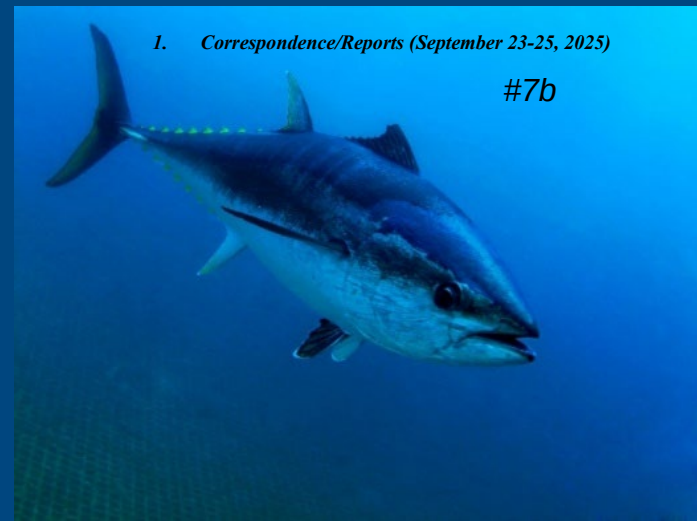




Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries

2025 Fishery to Date



HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 2025



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2025 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

- Goals for 2025 (as with any year)
 - Allow as much fishing opportunity as possible consistent with regulations; ICCAT Rec. 22-10; the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Act; and other applicable laws and EOs; and consistent with FMP objectives
 - Align expectations with realistic options for management
 - Adapt to new challenges and approaches
- Management Context Reminders (International/Domestic)
- Data/Information
 - 2024 Data - Vital to the conversation
 - 2025 Actions to date
 - Moving forward through 2025
 - Options/considerations for 2026



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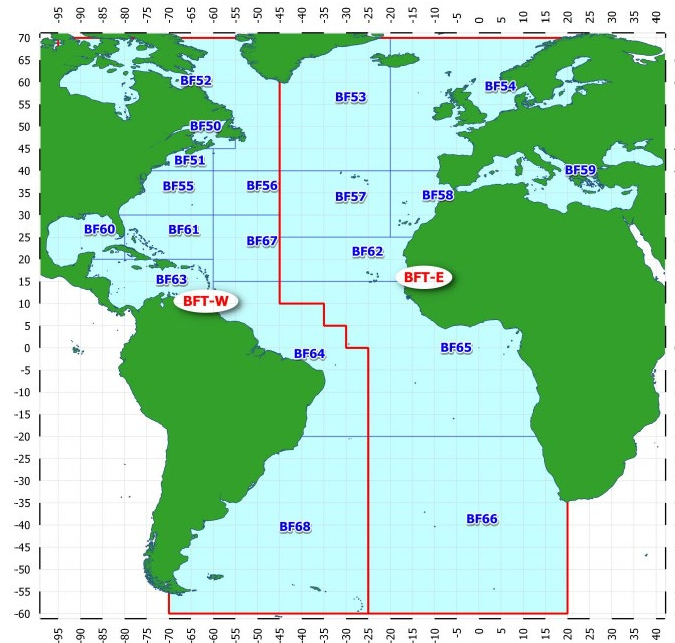
ICCAT Clarification Slides

Atlantic BFT managed as two stocks; very different sizes with separate total allowable catch (TAC) amounts based on respective science

Western Atlantic (WBFT)

Rec. 22-10

- Annual TAC: 2,726 mt for 2023-2025
- 6 Parties: **United States**, Canada, Japan, Mexico*
- Annual U.S. quota: 1,341.14 mt (just under 50% of the WBFT TAC)



Eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean (EBFT)

Rec. 24-05

- Annual TAC: 40,570 mt for 2023-2025
- 17 Parties including the European Union



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ICCAT Clarification Slides

For both stocks:

- Stock status (as of 2021): No overfishing occurring (Overfished status not assessed by ICCAT)
- In 2022, after many years of development, ICCAT adopted a management procedure ([Rec. 22-09](#), updated in [Rec. 23-07](#)) that established a TAC for each of the western and eastern BFT management areas starting in 2023 (with TACs for 2023-2025). This fall, ICCAT's scientific body is anticipated to provide MP-based TAC advice for the 2026-2028 management cycle for both stocks.
- Next stock assessment: Currently anticipated to be in 2026
- TAC and quota recommendations are endorsed by members of ICCAT's Panel 2 (temperate tunas) and adopted by ICCAT via consensus



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ICCAT Provisions to address quota under- and overharvest

(per [Rec. 22-10 WBFT](#))

- Any underharvest in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. Not to exceed 10% of the initial (base) quota allocation.
- If there is an overharvest of the total (adjusted) quota, the initial quota for the next subsequent year will be reduced by 100% of the excess.
- If there is an overharvest of the total quota during any two consecutive years, a reduction equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount may be applied as well as other measures.



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Domestic Regulations regarding under- and overharvest accounting:

50 CFR 635.27(a)(1)(ii) - General category quota

- NMFS may adjust each period's quota based on overharvest or underharvest in the prior period

50 CFR 635.27(a)(7) - Inseason Determination criteria (*a subset*)

- (iv) amount quotas for other gear categories might be exceeded
- (vi) ability to accomplish the objectives of the FMP
- (vii) variations in distribution, abundance, or migration patterns of BFT
- (viii) catch rates in one area precluding a reasonable opportunity to harvest a portion of the category's quota in another area
- (ix) Review of dealer reports, daily landing trends, and the availability of the BFT on the fishing grounds.
- (x) optimize fishing opportunity
- (xii) facilitate quota accounting



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Domestic Regulations regarding annual adjustments

50 CFR 635.27(a)(9) - Annual adjustments

- If a category or subcategory has been exceeded, NMFS may subtract all or a portion of the overharvest from that category or subcategory the following fishing year.
- If a category or subcategory has not been reached, NMFS may add all or a portion of the underharvest to, that category or subcategory, and/or the Reserve category for the following fishing year.
- Regardless of the estimated landings in any year, NMFS may adjust the annual school bluefin tuna quota to ensure compliance with the ICCAT-recommended procedures for addressing overharvest of school bluefin tuna.
- Any overharvest of such school bluefin quota, in accordance with ICCAT recommendations, from one year must be subtracted from the tolerance limit applicable in the next year or the year after that. (paragraph 8 of ICCAT Rec. [22-10](#))



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Annual Bluefin Tuna Baseline Quotas and Subquotas - Detailed

Category	Annual Baseline Quota (mt) and (%)	Subquotas	Subquota Amounts (mt)
General	710.7 (54%)	January-March	37.7 (5.3%)
		June-August	355.4 (50%)
		September	188.3 (26.5%)
		October-November	92.4 (13%)
		December	37.0 (5.2%)
Harpoon	59.2 (4.5%)		
Longline	209.3 (15.9%)		
Trap	1.3 (0.1%)		
Angling	297.4 (22.6%)	School	134.1
		Reserve	24.8
		North of 39°18' N. lat.	51.6
		South of 39°18' N. lat.	57.7
		Large School/Small Medium	154.1
		North of 39°18' N. lat.	72.7
		South of 39°18' N. lat.	81.4
		Trophy	9.2
		North of 42° N. lat.	2.3
		North of 39°18' N. lat.	2.3
		South of 39°18' N. lat.	2.3
		Gulf of America	2.3
Reserve	38.2 (2.9%)		
U.S. Baseline Quota	1,316.14		
Including 25 mt for NED	1,341.14		



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2024 Bluefin Tuna Landings

Quota category	Landings - Weight (mt)	2024 Base Quota (mt)	2024 Adjusted Quota (mt)	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken	Raw under/overharvest (Adjusted Quota) (mt)
General	907.4	710.7	870.2	128%	104%	37.2
Jan-Mar	64.3	37.7	58.2	171%	110%	6.1
June - Aug	375.1	355.4	355.4	106%	106%	19.7
Sept	183.2	188.3	188.3	97%	97%	5.1
Oct -Nov	219.3	92.4	192.4	237%	114%	26.9
Dec	64.9	37.0	76	175%	85%	11.1
Harpoon	75.4	59.2	70.0	127%	108%	5.5
Angling	452.7	297.4	297.4	152%	152%	155.3
School	152.6	134.1	134.1	114%	114%	18.5
Large school/ Small medium	281.6	154.1	154.1	183%	183%	127.5
Trophy	18.6	9.2	9.2	202%	202%	9.4
Longline (incl NED)	158.1	234.3	234.3	67%	67%	76.2
Trap	0.0	1.3	1.3	0%	0%	1.3
Reserve	0.3	38.2	2.0			1.7
Total (landings + dead discards)	1,617.7	1,341.1	1,475.2	121%	110%	142.5

- Overharvests in categories/subcategories can be reduced by underharvest in other categories/subcategories
- General, Harpoon, Angling category overharvests 197.9 mt, while net U.S. overharvest is 142.5 mt
- 2024 DD estimate of 23.8 mt

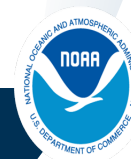


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Potential Remaining Quotas for 2025

- Accounting for 2024 Overharvest
- Accounting for 2025 Catch as of Spring Advisory Panel Meeting (as of May 1, 2025)

Quota category	2025 Base quotas (mt)	Prorated potential reductions from 2024 overharvest (mt)	2025 Base quota minus potential reductions (mt)	2025 “Winter” Catch (mt)	Potential 2025 quotas remaining <u>as of May 1</u> (mt)
General	710.7	27.1	683.6	124.5	559.1
Harpoon	59.2	4.3	54.9	0	54.9
Angling	297.4	111.1	186.3	29.5	156.8



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Adjustments to the 2025 Swordfish, Albacore, and Bluefin Category Quotas

- Temporary, final rule to adjust 2025 baseline quotas based on 2024 under/over harvests
- Species: North Atlantic albacore, North and South Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic bluefin tuna
- Timing: Anticipated to publish Fall 2025 and to be effective through December 31, 2025
- Adjusts bluefin tuna quotas to the *category* level. Further refinement to *subcategory* level would be done in accordance with the regulations at 50 CFR 635.27(a)(9).



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Harpoon Category



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2025 Harpoon Category Fishery Inseason Actions

Date	Inseason Action
June 1 – July 2	5 BFT/vessel/day with max of 2 large medium (90 FR 19130, 05/06/2025)
July 2	Closure (90 FR 29792, 07/02/2025)

Amendment 13 established the daily retention limit range of 5 to a maximum of 10 BFT/vessel/day (2-4 large medium sized; the rest giants)



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2025 Harpoon Category Landings

Size Class	Landings (mt)	% of Potential Remaining Quota (55 mt)
Large Medium (73 - < 81")	1.5	3%
Giant (81" +)	53.0	97%
Annual Total	54.9	100%



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Harpoon (Gear) Landings by the General and Harpoon Categories

	2024			2025		
	Number of vessels with landings	Number of fish	Weight (mt)	Number of vessels with landings	Number of fish	Weight (mt)
General category	9	24	4.5	15	56	16.0
Harpoon category	34	346	75.4	35	219	54.9
TOTALS	43	370	79.9	50	275	70.9



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General Category



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2025 General Category Retention Limits

Category	Date	Limits (large medium or giant (73"+))
General	January 1 - February 28	1 BFT/vessel/day
	March 1 - March 31	N/A; closed
	June 1 - June 30	1 BFT/vessel/day (90 FR 19130, May 6, 2025)
	July 1 - December 31	1 BFT/vessel/day; Restricted-fishing days (RFDs): Tues, Fri, Sat (July 1 - November 30)

Note: Default daily retention limits for open days: 3 BFT/vessel/day for June; 1 BFT/vessel/day for January-March and July-December; can be modified via inseason action



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2025 General Category Fishery Action Overview (Inseason Actions)

Action Type	Effective Date	Filing Date	FR Notice	Details
Quota transfer	01/08/2025	01/08/2025	90 FR 2638, 01/13/2025	20.5 mt from December 2025 to January-March 2025; (adjusted the January -March 2025 subquota to 58.2 mt)
Closure	02/28/2025	02/28/2025	90 FR 11232, 03/05/2025	January - March subquota time period; 124.5 mt landed
Retention Limit Adjustment	06/01/2025	05/01/2025	90 FR 19130, 05/06/2025	General 1 large medium or giant/vessel/day June 1-June 30



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2025 General Category Landings

Time Period	Open Dates	No. Open Days	Daily Retention Limit	RFDs	Landings (mt)	Base Sub-quota	Adjusted/Potential Remaining Subquota
January - March	January 1 – February 28	59	1	-	124.5	37.7	58.2
June-August ¹	June 1 – 30	30	1	-	12.7	355.4	306
	July 1 – August 31	34	1	T, F, Sa	233.2		
	Total	64	-	-	245.8		
September				T, F, Sa		188.3	162.1
October-November				T, F, Sa		92.4	79.6
December				-		37	11.4
TOTALS						710.7	559.1 ²

¹data current through 8/29/2025

²refer to slide 10; not inclusive of 58.2 January-March subquota already used



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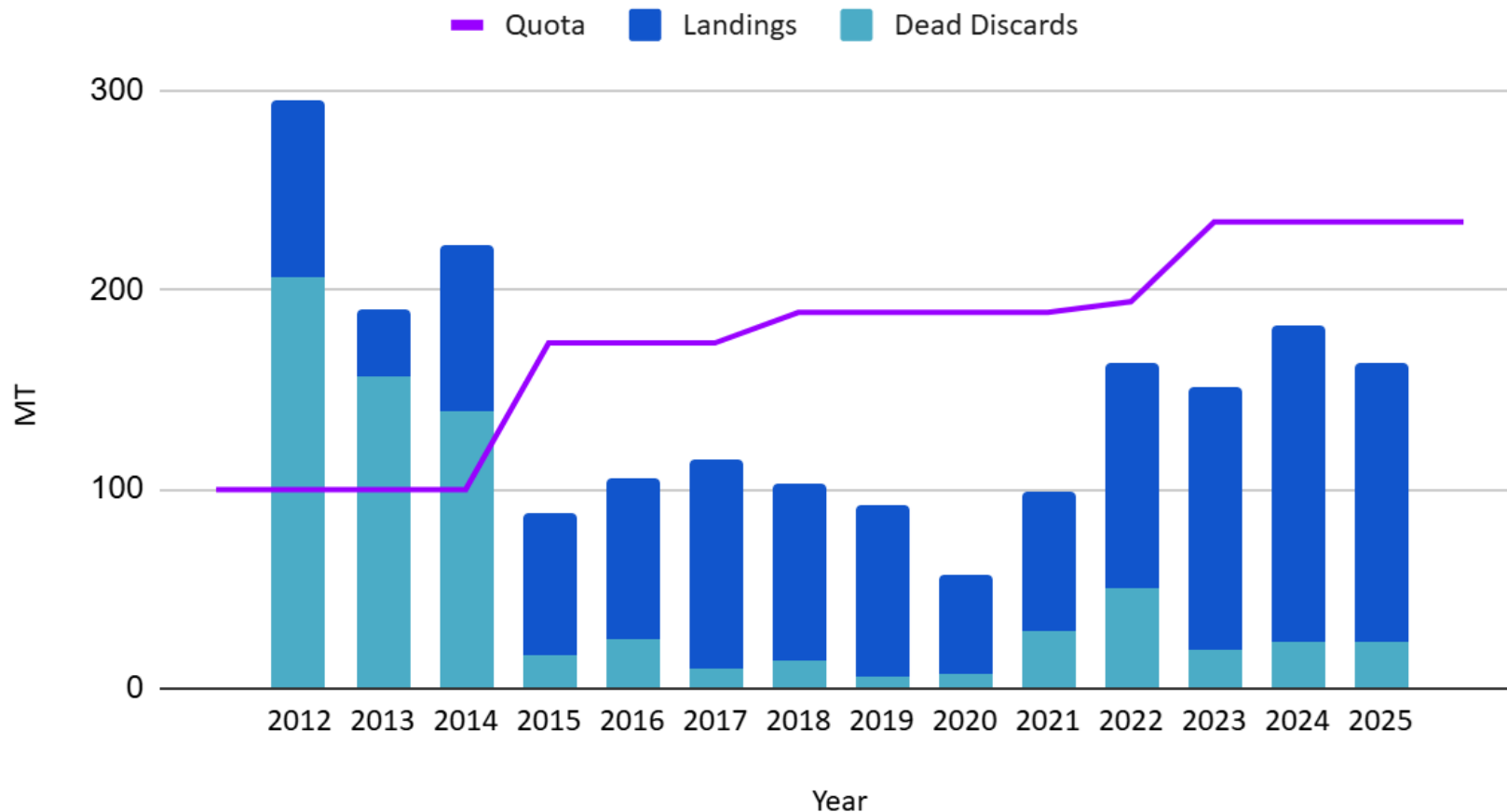
Longline Category



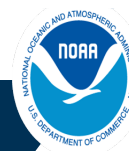
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Pelagic Longline Bluefin Tuna Catch by Year

Dead Discards, Landings and Quota



2025 data current through 8/29/2025



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IBQ Dynamic Allocation Process

Agency Goals

- 1) Minimize the need for vessel owners to appeal initial allocations

Number of Appeals

2023	2024	2025
25	3	1

- 2) Adapting processes to the findings of NAO adjudicated appeals

*Use finalized logbook data for all years available (first 24 months);
VMS set-reports for most recent 12 months*

- 3) Increase process transparency to empower vessel owners to ensure mandatory data are up to date

Notification of data sources and timeframe during Fall



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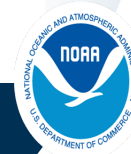
Angling Category



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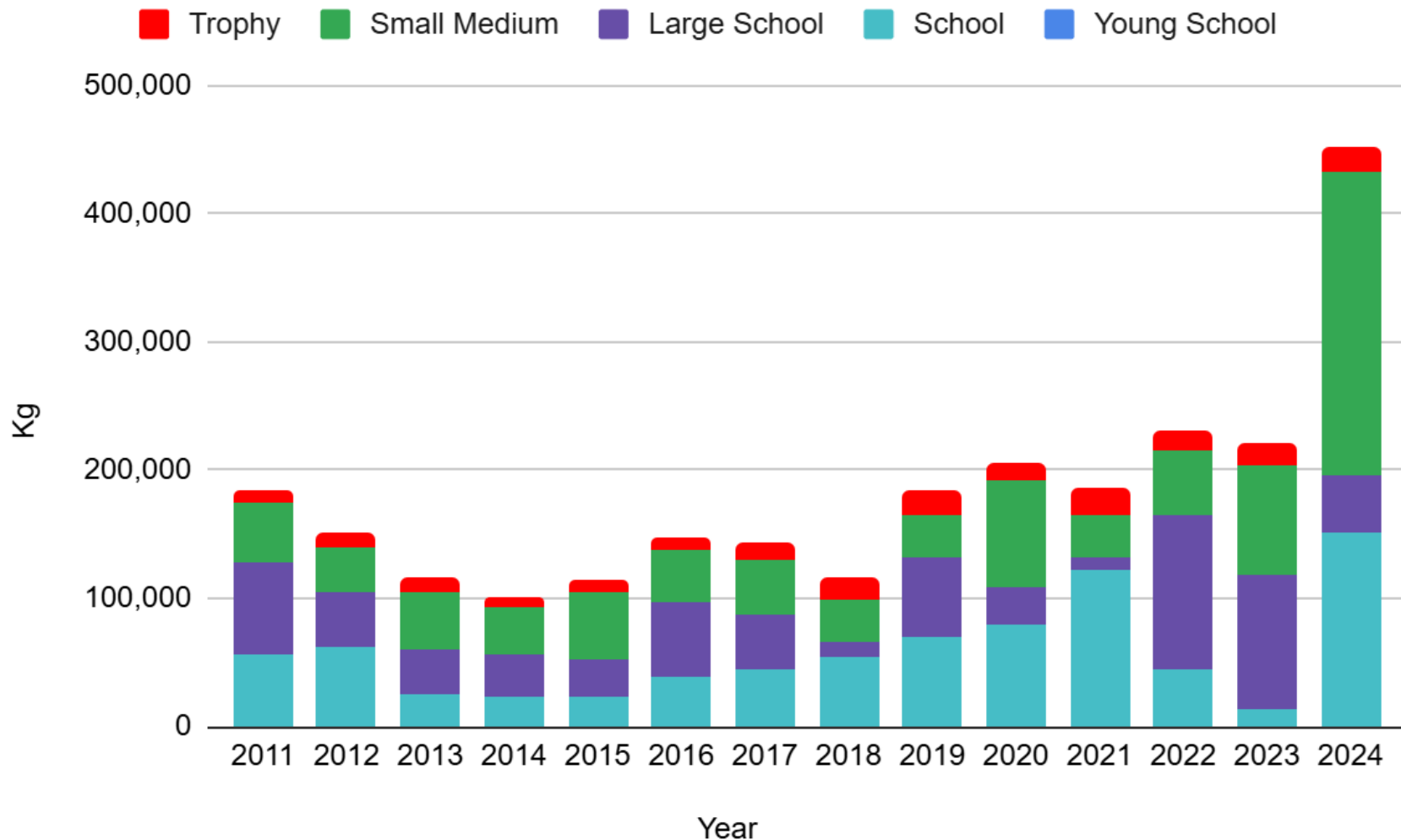
2025 Angling Category Inseason Actions

Action Type	Effective Date	Filing Date	FR Notice	Details
Closure	2/28/2025	2/28/2025	90 FR 11233, 3/05/2025	Closure of the Southern Area Trophy Fishery
Closure	4/23/2025	4/22/2025	90 FR 17342, 4/25/2025	Closure of the Gulf of America Trophy Fishery
Closure	5/16/2025	5/16/2025	90 FR 21697, 5/21/2025	Closure of the Southern New England Trophy Fishery
Retention Limit Adjustment	6/3/2025	5/29/2025	90 FR 23457, 6/3/2025	Adjustment from default to: 1 school for private vessels; 2 school for HMS Charter/Headboat vessels
Retention Limit Adjustment	7/1/2025	6/12/2025	90 FR 25158, 6/16/2025	Adjustment to: 1 school, LS, SM for private vessels; 2 BFT, of which only 1 may be a LS/SM for HMS Charter/Headboat vessels
Closure	8/12/2025	8/8/2025	90 FR 38708, 8/12/2025	Closure of the Gulf of Maine Trophy Fishery
Closure	8/12/2025	8/8/2025	90 FR 38709, 8/12/2025	Closure of the Angling category fishery for school, large school, and small medium BFT



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Annual Recreational Landings



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2025 Angling Category Challenges

Reduced quota, providing fishing opportunities, and monitoring needs

Two predominant methods to monitor recreational landings:

- Large Pelagics Survey (LPS): the cornerstone of the annual methodology; lag time to prepare landings estimates – not available in real time
- Automated Landings Reporting System (ALRS): vessel reports in real time, but compliance remains a concern



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2025 Recreational Catch Projection Options (Approaches We Considered)

Reviewed approaches used in Council-managed recreational fisheries

Steps for catch projection development:

- Select base years for comparison
- Estimate expected average weights by size class
- Estimate catch rates under various/reduced bag limits
- Estimate expected monthly and daily harvest
- Account for reported landings and project out to closure date



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2025 Bluefin Tuna Recreational Catch Projection Options

- LPS and ALRS data sources overlap, allowing to compare data historically; analyses have revealed a statistically significant linear regression relationship between them
- This relationship was used to address the time lag in the availability of the LPS data, and the comprehensiveness of the ALRS data
- Allows for informed projections that aren't solely retrospective, but incorporate current information
- Allows for projections to be replaced by actual LPS estimates once available



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2025 Recreational Catch

Compare Projection and LPS Catch Estimates June 2025

Size Class	Projection (number of fish)	LPS (number of fish)
School	230.9	228
Young School	0	0
Small Medium	0	0



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Adjusted Angling Category Retention Limits

Permit Category (Vessel Type)	2024	2025	
	May 23 - December 31	June 3 - 30	July 1 - August 12
HMS Angling (Private)	● 2 school ● 1 LS/SM	● 1 school ● 0 LS/SM	● 1 school, LS or SM
HMS Charter/ Headboat (Charter boat)	● 3 school ● 1 LS/SM	● 2 school ● 0 LS/SM	● 2 BFT, of which only 1 may be a LS/SM
HMS Charter/ Headboat (Headboat)	● 12 school ● 2 LS/SM	● 2 school ● 0 LS/SM	● 2 BFT, of which only 1 may be a LS/SM

Default limit effective on January 1 each year until changed via inseason action: 1 < 73" BFT/vessel/day (private and charter vessels)



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Angling Category Trophy Landings by Year

Trophy Area	Base Quota (MT)	MT Landed		# Fish Landed		% Landed		Date Closed	
		2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Gulf of Maine	2.3	2.7	0.6	13	3	117%	27%	31-Jul	12-Aug
Southern New England	2.3	6	1.3	35	6	263%	58%	2-May	16-May
Southern	2.3	5.1	10.6	28	46	220%	463%	9-Feb	28-Feb
Gulf of America	2.3	2.8	1.3	10	4	120%	56%	29-May	23-Apr

Retention limit: 1 large medium or giant (73"+) BFT/vessel/year



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Remainder of 2025

- Continue to monitor fisheries and open/close them or take other inseason actions, as needed.
 - Provide opportunities to harvest potential remaining quota, while mitigating overharvest risks
- Continue to update preliminary recreational BFT landing projections with actual LPS estimates
 - Consider additional fishing opportunities if warranted based on updated estimates



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2026 Considerations/Options

2026 Quotas (U.S. and Specific Categories)

- Dependent on 2025 landings; ICCAT relevant actions/recommendations; domestic regulations

Effort Controls

- Commercial - manage via RFDs and retention limits
- Recreational - manage via regional retention limits and subquotas (i.e., for areas north and south of Great Egg Inlet, NJ per 50 CFR 635.27(a)(2)(i)-(ii))
- Monitoring considerations

Adapt to new challenges and approaches

Align expectations with realistic options for management



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Discussion

(Key topics)

● Harpoon Category

- Retention limits
- Impacts of retention limits on vessel owner's choice of Harpoon or General category permit

● General Category

- RFDs
- Retention limits

● Longline Category

● Angling Category

- Retention limits/regional (north/south subarea)
- Monitoring

● Others?



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Questions?

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