

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
AMPHIBIANS							
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Frog, Mississippi gopher.	<i>Rana capitol sevosa</i>	U.S.A. (AL, FL, LA, MS).	Wherever found west of Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers in AL, MS, and LA.	E	718	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*

Dated: November 26, 2001.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01-29923 Filed 12-3-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 112801A]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: General category closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the 2001 fishing year Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) General category quota will be attained by November 30, 2001. Therefore, the General category fishery will be closed effective 11:30 p.m. on November 30, 2001. This action is being taken to prevent overharvest of the total adjusted General category quota of 919.7 metric tons (mt).

DATES: Effective 11:30 p.m. local time on November 30, 2001, through May 31, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brad McHale or Pat Scida, 978-281-9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.27 subdivides the U.S. BFT quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of

Atlantic Tunas among the various domestic fishing categories. The General category landings quota, including time-period subquotas and the New York Bight set-aside, are specified annually as required under § 635.27 (a)(1). The 2001 fishing year General category quota and effort control specifications were issued on July 13, 2001 (66 FR 37421, July 18, 2001).

General Category Closure

NMFS is required, under § 635.28 (a)(1), to file with the Office of the Federal Register for publication notification of closure when a BFT quota is reached, or is projected to be reached. On and after the effective date and time of such closure notification, for the remainder of the fishing year or for a specified period as indicated in the notification, fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing BFT under that quota category is prohibited until the opening of the subsequent quota period or until such date as specified in the notification.

The adjusted 2001 fishing year BFT quota specifications issued pursuant to § 635.27 set a total adjusted General category quota of 919.7 mt, including the New York bight set-aside, of large medium and giant BFT to be harvested from the regulatory area during the 2001 fishing year. Based on reported landings and effort, NMFS projects that this quota will be reached by November 30, 2001. Therefore, fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing large medium or giant BFT intended for sale by persons aboard vessels in the General or Charter/Headboat categories must cease at 11:30 p.m. local time November 30, 2001. The intent of this closure is to prevent overharvest of the quota established for the General category.

General category permit holders may tag and release BFT while the General category is closed, subject to the requirements of the tag-and-release program at § 635.26. Vessels permitted in the Charter/Headboat category may

continue to fish for and retain BFT under the Angling category regulations. The current Angling category daily retention limit, effective from November 1, 2001 through May 31, 2002 is one large school or small medium BFT (measuring from 47 to less than 73 inches (from 69 to less than 119 cm) curved fork length) (66 FR 31844, June 13, 2001). In addition, Angling and Charter/Headboat category vessels may retain one large medium or giant "trophy" BFT, measuring 73 inches (185 cm) or greater, per fishing year (June 1 through May 31).

Classification

This action is taken under § 635.28 (a) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 28, 2001.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 010208032-1109-02; I.D. 112601D]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for New York

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Commercial quota harvest; closure.