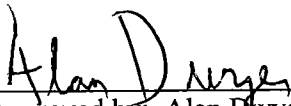


**Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet
2019 Tuna Conservation Harvesting Plan
Catch and Release Fishery**

- Objective:** - To provide increased economic opportunities for GNS commercial Bluefin Tuna licence holders.
- Description:** - Catch and release charter fishery for Bluefin Tuna.
- Eligibility:** - Must be a Gulf Nova Scotia commercial Bluefin licence holder (includes Dhaliwal 10 licence holders) and a member of the Gulf Nova Scotia Tuna Association.
- Must meet Transport Canada requirements for carrying passengers on board.
- Season:** August 7 – October 31, 2019
- Definitions:** - Hook-up – A fish that is either brought to the boat or a minimum fight time of 10 minutes.
- Management Measures:** - A maximum of one trip per day.
- A maximum of three hook-ups per trip are permitted.
- After 60 minutes of total fight time, the license holder or registered/certified crew members must make every effort to bring the Bluefin tuna alongside the vessel as quickly as possible.
- Gear:** - Rod and Reel
- A maximum of four fishing rod lines may be in the water at any given time during tuna fishing activities. Lines shall be attended at all times and each line shall not have more than one barbless circle hook attached. When a Bluefin Tuna is hooked all other lines shall be removed from the water.
- The minimum main line strength permitted on board the vessel is 130 lb and the minimum leader strength permitted is 180 lb.
- Monitoring of Activity:** - Each licence holder is required to provide information regarding all fishing activities by completing the Catch & Release Bluefin Tuna Fishery Daily Log Sheet. The documents detailing catch and effort are to be completed for each trip in accordance with the instructions detailed in the Catch & Release Bluefin Tuna Fishery Daily Log Sheet. They are to be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed weekly to: Jolene Hudson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2920, Hwy 104, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2K6.
E-mail address: Jolene.Hudson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Fax: 902-735-7102

- By-catches:** - All incidentally caught species will be returned immediately to the water in a manner that causes the animal least harm.
- Observer Coverage:** - Minimum of 5% observer coverage.
- The fleet will be responsible for At-Sea-Observer coverage and must have entered into an agreement with an at-sea observer company designated by DFO, Gulf Region, for the coverage of at-sea observers during the fishing activities conducted under these licences.
- Charter Fishery Guidelines:** - The licence holder shall post in plain view, from the deck of the vessel, Charter Fishery Guideline issued by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans. The licence holder shall instruct the client(s) to review the approved Charter Fishery Guidelines prior to commencing fishing activities.
- Training for Tagging:** - All commercial Bluefin Tuna licence holders requesting a Section 52 Bluefin Tuna Charter licence must attend a tagging training session delivered by a DFO representative before a licence may be issued.


Approved by: Alan Dwyer
Area Manager, Resource Management
Gulf Nova Scotia Area, Gulf Region
Fisheries & Oceans Canada