



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

July 7, 2011

Dear Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit Holder:

Please be advised that the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division is implementing a toll-free FAX number to support the 24-hour reporting requirement for commercially landed Atlantic bluefin tuna. Please note that this FAX number is only for use in submitting the large medium/giant bluefin tuna landing reports that are provided to all federally permitted Atlantic tunas dealers, and must be submitted to HMS within 24 hours of purchasing a bluefin tuna. Starting September 1, 2011, only the toll-free number will be available. Until that date, either the old or new FAX number may be used. If you have the old number programmed into your FAX machine, please reset the memory with the new number at your earliest convenience, and prior to the August 1 deadline.

New 24-hour Bluefin Tuna Reporting FAX Number:

1-877-883-8001

*Old Fax Number – 978-281-9393

Enclosed are updated dealer reporting instructions for Atlantic bluefin tuna. If you have any questions, please contact the HMS office in Gloucester, MA at 978-281-9260.

Sincerely,

Brad McHale
Branch Chief, HMS Management Division Northeast Region

Enclosures



Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit Holder Reporting Instructions for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

An Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit must be held to purchase an Atlantic bluefin tuna from a fishing vessel. (For further information on dealer permits call 978-281-9316 or go to <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/>) Atlantic bluefin tuna may only be purchased from a fisherman holding an Atlantic Tunas Vessel Permit in the General, Charter/Headboat, Longline, Purse Seine or Harpoon categories, and any Atlantic bluefin tuna purchased must measure 73 inches curved fork length, or greater. An Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder must report to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) any Atlantic bluefin tuna purchased from a vessel within 24 hours. Federal regulations governing the purchase and sale of Atlantic bluefin tuna are located at 50 CFR Part 635.

Instructions for reporting Atlantic bluefin tuna purchased from a fisherman are outlined below. To obtain report forms or tags, please call 978-281-9260 or email BFTReporting@NOAA.gov . Further information and blank reporting forms are available at the following website: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/index.htm>.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Purchased from a Fisherman:

1. Fill out a *Large-Medium/Giant Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Landing Report* (Landing Card) for each bluefin tuna purchased from a vessel. Please print the information neatly as the form will be read electronically by a scanner. You must enter the information indicated below in the boxes or on the lines provided.

- a. Enter your Atlantic Tuna Dealer Permit number and your company name.
- b. Enter the date landed in the form mm/dd/yy.
- c. Check a box for the type of gear used. If “other” enter the type of gear (e.g., trap, greenstick).
- d. Enter the length measurement in inches (curved fork length is required) and check a box to indicate the type of measurement (curved or straight; snout or fin, see diagram on Page 2).
- e. Enter the round weight in pounds, and/or the dressed weight in the appropriate boxes.
- f. Place the tag on the narrow part of the tail between the fifth dorsal finlet and the caudal keel. All fish must be tagged with a tag issued by NMFS.
- g. Enter the Identification Tag number. If the tag number begins with “ABT 05, you must cross out the “90” series number which is pre-filled on the report form and write in “05” above the crossed out “90.”
- h. Check a box to indicate the area caught (see attached maps).
- i. Enter the City and State of the port where the fish was landed.
- j. Enter the *Atlantic Tunas Vessel Permit* number of the vessel on which the fish was caught.
- k. Print the name of the vessel.
- l. Print the name of the vessel’s master.
- m. Vessel master’s signature.
- n. Enter date of vessel master’s signature.

2. FAX the Landing Card to the following number immediately: 877-883-8001. A Landing Card must be faxed **within 24 hours** of purchasing or receiving the bluefin tuna.

3. Prepare a *Bi-Weekly Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Dealer Landings and Trade Report*. Bi-weekly reports must be received by NMFS within 10 days of the end of each bi-weekly reporting period. For specific information, please see the instructions on the reverse side of the bi-weekly report.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Exports:

If you export the Atlantic bluefin tuna yourself:

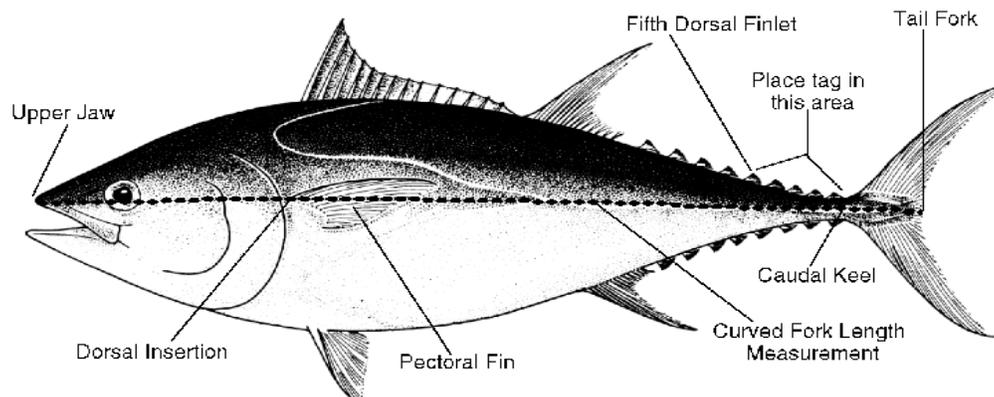
1. You must hold a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) International Trade Permit (ITP). The HMS ITP application may be obtained at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/index.htm> or by calling 727-824-5326.

2. You must fill out an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) and transmit it with the export. BCDs should be filled out electronically using the web application at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/oaabcd/external/>

If you sell an Atlantic bluefin tuna to an exporter: OR - "If a second dealer exports the Atlantic bluefin tuna"

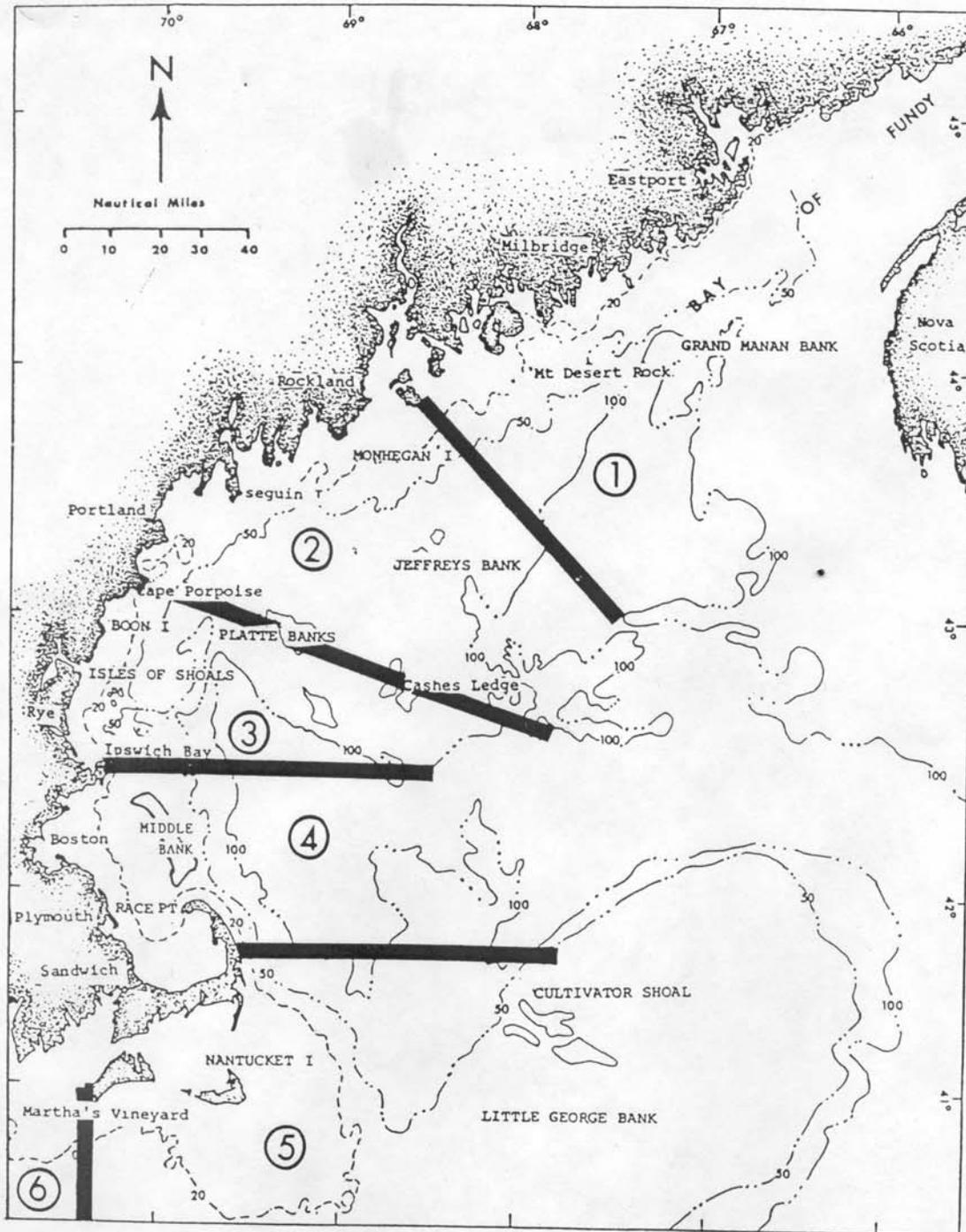
1. The exporter will also need the following information from the Landing Card: date of landing, gear type, weight, tag number, Atlantic Tunas Vessel Permit number and vessel name. This information is necessary for the ICCAT BCD, which is required for export.

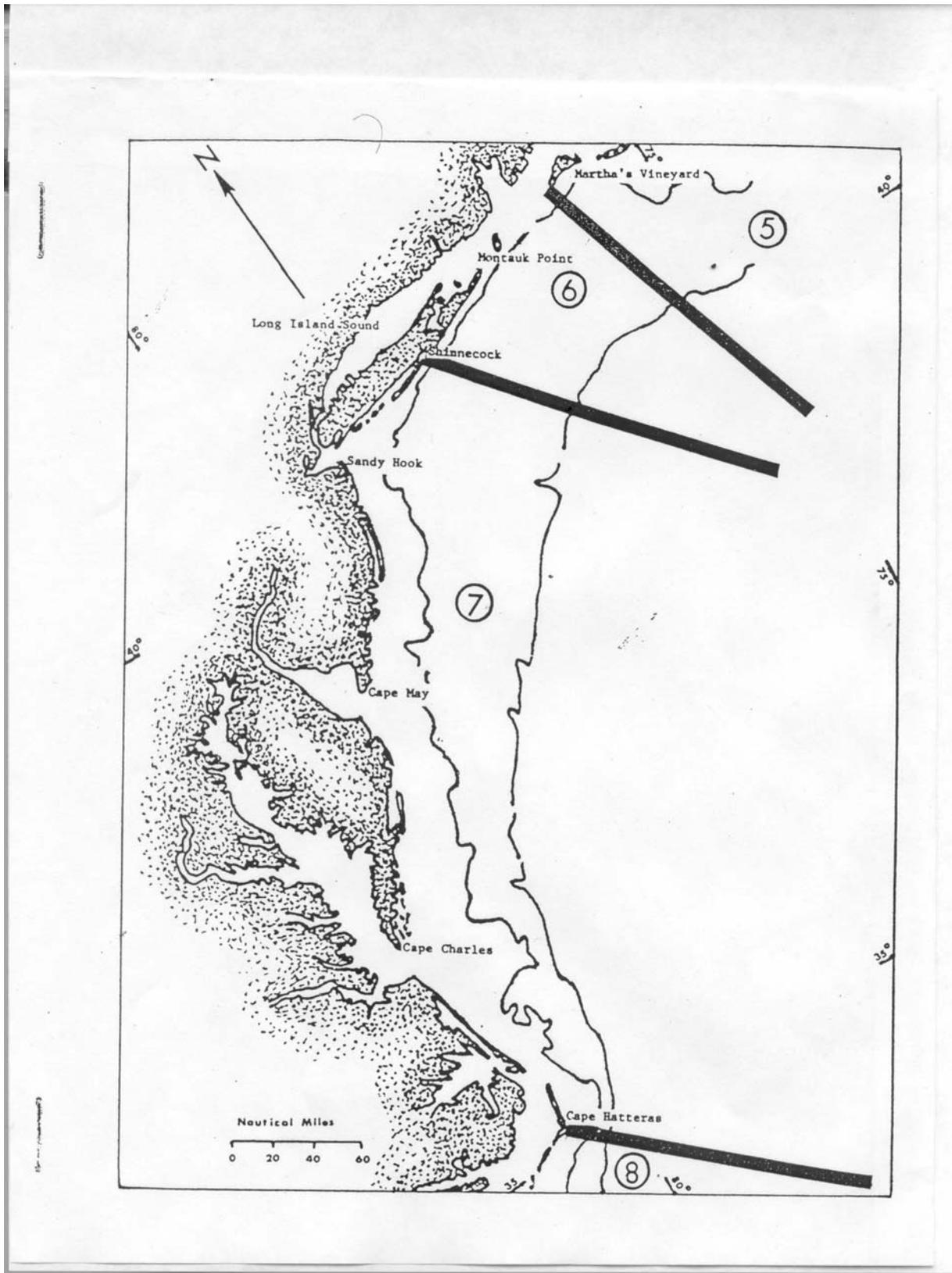
2. The exporter may ask you for a copy of your biweekly report because Federal regulations at 50 CFR 300.183(a)(3) allow exporters to retain a copy of the bi-weekly report submitted by the Atlantic Tunas Dealer rather than submitting a separate, additional bi-weekly report. Under this scenario, the exporter must provide you with any required information he possesses, such as BCD numbers, destination, and price, so your bi-weekly report can be accurately and entirely completed.

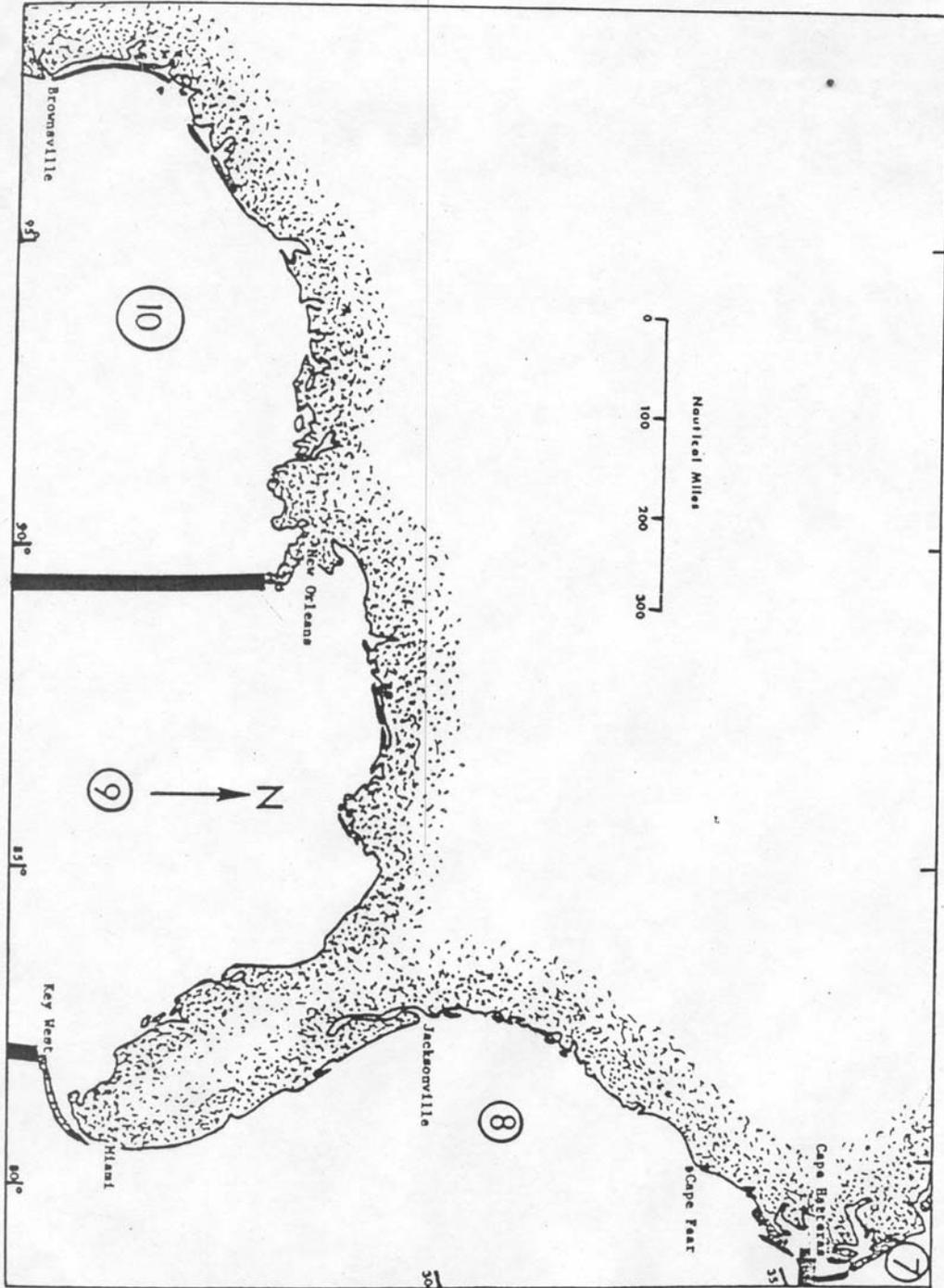


Paperwork Reduction Act Statement for LARGE MEDIUM-GIANT ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA LANDING REPORT and BFT tagging. OMB Control Number 0648-0040; Expiration Date 1/31/2014.

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PL 104-13) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (PL 93-579), you are advised that disclosure of the information requested in this logbook is mandatory for the purpose of managing the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery. The data is used to monitor landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna. Reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 3 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, tagging the fish, and completing and submitting the information. Pursuant to Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and consistent with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 (Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics), the Agency does not release confidential information submitted in compliance with provisions of the Act, other than in aggregate form and under circumstances required or authorized by law. Whenever data are requested or released to the general public, the Agency ensures that information on the pecuniary business activity of a dealer is not identified. Because you have been provided with a currently valid OMB control number for a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act you are required to respond to, or be subject to penalty for failing to comply with, this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Highly Migratory Species Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.









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. A compliance guide for dealers may be accessed at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms (under the heading "Compliance 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 Atlantic bluefin tuna from a vessel (i.e. first receiver) must obtain an Atlantic tunas dealer permit.
- Information about purchases of each Atlantic bluefin tuna must be recorded on a dealer report form and faxed to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within 24 hours.
- Each Atlantic bluefin tuna must be tagged with a tag provided by NMFS
- Biweekly forms recording each purchase and additional information must be submitted to NMFS 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/forms.html> and submit it to NERO at the following address or write to obtain an application from: NERO/NMFS Dealer Permits / 55 Great Republic 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 a bluefin tuna from a vessel, the dealer must affix a tail tag obtained from NMFS to the tail of the tuna, and record the tag number and other required information on an Atlantic bluefin tuna landing form, and FAX the completed card to NMFS (877-883-8001) within 24 hours of purchase (Dealers may only purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna from a permitted vessel, and fish must measure greater than 73 inches curved fork length.). This FAX number is only used for the 24 hour landing reports and should not be used for any additional correspondence. In addition, dealers must submit biweekly reports twice per month. One report includes the purchases made during the first through the 15th of each month, and the second report includes purchases made from the 16th through the end of the month. Biweekly reports are not required for periods without activity. Biweekly reports may be either mailed to the above address, or faxed to 978-281-9340.

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.