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Atlantic Bluefin Tuna



Fishery Year In Review 2022
(and 2023 management issues)

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
May 2023

2022 Bluefin Tuna Catch and Quotas

Quota Category	Landings No. of Fish	Landings Weight (mt)	2022 Base Quota (mt)	2022 Adjusted Quota (mt) ²	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken
General	4,808	891.8	555.7	886.9	160	101
Harpoon	442	77.7	46	76.4	169	102
Longline	571	114.3	188.6	194.1	61	59
NED	0	0	25	25	0	0
Atlantic (Non NED)	547	108.2	106.3	109.9	102	98
Gulf	24	6.1	57.3	59.2	11	10
Trap	1	0.2	1.2	1.2	17	17
Purse Seine	0	0.0	219.5	58	0	0
Angling	6,344	228.9	232.4	245.9	98	93
School	2,347	46.9	127.3	131.6	37	36
Large School/Small Medium	4,058	170.6	99.8	106.7	171	160
Trophy	49	11.3	5.3	7.6	214	149
Reserve			29.5	6.0		
Total (Landings Only)		1,312.8	1,272.9	1,468.5	103	89
Total (landings + Dead Discard)		1,341.2 ¹	1272.9	1468.5	105	91

¹ Currently, the best available annual estimate of dead discards for the 2022 pelagic longline fishery is the 2021 estimate of 28.4 mt.

² The Adjusted Quota column reflects the adjusted quota as of December 31, 2022. Category quotas were adjusted by inseason and other actions during the year.



2023 Bluefin Tuna Catch and Quotas

(April 19, 2023)

Quota Category	Landings No. of Fish	Landings Weight (mt)	2023 Base Quota (mt)	2023 Adjusted Quota (mt) ¹	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken
General	357	70.1	710.7	710.7	10	10
Harpoon	0	0	59.2	59.2	0	0
Longline	327	50.2	209.3	209.3	24	24
NED	1	0.1	25	25	0	0
Atlantic (Non NED)	312	46.3	161.5	161.5	29	29
Gulf	14	3.8	46.5	46.5	8	8
Trap	0	0	1.3	1.3	0	0
Angling	-	-	297.4	297.4	-	-
School	-	-	134.1	134.1	-	-
Large School/Small Medium	-	-	154.1	154.1	-	-
Trophy	23	4.6	9.2	9.2	50	50
Reserve			38.2	38.2	0	0
Total (Landings Only)			1,316.14		0	0
Total (landings + Dead Discard)			1,316.14			

¹ The Adjusted Quota column in the table above reflects the adjusted quota as of April 19, 2023. Category quotas were adjusted by inseason and other actions during the year.

*Insufficient data to aggregate to meet confidentiality requirements



2023 Bluefin Tuna Baseline Quotas and Subquotas - Detailed

Category	Annual Baseline Quota (mt) and (%)	Subquotas	Subquota Amounts (mt)
General	710.7 (54%)	January-March	37.7 (5.3%)
		June-August	355.4 (50%)
		September	188.3 (26.5%)
		October-November	92.4 (13%)
		December	37.0 (5.2%)
Harpoon	59.2 (4.5%)		
Longline	209.3 (15.9%)		
Trap	1.3 (0.1%)		
Angling	297.4 (22.6%)	School	134.1
		Reserve	24.8
		North of 39°18' N. lat.	51.6
		South of 39°18' N. lat.	57.7
		Large School/Small Medium	154.1
		North of 39°18' N. lat.	72.7
		South of 39°18' N. lat.	81.4
		Trophy	9.2
		North of 42° N. lat.	2.3
		North of 39°18' N. lat.	2.3
		South of 39°18' N. lat.	2.3
Gulf of Mexico	2.3		
Reserve	38.2 (2.9%)		
U.S. Baseline Quota	1,316.14		
Including 25 mt for NED	1,341.14		



BFT Actions during 2022

- 3 daily retention limit adjustments (General and Angling category)
- 6 inseason quota transfers (General, Harpoon, and Reserve categories)
- 2 quota adjustments (2022 reallocation of Purse Seine quota to Reserve; augmentation of 2022 Reserve with allowed 2021 U.S. BFT underharvest)
- 8 closures (Angling category Trophy and multiple General category subquotas)



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2022 Inseason Actions - Quota Transfers & Quota Adjustments

- 19.5 mt within General category from December 2022 to January-March 2022 (December 2021, A7 authority)
- 164.5 mt from Purse Seine category to Reserve category using A7 formula, and in same notice transferred 26 mt from Reserve category to General category (February)
- 30 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category (August)
- 90.5 mt from Reserve category to General category (September)
- 125 mt from Reserve category to General category (October)
- 57.5 mt from Harpoon category to General category (December)



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2023 Inseason Actions – Quota Transfers and Quota Adjustments

- 20.5 mt within General category from December 2023 to January-March 2023 (January 2023, A7 authority)
- *Potential additional actions for 2023*
 - Amending the recreational bluefin retention limits
 - Amending the General, and/or Harpoon category bluefin retention limits
 - Finalize Restricted-Fishing Days for General category
 - Adjudication of IBQ appeals and any resultant IBQ adjustments
 - Augmentation of 2023 Reserve with allowed 2022 U.S. BFT underharvest (within ICCAT)
 - Inseason quota transfers and adjustments
 - Closures



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2022 and 2023 Inseason Actions – Angling Category Retention Limits (Recreational)

Default daily limit (private and charter vessels) effective January 1 each year until changed: 1 school, large school, or small medium BFT/vessel/day

	2022	2023*
Permit Category (Vessel Type)	Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip	Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip
HMS Charter/Headboat (Charter boat)	3 school BFT and 1 large school/small medium BFT	3 school BFT and 1 large school/small medium BFT
HMS Charter/Headboat (Headboat)	6 school BFT and 2 large school/small medium BFT	6 school BFT and 2 large school/small medium BFT

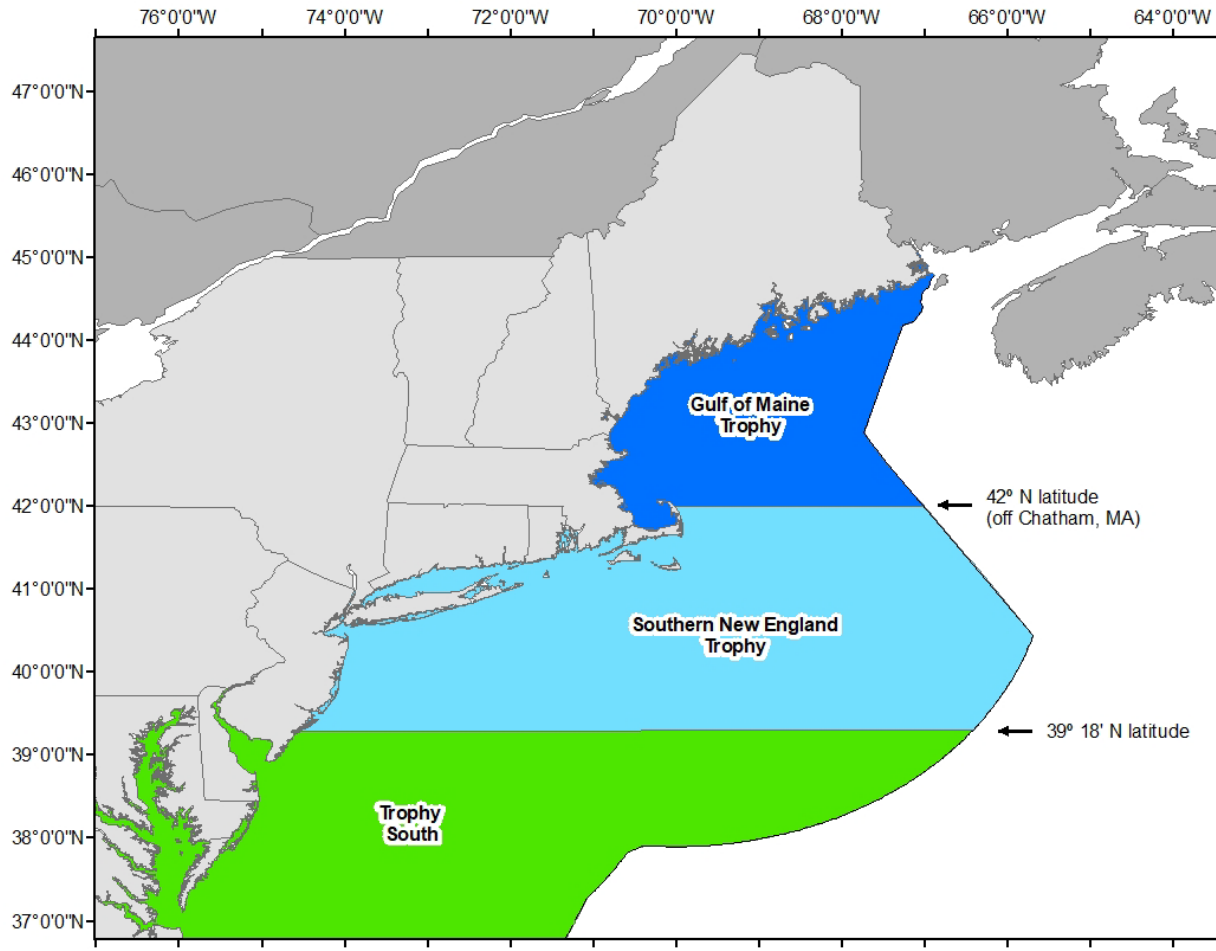
Trophy category: 1 large medium/giant (73"+) BFT/vessel/year

- Southern area closed February 12, 2022 and February 22, 2023
- Gulf of Mexico closed May 17, 2022 and is currently open
- Northern area closed June 29, 2022
- Gulf of Maine and Southern New England are currently open

* Effective dates were ay 6th for 2022



Angling category trophy bluefin fishery



Modifications to the Trophy North Area, showing the two newly defined regions, Gulf of Maine Trophy and Southern New England Trophy.

Recreational BFT Landings (Estimated # of Fish), 2019-2022

	Number of School BFT (27 to <47")	Number of Large School BFT (47 to <59")	Number of Small Medium BFT (59 to <73")	Total Angling Category Landings	Annual Angling Category Quota
2019	1,707	3,937	361	182 mt	232 mt
2020	7,710	685	1,275	202.9 mt	232 mt
2021	9,934	321	359	184.9 mt	232 mt
2022	2,347	3,386	672	228.9 mt	245.9 mt

Data sources: Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) estimates, NC catch card data, MD catch card data (outside LPS sampling timeframe), and NMFS Automated Landings Reporting System (outside LPS sampling timeframe).



2022 Angling Category Landings by Size Class

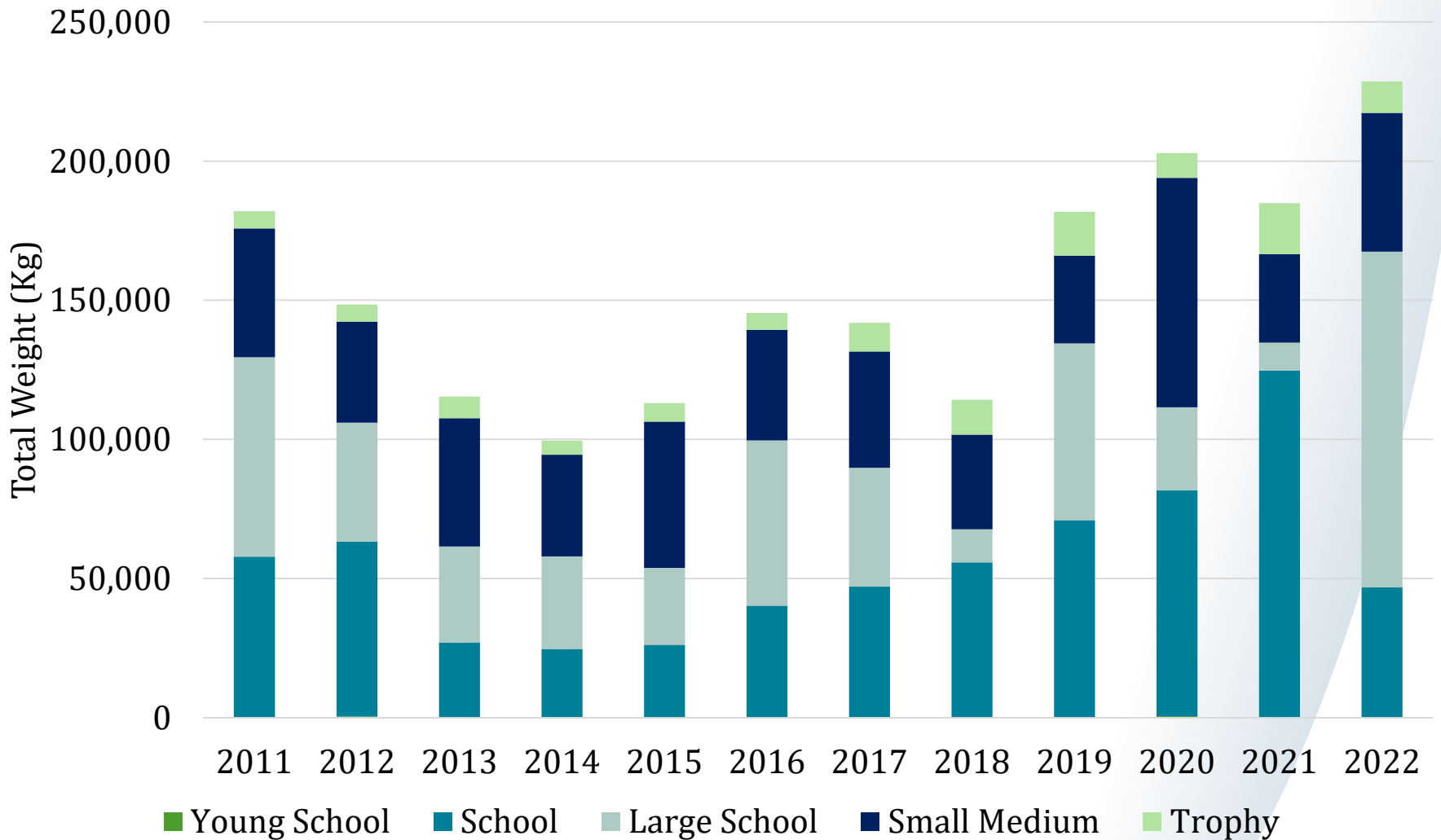
	Landings (mt)	Angling category Quota (mt)	Angling Category Quota Use
School	46.9 (46.3 N; 0.9 S)	131.6	36%
Large School/ Small Medium	170.6 (164.9 N; 5.5 S)	106.7	160%
Large Medium/ Giant (Trophy)	11.3 (2.1 N; 5.5 S; 2.3 GoM)	7.6	149%

Data sources: Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) estimates, NC catch card data, MD catch card data (outside LPS sampling timeframe) and the NMFS Automated Landings Reporting System (outside LPS sampling timeframe).
Totals subject to rounding error.

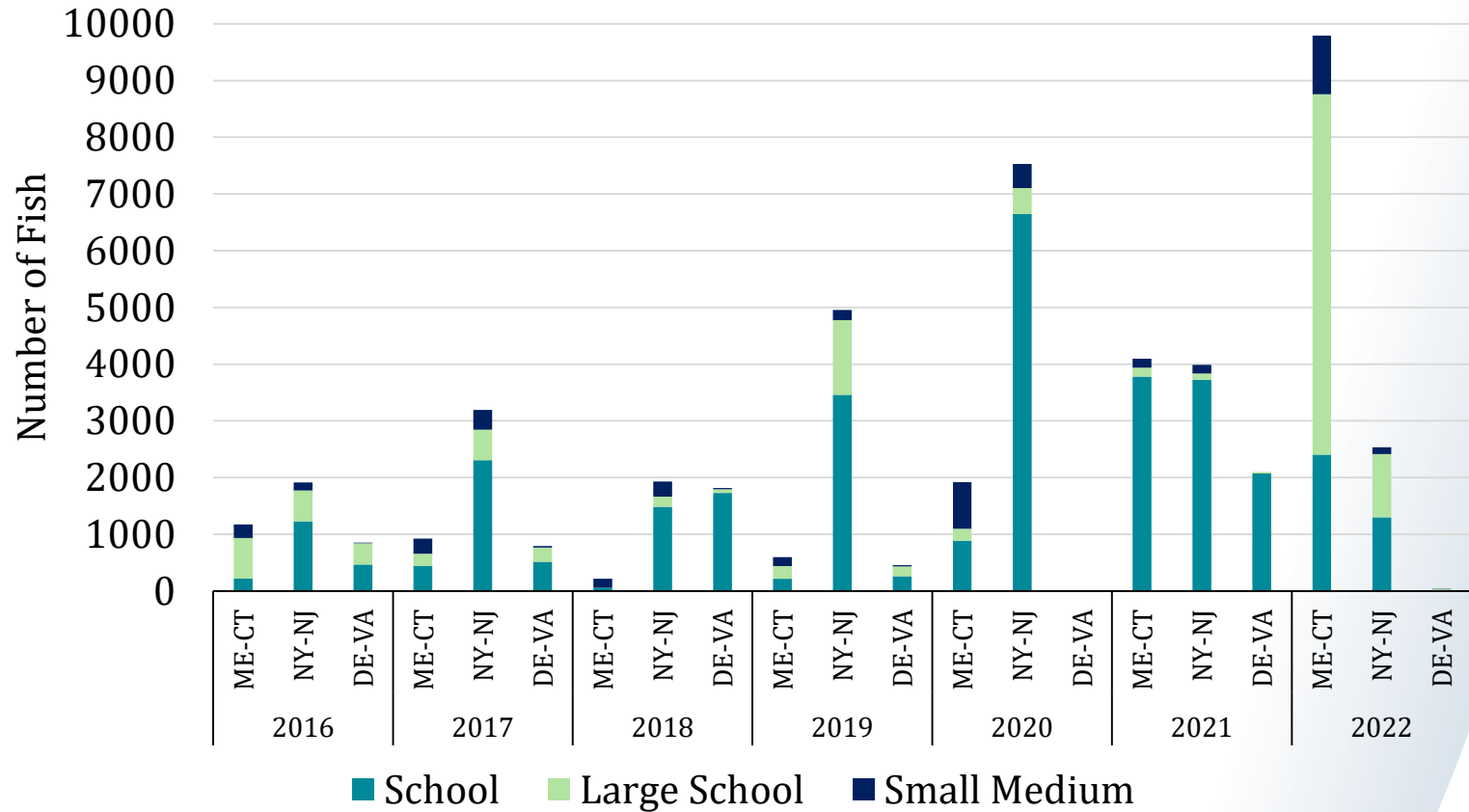


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Recreational Bluefin Tuna Landings



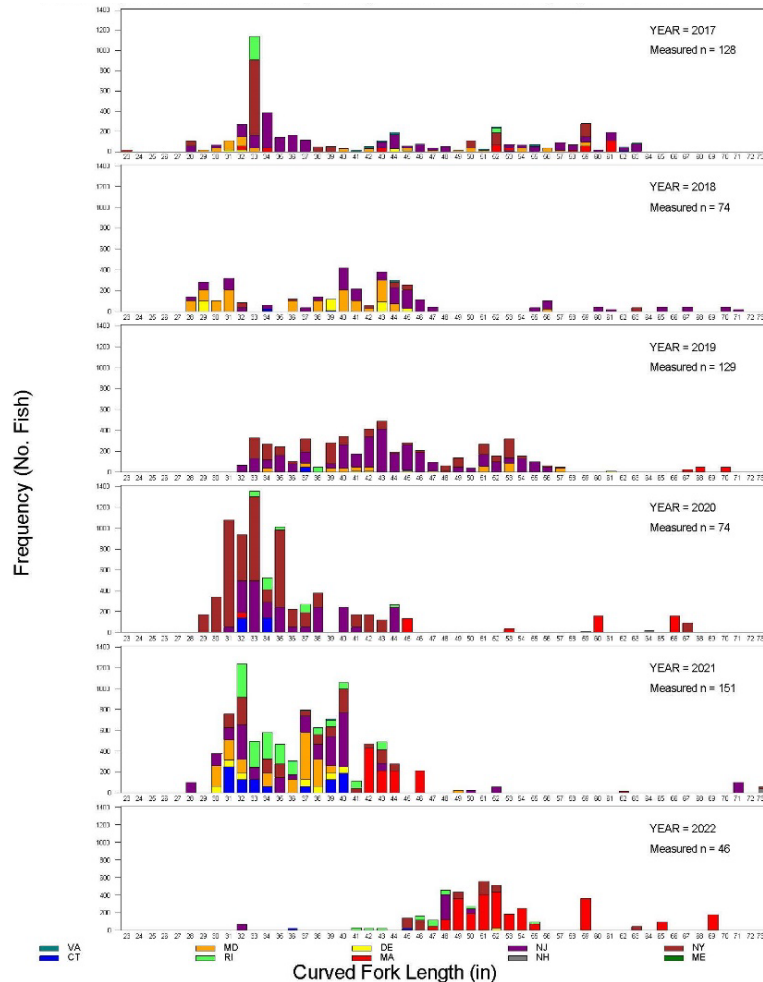
Recreational Landings by Area, 2016-2022



Source: LPS data



Large Pelagics Survey: Expanded Catch-at-Length Size Distribution of Angling Category BFT, 2017-2022



school: 27 to <47"
large school: 47 to <59"
small medium: 59 to <73"

**Large school and small
 medium have traditionally
 been managed as one size
 class.**

2022 General Category Landings by Daily Retention Limit

Time Period	Limit of BFT/Vessel/Day	Days Open	Landings (mt)	mt/day
January 1 - February 11	1	42	89.9	2.1
June 1 - July 2	3	32	50.2	0.6
July 3 - August 10	1	23	253	11.0
September 1 - September 19	1	11	250.9	22.8
October 1 - October 24	1	14	194.4	13.9
December 1 - December 10	1	10	55.3	5.5
TOTAL		132	893.6	

- For dates not shown above the fishery was closed.
- Restricted-Fishing Days: July 1 - Nov 30 (Tue, Fri, Sat)



2022 General Category Bluefin Tuna Landings

Time Period	Quota/Subquota			Landings				
	Base (mt)	Adjusted Quota (mt)	Cumulative Adjusted (mt)	Time Period Landings (mt)	% Adjusted Quota	Cumulative Landings (mt)	Cumulative % of Cumulative Adjusted Quota	Cumulative % of Adjusted Total Quota
Jan-Mar	31.2	76.7	76.7	89.9	117	89.9	117	10
June-Aug	293.9	293.9	391.1	303.2	103	393	100	44
Sept	155.8	225.8	640.4	250.9	111	643.9	101	73
Oct-Nov	76.4	177.9	836.8	194.4	109	838.3	100	95
Dec	30.6	50.1	886.9	55.3	110	893.6	101	101



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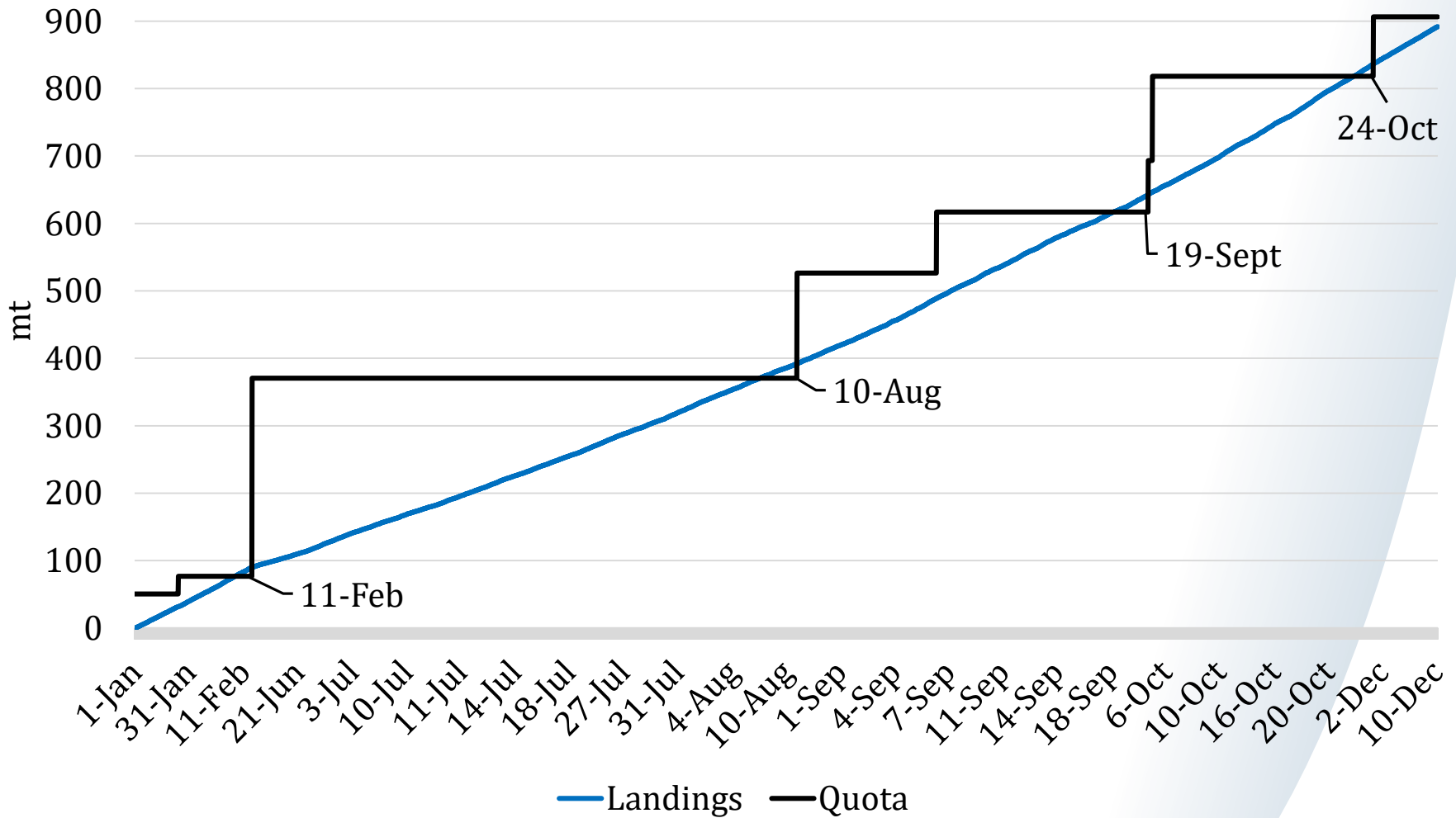
2023 General Category Bluefin Tuna Landings

Time Period	Quota/Subquota			Landings				
	Base (mt)	Adjusted Quota (mt)	Cumulative Adjusted (mt)	Time Period Landings (mt)	% Adjusted Quota	Cumulative Landings (mt)	Cumulative % of Cumulative Adjusted Quota	Cumulative % of Adjusted Total Quota
Jan-Mar	37.7	58.2	58.2	70.1	120	70.1	120	10
June-Aug	355.4	355.4	413.6	-	-	-	-	-
Sept	188.3	188.3	601.9	-	-	-	-	-
Oct-Nov	92.4	92.4	694.3	-	-	-	-	-
Dec	37	16.5	710.8	-	-	-	-	-



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2022 General Category Cumulative Landings



2022 Harpoon Category Landings Information

	Daily Retention Limit	Landings (mt)	Quota Use
Large Medium (73 - < 81")	2	17.3	22%
Giant (81" +)	unlimited	60.4	78%
Annual Total		77.7	169% of the 46-mt baseline quota; 102% of the 76.4-mt adjusted quota

Percent of trips landing at least one BFT:

Only Lg. Med: 30% Lg. Med and Giant: 20% Only Giant: 50%

Percent of trips landing at least one BFT:

1 Fish: 56% 2 Fish: 19% 3 Fish: 11% 4-8 Fish: 14% 9+ Fish: 0%

Retention Limits (New with A13): 10 BFT, per vessel per day of which 2 can be large mediums. NOAA Fisheries may adjust retention limits of large medium and/or giant BFT, combined (5 to 10 fish) or just large mediums (2 to 4 fish). Pre-A13: 2 to 4 large mediums (default of 2) and unlimited giants.



Harpoon (Gear) Landings by the General and Harpoon Categories

	2021			2022		
	Number of Vessels with Landings	Number of Fish	Weight (mt)	Number of Vessels with Landings	Number of Fish	Weight (mt)
General category	21	37	8.1	12	29	5.0
Harpoon category	24	332	55.8	24	442	77.7
Totals	45	369	63.9	36	471	82.7

General category harpoon gear landings represent >1% of total General category 2022 landings (5.0 mt of 891.8-mt total)



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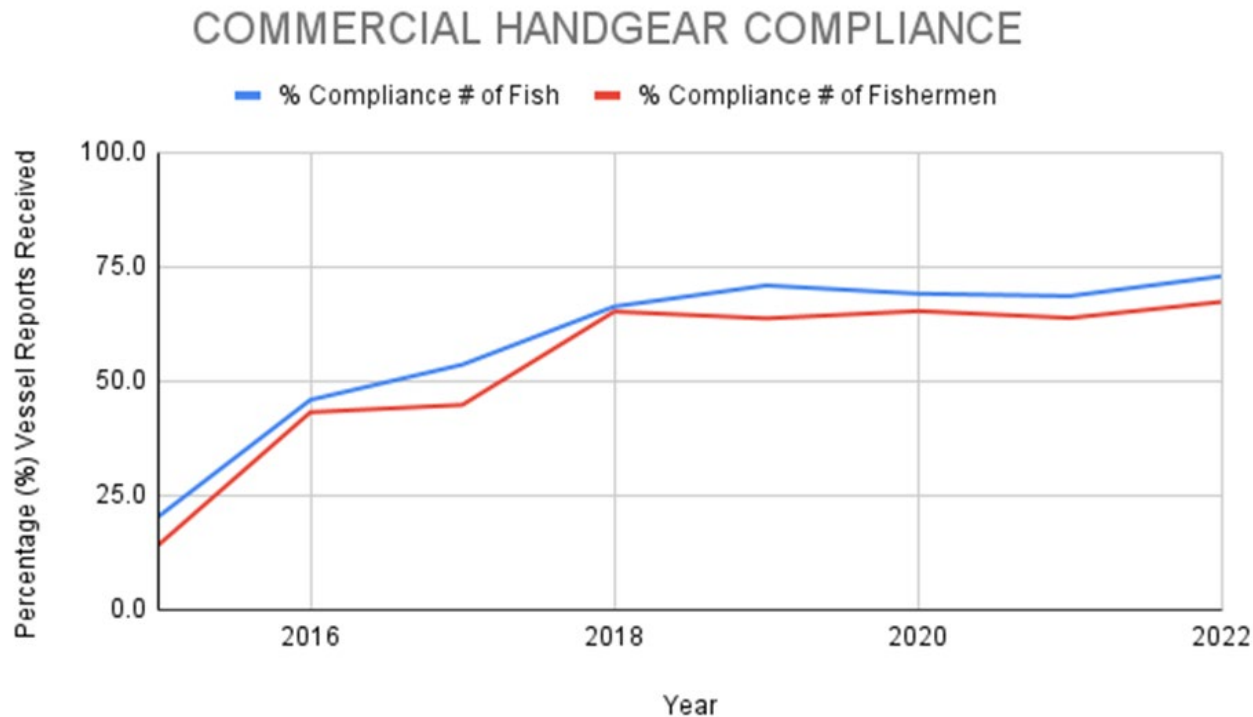
BFT Reporting Compliance for General, Harpoon, and Charter/Headboat Categories

Quota Category	Comparison of Dealer & Online BFT Reports for 2022; % Compliance 2020-2022									
	Dealer Reports		Online Reports		% Compliance					
	# Fish	# Fishermen	# Fish	# Fishermen	% Fish Reported			% Fishermen Reporting		
					2022	2021	2020	2022	2021	2020
General	5,112	1,130	3,323	758	64.9	61.0	66.4	67.1	63.7	65.0
Harpoon	452	24	410	19	90.7	84.9	92.0	79.2	70.8	78.3
Total	5,564	1,154	3,733	761	67.0	68.6	69.1	65.9	63.8	65.3



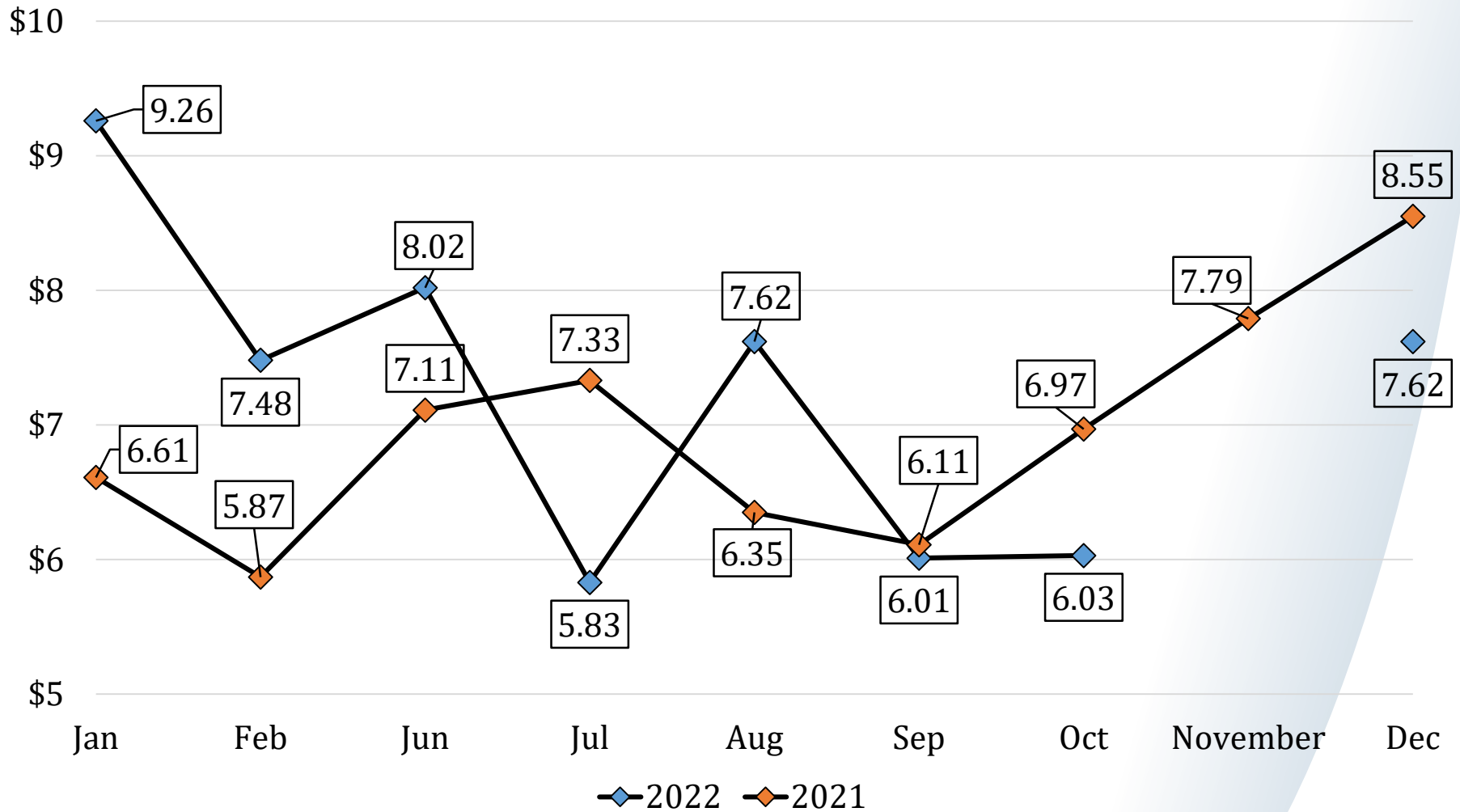
BFT Reporting Requirement for General, Harpoon, and Charter/Headboat Categories

- Vessels are required to report the catch of all BFT retained or discarded dead, within 24 hours of landing or end of each trip, by accessing hmspermits.noaa.gov or by using the HMS Catch Reporting app
- Outreach to the fishery continues, including by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

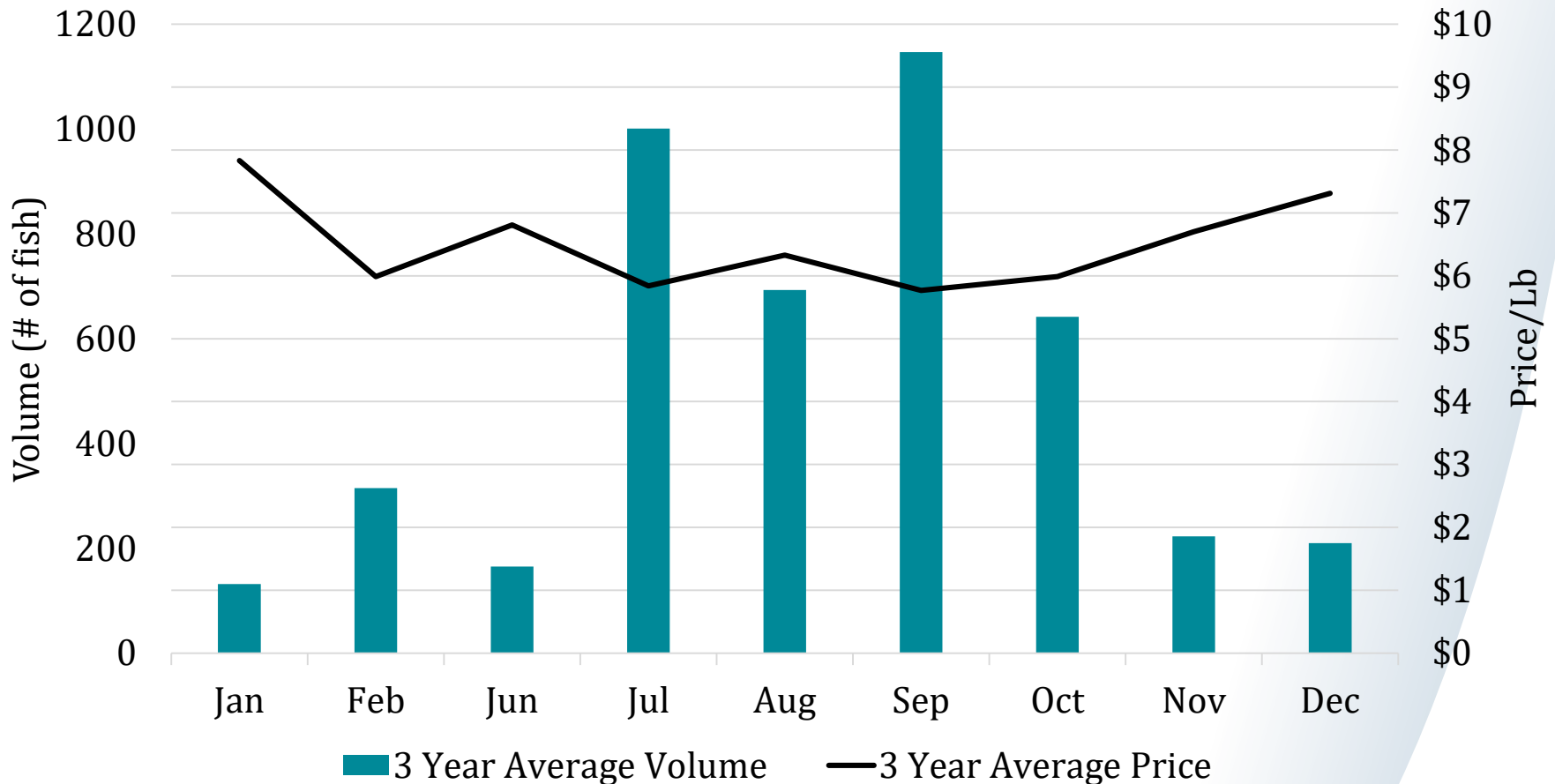


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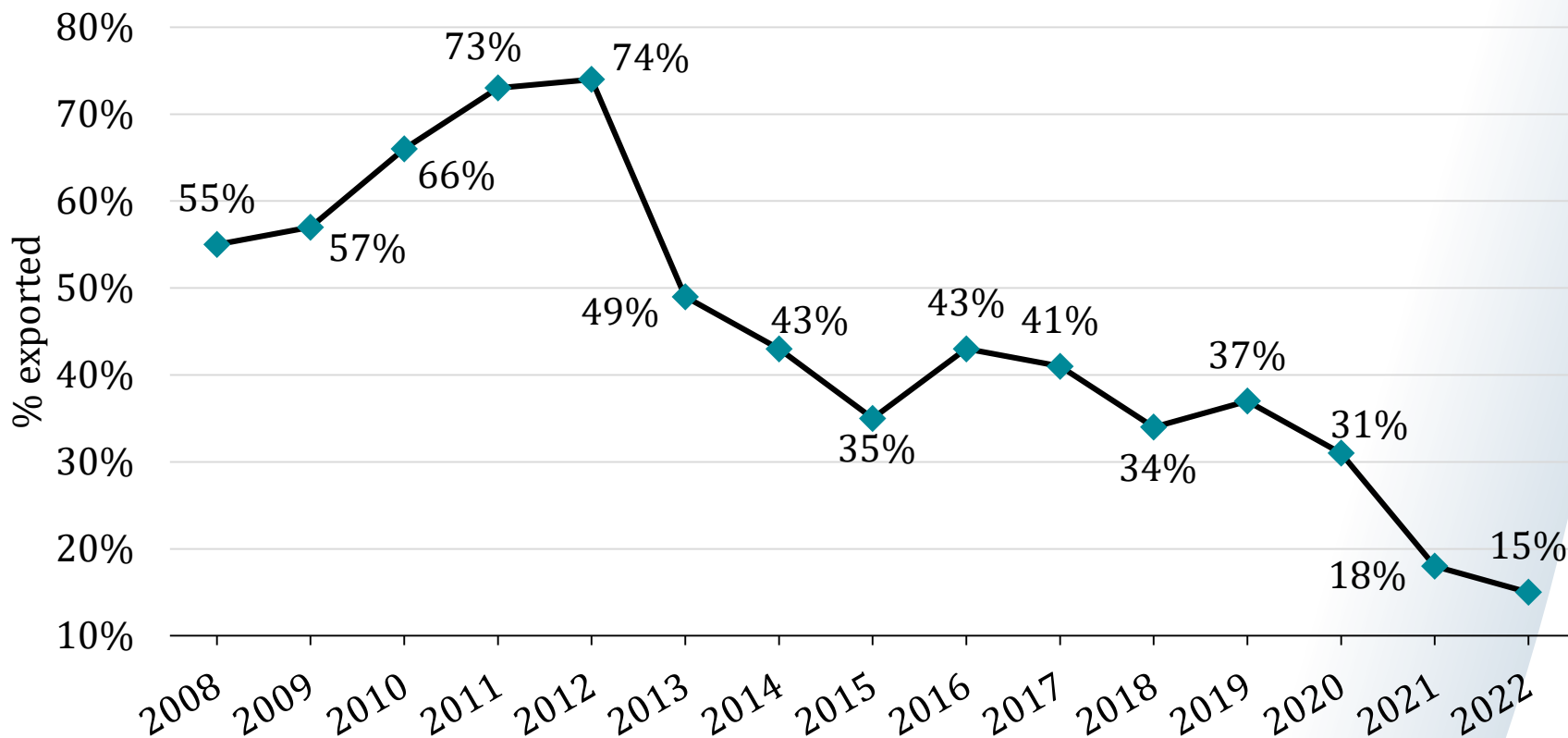
General Category Average Price/lb



General Category 3-year Averages (# of Fish and Price/lb), 2020-2022



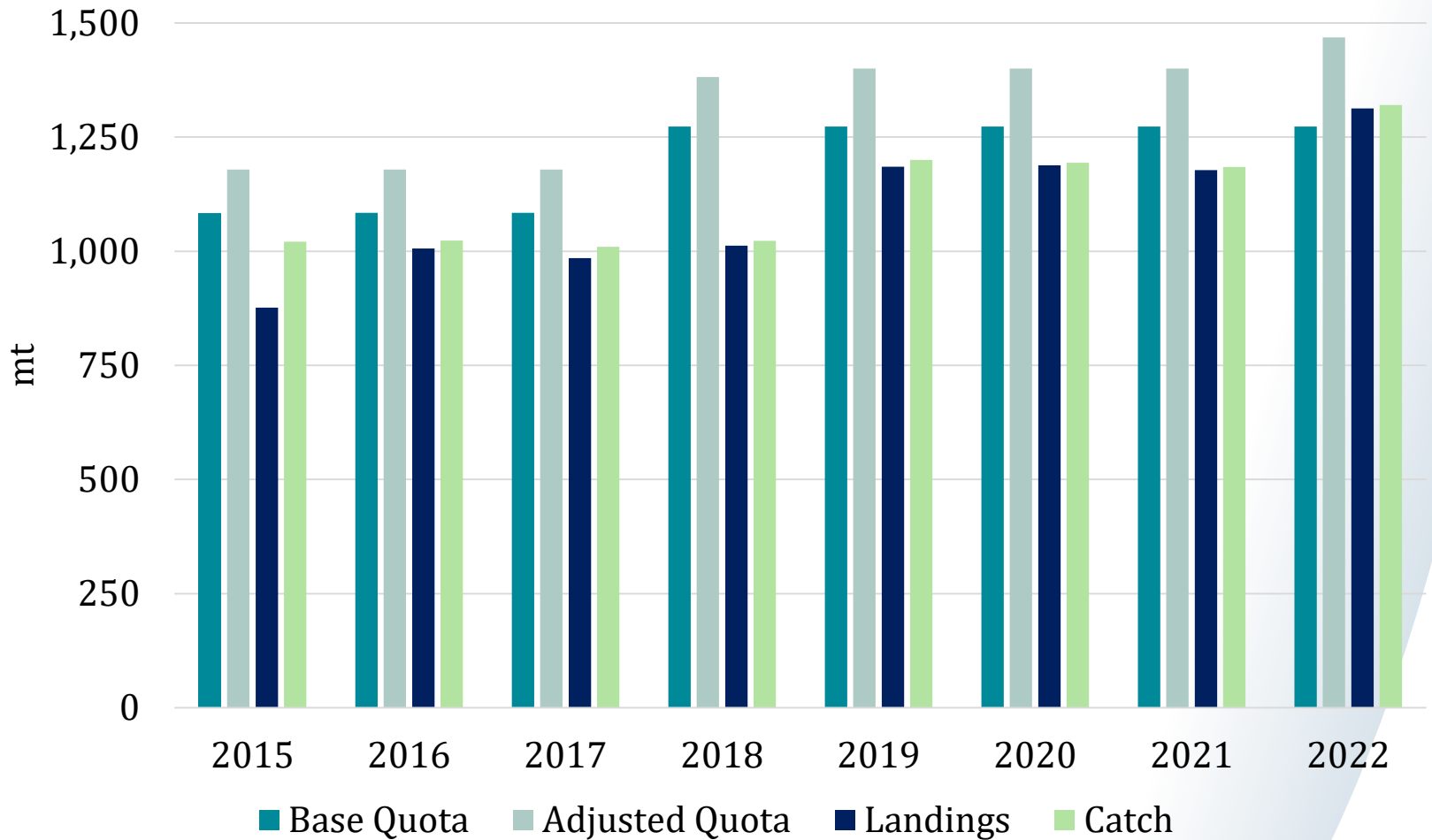
Exported Landings



2022	Exports	Domestic
Average Price per lb.	\$6.43	\$6.52
Total Ex-Vessel Value	\$2,282,268	\$13,267,194



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



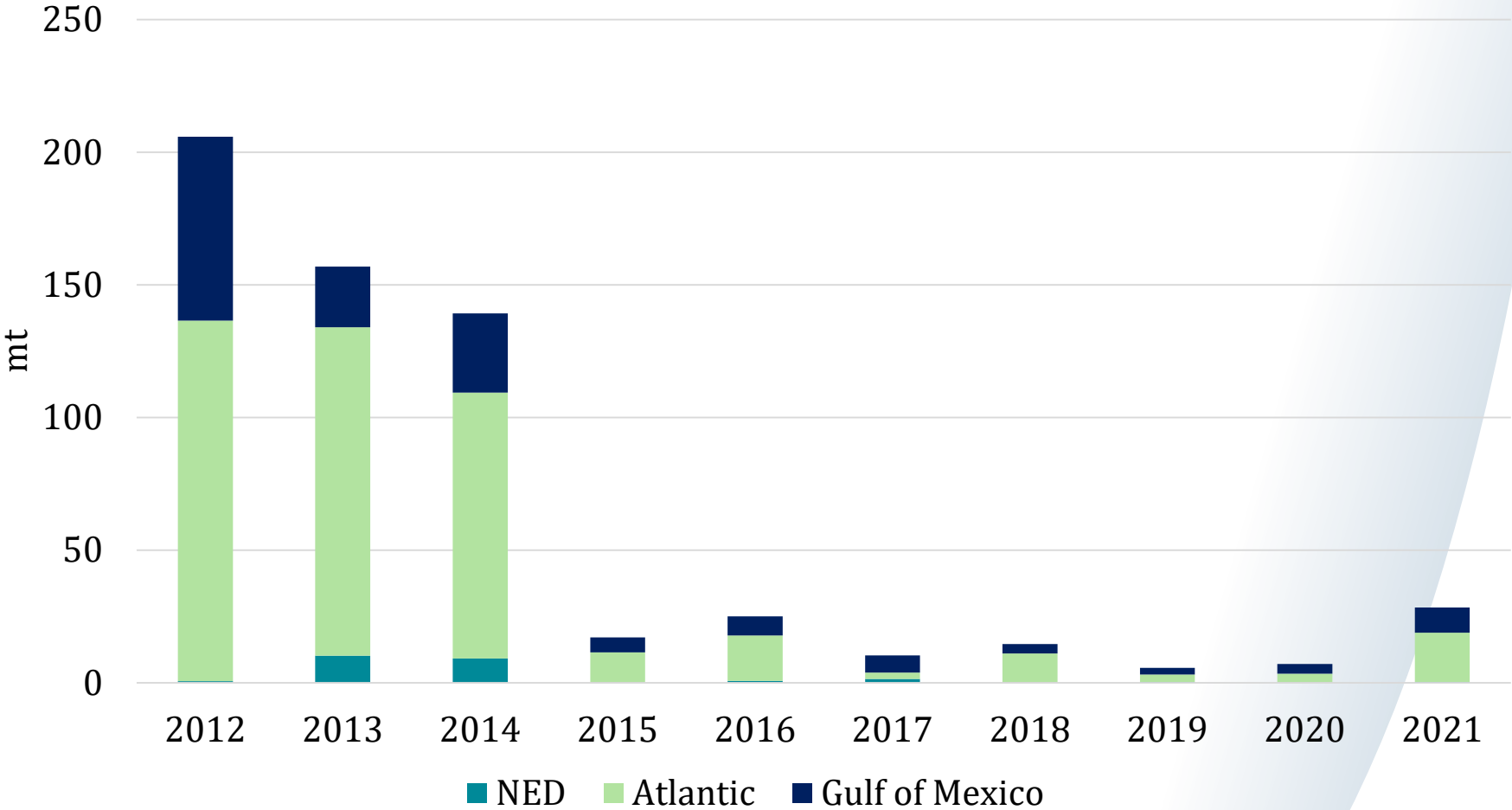
2022 BFT Dead Discards

- Currently, the best available annual estimate of U.S. dead discards for 2022 is the 2021 estimate of 28.4 mt for the pelagic longline fishery.
- The United States accounts for dead discards annually and reports them to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
- NOAA Fisheries continues to refine reporting methodologies for both pelagic longline and commercial/recreational handgear dead discards

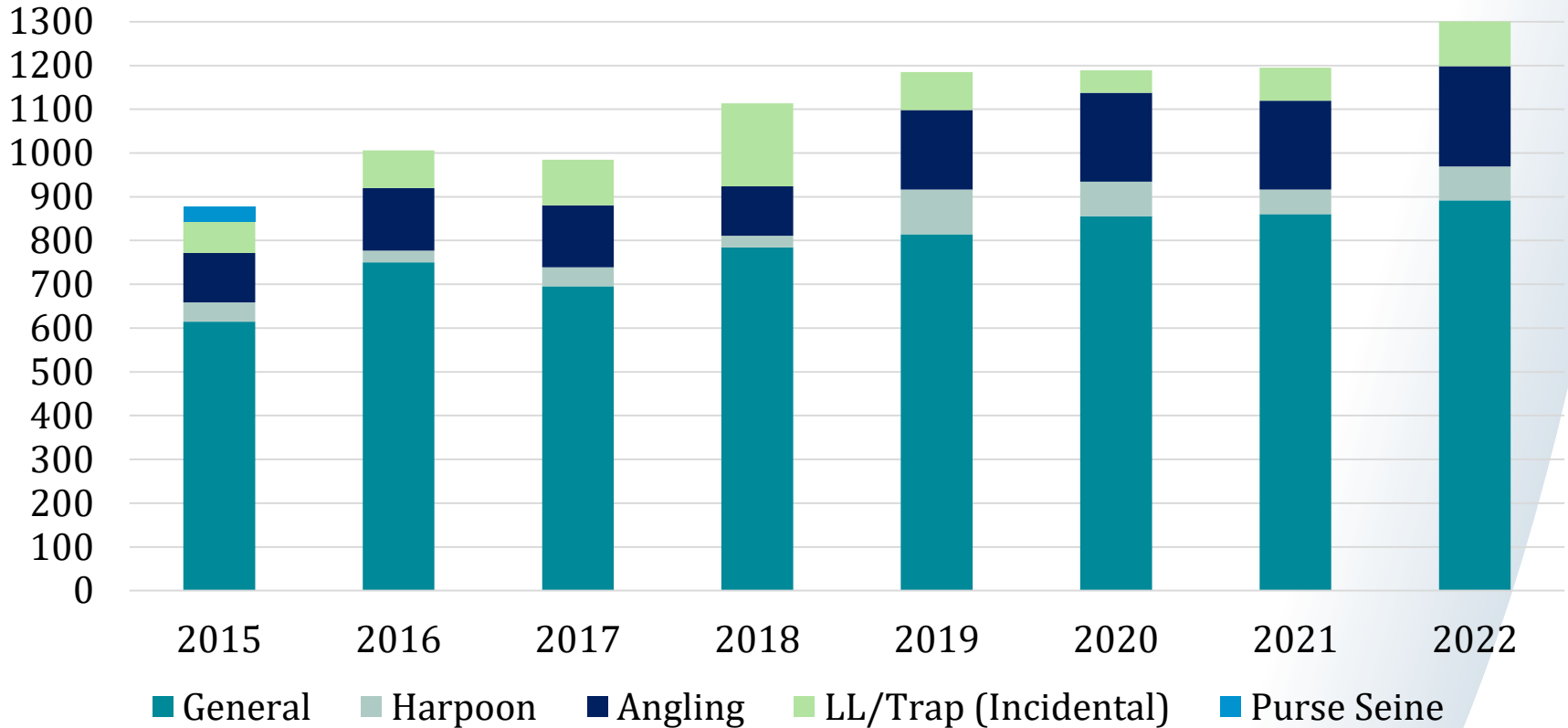


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Annual PLL Dead Discards By Area



Landings by Category (mt)



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A13 – Dynamic IBQ Allocation Process

- A13 “New” process:
 - Annual reassessment
 - Calculate IBQ shares based on total number of eligible sets during previous 36 months relative to total number of pelagic longline sets
- A7 “Old” Process
 - One time assessment
 - Permit associated w/vessel as of August 21, 2013 (publication of A7 proposed rule)
 - Reported at least one set in the HMS logbooks from 2006 through 2012.
 - Tiered approach vs. individualized
- Effort-based vs historical participation model
- Source Data:
 - Elected to use mandatory VMS set reports currently: most timely data availability
 - Logbooks could be an option – longer processing time
- Appeals:
 - Adjudicated by a third party, the NMFS National Appeals Office (NAO).
 - IBQ shareholders had 45-days to submit appeal after receipt of Initial Allocation Determinations.
- IBQ Leasing:
 - Contact list of share holders provided
 - Marketplace now up and running
 - [IBQ Catch Shares Programs](#)



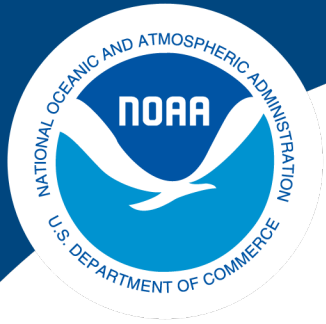
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Questions? Comments?

For further information on Atlantic tunas management,
contact (978) 281-9260 or (301) 427-8539



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