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#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 635

Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Statistics, Treaties.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

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National Marine Fisheries Service.*

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 635 is amended as follows:

#### PART 635—ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

1. 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.*

2. In § 635.5, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

##### § 635.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) *Anglers.* All bluefin tuna, billfish, and North Atlantic swordfish non-tournament landings must be reported as specified under paragraphs (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this section, unless an alternative recreational catch reporting system has been established as specified under paragraph (c)(3) of this section. Tournament landings must be reported as specified under paragraph 635.5(c) of this section.

(1) *Bluefin tuna.* The owner of a vessel permitted, or required to be permitted, in the Atlantic HMS Angling or Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat category must report all BFT landings under the Angling category quota designated at § 635.27(a) through the NMFS automated catch reporting system within 24 hours of the landing. Such reports may be made by calling 1-888-872-8862 or by submitting the required information over the Internet at: [www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com).

(2) *Billfish and North Atlantic Swordfish.* Anglers must report all non-tournament landings of Atlantic blue marlin, Atlantic white marlin, Atlantic sailfish and North Atlantic swordfish, including those landed on a charter/headboat, to NMFS by calling 1-800-894-5528 within 24 hours of the landing. For telephone reports, a contact phone number must be provided so that NMFS can call the angler back for

follow up questions and to provide a confirmation of the reported landing. The landing telephone report has not been completed unless the angler has received a confirmation number from a NMFS' designee.

(3) *Alternative recreational catch reporting.* Alternative recreational catch reporting procedures may be established by NMFS with cooperation from states which may include such methodologies as telephone, dockside or mail surveys, mail in or phone-in reports, tagging programs, catch cards, or mandatory check-in stations. A census or a statistical sample of persons fishing under the recreational fishing regulations of this part may be used for these alternative reporting programs (after the programs have received Paperwork Reduction Act approval from OMB). Persons or vessel owners selected for reporting will be notified by NMFS or by the cooperating state agency of the requirements and procedures for reporting recreational catch. Each person so notified must comply with those requirements and procedures. Additionally, NMFS may determine that recreational landing reporting systems implemented by the states, if mandatory, at least as restrictive, and effectively enforced, are sufficient for recreational landing monitoring as required under this part. In such case, NMFS will file with the Office of the **Federal Register** for publication notification indicating that compliance with the state system satisfies the reporting requirements of paragraph (c) of this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

3. In § 635.20, paragraph (a) is revised to read as follows:

##### § 635.20 Size limits.

(a) *General.* The CFL will be the sole criterion for determining the size and/or size class of whole (head on) Atlantic tunas for a vessel that has been issued a limited access North Atlantic swordfish permit under § 635.4. The LJFL will be the sole criterion for determining the size of whole (head on) North Atlantic swordfish for a vessel that has not been issued a limited access North Atlantic swordfish permit under § 635.4. If the head or tail of an North Atlantic swordfish has been removed prior to or at the time of landing, the CK or minimum weight standard shall be applied in all cases.

\* \* \* \* \*

4. In § 635.21, paragraph (d)(4)(iv) is added to read as follows:

##### § 635.21 Gear operation and deployment restrictions.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) \* \* \*

(4) \* \* \*

(iv) Except for persons aboard a vessel that has been issued a limited access North Atlantic swordfish permit under § 635.4, no person may fish for North Atlantic swordfish with, or possess a North Atlantic swordfish taken by, any gear other than handline or rod and reel.

5. In § 635.22, paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) are revised, and paragraphs (e) and (f) are added to read as follows:

##### § 635.22 Recreational retention limits.

(a) *General.* Atlantic HMS caught, possessed, retained, or landed under these recreational limits may not be sold or transferred to any person for a commercial purpose. Recreational retention limits apply to a longbill spearfish taken or possessed shoreward of the outer boundary of the Atlantic EEZ, to a shark taken from or possessed in the Atlantic EEZ, to a North Atlantic swordfish taken from or possessed in the Atlantic Ocean, and to bluefin and yellowfin tuna taken from or possessed in the Atlantic Ocean. The operator of a vessel for which a retention limit applies is responsible for the vessel retention limit and for the cumulative retention limit based on the number of persons aboard. Federal recreational retention limits may not be combined with any recreational retention limit applicable in state waters.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) *Sharks.* One shark from either the large coastal, small coastal, or pelagic group may be retained per vessel per trip, subject to the size limits described in § 635.20(e), and, in addition, one Atlantic sharpnose shark may be retained per person per trip. Regardless of the length of a trip, no more than one Atlantic sharpnose shark per person may be possessed on board a vessel. No prohibited sharks listed in table 1(d) of appendix A to this part may be retained. The recreational retention limit for sharks applies to a person who fishes in any manner, except to a person aboard a vessel who has been issued a limited access vessel permit under § 635.4 for Atlantic sharks. If an Atlantic shark quota is closed under § 635.28, the recreational retention limit for sharks may be applied to persons aboard a vessel issued an Atlantic 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 trip.

(d) *Yellowfin tuna.* Three yellowfin tunas per person per day may be