

Gamefish Catch Report for Bluefin Tuna in 2008

Dear Skipper/Operator

We need your help to monitor bluefin tuna to ensure a viable and sustainable world class game fishery for these species in New Zealand waters.

At a meeting with charter skippers and operators at Westport on 25th August 2008, it was agreed that the Ministry of Fisheries would provide a form to enable operators to report the number and weight of bluefin tuna landed and retained by anglers during the 2008 West Coast fishing season. The agreement is to report the number of bluefin and the average weight.

Independently, tag reports will be compiled from the New Zealand cooperative tagging programme to monitor the number and weights of released fish. It is important that anglers (or charter skippers on their behalf) fill out and return these forms to ensure valuable release information is logged.

If you kept a diary and are able to provide similar details for fish retained, as the Tag Report Card requests for fish tagged and released, then this provides additional and comparable information for characterising the fishery. At your discretion and if you have this information fill out the supplementary information on the back of the form provided.

Please complete this form, using as many sheets as necessary, as soon as possible and place (along with any outstanding tag reports) in the enclosed freepost envelope.

Summary results will be displayed on the MFish website (www.fish.govt.nz).

If you have any questions, wish to discuss the matter further, or provide data over the phone do not hesitate to contact me.

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