



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

HMS Management
Division

Management of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna General Category "January" Fishery

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 2017

Background Paper

**Management of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna General Category
“January” Fishery**



*Background paper prepared for the HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 2017
Silver Spring, MD*

- Provides context for discussion
- Describes current regulations and how they have evolved over the last 20+ years
 - General category time periods
 - General category subquota allocations
- Provides recent retention limits, landings, and quota use, by General category subquota
- Summarizes requests for changes over last several years
- Requests feedback, in light of various considerations

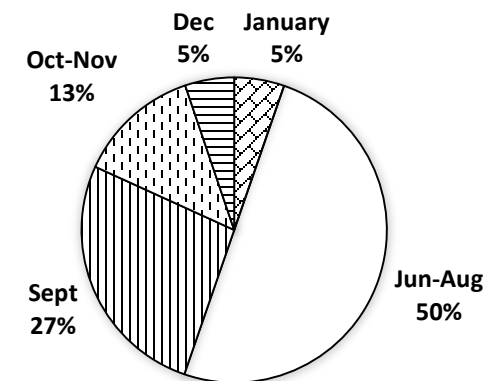
Discussion

We are interested in feedback from stakeholders concerning options for management of the BFT General category fishery that:

- 1) ensure consistency with ATCA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act; and
- 2) consider the highly variable nature of the BFT fishery as it relates to any suggestions for regulatory changes and/or inseason management.

Potential Management Actions

- Status quo
 - Continue/do not continue to transfer quota inseason from Reserve category to January subquota, consistent with regulatory determination criteria
 - Unused quota rolls forward to subsequent time period
- Allow the General category to remain open from January 1 until the subquota is reached or May 31, whichever comes first
 - Continue/do not continue to transfer quota inseason from Reserve category to January subquota
 - Unused quota rolls forward to subsequent time period
- Other?
 - Allocation changes among quota categories?
 - Modify the subquota structure and/or allocations?
 - Manage without time period subquotas?



Questions? Comments?

- For additional information, contact Brad McHale, Sarah McLaughlin, or Tom Warren at 978-281-9260