



National Marine Fisheries Service



Fact Sheet for Dealers Purchasing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna from U.S. Vessels

Who is affected? This document summarizes regulations that affect dealers who receive, purchase, trade for, or barter for Atlantic bluefin tuna from a U.S. fishing vessel.

These regulations do not apply to dealers that import or export Atlantic or Pacific bluefin tuna. For additional information on importing, exporting, or re-exporting of tunas and swordfish, please see the *Fact Sheet for International Trade of Swordfish and Tuna* or http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/HMS_ITP_final_fact_sheet.pdf.

What is the purpose of the regulations? The purpose of these regulations is to account for commercial landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna. These data are critical for monitoring quotas, stock assessments and meeting the United States' reporting obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Where can I find the regulations? The regulations may be found by accessing the website, <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>, and selecting Title 50, and searching Part 635. The *2005 Guide for Complying with the Regulations for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, Sharks, and Billfish* may be accessed at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms (under the heading "Regulations and Guides") or a copy of the compliance guide may be ordered from 301/713-2347. Any proposed changes to the regulations may be found by searching the Federal Register at <http://www.regulations.gov/> with the exact keywords of "50 CFR Part 635." A brief summary of the current key provisions is given below. Please see the full regulatory text for a complete review of the requirements.

What do the regulations require?

- Each dealer purchasing or receiving Atlantic bluefin tuna from a vessel (i.e. first receiver) must obtain an Atlantic tunas dealer permit;
- Each Atlantic bluefin tuna must be tagged with a tail-tag provided by NMFS;
- Information about landings of each Atlantic bluefin tuna must be recorded on a dealer report form and faxed to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within 24 hours;
- Biweekly forms recording each landing and additional economic information must be submitted twice per month.

How do I obtain an Atlantic tunas dealer permit? Permits are obtained free of charge from the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) of NMFS. Download an application from the website <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/inidlrtrappl.pdf> and submit it with

required supporting documentation to NERO at the following address, or write to obtain an application from: NERO/NMFS Dealer Permits / One Blackburn Drive / Gloucester, MA / 01930.

How much will the permit cost? The Atlantic tunas dealer permit is issued free of charge.

What are the reporting requirements? When a dealer purchases an Atlantic bluefin tuna from a vessel, the dealer must affix a tail tag obtained from NMFS to the tuna, and record the tag number and other required information on an Atlantic bluefin tuna landing report, and FAX the completed report to NMFS (978/281-9393) within 24 hours of purchase. (Dealers may only purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna that are 73 inches curved fork length or greater.) In addition, dealers must submit biweekly reports twice per month. One report includes the landings made during the first through the 15th of each month, and the second report includes landings made from the 16th through the end of the month. Biweekly reports for Atlantic bluefin tuna are not required for periods without activity.

If a dealer has another NERO permit that requires mandatory electronic reporting, bluefin tuna are not to be reported through electronic reporting, but rather through the reporting requirements described above.

How do I obtain reporting documents and tags, and more information about reporting requirements? Contact the Highly Migratory Species Office located at NERO/NMFS at the above address or call 978/281-9140.