

A FURTHER NOTE ON ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING

by

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SUMMARY

Spawning of Atlantic bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus, is reported from the western Gulf of Mexico based on the capture of larvae.

RESUME

Le présent document fait état de la ponte du thon rouge atlantique, Thunnus thynnus, dans le Golfe du Mexique à partir des prises de larves.

RESUMEN

En base a las capturas de larvas se informa sobre el desove del atún atlántico (Thunnus thynnus) al Oeste del Golfo de Méjico.

Literature Cited

Richards, William J. 1976. Spawning of bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, 5(2): 267-278.

RESULTS

Richards (1976) summarized the areas where bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus, are known to spawn and also discussed areas where spawning was speculated to occur. I now report that spawning occurs in the western Gulf of Mexico during May and June (the expected spawning time), based on the capture of larvae off the coast of Texas over the continental shelf. The position, date, number and size range of these larvae are given in table 1. The addition of this area to the known spawning grounds indicates that the bluefin tuna population is larger than indicated in my 1976 paper, but these new data do not give us information on the magnitude of this increase.

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Table 1. Position, date, number and size range of bluefin tuna larvae collected in the western Gulf of Mexico.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Size Range (mm)</u>
27°55'N 96°20'W	6 May 1975	2	3.9 - 4.7
27°34'N 96°07'W	6 May 1975	1	5.5
26°10'N 96°39'W	30 May 1976	1	6.4
26°10'N 96°24'W	30 May 1976	9	4.6 - 5.5
26°10'N 96°24'W	30 May 1976	4	4.8 - 6.2
27°15'N 96°18'W	5 June 1976	1	7.4
27°24'N 96°29'W	6 June 1976	1	6.0

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