



NOAA
FISHERIES

HMS Management
Division

Atlantic bluefin tuna

Recent fishery trends
– updated through 2018

March 2018

Quota category	Landings No. of Fish	Landings Weight (mt)	2017 Base Quota (mt)	2017 Adjusted Quota (mt)	% Base Quota Taken	% Adjusted Quota Taken
General	4,300	695.7	466.7	688.7	149.1	101.0
Harpoon	293	43.1	38.6	43.0	111.7	100.2
Longline (incl NED)	501	103.8	173.3	218.3	59.9	47.5
NED	111	25.2	25.0	25.0	100.8	100.8
Atlantic (non-NED)	369	72.9	96.4	125.6	75.6	58.0
Gulf	21	5.7	51.9	67.6	11.0	8.4
Trap	0	0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Purse Seine	0	0	184.3	46.1	0	0
Angling	5,256	141.8	195.2	195.2	72.6	72.6
School	3,472	47.1	108.4	108.4	43.5	43.5
Lg Sch/Sm med	1,731	84.5	82.3	82.3	102.7	102.7
Trophy	53	10.2	4.5	4.5	226.7	226.7
Reserve	3	0.2	24.8	0.0	0.8	NA
Total (landings only)	10,353	984.6	1,083.9	1,192.3	90.8	82.6
Total (landings + dead discards) ¹		1,009.6	1,083.9	1,192.3	93.1	84.7

¹ Currently, the best available annual estimate of dead discards for the 2017 pelagic longline fishery is the 2016 estimate of 25 mt.

Full list of BFT and NALB actions for 2017 and 2018 to date

- 6 daily retention limit adjustments (General and Angling category)
- 8 inseason quota transfers (General, Harpoon, Longline, Reserve categories)
- 2 quota adjustments (2017 reallocation of Purse Seine quota to Reserve; augmentation of 2017 Reserve with allowed 2016 U.S. BFT underharvest and NALB adjustment for 2016 underharvest)
- 8 closures (Angling category Trophy and General category)
- IBQ-related: 25-mt NED Accounting Notice and Quarterly Accounting Proposed and Final Rule

2017/2018 Inseason Actions – Quota Transfers and Quota Adjustments

- 16.3 mt within General category from December 2017 to January-March 2018 (December 2017, A7 authority)
- 138.2 mt from Purse Seine category to Reserve category using A7 formula, and in same notice transferred 45 mt from Reserve category to Longline category (February)
- 40 mt from Reserve category to General category (March)
- 30 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category (August)
- 108.38 mt of 2017 underharvest to the Reserve category (September)
- 156.4 mt from the Reserve category to the General category (September)
- 25.6 mt from the Harpoon category to the General category (November)
- 14.3 mt within General category from December 2018 to January-March 2018 (December 2017, A7 authority)
- 10.0 mt from the from the Reserve category to the General category (March 2018)

2017 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 (*also in effect now*)

Limits for April 30-December 31, 2017:

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 20, 2017
- Gulf of Mexico closed June 7, 2017
- Northern area closed August 11, 2017

Recreational BFT Landings (Estimated # of fish), 2015-2017

	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	
2015	1,530	646	626	113 mt	} Annual Quota: 195 mt
2016	1,971	1,734	468	143 mt	
2017	3,472	1,046	685	142 mt	

Data sources: Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) estimates, NC catch card data, MD catch card data (outside LPS sampling timeframe), NMFS Automated Landings Reporting System, and reported research landings.

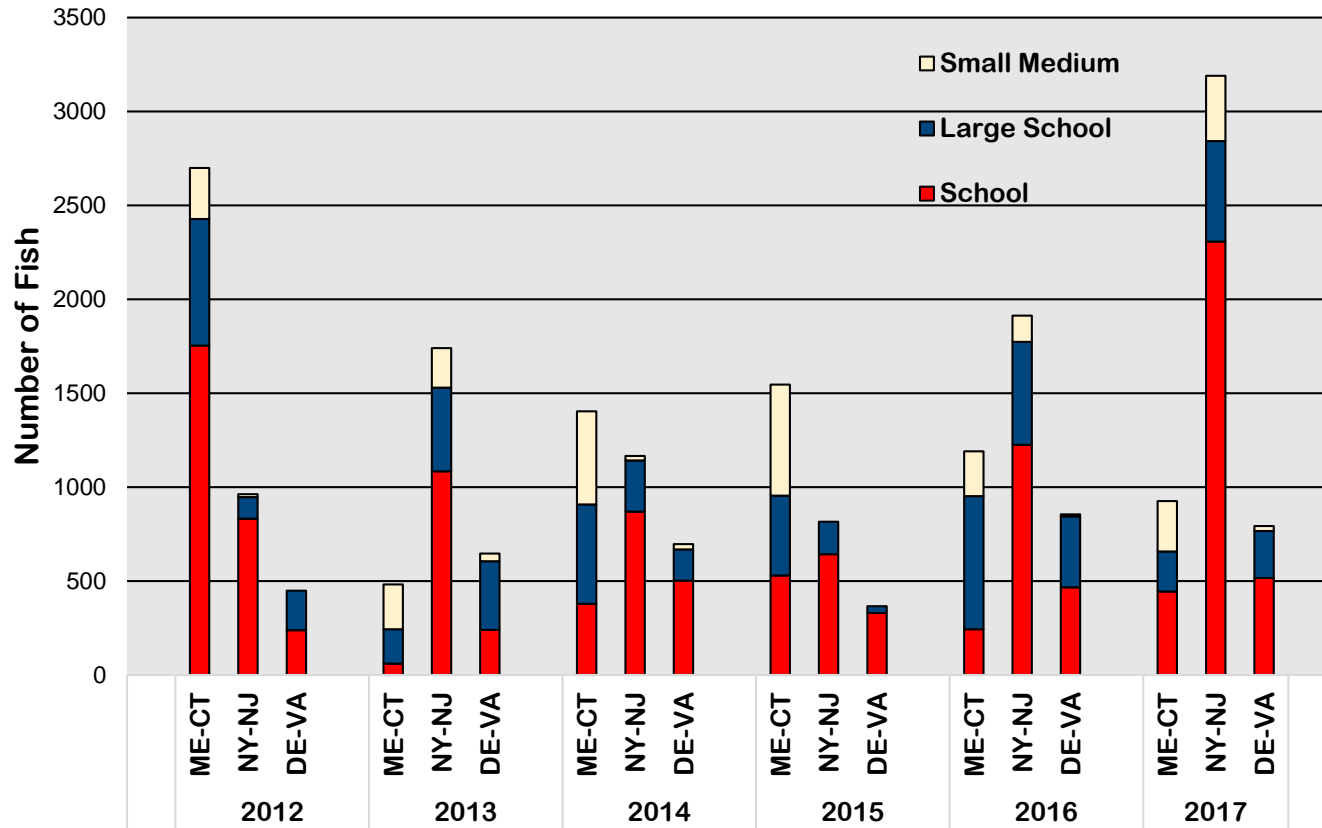
2017 Angling Category Landings by Size Class

	Landings (mt)	Quota (mt)	Quota use
School	47.1 (33.6 N; 13.4 S)	108.4	43%
Large School/ Small Medium	84.5 (65.2 N; 19.3 S)	82.3	103%
Large Medium/ Giant (Trophy)	10.2 (3.4 N; 5.2 S; 1.7 GoM)	4.5	227%

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.

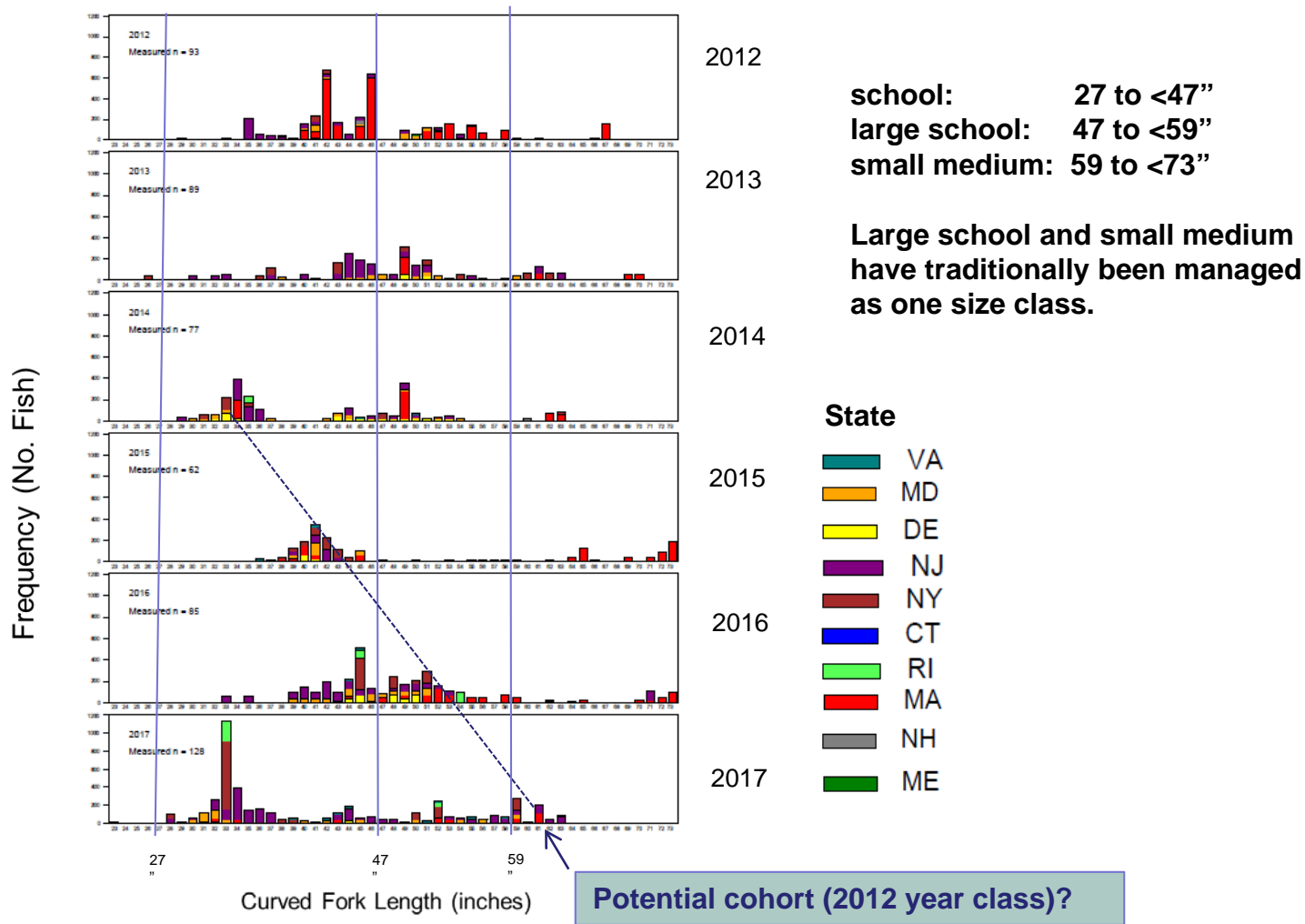
Totals subject to rounding error.

Recreational Landings by Area, 2012-2017



Data source: LPS (for ME-VA only)

Large Pelagics Survey: Expanded Catch-at-Length Size Distribution of Angling Category BFT, 2012-2017

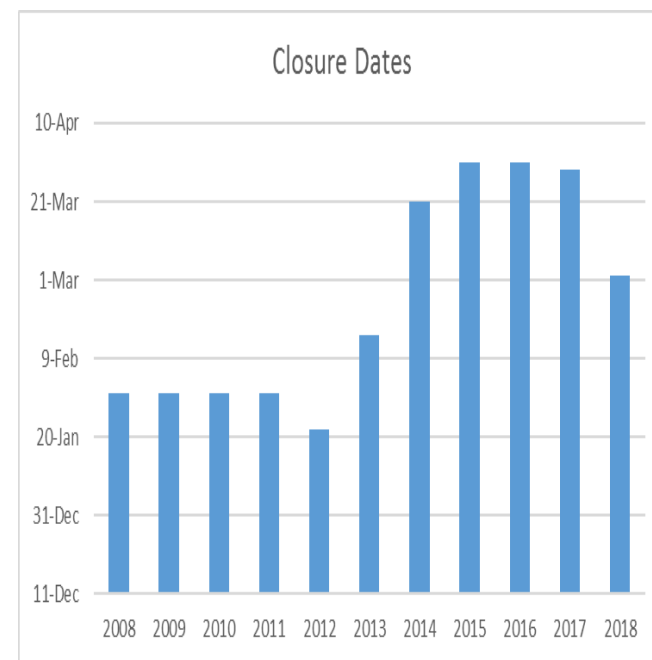
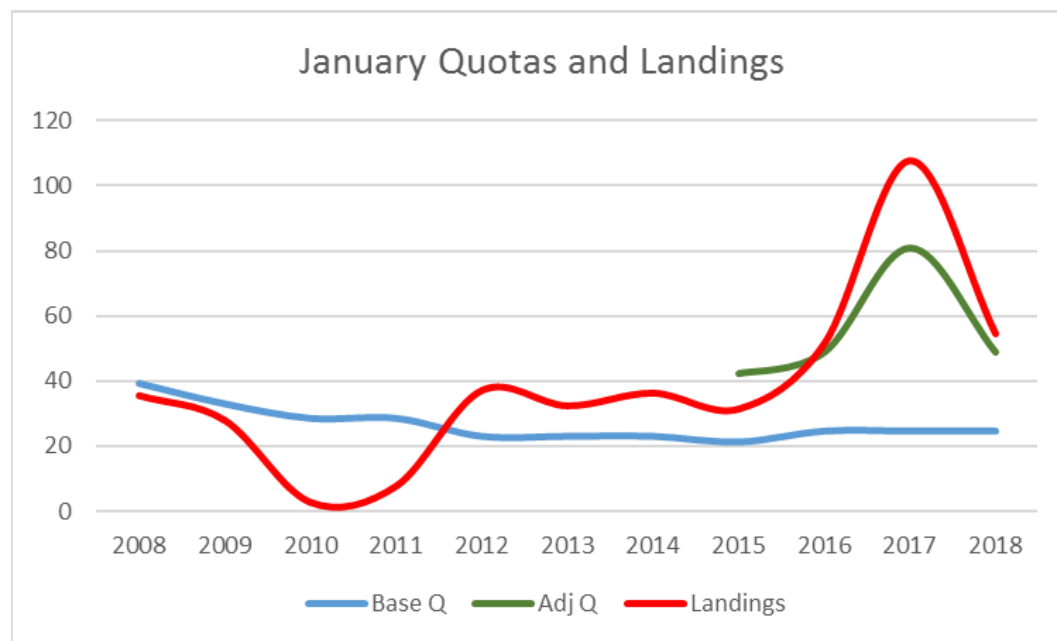


2017 General Category Landings by Daily Retention Limit

Time Period	Limit of Large Medium or Giant BFT/Vessel/Day	Landings (mt)
January 1 – March 4	3	69.07
March 5 – March 29	1	39.05
March 30 – March 31	CLOSED	X
June 1 – August 4	4	243.55
August 5 – August 16	2	88.06
August 17 – August 31	CLOSED	X
Sept 1 – Sept 17	1	164.06
Sept 18 – Sept 30	CLOSED	X
October 1 – October 5	1	73.46
October 6 – November 30	CLOSED	X
December 1 – December 6	1	18.11
December 7 – December 31	CLOSED	X

2018 General Category Landings by Daily Retention Limit

Time Period	Limit of Large Medium or Giant BFT/Vessel/Day	Landings (mt)
January 1 – March 2	1	59.2
March 3 – March 31	CLOSED	X



2017 General Category Success Rates

Percent of Trips Landing at Least One BFT					
	1 Fish	2 Fish	3 Fish	4 Fish	Landings (mt)
January 1 – March 4	62%	22%	16%	N/A	69.07
June 1 – August 4	68%	20%	6%	6%	243.55
August 5 – August 16	76%	24%	N/A	N/A	88.06

2017 General Category Landings – by subquota period

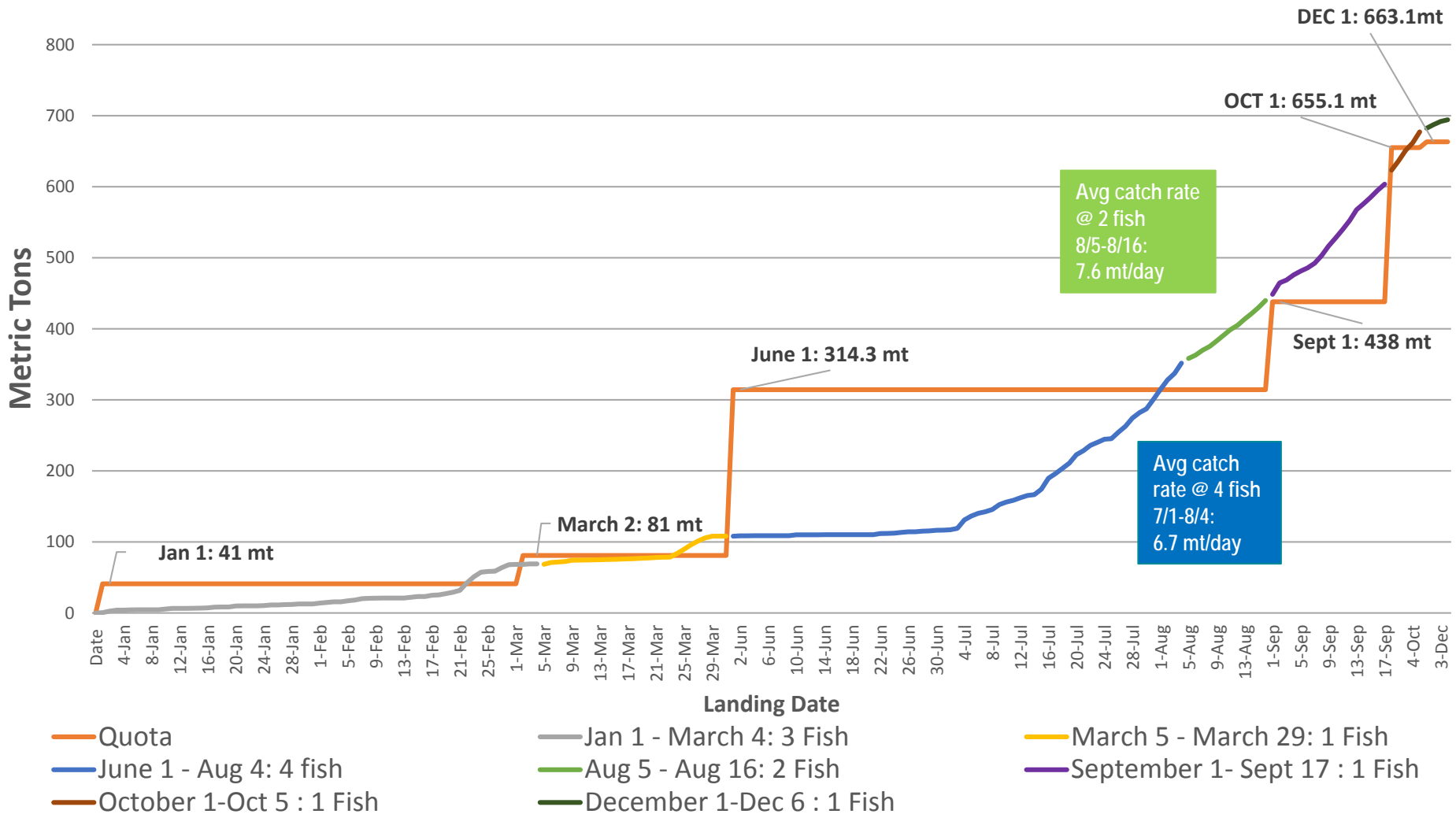
COMMERCIAL BLUEFIN TUNA LANDINGS										
General	Time Period	Quota/Subquota			Landings					
		Base (mt)	Adjusted (mt)	Cumulative Adjusted Overall Quota (mt)	Time Period (mt)	% Base Quota	% Adj. Sub-quota	Cumulative (mt)	Cumulative % of Cumulative Adjusted Overall Quota	Cumulative % of Adjusted Annual Quota
	Jan-Mar	24.7	81	81	108.1	438	133	108.1	133	16
	June-Aug	233.3	233.3	314.3	331.7	142	142	439.7	140	64
	Sept	123.7	123.7	438	164.1	133	133	603.8	138	88
	Oct-Nov	60.7	60.7	663.1	73.6	121	121	677.4	102	98
	Dec	24.3	8	688.7	18.1	74	226	695.5	101	101

2018 General Category Landings – by subquota period

CURRENT COMMERCIAL BLUEFIN TUNA LANDINGS										
General	Time Period	Quota/Subquota			Landings					
		Base (mt)	Adjusted (mt)	Cumulative Adjusted Overall Quota (mt)	Time Period (mt)	% Base Quota	% Adj. Sub-quota	Cumulative (mt)	Cumulative % of Cumulative Adjusted Overall Quota	Cumulative % of Adjusted Annual Quota)
	Jan-Mar	24.7	49.0	49.0	59.2	240	121	59.2	121	12.4
Reserve		24.8	14.8							

** Data as of March 5, 2018

2017 General Category Cumulative Landings



2017 Harpoon Category Landings Information

	Daily Retention Limit	Landings (mt)	Notes
Large Medium	2	8.22	Season: June 1-Nov 15
Giant	unlimited	34.92	
Annual Total		43.14	111% of the 38.6-mt baseline Harpoon category quota; 69% of the 62.6-mt adjusted quota

Percent of Trips Landing at least one BFT:

0 Lg. Med: 40% 1 Lg. Med: 38% 2 Lg. Med: 22%

Percent of Trips Landing at least one BFT:

0 Giant: 16% 1 Giant: 40% 2 Giants: 15% 3 Giants: 4% 4+ Giants: 25%

Harpoon (Gear) Landings by the General and Harpoon Categories

	Number of Fish	Weight (mt)
General category	239	38.8
Harpoon category	293	43.1
TOTALS	532	81.9

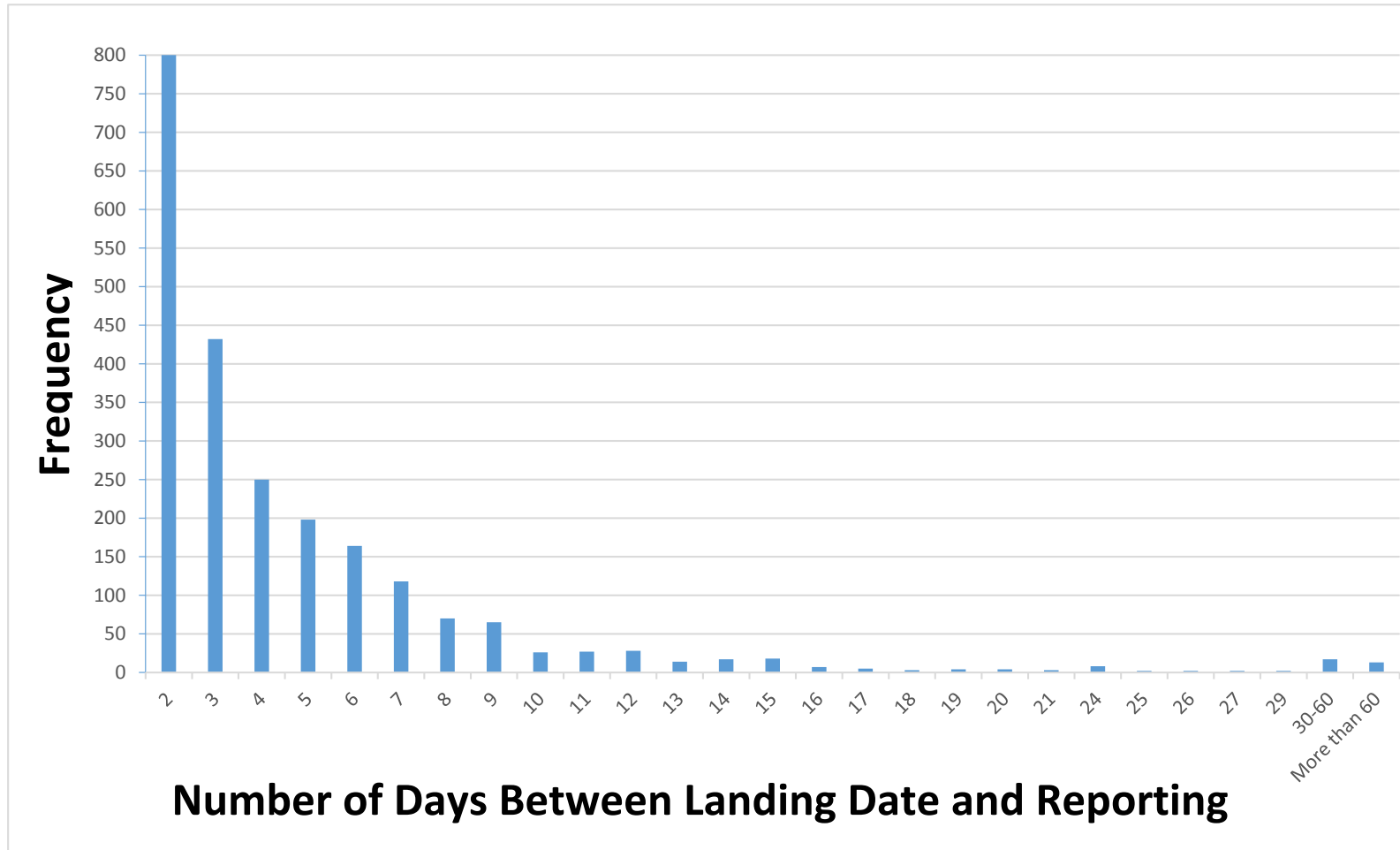
Harpoon landings were ~ 5.5% of General category totals by fish and weight

Timing of Dealer Reports – 2017

- Requirement: BFT must be reported within 24 hours of landing
- Large volume dealers (100+ General category fish)
 - Individual averages range from fully compliant to 6+ days
 - Average for all large-volume dealers ~3 days
 - Significant jump for weekend landing reports

DEALER REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Frequency of Days to Report
(Non-compliant reports only)



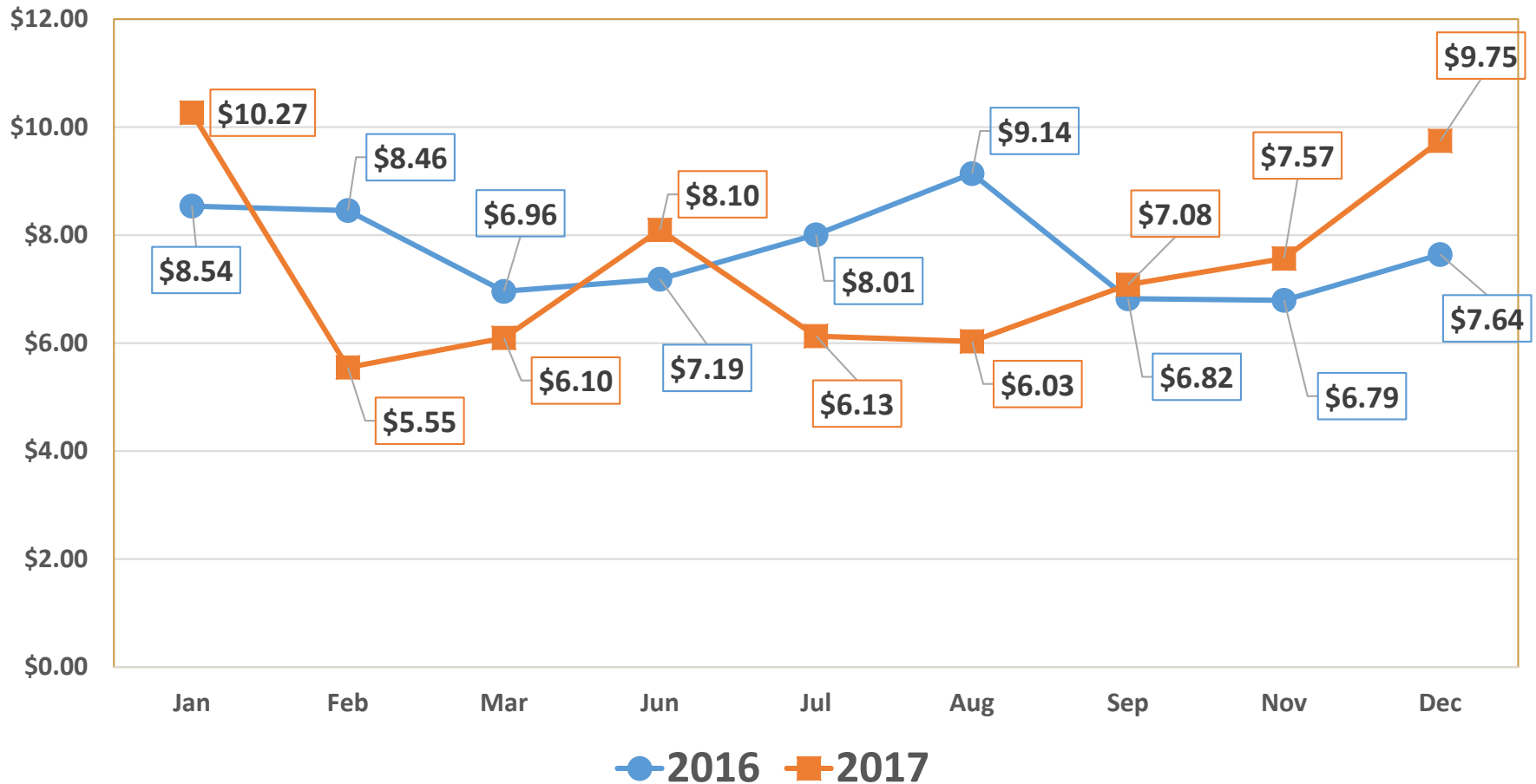
BFT Reporting Requirement for General, Harpoon, and Charter/Headboat Categories

- 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

Comparison of dealer & online BFT reports for 2017; % compliance 2015-2017:

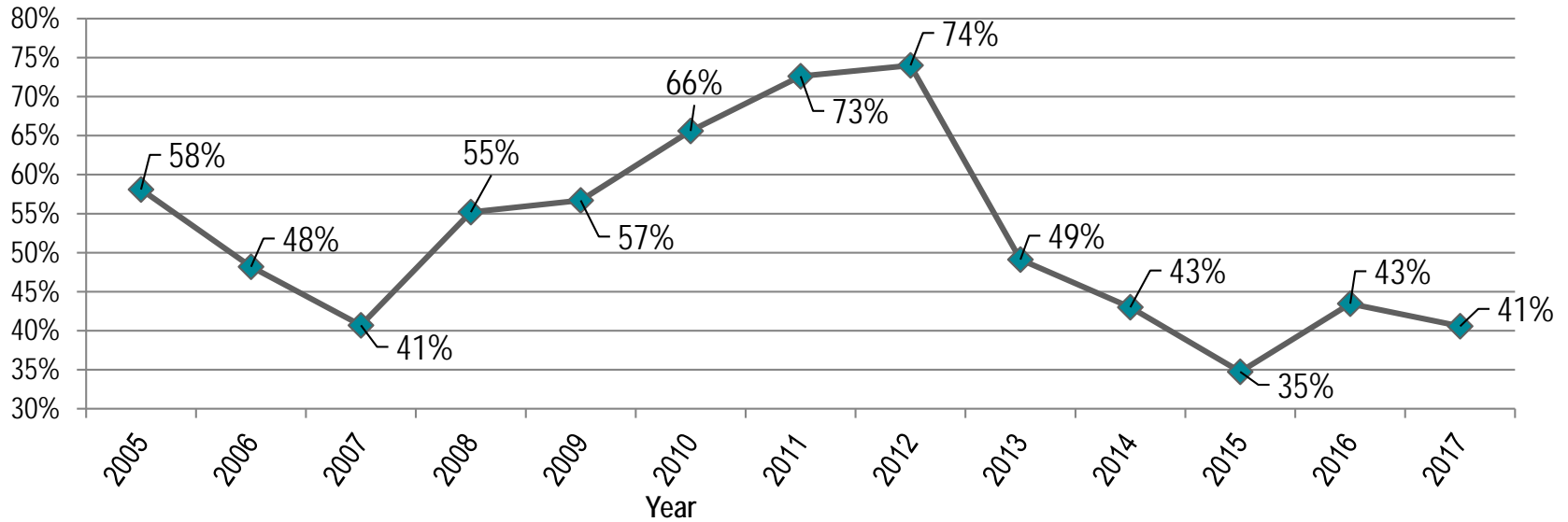
Quota Category	Dealer Reports		Online Reports		% Compliance					
	# Fish	# Fishermen	# Fish	# Fishermen	% Fish Reported			% Fishermen Reporting		
					2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015
General	4,298	909	2,180	405	50.7	44.6	14.1	44.6	43.1	13.3
Harpoon	293	7	282	5	96.2	73.5	91.4	71.4	57.1	100
Total	4,591	916	2,462	410	53.6	45.9	20.4	44.8	43.2	14.2

General Category Average Price/lb, 2016 and 2017



Exported vs Domestic Landings

Percent of Landings Exported by Weight

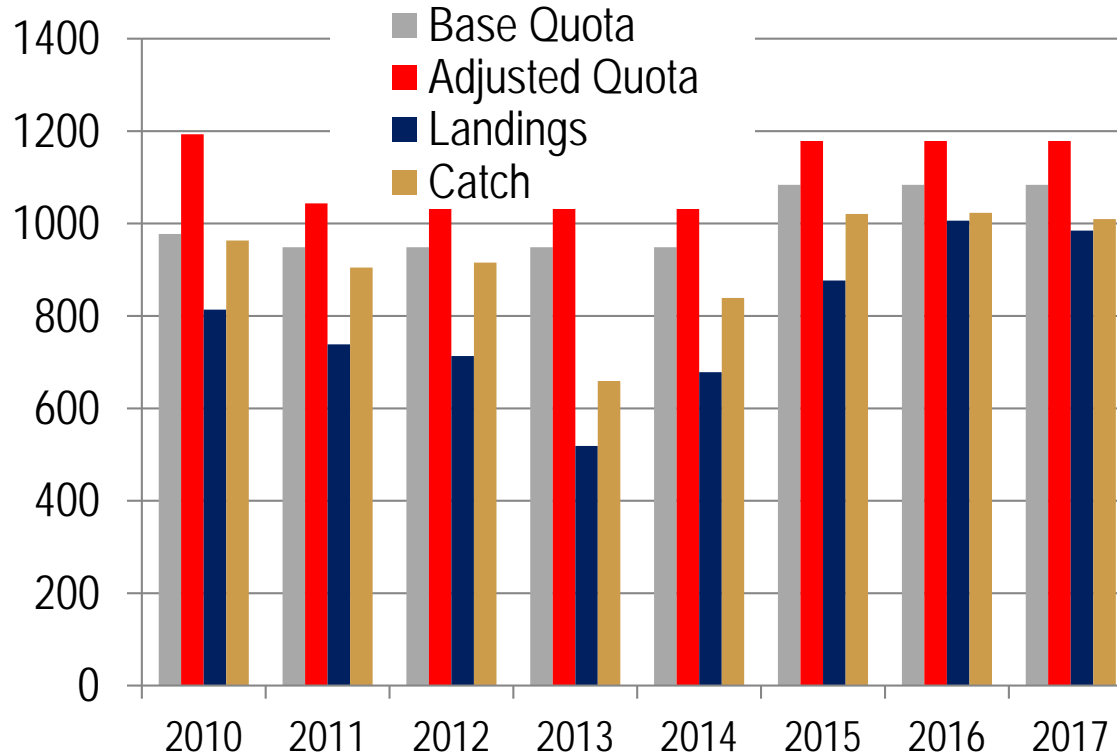


2017	Exports	Domestic
Average Price per lb.	\$6.59	\$6.34
Total Ex-Vessel Value	\$4,088,939	\$5,143,331

2017 Purse Seine Fishery

- Start date is set annually, within a range of June 1-August 15, and season ends December 31
- NMFS did not announced a Purse Seine fishery start date for 2017. 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 interested in the future of this fishery given all historical participants are no longer active

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



In 2017, total landings amount was ~985 mt, which corresponded to 83% of the U.S. adjusted quota (1,192.3 mt) and 91% of the base quota (1,083.9 mt). Total 2017 catch was ~1,010 mt (85% of the U.S. adjusted quota and 93% of the base quota). Preliminary 2016 underharvest (adjusted quota-catch)=182.7 mt. ICCAT limit on carryover to 2018=108.4 mt.

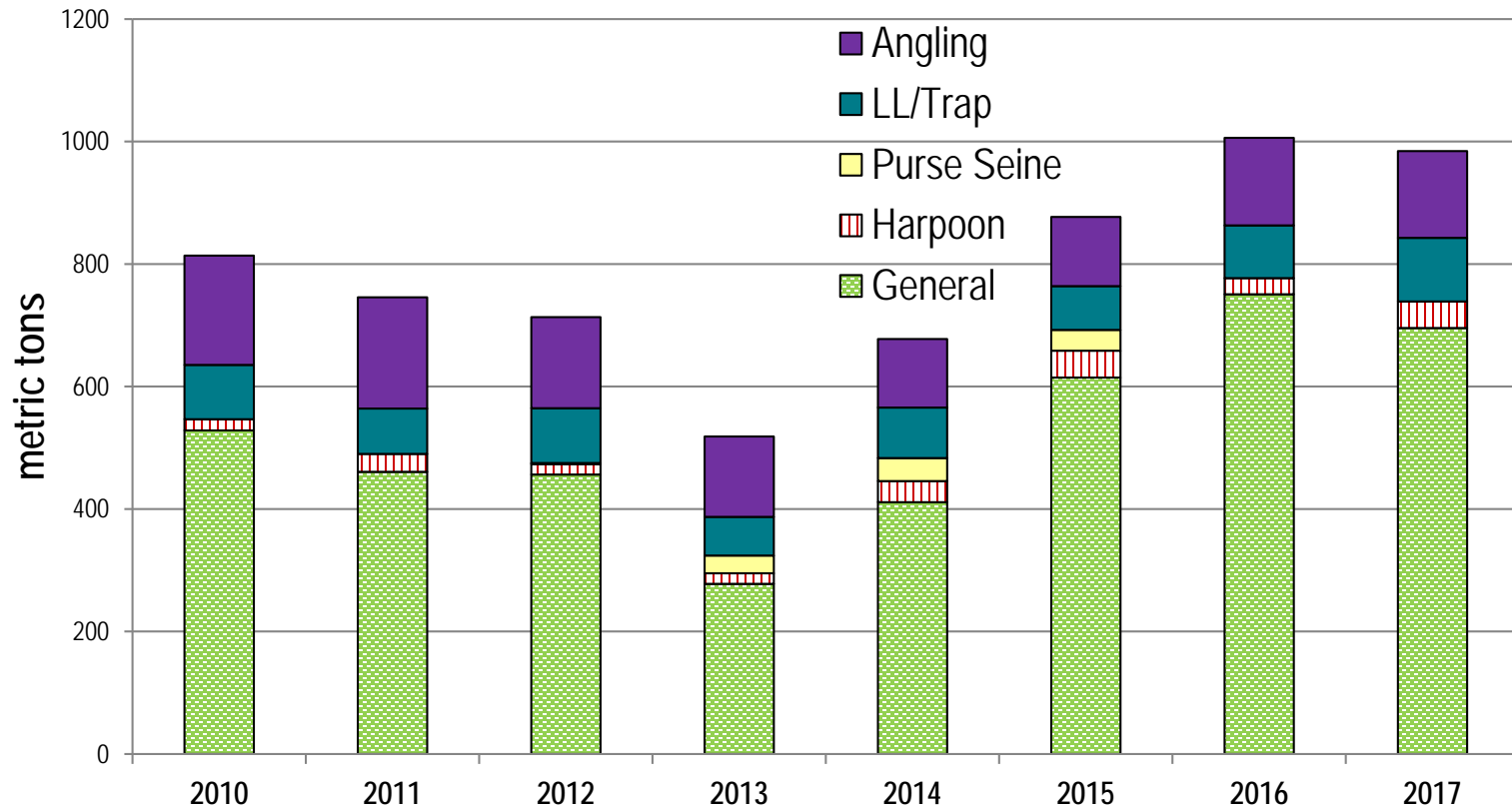
Data source: Landings from BFT dealer report database, Large Pelagics Survey estimates, NC catch card data, MD catch card data (outside LPS sampling timeframe) and the NMFS Automated Landings Reporting System. **The 2016 dead discard estimate of 25 mt for the pelagic longline fishery was used as a proxy for 2017 dead discards.**

2017 BFT Dead Discards

- Currently, the best available annual estimate of U.S. dead discards for 2017 is the 2016 estimate of 25 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 2016 estimate and a preliminary 2017 estimate will be available by July 2018.
- Reported commercial handgear dead discards are currently under review for quality control and will be added as appropriate.

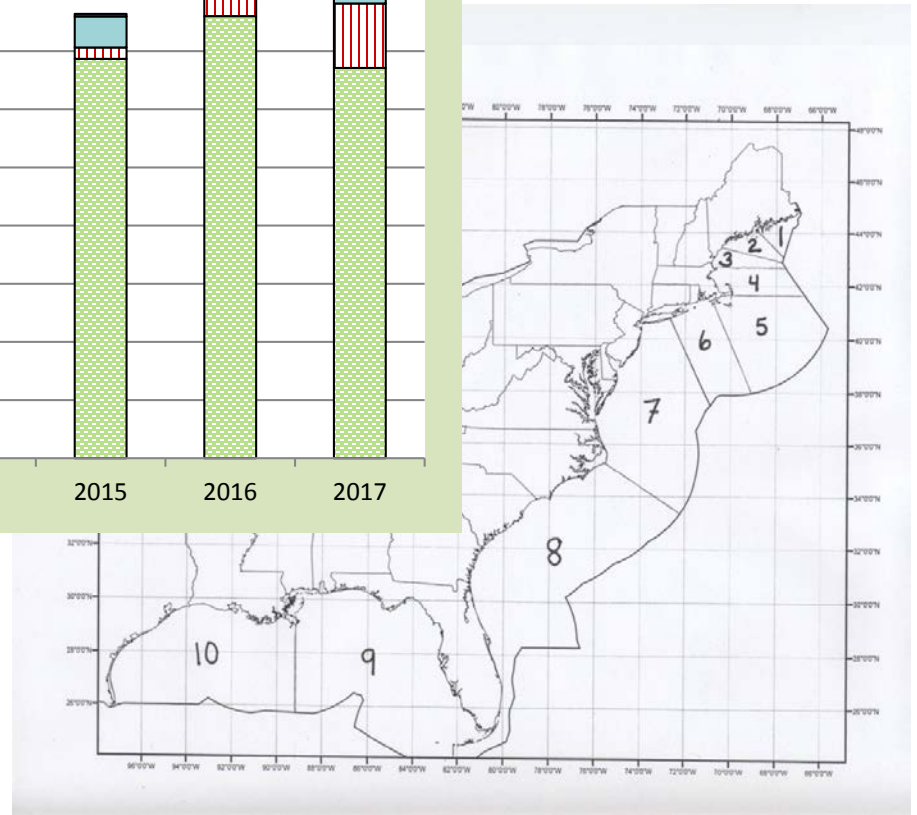
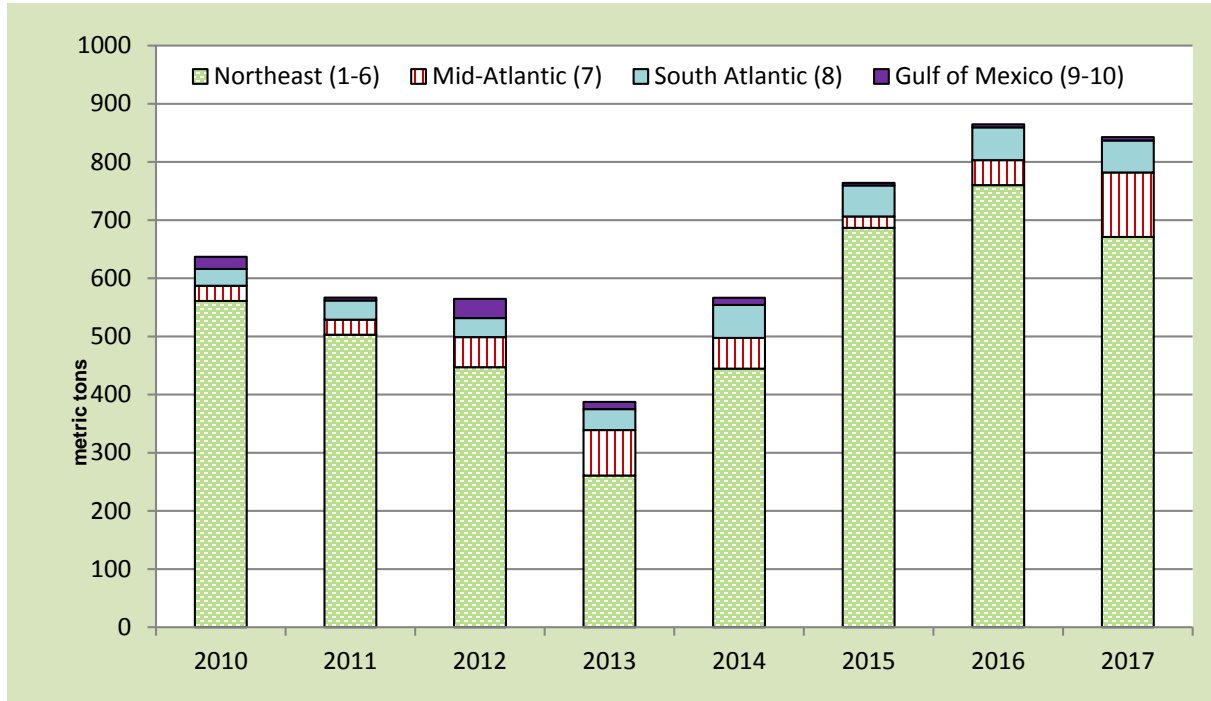
	TUNA RELEASED DEAD < 27	TUNA RELEASED DEAD 27 < 47	TUNA RELEASED DEAD 47 < 59	TUNA RELEASED DEAD 59 < 73	TUNA RELEASED DEAD 73 < 81	TUNA RELEASED DEAD > 81
2017	1	0	0	0	4	19
2016	0	0	1	1	13	20
2015	0	3	1	4	2	0

Landings by Category (mt)



Longline and Trap combined because both are incidental fisheries.

Commercial Landings by Area



2017 Suggestions re: managing the BFT handgear fisheries

General category:

- Important to use U.S. quota
- Set limit to allow offshore trips; need more than 1 fish/day to make trip economically feasible
- Set limit low early and increase as fish quality improves later in the year
- Low limits result in highgrading/increased discards
- Bring back Restricted Fishing Days (RFDs)
- Concerns with catch and release post-closure
- Consider something other than a daily limit (like weekly)
- Give the winter fishery more quota overall
- Make sure to preserve the December fishing opportunities
- Make sure to preserve the traditional quotas

2017 Suggestions re: managing the BFT handgear fisheries, continued

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
- Consider harpoon effort in General category when setting retention limits in early season (i.e., June)

Questions/Feedback

Upcoming 2018 Actions (routine):

- Recreational (Angling and Charter/Headboat) retention limit adjustments
 - Annual reallocation of Purse Seine quota to Reserve category
 - General category retention limit for June 1-August 31
 - Harpoon retention limit adjustments?
 - ICCAT Quota rule and 2017 carry forward
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- Stay tuned - more A7 and Longline data in the 3-year review presentation later today