

NMFS ATLANTIC TUNAS PROGRAM
FOR JANUARY 1, 2010 – DECEMBER 31, 2010
SUMMARY OF FISHERY INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS FOR ATLANTIC TUNA FISHERIES

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Atlantic tunas are managed under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). ATCA authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to implement the binding recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The authority to manage the U.S. Atlantic tuna fisheries is delegated to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division. In October 2006, NMFS adopted the Final Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan.

REGULATED SPECIES
Tunas subject to regulation are Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) *(Thunnus thynnus)*, as well as "BAYS" tunas, i.e., bigeye tuna (BET) *(Thunnus obesus)*, albacore tuna (ALB) *(Thunnus alalunga)*, yellowfin tuna (YFT) *(Thunnus albacares)*, and skipjack tuna (SKJ) (*Katsuwonus pelamis*).

MANAGEMENT AREA
These regulations apply in all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

OVERVIEW OF BFT DOMESTIC QUOTAS
The adjusted quota for the 2010 fishing year (January 1-December 31) is 1,193.2 metric tons (mt)*. The Reserve, to be used for inseason adjustments, fishery research, and potential transfers to other ICCAT Contracting Parties, is set at 70.3 mt.

	mt		mt		mt
General	538.9	Purse Seine	212.8	Longline	100.0*
Harpoon	44.6	Angling	225.4	Trap	1.1

***(including 25 mt set-aside for bycatch of BFT related to directed pelagic longline fisheries for other species in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area (NED))**

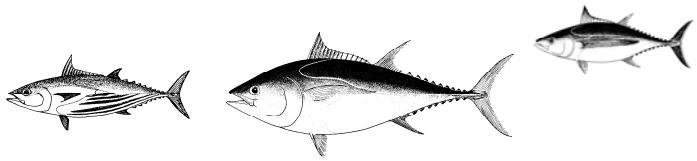
PERMIT PROGRAM
All owners/operators of vessels (commercial, charter/headboat, or recreational) fishing for regulated Atlantic tunas in the management area must obtain an Atlantic tunas permit or an Atlantic HMS vessel permit. Atlantic tunas permits are issued in five commercial categories: General, Harpoon, Purse Seine, Longline, and Trap. Atlantic HMS permits are issued in two categories: Recreational Angling and Charter/Headboat. Only one permit category may be assigned to a vessel.

Permit holders may not change permit category after 10 days from the date of permit issuance.

All fish dealers purchasing regulated Atlantic tunas from vessels holding an Atlantic tunas permit or an Atlantic HMS vessel permit must obtain an Atlantic tunas dealer permit. An International Trade Permit is required for the international trade of fresh or frozen Atlantic or Pacific bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, swordfish, and/or frozen bigeye tuna.

Atlantic tunas may be sold only by fishermen permitted in commercial categories and only to permitted dealers. Atlantic tunas taken by persons aboard Angling category vessels may not be sold.

NMFS maintains an automated permitting system for the issuance of Atlantic tunas and HMS vessel permits. To apply for or renew an Atlantic tunas or HMS vessel permit, visit www.hmspermits.gov or dial (888) 872-8862.
Customer Service for the Automated Permitting System can be reached by pressing "0" from the main menu.
To apply for an Atlantic tunas dealer permit, call the NMFS Northeast Permit Office at (978) 281-9370.
To apply for an International Trade Permit, call the NMFS Southeast Permit Office at (727) 824-5326, or visit: http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP.



LARGE PELAGICS SURVEY
NMFS collects data on fishing effort and catch for BFT and other pelagic fishes through the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS). Through telephone interviews (biweekly for private vessels and weekly for charter vessels), NMFS obtains information about fishing activity directed at large pelagic fishes. Captains are selected randomly from the permit list and may be contacted more than once during the fishing season. The telephone survey includes only questions about the number of fishing trips for the previous 2 weeks (1 week for charter vessels). In addition, field surveys collect biological samples and catch data for estimating annual catches of tunas and other large pelagic fishes.

Collection of information about recreational catch of Atlantic tunas is essential for stock assessments and reports to ICCAT. Cooperation with LPS dockside and telephone interviewers is required under the authority of ATCA. Note that the LPS will be used as independent validation of the Automated Landings Reporting System (ALRS) for BFT, thus a small degree of duplication is unavoidable. See the last page of this brochure for information regarding the ALRS.

For inseason fishery notices (retention limit adjustments, closures, etc.), visit www.hmspermits.gov, or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY INFORMATION

All fishing for any species must cease and the vessel must immediately return to port to offload when the large medium or giant BFT (>73") daily retention limit is retained or possessed under regulations pertaining to the General, HMS Charter/Headboat, and HMS Angling category fisheries, as applicable. In the case of multi-day trips, the daily limit applies and may not be exceeded at any point during the trip. DIRECTED FISHING FOR BFT IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IS PROHIBITED. Landing BFT > 73" is allowed in the Gulf of Mexico only under the HMS Angling category "trophy" and Longline category retention limits. Authorized gear for Atlantic tunas: Rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, green-stick gear, speargun (recreational only and only for tunas other than BFT), harpoon, bandit gear, longlines, traps (pound nets and fish weirs), and purse seines. Gear type restrictions for BFT are specified below.

GENERAL CATEGORY

2010 BFT Quota:	**538.9 mt**		
Status:	**Commercial**		
Gear Type:	**Rod and Reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, bandit gear, and green-stick**		
Description:	**Vessel owners who harvest Atlantic tunas, including large medium and giant BFT, by handgear and plan to sell the tuna must obtain a permit in the General category. General category permitted vessels are eligible to sell large medium and giant BFT. These BFT will be counted against the General category quota.**		
Restricted Fishing Days: (RFDs)	**None for 2010. NMFS may implement RFDs if needed, and will post updates as needed at www.hmspermits.gov and on the Atlantic Tunas Information Line (see back page).**		
Tournaments:	**General category vessels may participate in registered recreational HMS fishing tournaments. Recreational size/retention limits apply for sharks swordfish and billfish. General category size/ retention limits apply to regulated Atlantic tunas.**		
2010 Season:	**Opens: January 1, 2010. Closes: January 31, 2010, or when BFT time-period subquota met. Re-opens: June 1, 2010. Closes: December 31, 2010, or when BFT quota met.**		
Retention Limits:	**No more than the daily retention limit may be on board a vessel**		
BFT:	**Size class:** • Young School • School • Large School • Small Medium	**Limit:** Prohibited	
	• Large Medium/ Giant	Check website or information lines for current limits.	
Time-period Subquotas (mt):	**Months** January June-August September Oct – Nov December	**Percentage** 5.3 50 26.5 13 5.2	**Quota** 28.6 269.4 142.8 70.1 28.0
YFT & BET	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**		**No Limit**
ALB & SKJ	**No minimum size**		**No Limit**
If a time period subquota is filled before the end of the period for which it is allocated, NMFS will close the General category until the start of the next period. See size class categories for BFT under "Landings Information."			

HARPOON

2010 BFT Quota:	**44.6 mt**	
Status:	**Commercial**	
Gear Type:	**Harpoon**	
Description:	**Vessel owner/operators who exclusively use harpoons for Atlantic tunas, including large medium and giant BFT, must obtain a permit in the Harpoon category. Vessels permitted in the Harpoon category may not participate in the General category fishery.**	
2010 Season:	**Opens: June 1, 2010 Closes: November 15, 2010**	
BFT Retention Limits:	**Size class:** • Young School • School • Large School • Small Medium	**Limit:** Prohibited
	• Large Medium • Giant	2/vessel/day No Limit
YFT & BET	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**	**No Limit**
ALB & SKJ	**No minimum size**	**No Limit**

HMS ANGLING CATEGORY

2010 BFT Quota:	**225.4 mt**		
Status:	**Recreational (no sale)**		
Gear Type:	**Rod and Reel (including downriggers), handlines, and speargun (for tunas other than BFT)**		
Description:	**Private recreational vessel owners who harvest Atlantic tunas must obtain a permit in the HMS Angling category. Young school BFT (< 27") may not be retained and must be released immediately. Permit holders in this category may retain only one large medium or giant "trophy" BFT per fishing year. *All BFT must be reported within 24 hours of landing (see information in shaded box on last page).***		
2010 Season:	**Opens: January 1, 2010 Closes: December 31, 2010, or when quota is met**		
Retention Limits:	**No more than the daily retention limit and the annual "trophy" retention limit may be on board a vessel**		
BFT:	**Size class** • Young School	**Limit** Prohibited	
	• School • Large School • Small Medium	Check website or information lines for current limits.	
	• Large Medium/ Giant	1 "trophy" BFT/vessel/year	
2010 Area Subquotas (mt):	**School** North 37.6 South 42.1 Reserve 18.1 Total 97.7	**Large School/ Small Medium** 57.8 64.7 N/A 122.5	**Large Medium/Giant** 1.7 3.5 N/A 5.2
YFT	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**	**3/person/day (includes Capt. & Mates)**	
BET	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**	**No Limit**	
ALB & SKJ	**No minimum size**	**No Limit**	
BFT North/South Line: North = north of 39°18'N (Great Egg Inlet, NJ and north) South = south of 39°18'N (Great Egg Inlet, NJ and south)			

HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT CATEGORY

2010 BFT Quota:	**Vessels are eligible to participate in the General and HMS Angling category quotas**	
Status:	**Commercial and Recreational**	
Gear Type:	**Rod and Reel (including downriggers), handlines, bandit gear, green-stick, and speargun (recreational only, for tunas other than BFT)**	
Description:	**Any vessel that carries passengers for hire must obtain a permit in the HMS Charter/Headboat category. Anglers aboard vessels permitted in this category may collectively fish under either the daily HMS Angling or General category limit as applicable on that day. The size category of the first BFT retained or possessed will determine the fishing category of all persons aboard the vessel for that day, and the applicable catch limits. On General category RFDs, anglers aboard HMS Charter/Headboat vessels may only fish under the HMS Angling category BFT retention limits. *All recreationally caught BFT must be reported within 24 hours of landing (see info in shaded box on last page).***	
2010 Season:	**Opens: January 1, 2010 Closes: December 31, 2010, or when quota is met (no sale of BFT if landed under the "trophy" allowance)**	
Retention Limits:	**No more than the General category OR Angling category daily retention limit may be on board a vessel**	
BFT:	**Size class** • **Young School**	**Limit** **Prohibited**
	• **School** • **Large School/Small Medium**	**Check website or information lines for current limits.**
	• **Large Medium/ Giant**	**1 "trophy" BFT/vessel/ year (Recreational); see General category for Commercial Limits.**
YFT*	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**	**Recreational: 3/person/day (includes Captain & mates) Commercial: No Limit**
BET	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**	**No Limit**
ALB & SKJ	**No minimum size**	**No Limit**

***The recreational YFT retention limit applies to Charter/Headboat vessels only when the vessel is engaged in a for-hire trip (i.e., paying passenger on board or 4 or more people on board)**

TRAP CATEGORY

2010 BFT Quota:	**1.1 mt**	
Status:	**Commercial**	
Gear Type:	**Pound net, fish weir**	
Description:	**Owners of vessels conducting trap operations that may result in the incidental taking of large medium and giant BFT must obtain a Trap category permit.**	
2010 Season:	**Opens: January 1, 2010 Closes: December 31, 2010, or when quota met**	
BFT Retention Limits:	**Size class:** • **Young School** • **School** • **Large School** • **Small Medium**	**Limit:** **Prohibited**
	• **Large Medium/ Giant**	**1/vessel/year**

No Atlantic tunas other than BFT taken incidentally may be retained

LONGLINE CATEGORY

2010 BFT Quota:	**100.0 mt (including 25 mt set-aside for bycatch of BFT related to directed pelagic longline fisheries for other species in the Northeast Distant gear restricted area (NED))**	
Status:	**Commercial (limited access)**	
Gear Type:	**Longline (pelagic/bottom) and green-stick**	
Description:	**Owners of vessels conducting longline operations for Atlantic tunas, including the incidental take of large medium and giant BFT, must obtain a Longline category permit.**	
2010 Season:	**Opens: January 1, 2010 Closes: December 31, 2010, or when quota is met**	
Time/Area Closures:	**Please contact NMFS at (301) 713-2347**	
Retention Limits:		
BFT:	**Size class:** • **Young School** • **School** • **Large School** • **Small Medium**	**Limit:** **Prohibited**
	• **Large Medium/ Giant**	**See below**
- 1/vessel/trip with at least 2,000 lb of species other than BFT* - 2/vessel/trip with at least 6,000 lb of species other than BFT* - 3/vessels/trip with at least 30,000 lb of species other than BFT* * *legally caught, retained, and offloaded from the same trip and are recorded on the dealer weighout slip as sold.*		
2010 BFT Area Subquotas (mt): North NED South	**30.0 25.0 45.0**	**Northern area is north of 31° 00' N. Latitude, near Jekyll Island, Georgia, while the Southern area is south of this line. For NED area definition, see 50 CFR 635.2.**
YFT & BET	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**	**No Limit**
ALB & SKJ	**No minimum size**	**No Limit**

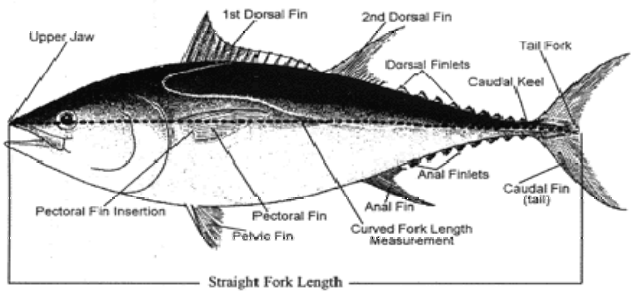
PURSE SEINE CATEGORY

2010 BFT Quota:	**212.8 mt**	
Status:	**Commercial (Limited Access)**	
Gear Type:	**Purse seine nets**	
Description:	**Owners of vessels conducting purse seine operations for Atlantic tunas, must obtain a Purse Seine category permit**	
2010 Season:	**Opens: July 15, 2010, for BFT; January 1, 2010, for other tunas Closes: December 31, 2010**	
BFT Retention Limits:	**Size class:** • **Young School** • **School** • **Large School** • **Small Medium**	**Limit:** ***1% Incidental Take (for all)**
	• **Large Medium/ Giant**	**Allocated per vessel for the season (+/- carryover from previous season**
Large medium catch may not exceed 15% by weight of total amount of Giant BFT landed per fishing year *No sale – counted against vessel allocation		
YFT & BET	**Greater than or equal to 27" CFL**	**No Limit**
ALB & SKJ	**No minimum size**	**No Limit**

LANDINGS INFORMATION

CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL) MEASUREMENT

For enforcement purposes, total curved fork length is the sole criterion for determining the size class of whole (with head) Atlantic tunas. Measurements must be taken in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail, which abuts the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin and the dorsal side of the caudal keel. Measurements must be taken from the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin, tracing the contour of the body, to the fork of the tail. THE TAPE MUST TOUCH THE TOP PORTION OF THE PECTORAL FIN.



LANDING FORM

Atlantic tunas may be landed round with fins intact, or eviscerated with the head removed, but with one pectoral fin and the tail remaining attached.

For tunas with heads removed, pectoral fin curved fork length (PFCFL) must be taken. For BFT, the conversion factor to obtain total curved fork length is 1.35, i.e., PFCFL x 1.35=total curved fork length. No person may retain or possess a BFT with the head removed that is less than 20 inches, PFCFL. No person may remove the head of a bigeye tuna or yellowfin tuna if the remaining portion would be less than 27 inches from the fork of the tail to the forward edge of the cut.

The minimum size for yellowfin and bigeye tuna is 27 inches curved fork length.

Landings of all BFT must be reported. If sold, the landings of large medium and giant BFT must be reported by a licensed dealer on landing cards faxed to the NMFS Northeast Regional Office. BFT not sold by commercial permit holders must be reported to the nearest NMFS Enforcement office upon landing. Recreational landings of large medium and giant ("trophy") BFT must be reported as indicated in the HMS Angling category reporting at right side of page.

SIZE CLASS CATEGORIES OF BFT

Size Class	Curved Fork Length	Pectoral Fin Curved Fork Length	Approx. Round Weight
Young School	< 27 "	< 20 "	< 14 lbs
School	27- < 47"	20 - < 35"	14 - < 66 lbs
Large School	47 - < 59"	35 - < 44"	66 - < 135 lbs
Small Medium	59 - < 73"	44 - < 54"	135 - < 235 lbs
Large Medium	73 - < 81"	54 - < 60"	235 - < 310 lbs
Giant	81" or >	60" or >	310 lbs or >

Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations (via www.hmspermits.gov or the Atlantic Tunas Information Line). Fishermen are responsible for complying with current official regulations.

ADDRESS & TELEPHONE INFORMATION

NMFS maintains a 24-hour Information Line for news concerning Atlantic tunas. The Information Line, which is updated daily Monday through Friday, announces closure notices, inseason quota adjustments, and updates of commercial landings for BFT. This information is also available on the website.

For inseason fishery notices (retention limit adjustments, closures, etc.), visit www.hmspermits.gov, or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260. To sign up for Atlantic HMS News, an electronic newsletter of the latest Atlantic HMS related actions from NMFS, visit. www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist.

For further information concerning the Atlantic tuna fisheries, contact:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Highly Migratory Species Management Division
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
phone: (978) 281-9260 fax: (978) 281-9340

Other important phone numbers:

Cooperative Tagging Program (800) 437-3936
(To obtain a tagging kit or report a tag recovery)

NMFS Enforcement Offices

Ellsworth, ME	(207) 664-0508	Morehead City, NC	(252) 726-0314
Portland, ME	(207) 780-3241	Charleston, SC	(843) 554-9896
Portsmouth, NH	(603) 436-3186x224	Titusville, FL	(321) 269-0004
Gloucester, MA	(978) 281-9213	Miami, FL	(954) 746-4160
Boston, MA	(617) 884-5754	Marathon, FL	(305) 743-3110
New Bedford, MA	(508) 992-7711	St. Petersburg, FL	(727) 824-5344
Woods Hole, MA	(508) 495-2147	Niceville, FL	(850) 729-8628
Bellport, NY	(631) 776-1734	Slidell, LA	(985) 643-6232
Wall, NJ	(732) 280-6490	Galveston, TX	(409) 770-0812
Marmora, NJ	(609) 390-8303	Harlingen, TX	(956) 423-3450
Ocean City, MD	(410) 629-1258	Aguadilla, PR	(787) 890-0715
Newport News, VA	(757) 595-2692	Guaynabo, PR	(787) 749-4405

Enforcement Hotlines
The NMFS Office of Enforcement maintains a 24-hour hotline for the public to report potential violations of Atlantic tunas regulations. This number should be used only to report potential violations, not for general information, concerning Atlantic tunas. NMFS Enforcement Hotline: (800) 853-1964. Coast Guard Hotline: (800) SAVE-FISH.

Coast Guard Regulations
Commercial vessels are subject to the Fishing Vessel Safety Act of 1988. For information, contact your local Coast Guard office:

Maine to New York	(617) 223-8315
New Jersey to North Carolina	(757) 398-6554
South Carolina to Florida	(305) 415-6868
Gulf of Mexico	(504) 589-4554

Angling and HMS Charter/Headboat category vessel operators are required to report all recreationally caught BFT.

Area Landed	How to Report:
NC/MD	Go to a Reporting Station (See Below)
All other states	Call 1-888-872-8862 or www.hmspermits.gov

For NC reporting station locations, call 1-800-338-7804. For MD reporting station locations, call 410-213-1531. If reporting via the Automated Landings Reporting System (1-888-872-8862), select the landings reporting option. If you've reported your landings at a NC or MD landings station, please do not call the Automated Landings Reporting System, as you are exempt from that requirement.

This brochure is produced in compliance with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.