

New Fishing Rules for Southern Bluefin Tuna – Frequently Asked Questions

July 2015

What are the new recreational fishing rules for Southern Bluefin Tuna in NSW?

The new bag limit for Southern Bluefin Tuna is 1 per person. A possession limit of 1 is also in place.

Are there any boat limits for Southern Bluefin Tuna?

No.

How have the new rules been introduced?

The new rules were introduced by way of a Ministerial Order and implementation of a section 8 notification under the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

The Minister for Primary Industries has made a Ministerial Order to authorise recreational fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) subject to compliance with the Act. The Order was given effect via a section 8 fishing closure notification. A new Regulation is now in place - the Fisheries Management (General) Amendment (Southern Bluefin Tuna) Regulation 2015.

Why was a Ministerial Order implemented?

When a species is listed as threatened, it becomes an offence to harm or possess the species without the appropriate approvals.

Southern Bluefin Tuna is listed as endangered in NSW and to allow ongoing recreational fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna a Ministerial Order has been put in place, which takes account of its endangered species classification.

Before the Minister can make an Order, a species impact statement in relation to the activity must be prepared, and the public given an opportunity to make written submissions on the proposed Order. The Species Impact Statement (SIS) and associated draft Ministerial Order for Southern Bluefin Tuna were placed on exhibition for public comment from 6 March to 16 April 2014. All submissions received were considered before the final Order was made.

New regulatory arrangements are considered essential to protect Southern Bluefin Tuna while at the same time ensuring the recreational fishery can provide social and economic benefits into the future.

Were any alternative arrangements considered?

Yes. As well as reducing the daily bag limit for Southern Bluefin Tuna from 7 to 1, the SIS also proposed to introduce a boat limit of 2 and a charter boat limit of 6 Southern Bluefin Tuna. However after consideration of additional new information and a review of public submissions it was decided not to proceed with the proposed boat limits for Southern Bluefin Tuna.

Why were Southern Bluefin Tuna listed as endangered?

The NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee reviewed the available literature and found that Southern Bluefin Tuna is facing a very high risk of extinction in NSW in the near future.

Do I need a recreational fishing licence to take Southern Bluefin Tuna?

Yes. NSW Recreational Fishing Licences can be purchased from local Fisheries NSW fisheries offices, at fishing fee agents, by calling 1300 369 365 or online at www.licence.nsw.gov.au

Where can I find more information?

The Species Impact Statement, Ministerial Order and section 8 notification can be found on DPI's webpage: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

A Primefact on Southern Bluefin Tuna can also be found on DPI's webpage:
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/conservation/what-current/endangered-species/sbt/primefact-southern-bluefin-tuna-thunnus-maccoyii>

The full final determination for the species can be found on the FSC's webpage: www.fsc.nsw.gov.au

How do I report illegal fishing?

You can report illegal fishing by phoning 1800 043 536 or by completing the online form:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance/report-illegal-activity

More information

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

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