



NOAA FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

NMFS Extends Comment Period for Draft Amendment 7 (Bluefin Tuna Management Measures) Proposed Rule

December 6, 2013

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the extension of the comment period for the proposed rule to implement management measures in Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (78 FR 52032, August 21, 2013). The Federal Register document confirming this extension is expected to be available for public inspection today after 4 PM at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>.

The proposed measures would reduce and account for Atlantic bluefin tuna dead discards, revise bluefin quota allocations, and enhance monitoring and reporting in the incidental and directed bluefin fisheries, among other fishery management measures. In the proposed rule, NMFS announced the end of the comment period as October 23, 2013, which allowed an approximate 60-day comment period. On September 18, 2013 (78 FR 57340) NMFS extended the comment period through December 10, 2013, to provide constituents additional time to consider the proposed rule in light of any new recommendations by International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas at the November 2013 meeting. However, due to the government shut down and NMFS' inability to respond to constituents on this complex rule during that time frame and based on the comments received to date requesting an extension due to the complexity and interplay of the measures covered in the DEIS, NMFS is extending the comment period for this action until January 10, 2014, to provide additional opportunity for informed public comment.

You may submit comments (identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2013-0101") through January 10, 2014, by using any one of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0101, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** Thomas Warren, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
- **Fax:** 978-281-9340, Attn: Thomas Warren

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fisheries. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement, contact Thomas Warren at 978-281-9260. Copies of the proposed rule and supporting documents are available upon request from the HMS Management Division at (978) 281-9260. The information is also available at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/FMP/AM7.htm.

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