

Code of Conduct for Voluntary Fishing Vessels Participating in Thunnus UK Scientific Fishing Operations

1. Skipper(s) are responsible for the safety and wellbeing for all persons on board their vessel.
2. Suitable gear for the purposes of rod fishing for bluefin tuna should be supplied by the skipper and visually inspected daily.
3. Participating vessels must have a completed and approved Cefas Vessel Safety Information Card (VSIC) prior to going to sea. This will be organised between skippers and a member of Cefas staff and will be conducted in person.
4. Daily fishing activities must be agreed with the tagging coordinator no later than **12pm the day prior to fishing**. The following information should be supplied to the tagging coordinator by email or SMS text:
 - a. Date of fishing
 - b. Vessel name
 - c. Skipper name
 - d. Port of departure
 - e. Crew roster
 - f. Recreational sea angler (RSA) roster
5. A maximum of four RSAs are permitted per vessel per day and skippers should not take payment for more than £375 per vessel per day, as follows:

Number of RSAs	Per head charge
1	£375.00
2	£187.50
3	£125.00
4	£93.75

6. Skippers should be prepared to have an observer onboard at short notice (the morning of putting to sea) on any fishing day.
7. Participant RSAs must have prior experience fishing for large pelagic fish and should have submitted, and had approved by a member of the Thunnus UK team, a “*Statement of Angler Experience*” form via the [Thunnus UK website](#) at least 48 prior to going to sea.

8. Prior to going to sea each day skippers must participate in a “Toolbox Talk” between skippers and the tagging coordinator. These are opportunities for all participants to feedback, review and plan daily operations. Thunnus UK will provide documentation about the project (objectives, results to date) for participating fishers.
9. Fishing operations are to be conducted only when in collaboration with a named Tagging Vessel.
10. Whilst operating as part of the programme a Thunnus UK flag should be visible for all periods at sea (flags to be provided).
11. Each volunteer vessel should carry a continuously recording handheld GPS to provide a daily vessel track and against which to provide surface sightings as part of the data gathering exercises of the project (GPS units to be provided).
12. Each volunteer vessel should submit a “*Thunnus UK Daily Trip-log*” at the end of each fishing day (forms to be provided).
13. Live bait must not be used whilst participating in the programme.
14. “Hookups”, when a bluefin tuna is hooked, must be immediately reported to the on-duty tagging co-ordinator via a pre-agreed VHF channel.
15. It is the duty of the skipper and crew to monitor fishing operations on board and ensure high welfare standards of all Atlantic bluefin tuna captured. To this end, RSAs are permitted 30 minutes [from hookup] to bring Atlantic bluefin tuna alongside the vessel, after this time, skipper or crew will take over and continue the retrieval. This duration has been recommended as good practice in studies of post-release mortality of bluefin tuna.
16. All live Atlantic bluefin tuna captured must be transferred to the tagging vessel.
17. Life jackets must be worn by RSAs whilst reeling in hooked fish and by all crew working on the deck during leadering and live-transfer of fish.
18. In the event of incidental mortality of Atlantic bluefin tuna, the MMO and tagging coordinator must be notified immediately. The specimen must be stored onboard and transferred to the project staff at the close of fishing activities that day.