

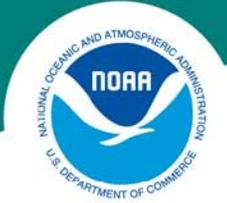
Science, Service, Stewardship



ANPR – Mid-term BFT Centric Items

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Presentation Objectives

Purpose: Summarize/Share Feedback received on long-term items put forth in ANPR:

- Commercial Minimum size
- CHB Bluefin retention
- Tuna Landing From

This presentation will give you:

- What was presented in ANPR
- Public sentiment regarding those items
- Agency thoughts on those items



Commercial Minimum Size

CURRENTLY

Limited to BFT ≥ 73 " CFL only. All categories

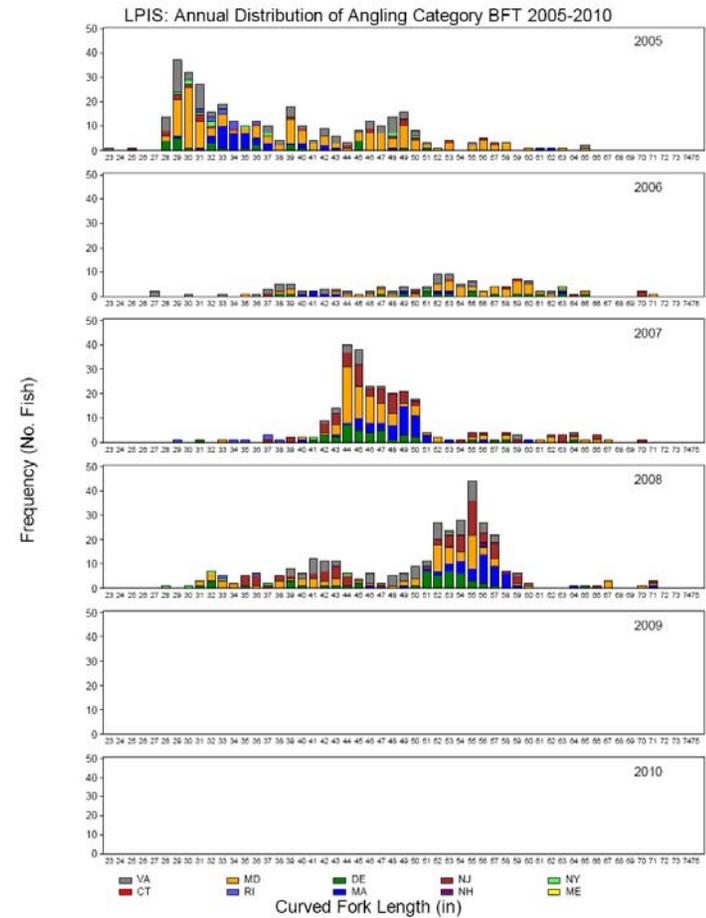
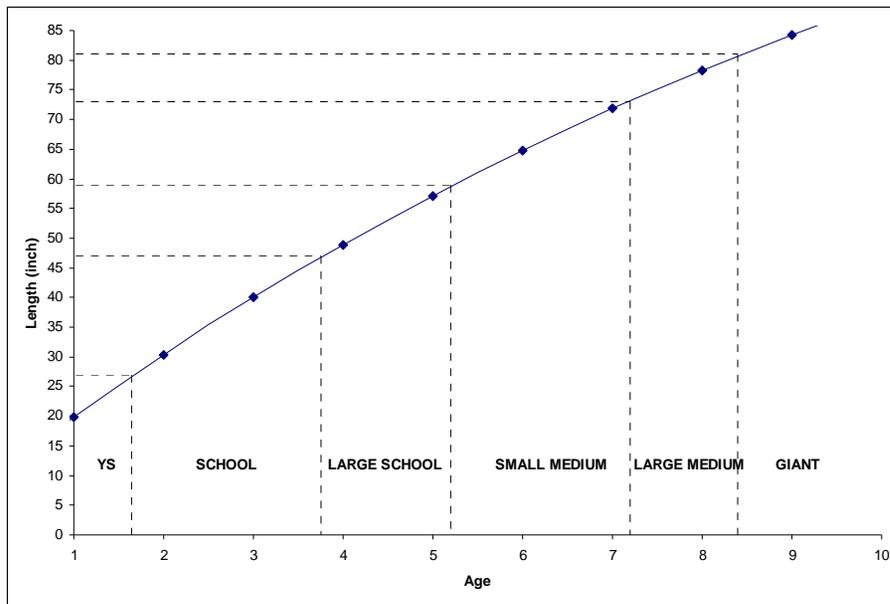
ANPR POTENTIAL OPTIONS

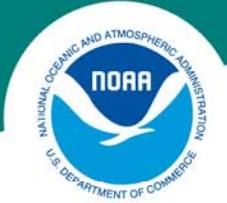
- Decrease minimum size to 65" or other size limit
- Allow for tolerance of one or more fish < 73 "
- Change minimum size and develop method to reallocate/account for landings/quota
- Limit changes to some permit categories or apply to all



Commercial Minimum Size Graphics

Age at length curve





Commercial Minimum Size Public Feed Back

- **In favor of altering**
 - Delay implementation to early/late in season
 - Tolerances/slots
 - Conservation equivalency (ratio 1:1.5)
 - Disparity of U.S. vs ICCAT rules

- **Opposed to altering**
 - Individual mortality vs. weight of quota
 - Angling category size limit would need to be decreased to accommodate
 - All effort being brought to bear on 1 strong year class
 - Increase size to reflect age at maturity
 - Will reduce recruitment even further, hindering rebuilding



Commercial Minimum Size Agency Feedback

- **Data collection**
 - Impacts if no size distinction between recreational sized fish and commercial sized fish
 - Logbooks
- **Enforcement**
 - Impacts if no size distinction between recreational sized fish and commercial sized fish
- **Management (see one pager pro/com)**
 - Balance between landing quota and rebuilding stock
 - Shifting line between Recreational/Commercial
 - Timing when could it be effective
 - What is conservation equivalency



HMS Charter/Headboat (CHB) Permit

CURRENTLY

CHB permits are limited to either Angling or General category quota limits and/or retention limits

POTENTIAL OPTIONS

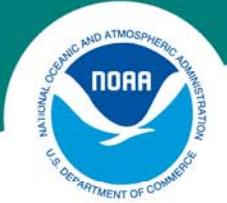
- Allow commercial and recreational BFT on same trip
- Reallocate quota for separate BFT CHB category
- Allow use of harpoon gear as a primary gear
- Others?



HMS CHB Permit Info from 1 pager

Options and Issues

- Allow HMS Charter/Headboat vessels to fish commercially and recreationally on the same day
- Create a separate BFT Charter/Headboat category quota
- Allow the use of harpoon gear on HMS Charter/Headboat category vessels



HMS CHB Permit Public Comment

- In favor of altering
 - Allow for more landings
 - Minimizes temptation to high grade
 - Additional Flexibility
 - Establish stand alone CHB quota
- Opposed to altering
 - Difficult to monitor, enforce
 - Inequitable compared to other categories
 - Inspected vs. six pack vessels



HMS CHB Permit Agency Feedback

- Data collection
 - Dilution of CHB category w/non-for hire vessels
 - CPUE data for Harpoon harvested fish
 - Resolution of sold/kept fish estimates
- Enforcement
 - Need clear distinction between size of rec v.s com fish
- Management (see one pager pro/com)
 - Equity concerns



Tuna Landing Form or Condition

CURRENTLY

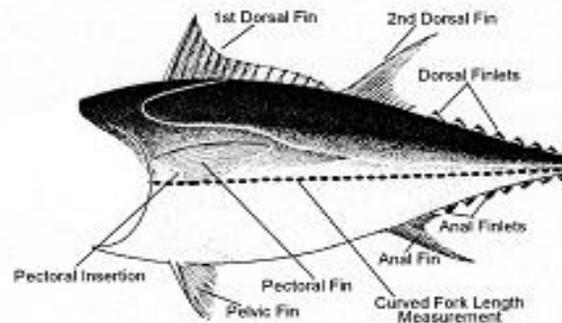
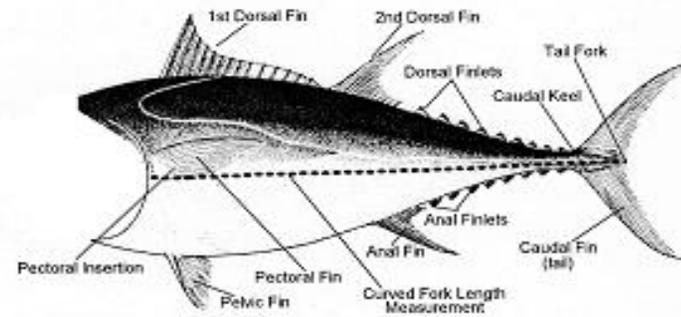
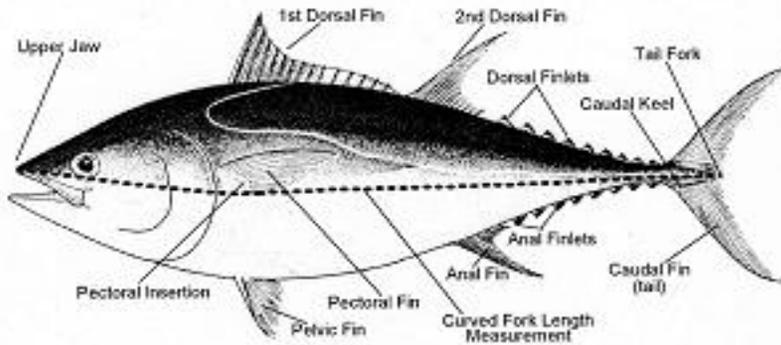
- § 635.30 Possession at sea and landing.
 - (a) Atlantic tunas. Persons that own or operate a fishing vessel that possesses an Atlantic tuna in the Atlantic Ocean or that lands an Atlantic tuna in an Atlantic coastal port must maintain such Atlantic tuna through offloading either in round form or eviscerated with the head and fins removed, provided one pectoral fin and the tail remain attached.

POTENTIAL OPTIONS

- Allow tail removal either for all tunas or only BFT
- Other?



Curved fork length = CFL
Pectoral curved fork length = $CFL/1.35$





Tuna Landing Form or Condition Public Feedback

In favor of altering

- Easier to store, increase quality
- Some dealers grade fish higher when tail removed
- Some harbors don't allow cleaning fish
- Allow fish to be loined-out if rack is retained
- For some areas minimum size is non-issue

Opposed to altering

- Very difficult to standardize where tail is cut
- Potential affects ability to compare w/historical data
- Impacts on stock assessments data
- Still going to be EN issues regardless



Tuna Landing Form or Condition Agency Feedback

- Data collection
 - Need proper sample size of both measurements (tail on and tail off)
 - Need to account for any seasonal/annual variation
 - Need to develop a standardized tail cut location
 - Ensure there is a statistically sound relationship
- Enforcement
 - Fish must meet or exceed size
 - Violations will continue to occur
- Management
 - Need to modify reporting forms
 - May address different geographical concerns (fish size)



AP Discussion on the Mid-term BFT Centric items?

- What are your thoughts?
- Suggestions on how best to move forward?
- Issues:
 - Reduction of the commercial minimum size of BFT
 - Allowing HMS CHB permitted vessels to fish commercially and recreationally for BFT on the same day
 - Atlantic Tuna Landing form or condition