



# Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries

2023 Year in Review | 2024 Fishery to Date



HMS Advisory Panel Meeting  
May 2024



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# Annual 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%)
<b>U.S. Baseline Quota</b>	<b>1,316.14</b>		
<b>Including 25 mt for NED</b>	<b>1,341.14</b>		



# 2023 Bluefin Tuna Landings

Quota Category	No. of Fish	Weight (mt)	Base Quota (mt)	Adjusted Quota (mt)	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken
<b>General</b>	<b>4,475</b>	<b>853.2</b>	<b>710.7</b>	<b>843.6</b>	<b>120%</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>Harpoon</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>125%</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>Longline</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>234.3</b>	<b>234.3</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>56%</b>
NED	0	0.0	25.0	25.0	0%	0%
Atlantic (non-NED)	707	122.0	136.0	136.0	90%	90%
Gulf	38	9.5	73.3	73.3	13%	13%
<b>Trap</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Angling</b>	<b>4,989</b>	<b>220.0</b>	<b>297.4</b>	<b>297.4</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>74%</b>
School	1,087	15.6	134.1	134.1	12%	12%
Lg sch/Sm med	3,836	189.5	154.1	154.1	123%	123%
Trophy	66	14.9	9.2	9.2	162%	162%
<b>Reserve</b>			<b>38.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>		
<b>Total (landings)</b>	<b>10,604</b>	<b>1278.5</b>	<b>1341.1</b>	<b>1447.6</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Total (landings + dead discards (=20 mt))</b>		<b>1298.5</b>	<b>1341.1</b>	<b>1447.6</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>90%</b>



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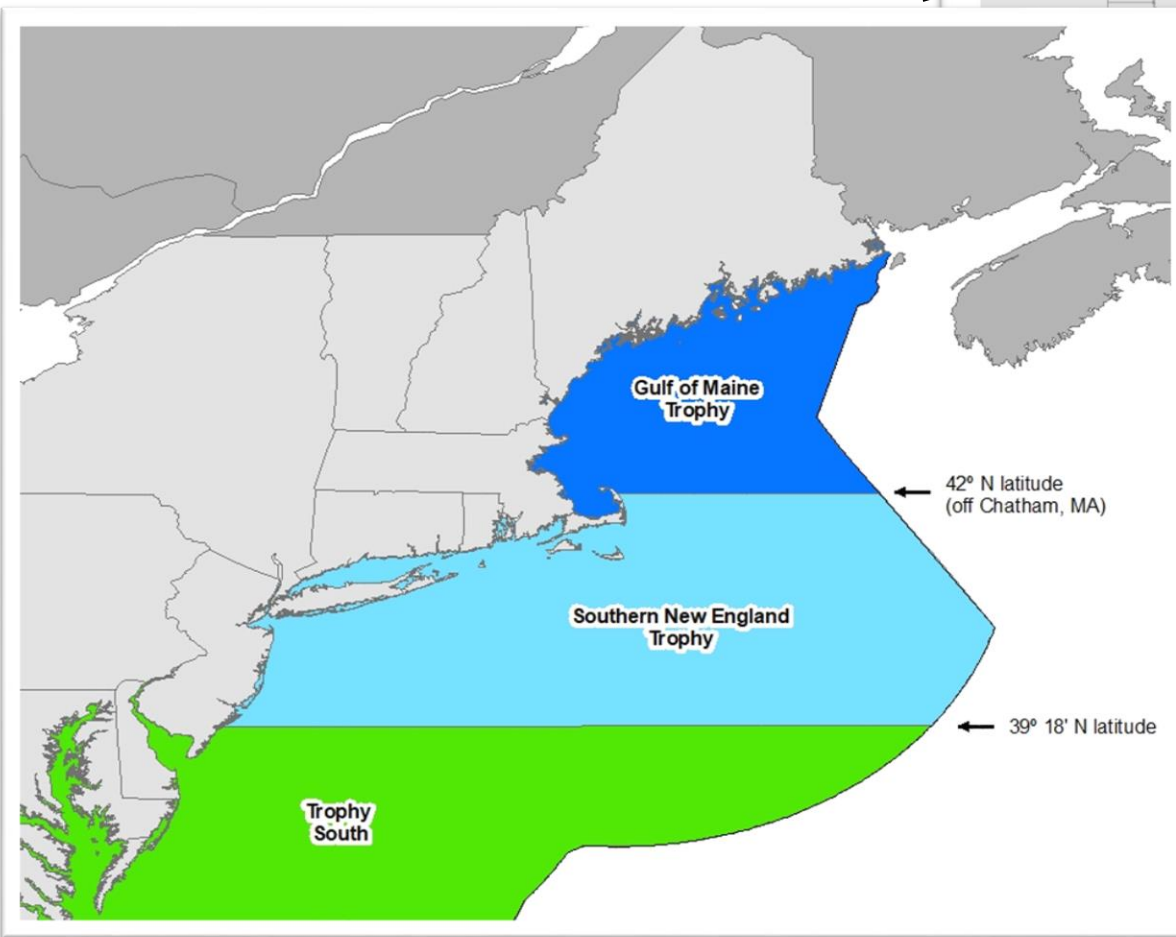
# Adjustments to the 2024 Albacore, Swordfish, and Bluefin Reserve Category Quotas

Temporary, final rule to adjust 2024 baseline quotas based on 2023 underharvest & ICCAT limitations

- Species: North Atlantic albacore, North and South Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic bluefin tuna
- Timing: Anticipated to publish Fall 2024
- This action not yet proposed; expected to be effective through December 31, 2024



# Recreational Trophy Areas (Increased to 4 in 2023)



Amendment 13 divided Northern area into:

- Gulf of Maine
- Southern New England

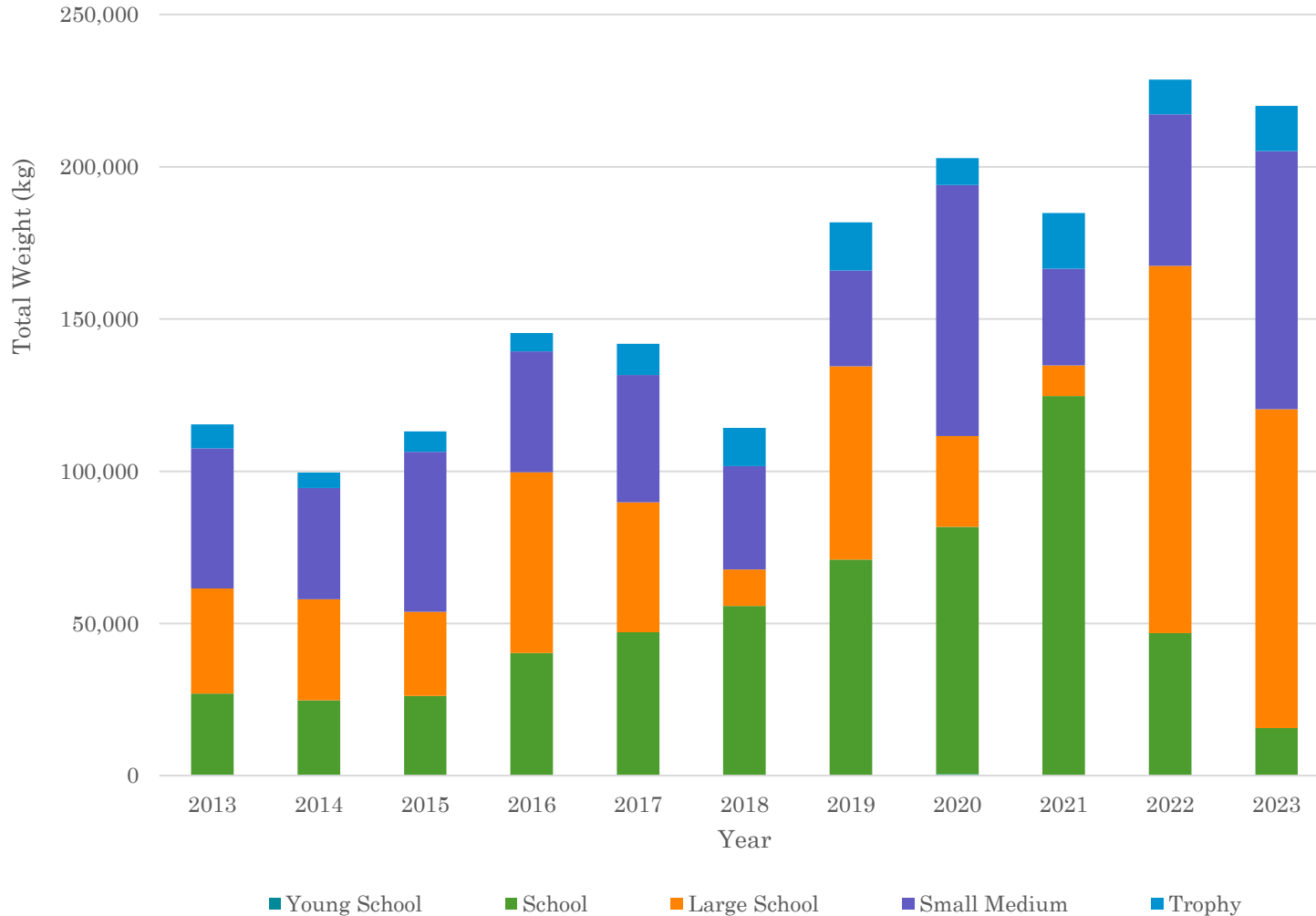
# Angling Category Trophy Fishery

Retention limit: 1 large medium/giant (73"+) BFT/vessel/year

		Gulf of Maine				S. New England				Southern				Gulf of Mexico			
Year	Quota	MT	No. of Fish	% Quota Used	Date Closed	MT	No. of Fish	% Quota Used	Date Closed	MT	No. of Fish	% quota used	Date Closed	MT	No. of Fish	% Quota used	Date Closed
<b>2024</b>	<b>2.3</b>					<b>5.7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>2-May</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>9-Feb</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>5-Aug</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>5-Jun</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>2-Feb</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>9-May</b>
<b>Northern (previously Gulf of Maine + S. New England combined)</b>																	
Year	Quota	MT	No. of Fish	% Quota Used	Date Closed	MT	No. of Fish	% quota used	Date Closed	MT	No. of Fish	% Quota used	Date Closed				
<b>2022</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>29-Jun</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>12-Feb</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>17-May</b>				
<b>2021</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>11-May</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>1-Mar</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>4-May</b>				



## Recreational Bluefin Tuna Landings



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# 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 bluefin tuna (BFT)/vessel/day

	2024	2023	2022
Permit Category (Vessel Type)	Adjustments pending	Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip	
HMS Angling (Private)		2 school BFT and 1 large school/small medium BFT	
HMS Charter/Headboat (Charter boat)		3 school BFT and 1 large school/small medium BFT	
HMS Charter/Headboat (Headboat)		6 school BFT and 2 large school/small medium BFT	



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# 2023 Harpoon Category Retention Limits, Quota Transfers, and Closures via Inseason Action

Date	Inseason Action
June 1 - July 13	10 BFT/vessel/day with max of 2 large medium
July 14 - 30	5 BFT/vessel/day with max of 2 large medium
July 21	Add 10.8 mt to Quota
July 30 - December 31	CLOSED

Amendment 13 established the daily retention limit range of 5 to a maximum of 10 BFT/vessel/day (2-4 large medium sized; the rest giants)



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## 2023 Harpoon Category Landings

	Landings (mt)	Notes
Large Medium (73 - < 81" )	6.9	9% of Harpoon category landings
Giant (81" +)	66.3	91% of Harpoon category landings
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>124% of the 59.2-mt baseline Harpoon category quota; 105% of the 70-mt adjusted quota</b>

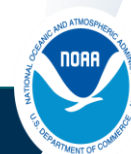
***For 2023, of those trips landing at least one BFT, \_\_% landed :***  
 1 Fish: 48% 2 Fish: 23% 3 Fish: 10% 4-8 Fish: 16% 9-10: Fish: 2%

***For 2022, of those trips landing at least one BFT, \_\_% landed :***  
 1 Fish: 55% 2 Fish: 19% 3 Fish: 11% 4-8 Fish: 14% 9+ Fish: 0%



## Harpoon (Gear) Landings by the General and Harpoon Categories

	2023			2022		
	Number of vessels with landings	Number of fish	Weight (mt)	Number of vessels with landings	Number of fish	Weight (mt)
General category	16	34	6.0	10	27	4.5
Harpoon category	33	395	73.8	25	417	70.8
TOTALS	49	429	79.8	35	444	75.3



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# Harpoon Category

- Retention Limits



Photo sources: Facebook, Instagram, TicTok, Pinterest

# 2023 General Category Retention Limits, Quota Transfers, and Closures (Inseason Actions)

Action Type	Effective Date	Details
Quota Transfer	01/01/2023	+20.5 mt from December 2023 to January-March 2023
Closure	02/14/2023	January - March
Retention Limit Adj	06/01/2023	Increase from 1 to 3 until August 31
Retention Limit Adj (RFDs)	07/01/2023	RFDs (Tues, Fri, Sat) July thru Nov 30
Retention Limit Adj	07/02/2023	Decrease from 3 to 1
Closure	08/17/2023	June - August
Closure, Quota Transfer	09/17/2023	September; +21.7 mt =210 mt
Quota Transfer	09/28/2023	October-November; +25 mt = 117.4
Closure	10/09/2023	October - November
Quota Transfer	12/01/2023	Restore Dec. (+20.5) increase (+ 11.7 ) = 48.7 mt available; resolve previous overages (54 mt) for total add. of 86.2 mt



# 2023 General Category Landings

Time Period	Open Dates	No. Open Days	Daily Retention Limit	RFDs	Landings (mt)	Base Sub-quota	Adjusted Subquota
January - March	January 1 – February 14	45	1	-	69.5	37.7	58.2
June-August	June 1 – 30	30	3	-	46.2	355.4	355.4
	July 1 – August 17	28	1	T, F, Sa	329.5		
	Total	58	-	-	375.6		
September	September 1 - 17	9	1	T, F, Sa	238.1	188.3	210
October-November	October 1 - 9	6	1	T, F, Sa	105.5	92.4	117.4
December	December 1 - 31	31	1	-	60.2	37	48.7
<b>TOTALS</b>					844.1	710.7	843.7



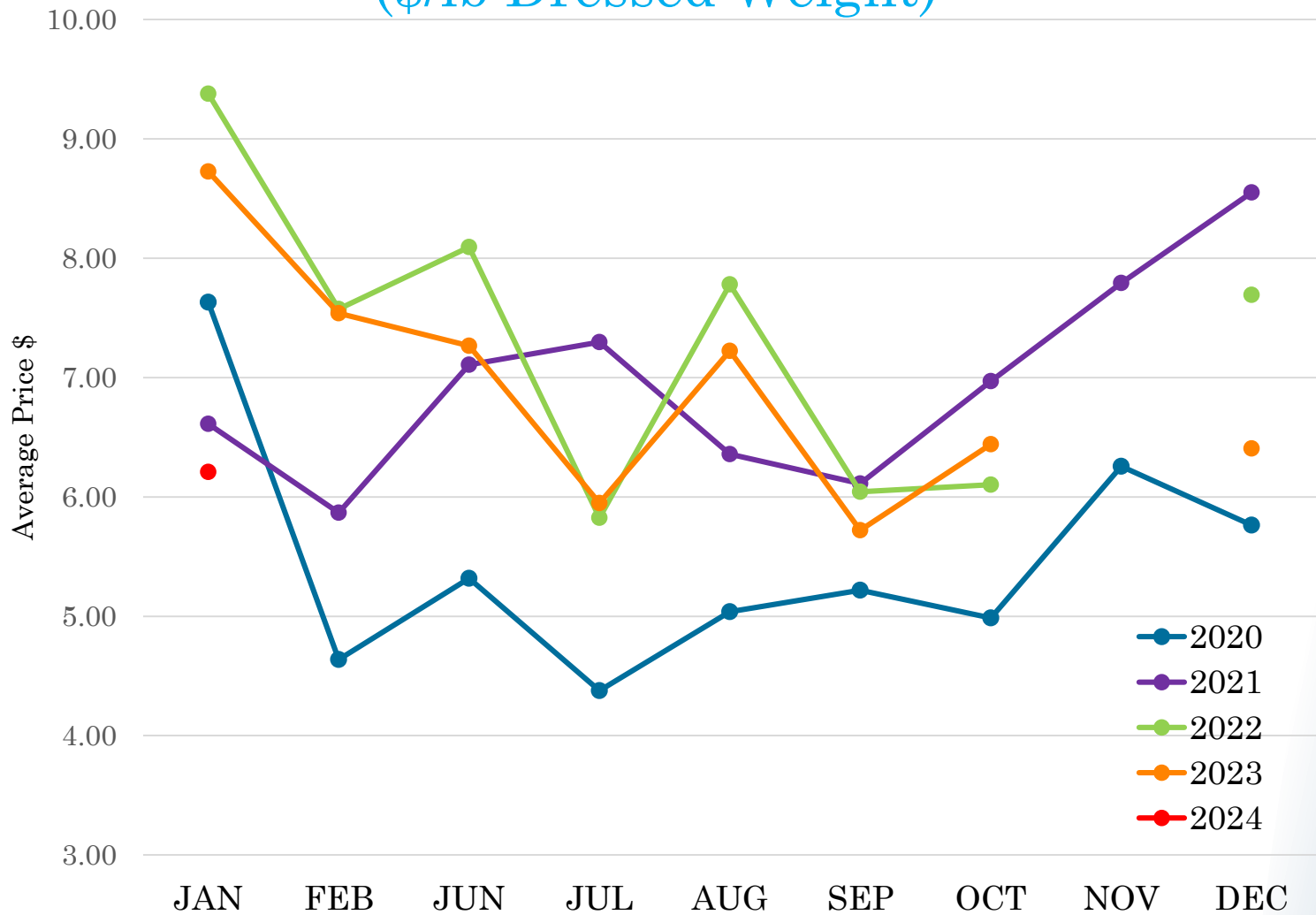
## 2023 General Category Landings

<b>June 1 - 30, 2023</b> <b>(3 large medium/giant (73"+) BFT/vessel/day)</b>		
	Number of trips	% landing BFT
1 fish	104	90
2 fish	9	8
3 fish	2	2
Total	115	100

90% of General category trips landed 1 BFT during the period when the retention limit was 3/day.



# General Category Average Price (\$/lb Dressed Weight)

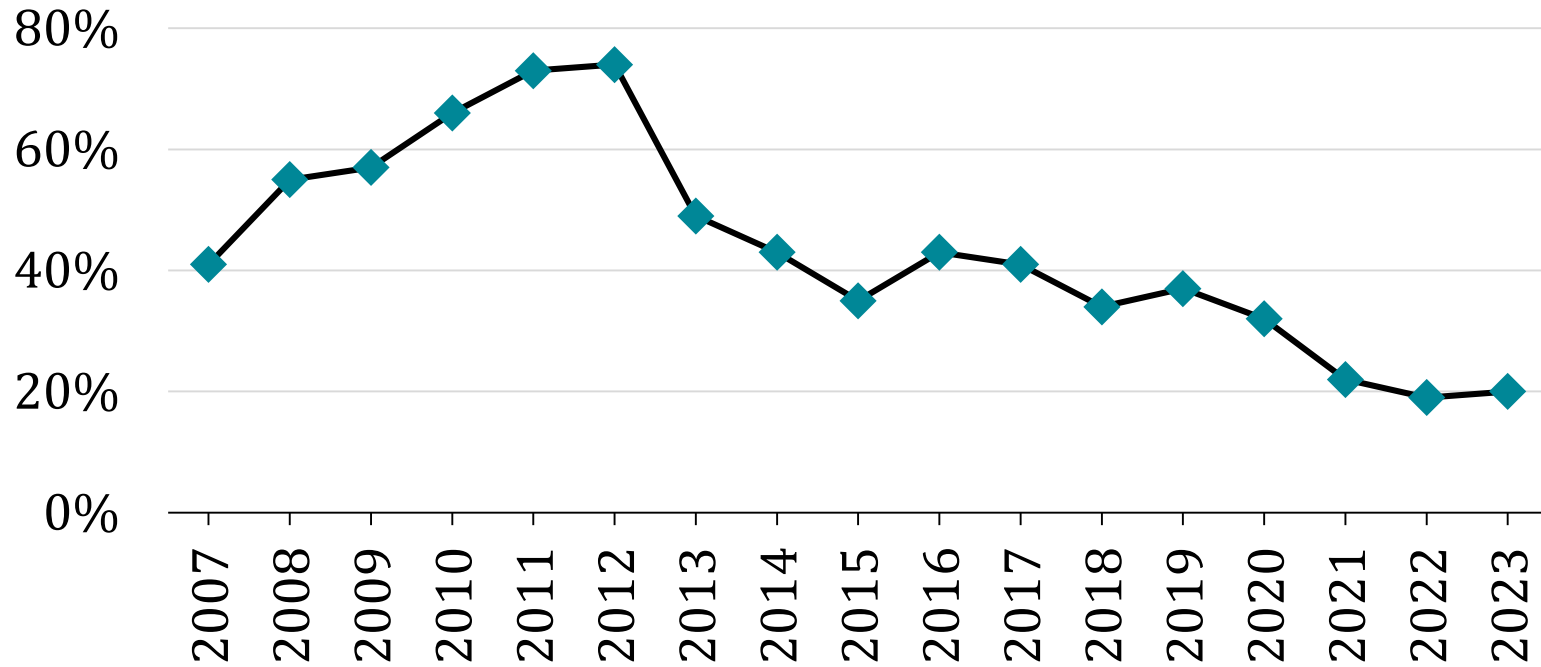


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# Exported vs. Domestic Landings

## Percent of BFT Landings that are Exported

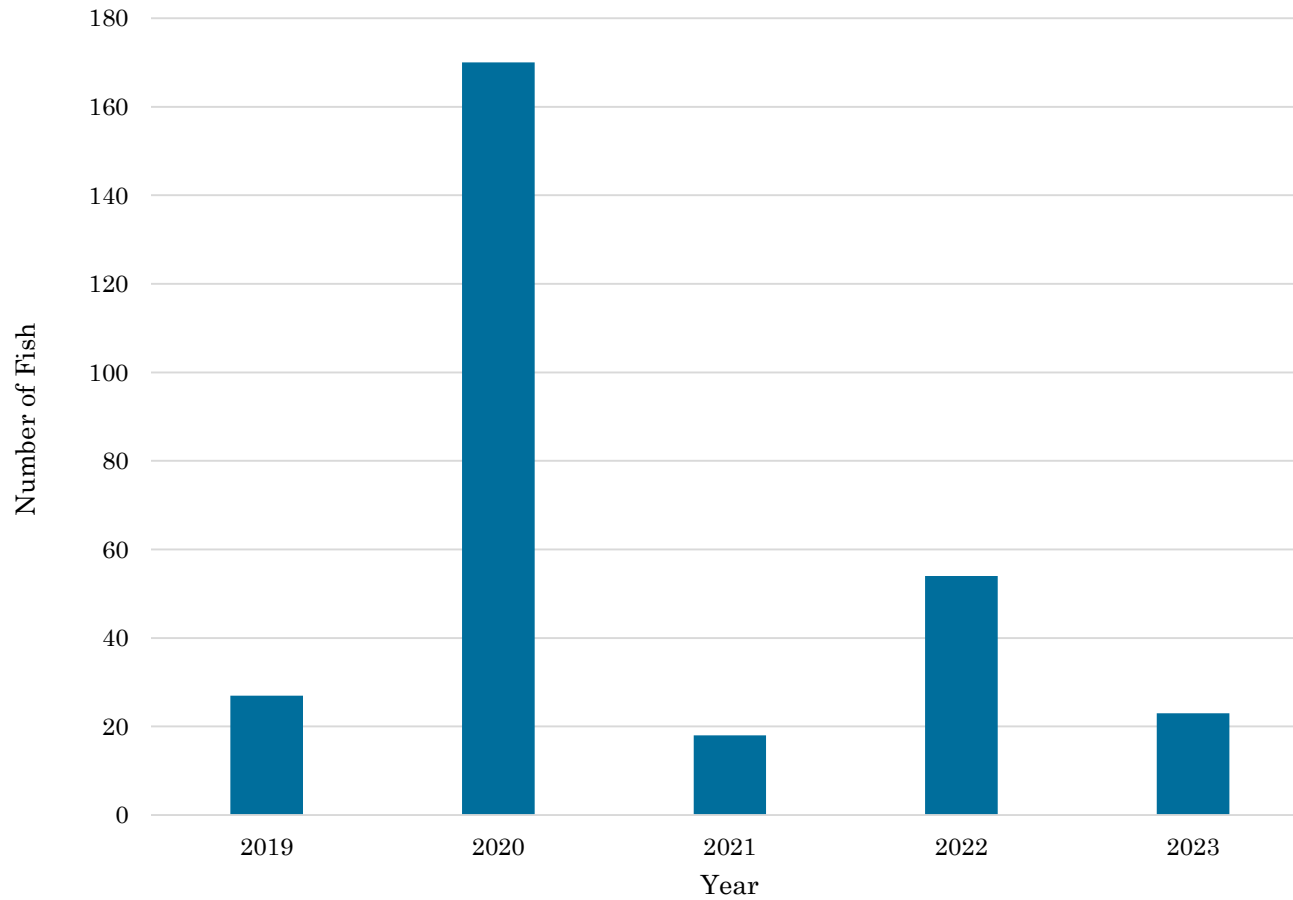


2023	Exports	Domestic
Average Price per lb.	\$5.59	\$5.14
Total Ex-Vessel Value	\$9,175,120	\$2,515,563



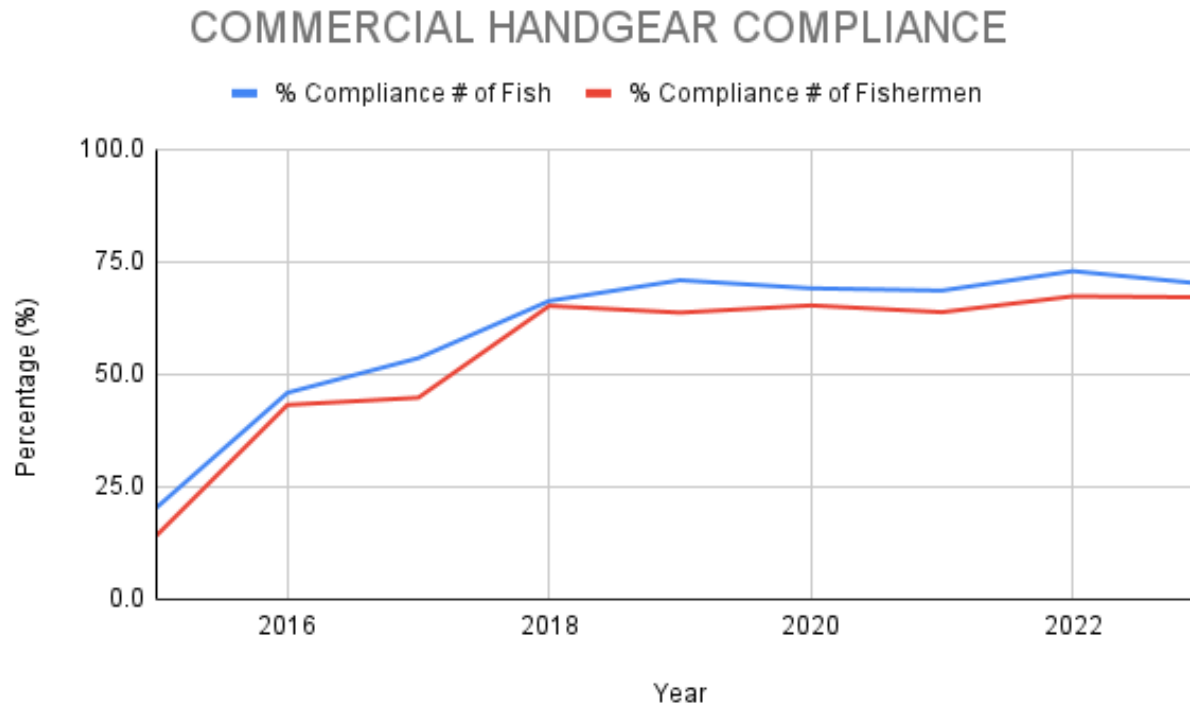
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# Unsold General Category Bluefin Tuna



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

- Permit holders 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](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov), using the HMS Catch Reporting app (or eTrips which requires concurrently held SERO or GARFO vsl permit).
- Outreach to the fishery continues, including by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement



# Federal Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permits

The Greater Atlantic Regional Permitting Office issues Federal Atlantic tunas dealer permits for all states

States issue seafood wholesale permits/licenses and these are the conduit to FDA food safety requirements

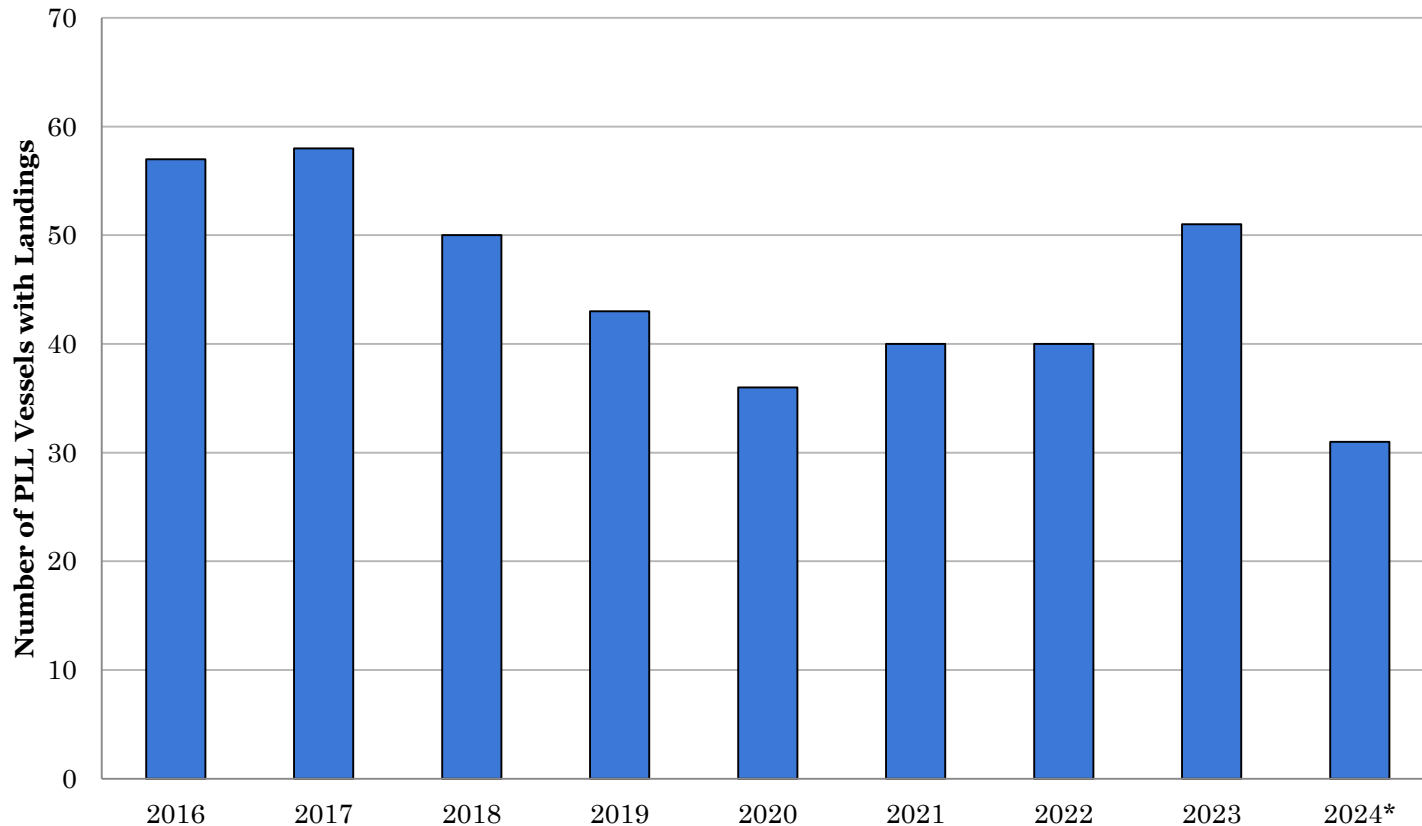
Tunas - Scombroid fish poisoning concerns

FDA - Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)

*50 CFR 635.4(h)(3)(ii): An applicant must also submit a copy of each state wholesaler's license held by the dealer...*



# Number of Pelagic Longline Vessels with Bluefin Tuna Landings by Year



\*2024 data through May 2, 2024



## 2023 BFT Dead Discards

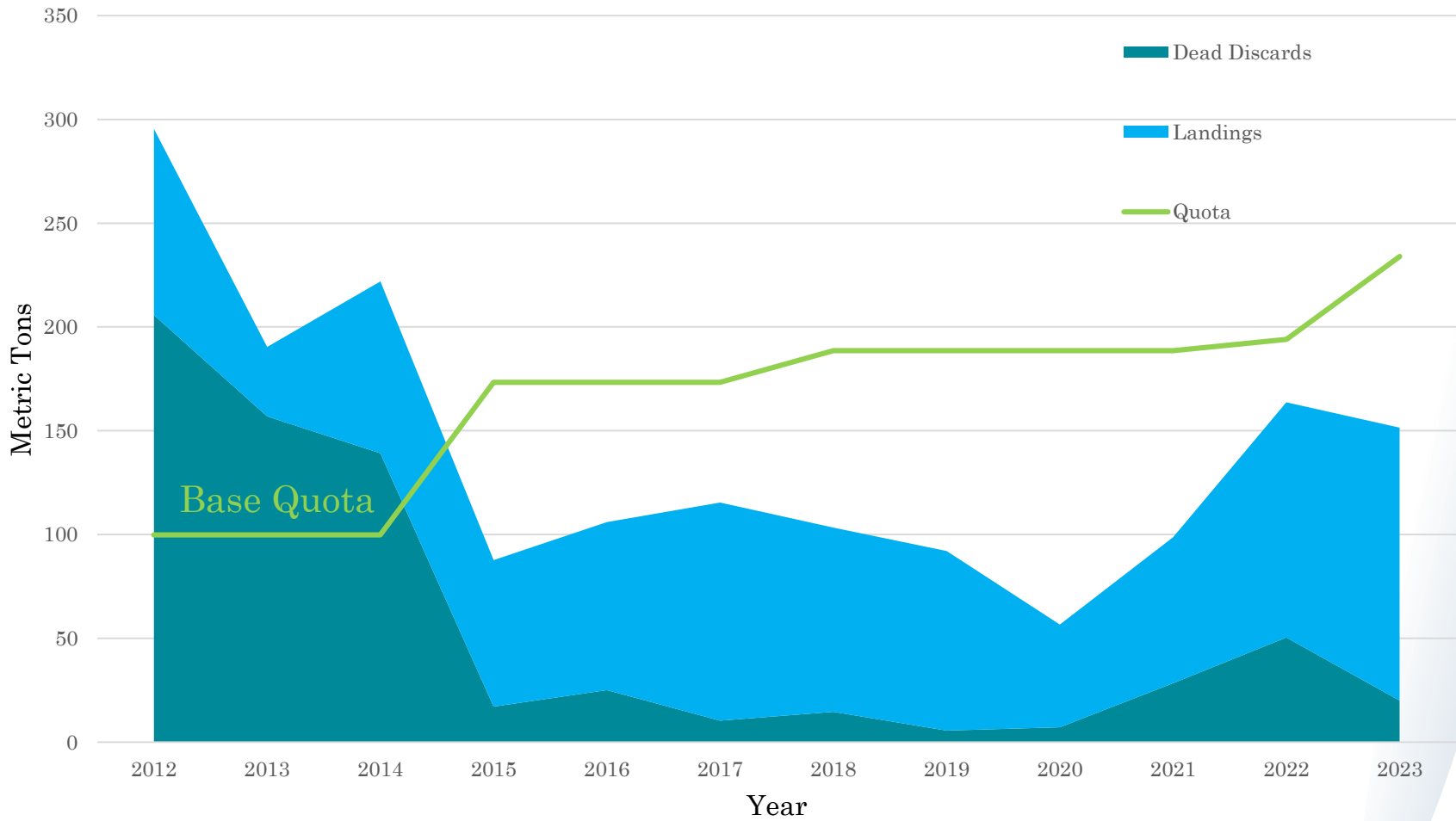
Currently, the best available annual estimate of U.S. dead discards for 2023 is the preliminary estimate of 20.0 mt for the pelagic longline fishery.

The United States accounts for dead discards annually and reports them to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

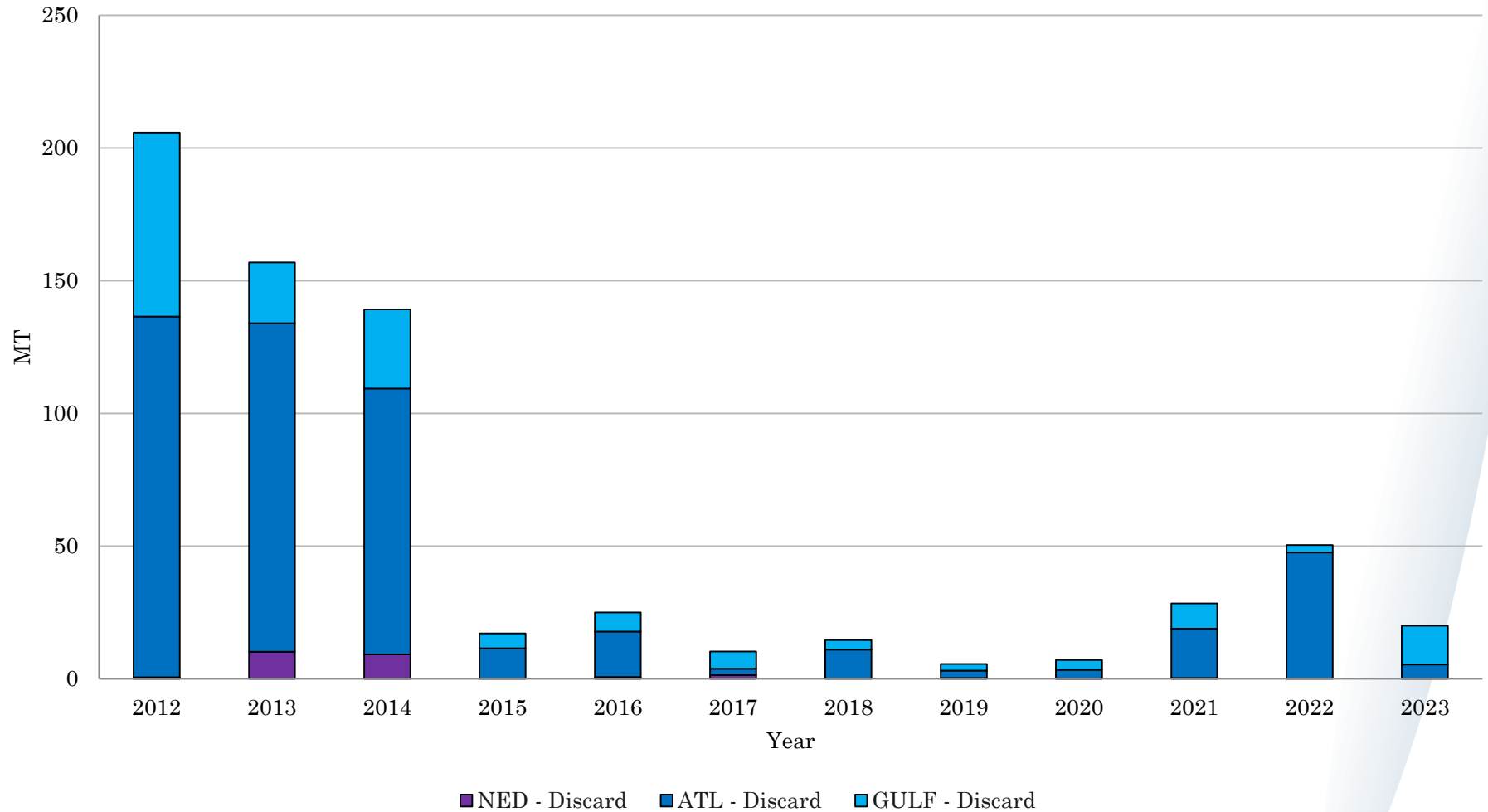
NOAA Fisheries continues to refine reporting methodologies for both pelagic longline and commercial/recreational handgear dead discards



# Pelagic Longline Bluefin Tuna Catch by Year



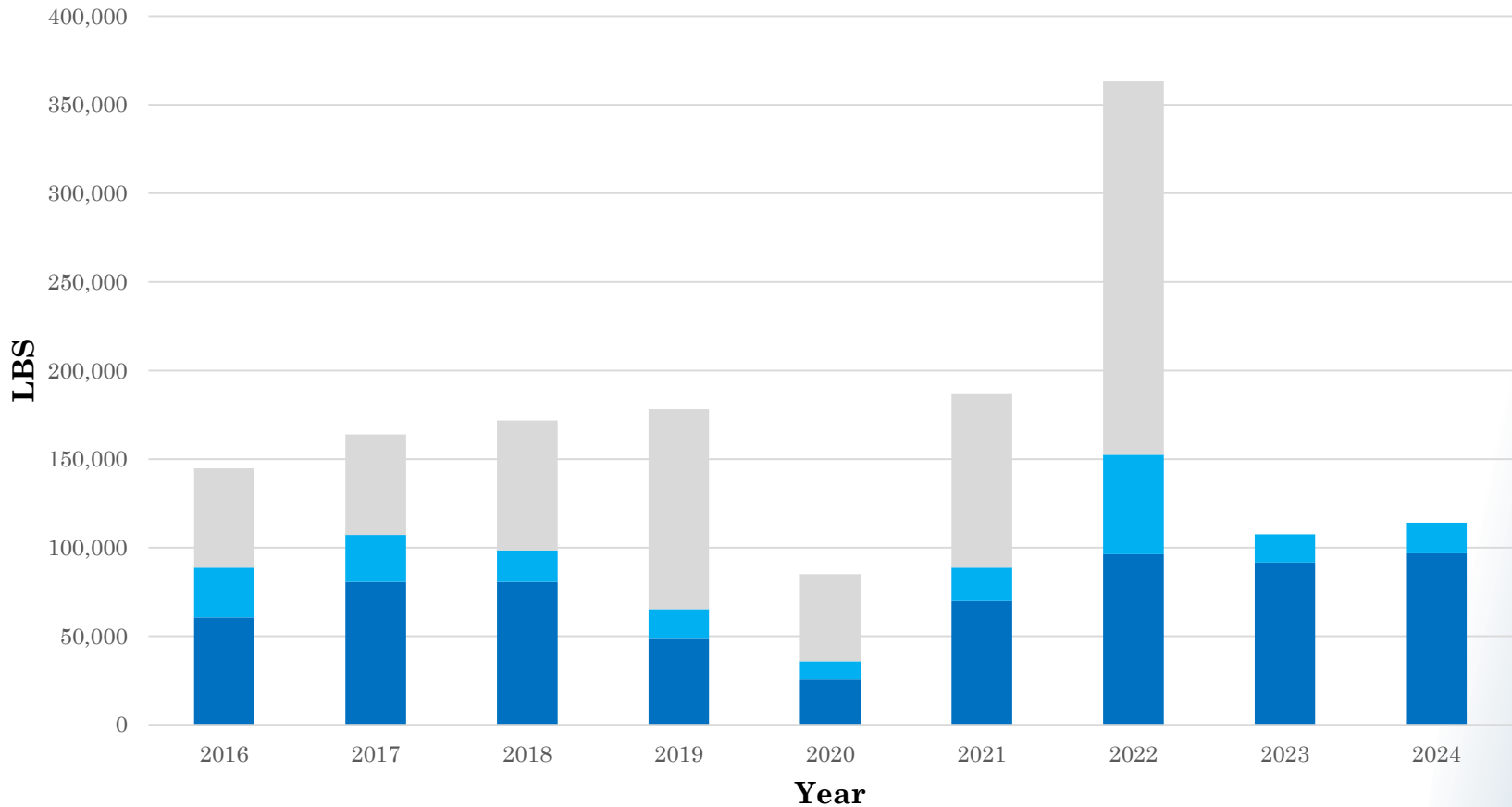
# Annual Pelagic Longline Dead Discards by Area





# Pelagic Longline Fishery

## IBQ Leases



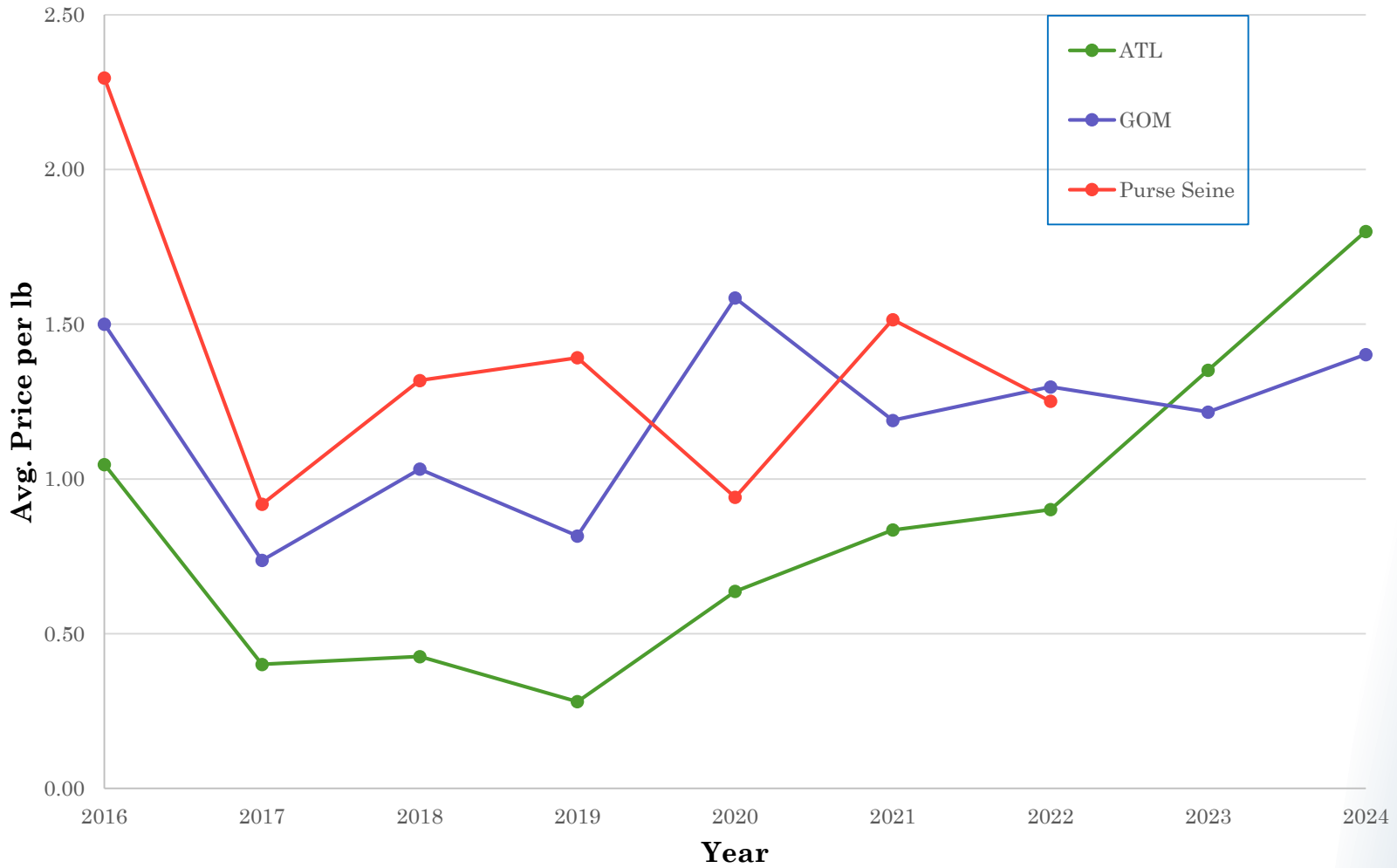
2024 data through 5/2/2024

■ ATL ■ GOM ■ Purse Seine



# Pelagic Longline Fishery

## IBQ Leases



2024 data through 5/2/2024



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# IBQ Dynamic Allocation Process 2024

## Agency Goals for 2024 Dynamic Allocation Process:

- Mitigate the need for vessel owners to appeal initial allocations
  - 3 appeals in 2024 v. 25 in 2023
- Adapt processes to the findings of NAO adjudicated appeals
  - Used logbook data for all years available
- Increase process transparency to empower vessel owners to ensure mandatory data are up to date
  - Notification of data sources and timeframe during Fall 2023 (Logbook Nov 2020-Dec 2022; VMS Jan-Oct 2023)



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# 2024 IBQ Allocation Summary

Base LL quota = 209.3 mt (461,427 lb)

- ATL = 158.0 mt, 348,396.3 lb, (75.5%)
- GOM = 51.3 mt, 113,030.66 lb, (24.5%)

243 IBQ letters were sent

85 permits were issued IBQ allocation

158 permits received no allocation (majority had no effort in previous 36 months; or permit was not associated with vessel)

3 appeals received



# Questions?

Let's Discuss

For further information on Atlantic tunas  
management, contact (978) 281-9260



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