



## NMFS Announces Final Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas and Effort Controls for the 2008 Fishing Year

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the final rule to set the 2008 fishing year quotas for the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) fishery and effort controls. The current U.S. Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) baseline quota of 1,165.12 mt, recommended at the 2006 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and implemented in the final rule that set 2007 quota specifications and effort controls remains in effect until changed. In accordance with the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (Consolidated HMS FMP), this final rule makes underharvest adjustments, as necessary, for the 2008 fishing year (January 1-December 31, 2008).

Complete 2007 fishing year landings information will be available in early 2008. However, based on current information, NMFS anticipates that the 2007 fishing year underharvest will be substantial. The current ICCAT recommendation limits the amount of underharvest that may be carried forward to 595.1 mt. In this action, NMFS carries over and distributes 595.1 mt of BFT underharvest from the 2007 fishing year to the 2008 fishing year quota, as shown in the attached table. Once complete information, including recreational landings estimates, is available for the 2007 fishing year, NMFS may need to publish quota adjustments or other management measures, as necessary, in 2008 for the 2008 fishing year.

The 2008 fishing year General category retention limits and Angling category retention limits are as follows:

Category	Retention Limit (per vessel per day/trip)	Duration
General	3 large medium/giant BFT (measuring 73" or greater)	January 1, 2008 – January 31, 2008 AND June 1, 2008 – August 31, 2008*
	1 school, large school, or small medium BFT (measuring 27-<73")	January 1, 2008 – January 29, 2008
Angling	1 school BFT (measuring 27-<47") AND 2 large school/small medium BFT (measuring 47-<73")	January 30, 2008 – December 31, 2008


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

NMFS is not implementing restricted fishing days (RFDs) through this final rule.

NMFS reminds permit holders that vessel permits issued for the 2007 fishing year are effective through December 31, 2008. There will be an opportunity to change permit category for the 2008 fishing year once during the period of January 1, 2008, through May 31, 2008.

This notice is a courtesy to BFT fishery participants 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 the HMS Management Division at (978) 281-9260.

  
 Alan D. Risenhoover, Director  
 Office of Sustainable Fisheries

  
 Date



**Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Final Quota Specifications (in metric tons)  
for the 2008 Fishing Year (January 1-December 31, 2008)**

Category (% share of baseline quota)	Baseline Allocation	Dead Discard Deduction	Adjustment to Baseline Quota <sup>1</sup>	Final 2008 Fishing Year Quota
<b>Angling (19.7)</b>	229.5 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> School 119.0 Reserve 22.0 North 45.8 South 51.2 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 105.2 North 49.6 South 55.6 Trophy 5.3 North 1.8 South 3.5		80.0	309.5 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> School 119.0 Reserve 22.0 North 45.8 South 51.2 Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 183.4 North 86.6 South 96.8 Trophy 7.1 North 2.4 South 4.7
<b>General (47.1)</b>	<b>Total:</b> 548.8 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> Jan 29.1 Jun-Aug 274.4 Sept 145.4 Oct-Nov 71.3 Dec 28.5		191.2	740.0 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> Jan 39.2 Jun-Aug 370.0 Sept 196.1 Oct-Nov 96.2 Dec 38.5
<b>Harpoon (3.9)</b>	45.4		15.8	61.2
<b>Purse Seine (18.6)</b>	216.7		75.5	292.2
<b>Longline (8.1)</b>	94.4 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> North (-NED) 37.8 NED 25.0 <sup>3</sup> South 56.6	-91.3	53.6 <sup>2</sup>	56.7 <b>SUBQUOTAS:</b> North (-NED) 22.7 NED 25.0 <sup>3</sup> South 34.0
<b>Trap (0.1)</b>	1.2		0.4	1.6
<b>Reserve (2.5)</b>	29.1		178.5 <sup>4</sup>	207.6
<b>Total (100)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>1,165.1</b>	<b>-91.3</b>	<b>595.1</b>	<b>1,668.9</b>

- (1) The distribution of 595.1 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 2008 fishing year. Proposed Longline category quota=94.4-91.3+53.6=56.7. Dead discard deduction consistent with § 635.27(a)(10).
- (3) 25 mt to account for bycatch of BFT in directed longline fisheries in the vicinity of the management area boundary, per 2006 ICCAT recommendation. Not included in total baseline allocation, which is allocated according to the category percentages contained in the Consolidated HMS FMP.
- (4) 15% of the TAC to the Reserve (178.5 mt) for potential ICCAT transfer and other domestic management objectives.
- (5) Totals are subject to rounding error.

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).

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