

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT 4 ON UNMANAGED
FORAGE FISH PROTECTION INITIATIVE

CDFW is supportive of an “absolute” possession limit when applied to Bluefin tuna possession in the EEZ or State waters. This possession limit would also allow the current “multi-day” limit offered by both California law (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 27.15) and Mexican law to be accommodated. This will remove any confusion of what laws apply to anglers who fish for Bluefin tuna outside of the EEZ and return to a California port. However, in order to adequately enforce and track a differential limit on Bluefin tuna it will be necessary for anglers to preserve the fish in a way to allow identification for port samplers and enforcement personnel. In addition, CDFG Code section 5509 requires vessels landing fish to maintain them in a condition that will allow species identification unless otherwise specified.

There are currently no provisions for identification of tuna species as the current limits are in the aggregate. If differential limits become effective, all tuna species will need to be identifiable when possessed aboard a vessel.

We look forward to working with interested parties to establish reliable and consistent methods to determine the best way to accomplish identifying tuna species to meet the needs of industry, management, and enforcement.