

## **NOAA Fisheries Announces a Proposed Rule that would Implement Atlantic Ocean Trade Measures**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) proposes regulations to implement trade measures resulting from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meetings in 2002 and 2003. This proposed rule would:

- Implement the following trade measures:
  - Lift bans on imports from Belize of bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, and swordfish,
  - Lift bans on imports from Honduras of bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, and swordfish,
  - Lift bans on imports from St. Vincent and the Grenadines of bigeye tuna,
  - Prohibit imports from Bolivia and Georgia of bigeye tuna, and
  - Prohibit imports from Sierra Leone of bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna, and swordfish;
- Implement regulations and require chartering permits to manage more effectively the chartering arrangements made between vessels and Contracting Parties other than their flag countries; and,
- Implement measures to limit the amount illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the Atlantic Ocean.

The comment period for this proposed rule is open for 45 days and will close on June 21, 2004. NOAA Fisheries will hold one public hearing to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding these proposed amendments. It is scheduled for:

May 19, 2004, from 2 to 4 p.m.  
NOAA Science Center, Building 4  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

This FAX notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and its requirements, contact Heather Stirratt at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule and draft environmental assessment/regulatory impact review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

Alan D. Risenhoover for  
John H. Dunnigan  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

May 4, 2004  
Date