



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Adjusts Recreational Bluefin Tuna Retention Limits

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adjusts the daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limit for vessels permitted in the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling category or HMS Charter/headboat category as described below. *All retention limits are per vessel per day/trip.* This action is being taken to provide for a research study evaluating the length to weight relationship of bluefin tuna at various sizes.

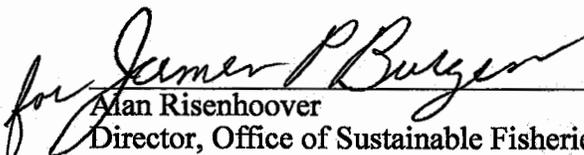
Quota Category	Effective Dates	Areas	BFT Size Class Limit
Angling (including Charter/Headboat permit holders when fishing recreationally)	June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007	All	Two BFT per vessel per day/trip, measuring 47 (119 cm) to less than 73 inches (185 cm) curved fork length (CFL)
	12:01 a.m. March 24, 2007, through 11:59 p.m. April 15, 2007	Off North Carolina (All fish MUST be landed in North Carolina)	One BFT per vessel per day/trip, measuring 27 inches (69 cm) to less than 47 inches (119 cm) CFL

During the effective dates of March 24, 2007 through April 15, 2007, HMS Angling category and HMS Charter/Headboat permit holders (when fishing recreationally) may retain one school bluefin tuna (measuring 27 inches to less than 47 inches) while fishing in the EEZ off North Carolina or the North Carolina territorial sea. School bluefin tuna must be landed in the state of North Carolina and reported and tagged at a state reporting station. Please call 1-800-228-7804 to locate the nearest state reporting station.

The retention limits described above are in addition to one trophy BFT (73 inches or greater) per year which may be landed by HMS Angling category or HMS Charter/Headboat permit holders (when fishing recreationally)

NMFS may determine that additional actions are necessary to ensure available quota is not exceeded or to enhance scientific data collection from, and fishing opportunities in, all geographic areas. Subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, will be announced through publication in the Federal Register. In addition, permit holders may visit the following website: www.hmspermits.gov, or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

This notice is a courtesy to BFT fishery permit holders to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Brad McHale, 978-281-9260.


 Adam Risenhoover
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date

