



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 2012

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adjusts the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) General category daily retention limit to **two** large medium or giant BFT per vessel per day/trip effective January 1 through March 31, 2012, or until the January subquota is harvested. The default daily retention limit that otherwise would take effect for this category on January 1, 2012 is one BFT. NMFS takes this action after consideration of the regulatory determination criteria at § 635.27(a)(8) regarding inseason adjustments. Through December 31, 2011, the current retention limit of two large medium or giant BFT per vessel per day/trip remains in effect.

The General category daily retention limit applies to vessels permitted in the Atlantic tunas General category and the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Charter/Headboat category *while fishing commercially*. This limit is effective for all areas except for the Gulf of Mexico, which is designated spawning grounds for BFT and where NMFS does not allow targeted BFT 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, 2012, and remain in effect, unless and until changed. 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 the 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.

DEC 08 2011

FOR 
Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date _____

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