

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON PRELIMINARY 2014  
 RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH**

Further review of CDFW landing receipts shows that 403.7 mt of PBF have been landed in California by the commercial fleet, out of the 500 mt limit. In September 2014, a mis-reporting of landing receipts to CDFW resulted in an estimate of 451 mt, triggering NMFS to close the commercial fishery. After examination of all records, this number was revised to 401 mt.

In September 2014, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a preliminary report on recreational catch of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) landed in 2014. Agenda Items G.4.a and G.4.b, CDFW Reports 1 and 2, provide an overview of available data sets, methodology, and preliminary recreational landing numbers through August 2014. This report 2 provides updated CPFV and private angler estimates for PBF catch in U.S. and Mexico waters, including both numbers of fish and metric tons (as calculated from IATTC dockside sampling data). While CPFV landings of bluefin tuna have slowed, because of delays in submission cited in Report 2, CDFW staff again hand-tallied bluefin tuna logs to augment what was already in the system for this update. Given recent IATTC decisions for semiannual reporting of bluefin, these inherent delays in reporting and staff time to tally un-entered data may have to be taken into account; submission time could be improved by future development of electronic log submission (see also HMSMT Supplemental Report Agenda Item C.4).

The estimated recreational catch for 2014 is 27,321 fish; 423.5 mt (based on 15.5 kg average per fish).

**Table 1. CRFS PR1 bluefin tuna counts from sample data, 2013 and 2014. Source - CRFS database extract; 2014 numbers are preliminary.**

Fishing area	2013 Sampler Observed + Reported Kept (A+B1)	2014 Sampler Observed + Reported Kept (A+B1) PRELIMINARY THROUGH November 14, 2014	2014 CRFS Private and Rental (PR1) Estimates	2014 PR1 Estimates Metric Tons <sup>‡</sup>
Offshore California	22	220	2,613	40.5
Both US/Mexico*		*	*	
Mexico	97	33	**	
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>40.5</b>

\* Table 2 in September CDFW Report 2, item G.4.b, included hand tallied numbers. RecFIN data do not differentiate border blocks from US or Mexico waters.

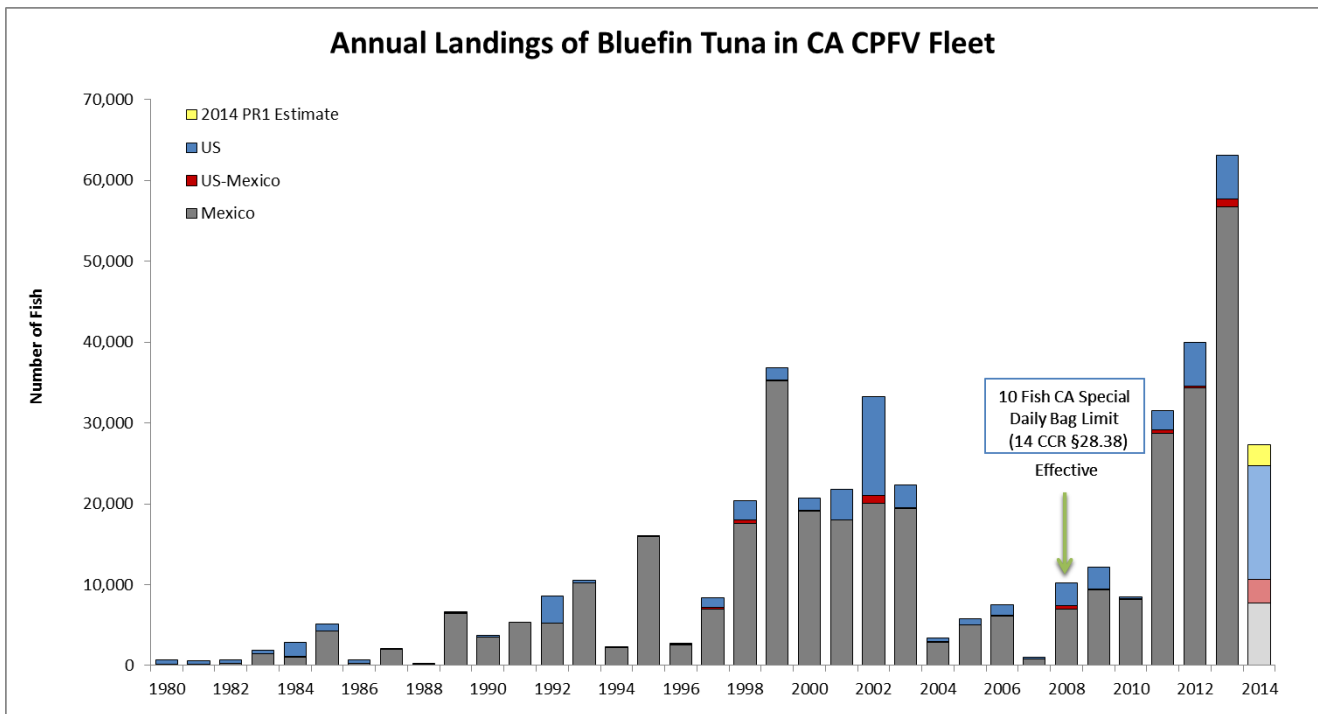
\*\* RecFIN does not provide estimates for Mexico catch.

‡ Metric tons estimated from IATTC dockside sampling. Average of 15.5 kg per fish.

**Table 2. CPFV PBF landings by region in number of fish, 2013-2014, and metric tons for 2014 (based on 15.5 kg average weight per fish from the IATTC sampling data). 2014 data is preliminary.**

Month	Fishing Area	2013 Reported Bluefin Kept	2014 Reported Bluefin Kept	2013 Cumulative Total	2014 Preliminary Cumulative Total	2014 Preliminary Cumulative Total in Metric Tons
Jan	ALL	0	0	0	0	0.0
Feb	ALL	0	0	0	0	0.0
Mar	US	12	0	12	3	0.0
	US/MX	0	0			
	MX	0	3			
Apr	ALL	0	0	12	3	0.0
May	US	0	0	12	869	13.5
	US/MX	0	0			
	MX	0	866			
June	US	9	2	3,045	1,499	23.2
	US/MX	49	8			
	MX	2,975	620			
July	US	865	7,425	23,090	14,400	223.2
	US/MX	311	1,532			
	MX	18,869	3,944 <sup>a</sup>			
Aug	US	2,097	4,183	46,142	21,606	334.9
	US/MX	227	1,025			
	MX	20,728	1,998			
Sept	US	2,117	2,283	58,806	24,516	380.0
	US/MX	58	329			
	MX	10,489	298			
Oct	US	319	191	63,185	24,708	383.0
	US/MX	409	1			
	MX	3,651	0			
Nov	ALL	0	0	63,185	24,708	383.0
Dec	ALL	0	0	63,185	24,708	<b>383.0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>63,185</b>	<b>24,708</b>			

<sup>a</sup>Mexico closed all bluefin tuna fishing July 2014.



**Figure 1. Annual landings of Pacific bluefin tuna in the CPFV fishery, 1980-2014, including CRFS PR1 estimate for 2014 (preliminary). (Source: CDFW MLS System (MLS), CDFW CPFV logs, CRFS; extracted 11/13/2014)**

**Notes:**

US waters defined as CDFW blocks  $\leq 899$  except for 877-882, and 950; US-Mexico waters defined as blocks 877-882 which are divided by the US-Mexico border; Mexico waters defined as blocks  $\geq 900$  except for 950. The increasing success in catch rates in recent years has been attributed to the increase in fishing effort in the vicinity of floating grow-out pens off northern Baja, which could be a contributing factor. These pens hold PBF taken in the Mexican commercial purse seine fishery, and appear to have the effect of serving as fish aggregation devices. California landings have also increased during the same period.