Atlantic bluefin tuna

**Scientific Name**: Thunnus thynnus

**Species Name(s)**: Atlantic bluefin tuna

**Common Names**: Atlantic bluefin tuna

**Stock Identification**: Atlantic bluefin tuna is managed through two different stocks – Eastern Atlantic (and Mediterranean Sea) and Western Atlantic, which boundary is assumed to be 45°W. The great majority of the catch is currently taken from the Mediterranean and only a small proportion is due to the Western stock. Their stock structure is poorly understood.

**Related Links**:
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
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**Assessment**

**Strengths**
- Stock assessment uses up-to-date methods; data and methodologies are publicly available.
- Regulations have been successful, allowing the stock recovery, reducing catches and fishing mortality.
- Control measures are in place to trace catches and guarantee the implementation of measures established in the recovery plan.
- Season closures and minimum landing weight are defined.
- Most fishing gears do not directly impact the seafloor ecosystem.

**Weaknesses**
- Substantial uncertainty with the data used in the assessment (poor temporal and spatial coverage for detailed size and catch-effort statistics for several fisheries).
- Substantial under-reporting of catches occurred through 2007 and catches were likely well above total allowable catch levels.
- Further data collection of bycatch species by fishing gear and the impact on endangered, threatened and protected species is needed.

**Scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Category</th>
<th>Manager Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management Strategy</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compliance</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td></td>
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**Stock Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>10</td>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPs

**MSC**

No related MSC fisheries

**Recommendations**

**Catchers & Regulators**

1. Continue to support and implement the recovery management plan.
2. International Coalition for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) member countries should ensure compliance with all ICCAT rules (e.g. Catch Documentation Scheme, observers programme, catch reporting, etc.).
3. Promote improvements in catch reporting, including bycatch data, and particularly in catches and size-at-catch data of purse seine for farming.
4. Continue to support and improve control, monitoring and surveillance activities.

**Retailers & Supply Chain**

1. Communicate to International Coalition for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) member countries support for the continuous implementation of the recovery plan.
2. Request improvements in catch reporting, including bycatch data, and particularly in catches and size-at-catch data of purse seine for farming.
3. Develop and adopt a control document to ensure tuna in your supply chain is harvested in accordance with all regulations.