

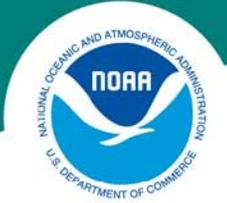
Science, Service, Stewardship



Atlantic bluefin tuna Proposed 2009 Quota Specifications and Effort Controls

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
March 2009

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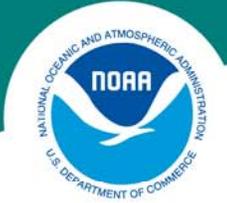
Proposed Rule

- Would implement new baseline quotas per the 2008 ICCAT WBFT Recommendation (Rec. 08-04)
- Would apply 2008 underharvest consistent with ICCAT Recommendation and 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP
- Would set General and Angling category daily retention limits



ICCAT WBFT Recommendations -- Quotas

	Rec. 06-06 (for 2007 & 2008)	Rec. 08-04 (applies to 2009)	Rec. 08-04 (applies for 2010)
W. Atl. TAC	2,100 mt*	1,900 mt*	1,800
Total U.S. quota	1,190 mt*	1,034.9 mt*	977.4
U.S. baseline quota (- 25 mt for bycatch in NED)	1,165 mt*	1,009.9 mt*	952.4

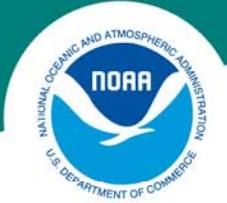


ICCAT WBFT Recommendations -- Other Provisions

- Limit carryforward of underharvest to 50% of a contracting party's (CPC's) quota
 - 50% of 2009 U.S. total quota (1,034.9) = 517.5 mt
 - After 2010, underharvest carried over not to exceed 10%

- Limit the harvest of BFT < 115 cm (school BFT) to no more than 10% of a CPC's quota, on average, over 2009-2010 period
 - Changed from 4-year (2007-2010) balancing period in 2006 Rec.
 - 10% of 1,034.9 is 103.5 mt

- *Allows a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of a CPC's quota (i.e., up to 155.2 mt for United States) to other CPCs with WBFT quotas, consistent with domestic obligations & conservation considerations.*



'09 Domestic Implications – Accounting for Dead Discards

- U.S. quota is inclusive of dead discards
- Best available estimate (2007) of dead discards is 90 mt from pelagic longline (PLL) vessels
- Dead discard estimate must be subtracted from available TAC for 2009 fishing year
- 2008 PLL landings and discards totaled 164.3 mt

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Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Proposed Quota Specifications (in metric tons) for the 2009 Fishing Year (January 1-December 31, 2009)

Category (% share of baseline quota)	Baseline Allocation	Dead Discard Deduction	Adjustment to Baseline Quota ¹	Adjusted 2009 Fishing Year Quota
Angling (19.7)	199.0 SUBQUOTAS: School 103.5 Reserve 19.1 North 39.8 South 44.5 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 90.9 North 42.9 South 48.0 Trophy 4.6 North 1.5 South 3.1		61.6	260.6 SUBQUOTAS: School 103.5 Reserve 19.1 North 39.8 South 44.5 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 151.1 North 71.3 South 79.8 Trophy 6.0 North 2.0 South 4.0
General (47.1)	Total: 475.7 SUBQUOTAS: Jan 25.2 Jun-Aug 237.8 Sept 126.1 Oct-Nov 61.8 Dec 24.7		147.4	623.1 SUBQUOTAS: Jan 33.0 Jun-Aug 311.5 Sept 165.1 Oct-Nov 81.0 Dec 32.4
Harpoon (3.9)	39.4		12.2	51.6
Purse Seine (18.6)	187.8		58.2	246.0
Longline (8.1)	81.8 SUBQUOTAS: North (-NED) 32.7 NED 25.0 ³ South 49.1	-90.0	82.5 ²	74.3 SUBQUOTAS: North (-NED) 29.7 NED 25.0 ³ South 44.6
Trap (0.1)	1.0		0.3	1.3
Reserve (2.5)	25.2		155.2 ⁴	180.4
Total (100)⁵	1,009.9	-90.0	517.5	1,437.4

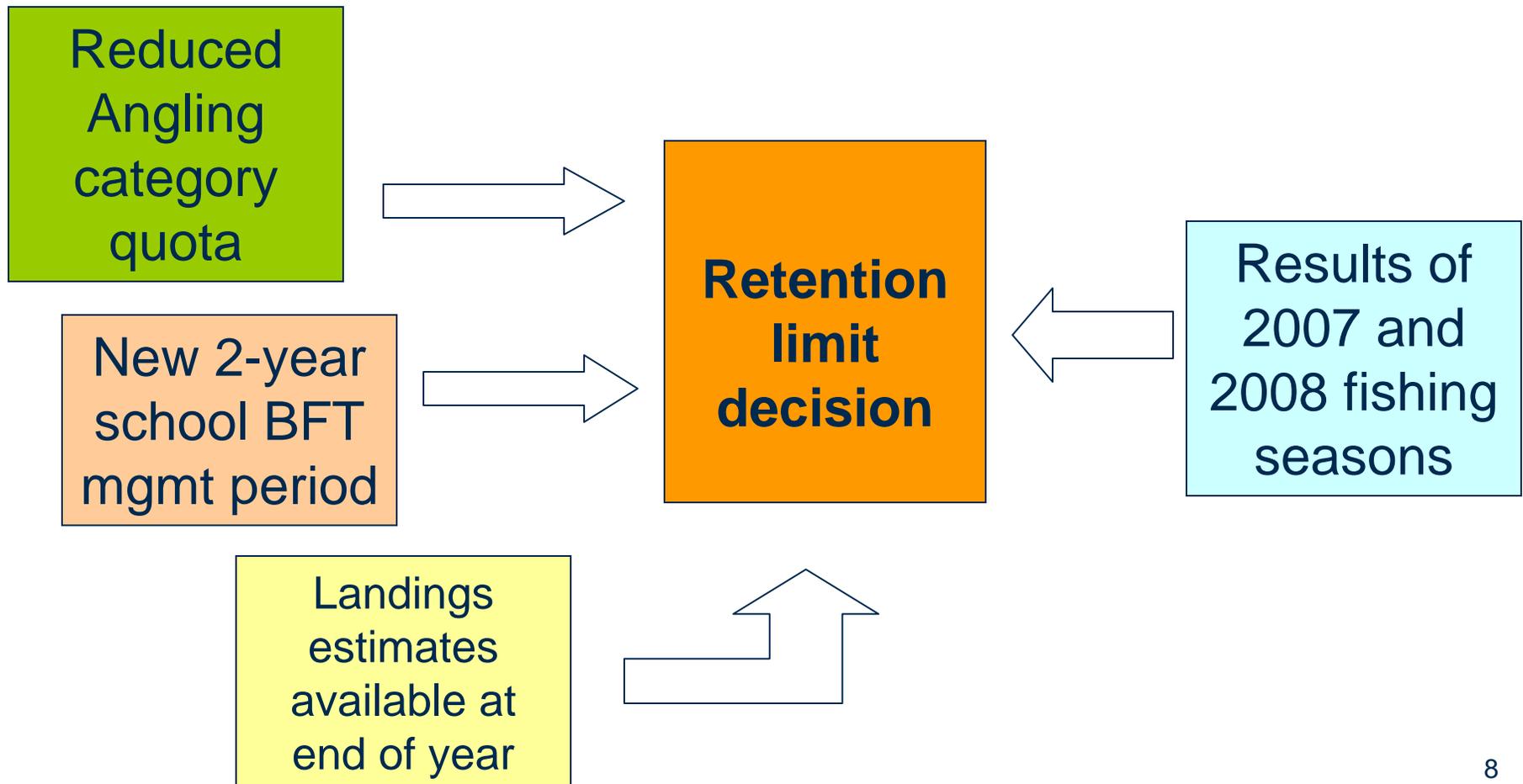


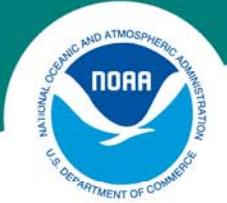
General Category Daily Retention Limit

- 3 BFT (73"+) per vessel, June 1-August 31
 - Same as implemented for 2006-2008
 - Would maximize fishing opportunities within quota constraints
 - Can be adjusted via inseason action, based on:
 - catch rates
 - availability of quota
- NMFS also considered 1 BFT and 2 BFT daily retention limits



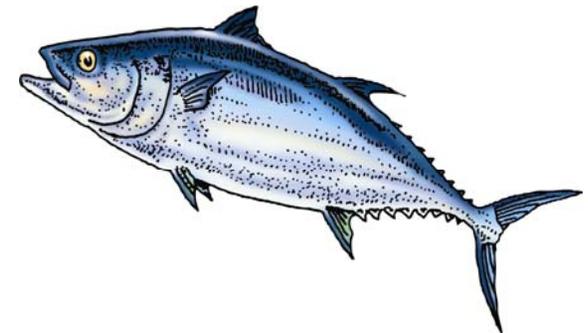
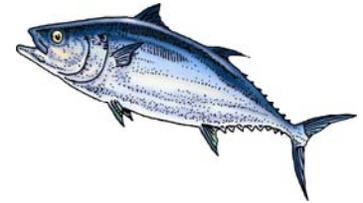
Angling Category Daily Retention Limit





Recreational BFT Size Distribution, 2007-2008

Large Pelagic Survey size frequency data showing a trend toward heavier recreational-size fish, particularly within the large school/small medium size class (47-<73 inches)





Angling Category BFT Adjusted Quotas, Estimated Landings, and Daily Retention Limits

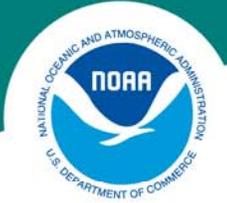
Size class	2007		2008		2009
	Adjusted Quota	Landings	Adjusted Quota	Landings	Proposed Adjusted Quota
School	119	155.2	119	54.6	103.5
LS/SM	144	351	183.4	381.5	151.1
LM/Giant	6.2	1.2	7.1	1.0	6.0
Total	269.2	507.4	309.5	437.1	260.6
Retention limit	1 school BFT and 2 LS/SM BFT per vessel		1 school BFT and 1 LS/SM BFT per vessel		?



Angling Category Daily Retention Limit

Proposed Action: 1 BFT 27-<73”

- Also considered:
 - 1 BFT 27-<47” plus 1 BFT 47-<73”
 - 1 BFT 27-<47” plus, for certain date ranges, 1 BFT 47-<73”
- Interested in comment on potential date ranges for the last alternative
 - Use Angling category north/south line (39°18' N. latitude, off Great Egg Inlet, NJ)?



Timeline for Rulemaking

- Proposed rule published February 18, 2009
- Comment period ends March 20, 2009
- Public Hearings: Gloucester, MA March 4, 3-5 pm
 Silver Spring, MD March 17, 4-6 pm
- Intend to publish final rule in May, for implementation in June



Public Comments due March 20, 2009

- You may submit comments, identified by "0648-AX12", by any one of the following methods:
- Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Mail: Sarah McLaughlin
HMS Management Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
- Fax: (978) 281-9340



Comments? Questions?

- For further information on this rulemaking or Atlantic tunas management, contact Sarah McLaughlin at (978) 281-9260
- For information on other HMS issues, contact the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347

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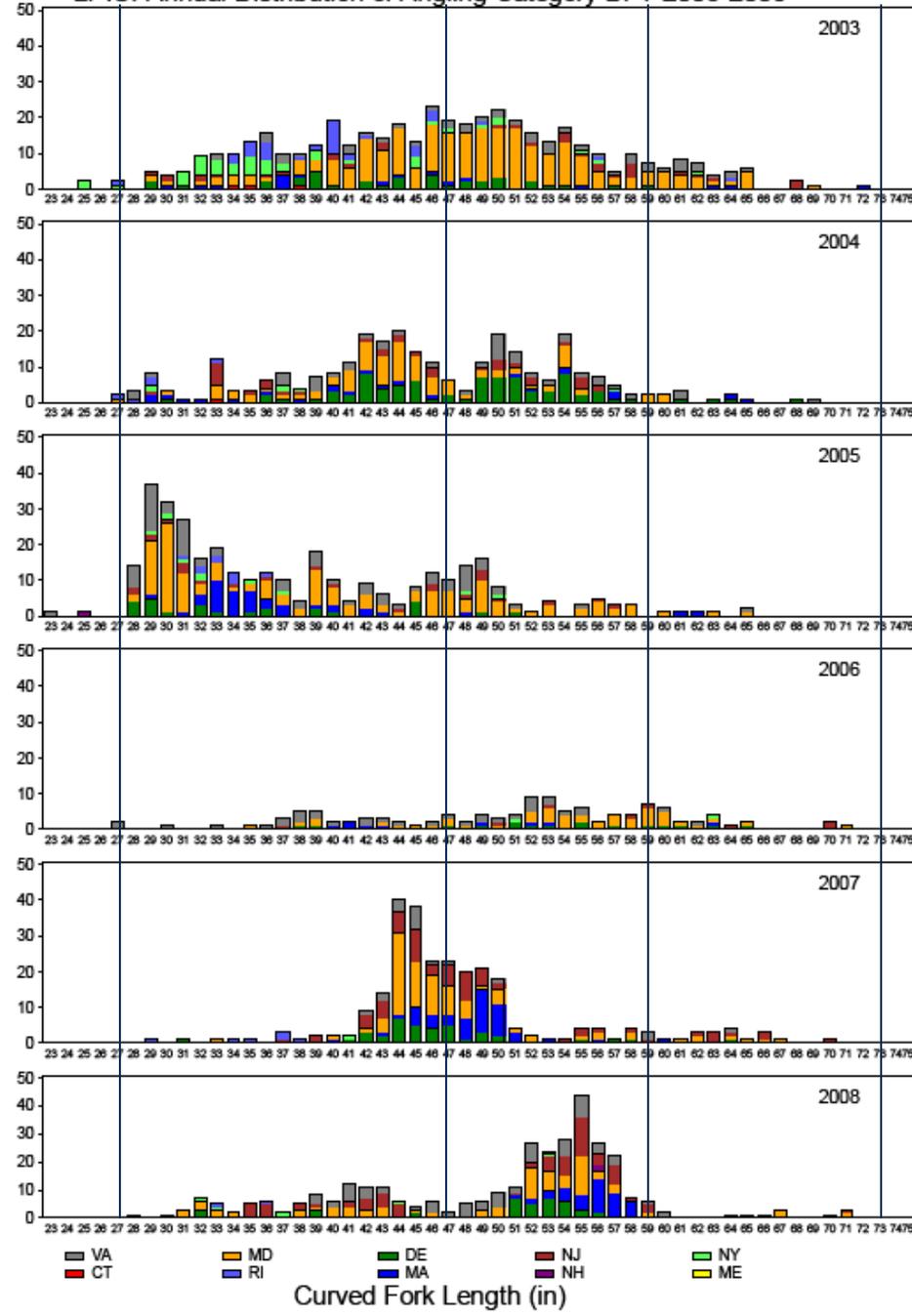
Extra slides –

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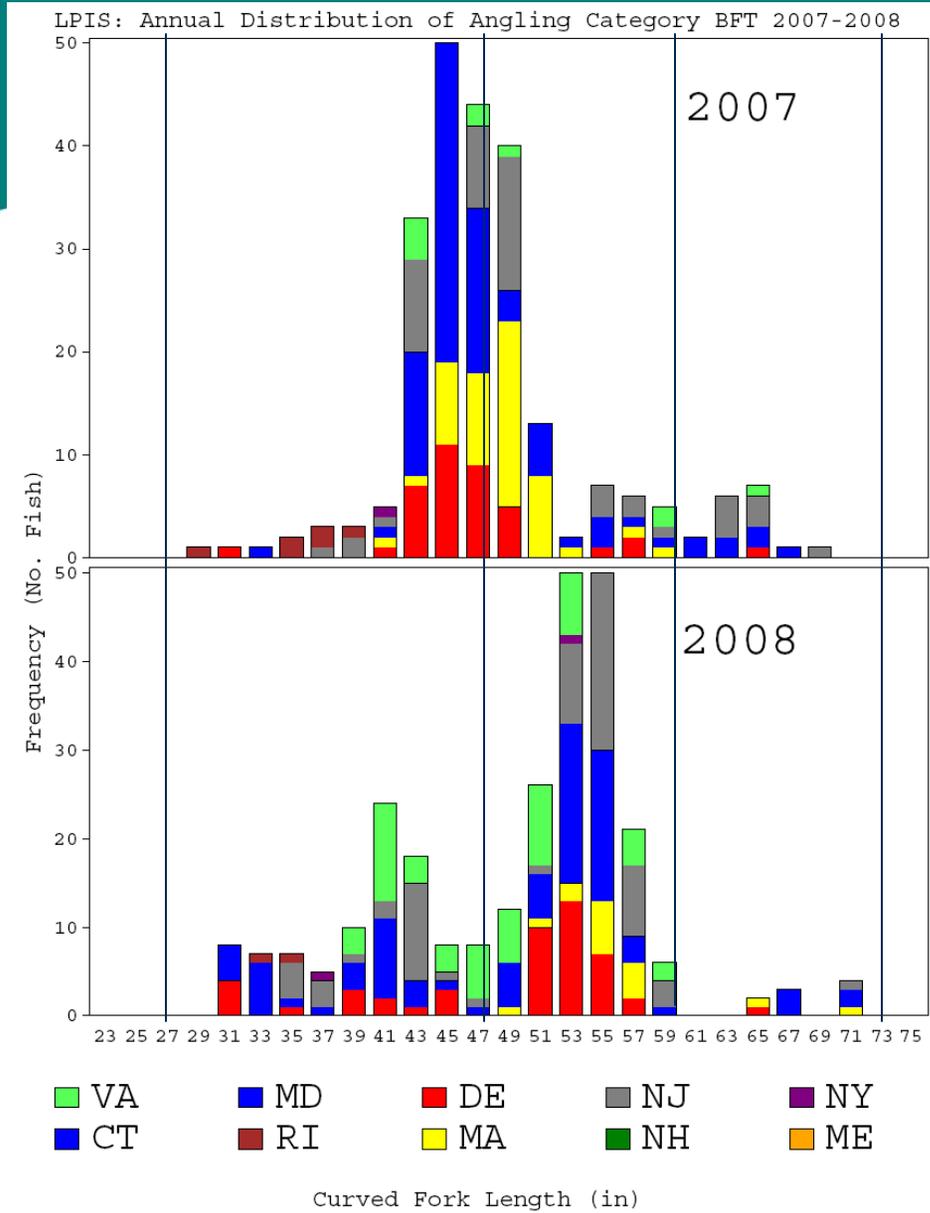


Frequency (No. Fish)

LPIS: Annual Distribution of Angling Category BFT 2003-2008

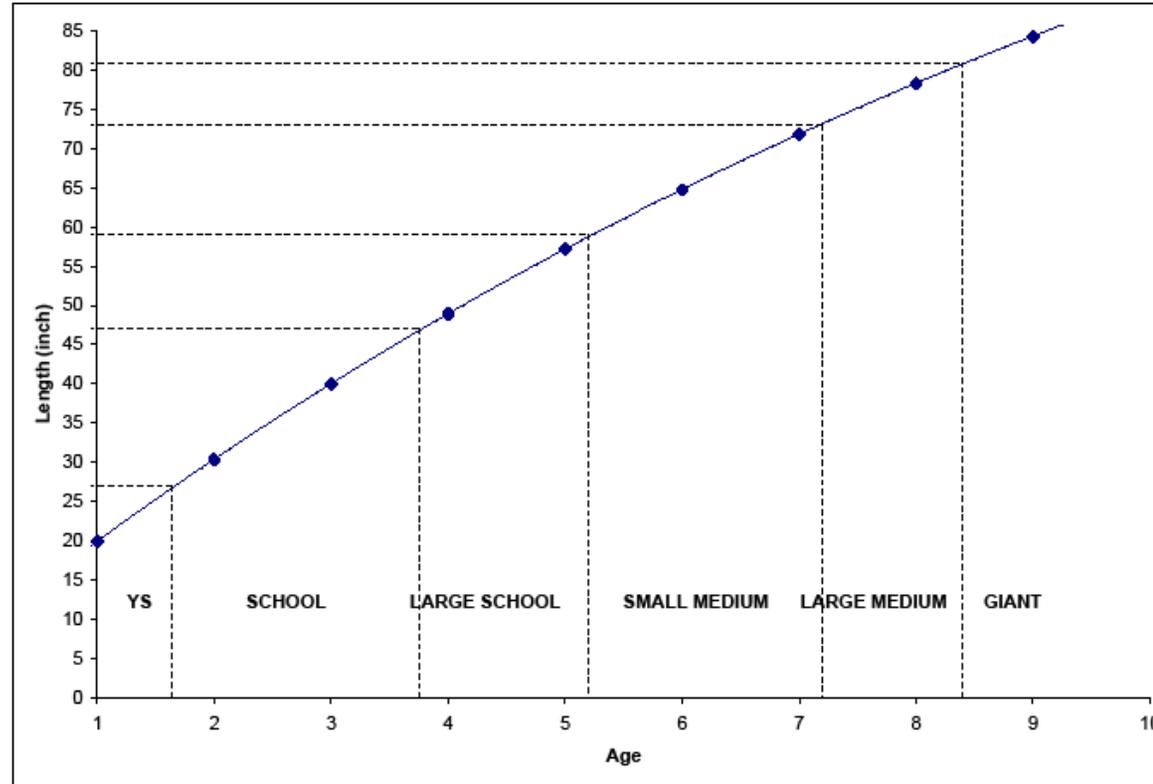


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BFT Size at Age



(curved fork length)