

Changes to BLUEFIN TUNA harvester reporting requirements for 2017



To reduce duplicative reporting between multiple agencies, *MarineFisheries* is **exempting bluefin tuna from the state trip-level reports starting January 1, 2017**. All bluefin tuna reporting must be done through the NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS) program. Please visit www.hmspermits.noaa.gov for further bluefin tuna reporting instructions. The HMS reporting information flyer is also included on the reverse of this document.

The changes to the requirements are outlined here:

2016 Requirements	2017 Requirements
Permit holders with federal reporting vessels are exempt from MA trip level reporting requirements when operating that vessel. They must provide federal permit information for the vessel to <i>MarineFisheries</i> and confirm all commercial activity is onboard that vessel.	No change. Please refer to VTR and HMS instructions for further reporting guidelines.
All state reporting permit holders are required to report all harvest via paper MA trip level reports or via SAFIS eTRIPS.	Trips landing ONLY bluefin tuna should be reported solely to HMS; ALL other harvest must be reported via MA trip level reports or SAFIS eTRIPS. Vessels that ONLY fish for bluefin tuna should select federal reporting as their reporting method. The permit holder must provide his or her HMS permit documentation and confirm all commercial activity is for bluefin tuna.

Please go to our website for a FAQ section and more information. It can be found at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries → Commercial Fishing → Trip Level Reports → General FAQs.

You may also contact the stats program at 978-282-0308 x101 or dmf.stats@state.ma.us for more information.

Report Your HMS Landings

All **bluefin tuna** landings and dead discards, and **swordfish** and **billfish** landings must be reported to NOAA Fisheries within 24 hours of landing.

If you hold the following permits, you must report your catch as indicated.

Commercial: Bluefin tuna Landings & Dead Discards	Recreational: Bluefin tuna, Swordfish and Billfishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Tunas General Permit • Atlantic Tunas Harpoon Permit • Combination Swordfish/Tuna Permits • HMS Charter/Headboat Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMS Angling Permit • HMS Charter/Headboat Permit • Billfishes and swordfish caught within Florida state waters

Maryland and **North Carolina** vessel owners should report their **recreational** bluefin tuna, blue marlin, white marlin, roundscale spearfish, sailfish and swordfish landings at state-operated reporting stations and not through this system.

Note: If you hold permits that require VTR reporting, you must report HMS catch on your VTR in addition to the online requirement.

How to Report

Report Online hmspermits.noaa.gov/catchReports

Report By Phone

Bluefin Tuna (888) 872-8862

Swordfish and Billfish (800) 894-5528

HMS Mobile App hmspermits.noaa.gov/mobileApp

