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# Atlantic Bluefin Tuna



## Recent Fishery Trends – 2019

**HMS Advisory Panel Meeting**  
**May 2020**

# 2019 Bluefin Tuna Catch and Quotas

Quota Category	Landings No. of Fish	Landings Weight (mt)	2019 Base Quota (mt)	2019 Adjusted Quota (mt)	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken
<b>General</b>	4,703	814.5	555.7	819.9	146.6	99.3
<b>Harpoon</b>	737	102.4	46	91	222.6	112.5
<b>Longline</b>	445	86.3	188.6	188.6	45.8	45.8
<b>NED</b>	36	9.6	25	25	38.4	38.4
<b>Atlantic (Non NED)</b>	402	74.7	106.3	106.3	70.3	70.3
<b>Gulf</b>	7	2.1	57.3	57.3	3.7	3.7
<b>Trap</b>	1	0.3	1	1.2	25	25
<b>Purse Seine</b>	0	0	219.5	55	0	0
<b>Angling</b>	6,520	181.8	232.4	232.4	78.2	78.2
<b>School</b>	4,259	71	127.3	127.3	55.8	55.8
<b>large school/small medium</b>	2,195	95	99.8	99.8	95.2	95.2
<b>Trophy</b>	66	15.8	5.3	5.3	298.1	298.1
<b>Reserve</b>			29.5	12.1	-	-
<b>Total (Landings Only)</b>	12,406	1,185.3	1,272.9	1,400.2	93.1	84.7
<b>Total (landings + dead discard)</b>		1,199.9	1,272.9	1,400.2	94.3	85.7

<sup>1</sup> Currently, the best available annual estimate of dead discards for the 2019 pelagic longline fishery is the 2018 estimate of 14.6 mt.

<sup>2</sup> The Adjusted Quota column in the table above reflects the adjusted quota as of December 31, 2019. Category quotas were adjusted by inseason and other actions during the year.



## BFT and NALB actions for 2019 and 2020 to date

- 4 daily retention limit adjustments (General and Angling category)
- 10 inseason quota transfers (General, Harpoon, Longline, Reserve categories)
- 2 quota adjustments (2019 reallocation of Purse Seine quota to Reserve; augmentation of 2018 Reserve with allowed 2017 U.S. BFT underharvest and NALB adjustment for 2017 underharvest; 2020 reallocation of Purse Seine quota to Reserve)
- 11 closures (Angling category Trophy and General category)

As of 4/30/20



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# 2019 Inseason Actions - Quota Transfers & Quota Adjustments

- 19.5 mt within General category from December 2019 to January-March 2019 (December 2018, A7 authority)
- 26 mt from Reserve category to General category (February)
- 164.5 mt from Purse Seine category to Reserve category using A7 formula, and in same notice transferred 25 mt from Reserve category to General category (February)
- 30 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category (July)
- 15 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category (August)
- 127.3 mt of 2018 underharvest to Reserve category (September)
- 60 mt from Reserve category to General category (September)
- 100 mt from Reserve category to General category (September)
- 53.2 mt from the Reserve category to General category (November)



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# 2020 Inseason Actions – Quota Transfers and Quota Adjustments

- 19.5 mt within General category from December 2020 to January-March 2020 (December 2019, 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)



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## 2019 and 2020 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

	2019	2020
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 March 14, 2019 and February 20, 2020
- Gulf of Mexico closed May 31, 2019 and April 16, 2020
- Northern area closed June 27, 2019



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# Recreational BFT Landings (Estimated # of fish), 2016-2019

	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	Annual Quota
2016	1,971	1,734	468	143 mt	195 mt
2017	3,472	1,046	685	142 mt	195 mt
2018	3,445	292	486	113 mt	232 mt
2019	1,707	3,937	361	182 mt	232 mt

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).



## 2019 Angling Category Landings by Size Class

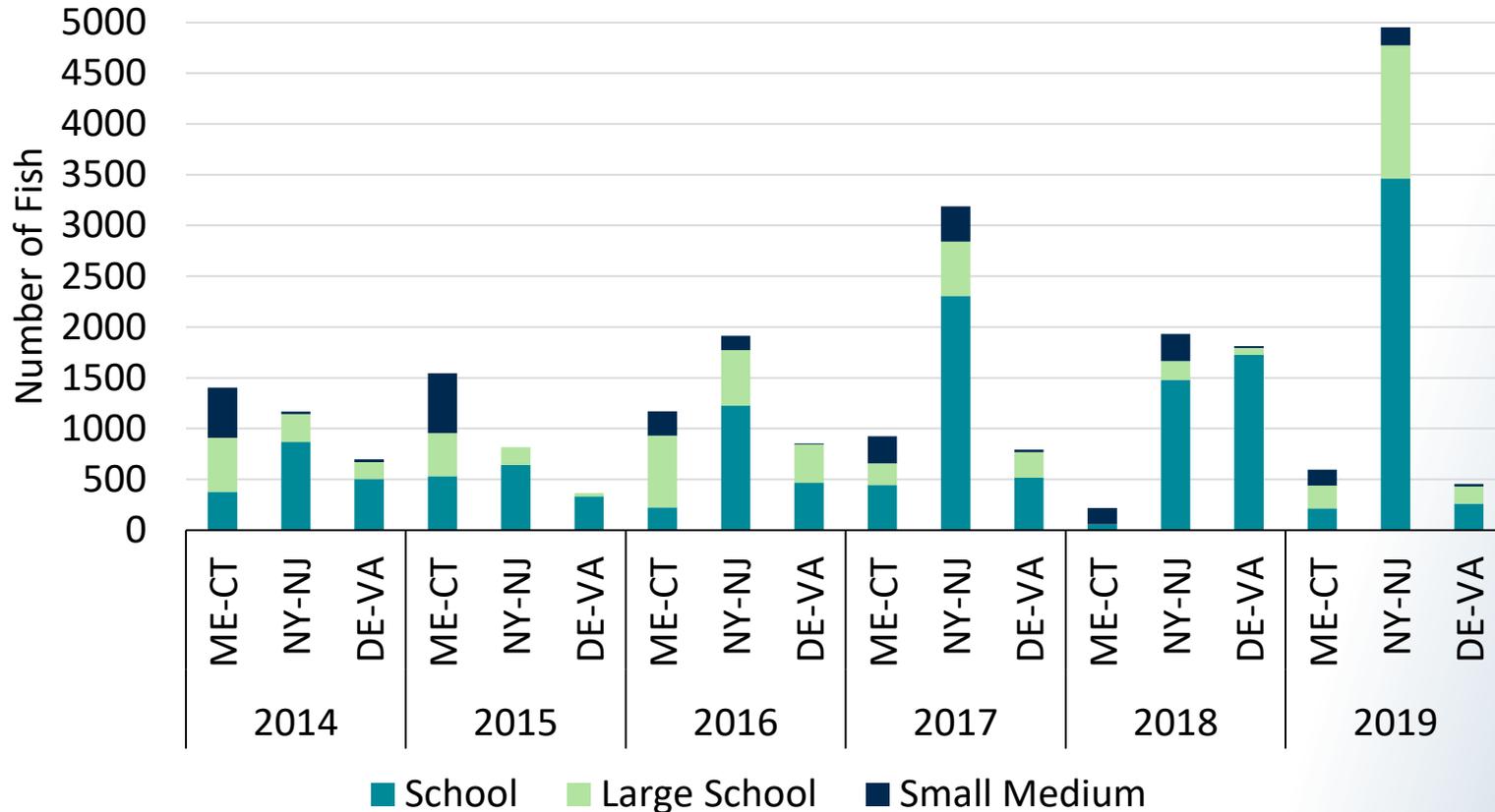
	Landings (mt)	Quota (mt)	Quota use
School	71 (47.8 N; 23.2 S)	127.3	56%
Large School/ Small Medium	95 (79.4 N; 15.6 S)	99.8	95%
Large Medium/ Giant (Trophy)	15.8 (2.1 N; 11.9 S; 1.9 GoM)	5.3	298%

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.**



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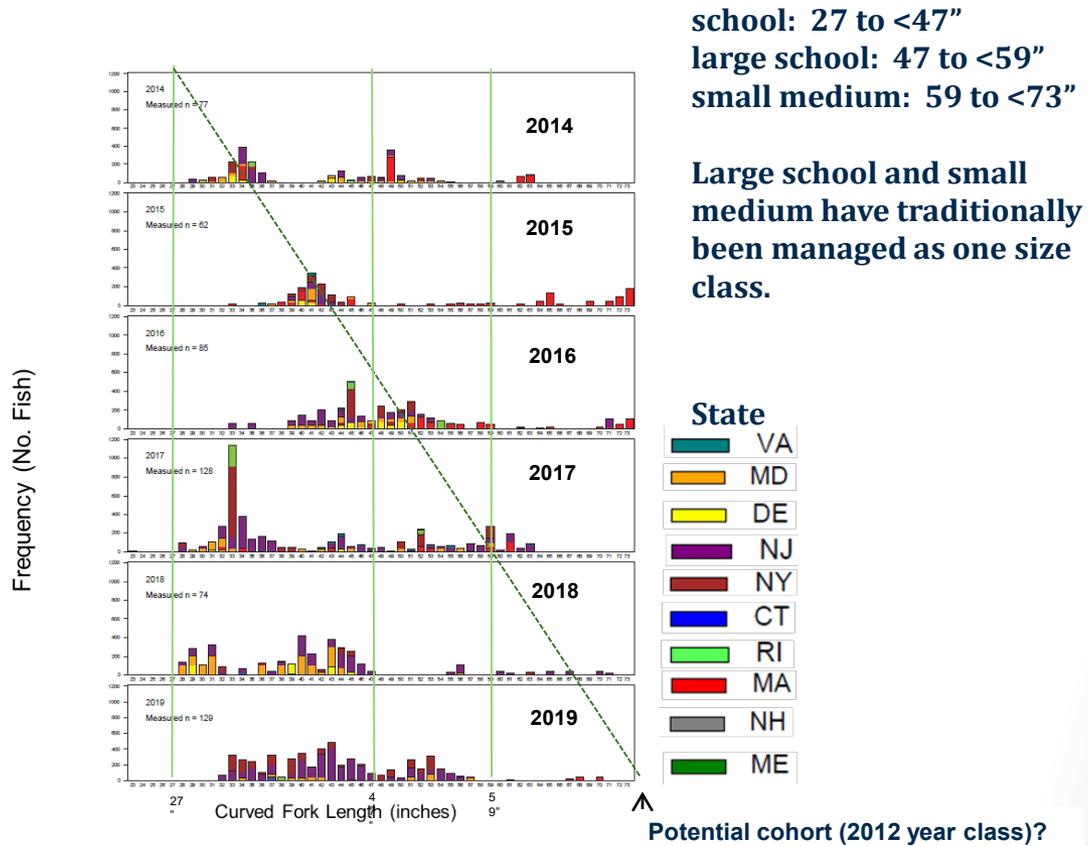
# Recreational Landings by Area, 2014-2019



Data source: LPS (for ME-VA only)



# Large Pelagics Survey: Expanded Catch-at-Length Size Distribution of Angling Category BFT, 2014-2019



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# 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.



## General Category Success Rates

Percent of Trips Landing at Least One BFT				
	1 Fish	2 Fish	3 Fish	Landings (mt)
<b>June 1- July 10</b>	77%	17%	6%	77.4

- During this time period, there were 65 successful trips with harpoon gear and 323 successful trips using rod and reel gear.
- For rod & reel trips, 80% landed 1 fish, 17% landed 2 fish, and 3% landed 3 fish.
- For the harpoon gear trips, 63% landed 1 fish, 11% landed 2 fish, and 20% landed 3 fish.
- During this time period, 64.2 mt (399 fish or 83%) were landed by rod & reel, and 13.2 mt (102 fish or 17%) were landed by harpoon gear.



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# 2019 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	108.9	109	108.9	109	13
June-Aug	277.9	277.9	377.9	277.5	100	386.4	102	47
Sept	147.3	207.3	585.2	226.2	109	612.6	105	75
Oct-Nov	72.2	172.2	757.4	178.8	104	791.4	104	97
Dec	28.9	28.9	820	22.9	79	814.3	99	99



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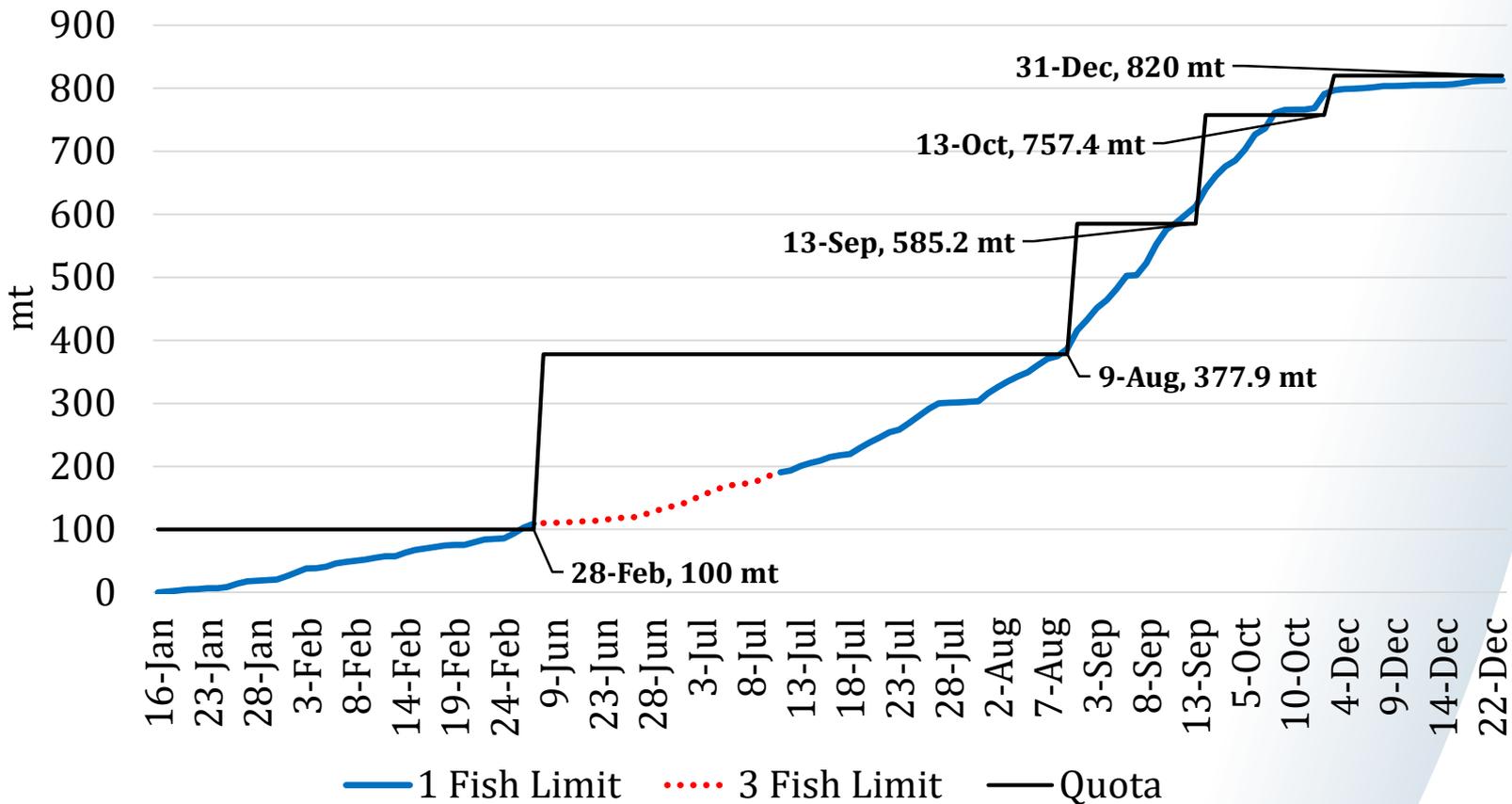
## 2020 General Category Bluefin Tuna Landings

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	20
June-Aug	277.9	277.9	377.9	-	-	-	-	-
Sept	147.3	147.3	525.2	-	-	-	-	-
Oct-Nov	72.2	72.2	597.4	-	-	-	-	-
Dec	28.9	9.4	606.8	-	-	-	-	-

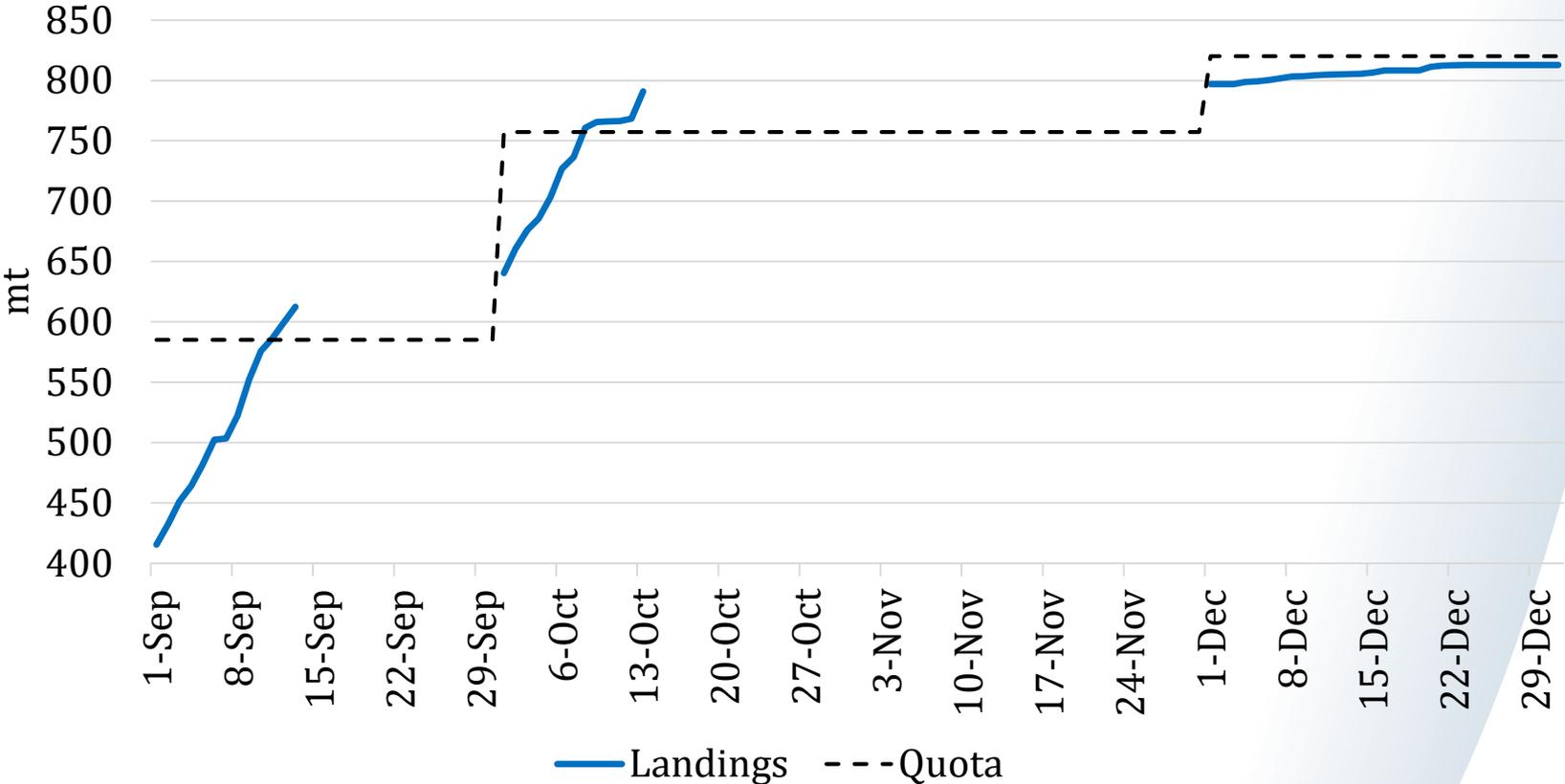


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# 2019 General Category Cumulative Landings



# 2019 General Category Fall-Winter Fishery



## 2019 Harpoon Category Landings Information

	Daily Retention Limit	Landings (mt)	Percent Quota
Large Medium (73 - < 81" )	2	32.5	32%
Giant (81" +)	unlimited	69.9	68%
<b>Annual Total</b>		<b>102.4</b>	<b>223% of the 46-mt baseline quota; 135% of the 76-mt adjusted quota</b>

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

Only Lg. Med: 42%    Lg. Med and Giant: 35%    Only Giant: 22%

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

1 Fish: 29%    2 Fish: 28%    3 Fish: 14%    4-8 Fish: 24%    9+ Fish: 5%



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

	2018			2019		
	Number of Vessels with Landings	Number of Fish	Weight (mt)	Number of Vessels with Landings	Number of Fish	Weight (mt)
General category	28	95	16.5	30	125	16
Harpoon category	16	157	27.3	21	737	102.4
Totals	44	252	43.8	51	862	118.4



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# Timing of Dealer Reports – 2018 vs. 2019

- Requirement: BFT must be reported within 24 hours of landing
- In 2018, large volume dealers (200+ fish) averaged an approximate 1.5 day reporting delay. In 2019, the average was also 1.5 days
- In 2018, 15 dealers averaged a greater delay than 2 days. In 2019, 17 dealers averaged a greater delay than 2 days.
- In 2018, the average reporting delay for all dealers was 3.4 days. In 2019, the average reporting delay for all dealers was 5 days.



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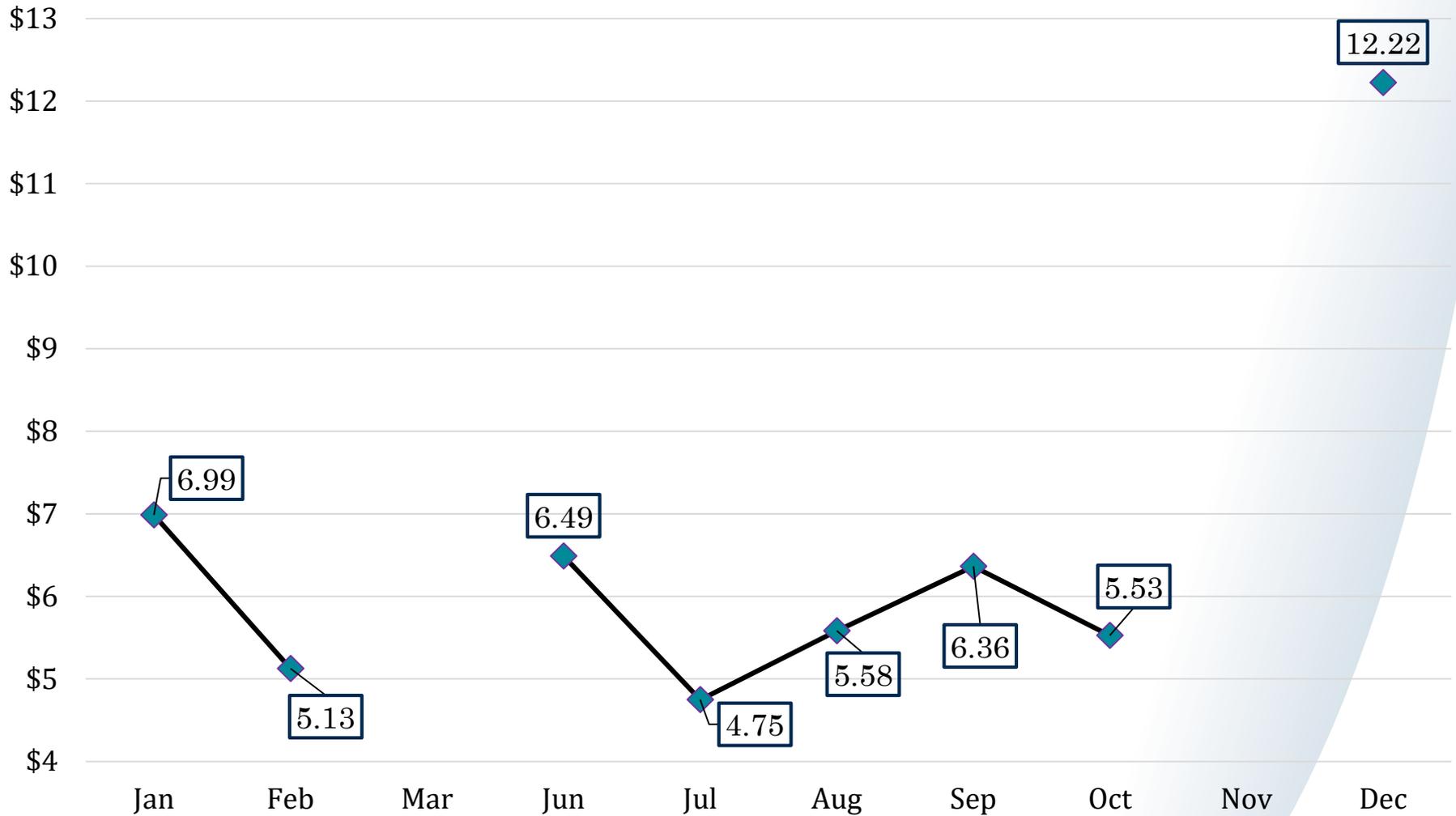
# BFT Reporting Requirement for General, Harpoon, and Charter/Headboat Categories

- 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

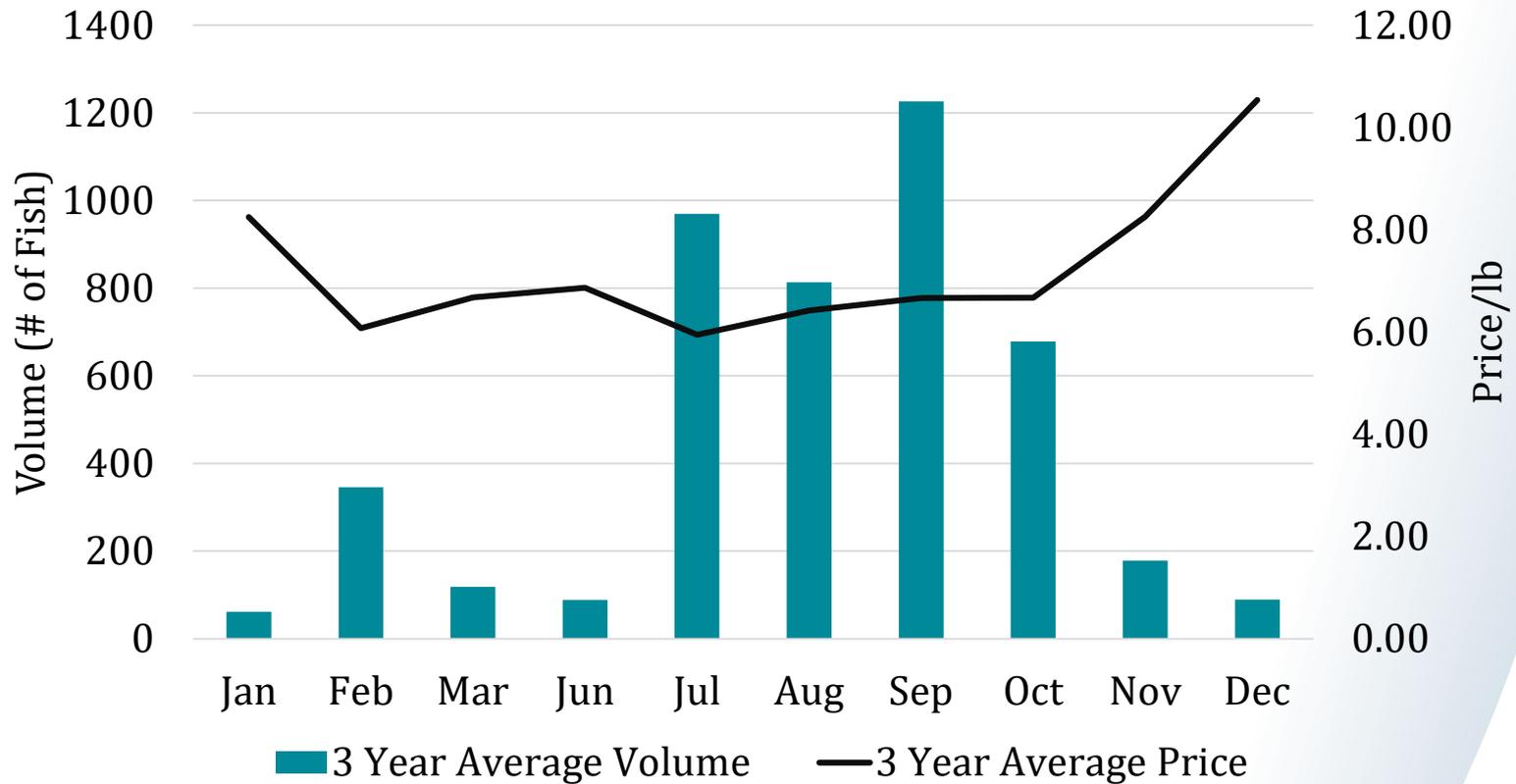
Quota Category	Comparison of dealer & online BFT reports for 2019; % compliance 2017-2019:									
	Dealer Reports		Online Reports		% Compliance					
	# Fish	# Fishermen	# Fish	# Fishermen	% Fish Reported			% Fishermen Reporting		
					2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
General	4,693	1,022	3,178	648	67.7	65.4	50.7	63.4	61.6	44.6
Harpoon	737	21	673	16	91.3	90.2	96.2	76.2	85.7	71.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,430</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>3,851</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>44.8</b>



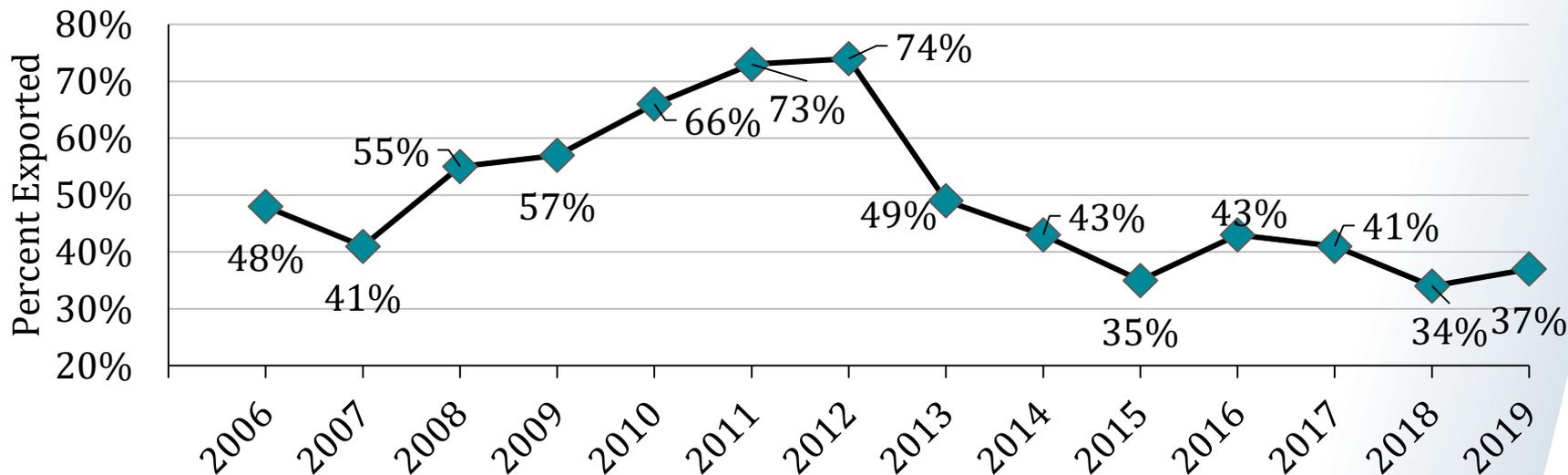
# General Category Average Price/lb, 2019



# General Category 3-year Averages (# of Fish and Price/lb), 2017-2019



## Exported vs. Domestic Landings



2019	Exports	Domestic
Average Price per lb.	\$6.43	\$5.19
Total Ex-Vessel Value	\$4,201,701	\$5,720,539



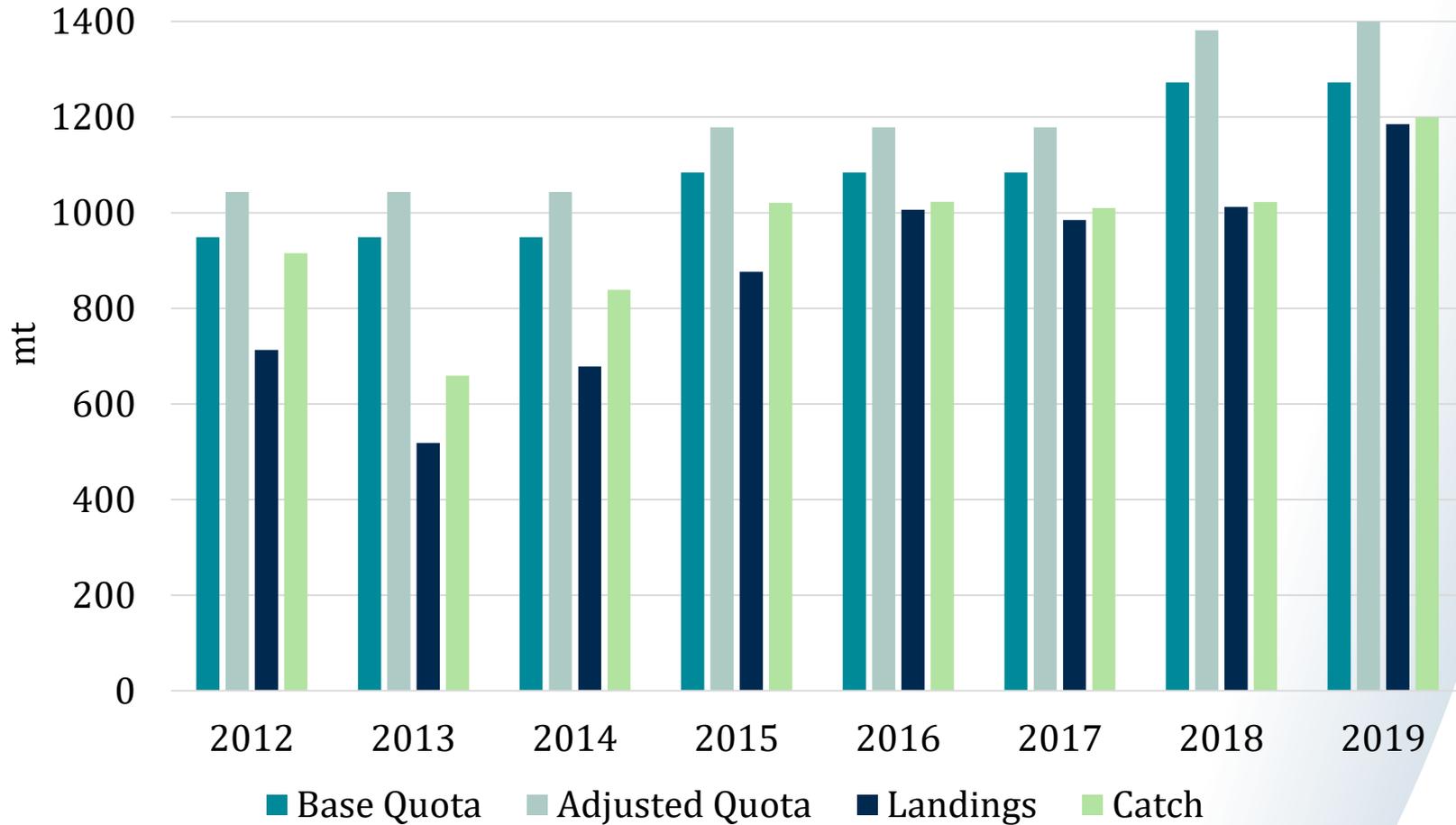
# 2019 Purse Seine Fishery

- Start date is set annually, within a range of June 1-August 15, and season ends December 31
- NMFS did not announce a Purse Seine fishery start date for 2019. The fishery remains closed until announced via a Federal Register Notice.
- No vessels are currently permitted to fish for BFT with purse seine gear
- Continued interest in the future of this fishery given all historical participants are no longer active



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



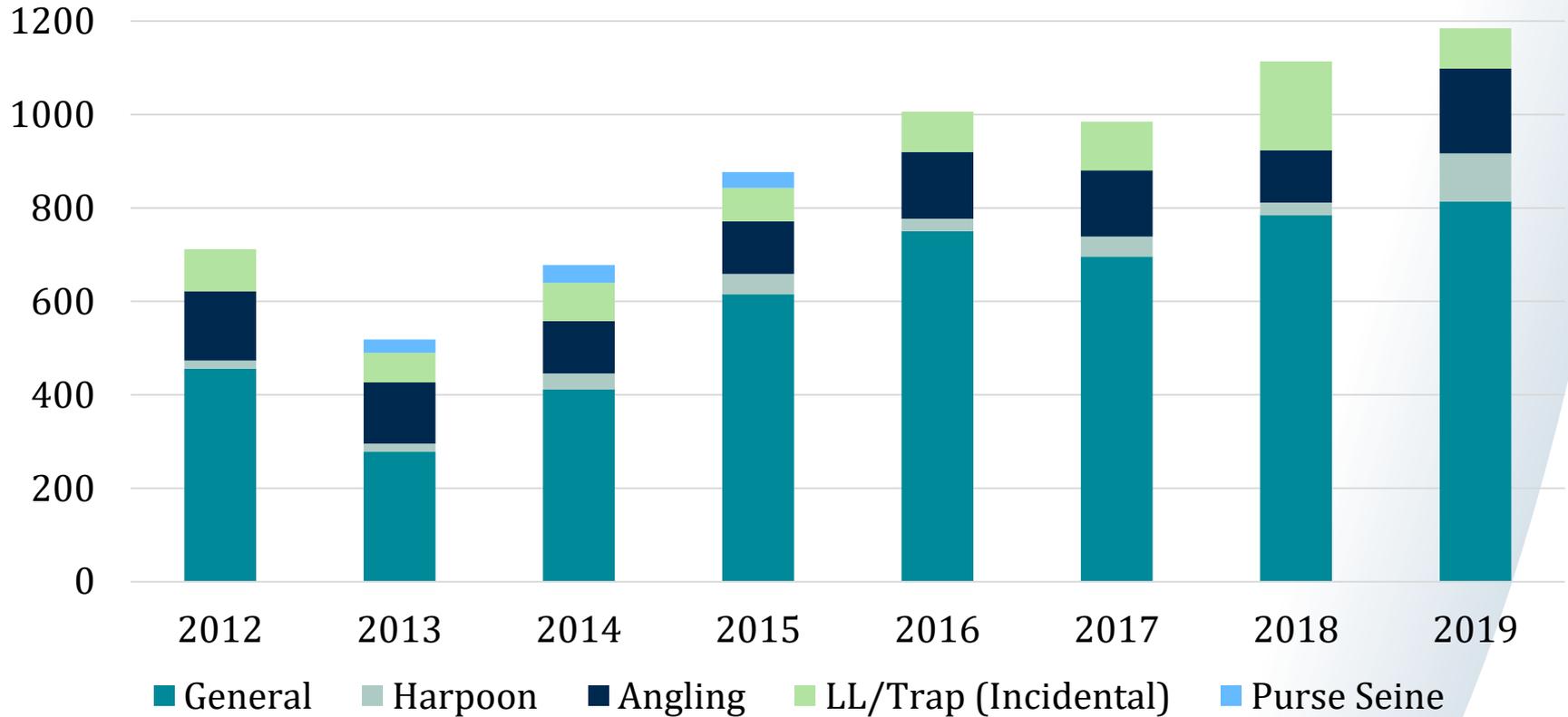
## 2019 BFT Dead Discards

- Currently, the best available annual estimate of U.S. dead discards for 2019 is the 2018 estimate of 14.6 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). The final 2018 estimate and a preliminary 2019 estimate will be available by July 2020.
- NMFS continues to refine reporting methodologies for commercial handgear dead discards



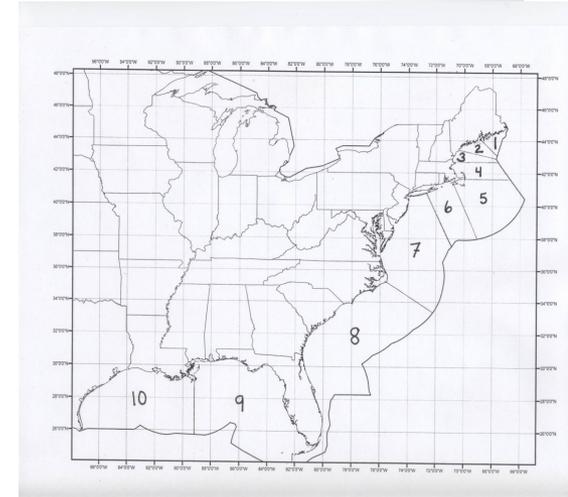
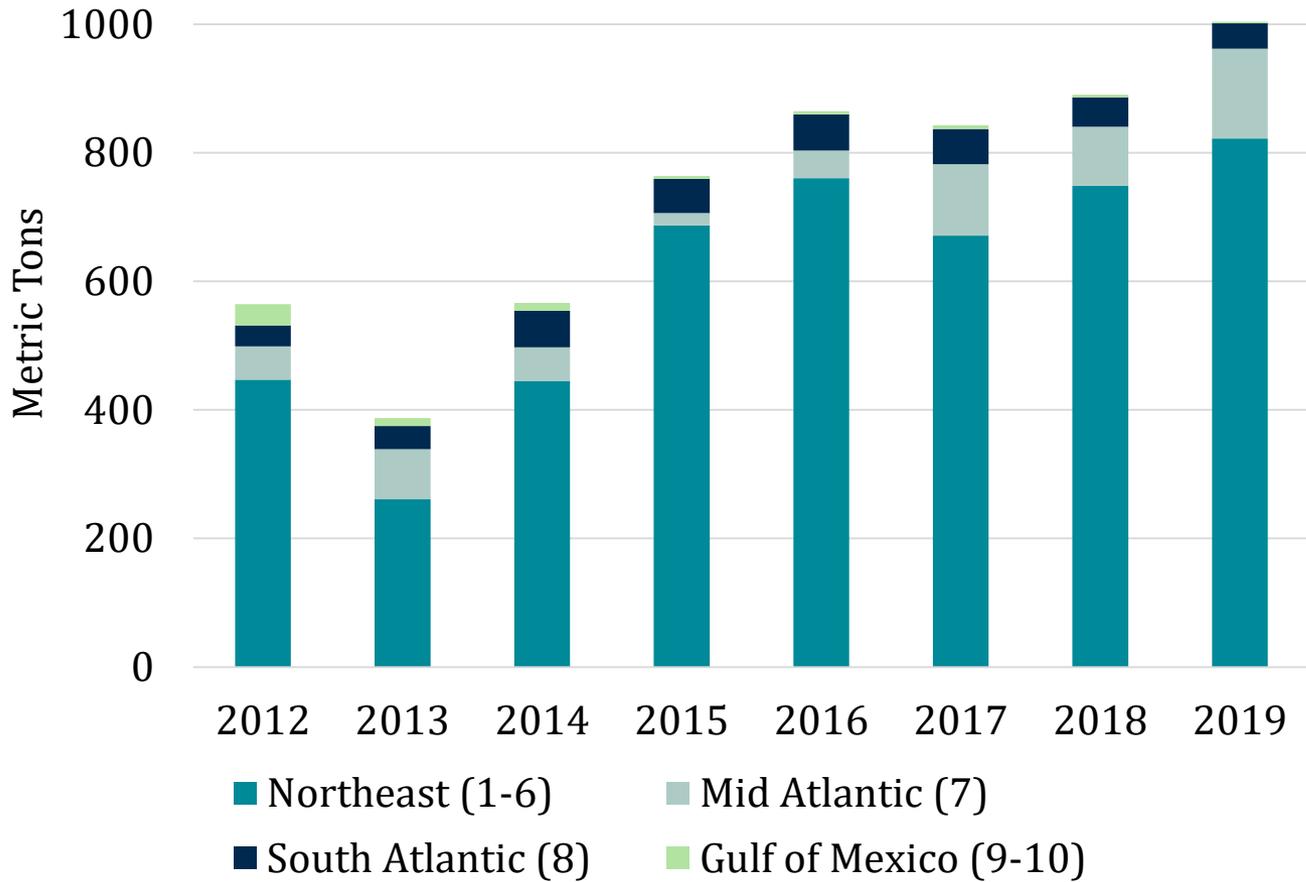
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# Landings by Category (mt)



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# Commercial Landings By Area



# Questions? Comments?

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



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