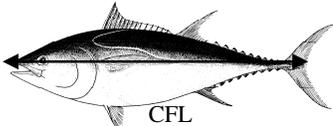


## II. QUICK REFERENCE: ATLANTIC TUNAS REGULATIONS

<b>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</b>	
Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT), “BAYS” tunas ( <i>i.e.</i> , bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack)	
<b>PERMITS</b>	
All owners/operators of vessels fishing for regulated Atlantic tunas in the management area <b>must</b> obtain an Atlantic tunas or Atlantic HMS vessel permit. Only one permit category may be assigned to a vessel. Information on Atlantic tunas permits can be obtained by calling (888) 872-8862 or by visiting <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">http://www.hmspermits.gov</a> .	
<b>RETENTION LIMITS</b>	
There are regional and seasonal differences in the number of tunas that may be kept for some permit types. Please visit <a href="http://www.hmspermits.gov">http://www.hmspermits.gov</a> or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for more information.	
<b>AUTHORIZED GEARS</b>	
<p><u>Bluefin Tuna</u> (gear types authorized for each permit category)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMS Charter/Headboat: Rod and reel (incl. downriggers), bandit, greenstick, handline gear</li> <li>• General category: Rod and reel (incl. downriggers), bandit, greenstick, handline, harpoon</li> <li>• Harpoon category: Harpoon</li> <li>• Trap category: Pound net and fish weir</li> <li>• Purse Seine category: Purse seine</li> <li>• Longline category*: Longline (no directed fishery, incidental allowance based on ‘target’ catch)</li> </ul> <p>* Fishermen must become certified at a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release and Identification workshop if fishing with longline gear (see Section XIII).</p> <p><u>BAYS Tunas</u></p> <p>Any gear type authorized for use in the Atlantic tunas fishery, except purse seine and longline gear, may be used to fish for BAYS tunas, regardless of permit category. All commercial longline vessels <b>must</b> have handling and release gear and corrodible hooks on board. Circle hooks are required for pelagic longline gear. Bait restrictions also apply.</p>	
<b>MINIMUM SIZES</b>	
<p><u>Bluefin tuna</u>: 73 inches (186 cm) or greater curved fork length (CFL).</p> <p><u>Bigeye tuna</u>: 27 inches (69 cm) CFL.</p> <p><u>Yellowfin tuna</u>: 27 inches (69 cm) CFL.</p> <p><u>Albacore</u> and <u>skipjack</u> tunas: no minimum size.</p> <p>Curved fork length (CFL) - line tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail.</p>	
<b>LANDING RESTRICTIONS</b>	
Atlantic tunas may be landed round with fins intact, or eviscerated with the head removed, but with one pectoral fin and the tail remaining attached. No person shall retain, or possess a <b>bluefin tuna</b> with the head removed that is less than 20 inches (51 cm) pectoral fin curved length. No person may remove the head of a <b>bigeye tuna</b> or <b>yellowfin tuna</b> if the remaining portion would be less than 27 inches (69 cm) from the fork of the tail to the <b>forward edge of the cut</b> (Section IX). Tunas harvested from the management unit cannot be filleted or cut into pieces at sea.	
<p><u>Additional remarks:</u></p> <p>Federal regulations for tunas apply in all waters (<i>i.e.</i>, shoreline to the outermost boundary of the EEZ) of the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea.</p> <p>There are several closed areas. See the appropriate section of this guide, the HMS webpage, or 50 CFR part 635 for more details and locations of area closures.</p>	

Please see 50 CFR part 635 for the current Atlantic HMS regulations, as regulations are subject to change. October 2008