Pacific Bluefin Tuna Trip Limit Options

November 2026

		Status Quo	**Running Start**	**Run Down the Middle**	**Pedal to the Floor**
2025	Annual Limit	1,285 mt	1,285 mt	1,285 mt	1,285 mt
	Initial Trip Limit	30 mt	50 mt	60 mt	75 mt
	First Reduction Point: if total catch is…	> 985 mt	> 985 mt	> 985 mt	> 885 mt
	Buffer amount:	*300 mt*	*300 mt*	*300 mt*	*400 mt*
	First Reduced Trip Limit	20 mt	25 mt	40 mt	50 mt
	Second Reduction Point: if total catch is…	> 1,185 mt	> 1,185 mt	> 1,085 mt	> 1,085 mt
	Buffer amount:	*100 mt*	*100 mt*	*200 mt*	*200 mt*
	Second Reduced Trip Limit	3 mt	5 mt	5 mt	5 mt
2026	Annual Limit*	537 mt+	537 mt+	537 mt+	537 mt+
	Initial Trip Limit	30 mt	50 mt	60 mt	75 mt
	First Reduction Point: if total catch is…	> 1,522 mt *(biennial total)*	> 985 mt (single year), or > 1,522 mt (biennial total)	> 985 mt (single year), or > 1,522 mt (biennial total)	> 985 mt (single year), or > 1,522 mt (biennial total)
	Buffer amount:	*300 mt*	*300 mt*	*300 mt*	*300 mt*
	First Reduced Trip Limit	20 mt	25 mt	40 mt	50 mt
	Second Reduction Point: if total catch is…	> 1,722 mt *(biennial total)*	> 1,185 mt *(single year)*, or > 1,722 mt *(biennial total)*	> 1,185 mt *(single year)*, or > 1,722 mt *(biennial total)*	> 1,185 mt *(single year)*, or > 1,722 mt *(biennial total)*
	Buffer amount:	*100 mt*	*100 mt*	*100 mt*	*100 mt*
	Second Reduced Trip Limit	3 mt	5 mt	5 mt	5 mt

Option 1: Status Quo

Retain the current Run Down the Middle trip limit design. Initial limits, reduction points, and buffers are in the PBF regulations at 50 CFR 300.25(g).

January - June:

- Initial trip limit = 60 mt
- The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once total catch is within 400 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 225 mt of the annual limit.

July - September:

- The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 300 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 175 mt of the annual limit.

October - December:

- The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 200 mt of the annual limit.

The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 125 mt of the annual limit.

Option 2: Green Light

Retain the Run Down the Middle reduction points and seasonal structure, while adding thresholds that would increase the trip limit when the annual or biennial catch limit is not projected to be attained.

January - June:

- Initial trip limit = 60 mt
- *No green light trip limit increases in this period*
- The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once total catch is within 400 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 225 mt of the annual limit.

July - September:

- *The trip limit increases to 75 mt if total catch is not within 600 mt of the annual limit*
- The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 300 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 175 mt of the annual limit.

October - December:

- *The trip limit increases to 75 mt if total catch is not within 400 mt of the annual limit*
- The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 200 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 125 mt of the annual limit.

Option 3: Pedal to the Floor

Apply a 75-mt initial trip limit, with reduction points and seasonal adjustments based on the Pedal to the Floor design. Reduction buffers could be made more precautionary to reduce the risk of exceeding the annual or biennial limit. For example, a buffer could be increased from 300 mt to 400 mt, depending on the 2027–2028 catch limits and the Council's and NMFS's risk tolerance.

January - June:

- Initial trip limit = 75 mt
- The trip limit reduces to 50 mt once total catch is within 400 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 200 mt of the annual limit.

July - September:

- The trip limit reduces to 50 mt once catch is within 300 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 175 mt of the annual limit.

October - December:

- The trip limit reduces to 50 mt once catch is within 200 mt of the annual limit.
- The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 125 mt of the annual limit.

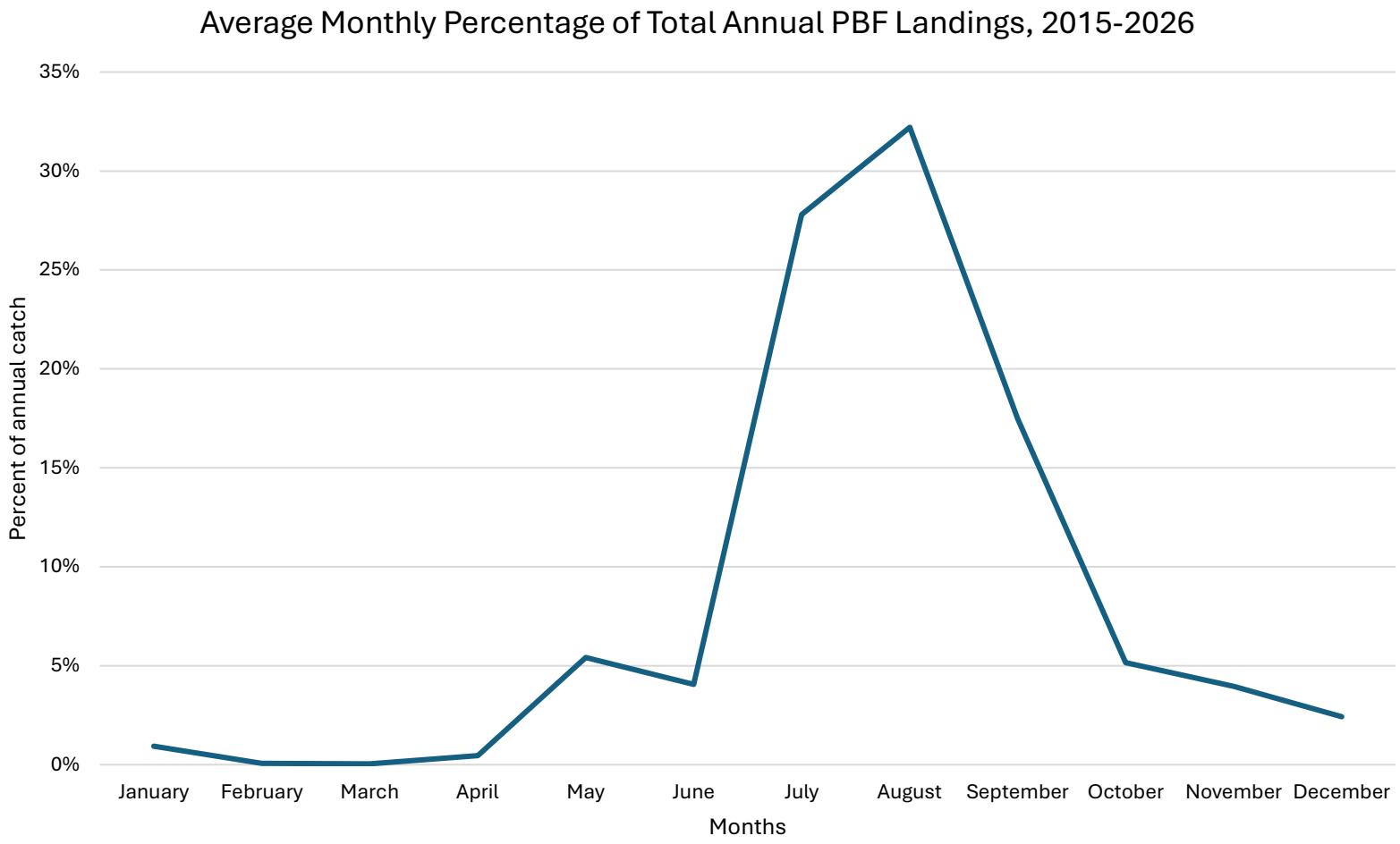
Table 1: PBF U.S. Commercial Limits and Landings Data (PacFIN data, October 2026)

Year	U.S. Commercial Limit (mt)	Total Landings (rd. wt. mt)	Percent Attainment (Total Landings)	Participation (Number of Vessels)	Purse Seine Landings (rd wt mt)	Purse Seine Participation (# of vessels)
2026	1,285	692	54%	144	606.7*	9
2025	1,285	118	9%	144	***	<3
2024	720	135	19%	141	0	0
2023	720	192	27%	197	***	<3
2022	523	368	70%	199	197.92	8
2021	425	217	51%	157	***	3
2020	356	231	65%	132	***	6
2019	425	274	64%	123	226.11	9
2018	114	65	57%	83	11.53	8
2017	425	486	114%	58	466.43	8
2016	425	356	84%	84	315.72	5
2015	425	98	23%	64	86.43	5

Table 2. Landings Scenarios

	1 Trip per vessel	
# Vessels	**Landings (60mt TL)**	**Landings (75mt TL)**
1	60	75
2	120	150
3	180	225
4	240	300
5	300	375
6	360	450
7	420	525
8	480	600
9	540	675
10	600	750
11	660	825
12	720	900
13	780	975
14	840	1050
15	900	1125
16	960	1200

Figure 1: Illustration of monthly landings, as a percentage of total annual PBF landings, 2015-2026.



Impacts and Choices

- Over-attainment
- Cost-benefit
- Market/prices
- Other considerations

Council Action

Option 1: Status Quo

Option 2: Green Light

Option 3: Pedal to the Floor