

Privacy Act Statement for HMS Permits Online Application

Authority: The collection of this information is authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSA), 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq. and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA), 971 et seq.

Purpose: Collection of information through annual permitting serves three purposes: (1) it provides current information on the vessel owners and entities participating in the Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries; (2) it provides a fleet size sampling frame to estimate catch and effort in fisheries that do not require mandatory reporting, thus enabling the U.S. to meet international requirements to report catch of Atlantic tunas, swordfish and billfish; and (3) it aids NOAA Fisheries in the implementation and enforcement of fishery regulations.

Routine Uses: The Department of Commerce will use this application to determine qualification for Atlantic tunas and swordfish (commercial, recreational, and for-hire), and billfish and sharks (recreational and for-hire) fisheries permits, in addition to the uses described above. Disclosure of this information is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) to be shared among agency staff for fishery management-related purposes. It is agency policy not to release confidential information, other than in aggregate form, as the MSA protects (in perpetuity) the confidentiality of those submitting information. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all of the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/NOAA-19, Permits and Registrations for United States Federally Regulated Fisheries.

Disclosure: Providing the information in the permit application is mandatory for managing the Atlantic HMS fisheries in accordance with ATCA and the MSA. Failure to provide the information will result in a permit not being issued.