

V. TUNA QUICK REFERENCE SHEET



AUTHORIZED SPECIES

- Bluefin tuna (BFT), bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack (*i.e.*, “BAYS”) tunas

PERMITS AND GEARS

Authorized Permits	Gear	Species
1. HMS Charter/Headboat	Bandit	BAYS and BFT
1. HMS Angling, OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat, OR 3. Atlantic tunas General category ONLY if participating in an Atlantic HMS registered tournament.	Handline, and Rod and Reel*	BAYS and BFT
1. HMS Charter/Headboat, OR 2. Atlantic tunas General category ONLY if participating in an Atlantic HMS registered tournament.**	Greenstick	BAYS and BFT
1. HMS Angling, OR 2. HMS Charter/Headboat	Speargun	BAYS only

* Rod and Reel includes downriggers **Tournament rules vary, please check with the Tournament Director

SIZE/BAG LIMITS AND SEASONS

Species	Size Limit***	Bag Limit	Season
Albacore	None	None	Jan 1-Dec. 31
Bigeye	27” CFL	None	Jan 1-Dec. 31
Bluefin	27 to <47” CFL	1 per vessel per trip per day****	Jan 1-Dec. 31
	47” to <73” CFL	1 per vessel per trip per day****	Jan 1-Dec. 31
	≥73” CFL	1 per vessel per year	Jan 1-Dec. 31
Skipjack	None	None	Jan 1-Dec. 31
Yellowfin	27” CFL	3 per person per day	Jan 1-Dec. 31

*** Curved Fork Length measurement **** Bluefin tuna retention limits may change throughout the season. Visit www.hmspermits.gov, or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- All recreational bluefin tuna landings (except in MD and NC) must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours either online at www.hmspermits.gov, or by calling (888) 872-8862.
 - Fishermen in MD and NC must report their bluefin tuna catch at a state-operated reporting station (see Section IX for details).
- If contacted, fishermen must participate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP, formerly MRFSS). Survey contact may occur at the dock or by phone.

RESTRICTED AREAS

- Tortugas Marine Reserves (year-round)
- Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps closed areas (year-round) (surface trolling without downriggers allowed May-October)
- Targeting BFT in the Gulf of Mexico is prohibited (year-round)

LANDING RESTRICTIONS

All tunas must be landed with at least the tail and one pectoral fin attached. Atlantic tunas harvested from its management unit that are not retained must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water.

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