

Swordfish



Biology facts

Depth Range	pelagic, 0-800 m
Max Age	9 years
Maturity Age	5-6 years
Max Size	450 cm
Max Weight	650 kg
Prey	Fish e.g., Tunas, Barracudas, Squid, Lancetfish, Lanternfish, Herring and Cuttlefish
Other	Distribution: Atlantic, Indian and Pacific: tropical and temperate and sometimes cold waters, including the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Marmara, the Black Sea, and the Sea of Azov.

Fishery Facts

Latin Name	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>
Fishing Method	Pelagic long lining (85%), minor use of harpoons and handlines
Annual catch	>100000 t worldwide
Management	U.S. and Canadian management of the swordfish fisheries is deemed highly effective due to adequate enforcement, reporting, and bycatch mitigation efforts.
Main fishing nations	Japan, USA, Italy, Spain, Canada, Republic of Korea, China (Taiwan Province), the Philippines and Mexico
Certification	not certified

Main Concerns

- **Swordfish is primarily targeted using long lining. This technique unintentionally catches and kills significant numbers of turtles, seabird, sharks and marine mammals unless special preventative measures are taken. It is serious threat to turtle populations and seabird populations, particularly to albatrosses. Species, protected within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) include leatherbacks, *Demochelys coriacea* (critically endangered) and loggerheads, *Caretta caretta* (endangered).**

Spendenkonto

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- **By contrast, handline or harpoon fishing methods for swordfish have little bycatch.**
- **Swordfish stocks are depleted in the Indian Ocean and North Atlantic stocks are listed as endangered by the Word Conservation Union. Only Eastern Pacific Ocean stocks are considered to be relatively.**
- **Moderately effective management: In the international swordfish fisheries, many nations have no comprehensive enforcement plan, and most have no comprehensive bycatch mitigation plan.**
- **Predator removal likely have ecosystem effects: As large, and in many ocean areas numerous, predators, swordfish are ecologically significant. Their removal from the ecosystem likely leads to changes in community structure through trophic cascading effects, even with sustainable fishing mortality rates.**
- **In the Mediterrean Sea high catch of juveniles (50-70 %).**

Main Sources

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/y5936e/y5936e00.pdf>

<http://www.fao.org/fi/website/FIRetrieveAction.do?dom=species&fid=2503>

<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=226&genusname=Xiphias&speciesname=gladius>

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_SwordfishReport.pdf

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