

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



## Atlantic bluefin tuna

Recent fishery trends – landings and bycatch information,  
updated through 2011

March 2012

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**



## 2011 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Angling Category

- January 1 to April 1:

Default: 1 school, large school, or small medium BFT/vessel/day

- April 2 to December 31:

Private: 1 school or large school BFT per vessel

Charter/Headboat: 1 school BFT and 1 large school BFT/vessel/day  
(retention of small medium BFT prohibited April 2-December 31)

Trophy category (1 large medium or giant BFT/vessel/year)  
closure dates:

South - April 2

North - July 29



## 2011 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

- **General Category**

Jan 1 – Jan 31:       **2** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

Jun 1 – Nov 5:       **3** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

Nov 6 – Dec 31:   **2** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

Nov 6: Quota transfer from Reserve to General category (50 mt)

- **Harpoon Category**

Jun 1 – Nov 15:    2 large medium & unlimited giant BFT/vessel/day

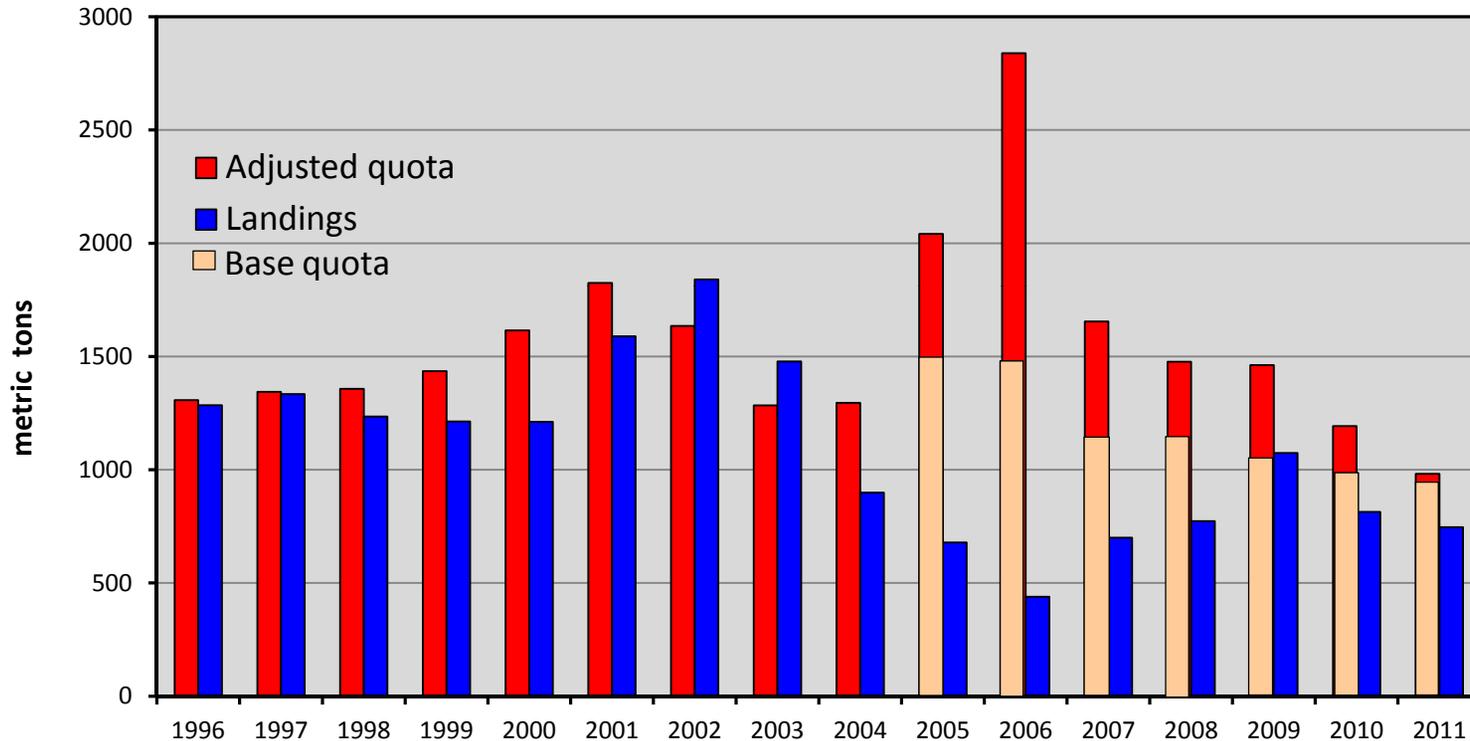
Nov 16 – Dec 31: Closed



## 2011 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

- **Longline Category** (January 1 through December 31)
  - 1 large medium or giant BFT/vessel for 2,000 lb target catch
  - 2 large medium or giant BFT/vessel for 6,000 lb target catch
  - 3 large medium or giant BFT/vessel for 30,000 lb target catch
- **Purse Seine Category** (July 15 through December 31)
  - Large medium BFT: no more than 15%, by weight, of the total amount of giant BFT/year
  - Giant BFT: unlimited
  - BFT <73: no more than 1%, by weight, of the skipjack and yellowfin landed on that trip

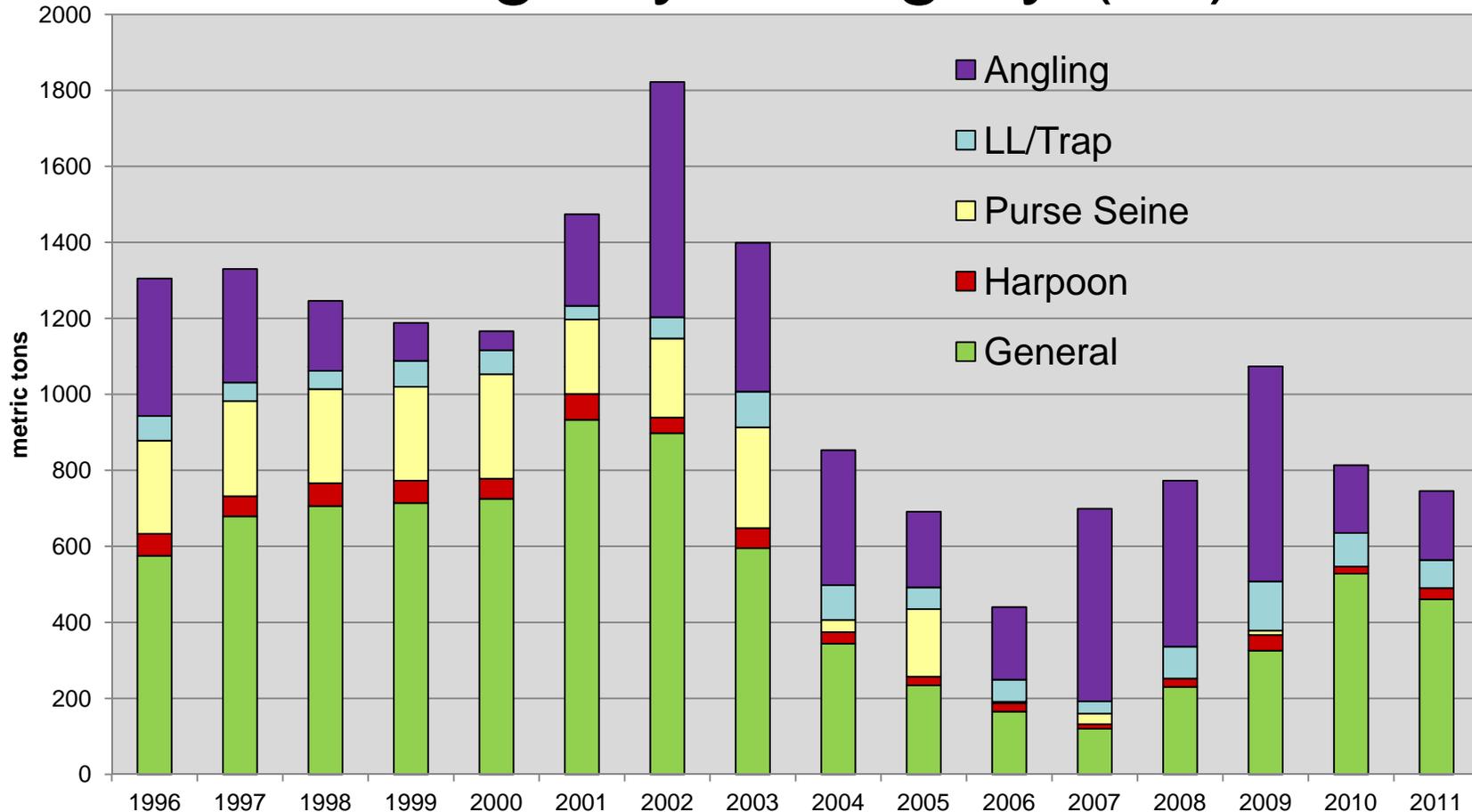
# U.S. BFT Landings vs. Adjusted Quotas (mt)



In 2011, total landings= 746 mt which corresponded to 72% of the U.S. adjusted quota (1,043.6 mt) and 79% of the base quota (948.7 mt).

U.S. base quotas shown for 2005 through 2011 beige bars to illustrate relation of recent landings to base quotas.

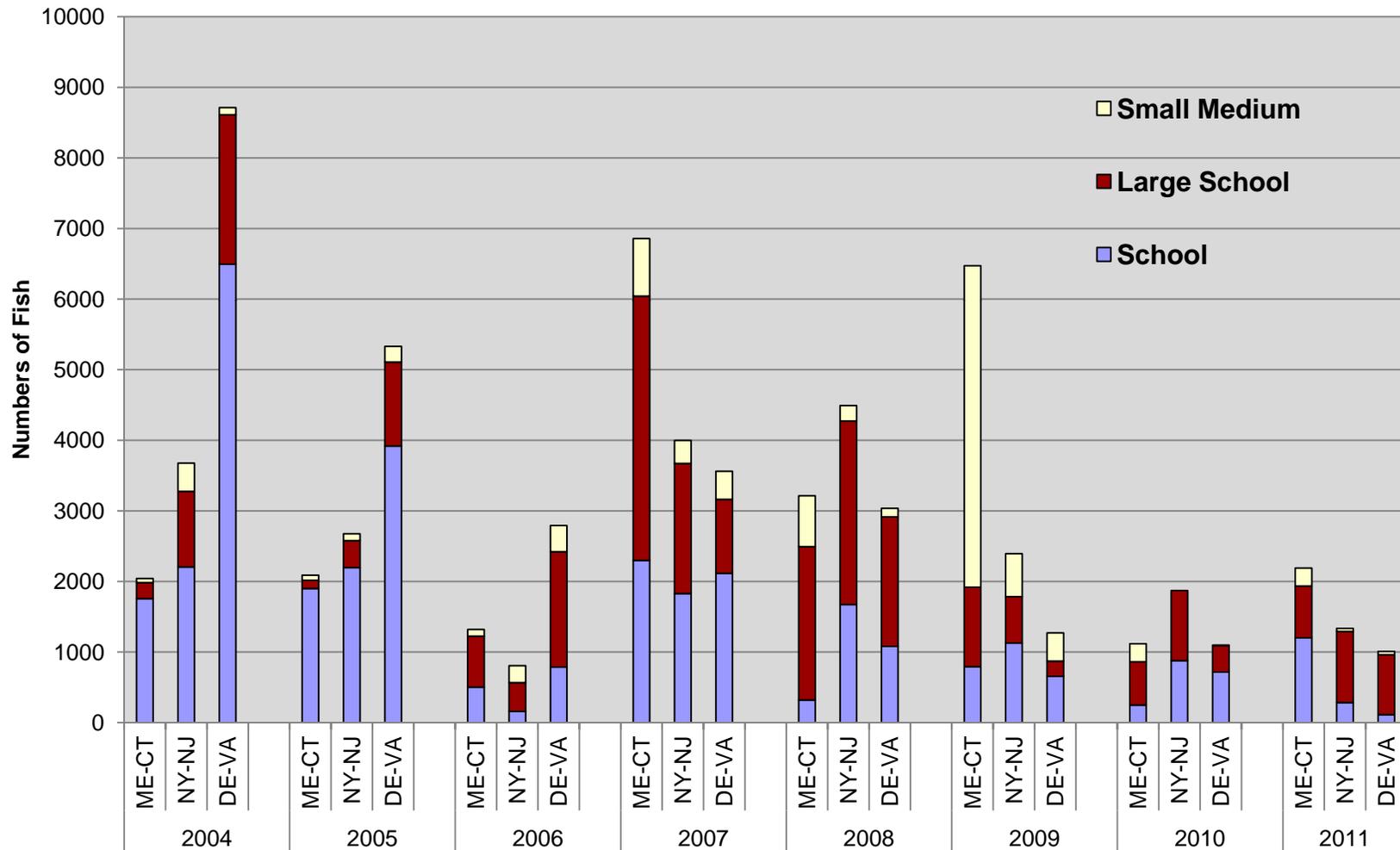
# Landings by Category (mt)



Note the decline in General category landings from 2001 through 2007 and the large proportion of Angling category landings 2007 through 2009 (associated with a spike in large school/small medium BFT landings). General category landings grew each year from 2007 through 2010 and decreased in 2011 (but were 95% of the 2011 adjusted General category subquota).

Longline and Trap combined because both are incidental fisheries and data at beginning of time series were combined.

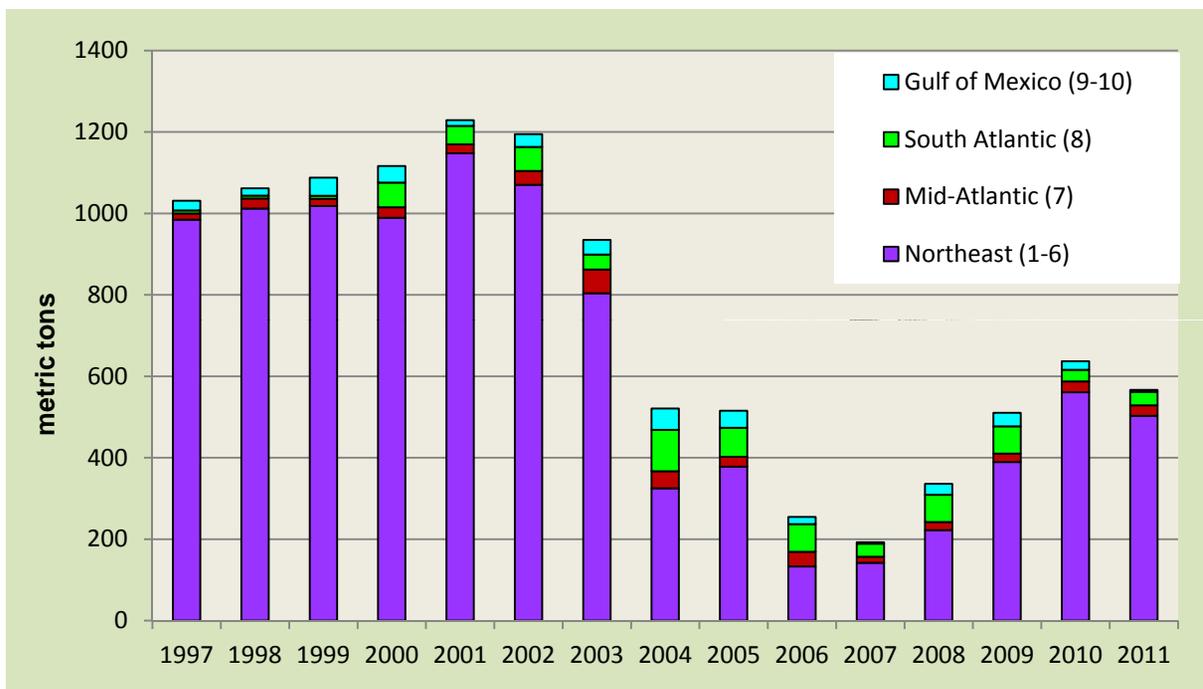
# Recreational Landings by Area



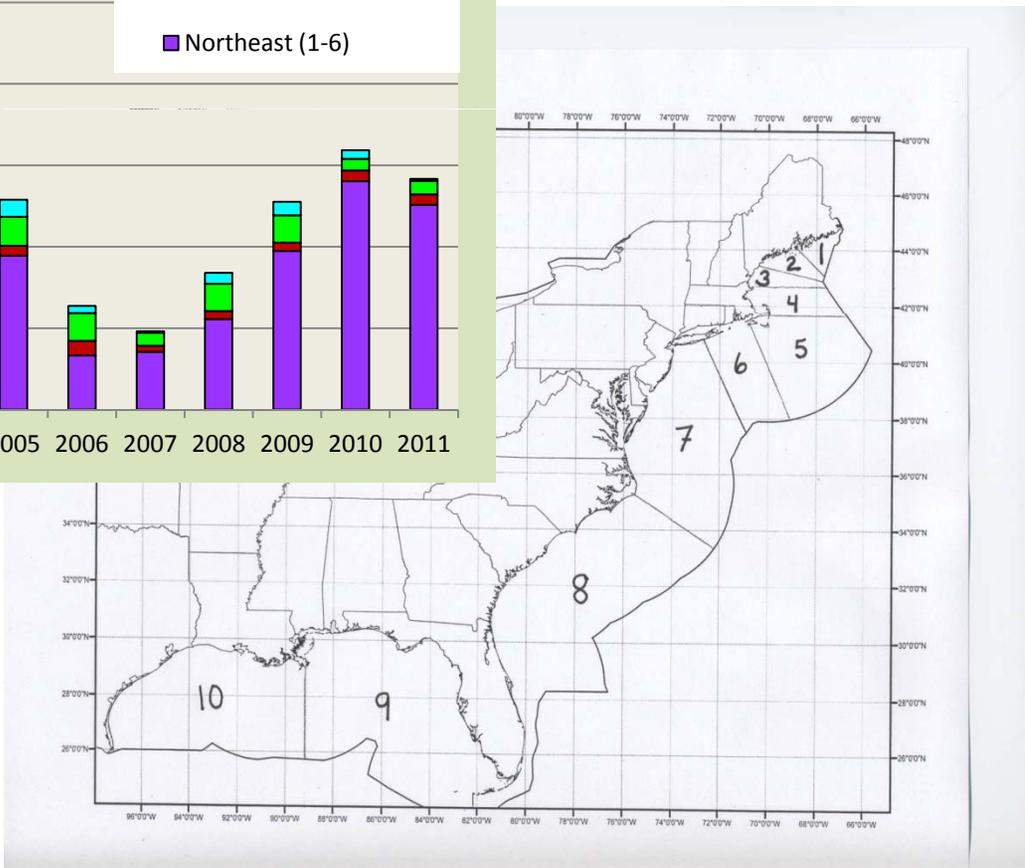
Data source: LPS (for ME-VA only)

Angling category landings of small medium BFT prohibited 6/12-12/31/10 and 4/2-12/31/11

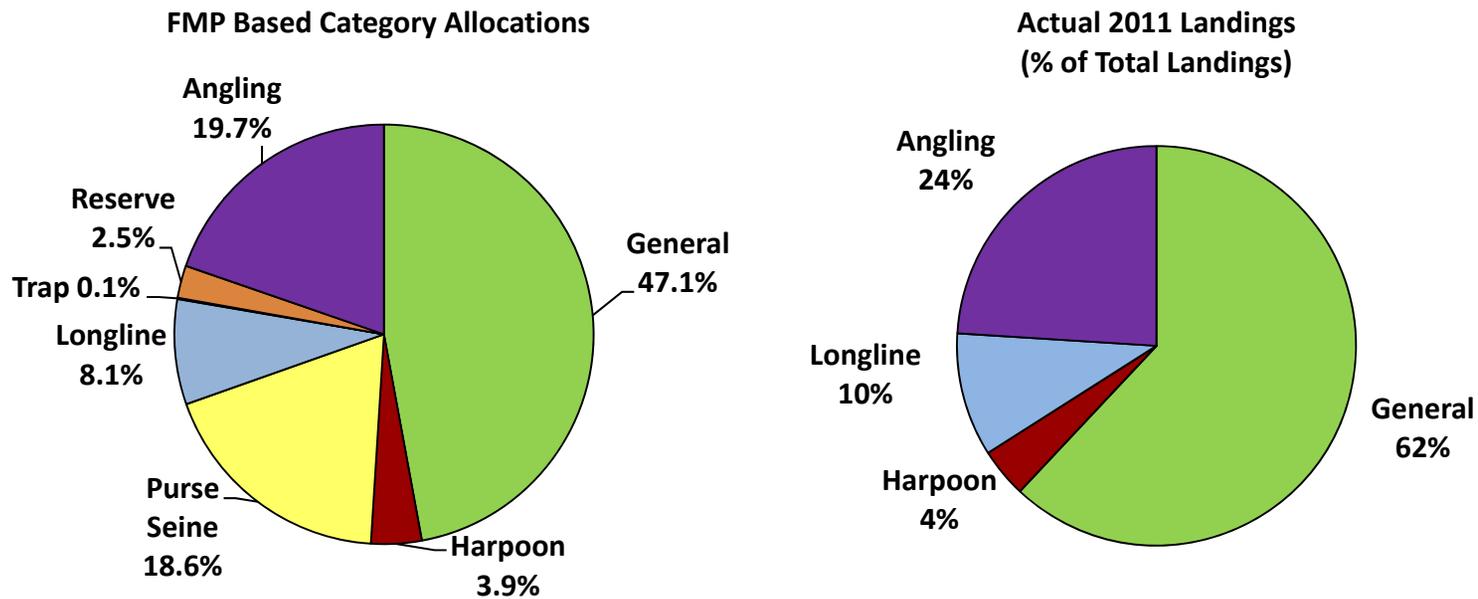
# Commercial Landings by Area



Commercial landings declined from peak in 2001 until 2007, increased from 2007 through 2010, and decreased slightly in 2011.



# Comparison of FMP allocations to % of 2011 Landings



Recent landings (directed and incidental) by category as a percentage of total landings compared to allocations established in the 1999 HMS FMP (at left).

## Base and adjusted BFT quotas, landings, and retention limits, 2009-2011

Category	2009 (January-December)					2010 (January-December)					2011 (January-December)				
	Base Quota	Adj. Quota <sup>1</sup>	Lndgs & LL dd <sup>2</sup>	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit
General	475.7	623.1	326.5	52	LM/G: 2: Jan 3: June-Dec	448.6	538.9	528.3	98	LM/G: 2: Jan 3: June-Dec	435.1	485.1 <sup>3</sup>	462.3	95	
Harpoon	39.4	76.6	41.4	54	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	37.1	44.6	18.4	41	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	36	36	29.3	81	
Longline –	106.8	99.3	130.6	132	Incidental Only	102.1	100	88.5	89		99.8	86.1	74.6	87	
North & NED	57.7	54.7	76.9	141		55.9	55	44.7	81		54.9	49.4	38	77	
South	49.1	44.6	53.7	120		46.2	45	43.8	97		44.9	36.7	36.6	100	
dead discards			204					122					122 (proxy)		
Trap	1	1.3	0	0	LM/G: 1/y	1	1.1	0	0		0.9	0.9	0	0	
Purse Seine	187.8	246	11.4	5		177.2	212.8	0	0		171.8	171.8	0	0	
Angling	199	260.6	565.9	217	1:S,LS,or SM (1/1-5/31)	187.6	225.4	178.5	79		182	182	181.6	100	
School	103.5	103.5	54.4	53	1: 6/1-2/31	97.7	97.7	33	34	Varied <sup>4</sup>	94.9	94.9	57.5	61	Varied <sup>5</sup>
LS/SM	90.9	151.1	510.9	338	1: 6/1- 12/31	85.6	122.5	139.3	114		82.9	82.9	119.1	144	
LM/G	4.6	6	0.6	10	1/year	4.3	6.9	6.2	90	1/year <sup>6</sup>	4.2	4.2	5	119	1/year <sup>7</sup>
Reserve	25.2	155.4	0			23.8	70.3	0			23.1	20.5 <sup>3</sup>	0.6	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1034.9</b>	<b>1462.3</b>	<b>1075.8</b>	<b>74</b>		<b>977.4</b>	<b>1193.2</b>	<b>813.7</b>	<b>68</b>		<b>948.7</b>	<b>982.4<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>748.4</b>	<b>76</b>	
												<b>1043.6</b>		<b>72</b>	
<i>TOTAL (incl. DD)</i>	<i>1034.9</i>	<i>1462.3</i>	<i>1279.8</i>	<i>88</i>		<i>977.4</i>	<i>1193.2</i>	<i>935.7</i>	<i>78</i>		<i>948.7</i>	<i>982.4<sup>8</sup></i>	<i>870.4</i>	<i>89</i>	
												<i>1043.6</i>		<i>83</i>	

1 For all years shown, adjusted quota reflects quota published in final rule, as modified via inseason transfers during the fishing year

2 Landings data from the annual reports posted on HMS website and include best available dead discard estimate

3 Reflects transfer of 50 mt from the Reserve category (finalized as 70.5 mt in 76 FR 39019, July 5, 2011) to the General category effective November 6, 2011

4 2010 Angling category daily retention limits: 1 S, LS, or SM 1/1-6/11. For 6/12-12/31, limit was 1 S or LS for private vessels, 1 S and 1 LS for CHB vessels

5 2011 Angling category daily retention limits: 1 S, LS, or SM 1/1-4/1. For 4/2-12/31, limit was 1 S or LS for private vessels, 1 S and 1 LS for CHB vessels

6 2010 Angling trophy category (large medium and giant BFT) closed 6/12 for South and 7/18 for North

7 2011 Angling trophy category (large medium and giant BFT) closed 4/2 for South and 7/29 for North

8 2011 Adjusted Quota published in 76 FR 39019, July 5, 2011 = 982.4 mt, reflecting NMFS' accounting for half of the estimated dead discards at the beginning of the fishing year, with the remainder to be accounted for at year-end; **U.S. Adjusted Quota for ICCAT accounting purposes=1,043.6 mt**

KEY: G = Giant > 81", LM = Large Medium 73-81", SM = Small Medium 59-73", LS = Large School 47-59", S=School 27- 47"

Longline: Incidental limits: 1 BFT / 2,000 lb target catch, 2 BFT / 6,000 lb, and 3 BFT / 30,000 lb. NED = Northeast Distant Gear Restricted Area DD = Dead Discards

## Base and adjusted BFT quotas, landings, and retention limits, 2006-2008

Category	2006 (June 2006-May 2007)					2007 "bridge period" (June 2007-December 2007)					2008 (January-December)				
	Base Quota	Adj. Quota <sup>9</sup>	Lndgs & LL dd <sup>10</sup>	% Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit	Base Quota	Adj. Quota	Lndgs & LL dd	% of Adj. Quota	Ret. Limit
General	689.8	1163.3	160	14	LM/G: 3 June-Jan	548.8	643.6	122	19	LM/G: 3	548.8	740	235.3	31	LM/G: 3
Harpoon	57.1	124	22	18	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	45.4	53.3	12	23	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15	45.4	61.2	22	36	LM: 2 G: unlim. 6/1-11/15
Longline	143.6	258.2	66	26	Incidental Only	119.4	225	35	16	Incidental Only	119.4	81.7	75	92	Incidental Only
North & NED	72.4	155.9	28	18		62.8	105	26	25		62.8	47.7	33	69	
South	71.2	102.3	38	37		56.6	120	9	8		56.6	34	42	124	
Discards <sup>11</sup>			91					90					158		
Trap	1.5	5.3	0	0	LM/G: 1/y	1.2	1.4	0	0	LM/G: 1/y	1.2	1.6	0.3	19	LM/G: 1/y
Purse Seine	272.4	624.1	4	<1		216.7	254.1	28	11		216.7	292.2	0	0	
Angling	288.6	382	190	50	Varied <sup>12</sup>	229.5	269.2	507	188		229.5	309.5	437.6	141	
School	38.5 <sup>13</sup>	49.2	24	49		119	119	155	130	1	119	119	54.6	46	1
LS/SM	243.5	318.4	164	52		105.2	144	351	244	2	105.2	183.4	381.5	208	2: 1/1-2/9; 1: 2/10-12/31
LM/G	6.6	12.5	2	16	1/year	5.3	6.2	1	19	1/year	5.3	7.1	1.5	14	1/year
Reserve	36.6	282.3	0	0		29.1	207.6	0			29.1	207.6	0		
<b>TOTAL<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>1489.6</b>	<b>2839.2</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>1190.1</b>	<b>1654.2</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>1190.1</b>	<b>1693.9</b>	<b>770.2</b>	<b>45</b>	
<i>TOTAL incl. DD</i>	<i>1489.6</i>	<i>2839.2</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>1190.1</i>	<i>1654.2</i>	<i>794</i>	<i>48</i>		<i>1190.1</i>	<i>1693.9</i>	<i>943.2</i>	<i>56</i>	

9 Commercial landings data for 2007 and earlier are from 2009 specs EA (Table 6)

10 2006 Adjusted quotas from 2007 EA (Table 1), which made adjustments from 2006 final rule

11 Annual U.S. dead discard allowance for 2005 and 2006 was 68 mt; ICCAT discontinued dead discard allowance in the 2006 BFT Recommendation, effective in 2007 onward

12 2006 Angling category daily retention limits: 1 school in the south 7/1-7/21; 1 school in the north 8/25-9/14; 1 school in NC 3/24-4/15; 2 LS or SM 6/1-5/31 all areas

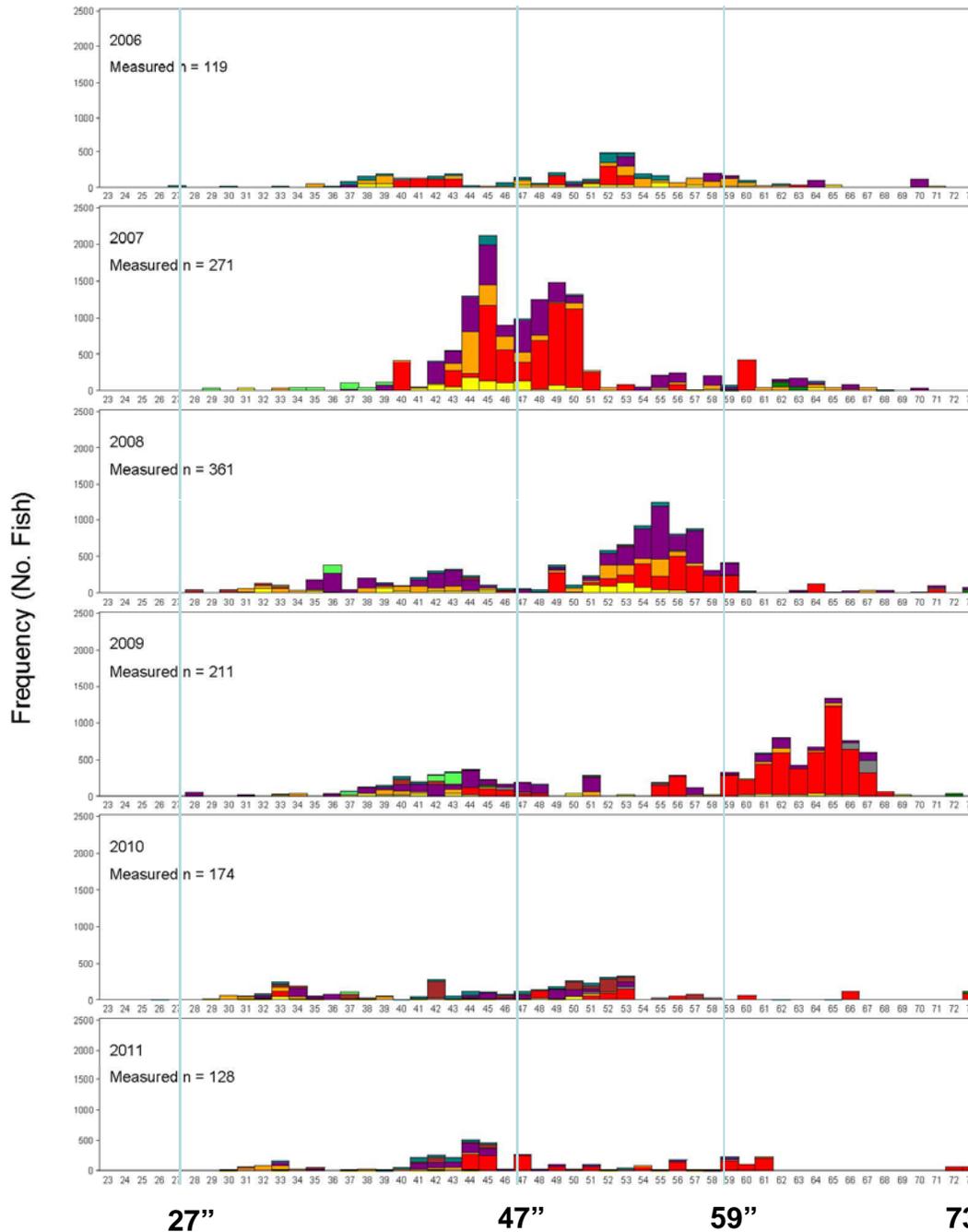
13 The 2006 Angling category base school subquota was modified to be in compliance with the ICCAT 8% tolerance limit for school landings over four years.

14 Totals are subject to rounding error.

KEY: G = Giant > 81", LM = Large Medium 73-81", SM = Small Medium 59-73", LS = Large School 47-59", S=School 27- 47"

Longline: Incidental limits: 1 BFT / 2,000 lb target catch, 2 BFT / 6,000 lb, and 3 BFT / 30,000 lb. NED = Northeast Distant Gear Restricted Area DD = Dead Discards

# LPIS: Expanded Catch-at-Length Length Distribution of Angling BFT 2006-2011



The average weight of recreationally landed BFT has increased substantially over the last several years

School: 27 to <47"

Lg. School: 47 to <59"

Sm. Medium: 59 to <73"

(Lg. School and Sm. Medium BFT traditionally have been managed as one size class)

Shows catch *by state*



## Longline Quotas, Incidental Landings, Dead Discards and Catch, 2008-2010

		Metric tons (rounded)			
	Area	Adjusted Quota <sup>1</sup>	Landings <sup>2</sup>	Dead Discards <sup>2</sup>	Total Catch
2010	NED	25	9	4	13
	East Coast ~ "North"	30	35	84	120
	GoM ~ "South"	45	44	34	78
	Total	100	88	122	<b>211</b>
2009	NED <sup>3</sup>	25	<b>51</b>	6	57
	East Coast ~ "North"	30	46	120	166
	GoM ~ "South"	45	33	78	111
	Total	100	131	204	<b>335</b>
2008	NED	25	9	5	14
	East Coast ~ "North"	23	40	67	107
	GoM ~ "South"	34	26	86	112
	Total	82	75	158	<b>233</b>

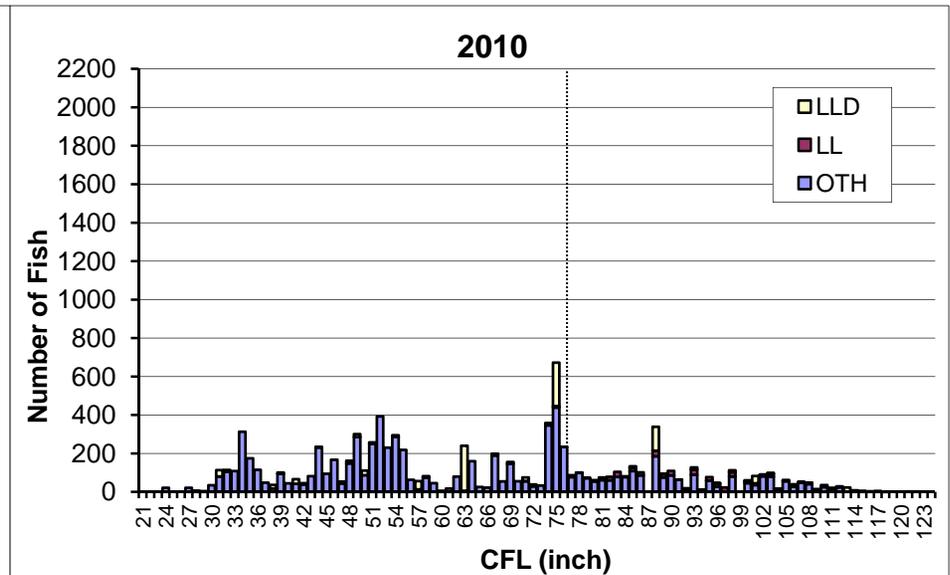
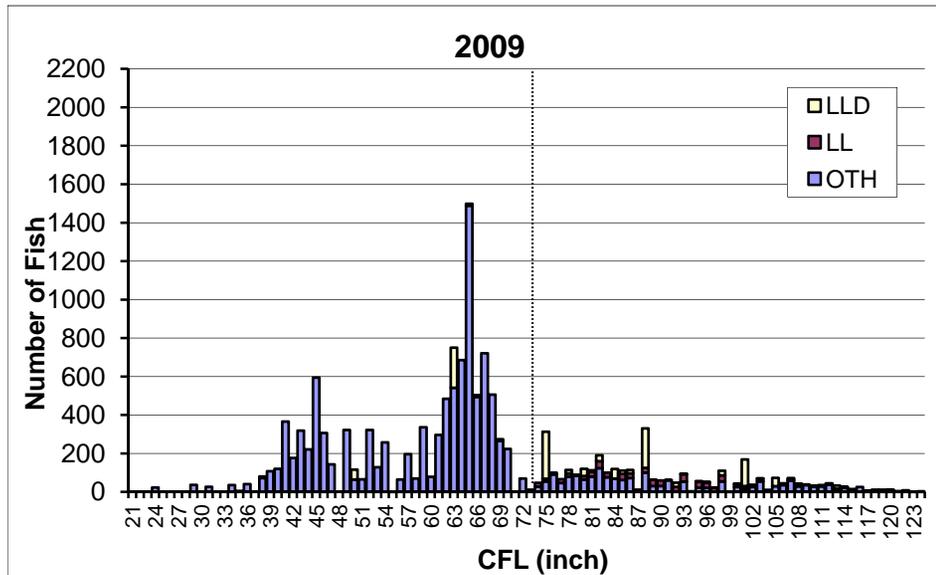
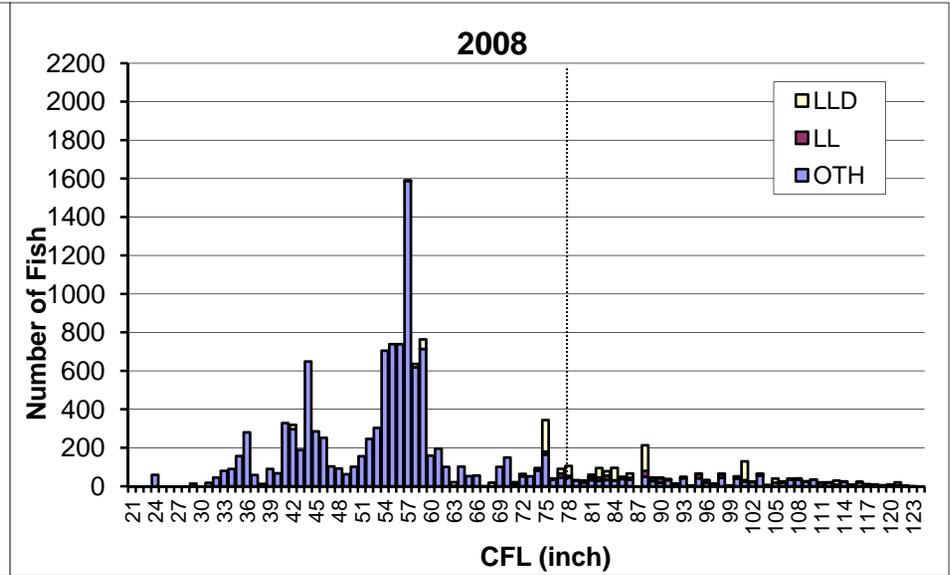
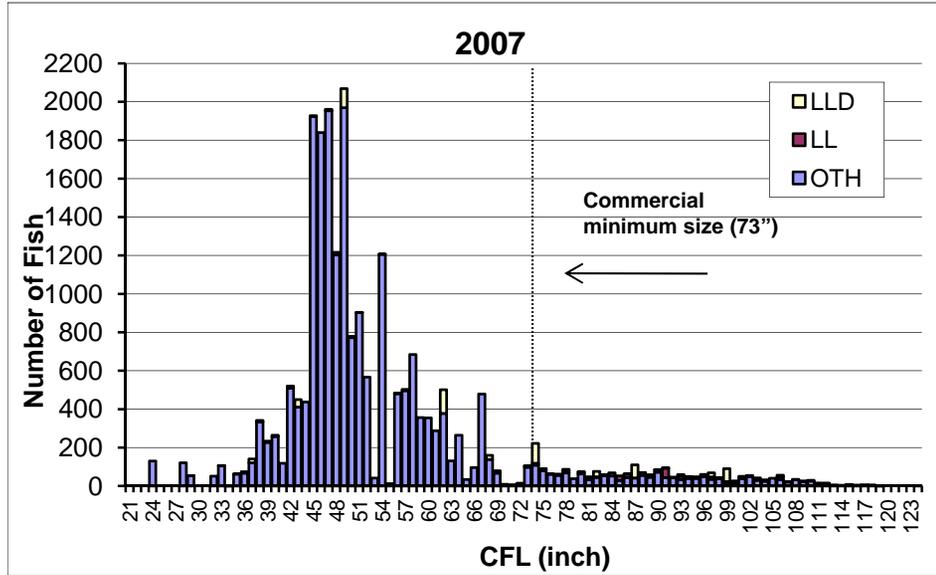
1 Adjusted quota as published for LLN and LLS in annual quota specifications (N & S of 31°N. lat.)

2 Landings and dead discards as reported by ICCAT Statistical Area in 2009-2011 U.S. Reports to ICCAT. 2010 dead discards update and 2011 dead discards data will be available May 2012.

3 NMFS applied target catch requirements when 2009 NED set-aside met, effective Oct. 20-Dec. 31

4 Note: There may be slight errors in the numbers as a result of rounding to the nearest whole number

# Size Frequency Distribution of All U.S. BFT Landings by Gear and Longline Discards, 2007-2010



# Size frequency distribution (number of fish) of BFT landed incidentally and discarded dead by the PLL fleet by area (2010)

