

NORWEGIAN BLUEFIN TUNA (*THUNNUS THYNNUS* L.) CATCHES IN 1979

S. Myklevoll

The bluefin tuna season of 1979 in Norway was one of the poorest since the purse seine was introduced in this fishery.

A total of 161 giant bluefins of an estimated round weight of 60075 kg were landed, all in the districts of Hordaland and Sogn & Fjordane. Three catch localities: Utvær, Fedje and Marsteinen are marked out on the chart in Figure 1.

All but one fish were landed by 4 tuna purse seiners, from 6 catches, while one fish was caught by a saithe seiner. The first fish was landed on 1 August, and the last catch was made on 8 September. Table 1 gives details of the catches.

Individual weights varied between 187 and 383 kg, gutted (less head, fins and intestines), corresponding to round weights between 241 and 492 kg. Most weight data are recorded as gutted weight, but two catches give round weight. For conversion, the equation $w = 1.285w' + 0.3$ has been used. In Table 2 weight frequency distribution of round fish is presented, and in Table 3 it is given for gutted fish. Individual weights are lacking for 6 fishes.

This year's mean weight of 290 kg, gutted and 373 kg, round are the highest recorded in any season so far, and there is still no trace of younger fish.

Rough weather throughout the season hampered the fishery. On occasional days with calm sea, some sizable schools of bluefin were spotted, but they moved fast and were difficult to catch. The largest concentrations were spotted on the day of the last catch (8 September) when "Astri Ann" made her record catch of 117 fish.

Fishermen's opinion is that the number of tuna migrating to our coast this season was about the same as in the last few years. The poor catch reflects the bad weather con-

ditions more than a reduced stock of giant bluefin in this area.

No recapture of tagged fish has been recorded this year.

In Table 4, technical data are given for some vessels that participated in the bluefin tuna fishery in 1979.

12.1.1980.

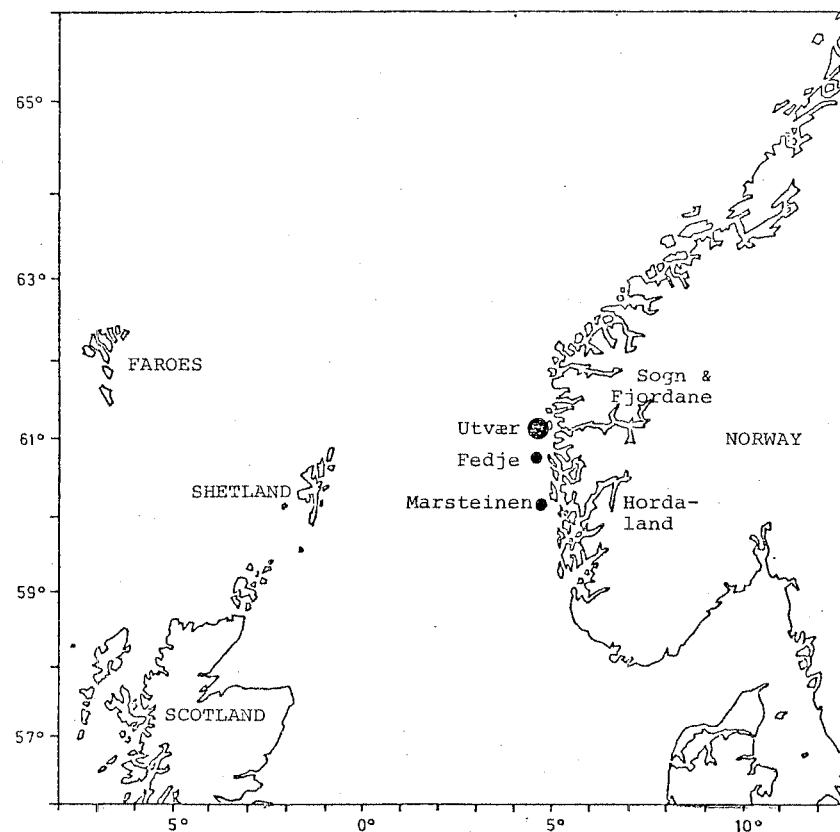


Fig. 1. Localities of bluefin tuna catches on the west coast of Norway, Aug - Sep 1979.

Table 1. Norwegian bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus* L.) catches 1979.

Date	Vessel	N	Catch w'	w	Position
1.8	SF-30-A PLAREX	1	278		N of Utvær
24.8	SF-44-A ASTRI ANN	12	3383		N of Utvær
24.8	R-20-TV TOFTØYSUND	4		1436	W of Fedje
24.8	SF-30-A PLAREX	9	2506		N of Utvær
25.8	H-115-B NYSTRAND	17		5900	Marsteinen
8.9	SF-44-A ASTRI ANN	117	34573		N of Utvær
?	VESTØY	1	298		(Sogn & Fj.)
1979	Total	161	41038	7336	

NYSTRAND's catch (25.8) is also given as 11 fish, round = 3840 kg + 6 fish, gutted = 1584 kg.

Table 2. Weight frequency distribution of Norwegian bluefin tuna catches 1979, round weight.

Week No	31	34	34	34	34	36	?		
Date	1.8	24.8	24.8	24.8	25.8	8.9	?		
w in kg	Number of fish							Total	%
240 - 244	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	0.65
275 - 279	1	.	1	0.65
280 - 284	1	.	1	0.65
285 - 289	1	3	.	4	2.58
290 - 294	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	2	1.29
295 - 299	.	1	1	0.65
300 - 304
305 - 309
310 - 314	1	5	.	6	3.87
315 - 319	4	.	4	2.58
320 - 324	.	1	.	1	2	2	.	6	3.87
325 - 329	.	1	.	.	.	4	.	5	3.23
330 - 334	.	1	.	1	1	3	.	6	3.87
335 - 339	1	.	1	0.65
340 - 344	3	.	3	1.94
345 - 349	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	2	1.29
350 - 354	6	.	6	3.87
355 - 359	1	1	.	.	2	5	.	9	5.81
360 - 364	.	1	.	1	.	4	.	6	3.87
365 - 369	.	.	2	.	.	3	.	5	3.23
370 - 374	.	2	.	1	.	5	.	8	5.16
375 - 379	1	4	.	5	3.23
380 - 384	4	1	5	3.23
385 - 389	.	.	.	2	.	14	.	16	10.32
390 - 394	2	.	.	2	1.29
395 - 399	.	1	.	1	.	3	.	5	3.23
400 - 404	1	.	1	0.65
405 - 409	4	.	4	2.58
410 - 414	.	.	1	.	1	9	.	11	7.10
415 - 419	1	.	1	0.65
420 - 424	.	1	.	1	.	2	.	4	2.58
425 - 429	6	.	6	3.87
430 - 434	3	.	3	1.94
435 - 439	2	.	2	1.29
440 - 444	1	.	1	0.65
445 - 449	2	.	2	1.29
450 - 454	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	3	1.94
455 - 459	2	.	2	1.29
460 - 464	1	.	1	0.65
465 - 469	1	.	1	0.65
470 - 474	2	.	2	1.29
490 - 494	1	.	1	0.65
n	1	12	4	9	11	117	1	155	100
N	1	12	4	9	17	117	1	161	
w	358	4351	1436	3225	5900	44422	383	60075	
w	358	363	359	358	347	380	383	373	

Table 3. Weight frequency distribution of Norwegian bluefin tuna catches 1979, gutted weight.

Week No	31	34	34	34	34	36	?		
Date	1.8	24.8	24.8	24.8	25.8	8.9	?		
w' in kg	Number of fish							Total	%
185 - 189	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	0.65
215 - 219	1	.	1	0.65
220 - 224	1	1	.	1	1.29
225 - 229	.	1	1	.	.	4	.	6	3.87
230 - 234
235 - 239
240 - 244	1	5	.	6	3.87
245 - 249	2	4	.	6	3.87
250 - 254	.	1	.	1	.	3	.	5	3.23
255 - 259	.	2	.	1	1	3	.	7	4.52
260 - 264	4	.	4	2.58
265 - 269	.	1	.	.	.	3	.	4	2.58
270 - 274	7	.	7	4.52
275 - 279	1	1	.	.	2	6	.	10	6.45
280 - 284	.	1	2	1	.	4	.	8	5.16
285 - 289	.	2	.	1	.	4	.	7	4.52
290 - 294	1	8	.	9	5.81
295 - 299	.	.	.	1	.	6	1	8	5.16
300 - 304	.	.	.	1	2	12	.	15	9.68
305 - 309	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	2	1.29
310 - 314	.	.	.	1	.	3	.	4	2.58
315 - 319	1	4	.	5	3.23
320 - 324	.	.	1	.	.	10	.	11	7.10
325 - 329	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	3	1.94
330 - 334	7	.	7	4.52
335 - 339	3	.	3	1.94
340 - 344	3	.	3	1.94
345 - 349	2	.	2	1.29
350 - 354	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	3	1.94
355 - 359	2	.	2	1.29
360 - 364	1	.	1	0.65
365 - 369	3	.	3	1.94
370 - 374
375 - 379
380 - 384	1	.	1	0.65
n	1	12	4	9	11	117	1	155	100
N	1	12	4	9	17	117	1	161	
w'	278	3383	1117	2506	4571	34573	298	46726	
w	278	282	279	278	269	295	298	290	

Table 4. Technical data for some vessels participating in the Norwegian bluefin tuna fishery in 1979.

Vessel :	PLAREX	NYSTRAND	ASTRI ANN	TOFTØYSUND
Length :	15.7 m	20.3 m	21.5 m	28.1 m
Width :	5.1 m	5.6 m	5.6 m	7.0 m
Depth :	3.0 m	2.3 m	2.6 m	3.4 m
Gross t.:	36.0 t	50.0 t	49.0 t	150.0 t
Net t. :	10.0 t	14.0 t	13.0 t	56.0 t
Material:	Wood	Wood	Wood	Steel
Built :	1962	1957	1950	1977
Motor :	GM Caterpillar		Callesen	Alpha
HP :	242	245	345	660
Built :	1971	1965	1962	1976

Source: Register over merkepliktige norske fiskefarkoster 1978.
Fiskeridirektøren-A/S Lunde & Co.s Forlag, 1978.