

## **BY-CATCH PROTOCOL**

## Bluefin TUNA Catch and Release Recreational Fishery By-Catch Mitigation Protocol

RATING	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
No risk to Minimal Risk	Isolated bird or cetacean species feature activity visible but in far distance.	Fishing carries on as Normal.  Observer/skipper advises crew of possible sightings.
Be Alert	Cetaceans may generally approach or circle the boat out of interest or be attracted to towed spreader bar.  Birds may be circling or resting on water close by.	Fishing carries on as normal.  Skipper and all crew to be alert to developing risks and ready to take evasive action.
Avoid	Species features poising to attack bait or lures.  Cetaceans will be actively feeding in the area and may show interest in float fished baits or lunging at lures/entering the area of the spread  Birds repeatedly poising and diving on the baits or within the area of the spread.	Skipper will instruct crew to bring in lines, tackle and baits immediately.  Skipper to move out of area immediately or wait for the interaction risk to pass.
Cease and Review	Cetacean or bird feature species is accidentally captured.	Cetacean or bird released unharmed wherever possible.  It is recommended that such events are reported to the MMO to aid in the understanding of the fishery. Permits will not be put at risk by such events or reporting.