

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



## Atlantic bluefin tuna

Recent fishery trends – landings and bycatch information,  
updated through 2014

March 2015

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**



## 2014 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions - Angling Category (Recreational)

Default daily limit applied January 1-May 7 (private and charter vessels):  
1 school, large school, or small medium BFT/vessel/day

May 8-Dec. 31:

Permit Category (Vessel Type)	Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip
HMS Angling (Private)	1 school BFT (27 to <47") <u>and</u> 1 large school/small medium BFT (47 to <73")
HMS Charter/Headboat (Charter) (when fishing recreationally for BFT)	2 school BFT (27 to <47") <u>and</u> 1 large school/small medium BFT (47 to <73")

Trophy category: 1 large medium/giant (73"+) BFT/vessel/year

**Southern area closed April 11**



## 2014 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

### General Category

Jan 1 – March 21: **2** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

Jun 1 – December 31: **4** large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

### Harpoon Category

Jun 1 – Nov 15: 4 large medium & unlimited giant BFT/vessel/day

Nov 16 – Dec 31: Closed

Transferred 15 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category:  
August 8



## 2014 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

### Purse Seine Category (July 15 through December 31)

- Large medium BFT (73 to <81”): no more than 15%, by weight, of the total amount of giant BFT/year
  - Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued for Aug 1-Dec 31, 2014, exempting the one vessel that fished from this requirement, under specific terms and conditions (see next slide)
- Giant BFT (81”+): unlimited
- BFT <73”): no more than 1%, by weight, of the skipjack and yellowfin landed on that trip
- A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort, as measured in number of sets or trips, is required by ICCAT



## Bluefin Tuna Purse Seine Fishery Comparison – 2013 and 2014

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014 (w/EFP)</b>	<b>Change</b>
Observer Coverage	60%	100%	
Landings	28.8 mt	37.6 mt	+8.8 mt
Large medium (73 to <81")	1.85 mt	9.57 mt	+7.7 mt
Giant (81"+)	26.99 mt	28.07 mt	+1.1 mt
Dead Discards	13.7 mt	4.2 mt	-9.5 mt
Catch	42.5 mt	41.8 mt	-0.8 mt



## 2014 Retention Limits and Inseason Actions – Commercial Categories

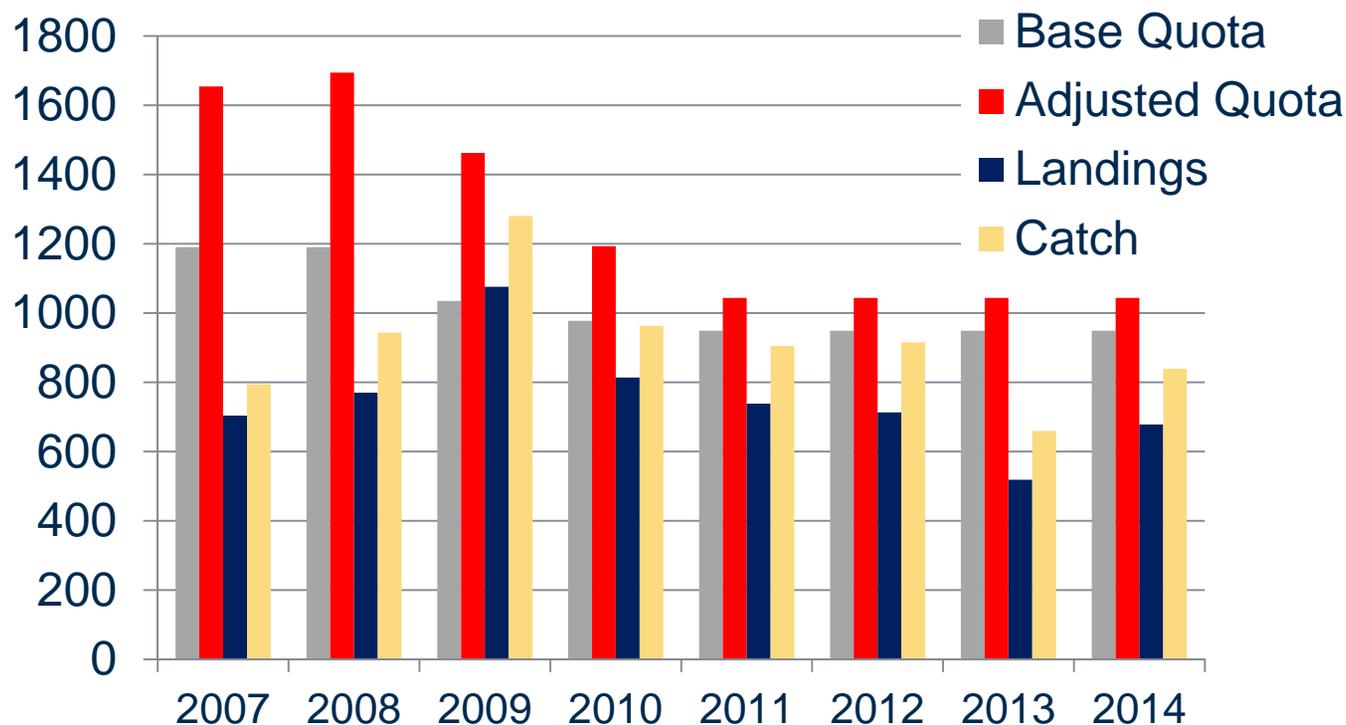
- Longline Category

- 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

In the final 2014 quota specifications, NMFS provided 88 mt of the allowable 2014 underharvest (94.9 mt) to the Longline category after deducting  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the best available estimate of pelagic longline dead discards (i.e.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 127.1 mt) from the Longline base quota, for an **adjusted quota of 99.2 mt** (i.e.,  $74.8 - 63.6 + 88.0 = 99.2$ ), not including the 25-mt allocation for the Northeast Distant Gear Restricted Area.



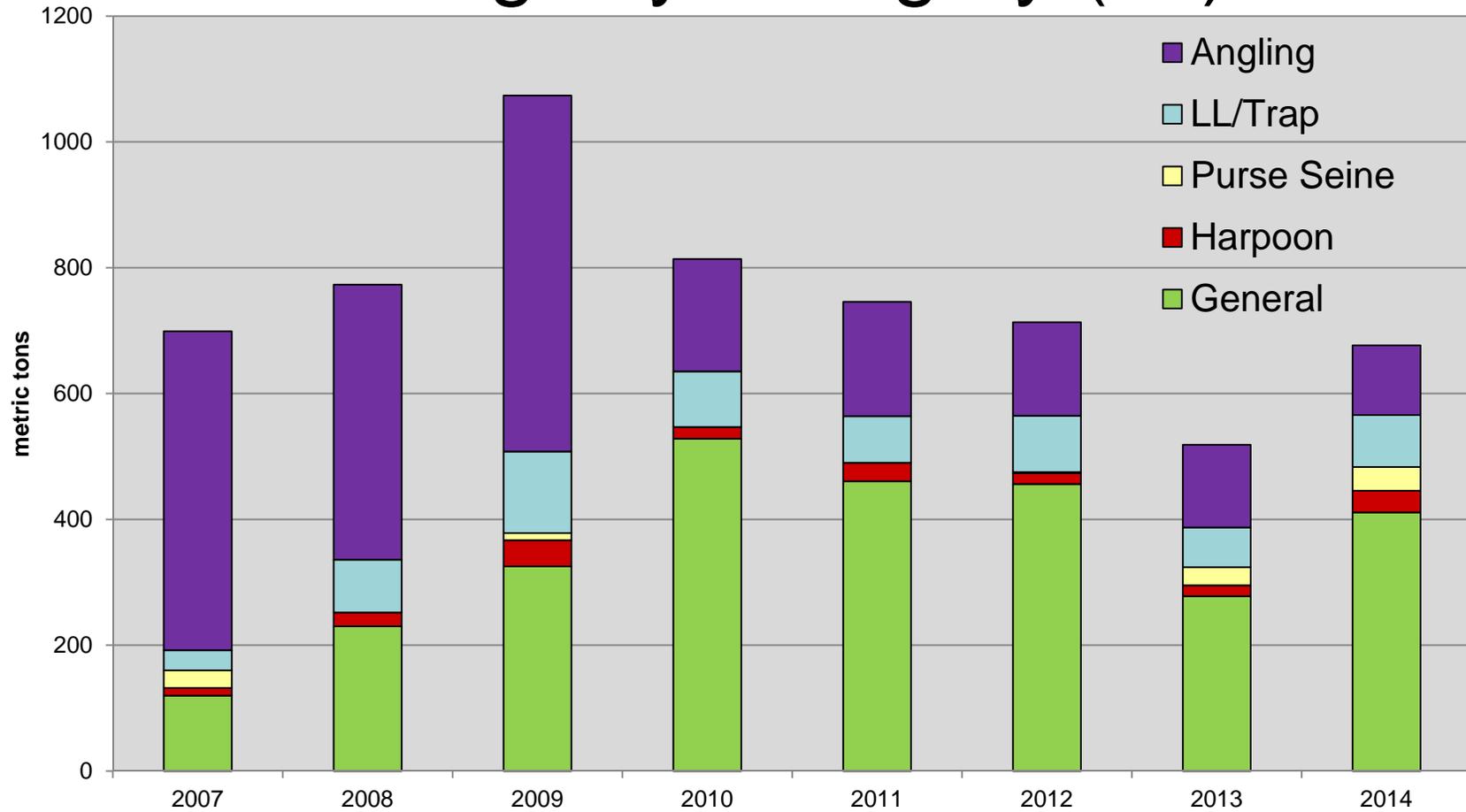
## U.S. BFT Landings, Catch, and Quotas (mt)



In 2014, total landings were 678.2 mt, which corresponded to 65% of the U.S. adjusted quota (1,043.6 mt) and 71% of the base quota (948.7 mt).

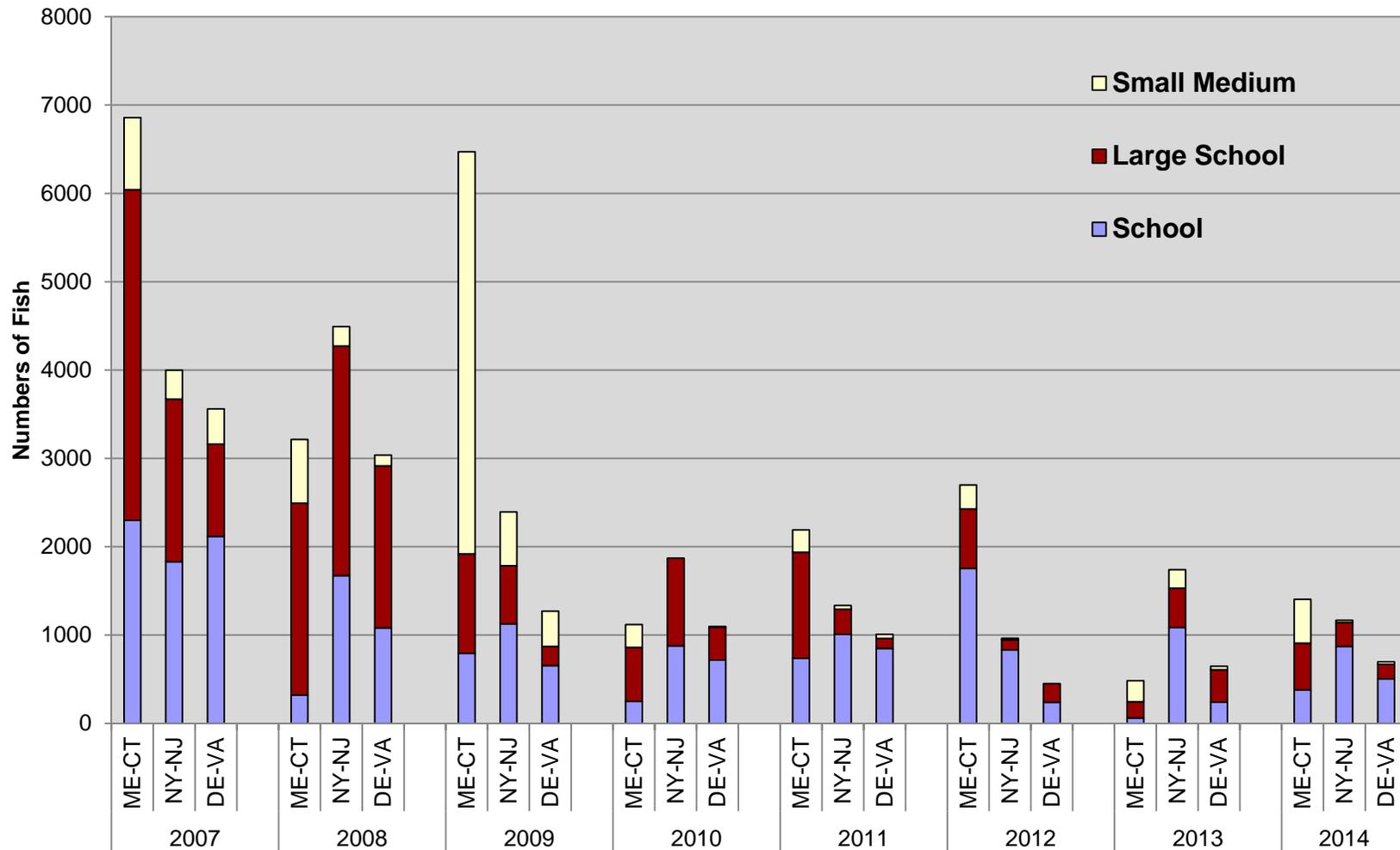
Note: this figure shows the ICCAT U.S. Adjusted Quota for all years. In recent years, the adjusted quotas published in the final quota specifications reflected NMFS' accounting for half of the estimated dead discards at the beginning of the fishing year, with the remainder to be accounted for at year-end.

# Landings by Category (mt)



Longline and Trap combined because both are incidental fisheries.

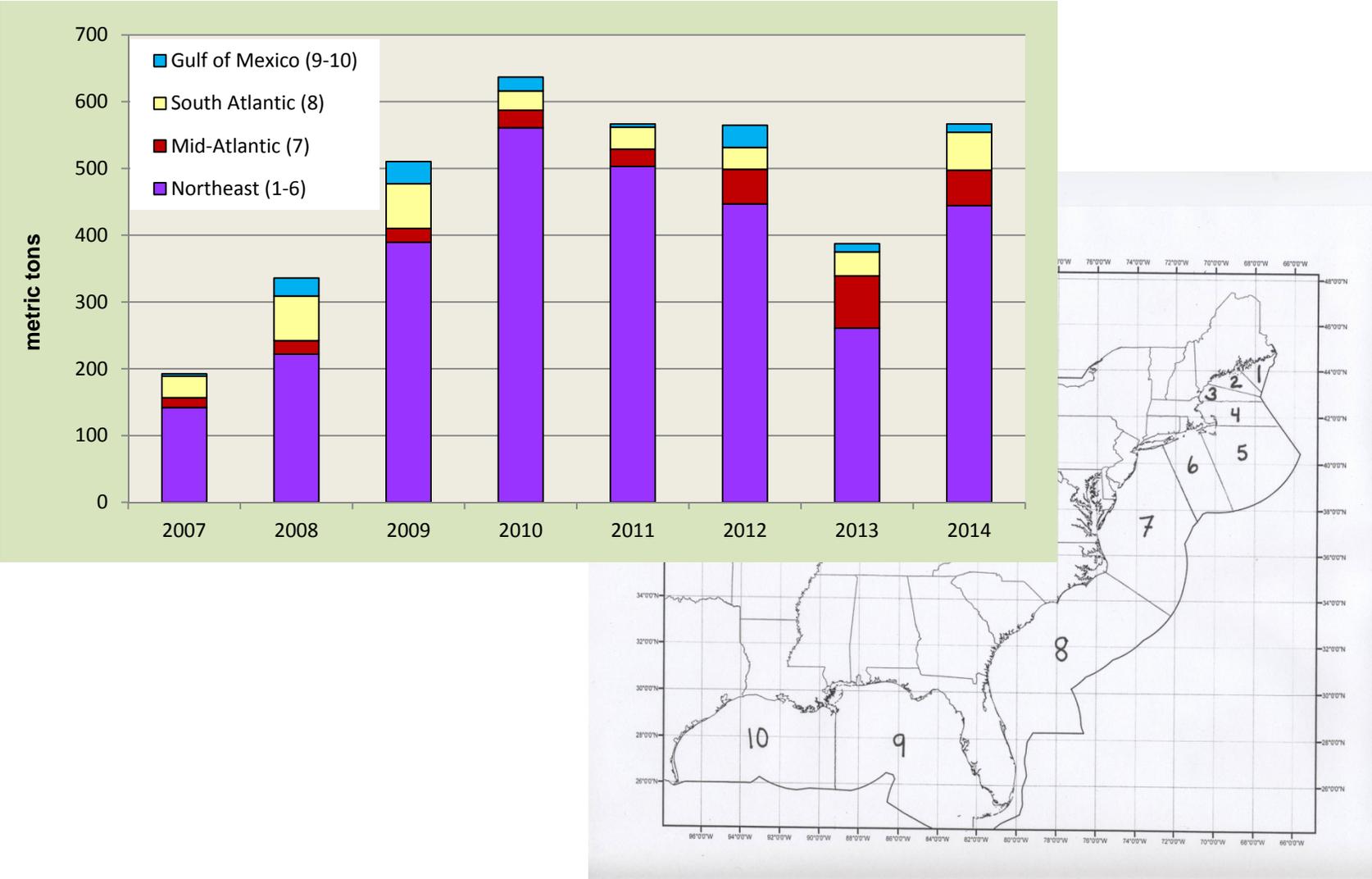
# Recreational Landings by Area



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



## 2014 Bluefin Tuna Fishing Year Summary

January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

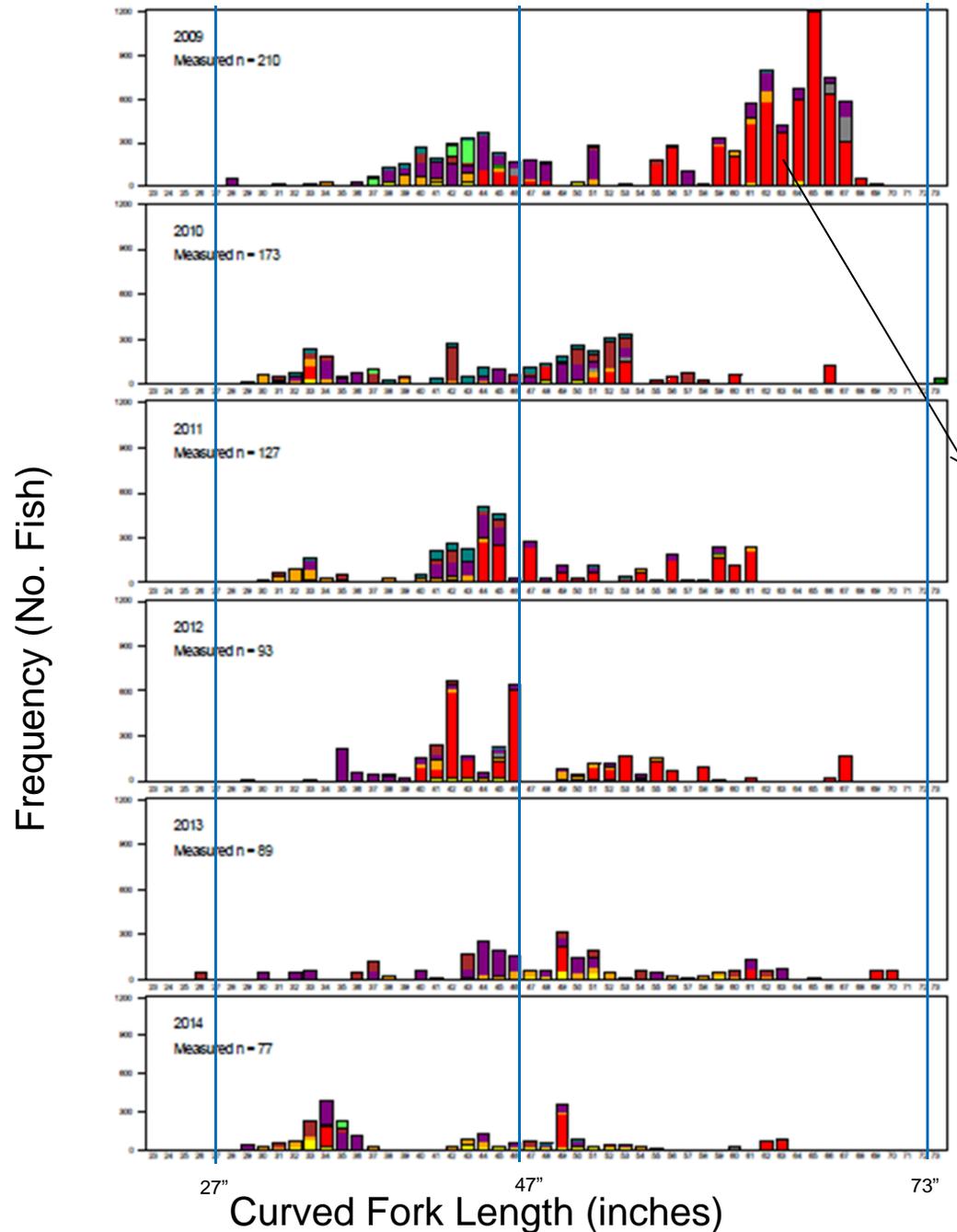
Quota category	Landings - No. of Fish	Landings - Weight (mt)	2014 Base Quota (mt)	2014 Adjusted <sup>2</sup> Quota (mt)	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken
<b>General</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>411.8</b>	<b>435.1</b>	<b>435.1</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>94.6</b>
<b>Harpoon</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>51.0<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>67.6</b>
<b>Longline (incl NED)</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>66.4</b>
NED	15	3.8	25.0	25.0	15.2	15.2
North	193	38.2	29.9	39.7	127.8	96.2
South	184	40.5	44.9	59.5	90.2	68.1
<b>Trap</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Purse seine</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<b>Angling</b>	<b>3,513</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>61.4</b>
School	1,872	29.1	94.9	94.9	30.7	30.7
Lg Sch/Sm med	1,615	77.6	82.9	82.9	93.6	93.6
Trophy	26	5.1	4.2	4.2	121.4	121.4
<b>Reserve</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>8.1<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Total (landings only)</b>	<b>6,434</b>	<b>678.2</b>	<b>923.7</b>	<b>948.1</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>71.5</b>
<b>Total (landings + dead discards)<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>838.8</b>	<b>923.7</b>	<b>948.1</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>88.5</b>

<sup>1</sup>2014 Dead discard estimates are not yet available, so a revised 2013 estimate of 160.6 mt (4.2 mt observed purse seine + 156.4 mt estimated longline) was used. The United States accounts for dead discards annually in the quota specifications and reports them to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The final 2013 estimate and preliminary 2014 estimate will be available in June 2015.

<sup>2</sup>The final 2014 Atlantic bluefin tuna specifications (79 FR 38255, July 7, 2014) adjusted the 2014 base quota and subquotas to account for 2013 underharvest and to address anticipated dead discards for 2014.

<sup>3</sup>NMFS transferred 15 mt from the Reserve to the Harpoon category, effective August 8, 2014 (79 FR 47381, August 13, 2014).

# Large Pelagics Survey: Expanded Catch-at-Length Size Distribution of Angling BFT, 2009-2014



Note that the 2003 year class has moved out of the recreational fishery (i.e., largely >73" by 2011)

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, 2012-2013

	Area	Metric tons (rounded)			
		Adjusted Quota <sup>1</sup>	Landings <sup>2</sup>	Dead Discards <sup>2</sup>	Total Catch
2013	NED	25	4.3	10.2	14.5
	East Coast ~ "North"	18.4	25.1	123.4	148.5
	GoM ~ "South"	27.6	33.7	22.9	56.6
	Total	71	63.1	156.4 <sup>3</sup>	219.5
2012	NED	25	3.2	0.6	3.8
	East Coast ~ "North"	27.6	53.5	135.9	189.4
	GoM ~ "South"	50.8	31.9	69.3	101.2
	Total	103.4	88.6	205.8	294.4

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted quota as published for LLN and LLS in annual quota specifications (N & S of 31°N. lat., near GA/FL line)

<sup>2</sup> Landings and dead discards as reported by ICCAT Statistical Area in 2013 and 2014 U.S. Reports to ICCAT.

<sup>3</sup> 2013 dead discards revised since 2014 quota specifications published in July 2014. Total subject to rounding error. 2014 dead discards data will be available by June 2015.