



NMFS Adjusts General and Angling Category Bluefin Tuna Retention Limits

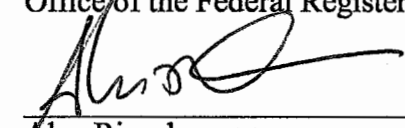
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adjusts the daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limits for the commercial Atlantic tunas General category and the recreational Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling and HMS Charter/Headboat categories for the 2007 fishing year as described below. This action is being taken to enhance commercial General category and recreational BFT fishing opportunities. *All retention limits are per vessel per day/trip.*

Permit Category	Effective Dates	Areas	BFT Size Class Daily Limit
Atlantic tunas General and HMS Charter/Headboat (while fishing commercially)	June 1 through July 31, 2007, inclusive, or through the effective date of the final 2007 BFT specifications, whichever occurs first.	All	Three BFT per vessel per trip, measuring 73 inches (185 cm) curved fork length (CFL) or greater.
HMS Angling and HMS Charter/Headboat (while fishing commercially)	June 1 through July 31, 2007, inclusive, or through the effective date of the final 2007 BFT specifications, whichever occurs first.	All	One school BFT measuring 27 inches to less than 47 inches CFL (69 cm to less than 119 cm) and two large school/small medium BFT, measuring 47 inches to less than 73 inches CFL (119 cm to less than 185 cm)) per vessel.

These BFT retention limits are effective for all areas, except for the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf of Mexico is designated as a spawning ground for BFT and therefore NMFS does not allow vessels, commercial or recreational, to target BFT while fishing in this area.

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.


 Alan Risenhoover
 Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date

