



Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2013

CONTACT: Ann McElhatton
info@accsp.org

ACCSP Incorporates HMS Requirements Into Existing Electronic Reporting Programs

Arlington, VA (January 30, 2013) - The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) has been working with the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division within the NOAA Fisheries Service on electronic reporting requirements for dealers to submit HMS data electronically. These new reporting requirements are a result of a final rule published in the Federal Register by the NOAA Fisheries Service (77 FR 47303) on August 8, 2012, that requires, among other things, federal dealers (except for dealers reporting Atlantic bluefin tuna) to report receipt of Atlantic sharks, swordfish, and BAYS (bigeye, albacore, yellowfin & skipjack tunas) tunas through existing electronic reporting programs. The shift to electronic reporting for HMS dealers of these quota-managed species will provide more timely data for use in monitoring landings.

All federal HMS dealers were required to begin reporting electronically on January 1, 2013. In order to minimize the impact to dealers, the HMS Management Division elected to utilize existing systems wherever possible. This means that dealers that were already reporting electronically (from Texas to Maine) continue to use the systems they already utilize with some modifications to cover additional HMS reporting requirements. The ACCSP Software Team collaborated with the HMS Management Division, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Bluefin Data LLC, and the Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers to successfully integrate the HMS enhancements into the existing electronic reporting programs, including the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) applications: eDR and e-1Ticket. If you currently use SAFIS to report HMS, overall the changes are relatively minor. There are several new data fields available, including sale price, areas where HMS are caught, and explanations for late reporting and modified data.

Jackie Wilson, Fisheries Management Specialist with the HMS Management Division of the NOAA Fisheries Service, explains the benefits of electronic reporting for the dealers and how ACCSP staff was able to make it happen, "Electronic dealer reporting for Atlantic sharks, swordfish, and BAYS tunas will allow for HMS data to be submitted in a more timely basis--which is critical for more real-time quota monitoring. ACCSP has helped incorporate the new HMS dealer reporting requirements into existing electronic reporting programs like SAFIS, which eases the burden on dealers and allows them to report in one place. Behind the scenes, ACCSP has also been integral in developing more streamlined data transfers and data views between regions, helping with the processing of data and monitoring things like dealer reporting compliance."

About ACCSP

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit www.accsp.org.