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NOAA Fisheries Issues Final Rule Moving Dealer Reporting of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna to SAFIS eDR

Arlington, VA - NOAA Fisheries has issued a final rule modifying the dealer landings reporting methodology for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Beginning July 28, 2016, all federal dealers of bluefin tuna must report bluefin tuna landings from U.S. vessels electronically using eDealer (eDR), the electronic dealer reporting application of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program's (ACCSP) Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS).

Previously, bluefin tuna dealers reported landings via paper forms faxed to NOAA Fisheries and processed by specialized software. Issues with this software and the need for more accurate landings data have prompted NOAA Fisheries to move to electronic reporting for landings of bluefin tuna. Already used by many highly migratory species dealers, eDR simplifies the reporting process by allowing dealers to enter and submit landings data online. Dealers who already use SAFIS regularly will now be able to reduce their reporting burden further by entering all species landed per trip into eDR, including bluefin tuna.

The final rule can be viewed here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/29/2016-15333/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-atlantic-bluefin-tuna-fisheries>. NOAA Fisheries will host two public webinars to explain the management measures and effective date outlined. Details for accessing webinars can be found here: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/news/news_list/2016/6/ebft_reporting_062816.html.

For more information, please contact Ali Schwaab, ACCSP Outreach Coordinator, at info@accsp.org or 703.842.0780.

About the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the ASMFC, NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC, the 15 Atlantic states, PRFC, D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For more information please visit www.accsp.org.