

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
RECREATIONAL LANDINGS REPORTS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0328**

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The number of vessel owners permitted in the HMS Angling and the HMS Charter/Headboat Category can be seen in Table 3. Only anglers fishing on vessels permitted for private recreational (angling) use or for for-hire recreational use (charter/headboat) are allowed to fish for SWO, BLF, or BFT outside of registered HMS tournaments. NMFS does not know the actual respondent universe number, only the number of SWO, BLF, and BFT landed. The number of permit holders represents only the maximum number of respondents, but this is not the same as a universe for sampling purposes. There is no sampling or any other method used to select respondents in this data collection. The SWO, BLF, and BFT landings reports are mandatory; therefore this collection is a census of landings. NMFS does not know what the response rates are, nor can NMFS predict them, because the Agency is not conducting a statistical survey from a known universe of respondents.

Table 2. Number of HMS permits by year and category, 2003 – 2008.

Year	Angling	Charter/Headboat
2003	18,804	4,167
2004	20,245	3,881
2005	24,127	3,963
2006	25,238	4,173
2007	24,220	3,899
2008	26,933	4,297

Based on the amount of quota available for BFT and the past landings reports of SWO and BLF, it is estimated that up to 11,394 individual reports (see Table 3) could be expected each year (see the calculations and answer to Question 12 in Section A for details).

Table 3. Estimated number of annual responses (angler reports).

Species	States	Estimated Number of Responses*
Bluefin Tuna (including Trophy BFT)	MD & NC	5,034
	Other states	5,165
Billfish and Swordfish	All	1,195
Total		11,394

*Does not include weekly and annual summary reports for MD and NC

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

As stated above, all permitted anglers or vessel owners landing a BFT, SWO, or BLF are required to report such landing within 24 hours. Reports may be made via phone, Internet, or landings cards, depending on the state of landing. Landings reports are mandatory and no statistical methodology or sample selection is involved. Degree of accuracy needed is not relevant since this is a mandatory reporting program which strives for 100 percent compliance. No specialized sampling procedures and no use of periodic data collection is involved since this collection is 100 percent mandatory.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Response rates and nonresponse are terms that apply to statistical surveys based on sampling. This is not a statistical survey and therefore this question does not apply. However, to further encourage a high response rate, NMFS conducts an outreach program (compliance guides, mailings, list serve network, etc.) to inform permit holders of the reporting requirements, and to indicate the importance of reliable information for stock assessment purposes and social/economic analysis of potential management measures. NMFS also raises the aforementioned reporting requirements during all appropriate public hearings, discussions with leaders of the recreational community, and other meetings with the recreational angling community to encourage improved reporting.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

No tests of procedures or methods will be undertaken.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

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