

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) ACTIVITIES

Anticipated Proposed Rulemaking for Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Purse Seine Vessels on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register

NMFS anticipates publishing a proposed rule to amend regulations associated with the IATTC Regional Vessel Register (50 CFR 300.22(b)). NMFS published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on March 29, 2018, to provide notice to the public and request comments on potential revisions to the existing regulations. The comment period for the ANPR closed on April 30, 2018, and NMFS received 3 comments. The proposed rule will take into consideration comments received on the ANPR and a technical correction to the purse seine well volume limit allocated to the United States by the IATTC (i.e., from 31,775 cubic meters (m³) to 31,866 m³). NMFS will update the Council on this expected proposed rule at the next Council meeting.

U.S. Regulations for Transshipment Under the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA)

NMFS implemented regulations pertaining to transshipments on the high seas under authority of the HSFCA ([80 FR 62488](#), October 16, 2015). These regulations ([50 CFR 300.339](#)) require prior notice of transshipment and subsequent submission of the High Seas Transshipment Declaration Form after the transshipment activity has concluded. These requirements apply only if there are not more stringent reporting requirements—for example, from regulations implementing a measure from a regional fisheries management organization. Although there are transshipping reporting requirements in the IATTC, [Resolution C-12-07](#), it is likely that U.S. vessels interested in transshipping in the EPO are exempt¹ and, consequently, the HSFCA reporting regulations would apply.

The High Seas Transshipment Declaration form may be downloaded [here](#) and the Compliance Guide may be viewed [here](#). The HSFCA notification and form should be submitted to the Director of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (i.e., “Office Director” as referenced in the regulations). The Director’s contact information is:

John Henderschedt
Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection
1315 East-West Highway (F/IS5)
Silver Spring, MD 20910
ATTN: HSCFCA Compliance
Phone: 301-427-8350

¹ Vessels engaged in the transshipment of fresh fish (see footnote 2 in C-12-07 for a definition of fresh fish) and transshipments by troll and pole-and-line vessels are exempt.