

Proper Release Methods for Yellowfin Tuna

TECHNIQUES FOR MAXIMIZING POST-RELEASE SURVIVAL

During capture

- ✓ Minimize fight time (time on the line)
- ✓ Use appropriately-sized gear (rod and reel)

Landing

- ✓ Keep tuna in water if possible
- ✓ If in-water hook removal or release is difficult
 - ✓ Land tuna by lip gaff (large fish: >36" curved fork length)
 - ✓ Land tuna by swinging over rail (small fish: <36" curved fork length)

Handling

- ✓ Limit handling time to no more than 1 minute
- ✓ Handle tuna only with wet hands (to reduce removal of external mucous layer)
- ✓ Place tuna on the deck of the boat on a cool, wet mat or wet towel
- ✓ Once on deck, immediately cover the tuna's eyes with another cool, wet towel
- ✓ Remove hook as quickly as possible. If hooked deep, cut line as close to mouth as possible

Release

- ✓ Slide tuna head first off wet mat straight out tuna door
- ✓ Firmly grab the tuna by the tail and support the head with your other hand (pictured below). Lift the tuna over the boat rail. Drop the tuna head first into the water



Firmly hold tail and support body

Place wet towel over eyes

Place tuna on cool, wet mat or wet towel

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