

Notice to Fish Harvesters

EKME: #4081981

Aug 2, 2019

2019 COMMERCIAL BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING **GULF NOVA SCOTIA**

Antigonish (Nova Scotia) – Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) tuna licence holders that the commercial tuna fishing season will open on August 7, 2019 at 6:00 a.m. (ADT). The fishery will remain open until the quota is harvested or until December 1, 2019, whichever comes first.

2019 Management

- There will be separate Conditions of Licence (COL) for 4RST and 4WD. Please print and carefully read the applicable COL for your fishing area. For licence holders to hail out, they must call the Vessel Hail-Out System at 1-800-561-2467, prior to departure for any fishing trip. Licences holders must select an At - Sea Observer Company in the IVR system, even though an observer will not be deployed.
- There will be 212 tags available to the GNS fleet. Tags will be allocated using the revolving tag list that has been used for the past several years. The revolving tag list will be resumed if additional tag allocations are available upon review of landings as the season progresses.
- Tag transfers are permitted during the 2019 season. Licence holders may receive or transfer a maximum of four tags during the season. Until September 30, 2019, a tuna licence holder can only do one of the following, not both:
Transfer tag(s) to another licence holder or Receive tag(s) in a transfer.

Starting on October 1, 2019, licence holders can complete both transactions.

- There will be no reallocation of tags. The tags and conditions of licence will be valid for the entire 2019 season unless the quota is landed and the season is closed.
- Tags will be available for pick up at the Gulf Nova Scotia Area Office in Antigonish on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., starting on August 6. If licence holders are unavailable to pick up tags during these periods, they may contact Licencing by calling 1-855-634-2355 or by emailing GulfInfoGolfe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca to make alternate arrangements for tag pick up during these periods.



- All 212 initial tags available must be picked up at the Gulf Nova Scotia Area Office by October 1, 2019.
- Dart tag numbers shall be recorded in the Record of Tags (Annex II) along with the DFO issued tag(s) prior to any fishing activity.
- One fish per calendar day up may be retained up until September 30 and two fish may be retained per calendar day beginning October 1.

2019 Mexican Quota

Only Gulf Nova Scotia Tuna Association members will be permitted in the draw for Mexican quota tags. Please contact association representatives for more details.

Marine Mammal Interaction Reporting

A Marine Mammal Interaction Form (included with COL) must be completed and submitted by email to DFO.NAT.InteractionsMM-InteractionsMM.NAT.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca unless it is filled out online at: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/report-rapport/fish-harvester-pecheur-eng.asp> within 48 hours after the end of the fishing trip.

All other management measures are similar to 2018, including the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (cameras) in both the commercial and the catch and release fisheries.

For more information, contact:

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