



## National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)



### Fact Sheet for Dealers Purchasing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna from U.S. Vessels

**Who is affected?** This document summarizes regulations that affect dealers who receive, purchase, trade for, or barter for Atlantic bluefin tuna from a U.S. fishing vessel.

These regulations do not apply to dealers that import or export Atlantic or Pacific bluefin tuna. For additional information on importing, exporting, or re-exporting of tunas and swordfish, please see the *Fact Sheet for International Trade of Swordfish, Tuna and Shark Fins* or [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/HMS\\_ITP\\_final\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/HMS_ITP_final_fact_sheet.pdf).

**What is the purpose of the regulations?** The purpose of these regulations is to account for commercial landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna. These data are critical for monitoring quotas, stock assessments and meeting the United States' reporting obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

**Where can I find the regulations?** The regulations may be found by accessing the website, <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>, and selecting Title 50, and searching Part 635. Guides for complying with the regulations for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish may be accessed at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms) (under the heading "Compliance Guides") or a copy of the compliance guide may be ordered from 301/427-8503. Any proposed changes to the regulations may be found by searching <http://www.regulations.gov/> with the exact keywords of "50 CFR Part 635." A brief summary of the current key provisions is given below. Please see the full regulatory text for a complete review of the requirements.

#### What do the regulations require?

- Each dealer purchasing or receiving Atlantic bluefin tuna from a vessel (i.e. first receiver) must obtain an Atlantic tunas dealer permit;
- Each Atlantic bluefin tuna must be tagged with a tail tag provided by NMFS;
- Information about landings of each Atlantic bluefin tuna must be recorded on a dealer report form and faxed to NMFS within 24 hours;
- Bi-weekly forms recording each landing and additional economic information must be submitted to NMFS twice per month.

**How do I obtain an Atlantic tunas dealer permit?** Permits are obtained from the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) of NMFS. Download an application from the website <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/dealerpermit.html> and submit it with required supporting documentation to NERO at the following address, or write to obtain an

application from: NERO/NMFS Dealer Permits / 55 Great Republic Drive / Gloucester, MA / 01930-2276.

**How much will the permit cost?** The Atlantic tunas dealer permit is issued free of charge.

**What are the reporting requirements?** When a dealer purchases an Atlantic bluefin tuna from a vessel, the dealer must affix a tail tag obtained from NMFS to the tuna, and record the tag number and other required information on an Atlantic bluefin tuna landing report form, and FAX the completed form to NMFS (877/883-8001) within 24 hours of purchase. This FAX number is only used for the 24 hour landing reports and should not be used for any additional correspondence. (Dealers may only purchase Atlantic bluefin tuna from a permitted vessel, and fish must measure 73 inches curved fork length or greater.)

In addition, dealers must submit bi-weekly reports twice per month. The biweekly reporting form is available here: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Linkpages/reporting\\_forms.htm#Dealer](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Linkpages/reporting_forms.htm#Dealer). One report includes the landings made during the first through the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, and the second report includes landings made from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month. Bi-weekly reports for Atlantic bluefin tuna are not required for periods without activity. Biweekly reports may be mailed to the address above or faxed to 978-281-9340.

**NOTE:** Bluefin tuna *must not* be reported through SAFIS or other electronic reporting methods, even if a dealer has another NERO permit that requires mandatory electronic reporting. Bluefin tuna must be reported as described above.

**How do I obtain reporting documents and tags, and more information about reporting requirements?** Contact the Highly Migratory Species Management Division office located at NERO/NMFS at the above address or call (978) 281-9140.