

ESTIMATES OF UNREPORTED ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCHES

by the ICCAT Secretariat

The attached table shows the estimated quantity of bluefin tuna imported to Japan from the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, together with the reported catches of various fisheries for 1993, 1994 and 1995. The quantity of imports is based on the Japanese biannual report for the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program.

The quantity shown is the estimated live-weight converted from the products weight. The estimates were converted from product weight to live weight by Japan for 1993 and 1994 and for imports from non-Contracting Parties for 1995. However, for tuna exported from ICCAT Contracting Parties in 1995, only product weight was reported by Japan, according to the recommendations made in 1995 by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures. In order that the table be consistent, conversion to live weight has been carried out by the Secretariat.

One major problem is the lack of a scientifically approved conversion rate for belly meat to round weight. Although the Secretariat tried to arrange the sampling of belly meat vs. round weight at a landing port where the majority of belly meat products are produced (Cartagena), we were unable to obtain authorization for sampling by the factory or by the trading firms which handle the products. Therefore, it was not possible to make a thorough scientific investigation. By interviewing various producers of belly products of bluefin, however, it seems that the most practical conversion factor is one to ten (belly part to round weight). For the purpose of information the quantity of belly meat products is converted using factor 10 for the non-contracting parties but not converted for contracting parties and actual figures are given in the parenthesis, where applicable.

The conversion factors to round weight used in this calculation are:

- 1.16 for gilled and gutted weight
- 1.25 for dressed weight
- 1.67 for fillet weight
- 2.00 for others

In the table, the balance between reported catches and exports to Japan, as well as estimated unreported catches are listed. Most of the negative figures (export in excess of reported catches) for 1995 are due to the lack of any data for the fishery in question for 1995. Most of these negative balances were used as the estimated catches. For Spanish purse seine, Portugal longline in the Atlantic and Moroccan Atlantic trap catches, the negative balances were ignored for the following reasons.

Spanish purse seine. This figure probably includes French purse seine catches unloaded in Cartagena and exported to Japan from there. The French export figure is extremely low compared with French catches for the same reason.

Portugal Atlantic longline. It is probable that the export data includes a mixture of Mediterranean and Atlantic catches, since Portuguese catches in the Mediterranean are known to be exported to Japan, but do not appear in the export statistics.

Moroccan Atlantic trap. Most of the Moroccan trap catches of bluefin tuna are taken in the Atlantic. Therefore, Task I catch in the Mediterranean is considered to include some Atlantic catches and hence the total export quantity of this gear does not exceed the catches.

The excess exports of Spanish Atlantic trap is somewhat confusing. The most likely explanation is that the export quantity includes those fish fattened in the pen after being transferred from the trap, while the Task I figures show the original weight of the catch in the trap. However, as there are differences of up to 25% between the two figures (25% being the maximum possible weight gain for bluefin tuna in cultivation), it seems there is a possibility that the export figure may include some of the Moroccan trap catches. The difference has been added as unreported catches in NEI-SPAIN.

The excess of exports from the Spanish longliners in the Mediterranean cannot be explained. This amount has been entered in the ICCAT data base as additional catches (NEI-SPAIN).

Table. Unreported catches estimated from export to Japanese market and Task I. REVISED SEPT 10.

	EXPORT (MT)			TASK I (MT)			TASKI-EXPORT (ESTIMATED UNREPORTED CA			REMARKS
	ESTIMATED LIVE WGH												
	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994	1995	
EAST ATLANTIC													
FRANCE	BB		46	164	66	400	164	66	354				
GUINEA	LL		189	0	0	0	0	0	-189			189	
HONDURAS	LL	104		0	0	0	-104	0	0	104			
KOREA	LL		4	0	0	205	0	-4	205		4		
MOROCCO	TRA	42	440	264	254	339	0	212	-101	-264		264	94 TRAP considered as mixed with Med.
PANAMA	LL		19	0	0	0	0	0	-19			19	
PORTUGAL	LL	10	434	361	4	8	0	-6	-426	-361			Probably include Med. Catch
SPAIN	RR	90			0	0	0	-90	0	0			Assumed to be BB
SPAIN	BB		157	6	3803	1943	2874	3803	1786	2868			
SPAIN	TRA	0	2047	1100	1244	1136	941	1244	-911	-159	911	159	
TAIWAN	LL		8		6	11	0	6	11	-8		8	
USA	HAR		1		0	0	0	0	-1	0			
MEDIT													
BELIZE	LL		145	398	0	0	0	0	-145	-398	145	398	
EQ GUINEA	LL			111	0	0	0	0	0	-111		111	
FRANCE	PS		494	506	(6)	4730	11803	6247	4730	11309	5741		
FRANCE	UNC		4	91		0	0	0	0	-4	-91		Assumed PS catch
GREECE	BB		2	18	0	0	0	0	-2	-18			Assumed to be reported all as hand
GREECE	HAN		187	430	92	362	617	92	175	187			
GREECE	PS		7		0	0	0	0	-7	0			
GREECE	LL		18	3	0	0	0	0	-18	-3			Assumed to be reported all as hand
GREECE	RR		3		0	0	0	0	-3	0			
GREECE	TRA		7		0	0	0	0	-7	0			
GREECE	UNC		133	4	0	0	0	0	-133	-4			Assumed to be reported all as hand
GREECE	TOT		357	455	92	362	617	92	5	162			
GUINEA	LL		282	240	0	0	0	0	-282	-240	282	240	
ITALY	BB		2		0	0	0	0	-2	0			
ITALY	HAN		3	23	73	0	0	73	-3	-23			
ITALY	PS	72	460	453	3882	4382	1315	3810	3922	862			
ITALY	LL		409	1192	57	739	1781	57	330	589			
ITALY	RR	39	38	220	50	0	0	11	-38	-220	38	220	
ITALY	TRA		119	195	199	182	241	199	63	46			
ITALY	UNC		14	12	287	144	193	287	130	181			
KOREA	LL		82	74	0	684	458	0	602	384			
LIBYA	UNC		29		546	450	0	546	421	0			
LIBYA	LL		1		0	732	0	0	731	0			
MALTA	HAN			139	0	0	0	0	0	-139		139	
MALTA	PS		4		0	0	0	0	-4	0			
MALTA	LL		113	154	151	344	0	151	231	-154		154	
MALTA	TRA		2		0	0	0	0	-2	0			
MOROCCO	HAN			21	0	0	0	0	0	-21		21	Entered as SURF
MOROCCO	TRA		3	1	4	332	1	4	329	0			
PANAMA	LL	513	1129	1274	0	0	0	-513	-1129	-1274	513	1129	1274
SPAIN	BB		1	34	48	0	206	48	-1	172			
SPAIN	PS	112	6204	3724	(217)	1431	1725	2490	1319	-4479	-1234	2836	Assumed to include French PS except 1995
SPAIN	LL		1070	1297	(28)	40	178	368	40	-892	-929	892	929
TAIWAN	LL		709	494	328	713	475	328	4	-19		19	Added to TaskI
TUNISA	LL			1	0	0	0	0	0	-1			
TUNISA	HAN			2	45	95	95	45	95	93			
TUNISA	PS		67	642	1006	1906	0	1006	1839	-642		642	
TUNISA	TRA		49	101	81	381	0	81	332	-101		101	
TUNISA	TRO			10	0	0	0	0	0	-10		10	
TUNISA	UNC		3	3	0	0	0	0	-3	-3		3	
TURKEY	LL		61	139	0	0	0	0	-61	-139			Assumed to be reported all as PS
TURKEY	UNC		35	1	0	0	0	0	-35	-1			Assumed to be reported all as PS
TURKEY	PS				1155	998	998	1155	998	998			