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Domestic Management Update

ICCAT Advisory Committee

April 27, 2026

2025 ICCAT Recommendations

Domestic implementation - *RULEMAKING REQUIRED*

Rec. 25-05 on western Atlantic bluefin tuna (WBFT) includes:



- Increase in U.S. quota from 1,316.14 metric tons (mt) to 1,509.98 mt
- A change in the allocation for (pelagic) longline bycatch in the vicinity of the management area boundary.
 - The new text, as negotiated, reads: “for bycatch related to longline fisheries in the vicinity of the management area boundary and adjacent areas”
 - The amounts for the United States (62.5 mt) and for Canada (37.5 mt) are derived from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna total allowable catch (TAC); they are no longer “taken off the top” of the WBFT TAC
 - Prior amounts were 25 mt for United States and 15 mt for Canada



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2025 ICCAT Recommendations continued

Domestic implementation - ***NO RULEMAKING REQUIRED***

- Retention prohibition for white sharks and basking sharks ([Rec. 25-07](#))
- Experimental use of traplines for swordfish ([Rec. 25-09](#))
 - Not aware of interest in this gear type from U.S. vessels in the Atlantic; additional data collection and submission required under this Rec.
- North Atlantic swordfish management procedure now part of [Rec. 25-10](#)
 - BUT, we do have an upcoming proposed rule to implement the management procedure. No change in the baseline quota for 2026 but would provide the needed analysis.



Source: SCRS/2025/148



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Final Actions since Fall 2025 IAC Meeting

BFT Inseason Actions

2025 General category

- December closure

2026 General category

- January - March quota transfer (from December 2026 subquota)
- January - March closure

2026 Longline category

- Longline quota transfer from Reserve category

2026 Angling category

- South trophy closure

Still to come: Trophy fishery closures for Gulf of America, Southern New England, and Gulf of Maine areas; Angling category retention limit adjustment

Final Rule

Amendment 15 (Spatial Fishery Management and Electronic Monitoring Cost Allocation) (slide 6)

Bluefin Tuna Inseason Management

- All indications show that, consistent with ICCAT requirements, we managed domestic fisheries within the 2025 fishing year to effectively repay the 2024 overage and avoid a *second* year of overharvest.
 - Preliminary information indicates that 2025 catch (landings and dead discards) were within the 2025 adjusted U.S. quota.
 - We did this through inseason management actions such as retention limit adjustments and closures.
- We anticipate having the full 2026 base quota available (i.e., the amount currently codified, as well as the increase ICCAT agreed to in 2025) and there may also be some underharvest of the 2025 adjusted quota that can be carried forward.
- We will monitor the fishery closely.
- Landings updates are posted at:

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



Spatial Fishery Management (Amendment 15)

Proposed rule - May 5, 2023 (88 FR 29050)

Final rule - March 4, 2026 (91 FR 10696); **effective April 3, 2026**

Final measures:

- Renamed the closed areas
- Modified the timing of the Mid-Atlantic Bottom Longline Restricted Area
- Created two monitoring areas (Charleston Bump and East Florida Coast) where pelagic longline vessels can fish with additional restrictions
- Created two gear restricted areas (Charleston Bump and East Florida Coast) that are closed to pelagic longline fishing as before
- *No changes to the DeSoto Canyon Pelagic Longline Restricted Area*



More Information:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-15-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-spatial-fisheries-management-and>



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Pending Final Rule: Prohibit Retention of Mobulid Rays

Proposed rule published August 2025; comment period ended September 2025

Final rule expected ~ Spring/Summer 2026

Rule would:

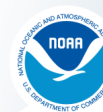
- Prohibit retention of mobulid rays in Atlantic HMS fisheries
- Require mobulid rays to be released unharmed in HMS fisheries
- Implement mobulid ray handling practices for vessels fishing with pelagic longline gear

Consistent with:

- [ICCAT Rec. 24-12](#)
- National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act
- ESA actions (for giant manta rays)



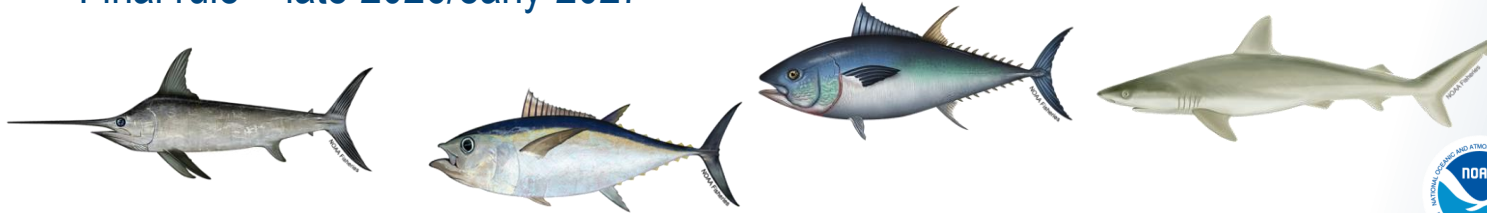
More Information: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/comments-requested-proposed-rule-prohibit-retention-mobulid-rays-atlantic-highly-migratory>



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Status of other rulemaking

- [Pelagic and bottom longline indicator species lists](#) - Proposed rule April 17, 2026 (91 FR 20619); comment period ends May 29, 2026; Final rule ~ late 2026/early 2027
- **Swordfish, northern albacore, and BFT quotas** - Proposed rule ~ mid 2026
- [Gear considerations](#) - Proposed rule ~ mid/late 2026
- [Electronic reporting](#) - Final rule ~ late 2026
- [Amendment 16 \(sharks\)](#) - Proposed rule ~ late 2026
- **Swordfish and shark limited access permits** - Comment period on [proposed rule](#) ended April 9; Final rule ~ late 2026/early 2027
- **Revisions to commercial Atlantic blacknose shark and recreational Atlantic shark fisheries management measures** - Comment period on [proposed rule](#) ends May 29; Final rule ~ late 2026/early 2027



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For more Domestic HMS Management Information...

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



Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan and Amendments



Landings Updates



Notices and Rules



Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation Reports



Fishery Statuses, Bag Limits, and Minimum Sizes



HMS Permits



Compliance Guides



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Questions?

Thank you!



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