Atlantic bluefin tuna

SPECIES NAME(S)
Thunnus thynnus

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 45ºW. 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)

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.
- Main fishing gears do not directly impact the seabed 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

Management Quality:
- Management Strategy
  - ≥ 6
- Managers Compliance
  - ≥ 8
- Fishers Compliance
  - 9.3

Stock Health:
- Current Health
  - ≥ 6
- Future Health
  - 10

FIPS
No related FIPs

MSC
No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS
1. Continue to support and implement the recovery management plan.
2. Intensify Coalition for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) member countries’ support to 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 seines for farming.
4. Continue to support and improve control, monitoring and surveillance activities.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
1. Greenlist status 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.