



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Office of  
Sustainable  
Fisheries

# Amendment 13 to the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery (HMS) Fishery Management Plan

## Bluefin tuna management

HMS Management Division  
Scoping Meetings  
Spring 2019

# Presentation Outline

- Focus of Amendment 13
- Purpose and Need
- Objectives
- Management Options
- Public Scoping Meetings and Next Steps

# Focus of Amendment 13: Bluefin tuna fisheries

- Pelagic longline fishery: targets swordfish, yellowfin and bigeye tunas; catches bluefin as bycatch (*\*with a focus on the Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) Program*).
- Purse seine fishery for bluefin (*currently inactive; should this fishery be eliminated or phased-out?*).
- Other management options (e.g., *General category commercial fishery for bluefin, bluefin quota allocations*).

**\*There is a separate regulatory action under development that focuses on pelagic longline bluefin area-based and weak hook management**

# Purpose and Need

- Purpose of Scoping - To obtain and consider public input on potential management options for modifications to bluefin tuna management regulations.
  
- Need – New information & changing conditions prompting questions:
  - Draft Three-Year Review of Individual Bluefin Quota Program  
*(should the Program be modified? If so how?)*
  - Purse seine fishery has been relatively inactive for several years  
*(should this fishery be discontinued or phased-out?)*
  - Other management options – recent fishery trends  
*(can changes be made to optimize fishing opportunity?)*

**The new information includes input from the public and the HMS Advisory Panel**

# A13 Objectives

| Fishery | Objective   | Additional Context or Details   |
|---------|---|---|
| PLL     | Consider changes to the IBQ regulations                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent formal review of IBQ Program completed (Draft)</li> <li>Declining fishing effort and revenue</li> </ul>   |
| All     | Optimize allocation of bluefin quota                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimize allocation among bluefin quota categories</li> <li>Consider historical allocations and current fishery characteristics</li> <li>Purse seine fishery inactive</li> </ul> |
| All     | Facilitate harvest of full bluefin allocation by quota categories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain flexibility</li> <li>Account for highly variable nature of fishery</li> <li>Maintain fairness</li> </ul>  |
| All     | Enhance data quality in bluefin reporting                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remain aware of importance of data</li> </ul>  |

# A13 Objectives – continued

| Consistency with Relevant Requirements / Laws |  |
|---|--|
| Requirement / Law                             | Examples of aspects to remain consistent with  |
| Amendment 7                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IBQ Program objectives</li> </ul>   |
| Fishery Management Plan                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP</li> </ul>   |
| Magnuson-Stevens Act                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Catch share requirements</li> <li>▪ Minimize adverse social and econ impacts</li> <li>▪ Minimize disadvantages due to foreign competition</li> <li>▪ Continue progress on overfishing and rebuilding</li> <li>▪ Minimize bycatch mortality</li> <li>▪ Manage for optimum yield</li> </ul> |
| Atlantic Tunas Convention Act                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide US vessels a reasonable opportunity to harvest allocation or quota</li> </ul>   |

# IBQ Program Management Options

## Modification to IBQ Share Distribution and /or IBQ Allocation Method:

- No Action.
- Eliminate current allocation formula and allocate to active vessels (*designate vessels annually? how should we define active? should IBQ allocation be distributed equally, or different allocations to different vessels?* ).
- Keep current method but reallocate based on recent time period.
- Hybrid system (mix current and new concept).

**Why consider changing? A relatively high percentage of shareholders do not fish; some vessel owners perceive that the current system is not providing adequate IBQ; etc.**

# IBQ Program Management Options

## Other aspects of IBQ Program

- Modify rules regarding use of IBQ allocation in Gulf of Mexico.
- Do not include Northeast Distant Area (NED) bluefin in data tallied for performance indicators or allocation.
- Share / Allocation caps: Establish a cap of the total amount of IBQ an entity/shareholder may lease or own.
- Allow permanent sale of IBQ shares (*to owners of Atlantic tunas longline permits associated with a vessel*).
- Remove PIN requirement to conduct bluefin landing transactions.



# Electronic Monitoring (video) Program Management Options

- Modify aspects of the electronic monitoring program to improve performance and efficiency. For example:
  - timing of mailing in hard drive.
  - standardized mat to measure bluefin.
  - mount rail camera on a boom to obtain a better view of fish being pulled from the water.
  - introducing consistency in handling of catch across platforms.

# Purse Seine Fishery Management Options

- No action.
- Discontinue purse seine fishery.
- Reallocate Purse Seine category quota:
  - Proportionally among other quota categories?
  - To Reserve category?
  - Other?
- Discontinue purse seine at a future date, and:
  - Allow to fish and lease during interim period?
  - Allow leasing only during interim period?
  - Allow permanent sale of purse seine quota?

# Purse Seine Fishery – Recent Trends

| Year | Amount of Purse Seine Leasing* of IBQ as a Percentage of Total Leased IBQ (including longline leases) | Purse Seine landings of bluefin (mt) and percent of total commercial bluefin landings |
|------|---|---|
| 2003 | na  | 265.4 (29%)   |
| 2004 | na  | 31.8 (6%)   |
| 2005 | na  | 178.3 (35%)   |
| 2006 | na  | 3.6 (1%)  |
| 2007 | na  | 27.9 (12%)  |
| 2008 | na  | 0   |
| 2009 | na  | 11.4 (2%)   |
| 2010 | na  | 0   |
| 2011 | na  | 0   |
| 2012 | na  | 1.7 (<1%)   |
| 2013 | na  | 28.8 (8%)   |
| 2014 | na  | 37.6 (6%)   |
| 2015 | 16%   | 38.9 (5%)   |
| 2016 | 28%   | 0   |
| 2017 | 25%   | 0   |
| 2018 | 28%   | 0   |

\*Purse Seine quota being leased to pelagic longline vessels

# Other Management Options

## ➤ Modify bluefin quota category allocations

| <i>Current Allocation Percentages* (and Contributions to 68 mt for Longline category (mt))</i> |              |           |          |             |          |
|--|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| General  | 47.1 percent | (32.1 mt) | Longline | 8.1 percent | (5.5 mt) |
| Angling  | 19.7 percent | (13.4 mt) | Trap     | 0.1 percent | (0.1 mt) |
| Harpoon  | 3.9 percent  | (2.6 mt)  | Reserve  | 2.5 percent | (1.7 mt) |
| Purse Seine  | 18.6 percent | (12.7 mt) |          |             |          |

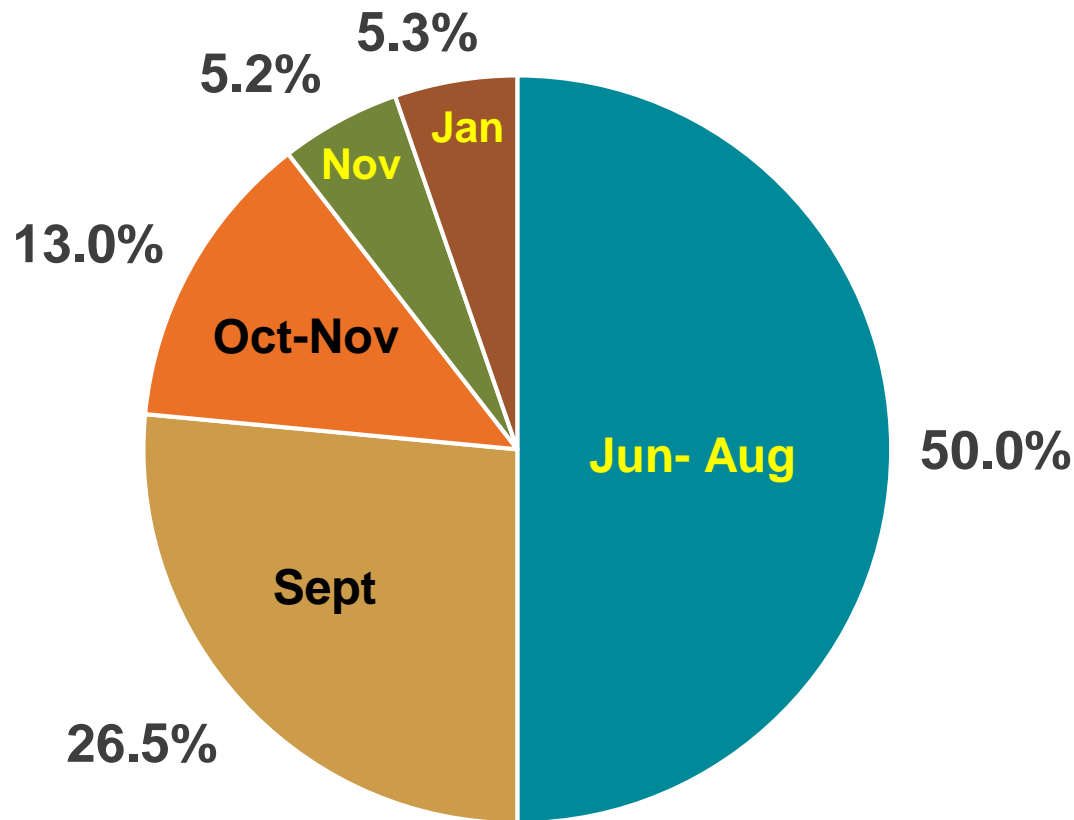
\* Percentages are applied after subtraction of category-specific amounts from the base quota (that add up to 68 mt for the Longline category, as implemented by Amendment 7)

- Modify General category subquota time periods and/or subquota allocations.
- Modify Angling category Trophy areas and/or allocations.
- Other allocation options?

# Other Management Options

- Other options related to handgear fisheries (e.g., allow use of harpoon gear on Charter/Headboat vessels fishing commercially; remove harpoon gear as authorized gear for General category, change Harpoon category restrictions)
- Allow retention of bluefin caught using green-stick gear by vessels with an Atlantic tunas Longline category permit
  - How would they be accounted for?
  - Complexities of incidental/directed?
- Amend permit category change allowances (e.g., link to bluefin tuna catch vs. specified time frame).

# General category base subquota allocations



# Next Steps

- Comments encouraged on:
  - Notice of Intent
  - Management options in Issues and Options Paper
  - Other relevant options that meet purpose / need
- Comments due by July 31, 2019
- Submit comments online at the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:  
<http://www.regulations.gov> (search for “NOAA-NMFS-2019-0042”), click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments) or by mail to Tom Warren, National Marine Fisheries Service, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2276
- Documents on HMS Website -  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>.

# Scoping Meetings & Webinar

| Scoping Topic(s)                            | Date          | Location   |
|---|---------------|--|
| Amendment 13                                | May 22, 2019  | Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel<br>8777 Georgia Avenue<br>Silver Spring, MD 20910<br>(301) 589-0800                         |
| Amendment 13                                | June 3, 2019  | Gulf of Maine Research Institute<br>350 Commercial Street<br>Portland, ME 04101  |
| Amendment 13<br>Spatial Management Research | June 4, 2019  | National Marine Fisheries Service<br>Greater Atlantic Regional Office<br>55 Great Republic Drive<br>Gloucester, MA 01930 |
| Amendment 13                                | June 11, 2019 | Ocean County Library, Toms River Branch<br>101 Washington Street<br>Toms River, NJ 08753                                 |
| Amendment 13                                | June 18, 2019 | Chatham Community Center<br>702 Main Street<br>Chatham, MA 02633   |

All Scoping Meetings 5:00 to 8:00 PM



# Scoping Meetings -continued

| Scoping Topic   | Date          | Location   |
|---|---------------|--|
| Amendment 13  | June 19, 2019 | Plymouth Public Library<br>132 South Street<br>Plymouth, MA 02360  |
| Amendment 13<br>Spatial Management Research<br>Amendment 14 | June 29, 2019 | Susan Broom Kilmer Branch Library<br>101 Melody Lane<br>Ft. Pierce, FL 34950   |
| Amendment 13  | July 9, 2019  | North Carolina Dept. of Marine Resources<br>Central District Office<br>5285 Highway 70<br>Morehead City, NC 28557    |
| Amendment 13<br>Spatial Management Research<br>Amendment 14 | July 10, 2019 | Dare County Administration Building,<br>954 Marshall Collins Drive<br>Commissioners Meeting Room<br>Manteo, NC 27954 |
| Amendment 13<br>Spatial Management Research<br>Amendment 14 | July 25, 2019 | Terrebonne Parish Library (Main Branch)<br>151 Library Drive<br>Houma, LA 70360                                      |

All Scoping Meetings 5:00 to 8:00 PM

# Amendment 13 Scoping Webinar

Link: <https://noaanmfs-events1.webex.com/noaanmfs-events1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e25072f282e22bc58188f278a9328285e>

June 10, 2019

2:00-4:00  
PM

Dial In: 800-369-1177  
Passcode: 2046577

# Questions?

Tom Warren, [Thomas.Warren@noaa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Warren@noaa.gov)  
978-281-9347

Carrie Soltanoff, [Carrie.Soltanoff@noaa.gov](mailto:Carrie.Soltanoff@noaa.gov)  
301-427-8587



## ~ Additional Information ~



# Bluefin quota information by Quota category

| Quota Category | Allocation Percentage<br>(applied after subtraction of 68 mt from base quota) | Contribution to 68 mt<br>for Longline category (mt) | Current (2019) Baseline Quota (mt) |
|----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| General        | 47.1  | 32.1  | 555.7                              |
| Harpoon        | 3.9   | 2.6   | 46.0                               |
| Purse Seine    | 18.6  | 12.7  | 219.5                              |
| Longline       | 8.1   | 5.5   | 163.6                              |
| Trap           | 0.1   | 0.1   | 1.2                                |
| Angling        | 19.7  | 13.4  | 232.4                              |
| Reserve        | 2.5   | 1.7   | 29.5                               |
| NED            | NA  | NA  | 25                                 |
| Totals         | 100 percent   | 68 mt   | 1,272.9                            |



## Count of Number of Pelagic Longline Vessels Setting Various Numbers of Hooks per Year

| # Hooks Set per Year       | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <25,000                    | 21   | 19   | 15   | 24   | 19   | 19   |
| 25,000≥50,000              | 21   | 22   | 31   | 28   | 16   | 19   |
| 50,000≥75,000              | 31   | 31   | 27   | 22   | 17   | 25   |
| 75,000≥100,000             | 24   | 19   | 18   | 14   | 16   | 9    |
| >100,000                   | 24   | 25   | 19   | 16   | 17   | 16   |
| Grand Total<br>(# vessels) | 121  | 116  | 110  | 104  | 85   | 88   |

# 2018 General Category Landings by Daily Retention Limit

| Time Period                | Limit of BFT/Vessel/Day | Days Open  | Landings (mt) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------|
| January 1 - March 2        | 1                       | 61         | 59.3          |
| June 1 - August 22         | 3                       | 83         | 253.0         |
| August 23 - August 31      | 1                       | 9          | 75.1          |
| September 1 - September 23 | 1                       | 23         | 238.2         |
| October 1 - October 5      | 1                       | 5          | 82.3          |
| October 15 - October 16    | 1                       | 2          | 21.0          |
| October 31 - November 2    | 1                       | 3          | 20.5          |
| November 12 - November 16  | 1                       | 5          | 20.5          |
| December 1 - December 31   | 1                       | 31         | 14.6          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>              |                         | <b>222</b> | <b>784.5</b>  |

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

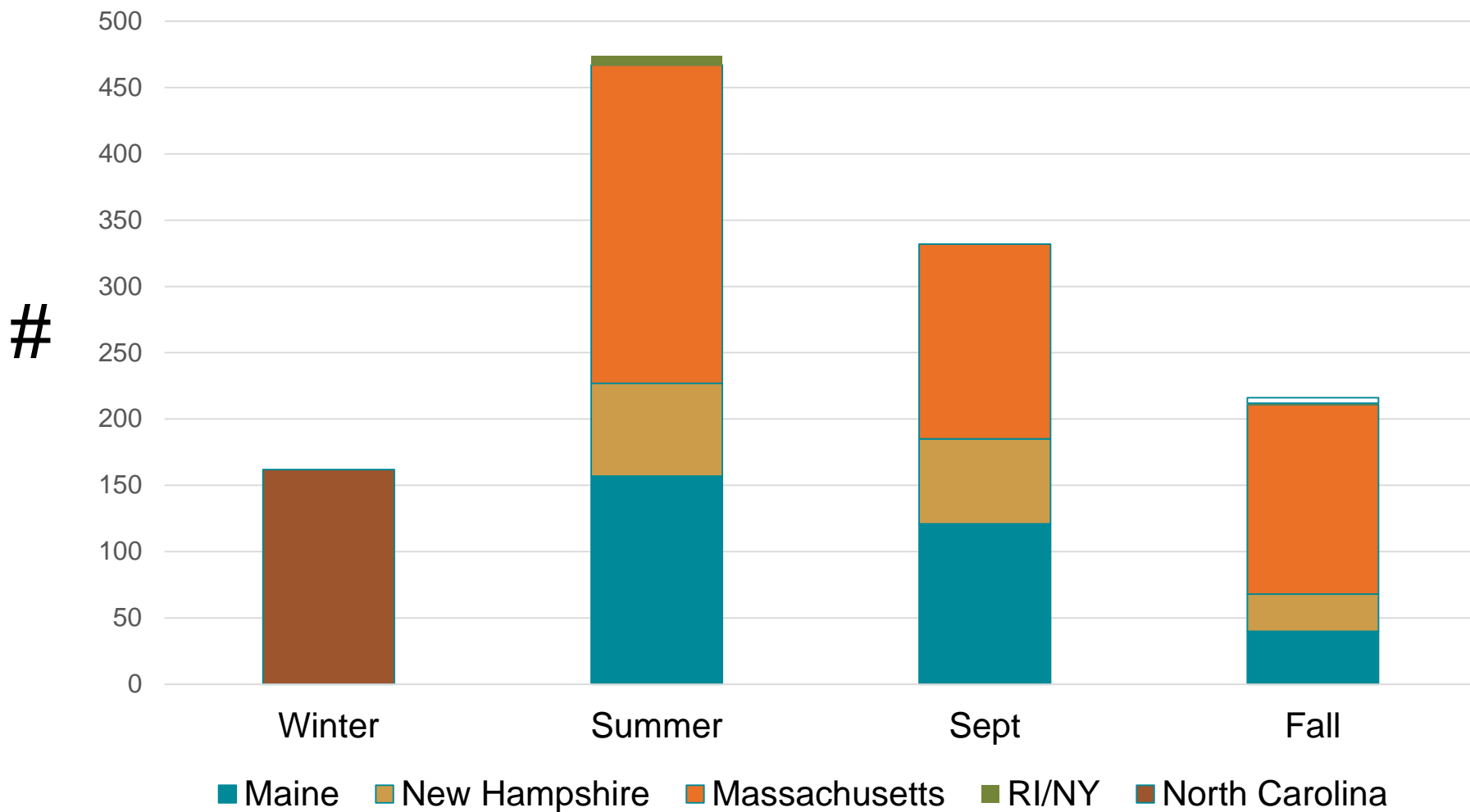
# 2018 General Category Landings – by subquota period

| Commercial Bluefin Tuna Landings 2018 |          |                |                          |                           |                                |                           |                        |                          |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
|                                       |          | Quota/Subquota |                          |                           |                                | Landings                  |                        |                          |   |  |
|                                       |          | Base (MT)      | ICCAT Base Quota (final) | Adjusted ICCAT Quota (MT) | Cumulative ICCAT Adjusted (MT) | Time Period Landings (MT) | % ICCAT Adjusted Quota | Cumulative Landings (MT) | Cumulative % of Cumulative ICCAT Adjusted Quota | Cumulative % of ICCAT Adjusted Total Quota |
| General                               | Jan-Mar  | 24.7           | 29.5                     | 53.8                      | 53.8                           | 59.3                      | 110                    | 59.3                     | 110   | 7  |
|                                       | June-Aug | 233.3          | 277.9                    | 277.9                     | 331.7                          | 328.1                     | 118                    | 386.9                    | 117   | 47   |
|                                       | Sept     | 123.7          | 147.3                    | 207.3                     | 539                            | 238.7                     | 115                    | 626.5                    | 116   | 76   |
|                                       | Oct-Nov  | 60.7           | 72.2                     | 127.2                     | 666.2                          | 144.2                     | 113                    | 770.7                    | 116   | 94   |
|                                       | Dec      | 24.3           | 28.9                     | 50                        | 819.9                          | 14.3                      | 29                     | 784.6                    | 96  | 96   |
|                                       |          |                |                          |                           |                                |                           |                        |                          |   |  |

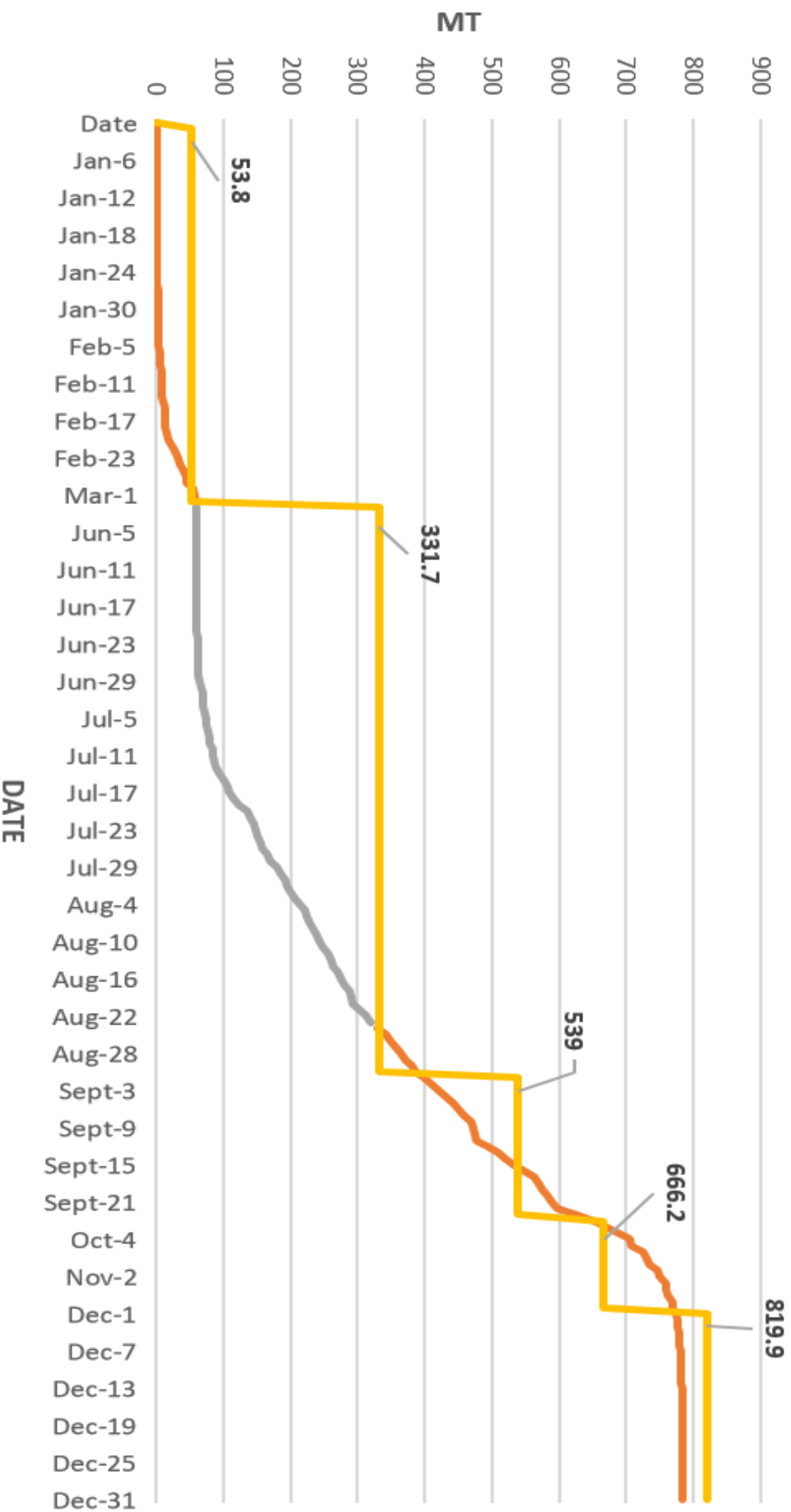




# 2018 BFT General Category Landings by State and Sub-quota Period



## 2018 General Category Cumulative Landings



- From July 1 to November 1 for all days the fishery was open the average landing rate was 7.2 mt/day.
- After June 1, while the limit was 3 fish, the average pace of landings 3.1 mt/day and while it was 1 fish 9.8 mt/day.

• The highest landing date of the year was 29.2 mt.

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

|                  | 2017                            |                |             | 2018                            |                |             |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
|                  | Number of vessels with landings | Number of Fish | Weight (mt) | Number of vessels with landings | Number of Fish | Weight (mt) |
| General category | 31                              | 239            | 38.8        | 29                              | 99             | 17.2        |
| Harpoon category | 8                               | 293            | 43.1        | 14                              | 153            | 26.6        |
| TOTALS           | 39                              | 532            | 81.9        | 43                              | 252            | 43.8        |

# 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

Comparison of dealer & online BFT reports for 2018; % compliance 2016-2018:

| Quota Category | Dealer Reports |             | Online Reports |             | % Compliance    |      |      |                       |      |      |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|------|------|-----------------------|------|------|
|                | # Fish         | # Fishermen | # Fish         | # Fishermen | % Fish Reported |      |      | % Fishermen Reporting |      |      |
|                |                |             |                |             | 2018            | 2017 | 2016 | 2018                  | 2017 | 2016 |
| General        | 4287           | 949         | 2805           | 585         | 65.4            | 50.7 | 44.6 | 61.6                  | 44.6 | 43.1 |
| Harpoon        | 153            | 14          | 138            | 12          | 90.2            | 96.2 | 73.5 | 85.7                  | 71.4 | 57.1 |
| Total          | 4440           | 916         | 2943           | 597         | 66.3            | 53.6 | 45.9 | 65.2                  | 44.8 | 43.2 |



## General Category 3 year Averages (# of Fish and Price/lb) 2016-2018



# Three-Year Review of the Individual Bluefin Quota Program

[https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/draft-three-year-review-individual-bluefin-quota-program?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/draft-three-year-review-individual-bluefin-quota-program?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

