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**FISHERIES**

1. Correspondence (June 22-24, 2021) M

#13a.4



# Atlantic Bluefin Tuna



## Recent Fishery Trends – 2020

**HMS Advisory Panel Meeting**  
**May 2021**

# 2020 Bluefin Tuna Catch and Quotas

Quota Category	Landings No. of Fish	Landings Weight (mt)	2020 Base Quota (mt)	2020 Adjusted Quota (mt)	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken
<b>General</b>	4,505	855.3	555.7	846.5	154	101
<b>Harpoon</b>	547	78.9	46	76	171	103
<b>Longline</b>	256	50.4	188.6	188.6	26.7	26.7
<b>NED</b>	0	0	25	25	0	0
<b>Atlantic (Non NED)</b>	246	47.3	106.3	106.3	70.3	70.3
<b>Gulf</b>	10	3.1	57.3	57.3	5	5
<b>Trap</b>	2	0.5	1	1.2	50	42
<b>Purse Seine</b>	0	0	219.5	55	0	0
<b>Angling</b>	9,705	202.9	232.4	232.4	87	87
<b>School</b>	7,710	81.2	127.3	127.3	64	64
<b>large school/small medium</b>	1,960	112.3	99.8	99.8	113	113
<b>Trophy</b>	35	8.9	5.3	5.3	168	168
<b>Reserve</b>			29.5	0.5	-	-
<b>Total (Landings Only)</b>	15,014	1,188.3	1,272.9	1,400.2	93	84.9
<b>Total (landings + dead discard)</b>		1,193.8	1,272.9	1,400.2	93.8	85.3

<sup>1</sup> Currently, the best available annual estimate of dead discards for the 2020 pelagic longline fishery is the 2019 estimate of 5.3 mt.

<sup>2</sup> The Adjusted Quota column in the table above reflects the adjusted quota as of December 31, 2020. Category quotas were adjusted by inseason and other actions during the year.



## BFT actions for 2020

- 4 daily retention limit adjustments (General and Angling category)
- 8 inseason quota transfers (General, Harpoon, Longline, Reserve categories)
- 2 quota adjustments (2020 reallocation of Purse Seine quota to Reserve; augmentation of 2020 Reserve with allowed 2019 U.S. BFT underharvest)
- 10 closures (Angling category Trophy and General category)

## 2020 Inseason Actions - Quota Transfers & Quota Adjustments

- 19.5 mt within General category from December 2019 to January-March 2019 (January, A7 authority)
- 164.5 mt from Purse Seine category to Reserve category using A7 formula, and in same notice transferred 51 mt from Reserve category to General category (February)
- 30 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category (July)
- 111.6 mt from Reserve category to General category (September)
- 127.3 mt of 2019 underharvest to Reserve category (October)
- 40 mt from Reserve category to General category (September)
- 68 mt from Reserve category to General category (September)
- 19.5 mt from Reserve category to General category (November)

# 2021 Inseason Actions – Quota Transfers and Quota Adjustments

- 19.5 mt within General category from December 2020 to January-March 2021 (December 2020, A7 authority)
- 164.5 mt from Purse Seine category to Reserve category using A7 formula, and in same notice transferred 26 mt from Reserve category to General category (February)

## 2020 and 2021 Inseason Actions – Angling Category Retention Limits (Recreational)

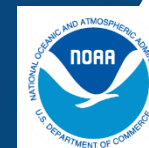
Default daily limit (private and charter vessels) effective January 1 each year until changed: 1 school, large school, or small medium BFT/vessel/day

	2020*	2021*
Permit Category (Vessel Type)	Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip	Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip
HMS Charter/Headboat (Charter boat)	3 school BFT and 1 large school/small medium BFT	3 school BFT and 1 large school/small medium BFT
HMS Charter/Headboat (Headboat)	6 school BFT and 2 large school/small medium BFT	6 school BFT and 2 large school/small medium BFT

Trophy category: 1 large medium/giant (73"+) BFT/vessel/year

- Southern area closed February 20, 2020 and March 1, 2021
- Gulf of Mexico closed April 16, 2020 and May 4, 2021
- Northern area closed May 21, 2020 and May 11, 2021

\* Effective dates were May 2<sup>nd</sup> for each year



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# Recreational BFT Landings (Estimated # of fish), 2017-2020

	<b>Number of school BFT (27 to &lt;47")</b>	<b>Number of large school BFT (47 to &lt;59")</b>	<b>Number of small medium BFT (59 to &lt;73")</b>	<b>Total Angling category landings</b>	<b>Annual Quota</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>3,472</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>142 mt</b>	<b>195 mt</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>113 mt</b>	<b>232 mt</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>3,937</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>182 mt</b>	<b>232 mt</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>202.9 mt</b>	<b>232 mt</b>

Data sources: Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) estimates, NC catch card data, MD catch card data (outside LPS sampling timeframe), and NMFS Automated Landings Reporting System (outside LPS sampling timeframe).



## 2020 Angling Category Landings by Size Class

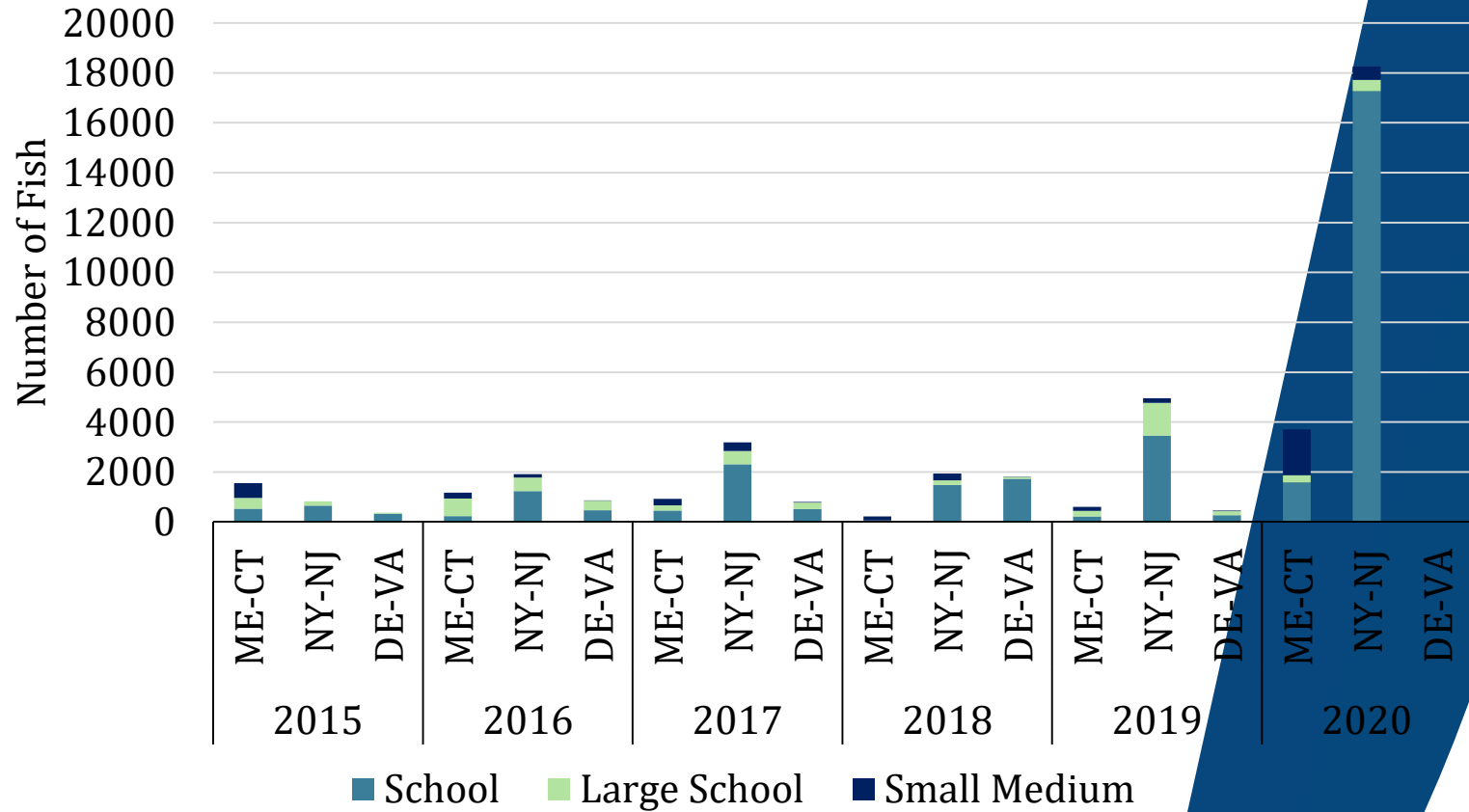
	Landings (mt)	Quota (mt)	Quota use
School	81.2 (78.9 N; 2.3 S)	127.3	64%
Large School/ Small Medium	112.3 (76 N; 36.1 S)	99.8	113%
Large Medium/ Giant (Trophy)	6.8 (2 N; 3 S; 1.8 GoM)	5.3	126%

Data sources: Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) estimates, NC catch card data, MD catch card data (outside LPS sampling timeframe) and the NMFS Automated Landings Reporting System (outside LPS sampling timeframe).  
**Totals subject to rounding error.**



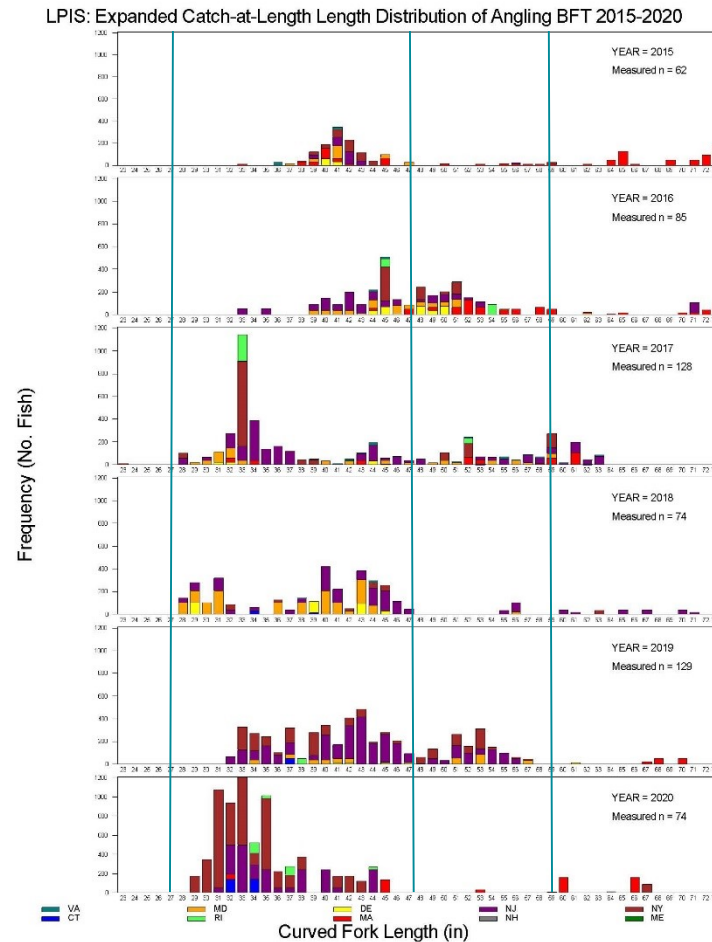


# Recreational Landings by Area, 2015-2020



# Large Pelagics Survey: Expanded Catch-at-Length Size Distribution of Angling Category BFT, 2015-2020

3



school: 27 to <47"  
large school: 47 to <59"  
small medium: 59 to <73"

Large school and small medium have traditionally been managed as one size class.

# 2019 General Category Landings by Daily Retention Limit

Time Period	Limit of BFT/Vessel/Day	Days Open	Landings (mt)
January 1 - February 28	1	59	108.9
June 1 - July 10	3	40	77.4
July 11 - August 9	1	29	200.1
September 1 - September 13	1	13	226.2
October 1 - October 13	1	13	178.8
December 1 - December 31	1	31	22.9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>185</b>	<b>814.1</b>

\* For dates not shown above the fishery was closed.



## 2020 General Category Landings by Daily Retention Limit

Time Period	Limit of BFT/Vessel/Day	Days Open	Landings (mt)
January 1 - February 24	1	55	123
June 1 - August 31	1	92	323.7
September 1 - Sept 27	1	27	243.1
October 1 - October 9	1	9	91.6
October 28 - October 29	1	2	14.3
November 7 - November 8	1	2	24.3
December 1 - December 14	1	14	35.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>201</b>	<b>855.3</b>

\* For dates not shown above the fishery was closed.

## 2020 General Category Bluefin Tuna Landings

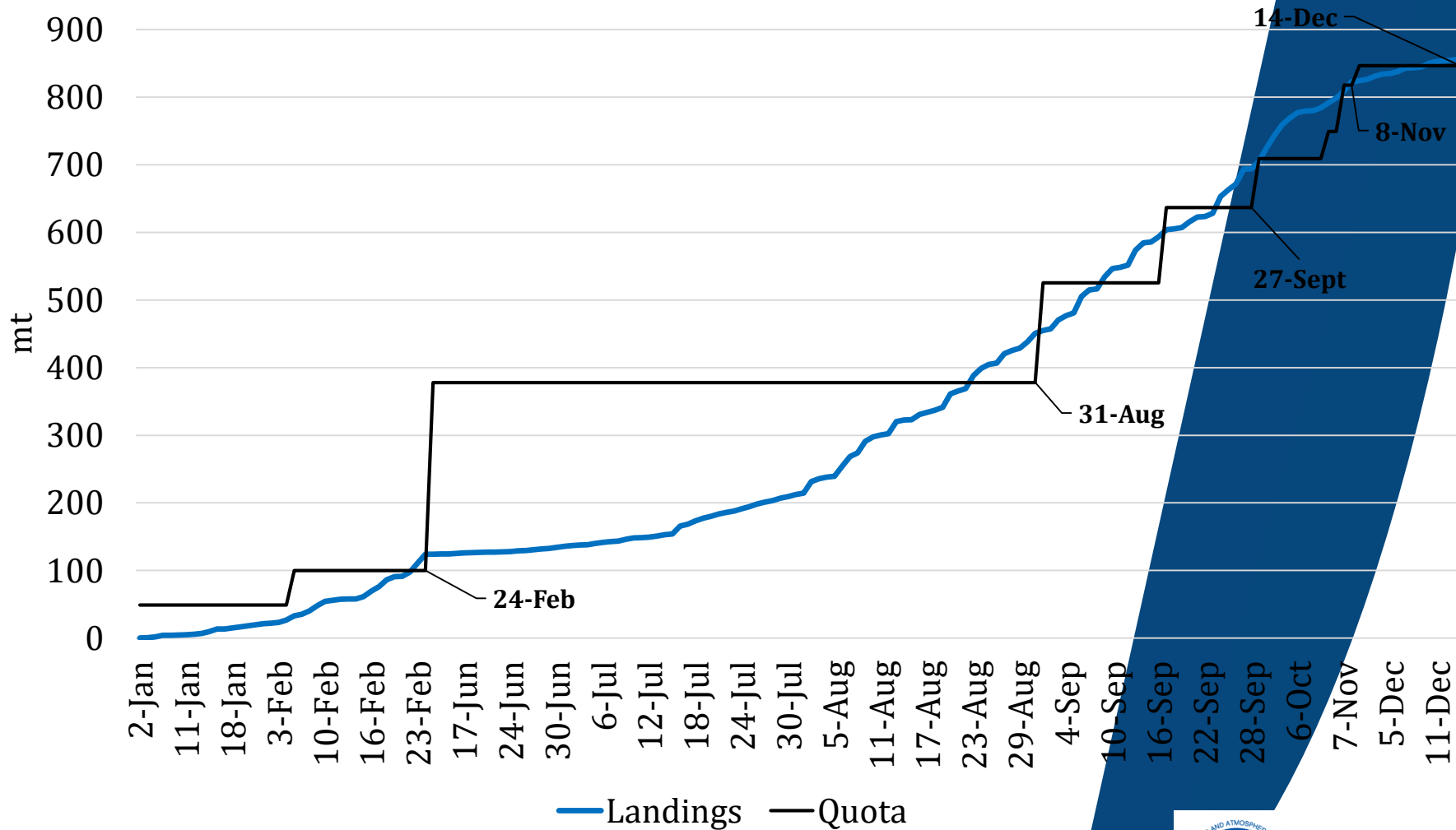
Time Period	Quota/Subquota			Landings				
	Base (mt)	Adjusted Quota (mt)	Cumulative Adjusted (mt)	Time Period Landings (mt)	% Adjusted Quota	Cumulative Landings (mt)	Cumulative % of Cumulative Adjusted Quota	Cumulative % of Adjusted Total Quota
Jan-Mar	29.5	100	100	124.1	124	124.1	124	17
June-Aug	277.9	277.9	377.9	323.7	117	448.1	119	61
Sept	147.3	195.6	573.5	243.1	124	691.2	121	95
Oct-Nov	72.2	127.7	701.2	128.6	101	819.8	117	97
Dec	28.9	28.9	846.5	35.5	123	855.3	117	117

# 2021 General Category Bluefin Tuna Landings

Time Period	Quota/Subquota			Landings				
	Base (mt)	Adjusted Quota (mt)	Cumulative Adjusted (mt)	Time Period Landings (mt)	% Adjusted Quota	Cumulative Landings (mt)	Cumulative % of Cumulative Adjusted Quota	Cumulative % of Adjusted Total Quota
Jan-Mar	29.5	75	75	86.5	115	86.5	115	15
June-Aug	277.9	277.9	352.9	-	-	-	-	-
Sept	147.3	147.3	500.2	-	-	-	-	-
Oct-Nov	72.2	72.2	572.4	-	-	-	-	-
Dec	28.9	9.4	581.8	-	-	-	-	-



# 2020 General Category Cumulative Landings



# 2020 Harpoon Category Landings Information

	Daily Retention Limit	Landings (mt)	Percent Quota
Large Medium (73 - < 81" )	2	19.8	25%
Giant (81" +)	unlimited	58.9	75%
<b>Annual Total</b>		<b>78.7</b>	<b>171% of the 46-mt baseline quota; 103% of the 76-mt adjusted quota</b>

***Percent of trips landing at least one BFT:***

Only Lg. Med: 15%    Lg. Med and Giant: 42%    Only Giant: 43%

***Percent of trips landing at least one BFT:***

1 Fish: 30%    2 Fish: 16%    3 Fish: 15%    4-8 Fish: 38%    9+ Fish: 0%



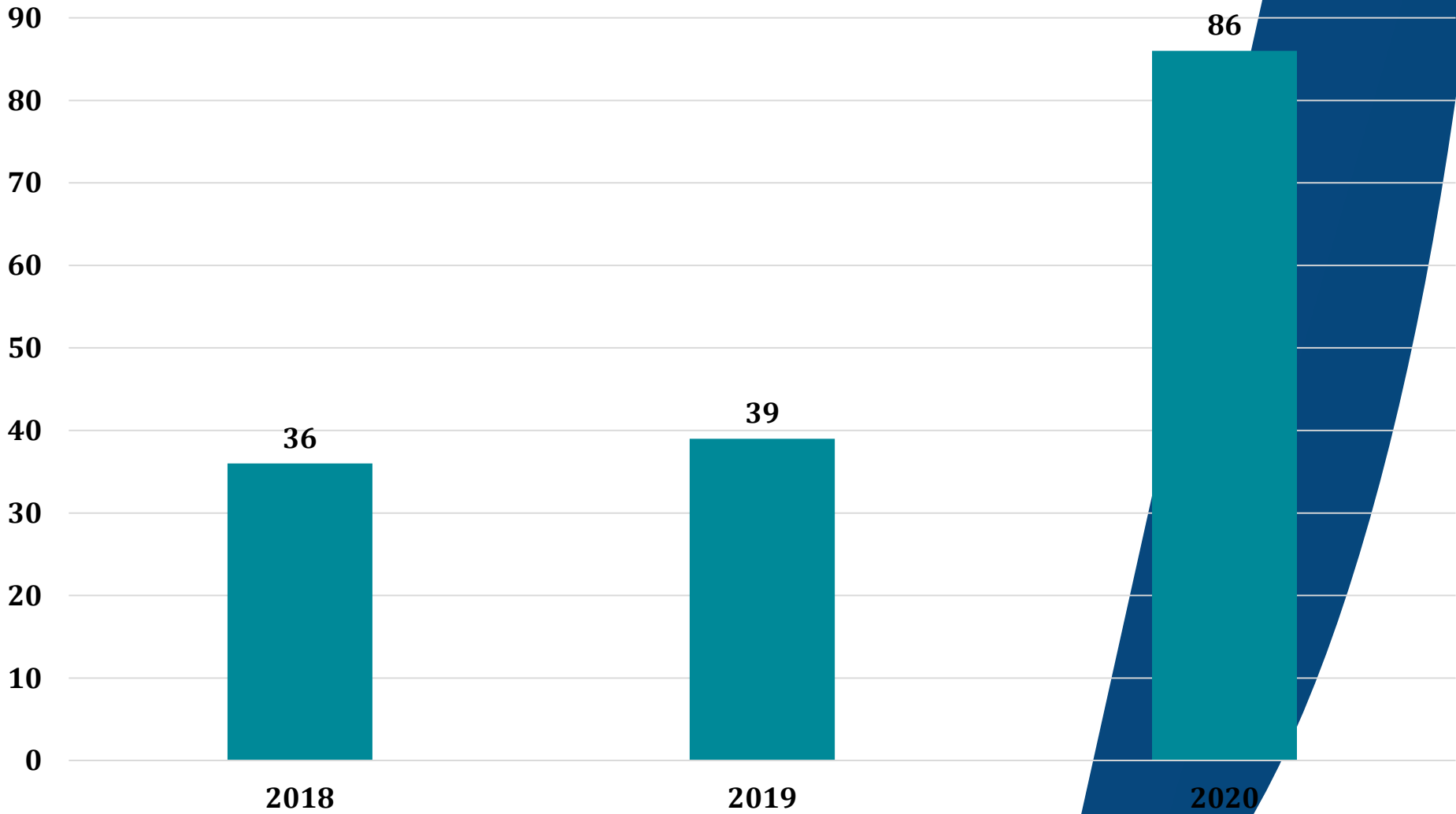


## Harpoon (Gear) Landings by the General and Harpoon Categories

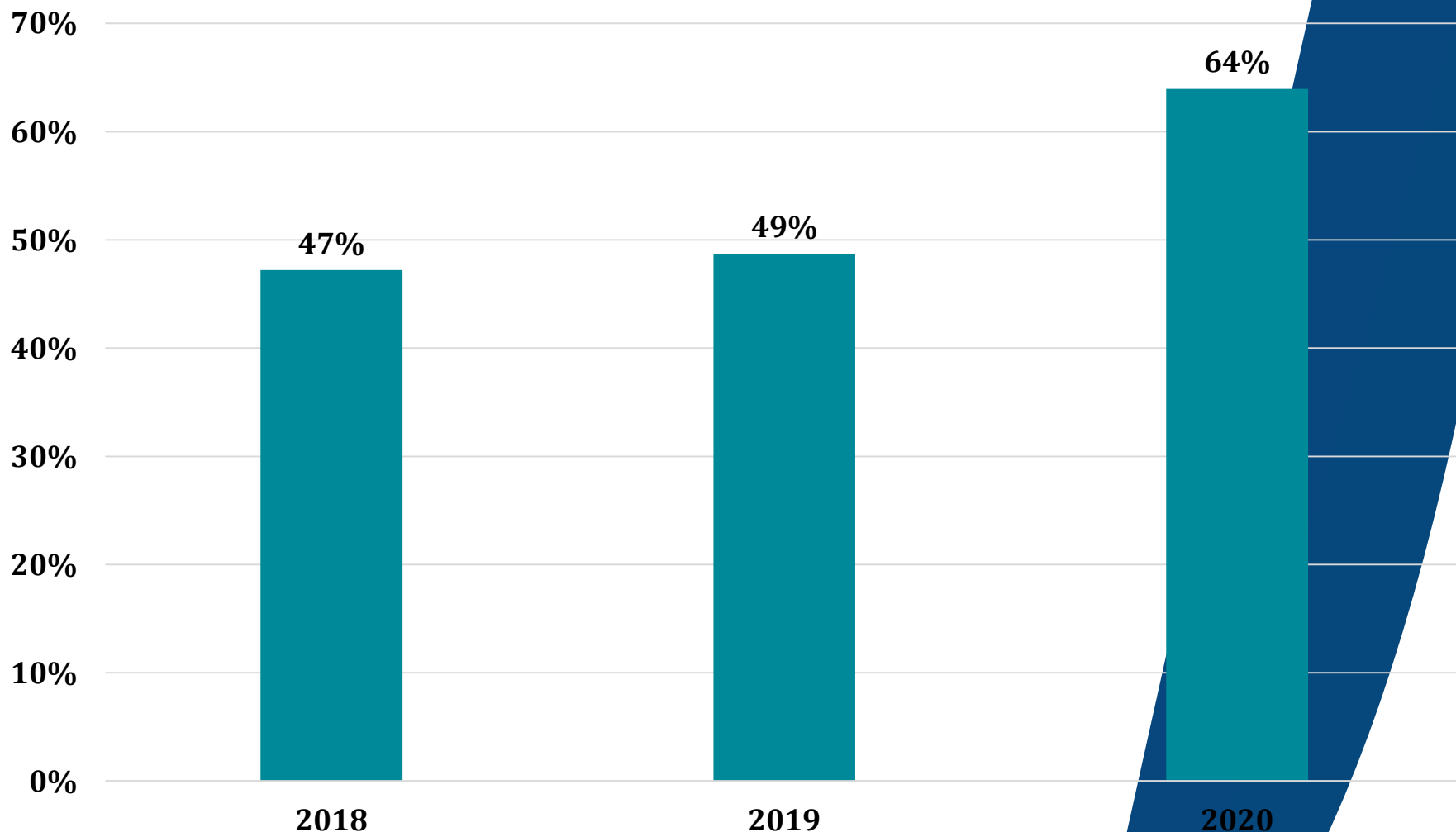
	2019			2020		
	Number of Vessels with Landings	Number of Fish	Weight (mt)	Number of Vessels with Landings	Number of Fish	Weight (mt)
<b>General category</b>	30	125	16	18	44	6.7
<b>Harpoon category</b>	21	737	102.4	23	547	78.7
<b>Totals</b>	51	862	118.4	41	591	85.4

General category harpoon gear landings represent 0.8% of total General category 2020 landings (6.7 mt of 855.3 mt total)

# Number of active BFT dealers



# Percent of Small Volume Dealers



Small volume dealer is defined as a BFT dealer which purchased less than 10 fish per year



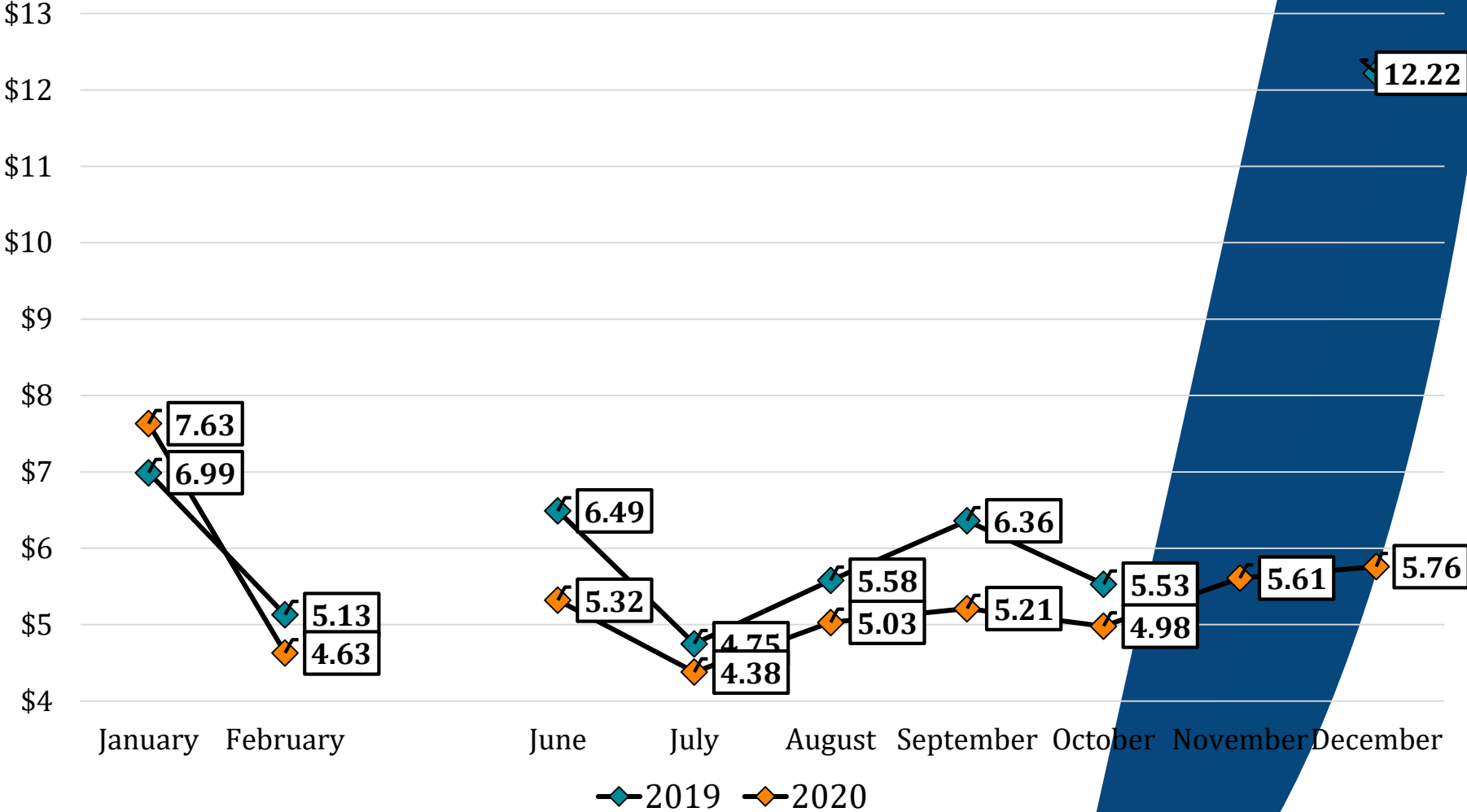
# BFT Reporting Requirement for General, Harpoon, and Charter/Headboat Categories

- Vessels are required to report the catch of all BFT retained or discarded dead, within 24 hours of landing or end of each trip, by accessing [hmspermits.noaa.gov](https://hmspermits.noaa.gov) or by using the HMS Catch Reporting app
- Outreach to the fishery continues, including by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

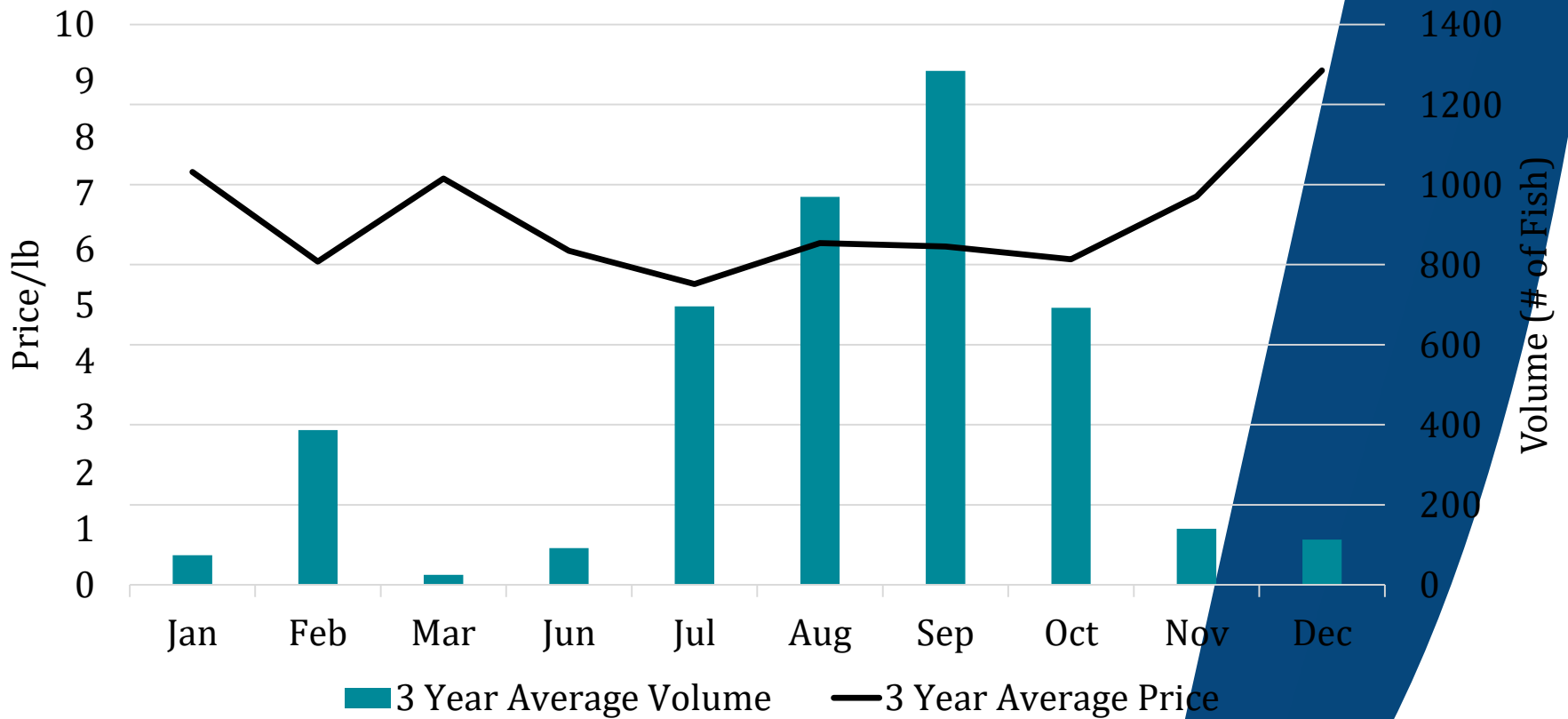
Quota Category	Comparison of dealer & online BFT reports for 2019; % compliance 2017-2019:									
	Dealer Reports		Online Reports		% Compliance					
	# Fish	# Fishermen	# Fish	# Fishermen	% Fish Reported			% Fishermen Reporting		
					2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018
General	4,505	1,055	2,990	686	66.4	67.7	65.4	65.0	63.4	61.6
Harpoon	547	23	503	18	92.0	91.3	90.2	78.3	76.2	85.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,052</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>3,493</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>65.2</b>



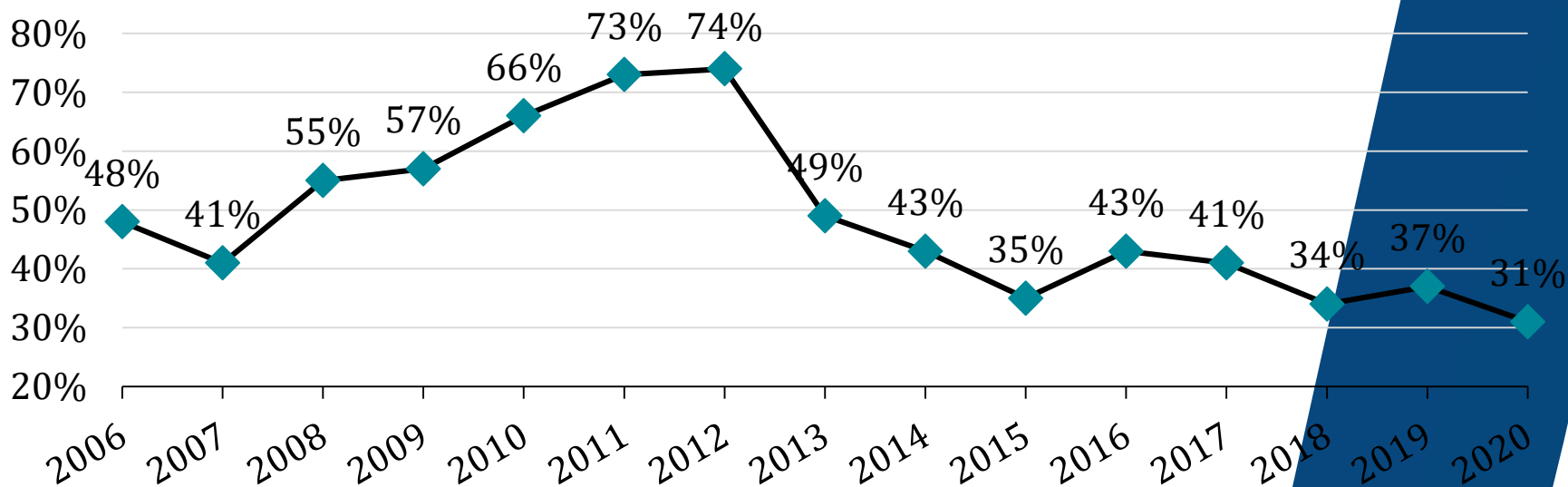
# General Category Average Price/lb



# General Category 3-year Averages (# of Fish and Price/lb), 2018-2020



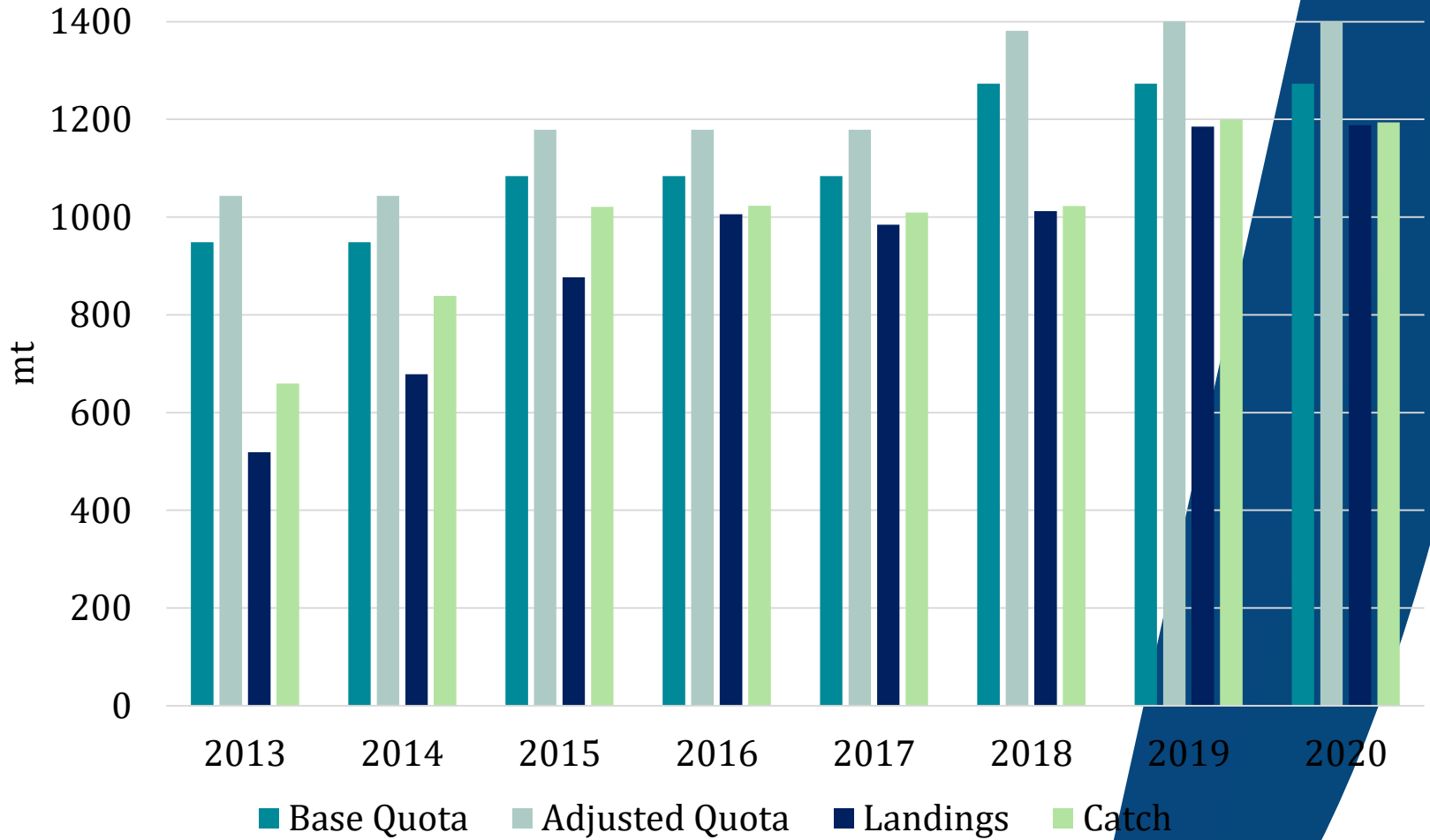
## Exported vs. Domestic Landings



2020	Exports	Domestic
Average Price per lb.	\$5.33	\$4.96
Total Ex-Vessel Value	\$2,904,016	\$5,529,495



# U.S. BFT Landings, Catch, and Quotas (mt)



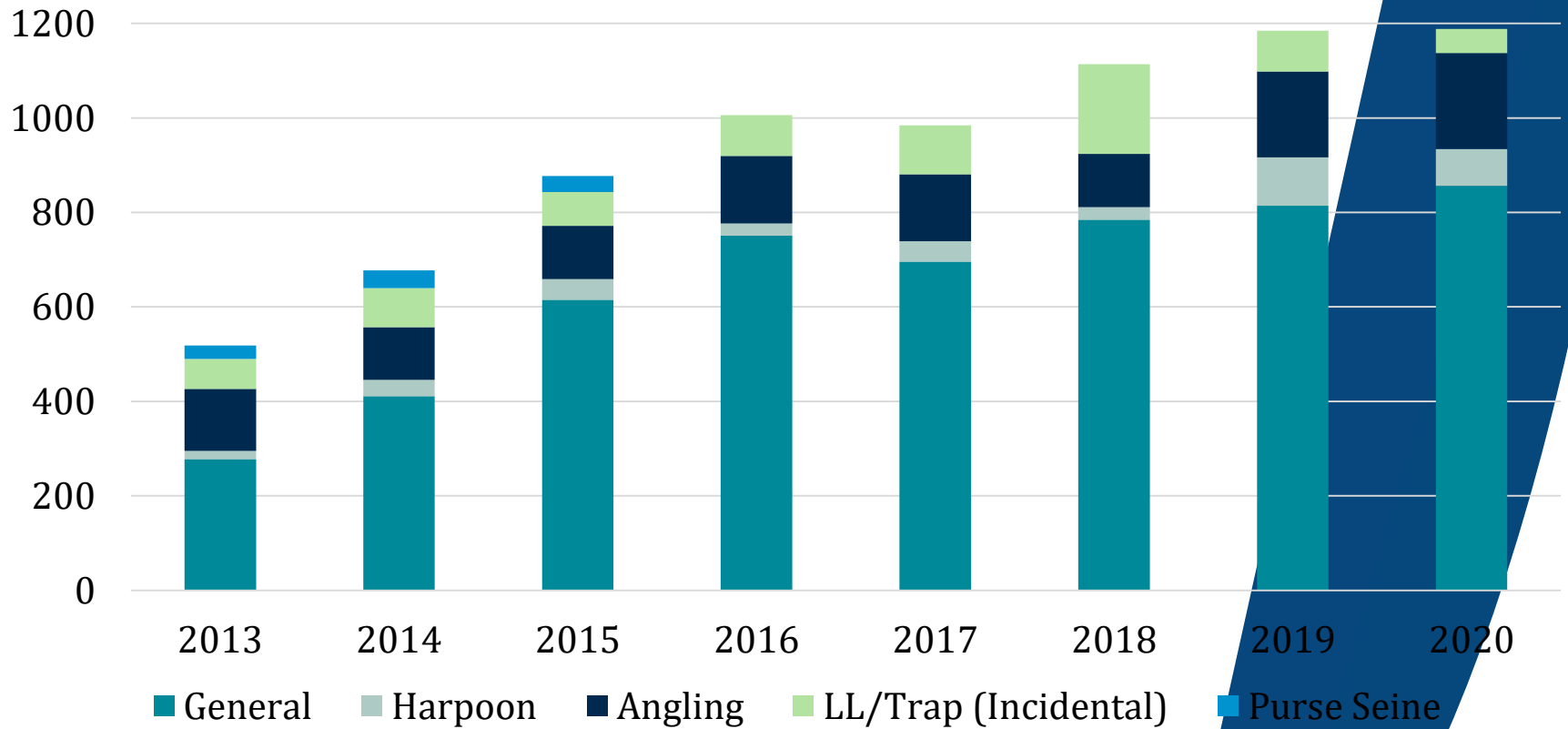


## 2020 BFT Dead Discards

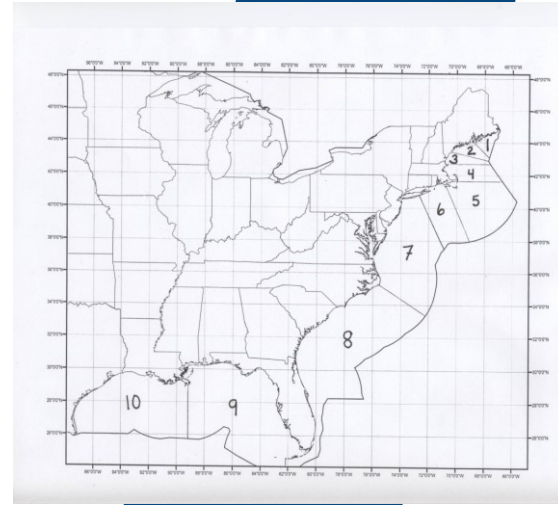
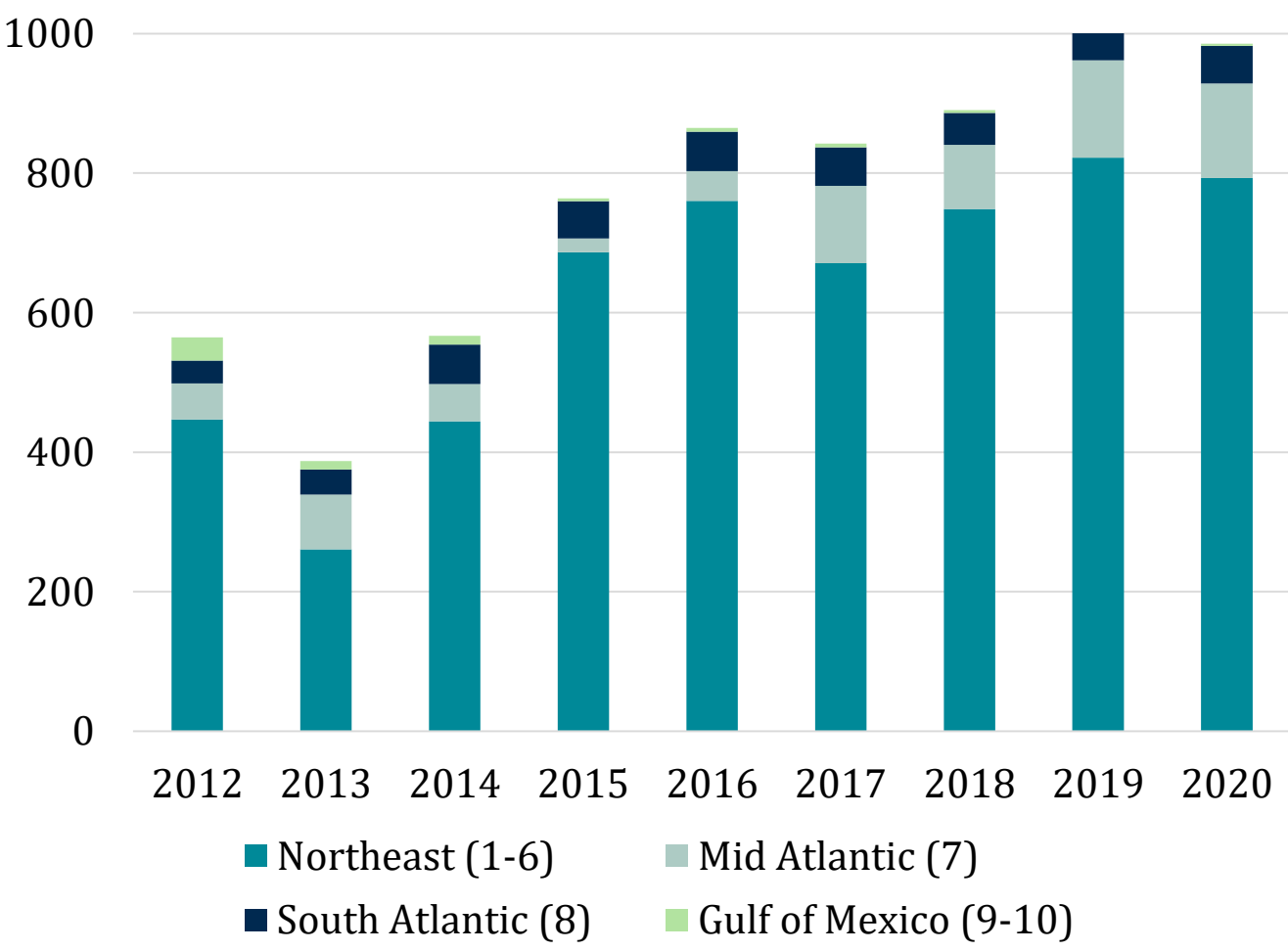
- Currently, the best available annual estimate of U.S. dead discards for 2020 is 5.3 mt for the pelagic longline fishery.
- The United States accounts for dead discards annually and reports them to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
- NMFS continues to refine reporting methodologies for commercial handgear dead discards



# Landings by Category (mt)



# Commercial Landings By Area (mt)



# Questions? Comments?

For further information on Atlantic tunas management,  
contact (978) 281-9260

