



Marine
Management
Organisation



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Permit application for the English Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Catch and Release Recreational Fishery 2025

Introduction

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Defra are launching a bluefin tuna (BFT) catch and release recreational fishery (CRRF) for permitted vessels, which will take place in English waters. The fishery season will be between 18 July to 30 November 2025.

To be eligible to apply you must:

- Be the owner of a vessel registered in the United Kingdom under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.
- Have a vessel 5 metres or greater in overall length and powered by an engine/motor.
- Use rod and reel fishing gears only. No chumming will be permitted.
- Not have secured a 2025 permit for the UK commercial BFT fishery trial, or any other UK bluefin tuna catch and release recreational fishery.

How to complete and submit the application:

You will need the following information before starting the application:

- Vessel details including: name, length, UKSR number, small commercial vessel certificate number (if applicable), external hull registration markings
- Vessel Owner details including: name, postal address, email address, phone number, names and contact details of any additional owners associated with the vessel
- The UK Ships Register (UKSR) certificate of the vessel.
- A photograph of the vessel displaying external registration marking on the hull to allow for identification.
- If your vessel is used for charter fishing trips, you will need to provide a copy of your Small Commercial Vessel Certificate (SCV2). The SCV2 must relate to the vessel within your application and must be valid to 30 November 2025.

Applications must be completed on an individual basis. Group applications will not be accepted. If an applicant owns more than one vessel, and wants to apply for more than one permit, separate applications will be required for each vessel.

When completing this form, you should:

- Answer all required questions. Incomplete applications forms will not be considered.
- Understand that it is your responsibility to check you have submitted all necessary evidence. In the event you fail to submit all evidence in your application, you must fully complete a new application before the deadline.
- If you have any problems completing this application form, please contact the UK Single Issuing Authority (UKSIA) at BFT.Recreational@marinemanagement.org.uk

For your application to be considered, all evidence must be attached to the application form (up to 4 documents can be attached). If you fail to attach the necessary evidence your application will not be considered further.

The MMO will not perform form completion checks until the application deadline has passed. If you identify that you have failed to submit all evidence in your application, you must fully complete a new application before the deadline.

You will need to complete, attach, and submit the following:

1. Complete this BFT CRRF application form, answering all required questions.
2. Attach a copy of the UK Ship Register certificate showing that the vessel named in the application has been registered on either part 1, 2 or 3 of the UK ships register.
3. If you wish to use the vessel for charter fishing trips provide a copy of your Small Commercial Vessel Certificate (SCV2). The SCV2 must relate to the vessel within your application and must be valid to 30 November 2025.
4. Provide a photograph of the vessel displaying external registration marking on the hull to allow for identification.

Applications are open from 17 April and will close at midnight on Sunday 18 May 2025. Applications received after this period will not be considered.

Applications will be prioritised in the following format:**Priority 1: Applications where the owner of the vessel named in the application has recent, high quality, verifiable, UK experience AND training.**

Those applying under this category must:

- have held a permit and reported trips in a 2024 UK BFT CRRF
- **and** undertaken recognised training, either through the UK Cefas CHART* programme, or FaSS* funded 'Recreational Angling Training for Bluefin Tuna Permit Holders 2024' overseen by UKBFTA.

**The Catch And Release Tag (CHART) Scientific Data Collection Programme was administered by Cefas. The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS), was administered by MMO*

Priority 2: Applications where the owner of the vessel named in the application has undertaken older, high quality and verifiable UK training:

Those applying under this category must have skippered, owned or crewed on a vessel that participated in a UK CHART programme.

Priority 3: The remaining applications where the owner of a vessel named in the application has not undertaken verifiable UK Bluefin tuna training:

A minimum of ten permits will be allocated to this priority to ensure access the fishery for new entrants. If you are successful under this category, you are strongly encouraged to undertake training, details of which will be confirmed later.

Where there are less permits than applicants within a given priority group a ballot will be used. There will be separate ballot for private and charter vessels.

Complaints and disputes process

For any complaints please contact the MMO using the published [customer complaints procedure](#).

How your data will be handled:

MMO Data Privacy Notice: [Personal information charter - Marine Management Organisation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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* Required fields

Section 1: Vessel Details

1. Vessel Name * _____
2. Vessel length (Overall length) * _____
3. Confirmation your vessel is powered by an engine/motor (Y/N) * _____
4. UK Ship Registry Number* _____
5. Will you be operating as a BFT CRRF chartering vessel? (Y/N) * _____
6. Small Commercial Vessel Certificate Number (If your vessel is used for charter trips) _____
7. External Registration markings on the hull * _____

Section 2: Vessel Owner Details

If any of the owner details do not match those already on record, we may need to contact you.

1. Name of vessel owner * _____
2. Owner Address * _____
3. Owner Email Address * _____
4. Owner Mobile Telephone Number (format +44123456789) * _____
5. Are you over 18 years old? Y/N* _____
6. If under 18 years old, please provide your date of birth. _____
7. Please provide the names and contact details of any additional owners associated with the vessel detailed in section 1. (if applicable). _____

Section 3: BFT Experience

1. Please select which category you believe you are within. Select from the following;

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Priority 1: Owner of the vessel named in the application has recent, high quality, verifiable UK experience AND training.

Those applying under this category must:

- have held a permit and reported trips in a 2024 UK BFT CRRF and
- have undertaken recognised training, either through the Cefas UK CHART programme, or FaSS funded 'Recreational Angling Training for Bluefin Tuna Permit Holders 2024' overseen by UKBFTA.

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Priority 2: Owner of the vessel named in the application has older, high quality, verifiable, UK training:

Those applying under this category must have skippered, owned or crewed on a vessel that participated in a UK CHART training and programme.

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Priority 3: No verifiable UK training:

Remaining applications not in priority 1 or 2 will be allocated to priority 3.

If you applied to attend training and the training was cancelled, please provide evidence of the date you were due to attend and a copy of the email confirming the session was cancelled. MMO may need to check with the training provider.

Please explain and provide your rationale why you have selected the category above, in the text box below.* Please provide the name of the permitted vessel you operated in 2024 and the name and approximate date of the training you attended in the text box below.

Section 4: Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions

By issuing this application process, UKSIA is not bound to accept any application, or grant a recreational bluefin tuna fishing permit to any applicant.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they understand the requirements for this application process. If any information is unclear, you can raise a query with the UKSIA at BFT.Recreational@marinemanagement.org.uk

The UKSIA will respond to all clarifications as quickly as possible but cannot guarantee a minimum response time. It is the responsibility of applicants to make sure that they raise any queries sufficiently early to allow them to submit their application by the deadline. If a query is relevant to other applicants, the UKSIA will share all clarifications with other applicants, as and when necessary.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring they submit a complete and accurate application and provide all the information requested. Only completed applications will be considered.

The MMO will not perform form completion checks until the application deadline has passed. If you identify that you have failed to submit all evidence in your application, or an applicant needs to make an amendment to an application submitted, the applicant must contact BFT.Recreational@marinemanagement.org.uk to withdraw their existing application and submit a new application that is fully completed with all evidence attached before the expiry of the application deadline.

Applicants can withdraw an application at any time by contacting the UKSIA at BFT.Recreational@marinemanagement.org.uk

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. The UKSIA may also, at its own discretion, change the deadline and in such circumstances, the UKSIA will notify all applicants of any change via email.

MMO reserves the right to amend or withdraw this guidance and the application process at any time. This could include by way of example amending the process for submitting applications or extending the deadline.

Successful applicants are encouraged to attend a short online demonstration of the BFT reporting tool to understand how to deliver on their mandatory BFT reporting requirements run by the MMO prior to their permit being issued.

Section 5: Declaration

By submitting this application, you are agreeing that the information you have provided is to the best of your knowledge, true and accurate.

Any personal information provided within your application will be handled only for the purpose of processing your application and in year monitoring.

You can find out more about the MMO's standards for requesting and processing personal information in the [MMO personal information charter](#).

The MMO reserves the right to use your details and statement within your application to validate/verify CHART participation with Cefas, BFT training undertaken by UKBFTA and/or other bodies overseeing other CHART Programmes (see section 3).

The UK is mandated to share information (shown below) with ICCAT when requested on fishing vessels used for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, which may be published by ICCAT. For more information read the [ICCAT recommendation 22-08](#).

Name of vessel	MMO	Upon request
Register number	MMO	Upon request
ICCAT record number (if any)	MMO	Upon request
Previous vessel names (if any)	MMO	Upon request
Name of skipper	MMO	Upon request
Address of skipper	MMO	Upon request

*I am applying for a recreational bluefin tuna permit as the Vessel Owner: **

☐ I confirm that I accept the terms and conditions laid out above.*

☐ I understand that the UKSIA may contact the vessel owner directly in relation to this application.*

☐ I confirm that if my application is successful, I 'the owner' am responsible for ensuring my permitted vessel's BFT activity is reported to the MMO after each permit trip within 24 hours of completing each trip. Information on 'how to report' will be supplied to all successful applicants via email prior to the fishery opening.*

☐ I understand that if my application is successful, it only relates to this years 2025 fishing season only. It does not guarantee success in future BFT seasons.*

1. Name*

2. Date*
