

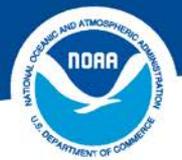
HMS Dealer & Importer/Exporter Compliance Guide

Guide for Complying with the Atlantic
Tuna, Swordfish, Shark, and Billfish
Regulations



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Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species
Management Division



Introduction to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS), including tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish, are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce, considering both the domestic and international aspects of these fisheries.

This guide provides a plain language summary of federal Atlantic HMS Dealer and Importer/Exporter regulations for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish. The guide amends all dealer and importer/exporter sections of previous guides and is produced in compliance with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, which requires a plain language summary of certain regulations. Since regulations frequently change, it is ***your responsibility*** to become familiar with the latest regulatory updates and to comply with all current regulations. For a comprehensive list of updated Atlantic HMS regulations, please refer to the *electronic Code of Federal Regulations* (<http://www.ecfr.gov>). ***If there is a discrepancy between this summary and the regulations, the regulations take precedence.***

For updates affecting HMS Dealers and Importers/Exporters, please call the HMS Management Division at (301) 427-8503, or visit the HMS website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>. Stay up-to-date on HMS regulations by subscribing to *Atlantic HMS News* on the HMS website.

Endnotes (1, 2, 3, etc.) are in the final chapter of this guide, and refer to the location of the regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50 Wildlife and Fisheries. In the electronic version of this guide, clicking the endnote text in the final chapter will open your internet browser to the cited section of the electronic CFR.

NEW during 2016-18:

Smoothhound Shark Federal Management: Effective March 15, 2016, smoothhound sharks (smooth dogfish, Florida smoothhound, and Gulf smoothhound) are under Federal management. Dealers wishing to purchase smoothhound sharks must obtain an Atlantic shark dealer permit, which requires attendance at an Atlantic Shark Identification workshop. Regional smoothhound shark commercial quotas in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico are effective as well. In limited circumstances, smooth dogfish fins may be removed at sea provided certain regulatory criteria are met. Please see Section IV for details.

ICCAT Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD): Effective June 30, 2016, Atlantic bluefin tuna imports, exports, and re-exports must be documented electronically using the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) eBCD system. Please see Section V for details.

Electronic Dealer Reporting for Bluefin Tuna Landings: Effective July 28,

2016, all bluefin tuna landings must be reported to NMFS electronically using the SAFIS electronic dealer reporting web application. The FAX dealer reporting system is no longer in effect. Biweekly dealer reports must still be submitted in hard copy. For further information, please see Section III.

Electronic Filing of HMS International Trade Data: Effective September 20, 2016, all trade documentation due at the time of filing for entry into, or export from the United States, must be submitted electronically. Import data/documentation must be submitted through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) and export data/documentation must be submitted via the Automated Export System (AES). This documentation includes, but is not limited to, swordfish and frozen bigeye tuna statistical documents, catch documents for Pacific and southern bluefin tuna, and catch documents for Atlantic bluefin tuna caught prior to May 1, 2016. Atlantic bluefin tuna caught after May 1, 2016 should be documented electronically in the eBCD system, but required data elements must also be included in ACE and AES. In addition, there are newly required data elements specific to each program in ACE and AES. Note that the requirement for the submission of Biweekly reports to the respective offices has not changed, and is outlined in Section V. For further information, please see Section V.

International Fisheries Trade Permit: Effective September 20, 2016, the International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP) replaced the HMS International Trade Permit (ITP). The IFTP is required to import, export, or re-export bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, swordfish, or shark fins.

Seafood Import Monitoring Program: Effective January 1, 2018, after being published December 9, 2016 with delayed effectiveness, the Seafood Import Monitoring Program extends the IFTP requirement to those engaged in the import of BAYS tunas and sharks, and requires that importers of tunas, swordfish and sharks provide additional data in the ACE system at the time of import. Importers must also maintain information to track the chain of custody for these products. Additional guidance is available at www.iuufishing.noaa.gov.

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I. PERMITS

Federal dealer permits are required to purchase, trade, or barter any HMS from a U.S. fishing vessel, even if the HMS product is landed in a foreign port. HMS product that was caught and retained by a U.S. fishing vessel is generally considered a domestic product and is not considered an import, even when the product is landed in a foreign port and crosses the U.S. border after landing. *(For information on landings of HMS listed on Appendix II of CITES which may be considered imports, see Section IV.)*

International trade of some HMS requires the International Fisheries Trade Permit. International trade generally means the importation or exportation of HMS product that was landed by a foreign fishing vessel in a foreign port.

If a product landed by a U.S. vessel in a foreign port is processed from its original form before it is brought into the United States, the product may be considered an import, and the International Fisheries Trade Permit may be required. A description of HMS permits follows.

ATLANTIC TUNAS DEALER PERMIT¹



Atlantic tunas dealers must obtain a federal Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit in order to purchase, trade, or barter Atlantic bluefin, or bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, or skipjack (BAYS) tunas from a vessel.

Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permits are valid for one year and are available from the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Office by calling (978) 281-9370 or at <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/forms.html>.

ATLANTIC SWORDFISH DEALER PERMIT²



Atlantic swordfish dealers must obtain a federal Atlantic Swordfish Dealer Permit in order to purchase, trade, or barter for Atlantic swordfish from a federally-permitted vessel.

Atlantic Swordfish Dealer Permits are valid for one year and are available from the NMFS Southeast Regional Permits Office at (727) 824-5326 or http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituency_services_branch/permits/permit_apps/.

ATLANTIC SHARKS DEALER PERMIT³



Atlantic shark dealers must obtain a federal Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit in order to purchase, trade, or barter any of the Atlantic sharks listed below from a federally-permitted vessel. See below also for workshop requirements.

Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permits are valid for one year and are available from the NMFS Southeast Regional Permits Office at (727) 824-5326 or http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituency_services_branch/permits/permit_apps/.

Atlantic shark species authorized for purchase with Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit:

Large Coastal Sharks (LCS) (non-ridgeback LCS & tiger)		Small Coastal Sharks (SCS)	Pelagic Sharks	Smoothhound Sharks**
Blacktip	Lemon	Atlantic sharpnose	Blue	Smooth dogfish
Spinner	Nurse	Blacknose	Oceanic whitetip*	Florida
Bull	Silky*	Bonnethead	Porbeagle	smoothhound
Tiger		Finetooth	Shortfin mako	Gulf smoothhound
Hammerhead, great*			Thresher	
Hammerhead, scalloped*				
Hammerhead, smooth*				

*See *Section IV. Restrictions; Atlantic Shark Restrictions; Oceanic Whitetip, Silky, and Hammerhead Sharks*

** Dealer permit required as of March 15, 2016.

Shark dealers may not purchase prohibited shark species (identified in *Section IV. Restrictions*). Some sharks caught beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, ie., greater than 200 miles from shore) may be subject to additional permitting requirements under CITES. Please see *Section IV. Restrictions*

Workshop Requirements for Atlantic Shark Dealers

A dealer must be certified in shark identification at an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop before an Atlantic Shark Dealer Permit will be issued. For further information, see *Section IV. Restrictions – Required Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops*.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES TRADE PERMIT⁴

An International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP) is required for trade of the following HMS, as indicated:

Import, Export and Re-export	Import only*
Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern bluefin tuna	Tuna (yellowfin, albacore, skipjack, bigeye)
Swordfish	Sharks
Frozen bigeye tuna	
Shark fins	

*For further information, see the NMFS Tuna Tracking and Verification Program and NMFS Seafood Import Monitoring Program at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/tuna-tracking-and-verification-program>

IFTPs are issued online via the NMFS National Permit System

(<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/node/23406>). A User Guide for obtaining an IFTP is available at this link:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/63590627>

Permits are valid for one year from date of issuance. For further information about reporting requirements, see *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-exporting HMS Under the HMS International Trade Program*.

ATLANTIC BILLFISHES

The purchase of Atlantic billfish from a fishing vessel is prohibited.⁵ For further information on the sale of billfish, see *Section IV. Restrictions*.

II. DEALER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – Atlantic Sharks, Atlantic Swordfish, and Atlantic BAYS Tunas⁶

Dealer reporting regulations apply to all dealers who “first receive” HMS products. In the HMS regulations, “first receive” means to take possession for commercial purposes, of any HMS or any part thereof, by purchasing, trading or bartering for it from the fishing vessel owner or operator once it is offloaded, except when such possession is solely for transport.⁷

The purpose of using the term “first receive” in the regulations is to clarify that reporting requirements do apply at the point of the first commercial transaction but do not apply to individuals (i.e., transportation companies) that take custody of a product solely for transport. These reporting requirements apply to any HMS product that is “first received” by a U.S. entity from a U.S. fishing vessel, even if the product was landed in a foreign port (unless that vessel is operating under a chartering agreement with another country). If the HMS product was landed by a U.S. fishing vessel, even outside of the United States, the HMS product is not considered an import, and the “first receiver” must have a federal dealer permit and comply with the dealer reporting requirements described below.

In most cases, dealers purchase product directly from a fisherman without transportation of the product from fisherman to dealer via a third party transportation company. To reflect this, and to simplify the terminology in this guide, we used the term “purchase” broadly to include any product that was “first received.”

Dealers must submit ***weekly electronic*** reports for purchases of HMS. The reporting period consists of a week that begins Sunday and runs through the following Saturday. Reports for each week must be submitted no later than midnight (local time) on Tuesday of the following week (see Table below for example).

If no purchases were made during a week, dealers must submit a negative (i.e., no purchase) report by the same deadline. NMFS requires negative reports so that we know you did not purchase any fish during the previous week. Without a negative report, we assume you purchased fish and did not report.

Dealers may purchase Atlantic swordfish, sharks, and BAYS tunas only if they have submitted all required weekly electronic reports to NMFS. Any delinquent (i.e., late or missing) reports must be submitted to NMFS before a dealer can lawfully purchase Atlantic swordfish, sharks, and BAYS tunas.

Example of reporting week and respective due dates for weekly electronic dealer reports:

Week #	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1							
2			<i>Week #1 Report due</i>				
3 (etc.)			<i>Week #2 Report due</i>				

Although submission of delinquent reports will allow a dealer to lawfully purchase Atlantic swordfish, sharks, and BAYS tunas from a fishing vessel, late reporting is still a violation of the regulations and could result in enforcement action, including the revocation, suspension or modification of the dealer permit or the denial of any future permit applications. Dealers are required to submit weekly reports through one of the approved electronic reporting systems. The required data elements include but are not limited to:

- fishing vessel ID number
- fishing vessel name
- logbook ID information or VTR
- landings from the Atlantic Shark Research Fishery
- Southeast Observer log ID number
- gear type
- HMS catch area
- landing date
- purchase price
- information on whether shark fins were naturally attached at the time of landing
- explanation for a late, modified and/or negative report
- total sales price (see below)

These elements allow for verification across various data sets (e.g., between vessel logbooks, dealer reports, and observer logs) and improve management of HMS fisheries. Submission of incomplete reports is a violation and may result in enforcement action, including revocation, suspension or modification of the dealer permit, or denial of any future applications.

Each electronic dealer report must include a Logbook identification number, also known as a Vessel Trip Report (VTR) number or “VTR #,” which dealers must obtain from the fisherman who sold the catch. An HMS fisherman may use one of three types of logbooks. Each type of logbook has a unique ID number that is used as the VTR # for dealer reporting:

- 1) in the “Fishing Vessel Logbook Record Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries” (also known as the HMS Pelagic Longline Logbook), the VTR # is found in the area labeled “HMS

VTR#/Schedule #” on the Trip Summary Report form;

2) in the Coastal Fisheries logbook, the VTR #, which starts with an R, is shown on the Southeast Coastal Fisheries Trip Report Form;

3) for Vessel Trip Reports, the VTR Serial Number on the Fishing Vessel Trip Report should be used.

If a VTR number is not available, dealers will need to indicate the reason why on their electronic dealer report (such as you purchased fish from a state-only vessel), and NMFS will contact the dealer to follow up.

Dealers are required to report how much they paid the vessel owner for any purchased fish (“purchase price”). While a dealer will need to provide this price information in each electronic dealer report, they will be able to update price information on a previously submitted report (unless prohibited by state regulations) for up to 30 days from the submission of that report, in order to provide the most accurate price information available. In the Trip Ticket versions of the electronic reporting programs, dealers can select the “no sale” check box if they provide a purchase price.

If dealers do not provide a purchase price, then they must provide a total sales price. The total sales price is the amount of money received for HMS product sold to a third party (e.g., restaurant, HMS dealer, grocery store). This typically applies in two situations: 1) one person is both the fisherman and the dealer, so there is no transaction between the fisherman and dealer; or 2) live fish are being sold for the aquarium trade, and the total sales price is a more appropriate estimate of the transaction than a price per pound.

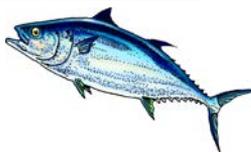
If dealers encounter a problem while submitting electronic dealer reports or encounter problems in reporting due to a power outage, natural disaster, or other circumstance beyond their control, they should contact NMFS as soon as possible by calling 301-427-8590 or emailing HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov.

Official correspondence from NMFS regarding late reports or other reporting issues is via email. Dealers should keep their email address up to date and notify NMFS at HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov or 301-427-8590 regarding any changes to their email address.

Dealers must retain all reports for a period of two years after they are required to be submitted to NMFS.⁸

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III. DEALER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS Atlantic Bluefin Tuna⁹



LANDINGS REPORTS AND TAGS

Atlantic bluefin tuna dealers must submit a daily landing report to NMFS for each bluefin tuna that is received from a U.S. vessel authorized to harvest Atlantic tunas. Daily landing reports must be submitted via the SAFIS electronic dealer reporting (eDR) web application (https://safis.accsp.org:8443/safis_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101).

Landing reports must be received by NMFS no later than 24 hours after a dealer receives a bluefin tuna. Most SAFIS data fields must be submitted within 24 hours of landing; however, others must be submitted within 10 days of the end of a biweekly reporting period (see *Biweekly Reports* below for more information on biweekly reporting periods).

Data fields required within 24 hours	Data fields required within 10 days after the end of a biweekly reporting period (i.e., either the 25 th of the month or 10 th of the following month)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landing date • Vessel Information (<i>USCG documentation number or State Registration Number is best</i>) • Gear type • Grade (<i>dressed or round</i>) • Tag Number • Length • Measurement type • Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price • Destination (<i>export or domestic</i>) • Sale type (<i>dockside or consignment</i>) <p>OPTIONAL FIELDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshness • Fat • Color • Shape

A user guide for submitting bluefin tuna landings via the SAFIS interface is available at the following link:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/64264326>.

Assistance is also available by calling the HMS eDealer customer service line at (301) 427-8590.

NMFS issues numbered dealer tags to each permitted Atlantic tuna dealer. A dealer tag is not transferable and is usable only by the dealer to whom it was issued. One of these tags must be affixed to each bluefin tuna immediately after offloading. If the fish is on the vessel, and the vessel is trailered, then the fish must be tagged as soon as the vessel is removed from the water.

Tags must be attached to the bluefin tuna between the fifth dorsal finlet and the caudal keel, and must remain on the bluefin tuna until the fish is cut into portions. If the bluefin tuna or its parts are packaged for transport, then the number of the dealer tag must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of the package.

Dealer tags may not be reused once affixed to a tuna or recorded on a package, container, or report. See *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-Exporting HMS* for information on importing or exporting a tagged bluefin tuna.

BIWEEKLY REPORTS

In addition to electronic landing reports, bi-weekly reports must be completed by all dealers that purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna, and may be obtained by emailing BFTRreporting@noaa.gov or at the following website:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/63593862>.

A report for the first reporting period of the month covers day 1-15, and the second reporting period covers day 16 to the end of the month. Reports must be received by NMFS no later than 10 days after the last day of the reporting period.

Biweekly Reporting Period Begins:	Biweekly Reporting Period Ends:	Report Due Date:
1 st of Month	15 th of Month	25 th of Month
16 th of Month	Last day of Month	10 th of Following Month
EXAMPLE:		
16 July 2017	31 July 2017	10 August 2017

BLUEFIN TUNA CAUGHT BY PELAGIC LONGLINE OR PURSE SEINE GEAR

When a dealer purchases a bluefin tuna from a pelagic longline or purse seine fisherman, the dealer must report that purchase in the HMS Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) Online System

(<https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/cs/main.html#>) in addition to submitting an electronic landing report and biweekly report.

Furthermore, if the dealer makes any purchases from a pelagic longline or purse seine fisherman who had dead discards of bluefin tuna during his trip, the fisherman must report the bluefin tuna dead discards using the dealer's IBQ Online System interface (even if no bluefin tuna were purchased for that trip).¹⁰

Online reports must be submitted within 24 hours of purchase.

A User ID and PIN for the IBQ Online System can be obtained by calling IBQ customer service at 301/427-8591 or emailing NMFS.HMS.IBQ@noaa.gov. Additional information is available in the *User Guide for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) Online System* which can be downloaded from the [Southeast Regional Office Catch Share Programs webpage](#). Select "additional information," select BFT, and then find "Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) Troubleshooting Guide." Dealers must retain copies of all reports for a period of two years after they are required to be submitted to NMFS.¹¹

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IV. RESTRICTIONS

HMS RESTRICTIONS

Dealers may purchase HMS only from a vessel that has a valid commercial permit in the appropriate category or fishery, and only when that category or fishery (or species, management group, region, and/or sub-region) is open. HMS Charter/Headboat permit holders must have a commercial sale endorsement to be authorized to sell HMS.¹²

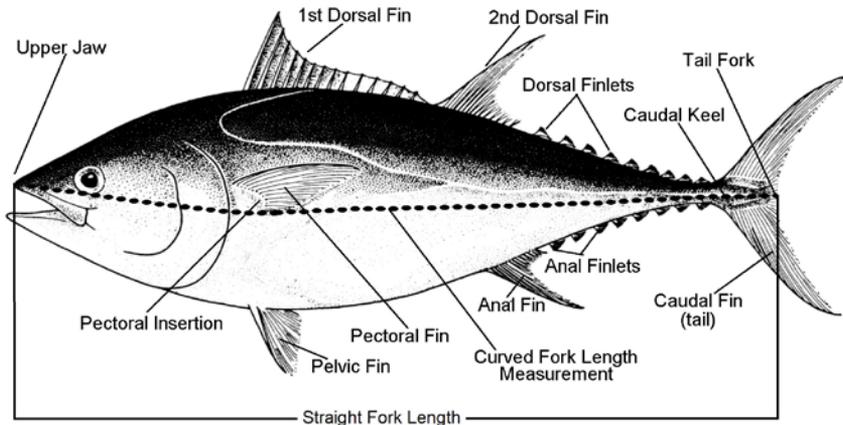
ATLANTIC TUNAS RESTRICTIONS

Atlantic tunas dealers may only purchase Atlantic tunas from properly permitted commercial Atlantic tunas permit holders, and may not purchase tunas harvested with a speargun.¹³

All tunas must be landed with at least the tail and one pectoral fin attached. The upper and lower lobes of the tuna tail may be removed for storage purposes as long as the fork of the tail remains intact.¹⁴

ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA RESTRICTIONS

In addition to the restrictions above, Atlantic bluefin tuna dealers may only purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna that are at least 73" curved fork length (CFL) (equivalent to 54" pectoral fin curved fork length (PFCFL)) and only from commercially permitted U.S. vessels.¹⁵ CFL means the length of the fish measured from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail in a line that runs along the contour of the body, along the tops of the pectoral and caudal keel. PFCFL is the length of a fish measured from the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin to the fork of the tail, in a line that runs along the contour of the body along the tops of the pectoral fin and caudal keel.¹⁶



Dealers may not purchase bluefin tuna harvested by a vessel with a General

category or HMS Charter/Headboat permit when that vessel is fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, or when the General category is closed.¹⁷

Dealers may purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna from vessels issued an Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit only when the tuna were taken incidentally while fishing for other species and if both the dealer and vessel have access to the electronic IBQ system and have set up an IBQ account on that system.¹⁸ Effective January 1, 2016, dealers may purchase bluefin tuna from vessels issued an Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit only if the Longline category is open *and* the vessel has met the minimum quota allocation and accounting requirements.

ATLANTIC SHARKS RESTRICTIONS

Federal shark dealers may *not* purchase the following **prohibited shark species**:

Atlantic angel	Caribbean reef	Night	Sixgill
Basking	Caribbean sharpnose	Sandbar*	Smalltail
Bigeye sand tiger	Dusky	Sand tiger	Whale
Bigeye sixgill	Galapagos	Sevengill	White
Bigeye thresher	Longfin mako	Silky	
Bignose	Narrowtooth		

*Sandbar sharks are prohibited, except for vessels participating in the shark research fishery while carrying a NMFS-approved observer (see *Sandbar Sharks* below).

Shark Fins¹⁹

A dealer may not purchase shark fins or carcasses from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel issued a federal Atlantic commercial shark permit who lands sharks in an Atlantic coastal port, unless such fins were naturally attached to the corresponding carcass through offloading. (For information on importing or exporting shark fins, see *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-Exporting HMS.*) There is one limited exception to this rule because of provisions Congress enacted in the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, related to smooth dogfish.

Fishermen may remove smooth dogfish fins from the smooth dogfish carcass before offloading provided the following conditions are met: 1) the vessel has been issued a Federal commercial smoothhound shark permit, 2) the fisherman/vessel has been issued a state commercial fishing permit valid for smooth dogfish fishing, 3) the smooth dogfish are caught within 50 nm of shore from Maine through the boundary in Florida at 25°20.4' N. lat., proceeding due east, 4) at least 25 % of the retained catch, by weight, is smooth dogfish, and 5) the weight of smooth dogfish fins on board does not exceed 12 % of the smooth dogfish carcass weight. If all these conditions are met, a dealer may purchase smooth dogfish from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel who lands smooth dogfish without the fins naturally attached to the carcass. This provision applies only to smooth dogfish and not to other types of smoothhound sharks.

Oceanic Whitetip, Silky and Hammerhead Sharks²⁰

A dealer may not purchase oceanic whitetip sharks, silky sharks, or scalloped, smooth, or great hammerhead sharks from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel with pelagic longline gear on board. A dealer may not purchase these sharks from the owner of a fishing vessel issued both an HMS Charter/Headboat permit and a commercial shark permit when tuna, swordfish, or billfish are on board the vessel, offloaded from the vessel, or being offloaded from the vessel.

Sandbar Sharks²¹

The **only** federally permitted vessels that are authorized to possess sandbar sharks are those vessels with a valid shark research fishery permit that also have a NMFS-approved observer onboard during the trip when sandbar sharks were landed. When buying sandbar sharks, dealers **must** verify that the product they are purchasing came from a vessel that has the shark research fishery permit, which authorizes a specific trip limit for sandbar sharks, and that the vessel carried an observer during that particular trip. ***If the vessel did not carry an observer during that trip, any sandbar sharks taken are illegal and may not be purchased, even if the vessel has a valid shark research fishery permit.***

Vessels that possess only a state permit and **do not** have a federal directed or incidental shark permit and were fishing in state waters and in accordance with state regulations may also be authorized to possess sandbar sharks, depending on the state.

Non-sandbar Large Coastal Sharks (LCS)

The trip limit for fishermen with a federal directed shark limited access permit can change throughout the year from 0 to 55 non-sandbar LCS. ***If*** the species, management group, and/or region is open, federally permitted dealers can purchase up to the then-specified regulatory trip limit of non-sandbar LCS sharks per vessel per trip from fishermen with a federal directed shark limited access permit and no more than 3 non-sandbar LCS per vessel per trip from a fishermen with a federal incidental shark limited access permit.²²

Federally permitted dealers who also possess the appropriate state dealer permits can buy non-sandbar LCS sharks from fishermen who do not have a federal shark limited access permit, ***if*** the fishermen fish exclusively in state waters and are following state regulations.²³

NOTE: Atlantic states (Maine through Florida) mirror most federal shark regulations, and also require that any dealers buying sharks must hold a federal shark dealer permit in addition to any state requirements, per the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Shark Plan. Visit www.asmfc.org or call (202) 289-6400 for more information. Other states (i.e., Gulf of Mexico states) also mirror most federal regulations measures such as seasons, trip limits,

sandbar sharks, and prohibited species. Dealers should contact their state fishery resource management agency if they have questions about the state regulations. State agencies are listed in *Section VI. Contact List*.

Sharks Listed in Appendix II of CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that trade does not threaten the survival of listed animals and plants in the wild. Species listed on Appendix II are those for which trade must be controlled in order to avoid “use incompatible with their survival.” Sharks listed in Appendix II are: **basking, whale, oceanic whitetip, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead, porbeagle, and, starting in October 2017, silky and thresher sharks.**

Any sharks listed on Appendix II (identified above) that are caught on the “High Seas” (i.e., outside the U.S. EEZ) are considered “imports” for CITES purposes and must be landed only at a designated port and with an “Introduction From the Sea” (IFS) Certificate issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<https://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-31.pdf>).

IFS applications may take more than 90 days to process. Please see the following link for further information:

<https://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>
or call 800-358-2104 or email: managementauthority@fws.gov.

Required Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops²⁴

Federally permitted Atlantic shark dealers, or a proxy for each of the dealer’s locations that purchase sharks, must attend an ***Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop*** in order to renew their Atlantic shark dealer permit. 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 will train shark dealer permit holders, or their proxies, to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses. ***Shark dealer proxies*** are persons currently employed at a location that purchases sharks under a shark dealer permit.²⁵ This proxy must be the primary participant in identifying, weighing, and/or first receipt of fish as they are received. The proxy must also be involved in completing dealer reports. If a dealer opts to send a proxy to the workshop, the dealer must designate at least one proxy from each place of business listed on the dealer permit which purchases Atlantic sharks. NMFS also encourages all dealer employees who may be involved in shark identification to attend a shark identification workshop.

Persons holding an expired Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit, and persons who intend to apply for a new Atlantic Sharks Dealer Permit, will be issued a “participant” certificate in their name upon successful completion of the Atlantic shark identification workshop.²⁶ A participant certificate may be used only to

apply for an Atlantic Shark Dealer Permit. An Atlantic shark dealer may not purchase Atlantic sharks without a valid “dealer” or “proxy” Atlantic shark identification workshop certificate issued to the dealer or proxy.

After an Atlantic Shark Dealer Permit is issued to a person using an Atlantic shark identification workshop participant certificate, such person may obtain an Atlantic shark identification workshop dealer certificate for each location which purchases Atlantic sharks by contacting NMFS at (727) 824-5399.

Atlantic shark identification workshops are held quarterly and occur throughout the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. More information on workshops, including upcoming locations and dates, can be found on the HMS Management Division’s webpage: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-shark-identification-workshops>

To pre-register for a workshop, please call Eric Sander at (386) 852-8588 and either fax a completed pre-registration form to Eric Sander at (386) 756-1756, attach it to an email to esander@peoplepc.com, or bring it with you to the workshop.

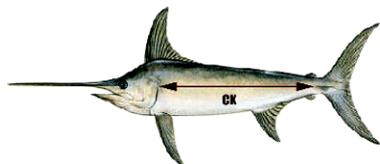
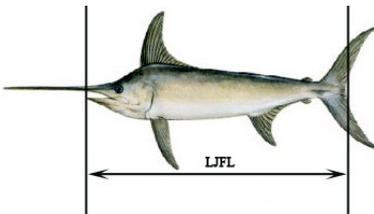
ATLANTIC SWORDFISH RESTRICTIONS

Atlantic swordfish dealers may only purchase swordfish from an owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has a federal commercial permit for swordfish.²⁷ Such swordfish must meet the minimum size requirements.²⁸ The measurement used to determine if a swordfish is of legal size depends on whether or not the head is naturally attached to the carcass.



If the head is naturally attached, the fish must be at least 47" (119 cm) lower jaw fork length (LJFL). LJFL is a straight line measurement from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail (see figure). “Naturally attached” means that the whole head is fully attached to the carcass except for the bill, which may be removed provided it has been removed forward of the front tip of the lower jaw.

If the head is removed prior to or at the time of landing, the fish must be at least 25" (63 cm) cleithrum to caudal keel (CK) length. CK is the curved length measurement from cleithrum to the caudal keel.



Importing or Exporting Atlantic Swordfish

For information on importing or exporting swordfish, see *Section V. Importing, Exporting, and Re-Exporting HMS*.

RESTRICTIONS ON SALE OF ATLANTIC BILLFISH

The purchase of Atlantic billfish from a fishing vessel is prohibited.²⁹ An Atlantic dealer permit is not required in order to buy Pacific billfishes landed in Hawaii or Pacific Insular Areas.

The Billfish Conservation Act and regulations at 50 CFR 635.31(b) prohibit the sale of billfish and billfish products, and custody, control or possession of billfish and billfish products, for purposes of offering them for sale. The Billfish Conservation Act includes exceptions for billfish caught by U.S. fishing vessels and landed in Hawaii or Pacific Insular Areas and for billfish landed in the Pacific Insular Areas by foreign vessels and exported or retained for local consumption in Hawaii or the Pacific Insular Areas (see Section 4(c) of the Billfish Conservation Act; Public Law 112-183 October 5, 2012 and 78 FR 20291 (April 4, 2013)).

Billfish possessed by a dealer or seafood processor must be accompanied by a Billfish Certificate of Eligibility (COE)³⁰ that documents the harvesting vessel and the body of water from which the fish was harvested. The COE must be signed and dated by each dealer that possessed the product throughout the chain of custody, up to but not including the consumer. Billfish COEs are available at the HMS Management Division’s website:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/64589695>

NOTES: _____

V. IMPORTING, EXPORTING AND RE-EXPORTING HMS UNDER THE HMS INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROGRAM

NMFS regulations at 50 CFR 300 subpart M pertain to the HMS International Trade Program (ITP), and cover importing, exporting, and re-exporting the following HMS:³¹

- (1) Bluefin tuna,*
- (2) Southern bluefin tuna,*
- (3) Frozen bigeye tuna,*
- (4) Swordfish,* and
- (5) Shark fins.

*For these HMS, fish parts other than meat (e.g., heads, eyes, roe, guts, and tails) may be imported without documentation.

NMFS regulations for several other programs may also apply to imports of HMS. The Tuna Tracking and Verification Program applies to all imported frozen or processed tuna and authenticates dolphin-safe labelling. Requirements of this program and further information are available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/tuna-tracking-and-verification-program>.

The Seafood Import Monitoring Program applies to imports of bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna, swordfish, and sharks. Requirements of this program and further information are available at:

<http://www.iuufishing.noaa.gov/RecommendationsandActions/RECOMMENDATION1415/FinalRuleTraceability.aspx>.

Please note, if the above HMS were landed by a U.S. fishing vessel in a foreign port and are not processed before being transported into the United States, the HMS are not considered an import, and the “first receiver” (i.e., U.S. dealer purchasing the product) must have a federal dealer permit, as described under the “Permits” section. In addition, the federal dealer must comply with the dealer reporting requirements as described under the “Dealer Reporting Requirements” section. If the HMS are landed by a U.S. fishing vessel in a foreign port and are processed from their original form before being transported into the United States, the HMS may be considered an import and an International Fisheries Trade Permit may be required.

HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE

When imported or exported, products of the HMS listed above must be classified under the appropriate heading or subheading code from the

Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States. Importers of these products are required to use the most descriptive HTS code for the product that is traded.

The HTS is updated approximately every five years. In order to obtain the current HTS and to check for any changes please refer to the International Trade Commission’s website at <https://hts.usitc.gov/current>.

HTS codes

Highly Migratory Species		HTS Code
Bluefin Tuna	Live Atlantic and Pacific	0301.94.01.00
	Fresh or chilled Atlantic and Pacific	0302.35.01.00
	Frozen Atlantic	0303.45.01.10
	Frozen Pacific	0303.45.01.50
Bluefin Tuna, Southern	Live	0301.95.00.00
	Fresh or chilled	0302.36.00.00
	Frozen	0303.46.00.00
Bigeye Tuna	Frozen	0303.44.00.00
	Frozen fillets and other fish meat	0304.87.00.00
Swordfish	Fresh or chilled steaks	0302.47.00.10
	Fresh or chilled other	0302.47.00.90
	Frozen steaks	0303.57.00.10
	Frozen other	0303.57.00.90
	Fresh or chilled fillets	0304.45.00.00
	Fresh or chilled other meat	0304.54.00.00
	Frozen fillets	0304.84.00.00
	In bulk (frozen)	0304.91.10.00

	Other (i.e., frozen, fish meat other than fillets or in bulk)	0304.91.90.00
Shark Fin	frozen	0303.92.00.00
	fresh	0305.76.00.00

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES TRADE PERMIT

Importers, exporters and re-exporters of Atlantic bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, Pacific bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, swordfish, and shark fins must obtain an International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP).³² The IFTP must be applied for online at :

https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub_cmn_login/index_live.jsp.

Permits are valid for a period of one year from issuance. For IFTP application assistance, call one of the following numbers: (301) 427-8364; (978) 675-2154; (228) 549-1712; (978) 281-9260 or see the user guide at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/63590627>

An **importer** is the principal party responsible for the import of product into a country. For imports into the United States, “importer” means the consignee as identified on entry documentation or any authorized, equivalent electronic medium required for release of shipments from the customs authority of the United States or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession. If a consignee is not declared, then the importer of record is considered to be the consignee.³³

An **exporter** is defined as the principal party in interest, meaning the party that receives the primary benefit, monetary or otherwise, of the export transaction. For exports from the United States, the exporter is the U.S. principal party in interest, as identified in Part 30 of title 15 of the CFR. An exporter is subject to all of the requirements outlined in subpart M of Part 300 of title 50 of the CFR, even if exports are exempt from statistical reporting requirements under Part 30 of title 15.³⁴

A **re-export** is defined as the export of goods that were previously entered for consumption into the customs territory of a country.³⁵

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Documentation required at the time of import, export, or re-export of HMS covered by the HMS ITP must be submitted electronically. Documentation required for the trade of HMS under the HMS International Trade Program includes consentment documents such as International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) statistical and/or catch documents. Import documentation must be submitted using the Automated Customs Environment (ACE) data management system supported by U.S. Customs and

Border Protection.³⁶ If you need help with ACE, please see the website <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated/ace-support>, or call the ACE Help Desk (866) 530-4172 or email ACE.Support@CBP.dhs.gov.

Export documentation must be submitted via the Automated Export System (AES) managed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Assistance with filing AES Electronic Export Information (EEI) is available at <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aes/index.html>, or by calling (800) 549-0595 or emailing AskAES@census.gov

Biweekly Reports³⁷

Atlantic HMS Biweekly trade reports must be submitted directly to NMFS rather than via the electronic systems (ACE and AES) described above.

Relevant information from trade documents must be included on Biweekly Reports. Trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna should be recorded on the “*Bi-weekly Report for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Dealer Landings and Trade Report*” available here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/63593862>.

Trade of the other species must be recorded on the “*Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Trade Bi-Weekly Dealer Report*,” also available here : <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/63616511>. Biweekly reports must be received by NMFS within 10 days of the end of the applicable reporting period.

If the exporter also previously tagged an Atlantic bluefin tuna under their Atlantic Tunas Dealer permit, then only one bi-weekly report need be submitted. If the exporter does not hold a domestic Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit, as long as the exporter provides the information required on the bi-weekly report to the Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder who tagged the fish, and maintains a copy of the complete bi-weekly report submitted by the Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder, then the exporter may forgo submitting a bi-weekly report to NMFS.

Biweekly Reporting to NMFS

Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern Bluefin Tunas, Frozen Bigeye Tuna, and Swordfish

NMFS National Seafood Inspection Laboratory
ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION
3209 Frederic St.
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 769-8964

Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern Bluefin tunas as well as Frozen Bigeye tuna can be reported via email to : BFTreporting@noaa.gov

Swordfish can be reported via email to :
nmfs.sworeporting@noaa.gov

ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA TRADE

NMFS implemented the ICCAT's electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation program (eBCD) in 2016 to enhance the traceability of Atlantic bluefin tuna from catch through trade. The electronic system has replaced catch documents, although in limited situations there may be frozen bluefin tuna imports that are not in the electronic system and are accompanied by hard copy documentation. These are generally fish that were caught prior to May 1, 2016. Other very limited circumstances allow the use of hard copy documents. If you are uncertain about whether a paper document is acceptable, please call the eBCD helpline at (301) 427-8589 or email nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov. The website for the eBCD system is <https://etuna.iccat.int>.

Importing Atlantic bluefin tuna³⁸

Each consignment of Atlantic bluefin tuna imported into the United States must be documented with a BCD, and importers are **prohibited** from accepting an import that is not properly documented. Atlantic bluefin harvested after May 1, 2016 must be documented in the ICCAT eBCD system. Bluefin harvested prior to May 1, 2016 may be documented with a hard-copy paper catch document. If the initial documentation is paper, then the entire trade documentation chain must remain on paper. If the initial documentation is in the eBCD system, then the documentation chain must remain within the electronic system.

A user guide for the eBCD system is available at:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/outreach-and-education/electronic-bluefin-tuna-catch-document-system-user-guide> Assistance is available from the eBCD customer service number: (301) 427-8589 or nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov.

The eBCD document number must be included in the customs entry filing via ACE at the time of import.

In addition to documentation in ACE at the time of import, all requested information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS at BFTRreporting@noaa.gov or by mail to the National Seafood Inspection Lab, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION (see address above) within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. Bi-weekly reports are available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade>.

Exporting Atlantic bluefin tuna³⁹

Each U.S. commercially-caught Atlantic bluefin tuna must be tagged by an Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder with a NMFS-issued tag. The fish must be documented in the eBCD system prior to export, and the document number must

be included in the export filing in the AES. The eBCDs for tagged fish do not need to be validated.

In addition to documentation in AES at the time of export, all requested information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS at BFTRreporting@noaa.gov or by mail to the National Seafood Inspection Lab, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION (see address above) within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. Biweekly reports are available on the HMS ITP homepage:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade#reporting-and-trade-forms>

The exporter should fill out a separate eBCD for each vessel's catch. If the export consignment contains bluefin tuna captured by more than one vessel, then a separate eBCD must be completed for the catch from each vessel. All information should be entered following the system instructions. The exporter may need to contact the Atlantic Tunas Dealer permit holder who first received the bluefin to obtain vessel information such as the vessel's Atlantic Tunas Vessel Permit Number (ATVP No.) and the ICCAT Record Number (for vessels over 20 meters in length).

Re-exporting Atlantic bluefin tuna⁴⁰

Bluefin tuna that was imported with an eBCD and is to be re-exported from the United States must be documented with an electronic re-export certificate in the eBCD system. The re-exporter must complete the electronic re-export certificate and submit it for validation in the eBCD system. The re-export number must be included when the re-export is documented in the AES.

Bluefin tuna for re-export that was imported with a paper BCD should be re-exported with a paper re-export certificate attached to the original BCD. The re-exporter should submit a request for validation to the National Seafood Inspection Lab via the email address nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov (see *Government Validation*, below). The re-export must be documented in the AES at the time of export, and the paper re-export certificate must be uploaded into AES.

In addition to documentation at time of re-export in AES, all requested information must be included on a biweekly report form, which must be received by NMFS at BFTRreporting@noaa.gov or by mail to the National Seafood Inspection Lab, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION (see address above) within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. Biweekly reports are available on the ITP homepage:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade#reporting-and-trade-forms>

PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA, SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA, FROZEN BIGEYE TUNA, AND SWORDFISH TRADE

HMS trade regulations for Pacific bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish apply to United States trade of product that originated from any ocean area. The United States implemented the ICCAT Statistical Document programs along with a southern bluefin tuna catch document program adopted by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna to monitor trade, and better understand the impact of the international market on these species. Since the reporting and recordkeeping requirements are similar for these species, they are addressed together below. Additionally, for the import, export, and re-export of shark fins, an IFTP is required, but ITP reporting requirements are not in effect for shark fin trade.

Importing Pacific bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish⁴¹

Each consignment imported into the United States must be accompanied by an approved, original, species-specific, completed consignment document (CD, i.e., statistical or catch document), issued and validated by the country of the vessel of harvest. Instructions for completing CDs for each species are available on the HMS ITP homepage. ***It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that each CD for an imported consignment is complete and accurate.*** Importers are ***prohibited*** from accepting an import that is not accompanied by an approved, original, species-specific, completed, and properly validated CD.

The following links may be helpful to importers in determining the validity of a CD:

ICCAT IUU Vessel List <http://www.iccat.int/en/IUU.asp>

ICCAT Record Number <http://www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp>

The importer must sign the CD at the bottom of the document and complete the Importer/Buyer's section of the document. A copy of the completed, signed document must be provided via the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) at the time of import.

In addition to documentation at time of import in ACE, all requested information must be included on the "*Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Trade Bi-Weekly Dealer Report*," which must be received by NMFS at BFTRreporting@noaa.gov or by mail to the National Seafood Inspection Lab, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION (see address above) within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. Biweekly reports are available on the ITP homepage:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade#reporting-and-trade-forms>.

Note that there are two biweekly reports. Use the appropriate report depending on which species you are reporting.

Swordfish may only be imported whole or in pieces that weigh at least 33 lb.⁴²

Exporting Pacific bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish⁴³

Consignment documents (CDs) for use in exporting these species are available on the HMS ITP homepage. All information should be entered following the instructions on the back of the form. Please note that for swordfish or bigeye originating from the Pacific or Indian oceans, the description of fish and exporter certification are not required. All export documents must be government validated (see *Government Validation* below).

The original document should accompany the shipment, and a copy of the document must be submitted via the U.S. Census Bureau's AES data collection system at time of export.

In addition to documentation in AES at the time of export, all requested information must be included on the "*Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Trade Bi-Weekly Dealer Report*," which must be received by NMFS at BFTReporting@noaa.gov or by mail to the National Seafood Inspection Lab, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION (see address above) within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. Biweekly reports are available on the ITP homepage: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade#reporting-and-trade-forms>.

Re-exporting Pacific bluefin tuna, Southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish⁴⁴

The CD that accompanied the import is the only documentation required to re-export an imported consignment from the United States *that has not been subdivided or consolidated with another consignment*. The re-exporter should ensure that the intermediate importer certification is completed as required and send the original consignment document with the re-exported consignment. A copy of the CD must be submitted via the U.S. Census Bureau's AES data collection system at the time of re-export.

If an import has been subdivided or consolidated with another consignment, then a re-export certificate must be prepared. Re-export certificates are available on the HMS ITP website. The re-exporter must complete the re-export certificate following the instructions on the reverse side of the document, have it validated (see *Government Validation* below), and attach it to the original CD to accompany the consignment. A copy of the CD must be submitted via the U.S. Census Bureau's AES data collection system at the time of re-export.

In addition to documentation in AES at the time of re-export, all requested information must be included on the "*Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Trade Bi-Weekly Dealer Report*," which must be received by NMFS at BFTReporting@noaa.gov or by mail to the National Seafood Inspection Lab, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION (see address above) within 10 days after the end of the reporting period. Biweekly reports are available on the ITP

homepage: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade#reporting-and-trade-forms>.

GOVERNMENT VALIDATION⁴⁵

Government validation is now available Monday through Friday during business hours only. To obtain validation, scan your documents and send via email to the following email address with “REQUEST FOR VALIDATION” in the subject line: BFReporting@noaa.gov. The document must be complete and contact information must be included. Validated documents will be returned via email. Please note that assistance in preparing a complete document is available at the same email address.

NMFS regulations also provide for validation by non-government entities, once the entities have been authorized as validating officials by NMFS. To apply for status as a validating official, please submit a request in writing to: NMFS, National Seafood Inspection Laboratory, ATTN: TRADE DOCUMENTATION 3209 Frederic St., Pascagoula, MS 39567, Phone: (228) 769-8964, email: BFReporting@noaa.gov.

The request must specify the following information:

- 1) Names, addresses, and telephone/fax numbers of individuals who would perform validation;
- 2) Procedures to be used to notify NMFS of validations; and
- 3) An example of the stamp or seal to be applied.

NMFS will then make a determination and notify the applicant if they are granted an authorization as a validating official.

NOTES: _____

VI. CONTACTS

NOAA FISHERIES ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Chief: Margo Schulze-Haugen

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>

(301) 427-8503

Topics	Office	Contact Information
Commercial swordfish Sharks Exempted fishing permits Atlantic HMS news list Pelagic and bottom longline Protected species Limited access permits	HMS Headquarters Office	Phone: (301) 427-8503 Fax: (301) 713-1917 NMFS/SF1 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910
Atlantic tunas Bluefin tuna dealer reporting Charter/Headboat operations Bluefin tuna vessel reporting	HMS Gloucester Office	Phone: (978) 281-9260 Fax: (978) 281-9340 NMFS/SF1 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930-2298
Billfishes Swordfish Tournament registration Billfish Certificate of Eligibility Pelagic longline Workshops Limited access permits	HMS St. Petersburg Office	Phone: (727) 824-5399 Fax: (727) 824-5398 NMFS HMS 263 13 th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701
International trade reporting (bluefin tuna catch documents, eBCD, swordfish and frozen bigeye tuna statistical documents, Southern Bluefin tuna catch documents, - biweekly reporting)	National Seafood Inspection Laboratory (NSIL)	Phone: (228) 769-8964 3209 Frederic St Pascagoula, MS 39567

Fishing, Dealer, and Trade Permits

<p>Atlantic tunas longline vessel permit</p> <p>Shark and swordfish vessel and dealer permits</p>	<p>NMFS Southeast Regional Permit Office</p> <p>http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/operations_management_information_services/constituency_services_branch/permits/permit_apps/index.html</p>	<p>Phone: (877) 376-487 (toll free)</p> <p>263 13th Ave. South St. Petersburg, FL 33701</p>
<p>Atlantic tunas general, Swordfish general, HMS Angling and Charter/headboat vessel permits</p>	<p>Automated Permitting System</p> <p>https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/</p>	<p>Phone: (888) 872-8862</p> <p>Dial "0" to speak with Customer Service</p>
<p>Atlantic tunas dealer permit</p> <p>Incidental HMS squid trawl vessel permit</p>	<p>NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Permit Office</p> <p>http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/</p>	<p>Phone: (978) 281-9370 Fax: (978) 281-9366</p> <p>55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930</p>
<p>International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP)</p>	<p>National Permit System</p> <p>https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub/pub_cmn_login/index_live.jsp</p> <p>Fisheriespermits@noaa.gov</p>	<p>Phone:</p> <p>(301) 427-8364 (978) 675-2154 (228) 549-1712 (978) 281-9260</p>

HMS Dealer Reporting

<p>Bluefin tuna</p>	<p>Phone: (978) 281-9260</p> <p>Email: BFTReporting@noaa.gov</p> <p>Biweekly FAX: (987) 281-9340</p> <p>SAFIS Website: https://safis.accsp.org:8443/safis_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101</p> <p>SAFIS Helpline: (978) 281-9212</p>
<p>BAYS tuna, shark, & swordfish (eDealer)</p>	<p>Phone: (301) 427-8590</p> <p>Email: HMS.DealerReports@noaa.gov</p> <p>Web: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-permits-and-reporting</p>

	forms
Individual bluefin quota (IBQ)	Phone: (301) 427-8591 Email: NMFS.HMS.IBQ@noaa.gov Reporting Website: https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/cs/main.html#

HMS Trade Reporting

International trade	Phone: (228) 769-8964 Bluefin Reporting Email: BFTreporting@noaa.gov Validation Service Email : nmfs.ebcd@noaa.gov HMS ITP Website: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-international-trade eBCD Helpline: (301) 427-8589 Swordfish biweekly Reporting email : nmfs.sworeporting@noaa.gov
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NMFS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

FL	Marathon	(305) 743-3110	ME	Ellsworth	(207) 664-0508
	Niceville	(850) 729-8628	NC	Morehead City	(252) 726-0314
	Port Orange	(386) 492-6686	NH	New Castle	(603) 436-3186
	St. Petersburg	(727) 824-5344	NJ	Marmora	(609) 390-8303
	Sunrise	(954) 746-4160		Wall	(732) 280-6490
LA	Slidell	(985) 643-6232	NY	Bellport	(631) 776-1734
MA	East Falmouth	(508) 495-2147	PR	Aquadilla	(787) 508-5403
	Gloucester	(978) 281-9213	SC	N. Charleston	(843) 554-9896
	New Bedford	(508) 992-7711	TX	Galveston	(409) 770-0812
MD	Salisbury	(443) 736-7158		Harlingen	(956) 423-3450
ME	Portland	(207) 780-3241	VA	Newport News	(757) 595-2692

U.S. COAST GUARD

Commercial vessels are subject to the Fishing Vessel Safety Act of 1988. Coast Guard Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program: www.fishsafe.info

Local Coast Guard offices:

Maine to New York	(617) 223-8440
New Jersey to North Carolina	(757) 398-6554
South Carolina to Florida	(305) 415-6868
Gulf of Mexico	(504) 671-2154

COOPERATIVE TAGGING PROGRAMS

For tuna, billfish, or swordfish tagging kits or to report a recovered tag:

(800) 437-3936 Email: tagging@noaa.gov

For a shark tagging kit or to report a recovered tag:

Apex Predators Investigation (401) 782-3320 or (877) 826-2612
NOAA/NMFS/NEFSC <http://na.nefsc.noaa.gov/sharks/>
28 Tarzwell Drive E-mail: sharkrecap@noaa.gov
Narragansett, RI 02882-1152

MARYLAND AND NORTH CAROLINA RECREATIONAL CATCH CARDS

To report recreational landings of bluefin tuna, swordfish, or billfish in North Carolina or Maryland:

North Carolina Harvest Tagging Program: (800) 338-7804
Maryland Department of Natural Resources: (410) 213-1531

STATE FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

State	Agency and Website	Phone Number
Maine	Department of Marine Resources http://www.state.me.us/dmr/index.htm	(207) 624-6550
New Hampshire	Fish and Game http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/	(603) 868-1095
Massachusetts	Division of Marine Fisheries http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/	(617) 626-1520
Rhode Island	Department of Environmental Management http://www.dem.ri.gov/	(401) 789-3094
Connecticut	Department of Environmental Protection http://www.ct.gov/dep/site/default.asp	(860) 424-3000
New York	Department of Environmental Conservation http://www.dec.ny.gov/	(631) 444-0430
New Jersey	Fish and Wildlife	(609) 292-2083

State	Agency and Website	Phone Number
	http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/	
Delaware	Division of Fish and Wildlife http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Pages/FWPortal.aspx	(302) 739-9914
Maryland	Department of Natural Resources http://www.dnr.state.md.us/	(410) 260-8264 (877) 620-8367
Virginia	Marine Resources Commission http://www.mrc.state.va.us/	(757) 247-2200
North Carolina	Division of Marine Fisheries http://www.ncfisheries.net/	(252) 808-8013 (800) 682-2632
South Carolina	Department of Natural Resources http://www.dnr.sc.gov/	(843) 953-9312
Georgia	Department of Natural Resources http://www.gadnr.org/	(912) 264-7218
Florida	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission http://www.floridaconservation.org/	(850) 487-0554
Alabama	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources http://www.outdooralabama.com/	(251) 861-2882 (251) 968-7576
Louisiana	Department of Wildlife and Fisheries http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/	(225) 765-2800
Mississippi	Department of Marine Resources http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/	(228) 523-4078
Texas	Parks and Wildlife Department http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/	(512) 389-4800 (800) 792-1112
Puerto Rico	Caribbean Fishery Management Council http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/	(787) 766-5927
U.S. Virgin Islands	Caribbean Fishery Management Council http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/	(787) 766-5927

NOTES: _____

VII. CITATIONS TO THE ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The following references are linked to the electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR). Each endnote (^{1, 2, 3, etc.}) within this guide directs you to a specific citation in the list below. By clicking the links below, your internet browser will be directed to the specific location in the eCFR that supports the information provided in this compliance guide.

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¹ [635.4\(g\)\(1\)](#)
² [635.4\(g\)\(3\)](#)
³ [635.4\(g\)\(2\)](#)
⁴ [300.182 and 300.184](#)
⁵ [635.31\(b\)\(1\)](#)
⁶ [635.5\(b\)\(1\)](#)
⁷ [635.2](#)
⁸ [635.5\(b\)\(3\)](#)
⁹ [635.5\(b\)\(2\)](#)
¹⁰ [635.15\(b\)\(4\)\(iii\)](#)
¹¹ [635.5\(b\)\(3\)](#)
¹² [635.31](#)
¹³ [635.31\(a\)](#)
¹⁴ [635.30\(a\)](#)
¹⁵ [635.31\(a\)\(2\) and \(3\)](#)
¹⁶ [635.2](#)
¹⁷ [635.31\(a\)](#)
¹⁸ [635.31\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)\(B\)](#) and [635.15\(a\)\(2\)](#)
¹⁹ [635.31\(c\)](#)
²⁰ [635.31\(c\)\(6\)](#)
²¹ [635.31\(c\)\(4\)](#)
²² [635.24\(a\)](#), [635.28\(b\)\(5\)](#), and [635.31\(c\)\(4\)](#)
²³ [635.28\(b\)\(5\)](#) and [635.31\(c\)\(4\)](#)
²⁴ [635.8\(b\)](#), [635.8\(c\)\(4\)](#)
²⁵ [635.8\(b\)\(4\)](#)
²⁶ [635.8\(b\)\(6\)](#)
²⁷ [635.31\(d\)\(2\)](#)
²⁸ [635.20\(f\)](#),
²⁹ [635.31\(b\)](#)
³⁰ [635.31\(b\)\(2\)\(ii\)](#)
³¹ [300.184](#)
³² [300.182](#)
³³ [300.181](#)
³⁴ [300.181](#)
³⁵ [300.181](#)
³⁶ [300.323](#)
³⁷ [300.183](#)
³⁸ [300.185\(a\)](#)
³⁹ [300.185\(b\)](#)
⁴⁰ [300.185\(c\)](#)
⁴¹ [300.185\(a\)](#)
⁴² [635.20\(f\)\(3\)](#)
⁴³ [300.185\(b\)](#)
⁴⁴ [300.185\(c\)](#)
⁴⁵ [300.187](#)