



NMFS Announces Final Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas and Effort Controls for the 2007 Fishing Year

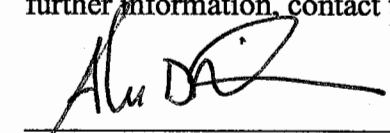
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the final rule to set the 2007 fishing year quotas for the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) fishery and effort controls, based on the 2006 quota recommended for the United States by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas (ICCAT). The final quota specifications are effective through December 31, 2007, due to the shift to a *calendar year* fishing year beginning January 1, 2008.

NMFS establishes the following General category restricted fishing days: all Saturdays and Sundays from November 17, 2007 through December 31, 2007, plus November 22, 2007, and December 25, 2007, provided the fishery remains open. NMFS also establishes General category retention limits and Angling category retention limits for the 2007 fishing year, with duration noted, as follows:

| Quota Category | Retention Limit (per <u>vessel</u> per day/trip) | Duration |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| General | 3 large medium/giant BFT (measuring 73" or greater) | Present through August 31, 2007* |
| Angling | 1 school BFT (measuring 27-<47") AND 2 large school/small medium BFT (measuring 47-<73") | Present through December 31, 2007 |

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

This notice is a courtesy 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.


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Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date

**Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Final Quota Specifications (in metric tons)
for the 2007 Fishing Year (June 1-December 31, 2007)**

| Category (% share of baseline quota) | Baseline Allocation | Adjustments to Baseline Quota¹ | Final 2007 Fishing Year Quota |
|---|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Angling (19.7) | 229.5 | 39.7 | 269.2 |
| | SUBQUOTAS: | | SUBQUOTAS: |
| | School 119.0 | | School 119.0 |
| | Reserve 22.0 | | Reserve 22.0 |
| | North 45.8 | | North 45.8 |
| | South 51.2 | | South 51.2 |
| | Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 105.2 | | Lg. Sch/Sm. Med 144.0 |
| | North 49.6 | | North 68.0 |
| | South 55.6 | | South 76.0 |
| | Trophy 5.3 | | Trophy 6.2 |
| | North 1.8 | | North 2.1 |
| | South 3.5 | | South 4.1 |
| General (47.1) | Total: 548.8 | 94.8 | Total: 643.6 |
| | SUBQUOTAS: | | SUBQUOTAS: |
| | Jun-Aug 289.8 | | Jun-Aug 339.8 |
| | Sept 153.6 | | Sept 180.1 |
| | Oct-Nov 75.3 | | Oct-Nov 88.4 |
| | Dec 30.1 | | Dec 35.3 |
| Harpoon (3.0) | 45.4 | 7.9 | 53.3 |
| Purse Seine (18.6) | 216.7 | 37.4 | 254.1 |
| Longline (8.1) | 94.4 | 105.6 | 200.0 |
| | SUBQUOTAS: | | SUBQUOTAS: |
| | North (-NED) 37.8 | | North (-NED) 80.0 |
| | NED 25.0 | | NED 25.0 |
| | South 56.6 | | South 120.0 |
| Trap (0.1) | 1.2 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Reserve (2.5) | 29.1 | 178.5 | 207.6 |
| Total (100) | 1,165.1 | 464.1 | 1,629.2 |

¹ The Adjustments to Baseline Quota total (464.1 mt) reflects the ICCAT-recommended cap on carryover of underharvest from 2006 (i.e., 595.1 mt), minus the 131-mt estimate of dead discards.

For detailed explanation of the application of underharvest, ICCAT recommendations, and FMP requirements, see the Bluefin Tuna Final Quota Specifications files at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breaking_news.htm.