

## Expression of Interest (EOI) to Participate in Tuna CHART 2026: Atlantic bluefin tuna scientific sport catch, tag and release fishery

Each applicant for a Section 14 authorisation (Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959) to target, catch, tag and release bluefin tuna off the Irish coast in 2026 must fill in the form below as fully as possible.

Please note the following:

- The EOI has two parts. Table 1 lists minimum criteria for qualifying vessels and applicants and Table 2 lists the qualifying angling and tagging criteria. Applicants will only be considered if their vessel satisfies all criteria in Table 1 and if they agree to the conditions.
- Copies of all supporting documents must be submitted with this application.
- Mandatory attendance at a training course will be required for all prospective bluefin tuna Section 14 holders.
- Fitting and operation of a simple vessel monitoring system (VMS) for the duration of the scientific sport catch-and-release fishery will be a requirement of the authorisation. The authorised skipper will be obliged to pay a monthly VMS fee (circa €50/month)
- A Section 14 authorisation will only be issued following training and satisfactory final boat and gear inspection. Verification of boat and equipment will be carried out by local IFI fisheries officers at the boat port by prior arrangement. Failure to have any of the required documentation or equipment will result on the non-issuing of the authorisation.
- An authorisation will be awarded to the applying **skipper**, as this is the person who will be responsible for good handling of the bluefin tuna and data recording and reporting. The authorised skipper **MUST** be on board every bluefin tuna angling trip.
- It is envisaged that authorisations will be awarded on a proportional basis, based on the distribution of eligible applicants and providing broad spatial coverage around the coastline.

Applications may be filled in on the [online form](#) (preferred) or can be submitted in writing using the form below.



**Table 1 - Minimum criteria for qualifying vessels**

Criteria No.	Please note applicants may only proceed to the Phase 2 if they pass <u>all of the criteria</u> below.	Please mark your response:
1.	Confirmation that the applicant has or will be in a position to obtain Public Liability insurance of not less than €2.6 million and Employers Liability of €13 million (if applicable).	Yes / No
2.	Confirmation that the required <b>Safety Equipment</b> as per Passenger licence is on board, serviced and functioning properly.	Yes / No
3.	<i>The vessel must meet the minimum <b>Vessel Technical Specification</b>:</i>	
	a. Vessel is at least 7 meters in length and less than 15 meters	Yes / No
	b. Vessel has a minimum of a P3 Passenger licence (please forward a copy of the licence with application) <i>N.B. authorisation will not supersede existing licence conditions</i>	Yes / No
	c. Vessel is able to stay at sea for at least 12 hours	Yes / No
	d. Vessel is suitable for offshore angling operations	Yes / No
	e. Vessel has space for at least two anglers	Yes / No
	f. Vessel has space for up to two external personnel (scientist and/or observer)	Yes / No
4.	<i>Skipper's willingness to operate under specific Section 14 conditions (required):</i>	
	a. Willing to operate with a minimum of two people on board the vessel as part of the tagging team – one can be angler.	a. Yes / No
	b. Willing to fit and operate a simple vessel monitoring system (VMS).	b. Yes / No
	c. Willing to co-operate with licensing/inspection requirements (boarding/boat & logbook inspections/landing inspections)	c. Yes / No
	d. Willing to only use the permitted angling gear and methods within the Tuna CHART programme.	d. Yes / No
	e. Willing to use electronic logbooks (tagging/effort & catch reporting) and submit the data within 24 hours.	e. Yes / No
	f. Willing to ensure best practise fish handling by all crew	f. Yes / No
	g. Willing to facilitate scientists/ fishery observer(s) (as required)	g. Yes / No
	h. Agree to have correctly rated gear in advance of the open season as specified by the Tuna CHART team.	h. Yes / No

**Contact Details:**

Skipper Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Charter Angling Business website: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Registered number (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Call Sign (EI Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Port: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Vessel Port(s) during open season, if successful  
 (enter max. two locations): \_\_\_\_\_

N.B. location of planned port during open season will be used to spatially distribute authorisations.

- **Please submit a photograph of the vessel**
- **Please submit a copy of the vessel’s passenger licence**
- **Please submit a copy of your brochure/ leaflet if available**
- **Please submit evidence of your membership of the Irish Charter Skippers Association**

All personal data is collected, processed and held by Inland Fisheries Ireland in accordance with the provisions of the EU Regulation 2016/679 General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR').

I have read and understood the Privacy Notice (link to Privacy Notice here).

**Table 2 – Qualifying skippering, data collection and angling criteria (If the space provided is insufficient for your response in the paper form, please use additional sheets)**

No.	Criteria	Response	Max points
1.	<b>Angling Charter Skipper Experience</b>		
	a. Number of years operating as an angling charter skipper in Irish waters	a. Insert text here	<b>15</b>
	b. Total number of angling charter days (all species) in 2023	b. Insert text here	<b>15</b>
	c. Total number of angling charter days (all species) in 2024	c. Insert text here	<b>15</b>
	d. Total number of angling charter days (all species) in 2025	d. Insert text here	<b>15</b>
	e. Please list the species you caught when angling in 2025	e. Insert text here	<b>10</b>
	<b>Max points for these criteria</b>		<b>70</b>



2.	Previous experience in undertaking <u>data collection</u> work.	Applicants should describe <i>in detail</i> previous work undertaken - Under the following headings	
	<p>a. Fish tagging work: <i>Please detail when and where, species tagged and how many fish tagged (on average each year).</i></p>	<p>a. Insert text here</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
	<p>b. Recording data (of any type): <i>Please detail what type of data, when recorded and how did you record it.</i></p>	<p>b. Insert text here</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>



	<p>c. Reporting data (of any type): <i>Please detail what kind of data, who did you report to, how often did you report it and in what format was the data submitted</i></p> <p><b>Please provide a contact name and number as a reference</b></p>	<p>c. Insert text here</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
	<p>d. Collecting biological samples: <i>Please detail what did you collect, how did you collect it and on whose behalf did you collect it.</i></p>	<p>d. Insert text here</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
		<p><b>Max points for these criteria</b></p>	<p><b>55</b></p>



3.	<p><b>Use of technology / computers in your work or study. Applicants should describe their previous experience in detail. Why, when, and where did you use technology?</b></p>	<p>Insert text here</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
		<p><b>Max points for these criteria</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Angling experience targeting tuna, marlin and/or large pelagic fish.</b></p>	<p><b>Applicants should describe their previous experience <i>in detail</i>. Please provide references if available</b></p>	
	<p>5 years or more but less than 10 years <b>max 15 marks</b></p> <p>10 years or more <b>max 30 marks</b></p>	<p>Insert text here</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
		<p><b>Max points for these criteria</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>



5	<b>Tuna CHART Angling Activity for previously authorised skippers</b>	The Tuna CHART team will allocate points based on your Tuna CHART activity	
	Applicants who were authorised in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 or 2025 will receive marks per year for the number of days spent angling as part of Tuna CHART.	<b>No need to fill in. Marking scheme:</b> 0 days = 0 pts 1-5 days = 1 pts 6-10 days = 2 pts 11-15 days = 3 pts 16-20 days = 4 pts 21-30 days = 5 pts 31-40 days = 6 pts 41-50 days = 7 pts 51-60 days = 8 pts 61-70 days = 9 pts 71-90 days = 10 pts	<b>70</b>
		<b>Max points for these criteria</b>	<b>70</b>
		<b>Max. Available Points</b>	<b>240</b>

Applications may be filled in on the [online form](#) (preferred) or can be submitted in writing to:

Tuna CHART, Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, D24 CK66

Or by email to the Tuna CHART team at [infobluefin@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:infobluefin@fisheriesireland.ie).

Closing date for completed applications is 17:00 hrs on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.