

Final 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP Objectives

FMP Objective 1 - Prevent or end overfishing of Atlantic tuna, swordfish, billfish, and sharks and adopt the precautionary approach to fishery management

FMP Objective 2 - Rebuild overfished Atlantic HMS stocks, and monitor and control all components of fishing mortality, both directed and incidental, so as to ensure the long-term sustainability of the stocks and promote Atlantic-wide stock recovery to the level where MSY can be supported on a continuing basis

FMP Objective 3 - Minimize, to the extent practicable, bycatch of living marine resources and the mortality of such bycatch that cannot be avoided in the fisheries for Atlantic HMS or other species, and minimize, to the extent practicable, post-release mortality in the directed billfish fishery

FMP Objective 4 - Establish a foundation for international negotiation on conservation and management measures, through international entities such as ICCAT, to rebuild overfished fisheries and to promote achievement of optimum yield for these species throughout their range, both within and beyond the exclusive economic zone

FMP Objective 5 - Minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic impacts on fishing communities and recreational and commercial activities during the transition from overfished fisheries to healthy ones, consistent with ensuring achievement of the other objectives of this plan and with all applicable laws

FMP Objective 6 - Provide the data necessary for assessing the fish stocks and managing the fisheries, including addressing inadequacies in current collection and ongoing collection of social, economic, and bycatch data on Atlantic HMS fisheries

FMP Objective 7 - Consistent with other objectives of this FMP, manage Atlantic HMS fisheries for continuing optimum yield so as to provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to providing food production for commercial fisheries, enhancing recreational opportunities, preserving traditional fisheries to the extent practicable, and/or taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems

FMP Objective 8 - Better coordinate domestic conservation and management of the fisheries for Atlantic tuna, swordfish, sharks, and billfish, considering the multispecies nature of many HMS fisheries, overlapping regional and individual participation, international management concerns, historical fishing patterns and participation, and other relevant factors

FMP Objective 9 - Provide a framework, consistent with other applicable law, to take necessary action under ICCAT compliance and/or conservation recommendations, including controlling Atlantic-wide fishing mortality

FMP Objective 10 - Promote conservation and enhancement of areas identified as essential fish habitat for Atlantic HMS, particularly for critical life stages

FMP Objective 11 - Simplify and streamline HMS management while actively seeking input from affected constituencies, the general public, and the HMS AP

FMP Objective 12 - Promote the live release and tagging of Atlantic HMS that are voluntarily released or cannot be legally landed through active outreach and educational programs

FMP Objective 13 - Maintain the highest availability of billfishes to the U.S. recreational fishery by implementing conservation measures that will reduce fishing mortality

FMP Objective 14 - Optimize the social and economic benefits to the nation by reserving the Atlantic billfish resource for its traditional use, which in the United States is entirely a recreational fishery

FMP Objective 15 - Increase understanding of the condition of HMS stocks and HMS fisheries

FMP Objective 16 - Consistent with the other objectives of this FMP, create a management system to make fleet capacity commensurate with resource status so as to improve both economic efficiency and biological conservation, and provide access for traditional gears and fishermen