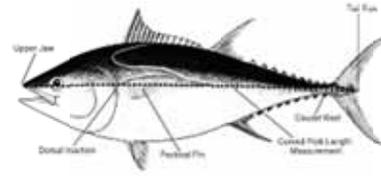


II. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC TUNAS REGULATIONS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES		
Atlantic Bluefin tuna Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, and Skipjack (BAYS) tunas ²⁶		
PERMITS		
To commercially harvest Atlantic tunas within Federal and state waters (excluding Maine, Connecticut, and Mississippi state waters), ²⁷ vessel owners must obtain one of the Atlantic tunas permits , an Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permit , or an HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit (valid only in the U.S. Caribbean Region ²⁸). ^{29,30} Only one type of these permits (i.e., Atlantic tunas, HMS Charter/Headboat, or Commercial Caribbean Small boat permit) may be issued to a vessel per year.		
RETENTION LIMITS		
There are regional and seasonal differences in the number of tunas that may be kept for some permit types. More detailed descriptions of retention limits and fishing seasons for each permit type are in Section XV. Visit http://hmspermits.noaa.gov or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 to check that a permit category season is still open for these species before a trip.		
	Bluefin tuna	BAYS tunas
HMS Charter/Headboat	Varies	Yellowfin tuna: 3 per person per day Other: no limit
General category	Varies	No limit
Harpoon category	Varies	No limit
Trap category	1 large medium or giant per year	0
Purse Seine category	Based on many factors	No limit
Longline category	Based on many factors	No limit
Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit	0	10 per vessel per trip ³¹
AUTHORIZED GEARS ³²		
	Bluefin tuna*	BAYS tunas
HMS Charter/Headboat (see Section XVII)	Rod and reel (incl. downriggers), bandit, green-stick, handline	Rod and reel, bandit, green-stick, handline, speargun (speargun only authorized for recreational harvest)
General category	Rod and reel (incl. downriggers), bandit, green-stick, handline, harpoon	
Harpoon category	Harpoon	Harpoon, rod and reel, bandit, green-stick, handline
Trap category	Pound net, fish weir	Not authorized
Purse Seine category (see Section VIII)	Purse seine (mesh and inspection restrictions apply; see Section 0)	Purse seine (inspection restrictions apply; see Section 0), rod and reel, bandit, green-stick, handline, harpoon
Longline category (see Sections VII and IX)	Longline (incidental ONLY) and green-stick	Longline, green-stick, rod and reel, bandit, green-stick, handline, harpoon
Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit ^{33 34}	Not authorized	Rod and reel, bandit, green-stick, handline, harpoon, buoy gear
*A person that fishes for, retains, or possesses an Atlantic bluefin tuna may not have on board or use any primary gear other than those authorized for the category for which the Atlantic tunas or HMS permit has been issued for that vessel. ³⁵		

MINIMUM SIZES

Curved fork length (CFL) - line tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.³⁶



Curved Fork Length (CFL)

Bluefin tuna	73 inches (185 cm) CFL ³⁷ , with some additional restrictions by permit type (Section XV)
Bigeye tuna	27 inches (69 cm) CFL ³⁸
Yellowfin tuna	27 inches (69 cm) CFL ³⁹
Albacore and skipjack tunas	No minimum size

LANDING RESTRICTIONS

Atlantic tunas may be landed round with fins intact, or eviscerated with the head and fins removed as long as one pectoral fin and the tail remain attached. They cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea. The upper and lower lobes of the tail may be removed from tunas for storage purposes but the fork of the tail must remain intact.⁴⁰

Commercial permit holders cannot retain or possess bluefin tuna intended for sale with the head removed that is less than 54 inches (137 cm) pectoral fin curved fork length.⁴¹

Commercial permit holders may *not* remove the head of a bigeye tuna or yellowfin tuna if the remaining portion would be less than 27 inches (69 cm) from the fork of the tail to the forward edge of the cut.⁴²

See Section XV for details.