

**2006**

**LARGE PELAGICS  
INTERCEPT SURVEY**

**PROCEDURES MANUAL**

**Contact the Fisheries Research Group  
of QuanTech, Inc. at:  
1-800-229-5220 (Toll Free)**

**Fax all assignment paperwork to 1-877-694-8808 (Toll Free) within 24 hours  
of completing an assignment.**

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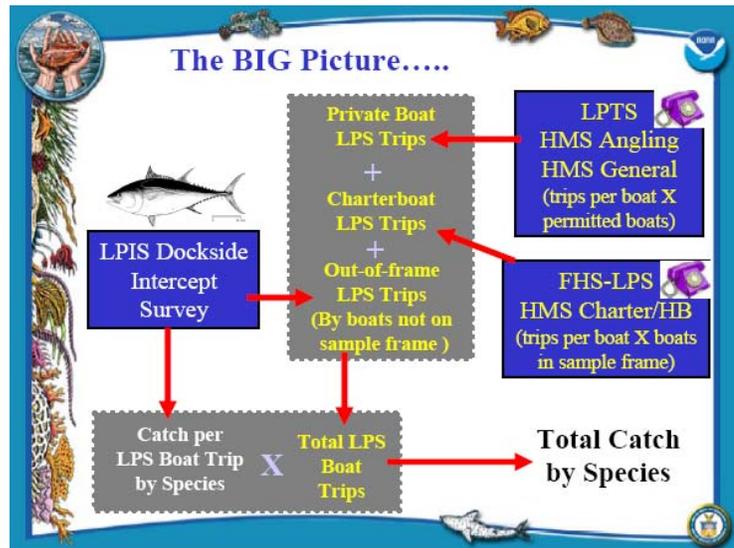
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## 1.0 Overview of the Large Pelagics Survey

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for managing U.S. marine fish resources. Of particular interest are the Atlantic highly migratory species (tunas, billfish, swordfish, sharks) caught in offshore waters. NMFS closely monitors fishing effort and catch of these highly migratory species as these species support economically important recreational and commercial fisheries. Information collected about the fisheries for these species is used to adjust management measures as needed to sustain the fish stocks and the fisheries that depend on them. The authority and regulations pertaining to the collection of data for Atlantic highly migratory species fisheries are attached.

Accurate information is vital to NMFS' efforts to manage highly migratory species. One of the methods NMFS uses to collect information on catch rates and effort is the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS). The LPS dockside interviewers collect catch information from boat captains upon their return from offshore fishing trips. Effort information (trips per week) is collected in a telephone survey of permit holders. In order to efficiently conduct the dockside survey, NMFS has contracted with QuanTech to conduct the interviews. Staff from QuanTech will interview boat captains or the captain's designee (i.e., mate) who have just returned from an offshore oceanic fishing trip which targeted or caught large pelagic species such as tunas, billfish, sharks, and other similar species. The captains (or designees) will be asked a series of questions about their catch and by-catch for the trip just completed, and their catch will be counted. Some interviewers may measure fish lengths and weights.



The collection of catch information for Atlantic highly migratory species fulfills U.S. obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and provides the basis for stock assessments and management of these valuable species in U.S. territorial waters and international waters. The authority for NMFS to collect information from recreational and commercial fishermen comes from the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Under this authority, boat captains returning from offshore fishing trips and permitted vessel owners are required to provide catch and effort information to NMFS. Vessel owners issued an HMS permit are reminded that as a condition of accepting such permit, they are required to cooperate with any data collection survey if contacted. Responses to survey questions are classified as confidential and are maintained by NMFS consistent with the confidential fisheries statistics provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. Once collected, data may be released only in accordance with the Privacy Act.

## 2.0 Overview of LPIS procedures

- Interviewers must conduct their assignment on the scheduled date at the assigned cluster.
- The only reason for not completing a scheduled assignment is if weather conditions do not allow for offshore game fishing and no boats are out that might be targeting or have incidentally caught a large pelagic species. This type of cancelled assignment is referred to as "weathered-out."
- If there is a small craft advisory (or greater, such as gale, storm, or hurricane warnings) on the assigned date, Interviewers should check the fishing activity at the assigned site(s) to confirm that no vessels are out fishing.
- "Weathered out" assignments must be rescheduled with a Field Supervisor according to LPIS protocol.
- Interviewers are responsible for determining the best time of the day to conduct their assignment and should be present at the assigned site(s) at the time of day when boats that fish for large pelagic fishes are most likely to return from fishing.
- The starting time on the specified date for each assignment shall be determined based on the understanding that an assignment must last at least two hours and may last no longer than eight hours.
- Interviewers should move from site to site to maximize sampling of returning boats at all access points within the defined cluster.
- Interviewers must "check-in" and "sign-in" with a Site Representative (e.g. Dockmaster, Site Owner, Site Operator, or the other employee at the fishing access site) at each site in the cluster, if a Site Representative is present.
- Interviewers must canvass the site(s) to determine eligibility of Vessel Representatives.
- An eligible Vessel Representative is the captain, owner, or designated mate of a boat that just returned from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip during which large fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish were either targeted or incidentally caught.
- All questions must be asked, all verifiable information should be discussed with the respondent, and all data should be appropriately recorded.
- All information shall be treated as confidential records.
- Paperwork must be submitted by fax within 24 hours and meet data quality standards.

### 3.0 General instructions

The questions to be asked during the Large Pelagic Intercept Survey interview are written out in full for a purpose. Methodological studies have shown that even slight changes in wording -- for example, **should** versus **could**, drastically influence item response. The Interviewer should always read each item on the questionnaire exactly as it is stated (unless it is an item that is on the HMS Permit List, in which case the Interviewer must **verify** the information with the Vessel Representative. Information on the HMS Permit List that must be verified includes the vessel name, NMFS HMS Permit number, Coast Guard Documentation number, State Registration number, principal port state, and name of the HMS permit holder.

If the Vessel Representative asks for the Interviewer's opinion about an item, the Interviewer should provide a definition for the item in question, rather than supply the actual response.

### 4.0 Pre-assignment procedures

Each Interviewer should make sure that he/she knows his/her interviewing schedule. QuanTech Field Supervisors will schedule Interviewers for assignments on a monthly basis during 2006. Assignments will be drawn for a cluster. Some clusters include only one site; other clusters may have multiple sites. Stay informed about the sites and clusters in your area.

The cluster list may change on a monthly basis.

Before accepting each assignment, each Interviewer should know the location of the assigned interviewing cluster. Adequate directions to get to the assigned site(s) shall be given to Interviewers by their Field Supervisor. If there is any confusion about where to interview, the Interviewer should contact his/her Field Supervisor.

Interviewers should contact their Field Supervisors to obtain their assignments. Interviewers should record the following information for each scheduled assignment:

- Date
- Control Number
- County Code
- Cluster
- Site Codes for all sites within the cluster
- Site Names for all sites within the cluster

Do not try to memorize your schedule of assignments.

Keep your list of accepted assignment information in a safe place.

Verify assignment information while reviewing your forms prior to transmittal.

**QuanTech headquarters and Field Supervisors must be notified as soon as possible (and no later than 24 hours) after an assignment is "weathered out".**

Assignments that are "weathered out" will be rescheduled according to LPIS protocol for the next available day of the same day type (weekday or weekend/holiday). However, rescheduling "weathered out" assignments may only be done in coordination with the Field Supervisor. Interviewers should reschedule "weathered-out" assignments with the Field Supervisor in order to verify that another assignment has not already been scheduled for the same day and location(s). Once the Field Supervisor reschedules the "weathered-out" assignment with the Interviewer, the Field Supervisor will notify QuanTech Headquarters.

In addition, QuanTech headquarters and Field Supervisors should be contacted immediately if an Interviewer determines that he/she cannot do an assignment due to unforeseen circumstances or emergencies. If possible, another Interviewer will be asked to complete the assignment on the date for which it was originally drawn. If the assignment was rescheduled (previously weathered out), and "weathered out" again, every attempt should be made to reschedule the assignment in keeping with LPIS protocol.

Each Interviewer should make certain that he/she has all of the required materials and equipment for conducting interviews, including:

- Pen(s);
- Name Tag;
- HMS Permit List;
- Procedures Manual;
- Metal Tape Measure;
- Cloth or Plastic Tape Measure;
- Fish Identification Field Guide;
- Copies of the LPIS "To Whom" Letter from NMFS;
- Other Informational Materials/Brochures; and
- Plenty of Questionnaires/Coding Forms.

All Interviewers must have the required materials listed above in their physical possession when on site. Never leave required materials in the car! Interviewers should dress casually but neatly. Shorts are acceptable, but bathing suits are not. T-shirts are acceptable. Closed-toed shoes should be worn while interviewing. Alcohol or illegal drug use or intoxication on assignment is strictly prohibited. Fishing while on-assignment is prohibited. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a loss of future assignments for that Interviewer.

If interviewing is to be conducted where there is a Site Representative, such as an owner, manager, supervisor, dockmaster, or other person who works at the site, it is a requirement to "check-in" and speak with that person upon arrival at the site, explain the nature of the survey, its objectives, and how you will be performing your work. If the Site Representative wants more information than is immediately available, he/she should contact either NMFS or QuanTech Headquarters. Contact information is provided on the LPIS "To Whom" letter from NMFS.

## 4.1 “Weathering out” assignments

The only reason for not completing a scheduled assignment is if weather conditions do not allow for offshore game fishing and no boats are out that might be targeting or have incidentally caught a large pelagic species. This type of cancelled assignment is referred to as "weathered-out." Interviewers should obtain offshore weather reports to determine if an assignment should be “weathered out.”

Consider the following to determine if or when to conduct your assignment and where to begin:

- Weather reports
  - Small Craft Warning, Gale Storm Warning or Hurricane Nearby?  
If yes, and there are no boats out that might be targeting or have incidentally caught a large pelagic species then "weather out" the assignment and reschedule with the Field Supervisor.
  - Offshore weather is highly variable, a sudden change in sea conditions may force some vessels to return early. Get weather reports from the National Weather Service, your local news "Offshore Report", or the Weather Channel.
  - Check the Internet links at <http://www.quantech.com/weather.htm>
- Call the site(s)
  - Determine if a Site Representative (if there is one) will provide you with reliable information concerning the number of boats that went offshore and the time that they are expected back.
- Contact your Field Supervisor
  - When accepting your assignments, obtain recommendations on when to go, and which site in a cluster to visit first. Keep in contact with your Field Supervisor concerning the weather, and communicate any intentions to weather out in a timely manner.

## 4.2 When to begin assignments

It is important to be on-site by the appropriate time for each assignment. The appropriate time to arrive on site is before eligible vessels are returning from offshore trips. You may need a few minutes to “site-in” prior to interviewing. By assessing the potential to obtain interviews at each site within a cluster and going to those locations at the appropriate time to increase your productivity you will obtain more interviews.

Sources of information include but are not limited to:

- Master Site Register – The MSR has a field for “best time to interview” based on historical visits to each site. This is a good starting point but should not be relied upon solely as this can change from one year to the next.
- Call the site(s) - Determine if a person that works at the site(s), such as the Dockmaster, will provide reliable information concerning the number of boats that went out and the time that they are expected back. Phone numbers for contact persons are provided in the MSR. While calling ahead can help the interviewer determine when to visit a site it should not be used to determine if a site should be visited. Interviewers should physically visit all sites within a cluster to determine firsthand if there is fishing activity or not. Under no circumstances should an assignment be canceled based solely on information obtained by calling the sites within a cluster.
- Ask the Field Supervisor - When accepting assignments interviewers may consult with their supervisor regarding the best sampling times and which site in a cluster to visit first.
- Newspaper articles, weekly magazine fishing reports, and large pelagic fishing related web sites may be useful for monitoring activity levels, upcoming tournaments, and seasonal openings and closures of marinas and/or charter boat operations.
- State natural resource agency personnel, NMFS regional personnel, and NMFS port agents may also be good sources of information on the patterns of offshore pelagic fishing at specific sites.

## **5.0 Consider the following scenario:**

Offshore weather conditions are conducive to fishing, you expect that there will be some vessels fishing for large pelagics, and there are three sites in the assigned cluster...

### **5.1 Call the sites within the cluster in the morning to ask if any vessels went out. Find out how many vessels went out from each site and when the vessels are expected to return to the site.**

In this situation, the site operators have proven to be reliable sources of information in the past. They inform you that at site #1 there are 4 eligible boats out, at site #2 there are 2 boats out, and at site #3 there are 5 boats out.

The vessels that departed that morning from site #1 are expected back between 4pm and 5pm, the vessels from site #2 are expected back at 5p.m., and those from site #3 are expected back between 5p.m. and 6p.m.

### **5.2 Consider the proximity of the sites within the cluster.**

Site #1 and site #2 are next door to each other, separated by a dock. It is possible to observe the

returning vessel activity at both locations from one vantage point. Site #3 is nearby, within a 5 minute drive, however, you cannot see the boats as they return unless you make the trip down the road.

### **5.3 Begin at the site where the vessels are expected back sooner.**

You arrive at site #1 at 3:45p.m. and check-in and sign-in at site #1 at the Dockmaster's office. The Dockmaster at site #1 informs you that one of the vessels is already in and the captain and crew of that vessel already left the site. You then go to the office at site #2 and check-in with the Site Owner. Both vessels expected to return to site #2 are not back yet. You decide to stick around and wait for the other three vessels at site #1 because they usually return around 4:30pm. Also, you keep an eye on the neighboring site (site #2) because the vessels might return there around the same time. You manage to obtain interviews from one of the three vessels returning to site #1, but around 4:45pm, while you were waiting for the remaining two vessels to return to site #1 you notice both of the vessels at the site next door (site #2) returning to the dock. After giving the vessels a chance to tie up, you obtain two interviews from respondents at the second site, but now you see one of the remaining two vessels returning to site #1. It is now 5:15pm.

### **5.4 Decide how to move within the cluster of sites to maximize the number of interviews that you obtain.**

There is now one interview and the potential for another interview that you can obtain at site #1 while there is the potential to obtain 5 interviews at site #3. Now you are presented with a somewhat difficult decision...you could stay and get two more interviews from the late-returning vessels at site #1 and possibly miss a few of the respondents at site #3 or travel to site #3 in hopes that you might obtain interviews from all five vessels returning to site #3.

You decide to obtain the interview from the vessel that just returned to site #1, but rather than wait around for the last vessel to return to site # 1, you decide to go to site #3. At 5:35pm , after a short drive, you arrive at site #3. All five of the vessels have not yet returned to site #3. Rather than driving back to site #1 to wait for the remaining vessel, you stay at site #3 and obtain 5 more interviews. By the time these interviews at site #3 are complete, it is 6:45pm. Finally, you visit site #1 on your way back home and obtain one last interview before ending your assignment.

## **6.0 On-Site procedures**

Interviewers should remain on-assignment to obtain as many intercepts as possible. However, assignments shall not exceed 8 hours in duration. To qualify as a completed assignment, the minimum amount of time (2 hours) must be spent within the cluster. You will not be paid for the assignment if you do not stay within the cluster for at least 2 hours.

NEVER depart from your assigned cluster to help another nearby Interviewer assigned to another cluster who seems overwhelmed. This is necessary in case a boat does come in at the assigned cluster.

Interviewers will occasionally receive surprise quality control (QC) visits from their Field Supervisor, or possibly a NMFS official, so all Interviewers must be on-site for this reason, as well.

Interviewers should position themselves so that they can observe as much activity as possible at the site(s). The goal is to intercept as many eligible respondents as possible. The best locations to be positioned will vary from site to site. Your Field Supervisor is a good person to talk to about this, as he/she will probably have visited the site as an Interviewer in the past.

**Positioning yourself at a cleaning station may cause you to miss other eligible respondents who did not catch fish and bias the catch estimates.**

**Canvass the entire site to maximize the number of eligible interviews that can be obtained.**

At some sites it is possible and advisable to build rapport with the people present prior to conducting any interviews. Those who have had the opportunity to meet the Interviewer and discuss the survey tend to be more cooperative when asked for an interview. A key factor in gaining the respondent's initial cooperation and confidence in the study lies in assuring him/her of the non-enforcement nature of the survey. When explicitly given the true purpose of the survey very early in the introduction, respondents tend to be much more willing to cooperate with the survey.

The canvassing process should be very informal and as unobtrusive as possible. The conversation might begin with "Good Afternoon" or "How's it going?". While canvassing, the Interviewer should introduce themselves and be respectful. The Interviewer should be polite at all times, regardless of any complaints that he or she may receive.

## **6.1 Hostile sites and refusals**

Sites where Interviewers are impeded or prohibited from interviewing are referred to as "hostile" sites. When an Interviewer encounters a hostile site as part of their assigned cluster they should take the following action:

- Avoid confrontation with the site manager or any other persons at the site and leave the "hostile" site immediately;
- Record that the site was "hostile" on their Site Description Form (SDF) by recording relevant information, such as:  
  
    "[Site Representative] will not allow interviewing at [Site Name], because [Reason]."
- Notify the area Field Supervisor as soon as possible.

**QuanTech headquarters and the Field Supervisor must be notified after leaving a "hostile"**

**location, in keeping with the deadlines for reporting assignment status/faxing paperwork (within 24 hours).**

If asked to leave a site, it may be possible to visit other sites within an assigned cluster. As long as the assignment was for a cluster of sites, and not just one site, go to the other sites within the cluster and obtain interviews with eligible fishery participants.

If the assignment was for a single site, and you are asked to leave, you will receive your base pay and be reimbursed for your mileage. A letter or email to QuanTech explaining what happened is required to receive payment.

At other sites LPIS Interviewers may be allowed to interview but only at certain locations within the site as determined by the site manager (e.g., interviewing allowed at slips but not at the fuel dock). Interviewers should note this on the SDF but can continue to interview at the site in the locations allowed. The extent of the impediment should be provided, such as:

“No interviewing at fuel dock, [number] missed eligible vessels due to restriction. Vessels were returning to private access sites outside of the cluster.”

Interviewers may encounter captains who refuse to participate in the survey because they are in a rush, don't agree with NMFS policies or a variety of other reasons. Captains who don't agree with NMFS policies should be encouraged to contact NMFS directly to air their complaints (using the address or phone number on the “To Whom” letter).

**It is not appropriate to defend or attack NMFS or its policies. Under no circumstances should an Interviewer identify him/herself as an employee of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Interviewers are independent contractors for QuanTech.**

If the captain or owner does not want to participate, and does not want to designate a mate to participate, but remains cordial (soft refusal), then try once to convert the soft refusal by politely explaining that the survey collects catch and effort statistics used to manage the fishery...If they do not participate then they will not be represented in the data collection. Their participation will strengthen the accuracy and precision of the survey, and therefore lead to appropriate management decisions.

Alternatively, respondents need to be reassured that the information they provide is confidential under NOAA Administrative order 216-100. Always remind them that you are not there to issue citations or fines, and that all you want to do is collect accurate fishery data.

Interviewers should never be “pushy”. Interviewers should only tell Vessel Representatives that the survey is mandatory if they ask directly. Offer a copy of the “To Whom” letter, which states that participation in the survey is required. If a respondent refuses the survey midway through an interview, the Interviewer may inform the respondent that the Interview is almost finished and thank them for their patience to try to convert the mid-interview soft refusal.

If the respondent absolutely refuses to participate, will not designate a mate to participate, or becomes belligerent or irate (hard refusal), the Interviewer should simply say “Thank you” and walk away. No attempts should be made to convert a hard refusal. If the respondent follows the Interviewer, or acts out-of-line, the Interviewer should leave the premises immediately. In either case, whether the respondent gives a soft refusal or a hard refusal, the Interviewer must never threaten enforcement action.

Besides tallying as either an initial or mid-interview refusal, Interviewers should record the name of the vessel that refused the survey in the comments section of the Site Description Form. Details about each refusal are required, such as the large pelagic fish species that were offloaded, and the reason why the vessel captain/owner/mate refused to participate in the Large Pelagics Intercept Survey.

For Example:

“The captain of the (Boat Name) refused today. I saw them unload 1 school BFT and 1 YFT. He says he will not participate until someone from NMFS tells him he must.”

To reduce the number of “hostile” sites and refusals, the National Marine Fisheries Service will send a package of Large Pelagics Survey information to “hostile” site owners or fishery participants recorded on your Site Description Form(s).

## **6.2 Confidentiality of data**

In addition to collecting high quality data, following procedures, and maintaining a courteous and professional attitude while conducting your assignments, one of the most important aspects of interviewing for the LPIS includes your assurance to respondents that the data they provide will remain confidential.

The confidential nature of the data applies to all information collected during an interview, even what species were caught, where they were caught, and what method and gear was used. Under no circumstance should you ever disclose information given to you by a respondent to anyone who is not authorized to have access to such confidential fisheries data.

This policy applies to all types of communication, written, verbal, or otherwise, including Internet message board postings.

When you get a request for data and/or survey design information simply provide contact information for NOAA and QuanTech. This information is listed on the LPIS “To Whom” Letter.

## **6.3 Overlap with the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey**

Another firm, Macro International, is contracted to collect data for the NMFS Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). In the event that a MRFSS Interviewer arrives at a site and finds an LPS Interviewer on-site, or an LPS Interviewer arrives at a site and

finds a MRFSS Interviewer on-site, the MRFSS Interviewer takes precedence unless:

1) the site is an alternate site for the MRFSS Interviewer (i.e., not originally assigned), in which case the MRFSS Interviewer should relocate to another alternate site;

OR

2) the site is the only one in the LPIS cluster, in which case the MRFSS Interviewer should relocate to an alternate site.

Both Interviewers are expected to cooperate in determining who should relocate to another site.

**All incidents of such overlap between LPIS and MRFSS Interviewers (or other Interviewers from other fisheries-related surveys), and how they were resolved, must be reported to QuanTech headquarters within 24 hours.**

## **6.4 Coding**

Data from dockside forms will be captured using optical character recognition (OCR) technology. It is important to follow coding procedure discussed in this section.

- **NEATNESS COUNTS.**
- **STAY INSIDE THE LINES.**
- **IF YOUR FORMS ARE ILLEGIBLE OR FAXED IMPROPERLY WE WILL CALL YOU AND ASK YOU TO FIX THE ERRORS AND/OR FAX THEM AGAIN.**

PLEASE remember to write legibly in Block Capitals (Upper Case) on the dockside forms. Take your time while recording data, in other words, be accurate and precise. Optical recognition software will interpret your entries, so be as neat as possible. Remember, providing quality data is crucial to the success of the study!

As a rule, items on the questionnaire that are not applicable to a certain respondent (i.e., legally skipped questions) should be left blank, unless otherwise stated.

**Items on the questionnaires which the respondent does not know the answers to must be coded with 9's ending with the number 8 unless otherwise stated.**

**Items on the questionnaires that are refused must be coded with all 9's unless otherwise stated.**

Examples of this type of coding can be found in the following examples of Questions 24 through 26:

Q24. Where were you fishing for large pelagic species?

N	O	R	T	H			O	F		L	U	M	P	S
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---

9	9	9	9	► Lat.	9	9	9	9	► Long.
---	---	---	---	--------	---	---	---	---	---------

The respondent said they spent most of their time fishing north of "The Lumps". The respondent knew the latitude and longitude coordinates but refused to provide them.

If the respondent had said they did not know the coordinates then latitude and longitude should be coded 9998 and 9998.

Q25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?

9	9	8	Number of Miles
---	---	---	-----------------

The respondent said they did not know how far offshore they were, thus the 998 code. Had they refused to tell you how far offshore they were, the code would be 999.

Q26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to bottom)?

9	9	9	8	►Water Depth in <u>Feet</u>
---	---	---	---	-----------------------------

The respondent said they did not know how deep the water was, thus the 9998 code. Had they refused the code would be 9999.

### 6.5 Leading zeros and left or right justification

If a numeric value does not require the use of all of the boxes provided, right justify the entry and add leading zeros. For instance, if a fish measurement is 887 millimeters, its length should be coded as follows:

0	8	8	7
---	---	---	---

In another example, the respondent said the water depth was 300 feet...code 0300.

**26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to bottom)?**

0	3	0	0	►Water Depth in <u>Feet</u>
---	---	---	---	-----------------------------

If an alphabetic value does not require use of all of the boxes provided, left justify the entry as follows:

H	A	N	K			M	A	S	O	N			
---	---	---	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

## 6.6 “Write-in” areas

Also, you must use the “write-in” areas. Using Questions 16 and 18 as an example:

16. For what species were you primarily fishing today?  
*(Probe for at least one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)*

4	7	1	1	1 <sup>st</sup> Target	YFT
1	0	5	0	2 <sup>nd</sup> Target	Mahi

Note for question 16 above, “YFT” and “Mahi”, are recorded on the “Write-in” line, and the appropriate species code is recorded.

18. What type of fishing gear was primarily used?

1  Rod and Reel    3  Other (Specify Below) <TERMINATE  
 2  Handline    Other Harpoon

Note that for question 18, the respondent was fishing primarily with a harpoon, the interview should be terminated due to ineligibility. Careful use of the screening procedure will insure that only eligible respondents will be interviewed. There can be only one primary gear type. However, if the respondent mentions that they used a secondary gear type (such as a speargun or ‘greenstick’), write it on the “write-in” line. Do not fill in the “other” oval unless the “other” gear type was the primary gear used.

Note that for question 22, the respondent was trolling, chumming, and fly fishing.

22. For your (INSERT GEAR) fishing, which method was used?  
*(READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)*

1  Trolling    1  Chumming  
 1  Chunking    1  Other (SPECIFY BELOW)

F	L	Y	F	I	S	H	I	N	G		
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

Letters of the alphabet should always be written in **BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS**.

Other coding examples can be found in Appendix A.

Do not put a line through zeros or sevens; Do not close the top of fours; Make sure zeros do not look like sixes, and vice versa; the OCR will not read these characters correctly.

To ensure that the optical character recognition will read your handwriting, numbers should be written as close as possible to the following format:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

## 6.7 The HMS Permit List

In order to verify information in the field with respondents, QuanTech has compiled a permit listing of vessels. This HMS Permit List is a database containing boat-identifying information, such as the owner's name, the NMFS Highly Migratory Species permit number, and the Coast Guard documentation number or State registration number, first sorted by boat name and then permit holder last name in alphabetical order. An HMS Permit List will be created for each state or state group. Some states will also receive a permit list sorted by ascending hull number. This is helpful for those areas that have a lot of small unnamed private boats targeting tunas. There are privacy issues surrounding the HMS Permit List so the information should never be shown to anyone else. The information on this HMS Permit List is merely used to assist in the verification of vessel identifying information.

When you check-in at a site and find out what vessels are expected back, if there is time, look up the vessels in the HMS Permit List before they return. Confirm the information with the respondent when conducting an interview. If there is no time to look up the vessels beforehand, ask the questions on the form as they are written. If a respondent does not want to get their permit information, offer to check to see if the boat is on the HMS Permit List. If so, you simply need to verify the listed information with the respondent, instead of formally asking him/her the questions. However, if the vessel is not on the HMS Permit List, then the Interviewer should ask them to get the permit information directly from the respondent. Inform the respondent that they would have to just get the information once, be sure to record the information in your copy of the HMS Permit List and tell the respondent that you will inform the Field Supervisor and other Interviewers in your area, in case the respondent is encountered on future assignments.

Keep in mind that, though an intercepted boat may be listed on the HMS Permit List, it is essential that you verify all of the HMS Permit List information with the respondent for the following reasons:

- though the boat may have been interviewed before, it is possible that the respondent was not interviewed (e.g., if a boat has more than one owner); if this occurs, be sure to get the new respondent's information, so that it can be added to the HMS Permit List;
- there could be a mistake on the HMS Permit List;
- there may be more vessels with the same boat name.

Since we may only issue one updated HMS Permit List during the season, it is crucial that all Interviewers make note of any changes and keep their individual ID lists as accurate as possible and share additions and changes with other QuanTech Fisheries Interviewers.

## 6.8 Intercept survey forms

Blank LPIS forms are in Appendix B and are provided to serve as examples only.

### 6.8.1 Screening Introduction (The Screener)

When an Interviewer encounters an operator of a returning boat, he/she should use the screening introduction to introduce himself/herself, state the purpose of the survey, and ask questions which will determine whether the respondent is eligible for an interview. The Interviewer should give his/her name and state that the study is sponsored by NMFS. If the intercepted boat operator is willing to cooperate, the Interviewer should then ask the series of questions used to determine eligibility. To be eligible for the survey, the potential respondent must be the captain or owner of a boat that has just completed an offshore fishing trip that targeted large pelagic species or incidentally caught a large pelagic species. For the purposes of the screening introduction, large pelagics include all of the species listed on page 2 of Appendix A LPIS Questionnaire. Boat operators returning from fishing trips that used hand-gear (rod and reel or handline) and specifically targeted, but did not catch any of the specified large pelagic species would be considered eligible. In addition, those returning from trips that fished with hand-gear and caught at least one fish in this list of species would be eligible, even if they did not specifically target any of these species. Therefore, data are desired for all hand-gear fishing trips that either targeted or caught at least one of these large pelagic fishes.

If an eligible operator of a charter or private boat chooses to designate a crew member or passenger to respond to the survey as a “proxy”, then that individual shall be considered eligible for an interview. In such cases, it will be necessary for the Interviewer to record that the respondent was a designated proxy for the captain or owner of the boat.

Screener Item 1: On this vessel, are you the captain, owner, or mate or passenger (proxy designated by the captain to participate in this survey)?

- If the respondent says "yes", go to Screener Item 2.
- If the respondent is not the captain or owner or designated proxy, try to locate the eligible respondent. Otherwise, terminate the interview, and tally as NOT CAPTAIN OWNER OR MATE on the Site Description Form.

Screener Item 2: Did your boat just return from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip in which you targeted or incidentally caught large fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphinfish, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish?

- If the respondent says "yes", go to the intercept questionnaire.
- If the respondent says he/she was fishing for some other species the Interviewer should probe to determine if they were also fishing for any other large pelagic species; if the respondent was not targeting a large pelagic species **and** did not

catch a large pelagic species then the interview should be terminated and the respondent tallied on the Site Description Form (SDF) as DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC FISH.

- If the respondent does not want to participate in the survey, and large pelagic fish are observed being landed from the vessel in plain view, the interview should be terminated and the respondent tallied on the Site Description Form as a REFUSAL. The respondent’s name and/or vessel name should be recorded in the comments section of the SDF.

### 6.8.2 Intercept Interview: Item by item instructions

Once again, PLEASE remember to write legibly in Block Capitals (Upper Case). Take your time while recording data; in other words, be accurate and precise. Optical recognition software will interpret your entries, so be as neat as possible. Remember, providing quality data is crucial to the success of the study!

Items 1 through 8 are not questions to be asked of the respondent. They are primarily identifying information.

- Item 1 INTERVIEWER CODE. Each Interviewer must be given a unique four-digit identification number. This number should be used on all submitted forms.
- Item 2 DATE OF INTERVIEW. The Interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used.
- Item 3 TIME OF INTERVIEW. Using military time, record the time that the interview was completed. Military time runs on a 24-hour clock starting at 0001 hours (one minute past midnight) and ending at 2400 hours (midnight).
- Item 4 STATE CODE. Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. FIPS state codes to use are as follows:

Alabama	AL	01	
Connecticut	CT	09	
Delaware	DE	10	
Florida	FL	12	
Georgia	GA	13	
Louisiana	LA	22	
Maine	ME	23	
Maryland	MD	24	
Massachusetts	MA	25	
Mississippi	MS	28	
New Hampshire	NH	33	
New Jersey	NJ	34	(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)
New York	NY	36	

North Carolina	NC	37
Rhode Island	RI	44
South Carolina	SC	45
Texas	TX	48
Virginia	VA	51

Item 5           **CONTROL NUMBER.** Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which private boat intercepts are preferred; while a 2 indicates that charter boat intercepts are preferred (interviews can be conducted in either mode on any assignment). The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> digits are used as counters for the number of assignments given out in a given state and month.

**NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.**

Item 6           **DOCUMENT NUMBER.** Throughout an assignment, the Interviewer should consecutively number forms completed for the assignment. **BOTH PAGES** of the first interview should be numbered 01; **BOTH PAGES** of the second interview should be numbered 02, etc. All forms sent in should be numbered, regardless of interview status.

Item 7a           **COUNTY.** Enter the three-digit FIPS number assigned to the site of the intercept. The county code should be listed on the Interviewer assignment listing, as well as in the site register.

Item 7b           **SITE NUMBER.** Enter the four-digit FIPS number of the site where the interview is being conducted. The site number should be listed on the Interviewer’s assignment schedule as one of the sites within the assigned cluster, as well as in the site register.

Item 7c           **CLUSTER.** Interviewer should enter the two digit number for the cluster of sites assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed on the Interviewer’s assignment schedule.

Item 8           **SITE TYPE.** Enter the type of site at which the interview took place.  
 If interview took place at a marina, code 1.  
 If interview took place on a private dock, code 2.  
 If interview took place at a public ramp, code 3.  
 If interview took place at some other type of site, code 4.

Item 9

WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR BOAT?

If the name of the boat is evident (e.g., if it is written on the boat itself), then the Interviewer must still verify the information with the respondent, and fill in the name on the coding form. If the boat name is not apparent, the Interviewer should ask the respondent "What is the name of your boat?" and fill in the information. If the boat has no name, the Interviewer should leave the long row of boxes at Question 9 blank and fill in the "no name" oval underneath.

Sometimes the name displayed on the boat is not the same as the current vessel name or the name on the HMS permit listing (e.g., the vessel has been renamed, but the old name has not been removed from the boat; the old name has not been removed from the HMS permit listing; the current name has not been painted on the boat; the name was spelled incorrectly on the boat or entered incorrectly when the owner/operator applied for the vessel's HMS permit, etc.). This means that the Interviewer must take great care when recording the name of the boat on the questionnaire.

Interviewers must also be made aware that some names displayed on vessels are not actually the vessel names. That is, they might just be the brand names or emblems of the manufacturer, such as Mako, Whaler, Trophy, or Sea Fox. However, sometimes vessels are named by their owners on the HMS permit listing according to their manufacturer's name and length, such as Spencer 57 or Grady-White 28.

If it is visible, the Interviewer should say the name of the boat out loud while checking to see if the vessel name is in the HMS permit listing. If the name displayed on the boat is verified as the vessel name, and the vessel name is in HMS permit directory, then Interviewers should be sure they are recording information for the correct vessel by verifying the owner's name, or by matching some other data element, such as the State registration number, if it is displayed on the side of the boat.

Most larger boats do not have State Registration numbers displayed, but trailered boats usually do. It's also a good idea for the Interviewer to spell the name out loud while coding, to confirm its spelling with the respondent, just in case the HMS permit listing is incorrect. If the actual spelling of the vessel does not match the spelling on the HMS permit listing, the Interviewer must make note of the discrepancy and contact QuanTech after completing the assignment.

It is extremely important that Interviewers record the vessel name EXACTLY as it appears on the vessel, or EXACTLY as the captain specifies. If the vessel is on the HMS permit list, they should record the name EXACTLY as it appears on the list. Even slight changes in the spelling of a vessel name should be avoided.

Item 10a

IS YOUR BOAT PRIMARILY A...

Item 10a records how the boat is primarily used and identifies partyboats and

headboats. Fill in the appropriate oval. If party/headboat, Interviewers should still complete the interview even though the questionnaire instructs the Interviewer to terminate the interview. The instruction is only provided as a reminder that these vessels should not be knowingly approached for the LPIS.

Item 10b      **WAS THE TRIP TODAY A CHARTER OR PRIVATE TRIP?**  
Item 10b pertains to the type of trip taken that day, private or charter. Fill in the appropriate oval.

The next set of questions (Items 11a through 13) are asked in order to further identify the boat.

If the vessel has a NMFS HMS permit, the NMFS HMS permit category determines the mode of the interview.

Interviewers are given an HMS Permit List of NMFS HMS permitted vessels in their state (or multi-state area). The HMS Permit List contains boat-identifying information, such as the permit holder's name, the NMFS Highly Migratory Species or Atlantic Tunas permit number and category, and the Coast Guard documentation number or State registration number, sorted by boat name and then by permit holder name, in alphabetical order. There are privacy issues surrounding these HMS Permit Lists so the information on these lists should never be shown to unauthorized persons. Permit holder contact information (e.g., address and phone number) does not appear on this list. The information on the HMS Permit List is merely used to assist in the verification of a boat's HMS permit number (and permit category).

If vessels are still out fishing when the interviewer arrives on-site he/she may have time to look up the vessels in the HMS Permit List before the vessels return. This way the interviewer needs only to confirm the information with the respondent when conducting the interview. If there is no time to look up the vessels beforehand, interviewers should ask the questions on the form as they are written. If a respondent does not want to get their permit information, the interviewer should offer to check to see if the boat is on the ID list. If so, the interviewer should verify the listed information with the respondent, instead of formally asking him/her the questions. However, if the vessel is not on the HMS Permit List, then the interviewer should ask the questions to get the permit information directly from the respondent. Respondents should be informed that they would have to just get the information once. Interviewers should record the information in their copy of the HMS Permit List. Interviewers should inform their Field Supervisors of any changes or additions to the ID list, and Field Supervisors should make sure these changes get passed on to other LPIS interviewers in the area and to the home office staff.

Although an intercepted boat may be listed on the HMS Permit List, it is essential that interviewers verify all HMS Permit List information with the respondent for the following reasons:

- Though the boat may have been interviewed before, it is possible that the respondent was not interviewed (e.g., if a boat has more than one owner); if this occurs, be sure to get the new respondent's information, so that it can be added to the HMS Permit List;

- There could be a mistake on the HMS Permit List;
- There may be more than one vessel with the same boat name.

If interviewers are unable to obtain the HMS permit number they should try to obtain the Coast Guard documentation number or the state registration information. It is very important that interviewers get at least one of these identification numbers.

**NMFS HMS Permit numbers typically begin with 1 and are eight digits long.**

Item 11a DOES THE BOAT HAVE A NMFS HMS PERMIT, AND IF SO, WHAT CATEGORY IS IT? Explain that HMS stands for Highly Migratory Species, if necessary. Read the possible permit categories to the respondent. Explain the difference between the permits (if necessary). Fill in oval 1 if the vessel has a General category HMS permit. Fill in oval 2 if the vessel has an Angling category permit. Fill in oval 3 if the vessel has a Charter/Headboat category permit. If the vessel is not in the HMS permit listing and the respondent claims that the vessel does not have an HMS permit, then fill in oval 7 for “No HMS permit”. If the vessel is not in the HMS permit listing, and the respondent does not know the category, then fill in oval 8 for “Don’t know”. If the vessel is not in the HMS permit listing and the respondent refuses to answer the question, fill in the oval 9 for “Refused”.

If the respondent does not provide you with the permit category and it cannot be verified with the respondent on the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 7, 8 or 9, as appropriate, and go to Item 12.

Item 11b WHAT IS YOUR BOAT’S NMFS HMS PERMIT NUMBER? Enter the vessel's HMS permit number. HMS permit numbers must be either:

- 1) Verified with the respondent by matching the HMS permit number with the vessel name and Vessel Representative name on the HMS Permit List; or
- 2) Obtained directly from the respondent (if the vessel is not on the HMS permit list and the respondent shows you the vessel’s HMS permit); or
- 3) Corrected by the Respondent (if the respondent shows you the vessel’s HMS permit and the number is different from the number in the HMS Permit List).

If you are able to verify the HMS permit number from the HMS permit list with the respondent then fill in oval 1 “Verified with Respondent”. If you obtain the HMS permit number directly from the respondent then fill in oval 2 “Obtained from Respondent”. If the HMS permit number is incorrect on the HMS Permit List, then fill in oval 3 “Corrected by Respondent”. If the respondent does not know or refuses to give his/her number, fill in oval 8 or 9, as appropriate, and go to Item 12.

- Item 12      **CAN YOU TELL ME/VERIFY YOUR BOAT'S COAST GUARD DOCUMENTATION NUMBER?** If the intercepted vessel's Coast Guard documentation number is contained on the HMS Permit List, you need only verify the information with the respondent and fill in the information on the coding form. If the vessel is not on the HMS Permit List, ask the respondent to provide the vessel's Coast Guard documentation number. If given, enter the Coast Guard documentation number in the boxes provided, and go to Item 14. If the respondent claims that the vessel does not have an Coast Guard documentation number and the Coast Guard documentation number cannot be verified from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 2 "Vessel has no Coast Guard Documentation Number". If the respondent does not know the vessel's Coast Guard Documentation number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 8 "Don't Know". If the respondent refuses to provide the vessel's Coast Guard Documentation number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 9 "Refused".
- Item 13      **CAN YOU TELL ME/VERIFY YOUR BOAT'S STATE REGISTRATION NUMBER?** Enter the intercepted vessel's State registration number. If the number is written on the side of the boat, or if the State registration number is contained on the HMS Permit List, you need only verify the information with the respondent and fill in the information on the coding form (including the state abbreviation). If the respondent claims that the vessel does not have a State registration number and the State registration number cannot be verified from the HMS Permit List, fill in oval 2 "Vessel has no State registration number". If the respondent does not know the vessel's State registration number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, and the State Registration number is not on the side of the boat, fill in oval 8 "Don't Know". If the respondent refuses to provide the vessel's State registration number, and the number cannot be verified with from the HMS Permit List, and the State Registration number is not on the side of the boat, fill in oval 9 "Refused".
- Item 14      **PRINCIPAL PORT STATE CODE.** The first set of boxes is for the State abbreviation, the second set of boxes is for corresponding FIPS code (see Item 4 for codes). Record the State abbreviation and the FIPS state code for which the respondent **indicates is the vessel's principal port state**. If the vessel has an HMS permit and is the vessel is on the HMS Permit List, the Principal Port State should be verified with the HMS Permit List.
- Item 15      **RETURN TIME.** The purpose of this question is to determine when the respondent returned from his/her trip. If you actually see the respondent return to the site, you need only verify the return time with him/her. Otherwise you should ask "At about what time did your boat return to this site?". Returning boats that had docked prior to the assignment start time should be included in the LPIS as long as the trip ended that day. Please interview eligible boats regardless of their arrival time on that day. **Use military time to record the return time.**

Item 16 TARGET SPECIES. Fill in the appropriate 4 digit code for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> target species in the boxes and write the name on the blank to the right of the boxes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> target is the primary target and the 2<sup>nd</sup> target is the secondary target.

On the “write-in line”, it is OK to use abbreviations such as “YFT” for yellowfin tuna or “school BFT” for school size bluefin tuna. It is extremely important that you probe to find the primary target to the species level. If either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> target is BFT, it is important to probe for size class.

If the angler states that he/she was targeting bluefin tuna, be sure to determine which size class they were targeting! **If the person will not specify which size class of bluefin tuna they are targeting, code 4670.**

If the primary species code is not listed on the second page of the questionnaire, simply record the actual species name in the “write-in” blank provided.

**If the respondent absolutely will not say which species they were targeting but will only specify species groups, such as “SHARKS” then code 3591 for Unknown Shark. The code for unclassified “TUNA” is 4656. The code for “ANY LPS” is 7777. "ALL SPECIES COMBINED" is 8888. See other species codes on the second page of the questionnaire. See additional large pelagic species designation/codes in Appendix F:**

Item 17a TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION. Check the appropriate box to indicate if the intercepted vessel was participating in a tournament on the intercepted trip.

Item 17b TOURNAMENT NAME. If the respondent answered yes at question 17a, ask for the name of the tournament at question 17b, and fill in the name on the coding form (one letter per box). If the angler was not fishing in a tournament, leave Item 17b blank.

Item 18 PRIMARY GEAR. Indicate the primary fishing gear used on the intercepted trip. In most areas, this will usually be oval 1 (rod and reel). If the angler states that a fishing gear other than rod and reel or handline was primarily used, fill in oval 3, “write-in” the other gear on the blank provided, and terminate the interview.

Item 19 NUMBER OF LINES. Interviewers should enter the number of lines the boat had in the water.

Items 20 HOURS FISHED. Indicate the number of hours spent actually fishing with the primary gear for large pelagic species. Do not include the time spent traveling to and from the fishing area.

Item 21 BAIT USED. Indicate if live, dead, and/or artificial bait was used on the

intercepted trip with the primary fishing gear. Be sure to fill in all ovals that apply.

- Item 22      **METHOD(S) USED.** Indicate whether anglers were trolling, chumming or chunking or other- *Fill in all ovals that apply and SPECIFY IF OTHER.*
- Item 23      **NUMBER OF ANGLERS.** Indicate the total number of anglers who were actively involved in large pelagic fishing on the intercepted trip. Do not include persons who did no fishing.
- Item 24      **LOCATION.** Indicate the latitude and longitude coordinates of the main fishing site that was used for the intercepted trip. If the respondent states that he/she was fishing at one of the sites listed on the fishing area list, write the area name on the line provided and fill in the corresponding lat/long (which should be provided on the area list in Appendix C). If the respondent was not fishing at one of the listed area, ask the respondent to indicate the area at which he/she was fishing and obtain the lat/long if possible.

If the respondent provides **LORAN (LOng RAnge Navigation)** numbers, then in the fishing area name boxes, write “LORAN” followed by the numbers provided. Leave the boxes for Latitude and Longitude blank.

- Item 25      **MILES OFFSHORE.** Indicate the maximum number of miles that the intercepted vessel strayed from land on the intercepted trip. Be sure to get the mileage to the nearest point of land, as opposed to the mileage to the site of intercept.
- Item 26      **WATER DEPTH.** Indicate the depth (in feet) at the intercepted vessel's fishing location. If the respondent cannot provide an exact depth, try to obtain a depth range, and use the midpoint. If the response is given in fathoms, remember that

- **6 FEET = 1 FATHOM**

and adjust the response accordingly, or just write the number of fathoms to the side of the boxes on the coding form, and later convert the measurement to feet.

- Item 27      **WATER TEMPERATURE.** Indicate the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. This can usually be obtained from the captain.
- Item 28      **NAME AND PHONE.** QuanTech, Inc. is contractually required to randomly validate your interviews. To do so, we must have a name and phone number where the respondent can be reached for an extremely short interview (about 2 minutes). This number will not necessarily be used for the Large Pelagics Telephone Survey (unless it matches the number we have for the LPTS), and the respondent does not necessarily need to give his/her full name, or a home phone number. A first name and a work phone number is appropriate. Clearly record the respondent's name and phone number (area code first) in the appropriate

boxes on the coding form.

If the respondent is a proxy (designated by the captain or owner to participate in the survey) fill in the oval “Yes”. Otherwise, if the name of the permit holder on the HMS permit list is the name of the respondent, then fill in “No”

If the respondent will not provide a name or telephone number (we need both) then fill in the oval indicating ► *RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER*

Item 29 CAUGHT FISH. Indicate if any fish were caught or released during the fishing trip. If fish were caught, fill in the oval for "Yes" and go to the second page of the intercept form, question 30. If no fish were caught or released, or if they refuse to answer, fill in the appropriate oval, end the interview, and thank the respondent for their time. Be especially careful to fill in the correct response at Item 29.

**If Q.29 = “Yes”, then continue the interview on the second page.**

**If Q.29 = “No” or the respondent refuse to answer the question, then the interview is complete. Thus, only the first page of the intercept should be faxed to QuanTech.**

Items 4, 5 and 6 are repeated at the top of the second page. This will prevent confusion when numerous forms are faxed in to the home office. Always complete these blocks!

Item 30 FISH COUNTS. If fish were caught, indicate, by species:

- the number of fish that were kept;
- the number of fish that were kept that were observed and identified by the Interviewer;
- the number of fish released alive;
- the number of fish released dead;
- the number of fish that were kept that have been or will be sold.

Note: The count for “number of fish to sell” should be a subset of those fish that were kept. Be sure that the respondent includes all kept fish when they are asked the first part of Item 30 “number kept.” When asked "How many of those \_\_\_ that you kept did you sell or do you plan to sell?" the response should be a subset of those fish that were kept.

Interviewers should ask respondents if they can see all fish that were kept. If for some reason kept fish are not available to be counted and identified, the interviewer should make a note of

this in the “notes” area on Item 30. If the interviewer is absolutely certain that the respondent is making a mistake in count or species identification, they should record the correct information on the form, as opposed to the incorrect information supplied by the respondent. The Guide to Sharks, Tunas & Billfishes of the U.S. Atlantic & Gulf of Mexico and Guide to the Tunas of the Western Atlantic will help with species identifications. Peterson's Field Guide to Atlantic Coast Fishes of North America is also a good source of information. When in doubt about the species identity of any unobserved fish, the interviewer should appropriately identify the fish at a higher taxonomic level, such as genus or family. However, Interviewers are expected to be able to identify all observed fish to the species level.

Interviewers must always ask to see fish that were kept, so they can be correctly identified. While most LPIS respondents are experienced anglers who know how to correctly identify fish, they do not always use the accepted common name. “Bonito”, for example, might refer to skipjack in the Northeast, and little tunny in the Southeast. Also, some respondents may have simply misidentified the fish. For instance, small yellowfin tuna and bluefin tuna look quite similar. Sometimes, it is necessary to count gill rakers on the first gill arch (bluefin tuna have 34-43 gill rakers, yellowfin tuna have 26-35) or to look at the fish’s liver when it is being cleaned to see if its ventral surface is striated or not. The bottom of the bluefin tuna’s liver has striations while the yellowfin tuna’s liver does not. King mackerel can be misidentified as wahoo, and vice versa. (Wahoo have no gill rakers and have a pointed, beak-like snout, while King Mackerel have 8-9 short gill rakers on the lower first gill arch). Sharks are also difficult for the average recreational angler to identify correctly. For example, sandbar sharks and dusky sharks are easily confused because they are both “ridge-back” sharks. Differentiation between the two species is possible by studying the position of the pectoral fins in relation to the dorsal fin. Even billfish can be misidentified. Within the last few years, an undersized blue marlin was landed at the White Marlin Open in Ocean City, MD because the angler thought it was a large white marlin!

Interviewers must be capable of identifying the fish to the species level themselves.

Another reason why it is important to observe the fish (besides identification) is to count them. While it’s unlikely that the respondents will not know how many of a particular kind of tuna they caught, they often forget how many dolphin (or mahi mahi, for example) were kept, especially if many were caught.

Fill out the corresponding coding boxes for each species that the vessel caught. Always remember to probe for bycatch. If the respondent cannot remember or refuses to indicate how many he/she kept or released of a certain species, record "don't know" or "refused" (as appropriate) in the margin. Try to probe the angler for catch information (species and numbers), particularly for incidental catch and released fish that are not available for inspection. Anglers will sometimes use a local name for a species that does not match the accepted common name provided in Appendix F (e.g., “footballs” refer to school size bluefin tuna). Interviewers should refer to the Local Names list provided in Appendix F if they cannot figure out what species the angler is referring to. Interviewers must probe to ensure they are recording the correct species since some local names are used to refer to more than one species. The local names list will be updated as needed to reflect new names encountered in the field.

Fill in zero's where appropriate for disposition boxes. For example, if the respondent says they "released alive" 05 fish, be sure to fill in 00 in the appropriate boxes for "number kept", "number observed and identified", "released dead", and "number to sell." Do not leave the any boxes blank.

If an interviewer encounters a species not listed on the form, they should write in the name of the species at the "Other" line, along with the counts by disposition. All fish species caught should be included on the form even if they are not large pelagic fish. If there are more than two "Other" fish (fish not on the list of species), use as many second pages of the interview form as necessary to include all fish caught. Please refer to the species code list in Appendix F and record the code after recording the name of fish that are not listed in the table on the second page of the intercept form. If the respondent caught a species for which there is no code in Appendix F the interviewer should make a note of this on the form and the Contractor should contact NMFS for the appropriate code.

In the example below, on this interview, only 1 blackfin tuna was released alive. The Interviewer had to write in "BLACKFIN TUNA" and "4641" because the species is not listed in the table. The Interviewer recorded that 00 were kept, 00 were observed and identified by the interviewer, 01 was released alive, 00 were released dead, and 00 that were kept were to sell or were already sold.

		Wahoo	4720																
NON - LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES  +		King Mackerel	1940																
		Spiny Dogfish	3521																
		Striped Bass	4180																
		Bluefish	0230																
Other	BLACKFIN TUNA	4641	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other																			

NOTE that King Mackerel, Spiny Dogfish, Striped Bass, and Bluefish are not considered large pelagic species. These species are only listed on this table as a convenience, because they represent some of the most frequently caught non-large pelagic species on trips that primarily targeted large pelagic species in previous survey years.

Other species that must be recorded using the "Other" row include, but are not limited to:

- Great Hammerhead            4951
- Scalloped Hammerhead    4781
- Smooth Hammerhead        4791

The row on the question 30 table for unidentified hammerhead shark, species code 4950, should only be used if the respondent does not know what species of hammerhead was caught and the fish is unavailable for you to identify.

Item 31 FISH MEASUREMENTS. Once the interviewer has counted and identified all observed catch, he/she should ask for permission to measure at least a representative sample of the fish to obtain lengths. If the angler did catch and keep any fish, ask "May I measure the fish?" If the respondent says "yes", fill in oval 1. If the respondent refuses to let the interviewer measure the fish, or has no fish available to look at, then fill in oval 2 and indicate why the fish were not measured in the notes section provided in Item 30. Fish that have been filleted are not considered available for measuring. If more than 10 fish are available for measuring, fill in Items 4 through 6 at the top of the second half of another form and use that form to fill in the remaining fish lengths. Use as many forms as necessary.

For the purposes of this survey, bluefin tuna size classifications should be determined by its straight fork length as indicated in Item 30 on the survey form. Respondents that say they caught all school bluefin tuna may have actually caught different size classes of bluefin tuna. If a respondent reports that he/she caught and kept 4 school bluefin, for example, and at Item 31 the interviewer was able to measure the fish and finds that one is 1156 millimeters long and the other three are 1018 mm, 1103 mm, and 998 mm, they should code Items 30 and 31 to reflect that the vessel caught and kept only 3 school bluefin, along with 1 large school bluefin. The recording of other fish counts would also be affected by this issue, such as the number of fish observed and identified by the Interviewer.

SPECIES  
CODE.

Use the four digit species codes provided in Item 30 for LPS species; if the species code is not listed, record the actual species name and look up the species code in the list provided in Appendix F.

LENGTH.

**DO NOT MEASURE ANY NON-LARGE PELAGIC FISH SPECIES (SUCH AS BLUEFISH, STRIPED BASS, BLACK SEA BASS, TILEFISH, ETC.)**

**DO MEASURE THE LENGTH OF ALL LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES IN MILLIMETERS.**

For the following tuna species, obtain both straight fork length and curved fork length:

- Bluefin
- Bigeye
- Albacore
- Yellowfin
- Skipjack

Fish lengths should be recorded to the nearest millimeter (do not measure in inches and then convert)! Do not measure in centimeters. Most of the measuring

tapes that will be used for the LPIS will be marked in both metric and English measurements. To determine millimeters, multiply the centimeter reading by 10 and add the number of the smallest markings past the centimeter marking. For example, a fish that measures to the smallest line past 73 centimeters would be 731 millimeters. Since four coding boxes are provided for the length, the length should be coded as 0731. **Remember, there are 1000 millimeters in one meter...**

Interviewers should be careful not to introduce digit bias into their measurements -- do not round off—for example, 0731 to 0730!

Interviewers are provided two measuring tapes for a reason. Metal tape measures shall only be used to measure straight fork length. Cloth or plastic tape measures shall only be used to measure curved fork length.

- 1) **STRAIGHT FORK LENGTH (SFL).**  
**Measure using a metal measuring tape and record only the straight fork length of the fish in millimeters. Make sure the metal measure tape is straight when measuring SFL. Straight fork length must be taken in a straight line, as close as possible to the fish without tracing the contour of the body from the most anterior tip of the longest jaw (mouth closed) or end of snout, whichever is terminal, to the posterior tip of the tail at its center line. The resulting length is therefore a straight fork length.**
  
- 2) **CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL).**  
**Measure using a cloth or plastic measuring tape and record only the curved fork length of the fish in millimeters. CFL measurement is required for Bluefin tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Albacore, Yellowfin Tuna, and Skipjack in addition to SFL. Curved fork length must be taken in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail, which abuts the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin and the dorsal side of the caudal keel. The measuring tape must pass over (and touch) the pectoral fin and the caudal keel.**

Interviewers must also express the importance of obtaining length measurements to respondents. Interviewers must obtain as many length measurements as possible to provide this important data to fishery managers. These length measurements are important because they are converted to weights for catch quota monitoring by NMFS. They are also used in stock assessments, and for estimating age for cohort analysis.

Interviewers should record only those measurements that they took themselves. Occasionally, especially if the fish is very large, you may need to ask for assistance to measure the fish. If this is the case, you must be very deliberate in your instructions to the helper (who might be a fish cleaner or angler) to make sure the measurement is taken to LPIS specifications. For billfish, upper-jaw-to-

fork length and lower-jaw-to-fork length measurements must be obtained. For all other fish, SFL and CFL measurements will be taken from the front tip of the jaw to the fork in the tail.

Proper SFL and CFL measurements must be recorded. Interviewers must know the difference between straight fork length and curved fork length, and when it is appropriate to measure both. CFL and SFL measurements on BFT and Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin tuna, and Skipjack (sometimes referred to as the BAYS tunas) are required.

Correct procedures for measuring lengths of various types of fish are shown in the diagrams below.

Sharks are measured from the tip of the snout to the center of the fork of the tail.



All other species (except billfish and swordfish) are measured from the most anterior tip of the longest jaw (mouth closed) or end of snout, whichever is terminal, to the posterior tip of the tail at its center line. This procedure is the same whether the tail forks in (e.g., tunas, mackerels) or protrudes out. The resulting length is therefore a fork length.

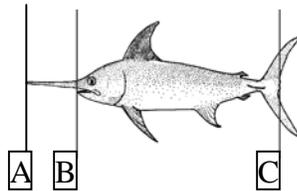


**GENDER** For all sharks and dolphinfish (mahi mahi), Interviewers must record the gender of each fish (1=male, 2=female, 8=undetermined).

**PREP** Record the preparation of the species (0=whole, 2=gutted, 6=pectoral length). Only fish that are whole or gutted should be measured (prep= 0 or 2). The only exception to this rule is for Giant Category and Large Medium Category bluefin tuna and only if the full body length cannot be obtained. If these fish are brought in headed then the interviewer may obtain a pectoral length measurement and place a 6 in the PREP code box indicating a pectoral length measurement. Fish that have had their tail cut off should not be measured.

**BILLFISH & SWORDFISH** Special procedures for measuring billfish and swordfish must be followed. Boxes for billfish and swordfish measurements are located at the bottom of the second page of the intercept questionnaire. If a billfish is measured, the interviewer should record the UPPER BILL LENGTH to the fork only if the bill is intact (complete, not broken off). Do not record the upper bill length if the bill is broken off.

Billfishes and swordfish are measured from the tip of the upper bill to the center of the fork of the tail (On the form, UPPER BILL LENGTH, from A to C below) and from the tip of the lower jaw to the center of the fork of the tail (On the form, LOWER JAW LENGTH, from B to C below).



See Appendix G for more information on the procedures for measuring various types of fish.

### **SUB-SAMPLING**

All fish should be measured if possible. However, due to time constraints it may not always be possible to obtain length information for all available fish. Interviewers need to budget their time and maximize the number of interviews obtained with eligible vessels. If there are so many fish that individual measurements cannot be obtained, then a representative sample of fish should be measured. For example, if there were 38 dolphinfish and there is only time to record 10 measurements, then ten fish could be sub-sampled.

To randomly sub-sample the fish, interviewers should blindly determine which fish to inspect rather than purposely try to pick the fish that look "average." Only ten fish should be recorded at Item 31 for each page. To record additional fish measurements, include additional "second pages". Fill in Items 4 through 6 at the top of another copy of the second page of the interview form, leave Q.30 blank, and use Q.31 to record measurements for the remaining fish. In the

notes section, indicate “page 3” and the vessel name.

**Reminders:**

On each second page, Items 4 through 6 must be filled in at the top of the page to match the first page of the interview. Start document numbers (interview numbers) at 01 for each assignment.

A new requirement for 2006 will be to obtain both the straight fork length (SFL) and the curved fork length (CFL) for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, albacore, yellowfin tuna, and skipjack that are available to measure.

Remember that if you encounter a bluefin tuna, its size classification should be determined by its straight fork length. If an angler tells you that he/she caught a large school bluefin at Item 30, for instance, and you find that it actually measures 1465 millimeters, you should record it as a small medium bluefin at Item 30. You should also make sure that you record it as a small medium in Item 31.

Do not obtain pectoral fin measurements (from base of pectoral fin to fork in tail) for fish that have been beheaded unless it is a giant or large medium bluefin tuna.

Fish that have been filleted or had their tail cut off should not be measured.

**7.0 Site Description Form (SDF)**

The Site Description Form (SDF) is used to summarize the results of the completed assignment with information from each site (within a cluster). Paperwork for each assignment that you submit must include at least one Site Description Form. If there are three sites or less in the cluster, then there should be only one SDF submitted. There is only enough space on each SDF to record information for three sites visited. An example of a blank Site Description Form may be found in Appendix B.

**INTERVIEWER CODE:** Each Interviewer is given a unique four-digit identification number. This number, found on the back of the Agreement, should be used on all submitted forms.

**INTERVIEW DATE:** The Interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used.

**STATE CODE:** Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. The state code list may be found in Appendix E.

**CLUSTER ID.** Enter the two digit number for the cluster of sites that you are assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed in your assignment schedule. Possible values will range from 01, 02, 03...to 10.

**CONTROL NUMBER:** Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which private boat intercepts are preferred, while a 2 indicates that charter boat intercepts are desired. **NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.**

**SITE NAME & SITE #1 CODE** Enter the site name and four-digit number of the first site visited. The site number should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule as one of the sites within the assigned cluster, as well as in the site register.

**COUNTY CODE #1** Enter the three-digit county number assigned to the site visited where interviews are being conducted. The county code should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule, as well as in the site register.

**SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME and TELEPHONE NUMBER** If a Site Representative is present at the site, record their name and the telephone number for the site.

**SITE REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS** After "checking-in" with a Site Representative, ask the Site Representative to initial your SDF on the "write-in" line for **SITE REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS** in the section for the site they represent.

**TIME OF INITIALS** If the Site Representative initials your form ask them to record the "sign-in" time on the "write-in" line next to **TIME OF INITIALS**.

**ESTIMATE # OF ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH** Estimate the number of eligible vessels per day for the current month on a good weather day that will return to the site. This estimate will likely vary by mode (private vs. charter boats) and the day type (weekend vs. weekday). Under "PR" enter the numbers estimated for both weekend and weekday for Private

boat trips. Under "CH" enter the numbers estimated for both weekend and weekday for charter boat trips.

**BEST TIME** Enter the code (codes are provided on the top right of the SDF) for the best time to intercept vessels according to weekend and weekday for each mode (charter and private).

**STATUS:** All intercepted persons should be classified under the appropriate status and tallied on the Site Description Form for each site. Status definitions are as follows:

**COMPLETED INTERVIEWS** Enter the number of completed verifiable interviews with eligible respondents. The interview is considered a completed verifiable interview with an eligible respondent if responses are provided for all questions and there is:

- A valid respondent name and valid telephone number  
OR
- A valid boat name and either a valid HMS permit number or valid Coast Guard documentation number, preferably all three.

Use Question 11a to determine mode: If permit type is charter/headboat then record as CH for charter boat interview; if permit type is General or Angling then record as PR for private boat interview. Permit type should be verified and recorded using the HMS Permit List, if the vessel is listed.

If the respondent does not have an HMS permit, does not know what type, refused the question, and the vessel is not listed in the permit listing, refer to Question 10a (Boat Primarily Operated As) to determine mode of interview (1 = PR, 2 = CH).

If the respondent does not know or refuses to answer 10a, then refer to 10b (trip today) to determine mode of interview (1 = CH, 2 = PR). If the respondent does not know or refuses to answer 10b, note in the comments section of the SDF.

**MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS** If the interviewer initiates the interview questionnaire with a respondent but they terminate the interview after questioning has begun, the interviewer should thank the respondent for their time and tally.

**INITIAL REFUSALS** If a seemingly eligible respondent refuses to be interviewed at all, it is considered an "initial refusal" and should be tallied. Ask the person his or her name and record it along with the boat name (and any other

identifying information, such as state registration #) in the comments section of the SDF (see 2.2.3 Hostile Sites and Refusals).

**LANGUAGE  
BARRIER**

Fill in the number of interviews that could not be obtained due to language incompatibility. If interviewer initiates an interview with a respondent, but they are unable to continue due to communication (language) problems, tally. Interviews may be conducted with a captain's translator, if one is present. If this does occur make a note of this on the SDF.

**ESTIMATE OF MISSED  
ELIGIBLE BOATS**

Interviewers should determine the number of eligible boats missed at each site because they were in the midst of another interview. Interviewers should record the number of boats appearing to be eligible that they were unable to intercept at each site because they were interviewing another vessel's respondent. Do not include boats that may be at other sites within the cluster. Rather, include those vessels in the section on the SDF for the other site.

**BOATS THAT  
HAVE NOT RETURNED**

When interviewers leave a site within the assigned cluster, and there are still boats that are expected back, they should record the number of vessels that have not yet returned.

**DID NOT TARGET  
OR CATCH LARGE  
PELAGIC SPECIES**

If an interviewer discovers during the screening process that they have intercepted someone that did not just complete an offshore oceanic fishing trip during which they targeted, caught, released, or incidentally caught large pelagic fish, then they should tally the respondent in this box.

If large pelagic fish are in plain view and the respondent claims that they did not target or catch large pelagic fish, then do not tally this person as 'DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC FISH'. Instead, tally the respondent as an initial refusal and ask the person his or her name and record it along with species in plain view, the boat name and HMS permit number (and any other identifying information, such as Coast Guard documentation or state registration number) in the comments section of the SDF.

**NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER  
OR MATE**

If an interviewer discovers during the screening process that they have intercepted someone who is not the captain, owner or designated proxy

(Screener Item 1) then they should try to locate the eligible respondent, if all eligible respondents for the vessel have already left the site then tally as 'NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE.'

The data fields above must be recorded for each site visited on a particular assignment whether or not any interviews were actually obtained.

**RECORD DATA FOR EACH SITE WITHIN THE CLUSTER THAT YOU VISIT.**

THIS INCLUDES SITE NAME, SITE CODE, COUNTY CODE, ESTIMATE # OF ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH, (IF PRESENT, SITE REPRESENTATIVE, SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER), BEST TIME, COMPLETED INTERVIEWS BY BOAT TYPE, MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS, INITIAL REFUSALS, LANGUAGE BARRIER, ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS, BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED, DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES, and NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE, FOR EACH SITE VISITED.

**8.0 Assignment Summary Form (ASF)**

The Assignment Summary Form (ASF) is used to summarize the results of the completed assignment, and to charge for work done on the assignment. Each assignment that you send in must include an Assignment Summary Form. An example of a blank Assignment Summary Form may be found in Appendix B.

- INTERVIEWER NAME: The Interviewer should PRINT his or her name in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS.
- INTERVIEWER CODE: Each Interviewer is given a unique four-digit identification number. This number, found on the back of the Agreement, should be used on all submitted forms.
- INTERVIEW DATE: The Interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used.
- CONTROL NUMBER: Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which private boat intercepts are preferred, while a 2 indicates that charter boat intercepts are desired. NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.

- STATE CODE: Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. The state code list may be found in Appendix E.
- COUNTY. Enter the three-digit county number assigned to the site of the intercept. The county code should be listed on the Interviewer's assignment schedule, as well as in the site register.
- CLUSTER. Enter the two digit number for the cluster of sites that you are assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed in your assignment schedule. Possible values will range from 01, 02, 03...to 10.
- BEGIN. Enter the time (military format) when you begin your assignment. That is, enter the time when you arrive on-site (at the first site in the cluster) to begin your assignment.
- END. Enter the time (military format) when you finish your assignment. That is, enter the time when you leave the cluster and terminate the assignment.

#### Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore?

Fill in the oval for “Yes” if the weather conditions are favorable for offshore fishing. If the offshore conditions are poor, fill in the oval for “No”. In general, strong winds (25-30 knots, especially from the Northeast) and high seas (especially greater than 8-10 feet) will cause many offshore fishermen to cancel their trips. Assignments that are conducted despite poor offshore conditions should be attempted only when fishing activity can be confirmed beforehand.

#### Multiple Interviewer Assignment?

QuanTech may schedule multiple interviewers per assignment, especially for tournaments. Docks are often packed with spectators, multiple boats may be arriving at the same time, there might be multiple sites in the cluster requiring coverage, areas around the weighing scales may have restricted access, etc. It can be too strenuous for one Interviewer to obtain complete interviews from a representative sample of returning vessels during a tournament, particularly without help from a Field Supervisor or other Interviewers. If you are assigned a multiple Interviewer assignment, or work on a Tournament Team during an assignment, fill in the oval for “Yes”. Otherwise, fill in the oval for “No”.

If this is a multiple interviewer assignment, enter other Interviewer ID codes.

Enter the four digit Interviewer code(s) of the Interviewer(s) who worked

on the multiple Interviewer assignment.

## 9.0 Administrative Issues

### *Data Delivery*

Because of the rigid requirements for the LPIS, it is vital that QuanTech receive all completed Assignment Summary Forms, Site Description Forms, and Interview Questionnaires within 24 hours of assignment completion.

To accomplish this, we are distributing FAX machines **ON LOAN**. Interviewers are responsible for making arrangements to fax each day's work to QuanTech within 24 hours of assignment completion. Fax your forms **IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER** starting with the assignment summary form first and the site description form(s) second. If you forget to fax your forms in or there are any problems with the OCR data capture system reading your forms you may be asked to re-edit and re-fax your forms.

Only one fax TRANSMISSION per assignment. That is, if you are sending in forms from two assignments they must be sent separately!

QuanTech has provided a Toll Free FAX number for your convenience

Please fax all pages in order (assignment summary first, serving as the cover sheet) to **1-877-694-8808**.

If for any reason you are unable to fax completed forms within the time schedule, you must contact QuanTech and your Field Supervisor immediately so arrangements can be made to get your forms faxed in. We will not pay for any assignment that arrives at QuanTech too late for inclusion in each week's data delivery to NMFS.

### *Pay Schedule*

Paychecks for fisheries Interviewers are mailed every two weeks.

### *Interviewer Status*

All QuanTech Interviewers are considered independent contractors. This means that no taxes will be withheld from an Interviewer's check. Interviewers are responsible for keeping track of all personal finances relevant to state, local, and federal tax laws. If you have any questions about this, you should ask your Field Supervisor. Interviewers are not NMFS employees.

**PLEASE FORWARD ANY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FOCUSING ON LARGE PELAGIC FISHING IN YOUR AREA TO QUANTECH. You will be the individuals best capable of providing the QuanTech headquarters with local information affecting large pelagic fishing.**

**ALL FAX MACHINES AND FIELD GUIDES PROVIDED TO YOU ON LOAN MUST BE**

RETURNED AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEWING SEASON BY NOVEMBER 21, 2006.  
IF YOU ARE FIRED, OR IF YOU QUIT, YOU MUST RETURN THEM IMMEDIATELY.

## 10.0 Field Supervisors

Each Interviewer has a Field Supervisor. This person is someone who is knowledgeable in the local fishing activity and fisheries in your area, and who is a veteran field Interviewer. This person will also be responsible for coordinating assignment scheduling, as well as conducting occasional quality control visits. You should contact your Field Supervisor whenever you:

- Need advice on fish identification;
- Have a question about the site register or a certain site; or
- Have a question about general interviewing procedures or coding.

Your primary contact while working on the LPIS will be your Field Supervisor.

You will contact your Field Supervisor for the following reasons:

- To schedule, “weather out” and reschedule or cancel an assignment;
- To see if there are any additional assignments available;

## 11.0 QuanTech Headquarters Staff

The headquarters office can be reached at 1-800-229-5220. If you need to contact the QuanTech headquarters office please contact any of the following staff members listed below.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Phone Extension</b>
Program Manager	Daemian Schreiber	<a href="mailto:dschreiber@quantech.com">dschreiber@quantech.com</a>	7831
Data Manager	Robert O'Haver	<a href="mailto:rohaver@quantech.com">rohaver@quantech.com</a>	7822
Fishery Biologist	James Bethune III	<a href="mailto:jbethune@quantech.com">jbethune@quantech.com</a>	7813
Fishery Biologist	Brooke Bittner	<a href="mailto:bbittner@quantech.com">bbittner@quantech.com</a>	7849

Please call or email QuanTech headquarters staff to confirm receipt of your faxed paperwork, discuss interviewing procedures or coding, etc. We will contact you frequently throughout the interviewing season to discuss the status of your assignments and to verify and/or obtain information, as required by our contract with NMFS. Please keep in mind that any critique of your work is meant to be constructive. We all have to work together to ensure that NMFS receives the best available data to make the best management decisions.

An example of an NMFS HMS permit. Note the location of the 8-digit permit number (XXXXXXXX) and the HMS Permit Category (Atlantic HMS Angling, in this case).

NOAA 88-156A (6-93)  CUSTOMER SERVICE & RECREATIONAL BFT REPORTING 888-872-8862 or http://www.nmfspermits.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept of Commerce	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
<b>2006 FISHING YEAR PERMIT</b>		
<h1>FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT</h1>		
PERMIT NUMBER <input type="text" value="XXXXXXXX"/> REGIONAL PERMIT NUMBER	DATE ISSUED 04/26/2006  ISSUED PURSUANT TO: 16 U.S.C 971-971H AND 1801 <i>et seq.</i>	
FISHERIES PERMITTED <input type="text" value="ATLANTIC HMS ANGLING"/> -- EXPIRES: 05/31/2007 ***** - Recreational Bluefin Tuna Reporting (except NC & MD): 888-872-8862 - Recreational Non-tournament Billfish/Swordfish Reporting (except NC & MD): 800-894-5528	VESSEL NAME <input type="text" value="VOID"/> REGISTRATION NUMBER <input type="text" value="VOID"/> LENGTH TONS HOLD CAP 20 1 1500 PORT HUBERT, NC OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS <input type="text" value="VOID"/>	
This permit is not valid unless signed. Knowingly and willfully falsifying material facts on this form may result in criminal liability (18 U.S.C. § 1001).		
I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information given on this form is true and correct, and that I have full authority to execute this form as, or on behalf of, the secured party, lien creditor or encumbrancer indicated herein.	Authorized Signature	

## Appendix A: Coding Examples

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### 2006 LPIS ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY FORM

NAME MICHELLE SLOAN INTERVIEWER CODE 9099

DATE (MO/DAY) 0604 STATE CODE 34 COUNTY 029

CLUSTER 07 CONTROL # 1101 BEGIN TIME\* 1445  
END TIME\* 1930

BEGIN TIME = WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT FIRST SITE IN CLUSTER  
END TIME = WHEN YOU LEFT THE CLUSTER AND TERMINATED THE ASSIGNMENT  
\* USE 24 HR CLOCK

Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore?  Yes  No

Multiple Interviewer Assignment?  Yes  No

If this is a multiple interviewer assignment, enter other Interviewer ID codes.

Four sets of four-digit grid boxes for interviewer ID codes.

### TIME AND EXPENSE

+

ASSIGNMENT RATE \$ 116.00 TOTAL 1

# OF COMPLETE VERIFIABLE INTERVIEWS WITH ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS

PR 02 x (BONUS) \$ [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ] = \$ [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ] TOTAL 2

CH 01 x (BONUS) \$ [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ] = \$ [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ] TOTAL 3

#### TRAVEL

[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] ENDING ODOMETER

[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] BEGINNING ODOMETER

[ ] [ ] [ ] TOTAL MILEAGE @ \$0.445 / MILE = \$ [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ] TOTAL 4

# ASF

PREAUTHORIZED EXPENSES (ALL RECIEPTS MUST BE SUBMITTED, INCLUDING TOLLS. SPECIFY OTHER BELOW)

TOLLS [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ]

[ ] \$ [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ]

[ ] \$ [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ]

+

GRAND TOTAL \$ [ ] [ ] [ ] . [ ] [ ]

+

+

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9099 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD) 01/04 BEST TIME CODES  
 3. STATE CODE 34 4. CLUSTER 07 5. CONTROL NUMBER 1101 1 = 8am-12pm  
 2 = 12pm-4pm  
 3 = 4pm-8pm  
 4 = 8pm-Midnight

SITE # 1 NAME VIKING VILLAGE

SITE # 1 CODE 0186 COUNTY CODE # 1 029 ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT) MINE WE PR WD WE CH WD  
02 01 01 00

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER 7325559999 SITE BEST TIME 3 3 3 3  
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

SITE # 2 NAME LIGHTHOUSE MARINA

SITE # 2 CODE 0192 COUNTY CODE # 2 029 ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT) SUE WE PR WD WE CH WD  
00 00 00 00

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER 7325559998 SITE BEST TIME 3 3 3 3  
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

SITE # 3 NAME MARINA AT BARNEGAT LIGHT

SITE # 3 CODE 1025 COUNTY CODE # 3 029 ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT) \_\_\_\_\_ WE PR WD WE CH WD  
01 00 01 00

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ SITE BEST TIME 3 3 3 3  
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

COMMENTS:  
"TM" refused Permit # 10000000  
offloaded 1 BFT Does not agree  
w/ survey

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 9099 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD) 0604 BEST TIME CODES  
 3. STATE CODE 34 4. CLUSTER 07 5. CONTROL NUMBER 1101 1 = 8am-12pm  
 2 = 12pm-4pm  
 3 = 4pm-8pm  
 4 = 8pm-Midnight

SITE # 1 NAME BAYVIEW MARINA

SITE # 1 CODE 1510 COUNTY CODE # 1 029 ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT) STAN WE PR WD WE CH WD  
01 00 01 00

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER 7325559997 SITE BEST TIME 3 3 3 3  
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>00</u>
CH	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

SITE # 2 NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SITE # 2 CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY CODE # 2 \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT) \_\_\_\_\_ WE PR WD WE CH WD  
 \_\_\_\_\_

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ SITE BEST TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
CH	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

SITE # 3 NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SITE # 3 CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY CODE # 3 \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT) \_\_\_\_\_ WE PR WD WE CH WD  
 \_\_\_\_\_

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ SITE BEST TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
CH	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

COMMENTS:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2006 Large Pelagics Intercept Survey Questionnaire OMB No. 0648-0380 (Exp. 6/30/2006)

1. INTERVIEWER CODE  2. INTERVIEW DATE (MO / DAY)  3. INTERVIEW TIME  (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

4. STATE CODE  5. CONTROL NUMBER  6. DOCUMENT NUMBER

7a. COUNTY  7b. SITE  7c. CLUSTER  8. SITE TYPE

1 = Marina  
2 = Private Dock  
3 = Public Ramp  
4 = Other

9. What is the name of your boat?

2.  (MARK HERE IF THE BOAT DOES NOT HAVE A NAME)

10a. Is your boat primarily operated as a...  
1.  Private Boat 8.  Don't Know  
2.  Charter Boat 9.  Refused  
3.  Party/Head Boat

17a. Were you participating in a tournament today?  
1.  Yes 8.  Don't Know → GO TO Q.18  
2.  No → GO TO Q.18 9.  Refused → GO TO Q.18

10b. Was the trip today a charter trip or private trip?  
1.  Charter 8.  Don't Know  
2.  Private 9.  Refused

17b. What was the name of the tournament?

11a. Does the boat have a NMFS HMS permit, and if so, what category is it?  
1.  General 7.  No HMS Permit → GO TO Q.12  
2.  Angling 8.  Don't Know → GO TO Q.12  
3.  Charter/Head Boat 9.  Refused → GO TO Q.12

18. What type of fishing gear was primarily used?  
1.  Rod and Reel 3.  Other (Specify Below) → TERMINATE  
2.  Handline Other \_\_\_\_\_

11b. What is your boat's NMFS HMS permit number?

19. How many fishing lines were used for your (INSERT GEAR) fishing?  
 → Number of Lines

20. How many hours were spent fishing for large pelagic species? That is, how many hours were the lines in the water?  
 → Number of Hours Spent Fishing

21. For your (INSERT GEAR) fishing, which type of bait was used? (READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)  
1.  Live 1.  Artificial  
1.  Dead

22. For your (INSERT GEAR) fishing, which method was used? (READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)  
1.  Trolling 1.  Chumming  
1.  Chunking 1.  Other (SPECIFY BELOW)

23. How many people on the boat were actively fishing with rod and reel or handline for large pelagic species?  
 → Number of People Fishing

24. Where were you fishing for large pelagic species?

13. Can you tell me/verify your boat's state registration number?

14. What State is the principle port of your vessel [on your HMS permit application]?  
 → State Postal Code (Letters)  → State FIPS Code (Numbers)

15. At about what time did your boat return to this site?  
 (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?  
 → Number of Miles

16. For what species were you primarily fishing today? (Probe for at least one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)  
 1<sup>st</sup> Target School BFT

26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to the bottom)?  
 → Water Depth in Feet

2<sup>nd</sup> Target Large School BFT

27. What was the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit?  
 → Water Temperature

28. In the event that my supervisor wishes to verify that I have been conducting interviews here today, may I have your name and telephone number?  
RESPONDENT'S NAME  AREA CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

PROXY  YES  NO  → RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any fish today?  Yes → GO TO Q.30  No → TERMINATE  Refused → TERMINATE

LPIS

+

RECORD VESSEL NAME IN NOTES SECTION AND ITEMS 4-6 FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS INTERVIEW:

+

4. STATE CODE

34

5. CONTROL NUMBER

1101

6. DOCUMENT NUMBER

01

30. What species were caught? SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK:

How many of those did you keep? INTERVIEWER: OF THOSE THAT WERE KEPT, HOW MANY DID YOU OBSERVE AND IDENTIFY? How many of those were released alive? How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold?

Species / Size Category		Species Code	Number Kept		Number Observed and Identified	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold
BFT SIZE CATEGORY BY STRAIGHT FORK LENGTH (SFL) +	Young School (1 - 655 mm)	4673						
	School (656 - 1145 mm)	4677						
	Large School (1146 - 1445 mm)	4678	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Small Medium (1446 - 1785 mm)	4676						
	Large Medium (1786 - 1955 mm)	4679						
	Giant (1956+ mm)	4671						
NOTES: +	Bigeye Tuna	4691						
	Albacore	4701						
	Yellowfin Tuna	4711	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Skipjack Tuna	4661						
	Blue Marlin	2171						
	White Marlin	2161						
	Swordfish	4328						
	Shortfin Mako Shark	3551						
	Tiger Shark	4911						
	Unidentified Hammerhead Shark	4950						
	Blue Shark	4931						
	Common Thresher Shark	3531						
	Dusky Shark	4821						
	Sandbar Shark	3491						
	Little Tunny	4681						
	Atlantic Bonito	0330						
	Dolphin	1050						
Greater Amberjack	0030							
Wahoo	4720							
NON - LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES +	King Mackerel	1940						
	Spiny Dogfish	3521						
	Striped Bass	4180						
	Bluefish	0230						
Other								
Other								

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not observed/identified or measured, you must provide reason why in the notes section above.)

1  Yes ▶ RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, GENDER, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN2  No ▶ THANK RESPONDENT

GENDER CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH: VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 &amp; 4679

	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP
1.	4678	1220	1302		0					
2.	4711	1072	1122		0					
3.										
4.										
5.										

BILLFISH &amp; SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

--	--	--	--

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

--	--	--	--

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

--	--	--	--

PREP

--

+

+

2006 Large Pelagics Intercept Survey Questionnaire OMB No. 0648-0380 (Exp. 6/30/2006)

1. INTERVIEWER CODE  2. INTERVIEW DATE (MO / DAY)  3. INTERVIEW TIME   
 4. STATE CODE  5. CONTROL NUMBER  6. DOCUMENT NUMBER  (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)  
 7a. COUNTY  7b. SITE  7c. CLUSTER  8. SITE TYPE

- 1 = Marina
- 2 = Private Dock
- 3 = Public Ramp
- 4 = Other

9. What is the name of your boat?

2  (MARK HERE IF THE BOAT DOES NOT HAVE A NAME)

17a. Were you participating in a tournament today?

- 1  Yes 8  Don't Know ▶ GO TO Q.18  
 2  No ▶ GO TO Q.18 9  Refused ▶ GO TO Q.18

10a. Is your boat primarily operated as a...

- 1  Private Boat 8  Don't Know  
 2  Charter Boat 9  Refused  
 3  Party/Head Boat

17b. What was the name of the tournament?

10b. Was the trip today a charter trip or private trip?

- 1  Charter 8  Don't Know  
 2  Private 9  Refused

18. What type of fishing gear was primarily used?

- 1  Rod and Reel 3  Other (Specify Below) ▶ TERMINATE  
 2  Handline Other \_\_\_\_\_

11a. Does the boat have a NMFS HMS permit, and if so, what category is it?

- 1  General 7  No HMS Permit ▶ GO TO Q.12  
 2  Angling 8  Don't Know ▶ GO TO Q.12  
 3  Charter/Head Boat 9  Refused ▶ GO TO Q.12

19. How many fishing lines were used for your (INSERT GEAR) fishing?

▶ Number of Lines

11b. What is your boat's NMFS HMS permit number?

- 1  Verified with Respondent 8  Don't Know  
 2  Obtained from Respondent 9  Refused  
 3  Corrected by Respondent

20. How many hours were spent fishing for large pelagic species? That is, how many hours were the lines in the water?

▶ Number of Hours Spent Fishing

12. Can you tell me/verify your boat's Coast Guard document number?

 ▶ GO TO Q.14

- 2  Vessel has no Coast Guard Documentation number  
 8  Don't Know  
 9  Refused

21. For your (INSERT GEAR) fishing, which type of bait was used? (READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1  Live 1  Artificial  
 1  Dead

22. For your (INSERT GEAR) fishing, which method was used? (READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1  Trolling 1  Chumming  
 1  Chunking 1  Other (SPECIFY BELOW)

13. Can you tell me/verify your boat's state registration number?

- 2  Vessel has no State Registration number  
 8  Don't Know  
 9  Refused

LPIS

14. What State is the principle port of your vessel (on your HMS permit application)?

▶ State Postal Code (Letters)  ▶ State FIPS Code (Numbers)

23. How many people on the boat were actively fishing with rod and reel or handline for large pelagic species?

▶ Number of People Fishing

24. Where were you fishing for large pelagic species?

15. At about what time did your boat return to this site?

(USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

▶ Lat.  ▶ Long.

16. For what species were you primarily fishing today? (Probe for at least one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)

1<sup>st</sup> Target WM

25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?

▶ Number of Miles

26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to the bottom)?

▶ Water Depth in Feet

2<sup>nd</sup> Target \_\_\_\_\_

27. What was the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit?

▶ Water Temperature

28. In the event that my supervisor wishes to verify that I have been conducting interviews here today, may I have your name and telephone number?

RESPONDENT'S NAME  AREA CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

PROXY  YES  NO  RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any fish today?  Yes ▶ GO TO Q.30  No ▶ TERMINATE  Refused ▶ TERMINATE



+

RECORD VESSEL NAME IN NOTES SECTION AND ITEMS 4-6 FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS INTERVIEW:

+

4. STATE CODE **34** 5. CONTROL NUMBER **11101** 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER **03**

30. What species were caught? SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK: How many of those did you keep? INTERVIEWER: OF THOSE THAT WERE KEPT, HOW MANY DID YOU OBSERVE AND IDENTIFY? How many of those were released alive? How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold?

Species / Size Category		Species Code	Number Kept	Number Observed and Identified	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold
<b>BFT</b> SIZE CATEGORY BY STRAIGHT FORK LENGTH (SFL) <b>+</b>	Young School (1 - 655 mm)	4673					
	School (656 - 1145 mm)	4677	0	0	0	0	0
	Large School (1146 - 1445 mm)	4678					
	Small Medium (1446 - 1785 mm)	4676					
	Large Medium (1786 - 1955 mm)	4679					
	Giant (1956+ mm)	4671					
NOTES: <i>Dolphin heads removed</i>	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	<b>4691</b>					
	<b>Albacore</b>	<b>4701</b>					
	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	<b>4711</b>					
	<b>Skipjack Tuna</b>	<b>4661</b>					
	Blue Marlin	2171					
	White Marlin	2161	0	0	0	0	0
	Swordfish	4328					
	Shortfin Mako Shark	3551					
	Tiger Shark	4911					
	Unidentified Hammerhead Shark	4950					
	Blue Shark	4931					
	Common Thresher Shark	3531					
	Dusky Shark	4821					
	Sandbar Shark	3491					
	Little Tunny	4681					
	Atlantic Bonito	0330					
Dolphin	1050	0	3	0	3	0	
Greater Amberjack	0030						
Wahoo	4720						
<b>NON - LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES</b> <b>+</b>	King Mackerel	1940					
	Spiny Dogfish	3521					
	Striped Bass	4180					
	Bluefish	0230	0	0	0	0	0
Other							
Other							

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not observed/identified or measured, you must provide reason why in the notes section above.)

1  Yes - RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, GENDER, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN

2  No - THANK RESPONDENT

GENDER CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH; VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP
1.						6.				
2.						7.				
3.						8.				
4.						9.				
5.						10.				

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP

+

+

## Appendix B: Blank Forms

## 2006 LPIS Screener and Introduction

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I represent the Fisheries Research Group of QuanTech, Inc. We are interviewing boat captains and owners for a study sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. I'd like to ask you a few questions about your fishing.

**a. On this vessel, are you the captain, owner, or mate or passenger (designated by the captain to participate in this survey)?**

Yes *CONTINUE*

No *TERMINATE AND TALLY*

**b. Did your boat just return from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip in which you targeted or incidentally caught large fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish?**

Yes *CONTINUE*

No *TERMINATE AND TALLY*

### **PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT AND PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:**

Collection of information through the Large Pelagics Fishing Survey provides essential information for the conservation and management of Atlantic highly migratory species. Information on fish distribution and catch rates will be used for stock assessment and in developing management programs to enhance fishing opportunities. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Highly Migratory Species (F/SF1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Reporting of fishing effort and catch of highly migratory species is required under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act. Consistent with the Privacy Act, it is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NOAA 216-100). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control # 0648-0380

Expires 06/30/2006



### 2006 LPIS ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY FORM

NAME  INTERVIEWER CODE

DATE (MO/DAY)  STATE CODE  COUNTY

CLUSTER  CONTROL #  BEGIN TIME\*   
END TIME\*

BEGIN TIME = WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT FIRST SITE IN CLUSTER  
END TIME = WHEN YOU LEFT THE CLUSTER AND TERMINATED THE ASSIGNMENT  
\* USE 24 HR CLOCK

Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore?  Yes  No

Multiple Interviewer Assignment?  Yes  No

If this is a multiple interviewer assignment, enter other Interviewer ID codes.

### TIME AND EXPENSE



ASSIGNMENT RATE \$ . TOTAL 1

# OF COMPLETE VERIFIABLE INTERVIEWS WITH ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS

PR  x (BONUS) \$ . = \$ . TOTAL 2

CH  x (BONUS) \$ . = \$ . TOTAL 3

TRAVEL

ENDING ODOMETER

BEGINNING ODOMETER

TOTAL MILEAGE @ \$0.445<sup>¢</sup> / MILE = \$ . TOTAL 4

# ASF

PREAUTHORIZED EXPENSES (ALL RECIEPTS MUST BE SUBMITTED, INCLUDING TOLLS. SPECIFY OTHER BELOW)

TOLLS .

\$ .

\$ .

+

GRAND TOTAL \$ .





# SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY



1. INTERVIEWER CODE

2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD)

BEST TIME CODES  
1 = 8am-12pm  
2 = 12pm-4pm  
3 = 4pm-8pm  
4 = 8pm-Midnight

3. STATE CODE

4. CLUSTER

5. CONTROL NUMBER

SITE # 1 NAME

SITE # 1 CODE  COUNTY CODE # 1

ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

WE PR WD WE CH WD

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

## SITE

BEST TIME

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CH	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



SITE # 2 NAME

SITE # 2 CODE  COUNTY CODE # 2

ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

WE PR WD WE CH WD

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

## SITE

BEST TIME

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CH	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



SITE # 3 NAME

SITE # 3 CODE  COUNTY CODE # 3

ESTIMATES # of ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH

SITE REPRESENTATIVE NAME (IF PRESENT)

WE PR WD WE CH WD

SITE REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

## SITE

BEST TIME

REPRESENTATIVE INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ TIME OF INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

	COMPLETED INTERVIEWS	MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	INITIAL REFUSALS	LANGUAGE BARRIER	ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	NOT CAPTAIN/ OWNER OR MATE
PR	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CH	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

COMMENTS:







RECORD VESSEL NAME IN NOTES SECTION AND ITEMS 4-6 FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS INTERVIEW:



4. STATE CODE

5. CONTROL NUMBER

6. DOCUMENT NUMBER

30. What species were caught? *SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK:*  
 How many of those did you keep? *INTERVIEWER: OF THOSE THAT WERE KEPT, HOW MANY DID YOU OBSERVE AND IDENTIFY?*  
 How many of those were released alive? How many of those were released dead? How many of those **that were kept** were sold or will be sold?

Species / Size Category		Species Code	Number Kept	Number Observed and Identified	Number Released Alive	Number Released Dead	Number to Sell or Already Sold
<b>BFT</b>  SIZE CATEGORY BY STRAIGHT FORK LENGTH (SFL)  <b>+</b>	Young School (1 - 655 mm)	4673					
	School (656 -1145 mm)	4677					
	Large School (1146 - 1445 mm)	4678					
	Small Medium (1446 - 1785 mm)	4676					
	Large Medium (1786 - 1955 mm)	4679					
	Giant (1956+ mm)	4671					
<b>NOTES:</b>	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	<b>4691</b>					
	<b>Albacore</b>	<b>4701</b>					
	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	<b>4711</b>					
	<b>Skipjack Tuna</b>	<b>4661</b>					
	Blue Marlin	2171					
	White Marlin	2161					
	Swordfish	4328					
	Shortfin Mako Shark	3551					
	Tiger Shark	4911					
	Unidentified Hammerhead Shark	4950					
	Blue Shark	4931					
	Common Thresher Shark	3531					
	Dusky Shark	4821					
	Sandbar Shark	3491					
	Little Tunny	4681					
	Atlantic Bonito	0330					
	Dolphin	1050					
Greater Amberjack	0030						
Wahoo	4720						
<b>NON - LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES</b>  <b>+</b>	King Mackerel	1940					
	Spiny Dogfish	3521					
	Striped Bass	4180					
	Bluefish	0230					
Other							
Other							

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not observed/identified or measured, you must provide reason why in the notes section above.)

1  Yes ▶ RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, GENDER, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN

2  No ▶ THANK RESPONDENT

GENDER CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH: VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP
1.						6.				
2.						7.				
3.						8.				
4.						9.				
5.						10.				

**BILLFISH & SWORDFISH**

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP



## Appendix C: Fishing Area List

### Connecticut

Butterfish Hole	40 50	71 35	CT06
600 Square			CT03
40 Fathom Lump			CT15
Horns			CT17
Hudson Canyon	39 40	72 30	CT18
Atlantic Canyon	40 05	70 10	CT04
Block Island Sound	41 15	70 40	CT05
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10	CT07
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 55	CT11
East Grounds	41 10	71 20	CT12
Fingers	40 55	70 55	CT14
Inside Hole	41 05	71 45	CT19
Midway Buoy	41 05	71 45	CT20
Mud Hole	41 00	71 20	CT21
North Bar	41 05	71 35	CT22
North Ground	41 10	71 50	CT23
NW Corner	40 45	70 55	CT24
Rosiet Ledge	41 15	71 50	CT25
Shark Ledge	41 05	71 30	CT26
The Claw	41 05	70 50	CT27
31 Fathom Hole	40 50	70 45	CT01
Coxens Ledge	41 25	70 75	CT08

**Maine**

Saco River Whistle	43 25	70 15	ME11
Cape Porpoise Whistle	43 20	70 25	ME01
Fippennies Ledge	42 45	69 15	ME05
Jeffrey's Ledge Elbow	42 55	70 05	ME06
Pigeon Hole	42 55	70 05	ME08
The Cove	42 50	71 25	ME13
Platts Bank 29F	43 10	69 40	ME09
Cashes Ledge/Ammen Rock	42 55	68 55	ME03
Cashes Ledge/Buoy	42 40	68 35	ME04

**Maryland & Delaware**

Jack Spot	38 05	74 45	MD02	21
Ocean City Fingers	38 05	74 40	MD03	
Poormans Canyon	37 52	74 06	MD04	53
Washington Canyon	37 25	74 25	MD07	
100 fathom	37 29	74 30		57
500 fathom	37 24	74 25		62
Wilmington Canyon	38 20	73 30	MD08	
100 fathom	38 30	73 29		75
500 fathom	38 23	73 32		72
Baltimore Canyon	38 20	73 45	DE03	
100 fathom	38 14	73 50		58
500 fathom	38 06	73 49		60
Elephant Trunk	38 35	74 05	DE05	49
Hot Dog (North)	38 06	74 17	DE10	31
Sausages	37 59	74 33		32
Triple Wrecks	38 05	73 45	DE09	
Lummis Slough	40 00	73 35	DE06	
Norfolk Canyon	37 00	74 15	DE13	
N.E. Lump	38 49	74 29		41
Middle Lump	38 49	74 28		40
East Lump	38 48	74 24		42
20 Fathom Fingers	38 12	74 37		22
Ham Bone	38 11	74 24		32
Twin Wrecks	38 13	74 43		18
Winter Quarter Shoal	37 58	75 04		21
Parking Lot	37 40	74 50		40
Masseys Canyon	38 25	74 20		38
Lumpy Bottom	38 02	74 20		38

**Virginia Eastern Shore**

Chicken Bone	38 15	74 28		38
Marine Electric	37 53	74 50		37
Mud Wrecks	39 08	74 25		08

**Virginia**

Bluefish Alley	36 35	75 30	VA23
4A Buoy	36 35	75 45	VA04
4A Buoy Lumps	36 40	75 40	VA25
Chesapeake Bay Light Tower)	36 55	75 45	VA26
CB Buoy Line SE	36 50	75 50	VA27
Chesapeake Bay Bridge)	37 05	76 00	VA28
Cigar	36 30	74 50	VA06
East Point	36 55	75 55	VA29
20 Fathom Finger	37 25	74 45	VA01
10 Fathom Lump	37 10	75 15	VA30
44 Fathom Wreck	36 55	74 45	VA31
The Fingers	37 00	75 10	VA20
East Finger	36 50	75 00	VA32
West Finger	36 55	75 00	VA33
Fish Hook	36 45	75 30	VA08
Jack Spot	38 05	74 45	VA34
Hot Dog	36 45	75 20	VA12
George II Trench	36 40	75 20	VA35
The Lumps	36 35	75 30	VA13
Meatcleaver	37 00	75 30	VA36
21 Mile Hill	37 25	75 10	VA02
26 Mile Hill (Hambone)	37 15	75 10	VA09
NOAA Buoy	36 35	74 50	VA38
Norfolk Canyon	37 05	74 35	VA15
Paramore Banks	37 30	75 25	VA39
Powell (wreck)	36 50	74 25	VA40
Spring Chicken	36 50	75 10	VA19
South Tower	36 15	75 15	VA41
Tiger Wrecks	36 45	75 45	VA42
Triangle Wrecks	37 00	75 25	VA21
Tripple Zeros	36 15	74 50	VA43
Washington Canyon			
N face	37 25	74 25	VA44
S face	37 25	74 30	VA45

**Massachusetts**

Cape Cod Bay N	42 00	70 20	MA02
Cape Cod Bay S	41 50	70 20	MA01
Cape Poge	41 25	70 25	MA03
Chatam (East)	41 40	69 55	MA04
Cox Lege	41 05	71 10	MA05
Cutty Hunk	41 25	70 55	MA06
Dry Salvages	42 40	70 35	MA07
Falmouth N	42 35	70 45	MA10
Fingers (Near Nantucket)	41 05	70 05	MA11
Gay Head	41 20	70 55	MA12
Great Round Shoal	41 25	69 50	MA13
Halibut Point	41 25	70 35	MA14
Horseshoe Shoal Wreck	41 30	70 25	MA15
Ipswich Bay	42 40	70 40	MA16
Jeffreys Ledge	42 55	70 10	MA17
Loran Tower	41 15	69 55	MA18
Mass Bay	42 15	70 30	MA19
Middle Ground	41 35	70 05	MA22
Nantucket Shoals	41 15	69 50	MA23
Nantucket Sound	41 25	70 10	MA24
Nant/Vineyard Sound	41 25	70 30	MA25
No Nans Land	41 15	70 45	MA26
NW & NE Corner	40 45	70 55	MA27
Pollack Rip Channel	41 30	69 55	MA28
Sesuit Harbor	41 50	70 05	MA30
Stellwagen Bank			
N	42 25	70 25	MA31
S	42 10	70 15	MA32
Middle Ground	42 20	70 15	MA33
The Claw	41 05	70 50	MA34
The Dump			
(off Marblehead)	42 25	70 40	MA35
The H-Buoy	42 10	70 30	MA36
Tillies Bank	42 30	70 10	MA37

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The Cove	42 50	71 25	NH16
Platts Bank 29F	43 10	69 40	NH10
Scantum (new)	42 50	70 20	NH13
Scantum (old)	42 55	70 25	NH14
Saco River Whistle	43 25	70 15	NH12
Cape Porpoise Whistle	43 20	70 25	NH02
Fippennies Ledge	42 45	69 15	NH05
Jeffrey's Ledge Elbow	42 55	70 05	NH06
Pigeon Hole	42 55	70 05	NH08
Cashes Ledge/Ammen Rock	42 55	68 55	NH03
Cashes Ledge/Buoy	42 40	68 35	NH04

**NEW JERSEY**

Acid Waters	40 20	73 40	NJ06
B.A. Buoy	40 20	73 50	NJ10
Atlantic City Ridge	39 25	74 20	NJ07
Atlantis Canyon			NJ08 & NJ09
Bacardi	39 50	72 45	NJ11
Baltimore Canyon	38 20	73 45	NJ46
Barnegat Ridge	39 40	73 50	NJ12
Carteret Canyon	38 45	73 40	NJ13
Chicken Canyon	39 45	74 00	NJ14
Coimbra	39 55	72 25	NJ15
Compass Rose	38 15	73 10	NJ16
Corvales			NJ17
Dip			NJ18
Dumping Grounds	38 50	73 25	NJ19
Elbow			NJ20
Elephant Trunk	38 35	74 05	NJ47
Fingers	39 40	73 30	NJ21
Glory Hole	39 55	73 15	NJ22
HA Buoy	40 10	73 20	NJ23
Hudson Canyon	39 30	72 20	NJ48
Jacks Spot	39 05	74 50	NJ49
Lummis Slough	40 00	73 35	NJ27
Lobster Hole			NJ26
Manasquin Ridge	40 00	73 45	NJ28
Monster Ledge	40 10	73 35	NJ29
Mud Hole	40 10	73 35	NJ30
Ole's Lump	39 45	73 40	NJ31
Poormans Canyon	37 55	74 10	NJ32
Resor Wreck	39 45	73 25	NJ33
South Dump Site	38 20	74 10	NJ35
Texas Tower	39 50	72 40	NJ36
Fingers Baltimore	38 00	73 50	NJ39
Finger Spencer	38 40	73 05	NJ37
The Star	38 35	73 35	NJ38
Tolton Lump	38 55	73 50	NJ40
Triple Wrecks	39 35	72 55	NJ41
28 Mile Wreck	39 00	74 05	NJ03
1000 Fathom Hole	38 05	73 20	NJ02
750 Squares	38 55	73 55	NJ42
Wilmington Canyon	38 30	73 20	NJ43
19 Fathom Lump	38 30	74 20	NJ44
20 Fathom Temple	38 45	74 20	NJ45

**NEW YORK**

450 Line			NY01
600 Square			NY02
Aquarium (E)			NY03
Aquarium (W)			NY04
Butterfish Hole	40 50	71 35	NY05
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 75	NY06
Fingers	40 55	70 55	NY07
Fish Tales (E)	40 00	71 20	NY08
Fish Tales (W)	40 00	71 20	NY09
Forty Fathom Lumps	40 25	71 35	NY10
Horns			NY11
Hudson Canyon	39 40	72 30	NY12
Linda			NY13
Mako Hotel	40 00	73 10	NY14
NA Buoy			NY15
Oregon	40 30	72 50	NY16
Rock Piles #1	40 05	72 55	NY17
Rock Piles #2	40 10	73 00	NY18
Rock Piles #3	40 15	73 00	NY19
San Diego	40 30	73 00	NY20
Texas Towers	39 50	72 40	NY21
The Rose			NY22
The Ranger			NY23
The Dip			NY24
Virginia			NY25
Yankee	40 20	73 15	NY26
Other			NY97
Don't Know			NY98
Refused			NY99

### Rhode Island

Atlantic Canyon	40 05	70 10	RI03
Block Island Sound	41 15	71 10	RI04
Cox Ledge	41 05	70 10	RI05
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 55	RI07 & RI08
(Dump (RI, MA, NY))			
East Grounds	41 10	71 25	RI09
Fingers (RI, MA, NY)	40 55	70 55	RI11
The Gully	41 00	71 20	RI12
Inside Hole	41 05	71 40	RI13
Midway Buoy	41 05	7145	RI14
Mud Hole	41 00	71 20	RI15
North Bar	41 05	71 35	RI18
North Ground (RI, CT, NY)	41 05	71 50	RI17
NW Corner	40 45	71 55	RI16
Rosies Ledge	41 15	71 50	RI19
Shark Ledge	41 05	71 30	RI20
The Claw	41 05	70 50	RI21
31 Fathom Hole	40 55	70 15	RI01
(or The Hole)			
Coxens Ledge	41 25	70 55	RI24

Appendix D:

To Whom It May Concern Letter from NMFS



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MAY 18 2006

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for managing U.S. marine fish resources. Of particular interest are the Atlantic highly migratory species (tunas, billfish, swordfish, sharks) caught in offshore waters. NMFS closely monitors fishing effort and catch of these highly migratory species as these species support economically important recreational and commercial fisheries. Information collected about the fisheries for these species is used to adjust management measures as needed to sustain the fish stocks and the fisheries that depend on them. The authority and regulations pertaining to the collection of data for Atlantic highly migratory species fisheries are attached.

Accurate information is vital to NMFS' efforts to manage highly migratory species. One of the methods NMFS uses to collect information on catch rates and effort is the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS). The LPS dockside interviewers collect catch information from boat captains upon their return from offshore fishing trips. Effort information (trips per week) is collected in a telephone survey of permit holders. In order to efficiently conduct the dockside survey, NMFS has contracted with QuanTech to conduct the interviews. Staff from QuanTech will interview boat captains or the captain's designee (i.e., mate) who have just returned from an offshore oceanic fishing trip which targeted or caught large pelagic species such as tunas, billfish, sharks, and other similar species. The captains (or designees) will be asked a series of questions about their catch and by-catch for the trip just completed, and their catch will be counted. Some interviewers may measure fish lengths and weights.

The collection of catch information for Atlantic highly migratory species fulfills U.S. obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and provides the basis for stock assessments and management of these valuable species in U.S. territorial waters and international waters. The authority for NMFS to collect information from recreational and commercial fishermen comes from the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Under this authority, boat captains returning from offshore fishing trips and permitted vessel owners are required to provide catch and effort information to NMFS. Vessel owners issued an HMS permit are reminded that as a condition of accepting such permit, they are required to cooperate with any data collection survey if contacted. Responses to survey questions are classified as confidential and are maintained by NMFS consistent with the confidential fisheries statistics provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100. Once collected, data may be released only in accordance with the Privacy Act.

For more information about the LPS and the activities of the QuanTech interviewers, please call, write, or fax:

Ron Salz  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East West Hwy., Room 12455  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-713-2328  
301-713-4137 (fax)

Daemian Schreiber  
QuanTech, Inc.  
2020 North 14<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 410  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-312-7831  
703-312-5104 (fax)

NMFS greatly appreciates the cooperation of offshore anglers in providing important management information by participating in the LPS dockside survey.

Sincerely,

Margo Schulze-Haugen, Chief  
Highly Migratory Species Management Division



## Appendix E: State Code List

## Appendix E: State Code List

Alabama	AL	01
Connecticut	CT	09
Delaware	DE	10
Florida	FL	12
Georgia	GA	13
Louisiana	LA	22
Maine	ME	23
Maryland	MD	24
Massachusetts	MA	25
Mississippi	MS	28
New Hampshire	NH	33
New Jersey	NJ	34
New York	NY	36
North Carolina	NC	37
Rhode Island	RI	44
South Carolina	SC	45
Texas	TX	48
Virginia	VA	51

## Appendix F:

### Species Codes / Local Area Names List

Appendix F. LPIS Species Codes and Local Names

F.1 LPIS Species Codes Sorted by Species Code

<b>LPS Species Name</b>	<b>LPS code</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>Non-LPS Species Name</b>	<b>LPS code</b>
Greater amberjack	0030	*	Barracuda	0180
Atlantic bonito	0330	*	Bluefish	0230
Dolphinfish	1050	*	Cobia	0570
White marlin	2161	*	Cod	0815
Blue marlin	2171	*	Crevalle	0870
Sailfish	3026	*	Atlantic croaker	0900
Sand Tiger shark	3491	*	Summer flounder	1219
Thresher shark	3531	*	Grouper	1410
Shortfin mako	3551	*	Haddock	1479
Mako shark (general)	3571	*	King mackerel	1940
Longfin mako	3581	*	Pollock	2695
Shark unknown	3591	*	Red porgy	3300
Swordfish	4328	*	Black sea bass	3350
Blackfin tuna	4641	*	Sea robin	3410
Tuna (general)	4656	*	Dogfish (general)	3501
Skipjack	4661	*	Smooth dogfish	3511
Bluefin tuna (general)	4670	*	Spiny dogfish	3521
Bluefin tuna giant	4671	*	Spanish mackerel	3840
Bluefin tuna young school	4673	*	Striped bass	4180
Bluefin tuna small med.	4676	*	Tilefish	4470
Bluefin tuna school	4677	*	Ocean triggerfish	4560
Bluefin tuna large school	4678	*		
Bluefin tuna large med.	4679	*		
Little tunny	4681	*		
Bigeye tuna	4691	*		
Albacore	4701	*		
Yellowfin tuna	4711	*		
Wahoo	4720	*		
White shark	4801	*		
Porbeagle shark	4811	*		
Sandbar shark	4821	*		
Dusky shark	4841	*		
Blacktip shark	4871	*		
Spinner shark	4881	*		
Tiger shark	4911	*		
Blue shark	4931	*		

Hammerhead shark	4951	*		
Other large pelagic	5250	*		

F.2 LPIS Species Codes Sorted by Species Name

<b>LPS Species Name</b>	<b>LPS code</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>Non-LPS Species Name</b>	<b>LPS code</b>
Albacore	4701	*	Atlantic croaker	0900
Atlantic bonito	0330	*	Barracuda	0180
Bigeye tuna	4691	*	Black sea bass	3350
Blackfin tuna	4641	*	Bluefish	0230
Blacktip shark	4871	*	Cobia	0570
Blue marlin	2171	*	Cod	0815
Blue shark	4931	*	Crevalle	0870
Bluefin tuna (general)	4670	*	Dogfish (general)	3501
Bluefin tuna giant	4671	*	Grouper	1410
Bluefin tuna large med.	4679	*	Haddock	1479
Bluefin tuna large school	4678	*	King mackerel	1940
Bluefin tuna school	4677	*	Ocean triggerfish	4560
Bluefin tuna small med.	4676	*	Pollock	2695
Bluefin tuna young school	4673	*	Red porgy	3300
Dolphinfish	1050	*	Sea robin	3410
Dusky shark	4841	*	Smooth dogfish	3511
Greater amberjack	0030	*	Spanish mackerel	3840
Hammerhead shark	4951	*	Spiny dogfish	3521
Little tunny	4681	*	Striped bass	4180
Longfin mako	3581	*	Summer flounder	1219
Mako shark	3571	*	Tilefish	4470
Other large pelagic	5250	*		
Porbeagle shark	4811	*		
Sailfish	3026	*		
Sand Tiger shark	3491	*		
Sandbar shark	4821	*		
Shark unknown	3591	*		
Shortfin mako	3551	*		
Skipjack	4661	*		
Spinner shark	4881	*		
Swordfish	4328	*		
Thresher shark	3531	*		
Tiger shark	4911	*		
Tuna (general)	4656	*		
Wahoo	4720	*		
White marlin	2161	*		
White shark	4801	*		
Yellowfin tuna	4711	*		

### F.3 Local Names for Large Pelagic Species (sorted by local name)

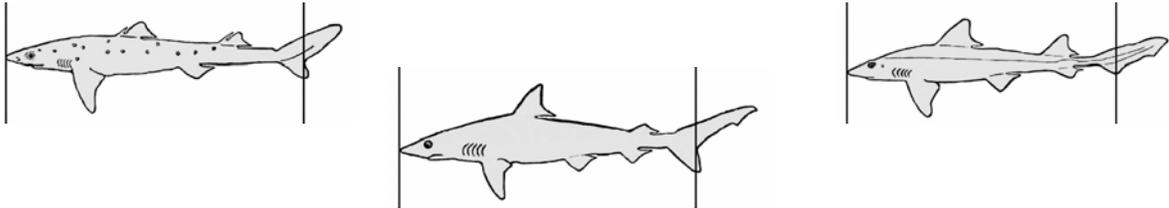
<u>Local Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Albacore	Little Tunny (commonly misidentified)
Albert	Little Tunny
Albie	Albacore
Allison Tuna	Yellowfin Tuna
Arctic Bonito	Skipjack Tuna
Bailers	Dolphinfish (small)
Blue Dog	Blue Shark
Bonito	Little Tunny (commonly misidentified)
Bonitocore	Little Tunny
Brown Shark	Used for Sandbar Shark or Dusky Shark
Bulls	Dolphinfish (Large males)
Canner	Albacore
Coldwater Mako	Porbeagle
Cows	Dolphinfish (Large females)
Dorado	Dolphinfish
Doggies	Blue Shark (could also be referring to dogfish shark)
False Albacore / Falsie	Little Tunny
Fat Albert	Bonito
Football	Used for Atlantic Bonito, Blackfin Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, and Bluefin Tuna (school size)
Gaffers	Dolphinfish (large)
Giant	Bluefin Tuna (large medium and giant sizes)
Grasshoppers	Dolphinfish (Small)
Green Tuna / Green Bonito	Skipjack Tuna
Greenie	Skipjack Tuna
Lemon Shark	Tiger Shark (commonly misidentified)
Leopard Shark	Tiger Shark
Longfin	Albacore
Longtail Shark	Common Thresher Shark
Mahi Mahi	Dolphinfish
Oceanic Bonita	Skipjack Tuna
Peanuts	Dolphinfish (small)
Penguin	Albacore
Ragged Tooth	Sand Tiger Shark
Rum Jugs	Little Tunny
Sand Shark	Sand Tiger Shark
Skippy	Skipjack Tuna
Skinky	Little Tunny
Snaggle Tooth	Sand Tiger Shark
Spinner Shark	Blacktip Shark (commonly misidentified)
Striped Bonito	Skipjack Tuna (commonly misidentified)
Watermelon Tuna	Skipjack Tuna
Whiptail	Thresher Shark

## Appendix G: Measuring Fish Lengths

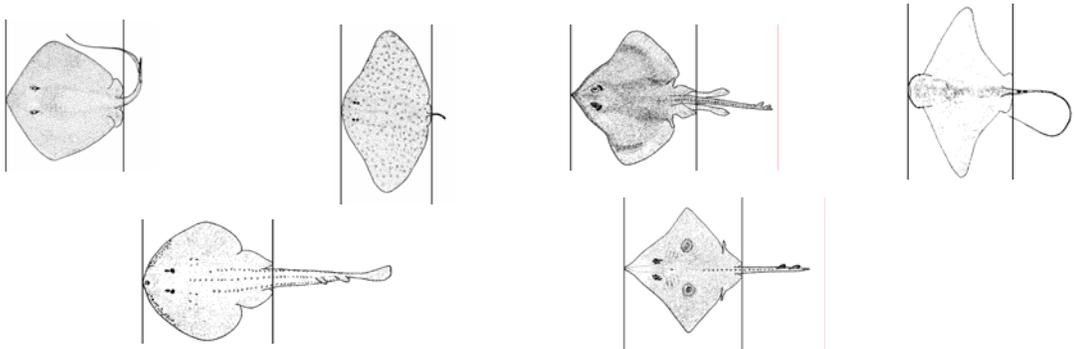
## Measuring Fish

Correct procedures for measuring lengths of various types of fish are shown in the diagrams below.

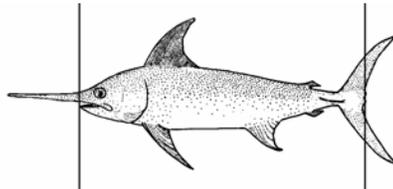
Sharks and sturgeons are measured from the tip of the snout to the center of the fork of the tail.



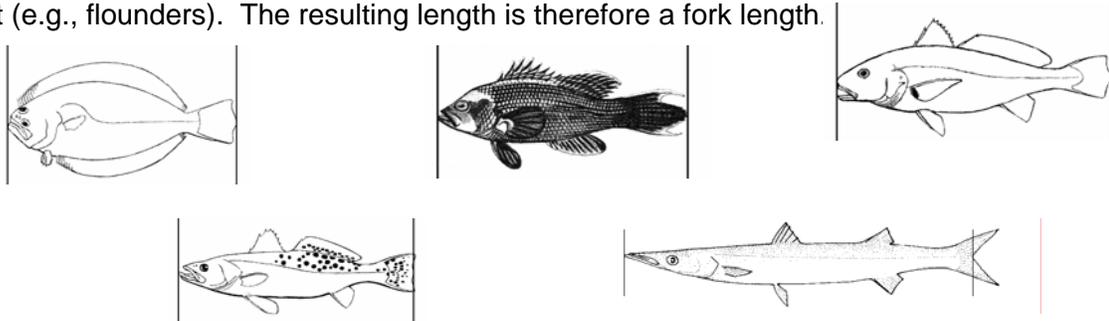
Skates and rays are measured from the tip of the snout to the distal end of the pelvic fins. Do not include the claspers.



Billfishes and swordfish are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the center of the fork of the tail.



All other species are measured from the most anterior tip of the longest jaw (mouth closed) or end of snout, whichever is terminal, to the posterior tip of the tail at its center line. This procedure is the same whether the tail forks in (e.g., mackerels) or protrudes out (e.g., flounders). The resulting length is therefore a fork length.



Measure the straight fork length of all fish in millimeters. For the following tuna species, curved fork lengths should also be recorded: bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack. Curved fork length must be taken in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail, which abuts the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin and the dorsal side of the caudal keel. The measuring tape must pass over (and touch) the pectoral fin and the caudal keel.

## Appendix H: NMFS Permit Information



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NMFS Permit Shop 

## Frequently Asked Questions

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1. [How do I print my permit?](#)
2. [What if my address has changed?](#)
3. [Can I change my permit category?](#)
4. [Do I need a recreational permit to fish for or land tunas, sharks, swordfish, and/or bilfish?](#)
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**Q: How do I print my permit?**

**A:** You can find instructions for printing your permit on the [Permit Printing page](#).

**Q: What if my address has changed?**

**A:** "It is important that you keep your permit information current. You may change your address when you renew your permit by speaking to a Customer Service representative at (888) 872-8862, or entering your new address as you renew via this website. If you move after you've renewed your permit, please call Customer Service and provide your new address. Your permit will be re-issued."

**Q: Can I change my permit category?**

**A:** 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 make permit category changes within 10-calendar days of the date of issuance of the permit to correct any potential errors. If you find an error within 10-calendar days of the date of issuance please contact Customer Service at 1-888-872-8862.

**Q: Do I need a recreational permit to fish for or land tunas, sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish?**

**A:** Yes, vessel owners/operators who recreationally fish for or retain regulated Atlantic tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack), sharks, swordfish, and billfish in Atlantic Federal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, must obtain an HMS Angling category permit or a HMS Charter/Headboat permit. However, General category vessels may fish recreationally for HMS so long as they are participating in a registered recreational HMS tournament and fishing under tournament rules. Vessels fishing exclusively in state waters are required to obtain the HMS Angling permit if they wish to keep their regulated tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore). Vessel owners/operators should check their state regulations regarding the retention of sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish in state waters.

**Q: I currently possess a valid Atlantic tunas General category permit. Am I allowed to fish in recreationally tournaments for HMS with this permit?**

**A:** General category vessels are allowed to participate in registered recreational HMS tournaments when fishing under tournament rules. When fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing Atlantic tunas while participating in a tournament, General category vessels must comply with the Atlantic tunas General category regulations. When fishing for, retaining, or possessing sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish, General category vessels must comply with recreational regulations. It is incumbent upon the General category vessel owner/operator to verify that a tournament is registered with

NOAA Fisheries.

**Q: Is there a description of a General category permit ?**

**A:** Yes, owners/operators of vessels fishing commercially for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, or skipjack tunas using a combination of rod and reel, harpoon, and/or handlines must obtain a General category permit. This permit is required in the Atlantic, which includes the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. This permit is required if fishing in Federal or State waters and because it is a commercial permit the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Gear Regulations will apply. Sale of tuna catch is permitted with this permit. Finally, if fishing is taking place in a registered recreational HMS fishing tournament only, this permit will also allow a vessel to recreationally fish for sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish.

**Q: Is there a description of an HMS Angling category permit?**

**A:** Yes, owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally, even catch and release, for Atlantic HMS (sharks, swordfish, billfish, and tunas) in the Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an HMS Angling category permit. This permit is for recreational fishing only, no sale of catch is permitted. This permit allows a vessel to participate in registered recreational HMS fishing

**Q: Is there a description of an HMS Charter/Headboat category permit?**

**A:** Yes, owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. To be eligible for this permit category there MUST be a licensed Coast Guard Captain onboard the vessel during ALL HMS Fishing activities regardless if they are commercial, recreational, or fee based in nature. This permit allows a vessel to fish both commercially for tunas and recreationally for HMS, although not on the same day. Only the sale of tuna catch is permitted with this permit. This permit is required if fishing in Federal or State waters and because it is a commercial permit the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Gear Regulations may apply. This permit will also allow a vessel to fish in registered recreational HMS fishing tournaments.

**Q: If I want to fish for Atlantic tunas, do I need a permit? Which species and what areas are covered?**

**A:** Yes, all boat owners/operators fishing for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, or skipjack tuna in the Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, must obtain a permit. Only one category may be assigned to a vessel per year. The permit categories (and allowable gear types) are as follows: General category allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, and bandit gear; Charter/Headboat category allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline and bandit gear; Angling (recreational) category allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline; Harpoon category allowable gear: harpoon; Trap category allowable gear: pound net, fish weir; Purse Seine (limited access) category allowable gear: purse seine; Longline (limited access) category allowable gear: longline.

**Q: When recreationally fishing, what shark species may I keep?**

**A:** Sharks are managed in different species groups. The species groups and the species within each group that may be kept are: Large Coastal Sharks (Sandbar, Tiger, Spinner, Bull, Smooth Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Great Hammerhead, Silky, Blacktip, Lemon, and Nurse); Small Coastal Sharks (Atlantic sharpnose, Finetooth, Blacknose, and Bonnethead); Pelagic Sharks (Shortfin mako, Thresher, Oceanic whitetip, Blue, and Porbeagle)

**Q: How many sharks may I keep?**

**A:** Recreational fishermen are allowed to keep one shark (any of the allowed species) per vessel per trip, measuring 54 inches or larger. In addition, there is an

allowance of one Atlantic sharpnose per person per trip, with no minimum size, and one bonnethead shark per person per trip, with no minimum size.

**Q: May I dress the sharks that I keep?**

**A:** No, recreational fishermen must land sharks with the head, fins, and tail attached. You are allowed to gut and bleed the sharks by making an incision at the base of the tail as long as the caudal fin is still attached.

**Q: Does my permit need to be on board when I am fishing?**

**A:** Yes, the owner or operator of a vessel of the United States must have the appropriate valid permit on board the vessel to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic tunas, when engaged in commercial or recreational fishing. The vessel operator must make the permit available for inspection upon request by NMFS or a person authorized by

**Q: Is there a recreational minimum size for swordfish?**

**A:** Yes. The minimum size is 29" (73 cm) from cleithrum to caudal keel, or 47" (119 cm) lower jaw fork length. Please see the figure in the Commercial swordfish section for instructions on the cleithrum to caudal keel measurements and the Billfish section for instructions on measuring lower jaw fork length.

**Q: Is there a recreational bag limit for swordfish?**

**A:** Yes, the recreational retention limit for North Atlantic swordfish is one swordfish per person, up to three swordfish per vessel, per trip.

**Q: Can I dress any swordfish I keep?**

**A:** You may gut and remove the head of the swordfish. However, you may not cut the remaining carcass into pieces while on your vessel.

**Q: If a relative or friend is on my vessel and he/she has a permit, do I need a permit in this situation?**

**A:** Yes, the Atlantic tunas permit is a vessel permit rather than an individual or "angler" permit. A permit is not transferable or assignable to another vessel or owner; it is valid only for the vessel and owner to whom it is issued.

**Q: Are there vessel safety requirements for commercially-permitted vessels?**

**A:** Yes, commercial vessels are subject to the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act of 1988. For further information, e.g., regarding compliance with required safety equipment, contact the Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator in your district: Maine to New York: (617) 223-8315 New Jersey to North Carolina: (757) 398-6554 South Carolina to Florida: (305) 415-6867 Gulf of Mexico: (504) 589-6271

**Q: May I fish for Atlantic tunas without a vessel (e.g., from an oil rig or from shore)?**

**A:** No, only permitted vessels may fish for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean. If one of these species is caught incidentally during fishing activities from shore or from an oil rig, it must be released immediately.

**Q: I just applied for U.S. Coast Guard documentation/state registration of my vessel and do not know my documentation/ registration number. What do I do? Can I use my temporary state registration number?**

**A:** For Coast Guard Documentation number, you can obtain the number through your Documentation Service or through the U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Center at (800) 799-8362. For State Registration, if you've been assigned a temporary number, you may put that on the application form. However, you must contact us with your permanent registration number within 15 days of receipt, and

you will have to pay an additional permit fee to update your permit. To avoid the additional fee, NMFS advises that you wait until receiving your permanent registration number before completing an application.

**Q: What do I get when I pay for my permit?**

**A:** Unlike many state permit programs, the permit fees go directly to the General Treasury and not to the managing agency (NMFS). The fee is set, in accordance with the procedures of the NOAA Finance Handbook, to recover the cost of administering the permit program, including maintenance of the public website and the toll-free phone system.

**Q: If I witness a violation of NMFS regulations, how do I report it?**

**A:** Please call the 24-hour NMFS Enforcement Hotline at (800) 853-1964. You may also call the U.S. Coast Guard Hotline at (800) SAVE-FISH. You do not need to give your name when you call.

**Q: How can I check the status of the Atlantic tuna fisheries, i.e., whether the season is open, what the current retention limit is, and the updated bluefin tuna landings vs. available quota?**

**A:** You may check the news area of this website to get the latest information about these topics. There are currently not quotas for any Atlantic tunas other than bluefin.

**Q: What are the authorized gear types for each permit category?**

**A:** Angling: Rod and reel (including downriggers) and handline. Charter/headboat: Rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, and bandit gear. General: Rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, and bandit gear. Harpoon: harpoon. Trap: pound net and fish weir. Longline: longline. Purse Seine: purse seine.

**Q: What is bandit gear?**

**A:** Bandit gear means vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel, with no more than two hooks per line and with line retrieved by manual, electric, or hydraulic reels.

**Q: What are the size class categories for bluefin tuna?**

**A:** Size class categories and their associated lengths and weights are listed in a table in the library. Click "library" under "Info Center" to the left of your screen.

**Q: How do I measure the curved fork length of an Atlantic tuna?**

**A:** If the fish is whole (with its head on), you must take the total curved fork length. The measurement must be taken in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail, which abuts the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin and the dorsal side of the caudal keel. If the head is removed, the pectoral fin curved fork length must be taken and multiplied by a conversion factor of 1.35 to obtain total curved fork length. The measurement must be taken from the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin, tracing the contour of the body, to the fork of the tail. THE TAPE MUST TOUCH THE TOP PORTION OF THE PECTORAL FIN.

**Q: May I sell my tunas if I have an HMS Angling category permit?**

**A:** No, if you have an HMS Angling category permit, you may not your catch. You must have a commercial fishing permit if you wish to sell your landings.

**Q: What is the recreational fishing season?**

**A:** June 1 though May 31 of the following year, except for bluefin tuna, in which case retention must cease when the Angling category or subcategory has been met.

**Q: Where is the separation between North and South regions for bluefin tuna for recreational anglers?**

**A:** North: north of 39°18'N (Great Egg Inlet, NJ and states north) South: south of 39°

18°N (Great Egg Inlet, NJ and states south)

**Q: What are the Angling category (recreational) daily retention limits for Atlantic tunas?**

**A:** The number of bluefin tuna you may land varies throughout the fishing season. Therefore, you should check the "Status of Atlantic Tuna Fisheries" page or our information line (888-872-8862 or 978-281-9305) before making a trip to get the most up-to-date information. Yellowfin tuna: 3 yellowfin tuna per person per trip. There are currently no recreational retention limits for bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tunas. Note that in the case of multi-day trips, the daily limit (for bluefin and yellowfin tuna) applies upon landing.

**Q: What are the reporting requirements for recreationally landed bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tuna?**

**A:** Recreational landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna must be reported within 24 hours of landing to the NMFS Landings Reporting system (call 1-888-872-8862 or report via this website under "Landings Reports"), or, if landed in the states of North Carolina or Maryland, to a reporting station prior to removing fish from the vessel. Information about the state harvest tagging programs, including reporting station locations, can be obtained in North Carolina by calling (800) 338-7804, and in Maryland by calling (410) 213-1531. Other states may implement tagging programs in the future, in which case NMFS will work with those states to notify anglers. Information on bluefin and other Atlantic highly migratory species is also collected through angler surveys. If contacted on the dock or by phone, you are required to participate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS), a specialized survey for Atlantic tunas, sharks and billfish anglers. Information on catch of Atlantic highly migratory species may also be collected through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), a coastwide survey about general saltwater fishing.

**Q: What are the recreational reporting requirements for billfish and swordfish?**

**A:** Anglers must report all non-tournament landings of Atlantic blue marlin, Atlantic white marlin, Atlantic sailfin and North Atlantic swordfish, including those landed on a charter/headboat, to NOAA Fisheries by calling 1-800-894-5528 within 24 hours of the landing. The toll-free call will take less than 5 minutes for each response and an additional 5 minute confirmation call from NOAA Fisheries will verify the reported data and issue a confirmation number for enforcement purposes. This requirements applies only to non-tournament recreational landings to avoid duplicative reporting with the Recreational Billfish Survey. North Carolina and Maryland are also exempted from non-tournament billfish/swordfish landings reporting since these states have modified their large pelagic/bluefin tuna catch card reporting programs to cover these species.

**Q: What are the seasons for commercial bluefin tuna fishing?**

**A:** General and Charter/Headboat categories - June 1 through January 31, or when the General category quota has been met. Harpoon category - June 1 through November 15, or when the Harpoon quota has been met. Purse Seine category - July 15 through December 31. Longline - June 1 through May 31, or when the Longline quota has been met. Note that the area from 39 to 40 degrees N. latitude and 68 to 74 degrees W. longitude is closed during the month of June to pelagic longline gear in order to reduce dead discards of bluefin tuna. Trap - June 1 through May 31, or when the Trap quota has been met.

**Q: What are the commercial fishing seasons for other Atlantic tunas?**

**A:** June 1 through May 31

**Q: What are the reporting requirements for recreationally landed sharks?**

**A:** If contacted on the dock or by phone, recreational anglers are encouraged to cooperate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) to facilitate scientific research on these species.

**Q: What are the seasons for commercial fishing for other Atlantic tunas?**

**A:** June 1 through May 31

**Q: Will there be a new Charter/Headboat category permit for all Highly Migratory Species?**

**A:** Yes, under the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan, there is a new requirement that owners of charter boats or headboats used to fish for, take, retain, or possess any Atlantic HMS (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish, or billfish) must obtain an HMS Charter/Headboat permit. This new permit will replace the current Atlantic tunas Charter/Headboat permit. This requirement will be effective once the Office of Management and Budget approves the new class of permit. If you apply for or renew a Charter/Headboat permit prior to the effective date of the new HMS permit, you will be issued an Atlantic tunas Charter/Headboat permit, which will be valid for use as an HMS Charter/Headboat permit until its expiration date of May 31, 2001. Thereafter, the HMS Charter/Headboat permit will be renewable on an annual (fishing year) basis.

**Q: What are the minimum sizes for tunas landed in the commercial fisheries?**

**A:** The minimum size for yellowfin and bigeye tuna landed in all permit categories is 27 " curved fork length. Currently, there are no minimum sizes for albacore and skipjack tuna. The minimum sizes for bluefin tuna are as follows: General category: 73" curved fork length, Longline category: 73" curved fork length, Harpoon category: 81" curved fork length, with allowance per trip of two bluefin 73" to 81", Purse Seine category: 81" curved fork length, except for 15 percent of landings per fishing year allowance for bluefin tuna between 73" and 81", and a 1 percent incidental take of bluefin tuna less than 73 inches per trip, which cannot be sold.

**Q: If I have a Harpoon or General category permit, how many bluefin tuna may I land?**

**A:** In the Harpoon category, you may keep two bluefin measuring 73" to 81" curved fork length per trip per vessel. There is no limit on the number of bluefin tuna 81" curved fork length or greater that you may keep, as long as the Harpoon category season is open. In the General category, the retention limits for bluefin measuring 73" curved fork length or greater can range between zero and three bluefin per trip per vessel while the General category is open. Please check to see what the current retention limit is prior to your trip, as these may fluctuate throughout the season.

**Q: Are there daily retention limits for Atlantic tunas other than bluefin tuna for commercial permit categories?**

**A:** No, except that current regulations limit retention of yellowfin tuna aboard Charter/Headboat vessels to 3 per person per day. Note that in the case of multi-day trips, the daily limit applies upon landing.

**Q: Can I get a Longline permit?**

**A:** Because Longline permits are managed under limited access regulations, NMFS will not issue any new Longline category permits for tunas. You must obtain one from another fisherman if you wish to enter the fishery.

**Q: Do I need any other permits in addition to a tuna permit?**

**A:** If you use longline gear to fish for tunas, you must also have swordfish and shark limited access permits. If you are applying for a commercial permit, note that your state may require a permit for sale of fish. Contact your state fisheries agency for further information.

**Q: Where is the separation between North and South for Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing in the Longline category?**

**A:** For the Longline category, the Northern area is north of 31° 00' N. Latitude, near Jekyll Island, Georgia (an area with little longline fishing activity nearby), while the Southern area is south of this line.

**Q: What is the Longline category bluefin tuna incidental trip limit?**

**A:** Target catch requirements for permitted longline vessels in all areas, at all times are, to 2,000 lbs. (907 kg) of target catch to retain one BFT, 6,000 lbs. (2,722 kg) of target catch to retain two BFT, and 30,000 lbs (66,138 kg) of target catch to retain three BFT.

**Q: What are the time/area closures for the commercial Highly Migratory Species fisheries?**

**A:** The area from 39 to 40 degrees N. latitude and 68 to 74 degrees W. longitude is closed during the month of June to pelagic longline gear in order to reduce dead discards of bluefin tuna. Under other regulations, fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot, or trap is also prohibited in the Oculina Bank, which is bounded on the north by 27 degrees 53 minutes N. latitude, on the south by 27 degrees 30 minutes N. latitude, on the east by 79 degrees 56 minutes W. longitude, and on the west by 80 degrees 00 minutes W. longitude. The area from 27 degrees 51 minutes N. latitude (near Sebastian Inlet, FL) to 32 degrees 00 minutes N. latitude (near Savannah, GA) extending from the shore outward to 80 degrees 00 minutes W. longitude is closed to shark gillnet fishing each year from November 15 to March 31. In addition, 100 percent observer coverage is required for the use of gillnets in the area from West Palm Beach (26 degrees 46.5 minutes N. latitude) to Sebastian Inlet (27 degrees 51 minutes N. latitude) from November 15 through March 31 and for the use of strikenets in the area between West Palm Beach, FL, and Savannah, GA, for the same time period.

**Q: Is there any limitation on the length of a longline?**

**A:** Yes. From July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000, the length of a pelagic longline is limited to 24 nautical miles in the Mid-Atlantic Bight.

**Q: Do I have to mark my fishing gear?**

**A:** Yes. You must mark your handline, harpoon, longline, and gillnet floats with the vessel's registration number, vessel name, or Atlantic tunas permit number.

**Q: What if I entangle a protected species in my longline gear?**

**A:** All vessels using longlines to fish for HMS must immediately release the animal, retrieve the gear, and move one nautical mile after an entanglement with protected species. Commercial vessels must report interactions to NOAA Fisheries. Interactions should be reported to the Center for Coastal Studies Disentanglement Hotline at: (800) 900-3622 or to US Coast Guard: VHF Ch. 16.

**Q: What are the reporting requirements for commercial tuna fishermen?**

**A:** If NOAA Fisheries sends you a letter telling you that you have been selected, you must inform NOAA Fisheries when you will be taking a trip, and if that trip is selected, you must have a NOAA Fisheries observer on board and complete a logbook within 48 hours of each day's fishing activities for multi-day trips, or before offloading for one-day trips. You must submit the logbook to NOAA Fisheries within 7 days of offloading. In addition, all commercially landed bluefin tuna must be tagged by a permitted tuna dealer. You may not fish with a pelagic longline on board after June 1, 2000, unless you are submitting hourly position reports from a vessel monitoring system. For further information, please contact the Highly Migratory Species Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

**Q: What tuna species can I fish for in the Gulf of Mexico?**

**A:** Commercial and Recreational vessels may only target yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tunas in the Gulf of Mexico. Atlantic bluefin tuna may not be targeted, but HMS Angling and HMS Charter/Headboat vessels may retain one large medium or giant bluefin tuna per vessel per fishing year incidental to fishing for other species.



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