



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

May 7, 2026

Re: Federal Consistency Determination for a Proposed Rule to Implement the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Recommendations on North Atlantic Swordfish, South Atlantic Swordfish, North Atlantic Albacore, and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas (RIN 0648-BN60)

Dear Coastal Zone Program Manager:

This document provides your State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) consistency determination under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) § 307(c) for a proposed rule that would implement recent binding recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on quotas for North Atlantic swordfish, South Atlantic swordfish, North Atlantic albacore (northern albacore), and Atlantic bluefin tuna. While this action does not change the existing baseline quotas for North Atlantic swordfish, South Atlantic swordfish, and northern albacore, this action implements the management procedure for North Atlantic swordfish, describes the existing management procedure for northern albacore, and considers the possibility of a future quota changes for swordfish and northern albacore consistent with their respective management procedures and ICCAT recommendations. For bluefin tuna, this action would implement the increased U.S. baseline quota adopted by ICCAT in 2025 and divide that quota among the established regulatory domestic subquota categories. This action would also implement changes adopted by ICCAT in 2025 to the bluefin tuna quota associated with longline bycatch. The proposed rule also describes the current annual quota adjustment procedures per current regulatory processes for North Atlantic swordfish, South Atlantic swordfish, northern albacore, and bluefin tuna.

This action is necessary to implement binding ICCAT recommendations pursuant to the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act and to achieve domestic management objectives under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on May 7, 2026. The comment period for the proposed rule is open until June 8, 2026.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.36(e), NMFS is providing one consistency determination that addresses the commonalities and differences of each state's enforceable policies. Pursuant to 15 CFR part 923 subparts (B) through (F), NMFS has reviewed the enforceable policies relevant to this action of each state along the Atlantic coast, Gulf of America, and Caribbean. As described below, NMFS finds this action to be consistent with the following policies contained in each state's CZMP: uses subject to management; special management areas; boundaries; authorities and organizations; and public involvement and national interest. In addition, NMFS finds this action to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies to manage, preserve, and protect the coastal natural resources, including fish and wildlife, and to provide recreational opportunities through public access to waters off the coastal areas. Specifically, under these enforceable policies, this proposed action is intended to implement ICCAT quota measures consistent with recent ICCAT recommendations, increase flexibility to implement



future North Atlantic swordfish and northern albacore quotas adopted by ICCAT under the respective management procedures, and increase the U.S. annual bluefin tuna quota adopted by ICCAT.

Consistent with 15 CFR 930.41(a), NMFS requests that, once you have received our consistency determination and accompanying information, you review this information within 60 days and advise us of your agreement or disagreement with our consistency determination. Please refer to the subject line in your reply to this letter. In the event that there is no response from your agency within 60 days of receipt of this package, we will presume your agency's concurrence with our determination of consistency.

Please contact Carrie Soltanoff, carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov, Steve Durkee, steve.durkee@noaa.gov, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz, karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov, at 301-427-8503 if you have any questions on the proposed action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Denit".

Kelly Denit
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service