

2025

**LARGE PELAGICS
INTERCEPT SURVEY
PROCEDURES MANUAL**

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completion.**

2025 LPIS Procedures Manual

Table of Contents

1.0 Overview of the Large Pelagics Survey.....	1
2.0 Overview of LPIS procedures.....	2
3.0 General instructions	3
4.0 Pre-assignment procedures	3
4.1 “Weathering out” assignments.....	5
4.2 When to begin assignments	5
5.0 Consider the following scenario:	6
6.0 On-Site procedures.....	7
6.1 Hostile sites and refusals.....	8
6.2 Confidentiality of data	10
6.3 Interviewer Overlap with Other Data Collection Projects	10
6.4 Coding.....	11
6.5 Leading zeros and left or right justification.....	12
6.6 “Write-in” areas	13
6.7 The HMS Permit List.....	13
6.8 Intercept survey forms	14
6.8.1 Screening Introduction (The Screener).....	15
6.8.2 Intercept Interview: Item by item instructions.....	16
7.0 Site Description Form (SDF)	31
8.0 Assignment Summary Form (ASF)	37
9.0 Administrative Issues.....	38
10.0 Field Supervisors	39
11.0 QuanTech Headquarters Staff.....	40
An example of an NMFS HMS permit. Note the location of the 8-digit permit number (XXXXXXXX) and the HMS Permit Category (Atlantic HMS Angling, in this case).	40
Appendix A: Coding Examples	41
Appendix B: Blank Forms	53
Appendix C: Fishing Area List.....	58
Appendix D: “To Whom” Letter from NMFS.....	66
Appendix E: State Code List.....	67
Appendix F: Species Codes / Local Area Names List.....	68
Appendix G: Measuring Fish.....	70
Appendix H: Identification of Atlantic Tunas	71
Appendix I: Identification of Roundscale Spearfish, White Marlin, and Longbill Spearfish	72
Appendix J: Shark Identification Key.....	76
Appendix K: Frequently Asked Questions: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Permits	78
Appendix L: Tournament Code List.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

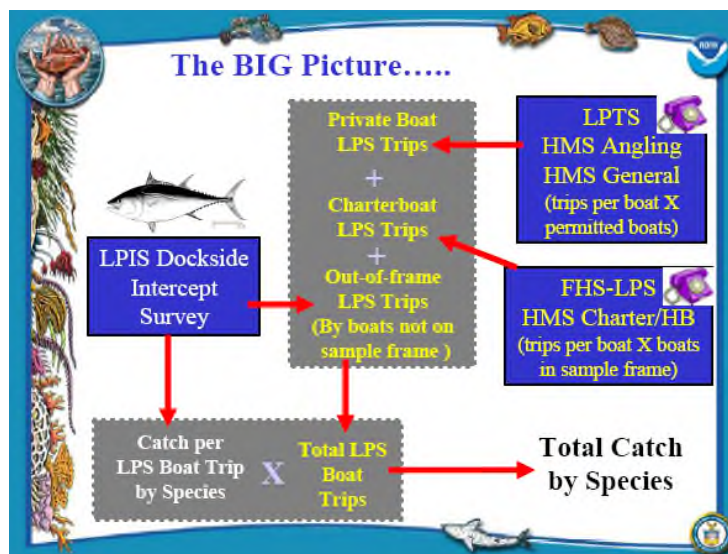
1.0 Overview of the Large Pelagics Survey

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for monitoring and managing U.S. marine fisheries resources. Large pelagic species (e.g., tunas, billfish, swordfish, and sharks) which are caught in offshore oceanic waters are of particular interest to NMFS as these species support socially and economically important recreational and commercial fisheries. NMFS closely monitors directed effort and catch rates for these highly migratory species, and adjusts management measures as needed to maintain stocks and the fisheries that depend on them.

Since 1992, the National Marine Fisheries Service has administered the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) to collect information about the recreational fishery directed at large pelagic species (e.g., tunas, billfishes, swordfish, sharks, wahoo, dolphinfish, and amberjack) in the offshore waters from Maine through Virginia.

Angler participation in the LPS is mandatory and is a condition of obtaining a National Marine Fisheries Service Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit.

The authority to collect LPS data comes from the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The collection of catch and effort information on large pelagics also fulfills U.S. obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).



Because large pelagic species are only sought on a relatively small proportion of the total marine recreational angler fishing trips made in the Northeast Region, the fishing effort directed at such species, and the resulting angler catches are generally not estimated very precisely by the Agency's Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). Therefore, the LPS was designed as a specialized survey that would focus specifically on the recreational fishery directed at large pelagic species. This specialization has allowed higher levels of sampling needed to provide more precise estimates of pelagic fishing effort and catches of large pelagic species.

The LPS includes two independent, yet complementary, types of surveys which provide the effort and average catch per trip estimates needed to estimate total catch by species. The Large Pelagics Intercept Survey (LPIS) is a dockside survey of fishing access sites, primarily designed to collect catch data from private and charter boat captains who have just completed fishing trips directed at large pelagic species. LPIS data are used to estimate the average recreational catch per large pelagic boat trip by species. The Large Pelagics Telephone Survey (LPTS) collects

data used to estimate the total number of boat trips on which anglers fished with rod and reel or handline for large pelagic species.

2.0 Overview of LPIS procedures

- Interviewers must conduct their assignment on the scheduled date at the assigned cluster.
- The only reason for not completing a scheduled assignment is if weather conditions do not allow for offshore game fishing and no boats are out that might be targeting a large pelagic species. This type of cancelled assignment is referred to as "weathered-out."
- If there is a small craft advisory (or greater, such as gale, storm, or hurricane warnings) on the assigned date, Interviewers should check the fishing activity at the assigned site(s) to confirm that no vessels are out fishing.
- "Weathered out" assignments must be rescheduled with a Field Supervisor according to LPIS protocol.
- Interviewers are responsible for determining the best time of the day to conduct their assignment and should be present at the assigned site(s) at the time of day when boats that fish for large pelagic fishes are most likely to return from fishing.
- The starting time on the specified date for each assignment shall be determined based on the understanding that an assignment may last no longer than eight hours.
- Interviewers should move from site to site to maximize sampling of returning boats at all access points within the defined cluster. Every site must be visited at least once!
- Interviewers must "check-in" and request to "sign-in" with a Site Representative (e.g. Dockmaster, Site Owner, Site Operator, or the other employee at the fishing access site) at each site in the cluster, if a Site Representative is present.
- Interviewers must canvass the site(s) to determine eligibility of Vessel Representatives.
- An eligible Vessel Representative is the captain, owner, or designated mate of a boat that just returned from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip during which large fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish were targeted.
- All questions must be asked, all verifiable information should be discussed with the respondent, and all data should be appropriately recorded.
- All information shall be treated as confidential records.
- Paperwork must be submitted by fax within 24 hours and meet data quality standards.

3.0 General instructions

The questions to be asked during the Large Pelagic Intercept Survey interview are written out in full for a purpose. Methodological studies have shown that even slight changes in wording -- for example, **should** versus **could**, drastically influence item response. The Interviewer should always read each item on the questionnaire exactly as it is stated (unless it is an item that is on the HMS Permit List, in which case the Interviewer must **verify** the information with the Vessel Representative. Information on the HMS Permit List that must be verified includes the vessel name, NMFS HMS Permit number, Coast Guard Documentation number, State Registration number, principal port state, and name of the HMS permit holder.

If the Vessel Representative asks for the Interviewer's opinion about an item, the Interviewer should provide a definition for the item in question, rather than supply the actual response.

4.0 Pre-assignment procedures

Each Interviewer should make sure that he/she knows his/her interviewing schedule. QuanTech Field Supervisors will schedule Interviewers for assignments on a monthly basis. Assignments will be drawn for a cluster. Some clusters include only one site; other clusters may have multiple sites. Stay informed about the sites and clusters in your area.

The cluster list may change on a monthly basis.

Before accepting each assignment, each Interviewer should know the location of the assigned interviewing cluster. Adequate directions to get to the assigned site(s) shall be given to Interviewers by their Field Supervisor. If there is any confusion about where to interview, the Interviewer should contact his/her Field Supervisor.

Interviewers should contact their Field Supervisors to obtain their assignments. Interviewers should record the following information for each scheduled assignment:

- Date
- Control Number
- County Code
- Cluster
- Site Codes for all sites within the cluster
- Site Names for all sites within the cluster

Do not try to memorize your schedule of assignments.

Keep your list of accepted assignment information in a safe place.

Verify assignment information while reviewing your forms prior to transmittal.

QuanTech headquarters and Field Supervisors must be notified as soon as possible before an assignment is "weathered out".

Assignments that are "weathered out" will be rescheduled according to LPIS protocol for the next available day of the same day type (weekday or weekend/holiday). However, rescheduling "weathered out" assignments may only be done in coordination with the Field Supervisor.

Interviewers should reschedule "weathered-out" assignments with the Field Supervisor in order to verify that another assignment has not already been scheduled for the same day and location(s). Once the Field Supervisor reschedules the "weathered-out" assignment with the Interviewer, the Field Supervisor will notify QuanTech headquarters.

In addition, QuanTech headquarters and Field Supervisors should be contacted immediately if an Interviewer determines that he/she cannot do an assignment due to unforeseen circumstances or emergencies. If possible, another Interviewer will be asked to complete the assignment on the date for which it was originally drawn. If the assignment was rescheduled (previously weathered out), and "weathered out" again, every attempt should be made to reschedule the assignment in keeping with LPIS protocol.

Each Interviewer should make certain that he/she has all of the required materials and equipment for conducting interviews, including:

- Pen(s);
- Name Tag;
- Current HMS Permit List;
- Procedures Manual;
- Metal Tape Measure;
- Cloth or Plastic Tape Measure;
- Fish Identification Field Guide;
- Copies of the LPIS "To Whom" Letter from NMFS;
- Other Informational Materials/Brochures; and
- Plenty of Questionnaires/Coding Forms.

All Interviewers must have the required materials listed above in their physical possession when on site. Never leave required materials in the car! Interviewers should dress casually but neatly. Shorts are acceptable, but bathing suits are not. T-shirts are acceptable. Closed-toed shoes should be worn while interviewing. Alcohol or illegal drug use or intoxication on assignment is strictly prohibited, and grounds for termination. Fishing while on-assignment is prohibited. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a loss of future assignments for that Interviewer.

If interviewing is to be conducted where there is a Site Representative, such as an owner, manager, supervisor, dockmaster, or other person who works at the site, it is a requirement to "check-in" and speak with that person upon arrival at the site, explain the nature of the survey, its objectives, and how you will be performing your work. If the Site Representative wants more information than is immediately available, he/she should contact either NMFS or QuanTech

headquarters. Contact information is provided on the LPIS "To Whom" letter from NMFS.

4.1 “Weathering out” assignments

The only reason for not completing a scheduled assignment is if weather conditions do not allow for offshore game fishing and no boats are out that might be targeting a large pelagic species. This type of cancelled assignment is referred to as "weathered-out." Interviewers should obtain offshore weather reports to determine if an assignment should be “weathered out.”

Consider the following to determine if or when to conduct your assignment and where to begin:

- Weather reports
 - Small Craft Warning, Gale Storm Warning or Hurricane Nearby?
If yes, and there are no boats out that might be targeting a large pelagic species then "weather out" the assignment and reschedule with the Field Supervisor.
 - Offshore weather is highly variable, a sudden change in sea conditions may force some vessels to return early. Get weather reports from the National Weather Service, your local news "Offshore Report", or the Weather Channel.
 - Check the Internet links at <http://www.quantech.com/interviewer-resources.htm>
- Call the site(s)
 - Determine if a Site Representative (if there is one) will provide you with reliable information concerning the number of boats that went offshore and the time that they are expected back.
- Contact your Field Supervisor
 - When accepting your assignments, obtain recommendations on when to go, and which site in a cluster to visit first. Keep in contact with your Field Supervisor concerning the weather, and communicate any intentions to weather out in a timely manner.

4.2 When to begin assignments

It is important to be on-site by the appropriate time for each assignment. The appropriate time to arrive on site is before eligible vessels are returning from offshore trips. You may need a few minutes to “site-in” prior to interviewing. By assessing the potential to obtain interviews at each site within a cluster and going to those locations at the appropriate time to increase your productivity you will obtain more interviews.

Sources of information include but are not limited to:

- Monthly Master Site Register – The MSR has a field for “best time to interview” based on historical visits to each site. This is a good starting point but should not be relied upon solely as this can change from one month to the next.
- Call the site(s) - Determine if a person that works at the site(s), such as the Dockmaster, will provide reliable information concerning the number of boats that went out and the time that they are expected back. Phone numbers for contact persons are provided in the MSR. While calling ahead can help the interviewer determine when to visit a site it should not be used to determine if a site should be visited. Interviewers should physically visit all sites within a cluster to determine firsthand if there is fishing activity or not. Under no circumstances should an assignment be canceled based solely on information obtained by calling the sites within a cluster.
- Ask the Field Supervisor - When accepting assignments interviewers may consult with their supervisor regarding the best sampling times and which site in a cluster to visit first.
- Newspaper articles, weekly magazine fishing reports, and large pelagic fishing related web sites may be useful for monitoring activity levels, upcoming tournaments, and seasonal openings and closures of marinas and/or charter boat operations.
- State natural resource agency personnel, NMFS regional personnel, and NMFS port agents may also be good sources of information on the patterns of offshore pelagic fishing at specific sites.

5.0 Consider the following scenario:

Offshore weather conditions are conducive to fishing, you expect that there will be some vessels fishing for large pelagics, and there are three sites in the assigned cluster...

5.1 Call the sites within the cluster in the morning to ask if any vessels went out. Find out how many vessels went out from each site and when the vessels are expected to return to the site.

In this situation, the site operators have proven to be reliable sources of information in the past. They inform you that at site #1 there are 4 eligible boats out, at site #2 there are 2 boats out, and at site #3 there are 5 boats out.

The vessels that departed that morning from site #1 are expected back between 4pm and 5pm, the vessels from site #2 are expected back at 5p.m., and those from site #3 are expected back between 5p.m. and 6p.m.

5.2 Consider the proximity of the sites within the cluster.

Site #1 and site #2 are next door to each other, separated by a dock. It is possible to observe the returning vessel activity at both locations from one vantage point. Site #3 is nearby, within a 5 minute drive, however, you cannot see the boats as they return unless you make the trip down the road.

5.3 Begin at the site where the vessels are expected back sooner.

You arrive at site #1 at 3:45p.m. and check-in and sign-in at site #1 at the Dockmaster's office. The Dockmaster at site #1 informs you that one of the vessels is already in and the captain and crew of that vessel already left the site. You then go to the office at site #2 and check-in with the Site Owner. Both vessels expected to return to site #2 are not back yet. You decide to stick around and wait for the other three vessels at site #1 because they usually return around 4:30pm. Also, you keep an eye on the neighboring site (site #2) because the vessels might return there around the same time. You manage to obtain interviews from one of the three vessels returning to site #1, but around 4:45pm, while you were waiting for the remaining two vessels to return to site #1 you notice both of the vessels at the site next door (site #2) returning to the dock. After giving the vessels a chance to tie up, you obtain two interviews from respondents at the second site, but now you see one of the remaining two vessels returning to site #1. It is now 5:15pm.

5.4 Decide how to move within the cluster of sites to maximize the number of interviews that you obtain.

There is now one interview and the potential for another interview that you can obtain at site #1 while there is the potential to obtain 5 interviews at site #3. Now you are presented with a somewhat difficult decision...you could stay and get two more interviews from the late-returning vessels at site #1 and possibly miss a few of the respondents at site #3 or travel to site #3 in hopes that you might obtain interviews from all five vessels returning to site #3.

You decide to obtain the interview from the vessel that just returned to site #1, but rather than wait around for the last vessel to return to site #1, you decide to go to site #3. At 5:35pm, after a short drive, you arrive at site #3. All five of the vessels have not yet returned to site #3. Rather than driving back to site #1 to wait for the remaining vessel, you stay at site #3 and obtain 5 more interviews. By the time these interviews at site #3 are complete, it is 6:45pm. Finally, you visit site #1 on your way back home and obtain one last interview before ending your assignment.

6.0 On-Site procedures

Interviewers should remain on-assignment to obtain as many intercepts as possible. Assignments shall not exceed 8 hours in duration. NEVER depart from your assigned cluster to help another nearby Interviewer. This is necessary in case a boat arrives at your assigned cluster. Interviewers will occasionally receive surprise quality control (QC) visits from QuanTech headquarters staff,

their Field Supervisor, or possibly a NMFS official, so all Interviewers must be on-site for this reason, as well.

Interviewers should position themselves so that they can observe as much activity as possible at the site(s). The goal is to intercept as many eligible respondents as possible. The best locations to be positioned will vary from site to site. Your Field Supervisor is a good person to talk to about this, as he/she will probably have visited the site as an Interviewer in the past.

Positioning yourself at a cleaning station may cause you to miss other eligible respondents who did not catch fish and bias the catch estimates.

Canvass the entire site to maximize the number of eligible interviews that can be obtained.

At some sites it is possible and advisable to build rapport with the people present prior to conducting any interviews. Those who have had the opportunity to meet the Interviewer and discuss the survey tend to be more cooperative when asked for an interview. A key factor in gaining the respondent's initial cooperation and confidence in the study lies in assuring him/her of the non-enforcement nature of the survey. When explicitly given the true purpose of the survey very early in the introduction, respondents tend to be much more willing to cooperate with the survey.

The canvassing process should be very informal and as unobtrusive as possible. The conversation might begin with "Good Afternoon" or "How's it going?". While canvassing, the Interviewer should introduce themselves and be respectful. The Interviewer should be polite at all times, regardless of any complaints that he or she may receive.

6.1 Hostile sites and refusals

Sites where Interviewers are impeded or prohibited from interviewing are referred to as "hostile" sites. When an Interviewer encounters a hostile site as part of their assigned cluster they should take the following action:

- Avoid confrontation with the site manager or any other persons at the site and leave the "hostile" site immediately;
- Record that the site was "hostile" on their Site Description Form (SDF) by recording relevant information, such as:

"[Site Representative] will not allow interviewing at [Site Name], because [Reason]."

- Notify the area Field Supervisor as soon as possible.

QuanTech headquarters and the Field Supervisor must be notified immediately after leaving a "hostile" location.

If asked to leave a site, it may be possible to visit other sites within an assigned cluster. As long as the assignment was for a cluster of sites, and not just one site, go to the other sites within the cluster and obtain interviews with eligible fishery participants.

If the assignment was for a single site, and you are asked to leave, terminate the assignment. An email to QuanTech headquarters and your Field Supervisor explaining what happened is required.

At other sites LPIS Interviewers may be allowed to interview but only at certain locations within the site as determined by the site manager (e.g., interviewing allowed at slips but not at the fuel dock). Interviewers should note this on the SDF but can continue to interview at the site in the locations allowed. The extent of the impediment should be provided in the comments section of the SDF, such as:

“No interviewing at fuel dock, [number] missed eligible vessels due to restriction. Vessels were returning to private access sites outside of the cluster.”

Interviewers may encounter captains who refuse to participate in the survey because they are in a rush, don't agree with NMFS policies or a variety of other reasons. Captains who don't agree with NMFS policies should be encouraged to contact NMFS directly to air their complaints (using the address or phone number on the “To Whom” letter).

It is not appropriate to defend or attack NMFS or its policies. Under no circumstances should an Interviewer identify him/herself as an employee of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Interviewers are employees of QuanTech.

If the captain or owner does not want to participate, and does not want to designate a mate to participate, but remains cordial (soft refusal), then try once to convert the soft refusal by politely explaining that the survey collects catch and effort statistics used to manage the fishery...If they do not participate then they will not be represented in the data collection. Their participation will strengthen the accuracy and precision of the survey, and therefore lead to appropriate management decisions.

Alternatively, respondents need to be reassured that the information they provide is confidential under NOAA Administrative order 216-100. Always remind them that you are not there to issue citations or fines, and that all you want to do is collect accurate fishery data.

Interviewers should never be “pushy”. Interviewers should only tell Vessel Representatives that the survey is mandatory if they ask directly. Offer a copy of the “To Whom” letter, which states that participation in the survey is required. If a respondent refuses the survey midway through an interview, the Interviewer may inform the respondent that the Interview is almost finished and thank them for their patience to try to convert the mid-interview soft refusal.

If the respondent absolutely refuses to participate, will not designate a mate to participate, or becomes belligerent or irate (hard refusal), the Interviewer should simply say “Thank you” and

walk away. No attempts should be made to convert a hard refusal. If the respondent follows the Interviewer, or acts out-of-line, the Interviewer should leave the premises immediately. In either case, whether the respondent gives a soft refusal or a hard refusal, the Interviewer must never threaten enforcement action.

Besides tallying as either an initial or mid-interview refusal, Interviewers should record as much of the following information as possible: name of the vessel, HMS permit number, state registration number, Coast Guard documentation number, name of person refusing, any LPS fish seen, the reason for refusal, and any other relevant details in the comments section.

For Example:

“The captain of the “Tuna Time” refused today. HMS permit # 12345678, State Registration MS1234AB, I saw them unload 1 school BFT. He says he will not participate until someone from NMFS tells him he must.”

To reduce the number of “hostile” sites and refusals, the National Marine Fisheries Service will send a package of Large Pelagics Survey information to “hostile” site owners or fishery participants recorded on your Site Description Form(s).

6.2 Confidentiality of data

In addition to collecting high quality data, following procedures, and maintaining a courteous and professional attitude while conducting your assignments, one of the most important aspects of interviewing for the LPIS includes your assurance to respondents that the data they provide will remain confidential.

The confidential nature of the data applies to all information collected during an interview, even what species were caught, where they were caught, and what method and gear was used. Under no circumstance should you ever disclose information given to you by a respondent to anyone who is not authorized to have access to such confidential fisheries data.

This policy applies to all types of communication, written, verbal, or otherwise, including Internet message board postings.

When you get a request for data and/or survey design information simply provide contact information for NOAA and QuanTech. This information is listed on the LPIS “To Whom” Letter.

6.3 Interviewer Overlap with Other Data Collection Projects

There are other data collection projects including, but not limited to, the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) that may result in

interviewer overlap. If an LPIS interviewer encounters another interviewer on-site, the interviewers must attempt to work together cooperatively so that both surveys obtain the information needed without introducing bias or overburdening respondents.

An APAIS interviewer is required be on-site according to a strict protocol for a designated time period. LPIS interviewers should work at the same site with an APAIS interviewer only on designated “side-by-side” assignments. The schedule of assignments will indicate if the assignment is a designated “side-by-side” or “work-around” assignment, the APAIS assignment mode, and the start and end time of the APAIS assignments. On designated “side-by-side” assignments, interviewers should not partition the site, and should not interfere with each other’s work. If the assignment is a “work-around” and the APAIS interviewer is on-site and is interviewing boat anglers, the LPIS interviewer should not interview at the same site.

When overlap occurs, the LPIS interviewer should politely introduce themselves to the APAIS interviewer. The “side-by-side” or “work-around” designation of the assignment, the APAIS interviewing mode, and time the APAIS interviewer is required to leave the site according to APAIS protocols should be discussed. For example, if the APAIS interviewer is required to leave the site at 5pm, the LPIS interviewer’s “work-around” might be to leave the overlap site, visit other sites in the cluster, and return at 5pm.

All incidents of overlap between LPIS and APAIS Interviewers (or other interviewers from other fisheries-related surveys) must be recorded on the ASF page reported to QuanTech headquarters within 24 hours.

6.4 Coding

Data from dockside forms will be captured using optical character recognition (OCR) technology. It is important to follow coding procedure discussed in this section.

- **NEATNESS COUNTS.**
- **STAY INSIDE THE LINES.**
- **IF YOUR FORMS ARE ILLEGIBLE OR FAXED IMPROPERLY WE WILL CALL YOU AND ASK YOU TO FIX THE ERRORS AND/OR FAX THEM AGAIN.**

PLEASE remember to write legibly in Block Capitals (Upper Case) on the dockside forms. Take your time while recording data, in other words, be accurate and precise. Optical recognition software will interpret your entries, so be as neat as possible. Remember, providing quality data is crucial to the success of the study!

As a rule, items on the questionnaire that are not applicable to a certain respondent (i.e., legally skipped questions) should be left blank, unless otherwise stated.

- Items on the questionnaires which the respondent does not know the answers to must be coded with 9's ending with the number 8 unless otherwise stated.
- Items on the questionnaires that are refused must be coded with all 9's unless otherwise stated. Examples of this type of coding can be found in the following examples of Questions 24 through 26:

Q24. Where were you fishing for large pelagic species?

N	O	R	T	H		O	F		L	U	M	P	S
---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---

9	9	9	9	< Lat.	9	9	9	9	< Long.
---	---	---	---	--------	---	---	---	---	---------

The respondent said they spent most of their time fishing north of "The Lumps". The respondent knew the latitude and longitude coordinates but refused to provide them. The location is not in the fishing areas list in Appendix C, so the correct codes are 9999 and 9999.*

If the respondent had said they did not know the coordinates then latitude and longitude and the location is not in the fishing areas list in Appendix C, the correct codes would be 9998 and 9998.*

***See the item-by-item description for Q24 later in this manual for more detailed instructions concerning use of the fishing areas list in Appendix C.**

Q25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?

9	9	8	Number of Miles
---	---	---	-----------------

The respondent said they did not know how far offshore they were, thus the 998 code. Had they refused to tell you how far offshore they were, the code would be 999.

Q26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to bottom)?

9	9	9	8	<Water Depth in <u>Feet</u>
---	---	---	---	-----------------------------

The respondent said they did not know how deep the water was, thus the 9998 code. Had they refused the code would be 9999.

6.5 Leading zeros and left or right justification

If a numeric value does not require the use of all of the boxes provided, right justify the entry and add leading zeros. For instance, if a fish measurement is 887 millimeters, its length should be coded as follows:

0	8	8	7
---	---	---	---

In another example, the respondent said the water depth was 300 feet...code 0300.

26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to bottom)?

0	3	0	0	<Water Depth in <u>Feet</u>
---	---	---	---	-----------------------------

If an alphabetic value does not require use of all of the boxes provided, left justify the entry as follows:

H	A	N	K		M	A	S	O	N			
---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

6.6 “Write-in” areas

Also, you must use the “write-in” areas. Using Question 16 as an example:

4	7	1	1
---	---	---	---

1st LPS Target YFT

1	0	5	0
---	---	---	---

2nd LPS Target Dolphin

Note for question 16 above, “YFT” and “Mahi”, are recorded on the “Write-in” line, and the appropriate species code is recorded.

Note that for question 22, the respondent was trolling, chumming, and fly fishing.

22. Which method was used?

(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☒ Trolling 1 ☒ Chumming
 1 ☐ Chumming 1 ☐ Live Lining
 1 ☒ Other (SPECIFY BELOW)

F	L	Y		F	I	S	H	I	N	G		
---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

Letters of the alphabet should always be written in **BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS**.

Other coding examples can be found in Appendix A.

Do not put a line through zeros or sevens; Do not close the top of fours; Make sure zeros do not look like sixes, and vice versa; the OCR will not read these characters correctly.

To ensure that the optical character recognition will read your handwriting, numbers should be written as close as possible to the following format:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

6.7 The HMS Permit List

To verify information in the field with respondents, QuanTech has compiled a Permit List of vessels. This HMS Permit List is a database containing boat-identifying information, such as the

owner's name, the NMFS Highly Migratory Species permit number, and the Coast Guard documentation number or State registration number, first sorted by boat name and then permit holder last name in alphabetical order. An HMS Permit List will be created for each state or state group. There may be up to three versions of the HMS Permit List. For example, there may be one list for June, another for July/August, and a final one for September/October. Interviewers must make sure they have the current Permit List with them on assignment. There are privacy issues surrounding the HMS Permit List so the information should never be shown to anyone else nor left unattended. The information on this HMS Permit List is merely used to assist in the verification of vessel identifying information.

When you check-in at a site and find out what vessels are expected back, if there is time, look up the vessels in the HMS Permit List before they return. Confirm the information with the respondent when conducting an interview. If there is no time to look up the vessels beforehand, ask the questions on the form as they are written. If a respondent does not want to get their permit information, offer to check to see if the boat is on the HMS Permit List. If so, you simply need to verify the listed information with the respondent, instead of formally asking him/her the questions. However, if the vessel is not on the HMS Permit List, then the Interviewer should ask them to get the permit information directly from the respondent. Inform the respondent that they would have to just get the information once, be sure to record the information in your copy of the HMS Permit List and tell the respondent that you will inform the Field Supervisor and other Interviewers in your area, in case the respondent is encountered on future assignments.

Keep in mind that, though an intercepted boat may be listed on the HMS Permit List, it is essential that you verify all of the HMS Permit List information with the respondent for the following reasons:

- Though the boat may have been interviewed before, it is possible that the respondent was not interviewed (e.g., if a boat has more than one owner); if this occurs, be sure to get the new respondent's information, so that it can be added to the HMS Permit List;
- There could be a mistake on the HMS Permit List;
- There may be more vessels with the same boat name.
- For Question 28, record the name and number of the person you interviewed, don't just copy the name from the permit list.

6.8 Intercept survey forms

Blank LPIS forms, including the Screening Introduction, Assignment Summary Form, Site Description Form, and first and second pages of the LPIS Questionnaire, are included in Appendix B and are provided to serve as examples only. Never make copies of them.

6.8.1 Screening Introduction (The Screener)

When an interviewer encounters an operator of a returning boat, he/she should use the screening introduction to introduce himself/herself, state the purpose of the survey, and ask questions which will determine whether the respondent is eligible for an interview. The interviewer should give his/her name and state that the study is sponsored by NMFS. If the intercepted boat operator is willing to cooperate, the interviewer should then ask the series of questions used to determine eligibility. To be eligible for the survey, the potential respondent must be the captain or owner of a boat that has just completed an offshore fishing trip that targeted large pelagic species. For the purposes of the screening introduction, large pelagics include all of the species listed under the “LPS” column in Appendix F.1. Boat operators returning from fishing trips that used hand-gear (rod and reel or handline) and specifically targeted, but did not catch any of the specified large pelagic species would be considered eligible. Therefore, data are desired for all hand-gear fishing trips that targeted at least one large pelagic fish species regardless of what was caught during that trip.

If an eligible operator of a charter or private boat chooses to designate a crew member or passenger to respond to the survey as a “proxy”, then that individual shall be considered eligible for an interview. In such cases, it will be necessary for the interviewer to record that the respondent was a designated proxy for the captain or owner of the boat.

Screener Item 1: On this vessel, are you the captain, owner, or mate or passenger (proxy designated by the captain to participate in this survey)?

- If the respondent says "yes", go to Screener Item 2.
- If the respondent is not the captain or owner or designated proxy, try to locate the eligible respondent. Otherwise, terminate the interview, and tally as NOT CAPTAIN OWNER OR MATE on the Site Description Form.

Screener Item 2: Did your boat just return from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip in which you targeted large pelagic fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphinfish, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish?

- If the respondent says "yes", go to the intercept questionnaire.
- If the respondent says he/she was fishing for some other species the interviewer should probe to determine if they were also fishing for any other large pelagic species; if the respondent was not targeting a large pelagic species then the interview should be terminated and the respondent tallied on the Site Description Form (SDF) as DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES.
 - For example, if someone says they incidentally caught a sandbar shark while targeting summer flounder, they are **not** eligible for the survey.

If a vessel appears to have targeted large pelagic fish but the respondent does not want to participate in the survey, the interview should be terminated and the respondent tallied on the Site Description Form as a REFUSAL. Information about the refusal should also be recorded in the comments section of the SDF as described in Section 6.1.

6.8.2 Intercept Interview: Item by item instructions

Once again, PLEASE remember to write legibly in Block Capitals (Upper Case). Take your time while recording data; in other words, be accurate and precise. Optical recognition software will interpret your entries, so be as neat as possible. Remember, providing quality data is crucial to the success of the study!

Items 1 through 8 are not questions to be asked of the respondent. They are primarily identifying information.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Item 1 | INTERVIEWER CODE. Each Interviewer must be given a unique four-digit identification number. This number should be used on all submitted forms. |
| Item 2 | DATE OF INTERVIEW. The Interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used. |
| Item 3 | TIME OF INTERVIEW. Using military time, record the time that the interview was completed. Military time runs on a 24-hour clock starting at 0001 hours (one minute past midnight) and ending at 2400 hours (midnight). |
| Item 4 | STATE CODE. Enter the two-digit FIPS numeric code from Appendix E for the state of intercept. |
| Item 5 | CONTROL NUMBER. NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU USE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT. Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4 th , Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which private boat intercepts are preferred; while a 2 indicates that charter boat intercepts are preferred (interviews can be conducted in either mode on any assignment). The 3 rd and 4 th digits are used as counters for the number of assignments given out in a given state and month. |
| Item 6 | DOCUMENT NUMBER. Throughout an assignment, the Interviewer should consecutively number forms completed for the assignment. BOTH PAGES of the first interview should be numbered 01; BOTH PAGES of the second interview should be numbered 02, etc. All forms sent in should be numbered, regardless of |

interview status.

- Item 7a **SITE NUMBER.** Enter the four-digit FIPS number of the site where the interview is being conducted. The site number should be listed on the Interviewer's assignment schedule as one of the sites within the assigned cluster, as well as in the site register.
- Item 7b **CLUSTER.** Interviewer should enter the two digit number for the cluster of sites assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed on the Interviewer's assignment schedule.
- Item 8 **SITE TYPE.** Enter the type of site at which the interview took place.
If interview took place at a marina, code 1.
If interview took place on a private dock, code 2.
If interview took place at a public ramp, code 3.
If interview took place at some other type of site, code 4.
- Item 9 **WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR BOAT?**
If the name of the boat is evident (e.g., if it is written on the boat itself), then the Interviewer must still verify the information with the respondent, and fill in the name on the coding form. If the boat name is not apparent, the Interviewer should ask the respondent "What is the name of your boat?" and fill in the information. If the boat has no name, the Interviewer should leave the long row of boxes at Question 9 blank and fill in the "no name" oval underneath.

Sometimes the name displayed on the boat is not the same as the current vessel name or the name on the HMS Permit List (e.g., the vessel has been renamed, but the old name has not been removed from the boat; the old name has not been removed from the HMS Permit List; the current name has not been painted on the boat; the name was spelled incorrectly on the boat or entered incorrectly when the owner/operator applied for the vessel's HMS permit, etc.). This means that the Interviewer must take great care when recording the name of the boat on the questionnaire.

Interviewers must also be made aware that some names displayed on vessels are not actually the vessel names. That is, they might just be the brand names or emblems of the manufacturer, such as Mako, Whaler, Trophy, or Sea Fox. However, sometimes vessels are named by their owners on the HMS Permit List according to their manufacturer's name and length, such as Spencer 57 or Grady-White 28.

If it is visible, the Interviewer should say the name of the boat out loud while checking to see if the vessel name is in the HMS Permit List. If the name displayed on the boat is verified as the vessel name, and the vessel name is in HMS permit directory, then Interviewers should be sure they are recording information for the correct vessel by verifying the owner's name, or by matching

some other data element, such as the State registration number, if it is displayed on the side of the boat.

Most larger boats do not have State Registration numbers displayed, but trailered boats usually do. It's also a good idea for the Interviewer to spell the name out loud while coding, to confirm its spelling with the respondent, just in case the HMS Permit List is incorrect. If the actual spelling of the vessel does not match the spelling on the HMS Permit List, the Interviewer must make note of the discrepancy and contact QuanTech after completing the assignment.

It is extremely important that Interviewers record the vessel name EXACTLY as it appears on the vessel, or EXACTLY as the captain specifies. If the vessel is on the HMS permit list, they should record the name EXACTLY as it appears on the list. Even slight changes in the spelling of a vessel name should be avoided.

Item 10a IS YOUR BOAT PRIMARILY A...
Item 10a records how the boat is primarily used and identifies partyboats and headboats. Fill in the appropriate oval. If party/headboat, Interviewers should still complete the interview even though the questionnaire instructs the Interviewer to terminate the interview. The instruction is only provided as a reminder that these vessels should not be knowingly approached for the LPIS.

Item 10b WAS THE TRIP TODAY A CHARTER OR PRIVATE TRIP?
Item 10b pertains to the type of trip taken that day, private or charter. Fill in the appropriate oval.

The next set of questions (Items 11a through 13) are asked in order to further identify the boat.

If the vessel has a NMFS HMS permit, the NMFS HMS permit category determines the mode of the interview.

Interviewers are given an HMS Permit List of NMFS HMS permitted vessels in their state (or multi-state area). The HMS Permit List contains boat-identifying information, such as the permit holder's name, the NMFS Highly Migratory Species or Atlantic Tunas permit number and category, and the Coast Guard documentation number or State registration number, sorted by boat name and then by permit holder name, in alphabetical order. There are privacy issues surrounding these HMS Permit Lists so the information on these lists should never be shown to unauthorized persons. Permit holder contact information (e.g., address and phone number) does not appear on this list. The information on the HMS Permit List is merely used to assist in the verification of a boat's HMS permit number (and permit category).

If vessels are still out fishing when the interviewer arrives on-site he/she may have time to look up the vessels in the HMS Permit List before the vessels return. This way the interviewer needs only to confirm the information with the respondent when conducting the interview. If there is no time to look up the vessels beforehand, interviewers should ask the questions on the form as they are written. If a respondent does not want to get their permit information, the interviewer should

offer to check to see if the boat is on the ID list. If so, the interviewer should verify the listed information with the respondent, instead of formally asking him/her the questions. However, if the vessel is not on the HMS Permit List, then the interviewer should ask the questions to get the permit information directly from the respondent. Respondents should be informed that they would have to just get the information once. Interviewers should record the information in their copy of the HMS Permit List. Interviewers should inform their Field Supervisors of any changes or additions to the ID list, and Field Supervisors should make sure these changes get passed on to other LPIS interviewers in the area and to the home office staff.

Although an intercepted boat may be listed on the HMS Permit List, it is essential that interviewers verify all HMS Permit List information with the respondent for the following reasons:

- Though the boat may have been interviewed before, it is possible that the respondent was not interviewed (e.g., if a boat has more than one owner); if this occurs, be sure to get the new respondent's information, so that it can be added to the HMS Permit List;
- There could be a mistake on the HMS Permit List;
- There may be more than one vessel with the same boat name.

If interviewers are unable to obtain the HMS permit number they should try to obtain the Coast Guard documentation number or the state registration information. It is very important that interviewers get at least one of these identification numbers.

NMFS HMS Permit numbers typically begin with 1 and are eight digits long.

Item 11a DOES THE BOAT HAVE A NMFS HMS PERMIT, AND IF SO, WHAT CATEGORY IS IT? Explain that HMS stands for Highly Migratory Species, if necessary. Read the possible permit categories to the respondent. Explain the difference between the permits (if necessary). Fill in oval 1 if the vessel has either an Atlantic Tunas General permit, a Swordfish General Commercial permit, or a combination Tunas/Swordfish General category permit. Fill in oval 2 if the vessel has an Angling category permit. Fill in oval 3 if the vessel has a Charter/Headboat category permit. If the vessel is not in the HMS Permit List and the respondent claims that the vessel does not have an HMS permit, then fill in oval 7 for “No HMS permit”. If the vessel is not in the HMS Permit List, and the respondent does not know the category, then fill in oval 8 for “Don’t know”. If the vessel is not in the HMS Permit List and the respondent refuses to answer the question, fill in the oval 9 for “Refused”.

If the respondent does not provide you with the permit category and it cannot be verified with the respondent on the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 7, 8 or 9, as appropriate, and go to Item 12.

Item 11b WHAT IS YOUR BOAT'S NMFS HMS PERMIT NUMBER? Enter the vessel's HMS permit number. HMS permit numbers must be either:

- 1) Verified with the respondent by matching the HMS permit number with the vessel name and Vessel Representative name on the HMS Permit List; or
- 2) Obtained directly from the respondent (if the vessel is not on the HMS permit list and the respondent shows you the vessel's HMS permit); or
- 3) Corrected by the Respondent (if the respondent shows you the vessel's HMS permit and the number is different from the number in the HMS Permit List).

If you are able to verify the HMS permit number from the HMS permit list with the respondent then fill in oval 1 "Verified with Respondent". If you obtain the HMS permit number directly from the respondent then fill in oval 2 "Obtained from Respondent". If the HMS permit number is incorrect on the HMS Permit List, then fill in oval 3 "Corrected by Respondent". If the respondent does not know or refuses to give his/her number, fill in oval 8 or 9, as appropriate, and go to Item 12.

Item 12 CAN YOU TELL ME/VERIFY YOUR BOAT'S COAST GUARD DOCUMENTATION NUMBER? If the intercepted vessel's Coast Guard documentation number is contained on the HMS Permit List, you need only verify the information with the respondent and fill in the information on the coding form. If the vessel is not on the HMS Permit List, ask the respondent to provide the vessel's Coast Guard documentation number. If given, enter the Coast Guard documentation number in the boxes provided, and go to Item 14. If the respondent claims that the vessel does not have a Coast Guard documentation number and the Coast Guard documentation number cannot be verified from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 2 "Vessel has no Coast Guard Documentation Number". If the respondent does not know the vessel's Coast Guard Documentation number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 8 "Don't Know". If the respondent refuses to provide the vessel's Coast Guard Documentation number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 9 "Refused".

Item 13 CAN YOU TELL ME/VERIFY YOUR BOAT'S STATE REGISTRATION NUMBER? Enter the intercepted vessel's State registration number. If the number is written on the side of the boat, or if the State registration number is contained on the HMS Permit List, you need only verify the information with the respondent and fill in the information on the coding form (including the state abbreviation). If the respondent claims that the vessel does not have a State registration number and the State registration number cannot be verified from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 2 "Vessel has no State registration number". If the respondent does not know the vessel's State registration number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, and the State Registration number is not on the side of the boat, fill in oval 8 "Don't Know". If the

respondent refuses to provide the vessel's State registration number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, and the State Registration number is not on the side of the boat, fill in oval 9 "Refused".

Item 14 **PRINCIPAL PORT STATE CODE.** The first set of boxes is for the State abbreviation, the second set of boxes is for corresponding FIPS code (see Item 4 for codes). Record the State abbreviation and the FIPS state code for which the respondent **indicates is the vessel's principal port state.** If the vessel has an HMS permit and is the vessel is on the HMS Permit List, the Principal Port State should be verified with the HMS Permit List.

Item 15 **RETURN TIME.** The purpose of this question is to determine when the respondent returned from his/her trip. If you actually see the respondent return to the site, you need only verify the return time with him/her. Otherwise you should ask "At about what time did your boat return to this site?" Returning boats that had docked prior to the assignment start time should be included in the LPIS as long as the trip ended that day. Please interview eligible boats regardless of their arrival time on that day. **Use military time (24 hour clock) to record the return time.**

Item 16 **TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES.** Fill in the appropriate 4 digit code for the 1st and 2nd target large pelagic species in the boxes and write the name on the blank to the right of the boxes. Both targets will only be LPS codes.

The 1st target is the primary target and the 2nd target is the secondary target.

On the "write-in line", it is OK to use abbreviations such as "YFT" for yellowfin tuna or "school BFT" for school size bluefin tuna. It is extremely important that you probe to find the primary target to the species level. If either the 1st or 2nd target is BFT, it is important to probe for size class. If the respondent states that they were targeting bluefin tuna, be sure to determine which size class they were targeting! Probe for the size class by providing the options (young school, school, large school, small medium, large medium and giant). Interviewers should be familiar with the length ranges for the BFT size classes and discuss them with the respondent (see below).

Size Class Categories of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

SIZE CLASS	IMPERIAL CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL)	METRIC CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL)
Young school	<27"	1 – 685 mm
School	27" - <47"	686 – 1193 mm
Large School	47" - <59"	1194 – 1498 mm
Small Medium	59" - <73"	1499 – 1854 mm
Large Medium	73" - <81"	1855 – 2057 mm
Giant	81" or >	2058+ mm

If the respondent will not specify one of these size classes, but says they were targeting BFT greater than 27" and less than 59" CFL, code 4672.

This code, 4672, is only valid for Q16 on the first page of the interview.

If the respondent will not specify which size class or the combined school and large school size range of bluefin tuna they are targeting, use code 4670 for any BFT.

If the respondent absolutely will not say which species they were targeting but will only specify species groups, such as "SHARKS" then code 3591 for "ANY SHARK". The code for "ANY TUNA" is 4656. The code for "ANY LPS" is 7777.

If they say they were targeting no particular large pelagic species, code as 7777 for "ANY LPS". If they targeted a species for which there is no established LPS species code then record as 5250 for "OTHER" and write the name in the space available. See Appendix F for complete list of LPS species codes. If the respondent indicates targeting a species for which there is no code in Appendix F the interviewer should make a note of this on the form and the interviewer should contact QuanTech headquarters for the appropriate code before submitting any paperwork.

- Item 17a **TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION.** Check the appropriate box to indicate if the intercepted vessel was participating in a tournament on the intercepted trip.
- Item 17b **TOURNAMENT NAME.** If the respondent answered yes at question 17a, ask for the name of the tournament at question 17b, and fill in the name on the coding form (one letter per box). Next, enter the four-character tournament code (see Appendix L) below the tournament name. If the angler was not fishing in a tournament, leave Item 17b blank.
- Item 18 **HOOK TYPE.** Indicate the type of hooks used on the intercepted trip. Be sure to fill in all ovals that apply. Circle hooks are defined in 50 CFR §635.2 as "a fishing hook originally designed and manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular, or oval, shape."
- Item 19 **NUMBER OF LINES.** Interviewers should enter the number of lines the boat had in the water. If given a range of lines, record the maximum number of lines in the water at any given time.
- Items 20 **HOURS FISHED.** Indicate the number of hours spent actually fishing with the primary gear for large pelagic species. Do not include the time spent traveling to and from the fishing area.
- Item 21 **BAIT USED.** Indicate if live, dead, and/or artificial bait was used on the intercepted trip with the primary fishing gear. Be sure to fill in all ovals that apply.

- Item 22 METHOD(S) USED. Indicate whether anglers were trolling, chumming, chunking, live lining, or other- *Fill in all ovals that apply and SPECIFY IF OTHER.*
- Item 23 NUMBER OF ANGLERS. Indicate the total number of anglers who were actively involved in large pelagic fishing on the intercepted trip. Do not include persons on the vessel who did not fish.
- Item 24 LOCATION. Indicate the name of the main fishing area that was used to fish for large pelagic species. Even if the fishing area is listed in the Fishing Areas List (Appendix C), ask the respondent if they know the latitude and longitude. If the respondent can provide the latitude and longitude, then enter the coordinates provided by the respondent. If the respondent gives multiple locations, clarify by asking where he/she fished for LPS most of the time.
- If the respondent says they do not know the coordinates and the coordinates are **not** listed in Appendix C, then latitude and longitude should be coded 9998 and 9998. If the respondent refuses to provide the coordinates and the coordinates are **not** listed in Appendix C, then latitude and longitude should be coded 9999 and 9999. However, if coordinates are listed for the fishing area in Appendix C **for your interviewing State** and the respondent did not know or refused to provide them, then the latitude and longitude listed in Appendix C should be entered. **There are fishing locations with similar names in different States. Do not use coordinates for a fishing area from Appendix C unless it is listed in your State.**
- If the respondent provides a fishing location name and does not know the latitude and longitude
for latitude and 9998 for longitude.
- Item 25 MILES OFFSHORE. Indicate the maximum number of miles that the intercepted vessel strayed from land on the intercepted trip. Be sure to get the mileage to the nearest point of land, as opposed to the mileage to the site of intercept.
- Item 26 WATER DEPTH. Indicate the depth (in feet) at the intercepted vessel's fishing location. If the respondent cannot provide an exact depth, try to obtain a depth range, and use the midpoint. If the response is given in fathoms, remember that
- **1 FATHOM = 6 FEET**
- and adjust the response accordingly, or just write the number of fathoms to the side of the boxes on the coding form, and later convert the measurement to feet. If a range of depths are provided, record the average depth.
- Item 27 WATER TEMPERATURE. Indicate the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. If the respondent cannot provide an exact temperature, try to obtain a

temperature range, and use the midpoint.

Item 28 NAME AND PHONE. A percentage of all interviews are validated. To do so, we must have a name and phone number where the respondent can be reached for an extremely short interview (about 2 minutes). This number will not be used for the Large Pelagic Telephone Survey, and the respondent does not necessarily need to give his/her full name, or a home phone number. Clearly record the respondent's name and phone number (including area code) in the appropriate boxes on the coding form. It is imperative that interviewers ask this question of all respondents and the information recorded comes only from the respondent. Interviewers should never back-fill this information from the Permit List or other sources of information.

PROXY? If the respondent is a proxy (designated by the captain or owner to participate in the survey) fill in the oval for "YES". Otherwise, if the respondent is the captain or owner, then fill in the oval for "NO".

If the respondent will not provide a name or telephone number (we need both) then fill in the oval indicating *< RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER*

Item 29 CAUGHT FISH. Indicate if any fish were caught or released during the fishing trip. If ***any*** fish were caught, fill in the oval for "Yes" and go to the second page of the intercept form, question 30. If no fish were caught or released, or if they refuse to answer, fill in the appropriate oval, end the interview, and thank the respondent for their time. Be especially careful to fill in the correct response at Item 29.

If Q.29 = "Yes", then continue the interview on the second page.

If Q.29 = "No" or the respondent refuses to answer the question, then the interview is complete. Thus, only the first page of the intercept should be faxed to QuanTech.

If Q.29 = "Refused," then the interview should be terminated and interview will be tallied as a Mid-Interview Refusal on the SDF. Mid-Interview refusals are not completed verifiable interviews.

Note: Items 4, 5 and 6 are repeated at the top of the second page. This will prevent confusion when numerous forms are faxed in to the home office. Always complete these items!

Item 30 FISH COUNTS. If fish were caught, indicate, by species:

- the fish species name;
- the fish species code;

- the number of fish that were kept;
- the number of fish that were kept that were observed and identified by the Interviewer;
- the number of fish released alive;
- the number of fish released dead;
- the number of fish that were kept that have been or will be sold;
- the number of fish that were kept that have been weighed-in or will be weighed-in at the tournament weigh station (if participating in a tournament on the intercepted trip, q.17a=Yes).

Note: The count for “number of fish to sell” and “number of fish to weigh-in” should be a subset of those fish that were kept. Be sure that the respondent includes all kept fish when they are asked the first part of Item 30 “number kept.” When asked “How many of those ____ that you kept did you sell or do you plan to sell?” and “How many of those ____ that you kept did you weigh-in or do you plan to weigh-in at the tournament weigh station?”, the response should be a subset of those fish that were kept.

Interviewers should ask respondents if they can see all fish that were kept. If for some reason kept fish are not available to be counted and identified, the interviewer should make a note of this in the “notes” area on Item 30. If the interviewer is absolutely certain that the respondent is making a mistake in count or species identification, they should record the correct information on the form, as opposed to the incorrect information supplied by the respondent. The fish ID guide book issued by QuanTech will help with species identifications. Peterson's Field Guide to Atlantic Coast Fishes of North America is also a good source of information. When in doubt about the species identity of any unobserved fish, the interviewer should appropriately identify the fish at a higher taxonomic level, such as genus or family. However, Interviewers are expected to be able to identify all observed fish to the species level.

Interviewers must always ask to see fish that were kept, so they can be correctly identified. While most LPIS respondents are experienced anglers who know how to correctly identify fish, they do not always use the accepted common name. “Bonito”, for example, might refer to skipjack in the Northeast, and little tunny in the Southeast. Also, some respondents may have simply misidentified the fish. For instance, small yellowfin tuna and bluefin tuna look quite similar. Sometimes, it is necessary to count gill rakers on the first gill arch (bluefin tuna have 34-43 gill rakers, yellowfin tuna have 26-35) or to look at the fish’s liver when it is being cleaned to see if its ventral surface is striated or not. The bottom of the bluefin tuna’s liver has striations while the yellowfin tuna’s liver does not. King mackerel can be misidentified as wahoo, and vice versa. (Wahoo have no gill rakers and have a pointed, beak-like snout, while King Mackerel have 8-9 short gill rakers on the lower first gill arch). Sharks are also difficult for the average recreational angler to identify correctly. For example, sandbar sharks and dusky sharks are easily confused because they are both “ridge-back” sharks. Differentiation between

the two species is possible by studying the position of the pectoral fins in relation to the dorsal fin. Even billfish can be misidentified. Within the last few years, an undersized blue marlin was landed at the White Marlin Open in Ocean City, MD because the angler thought it was a large white marlin!

Interviewers must be capable of identifying the fish to the species level on their own.

Another reason why it is important to observe the fish (besides identification) is to count them. While it's unlikely that the respondents will not know how many of a particular kind of tuna they caught, they often forget how many dolphin (or mahi mahi, for example) were kept, especially if many were caught.

Fill out the corresponding line and coding boxes for each species caught. Always remember to probe for bycatch. If the respondent cannot remember or refuses to indicate how many he/she kept or released of a certain species, record "don't know" or "refused" (as appropriate) in the margin. Try to probe the angler for catch information (species and numbers), particularly for incidental catch and released fish that are not available for inspection. Anglers will sometimes use a local name for a species that does not match the accepted common name provided in Appendix F. Interviewers should refer to the Local Names list provided in Appendix F. Interviewers must probe to ensure they are recording the correct species since some local names are used to refer to more than one species. The local names list will be updated as needed to reflect new names encountered in the field.

Fill in zero's where appropriate for disposition boxes. For example, if the respondent says they only "released alive" 05 little tunny, be sure to fill in 00 in the appropriate boxes for "number kept", "number identified by Interviewer", "released dead", "number to sell", and "number to weigh-in". Do not leave the any boxes blank.

Fish Species (including size category if BFT)	Species Code	Number Kept	Number Identified by Interviewer	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold	Tournament Weigh-In or Weighed-In
1. False Alb.	4681	00	00	05	00	00	00

If an interviewer encounters a species not listed on the form, they should write in the species name and code of the species at the "Fish Species" line, along with the counts by disposition. All fish species caught should be included on the form even if they are not large pelagic fish. If there are more than ten fish, use as many second pages of the interview form as necessary to include all fish caught. Please refer to the species code list on the second page of the intercept form. If the species code is not listed on the second page of the intercept form, check Appendix F of this manual for the correct species code. Record the species code after recording the name of the fish. If the respondent caught a species for which there is no code in Appendix F, the interviewer should make a note of this on the form.

In the example below, on this interview, 1 young school bluefin tuna was released alive, one school bluefin tuna was kept, and 2 yellowfin tuna were kept. The fish that were kept were observed and identified by the interviewer. The Interviewer recorded the number of fish that

were kept, observed and identified by the Interviewer, released alive, released dead, kept to sell or already sold, and weighed-in or will be weighed-in at the tournament weigh station.

Fish Species (including size category if BFT)	Species Code	Number Kept	Number Identified by Interviewer	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold	Tournament Weigh-In or Weighed-In
1. VS BFT	4673	00	00	01	00	00	00
2. S BFT	4677	01	01	00	00	00	00
3. YFT	4711	02	02	00	00	00	00

NOTE: Unidentified hammerhead shark, species code 4950, should only be used if the respondent does not know what species of hammerhead was caught and the fish is unavailable for you to identify.

Item 31 FISH MEASUREMENTS. Once the interviewer has counted and identified all observed catch, he/she should ask for permission to measure at least a representative sample of the fish to obtain lengths. If the angler did catch and keep any fish, ask "May I measure the fish?" If the respondent says "yes", fill in oval 1. If the respondent refuses to let the interviewer measure the fish, or has no fish available to look at, then fill in oval 2 and indicate why the fish were not measured in the notes section provided in Item 30. Fish that have been filleted are not considered available for measuring. If more than 10 fish are available for measuring, fill in Items 4 through 6 at the top of the second half of another form and use that form to fill in the remaining fish lengths. Use as many forms as necessary.

For the purposes of this survey, bluefin tuna size classifications should be determined by its curved fork length as indicated in Item 30 on the survey form.

SPECIES

CODE.

Use the four digit species codes provided in Item 30 for LPS species; if the species code is not listed, record the actual species name and look up the species code in the list provided in Appendix F.

LENGTH.

DO NOT MEASURE ANY NON-LARGE PELAGIC FISH SPECIES (SUCH AS BLUEFISH, STRIPED BASS, BLACK SEA BASS, TILEFISH, ETC.)

DO MEASURE THE LENGTH OF ALL LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES IN MILLIMETERS.

For the following tuna species, obtain both straight fork length and curved fork length:

- Bluefin
- Bigeye
- Albacore
- Yellowfin
- Skipjack

Fish lengths should be recorded to the nearest millimeter (do not measure in inches and then convert)! Do not measure in centimeters. Most of the measuring tapes that will be used for the LPIS will be marked in both metric and English measurements. To determine millimeters, multiply the centimeter reading by 10 and add the number of the smallest markings past the centimeter marking. For example, a fish that measures to the smallest line past 73 centimeters would be 731 millimeters. Since four coding boxes are provided for the length, the length should be coded as 0731. **Remember, there are 1000 millimeters in one meter.**

Interviewers should be careful not to introduce digit bias into their measurements -- do not round off—for example, 0731 to 0730!

Interviewers are provided two measuring tapes for a reason. Metal tape measures shall only be used to measure straight fork length. Cloth or plastic tape measures shall only be used to measure curved fork length.

- 1) **STRAIGHT FORK LENGTH (SFL).**
Measure using a metal measuring tape and record only the straight fork length of the fish in millimeters. Make sure the metal measure tape is straight when measuring SFL. Straight fork length must be taken in a straight line, as close as possible to the fish without tracing the contour of the body from the most anterior tip of the longest jaw (mouth closed) or end of snout, whichever is terminal, to the posterior tip of the tail at its center line. The resulting length is therefore a straight fork length.
- 2) **CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL).**
Measure using a cloth or plastic measuring tape and record only the curved fork length of the fish in millimeters. CFL measurement is required for Bluefin tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna, and Skipjack in addition to SFL. Curved fork length must be taken in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail, which abuts the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin and the dorsal side of the caudal keel. The measuring tape must pass over (and touch) the pectoral fin and the caudal keel.

Interviewers must also express the importance of obtaining length measurements to respondents. Interviewers must obtain as many length measurements as possible to provide this important data to fishery managers. These length measurements are important because they are converted to weights for catch quota monitoring by NMFS. They are also used in stock assessments, and for estimating age for cohort analysis.

Interviewers should record only those measurements that they took themselves. Occasionally, especially if the fish is very large, you may need to ask for assistance to measure the fish. If this is the case, you must be very deliberate in your instructions to the helper (who might be a fish cleaner or angler) to make

sure the measurement is taken to LPIS specifications. For billfish, upper-jaw-to-fork length and lower-jaw-to-fork length measurements must be obtained. For all other fish, SFL and CFL measurements will be taken from the front tip of the jaw to the fork in the tail.

Proper SFL and CFL measurements must be recorded. Interviewers must know the difference between straight fork length and curved fork length, and when it is appropriate to measure both. CFL and SFL measurements on BFT and Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin tuna, and Skipjack (sometimes referred to as the BAYS tunas) are required.

Correct procedures for measuring lengths of various types of fish are shown in the diagrams below.

Sharks are measured from the tip of the snout to the center of the fork of the tail.



All other species (except billfish and swordfish) are measured from the most anterior tip of the longest jaw (mouth closed) or end of snout, whichever is terminal, to the posterior tip of the tail at its center line. This procedure is the same whether the tail forks in (e.g., tunas, mackerels) or protrudes out. The resulting length is therefore a fork length.

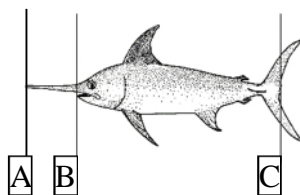


SEX	For all sharks and dolphinfish (mahi mahi), Interviewers must record the sex of each fish (1=male, 2=female, 8=undetermined).
PREP	Record the preparation of the fish (0=whole, 2=gutted, 6=pectoral length). Only fish that are whole or gutted should be measured (prep= 0 or 2). The only exception to this rule is for Giant Category and Large Medium Category bluefin tuna and only if the full body length cannot be obtained. If these fish are brought in headed then the interviewer may obtain a pectoral length measurement and place a 6 in the PREP code box indicating a pectoral length measurement. Fish that have had their tail cut off should not be measured.

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

Special procedures for measuring billfish and swordfish must be followed. **Take straight measurements using a metal measuring tape in millimeters and record.** Boxes for billfish and swordfish measurements are located at the bottom of the second page of the intercept questionnaire.

Straight measurements for billfishes and swordfish are obtained from the tip of the upper bill to the center of the fork of the tail (On the form, UPPER BILL LENGTH, from A to C below) and from the tip of the lower jaw to the center of the fork of the tail (On the form, LOWER JAW LENGTH, from B to C below).



NOTE: The interviewer should record the **straight** UPPER BILL LENGTH to the fork only if the bill is intact (complete, not broken off). Do not record the **straight** UPPER BILL LENGTH if the bill is broken off, rather, record only the **straight** LOWER JAW LENGTH.

See Appendix G for more information on the procedures for measuring various types of fish.

SUB-SAMPLING

All fish should be measured if possible. However, due to time constraints it may not always be possible to obtain length information for all available fish. Interviewers need to budget their time and maximize the number of interviews obtained with eligible vessels. If there are so many fish that individual measurements cannot be obtained, then a representative sample of fish should be measured. For example, if there were 38 dolphinfish and there is only time to record 10 measurements, then ten fish could be sub-sampled.

To randomly sub-sample the fish, interviewers should blindly determine which fish to inspect rather than purposely try to pick the fish that look "average." Only ten fish should be recorded at Item 31 for each page. To record additional fish measurements, include additional "second pages". Fill in Items 4 through 6 at the top of another copy of the second page of the interview form, leave Q.30 blank, and use Q.31 to record measurements for the remaining fish. In the notes section, indicate "page 3" and the vessel name.

Reminders:

On each second page, Items 4 through 6 must be filled in at the top of the page to match the first page of the interview. Start document numbers (interview numbers) at 01 for each assignment.

Obtain both the straight fork length (SFL) and the curved fork length (CFL) for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, albacore, yellowfin tuna, and skipjack that are available to measure. Do not measure CFL for other species.

Remember that if you encounter a bluefin tuna, its size classification should be determined by its curved fork length (CFL). If an angler tells you that he/she caught a large school bluefin at Item 30, for instance, and you find that the CFL actually measures 1508 millimeters, you should record it as a small medium bluefin at Item 30. You should also make sure that you record it as a small medium in Item 31.

Do not obtain pectoral fin measurements (from base of pectoral fin to fork in tail) for fish that have been beheaded unless it is a giant or large medium bluefin tuna.

Fish that have been filleted or had their tail cut off should not be measured.

7.0 Site Description Form (SDF)

The Site Description Form (SDF) is used to summarize the results of the completed assignment with information from each site (within a cluster). Paperwork for each assignment that you submit must include at least one Site Description Form. If there are three sites or less in the cluster, then there should be only one SDF submitted. There is only enough space on each SDF to record information for three sites visited. An example of a blank Site Description Form may be found in Appendix B.

INTERVIEWER CODE: Each Interviewer is given a unique four-digit identification number. This number, found on the back of the Agreement, should be used on all submitted forms.

INTERVIEW DATE: The Interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used.

STATE CODE: Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. The state code list may be found in Appendix E.

CLUSTER ID: Enter the two-digit number for the cluster of sites that you are assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed in your assignment schedule. Possible values will range from 01, 02, 03...to 10.

CONTROL NUMBER: Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., Independence Day, Juneteenth, Columbus Day)). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the

mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which private boat intercepts are preferred, while a 2 indicates that charter boat intercepts are desired. NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.

**SITE NAME &
SITE #1 CODE:**

Enter the site name and four-digit number of the first site visited. The site number should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule as one of the sites within the assigned cluster, as well as in the site register.

COUNTY CODE #1:

Enter the three-digit county number assigned to the site visited where interviews are being conducted. The county code should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule, as well as in the site register.

**SITE REPRESENTATIVE
NAME and TELEPHONE
NUMBER:**

If a Site Representative is present at the site, record their name and the telephone number for the site.

**SITE REPRESENTATIVE
INITIALS:**

After "checking-in" with a Site Representative, ask the Site Representative to initial your SDF on the "write-in" line for SITE REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS in the section for the site they represent.

TIME OF INITIALS:

If the Site Representative initials your form ask them to record the "sign-in" time on the "write-in" line next to TIME OF INITIALS.

STATUS:

All intercepted persons should be classified under the appropriate status and tallied on the Site Description Form for each site. Status definitions are as follows:

**COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS:**

Enter the number of completed verifiable interviews with eligible respondents. The interview is considered a completed verifiable interview with an eligible respondent if responses are provided for all questions and there is:

- A valid respondent name and valid telephone number
OR
- A valid boat name and either a valid HMS permit number or valid Coast Guard documentation number, preferably all three.

Use Question 11a to determine mode: If permit type is charter/headboat then record as CH for charter boat interview; if permit type is General or Angling then record as PR for private boat interview. Permit type should be verified and recorded using the HMS Permit List, if the vessel is listed.

If the respondent does not have an HMS permit, does not know what type, or refused the question, and the vessel is not listed in the Permit List, refer to Question 10a (Boat Primarily Operated As) to determine mode of interview (1 = PR, 2 = CH).

If the respondent does not know or refuses to answer 10a, then refer to 10b (trip today) to determine mode of interview (1 = CH, 2 = PR). If the respondent does not know or refuses to answer 10b, note in the comments section of the SDF.

MID-INTERVIEW

REFUSALS: If the interviewer initiates the interview questionnaire with a respondent but they terminate the interview after questioning has begun, the interviewer should thank the respondent for their time and tally. A refusal to question 29 also constitutes a mid-interview refusal.

INITIAL

REFUSALS: If a seemingly eligible respondent refuses to be interviewed at all, it is considered an "initial refusal" and should be tallied. Ask the person his or her name and record it along with the boat name (and any other identifying information, such as state registration #) in the comments section of the SDF (see 2.2.3 Hostile Sites and Refusals).

LANGUAGE

BARRIER: Fill in the number of interviews that could not be obtained due to language incompatibility. If interviewer initiates an interview with a respondent, but they are unable to continue due to communication (language) problems, tally. Interviews may be conducted with a captain's translator, if one is present. If this does occur make a note of this on the SDF.

ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE:

Interviewers should determine the number of eligible boats missed at each site because they were in the midst of another interview. Interviewers should record the number of boats appearing to be eligible that they were unable to intercept at each site because they were interviewing another vessel's respondent. "Eligible" vessels are those that have returned from a saltwater fishing trip using handline or rod and reel gear that targeted a large pelagic species. Interviewers should only record as "missed eligible" vessels returning to the site the interviewer is currently at. Interviewers should not record as "missed eligible" vessels that were missed at other sites in the cluster because the interviewer was at another site or traveling between sites.

Most often interviewers will have to make the determination of eligibility based on visual cues rather than actually asking the captain. Visual cues which may indicate whether a vessel is eligible for the LPIS include:

- large pelagic fish on board or being off-loaded;
- vessels flying large pelagic species flags; or
- vessels with fishing gear (rods, reels, fighting chairs) typically used for large pelagic species.

Interviewers may also use the following to determine if a missed vessel was eligible for interviewing:

- their own local knowledge of particular vessels and/or captains;
- information obtained from the office, site manager, or others at the site; or
- information about charter boat schedules.

Below are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that interviewers might have related to the definition of "missed eligible boat."

"Missed eligible boat" FAQs

Q. I see a vessel returning from an offshore trip to a different site in my assigned cluster (i.e., not the site I am currently at). Do I tally the vessel as a "missed eligible"?

A. No. Only vessels returning to the site you are currently at should be tallied.

Q. I see an eligible vessel temporarily docked to refuel at a site I am currently interviewing at. I miss getting the interview because the vessel leaves while I am interviewing another vessel. I can't tell if this vessel stayed within the cluster after it left the fuel dock. Do I tally this on my SDF as a missed eligible?

A. Yes, this would be considered a "missed eligible" for the fuel dock site because the vessel stopped at the site while you were there. The only

reason you could not interview this vessel was because you were busy interviewing another vessel. Note: If you catch up with this same vessel at another site within the assigned cluster and conduct an interview, make sure you subtract one from the “missed eligible” tally at the fuel dock site.

Q. I see an eligible vessel temporarily docked at the fuel dock of the site I am currently interviewing at. However, the site manager does not allow interviews to be conducted at the fuel site. The vessel finishes fueling up and leaves the site. Do I count this vessel as a missed eligible?

A. No. This vessel should be counted as a refusal. This is different from a refusal by a captain or mate you are trying to interview. In the comments box on the SDF note the number of refusals that were due to the site manager not allowing interviewing at a particular location on site.

Note: If you catch up with this same vessel at another site within the assigned cluster and conduct an interview, make sure you subtract one from the “refusal” tally at the fuel dock site.

Q. I arrive at my first site at 3:00 pm to begin the assignment. In the office the site manager informs me that the vessel “Tuna Time” returned from an overnight offshore tuna trip and got back to the dock at 1:00 pm. I walk the docks and find the “Tuna Time” in its slip but no one is around to interview. Do I tally this vessel as a “missed eligible”?

A. No. According to the definition only vessels that were missed while you were on site should be counted.

Q. I arrive at my first site at 3:00 pm to begin the assignment. In the office the site manager informs me that the charter vessel “Tuna Time” returned from an overnight offshore tuna trip and got back to the dock at 1:00 pm. I walk the docks and find the “Tuna Time” in its slip but no captain around. I ask a guy on the dock and he says the captain left but he fished on the boat as a paying passenger. Do I tally this vessel as a “missed eligible”?

A. No. According to the definition only vessels that were missed while you were on site should be counted. Since you were not at the site when the captain was around this should be recorded as “not captain, owner or mate.”

Q. I arrive on site and notice the “Tuna Time” boat slip is empty. The manager confirms that the vessel went out tuna fishing earlier. I stay two hours on site but the Tuna Time still does not return. I leave the site and terminate the assignment. Should I count the Tuna Time as a missed eligible?

A. No, since the Tuna Time returned after you terminated the assignment it should be tallied under “Boats that have not returned.”

BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED:

When interviewers leave a site within the assigned cluster, and there are still boats that are expected back, they should record the number of vessels that have not yet returned. This tally should include all possible fishing vessels, not just LPS vessels.

Below are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that interviewers might have related to the definition of “boats that have not returned.”

“Boats that have not returned” FAQs

Q. Do I count jet-ski trailers or slips that I know are occupied by sailboats in the tally of “boats that have not returned?”

A. No. If you are almost certain that the vessel did not fish then do not include these.

Q. Do I count small fishing vessels that are not likely to be going off-shore for large pelagics?

A. Yes. If the vessel could be out saltwater fishing it should be counted as “boats that have not returned” regardless of the vessel size.

**DID NOT TARGET
LARGE
PELAGIC SPECIES:**

If an interviewer discovers during the screening process that they have intercepted someone that did not just complete an offshore oceanic fishing trip during which they targeted large pelagic fish, then they should tally the respondent in this box.

**NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER
OR MATE:**

If an interviewer discovers during the screening process that they have intercepted someone who is not the captain, owner or designated proxy (Screener Item 1) then they should try to locate the eligible respondent, if all eligible respondents for the vessel have already left the site then tally as 'NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE.'

The data fields above must be recorded for each site visited on a particular assignment whether or not any interviews were actually obtained.

RECORD DATA FOR EACH SITE WITHIN THE CLUSTER THAT YOU VISIT.

DO NOT LEAVE ANY TALLIES BLANK.

THIS INCLUDES SITE NAME, SITE CODE, COUNTY CODE, (IF PRESENT, SITE REPRESENTATIVE, SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER), , COMPLETED INTERVIEWS BY BOAT TYPE, MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS, INITIAL REFUSALS,

LANGUAGE BARRIER, ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS, BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED, DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES, and NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE, FOR EACH SITE VISITED.

8.0 Assignment Summary Form (ASF)

The Assignment Summary Form (ASF) is used to summarize the results of the completed assignment, and to charge for work done on the assignment. Each assignment that you send in must include an Assignment Summary Form. An example of a blank Assignment Summary Form may be found in Appendix B.

- INTERVIEWER NAME: The Interviewer should PRINT his or her name in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS.
- INTERVIEWER CODE: Each Interviewer is given a unique four-digit identification number. This number, found on the back of the Agreement, should be used on all submitted forms.
- INTERVIEW DATE: The Interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used.
- CONTROL NUMBER: Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4th, Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which private boat intercepts are preferred, while a 2 indicates that charter boat intercepts are desired. NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.
- STATE CODE: Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. The state code list may be found in Appendix E.
- CLUSTER. Enter the two-digit number for the cluster of sites that you are assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed in your assignment schedule. Possible values will range from 01, 02, 03...to 10.

BEGIN. Enter the time (military format) when you begin your assignment. That is, enter the time when you arrive on-site (at the first site in the cluster) to begin your assignment.

END. Enter the time (military format) when you finish your assignment. That is, enter the time when you leave the cluster and terminate the assignment.

Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore?

Fill in the oval for “Yes” if the weather conditions are favorable for offshore fishing. If the offshore conditions are poor, fill in the oval for “No”. In general, strong winds (25-30 knots, especially from the Northeast) and high seas (especially greater than 8-10 feet) will cause many offshore fishermen to cancel their trips. Assignments that are conducted despite poor offshore conditions should be attempted only when fishing activity can be confirmed beforehand.

Did you encounter an APAIS sampler on this assignment?

Fill in the oval for “Yes” if you encountered an APAIS sampler on this assignment. The APAIS uses the same sites as the LPS but is a different survey. If “you encountered an APAIS sampler please briefly describe in the comments box if you left the site to avoid overlap and visited another site in the assigned cluster or worked at the same site at the same time as the APAIS interviewer. Also, provide details if there were any complications as a result by the overlap with the APAIS.

9.0 Administrative Issues

Data Delivery

Because of the rigid requirements for the LPIS, it is vital that QuanTech receive all completed Assignment Summary Forms, Site Description Forms, and Interview Questionnaires within 24 hours of assignment completion.

To accomplish this, we are distributing FAX machines **ON LOAN**. Interviewers are responsible for making arrangements to fax each day's work to QuanTech within 24 hours of assignment completion. Fax your forms **IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER** starting with the assignment summary form first and the site description form(s) second. If you forget to fax your forms in or there are any problems with the OCR data capture system reading your forms you may be asked to re-edit and re-fax your forms.

Only one fax TRANSMISSION per assignment. That is, if you are sending in forms from two assignments they must be sent separately! QuanTech has provided a Toll-Free FAX number for your convenience.

Please fax all pages in order (assignment summary first, serving as the

cover sheet) to 1-877-694-8808 (toll-free) or 240-489-1843 or e-mail scans to fishfaxes@quantech.com.

If for any reason you are unable to fax completed forms within the time schedule, you must contact QuanTech and your Field Supervisor immediately so arrangements can be made to get your forms faxed in. We will not pay for any assignment that arrives at QuanTech too late for inclusion in each week's data delivery to NMFS.

Pay Schedule

Paychecks for Fisheries Interviewers are mailed every two weeks. Delays in submitting paperwork could potentially delay paychecks being mailed.

Interviewer Status

All QuanTech Interviewers are employees. Interviewers are not NMFS employees.

ALL FAX MACHINES, SCANNERS, AND FIELD GUIDES PROVIDED TO YOU ON LOAN MUST BE RETURNED AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEWING SEASON BY NOVEMBER 21, 2025. IF YOU ARE FIRED, OR IF YOU QUIT, YOU MUST RETURN THEM IMMEDIATELY.

10.0 Field Supervisors

Each Interviewer has a Field Supervisor. This person is someone who is knowledgeable in the local fishing activity and fisheries in your area, and who is a veteran field Interviewer. This person will also be responsible for coordinating assignment scheduling, as well as conducting occasional quality control visits. You should contact your Field Supervisor whenever you:

- Need advice on fish identification;
- Have a question about the site register or a certain site; or
- Have a question about general interviewing procedures or coding.

Your primary contact while working on the LPIS will be your Field Supervisor.

You will contact your Field Supervisor for the following reasons:

- To schedule, “weather out” and reschedule or cancel an assignment;
- To see if there are any additional assignments available;


11.0 QuanTech Headquarters Staff

The headquarters office can be reached at 1-800-229-5220. If you need to contact the QuanTech headquarters office please contact any of the following staff members listed below.

Title	Name	Email Address	Phone Extension
Program Manager	Robert O'Haver	rohaver@quantech.com	7822
Operations Manager	James Bethune	jbethune@quantech.com	7819
Fisheries Biologist	Madeline Jensen	mjensen@quantech.com	7831

Please call or email QuanTech headquarters staff to confirm receipt of your faxed paperwork, discuss interviewing procedures or coding, etc. We will contact you frequently throughout the interviewing season to discuss the status of your assignments and to verify and/or obtain information, as required by our contract with NMFS. Please keep in mind that any critique of your work is meant to be constructive. We all must work together to ensure that NMFS receives the best available data to make the best management decisions.

An example of an NMFS HMS permit. Note the location of the 8-digit permit number (XXXXXXXX) and the HMS Permit Category (Atlantic HMS Angling, in this case).

NOAA 88-156A (6-93) CUSTOMER SERVICE & REGULATION INFORMATION 888-872-8862 or https://hmspermits.noaa.gov		 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE	
2017 FISHING YEAR PERMIT			
FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT			
PERMIT NUMBER DATE ISSUED 10161846 11/15/2017 REGIONAL PERMIT NUMBER		ISSUED PURSUANT TO: 16 U.S.C 971-971H AND 1801 et seq.	
FISHERIES PERMITTED ATLANTIC HMS ANGLING SHARK ENDORSEMENT EXPIRES 12/31/2017 ***** Bluefin Tuna Catch Reporting: • https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or 888-872-8862 • In NC or MD, check with the state Recreational Non-tournament Billfish/Swordfish Reporting: • https://hmspermits.noaa.gov or 800-894-5528 • In NC or MD, check with the state		VESSEL NAME FIREFLY0930006 REGISTRATION NUMBER LENGTH TONS HOLD CAP NC0007WD 11 200 0 PORT AAA AR OWNER / CORPORATION'S NAME & ADDRESS FIREFLY ONE TEST DRIVE TEST, AB 10000	
This permit is not valid unless signed. Knowingly and willfully falsifying material facts on this form may result in criminal liability (18 U.S.C. § 1001).			
I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information given on this form is true and correct, and that I have full authority to execute this form as, or on behalf of, the secured party, lien creditor or encumbrancer indicated herein.		Authorized Signature	

Appendix A: Coding Examples

+ +

2025 .PIS ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY FORM

NAME TIM SHORT INTERVIEWER CODE 9428

DATE (MO/DAY) 0610 STATE CODE 24 CLUSTER 05

CONTROL NUMBER 1103 BEGIN TIME* 1513
 END TIME* 1842

BEGIN TIME = WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT FIRST SITE IN CLUSTER
 END TIME = WHEN YOU LEFT THE CLUSTER AND TERMINATED THE ASSIGNMENT
 * USE 24 HR CLOCK

ASSIGNMENT MILEAGE

Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore? ☒ Yes
☐ No

Did you encounter an APAIS sampler on this assignment? ☐ Yes
☒ No

+

ASF

COMMENTS: Did not encounter
 APAIS on assignment

Total number of pages including this page 5

+

+

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9928 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD) 0610
 3. STATE CODE 24 4. CLUSTER 05 5. CONTROL NUMBER 1103

SITE #1 NAME SUNSET MARINA

SITE #1 CODE 1493 COUNTY CODE #1 047

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

RUSSEL OWENS

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

4102139600

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS

TIME OF INITIALS

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>

SITE #2 NAME

SITE #2 CODE COUNTY CODE #2

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS

TIME OF INITIALS

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR								
CH								

SITE #3 NAME

SITE #3 CODE COUNTY CODE #3

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS

TIME OF INITIALS

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR								
CH								

COMMENTS:

+

+

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9928 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MO / DAY) 0610 3. INTERVIEW TIME 1550
 4. STATE CODE 24 5. CONTROL NUMBER 1103 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER 01 (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)
 7a. SITE 1493 7b. CLUSTER 05 8. SITE TYPE 1 1 = Marina; 2 = Private Dock; 3 = Public Ramp; 4 = Other

9. What is the name of your boat?

DEEP FRYER

2 ☐

(MARK HERE IF THE BOAT DOES NOT HAVE A NAME)

10a. Is your boat primarily operated as a...

1 ☒

Private Boat

8 ☐

Don't Know

2 ☐

Charter Boat

9 ☐

Refused

3 ☐

Party/Head Boat

10b. Was the trip today a charter trip or private trip?

1 ☐

Charter

8 ☐

Don't Know

2 ☒

Private

9 ☐

Refused

11a. Does the boat have a NMFS HMS permit, and if so, what category is it?

1 ☐

General

4 ☐

No HMS Permit < GO TO Q.12

2 ☒

Angling

8 ☐

Don't Know < GO TO Q.12

3 ☐

Charter/Head Boat

9 ☐

Refused < GO TO Q.12

11b. What is your boat's NMFS HMS permit number?

1 ☒

Verified with Respondent

8 ☐

Don't Know

2 ☐

Obtained from Respondent

9 ☐

Refused

3 ☐

Corrected by Respondent

SPECIFY SOURCE

10041077

PERMIT NUMBER

12. Can you tell me/verify your boat's Coast Guard document number?

☐

< GO TO Q.14

2 ☒

Vessel has no Coast Guard Documentation number

8 ☐

Don't Know

9 ☐

Refused

13. Can you tell me/verify your boat's state registration number?

MD5472ZG

2 ☐

Vessel has no State Registration number

8 ☐

Don't Know

9 ☐

Refused

14. What State is the principal port of your vessel [on your HMS permit application]?

MD

< State Postal Code (Letters)

24

< State FIPS Code (Numbers)

15. At about what time did your boat return to this site?

1542

(USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

16. For what large pelagic species were you primarily fishing today? (Probe for at least one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)

4711

1st LPS Target 1/FT

1050

2nd LPS Target Dolphin

28. In the event that my supervisor wishes to verify that I have been conducting interviews here today, may I have your name and telephone number?

RESPONDENT'S NAME

PHILLIP

J

FRY

AREA CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

240

397

2989

PROXY?

☐

< YES

☒

< NO

☐

< RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any fish today? ☒ Yes > GO TO Q.30 ☐ No > TERMINATE ☐ Refused > TERMINATE

+

+

RECORD VESSEL NAME IN NOTES SECTION AND ITEMS 4-6 FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS INTERVIEW:

4. STATE CODE **24** 5. CONTROL NUMBER **1103** 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER **01**

30. What species were caught? SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK: How many of those did you keep? INTERVIEWER: OF THOSE THAT WERE KEPT, HOW MANY DID YOU OBSERVE AND IDENTIFY? How many of those were released alive? How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold? IF Q.17a=YES, How many of those that were kept were weighed-in or will be weighed-in at the tournament weigh station?

Fish Species (including size category if BFT)	Species Code	Number Kept	Number Identified by Interviewer	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold	Number Tournament Weigh-In or Weighed-In
1. YFT	4711	02	02	00	00	00	00
2. Mahi	1050	01	01	00	00	00	00
3. Bluefish	0230	00	00	05	00	00	00
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

BFT SIZE CATEGORY BY CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL) +	BFT - Young School (1 - 685 mm).....	4673	Blue Marlin.....	2171	Atlantic Bonito.....	0330
	BFT - School (686 - 1193 mm).....	4677	White Marlin.....	2161	Dolphin.....	1050
	BFT - Large School (1194 - 1498 mm).....	4678	Swordfish.....	4328	Greater Amberjack.....	0030
	BFT - Small Medium (1499 - 1854 mm).....	4676	Shortfin Mako Shark.....	3551	Wahoo.....	4720
	BFT - Large Medium (1855 - 2057 mm).....	4679	Unidentified Hammerhead Shark.....	4950	Non-Large Pelagic Species	
	BFT - Giant (2058+ mm).....	4671	Blue Shark.....	4931	Atlantic Mackerel.....	2120
	Bigeye Tuna.....	4691	Common Thresher Shark.....	3531	Spiny Dogfish.....	3521
	Albacore.....	4701	Dusky Shark.....	4841	Striped Bass.....	4180
	Yellowfin Tuna.....	4711	Sandbar Shark.....	4821	Bluefish.....	0230
	Skipjack Tuna.....	4661	Little Tunny.....	4681	Cod.....	0815

Notes:

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not observed/identified or measured, you must provide reason why in the notes section above.)

1 ☒ Yes + RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, SEX, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN

2 ☐ No + THANK RESPONDENT

SEX CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH-VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	SEX	PREP		SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	SEX	PREP
1.	4711	1072	1122		0	6.					
2.	4711	1067	1117		0	7.					
3.	1050	0802		1	0	8.					
4.						9.					
5.						10.					

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9928 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MO / DAY) 0610 3. INTERVIEW TIME 1700
 4. STATE CODE 24 5. CONTROL NUMBER 1103 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER 02 (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)
 7a. SITE 1493 7b. CLUSTER 05 8. SITE TYPE 1 1 = Marina; 2 = Private Dock; 3 = Public Ramp; 4 = Other

9. What is the name of your boat?

SCHOOL MASTER

2 ☐ (MARK HERE IF THE BOAT DOES NOT HAVE A NAME)

10a. Is your boat primarily operated as a...

- 1 ☐ Private Boat 8 ☐ Don't Know
 2 ☒ Charter Boat 9 ☐ Refused
 3 ☐ Party/Head Boat

10b. Was the trip today a charter trip or private trip?

- 1 ☒ Charter 8 ☐ Don't Know
 2 ☐ Private 9 ☐ Refused

11a. Does the boat have a NMFS HMS permit, and if so, what category is it?

- 1 ☐ General 4 ☐ No HMS Permit < GO TO Q.12
 2 ☐ Angling 8 ☐ Don't Know < GO TO Q.12
 3 ☒ Charter/Head Boat 9 ☐ Refused < GO TO Q.12

11b. What is your boat's NMFS HMS permit number?

- 1 ☐ Verified with Respondent 8 ☐ Don't Know
 2 ☒ Obtained from Respondent 9 ☐ Refused
 3 ☐ Corrected by Respondent
 10082337 SPECIFY SOURCE
 PERMIT NUMBER

12. Can you tell me/verify your boat's Coast Guard document number?

6782492 < GO TO Q.14

- 2 ☐ Vessel has no Coast Guard Documentation number
 8 ☐ Don't Know
 9 ☐ Refused

13. Can you tell me/verify your boat's state registration number?

- 2 ☐ Vessel has no State Registration number
 8 ☐ Don't Know
 9 ☐ Refused

14. What State is the principal port of your vessel (on your HMS permit application)?

MD < State Postal Code (Letters) 24 < State FIPS Code (Numbers)

15. At about what time did your boat return to this site?

1642 (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

16. For what large pelagic species were you primarily fishing today?

(Probe for at least one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)

4678 1st LPS Target BFT (lrg school)

4701 2nd LPS Target Albacore

17a. Were you participating in a tournament today?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't Know < GO TO Q.18
 2 ☒ No < GO TO Q.18 9 ☐ Refused < GO TO Q.18

17b. What was the name of the tournament?

< Tournament Code

18. What type of hooks were used?

(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☐ Circle 3 ☐ Other (Specify Below)
 2 ☒ Non-Circle/J-Hook Other

19. How many fishing lines were used?

09 < Number of Lines

20. How many hours were spent fishing for large pelagic species? That is, how many hours were the lines in the water?

06 < Number of Hours Spent Fishing

21. Which type of bait was used?

(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☐ Live 1 ☒ Dead 1 ☒ Artificial

22. Which method was used?

(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☒ Trolling 1 ☐ Chumming
 1 ☒ Chunking 1 ☐ Live Lining
 1 ☐ Other (SPECIFY BELOW)

23. How many people on the boat were actively fishing with rod and reel or handline for large pelagic species?

06 < Number of People Fishing

24. Where were you fishing for large pelagic species?

JACKSPOT

3805 < Lat. 7445 < Long.

25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?

072 < Number of Miles

26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to the bottom)?

0600 < Water Depth in Feet

27. What was the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit?

81 < Water Temperature

28. In the event that my supervisor wishes to verify that I have been conducting interviews here today, may I have your name and telephone number?

RESPONDENT'S NAME

AREA CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

RICK CALHOUN 2403972989

PROXY? ☒ YES ☐ NO

☐ < RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any fish today? ☒ Yes > GO TO Q.30 ☐ No > TERMINATE ☐ Refused > TERMINATE

+

RECORD VESSEL NAME IN NOTES SECTION AND ITEMS 4-6 FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS INTERVIEW:

+

4. STATE CODE 24 5. CONTROL NUMBER 1103 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER 02

30. What species were caught? SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK: How many of those did you keep? INTERVIEWER: OF THOSE THAT WERE KEPT, HOW MANY DID YOU OBSERVE AND IDENTIFY? How many of those were released alive? How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold? IF Q.17a=YES, How many of those that were kept were weighed-in or will be weighed-in at the tournament weigh station?

Fish Species (including size category if BFT)	Species Code	Number Kept	Number Identified by Interviewer	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold	Number Tournament Weigh-In or Weighed-In
1. BFT (school)	4677	00	00	01	00	00	00
2. Albacore	4701	01	01	00	00	00	00
3. Bluefish	0230	11	11	00	00	00	00
4. _____							
5. _____							
6. _____							
7. _____							
8. _____							
9. _____							
10. _____							

BFT SIZE CATEGORY BY CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL) +	BFT - Young School (1 - 685 mm).....	4673	Blue Marlin.....	2171	Atlantic Bonito.....	0330
	BFT - School (686 - 1193 mm).....	4677	White Marlin.....	2161	Dolphin.....	1050
	BFT - Large School (1194 - 1498 mm).....	4678	Swordfish.....	4328	Greater Amberjack.....	0030
	BFT - Small Medium (1499 - 1854 mm).....	4676	Shortfin Mako Shark.....	3551	Wahoo.....	4720
	BFT - Large Medium (1855 - 2057 mm).....	4679	Unidentified Hammerhead Shark.....	4950	Non-Large Pelagic Species	
	BFT - Giant (2058+ mm).....	4671	Blue Shark.....	4931	Atlantic Mackerel.....	2120
	Bigeye Tuna.....	4691	Common Thresher Shark.....	3531	Spiny Dogfish.....	3521
	Albacore.....	4701	Dusky Shark.....	4841	Striped Bass.....	4180
	Yellowfin Tuna.....	4711	Sandbar Shark.....	4821	Bluefish.....	0230
	Skipjack Tuna.....	4661	Little Tunny.....	4681	Cod.....	0815

Notes:

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not observed/identified or measured, you must provide reason why in the notes section above.)

1 ☒ Yes + RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, SEX, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN2 ☐ No + THANK RESPONDENT

SEX CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH: VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	SEX	PREP	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	SEX	PREP
1. 4701	1081	1131		0	6.				
2.					7.				
3.					8.				
4.					9.				
5.					10.				

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP

+

+

+

+

2025 LPIS ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY FORM

NAME TIM SHORT INTERVIEWER CODE 6586DATE (MO/DAY) 0611 STATE CODE 51 CLUSTER 08CONTROL NUMBER 2105 BEGIN TIME* 1530END TIME* 1754BEGIN TIME = WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT FIRST SITE IN CLUSTER
END TIME = WHEN YOU LEFT THE CLUSTER AND TERMINATED THE ASSIGNMENT
* USE 24 HR CLOCKASSIGNMENT MILEAGE 0005Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore? ☒ Yes
☐ NoDid you encounter an APAIS sampler on this assignment? ☒ Yes
☐ No

ASF

COMMENTS:

APAIS sampler @ Curtis
Merritt Marina, No problemsTotal number of pages including this page 5

+

+

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9928 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD) 06 / 11

3. STATE CODE 51 4. CLUSTER 08 5. CONTROL NUMBER 2105

SITE #1 NAME CHINCOTEAGUE INN

SITE #1 CODE 0008 COUNTY CODE #1 001

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

JOE BENNET

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

7574506219

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS JB

TIME OF INITIALS 3:32pm

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>00</u>

SITE #2 NAME CURTIS MERRITT

SITE #2 CODE 0039 COUNTY CODE #2 001

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

BOB MUNCH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

7573366519

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS BM

TIME OF INITIALS 3:54pm

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>00</u>

SITE #3 NAME CAPT BOBS

SITE #3 CODE 0955 COUNTY CODE #3 001

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

OWEN MITCHELL

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

7573366654

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS

TIME OF INITIALS

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

COMMENTS:

"New Spice" returned and left while I was interviewing "Nuclear Fishin" @ Capt. Bobs
Saw at least YFT

+ SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY +

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9928 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD) 06 / 11
 3. STATE CODE 51 4. CLUSTER 08 5. CONTROL NUMBER 2105

SITE # 1 NAME FISH TALES

SITE # 1 CODE 1216 COUNTY CODE # 1 001

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)
LEE MCGUINNESS

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER
7576768778

SITE
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS LM

TIME OF INITIALS 5:01pm

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

SITE # 2 NAME

SITE # 2 CODE COUNTY CODE # 2

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

SITE
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS

TIME OF INITIALS

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LAF SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR								
CH								

SITE # 3 NAME

SITE # 3 CODE COUNTY CODE # 3

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

SITE
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS

TIME OF INITIALS

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED WHILE INTERVIEWING ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS SITE	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR								
CH								

COMMENTS:

+

+

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9928 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MO / DAY) 0611 3. INTERVIEW TIME 1637
 4. STATE CODE 51 5. CONTROL NUMBER 2105 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER 02 (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)
 7a. SITE 0955 7b. CLUSTER 08 8. SITE TYPE 1 1 = Marina; 2 = Private Dock; 3 = Public Ramp; 4 = Other

9. What is the name of your boat?

NUCLEAR FISHIN

2 ☐ (MARK HERE IF THE BOAT DOES NOT HAVE A NAME)

10a. Is your boat primarily operated as a...

- 1 ☒ Private Boat 8 ☐ Don't Know
 2 ☐ Charter Boat 9 ☐ Refused
 3 ☐ Party/Head Boat

10b. Was the trip today a charter trip or private trip?

- 1 ☐ Charter 8 ☐ Don't Know
 2 ☒ Private 9 ☐ Refused

11a. Does the boat have a NMFS HMS permit, and if so, what category is it?

- 1 ☐ General 4 ☐ No HMS Permit < GO TO Q.12
 2 ☒ Angling 8 ☐ Don't Know < GO TO Q.12
 3 ☐ Charter/Head Boat 9 ☐ Refused < GO TO Q.12

11b. What is your boat's NMFS HMS permit number?

- 1 ☒ Verified with Respondent 8 ☐ Don't Know
 2 ☐ Obtained from Respondent 9 ☐ Refused
 3 ☐ Corrected by Respondent ☒ SPECIFY SOURCE
10072625 ☒ PERMIT NUMBER

12. Can you tell me/verify your boat's Coast Guard document number?

 < GO TO Q.14

- 2 ☒ Vessel has no Coast Guard Documentation number
 8 ☐ Don't Know
 9 ☐ Refused

13. Can you tell me/verify your boat's state registration number?

17117843

- 2 ☐ Vessel has no State Registration number
 8 ☐ Don't Know
 9 ☐ Refused

14. What State is the principal port of your vessel [on your HMS permit application]?

VA < State Postal Code (Letters) 51 < State FIPS Code (Numbers)

15. At about what time did your boat return to this site?

1615 (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

16. For what large pelagic species were you primarily fishing today? (Probe for at least one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)

4711 1st LPS Target YFT1050 2nd LPS Target Dolphin

17a. Were you participating in a tournament today?

- 1 ☒ Yes 8 ☐ Don't Know < GO TO Q.18
 2 ☐ No < GO TO Q.18 9 ☐ Refused < GO TO Q.18

17b. What was the name of the tournament?

MSA TUNAMENT

9650 < Tournament Code

18. What type of hooks were used?

(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☐ Circle 3 ☐ Other (Specify Below)
 2 ☒ Non-Circle/J-Hook Other

19. How many fishing lines were used?

07 < Number of Lines

20. How many hours were spent fishing for large pelagic species? That is, how many hours were the lines in the water?

05 < Number of Hours Spent Fishing

21. Which type of bait was used?

(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☒ Live 1 ☐ Dead 1 ☐ Artificial

22. Which method was used?

(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☐ Trolling 1 ☐ Chumming
 1 ☐ Chunking 1 ☒ Live Lining
 1 ☐ Other (SPECIFY BELOW)

23. How many people on the boat were actively fishing with rod and reel or handline for large pelagic species?

03 < Number of People Fishing

24. Where were you fishing for large pelagic species?

MUD WRECKS

3908 < Lat. 7425 < Long.

25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?

066 < Number of Miles

26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to the bottom)?

0702 < Water Depth in Feet

27. What was the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit?

74 < Water Temperature

28. In the event that my supervisor wishes to verify that I have been conducting interviews here today, may I have your name and telephone number?

RESPONDENT'S NAME

AREA CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

JOEL DOUGLAS 2403972989

PROXY? ☐ < YES ☒ < NO ☐ < RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any fish today? ☒ Yes > GO TO Q.30 ☐ No > TERMINATE ☐ Refused > TERMINATE

+

+

RECORD VESSEL NAME IN NOTES SECTION AND ITEMS 4-6 FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS INTERVIEW:

4. STATE CODE **51** 5. CONTROL NUMBER **2105** 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER **02**

30. What species were caught? *SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK: How many of those did you keep? INTERVIEWER: OF THOSE THAT WERE KEPT, HOW MANY DID YOU OBSERVE AND IDENTIFY? How many of those were released alive? How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold? IF Q.17a=YES, How many of those that were kept were weighed-in or will be weighed-in at the tournament weigh station?*

Fish Species (including size category if BFT)	Species Code	Number Kept	Number Identified by Interviewer	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold	Number Tournament Weigh-In or Weighed-In
1. sm med BFT	4676	01	01	00	00	00	01
2. Dolphin	1050	03	03	00	00	00	00
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

BFT SIZE CATEGORY BY CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL) +	BFT - Young School (1 - 685 mm).....	4673	Blue Marlin.....	2171	Atlantic Bonito.....	0330
	BFT - School (686 -1193 mm).....	4677	White Marlin.....	2161	Dolphin.....	1050
	BFT - Large School (1194 - 1498 mm).....	4678	Swordfish.....	4328	Greater Amberjack.....	0030
	BFT - Small Medium (1499 - 1854 mm).....	4676	Shortfin Mako Shark.....	3551	Wahoo.....	4720
	BFT - Large Medium (1855 - 2057 mm).....	4679	Unidentified Hammerhead Shark.....	4950	Non-Large Pelagic Species	
	BFT - Giant (2058+ mm).....	4671	Blue Shark.....	4931	Atlantic Mackerel.....	2120
	Bigeye Tuna.....	4691	Common Thresher Shark.....	3531	Spiny Dogfish.....	3521
	Albacore.....	4701	Dusky Shark.....	4841	Striped Bass.....	4180
	Yellowfin Tuna.....	4711	Sandbar Shark.....	4821	Bluefish.....	0230
	Skipjack Tuna.....	4661	Little Tunny.....	4681	Cod.....	0815

Notes: BFT ~146 lb. per captain

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not observed/identified or measured, you must provide reason why in the notes section above.)

1 ☐ Yes + RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, SEX, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN

2 ☐ No + THANK RESPONDENT

SEX CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH: VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	SEX	PREP		SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	SEX	PREP
1.						6.					
2.						7.					
3.						8.					
4.						9.					
5.						10.					

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH SPECIES CODE UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm) LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm) PREP

Appendix B: Blank Forms

2025 LPIS Screener and Introduction

Hello, my name is _____ and I represent the Fisheries Research Group of QuanTech, Inc. We are interviewing boat captains and owners for a study sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. I'd like to ask you a few questions about your fishing.

- a. On this vessel, are you the captain, owner, or mate or passenger (proxy designated by the captain to participate in this survey)?**

☐ Yes *CONTINUE* ☐ No *TERMINATE AND TALLY*

- b. Did your boat just return from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip in which you targeted large fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphinfish, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish?**

☐ Yes *CONTINUE* ☐ No *TERMINATE AND TALLY*

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT AND PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:

Collection of information through the Large Pelagics Fishing Survey provides essential information for the conservation and management of Atlantic highly migratory species. Information on fish distribution and catch rates will be used for stock assessment and in developing management programs to enhance fishing opportunities. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: NOAA/NMFS, Fisheries Statistics Division (F/ST1), 1315 East-West Highway, Room 12359, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Reporting of fishing effort and catch of highly migratory species is required under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act. Consistent with the Privacy Act, it is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NOAA 216-100). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control # 0648-0380

Expires 12/31/2027

+

+

2025 LPIS ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY FORM

NAME INTERVIEWER CODE

DATE (MO/DAY) STATE CODE CLUSTER

CONTROL NUMBER BEGIN TIME*

END TIME*

BEGIN TIME = WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT FIRST SITE IN CLUSTER

END TIME = WHEN YOU LEFT THE CLUSTER AND TERMINATED THE ASSIGNMENT

* USE 24 HR CLOCK

ASSIGNMENT MILEAGE

Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore? ☐ Yes
☐ No

Did you encounter an APAIS sampler on this assignment? ☐ Yes
☐ No

+

ASF

COMMENTS:

Total number of pages including this page_____

+

+

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY

1. INTERVIEWER CODE

2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD)

3. STATE CODE

4. CLUSTER

5. CONTROL NUMBER

SITE # 1 NAME

SITE # 1 CODE

COUNTY
CODE # 1

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE
INITIALS

TIME OF
INITIALS

COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS

PR

MID-INTERVIEW
REFUSALS

INITIAL
REFUSALS

LANGUAGE
BARRIER

ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED
WHILE INTERVIEWING
ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS
SITE

BOATS THAT
HAVE NOT
RETURNED

DID NOT TARGET
LARGE PELAGIC
SPECIES

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

CH

SITE # 2 NAME

SITE # 2 CODE

COUNTY
CODE # 2

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE
INITIALS

TIME OF
INITIALS

COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS

PR

MID-INTERVIEW
REFUSALS

INITIAL
REFUSALS

LANGUAGE
BARRIER

ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED
WHILE INTERVIEWING
ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS
SITE

BOATS THAT
HAVE NOT
RETURNED

DID NOT TARGET
LARGE PELAGIC
SPECIES

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

CH

SITE # 3 NAME

SITE # 3 CODE

COUNTY
CODE # 3

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

SITE

REPRESENTATIVE
INITIALS

TIME OF
INITIALS

COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS

PR

MID-INTERVIEW
REFUSALS

INITIAL
REFUSALS

LANGUAGE
BARRIER

ELIGIBLE BOATS MISSED
WHILE INTERVIEWING
ANOTHER BOAT AT THIS
SITE

BOATS THAT
HAVE NOT
RETURNED

DID NOT TARGET
LARGE PELAGIC
SPECIES

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

CH

COMMENTS:

+

RECORD VESSEL NAME IN NOTES SECTION AND ITEMS 4-6 FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS INTERVIEW:

+

4. STATE CODE

5. CONTROL NUMBER

6. DOCUMENT NUMBER

30. What species were caught? *SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK:* How many of those did you keep? *INTERVIEWER: OF THOSE THAT WERE KEPT, HOW MANY DID YOU OBSERVE AND IDENTIFY?* How many of those were released alive? How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold? *IF Q.17a=YES, How many of those that were kept were weighed-in or will be weighed-in at the tournament weigh station?*

Fish Species (including size category if BFT)	Species Code	Number Kept	Number Identified by Interviewer	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold	Tournament Weigh-In or Weighed-In
1. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
8. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
9. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10. _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

BFT SIZE CATEGORY BY CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL) +	BFT - Young School (1 - 685 mm).....	4673	Blue Marlin.....	2171	Atlantic Bonito.....	0330
	BFT - School (686 - 1193 mm).....	4677	White Marlin.....	2161	Dolphin.....	1050
	BFT - Large School (1194 - 1498 mm).....	4678	Swordfish.....	4328	Greater Amberjack.....	0030
	BFT - Small Medium (1499 - 1854 mm)...	4676	Shortfin Mako Shark.....	3551	Wahoo.....	4720
	BFT - Large Medium (1855 - 2057 mm)...	4679	Unidentified Hammerhead Shark...	4950	<i>Non-Large Pelagic Species</i>	
	BFT - Giant (2058+ mm).....	4671	Blue Shark.....	4931	Atlantic Mackerel.....	2120
	Bigeye Tuna.....	4691	Common Thresher Shark.....	3531	Spiny Dogfish.....	3521
	Albacore.....	4701	Dusky Shark.....	4841	Striped Bass.....	4180
	Yellowfin Tuna.....	4711	Sandbar Shark.....	4821	Bluefish.....	0230
	Skipjack Tuna.....	4661	Little Tunny.....	4681	Cod.....	0815
Notes:						

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not observed/identified or measured, you must provide reason why in the notes section above.)

1 ☐ Yes ▶ RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, GENDER, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN2 ☐ No ▶ THANK RESPONDENT

GENDER CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH: VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP		SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP
1.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	6.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	7.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	8.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	9.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	10.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP

+

Appendix C: Fishing Area List

Maine		
Area	Lat	Long
Boon Island Ledge	43 07	70 25
Cape Porpoise Whistle	43 20	70 25
Cashes Ledge/Ammen Rock	42 55	68 55
Cashes Ledge/Buoy	42 40	68 35
Cove (The Cove)	42 48	70 22
Fippennies Ledge	42 45	69 15
Isles of Shoals	43 00	70 29
Jeffrey's Ledge	42 55	70 10
Mistaken Ground	43 21	69 35
Pigeon Hole (on Jeffreys ledge)	42 55	70 05
Platts Bank 29F	43 10	69 40
Saco River Whistle	43 25	70 15
Tantas	43 20	70 10
Three Dory Ridge	43 13	69 19

New Hampshire		
Area	Lat	Long
Bigelow Bight	42 53	70 47
Boon Island Ledge	43 07	70 25
Cape Porpoise Whistle	43 20	70 25
Cashes Ledge/Ammen Rock	42 55	68 55
Cashes Ledge/Buoy	42 40	68 35
Cove (The Cove)	42 48	70 22
Fingers (Near Nantucket)	41 05	70 05
Fippennies Ledge	42 45	69 15
Halibut Point	42 25	70 35
Isles of Shoals	43 00	70 29
Jeffrey's Ledge	42 55	70 10
Pigeon Hole (on Jeffreys ledge)	42 55	70 05
Platts Bank	43 10	69 40
Saco River Whistle	43 25	70 15
Scantum Basin (old and new)	42 50	70 25
Stellwagen Bank	42 16	70 17
Stellwagen Bank N	42 25	70 25
Stellwagen Bank S	42 10	70 15

Massachusetts		
Area	Lat	Long
Atlantis Canyon (Atl. Canyon)	39 47	70 13
BB Buoy	41 16	69 17
BC Buoy	41 41	69 35
Billingsgate Shoal	41 52	70 06
Cape Cod Bay N	42 00	70 20
Cape Cod Bay S	41 50	70 20
Cape Poge	41 25	70 25
Chatham (East)	41 40	69 55
Claw (The Claw)	41 05	70 50
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10
Crab Ledge	41 38	69 40
Cutty Hunk	41 25	70 55
Dry Salvages	42 40	70 35
Dump, The (off Marblehead)	42 25	70 40
Dumping Grounds (Dump)	40 45	70 55
Falmouth Harbour	42 31	70 36
Fingers (Near Nantucket)	41 05	70 05
Fishing Ledge	41 56	70 18
Gay Head	41 20	70 55
Great Round Shoal	41 25	69 50
Great South Channel	40 53	68 58
Halibut Point	42 25	70 35
H-Buoy (The H-Buoy)	42 10	70 30
Hedge Fence	41 30	70 32
Hooter (Whistle Buoy)	41 15	70 26
Horseshoe Shoal Wreck	41 30	70 25
Hydrographer Canyon	40 06	68 57
Ipswich Bay	42 43	70 40
Isles of Shoals	43 00	70 29
Jeffreys Ledge	42 55	70 10
Loran Tower	41 15	69 55
Mass Bay	42 15	70 30
Muskeget Channel	41 17	70 26
Nantucket Shoals	41 15	69 50
Nantucket Sound	41 25	70 10
Nomans Land	41 15	70 45
Peaked Hill Bar	42 05	70 08
Pigeon Hole (on Jeffreys ledge)	42 55	70 05
Pollock Rip Channel	41 30	69 55
Race Point	42 04	70 17
Regal Sword	41 28	69 21
Sesuit Harbor	41 50	70 05
Stellwagen Bank	42 16	70 17
Stellwagen Bank N	42 25	70 25
Stellwagen Bank S	42 10	70 15
Suffolk Wreck	40 53	71 13
Thacher Island	42 38	70 33

Massachusetts		
Area	Lat	Long
Tillies Bank	42 30	70 10
Veatch Canyon	39 52	69 33
Vineyard Sound	41 25	70 45
Wasque Shoal	41 18	70 28
Wood End	42 01	70 14

Rhode Island		
Area	Lat	Long
31 Fathom Hole (or The Hole)	40 55	70 15
Acid Barge	41 02	71 27
Atlantis Canyon (Atlantic Canyon)	39 47	70 13
Block Canyon	39 50	71 14
Block Island Sound	41 11	71 50
Butterfish Hole	40 50	71 35
Claw (The Claw)	41 05	70 50
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10
Coxens Ledge	41 25	70 55
Dumping Grounds (Dump RI, MA, NY)	40 45	70 55
East Grounds	41 10	71 25
Fairway Buoy	41 07	71 23
Fingers (RI, MA, NY)	40 55	70 55
Fish Tales (Fish Tails)	40 00	71 20
Gully (The Gully)	41 00	71 20
Hydrographers Canyon	40 06	68 57
Inside Hole	41 05	71 40
Jenny's Horn	40 49	71 33
Little Fish Tails (North of Fish Tails)	40 19	71 30
Middle Grounds (between Dip & Tails)	39 55	71 32
Midway Buoy	41 05	71 45
Mud Hole	41 00	71 20
North Bar	41 05	71 35
Plum Gut	41 10	72 13
Ranger Wreck	40 35	71 47
Rosies Ledge	41 15	71 50
Ryan's Horn	40 46	71 27
Shark Ledge	41 05	71 30
Suffolk Wreck	40 53	71 13
Texas Towers	39 50	72 40
Tuna Ridge (Tuna Bank)	40 55	71 17
Veatch Canyon	39 52	69 33
Connecticut		

Area	Lat	Long
31 Fathom Hole	40 50	70 45
Acid Barge	41 02	71 27
Atlantis Canyon (Atlantic Canyon)	39 47	70 13
Block Canyon	39 50	71 14
Block Island Sound	41 11	71 50
Butterfish Hole	40 50	71 35
Claw (The Claw)	41 05	70 50
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10
Coxens Ledge	41 25	70 55
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 55
East Grounds	41 10	71 25
Fingers	40 55	70 55
Fish Tales (Fish Tails)	40 00	71 20
Fishers Island Sound	41 18	72 00
Hudson Canyon	39 30	72 20
Hydrographer Canyon	40 06	68 57
Inside Hole	41 05	71 45
Jenny's Horn	40 49	71 33
Little Fish Tails (North of Fish Tails)	40 19	71 30
Middle Grounds (between Dip & Tails)	39 55	71 32
Midway Buoy	41 05	71 45
Montauk Shoal	41 01	71 50
Mud Hole	41 00	71 20
North Bar	41 05	71 35
Race (The Race)	41 15	72 00
Ranger Wreck	40 35	71 47
Rosiet Ledge	41 15	71 50
Ryan's Horn	40 46	71 27
Plum Gut	41 10	72 13
Shark Ledge	41 05	71 30
Suffolk Wreck	40 53	71 13
Tuna Ridge (Tuna Bank)	40 55	71 17

New York		
Area	Lat	Long
Acid Barge	41 02	71 27
Acid Waters (aka 'The Stain')	40 22	73 42
Atlantis Canyon (Atlantic Canyon)	39 47	70 13
Bacardi Wreck	39 50	72 45
Block Canyon	39 50	71 14
Block Island Sound	41 11	71 50
Butterfish Hole	40 50	71 35
Cartwright	41 00	71 48

New York		
Area	Lat	Long
Chicken Canyon	39 52	73 03
CIA Grounds	40 56	71 43
Coimbra	40 24	72 22
Compass Rose	40 13	72 46
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10
Dip (The Dip)	39 55	71 44
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 55
Farms (The Farms)	40 15	73 48
Fingers	40 55	70 55
Fish Tales (Fish Tails or Tails East)	40 00	71 20
Forty Fathom Lumps	40 25	71 35
Gardiners Bay	41 05	72 11
Glory Hole	39 55	73 15
Gully (The Gully)	41 00	71 20
HA Buoy	40 10	73 20
Hudson Canyon	39 30	72 20
100 Square (Hudson)	39 30	72 10
Jenny's Horn	40 49	71 33
Lillian Wreck	40 02	73 32
Linda	40 23	73 00
Little Fish Tails (North of Fish Tails)	40 19	71 30
Mako Hotel	40 00	73 10
Middle Grounds (between Dip & Tails)	39 55	71 32
Montauk Shoal	41 01	71 50
Mud Hole 1 (off Manasquan inlet NJ)	40 10	73 35
Mud Hole 2 (off Block Island, RI)	41 00	71 20
NA Buoy	40 26	73 11
Oregon	40 30	72 50
Plum Gut	41 10	72 13
Ranger Wreck	40 35	71 47
Rock Piles	40 10	73 00
Rose (The Rose)		
Ryan's Horn	40 46	71 27
San Diego	40 30	73 00
Shagwong Reef	41 06	71 54
Sharks Ledge	41 04	71 28
Suffolk Wreck	40 53	71 13
Texas Towers	39 50	72 40
Tuna Ridge (Tuna Bank)	40 55	71 17
Veatch Canyon	39 52	69 33
Virginia wreck	40 07	72 52

New York		
Area	Lat	Long
Yankee	40 20	73 15

New Jersey		
Area	Lat	Long
1000 Fathom Hole	38 05	73 20
19 Fathom Lump	38 30	74 20
20 Fathom Temple	38 45	74 20
28 Mile Wreck	39 00	74 05
750 Squares	38 55	73 55
Acid Waters ('The Stain')	40 22	73 42
B.A. Buoy	40 20	73 50
Bacardi Wreck	39 50	72 45
Baltimore Canyon	38 20	73 45
Barnegat Ridge	39 40	73 50
Bidevind Wreck	39 49	72 49
Carteret Canyon	38 52	72 49
Chicken Canyon	39 52	73 03
Coimbra	39 55	72 25
Dumping Grounds	38 50	73 25
Elephant Trunk	38 35	74 05
Farms (The Farms)	40 15	73 48
Fingers	39 40	73 30
Glory Hole	39 55	73 15
HA Buoy	40 10	73 20
Ham Bone	38 11	74 24
Hot Dog (North)	38 06	74 17
Hudson Canyon	39 30	72 20
Jack Spot	38 05	74 45
Jacob Jones Wreck	38 40	74 29
Lillian Wreck	40 02	73 32
Lindenkohl Canyon	38 45	72 56
Little Italy	40 05	73 38
Lobster Hole		
Manasquan Ridge	40 00	73 45
Massey's Canyon	38 25	74 20
Monster Ledge	40 10	73 35
Mud Hole	40 10	73 35
Ole's Lump	39 45	73 40
Poor Man's Canyon	37 52	74 06
Resor Wreck	39 45	73 25
Shrewsbury Rocks	40 20	73 57
Spencer Canyon	38 37	73 12
Star (The Star)	38 35	73 35
Tea Cup	38 21	74 10
Texas Tower	39 50	72 40

New Jersey		
Area	Lat	Long
Tolton Lump	38 55	73 50
Tom's Canyon	39 03	72 35
Triple Wrecks (~60 mi off Barnegat inlet)	39 35	72 55
Virginia wreck	40 07	72 52
Washington Canyon	37 27	74 27
Wilmington Canyon	38 24	73 27

Maryland & Delaware		
Area	Lat	Long
Baltimore Canyon	38 20	73 45
Baltimore Canyon 500 fathom	38 06	73 49
Baltimore Canyon 100 fathom	38 14	73 50
Chicken Bone	38 15	74 28
Elephant Trunk	38 35	74 05
Fingers 20 Fathom	38 12	74 37
Fingers Ocean City	38 05	74 40
Great Gull (Shoal or Bank)	38 14	75 02
Ham Bone	38 11	74 24
Hot Dog (North)	38 06	74 17
Jack Spot	38 05	74 45
Lightship (Delaware Lightship or "D" Buoy)	38 27	74 42
Little Gull	38 17	75 02
Lummis Slough	40 00	73 35
Lumps	38 49	74 28
Lumpy Bottom	37 27	74 53
Marine Electric	37 53	74 50
Masseys Canyon	38 25	74 20
Norfolk Canyon	37 05	74 35
Parking Lot	37 40	74 50
Poor Man's Canyon	37 52	74 06
Rock Pile	37 39	74 22
Sausages	37 59	74 33
Tea Cup	38 21	74 10
Triple Wrecks	38 30	74 32
Twin Wrecks	38 13	74 43
Washington Canyon	37 27	74 27
Wilmington Canyon	38 24	73 27
Winter Quarter Shoal	37 58	75 04

Virginia		
Area	Lat	Long
10 Fathom Lump	37 10	75 15
21 Mile Hill	37 25	75 10
26 Mile Hill (Hambone)	37 15	75 10

Virginia		
Area	Lat	Long
44 Fathom Wreck	36 55	74 45
4A Buoy	36 35	75 45
Bluefish Alley	36 35	75 30
CB Buoy Line SE	36 50	75 50
Chesapeake Bay Bridge	37 05	76 00
Chesapeake Bay Light Tower	36 55	75 45
Chicken Bone	38 15	74 28
Cigar	36 30	74 50
East Point	36 55	75 55
Fingers, 20 Fathom	37 25	74 45
Fingers (The Fingers)	37 00	75 10
Fish Hook	36 45	75 30
George II Trench	36 40	75 20
Hot Dog	36 45	75 20
Jack Spot	38 05	74 45
Latimer Shoal	37 07	75 59
Lumps (The Lumps)	36 35	75 30
Lumpy Bottom	37 27	74 53
Marine Electric	37 53	74 50
Meatcleaver	37 00	75 30
Mud Wrecks	39 08	74 25
NOAA Buoy	36 35	74 50
Norfolk Canyon	37 05	74 35
Parramore Banks	37 30	75 25
Parking Lot	37 40	74 50
South Tower	36 15	75 15
Spring Chicken	36 50	75 10
Tiger Wrecks	36 45	75 45
Triangle Wrecks	37 00	75 25
Triple Zeros	36 15	74 50
Wachapreague Inlet	37 35	75 35
Washington Canyon	37 27	74 27

Appendix D: “To Whom” Letter from NMFS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for managing U.S. marine fish resources. Of particular interest are the Atlantic highly migratory species (tunas, billfish, swordfish, sharks) caught in offshore waters. NMFS closely monitors fishing effort and catch of these highly migratory species as these species support socially and economically important recreational and commercial fisheries. Information collected about the fisheries for these species is used to adjust management measures to sustain the fish stocks and the fisheries that depend on them.

Accurate information is vital to NMFS' efforts to manage highly migratory species. One of the methods NMFS uses to collect information on catch rates and fishing effort is the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS). LPS dockside interviewers collect catch information from boat captains upon their return from offshore fishing trips. Effort information (trips per week) is collected in a telephone survey of permit holders. In order to efficiently conduct the dockside survey, NMFS has contracted with QuanTech to conduct the interviews. Staff from QuanTech will interview boat captains or the captain's designee (i.e., mate) who have just returned from an offshore oceanic fishing trip which targeted large pelagic species such as tunas, billfish, sharks, and other similar species. The captains (or designees) will be asked a series of questions about their catch and by-catch for the trip just completed, and their catch will be counted. Some interviewers may measure fish lengths and weights or ask to take biological samples such as spines, otoliths (ear bones), and gonads.

The collection of catch information for Atlantic highly migratory species fulfills U.S. obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and provides the basis for stock assessments and management of these valuable species in U.S. territorial waters and international waters. The authority for NMFS to collect information from recreational and commercial fishermen comes from the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Under this authority, boat captains returning from offshore fishing trips and permitted vessel owners are required to provide catch and effort information to NMFS. Vessel owners issued an HMS permit are reminded that as a condition of accepting such permit, they are required to cooperate with any data collection survey if contacted. Responses to survey questions are classified as confidential and are maintained by NMFS consistent with the confidential fisheries statistics provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. Once collected, data may be released only in accordance with the Privacy Act.

For more information about the LPS and the activities of the QuanTech interviewers, please call or write:

Clifford Hutt
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
1315 East West Hwy., F/SF1
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-427-8503
cliff.hutt@noaa.gov

Robert O'Haver
QuanTech, Inc.
6110 Executive Blvd.
Suite 480
Rockville, MD 20852
240-397-2988
rohaver@quantech.com

NMFS greatly appreciates the cooperation of offshore anglers in providing important management information by participating in the LPS dockside survey.

Sincerely,

Randy Blankinship, Chief
Highly Migratory Species Management Division



Appendix E: State Code List

Alabama	AL	01
Connecticut	CT	09
Delaware	DE	10
Florida	FL	12
Georgia	GA	13
Louisiana	LA	22
Maine	ME	23
Maryland	MD	24
Massachusetts	MA	25
Mississippi	MS	28
New Hampshire	NH	33
New Jersey	NJ	34
New York	NY	36
North Carolina	NC	37
Pennsylvania	PA	42
Rhode Island	RI	44
South Carolina	SC	45
Texas	TX	48
Virginia	VA	51

Appendix F: Species Codes / Local Area Names List

LPS Species Name	LPS Species Code	*	LPS Species Name	LPS Species Code	*	Non-LPS Species Name	Non-LPS Species Code	
			Atlantic sharpnose shark	4941	*			
Dolphin	1050	*	Blacktip shark	4871	*	Barracuda	0180	
Greater amberjack	0030	*	Bonnethead	4760	*	Bluefish	0230	
Wahoo	4720	*	Blue shark	4931	*	Cobia	0570	
			Dusky shark	4841	*	Cod	0815	
			Great Hammerhead shark	4951	*	Crevalle	0870	
Blue marlin	2171	*	Longfin mako shark	3581	*	Atlantic croaker	0900	
Longbill spearfish	4010	*	Porbeagle shark	4811	*	Summer flounder	1219	
Roundscale spearfish	4009	*	Sand tiger shark	3491	*	Grouper	1410	
Sailfish	3026	*	Sandbar shark	4821	*	Haddock	1479	
Swordfish	4328	*	Scalloped Hammerhead shark	4781	*	King mackerel	1940	
White marlin	2161	*	Shortfin mako shark	3551	*	Pollock	2695	
			Smooth Hammerhead shark	4791	*	Red porgy	3300	
Bluefin tuna young school	4673	*	Spinner shark	4881	*	Black sea bass	3350	
Bluefin tuna school	4677	*	Thresher shark	3531	*	Sea robin	3410	
Bluefin tuna large school	4678	*	Tiger shark	4911	*	Dogfish (general)	3501	
Bluefin tuna small med.	4676	*	White shark	4801	*	Smooth dogfish	3511	
Bluefin tuna large med.	4679	*	Only valid when respondent will not respond to probing for species or BFT size category and the fish is unavailable for identification by Interviewer			#	Spiny dogfish	3521
Bluefin tuna giant	4671	*				#	Spanish mackerel	3840
							Striped bass	4180
			Tuna (any)	4656	#	Blueline tilefish	4440	
Bigeye tuna	4691	*	Shark (any)	3591	#	Sand tilefish	4450	
Albacore	4701	*	Other large pelagic species	5250	#	Golden tilefish	4467	
Yellowfin tuna	4711	*	Mako shark (any)	3571	#	Tilefish (general)	4470	
Skipjack	4661	*	Hammerhead shark (any)	4950	#	Ocean triggerfish	4560	
Atlantic bonito	0330	*	Bluefin tuna (any)	4670	#	Blue runner	0270	
Blackfin tuna	4641	*	Bluefin tuna school/large school (27" to < 59")	4672	#			
Little tunny	4681	*	Any large pelagic species	7777	#			

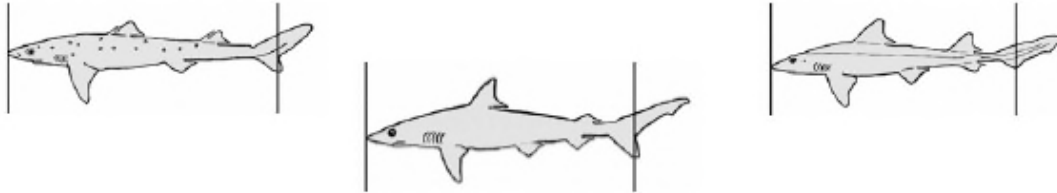
Local Names for Large Pelagic Species (sorted by local name)

<u>Local Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Albacore	Little Tunny (commonly misidentified)
Albert	Little Tunny
Albie	Albacore
Allison Tuna	Yellowfin Tuna
Arctic Bonito	Skipjack Tuna
Bailers	Dolphinfish (small)
Blue Dog	Blue Shark
Bonito	Little Tunny (commonly misidentified)
Bonitocore	Little Tunny
Brown Shark	Used for Sandbar Shark or Dusky Shark
Bulls	Dolphinfish (Large males)
Canner	Albacore
Coldwater Mako	Porbeagle
Cows	Dolphinfish (Large females)
Dorado	Dolphinfish
Doggies	Blue Shark (could also be referring to dogfish shark)
False Albacore / Falsie	Little Tunny
Fat Albert	Bonito
Football	Used for Atlantic Bonito, Blackfin Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, and Bluefin Tuna (school size)
Gaffers	Dolphinfish (large)
Giant	Bluefin Tuna (large medium and giant sizes)
Grasshoppers	Dolphinfish (Small)
Lemon Shark	Tiger Shark (commonly misidentified)
Leopard Shark	Tiger Shark
Longfin	Albacore
Longtail Shark	Common Thresher Shark
Mahi Mahi	Dolphinfish
Oceanic Bonita	Skipjack Tuna
Peanuts	Dolphinfish (small)
Penguin	Albacore
Ragged Tooth	Sand Tiger Shark
Rum Jugs	Little Tunny
Sand Shark	Sand Tiger Shark
Skippy	Skipjack Tuna
Snaggle Tooth	Sand Tiger Shark
Spinner Shark	Blacktip Shark (commonly misidentified)
Striped Bonito	Skipjack Tuna (commonly misidentified)
Watermelon Tuna	Skipjack Tuna
Whiptail	Thresher Shark

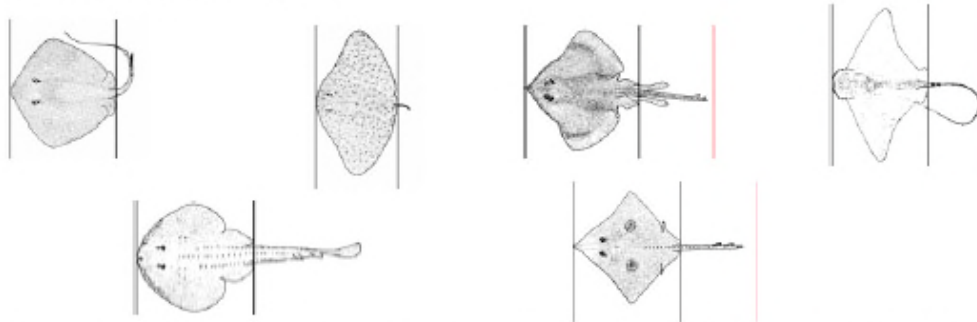
Appendix G: Measuring Fish

Correct procedures for measuring lengths of various types of fish are shown in the diagrams below.

Sharks and sturgeons are measured from the tip of the snout to the center of the fork of the tail.



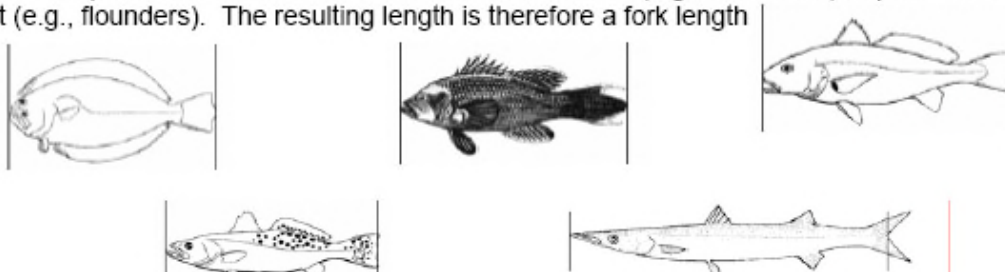
Skates and rays are measured from the tip of the snout to the distal end of the pelvic fins. Do not include the claspers.



Billfishes and swordfish are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the center of the fork of the tail.

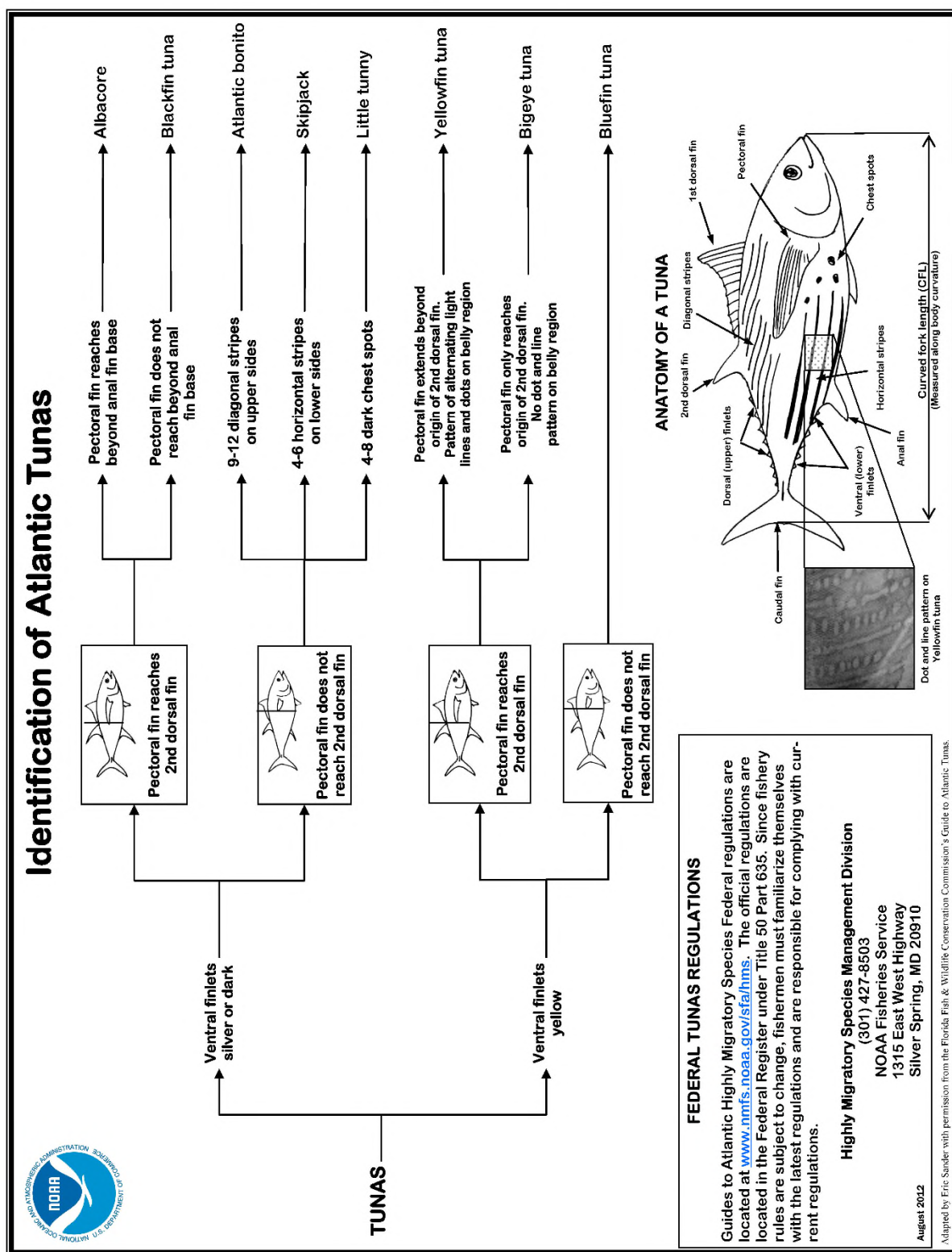


All other species are measured from the most anterior tip of the longest jaw (mouth closed) or end of snout, whichever is terminal, to the posterior tip of the tail at its center line. This procedure is the same whether the tail forks in (e.g., mackerels) or protrudes out (e.g., flounders). The resulting length is therefore a fork length

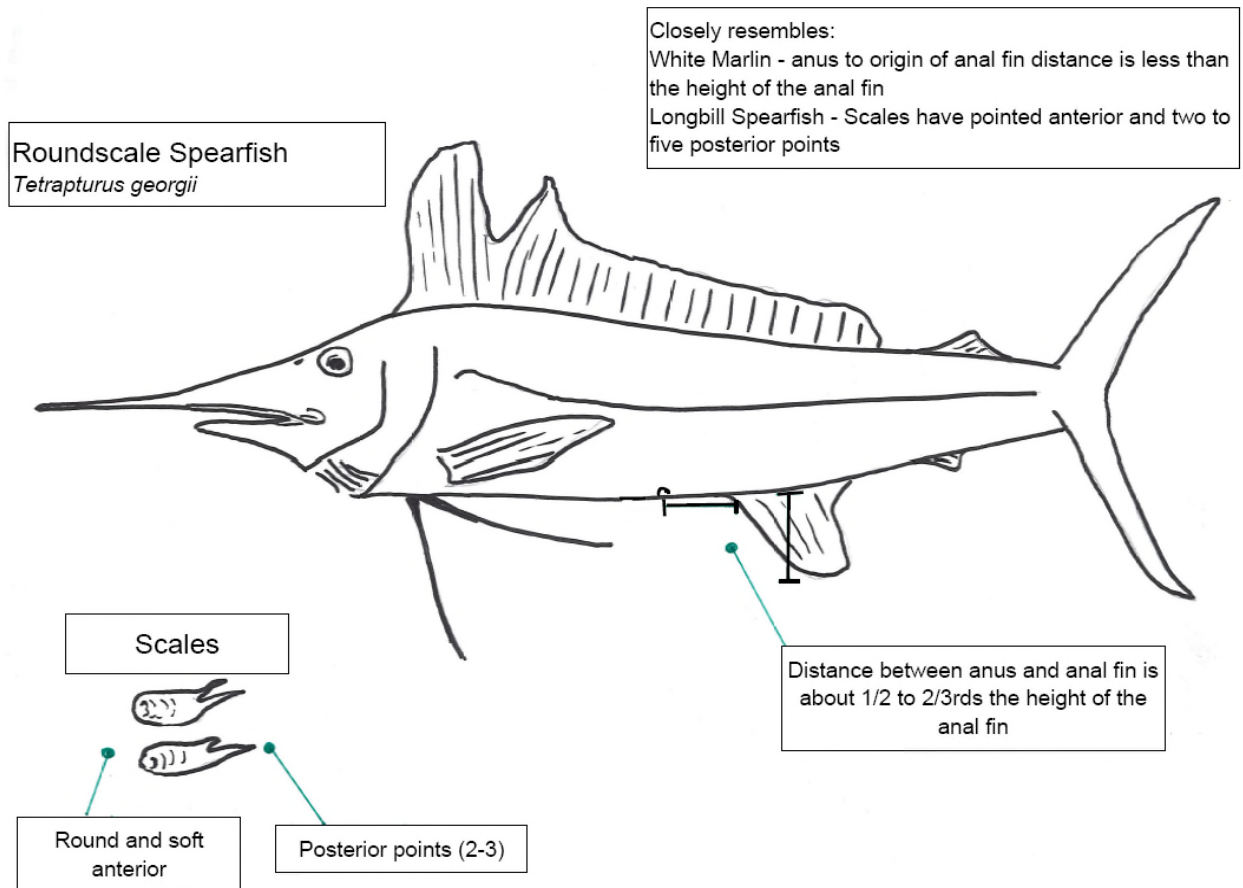


Measure the straight fork length of all fish in millimeters. For the following tuna species, curved fork lengths should also be recorded: bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack. Curved fork length must be taken in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail, which abuts the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin and the dorsal side of the caudal keel. The measuring tape must pass over (and touch) the pectoral fin and the caudal keel.

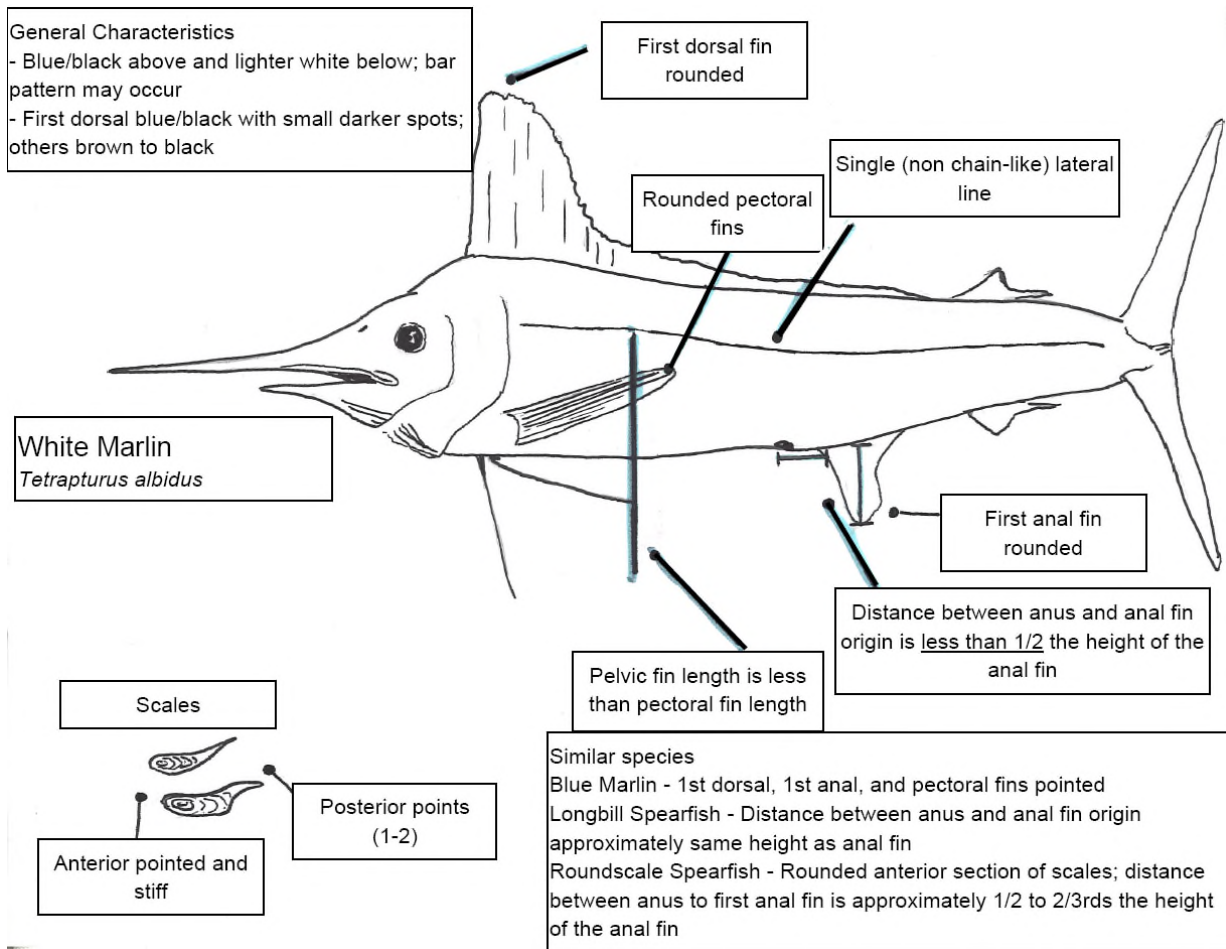
Appendix H: Identification of Atlantic Tunas



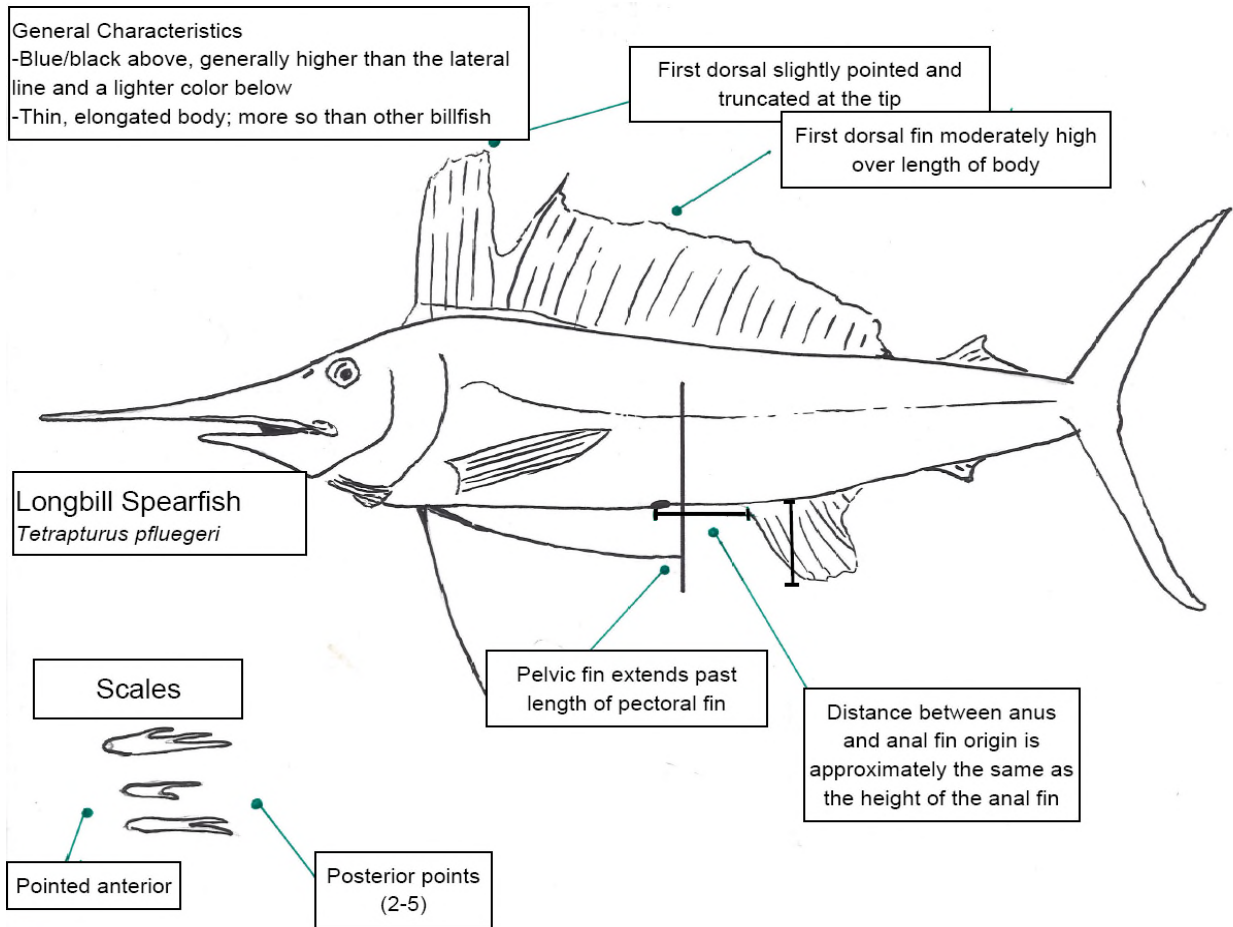
Appendix I: Identification of Roundscale Spearfish, White Marlin, and Longbill Spearfish



Roundscale Spearfish: Mid-body scales are noticeably round at the anterior end of the scale (facing in the direction of the head), as well as soft and flexible. The posterior end has two to three points present. The distance from the anus to the origin of the first anal fin is about 1/2 to 2/3rds the height of the anal fin.



White Marlin: Mid-body scales are not round, but pointed and stiff at the anterior end and have one to two points at the posterior end. As with the Roundscale spearfish, measure the distance between the anus and the origin of the first anal fin. This distance should be **less than 1/2** the height of the anal fin.



Longbill Spearfish: Mid-Body scales are also not rounded, but pointed and stiff as in the White Marlin, but have two to five posterior points.

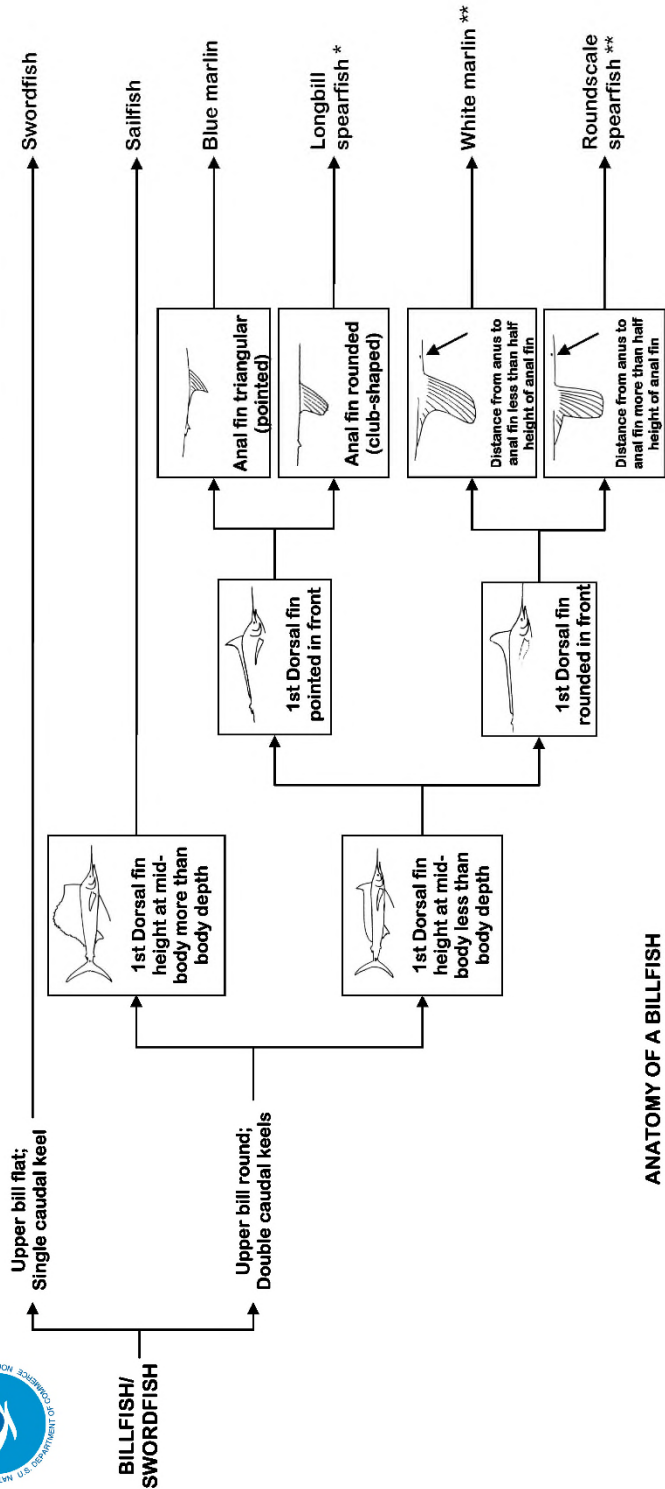
Literature Cited

M. S. Shivji, J. E. Magnussen, L. R. Beerkircher, G. Hinteregger, D. W. Lee, J. E. Serafy, and E. D. Prince. 2006. Validity, Identification, and Distribution of the Roundscale Spearfish, *Tetrapturus georgii* (Teleostei: Istiophoridae): Morphological and Molecular Evidence. Bull. Mar. Sci. 79(3):483 – 491.

Illustrations by Sara Saunders, QuanTech, Inc.



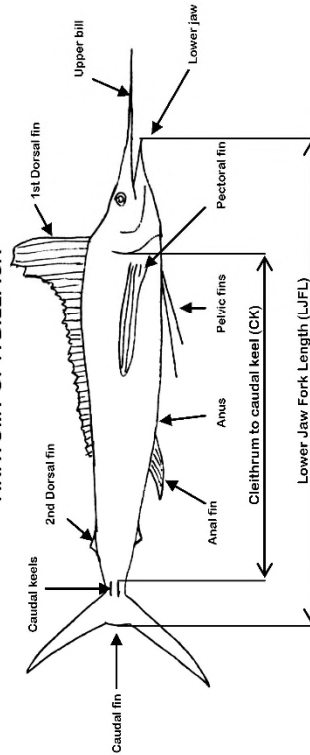
Identification of Atlantic Swordfish and Billfishes



* Possession prohibited.

** Special notes:
Roundscale spearfish—Scales on front end of mid-body round and soft
White marlin—Scales on front end of mid-body pointed and stiff

ANATOMY OF A BILLFISH



FEDERAL SWORDFISH AND BILLFISH REGULATIONS

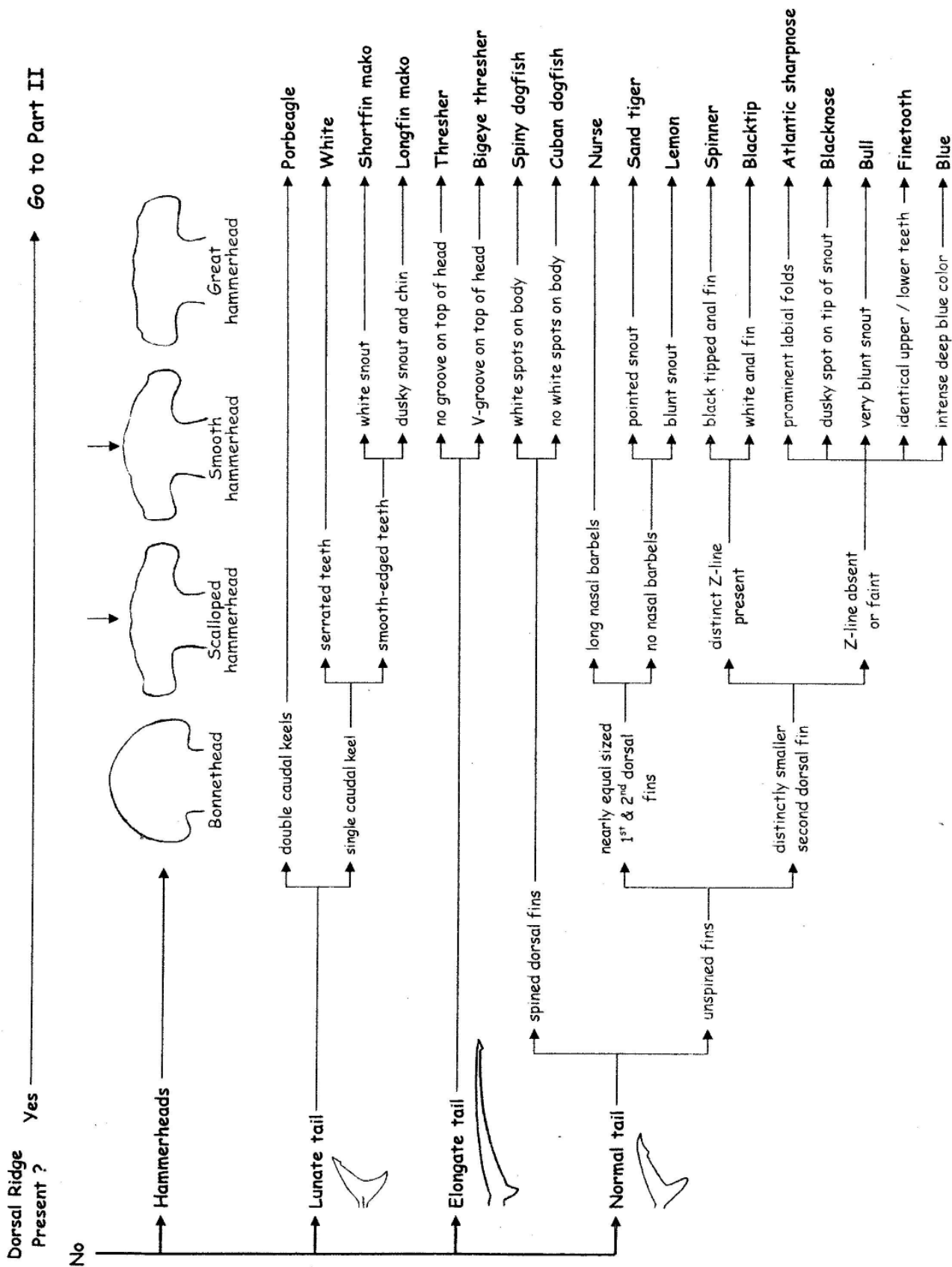
Guides to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Federal regulations are located at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms. The official regulations are located in the Federal Register under Title 50 Part 635. Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with current regulations.

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
(301) 427-8503
NOAA Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

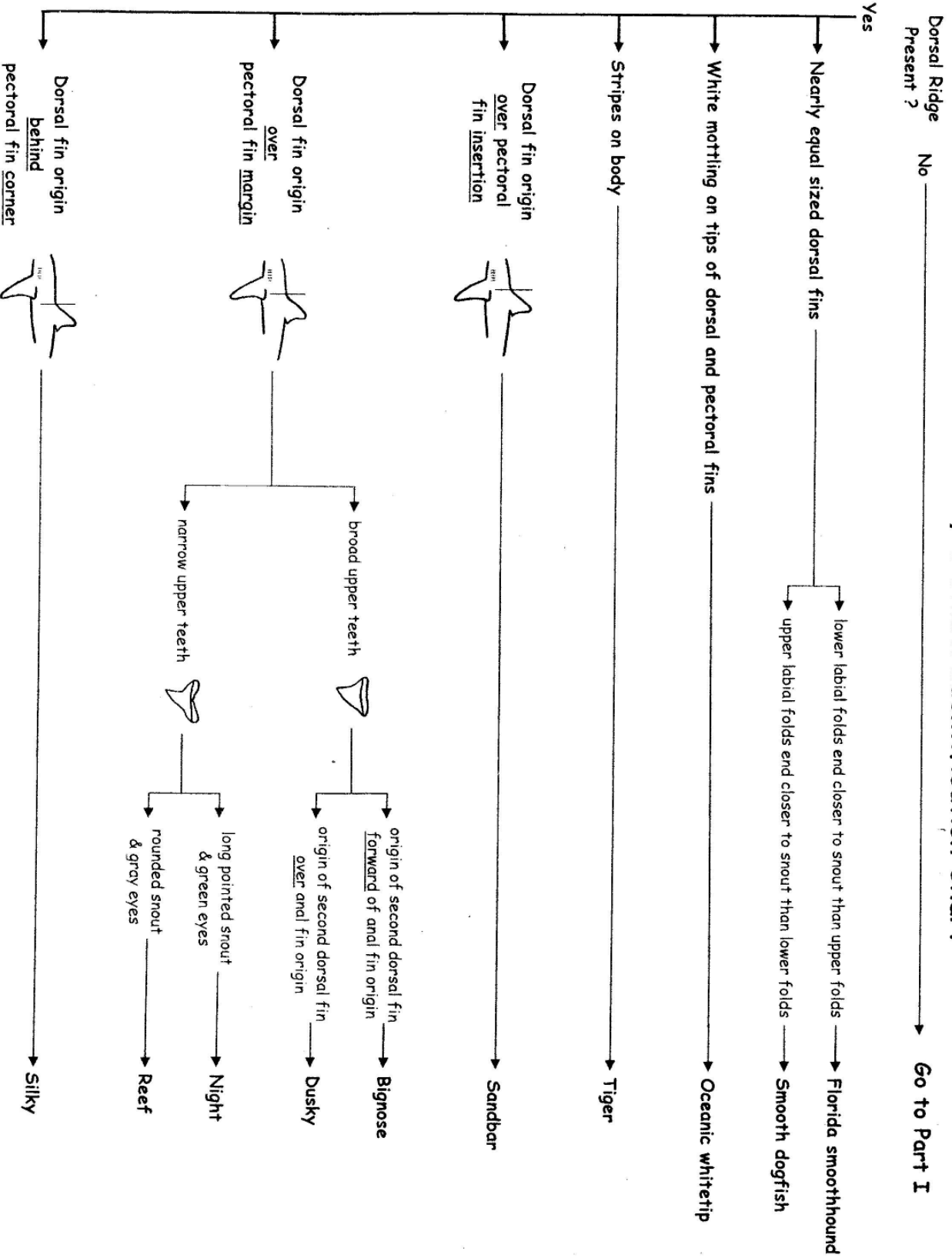
August 2012

Appendix J: Shark Identification Key

Part I - Non-Ridged Shark Identification Chart



Part II - Ridged Shark Identification Chart



Appendix K: Frequently Asked Questions: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Permits

When do I need an Atlantic highly migratory species permit?

NOAA Fisheries requires fishermen and dealers to obtain federal permits if they fish for, sell, purchase, or import Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS), which include tunas, billfish, swordfish, or sharks. Permits are also required to import all HMS and to export bluefin tuna, swordfish, and frozen bigeye tuna.

Where can I get information on the permit options and how to apply?

Our [Fishing & Seafood Permits database](#) is the best place to find information on Atlantic HMS permits. You can also find information on other regional permits in this database by applying different search filters.

Do I have to have a permit on board when fishing?

Yes, the owner or operator of a vessel must have the appropriate valid permit on board the vessel to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic HMS. The vessel operator must also make the permit available for inspection upon request by any NOAA Fisheries or NOAA Fisheries-authorized personnel.

Do I need a permit to recreationally fish for or retain tunas, sharks, swordfish, or billfish?

Yes. In most cases, you will need an [HMS Angling](#) permit or an [HMS Charter/Headboat](#) permit. You can also participate in a registered recreational HMS tournament if you're on a vessel with an [Atlantic Tunas General category](#) permit.

Permit holders who recreationally fish for or retain sharks must also obtain a Shark Endorsement on their HMS permit. You'll be prompted to view a video and take a quiz during the application process for an HMS Angling or HMS Charter/Headboat permit.

Vessels fishing exclusively in state waters are required to obtain the HMS Angling permit if they wish to keep bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, or albacore tunas. Check your state regulations for details on the retention of sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish in state waters.

Can I fish for tunas without a permit if I am not on a vessel?

No, only permitted vessels may fish for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas in the Atlantic, Gulf of America, and the Caribbean. If one of these species is caught incidentally during fishing activities from shore or from an oil rig, it must be released immediately.

I have an HMS Angling permit. Can I sell the fish I caught?

No, you must have a [commercial fishing permit](#) if you wish to sell your landings.

Do I need anything besides a commercial fishing permit to sell highly migratory species?

Your state may require an additional permit for the sale of fish. Contact your state fisheries agency for details.

I want to fish for tuna with longline gear. Is an Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit all I need?

No, you must also have [swordfish](#) and [shark](#) limited access permits.

I want to fish for sharks recreationally. Is an HMS Angling or Charter/Headboat permit all I need?

No, you also need a shark endorsement on your permit. You'll be prompted to view a video and take a quiz during the application process.

I also want to fish for species other than tunas, sharks, billfishes, and swordfish. Where do I go to get permits for those?

Information on permits for other fisheries is available on the NOAA Fisheries [Fishing & Seafood Permits database](#). Once there, you can filter your search by permit type or management area or search for the species.

I am a dealer. What permits do I need?

Anyone who receives or purchases tunas, sharks, or swordfish must have a dealer permit. Because the sale of Atlantic billfish is prohibited, there is no dealer permit for those species.

- [Atlantic Shark Dealer permit](#)
- [Domestic Swordfish Dealer permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tuna Dealer permits](#)

In addition, anyone who imports Atlantic HMS must have an [International Fisheries Trade Permit](#). Individuals exporting bluefin tuna, swordfish, or frozen bigeye tuna must also have an International Fisheries Trade Permit.

I am a researcher interested in fishing for the purposes of data collection. What permit do I need?

We issue several permit types specific to data collection. Details are available on our [Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Exempted Fishing Permits page](#).

I represent an aquarium. What permit do I need to display an Atlantic highly migratory species?

Our display permit authorizes aquariums to fish for, catch, and transport a highly migratory species for public display. Information on how to apply is available on our [Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Exempted Fishing Permits page](#).

Purchasing, Renewing, Transferring, or Cancelling Permits

Can I purchase and renew fishing permits online?

You can purchase and renew the following vessel permits through the online [HMS Permit Shop](#).

Recreational and for-hire permits:

- [Atlantic HMS Angling permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#)

Commercial permits:

- [Atlantic Tunas General category permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit](#)
- Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine permit
- [Swordfish General Commercial permit](#)
- [Combination Swordfish/Tunas permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#) (with commercial endorsement)

The permits listed below can also be renewed through the [Southeast Fisheries Permit System](#). To initially purchase—or transfer in the case of the limited access permits—these, you must submit a paper application.

Open access permits:

- [Commercial Caribbean Small Boat Permit](#)
- [Smoothhound Shark Permits](#)

Limited access permits:

- [Directed Swordfish permit](#)
- [Incidental Swordfish permit](#)
- [Swordfish Handgear permit](#)
- [Directed Shark permit](#)
- [Incidental Shark permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Longline category permit](#)

I am waiting for my U.S. Coast Guard documentation number to be sent. Can I purchase my permit in the meantime?

No, you must have a U.S. Coast Guard documentation number or state vessel registration number to purchase an HMS fishing permit.

What payment types do you accept?

Any permit issued through the [HMS Permit Shop](#) can be purchased with a major credit card or money order. However, vessel and dealer permits issued out of NOAA Fisheries' regional offices may have different payment options. Click on the appropriate description in our [Fishing & Seafood Permit database](#) for information on payment options for the permit you're interested in.

I bought a vessel that has an Atlantic highly migratory species permit already. What should I do?

Call the customer service center at (888) 872-8862 if your new vessel has previously been issued any of these permits:

- [Atlantic HMS Angling permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas General category permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit](#)
- [Swordfish General Commercial permit](#)
- [Combination Swordfish/Tunas permit](#)

To transfer a permit issued through the [Southeast Permit Office](#), follow the [instructions on their web page](#).

Can I transfer my permit to a different vessel that I own?

There is no process for directly transferring the permits listed below between vessels. However, you can change the vessel associated with a permit by [updating your information](#) in our system. You can do this during the permit year or when renewing your permit.

- [Atlantic HMS Angling permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas General category permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit](#)
- Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine permit
- [Swordfish General Commercial permit](#)
- [Combination Swordfish/Tunas permit](#)

To transfer a permit issued through the [Southeast Permit Office](#), follow the [instructions on their web page](#).

What should I do if I purchased the wrong permit?

You have 45 calendar days from the date your permit was issued to correct any errors in the following permits. If you find an error within that time, contact Customer Service at (888) 872-8862.

- [Atlantic HMS Angling permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas General category permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit](#)
- [Swordfish General Commercial permit](#)
- [Combination Swordfish/Tunas permit](#)

To correct an error in a permit issued through the [Southeast Permit Office](#), follow the [instructions on their web page](#). For instructions on how to correct errors in an Atlantic tunas dealer permit, contact the Greater Atlantic Regional Office at (978) 282-8438 or NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov.

How do I update my permit information?

Instructions for how to update information for the following permits are available at the [HMS Permit Shop](#).

- [Atlantic HMS Angling permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas General category permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit](#)
- Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine permit
- [Swordfish General Commercial permit](#)
- [Combination Swordfish/Tunas permit](#)

To update information for a permit issued through the [Southeast Permit Office](#), follow the [instructions on their web page](#). For instructions on how to update Atlantic tunas dealer permits contact the Greater Atlantic Regional Office at (978) 282-8438 or NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov.

How often do I have to renew my permit?

You must renew your open or limited access vessel permit or dealer permit annually. Click on the appropriate description in our [Fishing & Seafood Permit database](#) for information on how to renew your permit.

What should I do if I lose my permit?

Instructions for what to do if you've lost any of the following permits is available at the [HMS Permit Shop](#).

- [Atlantic HMS Angling permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas General category permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit](#)
- Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine permit
- [Swordfish General Commercial permit](#)
- [Combination Swordfish/Tunas permit](#)

If you've lost a permit issued through the [Southeast Permit Office](#), follow the [instructions on their web page](#). If you've lost an Atlantic tunas dealer permit, contact the Greater Atlantic Regional Office at (978) 282-8438 or NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov.

How do I cancel my permit?

Call the customer service center at (888) 872-8862 to cancel any of these permits:

- [Atlantic HMS Angling permit](#)
- [Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas General category permit](#)
- [Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permit](#)
- Atlantic Tunas Purse Seine permit
- [Swordfish General Commercial permit](#)
- [Combination Swordfish/Tunas permit](#)

To cancel a permit issued through the [Southeast Permit Office](#), follow the [instructions on their web page](#).

Fishery Regulations

How do I report a violation of NOAA Fisheries regulations?

Call the 24-hour NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline at (800) 853-1964 if you observe a violation. You may also call the U.S. Coast Guard Hotline at (800) SAVE-FISH. You do not have to give your name when you call.

The online HMS Permit Shop system isn't working. Who do I contact?

You can call our customer service line at (888) 872-8862. A representative will be available to help you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern. You can fill out a feedback form at hmspermits.noaa.gov/feedback.

Where can I get answers to questions on rules and regulations?

Our [Atlantic HMS compliance guides](#) provide a summary of regulations for recreational and commercial fisheries, as well as for dealers. You can also stay up-to-date on Atlantic HMS inseason actions and proposed rules through our [Notices & Rules database](#).

Additional Resources

The resources below provide helpful information for Atlantic HMS permit holders. For further resources related to these fisheries, visit our [Publications database](#).

- [Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan and Amendments](#)
- [Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Rules and Inseason Actions](#)
- [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#)
- [Green-Stick Gear Fact Sheet](#) (PDF, 1 page)
- [Summary of Fishery Information and Regulations for Atlantic Tuna Fisheries](#) (PDF, 4 pages)
- [Atlantic Charter/Headboat for Dolphin/Wahoo For Hire Fishing Permit](#)
- [A Guide to the Tunas of the Western Atlantic Ocean](#)
- [Atlantic Swordfish and Billfish Identification Guide](#)
- [Shark Identification Placard](#)
- [Careful Catch and Release Brochure](#)
- [Protected Resources Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Resources](#)
- [Application of Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Requirements on NMFS Atlantic Highly Migratory Species](#)

Appendix L: Tournament Code List

State	Code	Tournament Name	City
CONNECTICUT	1410	NIANTIC SHARK WEEK	NIANTIC
DELAWARE	3870	INDIAN RIVER MARINA TUNA BLAST	REHOBOTH BEACH
DELAWARE	3860	KIDS CATCH ALL TOURNAMENT	REHOBOTH BEACH
MAINE	1010	BAILEY ISLAND FISHING TOURNAMENT	BAILEY ISLAND
MAINE	1021	CASCO BAY BLUEFIN BONANZA	SOUTH PORTLAND
MAINE	1035	SPRING POINT SHOOTOUT	SOUTH PORTLAND
MARYLAND	5075	BIG FISH CLASSIC	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5100	BISHOP BROADBILL BASH	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	6300	CANYON KICK-OFF	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5520	CAPT. STEVE'S POOR GIRLS OPEN	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	4701	CBSFA O.C. TUNA-FORTUNA TOURNEY	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5600	CHALLENGE CUP	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5060	FISH N' PADDLE SALTWATER SLAM	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	6450	KIDS CLASSIC	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5510	MAKO MANIA	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5730	MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5500	OCEAN CITY LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN OPEN	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5710	OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB LADIES	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5550	OCEAN CITY TUNA TOURNAMENT	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5740	OCMC VS OCLTC SHOOT-OUT	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5300	REBEL'S RELEASE (September)	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5061	REBEL'S RELEASE (August)	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	6100	SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	3003	TUNA AND TIARAS	OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND	5200	WHITE MARLIN OPEN	OCEAN CITY
MASSACHUSETTS	1220	BIG GAME BATTLE	NANTUCKET
MASSACHUSETTS	1235	BLUEFIN BLOWOUT	GLOUCESTER
MASSACHUSETTS	1261	BOSTON BLUEFIN & STRIPER CLASSIC	QUINCY
MASSACHUSETTS	1900	GREEN HARBOR TUNA CLUB GIANT TOURNAMENT	GREEN HARBOR
MASSACHUSETTS	1252	HYANNIS MARINA DOCK TUNA TOURNAMENT	HYANNIS
MASSACHUSETTS	1230	NANTUCKET BLUEFIN BLAST	NANTUCKET
MASSACHUSETTS	1540	NEWBURYPORT SHARK AND TUNA TOURNAMENT	NEWBURYPORT
MASSACHUSETTS	1210	NORTH ATLANTIC MONSTER SHARK TOURNAMENT	FAIRHAVEN
MASSACHUSETTS	1310	NORTHEAST OFFSHORE CUP	EDGARTOWN

State	Code	Tournament Name	City
MASSACHUSETTS	1660	OAK BLUFFS BLUEWATER CLASSIC	OAK BLUFFS
MASSACHUSETTS	1251	OCTUNAFEST	HYANNIS
MASSACHUSETTS	1501	SOUTHSORE CUTTYHUNK INVITATIONAL	CUTTYHUNK
MASSACHUSETTS	1270	THOMAS A MCDONOUGH TOURNAMENT	SCITUATE
NEW JERSEY	3210	1ST OFFSHORE TOURNAMENT - WAR AT THE SHORE	BEACH HAVEN
NEW JERSEY	3700	BEACH HAVEN WHITE MARLIN INVITATIONAL	BEACH HAVEN
NEW JERSEY	3220	BHMTTC MAKO AND TUNA TOURNAMENT	BEACH HAVEN
NEW JERSEY	3757	BILLFISH TOURNAMENT	OCEAN CITY
NEW JERSEY	3310	BLUEFIN TOURNAMENT	BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY	3320	BRETT T BAILEY MAKO RODEO	BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY	3312	CLUB BLUEFIN TOURNAMENT	BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY	3751	INSHORE OFFSHORE TEAM TOURNAMENT	OCEAN CITY
NEW JERSEY	3360	JACK MEYER MEMORIAL	BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY	3753	LABOR DAY JAMBOREE	OCEAN CITY
NEW JERSEY	3390	MAKO FEVER	POINT PLEASANT
NEW JERSEY	3380	MAKO MANIA	POINT PLEASANT
NEW JERSEY	3754	MARLIN AND TUNA CHALLENGE	OCEAN CITY
NEW JERSEY	3311	MRMTC BLUEFIN OPEN	BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY	3313	MRMTC SEASON LONG TUNA AND MAKO TOURNAMENT	MANASQUAN
NEW JERSEY	3750	OCEAN CITY OVERNIGHT BILLFISH	OCEAN CITY
NEW JERSEY	3752	OCMTC SHARK & BLUEFIN TOURNAMENT	OCEAN CITY
NEW JERSEY	3350	OFFSHORE OPEN	BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY	3230	OFFSHORE OVERNIGHT TOURNAMENT	BEACH HAVEN
NEW JERSEY	3755	OFFSHORE TOURNAMENT	OCEAN CITY
NEW JERSEY	3375	SHARK CHALLENGE	LEONARDO
NEW JERSEY	3371	SHARK HUNTER TOURNAMENT	WARETOWN
NEW JERSEY	4400	SJYS OFFSHORE SHOWDOWN	CAPE MAY
NEW JERSEY	4000	SOUTH JERSEY SHARK TOURNAMENT	CAPE MAY
NEW JERSEY	3361	SWORDFISH BLAST	POINT PLEASANT
NEW JERSEY	4700	THE MIDATLANTIC	CAPE MAY
NEW JERSEY	3002	THE MIDATLANTIC CUP	CAPE MAY
NEW JERSEY	3001	THE MIDATLANTIC TUNA TOURNAMENT	CAPE MAY
NEW JERSEY	3389	TUNA FEVER	POINT PLEASANT
NEW JERSEY	3381	TUNA MANIA	POINT PLEASANT
NEW JERSEY	3325	WAR AT THE SHORE	BRIELLE
NEW JERSEY	3610	YACHT CLUB OF STONE HARBOR INVITATIONAL MARLIN	CAPE MAY
NEW YORK	2210	BAY SHORE MAKO TOURNAMENT	BAY SHORE
NEW YORK	2280	FREEMPORT HUDSON ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT	FREEMPORT

State	Code	Tournament Name	City
NEW YORK	2550	GREAT GUN ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT	MORICHES INLET
NEW YORK	2350	HAMPTONS OFFSHORE INVITATIONAL	HAMPTON BAYS
NEW YORK	2650	MONTAUK CANYON CHALLENGE	MONTAUK
NEW YORK	2660	MONTAUK MARINE BASIN SHARK TAG TOURNAMENT	MONTAUK
NEW YORK	2560	MORICHES ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT	CENTER MORICHES
NEW YORK	2260	POINT LOOKOUT SHARK TOURNAMENT	POINT LOOKOUT
NEW YORK	2261	SCOTTY'S CHARITY SHARK TOURNAMENT	POINT LOOKOUT
NEW YORK	2690	STAR ISLAND MAKO THRESHER TUNA TOURNAMENT	MONTAUK
NEW YORK	2680	STAR ISLAND SHARK TOURNAMENT	MONTAUK
RHODE ISLAND	1120	BLOCK ISLAND GIANT SHARK TOURNAMENT	NEW SHOREHAM
RHODE ISLAND	1160	SNUG HARBOR SHARK TOURNAMENT	WAKEFIELD
RHODE ISLAND	1110	TRI STATE CANYON SHOOTOUT	BLOCK ISLAND
VIRGINIA	9051	OCEANS EAST SWORDFISH TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH
VIRGINIA	9250	VIRGINIA BEACH BILLFISH TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH
VIRGINIA	9550	VIRGINIA BEACH INVITATIONAL MARLIN TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH
VIRGINIA	9210	VIRGINIA BEACH TUNA TOURNAMENT	VIRGINIA BEACH
VIRGINIA	9140	WINE, WOMEN & FISHING	VIRGINIA BEACH