



Gulf Region

Notice to Fish Harvesters

UPDATE - 2022 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY

Charlottetown, PEI – September 29, 2022 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) today announces that new licence conditions will be issued for eligible Prince Edward Island (PEI) Bluefin Tuna licence holders. Licence conditions will be valid from September 29 until December 31, 2022.

Licence holders are reminded that the fishery will close once the quota is reached and that there is the potential of the fishery closing before all outstanding tags are used.

SEASON DATES: The fishery will remain open until December 31, 2022 or until the quota nears 0 metric tonne remaining.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

- Partnerships will be valid for the whole season, unless DFO is notified otherwise.
- For licence holders to hail out, they must call the Vessel Hail-Out System at 1-800-561-2467, **at least 3 hours** prior to departure for any fishing trip. Licence holders must select an At Sea Observer Company in the IVR system, even though an observer will not be deployed.
- Licence holders that are requesting a temporary dart tag must record the dart tag number in Annex II, prior to fishing. Dart tags are non-transferrable.
- Licence holders will have to print licence Conditions for 4RST and 4WD separately.
- Licence holders will only be authorized one vessel transfer in the 2022 season. One licence holder may transfer their vessel to another licence holder, then have the vessel transferred back. If the vessel is transferred to another tuna licence holder after this, there will not be new tuna licence conditions issued.
- Partnerships will not be authorized for vessel transfers.
- Licence holders / operators are permitted to release any Bluefin tuna tagged with a scientific tag. Please refer to your licence conditions for details on this authorization.

NEW management measures in place for the 2022 fishing season:

Discarding Waste

In 2022, all commercial fisheries in Canada have a new condition of licence relating to the discharge of garbage from Canadian fishing vessels. The licence holder/operator is prohibited from discarding in Canadian fisheries waters from their vessel any item that may be harmful to fish or fish habitat.

New condition: *The licence holder/operator is prohibited from discarding in Canadian fisheries waters from their vessel any item that may be harmful to fish or fish habitat including but not limited to plastics, ropes, fishing gear, garbage bags, fuel, oil, rags, glass, bottles, metal, extruded polystyrene foam (e.g. Styrofoam), and tires.*

Refer to the Notice to Fish Harvesters sent on April 7, 2022 for further details: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/sdc-cps/index-eng.html>

Logbook

Licence holders are required to submit a copy of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Log Document to the Dockside Monitoring Company that was hailed in to within seven (7) days following the end of the fishing trip when no tuna has been caught or immediately at the end of each fishing trip when a tuna is on board.

TAG AVAILABILITY: Bluefin Tuna tags and temporary dart tags will be available at the DFO PEI Area office from 8:00am to 4:00pm, on Monday through Friday. There will be a maximum of one dart to every Bluefin Tuna tag, depending on availability. Temporary dart tags will be free of charge, compliments of the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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