

*Science, Service, Stewardship*

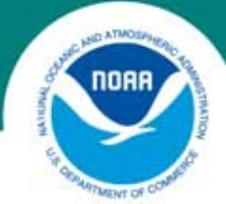


# Atlantic Bluefin Tuna 2012 Review

September 20, 2012

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

NOAA



## BFT Regulatory Amendment

- Final rule published November 30, 2011 (76 FR 74003)

### General category

- Increase *maximum allowable* daily retention limit from 3 to 5 BFT  $\geq 73$ " (*with adjustments to be made via inseason actions*)
- Allow fishery to remain open until January subquota is reached or March 31, whichever happens first

### Harpoon category

- Increase daily incidental retention limit of large medium BFT (73-81") from 2 fish to 4 fish

**Subject of ongoing legal challenge (*Center for Biological Diversity, Plaintiffs*)**



## Angling category

Effective April 7, 2012:

- Daily Retention Limit modified from default (1 BFT 27 to <73" ) to:

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

- Closed Trophy South fishery (73"+) (subquota: 2.8 mt)

(77 FR 21015)



## General category

### Daily Retention Limit (Large Medium and Giant), Quotas, and Landings

- 2 fish for Jan. 1 through Jan. 22 closure (76 FR 76900 and 77 FR 3637)  
Subquota: 23.1 mt                      January Landings: 37.7 mt
- 3 fish for June 1 through August 31 (77 FR 28496)  
Subquota: 217.6 mt                      Jun-Aug Landings: 152.1 mt (*preliminary*)
- 3 fish for September 1 through Dec. 31 or until changed (77 FR 53150)  
Subquotas: 115.3 (Sept), 56.6 mt (Oct-Nov), 22.6 mt (December)  
September Landings (as of Sept. 11): 7.3 mt (*preliminary*)

Preliminary 2012 General Category Landings (as of Sept. 11): 197.1 mt



## Other categories - Activity

Harpoon – 1<sup>st</sup> year with limit of 4 large mediums (up from 2) + unlimited giants

Available Quota: 36 mt

June-August landings: 17.2 mt (5.3 mt large mediums; 11.9 mt giants)

Longline – 1<sup>st</sup> year NMFS closed to BFT landings

South: Quota: 44.9 mt    *Closed May 29*    Landings: 50.8 mt

North: Quota: 29.9 mt    *Closed June 30*    Landings: 30.4 mt

(77 FR 31546 and 77 FR 38011)

NED remains open with 25 mt available; landings to date: <1 mt

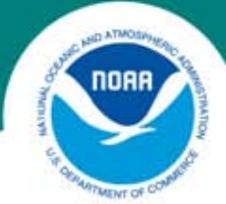
Purse Seine – Active in July; 1<sup>st</sup> landings since 2009

Available Quota: 171.8 mt      Landings to date: 1.7 mt

Allocations made to all 5 permit holders

# BFT Landings by Category as of Sept. 11

		Current Year 2012				Previous Year 2011		
Category	Sub Category	Count of Fish	Avg Weight (lb)	Gross Weight (mt)	Quota_Final (mt)	Count of Fish	Avg Weight (lb)	Gross Weight (mt)
General		1271	341.9	197.1	435.1	1325	304.6	183
	Handline	4	511.5	.9		4	343.5	.6
	Harpoon	241	316.6	34.6		323	278.3	40.8
	Rod and Reel	1,026	347.2	161.6		998	312.9	141.6
Harpoon		128	296.2	17.2	36.0	243	266.0	29.3
Longline		377	477.2	81.6	78.4	266	461.9	55.8
	NED	1	818.0	.4	25.0	16	544.4	4.0
	North	167	401.9	30.4	27.6	115	418.5	21.8
	South	209	535.7	50.8	50.8	135	489.1	30.0
Trap					.9			
Purse Seine		13	284.6	1.7	171.8			
	Giant							
	Large Medium							
Reserve					41.8			
Total:		1789	1399.9	297.6	764	1834	1032.5	268.1

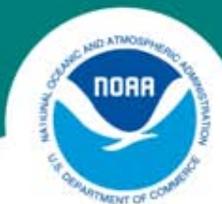


## 2012 BFT Quota Specifications

Proposed rule: March 16, 2012 (77 FR 15712)

Final rule: July 27, 2012 (77 FR 44161)

- Accounted up front for 1/2 of revised dead discard estimate (145.2 mt);
- Carried 94.9 mt forward from 2011 underharvest (159.9 mt), as allowed per ICCAT recommendation;
- Allocated the full 2012 baseline quotas to all directed categories;
- Adjusted Longline South and Longline North subquotas to amounts actually taken in 2012 following closures (for greater transparency than year-end accounting); and
- Held the remainder of the 2011 underharvest in the Reserve category, for an adjusted 2012 Reserve category quota of 41.8 mt.

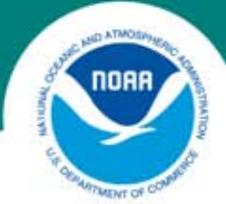


# 2012 BFT Quota Specifications

Final 2012 Atlantic bluefin tuna quotas and quota specifications (in metric tons)

Category (% share of baseline quota)	Baseline Allocation for 2011 and 2012 (per 2010 ICCAT Recommendation and Consolidated HMS FMP allocations)	2012 Quota Specifications		
		Dead Discard Deduction (1/2 of 2011 proxy of 145.2 mt)	2011 Underharvest to Carry Forward to 2012 (94.9 mt total)	Adjusted 2012 Fishing Year Quota
<b>Total (100)</b>	<b>923.7*</b>			<b>946.0</b>
<b>Angling (19.7)</b>	<b>182.0</b> <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> School 94.9 Reserve 17.6 North 36.5 South 40.8 LS/SM 82.9 North 39.1 South 43.8 Trophy 4.2 North 1.4 South 2.8			<b>182.0</b> <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> School 94.9 Reserve 17.6 North 36.5 South 40.8 LS/SM 82.9 North 39.1 South 43.8 Trophy 4.2 North 1.4 South 2.8
<b>General (47.1)</b>	<b>435.1</b> <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> Jan 23.1 Jun-Aug 217.6 Sept 115.3 Oct-Nov 56.6 Dec 22.6			<b>435.1</b> <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> Jan 23.1 Jun-Aug 217.6 Sept 115.3 Oct-Nov 56.6 Dec 22.6
<b>Harpoon (3.9)</b>	<b>36.0</b>			<b>36.0</b>
<b>Purse Seine (18.6)</b>	<b>171.8</b>			<b>171.8</b>
<b>Longline (8.1)</b>	<b>74.8</b> <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> North (-NED) 29.9 NED 25.0* South 44.9	<b>-72.6</b>	<b>+76.2</b> North 26.7 South 39.5	<b>78.4</b> <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> North (-NED) 27.6 NED 25.0* South 50.8
<b>Trap (0.1)</b>	<b>0.9</b>			<b>0.9</b>
<b>Reserve (2.5)</b>	<b>23.1</b>		<b>+18.7</b>	<b>41.8</b>

\*25-mt ICCAT set-aside to account for bycatch of bluefin tuna in pelagic longline fisheries in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area not included in totals at top of table.



## Looking Forward

- Draft Amendment 7 on overall bluefin management
- New ICCAT BFT Recommendation following stock assessment?
- BFT Status Review update under Endangered Species Act
- We value input on priorities and potential solutions



Questions?

Thank you!