



Gulf Region

Notice to Fish Harvesters

For Immediate Release

2021 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND – BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY

July 9, 2021

Charlottetown, PE

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) today announces that fishing will be authorized for the 2021 Prince Edward Island (PEI) Bluefin Tuna season.

SEASON DATES: In 2021, fishery will open on July 15th and end on December 31st or until the quota nears 0 mt.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

- Each licence holder will be issued one tag at the beginning of the season.
- Licence holders must land one tuna before or by September 27, 2021 to be eligible for a reallocation tag. Once the first fish has been landed a second tag can be issued at any time if the licence holder is scheduled to receive a reallocation tag. Licence conditions will only be valid until September 27, 2021. New conditions will only be issued to eligible licence holders.
- Licence holders eligible for a reallocation tag that having fishing effort but **did not** use their first tag by September 27, 2021, will be eligible to retain their first tag.
- **Licence holders who are only eligible for one tag and do not have their fish landed by September 27, 2021, will not be eligible to participate after the first opening.**
- Licence holders in a partnership must land two tuna by September 27, 2021. A reallocation tag can be picked up at any time prior to September 27, 2021 once the first fish has been landed.
- **Licence holders will only be authorized one vessel transfer in the 2021 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 be valid for the whole season, unless DFO is notified otherwise.
- **Partnerships will not be authorized for vessel transfers.**
- The Prince Edward Island Bluefin Tuna fleet will have access to a portion of the quota transferred from Mexico to Canada. **The Mexican and Canadian quota's will be combined for the 2021 season.**
- **The Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association will have a registration fee of \$250.00 for all members holding a tuna licence, to cover the cost of the Mexican quota transfer.**
- 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 should note that having a Bluefin Tuna tag in your possession allows access to fish but does not guarantee your quota.
- 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 / 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 2021 fishing season:

Crew Registry

The inshore regulations require inshore commercial licence holders, and their approved Substitute Operators, to keep records of all the crew members working aboard the vessel on every fishing trip. These records must be maintained by the licence holder for a period of five (5) years. More information can be found at:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/atl-arc/inshore-regulations-reglement-peche-cotiere-eng.html#toc03>

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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