

NOAA Fisheries Announces the Availability of 2004 Permits for Atlantic Tunas and Atlantic HMS

This notice outlines the procedure for obtaining a 2004 Atlantic Tunas Permit, which allows you to commercially fish for and/or retain Atlantic Bluefin, Yellowfin, Skipjack, Albacore, and Bigeye tunas; an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit, which allows you to recreationally fish for and or retain any regulated Atlantic HMS (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish, or billfish); or an HMS Charter/Headboat Permit, which is required by vessels taking fee paying passengers fishing for or retaining HMS.

Atlantic tunas, Atlantic HMS Angling, and Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permits are now available.

The permits issued for the 2004 fishing year will be valid from the date of issuance through May 31, 2005. The permit fee is \$22.00, payable by credit card (Visa, Master Card, Discover, or American Express) or money order only.

Renew by:	How:	Receive permit by:
Internet	Go to www.nmfspermits.com	Print your permit off the website, fax, Priority Mail, or regular mail
Telephone	Dial (888) 872-8862 (toll-free)	Fax, Priority Mail, or regular mail
Mail	Request renewal package by calling (888) 872-8862 <u>or</u> print the forms available at www.nmfspermits.com	Fax, Priority Mail, or regular mail

You will need your Atlantic tunas or your Atlantic HMS permit number to renew your permit for this up coming season. You may check your current permit information prior to renewing your permit via the automated permit system (phone or website, as indicated above). **Changes in the permit category must be made prior to the start of the fishing year or when you renew the permit for that fishing year. However, permit applicants are allowed to correct any potential errors in their permits within 10-calendar days of the date of issuance of their permits.**

If you have questions regarding the permit process, our Customer Service representatives are available at (888) 872-8862, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

Sincerely,



Chris Rogers
Chief, HMS Management Division
NOAA Fisheries