



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

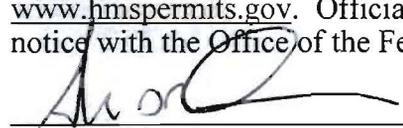
NMFS Adjusts General Category Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Retention Limit for January 2010

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adjusts the General category daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limit to **two** large medium or giant BFT per vessel per day/trip effective January 1 through January 31, 2010. Until January 1, 2010, the current retention limit of three large medium or giant BFT per vessel per day/trip remains in effect. The default daily retention limit that otherwise would take effect for this category on January 1, 2010 is one fish. NMFS takes this action after consideration of the regulatory determination criteria regarding inseason adjustments.

The General category daily retention limit applies to vessels permitted in the commercial Atlantic tunas General category and the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Charter/Headboat category *while fishing commercially*. These limits are effective for all areas except for the Gulf of Mexico, which are designated spawning grounds for BFT and where NMFS does not allow targeted fishing. Regardless of the duration of a fishing trip, the daily retention limit applies upon landing. For example, whether a vessel fishing under the General category limit takes a two-day trip or makes two trips in one day, the daily limit of two fish may not be exceeded upon landing.

NMFS reminds BFT anglers that the default Angling category retention limit of one school, large school, or small medium BFT (measuring 27 to less than 73 inches) will apply effective January 1, 2010. The Angling category daily retention limit applies to vessels permitted in the HMS Angling category and the HMS Charter/Headboat category *while fishing recreationally*.

This notice is a courtesy to BFT fishery permit holders to help keep you informed about your fishery. For additional information, call (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260, or go to www.hmspermits.gov. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register.


Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

DEC 29 2009

Date

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