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# Swordfish and Shark Retention Limit Proposed Management Measures

Presented Spring/Summer 2020

# Outline

- Background
- Management options
- Request for comments



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# Background



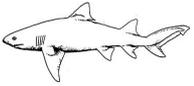
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# 2012 Amendment 4 to the HMS FMP

- HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat (CCSB) permit established
- Only valid in U.S. Caribbean region

Authorized Species	Retention Limit (per vessel per trip)	Gear	Vessel Size	Regulatory Procedure
BAYS tunas* 	10	Rod and reel, handline, harpoon, bandit gear, greenstick, and buoy gear	< 45 ft length	Framework Adjustment (often takes at least 6 months)
Swordfish 	2	Rod and reel, handline, harpoon, bandit gear, and buoy gear		
Sharks 	0	Rod and reel, handline, bandit gear		

\* BAYS includes bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack, but not Atlantic bluefin tuna.



# 2013 Amendment 8 to the HMS FMP

- Swordfish General Commercial (SGC) permit
- Allowed HMS Charter/Headboat (CHB) permit holders to fish commercially for swordfish when not on for-hire trips

Regions in Which New Permit Applies	Default Swordfish Retention Limit (per vessel per trip)	Swordfish Retention Limit Range (per vessel per trip)	Regulatory Procedure	Gear
Gulf of Mexico	3*	0-6	Inseason action (can be completed in a matter of days)	SGC: bandit gear, handline, harpoon, rod and reel, greenstick
Northwest Atlantic	3*	0-6		
Caribbean	2*	0-6		
Florida Swordfish Management Area	0	0-6		CHB: handline, rod and reel

\*Retention limit adjusted to 6 swordfish per vessel per trip every year since implementation of the permit



# Requests for Changes

- Increase swordfish retention limits to 6 fish for CCSB and more than 6 for SGC and CHB
- Allow retention of up to 3 sharks for the CCSB permit
- Streamline and consolidate regulatory procedures for retention limit adjustments



# Management Options

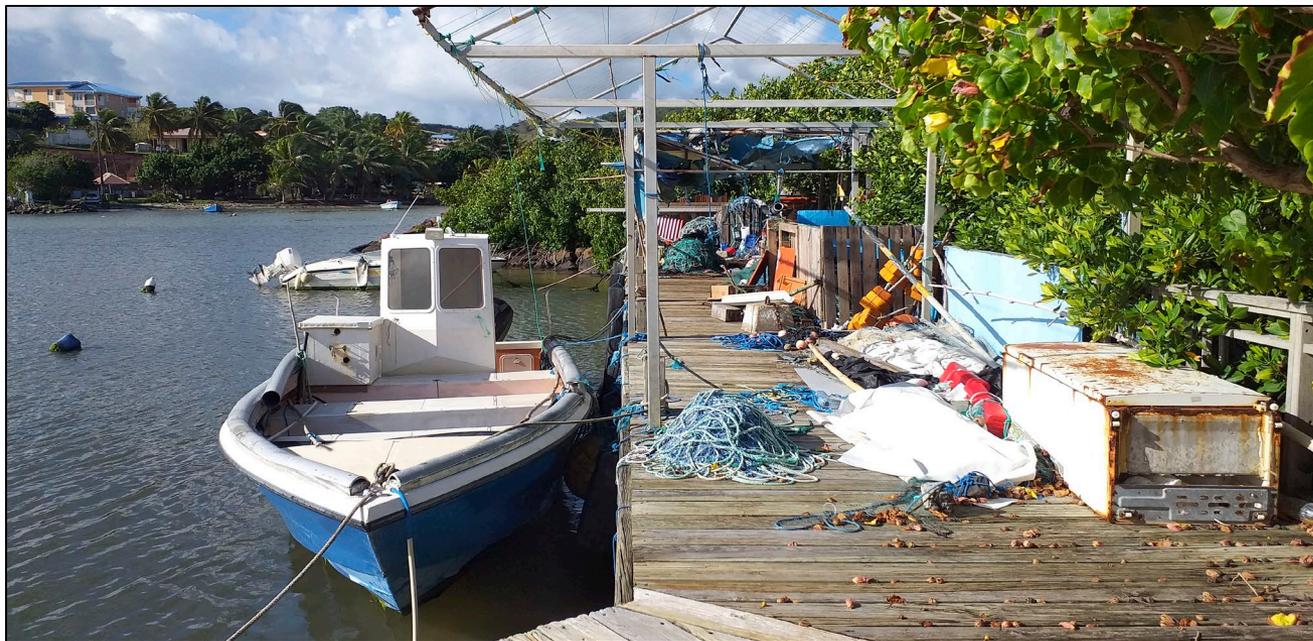
- A. Inseason adjustment of retention limits under the CCSB permit
- B. Retention limit alternatives for swordfish
- C. Retention limit alternatives for sharks



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# A. Inseason Adjustment of Retention Limits under the CCSB Permit

	<b>Alternative A1 (No Action)</b>	<b>Alternative A2 (Preferred Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative A3 (Preferred Alternative)</b>
Mechanism to adjust the regional Swordfish Retention Limits	Framework adjustment	Swordfish General Commercial Permit inseason criteria	Shark trip limit inseason criteria



Su Nitram/Getty Images



# B. Retention Limit Alternatives for Swordfish

	<b>Alternative B1 (No Action)</b>	<b>Alternative B2 (Preferred Alternative)</b>	<b>Alternative B3</b>	<b>Alternative B4</b>
<b>Retention Limit Range</b>	None for CCSB; 0-6 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	0-6 per vessel per trip for CCSB; 0-6 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	0-18 per vessel per trip for all permits	0-18 per vessel per trip for all permits
<b>Default NW Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Limit</b>	3 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	6 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	18 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	18 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB
<b>Default Florida Swordfish Management Area Limit</b>	0 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	0 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	0 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB	0 per vessel per trip for SGC and CHB
<b>Default U.S. Caribbean Limit<sup>†</sup></b>	2 per vessel per trip for all permits	6 per vessel per trip for all permits	6 per vessel per trip for all permits	18 per vessel per trip for all permits

† Number in this table would be the default retention limit for HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat if selecting inseason adjustment alternative under option A.



# C. Retention Limit Alternatives for Sharks

U.S. Caribbean	Alternative C1 (No Action)	Alternative C2 (Preferred Alternative)	Alternative C3
Retention Limit Range	None	0-3 per vessel per trip	0-6 per vessel per trip
Default Retention Limit	0 per vessel per trip	3 Smoothhound and/or Tiger Sharks (Combined) per vessel per trip	6 Non-prohibited Large Coastal; Small Coastal; Pelagic; and/or Smoothhound Sharks (Combined) per vessel per trip



# Request for Comments



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# Timeline

- Proposed rule published on April 27, 2020
- Public hearings on May 27, 2020 and June 10, 2020

Information for registering and accessing the webinars can be found at [https:// www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/ modifications-some-north-atlanticswordfish-and-shark-retention-limitsand-inseason](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/modifications-some-north-atlanticswordfish-and-shark-retention-limitsand-inseason).

- Comment period ends June 26, 2020
- Target effective date summer/fall 2020



# Please Provide Public Comments

Comment period closes on:

**June 26, 2020**

Please submit comments to:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Keyword “NOAA-NMFS-2020-0057”

For more information see the HMS Website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantichighly-migratory-species>

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