

**Prince Edward Island Tuna Fleet
2020 Tuna Conservation Harvesting Plan
Catch and Retain Charter Fishery**

Objective:

To provide increased economic opportunities for the PEI commercial Bluefin tuna licence holders.

Description:

Catch and retain charter fishery for Bluefin tuna in 4RST and 4WD. The catching and releasing of Bluefin tuna is prohibited while fishing under a catch and retain licence.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to participate in the catch and retain charter fishery, fisher must:

- be a Prince Edward Island commercial Bluefin Tuna Licence holder;
- be a Section 52 Catch and Release Licence holder;
- meet Transport Canada requirements for carrying passengers on board a vessel.

Season:

The season will run from August 1, 2020 until October 31, 2020. Fishers will be authorized to have a maximum of one fishing trip per calendar day.

Gear:

Fishing will be carried out by rod and reel only. A maximum of four fishing rod lines may be in the water at any given time during tuna fishing activities. Lines shall be tended at all times and each line shall not have more than one hook attached. When a Bluefin tuna is hooked, all remaining lines must be removed from the water.

Monitoring of Activity:

Dockside Monitoring:

- The fishery is subject to 100% dockside monitoring as outlined in conditions of licence.

Electronic Monitoring System (EMS):

- The fishery is subject to **100% EMS coverage** as outlined in conditions of licence.

- The licence holder/operator must notify Conservation and Protection at least **72 hours** prior to departure to have an EMS installed on the vessel prior to departure.

Hail Out Requirements:

- The licence holder/operator **must hail out at least 3 hours prior** to departure as described in conditions of licence.
- Fishers must hail out under a commercial fishing trip.

Log Book:

- The Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Logbook obtained from a DFO approved supplier shall be maintained, and submitted as outlined in conditions of licence.

Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (ICCAT):

- ICCAT forms shall be completed in accordance with the instructions supplied when a tuna has been caught.

Tagging Requirements:

- All Bluefin tuna shall be tagged with a DFO issued commercial tuna tag immediately after the fish has been caught as per conditions of licence.
- At least one (1) valid unused commercial tuna tag issued to the licence holder/operator shall be onboard the vessel before commencing a fishing trip.
- Dart tags with a legible and unique number can be used as outlined in conditions of licence.

Tag Availability:

- Tags will be available at the Charlottetown Office, Monday through Friday, from 8am – 4pm each day.
- Dart tags will be available at the Charlottetown Office when commercial tags are purchased.
- Dart tags and commercial tags shall be recorded in the Record of Tags prior to any fishing activity.

Partnerships / Tags:

- Anyone participating in the catch and retain fishery is not eligible to participate in a partnership for the commercial fishery.
- The licence holder/operator shall only use the initial tags they were issued under the PEI Commercial Tuna Harvesting Plan.
- Tag transfers are not authorized.

By-catch:

- All incidentally caught species shall be released immediately, to the waters where they were caught in a manner that causes the least harm.

Vessel Transfers:

- The licence holder/operator holding a catch and retain charter tuna licence, will not be authorized to transfer the vessel named in the licence to another commercial Bluefin tuna licence holder.

Approved by: Ben Moore

A/Area Manager, Resource Management

Prince Edward Island, Gulf Region

Fisheries and Oceans Canada