



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

NMFS Proposes 2010 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes 2010 fishing year quotas for the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) fishery (see attached table). The proposed action would adjust the total U.S. BFT quota and subquotas for 2010 consistent with the 2008 recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock and based on underharvests from 2009. The TAC is intended to rebuild the stock consistent with the BFT rebuilding program and end overfishing.

To view the proposed quota specifications and supporting documents, see www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breaking_news.htm.

You may submit comments (identified by "0648-XQ38") through January 4, 2010 by using any one of the following methods:

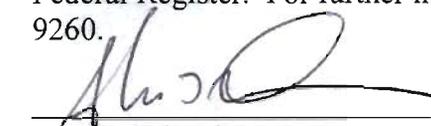
- Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Fax: 978-281-9340, Attn: Sarah McLaughlin
- Mail: Sarah McLaughlin, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

NMFS will hold two public hearings to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding these proposed initial quota specifications and effort controls, as follows:

1. December 14, 2009, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., NOAA Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910
2. December 15, 2009, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

NMFS plans to make daily retention limit adjustments, if and as needed for the 2010 fishing year, via Federal Register notices separate from the final specifications.

This notice is a courtesy to BFT fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact the HMS Management Division at (978) 281-9260.


Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

DEC 02 2009

Date

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS!

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>



**Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Final Quota Specifications (in metric tons) for the 2010 Fishing Year
(January 1-December 31, 2010)**

Category (% share of baseline quota)	Baseline Allocation	Dead Discard Deduction	Proposed Adjustment to Baseline Quota ¹	Proposed 2010 Fishing Year Quota
Angling (19.7)	187.6 <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> School 97.7 Reserve 18.1 North 37.6 South 42.1 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 85.6 North 40.4 South 45.2 Trophy 4.3 North 1.4 South 2.9		37.8	225.4 <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> School 97.7 Reserve 18.1 North 37.6 South 42.1 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 122.5 North 57.8 South 64.7 Trophy 5.2 North 1.7 South 3.5
General (47.1)	Total: 448.6 <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> Jan 23.8 Jun-Aug 224.3 Sept 118.9 Oct-Nov 58.3 Dec 23.3		90.3	538.9 <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> Jan 28.6 Jun-Aug 269.4 Sept 142.8 Oct-Nov 70.1 Dec 28.0
Harpoon (3.9)	37.1		7.5	44.6
Purse Seine (18.6)	177.2		35.6	212.8
Longline (8.1)	77.1 <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> North (-NED) 30.9 NED 25.0 ³ South 46.2	-172.8	170.7 ²	75.0 <u>SUBQUOTAS:</u> North (-NED) 30.0 NED 25.0 ³ South 45.0
Trap (0.1)	1.0		0.2	1.1
Reserve (2.5)	23.8		146.6 ⁴	170.4
Total (100) ⁵	952.4	-172.8	488.7	1,268.3

(1) For the purposes of the proposed rule, NMFS assumes that the full amount of 2009 underharvest allowed to be carried forward to 2010 will be available at the end of the 2009 fishing year. The distribution of 488.7 mt of underharvest (per ICCAT recommendation) to the quota categories is consistent with FMP allocations, after considerations as calculated below for the Longline category and the Reserve.

(2) Adjustment to Longline category quota is intended to provide sufficient quota for the 2010 fishing year. Longline category quota=77.1-172.8+170.7=75 mt. Dead discard deduction consistent with § 635.27(a)(10).

(3) 25 mt to account for bycatch of BFT in pelagic longline fisheries in the NED. Not included in total baseline allocation, which is allocated according to the category percentages contained in the Consolidated HMS FMP.

(4) Allocation of 15% of the U.S. quota (146.6 mt) to the Reserve for potential ICCAT transfer and other domestic management objectives.

(5) Totals are subject to rounding error.