	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	np	F	DR	755.1		
Pacific	np	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	np	F	GG	1,625.3		
Pacific	np	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	np	F	OT	157.7		
									Country Area	2,638.3
									Area	9,707.4
South Atlantic	np	Brazil	MIAMI	BRAZIL	np	np	np	164.0		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	BRAZIL	np	F	DR	3,298.2		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	BRAZIL	np	F	GG	101.6		

South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	BRAZIL	np	F	OT	2,234.0		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	BRAZIL	np	np	np	166.4		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	PANAMA	np	F	DR	124.2		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	TRINIDAD	np	F	DR	43.5		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	TTO	np	F	OT	318.4		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	np	np	F	OT	54.8		
South Atlantic	np	United States	MIAMI	np	np	np	np	180.4		
									Country Area	6,685.5
									Area	6,685.5
									Grand Total	24,652.2

Appendix 3

ATCA REGULATIONS PUBLISHED IN 2008

This appendix includes U.S. regulations promulgated in 2008 in compliance with and under the authority of Section 6 (971d) of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971 et seq.). For the complete text of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) relating to ICCAT species, please refer to the website http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html and select Code of Federal Regulations.

§ 622.4 Permits and fees.

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(v) *Gulf reef fish*. For a person aboard a vessel to be eligible for exemption from the bag limits, to fish under a quota, as specified in § 622.42(a)(1), or to sell Gulf reef fish in or from the Gulf EEZ, a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish must have been issued to the vessel and must be on board. * * *

* * * * *

§ 622.16 [Amended]

3. In § 622.16, paragraph (b)(2)(iv) is removed.

■ 4. In § 622.33, paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(A) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.33 Caribbean EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(ii)* * *

(A) *Bajo de Cico*.

Point A	North lat.	West long.
A	18°15.7′	67°26.4′
B	18°15.7′	67°23.2′
C	18°12.7′	67°23.4′
D	18°12.7′	67°26.4′
A	18°15.7′	67°26.4′

* * * * *

■ 5. In § 622.38, the second sentence of paragraph (d)(1) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.38 Landing fish intact.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(1) * * * See § 622.31(n) regarding a prohibition on the use of Gulf reef fish as bait. * * *

* * * * *

■ 6. In § 622.41, paragraphs (g)(3)(i)(A),(B), and (E) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.41 Species specific limitations.

* * * * *

(g) * * *

(3) * * *

(i) * * *

(A) Fisheye—see Appendix D to part 622 for separate specifications in the Gulf and South Atlantic EEZ.

(B) Gulf fisheye—South Atlantic EEZ only.

* * * * *

(E) Expanded mesh—South Atlantic EEZ only.

* * * * *

■ 7. In Appendix D to part 622, sections C and D are revised to read as follows:

APPENDIX D TO PART 622—SPECIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFIED BRDS

* * * * *

C. *Fisheye*.

1. *Description*. The fisheye BRD is a cone-shaped rigid frame constructed from aluminum or steel rod of at least 1/4 inch (6.35–mm) diameter, which is inserted into the cod end to form an escape opening.

2. *Minimum Construction and Installation Requirements*. The fisheye has a minimum escape opening dimension of 5 inches (12.7 cm) and a minimum total escape opening area of 36 in^2 (91.4 cm^2). When the fisheye BRD is installed, no part of the lazy line attachment system (i.e., any mechanism, such as elephant ears or choker straps, used to attach the lazy line to the cod end) may overlap the fisheye escape opening when the fisheye is installed aft of the attachment point of the cod end retrieval system.

(a) In the Gulf EEZ, the fisheye BRD must be installed at the top center of the cod end of the trawl to create an opening in the trawl facing in the direction of the mouth of the trawl no further forward than 9 ft (2.7 m) from the cod end drawstring (tie-off rings).

(b) In the South Atlantic EEZ, the fisheye BRD must be installed at the top center of the cod end of the trawl to create an escape opening in the trawl facing the direction of the mouth of the trawl no further forward than 11 ft (3.4 m) from the cod end tie-off rings.

D. *Gulf fisheye*.

1. *Description*. The Gulf fisheye is a cone-shaped rigid frame constructed from aluminum or steel rod of at least ¼ inch (6.35–mm) diameter, which is inserted into the top center of the cod end, and is offset not more than 15 meshes perpendicular to the top center of the cod end to form an escape opening.

2. *Minimum Construction and Installation Requirements*. The Gulf fisheye has a minimum escape opening dimension of 5 inches (12.7 cm) and a minimum total escape opening area of 36 in^2 (91.4 cm^2). To be used in the South Atlantic EEZ, the Gulf fisheye BRD must be installed in the cod end of the trawl to create an escape opening in the trawl, facing in the direction of the mouth of the trawl, no less than 8.5 ft (2.59 m) and no further forward than 12.5 ft (3.81 m) from the cod end tie-off rings, and may be offset no more than 15 meshes perpendicular to the top center of the cod end. When the Gulf fisheye BRD is installed, no part of the lazy line attachment system (i.e., any mechanism, such as elephant ears or choker straps, used to attach the lazy line to the cod end) may overlap the fisheye escape opening when the fisheye is installed aft of the attachment point of the cod end retrieval system.

* * * * *

8. In addition to the amendments above, in 50 CFR part 622, remove the word ''codend,'' wherever it occurs, and add in its place the words ''cod end''.

[FR Doc. E8–27351 Filed 11–17–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

RIN 0648–XL77

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Porbeagle Shark Fishery

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Fishery closures.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the commercial fishery for porbeagle sharks in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. This action is necessary because the porbeagle shark quotas for the 2008 fishing season have reached or are projected to have reached at least 80 percent of the available quota.

DATES: The commercial porbeagle shark fishery is closed effective 11:30 p.m. local time November 18, 2008 until NMFS announces via a notice in the **Federal Register** that additional quota is available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karyl Brewster–Geisz, 301–713–2347; fax 301–713–1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its implementing regulations found at 50 CFR part 635 issued under authority of the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

Under 635.5(b)(1), shark dealers are required to report every two weeks. Dealer reports for fish received between the 1st and 15th of any month must be received by NMFS by the 25th of that month. Dealer reports for fish received between the 16th and the end of any month must be received by NMFS by the 10th of the following month. Under

50 CFR 635.28(b)(2), when NMFS projects that fishing season landings for a specific shark quota have reached or are about to reach 80 percent of the available quota, NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the **Federal Register** a notice of closure for that shark species group that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from the date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure until NMFS announces, via a notice in the **Federal Register**, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, the fishery for that specific quota is closed, even across fishing years.

On June 24, 2008 (73 FR 35778; corrected July 15, 2008, 73 FR 46058), NMFS announced that the porbeagle quota for the 2008 fishing year would be 1.7 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (3,748 lbs dw). In the September 23, 2008, landings update, sharks reported as unknowns were apportioned to species or species groups using observer data by number rather than weight. This method was originally used because it follows the procedures used in the stock assessment. However, while the stock assessment is done in number of sharks, quota monitoring is done by weight. As such, for this and all future updates, sharks reported as unknowns will be apportioned to species or species groups by weight. Thus, landings for some groups may differ from previous landings updates. Additionally, NMFS worked with the State of North Carolina to try to determine the amount of double reporting between state and federal landings. While doing this, NMFS discovered that many of North Carolina's landings of spiny dogfish were incorrectly reported as unknown or sandbar sharks. The latest update corrects this reporting error. Dealer reports through the October 15, 2008, reporting period indicated that 2.0 mt dw or 116.0 percent of the available quota for porbeagle sharks has been taken. Accordingly, NMFS is closing the commercial porbeagle shark fishery as of 11:30 p.m. local time November 18, 2008.

During the closure, retention of porbeagle sharks is prohibited for persons fishing aboard vessels issued a commercial shark limited access permit under 50 CFR 635.4, unless the vessel is permitted to operate as a charter vessel or headboat for HMS and is engaged in a for–hire trip, in which case the recreational retention limits for sharks and no sale provisions may apply (50 CFR 635.22(a) and (c)). The sale, purchase, trade, or barter or attempted sale, purchase, trade, or barter of carcasses and/or fins of porbeagle sharks harvested by a person aboard a vessel that has been issued a commercial shark limited access permit under 50 CFR 635.4, is prohibited, except for those that were harvested, offloaded, and sold, traded, or bartered prior to the closure, and were held in storage by a dealer or processor.

Classification

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds that providing for prior notice and public comment for this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest because the fishery is currently underway, and any delay in this action would cause further overharvest of the quota and be inconsistent with management requirements and objectives. Similarly, affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action is contrary to the public interest because if the quota is exceeded, the affected public is likely to experience reductions in the available quota and a lack of fishing opportunities in future seasons. Thus, for these reasons, the AA also finds good cause to waive the 30–day delay in effective date pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 (d)(3). This action is required under 50 CFR 635.28(b)(2) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 12, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–27327 Filed 11–13–08; 4:45 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 0808051050–81421–02]

RIN 0648–XJ42

Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to implement the annual harvest guideline (HG) for Pacific mackerel in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the Pacific coast for the fishing season of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. This HG has been calculated according to the regulations implementing the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and establishes allowable harvest levels for Pacific mackerel off the Pacific coast. The HG for the 2008–2009 fishing season is 40,000 metric tons (mt). If this total is reached, Pacific mackerel fishing will be closed to directed harvest and only incidental harvest will be allowed at a 45 percent by weight incidental catch rate when landed with other CPS, except that up to one mt of Pacific mackerel can be landed without landing any other CPS.

DATES: Effective December 18, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the report *Pacific Mackerel (Scomber japonicus) Stock Assessment for U.S. Management in the 2008–2009 Fishing Year* may be obtained from the Southwest Regional Office by contacting Rodney R. McInnis, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joshua Lindsay, Southwest Region, NMFS, (562) 980–4034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CPS FMP, which was implemented by publication of the final rule in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 1999 (64 FR 69888), divides management unit species into two categories: actively managed and monitored. Harvest guidelines for actively managed species (Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel) are based on formulas applied to current biomass estimates. Biomass estimates are not calculated for species that are only monitored (jack mackerel, northern anchovy, and market squid).

During public meetings each year, the biomass for each actively managed species within the CPS FMP is presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (Team), the Council's Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (Subpanel) and the CPS Subcommitee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). At that time, the biomass, the acceptable biological catch (ABC) and the status of the fisheries are reviewed and discussed. This information is then presented to the Council along with HG recommendations and comments from the Team and Subpanel. Following review by the Council and after hearing public comments, the Council makes its HG recommendation to NMFS.

For the 2008–2009 Pacific mackerel management season an updated assessment for Pacific mackerel was

§ 622.4 Permits and fees.

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(v) *Gulf reef fish*. For a person aboard a vessel to be eligible for exemption from the bag limits, to fish under a quota, as specified in § 622.42(a)(1), or to sell Gulf reef fish in or from the Gulf EEZ, a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish must have been issued to the vessel and must be on board. * * *

* * * * *

§ 622.16 [Amended]

3. In § 622.16, paragraph (b)(2)(iv) is removed.

■ 4. In § 622.33, paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(A) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.33 Caribbean EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(ii)* * *

(A) *Bajo de Cico*.

Point A	North lat.	West long.
A	18°15.7′	67°26.4′
B	18°15.7′	67°23.2′
C	18°12.7′	67°23.4′
D	18°12.7′	67°26.4′
A	18°15.7′	67°26.4′

* * * * *

■ 5. In § 622.38, the second sentence of paragraph (d)(1) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.38 Landing fish intact.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(1) * * * See § 622.31(n) regarding a prohibition on the use of Gulf reef fish as bait. * * *

* * * * *

■ 6. In § 622.41, paragraphs (g)(3)(i)(A),(B), and (E) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.41 Species specific limitations.

* * * * *

(g) * * *

(3) * * *

(i) * * *

(A) Fisheye—see Appendix D to part 622 for separate specifications in the Gulf and South Atlantic EEZ.

(B) Gulf fisheye—South Atlantic EEZ only.

* * * * *

(E) Expanded mesh—South Atlantic EEZ only.

* * * * *

■ 7. In Appendix D to part 622, sections C and D are revised to read as follows:

APPENDIX D TO PART 622—SPECIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFIED BRDS

* * * * *

C. *Fisheye*.

1. *Description*. The fisheye BRD is a cone-shaped rigid frame constructed from aluminum or steel rod of at least 1/4 inch (6.35–mm) diameter, which is inserted into the cod end to form an escape opening.

2. *Minimum Construction and Installation Requirements*. The fisheye has a minimum escape opening dimension of 5 inches (12.7 cm) and a minimum total escape opening area of 36 in^2 (91.4 cm^2). When the fisheye BRD is installed, no part of the lazy line attachment system (i.e., any mechanism, such as elephant ears or choker straps, used to attach the lazy line to the cod end) may overlap the fisheye escape opening when the fisheye is installed aft of the attachment point of the cod end retrieval system.

(a) In the Gulf EEZ, the fisheye BRD must be installed at the top center of the cod end of the trawl to create an opening in the trawl facing in the direction of the mouth of the trawl no further forward than 9 ft (2.7 m) from the cod end drawstring (tie-off rings).

(b) In the South Atlantic EEZ, the fisheye BRD must be installed at the top center of the cod end of the trawl to create an escape opening in the trawl facing the direction of the mouth of the trawl no further forward than 11 ft (3.4 m) from the cod end tie-off rings.

D. *Gulf fisheye*.

1. *Description*. The Gulf fisheye is a cone-shaped rigid frame constructed from aluminum or steel rod of at least ¼ inch (6.35–mm) diameter, which is inserted into the top center of the cod end, and is offset not more than 15 meshes perpendicular to the top center of the cod end to form an escape opening.

2. *Minimum Construction and Installation Requirements*. The Gulf fisheye has a minimum escape opening dimension of 5 inches (12.7 cm) and a minimum total escape opening area of 36 in^2 (91.4 cm^2). To be used in the South Atlantic EEZ, the Gulf fisheye BRD must be installed in the cod end of the trawl to create an escape opening in the trawl, facing in the direction of the mouth of the trawl, no less than 8.5 ft (2.59 m) and no further forward than 12.5 ft (3.81 m) from the cod end tie-off rings, and may be offset no more than 15 meshes perpendicular to the top center of the cod end. When the Gulf fisheye BRD is installed, no part of the lazy line attachment system (i.e., any mechanism, such as elephant ears or choker straps, used to attach the lazy line to the cod end) may overlap the fisheye escape opening when the fisheye is installed aft of the attachment point of the cod end retrieval system.

* * * * *

8. In addition to the amendments above, in 50 CFR part 622, remove the word ''codend,'' wherever it occurs, and add in its place the words ''cod end''.

[FR Doc. E8–27351 Filed 11–17–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

RIN 0648–XL77

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Porbeagle Shark Fishery

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Fishery closures.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the commercial fishery for porbeagle sharks in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. This action is necessary because the porbeagle shark quotas for the 2008 fishing season have reached or are projected to have reached at least 80 percent of the available quota.

DATES: The commercial porbeagle shark fishery is closed effective 11:30 p.m. local time November 18, 2008 until NMFS announces via a notice in the **Federal Register** that additional quota is available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karyl Brewster–Geisz, 301–713–2347; fax 301–713–1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its implementing regulations found at 50 CFR part 635 issued under authority of the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

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50 CFR 635.28(b)(2), when NMFS projects that fishing season landings for a specific shark quota have reached or are about to reach 80 percent of the available quota, NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the **Federal Register** a notice of closure for that shark species group that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from the date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure until NMFS announces, via a notice in the **Federal Register**, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, the fishery for that specific quota is closed, even across fishing years.

On June 24, 2008 (73 FR 35778; corrected July 15, 2008, 73 FR 46058), NMFS announced that the porbeagle quota for the 2008 fishing year would be 1.7 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (3,748 lbs dw). In the September 23, 2008, landings update, sharks reported as unknowns were apportioned to species or species groups using observer data by number rather than weight. This method was originally used because it follows the procedures used in the stock assessment. However, while the stock assessment is done in number of sharks, quota monitoring is done by weight. As such, for this and all future updates, sharks reported as unknowns will be apportioned to species or species groups by weight. Thus, landings for some groups may differ from previous landings updates. Additionally, NMFS worked with the State of North Carolina to try to determine the amount of double reporting between state and federal landings. While doing this, NMFS discovered that many of North Carolina's landings of spiny dogfish were incorrectly reported as unknown or sandbar sharks. The latest update corrects this reporting error. Dealer reports through the October 15, 2008, reporting period indicated that 2.0 mt dw or 116.0 percent of the available quota for porbeagle sharks has been taken. Accordingly, NMFS is closing the commercial porbeagle shark fishery as of 11:30 p.m. local time November 18, 2008.

During the closure, retention of porbeagle sharks is prohibited for persons fishing aboard vessels issued a commercial shark limited access permit under 50 CFR 635.4, unless the vessel is permitted to operate as a charter vessel or headboat for HMS and is engaged in a for–hire trip, in which case the recreational retention limits for sharks and no sale provisions may apply (50 CFR 635.22(a) and (c)). The sale, purchase, trade, or barter or attempted sale, purchase, trade, or barter of carcasses and/or fins of porbeagle sharks harvested by a person aboard a vessel that has been issued a commercial shark limited access permit under 50 CFR 635.4, is prohibited, except for those that were harvested, offloaded, and sold, traded, or bartered prior to the closure, and were held in storage by a dealer or processor.

Classification

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds that providing for prior notice and public comment for this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest because the fishery is currently underway, and any delay in this action would cause further overharvest of the quota and be inconsistent with management requirements and objectives. Similarly, affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action is contrary to the public interest because if the quota is exceeded, the affected public is likely to experience reductions in the available quota and a lack of fishing opportunities in future seasons. Thus, for these reasons, the AA also finds good cause to waive the 30–day delay in effective date pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 (d)(3). This action is required under 50 CFR 635.28(b)(2) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 12, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–27327 Filed 11–13–08; 4:45 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 0808051050–81421–02]

RIN 0648–XJ42

Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to implement the annual harvest guideline (HG) for Pacific mackerel in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the Pacific coast for the fishing season of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. This HG has been calculated according to the regulations implementing the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and establishes allowable harvest levels for Pacific mackerel off the Pacific coast. The HG for the 2008–2009 fishing season is 40,000 metric tons (mt). If this total is reached, Pacific mackerel fishing will be closed to directed harvest and only incidental harvest will be allowed at a 45 percent by weight incidental catch rate when landed with other CPS, except that up to one mt of Pacific mackerel can be landed without landing any other CPS.

DATES: Effective December 18, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the report *Pacific Mackerel (Scomber japonicus) Stock Assessment for U.S. Management in the 2008–2009 Fishing Year* may be obtained from the Southwest Regional Office by contacting Rodney R. McInnis, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joshua Lindsay, Southwest Region, NMFS, (562) 980–4034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CPS FMP, which was implemented by publication of the final rule in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 1999 (64 FR 69888), divides management unit species into two categories: actively managed and monitored. Harvest guidelines for actively managed species (Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel) are based on formulas applied to current biomass estimates. Biomass estimates are not calculated for species that are only monitored (jack mackerel, northern anchovy, and market squid).

During public meetings each year, the biomass for each actively managed species within the CPS FMP is presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (Team), the Council's Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (Subpanel) and the CPS Subcommitee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). At that time, the biomass, the acceptable biological catch (ABC) and the status of the fisheries are reviewed and discussed. This information is then presented to the Council along with HG recommendations and comments from the Team and Subpanel. Following review by the Council and after hearing public comments, the Council makes its HG recommendation to NMFS.

For the 2008–2009 Pacific mackerel management season an updated assessment for Pacific mackerel was

○ *252.211–7007.* Corrects punctuation.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

■ Therefore, 48 CFR Part 252 is amended as follows:

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Part 252 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

252.203–7001 [Amended]

■ 2. Section 252.203–7001 is amended as follows:

■ a. By revising the clause date to read ''(DEC 2008)''; and

■ b. In paragraph (h) by removing ''(301) 809–4904'' and adding in its place ''301–937–1542; *www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DPFC.html*''.

252.211–7007 [Amended]

■ 3. Section 252.211–7007 is amended as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (d)(5) by adding an ending parenthesis before the period; and

■ b. In paragraph (d)(10)(vi) by removing the ending parenthesis before the period.

[FR Doc. E8–29992 Filed 12–17–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

RIN 0648–XM15

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason retention limit adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the Atlantic tunas General category daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limit should be adjusted for the January 2009 time period, based on consideration of the determination criteria regarding inseason adjustments.

DATES: Effective January 1, 2009, through January 31, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin or Brad McHale, 978–281–9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson–Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.27 subdivides the U.S. BFT quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) among the various domestic fishing categories, per the allocations established in the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (Consolidated HMS FMP) (71 FR 58058, October 2, 2006).

The 2009 BFT fishing year, which is managed on a calendar year basis and subject to an annual calendar year quota, begins January 1, 2009. Starting on January 1, 2009, the General category daily retention limit (§ 635.23(a)(2)), is scheduled to revert back to the default retention limit of one large medium or giant BFT (measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL) or greater per vessel per day/trip. This scheduled retention limit applies to General category permitted vessels and HMS Charter/Headboat category permitted vessels (when fishing commercially for BFT).

Each of the General category time periods (January, June–August, September, October–November, and December) is allocated a portion of the annual General category quota, thereby ensuring extended fishing opportunities in years when catch rates are high and quota is available. In August, NMFS adjusted the General category limit for September through December 2008 from the default level of one large medium or giant BFT to three (thus maintaining a three fish limit for all of the 2008 season). However, NMFS decided not to make an adjustment for January 2009 until after the 2009 western Atlantic BFT Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and resulting U.S. quota were set at the November 2008 ICCAT meeting (73 FR 50885, August 29, 2008).

The 2008 ICCAT recommendation reduced the TAC (currently 2,100 mt) to 1,900 mt for 2009, resulting in a 2009 U.S. quota of 1,034.9 mt. Consistent with the allocation scheme established in the Consolidated HMS FMP, the baseline General category share of the 2009 U.S. quota would be 475.7 mt, and the baseline January 2009 General category subquota would be 25.2 mt.

In order to implement the ICCAT recommendation, NMFS is planning to publish proposed quota specifications in the beginning of 2009 to set BFT quotas for each of the established domestic fishing categories and to set effort controls for the General category and Angling category. In the meantime, the General category BFT fishery remains active into the winter, with substantial landings reported in November and December.

Adjustment of General Category Daily Retention Limits

Under § 635.23(a)(4), NMFS may increase or decrease the daily retention limit of large medium and giant BFT over a range of zero to a maximum of three per vessel based on consideration of the criteria provided under § 635.27(a)(8), which include: the usefulness of information obtained from catches in the particular category for biological sampling and monitoring of the status of the stock; the catches of the particular category quota to date and the likelihood of closure of that segment of the fishery if no adjustment is made; the projected ability of the vessels fishing under the particular category quota to harvest the additional amount of BFT before the end of the fishing year; the estimated amounts by which quotas for other gear categories of the fishery might be exceeded; effects of the adjustment on BFT rebuilding and overfishing; effects of the adjustment on accomplishing the objectives of the fishery management plan; variations in seasonal distribution, abundance, or migration patterns of BFT; effects of catch rates in one area precluding vessels in another area from having a reasonable opportunity to harvest a portion of the category's quota; and a review of dealer reports, daily landing trends, and the availability of the BFT on the fishing grounds.

NMFS has considered the set of criteria cited above and their applicability to the General category BFT retention limit for the 2009 fishing year. For example, January 2008 catch rates were high, and under a 3–fish limit, the January subquota was exceeded. Based on these considerations, and the reduced 2009 quota and subquotas, NMFS has determined that the General category retention limit should be adjusted to allow for retention of the anticipated 2009 General category quota, but that an approach more conservative than used for January 2008 is warranted. Therefore, NMFS increases the General category retention limit from the default

limit to two large medium or giant BFT, measuring 73 inches CFL or greater, per vessel per of one day/trip, effective January 1, 2009, through January 31, 2009. Regardless of the duration of a fishing trip, the daily retention limit applies upon landing. For example, whether a vessel fishing under the General category limit takes a two-day trip or makes two trips in one day, the daily limit of two fish may not be exceeded upon landing. This General category retention limit is effective in all areas, except for the Gulf of Mexico, and applies to those vessel permitted in the General category as well as to those HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessels fishing commercially for BFT.

This adjustment is intended to provide a reasonable opportunity to harvest the U.S. landings quota of BFT without exceeding it, while maintaining an equitable distribution of fishing opportunities, to help achieve optimum yield in the General category BFT fishery, to collect a broad range of data for stock monitoring purposes, and to be consistent with the objectives of the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Monitoring and Reporting

NMFS selected the daily retention limit and the duration after examining an array of data as it pertains to the determination criteria. These data included, but were not limited to, current and previous catch and effort rates, quota availability, previous public comments on inseason management measures, stock status, etc. NMFS will continue to monitor the BFT fishery closely through the mandatory dealer landing reports, which NMFS requires to be submitted within 24 hours of a dealer receiving BFT. Depending on the level of fishing effort and catch rates of BFT, NMFS may determine that additional retention limit adjustments are necessary to ensure available quota is not exceeded or to enhance scientific data collection from, and fishing opportunities in, all geographic areas.

Closures or subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, will be published in the **Federal Register**. In addition, fishermen may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872–8862 or (978) 281–9260, or access the internet at *www.hmspermits.gov*, for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for NMFS (AA), finds that it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to provide prior notice of, and an opportunity for public comment on, this action for the following reasons:

The regulations implementing the Consolidated HMS FMP provide for inseason retention limit adjustments to respond to the unpredictable nature of BFT availability on the fishing grounds, the migratory nature of this species, and the regional variations in the BFT fishery. Affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment to implement these retention limits is impracticable as it would preclude NMFS from acting promptly to allow harvest of BFT that are available on the fishing grounds. Analysis of available data shows that the General category BFT retention limits may be increased with minimal risks of exceeding the ICCAT–allocated quota.

Delays in increasing these retention limits would adversely affect those General and Charter/Headboat category vessels that would otherwise have an opportunity to harvest more than the default retention limit of one BFT per day and may exacerbate the problem of low catch rates and quota rollovers. Limited opportunities to harvest the respective quotas may have negative social and economic impacts to U.S. fishermen that either depend upon catching the available quota within the time periods designated in the Consolidated HMS FMP. Adjustment to the retention limit needs to be effective January 1, 2009, to minimize any unnecessary disruption in fishing patterns and for the impacted sectors to benefit from the adjustments so as to not preclude fishing opportunities from fishermen who only have access to the fishery during this time period.

Therefore, the AA finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment. For all of the above reasons, and because this action relieves a restriction (i.e., the default retention limit is one fish per vessel/trip but this action increases that limit and allows retention of more fish), there is also good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d) to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness.

This action is being taken under 50 CFR 635.23(a)(4) and (b)(3) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 15, 2008.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–30109 Filed 12–17–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

Enriched Uranium from France, 72 FR 26603 (May 10, 2007).

On December 13, 2007, the ITC determined, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act, that a revocation of the antidumping duty order on LEU from France would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time: *See Low Enriched Uranium from France*; 72 FR 71954 (December 19, 2007), and USITC Publication 3967 (December 2007), (Inv. No. 731–TA–909) (Review).

Scope of the Order

The product covered by this order is all low enriched uranium (LEU). LEU is enriched uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) with a U^{235} product assay of less than 20 percent that has not been converted into another chemical form, such as UO_2, or fabricated into nuclear fuel assemblies, regardless of the means by which the LEU is produced (including LEU produced through the down-blending of highly enriched uranium).

Certain merchandise is outside the scope of this order. Specifically, this order does not cover enriched uranium hexafluoride with a U^{235} assay of 20 percent or greater, also known as highly enriched uranium. In addition, fabricated LEU is not covered by the scope of this order. For purposes of this order, fabricated uranium is defined as enriched uranium dioxide (UO_2), whether or not contained in nuclear fuel rods or assemblies. Natural uranium concentrates (U_3O_8) with a U^{235} concentration of no greater than 0.711 percent and natural uranium concentrates converted into uranium hexafluoride with a U^{235} concentration of no greater than 0.711 percent are not covered by the scope of this order.

Also excluded from this order is LEU owned by a foreign utility end-user and imported into the United States by or for such end-user solely for purposes of conversion by a U.S. fabricator into uranium dioxide (UO_2) and/or fabrication into fuel assemblies so long as the uranium dioxide and/or fuel assemblies deemed to incorporate such imported LEU (i) remain in the possession and control of the U.S. fabricator, the foreign end-user, or their designed transporter(s) while in U.S. customs territory, and (ii) are re-exported within eighteen (18) months of entry of the LEU for consumption by the end-user in a nuclear reactor outside the United States. Such entries must be accompanied by the certifications of the importer and end-user.

The merchandise subject to this order is currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheading 2844.20.0020. Subject merchandise may also enter under 2844.20.0030, 2844.20.0050, and 2844.40.00. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise is dispositive.

Continuation of Order

As a result of these determinations by the Department and the ITC that a revocation of the antidumping duty order would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping and material injury to an industry in the United States, pursuant to section 751(d)(2) of the Act, the Department hereby orders the continuation of the antidumping duty order on LEU from France. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will continue to collect antidumping duty cash deposits at the rates in effect at the time of entry for all imports of subject merchandise.

The effective date of the continuation of this order will be the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of this notice of continuation. Pursuant to sections 751(c)(2) and 751(c)(6)(A) of the Act, the Department intends to initiate the next five-year review of this order no later than November 2012.

This five-year (sunset) review and this notice are in accordance with section 751(c) of the Act and published pursuant to section 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: December 26, 2007.

Stephen J. Claeys,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 07–6279 Filed 1–02–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD57

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Pelagic Longline Research

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and a final decision to issue an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to conduct research in portions of the East Florida Coast (EFC) and Charleston Bump closed areas using a limited number of pelagic longline (PLL) vessels. Given the nearly rebuilt status of north Atlantic swordfish ($B = 0.99B_{MSY}$) and bycatch reduction measures that were implemented throughout the U.S. PLL fishery in 2004, NMFS is authorizing the collection of baseline PLL fishery data in the closed areas to evaluate the effectiveness of existing bycatch reduction measures. The Final EA analyzes monthly and annual PLL logbook and pelagic observer program (POP) data on catch and bycatch rates of all species in the proposed research area from 1995–2000 to determine potential impacts of the research programfishery on target and non-target species. The Final EA includes additional analyses of catch rates for all species based on 18/0 circle hooks. NMFS will require the use of 18/0 non-offset circle hooks in the research project to minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality and 100 percent observer coverage to ensure scientific rigor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Russell Dunn, 727–824–5399; fax: 727–824–5398, or Chris Rilling 301–713–2347; fax: 301–713–1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By issuing the EFP, NMFS authorizes a limited number of vessels (three are authorized, but only two vessels will fish at any given time and one vessel is designated as a backup vessels if breakdowns occur) to conduct research in portions of the EFC and Charleston Bump closed areas (Figure 1). The latitude and longitude coordinates of the proposed research area are provided in Table 1. In the EFC closed area, the proposed research area would be north of Fort Pierce, FL, beginning at 28 degrees north latitude and proceeding north, seaward of the axis of the Gulf Stream, to the northern boundary of the EFC closed area at 31° N. lat. In the Charleston Bump, the proposed research area would be north of 31 degrees north latitude and following the 200–meter isobath (approximately 100 fathom contour) to the northern and eastern boundaries of the Charleston Bump closed area. The two areas are hereafter referred to collectively as the proposed research area. NMFS closed the EFC and Charleston Bump closed areas to PLL gear in early 2001 to reduce bycatch of juvenile swordfish, billfish, and other Highly Migratory Species (HMS) (65 FR 47214, August 1, 2000). The Charleston Bump closed area is a seasonal closure from February through April every year, whereas the EFC closed area is closed year-round to PLL gear. Since that time, the swordfish stock has been nearly rebuilt, and new bycatch reduction measures have been implemented throughout the PLL fishery (e.g., circle

hook requirements, bait requirements, bycatch release gear, and careful handling and release workshops). No PLL fishing has been authorized in the closed areas since 2001, and NMFS has not collected information on the effectiveness of current bycatch reduction measures in closed areas where bycatch rates may be higher than in other areas. NMFS thus would collect information under scientifically rigorous protocols to determine the effectiveness of bycatch reduction measures in these closed areas. This information will assist NMFS in making appropriate management decisions regarding the effectiveness of existing closed areas and the effectiveness of current bycatch reduction measures.

NMFS authorizes a total of 289 sets distributed equally inside and outside the proposed research area over a 12 month period beginning in late 2007 or early 2008. Each set would consist of 500 18/0 non-offset circle hooks with whole dead finfish bait and/or squid bait. Vessels would be subject to 100 percent observer coverage, and observers or research staff would collect data that includes, but is not limited to, catch per unit effort (CPUE) for target and bycatch species; discard rates; interaction rates with protected species; size of target species; hooking location; mortality at haul back; bycatch mortality; and if possible, an evaluation of the condition of fish at haul back to allow post-release mortality estimates.

All targeted catch (tunas, swordfish, and sharks) that can be legally landed could be harvested and sold by the vessel owners. No other compensation will be provided to the vessels. Anyll protected speciesbycatch which are incidentally interacted with will be released using NMFS-approved dehooking equipment and appropriate safe handling and release protocols. All live bycatch will be released in a manner that maximizes survival, in accordance with existing regulations. Incidental catch of bluefin tuna would be landed consistent with existing regulations. Any mortalities of Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) regulated species (i.e., tunas and swordfish) and sharks that could be legally landed would be counted against the appropriate quotas. Non-target species and protected resources would be tagged and released alive, consistent with requirements of the Terms and Conditions of the 2004 Biological Opinion issued for the fishery.

NMFS received a number of comments on the Draft EA including, but not limited to, comments on bycatch levels, impacts on target and non-target species, study methodology, and socio-economic impacts. The responses to comments are included in Appendix A in the Final EA, and are not repeated here. Based on the public comment received, NMFS improved and expanded the environmental analyses. In the Final EA, the Agency included an additional set of catch and bycatch estimates based on circle hook data which were not included in the Draft EA. Thus, NMFS has analyzed a range of potential impacts ranging from the worst case scenario using pre-closure J-hook data, to more conservative estimates based on 18/0 circle hook data. The additional analyses with 18/0 circle hook data further support the conclusion that the anticipated ecological impacts of the research fishery on target and non-target species are expected to be minor. For example, based on 18/0 circle hooks with a 10 degree offset (POP data 2004–2005), NMFS estimates that, under the preferred alternative, two white marlin will be discarded alive and five discarded dead, and two blue marlin will be discarded alive and two discarded dead. For sea turtles, two leatherback and one loggerhead sea turtle interactions are predicted to occur based on the 18/0 circle hooks with 10 degree offset. For marine mammals, only three interactions occurred in the proposed research area from 1995–2000. They included one pilot whale, one Risso's dolphin, and one spinner dolphin. Although eleven interactions were reported from 1993–2005 in the Florida East Coast (FEC) and South Atlantic Bight (SAB) statistical sampling areas, only three of those interactions occurred in the proposed research area. NMFS anticipates few interactions with marine mammals due to the location of the research fishery and the limited amount of fishing effort that is part of this pilot research project, particularly in comparison to past fishing effort in the area. Fewer than 10 bluefin tuna interactions are expected to occur, and the bulk of the catch will be comprised of swordfish and yellowfin tuna, with an predicted 870 swordfish retained, 373 discarded alive, and 145 potentially discarded dead, and 346 yellowfin retained, 49 discarded dead, and 27 discarded alive based on 18/0 circle hook data.

Projections based on data from 1995–2000 were used to analyze the worst case scenario (i.e., use of pre-closure J-hook data from the POP 1995–2000). Based on that data, NMFS predicts at most two interactions with leatherback sea turtles and six interactions with loggerhead sea turtles are predicted to occur in the proposed research area. Given the significantly lower interaction and mortality rates of sea turtles with 18/0 circle hooks, this action is not expected to significantly increase fishery interactions with, or mortalities of, sea turtles. The predicted interactions would not cause the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) in the 2004 Biological Opinion for the PLL fishery to be exceeded and would not be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of sea turtles. Incidental takes of, or interactions with, protected species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act taking place under the research fishery would be counted against the authorized incidental take levels specified in the 2004 ITS in the Biological Opinion for the PLL fishery.

In addition to sea turtles, the Final EA includes similar analyses of PLL and POP data from 1995–2000 pre-closure J-hook data, as well as 18/0 circle hook data, on catch rates, live and dead discard rates, and retained numbers of swordfish, bluefin, yellowfin, and bigeye tunas, blue and white marlin, sailfish, spearfish, large coastal sharks, pelagic sharks, sandbar sharks, and dusky sharks. Based on the worst case scenario from the POP data, and applying predicted fishing effort in the research fishery to pre-closure J-hook catch rates, an estimated 1,083 swordfish are predicted to be retained, 973 discarded alive, and 360 discarded dead; zero (0) bluefin tuna are predicted to be caught or discarded; nine white marlin are predicted to be discarded alive and 13 dead; 10 blue marlin are predicted to be discarded alive and 14 dead; 113 large coastal sharks are predicted to be kept; 124 discarded alive, and 50 discarded dead (depending upon available quota); and 21 pelagic sharks are predicted to be kept, 81 discarded alive, and 11 discarded dead (depending upon available quota). Given the known and anticipated mortality reduction benefits of circle hooks for Atlantic HMS relative to J-hooks, the estimates above are likely over-estimates. As a result, this action is not expected to significantly increase the retention or bycatch of HMS.

All fishing activities would be monitored by Federal fisheries observers or NMFS trained research staff to provide data on longline gear configuration; target and incidental catch; bycatch of billfish, juvenile swordfish, and bluefin tuna; and sea turtle interactions. NMFS currently collects this information on selected PLL vessels through the POP.

Even though research effort necessarily will result in an increase in fishing effort (from complete closure to

limited scientific access) an increase in fishing effort across the entire fishery is not anticipated because vessels participating in the research fishery would have otherwise been fishing commercially for HMS in other, open areas.

The regulations that prohibit the proposed activities absent issuance of an EFP include requirements for vessel reporting (50 CFR 635.4) and fishing in a closed area (50 CFR 635.21(c)(2)).

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

FIGURE 1. PROPOSED RESEARCH AREA IN HASHED MARKS IN RELATION TO THE EFC AND CHARLESTON BUMP CLOSED AREAS

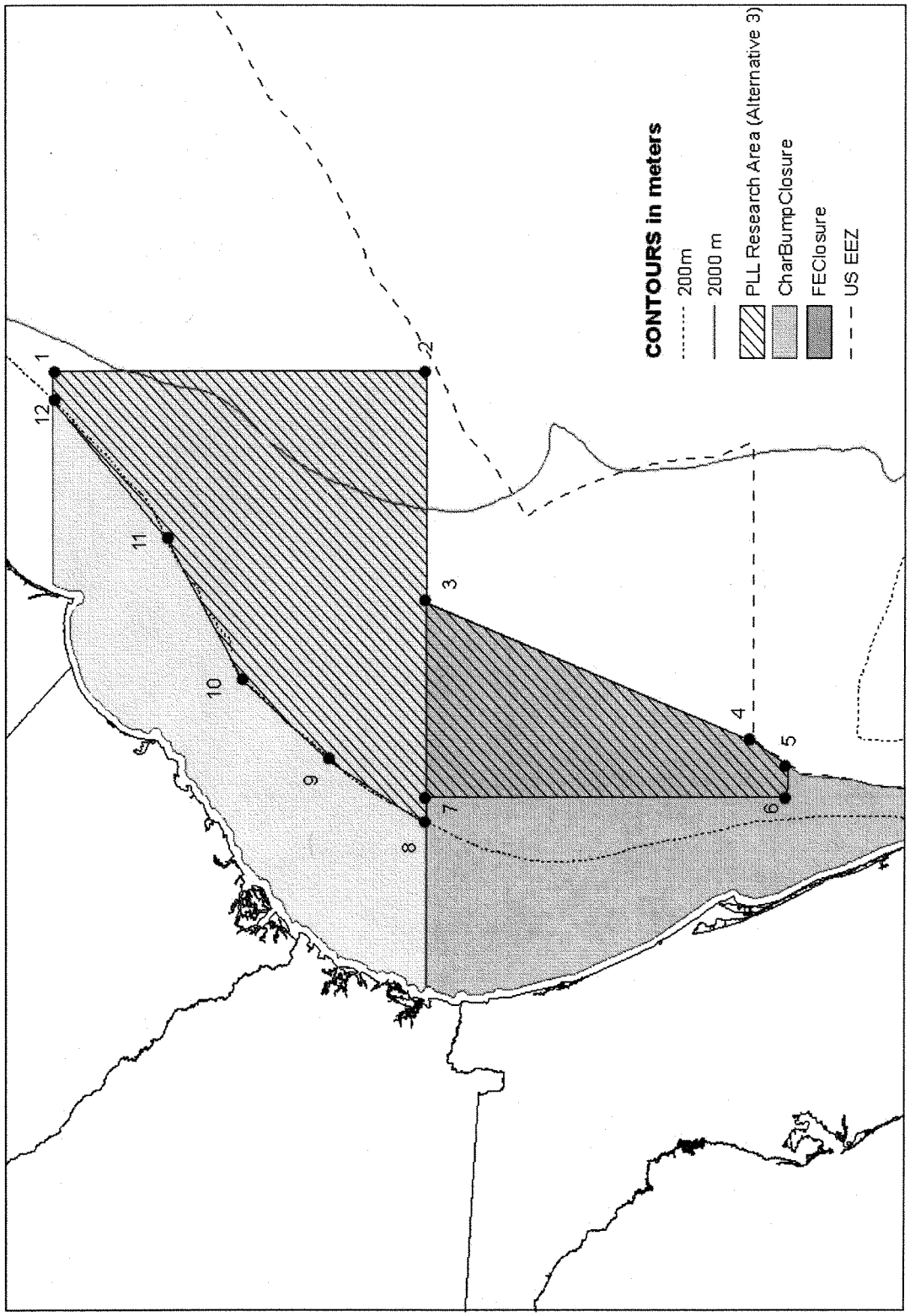

TABLE 1. COORDINATES OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH AREA (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 3) SHOWN IN FIGURE 1 BEGINNING WITH LOCATION NUMBER 1 AND PROCEEDING CLOCKWISE THROUGH LOCATION NUMBER 12.

Point	N. Latitude			W. Longitude		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
1	34	0	0	76	0	0
2	31	0	0	76	0	0
3	31	0	0	78	0	0
4	28	17	6.9	79	11	54.5
5	28	0	0	79	23	47.9
6	28	0	0	79	40	0
7	31	0	0	79	40	0
8	31	0	0	79	54	38.9
9	31	47	7.2	78	21	50.5
10	32	29	12.1	78	40	21.0
11	33	5	35.8	77	27	15.7
12	34	0	0	76	15	26.5

All other relevant regulations concerning HMS at 50 CFR part 635 would apply.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 21, 2007.

Alan D. Risenhoover

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 07–6290 Filed 1–2–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XE75

Marine Mammals; File No. 782–1676

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA, 98115 has been issued an amendment to Scientific Research Permit No. 782–1676–01, for research on marine mammals.

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713–2289; fax (301)427–2521.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Adams, (301)713–2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The original permit (No. 782–1676–00), issued on December 4, 2002 (67 FR 76728) authorized research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and spotted seals (*P. largha*) in Alaska through December 31, 2007. Research activities covered by the original permit include aerial surveys and live captures of seals. Captured seals may be tagged, and have scientific instruments attached and various tissue samples collected. The original permit was modified by ''minor amendment'' in May 2004. The minor amendment (No. 782–1676–01) added permission to harass seals incidental to installation and periodic maintenance of camera systems. The current amendment (No. 782–1676–02) extends the duration of the permit through December 31, 2008.

Dated: December 26, 2007.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7–25582 Filed 1–2–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal Nos. 08–15]

36(b)(1) Arms Sale Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(1) arms sale notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104–164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. B. English, DSCA/DBO/CFM, (703) 601–3740.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittals 08–15 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

State and county	Location and case No.	Date and name of newspaper where notice was published	Chief executive officer of community	Effective date of modification	Community No.
Wisconsin: Columbia & Sauk.	City of Wisconsin Dells (07–05–4282P).	November 14, 2007; November 21, 2007; *Wisconsin Dells Events*.	The Honorable Eric Helland, Mayor, City of Wisconsin Dells, P.O. Box 655, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965.	November 30, 2007	550065
Wisconsin: Milwaukee.	City of West Allis (07–05–4106P).	November 1, 2007; November 8, 2007; *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.	The Honorable Jeannette Bell, Mayor, City of West Allis, City Hall, Room 123, 7525 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214.	October 18, 2007	550285
Wyoming: Sweetwater.	City of Rock Springs (07–08–0796P).	September 22, 2007; September 27, 2007; *Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner*.	The Honorable Timothy A. Kaumo, Mayor, City of Rock Springs, 212 D Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901.	October 1, 2007	560051
Wyoming: Sweetwater.	Unincorporated areas of Sweetwater County (07–08–0796P).	September 22, 2007; September 27, 2007; *Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner*.	The Honorable Wally Johnson, Chairman, Sweetwater County, Board of Commissioners, 80 West Flamingo Gorge Way, Green River, WY 82935.	October 1, 2007	560087

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 97.022, ''Flood Insurance.'')

Dated: January 25, 2008.

David I. Maurstad,

Federal Insurance Administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. E8–2380 Filed 2–7–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–12–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

RIN 0648–XF39

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason retention limit adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the daily Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling category retention limits for Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) should be adjusted in order to prevent overharvest of the 2008 Angling category quota. Vessels permitted in the HMS Angling and HMS Charter/Headboat categories are eligible to land BFT under the HMS Angling category quota. This action is being taken to meet domestic management objectives for the BFT fishery.

DATES: Effective February 11, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin, 978–281–9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.27 subdivides the U.S. BFT quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) among the various domestic fishing categories, per the allocations established in the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (Consolidated HMS FMP) (71 FR 58058, October 2, 2006).

The 2008 BFT fishing year began on January 1, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. The final 2008 BFT quota specifications and effort controls were published on December 31, 2007 (72 FR 74193). These final specifications established an Angling category retention limit of one school BFT (27 inches (68.6 cm) to less than 47 inches (199.4 cm)), and two large school/small medium BFT (i.e., two BFT measuring 47 inches (119.4 cm) to less than 73 inches (185.4 cm)) per vessel per day/trip. NMFS stated in the 2008 final specifications and effort controls that adjustments to the 2008 Angling category quotas and retention limits may be necessary once complete estimates from the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) for the 2007 fishing year were available.

Final LPS 2007 fishing year estimates of the number of fish landed are now available, although mean weight estimates for each size class will not be available until late spring to calculate total landings (weight) and for comparison of landings to available subquotas. Pending availability of final average weight calculations from the 2007 fishing year, NMFS is proceeding with use of the average of 2004–2006 mean weights as proxies for 2007 mean weights, to reflect recent fishery conditions and reduce the effect of inter-annual variability of fish size that may result from varying retention limits, weather conditions, etc. This methodology results in recreational estimates, including LPS estimates and NC BFT Census Tagging Program data, of 100.9 mt of school BFT, 256.3 mt of large school BFT, and 105.7 mt of small medium BFT. Note that the final LPS estimates (in number of fish) indicate a substantial overharvest of the large school/small medium BFT subquota regardless of the reference time frame selected for use of proxy mean weights to calculate the final recreational landings (in tonnage). The estimated landings of large school/small medium BFT (362 mt) were more than twice the allocated subquota for that size range (144 mt). With total estimated recreational landings of 464.1 mt, the total Angling category quota of 269.2 mt also has been exceeded. However, due to the magnitude of the underharvest of the total available quota (which, for 2007, was 1,629 mt), no quota redistribution for the 2007 fishing year is necessary, nor is any adjustment of the Angling category quota for 2008. Specifically, total commercial and recreational landings for the 2007 fishing year were 656.7 mt, resulting in an underharvest of 997.5 mt, which exceeds substantially the amount the United States was allowed to carry forward to the 2008 fishing year (i.e., 595 mt, one half of the U.S. base quota).

Despite the availability of overall quota, it is necessary for NMFS to use this best available information to take prompt action to avoid overharvest in 2008, to remain in accordance with the Consolidated HMS FMP and implement quota specifications, and address concern for the biological impact of overharvesting smaller size classes of BFT on the stock, which is classified as overfished. Therefore, to reduce large school/small medium BFT landings for 2008, NMFS is taking action through an inseason retention limit adjustment, described below.

Under § 635.23(b)(3), NMFS may increase or decrease the HMS Angling

category daily retention limit based on the criteria provided in § 635.27(a)(8). As discussed above, the determination to adjust the retention limit is primarily based on the catches of large school/small medium BFT in 2007 and the likelihood of closure of that segment of the fishery if no adjustment is made (§ 635.27(a)(8)(ii)), and the anticipated availability of large school/small medium BFT on the fishing grounds § 635.27(a)(8)(ix). NMFS anticipates that reduction of the retention limit for large school/small medium BFT will result in landings during 2008 that would not exceed the available subquota (183.4 mt) as set in the 2008 quota specifications (72 FR 74193, December 31, 2007).

Daily Retention Limits

Pursuant to this action and the final 2008 BFT specifications, noted above, the BFT daily retention limit per vessel for the HMS Angling category and the HMS Charter/Headboat category (while fishing recreationally) is one BFT measuring 27 inches (68.6 cm) to less than 47 inches (119.4 cm), and one BFT measuring 47 inches (119.4 cm) to less than 73 inches (185.4 cm). In the case of multi-day trips, the daily limit applies. This action does not change the annual Angling category limit of one large medium or giant BFT (73 inches (185.4 cm) or greater) per vessel.

Monitoring and Reporting

NMFS selected the daily retention limit to apply for the remainder of 2008, or until changed, after examining current and previous fishing year catch and effort rates, taking into consideration public comment on the annual specifications, and analyzing the available quota for the 2008 fishing year. NMFS will continue to monitor the BFT fishery closely through dealer landing reports, the Automated Landings Reporting System, state harvest tagging programs in North Carolina and Maryland, and the LPS. Depending on the level of fishing effort, NMFS may determine that additional retention limit adjustments are necessary prior to December 31, 2008. Closures or subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, will be published in the **Federal Register**. In addition, fishermen may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872–8862 or (978) 281–9260, or access the internet at www.hmspermits.gov, for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for NMFS (AA) finds that it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to provide prior notice of, and an opportunity for public comment on, this action. LPS Angling category estimates and NC recreational census data, recently made available, indicate an overharvest of the Angling category quota in 2007, particularly the large school/small medium BFT subquota. An adjustment to the daily retention limit for large school/small medium BFT is warranted. Delaying this action would be contrary to the public interest because it could result in insufficient reduction of large school/small medium BFT landings and could result in more restrictive actions being needed later in the season (such as seasonal closures). Further, for fishing trip planning purposes, NMFS seeks to provide as much notice as possible about the fishing regulations that will apply during the active portion of the fishing year (beginning in late spring) so that anglers and charter/headboat operators can plan their fishing trips accordingly.

Therefore, the AA finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment. For all of the above reasons, there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d) to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness of this action.

This action is being taken under 50 CFR 635.23(a)(4) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 5, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–2349 Filed 2–7–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 070213033–7033–01]

RIN 0648–XF52

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel by Vessels in the Amendment 80 Limited Access Fishery in the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Atka mackerel for vessels participating in the Amendment 80 limited access fishery in the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the A season allowance of the 2008 Atka mackerel allowable catch (TAC) specified for vessels participating in the Amendment 80 limited access fishery in the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), February 5, 2008, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Hogan, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The A season allowance of the 2008 Atka mackerel TAC allocated to vessels participating in the Amendment 80 limited access fishery in the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI is 3,654 metric tons (mt) as established by the 2007 and 2008 final harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (72 FR 9451, March 2, 2007) and revision (72 FR 71802, December 19, 2007). See § 679.20(a)(8)(ii)(A) and § 679.91(c)(4).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the A season allowance of the 2008 Atka mackerel TAC allocated to vessels participating in the Amendment 80 limited access fishery in the Eastern Aleutian District and Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 3,644 mt and is setting aside the remaining 10 mt as incidental catch to support other groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Atka mackerel by vessels participating in the Amendment 80 limited access fishery in the Eastern

§ 60.482–11a [Amended]

■ 8. § 60.482–11a is stayed from June 2, 2008 until August 1, 2008.

Subpart GGG—[Amended]

■ 9. Section 60.590 is amended by adding paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 60.590 Applicability and designation of affected facility.

* * * * *

(e) *Stay of standards.* Owners or operators are not required to comply with the definition of ''process unit'' in § 60.590 of this subpart until August 1, 2008. While the definition of ''process unit'' is stayed, owners or operators should use the following definition:

Process unit means components assembled to produce intermediate or final products from petroleum, unfinished petroleum derivatives, or other intermediates; a process unit can operate independently if supplied with sufficient feed or raw materials and sufficient storage facilities for the product.

§ 60.591 [Amended]

■ 10. In § 60.591, the definition of ''process unit'' is stayed from June 2, 2008 until August 1, 2008.

Subpart GGGa—[Amended]

■ 11. Section 60.590a is amended by adding paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 60.590a Applicability and designation of affected facility.

* * * * *

(e) *Stay of standards.* Owners or operators are not required to comply with the definition of ''process unit'' in § 60.590 of this subpart until August 1, 2008. While the definition of ''process unit'' is stayed, owners or operators should use the following definition:

Process unit means components assembled to produce intermediate or final products from petroleum, unfinished petroleum derivatives, or other intermediates; a process unit can operate independently if supplied with sufficient feed or raw materials and sufficient storage facilities for the product.

§ 60.591a [Amended]

■ 12. In § 60.591a, the definition of ''process unit'' is stayed from June 2, 2008 until August 1, 2008.

[FR Doc. E8–11383 Filed 5–30–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 300 and 635

[Docket No. 080221247–8524–02]

RIN 0648–AU88

International Fisheries; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; International Trade Permit Program; Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS is modifying permitting and reporting requirements for the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) International Trade Permit (ITP) program to improve program efficacy and enforceability, and implement the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) bluefin tuna catch documentation (BCD) program. The modified regulations also implement the new definition of ''import'' contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and require that shark fin importers, exporters, and re-exporters obtain the HMS ITP to assist NMFS in monitoring trade of shark fins. This action is necessary to implement recommendations of ICCAT, as required by the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA), and to achieve domestic management objectives under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

DATES: Effective July 2, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Supporting documents, including the Regulatory Impact Review/Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (RIR/FRFA), are available from the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: *http://www.regulations.gov*, or Dianne Stephan, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), NMFS, One Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930. Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted to NMFS at the address above, and by email to *David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov*, or fax to (202) 395–7285.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dianne Stephan, 978–281–9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The United States, which includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and all other U.S. commonwealths, territories, or possessions, is a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Under ATCA, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to implement ICCAT recommendations, as necessary or appropriate. Likewise, the Tunas Convention Act authorizes rulemaking to carry out recommendations of the IATTC. The United States has implemented statistical document programs under the HMS ITP program regulations per recommendations of ICCAT, IATTC, and other regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs). This rule replaces the ICCAT bluefin tuna statistical document program with the initial implementation of the ICCAT BCD program recommended at the 2007 ICCAT annual meeting. Other objectives of the rule are to adjust the HMS ITP regulatory program, as informed by NMFS and industry experiences since the program was implemented, and to adopt the new definition of import contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Lastly, the rule requires permitting of shark fin traders under the HMS international trade regulations to help NMFS monitor trade of shark fins.

Background information about the need for the final rule was provided in the preamble to the proposed rule (73 FR 18473, April 4, 2008) and is not repeated here.

Changes from the Proposed Rule

A description of the alternatives for the actions in this final rule was included in the preamble of the proposed rule, and is not repeated here. Other than minor technical corrections, this final rule does not include any changes from the proposed rule. Additional information can be found in the RIR/FRFA available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

Comments and Responses

Five public hearings were announced in the proposed rule (73 FR 18473, April 4, 2008) and held during the public comment period, which ended on May 5, 2008. The public hearings were held in the following locations: Santa Rosa, CA (April 23, 2008), Long Beach, CA (April 24, 2008), Gloucester, MA (April 25, 2008), Miami, FL (April 28, 2008) and Panama City, FL (April 29, 2008). In addition, the HMS Advisory Panel

was briefed about the proposed rule on April 16, 2008. The agency received five written comments and many verbal comments at the public hearings and Advisory Panel meeting. A summary of public comments, followed by NMFS' responses to each comment, is provided below.

Comment 1: Several commentors stated that shark fin traders could provide valuable information and should be required to report.

Response: The final rule requires permitting for shark fin traders without additional reporting requirements at this time. NMFS considered additional reporting requirements for shark fin traders beyond the reporting already required by other state and/or Federal agencies, but determined that permit requirements alone would be an effective initial step in achieving the rule's objective to further understand the international trade aspects of the industry. The Agency may consider additional reporting requirements at a later date, with due notice and opportunity for public comment.

Comment 2: One commenter stated that U.S. bluefin tuna re-exporters are assigned an unfair reporting burden for re-export of untagged bluefin tuna relative to the bluefin tuna trade industry in other nations. The United States is one of the few countries that tags every exported fish, which results in a reduced burden for re-exporters in other nations. The U.S. industry carries more reporting burden than industry members in other countries.

Response: The final rule requires that re-exporters of untagged bluefin tuna provide copies of completed re-export certificates and associated documentation to the ICCAT Secretariat and competent authorities of importing nations at provided addresses. NMFS included this requirement since ICCAT Recommendation 07–10 specifically requires all nations, including the United States, to conduct such reporting. However, the United States' sophisticated catch monitoring program, which includes tagging every Atlantic bluefin tuna domestically and commercially harvested, exempts U.S. industry members from certain other parts of the ICCAT Recommendation 07–10 BCD program. NMFS will continue to work with ICCAT to balance the burden of international fisheries management fairly among participating nations. Overall, the reporting requirements of the ICCAT BCD program that must be implemented by the United States have been mitigated and reduced because of the U.S. programs currently in place.

Comment 3: A commentor stated that the proposed rule and regulatory program are complex, and the public comment period should be extended and more public hearings should be held on the east coast.

Response: NMFS did not extend the public comment period for this rulemaking or add public hearings to those announced with the proposed rule. NMFS worked to balance its obligations of meeting the international implementation deadline for the ICCAT BCD program while also conducting extensive public outreach with email, direct mail, and public hearings on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. NMFS undertook mailings to current permit holders and shark fin importers, and held public hearings in five locations that were chosen based on industry participation during the previous ITP rulemaking (69 FR 67268, November 17, 2004). The Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel was briefed on April 16, 2008. Further, documentation associated with this rulemaking was available on NMFS websites and *www.regulations.gov*. ICCAT adopted the BCD recommendation at the end of November 2007 and required its implementation by July 1, 2008. U.S. businesses desiring to export bluefin tuna to foreign markets could be negatively impacted if the BCD program was not in place by the required implementation date.

Comment 4: One ITP holder asked what type of document would be necessary for bluefin tuna imports into the United States originating from South Africa.

Response: The type of documentation required would depend upon the species of bluefin tuna traded. Southern bluefin tuna are found through the Southern Ocean, south of 30? South latitude. The final rule requires that an ICCAT BCD accompany any shipment of Atlantic bluefin tuna into the United States. The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna's statistical document continues to be required for imports of southern bluefin tuna into the United States.

Comment 5: One commentor noted that there are ''transfer houses'' in Boston that receive product from Canadian importers, but do not appear to be required to report any information to NMFS. One permit holder stated that they had experienced a greater degree of enforcement attention from NMFS. Several permit holders requested that the ''playing field between businesses be level'' regarding reporting burden and enforcement activity. One of these permit holders stated that NMFS enforcement personnel may pay more attention to their company because of its large size.

Response: The final rule maintains the previous requirement that the importer, which is defined as the consignee as listed on entry documentation required by Customs and Border Protection, must hold an ITP and abide by reporting requirements. If a non-resident corporation is listed as the consignee, then a resident agent is required to hold the permit and fulfill reporting requirements. All permit holders are equally responsible for abiding by applicable regulations. The NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) investigates violations of the regulations promulgated by NOAA, based on the individual facts and circumstances of each case.

Comment 6: Several ITP holders expressed concern that they would be held responsible for imports from other countries that appeared to be legal, but were later determined to be illegal, unregulated, unreported (IUU) product, or product that came with falsified statistical documents that appeared to be legal upon import.

Response: HMS ITP holders are responsible for the reporting requirements and administrative recordkeeping articulated in the ITP regulations. Violations of the regulations promulgated by NOAA, including instances of ITP dealer non-compliance, will be examined by OLE on a case-by-case basis, based on the individual facts and circumstances of each case.

Comment 7: One commentor requested that there be internationally agreed upon methods for numbering consignment documents and for format of documents to assist importers in identifying illegal product.

Response: ICCAT Recommendation 07–10 requires that each BCD have a unique document identification number specific to the flag state. A circular from ICCAT (Circular #569/08) dated April 14, 2008, recommended a numbering convention for BCDs that would use 8 digits which include the country code and year of capture, followed by a unique, sequentially assigned number. The final rule states at § 300.186(b): ''A nationally approved form from another country may be used for exports to the United States if that document strictly conforms to the information requirements and format of the applicable RFMO.''

Comment 8: Several permit holders stated that they were supportive of the increasing international role the United States is taking in reducing IUU fishing.

Response: One of the purposes of ICCAT's BCD program is to more

accurately account for stock landings and help reduce IUU fishing. In addition, the Magnuson-Stevens Act includes several provisions to reduce IUU fishing. NMFS published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on June 11, 2007 (72 FR 32052) and is currently drafting a proposed rule to implement these provisions.

Comment 9: Current ITP holders commented on several operational aspects of the trade monitoring program which were not addressed in this rulemaking, in reference to swordfish imports. The issues raised included the following: 1) most swordfish import statistical documents are received by fax rather than original documents, and some arrive three days after the consignment has been accepted in the United States; 2) because of the amount of swordfish imported into the United States, the trade monitoring requirements as written for swordfish are overly burdensome; and 3) flexibility is needed in the format of biweekly report forms. In addition, several comments were provided on shark and shark fin fishery management.

Response: These issues are outside the scope of this rulemaking and amendment to the ITP regulations. However, the current ITP regulations require that imports of swordfish, bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, and frozen bigeye tuna be accompanied by original statistical documents which are provided to NMFS if the United States is the final point of import. Biweekly reports are required to be submitted to NMFS on forms provided by NMFS. NMFS may consider future modifications of the HMS ITP regulations, including further consideration of these comments. NMFS is in the process of coordinating with Customs and Border Protection to implement the International Trade Data System which is expected to modify NMFS import and trade-monitoring programs. An advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on this issue is expected to be published in the **Federal Register** during 2008.

Classification

The NMFS Assistant Administrator (AA) has determined that this final rule is consistent with the Consolidated HMS FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the ATCA, the TCA, and other applicable law. The AA has determined that this final rule is necessary to implement the recommendations of ICCAT and IATTC, and is necessary for the management of bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, swordfish, and sharks.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

A final regulatory flexibility analysis (FRFA) was prepared. The FRFA incorporates the initial regulatory flexibility analysis, a summary of the significant issues raised by the public, and NMFS responses to those comments. The FRFA describes the economic impacts this final rule could have on small entities. A description of the action, why it is being considered, and the legal basis for this action are contained at the beginning of the preamble and the **SUMMARY** section of the preamble. A summary of the analysis follows. A copy of this analysis is available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

The actions in this final rule could affect approximately 406 Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit (ATDP) holders, 230 HMS ITP holders, and approximately 100 individuals who participate in international trade of shark fins, all of which are considered small entities. According to the RFA, a wholesale fish business is defined as a small entity if it employs 100 or fewer. Impacts to these entities could occur in two areas - permitting and reporting. NMFS expects only minor negative economic impacts from the final rule because the final measures only involve adjusting the permitting and reporting requirements. A description of the alternatives, associated requirements, and estimated costs follows.

The issues addressed in the final rule are subdivided into three categories: ''permitting,'' ''reporting'' and ''regulatory structure and clarification.'' Only two of the issues under the category of ''permitting'' include alternatives that could have economic impacts. For the issue of identification of the entity responsible for obtaining the HMS ITP in importing situations, and thus for fulfilling subsequent reporting requirements, the ''No Action'' alternative is the final action. The final rule continues to require the consignee as indicated in CBP import documentation to be the responsible party for obtaining the ITP. This alternative was chosen to for enforcement purposes since the consignee would be the actual receiver of the consignment, and would have an address within the United States. The annual costs associated with this action are the costs associated with permitting (including the cost of the permit, mailing costs and time for filling out the application – estimated at $26.75 per applicant) and the cost of reporting (including filling out and submitting the report forms – estimated at $102 per dealer for biweekly reports and $94 per dealer for trade tracking documentation, for a total of $196 per dealer). Alternative Two would require that the consignee on the bill of lading obtain an HMS ITP in addition to the consignee on CBP entry documentation, and was not chosen because it would have resulted in duplicative reporting. The overall negative economic impact for this alternative would increase based on the number of consignees identified on import bills of lading that differ from consignees on CBP documentation. NMFS estimates the cost of this alternative to be twice that of the final action, assuming that there is one additional permit holder for each current permit holder. Costs per dealer would be the same as for the final action. For Alternative Three, which would require the importer of record to obtain the HMS ITP, economic impacts are estimated to be approximately the same as the final action, using the assumption that there would be approximately the same number of importers of record identified on CBP entry documentation as consignees for consignments of products addressed under HMS ITP regulations. This alternative was not selected because importers of record can be foreign-based companies, which could impede enforcement.

The second permitting issue with alternatives that could have economic impacts is shark fin trader permitting. The final action requires that shark fin traders obtain an HMS ITP. This alternative was chosen to obtain information on the shark fin trade industry and support regulatory enforcement. NMFS anticipates that approximately 100 entities are expected to require the HMS ITP for shark fin trading. Since there would be no reporting requirements associated with this permit, the only annual costs are for obtaining the permit ($26.75 per dealer). The other alternative considered for this issue was the ''No Action'' Alternative, with neither permitting nor reporting costs for shark traders. This alternative was not selected because it would not provide the information needed on shark fin trading or support regulatory enforcement.

The second category of issues addressed in the final rule is under the heading of ''Reporting.'' None of the alternatives for these issues would change the number of entities required to obtain an HMS ITP, so there would be no permitting-related costs for any of these issues.

The first issue under the category of ''Reporting'' that has reporting-associated economic impacts includes

alternatives that would adjust reporting requirements for when and how report submission would be required. Alternative One is the ''No Action'' alternative, and would not change any reporting regulations or associated annual costs, which are estimated at $196 per dealer. This alternative was not chosen because the current use of a postmark does not ensure that NMFS has received the report in a timely fashion. Alternative Two would rescind the requirement for copies of import statistical documents to be faxed to NMFS within 24 hours of receipt by an importer. This alternative was not selected because NMFS requires the opportunity to review import statistical documents as close to the time of import as possible. The regulation requiring the permit holder to fax the document to NMFS within 24 hours balances the need for NMFS to be promptly notified of the import with providing the permit holder a reasonable amount of time to complete the document.

This alternative would provide a slightly positive economic benefit in the form of a slightly reduced time burden for import reporting. Dealers would still be required to fill out and mail import statistical documents twice per month. The final action (Alternative 3) would adjust HMS ITP and ATDP reporting regulations to use a ''received-by'' date rather than a postmark date for determining dealer compliance with required report submittal schedules. The ITP regulations would also be clarified to indicate when use of a fax machine would be an acceptable method for submitting a report. This alternative was chosen because it establishes consistency within HMS regulations by using the ''received-by'' date to ensure NMFS receives the report by a date certain, and provides for all report submission alternatives, including faxes. It also retains the 24-hour reporting requirement for enforcement purposes. This alternative is expected to have no economic consequences, since it would not impact reporting frequency.

The second reporting-related issue considers alternatives to initially implement ICCAT Recommendation 07–10 and the new BCD program. The final action implements the program for commercial U.S. Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries and bluefin tuna imports, exports and re-exports as part of a program that will apply to all ICCAT member nations. This alternative was chosen to keep the United States in compliance with the ICCAT Recommendation, and ensure that U.S. product would be accepted for import by other ICCAT member nations. The BCD program requires the use of new forms with fields similar to the ICCAT bluefin tuna statistical document that was in place before the BCD program was implemented. The change in reporting burden will only affect HMS ITP holders that re-export untagged bluefin tuna. When re-exporting an untagged bluefin tuna, the HMS ITP holder is required to send a copy of the re-export certificate to the ICCAT Secretariat and importing nation within five working days via addresses and information provided by NMFS. The costs per transaction could range from zero for electronic transmission of the documents, to approximately $100 for mailing, for an average of $50 per transaction. In 2006, 17 consignments would have been subject to this additional cost. In addition, a time burden of .25 hours per consignment would have resulted in an additional 4.25 aggregate hours for a total annual cost of $64, or $3.75 per transaction. There would be no additional costs for the No Action alternative, with current annual average costs for statistical document program reporting at $196 per dealer. The No Action alternative was not selected because it would result in the United States being out of compliance with ICCAT recommendations, and would hinder export of U.S. product to ICCAT member nations.

The last issue under this category addresses reporting of Atlantic bluefin tuna exports. The final action provides a positive economic impact, reducing the current reporting burden for individuals who hold both an ATDP and HMS ITP by clarifying that bluefin tuna exports would only need to be reported on one biweekly report. This alternative was chosen because it ensures the reporting burden for export of domestically landed Atlantic bluefin tuna is not duplicative with landing reporting requirements. This action could positively affect the 64 individuals who concurrently hold an ATDP and HMS ITP and could save an estimated $51 per dealer per year. In addition, the final action could reduce the reporting burden for HMS ITP holders who purchase bluefin tuna from an ATDP holder, with an estimated savings similar to those for individuals holding both permits. Alternative One, the ''No Action'' alternative, would continue to require reporting for both permits, and is estimated to cost each impacted dealer approximately $102 per year. Alternative Two would require that operational procedures were adjusted to mirror the current regulations. Neither of these alternatives were selected because each had a higher overall reporting burden than the final action. The economic impact of Alternative Two would be the same as that estimated for the ''No Action'' alternative.

The last category of issues addressed in the final rule is ''Regulatory Structure and Clarification,'' and includes two issues that could have economic consequences. The first issue is the implementation of the new definition of ''import'' included in the Magnuson-Stevens Act as amended by the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act. Both the ''No Action'' Alternative and the final action would have the same economic consequences, which would be the permitting and reporting costs associated with the current HMS ITP program, averaged at $222.75 per dealer per year. The final action was selected because it is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and continues to clearly articulate the applicability of HMS ITP program regulations to shipments between the United States and its insular possessions. The ''No Action'' Alternative was not selected because it is not consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The second alternative would adopt the Magnuson-Stevens Act definition of ''import,'' without distinguishing that consignments between the United States and its insular possessions with separate customs territories would be considered domestic interactions, as intended by RFMO consignment programs. This alternative was not selected because it would unnecessarily increase reporting burdens. If such consignments required permitting and reporting under the HMS ITP program, negative economic consequences would occur which are currently unknown but, based in part on the amount of product and number of participating dealers, are expected to be minor in nature. For example, an average of four consignments from Guam to ports under U.S. Customs authority have occurred each year from 2002 through 2007. The estimated annual impact per dealer (approximately four dealers) would be $223.

The last issue considered in this final rule that could have economic impacts addresses the verification of foreign validating officials for imports. The final rule includes no regulatory changes for this issue. Under the Preferred Alternative, NMFS would pursue further international coordination on this issue, and there would be no economic related consequences. This alternative was selected to mitigate reporting burden for U.S. businesses and further coordinate international

action for this issue. Likewise, the ''No Action'' Alternative would not have economic consequences since it does not require any current or additional action. This alternative was not selected because it would not provide a way to verify validating authorities. Alternative Two could have considerable negative economic consequences since it would require that importers check the password-protected ICCAT website to determine whether validating officials are authorized government representatives. This alternative would require computer hardware and software with Internet access. Alternative Two was not selected because it is unclear whether it is consistent with the intent of the ICCAT statistical document program.

Fishermen, fish dealer permit holders, and fishery managers involved in these fisheries must comply with a number of international agreements, domestic laws, regulations and FMPs. These include, but are not limited to, ICCAT, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, ATCA, the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Paperwork Reduction Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. NMFS strives to ensure consistency among the regulations with Regional Fishery Management Councils and other relevant agencies. NMFS does not believe that the final rule would conflict with any relevant regulations, federal or other.

One of the requirements of FRFA is to describe any alternatives to the proposed rule which accomplish the stated objectives and which minimize any significant economic impacts. Economic impacts are discussed above and below. Additionally, the RFA Section 603(c)(1)-(4)) lists four categories of options which should be discussed. These categories are: (1) establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance and reporting requirements under the rule for such small entities; (3) use of performance rather than design standards; and (4) exemptions from coverage of the rule for small entities.

Under the first and fourth categories listed above, NMFS considers all dealers to be ''small entities.'' Thus, in order to meet the objectives of this final rule and address management concerns, NMFS cannot exempt small entities or change the reporting requirements for small entities.

Category Two includes options for clarifying, simplifying, and consolidating compliance and reporting requirements for small entities. Many of the measures in this final rule satisfy the goal of Category Two by simplifying or clarifying the existing dealer permitting or reporting structure in several instances, and by seeking further international clarity for several issues that cannot be implemented under the current program. Specifically, the final rule clarifies who is the entity responsible for obtaining the HMS ITP in cases involving foreign importers and would synchronize requirements between HMS ITPs and NMFS regional permits. Although alternatives are considered for modifying the entity responsible for obtaining a permit based on CBP entry documentation, the final rule does not modify the current regulations, which is the simplest of the alternatives considered.

The final rule reduces and simplifies reporting requirements so that reporting may be combined in certain instances when an individual holds both the HMS ITP and the ATDP, which have similar reporting requirements. A dealer holding one of these permits can also coordinate with a dealer who handles the same individual bluefin tuna but holds the other corresponding permit. The final rule also clarifies the use of faxes for report submission and would further consistency with other HMS regulations by establishing the ''received by'' date as the date used for compliance determinations. There would be some increase in reporting burden and cost because of the requirement for international communication of consignment documents directly to the ICCAT secretariat and importing nation's government agency, however costs should be minimized since affected businesses are encouraged to submit the required documentation electronically.

The final rule also directly addresses issues of regulatory structure and clarification. The final rule updates certain HTS codes and serves in part to clarify reporting. The final rule also adopts the Magnuson-Stevens Act definition of import, with a clarifying caveat that consignments of affected product between insular possessions and the United States are not considered imports. Finally, the final rule clarifies that the regulatory requirements in 50 CFR part 300 subpart M apply to all entities engaging in covered activities, rather than just those who obtain the required permit. Alternatives for verification of validating authorities are also considered, but because of technical difficulties, no action requiring verification of validation is included in the final rule.

The third category identified in the RFA, ''use of performance rather than design standards,'' is not applicable, since ICCAT has very specific requirements for implementation of the trade tracking programs addressed in this action. Although the shark fin trade is not currently covered by an ICCAT recommendation, in order to address Category Two and maintain a simple structure for HMS trade permits, shark fin traders are required to obtain an HMS ITP under the final rule.

This final rule contains revisions to collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act which have been previously approved by OMB under the HMS Permitting Family of Forms (0648–0327) and the HMS Dealer Reporting Family of Forms (0648–0040). In the HMS Permitting Family of Forms, the instrument being revised is the application for the HMS ITP for Atlantic coast dealers that import, export, or re-export bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish, the public reporting burden for which is estimated at 0.08 hours (5 minutes) per response. In the HMS Dealer Reporting Family of Forms, the instruments being revised are the bluefin tuna statistical document and re-export certificate, the public reporting burden for which is estimated at .08 hours (5 minutes) per form. The statistical document will be replaced by a catch document with an equivalent reporting burden. The reporting burden for re-exports of untagged bluefin tuna is estimated to be an additional .25 hours (15 minutes) per form. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of this data collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**) and by email to *David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov*, or fax to (202) 395–7285.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

List of Subjects

50 CFR Part 300

Administrative practice and procedure, Exports, Fish, Fisheries,

Fishing, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Treaties.

50 CFR Part 635

Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Treaties.

Dated: May 27, 2008.

Samuel D. Rauch III

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

■ For reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 300 subpart M and part 635 are amended as follows:

Chapter III

PART 300—INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS

Subpart M—International Trade Documentation and Tracking Programs for Highly Migratory Species

■ 1. The authority citation for subpart M of part 300 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 951–961 and 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 300.181, the definitions for ''Fish or fish products regulated under this subpart'', ''Import'', and ''Tag'' are revised, and the definitions of ''BCD tag'', ''Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)'', ''Consignment document'', ''Consignment documentation programs'', ''Shark fin'', ''Statistical document'', and ''Statistical document program'' are added in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 300.181 Definitions.

* * * * *

BCD tag means a numbered tag affixed to a bluefin tuna issued by any country in conjunction with a catch statistics information program and recorded on a BCD.

* * * * *

Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) means a bluefin tuna catch document issued by a nation implementing the ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program.

* * * * *

Consignment document means either an ICCAT Atlantic BCD or a catch document issued by a nation to comply with the ICCAT BCD program; or an ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC, or CCSBT statistical document or a statistical document issued by a nation to comply with such statistical document programs.

Consignment documentation programs means the ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC or CCSBT catch document or statistical document programs.

* * * * *

Fish or fish products regulated under this subpart means bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, southern bluefin tuna and swordfish and all such products of these species, except parts other than meat (e.g., heads, eyes, roe, guts, and tails), and shark fins.

* * * * *

Import means to land on, bring into, or introduce into, or attempt to land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, whether or not such landing, bringing or introduction constitutes an importation within the meaning of the customs laws of the United States. Import, for purposes of this subpart, does not include any activity described in the previous sentence with respect to fish caught in the exclusive economic zone or by a vessel of the United States. For purposes of this subpart, goods brought into the United States from a U.S. insular possession, or vice–versa, are not considered imports.

* * * * *

Shark fin, for purposes of this subpart, means any fin removed from a shark, which is an animal of the Linnaean taxonomic superorder Selachimorpha, subclass Elasmobranchii, class Chondrichthyes.

* * * * *

Statistical document means an ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC, or CCSBT statistical document, or a statistical document issued by a nation to comply with such statistical document programs.

Statistical document program means either the ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC or CCSBT statistical document program.

* * * * *

Tag means either a dealer tag or a BCD tag.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 300.182, paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) are revised to read as follows:

§ 300.182 HMS international trade permit.

(a) *General.* An importer, entering for consumption fish or fish products regulated under this subpart from any ocean area into the United States, or an exporter exporting or re–exporting such product, must possess a valid trade permit issued under this section. Importation of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart by nonresident corporations is restricted to those entities authorized under 19 CFR 141.18. A resident agent or resident corporate surety provider, as specified under 19 CFR 141.18, must possess a valid trade permit when acting on behalf of a nonresident corporation when entering for consumption, exporting, or re–exporting fish or fish products regulated under this subpart from any ocean area.

(b) *Application.* A person must apply for a permit in writing on an appropriate form obtained from NMFS. The application must be completed, signed by the applicant, and submitted with required supporting documents, at least 30 days before the date on which the applicant wants to have the permit made effective. Application forms and instructions for their completion are available from NMFS.

(c) *Issuance.* NMFS will notify the applicant of any deficiency in the application, including failure to provide information or reports required under this subpart. If the applicant fails to correct the deficiency within 30 days following the date of notification, the application will be considered abandoned.

* * * * *

■ 4. Section 300.183 is revised to read as follows:

§ 300.183 Permit holder reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

(a) *Biweekly reports.* Any person required to obtain a trade permit under § 300.182 must submit to NMFS, on forms supplied by NMFS, a biweekly report of entries for consumption, exports and re-exports of fish and fish products regulated under this subpart except shark fins.

(1) The report required to be submitted under this paragraph (a) must be received within 10 days after the end of each biweekly reporting period in which fish or fish products regulated under this subpart except shark fins were entered for consumption, exported, or re-exported. The bi-weekly reporting periods are the first day to the 15th day of each month, and the 16th day to the last day of each month.

(2) Each report must specify accurately and completely the requested information for each consignment of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins, that is entered for consumption, exported, or re-exported.

(3) A biweekly report is not required for export consignments of bluefin tuna when the information required on the biweekly report has been previously supplied on a biweekly report submitted under § 635.5(b)(2)(i)(B) of this title, provided the person required to obtain a trade permit under § 300.182 retains, at his/her principal place of business for a period of 2 years from the date on which each report was submitted to NMFS, a copy of the biweekly report which includes the required information and is submitted under § 635.5(b)(2)(i)(B) of this title.

(b) *Recordkeeping.* Any person required to obtain a trade permit under § 300.182 must retain, at his/her principal place of business, a copy of each biweekly report and all supporting records for a period of 2 years from the date on which each report was submitted to NMFS.

(c) *Other requirements and recordkeeping requirements.* Any person required to obtain a trade permit under § 300.182 is also subject to the reporting and recordkeeping requirements identified in § 300.185.

(d) *Inspection.* Any person authorized to carry out the enforcement activities under the regulations in this subpart (authorized person) has the authority, without warrant or other process, to inspect, at any reasonable time: fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, biweekly reports, statistical documents, catch documents, re-export certificates, relevant sales receipts, import and export documentation, and any other records or reports made, retained, or submitted pursuant to this subpart. A permit holder must allow NMFS or an authorized person to inspect and copy, for any fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, any import and export documentation and any reports required under this subpart, and the records, in any form, on which the completed reports are based, wherever they exist. Any agent of a person issued a trade permit under this part, or anyone responsible for importing, exporting, storing, packing, or selling fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, shall be subject to the inspection provisions of this section.

(e) *Applicability of reporting and recordkeeping requirements.* Reporting and recordkeeping requirements in this subpart apply to any person engaging in activities that require a trade permit, as set forth in § 300.182(a), regardless of whether a trade permit has been issued to that person.

■ 5. In § 300.184, the section heading, introductory text, and paragraphs (a)(1) introductory text, (b)(1) introductory text, (c)(1) introductory text, and (d)(1) are revised and paragraph (e) is added to read as follows:

§ 300.184 Species subject to permitting, documentation, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements.

The following fish or fish products are subject to the requirements of this subpart, regardless of ocean area of catch.

(a) * * *

(1) The requirements of this subpart apply to bluefin tuna products including those identified by the following subheading numbers from the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS):

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) The requirements of this subpart apply to southern bluefin tuna products including those identified by the following subheading numbers from the HTS:

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) The requirements of this subpart apply to frozen bigeye tuna products including those identified by the following subheading numbers from the HTS:

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(1) The requirements of this subpart apply to swordfish products including those identified by the following subheading numbers from the HTS:

(i) Fresh or chilled swordfish, steaks (No. 0302.67.00.10).

(ii) Fresh or chilled swordfish (No. 0302.67.00.90), excluding fish fillets, steaks, and other fish meat of HTS heading 0304.

(iii) Frozen swordfish, steaks (No. 0303.61.00.10).

(iv) Frozen swordfish (No. 0303.61.00.90), excluding fillets, steaks and other fish meat of HTS heading 0304.

(v) Fresh, or chilled swordfish, fillets and other fish meat (No. 0304.11.00.00).

(vi) Frozen swordfish, fillets (No. 0304.21.00.00).

(vii) Swordfish in bulk or in immediate containers weighing with their contents over 6.8 kg each (No. 0304.91.10.00).

(viii) Swordfish, other (No. 0304.91.90.00).

* * * * *

(e) *Shark fin.* The permitting requirements of this subpart apply to shark fin products including those identified by the following subheading number from HTS: No. 0305.59.20.00.

■ 6. In § 300.185:

A. The section heading and paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2)(i) through (iv), (a)(3), (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (c)(1), (c)(2)(i), (c)(2)(ii), (c)(3) and (d) are revised.

B. Paragraph (e) is redesignated as paragraph (f).

C. New paragraphs (a)(2)(v) through (a)(2)(ix) and (e) are added.

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 300.185 Documentation, reporting and recordkeeping requirements for consignment documents and re-export certificates.

(a) * * *

(1) *Applicability of requirements.* The documentation requirements in paragraph (a)(2) of this section apply to all imports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, into the Customs territory of the United States, except shark fins, or except when entered as a product of an American fishery landed overseas (HTS heading 9815). For insular possessions with customs territories separate from the Customs territory of the United States, documentation requirements in paragraph (a)(2) of this section apply only to entries for consumption. The reporting requirements of paragraph (a)(3) of this section do not apply to fish products destined from one foreign country to another which transit the United States or a U.S. insular possession and are designated as an entry type other than entry for consumption as defined in § 300.181.

(2) * * *

(i) All fish or fish products except for shark fins, regulated under this subpart, imported into the Customs territory of the United States or entered for consumption into a separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession, must, at the time of presenting entry documentation for clearance by customs authorities (e.g., CBP Forms 7533 or 3461 or other documentation required by the port director) be accompanied by an original, completed, approved, validated, species-specific consignment document.

(ii) Imports of bluefin tuna which were re-exported from another nation, must also be accompanied by an original, completed, approved, validated, species-specific re-export certificate.

(iii) Imports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, other than shark fins, that were previously re-exported and were subdivided or consolidated with another consignment before re-export, must also be accompanied by an original, completed, approved, validated, species-specific re-export certificate.

(iv) All other imports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins, that have been previously re-exported from another nation, should have the intermediate importers certification of the original statistical document completed.

(v) Consignment documents must be validated as specified in § 300.187 by a responsible government official of the flag country whose vessel caught the fish (regardless of where the fish are first landed). Re-export certificates must be validated by a responsible government official of the re-exporting country.

(vi) A permit holder may not accept an import without the completed

consignment document or re-export certificate as described in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) through (a)(2)(v) of this section.

(vii) For fish or fish products except shark fins regulated under this subpart that are entered for consumption, the permit holder must provide on the original consignment document that accompanied the consignment the correct information and importer's certification specified in § 300.186, and must note on the top of the consignment document the entry number assigned at the time of filing an entry summary (e.g., CBP Form 7501 or electronic equivalent) with customs authorities.

(viii) Bluefin tuna, imported into the Customs territory of the United States or entered for consumption into the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession, from a country requiring a BCD tag on all such bluefin tuna available for sale, must be accompanied by the appropriate BCD tag issued by that country, and said BCD tag must remain on any bluefin tuna until it reaches its final destination. If the final import destination is the United States, which includes U.S. insular possessions, the BCD tag must remain on the bluefin tuna until it is cut into portions. If the bluefin tuna portions are subsequently packaged for domestic commercial use or re-export, the BCD tag number and the issuing country must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of the package.

(ix) Customs forms can be obtained by contacting the local CBP port office; contact information is available at *www.cbp.gov*. For a U.S. insular possession, contact the local customs office for any forms required for entry.

(3) *Reporting requirements.* For fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins, that are entered for consumption and whose final destination is within the United States, which includes U.S. insular possessions, a permit holder must submit to NMFS the original consignment document that accompanied the fish product as completed under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, to be received by NMFS along with the biweekly report as required under § 300.183(a). A copy of the original completed consignment document must be submitted by said permit holder, to be received by NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, within 24 hours of the time the fish product was entered for consumption into the Customs territory of the United States, or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession.

(b) * * *

(1) *Applicability of requirements.* The documentation and reporting requirements of this paragraph (b) apply to exports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins, that were harvested by U.S. vessels and first landed in the United States, or harvested by vessels of a U.S. insular possession and first landed in that possession. This paragraph (b) also applies to products of American fisheries landed overseas.

(2) *Documentation requirements.* A permit holder must complete an original, approved, numbered, species-specific consignment document issued to that permit holder by NMFS for each export referenced under paragraph (b)(1) of this section. Such an individually numbered document is not transferable and may be used only once by the permit holder to which it was issued to report on a specific export consignment. A permit holder must provide on the consignment document the correct information and exporter certification. The consignment document must be validated, as specified in § 300.187, by NMFS, or another official authorized by NMFS. A list of such officials may be obtained by contacting NMFS. A permit holder requesting U.S. validation for exports should notify NMFS as soon as possible after arrival of the vessel to avoid delays in inspection and validation of the export consignment.

(3) *Reporting requirements.* A permit holder must ensure that the original, approved, consignment document as completed under paragraph (b)(2) of this section accompanies the export of such products to their export destination. A copy of the consignment document must be received by NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, within 24 hours of the time the fish product was exported from the United States or a U.S. insular possession.

(c) * * *

(1) *Applicability of requirements.* The documentation and reporting requirements of this paragraph (c) apply to exports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins, that were previously entered for consumption into the Customs territory of the United States or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession, through filing the documentation specified in paragraph (a) of this section. The requirements of this paragraph (c) do not apply to fish or fish products destined from one foreign country to another which transit the United States or a U.S. insular possession and which are designated as an entry type other than entry for consumption as defined in § 300.181.

(2) * * *

(i) If a permit holder re-exports a consignment of bluefin tuna, or subdivides or consolidates a consignment of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, other than shark fins, that was previously entered for consumption as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the permit holder must complete an original, approved, individually numbered, species-specific re-export certificate issued to that permit holder by NMFS for each such re-export consignment. Such an individually numbered document is not transferable and may be used only once by the permit holder to which it was issued to report on a specific re-export consignment. A permit holder must provide on the re-export certificate the correct information and re-exporter certification. The permit holder must also attach the original consignment document that accompanied the import consignment or a copy of that document, and must note on the top of both the consignment documents and the re-export certificates the entry number assigned by CBP authorities at the time of filing the entry summary.

(ii) If a consignment of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except bluefin tuna or shark fins, that was previously entered for consumption as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section is not subdivided into sub-consignments or consolidated, for each re-export consignment, a permit holder must complete the intermediate importer's certification on the original statistical document and note the entry number on the top of the statistical document. Such re-exports do not need a re-export certificate and the re-export does not require validation.

* * * * *

(3) *Reporting requirements.* For each re-export, a permit holder must submit the original of the completed re-export certificate (if applicable) and the original or a copy of the original consignment document completed as specified under paragraph (c)(2) of this section, to accompany the consignment of such products to their re-export destination. A copy of the completed consignment document and re-export certificate (if applicable) must be submitted to NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, and received by NMFS within 24 hours of the time the consignment was re-exported from the United States. For re-exports of untagged Atlantic bluefin tuna, the permit holder must email, fax, or mail a copy of the completed consignment document and re-export certificate to the ICCAT Secretariat and the importing nation, at addresses designated by NMFS, to be received by the ICCAT

Secretariat and the importing nation, within five days of export.

(d) *Document completion.* To be deemed complete, a consignment document or re-export certificate must be filled out according to the corresponding instructions for each document with all requested information provided.

(e) *Recordkeeping.* A permit holder must retain at his or her principal place of business, a copy of each consignment document and re-export certificate required to be submitted to NMFS pursuant to this section, and supporting records for a period of 2 years from the date on which it was submitted to NMFS.

■ 7. In § 300.186 the section heading and paragraphs (a) and (b) are revised and paragraphs (c) through (h) are removed to read as follows:

§ 300.186 Completed and approved documents.

(a) *NMFS-approved consignment documents and re-export certificates.* A NMFS-approved consignment document or re-export certificate may be obtained from NMFS to accompany exports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart from the Customs territory of the United States or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession.

(b) *Nationally approved forms from other countries.* A nationally approved form from another country may be used for exports to the United States if that document strictly conforms to the information requirements and format of the applicable RFMO documents. An approved consignment document or re-export certificate for use in countries without a nationally approved form to accompany consignments to the United States may be obtained from the following websites, as appropriate: *www.iccat.org*, *www.iattc.org*, *www.ccsbt.org*, or *www.iotc.org*.

■ 8. In § 300.187, paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) through (f) are revised to read as follows:

§ 300.187 Validation requirements.

(a) *Imports.* The approved consignment document accompanying any import of any fish or fish product regulated under this subpart must be validated by a government official from the issuing country, unless NMFS waives this requirement pursuant to an applicable RFMO recommendation. NMFS will furnish a list of countries for which government validation requirements are waived to the appropriate customs officials. Such list will indicate the circumstances of exemption for each issuing country and the non-government institutions, if any, accredited to validate statistical documents and re-export certificates for that country.

(b) *Exports.* The approved consignment document accompanying any export of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart must be validated, except pursuant to a waiver described in paragraph (d) of this section. Validation must be made by NMFS or another official authorized by NMFS.

* * * * *

(d) *Validation waiver.* Any waiver of government validation will be consistent with applicable RFMO recommendations concerning validation of consignment documents and re-export certificates. If authorized, such waiver of government validation may include exemptions from government validation for Pacific bluefin tuna with individual BCD tags affixed pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section or for Atlantic bluefin tuna with tags affixed pursuant to § 635.5(b) of this title. Waivers will be specified on consignment documents and re-export certificates or accompanying instructions, or in a letter to permit holders from NMFS.

(e) *Authorization for non-NMFS validation.* An official from an organization or government agency seeking authorization to validate consignment documents or re-export certificates accompanying exports or re-exports from the United States, which includes U.S. commonwealths, territories, and possessions, must apply in writing, to NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS for such authorization. The application must indicate the procedures to be used for verification of information to be validated; list the names, addresses, and telephone/fax numbers of individuals to perform validation; procedures to be used to notify NMFS of validations; and an example of the stamp or seal to be applied to the consignment document or re-export certificate. NMFS, upon finding the applicant capable of verifying the information required on the consignment document or re-export certificate, will issue, within 30 days, a letter specifying the duration of effectiveness and conditions of authority to validate consignment documents or re-export certificates accompanying exports or re-exports from the United States. The effective date of such authorization will be delayed as necessary for NMFS to notify the appropriate RFMO of other officials authorized to validate consignment document or re-export certificates. Non-government organizations given authorization to validate consignment documents or re-export certificates must renew such authorization on a yearly basis.

(f) *BCD tags*—(1) *Issuance.* NMFS will issue numbered BCD tags for use on Pacific bluefin tuna upon request to each permit holder.

(2) *Transfer.* BCD tags issued under this section are not transferable and are usable only by the permit holder to whom they are issued.

(3) *Affixing BCD tags.* At the discretion of permit holders, a tag issued under this section may be affixed to each Pacific bluefin tuna purchased or received by the permit holder. If so tagged, the tag must be affixed to the tuna between the fifth dorsal finlet and the keel.

(4) *Removal of tags.* A tag, as defined in this subpart and affixed to any bluefin tuna, must remain on the tuna until it is cut into portions. If the bluefin tuna or bluefin tuna parts are subsequently packaged for transport for domestic commercial use or for export, the number of each dealer tag or BCD tag must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing the bluefin tuna or bluefin tuna parts. Such tag number also must be recorded on any document accompanying the consignment of bluefin tuna or bluefin tuna parts for commercial use or export.

(5) *Labeling.* The number of a BCD tag affixed to each Pacific bluefin tuna under this section must be recorded on NMFS reports required by § 300.183, on any documents accompanying the consignment of Pacific bluefin tuna for domestic commercial use or export as indicated in § 300.185, and on any additional documents that accompany the consignment (e.g., bill of lading, customs manifest, etc.) of the tuna for commercial use or for export.

(6) *Reuse.* BCD tags issued under this section are separately numbered and may be used only once, one tag per Pacific bluefin tuna, to distinguish the purchase of one Pacific bluefin tuna. Once affixed to a tuna or recorded on any package, container or report, a BCD tag and associated number may not be reused.

■ 9. Section 300.188 is revised to read as follows:

§ 300.188 Ports of entry.

NMFS shall monitor the importation of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart into the United States. If NMFS determines that the diversity of handling practices at certain ports at which fish or fish products regulated under this subpart are being imported

into the United States allows for circumvention of the consignment document requirement, NMFS may undertake a rulemaking to designate, after consultation with the CBP, those ports at which fish or fish products regulated under this subpart from any ocean area may be imported into the United States.

■ 10. In § 300.189, paragraphs (h) through (j), and (m) are revised and paragraph (n) is added to read as follows:

§ 300.189 Prohibitions.

* * * * *

(h) Validate consignment documents or re-export certificates without authorization as specified in § 300.187.

(i) Validate consignment documents or re-export certificates as provided for in § 300.187 with false information.

(j) Remove any NMFS-issued numbered tag affixed to any Pacific bluefin tuna or any tag affixed to a bluefin tuna imported from a country with a BCD tag program before removal is allowed under § 300.187; fail to write the tag number on the shipping package or container as specified in § 300.187; or reuse any NMFS-issued numbered tag affixed to any Pacific bluefin tuna, or any tag affixed to a bluefin tuna imported from a country with a BCD tag program, or any tag number previously written on a shipping package or container as prescribed by § 300.187.

* * * * *

(m) Fail to provide a validated consignment document for imports at time of entry into the Customs territory of the United States of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart except shark fins, regardless of whether the importer, exporter, or re-exporter holds a valid trade permit issued pursuant to § 300.182 or whether the fish products are imported as an entry for consumption.

(n) Import or accept an imported consignment of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins, without an original, completed, approved, validated, species-specific consignment document and re-export certificate (if applicable) with the required information and exporter's certification completed.

Chapter VI

PART 635—ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

■ 11. The authority citation for 50 CFR part 635, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

§ 635.2 [Amended]

■ 12. In § 635.2, the definition of ''Import'' is removed.

■ 13. In § 635.5, paragraph (b)(2)(i)(B) is revised to read as follows:

§ 635.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) * * *

(i) * * *

(B) *Bi-weekly reports.* Each dealer with a valid Atlantic tunas permit under § 635.4 must submit a complete bi-weekly report on forms available from NMFS for BFT received from U.S. vessels. For BFT received from U.S. vessels on the 1st through the 15th of each month, the dealer must submit the bi-weekly report form to NMFS, to be received by NMFS, not later than the 25th of that month. Reports of BFT received on the 16th through the last day of each month must be received by NMFS not later than the 10th of the following month.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. E8–12232 Filed 5–30–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 635

[Docket No. 0612242866–8619–02]

RIN 0648–AU89

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Atlantic Shark Management Measures

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; fishing season notification.

SUMMARY: This final rule implements the management measures described in Final Amendment 2 to the Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP). These management measures are designed to rebuild overfished species and prevent overfishing of Atlantic sharks. These measures include, but are not limited to, reductions in the commercial quotas, adjustments to commercial retention limits, establishment of a shark research fishery, a requirement for commercial vessels to maintain all fins on the shark carcasses through offloading, the establishment of two regional quotas for non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS), the establishment of one annual season for commercial shark fishing instead of trimesters, changes in reporting requirements for dealers (including swordfish and tuna dealers), the establishment of additional time/area closures for bottom longline (BLL) fisheries, and changes to the authorized species for recreational fisheries. This rule also establishes the 2008 commercial quota for all Atlantic shark species groups. These changes affect all commercial and recreational shark fishermen and shark dealers on the Atlantic Coast.

DATES: This rule is effective on July 24, 2008.

ADDRESSES: For copies of Final Amendment 2 to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, the Small Entity Compliance Guide, or other related documents, please write to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or call at (301) 713–2347 or fax to (301)713–1917. Copies are also available on the HMS website at *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/*.

Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division at (301) 713–2347 or by fax to (301) 713–1917 and by e-mail to *David__Rostker@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395–7285.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Clark, Karyl Brewster-Geisz, or LeAnn Southward Hogan at 301–713–2347 or by fax at 301–713–1917; or Jackie Wilson at 240–338–3936.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Consolidated HMS FMP is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635.

NMFS announced its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65086), and held seven scoping meetings in January 2007 (72 FR 123, January 3, 2007). As described in the notice of intent, based on the results of the 2005 Canadian porbeagle shark stock assessment, the 2006 dusky shark stock assessment, and the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment, NMFS declared the current status of the LCS complex as unknown, sandbar sharks as overfished with overfishing occurring, the Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark population as not overfished with overfishing not occurring, the Atlantic blacktip shark population as unknown, the dusky shark as overfished with overfishing occurring, and porbeagle sharks as overfished with overfishing not occurring. Where there are overfished/overfishing determinations, under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to develop management measures to rebuild overfished shark stocks and prevent overfishing.

In March 2007, NMFS presented a predraft of the Amendment 2 to the HMS Advisory Panel (72 FR 7860, February 21, 2007). Based in part on the comments received during scoping and from the HMS Advisory Panel, on July 27, 2007, NMFS developed further and then released the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP and the associated proposed rule (72 FR 41325; 72 FR 41392). The public comment period was originally scheduled to end on October 10, 2007; however, it was subsequently extended (72 FR 56330, October 3, 2007) and reopened until December 17, 2007 (72 FR 64186, November 15, 2007), to provide the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and the public additional opportunity to submit comments. In addition to the written comments submitted, the public verbally commented on the proposed rule at five Regional Fishery Management Council meetings (New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean), an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, ten public hearings, and one HMS Advisory Panel meeting. The summary of the comments received and NMFS' responses are provided below. Based on these public comments, NMFS re-evaluated the preferred alternatives identified in the draft Amendment 2, made changes as outlined in Final Amendment 2, and now releases its final rule as modified after considering public comment.

Consistent with the Consolidated HMS FMP objectives, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, the objectives for this final rule are to: (1) implement rebuilding plans for sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks; (2) provide an opportunity for the sustainable harvest of blacktip and other sharks, as appropriate; (3) prevent overfishing of Atlantic sharks; (4) analyze BLL time/area closures and take necessary action to maintain or modify the closures, as appropriate; and (5) improve, to the extent practicable, data collections or data collection programs.

The rebuilding plans in Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP considers the recommendations in the stock assessments to be the best available scientific information on the status of the species and therefore, reflects those recommendations. This includes NMFS establishing rebuilding time periods that are as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of the stocks and needs of the fishing communities according to National Standard (NS) 1 guidelines.

The 2005/2006 stock assessment for the sandbar shark assumed that sandbar shark fishing mortality from 2005 to 2007 would be maintained at levels similar to 2004 (the last year of data used in the stock assessment was from 2004) and that there would be a constant total allowable catch (TAC) between 2008 and 2070. Using these assumptions, the projections indicated that sandbar sharks would have a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 220 mt whole weight (ww) (158 mt dressed weight (dw))/year and a 50–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 240 mt ww (172 mt dw)/year. As described in Amendment 2, NMFS used the 70–percent probability of rebuilding to

ensure that the intended results of a management action are actually realized given the life history traits of sandbar sharks.

Under the rebuilding plan, sandbar sharks are separated from the LCS complex, and the base commercial sandbar shark quota is established at 116.6 mt dw/year, which results in a total sandbar shark TAC of 158.3 mt dw (220 mt ww) once other sources of sandbar sharks mortality are included. For the first five years of this rebuilding plan (through 2012), to account for 2007 overharvests, the base commercial quota is reduced to 87.9 mt dw. The adjusted base quota through 2012 includes the amount of quota that would have been available in the 1st season of 2008 had NMFS not closed the fishery during that time. In the final rule for the 1st season of 2008, NMFS calculated that 78 mt dw (171,959 lb dw) would have been available (November 29, 2007, 72 FR 67580). However, based on updates to the reported landings, NMFS adjusted the 78 mt dw estimate down to 66.2 mt dw (145,944 lb dw). The actual commercial quota available in any particular year may fluctuate based on overharvests and will be published via appropriate rulemaking in the **Federal Register**.

Projections in the dusky shark stock assessment indicated that with the age-structured production model (i.e., baseline scenario), dusky sharks could be rebuilt with a 70–percent probability by the year 2400. Other projections from the three other modeling approaches indicate that rebuilding of dusky sharks will take between 100–400 years. As such, in this final rule, NMFS assumes that the rebuilding timeframe that would be as short as possible for dusky sharks would be at least 100 years. The harvest of dusky sharks has been prohibited since 2000. Despite this fact, dusky sharks are still overfished with overfishing occurring. NMFS believes this is at least partly due to the fact that they are caught as bycatch, predominantly in longline fisheries. Many of the final actions in this rule, such as establishing a shark research fishery with 100 percent observer coverage and decreasing the retention limits of non-sandbar large coastal sharks on all fishing vessels, should reduce dusky shark bycatch. This reduction in bycatch should aid in rebuilding and in collecting additional information to evaluate dusky shark status and catches. In the research fishery, if dusky shark catch is high by a particular vessel or in a particular region, NMFS could stop that vessel's trip(s) or stop all research trips in that region and/or time. Additionally, if NMFS decides, after reviewing the data from a particular year, NMFS decides that the catch was too high in the research fishery, NMFS could adjust the research protocols and reduce effort or modify gear requirements, as needed. For the non-research fishery trips, NMFS could either reduce the retention limit in an attempt to reduce effort or work with the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council to reduce bycatch mortality in certain fisheries, or consider other measures, as appropriate.

A stock assessment was conducted for North Atlantic porbeagle sharks in 2005 by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This assessment was reviewed by NMFS scientists who determined it used appropriate methodologies and all available fishery and biological data including U.S. landings and research. As a result of this review, NMFS determined that the assessment constituted the best available science. NMFS also determined that because the stock assessed is a unit stock that extends into U.S. waters, the assessment and its recommendations were appropriate for use in U.S. domestic management. The assessment recommended that there is a 70–percent probability of rebuilding in 100 years if fishing mortality levels are maintained at or below 0.04 (current fishing mortality level). Considering this science, NMFS believes that the rebuilding timeframe that is as short as possible is 100 years, which will allow a TAC of 11.3 mt dw based on current commercial landings of 1.7 mt dw, current commercial discards of 9.5 mt dw, and current recreational landings of 0.1 mt dw. This results in a commercial porbeagle shark quota of 1.7 mt dw.

This final rule does not contain detailed information regarding the management history of Atlantic sharks or the alternatives considered. Those issues are discussed in the preamble of the proposed rule. Additional information can also be found in the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**). This final rule contains responses to comments received during the public comment period and a description of changes to the rule between proposed and final. The description of the changes to the proposed rule can be found after the response to comment section.

Response to Comments

A large number of individuals and groups provided both written and verbal comments on the proposed rule during the 143-day comment period, 10 public hearings, 5 Regional Fishery Management Council meetings, one Interstate Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, and one HMS Advisory Panel meeting. These comments resulted in numerous changes. The comments are summarized below together with NMFS' responses. All of the comments are grouped together by major issue. There are 16 major issues: Quotas/Species Complexes; Porbeagle Sharks as Prohibited; Retention Limits; Fins on Requirement; Time Area Closures; Reporting; Seasons; Regions; Recreational Measures; Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report and Stock Assessment Frequency; Research Fishery/Preferred Alternative; Comments on Other Alternative Suites and Management Measures; Science; National Standards; Economic Impacts; and Miscellaneous. The comments are numbered consecutively, starting with 1, at the beginning of each issue.

1. Quotas/Species Complexes

a. Quotas

Comment 1: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) should consider reducing the fishing mortality for overfished sandbar sharks.

Response: NMFS is taking steps to reduce fishing mortality for overfished sandbar sharks. In particular, NMFS is reducing the base commercial quota for sandbar sharks to 116.6 mt dw. This amount is further reduced to 87.9 mt dw from 2008 through 2012 to account for 2007 overharvests. This is more than an 80–percent reduction in sandbar shark landings compared to the status quo (594.4 mt dw). This base commercial quota of 116.6 mt dw (which is then adjusted for overharvest) combined with estimated discards both within and outside the commercial shark fishery (e.g., including other commercial fisheries and recreational fisheries) is anticipated to keep sandbar mortality below the recommended total allowable catch (TAC) of 158.3 mt dw, which gives this stock a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070, as described in Chapter one of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Comment 2: NMFS should have considered Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) for the shark fishery in this rulemaking. The quota is just too small for the number of participants. Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) or ITQs would accomplish the same objectives as the research fishery. ITQs/IFQs are the fairest, simplest, most rational method for this dilemma. NMFS should switch to an ITQ system with no trip limit, because a lot of times fishermen do not weigh the sharks. Rather, fishermen know their legal trip

limit based on how they fill their fish boxes. An ITQ system with no trip limit would result in fewer dead discards.

Response: ITQs may be beneficial in many fisheries, and NMFS may consider developing an IFQ or Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) for sharks as well as other HMS in the future. NMFS did not consider ITQs to be a reasonable alternative for this rulemaking given the strict 1-year timeline to which NMFS must adhere in setting up a system for rebuilding a fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Furthermore, overfishing of sharks would have continued during an extensive ITQ development phase, which would have been inconsistent with NMFS' mandate in section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to rebuild overfished stocks. The Magnuson-Stevens Act states that for stocks identified as overfished or having overfishing occurring, the Secretary of Commerce or the relevant Council, as appropriate, shall prepare a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations for the fishery to end overfishing in the fishery and rebuild affected stocks within one year of that determination. NMFS satisfied that timing provision: sandbar sharks and dusky sharks were determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring on November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65086), and NMFS published Draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP on July 27, 2007 (72 FR 41325). NMFS notes that the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act amended section 304(e) to include a two-year timing provision for preparation and implementation of actions, and the new provision will be effective July 12, 2009.

Given section 304 and other timing considerations for this action, NMFS did not consider an ITQ system as a reasonable alternative, as it takes several years to properly design an ITQ system that appropriately considers the views of all stakeholders and then to implement such a system. The general requirements for ITQs or LAPPs were included in the 2007 reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (section 303A). Overall, two basic things must be done when implementing a LAPP system: 1) determine who would receive and who can hold the harvest privileges; and 2) define the nature of the harvest privileges. In addition, NMFS is currently establishing referenda requirements for LAPPs (for instance, a particular allocation scheme must be approved by a given level of the industry). In addition, unlike the research fishery, which would allow an individual fisherman to target sharks on a yearly basis, allocation under an ITQ, IFQ, or LAPP would be for a much longer time period. Because fishermen would have these allocations for a long time, NMFS traditionally works extensively with all stakeholders to devise the best allocation scheme possible for these type of permit programs through workshops and other meetings.

Comment 3: NMFS should reconsider how it calculated the non-sandbar Large Coastal Shark (LCS) quota. The non-sandbar LCS quota is low because fishermen were not targeting non-sandbar LCS in the past. They were targeting sandbar sharks. If fishermen had been targeting non-sandbar LCS, historical landings would be much higher, and there would be a larger non-sandbar LCS quota than is currently proposed.

Response: NMFS is implementing a larger non-sandbar LCS base quota of 627.8 mt dw outside the shark research fishery based on dealer reports rather than logbooks, as originally proposed. By using dealer reports, NMFS included in its calculations landings outside of NMFS' jurisdiction (e.g., state landings) and thus maintained consistency in establishing the quota with data used in the stock assessments.

In using historical landings reported by shark dealers to calculate the non-sandbar LCS quota, NMFS follows the recommendations of the stock assessments for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic blacktip shark populations. These stock assessments recommended keeping catch levels the same in the Atlantic region and not increasing catch levels in the Gulf of Mexico region. Basing quotas on dealer reports would cap fishing effort at historical levels and keep stocks in the Gulf of Mexico healthy and stocks in the Atlantic from declining. Setting quotas higher than these levels could have detrimental effects on shark stocks.

Comment 4: NMFS should consider allocating the entire sandbar quota to fishermen participating in the research fishery because giving a few sandbar sharks to those outside of the research fishery would not be worth it. NMFS should also consider only allowing fishermen with directed shark permits to participate in the shark fishery.

Response: NMFS considered the option discussed in the comment. Under the final action, NMFS is allocating the entire 87.9 mt dw adjusted sandbar quota to the shark research fishery. NMFS will publish a **Federal Register** notice each year, inviting applications from permit holders who are willing to participate in the shark research fishery. Within that notice, NMFS will publish the selection criteria that NMFS would use to select participants for the research fishery. For example, depending on the research objectives for a given year, NMFS may consider applications from a variety of permit holders, including directed, incidental, and charter/headboat (CHB) permit holders, for participation in the shark research fishery.

Comment 5: NMFS should acknowledge that the proposed reduction in quotas is the end of the directed shark fishery. NMFS should ensure that sharks are not discarded and accommodate incidental landings whenever possible.

Response: The final actions will likely end the directed shark fishery for certain species. With the reductions in the sandbar quota, the reduction in retention limits, and the prohibition on retaining sandbar sharks outside the research fishery, fishermen with directed shark permits will likely no longer target LCS outside of the research fishery. As described above, these modifications to quotas and retention limits are necessary to end overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks.

However, as suggested by the commenter, NMFS tried to accommodate incidental landings in other fisheries. Under the final action, fishermen can still retain some non-sandbar LCS while they fish for other species (e.g., reef fish and snapper-grouper). A fisherman with a directed shark permit could harvest 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip and a fisherman with an incidental shark permit could land 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. The trip limit for directed shark permit holders is based, in part, on BLL observer program data from 2005 to 2007. The observer data showed that fishermen with directed shark permits fishing for snapper-grouper kept, on average, 12 sharks per trip. A 33 non-sandbar trip limit should allow fishermen with directed permits to retain sharks (besides sandbar sharks) they catch while targeting other species and should minimize discards. The incidental trip limit is based on what fishermen with incidental permits currently retain under the status quo.

NMFS also considered whether limiting sandbar harvest to the research fishery would increase dead discards or if NMFS needed to include a trip limit for sandbar sharks. Observer data indicate that fishermen targeting species other than sharks (i.e., snapper-grouper) catch, on average, one sandbar shark per trip. Given that sets on trips not targeting sharks are typically shorter in length and duration than sets on trips targeting sharks, it is anticipated that

sandbar sharks would remain on the gear for less time than on trips targeting shark species, and, thus, would have a greater likelihood of being released alive. Therefore, the current trip limits are not anticipated to result in increased dead discards.

Comment 6: NMFS needs to take a more a precautionary approach in regard to hammerheads, common thresher sharks, and blacktip sharks in the Atlantic region, which have an unknown stock status; NMFS should follow international organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and pay attention to red listed shark species such as hammerheads, dusky, and sand tiger sharks, which would likely be taken (under the quota or as bycatch) in the fishery and are particularly depleted. Considering these factors, as well as NMFS' poor record for shark recovery to date, NMFS should close the commercial shark fishery; NMFS should put a moratorium on LCS fishing in the Atlantic until the stock status of Atlantic blacktip sharks is known; NMFS should only allow fishing for Atlantic blacktip sharks within scientifically derived limits when the population is capable of supporting such exploitation and bycatch of prohibited species is demonstrated to be insignificant.

Response: NMFS is implementing management measures based on the latest NMFS-conducted stock assessments for blacktip, dusky, and sandbar sharks, and the LCS complex, which represent the best available peer reviewed science. NMFS is also implementing management measures based on the latest Canadian-based stock assessment for porbeagle sharks, which NMFS determined represents the best available science. The management measures in this final rule are consistent with the rebuilding targets established in these shark stock assessments, and the rebuilding time periods are as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of the stocks and needs of the fishing communities according to NS 1 guidelines.

In general, shark stock status determinations are based on NMFS-conducted stock assessments. NMFS uses the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process for shark stock assessments, which is open to the public and uses the Center for Independent Experts (CIE) to provide independent peer reviews of assessment results.

These assessments consider landings by other countries such as Mexico and Canada but contain mostly U.S. data. For shark species that may have substantial landings outside of the United States (e.g., blue shark), NMFS also relies on the results of the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). These stock assessments are conducted with scientists and data from throughout the world, including U.S. scientists and data. In the case of porbeagle sharks, SCRS determined that ICCAT did not need to conduct a stock assessment since Canada had already conducted one. As such, NMFS scientists reviewed the Canadian stock assessment and determined it was appropriate for use in domestic management.

To date, NMFS has not relied on outside organizations, such as the IUCN, when making stock status determinations. This is due to the unknown nature of the data and peer review methodology applied by these outside groups.

The latest blacktip shark assessments recommended not increasing catch levels in the Gulf of Mexico and keeping catch levels at historical levels in the Atlantic. To account for differences in catch between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic region and to follow recommendations from the blacktip shark stock assessments, NMFS is implementing a Gulf of Mexico non-sandbar LCS regional quota and an Atlantic non-sandbar LCS regional quota based on historical landings from HMS shark dealer reports from 2003 to 2005. Based on dealer reports, the Atlantic region has a lower non-sandbar LCS base quota (188.34 mt dw) than the Gulf of Mexico region (439.5 mt dw). Since the Atlantic blacktip shark stock assessment recommended not changing landings and did not recommend prohibiting the harvest of blacktip sharks, NMFS is implementing this regional quota based on historical landings in the Atlantic region.

Unlike the sandbar shark assessment, which recommended a specific TAC, or the blacktip stock assessments, which recommended specific catch levels, the dusky shark assessment did not give specific mortality targets. Dusky sharks have been on the prohibited species list in 2000; however, there continue to be dusky shark discards in other fisheries. NMFS estimated reduction in dusky shark mortality as a result of sandbar shark and non-sandbar LCS management actions. Based on the reduced quotas and trip limits, NMFS estimates that dusky shark mortality will likely be reduced from 33.1 mt dw to 9.1 mt dw per year. This is a 73–percent reduction in mortality compared to the status quo, which should help rebuild the dusky shark population and afford dusky sharks more protection compared to the status quo.

Finally, NMFS is aware of a separate external hammerhead shark stock assessment that is being conducted, but not aware of separate stock assessments for common threshers or sand tiger sharks. Conducting stock assessments at a species specific level is difficult due to the lack of species-specific information collected to conduct stock assessments for each species of sharks involved in commercial shark fisheries. Therefore, species such as hammerhead sharks and common threshers are managed within species complexes. While NMFS is not implementing management measures for hammerhead sharks, it is likely that hammerhead shark landings will be reduced due to the reduced non-sandbar LCS quota and retention limits.

NMFS has not considered specific management actions for common threshers in this rulemaking, but an annual quota is in place for the pelagic shark complex (488 mt dw), and underharvests of this complex are not applied to the next season. NMFS may consider additional management actions for this species, as warranted, in the future.

For sand tiger sharks, based on their high vulnerability to exploitation and to discourage any future directed fisheries, NMFS included these sharks on the prohibited species list in 1997. Additionally, as with the dusky sharks, a reduction in discards based on the sandbar shark and non-sandbar LCS quotas and management actions taken in this rulemaking should afford additional protection for sand tiger sharks.

Comment 7: NMFS should include landings by states, such as Louisiana and Alabama, against the Federal shark quota.

Response: NMFS counts both Federal and state landings of sharks against the Federal shark quota since sharks in both state and Federal waters contribute to the stocks that are federally managed. This approach is consistent with that used by NMFS to manage other Federal fisheries such as reef fish and snapper grouper.

Comment 8: NMFS should consider species-specific quotas. NMFS should begin with blacktip sharks, since an assessment was done for them in both the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic. This is because of variation in life history parameters, different intrinsic rates of increase, and different catch and abundance data for all species listed in each complex. Managing sharks as a complex is inappropriate.

Response: NMFS is moving towards species-specific management, including species-specific quotas. However, for some species, NMFS has only limited data which requires management to be based on species within a complex. Based on the latest stock assessment, NMFS has removed sandbar sharks from the LCS complex, resulting in a sandbar shark quota, and a non-sandbar LCS quota, comprised of blacktip, bull, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, lemon, nurse, silky, tiger, and spinner sharks. The sandbar shark assessment gave a specific TAC for sandbar sharks, which resulted in NMFS accounting for sandbar shark mortality in all fisheries (both commercial and recreational sectors) before establishing a base commercial quota of 116.6 mt dw. In order to monitor this quota, NMFS removed sandbar sharks from the LCS complex and set a separate commercial quota for this species.

However, while separate blacktip shark assessments were conducted, NMFS has decided not to implement separate blacktip shark quotas because the shark fishery is a multi-species fishery. The majority of sharks harvested in the directed shark fishery, other than sandbar sharks, are blacktip sharks. For instance, 82-percent of sharks caught in the directed shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico region are blacktip sharks (not including sandbar sharks). The next highest landings were for hammerhead sharks at 7-percent and bull sharks at 5-percent. The South Atlantic region had the same pattern with the highest percentage of landings, apart from sandbar sharks, for blacktip sharks at 72-percent followed by hammerhead sharks at 14-percent, and then bull sharks at 4-percent. Because NMFS did not have species-specific assessments on other species besides blacktip and sandbar sharks, and because the majority of the LCS catch, not including sandbar sharks, is blacktip sharks, NMFS created a non-sandbar LCS complex with its own quota. To account for differences in catch between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic region, NMFS is implementing a regional Gulf of Mexico non-sandbar LCS quota and an Atlantic non-sandbar LCS quota.

Comment 9: NMFS should split the sandbar quota between research and bycatch. This could be a ''phased-in'' quota system where ⅔ of the quota in the first year would be allocated toward incidental landings and ⅓ would be allocated toward research.

Response: In establishing the base commercial quota of 116 mt dw, NMFS allocated approximately 42 mt dw to account for recreational harvest and dead discards. A further allocation of ⅓ of the base commercial quota for the research fishery in the first year would only result in 38.8 mt dw for research. In addition, due to overharvests in 2007 (see Appendix C in the FEIS for more details), NMFS is reducing the base commercial sandbar shark quota to 87.9 mt dw annually for five years. A ⅓ allocation of this reduced base commercial quota would only leave 29.3 mt dw of sandbar quota available for research. One third of either the base annual quota or the adjusted five year quota would not provide enough trips or observations to produce statistically sound data on the several research questions NMFS intends to address, especially given that NMFS has already accounted for dead discards and recreational harvest in setting the base commercial quota. In addition, a ⅔ allocation of the sandbar quota would only allow fishermen (directed or incidental) to retain a few sandbar sharks (less than what was proposed under alternative suite 3, where all permit holders would have been allowed to retain sandbar sharks). Thus, splitting the quota into thirds would not provide benefits to the fishery or to the research needed for future stock assessments. However, as funds are available, NMFS would have scientific observers on vessels fishing outside the research fishery that would monitor discards of sandbar sharks. If large number of sandbar dead discards occurred in the fishery, resulting in mortality above the recommended TAC, NMFS would take management action, as necessary. Additionally, NMFS will monitor landings of sandbar shark by state fishermen and deduct those landings from the base commercial quota, as needed.

Comment 10: NMFS should not use the maximum rebuilding time period (70 years) allowed under the law but should use a more precautionary approach. NMFS should not strive for maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for blacktip and sandbar sharks. The proposed sandbar shark quota of 116 metric tons (mt) is too high to ensure recovery of this population and NMFS should consider adopting an even lower final number.

Response: The 2005/2006 stock assessment for sandbar sharks discussed three rebuilding scenarios, including: a rebuilding timeframe if no fishing were allowed; a TAC corresponding to a 50-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070; and a TAC corresponding to a 70-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070. Under no fishing, the stock assessment estimated that sandbar sharks would rebuild in 38 years. Under the NS 1 guidelines, if a species requires more than 10 years to rebuild, even in the absence of fishing mortality, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward by one mean generation time. Thus, NMFS added a generation time (28 years) to the target year for rebuilding sandbar sharks. The target year is the number of years it would take to rebuild the species in the absence of fishing, or 38 years for sandbar sharks. NMFS determined that the rebuilding time that would be as short as possible for sandbar sharks would be 66 years, taking into account the status and biology of the species and severe economic consequences on fishing communities. This would allow sandbar sharks to rebuild by 2070 given a rebuilding start year of 2004, the last year of the time series of data used in the 2005/2006 sandbar shark stock assessment. Since sharks are caught in multiple fisheries, to meet the rebuilding timeframe under a no fishing scenario, NMFS would have to implement restrictions in multiple fisheries to eliminate mortality, such as entirely shutting down multiple fisheries to prevent bycatch. If NMFS were to shut down the shark fishery completely, such action would likely have severe economic impacts on the fishing community and it would likely result in difficulties for fisheries in which Councils recommend management measures as well as Commission-managed fisheries, which often catch sharks as bycatch. In addition, prohibiting all fishing for sharks would impact NMFS' ability to do collect data for future management.

The recommended TAC associated with a 50–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 is 172.7 mt dw (or 240 mt whole weight (ww)). However, given the life history of sharks including slow growth, late age of maturity, and relatively small litter sizes, as described in the 1999 Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (1999 FMP), a 50–percent probability of success is minimally acceptable for sharks. Thus, NMFS adopted the TAC corresponding to a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070, or 158.3 mt dw (220 mt ww). This timeframe is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the NS 1 guidelines at § 600.310, the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (which includes the rebuilding requirements of the 1999 FMP), and the other national standards that require NMFS to consider, among other things, the economic and social impacts of the fishery.

b. Discard Issues

Comment 11: NMFS should consider sandbar shark discards outside the research fishery. NMFS should also be concerned with derby-style fishing with the reduced quotas and retention limits.

Response: NMFS considered sandbar shark discards outside the shark research fishery when it established the base sandbar shark quota (see Table A.1 in Appendix A of the Final EIS). In doing so, NMFS set a commercial sandbar shark quota that, in addition to considering discards in other fisheries outside the shark research fishery, should keep sandbar shark mortality below the recommended TAC of 158.3 mt dw each year. In order to deter derby-style fishing outside the shark research fishery, NMFS reduced the trip limit for directed shark permit holders to 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip. This trip limit should allow the LCS fishery to stay open longer than it has in the past while also minimizing, to the extent practicable, regulatory discards and derby-style fishing.

Comment 12: NMFS should acknowledge that dusky shark bycatch will be an issue both inside and outside the research fishery. Seventy percent of dusky sharks are dead at haulback.

Response: Dusky sharks caught as bycatch under the new management measures would result in dead discards to the same extent as current levels. Currently, most of the dusky shark discards occur within the directed shark fishery (on average, 24.5 mt dw per year), with a total of 33.2 mt dw of dusky sharks discarded on average per year. Under the final action, there would no longer be a directed LCS fishery. For a limited number of trips, the few vessels that qualify for participation in the shark research fishery will be allowed to direct on LCS. Depending on the number of trips taken within the research fishery, NMFS estimates that yearly dusky shark discards could be between 0.5 mt dw (that would be caught during 64 trips associated with the adjusted sandbar shark quota) and 0.6 mt dw (that would be caught during 92 trips associated with the base sandbar shark quota), with a total of 9.1 mt dw of dusky shark discards across all fisheries. This is a 73–percent reduction in dusky shark discards compared to the status quo.

Comment 13: NMFS should evaluate if highgrading will be an issue outside the research fishery.

Response: Under the final action, highgrading, or the discarding of smaller, less valuable animals and retaining only the most valuable animals to fill a retention limit, is expressly prohibited. However, because fishermen aim to have the highest profits per trip, highgrading can be an issue whenever trip limits are implemented.

Based on the latest shark stock assessments, NMFS is implementing a reduced shark trip limit from 4,000 lb of LCS per trip to 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed permit holders operating outside the research fishery. NMFS expects that this reduced trip limit (approximately one quarter of what a directed fisherman lands on a shark trip under the status quo) and the prohibition on the retention of sandbar sharks will result in fishermen with directed shark permits no longer targeting LCS. Additionally, this trip limit is higher than the average number of sharks shark fishermen currently retain when targeting other species (i.e., 12 sharks from non-targeted trips). Thus, NMFS assumes that the reduced trip limit will allow fishermen with directed shark permits to keep all incidentally caught non-sandbar LCS as they target non-sharks species. Because fishermen will likely be allowed to keep all sharks caught when fishing for other species, the reduced trip limit should reduce the incentive to engage in highgrading.

c. Species Complexes

Comment 14: NMFS should reconsider the use of the term ''non-sandbar LCS.'' This title is awkward and might confuse some fishers. The use of ''LCS'' or ''LCS (other than sandbars)'' is recommended following the same logic as when referring to ''pelagic sharks'' (which otherwise would be referred to as non-blue or porbeagle pelagic sharks.)

Response: NMFS considered several names for the group of LCS that does not include sandbar sharks. NMFS felt keeping the title ''LCS'' for the new complex may be confusing with the ''old'' LCS complex (i.e., the complex prior to the implementation of the amendment). NMFS chose ''non-sandbar LCS'' because it was the most explicit description of the new complex: the LCS complex with sandbar sharks removed.

Comment 15: NMFS is taking sandbars out of the LCS complex. Where did NMFS get the authority to remove a given species from a complex?

Response: NMFS has the authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to manage all coastal sharks. As part of this authority, NMFS created the complexes in 1993 to aid in managing the fishery. Thus, NMFS may set species-specific quota as appropriate, given the best available science. Indeed, NMFS has often changed the specific species in each management unit starting with the creation of five prohibited species in 1997. In this case, the sandbar shark assessment gave a specific TAC for sandbar sharks, which resulted in NMFS establishing a base commercial quota of 116.6 mt dw. In order to monitor this quota, NMFS is establishing a quota for sandbar sharks that is separate from the quota for the rest of the LCS complex.

Comment 16: The Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries stated that NMFS should place blacktip sharks in the small coastal shark (SCS) complex.

Response: NMFS is not changing the composition of the SCS complex in this rulemaking. Rather, based on the TAC recommended by the sandbar shark stock assessment, NMFS is establishing separate quotas for sandbar sharks and the non-sandbar LCS. The non-sandbar LCS complex consists of blacktip, bull, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, lemon, nurse, silky, tiger, and spinner sharks. Blacktip sharks are the species most commonly caught within this complex. In the 1993 FMP for Atlantic Sharks, blacktip sharks were placed within the LCS complex based on fishery dynamics. Blacktip sharks are more commonly caught with gear targeting LCS (i.e., BLL gear) rather than gear used to target SCS (i.e., gillnet gear). In addition, the blacktip shark stock assessments recommended that blacktip shark landings should not change or increase from historical catch levels. By placing blacktip sharks within the SCS complex, NMFS could either drastically reduce the blacktip shark regional quotas if the 454 mt dw SCS complex quota was not increased (i.e., the 454 mt dw quota would include the quota for blacktip sharks and SCS), or increase the SCS complex quota to include historical catch of blacktip sharks. Placing blacktip sharks within the SCS complex and increasing the overall SCS quota could result in increased catch levels of SCS. These catch levels may or may not be sustainable for the SCS complex. Therefore, at this time, NMFS is not placing blacktip sharks within the SCS complex.

d. Over- and Underharvests

Comment 17: NMFS received several comments regarding transferring quota. These include: NMFS should consider transferring unused quota to the next season; NMFS should not consider transferring underharvests to the next season even if species are not overfished or the status is unknown. This is because other bodies such as the IUCN have expressed concern as to some of

these species; NMFS should subtract quota overages from the subsequent season's quota and disallow carryover of underharvests to the next season for populations that are of unknown status, overfished, or experiencing overfishing.

Response: Under the final action, NMFS will generally subtract overhavests that occurred during one fishing year from the next fishing year for each individual species or species group. Depending on the amount of overharvests, NMFS may decide to split the overharvests over several years to allow continuation of the shark research fishery and to minimize dead discards. In addition, NMFS will add underharvests up to 50-percent of the base quota to the next fishing year for species or species grouping in which the stock status of all species is other than unknown, overfished, or subject to overfishing. For all other species and species groups, underharvests will not be carried. Not applying underharvests should increase the likelihood that these stocks rebuild in a timelier manner. This approach is also used in other fisheries that NMFS manages, including bluefin tuna and swordfish.

e. Shark Display and Research Quota

Comment 18: NMFS received several comments in favor of the preferred management measures affecting display quotas under alternative suite 4. These comments included: NMFS should allocate 2 mt dw of sandbar sharks from the overall 60 mt ww display and shark research quota to public display and research under exempted fishing permits (EFPs); the 60 metric tons (mt ww) quota for display permits and research should be reduced if it has never been attained; NMFS should prohibit dusky sharks for public display; and, dusky sharks have no display value.

Response: In order to stay within the TAC recommended by the sandbar stock assessment, NMFS is reducing the commercial sandbar shark quota, and restricting the number of sandbar sharks that can be collected under EFPs and Display Permits. The final action restricts the sandbar shark collection to 1 mt dw for research under EFPs and 1 mt dw for public display to ensure that the sandbar shark mortality stays below the 158.3 mt dw TAC and to ensure that the shark research fishery has sufficient quota to produce statistically sound data. The preferred allocations to the EFP and display quotas were based on the 2 mt dw average annual collection of sandbar sharks under EFPs, scientific research permits (SRPs), and display permits from 2000 to 2006. As such, NMFS does not anticipate that these restrictions will affect future sandbar shark collections under these types of permits.

Due to the severity of the overfished and overfishing status of dusky sharks, the collection of dusky sharks for public display will be prohibited. Aquariums that currently have dusky sharks will not be allowed to replace them. In addition, NMFS will review the allocation of dusky sharks for research under EFPs on a case by case basis. This should allow for research under EFPs on dusky sharks to continue, as appropriate.

Comment 19: NMFS received numerous comments stating that the existing research/display quotas for sharks should not be reduced because: the quota is already small and not expected to increase in the future; the EFP quota has never been exceeded; the collection of sandbar sharks for public display is not a significant contributing factor to the reported decline of this stock; there is a disproportionate amount of regulation on display permits compared to other permits for other fishermen; any reduction in quotas or restrictions on species, if scientifically warranted and if based on scientifically peer-reviewed stock assessments, should come entirely out of the commercial quotas which have not been historically adhered to, and where the animals are landed dead with zero conservation or educational value; the sandbar shark is one of only a handful of shark species that are exceptionally hardy and have historically adapted well to closed aquarium environments.

Response: While the 60 mt ww (or 43.2 mt ww) shark display and research quota is small compared to the current commercial 1,017 mt dw LCS quota, the final action does not change the overall display and research quota. The final action, however, does significantly reduce the commercial quota and prohibits most commercial fishermen from harvesting sandbar sharks. Additionally, the final action prohibits recreational retention of sandbar sharks.

As described in the response to Comment 18 in this section, the quantity of sandbar and dusky sharks authorized for display and research (outside of the shark research fishery) is limited under the final action. For sandbar sharks, the amount is limited to what has been landed, on average, under various EFPs during the past six years. Therefore, no negative economic impacts are anticipated with the EFP allocation of sandbar sharks. EFPs and display permits will no longer be issued for the collection of dusky sharks. This regulation is consistent with the prohibition on the harvest of dusky sharks by commercial and recreational fishermen and, because of the overfished status and length of time for rebuilding, is appropriate for dusky sharks.

Finally, because EFPs exempt fishermen from certain regulations that other fishermen must follow, NMFS will continue to issue EFPS, SRPs, and display permits only if the applicant has shown compliance with other relevant regulations regarding reporting, notifying enforcement, and tagging animals.

Comment 20: NMFS should consider an exemption to allow for the live take of dusky sharks for public display. Aquariums need to work on the husbandry of these sharks.

Response: As discussed in the response to Comment 18 in this section, due to the severity of the overfished and overfishing status of dusky sharks, dusky sharks will be prohibited for collection for public display. Moreover, dusky sharks do not do well in captivity. Currently, only 13 dusky sharks per year have been collected under EFPs. Under the final action, NMFS will review the allocation of dusky sharks for research under EFPs on a case by case basis. This should allow for research under EFPs on dusky sharks to continue, as appropriate.

Comment 21: NMFS should explain how it will prohibit sandbar and dusky sharks for EFPs and display permits.

Response: EFPs allow fishermen to harvest species otherwise prohibited by existing regulations. NMFS is not prohibiting the collection of sandbar sharks under the EFP program. Instead, 1 mt dw for research under EFPs and 1 mt dw for public display will be allocated to fishermen to ensure that the sandbar shark mortality stays below the 158.3 mt dw TAC. However, due to the severity of the overfished and overfishing status of dusky sharks, dusky sharks will be prohibited for collection for public display because they do not do well in captivity. While NMFS cannot prohibit fishermen from incidentally catching dusky sharks, NMFS can prohibit their retention for public display or research under EFPs when necessary. NMFS reviews the allocation of dusky and sandbar sharks under EFPs and Display Permits on a case-by-case basis. If research on dusky sharks is deemed scientifically necessary, even if it includes mortality, NMFS may issue the necessary EFPs. However, such permits must have scientific merit and the research conducted by scientific staff in order for the permit to be issued. As is currently done for EFPs and Display permits, NMFS will continue to monitor all

sources of mortality as a result of EFPs, Display Permits, Scientific Research Permits, and Letters of Acknowledgments, and these data will be incorporated in future stock assessments.

Comment 22: NMFS should provide more information on how they track landings under EFPs and what happens to HMS that are collected under EFPs.

Response: NMFS requires persons who receive EFPs to report the number of total animals kept, discarded alive, and discarded dead under the EFP program. This information is published in the **Federal Register** every November/December in conjunction with NMFS' request for comments and Notice of Intent to issue EFPs and related permits in the subsequent year. The information is also published in the annual SAFE Report and may be used in stock assessments, if appropriate. Permittees who do not provide this information are not issued a permit in the future until all required reporting from past permits was received. NMFS does not track what is done with the animals (e.g., if they are sold to aquariums) after they have been collected and landed by the original permittees.

2. Porbeagle Sharks as Prohibited

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments in support of prohibiting the harvest of porbeagle sharks including: NMFS should prohibit the harvest of porbeagle sharks because even seasoned fishermen misidentify porbeagle sharks as mako sharks; the prohibition on the possession of porbeagle sharks is long overdue; NMFS should prohibit the harvest of porbeagle sharks and implement stricter management measures that address porbeagle take, including bycatch; and NMFS should prohibit the possession of porbeagle sharks, however, if bycatch of porbeagle sharks is allowed, the rule will have little effect on the overall status of porbeagle sharks.

Response: As a result of the 2005 Canadian stock assessment for the North Atlantic porbeagle shark, NMFS has determined that porbeagle sharks are overfished, but overfishing is not occurring Under the final action, the commercial quota is 1.7 mt dw. NMFS estimates that commercial discards will be approximately 9.5 mt dw, and recreational catch, including landings in tournaments, will be approximately 0.1 mt dw per year. This TAC of 11.3 mt dw should increase the likelihood that fishing mortality will remain low, allowing the stock to rebuild within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS). While bycatch of porbeagle sharks will continue, the majority of porbeagle sharks caught currently are discarded alive. For instance, of an average of 723 porbeagle sharks that were discarded annually in the PLL fishery, only 161.3 were discarded dead whereas 561.6 were discarded alive. The final action is not expected to change this discard mortality rate. Therefore, dead discards should continue to be low and not negatively affect the stock.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments, including comments from the states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, opposing any prohibition of porbeagle shark retention including: there is a small historical porbeagle shark catch in the United States that is not significantly contributing to the loss of the porbeagle shark. The U.S. porbeagle fishery has remained sustainable under current regulations; other countries, such as Canada, should be more responsible for rebuilding this stock as they contribute more towards Atlantic-wide fishing mortality; NMFS should pressure Canadians to reduce their porbeagle catch; porbeagle sharks are the only big game fish in the Northeast; and placing porbeagle sharks on the prohibited species list takes away 33–percent of the potential catch in New England.

Response: The final action to reduce the TAC for porbeagle sharks will cap U.S. fishing mortality at the current level. Given the low level of porbeagle catch in U.S. waters, capping mortality at the current U.S. fishing level, assuming Canada also continues to take action to conserve porbeagle sharks, should allow the porbeagle shark population to rebuild within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS). Capping fishing levels should also discourage any future directed fishery on this species.

Other countries that have a directed fishery for porbeagle sharks have reduced their porbeagle quotas. For instance, the Canadian porbeagle quota was cut by 80–percent in 1998. It was cut back even further in 2001 and again in 2006. The current Canadian quota is 250 mt per year, 185 mt of which may be taken by the directed porbeagle shark fishery, with the rest of the quota being allocated for bycatch. In addition, according to the latest ICCAT Recommendation (07–06), all contracting parties are obligated to reduce mortality of porbeagle sharks in their directed porbeagle shark fisheries. NMFS may take additional management measures in the future, as necessary, if future stock assessments warrant such action.

Comment 3: The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) requested establishing a 2 mt quota for porbeagle sharks to allow a limited harvest. Allowing a small harvest of porbeagle sharks would help the ASMFC set identical species groups while offering protection from overharvest.

Response: NMFS is setting a reduced TAC for porbeagle sharks of 11.3 mt dw, of which 1.7 mt dw is allocated to commercial harvest. This cap on fishing mortality at its present level by commercial and recreational fishermen should prevent a directed fishery for this species from developing in the future. In addition, it is an 88–percent reduction in the current commercial quota of 92 mt dw, which will help ensure rebuilding within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS).

Comment 4: Does NMFS have any evidence that Canadian porbeagle sharks go into U.S. waters? Is NMFS aware if U.S. fishermen are catching these Canadian sharks?

Response: Tagging data provide strong evidence that there are distinct porbeagle populations in the Northeast and Northwest Atlantic, and that the Northwest Atlantic stock is a separate population that undertakes extensive annual migrations between Canada and northeastern United States. Given these migrations, porbeagle sharks found in U.S. and Canadian waters are considered to be one stock that is shared by U.S. and Canadian fishermen.

Comment 5: If porbeagle sharks are overfished but overfishing is not occurring, what would the rebuilding timeframe be if the fishery was to continue at the current level?

Response: Since the 2005 Canadian stock assessment on which NMFS based its analysis included U.S. commercial landings of porbeagle sharks, capping fishing mortality at its current level should allow the species to rebuild within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS).

Comment 6: Will NMFS propose similar porbeagle shark prohibition measures at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting this year? Since most landings for porbeagle occur outside the United States, international cooperation is needed to help manage this species.

Response: Adopted at the 2007 ICCAT annual meeting in Turkey, ICCAT Recommendation (07–06) obligates all Contracting Parties to take appropriate measures to reduce fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle sharks. While the United States does not have a directed porbeagle shark fishery, and U.S. commercial and recreational

landings are small (1.8 mt dw), this ICCAT measure should help reduce mortality of porbeagle sharks that are targeted by other countries. The United States is also implementing a reduced TAC of 11.3 mt dw, which is below the current commercial quota of 92 mt dw per year for porbeagle sharks, and encouraging the live release of porbeagle sharks. This final action should prevent a directed fishery from developing for porbeagle sharks in U.S. waters in the future.

Comment 7: NMFS underestimated the number of porbeagle sharks being caught. This is because the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) data is flawed. Porbeagle sharks are not present in New England waters when MRFSS is collecting their surveys in this area.

Response: NMFS currently is working on a marine recreational information program to improve data collection from the recreational sector. Due to the rarity of porbeagle shark landings, it is difficult to estimate porbeagle landings with survey data, which only sample a portion of the recreational fishing fleet and then extrapolate the number of fish caught based on the estimated number of anglers. Therefore, NMFS may consider census data (i.e., a trip ticket or a call-in system where all porbeagle shark landings are counted) in the future to better estimate recreational porbeagle landings.

Comment 8: The Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) started out as a tuna survey, and the LPS survey happens during the middle of summer. There is no LPS survey taking place when porbeagle sharks are present, so NMFS' data is skewed.

Response: The LPS survey was designed to capture recreational landings in the Northeast during the time period when most fishing takes place north of Virginia. Currently, the survey consists of randomly selected weekly telephone and dockside intercept interviews, with mandatory participation from June 1 through October 31 from Virginia to New York. The survey is conducted July 31 through October 31 for states north of New York. Past phone surveys indicated this is when most of the fishing effort occurs in this region. As mentioned in the response to Comment 7 in this section, due to the rarity of porbeagle shark landings, it is difficult to estimate porbeagle landings with survey data. Therefore, NMFS may consider census data (i.e., trip ticket or a call-in system where all porbeagle sharks landed are counted) in the future to better estimate recreational porbeagle landings.

Comment 9: NMFS should have recreational fishermen report their porbeagle shark landings.

Response: NMFS currently does not require recreational fishermen to report shark landings. NMFS collects data on recreational fishing catch and effort through the LPS and the MRFSS, which is considered the best available science for determining recreational landings. These surveys collect data on fishing effort and catch of highly migratory species. In addition, randomly selected fishing tournaments are an important component of HMS recreational fisheries data. However, because of the rarity of porbeagle shark landings, in general, NMFS may not be capturing all of the porbeagle sharks landed recreationally through these types of surveys. Thus, NMFS is currently working on ways to gather more data on recreational landings of porbeagle sharks.

3. Retention Limits

Comment 1: The proposed 22 non-sandbar LCS retention limit is not economically feasible and is the equivalent of shutting down the fishery; NMFS should consider a trip limit of 0 to 75 non-sandbar LCS to maintain economic viability.

Response: NMFS assessed and analyzed the economic impacts of the proposed retention limits, which are summarized in the FRFA and Chapter 8 of the FEIS. The proposed 22 non-sandbar shark LCS retention limit was calculated by dividing the available quota over average annual number of trips that landed non-sandbar LCS by directed and incidental permit holders as reported in the Coastal Fisheries logbook and the HMS logbooks. At the time of the Draft EIS, the available non-sandbar LCS quota was determined by the average annual landings reported in the HMS and Coastal Fisheries logbooks from 2003 to 2005. However, during the comment period, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) recommended using HMS shark dealer reports (i.e., southeast and northeast general canvass and SEFSC quota monitoring databases) to calculate historical landings of non-sandbar LCS since the stock assessments were, in part, based on landings reported by HMS shark dealer reports. Therefore, in the FEIS, NMFS used the shark dealer reports to calculate the non-sandbar LCS base quota. Because the HMS shark dealer reports include landings by both state and Federal shark fishermen, whereas logbook data includes landings by only federally-permitted shark fishermen, using dealer reports results in a higher non-sandbar LCS base quota.

In this final action, NMFS is using a higher base quota. After accounting for overharvests that occurred in 2007 (see Appendix C of the Final Environmental Impact Statement), NMFS is revising the retention limits based on the larger non-sandbar LCS quota. The final measures implement a 33 non-sandbar LCS trip limit for directed permit holders and a three non-sandbar LCS trip limit for incidental permit holders. While the trip limit for directed permit holder has increased from what was proposed in the Draft EIS, NMFS assumes that fishermen with directed shark permits will no longer target non-sandbar LCS outside the research fishery. Rather, a 33 non-sandbar LCS trip limit allows fishermen to keep non-sandbar LCS while they target other species, such as reef fish and snapper-grouper. Based on BLL observer program data from 2005 to 2007, fishermen with directed shark permits fishing for snapper/grouper kept, on average, 12 sharks per trip. Thus, this trip limit should help in preventing excess discards. However, this retention limit will be too low to create an incentive for fishermen to target non-sandbar LCS.

NMFS is aware that the revised retention limit of 33 non sandbar sharks per vessel/trip is a significant reduction from the current 4,000 lb dw LCS retention limit for directed permit holders. These measures are necessary, however, to rebuild overfished stocks, reduce bycatch, and end overfishing consistent with NMFS's obligations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Comment 2: NMFS should consider a per day limit in lieu of an individual trip limit. NMFS could reduce the limit to something like 2,000 lb non-sandbar LCS per day. This would allow a larger amount to be harvested in a single trip, making it more profitable for the fishermen. A day limit would also keep quota available for longer throughout the year.

Response: NMFS has not considered a per day trip limit because of the difficulty in determining how NMFS would monitor what a vessel harvests within a 24 hour period during a multiday trip. Currently the shark fishery is managed on a per trip basis, as are most of the HMS fisheries. While a higher per day limit may allow for a larger single trip, which may reduce discards, it would be difficult for NMFS to monitor when a vessel left and returned to port and whether or not this was done multiple times within 24 hours, especially if vessels visited several ports and were not required to possess vessel monitoring systems (VMS). A per trip limit is easier to enforce; no matter what port a vessel

returns to, it would be held to the same trip limit. While a per day limit may reduce the number of trips and elongate the season based on how gillnet and BLL trips targeting non-shark species typically fish, the trip limits in the final action were devised in such a way to keep the non-sandbar LCS season open longer than they have been in the past. NMFS estimates that under the non-sandbar trip limit in this final action, the fishery should remain open the entire year. Given the reduced trip limits to accommodate the reduced shark quotas, NMFS believes that dividing the available quota across the historical fishing effort should help the shark fisheries stay open longer. In addition, since directed shark permit holders will presumably no longer target non-sandbar LCS based on those reduced trip limits and the prohibition on retention of sandbar sharks outside the research fishery, the non-sandbar LCS fishery will likely be incidental in nature where non-sandbar LCS are landed while fishermen target other species throughout the year.

Comment 3: NMFS should propose a 4,000 lb level per year for directed permit holders and grant the least productive vessels an incidental permit.

Response: Based on the available quota (see Appendix C in the FEIS for more details), NMFS is setting a non-sandbar LCS trip limit of 33 non-sandbar LCS for directed shark permit holders (approximately 1,000 lb dw per trip of non-sandbar LCS); incidental permit holders would be allowed 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. If fishing effort were to stay the same as the average level of effort from 2003-2005, then NMFS expects the shark fishing season to stay open for the entire fishing year with these trip limits. NMFS has chosen a trip limit that would utilize the entire non-sandbar LCS quotas outside the research fishery, assuming fishing effort remains at the average level from 2003-2005. A 4,000 lb dw limit per year for non-sandbar LCS would be approximately four trips per year for directed fishermen. At this time, NMFS feels that such a retention limit would be overly restrictive; however, if NMFS finds that the 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed fishermen does not sufficiently rebuild the overfished stock of sandbar sharks or prevent overfishing, then trip limits can be adjusted, as appropriate. Fishermen selected to participate in the shark research fishery would be afforded higher trip limits consistent with research objectives and would be allowed to land all shark species, except prohibited sharks.

In order for NMFS to change retention limits for individual vessels based on their past landing history, NMFS would likely consider an IFQ or LAPP. However, as explained in response to Comment 2 under ''Quotas'' above and in Chapter 1, it would take NMFS several years to implement an ITQ system. Under the current timeline under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for establishing a plan amendment to end overfishing, NMFS has insufficient time to establish an IFQ or LAPP for sharks at this time. However, NMFS could consider developing an IFQ or LAPP for sharks as well as other highly migratory species in the future.

Comment 4: NMFS should carve out a retention limit specific to existing gillnetters. Gillnetters are being penalized by the preferred retention limit because they catch very few sandbar and dusky sharks.

Response: NMFS believes that revised quotas and retention limits for non-sandbar LCS that apply to all gear types are more appropriate. These revised retention limits include a higher retention limit for directed shark permit holders compared to incidental shark permit holders. While sandbar and dusky sharks may be less likely to be caught in gillnet gear compared to BLL gear, setting separate gillnet retention limits was not considered as a part of this rulemaking mainly because NMFS has serious concerns regarding interaction rates with marine mammals and protected resources with gillnets. Given these interactions set forth in the following paragraph, NMFS believes it is inappropriate to implement measures that might result in increased fishing effort with this gear type. For example, setting different trip limits for gillnet gear could result in displaced BLL fishermen moving to the gillnet fishery.

The five year incidental take statement (ITS) for the drift gillnet fishery in the 2003 Biological Opinion (BiOp) was 10 loggerhead sea turtles (with 1 mortality), 22 leatherback sea turtles (with 3 mortalities) and 1 smalltooth sawfish (with zero mortalities). The ITS was specific to drift gillnet gear as strikenet gear had not interacted with protected species, at that time, and sink nets were not considered to be part of the shark gillnet fishery. However from 2003 to 2007 (2003 being the start of the ITS period), vessels with shark permits using drift, sink, and strike gillnets interacted with a total of 13 loggerhead sea turtles (3 of which died or were unresponsive when discarded), 1 leatherback sea turtle and 2 bottlenose dolphins (1 of which died). In addition, in January 2006, an Atlantic right whale calf was caught and died in gillnet gear off the northeast coast of Florida. Therefore, NMFS is not establishing a higher specific gillnet retention limit at this time.

Comment 5: NMFS should consider capping the number of vessels that can deploy gillnets for sharks.

Response: There are currently only 4 to 6 sink and strike gillnetting vessels combined that target sharks (Carlson and Bethea, 2007). Given the reduction in trip limits as a result of this rulemaking, and restrictions and regulations under the Atlantic Right Whale Take Reduction Plan for this gear, NMFS does not believe there would be a significant increase in shark gillnet fishing in the future.

Comment 6: NMFS should lower the incidental catch limit for non-sandbar LCS to be more in line with the current average (3 non-sandbar LCS/vessel/trip); NMFS should not decrease the directed permit holder retention limits by 30–percent while increasing the incidental retention limit by more than seven times; NMFS should provide better justification for raising the trip limits for incidental permit holders; the proposed retention limit increase for incidental permit holders could increase fishing effort and bycatch; NMFS should consider restricting incidental take of non-sandbar LCS.

Response: In the final action, NMFS establishes retention limits of 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed permit holders and 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip for incidental permit holders. NMFS initially proposed retention limits of 22 non-sandbar LCS per trip for both directed and incidental permit holders because NMFS considers the future non-sandbar shark fishery outside the shark research fishery as mainly incidental in nature (i.e., fishermen would not target non-sandbar LCS based on the low retention limits). Under the proposed scenario, incidental permit holders could have experienced a net positive economic benefit, given the retention limit of 22 non-sandbar LCS trip limit was more than the average of 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip that they currently retain. Such an increase in trip limits for incidental permit holders could have resulted in increased fishing pressure on sharks by incidental permit holders.

Based on public comment and to acknowledge differences among directed and incidental permit holders (e.g., on average, directed permit holders discard more sandbar and dusky sharks (8.1 mt dw and 25.7 mt dw per year, respectively) than incidental permit holders (1.5 mt dw and 3.8 mt dw per year, respectively)), NMFS' final action is to set separate retention limits based on permit type. Directed permit

holders will be allowed a higher retention limit than incidental permit holders. This affords directed permit holders, who may have paid more for their directed shark permit and who presumably rely on shark products for a larger part of their income, a higher retention limit than if all permit holders had the same retention limit.

Comment 7: NMFS should clarify how a retention limit based on the number of sharks per trip would work. What happens if you get 100 sharks on a line? Under these new regulations, one will have to make multiple trips to be legal.

Response: Under current regulations, NMFS has a directed LCS trip limit of 4,000 lb dw. When fishermen exceeded this trip limit on a given set, they would often cut their gear and leave it while they returned to port to offload their legal trip limit. Once they had offloaded, they would return to retrieve the rest of their gear and catch. The same principle applies for this final action. However, due to the reduction in the retention limit and the prohibition on the harvest of sandbar sharks, NMFS assumes that fishermen with directed shark permits would no longer target non-sandbar LCS as they have in the past. Rather, fishermen would keep non-sandbar LCS only while they target other species, such as reef fish and snapper-grouper. The trip limit in this final action of 33 non-sandbar LCS for directed shark permits should minimize dead discards of sharks that fishermen catch while in pursuit of other species.

Comment 8: NMFS should have proposed different retention trip limits for different species in different regions because there are more sandbars available in the Atlantic and more blacktip sharks available in the Gulf of Mexico; NMFS should split trip limits by state given the tendency of different areas to catch sandbar or dusky sharks; NMFS should consider the fact that Louisiana fishermen catch mostly blacktip sharks and no sandbar or dusky sharks and, therefore, should have a larger retention trip limit.

Response: Based on public comment, NMFS analyzed regional quotas and retention limits for two regions: the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions. As a result, NMFS is implementing regional quotas based on the results of the blacktip shark assessment, overharvests that occurred in 2007 (for more details, see Appendix C), and the fact that the ASMFC interstate shark management plan will implement measures in state waters of the Atlantic. Regional quotas allow for a higher non-sandbar LCS quota in the Gulf of Mexico region, which is comprised of a healthy stock of blacktip sharks. Regional quotas also allow for a lower non-sandbar LCS quota in the Atlantic region where the stock status of blacktip sharks is unknown and the majority of dusky sharks are caught.

However, while the final action sets regional quotas for non-sandbar LCS, NMFS is not implementing regional non-sandbar LCS retention limits. Instead, the same retention limit for non-sandbar LCS would apply in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico regions. NMFS believes that a single retention limit, regardless of region, will help with enforcement and be less confusing for fishermen. For example, with one retention limit, fishermen fishing near the Florida Keys could move between the two regions on one trip. If there were two different retention limits, then fishermen would need to stay in one area per trip or risk landing a higher trip limit in the wrong region. Finally, while the analyses for setting these retention limits used historical fishing effort as a proxy for determining the retention limit, it is uncertain how future effort would be allocated among regions, or even states. This added uncertainty makes it difficult to determine a region-specific or state-specific retention limit, given the other management measures that are changing as a result of this final action.

Comment 9: NMFS should consider having a set-aside quota for the incidental fishermen so that they can still retain sharks when the directed fishery is closed.

Response: As a result of the final actions in this rule, NMFS is assuming that fishermen with directed shark permits will no longer target non-sandbar LCS. Rather, fishermen will likely keep sharks only while they target other species such as reef fish and snapper-grouper. As such, the non-sandbar LCS fishery would be incidental in nature and non-sandbar LCS will likely be landed only incidental to the non-shark species that the fishermen would target throughout the year. Given the reduced trip limits for non-sandbar LCS, NMFS believes that the shark fishery will remain open for longer periods than in the past, possibly the entire year. Given the analyses that indicate the fishery will be open most of the time and the change in status of the fishery, NMFS believes that an incidental set aside is not needed at this time.

Comment 10: NMFS should consider a trip limit that is not based on weight since most fishermen do not have scales on their vessels.

Response: Under the final action, NMFS is basing the trip limits on the number of sharks per trip for both directed and incidental permit holders.

Comment 11: If 7 out of 10 LCS landed are sandbar sharks, as NMFS claims, and NMFS has a 500+ mt dw non-sandbar LCS quota, then NMFS' discard calculations are flawed. A 500+ mt dw non-sandbar LCS quota would result in 3,500 mt of sandbars being discarded.

Response: The catch composition described above would only be realized if 1) fishermen were directing effort on sharks, and 2) there was a 4,000 lb dw trip limit. This catch composition, which was based on information from NMFS BLL observer reports, was used to estimate the number of trips that the shark research fishery could take to harvest the available sandbar shark quota, assuming there was a 4,000 lb dw LCS trip limit within the research fishery.

However, for trips outside the research fishery, sandbar sharks would be prohibited and there would be reduced non-sandbar LCS trip limits. Therefore, NMFS assumes that directed shark permit holders would no longer make trips targeting non-sandbar LCS because of the significant reduction in retention limits and the fact that sandbar sharks could not be retained, therefore, the catch composition and subsequent sandbar discards described in the comment above would not apply to trips occurring outside the research fishery. Given this assumption, and based on the best available science from logbook, dealer reports, and observer program data, NMFS estimates that incidental sandbar shark mortality outside the research fishery would be approximately 40 mt dw. This estimate was determined by evaluating logbook data and observer reports to estimate sandbar shark discards from pelagic longline (PLL) gear (4.3 mt dw), discards by recreational fishermen (27 mt dw), discards within the shark research fishery (0.3 mt dw), sandbar sharks discarded by fishermen without HMS permits (6.3 mt dw), and sandbar sharks that used to be landed by incidental fishermen (2.3 mt dw).

4. Fins On Requirement

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments in support of a ban on shark finning as well as support for the proposal to land sharks with their fins attached. Commenters believe that shark identification is hampered by fin removal, enforcement is made easier if sharks are landed with fins attached, that the quality of data collected would improve, which is critical to improving the sustainability of shark stocks, and that technical difficulties of landing

sharks whole could be alleviated with input from fishery experts and NOAA staff. A commenter also stated that NMFS should implement this measure promptly in the Atlantic while also taking steps to ensure a similar measure is implemented in the U.S. Pacific waters.

Response: On December 21, 2000, the Shark Finning Prohibition Act (Public Law 105–557) (SFPA) was signed into law. The SFPA amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 307(1)(P), making it unlawful for any person ''(i) to remove any of the fins of a shark (including the tail) and discard the carcass of the shark at sea; (ii) to have custody, control or possession of any such fin aboard a fishing vessel without the corresponding carcass; or (iii) to land any such fin without the corresponding carcass.'' On February 11, 2002 (67 FR 6194), NMFS published a final rule that established regulations which, among other things, prohibit any person from engaging or attempting to engage in shark finning; possessing shark fins without the corresponding carcasses while on board a U.S. fishing vessel; and landing shark fins without the corresponding carcasses. In this Amendment, NMFS is selecting an alternative that will require fishermen to land sharks with their fins naturally attached. This requirement will improve enforcement, species identification, data quality for future stock assessments, and further prevent the practice of shark finning. In the U.S. Pacific Ocean, three Regional Fishery Management Councils recommend shark management measures to NMFS: the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the Western Pacific Management Council. The Councils may consider recommending amendments to fishery management plans to include measures to land sharks with fins attached in the U.S. waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments in opposition to landing sharks with fins attached stating that this requirement would result in large amounts of waste at the dock, that the market has grown accustomed to receiving sharks in log form, that it will be more difficult for law abiding fishermen to comply with the law, and it will do nothing for those intent on breaking the law who may still bring only fins to the docks.

Response: While this requirement will change current fishing practices, NMFS does not believe that the requirement to land sharks with fins attached is overly burdensome for the following reasons. The requirement to land sharks with fins attached will allow fishermen to leave the fins attached by at least a small piece of skin so that the fins could be folded against the carcass and the shark packed efficiently on ice while at sea. Shark fins could then be quickly removed at the dock without having to thaw the shark. Sharks may be eviscerated, bled, and the head removed from the carcass at sea. These measures should prevent excessive amounts of waste at the dock, since dressing (except removing the fins) the shark may be performed while at sea. While this will result in some change to the way in which fishermen process sharks at sea, because the fins may be removed quickly after the shark has been landed, NMFS expects that the market will continue to receive sharks in their log form. Alternatively, the dealers may decide to accept shark carcasses with the fins still attached. No person aboard a vessel with a shark permit would be allowed to possess shark fins without the fins being attached to the corresponding carcass until after the shark has been landed. Individuals that do not have a shark permit or who land shark fins detached from the corresponding carcass will be in violation of the regulations and subject to enforcement action.

Comment 3: NMFS received several comments regarding the 5–percent fins to carcass ratio stating that 1) the ratio is wrong and NMFS needs to collect data to re-examine the ratio because it is different for all species, 2) NMFS should urge Congress to revise the fin to carcass ratio in the SFPA, 3) making fishermen land sharks with fins attached could still lead to a violation of the 5–percent ratio, and 4) fishermen are unsure of which weight to record in their logbook if the 5–percent ratio remains in effect and sharks are landed with fins attached.

Response: NMFS first implemented the 5-percent fin-to-carcass ratio in the 1993 Shark FMP. This ratio was based on research that indicated that the average ratio of fin weight to dressed weight of the carcass was 3.6 percent, and the sandbar fin ratio was 5.1 percent. In December 2000, the SFPA was signed into law. The SFPA established a rebuttable presumption that any shark fins landed from a fishing vessel or found on board a fishing vessel were taken, held, or landed in violation of the shark finning ban if the total weight of shark fins landed or found on board exceeded 5-percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed or found on board. This management measure was implemented by NMFS through a final rule released in February 2002. NMFS may conduct additional research on the fin-to-carcass ratio in the shark research fishery, though any changes to the 5-percent ratio will have to be modified by Congressional action. In order to help fishermen document that sharks were landed with their fins attached, NMFS intends to modify the dealer weigh-out slips so that dealers may clearly document that the sharks were landed with fins attached. Consistent with the regulations at § 635.30(c)(3), a person that has been issued a Federal shark LAP and who lands shark in an Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean coastal port must have all fins and carcasses weighed and recorded on the weigh-out slips specified in § 635.5(a)(2) and in accordance with regulations at part 600, subpart N. Fishermen may either record the weight of the whole shark landed or they may record carcass and fin weights separately. Dealers must report the dressed carcass weight separately from the fin weight.

Comment 4: NMFS received several comments, including one from the State of Florida, that NMFS should recalculate the conversion factor between dressed weight and whole weight of a shark since more of the shark is going to be landed.

Response: The 1.39 conversion factor from dressed weight to whole weight is used to convert the dressed (gutted) weight of a shark, (the weight of the shark carcass in a log form with fins removed) to a whole weight. NMFS will continue to monitor shark quotas in dressed weight (i.e., carcass in log form with fins removed) and will use shark landings recorded via dealer reports to monitor the quota outside the shark research fishery. Therefore, the conversion factor should not need to be recalculated since the definition of dressed weight would still constitute a shark log with fins removed. Currently, dealers record the fin weights and dressed weight of the shark carcasses separately on their dealer reporting forms; in this rule, NMFS clarifies this reporting requirement. However, NMFS will monitor the situation and may change the conversion factor if appropriate.

Comment 5: NMFS received several comments stating that NMFS should allow fishermen to remove just one pectoral fin, remove all fins except the pectoral fins, allow the removal of fins from species in the SCS complex, and allow vessels operating in the shark research fishery to remove the fins since those vessels would have 100–percent observer coverage. NMFS also received several comments from the State of Florida that NMFS should allow fishermen to remove the tail of the shark at sea and that NMFS should provide

fishermen with a diagram depicting the proper way to clean and land sharks with fins attached.

Response: The provision to land sharks with their fins attached allows fishermen to bleed, eviscerate, and remove the head at sea while cutting the fins almost all the way off so that the fins can be folded and the shark can be packed on ice. Authorizing the removal of certain fins or the fins of a specific species, or within a species complex, or from vessels within the research fishery could create additional enforcement problems and complicate compliance. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that all fins remain attached to the carcass through landing for all vessels. Because there are potentially many ways that the sharks may be dressed while leaving the fins attached, NMFS does not believe it is appropriate to provide specific instructions on how to dress sharks because more than one method may be used. NMFS only requires that sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached. Fishermen are allowed the flexibility to dress the shark and tailor the method to their specific operation or dealer requirements, providing they land all sharks with their fins naturally attached.

Comment 6: NMFS received several comments regarding the potential food safety or Hazardous Analysis of Critical Control Point (HACCP) concerns if shark fins cannot be removed until the shark is landed because it may be difficult to keep the core temperature of the shark at 40 degrees in 90 degree heat. The state of Florida commented that NMFS should test shark meat quality to determine if there is a decrease in quality as a result of regulatory actions.

Response: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published regulations (December 18, 1995; 60 FR 65092) mandating the application of the HACCP principles to ensure the safe and sanitary processing of seafood products. Although these regulations do not apply to fishing vessels or transporters, the processors of domestic seafood must comply with the regulations as it applies to incoming product. Dealers should consult the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Fish and Fisheries Products Hazards and Controls Guidance for guidance on FDA regulations. The provision to land sharks with their fins attached allows fishermen to bleed, eviscerate, and remove the head at sea while cutting the fins almost all the way off so that the fins can be folded and the shark can be packed on ice. Because the sharks may be dressed and the fins cut almost all the way off the shark at sea before it is packed on ice, the shark should not have to be thawed to completely remove the fins once the shark is landed. In addition, reduced retention limits for non-sandbar LCS should reduce the number of sharks that are landed per trip, therefore decreasing the amount of processing time at the dock. NMFS might conduct tests through the shark research fishery to see if the new fins on requirement affect fish meat quality. However, the results of these tests would be limited in use as the higher retention limits in the shark research fishery could increase processing times and therefore lower meat quality.

Comment 7: NMFS received several comments regarding international cooperation and imports including, 1) NMFS should set a firm shark conservation precedent for the international community, 2) NMFS should not get too far out in front of the international community, and 3) the United States should ban imports of shark fins from countries that do not prohibit shark finning.

Response: The United States has taken an active role in promoting improved international shark conservation and management measures in international fora such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (including ICCAT), the United Nations General Assembly, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on Migratory Species. Consistent with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organizations' International Plan of Action for sharks, the United States completed and implemented the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks in February 2001. The NPOA calls for data collection; assessment of elasmobranch stocks; development of management measures, where appropriate; research and development of mitigation measures to reduce shark bycatch; and outreach and education. The requirement to land sharks from the U.S. Atlantic Ocean with their fins attached should help raise awareness in the international arena of enforcement issues associated with shark finning bans and the 5–percent fin-to-carcass ratio. NMFS published a proposed rule on April 4, 2008 (73 FR 18473), that would amend the International Trade Permit (ITP) Program to require shark fin importers, exporters, and re-exporters (shark fin traders) to obtain an ITP consistent with ICCAT recommendations. This requirement would provide needed information on shark fin trade participation and would provide NMFS enforcement access to trade records, since the export of shark fins is one of the primary economic incentives for much of the U.S. Atlantic shark fishery.

5. Time Area Closures

Comment 1: NMFS should include the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) recommended by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) in alternative suite 5 because if that alternative were selected, the MPAs proposed by the SAFMC would still need to be implemented.

Response: NMFS decided to include a prohibition on shark BLL fishing in the MPAs in several of the alternative suites in order to ensure that the SAFMC's Amendment 14 prohibition on bottom tending gear would include HMS BLL gear. NMFS needed to implement complementary regulations in order for the MPAs to be effective. Since alternative suite 5 would have resulted in a closure of the entire shark fishery, no shark BLL fishing would occur in the MPAs or elsewhere. Thus, NMFS did not need to include a prohibition on shark BLL fishing in MPAs in alternative suite 5.

Comment 2: NMFS received a number of specific comments regarding the MPAs recommended by the SAFMC, including: 1) coordinates of MPAs — NMFS should provide the correct coordinates for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA; 2) NMFS should state the specific type of MPAs being implemented (i.e., type II MPAs); and, 3) NMFS should include a transit exemption for vessels traveling through proposed MPAs with BLL.

Response: NMFS is aware of problems with the coordinates provided in the Draft Amendment for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef and has provided the correct coordinates for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef in Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. In the Draft EIS, NMFS described the MPAs as type II MPAs according to the language used in the SAFMC's Amendment 14. Type II MPAs are areas that are closed to bottom fishing but allow trolling for coastal pelagics and HMS. Since NMFS is prohibiting the use of BLL gear in these MPAs there is no need to specify the type of MPA in the proposed or final rules. Readers should refer to SAFMC's Amendment 14 for more information on the type of MPAs being recommended by the Council and being implemented by NMFS. NMFS did not implement a stowage provision because very few HMS permitted vessels have historically fished in the MPAs, and the MPAs are generally small in size and can easily be circumnavigated by BLL vessels. If the SAFMC recommends a stowage

provision, then NMFS may consider a similar backstop provision in the HMS regulations.

Comment 3: NMFS should implement VMS requirements for the SAFMC Amendment 14 MPAs.

Response: Consistent with SAFMC's Amendment 14, which does not include a VMS requirement, NMFS determined that it was unnecessary to implement a VMS requirement for HMS vessels. NMFS has several other VMS requirements in place for HMS vessels including all vessels with gillnet gear during certain times of the year, BLL vessels in the vicinity of the mid-Atlantic shark closed area, and all vessels with PLL gear on board year-round. To the extent that some of those vessels would fish in the vicinity of the MPAs, NMFS would be able to track their movements. However, most vessels that do not fish with PLL and maintain directed or incidental shark permits in the South Atlantic are not required to have VMS.

Comment 4: NMFS should use the terms ''closed areas'' or ''area closures'' to describe the locations where the proposed regulations apply to avoid confusion on the intent of the MPAs (since they are for snapper/grouper, and not sharks) and to improve compliance by fishermen. ''Marine protected area'' is not a term used in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS should clarify how and why closures for fisheries management are part of the official MPA classification system.

Response: NMFS chose to use the term Marine Protected Area or MPA because that is the specific language provided in Amendment 14. Although the intent of the MPAs is to protect snapper grouper species, using nomenclature in this final rule that differs from that used to refer to the closures in Amendment 14 may create confusion. As a result, NMFS is referring to the closures in the same way as the SAFMC.

Comment 5: NMFS should prohibit the use of longline gear in existing and new MPAs. The overall amount of bycatch within MPAs may not be minimal when considered in the context of the relevant MPA and the number of species and individuals found within the MPA.

Response: NMFS is prohibiting the use of BLL gear in all of the preferred SAFMC MPAs because those are the areas the SAFMC has determined to be important for certain grouper species that are sometimes caught incidentally on shark BLL gear.

Comment 6: The ASMFC Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board would like NMFS to reconsider the closures off of North Carolina. Specifically, the Board asks that the duration of the closure be reduced to run from January 1 – May 14. This request is based on the Coastal Sharks Technical Committee's recommendation for a state water closure from May 15 through July 15 from Virginia to New Jersey. This state water closure is designed to protect large adult female sandbar sharks when they are on the pupping grounds. The closure off of North Carolina was designed to protect juvenile sharks in the nursery area during the winter; however the majority of the small sharks have migrated out of that area by mid-May.

Response: The mid-Atlantic shark closed area was implemented to protect juvenile sandbar sharks and all life stages of prohibited dusky sharks. Survey data collected from the NOAA fisheries research vessel Delaware II from April through May 2007 indicate that the majority of sandbar sharks caught in the mid Atlantic shark closed area were juvenile (56–percent immature vs. 44–percent mature). Therefore, maintaining the mid-Atlantic closed area should continue to reduce the number of interactions of BLL gear with sandbar and dusky sharks as well as reduce the number of interactions with immature sandbar and dusky sharks. This will provide positive ecological benefits for both of these overfished shark stocks. Furthermore, measures implemented by the ASMFC are not yet finalized. Once finalized measures are in place, NMFS may consider taking additional action to complement state measures. Implementing these measures before they are finalized and implemented in the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP could result in inconsistent management measures.

Comment 7: The SAFMC and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources support the MPAs and maintaining the current time/area closure as proposed in the draft amendment.

Response: This final action will implement the MPA provisions in Amendment 14 and maintain the current time/area closure.

6. Reporting

Comment 1: NMFS should take action to ensure that fishermen report their landings correctly and honestly as most fishermen do not currently provide accurate reports.

Response: The regulations require fishermen to submit accurate and truthful reports on their fishing activities. NMFS can and does verify logbook reports and catch rates with observer reports, as needed. If fishermen and/or dealers choose not to abide by the regulations, then they may face enforcement action.

Comment 2: NMFS received many comments on the dealer reporting timeframe, including: NMFS should consider stronger restrictions on dealer reporting; NMFS should allow two-weeks for dealer reports to be submitted; 10 days is acceptable for the report to be postmarked, but not for NMFS to receive it; NMFS should consider more frequent reporting; NMFS should consider 24 hour reporting for shark dealers; NMFS should consider electronic reporting for dealers (once a week); dealers still need to be able to fax reports; more frequent reporting is not needed. NMFS should take action against dealers that are not reporting; NMFS should not renew a dealer permit if they don't report on time; making reports ''received by'' will not allow fishermen to know if NMFS got their report on time; and NMFS should provide confirmation numbers when dealer reports are received.

Response: NMFS prefers to require dealer reports be received within ten days of the end of the reporting period at this time because a ''received by'' requirement can be tracked by NMFS, the dealers, and enforcement more easily than a ''postmarked'' requirement. NMFS is concerned about dealers that are not reporting and is working with the Office of Law Enforcement to pursue shark dealers who do not meet their reporting obligations. Additionally, given recent issues with dealers not realizing that substantial landing reports were not received by NMFS, NMFS feels that requiring reports to be ''received by'' a certain day will aid in ensuring all reports are received by NMFS in a timely manner. The final action does not require twenty-four hour reporting because such reporting would result in an unduly increased reporting burden for shark dealers at this time. NMFS may consider additional modifications and/or adjustments to reporting frequency for future implementation.

NMFS is currently capable of accepting electronic reports from some dealers who have access to that data system in the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and faxes of shark dealer landings. NMFS does not issue confirmation numbers when shark dealer reports are received; however, submitting dealer reports by FAX or electronically includes a date/time stamp in addition to whether the transmission was successful or not. Shark dealers may also consider using

certified mail to provide verification that the correspondence was received.

Comment 3: NMFS should be more proactive and contact dealers as the quotas fill up.

Response: Significant overharvests in the shark fishery in recent years have occurred because shark dealers were not submitting their reports, or verifying that their reports were received by NMFS in the time period required by NMFS regulations. NMFS is working to ensure better compliance with its reporting regulations by encouraging shark dealers to report on time or face possible enforcement action for failing to do so.

Comment 4: Does NMFS have a specified time within which it must turn around dealer reports?

Response: NMFS provides shark landings reports, by complex or species, on a frequent basis to ensure participants are aware of catches in the shark fishery. NMFS does not have a specified time frame as to when it provides landings reports; however, efforts are being made to provide more frequent shark landings updates in light of the final action to close seasons when a species/complex quota has reached 80–percent of their quota.

Comment 5: NMFS should stick to its existing reporting system rather than create a new one.

Response: NMFS will not institute a new reporting system for shark dealers or fishermen in this final rule.

Comment 6: NMFS should not allow sharks to be listed as unclassifieds and, if dealers continue to report unclassifieds, they should have their permits revoked. Unclassified sharks should not be counted against the sandbar shark quota because the sandbar shark quota for the research fishery is already miniscule.

Response: Current regulations require that all sharks landed be identified and reported at the species-level. This final action adds language to clarify this requirement. While reporting sharks as ''unclassified'' violates the regulations, and NMFS has recently completed shark identification workshops to improve shark dealers' identification skills, NMFS must account for unclassified shark landings to produce timely and accurate shark landings reports and because this data is used in stock assessments. Under this final action NMFS will use species composition data from the observer reports outside the shark research fishery to determine which proportion of unclassified sharks should be deducted from the appropriate quotas (i.e., sandbar, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks). This methodology is consistent with how unclassified sharks are treated in stock assessments. Shark dealers that continually report sharks as unclassified will be reported to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and may face enforcement action.

NMFS proposed counting all unclassified sharks from shark dealer reports as sandbar sharks to provide dealers with an incentive to identify sharks to the species level because if the quota for sandbar sharks were filled, they would no longer be able to purchase sandbar sharks. However, NMFS believes that allocating landings to the appropriate complex/species based on observer data is a more accurate means of accounting for unclassified landings. Furthermore, NMFS is concerned that counting all unclassified sharks as sandbar sharks may result in the shark research fishery closing prematurely.

Comment 7: NMFS received a comment stating that a dealer had inadvertently reported all sharks landed in the past as sandbar sharks and that they knew of no dealers that identify sharks at the species level.

Response: All dealers are required to report shark landings at the species level. NMFS instituted a requirement to attend shark identification workshops to assist dealers in properly identifying sharks in order to obtain more accurate landings data.

Comment 8: NMFS received a comment wondering how the stock assessments can use the dealer data because of the lack of species-level landings data for sharks.

Response: Many dealers do report at a species-specific level. However, not all do. Thus, stock assessment scientists assign unclassified sharks to a species/complex group based on species composition data from the observer program. Regional and temporal species composition data attained from observed trips are summarized and applied to the unclassified sharks to estimate the proportion that should be assigned to respective quotas and complexes.

Comment 9: NMFS received a comment in support of the workshops for shark identification because dealers have observed a drastic reduction in the number of sharks that are not being identified properly.

Response: NMFS is encouraged by the results of the shark identification workshops for dealers. Better shark identification should lead to more accurate landings data, which should improve the quality of data used in stock assessments.

Comment 10: NMFS received several comments on the ''dealer'' definition (i.e., who is required to have a dealer permit), including: NMFS should provide the current definition of a shark dealer; the current definition is satisfactory; the proposed dealer definition is appropriate; the first receiver cannot be the shark dealer; an intermediary on land is needed solely for transport; and, the definition should take into account multiple transfers.

Response: The current definition of a shark dealer is a person that receives, purchases, trades for, or barters for Atlantic sharks from a fishing vessel of the United States (50 CFR 635.4(g)(2)). When NMFS implemented the shark identification workshops, many dealers were confused as to whether they needed to attend a workshop because they buy sharks from another dealer, who buys sharks from a fishing vessel. Because the sharks originally came from a fishing vessel, these secondary dealers had obtained a shark dealer permit. To clarify who needs to attend the workshops and to aid enforcement, this final action modifies the definition of shark dealers and is modified from the proposed definition based on public comments. Specifically, the final action clarifies that shark dealer permits are required only for ''first receivers.'' The definition of a ''first receiver'' at 50 CFR 635.2 is ''entity, person, or company that takes, for commercial purposes (other than solely for transport), immediate possession of the fish, or any part of the fish, as the fish are offloaded from a fishing vessel of the United States, as defined under § 600.10 of this chapter, whose owner or operator have been issued or should have been issued a valid permit under this part.''

Comment 11: Can federally permitted dealers buy state landed sharks? Do federally permitted dealers have to report state landings?

Response: The current regulations at 50 CFR 635.31(c)(4) state that federal dealers may purchase a shark only from an owner or operator of a vessel that has a valid commercial federal permit for shark, except that federal dealers may purchase a shark from an owner or operator of a vessel that does not have a commercial federal permit for shark if that vessel fishes exclusively in state waters (i.e., no federal commercial shark permit). Federal dealer permit holders must report all sharks landed, including those from state waters, and cannot purchase any sharks, caught in state or Federal waters, once the Federal shark fishing season is closed. Additionally, on May 6, 2008, the Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Board of ASMFC voted to require all state dealers to obtain a federal shark dealer permit. As such, when the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP is

fully finalized and implemented, expected in 2009, state shark dealers from Maine to Florida will be required to obtain a federal shark dealer permit and attend shark identification workshops.

Comment 12: NMFS received a comment questioning the mechanism that requires dealers to report on time.

Response: All federally permitted shark dealers are required to submit a dealer report on a bimonthly basis. Failure to do so could result in enforcement action.

Comment 13: NMFS should implement the strongest possible restrictions to ensure prompt and reliable reporting by dealers, within 24 hours if possible. Landings of 300 to 500–percent of allowable quotas, even if subtracted in subsequent seasons, are simply not acceptable and do not reflect the close attention and precautionary action required to achieve sustainable shark fisheries.

Response: Accountability measures for quota overharvests are necessary. The TAC has been reduced considerably and overharvests are accounted for over time. Importantly, the final action includes closing the fishery for a particular species when 80–percent of the quota is reached with five days notice upon filing in the **Federal Register** in order to reduce the likelihood of overharvests. NMFS will also send out e-mail notices and conduct outreach regarding closures upon filing in the **Federal Register**, giving fishermen five days to be notified of a closure. Reduced retention limits and other effort control measures are expected to reduce fishing mortality in the shark fishery. In addition, under the final action, NMFS is changing the reporting requirements for shark dealers so that shark dealer reports must be received by NMFS within 10 days after the reporting period ends. This will ensure timelier reporting and potentially avoid overharvests.

Comment 14: NMFS received several comments regarding excess shark landings in state waters and NMFS' coordination with various states, including: NMFS should preempt the State of Louisiana or others as necessary pursuant to authority provided in the Magnuson-Stevens Act (section 306(b)) if shark landings in state waters impact Federal shark fishery management; NMFS should recognize that Federal fishermen are catching adults during designated fishing seasons, while state fishermen are catching juveniles all year long; NMFS should allow Federally permitted fishermen to fish in state waters; NMFS should ensure that state waters are closed at the same times as Federal waters to protect juveniles; NMFS should consult with the states in order to manage fisheries better; NMFS should require states to abide by Federal rules; and NMFS should coordinate with the ASMFC.

Response: Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS has jurisdiction to manage fisheries in Federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Landings in state waters are counted against Federal shark quotas because many shark species inhabit both Federal and state waters, and thus make up one population or stock. NMFS includes state landings in stock assessments for coastal sharks. This practice is consistent with quota monitoring and management strategies for many marine species.

NMFS has been working with the State of Louisiana, and other states, to ensure consistent management strategies for sharks in state and Federal waters due to excessive landings that occurred in Louisiana state waters in 2007. In 2007, the State of Louisiana agreed with NMFS to close its state waters when the federal fishery closed during the third trimester of 2007. Additionally, ASMFC recently voted on final management measures for a coast-wide state shark plan for states in the Atlantic Ocean. The final measures included in the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP are expected to be effective in 2009. Many of the final measures in the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP are consistent with federal regulations and will require commercial state shark fisheries to open and close with federal openings and closures. The implementation of ASMFC's Coastal Shark FMP could potentially lead to similar measures being implemented in the Gulf of Mexico.

Comment 15: NMFS should provide information in the shark landings update on the percentage of total shark landings that are state and Federal.

Response: Federal dealers must report all landings; however, they are not required to differentiate which landings are purchased from Federal vessels and which shark products are purchased from state vessels (if a Federal dealer also has a state dealer permit). Current reporting requirements make it difficult to determine state versus Federal landings, although NMFS generally does not need to distinguish these landings because all landings are used in stock assessments and are counted against the federal shark quota.

Comment 16: The stock assessment does not take the area inside state waters into consideration.

Response: Stock assessments include both fishery dependent and fishery independent landings and effort data from state and Federal waters.

Comment 17: NMFS should not mandate that all shark fishing stop entirely once the sandbar quota is met.

Response: NMFS will not close both the sandbar and non-sandbar LCS fisheries if either quota is met. Rather, NMFS will close the sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quota, individually, if either fishery reaches 80–percent of its respective quotas.

Comment 18: The State of Florida supports decreasing the length of time it takes to supply NMFS with landings information used to manage the shark fishery. NMFS should also decrease the time it takes to make this information available to the public. The time required for NMFS to process such information should be established in a rule.

Response: NMFS makes every attempt to provide timely reports of shark catches to constituents on a frequent basis in order for fishermen to plan their activities accordingly. However, it is also necessary to ensure that shark landings data are accurate prior to making them available to the public. NMFS will attempt to provide more frequent shark landings updates in the future.

7. Seasons

Comment 1: The change to one commercial season would lead to derby fishing.

Response: NMFS believes that a commercial season that opens January 1 and remains open until 80-percent of the quota is achieved, coupled with the significantly reduced retention limits for directed permit holders, should adequately prevent derby fishing. Derby fishing is more likely when seasons are shorter in duration, and when retention limits are large enough to encourage targeting of a specific species. The final action results in one season, opening January 1. Additionally, the season is expected to remain open for most of the year as fishermen outside the research fishery are not expected to make trips targeting non-sandbar LCS because of reduced retention limits and the prohibition on the retention of sandbar sharks.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments including a comment from the State of Florida regarding the proposal to open shark seasons on January 1, including: NMFS should consider the fact that not all shark species are present in all regions in equal abundance on January 1; July may be a more appropriate time to open the season; January 1 may be good for sandbar sharks but not other species;

opening the season at another time may result in the quota being filled before sharks arrive in some regions; the season should be opened on January 1.

Response: NMFS is aware of the fact that sharks are migratory and present in different areas, at different levels of abundance, at different times of the year. In this final action, NMFS will only allow landings of sandbar sharks by a limited number of vessels selected to participate in a shark research fishery. Therefore, only vessels participating in this fishery will be authorized to target sandbar sharks, and only when a NMFS-approved observer is on board. Vessels outside the research fishery would be allowed to keep 33 non-sandbar LCS for directed permit holders and 3 non-sandbar LCS for incidental permit holders. NMFS anticipates that this reduced retention limit will likely result in directed shark fishermen no longer targeting non-sandbar LCS outside the research fishery. Rather, shark fishermen would be authorized to keep non-sandbar LCS incidentally caught while targeting other species. Given that fishermen outside the research fishery are not expected to target non-sandbar LCS, NMFS expects that the shark seasons would be open longer, and fishermen in the regions that have non-sandbar LCS present later in the year would still be able to harvest non-sandbar LCS when they are present. In addition, opening the season on January 1 should allow the shark fishery to overlap with open seasons for other non-shark species and may reduce regulatory discards that may occur as a result of keeping the shark season closed until later in the year.

Comment 3: NMFS received numerous comments, including comments from the ASMFC and the State of Florida that NMFS should open the season in July instead of January 1 so the season would be open when sharks are present in all areas and to prevent fishing mortality during shark pupping season. Other comments included: NMFS should not allow shark fishing during April, May, and June as these months are when shark pupping occurs and state waters should be closed from May 15 through July 15 to protect pupping; considering the size of the quota, shark migration patterns, and the ASMFC closure, it is likely that the quota would be harvested before sharks become available to fishermen in the North Atlantic; beginning the fishing season on July 16 would allow the quota to be shared geographically; opening the fishing season in July would reduce mortality of pregnant females and ensure that northern states have access to the fishery.

Response: Opening the season on January 1 and keeping it open until 80–percent of a quota is achieved may result in pregnant or neonate sharks being landed along with other sharks. However, given the low retention limits for non-sandbar sharks outside the research fishery and because fishermen will not be allowed to retain sandbar sharks outside the research fishery, NMFS expects that fishermen with directed shark permits outside the research fishery will no longer target non-sandbar LCS. This should reduce overall shark mortality, including mortality of pregnant females during pupping season. The retention limits should also allow fishermen to keep non-sandbar LCS that they catch while targeting other species. If the season is closed from April through June or July, vessels that land sharks while targeting other species will have to discard all sharks. The ASMFC is implementing a Coastal Shark FMP for sharks in state waters from Maine through Florida. Since most shark pupping occurs in state waters, NMFS feels the ASMFC plan may be more appropriate for addressing fishing mortality of pregnant females or neonate sharks. However, now that the ASMFC plan is expected to be implemented in 2009, NMFS may modify the season closure in the future as a result of the ASMFC shark plan.

Comment 4: NMFS should provide more advance notice of season openings because fishermen have had a hard time planning how much bait they need to buy, planning for freezer spaces, etc.

Response: NMFS must complete proposed and final rulemaking prior to the establishment of shark seasons. Under any final action establishing an annual shark season, NMFS will open the fishing season on or about January 1 of each year (except 2008). The season will likely remain open longer than usual, dependent upon available quota. Rulemaking in the **Federal Register** prior to the opening of the subsequent season's start date (on or around January 1) will provide the available quota, retention limits, and other pertinent information.

Comment 5: NMFS should implement one shark fishing season.

Response: NMFS is implementing one season, starting January 1 each year. This date is more likely to overlap with open seasons for other BLL and gillnet fisheries, and also provides fishermen a full calendar year to harvest available quota.

Comment 6: NMFS should ensure that smaller amounts of shark are consistently available throughout the year to help increase the price and marketability of sharks since restaurants would know they could count on it year round. Currently, with such short seasons, there is not really a market.

Response: Short seasons under existing trip limits may quickly flood markets, depressing prices for some shark products, particularly shark meat. Shark meat prices are more likely to be affected by the short seasons because there is less demand for shark meat than for shark fins. The majority of shark fins are exported to other countries and prices for shark fins tend to remain higher and more stable than shark meat. In the past, fishermen with directed shark permits were able to make profitable trips exclusively for sharks. Reduced retention limits and prohibition on retaining sandbar sharks outside the research fishery should reduce the likelihood that fishermen will make trips targeting non-sandbar LCS outside the research fishery. Rather, fishermen are more likely to harvest non-sandbar LCS incidentally while targeting other species. NMFS expects that a fishing season that opens on January 1 each year with lower retention limits will result in smaller quantities of shark product being available for a larger proportion of the year. This could conceivably increase demand and marketability of shark products because the availability of meat and fins would be more reliable throughout the year compared to the past when shark seasons were only open for short periods of time. This increased demand for shark products on behalf of wholesalers may translate to elevated prices received by shark fishermen for shark meat and fins.

Comment 7: NMFS should elaborate on the reasons that trimesters were originally implemented for the commercial shark fishery. Trimesters may still be necessary to reduce fishing mortality.

Response: Trimesters were originally implemented as a way to increase the availability of shark meat throughout the year while also reducing fishing mortality during peak pupping seasons and addressing other bycatch concerns. This final action implements significant measures to reduce fishing mortality of sharks(predominantly by modifying quotas, retention limits, and species authorized to be landed in commercial and recreational fisheries) and also implements measures that are expected to result in small amounts of shark meat to be available in the markets year-round.

These final measures should reduce the mortality of pregnant females. Furthermore, the closed area off the coast of North Carolina, which is important habitat for dusky and sandbar

sharks, will continue to be in effect. NMFS does not expect that fishermen will be able to make a profitable trip ''targeting'' sharks with the preferred retention limits and because of the fact that sandbar sharks may not be possessed outside the shark research fishery. The resulting incidental fishery will likely translate into significant benefits to shark populations as a whole while also eliminating the need to maintain trimesters.

Comment 8: Closing the season when landings reach the 80–percent threshold should be sufficient, but can the other 20–percent of the quota be filled in five days? NMFS should consider closing the shark fishery at 90 to 95–percent of the quota and consider re-opening a season if the quota has not been caught for a given season.

Response: NMFS requested public comment specifically on setting 80-percent as a threshold for closing the fishery because it allows a substantial percentage of the allowable harvest to occur, yet allows a sufficient buffer to prevent overharvest from the time the 80-percent is reached until the time NMFS can actually close the fishery. NMFS' goal is to allow fishermen to harvest the full quota without exceeding it in order to maximize economic benefits to stakeholders while achieving long-term conservation goals and preventing overfishing. Closing the fishery via appropriate rulemaking, while providing at least a five-day notice of a closure (upon filing of the final rule with the Office of the Federal Register and the availability of the final rule for public inspection), should allow fishermen to complete fishing trips that have already been initiated and/or provide fishermen the chance to catch additional quota if they embarked on additional trips prior to the closure. As mentioned previously, the reduced retention limits and the fact that fishermen outside the research fishery will not be allowed to land sandbar sharks is expected to reduce the number of trips targeting non-sandbar LCS and keep the shark season open year-round. Additionally, NMFS must take into account state landings that continue to occur after closure of the Federal fishery.

NMFS believes that, given the two week reporting period for dealer reports and the potential for late reporting, closing the fishery when landings reach 90- to 95–percent of the quota would likely result in overharvests. Overharvests will result in reduced quotas in the future since all overharvests will be accounted for when establishing subsequent seasons and quotas.

Comment 9: NMFS should allow more time prior to closing the seasons. A 5-day notice will not work for PLL fishermen because their trips are long.

Response: PLL gear is not the primary gear-type used to harvest sharks. Most sharks are landed on BLL or gillnet gear on trips that last several days. Fishermen deploying PLL gear generally target tunas and/or swordfish depending on the time of the year and location. Therefore, NMFS does not expect the rulemaking process for closing the shark fishery, which would provide at least a five day notice upon filing of the final rule with the Office of the Federal Register and the availability of the final rule for public inspection, to have adverse impacts on vessels deploying PLL gear. Before the 1999 FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks, the shark fishery was closed via appropriate rulemaking with five days' notice; therefore, there is a precedent for this amount of time prior to taking action.

Comment 10: NMFS should consider a 3-day warning prior to closing seasons to prevent overharvests, consistent with the notice granted in the bluefin industry. This would better assure that quotas are not exceeded. If NMFS does not decrease the closure time to three days, and instead keeps five days, NMFS should adopt the trigger of 70–percent rather than 80–percent.

Response: In closing the fishery through appropriate rulemaking, NMFS will provide at least a five day notice for closures to maximize the proportion of the quota that fishermen may harvest without exceeding the quota and to allow time for notifying fishermen of a closure. When the final rule is filed with the Office of the Federal Register and available for public inspection, NMFS will send out e-mail notices and other outreach materials to notify the public of the fishery closure within at least 5 days. NMFS anticipates that the notice will publish in the **Federal Register** approximately one day after filing, and then the fishery would officially close no earlier than five days from the original filing date. NMFS believes closing the fishery for individual species or species complexes with at least five days notice upon filing in the **Federal Register** is adequate to prevent overharvests. Historically, shark trips have been 1-4 days. Therefore, a minimum of five days' notice should be adequate because it should give fishermen enough time to complete trips that are already in progress. Significant reductions in retention limits and the fact that fishermen outside the research fishery cannot retain sandbar sharks should also reduce the potential for overharvests in the period between meeting the 80-percent threshold and when the fishery is actually closed a minimum of five days later.

Comment 11: NMFS should predict how long the season should remain open to fill the quota based on past catch rates.

Response: In recent years, seasons have been set based on available quota, past catch rates, and other considerations. Given the final action, NMFS feels that continuing this practice may continue to result in significant overharvests and may not be the best strategy for ensuring that sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle shark populations rebuild. Overharvests in 2006 and 2007 may be indicative of past catch rates not being appropriate indicators of future catch rates because of the fact that in those years, catch rates were greater and the quota was smaller, leading to overharvests. In addition, significant changes in quotas, authorized species, and retention limits would further complicate establishing seasons in advance.

Comment 12: NMFS needs to analyze the length of trips that land sharks and base the time needed to notify the fishery on the length of those trips.

Response: Observer data indicate that most trips targeting sharks last between 1-4 days depending on the region, season, and amount of sharks that are landed. However, this duration corresponds to past retention limits that are being reduced substantially for directed permit holders. Five days was selected as a reasonable minimum amount of time for fishermen to get word about a fishery closure and either finish a current trip without discarding dead sharks, or initiate a trip for another species prior to the closure while keeping the ability to land sharks incidentally. NMFS anticipates that the significant reduction in retention limits and the prohibition on retaining sandbar sharks outside the research fishery will result in most fishermen targeting other species and incidentally landing non-sandbar LCS.

Comment 13: NMFS needs to look at past data to determine whether a 80-percent threshold is adequate to prevent overharvests based on how much quota is caught after the seasons.

Response: NMFS selected the 80-percent threshold for closing the season, with a minimum of five days' notice upon filing of the final rule with the Office of the Federal Register, because it should ensure that the majority of the quota is harvested without exceeding the quota. Giving fishermen the opportunity to harvest most of the quota within a given season is important

because the final action carries forward only underharvests for species that are not overfished, experiencing overfishing, or of unknown status.

8. Regions

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments regarding regions. Comments in favor of maintaining three regions under the status quo included: NMFS should assess the impacts of moving to one region; NMFS should describe the rationale for moving to one region; NMFS should not implement one region; having one region ignores the stock assessments and the temporal nature of the fishery; NMFS should implement separate permits, separate fishing zones, and separate quotas, so that fishermen in one zone are not penalized for a quota overharvest that occurs in another zone; the ASMFC requests a minimum of two management regions (Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic States) to ensure equitable and biologically sound geographic distribution of quotas; a one-region plan could reduce or eliminate any quota for Atlantic States if Gulf of Mexico states overharvest; the Gulf States do not have coordinated management and have overharvested in excess of 200–percent in recent years; under one management region, the ASMFC would have reduced or zero quotas for years subsequent to Gulf overharvests.

NMFS also received several comments opposed to maintaining the three regions, including: NMFS should either divide quota equally among regions or have one region since quotas are so low; Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic stocks should be managed as one unit.

NMFS received numerous comments from Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, ASMFC, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, and members of the general public in favor of maintaining more than one region. Commenters suggested reasons for maintaining more than one region, including: the best scientific evidence available indicates that the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic stocks are separate; genetic evidence has shown separate stocks of some species between the Gulf and South Atlantic; shark management should account for separate stocks and separate the quota accordingly; blacktip sharks are healthy in the Gulf of Mexico; bycatch issues are unique to each region; and, moving to one region ignores stock assessments and the temporal nature of the fishery, which was identified during the previous amendment.

Response: In the Draft EIS, NMFS proposed merging the status quo's three regions into one region to simplify quota monitoring and to prevent derby-style fishing and potential overharvests that could occur as a result of attempting to allocate smaller quotas to regional and trimester seasons. The impacts of establishing only one region instead of three were assessed in the Draft EIS for Amendment 2. The analyses indicated that the overall economic impacts could be negative in regions (i.e., North Atlantic) that do not have sharks present in their waters year-round if the fishery closed early in the year. The ecological impacts of implementing one region were expected to be neutral.

Based on public comment, NMFS has decided to implement two regions, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic, rather than one region as originally proposed. Maintaining two regions has several advantages, including: it adheres to the stock assessment for blacktip sharks which assessed this species separately in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic; it accounts for overharvests that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic in 2007 more equitably; it allows for unique quotas to be implemented in each region that account for different species composition in each region; and it maintains the flexibility to implement unique regulations in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

The 2006 LCS assessment assessed blacktip sharks as two distinct populations in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic. Unique results were found for each population with the Gulf of Mexico population healthy and the Atlantic stock unknown. The assessment recommended maintaining current harvest levels in both regions. NMFS prefers measures consistent with the stock assessment by maintaining two regions: the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic. The blacktip shark was the only species assessed as distinct, regional populations.

At this time, NMFS does not issue unique permits based on geography within the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. This type of permit was not considered during this rulemaking.

Comment 2: NMFS should have one region because, since NMFS went into regions, we have been going over the quota.

Response: There are several factors that may be the cause of recent overharvests. These overharvests have likely occurred because of increased fishing effort, inconsistent reporting on behalf of the dealers, and the fact that previous years' overharvests are taken off subsequent years' quotas resulting in smaller regional quotas. As quotas decrease and effort stays the same, the likelihood of overharvests increases. The rationale for two regions is provided in response to Comment 1 directly above and elsewhere in the preamble to this rulemaking.

Comment 3: NMFS should describe the original reasoning for establishing the three regions.

Response: The regions were established in regulations implementing Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP in 2003 because of spatial differences in fishery practices, variable catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) between regions, and to afford managers the flexibility to adjust regional quotas to reduce mortality of juvenile and pregnant female sharks.

Comment 4: NMFS should create a separate region for the Caribbean.

Response: The Caribbean is currently managed as part of the South Atlantic region. This final action includes the Caribbean in the Atlantic region. Permit data indicate that there are not any commercial shark fishing permits and only one shark dealer permit in the Caribbean region. In addition, NMFS is in the process of initiating rulemaking to address some of the unique aspects of Caribbean fisheries for HMS.

Comment 5: NMFS should change the regions so that the Florida Keys are entirely in the South Atlantic or entirely in the Gulf of Mexico. The State of Florida recommends that the existing regions be maintained, however, both the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Florida should be kept in the same region to facilitate improved management and enforcement.

Response: NMFS implemented separate regions for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic in Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP. The existing boundary between the regions was adopted because it is consistent with the boundary defined by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and by ASMFC. However, since implementing that boundary, NMFS has consistently considered, for quota monitoring purposes, any landings in the Florida Keys to be part of the Gulf of Mexico region. As such, in this final action and based on the comments received, NMFS is matching practice with the regulations, and is redefining the Gulf of Mexico to ensure that catch near or directly south of the Florida Keys is considered to be within the Gulf of Mexico region. NMFS does not expect this to change fishing practices as logbook data indicates that most fishing in the areas occurs near and within the Florida Keys.

9. Recreational Measures

Comment 1: NMFS should maintain the same standards for recreational and commercial fisheries. Since the commercial industry reports many unidentified or unclassified sharks, the commercial industry should be regulated based on misidentification as well.

Response: The majority of sharks landed commercially are reported as unclassified by shark dealers, not fishermen. NMFS has implemented shark identification workshops for shark dealers which are expected to provide shark dealers with the knowledge and skills to properly identify the sharks that they purchase. Recreational fishermen generally do not see sharks as often as commercial fishermen targeting sharks. Thus, commercial fishermen may be more adept at shark identification.

Comment 2: The preferred alternative would set a bad precedent in allowing a fishery that caused the decline in shark populations to continue on a limited basis, while the public cannot fish for the same shark species. The commercial fishermen should be allowed to catch the same shark species as the recreational fishermen. The ASMFC requests allowing recreational possession/take of all species that may be harvested by commercial fishermen to keep the shark fishery equitable to all sectors and help establish identical species groups.

Response: The final action allows recreational permit holders to possess all non-ridgeback LCS and tiger sharks. These species of sharks have external characteristics that are easy for recreational anglers to properly identify. NMFS proposed to add blacktip, spinners, bull, and finetooth sharks to the list of prohibited shark species in the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. However, based on public comment, NMFS decided to allow recreational anglers to land these sharks. NMFS is allowing recreational anglers to land these species because of extensive public comment that was received in favor of allowing recreational anglers to land these species. NMFS is not authorizing recreational anglers to land sandbar sharks and silky sharks because recreational anglers may confuse these species with dusky sharks, which are on the list of prohibited shark species. NMFS is only allowing participants in the shark research fishery to land sandbar sharks commercially, thus, precluding the vast majority of commercial fishermen from landing sandbar sharks.

Silky sharks are authorized for landing in commercial fisheries because there is a higher likelihood that these sharks may be discarded dead than if they were landed in recreational fisheries. Moreover, commercial fishermen are more adept at distinguishing between silky sharks and sandbar or dusky sharks. Prohibiting silky sharks in commercial fisheries would result in more significant economic consequences than prohibiting them in recreational fisheries because commercial fishermen are allowed to sell the fins and flesh of sharks that are caught in accordance with applicable regulations. There is not a significant targeted fishery among recreational or CHB anglers for spinner sharks, therefore, economic impacts would be less severe among this group of stakeholders.

Comment 3: The recreational and commercial sectors contribute nearly equivalently towards mortality of sharks, and reductions in mortality are absolutely necessary.

Response: NMFS is implementing measures consistent with recent stock assessments to prevent overfishing and/or to rebuild stocks of porbeagle, dusky, and sandbar sharks. Concurrently, NMFS has decided not to allow increased landings of blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Both commercial and recreational shark landings are included in stock assessments. While commercial fisheries generally comprise the majority of shark landings, recreational landings are also a significant component of overall shark mortality. Additional measures are necessary to reduce fishing mortality on several shark species. Modifications to quotas, authorized species, and retention limits are expected to prevent overfishing and to rebuild overfished stocks. For example, sandbar sharks will only be landed by a small number of commercial participants in the shark research fishery subject to a commercial quota that represents an 80–percent reduction in landings of sandbar sharks compared to previous years. Recreational fishermen will not be able to retain sandbar sharks due to their overfished status and the potential for confusion with prohibited dusky sharks.

Comment 4: NMFS should consider additional alternatives for the recreational industry. The alternative suites contain either status quo or closure of all the recreational fisheries.

Response: The analysis of recreational measures includes more alternatives than status quo and closing the fishery. Alternative suites 2 through 4 in the Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP would modify the authorized shark species for recreational fishermen to include those that can be positively identified. These alternatives have been modified in the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP to include all non-ridgeback LCS and tiger sharks as authorized species in recreational shark fisheries.

Comment 5: NMFS should describe the data or analysis used to justify the proposed authorized species for recreational fisheries. There is no precedent for ''easily-identifiable.'' NMFS needs to make an effort to educate anglers before assuming they cannot identify what they are catching. The State of Georgia commented that NMFS should only allow sharks without an interdorsal ridge to be landed, thereby improving identification and reducing confusion. The State of Florida indicated that sandbar and dusky sharks can easily be differentiated from many other shark species by the presence of an interdorsal ridge.

Response: NMFS only included shark species that are readily identifiable by recreational participants who may not interact with a large number of sharks and therefore may not be able to accurately identify sharks. NMFS specifically requested public comment on the proposed list to be authorized for recreational participants and has modified the final list as a result. The final measures allow any non-ridgeback LCS, tiger sharks and the current list of pelagic and SCS to be landed by recreational anglers. The absence of an interdorsal ridge and/or the distinctive black vertical stripes on tiger sharks should allow recreational anglers to determine if a shark may be possessed or not. NMFS intends to disseminate information for recreational permit holders on HMS regulations and external characteristics for positive identification of authorized shark species.

Comment 6: The recreational fishery should be subject to 100 percent observer coverage.

Response: Recreational permit holders can request to take an observer onboard to monitor fishing activities; however, they are not required to carry observers. Observers are placed on commercial fishing vessels as a requirement of the biological opinion for the shark fishery, to verify logbook and dealer reports, and to aid managers in understanding the fishery. To date, the biological opinion issued under the Endangered Species Act for the shark fishery has not required observer coverage in the recreational fishery. In addition, recreational fishing vessels are not required to obtain a U.S. Coast Guard

safety inspection, which is a requirement for placing observers on commercial vessels to ensure that the vessels have all the required safety equipment. As such, it is difficult to place observers on recreational vessels.

Comment 7: NMFS received several comments regarding outreach efforts on shark identification to the recreational sector, including: NMFS should release an identification guide similar to the Rhode Island Sea Grant guide; recreational fishermen care about positive identification; NMFS should send all permit holders the $20 shark identification book instead of shutting down the fishery; NMFS should explore identification workshops for recreational fishermen; NMFS needs to find better ways to educate the public to ensure positive identification; NMFS should use educational tools to improve identification; and, recreational fishermen may confuse porbeagle sharks with shortfin makos.

Response: In 2003, NMFS, in conjunction with Rhode Island Sea Grant, released a guide to Sharks, Tunas, and Billfishes of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. While the guide is currently out of print, additional copies are being printed and should be available by late summer. Additional materials containing similar information are currently available at: *http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/bookstore/index.html*.

NMFS is also working on additional outreach materials such as a one page quick identification guide to improve identification and understanding of regulations among recreational anglers. These outreach materials would be either free or available at a low cost to ensure that all permit holders have access to them. NMFS has recently implemented shark identification workshops for shark dealers and other interested members of the public. While not mandatory for recreational anglers, participants in any HMS sector or the general public may attend. These workshops provide anglers, dealers, and commercial fishermen with the ability to properly identify shark carcasses.

Comment 8: NMFS received several comments, including comments from the State of Florida, the State of Mississippi, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the ASMFC regarding the shark species that should be included on the list of recreationally authorized shark species. Comments included: spinner, silky, bull, and blacktip sharks should be included in the list of species authorized for recreational anglers because fishers are capable of accurately identifying shark species; common thresher sharks should stay on the list of species authorized for recreational anglers; NMFS should not propose restricting recreational anglers from keeping blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico if the stock is not overfished or experiencing overfishing; spinners are not endangered, nor are they depleted; the status of spinner or bull sharks has not been assessed, therefore, prohibiting the capture of blacktip and bull sharks would be an overly risk-averse strategy considering that the status of blacktip sharks (at least in the Gulf of Mexico) is satisfactory; identification is only a problem for species that cannot be identified externally; eliminating the retention of a healthy species of sharks, based on the assumption that they might be misidentified is subjective and is definitely not sound fishery management practice; NMFS is mandated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (NS 1) to strive for optimum sustainable yield and blacktip status in the Gulf of Mexico is healthy; NMFS' stated reason is concern over angler misidentification with sandbar and dusky sharks, however, these species may be readily identified by their interdorsal ridges; the list is acceptable, except for oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks. Do not allow the recreational catch of these two species as scientific studies show they are in decline; allowing the recreational harvest of blacktip and spinner sharks would therefore have no negative impact on sandbar and dusky sharks; silky sharks can be confused with dusky sharks and should remain off the list that recreational anglers may land; NMFS should not prohibit recreational anglers from landing bull, blacktip, bull, spinner, and finetooth sharks because these species represent 37–percent of recreational shark landings off the State of Florida.

Response: The final action will allow recreational anglers to possess all non-ridgeback LCS, including blacktip sharks, tiger sharks, and the currently allowed SCS and pelagic sharks. The presence/absence of an interdorsal ridge and other morphological characteristics, coupled with outreach materials on shark identification for recreational anglers, are likely to reduce the incidence of misidentification in this fishery. Common threshers would also continue to be authorized for landing in recreational shark fisheries as these were not proposed to be prohibited for recreational anglers. NMFS had originally proposed that blacktip and spinner sharks not be authorized in recreational fisheries because the morphological differences between the two sharks are not obvious to anglers who are unfamiliar with sharks, and because NMFS wanted to ensure that recreational anglers were only landing sharks that could be positively identified. Based on extensive public comment in support of being able to land blacktip, spinner, and bull sharks and the ability of anglers to use the interdorsal ridge (or lack of the interdorsal ridge) to more positively identify sharks, the final action allows these sharks to be landed. Further, NMFS will enhance outreach efforts to ensure that recreational shark fishermen are positively identifying the sharks they catch.

Comment 9: NMFS should address the fact that recreational anglers in Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey are catching lots of pregnant thresher sharks during certain times of the year.

Response: NMFS is concerned about recreational anglers catching pregnant female thresher sharks. Recreational fisheries do not have closed seasons like commercial fisheries; therefore, pregnant females may be caught and possessed by recreational anglers. However, a minimum size limit of 54 inches fork-length and a bag limit of one shark (except bonnethead and Atlantic sharpnose) per vessel per trip should minimize the potential for negative impacts to populations of common thresher sharks. Furthermore, this species may be afforded additional protection by shark tournaments that limit the sharks that may be landed to those that are actually eligible to win a prize category.

Comment 10: NMFS received a comment suggesting that hammerheads may need to be prohibited for recreational anglers because the IUCN considers them threatened and it is not easy to distinguish between scalloped and great hammerhead sharks.

Response: NMFS is not implementing management measures specific to scalloped or great hammerhead sharks in recreational fisheries at this time. NMFS has not yet reviewed stock assessments on these species. A stock assessment has been completed for hammerhead sharks as a dissertation for a graduate student; however, the assessment has not undergone extensive peer-review which is necessary prior to NMFS making any decisions about or based on the assessment.

The IUCN determined that the scalloped hammerhead is ''lower risk, near threatened'' with an unknown population trend in 1994. In 2001, the IUCN listed great hammerhead sharks as ''endangered'' with a decreasing

population trend. The recreational bag limit (1 vessel/day) and minimum size (> 54 inch fork length) should preclude overfishing of the scalloped hammerhead shark species. NMFS intends to improve outreach materials available so that recreational anglers would have the tools necessary to distinguish between scalloped and great hammerheads.

Comment 11: NMFS should consider the impacts of recreational fishing for sharks and its implications on populations. Specific comments received include: shark tournaments since the 1980s are responsible for a 50–percent reduction in dusky sharks and a 35–percent reduction in sandbar sharks; the stock assessment does not say that recreational anglers have a significant impact on the shark stocks; the recreational angling public has a virtually imperceptible impact on LCS because recreational anglers practice catch and release and have very conservative size limitations.

Response: NMFS is aware of the practices of recreational fisheries and their impacts on shark populations. Recreational data have been used in past stock assessments for both sandbar and dusky sharks. Thus, the impact of recreational mortality on shark stocks has been included in these stock assessments. NMFS has implemented a size and bag limit for recreational fishermen to limit effort and protect sharks that have not reached sexual maturity. The Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP provides recreational landings by species.

Comment 12: NMFS should increase enforcement of recreational regulations because participants are not adhering to the 54–inch minimum size for sharks.

Response: NMFS intends to take steps to improve outreach to recreational shark anglers to ensure that the public is aware of all the regulations in place for recreational shark fisheries.

Comment 13: NMFS should not allow shark tournaments that give monetary prizes. The impacts of such tournaments are unknown and public perception of them is poor.

Response: HMS tournament participants are required to possess the necessary HMS permits, to register their tournaments, submit data if selected, and abide by all HMS and tournament regulations for sharks. The shark tournaments are subject to the recreational shark bag and size limits which are quite restrictive in the recreational fishery (1 shark over 54 inches per vessel per day) and, therefore, it is not likely that the majority of fishing mortality is occurring in shark tournaments. Specific measures concerning tournaments were not proposed, or analyzed, in this rulemaking.

Comment 14: NMFS should not propose that recreational fishermen cannot land sandbars and then account for recreational landings by removing the recreational landings (27 mt dw) in establishing the commercial quota for sandbar sharks.

Response: Accounting for the recreational landings (27 mt dw) between 2003–2005 is necessary to ensure rebuilding of sandbar sharks and that all fishing mortality is within the TAC. Sandbar sharks can be landed in recreational fisheries outside of NMFS jurisdiction (i.e., state waters), could be landed illegally in federal waters, or may die as a result of post-release mortality. If NMFS did not account for recreational and other mortality of sandbar sharks, efforts to prevent overfishing and rebuild sandbar sharks would be compromised.

Comment 15: Why were the effects of Katrina to the Texas recreational industry not analyzed?

Response: Consistent with NS1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to implement management measures to rebuild overfished shark species and prevent overfishing. The impacts to the recreational shark fishing industry as a result of Katrina were not specifically analyzed in this rulemaking. Rather, the impacts of the proposed measures that would affect the recreational shark fishing industry in states impacted by Hurricane Katrina were evaluated.

Comment 16: NMFS should require that recreational anglers practice only catch and release and report any and all interactions with protected species.

Response: Alternative suite 5 proposed prohibiting the possession of sharks in both commercial and recreational fisheries, but it was not the preferred alternative because of the adverse economic impacts that would be incurred by these fisheries. The stock status of many shark species does not warrant a requirement to only catch and release all shark species landed recreationally. The bag limit and minimum size requirements are sufficient to conserve shark stocks, and NMFS does not believe a prohibition on landing all sharks in recreational fisheries is warranted at this time.

Comment 17: A typo was made regarding allowable recreational species. On the HMS website copy of the proposed Amendment, the spinner shark was included on the recreational list. On a slide prepared for the public hearings, which was formerly posted on the HMS website, the spinner shark was not included on the recreational list. NMFS should update the draft document on the HMS website so that the commenting public would have access to the proper information necessary to adequately prepare their comments.

Response: The typographical errors in the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP have been addressed. An errata sheet describing these errors was posted to the HMS website on November 19, 2007, prior to the end of the public comment period and is available at: *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/Amendment%202/Errata__Sheet__for__DEIS.pdf*.

Comment 18: NMFS should consider the cumulative impacts on CHB operators who also fish for sharks in light of measures that have been imposed on this industry for other fisheries such as snapper. Snapper business is down 75–percent and proposed measures for the shark recreational fishery are ''the nail in the coffin for CHB''; and, NMFS is violating NEPA by limiting recreational alternatives and through limited cumulative impact analysis by not analyzing impacts such as those caused by red snapper regulations.

Response: NEPA requires all Federal agencies to consider and analyze a range of alternatives to achieve the stated objective and analyze cumulative impacts of proposed actions. NMFS considered the cumulative impacts by analyzing permits that participants held in other fisheries and considering the impacts on those other fisheries. Based on public comment, NMFS is modifying the shark species that can be retained by recreational anglers to include all non-ridgeback LCS and tiger sharks. This modification should allow CHB operators to continue to retain blacktip, spinner, finetooth, and bull sharks which had originally been proposed to be prohibited for recreational anglers due to concerns about anglers' ability to positively identify these species.

Comment 19: Party charter operators have to submit Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) for every trip. NMFS should look into those to get a handle on recreational catches.

Response: VTR data were considered for the final rule, however, these data showed only four porbeagle sharks landed by party headboats. MRFSS and LPS are the only databases that NMFS has to track recreational landings. However, for some species, like porbeagle sharks, the timing of these programs do not necessarily capture when porbeagle sharks are caught by recreational fishermen in New England.

As such, NMFS is considering ways to improve its recreational landings data collection. NMFS is interested in gathering more shark landings data from tournaments with prize categories for sharks, especially porbeagle sharks.

Comment 20: NMFS received numerous comments, including one from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, stating that NMFS should increase the retention limit for Atlantic sharpnose per vessel in the for-hire fishery. Recreational fishermen cannot avoid sharpnose sharks and the recent stock assessment declared that they were not overfished or subject to overfishing.

Response: Modifying the retention limits for Atlantic sharpnose was not considered in this amendment. Measures concerning Atlantic sharpnose sharks and other small coastal sharks (SCS) will be included in Amendment 3 to the HMS FMP based on recent (2007) stock assessments for SCS (May 7, 2008, 73 FR 25665).

10. SAFE Report and Stock Assessment Frequency

Comment 1: NMFS should implement the preferred alternative 9 for SAFE report frequency, which would allow NMFS to publish a SAFE report by the fall of each calendar year.

Response: NMFS is implementing alternative 9, which modifies the existing regulations by requiring the publication of a SAFE report in the fall of each year. This should allow NMFS more flexibility to balance other responsibilities throughout the calendar year, as necessary, and will give NMFS the opportunity to include data for the SAFE report that is typically collected at the beginning of each calendar year.

Comment 2: Within the annual SAFE report, NMFS needs to correctly identify the overfished and overfishing status of every managed shark species by species, rather than by complex.

Response: The SAFE report follows the guidelines specified for NS2 and is used by NMFS to develop and evaluate regulatory adjustments under the framework procedure or the FMP amendment process. Within each SAFE report, NMFS lists the status determination of each stock. If the stock is managed within a species complex, then NMFS would report the status of the complex. For sharks, NMFS does not have the necessary information to conduct separate stock assessments for each species. Therefore, NMFS cannot make species-specific stock status determinations for every species of shark that is commercially harvested. Therefore, those species are managed within a species complex. NMFS is moving towards more species-specific management as available data allows, as is the case with sandbar sharks, which will be managed separately from the LCS complex based on measures implementing the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Comment 3: NMFS should implement the preferred alternative 7 for shark stock assessments, which would allow NMFS to conduct shark stock assessments at least once every five years.

Response: Because of the time necessary to modify management measures consistent with stock assessments, NMFS is implementing the preferred alternative 7 and will conduct shark stock assessments at least once every five years. This should provide sufficient time for existing or forthcoming management measures to take effect (i.e., a few years) prior to the next stock assessment.

Comment 4: NMFS received several comments in favor of the status quo for timing of stock assessments, including: NMFS should consider keeping the status quo for the timing of stock assessment for sharks; we are opposed to having an assessment at least once every five years; five years is too long to wait for an assessment; it is critical that stock assessments be regular and robust; NMFS should implement alternative 6, the status quo for the timing of shark stock assessments, with a mandate of stock assessments no less frequently than every 3 years; and, stock assessments should occur at least every 2 to 3 years without any further delays.

Response: Because of the time necessary to modify management measures consistent with stock assessments, NMFS is finalizing measures that increase the amount of time between stock assessments to allow existing or forthcoming measures to be in place and have an effect on the population before the next assessment takes place. In 2003, NMFS adopted the SEDAR process for completing shark stock assessments at the request of industry, environmentalists, and academics. This process increases the time necessary to complete a stock assessment because it entails three workshops where data are reviewed, stock assessment models are run, and results are reviewed by an outside panel. Since this process alone may take over a year to complete, conducting assessments every 2 to 3 years is not practical. Allowing stock assessments to be conducted at least once every five years should allow research suggested by the last assessment to be completed before the next assessment is done, thus providing the necessary data for future assessments. It should also allow management measures, which need to be in place for several years to have an effect, to begin to achieve management objectives before a new assessment is done. For instance, the last stock assessment, which was completed in 2006, included data through 2004. NMFS is currently developing management measures based on that assessment, and those new management measures would be in place 30 days after publication of this rule. If the next stock assessment is conducted in 2009 (3 years from 2006), and includes data up through 2007 or 2008, the new management measures would not have had time to take effect as they would not have been in place for the time series of data used for a 2009 assessment. Decreasing the frequency to at least once every five years would result in the next assessment occurring no later than 2011, which could consider data up through 2009 and data collected under the new management measures.

Comment 5: The Georgia Coastal Resources Division believes that while conducting assessments every 2–3 years is too short for an accurate assessment, conducting stock assessments every five years is also too frequent for the rebuilding timeframes necessary for the concerned species and to evaluate the effects of management.

Response: Alternative 7 changes the current process outlined in the 1999 FMP by requiring stock assessments for sharks at least every five years instead of every two to three years. Stock assessments could occur more frequently; however, according to NMFS' policy adequate stock assessments are required at least once every five years. This timeframe ensures that NMFS can incorporate new data, use the best available data, and test the effectiveness of management measures. Waiting more than five years to conduct an assessment could lead to the need for greater changes leading to more uncertainty in the status of the stock and effectiveness of management.

11. Research Fishery/Preferred Alternative

Comment 1: NMFS should not finalize the proposed preferred alternative suite 4. The sandbar shark quota should be spread over 40 50 vessels making 1–2 trips annually rather than 5–10 vessels making more trips.

Response: The final action strikes a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and stop overfishing on depleted stocks while minimizing the severity of negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these

measures. NMFS intends to address vital research concerns via the shark research fishery. By allowing a limited number of historical participants to continue harvesting sharks, NMFS ensures that data for stock assessments and life history samples will continue to be collected. The final action also allows a small pool of individuals to continue to collect revenues from sharks as they have in the past. Increasing the number of vessels included in the shark research fishery would simply provide a much smaller benefit for a larger pool of individuals. Furthermore, having fewer vessels involved in the research fishery ensures less variation among vessels and also maintains more consistent sampling protocols. Fewer vessels in the research fishery would also allow each vessel to make more sets targeting sandbar sharks throughout the year and within each region rather than a larger number of vessels only making one or two trips in a particular region/season. The selection process will take place each year in order to maximize the number of potential participants.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments on research fishery vessel selection. These comments included: NMFS should select vessels based on a fisherman's income from the shark industry; NMFS should consider if a fisherman has helped with research in the past and consider whether or not the researchers had a positive experience; NMFS should consider any past violations, and if a vessel is conducive to research (i.e., enough deck space); captains and crew should have an understanding of why the research is being done, an understanding of the costs associated with the research, the ability to fish in multiple regions, and the ability to carry observers; past participation in the observer program and shark fishery should be considered; NMFS should create a point system based on criteria for selection of vessels and if there are more than 5–10 vessels, then a lottery should be used; NMFS should administer the research fishery much like they do the EFP program; the shark research fishery should only include directed shark permit holders; NMFS should increase the number of vessels in the research fishery and decrease the amount of sandbars each vessel may land; observer coverage should still happen within the research fishery; NMFS needs to provide clarification as to how vessels will be selected to participate in the shark research fishery included in the preferred alternative; and who will pick the fishermen for the research fishery?

Response: Applications and permits for the shark research fishery will be administered through the HMS Exempted Fishing Permit program. The HMS Management Division will coordinate with NMFS scientists to determine research objectives. NMFS will publish an annual notice in the **Federal Register** that describes the expected research objectives, number of vessels needed, selection criteria, and the application deadline. Requested information could include, but is not limited to, name and address, permit information, number of expected trips to collect sharks, regions where fishing activities would occur, vessels employed, and gear used. NMFS will review all complete applications and rank vessels according to the ability of the vessel to meet research objectives, fish in the specified regions and seasons, carry a NMFS approved observer, and meet other criteria as published in the **Federal Register** notice. Establishing a point system or a lottery for selection of vessels may be considered as a means of selecting among qualified vessels interested in participating in a shark research fishery. NMFS will include the appropriate types of permit holders in the shark research fishery as determined by the research objectives on an annual basis.

Comment 3: NMFS should allow vessels participating in the research fishery and collecting data to make the most of what they catch.

Response: Non-prohibited sharks landed in the shark research fishery can be sold by fishermen. NMFS-approved observers onboard vessels in the shark research fishery will be authorized to collect any and all samples from any specimens retained during fishing activities to fulfill research goals.

Comment 4: Quota for the research fishery should be equally distributed geographically.

Response: NMFS will consider the geographic distribution of vessels selected to participate in the shark research fishery to reflect traditional participation by vessels targeting sharks and to ensure that data are maintained for future stock assessments. Further, equal geographic distribution will allocate economic benefits to all regions affected by measures in the final rule and ensure that samples are collected from sandbar and other species of sharks throughout their geographic range.

Comment 5: NMFS should clearly state how the quota for sandbar sharks will be calculated.

Response: The sandbar shark quota was determined by the TAC recommended by the sandbar shark stock assessment for the species to rebuild by 2070. The available quota for commercial shark fishermen participating in the shark research fishery (116.6 mt dw) was determined based on the TAC while considering other sources of sandbar shark mortality in recreational fisheries and dead discards that occur in other fisheries. This quota will be reduced to 87.9 mt dw through the end of 2012. Additional detail on these calculations may be found in Appendices A and C of the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Comment 6: Is NMFS going to provide flexibility regarding when and where vessels fish?

Response: Research vessels will have some flexibility with regard to timing of trips subject to the objectives and needs of the research fishery. Vessels selected for, and fishing under, the auspices of the shark research permit will be required to take a NMFS-approved observer on all trips. Therefore, observer availability may limit timing of individual trips by vessels. Similarly, NMFS intends the quota available for the shark research fishery to last throughout the year so that samples are collected from vessels fishing in all regions and seasons. As such, NMFS may not place observers on all trips that vessel operators of qualified vessels request to ensure that the sandbar research and the non-sandbar LCS research quotas, neither of which have regions, are available throughout the year. The number of available trips targeting sharks will be dependant on retention limits, success of other vessels targeting sharks, available quota, and other considerations.

Comment 7: NMFS received several comments on research fishery goals and science, including: NMFS should describe its data and research needs; a research plan needs to be developed; a research plan should be devised first before the vessels/fishermen are selected; and the design of the sandbar-oriented research fishery requires scientific input and oversight in order to fulfill a research mission.

Response: The research goals and objectives for the shark research fishery are being developed with NMFS scientists. Research objectives may vary from year-to-year, depending on scientific needs. Several research needs were identified by the peer-reviewers during the LCS stock assessment in 2006 and provide the basis for the shark research fishery goals for 2008, as outlined in the FEIS. Available data on LCS are also presented in the data workshop summary report which is located on the SEDAR website: (*http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar__Workshops.jsp?*

WorkshopNum'11). Each year, the objectives will be published and made available to the public in conjunction with the **Federal Register** notice that solicits applications from fishermen interested in participating in the shark research fishery. Research topics may include, but are not limited to: target and bycatch rates using circle and J-hooks with unique bait combinations; sandbar age at first maturity and maturity ogive (which is a description of the proportion of the individuals that are mature at a given age); reducing bycatch rates of protected resources and prohibited sharks; and, life history of coastal sharks.

Comment 8: NMFS received several comments about which permit holders should be able to participate in the shark research fishery, including: the research fishery should include CHB permit holders and NMFS should not allow incidental permit holders to apply for the research fishery.

Response: The research fishery might include any types of HMS permits, including CHB permits, depending on the research objectives for a given year. These objectives, and the types of vessels that will be considered, will be published annually in advance of research activities so that fishermen with the appropriate permits may apply.

Some of the objectives for the research fishery are to continue to collect sandbar shark landings data to ensure consistent time-series data for future stock assessments and to answer specific research questions concerning shark life history and mechanisms to reduce bycatch, among others. Incidental permit holders have contributed to limited landings of sandbar sharks in the past; therefore, some landings data for sandbar sharks from incidental permit holders in the shark research fishery may be warranted.

Comment 9: NMFS should not implement a research fishery because it will take quota away from U.S. fishermen.

Response: Quota will not be taken away from U.S. fishermen as a result of the shark research fishery; however, a reduced quota consistent with the recommended TAC will be implemented in this final rulemaking. All of the available sandbar shark quota will be harvested in the shark research fishery. Interested U.S. fishermen will have the opportunity to apply for, and participate in, this fishery which will allow fishermen to harvest and sell sandbar sharks.

Comment 10: The research fishery should be limited in its first year (maybe 25–percent of the sandbar quota) so NMFS could figure out how the research fishery process would work. For the rest of the fishery, fishermen could then land some sandbars.

Response: There is a limited amount of sandbar shark quota available compared to previous years because NMFS is implementing a TAC and commercial sandbar quota that are consistent with the 2005/2006 sandbar shark stock assessment. Overharvests of sandbar sharks from 2006 and 2007 must also be accounted for, resulting in an adjusted commercial sandbar quota of 87.9 mt dw between 2008–2012. Allocating a small portion of this reduced quota to fishermen outside the shark research fishery would reduce the quota available for the research fishery, limiting NMFS' ability to achieve research objectives.

Comment 11: There is an inconsistency in alternative suite 4 regarding the number of vessels that would be allowed to participate in the research fishery. In Chapter 2, it was stated that ''[NMFS] is not certain regarding the number of vessels that may participate in the shark research fishery'' (pg 2-8), yet in Chapter 4 (pg 4-77), it states ''NMFS scientists and managers would select a few vessels (i.e., 5-10) each year to conduct the prescribed research.''

Response: NMFS is not certain of the exact number of vessels that would be selected for the research fishery. The number of vessels selected depends on research objectives, the number of vessels that qualify to participate in the shark research fishery, and quota available. Inclusion of five to ten vessels in the draft documents associated with the proposed rule provided the public with an estimate of how many vessels may be needed, given historical retention limits and proposed commercial quotas, for the shark research fishery.

Comment 12: The Georgia Department of Coastal Resources supports alternative suite 4 but thinks that unclassified sharks should be grouped as ridgeback and non-ridgeback.

Response: NMFS proposed counting unclassified sharks as sandbar sharks in the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP to provide an incentive for shark dealers to properly identify the sharks they purchase to the species level. Since the commercial quota for sandbar sharks is the lowest, NMFS had proposed an approach that would ensure that overfishing of sandbar sharks did not occur by providing an incentive for shark dealers to properly identify what they purchase and not list sharks as unclassified. However, NMFS is concerned that too many unclassified sharks being counted as sandbar sharks may fill the sandbar quota and close the shark research fishery prematurely. NMFS will use observer reports from outside the research fishery to determine species/complex (i.e., non-sandbar LCS, SCS, pelagic sharks, sandbar sharks) from which the unclassified sharks should be deducted. This should result in unclassified sharks being counted from a more appropriate assemblage than assuming all unclassified sharks are sandbar sharks and may result in the shark research fishery staying open for a longer period of time.

Comment 13: NMFS should implement alternative suite 4 because it will greatly improve data collection prior to the next SEDAR for LCS. It will help re-analyze the life history of sandbar sharks, especially.

Response: NMFS prefers alternative suite 4 because it implements a shark research fishery that should provide a limited number of fishermen with the economic incentive to collect valuable scientific data on sharks for NMFS. NMFS will attain information from this research that will help future stock assessments fill in some of the data gaps that previous stock assessments have identified.

Comment 14: Alternative suite 4 allows fishing to continue for shark species without having adequate information to responsibly do so. NMFS should limit shark fishing activities until the status of remaining (all sharks but sandbar, dusky, porbeagle) sharks has been determined.

Response: NMFS is implementing measures that should reduce fishing mortality of sharks significantly while collecting data for future stock assessments. Without this data, NMFS' ability to conduct future stock assessments would be hampered. Currently, NMFS and other collaborating fishery management entities have completed stock assessments for all the shark species that have ample data available.

Comment 15: NMFS should not implement a lethal sandbar research fishery. NMFS should implement a tag and release research fishery.

Response: It is not possible to gather all the necessary biological samples, including reproductive organs and vertebrae, without some shark mortality. Commercial fishermen also need some incentive to participate in the shark research fishery as no other compensation would be provided. Therefore, the shark research fishery will allow data collection and the sale of animals collected to reduce dead discards and waste.

Comment 16: NMFS should address bycatch in alternative suite 4. This alternative suite is not adequate to ensure the recovery of depleted sandbar and dusky sharks.

Response: This final action should ensure that fishing effort targeting sandbar sharks and non-sandbar LCS is reduced, consistent with stock assessment recommendations. This reduction in fishing effort should result in reductions in bycatch and target catch. Landings of sandbar sharks are expected to decrease by 80–percent. Discards of dusky sharks are expected to decrease by 74–percent. Modifications to retention limits, quotas, and authorized species in commercial and recreational fisheries are expected to decrease bycatch and landings of target species to a level that is consistent with recommendations of the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment and provides a mechanism for rebuilding of sandbar and dusky sharks.

Comment 17: Alternative suite 4 could shift effort to SCS and pelagics.

Response: Fishing effort directed at SCS and pelagics may increase; however, these quotas are traditionally not fully utilized and are not being modified at this time with the exception of porbeagle sharks. The commercial quota for porbeagle sharks is being established, based on historical commercial landings, to prevent fishing effort from increasing while the stock is being rebuilt. Should fishing effort increase to the extent that the best available science indicates overfishing is occurring or stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition, NMFS will take additional action.

Comment 18: The management measures in alternative suite 4 will not adequately prevent the quota overharvests that have historically occurred within this fishery.

Response: Maintaining 100–percent observer coverage in the shark research fishery should enable NMFS to monitor landings in the shark research fishery in near real-time, reducing the likelihood of overharvests. Reducing retention limits outside the research fishery should reduce the number of non-sandbar LCS individual vessels may land each trip, which should prevent directed permit holders from targeting non-sandbar LCS. Instead, directed permit holders are anticipated to incidentally land non-sandbar LCS while they target other species. These measures, coupled with the fact that sandbar shark retention will be prohibited outside the research fishery, may reduce the number of overall trips landing sharks. Lastly, ensuring that shark dealer reports are received by NMFS within ten days of the 15th or 1st of every month should provide NMFS with the ability to provide more frequent landings updates and close the fishery if necessary to avoid overharvests.

12. Comments on Other Alternative Suites and Management Measures

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments on the status quo alternative (alternative suite 1), including: NMFS should maintain the status quo; and NMFS should implement different measures because the status quo clearly is not working and should be abandoned.

Response: NMFS chose not to select the status quo alternative as the preferred alternative because it does not end overfishing or implement rebuilding plans for overfished stocks as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4, with minor modifications based on further analysis and public comment, because it implements quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and end overfishing of several shark species. The final action maximizes scientific data collection by implementing a limited research fishery for sandbar sharks with 100–percent observer coverage. It also mitigates some of the significant economic impacts that are necessary and expected under all alternative suites to reduce fishing mortality as prescribed by recent stock assessments. Thus, the final action strikes a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and end overfishing of depleted stocks while minimizing the negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments on alternative suite 2, including: NMFS should not implement alternative suite 2 because it does not allow ILAP (Incidental Limited Access Permit) holders to land sandbar sharks; NMFS should implement alternative suite 2 with the caveats that porbeagle sharks be authorized for recreational fishermen and sandbars should be allowed on PLL gear; alternative suite 2 is more protective of sandbar sharks than preferred Alternative 4.

Response: NMFS did not prefer alternative suite 2 because incidental permit holders would not be able to land any sharks, which could result in excessive dead discards. There would also be an increased reporting burden for shark dealers, which could result in negative economic impacts for shark dealers.

Under alternative suite 2, porbeagle sharks would be added to the prohibited list for commercial and recreational fishing because porbeagle sharks were determined to be overfished based on the 2005 Canadian stock assessment. In addition, porbeagle sharks often look similar to other prohibited species (i.e., white sharks). Therefore, placing porbeagle sharks on the prohibited species list would prohibit landings and help rebuild this overfished species. It may also stop commercial and recreational landings of other look-alike shark species, such as white sharks, which are also prohibited.

Alternative suite 2 is not more protective of sandbar sharks than alternative suite 4 (the final action). In fact, it could result in more sandbar shark discards compared to alternative suite 4 (43.2 mt dw compared to 13.1 mt dw). In addition, allowing directed shark permit holders to fish for sandbar sharks with PLL gear, especially in the mid-Atlantic closed area, could increase discards and overall mortality of dusky sharks. Thus, sandbar sharks would be prohibited on PLL gear under alternative suite 2 to offer dusky sharks more protection. NMFS estimated that prohibiting the retention of sandbar sharks on PLL gear under alternative suite 2 could reduce dusky discards to 8.6 mt dw per year.

This final action also reduces quotas and retention limits to rebuild depleted shark stocks and end overfishing of several shark species, while minimizing regulatory discards. In addition, the final action should allow for the collection of fishery dependent data for future stock assessments and biological samples for shark research, while also allowing a few shark fishermen to continue to fish and generate revenues from shark landings as they have in the past.

Comment 3: NMFS received several comments regarding alternative suite 3, including: NMFS should support a year-round incidental fishery where all participants could keep a few sharks (including sandbars) to avoid dead discards; NMFS should eliminate the directed shark permit; if NMFS allowed a bycatch industry only, prices for meat might increase because there would be a consistent quantity of sharks year-round; alternative suite 3 is best for retention limits; NMFS should support a revised alternative suite 3 with current reporting requirements and no restrictions for recreational fishermen, except the current species limitations.

Response: Positive ecological impacts would likely be more pronounced for some species under the final action (preferred alternative suite 4) compared to alternative suite 3 because discards should be lower under alternative suite

Comment 16: NMFS should address bycatch in alternative suite 4. This alternative suite is not adequate to ensure the recovery of depleted sandbar and dusky sharks.

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Response: Fishing effort directed at SCS and pelagics may increase; however, these quotas are traditionally not fully utilized and are not being modified at this time with the exception of porbeagle sharks. The commercial quota for porbeagle sharks is being established, based on historical commercial landings, to prevent fishing effort from increasing while the stock is being rebuilt. Should fishing effort increase to the extent that the best available science indicates overfishing is occurring or stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition, NMFS will take additional action.

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Response: NMFS chose not to select the status quo alternative as the preferred alternative because it does not end overfishing or implement rebuilding plans for overfished stocks as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4, with minor modifications based on further analysis and public comment, because it implements quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and end overfishing of several shark species. The final action maximizes scientific data collection by implementing a limited research fishery for sandbar sharks with 100–percent observer coverage. It also mitigates some of the significant economic impacts that are necessary and expected under all alternative suites to reduce fishing mortality as prescribed by recent stock assessments. Thus, the final action strikes a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and end overfishing of depleted stocks while minimizing the negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments on alternative suite 2, including: NMFS should not implement alternative suite 2 because it does not allow ILAP (Incidental Limited Access Permit) holders to land sandbar sharks; NMFS should implement alternative suite 2 with the caveats that porbeagle sharks be authorized for recreational fishermen and sandbars should be allowed on PLL gear; alternative suite 2 is more protective of sandbar sharks than preferred Alternative 4.

Response: NMFS did not prefer alternative suite 2 because incidental permit holders would not be able to land any sharks, which could result in excessive dead discards. There would also be an increased reporting burden for shark dealers, which could result in negative economic impacts for shark dealers.

Under alternative suite 2, porbeagle sharks would be added to the prohibited list for commercial and recreational fishing because porbeagle sharks were determined to be overfished based on the 2005 Canadian stock assessment. In addition, porbeagle sharks often look similar to other prohibited species (i.e., white sharks). Therefore, placing porbeagle sharks on the prohibited species list would prohibit landings and help rebuild this overfished species. It may also stop commercial and recreational landings of other look-alike shark species, such as white sharks, which are also prohibited.

Alternative suite 2 is not more protective of sandbar sharks than alternative suite 4 (the final action). In fact, it could result in more sandbar shark discards compared to alternative suite 4 (43.2 mt dw compared to 13.1 mt dw). In addition, allowing directed shark permit holders to fish for sandbar sharks with PLL gear, especially in the mid-Atlantic closed area, could increase discards and overall mortality of dusky sharks. Thus, sandbar sharks would be prohibited on PLL gear under alternative suite 2 to offer dusky sharks more protection. NMFS estimated that prohibiting the retention of sandbar sharks on PLL gear under alternative suite 2 could reduce dusky discards to 8.6 mt dw per year.

This final action also reduces quotas and retention limits to rebuild depleted shark stocks and end overfishing of several shark species, while minimizing regulatory discards. In addition, the final action should allow for the collection of fishery dependent data for future stock assessments and biological samples for shark research, while also allowing a few shark fishermen to continue to fish and generate revenues from shark landings as they have in the past.

Comment 3: NMFS received several comments regarding alternative suite 3, including: NMFS should support a year-round incidental fishery where all participants could keep a few sharks (including sandbars) to avoid dead discards; NMFS should eliminate the directed shark permit; if NMFS allowed a bycatch industry only, prices for meat might increase because there would be a consistent quantity of sharks year-round; alternative suite 3 is best for retention limits; NMFS should support a revised alternative suite 3 with current reporting requirements and no restrictions for recreational fishermen, except the current species limitations.

Response: Positive ecological impacts would likely be more pronounced for some species under the final action (preferred alternative suite 4) compared to alternative suite 3 because discards should be lower under alternative suite

Response: NMFS does not believe that closing the entire shark fishery, or establishing a catch and release only fishery, is warranted at this time. In implementing the final action, NMFS is following the recommendations of these latest stock assessments and taking significant steps in this amendment to rebuild overfished sharks, reduce fishing mortality, and allow shark species to rebuild while minimizing economic impacts and achieving optimum yield. While alternative suite 5 would have the most positive ecological impacts for sharks, protected resources, and essential fish habitat (EFH) of the alternative suites considered in this document, closing the Atlantic shark fishery would also incur unnecessary economic impacts on U.S. shark fishermen, shark dealers, shark tournament operators, and others involved in supporting industries. There are numerous species of shark that are not overfished or experiencing overfishing, such as the Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks, and, therefore, a full closure of the shark fishery is not warranted at this time. Furthermore, by closing the shark fishery, NMFS would lose a valuable source of fishery dependent data (through logbooks and the shark BLL observer program) and biological samples that are essential for future shark stock assessments. Other alternative suites considered by NMFS would strike a balance between ending overfishing and allowing overfished shark stocks to rebuild and allowing some retention of sharks to meet the economic needs of the shark fishing community.

Comment 7: NMFS should reconsider a ban on BLL gear to reduce landings/mortality of sandbar and dusky sharks. The argument that more participants will transfer fishing effort to the gillnet fisheries for sharks is unpersuasive.

Response: BLL gear is the primary gear used to harvest sharks by shark permit holders and to target non-HMS (i.e., snapper-grouper, reef fish, and tilefish). Many shark permit holders also maintain permits in these other non-HMS fisheries. Banning retention of sharks caught with BLL gear to reduce landings and mortality of sandbar and dusky sharks could result in regulatory discards of sharks because vessels deploying BLL gear in these other fisheries would have to discard all incidentally caught sharks in the pursuit of other non-HMS species with BLL gear. In addition, by banning BLL gear for sharks, sharks could only be harvested by gillnet gear, rod and reel, or PLL gear. Given concerns of protected species interactions in both the PLL and gillnet fisheries, NMFS concluded that it would not be appropriate to redistribute shark BLL effort into these fisheries. Therefore, NMFS is not banning BLL gear for sharks at this time.

Comment 8: NMFS should analyze an alternative suite that banned commercial shark fisheries without restricting the recreational shark fishery to lessen economic impact, overall.

Response: NMFS did not analyze a closure of only the commercial shark fishery, while allowing a recreational shark fishery to continue, due to concerns over equity to different sectors. National Standard 4 of the MSA requires that allocation of fishery resources be fair and equitable to all fishermen. Since shark species that are overfished and experiencing overfishing are caught both in the commercial and recreational fisheries, NMFS considered management measures that applied to both sectors that would help rebuild shark stocks and end overfishing. Additionally, since commercial fishermen may sell shark products where recreational fishermen cannot, closing the commercial shark sector could have the largest economic impact. There are also numerous species of shark that are not overfished or experiencing overfishing, and therefore do not warrant a full closure of the commercial or recreational Atlantic shark fishery at this time. Furthermore, by closing the shark fishery, NMFS would lose a valuable source of fishery dependent data (through logbooks and the shark observer programs) that would limit future shark stock assessments. Therefore, NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4.

Comment 9: NMFS should not establish a small research fishery because it would benefit few and disadvantage most of the shark fishermen. Everyone should get a chance at the quota, either through ITQs, or by having NMFS open up the fishery on January 1 every year and allowing all fishermen to catch sharks until the quota has been filled.

Response: NMFS is implementing the final action to allow for the collection of scientific data with the sandbar shark quota while at the same time allowing a few fishermen to have some economic benefit from the sale of sharks and shark products. Spreading the sandbar shark quota among all fishermen with shark permits would not foster sandbar shark research. While NMFS agrees that ITQs may be beneficial to fishermen, it would take NMFS several years to implement an ITQ system. NMFS is required to end overfishing and implement rebuilding plans for depleted shark stocks under the strict timeframe specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Due to the complexities and time needed to develop and implement ITQs, the time period mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not allow sufficient time to establish an IFQ or LAPP for sharks. However, NMFS may consider developing an IFQ or LAPP for sharks, as well as other HMS, in the future.

Comment 10: The Georgia Coastal Resources Division requests that NMFS include an alternative that would eliminate gillnets because of their large bycatch.

Response: In the past, shark gillnet fishermen have had 100–percent observer coverage during the Atlantic Right Whale calving season and approximately 30–percent observer coverage during the rest of the year; with observers documenting all bycatch on observed trips. Based on this observer data, compared to other gear types, such as PLL gear, gillnet gear has relatively low bycatch, with finfish bycatch ranging from 1.3 to 13.3–percent and observed sea turtle and marine mammal bycatch of less than 0.1–percent. Given the reduction in trip limits as a result of this amendment, and the four to six vessels that currently use strike or drift gillnet gear for sharks, NMFS does not believe there would be a significant increase in shark gillnet fishing pressure in the future and, therefore, NMFS does not feel it is appropriate to eliminate gillnets as an authorized gear at this time.

Comment 11: None of the suites completely represent the interests of the fishery.

Response: The alternative suites represent a range of management measures derived from scoping and public comment that could be considered based on stock assessments. NMFS assessed the impacts of the alternative suites, reviewed all public comments, and utilized the best available data to make a final analysis. NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4 because it implements quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and stop overfishing of several shark species. Alternative suite 4 maximizes scientific data collection by implementing a limited research fishery for sandbar sharks with 100–percent observer coverage. It also mitigates some of the significant economic impacts that are necessary and expected under all alternative suites to reduce fishing mortality as prescribed by recent stock assessments. Ultimately, the final action strikes a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and stop overfishing of depleted stocks while minimizing the negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures.

Comment 12: We are concerned about wasteful discards under the proposed alternatives. NMFS should encourage responsible and targeted fishing by providing incentives for fishermen who can fish without discards or minimal discards.

Response: NMFS believes that the reduced trip limits (which is approximately one quarter of the current trip limit for directed fishermen under the status quo) and the prohibition on retention of sandbar sharks outside the research fishery will likely result in directed fishermen no longer targeting non-sandbar LCS. Currently, most of the discards of dusky, sandbar, and other shark species come from the directed shark fishery. The only directed shark fishing that could occur under the final action would be within the research fishery. Thus, under the final action where most fishermen would target other species and only incidentally catch non-sandbar LCS, NMFS does not anticipate excessive shark discards. For instance, based on shark BLL observer program data, on average, non-shark BLL trips caught one sandbar shark per trip and 12 non-sandbar LCS. The retention limits of 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed permit holders could allow fishermen to keep incidentally caught non-sandbar LCS as they target other species. In addition, these non-shark trips typically have much shorter soak times (2–3 hours) compared to shark trips (12–14 hour soak times). Thus, it is estimated that most sandbar bycatch could be released alive since they would be released from longline gear in a relatively short period of time.

13. Science

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments regarding the rebuilding timeframe for sandbar sharks stating that NMFS should take a more precautionary approach rather than the maximum rebuilding timeframe of 70 years for sandbar sharks and that NMFS should consider a total ban on sandbar shark landings in all fisheries and an accelerated rebuilding timeframe of 38 years.

Response: The 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment discussed three rebuilding scenarios, including: rebuilding timeframe under no fishing; a TAC corresponding to a 50-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070; and a TAC corresponding to a 70-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070. Under no fishing, the stock assessment estimated that sandbar sharks would rebuild in 38 years. Under the NS 1 guidelines, if a species requires more than 10 years to rebuild, even in the absence of fishing mortality, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward by one mean generation time. Thus, NMFS added a generation time (28 years) to the target year for rebuilding sandbar sharks. The target year is the number of years it would take to rebuild the species in the absence of fishing, or 38 years for sandbar sharks. NMFS determined that the rebuilding time that would be as short as possible for sandbar sharks would be 66 years, taking into account the status and biology of the species and severe economic consequences on fishing communities. This would allow sandbar sharks to rebuild by 2070, given a rebuilding start year of 2004, the last year of the time series of data used in the 2005/2006 sandbar shark stock assessment. Since sharks are caught in multiple fisheries, to meet the rebuilding timeframe under a no fishing scenario, NMFS would have to implement restrictions in multiple fisheries to eliminate mortality, such as entirely shutting down multiple fisheries to prevent bycatch. If NMFS were to shut down the shark fishery completely, such action would likely have severe economic impacts on the fishing community and it would likely result in difficulties for Council-managed and Commission-managed fisheries, which often catch sharks as bycatch. In addition, prohibiting all fishing for sharks would impact NMFS' ability to collect data for future management.

The assessment assumed that fishing mortality from 2005 to 2007 would be maintained at levels similar to 2004 (the last year of data used in the stock assessment was from 2004) and that there would be a constant TAC between 2008 and 2070. Based in part on these assumptions, the assessment estimated that sandbars would have a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 220 mt ww (158 mt dw)/year and a 50–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 240 mt ww (172 mt dw)/year. As described previously, NMFS is using the 70–percent probability of rebuilding to ensure that the intended results of a management action are actually realized given the life history traits of sandbar sharks.

Comment 2: NMFS received a comment stating disagreement with the science that suggests there is a decline in sandbar sharks because the industry went over their quota by 300–percent in two weeks and therefore shark populations are healthy and abundant.

Response: NMFS used the best available science and a rigorous SEDAR assessment process to make the determination that sandbar sharks are overfished. Recent landings and higher catch rates do not necessarily indicate errors in the stock assessment, or that the sandbar shark populations have recovered. Catch rates alone do not tell the whole story, nor do percentages because they may be a reflection of lower quotas as described in further detail below. Most catch rate series show stable or unclear trends in recent years, but large declines occurred in the late 1970s and 1980s. There has been a commercial quota imposed on the shark fishery since 1993; stable landings in the last decade most likely reflect the effect of a commercial quota, not necessarily a stable population. For instance, commercial catch declined from 162,000 individuals in 1989 to 72,600 individuals in 1993 prior to implementation of the commercial quota. A 300–percent overharvest of LCS does not necessarily mean that more sharks were being caught or that it represents a healthy shark population; rather, it may be the result of significantly reduced LCS quotas due to overharvests in recent years and fishermen continuing to fish at effort levels similar to those set in 2003 and 2004.

Comment 3: NMFS received a comment stating that fishermen/dealers do not properly identify what they are catching, which may have impacted the results of the stock assessment.

Response: Since 1993, species-specific reporting has been required for shark fishermen and shark dealers. However, some fishermen and dealers still report sharks in more general terms as ''sharks'' or ''large coastal sharks''. These unclassified sharks have been problematic for shark stock assessments. Fisheries observers are trained in species-specific identification and report the correct species-level data. Thus, NMFS uses observer data to determine species composition of unclassified sharks for stock assessment purposes. In addition, recognizing that the accuracy of stock assessments and management can be improved with correct species identification, NMFS established mandatory shark identification workshops for shark dealers in regulations implementing the Consolidated HMS FMP. The objective of these workshops is to reduce the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks reported in the dealer reporting form, and to increase the accuracy of species-specific dealer reported information, quota monitoring, and the data used in stock assessments. These workshops train shark dealers to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses. NMFS is also developing an

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Response: NMFS believes that the reduced trip limits (which is approximately one quarter of the current trip limit for directed fishermen under the status quo) and the prohibition on retention of sandbar sharks outside the research fishery will likely result in directed fishermen no longer targeting non-sandbar LCS. Currently, most of the discards of dusky, sandbar, and other shark species come from the directed shark fishery. The only directed shark fishing that could occur under the final action would be within the research fishery. Thus, under the final action where most fishermen would target other species and only incidentally catch non-sandbar LCS, NMFS does not anticipate excessive shark discards. For instance, based on shark BLL observer program data, on average, non-shark BLL trips caught one sandbar shark per trip and 12 non-sandbar LCS. The retention limits of 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed permit holders could allow fishermen to keep incidentally caught non-sandbar LCS as they target other species. In addition, these non-shark trips typically have much shorter soak times (2–3 hours) compared to shark trips (12–14 hour soak times). Thus, it is estimated that most sandbar bycatch could be released alive since they would be released from longline gear in a relatively short period of time.

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Response: NMFS used the best available science and a rigorous SEDAR assessment process to make the determination that sandbar sharks are overfished. Recent landings and higher catch rates do not necessarily indicate errors in the stock assessment, or that the sandbar shark populations have recovered. Catch rates alone do not tell the whole story, nor do percentages because they may be a reflection of lower quotas as described in further detail below. Most catch rate series show stable or unclear trends in recent years, but large declines occurred in the late 1970s and 1980s. There has been a commercial quota imposed on the shark fishery since 1993; stable landings in the last decade most likely reflect the effect of a commercial quota, not necessarily a stable population. For instance, commercial catch declined from 162,000 individuals in 1989 to 72,600 individuals in 1993 prior to implementation of the commercial quota. A 300–percent overharvest of LCS does not necessarily mean that more sharks were being caught or that it represents a healthy shark population; rather, it may be the result of significantly reduced LCS quotas due to overharvests in recent years and fishermen continuing to fish at effort levels similar to those set in 2003 and 2004.

Comment 3: NMFS received a comment stating that fishermen/dealers do not properly identify what they are catching, which may have impacted the results of the stock assessment.

Response: Since 1993, species-specific reporting has been required for shark fishermen and shark dealers. However, some fishermen and dealers still report sharks in more general terms as ''sharks'' or ''large coastal sharks''. These unclassified sharks have been problematic for shark stock assessments. Fisheries observers are trained in species-specific identification and report the correct species-level data. Thus, NMFS uses observer data to determine species composition of unclassified sharks for stock assessment purposes. In addition, recognizing that the accuracy of stock assessments and management can be improved with correct species identification, NMFS established mandatory shark identification workshops for shark dealers in regulations implementing the Consolidated HMS FMP. The objective of these workshops is to reduce the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks reported in the dealer reporting form, and to increase the accuracy of species-specific dealer reported information, quota monitoring, and the data used in stock assessments. These workshops train shark dealers to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses. NMFS is also developing an

have included Mexican data of shark catches in the 2005/2006 LCS assessment.

Response: The 2005/2006 LCS complex, blacktip, and sandbar shark assessments did include detailed estimates of Mexican catches of blacktip and sandbar shark for the period of 1962–2000. Species composition in weight for different sharks taken in Mexican waters was estimated from the data given in several Mexican studies. These were then used to estimate the total weight and numbers caught of each species in each state. In addition, annual estimates from 2000–2004 of illegal catches of LCS from Mexican fishing vessels fishing in the U.S. EEZ were also included in the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessments.

Comment 9: NMFS received a comment stating that NMFS does not need to implement an amendment to the Consolidated HMS FMP until July 12, 2009.

Response: The mandate to rebuild overfished stocks is in section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Act states that for stocks identified as overfished or having overfishing occurring, the Secretary of Commerce or the relevant Council, as appropriate, shall prepare a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations for the fishery to end overfishing in the fishery and rebuild affected stocks within one year of that determination. NMFS satisfied that timing provision: sandbar sharks and dusky sharks were determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring on November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65086), and NMFS published the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP on July 27, 2007 (72 FR 41325). NMFS notes that the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act amended section 304(e) to include a two-year timing provision for preparation and implementation of actions, and the new management measures contained in 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act will be effective July 12, 2009.

Comment 10: NMFS received several comments regarding conflict of interest, including, 1) there was a conflict of interest at the LCS assessment workshop and review workshop; 2) several reviewers were biased against the industry; 3) the stock assessment is fixed to give a particular outcome based on pressures by conservationists, and; 4) there are conflicts of interest between NMFS employees and the American Elasmobranch Society which should invalidate all studies and assessments.

Response: NMFS does not believe that there was any conflict of interest on the part of participants or reviewers in the stock assessment process. The third workshop in the SEDAR process is the review workshop during which a panel of independent experts reviews the input data, assessment methods, and assessment products. This workshop is open to the public. The review workshop panel consists of a chair and two reviewers appointed by the CIE, an independent organization that provides independent, expert reviews of stock assessments and related work. The individuals appointed to the review panel can have no affiliation with any of the affected parties to the assessment, including government, industry, or advocacy groups. The review workshop chair is appointed by the CIE. Two additional reviewers, selected by the Shark SEDAR Coordinator for their expertise in shark stock assessments, were also included on the LCS shark complex review panel. The panel concluded that the data used in the analyses, the assessment approach, and overall conclusions of the assessment were valid. The panel provided no indication that there were any conflicts of interest during the assessment process.

The American Elasmobranch Society (AES) is a non-profit organization that seeks to advance the scientific study of living and fossil sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras, and the promotion of education, conservation, and wise utilization of natural resources. The Society holds annual meetings and presents research reports of interest to students of elasmobranch biology. Those meetings are held in conjunction with annual meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists each year at rotating North American venues. Membership in the AES is open to any person who has an interest in the object of AES. Members of AES include, but are not limited to, representatives from state and federal governmental and non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. NMFS employees are not restricted from participating in professional societies and, to the extent that participation aids in the collaboration, communication, and peer-reviews in the scientific endeavors of NOAA's mission, employees are encouraged to participate. While participating, employees must differentiate between when they are providing their own personal opinion or when they are acting as a representative of NOAA. Therefore, participation of NMFS employees in AES activities does not necessarily constitute a conflict of interest. In this case, there is no evidence from which NMFS can conclude that a conflict of interest occurred.

Comment 11: NMFS should assess the eleven prohibited LCS species individually and in a public forum and the shark stock assessments should break out all sharks by species, especially bull sharks, scalloped hammerhead sharks, and tiger sharks.

Response: NMFS continues to collect species-specific data in support of species-specific stock assessments. To date, NMFS has conducted individual stock assessments for dusky, sandbar, blacktip, Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, and bonnethead sharks. As additional biological and fishery-related data become available, NMFS will conduct other species-specific stock assessments.

Comment 12: NMFS possessed certain species-specific knowledge regarding blacktip sharks that it failed to produce for the assessment.

Response: NMFS has included all the available data that were presented at the data workshop and has not withheld or failed to produce relevant datasets. NMFS held a data workshop for the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment that was open to the public and requested that participants, including industry and environmental representatives, submit any relevant data or analysis in the form of working documents. During the assessment workshop, the assessment scientists determined the adequacy and appropriateness of the submitted data to be included in each assessment.

Comment 13: Why did the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment not assess sandbars as two separate populations, one in the Gulf of Mexico and one in the Atlantic similar to what was done for blacktip sharks?

Response: During the data workshop portion of the LCS stock assessment, the life history working group looked at multiple studies and data sources to summarize life history information such as stock definition, age, growth size at maturity, and mortality for sandbar and blacktip sharks that was then used in the stock assessments for each species. For sandbar sharks, after considering the available data, the working group decided that the stock definition should be the Western North Atlantic from southern New England to the Gulf of Mexico. Tagging studies suggest that one stock unit exists from Cape Cod south down the U.S. Atlantic coast and into the Gulf of Mexico, extending around the U.S. and Mexican portions of the Gulf of Mexico to the northern

Yucatan peninsula. Genetic studies conducted on specimens from Virginia waters and the Gulf of Mexico further support the existence of a single stock that utilizes the area of Cape Cod to the northern Yucatan peninsula. For blacktip sharks, conventional tagging evidence suggests little exchange between the U.S. Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Genetic heterogeneity and female philopatry also demonstrates multiple genetic reproductive stocks among blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Bight. Therefore, blacktip sharks were divided into two stocks: an Atlantic stock defined as extending from Delaware to the Straits of Florida, and a Gulf of Mexico stock designated as extending from the Florida Keys throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Comment 14: NMFS received a comment asking who the peer reviewers were for the 2006 dusky assessment.

Response: In order to preserve the integrity of the independent review process of stock assessments, NMFS does not provide the names of the peer reviewers, including those used for the dusky shark assessment.

Comment 15: NMFS received several comments regarding the continuation of shark data collection once Amendment 2 is implemented, asking how NMFS would conduct stock assessments with no data from fishermen, and stating that NMFS should obtain more data from the fishermen by placing scientists on fishing vessels.

Response: This final action will establish a small research fishery to harvest the entire commercial sandbar shark quota. Vessels operating within the shark research fishery can also retain non-sandbar LCS, SCS and pelagic sharks. These vessels will also have 100–percent observer coverage. Vessels operating outside of the shark research fishery will only be able to retain non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks. The vessels outside the shark research fishery will continue to be selected for observer coverage. Observers provide baseline characterization information, by region, on catch rates, species composition, catch disposition, relative abundance, and size composition within species for the large coastal and small coastal shark BLL fisheries. NMFS will use observer data as well as logbook and shark dealer data and fisheries independent data to conduct stock assessments in the future.

Comment 16: NMFS received a comment supporting stock assessments that occur in the United States and not those that occur in other countries.

Response: To date, the United States has not conducted a stock assessment on porbeagle sharks. NMFS has reviewed the Canadian stock assessment and found that it made full use of all fishery and biological information available and therefore deems it to be the best available science and appropriate to use for U.S. domestic management purposes. Canada has conducted stock assessments on porbeagle sharks in 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005. Reduced Canadian porbeagle quotas in 2002 brought the 2004 exploitation rate to a sustainable level. According to the 2005 recovery assessment report conducted by Canada, the North Atlantic porbeagle stock has a 70–percent probability of recovery in approximately 100 years if fishing mortality is less than or equal to 0.04. The Canadian assessment indicates that porbeagle sharks are overfished ($SSN_{2004}/SSN_{MSY} = 0.15 - 0.32$; SSN is spawning stock number and used as a proxy for biomass). However, the Canadian assessment indicates that overfishing is not occurring ($F_{2004}/F_{MSY} = 0.83$). Based on these results, NMFS determined that porbeagle sharks are overfished, but that overfishing is not occurring (71 FR 65086).

Comment 17: NMFS received a comment asking if shark migration patterns have been studied along with sea surface temperatures.

Response: Sea surface temperature is an important physical data parameter that is collected during investigations of shark migration patterns. The data workshop for the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment included several studies investigating the correlation of sea surface temperature and shark migration patterns. A summary of these studies and reference citations can be found in the SEDAR 11 final stock assessment report available on the HMS website at *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/hmsdocument__files/sharks.htm.*

Comment 18: Does NMFS have an idea of the status of common threshers? It seems that they are abundant.

Response: To date, NMFS has not conducted a species-specific stock assessment for thresher sharks and their status in the Atlantic Ocean is unknown. However, commercial landings data compiled from the most recent stock assessment documents indicate that approximately 307,291 lb dw of thresher sharks have been landed from 2000 to 2005. Recreational landings data obtained from the recreational landings database for HMS indicates approximately 8,000 thresher sharks have been harvested in the Atlantic HMS recreational shark fishery from 1999 to 2005.

Comment 19: NMFS should implement the status quo, Alternative 1, because this is the only viable option for Amendment 2 until the scientific issues that have been raised are addressed and resolved.

Response: As described in response to comments 5 and 10 in this section, NMFS disagrees that the results of the LCS assessment should be put on hold due to concerns raised about the scientific validity and impartiality of reviewers. NMFS has carefully reviewed and considered all public comments received on the assessment and determined that the assessment was appropriate, used the best scientific data available, and is scientifically valid. The 2005 Canadian porbeagle shark stock assessment, the 2006 dusky shark assessment, and the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment determined that porbeagle, dusky, and sandbar sharks are overfished. Overall, the status quo alternative, which would maintain the current annual LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw, in conjunction with the management measures mentioned above, would have negative ecological impacts on sandbar, dusky and porbeagle sharks, as well as protected resources and marine mammals. The social and economic impacts would likely be neutral because current fishing effort would remain the same in the short term. In the long term, as stocks continue to decline, profits may decrease as costs associated with finding and catching these depleted stocks increases. Management measures are needed to rebuild overfished stocks and prevent overfishing consistent with the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Therefore, maintaining the LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw would be inconsistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the recent LCS stock assessment that recommended a TAC of 158.3 mt dw for sandbar sharks in order for this species to rebuild by 2070. Current fishing effort, under the status quo alternative, would lead to continued overfishing of sandbar, porbeagle and dusky sharks, which would prevent these species from rebuilding in the recommended timeframe. As a result, rather than implementing this alternative, NMFS is implementing the quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and stop overfishing of several shark species while maximizing scientific data collection by implementing a limited research fishery for sandbar sharks. The final management measures also mitigate some of the significant economic impacts that are necessary and expected under all alternative suites 2 though 5 to reduce fishing mortality as prescribed by recent stock assessments. The final

management measures strike a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and stop overfishing of depleted stocks while minimizing the severity of negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures. By allowing a limited number of historical participants to continue to harvest sandbar sharks within the research fishery, NMFS ensures that data for stock assessments and life history samples would continue to be collected. Directed permit holders not selected to participate in the shark research fishery would still be authorized to land 33 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip and incidental permit holders would be authorized to land 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. This should limit the number of trips targeting non-sandbar LCS sharks; however, it should still afford the opportunity to keep non-sandbar LCS that are landed incidentally, preventing excessive discards.

Comment 20: The stock assessment is flawed because sandbar sharks do not occur west of Mobile, Alabama.

Response: The stock assessment represents the best available science and included all data that was presented at the Data Workshop for the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment. Included in the assessment are fishery independent shark surveys that were conducted from 1995–2005 from the NOAA Research Vessel Oregon II. The results of that survey can be found in LCS05–06–DW–27. This survey showed the capture of sandbar sharks in the Gulf of Mexico, including west of Mobile, Alabama (see Figure 4 within LCS05–06–DW–27).

14. National Standards

Comment 1: The proposal to prohibit blacktip sharks in the recreational fishery violates NS2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because the stock assessment determined that blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico are not overfished.

Response: NS2 requires that conservation and management measures be based upon the best scientific information available. NMFS believes that the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment constitutes the best available science. The 2005/2006 LCS complex, sandbar, and blacktip shark stock assessments were conducting using the SEDAR process. SEDAR is organized around three workshops. All of the workshops are open to the public to ensure that the assessment process is transparent. The review workshop panel consists of a chair and 2 reviewers appointed by the CIE, an independent organization that provides independent, expert reviews of stock assessments and related work. With regard to the LCS complex assessment, the review panel determined that the data utilized in the assessment were the best available for analysis at the time. For the sandbar shark assessment, the review panel concluded that the population model and resulting population estimates were the best possible given the available data. The review panel was also confident that the 2005/2006 sandbar shark assessment produced more reliable estimates of stock status than previous stock assessments because the SEDAR stock assessment resulted in a more thorough review at all stages of the process. For the blacktip shark assessment in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, the review panel determined that the data were treated appropriately, were adequate for the models used to assess the stocks and represented the best estimates of assessment information currently available.

In the proposed rule, NMFS proposed an authorized recreational species list that was limited to those species that are easy to identify or that could not be misidentified with other species. NMFS originally proposed to prohibit the retention of blacktip sharks because of the potential for misidentification with spinner sharks, but specifically asked for public comment on the proposed list of prohibited species. As a result, based on public comments received and because blacktip sharks are healthy in the Gulf of Mexico, NMFS is implementing an amended authorized shark species list in the recreational fishery. The amended list is based on readily identifiable characters such as the lack of an inter-dorsal ridge, and allows the landing of non-ridgeback LCS plus tiger sharks. This amended list adds blacktip, spinner, finetooth, porbeagle and bull sharks to the list of authorized species for recreational anglers in all regions.

Comment 2: NMFS violated NS4 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because the commercial fishery will be allowed to catch their TAC and the recreational fishery cannot catch the same species of sharks.

Response: NS4 requires that conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States, not between participants in different fisheries. The commenter is concerned about perceived discrepancies between allocations to the recreational versus commercial fisheries, which is not a NS4 issue. Based on public comments, NMFS is modifying the list of authorized species in the recreational shark fishery to address concerns expressed by certain states that prohibiting blacktip and other sharks would unfairly discriminate against the recreational fishery. This amended list more closely aligns with the authorized species in the commercial fishery. NMFS would continue to prohibit sandbar and silky sharks in the recreational fishery due to concerns of misidentification with dusky sharks and because sandbar sharks are overfished. However, most of the commercial sector will not be able to retain sandbar sharks unless fishermen participate in the shark research fishery. Thus, other than in the shark research fishery, NMFS is prohibiting the retention of sandbar sharks in both the commercial and recreational sectors.

Comment 3: NMFS violated NS8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because Port Aransas is a fishing community and was not treated as such in the analysis.

Response: NS8 requires that conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities. NMFS recognizes the importance of Port Aransas, TX and numerous other communities as fishing communities. A social impact and community profile assessment was completed for the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. While this community profile assessment did not focus on Port Aransas, TX, Chapter 9 of the Consolidated HMS FMP includes an analysis of the State of Texas as a whole and makes note of specific fishing communities within the state that are important to HMS fishing, including Port Aransas, TX. Because this analysis was recently completed, it was not repeated for the Draft EIS for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP; however, it was referred to in the Draft EIS for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. The Final EIS for Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP includes a recently completed report by MRAG Americas, Inc., and Jepson (2008) that provides updates to the social impact and community profile assessments for HMS dependent fishing communities. This report can be found in Appendix E and includes Port Aransas.

Comment 4: NMFS violated NS9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because all the proposed prohibited species will be

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Comment 4: NMFS violated NS9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because all the proposed prohibited species will be

released and some will die and, thus, bycatch will not be minimized.

Response: NS9 says that conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch. The reduced commercial shark quotas and retention limits being finalized in this rule are expected to greatly reduce bycatch of target and non-target species. Because of the reduced retention limits outside the research fishery, it is likely that fishermen will not target non-sandbar LCS. In addition, retention limits under the final management measures are such that fishermen targeting non-shark species should be able to retain incidentally caught non-sandbar LCS. Soak times in non-shark BLL and gillnet fisheries are also much shorter than commercial shark sets; these shorter soak times should increase post-release survival of sandbar sharks. Regulatory discards were taken into consideration when determining the quotas and retention limits of sandbar and non-sandbar sharks both inside and outside of the research fishery. In addition, commercial fishermen using BLL and PLL gear are required to have specified safe handling and release gear on board, which should help release shark bycatch in such a manner as to maximize post-release survival. In the recreational fishery, NMFS is modifying the list of authorized species. This amended list more closely aligns with the authorized species in the commercial shark fishery. NMFS intends to increase educational outreach to the recreational fishing sector to increase shark identification to avoid misidentification with prohibited species. Bycatch in the recreational fishery is also minimized because soak times are considerably less than those in commercial fisheries.

15. Economic Impacts

Comment 1: NMFS should consider an alternative suite that incorporates a ''phase out'' of the commercial shark industry. The present stock situation is untenable. Prolonged rebuilding periods are not acceptable. Managing a minimal yet unsustainable large coastal shark fishery violates NS1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The costs of management far outweigh the benefits to a small number of fishermen who target sharks commercially.

Response: NMFS did consider a suite in the Draft EIS that would have ended Atlantic commercial shark fishing, alternative suite 5. Under this proposed alternative, shark landings would be limited to research and the collection for public display via the HMS EFPs. Recreational fisheries would be catch and release only. However, after careful consideration of the other alternatives, this alternative suite was not selected.

Longer rebuilding periods are allowed under NS1 of Magnuson-Stevens Act when the following conditions specified in the NS 1 Guidelines (50 CFR 600.310(e)(4)(ii)(B)(*3*)):

> [i]f the lower limit is 10 years or greater, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward to the extent warranted by the needs of fishing communities....except that no such upward adjustment can exceed the rebuilding period calculated in the absence of fishing mortality, plus one mean generation time or equivalent period based on the species' life-history characteristics.

NMFS recognizes that the costs of managing the shark fishery relative to the level of future shark fishing activity will be high. However, there are non-monetary benefits associated with maintaining a limited commercial shark industry. These benefits include the ability to continue gathering fishery data, maintenance of industry knowledge regarding shark fishing practices, and other potential cultural and social benefits. The final action attempts to balance the economic needs of fishing communities with the recommendations of recent stock assessments. BLL and gillnet gear will continue to be deployed in other fisheries that interact with sharks. Setting a retention limit that allows fishermen to keep a portion of these fish without targeting non-sandbar LCS should minimize dead discards while discouraging targeting of non-sandbar LCS. Allocating the entire sandbar shark quota to a shark research fishery quota should result in collection of data that could improve future stock assessments and the development of management measures for the fishery.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments regarding an industry buyout/buyback. These comments include: the environmentalists should fund a buyout of the commercial shark fishery; NMFS should consider a buyout to provide financial relief for the shark fishermen that will be put out of business as a result of the preferred alternative; NMFS should buy all of the directed shark permits for $50,000 to $100,000 because NMFS sold them to fishermen and created this problem; the industry is not in favor of a 5–percent tax to come up with buyout money; a buyout plan aimed at removing longline and gillnet vessels from the shark fishery and other fisheries would reduce fishing pressure, reduce bycatch and protected species interactions, and would address NMFS' concern that further reducing shark landing quotas will result in redistribution of fishing effort into other equally harmful fisheries.

Response: NMFS recognizes that some participants of the Atlantic shark fishery expressed interest in reducing fishing capacity for sharks via some form of buyout program. Buyouts can occur via one of three mechanisms, including: through an industry fee, via appropriations from the United States Congress, and/or funding provided from any State or other public sources or private or non-profit organizations. NMFS cannot independently initiate a buyout. Because NMFS is unable to implement a buyout as a management option, a buyout plan is not proposed in this amendment, despite requests for consideration from the HMS Advisory Panel and other affected constituents.

The shark fishery did develop an industry ''business plan'' that examined options for a buyout, which is further described in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIS.

Comment 3: NMFS should look at data on the number of commercial permit holders by state and the socio-economic impacts of the proposed measures on these fishermen.

Response: NMFS examined the number of commercial permit holders by state. This information was presented in Table 9.1 of the Draft EIS. The socio-economic impacts of the preferred measures were analyzed in Chapters 6, 7, and 8 of the Draft EIS for Amendment 2.

Comment 4: NMFS received several comments concerning the potential for severe economic impacts associated with all of the alternatives considered (other than status quo). Comments indicated a concern that many fishermen may not be able to survive economically until the next stock assessment. One dealer for example saw a 75–percent decrease in revenue in 2007 because of restrictions. The lack of a shark season in 2008 could bring about a financial collapse of the industry. The industry is completely based on sandbar sharks.

Response: NMFS has estimated that the alternatives considered, including the no action alternative, would result in economic consequences to the shark fishery. The severity of the economic consequences varies by alternative suite, with alternative suite 5, the complete closure of the Atlantic shark fishery, having the greatest economic impact. The economic impacts of the various alternative suites are summarized in Table 7.5 of the EIS for Amendment 2.

NMFS acknowledges that dealer impacts could also be substantial and could vary significantly by dealer,

depending upon how important sharks are to their operations.

NMFS recognizes the importance of sandbar shark landings to the shark fishing sector. However, sandbar shark landings only comprised 30–percent of the estimated total value of the shark fishery in 2005 ($602,764 in sandbar shark meat and $1,181,803 in fins, versus a total shark fishery revenue of $6,027,516).

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to develop management measures to rebuild overfished shark stocks and prevent overfishing. The final action attempts to balance the economic needs of fishermen and fishing communities with this requirement.

Comment 5: NMFS should include an analysis of the negative economic impacts associated with prohibiting porbeagle sharks in shark tournaments, especially in New England. These tournaments have negligible impacts on porbeagle stocks. An example was provided regarding a tournament that has caught only 4 porbeagle sharks in the past 10 years.

Response: NMFS appreciates this additional information regarding the importance of porbeagle sharks in tournament fisheries. Additional information has been incorporated into the final EIS for Amendment 2 to further address the potential economic impacts of a prohibition of porbeagle landings. Based on public comments received, NMFS selected an alternative suite that permits the recreational retention of porbeagle sharks.

NMFS is reviewing existing data sources for recreational landings of porbeagle sharks. Efforts to expand recreational data collection may be necessary to improve information on porbeagle shark landings in recreational fisheries.

Comment 6: NMFS should specify what the $1.8 million fishery-wide economic impacts include: recreational impacts, commercial impacts, or both. Recreational impacts would be significant if sandbar, bull, and blacktip are not authorized to be landed in the recreational fishery. NMFS has grossly underestimated the impact to recreational fishermen in this proposal.

Response: The $1.8 million discussed for the final action is the estimated reduction in gross revenues from sandbar and non-sandbar LCS resulting from the proposed quota reductions to the commercial shark fishery. Impacts to the recreational shark fishing sector were also analyzed. For the final action, these impacts included: the negative economic impacts resulting from the reduced number of sharks that could be legally landed by recreational anglers, particularly pronounced in areas where blacktip sharks are frequently encountered. In addition, tournaments offering prize categories for sharks could also experience negative economic impacts as a result of not allowing six additional species to be retained in recreational fisheries. Due to a lack of information regarding the relative preferences of shark fishermen to retain shark species over practicing catch-and-release shark fishing, NMFS was unable to quantitatively estimate the economic impacts of the proposed recreational measures restricting the authorized list of species that could be retained.

The final action allows recreational anglers to harvest blacktip, finetooth, bull, spinner, and porbeagle sharks.

Comment 7: Proposed measures will result in a year-round fresh shark meat product. Inconsistent seasons are not good for prices and shark meat is currently $0.30/lb. because the market is flooded so quickly and then seasons are over so soon.

Response: NMFS recognizes that moving to one season for the shark fishery could alleviate some of the uncertainty in the market associated with varying shark seasons. Depending on the intensity of fishing effort at the beginning of the season, it is likely that the final action could result in a year-round fresh shark meat market. This could help improve the prices received for shark meat and help offset some of the negative economic impacts associated with this rule.

Comment 8: Dealers will not likely be interested in continuing to buy shark products when the proposed measures go into place.

Response: NMFS acknowledges that some dealers may opt to no longer participate in the shark fishery. However, the information available to NMFS indicates that several shark dealers already handle small quantities of shark products and, therefore, changes in the shark fishery are unlikely to cause them to change their business practices. Reduced domestic harvest of sandbar sharks could potentially increase the value of harvest in the future due to reduced supplies. Furthermore, having the season open for a longer period of time each year, subject to reduced retention limits, may enhance the domestic shark meat market and increase prices.

Comment 9: Closing fisheries increases the quantity of fisheries products imported into the United States and other countries do not have the conservation measures that are present in the United States.

Response: The United States imports modest quantities of shark fishery products. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the United States imported 459 mt of shark in 2006 with an estimated value of $3.41 million. In contrast, the United States exported 1597 mt of shark in 2006 estimated to be worth $6.17 million. The United States may be an important transshipment port for shark fins, which may be imported wet, and then processed and exported dried. The United States is, in fact, a net exporter of shark species. NMFS acknowledges that other countries may not have the same shark conservation measures as the United States.

Comment 10: Commenters suggested that NMFS should implement a retraining program for fishermen and families that are displaced by this action. Others suggested fishermen reconfigure their businesses towards providing tourism services.

Response: NMFS has worked with a number of other agencies/departments to explore programs that are available to fishermen and other businesses affected by fishery management measures. Some of these include retaining programs.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was created to create new jobs and retain existing jobs in economically stressed communities. Through a series of grant programs, the EDA helps distressed communities develop strategies to improve their own economic situation through a multifaceted cooperative effort. Most of the EDA activity affecting the fishing industry has been funded through the EDA's Public Works Program and the EDA's Economic Adjustment Program. The Public Works Program has funded port and harbor improvements. The Economic Adjustment Program helps communities adjust to serious changes in their economic situation, and proceeds from this program are generally used for organization, business development, revolving loan funds, infrastructure, and market research. Interested parties can learn more about these programs, including eligibility requirements and contact information, by visiting the EDA website: *http://www.eda.gov/*.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act provides funds to States and local substate grantees so they can help dislocated workers find and qualify for new jobs. It is part of a comprehensive approach to aiding workers who have lost their jobs that also includes provisions of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act and the Trade

Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The Consolidated HMS FMP only regulates fisheries in Federal waters.

Comment 2: In the ''old'' Magnuson-Stevens Act (before reauthorization), there was a section indicating that if NMFS reduces incomes by 13–percent, then fishermen are supposed to receive due compensation.

Response: The current Magnuson-Stevens Act has no such provision.

Comment 3: NMFS should allow vessel owners to keep sharks that are dead at haulback if observers are onboard the vessel.

Response: NMFS did not consider modifying this provision in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. Generally speaking, the observers are onboard to monitor fishing activities. It is the responsibility of the vessel operator and crew, not the responsibility of observer, to predict whether or not sharks caught during fishing activities would survive if released. All sharks that are not, or cannot be, possessed must be released in a manner that would maximize their chances of survival. Allowing dead sharks to be harvested only when observers are onboard could potentially put them in more of an enforcement role which is not the intent of the fisheries observer program. Furthermore, this might encourage fishermen to fish in a different manner when observers are onboard. Modifying the soak time or types of hooks and bait deployed to ensure that more sharks are dead at haulback would not provide the observer program with data that is representative of fishing behavior when observers are not present. Increasing the number of sharks that are harvested in this manner may have negative ecological impacts on shark populations.

Comment 4: NMFS should consider making video copies of the shark identification workshops, so that those who do not have the money to travel may watch the presentation.

Response: NMFS may consider alternative methods for shark dealers to renew their shark identification certificates as long as the original objectives of the identification workshops are met. Alternative methods may include, but are not limited to, renewing identification certificates via the Internet.

Comment 5: NMFS should manage all fish caught on BLL gear collectively, including grouper and tilefish. When fishing for sharks, we cannot keep snapper, yet we have a combined fishery. These should not be managed separately.

Response: The HMS Management Division is responsible for managing Atlantic sharks, tunas, billfish, and swordfish. Currently, Fishery Management Councils recommend management measures for grouper and tilefish to NMFS. The relevant Council or Councils depends upon the specific region(s) involved. NMFS may consider more cooperative management initiatives in the future, as necessary.

Comment 6: Will shark fishing be closed until this Amendment is implemented?

Response: Fishing for large coastal sharks will be closed through the second trimester. A final rule describing the seasons and quota for the first and second trimester of 2008 was published in the **Federal Register** on November 29, 2007 (72 FR 67580).

Comment 7: NMFS needs to realize that fishermen are still going to go fishing for other species year-round. As a result, fishermen are going to end up killing sharks and discarding them dead. Another fishery is going to get more pressure as a result of these measures because shark fishermen are not going to stop fishing.

Response: NMFS understands that participants in the shark fishery also participate in numerous other fisheries. Reductions in fishing mortality that result from this amendment will likely result in fishing effort shifting from the shark fishery to other fisheries in which participants maintain permits. Reduced retention limits and the fact that sandbar sharks will only be landed in the shark research fishery are expected to result in trips targeting other species. NMFS has devised retention limits and seasons such that fishermen targeting other non-shark species will be able to possess a limited number of non-sandbar LCS incidentally, minimizing the need to discard sharks dead.

Comment 8: NMFS should clarify what the gear limitations within the shark research fishery are and whether or not participants would be able to possess sandbar sharks if they have an observer onboard.

Response: Gear limitations within the shark research fishery will depend on annual research objectives. An objective of the shark research fishery is to continue to collect fishery-dependent data that reflects how the fishery operated historically. Therefore, BLL gear will likely be the predominant gear deployed. However, research objectives might also require participants to deploy alternative gear types to discern their feasibility and impacts on target and non-target catch. Vessels issued a shark research permit will only be able to possess sandbar sharks when they have a NMFS-approved observer onboard.

Comment 9: NMFS should not require fishermen to fill out a logbook when they only use dealer data. Instead of logbooks, NMFS should use carbon copies of trip tickets that are submitted to dealers.

Response: NMFS uses logbook data in addition to data collected from dealer reports. Logbooks provide vessel specific landings and effort data that are not reflected in shark dealer data. These data can be used by managers and scientists in a variety of ways to aid in managing and understanding the fishery. Sharks dealer data are used specifically for quota monitoring and stock assessments but are often combined and used with logbook data for other management purposes.

Comment 10: NMFS should consider reducing soak time as a means of reducing the number sandbar shark dead discards.

Response: NMFS has examined the regulation of soak times to reduce fishing mortality and dead discards, however, NMFS found that it would be extremely difficult to monitor and enforce soak times.

Comment 11: NMFS should consider placing observers on all vessels and letting all fishermen continue to fish for sharks. That is how NMFS will get accurate data.

Response: NMFS is requiring that observers are present on all trips within the shark research fishery. A limited number of vessels selected to participate in the research fishery will continue to able to fish for sharks, including sandbar sharks, subject to available quota. NMFS is also attempting to maintain adequate observer coverage outside the research fishery.

Comment 12: These measures will cause a large increase in dead discards, which equals wasted fish and wasted money.

Response: The final action effectively creates an incidental fishery for sharks. The allowance for incidental landings and seasons that are open longer than they have been historically should minimize a large increase in dead discards. Dead discards could potentially increase if there were a reduced retention limit or if the shark season were closed for extensive periods during which all sharks would be discarded at sea.

Comment 13: NMFS should consider physically enhancing habitat to protect these species.

Response: Habitat enhancement does not address removal of sharks. Existing fishing mortality levels for sandbar and dusky sharks indicate that these species

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Response: Habitat enhancement does not address removal of sharks. Existing fishing mortality levels for sandbar and dusky sharks indicate that these species

are experiencing overfishing and that the stocks have been overfished. Habitat enhancement was not considered in this action because, in isolation, it does not address overfishing or rebuilding of overfished stocks.

Comment 14: NMFS should require shark fishermen to take the shark dealer identification course.

Response: The public, including shark fishermen, is welcome to attend the shark identification courses provided by NMFS. It is currently voluntary for shark fisherman to participate in shark identification courses. NMFS wants to ensure that shark dealers are aware of how to properly identify sharks because NMFS uses information from shark dealer reports to monitor the quota during the fishing season. Further, shark dealer reports play a critical role in conducting stock assessments. NMFS may consider expanding the groups of participants required to complete these workshops in the future.

Comment 15: The Magnuson-Stevens Act says to rebuild overfished stocks by 2012. NMFS should not use rebuilding schedules that require hundreds of years.

Response: Longer rebuilding periods are allowed under NS1 of Magnuson-Stevens Act when the following conditions specified in the NS1 Guidelines are met, which is the case with the species that are being rebuilt in this amendment. The regulatory text at 50 CFR 600.310(e)(4)(ii)(B)(*3*) states:

> [i]f the lower limit is 10 years or greater, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward to the extent warranted by the needs of fishing communities....except that no such upward adjustment can exceed the rebuilding period calculated in the absence of fishing mortality, plus one mean generation time or equivalent period based on the species' life-history characteristics.

Comment 16: NMFS should not require the public to attend identification workshops for sharks when shark fishing will essentially be banned.

Response: While shark fishing will be substantially reduced under this Amendment, there will still be incidentally caught sharks. Accurate shark identification will be important for gathering information for future management.

Comment 17: Fishermen should be allowed to keep dead dusky sharks on haulback because discarding dead sharks is a waste.

Response: Dusky sharks are a prohibited species that must be released. NMFS has determined that dusky sharks are a prohibited species because their life history is not conducive to commercial or recreational fisheries targeting them. Dusky sharks are late-maturing and have very few offspring. Further, these species do not have high post release survival on longline gear. NMFS continues to discourage fishermen from targeting dusky sharks because the recent stock assessment indicates that dusky sharks are overfished and experiencing overfishing despite being listed as a prohibited species since 2000.

Comment 18: NMFS needs to consider an exit strategy in case things do not work out as planned in the amendment.

Response: NMFS believes that this Amendment allows for sufficient flexibility to make adjustments as conditions may change in the fishery. Furthermore, regulations are constantly being reviewed for their utility and whether or not they are meeting their stated objectives. Additional regulations are expected as new stock assessments become available.

Comment 19: NMFS needs to improve international management with Mexico to manage sharks throughout their range.

Response: NMFS is currently working through the appropriate international foras to improve shark management in Mexico.

Comment 20: NMFS should consider adding a ''use it or lose it'' requirement on shark permits.

Response: Measures requiring shark fishermen to demonstrate landings history or risk losing their commercial shark fishing permit were not considered in this amendment. The addition of a ''use it or lose it'' condition on shark permits may actually result in increased pressure on sharks if holders of latent permits are compelled to use their permits sufficiently to avoid losing them in the future.

Comment 21: There is an inconsistency in the Draft EIS, Chapter 3 page 16. This presents state regulations, and fails to mention that longline gear is also prohibited in Georgia's state waters. Additionally, Georgia's Small Shark Composite should have the acronym SSC, not SCS, which is the federal Small Coastal Sharks management group.

Response: These inconsistencies have been addressed in the Final EIS.

Comment 22: There is new scientific evidence that oceanic whitetip shark stocks have declined.

Response: NMFS has not conducted a stock assessment for oceanic whitetips. NMFS will continue to work with international partners and ICCAT towards more species-specific assessments for pelagic sharks. Data may be a limiting factor, however, as there are limited landings data for oceanic whitetip sharks. To date, ICCAT has completed assessments for blue and shortfin mako sharks. There is scant data available on oceanic whitetip landings.

Comment 23: The Draft EIS does little to address bycatch of protected species aside from the suggestion that the preferred alternative may provide a mechanism to conduct the field trials necessary to appropriately assess the efficacy of circle hooks for reducing bycatch and post-hooking mortality of sea turtles in the BLL fishery. While both the pelagic and BLL fisheries are required to carry tools to remove gear from turtles before they are released, there are no performance goals for removing gear or a requirement to use circle hooks for bycatch of protected species.

Response: NMFS may consider additional management measures for reducing bycatch in the future. NMFS has prepared a new BiOp regarding the proposed actions under Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, which was released on May 20, 2008. The May 2008 BiOp concluded based on the best available scientific information, the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered green, leatherback, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles; the endangered smalltooth sawfish; or threatened loggerhead sea turtle. The proposed actions are not expected to increase endangered species or marine mammal interaction rates. Furthermore, the BiOp concluded that the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect any of the listed species of marine mammals, invertebrates (i.e., listed species of coral) or other listed species of fish (i.e., Gulf sturgeon and Atlantic salmon) in the action area. HMS is implementing Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP consistent with the May 2008 BiOp.

Comment 24: If Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fisheries are to continue, 100–percent observer coverage should be required.

Response: In 2007 and 2008, NMFS is implementing 100–percent observer coverage for vessels operating in the Gulf of Mexico with PLL gear. Outside of this period, a statistically significant level of observer coverage will be used that is consistent with relevant Biological Opinions and other factors.

Comment 25: Deepwater sharks need protection. This group of sharks is simply too vulnerable to sustain fisheries so NMFS should prevent the development of fisheries before any fishermen invest in them. The deep water shark complex needs attention and it was a major mistake to remove

fishermen based on public comment and a request from enforcement.

8. In § 635.27(b), the commercial quotas were modified based on public comment and additional analyses. Specifically, a porbeagle shark quota was added, unclassified sharks will be counted towards the appropriate species quota based on ratios in observer data and/or on shark dealer reporting forms, the non-sandbar LCS quota was split into two regions (modified from the current definition to clarify that the Florida Keys are located in the Gulf of Mexico region), and an adjusted base quota from the effective date of this rule through 2012 (five years) was added to account for overharvests in 2007. Future overharvests will generally be taken off the following year, as proposed. However, depending on the amount of future overharvests, NMFS may deduct the overharvests over several years up to a maximum of five years. Spreading the overharvests out should, among other things, ensure that the shark research fishery can continue to collect much-needed data each year.

Additionally, NMFS clarified the section on adjusting quotas based on underharvests to clarify that if a species in a particular quota group (e.g., non-sandbar LCS) were overfished, overfishing were occurring, or had an unknown status, then NMFS would not adjust the quota based on underharvests.

9. In § 635.28(b), the section was modified, based on public comment, to allow for all species groups and regions to be closed separately, instead of together as proposed, when the fishery is expected to reach 80 percent of the relevant quota.

10. In § 635.30(c)(2) and (3), sentences were added, corresponding to the added definitions of ''naturally attached'' and ''dress,'' to clarify the regulation to keep all fins attached to the corresponding shark carcass, including the upper lobe of the tail, through offloading and to state specifically that no shark fins are allowed on a vessel unless the fins are naturally attached to a shark carcass.

11. In § 635.31, paragraph (c)(1) was added to clarify that persons may only sell sharks if both the fishery and/or region is open.

12. In § 635.32(f), additional specifics regarding the required items on the application and the process for issuing shark research permits were added based on public comment, requests by NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, and requests by NMFS scientists. These specifics include the requirement for vessels to have complied with observer coverage regulations and HMS fishery regulations to be eligible for a shark research permit under this part. Additional clarifications on how NMFS will select vessels have been added.

13. In § 635.71, various prohibitions have been updated or modified based on the changes listed above.

Commercial Fishing Season Notification

The 2008 adjusted commercial quotas for each shark species group is as follows: sandbar shark (shark research fishery only) = 87.9 mt dw; non-sandbar LCS = 615.8 mt dw; pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle = 488 mt dw; blue shark = 273 mt dw; porbeagle shark = 1.7 mt dw; and SCS = 454 mt dw. The non-sandbar LCS commercial quota is further split by region and fishery as follows: Atlantic region = 187.8 mt dw; Gulf of Mexico region = 390.5 mt dw; and shark research fishery = 37.5 mt dw.

On July 24, 2008, the sandbar, non-sandbar LCS, pelagic shark, blue shark, porbeagle shark, and SCS fisheries will open under the quotas noted above. All of these fisheries will remain open through December 31, 2008, unless the quota for that shark species group (or in the case of non-sandbar LCS, regional area) is projected to reach 80 percent of its available quota. When calculating the percent of the available quota caught for each species and/or region, NMFS will include landings from January 1, 2008, through July 24, 2008. As specified in § 635.27(b)(1), once the landings for that shark species group or regional area reach 80 percent of its quota, NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the Federal Register an appropriate rulemaking for that shark species group that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure, until NMFS announces via a notice in the **Federal Register** that additional quota is available, the fishery for that shark species group and/or regional area is closed, even across fishing years.

When the fishery for a shark species group and/or regional area is closed, a fishing vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP pursuant to § 635.4 may not possess or sell a shark of that species group, except under the conditions specified in § 635.22(a) and (c) or if the vessel possesses a valid shark research permit under § 635.32 and a NMFS-approved observer is onboard. A shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may not purchase or receive a shark of that species group from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. In the case of non-sandbar LCS, during a regional fishing closure, a fishing vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP pursuant to § 635.4 and operating in region(s) closed to shark fishing may not possess or sell a shark of that species group, except under the conditions specified in § 635.22(a) and (c). A shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 and located in the closed region may not purchase or receive a shark of that species group from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. Under a closure for a shark species group and/or regional closure, a shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may, in accordance with state regulations, purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel that fishes only in state waters and that has not been issued a Shark LAP, HMS Angling permit, or HMS CHB permit pursuant to § 635.4. Additionally, under a closure for a shark species group and/or regional closure, a shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel issued a valid shark research permit (per § 635.32) that had a NMFS-approved observer on board during the trip during which sharks were collected.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries determined that Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP is necessary for the conservation and management of the Atlantic shark fishery and is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

NMFS prepared a FEIS for this FMP amendment. The FEIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on April 11, 2008. A notice of availability was published on April 18, 2008 (73 FR 21124). In approving the FMP amendment, NMFS issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on June 6, 2008, identifying the selected alternatives. A copy of the ROD is available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

This final rule contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to the PRA and which has been approved by OMB under Control Number 0648–

0471. Public reporting burden for the HMS EFP, SRP, display permit, shark research permit, and letter of authorization information collection is estimated to average 2 hours per scientific research plan; 40 minutes per application, including the shark research permit application; 15 minutes per request for amendment to the EFP; 1 hour per interim report; 2 minutes per ''no catch'' report; 40 minutes per annual report; 5 minutes per departure notification regarding collection of display animals; 10 minutes per notification call for observer coverage for the shark research fishery; and 2 minutes per tag application. These burden estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information.

This rule also contains revisions to collection of information 0648-0040. The revisions are subject to review and approval by OMB under PRA. Currently, this collection of information is under review at OMB for revisions other than those contained in this rule (73 FR 18473, April 4, 2008). Once OMB approves the revisions in that rule, NMFS will submit a PRA package to OMB for approval regarding the addition of a check box on the dealer form. This check box would allow the dealer to note whether the shark fins were attached to the shark at landing or not. NMFS does not expect that the addition of a check box regarding shark fins would add to the reporting burden. NMFS will publish a document in the **Federal Register** to announce the effective date of the information collection.

Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of this data collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**) and by e-mail to *David__Rostker@omb.eop.gov*, or fax to 202–395–7285.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, and no person shall be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

With the release of the proposed rule on July 27, 2007, NMFS determined that the management measures in this rule will be implemented in a manner that is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the approved coastal management programs of states with Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) programs that are located in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. This determination was submitted for review by the responsible state agencies under section 307 of the CZMA. On October 10, 2007, Georgia's Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) objected to NMFS' consistency determination that the provisions in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP are consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Georgia Coastal Zone Management Program (GCZMP). The October 10, 2007, letter stated that NMFS failed to consider the elimination of the use of shark gillnets in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. GDNR claims that the use of gillnets in Federal waters is inconsistent with the GCZMP because the program bans the use of gillnet and longline gear in state waters to address bycatch of protected species and marine mammals.

NMFS considered the comments in the October 10, 2007, letter and, for the reasons stated below, has determined that the final actions in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, including allowing the use of gillnet gear in the Atlantic shark fishery, are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the GCZMP, 15 CFR 930.32.

NMFS shares the State of Georgia's concern regarding the impact of the shark gillnet fishery on threatened and endangered species. Given these impacts, NMFS will not implement measures that increase fishing effort with this gear type, such as setting gillnet specific retention limits for blacktip sharks. However, NMFS also recognizes that the data currently available indicate relatively low rates of bycatch and bycatch mortality of protected species and other finfish in the shark gillnet fishery compared to other HMS and non-HMS fisheries. It is worth noting that observer coverage rates in the shark gillnet fishery are higher than in other fisheries because of Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan requirements. Increased observer coverage reduces the associated error that can be introduced when calculating bycatch and protected resource interactions on non-observed trips. For instance, observer reports indicate that finfish bycatch in shark gillnet fishery during 2007 ranged from 1.7 to 13.3 percent of the total catch. In addition, observed protected species bycatch (sea turtles and marine mammals) was less than 0.1 percent of the total catch. Therefore, NMFS does not believe it is appropriate to eliminate this fishery and shift its associated effort to other fisheries that have higher interaction rates with protected resources and marine mammals.

In addition, according to recent observer reports, only four to six vessels use shark gillnet gear, therefore, the cumulative impact of this fishery is not expected to have significant ecological impacts on non-target species. The incidental capture of endangered species in the shark gillnet fishery is regulated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A BiOp issued May 20, 2008, in response to the actions taken in the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, concluded, that the continuation of the shark gillnet (including strikenets, drift gillnets, and sink gillnets) fishery would not likely jeopardize the continued existence of protected species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Furthermore, the BiOp indicated that shark strikenets are not likely to have much impact on sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish takes because deployment of this gear currently results in very few takes. Interactions with protected resources occur more frequently with drift or sink gillnets than using strikenets, but gillnet gear interactions with protected resources are still minimal compared to longline fishing.

In addition, currently, all shark gillnet vessels are required to carry VMS and are subject to observer coverage during and outside of the right whale calving season. The most recent regulations amending the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan were published in the **Federal Register** on June 25, 2007 (72 FR 34632), and on October 5, 2007 (72 FR 57104). These regulations include a variety of measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of an interaction between shark gillnet gear and right whales. These regulations include, but are not limited to, prohibiting all gillnet fishing from November 15 through April 15 of each year in Federal waters off the state of Georgia. NMFS will continue to work with the take reduction teams and relevant Fishery Management Councils to examine methods to reduce bycatch.

NMFS acknowledges the concerns raised by the State of Georgia regarding protected resources interactions and bycatch that occurs in gillnet gear. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standards (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1), (3), (8), and (9)), NMFS must, among other things, implement conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery; manage stocks throughout their range to the extent practicable; minimize adverse economic

impacts on fishing communities to the extent practicable; and minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality to the extent practicable. Gillnets are the commercial gear that are used to primarily target small coastal sharks (SCS) and blacktip sharks. The SCS complex was assessed in 2007; three of the four species of SCS have been determined to not be overfished with overfishing not occurring. Blacknose sharks have been determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring; therefore, NMFS has initiated development of a rebuilding plan for this species and measures to end overfishing. These measures may include changes to the shark gillnet fishery, as necessary. However, the latest blacktip stock assessment recommended not changing catches of blacktip sharks in the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, based on the best scientific information available, Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP would manage the fishery for optimum yield by keeping the SCS quota at the status quo level and setting a non-sandbar large coastal shark (LCS) quota (including blacktip sharks) based on historical landings. Given that the non-sandbar LCS quota is based on the latest blacktip shark assessment, closing the shark gillnet fishery in Federal waters off Georgia would not facilitate achieving the optimum yield from the fishery and managing the stocks throughout their range. Thus, NMFS is not prohibiting shark gillnet gear at this time due to the negative social and economic impact this would have on the four to six vessels actively fishing in the shark gillnet fishery. In addition, NMFS has implemented high-levels of observer coverage on gillnet vessels targeting sharks as well as those targeting other species to monitor bycatch and interactions with protected resources; NMFS can take additional action if interactions with protected resources in the this fishery become a problem.

At this time, there is not sufficient information to support a closure of the shark gillnet fishery in Federal waters adjacent to Georgia, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. This decision is consistent with National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) (Magnuson-Stevens Act), which requires that management measures be based on the best scientific information available including the BiOp. NMFS has determined that the final actions in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP and its implementing rule are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the GCZMP. Accordingly, this rule, which that finalizes Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, will not ban gillnet gear in the Atlantic shark fishery.

Summary of the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

A final regulatory flexibility analysis (FRFA) was prepared. The FRFA incorporates the IRFA, a summary of the significant issues raised by the public comments in response to the IRFA, NMFS' responses to those comments, and a summary of the economic analyses completed to support the action. A summary of the analysis, which addresses each of the requirements in 5 U.S.C. 604(a)(1)-(5), can be found below. A copy of the full analysis is available in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP (see **ADDRESSES**).

Statement of the Need for and Objectives of this Final Rule

The need for and objectives of the final rule are fully described in the preamble of the proposed rule (72 FR 41392, July 27, 2007) and in Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP and are not repeated here (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(1)). In summary, the selected actions in this final rule will rebuild overfished shark fisheries by: reducing the commercial quotas, adjusting the commercial retention limits, establishing a shark research fishery, requiring commercial vessels to maintain all fins on the shark carcasses through offloading, establishing two regional quotas for non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS), establishing one annual season for commercial shark fishing, changing the reporting requirements for dealers (including swordfish and tuna dealers), establishing additional time/area closures for BLL fishermen, and changing the authorized species for recreational fishermen. This rule also establishes the 2008 commercial quota for all shark species groups. These changes affect all commercial and recreational shark fishermen and shark dealers.

A Summary of the Significant Issues Raised By the Public Comments in Response to the IRFA, a Summary of the Assessment of NMFS of Such Issues, and a Statement of Any Changes Made in the Rule as a Result of Such Comments

A FRFA is also required to include a summary of the significant issues raised by the public comments in response to the IRFA, a summary of the assessment of the issues raised, and a statement of any changes made in the rule as a result of the comments (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(2)). NMFS received many comments on the proposed rule and draft EIS during the public comment period. A summary of these comments and NMFS's responses are included above. The specific economic concerns raised in comments are also summarized here.

NMFS received a comment that NMFS should consider an alternative suite that incorporates a ''phase out'' of the commercial shark industry. NMFS did consider such an alternative in the Draft EIS that would have ended Atlantic commercial shark fishing, Alternative Suite 5. Under this alternative, shark landings would have been limited to research and the collection for public display via the HMS Exempted Fishing Program. Recreational fisheries would have been catch and release only. However, after careful consideration of the other alternatives, this alternative suite was not preferred due to the economic costs associated with a complete closure as discussed in Chapter 6 of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

NMFS received several comments regarding an industry buyout/buyback. NMFS recognizes that some participants of the Atlantic shark fishery expressed interest in reducing fishing capacity for sharks via some form of buyout program. Buyouts can occur via one of three mechanisms, including: through an industry fee, via appropriations from the United States Congress, and/or with funds provided from any State or other public sources or private or non-profit organization. A buyout plan is not proposed in this rulemaking, despite requests for consideration from the HMS Advisory Panel and other affected constituents, because NMFS is unable to independently implement a buyout as a management option. Buyouts must be initiated via one of the aforementioned mechanisms. The shark fishery did develop an industry ''business plan'' that examined options for a buyout, which is further described in Chapter 1 of the Draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

NMFS received several comments concerning the potential for severe economic impacts associated with all of the alternatives considered (other than status quo). Comments indicated a concern that many fishermen may not be able to survive economically until the next stock assessment. NMFS estimated that the alternatives considered, including the no action alternative, would result in economic consequences to the shark fishery. The

severity of the economic consequences varies by alternative suite, with alternative suite 5, the complete closure of the Atlantic shark fishery, having the greatest economic impact.

It was also suggested that NMFS should include analysis of the negative economic impacts associated with prohibiting porbeagle sharks in shark tournaments, especially in New England. NMFS appreciates this additional information regarding the importance of porbeagle sharks in tournament fisheries. Additional information has been incorporated into the final EIS for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP to further address the potential economic impacts of a prohibition of porbeagle landings. However, based on strong support from the public not to prohibit retention of porbeagle sharks and NMFS' recognition of the negative impacts of such a prohibition, NMFS is choosing not to prohibit the recreational retention of porbeagle sharks.

Comments indicated that economic impacts on recreational fisheries would be significant if sandbar, bull, and blacktip sharks were prohibited in the recreational fishery. Comments indicated that the negative economic impacts resulting from the reduced number of sharks that could be legally landed by recreational anglers would be particularly pronounced in areas where blacktip sharks are frequently encountered. In addition, tournaments offering prize categories for sharks could also experience negative economic impacts as a result of not allowing six additional species to be retained in recreational fisheries. Due to a lack of information regarding the relative preferences of shark fishermen to retain shark species over practicing catch-and-release shark fishing, NMFS was unable to quantitatively estimate the economic impacts of the proposed recreational measures restricting the authorized list of species that could be retained. In part to mitigate these impacts, the final preferred alternative suite would allow recreational anglers to retain blacktip, finetooth, blacknose, bull, spinner, and porbeagle sharks.

Comments also indicated a concern that dealers will not likely be interested in continuing to buy shark products when the proposed measures go into place. NMFS acknowledges that some dealers may opt to no longer participate in the shark fishery due to the decrease in volume of shark product that is anticipated under the reduced quotas. Handling low volumes of shark product may not be profitable for some dealers. However, the information available to NMFS indicates that several shark dealers already handle small quantities of shark products, and therefore, changes in the shark fishery are unlikely to cause them to change their business practices. Reduced domestic harvest of sandbar sharks could potentially increase the value of shark product in the future due to reduced supplies. Furthermore, having the season open for a longer period of time each year, subject to reduced retention limits, may enhance the domestic shark meat market and increase prices.

Several comments suggested NMFS should implement a retraining program for fishermen and families that are displaced by this action. Others suggested that fishermen reconfigure their businesses towards providing tourism services. NMFS has worked with a number of other agencies/departments to explore programs that are available to fishermen and other businesses affected by fishery management measures. Some of these include retraining programs and financial assistance and would mitigate some of the economic impacts of this rule. These programs are further discussed in response to comments provided above.

Commenters also suggested that NMFS consider giving shark fishermen swordfish handgear permits in order to help offset negative economic impacts, while also increasing swordfish landings. NMFS did not propose changes to the permit system pursuant to the rulemaking; however, NMFS will take this suggestion under consideration for future actions. NMFS notes that the swordfish handgear permit is a limited access permit. Therefore, issuing new swordfish handgear permits may result in negative economic impacts to current holders of swordfish handgear permits. In addition, NMFS recently issued new regulations to revitalize the swordfish fishery and may consider additional measures in the future depending on the outcome of the current regulatory changes.

NMFS received a comment questioning whether shark permits will still have any value after the proposed management changes take place. It is difficult to predict the value of shark directed and incidental permits before management measures associated with this Amendment are implemented. It is likely that the value of shark permits may be decreased as a result of quota reductions and reduced retention limits. However, there will still be some demand for shark permits by new entrants into the commercial swordfish and tuna fisheries who will need all three HMS permits to fish.

NMFS received comments indicating that requiring fishermen to land sharks with fins on will change the entire pricing of shark product. Commenters suggested that NMFS could be changing the whole valuation process by requiring that sharks have their fins on. The requirement to land sharks with their fins attached would allow fishermen to leave the fins attached by just a small piece of skin so that the shark could be packed efficiently on ice at sea. Shark fins could then be quickly removed at the dock without having to thaw the shark. Sharks may be eviscerated, bled, and the head removed from the carcass at sea. These measures should prevent any excessive amounts of waste at the dock, since dressing the shark (except removing the fins) can be performed while at sea. While this will result in some changes to the way fishermen process sharks at sea, the transfer of shark product to dealers could remain relatively unchanged because the fins can be removed quickly once the shark has been offloaded. NMFS expects that the market will continue to receive sharks in their log form. While there may be some changes in the way sharks are marketed and priced, it is unlikely that the total ex-vessel value of sharks will change significantly due to the requirement to land sharks with their fins attached.

Description and Estimate of the Number of Small Entities to Which the Final Rule Would Apply

NMFS considers all HMS commercial permit holders to be small entities because they either had average annual receipts less than $4.0 million for fish-harvesting, average annual receipts less than $6.5 million for charter/party boats, 100 or fewer employees for wholesale dealers, or 500 or fewer employees for seafood processors (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(3)). These are the Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards for defining a small versus large business entity in this industry. A full description of the fisheries affected and the categories and number of permit holders can be found in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

The final rule would apply to the 527 commercial shark permit holders in the Atlantic shark fishery based on an analysis of permit holders on October 1, 2007. Of these permit holders, 231 have directed shark permits and 296 hold incidental shark permits. Not all permit holders are active in the fishery in any given year. NMFS estimates that there are 143 vessels with directed shark permits and 155 vessels with shark incidental permits that could be considered actively engaged in fishing,

since they reported landing at least one shark in the Coastal Fisheries Logbook from 2003 to 2005.

In addition, the reporting requirements in the final alternatives would also apply to Federal shark dealers. As of October 1, 2007, there were a total of 269 Atlantic shark dealer permit holders. Based on NMFS' understanding of HMS dealer operations, NMFS assumes that each of these dealers would be considered a small business entity with 100 or fewer employees.

The final measures being considered may also impact the types of services HMS CHB permit holders may provide. As of October 1, 2007, there were 4,899 HMS CHB permit holders. It is unknown what portion of these permit holders actively participate in shark fishing or market shark fishing services for recreational anglers.

In addition, some businesses, such as marinas or specialized tournament organizers that hold tournaments may be considered small entities. HMS tournaments are required to register with NMFS. As such, NMFS has estimates on the number of HMS tournaments. However, NMFS may not necessarily know the number of businesses behind the tournament name and contact. Tournaments offering prize categories for sharks may also experience negative economic impacts as a result of NMFS prohibiting two additional species of sharks for retention in recreational fisheries in alternative suites 2 through 4, as well as alternative suite 5 which would allow no possession of any sharks and only allow catch and release fishing. The majority of tournaments specializing in sharks are in the North Atlantic region, specifically Rhode Island, New York, and Massachusetts. In 2007, there were 59 tournaments with prize categories for pelagic sharks and 42 (combined) tournaments for LCS and SCS.

Description of the Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements of the Final Rule, Including an Estimate of the Classes of Small Entities Which Would Be Subject to the Requirements of the Report or Record

The final action requires modifying existing reporting and recordkeeping requirements (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(4)). The research program component in this final rule requires modifications to the existing EFP program and dealer reporting requirements.

The final action modifies the reporting frequency for dealers. The current requirement for dealer reports to be post-marked within 10 days after each reporting period (1st through 15th and 16th through last day of month), would be modified to state that dealer reports must be received by NMFS not later than 10 days after each reporting period (i.e., 25th and 10th of each month). Shark, swordfish, and tuna dealers would have to submit these reports in advance of the 10th and 25th of each month to ensure adequate time for delivery, depending on the means employed for report submission. Requiring that all dealer reports are actually received by NMFS in a more timely fashion would provide more frequent reports of shark landings in order to better assess quantities of sharks landed and whether or not a closure or other management measure is warranted to prevent overfishing. Dealers would still be required to submit reports indicating that no sharks were purchased during inactive periods. NMFS also intends to add a check box to the dealer form for dealers to note whether sharks were landed with fins naturally attached. Requirements for vessel logbooks and observer coverage would remain unchanged. Additional burden is not expected as a result of modifying the regulations to ensure that dealer reports are actually received within 10 days.

The final rule would also create a limited shark research program that would result in changes to existing reporting requirements. Entry into the shark research program would require vessels to submit an application, which would add to the reporting burden for those vessels wishing to apply. Applicants selected to participate in the shark research program under this alternative would also be subject to 100 percent observer coverage as a requirement for eligibility to participate in the program. In addition, selected vessels would continue to report in their normal logbook in addition to the observer program. Vessels in the shark research program, however, would not need to report in the same way as other EFP holders even though they are being issued permits under the EFP program. For example, vessels in the research fishery would not be required to submit interim or annual reports describing their fishing activities. Rather, they would only be required to submit their logbooks per current regulations. Vessels outside the shark research program would still be required to carry an observer if selected and all vessels would still be required to complete logbooks within 48 hours of fishing activity and then submit the logbooks to NMFS within seven days.

Description of the Steps NMFS Has Taken to Minimize the Significant Economic Impact on Small Entities Consistent with the Stated Objectives of Applicable Statutes, Including a Statement of the Factual, Policy, and Legal Reasons for Selecting the Alternative Adopted in the Final Rule and the Reason That Each One of the Other Significant Alternatives to the Rule Considered by NMFS Which Affect Small Entities Was Rejected

One of the requirements of a FRFA is to describe any alternatives to the proposed rule which would accomplish the stated objectives and which minimize any significant economic impacts (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(5)). Additionally, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 603(c)(1)-(4)) lists four general categories of ''significant'' alternatives that would assist an agency in the development of significant alternatives. These categories of alternatives are:

1. Establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities;
2. Clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance and reporting requirements under the rule for such small entities;
3. Use of performance rather than design standards; and,
4. Exemptions from coverage of the rule for small entities.

In order to meet the objectives of this final rule, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), NMFS cannot exempt small entities or change the reporting requirements only for small entities because all the entities affected are considered small entities. Thus, because NMFS considers all HMS permit holders to be small entities, there are no alternatives discussed that fall under the first and fourth categories described above. NMFS does not know of any performance or design standards that would satisfy the aforementioned objectives of this rulemaking while, concurrently, complying with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Thus, there are no alternatives considered under the third category. As described below, NMFS analyzed seven different alternatives in this rulemaking and provides justification for selection of the final action to achieve the desired objective.

The alternatives considered and analyzed have been grouped into five alternative suites. Alternative suite 1 would maintain the current Atlantic shark fishery (no action). Alternative suite 2 would allow only directed shark

permit holders to land sharks. Alternative suite 3 would allow directed and incidental shark permit holders to land sandbar and non sandbar LCS as well as SCS and pelagic sharks. Alternative suite 4 would establish a program where vessels with directed or incidental shark permits could participate in a research fishery for sandbar sharks. Only vessels participating in this program could land sandbar sharks. Vessels not participating in the research program could land non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks. Finally, alternative suite 5 would shut down the commercial Atlantic shark fishery and only allow a catch and release recreational shark fishery. The preferred alternative is suite 4, which would establish a program where a limited number of vessels with directed or incidental shark permits could participate in a research fishery for sharks dependent on the research needs of NMFS.

1. Alternative Suite 1

Alternative suite 1, the status quo alternative, would not impose any significant new economic impacts to small businesses in the HMS Atlantic shark fishery because under this alternative the current LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw, in conjunction with the 4,000 lb LCS directed shark permit trip limit, would be maintained. Under this alternative, the current fishing effort would not likely change which could lead to economic benefits from reduced market uncertainty for fishermen and related businesses in the short term. If gross revenues for directed and incidental permit holders is averaged across the approximately 298 active directed and incidental shark permit holders, then the average annual gross revenues per shark fishing vessel is just over $20,000. However, long term, negative economic impacts could occur if current fishing mortality of sandbar sharks, an economically important species, is not decreased as recommended by the LCS stock assessment, and this species continues to be overfished.

The status quo alternative would maintain the existing closures and would not add any new closures. The three management regions would also remain unchanged. There would also be no additional reporting requirements. Alternative suite 1 would also maintain the trimester seasons, which provides fishermen and dealers with more open seasons. With an annual LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw, spreading the seasons out over the calendar year could potentially result in greater economic stability for fishermen and associated communities. However, if quotas are reduced to those in the final action to comply with the recommendations from the LCS stock assessment, while also maintaining the trimester seasons under status quo, trimester seasons could become less economically stable for fishermen and dealers because of the reduced amount of quota and fishing effort during the calendar year. Maintaining existing closures, reporting requirements, and management regions would likely have little to no economic impacts on effected small businesses.

Alternative suite 1 would also maintain the current bag limit for HMS Angling permit holders at one shark greater than 54 inches per vessel per trip as well as one sharpnose and one bonnethead shark (both of which are in the SCS complex) per person per trip. This would likely result in no new economic impacts for businesses operating recreational fishing charter trips targeting sharks and shark fishing tournaments in the short term.

Overall, alternative suite 1 would likely have the lowest economic impact on small businesses. However, this alternative would likely not meet the objectives of this action. Maintaining the LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw would be inconsistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the recent LCS stock assessment that recommended a TAC of 158.3 mt dw for sandbar sharks for this species to rebuild by 2070. Current fishing effort, under the status quo alternative, would lead to continued overfishing of sandbar, porbeagle and dusky sharks, which could potentially prevent these species from rebuilding in the recommended timeframe. As a result, this alternative was not selected.

2. Alternative Suite 2

Alternative suite 2 would allow only directed shark permit holders to land sharks. In addition, this alternative would remove sandbar sharks from the LCS complex and establish a separate category for sandbar sharks from the LCS complex. The quotas for landing sandbar and non-sandbar LCS would also be reduced. Incidental shark permit holders would not be permitted to land sharks under alternative suite 2. As of 2007, there were 231 directed shark permit holders, 296 incidental shark permit holders, and 269 shark dealer permit holders. One hundred forty-three vessels with directed shark permits and 155 vessels with shark incidental permits reported landing at least one shark in the Coastal Fisheries Logbook from 2003 to 2005 and could be considered active.

Data on gross annual revenues indicate that implementation of alternative suite 2 would result in a significant reduction in revenue for directed shark permit holders. On average, directed permit holders landed 1,286,447 lb dw of sandbar sharks and 1,498,111 lb dw of non-sandbar LCS from 2003 to 2005 based on Federal and state shark dealer reports (landings by permit type were based on percentage of total landings by permit type in the Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbooks). In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $4,702,031 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). If gross revenues for directed permit holders are averaged across the approximately 143 active directed shark permit holders, then the average annual gross revenues per shark fishing vessel is just under $33,000 from shark revenues. Under alternative suite 2, gross revenues for directed permit holders would be estimated to be $1,333,417. This is a 72-percent overall reduction in gross revenues compared to the period from 2003 to 2005. These reduced gross revenues averaged across the 143 active directed permit holders are just over $9,000 per directed shark fishing vessel. This estimated reduction in revenue from shark landings could affect the profitability and even viability of some marginal shark fishery operations. Operations that have permits in other fisheries and can easily diversify are less likely to be as affected as those marginal operations. Nevertheless, the profitability of all directed shark fishing vessels would likely be reduced. Because the states of Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina have the most directed shark permits, these states would be most negatively impacted by alternative suite 2.

Directed shark permit holders using PLL gear would also see reduction of revenues under alternative suite 2 because retention of sandbar sharks on PLL gear would be prohibited. On average, 80,825 lb dw of sandbar sharks were reported landed on PLL gear by directed shark permit holders from 2003 to 2005 (HMS logbook data). In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $117,510 in gross revenues. Given an average of 16.7 vessels landing sandbar sharks with PLL gear from 2003 to 2005, prohibition of sandbar sharks on PLL gear could result in a loss of gross revenues of $7,037 per vessel.

Data on the reduction of per trip revenues also show a decline in revenue for directed permit holders. Under alternative suite 2, directed permit holders would be limited to 8 sandbar sharks per trip and 21 non-sandbar LCS per trip. In comparison, data indicate that under status quo, which has a 4,000

lb dw LCS trip limit, the average number of sandbars and non-sandbar LCS landed per trip is 35 sandbars and 32 non-sandbar LCS for all gear types reported in the Coastal Fisheries and HMS Logbooks. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $4,101 per trip. Revenue estimates on a regional trip basis of the status quo alternative were also based on species composition data attained from the BLL observer program data. Observer data indicate that between 2005 and 2006, 69 sandbar sharks and 35 non-sandbar LCS were caught per trip in the South Atlantic region, and 30 sandbar sharks and 83 non-sandbar LCS were caught per trip in the Gulf of Mexico region. Based on these numbers and 2006 ex-vessel prices, revenues from South Atlantic trips are currently averaged at $4,743/trip and Gulf of Mexico trip revenues averaged $4,101 per trip.

Thus, given that the retention limits under alternative suite 2 (8 sandbars/trip and 21 non-sandbar LCS/trip), the average revenue per trip is estimated to decrease. The reduced non-sandbar LCS retention limit of 21 sharks per trip is based on the average ratio of sandbars to non-sandbar LCS caught in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions to limit sandbar shark discards by fishermen deploying non-selective gear. In the Gulf of Mexico, the ratio of sandbars to other LCS caught is 1:4 which, based on an 8 sandbar per trip retention limit, would equal 32 non-sandbar LCS per trip. However, such a high non-sandbar LCS retention limit would result in sandbar discards in the South Atlantic (approximately 65.3 mt dw). Therefore, a 21 non-sandbar LCS/trip retention limit was set to balance discards versus catch in the two regions. This results in approximately 5 sandbar sharks being caught in the Gulf of Mexico region when the non-sandbar LCS retention limit/trip is filled (and therefore, only 86.1 mt dw of the sandbar quota would be filled). Therefore, gross revenues on a trip basis are estimated to be $1,262 per trip in the South Atlantic and $1,333 per trip in the Gulf of Mexico. From 2003 to 2005, there were 124 vessels that averaged more than 324 lb dw (or 8 sandbar sharks) of sandbar/trip.

Incidental permit holders would also experience revenue declines under alternative suite 2 because they would be prohibited from landing sharks. On average, 66 incidental permit holders landed 12,994 lb dw per year of sandbar sharks and 46,333 lb dw per year of non-sandbar LCS from 2003 to 2005 based on Federal and state shark dealer reports and Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbook data. Using 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $106,491 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). Gross revenues averaged across the 66 vessels with incidental permits landing sharks were $1,614 per vessel. Since incidental permit holders would not be able to land any sharks under alternative suite 2, the 66 active vessels would be most negatively affected by this alternative suite. The states of Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, and North Carolina had the most incidental shark permit holders as of 2007 (144, 37, 20, and 16, respectively).

Alternative suite 2 would also require dealers to submit reports within 24 hours of shark products being purchased. There could be negative economic impacts to Atlantic shark dealers as a result of the increased reporting requirement associated with this alternative. Currently, shark dealer reports are required to submit bimonthly reports, regardless of whether the dealer actually purchased any shark products. Reporting frequency would be increased to 24 hours of when shark products were purchased. While the increased reporting burden would not result in direct costs to the shark dealer, it would result in additional time spent submitting dealer reports. This represents an opportunity cost for dealers since that time could have been spent conducting other activities related to their business. Furthermore, since submitting the reports via regular mail would no longer be feasible, in order to comply with the requirement that dealer reports must be received by NMFS within 24 hours, it is assumed that dealers would have to submit dealer reports electronically or via facsimile. Dealers that do not currently possess a computer or fax machine would have to purchase one of these items. The increased reporting burden implemented in this alternative suite would be subject to approval under the PRA. Reporting requirements for shark vessel permit holders, including the need to carry an observer if selected and the need to submit vessel logbooks within seven days of completing a fishing trip would not be modified, resulting in neutral economic impacts.

The other provisions of alternative suite 2 are the same as in alternative suite 4, which is the final action for this rulemaking. These provisions include: maintaining the 60 mt shark display and research quota; placement of porbeagle sharks on the prohibited list; quota carryover limited to 50 percent of base quota for species not overfished; no carryover for overfished, overfishing or unknown species; sharks fins must remain on the shark; removal of regions and seasons; and limiting the shark species that can be landed recreationally. The effects of these provisions are set forth in the discussion of alternative suite 4.

This alternative suite was not selected for two primary reasons. First, this alternative does not address the impacts of continuing to catch sandbar sharks incidentally. These vessels will likely continue to incidentally catch sandbar sharks but then, under this alternative, those sharks would be required to be discarded. These discards would reduce potential revenues and possibly operating efficiency of vessels possessing incidental shark permits. Regulatory discards would likely lead to increases in mortality and slow efforts to end overfishing. Second, the 24 hour dealer reporting that would be required to effectively manage quotas would result in a significant increase in reporting burden for dealers. This alternative would therefore not minimize the economic cost to dealers in comparison to the preferred alternative.

3. Alternative Suite 3

Under alternative suite 3, the quotas for landing sandbar and non-sandbar LCS would also be reduced to the same level as that in alternative suite 2. However, because alternative suite 3 would allow directed and incidental shark permit holders to land sandbar and non-sandbar LCS as well as SCS and pelagic sharks, the available sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quota would be spread over a larger universe of commercial permit holders. Unlike the status quo or alternative suite 2, the retention limits for sandbar sharks and non-sandbar LCS would be the same for both directed and incidental permit holders. Since directed permit holders presumably make a greater percentage of their gross revenues from shark landings, they are expected to have larger negative socioeconomic impacts compared to incidental permit holders. (Revenues for incidental permit holders are actually expected to increase under this alternative.) The states of Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina have the most directed permit holders. As with alternative suite 2, shark dealers could also experience negative impacts due to the reduction in the sandbar and other LCS quotas and retention limits, which would reduce the overall amount of sharks being landed.

As stated under alternative suite 2, on average, directed permit holders landed 1,286,447 lb dw of sandbar sharks per year and 1,498,111 of non-sandbar LCS per year from 2003 to 2005 based on

Federal and state shark dealer reports and logbook data. In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $4,702,031 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). However, under alternative 3, the available sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quota would be spread over directed and incidental permit holders. Based on the retention limit of 4 sandbar sharks and 10 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip, it is estimated that 105.9 mt dw (233,467 lb dw) of the sandbar quota and 229.2 mt dw (505,294 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota could be landed under alternative suite 3. Logbook data from 2003 and 2005 showed that directed permit holders take, on average, 1,108 trips per year; the total number of shark trips taken by all permit holders was 1,143 trips. Thus, directed permit holders exhibited approximately 78 percent of the total fishing effort for sharks from 2003-2005. Based on this past effort, NMFS estimates that of the total sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quotas, approximately 83 mt dw (183,073 lb dw) of sandbar quota and 180 mt dw (396,225 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota would be harvested by directed permit holders. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $1,015,162 gross revenues for directed permit holders. These gross revenues indicate a 78 percent overall reduction compared to the period from 2003 to 2005 (gross revenues based on current directed permit holders' landings were $4,702,031). Again, the states of Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina have the most directed permit holders.

The data indicate that directed shark permit holders would experience a loss in revenue under alternative suite 3 greater than under alternative suite 2, given that the available quota is shared with incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3. As stated in alternative 2, the status quo revenue was based on a 4,000 lb dw LCS trip limit for directed shark permit holders with average gross revenues in the South Atlantic of $4,743 per trip and average gross revenues in the Gulf of Mexico of $5,853 per trip. Under alternative suite 3, the retention limits would be 4 sandbars per trip and 10 non-sandbar LCS per trip. However, since the ratio of sandbars to non-sandbar LCS caught in the Gulf of Mexico is 1:4, NMFS estimates that approximately 3 sandbar sharks would be caught in the Gulf of Mexico region when the 10 non-sandbar LCS retention limit/trip is filled (10 non-sandbar LCS / 4 = 2.5 sandbar sharks). Therefore, gross revenues on a trip basis are estimated to be $610 per trip in the South Atlantic and $670 per trip in the Gulf of Mexico. From 2003 to 2005, there were 128 vessels that averaged more than 163 lb dw (or 4 sandbar sharks) of sandbar/trip. Therefore, these vessels would be most negatively affected by retention limits under alternative suite 3.

The revenue of incidental shark permit holders is expected to increase under alternative suite 3. On average, incidental permit holders landed 12,994 lb dw of sandbar sharks and 46,333 lb dw of non-sandbar LCS based on Federal and state shark dealer reports and logbook data. In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $106,491 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). The available sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quotas would be averaged over directed and incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3. Based on past effort, it was assumed 305 trips could be made by incidental permit holders. This is 22 percent of the expected fishing effort. Therefore, given the 105.9 mt dw (233,467 lb dw) of the sandbar quota and 229.2 mt dw (505,294 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota that could be landed under alternative suite 3, approximately 23 mt dw (50,395 lb dw) of sandbar quota and 50 mt dw (109,069 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota are anticipated to be landed by incidental permit holders. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $279,441 gross revenues for incidental permit holders. This would result in gross revenues that are 2.7 times higher compared to 2003 to 2005 (gross revenues based on current incidental permit holders' landings were $106,491).

This increase in gross revenues is due to the increase in retention limits for incidental permit holders. Under the status quo, incidental permit holders can retain 5 sharks from the LCS complex. However, under alternative suite 3, incidental permit holders would be able to retain 4 sandbars and 10 non-sandbar LCS or 14 LCS total. This retention limit is almost 3 times higher than what is currently allowed under the status quo. On average, incidental permit holders have been landing 2 sandbar sharks and 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $307 per trip. However, under alternative suite 3, incidental permit holders would make equivalent gross revenues per trip as directed permit holders: $610 per trip in the South Atlantic and $670 per trip in the Gulf of Mexico. This would result in gross revenues for incidental permit holders that are 2 to 3 times higher than gross revenues in 2003 to 2005 depending on future fishing effort and catch composition. Therefore, there would be positive economic impacts for incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3. Since approximately 66 vessels with incidental permit holders landed sandbar sharks or non-sandbar LCS in 2003 to 2005 in the Coastal Fisheries and HMS Logbooks, these 66 vessels would have the largest economic benefits under alternative suite 3. However, if sharks become profitable for incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3, then more vessels with incidental permits may actively land sandbars and non-sandbar LCS in the future. Finally, the states of Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, and North Carolina had the most incidental shark permit holders in 2007. Therefore, these states would see the largest socioeconomic benefits for incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3.

The other provisions of alternative suite 3 are the same as alternative suite 4, which is the final action for this rulemaking. These provisions include maintaining the 60 mt shark display and research quota; placement of porbeagle sharks on the prohibited list; quota carryover limited to 50 percent of base quota for species not overfished; no carryover for overfished, overfishing or unknown species; sharks fins must remain on the shark; dealer reports received within 10 days of purchase; removal of regions and seasons; and limiting the shark species that can be landed recreationally.

This alternative suite was not selected as the preferred alternative primarily based on its failure to achieve the ecological objectives of this rule and its economic impacts. Despite the time/area closures, alternative suite 3 would have a smaller reduction in dead discards of dusky sharks compared to alternative suite 2 since sandbar sharks would be allowed to be retained on PLL gear under alternative suite 3.

Negative economic impacts under alternative suite 3 are expected for directed permit holders (78-percent reduction in gross revenues compared to the status quo) as a result of the four sandbar per vessel per trip retention limit. Given that retention limits for sandbar and non-sandbar LCS are significantly lower than the limit under the status quo (91 and 69-percent reduction in sandbar and non-sandbar LCS retention limits, respectively, for directed permit holders), it is anticipated that there would be no directed shark fishery as a result of alternative suite 3. While an observer program would still operate under

alternative suite 3, without a directed shark fishery, it is anticipated that the fishery dependent data collection would be limited, which could compromise data collection for future stock assessments. Alternative suite 4 should accomplish the necessary reductions in quota, retention limits, and fishing effort to prevent overfishing and allow stocks to rebuild while collecting valuable scientific data for NMFS. Therefore, due to concerns over dusky discards, quota monitoring, and data collection, NMFS is not implementing alternative suite 3 at this time.

4. Alternative Suite 4

Alternative suite 4, the final action, establishes a program where vessels with directed or incidental shark permits could participate in a small research fishery for sandbar sharks that would harvest the entire 116.6 mt dw sandbar quota. There would be 100 percent observer coverage on each research vessel, and only vessels participating in this program could land sandbar sharks. Vessels not participating in the research program could land non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks.

Alternative suite 4 was selected because it meets the objectives of this rulemaking while minimizing some of the economic impacts. Those objectives include: implement rebuilding plans for sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks; provide an opportunity for the sustainable harvest of blacktip sharks and other sharks, as appropriate; prevent overfishing of Atlantic sharks; analyze BLL time/area closures and take necessary action, as appropriate; and improve, to the extent practicable, data collections or data collection programs. As detailed in the economic analysis in chapters 4 and 6 of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, it is estimated that vessels in the shark research fishery could make $437,963 in gross revenues of sandbar and non-sandbar LCS landings under the adjusted quota. Since 5 to 10 vessels are anticipated to participate in the research fishery, NMFS estimates that an individual vessel could make between $87,593 (i.e., 5 boats) to $43,796 (i.e., 10 boats) in gross revenues on sandbar shark and non-sandbar LCS landings. However, the vessels operating outside of the research fishery would have an adjusted regional non-sandbar LCS base quota of 187.8 mt dw in the Atlantic region and 390.5 mt dw in the Gulf of Mexico region. In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $516,285 in the Atlantic region and $1,273,269 in gross revenues in the Gulf of Mexico region. Divided by the remaining vessels it is estimated that the average gross revenues from shark per vessel would be just over $2,000 per trip.

In addition, under the final action, porbeagle sharks would be authorized in recreational and commercial fisheries, but under a reduced TAC of 11.3 mt dw. Of the TAC, 1.7 mt dw would be available for harvest in commercial fisheries. Currently, the commercial quota for porbeagle sharks is 92 mt dw per year, however, this commercial quota has never been met. NMFS set new TAC and commercial quotas for porbeagle sharks based on present effort levels. Based on quota monitoring (which includes vessel trip reports) from 2003 to 2006, on average, 3,867 lb dw (1.7 mt dw) of porbeagle sharks were landed per year. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $7,378 in gross revenues. Since commercial fishermen would be allowed to continue to land porbeagle sharks at this level, there are no anticipated economic impacts of implementing the TAC. In addition, recreational anglers would still be allowed to land porbeagle sharks. Therefore, there are no negative economic impacts for recreational fishermen associated with the TAC.

Data indicate that the preferred alternative maintains the annual gross revenues per vessel for vessels operating in the research fishery, while allowing other vessels outside of the research fishery to generate revenues at reduced levels. For example, in the no action alternative, it was estimated that if gross revenues for directed and incidental permit holders are averaged across the approximately 296 active directed and incidental shark permit holders, then the average annual gross revenues per shark fishing vessel is just over $20,000. Using the average landings for directed permit holder from 2003 to 2005, it is estimated that the 143 active directed permit holders generated average annual gross shark revenues of just under $33,000 from sharks. Under alternative 2, the reduced gross revenues averaged across the 143 active directed permit holders are estimated to be just over $9,000 per directed shark fishing vessel and $1,221 per vessel per year for incidental permit holders that land sharks. Under alternative 3 this is reduced further to approximately $7,000 ($1,015,162 gross revenues/143 vessel) per directed shark fishing vessel per year.

Alternative suite 4 has less economic impact on shark fishermen than alternative suite 5 (discussed below), but has greater impacts in the short-run than the status quo alternative. By allowing a limited number of historical participants to continue to harvest sharks under the research fishery, NMFS ensures that data for stock assessments and life history samples would continue to be collected. After comparing the alternative suites, NMFS determined that alternative suite 4 is the alternative that best meets the objectives of this rule while minimizing the economic impacts to shark permit holders.

5. Alternative Suite 5

Alternative suite 5 would have significant economic and social impacts on a variety of small entities, including: commercial shark permit holders, shark dealers, CHB and tournament operators, gear manufacturers, bait and ice suppliers, and other secondary industries dependent on the shark fishery. The level of economic impact would be directly proportional to the amount of revenues that each entity has realized from past participation in the shark fishery. Permit holders would be impacted differently depending on the quantity of sharks landed in the past.

Vessels targeting sharks (directed permit holders) landed an average of 1,263 mt dw of LCS, 223 mt dw SCS, and 173 mt dw pelagic sharks per year between 2003 to 2005 based on shark dealer landings and effort data from the Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbooks. The gross revenues based on 2006 ex-vessel prices of these landings are estimated at $4,702,031, $681,880, and $764,512 for LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks, respectively. While it is assumed that few directed shark permit holders subsist entirely on revenues attained from the shark fishery, impacts would still be severe for those participants that depend on income from the directed shark fishery at certain times of the year. Because of the extensive economic impacts to shark directed permit holders as a result of this alternative suite, it is assumed that directed permit holders would likely pursue one of the following options as a result of closing the Atlantic shark fishery: (1) transfer fishing effort to other fisheries for which they are already permitted (snapper grouper, king and Spanish mackerel, tilefish, lobster, dolphin/wahoo, etc), (2) acquire the necessary permits to participate in other fisheries (both open access and/or limited access fisheries), or (3) relinquish all permits and leave the fishing industry.

Incidental permit holders would face negative economic and social impacts as a result of closing the Atlantic shark fishery; however, these impacts would not be as severe as those experienced by directed permit holders. It is assumed that incidental permit holders receive

the majority of their fishing income from participation in other fisheries, depending on the region and the type of gear predominantly fished (i.e., swordfish, tunas, snapper grouper, tilefish, dolphin/wahoo, lobster, etc.). NMFS estimates that, on average, between 2003 and 2005 incidental permit holders landed 26.9 mt dw LCS, 17.3 mt dw SCS, and 45.5 mt dw pelagics per year based on shark dealer landings and effort data from the Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbooks. This equates in gross revenues, based on 2006 ex-vessel prices for these landings, of $106,491, $52,882, and $201,061 for the respective species complexes. Incidental permit holders would likely have to increase effort in these other fisheries to replace lost revenues from landing sharks. Furthermore, these vessels may seek other permits (open access or limited access transferred from another vessel) or leave the fishing industry entirely.

This alternative suite could also have negative economic and social impacts for shark dealers as they would no longer be authorized to purchase shark products from Federally permitted shark fishermen. Shark dealers also maintain permits to purchase other regionally caught fish products. Due to the brevity of the LCS shark fishing season, which is the shark fishery that accounts for the majority of the shark product revenue due to the fin value, many dealers also get revenue from purchasing fish products other than sharks. The majority of shark dealer permit holders hold permits to purchase other fish products, including swordfish, tunas, snapper grouper, tilefish, mackerel, lobster, and dolphin/wahoo among others. It is difficult to estimate, on an individual dealer basis, the percentage of revenues received exclusively from shark products.

Shark fin dealers, specializing in the purchase of shark fins from Federal and state permitted dealers, would also experience negative social and economic impacts as a result of closing the shark fishery. These dealers receive virtually all of their income from purchasing shark fins and shipping them to exporters. Exporters then transport the fins to global and domestic markets. This alternative suite would likely force shark fin dealers to leave the industry or focus on purchasing other fishery products, resulting in significant economic impacts to the individuals involved in this trade.

It is difficult to estimate the economic and social impacts that would be experienced by various small entities that support the shark fishery, e.g., purveyors of bait, ice, fishing gear, and fishing gear manufactures. However, these impacts would likely be negative. It is difficult to estimate these impacts as it is uncertain to what extent vessels that were fishing for sharks would redistribute their fishing effort to other fisheries, or simply cease fishing operations. If the majority of vessels affected by a shark fishery closure simply displace effort to other fisheries, it is assumed that they would still be dependent on small entities for their bait, ice, and gear as these are products essential for fishing excursions targeting any species. Redistributing effort to other fisheries would mitigate negative economic impacts. However, if a significant number of vessels simply cease fishing operations or scale back considerably, then severe economic consequences would be imparted on these support industries as a result.

Reporting and observer requirements would also change under alternative suite 5. Alternative suite 5 would increase the proportion of fishermen completing the Coastal Fisheries Logbook who are then selected to report information on fish that are discarded. Currently, 20 percent of the fishermen completing this logbook are selected. This percentage would be increased to facilitate improved data available for shark interactions with longline and gillnet gear. This information would be especially useful because sharks could no longer be landed and the existing logbook only requires fishermen to provide data on landed fish. Increasing the number of fishermen who are selected to provide this data would result in negative economic and social impacts because it would require additional paperwork to be filled out. Because NMFS would close the fishery under this alternative suite, vessels would no longer be required to take an observer. Shark dealers would also no longer be required to submit dealer reports regarding sharks purchased.

Seasons and regions for the commercial Atlantic shark fishery would no longer apply as this alternative suite would close the fishery.

Closing the Atlantic recreational shark fishery would have negative economic and social impacts, particularly for CHB operators who specialize in landing sharks and operators of shark tournaments that have prize categories for landing sharks. It is difficult to estimate the number of CHB operators that specialize in shark charters as the permit covers any participant targeting swordfish, sharks, tunas, and billfish. Many CHB operators target a variety of species depending on client interests, weather, time of year, and oceanographic conditions. CHB operators specializing in shark fishing charters would have to target other HMS or non HMS species to replace revenues lost as a result of customers not being able to land sharks. However, not all customers necessarily want to land sharks. CHB operators would still be able to catch sharks; however, all sharks (regardless of species) would need to be released in a manner that maximizes their chances of survival. Catering business operations to clientele interested in catch and release fishing for sharks might mitigate some of the negative economic impacts. Shark tournaments that reward prizes for landing sharks would be negatively impacted as a result of this alternative suite. In 2007, there were 59 tournaments with prize categories for pelagic sharks and 42 (combined) tournaments for LCS and SCS. The majority of these tournaments target pelagic sharks and are held in the North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions. These tournaments would either modify their rules to only allow points/prizes for released sharks or these tournaments would cease to exist. Economic impacts on small entities such as restaurants, hotels, gear manufacturers, retail stores selling fishing supplies, and marinas in the vicinity of where these tournaments are held would also experience negative economic impacts.

HMS Angling permit holders would also experience negative impacts, despite the fact that they would still be able to catch and release sharks. Landings would not be permitted by any recreational anglers as a result of this alternative suite.

Closing the Atlantic shark fishery would have negative economic impacts on global shark fin markets. As a result of this alternative suite, U.S. flagged vessels would no longer be able to contribute to the global demand for shark fins. This would disadvantage U.S. shark fishermen as global markets would likely need to purchase their shark fins from other markets. However, the United States is not a significant producer of shark products globally. Based on data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), less than one percent of global shark landings occur in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean.

While alternative suite 5 would meet the objectives of this rule, it would have the highest negative economic impacts of the alternatives considered. There would be significant reductions in revenues for shark dealers and fishing vessels involved in the shark fishery. Some small businesses dependent on commercial shark fishing may cease operating as a result of prohibiting the

commercial harvest of shark species. Therefore, this alternative was not selected.

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 states that, for each rule or group of related rules for which an agency is required to prepare a FRFA, the agency shall publish one or more guides to assist small entities in complying with the rule, and shall designate such publications as ''small entity compliance guides.'' The Agency shall explain the actions a small entity is required to take to comply with a rule or group of rules. Copies of the compliance guide for this final rule are available (see **ADDRESSES**).

List of Subjects

50 CFR Part 600

Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

50 CFR Part 635

Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Imports, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Treaties.

Dated: June 16, 2008.

John Oliver,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service.

■ For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR parts 600 and 635 are amended as follows:

Chapter VI

PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT PROVISIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 600 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 561 and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 600.1203, paragraph (a)(9) is revised to read as follows:

§ 600.1203 Prohibitions.

(a) * * *

(9) Fail to maintain a shark in the form specified in §§ 600.1204(h) and 635.30(c) of this chapter.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 600.1204, paragraphs (h) and (j) are revised to read as follows:

§ 600.1204 Shark finning; possession at sea and landing of shark fins.

* * * * *

(h) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark limited access permit and who lands shark in or from the U.S. EEZ in an Atlantic coastal port must comply with regulations found at § 635.30(c) of this chapter.

* * * * *

(j) No person aboard a vessel that has been issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark limited access permit shall possess on board shark fins without the fins being naturally attached to the corresponding carcass(es), although sharks may be dressed at sea.

* * * * *

PART 635—ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

■ 4. The authority citation for 50 CFR part 635 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 5. In § 635.2, the definitions of ''First receiver'', ''Naturally attached'', ''Non-sandbar LCS'', and ''Shark research permit'' are added in alphabetical order and the definitions of ''Dress'' and ''Dressed weight (dw)'' are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

Dress, for swordfish, tunas, and billfish, means to process a fish by removal of head, viscera, and fins, but does not include removal of the backbone, halving, quartering, or otherwise further reducing the carcass. For sharks, dress means to process a fish by removal of head and viscera, but does not include removal of the fins, backbone, halving, quartering, or otherwise further reducing the carcass.

Dressed weight (dw), for swordfish, tunas, and billfish, means the weight of a fish after it has been dressed. For sharks, dressed weight means the weight of a fish after it has been dressed and had its fins, including the tail, removed.

* * * * *

First receiver means any entity, person, or company that takes, for commercial purposes (other than solely for transport), immediate possession of the fish, or any part of the fish, as the fish are offloaded from a fishing vessel of the United States, as defined under § 600.10 of this chapter, whose owner or operator has been issued, or should have been issued, a valid permit under this part.

* * * * *

Naturally attached refers to shark fins that remain attached to the shark carcass via at least some portion of uncut skin.

* * * * *

Non-sandbar LCS means one of the species, or part thereof, listed under heading A of Table 1 in Appendix A of this part other than the sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*).

* * * * *

Shark research permit means a permit issued to catch and land a limited number of sharks to maintain time series for stock assessments and for other scientific research purposes. These permits may be issued only to the owner of a vessel who has been issued either a directed or incidental shark LAP. The permit is specific to the commercial shark vessel and owner combination and is valid only per the terms and conditions listed on the permit.

* * * * *

■ 6. In § 635.4, paragraphs (a)(5) and (g)(2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.4 Permits and fees.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(5) *Display upon offloading.* Upon offloading of Atlantic HMS, the owner or operator of the harvesting vessel must present for inspection the vessel's HMS Charter/Headboat permit; Atlantic tunas, shark, or swordfish permit; and/or the shark research permit to the first receiver. The permit(s) must be presented prior to completing any applicable landing report specified at § 635.5(a)(1), (a)(2), and (b)(2)(i).

* * * * *

(g) * * *

(2) *Shark.* A first receiver, as defined in § 635.2, of Atlantic sharks must possess a valid dealer permit.

* * * * *

■ 7. In § 635.5, paragraphs (b)(1)(i), (b)(1)(ii), and (b)(1)(iv) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) Dealers that have been issued or should have been issued an Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and/or sharks dealer permit under § 635.4 must submit to NMFS all reports required under this section. All reports must be species-specific, must include information about all HMS landed, regardless of where harvested or whether the vessel is federally permitted under § 635.4 and, for sharks, must specify the total shark fin weight separately from the weight of the shark carcass. As stated in § 635.4(a)(6), failure to comply with these recordkeeping and reporting requirements may result in the existing dealer permit being revoked, suspended, or modified, and in the denial of any permit applications.

(ii) Reports of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and/or sharks received by dealers from U.S. vessels, as defined under § 600.10 of this chapter, on the first through the 15th of each month, must be received by NMFS not later than the 25th of that month. Reports of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and/or sharks received on the 16th through the last day of each month must be received by NMFS not later than the 10th of the following month. If a dealer issued an Atlantic tunas, swordfish, or sharks dealer permit under § 635.4 has not received any Atlantic HMS from U.S. vessels during a reporting period as specified in this section, he or she must still submit the report required under paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section stating that no Atlantic HMS were received. This negative report must be received by NMFS for the applicable reporting period as specified in this section. This negative reporting requirement does not apply for bluefin tuna.

* * * * *

(iv) The dealer may mail or fax such report to an address designated by NMFS or may hand-deliver such report to a state or Federal fishery port agent designated by NMFS. If the dealer hand-delivers the report to a port agent, the dealer must deliver such report for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, or sharks no later than the prescribed received-by date for the reporting period, as required in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section.

* * * * *

■ 8. In § 635.21, paragraphs (d)(1)(i), (d)(1)(ii), and (d)(3)(ii) are revised, and paragraph (d)(1)(iii) is added to read as follows:

§ 635.21 Gear operation and deployment restrictions.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) The mid-Atlantic shark closed area from January 1 through July 31 each calendar year;

(ii) The areas designated at § 622.33(a)(1) through (3) of this chapter, year-round; and

(iii) The areas described in paragraphs (d)(1)(iii)(A) through (H) of this section, year-round.

(A) *Snowy Grouper Wreck.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	33°25′	77°04.75′
B	33°34.75′	76°51.3′
C	33°25.5′	76°46.5′
D	33°15.75′	77°00.0′
A	33°25′	77°04.75′

(B) *South Carolina A.* Bounded on the north by 32°53.5′ N. lat.; on the south by 32°48.5′ N. lat.; on the east by 78°04.75′ W. long.; and on the west by 78°16.75′ W. long.

(C) *Edisto.* Bounded on the north by 32°24′ N. lat.; on the south by 32°18.5′ N. lat.; on the east by 78°54.0′ W. long.; and on the west by 79°06.0′ W. long.

(D) *Charleston Deep Artificial Reef.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	32°04′	79°12′
B	32°08.5′	79°07.5′
C	32°06′	79°05′
D	32°01.5′	79°09.3′
A	32°04′	79°12′

(E) *Georgia.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	31°43′	79°31′
B	31°43′	79°21′
C	31°34′	79°29′
D	31°34′	79°39′
A	31°43′	79°31′

(F) *North Florida.* Bounded on the north by 30°29′ N. lat.; on the south by 30°19′ N. lat.; on the east by 80°02′ W. long.; and on the west by 80°14′ W. long.

(G) *St. Lucie Hump.* Bounded on the north by 27°08′ N. lat.; on the south by 27°04′ N. lat.; on the east by 79°58′ W. long.; and on the west by 80°00′ W. long.

(H) *East Hump.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24°36.5′	80°45.5′
B	24°32′	80°36′
C	24°27.5′	80°38.5′
D	24°32.5′	80°48′
A	24°36.5′	80°45.5′

* * * * *

(3) * * *

(ii) *Handling and release requirements.* Sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear, as required by paragraph (d)(3)(i) of this section, must be used to disengage any hooked or entangled sea turtle as stated in paragraph (c)(5)(ii) of this section. This mitigation gear should also be employed to disengage any hooked or entangled species of prohibited sharks as listed under heading D of Table 1 of Appendix A of this part, any hooked or entangled species of sharks that exceed the retention limits as specified in § 635.24(a), and any hooked or entangled smalltooth sawfish. In addition, if a smalltooth sawfish is caught, the fish should be kept in the water while maintaining water flow over the gills and the fish should be examined for research tags. All smalltooth sawfish must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water or any research tags from the fish.

* * * * *

■ 9. In § 635.22, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 635.22 Recreational retention limits.

* * * * *

(c) *Sharks.* (1) One of each of the following sharks may be retained per vessel per trip, subject to the size limits described in § 635.20(e): any of the non-ridgeback sharks listed under heading A.2 of Table 1 in Appendix A of this part, tiger (*Galeocerdo cuvieri*), blue (*Prionace glauca*), common thresher (*Alopias vulpinus*), oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyricnchus*), Atlantic sharpnose (*Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*), finetooth (*C. isodon*), blacknose (*C. acronotus*), and bonnethead (*Sphyrna tiburo*).

(2) In addition to the shark listed under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, one Atlantic sharpnose shark and one bonnethead shark may be retained per person per trip. Regardless of the length of a trip, no more than one Atlantic sharpnose shark and one bonnethead shark per person may be possessed on board a vessel.

(3) No prohibited sharks, including parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, which are listed in Table 1 of Appendix A to this part under prohibited sharks, may be retained regardless of where harvested.

(4) The recreational retention limit for sharks applies to any person who fishes in any manner, except to persons aboard a vessel that has been issued an Atlantic

incidental or directed shark LAP under § 635.4. If a commercial Atlantic shark quota is closed under § 635.28, the recreational retention limit for sharks and no sale provision in paragraph (a) of this section may be applied to persons aboard a vessel issued an Atlantic incidental or directed shark LAP under § 635.4, only if that vessel has also been issued an HMS Charter/Headboat permit issued under § 635.4 and is engaged in a for-hire fishing trip.

* * * * *

■ 10. In § 635.24, paragraph (a) is revised to read as follows:

§ 635.24 Commercial retention limits for sharks and swordfish.

* * * * *

(a) *Sharks.* (1) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a valid shark research permit under § 635.32(f) and who has a NMFS-approved observer on board may retain, possess, or land LCS, including sandbar sharks, in excess of the retention limits in paragraphs (a)(2) through (6) of this section. The amount of LCS that can be landed by such a person will vary as specified on the shark research permit. Only a person who owns or operates a vessel issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer on board may retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks.

(2) From July 24, 2008 through December 31, 2012, a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and does not have a valid shark research permit, or a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and that has been issued a valid shark research permit but does not have a NMFS-approved observer on board, may retain, possess, or land no more than 33 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. Such persons may not retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks. As of January 1, 2013, a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and does not have a valid shark research permit, or a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and that has been issued a shark research permit but does not have a NMFS-approved observer on board, may retain, possess, or land no more than 36 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. Such persons may not retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks.

(3) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental LAP for sharks and does not have a valid shark research permit, or a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental LAP for sharks and that has been issued a valid shark research permit but does not have a NMFS-approved observer on board, may retain, possess, or land no more than 3 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. Such persons may not retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks.

(4) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed shark LAP may retain, possess, or land SCS and pelagic sharks if the SCS or pelagic shark fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental LAP for sharks may retain, possess, or land no more than 16 SCS and pelagic sharks, combined, per trip, if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28.

(5) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental or directed LAP for sharks may not retain, possess, land, sell, or purchase prohibited sharks, including any parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, which are listed in Table 1 of Appendix A to this part under prohibited sharks.

(6) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued either an incidental or directed LAP for sharks, and who decides to retain sharks, must retain, subject to the trip limits, all dead, legal-sized, non-prohibited sharks that are brought onboard the vessel and cannot replace those sharks with sharks of higher quality or size that are caught later in the trip. Any fish that are to be released cannot be brought onboard the vessel and must be released in the water in a manner that maximizes survival.

* * * * *

■ 11. In § 635.27, paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.27 Quotas.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) *Commercial quotas.* The commercial quotas for sharks specified in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) through (b)(1)(vi) of this section apply to all sharks harvested from the management unit, regardless of where harvested. Sharks taken and landed from state waters, even by fishermen without Federal shark permits, must be counted against the fishery quota. Commercial quotas are specified for each of the management groups of sandbar sharks, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, and pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks. Any sharks landed as unclassified will be counted against the appropriate species' quota based on the species composition calculated from data collected by observers on non-research trips and/or dealer data. No prohibited sharks, including parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, which are listed under heading D of Table 1 of Appendix A to this part, may be retained except as authorized under § 635.32.

(i) *Fishing seasons.* The fishing season for sandbar sharks, non-sandbar LCS, small coastal sharks, and all pelagic sharks will begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

(ii) *Regions.* (A) The commercial quotas for non-sandbar LCS are split between two regions: the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. For the purposes of this section, the boundary between the Gulf of Mexico region and the Atlantic region is defined as a line beginning on the east coast of Florida at the mainland at 25°20.4′ N. lat, proceeding due east. Any water and land to the south and west of that boundary is considered, for the purposes of quota monitoring and setting of quotas, to be within the Gulf of Mexico region. Any water and land to the north and east of that boundary, for the purposes of quota monitoring and setting of quotas, is considered to be within the Atlantic region.

(B) Except for non-sandbar LCS landed by a vessels issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard, any non-sandbar LCS reported by dealers located in the Florida Keys areas or in the Gulf of Mexico will be counted against the non-sandbar LCS Gulf of Mexico regional quota. Except for non-sandbar LCS landed by a vessels issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard, any non-sandbar LCS reported by dealers located in the Atlantic region will be counted against the non-sandbar LCS Atlantic regional quota. Non-sandbar LCS landed by a vessel issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard will be counted against the non-sandbar LCS research fishery quota using scientific observer reports.

(iii) *Sandbar sharks.* The base annual commercial quota for sandbar sharks is 116.6 mt dw. However, from July 24, 2008 through December 31, 2012, to account for overharvests that occurred in 2007, the adjusted base quota is 87.9 mt dw. Both the base quota and the adjusted base quota may be further adjusted per paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section. This quota is available only to the owners of commercial shark vessels that have been issued a valid shark research permit and that have a NMFS-approved observer onboard.

(iv) *Non-sandbar LCS.* The total base quota for non-sandbar LCS is 677.8 mt dw. This base quota is split between the

two regions and the shark research fishery as follows: Gulf of Mexico = 439.5 mt dw; Atlantic = 188.3 mt dw; and Shark Research Fishery = 50 mt dw. However, from July 24, 2008 through December 31, 2012, to account for overharvests that occurred in 2007, the total adjusted base quota is 615.8 mt dw. This adjusted base quota is split between the regions and the shark research fishery as follows: Gulf of Mexico = 390.5 mt dw; Atlantic = 187.8 mt dw; and Shark Research Fishery = 37.5 mt dw. Both the base quota and the adjusted base quota may be further adjusted per paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section.

(v) *Small coastal sharks.* The base annual commercial quota for small coastal sharks is 454 mt dw, unless adjusted pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section.

(vi) *Pelagic sharks.* The base annual commercial quotas for pelagic sharks are 273 mt dw for blue sharks, 1.7 mt dw for porbeagle sharks, and 488 mt dw for pelagic sharks other than blue sharks or porbeagle sharks, unless adjusted pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section.

(vii) *Annual adjustments.* NMFS will publish in the **Federal Register** any annual adjustments to the base annual commercial quotas or the 2008 through 2012 adjusted base quotas. The base annual quota and the adjusted base annual quota will not be available, and the fishery will not open, until such adjustments are published and effective in the **Federal Register**.

(A) *Overharvests.* If the available quota for sandbar sharks, small coastal, porbeagle shark, and pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks is exceeded in any fishing season, NMFS will deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) from the following fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), NMFS may deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years. If the annual quota in a particular region or in the research fishery for non-sandbar LCS is exceeded in any fishing season, NMFS will deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) from the following fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), NMFS may deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years, in the specific region or research fishery where the overharvest occurred. If the blue shark quota is exceeded, NMFS will reduce the annual commercial quota for pelagic sharks by the amount that the blue shark quota is exceeded prior to the start of the next fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years.

(B) *Underharvests.* If an annual quota for sandbar sharks, SCS, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, or pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle is not exceeded, NMFS may adjust the annual quota depending on the status of the stock or quota group. If the annual quota for non-sandbar LCS is not exceeded in either region or in the research fishery, NMFS may adjust the annual quota for that region or the research fishery depending on the status of the stock or quota group. If the stock (e.g., sandbar shark, porbeagle shark, pelagic shark, or blue shark) or specific species within a quota group (e.g., non-sandbar LCS or SCS) is declared to be overfished, to have overfishing occurring, or to have an unknown status, NMFS will not adjust the following fishing year's quota for any underharvest, and the following fishing year's quota will be equal to the base annual quota (or the adjusted base quota for sandbar and non-sandbar LCS until December 31, 2012). If the stock is not declared to be overfished, to have overfishing occurring, or to have an unknown status, NMFS may increase the following year's base annual quota (or the adjusted base quota for sandbar and non-sandbar LCS until December 31, 2012) by an equivalent amount of the underharvest up to 50 percent above the base annual quota. For the non-sandbar LCS fishery, underharvests are not transferable between regions and/or the research fishery.

(2) *Public display and non-specific research quota.* The base annual quota for persons who collect non-sandbar LCS, SCS, pelagic sharks, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, or prohibited species under a display permit or EFP is 57.2 mt ww (41.2 mt dw). The base annual quota for persons who collect sandbar sharks under a display permit is 1.4 mt ww (1 mt dw) and under an EFP is 1.4 mt ww (1 mt dw). No persons may collect dusky sharks under a display permit or EFP. All sharks collected under the authority of a display permit or EFP, subject to restrictions at § 635.32, will be counted against these quotas.

* * * * *

■ 12. In § 635.28, paragraphs (b)(1) through (3) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.28 Closures.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) If quota is available as specified by a publication in the **Federal Register**, the commercial fisheries for sandbar shark, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, porbeagle sharks, blue sharks, and pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks will remain open as specified at § 635.27(b)(1).

(2) When NMFS calculates that the fishing season landings for sandbar shark, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, or pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks has reached or is projected to reach 80 percent of the available quota as specified in § 635.27(b)(1), NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the Federal Register a notice of closure for that shark species group and/or region that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure until NMFS announces, via a notice in the **Federal Register**, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, the fishery for the shark species group and, for non-sandbar LCS, region is closed, even across fishing years.

(3) When the fishery for a shark species group and/or region is closed, a fishing vessel, issued an Atlantic Shark LAP pursuant to § 635.4, may not possess or sell a shark of that species group and/or region, except under the conditions specified in § 635.22(a) and (c) or if the vessel possesses a valid shark research permit under § 635.32 and an NMFS-approved observer is onboard. A shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4, may not purchase or receive a shark of that species group and/or region from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. Additionally, a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess non-sandbar sharks that were harvested by a vessel issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard as long as the non-sandbar shark research fishery is open. Under a closure for a shark species group, a shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may, in accordance with state regulations, purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel that fishes only in state waters and that has not been issued a Shark LAP, HMS Angling permit, or HMS Charter/Headboat permit pursuant to § 635.4. Additionally, under a closure for a shark species group and/or regional closure, a

shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant, to § 635.4 may purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel issued a valid shark research permit (per § 635.32) that had a NMFS-approved observer on board during the trip sharks were collected.

* * * * *

■ 13. In § 635.30, paragraphs (c)(1) through (4) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.30 Possession at sea and landing.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) Notwithstanding the regulations issued at part 600, subpart N of this chapter, a person who owns or operates a vessel issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP must maintain all the shark fins including the tail on the shark carcass until the shark has been offloaded from the vessel. While sharks are on board and when sharks are being offloaded, persons issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP are subject to the regulations at part 600, subpart N, of this chapter.

(2) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has a valid Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP must maintain the shark intact through offloading except that the shark may be dressed. All fins, including the tail, must remain naturally attached to the shark through offloading. While on the vessel, fins may be sliced so that the fin can be folded along the carcass for storage purposes as long as the fin remains naturally attached to the carcass via at least a small portion of uncut skin. The fins and tail may only be removed from the carcass once the shark has been landed and offloaded.

(3) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP and who lands sharks in an Atlantic coastal port must have all fins and carcasses weighed and recorded on the weighout slips specified in § 635.5(a)(2) and in accordance with regulations at part 600, subpart N, of this chapter. Persons may not possess any shark fins not naturally attached to a shark carcass on board a fishing vessel at any time.

(4) Persons aboard a vessel that does not have a commercial permit for shark must maintain a shark in or from the EEZ intact through landing with the head, tail, and all fins attached. The shark may be bled.

* * * * *

■ 14. In § 635.31, paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(4) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.31 Restrictions on sale and purchase.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) Persons that own or operate a vessel that possesses a shark from the management unit may sell such shark only if the vessel has a valid commercial shark permit issued under this part. Persons may possess and sell a shark only when the fishery for that species group and/or region has not been closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

* * * * *

(4) Only dealers that have a valid shark dealer permit may purchase shark from the owner or operator of a fishing vessel. Dealers may purchase a shark only from an owner or operator of a vessel who has a valid commercial shark permit issued under this part, except that dealers may purchase a shark from an owner or operator of a vessel that does not have a commercial permit for shark if that vessel fishes exclusively in state waters. Dealers may purchase a sandbar shark only from an owner or operator of a vessel who has a valid shark research permit and who had a NMFS-approved observer onboard the vessel for the trip in which the sandbar shark was collected. Dealers may purchase a shark from an owner or operator of fishing vessel that has a permit issued under this part only when the fishery for that species group and/or region has not been closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

* * * * *

■ 15. In § 635.32, paragraphs (a)(2), (f), and (g) are revised and paragraph (h) is added to read as follows:

§ 635.32 Specifically authorized activities.

(a) * * *

(2) Activities subject to the provisions of this section include, but are not limited to: scientific research resulting in, or likely to result in, the take, harvest, or incidental mortality of Atlantic HMS; exempted fishing and educational activities; programs under which regulated species retained in contravention to otherwise applicable regulations may be donated through approved food bank networks; or chartering arrangements. Such activities must be authorized in writing and are subject to all conditions specified in any letter of acknowledgment, EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit issued in response to requests for authorization under this section.

* * * * *

(f) *Shark research permits.* (1) For activities consistent with the purposes of this section and § 600.745(b)(1) of this chapter, NMFS may issue shark research permits.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 600.745 of this chapter and other provisions of this part, a valid shark research permit is required to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic sharks, including sandbar sharks, in excess of the retention limits described in § 635.24(a). A valid shark research permit must be on board the harvesting vessel, must be available for inspection when the shark is landed, and must be presented for inspection upon request of an authorized officer. A shark research permit is only valid for the vessel and owner(s) combination specified and cannot be transferred to another vessel or owner(s). A shark research permit is only valid for the retention limits, time, area, gear specified, and other terms and conditions as listed on the permit and only when a NMFS-approved observer is onboard. Species landed under a shark research permit shall be counted against the appropriate quota specified in § 635.27 or as otherwise provided in the shark research permit.

(3) Regardless of the number of applicants, NMFS will issue only a limited number of shark research permits depending on available quotas as described in § 635.27, research needs for stock assessments and other scientific purposes, and the number of sharks expected to be harvested by vessels issued LAPs for sharks.

(4) In addition to the workshops required under § 635.8, persons issued a shark research permit, and/or operators of vessels specified on the shark research permit, may be required to attend other workshops (e.g., shark identification workshops, captain's meeting, etc.) as deemed necessary by NMFS to ensure the collection of high quality data.

(5) Issuance of a shark research permit does not guarantee the permit holder that a NMFS-approved observer will be deployed on any particular trip. Rather, permit issuance indicates that a vessel is eligible for a NMFS-approved observer to be deployed on the vessel for a particular trip and that, on such observed trips, the vessel may be allowed to harvest Atlantic sharks, including sandbar sharks, in excess of the retention limits described in § 635.24(a).

(6) The shark research permit may be revoked, limited, or modified at any time, does not confer any right to engage in activities beyond those authorized by the permit, and does not confer any right of compensation to the holder.

(g) *Applications and renewals.* (1) Application procedures shall be as

indicated under § 600.745(b)(2) of this chapter, except that NMFS may consolidate requests for the purpose of obtaining public comment. In such cases, NMFS may file with the Office of the Federal Register, on an annual or more frequent basis as necessary, notification of previously authorized exempted fishing, scientific research, public display, chartering, and shark research activities and to solicit public comment on anticipated EFP, scientific research permit, letter of acknowledgment, public display, chartering, or shark research permit activities. Applications for EFPs, scientific research permits, public display permits, chartering permits, or shark research permits are required to include all reports specified in the applicant's previous permit including, if applicable, the year-end report, all delinquent reports for permits issued in prior years, and all other specified information. In situations of delinquent reports, applications will be deemed incomplete and a permit will not be issued under this section.

(2) For the shark research permit, NMFS will publish annually, in a **Federal Register** notice(s), a description for the following fishing year of the expected research objectives. This description may include information such as the number of vessels needed, regions and seasons for which vessels are needed, the specific criteria for selection, and the application deadline. Complete applications, including all information requested in the applicable **Federal Register** notice(s) and on the application form and any previous reports required pursuant to this section and § 635.5, must be received by NMFS by the application deadline in order for the vessel to be considered. Requested information could include, but is not limited to, applicant name and address, permit information, vessel information, availability of the vessel, past involvement in the shark fishery, and compliance with HMS regulations including observer regulations. NMFS will only review complete applications received by the published deadline to determine eligibility for participation in the shark research fishery. Qualified vessels will be chosen based on the information provided on the applications and their ability to meet the selection criteria as published in the **Federal Register** notice. A commercial shark permit holder whose vessel was selected to carry an observer in the previous two years for any HMS fishery but failed to comply with the observer regulations specified in § 635.7 will not be considered. A commercial shark permit holder that has been charged criminally or civilly (i.e., issued a Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) or Notice of Permit Sanction) for any HMS related violation will not be considered for participation in the shark research fishery. Qualified vessels will be randomly selected to participate in the shark research fishery based on their availability and the temporal and spatial needs of the research objectives. If a vessel issued a shark research permit cannot conduct the shark research tasks, for whatever reason, that permit will be revoked and, depending on the status of the research and the fishing year, NMFS will randomly select another qualified vessel to be issued a shark research permit.

(h) *Terms and conditions.* (1) For EFPs, scientific research permits, and public display permits: Written reports on fishing activities, and disposition of all fish captured under a permit issued under this section must be submitted to NMFS within 5 days of return to port. NMFS will provide specific conditions and requirements as needed, consistent with the Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan, in the permit. If an individual issued a Federal permit under this section captures no HMS in any given month, either in or outside the EEZ, a ''no-catch'' report must be submitted to NMFS within 5 days of the last day of that month.

(2) For chartering permits, written reports of fishing activities must be submitted to NMFS by a date specified, and to an address designated, in the terms and conditions of each chartering permit.

(3) An annual written summary report of all fishing activities, and disposition of all fish captured, under the permit must be submitted to NMFS for all EFPs, scientific research permits, display permits, and chartering permits issued under this section within 30 days after the expiration date of the permit.

(4) For shark research permits, all owners and/or operators must comply with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements specified in § 635.5 per the requirement of holding a LAP for sharks.

(5) As stated in § 635.4(a)(6), failure to comply with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of this section could result in the EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit being revoked, suspended, or modified, and in the denial of any future applications.

■ 16. In § 635.69, paragraph (a) introductory text is revised to read as follows:

§ 635.69 Vessel monitoring systems.

(a) *Applicability.* To facilitate enforcement of time/area and fishery closures, an owner or operator of a commercial vessel, permitted to fish for Atlantic HMS under § 635.4 and that fishes with a pelagic or bottom longline or gillnet gear, is required to install a NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit on board the vessel and operate the VMS unit under the following circumstances:

* * * * *

■ 17. In § 635.71, paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(6), (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(6) through (8), and (d)(10) are revised and paragraphs (d)(15), (d)(16), and (d)(17) are added to read as follows:

§ 635.71 Prohibitions.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(2) Fish for, catch, possess, retain, or land Atlantic HMS without the appropriate valid vessel permit, LAP, EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit on board the vessel, as specified in §§ 635.4 and 635.32.

* * * * *

(4) Sell or transfer or attempt to sell or transfer, for commercial purposes, an Atlantic tuna, shark, or swordfish other than to a dealer that has a valid dealer permit issued under § 635.4, except that this does not apply to a shark harvested by a vessel that has not been issued a permit under this part and that fishes exclusively within the waters under the jurisdiction of any state.

* * * * *

(6) Falsify or fail to record, report, or maintain information required to be recorded, reported, or maintained, as specified in §§ 635.5 and 635.32 or in the terms and conditions of a permit issued under § 635.4 or an EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit issued under § 635.32.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(3) Retain, possess, or land a shark of a species group when the fishery for that species group and/or region is closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

(4) Sell or purchase a shark of a species group when the fishery for that species group and/or region is closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

* * * * *

(6) Fail to maintain a shark in its proper form, as specified in § 635.30(c). Fail to maintain naturally attached shark fins through offloading as specified in § 635.30(c).

(7) Sell or purchase shark fins that are disproportionate to the weight of shark

carcasses, as specified in § 635.30(c) and § 600.1204(e) and (l) of this chapter.

(8) Fail to have shark fins and carcasses weighed and recorded, as specified in § 635.30(c).

* * * * *

(10) Retain, possess, sell, or purchase a prohibited shark, including parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, as specified under §§ 635.22(c), 635.24(a), and 635.27(b), or fail to disengage any hooked or entangled prohibited shark with the least harm possible to the animal as specified at § 635.21(d).

* * * * *

(15) Sell or transfer or attempt to sell or transfer a shark or sharks or part of a shark or sharks in excess of the retention limits specified in § 635.24(a).

(16) Purchase, receive, or transfer or attempt to purchase, receive, or transfer a shark or sharks or part of a shark or sharks landed in excess of the retention limits specified in § 635.24(a).

(17) Replace sharks that are onboard the vessel for retention with sharks of higher quality or size that are caught later in a particular trip as specified in § 635.24(a).

* * * * *

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 635

[Docket No. 0612242866–8619–02]

RIN 0648–AU89

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Atlantic Shark Management Measures; Republication

Editorial Note: Federal Register rule document E8–13961, originally published at pages 35778 to 35833 in the issue of Tuesday, June 24, 2008, included several pages of duplicated text and deleted material. This document is being republished in its entirety.

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; fishing season notification.

SUMMARY: This final rule implements the management measures described in Final Amendment 2 to the Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP). These management measures are designed to rebuild overfished species and prevent overfishing of Atlantic sharks. These measures include, but are not limited to, reductions in the commercial quotas, adjustments to commercial retention limits, establishment of a shark research fishery, a requirement for commercial vessels to maintain all fins on the shark carcasses through offloading, the establishment of two regional quotas for non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS), the establishment of one annual season for commercial shark fishing instead of trimesters, changes in reporting requirements for dealers (including swordfish and tuna dealers), the establishment of additional time/area closures for bottom longline (BLL) fisheries, and changes to the authorized species for recreational fisheries. This rule also establishes the 2008 commercial quota for all Atlantic shark species groups. These changes affect all commercial and recreational shark fishermen and shark dealers on the Atlantic Coast.

DATES: This rule is effective on July 24, 2008.

ADDRESSES: For copies of Final Amendment 2 to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, the Small Entity Compliance Guide, or other related documents, please write to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or call at (301) 713–2347 or fax to (301)713–1917. Copies are also available on the HMS website at *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/*.

Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division at (301) 713–2347 or by fax to (301) 713–1917 and by e-mail to *David__Rostker@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395–7285.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Clark, Karyl Brewster-Geisz, or LeAnn Southward Hogan at 301–713–2347 or by fax at 301–713–1917; or Jackie Wilson at 240–338–3936.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Consolidated HMS FMP is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635.

NMFS announced its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65086), and held seven scoping meetings in January 2007 (72 FR 123, January 3, 2007). As described in the notice of intent, based on the results of the 2005 Canadian porbeagle shark stock assessment, the 2006 dusky shark stock assessment, and the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment, NMFS declared the current status of the LCS complex as unknown, sandbar sharks as overfished with overfishing occurring, the Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark population as not overfished with overfishing not occurring, the Atlantic blacktip shark population as unknown, the dusky shark as overfished with overfishing occurring, and porbeagle sharks as overfished with overfishing not occurring. Where there are overfished/overfishing determinations, under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to develop management measures to rebuild overfished shark stocks and prevent overfishing.

In March 2007, NMFS presented a predraft of the Amendment 2 to the HMS Advisory Panel (72 FR 7860, February 21, 2007). Based in part on the comments received during scoping and from the HMS Advisory Panel, on July 27, 2007, NMFS developed further and then released the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP and the associated proposed rule (72 FR 41325; 72 FR 41392). The public comment period was originally scheduled to end on October 10, 2007; however, it was subsequently extended (72 FR 56330, October 3, 2007) and reopened until December 17, 2007 (72 FR 64186, November 15, 2007), to provide the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and the public additional opportunity to submit comments. In addition to the written comments submitted, the public verbally commented on the proposed rule at five Regional Fishery Management Council meetings (New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean), an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, ten public hearings, and one HMS Advisory Panel meeting. The summary of the comments received and NMFS' responses are provided below. Based on these public comments, NMFS re-evaluated the preferred alternatives identified in the draft Amendment 2, made changes as outlined in Final Amendment 2, and now releases its final rule as modified after considering public comment.

Consistent with the Consolidated HMS FMP objectives, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, the objectives for this final rule are to: (1) implement rebuilding plans for sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks; (2) provide an opportunity for the sustainable harvest of blacktip and other sharks, as appropriate; (3) prevent overfishing of Atlantic sharks; (4) analyze BLL time/area closures and take necessary action to maintain or modify the closures, as appropriate; and (5) improve, to the extent practicable, data collections or data collection programs.

The rebuilding plans in Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP considers the recommendations in the stock assessments to be the best available scientific information on the status of the species and therefore, reflects those recommendations. This includes NMFS establishing rebuilding time periods that are as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of the stocks and needs of the fishing communities according to National Standard (NS) 1 guidelines.

The 2005/2006 stock assessment for the sandbar shark assumed that sandbar shark fishing mortality from 2005 to 2007 would be maintained at levels similar to 2004 (the last year of data used in the stock assessment was from 2004) and that there would be a constant total allowable catch (TAC) between 2008 and 2070. Using these assumptions, the projections indicated that sandbar sharks would have a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 220 mt whole

weight (ww) (158 mt dressed weight (dw))/year and a 50–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 240 mt ww (172 mt dw)/year. As described in Amendment 2, NMFS used the 70–percent probability of rebuilding to ensure that the intended results of a management action are actually realized given the life history traits of sandbar sharks.

Under the rebuilding plan, sandbar sharks are separated from the LCS complex, and the base commercial sandbar shark quota is established at 116.6 mt dw/year, which results in a total sandbar shark TAC of 158.3 mt dw (220 mt ww) once other sources of sandbar sharks mortality are included. For the first five years of this rebuilding plan (through 2012), to account for 2007 overharvests, the base commercial quota is reduced to 87.9 mt dw. The adjusted base quota through 2012 includes the amount of quota that would have been available in the 1st season of 2008 had NMFS not closed the fishery during that time. In the final rule for the 1st season of 2008, NMFS calculated that 78 mt dw (171,959 lb dw) would have been available (November 29, 2007, 72 FR 67580). However, based on updates to the reported landings, NMFS adjusted the 78 mt dw estimate down to 66.2 mt dw (145,944 lb dw). The actual commercial quota available in any particular year may fluctuate based on overharvests and will be published via appropriate rulemaking in the **Federal Register**.

Projections in the dusky shark stock assessment indicated that with the age-structured production model (i.e., baseline scenario), dusky sharks could be rebuilt with a 70–percent probability by the year 2400. Other projections from the three other modeling approaches indicate that rebuilding of dusky sharks will take between 100–400 years. As such, in this final rule, NMFS assumes that the rebuilding timeframe that would be as short as possible for dusky sharks would be at least 100 years. The harvest of dusky sharks has been prohibited since 2000. Despite this fact, dusky sharks are still overfished with overfishing occurring. NMFS believes this is at least partly due to the fact that they are caught as bycatch, predominantly in longline fisheries. Many of the final actions in this rule, such as establishing a shark research fishery with 100 percent observer coverage and decreasing the retention limits of non-sandbar large coastal sharks on all fishing vessels, should reduce dusky shark bycatch. This reduction in bycatch should aid in rebuilding and in collecting additional information to evaluate dusky shark status and catches. In the research fishery, if dusky shark catch is high by a particular vessel or in a particular region, NMFS could stop that vessel's trip(s) or stop all research trips in that region and/or time. Additionally, if NMFS decides, after reviewing the data from a particular year, NMFS decides that the catch was too high in the research fishery, NMFS could adjust the research protocols and reduce effort or modify gear requirements, as needed. For the non-research fishery trips, NMFS could either reduce the retention limit in an attempt to reduce effort or work with the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council to reduce bycatch mortality in certain fisheries, or consider other measures, as appropriate.

A stock assessment was conducted for North Atlantic porbeagle sharks in 2005 by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This assessment was reviewed by NMFS scientists who determined it used appropriate methodologies and all available fishery and biological data including U.S. landings and research. As a result of this review, NMFS determined that the assessment constituted the best available science. NMFS also determined that because the stock assessed is a unit stock that extends into U.S. waters, the assessment and its recommendations were appropriate for use in U.S. domestic management. The assessment recommended that there is a 70–percent probability of rebuilding in 100 years if fishing mortality levels are maintained at or below 0.04 (current fishing mortality level). Considering this science, NMFS believes that the rebuilding timeframe that is as short as possible is 100 years, which will allow a TAC of 11.3 mt dw based on current commercial landings of 1.7 mt dw, current commercial discards of 9.5 mt dw, and current recreational landings of 0.1 mt dw. This results in a commercial porbeagle shark quota of 1.7 mt dw.

This final rule does not contain detailed information regarding the management history of Atlantic sharks or the alternatives considered. Those issues are discussed in the preamble of the proposed rule. Additional information can also be found in the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**). This final rule contains responses to comments received during the public comment period and a description of changes to the rule between proposed and final. The description of the changes to the proposed rule can be found after the response to comment section.

Response to Comments

A large number of individuals and groups provided both written and verbal comments on the proposed rule during the 143-day comment period, 10 public hearings, 5 Regional Fishery Management Council meetings, one Interstate Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, and one HMS Advisory Panel meeting. These comments resulted in numerous changes. The comments are summarized below together with NMFS' responses. All of the comments are grouped together by major issue. There are 16 major issues: Quotas/Species Complexes; Porbeagle Sharks as Prohibited; Retention Limits; Fins on Requirement; Time Area Closures; Reporting; Seasons; Regions; Recreational Measures; Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report and Stock Assessment Frequency; Research Fishery/Preferred Alternative; Comments on Other Alternative Suites and Management Measures; Science; National Standards; Economic Impacts; and Miscellaneous. The comments are numbered consecutively, starting with 1, at the beginning of each issue.

1. Quotas/Species Complexes

a. Quotas

Comment 1: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) should consider reducing the fishing mortality for overfished sandbar sharks.

Response: NMFS is taking steps to reduce fishing mortality for overfished sandbar sharks. In particular, NMFS is reducing the base commercial quota for sandbar sharks to 116.6 mt dw. This amount is further reduced to 87.9 mt dw from 2008 through 2012 to account for 2007 overharvests. This is more than an 80–percent reduction in sandbar shark landings compared to the status quo (594.4 mt dw). This base commercial quota of 116.6 mt dw (which is then adjusted for overharvest) combined with estimated discards both within and outside the commercial shark fishery (e.g., including other commercial fisheries and recreational fisheries) is anticipated to keep sandbar mortality below the recommended total allowable catch (TAC) of 158.3 mt dw, which gives this stock a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070, as described in Chapter one of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Comment 2: NMFS should have considered Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) for the shark fishery in this rulemaking. The quota is just too small for the number of participants. Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) or ITQs would accomplish the same

objectives as the research fishery. ITQs/IFQs are the fairest, simplest, most rational method for this dilemma. NMFS should switch to an ITQ system with no trip limit, because a lot of times fishermen do not weigh the sharks. Rather, fishermen know their legal trip limit based on how they fill their fish boxes. An ITQ system with no trip limit would result in fewer dead discards.

Response: ITQs may be beneficial in many fisheries, and NMFS may consider developing an IFQ or Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) for sharks as well as other HMS in the future. NMFS did not consider ITQs to be a reasonable alternative for this rulemaking given the strict 1-year timeline to which NMFS must adhere in setting up a system for rebuilding a fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Furthermore, overfishing of sharks would have continued during an extensive ITQ development phase, which would have been inconsistent with NMFS' mandate in section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to rebuild overfished stocks. The Magnuson-Stevens Act states that for stocks identified as overfished or having overfishing occurring, the Secretary of Commerce or the relevant Council, as appropriate, shall prepare a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations for the fishery to end overfishing in the fishery and rebuild affected stocks within one year of that determination. NMFS satisfied that timing provision: sandbar sharks and dusky sharks were determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring on November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65086), and NMFS published Draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP on July 27, 2007 (72 FR 41325). NMFS notes that the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act amended section 304(e) to include a two-year timing provision for preparation and implementation of actions, and the new provision will be effective July 12, 2009.

Given section 304 and other timing considerations for this action, NMFS did not consider an ITQ system as a reasonable alternative, as it takes several years to properly design an ITQ system that appropriately considers the views of all stakeholders and then to implement such a system. The general requirements for ITQs or LAPPs were included in the 2007 reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (section 303A). Overall, two basic things must be done when implementing a LAPP system: 1) determine who would receive and who can hold the harvest privileges; and 2) define the nature of the harvest privileges. In addition, NMFS is currently establishing referenda requirements for LAPPs (for instance, a particular allocation scheme must be approved by a given level of the industry). In addition, unlike the research fishery, which would allow an individual fisherman to target sharks on a yearly basis, allocation under an ITQ, IFQ, or LAPP would be for a much longer time period. Because fishermen would have these allocations for a long time, NMFS traditionally works extensively with all stakeholders to devise the best allocation scheme possible for these type of permit programs through workshops and other meetings.

Comment 3: NMFS should reconsider how it calculated the non-sandbar Large Coastal Shark (LCS) quota. The non-sandbar LCS quota is low because fishermen were not targeting non-sandbar LCS in the past. They were targeting sandbar sharks. If fishermen had been targeting non-sandbar LCS, historical landings would be much higher, and there would be a larger non-sandbar LCS quota than is currently proposed.

Response: NMFS is implementing a larger non-sandbar LCS base quota of 627.8 mt dw outside the shark research fishery based on dealer reports rather than logbooks, as originally proposed. By using dealer reports, NMFS included in its calculations landings outside of NMFS' jurisdiction (e.g., state landings) and thus maintained consistency in establishing the quota with data used in the stock assessments.

In using historical landings reported by shark dealers to calculate the non-sandbar LCS quota, NMFS follows the recommendations of the stock assessments for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic blacktip shark populations. These stock assessments recommended keeping catch levels the same in the Atlantic region and not increasing catch levels in the Gulf of Mexico region. Basing quotas on dealer reports would cap fishing effort at historical levels and keep stocks in the Gulf of Mexico healthy and stocks in the Atlantic from declining. Setting quotas higher than these levels could have detrimental effects on shark stocks.

Comment 4: NMFS should consider allocating the entire sandbar quota to fishermen participating in the research fishery because giving a few sandbar sharks to those outside of the research fishery would not be worth it. NMFS should also consider only allowing fishermen with directed shark permits to participate in the shark fishery.

Response: NMFS considered the option discussed in the comment. Under the final action, NMFS is allocating the entire 87.9 mt dw adjusted sandbar quota to the shark research fishery. NMFS will publish a **Federal Register** notice each year, inviting applications from permit holders who are willing to participate in the shark research fishery. Within that notice, NMFS will publish the selection criteria that NMFS would use to select participants for the research fishery. For example, depending on the research objectives for a given year, NMFS may consider applications from a variety of permit holders, including directed, incidental, and charter/headboat (CHB) permit holders, for participation in the shark research fishery.

Comment 5: NMFS should acknowledge that the proposed reduction in quotas is the end of the directed shark fishery. NMFS should ensure that sharks are not discarded and accommodate incidental landings whenever possible.

Response: The final actions will likely end the directed shark fishery for certain species. With the reductions in the sandbar quota, the reduction in retention limits, and the prohibition on retaining sandbar sharks outside the research fishery, fishermen with directed shark permits will likely no longer target LCS outside of the research fishery. As described above, these modifications to quotas and retention limits are necessary to end overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks.

However, as suggested by the commenter, NMFS tried to accommodate incidental landings in other fisheries. Under the final action, fishermen can still retain some non-sandbar LCS while they fish for other species (e.g., reef fish and snapper-grouper). A fisherman with a directed shark permit could harvest 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip and a fisherman with an incidental shark permit could land 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. The trip limit for directed shark permit holders is based, in part, on BLL observer program data from 2005 to 2007. The observer data showed that fishermen with directed shark permits fishing for snapper-grouper kept, on average, 12 sharks per trip. A 33 non-sandbar trip limit should allow fishermen with directed permits to retain sharks (besides sandbar sharks) they catch while targeting other species and should minimize discards. The incidental trip limit is based on what fishermen with incidental permits currently retain under the status quo.

NMFS also considered whether limiting sandbar harvest to the research fishery would increase dead discards or if NMFS needed to include a trip limit for sandbar sharks. Observer data

indicate that fishermen targeting species other than sharks (i.e., snapper-grouper) catch, on average, one sandbar shark per trip. Given that sets on trips not targeting sharks are typically shorter in length and duration than sets on trips targeting sharks, it is anticipated that sandbar sharks would remain on the gear for less time than on trips targeting shark species, and, thus, would have a greater likelihood of being released alive. Therefore, the current trip limits are not anticipated to result in increased dead discards.

Comment 6: NMFS needs to take a more a precautionary approach in regard to hammerheads, common thresher sharks, and blacktip sharks in the Atlantic region, which have an unknown stock status; NMFS should follow international organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and pay attention to red listed shark species such as hammerheads, dusky, and sand tiger sharks, which would likely be taken (under the quota or as bycatch) in the fishery and are particularly depleted. Considering these factors, as well as NMFS' poor record for shark recovery to date, NMFS should close the commercial shark fishery; NMFS should put a moratorium on LCS fishing in the Atlantic until the stock status of Atlantic blacktip sharks is known; NMFS should only allow fishing for Atlantic blacktip sharks within scientifically derived limits when the population is capable of supporting such exploitation and bycatch of prohibited species is demonstrated to be insignificant.

Response: NMFS is implementing management measures based on the latest NMFS-conducted stock assessments for blacktip, dusky, and sandbar sharks, and the LCS complex, which represent the best available peer reviewed science. NMFS is also implementing management measures based on the latest Canadian-based stock assessment for porbeagle sharks, which NMFS determined represents the best available science. The management measures in this final rule are consistent with the rebuilding targets established in these shark stock assessments, and the rebuilding time periods are as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of the stocks and needs of the fishing communities according to NS 1 guidelines.

In general, shark stock status determinations are based on NMFS-conducted stock assessments. NMFS uses the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process for shark stock assessments, which is open to the public and uses the Center for Independent Experts (CIE) to provide independent peer reviews of assessment results.

These assessments consider landings by other countries such as Mexico and Canada but contain mostly U.S. data. For shark species that may have substantial landings outside of the United States (e.g., blue shark), NMFS also relies on the results of the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). These stock assessments are conducted with scientists and data from throughout the world, including U.S. scientists and data. In the case of porbeagle sharks, SCRS determined that ICCAT did not need to conduct a stock assessment since Canada had already conducted one. As such, NMFS scientists reviewed the Canadian stock assessment and determined it was appropriate for use in domestic management.

To date, NMFS has not relied on outside organizations, such as the IUCN, when making stock status determinations. This is due to the unknown nature of the data and peer review methodology applied by these outside groups.

The latest blacktip shark assessments recommended not increasing catch levels in the Gulf of Mexico and keeping catch levels at historical levels in the Atlantic. To account for differences in catch between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic region and to follow recommendations from the blacktip shark stock assessments, NMFS is implementing a Gulf of Mexico non-sandbar LCS regional quota and an Atlantic non-sandbar LCS regional quota based on historical landings from HMS shark dealer reports from 2003 to 2005. Based on dealer reports, the Atlantic region has a lower non-sandbar LCS base quota (188.34 mt dw) than the Gulf of Mexico region (439.5 mt dw). Since the Atlantic blacktip shark stock assessment recommended not changing landings and did not recommend prohibiting the harvest of blacktip sharks, NMFS is implementing this regional quota based on historical landings in the Atlantic region.

Unlike the sandbar shark assessment, which recommended a specific TAC, or the blacktip stock assessments, which recommended specific catch levels, the dusky shark assessment did not give specific mortality targets. Dusky sharks have been on the prohibited species list in 2000; however, there continue to be dusky shark discards in other fisheries. NMFS estimated reduction in dusky shark mortality as a result of sandbar shark and non-sandbar LCS management actions. Based on the reduced quotas and trip limits, NMFS estimates that dusky shark mortality will likely be reduced from 33.1 mt dw to 9.1 mt dw per year. This is a 73–percent reduction in mortality compared to the status quo, which should help rebuild the dusky shark population and afford dusky sharks more protection compared to the status quo.

Finally, NMFS is aware of a separate external hammerhead shark stock assessment that is being conducted, but not aware of separate stock assessments for common threshers or sand tiger sharks. Conducting stock assessments at a species specific level is difficult due to the lack of species-specific information collected to conduct stock assessments for each species of sharks involved in commercial shark fisheries. Therefore, species such as hammerhead sharks and common threshers are managed within species complexes. While NMFS is not implementing management measures for hammerhead sharks, it is likely that hammerhead shark landings will be reduced due to the reduced non-sandbar LCS quota and retention limits.

NMFS has not considered specific management actions for common threshers in this rulemaking, but an annual quota is in place for the pelagic shark complex (488 mt dw), and underharvests of this complex are not applied to the next season. NMFS may consider additional management actions for this species, as warranted, in the future.

For sand tiger sharks, based on their high vulnerability to exploitation and to discourage any future directed fisheries, NMFS included these sharks on the prohibited species list in 1997. Additionally, as with the dusky sharks, a reduction in discards based on the sandbar shark and non-sandbar LCS quotas and management actions taken in this rulemaking should afford additional protection for sand tiger sharks.

Comment 7: NMFS should include landings by states, such as Louisiana and Alabama, against the Federal shark quota.

Response: NMFS counts both Federal and state landings of sharks against the Federal shark quota since sharks in both state and Federal waters contribute to the stocks that are federally managed. This approach is consistent with that used by NMFS to manage other Federal fisheries such as reef fish and snapper grouper.

Comment 8: NMFS should consider species-specific quotas. NMFS should begin with blacktip sharks, since an assessment was done for them in both

the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic. This is because of variation in life history parameters, different intrinsic rates of increase, and different catch and abundance data for all species listed in each complex. Managing sharks as a complex is inappropriate.

Response: NMFS is moving towards species-specific management, including species-specific quotas. However, for some species, NMFS has only limited data which requires management to be based on species within a complex. Based on the latest stock assessment, NMFS has removed sandbar sharks from the LCS complex, resulting in a sandbar shark quota, and a non-sandbar LCS quota, comprised of blacktip, bull, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, lemon, nurse, silky, tiger, and spinner sharks. The sandbar shark assessment gave a specific TAC for sandbar sharks, which resulted in NMFS accounting for sandbar shark mortality in all fisheries (both commercial and recreational sectors) before establishing a base commercial quota of 116.6 mt dw. In order to monitor this quota, NMFS removed sandbar sharks from the LCS complex and set a separate commercial quota for this species.

However, while separate blacktip shark assessments were conducted, NMFS has decided not to implement separate blacktip shark quotas because the shark fishery is a multi-species fishery. The majority of sharks harvested in the directed shark fishery, other than sandbar sharks, are blacktip sharks. For instance, 82-percent of sharks caught in the directed shark fishery in the Gulf of Mexico region are blacktip sharks (not including sandbar sharks). The next highest landings were for hammerhead sharks at 7-percent and bull sharks at 5-percent. The South Atlantic region had the same pattern with the highest percentage of landings, apart from sandbar sharks, for blacktip sharks at 72-percent followed by hammerhead sharks at 14-percent, and then bull sharks at 4-percent. Because NMFS did not have species-specific assessments on other species besides blacktip and sandbar sharks, and because the majority of the LCS catch, not including sandbar sharks, is blacktip sharks, NMFS created a non-sandbar LCS complex with its own quota. To account for differences in catch between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic region, NMFS is implementing a regional Gulf of Mexico non-sandbar LCS quota and an Atlantic non-sandbar LCS quota.

Comment 9: NMFS should split the sandbar quota between research and bycatch. This could be a ''phased-in'' quota system where ⅔ of the quota in the first year would be allocated toward incidental landings and ⅓ would be allocated toward research.

Response: In establishing the base commercial quota of 116 mt dw, NMFS allocated approximately 42 mt dw to account for recreational harvest and dead discards. A further allocation of ⅓ of the base commercial quota for the research fishery in the first year would only result in 38.8 mt dw for research. In addition, due to overharvests in 2007 (see Appendix C in the FEIS for more details), NMFS is reducing the base commercial sandbar shark quota to 87.9 mt dw annually for five years. A ⅓ allocation of this reduced base commercial quota would only leave 29.3 mt dw of sandbar quota available for research. One third of either the base annual quota or the adjusted five year quota would not provide enough trips or observations to produce statistically sound data on the several research questions NMFS intends to address, especially given that NMFS has already accounted for dead discards and recreational harvest in setting the base commercial quota. In addition, a ⅔ allocation of the sandbar quota would only allow fishermen (directed or incidental) to retain a few sandbar sharks (less than what was proposed under alternative suite 3, where all permit holders would have been allowed to retain sandbar sharks). Thus, splitting the quota into thirds would not provide benefits to the fishery or to the research needed for future stock assessments. However, as funds are available, NMFS would have scientific observers on vessels fishing outside the research fishery that would monitor discards of sandbar sharks. If large number of sandbar dead discards occurred in the fishery, resulting in mortality above the recommended TAC, NMFS would take management action, as necessary. Additionally, NMFS will monitor landings of sandbar shark by state fishermen and deduct those landings from the base commercial quota, as needed.

Comment 10: NMFS should not use the maximum rebuilding time period (70 years) allowed under the law but should use a more precautionary approach. NMFS should not strive for maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for blacktip and sandbar sharks. The proposed sandbar shark quota of 116 metric tons (mt) is too high to ensure recovery of this population and NMFS should consider adopting an even lower final number.

Response: The 2005/2006 stock assessment for sandbar sharks discussed three rebuilding scenarios, including: a rebuilding timeframe if no fishing were allowed; a TAC corresponding to a 50-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070; and a TAC corresponding to a 70-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070. Under no fishing, the stock assessment estimated that sandbar sharks would rebuild in 38 years. Under the NS 1 guidelines, if a species requires more than 10 years to rebuild, even in the absence of fishing mortality, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward by one mean generation time. Thus, NMFS added a generation time (28 years) to the target year for rebuilding sandbar sharks. The target year is the number of years it would take to rebuild the species in the absence of fishing, or 38 years for sandbar sharks. NMFS determined that the rebuilding time that would be as short as possible for sandbar sharks would be 66 years, taking into account the status and biology of the species and severe economic consequences on fishing communities. This would allow sandbar sharks to rebuild by 2070 given a rebuilding start year of 2004, the last year of the time series of data used in the 2005/2006 sandbar shark stock assessment. Since sharks are caught in multiple fisheries, to meet the rebuilding timeframe under a no fishing scenario, NMFS would have to implement restrictions in multiple fisheries to eliminate mortality, such as entirely shutting down multiple fisheries to prevent bycatch. If NMFS were to shut down the shark fishery completely, such action would likely have severe economic impacts on the fishing community and it would likely result in difficulties for fisheries in which Councils recommend management measures as well as Commission-managed fisheries, which often catch sharks as bycatch. In addition, prohibiting all fishing for sharks would impact NMFS' ability to do collect data for future management.

The recommended TAC associated with a 50–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 is 172.7 mt dw (or 240 mt whole weight (ww)). However, given the life history of sharks including slow growth, late age of maturity, and relatively small litter sizes, as described in the 1999 Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (1999 FMP), a 50–percent probability of success is minimally acceptable for sharks. Thus, NMFS adopted the TAC corresponding to a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070, or 158.3 mt dw (220 mt ww). This timeframe is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the NS 1 guidelines at § 600.310, the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (which

includes the rebuilding requirements of the 1999 FMP), and the other national standards that require NMFS to consider, among other things, the economic and social impacts of the fishery.

b. Discard Issues

Comment 11: NMFS should consider sandbar shark discards outside the research fishery. NMFS should also be concerned with derby-style fishing with the reduced quotas and retention limits.

Response: NMFS considered sandbar shark discards outside the shark research fishery when it established the base sandbar shark quota (see Table A.1 in Appendix A of the Final EIS). In doing so, NMFS set a commercial sandbar shark quota that, in addition to considering discards in other fisheries outside the shark research fishery, should keep sandbar shark mortality below the recommended TAC of 158.3 mt dw each year. In order to deter derby-style fishing outside the shark research fishery, NMFS reduced the trip limit for directed shark permit holders to 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip. This trip limit should allow the LCS fishery to stay open longer than it has in the past while also minimizing, to the extent practicable, regulatory discards and derby-style fishing.

Comment 12: NMFS should acknowledge that dusky shark bycatch will be an issue both inside and outside the research fishery. Seventy percent of dusky sharks are dead at haulback.

Response: Dusky sharks caught as bycatch under the new management measures would result in dead discards to the same extent as current levels. Currently, most of the dusky shark discards occur within the directed shark fishery (on average, 24.5 mt dw per year), with a total of 33.2 mt dw of dusky sharks discarded on average per year. Under the final action, there would no longer be a directed LCS fishery. For a limited number of trips, the few vessels that qualify for participation in the shark research fishery will be allowed to direct on LCS. Depending on the number of trips taken within the research fishery, NMFS estimates that yearly dusky shark discards could be between 0.5 mt dw (that would be caught during 64 trips associated with the adjusted sandbar shark quota) and 0.6 mt dw (that would be caught during 92 trips associated with the base sandbar shark quota), with a total of 9.1 mt dw of dusky shark discards across all fisheries. This is a 73–percent reduction in dusky shark discards compared to the status quo.

Comment 13: NMFS should evaluate if highgrading will be an issue outside the research fishery.

Response: Under the final action, highgrading, or the discarding of smaller, less valuable animals and retaining only the most valuable animals to fill a retention limit, is expressly prohibited. However, because fishermen aim to have the highest profits per trip, highgrading can be an issue whenever trip limits are implemented.

Based on the latest shark stock assessments, NMFS is implementing a reduced shark trip limit from 4,000 lb of LCS per trip to 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed permit holders operating outside the research fishery. NMFS expects that this reduced trip limit (approximately one quarter of what a directed fisherman lands on a shark trip under the status quo) and the prohibition on the retention of sandbar sharks will result in fishermen with directed shark permits no longer targeting LCS. Additionally, this trip limit is higher than the average number of sharks shark fishermen currently retain when targeting other species (i.e., 12 sharks from non-targeted trips). Thus, NMFS assumes that the reduced trip limit will allow fishermen with directed shark permits to keep all incidentally caught non-sandbar LCS as they target non-sharks species. Because fishermen will likely be allowed to keep all sharks caught when fishing for other species, the reduced trip limit should reduce the incentive to engage in highgrading.

c. Species Complexes

Comment 14: NMFS should reconsider the use of the term ''non-sandbar LCS.'' This title is awkward and might confuse some fishers. The use of ''LCS'' or ''LCS (other than sandbars)'' is recommended following the same logic as when referring to ''pelagic sharks'' (which otherwise would be referred to as non-blue or porbeagle pelagic sharks.)

Response: NMFS considered several names for the group of LCS that does not include sandbar sharks. NMFS felt keeping the title ''LCS'' for the new complex may be confusing with the ''old'' LCS complex (i.e., the complex prior to the implementation of the amendment). NMFS chose ''non-sandbar LCS'' because it was the most explicit description of the new complex: the LCS complex with sandbar sharks removed.

Comment 15: NMFS is taking sandbars out of the LCS complex. Where did NMFS get the authority to remove a given species from a complex?

Response: NMFS has the authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to manage all coastal sharks. As part of this authority, NMFS created the complexes in 1993 to aid in managing the fishery. Thus, NMFS may set species-specific quota as appropriate, given the best available science. Indeed, NMFS has often changed the specific species in each management unit starting with the creation of five prohibited species in 1997. In this case, the sandbar shark assessment gave a specific TAC for sandbar sharks, which resulted in NMFS establishing a base commercial quota of 116.6 mt dw. In order to monitor this quota, NMFS is establishing a quota for sandbar sharks that is separate from the quota for the rest of the LCS complex.

Comment 16: The Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries stated that NMFS should place blacktip sharks in the small coastal shark (SCS) complex.

Response: NMFS is not changing the composition of the SCS complex in this rulemaking. Rather, based on the TAC recommended by the sandbar shark stock assessment, NMFS is establishing separate quotas for sandbar sharks and the non-sandbar LCS. The non-sandbar LCS complex consists of blacktip, bull, smooth hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, lemon, nurse, silky, tiger, and spinner sharks. Blacktip sharks are the species most commonly caught within this complex. In the 1993 FMP for Atlantic Sharks, blacktip sharks were placed within the LCS complex based on fishery dynamics. Blacktip sharks are more commonly caught with gear targeting LCS (i.e., BLL gear) rather than gear used to target SCS (i.e., gillnet gear). In addition, the blacktip shark stock assessments recommended that blacktip shark landings should not change or increase from historical catch levels. By placing blacktip sharks within the SCS complex, NMFS could either drastically reduce the blacktip shark regional quotas if the 454 mt dw SCS complex quota was not increased (i.e., the 454 mt dw quota would include the quota for blacktip sharks and SCS), or increase the SCS complex quota to include historical catch of blacktip sharks. Placing blacktip sharks within the SCS complex and increasing the overall SCS quota could result in increased catch levels of SCS. These catch levels may or may not be sustainable for the SCS complex. Therefore, at this time, NMFS is not placing blacktip sharks within the SCS complex.

d. Over- and Underharvests

Comment 17: NMFS received several comments regarding transferring quota. These include: NMFS should consider transferring unused quota to the next season; NMFS should not consider transferring underharvests to the next season even if species are not overfished or the status is unknown. This is because other bodies such as the IUCN have expressed concern as to some of these species; NMFS should subtract quota overages from the subsequent season's quota and disallow carryover of underharvests to the next season for populations that are of unknown status, overfished, or experiencing overfishing.

Response: Under the final action, NMFS will generally subtract overhavests that occurred during one fishing year from the next fishing year for each individual species or species group. Depending on the amount of overharvests, NMFS may decide to split the overharvests over several years to allow continuation of the shark research fishery and to minimize dead discards. In addition, NMFS will add underharvests up to 50-percent of the base quota to the next fishing year for species or species grouping in which the stock status of all species is other than unknown, overfished, or subject to overfishing. For all other species and species groups, underharvests will not be carried. Not applying underharvests should increase the likelihood that these stocks rebuild in a timelier manner. This approach is also used in other fisheries that NMFS manages, including bluefin tuna and swordfish.

e. Shark Display and Research Quota

Comment 18: NMFS received several comments in favor of the preferred management measures affecting display quotas under alternative suite 4. These comments included: NMFS should allocate 2 mt dw of sandbar sharks from the overall 60 mt ww display and shark research quota to public display and research under exempted fishing permits (EFPs); the 60 metric tons (mt ww) quota for display permits and research should be reduced if it has never been attained; NMFS should prohibit dusky sharks for public display; and, dusky sharks have no display value.

Response: In order to stay within the TAC recommended by the sandbar stock assessment, NMFS is reducing the commercial sandbar shark quota, and restricting the number of sandbar sharks that can be collected under EFPs and Display Permits. The final action restricts the sandbar shark collection to 1 mt dw for research under EFPs and 1 mt dw for public display to ensure that the sandbar shark mortality stays below the 158.3 mt dw TAC and to ensure that the shark research fishery has sufficient quota to produce statistically sound data. The preferred allocations to the EFP and display quotas were based on the 2 mt dw average annual collection of sandbar sharks under EFPs, scientific research permits (SRPs), and display permits from 2000 to 2006. As such, NMFS does not anticipate that these restrictions will affect future sandbar shark collections under these types of permits.

Due to the severity of the overfished and overfishing status of dusky sharks, the collection of dusky sharks for public display will be prohibited. Aquariums that currently have dusky sharks will not be allowed to replace them. In addition, NMFS will review the allocation of dusky sharks for research under EFPs on a case by case basis. This should allow for research under EFPs on dusky sharks to continue, as appropriate.

Comment 19: NMFS received numerous comments stating that the existing research/display quotas for sharks should not be reduced because: the quota is already small and not expected to increase in the future; the EFP quota has never been exceeded; the collection of sandbar sharks for public display is not a significant contributing factor to the reported decline of this stock; there is a disproportionate amount of regulation on display permits compared to other permits for other fishermen; any reduction in quotas or restrictions on species, if scientifically warranted and if based on scientifically peer-reviewed stock assessments, should come entirely out of the commercial quotas which have not been historically adhered to, and where the animals are landed dead with zero conservation or educational value; the sandbar shark is one of only a handful of shark species that are exceptionally hardy and have historically adapted well to closed aquarium environments.

Response: While the 60 mt ww (or 43.2 mt ww) shark display and research quota is small compared to the current commercial 1,017 mt dw LCS quota, the final action does not change the overall display and research quota. The final action, however, does significantly reduce the commercial quota and prohibits most commercial fishermen from harvesting sandbar sharks. Additionally, the final action prohibits recreational retention of sandbar sharks.

As described in the response to Comment 18 in this section, the quantity of sandbar and dusky sharks authorized for display and research (outside of the shark research fishery) is limited under the final action. For sandbar sharks, the amount is limited to what has been landed, on average, under various EFPs during the past six years. Therefore, no negative economic impacts are anticipated with the EFP allocation of sandbar sharks. EFPs and display permits will no longer be issued for the collection of dusky sharks. This regulation is consistent with the prohibition on the harvest of dusky sharks by commercial and recreational fishermen and, because of the overfished status and length of time for rebuilding, is appropriate for dusky sharks.

Finally, because EFPs exempt fishermen from certain regulations that other fishermen must follow, NMFS will continue to issue EFPS, SRPs, and display permits only if the applicant has shown compliance with other relevant regulations regarding reporting, notifying enforcement, and tagging animals.

Comment 20: NMFS should consider an exemption to allow for the live take of dusky sharks for public display. Aquariums need to work on the husbandry of these sharks.

Response: As discussed in the response to Comment 18 in this section, due to the severity of the overfished and overfishing status of dusky sharks, dusky sharks will be prohibited for collection for public display. Moreover, dusky sharks do not do well in captivity. Currently, only 13 dusky sharks per year have been collected under EFPs. Under the final action, NMFS will review the allocation of dusky sharks for research under EFPs on a case by case basis. This should allow for research under EFPs on dusky sharks to continue, as appropriate.

Comment 21: NMFS should explain how it will prohibit sandbar and dusky sharks for EFPs and display permits.

Response: EFPs allow fishermen to harvest species otherwise prohibited by existing regulations. NMFS is not prohibiting the collection of sandbar sharks under the EFP program. Instead, 1 mt dw for research under EFPs and 1 mt dw for public display will be allocated to fishermen to ensure that the sandbar shark mortality stays below the 158.3 mt dw TAC. However, due to the severity of the overfished and overfishing status of dusky sharks, dusky sharks will be prohibited for collection for public display because they do not do well in captivity. While NMFS cannot prohibit fishermen from incidentally catching dusky sharks, NMFS can prohibit their retention for public display or research under EFPs when necessary. NMFS reviews the

allocation of dusky and sandbar sharks under EFPs and Display Permits on a case-by-case basis. If research on dusky sharks is deemed scientifically necessary, even if it includes mortality, NMFS may issue the necessary EFPs. However, such permits must have scientific merit and the research conducted by scientific staff in order for the permit to be issued. As is currently done for EFPs and Display permits, NMFS will continue to monitor all sources of mortality as a result of EFPs, Display Permits, Scientific Research Permits, and Letters of Acknowledgments, and these data will be incorporated in future stock assessments.

Comment 22: NMFS should provide more information on how they track landings under EFPs and what happens to HMS that are collected under EFPs.

Response: NMFS requires persons who receive EFPs to report the number of total animals kept, discarded alive, and discarded dead under the EFP program. This information is published in the **Federal Register** every November/December in conjunction with NMFS' request for comments and Notice of Intent to issue EFPs and related permits in the subsequent year. The information is also published in the annual SAFE Report and may be used in stock assessments, if appropriate. Permittees who do not provide this information are not issued a permit in the future until all required reporting from past permits was received. NMFS does not track what is done with the animals (e.g., if they are sold to aquariums) after they have been collected and landed by the original permittees.

2. Porbeagle Sharks as Prohibited

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments in support of prohibiting the harvest of porbeagle sharks including: NMFS should prohibit the harvest of porbeagle sharks because even seasoned fishermen misidentify porbeagle sharks as mako sharks; the prohibition on the possession of porbeagle sharks is long overdue; NMFS should prohibit the harvest of porbeagle sharks and implement stricter management measures that address porbeagle take, including bycatch; and NMFS should prohibit the possession of porbeagle sharks, however, if bycatch of porbeagle sharks is allowed, the rule will have little effect on the overall status of porbeagle sharks.

Response: As a result of the 2005 Canadian stock assessment for the North Atlantic porbeagle shark, NMFS has determined that porbeagle sharks are overfished, but overfishing is not occurring Under the final action, the commercial quota is 1.7 mt dw. NMFS estimates that commercial discards will be approximately 9.5 mt dw, and recreational catch, including landings in tournaments, will be approximately 0.1 mt dw per year. This TAC of 11.3 mt dw should increase the likelihood that fishing mortality will remain low, allowing the stock to rebuild within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS). While bycatch of porbeagle sharks will continue, the majority of porbeagle sharks caught currently are discarded alive. For instance, of an average of 723 porbeagle sharks that were discarded annually in the PLL fishery, only 161.3 were discarded dead whereas 561.6 were discarded alive. The final action is not expected to change this discard mortality rate. Therefore, dead discards should continue to be low and not negatively affect the stock.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments, including comments from the states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, opposing any prohibition of porbeagle shark retention including: there is a small historical porbeagle shark catch in the United States that is not significantly contributing to the loss of the porbeagle shark. The U.S. porbeagle fishery has remained sustainable under current regulations; other countries, such as Canada, should be more responsible for rebuilding this stock as they contribute more towards Atlantic-wide fishing mortality; NMFS should pressure Canadians to reduce their porbeagle catch; porbeagle sharks are the only big game fish in the Northeast; and placing porbeagle sharks on the prohibited species list takes away 33–percent of the potential catch in New England.

Response: The final action to reduce the TAC for porbeagle sharks will cap U.S. fishing mortality at the current level. Given the low level of porbeagle catch in U.S. waters, capping mortality at the current U.S. fishing level, assuming Canada also continues to take action to conserve porbeagle sharks, should allow the porbeagle shark population to rebuild within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS). Capping fishing levels should also discourage any future directed fishery on this species.

Other countries that have a directed fishery for porbeagle sharks have reduced their porbeagle quotas. For instance, the Canadian porbeagle quota was cut by 80–percent in 1998. It was cut back even further in 2001 and again in 2006. The current Canadian quota is 250 mt per year, 185 mt of which may be taken by the directed porbeagle shark fishery, with the rest of the quota being allocated for bycatch. In addition, according to the latest ICCAT Recommendation (07–06), all contracting parties are obligated to reduce mortality of porbeagle sharks in their directed porbeagle shark fisheries. NMFS may take additional management measures in the future, as necessary, if future stock assessments warrant such action.

Comment 3: The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) requested establishing a 2 mt quota for porbeagle sharks to allow a limited harvest. Allowing a small harvest of porbeagle sharks would help the ASMFC set identical species groups while offering protection from overharvest.

Response: NMFS is setting a reduced TAC for porbeagle sharks of 11.3 mt dw, of which 1.7 mt dw is allocated to commercial harvest. This cap on fishing mortality at its present level by commercial and recreational fishermen should prevent a directed fishery for this species from developing in the future. In addition, it is an 88–percent reduction in the current commercial quota of 92 mt dw, which will help ensure rebuilding within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS).

Comment 4: Does NMFS have any evidence that Canadian porbeagle sharks go into U.S. waters? Is NMFS aware if U.S. fishermen are catching these Canadian sharks?

Response: Tagging data provide strong evidence that there are distinct porbeagle populations in the Northeast and Northwest Atlantic, and that the Northwest Atlantic stock is a separate population that undertakes extensive annual migrations between Canada and northeastern United States. Given these migrations, porbeagle sharks found in U.S. and Canadian waters are considered to be one stock that is shared by U.S. and Canadian fishermen.

Comment 5: If porbeagle sharks are overfished but overfishing is not occurring, what would the rebuilding timeframe be if the fishery was to continue at the current level?

Response: Since the 2005 Canadian stock assessment on which NMFS based its analysis included U.S. commercial landings of porbeagle sharks, capping fishing mortality at its current level should allow the species to rebuild within 100 years (see rebuilding plan in Chapter 1 of the FEIS).

Comment 6: Will NMFS propose similar porbeagle shark prohibition measures at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting this year? Since most landings for porbeagle

occur outside the United States, international cooperation is needed to help manage this species.

Response: Adopted at the 2007 ICCAT annual meeting in Turkey, ICCAT Recommendation (07–06) obligates all Contracting Parties to take appropriate measures to reduce fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle sharks. While the United States does not have a directed porbeagle shark fishery, and U.S. commercial and recreational landings are small (1.8 mt dw), this ICCAT measure should help reduce mortality of porbeagle sharks that are targeted by other countries. The United States is also implementing a reduced TAC of 11.3 mt dw, which is below the current commercial quota of 92 mt dw per year for porbeagle sharks, and encouraging the live release of porbeagle sharks. This final action should prevent a directed fishery from developing for porbeagle sharks in U.S. waters in the future.

Comment 7: NMFS underestimated the number of porbeagle sharks being caught. This is because the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) data is flawed. Porbeagle sharks are not present in New England waters when MRFSS is collecting their surveys in this area.

Response: NMFS currently is working on a marine recreational information program to improve data collection from the recreational sector. Due to the rarity of porbeagle shark landings, it is difficult to estimate porbeagle landings with survey data, which only sample a portion of the recreational fishing fleet and then extrapolate the number of fish caught based on the estimated number of anglers. Therefore, NMFS may consider census data (i.e., a trip ticket or a call-in system where all porbeagle shark landings are counted) in the future to better estimate recreational porbeagle landings.

Comment 8: The Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) started out as a tuna survey, and the LPS survey happens during the middle of summer. There is no LPS survey taking place when porbeagle sharks are present, so NMFS' data is skewed.

Response: The LPS survey was designed to capture recreational landings in the Northeast during the time period when most fishing takes place north of Virginia. Currently, the survey consists of randomly selected weekly telephone and dockside intercept interviews, with mandatory participation from June 1 through October 31 from Virginia to New York. The survey is conducted July 31 through October 31 for states north of New York. Past phone surveys indicated this is when most of the fishing effort occurs in this region. As mentioned in the response to Comment 7 in this section, due to the rarity of porbeagle shark landings, it is difficult to estimate porbeagle landings with survey data. Therefore, NMFS may consider census data (i.e., trip ticket or a call-in system where all porbeagle sharks landed are counted) in the future to better estimate recreational porbeagle landings.

Comment 9: NMFS should have recreational fishermen report their porbeagle shark landings.

Response: NMFS currently does not require recreational fishermen to report shark landings. NMFS collects data on recreational fishing catch and effort through the LPS and the MRFSS, which is considered the best available science for determining recreational landings. These surveys collect data on fishing effort and catch of highly migratory species. In addition, randomly selected fishing tournaments are an important component of HMS recreational fisheries data. However, because of the rarity of porbeagle shark landings, in general, NMFS may not be capturing all of the porbeagle sharks landed recreationally through these types of surveys. Thus, NMFS is currently working on ways to gather more data on recreational landings of porbeagle sharks.

3. Retention Limits

Comment 1: The proposed 22 non-sandbar LCS retention limit is not economically feasible and is the equivalent of shutting down the fishery; NMFS should consider a trip limit of 0 to 75 non-sandbar LCS to maintain economic viability.

Response: NMFS assessed and analyzed the economic impacts of the proposed retention limits, which are summarized in the FRFA and Chapter 8 of the FEIS. The proposed 22 non-sandbar shark LCS retention limit was calculated by dividing the available quota over average annual number of trips that landed non-sandbar LCS by directed and incidental permit holders as reported in the Coastal Fisheries logbook and the HMS logbooks. At the time of the Draft EIS, the available non-sandbar LCS quota was determined by the average annual landings reported in the HMS and Coastal Fisheries logbooks from 2003 to 2005. However, during the comment period, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) recommended using HMS shark dealer reports (i.e., southeast and northeast general canvass and SEFSC quota monitoring databases) to calculate historical landings of non-sandbar LCS since the stock assessments were, in part, based on landings reported by HMS shark dealer reports. Therefore, in the FEIS, NMFS used the shark dealer reports to calculate the non-sandbar LCS base quota. Because the HMS shark dealer reports include landings by both state and Federal shark fishermen, whereas logbook data includes landings by only federally-permitted shark fishermen, using dealer reports results in a higher non-sandbar LCS base quota.

In this final action, NMFS is using a higher base quota. After accounting for overharvests that occurred in 2007 (see Appendix C of the Final Environmental Impact Statement), NMFS is revising the retention limits based on the larger non-sandbar LCS quota. The final measures implement a 33 non-sandbar LCS trip limit for directed permit holders and a three non-sandbar LCS trip limit for incidental permit holders. While the trip limit for directed permit holder has increased from what was proposed in the Draft EIS, NMFS assumes that fishermen with directed shark permits will no longer target non-sandbar LCS outside the research fishery. Rather, a 33 non-sandbar LCS trip limit allows fishermen to keep non-sandbar LCS while they target other species, such as reef fish and snapper-grouper. Based on BLL observer program data from 2005 to 2007, fishermen with directed shark permits fishing for snapper/grouper kept, on average, 12 sharks per trip. Thus, this trip limit should help in preventing excess discards. However, this retention limit will be too low to create an incentive for fishermen to target non-sandbar LCS.

NMFS is aware that the revised retention limit of 33 non sandbar sharks per vessel/trip is a significant reduction from the current 4,000 lb dw LCS retention limit for directed permit holders. These measures are necessary, however, to rebuild overfished stocks, reduce bycatch, and end overfishing consistent with NMFS's obligations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Comment 2: NMFS should consider a per day limit in lieu of an individual trip limit. NMFS could reduce the limit to something like 2,000 lb non-sandbar LCS per day. This would allow a larger amount to be harvested in a single trip, making it more profitable for the fishermen. A day limit would also keep quota available for longer throughout the year.

Response: NMFS has not considered a per day trip limit because of the difficulty in determining how NMFS would monitor what a vessel harvests within a 24 hour period during a multiday trip. Currently the shark fishery is managed on a per trip basis, as are most of the HMS fisheries. While

a higher per day limit may allow for a larger single trip, which may reduce discards, it would be difficult for NMFS to monitor when a vessel left and returned to port and whether or not this was done multiple times within 24 hours, especially if vessels visited several ports and were not required to possess vessel monitoring systems (VMS). A per trip limit is easier to enforce; no matter what port a vessel returns to, it would be held to the same trip limit. While a per day limit may reduce the number of trips and elongate the season based on how gillnet and BLL trips targeting non-shark species typically fish, the trip limits in the final action were devised in such a way to keep the non-sandbar LCS season open longer than they have been in the past. NMFS estimates that under the non-sandbar trip limit in this final action, the fishery should remain open the entire year. Given the reduced trip limits to accommodate the reduced shark quotas, NMFS believes that dividing the available quota across the historical fishing effort should help the shark fisheries stay open longer. In addition, since directed shark permit holders will presumably no longer target non-sandbar LCS based on those reduced trip limits and the prohibition on retention of sandbar sharks outside the research fishery, the non-sandbar LCS fishery will likely be incidental in nature where non-sandbar LCS are landed while fishermen target other species throughout the year.

Comment 3: NMFS should propose a 4,000 lb level per year for directed permit holders and grant the least productive vessels an incidental permit.

Response: Based on the available quota (see Appendix C in the FEIS for more details), NMFS is setting a non-sandbar LCS trip limit of 33 non-sandbar LCS for directed shark permit holders (approximately 1,000 lb dw per trip of non-sandbar LCS); incidental permit holders would be allowed 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. If fishing effort were to stay the same as the average level of effort from 2003-2005, then NMFS expects the shark fishing season to stay open for the entire fishing year with these trip limits. NMFS has chosen a trip limit that would utilize the entire non-sandbar LCS quotas outside the research fishery, assuming fishing effort remains at the average level from 2003-2005. A 4,000 lb dw limit per year for non-sandbar LCS would be approximately four trips per year for directed fishermen. At this time, NMFS feels that such a retention limit would be overly restrictive; however, if NMFS finds that the 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed fishermen does not sufficiently rebuild the overfished stock of sandbar sharks or prevent overfishing, then trip limits can be adjusted, as appropriate. Fishermen selected to participate in the shark research fishery would be afforded higher trip limits consistent with research objectives and would be allowed to land all shark species, except prohibited sharks.

In order for NMFS to change retention limits for individual vessels based on their past landing history, NMFS would likely consider an IFQ or LAPP. However, as explained in response to Comment 2 under ''Quotas'' above and in Chapter 1, it would take NMFS several years to implement an ITQ system. Under the current timeline under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for establishing a plan amendment to end overfishing, NMFS has insufficient time to establish an IFQ or LAPP for sharks at this time. However, NMFS could consider developing an IFQ or LAPP for sharks as well as other highly migratory species in the future.

Comment 4: NMFS should carve out a retention limit specific to existing gillnetters. Gillnetters are being penalized by the preferred retention limit because they catch very few sandbar and dusky sharks.

Response: NMFS believes that revised quotas and retention limits for non-sandbar LCS that apply to all gear types are more appropriate. These revised retention limits include a higher retention limit for directed shark permit holders compared to incidental shark permit holders. While sandbar and dusky sharks may be less likely to be caught in gillnet gear compared to BLL gear, setting separate gillnet retention limits was not considered as a part of this rulemaking mainly because NMFS has serious concerns regarding interaction rates with marine mammals and protected resources with gillnets. Given these interactions set forth in the following paragraph, NMFS believes it is inappropriate to implement measures that might result in increased fishing effort with this gear type. For example, setting different trip limits for gillnet gear could result in displaced BLL fishermen moving to the gillnet fishery.

The five year incidental take statement (ITS) for the drift gillnet fishery in the 2003 Biological Opinion (BiOp) was 10 loggerhead sea turtles (with 1 mortality), 22 leatherback sea turtles (with 3 mortalities) and 1 smalltooth sawfish (with zero mortalities). The ITS was specific to drift gillnet gear as strikenet gear had not interacted with protected species, at that time, and sink nets were not considered to be part of the shark gillnet fishery. However from 2003 to 2007 (2003 being the start of the ITS period), vessels with shark permits using drift, sink, and strike gillnets interacted with a total of 13 loggerhead sea turtles (3 of which died or were unresponsive when discarded), 1 leatherback sea turtle and 2 bottlenose dolphins (1 of which died). In addition, in January 2006, an Atlantic right whale calf was caught and died in gillnet gear off the northeast coast of Florida. Therefore, NMFS is not establishing a higher specific gillnet retention limit at this time.

Comment 5: NMFS should consider capping the number of vessels that can deploy gillnets for sharks.

Response: There are currently only 4 to 6 sink and strike gillnetting vessels combined that target sharks (Carlson and Bethea, 2007). Given the reduction in trip limits as a result of this rulemaking, and restrictions and regulations under the Atlantic Right Whale Take Reduction Plan for this gear, NMFS does not believe there would be a significant increase in shark gillnet fishing in the future.

Comment 6: NMFS should lower the incidental catch limit for non-sandbar LCS to be more in line with the current average (3 non-sandbar LCS/vessel/trip); NMFS should not decrease the directed permit holder retention limits by 30–percent while increasing the incidental retention limit by more than seven times; NMFS should provide better justification for raising the trip limits for incidental permit holders; the proposed retention limit increase for incidental permit holders could increase fishing effort and bycatch; NMFS should consider restricting incidental take of non-sandbar LCS.

Response: In the final action, NMFS establishes retention limits of 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed permit holders and 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip for incidental permit holders. NMFS initially proposed retention limits of 22 non-sandbar LCS per trip for both directed and incidental permit holders because NMFS considers the future non-sandbar shark fishery outside the shark research fishery as mainly incidental in nature (i.e., fishermen would not target non-sandbar LCS based on the low retention limits). Under the proposed scenario, incidental permit holders could have experienced a net positive economic benefit, given the retention limit of 22 non-sandbar LCS trip limit was more than the average of 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip that they currently retain. Such an increase in trip limits for incidental permit holders could have resulted in increased fishing pressure on sharks by incidental permit holders.

Based on public comment and to acknowledge differences among directed and incidental permit holders (e.g., on average, directed permit holders discard more sandbar and dusky sharks (8.1 mt dw and 25.7 mt dw per year, respectively) than incidental permit holders (1.5 mt dw and 3.8 mt dw per year, respectively)), NMFS' final action is to set separate retention limits based on permit type. Directed permit holders will be allowed a higher retention limit than incidental permit holders. This affords directed permit holders, who may have paid more for their directed shark permit and who presumably rely on shark products for a larger part of their income, a higher retention limit than if all permit holders had the same retention limit.

Comment 7: NMFS should clarify how a retention limit based on the number of sharks per trip would work. What happens if you get 100 sharks on a line? Under these new regulations, one will have to make multiple trips to be legal.

Response: Under current regulations, NMFS has a directed LCS trip limit of 4,000 lb dw. When fishermen exceeded this trip limit on a given set, they would often cut their gear and leave it while they returned to port to offload their legal trip limit. Once they had offloaded, they would return to retrieve the rest of their gear and catch. The same principle applies for this final action. However, due to the reduction in the retention limit and the prohibition on the harvest of sandbar sharks, NMFS assumes that fishermen with directed shark permits would no longer target non-sandbar LCS as they have in the past. Rather, fishermen would keep non-sandbar LCS only while they target other species, such as reef fish and snapper-grouper. The trip limit in this final action of 33 non-sandbar LCS for directed shark permits should minimize dead discards of sharks that fishermen catch while in pursuit of other species.

Comment 8: NMFS should have proposed different retention trip limits for different species in different regions because there are more sandbars available in the Atlantic and more blacktip sharks available in the Gulf of Mexico; NMFS should split trip limits by state given the tendency of different areas to catch sandbar or dusky sharks; NMFS should consider the fact that Louisiana fishermen catch mostly blacktip sharks and no sandbar or dusky sharks and, therefore, should have a larger retention trip limit.

Response: Based on public comment, NMFS analyzed regional quotas and retention limits for two regions: the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions. As a result, NMFS is implementing regional quotas based on the results of the blacktip shark assessment, overharvests that occurred in 2007 (for more details, see Appendix C), and the fact that the ASMFC interstate shark management plan will implement measures in state waters of the Atlantic. Regional quotas allow for a higher non-sandbar LCS quota in the Gulf of Mexico region, which is comprised of a healthy stock of blacktip sharks. Regional quotas also allow for a lower non-sandbar LCS quota in the Atlantic region where the stock status of blacktip sharks is unknown and the majority of dusky sharks are caught.

However, while the final action sets regional quotas for non-sandbar LCS, NMFS is not implementing regional non-sandbar LCS retention limits. Instead, the same retention limit for non-sandbar LCS would apply in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico regions. NMFS believes that a single retention limit, regardless of region, will help with enforcement and be less confusing for fishermen. For example, with one retention limit, fishermen fishing near the Florida Keys could move between the two regions on one trip. If there were two different retention limits, then fishermen would need to stay in one area per trip or risk landing a higher trip limit in the wrong region. Finally, while the analyses for setting these retention limits used historical fishing effort as a proxy for determining the retention limit, it is uncertain how future effort would be allocated among regions, or even states. This added uncertainty makes it difficult to determine a region-specific or state-specific retention limit, given the other management measures that are changing as a result of this final action.

Comment 9: NMFS should consider having a set-aside quota for the incidental fishermen so that they can still retain sharks when the directed fishery is closed.

Response: As a result of the final actions in this rule, NMFS is assuming that fishermen with directed shark permits will no longer target non-sandbar LCS. Rather, fishermen will likely keep sharks only while they target other species such as reef fish and snapper-grouper. As such, the non-sandbar LCS fishery would be incidental in nature and non-sandbar LCS will likely be landed only incidental to the non-shark species that the fishermen would target throughout the year. Given the reduced trip limits for non-sandbar LCS, NMFS believes that the shark fishery will remain open for longer periods than in the past, possibly the entire year. Given the analyses that indicate the fishery will be open most of the time and the change in status of the fishery, NMFS believes that an incidental set aside is not needed at this time.

Comment 10: NMFS should consider a trip limit that is not based on weight since most fishermen do not have scales on their vessels.

Response: Under the final action, NMFS is basing the trip limits on the number of sharks per trip for both directed and incidental permit holders.

Comment 11: If 7 out of 10 LCS landed are sandbar sharks, as NMFS claims, and NMFS has a 500+ mt dw non-sandbar LCS quota, then NMFS' discard calculations are flawed. A 500+ mt dw non-sandbar LCS quota would result in 3,500 mt of sandbars being discarded.

Response: The catch composition described above would only be realized if 1) fishermen were directing effort on sharks, and 2) there was a 4,000 lb dw trip limit. This catch composition, which was based on information from NMFS BLL observer reports, was used to estimate the number of trips that the shark research fishery could take to harvest the available sandbar shark quota, assuming there was a 4,000 lb dw LCS trip limit within the research fishery.

However, for trips outside the research fishery, sandbar sharks would be prohibited and there would be reduced non-sandbar LCS trip limits. Therefore, NMFS assumes that directed shark permit holders would no longer make trips targeting non-sandbar LCS because of the significant reduction in retention limits and the fact that sandbar sharks could not be retained, therefore, the catch composition and subsequent sandbar discards described in the comment above would not apply to trips occurring outside the research fishery. Given this assumption, and based on the best available science from logbook, dealer reports, and observer program data, NMFS estimates that incidental sandbar shark mortality outside the research fishery would be approximately 40 mt dw. This estimate was determined by evaluating logbook data and observer reports to estimate sandbar shark discards from pelagic longline (PLL) gear (4.3 mt dw), discards by recreational fishermen (27 mt dw), discards within the shark research fishery (0.3 mt dw), sandbar sharks discarded by fishermen without HMS permits (6.3 mt dw), and sandbar sharks that used to be landed by incidental fishermen (2.3 mt dw).

4. Fins On Requirement

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments in support of a ban on shark finning as well as support for the proposal to land sharks with their fins attached. Commenters believe that shark identification is hampered by fin removal, enforcement is made easier if sharks are landed with fins attached, that the quality of data collected would improve, which is critical to improving the sustainability of shark stocks, and that technical difficulties of landing sharks whole could be alleviated with input from fishery experts and NOAA staff. A commenter also stated that NMFS should implement this measure promptly in the Atlantic while also taking steps to ensure a similar measure is implemented in the U.S. Pacific waters.

Response: On December 21, 2000, the Shark Finning Prohibition Act (Public Law 105–557) (SFPA) was signed into law. The SFPA amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 307(1)(P), making it unlawful for any person ''(i) to remove any of the fins of a shark (including the tail) and discard the carcass of the shark at sea; (ii) to have custody, control or possession of any such fin aboard a fishing vessel without the corresponding carcass; or (iii) to land any such fin without the corresponding carcass.'' On February 11, 2002 (67 FR 6194), NMFS published a final rule that established regulations which, among other things, prohibit any person from engaging or attempting to engage in shark finning; possessing shark fins without the corresponding carcasses while on board a U.S. fishing vessel; and landing shark fins without the corresponding carcasses. In this Amendment, NMFS is selecting an alternative that will require fishermen to land sharks with their fins naturally attached. This requirement will improve enforcement, species identification, data quality for future stock assessments, and further prevent the practice of shark finning. In the U.S. Pacific Ocean, three Regional Fishery Management Councils recommend shark management measures to NMFS: the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the Western Pacific Management Council. The Councils may consider recommending amendments to fishery management plans to include measures to land sharks with fins attached in the U.S. waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments in opposition to landing sharks with fins attached stating that this requirement would result in large amounts of waste at the dock, that the market has grown accustomed to receiving sharks in log form, that it will be more difficult for law abiding fishermen to comply with the law, and it will do nothing for those intent on breaking the law who may still bring only fins to the docks.

Response: While this requirement will change current fishing practices, NMFS does not believe that the requirement to land sharks with fins attached is overly burdensome for the following reasons. The requirement to land sharks with fins attached will allow fishermen to leave the fins attached by at least a small piece of skin so that the fins could be folded against the carcass and the shark packed efficiently on ice while at sea. Shark fins could then be quickly removed at the dock without having to thaw the shark. Sharks may be eviscerated, bled, and the head removed from the carcass at sea. These measures should prevent excessive amounts of waste at the dock, since dressing (except removing the fins) the shark may be performed while at sea. While this will result in some change to the way in which fishermen process sharks at sea, because the fins may be removed quickly after the shark has been landed, NMFS expects that the market will continue to receive sharks in their log form. Alternatively, the dealers may decide to accept shark carcasses with the fins still attached. No person aboard a vessel with a shark permit would be allowed to possess shark fins without the fins being attached to the corresponding carcass until after the shark has been landed. Individuals that do not have a shark permit or who land shark fins detached from the corresponding carcass will be in violation of the regulations and subject to enforcement action.

Comment 3: NMFS received several comments regarding the 5–percent fins to carcass ratio stating that 1) the ratio is wrong and NMFS needs to collect data to re-examine the ratio because it is different for all species, 2) NMFS should urge Congress to revise the fin to carcass ratio in the SFPA, 3) making fishermen land sharks with fins attached could still lead to a violation of the 5–percent ratio, and 4) fishermen are unsure of which weight to record in their logbook if the 5–percent ratio remains in effect and sharks are landed with fins attached.

Response: NMFS first implemented the 5-percent fin-to-carcass ratio in the 1993 Shark FMP. This ratio was based on research that indicated that the average ratio of fin weight to dressed weight of the carcass was 3.6 percent, and the sandbar fin ratio was 5.1 percent. In December 2000, the SFPA was signed into law. The SFPA established a rebuttable presumption that any shark fins landed from a fishing vessel or found on board a fishing vessel were taken, held, or landed in violation of the shark finning ban if the total weight of shark fins landed or found on board exceeded 5-percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed or found on board. This management measure was implemented by NMFS through a final rule released in February 2002. NMFS may conduct additional research on the fin-to-carcass ratio in the shark research fishery, though any changes to the 5-percent ratio will have to be modified by Congressional action. In order to help fishermen document that sharks were landed with their fins attached, NMFS intends to modify the dealer weigh-out slips so that dealers may clearly document that the sharks were landed with fins attached. Consistent with the regulations at § 635.30(c)(3), a person that has been issued a Federal shark LAP and who lands shark in an Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean coastal port must have all fins and carcasses weighed and recorded on the weigh-out slips specified in § 635.5(a)(2) and in accordance with regulations at part 600, subpart N. Fishermen may either record the weight of the whole shark landed or they may record carcass and fin weights separately. Dealers must report the dressed carcass weight separately from the fin weight.

Comment 4: NMFS received several comments, including one from the State of Florida, that NMFS should recalculate the conversion factor between dressed weight and whole weight of a shark since more of the shark is going to be landed.

Response: The 1.39 conversion factor from dressed weight to whole weight is used to convert the dressed (gutted) weight of a shark, (the weight of the shark carcass in a log form with fins removed) to a whole weight. NMFS will continue to monitor shark quotas in dressed weight (i.e., carcass in log form with fins removed) and will use shark landings recorded via dealer reports to monitor the quota outside the shark research fishery. Therefore, the conversion factor should not need to be recalculated since the definition of dressed weight would still constitute a shark log with fins removed. Currently, dealers record the fin weights and dressed weight of the shark carcasses separately on their dealer reporting forms; in this rule, NMFS clarifies this reporting requirement. However, NMFS will monitor the situation and may change the conversion factor if appropriate.

Comment 5: NMFS received several comments stating that NMFS should allow fishermen to remove just one pectoral fin, remove all fins except the pectoral fins, allow the removal of fins from species in the SCS complex, and allow vessels operating in the shark research fishery to remove the fins since those vessels would have 100–percent observer coverage. NMFS also received several comments from the State of Florida that NMFS should allow fishermen to remove the tail of the shark at sea and that NMFS should provide fishermen with a diagram depicting the proper way to clean and land sharks with fins attached.

Response: The provision to land sharks with their fins attached allows fishermen to bleed, eviscerate, and remove the head at sea while cutting the fins almost all the way off so that the fins can be folded and the shark can be packed on ice. Authorizing the removal of certain fins or the fins of a specific species, or within a species complex, or from vessels within the research fishery could create additional enforcement problems and complicate compliance. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that all fins remain attached to the carcass through landing for all vessels. Because there are potentially many ways that the sharks may be dressed while leaving the fins attached, NMFS does not believe it is appropriate to provide specific instructions on how to dress sharks because more than one method may be used. NMFS only requires that sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached. Fishermen are allowed the flexibility to dress the shark and tailor the method to their specific operation or dealer requirements, providing they land all sharks with their fins naturally attached.

Comment 6: NMFS received several comments regarding the potential food safety or Hazardous Analysis of Critical Control Point (HACCP) concerns if shark fins cannot be removed until the shark is landed because it may be difficult to keep the core temperature of the shark at 40 degrees in 90 degree heat. The state of Florida commented that NMFS should test shark meat quality to determine if there is a decrease in quality as a result of regulatory actions.

Response: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published regulations (December 18, 1995; 60 FR 65092) mandating the application of the HACCP principles to ensure the safe and sanitary processing of seafood products. Although these regulations do not apply to fishing vessels or transporters, the processors of domestic seafood must comply with the regulations as it applies to incoming product. Dealers should consult the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Fish and Fisheries Products Hazards and Controls Guidance for guidance on FDA regulations. The provision to land sharks with their fins attached allows fishermen to bleed, eviscerate, and remove the head at sea while cutting the fins almost all the way off so that the fins can be folded and the shark can be packed on ice. Because the sharks may be dressed and the fins cut almost all the way off the shark at sea before it is packed on ice, the shark should not have to be thawed to completely remove the fins once the shark is landed. In addition, reduced retention limits for non-sandbar LCS should reduce the number of sharks that are landed per trip, therefore decreasing the amount of processing time at the dock. NMFS might conduct tests through the shark research fishery to see if the new fins on requirement affect fish meat quality. However, the results of these tests would be limited in use as the higher retention limits in the shark research fishery could increase processing times and therefore lower meat quality.

Comment 7: NMFS received several comments regarding international cooperation and imports including, 1) NMFS should set a firm shark conservation precedent for the international community, 2) NMFS should not get too far out in front of the international community, and 3) the United States should ban imports of shark fins from countries that do not prohibit shark finning.

Response: The United States has taken an active role in promoting improved international shark conservation and management measures in international fora such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (including ICCAT), the United Nations General Assembly, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on Migratory Species. Consistent with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organizations' International Plan of Action for sharks, the United States completed and implemented the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks in February 2001. The NPOA calls for data collection; assessment of elasmobranch stocks; development of management measures, where appropriate; research and development of mitigation measures to reduce shark bycatch; and outreach and education. The requirement to land sharks from the U.S. Atlantic Ocean with their fins attached should help raise awareness in the international arena of enforcement issues associated with shark finning bans and the 5–percent fin-to-carcass ratio. NMFS published a proposed rule on April 4, 2008 (73 FR 18473), that would amend the International Trade Permit (ITP) Program to require shark fin importers, exporters, and re-exporters (shark fin traders) to obtain an ITP consistent with ICCAT recommendations. This requirement would provide needed information on shark fin trade participation and would provide NMFS enforcement access to trade records, since the export of shark fins is one of the primary economic incentives for much of the U.S. Atlantic shark fishery.

5. Time Area Closures

Comment 1: NMFS should include the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) recommended by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) in alternative suite 5 because if that alternative were selected, the MPAs proposed by the SAFMC would still need to be implemented.

Response: NMFS decided to include a prohibition on shark BLL fishing in the MPAs in several of the alternative suites in order to ensure that the SAFMC's Amendment 14 prohibition on bottom tending gear would include HMS BLL gear. NMFS needed to implement complementary regulations in order for the MPAs to be effective. Since alternative suite 5 would have resulted in a closure of the entire shark fishery, no shark BLL fishing would occur in the MPAs or elsewhere. Thus, NMFS did not need to include a prohibition on shark BLL fishing in MPAs in alternative suite 5.

Comment 2: NMFS received a number of specific comments regarding the MPAs recommended by the SAFMC, including: 1) coordinates of MPAs — NMFS should provide the correct coordinates for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA; 2) NMFS should state the specific type of MPAs being implemented (i.e., type II MPAs); and, 3) NMFS should include a transit exemption for vessels traveling through proposed MPAs with BLL.

Response: NMFS is aware of problems with the coordinates provided in the Draft Amendment for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef and has provided the correct coordinates for the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef in Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. In the Draft EIS, NMFS described the MPAs as type II MPAs according to the language used in the SAFMC's Amendment 14. Type II MPAs are areas that are closed to bottom fishing but allow trolling for coastal pelagics and HMS. Since NMFS is prohibiting the

use of BLL gear in these MPAs there is no need to specify the type of MPA in the proposed or final rules. Readers should refer to SAFMC's Amendment 14 for more information on the type of MPAs being recommended by the Council and being implemented by NMFS. NMFS did not implement a stowage provision because very few HMS permitted vessels have historically fished in the MPAs, and the MPAs are generally small in size and can easily be circumnavigated by BLL vessels. If the SAFMC recommends a stowage provision, then NMFS may consider a similar backstop provision in the HMS regulations.

Comment 3: NMFS should implement VMS requirements for the SAFMC Amendment 14 MPAs.

Response: Consistent with SAFMC's Amendment 14, which does not include a VMS requirement, NMFS determined that it was unnecessary to implement a VMS requirement for HMS vessels. NMFS has several other VMS requirements in place for HMS vessels including all vessels with gillnet gear during certain times of the year, BLL vessels in the vicinity of the mid-Atlantic shark closed area, and all vessels with PLL gear on board year-round. To the extent that some of those vessels would fish in the vicinity of the MPAs, NMFS would be able to track their movements. However, most vessels that do not fish with PLL and maintain directed or incidental shark permits in the South Atlantic are not required to have VMS.

Comment 4: NMFS should use the terms ''closed areas'' or ''area closures'' to describe the locations where the proposed regulations apply to avoid confusion on the intent of the MPAs (since they are for snapper/grouper, and not sharks) and to improve compliance by fishermen. ''Marine protected area'' is not a term used in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS should clarify how and why closures for fisheries management are part of the official MPA classification system.

Response: NMFS chose to use the term Marine Protected Area or MPA because that is the specific language provided in Amendment 14. Although the intent of the MPAs is to protect snapper grouper species, using nomenclature in this final rule that differs from that used to refer to the closures in Amendment 14 may create confusion. As a result, NMFS is referring to the closures in the same way as the SAFMC.

Comment 5: NMFS should prohibit the use of longline gear in existing and new MPAs. The overall amount of bycatch within MPAs may not be minimal when considered in the context of the relevant MPA and the number of species and individuals found within the MPA.

Response: NMFS is prohibiting the use of BLL gear in all of the preferred SAFMC MPAs because those are the areas the SAFMC has determined to be important for certain grouper species that are sometimes caught incidentally on shark BLL gear.

Comment 6: The ASMFC Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board would like NMFS to reconsider the closures off of North Carolina. Specifically, the Board asks that the duration of the closure be reduced to run from January 1 – May 14. This request is based on the Coastal Sharks Technical Committee's recommendation for a state water closure from May 15 through July 15 from Virginia to New Jersey. This state water closure is designed to protect large adult female sandbar sharks when they are on the pupping grounds. The closure off of North Carolina was designed to protect juvenile sharks in the nursery area during the winter; however the majority of the small sharks have migrated out of that area by mid-May.

Response: The mid-Atlantic shark closed area was implemented to protect juvenile sandbar sharks and all life stages of prohibited dusky sharks. Survey data collected from the NOAA fisheries research vessel Delaware II from April through May 2007 indicate that the majority of sandbar sharks caught in the mid Atlantic shark closed area were juvenile (56–percent immature vs. 44–percent mature). Therefore, maintaining the mid-Atlantic closed area should continue to reduce the number of interactions of BLL gear with sandbar and dusky sharks as well as reduce the number of interactions with immature sandbar and dusky sharks. This will provide positive ecological benefits for both of these overfished shark stocks. Furthermore, measures implemented by the ASMFC are not yet finalized. Once finalized measures are in place, NMFS may consider taking additional action to complement state measures. Implementing these measures before they are finalized and implemented in the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP could result in inconsistent management measures.

Comment 7: The SAFMC and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources support the MPAs and maintaining the current time/area closure as proposed in the draft amendment.

Response: This final action will implement the MPA provisions in Amendment 14 and maintain the current time/area closure.

6. Reporting

Comment 1: NMFS should take action to ensure that fishermen report their landings correctly and honestly as most fishermen do not currently provide accurate reports.

Response: The regulations require fishermen to submit accurate and truthful reports on their fishing activities. NMFS can and does verify logbook reports and catch rates with observer reports, as needed. If fishermen and/or dealers choose not to abide by the regulations, then they may face enforcement action.

Comment 2: NMFS received many comments on the dealer reporting timeframe, including: NMFS should consider stronger restrictions on dealer reporting; NMFS should allow two-weeks for dealer reports to be submitted; 10 days is acceptable for the report to be postmarked, but not for NMFS to receive it; NMFS should consider more frequent reporting; NMFS should consider 24 hour reporting for shark dealers; NMFS should consider electronic reporting for dealers (once a week); dealers still need to be able to fax reports; more frequent reporting is not needed. NMFS should take action against dealers that are not reporting; NMFS should not renew a dealer permit if they don't report on time; making reports ''received by'' will not allow fishermen to know if NMFS got their report on time; and NMFS should provide confirmation numbers when dealer reports are received.

Response: NMFS prefers to require dealer reports be received within ten days of the end of the reporting period at this time because a ''received by'' requirement can be tracked by NMFS, the dealers, and enforcement more easily than a ''postmarked'' requirement. NMFS is concerned about dealers that are not reporting and is working with the Office of Law Enforcement to pursue shark dealers who do not meet their reporting obligations. Additionally, given recent issues with dealers not realizing that substantial landing reports were not received by NMFS, NMFS feels that requiring reports to be ''received by'' a certain day will aid in ensuring all reports are received by NMFS in a timely manner. The final action does not require twenty-four hour reporting because such reporting would result in an unduly increased reporting burden for shark dealers at this time. NMFS may consider additional modifications and/or adjustments to reporting frequency for future implementation.

NMFS is currently capable of accepting electronic reports from some dealers who have access to that data system in the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and faxes of shark dealer landings. NMFS does not issue confirmation numbers when shark dealer reports are received; however, submitting dealer reports by FAX or electronically includes a date/time stamp in addition to whether the transmission was successful or not. Shark dealers may also consider using certified mail to provide verification that the correspondence was received.

Comment 3: NMFS should be more proactive and contact dealers as the quotas fill up.

Response: Significant overharvests in the shark fishery in recent years have occurred because shark dealers were not submitting their reports, or verifying that their reports were received by NMFS in the time period required by NMFS regulations. NMFS is working to ensure better compliance with its reporting regulations by encouraging shark dealers to report on time or face possible enforcement action for failing to do so.

Comment 4: Does NMFS have a specified time within which it must turn around dealer reports?

Response: NMFS provides shark landings reports, by complex or species, on a frequent basis to ensure participants are aware of catches in the shark fishery. NMFS does not have a specified time frame as to when it provides landings reports; however, efforts are being made to provide more frequent shark landings updates in light of the final action to close seasons when a species/complex quota has reached 80–percent of their quota.

Comment 5: NMFS should stick to its existing reporting system rather than create a new one.

Response: NMFS will not institute a new reporting system for shark dealers or fishermen in this final rule.

Comment 6: NMFS should not allow sharks to be listed as unclassifieds and, if dealers continue to report unclassifieds, they should have their permits revoked. Unclassified sharks should not be counted against the sandbar shark quota because the sandbar shark quota for the research fishery is already miniscule.

Response: Current regulations require that all sharks landed be identified and reported at the species-level. This final action adds language to clarify this requirement. While reporting sharks as ''unclassified'' violates the regulations, and NMFS has recently completed shark identification workshops to improve shark dealers' identification skills, NMFS must account for unclassified shark landings to produce timely and accurate shark landings reports and because this data is used in stock assessments. Under this final action NMFS will use species composition data from the observer reports outside the shark research fishery to determine which proportion of unclassified sharks should be deducted from the appropriate quotas (i.e., sandbar, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks). This methodology is consistent with how unclassified sharks are treated in stock assessments. Shark dealers that continually report sharks as unclassified will be reported to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and may face enforcement action.

NMFS proposed counting all unclassified sharks from shark dealer reports as sandbar sharks to provide dealers with an incentive to identify sharks to the species level because if the quota for sandbar sharks were filled, they would no longer be able to purchase sandbar sharks. However, NMFS believes that allocating landings to the appropriate complex/species based on observer data is a more accurate means of accounting for unclassified landings. Furthermore, NMFS is concerned that counting all unclassified sharks as sandbar sharks may result in the shark research fishery closing prematurely.

Comment 7: NMFS received a comment stating that a dealer had inadvertently reported all sharks landed in the past as sandbar sharks and that they knew of no dealers that identify sharks at the species level.

Response: All dealers are required to report shark landings at the species level. NMFS instituted a requirement to attend shark identification workshops to assist dealers in properly identifying sharks in order to obtain more accurate landings data.

Comment 8: NMFS received a comment wondering how the stock assessments can use the dealer data because of the lack of species-level landings data for sharks.

Response: Many dealers do report at a species-specific level. However, not all do. Thus, stock assessment scientists assign unclassified sharks to a species/complex group based on species composition data from the observer program. Regional and temporal species composition data attained from observed trips are summarized and applied to the unclassified sharks to estimate the proportion that should be assigned to respective quotas and complexes.

Comment 9: NMFS received a comment in support of the workshops for shark identification because dealers have observed a drastic reduction in the number of sharks that are not being identified properly.

Response: NMFS is encouraged by the results of the shark identification workshops for dealers. Better shark identification should lead to more accurate landings data, which should improve the quality of data used in stock assessments.

Comment 10: NMFS received several comments on the ''dealer'' definition (i.e., who is required to have a dealer permit), including: NMFS should provide the current definition of a shark dealer; the current definition is satisfactory; the proposed dealer definition is appropriate; the first receiver cannot be the shark dealer; an intermediary on land is needed solely for transport; and, the definition should take into account multiple transfers.

Response: The current definition of a shark dealer is a person that receives, purchases, trades for, or barters for Atlantic sharks from a fishing vessel of the United States (50 CFR 635.4(g)(2)). When NMFS implemented the shark identification workshops, many dealers were confused as to whether they needed to attend a workshop because they buy sharks from another dealer, who buys sharks from a fishing vessel. Because the sharks originally came from a fishing vessel, these secondary dealers had obtained a shark dealer permit. To clarify who needs to attend the workshops and to aid enforcement, this final action modifies the definition of shark dealers and is modified from the proposed definition based on public comments. Specifically, the final action clarifies that shark dealer permits are required only for ''first receivers.'' The definition of a ''first receiver'' at 50 CFR 635.2 is ''entity, person, or company that takes, for commercial purposes (other than solely for transport), immediate possession of the fish, or any part of the fish, as the fish are offloaded from a fishing vessel of the United States, as defined under § 600.10 of this chapter, whose owner or operator have been issued or should have been issued a valid permit under this part.''

Comment 11: Can federally permitted dealers buy state landed sharks? Do federally permitted dealers have to report state landings?

Response: The current regulations at 50 CFR 635.31(c)(4) state that federal dealers may purchase a shark only from an owner or operator of a vessel that has a valid commercial federal permit for shark, except that federal dealers may purchase a shark from an owner or operator of a vessel that does not have a commercial federal permit for shark if

that vessel fishes exclusively in state waters (i.e., no federal commercial shark permit). Federal dealer permit holders must report all sharks landed, including those from state waters, and cannot purchase any sharks, caught in state or Federal waters, once the Federal shark fishing season is closed. Additionally, on May 6, 2008, the Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Board of ASMFC voted to require all state dealers to obtain a federal shark dealer permit. As such, when the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP is fully finalized and implemented, expected in 2009, state shark dealers from Maine to Florida will be required to obtain a federal shark dealer permit and attend shark identification workshops.

Comment 12: NMFS received a comment questioning the mechanism that requires dealers to report on time.

Response: All federally permitted shark dealers are required to submit a dealer report on a bimonthly basis. Failure to do so could result in enforcement action.

Comment 13: NMFS should implement the strongest possible restrictions to ensure prompt and reliable reporting by dealers, within 24 hours if possible. Landings of 300 to 500–percent of allowable quotas, even if subtracted in subsequent seasons, are simply not acceptable and do not reflect the close attention and precautionary action required to achieve sustainable shark fisheries.

Response: Accountability measures for quota overharvests are necessary. The TAC has been reduced considerably and overharvests are accounted for over time. Importantly, the final action includes closing the fishery for a particular species when 80–percent of the quota is reached with five days notice upon filing in the **Federal Register** in order to reduce the likelihood of overharvests. NMFS will also send out e-mail notices and conduct outreach regarding closures upon filing in the **Federal Register**, giving fishermen five days to be notified of a closure. Reduced retention limits and other effort control measures are expected to reduce fishing mortality in the shark fishery. In addition, under the final action, NMFS is changing the reporting requirements for shark dealers so that shark dealer reports must be received by NMFS within 10 days after the reporting period ends. This will ensure timelier reporting and potentially avoid overharvests.

Comment 14: NMFS received several comments regarding excess shark landings in state waters and NMFS' coordination with various states, including: NMFS should preempt the State of Louisiana or others as necessary pursuant to authority provided in the Magnuson-Stevens Act (section 306(b)) if shark landings in state waters impact Federal shark fishery management; NMFS should recognize that Federal fishermen are catching adults during designated fishing seasons, while state fishermen are catching juveniles all year long; NMFS should allow Federally permitted fishermen to fish in state waters; NMFS should ensure that state waters are closed at the same times as Federal waters to protect juveniles; NMFS should consult with the states in order to manage fisheries better; NMFS should require states to abide by Federal rules; and NMFS should coordinate with the ASMFC.

Response: Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS has jurisdiction to manage fisheries in Federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Landings in state waters are counted against Federal shark quotas because many shark species inhabit both Federal and state waters, and thus make up one population or stock. NMFS includes state landings in stock assessments for coastal sharks. This practice is consistent with quota monitoring and management strategies for many marine species.

NMFS has been working with the State of Louisiana, and other states, to ensure consistent management strategies for sharks in state and Federal waters due to excessive landings that occurred in Louisiana state waters in 2007. In 2007, the State of Louisiana agreed with NMFS to close its state waters when the federal fishery closed during the third trimester of 2007. Additionally, ASMFC recently voted on final management measures for a coast-wide state shark plan for states in the Atlantic Ocean. The final measures included in the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP are expected to be effective in 2009. Many of the final measures in the ASMFC Coastal Shark FMP are consistent with federal regulations and will require commercial state shark fisheries to open and close with federal openings and closures. The implementation of ASMFC's Coastal Shark FMP could potentially lead to similar measures being implemented in the Gulf of Mexico.

Comment 15: NMFS should provide information in the shark landings update on the percentage of total shark landings that are state and Federal.

Response: Federal dealers must report all landings; however, they are not required to differentiate which landings are purchased from Federal vessels and which shark products are purchased from state vessels (if a Federal dealer also has a state dealer permit). Current reporting requirements make it difficult to determine state versus Federal landings, although NMFS generally does not need to distinguish these landings because all landings are used in stock assessments and are counted against the federal shark quota.

Comment 16: The stock assessment does not take the area inside state waters into consideration.

Response: Stock assessments include both fishery dependent and fishery independent landings and effort data from state and Federal waters.

Comment 17: NMFS should not mandate that all shark fishing stop entirely once the sandbar quota is met.

Response: NMFS will not close both the sandbar and non-sandbar LCS fisheries if either quota is met. Rather, NMFS will close the sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quota, individually, if either fishery reaches 80–percent of its respective quotas.

Comment 18: The State of Florida supports decreasing the length of time it takes to supply NMFS with landings information used to manage the shark fishery. NMFS should also decrease the time it takes to make this information available to the public. The time required for NMFS to process such information should be established in a rule.

Response: NMFS makes every attempt to provide timely reports of shark catches to constituents on a frequent basis in order for fishermen to plan their activities accordingly. However, it is also necessary to ensure that shark landings data are accurate prior to making them available to the public. NMFS will attempt to provide more frequent shark landings updates in the future.

7. Seasons

Comment 1: The change to one commercial season would lead to derby fishing.

Response: NMFS believes that a commercial season that opens January 1 and remains open until 80-percent of the quota is achieved, coupled with the significantly reduced retention limits for directed permit holders, should adequately prevent derby fishing. Derby fishing is more likely when seasons are shorter in duration, and when retention limits are large enough to encourage targeting of a specific species. The final action results in one season, opening January 1. Additionally, the season is expected to remain open for most of the year as fishermen outside the research fishery are not expected to make trips targeting non-sandbar LCS because of reduced retention limits and the

prohibition on the retention of sandbar sharks.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments including a comment from the State of Florida regarding the proposal to open shark seasons on January 1, including: NMFS should consider the fact that not all shark species are present in all regions in equal abundance on January 1; July may be a more appropriate time to open the season; January 1 may be good for sandbar sharks but not other species; opening the season at another time may result in the quota being filled before sharks arrive in some regions; the season should be opened on January 1.

Response: NMFS is aware of the fact that sharks are migratory and present in different areas, at different levels of abundance, at different times of the year. In this final action, NMFS will only allow landings of sandbar sharks by a limited number of vessels selected to participate in a shark research fishery. Therefore, only vessels participating in this fishery will be authorized to target sandbar sharks, and only when a NMFS-approved observer is on board. Vessels outside the research fishery would be allowed to keep 33 non-sandbar LCS for directed permit holders and 3 non-sandbar LCS for incidental permit holders. NMFS anticipates that this reduced retention limit will likely result in directed shark fishermen no longer targeting non-sandbar LCS outside the research fishery. Rather, shark fishermen would be authorized to keep non-sandbar LCS incidentally caught while targeting other species. Given that fishermen outside the research fishery are not expected to target non-sandbar LCS, NMFS expects that the shark seasons would be open longer, and fishermen in the regions that have non-sandbar LCS present later in the year would still be able to harvest non-sandbar LCS when they are present. In addition, opening the season on January 1 should allow the shark fishery to overlap with open seasons for other non-shark species and may reduce regulatory discards that may occur as a result of keeping the shark season closed until later in the year.

Comment 3: NMFS received numerous comments, including comments from the ASMFC and the State of Florida that NMFS should open the season in July instead of January 1 so the season would be open when sharks are present in all areas and to prevent fishing mortality during shark pupping season. Other comments included: NMFS should not allow shark fishing during April, May, and June as these months are when shark pupping occurs and state waters should be closed from May 15 through July 15 to protect pupping; considering the size of the quota, shark migration patterns, and the ASMFC closure, it is likely that the quota would be harvested before sharks become available to fishermen in the North Atlantic; beginning the fishing season on July 16 would allow the quota to be shared geographically; opening the fishing season in July would reduce mortality of pregnant females and ensure that northern states have access to the fishery.

Response: Opening the season on January 1 and keeping it open until 80–percent of a quota is achieved may result in pregnant or neonate sharks being landed along with other sharks. However, given the low retention limits for non-sandbar sharks outside the research fishery and because fishermen will not be allowed to retain sandbar sharks outside the research fishery, NMFS expects that fishermen with directed shark permits outside the research fishery will no longer target non-sandbar LCS. This should reduce overall shark mortality, including mortality of pregnant females during pupping season. The retention limits should also allow fishermen to keep non-sandbar LCS that they catch while targeting other species. If the season is closed from April through June or July, vessels that land sharks while targeting other species will have to discard all sharks. The ASMFC is implementing a Coastal Shark FMP for sharks in state waters from Maine through Florida. Since most shark pupping occurs in state waters, NMFS feels the ASMFC plan may be more appropriate for addressing fishing mortality of pregnant females or neonate sharks. However, now that the ASMFC plan is expected to be implemented in 2009, NMFS may modify the season closure in the future as a result of the ASMFC shark plan.

Comment 4: NMFS should provide more advance notice of season openings because fishermen have had a hard time planning how much bait they need to buy, planning for freezer spaces, etc.

Response: NMFS must complete proposed and final rulemaking prior to the establishment of shark seasons. Under any final action establishing an annual shark season, NMFS will open the fishing season on or about January 1 of each year (except 2008). The season will likely remain open longer than usual, dependent upon available quota. Rulemaking in the **Federal Register** prior to the opening of the subsequent season's start date (on or around January 1) will provide the available quota, retention limits, and other pertinent information.

Comment 5: NMFS should implement one shark fishing season.

Response: NMFS is implementing one season, starting January 1 each year. This date is more likely to overlap with open seasons for other BLL and gillnet fisheries, and also provides fishermen a full calendar year to harvest available quota.

Comment 6: NMFS should ensure that smaller amounts of shark are consistently available throughout the year to help increase the price and marketability of sharks since restaurants would know they could count on it year round. Currently, with such short seasons, there is not really a market.

Response: Short seasons under existing trip limits may quickly flood markets, depressing prices for some shark products, particularly shark meat. Shark meat prices are more likely to be affected by the short seasons because there is less demand for shark meat than for shark fins. The majority of shark fins are exported to other countries and prices for shark fins tend to remain higher and more stable than shark meat. In the past, fishermen with directed shark permits were able to make profitable trips exclusively for sharks. Reduced retention limits and prohibition on retaining sandbar sharks outside the research fishery should reduce the likelihood that fishermen will make trips targeting non-sandbar LCS outside the research fishery. Rather, fishermen are more likely to harvest non-sandbar LCS incidentally while targeting other species. NMFS expects that a fishing season that opens on January 1 each year with lower retention limits will result in smaller quantities of shark product being available for a larger proportion of the year. This could conceivably increase demand and marketability of shark products because the availability of meat and fins would be more reliable throughout the year compared to the past when shark seasons were only open for short periods of time. This increased demand for shark products on behalf of wholesalers may translate to elevated prices received by shark fishermen for shark meat and fins.

Comment 7: NMFS should elaborate on the reasons that trimesters were originally implemented for the commercial shark fishery. Trimesters may still be necessary to reduce fishing mortality.

Response: Trimesters were originally implemented as a way to increase the availability of shark meat throughout the year while also reducing fishing mortality during peak pupping seasons and addressing other bycatch concerns. This final action implements significant

measures to reduce fishing mortality of sharks(predominantly by modifying quotas, retention limits, and species authorized to be landed in commercial and recreational fisheries) and also implements measures that are expected to result in small amounts of shark meat to be available in the markets year-round.

These final measures should reduce the mortality of pregnant females. Furthermore, the closed area off the coast of North Carolina, which is important habitat for dusky and sandbar sharks, will continue to be in effect. NMFS does not expect that fishermen will be able to make a profitable trip ''targeting'' sharks with the preferred retention limits and because of the fact that sandbar sharks may not be possessed outside the shark research fishery. The resulting incidental fishery will likely translate into significant benefits to shark populations as a whole while also eliminating the need to maintain trimesters.

Comment 8: Closing the season when landings reach the 80–percent threshold should be sufficient, but can the other 20–percent of the quota be filled in five days? NMFS should consider closing the shark fishery at 90 to 95–percent of the quota and consider re-opening a season if the quota has not been caught for a given season.

Response: NMFS requested public comment specifically on setting 80-percent as a threshold for closing the fishery because it allows a substantial percentage of the allowable harvest to occur, yet allows a sufficient buffer to prevent overharvest from the time the 80-percent is reached until the time NMFS can actually close the fishery. NMFS' goal is to allow fishermen to harvest the full quota without exceeding it in order to maximize economic benefits to stakeholders while achieving long-term conservation goals and preventing overfishing. Closing the fishery via appropriate rulemaking, while providing at least a five-day notice of a closure (upon filing of the final rule with the Office of the Federal Register and the availability of the final rule for public inspection), should allow fishermen to complete fishing trips that have already been initiated and/or provide fishermen the chance to catch additional quota if they embarked on additional trips prior to the closure. As mentioned previously, the reduced retention limits and the fact that fishermen outside the research fishery will not be allowed to land sandbar sharks is expected to reduce the number of trips targeting non-sandbar LCS and keep the shark season open year-round. Additionally, NMFS must take into account state landings that continue to occur after closure of the Federal fishery.

NMFS believes that, given the two week reporting period for dealer reports and the potential for late reporting, closing the fishery when landings reach 90- to 95–percent of the quota would likely result in overharvests. Overharvests will result in reduced quotas in the future since all overharvests will be accounted for when establishing subsequent seasons and quotas.

Comment 9: NMFS should allow more time prior to closing the seasons. A 5-day notice will not work for PLL fishermen because their trips are long.

Response: PLL gear is not the primary gear-type used to harvest sharks. Most sharks are landed on BLL or gillnet gear on trips that last several days. Fishermen deploying PLL gear generally target tunas and/or swordfish depending on the time of the year and location. Therefore, NMFS does not expect the rulemaking process for closing the shark fishery, which would provide at least a five day notice upon filing of the final rule with the Office of the Federal Register and the availability of the final rule for public inspection, to have adverse impacts on vessels deploying PLL gear. Before the 1999 FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks, the shark fishery was closed via appropriate rulemaking with five days' notice; therefore, there is a precedent for this amount of time prior to taking action.

Comment 10: NMFS should consider a 3-day warning prior to closing seasons to prevent overharvests, consistent with the notice granted in the bluefin industry. This would better assure that quotas are not exceeded. If NMFS does not decrease the closure time to three days, and instead keeps five days, NMFS should adopt the trigger of 70–percent rather than 80–percent.

Response: In closing the fishery through appropriate rulemaking, NMFS will provide at least a five day notice for closures to maximize the proportion of the quota that fishermen may harvest without exceeding the quota and to allow time for notifying fishermen of a closure. When the final rule is filed with the Office of the Federal Register and available for public inspection, NMFS will send out e-mail notices and other outreach materials to notify the public of the fishery closure within at least 5 days. NMFS anticipates that the notice will publish in the **Federal Register** approximately one day after filing, and then the fishery would officially close no earlier than five days from the original filing date. NMFS believes closing the fishery for individual species or species complexes with at least five days notice upon filing in the **Federal Register** is adequate to prevent overharvests. Historically, shark trips have been 1-4 days. Therefore, a minimum of five days' notice should be adequate because it should give fishermen enough time to complete trips that are already in progress. Significant reductions in retention limits and the fact that fishermen outside the research fishery cannot retain sandbar sharks should also reduce the potential for overharvests in the period between meeting the 80-percent threshold and when the fishery is actually closed a minimum of five days later.

Comment 11: NMFS should predict how long the season should remain open to fill the quota based on past catch rates.

Response: In recent years, seasons have been set based on available quota, past catch rates, and other considerations. Given the final action, NMFS feels that continuing this practice may continue to result in significant overharvests and may not be the best strategy for ensuring that sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle shark populations rebuild. Overharvests in 2006 and 2007 may be indicative of past catch rates not being appropriate indicators of future catch rates because of the fact that in those years, catch rates were greater and the quota was smaller, leading to overharvests. In addition, significant changes in quotas, authorized species, and retention limits would further complicate establishing seasons in advance.

Comment 12: NMFS needs to analyze the length of trips that land sharks and base the time needed to notify the fishery on the length of those trips.

Response: Observer data indicate that most trips targeting sharks last between 1-4 days depending on the region, season, and amount of sharks that are landed. However, this duration corresponds to past retention limits that are being reduced substantially for directed permit holders. Five days was selected as a reasonable minimum amount of time for fishermen to get word about a fishery closure and either finish a current trip without discarding dead sharks, or initiate a trip for another species prior to the closure while keeping the ability to land sharks incidentally. NMFS anticipates that the significant reduction in retention limits and the prohibition on retaining sandbar sharks outside the research fishery will result in most fishermen targeting other species and incidentally landing non-sandbar LCS.

Comment 13: NMFS needs to look at past data to determine whether a 80-percent threshold is adequate to prevent overharvests based on how much quota is caught after the seasons.

Response: NMFS selected the 80-percent threshold for closing the season, with a minimum of five days' notice upon filing of the final rule with the Office of the Federal Register, because it should ensure that the majority of the quota is harvested without exceeding the quota. Giving fishermen the opportunity to harvest most of the quota within a given season is important because the final action carries forward only underharvests for species that are not overfished, experiencing overfishing, or of unknown status.

8. Regions

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments regarding regions. Comments in favor of maintaining three regions under the status quo included: NMFS should assess the impacts of moving to one region; NMFS should describe the rationale for moving to one region; NMFS should not implement one region; having one region ignores the stock assessments and the temporal nature of the fishery; NMFS should implement separate permits, separate fishing zones, and separate quotas, so that fishermen in one zone are not penalized for a quota overharvest that occurs in another zone; the ASMFC requests a minimum of two management regions (Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic States) to ensure equitable and biologically sound geographic distribution of quotas; a one-region plan could reduce or eliminate any quota for Atlantic States if Gulf of Mexico states overharvest; the Gulf States do not have coordinated management and have overharvested in excess of 200–percent in recent years; under one management region, the ASMFC would have reduced or zero quotas for years subsequent to Gulf overharvests.

NMFS also received several comments opposed to maintaining the three regions, including: NMFS should either divide quota equally among regions or have one region since quotas are so low; Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic stocks should be managed as one unit.

NMFS received numerous comments from Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, ASMFC, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, and members of the general public in favor of maintaining more than one region. Commenters suggested reasons for maintaining more than one region, including: the best scientific evidence available indicates that the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic stocks are separate; genetic evidence has shown separate stocks of some species between the Gulf and South Atlantic; shark management should account for separate stocks and separate the quota accordingly; blacktip sharks are healthy in the Gulf of Mexico; bycatch issues are unique to each region; and, moving to one region ignores stock assessments and the temporal nature of the fishery, which was identified during the previous amendment.

Response: In the Draft EIS, NMFS proposed merging the status quo's three regions into one region to simplify quota monitoring and to prevent derby-style fishing and potential overharvests that could occur as a result of attempting to allocate smaller quotas to regional and trimester seasons. The impacts of establishing only one region instead of three were assessed in the Draft EIS for Amendment 2. The analyses indicated that the overall economic impacts could be negative in regions (i.e., North Atlantic) that do not have sharks present in their waters year-round if the fishery closed early in the year. The ecological impacts of implementing one region were expected to be neutral.

Based on public comment, NMFS has decided to implement two regions, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic, rather than one region as originally proposed. Maintaining two regions has several advantages, including: it adheres to the stock assessment for blacktip sharks which assessed this species separately in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic; it accounts for overharvests that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic in 2007 more equitably; it allows for unique quotas to be implemented in each region that account for different species composition in each region; and it maintains the flexibility to implement unique regulations in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

The 2006 LCS assessment assessed blacktip sharks as two distinct populations in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic. Unique results were found for each population with the Gulf of Mexico population healthy and the Atlantic stock unknown. The assessment recommended maintaining current harvest levels in both regions. NMFS prefers measures consistent with the stock assessment by maintaining two regions: the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic. The blacktip shark was the only species assessed as distinct, regional populations.

At this time, NMFS does not issue unique permits based on geography within the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. This type of permit was not considered during this rulemaking.

Comment 2: NMFS should have one region because, since NMFS went into regions, we have been going over the quota.

Response: There are several factors that may be the cause of recent overharvests. These overharvests have likely occurred because of increased fishing effort, inconsistent reporting on behalf of the dealers, and the fact that previous years' overharvests are taken off subsequent years' quotas resulting in smaller regional quotas. As quotas decrease and effort stays the same, the likelihood of overharvests increases. The rationale for two regions is provided in response to Comment 1 directly above and elsewhere in the preamble to this rulemaking.

Comment 3: NMFS should describe the original reasoning for establishing the three regions.

Response: The regions were established in regulations implementing Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP in 2003 because of spatial differences in fishery practices, variable catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) between regions, and to afford managers the flexibility to adjust regional quotas to reduce mortality of juvenile and pregnant female sharks.

Comment 4: NMFS should create a separate region for the Caribbean.

Response: The Caribbean is currently managed as part of the South Atlantic region. This final action includes the Caribbean in the Atlantic region. Permit data indicate that there are not any commercial shark fishing permits and only one shark dealer permit in the Caribbean region. In addition, NMFS is in the process of initiating rulemaking to address some of the unique aspects of Caribbean fisheries for HMS.

Comment 5: NMFS should change the regions so that the Florida Keys are entirely in the South Atlantic or entirely in the Gulf of Mexico. The State of Florida recommends that the existing regions be maintained, however, both the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Florida should be kept in the same region to facilitate improved management and enforcement.

Response: NMFS implemented separate regions for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic in Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP. The existing boundary between the regions was adopted because it is consistent with the boundary defined by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and by ASMFC. However, since implementing that boundary, NMFS has consistently considered, for quota monitoring purposes, any landings in the Florida Keys to be part

of the Gulf of Mexico region. As such, in this final action and based on the comments received, NMFS is matching practice with the regulations, and is redefining the Gulf of Mexico to ensure that catch near or directly south of the Florida Keys is considered to be within the Gulf of Mexico region. NMFS does not expect this to change fishing practices as logbook data indicates that most fishing in the areas occurs near and within the Florida Keys.

9. Recreational Measures

Comment 1: NMFS should maintain the same standards for recreational and commercial fisheries. Since the commercial industry reports many unidentified or unclassified sharks, the commercial industry should be regulated based on misidentification as well.

Response: The majority of sharks landed commercially are reported as unclassified by shark dealers, not fishermen. NMFS has implemented shark identification workshops for shark dealers which are expected to provide shark dealers with the knowledge and skills to properly identify the sharks that they purchase. Recreational fishermen generally do not see sharks as often as commercial fishermen targeting sharks. Thus, commercial fishermen may be more adept at shark identification.

Comment 2: The preferred alternative would set a bad precedent in allowing a fishery that caused the decline in shark populations to continue on a limited basis, while the public cannot fish for the same shark species. The commercial fishermen should be allowed to catch the same shark species as the recreational fishermen. The ASMFC requests allowing recreational possession/take of all species that may be harvested by commercial fishermen to keep the shark fishery equitable to all sectors and help establish identical species groups.

Response: The final action allows recreational permit holders to possess all non-ridgeback LCS and tiger sharks. These species of sharks have external characteristics that are easy for recreational anglers to properly identify. NMFS proposed to add blacktip, spinners, bull, and finetooth sharks to the list of prohibited shark species in the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. However, based on public comment, NMFS decided to allow recreational anglers to land these sharks. NMFS is allowing recreational anglers to land these species because of extensive public comment that was received in favor of allowing recreational anglers to land these species. NMFS is not authorizing recreational anglers to land sandbar sharks and silky sharks because recreational anglers may confuse these species with dusky sharks, which are on the list of prohibited shark species. NMFS is only allowing participants in the shark research fishery to land sandbar sharks commercially, thus, precluding the vast majority of commercial fishermen from landing sandbar sharks.

Silky sharks are authorized for landing in commercial fisheries because there is a higher likelihood that these sharks may be discarded dead than if they were landed in recreational fisheries. Moreover, commercial fishermen are more adept at distinguishing between silky sharks and sandbar or dusky sharks. Prohibiting silky sharks in commercial fisheries would result in more significant economic consequences than prohibiting them in recreational fisheries because commercial fishermen are allowed to sell the fins and flesh of sharks that are caught in accordance with applicable regulations. There is not a significant targeted fishery among recreational or CHB anglers for spinner sharks, therefore, economic impacts would be less severe among this group of stakeholders.

Comment 3: The recreational and commercial sectors contribute nearly equivalently towards mortality of sharks, and reductions in mortality are absolutely necessary.

Response: NMFS is implementing measures consistent with recent stock assessments to prevent overfishing and/or to rebuild stocks of porbeagle, dusky, and sandbar sharks. Concurrently, NMFS has decided not to allow increased landings of blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Both commercial and recreational shark landings are included in stock assessments. While commercial fisheries generally comprise the majority of shark landings, recreational landings are also a significant component of overall shark mortality. Additional measures are necessary to reduce fishing mortality on several shark species. Modifications to quotas, authorized species, and retention limits are expected to prevent overfishing and to rebuild overfished stocks. For example, sandbar sharks will only be landed by a small number of commercial participants in the shark research fishery subject to a commercial quota that represents an 80–percent reduction in landings of sandbar sharks compared to previous years. Recreational fishermen will not be able to retain sandbar sharks due to their overfished status and the potential for confusion with prohibited dusky sharks.

Comment 4: NMFS should consider additional alternatives for the recreational industry. The alternative suites contain either status quo or closure of all the recreational fisheries.

Response: The analysis of recreational measures includes more alternatives than status quo and closing the fishery. Alternative suites 2 through 4 in the Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP would modify the authorized shark species for recreational fishermen to include those that can be positively identified. These alternatives have been modified in the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP to include all non-ridgeback LCS and tiger sharks as authorized species in recreational shark fisheries.

Comment 5: NMFS should describe the data or analysis used to justify the proposed authorized species for recreational fisheries. There is no precedent for ''easily-identifiable.'' NMFS needs to make an effort to educate anglers before assuming they cannot identify what they are catching. The State of Georgia commented that NMFS should only allow sharks without an interdorsal ridge to be landed, thereby improving identification and reducing confusion. The State of Florida indicated that sandbar and dusky sharks can easily be differentiated from many other shark species by the presence of an interdorsal ridge.

Response: NMFS only included shark species that are readily identifiable by recreational participants who may not interact with a large number of sharks and therefore may not be able to accurately identify sharks. NMFS specifically requested public comment on the proposed list to be authorized for recreational participants and has modified the final list as a result. The final measures allow any non-ridgeback LCS, tiger sharks and the current list of pelagic and SCS to be landed by recreational anglers. The absence of an interdorsal ridge and/or the distinctive black vertical stripes on tiger sharks should allow recreational anglers to determine if a shark may be possessed or not. NMFS intends to disseminate information for recreational permit holders on HMS regulations and external characteristics for positive identification of authorized shark species.

Comment 6: The recreational fishery should be subject to 100 percent observer coverage.

Response: Recreational permit holders can request to take an observer onboard to monitor fishing activities; however, they are not required to carry observers.

Observers are placed on commercial fishing vessels as a requirement of the biological opinion for the shark fishery, to verify logbook and dealer reports, and to aid managers in understanding the fishery. To date, the biological opinion issued under the Endangered Species Act for the shark fishery has not required observer coverage in the recreational fishery. In addition, recreational fishing vessels are not required to obtain a U.S. Coast Guard safety inspection, which is a requirement for placing observers on commercial vessels to ensure that the vessels have all the required safety equipment. As such, it is difficult to place observers on recreational vessels.

Comment 7: NMFS received several comments regarding outreach efforts on shark identification to the recreational sector, including: NMFS should release an identification guide similar to the Rhode Island Sea Grant guide; recreational fishermen care about positive identification; NMFS should send all permit holders the $20 shark identification book instead of shutting down the fishery; NMFS should explore identification workshops for recreational fishermen; NMFS needs to find better ways to educate the public to ensure positive identification; NMFS should use educational tools to improve identification; and, recreational fishermen may confuse porbeagle sharks with shortfin makos.

Response: In 2003, NMFS, in conjunction with Rhode Island Sea Grant, released a guide to Sharks, Tunas, and Billfishes of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. While the guide is currently out of print, additional copies are being printed and should be available by late summer. Additional materials containing similar information are currently available at: *http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/bookstore/index.html*.

NMFS is also working on additional outreach materials such as a one page quick identification guide to improve identification and understanding of regulations among recreational anglers. These outreach materials would be either free or available at a low cost to ensure that all permit holders have access to them. NMFS has recently implemented shark identification workshops for shark dealers and other interested members of the public. While not mandatory for recreational anglers, participants in any HMS sector or the general public may attend. These workshops provide anglers, dealers, and commercial fishermen with the ability to properly identify shark carcasses.

Comment 8: NMFS received several comments, including comments from the State of Florida, the State of Mississippi, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the ASMFC regarding the shark species that should be included on the list of recreationally authorized shark species. Comments included: spinner, silky, bull, and blacktip sharks should be included in the list of species authorized for recreational anglers because fishers are capable of accurately identifying shark species; common thresher sharks should stay on the list of species authorized for recreational anglers; NMFS should not propose restricting recreational anglers from keeping blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico if the stock is not overfished or experiencing overfishing; spinners are not endangered, nor are they depleted; the status of spinner or bull sharks has not been assessed, therefore, prohibiting the capture of blacktip and bull sharks would be an overly risk-averse strategy considering that the status of blacktip sharks (at least in the Gulf of Mexico) is satisfactory; identification is only a problem for species that cannot be identified externally; eliminating the retention of a healthy species of sharks, based on the assumption that they might be misidentified is subjective and is definitely not sound fishery management practice; NMFS is mandated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (NS 1) to strive for optimum sustainable yield and blacktip status in the Gulf of Mexico is healthy; NMFS' stated reason is concern over angler misidentification with sandbar and dusky sharks, however, these species may be readily identified by their interdorsal ridges; the list is acceptable, except for oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks. Do not allow the recreational catch of these two species as scientific studies show they are in decline; allowing the recreational harvest of blacktip and spinner sharks would therefore have no negative impact on sandbar and dusky sharks; silky sharks can be confused with dusky sharks and should remain off the list that recreational anglers may land; NMFS should not prohibit recreational anglers from landing bull, blacktip, bull, spinner, and finetooth sharks because these species represent 37–percent of recreational shark landings off the State of Florida.

Response: The final action will allow recreational anglers to possess all non-ridgeback LCS, including blacktip sharks, tiger sharks, and the currently allowed SCS and pelagic sharks. The presence/absence of an interdorsal ridge and other morphological characteristics, coupled with outreach materials on shark identification for recreational anglers, are likely to reduce the incidence of misidentification in this fishery. Common threshers would also continue to be authorized for landing in recreational shark fisheries as these were not proposed to be prohibited for recreational anglers. NMFS had originally proposed that blacktip and spinner sharks not be authorized in recreational fisheries because the morphological differences between the two sharks are not obvious to anglers who are unfamiliar with sharks, and because NMFS wanted to ensure that recreational anglers were only landing sharks that could be positively identified. Based on extensive public comment in support of being able to land blacktip, spinner, and bull sharks and the ability of anglers to use the interdorsal ridge (or lack of the interdorsal ridge) to more positively identify sharks, the final action allows these sharks to be landed. Further, NMFS will enhance outreach efforts to ensure that recreational shark fishermen are positively identifying the sharks they catch.

Comment 9: NMFS should address the fact that recreational anglers in Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey are catching lots of pregnant thresher sharks during certain times of the year.

Response: NMFS is concerned about recreational anglers catching pregnant female thresher sharks. Recreational fisheries do not have closed seasons like commercial fisheries; therefore, pregnant females may be caught and possessed by recreational anglers. However, a minimum size limit of 54 inches fork-length and a bag limit of one shark (except bonnethead and Atlantic sharpnose) per vessel per trip should minimize the potential for negative impacts to populations of common thresher sharks. Furthermore, this species may be afforded additional protection by shark tournaments that limit the sharks that may be landed to those that are actually eligible to win a prize category.

Comment 10: NMFS received a comment suggesting that hammerheads may need to be prohibited for recreational anglers because the IUCN considers them threatened and it is not easy to distinguish between scalloped and great hammerhead sharks.

Response: NMFS is not implementing management measures specific to scalloped or great hammerhead sharks in recreational fisheries at this time. NMFS has not yet reviewed stock assessments on these species. A stock assessment has been completed for

hammerhead sharks as a dissertation for a graduate student; however, the assessment has not undergone extensive peer-review which is necessary prior to NMFS making any decisions about or based on the assessment.

The IUCN determined that the scalloped hammerhead is ''lower risk, near threatened'' with an unknown population trend in 1994. In 2001, the IUCN listed great hammerhead sharks as ''endangered'' with a decreasing population trend. The recreational bag limit (1 vessel/day) and minimum size (> 54 inch fork length) should preclude overfishing of the scalloped hammerhead shark species. NMFS intends to improve outreach materials available so that recreational anglers would have the tools necessary to distinguish between scalloped and great hammerheads.

Comment 11: NMFS should consider the impacts of recreational fishing for sharks and its implications on populations. Specific comments received include: shark tournaments since the 1980s are responsible for a 50–percent reduction in dusky sharks and a 35–percent reduction in sandbar sharks; the stock assessment does not say that recreational anglers have a significant impact on the shark stocks; the recreational angling public has a virtually imperceptible impact on LCS because recreational anglers practice catch and release and have very conservative size limitations.

Response: NMFS is aware of the practices of recreational fisheries and their impacts on shark populations. Recreational data have been used in past stock assessments for both sandbar and dusky sharks. Thus, the impact of recreational mortality on shark stocks has been included in these stock assessments. NMFS has implemented a size and bag limit for recreational fishermen to limit effort and protect sharks that have not reached sexual maturity. The Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP provides recreational landings by species.

Comment 12: NMFS should increase enforcement of recreational regulations because participants are not adhering to the 54–inch minimum size for sharks.

Response: NMFS intends to take steps to improve outreach to recreational shark anglers to ensure that the public is aware of all the regulations in place for recreational shark fisheries.

Comment 13: NMFS should not allow shark tournaments that give monetary prizes. The impacts of such tournaments are unknown and public perception of them is poor.

Response: HMS tournament participants are required to possess the necessary HMS permits, to register their tournaments, submit data if selected, and abide by all HMS and tournament regulations for sharks. The shark tournaments are subject to the recreational shark bag and size limits which are quite restrictive in the recreational fishery (1 shark over 54 inches per vessel per day) and, therefore, it is not likely that the majority of fishing mortality is occurring in shark tournaments. Specific measures concerning tournaments were not proposed, or analyzed, in this rulemaking.

Comment 14: NMFS should not propose that recreational fishermen cannot land sandbars and then account for recreational landings by removing the recreational landings (27 mt dw) in establishing the commercial quota for sandbar sharks.

Response: Accounting for the recreational landings (27 mt dw) between 2003–2005 is necessary to ensure rebuilding of sandbar sharks and that all fishing mortality is within the TAC. Sandbar sharks can be landed in recreational fisheries outside of NMFS jurisdiction (i.e., state waters), could be landed illegally in federal waters, or may die as a result of post-release mortality. If NMFS did not account for recreational and other mortality of sandbar sharks, efforts to prevent overfishing and rebuild sandbar sharks would be compromised.

Comment 15: Why were the effects of Katrina to the Texas recreational industry not analyzed?

Response: Consistent with NS1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to implement management measures to rebuild overfished shark species and prevent overfishing. The impacts to the recreational shark fishing industry as a result of Katrina were not specifically analyzed in this rulemaking. Rather, the impacts of the proposed measures that would affect the recreational shark fishing industry in states impacted by Hurricane Katrina were evaluated.

Comment 16: NMFS should require that recreational anglers practice only catch and release and report any and all interactions with protected species.

Response: Alternative suite 5 proposed prohibiting the possession of sharks in both commercial and recreational fisheries, but it was not the preferred alternative because of the adverse economic impacts that would be incurred by these fisheries. The stock status of many shark species does not warrant a requirement to only catch and release all shark species landed recreationally. The bag limit and minimum size requirements are sufficient to conserve shark stocks, and NMFS does not believe a prohibition on landing all sharks in recreational fisheries is warranted at this time.

Comment 17: A typo was made regarding allowable recreational species. On the HMS website copy of the proposed Amendment, the spinner shark was included on the recreational list. On a slide prepared for the public hearings, which was formerly posted on the HMS website, the spinner shark was not included on the recreational list. NMFS should update the draft document on the HMS website so that the commenting public would have access to the proper information necessary to adequately prepare their comments.

Response: The typographical errors in the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP have been addressed. An errata sheet describing these errors was posted to the HMS website on November 19, 2007, prior to the end of the public comment period and is available at: *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/Amendment%202/Errata__Sheet__for__DEIS.pdf*.

Comment 18: NMFS should consider the cumulative impacts on CHB operators who also fish for sharks in light of measures that have been imposed on this industry for other fisheries such as snapper. Snapper business is down 75–percent and proposed measures for the shark recreational fishery are ''the nail in the coffin for CHB''; and, NMFS is violating NEPA by limiting recreational alternatives and through limited cumulative impact analysis by not analyzing impacts such as those caused by red snapper regulations.

Response: NEPA requires all Federal agencies to consider and analyze a range of alternatives to achieve the stated objective and analyze cumulative impacts of proposed actions. NMFS considered the cumulative impacts by analyzing permits that participants held in other fisheries and considering the impacts on those other fisheries. Based on public comment, NMFS is modifying the shark species that can be retained by recreational anglers to include all non-ridgeback LCS and tiger sharks. This modification should allow CHB operators to continue to retain blacktip, spinner, finetooth, and bull sharks which had originally been proposed to be prohibited for recreational anglers due to concerns about anglers' ability to positively identify these species.

Comment 19: Party charter operators have to submit Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) for every trip. NMFS should look

into those to get a handle on recreational catches.

Response: VTR data were considered for the final rule, however, these data showed only four porbeagle sharks landed by party headboats. MRFSS and LPS are the only databases that NMFS has to track recreational landings. However, for some species, like porbeagle sharks, the timing of these programs do not necessarily capture when porbeagle sharks are caught by recreational fishermen in New England. As such, NMFS is considering ways to improve its recreational landings data collection. NMFS is interested in gathering more shark landings data from tournaments with prize categories for sharks, especially porbeagle sharks.

Comment 20: NMFS received numerous comments, including one from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, stating that NMFS should increase the retention limit for Atlantic sharpnose per vessel in the for-hire fishery. Recreational fishermen cannot avoid sharpnose sharks and the recent stock assessment declared that they were not overfished or subject to overfishing.

Response: Modifying the retention limits for Atlantic sharpnose was not considered in this amendment. Measures concerning Atlantic sharpnose sharks and other small coastal sharks (SCS) will be included in Amendment 3 to the HMS FMP based on recent (2007) stock assessments for SCS (May 7, 2008, 73 FR 25665).

10. SAFE Report and Stock Assessment Frequency

Comment 1: NMFS should implement the preferred alternative 9 for SAFE report frequency, which would allow NMFS to publish a SAFE report by the fall of each calendar year.

Response: NMFS is implementing alternative 9, which modifies the existing regulations by requiring the publication of a SAFE report in the fall of each year. This should allow NMFS more flexibility to balance other responsibilities throughout the calendar year, as necessary, and will give NMFS the opportunity to include data for the SAFE report that is typically collected at the beginning of each calendar year.

Comment 2: Within the annual SAFE report, NMFS needs to correctly identify the overfished and overfishing status of every managed shark species by species, rather than by complex.

Response: The SAFE report follows the guidelines specified for NS2 and is used by NMFS to develop and evaluate regulatory adjustments under the framework procedure or the FMP amendment process. Within each SAFE report, NMFS lists the status determination of each stock. If the stock is managed within a species complex, then NMFS would report the status of the complex. For sharks, NMFS does not have the necessary information to conduct separate stock assessments for each species. Therefore, NMFS cannot make species-specific stock status determinations for every species of shark that is commercially harvested. Therefore, those species are managed within a species complex. NMFS is moving towards more species-specific management as available data allows, as is the case with sandbar sharks, which will be managed separately from the LCS complex based on measures implementing the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Comment 3: NMFS should implement the preferred alternative 7 for shark stock assessments, which would allow NMFS to conduct shark stock assessments at least once every five years.

Response: Because of the time necessary to modify management measures consistent with stock assessments, NMFS is implementing the preferred alternative 7 and will conduct shark stock assessments at least once every five years. This should provide sufficient time for existing or forthcoming management measures to take effect (i.e., a few years) prior to the next stock assessment.

Comment 4: NMFS received several comments in favor of the status quo for timing of stock assessments, including: NMFS should consider keeping the status quo for the timing of stock assessment for sharks; we are opposed to having an assessment at least once every five years; five years is too long to wait for an assessment; it is critical that stock assessments be regular and robust; NMFS should implement alternative 6, the status quo for the timing of shark stock assessments, with a mandate of stock assessments no less frequently than every 3 years; and, stock assessments should occur at least every 2 to 3 years without any further delays.

Response: Because of the time necessary to modify management measures consistent with stock assessments, NMFS is finalizing measures that increase the amount of time between stock assessments to allow existing or forthcoming measures to be in place and have an effect on the population before the next assessment takes place. In 2003, NMFS adopted the SEDAR process for completing shark stock assessments at the request of industry, environmentalists, and academics. This process increases the time necessary to complete a stock assessment because it entails three workshops where data are reviewed, stock assessment models are run, and results are reviewed by an outside panel. Since this process alone may take over a year to complete, conducting assessments every 2 to 3 years is not practical. Allowing stock assessments to be conducted at least once every five years should allow research suggested by the last assessment to be completed before the next assessment is done, thus providing the necessary data for future assessments. It should also allow management measures, which need to be in place for several years to have an effect, to begin to achieve management objectives before a new assessment is done. For instance, the last stock assessment, which was completed in 2006, included data through 2004. NMFS is currently developing management measures based on that assessment, and those new management measures would be in place 30 days after publication of this rule. If the next stock assessment is conducted in 2009 (3 years from 2006), and includes data up through 2007 or 2008, the new management measures would not have had time to take effect as they would not have been in place for the time series of data used for a 2009 assessment. Decreasing the frequency to at least once every five years would result in the next assessment occurring no later than 2011, which could consider data up through 2009 and data collected under the new management measures.

Comment 5: The Georgia Coastal Resources Division believes that while conducting assessments every 2–3 years is too short for an accurate assessment, conducting stock assessments every five years is also too frequent for the rebuilding timeframes necessary for the concerned species and to evaluate the effects of management.

Response: Alternative 7 changes the current process outlined in the 1999 FMP by requiring stock assessments for sharks at least every five years instead of every two to three years. Stock assessments could occur more frequently; however, according to NMFS' policy adequate stock assessments are required at least once every five years. This timeframe ensures that NMFS can incorporate new data, use the best available data, and test the effectiveness of management measures. Waiting more than five years to conduct an assessment could lead to the need for greater changes leading to more uncertainty in the status of the stock and effectiveness of management.

11. Research Fishery/Preferred Alternative

Comment 1: NMFS should not finalize the proposed preferred alternative suite 4. The sandbar shark quota should be spread over 40 50 vessels making 1–2 trips annually rather than 5–10 vessels making more trips.

Response: The final action strikes a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and stop overfishing on depleted stocks while minimizing the severity of negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures. NMFS intends to address vital research concerns via the shark research fishery. By allowing a limited number of historical participants to continue harvesting sharks, NMFS ensures that data for stock assessments and life history samples will continue to be collected. The final action also allows a small pool of individuals to continue to collect revenues from sharks as they have in the past. Increasing the number of vessels included in the shark research fishery would simply provide a much smaller benefit for a larger pool of individuals. Furthermore, having fewer vessels involved in the research fishery ensures less variation among vessels and also maintains more consistent sampling protocols. Fewer vessels in the research fishery would also allow each vessel to make more sets targeting sandbar sharks throughout the year and within each region rather than a larger number of vessels only making one or two trips in a particular region/season. The selection process will take place each year in order to maximize the number of potential participants.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments on research fishery vessel selection. These comments included: NMFS should select vessels based on a fisherman's income from the shark industry; NMFS should consider if a fisherman has helped with research in the past and consider whether or not the researchers had a positive experience; NMFS should consider any past violations, and if a vessel is conducive to research (i.e., enough deck space); captains and crew should have an understanding of why the research is being done, an understanding of the costs associated with the research, the ability to fish in multiple regions, and the ability to carry observers; past participation in the observer program and shark fishery should be considered; NMFS should create a point system based on criteria for selection of vessels and if there are more than 5–10 vessels, then a lottery should be used; NMFS should administer the research fishery much like they do the EFP program; the shark research fishery should only include directed shark permit holders; NMFS should increase the number of vessels in the research fishery and decrease the amount of sandbars each vessel may land; observer coverage should still happen within the research fishery; NMFS needs to provide clarification as to how vessels will be selected to participate in the shark research fishery included in the preferred alternative; and who will pick the fishermen for the research fishery?

Response: Applications and permits for the shark research fishery will be administered through the HMS Exempted Fishing Permit program. The HMS Management Division will coordinate with NMFS scientists to determine research objectives. NMFS will publish an annual notice in the **Federal Register** that describes the expected research objectives, number of vessels needed, selection criteria, and the application deadline. Requested information could include, but is not limited to, name and address, permit information, number of expected trips to collect sharks, regions where fishing activities would occur, vessels employed, and gear used. NMFS will review all complete applications and rank vessels according to the ability of the vessel to meet research objectives, fish in the specified regions and seasons, carry a NMFS approved observer, and meet other criteria as published in the **Federal Register** notice. Establishing a point system or a lottery for selection of vessels may be considered as a means of selecting among qualified vessels interested in participating in a shark research fishery. NMFS will include the appropriate types of permit holders in the shark research fishery as determined by the research objectives on an annual basis.

Comment 3: NMFS should allow vessels participating in the research fishery and collecting data to make the most of what they catch.

Response: Non-prohibited sharks landed in the shark research fishery can be sold by fishermen. NMFS-approved observers onboard vessels in the shark research fishery will be authorized to collect any and all samples from any specimens retained during fishing activities to fulfill research goals.

Comment 4: Quota for the research fishery should be equally distributed geographically.

Response: NMFS will consider the geographic distribution of vessels selected to participate in the shark research fishery to reflect traditional participation by vessels targeting sharks and to ensure that data are maintained for future stock assessments. Further, equal geographic distribution will allocate economic benefits to all regions affected by measures in the final rule and ensure that samples are collected from sandbar and other species of sharks throughout their geographic range.

Comment 5: NMFS should clearly state how the quota for sandbar sharks will be calculated.

Response: The sandbar shark quota was determined by the TAC recommended by the sandbar shark stock assessment for the species to rebuild by 2070. The available quota for commercial shark fishermen participating in the shark research fishery (116.6 mt dw) was determined based on the TAC while considering other sources of sandbar shark mortality in recreational fisheries and dead discards that occur in other fisheries. This quota will be reduced to 87.9 mt dw through the end of 2012. Additional detail on these calculations may be found in Appendices A and C of the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Comment 6: Is NMFS going to provide flexibility regarding when and where vessels fish?

Response: Research vessels will have some flexibility with regard to timing of trips subject to the objectives and needs of the research fishery. Vessels selected for, and fishing under, the auspices of the shark research permit will be required to take a NMFS-approved observer on all trips. Therefore, observer availability may limit timing of individual trips by vessels. Similarly, NMFS intends the quota available for the shark research fishery to last throughout the year so that samples are collected from vessels fishing in all regions and seasons. As such, NMFS may not place observers on all trips that vessel operators of qualified vessels request to ensure that the sandbar research and the non-sandbar LCS research quotas, neither of which have regions, are available throughout the year. The number of available trips targeting sharks will be dependant on retention limits, success of other vessels targeting sharks, available quota, and other considerations.

Comment 7: NMFS received several comments on research fishery goals and science, including: NMFS should describe its data and research needs; a research plan needs to be developed; a research plan should be devised first before the vessels/fishermen are selected; and the design of the sandbar-oriented research fishery requires scientific input and oversight in order to fulfill a research mission.

Response: The research goals and objectives for the shark research fishery are being developed with NMFS scientists. Research objectives may vary from year-to-year, depending on scientific needs. Several research needs were identified by the peer-reviewers during the LCS stock assessment in 2006 and provide the basis for the shark research fishery goals for 2008, as outlined in the FEIS. Available data on LCS are also presented in the data workshop summary report which is located on the SEDAR website: (*http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar__Workshops.jsp?WorkshopNum'11*). Each year, the objectives will be published and made available to the public in conjunction with the **Federal Register** notice that solicits applications from fishermen interested in participating in the shark research fishery. Research topics may include, but are not limited to: target and bycatch rates using circle and J-hooks with unique bait combinations; sandbar age at first maturity and maturity ogive (which is a description of the proportion of the individuals that are mature at a given age); reducing bycatch rates of protected resources and prohibited sharks; and, life history of coastal sharks.

Comment 8: NMFS received several comments about which permit holders should be able to participate in the shark research fishery, including: the research fishery should include CHB permit holders and NMFS should not allow incidental permit holders to apply for the research fishery.

Response: The research fishery might include any types of HMS permits, including CHB permits, depending on the research objectives for a given year. These objectives, and the types of vessels that will be considered, will be published annually in advance of research activities so that fishermen with the appropriate permits may apply.

Some of the objectives for the research fishery are to continue to collect sandbar shark landings data to ensure consistent time-series data for future stock assessments and to answer specific research questions concerning shark life history and mechanisms to reduce bycatch, among others. Incidental permit holders have contributed to limited landings of sandbar sharks in the past; therefore, some landings data for sandbar sharks from incidental permit holders in the shark research fishery may be warranted.

Comment 9: NMFS should not implement a research fishery because it will take quota away from U.S. fishermen.

Response: Quota will not be taken away from U.S. fishermen as a result of the shark research fishery; however, a reduced quota consistent with the recommended TAC will be implemented in this final rulemaking. All of the available sandbar shark quota will be harvested in the shark research fishery. Interested U.S. fishermen will have the opportunity to apply for, and participate in, this fishery which will allow fishermen to harvest and sell sandbar sharks.

Comment 10: The research fishery should be limited in its first year (maybe 25–percent of the sandbar quota) so NMFS could figure out how the research fishery process would work. For the rest of the fishery, fishermen could then land some sandbars.

Response: There is a limited amount of sandbar shark quota available compared to previous years because NMFS is implementing a TAC and commercial sandbar quota that are consistent with the 2005/2006 sandbar shark stock assessment. Overharvests of sandbar sharks from 2006 and 2007 must also be accounted for, resulting in an adjusted commercial sandbar quota of 87.9 mt dw between 2008–2012. Allocating a small portion of this reduced quota to fishermen outside the shark research fishery would reduce the quota available for the research fishery, limiting NMFS' ability to achieve research objectives.

Comment 11: There is an inconsistency in alternative suite 4 regarding the number of vessels that would be allowed to participate in the research fishery. In Chapter 2, it was stated that ''[NMFS] is not certain regarding the number of vessels that may participate in the shark research fishery'' (pg 2-8), yet in Chapter 4 (pg 4-77), it states ''NMFS scientists and managers would select a few vessels (i.e., 5-10) each year to conduct the prescribed research.''

Response: NMFS is not certain of the exact number of vessels that would be selected for the research fishery. The number of vessels selected depends on research objectives, the number of vessels that qualify to participate in the shark research fishery, and quota available. Inclusion of five to ten vessels in the draft documents associated with the proposed rule provided the public with an estimate of how many vessels may be needed, given historical retention limits and proposed commercial quotas, for the shark research fishery.

Comment 12: The Georgia Department of Coastal Resources supports alternative suite 4 but thinks that unclassified sharks should be grouped as ridgeback and non-ridgeback.

Response: NMFS proposed counting unclassified sharks as sandbar sharks in the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP to provide an incentive for shark dealers to properly identify the sharks they purchase to the species level. Since the commercial quota for sandbar sharks is the lowest, NMFS had proposed an approach that would ensure that overfishing of sandbar sharks did not occur by providing an incentive for shark dealers to properly identify what they purchase and not list sharks as unclassified. However, NMFS is concerned that too many unclassified sharks being counted as sandbar sharks may fill the sandbar quota and close the shark research fishery prematurely. NMFS will use observer reports from outside the research fishery to determine species/complex (i.e., non-sandbar LCS, SCS, pelagic sharks, sandbar sharks) from which the unclassified sharks should be deducted. This should result in unclassified sharks being counted from a more appropriate assemblage than assuming all unclassified sharks are sandbar sharks and may result in the shark research fishery staying open for a longer period of time.

Comment 13: NMFS should implement alternative suite 4 because it will greatly improve data collection prior to the next SEDAR for LCS. It will help re-analyze the life history of sandbar sharks, especially.

Response: NMFS prefers alternative suite 4 because it implements a shark research fishery that should provide a limited number of fishermen with the economic incentive to collect valuable scientific data on sharks for NMFS. NMFS will attain information from this research that will help future stock assessments fill in some of the data gaps that previous stock assessments have identified.

Comment 14: Alternative suite 4 allows fishing to continue for shark species without having adequate information to responsibly do so. NMFS should limit shark fishing activities until the status of remaining (all sharks but sandbar, dusky, porbeagle) sharks has been determined.

Response: NMFS is implementing measures that should reduce fishing mortality of sharks significantly while collecting data for future stock assessments. Without this data, NMFS' ability to conduct future stock assessments would be hampered. Currently, NMFS and other collaborating fishery management entities have completed stock

assessments for all the shark species that have ample data available.

Comment 15: NMFS should not implement a lethal sandbar research fishery. NMFS should implement a tag and release research fishery.

Response: It is not possible to gather all the necessary biological samples, including reproductive organs and vertebrae, without some shark mortality. Commercial fishermen also need some incentive to participate in the shark research fishery as no other compensation would be provided. Therefore, the shark research fishery will allow data collection and the sale of animals collected to reduce dead discards and waste.

Comment 16: NMFS should address bycatch in alternative suite 4. This alternative suite is not adequate to ensure the recovery of depleted sandbar and dusky sharks.

Response: This final action should ensure that fishing effort targeting sandbar sharks and non-sandbar LCS is reduced, consistent with stock assessment recommendations. This reduction in fishing effort should result in reductions in bycatch and target catch. Landings of sandbar sharks are expected to decrease by 80–percent. Discards of dusky sharks are expected to decrease by 74–percent. Modifications to retention limits, quotas, and authorized species in commercial and recreational fisheries are expected to decrease bycatch and landings of target species to a level that is consistent with recommendations of the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment and provides a mechanism for rebuilding of sandbar and dusky sharks.

Comment 17: Alternative suite 4 could shift effort to SCS and pelagics.

Response: Fishing effort directed at SCS and pelagics may increase; however, these quotas are traditionally not fully utilized and are not being modified at this time with the exception of porbeagle sharks. The commercial quota for porbeagle sharks is being established, based on historical commercial landings, to prevent fishing effort from increasing while the stock is being rebuilt. Should fishing effort increase to the extent that the best available science indicates overfishing is occurring or stocks are overfished or approaching an overfished condition, NMFS will take additional action.

Comment 18: The management measures in alternative suite 4 will not adequately prevent the quota overharvests that have historically occurred within this fishery.

Response: Maintaining 100–percent observer coverage in the shark research fishery should enable NMFS to monitor landings in the shark research fishery in near real-time, reducing the likelihood of overharvests. Reducing retention limits outside the research fishery should reduce the number of non-sandbar LCS individual vessels may land each trip, which should prevent directed permit holders from targeting non-sandbar LCS. Instead, directed permit holders are anticipated to incidentally land non-sandbar LCS while they target other species. These measures, coupled with the fact that sandbar shark retention will be prohibited outside the research fishery, may reduce the number of overall trips landing sharks. Lastly, ensuring that shark dealer reports are received by NMFS within ten days of the 15th or 1st of every month should provide NMFS with the ability to provide more frequent landings updates and close the fishery if necessary to avoid overharvests.

12. Comments on Other Alternative Suites and Management Measures

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments on the status quo alternative (alternative suite 1), including: NMFS should maintain the status quo; and NMFS should implement different measures because the status quo clearly is not working and should be abandoned.

Response: NMFS chose not to select the status quo alternative as the preferred alternative because it does not end overfishing or implement rebuilding plans for overfished stocks as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4, with minor modifications based on further analysis and public comment, because it implements quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and end overfishing of several shark species. The final action maximizes scientific data collection by implementing a limited research fishery for sandbar sharks with 100–percent observer coverage. It also mitigates some of the significant economic impacts that are necessary and expected under all alternative suites to reduce fishing mortality as prescribed by recent stock assessments. Thus, the final action strikes a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and end overfishing of depleted stocks while minimizing the negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments on alternative suite 2, including: NMFS should not implement alternative suite 2 because it does not allow ILAP (Incidental Limited Access Permit) holders to land sandbar sharks; NMFS should implement alternative suite 2 with the caveats that porbeagle sharks be authorized for recreational fishermen and sandbars should be allowed on PLL gear; alternative suite 2 is more protective of sandbar sharks than preferred Alternative 4.

Response: NMFS did not prefer alternative suite 2 because incidental permit holders would not be able to land any sharks, which could result in excessive dead discards. There would also be an increased reporting burden for shark dealers, which could result in negative economic impacts for shark dealers.

Under alternative suite 2, porbeagle sharks would be added to the prohibited list for commercial and recreational fishing because porbeagle sharks were determined to be overfished based on the 2005 Canadian stock assessment. In addition, porbeagle sharks often look similar to other prohibited species (i.e., white sharks). Therefore, placing porbeagle sharks on the prohibited species list would prohibit landings and help rebuild this overfished species. It may also stop commercial and recreational landings of other look-alike shark species, such as white sharks, which are also prohibited.

Alternative suite 2 is not more protective of sandbar sharks than alternative suite 4 (the final action). In fact, it could result in more sandbar shark discards compared to alternative suite 4 (43.2 mt dw compared to 13.1 mt dw). In addition, allowing directed shark permit holders to fish for sandbar sharks with PLL gear, especially in the mid-Atlantic closed area, could increase discards and overall mortality of dusky sharks. Thus, sandbar sharks would be prohibited on PLL gear under alternative suite 2 to offer dusky sharks more protection. NMFS estimated that prohibiting the retention of sandbar sharks on PLL gear under alternative suite 2 could reduce dusky discards to 8.6 mt dw per year.

This final action also reduces quotas and retention limits to rebuild depleted shark stocks and end overfishing of several shark species, while minimizing regulatory discards. In addition, the final action should allow for the collection of fishery dependent data for future stock assessments and biological samples for shark research, while also allowing a few shark fishermen to continue to fish and generate revenues from shark landings as they have in the past.

Comment 3: NMFS received several comments regarding alternative suite 3, including: NMFS should support a year-round incidental fishery where all participants could keep a few sharks

(including sandbars) to avoid dead discards; NMFS should eliminate the directed shark permit; if NMFS allowed a bycatch industry only, prices for meat might increase because there would be a consistent quantity of sharks year-round; alternative suite 3 is best for retention limits; NMFS should support a revised alternative suite 3 with current reporting requirements and no restrictions for recreational fishermen, except the current species limitations.

Response: Positive ecological impacts would likely be more pronounced for some species under the final action (preferred alternative suite 4) compared to alternative suite 3 because discards should be lower under alternative suite 4. For instance, sandbar discards under alternative suite 3 are estimated to be 23.5 mt dw per year, whereas under alternative suite 4, they would be approximately 13 mt dw. In addition, dusky discards under alternative suite 3 are estimated as 20.4 mt dw, whereas they are only 9.2 mt dw under alternative suite 4. Therefore, NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4 at this time.

Economic impacts under alternative suite 3 would vary depending on permit type. For instance, the retention limits under alternative suite 3 are higher than retention limits for incidental permit holders under alternative suite 4 (the final action), possibly resulting in positive economic impacts for incidental shark permit holders. In addition, under alternative suite 3, incidental and directed permit holders would have the same retention limit. This would presumably remove the difference and value between permit types, which may benefit incidental permit holders, but may be detrimental to directed permit holders. Under the final action, directed and incidental permit holders outside the research fishery would have different non-sandbar LCS retention limits based on permit type. This would allow the distinction and difference in value between directed and incidental permit types to continue. In addition, directed and incidental permit holders outside the research fishery would not be able to retain sandbar sharks. This would most likely result in fishermen no longer directing fishing effort on sharks outside the research fishery, which could have negative economic impacts on these fishermen. However, unlike alternative suite 3, in the final action, there will be a small research fishery, which would allow a few shark fishermen to direct effort on sharks and sell their catch. This research fishery would also allow the continuation of fishery dependent data collection to help with future stock assessments. Therefore, NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4 at this time.

Retention limits under alternative suites 3 and 4 were designed to keep the shark fishery open longer than it has been in the past. This could allow shark products to be available year-round, and possibly avoid gluts in the market, as were experienced in the past when a majority of the shark products were available for a short period of time.

In addition, under alternative suites 3 and 4, NMFS would change the dealer reporting requirements, requiring dealers to mail reports so that they are received by NMFS within 10 days after the reporting period ends. This change should ensure more timely reporting and potentially avoid overharvests. Under alternative suite 3, NMFS considered a list of species that recreational anglers could land; this list did not include blacktip, bull, or spinner sharks because of potential misidentification issues with overfished shark species. However, based on public comment, NMFS is revising this list to allow recreational fishermen to land these species. The diagnostic characteristic for recreational anglers will be the lack of an interdorsal ridge. Recreational fishermen would be allowed to land non-ridgeback LCS plus tiger sharks. This characteristic should allow fishermen to land blacktip, bull, and spinner sharks, but not mistakenly land sandbar or silky sharks, which have an interdorsal ridge and are often mis-identified as dusky sharks. Therefore, given public comment and the revision in the allowable species for recreational anglers, NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4 at this time.

Comment 4: NMFS should not use the economic and historical significance of the directed fishery as a basis for selecting alternatives. NMFS did not prefer alternative suite 3 because ''it diminishes the economic and historical significance of the directed fishery...'' (72 FR 41400).

Response: NMFS did not select alternative suite 3 as the preferred alternative because the available sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quota would have been spread out over all directed and incidental permit holders, providing an extremely limited quota to a large number of fishermen. As described above in the response to comment 3 in this section, NMFS did not think this would be the best approach to rebuild the fishery. In addition, directed permit holders would have had the same retention limit as incidental permit holders, which would have diminished the value of directed shark permits. Under the final action, NMFS is establishing a small research fishery where a small proportion of the directed shark fleet will be able to fish and harvest all shark species, except for prohibited sharks. In addition, NMFS evaluated retention limits of non-sandbar LCS for fishermen operating outside the shark research fishery. NMFS believes it is appropriate to preserve differences between directed and incidental permits and set separate retention limits based on permit type, allowing directed permit holders a higher retention limit than incidental permit holders. This affords directed permit holders, who presumably paid more for their directed shark permit and rely on shark products for a larger part of their income, a higher retention limit than if all permit holders had the same retention limit. Thus, in the final action, NMFS is establishing retention limits of 33 non-sandbar LCS for directed permit holders and 3 non-sandbar LCS retention limit for incidental permit holders.

Comment 5: All permit holders should be allowed to keep incidentally-caught sandbar sharks. NMFS should allow an incidental fishery, year-round, for all commercial permit holders.

Response: NMFS considered an alternative where all fishermen would be able to keep incidentally caught sandbar sharks under alternative suite 3. However, NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4 because it establishes a small shark research fishery where the sandbar quota would be harvested. This research fishery was not proposed under alternative suite 3, which would have compromised NMFS' ability to collect fishery dependent data needed for future stock assessments. This research fishery would allow NMFS to collect scientific data on sandbar sharks that is essential for future stock assessments. In addition, a few fishermen would be allowed to have some economic benefit from the sale of shark products. Spreading the sandbar shark quota among all fishermen with shark permits would not collect the data NMFS needs to produce accurate stock assessments and would result in low retention limits fleetwide. Therefore, NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4, which should end overfishing of depleted stocks while also mitigating negative economic impacts that would occur as a result of these measures.

Comment 6: NMFS received several comments regarding alternative suite 5, including: NMFS should close the shark fishery, considering the poor status of most of the species in the LCS complex, the uncertainty of the blacktip assessment, and the ineffectiveness of

NMFS shark recovery plans to date; a commercial fishery at this time is simply not acceptable; NMFS should support a catch, tag, and release (no finning) fishery only for all shark fisheries; NMFS should not support a commercial LCS fishery because it is not prudent or acceptable; NMFS should just close the sandbar and dusky fisheries; NMFS should be concerned about bycatch; NMFS should keep the Atlantic LCS fishery closed until more is known about these species; NMFS should narrow Alternative 5 to the commercial and large coastal fisheries; and NMFS should consider closing the commercial LCS fishery entirely.

Response: NMFS does not believe that closing the entire shark fishery, or establishing a catch and release only fishery, is warranted at this time. In implementing the final action, NMFS is following the recommendations of these latest stock assessments and taking significant steps in this amendment to rebuild overfished sharks, reduce fishing mortality, and allow shark species to rebuild while minimizing economic impacts and achieving optimum yield. While alternative suite 5 would have the most positive ecological impacts for sharks, protected resources, and essential fish habitat (EFH) of the alternative suites considered in this document, closing the Atlantic shark fishery would also incur unnecessary economic impacts on U.S. shark fishermen, shark dealers, shark tournament operators, and others involved in supporting industries. There are numerous species of shark that are not overfished or experiencing overfishing, such as the Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks, and, therefore, a full closure of the shark fishery is not warranted at this time. Furthermore, by closing the shark fishery, NMFS would lose a valuable source of fishery dependent data (through logbooks and the shark BLL observer program) and biological samples that are essential for future shark stock assessments. Other alternative suites considered by NMFS would strike a balance between ending overfishing and allowing overfished shark stocks to rebuild and allowing some retention of sharks to meet the economic needs of the shark fishing community.

Comment 7: NMFS should reconsider a ban on BLL gear to reduce landings/mortality of sandbar and dusky sharks. The argument that more participants will transfer fishing effort to the gillnet fisheries for sharks is unpersuasive.

Response: BLL gear is the primary gear used to harvest sharks by shark permit holders and to target non-HMS (i.e., snapper-grouper, reef fish, and tilefish). Many shark permit holders also maintain permits in these other non-HMS fisheries. Banning retention of sharks caught with BLL gear to reduce landings and mortality of sandbar and dusky sharks could result in regulatory discards of sharks because vessels deploying BLL gear in these other fisheries would have to discard all incidentally caught sharks in the pursuit of other non-HMS species with BLL gear. In addition, by banning BLL gear for sharks, sharks could only be harvested by gillnet gear, rod and reel, or PLL gear. Given concerns of protected species interactions in both the PLL and gillnet fisheries, NMFS concluded that it would not be appropriate to redistribute shark BLL effort into these fisheries. Therefore, NMFS is not banning BLL gear for sharks at this time.

Comment 8: NMFS should analyze an alternative suite that banned commercial shark fisheries without restricting the recreational shark fishery to lessen economic impact, overall.

Response: NMFS did not analyze a closure of only the commercial shark fishery, while allowing a recreational shark fishery to continue, due to concerns over equity to different sectors. National Standard 4 of the MSA requires that allocation of fishery resources be fair and equitable to all fishermen. Since shark species that are overfished and experiencing overfishing are caught both in the commercial and recreational fisheries, NMFS considered management measures that applied to both sectors that would help rebuild shark stocks and end overfishing. Additionally, since commercial fishermen may sell shark products where recreational fishermen cannot, closing the commercial shark sector could have the largest economic impact. There are also numerous species of shark that are not overfished or experiencing overfishing, and therefore do not warrant a full closure of the commercial or recreational Atlantic shark fishery at this time. Furthermore, by closing the shark fishery, NMFS would lose a valuable source of fishery dependent data (through logbooks and the shark observer programs) that would limit future shark stock assessments. Therefore, NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4.

Comment 9: NMFS should not establish a small research fishery because it would benefit few and disadvantage most of the shark fishermen. Everyone should get a chance at the quota, either through ITQs, or by having NMFS open up the fishery on January 1 every year and allowing all fishermen to catch sharks until the quota has been filled.

Response: NMFS is implementing the final action to allow for the collection of scientific data with the sandbar shark quota while at the same time allowing a few fishermen to have some economic benefit from the sale of sharks and shark products. Spreading the sandbar shark quota among all fishermen with shark permits would not foster sandbar shark research. While NMFS agrees that ITQs may be beneficial to fishermen, it would take NMFS several years to implement an ITQ system. NMFS is required to end overfishing and implement rebuilding plans for depleted shark stocks under the strict timeframe specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Due to the complexities and time needed to develop and implement ITQs, the time period mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not allow sufficient time to establish an IFQ or LAPP for sharks. However, NMFS may consider developing an IFQ or LAPP for sharks, as well as other HMS, in the future.

Comment 10: The Georgia Coastal Resources Division requests that NMFS include an alternative that would eliminate gillnets because of their large bycatch.

Response: In the past, shark gillnet fishermen have had 100–percent observer coverage during the Atlantic Right Whale calving season and approximately 30–percent observer coverage during the rest of the year; with observers documenting all bycatch on observed trips. Based on this observer data, compared to other gear types, such as PLL gear, gillnet gear has relatively low bycatch, with finfish bycatch ranging from 1.3 to 13.3–percent and observed sea turtle and marine mammal bycatch of less than 0.1–percent. Given the reduction in trip limits as a result of this amendment, and the four to six vessels that currently use strike or drift gillnet gear for sharks, NMFS does not believe there would be a significant increase in shark gillnet fishing pressure in the future and, therefore, NMFS does not feel it is appropriate to eliminate gillnets as an authorized gear at this time.

Comment 11: None of the suites completely represent the interests of the fishery.

Response: The alternative suites represent a range of management measures derived from scoping and public comment that could be considered based on stock assessments. NMFS assessed the impacts of the alternative suites, reviewed all public comments, and utilized the best available data to make a final analysis. NMFS is implementing alternative suite 4 because it implements quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and

stop overfishing of several shark species. Alternative suite 4 maximizes scientific data collection by implementing a limited research fishery for sandbar sharks with 100–percent observer coverage. It also mitigates some of the significant economic impacts that are necessary and expected under all alternative suites to reduce fishing mortality as prescribed by recent stock assessments. Ultimately, the final action strikes a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and stop overfishing of depleted stocks while minimizing the negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures.

Comment 12: We are concerned about wasteful discards under the proposed alternatives. NMFS should encourage responsible and targeted fishing by providing incentives for fishermen who can fish without discards or minimal discards.

Response: NMFS believes that the reduced trip limits (which is approximately one quarter of the current trip limit for directed fishermen under the status quo) and the prohibition on retention of sandbar sharks outside the research fishery will likely result in directed fishermen no longer targeting non-sandbar LCS. Currently, most of the discards of dusky, sandbar, and other shark species come from the directed shark fishery. The only directed shark fishing that could occur under the final action would be within the research fishery. Thus, under the final action where most fishermen would target other species and only incidentally catch non-sandbar LCS, NMFS does not anticipate excessive shark discards. For instance, based on shark BLL observer program data, on average, non-shark BLL trips caught one sandbar shark per trip and 12 non-sandbar LCS. The retention limits of 33 non-sandbar LCS per trip for directed permit holders could allow fishermen to keep incidentally caught non-sandbar LCS as they target other species. In addition, these non-shark trips typically have much shorter soak times (2–3 hours) compared to shark trips (12–14 hour soak times). Thus, it is estimated that most sandbar bycatch could be released alive since they would be released from longline gear in a relatively short period of time.

13. Science

Comment 1: NMFS received several comments regarding the rebuilding timeframe for sandbar sharks stating that NMFS should take a more precautionary approach rather than the maximum rebuilding timeframe of 70 years for sandbar sharks and that NMFS should consider a total ban on sandbar shark landings in all fisheries and an accelerated rebuilding timeframe of 38 years.

Response: The 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment discussed three rebuilding scenarios, including: rebuilding timeframe under no fishing; a TAC corresponding to a 50-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070; and a TAC corresponding to a 70-percent probability of rebuilding by 2070. Under no fishing, the stock assessment estimated that sandbar sharks would rebuild in 38 years. Under the NS 1 guidelines, if a species requires more than 10 years to rebuild, even in the absence of fishing mortality, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward by one mean generation time. Thus, NMFS added a generation time (28 years) to the target year for rebuilding sandbar sharks. The target year is the number of years it would take to rebuild the species in the absence of fishing, or 38 years for sandbar sharks. NMFS determined that the rebuilding time that would be as short as possible for sandbar sharks would be 66 years, taking into account the status and biology of the species and severe economic consequences on fishing communities. This would allow sandbar sharks to rebuild by 2070, given a rebuilding start year of 2004, the last year of the time series of data used in the 2005/2006 sandbar shark stock assessment. Since sharks are caught in multiple fisheries, to meet the rebuilding timeframe under a no fishing scenario, NMFS would have to implement restrictions in multiple fisheries to eliminate mortality, such as entirely shutting down multiple fisheries to prevent bycatch. If NMFS were to shut down the shark fishery completely, such action would likely have severe economic impacts on the fishing community and it would likely result in difficulties for Council-managed and Commission-managed fisheries, which often catch sharks as bycatch. In addition, prohibiting all fishing for sharks would impact NMFS' ability to collect data for future management.

The assessment assumed that fishing mortality from 2005 to 2007 would be maintained at levels similar to 2004 (the last year of data used in the stock assessment was from 2004) and that there would be a constant TAC between 2008 and 2070. Based in part on these assumptions, the assessment estimated that sandbars would have a 70–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 220 mt ww (158 mt dw)/year and a 50–percent probability of rebuilding by 2070 with a TAC of 240 mt ww (172 mt dw)/year. As described previously, NMFS is using the 70–percent probability of rebuilding to ensure that the intended results of a management action are actually realized given the life history traits of sandbar sharks.

Comment 2: NMFS received a comment stating disagreement with the science that suggests there is a decline in sandbar sharks because the industry went over their quota by 300–percent in two weeks and therefore shark populations are healthy and abundant.

Response: NMFS used the best available science and a rigorous SEDAR assessment process to make the determination that sandbar sharks are overfished. Recent landings and higher catch rates do not necessarily indicate errors in the stock assessment, or that the sandbar shark populations have recovered. Catch rates alone do not tell the whole story, nor do percentages because they may be a reflection of lower quotas as described in further detail below. Most catch rate series show stable or unclear trends in recent years, but large declines occurred in the late 1970s and 1980s. There has been a commercial quota imposed on the shark fishery since 1993; stable landings in the last decade most likely reflect the effect of a commercial quota, not necessarily a stable population. For instance, commercial catch declined from 162,000 individuals in 1989 to 72,600 individuals in 1993 prior to implementation of the commercial quota. A 300–percent overharvest of LCS does not necessarily mean that more sharks were being caught or that it represents a healthy shark population; rather, it may be the result of significantly reduced LCS quotas due to overharvests in recent years and fishermen continuing to fish at effort levels similar to those set in 2003 and 2004.

Comment 3: NMFS received a comment stating that fishermen/dealers do not properly identify what they are catching, which may have impacted the results of the stock assessment.

Response: Since 1993, species-specific reporting has been required for shark fishermen and shark dealers. However, some fishermen and dealers still report sharks in more general terms as ''sharks'' or ''large coastal sharks''. These unclassified sharks have been problematic for shark stock assessments. Fisheries observers are trained in species-specific identification and report the correct species-level data. Thus, NMFS uses observer data to determine species composition of unclassified sharks for stock assessment purposes. In addition, recognizing that

the accuracy of stock assessments and management can be improved with correct species identification, NMFS established mandatory shark identification workshops for shark dealers in regulations implementing the Consolidated HMS FMP. The objective of these workshops is to reduce the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks reported in the dealer reporting form, and to increase the accuracy of species-specific dealer reported information, quota monitoring, and the data used in stock assessments. These workshops train shark dealers to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses. NMFS is also developing an identification guide of the authorized species for recreational anglers.

Comment 4: NMFS received a comment stating that 80–percent of the landings in the VIMS dataset were sandbar sharks. The VIMS data says there are no large sandbar sharks. However, we see large adult sandbar sharks all the time, and their size has not changed over time.

Response: The Virginia Institute of Marine Science's BLL survey examines catch rates for the LCS complex and sandbar sharks. This survey has sampled a set of seven stations since 1974. Over this time, the survey has collected over 5,200 sandbar sharks and more than 6,000 LCS. Over the course of the study (1974–2004), both the sandbar shark and the LCS complex showed significant declines, with no signs of recovery for all age classes. Because of a number of factors including environmental changes, the gear used, random sampling scheme used, and experience and efficiency of fishermen, the number of sharks seen by one person or in one year may not be representative of the stock as a whole. The stock assessment included a variety of data sources, which taken together indicated a decline in the sandbar shark population.

Comment 5: NMFS received several comments regarding the results of the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessments, specifically that 1) the science used in the LCS assessment for 2006 was questionable, and the stock assessment needs to be re-done before Amendment 2 is finalized, 2) the science regarding sandbar sharks is flawed, 3) that information/data was left out of the stock assessment, 4) that the stock assessment does not represent the best available science as indicated by the independent stock assessment specialists, and 5) that the specialists raised issues that needed future research.

Response: The 2005/2006 LCS complex, sandbar, and blacktip shark stock assessments were conducted using the SEDAR process. SEDAR is organized around three workshops. The first is the data workshop, during which fisheries, monitoring, and life history data are reviewed and compiled. The second is the assessment workshop, during which assessment models are developed and population parameters are estimated using the information provided from the data workshop. The final workshop is the review workshop, during which independent experts review the input data, assessment method, and assessment products. All of the workshops are open to the public to ensure the assessment process is transparent. The review workshop panel consists of a chair and 2 reviewers appointed by the CIE, an independent organization that provides independent, expert reviews of stock assessments and related work. With regard to the LCS complex assessment, the review panel determined that the data utilized in the assessment were the best available at the time. For the sandbar shark assessment, the review panel concluded that the population model and resulting population estimates were the best possible given the available data. The review panel was also confident that the 2005/2006 sandbar shark assessment produced more reliable estimates of stock status than previous stock assessments because the SEDAR stock assessment resulted in a more thorough review at all stages of the process. For the blacktip shark assessment in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, the review panel determined that the data were treated appropriately, were adequate for the models used to assess the stocks and represented the best estimates of assessment information currently available. As one of the Terms of Reference for the Review workshop, the review panel was asked to develop recommendations for future research for improving data collection and stock assessments. These research recommendations are customary not only during the review workshop but also during the data and assessment workshops and do not imply that the current research used in the stock assessment was insufficient. For a complete review of the documents used in the stock assessment, please visit *http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar_Workshops.jsp?WorkshopNum'11.*

Therefore, NMFS believes that the 2005/2006 LCS complex, blacktip and sandbar shark stock assessments represent the best available science and is not re-doing the stock assessments before implementing management measures in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. Under the NS1 Guidelines, if a stock is overfished, NMFS is required to ''take remedial action by preparing an FMP, FMP amendment, or proposed regulation...to rebuild the stock or stock complex to the MSY level within an appropriate time frame'' (50 CFR 600.310(e)(3)(ii)). Additionally, ''in cases where a stock or stock complex is overfished, [the] action must specify a time period for rebuilding the stock or stock complex that satisfies the requirements of section 304(e)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.'' Therefore, consistent with the results of the 2005/2006 LCS complex, blacktip and sandbar shark stock assessment results, the Consolidated HMS FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is implementing final management measures to rebuild sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks while providing an opportunity for the sustainable harvest of blacktip sharks and other sharks in the LCS complex.

Comment 6: NMFS received a comment stating that offers from an industry representative to give shark fin data to NMFS were refused and therefore historic fin data must have been left out of the assessment.

Response: NMFS included all data from both the shark fin and carcass landings recorded and submitted by Federally permitted dealers, as required by the regulations at § 635.5(b)(1)(i), in the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessments. In addition, during the data workshop for the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessments, the public, including industry and environmental representatives, were invited to submit data in the appropriate format to be considered for the stock assessment. If the data were not submitted in the appropriate format for assessment scientists to determine the applicability of the data, then they were not included in the assessment. The public will have additional opportunities to submit data during the data workshop at the next LCS stock assessment. This data will be considered for the stock assessment provided that it is submitted in the appropriate format.

Comment 7: NMFS should have used the data from the Oregon II index which showed that the catch per unit effort was increasing.

Response: The NOAA Research Vessel Oregon II data was included in the 2005/2006 LCS complex, blacktip, and sandbar shark stock assessments. The SEFSC's Mississippi Laboratories has conducted standardized BLL surveys from the Oregon II in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and Southern North Atlantic since 1995. The data were

reviewed by the indices working group at the data workshop. This data showed that blacktip shark catch rates, when combined with year, area, and depth as variables, increased in later years in the Gulf of Mexico and were low with breaks in the time series in the Atlantic south of 37°. The sandbar shark catch rates in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic, combined with year, area, and depth, stayed about the same over the data time series. This data set was just one of many data sets related to abundance indices included in the 2005/2006 stock assessment.

Comment 8: NMFS received a comment stating that NMFS should have included Mexican data of shark catches in the 2005/2006 LCS assessment.

Response: The 2005/2006 LCS complex, blacktip, and sandbar shark assessments did include detailed estimates of Mexican catches of blacktip and sandbar shark for the period of 1962–2000. Species composition in weight for different sharks taken in Mexican waters was estimated from the data given in several Mexican studies. These were then used to estimate the total weight and numbers caught of each species in each state. In addition, annual estimates from 2000–2004 of illegal catches of LCS from Mexican fishing vessels fishing in the U.S. EEZ were also included in the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessments.

Comment 9: NMFS received a comment stating that NMFS does not need to implement an amendment to the Consolidated HMS FMP until July 12, 2009.

Response: The mandate to rebuild overfished stocks is in section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Act states that for stocks identified as overfished or having overfishing occurring, the Secretary of Commerce or the relevant Council, as appropriate, shall prepare a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations for the fishery to end overfishing in the fishery and rebuild affected stocks within one year of that determination. NMFS satisfied that timing provision: sandbar sharks and dusky sharks were determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring on November 7, 2006 (71 FR 65086), and NMFS published the draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP on July 27, 2007 (72 FR 41325). NMFS notes that the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act amended section 304(e) to include a two-year timing provision for preparation and implementation of actions, and the new management measures contained in 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act will be effective July 12, 2009.

Comment 10: NMFS received several comments regarding conflict of interest, including, 1) there was a conflict of interest at the LCS assessment workshop and review workshop; 2) several reviewers were biased against the industry; 3) the stock assessment is fixed to give a particular outcome based on pressures by conservationists, and; 4) there are conflicts of interest between NMFS employees and the American Elasmobranch Society which should invalidate all studies and assessments.

Response: NMFS does not believe that there was any conflict of interest on the part of participants or reviewers in the stock assessment process. The third workshop in the SEDAR process is the review workshop during which a panel of independent experts reviews the input data, assessment methods, and assessment products. This workshop is open to the public. The review workshop panel consists of a chair and two reviewers appointed by the CIE, an independent organization that provides independent, expert reviews of stock assessments and related work. The individuals appointed to the review panel can have no affiliation with any of the affected parties to the assessment, including government, industry, or advocacy groups. The review workshop chair is appointed by the CIE. Two additional reviewers, selected by the Shark SEDAR Coordinator for their expertise in shark stock assessments, were also included on the LCS shark complex review panel. The panel concluded that the data used in the analyses, the assessment approach, and overall conclusions of the assessment were valid. The panel provided no indication that there were any conflicts of interest during the assessment process.

The American Elasmobranch Society (AES) is a non-profit organization that seeks to advance the scientific study of living and fossil sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras, and the promotion of education, conservation, and wise utilization of natural resources. The Society holds annual meetings and presents research reports of interest to students of elasmobranch biology. Those meetings are held in conjunction with annual meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists each year at rotating North American venues. Membership in the AES is open to any person who has an interest in the object of AES. Members of AES include, but are not limited to, representatives from state and federal governmental and non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. NMFS employees are not restricted from participating in professional societies and, to the extent that participation aids in the collaboration, communication, and peer-reviews in the scientific endeavors of NOAA's mission, employees are encouraged to participate. While participating, employees must differentiate between when they are providing their own personal opinion or when they are acting as a representative of NOAA. Therefore, participation of NMFS employees in AES activities does not necessarily constitute a conflict of interest. In this case, there is no evidence from which NMFS can conclude that a conflict of interest occurred.

Comment 11: NMFS should assess the eleven prohibited LCS species individually and in a public forum and the shark stock assessments should break out all sharks by species, especially bull sharks, scalloped hammerhead sharks, and tiger sharks.

Response: NMFS continues to collect species-specific data in support of species-specific stock assessments. To date, NMFS has conducted individual stock assessments for dusky, sandbar, blacktip, Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, and bonnethead sharks. As additional biological and fishery-related data become available, NMFS will conduct other species-specific stock assessments.

Comment 12: NMFS possessed certain species-specific knowledge regarding blacktip sharks that it failed to produce for the assessment.

Response: NMFS has included all the available data that were presented at the data workshop and has not withheld or failed to produce relevant datasets. NMFS held a data workshop for the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment that was open to the public and requested that participants, including industry and environmental representatives, submit any relevant data or analysis in the form of working documents. During the assessment workshop, the assessment scientists determined the adequacy and appropriateness of the submitted data to be included in each assessment.

Comment 13: Why did the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment not assess sandbars as two separate populations, one in the Gulf of Mexico and one in the Atlantic similar to what was done for blacktip sharks?

Response: During the data workshop portion of the LCS stock assessment, the life history working group looked at multiple studies and data sources to

summarize life history information such as stock definition, age, growth size at maturity, and mortality for sandbar and blacktip sharks that was then used in the stock assessments for each species. For sandbar sharks, after considering the available data, the working group decided that the stock definition should be the Western North Atlantic from southern New England to the Gulf of Mexico. Tagging studies suggest that one stock unit exists from Cape Cod south down the U.S. Atlantic coast and into the Gulf of Mexico, extending around the U.S. and Mexican portions of the Gulf of Mexico to the northern Yucatan peninsula. Genetic studies conducted on specimens from Virginia waters and the Gulf of Mexico further support the existence of a single stock that utilizes the area of Cape Cod to the northern Yucatan peninsula. For blacktip sharks, conventional tagging evidence suggests little exchange between the U.S. Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Genetic heterogeneity and female philopatry also demonstrates multiple genetic reproductive stocks among blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Bight. Therefore, blacktip sharks were divided into two stocks: an Atlantic stock defined as extending from Delaware to the Straits of Florida, and a Gulf of Mexico stock designated as extending from the Florida Keys throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Comment 14: NMFS received a comment asking who the peer reviewers were for the 2006 dusky assessment.

Response: In order to preserve the integrity of the independent review process of stock assessments, NMFS does not provide the names of the peer reviewers, including those used for the dusky shark assessment.

Comment 15: NMFS received several comments regarding the continuation of shark data collection once Amendment 2 is implemented, asking how NMFS would conduct stock assessments with no data from fishermen, and stating that NMFS should obtain more data from the fishermen by placing scientists on fishing vessels.

Response: This final action will establish a small research fishery to harvest the entire commercial sandbar shark quota. Vessels operating within the shark research fishery can also retain non-sandbar LCS, SCS and pelagic sharks. These vessels will also have 100–percent observer coverage. Vessels operating outside of the shark research fishery will only be able to retain non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks. The vessels outside the shark research fishery will continue to be selected for observer coverage. Observers provide baseline characterization information, by region, on catch rates, species composition, catch disposition, relative abundance, and size composition within species for the large coastal and small coastal shark BLL fisheries. NMFS will use observer data as well as logbook and shark dealer data and fisheries independent data to conduct stock assessments in the future.

Comment 16: NMFS received a comment supporting stock assessments that occur in the United States and not those that occur in other countries.

Response: To date, the United States has not conducted a stock assessment on porbeagle sharks. NMFS has reviewed the Canadian stock assessment and found that it made full use of all fishery and biological information available and therefore deems it to be the best available science and appropriate to use for U.S. domestic management purposes. Canada has conducted stock assessments on porbeagle sharks in 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005. Reduced Canadian porbeagle quotas in 2002 brought the 2004 exploitation rate to a sustainable level. According to the 2005 recovery assessment report conducted by Canada, the North Atlantic porbeagle stock has a 70–percent probability of recovery in approximately 100 years if fishing mortality is less than or equal to 0.04. The Canadian assessment indicates that porbeagle sharks are overfished ($SSN_{2004}/SSN_{MSY} = 0.15 - 0.32$; SSN is spawning stock number and used as a proxy for biomass). However, the Canadian assessment indicates that overfishing is not occurring ($F_{2004}/F_{MSY} = 0.83$). Based on these results, NMFS determined that porbeagle sharks are overfished, but that overfishing is not occurring (71 FR 65086).

Comment 17: NMFS received a comment asking if shark migration patterns have been studied along with sea surface temperatures.

Response: Sea surface temperature is an important physical data parameter that is collected during investigations of shark migration patterns. The data workshop for the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment included several studies investigating the correlation of sea surface temperature and shark migration patterns. A summary of these studies and reference citations can be found in the SEDAR 11 final stock assessment report available on the HMS website at *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/hmsdocument_files/sharks.htm*.

Comment 18: Does NMFS have an idea of the status of common threshers? It seems that they are abundant.

Response: To date, NMFS has not conducted a species-specific stock assessment for thresher sharks and their status in the Atlantic Ocean is unknown. However, commercial landings data compiled from the most recent stock assessment documents indicate that approximately 307,291 lb dw of thresher sharks have been landed from 2000 to 2005. Recreational landings data obtained from the recreational landings database for HMS indicates approximately 8,000 thresher sharks have been harvested in the Atlantic HMS recreational shark fishery from 1999 to 2005.

Comment 19: NMFS should implement the status quo, Alternative 1, because this is the only viable option for Amendment 2 until the scientific issues that have been raised are addressed and resolved.

Response: As described in response to comments 5 and 10 in this section, NMFS disagrees that the results of the LCS assessment should be put on hold due to concerns raised about the scientific validity and impartiality of reviewers. NMFS has carefully reviewed and considered all public comments received on the assessment and determined that the assessment was appropriate, used the best scientific data available, and is scientifically valid. The 2005 Canadian porbeagle shark stock assessment, the 2006 dusky shark assessment, and the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment determined that porbeagle, dusky, and sandbar sharks are overfished. Overall, the status quo alternative, which would maintain the current annual LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw, in conjunction with the management measures mentioned above, would have negative ecological impacts on sandbar, dusky and porbeagle sharks, as well as protected resources and marine mammals. The social and economic impacts would likely be neutral because current fishing effort would remain the same in the short term. In the long term, as stocks continue to decline, profits may decrease as costs associated with finding and catching these depleted stocks increases. Management measures are needed to rebuild overfished stocks and prevent overfishing consistent with the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Therefore, maintaining the LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw would be inconsistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the recent LCS stock assessment that recommended a TAC of 158.3 mt dw for sandbar sharks in order for this species to rebuild by 2070. Current fishing effort, under the status quo alternative, would lead to continued overfishing of sandbar, porbeagle and dusky sharks, which would prevent these species from rebuilding in the

recommended timeframe. As a result, rather than implementing this alternative, NMFS is implementing the quotas and retention limits necessary to rebuild and stop overfishing of several shark species while maximizing scientific data collection by implementing a limited research fishery for sandbar sharks. The final management measures also mitigate some of the significant economic impacts that are necessary and expected under all alternative suites 2 though 5 to reduce fishing mortality as prescribed by recent stock assessments. The final management measures strike a balance between positive ecological impacts that must be achieved to rebuild and stop overfishing of depleted stocks while minimizing the severity of negative economic impacts that could occur as a result of these measures. By allowing a limited number of historical participants to continue to harvest sandbar sharks within the research fishery, NMFS ensures that data for stock assessments and life history samples would continue to be collected. Directed permit holders not selected to participate in the shark research fishery would still be authorized to land 33 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip and incidental permit holders would be authorized to land 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. This should limit the number of trips targeting non-sandbar LCS sharks; however, it should still afford the opportunity to keep non-sandbar LCS that are landed incidentally, preventing excessive discards.

Comment 20: The stock assessment is flawed because sandbar sharks do not occur west of Mobile, Alabama.

Response: The stock assessment represents the best available science and included all data that was presented at the Data Workshop for the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment. Included in the assessment are fishery independent shark surveys that were conducted from 1995–2005 from the NOAA Research Vessel Oregon II. The results of that survey can be found in LCS05–06–DW–27. This survey showed the capture of sandbar sharks in the Gulf of Mexico, including west of Mobile, Alabama (see Figure 4 within LCS05–06–DW–27).

14. National Standards

Comment 1: The proposal to prohibit blacktip sharks in the recreational fishery violates NS2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because the stock assessment determined that blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico are not overfished.

Response: NS2 requires that conservation and management measures be based upon the best scientific information available. NMFS believes that the 2005/2006 LCS stock assessment constitutes the best available science. The 2005/2006 LCS complex, sandbar, and blacktip shark stock assessments were conducting using the SEDAR process. SEDAR is organized around three workshops. All of the workshops are open to the public to ensure that the assessment process is transparent. The review workshop panel consists of a chair and 2 reviewers appointed by the CIE, an independent organization that provides independent, expert reviews of stock assessments and related work. With regard to the LCS complex assessment, the review panel determined that the data utilized in the assessment were the best available for analysis at the time. For the sandbar shark assessment, the review panel concluded that the population model and resulting population estimates were the best possible given the available data. The review panel was also confident that the 2005/2006 sandbar shark assessment produced more reliable estimates of stock status than previous stock assessments because the SEDAR stock assessment resulted in a more thorough review at all stages of the process. For the blacktip shark assessment in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, the review panel determined that the data were treated appropriately, were adequate for the models used to assess the stocks and represented the best estimates of assessment information currently available.

In the proposed rule, NMFS proposed an authorized recreational species list that was limited to those species that are easy to identify or that could not be misidentified with other species. NMFS originally proposed to prohibit the retention of blacktip sharks because of the potential for misidentification with spinner sharks, but specifically asked for public comment on the proposed list of prohibited species. As a result, based on public comments received and because blacktip sharks are healthy in the Gulf of Mexico, NMFS is implementing an amended authorized shark species list in the recreational fishery. The amended list is based on readily identifiable characters such as the lack of an inter-dorsal ridge, and allows the landing of non-ridgeback LCS plus tiger sharks. This amended list adds blacktip, spinner, finetooth, porbeagle and bull sharks to the list of authorized species for recreational anglers in all regions.

Comment 2: NMFS violated NS4 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because the commercial fishery will be allowed to catch their TAC and the recreational fishery cannot catch the same species of sharks.

Response: NS4 requires that conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States, not between participants in different fisheries. The commenter is concerned about perceived discrepancies between allocations to the recreational versus commercial fisheries, which is not a NS4 issue. Based on public comments, NMFS is modifying the list of authorized species in the recreational shark fishery to address concerns expressed by certain states that prohibiting blacktip and other sharks would unfairly discriminate against the recreational fishery. This amended list more closely aligns with the authorized species in the commercial fishery. NMFS would continue to prohibit sandbar and silky sharks in the recreational fishery due to concerns of misidentification with dusky sharks and because sandbar sharks are overfished. However, most of the commercial sector will not be able to retain sandbar sharks unless fishermen participate in the shark research fishery. Thus, other than in the shark research fishery, NMFS is prohibiting the retention of sandbar sharks in both the commercial and recreational sectors.

Comment 3: NMFS violated NS8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because Port Aransas is a fishing community and was not treated as such in the analysis.

Response: NS8 requires that conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities. NMFS recognizes the importance of Port Aransas, TX and numerous other communities as fishing communities. A social impact and community profile assessment was completed for the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. While this community profile assessment did not focus on Port Aransas, TX, Chapter 9 of the Consolidated HMS FMP includes an analysis of the State of Texas as a whole and makes note of specific fishing communities within the state that are important to HMS fishing, including Port Aransas, TX. Because this analysis was recently completed, it was not repeated for the Draft EIS for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS

FMP; however, it was referred to in the Draft EIS for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. The Final EIS for Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP includes a recently completed report by MRAG Americas, Inc., and Jepson (2008) that provides updates to the social impact and community profile assessments for HMS dependent fishing communities. This report can be found in Appendix E and includes Port Aransas.

Comment 4: NMFS violated NS9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act because all the proposed prohibited species will be released and some will die and, thus, bycatch will not be minimized.

Response: NS9 says that conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch. The reduced commercial shark quotas and retention limits being finalized in this rule are expected to greatly reduce bycatch of target and non-target species. Because of the reduced retention limits outside the research fishery, it is likely that fishermen will not target non-sandbar LCS. In addition, retention limits under the final management measures are such that fishermen targeting non-shark species should be able to retain incidentally caught non-sandbar LCS. Soak times in non-shark BLL and gillnet fisheries are also much shorter than commercial shark sets; these shorter soak times should increase post-release survival of sandbar sharks. Regulatory discards were taken into consideration when determining the quotas and retention limits of sandbar and non-sandbar sharks both inside and outside of the research fishery. In addition, commercial fishermen using BLL and PLL gear are required to have specified safe handling and release gear on board, which should help release shark bycatch in such a manner as to maximize post-release survival. In the recreational fishery, NMFS is modifying the list of authorized species. This amended list more closely aligns with the authorized species in the commercial shark fishery. NMFS intends to increase educational outreach to the recreational fishing sector to increase shark identification to avoid misidentification with prohibited species. Bycatch in the recreational fishery is also minimized because soak times are considerably less than those in commercial fisheries.

15. Economic Impacts

Comment 1: NMFS should consider an alternative suite that incorporates a ''phase out'' of the commercial shark industry. The present stock situation is untenable. Prolonged rebuilding periods are not acceptable. Managing a minimal yet unsustainable large coastal shark fishery violates NS1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The costs of management far outweigh the benefits to a small number of fishermen who target sharks commercially.

Response: NMFS did consider a suite in the Draft EIS that would have ended Atlantic commercial shark fishing, alternative suite 5. Under this proposed alternative, shark landings would be limited to research and the collection for public display via the HMS EFPs. Recreational fisheries would be catch and release only. However, after careful consideration of the other alternatives, this alternative suite was not selected.

Longer rebuilding periods are allowed under NS1 of Magnuson-Stevens Act when the following conditions specified in the NS 1 Guidelines (50 CFR 600.310(e)(4)(ii)(B)(*3*)):

> [i]f the lower limit is 10 years or greater, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward to the extent warranted by the needs of fishing communities....except that no such upward adjustment can exceed the rebuilding period calculated in the absence of fishing mortality, plus one mean generation time or equivalent period based on the species' life-history characteristics.

NMFS recognizes that the costs of managing the shark fishery relative to the level of future shark fishing activity will be high. However, there are non-monetary benefits associated with maintaining a limited commercial shark industry. These benefits include the ability to continue gathering fishery data, maintenance of industry knowledge regarding shark fishing practices, and other potential cultural and social benefits. The final action attempts to balance the economic needs of fishing communities with the recommendations of recent stock assessments. BLL and gillnet gear will continue to be deployed in other fisheries that interact with sharks. Setting a retention limit that allows fishermen to keep a portion of these fish without targeting non-sandbar LCS should minimize dead discards while discouraging targeting of non-sandbar LCS. Allocating the entire sandbar shark quota to a shark research fishery quota should result in collection of data that could improve future stock assessments and the development of management measures for the fishery.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments regarding an industry buyout/buyback. These comments include: the environmentalists should fund a buyout of the commercial shark fishery; NMFS should consider a buyout to provide financial relief for the shark fishermen that will be put out of business as a result of the preferred alternative; NMFS should buy all of the directed shark permits for $50,000 to $100,000 because NMFS sold them to fishermen and created this problem; the industry is not in favor of a 5–percent tax to come up with buyout money; a buyout plan aimed at removing longline and gillnet vessels from the shark fishery and other fisheries would reduce fishing pressure, reduce bycatch and protected species interactions, and would address NMFS' concern that further reducing shark landing quotas will result in redistribution of fishing effort into other equally harmful fisheries.

Response: NMFS recognizes that some participants of the Atlantic shark fishery expressed interest in reducing fishing capacity for sharks via some form of buyout program. Buyouts can occur via one of three mechanisms, including: through an industry fee, via appropriations from the United States Congress, and/or funding provided from any State or other public sources or private or non-profit organizations. NMFS cannot independently initiate a buyout. Because NMFS is unable to implement a buyout as a management option, a buyout plan is not proposed in this amendment, despite requests for consideration from the HMS Advisory Panel and other affected constituents.

The shark fishery did develop an industry ''business plan'' that examined options for a buyout, which is further described in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIS.

Comment 3: NMFS should look at data on the number of commercial permit holders by state and the socio-economic impacts of the proposed measures on these fishermen.

Response: NMFS examined the number of commercial permit holders by state. This information was presented in Table 9.1 of the Draft EIS. The socio-economic impacts of the preferred measures were analyzed in Chapters 6, 7, and 8 of the Draft EIS for Amendment 2.

Comment 4: NMFS received several comments concerning the potential for severe economic impacts associated with all of the alternatives considered (other than status quo). Comments indicated a concern that many fishermen may not be able to survive economically until the next stock assessment. One dealer for example saw a 75–percent decrease in revenue in 2007 because of restrictions. The lack of a shark season in 2008 could bring about a financial collapse of the industry. The industry is completely based on sandbar sharks.

Response: NMFS has estimated that the alternatives considered, including the no action alternative, would result in economic consequences to the shark fishery. The severity of the economic consequences varies by alternative suite, with alternative suite 5, the complete closure of the Atlantic shark fishery, having the greatest economic impact. The economic impacts of the various alternative suites are summarized in Table 7.5 of the EIS for Amendment 2.

NMFS acknowledges that dealer impacts could also be substantial and could vary significantly by dealer, depending upon how important sharks are to their operations.

NMFS recognizes the importance of sandbar shark landings to the shark fishing sector. However, sandbar shark landings only comprised 30–percent of the estimated total value of the shark fishery in 2005 ($602,764 in sandbar shark meat and $1,181,803 in fins, versus a total shark fishery revenue of $6,027,516).

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to develop management measures to rebuild overfished shark stocks and prevent overfishing. The final action attempts to balance the economic needs of fishermen and fishing communities with this requirement.

Comment 5: NMFS should include an analysis of the negative economic impacts associated with prohibiting porbeagle sharks in shark tournaments, especially in New England. These tournaments have negligible impacts on porbeagle stocks. An example was provided regarding a tournament that has caught only 4 porbeagle sharks in the past 10 years.

Response: NMFS appreciates this additional information regarding the importance of porbeagle sharks in tournament fisheries. Additional information has been incorporated into the final EIS for Amendment 2 to further address the potential economic impacts of a prohibition of porbeagle landings. Based on public comments received, NMFS selected an alternative suite that permits the recreational retention of porbeagle sharks.

NMFS is reviewing existing data sources for recreational landings of porbeagle sharks. Efforts to expand recreational data collection may be necessary to improve information on porbeagle shark landings in recreational fisheries.

Comment 6: NMFS should specify what the $1.8 million fishery-wide economic impacts include: recreational impacts, commercial impacts, or both. Recreational impacts would be significant if sandbar, bull, and blacktip are not authorized to be landed in the recreational fishery. NMFS has grossly underestimated the impact to recreational fishermen in this proposal.

Response: The $1.8 million discussed for the final action is the estimated reduction in gross revenues from sandbar and non-sandbar LCS resulting from the proposed quota reductions to the commercial shark fishery. Impacts to the recreational shark fishing sector were also analyzed. For the final action, these impacts included: the negative economic impacts resulting from the reduced number of sharks that could be legally landed by recreational anglers, particularly pronounced in areas where blacktip sharks are frequently encountered. In addition, tournaments offering prize categories for sharks could also experience negative economic impacts as a result of not allowing six additional species to be retained in recreational fisheries. Due to a lack of information regarding the relative preferences of shark fishermen to retain shark species over practicing catch-and-release shark fishing, NMFS was unable to quantitatively estimate the economic impacts of the proposed recreational measures restricting the authorized list of species that could be retained.

The final action allows recreational anglers to harvest blacktip, finetooth, bull, spinner, and porbeagle sharks.

Comment 7: Proposed measures will result in a year-round fresh shark meat product. Inconsistent seasons are not good for prices and shark meat is currently $0.30/lb. because the market is flooded so quickly and then seasons are over so soon.

Response: NMFS recognizes that moving to one season for the shark fishery could alleviate some of the uncertainty in the market associated with varying shark seasons. Depending on the intensity of fishing effort at the beginning of the season, it is likely that the final action could result in a year-round fresh shark meat market. This could help improve the prices received for shark meat and help offset some of the negative economic impacts associated with this rule.

Comment 8: Dealers will not likely be interested in continuing to buy shark products when the proposed measures go into place.

Response: NMFS acknowledges that some dealers may opt to no longer participate in the shark fishery. However, the information available to NMFS indicates that several shark dealers already handle small quantities of shark products and, therefore, changes in the shark fishery are unlikely to cause them to change their business practices. Reduced domestic harvest of sandbar sharks could potentially increase the value of harvest in the future due to reduced supplies. Furthermore, having the season open for a longer period of time each year, subject to reduced retention limits, may enhance the domestic shark meat market and increase prices.

Comment 9: Closing fisheries increases the quantity of fisheries products imported into the United States and other countries do not have the conservation measures that are present in the United States.

Response: The United States imports modest quantities of shark fishery products. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the United States imported 459 mt of shark in 2006 with an estimated value of $3.41 million. In contrast, the United States exported 1597 mt of shark in 2006 estimated to be worth $6.17 million. The United States may be an important transshipment port for shark fins, which may be imported wet, and then processed and exported dried. The United States is, in fact, a net exporter of shark species. NMFS acknowledges that other countries may not have the same shark conservation measures as the United States.

Comment 10: Commenters suggested that NMFS should implement a retraining program for fishermen and families that are displaced by this action. Others suggested fishermen reconfigure their businesses towards providing tourism services.

Response: NMFS has worked with a number of other agencies/departments to explore programs that are available to fishermen and other businesses affected by fishery management measures. Some of these include retaining programs.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was created to create new jobs and retain existing jobs in economically stressed communities. Through a series of grant programs, the EDA helps distressed communities develop strategies to improve their own economic situation through a multifaceted cooperative effort. Most of the EDA activity affecting the fishing industry has been funded through the EDA's Public Works Program and the EDA's Economic Adjustment Program. The Public Works Program has funded port and harbor improvements. The Economic Adjustment Program helps communities adjust to serious changes in their economic situation, and proceeds from this program are generally used for organization, business development, revolving loan funds, infrastructure, and market research. Interested parties can learn more about these programs, including

eligibility requirements and contact information, by visiting the EDA website: *http://www.eda.gov/*.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act provides funds to States and local substate grantees so they can help dislocated workers find and qualify for new jobs. It is part of a comprehensive approach to aiding workers who have lost their jobs that also includes provisions of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act and the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. Workers who have lost their jobs and are unlikely to return to their previous industries or occupations are eligible for the program. This includes workers who lose their jobs because of plant closures or mass layoffs; long-term unemployed persons with limited job opportunities in their fields; and farmers, ranchers and other self-employed persons who become unemployed due to general economic conditions. Services include retraining services, readjustment services, and needs-related payments. Interested parties can obtain more information about services available and contact information by visiting the following website: *http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/*.

Comment 11: Commenters suggested that NMFS consider giving shark fishermen swordfish handgear permits in order to help offset negative economic impacts, while also increasing swordfish landings.

Response: NMFS did not propose changes to the swordfish handgear permit system, however, NMFS will take this suggestion under consideration for future actions. NMFS notes that the swordfish handgear permit is a limited access permit. Therefore, issuing new swordfish handgear permits may result in negative economic impacts to current holders of swordfish handgear permits. In addition, NMFS has been recently issued new regulations to revitalize the swordfish fishery and may consider additional measures in the future depending on the outcome of the current regulatory changes.

Comment 12: NMFS should consider the compound effect of this Amendment and the economic hardships that have been incurred by the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishing industry.

Response: NMFS considered the cumulative impact of this Amendment with that of other regulatory changes in other fisheries, including the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishing industry. This analysis is provided in Chapter 4 of the Draft EIS.

Comment 13: If NMFS does not maintain the status quo, NMFS should declare an emergency disaster.

Response: Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act addresses fisheries disaster relief. This section states:

> At the discretion of the Secretary or at the request of the Governor of an affected State or a fishing community, the Secretary shall determine whether there is a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster as a result of natural causes, man-made causes beyond the control of fishery managers to mitigate through conservation and management measures, including regulatory restrictions (including those imposed as a result of judicial action) imposed to protect human health or the marine environment, or undetermined causes.

All analyses for determinations (which can be at the request of a Governor or at the Secretary's own discretion) under section 312(a) must undergo a three-prong test: first, the Secretary must determine if there has been a commercial fishery failure; he must also determine that any such failure is the result of a fishery resource disaster; finally, the cause of that disaster must meet the articulated causes outlined in the statute.

Comment 14: NMFS should look into the impact of this Amendment on the consumer. How much will consumer costs increase as a result of your action?

Response: NMFS did not focus its analysis of the impacts of this Amendment on the consumer since shark is primarily exported. The domestic consumption of shark meat and shark fins is limited. It is unlikely that reduction in the production of shark fin will impact consumer prices in the United States. The consumption of fresh shark meat is somewhat limited and is not as widespread as that of other fish species in the U.S. market. There may be some impacts to domestic consumers of shark, especially sandbar sharks, as a result of the preferred management measures. However, it is unlikely that this Amendment will result in significant increases in consumer costs, especially given the estimates that shark meat could be landed in low limits year round, unlike current conditions where shark meat is available for only several weeks each year. Information available on consumer prices for shark and domestic demand of shark products is limited, making it infeasible to conduct a more quantitative analysis of the impacts on consumers.

Comment 15: NMFS received a comment questioning whether shark permits will still be worth anything after the proposed management changes take place.

Response: It is uncertain what shark directed and incidental permits may be worth after the management changes associated with this Amendment are implemented. It is likely that shark permits may be worth less as a result of quota reductions and reduced retention limits. However, there will still be some demand for shark permits from new entrants into the commercial swordfish and tuna fisheries that require participants to hold all three HMS permits.

Note that under 50 CFR 635.4(a)(3), ''Limited access vessel permits or any other permit issued pursuant to this part do not represent either an absolute right to the resource or any interest that is subject to the takings provision of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Rather, limited access vessel permits represent only a harvesting privilege that may be revoked, suspended, or amended subject to the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act or other applicable law.''

Comment 16: NMFS received comments indicating that requiring fishermen to land sharks with fins on will change the entire pricing structure. NMFS could be changing the whole valuation process here by requiring that sharks have their fins on.

Response: The requirement to land sharks with their fins attached allows fishermen to leave the fins attached by just a small piece of skin so that the shark could be packed on ice at sea efficiently. Shark fins could then be quickly removed at the dock without having to thaw the shark. Sharks may be eviscerated, bled and the head removed from the carcass at sea. These measures should prevent any excessive amounts of waste at the dock, since dressing the shark (except removing the fins) can be performed while at sea. While this will result in some changes in how fishermen process sharks at sea, because the fins can be removed quickly once the shark has been landed, NMFS expects that the market will continue to receive sharks in their log form. While there may be some changes in the way sharks are marketed and priced, it is unlikely that the total ex-vessel value of sharks will change significantly due to the requirement to land sharks with their fins attached.

Comment 17: NMFS needs to reduce the number of limited access permits.

Response: Reducing the number of limited access permits was not proposed for this Amendment because of the ramifications that such a reduction could have on other fisheries and the overall HMS permit structure. NMFS

chose to limit effort via management measures in this final rule because these measures can be implemented with greater expediency and improve the likelihood that fishing mortality will be reduced consistent with NS1. NMFS may consider reductions in the number of permits in future actions.

16. Miscellaneous

Comment 1: There should not be any netting allowed in the Delaware Bay as this is a nursery ground for sharks.

Response: The waters of the Delaware Bay are in state waters; therefore any management of sharks in Delaware Bay is conducted by the states of New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The Consolidated HMS FMP only regulates fisheries in Federal waters.

Comment 2: In the ''old'' Magnuson-Stevens Act (before reauthorization), there was a section indicating that if NMFS reduces incomes by 13–percent, then fishermen are supposed to receive due compensation.

Response: The current Magnuson-Stevens Act has no such provision.

Comment 3: NMFS should allow vessel owners to keep sharks that are dead at haulback if observers are onboard the vessel.

Response: NMFS did not consider modifying this provision in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. Generally speaking, the observers are onboard to monitor fishing activities. It is the responsibility of the vessel operator and crew, not the responsibility of observer, to predict whether or not sharks caught during fishing activities would survive if released. All sharks that are not, or cannot be, possessed must be released in a manner that would maximize their chances of survival. Allowing dead sharks to be harvested only when observers are onboard could potentially put them in more of an enforcement role which is not the intent of the fisheries observer program. Furthermore, this might encourage fishermen to fish in a different manner when observers are onboard. Modifying the soak time or types of hooks and bait deployed to ensure that more sharks are dead at haulback would not provide the observer program with data that is representative of fishing behavior when observers are not present. Increasing the number of sharks that are harvested in this manner may have negative ecological impacts on shark populations.

Comment 4: NMFS should consider making video copies of the shark identification workshops, so that those who do not have the money to travel may watch the presentation.

Response: NMFS may consider alternative methods for shark dealers to renew their shark identification certificates as long as the original objectives of the identification workshops are met. Alternative methods may include, but are not limited to, renewing identification certificates via the Internet.

Comment 5: NMFS should manage all fish caught on BLL gear collectively, including grouper and tilefish. When fishing for sharks, we cannot keep snapper, yet we have a combined fishery. These should not be managed separately.

Response: The HMS Management Division is responsible for managing Atlantic sharks, tunas, billfish, and swordfish. Currently, Fishery Management Councils recommend management measures for grouper and tilefish to NMFS. The relevant Council or Councils depends upon the specific region(s) involved. NMFS may consider more cooperative management initiatives in the future, as necessary.

Comment 6: Will shark fishing be closed until this Amendment is implemented?

Response: Fishing for large coastal sharks will be closed through the second trimester. A final rule describing the seasons and quota for the first and second trimester of 2008 was published in the **Federal Register** on November 29, 2007 (72 FR 67580).

Comment 7: NMFS needs to realize that fishermen are still going to go fishing for other species year-round. As a result, fishermen are going to end up killing sharks and discarding them dead. Another fishery is going to get more pressure as a result of these measures because shark fishermen are not going to stop fishing.

Response: NMFS understands that participants in the shark fishery also participate in numerous other fisheries. Reductions in fishing mortality that result from this amendment will likely result in fishing effort shifting from the shark fishery to other fisheries in which participants maintain permits. Reduced retention limits and the fact that sandbar sharks will only be landed in the shark research fishery are expected to result in trips targeting other species. NMFS has devised retention limits and seasons such that fishermen targeting other non-shark species will be able to possess a limited number of non-sandbar LCS incidentally, minimizing the need to discard sharks dead.

Comment 8: NMFS should clarify what the gear limitations within the shark research fishery are and whether or not participants would be able to possess sandbar sharks if they have an observer onboard.

Response: Gear limitations within the shark research fishery will depend on annual research objectives. An objective of the shark research fishery is to continue to collect fishery-dependent data that reflects how the fishery operated historically. Therefore, BLL gear will likely be the predominant gear deployed. However, research objectives might also require participants to deploy alternative gear types to discern their feasibility and impacts on target and non-target catch. Vessels issued a shark research permit will only be able to possess sandbar sharks when they have a NMFS-approved observer onboard.

Comment 9: NMFS should not require fishermen to fill out a logbook when they only use dealer data. Instead of logbooks, NMFS should use carbon copies of trip tickets that are submitted to dealers.

Response: NMFS uses logbook data in addition to data collected from dealer reports. Logbooks provide vessel specific landings and effort data that are not reflected in shark dealer data. These data can be used by managers and scientists in a variety of ways to aid in managing and understanding the fishery. Sharks dealer data are used specifically for quota monitoring and stock assessments but are often combined and used with logbook data for other management purposes.

Comment 10: NMFS should consider reducing soak time as a means of reducing the number sandbar shark dead discards.

Response: NMFS has examined the regulation of soak times to reduce fishing mortality and dead discards, however, NMFS found that it would be extremely difficult to monitor and enforce soak times.

Comment 11: NMFS should consider placing observers on all vessels and letting all fishermen continue to fish for sharks. That is how NMFS will get accurate data.

Response: NMFS is requiring that observers are present on all trips within the shark research fishery. A limited number of vessels selected to participate in the research fishery will continue to able to fish for sharks, including sandbar sharks, subject to available quota. NMFS is also attempting to maintain adequate observer coverage outside the research fishery.

Comment 12: These measures will cause a large increase in dead discards, which equals wasted fish and wasted money.

Response: The final action effectively creates an incidental fishery for sharks.

The allowance for incidental landings and seasons that are open longer than they have been historically should minimize a large increase in dead discards. Dead discards could potentially increase if there were a reduced retention limit or if the shark season were closed for extensive periods during which all sharks would be discarded at sea.

Comment 13: NMFS should consider physically enhancing habitat to protect these species.

Response: Habitat enhancement does not address removal of sharks. Existing fishing mortality levels for sandbar and dusky sharks indicate that these species are experiencing overfishing and that the stocks have been overfished. Habitat enhancement was not considered in this action because, in isolation, it does not address overfishing or rebuilding of overfished stocks.

Comment 14: NMFS should require shark fishermen to take the shark dealer identification course.

Response: The public, including shark fishermen, is welcome to attend the shark identification courses provided by NMFS. It is currently voluntary for shark fisherman to participate in shark identification courses. NMFS wants to ensure that shark dealers are aware of how to properly identify sharks because NMFS uses information from shark dealer reports to monitor the quota during the fishing season. Further, shark dealer reports play a critical role in conducting stock assessments. NMFS may consider expanding the groups of participants required to complete these workshops in the future.

Comment 15: The Magnuson-Stevens Act says to rebuild overfished stocks by 2012. NMFS should not use rebuilding schedules that require hundreds of years.

Response: Longer rebuilding periods are allowed under NS1 of Magnuson-Stevens Act when the following conditions specified in the NS1 Guidelines are met, which is the case with the species that are being rebuilt in this amendment. The regulatory text at 50 CFR 600.310(e)(4)(ii)(B)(*3*) states:

> [i]f the lower limit is 10 years or greater, then the specified time period for rebuilding may be adjusted upward to the extent warranted by the needs of fishing communities....except that no such upward adjustment can exceed the rebuilding period calculated in the absence of fishing mortality, plus one mean generation time or equivalent period based on the species' life-history characteristics.

Comment 16: NMFS should not require the public to attend identification workshops for sharks when shark fishing will essentially be banned.

Response: While shark fishing will be substantially reduced under this Amendment, there will still be incidentally caught sharks. Accurate shark identification will be important for gathering information for future management.

Comment 17: Fishermen should be allowed to keep dead dusky sharks on haulback because discarding dead sharks is a waste.

Response: Dusky sharks are a prohibited species that must be released. NMFS has determined that dusky sharks are a prohibited species because their life history is not conducive to commercial or recreational fisheries targeting them. Dusky sharks are late-maturing and have very few offspring. Further, these species do not have high post release survival on longline gear. NMFS continues to discourage fishermen from targeting dusky sharks because the recent stock assessment indicates that dusky sharks are overfished and experiencing overfishing despite being listed as a prohibited species since 2000.

Comment 18: NMFS needs to consider an exit strategy in case things do not work out as planned in the amendment.

Response: NMFS believes that this Amendment allows for sufficient flexibility to make adjustments as conditions may change in the fishery. Furthermore, regulations are constantly being reviewed for their utility and whether or not they are meeting their stated objectives. Additional regulations are expected as new stock assessments become available.

Comment 19: NMFS needs to improve international management with Mexico to manage sharks throughout their range.

Response: NMFS is currently working through the appropriate international foras to improve shark management in Mexico.

Comment 20: NMFS should consider adding a ''use it or lose it'' requirement on shark permits.

Response: Measures requiring shark fishermen to demonstrate landings history or risk losing their commercial shark fishing permit were not considered in this amendment. The addition of a ''use it or lose it'' condition on shark permits may actually result in increased pressure on sharks if holders of latent permits are compelled to use their permits sufficiently to avoid losing them in the future.

Comment 21: There is an inconsistency in the Draft EIS, Chapter 3 page 16. This presents state regulations, and fails to mention that longline gear is also prohibited in Georgia's state waters. Additionally, Georgia's Small Shark Composite should have the acronym SSC, not SCS, which is the federal Small Coastal Sharks management group.

Response: These inconsistencies have been addressed in the Final EIS.

Comment 22: There is new scientific evidence that oceanic whitetip shark stocks have declined.

Response: NMFS has not conducted a stock assessment for oceanic whitetips. NMFS will continue to work with international partners and ICCAT towards more species-specific assessments for pelagic sharks. Data may be a limiting factor, however, as there are limited landings data for oceanic whitetip sharks. To date, ICCAT has completed assessments for blue and shortfin mako sharks. There is scant data available on oceanic whitetip landings.

Comment 23: The Draft EIS does little to address bycatch of protected species aside from the suggestion that the preferred alternative may provide a mechanism to conduct the field trials necessary to appropriately assess the efficacy of circle hooks for reducing bycatch and post-hooking mortality of sea turtles in the BLL fishery. While both the pelagic and BLL fisheries are required to carry tools to remove gear from turtles before they are released, there are no performance goals for removing gear or a requirement to use circle hooks for bycatch of protected species.

Response: NMFS may consider additional management measures for reducing bycatch in the future. NMFS has prepared a new BiOp regarding the proposed actions under Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, which was released on May 20, 2008. The May 2008 BiOp concluded based on the best available scientific information, the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered green, leatherback, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles; the endangered smalltooth sawfish; or threatened loggerhead sea turtle. The proposed actions are not expected to increase endangered species or marine mammal interaction rates. Furthermore, the BiOp concluded that the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect any of the listed species of marine mammals, invertebrates (i.e., listed species of coral) or other listed species of fish (i.e., Gulf sturgeon and Atlantic salmon) in the action area. HMS is implementing Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP consistent with the May 2008 BiOp.

Comment 24: If Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fisheries are to continue, 100–

percent observer coverage should be required.

Response: In 2007 and 2008, NMFS is implementing 100–percent observer coverage for vessels operating in the Gulf of Mexico with PLL gear. Outside of this period, a statistically significant level of observer coverage will be used that is consistent with relevant Biological Opinions and other factors.

Comment 25: Deepwater sharks need protection. This group of sharks is simply too vulnerable to sustain fisheries so NMFS should prevent the development of fisheries before any fishermen invest in them. The deep water shark complex needs attention and it was a major mistake to remove deep water sharks from the management unit as was done in Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP and it should not be repeated in this Amendment through benign neglect.

Response: Deepwater sharks were previously removed from the management unit in Amendment 1 to the 1999 FMP. There are no fisheries targeting deepwater sharks and no data from fisheries that catch deepwater sharks as bycatch. The referenced changes clarify the regulations by linking the definition of ''shark'' more directly to the definition of the shark ''management unit.'' The only regulation prior to this time (2003) was the ban on shark finning, however, this was addressed in the SFPA of 2000. NMFS will continue to collect information on deepwater sharks and may add them to the management unit or implement additional management measures to protect them in the future.

Comment 26: NMFS claims that dusky bycatch will decrease, however, the species will nonetheless be subject to an increased non-sandbar LCS retention limit. This means that the actual catch of dusky sharks is not likely to significantly decrease. Catch of dusky sharks must be significantly reduced in order for the species' population to rebuild.

Response: Unlike the sandbar shark assessment, which recommended a specific TAC, or the blacktip stock assessments, which recommended specific catch levels, the dusky shark assessment did not give specific mortality targets. In addition, even if NMFS stopped all shark fishing in the Atlantic, dusky sharks would still be caught as bycatch in BLL and gillnet fisheries targeting other non-shark species. Even though NMFS placed this species on the prohibited species list in 2000, discards continue. NMFS estimated a reduction in dusky mortality as a result of sandbar and non-sandbar LCS management actions. Based on the reduced quotas and trip limits, NMFS estimates that dusky shark mortality could be reduced from 33.1 mt dw to 9.1 mt dw per year. This is a 73-percent reduction in mortality compared to the status quo, and should afford dusky sharks more protection compared to the status quo.

Comment 27: The proposed rule does not offer protection for Small Coastal Sharks (SCS).

Response: NMFS is planning to address SCS in a future FMP amendment based on the 2007 SCS stock assessment (May 7, 2008, 73 FR 25665).

Comment 28: NMFS should consider impacts of gear (longline, gillnet) on EFH and coral reefs.

Response: NMFS is currently developing a draft Amendment 1 to the Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP to address EFH issues, including gear impacts on HMS and non-HMS habitat.

Comment 29: Is a ''suite'' a new concept or term for alternatives? The suite format is very effective.

Response: The term ''suite'' is used here to group regulatory alternatives created to address the objective of a rulemaking. The suite concept is used to help facilitate the communication of logical groupings of potential management measures that could be used in conjunction to address the objectives of this rulemaking. The suite approach also allows for a more holistic analysis of the overall benefits and costs associated with the major regulatory alternatives considered. For example, the specific quotas implemented in this rule also corresponds to modified retention limits, reporting requirements, and regions.

Comment 30: All commercial fish profiteers should be banned from catching any sharks at any time.

Response: NMFS manages commercial fisheries for authorized species in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS must manage fisheries to achieve optimum yield and must also consider economic and social impacts on individual businesses and communities. Alternative suite 5 included measures that would have closed all shark fisheries. This alternative suite is not preferred because of the significant economic impacts it would have caused, the fact that all sharks would have to be discarded, often dead, and because that alternative would preclude NMFS from gathering biological and fishery dependent data information needed to accurately assess the status of the stocks.

Changes from the Proposed Rule (72 FR 41392, July 27, 2007)

In addition to the correction of minor edits throughout, NMFS has made several changes to the proposed rule. These changes are outlined below.

1. In § 635.2, the definition of ''naturally attached'' was added. The definitions of ''dress'' and ''dressed weight'' were modified to clarify the regulation requiring commercial vessel operators to keep the fins on the shark carcass through offloading.

2. In § 635.2, the definition of ''first receiver'' was revised based on public comment and discussions with NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement. The revised definition matches more fully with other definitions of first receivers in other fishery regulations (see 50 CFR parts 622 and 648) and clarifies who needs to have a shark dealer permit.

3. In § 635.2, the definition of ''shark research permit'' was modified to specify that the permit is specific to the vessel and owner combination, not just the vessel. This change will ensure that owners who are chosen to participate in the shark research fishery and who are trying to sell their vessel, do not try to sell their shark research permit with their vessel, since the particular applicant was chosen by NMFS to conduct the research based on certain factors.

4. In § 635.5(b)(1)(i), a clarification is made that shark dealers must report fin weight and meat weight separately, as specified on the forms. Additionally, after publication of this final rule, NMFS intends to seek approval, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), to require dealers to check a box on the dealer form to indicate whether sharks were landed with the fins attached or not. This requirement would be made effective when OMB approves the information collection under Control Number 0648–0040. Notification of approval will be published in the **Federal Register**.

5. In § 635.21(d)(1)(iii), the definitions of the MPAs are modified to match the final areas recommended by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in the summer of 2007.

6. In § 635.22(c), the list of species that can be landed under the recreational retention limit was modified to include non-ridgeback species of LCS, tiger sharks, small coastal sharks, and pelagic sharks based on public comment. In the proposed rule, the harvest of certain species that NMFS felt were difficult to identify correctly, such as bull, spinner, and blacktip sharks, was proposed to be prohibited by recreational fishermen.

NMFS feels that the species that are finalized in this action are easily identified and more closely match the intent of the proposed regulation. Additionally, the entire paragraph was reorganized for clarity.

7. Section 635.24(a) was modified to update the commercial retention limits based on public comment, additional analyses, and changes to the proposed quotas. Specifically, an adjusted retention limit for non-sandbar LCS from the effective date of this rule through 2012 was added to account for overharvests in 2007. Additionally, a paragraph has been added to prohibit the highgrading of sharks by commercial fishermen based on public comment and a request from enforcement.

8. In § 635.27(b), the commercial quotas were modified based on public comment and additional analyses. Specifically, a porbeagle shark quota was added, unclassified sharks will be counted towards the appropriate species quota based on ratios in observer data and/or on shark dealer reporting forms, the non-sandbar LCS quota was split into two regions (modified from the current definition to clarify that the Florida Keys are located in the Gulf of Mexico region), and an adjusted base quota from the effective date of this rule through 2012 (five years) was added to account for overharvests in 2007. Future overharvests will generally be taken off the following year, as proposed. However, depending on the amount of future overharvests, NMFS may deduct the overharvests over several years up to a maximum of five years. Spreading the overharvests out should, among other things, ensure that the shark research fishery can continue to collect much-needed data each year.

Additionally, NMFS clarified the section on adjusting quotas based on underharvests to clarify that if a species in a particular quota group (e.g., non-sandbar LCS) were overfished, overfishing were occurring, or had an unknown status, then NMFS would not adjust the quota based on underharvests.

9. In § 635.28(b), the section was modified, based on public comment, to allow for all species groups and regions to be closed separately, instead of together as proposed, when the fishery is expected to reach 80 percent of the relevant quota.

10. In § 635.30(c)(2) and (3), sentences were added, corresponding to the added definitions of ''naturally attached'' and ''dress,'' to clarify the regulation to keep all fins attached to the corresponding shark carcass, including the upper lobe of the tail, through offloading and to state specifically that no shark fins are allowed on a vessel unless the fins are naturally attached to a shark carcass.

11. In § 635.31, paragraph (c)(1) was added to clarify that persons may only sell sharks if both the fishery and/or region is open.

12. In § 635.32(f), additional specifics regarding the required items on the application and the process for issuing shark research permits were added based on public comment, requests by NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, and requests by NMFS scientists. These specifics include the requirement for vessels to have complied with observer coverage regulations and HMS fishery regulations to be eligible for a shark research permit under this part. Additional clarifications on how NMFS will select vessels have been added.

13. In § 635.71, various prohibitions have been updated or modified based on the changes listed above.

Commercial Fishing Season Notification

The 2008 adjusted commercial quotas for each shark species group is as follows: sandbar shark (shark research fishery only) = 87.9 mt dw; non-sandbar LCS = 615.8 mt dw; pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle = 488 mt dw; blue shark = 273 mt dw; porbeagle shark = 1.7 mt dw; and SCS = 454 mt dw. The non-sandbar LCS commercial quota is further split by region and fishery as follows: Atlantic region = 187.8 mt dw; Gulf of Mexico region = 390.5 mt dw; and shark research fishery = 37.5 mt dw.

On July 24, 2008, the sandbar, non-sandbar LCS, pelagic shark, blue shark, porbeagle shark, and SCS fisheries will open under the quotas noted above. All of these fisheries will remain open through December 31, 2008, unless the quota for that shark species group (or in the case of non-sandbar LCS, regional area) is projected to reach 80 percent of its available quota. When calculating the percent of the available quota caught for each species and/or region, NMFS will include landings from January 1, 2008, through July 24, 2008. As specified in § 635.27(b)(1), once the landings for that shark species group or regional area reach 80 percent of its quota, NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the Federal Register an appropriate rulemaking for that shark species group that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure, until NMFS announces via a notice in the **Federal Register** that additional quota is available, the fishery for that shark species group and/or regional area is closed, even across fishing years.

When the fishery for a shark species group and/or regional area is closed, a fishing vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP pursuant to § 635.4 may not possess or sell a shark of that species group, except under the conditions specified in § 635.22(a) and (c) or if the vessel possesses a valid shark research permit under § 635.32 and a NMFS-approved observer is onboard. A shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may not purchase or receive a shark of that species group from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. In the case of non-sandbar LCS, during a regional fishing closure, a fishing vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP pursuant to § 635.4 and operating in region(s) closed to shark fishing may not possess or sell a shark of that species group, except under the conditions specified in § 635.22(a) and (c). A shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 and located in the closed region may not purchase or receive a shark of that species group from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. Under a closure for a shark species group and/or regional closure, a shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may, in accordance with state regulations, purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel that fishes only in state waters and that has not been issued a Shark LAP, HMS Angling permit, or HMS CHB permit pursuant to § 635.4. Additionally, under a closure for a shark species group and/or regional closure, a shark dealer issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel issued a valid shark research permit (per § 635.32) that had a NMFS-approved observer on board during the trip during which sharks were collected.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries determined that Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP is necessary for the conservation and management of the Atlantic shark fishery and is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

NMFS prepared a FEIS for this FMP amendment. The FEIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on April 11, 2008. A notice of availability was published on April 18, 2008 (73 FR 21124). In approving the FMP amendment, NMFS issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on June 6, 2008, identifying the selected alternatives. A copy of the ROD is available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

This final rule contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to the PRA and which has been approved by OMB under Control Number 0648–0471. Public reporting burden for the HMS EFP, SRP, display permit, shark research permit, and letter of authorization information collection is estimated to average 2 hours per scientific research plan; 40 minutes per application, including the shark research permit application; 15 minutes per request for amendment to the EFP; 1 hour per interim report; 2 minutes per ''no catch'' report; 40 minutes per annual report; 5 minutes per departure notification regarding collection of display animals; 10 minutes per notification call for observer coverage for the shark research fishery; and 2 minutes per tag application. These burden estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information.

This rule also contains revisions to collection of information 0648-0040. The revisions are subject to review and approval by OMB under PRA. Currently, this collection of information is under review at OMB for revisions other than those contained in this rule (73 FR 18473, April 4, 2008). Once OMB approves the revisions in that rule, NMFS will submit a PRA package to OMB for approval regarding the addition of a check box on the dealer form. This check box would allow the dealer to note whether the shark fins were attached to the shark at landing or not. NMFS does not expect that the addition of a check box regarding shark fins would add to the reporting burden. NMFS will publish a document in the **Federal Register** to announce the effective date of the information collection.

Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of this data collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**) and by e-mail to *David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov*, or fax to 202–395–7285.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, and no person shall be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

With the release of the proposed rule on July 27, 2007, NMFS determined that the management measures in this rule will be implemented in a manner that is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the approved coastal management programs of states with Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) programs that are located in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. This determination was submitted for review by the responsible state agencies under section 307 of the CZMA. On October 10, 2007, Georgia's Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) objected to NMFS' consistency determination that the provisions in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP are consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Georgia Coastal Zone Management Program (GCZMP). The October 10, 2007, letter stated that NMFS failed to consider the elimination of the use of shark gillnets in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. GDNR claims that the use of gillnets in Federal waters is inconsistent with the GCZMP because the program bans the use of gillnet and longline gear in state waters to address bycatch of protected species and marine mammals.

NMFS considered the comments in the October 10, 2007, letter and, for the reasons stated below, has determined that the final actions in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, including allowing the use of gillnet gear in the Atlantic shark fishery, are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the GCZMP, 15 CFR 930.32.

NMFS shares the State of Georgia's concern regarding the impact of the shark gillnet fishery on threatened and endangered species. Given these impacts, NMFS will not implement measures that increase fishing effort with this gear type, such as setting gillnet specific retention limits for blacktip sharks. However, NMFS also recognizes that the data currently available indicate relatively low rates of bycatch and bycatch mortality of protected species and other finfish in the shark gillnet fishery compared to other HMS and non-HMS fisheries. It is worth noting that observer coverage rates in the shark gillnet fishery are higher than in other fisheries because of Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan requirements. Increased observer coverage reduces the associated error that can be introduced when calculating bycatch and protected resource interactions on non-observed trips. For instance, observer reports indicate that finfish bycatch in shark gillnet fishery during 2007 ranged from 1.7 to 13.3 percent of the total catch. In addition, observed protected species bycatch (sea turtles and marine mammals) was less than 0.1 percent of the total catch. Therefore, NMFS does not believe it is appropriate to eliminate this fishery and shift its associated effort to other fisheries that have higher interaction rates with protected resources and marine mammals.

In addition, according to recent observer reports, only four to six vessels use shark gillnet gear, therefore, the cumulative impact of this fishery is not expected to have significant ecological impacts on non-target species. The incidental capture of endangered species in the shark gillnet fishery is regulated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A BiOp issued May 20, 2008, in response to the actions taken in the Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, concluded, that the continuation of the shark gillnet (including strikenets, drift gillnets, and sink gillnets) fishery would not likely jeopardize the continued existence of protected species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Furthermore, the BiOp indicated that shark strikenets are not likely to have much impact on sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish takes because deployment of this gear currently results in very few takes. Interactions with protected resources occur more frequently with drift or sink gillnets than using strikenets, but gillnet gear interactions with protected resources are still minimal compared to longline fishing.

In addition, currently, all shark gillnet vessels are required to carry VMS and are subject to observer coverage during and outside of the right whale calving season. The most recent regulations amending the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan were published in the **Federal Register** on June 25, 2007 (72 FR 34632), and on October 5, 2007 (72 FR 57104). These regulations include a variety of measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of an interaction between shark gillnet gear and right whales. These regulations include, but are not limited to, prohibiting all gillnet fishing from November 15 through April 15 of each year in Federal waters off the

state of Georgia. NMFS will continue to work with the take reduction teams and relevant Fishery Management Councils to examine methods to reduce bycatch.

NMFS acknowledges the concerns raised by the State of Georgia regarding protected resources interactions and bycatch that occurs in gillnet gear. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standards (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1), (3), (8), and (9)), NMFS must, among other things, implement conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery; manage stocks throughout their range to the extent practicable; minimize adverse economic impacts on fishing communities to the extent practicable; and minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality to the extent practicable. Gillnets are the commercial gear that are used to primarily target small coastal sharks (SCS) and blacktip sharks. The SCS complex was assessed in 2007; three of the four species of SCS have been determined to not be overfished with overfishing not occurring. Blacknose sharks have been determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring; therefore, NMFS has initiated development of a rebuilding plan for this species and measures to end overfishing. These measures may include changes to the shark gillnet fishery, as necessary. However, the latest blacktip stock assessment recommended not changing catches of blacktip sharks in the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, based on the best scientific information available, Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP would manage the fishery for optimum yield by keeping the SCS quota at the status quo level and setting a non-sandbar large coastal shark (LCS) quota (including blacktip sharks) based on historical landings. Given that the non-sandbar LCS quota is based on the latest blacktip shark assessment, closing the shark gillnet fishery in Federal waters off Georgia would not facilitate achieving the optimum yield from the fishery and managing the stocks throughout their range. Thus, NMFS is not prohibiting shark gillnet gear at this time due to the negative social and economic impact this would have on the four to six vessels actively fishing in the shark gillnet fishery. In addition, NMFS has implemented high-levels of observer coverage on gillnet vessels targeting sharks as well as those targeting other species to monitor bycatch and interactions with protected resources; NMFS can take additional action if interactions with protected resources in the this fishery become a problem.

At this time, there is not sufficient information to support a closure of the shark gillnet fishery in Federal waters adjacent to Georgia, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. This decision is consistent with National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) (Magnuson-Stevens Act), which requires that management measures be based on the best scientific information available including the BiOp. NMFS has determined that the final actions in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP and its implementing rule are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the GCZMP. Accordingly, this rule, which that finalizes Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, will not ban gillnet gear in the Atlantic shark fishery.

Summary of the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

A final regulatory flexibility analysis (FRFA) was prepared. The FRFA incorporates the IRFA, a summary of the significant issues raised by the public comments in response to the IRFA, NMFS' responses to those comments, and a summary of the economic analyses completed to support the action. A summary of the analysis, which addresses each of the requirements in 5 U.S.C. 604(a)(1)-(5), can be found below. A copy of the full analysis is available in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP (see **ADDRESSES**).

Statement of the Need for and Objectives of this Final Rule

The need for and objectives of the final rule are fully described in the preamble of the proposed rule (72 FR 41392, July 27, 2007) and in Final Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP and are not repeated here (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(1)). In summary, the selected actions in this final rule will rebuild overfished shark fisheries by: reducing the commercial quotas, adjusting the commercial retention limits, establishing a shark research fishery, requiring commercial vessels to maintain all fins on the shark carcasses through offloading, establishing two regional quotas for non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS), establishing one annual season for commercial shark fishing, changing the reporting requirements for dealers (including swordfish and tuna dealers), establishing additional time/area closures for BLL fishermen, and changing the authorized species for recreational fishermen. This rule also establishes the 2008 commercial quota for all shark species groups. These changes affect all commercial and recreational shark fishermen and shark dealers.

A Summary of the Significant Issues Raised By the Public Comments in Response to the IRFA, a Summary of the Assessment of NMFS of Such Issues, and a Statement of Any Changes Made in the Rule as a Result of Such Comments

A FRFA is also required to include a summary of the significant issues raised by the public comments in response to the IRFA, a summary of the assessment of the issues raised, and a statement of any changes made in the rule as a result of the comments (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(2)). NMFS received many comments on the proposed rule and draft EIS during the public comment period. A summary of these comments and NMFS's responses are included above. The specific economic concerns raised in comments are also summarized here.

NMFS received a comment that NMFS should consider an alternative suite that incorporates a ''phase out'' of the commercial shark industry. NMFS did consider such an alternative in the Draft EIS that would have ended Atlantic commercial shark fishing, Alternative Suite 5. Under this alternative, shark landings would have been limited to research and the collection for public display via the HMS Exempted Fishing Program. Recreational fisheries would have been catch and release only. However, after careful consideration of the other alternatives, this alternative suite was not preferred due to the economic costs associated with a complete closure as discussed in Chapter 6 of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

NMFS received several comments regarding an industry buyout/buyback. NMFS recognizes that some participants of the Atlantic shark fishery expressed interest in reducing fishing capacity for sharks via some form of buyout program. Buyouts can occur via one of three mechanisms, including: through an industry fee, via appropriations from the United States Congress, and/or with funds provided from any State or other public sources or private or non-profit organization. A buyout plan is not proposed in this rulemaking, despite requests for consideration from the HMS Advisory Panel and other affected constituents, because NMFS is unable to independently implement a buyout as a management option. Buyouts must be initiated via one of the aforementioned

mechanisms. The shark fishery did develop an industry ''business plan'' that examined options for a buyout, which is further described in Chapter 1 of the Draft Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

NMFS received several comments concerning the potential for severe economic impacts associated with all of the alternatives considered (other than status quo). Comments indicated a concern that many fishermen may not be able to survive economically until the next stock assessment. NMFS estimated that the alternatives considered, including the no action alternative, would result in economic consequences to the shark fishery. The severity of the economic consequences varies by alternative suite, with alternative suite 5, the complete closure of the Atlantic shark fishery, having the greatest economic impact.

It was also suggested that NMFS should include analysis of the negative economic impacts associated with prohibiting porbeagle sharks in shark tournaments, especially in New England. NMFS appreciates this additional information regarding the importance of porbeagle sharks in tournament fisheries. Additional information has been incorporated into the final EIS for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP to further address the potential economic impacts of a prohibition of porbeagle landings. However, based on strong support from the public not to prohibit retention of porbeagle sharks and NMFS' recognition of the negative impacts of such a prohibition, NMFS is choosing not to prohibit the recreational retention of porbeagle sharks.

Comments indicated that economic impacts on recreational fisheries would be significant if sandbar, bull, and blacktip sharks were prohibited in the recreational fishery. Comments indicated that the negative economic impacts resulting from the reduced number of sharks that could be legally landed by recreational anglers would be particularly pronounced in areas where blacktip sharks are frequently encountered. In addition, tournaments offering prize categories for sharks could also experience negative economic impacts as a result of not allowing six additional species to be retained in recreational fisheries. Due to a lack of information regarding the relative preferences of shark fishermen to retain shark species over practicing catch-and-release shark fishing, NMFS was unable to quantitatively estimate the economic impacts of the proposed recreational measures restricting the authorized list of species that could be retained. In part to mitigate these impacts, the final preferred alternative suite would allow recreational anglers to retain blacktip, finetooth, blacknose, bull, spinner, and porbeagle sharks.

Comments also indicated a concern that dealers will not likely be interested in continuing to buy shark products when the proposed measures go into place. NMFS acknowledges that some dealers may opt to no longer participate in the shark fishery due to the decrease in volume of shark product that is anticipated under the reduced quotas. Handling low volumes of shark product may not be profitable for some dealers. However, the information available to NMFS indicates that several shark dealers already handle small quantities of shark products, and therefore, changes in the shark fishery are unlikely to cause them to change their business practices. Reduced domestic harvest of sandbar sharks could potentially increase the value of shark product in the future due to reduced supplies. Furthermore, having the season open for a longer period of time each year, subject to reduced retention limits, may enhance the domestic shark meat market and increase prices.

Several comments suggested NMFS should implement a retraining program for fishermen and families that are displaced by this action. Others suggested that fishermen reconfigure their businesses towards providing tourism services. NMFS has worked with a number of other agencies/departments to explore programs that are available to fishermen and other businesses affected by fishery management measures. Some of these include retraining programs and financial assistance and would mitigate some of the economic impacts of this rule. These programs are further discussed in response to comments provided above.

Commenters also suggested that NMFS consider giving shark fishermen swordfish handgear permits in order to help offset negative economic impacts, while also increasing swordfish landings. NMFS did not propose changes to the permit system pursuant to the rulemaking; however, NMFS will take this suggestion under consideration for future actions. NMFS notes that the swordfish handgear permit is a limited access permit. Therefore, issuing new swordfish handgear permits may result in negative economic impacts to current holders of swordfish handgear permits. In addition, NMFS recently issued new regulations to revitalize the swordfish fishery and may consider additional measures in the future depending on the outcome of the current regulatory changes.

NMFS received a comment questioning whether shark permits will still have any value after the proposed management changes take place. It is difficult to predict the value of shark directed and incidental permits before management measures associated with this Amendment are implemented. It is likely that the value of shark permits may be decreased as a result of quota reductions and reduced retention limits. However, there will still be some demand for shark permits by new entrants into the commercial swordfish and tuna fisheries who will need all three HMS permits to fish.

NMFS received comments indicating that requiring fishermen to land sharks with fins on will change the entire pricing of shark product. Commenters suggested that NMFS could be changing the whole valuation process by requiring that sharks have their fins on. The requirement to land sharks with their fins attached would allow fishermen to leave the fins attached by just a small piece of skin so that the shark could be packed efficiently on ice at sea. Shark fins could then be quickly removed at the dock without having to thaw the shark. Sharks may be eviscerated, bled, and the head removed from the carcass at sea. These measures should prevent any excessive amounts of waste at the dock, since dressing the shark (except removing the fins) can be performed while at sea. While this will result in some changes to the way fishermen process sharks at sea, the transfer of shark product to dealers could remain relatively unchanged because the fins can be removed quickly once the shark has been offloaded. NMFS expects that the market will continue to receive sharks in their log form. While there may be some changes in the way sharks are marketed and priced, it is unlikely that the total ex-vessel value of sharks will change significantly due to the requirement to land sharks with their fins attached.

Description and Estimate of the Number of Small Entities to Which the Final Rule Would Apply

NMFS considers all HMS commercial permit holders to be small entities because they either had average annual receipts less than $4.0 million for fish-harvesting, average annual receipts less than $6.5 million for charter/party boats, 100 or fewer employees for wholesale dealers, or 500 or fewer employees for seafood processors (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(3)). These are the Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards for defining a small versus

large business entity in this industry. A full description of the fisheries affected and the categories and number of permit holders can be found in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

The final rule would apply to the 527 commercial shark permit holders in the Atlantic shark fishery based on an analysis of permit holders on October 1, 2007. Of these permit holders, 231 have directed shark permits and 296 hold incidental shark permits. Not all permit holders are active in the fishery in any given year. NMFS estimates that there are 143 vessels with directed shark permits and 155 vessels with shark incidental permits that could be considered actively engaged in fishing, since they reported landing at least one shark in the Coastal Fisheries Logbook from 2003 to 2005.

In addition, the reporting requirements in the final alternatives would also apply to Federal shark dealers. As of October 1, 2007, there were a total of 269 Atlantic shark dealer permit holders. Based on NMFS' understanding of HMS dealer operations, NMFS assumes that each of these dealers would be considered a small business entity with 100 or fewer employees.

The final measures being considered may also impact the types of services HMS CHB permit holders may provide. As of October 1, 2007, there were 4,899 HMS CHB permit holders. It is unknown what portion of these permit holders actively participate in shark fishing or market shark fishing services for recreational anglers.

In addition, some businesses, such as marinas or specialized tournament organizers that hold tournaments may be considered small entities. HMS tournaments are required to register with NMFS. As such, NMFS has estimates on the number of HMS tournaments. However, NMFS may not necessarily know the number of businesses behind the tournament name and contact. Tournaments offering prize categories for sharks may also experience negative economic impacts as a result of NMFS prohibiting two additional species of sharks for retention in recreational fisheries in alternative suites 2 through 4, as well as alternative suite 5 which would allow no possession of any sharks and only allow catch and release fishing. The majority of tournaments specializing in sharks are in the North Atlantic region, specifically Rhode Island, New York, and Massachusetts. In 2007, there were 59 tournaments with prize categories for pelagic sharks and 42 (combined) tournaments for LCS and SCS.

Description of the Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements of the Final Rule, Including an Estimate of the Classes of Small Entities Which Would Be Subject to the Requirements of the Report or Record

The final action requires modifying existing reporting and recordkeeping requirements (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(4)). The research program component in this final rule requires modifications to the existing EFP program and dealer reporting requirements.

The final action modifies the reporting frequency for dealers. The current requirement for dealer reports to be post-marked within 10 days after each reporting period (1st through 15th and 16th through last day of month), would be modified to state that dealer reports must be received by NMFS not later than 10 days after each reporting period (i.e., 25th and 10th of each month). Shark, swordfish, and tuna dealers would have to submit these reports in advance of the 10th and 25th of each month to ensure adequate time for delivery, depending on the means employed for report submission. Requiring that all dealer reports are actually received by NMFS in a more timely fashion would provide more frequent reports of shark landings in order to better assess quantities of sharks landed and whether or not a closure or other management measure is warranted to prevent overfishing. Dealers would still be required to submit reports indicating that no sharks were purchased during inactive periods. NMFS also intends to add a check box to the dealer form for dealers to note whether sharks were landed with fins naturally attached. Requirements for vessel logbooks and observer coverage would remain unchanged. Additional burden is not expected as a result of modifying the regulations to ensure that dealer reports are actually received within 10 days.

The final rule would also create a limited shark research program that would result in changes to existing reporting requirements. Entry into the shark research program would require vessels to submit an application, which would add to the reporting burden for those vessels wishing to apply. Applicants selected to participate in the shark research program under this alternative would also be subject to 100 percent observer coverage as a requirement for eligibility to participate in the program. In addition, selected vessels would continue to report in their normal logbook in addition to the observer program. Vessels in the shark research program, however, would not need to report in the same way as other EFP holders even though they are being issued permits under the EFP program. For example, vessels in the research fishery would not be required to submit interim or annual reports describing their fishing activities. Rather, they would only be required to submit their logbooks per current regulations. Vessels outside the shark research program would still be required to carry an observer if selected and all vessels would still be required to complete logbooks within 48 hours of fishing activity and then submit the logbooks to NMFS within seven days.

Description of the Steps NMFS Has Taken to Minimize the Significant Economic Impact on Small Entities Consistent with the Stated Objectives of Applicable Statutes, Including a Statement of the Factual, Policy, and Legal Reasons for Selecting the Alternative Adopted in the Final Rule and the Reason That Each One of the Other Significant Alternatives to the Rule Considered by NMFS Which Affect Small Entities Was Rejected

One of the requirements of a FRFA is to describe any alternatives to the proposed rule which would accomplish the stated objectives and which minimize any significant economic impacts (5 U.S.C. 604(a)(5)). Additionally, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 603(c)(1)-(4)) lists four general categories of ''significant'' alternatives that would assist an agency in the development of significant alternatives. These categories of alternatives are:

1. Establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities;
2. Clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance and reporting requirements under the rule for such small entities;
3. Use of performance rather than design standards; and,
4. Exemptions from coverage of the rule for small entities.

In order to meet the objectives of this final rule, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), NMFS cannot exempt small entities or change the reporting requirements only for small entities because all the entities affected are considered small entities. Thus, because NMFS considers all HMS permit holders to be small entities, there are no alternatives discussed that fall under the first and fourth categories described above. NMFS does not know of any performance or design standards

that would satisfy the aforementioned objectives of this rulemaking while, concurrently, complying with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Thus, there are no alternatives considered under the third category. As described below, NMFS analyzed seven different alternatives in this rulemaking and provides justification for selection of the final action to achieve the desired objective.

The alternatives considered and analyzed have been grouped into five alternative suites. Alternative suite 1 would maintain the current Atlantic shark fishery (no action). Alternative suite 2 would allow only directed shark permit holders to land sharks. Alternative suite 3 would allow directed and incidental shark permit holders to land sandbar and non sandbar LCS as well as SCS and pelagic sharks. Alternative suite 4 would establish a program where vessels with directed or incidental shark permits could participate in a research fishery for sandbar sharks. Only vessels participating in this program could land sandbar sharks. Vessels not participating in the research program could land non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks. Finally, alternative suite 5 would shut down the commercial Atlantic shark fishery and only allow a catch and release recreational shark fishery. The preferred alternative is suite 4, which would establish a program where a limited number of vessels with directed or incidental shark permits could participate in a research fishery for sharks dependent on the research needs of NMFS.

1. Alternative Suite 1

Alternative suite 1, the status quo alternative, would not impose any significant new economic impacts to small businesses in the HMS Atlantic shark fishery because under this alternative the current LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw, in conjunction with the 4,000 lb LCS directed shark permit trip limit, would be maintained. Under this alternative, the current fishing effort would not likely change which could lead to economic benefits from reduced market uncertainty for fishermen and related businesses in the short term. If gross revenues for directed and incidental permit holders is averaged across the approximately 298 active directed and incidental shark permit holders, then the average annual gross revenues per shark fishing vessel is just over $20,000. However, long term, negative economic impacts could occur if current fishing mortality of sandbar sharks, an economically important species, is not decreased as recommended by the LCS stock assessment, and this species continues to be overfished.

The status quo alternative would maintain the existing closures and would not add any new closures. The three management regions would also remain unchanged. There would also be no additional reporting requirements. Alternative suite 1 would also maintain the trimester seasons, which provides fishermen and dealers with more open seasons. With an annual LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw, spreading the seasons out over the calendar year could potentially result in greater economic stability for fishermen and associated communities. However, if quotas are reduced to those in the final action to comply with the recommendations from the LCS stock assessment, while also maintaining the trimester seasons under status quo, trimester seasons could become less economically stable for fishermen and dealers because of the reduced amount of quota and fishing effort during the calendar year. Maintaining existing closures, reporting requirements, and management regions would likely have little to no economic impacts on effected small businesses.

Alternative suite 1 would also maintain the current bag limit for HMS Angling permit holders at one shark greater than 54 inches per vessel per trip as well as one sharpnose and one bonnethead shark (both of which are in the SCS complex) per person per trip. This would likely result in no new economic impacts for businesses operating recreational fishing charter trips targeting sharks and shark fishing tournaments in the short term.

Overall, alternative suite 1 would likely have the lowest economic impact on small businesses. However, this alternative would likely not meet the objectives of this action. Maintaining the LCS quota of 1,017 mt dw would be inconsistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the recent LCS stock assessment that recommended a TAC of 158.3 mt dw for sandbar sharks for this species to rebuild by 2070. Current fishing effort, under the status quo alternative, would lead to continued overfishing of sandbar, porbeagle and dusky sharks, which could potentially prevent these species from rebuilding in the recommended timeframe. As a result, this alternative was not selected.

2. Alternative Suite 2

Alternative suite 2 would allow only directed shark permit holders to land sharks. In addition, this alternative would remove sandbar sharks from the LCS complex and establish a separate category for sandbar sharks from the LCS complex. The quotas for landing sandbar and non-sandbar LCS would also be reduced. Incidental shark permit holders would not be permitted to land sharks under alternative suite 2. As of 2007, there were 231 directed shark permit holders, 296 incidental shark permit holders, and 269 shark dealer permit holders. One hundred forty-three vessels with directed shark permits and 155 vessels with shark incidental permits reported landing at least one shark in the Coastal Fisheries Logbook from 2003 to 2005 and could be considered active.

Data on gross annual revenues indicate that implementation of alternative suite 2 would result in a significant reduction in revenue for directed shark permit holders. On average, directed permit holders landed 1,286,447 lb dw of sandbar sharks and 1,498,111 lb dw of non-sandbar LCS from 2003 to 2005 based on Federal and state shark dealer reports (landings by permit type were based on percentage of total landings by permit type in the Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbooks). In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $4,702,031 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). If gross revenues for directed permit holders are averaged across the approximately 143 active directed shark permit holders, then the average annual gross revenues per shark fishing vessel is just under $33,000 from shark revenues. Under alternative suite 2, gross revenues for directed permit holders would be estimated to be $1,333,417. This is a 72-percent overall reduction in gross revenues compared to the period from 2003 to 2005. These reduced gross revenues averaged across the 143 active directed permit holders are just over $9,000 per directed shark fishing vessel. This estimated reduction in revenue from shark landings could affect the profitability and even viability of some marginal shark fishery operations. Operations that have permits in other fisheries and can easily diversify are less likely to be as affected as those marginal operations. Nevertheless, the profitability of all directed shark fishing vessels would likely be reduced. Because the states of Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina have the most directed shark permits, these states would be most negatively impacted by alternative suite 2.

Directed shark permit holders using PLL gear would also see reduction of revenues under alternative suite 2 because retention of sandbar sharks on PLL gear would be prohibited. On average, 80,825 lb dw of sandbar sharks were reported landed on PLL gear by

directed shark permit holders from 2003 to 2005 (HMS logbook data). In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $117,510 in gross revenues. Given an average of 16.7 vessels landing sandbar sharks with PLL gear from 2003 to 2005, prohibition of sandbar sharks on PLL gear could result in a loss of gross revenues of $7,037 per vessel.

Data on the reduction of per trip revenues also show a decline in revenue for directed permit holders. Under alternative suite 2, directed permit holders would be limited to 8 sandbar sharks per trip and 21 non-sandbar LCS per trip. In comparison, data indicate that under status quo, which has a 4,000 lb dw LCS trip limit, the average number of sandbars and non-sandbar LCS landed per trip is 35 sandbars and 32 non-sandbar LCS for all gear types reported in the Coastal Fisheries and HMS Logbooks. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $4,101 per trip. Revenue estimates on a regional trip basis of the status quo alternative were also based on species composition data attained from the BLL observer program data. Observer data indicate that between 2005 and 2006, 69 sandbar sharks and 35 non-sandbar LCS were caught per trip in the South Atlantic region, and 30 sandbar sharks and 83 non-sandbar LCS were caught per trip in the Gulf of Mexico region. Based on these numbers and 2006 ex-vessel prices, revenues from South Atlantic trips are currently averaged at $4,743/trip and Gulf of Mexico trip revenues averaged $4,101 per trip.

Thus, given that the retention limits under alternative suite 2 (8 sandbars/trip and 21 non-sandbar LCS/trip), the average revenue per trip is estimated to decrease. The reduced non-sandbar LCS retention limit of 21 sharks per trip is based on the average ratio of sandbars to non-sandbar LCS caught in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions to limit sandbar shark discards by fishermen deploying non-selective gear. In the Gulf of Mexico, the ratio of sandbars to other LCS caught is 1:4 which, based on an 8 sandbar per trip retention limit, would equal 32 non-sandbar LCS per trip. However, such a high non-sandbar LCS retention limit would result in sandbar discards in the South Atlantic (approximately 65.3 mt dw). Therefore, a 21 non-sandbar LCS/trip retention limit was set to balance discards versus catch in the two regions. This results in approximately 5 sandbar sharks being caught in the Gulf of Mexico region when the non-sandbar LCS retention limit/trip is filled (and therefore, only 86.1 mt dw of the sandbar quota would be filled). Therefore, gross revenues on a trip basis are estimated to be $1,262 per trip in the South Atlantic and $1,333 per trip in the Gulf of Mexico. From 2003 to 2005, there were 124 vessels that averaged more than 324 lb dw (or 8 sandbar sharks) of sandbar/trip.

Incidental permit holders would also experience revenue declines under alternative suite 2 because they would be prohibited from landing sharks. On average, 66 incidental permit holders landed 12,994 lb dw per year of sandbar sharks and 46,333 lb dw per year of non-sandbar LCS from 2003 to 2005 based on Federal and state shark dealer reports and Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbook data. Using 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $106,491 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). Gross revenues averaged across the 66 vessels with incidental permits landing sharks were $1,614 per vessel. Since incidental permit holders would not be able to land any sharks under alternative suite 2, the 66 active vessels would be most negatively affected by this alternative suite. The states of Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, and North Carolina had the most incidental shark permit holders as of 2007 (144, 37, 20, and 16, respectively).

Alternative suite 2 would also require dealers to submit reports within 24 hours of shark products being purchased. There could be negative economic impacts to Atlantic shark dealers as a result of the increased reporting requirement associated with this alternative. Currently, shark dealer reports are required to submit bimonthly reports, regardless of whether the dealer actually purchased any shark products. Reporting frequency would be increased to 24 hours of when shark products were purchased. While the increased reporting burden would not result in direct costs to the shark dealer, it would result in additional time spent submitting dealer reports. This represents an opportunity cost for dealers since that time could have been spent conducting other activities related to their business. Furthermore, since submitting the reports via regular mail would no longer be feasible, in order to comply with the requirement that dealer reports must be received by NMFS within 24 hours, it is assumed that dealers would have to submit dealer reports electronically or via facsimile. Dealers that do not currently possess a computer or fax machine would have to purchase one of these items. The increased reporting burden implemented in this alternative suite would be subject to approval under the PRA. Reporting requirements for shark vessel permit holders, including the need to carry an observer if selected and the need to submit vessel logbooks within seven days of completing a fishing trip would not be modified, resulting in neutral economic impacts.

The other provisions of alternative suite 2 are the same as in alternative suite 4, which is the final action for this rulemaking. These provisions include: maintaining the 60 mt shark display and research quota; placement of porbeagle sharks on the prohibited list; quota carryover limited to 50 percent of base quota for species not overfished; no carryover for overfished, overfishing or unknown species; sharks fins must remain on the shark; removal of regions and seasons; and limiting the shark species that can be landed recreationally. The effects of these provisions are set forth in the discussion of alternative suite 4.

This alternative suite was not selected for two primary reasons. First, this alternative does not address the impacts of continuing to catch sandbar sharks incidentally. These vessels will likely continue to incidentally catch sandbar sharks but then, under this alternative, those sharks would be required to be discarded. These discards would reduce potential revenues and possibly operating efficiency of vessels possessing incidental shark permits. Regulatory discards would likely lead to increases in mortality and slow efforts to end overfishing. Second, the 24 hour dealer reporting that would be required to effectively manage quotas would result in a significant increase in reporting burden for dealers. This alternative would therefore not minimize the economic cost to dealers in comparison to the preferred alternative.

3. Alternative Suite 3

Under alternative suite 3, the quotas for landing sandbar and non-sandbar LCS would also be reduced to the same level as that in alternative suite 2. However, because alternative suite 3 would allow directed and incidental shark permit holders to land sandbar and non-sandbar LCS as well as SCS and pelagic sharks, the available sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quota would be spread over a larger universe of commercial permit holders. Unlike the status quo or alternative suite 2, the retention limits for sandbar sharks and non-sandbar LCS would be the same for both directed and incidental permit holders. Since directed permit holders presumably make a greater percentage of their gross revenues from shark landings, they are expected to have larger negative socioeconomic impacts

compared to incidental permit holders. (Revenues for incidental permit holders are actually expected to increase under this alternative.) The states of Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina have the most directed permit holders. As with alternative suite 2, shark dealers could also experience negative impacts due to the reduction in the sandbar and other LCS quotas and retention limits, which would reduce the overall amount of sharks being landed.

As stated under alternative suite 2, on average, directed permit holders landed 1,286,447 lb dw of sandbar sharks per year and 1,498,111 of non-sandbar LCS per year from 2003 to 2005 based on Federal and state shark dealer reports and logbook data. In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $4,702,031 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). However, under alternative 3, the available sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quota would be spread over directed and incidental permit holders. Based on the retention limit of 4 sandbar sharks and 10 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip, it is estimated that 105.9 mt dw (233,467 lb dw) of the sandbar quota and 229.2 mt dw (505,294 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota could be landed under alternative suite 3. Logbook data from 2003 and 2005 showed that directed permit holders take, on average, 1,108 trips per year; the total number of shark trips taken by all permit holders was 1,143 trips. Thus, directed permit holders exhibited approximately 78 percent of the total fishing effort for sharks from 2003-2005. Based on this past effort, NMFS estimates that of the total sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quotas, approximately 83 mt dw (183,073 lb dw) of sandbar quota and 180 mt dw (396,225 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota would be harvested by directed permit holders. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $1,015,162 gross revenues for directed permit holders. These gross revenues indicate a 78 percent overall reduction compared to the period from 2003 to 2005 (gross revenues based on current directed permit holders' landings were $4,702,031). Again, the states of Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina have the most directed permit holders.

The data indicate that directed shark permit holders would experience a loss in revenue under alternative suite 3 greater than under alternative suite 2, given that the available quota is shared with incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3. As stated in alternative 2, the status quo revenue was based on a 4,000 lb dw LCS trip limit for directed shark permit holders with average gross revenues in the South Atlantic of $4,743 per trip and average gross revenues in the Gulf of Mexico of $5,853 per trip. Under alternative suite 3, the retention limits would be 4 sandbars per trip and 10 non-sandbar LCS per trip. However, since the ratio of sandbars to non-sandbar LCS caught in the Gulf of Mexico is 1:4, NMFS estimates that approximately 3 sandbar sharks would be caught in the Gulf of Mexico region when the 10 non-sandbar LCS retention limit/trip is filled (10 non-sandbar LCS / 4 = 2.5 sandbar sharks). Therefore, gross revenues on a trip basis are estimated to be $610 per trip in the South Atlantic and $670 per trip in the Gulf of Mexico. From 2003 to 2005, there were 128 vessels that averaged more than 163 lb dw (or 4 sandbar sharks) of sandbar/trip. Therefore, these vessels would be most negatively affected by retention limits under alternative suite 3.

The revenue of incidental shark permit holders is expected to increase under alternative suite 3. On average, incidental permit holders landed 12,994 lb dw of sandbar sharks and 46,333 lb dw of non-sandbar LCS based on Federal and state shark dealer reports and logbook data. In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to gross revenues of $106,491 (assuming 5 percent of the landings are fins and 95 percent of the landings are carcass weight). The available sandbar and non-sandbar LCS quotas would be averaged over directed and incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3. Based on past effort, it was assumed 305 trips could be made by incidental permit holders. This is 22 percent of the expected fishing effort. Therefore, given the 105.9 mt dw (233,467 lb dw) of the sandbar quota and 229.2 mt dw (505,294 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota that could be landed under alternative suite 3, approximately 23 mt dw (50,395 lb dw) of sandbar quota and 50 mt dw (109,069 lb dw) of the non-sandbar LCS quota are anticipated to be landed by incidental permit holders. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $279,441 gross revenues for incidental permit holders. This would result in gross revenues that are 2.7 times higher compared to 2003 to 2005 (gross revenues based on current incidental permit holders' landings were $106,491).

This increase in gross revenues is due to the increase in retention limits for incidental permit holders. Under the status quo, incidental permit holders can retain 5 sharks from the LCS complex. However, under alternative suite 3, incidental permit holders would be able to retain 4 sandbars and 10 non-sandbar LCS or 14 LCS total. This retention limit is almost 3 times higher than what is currently allowed under the status quo. On average, incidental permit holders have been landing 2 sandbar sharks and 3 non-sandbar LCS per trip. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $307 per trip. However, under alternative suite 3, incidental permit holders would make equivalent gross revenues per trip as directed permit holders: $610 per trip in the South Atlantic and $670 per trip in the Gulf of Mexico. This would result in gross revenues for incidental permit holders that are 2 to 3 times higher than gross revenues in 2003 to 2005 depending on future fishing effort and catch composition. Therefore, there would be positive economic impacts for incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3. Since approximately 66 vessels with incidental permit holders landed sandbar sharks or non-sandbar LCS in 2003 to 2005 in the Coastal Fisheries and HMS Logbooks, these 66 vessels would have the largest economic benefits under alternative suite 3. However, if sharks become profitable for incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3, then more vessels with incidental permits may actively land sandbars and non-sandbar LCS in the future. Finally, the states of Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, and North Carolina had the most incidental shark permit holders in 2007. Therefore, these states would see the largest socioeconomic benefits for incidental permit holders under alternative suite 3.

The other provisions of alternative suite 3 are the same as alternative suite 4, which is the final action for this rulemaking. These provisions include maintaining the 60 mt shark display and research quota; placement of porbeagle sharks on the prohibited list; quota carryover limited to 50 percent of base quota for species not overfished; no carryover for overfished, overfishing or unknown species; sharks fins must remain on the shark; dealer reports received within 10 days of purchase; removal of regions and seasons; and limiting the shark species that can be landed recreationally.

This alternative suite was not selected as the preferred alternative primarily based on its failure to achieve the ecological objectives of this rule and its economic impacts. Despite the time/area closures, alternative suite 3 would have a smaller reduction in dead discards of dusky sharks compared to alternative suite 2 since sandbar sharks would be allowed to be retained on PLL gear under alternative suite 3.

Negative economic impacts under alternative suite 3 are expected for directed permit holders (78-percent reduction in gross revenues compared to the status quo) as a result of the four sandbar per vessel per trip retention limit. Given that retention limits for sandbar and non-sandbar LCS are significantly lower than the limit under the status quo (91 and 69-percent reduction in sandbar and non-sandbar LCS retention limits, respectively, for directed permit holders), it is anticipated that there would be no directed shark fishery as a result of alternative suite 3. While an observer program would still operate under alternative suite 3, without a directed shark fishery, it is anticipated that the fishery dependent data collection would be limited, which could compromise data collection for future stock assessments. Alternative suite 4 should accomplish the necessary reductions in quota, retention limits, and fishing effort to prevent overfishing and allow stocks to rebuild while collecting valuable scientific data for NMFS. Therefore, due to concerns over dusky discards, quota monitoring, and data collection, NMFS is not implementing alternative suite 3 at this time.

4. Alternative Suite 4

Alternative suite 4, the final action, establishes a program where vessels with directed or incidental shark permits could participate in a small research fishery for sandbar sharks that would harvest the entire 116.6 mt dw sandbar quota. There would be 100 percent observer coverage on each research vessel, and only vessels participating in this program could land sandbar sharks. Vessels not participating in the research program could land non-sandbar LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks.

Alternative suite 4 was selected because it meets the objectives of this rulemaking while minimizing some of the economic impacts. Those objectives include: implement rebuilding plans for sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks; provide an opportunity for the sustainable harvest of blacktip sharks and other sharks, as appropriate; prevent overfishing of Atlantic sharks; analyze BLL time/area closures and take necessary action, as appropriate; and improve, to the extent practicable, data collections or data collection programs. As detailed in the economic analysis in chapters 4 and 6 of Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP, it is estimated that vessels in the shark research fishery could make $437,963 in gross revenues of sandbar and non-sandbar LCS landings under the adjusted quota. Since 5 to 10 vessels are anticipated to participate in the research fishery, NMFS estimates that an individual vessel could make between $87,593 (i.e., 5 boats) to $43,796 (i.e., 10 boats) in gross revenues on sandbar shark and non-sandbar LCS landings. However, the vessels operating outside of the research fishery would have an adjusted regional non-sandbar LCS base quota of 187.8 mt dw in the Atlantic region and 390.5 mt dw in the Gulf of Mexico region. In 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $516,285 in the Atlantic region and $1,273,269 in gross revenues in the Gulf of Mexico region. Divided by the remaining vessels it is estimated that the average gross revenues from shark per vessel would be just over $2,000 per trip.

In addition, under the final action, porbeagle sharks would be authorized in recreational and commercial fisheries, but under a reduced TAC of 11.3 mt dw. Of the TAC, 1.7 mt dw would be available for harvest in commercial fisheries. Currently, the commercial quota for porbeagle sharks is 92 mt dw per year, however, this commercial quota has never been met. NMFS set new TAC and commercial quotas for porbeagle sharks based on present effort levels. Based on quota monitoring (which includes vessel trip reports) from 2003 to 2006, on average, 3,867 lb dw (1.7 mt dw) of porbeagle sharks were landed per year. Based on 2006 ex-vessel prices, this is equivalent to $7,378 in gross revenues. Since commercial fishermen would be allowed to continue to land porbeagle sharks at this level, there are no anticipated economic impacts of implementing the TAC. In addition, recreational anglers would still be allowed to land porbeagle sharks. Therefore, there are no negative economic impacts for recreational fishermen associated with the TAC.

Data indicate that the preferred alternative maintains the annual gross revenues per vessel for vessels operating in the research fishery, while allowing other vessels outside of the research fishery to generate revenues at reduced levels. For example, in the no action alternative, it was estimated that if gross revenues for directed and incidental permit holders are averaged across the approximately 296 active directed and incidental shark permit holders, then the average annual gross revenues per shark fishing vessel is just over $20,000. Using the average landings for directed permit holder from 2003 to 2005, it is estimated that the 143 active directed permit holders generated average annual gross shark revenues of just under $33,000 from sharks. Under alternative 2, the reduced gross revenues averaged across the 143 active directed permit holders are estimated to be just over $9,000 per directed shark fishing vessel and $1,221 per vessel per year for incidental permit holders that land sharks. Under alternative 3 this is reduced further to approximately $7,000 ($1,015,162 gross revenues/143 vessel) per directed shark fishing vessel per year.

Alternative suite 4 has less economic impact on shark fishermen than alternative suite 5 (discussed below), but has greater impacts in the short-run than the status quo alternative. By allowing a limited number of historical participants to continue to harvest sharks under the research fishery, NMFS ensures that data for stock assessments and life history samples would continue to be collected. After comparing the alternative suites, NMFS determined that alternative suite 4 is the alternative that best meets the objectives of this rule while minimizing the economic impacts to shark permit holders.

5. Alternative Suite 5

Alternative suite 5 would have significant economic and social impacts on a variety of small entities, including: commercial shark permit holders, shark dealers, CHB and tournament operators, gear manufacturers, bait and ice suppliers, and other secondary industries dependent on the shark fishery. The level of economic impact would be directly proportional to the amount of revenues that each entity has realized from past participation in the shark fishery. Permit holders would be impacted differently depending on the quantity of sharks landed in the past.

Vessels targeting sharks (directed permit holders) landed an average of 1,263 mt dw of LCS, 223 mt dw SCS, and 173 mt dw pelagic sharks per year between 2003 to 2005 based on shark dealer landings and effort data from the Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbooks. The gross revenues based on 2006 ex-vessel prices of these landings are estimated at $4,702,031, $681,880, and $764,512 for LCS, SCS, and pelagic sharks, respectively. While it is assumed that few directed shark permit holders subsist entirely on revenues attained from the shark fishery, impacts would still be severe for those participants that depend on income from the directed shark fishery at certain times of the year. Because of the extensive economic impacts to shark directed permit holders as a result of this alternative suite, it is assumed that directed permit holders would likely pursue one of the following options as a result of closing

the Atlantic shark fishery: (1) transfer fishing effort to other fisheries for which they are already permitted (snapper grouper, king and Spanish mackerel, tilefish, lobster, dolphin/wahoo, etc), (2) acquire the necessary permits to participate in other fisheries (both open access and/or limited access fisheries), or (3) relinquish all permits and leave the fishing industry.

Incidental permit holders would face negative economic and social impacts as a result of closing the Atlantic shark fishery; however, these impacts would not be as severe as those experienced by directed permit holders. It is assumed that incidental permit holders receive the majority of their fishing income from participation in other fisheries, depending on the region and the type of gear predominantly fished (i.e., swordfish, tunas, snapper grouper, tilefish, dolphin/wahoo, lobster, etc.). NMFS estimates that, on average, between 2003 and 2005 incidental permit holders landed 26.9 mt dw LCS, 17.3 mt dw SCS, and 45.5 mt dw pelagics per year based on shark dealer landings and effort data from the Coastal Fisheries and HMS logbooks. This equates in gross revenues, based on 2006 ex-vessel prices for these landings, of $106,491, $52,882, and $201,061 for the respective species complexes. Incidental permit holders would likely have to increase effort in these other fisheries to replace lost revenues from landing sharks. Furthermore, these vessels may seek other permits (open access or limited access transferred from another vessel) or leave the fishing industry entirely.

This alternative suite could also have negative economic and social impacts for shark dealers as they would no longer be authorized to purchase shark products from Federally permitted shark fishermen. Shark dealers also maintain permits to purchase other regionally caught fish products. Due to the brevity of the LCS shark fishing season, which is the shark fishery that accounts for the majority of the shark product revenue due to the fin value, many dealers also get revenue from purchasing fish products other than sharks. The majority of shark dealer permit holders hold permits to purchase other fish products, including swordfish, tunas, snapper grouper, tilefish, mackerel, lobster, and dolphin/wahoo among others. It is difficult to estimate, on an individual dealer basis, the percentage of revenues received exclusively from shark products.

Shark fin dealers, specializing in the purchase of shark fins from Federal and state permitted dealers, would also experience negative social and economic impacts as a result of closing the shark fishery. These dealers receive virtually all of their income from purchasing shark fins and shipping them to exporters. Exporters then transport the fins to global and domestic markets. This alternative suite would likely force shark fin dealers to leave the industry or focus on purchasing other fishery products, resulting in significant economic impacts to the individuals involved in this trade.

It is difficult to estimate the economic and social impacts that would be experienced by various small entities that support the shark fishery, e.g., purveyors of bait, ice, fishing gear, and fishing gear manufactures. However, these impacts would likely be negative. It is difficult to estimate these impacts as it is uncertain to what extent vessels that were fishing for sharks would redistribute their fishing effort to other fisheries, or simply cease fishing operations. If the majority of vessels affected by a shark fishery closure simply displace effort to other fisheries, it is assumed that they would still be dependent on small entities for their bait, ice, and gear as these are products essential for fishing excursions targeting any species. Redistributing effort to other fisheries would mitigate negative economic impacts. However, if a significant number of vessels simply cease fishing operations or scale back considerably, then severe economic consequences would be imparted on these support industries as a result.

Reporting and observer requirements would also change under alternative suite 5. Alternative suite 5 would increase the proportion of fishermen completing the Coastal Fisheries Logbook who are then selected to report information on fish that are discarded. Currently, 20 percent of the fishermen completing this logbook are selected. This percentage would be increased to facilitate improved data available for shark interactions with longline and gillnet gear. This information would be especially useful because sharks could no longer be landed and the existing logbook only requires fishermen to provide data on landed fish. Increasing the number of fishermen who are selected to provide this data would result in negative economic and social impacts because it would require additional paperwork to be filled out. Because NMFS would close the fishery under this alternative suite, vessels would no longer be required to take an observer. Shark dealers would also no longer be required to submit dealer reports regarding sharks purchased.

Seasons and regions for the commercial Atlantic shark fishery would no longer apply as this alternative suite would close the fishery.

Closing the Atlantic recreational shark fishery would have negative economic and social impacts, particularly for CHB operators who specialize in landing sharks and operators of shark tournaments that have prize categories for landing sharks. It is difficult to estimate the number of CHB operators that specialize in shark charters as the permit covers any participant targeting swordfish, sharks, tunas, and billfish. Many CHB operators target a variety of species depending on client interests, weather, time of year, and oceanographic conditions. CHB operators specializing in shark fishing charters would have to target other HMS or non HMS species to replace revenues lost as a result of customers not being able to land sharks. However, not all customers necessarily want to land sharks. CHB operators would still be able to catch sharks; however, all sharks (regardless of species) would need to be released in a manner that maximizes their chances of survival. Catering business operations to clientele interested in catch and release fishing for sharks might mitigate some of the negative economic impacts. Shark tournaments that reward prizes for landing sharks would be negatively impacted as a result of this alternative suite. In 2007, there were 59 tournaments with prize categories for pelagic sharks and 42 (combined) tournaments for LCS and SCS. The majority of these tournaments target pelagic sharks and are held in the North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions. These tournaments would either modify their rules to only allow points/prizes for released sharks or these tournaments would cease to exist. Economic impacts on small entities such as restaurants, hotels, gear manufacturers, retail stores selling fishing supplies, and marinas in the vicinity of where these tournaments are held would also experience negative economic impacts.

HMS Angling permit holders would also experience negative impacts, despite the fact that they would still be able to catch and release sharks. Landings would not be permitted by any recreational anglers as a result of this alternative suite.

Closing the Atlantic shark fishery would have negative economic impacts on global shark fin markets. As a result of this alternative suite, U.S. flagged vessels would no longer be able to contribute to the global demand for shark fins. This would disadvantage U.S. shark fishermen as global markets would likely need to purchase their shark fins from other markets. However,

the United States is not a significant producer of shark products globally. Based on data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), less than one percent of global shark landings occur in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean.

While alternative suite 5 would meet the objectives of this rule, it would have the highest negative economic impacts of the alternatives considered. There would be significant reductions in revenues for shark dealers and fishing vessels involved in the shark fishery. Some small businesses dependent on commercial shark fishing may cease operating as a result of prohibiting the commercial harvest of shark species. Therefore, this alternative was not selected.

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 states that, for each rule or group of related rules for which an agency is required to prepare a FRFA, the agency shall publish one or more guides to assist small entities in complying with the rule, and shall designate such publications as ''small entity compliance guides.'' The Agency shall explain the actions a small entity is required to take to comply with a rule or group of rules. Copies of the compliance guide for this final rule are available (see **ADDRESSES**).

List of Subjects

50 CFR Part 600

Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

50 CFR Part 635

Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Imports, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Treaties.

Dated: June 16, 2008.

John Oliver,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service.

■ For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR parts 600 and 635 are amended as follows:

Chapter VI

PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT PROVISIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 600 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 561 and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 600.1203, paragraph (a)(9) is revised to read as follows:

§ 600.1203 Prohibitions.

(a) * * *

(9) Fail to maintain a shark in the form specified in §§ 600.1204(h) and 635.30(c) of this chapter.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 600.1204, paragraphs (h) and (j) are revised to read as follows:

§ 600.1204 Shark finning; possession at sea and landing of shark fins.

* * * * *

(h) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark limited access permit and who lands shark in or from the U.S. EEZ in an Atlantic coastal port must comply with regulations found at § 635.30(c) of this chapter.

* * * * *

(j) No person aboard a vessel that has been issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark limited access permit shall possess on board shark fins without the fins being naturally attached to the corresponding carcass(es), although sharks may be dressed at sea.

* * * * *

PART 635—ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

■ 4. The authority citation for 50 CFR part 635 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 5. In § 635.2, the definitions of ''First receiver'', ''Naturally attached'', ''Non-sandbar LCS'', and ''Shark research permit'' are added in alphabetical order and the definitions of ''Dress'' and ''Dressed weight (dw)'' are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

Dress, for swordfish, tunas, and billfish, means to process a fish by removal of head, viscera, and fins, but does not include removal of the backbone, halving, quartering, or otherwise further reducing the carcass. For sharks, dress means to process a fish by removal of head and viscera, but does not include removal of the fins, backbone, halving, quartering, or otherwise further reducing the carcass.

Dressed weight (dw), for swordfish, tunas, and billfish, means the weight of a fish after it has been dressed. For sharks, dressed weight means the weight of a fish after it has been dressed and had its fins, including the tail, removed.

* * * * *

First receiver means any entity, person, or company that takes, for commercial purposes (other than solely for transport), immediate possession of the fish, or any part of the fish, as the fish are offloaded from a fishing vessel of the United States, as defined under § 600.10 of this chapter, whose owner or operator has been issued, or should have been issued, a valid permit under this part.

* * * * *

Naturally attached refers to shark fins that remain attached to the shark carcass via at least some portion of uncut skin.

* * * * *

Non-sandbar LCS means one of the species, or part thereof, listed under heading A of Table 1 in Appendix A of this part other than the sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*).

* * * * *

Shark research permit means a permit issued to catch and land a limited number of sharks to maintain time series for stock assessments and for other scientific research purposes. These permits may be issued only to the owner of a vessel who has been issued either a directed or incidental shark LAP. The permit is specific to the commercial shark vessel and owner combination and is valid only per the terms and conditions listed on the permit.

* * * * *

■ 6. In § 635.4, paragraphs (a)(5) and (g)(2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.4 Permits and fees.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(5) *Display upon offloading.* Upon offloading of Atlantic HMS, the owner or operator of the harvesting vessel must present for inspection the vessel's HMS Charter/Headboat permit; Atlantic tunas, shark, or swordfish permit; and/or the shark research permit to the first receiver. The permit(s) must be presented prior to completing any applicable landing report specified at § 635.5(a)(1), (a)(2), and (b)(2)(i).

* * * * *

(g) * * *

(2) *Shark.* A first receiver, as defined in § 635.2, of Atlantic sharks must possess a valid dealer permit.

* * * * *

■ 7. In § 635.5, paragraphs (b)(1)(i), (b)(1)(ii), and (b)(1)(iv) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) Dealers that have been issued or should have been issued an Atlantic

tunas, swordfish, and/or sharks dealer permit under § 635.4 must submit to NMFS all reports required under this section. All reports must be species-specific, must include information about all HMS landed, regardless of where harvested or whether the vessel is federally permitted under § 635.4 and, for sharks, must specify the total shark fin weight separately from the weight of the shark carcass. As stated in § 635.4(a)(6), failure to comply with these recordkeeping and reporting requirements may result in the existing dealer permit being revoked, suspended, or modified, and in the denial of any permit applications.

(ii) Reports of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and/or sharks received by dealers from U.S. vessels, as defined under § 600.10 of this chapter, on the first through the 15th of each month, must be received by NMFS not later than the 25th of that month. Reports of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and/or sharks received on the 16th through the last day of each month must be received by NMFS not later than the 10th of the following month. If a dealer issued an Atlantic tunas, swordfish, or sharks dealer permit under § 635.4 has not received any Atlantic HMS from U.S. vessels during a reporting period as specified in this section, he or she must still submit the report required under paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section stating that no Atlantic HMS were received. This negative report must be received by NMFS for the applicable reporting period as specified in this section. This negative reporting requirement does not apply for bluefin tuna.

* * * * *

(iv) The dealer may mail or fax such report to an address designated by NMFS or may hand-deliver such report to a state or Federal fishery port agent designated by NMFS. If the dealer hand-delivers the report to a port agent, the dealer must deliver such report for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, or sharks no later than the prescribed received-by date for the reporting period, as required in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section.

* * * * *

■ 8. In § 635.21, paragraphs (d)(1)(i), (d)(1)(ii), and (d)(3)(ii) are revised, and paragraph (d)(1)(iii) is added to read as follows:

§ 635.21 Gear operation and deployment restrictions.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) The mid-Atlantic shark closed area from January 1 through July 31 each calendar year;

(ii) The areas designated at § 622.33(a)(1) through (3) of this chapter, year-round; and

(iii) The areas described in paragraphs (d)(1)(iii)(A) through (H) of this section, year-round.

(A) *Snowy Grouper Wreck.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	33°25′	77°04.75′
B	33°34.75′	76°51.3′
C	33°25.5′	76°46.5′
D	33°15.75′	77°00.0′
A	33°25′	77°04.75′

(B) *South Carolina A.* Bounded on the north by 32°53.5′ N. lat.; on the south by 32°48.5′ N. lat.; on the east by 78°04.75′ W. long.; and on the west by 78°16.75′ W. long.

(C) *Edisto.* Bounded on the north by 32°24′ N. lat.; on the south by 32°18.5′ N. lat.; on the east by 78°54.0′ W. long.; and on the west by 79°06.0′ W. long.

(D) *Charleston Deep Artificial Reef.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	32°04′	79°12′
B	32°08.5′	79°07.5′
C	32°06′	79°05′
D	32°01.5′	79°09.3′
A	32°04′	79°12′

(E) *Georgia.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	31°43′	79°31′
B	31°43′	79°21′
C	31°34′	79°29′
D	31°34′	79°39′
A	31°43′	79°31′

(F) *North Florida.* Bounded on the north by 30°29′ N. lat.; on the south by 30°19′ N. lat.; on the east by 80°02′ W. long.; and on the west by 80°14′ W. long.

(G) *St. Lucie Hump.* Bounded on the north by 27°08′ N. lat.; on the south by 27°04′ N. lat.; on the east by 79°58′ W. long.; and on the west by 80°00′ W. long.

(H) *East Hump.* Bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	24°36.5′	80°45.5′
B	24°32′	80°36′
C	24°27.5′	80°38.5′
D	24°32.5′	80°48′
A	24°36.5′	80°45.5′

* * * * *

(3) * * *

(ii) *Handling and release requirements.* Sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear, as required by paragraph (d)(3)(i) of this section, must be used to disengage any hooked or entangled sea turtle as stated in paragraph (c)(5)(ii) of this section. This mitigation gear should also be employed to disengage any hooked or entangled species of prohibited sharks as listed under heading D of Table 1 of Appendix A of this part, any hooked or entangled species of sharks that exceed the retention limits as specified in § 635.24(a), and any hooked or entangled smalltooth sawfish. In addition, if a smalltooth sawfish is caught, the fish should be kept in the water while maintaining water flow over the gills and the fish should be examined for research tags. All smalltooth sawfish must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water or any research tags from the fish.

* * * * *

■ 9. In § 635.22, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 635.22 Recreational retention limits.

* * * * *

(c) *Sharks.* (1) One of each of the following sharks may be retained per vessel per trip, subject to the size limits described in § 635.20(e): any of the non-ridgeback sharks listed under heading A.2 of Table 1 in Appendix A of this part, tiger (*Galeocerdo cuvieri*), blue (*Prionace glauca*), common thresher (*Alopias vulpinus*), oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyricnchus*), Atlantic sharpnose (*Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*), finetooth (*C. isodon*), blacknose (*C. acronotus*), and bonnethead (*Sphyrna tiburo*).

(2) In addition to the shark listed under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, one Atlantic sharpnose shark and one bonnethead shark may be retained per person per trip. Regardless of the length

of a trip, no more than one Atlantic sharpnose shark and one bonnethead shark per person may be possessed on board a vessel.

(3) No prohibited sharks, including parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, which are listed in Table 1 of Appendix A to this part under prohibited sharks, may be retained regardless of where harvested.

(4) The recreational retention limit for sharks applies to any person who fishes in any manner, except to persons aboard a vessel that has been issued an Atlantic incidental or directed shark LAP under § 635.4. If a commercial Atlantic shark quota is closed under § 635.28, the recreational retention limit for sharks and no sale provision in paragraph (a) of this section may be applied to persons aboard a vessel issued an Atlantic incidental or directed shark LAP under § 635.4, only if that vessel has also been issued an HMS Charter/Headboat permit issued under § 635.4 and is engaged in a for-hire fishing trip.

* * * * *

■ 10. In § 635.24, paragraph (a) is revised to read as follows:

§ 635.24 Commercial retention limits for sharks and swordfish.

* * * * *

(a) *Sharks.* (1) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a valid shark research permit under § 635.32(f) and who has a NMFS-approved observer on board may retain, possess, or land LCS, including sandbar sharks, in excess of the retention limits in paragraphs (a)(2) through (6) of this section. The amount of LCS that can be landed by such a person will vary as specified on the shark research permit. Only a person who owns or operates a vessel issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer on board may retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks.

(2) From July 24, 2008 through December 31, 2012, a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and does not have a valid shark research permit, or a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and that has been issued a valid shark research permit but does not have a NMFS-approved observer on board, may retain, possess, or land no more than 33 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. Such persons may not retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks. As of January 1, 2013, a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and does not have a valid shark research permit, or a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed LAP for sharks and that has been issued a shark research permit but does not have a NMFS-approved observer on board, may retain, possess, or land no more than 36 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. Such persons may not retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks.

(3) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental LAP for sharks and does not have a valid shark research permit, or a person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental LAP for sharks and that has been issued a valid shark research permit but does not have a NMFS-approved observer on board, may retain, possess, or land no more than 3 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. Such persons may not retain, possess, or land sandbar sharks.

(4) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a directed shark LAP may retain, possess, or land SCS and pelagic sharks if the SCS or pelagic shark fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28. A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental LAP for sharks may retain, possess, or land no more than 16 SCS and pelagic sharks, combined, per trip, if the fishery is open per § 635.27 and § 635.28.

(5) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued an incidental or directed LAP for sharks may not retain, possess, land, sell, or purchase prohibited sharks, including any parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, which are listed in Table 1 of Appendix A to this part under prohibited sharks.

(6) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued either an incidental or directed LAP for sharks, and who decides to retain sharks, must retain, subject to the trip limits, all dead, legal-sized, non-prohibited sharks that are brought onboard the vessel and cannot replace those sharks with sharks of higher quality or size that are caught later in the trip. Any fish that are to be released cannot be brought onboard the vessel and must be released in the water in a manner that maximizes survival.

* * * * *

■ 11. In § 635.27, paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.27 Quotas.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) *Commercial quotas.* The commercial quotas for sharks specified in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) through (b)(1)(vi) of this section apply to all sharks harvested from the management unit, regardless of where harvested. Sharks taken and landed from state waters, even by fishermen without Federal shark permits, must be counted against the fishery quota. Commercial quotas are specified for each of the management groups of sandbar sharks, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, and pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks. Any sharks landed as unclassified will be counted against the appropriate species' quota based on the species composition calculated from data collected by observers on non-research trips and/or dealer data. No prohibited sharks, including parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, which are listed under heading D of Table 1 of Appendix A to this part, may be retained except as authorized under § 635.32.

(i) *Fishing seasons.* The fishing season for sandbar sharks, non-sandbar LCS, small coastal sharks, and all pelagic sharks will begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

(ii) *Regions.* (A) The commercial quotas for non-sandbar LCS are split between two regions: the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. For the purposes of this section, the boundary between the Gulf of Mexico region and the Atlantic region is defined as a line beginning on the east coast of Florida at the mainland at 25°20.4′ N. lat, proceeding due east. Any water and land to the south and west of that boundary is considered, for the purposes of quota monitoring and setting of quotas, to be within the Gulf of Mexico region. Any water and land to the north and east of that boundary, for the purposes of quota monitoring and setting of quotas, is considered to be within the Atlantic region.

(B) Except for non-sandbar LCS landed by a vessels issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard, any non-sandbar LCS reported by dealers located in the Florida Keys areas or in the Gulf of Mexico will be counted against the non-sandbar LCS Gulf of Mexico regional quota. Except for non-sandbar LCS landed by a vessels issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard, any non-sandbar LCS reported by dealers located in the Atlantic region will be counted against the non-sandbar LCS Atlantic regional quota. Non-sandbar LCS landed by a vessel issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard will be counted against the non-sandbar LCS research fishery quota using scientific observer reports.

(iii) *Sandbar sharks.* The base annual commercial quota for sandbar sharks is 116.6 mt dw. However, from July 24,

2008 through December 31, 2012, to account for overharvests that occurred in 2007, the adjusted base quota is 87.9 mt dw. Both the base quota and the adjusted base quota may be further adjusted per paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section. This quota is available only to the owners of commercial shark vessels that have been issued a valid shark research permit and that have a NMFS-approved observer onboard.

(iv) *Non-sandbar LCS.* The total base quota for non-sandbar LCS is 677.8 mt dw. This base quota is split between the two regions and the shark research fishery as follows: Gulf of Mexico = 439.5 mt dw; Atlantic = 188.3 mt dw; and Shark Research Fishery = 50 mt dw. However, from July 24, 2008 through December 31, 2012, to account for overharvests that occurred in 2007, the total adjusted base quota is 615.8 mt dw. This adjusted base quota is split between the regions and the shark research fishery as follows: Gulf of Mexico = 390.5 mt dw; Atlantic = 187.8 mt dw; and Shark Research Fishery = 37.5 mt dw. Both the base quota and the adjusted base quota may be further adjusted per paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section.

(v) *Small coastal sharks.* The base annual commercial quota for small coastal sharks is 454 mt dw, unless adjusted pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section.

(vi) *Pelagic sharks.* The base annual commercial quotas for pelagic sharks are 273 mt dw for blue sharks, 1.7 mt dw for porbeagle sharks, and 488 mt dw for pelagic sharks other than blue sharks or porbeagle sharks, unless adjusted pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section.

(vii) *Annual adjustments.* NMFS will publish in the **Federal Register** any annual adjustments to the base annual commercial quotas or the 2008 through 2012 adjusted base quotas. The base annual quota and the adjusted base annual quota will not be available, and the fishery will not open, until such adjustments are published and effective in the **Federal Register**.

(A) *Overharvests.* If the available quota for sandbar sharks, small coastal, porbeagle shark, and pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks is exceeded in any fishing season, NMFS will deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) from the following fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), NMFS may deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years. If the annual quota in a particular region or in the research fishery for non-sandbar LCS is exceeded in any fishing season, NMFS will deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) from the following fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), NMFS may deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years, in the specific region or research fishery where the overharvest occurred. If the blue shark quota is exceeded, NMFS will reduce the annual commercial quota for pelagic sharks by the amount that the blue shark quota is exceeded prior to the start of the next fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years.

(B) *Underharvests.* If an annual quota for sandbar sharks, SCS, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, or pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle is not exceeded, NMFS may adjust the annual quota depending on the status of the stock or quota group. If the annual quota for non-sandbar LCS is not exceeded in either region or in the research fishery, NMFS may adjust the annual quota for that region or the research fishery depending on the status of the stock or quota group. If the stock (e.g., sandbar shark, porbeagle shark, pelagic shark, or blue shark) or specific species within a quota group (e.g., non-sandbar LCS or SCS) is declared to be overfished, to have overfishing occurring, or to have an unknown status, NMFS will not adjust the following fishing year's quota for any underharvest, and the following fishing year's quota will be equal to the base annual quota (or the adjusted base quota for sandbar and non-sandbar LCS until December 31, 2012). If the stock is not declared to be overfished, to have overfishing occurring, or to have an unknown status, NMFS may increase the following year's base annual quota (or the adjusted base quota for sandbar and non-sandbar LCS until December 31, 2012) by an equivalent amount of the underharvest up to 50 percent above the base annual quota. For the non-sandbar LCS fishery, underharvests are not transferable between regions and/or the research fishery.

(2) *Public display and non-specific research quota.* The base annual quota for persons who collect non-sandbar LCS, SCS, pelagic sharks, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, or prohibited species under a display permit or EFP is 57.2 mt ww (41.2 mt dw). The base annual quota for persons who collect sandbar sharks under a display permit is 1.4 mt ww (1 mt dw) and under an EFP is 1.4 mt ww (1 mt dw). No persons may collect dusky sharks under a display permit or EFP. All sharks collected under the authority of a display permit or EFP, subject to restrictions at § 635.32, will be counted against these quotas.

* * * * *

■ 12. In § 635.28, paragraphs (b)(1) through (3) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.28 Closures.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) If quota is available as specified by a publication in the **Federal Register**, the commercial fisheries for sandbar shark, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, porbeagle sharks, blue sharks, and pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks will remain open as specified at § 635.27(b)(1).

(2) When NMFS calculates that the fishing season landings for sandbar shark, non-sandbar LCS, SCS, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, or pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle sharks has reached or is projected to reach 80 percent of the available quota as specified in § 635.27(b)(1), NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the Federal Register a notice of closure for that shark species group and/or region that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure until NMFS announces, via a notice in the **Federal Register**, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, the fishery for the shark species group and, for non-sandbar LCS, region is closed, even across fishing years.

(3) When the fishery for a shark species group and/or region is closed, a fishing vessel, issued an Atlantic Shark LAP pursuant to § 635.4, may not possess or sell a shark of that species group and/or region, except under the conditions specified in § 635.22(a) and (c) or if the vessel possesses a valid shark research permit under § 635.32 and an NMFS-approved observer is onboard. A shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4, may not purchase or receive a shark of that species group and/or region from a vessel issued an Atlantic Shark LAP, except that a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess sharks that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered, prior to the effective date of the closure and were held in storage. Additionally, a permitted shark dealer or processor may possess non-sandbar sharks that were harvested by a vessel issued a valid shark research permit with a NMFS-approved observer onboard as long as the non-sandbar shark research

fishery is open. Under a closure for a shark species group, a shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant to § 635.4 may, in accordance with state regulations, purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel that fishes only in state waters and that has not been issued a Shark LAP, HMS Angling permit, or HMS Charter/Headboat permit pursuant to § 635.4. Additionally, under a closure for a shark species group and/or regional closure, a shark dealer, issued a permit pursuant, to § 635.4 may purchase or receive a shark of that species group if the sharks were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered from a vessel issued a valid shark research permit (per § 635.32) that had a NMFS-approved observer on board during the trip sharks were collected.

* * * * *

■ 13. In § 635.30, paragraphs (c)(1) through (4) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.30 Possession at sea and landing.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) Notwithstanding the regulations issued at part 600, subpart N of this chapter, a person who owns or operates a vessel issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP must maintain all the shark fins including the tail on the shark carcass until the shark has been offloaded from the vessel. While sharks are on board and when sharks are being offloaded, persons issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP are subject to the regulations at part 600, subpart N, of this chapter.

(2) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has a valid Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP must maintain the shark intact through offloading except that the shark may be dressed. All fins, including the tail, must remain naturally attached to the shark through offloading. While on the vessel, fins may be sliced so that the fin can be folded along the carcass for storage purposes as long as the fin remains naturally attached to the carcass via at least a small portion of uncut skin. The fins and tail may only be removed from the carcass once the shark has been landed and offloaded.

(3) A person who owns or operates a vessel that has been issued a Federal Atlantic commercial shark LAP and who lands sharks in an Atlantic coastal port must have all fins and carcasses weighed and recorded on the weighout slips specified in § 635.5(a)(2) and in accordance with regulations at part 600, subpart N, of this chapter. Persons may not possess any shark fins not naturally attached to a shark carcass on board a fishing vessel at any time.

(4) Persons aboard a vessel that does not have a commercial permit for shark must maintain a shark in or from the EEZ intact through landing with the head, tail, and all fins attached. The shark may be bled.

* * * * *

■ 14. In § 635.31, paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(4) are revised to read as follows:

§ 635.31 Restrictions on sale and purchase.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) Persons that own or operate a vessel that possesses a shark from the management unit may sell such shark only if the vessel has a valid commercial shark permit issued under this part. Persons may possess and sell a shark only when the fishery for that species group and/or region has not been closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

* * * * *

(4) Only dealers that have a valid shark dealer permit may purchase shark from the owner or operator of a fishing vessel. Dealers may purchase a shark only from an owner or operator of a vessel who has a valid commercial shark permit issued under this part, except that dealers may purchase a shark from an owner or operator of a vessel that does not have a commercial permit for shark if that vessel fishes exclusively in state waters. Dealers may purchase a sandbar shark only from an owner or operator of a vessel who has a valid shark research permit and who had a NMFS-approved observer onboard the vessel for the trip in which the sandbar shark was collected. Dealers may purchase a shark from an owner or operator of fishing vessel that has a permit issued under this part only when the fishery for that species group and/or region has not been closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

* * * * *

■ 15. In § 635.32, paragraphs (a)(2), (f), and (g) are revised and paragraph (h) is added to read as follows:

§ 635.32 Specifically authorized activities.

(a) * * *

(2) Activities subject to the provisions of this section include, but are not limited to: scientific research resulting in, or likely to result in, the take, harvest, or incidental mortality of Atlantic HMS; exempted fishing and educational activities; programs under which regulated species retained in contravention to otherwise applicable regulations may be donated through approved food bank networks; or chartering arrangements. Such activities must be authorized in writing and are subject to all conditions specified in any letter of acknowledgment, EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit issued in response to requests for authorization under this section.

* * * * *

(f) *Shark research permits.* (1) For activities consistent with the purposes of this section and § 600.745(b)(1) of this chapter, NMFS may issue shark research permits.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 600.745 of this chapter and other provisions of this part, a valid shark research permit is required to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic sharks, including sandbar sharks, in excess of the retention limits described in § 635.24(a). A valid shark research permit must be on board the harvesting vessel, must be available for inspection when the shark is landed, and must be presented for inspection upon request of an authorized officer. A shark research permit is only valid for the vessel and owner(s) combination specified and cannot be transferred to another vessel or owner(s). A shark research permit is only valid for the retention limits, time, area, gear specified, and other terms and conditions as listed on the permit and only when a NMFS-approved observer is onboard. Species landed under a shark research permit shall be counted against the appropriate quota specified in § 635.27 or as otherwise provided in the shark research permit.

(3) Regardless of the number of applicants, NMFS will issue only a limited number of shark research permits depending on available quotas as described in § 635.27, research needs for stock assessments and other scientific purposes, and the number of sharks expected to be harvested by vessels issued LAPs for sharks.

(4) In addition to the workshops required under § 635.8, persons issued a shark research permit, and/or operators of vessels specified on the shark research permit, may be required to attend other workshops (e.g., shark identification workshops, captain's meeting, etc.) as deemed necessary by NMFS to ensure the collection of high quality data.

(5) Issuance of a shark research permit does not guarantee the permit holder that a NMFS-approved observer will be deployed on any particular trip. Rather, permit issuance indicates that a vessel is eligible for a NMFS-approved

observer to be deployed on the vessel for a particular trip and that, on such observed trips, the vessel may be allowed to harvest Atlantic sharks, including sandbar sharks, in excess of the retention limits described in § 635.24(a).

(6) The shark research permit may be revoked, limited, or modified at any time, does not confer any right to engage in activities beyond those authorized by the permit, and does not confer any right of compensation to the holder.

(g) *Applications and renewals.* (1) Application procedures shall be as indicated under § 600.745(b)(2) of this chapter, except that NMFS may consolidate requests for the purpose of obtaining public comment. In such cases, NMFS may file with the Office of the Federal Register, on an annual or more frequent basis as necessary, notification of previously authorized exempted fishing, scientific research, public display, chartering, and shark research activities and to solicit public comment on anticipated EFP, scientific research permit, letter of acknowledgment, public display, chartering, or shark research permit activities. Applications for EFPs, scientific research permits, public display permits, chartering permits, or shark research permits are required to include all reports specified in the applicant's previous permit including, if applicable, the year-end report, all delinquent reports for permits issued in prior years, and all other specified information. In situations of delinquent reports, applications will be deemed incomplete and a permit will not be issued under this section.

(2) For the shark research permit, NMFS will publish annually, in a **Federal Register** notice(s), a description for the following fishing year of the expected research objectives. This description may include information such as the number of vessels needed, regions and seasons for which vessels are needed, the specific criteria for selection, and the application deadline. Complete applications, including all information requested in the applicable **Federal Register** notice(s) and on the application form and any previous reports required pursuant to this section and § 635.5, must be received by NMFS by the application deadline in order for the vessel to be considered. Requested information could include, but is not limited to, applicant name and address, permit information, vessel information, availability of the vessel, past involvement in the shark fishery, and compliance with HMS regulations including observer regulations. NMFS will only review complete applications received by the published deadline to determine eligibility for participation in the shark research fishery. Qualified vessels will be chosen based on the information provided on the applications and their ability to meet the selection criteria as published in the **Federal Register** notice. A commercial shark permit holder whose vessel was selected to carry an observer in the previous two years for any HMS fishery but failed to comply with the observer regulations specified in § 635.7 will not be considered. A commercial shark permit holder that has been charged criminally or civilly (i.e., issued a Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) or Notice of Permit Sanction) for any HMS related violation will not be considered for participation in the shark research fishery. Qualified vessels will be randomly selected to participate in the shark research fishery based on their availability and the temporal and spatial needs of the research objectives. If a vessel issued a shark research permit cannot conduct the shark research tasks, for whatever reason, that permit will be revoked and, depending on the status of the research and the fishing year, NMFS will randomly select another qualified vessel to be issued a shark research permit.

(h) *Terms and conditions.* (1) For EFPs, scientific research permits, and public display permits: Written reports on fishing activities, and disposition of all fish captured under a permit issued under this section must be submitted to NMFS within 5 days of return to port. NMFS will provide specific conditions and requirements as needed, consistent with the Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan, in the permit. If an individual issued a Federal permit under this section captures no HMS in any given month, either in or outside the EEZ, a ''no-catch'' report must be submitted to NMFS within 5 days of the last day of that month.

(2) For chartering permits, written reports of fishing activities must be submitted to NMFS by a date specified, and to an address designated, in the terms and conditions of each chartering permit.

(3) An annual written summary report of all fishing activities, and disposition of all fish captured, under the permit must be submitted to NMFS for all EFPs, scientific research permits, display permits, and chartering permits issued under this section within 30 days after the expiration date of the permit.

(4) For shark research permits, all owners and/or operators must comply with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements specified in § 635.5 per the requirement of holding a LAP for sharks.

(5) As stated in § 635.4(a)(6), failure to comply with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of this section could result in the EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit being revoked, suspended, or modified, and in the denial of any future applications.

■ 16. In § 635.69, paragraph (a) introductory text is revised to read as follows:

§ 635.69 Vessel monitoring systems.

(a) *Applicability.* To facilitate enforcement of time/area and fishery closures, an owner or operator of a commercial vessel, permitted to fish for Atlantic HMS under § 635.4 and that fishes with a pelagic or bottom longline or gillnet gear, is required to install a NMFS-approved vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit on board the vessel and operate the VMS unit under the following circumstances:

* * * * *

■ 17. In § 635.71, paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(6), (d)(3), (d)(4), (d)(6) through (8), and (d)(10) are revised and paragraphs (d)(15), (d)(16), and (d)(17) are added to read as follows:

§ 635.71 Prohibitions.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(2) Fish for, catch, possess, retain, or land Atlantic HMS without the appropriate valid vessel permit, LAP, EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit on board the vessel, as specified in §§ 635.4 and 635.32.

* * * * *

(4) Sell or transfer or attempt to sell or transfer, for commercial purposes, an Atlantic tuna, shark, or swordfish other than to a dealer that has a valid dealer permit issued under § 635.4, except that this does not apply to a shark harvested by a vessel that has not been issued a permit under this part and that fishes exclusively within the waters under the jurisdiction of any state.

* * * * *

(6) Falsify or fail to record, report, or maintain information required to be recorded, reported, or maintained, as specified in §§ 635.5 and 635.32 or in the terms and conditions of a permit issued under § 635.4 or an EFP, scientific research permit, display permit, chartering permit, or shark research permit issued under § 635.32.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(3) Retain, possess, or land a shark of a species group when the fishery for that species group and/or region is closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

(4) Sell or purchase a shark of a species group when the fishery for that species group and/or region is closed, as specified in § 635.28(b).

* * * * *

(6) Fail to maintain a shark in its proper form, as specified in § 635.30(c). Fail to maintain naturally attached shark fins through offloading as specified in § 635.30(c).

(7) Sell or purchase shark fins that are disproportionate to the weight of shark carcasses, as specified in § 635.30(c) and § 600.1204(e) and (l) of this chapter.

(8) Fail to have shark fins and carcasses weighed and recorded, as specified in § 635.30(c).

* * * * *

(10) Retain, possess, sell, or purchase a prohibited shark, including parts or pieces of prohibited sharks, as specified under §§ 635.22(c), 635.24(a), and 635.27(b), or fail to disengage any hooked or entangled prohibited shark with the least harm possible to the animal as specified at § 635.21(d).

* * * * *

(15) Sell or transfer or attempt to sell or transfer a shark or sharks or part of a shark or sharks in excess of the retention limits specified in § 635.24(a).

(16) Purchase, receive, or transfer or attempt to purchase, receive, or transfer a shark or sharks or part of a shark or sharks landed in excess of the retention limits specified in § 635.24(a).

(17) Replace sharks that are onboard the vessel for retention with sharks of higher quality or size that are caught later in a particular trip as specified in § 635.24(a).

* * * * *

[FR Doc. E8–13961 Filed 6–23–08; 8:45 am]

Editorial Note: Federal Register rule document E8–13961, originally published at pages 35778 to 35833 in the issue of Tuesday, June 24, 2008, included several pages of duplicated text and deleted material. This document is being republished in its entirety.

[FR Doc. R8–13961 Filed 7–14–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1505–01–D

Executive Order 13132

PHMSA has analyzed this final rule according to Executive Order 13132 (''Federalism''). The final rule does not have a substantial direct effect on the States, the relationship between the national government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. This final rule does not impose substantial direct compliance costs on State and local governments. This final rule would not preempt state law for intrastate pipelines. Therefore, the consultation and funding requirements of Executive Order 13132 do not apply.

Executive Order 13211

Transporting gas impacts the nation's available energy supply. However, this final rule is not a ''significant energy action'' under Executive Order 13211. It is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. Further, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has not identified this rulemaking as a significant energy action.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 192

Gas, Natural gas, Pipelines, Pipeline safety.

■ For the reasons provided in the preamble, PHMSA amends 49 CFR Part 192 as follows:

PART 192—TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS AND OTHER GAS BY PIPELINE: MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 192 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60102, 60104, 60108, 60109, 60110, 60113, 60116, and 60118; and 49 CFR 1.53.

■ 2. Revise § 192.121 to read as follows:

§ 192.121 Design of plastic pipe.

Subject to the limitations of § 192.123, the design pressure for plastic pipe is determined by either of the following formulas:

$$P = 2S \frac{t}{(D - t)} (DF)$$

$$P = \frac{2S}{(SDR - 1)} (DF)$$

Where:

P = Design pressure, gauge, psig (kPa).

S = For thermoplastic pipe, the HDB is determined in accordance with the listed specification at a temperature equal to 73F° (23C°), 100 °F (38 °C), 120 °F (49 °C), or 140 °F (60 °C). In the absence of an HDB established at the specified temperature, the HDB of a higher temperature may be used in determining a design pressure rating at the specified temperature by arithmetic interpolation using the procedure in Part D.2 of PPI TR–3/2004, *HDB/PDB/SDB/MRS Policies* (incorporated by reference, see § 192.7). For reinforced thermosetting plastic pipe, 11,000 psig (75,842 kPa). [Note: Arithmetic interpolation is not allowed for PA–11 pipe.]

t = Specified wall thickness, inches (mm).

D = Specified outside diameter, inches (mm).

SDR = Standard dimension ratio, the ratio of the average specified outside diameter to the minimum specified wall thickness, corresponding to a value from a common numbering system that was derived from the American National Standards Institute preferred number series 10.

D F = 0.32 or

= 0.40 for nominal pipe size (IPS or CTS) 4-inch or less, SDR–11 or greater (*i.e.* thicker pipe wall), PA–11 pipe produced after January 23, 2009.

■ Amend § 192.123 by revising paragraph (a) introductory text and adding a new paragraph (f) to read as follows:

§ 192.123 Design limitations for plastic pipe.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (e) and paragraph (f) of this section, the design pressure may not exceed a gauge pressure of 100 psig (689 kPa) for plastic pipe used in:

* * * * *

(f) The design pressure for polyamide-11 (PA–11) pipe produced after January 23, 2009 may exceed a gauge pressure of 100 psig (689 kPa) provided that:

(1) The design pressure does not exceed 200 psig (1379 kPa);

(2) The pipe size is nominal pipe size (IPS or CTS) 4-inch or less; and

(3) The pipe has a standard dimension ratio of SDR–11 or greater (*i.e.*, thicker pipe wall).

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 17, 2008.

Carl T. Johnson,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8–30637 Filed 12–23–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[Docket No. 080723890–81590–02]

RIN 0648–AX03

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Commercial Shark Management Measures

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; fishing season notification.

SUMMARY: This final rule establishes the annual quotas for the 2009 fishing season for sandbar sharks, non–sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS), small coastal sharks (SCS), and pelagic sharks managed under Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This final rule also establishes the opening date for the commercial Atlantic shark fisheries. This action is expected to have minimal negative impacts on commercial fishermen in the Atlantic commercial shark fishery as only a small overharvest occurred in the porbeagle shark fishery in 2008.

DATES: This final rule is effective on January 23, 2009. The 2009 Atlantic commercial shark fishing season and quotas are provided in Table 1 under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East–West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karyl Brewster–Geisz by phone: 301–713–2347, or by fax: 301–713–1917, or Jackie Wilson by phone: 240–338–3936.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Atlantic shark fishery is managed under the authority of the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson–Stevens Act). The regulations outlined in the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP and its amendments are implemented at 50 CFR part 635.

On June 24, 2008, NMFS published a final rule (73 FR 35778, corrected at 73 FR 40658, July 15, 2008) implementing Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. That final rule established annual base quotas for SCS and pelagic

sharks and adjusted base annual quotas for non–sandbar LCS and sandbar sharks through December 31, 2012, to account for large overharvests that occurred in 2007. That final rule also established accounting measures for under– and overharvests for future years' adjusted quota calculations and redefined the regions in the shark fishery.

As a result of that final rule, the Atlantic shark annual base quotas and adjusted base annual quotas apply to all areas of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea, with the exception of non–sandbar LCS quota outside of the shark research fishery. The non–sandbar LCS adjusted base annual quota outside the research fishery is split between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. The boundary delineating these two regions is a line beginning on the east coast of Florida at the mainland at 25°20.4′ N. lat, proceeding due east. Any water and land to the south and west of that boundary is considered, for the purposes of quota monitoring and setting of quotas, to be within the Gulf of Mexico region. Any water and land to the north and east of that boundary, for the purposes of quota monitoring and setting of quotas, is considered to be within the Atlantic region.

The June 2008 final rule established a process of issuing a proposed and final rule for notification of fishing season and quotas. On October 27, 2008, NMFS published a proposed rule (73 FR 63668) announcing the fishing season for 2009 and the 2009 proposed quotas based on shark landings information as of September 15, 2008. One comment from the public was received on the proposed rule. This final rule serves as notification of the 2009 fishing season and 2009 quotas, based on shark landings updates as of November 15, 2008, pursuant to 50 CFR 635.27(b)(1)(vii). This action does not change the annual base and adjusted base annual commercial quotas as established under Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP and its June 24, 2008 final rule.

Response to Comments

Comments on the October 27, 2008 proposed rule (73 FR 63668) received during the public comment period are summarized below, together with NMFS's responses.

Comment 1: Fishermen are not reporting accurate landings, so NMFS does not have accurate records for determining the next year's fishing quotas. NMFS should include an extra 40 percent in the landings to account for underreporting of catch by fishermen. Sandbar sharks are vanishing due the lack of management measures to protect this species.

Response: NMFS relies on HMS dealer reports to monitor the shark quotas. However, NMFS also has scientific observer data from the shark research fishery that can be used to assess the accuracy of reported landings in dealer reports. In the future, as NMFS gathers more information in the shark research fishery, NMFS can determine whether or not underreporting is occurring and the appropriate approach to account for underreporting, as necessary. NMFS also uses scientific observer data in the stock assessments to verify, among other things, disposition of discards, interactions with protected resources, and fishing practices within the commercial shark fisheries. Through the NMFS observer program data, assessment scientists are able to account for non–reported mortality, such as sharks used for bait and dead discards of sharks.

NMFS implemented the final rule for Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP on July 24, 2008 (73 FR 35778, June 24, 2008, corrected at 73 FR 40658, July 15, 2008). This final rule put in place a rebuilding plan for sandbar sharks, which includes a reduced quota for sandbar sharks that accounts for mortality of sandbar sharks in other fisheries as well as the directed shark fishery to ensure that the level of mortality for sandbar sharks remains below the total allowable catch recommended by the latest LCS stock assessment. This, in addition to other measures implemented under Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, such as the establishment of a shark research fishery and the requirement that all sharks be offloaded with their fins naturally attached, will help rebuild this species.

Changes from the Proposed Rule

1. At the time the proposed rule published, shark landings updates (through September 15, 2008) indicated there were no overharvests for any of the shark species/complexes in the 2008 fishing year. Thus, the proposed 2009 shark quotas were the annual base quotas and adjusted base annual quotas established in Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. However, on November 18, 2008, NMFS closed the porbeagle shark fishery as it had reached 116 percent (2.0 mt dw; 4,349 lb dw) of its quota. As of November 15, 2008, 2.0 mt dw were landed, which exceeds the 1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw) annual base porbeagle shark quota. Therefore, the 2009 annual commercial porbeagle quota will be reduced by 0.3 mt dw (601 lb dw) to account for this overharvest (1.7 mt dw annual base quota − 2.0 mt dw of 2008 landings = –0.3 mt dw overharvest). The 2009 adjusted annual commercial porbeagle quota will be 1.4 mt dw (3,147 lb dw) (1.7 mt dw annual base quota − 0.3 mt dw 2008 overage = 1.4 mt dw 2009 adjusted annual quota).

Available Quotas

The calculations and details for establishing the individual shark species/complexes quotas are described in the proposed rule (73 FR 63668, October 27, 2008) and are not repeated here. The quotas for the 2009 Atlantic commercial shark fishing season by species and species group are summarized in Table 1. If any additional quotas are exceeded between November 15, 2008 (the landings update used in this final rule), and December 31, 2008 (the end of the fishing season), the available 2009 quotas will be adjusted accordingly in a separate notice per 635.27(b)(1)(vii)(A), which states that overharvests will be adjusted for in the following fishing season. However, NMFS does not expect additional overharvests for the 2008 fishing year because there has not been a traditional shark fishery this late in the season in the past and because of the reduced trip limits imposed with the implementation of Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. Catch rates are also expected to decline as water temperatures decrease in the winter months and many shark species move farther offshore.

Currently, blacknose sharks, within the SCS complex, and sandbar sharks have been determined to be overfished with overfishing occurring. Porbeagle sharks have been determined to be overfished. Blue sharks and pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks have an unknown stock status. In 2006 blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico region were determined to not be overfished with no overfishing occurring. However, blacktip sharks currently are managed in the non–sandbar LCS complex for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions, the status of which has been determined to be unknown. Therefore, since the individual species, complexes, and species within a complex have all been determined to be either overfished, overfished with overfishing occurring, or unknown, no underharvests from the 2008 Atlantic commercial shark fishing season will be applied to the 2009 annual base quotas or adjusted base annual quotas. Thus, with the exception of porbeagle sharks, the 2009 quotas will be equal to the base annual quotas

for SCS, blue sharks, and pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks and the adjusted base annual quotas for sandbar sharks and non–sandbar LCS as established under Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP.

TABLE 1. 2009 QUOTAS FOR NON–SANDBAR LCS, SANDBAR SHARKS, SCS, BLUE SHARKS, PORBEAGLE SHARKS, AND PELAGIC SHARKS OTHER THAN PORBEAGLE OR BLUE SHARKS FOR THE 2009 COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHING SEASON. THE 2009 COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHING SEASON WILL OPEN ON JANUARY 23, 2009.

Species Group	Region	2008 Base Annual Quota	2008 Landings[2]	Overharvest	2009 Annual Quota
Non–Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks[1]	Gulf of Mexico	390.5 (860,896 lb dw)	268.4 (591,682 lb dw)	–	390.5 (860,896 lb dw)
	Atlantic	187.8 (414,024 lb dw)	127 (279,998 lb dw)	–	187.8 (414,024 lb dw)
Non–Sandbar LCS Research Quota[1]	No regional quotas	37.5 (82,673 lb dw)	5.9 (13,106.7 lb dw)	–	37.5 (82,673 lb dw)
Sandbar Research Quota[1]		87.9 (193,784 lb dw)	63.3 (139,583 lb dw)	–	87.9 (193,784 lb dw)
Small Coastal Sharks		454 (1,000,888 lb dw)	245.5 (541,120 lb dw)	–	454 (1,000,888 lb dw)
Blue Sharks		273 (601,856 lb dw)	1.5 (3,212 lb dw	–	273 (601,856 lb dw)
Porbeagle Sharks		1.7 (3,748 lb dw)	2 (4,349 lb dw)	0.3 (601 lb dw)	1.4 (3,147 lb dw)
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 (1,075,856 lb dw)	101 (222,774 lb dw)	–	488 (1,075,856 lb dw)

[1]Annual base quotas for these species/complexes are the quotas being implemented from July 24, 2008, until December 31, 2012.
[2]Landings are from January 1, 2008, until November 15, 2008, and are subject to change.
[3]All quotas and landings are dressed weight (dw), in metric tons (mt), unless specified otherwise.

1. 2009 Quotas for Non–Sandbar LCS and Sandbar Sharks Within the Shark Research Fishery

Since no overharvests of the non–sandbar LCS and sandbar shark quotas within the shark research fishery occurred during the 2008 fishing year, pursuant to Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, the 2009 adjusted base annual quotas within the shark research fishery will be 37.5 mt dw (82,673 lb dw) for non–sandbar LCS and 87.9 mt dw (193,784 lb dw) for sandbar sharks.

2. 2009 Quotas for the Non–Sandbar LCS in the Gulf of Mexico Region

Since no overharvests of the non–sandbar LCS quota for the Gulf of Mexico region occurred during the 2008 fishing year, pursuant to Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, the 2009 adjusted base annual quota for non–sandbar LCS in the Gulf of Mexico region will be 390.5 mt dw (860,896 lb dw).

3. 2009 Quotas for the Non–Sandbar LCS in the Atlantic Region

Since no overharvests of the non–sandbar LCS quota for the Atlantic region occurred during the 2008 fishing year, pursuant to Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, the 2009 adjusted base annual quota for non–sandbar LCS in the Atlantic region will be 187.8 mt dw (414,024 lb dw).

4. 2009 Quotas for SCS and Pelagic Sharks

Since no overharvests of small coastal sharks, blue sharks, and pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks occurred during the 2008 fishing year, pursuant to Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, the 2009 annual base quotas for small coastal sharks, blue sharks, and pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks will be 454 mt dw (1,000,888 lb dw), 273 mt dw (601,856 lb dw), and 488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw), respectively.

However, as of November 15, 2008, reported landings of porbeagle sharks was 2.0 mt dw (4,349 lb dw) (116 percent of the 2008 1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw) annual base quota). Therefore, to date, an overharvest of 0.3 mt dw (601 lb dw) occurred during the 2008 fishing season (1.7 mt dw annual base quota − 2.0 mt dw 2008 landings = –0.3 mt dw of overharvest). Per 50 CFR 635.27(b)(1)(vii)(A), if the available quota is exceeded in any fishing season, NMFS will deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) from the following fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), NMFS may deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years. Given the small overharvest of 0.3 mt dw (601 lb dw) in 2008 (16 percent of the annual base porbeagle quota), NMFS will deduct the entire 2008 overharvest from the 2009 annual base commercial porbeagle quota. This results in a 2009 adjusted annual commercial porbeagle quota of 1.4 mt dw (3,147 lb dw) (1.7 mt dw annual base quota − 0.3 mt dw 2008 overage = 1.4 mt dw 2009 adjusted annual quota).

Fishing Season Notification for the 2009 Atlantic Commercial Shark Fishing Season

The 2009 Atlantic commercial shark fishing season for non–sandbar LCS, sandbar sharks, SCS, blue sharks, porbeagle sharks, and pelagic sharks other than porbeagle and blue sharks in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, will open on January 23, 2009. The fishery will remain open until December 31, 2009, unless NMFS calculates that the fishing season landings for sandbar shark, non–sandbar LCS, SCS, blue shark, porbeagle shark, or pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks has reached, or is projected to reach, 80 percent of the available

quota. At that time, consistent with 50 CFR 635.28(b)(2), NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the **Federal Register** a notice of closure for that shark species group and/or region that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure until NMFS announces, via a notice in the **Federal Register**, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, the fishery for the shark species group and, for non–sandbar LCS, region would remain closed, even across fishing years, consistent with 50 CFR 635.28(b)(2).

Classification

This final rule is published under the authority of the Magnuson–Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* Consistent with 50 CFR 635.27(b)(1)(vii), the purpose of this action is to adjust the Atlantic shark annual quotas based on over– and/or underharvests from the 2008 commercial shark fishing season. This final rule will not increase the overall quotas or landings for non–sandbar LCS, sandbar sharks, SCS, blue, porbeagle, or pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks, and is not expected to increase fishing effort or protected species interactions.

On June 24, 2008, NMFS published a final rule (73 FR 35778, corrected at 73 FR 40658 on July 15, 2008) for Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP that established adjusted base annual quotas for non–sandbar LCS and sandbar sharks. The final rule also established annual base quotas for SCS, porbeagle sharks, blue sharks, and pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks. A final regulatory flexibility analysis (FRFA) conducted for the final rule for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP indicated that, as of October 2007, there were approximately 231 directed commercial shark permit holders, 296 incidental commercial shark permit holders, and 269 Atlantic shark dealer permit holders, all of which are considered small entities according to the Small Business Administration's standard for defining a small entity. As of November 2008, there were approximately 221 directed commercial shark permit holders, 285 incidental commercial shark permit holders, and 108 commercial shark dealers. The FRFA concluded that the economic impacts on these small entities, resulting from adjusting the quotas for under– or overharvests in subsequent years via proposed and final rulemaking, were expected to be minimal.

This final rule will not change the adjusted base annual non–sandbar LCS and sandbar shark quotas or the annual base quotas for SCS, blue, porbeagle, or pelagic sharks other than porbeagle or blue sharks established in the final rule for Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP nor will it implement any new management measures not previously considered, and it is not expected to increase fishing effort or protected species interactions. This final rule will adjust the quotas for each species/species complex based on any overharvests from the 2008 Atlantic commercial shark fishing season consistent with 50 CFR 635.27(b)(1)(vii). Since the individual species, complexes, and species within a complex have all been determined to be either overfished, overfished with overfishing occurring, or unknown, no underharvests from the 2008 Atlantic commercial shark fishing season will be applied to the 2009 annual quotas or adjusted base quotas.

As of November 15, 2008, reported landings of porbeagle sharks was 2.0 mt dw (4,349 lb dw) (116 percent of the 2008 annual base quota of 1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)). Therefore, an overharvest of 0.3 mt dw (601 lb dw) occurred during the 2008 fishing season. Per 50 CFR 635.27(b)(1)(vii)(A), NMFS will deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) from the following fishing season or, depending on the level of overharvest(s), NMFS may deduct an amount equivalent to the overharvest(s) spread over a number of subsequent fishing seasons to a maximum of five years. This results in a 2009 adjusted annual commercial porbeagle quota of 1.4 mt dw (3,147 lb dw) (1.7 mt dw annual base quota − 0.3 mt dw 2008 overage = 1.4 mt dw 2009 adjusted annual quota). Based on 2007 ex–vessel prices of $0.66 per pound for porbeagle flesh and $13.84 per pound for fins, this will result in net economic impact of –$793.37 during the 2009 fishing season as the 2009 annual base commercial porbeagle quota will be reduced by 601 lb dw (0.3 mt dw) to account for the 2008 overharvest ($0.66 per pound x 570.9 pounds of porbeagle flesh + $13.84 per pound for fins x 30.1 pounds of porbeagle fins [assuming 5 percent of the dressed weight is fin weight] = $793.37). The net economic impact of approximately –$793.37 represents a small fraction of the overall gross revenues for the Atlantic commercial shark fishery (approximately $8.1 million in 2006) and does not represent a significant negative economic impact.

Since the other individual species/complexes' 2009 quotas will be the same as those implemented in the final rule for Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, there are no expected economic impacts to fishermen other than those already analyzed in Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. Thus, the Chief Counsel for Regulation at the Department of Commerce certified at the proposed rule stage to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities beyond those considered in Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP and its final rule (73 FR 35778, corrected at 73 FR 40658). NMFS provided prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on the proposed rule (73 FR 63668, October 27, 2008) to establish the 2009 Atlantic commercial shark quotas and fishing season.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposed of Executive Order 12866.

Dated: December 18, 2008.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–30711 Filed 12–23–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 060824226–6322–02]

RIN 0648–AX46

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; inseason adjustments to biennial groundfish management measures; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This final rule announces inseason changes to management measures in the commercial Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries. These actions, which are authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), are intended to allow fisheries to access more abundant groundfish stocks while

Allowing prior notice and opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because of the need to immediately implement this action to protect the fishery since the capacity of the fishing fleet allows for rapid harvest of the quota. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require time and would potentially result in a harvest well in excess of the established quota.

For the aforementioned reasons, the AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.43(a) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 12, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–18937 Filed 8–12–08; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[Docket No. 0612242866–8888–03]

RIN 0648–AU89

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Atlantic Shark Management Measures

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; effectiveness of collection-of-information requirements.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of collection-of-information requirements contained in regulations implementing Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This final rule sets forth the effective date of the collection-of-information requirements.

DATES: The collection-of-information requirements in § 635.5 will be effective on September 15, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted to David Rostker, OMB, by e-mail to *David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov*, or fax to 202–395–7285.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jackie Wilson, NMFS HMS Management Division, 240–338–3936.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is also accessible on the internet at: *www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html*.

Background

A final rule for Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP was published in the **Federal Register** on June 24, 2008 (73 FR 35778), and a correction was published on July 15, 2008 (73 FR 40658). That final rule became effective on July 24, 2008. The OMB approval of the collection-of-information requirements for § 635.5 had not been received by the date the final rule was submitted to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Because OMB approval of the collection-of-information requirements had not been received by NMFS by the date the final rule was published, the effective date of the associated recordkeeping and reporting requirements in that rule was delayed.

OMB approved the collection-of-information requirements contained in the rule on June 23, 2008. Accordingly, this final rule makes effective the collection-of-information requirements at § 635.5 contained in the final rule published on June 24, 2008.

Classification

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.tanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, and no person shall be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection-of-information requirement subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection-of-information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This final rule contains revisions to collection-of- information requirements subject to the PRA under OMB Control Number 0648–0040. NMFS sought approval regarding the addition of a check box on the HMS dealer form. This check box would allow HMS dealers to note whether or not shark fins were naturally attached to the shark through offloading. NMFS does not expect that the addition of a check box regarding shark fins would add to the reporting burden.

Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of this data collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to David Rostker at *David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov*, or fax to 202–395–7285.

Dated: August 11, 2008.

James W. Balsiger

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–18944 Filed 8–14–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 071106671–8010–02]

RIN 0648–XJ72

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Thornyhead Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of thornyhead rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary because the 2008 total allowable catch (TAC) of thornyhead rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 13, 2008, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Hogan, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 2008 TAC of thornyhead rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is 267 metric tons (mt) as established by the 2008 and 2009 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (73 FR 10562, February 27, 2008).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 2008 TAC of

usefulness.'' 56 FR at 28249. FRA intended that the listing be updated whenever it does not accurately identify the person(s) certified and qualified (i.e., when the listing's usefulness is diminished). Ideally, the listing should be updated each time a person is newly certified and qualified, and each time a person is no longer considered certified or qualified.

With regard to updating the listing of foreign locomotive engineers in joint operation territories, it should be noted that FRA considers it more important to remove the name of any foreign engineer who is no longer considered certified or qualified for joint operations territory then to fail to add a person who has recently become certified and qualified. When a controlling railroad questions a foreign engineer's certification or qualifications and the engineer's name is not found on the list, the controlling railroad would be expected to immediately contact the foreign railroad in order to confirm the person's status before allowing the foreign engineer to proceed into the joint operations territory. Alternatively, if a controlling railroad were to question a foreign engineer's certification or qualifications and the engineer's name is found on the list, the controlling railroad would likely be expected to rely on the list and would be exercising due diligence in doing so. If the list is incorrect and the person's name should have been removed, the controlling railroad cannot be expected to prevent an unqualified person from operating in the joint operations territory.

Several major railroads have voiced concern that because the listing is in such a constant state of flux, it would be extremely difficult to maintain an accurate listing at all times. In the joint operation context, a major railroad may face the challenge of coordinating a listing that includes separate lists submitted by more than 100 foreign railroads. Although FRA agrees that it will be challenging for some railroads that allow extensive joint operations to maintain an accurate written list, such railroads may find it easier to comply by maintaining the listing electronically. Maintaining the listing electronically has always been an option pursuant to § 240.221(f), but it has not been extensively utilized. There is no question that modern technology has greatly improved since the rule's issuance in 1991, and thus the ability and desire to electronically maintain the listing should be much greater. For example, it is possible to maintain a secure Web site where a controlling railroad can search a foreign railroad's uploaded list of locomotive engineers to check: (1) Whether the person is certified and qualified for the joint operations territory; (2) the person's class of service; and, (3) the date of the railroad's certification decision. Another option may be for a foreign railroad to tap into its railroad crew management tracking system to produce a more detailed written or electronic list of its engineers to controlling railroads than what is currently being made available. Other electronically maintained options may be available and FRA encourages railroads controlling joint operations to consider options that would improve the usefulness of the required listing. Any railroad that would like to maintain the listing electronically is required to obtain approval from FRA pursuant to the requirements in § 240.221(f).

While FRA recognizes that recent changes in status to any particular engineer might not be reflected in the listing immediately, FRA expects the listing to be updated with enough regularity so that it retains its usefulness.

FRA believes that this notice provides sufficient information to guide parties that may have been confused by the requirements of § 240.221. However, FRA seeks comments on this notice from interested parties including any suggestions for providing more clarity, if necessary. Please refer to the Addresses section for additional information regarding the submission of comments.

Issued in Washington DC on August 21, 2008.

Jo Strang,

Associate Administrator for Safety.

[FR Doc. E8–20032 Filed 8–28–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 541

[Docket No. NHTSA–2008–0049]

RIN 2127–AK31

Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2009 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2009

Correction

In rule document E8–18890 beginning on page 47847 in the issue of Friday, August 15, 2008, make the following correction:

Appendix A–I to Part 541 [Corrected]

On page 47849, in Appendix A–I to Part 541, in the second column of the table, in the 44th line entry, ''Genesis[3]'' should read''Genesis[1]''.

[FR Doc. Z8–18890 Filed 8–28–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1505–01–D

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

RIN 0648–XJ69

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason retention limit adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the Atlantic tunas General category daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limit should be adjusted for the September, October-November, and December time periods of the 2008 fishing year, based on consideration of the determination criteria regarding inseason adjustments.

DATES: The effective dates for the adjusted BFT daily retention limits are September 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin or Brad McHale, 978–281–9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.27 subdivides the U.S. BFT quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) among the various domestic fishing categories, per the allocations established in the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (Consolidated HMS FMP). The latest (2006) ICCAT recommendation for western Atlantic BFT included a U.S. quota of 1,190.12 mt, effective beginning in 2007, through 2008, and thereafter until changed (i.e., via a new ICCAT

recommendation). It is possible that additional changes to the daily retention limit (i.e., for the January 2009 General category fishery) may be necessary following ICCAT's annual meeting in November 2008.

The 2008 fishing year began on January 1, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. NMFS published final specifications on December 31, 2007 (72 FR 74193) and increased the default General category retention limit of one large medium or giant BFT (measuring 73 inches (185 cm) curved fork length (CFL) or greater) per vessel per day/trip to three large medium or giant BFT, measuring 73 inches CFL or greater, per vessel per day/trip for June 1 through August 31, 2008. Regardless of the duration of a fishing trip, no more than the daily retention limit may be on board a vessel. In addition, NMFS stated that it would consider adjustment of retention limits for future time periods, if warranted. In 2007, NMFS followed a similar course of action and raised General category retention limits via inseason actions to allow for a continuous three BFT retention limit, including for the January 2008 time period (72 FR 50257, August 31, 2007 and 72 FR 61565, October 31, 2007) .

Adjustment of General Category Daily Retention Limits

Under 50 CFR 635.23(a)(4), NMFS may increase or decrease the daily retention limit of large medium and giant BFT over a range of zero to a maximum of three per vessel based on consideration of the criteria provided under § 635.27(a)(8), which include: the usefulness of information obtained from catches in the particular category for biological sampling and monitoring of the status of the stock; the catches of the particular category quota to date and the likelihood of closure of that segment of the fishery if no adjustment is made; the projected ability of the vessels fishing under the particular category quota to harvest the additional amount of BFT before the end of the fishing year; the estimated amounts by which quotas for other gear categories of the fishery might be exceeded; effects of the adjustment on BFT rebuilding and overfishing; effects of the adjustment on accomplishing the objectives of the fishery management plan; variations in seasonal distribution, abundance, or migration patterns of BFT; effects of catch rates in one area precluding vessels in another area from having a reasonable opportunity to harvest a portion of the category's quota; and a review of dealer reports, daily landing trends, and the availability of the BFT on the fishing grounds.

As of August 1, 2008, the coastwide General category has landed 50.8 metric tons (mt) out of a possible 740 mt, and landings rates remain less that 1.0 mt per day even though the General category retention limit was increased to three BFT per vessel per trip, measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL or greater for January and for June through August 2008. Starting on September 1, 2008, the General category daily retention limit, located at 50 CFR 635.23(a)(2), is scheduled to revert back to the default retention limit of one large medium or giant BFT (measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL) or greater per vessel per day/trip. This scheduled retention limit applies to General category permitted vessels and HMS Charter/Headboat category permitted vessels (when fishing commercially for BFT).

Each of the General category time periods (January, June-August, September, October-November, and December) is allocated a portion of the annual General category quota, thereby ensuring extended fishing opportunities in years when catch rates are high. In consideration of the rollover of unused quota from the January and June-August time periods, current catch rates, and the daily retention limit reverting to one large medium or giant BFT per vessel per day on September 1, 2008, NMFS anticipates the full 2008 fishing year General category quota will not be harvested. Adding an excessive amount of unused quota from one time-period subquota to the subsequent time-period subquota is undesirable because it effectively changes the time-period subquota allocation percentages established in the Consolidated HMS FMP and may contribute to excessive carryovers to subsequent fishing years.

NMFS has considered the set of criteria cited above and their applicability to the commercial BFT retention limit for the remainder of the 2008 fishing year. Based on these considerations, NMFS has determined that the General category retention should be adjusted to allow for retention of the established General category quota. Therefore, NMFS increases the General category retention limit from the default limits effective September 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008. This adjustment increases the General category daily retention limit to three large medium or giant BFT, measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL or greater, per vessel per day/trip. This General category retention limit is effective in all areas, except for the Gulf of Mexico, and applies to those vessel permitted in the General category as well as to those HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessels fishing commercially for BFT.

This adjustment is intended to provide a reasonable opportunity to harvest the U.S. landings quota of BFT while maintaining an equitable distribution of fishing opportunities, to help achieve optimum yield in the General category BFT fishery, to collect a broad range of data for stock monitoring purposes, and to be consistent with the objectives of the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Monitoring and Reporting

NMFS selected the daily retention limit and the duration after examining an array of data as it pertains to the determination criteria. These data included, but were not limited to, current and previous catch and effort rates, quota availability, previous public comments on inseason management measures, stock status, etc. NMFS will continue to monitor the BFT fishery closely through the mandatory dealer landing reports, which NMFS requires to be submitted within 24 hours of a dealer receiving BFT. Depending on the level of fishing effort and catch rates of BFT, NMFS may determine that additional retention limit adjustments are necessary to ensure available quota is not exceeded or to enhance scientific data collection from, and fishing opportunities in, all geographic areas.

Closures or subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, will be published in the **Federal Register**. In addition, fishermen may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872–8862 or (978) 281–9260, or access the internet at *www.hmspermits.gov*, for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for NMFS (AA), finds that it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to provide prior notice of, and an opportunity for public comment on, this action for the following reasons:

NMFS continues to receive information refining its understanding of the commercial sector's specific needs regarding retention limits through the latter portions of the 2008 season. NMFS assessments and analyses show catch rates to date have been low and that there is sufficient quota for an increase to the General category retention limit during the months of September through December 2008.

The regulations implementing the Consolidated HMS FMP provide for inseason retention limit adjustments to respond to the unpredictable nature of BFT availability on the fishing grounds, the migratory nature of this species, and the regional variations in the BFT

fishery. Affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment to implement these retention limits is impracticable as it would preclude NMFS from acting promptly to allow harvest of BFT that are available on the fishing grounds. Analysis of available data shows that the General category BFT retention limits may be increased with minimal risks of exceeding the ICCAT-allocated quota.

Delays in increasing these retention limits would adversely affect those General and Charter/Headboat category vessels that would otherwise have an opportunity to harvest more than the default retention limit of one BFT per day and may exacerbate the problem of low catch rates and quota rollovers. Limited opportunities to harvest the respective quotas may have negative social and economic impacts to U.S. fishermen that either depend upon catching the available quota within the time periods designated in the Consolidated HMS FMP. Adjustment to the retention limit needs to be effective September 1, 2008, to minimize any unnecessary disruption in fishing patterns and for the impacted sectors to benefit from the adjustments so as to not preclude fishing opportunities from fishermen who only have access to the fishery during this time period.

Therefore, the AA finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment. For all of the above reasons, and because this action relieves a restriction (i.e., current default retention limit is one fish per vessel/trip but this action increases that limit and allows retention of more fish), there is also good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d) to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness.

This action is being taken under 50 CFR 635.23(a)(4) and (b)(3) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 26, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–20181 Filed 8–28–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 071106671–8010–02]

RIN 0648–XK11

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the C season allowance of the 2008 total allowable catch (TAC) of pollock for Statistical Area 630 in the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 26, 2008, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., October 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Hogan, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The C season allowance of the 2008 TAC of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA is 4,431 metric tons (mt) as established by the 2008 and 2009 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (73 FR 10562, February 27, 2008). In accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(iv)(B) the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), hereby decreases the C season pollock allowance by 753 mt, the amount of the B season allowance of the pollock TAC that was exceeded in Statistical Area 630. Therefore, the revised C season allowance of the pollock TAC in Statistical Area 630 is 3,678 mt (4,431 mt minus 753 mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Regional Administrator has determined that the C season allowance of the 2008 TAC of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 3,518 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 160 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA.

After the effective date of this closure the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay the closure of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of August 25, 2008.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 26, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8–20156 Filed 8–26–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

FY 2009 PROCESSING AND FILING FEE TABLE—Continued

Document/action	FY 2009 fee
Shasta and Trinity hardrock mineral lease	25
Renewal of existing sand and gravel lease in Nevada	25
Multiple Use; Mining (part 3730):	
Notice of protest of placer mining operations	10
Mining Law Administration (parts 3800, 3810, 3830, 3850, 3860, 3870):	
Application to open lands to location	10
Notice of location*	15
Amendment of location	10
Transfer of mining claim/site	10
Recording an annual FLPMA filing	10
Deferment of assessment work	100
Recording a notice of intent to locate mining claims on Stockraising Homestead Act lands	25
Mineral patent adjudication	2,760 (more than 10 claims) 1,380 (10 or fewer claims)
Adverse claim	100
Protest	60

*To record a mining claim or site location, you must pay this processing fee along with the initial maintenance fee and the one-time location fee required by statute. (43 CFR part 3833).

[FR Doc. E8–22255 Filed 9–22–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–84–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 635

[Docket No. 070801432–8663–02]

RIN 0648–AV92

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Pelagic and Bottom Longline Fisheries; Gear Authorization and Turtle Control Devices

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS authorizes green-stick gear for the harvest of Atlantic tunas, including bluefin tuna (BFT), and requires a sea turtle control device in Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) pelagic longline (PLL) and bottom longline (BLL) fisheries. At this time, NMFS is not authorizing harpoon gear for the harvest of Atlantic tunas in the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Charter/Headboat (CHB) category as originally proposed. The purpose of this final rule is to ensure fishermen harvest Atlantic tunas within quotas, size limits, or other established limitations and to distinguish green-stick fishing gear from current definitions of other authorized gear types. This final rule also addresses use of sea turtle control devices in the PLL and BLL fisheries to achieve and maintain low post-release mortality of sea turtles thus maintaining consistency with the 2004 Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Atlantic PLL fishery and to increase safety at sea for fishermen when handling sea turtles caught or entangled in longline fishing gear. NMFS also has revised its list of equipment models that NMFS has approved as meeting the minimum design specifications for the careful release of sea turtles caught in hook and line fisheries.

DATES: The amendments to § 600.725; § 635.2; § 635.21 introductory text (first sentence), (c)(2)(v)(A), (c)(2)(v)(B), (c)(5)(iii)(C)(*3*), (e)(1)(ii), (e)(1)(iii), (e)(1)(v), (g); and § 635.71 are effective on October 23, 2008. The amendments to § 635.21 introductory text (second sentence), (c)(2)(v)(D), (c)(2)(v)(G), (c)(5)(i) introductory text, (c)(5)(i)(M), (c)(5)(ii)(A), and (c)(5)(ii)(C)(*1*) are effective on January 1, 2009.

ADDRESSES: For copies of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA), or other related documents, please write to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or call at (301)713-2347 or fax to (301)713-1917. Copies are also available on the HMS website at *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Blankinship, 727-824-5399, or Sarah McLaughlin, 978-281-9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Atlantic tunas are managed under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). ATCA authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to promulgate regulations, as may be necessary and appropriate, to implement recommendations by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The authority to issue regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and ATCA has been delegated from the Secretary to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA). The implementing regulations for Atlantic HMS are at 50 CFR parts 600 and 635.

On May 28, 1999, NMFS published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 29090) final regulations, effective July 1, 1999, implementing the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (1999 FMP). Among other things, these regulations included a list of fishing gears authorized for harvest of HMS. On October 2, 2006, NMFS published in the **Federal Register** final regulations (71 FR 58058), effective November 1, 2006, implementing the ''Final Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan'' (Consolidated HMS FMP), which consolidated the management of all Atlantic HMS (i.e., sharks, swordfish, tunas, and billfish) into one comprehensive FMP.

Background

Background information about green-stick gear authorization and sea turtle control device requirements was provided in the preamble to the proposed rule (73 FR 24924; May 6, 2008). Please see the proposed rule for complete background information. This final rule: (1) authorizes green-stick gear for the harvest of Atlantic tunas by Atlantic Tunas General category permitted vessels; (2) authorizes green-stick gear for the harvest of Atlantic tunas by HMS CHB permitted vessels; (3) authorizes green-stick gear for harvest of Atlantic tunas by Atlantic Tunas Longline category permitted vessels (but continues to restrict BFT retention to incidental retention only); and (4) requires possession and use of a sea turtle control device as an addition to the already existing requirements for sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear in PLL and BLL fisheries. This action is published in accordance with the framework procedures set forth in the Consolidated HMS FMP and is supported by the analytical documents prepared for the Consolidated HMS FMP. As described in the Response to Comments and Changes from the Proposed Rule sections of this document, NMFS has reconsidered the proposed rule preferred alternative regarding authorization of harpoon use on HMS CHB vessels and has decided to maintain the status quo for regulations regarding authorized harpoon use as Atlantic tuna fishing gear.

Fishing Gear Authorization—Green-Stick Gear

Green-stick gear is used primarily to catch yellowfin tuna (YFT) and consists of a mainline with hooks on leaders or gangions trolled from a long fiberglass or bamboo pole. Baits used with green-stick gear may be artificial or natural. Green-stick gear has been used in the Atlantic commercial and recreational bigeye (BET), albacore, YFT, skipjack (collectively referred to as BAYS tunas), and BFT fisheries since the mid-1990s, but it was not originally included as a separate gear on the list of authorized HMS fishery gears in the 1999 FMP. Logbook records show that commercial catches of BAYS and BFT with green-stick gear continued in the Atlantic Tunas General, Atlantic Tunas Longline, and the HMS CHB categories and were classified either as ''handgear'' catches in the Atlantic Tunas General and HMS CHB categories or as ''longline'' catches in the Atlantic Tunas Longline category, depending on gear configuration. In recent years, public comments indicate that green-stick gear use, managed under those regulations, did not well suit the fishing methods and locations preferred by fishermen wanting to use the gear.

The most recent YFT stock assessment, conducted in 2003, indicated that the stock may be approaching an overfished condition. YFT is the principal species of tropical tuna landed by U.S. fisheries in the western North Atlantic.

The latest western Atlantic BFT stock assessment conducted in 2006 indicated that the stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. The ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) considered this and other information when making recommendations to ICCAT for setting total allowable catch (TAC) limits that would allow for stock rebuilding. The results of the 2008 SCRS BFT stock assessment will be available this fall.

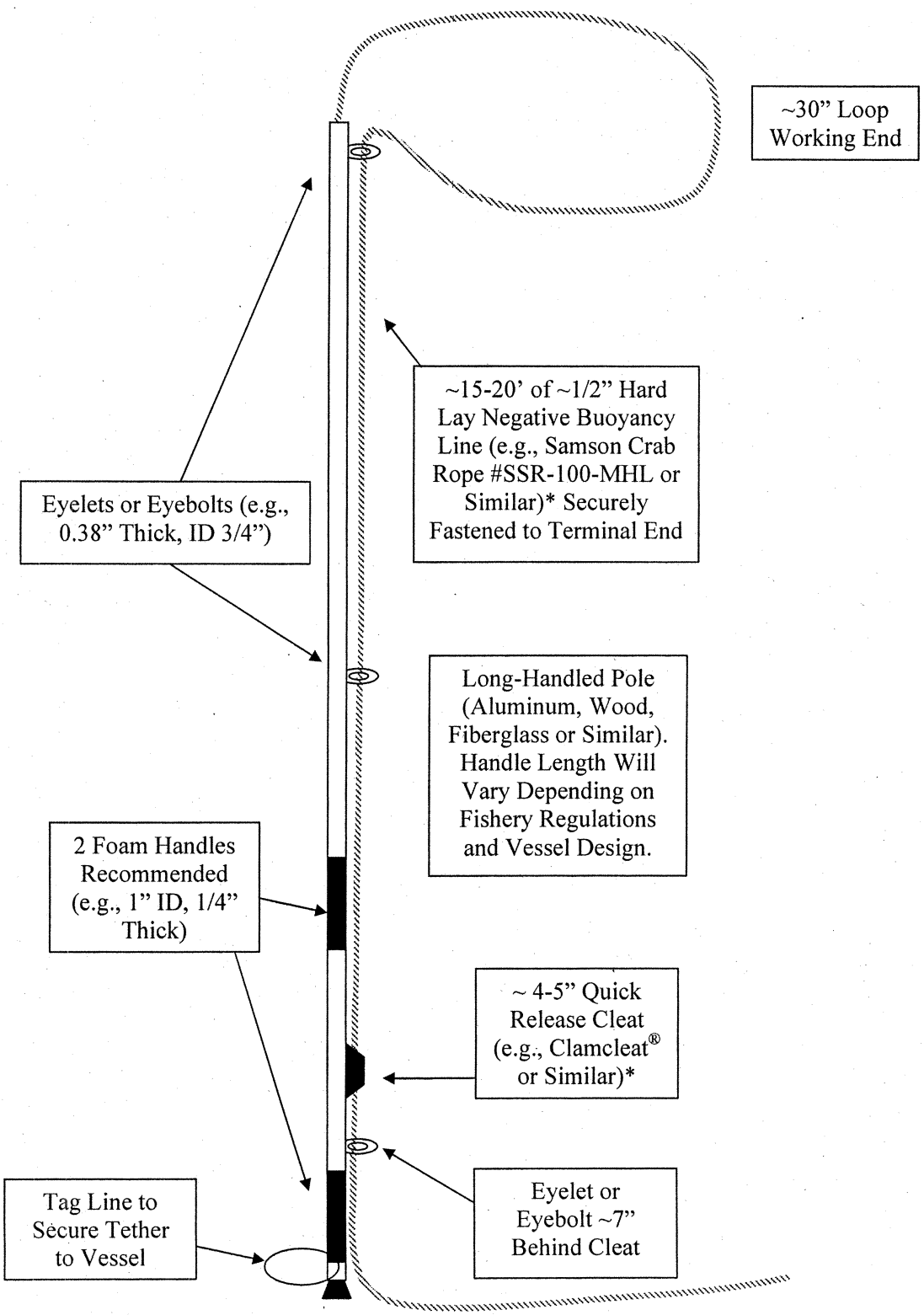
NMFS intends with this final rule to allow harvest of Atlantic tunas within existing quotas, size limits, or other established limitations with a gear that is generally efficient in harvesting target species and, at the same time, is low in bycatch and bycatch mortality. Allowing a gear with these characteristics may have benefits to target and non-target species over gear with higher bycatch and bycatch mortality levels. As described above, green-stick gear is used primarily for YFT; however, BFT is caught at times and represents a very low percentage of the catch with this gear.

Sea Turtle Control Device

The 2004 BiOp for the PLL fishery found that the long-term continued operation of the Atlantic PLL fishery as proposed was likely to jeopardize the continued existence of leatherback sea turtles, a species listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) under section 7 of the ESA (50 CFR 402.02) were developed and implemented to avoid jeopardy by, among other things, reducing post-release mortality of leatherback turtles. The RPAs included several measures to accomplish these goals, one of which was to require the use of gear removal measures to maximize post-release survival. On July 6, 2004, NMFS published the final rule (69 FR 40736) implementing sea turtle bycatch and bycatch mortality mitigation measures for the PLL fishery and provided for additional rulemaking and non-regulatory actions, as necessary, to implement any other management measures required under the 2004 BiOp.

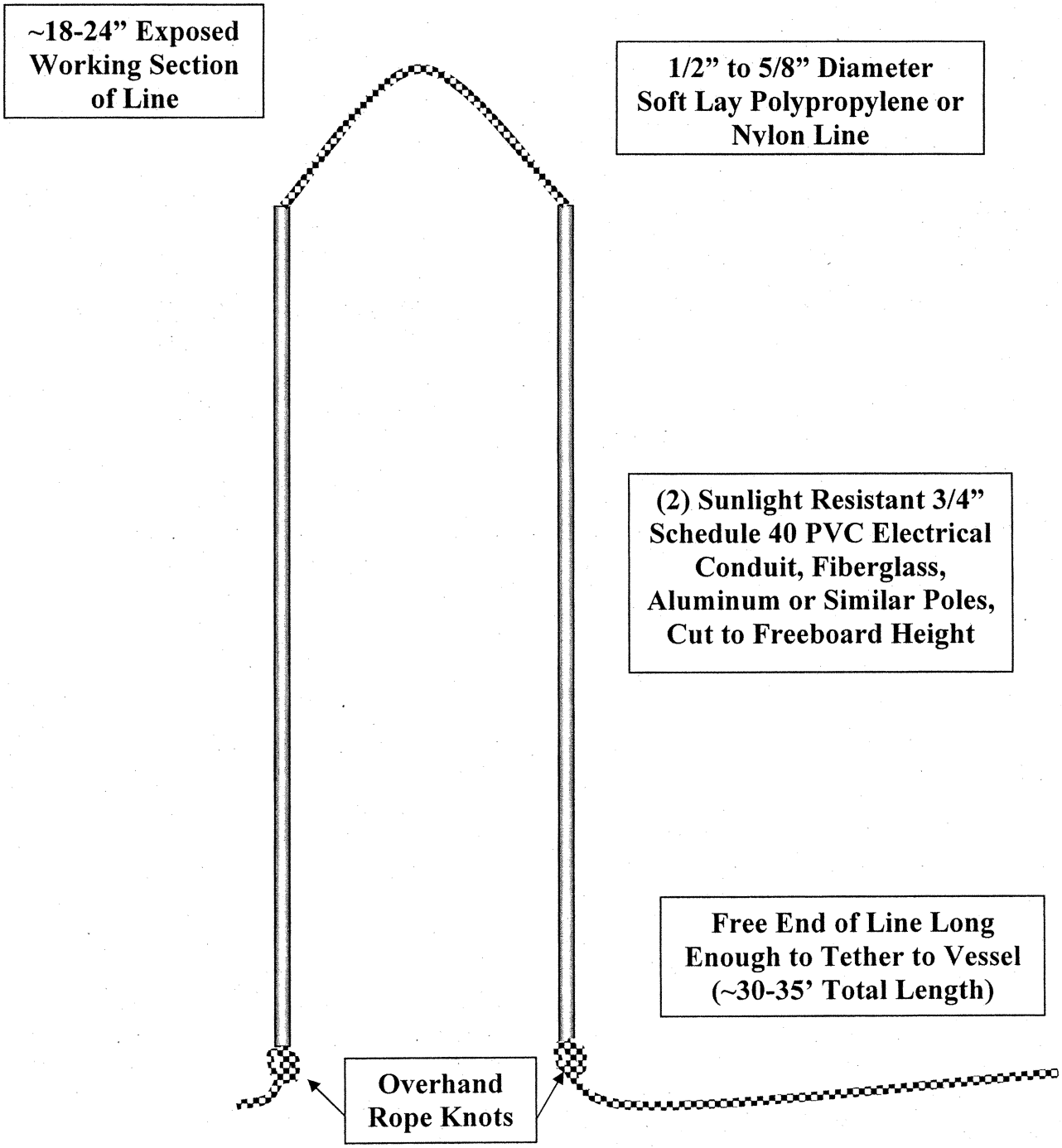
This final rule requires possession and use of a sea turtle control device as an addition to the already existing requirements for sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear. Two types of sea turtle control devices, the Turtle Tether and T&G Ninja Sticks (Figures 1 and 2), whether purchased or constructed, are approved to meet this requirement. These devices were developed by fishermen in the PLL fishery in response to safety concerns for fishing vessel crew members and for incidentally captured sea turtles, as well as to facilitate the likelihood of maximum gear removal and reducing post-release mortality. Subsequently, information collected by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center showed that use of these two types of sea turtle control devices better enabled fishermen to remove fishing hooks and line from sea turtles by better controlling the animals, thus likely reducing post-release hooking mortality of sea turtles.

Figure 1. Turtle Tether



* The use of Samson Crab Rope and Clamcleat® are by reference only and no endorsement or affiliation is implied.

Figure 2. T&G Ninja Sticks



The function of a turtle control device is to control the front flippers of the sea turtle so that the animal can be controlled at the side of the vessel while the gear is removed. Restraint is most effective when a pair of turtle control devices is used (two sets of turtle tethers, two sets of T&G ninja sticks, or one of each style). This rule requires that one turtle control device be possessed and used onboard; however, NMFS strongly recommends that two devices be possessed and used if vessel and crew size allow.

See Table 1 for a revised list of equipment models that NMFS has approved as meeting the minimum design specifications for the careful release of sea turtles caught in hook and line fisheries. The list includes both the required gears and NMFS-approved models of equipment that may be used as options to meet the requirements for gear that must be carried on board vessels participating in the Atlantic PLL and BLL fisheries (50 CFR 635.21(c)(5)(i) and (d)(3)(i)). Equipment

may also be fabricated and used by individuals according to the minimum design specifications (50 CFR 635.21(c)(5)(i)). The benefit of using these gears is to maximize safe and efficient gear removal from incidentally captured sea turtles thereby minimizing the potential for serious injury or mortality of the sea turtles.

TABLE 1. NMFS-APPROVED MODELS FOR EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE CAREFUL RELEASE OF SEA TURTLES CAUGHT IN HOOK AND LINE FISHERIES

Required Item	NMFS-Approved Models
(A) Long-handled line cutter, with one set of replacement blades*	LaForce Line Cutter; or Arceneaux Line Clipper
(B) Long-handled dehooker for ingested hooks*	ARC Pole Model Deep-Hooked Dehooker (Model BP11)[1]; or NOAA/Bergmann Dehooker[2] on long-handle
(C) Long-handled dehooker for external hooks[3]*	ARC Model LJ6P (6 ft (1.83 m)); or ARC Model LJ36; or ARC Pole Model Deep-Hooked Dehooker (Model BP11)[1]; or ARC 6 ft. (1.83 m) Pole Big Game Dehooker (Model P610); or Robey Dehooker on long-handle; or NOAA/Bergmann Dehooker on long-handle
(D) Long-handled device to pull an "inverted V"[4]*	ARC Model LJ6P (6 ft.)(1.83 m); or Davis Telescoping Boat Hook to 96 in. (2.44 m) (Model 85002A); or West Marine # F6H5 Hook and # F6-006 Handle
(E) Dipnet**	ARC 12-ft. (3.66-m) Breakdown Lightweight Dip Net Model DN6P (6 ft. (1.83 m)); or ARC Model DN08 (8 ft.(2.44 m)); or ARC Model DN 14 (12 ft. (3.66 m)); or ARC Net Assembly & Handle (Model DNIN); or Lindgren-Pitman, Inc. Model NMFS Turtle Net
(F) Standard automobile tire**	Any standard automobile tire free of exposed steel belts

TABLE 1. NMFS-APPROVED MODELS FOR EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE CAREFUL RELEASE OF SEA TURTLES CAUGHT IN HOOK AND LINE FISHERIES—Continued

Required Item	NMFS-Approved Models
(G) Short-handled dehooker for ingested hooks**	ARC 17-inch (43.18-cm) Hand-Held Bite Block Deep-Hooked Turtle Dehooking Device (Model ST08)[1]; or NOAA/Bergmann Dehooker[2] on short-handle
(H) Short-handled dehooker for external hooks[5]**	ARC Hand-Held Large J-Style Dehooker (Model LJ07); or ARC Hand-Held Large J-Style Dehooker (Model LJ24); or ARC 17-inch (43.18-cm) Hand-Held Bite Block Deep-Hooked Turtle Dehooking Device (Model ST08)[1]; or Scotty's Dehooker; or Robey Dehooker on short-handle; or NOAA/Bergmann Dehooker on short-handle
(I) Long-nose or needle-nose pliers**	12-in. (30.48-cm) S.S. NuMark Model # 030281109871; or any 12-inch (30.48-cm) stainless steel long-nose or needle-nose pliers
(J) Bolt cutter**	H.K. Porter Model 1490 AC
(K) Monofilament line cutter**	Jinkai Model MC-T
(L) Two of the following mouth openers and mouth gags**	
(L1) Block of hard wood	Any block of hard wood meeting design standards (e.g., Olympia Tools Long-Handled Wire Brush and Scraper (Model 974174))
(L2) Set of (3) canine mouth gags	Jorvet Model #4160, 4162, and 4164
(L3) Set of (2) sturdy dog chew bones	Nylaboner® (a trademark owned by T.F.H. Publications, Inc.); or Gumaboner® (a trademark owned by T.F.H. Publications, Inc.); or Galileor® (a trademark owned by T.F.H. Publications, Inc.)

TABLE 1. NMFS-APPROVED MODELS FOR EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE CAREFUL RELEASE OF SEA TURTLES CAUGHT IN HOOK AND LINE FISHERIES—Continued

Required Item	NMFS-Approved Models
(L4) Set of (2) rope loops covered with hose	Any set of (2) rope loops covered with hose meeting design standards
(L5) Hank of rope	Any size soft braided nylon rope is acceptable, provided it creates a hank of rope approximately 2 - 4 inches (5.08 cm - 10.16 cm) in thickness
(L6) Set of (4) PVC splice couplings	A set of (4) Standard Schedule 40 PVC splice couplings (1-inch (2.54-cm), 1 ¼-inch 3.175-cm), 1 ½-inch (3.81-cm), and 2-inch (5.08-cm)
(L7) Large avian oral speculum	Webster Vet Supply (Model 85408); or Veterinary Specialty Products (Model VSP 216-08); or Jorvet (Model J-51z); or Krusse (Model 273117)
(M) Turtle control device***	Turtle Tether and extended reach handle; or T&G Ninja Sticks and extended reach handles

*Items (A) - (D), and (M) are required for turtles not boated.

**Items (E) - (L) are required for boated turtles.

***Only one turtle control device is required, but NMFS recommends the use of two devices to secure both front flippers.

***Only one turtle control device is required, but NMFS recommends the use of two devices to secure both front flippers.

[1]The pigtail portion of the ARC dehooker may be modified by creating a notch in the pigtail curl where the shank of the hook comes into contact with the dehooker when the line is tightly pulled parallel to the handle.

[2]The NOAA/Bergman dehooker should not be used to remove ingested J–hooks.

[3]The long–handled dehooker for Item B would meet the requirement for Item C.

[4]If a 6–ft (1.83 m) J–Style dehooker is used to satisfy the requirement for Item C, it would also satisfy the requirement for Item D.

[5]The short–handled dehooker for Item G would meet the requirement for Item H.

Response to Comments

A number of individuals and groups provided both written and verbal comments on the proposed rule during the 41-day comment period which ended on June 16, 2008. Six public hearings were held in Saint Petersburg, FL; Manteo, NC; Manahawkin, NJ; Gloucester, MA; Belle Chasse, LA; and Orlando, FL. Public comments were also

heard at meetings of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the HMS Advisory Panel. These comments contributed to a change from the proposed rule, i.e., NMFS' decision to maintain the status quo regarding harpoon authorization for HMS CHB permitted vessels. The comments are summarized below together with NMFS' responses. The comments are grouped by major issue (green-stick gear authorization, harpoon authorization, and sea turtle control device) and are numbered consecutively, starting with 1, at the beginning of each issue.

1. Green-Stick Gear Authorization

Comment 1: NMFS should authorize green-stick gear for Atlantic Tunas General, HMS CHB, and Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels because green-stick gear is selective in what species fishermen catch, results in minimal bycatch and low bycatch mortality, and increases fishery operational flexibility in harvesting Atlantic tunas within established limitations. Comments included support from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and representatives of several diverse constituencies on the HMS AP.

Response: NMFS considered these characteristics of green-stick gear when developing the alternatives. Green-stick gear is an actively trolled and tended gear. When fished, the hooks and baits are suspended at or above the surface of the water which reduces the likelihood of catching species that do not strike moving prey at or above the surface of the water. Since the gear is tended, animals that are caught are quickly retrieved to the vessel and either kept, if the species is desired, or released, if it is undersized or an unintended species. Quick retrieval and release of unwanted or unintended animals causes less physiological stress on an animal than some other gears such as longline and results in a higher likelihood of survival.

Increased operational flexibility in harvesting Atlantic tunas results from fishermen having another option or choice in the type of fishing gear they use, particularly when fishing for YFT. This flexibility may be beneficial to help offset increasing operational costs due to factors such as high fuel prices. The availability of green-stick gear as an option provides a gear that is low in bycatch and bycatch mortality and may be chosen by some fishermen for this reason.

Comment 2: Comments were received that NMFS is discriminatory against Longline category vessels if those vessels that do not have longline gear onboard are still required to abide by the incidental catch requirements and if the BFT that they catch are not counted against the General category quota instead of the Longline quota. The premise of these comments is that an Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessel that does not have PLL or BLL gear onboard and is fishing with a gear that is also authorized in another permit category should be treated according to the regulations for that other category. In this case, the other category would be General category, thus allowing BFT to be targeted and counted against the General category's quota.

Response: The action to authorize green-stick gear for Atlantic tunas does so within existing quotas, size limits, or other established limitations. Currently established retention limits are some of the existing limitations of permit categories such as Atlantic Tunas Longline and are not modified by this action. This includes the incidental catch requirements described in the response to Comment 3.

The BFT management structure, developed in the 1999 FMP, created quota allocations, effort controls, retention limits, and size limits associated with the various quota categories in an effort to rebuild BFT while allowing for continued BFT harvest. The 1999 FMP also solidified the BFT Longline category as incidental by definition yet provided for limited retention of BFT bycatch. The directed BFT fishery is also managed with a suite of permits and associated regulations such as authorized fishing gears, retention limits, restricted fishing days, and limited access for Purse Seine category. NMFS manages fisheries throughout the United States with different permit types and various regulatory restrictions respective to those permit types in order to achieve the goals of applicable domestic fisheries laws and international agreements. The type of permit(s) that an individual holds may be changed at the discretion of the vessel owner, according to established regulations, among individual persons and/or vessels over time. As such, the distinctive management measures among permit types are not discriminatory.

Comment 3: Comments were received that the target catch requirements of the Atlantic Tunas Longline permit should not apply if a vessel is fishing with green-stick gear and without longline gear onboard.

Response: The action to authorize green-stick gear for Atlantic tunas does so within existing quotas, size limits, or other established limitations. Currently established retention limits are one such existing limitation on permit categories such as Atlantic Tunas Longline and are not modified by this action. The Atlantic Tunas Longline permit allows for the take of BFT only as incidental to other targeted species. The target catch requirements of this permit are found at § 635.23(f), which states that one large medium or giant BFT per vessel per trip may be landed, provided that at least 2,000 lb (907 kg) of species other than BFT are legally caught, retained, and offloaded from the same trip and are recorded on the dealer weighout slip as sold. Two large medium or giant BFT per vessel per trip may be landed, provided that at least 6,000 lb (2,727 kg) of species other than BFT are legally caught, retained, and offloaded from the same trip and are recorded on the dealer weighout slip as sold. Three large medium or giant BFT per vessel per trip may be landed, provide that at least 30,000 lb (13,620 kg) of species other than BFT are legally caught, retained, and offloaded from the same trip and are recorded on the dealer weighout slip as sold.

These existing target catch requirements, along with existing retention limits, quota management structure, size limits, restricted fishing days, and other established limitations, serve to constrain the harvest of, effort on, and bycatch of BFT. These constraints are necessary amid ongoing concerns about the overfished status of BFT and the continuing need to avoid increases in BFT bycatch and levels of directed effort that might negatively impact BFT stocks. The existence of these constraining regulations is a major factor in the decision to allow the use of green-stick gear as provided by this final rule. Additionally, modifying retention limits or target catch requirements as provided for at § 635.23(f)(2) was not within the scope of the proposed rule; therefore, adjustment of the target catch is not considered in this final rule.

Comment 4: NMFS should maintain the target catch requirements of the Atlantic Tunas Longline permit.

Response: As stated in the response to Comment 2, this action authorizes green-stick gear within existing quotas, size limits, or other established limitations. This action does not change the existing BFT incidental catch requirements of the Atlantic Tunas Longline Permit and thus, maintains the incidental nature of the Longline category. The existing target catch requirements will remain in effect and are listed in the response to Comment 2 above.

Comment 5: NMFS should avoid increasing directed fishing pressure on BFT.

Response: Directed fishing pressure on BFT is not expected increase beyond a minimal amount as a result of this rule. Green-stick gear is used primarily to harvest YFT, although catch of BFT also occurs at a much lower level. According to coastal and pelagic logbook reports, which include reports from Atlantic Tunas General, HMS CHB, and Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels, YFT and BFT represent approximately 82 percent and 2 percent (or less) of the catch, respectively, both by number and weight. The use of green-stick gear by Atlantic Tunas General, HMS CHB, and Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels has occurred since at least the mid-1990s. Any potential for an increase in directed fishing pressure on BFT as a result of this rule exists within the General category where directed BFT fishing is allowed. Both Atlantic Tunas General and HMS CHB (when selling BFT) permitted vessels operate within the BFT General category. Increases in directed fishing pressure on BFT are not expected in the Longline category due to the target catch requirements in place for Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels as described in the response to Comment 3 above. Also, targeted fishing for BFT is not allowed in the Gulf of Mexico, an important BFT spawning area; therefore, increases in directed fishing pressure for BFT would not occur in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of this final rule.

While the potential for an increase in directed or incidental effort on BFT exists considering the increase in number of hooks allowed, such increases in effort over existing practices are expected to be minor because the gear is already being used and has been used since the mid-1990s. There is potential for additional vessels not currently using green-stick gear to begin to do so as more fishermen become aware of green-stick gear efficiency in catching Atlantic tunas and of the high quality of fish product that can be delivered to the dock resulting in higher ex-vessel value. Green-stick gear could also be deployed at times and in ways that enable more hooks to be fished during a trip, such as while a vessel is in transit between fishing locations where other authorized gears may be deployed. Such increases in effort, if they were to occur, are expected to be minor as green-stick gear use has developed to its current level over a period of several years. The growth of green-stick gear use is somewhat constrained by the capital investments involved in rigging a vessel to use green-stick gear. A green-stick rig with fiberglass pole and hydraulic haul-back capability is estimated to cost $5,300 $9,300.

If directed use of green-stick gear for YFT or BFT increases above its current level, there may be benefits in improved bycatch mortality compared to some other fishing gears. Bycatch mortality of released fish is anticipated to be low given that baits on green-stick gear are trolled at high speed and deployed at or slightly above the surface of the water. Fish are hooked as they strike the baits which most frequently results in hooking locations in the jaw or other mouth area and does not often result in deep-hooking. Additionally, because green-stick gear is usually rigged with power haul-back capability, the mainline can be quickly retrieved, thereby enabling undersized or non-target fish to be released with a minimum of stress and physical trauma. Due to this characteristic of green-stick gear, NMFS anticipates that there may be beneficial effects for target and non-target species when compared to other fishing gears, such as longline and rod and reel, because improving post-release survival of fish reduces overall fishing mortality. Finally, while authorization of green-stick gear is not expected to result in a great increase in BFT landings, if an increase were to occur, repeated quota under-harvests in recent years indicate that sufficient quota exists to allow for some additional landings despite the latest bluefin tuna stock assessment that indicates that the stock is overfished.

Comment 6: NMFS should maintain enforceability of PLL closed areas by ensuring that PLL gear is not onboard vessels fishing with green-stick gear in PLL closed areas.

Response: This final rule does not change the requirement that PLL or BLL gear be removed from an Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessel when the vessel is in a PLL or BLL closed area. Green stick gear will, however, by allowed in the closed area. The rule distinguishes green-stick gear from PLL and BLL by defining it as ''an actively trolled mainline attached to a vessel and elevated or suspended above the surface of the water with no more than 10 hooks or gangions attached to the mainline. The suspended line, attached gangions and/or hooks, and catch may be retrieved collectively by hand or mechanical means. Green-stick does not constitute a PLL or a BLL as defined in this section or as described at § 635.21(c) or § 635.21(d), respectively.'' The distinguishing characteristics that separate the gears are that green-stick gear is actively trolled and does not have floats capable of supporting the mainline, as with PLL gear, nor weights and/or anchors capable of maintaining contact between the mainline and the ocean bottom, as with BLL gear. NMFS believes that these characteristics are recognizable and, with the definition and distinctions made between the gears, enforceability of longline restrictions in the closed areas will be maintained.

Comment 7: NMFS should maintain the enforceability of the circle hook requirement on PLL vessels.

Response: This action does not change the requirement that only circle hooks may be used on PLL gear. It does provide for the possession of up to 20 J-hooks for use only with green-stick gear if green-stick gear is onboard. NMFS believes that the definition of green-stick gear allows the gear to be recognized by enforcement agents and distinguishes it from PLL, thus enabling enforcement agents to know when the possession of 20 J-hooks is allowed.

Comment 8: NMFS should maintain enforceability of the live bait prohibition in the Gulf of Mexico.

Response: This action does not change the live bait prohibition in the Gulf of Mexico. In order to enhance enforcement capability of the live bait prohibition and prevent the use of bait catching rigs such as ''sabiki'' rigs (which use small hooks) under the guise of green-stick gear, a minimum hook size is established for J-hooks that are allowed to be used with green-stick gear onboard Atlantic Tunas Longline Permitted vessels. Under this provision, the use of J-hooks less than 1.5 inch (38.1 mm, approximately the size of a standard 2/0 to 3/0 J-hook), when measured in a straight line over the longest distance from the eye to any other part of the hook, is prohibited.

Comment 9: NMFS should require that any BFT caught on green-stick gear in the GOM be released regardless of permit category in order to protect BFT in the spawning area.

Response: This action authorizes green-stick gear for Atlantic tunas within existing quotas, size limits, or other established limitations. Directed fishing for BFT remains prohibited in the GOM. This action does not change existing provisions to protect BFT in the GOM. Green-stick gear is authorized for use by Atlantic Tunas General, HMS CHB, and Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels. Atlantic Tunas General category vessels may not retain BFT in the GOM. Atlantic-wide, when selling BFT, HMS CHB permitted vessels operate under the rules for General category, and General category

vessels may not retain BFT in the GOM. This means that HMS CHB vessels may not retain BFT for commercial purposes in the GOM. For recreational fishing in the GOM, which also applies to HMS CHB permitted vessels, one ''trophy'' BFT (73 in CFL) is allowed to be retained per vessel per year only as incidental to targeted fishing for other species.

Comment 10: Comments were received in support of increased data collection on green-stick gear fishing to include designating a green-stick gear code. Also, comments were received in support of improved data collection on green-stick gear fishing that would allow for appropriate monitoring of effort and landings to enable changes or problems in the fishery to be addressed as soon as possible. In addition, improved data collection could show benefits of green-stick gear such as low bycatch and the possible elimination of protected species interactions.

Response: NMFS has designated a gear code which will facilitate improved gear-specific data collection via dealer reporting through trip tickets in the southeast and dealer reporting systems in the northeast. The gear code may also aid in improved gear-specific data collection via logbooks. Data collection on green-stick gear and other gears is important for assessing the need for and appropriateness of future management measures.

Harpoon Authorization

Comment 1: NMFS received a wide range of comments on authorization of harpoon gear for use by HMS CHB permitted vessels, from full support to complete opposition. The majority of comments received on the harpoon authorization issue opposed the action, as described below. Comments in support of harpoon use authorization for all HMS CHB trips included: 1) the BFT fishing industry needs all the help it can get and NMFS should do all it can to maximize fishing opportunities within current quotas, particularly because harpoon fishing is already limited by the need for good weather conditions; 2) the action would provide fishermen the flexibility of gear choice, which would be beneficial given current high operating costs, and would increase opportunities to harvest BFT within the General category daily retention limit (currently 3 BFT/vessel); and 3) authorization of harpoon gear on HMS CHB vessels would not significantly increase competition for current HMS CHB permit holders as very few vessel owners would make the large capital investment to outfit their vessels to use harpoon gear in the HMS CHB category.

Comments supporting harpoon authorization for HMS CHB vessels on non-for-hire trips only include: 1) this alternative would work well for HMS CHB captains and crew, who could harpoon BFT in the early season (when BFT are more readily caught at the water's surface in the Gulf of Maine) and switch to rod and reel use in the late summer for use on charter trips; and 2) there is no reason for harpoons to be used on charter trips with paying passengers aboard.

The majority of comments received on the harpoon authorization issue opposed the action. Comments include: 1) NMFS needs to take a more precautionary approach in regard to the BFT fishery, which is overfished, and in which overfishing is occurring; 2) this action would be inconsistent with efforts to rebuild BFT; 3) new measures should not be adopted in the name of quota utilization; 4) the action could lead to shorter seasons and lower retention limits for HMS CHB vessels; and 5) the action could lead to disruption by new harpooners of Harpoon category fishing activities, and/or dilution of the historical HMS CHB business by historical harpooners (contradicting the rationale NMFS used in establishing a separate HMS CHB permit category).

Response: NMFS has considered these comments, some of which were also made at the April 2008 HMS Advisory Panel meeting. Based on the relative lack of public support, and on consideration of the various concerns raised by NMFS and the public, including concerns about bycatch, enforcement and safety (discussed further in responses below), and BFT stock status generally, NMFS has decided, at this time, to maintain the status quo regarding authorized harpoon use, i.e., authorized harpoon use by the General and Harpoon categories only.

Comment 2: NMFS received several comments specifically regarding potential increases in BFT dead discards, bycatch (of undersized fish), and bycatch mortality that may result from the proposed harpoon authorization. Comments expressed concern that now is not the time to increase fishing effort on BFT as it could further strain the resource. Examples of this resource strain were increased mortality of BFT that are harpooned and lost, undersized BFT that are harpooned unintentionally by less experienced crew while targeting commercial-sized BFT, or BFT that are discarded in the process of highgrading. Comments from those supportive of the action stated that authorization of harpoon gear on HMS CHB vessels would not significantly increase BFT bycatch and bycatch mortality as effort is unlikely to substantially increase due to the large capital investment for owners to outfit their vessels to use harpoon gear in the HMS CHB category.

Response: NMFS does not have information with which to estimate quantitatively the potential increase in discards, bycatch, and bycatch mortality that could result from HMS CHB harpoon use. NMFS anticipates that the number of HMS CHB operators that would outfit their vessels with harpoon gear would be low. However, to the extent that inexperienced users may inadvertently strike an undersized BFT, bycatch and bycatch mortality likely would increase with the proposed authorization. NMFS believes that harpoon use by HMS CHB vessels could result in increased discard mortality of BFT over the discard mortality that occurs with gear currently authorized for HMS CHB use (rod and reel, bandit gear, and handline) and green-stick gear to be authorized by this final rule.

Comment 3: NMFS received several comments regarding enforceability of the harpoon authorization. Comments opposing harpoon authorization stated that enforcement would be difficult if harpoons are authorized on non-for-hire trips only. Some of these comments further state that the proposed action may provide an incentive for captains to convert recreational trips to commercial trips and highgrade, or to use harpoon gear expressly for the satisfaction of paying passengers. Some indicated that harpoon authorization could exacerbate both the nonreporting of catch and landings and the illegal sale of BFT. A comment supportive of the action suggested that NMFS could require that the pulpit be stowed in the upright position while the vessel is on for-hire trips.

Response: Field and dockside enforcement of harpoon authorization for only certain HMS CHB trips would be more challenging than if the authorization applied to all HMS CHB trips. Although NMFS recognizes the possibility that harpoon authorization on for-hire trips would increase the incentive to discard and/or not report fish since HMS CHB crew may fill either the commercial or recreational retention limit on any given fishing day, it is not possible to estimate quantitatively the increase in discards and non-reporting that may occur. As NMFS is not taking action to authorize harpoon use on HMS CHB vessels at this time, consideration of specific gear stowage requirements is not necessary.

Comment 4: NMFS received a few comments regarding safety implications

of the proposed action. Some believed that liability and safety of passengers is the captain's responsibility, and as it would be very unlikely that a paid passenger would be allowed to use the harpoon gear, authorization of harpoon gear should be for all trips. A few commenters asked why NMFS raised safety concerns regarding HMS CHB use of harpoon gear but not of green-stick gear.

Response: NMFS must ensure that management measures, to the extent practicable, promote the safety of human life at sea. Authorization of harpoon gear on HMS CHB vessels, particularly if authorized on all trips, presents the possibility of charter passengers walking out to and standing on a pulpit and/or handling harpoon gear, which may be capable of passing an electric current. Therefore, it is appropriate for NMFS to consider safety concerns and to engage the public in a discussion of these issues. In the proposed rule, NMFS selected harpoon authorization as the preferred subalternative on non-for-hire trips only as it would reduce the incentive for both crew and passengers to use the gear for recreational-sized BFT fishing, thus reducing potential safety concerns. Green-stick gear has been used on charter vessels for several years, including on for-hire trips, and neither existing green-stick gear use or use of the gear as proposed raised novel or substantial safety concerns.

Comment 5: If NMFS authorizes harpoon gear use on HMS CHB vessels, NMFS should allow permit holders a category change (not currently allowed for the 2008 fishing year as the May 31 deadline has passed) so that vessels could make use of the HMS CHB harpoon authorization this year.

Response: As NMFS is not implementing the proposed HMS CHB harpoon authorization at this time, allowances for permit category changes are not needed at this time.

Sea Turtle Control Device

Comment 1: NMFS should require a sea turtle control device in PLL and BLL fisheries to achieve and maintain low post-release mortality of sea turtles.

Response: The proposed and final rule do require a sea turtle control device in the PLL and BLL fisheries to achieve and maintain low post-release mortality of sea turtles. The implementation of sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures in the PLL and BLL fisheries, in accordance with the 2004 BiOp, which includes the mandatory use of circle hooks in the PLL fishery, possession and use of sea turtle handling and release gears in the PLL and BLL fisheries, and mandatory participation in protected species safe handling and release workshops, has reduced the post-release mortality of sea turtles. Sea turtle control devices have been recommended in these fisheries and are now required to better enable fishermen to remove fishing gear from sea turtles. Maximizing the removal of fishing gear from sea turtles results in improved post-release mortality.

Comment 2: NMFS should require two sea turtle control devices instead of one in order to better control sea turtles by securing both front flippers.

Response: NMFS considered requiring two sea turtle control devices instead of one in order to better control sea turtles by securing both front flippers, but did not prefer this as an alternative. Some BLL vessels are small and requiring two devices onboard is impractical, at this time, due to limited available space. Also, requiring the use of two devices when there are often only two crew members onboard raises concerns about safety at sea, especially in heavy seas and/or currents when one crew member must remain at the wheel while the other crew member retrieves the longline gear. In such circumstances, one crew member could reasonably be expected to use one sea turtle control device and remove fishing gear from the sea turtle, while the use of two devices and removal of the fishing gear would be an unreasonable expectation.

Comment 3: NMFS should not require a sea turtle control device in PLL and BLL fisheries because the shark fishing fleet cannot afford the device to meet the requirement.

Response: NMFS considered cost of the sea turtle control devices when developing this requirement and made options available for construction of the devices with inexpensive materials. The amount of time required for construction of these devices is minimal. Fishermen may already have many of these materials on hand. Construction costs for the T&G ninja sticks and turtle tether range from $25 to $85. Only one device is required to be carried onboard and used.

Changes from the Proposed Rule (73 FR 24922; May 6, 2008)

NMFS made seven changes to the proposed rule as outlined below.

1. Following requests from an organization representing a portion of the Atlantic tunas commercial handgear fishery and discussion by the HMS Advisory Panel at its October 2007 meeting, NMFS proposed authorization of harpoon gear for the commercial harvest of Atlantic tunas, including BFT, for HMS CHB permitted vessels. NMFS requested public comment on the potential authorization of the gear, for both for-hire and non-for-hire fishing trips. After considering comment received during the comment period and discussions of the issue at the April 2008 HMS Advisory Panel meeting, both of which revealed little public support for the action, and the implications of authorizing a directed fishing gear that is used almost exclusively to target BFT, at this time, NMFS has decided to maintain the status quo regarding authorized harpoon gear use in the Atlantic tuna fisheries. For more information, please see the Response to Comments section. The selection of the status quo alternative regarding this subject does not preclude NMFS from taking future action regarding fishing gear authorization, in general or specifically regarding harpoon use.

2. In § 635.21, a clarification of how green-stick gear will be allowed for Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels is made that establishes a minimum allowable hook size restriction for J-hooks used with green-stick gear. J-hooks used with green-stick gear onboard Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels may be no smaller than 1.5 inch (38.1 mm) when measured in a straight line over the longest distance from the eye to any other part of the hook. In the Gulf of Mexico, PLL vessels are prohibited from using live bait in order to reduce the incidental catch of Atlantic billfish. NMFS is concerned about the effect that the 20 J-hook allowance, as described above, may have on enforcement of the live bait prohibition because fishing rigs that catch live bait utilize small J-hooks. The possession of such J-hooks is currently prohibited. NMFS' concern is that bait catching rigs could be used under the guise of green-stick gear, thus making enforceability of the live bait prohibition more difficult. In the proposed rule, NMFS sought public comment on establishing a minimum hook size for J-hooks allowed with green-stick gear onboard Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels and received comments in favor of such a restriction. The minimum size limit for J-hooks in specific units of length is necessary as hook sizes such as 1/0, 2/0, 3/0, etc. are not standardized among hook manufacturers. The 1.5 inch minimum length limit will prevent the use of small hooks used with bait catching rigs which are normally 1/0 sized hooks or smaller. A 1.5 inch J-hook is approximately the size of a 2/0 or 3/0 standard J-hook depending on the manufacturer and style. J-hooks used

with green-stick gear when fishing for Atlantic tunas (usually 7/0 to 11/0) are much larger than the 1.5 inch minimum size limit established by this action. This minimum J-hook size limit only applies to Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels; however, it applies to these vessels throughout the Atlantic.

3. In § 635.71, a prohibition is established for the possession and use of J-hooks onboard a vessel that has pelagic longline gear onboard, except when green-stick gear is onboard. The addition of this prohibition is necessary to better distinguish between regulations that apply to PLL vessels when green-stick gear is or is not onboard and to establish the way that green-stick gear will be managed. Regulations requiring the possession and use of circle hooks were established at 69 FR 40734 (July 6, 2004). These regulations required vessels fishing in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area (NED) and that have PLL gear onboard to only possess and use 18/0 or larger circle hooks with an offset not to exceed 10 degrees and when fishing outside the NED and having PLL gear onboard, to only possess and use 18/0 or larger circle hooks with an offset not to exceed 10 degrees and 16/0 or larger non-offset circle hooks.

4. In § 635.71, a prohibition of the use of J-hooks with pelagic longline is established. This prohibition is established for the same reason described in change number 3 above.

5. In § 635.71, a prohibition of the possession of more than 20 J-hooks onboard a vessel when possessing both pelagic longline gear, as described at § 635.21 (c), and green-stick gear is established. This prohibition establishes the way that green-stick gear will be managed.

6. In § 635.71, a prohibition of the use of more than 10 hooks at one time with each green-stick gear is established. This prohibition establishes the way that green-stick gear will be managed.

7. In § 635.71, a prohibition of the possession and use of J-hooks smaller than 1.5 inch (38.1 mm) onboard Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels is established for the same purpose as explained in change number 2 above.

Classification

This final rule is published under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and ATCA. NMFS has determined that this final rule is necessary for the management of Atlantic tunas and protection and conservation of sea turtles consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, including the national standards; the ESA; and other applicable law.

NMFS prepared an EA for this action and a notice of availability was published with the proposed rule on May 6, 2008 (73 FR 24922). This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. This rule does not contain policies with federalism implications under E.O. 13132. There are no new information collection requirements proposed by this rule for Purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

In compliance with 5 U.S.C. 604, a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) was prepared for this rule. The FRFA analyzes the anticipated impacts of the final rule and any significant alternatives to the final rule that could minimize significant economic impacts on small entities. Each of the statutory requirements of section 604 has been addressed, and a summary of the FRFA is provided below.

Section 604(a)(1) requires the Agency to state the objective and need for the rule. As stated in the preamble of the final rule, the objective of this final rule is to ensure fishermen harvest Atlantic tunas within quotas, size limits, or other established limitations and to distinguish green-stick fishing gear from current definitions of other authorized gear types. Additionally, the final rule addresses sea turtle control devices in the PLL and BLL fisheries to achieve and maintain low post-release mortality of sea turtles thus maintaining consistency with the 2004 Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Atlantic PLL fishery and to increase safety at sea for fishermen when handling sea turtles caught or entangled in longline fishing gear.

Section 604(a)(2) requires the Agency to summarize significant issues raised by the public in response to the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), a summary of the assessment of the agency of such issues, and a statement of any changes made in the rule as a result of such comments. NMFS received several comments on the proposed rule and draft EA during the public comment period. A summary of these comments and the Agency's responses are included above. NMFS did not receive any comments specific to the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA). During the public comment period, NMFS received an economic comment that NMFS should not require a sea turtle control device in PLL and BLL fisheries because the shark fishing fleet cannot afford the device to meet the requirement. NMFS understands that there may be some negative economic impact from this requirement and has attempted to minimize these impacts by allowing the devices to be constructed with low cost materials. Construction costs for the sea turtle control devices range from $25-85 and may be constructed with materials that fishermen may already have on hand, thus reducing the construction cost. NMFS believes that the economic impacts to fishermen are not likely to be large with this final action. No changes were made to this final action as a result of this comment.

Section 604(a)(3) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act requires the Agency to describe and provide an estimate of the number of small entities to which the final rule will apply. The final rule to authorize green-stick fishing gear for the harvest of Atlantic tunas, including BFT, and require sea turtle control devices in Atlantic HMS PLL and BLL fisheries could directly affect 3,616 Atlantic Tunas General, 3,901 HMS CHB, and 218 Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit holders (permit numbers as of November 30, 2007). All of these permit holders are considered small business entities according to the Small Business Administration's standard for defining a small entity.

Section 604(a)(4) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act requires the Agency to describe the projected reporting, record keeping, and other compliance requirements of the final rule, including an estimate of the classes of small entities which will be subject to the requirements of the report or record. None of the alternatives considered for this final rule will result in additional reporting and recordkeeping requirements. New compliance requirements will occur under the action to require the possession and use of a sea turtle control device onboard PLL and BLL vessels; however, the economic impacts are not expected to be significant.

Section 604(a)(5) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act requires the Agency to describe the steps taken to minimize any significant economic impact on small entities consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes. NMFS believes that in regard to the portion of the final rule requiring a sea turtle control device, impacts on small entities are minimized through the development of options for fishermen to construct the device at minimal cost, thus simplifying compliance for all entities including small entities. Similarly, the design standards used to allow construction of a sea turtle control device at minimal cost satisfies the aforementioned objectives of this rulemaking while, concurrently, complying with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and ESA.

As described below, NMFS considered eight different alternatives to authorize fishing gear in Atlantic tuna fisheries to increase operational flexibility in the fishery while still achieving the objectives of the Consolidated HMS FMP; to allow harvest of Atlantic tunas with a gear that is generally efficient in harvesting target species and, at the same time, is low in bycatch and bycatch mortality; and to require a sea turtle control device in the PLL and BLL fisheries to achieve and maintain low post-release mortality of sea turtles. Below, NMFS provides justification for selection of the final action to achieve the desired objectives.

Alternative A1 is a no action, or the status quo alternative. This alternative would maintain existing regulations for harvesting Atlantic tunas, thereby allowing green-stick gear use only as allowed under the current definitions and regulations for longline or handgear based on the gear configuration. Under Alternative A1, there would be no change in the existing regulations and, as such, no change in the current baseline economic impacts.

The no action alternative would instead continue to consider green-stick gear as being within the longline definition if 3 or more hooks are attached and as handgear if 2 or fewer hooks are attached. The allowable use of the gear in this way impedes operational and economic efficiency in the Atlantic Tunas General category or HMS CHB category because fishermen have used green-stick gear rigged with up to 10 hooks historically for Atlantic tunas. Under alternative A1, the social and economic impacts are expected to be minimal, although unquantified social and economic impacts may occur to Atlantic Tunas General category and HMS CHB permitted vessel holders with the status quo because they would not be allowed to use green-stick gear with 3 hooks or more, as they have historically, unless they purchased an Atlantic Tunas Longline permit and other associated limited access permits for swordfish and shark. This alternative was not selected because other alternatives increase operational flexibility in the fishery while still achieving the objectives of the Consolidated HMS FMP and allow fishermen additional opportunities to fulfill U.S. quota allocations.

Under selected Alternative A2, which was preferred in the proposed rule, green-stick gear will be defined and authorized for use in the commercial Atlantic tuna fishery for BAYS and BFT by Atlantic Tunas General category vessels. Vessels fishing under the Atlantic Tunas General category will continue to be subject to all current HMS regulations for that category (such as bag and size limits). NMFS does not anticipate greatly increased landings from Atlantic Tunas General category vessels as a result of this rule because green-stick gear has been used in HMS fisheries since at least the mid-1990s. While NMFS does not anticipate greatly increased landings, Alternative A2 could result in a minor increase of overall effort deployed by this category of permit holders. This could occur if additional fishermen become aware of green-stick gear efficiency in catching Atlantic tunas and of the high quality of fish product that can be delivered to the dock as a result. Higher quality fish product often commands high ex-vessel prices, and thus could potentially improve the profitability of trips. Under Alternative A2, authorization of green-stick gear use is expected to have generally positive social impacts as the gear is popular with Atlantic Tunas General category permit holders in areas of the Atlantic where it has been used.

The economic impacts under Alternative A2 are expected to be positive. Authorization of green-stick gear for harvest of Atlantic tunas will allow Atlantic Tunas General category permit holders additional opportunities for harvest. Tuna and other species harvested commercially with green-stick gear are usually high in quality and command higher prices due to the speed with which the fish are brought to the vessel, stored on ice, transported to the dock, and sold. Economic benefits may be realized through continued, and possibly increased, harvest of Atlantic tunas. Use of this gear may result in an unknown number of additional trips. The economic benefits may be minimal, however, as green-stick gear has been used in U.S. Atlantic tuna fisheries for several years and potential increases above existing levels of use as a result of this rule are expected to be minimal.

Green-stick gear ranges in cost from $1,300-$3,300 for the fiberglass pole. Completely outfitting a vessel with hydraulic spool and other tackle to use the gear would cost between $4,000-$6,000 depending on the size of the rig. Therefore, the total cost of outfitting a vessel to fish with green-stick gear would cost between $5,300-9,300. Anecdotal information indicates that some fishermen may run mainlines from outriggers, a flying bridge, or a tuna tower, which would not be as costly. Outfitting costs are discretionary for fishermen as the gear is not required to participate in the fishery. This gear will be authorized for use from properly permitted vessels only. The current cost of a Federal vessel permit is $28.00 per year.

Under selected Alternative A3, which was a preferred alternative in the proposed rule, green-stick gear will be defined as in Alternative A2 above and authorized for use in the commercial Atlantic tuna fishery for BAYS and BFT by HMS CHB category vessels. This alternative will also authorize green-stick gear for recreational harvest of Atlantic tunas when an HMS CHB permitted vessel is on a for-hire trip. NMFS prefers this alternative because HMS CHB vessels may sell Atlantic tunas whether the vessel is for-hire or not-for-hire. Additionally, NMFS received public comment that HMS CHB vessels desired to have the option of using green-stick gear on for-hire trips. Vessels fishing under the HMS CHB category will continue to be subject to all current HMS regulations for that category. Alternative A3 is expected to have positive social and economic impacts similar to those described under Alternative A2 above, but with the added economic benefits associated with authorizing the use of green-stick gear for recreational harvest of Atlantic tunas even when an HMS CHB permitted vessel is on a for-hire trip.

Under selected Alternative A4, which was a preferred alternative in the proposed rule, green-stick gear will be defined, in this final rule, as in Alternative A2 and authorized for use in the directed commercial Atlantic BAYS tuna fishery and allow for the incidental retention of BFT by Atlantic Tunas Longline category vessels. Green-stick gear can currently be used with more than two hooks by Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels under current target catch and gear (i.e., circle hook) requirements. Alternative A4 will distinguish green-stick gear from longline gear thus allowing green-stick gear to be fished in PLL and BLL closed areas if existing regulations for removal of PLL and BLL gear are met. These regulations state that a vessel is considered to have PLL gear onboard when it has onboard a power-operated longline hauler, a mainline, floats capable of supporting the mainline, and leaders (gangions) with hooks. Likewise, a vessel is considered to have BLL gear onboard when it has onboard a power-operated longline hauler, a mainline, weights and/or anchors capable of maintaining contact between the mainline and the ocean bottom, and leader (gangions) with hooks. For closed areas respective to both PLL and BLL gear, removal of any one of these elements constitutes removal of the PLL or BLL gear. Atlantic Tunas Longline permitted vessels will continue to be

subject to current HMS PLL or BLL regulations, whichever is applicable, including the closed areas and circle hook requirements except that up to 20 J-hooks will be allowed onboard if green-stick gear is also onboard for use only with the green-stick gear. This provision to allow up to 20 J-hooks is intended to facilitate the high speed trolling methods used when fishing with green-stick gear. J-hooks possessed or used when green-stick gear is onboard may only be used with green-stick gear and may be no smaller than 1.5 inch (38.1 mm) when measured in a straight line over the longest distance from the eye to any other part of the hook. Current requirements to use only circle hooks on PLL gear will remain unchanged.

Alternative A4 is expected to have positive social and economic impacts particularly for fishermen holding Atlantic Tunas Longline permits. Public and HMS Advisory Panel member support has been expressed for this alternative as described in chapter four of the Final EA. Authorization of green-stick for harvest of Atlantic tunas will allow Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit holders additional opportunities for harvest. Economic benefits may be realized in similar fashion to Alternatives A2 and A3 above through increased need for fish processing and the sale of additional fishing gear and supplies. The economic benefits for the fishing community may be minimal, however as green-stick gear has been and continues to be used in U.S. Atlantic tuna fisheries and increases beyond existing levels are expected to be minimal. Vessel outfitting costs are similar to those described in A2 above.

Alternative B1 would maintain the status quo regarding harpoon use in the Atlantic tuna fisheries. Under this selected alternative, the authorized gears for Atlantic tunas fishing by HMS CHB permitted vessels would remain the same. Harpoon use is currently authorized only for vessels permitted in the Atlantic Tunas General and Harpoon categories. Harpoon gear is selective gear that is used to capture only one large pelagic fish (primarily BFT, but also swordfish) at a time. Bycatch and bycatch mortality of commercial handgear is considered to be low, particularly for harpoons, which are thrown individually at a fish, determined by the fisherman to be greater than the minimum commercial size. There is no information or evidence of interactions between harpoon users targeting Atlantic tunas and threatened or endangered sea turtles, marine mammals, or other protected resources. There were 3,901 HMS CHB permitted vessels as of November 30, 2007. Focusing on the area where harpoon gear has historically been used to capture commercial-sized BFT, there were 91 HMS CHB permitted vessels in Maine, 53 in New Hampshire, 644 in Massachusetts, and 159 in Rhode Island. Under Alternative B1, NMFS anticipates neutral impacts on permitted HMS vessels, which could continue to fish under the Atlantic Tunas General and Angling category regulations using existing authorized gear. Total Atlantic BFT General category revenues, which included sale of commercial-sized BFT by HMS CHB vessels, for the 2006 fishing year were approximately $2.6 million. General category BFT revenues for 2005 and 2004 were approximately $3.8 million and $5.4 million, respectively (in nominal dollars). General category BFT fishing year quotas, adjusted as necessary for underharvest, have not been met since 2004, when landings amounted to 96 percent of the quota. Atlantic Tunas General category landings, as a percentage of adjusted General category quota, were 33 percent (234 mt out of 707.3 mt) for 2005, 14 percent for 2006 (165 mt out of 1,163.3 mt), and 19 percent for 2007 (121 mt out of 643.6 mt).

Alternative B2 would authorize harpoon gear for the commercial harvest of Atlantic tunas, including BFT, for HMS CHB permitted vessels. Available vessel trip report data indicate that for Atlantic tunas fishing, harpoon gear is only used to target BFT. Under this alternative, HMS CHB vessels would be able to use harpoon gear to fish for and retain BFT greater than 73 inches curved fork length. HMS CHB vessels may currently fish under the Atlantic Tunas General category regulations and may fill the daily retention limit for either the Atlantic Tunas General category or the HMS Angling category. The size category of the first BFT retained determines the fishing category applicable to the vessel that day. This alternative would not change the number or size of BFT allowed to be retained on an HMS CHB vessel, but would provide HMS CHB fishermen the opportunity to use harpoon gear in filling the Atlantic Tunas General category daily retention limit.

Sub-alternative B2a would allow harpoon gear use on all types of HMS CHB trips. Sub-alternative B2b, the preferred alternative in the proposed rule, would limit harpoon use to non-for-hire trips. It is NMFS' understanding that due to safety and liability concerns, only vessel captain and crew would be involved in harpoon fishing (i.e., no other passengers would be offered the opportunity to use the gear). Under this alternative, there would be no incentive to harpoon a recreational sized fish (27 to less than 73 inches) to fill the Angling category retention limit (to satisfy expectations of individuals chartering the vessel). With effort focused on commercial-sized BFT, bycatch of undersized fish and associated fish mortality is expected to be minimal, particularly as the size of BFT targeted by for-hire HMS CHB vessels fall with in the school and large school BFT size classes, i.e. (27-59 inches).

The General category quota and overall U.S. TAC are designed to allow for BFT rebuilding, and the General category BFT retention limit is specified to allow fishing opportunities over the duration of the General category season and in all areas, without exceeding the General category BFT quota. This alternative would not be expected to result in an expanded geographic area of harpoon use for BFT, which has historically been off New England, and primarily on the fishing grounds off Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. Therefore, authorization of harpoon gear in the HMS CHB category would not be expected to have ecological impacts beyond those previously analyzed in the Consolidated HMS FMP and in the 2007 Fishing Year Atlantic BFT Quota Specifications and Effort Controls EA.

Alternative B2 would have positive social and economic impacts, specifically for those vessels that have success harpooning BFT that may be available at the water's surface. To the extent that a fisherman could harpoon BFT at the surface when the fish are present at the water's surface, Alternative B2 could increase the potential of filling the General category daily retention limit and of gaining more ex-vessel revenue per trip. NMFS anticipated that the number of BFT that would be caught with harpoon gear by HMS CHB vessels would be low. Alternative B2 may have slightly negative social and economic impacts for existing HMS CHB operators due to the potential for Atlantic Tunas General or Harpoon category permit holders to change to the HMS CHB category, potentially increasing competition in the HMS CHB sector and potentially resulting in lower profits for existing permit holders. Alternative B2 was not selected because, based on public comment, NMFS has reconsidered the authorization of an additional directed fishing gear type for BFT in the HMS CHB category at this time. After consideration of recent HMS AP

discussion and public comment on the proposed action, NMFS believes that harpoon use by HMS CHB vessels could result in increased discard mortality of BFT over the discard mortality that occurs with gear currently authorized for HMS CHB use or with green-stick gear. Based on the relative lack of public support, and the concerns raised by NMFS and the public, including bycatch, enforcement, safety, and BFT stock status generally, NMFS has decided, at this time, to maintain the status quo regarding authorized harpoon use, i.e., authorized harpoon use by the Atlantic Tunas General and Atlantic Tunas Harpoon permit categories only.

Alternative C1, which is the status quo alternative, would continue existing ecological benefits of the current requirements for possession and use of sea turtle bycatch mitigation equipment such as low post-release mortality of sea turtles and other by catch species. Alternative C1 is not selected because it would not provide for additional post-release survival benefits that may be achievable under preferred Alternative C2. Currently one type of sea turtle control device, the turtle tether, is recommended for possession and use, but is not required. Under the status quo, the benefit of better control of large sea turtles not boated and improvements in hook and fishing gear removal that would result in reduced post-release mortality would not be fully realized, but NMFS is unable to quantify the number of sea turtle mortalities that might occur in the absence of this benefit.

Under Alternative C1, the social and economic impacts would be minimal as sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear is currently required in the PLL fishery and sea turtle control devices are recommended, but not required. Any safety-at-sea benefit from improved control of large sea turtles not boated would not be fully realized with Alternative C1.

Under selected Alternative C2, which was a preferred alternative in the proposed rule, social and economic impacts may be positive in that further reduction in sea turtle mortalities achieved by enabling fishing gear removal may aid in continuation of the PLL fishery. Reducing the mortality of sea turtles in the PLL fishery reduces the likelihood that the performance targets for incidental take and mortality of sea turtles in the PLL fishery that were established in the 2004 BiOp are exceeded. Exceeding the performance targets in the 2004 BiOp could result in closure of the PLL fishery in the Gulf of Mexico and/or reinitiation of Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. Also, a safety-at-sea benefit from the use of sea turtle control devices will be realized as fishermen using the gear can more easily control large sea turtles while removing fishing hooks and lines. Other social and economic impacts of Alternative C2 are expected to be minimal. It is unknown how many vessels currently follow the recommendation to possess and use sea turtle control devices. Production models of the turtle tether cost from $200-$250 and may be constructed according to the design specifications for $40-$70. Production models of the T&G ninja sticks may be purchased for $175 and may be constructed according to the design specifications for approximately $25-$85. It is difficult to determine the number of Atlantic HMS permitted vessels that use longline and will be affected by this requirement as users of longline gear may possess any one of three permits; however, not all holders of these permits use longline gear. To estimate the total cost of outfitting each boat in the longline fleet with one sea turtle control device, NMFS totaled the number of Atlantic Tunas Longline, Shark Directed, or Shark Incidental permits, which produced an overestimate of the actual number of permitted vessels affected by the requirement. Based on the number of Atlantic Tunas Longline, Shark Directed, or Shark Incidental permitted vessels as of November 2007, it is estimated that the cost of outfitting the longline fleet with one turtle control device would range from $18,575, if all permit holders construct the least expensive device, to $185,750, if all permit holders purchase the most expensive model produced.

List of Subjects

50 CFR Part 600

Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

50 CFR Part 635

Fish, Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Management.

Dated: September 17, 2008.

Samuel D. Rauch III

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

■ For reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR parts 600 and 635 are amended as follows:

Chapter VI

PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT PROVISIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 600 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 561 and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 600.725, paragraph (v) table, under the heading ''IX. Secretary of Commerce,'' entries 1.I and 2 are revised and entry 1.M is added to read as follows:

§ 600.725 General prohibitions.

* * * * *

(v)* * *

Fishery	Authorized gear types
* * * * * * *	
IX. Secretary of Commerce	
1. Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries (FMP):	
* * * * * * *	
I. Tuna recreational fishery	I. Speargun gear (for bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas only); Rod and reel, handline (all tunas); green-stick gear (HMS Charter/Headboat Category only).
* * * * * * *	
M. Tuna green-stick fishery	M. Green-stick gear.
2. Commercial Fisheries (Non-FMP)	Rod and reel, handline, longline, gillnet, harpoon, bandit gear, purse seine, green-stick gear.

* * * * *

PART 635—-ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

■ 3. The authority citation for part 635 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 4. In § 635.2, the definition for ''Green-stick gear'' is added in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 635.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

Green-stick gear means an actively trolled mainline attached to a vessel and elevated or suspended above the surface of the water with no more than 10 hooks or gangions attached to the mainline. The suspended line, attached gangions and/or hooks, and catch may be retrieved collectively by hand or

mechanical means. Green–stick does not constitute a pelagic longline or a bottom longline as defined in this section or as described at § 635.21(c) or § 635.21(d), respectively.

* * * * *

■ 5. In § 635.21:

■ a. Paragraphs (c)(2)(v)(A), (c)(2)(v)(B), (c)(2)(v)(D), (c)(2)(v)(G), (c)(5)(i) introductory text, (c)(5)(ii)(A), (c)(5)(ii)(C)(*1*), (e)(1)(ii), (e)(1)(iii), and (e)(1)(v) are revised.

■ b. An introductory paragraph and paragraphs (c)(5)(i)(M), (c)(5)(iii)(C)(*3*), and (g) are added.

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 635.21 Gear operation and deployment restrictions.

The green-stick gear authorization requirements under paragraphs (c)(2)(v)(A), (c)(2)(v)(B), (c)(5)(iii)(C)(*3*), (e)(1)(ii), (e)(1)(iii), (e)(1)(v), and (g) of this section are effective on October 23, 2008. The sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear requirements under paragraphs (c)(2)(v)(D), (c)(2)(v)(G), (c)(5)(i) introductory text, (c)(5)(i)(M), (c)(5)(ii)(A), and (c)(5)(ii)(C)(*1*) of this section are effective on January 1, 2009.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(2) * * *

(v) * * *

(A) The vessel is limited to possessing onboard and/or using only 18/0 or larger circle hooks with an offset not to exceed 10 degrees. The outer diameter of the circle hook at its widest point must be no smaller than 2.16 inches (55 mm) when measured with the eye on the hook on the vertical axis (y-axis) and perpendicular to the horizontal axis (x-axis), and the distance between the circle hook point and the shank (i.e., the gap) must be no larger than 1.13 inches (28.8 mm). The allowable offset is measured from the barbed end of the hook and is relative to the parallel plane of the eyed-end, or shank, of the hook when laid on its side. The only allowable offset circle hooks are those that are offset by the hook manufacturer. If green-stick gear, as defined at § 635.2, is onboard, a vessel may possess up to 20 J-hooks. J-hooks may be used only with green-stick gear, and no more than 10 hooks may be used at one time with each green-stick gear. J-hooks used with green-stick gear may be no smaller than 1.5 inch (38.1 mm) when measured in a straight line over the longest distance from the eye to any other part of the hook; and,

(B) The vessel is limited, at all times, to possessing onboard and/or using only whole Atlantic mackerel and/or squid bait, except that artificial bait may be possessed and used only with green-stick gear, as defined at § 635.2, if green-stick gear is onboard; and,

* * * * *

(D) Required sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear, which NMFS has approved under paragraph (c)(5)(iv) of this section, on the list of ''NMFS-Approved Models for Equipment Needed for the Careful Release of Sea Turtles Caught In Hook and Line Fisheries,'' must be carried onboard, and must be used in accordance with the handling requirements specified in paragraphs (c)(2)(v)(E) through (G) of this section; and,

* * * * *

(G) *Non-boated turtles.* If a sea turtle is too large, or hooked in a manner that precludes safe boating without causing further damage or injury to the turtle, sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear, specified in paragraph (c)(2)(v)(D) of this section, must be used to disentangle sea turtles from fishing gear and disengage any hooks, or to clip the line and remove as much line as possible from a hook that cannot be removed, prior to releasing the turtle, in accordance with the protocols specified in paragraph (c)(2)(v)(C) of this section. Non-boated turtles should be brought close to the boat and provided with time to calm down. Then, it must be determined whether or not the hook can be removed without causing further injury. A front flipper or flippers of the turtle must be secured, if possible, with an approved turtle control device from the list specified in paragraph (c)(2)(v)(D) of this section. All externally embedded hooks must be removed, unless hook removal would result in further injury to the turtle. No attempt should be made to remove a hook if it has been swallowed, or if it is determined that removal would result in further injury. If the hook cannot be removed and/or if the animal is entangled, as much line as possible must be removed prior to release, using an approved line cutter from the list specified in paragraph (c)(2)(v)(D) of this section. If the hook can be removed, it must be removed using a long-handled dehooker from the list specified in paragraph (c)(2)(v)(D) of this section. Without causing further injury, as much gear as possible must be removed from the turtle prior to its release. Refer to the careful release protocols and handling/release guidelines required in paragraph (c)(2)(v)(C) of this section, and the handling and resuscitation requirements specified in § 223.206(d)(1) of this title, for additional information.

* * * * *

(5) * * *

(i) *Possession and use of required mitigation gear.* Required sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear, which NMFS has approved under paragraph (c)(5)(iv) of this section as meeting the minimum design standards specified in paragraphs (c)(5)(i)(A) through (M) of this section, must be carried onboard, and must be used to disengage any hooked or entangled sea turtles in accordance with the handling requirements specified in paragraph (c)(5)(ii) of this section.

* * * * *

(M) *Turtle control devices.* Effective January 1, 2009, one turtle control device, as described in paragraph (c)(5)(i)(M)(*1*) or (*2*) of this section, is required onboard and must be used to secure a front flipper of the sea turtle so that the animal can be controlled at the side of the vessel. It is strongly recommended that a pair of turtle control devices be used to secure both front flippers when crew size and conditions allow. Minimum design standards consist of:

(*1*) *Turtle tether and extended reach handle.* Approximately 15-20 feet of 1/2-inch hard lay negative buoyance line is used to make an approximately 30-inch loop to slip over the flipper. The line is fed through a 3/4-inch fair lead, eyelet, or eyebolt at the working end of a pole and through a 3/4-inch eyelet or eyebolt in the midsection. A 1/2-inch quick release cleat holds the line in place near the end of the pole. A final 3/4-inch eyelet or eyebolt should be positioned approximately 7-inches behind the cleat to secure the line, while allowing a safe working distance to avoid injury when releasing the line from the cleat. The line must be securely fastened to an extended reach handle or pole with a minimum length equal to, or greater than, 150 percent of the freeboard, or a minimum of 6 feet (1.83 m), whichever is greater. There is no restriction on the type of material used to construct this handle, as long as it is sturdy. The handle must include a tag line to attach the tether to the vessel to prevent the turtle from breaking away with the tether still attached.

(*2*) *T&G ninja sticks and extended reach handles.* Approximately 30-35 feet of 1/2-inch to 5/8-inch soft lay polypropylene or nylon line or similar is fed through 2 PVC conduit, fiberglass, of similar sturdy poles and knotted using an overhand (recommended) knot at the end of both poles or otherwise secured. There should be approximately

18-24 inches of exposed rope between the poles to be used as a working surface to capture and secure the flipper. Knot the line at the ends of both poles to prevent line slippage if they are not otherwise secured. The remaining line is used to tether the apparatus to the boat unless an additional tag line is used. Two lengths of sunlight resistant 3/4-inch schedule 40 PVC electrical conduit, fiberglass, aluminum, or similar material should be used to construct the apparatus with a minimum length equal to, or greater than, 150 percent of the freeboard, or a minimum of 6 feet (1.83 m), whichever is greater.

(ii) * * *

(A) Sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear, as required by paragraphs (c)(5)(i)(A) through (D) of this section, must be used to disengage any hooked or entangled sea turtles that cannot be brought onboard. Sea turtle bycatch mitigation gear, as required by paragraphs (c)(5)(i)(E) through (M) of this section, must be used to facilitate access, safe handling, disentanglement, and hook removal or hook cutting of sea turtles that can be brought onboard, where feasible. Sea turtles must be handled, and bycatch mitigation gear must be used, in accordance with the careful release protocols and handling/release guidelines specified in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, and in accordance with the onboard handling and resuscitation requirements specified in § 223.206(d)(1) of this title.

* * * * *

(C) * * *

(*1*) Non-boated turtles should be brought close to the boat and provided with time to calm down. Then, it must be determined whether or not the hook can be removed without causing further injury. A front flipper or flippers of the turtle must be secured with an approved turtle control device from the list specified in paragraph (c)(2)(v)(D) of this section. All externally embedded hooks must be removed, unless hook removal would result in further injury to the turtle. No attempt should be made to remove a hook if it has been swallowed, or if it is determined that removal would result in further injury. If the hook cannot be removed and/or if the animal is entangled, as much line as possible must be removed prior to release, using a line cutter as required by paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section. If the hook can be removed, it must be removed using a long-handled dehooker as required by paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section. Without causing further injury, as much gear as possible must be removed from the turtle prior to its release. Refer to the careful release protocols and handling/release guidelines required in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, and the handling and resuscitation requirements specified in § 223.206(d)(1) of this title for additional information.

* * * * *

(iii) * * *

(C) * * *

(*3*) If green-stick gear, as defined at § 635.2, is onboard, a vessel may possess up to 20 J-hooks. J-hooks may be used only with green-stick gear, and no more than 10 hooks may be used at one time with each green-stick gear. J-hooks used with green-stick gear may be no smaller than 1.5 inch (38.1 mm) when measured in a straight line over the longest distance from the eye to any other part of the hook. If green-stick gear is onboard, artificial bait may be possessed, but used only with green-stick gear.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) *Charter/Headboat.* Rod and reel (including downriggers), bandit gear, handline, and green-stick gear are authorized for all recreational and commercial Atlantic tuna fisheries. Speargun is authorized for recreational Atlantic BAYS tuna fisheries only.

(iii) *General.* Rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, bandit gear, and green-stick.

* * * * *

(v) *Longline.* Longline and green-stick.

* * * * *

(g) *Green-stick gear.* Green-stick gear may only be utilized when fishing from vessels issued a valid Atlantic Tunas General, HMS Charter/Headboat, or Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit. The gear must be attached to the vessel, actively trolled with the mainline at or above the water's surface, and may not be deployed with more than 10 hooks or gangions attached.

■ 6. In § 635.71:

■ a. Paragraph (a)(23) is revised.

■ b. Paragraphs (b)(36) through (40) are added.

The revision and additions read as follows:

§ 635.71 Prohibitions.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(23) Fail to comply with the restrictions on use of pelagic longline, bottom longline, gillnet, buoy gear, speargun gear, or green-stick gear as specified in § 635.21(c), (d), (e)(1), (e)(3), (e)(4), (f), or (g).

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(36) Possess J-hooks onboard a vessel that has pelagic longline gear onboard, and that has been issued, or is required to have, a limited access swordfish, shark, or tuna longline category permit for use in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, except when green-stick gear is onboard, as specified at § 635.21(c)(2)(v)(A) and (c)(5)(iii)(C)(*3*).

(37) Use or deploy J-hooks with pelagic longline gear from a vessel that has been issued, or is required to have, a limited access swordfish, shark, or tuna longline category permit for use in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

(38) Possess more than 20 J-hooks onboard a vessel that has been issued, or is required to have, a limited access swordfish, shark, or tuna longline category permit for use in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, when possessing onboard both pelagic longline gear, as described at § 635.21(c), and green-stick gear as defined at § 635.2.

(39) Use or deploy more than 10 hooks at one time on any individual green-stick gear.

(40) Possess, use, or deploy J-hooks smaller than 1.5 inch (38.1 mm), when measured in a straight line over the longest distance from the eye to any other part of the hook, when fishing with or possessing green-stick gear onboard a vessel that has been issued, or is required to have, a limited access swordfish, shark, or tuna longline category permit for use in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. E8–22261 Filed 9–22–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 070817467–81179–04]

RIN 0648–AV90

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Framework Adjustment 19; Correcting Amendment

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS is correcting regulatory text implementing measures that were