



Information Package on SBT Longlining in the area of the ETBF in 2018

Background

During the period from May to October, the waters off the east coast of NSW become an area of significant interaction between the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery (SBTF) and the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF). While the ETBF is a multi-species fishery, the SBT Fishery is a single species fishery that requires operators to hold SBT quota that is nominated to their boat in order to take the species. Consequently, ETBF operators cannot take SBT unless they hold sufficient SBT quota to cover the catch.

To address the risk of SBT being taken in the ETBF without quota, AFMA institutes restricted access areas in the ETBF annually. These arrangements require ETBF operators to have minimum SBT quota holdings in order to operate in designated areas of the ETBF where SBT are likely to interact with longline fishing gear.

The location and timing of the SBT zone is determined by analysing information from a range of sources; sea surface temperatures, landing data, observer, VMS data and advice from industry. This model provides AFMA with an indication of the area where SBT is likely to occur.

2018 Arrangements

E-monitoring is now mandatory on all full-time boats within the ETBF. For this reason, observer coverage will not apply in the fishery for 2018 and the SBT arrangements for this season are as follows:

- Only a single SBT zone;
- Uncaught SBT quota must be held by operators to enter the SBT zone;
- A fully functional e-monitoring system must be onboard the vessel when fishing in the zone regardless of the amount of days the vessel may be fishing in the fishery;
- Operators need to aware that only alive and vigorous SBT or those damaged by sharks to the point where they are not fit for human consumption, can be discarded. Any undamaged discarded dead SBT will be deducted from the concession holder's quota. Any discards must be done in full view of the e-monitoring cameras;
- When in the zone operators must carry 50 CDS tags onboard the vessel;
- Operators are required to complete the CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) logbook to enable more precise tracking of individual SBT. The attached fact sheet includes more information on the CDS.
- SBT zone location will be reviewed weekly and updated as necessary.

The Zone

The location of the current SBT Zone was implemented as of 00.01am Monday 21 May 2018.



The current zone is located at:

The northern boundary of the SBT Zone commences at latitude 37°30'S, longitude 150°23.50'E and extends due east from the NSW/VIC border.

A map of the current zone is provided at Attachment 2. AFMA will give at least 24 hours' notice of changes to the zone location to ensure that operators have time to move fishing operations if necessary.

Notification of changes to the SBT zone

The location of the SBT zone is posted on the AFMA website at: <http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/sbt-zones/>. Operators will be notified of changes to the SBT zone via a message sent to their Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

VMS messages will only be sent to those operators who have registered with AFMA. To register for the SBT zone VMS notification, operators must contact Amelinda Byrne on (02) 6225 5411 or at amelinda.byrne@afma.gov.au with their company and boat name. Operators who have previously registered for SBT zone VMS notification do not need to register again in 2018.

An example of the VMS message is:

SBT zone – ICVMS Message – <day> <month> 2017 – ETBF operators

The location of the SBT zone has changed. As of 12.01am on (DAY) (DATE) of (MONTH) 2018 the location of the zone will be:

SBT zone:

Please consult the AFMA website for the further details on the zone location.

<http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/sbt-zones/>

It is the operator's responsibility to know the location of the SBT zone, even if they are not registered for VMS notification.

Links to previous SBT zone locations will also be available on the AFMA website via the above link. If you do not have access to the internet or are experiencing any difficulties with the website, please contact the ETBF Manager on (02) 6225 5363, who can fax you a map of the SBT zone.

Transiting through the SBT zone

If you wish to transit through the area of the SBT zone you must:

- Travel by the most direct route at a speed greater than 5 knots;
- Have all fishing gear stowed and secured at all times; and
- Notify AFMA prior to transiting the SBT zone by fax on 02 6225 5442 or email at monitoring@afma.gov.au.

E-Monitoring

You are required to have a fully-functioning e-monitoring system on-board your boat to fish within the SBT zone regardless of the number of days the boat is fishing in the fishery.



If your e-monitoring system breaks down during a trip and you are within the SBT zones, you can complete your trip. You must contact Archipelago Asia Pacific (02 6162 1192) and organise to have your e-monitoring system repaired as soon as you return to port. You are also required to notify AFMA that you have made arrangements to have your system repaired at e-monitoring@afma.gov.au. If your system cannot be immediately repaired you must take all reasonable steps to make the boat available for the e-monitoring unit to be repaired at the earliest time requested by Archipelago Asia Pacific. You must have a repair time scheduled before you can go fishing again in the SBT zone without carrying an AFMA observer.

If there is a delay in your e-monitoring system repair, you may be required to carry an AFMA observer.

Quota and Catch recording

Quota Nomination

ETBF operators are required to cover all catch of SBT with quota. ALL concessions (including SBT quota holdings) nominated to a boat MUST be nominated under the same name.

Quota Reconciliation

Operators are required to have uncaught SBT quota prior to going fishing within the SBT zone. Where SBT catches exceed your quota holdings, you must obtain sufficient quota to cover ALL SBT catch. If you are over-caught on SBT, you will not be allowed to enter the SBT zone. You have **14 days** from the date of landing to reconcile your quota holdings.

Release of Fish

SBT are only allowed to be released if they are **Alive and Vigorous. SBT discarded in any other state must be covered by quota** (this includes fish that are dead and/or damaged on the line). Discarded SBT that has been damaged by sharks to the point they are not fit for human consumption **will not be deducted** from the concession holder's quota. Please note the release of these fish and any cut-offs must be performed at the tuna door in **full view of an e-monitoring camera**.

AFMA defines an alive and vigorous fish as a healthy specimen that is likely to survive if released. Where possible, a de-hooking or line cutting device should be used to cut the line as close to the hook as possible. If SBT are to be released alive and vigorous they **must not be shot, gaffed or landed on the boat for hook removal** prior to being returned to the sea. If you release SBT after gaffing them, you will have that fish decremented from your quota holding.

If you are found to not comply with these arrangements you will be required to carry an AFMA observer, charged at the full cost-recovered rate of \$1,500 per day (regardless of whether you have an e-monitoring system installed) or may be banned from operating in the SBT zone for the remainder of the fishing season. Failure to comply with these arrangements will jeopardise the access to the SBT zone for all operators.



SBT Overcatch and Undercatch

Under the provisions of the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995* (the Plan), you have **14 days** from the date of landing to reconcile your quota holdings.

If you find yourself in an over-caught position, you will **NOT** be able to re-enter the SBT zone until you acquire enough SBT quota to return to a positive quota holding position.

Undercatch – 20%

AFMA has agreed an undercatch percentage of 20% for the 2017/18 SBT fishing season.

Overcatch

The following overcatch parameters have been agreed for the 2017/18 fishing season. Below is an explanation of each parameter and how they work under the SBT Fishery Management Plan.

- The **‘determined percentage’ (5%)** is the amount of quota that you can catch in one season, but will be deducted from your quota in the following season at a rate of 1:1.
- The **‘determined amount’ (25 tonnes)** is the maximum quota amount that can be taken in excess of your holdings regardless of the percentage, or size of your holding.
- It should be noted that the ‘determined percentage’ and ‘determined amount’ are used to work out the ‘calculated excess’ for the holder of an SFR. The **‘calculated excess’ must always be the lesser of either the ‘determined percentage’ or the ‘determined amount’**.
- The **‘determined additional weight’ (2 tonnes)** is the weight of SBT quota that can be taken above the ‘calculated excess’. This is deducted in the following season at a rate of 2:1.

You must keep track of your catch and quota and ensure you reconcile your quota holdings prior to the due date.

Logbook Recording

Boats that catch SBT using longline or minor line methods are required to complete the AL06 Australian Pelagic Longline Daily Fishing Log or the LN01A Line Fishing Daily Fishing Log to record their retained SBT.

Both the AL06 and LN01A should be completed in accordance with the instructions at the start of the book. These books can be obtained by contacting Anne Shepherd on (02) 6225 5361.

Catch Disposal Record

Boats that catch SBT using longline or minor line methods are also required under their SFR conditions to complete the PT02B Commonwealth Pelagic Catch Disposal Record to record their landed SBT. The PT02B should be completed in accordance with the instructions at the start of the book. This book can be obtained by contacting Anne Shepherd at AFMA on (02) 6225 5361.



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All boats that catch SBT are required to comply with the CCSBT CDS. This includes tagging, weighing and measuring all whole fish and completing the Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A). A Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C) must also be completed and sent with all SBT regardless of whether the fish are sold domestically or exported. For further information on the CDS please refer to the fact sheet at **Attachment 1** or contact Matt Daniel on (02) 6225 5338.

Northern Bluefin Tuna

If the holder takes a Northern Pacific Bluefin Tuna or Southern Bluefin Tuna then they must:

(a) Report the following information to AFMA by email to northernbluefin@afma.gov.au (or to fax (02) 6225 5440 if email is not possible) at least one hour prior to the boat mooring or anchoring at port:

- i. NBT/SBT report;
- ii. the name of the boat;
- iii. distinguishing symbol of the boat;
- iv. port of landing;
- v. date and time of landing;
- vi. number and weight of Northern Pacific Bluefin Tuna on board;
- vii. number and weight of Southern Bluefin Tuna on board;

(b) Determine whether the fish is a Northern Bluefin or Southern Bluefin:

- i. if the Bluefin Tuna was taken north of 28 degrees south or was greater than 220cm fork length, it may be deemed to be a Northern Bluefin Tuna; or
- ii. if the Bluefin Tuna was taken south of 28 degrees south, between 1 January and 1 May and was greater than 200cm, it may be deemed to be a Northern Bluefin Tuna; or
- iii. if the Bluefin cannot be deemed a Northern Bluefin in part (b)(i) or (b)(ii) the holder must:
 - a. Obtain genetic testing showing that the fish in question is a Northern Bluefin (AFMA will then deem the fish a Northern Bluefin); or
 - b. For fish exported to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (Tsukiji market), document the fish as a Northern Bluefin Tuna on the relevant Catch Disposal Record (CDR) and provide the documentation from the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (Tsukiji market) showing the fish was sold as a Northern Bluefin Tuna (AFMA will then deem the fish as a Northern Bluefin).

Should the landed tuna be deemed a Southern Bluefin Tuna (either by the holder or through identification) the holder must comply with all requirements of the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995*.



Other Information

Compliance with arrangements

E-monitoring footage will be reviewed at a coverage level of 10% across the ETBF and operators will receive feedback reports displaying a comparison of the e-monitoring footage analysis and their logbook records for individual shots reviewed. Where non-compliance with the SBT arrangements is viewed, AFMA compliance or management action will be taken.

Information from industry

Any information on the setting of the lines, what the water is doing, where SBT may be occurring or where fishing is occurring with no SBT being caught is appreciated and helps in setting of the SBT zone location accurately and effectively.

AFMA seeks to gain industry information/feedback before updating the location of the SBT zone. You can provide information by calling the ETBF manager on (02) 6225 5363.

Contact details

For any enquiries relating to this document please contact the relevant AFMA or Archipelago Asia Pacific staff below.

Contact Area	Contact Name	Contact Details
Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP)	Matt Piasente	(02) 6154 6173 or Matt.Piasente@archipelago-ap.com.au
VMS registration and SBT zone enquiries	Amelinda Byrne	(02) 6225 5411 or amelinda.byrne@afma.gov.au
ETBF Manager	Don Bromhead	(02) 6225 5363 or don.bromhead@afma.gov.au
Transiting the SBT zone	AFMA Monitoring	Fax: (02) 6225 5442 or email: monitoring@afma.gov.au
Logbook recording and CDR	Anne Shepherd	(02) 6225 5361 or anne.shepherd@afma.gov.au
SBT Manager	Matt Daniel	(02) 6225 5338 or matt.daniel@afma.gov.au



Attachment 1

Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme Fact Sheet

Tags

AFMA approved tags may be obtained from the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association (ASBTIA) (minimum order 50) by contacting:

Kirsty Rough
Phone: (08) 8682 3257
Email: SBT_Research@bigpond.com

Before you go to sea make sure you have:

- 1) 50 AFMA approved SBT tags on board;
- 2) access to the Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A); and
- 3) access to Catch Monitoring Forms (CMAU02C).

While you are at sea:

- 1) Tag each SBT, with an AFMA approved tag in such a way that the tag is not reusable.
- 2) If you run out of tags at sea any **untagged SBT must be kept on the boat** until tags can be obtained and the fish tagged. If this situation arises, AFMA must be notified prior to landing of the number of untagged fish on board.
Email: sbtmonitoring@afma.gov.au
Fax: (02) 6225 5440
Phone: 1300 763 621 (ask for Data Processing)

When you land:

- 1) Weigh and measure each SBT and record each SBT on the **Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A)**. Ensure this is done before the SBT is frozen.
- 2) Land your SBT to a Commonwealth Fish Receiver Permit (FRP) holder who is registered with AFMA to receive Southern Bluefin Tuna.
- 3) Fill out the Catch/Harvest Section of the **Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C)**.
- 4) Have the Catch/Harvest Section of the **Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C)** validated by the fish receiver.
- 5) Give the **white** and **yellow copies** of the **Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C)** to the FRP holder.



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6) Send the **pink copy** of the **Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C)** to AFMA within **3 business days** of landing.

7) Send the completed original **white Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A)** to AFMA within 3 business days of landing.

8) The **yellow copy** of the **Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A)** and the **green copy** of the **Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C)** should be **retained** by the SFR holder.

If you have any questions regarding the Catch Documentation Scheme please contact Matt Daniel on (02) 6225 5338 or matt.daniel@afma.gov.au.