

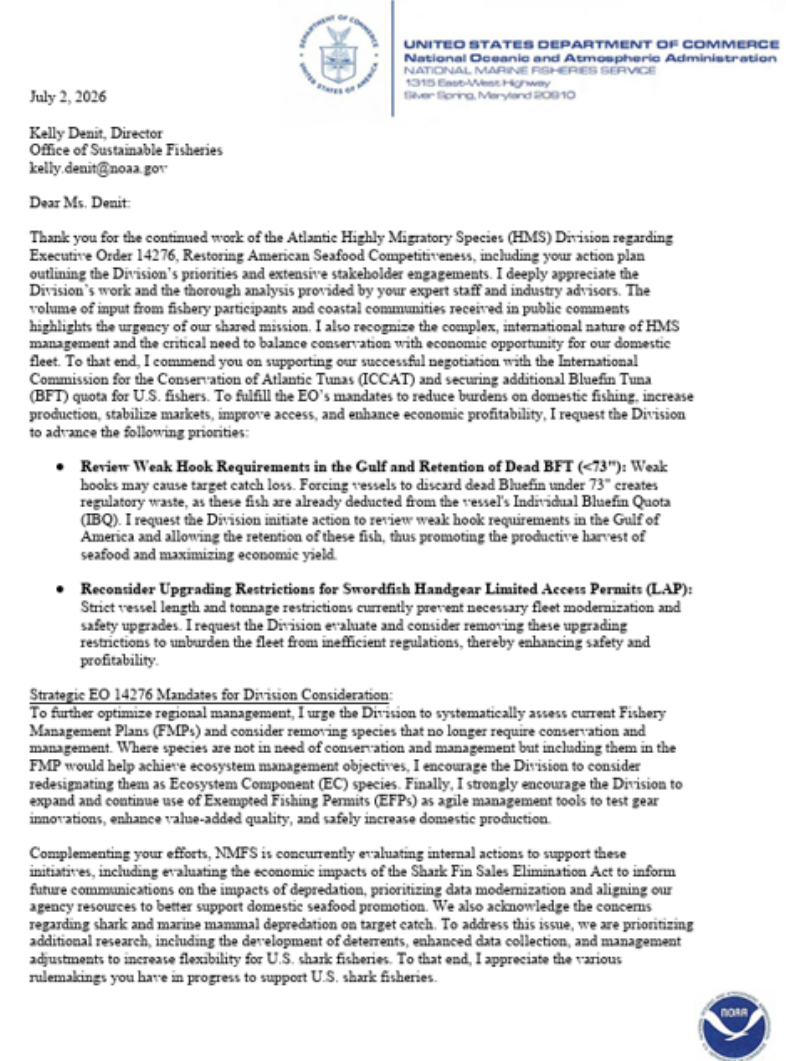


Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Update Regarding HMS Rulemaking Schedule

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October 2026

HMS Priorities Request Regarding Executive Order 14276

- On July 2, 2026, NOAA Fisheries received a [letter](#) from the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
- Specific to the HMS Management Division, the letter requested that we advance these priorities:
 - Review weak hook requirements in the Gulf and allow retention of dead bluefin tuna (<73")
 - Reconsider upgrading restrictions for Swordfish Handgear Limit Access Permits
- Similar to the Council, the letter also requested that we:
 - Systematically assess current FMPs and removing species that no longer require conservation and management and consider redesignating these species as Ecosystem Component Species
 - Expand and continue using exempted fishing permits
- The letter also mentioned NOAA Fisheries actions related to shark depredation and support for the ongoing shark rulemakings



Ongoing Regulatory Actions and Timing

Action name	Status	Expected Timing**
Indicator Species – Final rule	Underway	Effective early 2027
Swordfish/Shark Limited Access Permits – Final rule	Underway	Effective early 2027
Electronic Reporting – Final rule	Underway	Publish early 2027; effective July 2027
Blacknose and Recreational sharks – Final rule	Underway; determined as Significant under EO 12866*	Effective early/mid 2027
Revisions to Gear Restrictions Regulations – Final rule	Proposed rule published 8/17; comment period ended 10/13	Effective mid/late 2027
Amendment 16 (sandbar and blacktip sharks) – Proposed rule	Underway	Publish early 2027; comment period ends after Spring AP meeting

* A “significant regulatory action” means any regulatory action is likely to result in a rule that may: 1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; 2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; 3) Materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or 4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President’s priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

** Expected timing as an estimate and may change



New Regulatory Actions Specific to the Priorities Request

Action name	Status
Gulf of America Weak Hooks	Defining scope
Pelagic longline bluefin tuna dead discard retention and bluefin tuna commercial minimum size	Defining scope
Swordfish Handgear Limited Access Permit Restrictions	Defining scope
Reconsidering Limited Access Permits and Open Access Permits	Defining scope



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Update on Electronic Reporting Rulemaking

- Advance notice of proposed rulemaking [published](#) May 12, 2023; comment period ended August 18, 2023 (11 written comments received)
- Proposed rule [published](#) September 6, 2024; comment period ended January 6, 2025 (29 written comments received)
- Rulemaking proposed to:
 - Require vessel owners, who currently report in existing paper commercial logbooks (Atlantic HMS logbook and Southeast Coastal Fisheries Logbook Program), to report electronically.
 - Implement new logbook requirements for vessel owners holding HMS Charter/Headboat permits or Atlantic Tunas General category permits, Atlantic Tunas Harpoon category permits, and/or Swordfish General Commercial permits.
 - Modify reporting options for private recreational vessel owners holding HMS Angling permits.
 - Require HMS dealers to report individual fish weights for additional species (bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas, swordfish, and pelagic sharks).
 - Make technical changes to clarify HMS regulations



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Update on Electronic Reporting Rulemaking

High level summary of public comments received:

- Overall, support for electronic reporting and “One Stop Reporting” initiative
- On the proposed electronic logbook for HMS commercial LAP holders, in addition to support:
 - Concerns with moving to electronic reporting, the current reporting application, and the proposed timing requirement
 - Concerns with continuing the current weighout slip submission requirement for LAP holders while also requiring dealers to report fish weights
- On the proposed electronic logbook for vessel owners with commercial or for-hire open access permits, in addition to some support:
 - Concern that the logbook would not align with Gulf and South Atlantic Council for-hire reporting requirements, which would potentially include logbook timing and other requirements that aim to allow for validation of logbook data, and collection of economic cost and earnings information
 - Some support for collection of additional catch and effort data to support domestic management as well as science and management at ICCAT



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Update on Electronic Reporting Rulemaking

High level summary of public comments received:

- On the proposed change to reporting for HMS Angling permit holders:
 - Support for the removal of telephone reporting
 - Support for other alternatives (status quo; reporting additional species)
- On the proposed requirement for HMS dealers to report individual fish weights for additional species:
 - Concern that it would create an additional or substantial burden on dealers
 - Some support

For additional detail on comments received, please see the May 2025 HMS Advisory Panel [presentation](#).



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Questions?

HMS Management Division - Contact information

Please reach out to any of our team members or use the main phone line for inquiries.

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Thank you!



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