



*Gulf Region*

---

# *Notice to Fish Harvesters*

---

## **2022 BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING GULF NOVA SCOTIA**

### **Antigonish, (NS) – June 24, 2022**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) tuna licence holders that the tuna fishing season will open on July 1, 2022 at 6:00 a.m. (ADT). The fishery will remain open until the quota is harvested or until December 31, 2022, whichever comes first.

### **Commercial Fishery**

#### **2022 Management**

- There will be 200 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 2022 season. Until September 30, licence holders may receive or transfer a maximum of four tags. Until this date, 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, 2022, licence holders are eligible to complete both transactions and the four tag maximum no longer applies.

- In 2022, tags will be distributed via Canada Post ( Express Post -2 day delivery)
- Tag(s) fee will be available for payment through fishers' National Online Licensing System (NOLS) account.
- Licensing will complete mail out of tag(s) with Canada Post on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

.../3

- Dart tags are available from Gulf Nova Scotia Tuna Association executives. Dart tags shall be recorded in the Record of Tags along with DFO issued tags prior to any fishing activity.
- The catch limitation is two fish per calendar day per licence.
- All other management measures are similar to 2021, including the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) (cameras) in both the commercial and the charter fisheries.

## **2022 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.

## **Individual Shares (IS) Tuna Pilot Project**

- Beginning in 2022, the Department will manage a Bluefin tuna Individual Shares (IS) pilot project that will run concurrently with the already established GNS Bluefin tuna management system. This will be a voluntary pilot for GNS Bluefin tuna licence holders who are interested in participating. GNS licence holders who participate in the pilot project will receive an annual initial quota equal their percentage share of the overall GNS Fleet initial quota.
- The fishery will open July 1, 2022 and further details are outlined in the 2022 Conservation Harvesting Plan.

## **Charter Fisheries**

- The GNS charter fishery seasons will be open from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

### **Catch & Release Charter Fishery**

- The Catch & Release management measures remain unchanged from the 2021 season and are reflective of the National Guidelines for the Bluefin Tuna Catch and Release Fishery.

### **Catch & Retain Charter Fishery**

- Those licence holders eligible and licenced to charter clients in the Bluefin tuna fishery will be permitted to catch and retain tuna using their initial commercial tag (s) in the fishery. Any tags that are transferred between licence holders are not authorized to be used in the Catch & Retain fishery. There will be 100% EMS coverage and fishers are required to contact their local Conservation & Protection office at least 72 hours prior to departure to ensure installation of a camera.

## **NEW in 2022**

### **Fishing Gear Reporting System (or Lost Gear Reporting)**

A new online system was launched in July 2021 to allow commercial harvesters to conveniently input lost and retrieved gear information from any smart electronic device. The system is able to capture information such as descriptions, cause of loss and location of the lost gear. Harvesters can create their account and begin reporting through the system at this website: [Sign in \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

### **Mackerel Bait In Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries**

Licence holders are permitted to catch and retain 20 live mackerel per fishing trip for bait purposes in the commercial, the catch and retain, and the catch and release tuna fisheries. This will be reflected in conditions of licence.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Alan Dwyer  
Area Manager, Resource Management  
Gulf Nova Scotia Area, Gulf Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Antigonish, NS  
(902) 735-7114  
[Alan.Dwyer@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Alan.Dwyer@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)