



## NMFS Announces Final Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas and Effort Controls for the 2009 Fishing Year

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the final rule to establish the 2009 fishing year quotas for the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) fishery and effort controls based on the reduced 2009 western Atlantic BFT Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and resulting total U.S. quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) (see attached table). In addition to establishing quotas, in accordance with the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (Consolidated HMS FMP), this final rule makes underharvest adjustments, as necessary, for the 2009 fishing year (January 1- December 31, 2009).

Since publication of the proposed rule, NMFS has reconsidered the recreational Angling category daily retention limit. NMFS initially proposed a daily retention limit of one school, large school, or small medium BFT (measuring 27- < 73"). After taking additional information and several issues into consideration, NMFS decided to implement a retention limit of one school BFT (measuring 27- < 47") and one large school/small medium BFT (measuring 47- < 73"). This decision was based on: anticipated school BFT landings in 2009; comments from the public and the HMS Advisory Panel, particularly regarding the needs of the charter fishery; and NMFS' management objectives, particularly the BFT Rebuilding Program and Magnuson-Stevens Act obligations.

The 2009 fishing year daily retention limits for the General category and the Angling category are:

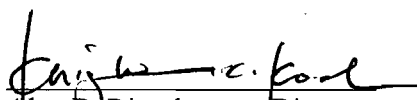
Category	Daily Retention Limit (per vessel)*	Duration
General	3 large medium/giant BFT (measuring 73" or greater)	June 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009**
Angling	1 school BFT (measuring 27- < 47") AND 1 large school/small medium BFT (measuring 47- < 73")	June 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

\*Regardless of the duration of a fishing trip, the daily retention limit applies. General category example: whether a vessel takes a two-day trip or makes two trips in one day, the limit of three fish overall applies and may not be exceeded. Angling category example: whether a vessel takes a two-day trip or makes two trips in one day, the limit of two fish overall applies and may not be exceeded. The Angling category trophy limit of one large medium or giant BFT per vessel per year remains in effect.

\*\*Additional actions (adjustments) may be made for subsequent time periods, as necessary.

NMFS is considering additional management measures for BFT and other HMS fisheries in an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published concurrent with this final rule on June 1, 2009.

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. To view the final rule, go to [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breaking\\_news.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breaking_news.htm). For further information, contact the HMS Management Division at (978) 281-9260.

  
 Alan D. Risenhoover, Director  
 Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**JUN - 1 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 2009 Fishing Year (January 1-December 31, 2009)**

Category (% share of baseline quota)	Baseline Allocation	Dead Discard Deduction	Adjustment to Baseline Quota <sup>1</sup>	Adjusted 2009 Fishing Year Quota
<b>Angling (19.7)</b>	199.0 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> School 103.5 Reserve 19.1 North 39.8 South 44.5 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 90.9 North 42.9 South 48.0 Trophy 4.6 North 1.5 South 3.1		61.6	260.6 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> School 103.5 Reserve 19.1 North 39.8 South 44.5 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 151.1 North 71.3 South 79.8 Trophy 6.0 North 2.0 South 4.0
<b>General (47.1)</b>	<b>Total:</b> 475.7 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> Jan 25.2 Jun-Aug 237.8 Sept 126.1 Oct-Nov 61.8 Dec 24.7		147.4	623.1 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> Jan 33.0 Jun-Aug 311.5 Sept 165.1 Oct-Nov 81.0 Dec 32.4
<b>Harpoon (3.9)</b>	39.4		12.2	51.6
<b>Purse Seine (18.6)</b>	187.8		58.2	246.0
<b>Longline (8.1)</b>	81.8 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> North (-NED) 32.7 NED 25.0 <sup>3</sup> South 49.1	-90.0	82.5 <sup>2</sup>	74.3 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> North (-NED) 29.7 NED 25.0 <sup>3</sup> South 44.6
<b>Trap (0.1)</b>	1.0		0.3	1.3
<b>Reserve (2.5)</b>	25.2		155.2 <sup>4</sup>	180.4
<b>Total (100)<sup>5</sup></b>	1,009.9	-90.0	517.5	1,437.4

(1) The distribution of 517.5 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 2009 fishing year. Longline category quota=81.8-90.0+82.5=74.3. Dead discard deduction consistent with § 635.27(a)(10).

(3) 25 mt to account for bycatch of BFT in directed 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 (155.2 mt) to the Reserve for potential ICCAT transfer and other domestic management objectives.

(5) Totals are subject to rounding error.