

# *Notice to Fish Harvesters*

---

EKME: #3941870

July 27, 2018

## **2018 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 for areas 4T-4Wd will open on August 1, 2018 at 6:00 a.m. (ADT). The fishery will remain open until the quota is harvested or until December 1, 2018, whichever comes first. The Catch & Release Fishing season in 4T is from August 1 to October 27 and from September 1 to November 18 in 4WD.

This year, 209 tags will be available to the GNS fleet. Tags will be allocated using the revolving tag list that has been used for the past several years.

Tag transfers are permitted during the 2018 season. Licence holders may receive a maximum transfer of four tags during the season. A tuna licence holder can only do one of the following, not both:

- Transfer tag(s) to another licence holder;
- Receive tag(s) in a transfer.

The revolving tag list will be resumed if additional tag allocations are available upon review of landings as the season progresses.

In 2018, there will be no reallocation of tags. The tags and conditions of licence will be valid for the entire 2018 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 Mondays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., starting on July 30. 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](mailto:GulfInfoGolfe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) to make alternate arrangements for tag pick up during these periods.

Please note, licence holders are required to “hail out” prior to all fishing trips and “hail in” prior to entering port upon completion of all fishing trips. Please see Annex C of the Conditions of Licence and the 4WD portion of the Conditions of Licence for more information regarding “hails” in 4RST and 4WD respectively.



## **New for 2018**

- All 209 initial tags available must be picked up at the Gulf Nova Scotia Area Office by October 3, 2018.
- When fishing in 4RST, licence holders must “hail out” **at least 3 hours prior** to leaving port to a designated Dockside Monitoring Company. This has been reduced from 6 hours in 2017. However, 6 hours will remain if fishing in 4Wd.

## **2018 Mexican Quota**

The GNS Tuna Association plans to authorize tags for their portion of the 2018 Mexican quota via a draw in October. Please contact association representatives for more details.

## **Marine mammal interaction reporting**

In order to comply with the implementation of the US Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA) regulations, licence holders must now provide information regarding all interactions with a marine mammal including: bycatch, collisions and all sightings of entangled marine mammals that occur during fishing expeditions.

A Marine Mammal Interaction Form (included with licence conditions) must be completed and submitted by email to [DFO.NAT.InteractionsMM-InteractionsMM.NAT.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.NAT.InteractionsMM-InteractionsMM.NAT.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) within 48 hours after the end of a fishing trip.

The information provided on the form will be used by DFO to estimate the levels of accidental mortality and injury to marine mammals. This information will allow DFO to better assess the types of threats that may affect Canada’s marine mammals and to develop mitigation strategies.

## **Requirement to report sightings of live whales**

Sightings of live, free-swimming whales must be reported to DFO by telephone: 1-844-800-8568, or by email: [XMARwhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:XMARwhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) .

All other management measures are similar to 2017, including the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (cameras) in both the commercial and the catch and release fisheries.

**For more information, contact:**

**Alan Dwyer**  
**Area Manager, Resource Management**  
**Gulf Nova Scotia Area, Gulf Region**  
**Fisheries and Oceans Canada**  
**Antigonish, NS**  
**902-735-7114**