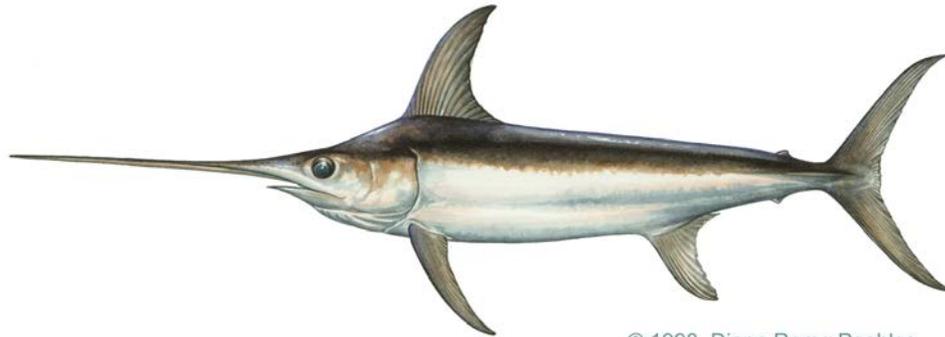




**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

## Charter/Headboat Permit and Sale of HMS



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Presented to:  
HMS Advisory Panel  
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# Brief Background

- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) updated its policies in 2016 on dockside examinations and vessel safety requirements for commercial fishing vessels
- These new requirements extend to any fishing vessel that sells, or intends to sell, fish, including HMS Charter/Headboat vessels
- HMS Charter/Headboat vessels currently have the option to sell their catch, however, only about 7% of vessels have sold fish in recent years
- Based on the updated USCG requirements, these vessels would be required to meet the same safety regulations for other commercial fishing vessels (including life rafts, EPIRBs, survival suits, etc.) whether they actually sell fish or not
- These safety requirements would be overly burdensome and impractical (e.g., due to small vessel size, capacity, etc.) for numerous Charter/Headboat vessels



# Purpose of the Action

- This action would create a separate regulatory provision for commercial sale of HMS by Charter/Headboat vessels
- The intent would be to revise the regulations such that Charter/Headboat vessels that do NOT intend to sell any catch would not be subject to the updated USCG safety requirements for commercial fishing vessels
- Charter/Headboat vessels that wish to sell their catch would be subject to the USCG safety requirements for “commercial” fishing vessels



Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries

# Alternatives

- Option 1: Prohibit sale of HMS on Charter/Headboat vessels, but allow vessels to also obtain Tuna and/or Swordfish General Category permits if they wish to sell those species.
- Option 2: Split the current Charter/Headboat permit into “sale” and “no-sale” categories. The “no-sale” permit would be prohibited from selling catch.
- Option 3: Add “sale” option as an endorsement to the current Charter/Headboat permit. Vessels without the endorsement would be prohibited from selling catch.
- Option 4: Status quo. No change to HMS Charter/Headboat regulations.

# Stay tuned for proposed rule...



For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/> or contact Brad McHale at [Brad.McHale@noaa.gov](mailto:Brad.McHale@noaa.gov) or 978-281-9260