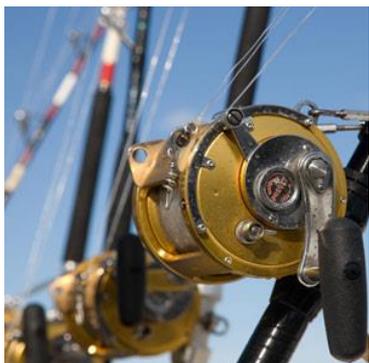




NOAA
FISHERIES

HMS Management
Division



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (BFT) 2018 Handgear Fisheries Year in Review



HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 2018

2018 Inseason Actions – Quota Transfers and A7-related Quota Adjustments

- 14.3 mt within General category from December 2018 to January-March 2018 (December 2017, A7 authority)
- 10 mt from Reserve category to General category (March)
- 138.2 mt from Purse Seine category to Reserve category using A7 formula, and in same notice transferred 44.5 mt from Reserve category to Longline category (April)
- 30 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category (August)

2018 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

Limits for April 26-December 31, 2018:

Permit Category (Vessel Type)	Retention Limit per Vessel per Day/Trip
HMS Angling (Private)	2 school BFT (27 to <47”) and 1 large school/small medium BFT (47 to <73”)
HMS Charter/Headboat (Charter) (when fishing recreationally for BFT)	3 school BFT (27 to <47”) and 1 large school/small medium BFT (47 to <73”)

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

- Southern area closed March 17 (7.7 of the 1.5-mt subquota landed)
- Gulf of Mexico closed May 13 (1.8 of the 1.5-mt subquota landed)
- Northern area closed July 26 (1.8 of the 1.5-mt subquota landed)

Recreational BFT Landings (Estimated # of fish), 2015-2018

	Number of school BFT (27 to <47")	Number of large school BFT (47 to <59")	Number of small medium BFT (59 to <73")	Total Angling category landings	
<i>2015 (through June 30)</i>	301	56	16		
2015 total	1,504	632	591	113 mt	Annual Quota: 195 mt
<i>2016 (through June 30)</i>	104	53	50		
2016 total	1,938	1,632	390	143 mt	(232 mt in proposed quota rule, for 2018 onward)
<i>2017 (through June 30)</i>	842	260	41		
2017 total	3,268	999	641	142 mt	
<i>2018 (through June 30)</i>	1,515	62	159		
2018 total					

Source: Large Pelagics Survey (LPS); NC Catch Card Program

2018 Inseason Actions – Commercial Retention Limits

General Category

January 1 – March 2: 1 large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

March 3 – March 31: CLOSED

June 1 – August 22: 3 large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

August 23 – August 31: 1 large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

September 1 – December 31, *or until changed:*

1 large medium or giant BFT/vessel/day

In 2017, there were 7 General category inseason adjustments or closures prior to Sept. 1 and a total of 11 for the year.

Harpoon Category

Jun 1 – Nov 15: 2 large medium & unlimited giant BFT/vessel/ day

Nov 16 – Dec 31: **Closed (every year)**

2018 Harpoon Category Landings Information

	Daily Retention Limit	Landings (mt)	Notes
Large Medium (73 - < 81")	2	2.6	10% of harpoon landings
Giant (81" +)	unlimited	23.5	90% of harpoon landings
Annual Total		26.1	68% of the 38.6-mt baseline Harpoon category quota; 38% of the 68.6-mt adjusted quota

Percent of trips landing at least one BFT:

Only Lg. Med: 9.9% Lg. Med and Giant: 13.6% Only Giant: 76.5%

Percent of trips landing at least one BFT:

1 Fish: 60.5% 2 Fish: 23.5% 3 Fish: 8.6% 4+ Fish: 7.4%

Preliminary data through August 26, 2018

2018 General Category Landings

	Daily Retention Limit	Landings (mt)	Notes
January 1 - March 2 <i>(closed March 3-March 31)</i>	1	59.3	<p>“January” period subquota of 24.7 adjusted to 49 mt.</p> <p><i>(Base of 29.5 mt in the proposed rule; after 2018 inseason transfers would be 53.8 mt)</i></p> <p><u>Second highest landings from January fishery to date.</u></p>
June 1 - August 22	3	252.6	<p>Base June-August subquota of 233.3 mt <i>(277.9 under proposed rule)</i></p>
August 23- August 26	1	36.9	
Subtotal		348.8	<p>Cumulative adjusted quota, after inseason transfers is 282.3 <i>(331.7 mt under proposed rule)</i> Through August 26, 105% of the 331.7 mt quota landed.</p>

Preliminary data through August 26, 2018

General Category Success Rates

Percentage of trips landings at least one BFT June 1-August 22
(under 3-fish limit):

1 BFT: 82.9% 2 BFT: 12.5% 3 BFT: 4.6%

Total weight caught by trips landing 1, 2, and 3 BFT:

1 BFT trips: 175.8 mt (70% of landings)

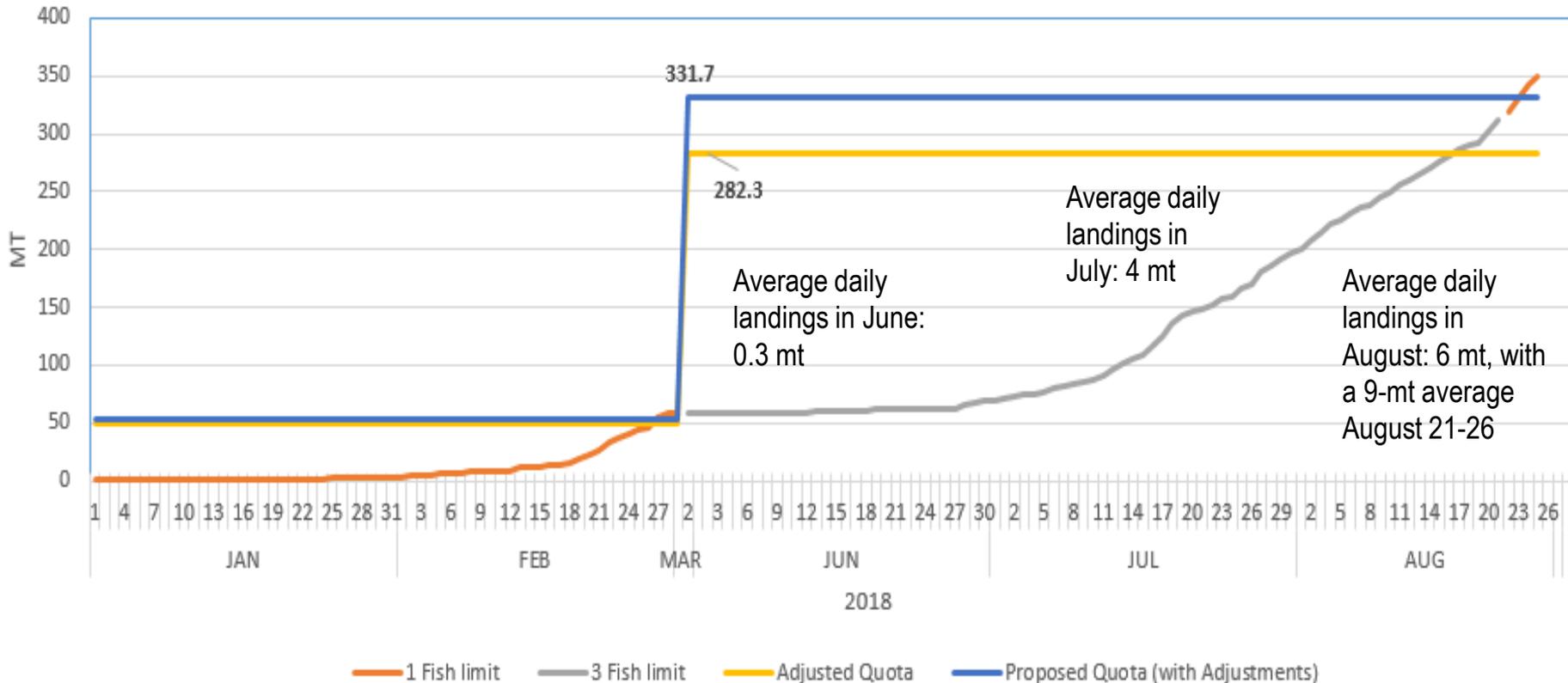
2 BFT trips: 50.5 mt (20% of landings)

3 BFT trips: 26.3 mt (10% of landings)

Preliminary data through August 26, 2018

2018 General Category Cumulative Landings to Date

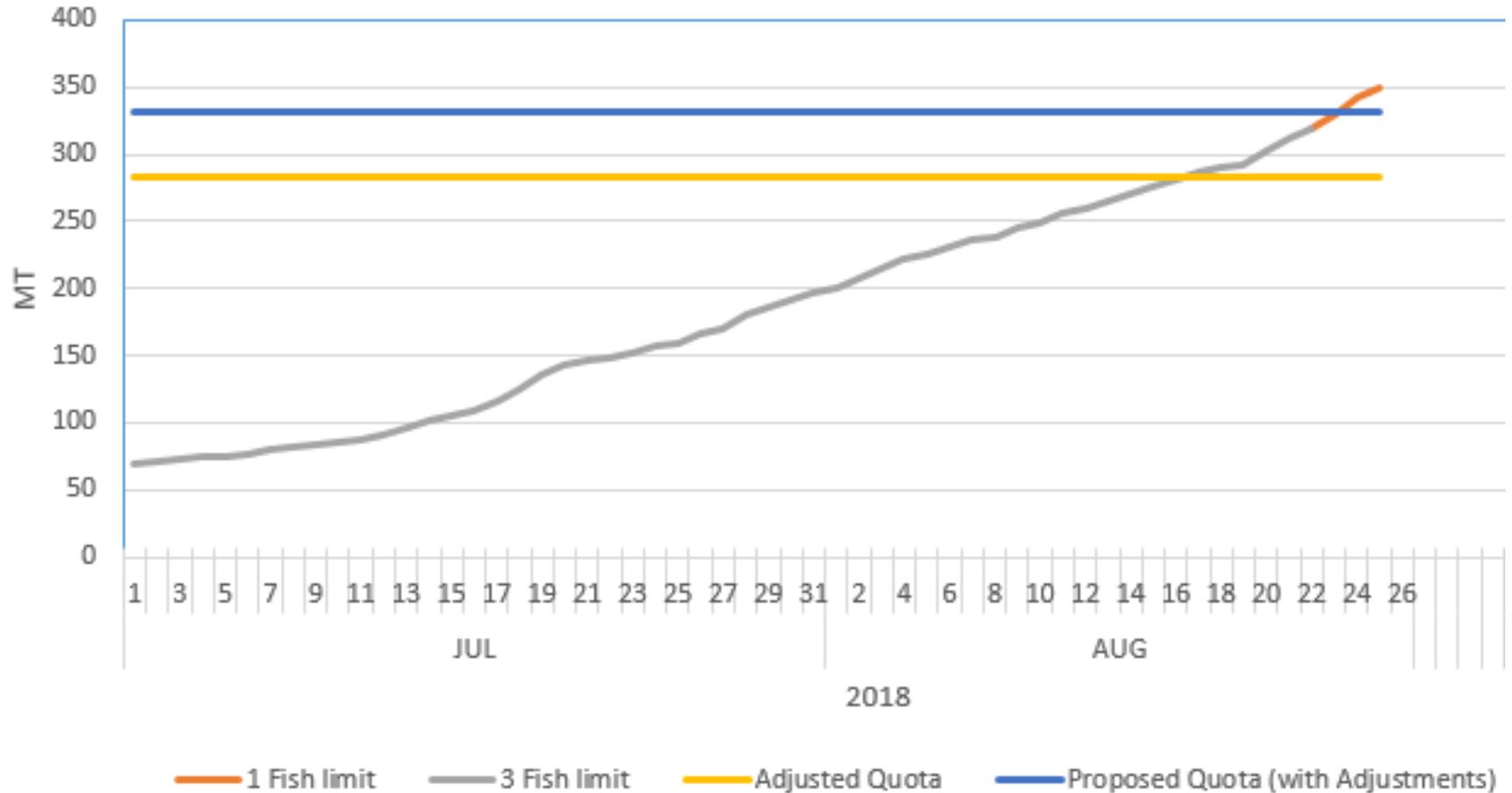
Cumulative General Category Landings



Preliminary data through August 26, 2018

A Closer Look at July through August

Cumulative General Category Landings



Preliminary data through August 26, 2018

Timing of Dealer Reports - Improving

- Requirement: BFT must be reported within 24 hours (1 day) of landing
- Looking at large volume dealers (100+ General category fish):
 - In 2017, individual averages ranged from fully compliant to 4+ days
 - Average: 2.75 days
 - So far in 2018, there has been improvement. Range from fully compliant to 2 days.
 - Average: 1.2 days

USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Exam Status for HMS CHB that Sold BFT in 2018



Preliminary data through August 23, 2018

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 or by using the HMS Catch Reporting app
- Outreach to the fishery continues, including by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; citations being issued and upheld by Court.

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

Quota Category	Dealer Reports		Online Reports		% Compliance					
	# Fish	# Fishermen	# Fish	# Fishermen	% Fish Reported			% Fishermen Reporting		
					2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016
General	1,949	603	1182	312	60.6	44.5	44.6	51.7	42.9	43.1
Harpoon	151	13	138	11	91.3	96.4	73.5	84.6	75	57.1
Total	2,100	616	1,321	323	62.9	49.4	45.9	52.4	43.4	43.2

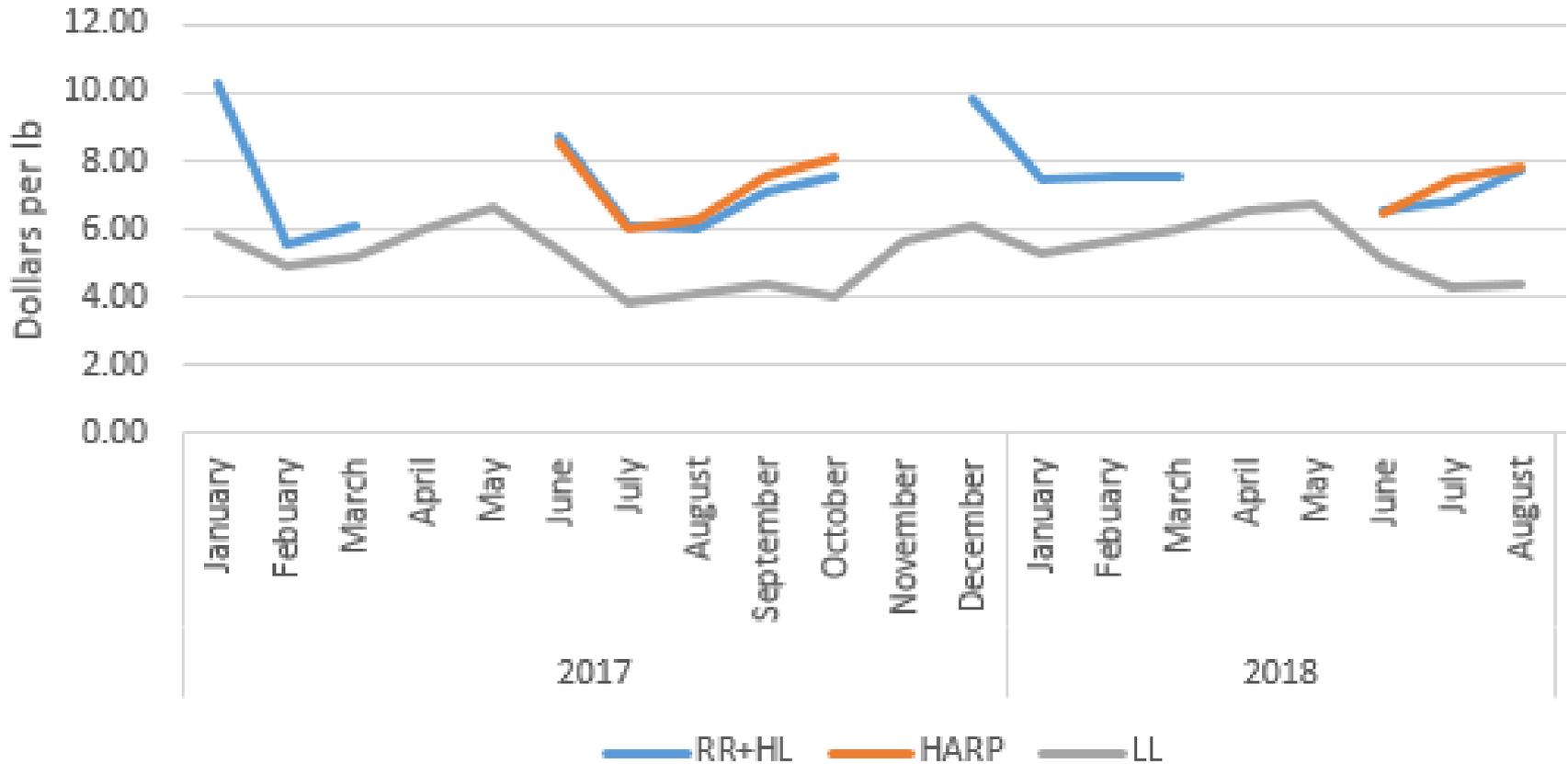
Vessel Reporting Compliance by Month

Month	% Reported	Number of Fish
January	100%	19
February	80%	227
March	93%	26
June	83%	78
July	63%	503
August	51%	468

Preliminary data through August 26, 2018

General Category Average Price/lb – 2017 and 2018

Average Price by Gear Type



Preliminary data through August 26, 2018

Suggestions in Recent Years re: BFT Handgear Fishery Management

General category:

- Set limit *high* (e.g., at start of June-August period) because:
 - allows offshore trips;
 - need >1 fish/day to make trip economically feasible
 - reduces highgrading and discards
 - high limit at start with closure at end of period preferable to 1 fish/day
- Set limit *low* because
 - fish quality improves later in the year
 - increases likelihood of keeping fishery open
- Consider something other than a daily limit (like weekly)
- Make sure to preserve December fishing opportunities
- Make sure to preserve the traditional quotas



Suggestions in Recent Years re: BFT Handgear Fishery Management

Harpoon category:

- Don't allow harpooners to fish in General category
- Set large medium BFT limit same as General category limit (difficulty finding giants) (equitability)
- Extend fishing opportunities; transfer more quota



Questions? Comments?

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

2018 Harpoon Category BFT Success Rate Matrix

For successful trips (i.e., at least one BFT landed), table shows percentage of trips landing the various possible combinations of fish.

		Giants (81''+)					
	Number of fish	0	1	2	3	4+	TOTAL
Large mediums (73-<81'')	0		54%	14%	6%	4%	78%
	1	7%	7%	1%	1%	1%	17%
	2	2%	1%	0	0	1%	4%
	TOTAL	9%	62%	15%	7%	6%	99%

Totals subject to rounding error