



NMFS Announces Final 2010 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces final 2010 quotas for the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) fishery (see Table 1). The final 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 (see Table 2). This action is consistent with the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, including the BFT rebuilding program.

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

When NMFS prepared the proposed rule, landings information was incomplete, and NMFS anticipated the full allowed amount of 2009 underharvest allowed under the 2008 ICCAT recommendation for the western Atlantic BFT stock (50 percent of the U.S. quota, or 488.7 mt) would be available and carried forward to 2010. Complete information on 2009 landings is now available. In this final action, NMFS carries forward 388.6 mt of 2009 underharvest (i.e., the total underharvest of the 2009 adjusted U.S. quota) to 2010, for a total adjusted 2010 BFT quota of 1,168.2 mt. The amount NMFS is placing in the Reserve is 100.1 mt less than in the proposed action. This allows NMFS to maintain the proposed amounts of underharvest to be allocated to the Longline fishery and to the directed fishing categories for 2010, as well as their respective adjusted quotas. Because the Reserve is not a specific fishing category but rather serves as a pool from which NMFS may allocate quota for inseason or annual adjustments to any category quota in the BFT fishery, the smaller amount of Reserve in the final action would have no direct impact on any particular fishing category.

NMFS plans to make daily retention limit adjustments, if and as warranted 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.


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Date

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Table 1. 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	Adjustment to Baseline Quota ¹	Final 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		46.5 ⁴	70.3
Total (100) ⁵	952.4	-172.8	388.6	1,168.2

(1) The distribution of 388.6 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 46.5 mt to the Reserve for potential ICCAT transfer and other domestic management objectives.

(5) Totals are subject to rounding error.

Table 2. Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Adjusted Quotas and Landings (metric tons) by Category for the 2009 Fishing Year (January 1- December 31, 2009)

Category	2009 Adjusted Quota*	2009 Landings (as of 3/5/10)	Underharvest (-) or Overharvest (+)	% of Quota Allocation
Angling	260.6	565.9	+305.3	217%
General	623.1	325.4	-297.7	52%
Harpoon	76.6	41.4	-35.2	54%
Purse Seine	246	11.4	-234.6	5%
Longline	99.3	129.6	+30.3	131%
Trap	1.3	0	-1.3	0%
Reserve	155.4	0	-155.4	0%
TOTAL	1,462.3	1,073.7	-388.6	73%

*after inseason action (25 mt from Reserve to Harpoon category)

Commercial landings information is from the NERO dealer report database.

For the Angling category, landings were estimated using LPS information, NC catch card data, and reported trophy BFT landings.