

REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF MANAGERS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA
(Tokyo, Japan – March 26-27, 2008)

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting of Managers and Stakeholders in Atlantic Bluefin tuna (MASB) was opened on March 26, 2008 by Mr. Fabio Hazin, ICCAT Chairman, who gave the floor to Mr. Masanori Miyahara, ICCAT Head Delegate for Japan. In his opening speech, Mr. Miyahara welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Japan. He then underlined that it was a first attempt for ICCAT to invite all Atlantic bluefin tuna managers and stakeholders to exchange their views. He hoped that the meeting would enhance conservation and management measures and promote compliance measures.

Mr. Hazin then intervened to remind participants that although this was not formally an ICCAT meeting it was an important meeting for ICCAT given that the future of bluefin tuna was at stake. He also expressed his concern about the very serious situation of the bluefin tuna stock and thereof invited participants to present concrete proposals for the recovery of the bluefin tuna stocks.

The opening addresses of Mr. Miyahara and Mr. Hazin are attached as **Appendices 3** and **4**.

2. Election of the Chair

Mr. John Spencer, ICCAT Head Delegate for the European Community (EC), proposed that Mr. Miyahara be nominated as Chair. Mr. Jim Jones, ICCAT Head Delegate for Canada, seconded the nomination. Mr. Miyahara was elected as Chair.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was designated as Rapporteur of the meeting.

4. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2**.

5. Current conditions of the Atlantic bluefin tuna resource

Dr. Gerald Scott, SCRS Chairman, presented a document entitled “Current Conditions of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Resource” (attached as **Appendix 5**). Among other issues, such as fishing effort, Dr. Scott emphasized the problems of under reporting and misreporting. He concluded his presentation by considering two possible scenarios: a high risk of fishery and stock collapse or the need for adjustments in 2008 in the current recovery plan given that the current assessment is based on 2004 data.

6. Overview of relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures

Mr. Driss Meski, ICCAT Executive Secretary, presented an overview of the current conservation and management measures for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna (attached as **Appendix 6**) He underlined the need for Contracting Parties to fulfill their reporting requirements.

Some stakeholders intervened to consider that not only catches should be limited but also fishing capacity and therefore a capacity plan should be envisaged to reduce overfishing. Other participants stated that Contracting Parties should be in compliance with ICCAT Recommendations and that IUU activities should be curbed.

7. Current application of ICCAT measures to the chain of bluefin tuna activities

Mr. Aronne Spezzani, EC Delegation, presented the current legislation for the conservation and management of bluefin tuna within the European Community as well as the implementation and the monitoring of the multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna at the EC level. Mr. Spezzani's presentation is attached as **Appendix 7**.

8. Examination of the chain of bluefin tuna activities from catch to farming/fattening and to markets

Mr. Shingo Ota, Deputy Director at the Far Seas Fisheries Division of the Fisheries Agency of Japan, made a presentation on how the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) should be implemented (attached as **Appendix 8**). Mr. Ota underlined that the difference between this scheme and the Statistical Document Program (SDP) was that the CDS would track the movements from catch to market while the previous document only monitored imports and exports. He also explained that further to validation by the flag State, each CPC should send a copy of the CDS to the CPC concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat.

In relation to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08], a discussion was launched on the implementation of VMS since one Contracting Party informed the participants that its Fishing Monitoring Centre (FMC) would not be operational before end of 2008. The Chair recalled that VMS was mandatory and that it was a flag State responsibility to implement it.

9. Consideration of joint voluntary actions to reduce total fishing, caging and imports to the level of TAC

Within the context of fishing opportunities versus fishing and farming capacities, Mr. Miyahara invited the participants to consider how capacity could be reduced on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Ota (Japan) informed the participants that Japan had adjusted its capacity according to its quota allocation.

Mr. Spencer (EC) acknowledged the problem of overcapacity and considered that the fleets should be restructured. Therefore, he considered that ICCAT should its further work on capacity issues.

Mr. Hazin (Brazil) indicated it was too restrictive to link the control of catches only to capacity, but that capacity management could be a useful additional tool. He also considered that ICCAT should work in a more systematic way in the Compliance Committee, and that this would be done in the future.

Mr. Chris Rogers, Chair of the ICCAT Compliance Committee, intervened to express that, even with different means, managers and stakeholders should share the same objectives: enhancing compliance, reducing capacities and curbing IUU.

Mr. Miyahara proposed to draft a joint statement pointing out the need to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and to adjust or strengthen the bluefin tuna recovery plan on the basis of a SCRS review to be presented at the Special Meeting of the Commission in 2008. During the discussion, managers and stakeholders agreed to complete the joint statement by adding, among others, references to the need to manage fishing capacity and fishing effort, to implement the CDS in 2008 and to combat IUU.

The Joint Statement on Sustainable Use of the Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Resource is attached as **Appendix 9**.

10. Possible actions to be taken in the research into and application of stock breeding techniques

Dr. Shukei Masuma from the Fisheries Research Agency National Center for Stock Enhancement presented his research on the status of northern bluefin tuna brood stock management, breeding, and fingerling production in Japan.

This presentation was followed by an intervention by Mr. Antonio Belmonte (EC), who presented a European research project and outlined the role of Spanish farms in current research on bluefin tuna.

While it was recognized that such research should be encouraged and may help to reduce fishing pressure on Atlantic bluefin, this would take some considerable time and should not substitute control and management in the short term.

11. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

12. Adoption of the report

The report was adopted by correspondence.

13. Adjournment

Participants intervened to thank the Government of Japan for hosting the first meeting involving the stakeholders. They expressed the need to convene similar meetings in the future in order to promote better dialogue between managers and stakeholders.

The meeting was adjourned on March 27, 2008.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of Chair.
3. Nomination of rapporteur.
4. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements.
5. Current condition of the Atlantic bluefin tuna resource (presentation by SCRS Chair)
6. Overview of relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures (presentation by Executive Secretary)
7. Current application of ICCAT measures to the chain of bluefin tuna activities.
8. Examination of the chain of bluefin tuna activities from catch to farming/fattening, and to markets.
9. Consideration of joint voluntary actions to reduce total fishing, caging and imports to the level of TAC.
10. Possible actions to be taken in the research into and application of stock breeding techniques.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of Report.
13. Adjournment.

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Soeda, Yoshiko

Press/ Presse/ Prensa

The Daily news of Fisheries - Japan

The Fish Film Company - UK

Fuji TV - Japan

IB3 – Spain

Jiji Press - Japan

The Mainichi Newspapers- Japan

Minato Shinbun - Japan

NHK (Economic news) - Japan

Nikkei Inc.- Japan

Nippon TV - Japan

Suisan Shimcho Sha Co. - Japan

Suisan Tsushin Co. - Japan

Suisansha Corporation - Japan

Tokyo Broadcasting System Television (TBS TV)-Japan

Appendix 3**Opening Address by Mr. Masanori Miyahara,
Meeting Chairman and Head Delegate of Japan to ICCAT**

I wish to thank everyone, especially those who have traveled all the way to Tokyo. On behalf of the host country, let me make some brief welcome remarks at the opening of the Meeting of Managers and Stakeholders in Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat for its strenuous efforts in organizing this meeting. As you are aware, this Meeting is the first attempt for ICCAT to invite the stakeholders of all the sectors involved in Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries to exchange their views.

The 2007 Commission meeting in Antalya, Turkey, was a tough meeting. The major part of the meeting was devoted to consideration of Atlantic bluefin related measures and probably almost every participant felt great frustration in the meeting. Positions varied extremely with delegations. But the Commission finally produced significant outcomes while no one was 100% satisfied. One of those outcomes is the Bluefin Catch Documentation Program, which is the first CDS to be applied to a major tuna fishery. Another one is this meeting, the first opportunity to have managers and stakeholders of all the sectors of Atlantic bluefin tuna business in one meeting. I strongly hope that this meeting will serve as an important step to enhance understanding of the people involved on both bluefin tuna stock conditions and the relevant conservation and management measures, including CDS. I also strongly hope that such understanding will promote compliance with those measures as well as readiness for the next Commission meeting, where the measures will be reviewed to ensure the future sustainability of Atlantic bluefin resources.

In closing, I do hope you enjoy the stay in Tokyo. Cherry blossom just came into bloom this week. And this part of Tokyo is famous for good dining places.

With a cordial hope that it would be a fruitful meeting for all of you, I close my opening remarks. Thank you very much.

Appendix 4**Opening Address by Mr. Fabio Hazin, Commission Chairman**

First of all, let me thank Miyahara-San very much for hosting this meeting in the beautiful and ancient city of Tokyo. For me, it is a particular pleasure to be here, since I have lived in Tokyo for six years, from 1988 to 1994, during my Masters and my PhD, at the Tokyo University of Fisheries. It is also particularly fortunate that the meeting fell exactly in the same week when the cherries are blossoming, a coincidence I hope is a good omen for a very fruitful and successful event. Although this is not formally an ICCAT Meeting, since it is a meeting of managers and stakeholders of the bluefin tuna chain, it is certainly the most important meeting for the Commission this year. The stock of bluefin tuna, by far the most valued tuna species, has been so heavily overfished in recent times that its collapse has become a very serious and threatening possibility. The Commission's inability to halt the decline of the bluefin tuna stocks for the past years has seriously jeopardized its credibility, raising grave concerns about its actual competence to manage the tuna stocks under its mandate. Very clearly, ICCAT is at a crossroads right now, with its future dangerously at stake. The future of the bluefin tuna fishery and, along with it, the future of ICCAT itself, will pretty much depend on the decisions we make now. The good news is that we still can reverse the present situation. We still can show that ICCAT is capable of properly managing the bluefin tuna stock, that we are able to ensure that the total catches are efficiently controlled and limited to levels that will safely enable the stocks to rebuild over time. The 2008 fishing season is still to begin, which makes this meeting particularly timely. Besides, in about three months a new assessment of the bluefin tuna stocks will be available. And later on, in November, during the 16th Special Meeting of the Commission, the progress achieved on the implementation of the multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean will be also assessed. By then, bold and courageous decisions will most likely be needed, in order to save such an important fishery resource. Above all, we must assure that the scientific advice will be strictly observed. We have to face it: if we wait until tomorrow, there will be no tomorrow for this fishery. The time to act is now. This year is, quite likely, our last chance to make it work. If we fail, the management of the bluefin tuna fishery will surely be taken out of our hands. If we don't prove that we

can do it, then other organizations, such as CITES, will take over. As you are fully aware, in some ways this is already happening, since many major retailers are beginning to boycott bluefin tuna products.

Times of crisis, nevertheless, are always times of opportunities, and the present meeting might be a very good example of that. As we stated in the circular, it has been motivated primarily by the desire of ICCAT members to involve the stakeholders more actively in the deliberations concerning this key resource. Therefore, for this meeting to be successful it is essential that you all not only express your views on the issues related to the bluefin tuna fishery, but, and much more importantly, make concrete proposals that can help to ensure full compliance with the ultimate objective of recovering the bluefin tuna stocks, an objective that will surely elude us, unless each and every one of those involved in this fishery, from the fisherman to the government officers, get fully committed to its achievement. ICCAT does have successful stories of stock recoveries. Let's work together to make sure that the bluefin tuna will soon become another one. The choice is in our hands. I do hope we choose wisely. Thank you.

Current Conditions of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Resource

G. Scott, SCRS Chairman

Current Condition of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Resource

ICCAT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

Bluefin

ICCAT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

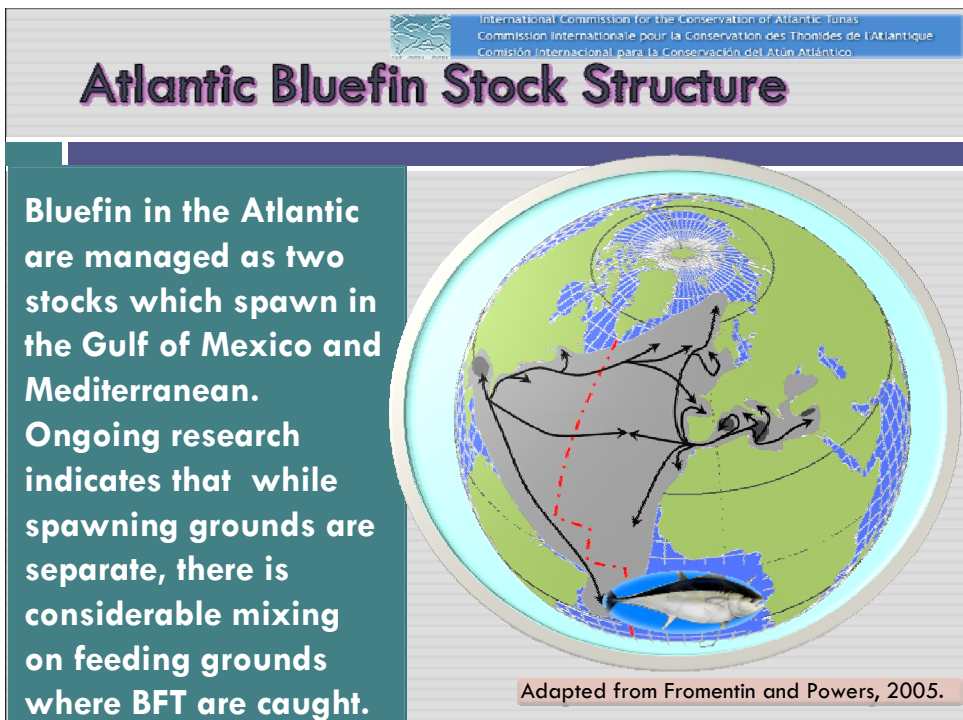
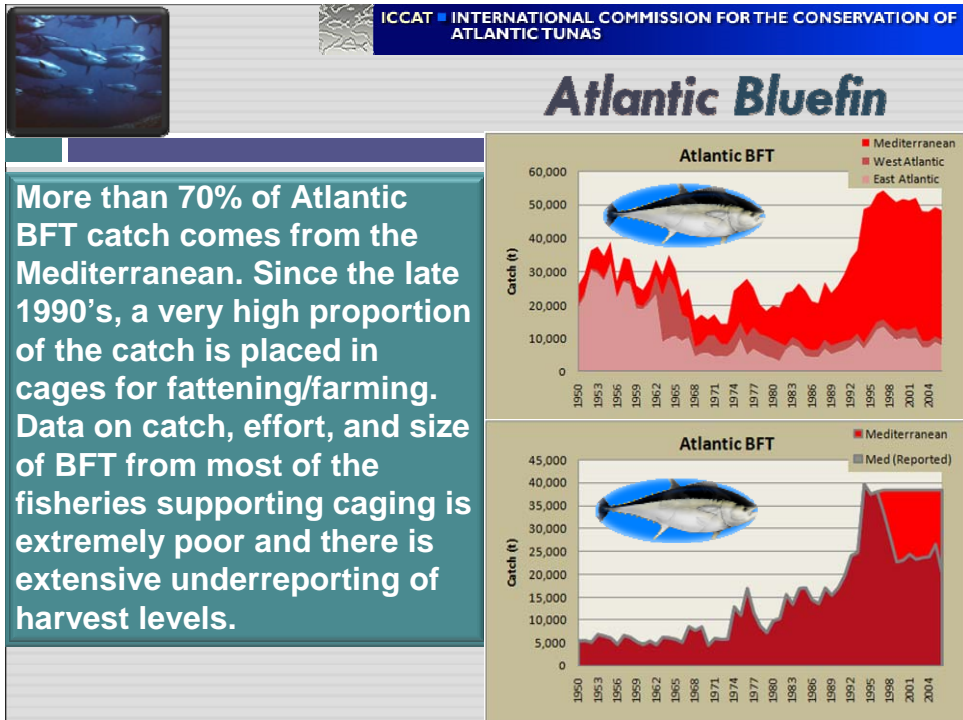
More than half the BFT & SBT production and more than 2/3 of BFT production now comes from the ICCAT Convention area.

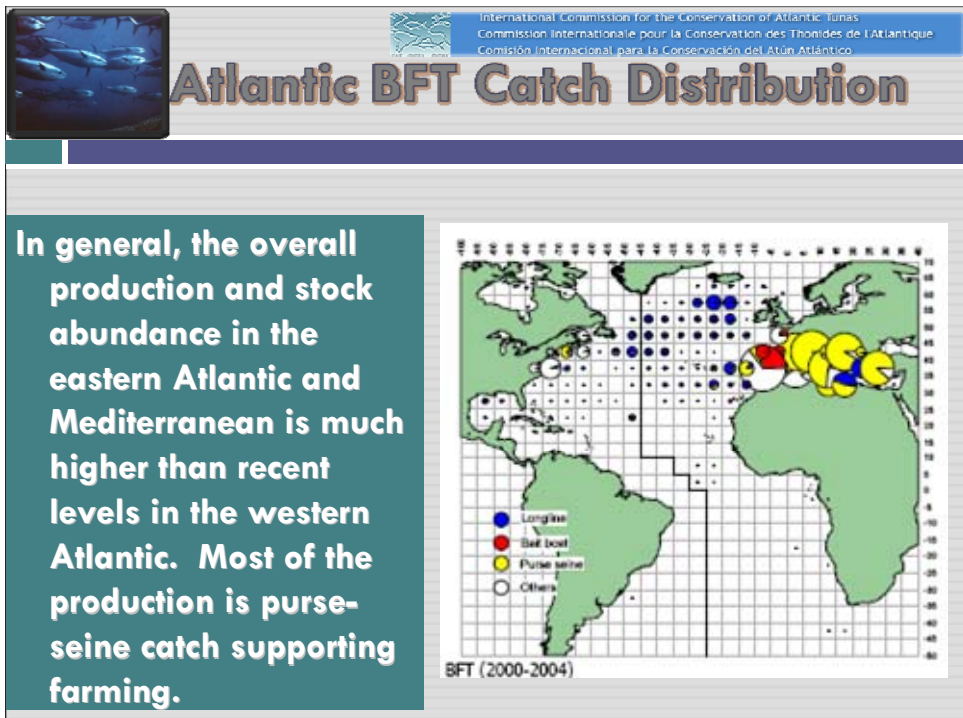
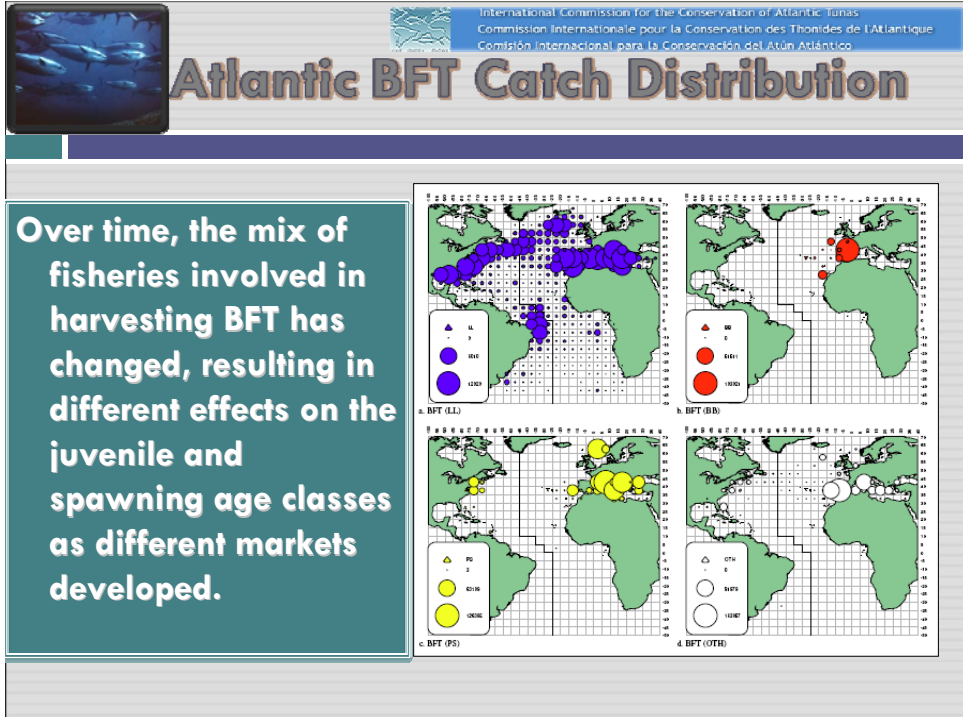
BFT & SBT

Year	Atlantic BFT	Pacific BFT	SBT Atlantic	SBT Pacific	SBT Indian
1950	10,000	10,000	0	0	0
1953	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
1956	20,000	20,000	0	0	0
1959	25,000	25,000	0	0	0
1962	30,000	30,000	0	0	0
1965	35,000	35,000	0	0	0
1968	40,000	40,000	0	0	0
1971	45,000	45,000	0	0	0
1974	50,000	50,000	0	0	0
1977	55,000	55,000	0	0	0
1980	60,000	60,000	0	0	0
1983	65,000	65,000	0	0	0
1986	70,000	70,000	0	0	0
1989	75,000	75,000	0	0	0
1992	80,000	80,000	0	0	0
1995	85,000	85,000	0	0	0
1998	90,000	90,000	0	0	0
2001	95,000	95,000	0	0	0
2004	100,000	100,000	0	0	0

BFT


Year	Atlantic BFT	Pacific BFT
1950	10,000	10,000
1953	15,000	15,000
1956	20,000	20,000
1959	25,000	25,000
1962	30,000	30,000
1965	35,000	35,000
1968	40,000	40,000
1971	45,000	45,000
1974	50,000	50,000
1977	55,000	55,000
1980	60,000	60,000
1983	65,000	65,000
1986	70,000	70,000
1989	75,000	75,000
1992	80,000	80,000
1995	85,000	85,000
1998	90,000	90,000
2001	95,000	95,000
2004	100,000	100,000



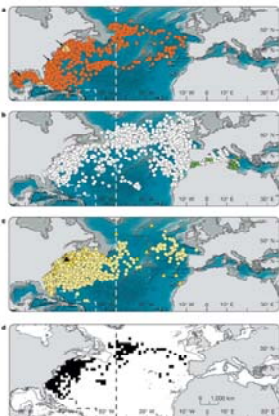


International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
 Commission Internationale pour la Conservation des Thonides de l'Atlantique
 Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico

On Stock Mixing



Management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to impact recovery in the western Atlantic, because even small rates of mixing from East to West can have significant effects on the West due to the fact that Eastern plus Mediterranean BFT abundance is much larger than that of the West



From Block *et.al.*, 2005, *Nature* 434, 1121-1127.

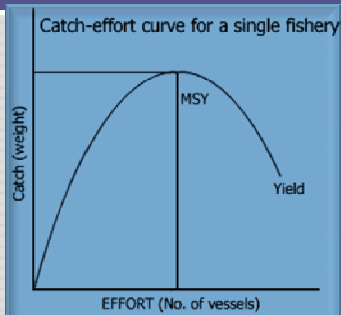
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
 Commission Internationale pour la Conservation des Thonides de l'Atlantique
 Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico

How Do We Assess Stock Status?

Stock assessments are conducted using approaches that incorporate our knowledge about:

- Tuna life history
- Amounts and sizes of catch &
- Fishing effort needed to catch

Typically, we have incomplete reports of the information from some of the fleets and thus rely on samples from the fisheries.




The objective of an assessment are to estimate the size of the stock over time and its reaction to harvest rates

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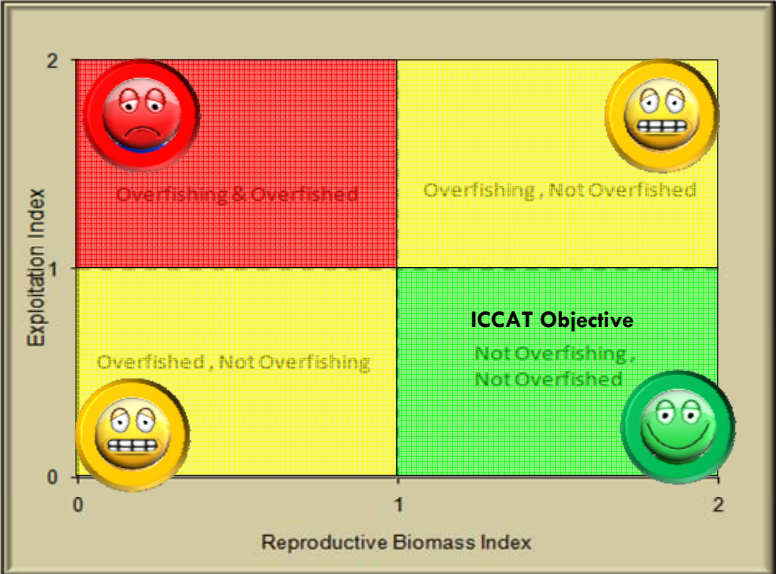
What do Stock Assessments Tell US?





- In many ways, Fishery Stock Assessments are Like Bank Statements:
 - Stock Abundance is Account Balance
 - Exploitation Rate is Interest Rate
- Stock Assessments tell us if Harvesting is Sustainable or if Exploitation Rates are Too High, Leading Toward Bankruptcy, unless Reforms are Taken.



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ICCAT's Convention Objective

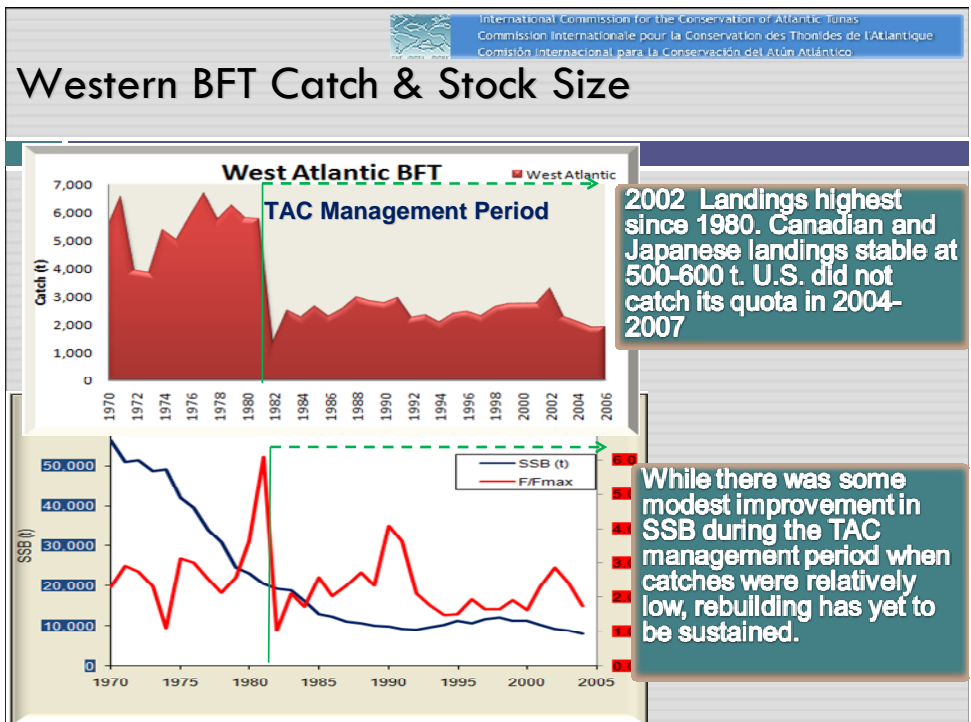
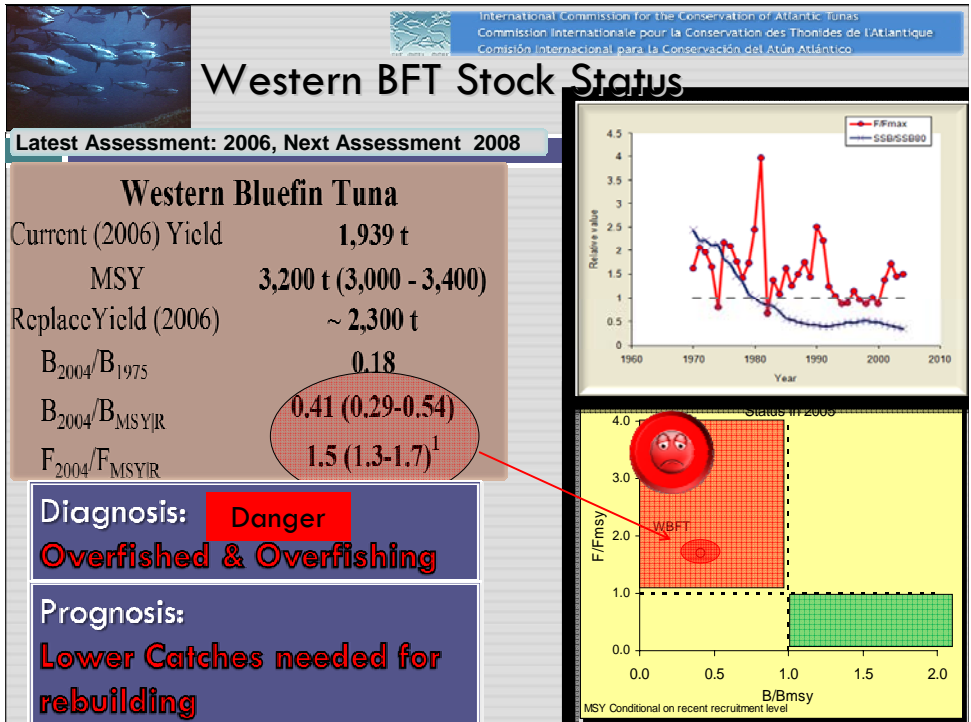


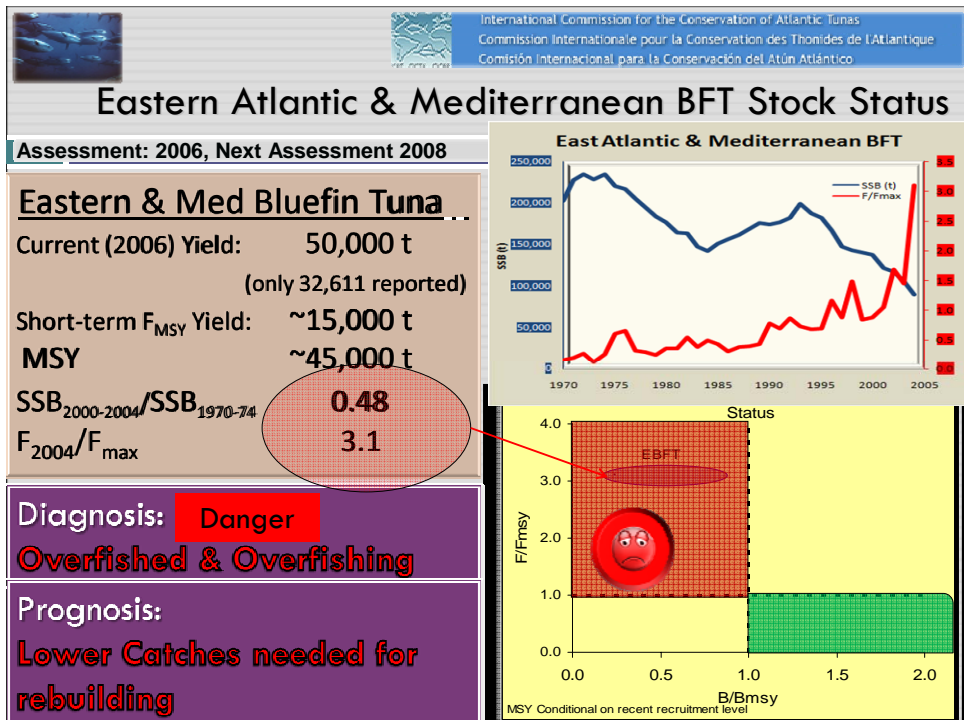
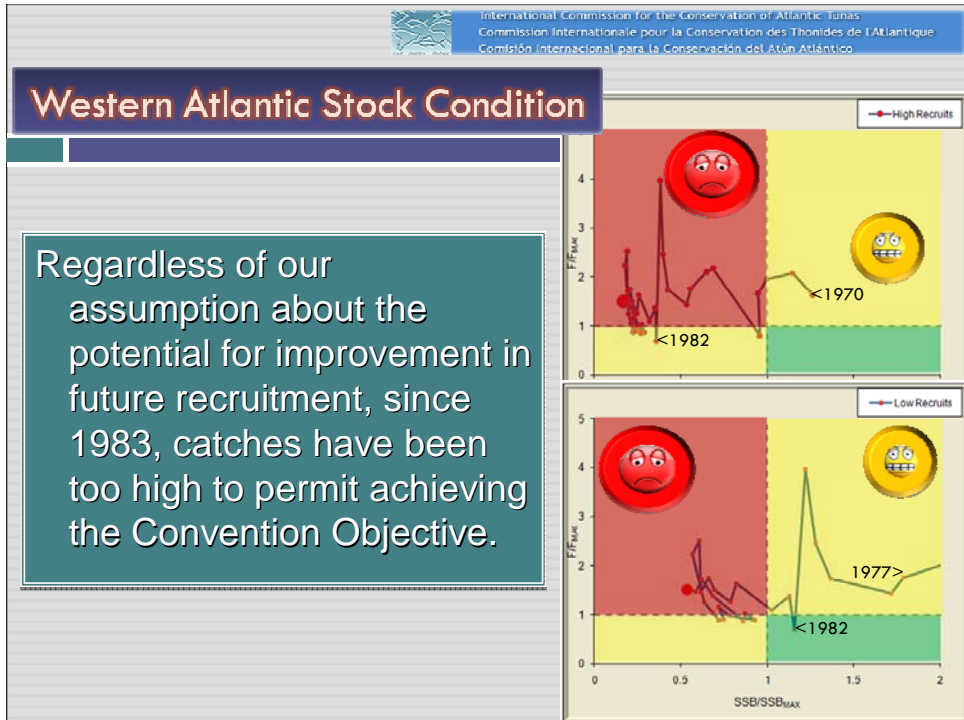
2	 Overfishing & Overfished	 Overfishing, Not Overfished	
1	 Overfished, Not Overfishing	 ICCAT Objective Not Overfishing, Not Overfished	
0			
	0	1	2
	Reproductive Biomass Index		

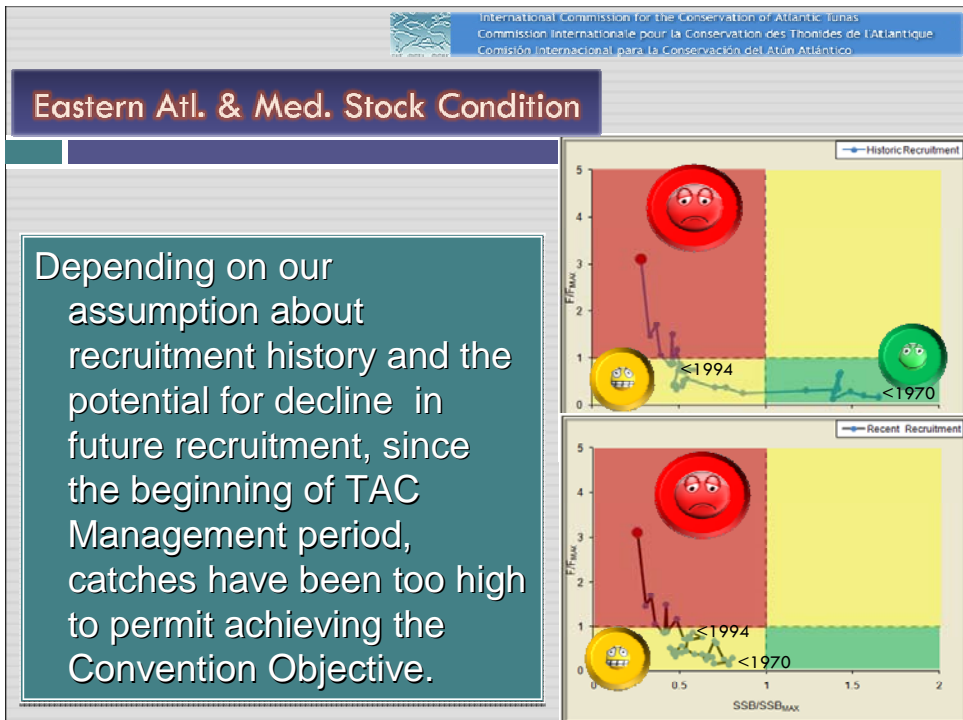
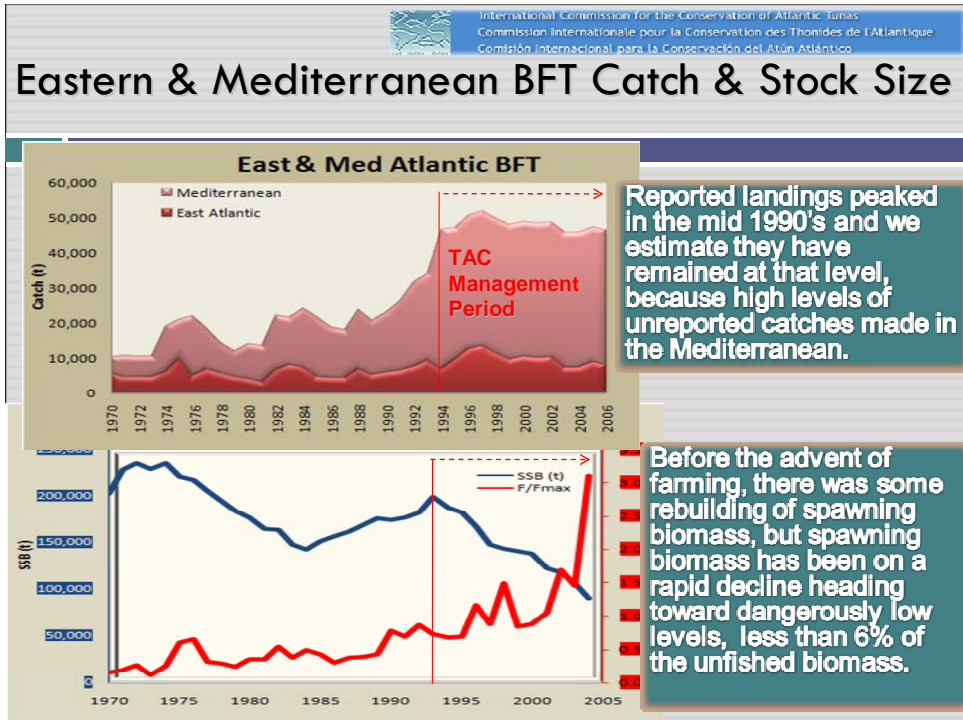
Danger

Caution

Safely Sustainable



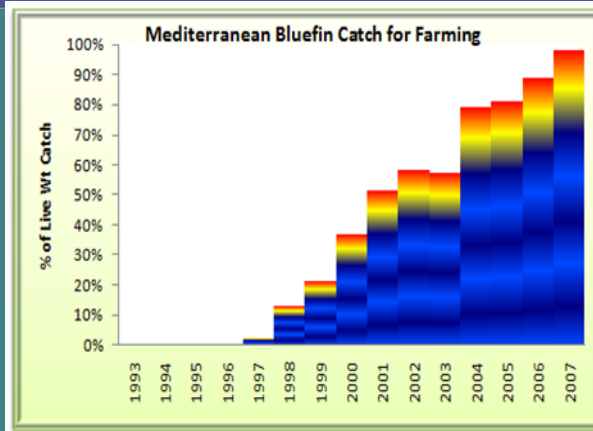






Why has Mediterranean Catch Grown so Quickly?

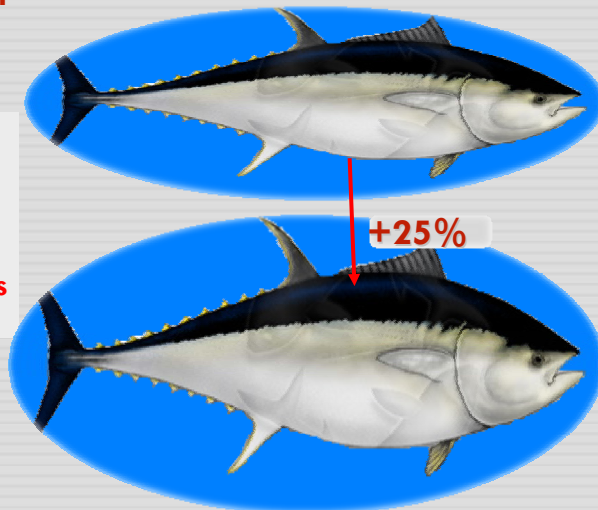
It is well known that introduction of farming activities into the Mediterranean in 1997, and good market conditions, resulted in rapid changes in the Mediterranean fisheries for bluefin tuna. Currently, nearly all of the declared Mediterranean bluefin fishery production is exported overseas.



Farmed Bluefin Tuna Growth Rates

A. Fattening adult fish

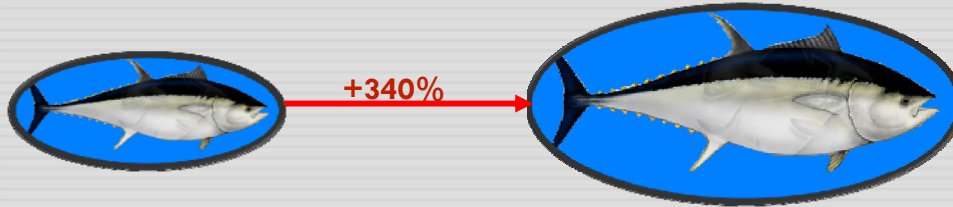
Information available indicates that fattened adults gain, on average, 25% of their capture weight while held in pens for several months





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 Commission Internationale pour la Conservation des Thonides de l'Atlantique
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Farmed Bluefin Tuna Growth Rates

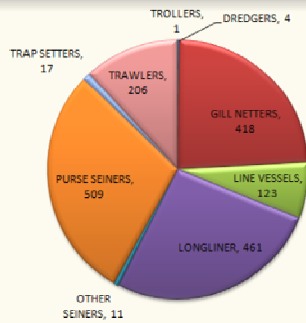


Farmed juveniles (yearlings) grow at about twice the rate of wild, juvenile fish when held in pens for ~1.5 years, representing a 3.4 fold increase compared to capture weight

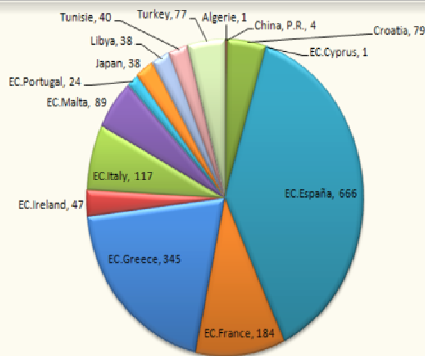


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 Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico

Too Much Fishing Capacity!



Presently, 1,750 vessels are authorized to fish BFT in the eastern management zone



Our estimates indicate the fleet has capacity far in excess of the current TAC and at least 3 times times the catch level consistent with fishing to achieve the Convention Objective

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Capacity: BFT-E Farming/Caging

- Farming capacity is about 60,000t (~48,000t round weight of fish at time of capture).

Year	Number of Farms	Total Holding Capacity (t)	TAC (ITAF & MEB) (t)
2004	45	25,000	30,000
2005	48	40,000	30,000
2006	60	55,000	28,000
2007	62	58,000	28,000
2008	65	60,000	28,000

- Fishing capacity exists to fully supply the farms

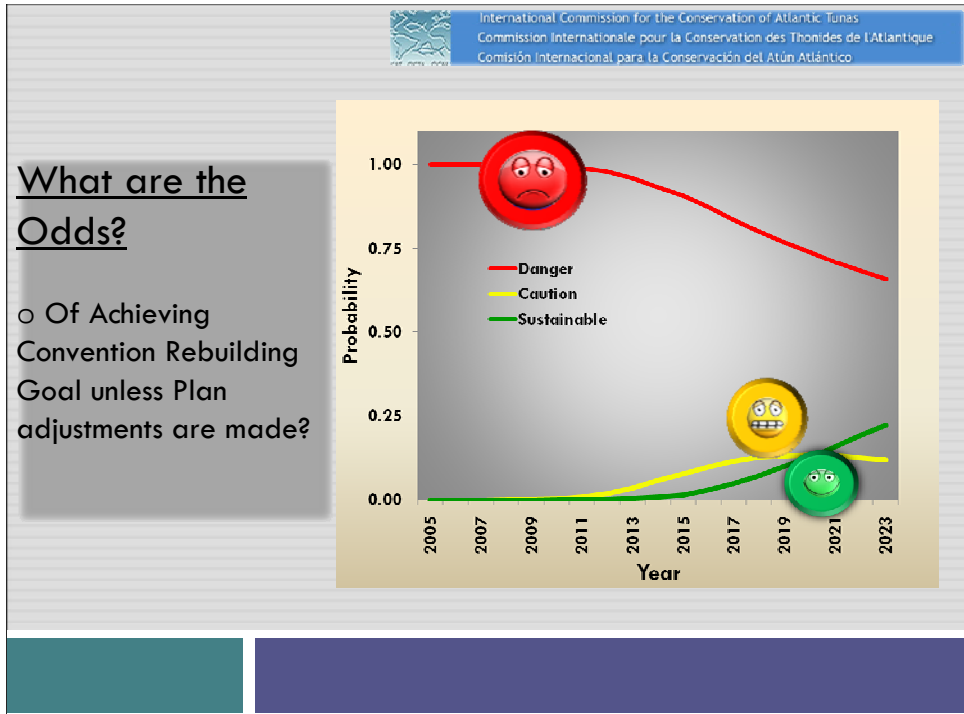
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
 Commission Internationale pour la Conservation des Thonides de l'Atlantique
 Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico

Prognostications

- Recruitment is difficult to predict, but...
- Risk of fishery and stock collapse is high and only gets higher with further reductions in spawning biomass (from 2004 level)
- Large reductions in Fishing Mortality up front could substantially mitigate that risk and improve the odds of achieving the Rebuilding Plan Objectives

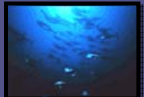



If biomass reductions do not affect recruitment we **might** get green and be happy (if we are perfect in implementing the rebuilding plan)

But, if further reductions of biomass affect recruitment we will most likely not get green and be happy without **very** draconian measures (even if we are perfect).

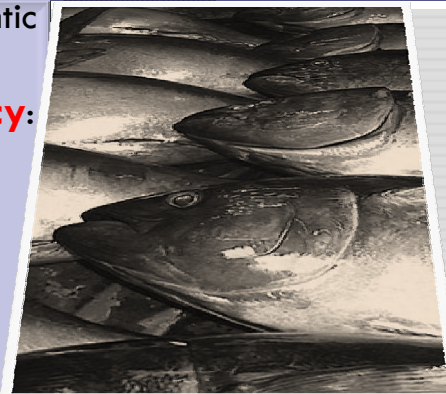


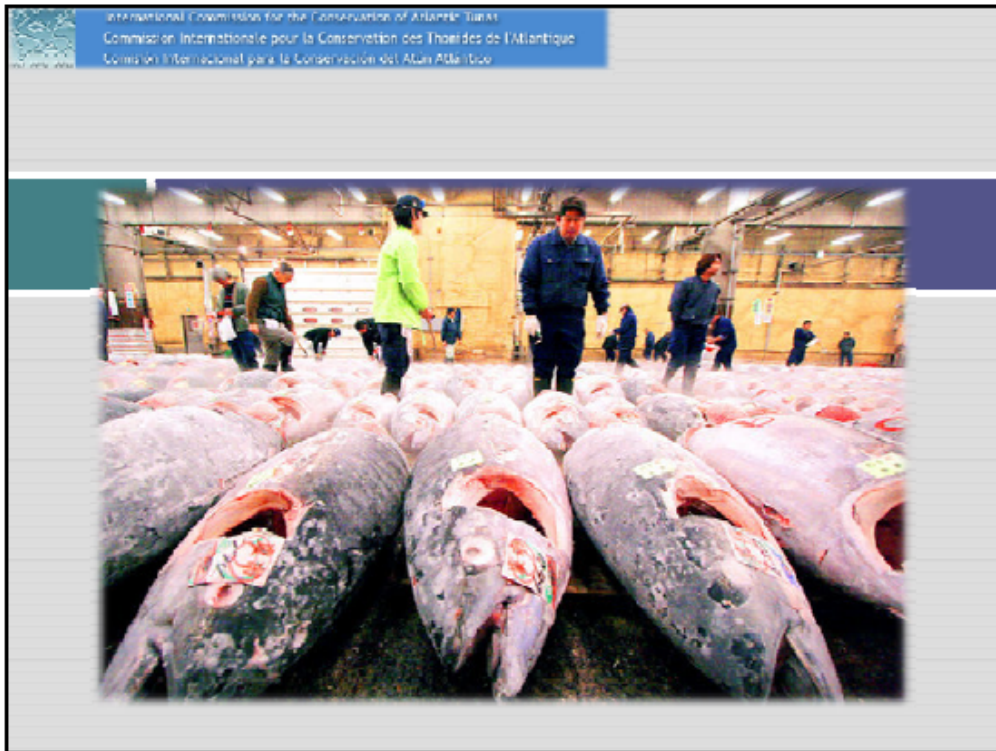
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Commission Internationale pour la Conservation des Thonides de l'Atlantique
Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico

So, what is the current condition of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna resource ?

○ Unless We Soon Reform, Atlantic BFT Appear Rapidly Headed Toward **Biological Bankruptcy**:
Our Account Balance is Quickly Shrinking & Exploitation Rates are Much Higher than the Rate of Interest Nature Provides.





ICCAT Management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

ICCAT Secretariat

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), established in 1966 in response to the activity of newly developed fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean with the objective of maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes has, over the years, adopted sixty-four measures pertaining directly to Atlantic bluefin tuna, constituting over 22 percent of all measures adopted. This figure does not include the innumerable measures in relation to general monitoring, control and the elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries which stemmed from concerns over this species. Following the entry into force of the measures adopted in 2007, which is expected in June 2008, there will be ten measures in effect specifically for bluefin tuna - 3 Resolutions and 7 Recommendations -, embracing conservation and management, monitoring and control and scientific research. A brief history of the measures adopted to date and an outline of current requirements of the measures in force is herewith presented, without taking into account any other considerations.

Background

The background to the concerns and unease which led to the holding of the Symposium of the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa (CCTA) on Tuna in Dakar, 12-17 December 1960 is well explained in other literature, (for example, Fonteneau, A. 2006)¹, and stemmed largely from the introduction of commercial longliners and purse seines which began to operate all year round fisheries with catches of tuna of all sizes. This led to a significant increase in the catches of tuna and tuna-like species in African waters, and it was therefore recognized that the increase in bluefin tuna catches could pose a serious threat to the traditional Mediterranean trap fishery. The Symposium recommended that the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa/Scientific Council for Africa take the initiative, either directly or through its member governments, to request the relevant Specialized Agency of the United Nations to convene a conference of Plenipotentiaries bringing together all countries involved in bluefin tuna fisherie, with a view to creating an appropriate organization modelled on the I-ATTC. The need for creating such an organization was endorsed at the World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Tunas held in La Jolla, USA, under the auspices of the FAO.

Following various meetings at different levels within the FAO, the creation of a Commission responsible for the conservation of Atlantic tuna was agreed. This gave rise to the Rio de Janeiro Conference in 1966, and the entry into force of the ICCAT Convention in 1969.

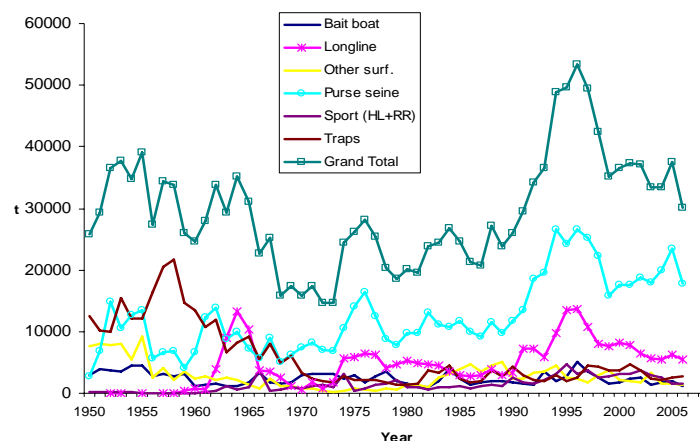


Figure 1. Catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna by gear 1950-2006.

¹ Fonteneau, A. 2006, Rio de Janeiro 1966-Dubrovnik 2006: un bilan scientifique et historique de l'ICCAT. [In press].

Figure 1 shows the evolution of catches of bluefin tuna between 1950 and 2006 by gear, but as can be seen from **Figure 2** the catches of bluefin tuna represent only 7% of the total catches of all species combined over the period 1950-2006, but taking into account the sudden increase in catches, several studies were undertaken.

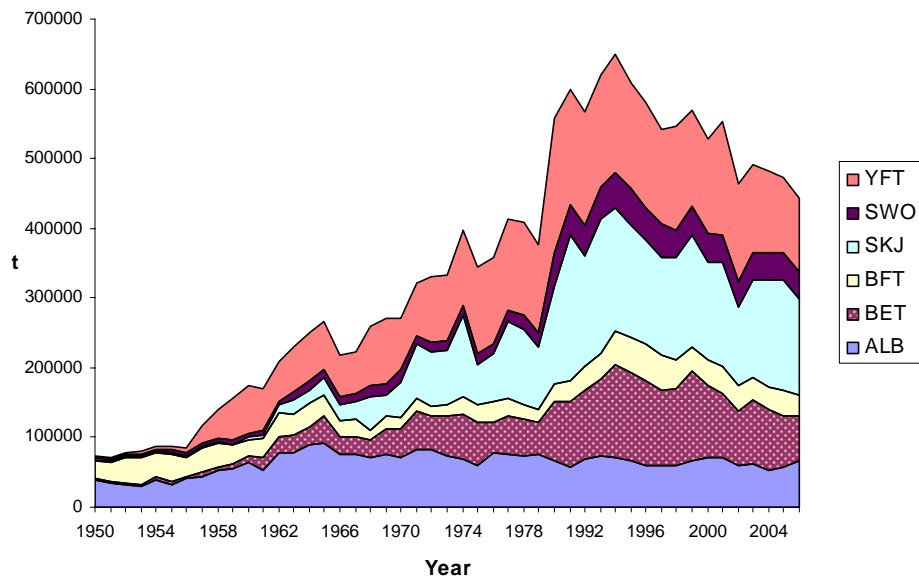


Figure 2. Total catches of tuna and tuna-like species 1950-2005.

At first, several expert meetings were held to respond to the concerns and to carry out stock assessments, and it was agreed that the landing of fish less than 10kg should be discouraged.

At the first meeting of the Commission held in December 1969, no management measures were adopted at that time, due to uncertain data and insufficient information. At the second meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), bluefin tuna was discussed, and the scientists concurred at that time with the view that capture of fish less than 9.8 kg could cause a loss in sustained yield, but that further study was needed before minimum size limits could be established.

First steps

In 1971, the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment recommended a minimum size limit for bluefin tuna; the need for a statistical reporting system providing the Commission with much more up-to date information on catches, and noted that the “the striking feature of the fisheries on large tuna has been the very sharp decline in catches since about 1960”.² In 1972, the SCRS identified bluefin tuna as one of the three major species requiring study, while the Commission agreed that no decision on regulation of the fisheries could be made due to lack of concrete evidence.

The first Recommendation adopted by the Commission on bluefin tuna was the 1974 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Limit on Bluefin Tuna Size and Fishing Mortality* [Rec. 74-01], establishing a minimum size of 6.4kg for bluefin tuna and requiring Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to limit the fishing mortality of bluefin tuna to recent levels. This Recommendation was effective for the entire Atlantic Ocean.

Atlantic bluefin tuna was originally considered a single stock (SCRS Report 1973, p. 96), although there was recognition that there could be more than one stock. This was first discussed in depth by SCRS in 1976, and the two-stock hypothesis put forward to Commission for consideration in 1978. It was adopted in 1981 by majority vote through the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Management Measures* [Rec. 81-01], as shown in **Figure 3**.

² ICCAT, 1972. Report for the Biennial Period 1970-1971, Part 3 (1971), p. 95.

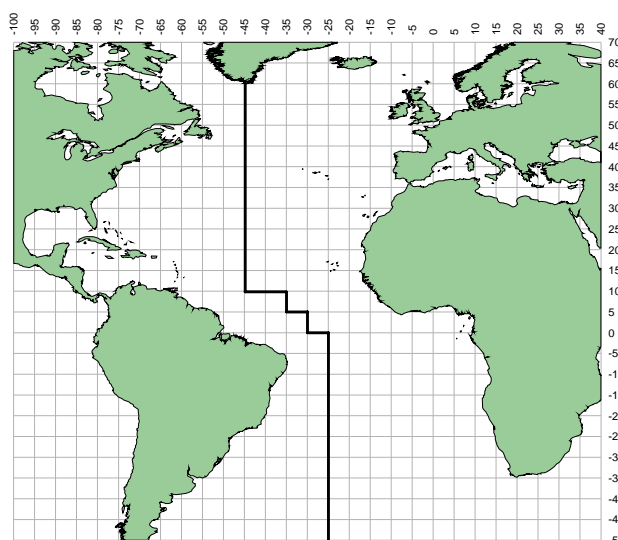


Figure 3. East-west bluefin tuna stock areas.

ICCAT measures taken for the West Atlantic

While some of the initial concerns which had led to the creation of ICCAT stemmed from the eastern Atlantic, it was the western stock on which management measures were first concentrated, where longline and purse seine catches had increased from around 100 t each in the late 1950s to 12,000 t and 5,000t respectively in 1964, as can be seen in **Figure 4**).

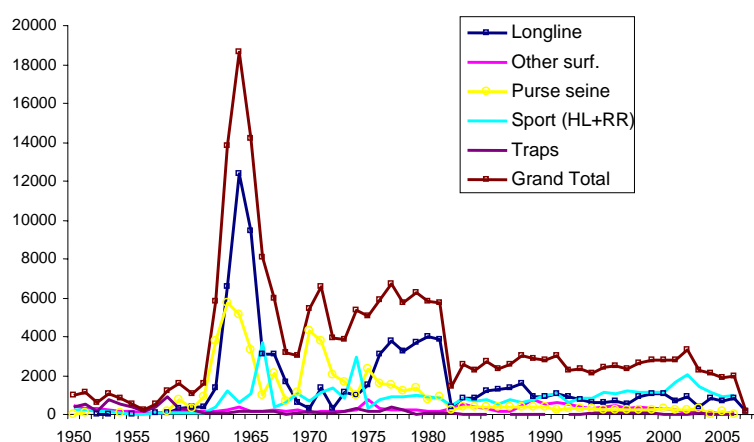


Figure 4. Catches of western Atlantic bluefin tuna, by gear, 1950-2006.

The 1981 Recommendation [Rec. 81-01] set out specific requirements for the western Atlantic bluefin stock, including a total allowable catch limit, and continuing the 1974 size limit of 6.4 kg for all bluefin tuna.

New Regulations for the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Catch [1983] [Rec. 82-01], pertaining again mainly to the western Atlantic stock were adopted in 1982, and were continued, with gradual refinements, up to 1986, by which time the measures included a closure of the fishery during the spawning season in the Gulf of Mexico and additional requirements in relation to minimum size. This measure was extended annually by the Commission until 1990.

In 1991, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Enhancement of the Current Management of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 91-01], which specified the individual catch limits in the body of the text for the first time. Prior to that, the TAC had been distributed in accordance with an arrangement

agreed at an inter-sessional meeting by the parties involved in the fisheries (*Record of the Meeting on the Western Atlantic Bluefin Management Measures* (ICCAT 1982³). Similar allocations were made through the *Recommendations for the 1992-1993 Management of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 92-04], which in fact extended the allocations up to 1994, although these were revised upwards through the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Western Atlantic* [Rec. 93-05], in accordance with the conclusions of the Management Review Committee for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna⁴ held in Tokyo, Japan 1992. It was also agreed during the meeting of this Committee that the three main harvesters of western bluefin tuna would require their fishermen to proceed to tag all Atlantic bluefin tuna harvested and available for sale and implement a system whereby import of all bluefin tuna be accompanied by a certificate of origin (see Statistical Document Programme below).

Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Western Atlantic Ocean [Rec. 94-12] set individual quotas for west Atlantic bluefin tuna, which continued, with an increase in the TAC of 300 t, through the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Scientific Monitoring Quota For Bluefin Tuna in the Western Atlantic for 1997-1998* [Rec. 96-04].

In 1998, recognising that the western stock of bluefin tuna was over-exploited, the Commission adopted a twenty year rebuilding plan through the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], modified in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006 (*Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07]; *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Stock Assessment Schedule for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 03-08]); *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 04-05] and the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 06-06]). This plan set a TAC, modifiable in accordance with scientific advice, a closed area during the spawning season in the Gulf of Mexico and a sharing arrangement based on percentage shares of the TAC.

Measures for western bluefin tuna have been in place for over twenty-five years, and the rebuilding plan for ten years, and in recent years, catches have been well below the TAC in a consistent manner for the first time, (**Figure 5**).

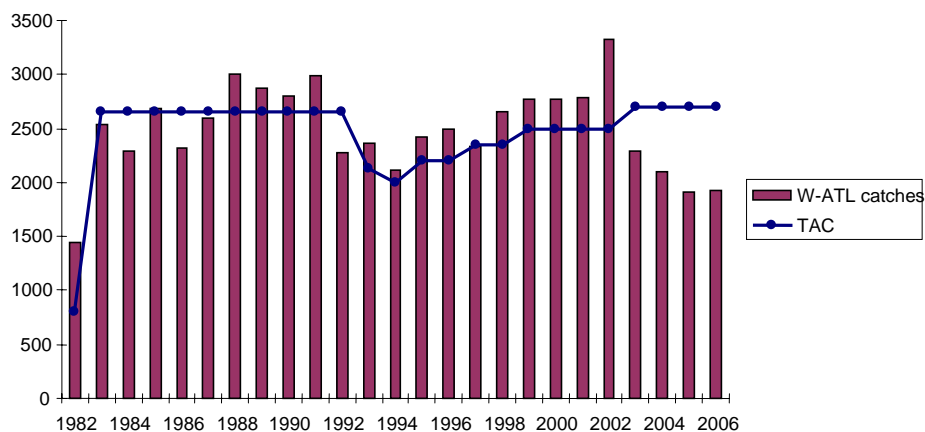


Figure 5. Comparison of reported West Atlantic Bluefin tuna and TACs, 1982-2006.

³ ICCAT, 1982. Record of the Meeting on the Western Atlantic Bluefin Management Measures.

⁴ ICCAT, 1993. Report for the Biennial Period 1992-1993, Part I (1992), pp. 71-77.

ICCAT measures taken for the East Atlantic and Mediterranean

Following the adoption of the existence of two stocks, the SCRS expressed grave concern that basic information on catch and size composition is not available, and warned that without such information the Committee may not be able to provide advice to the Commission.

In 1992, at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Government of Sweden proposed the inclusion of western Atlantic bluefin in Appendix I and eastern Atlantic bluefin in Appendix II of the CITES Convention. The ICCAT Secretariat, in collaboration with various scientists, prepared two pamphlets to explain the Commission's position and actions to date concerning bluefin tuna, contributing to Sweden's decision to withdraw its proposal. In 1993, the Commission sent additional information to CITES in response to the discussions at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the [CITES] Parties, and adopted a *Resolution by ICCAT on Cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* [Res. 93-08], and the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Composition of the Delegates of ICCAT Contracting Parties to ICCAT* [Res. 93-09], and in 1994, submitted a *Report by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on the Status of the Bluefin Tuna Populations and on Related Conservation Initiatives in the Atlantic*⁵.

The increase in catch levels, coupled with the concerns over eastern bluefin tuna expressed by CITES, led to the consideration of management measures for this stock in the early 1990s. The first measure specifically for the eastern Atlantic, the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Regulatory Measures for the Management of Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 93-07] was adopted in 1993, and established a closed season for longline fishery in the Mediterranean. In the same year, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Central North Atlantic Ocean* [Rec. 93-06], limiting catches in this area. This limitation has been continued, with minor modifications, through the *Resolution by ICCAT on fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean* [Res. 02-12] and the *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT on fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean* [Res. 04-08], and the *Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean* [Res. 6-08].

In 1994, the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea* [Rec. 94-11] limited catches in the east by recommending measures to prevent any increase in the fishing mortality rate for the years 1995 and beyond; measures to prevent any catch by vessels under their jurisdiction in 1995 in excess of the level of catch in 1993 or 1994 (whichever the higher); starting in 1996, measures to reduce by 25% (or such lower amount which may be specified by the SCRS) their catches from the catch level specified above, such reduction to be accomplished by the end of 1998; and cooperation in the development, by 1998, of a long-term recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Recognising some unusually high catch reports for 1994, the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Management Measures for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 95-05] was adopted in 1995 to prevent significant increases in catches over the level of recent years. **Figure 6** shows the total East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin catches, 1950-2006.

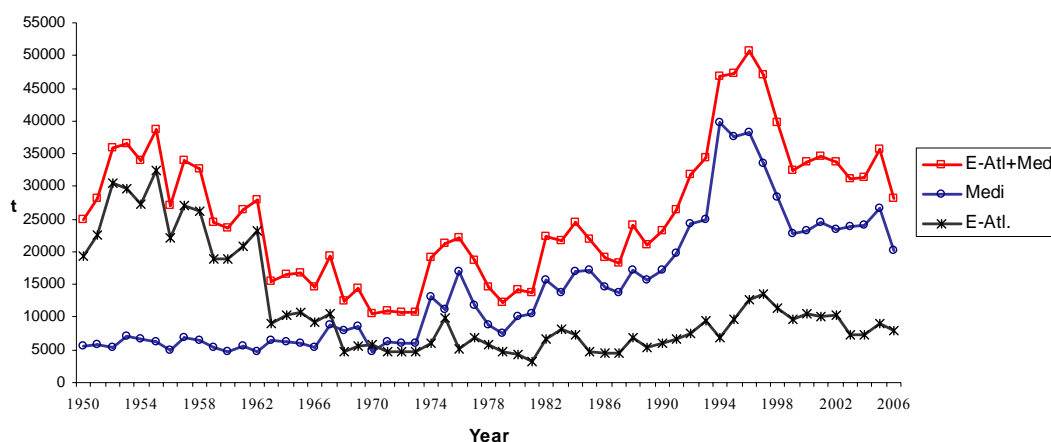


Figure 6. Catches of East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, 1950-2006.

⁵ ICCAT 1994. Report for the biennial period 1992-1993, Part II (1993), pp159-166.

Despite the 1994 Recommendation calling for a long-term recovery plan, management measures for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna continued to be taken through a piecemeal approach until 2002. In 1996, retaining on board, landing or sale of age 0 fish was prohibited through the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Age 0 Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 96-03], and this prohibition was extended to fish less than 3.2 kg in 1998 through the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the "Recommendation on Bluefin Catch Limits in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea"* and the *"Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Management Measures Concerning Age 0 Bluefin Tuna"* [Rec. 98-04].

The *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 98-05], to which two Contracting Parties lodged an objection, set individual catch limits for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna for the first time, and closed seasons were introduced by the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Changes of Closed Season for the Purse Seine Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea* [Rec. 98-06].

Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Bluefin Tuna Catch Limits in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 00-09] set the total allowable catch and individual allocations for the years 2000 and 2001. As consensus could not be reached no measures were taken for 2002, and the proposed measures were submitted to vote, but given that there was no quorum, voting could not be held.

A more comprehensive approach to the various aspects of management was taken in 2002 through the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08], although some aspects were adopted separately through the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Develop a Plan Aimed at Reducing the Catches of Juvenile Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-09] and changes to the minimum size limits were introduced through the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Size Limit* [Rec. 04-07].

Following the SCRS in 2006 assessment of this stock, the Commission adopted a plan the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05]. The entry into force of this Recommendation, the first year of the programme, has not prevented an increase in catches in and the permissible TAC being exceeded (see **Figure 7**). For this reason the *Recommendation by ICCAT in Regard to Compliance with the Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 07-04], instituting a pay-back plan for the over-harvest was adopted in 2007.

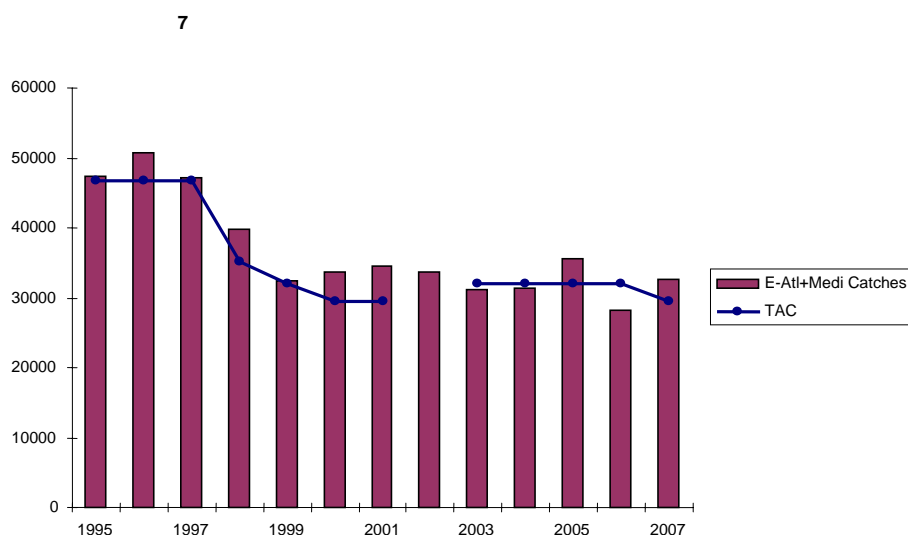


Figure 7. Comparison of TACs and total catches 1995-2007, East Atlantic and Mediterranean. (Note: The 2007 figure is taken from data submitted in accordance with Rec. 06-05; 1995 -2006 figures are from Task I.)

Farming

In view of the rapid development of the practice of bluefin tuna farming, mainly in the Mediterranean the Commission began to consider the need for specific measures to regulate this activity. Figure 8 shows the increase in catches taken by purse seiners, the activities of which are directly linked to the farming of bluefin tuna.

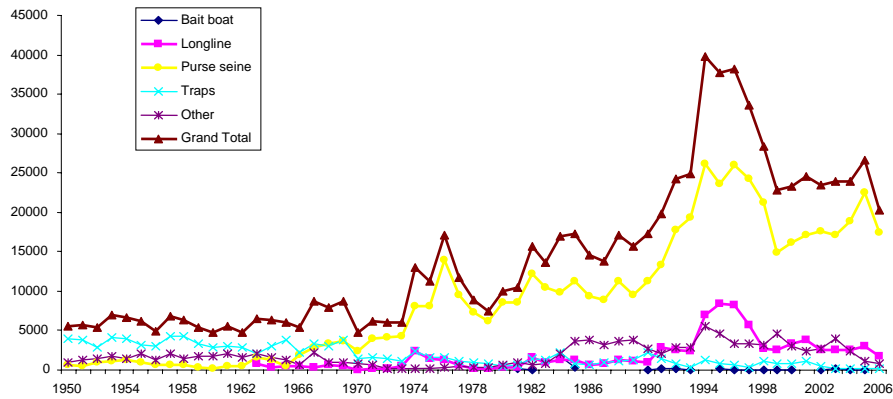


Figure 8. Catches of Mediterranean bluefin tuna, by gear, 1950-2006.

In 2000 a *Resolution by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Res. 00-10] was adopted and in 2002 a *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 02-10]. Since then, revised versions of this Recommendation have been adopted each year (*Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 03-09]; *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 04-06]; *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec.04-06] [Rec. 05-04] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07]. The combination of the measures taken to regulate farming activities and the recovery of the stock, as well as the Catch Documentation Scheme will allow quantities caught and traded to be monitored.

Figure 9 which shows the amount of Mediterranean bluefin tuna destined for farming purposes, estimated from converted trade data, compared with total reported bluefin catches (Task 1), indicating that the proportion of Mediterranean bluefin tuna to farming has reached practically the totality of all reported catches, and 74% of the total TAC for the eastern stock in 2006.

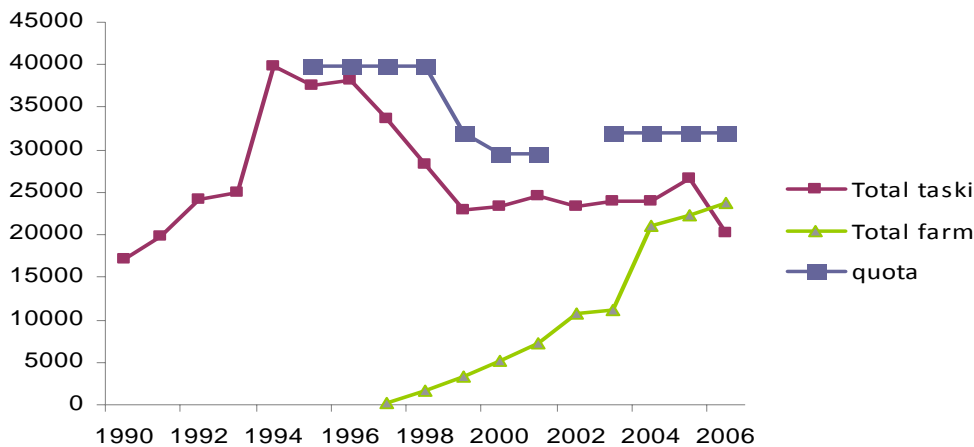


Figure 9. Estimates of Mediterranean bluefin tuna destined for farming purposes.

Statistical Document Program and unreported catches

With the aim of countering possible unreported catches, particularly by non-Contracting Parties, and the uncertainty in statistical data needed for reliable stock assessments, the Commission adopted a *Resolution Concerning Catches of Bluefin Tuna by non-Contracting Parties* [Res. 91-02] which paved the way for the creation of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) in 1992.

At the second meeting of the Management Review Committee for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (September 1992), the parties developed an outline for a Certificate of Origin Program for Bluefin Tuna, based on the deliberations and recommendations of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Technical Details for the Implementation of the ICCAT Resolution on Catches by non-Contracting Parties (Tokyo, May 1992). Japanese trade data available at that time indicated that approximately 3,000 t of bluefin tuna was imported into Japan in 1991 from non-Contracting Parties.

The Program was presented to the Commission in 1992 and led to the adoption of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [Rec. 92-01], which required all imported bluefin tuna to be accompanied by an ICCAT Statistical Document, with the double aim of estimating the real level of catches and reducing catches taken in a manner which could undermine the ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Statistical Document Program was developed over several years through the adoption of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document* [Res. 93-02]; *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Fresh Products* [Rec. 93-03]; *Resolution by ICCAT on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [Res. 94-04]; *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Effective Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [Res. 94-05]; *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Validation of Bluefin Statistical Documents Between ICCAT Contracting Parties Which are Members of the European Community* [Rec. 96-10]; *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Re-export* [Rec. 97-04]; *Recommendation by ICCAT on Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document by the European Community* [Rec. 98-12]; and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [Rec. 03-19], resulting in a complicated set of measures which did not facilitate its effective interpretation and implementation. Notwithstanding, the Program has been a valuable tool in identifying illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, and the elimination of a considerable amount of IUU fishing. The data compiled from the Bluefin Statistical Document Program were compared with the reported catch statistics, and considerable differences were found, leading to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Unreported Catches of Bluefin Tuna, Including Catches Classified as Not Elsewhere Oncluded (NEI)* [Rec. 97-03], which was later followed up by the PWG with a variety of measures aimed at eliminating this practice to the extent possible.

Catch Document Scheme

While the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program has been a useful tool in detecting unreported catches, it has two major limitations: (1) domestic consumption of bluefin tuna cannot be detected, and (2) quantities of tuna caged for farming purposes cannot be adequately determined.

In order to overcome the shortcomings of the Bluefin Statistical Document Program, and with a view to strengthening the conservation and management measures in force for Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2007 and the measures taken to control bluefin tuna farming, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 07-10]. The objective of this scheme is to ensure the reporting of all catches, whether they be destined for export, domestic consumption or farming purposes. This scheme will help to determine the level, if any, of unreported catches and can be used in the future to introduce greater certainty in statistical data and stock assessments.

Scientific research

In addition to the conservation and management measures adopted for the two Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks, the Commission has remained aware of the need for further research on this species and has adopted several

measures specifically covering aspects of research required. Many of these have been aimed at improving knowledge to ascertain possible mixing and relevant boundary of the two-stocks, and additional statistical and scientific elements required to assure sound management advice. These measures include:

Resolution by ICCAT for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Recovery Programs [Res. 95-4]; *Resolution by ICCAT for the Development of Additional Recovery Scenarios for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Res. 97-16]; *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean* [Rec. 0-08]; *Resolution by ICCAT for SCRS to Examine the Effects of Mixing for Stock Assessments and Management and Consider the Appropriateness of the Current Boundary Between the Western and Eastern Management Units for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Res. 00-11]; *Resolution by ICCAT on Conversion Factors for Bluefin Tuna from Product Weight to Live Weight* [Res. 00-12]; *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean* [Rec. 01-08]; *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the SCRS Mixing Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Res. 01-09]. It should be noted, however, that many of the conservation and management measures cited in earlier sections of this report contain provisions relating to research and tasks assigned to the SCRS.

The Bluefin Year Program was established in 1992-1997 through informal coordination of national research activities. Since 1997, this program has been financed through the regular budget of the Commission. The aims of the Program are to improve general biological information and statistical fisheries data on bluefin tuna. This Program is ongoing and part of the 2008 funding has been used to partially fund the *World Symposium for the Study on the Decline of Bluefin Tuna in Historic Periods*, to be held in April 2008.

Current reporting requirements

In order to try to combat stock decline and IUU fishing activities, the increasing number of measures adopted by ICCAT implies a corresponding increase in the burden of reporting for the administrations, the industry, the Secretariat and the Commission. Although the increase in requirements may seem excessive, it is only through increased controls that the legitimate fishing activities can be identified and illegitimate activity sanctioned.

General requirements

1. *Statistical data requirements*: Task I (nominal annual catch); Task II (monthly catch and effort by 5° x 5° or finer and size frequency data); fleet characteristics; catch-at-size; tagging data. Details and exact requirements are available on the ICCAT Web page at <http://www.iccat.int/SubmitSTAT.htm>.

Other requirements Compliance reporting tables; Vessels over 24 metres authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area; Bi-annual reports of import data collected under the ICCAT Statistical Document Program (will be discontinued from 2009); information on vessel chartering, where relevant.

Although the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* pertains to the entire Atlantic, there are currently no bluefin tuna farms in the West Atlantic Ocean.

West Atlantic

While the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07] and its subsequent revisions requires the introduction of domestic legislation to implement the provisions, these imply no additional reporting to the ICCAT Secretariat over and above the statistical data required by the Convention or those requirements general to all species managed by ICCAT.

East Atlantic and Mediterranean

Both the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05], contain specific reporting requirements over and above those required by the general requirements for all species.

Information required for bluefin tuna farming activities [Rec. 06-07]

– Record of BFT Farming Facilities

All Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) that operate farming facilities in the Convention area shall submit a List of Farming Facilities Authorized to Operate for Farming of Bluefin Tuna Caught in the Convention Area, containing the name, registration number, location and capacity of the farm (in tons), as well as the name(s) and address(es) of the owners and operators. The Record of Bluefin Tuna Farming Facilities is published by the Secretariat on the ICCAT web site, and changes to be made to this Record should be reported to the Secretariat as they occur

– Record of Vessels that Fish for, Provide or Transport Bluefin Tuna for Farming Purposes

CPCs must transmit to the Secretariat a list of vessels that fish for, transport or provide bluefin tuna for farming purposes. The Record of Bluefin Tuna Farming Vessels is published by the Secretariat on the ICCAT web site, and changes to be made to this Record should be reported to the Secretariat as they occur.

– Quantities of bluefin tuna placed in the cage for farming purposes

CPCs shall transmit to the Secretariat the amounts of bluefin tuna transferred to cages for each farming facility, as well as the quantities marketed and an estimate of the growth and mortality. Information should be transmitted to the Secretariat prior to 31 August each year. Information submitted should include the name(s) of the farm(s).

– Quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cage

In accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05], CPCs shall inform the Commission of the quantities of bluefin tuna transferred to cages by each fishing vessel or transport vessel, in accordance with the ICCAT caging declaration adopted by the Commission. A summary of the information should be submitted to the Secretariat each year prior to 31 August. This report shall include information relating to the validation numbers and the dates of the Statistical Document, the quantities (in tons and in number of fish) of the losses during transport, the dates, locations, vessel name and gear and the flag names and registration numbers.

Data required in the framework of the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Management Program [Rec-06-05]

– Record of Vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

The Commission should maintain and publish a Record of the vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean of all the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) that have vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Any fishing vessel that is not included in this Record and targets eastern bluefin tuna may be considered by the Commission as having carried out activities in contravention of the ICCAT management measures.

– List of Traps authorized to fish bluefin tuna and quantities taken by traps

CPCs must send to the Secretariat a List of Traps authorized to fish in the Convention area. Information should include the name, registration number, and geographical area of the trap, as well as the names and addresses of owners and/or operators. Changes to the information regarding the List of Traps shall be sent to the Secretariat as soon as they occur. The quantities of bluefin tuna sacrificed should be sent to the flag State of the trap within 48 hours of landing after each fishing operation, and transmitted to the Secretariat without delay.

– Bluefin tuna catch declarations

CPCs are required to transmit their monthly catches to the Secretariat, as well as catches taken by vessels.

Each CPC shall send the Secretariat a report on the provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which catches were made. Reports of catches by vessel shall be made 10 days after initial entry into the E-BFT Plan Area, and every five days after 1 June of each year.

– List of Transshipment Ports and/or bluefin tuna landings

CPCs are required to transmit to the Secretariat the List of Ports where transshipment and/or landings of eastern bluefin tuna stock are authorized. Changes to the information contained in the Record should be sent to the Secretariat 15 days before entry into force.

– VMS Requirements

All CPCs whose vessels over 24 metres are fishing for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean are required to transmit VMS reports to the ICCAT Secretariat every six hours.

– ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

CPCs have agreed, in the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection [Ref. 75-02]. Vessels and inspectors involved in this scheme should be notified to the Secretariat, together with photographs and signatures of the inspectors, upon receipt of which identity cards will be issued by the Secretariat. Inspection reports should be sent to the Governments of States of the vessels inspected and to the Secretariat as soon as available.

Conclusion

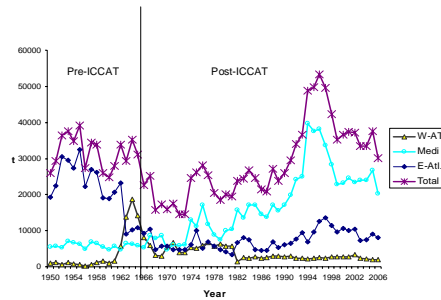
The above is a general overview of the measures taken by the Commission aimed at overcoming the problem of the continuously increasing exploitation of bluefin tuna. The latest measure taken, reflected in Resolution 07-05, aims at instigating a discussion among the various sectors involved in this fishery with the aim of ensuring a brighter future for bluefin tuna.

Overview of the Current ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

D. Meski, ICCAT Executive Secretary

ORIGINS

- Initially, the high level of purse seine and longline catches in the 1950s -1960s caused the concerns which led to the creation of ICCAT



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

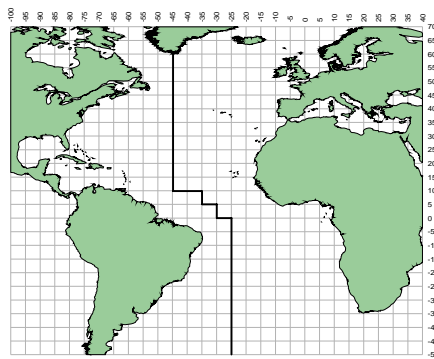
- Adopted in accordance with Articles VIII and IX of the Convention.
- Based on scientific evidence
- Aimed at maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch
- Sixty-four measures relating directly to BFT, and many more stemming from concerns over this species.

CURRENT ICCAT MEASURES RELATING DIRECTLY TO BLUEFIN TUNA

2007-10	Rec	Recommendation by ICCAT on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program
2007-04	Rec	Recommendation by ICCAT in Regard to Compliance with the Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
2007-05	Res	Resolution by ICCAT for Rebuilding of the Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock
2006-08	Res	Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean
2006-07	Rec	Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming
2006-06	Rec	Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program
2006-05	Rec	Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
2001-09	Res	Resolution by ICCAT regarding the SCRS mixing report on Atlantic bluefin tuna
2001-08	Rec	Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on bluefin tuna research in the central North Atlantic Ocean
1997-03	Rec	Recommendation by ICCAT concerning unreported catches of bluefin tuna, including catches classified as not elsewhere included (NEI)

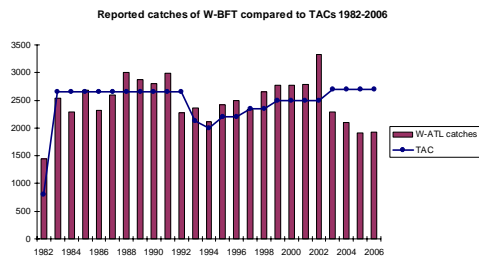
The area to which the Convention applies, referred to as the “**CONVENTION AREA**”, is all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent Seas. BFT is divided into two stocks, east and west as shown below.

Eastern stock includes Mediterranean bluefin

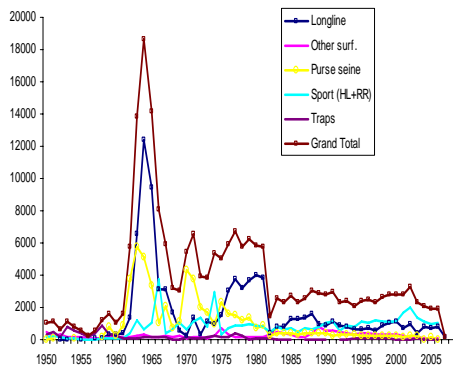


WEST ATLANTIC

- MEASURES TAKEN INITIALLY IN THE WEST ATLANTIC. CATCH LIMITS IN FORCE SINCE 1982
- TACS AND ALLOCATIONS CURRENTLY SET THROUGH THE *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [98-07]*



Catches of west Atlantic BFT by gear, 1950-2006

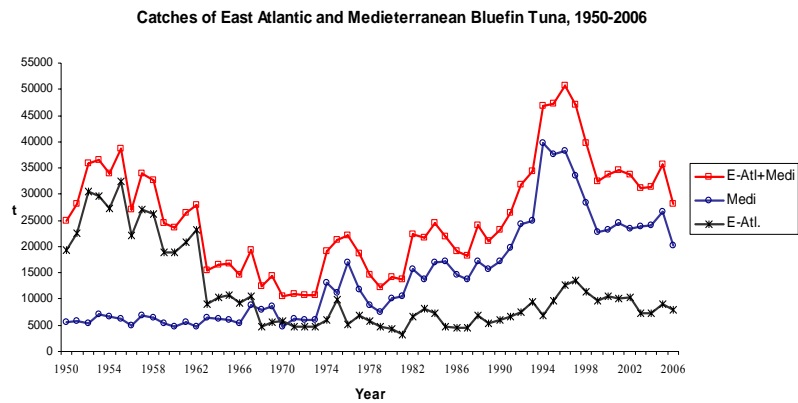


- NO SPECIFIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR W-BFT OTHER THAN GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND SCIENTIFIC DATA

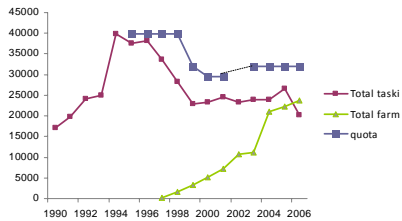
EAST ATLANTIC

- - INCREASE IN TOTAL CATCHES BACK TO LEVELS OF 1950s-1960s.
- - INCREASE IN FARMING ACTIVITY DIFFICULT TO TRACK THROUGH CURRENT STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM.
- - DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF POSSIBLE UNREPORTED CATCHES.

EAST ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCHES

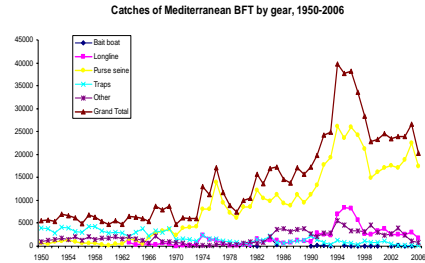


INCREASE IN BFT FARMING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA



Mediterranean BFT destined for farming purposes

— No quotas adopted for 2001



Increase in purse seine catches linked to farming

SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR EASTERN ATLANTIC BFT

- Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 06-05]
- Recommendation by ICCAT on bluefin tuna farming [06-07] – Currently only affects East

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 1. SCIENTIFIC DATA REQUIREMENTS
- 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENT GENERAL TO ALL SPECIES
- 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO E_BFT

1. SCIENTIFIC DATA REQUIREMENTS

MANAGEMENT IS BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND ADVICE FROM THE SCRS. TO ENSURE ACCURATE ASSESSMENTS, CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE OBLIGED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DATA:

- NOMINAL ANNUAL CATCH DATA
- CATCH AND EFFORT DATA
- SIZE SAMPLING DATA
- CATCH AT SIZE
- FLEET SIZE DATA
- TAGGING DATA
- OTHER BIOLOGICAL DATA WHERE AVAILABLE

<http://www.iccat.int/submitSTAT.htm>

INDUSTRY SHOULD SUPPLY THEIR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES WITH THE DATA REQUIRED BY NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS FOR SUBMISSION OF AGGREGATED DATA TO ICCAT

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- ICCAT RECORD OF VESSELS OVER 24M
- COMPLIANCE TABLES
- ANNUAL REPORTS
- VESSEL CHARTERING MEASURES
- TRADE DATA AND STATISTICAL DOCUMENT DATA REPORTS

3. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS E-BFT

A. Catch Reporting	REQUIREMENT	PARA (s) in Rec. 06-05
1	Communication of catches (by vessel)	40
2	Reporting of catches (by month)	41-43
3	Caging declarations	45; Rec. 06-07
4	Trap declarations	48
B. ICCAT Records and Lists		
5	ICCAT Record of traps	33-34
6	ICCAT Record of Vessels fishing for E-BFT	30-32 and Annex 1
7	Designated landing ports	38 and Annex 1
8	Designated transshipment ports	35
C. Joint inspection scheme		
9.	Names of inspectors	56 and 57
10	Names of ships carrying inspectors	56 and 57
11	Inspection reports	56 and 57
D. Other requirements		
12	Number of BB and TROL vessels in 2006 and current list.	Annex 1
13	Number of TRAW vessels, and current list	Annex 1
14	Chartering of vessels for BFT	12
15	Information on joint fishing operations	13
16	Recreational and sport fishery data	24; 28
17	Domestic laws implementing the Plan	Res. 07-05
18	VMS Reporting	49 and Rec.07-08

MCS MEASURES- ICCAT RECORDS

The Secretariat maintains the following Records relating directly to E-BFT:

- Record of BFT Fishing vessels (since 2007)
- Record of BFT Farming vessels (since 2004)
- Record of BFT Farming Facilities (since 2004)
- Record of E-BFT landing ports (since 2007)
- Record of E-BFT transshipment ports (since 2007)
- Record of BFT traps (since 2007)

All records are published on www.iccat.int

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS E-BFT

<http://www.iccat.int/SubmitCOMP.htm>

Information required	Recorded in accordance with	Deadline for receipt	Forms	Information required from
Bluefin tuna farming facilities	Rec. 06-07		COMP-007-FARMS.xls	OPCs involved in bluefin tuna farming
Bluefin tuna farming vessels	Rec. 06-07		COMP-001-VESSELS.xls	OPCs involved in bluefin tuna farming
Bluefin tuna farming reports	Rec. 06-07	31-aug-07	COMP-003-FARREP.xls	OPCs involved in bluefin tuna farming
Bluefin tuna farming declaration	Rec. 06-07	ad hoc	COMP-002-DECLARATION.xls	OPCs involved in bluefin tuna farming
Bluefin tuna fishing vessels	Rec. 06-05	01-Jun-07	COMP-001-VESSELS.xls	OPCs fishing bluefin tuna in East Atl. + Med.
Bluefin tuna traps	Rec. 06-05	01-Jun-07	COMP-021-TRAPS.xls COMP-013-TRAPDEC.xls	OPCs fishing bluefin tuna in East Atl. + Med.
Bluefin tuna catch reports	Rec. 06-05	ad hoc	COMP-025-BFT-CBM.xls COMP-026-BFT-CBR.xls	OPCs fishing bluefin tuna
Bluefin tuna transshipment ports	Rec. 06-06	01-Jun-07	COMP-024-PORTS.xls BFT-PORTS-CC.xls BFT-PORTS-CR.xls	OPCs fishing bluefin tuna
Bluefin tuna landing ports	Rec. 06-05	01-Jun-07	COMP-024-PORTS.xls BFT-PORTS-CC.xls BFT-PORTS-CR.xls	OPCs fishing bluefin tuna in East Atl. + Med.
Bluefin tuna transshipment declaration	Rec. 06-06	ad hoc	COMP-027-ESPT-TRSDC.xls	OPCs transshipping eastern + Med. bluefin tuna

Last Update: 19 Feb 2008

COMBATTING UNREPORTED CATCHES

- TRADE DATA DETECTED CONSIDERABLE UNREPORTED CATCHES.
- STATISTICAL DOCUMENT FIRST ADOPTED IN 1992.
- TRADE SANCTIONS FIRST IMPOSED IN 1996.
- CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME ADOPTED 2007.

EC Implementation of the Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea [Rec. 06-05] [MSB-009]

A. Spezzani, European Community

- Management measures
- Control measures
- Joint international Inspection Scheme
- VMS
- Communications
- Specific provisions for
 - Catch reporting
 - Landings
 - Transhipments
 - Trap activities
 - Transfer and caging operations
- Implementation by EU

Management measures

1. Catch limitation (allocation of quotas)

- Multi annual reduction of TAC
- No carry-over of under-harvest
- “Private trade arrangements” under authorisation
- “Joint fishing operations” under authorisation
- Limited chartering possibilities
- Specific quotas for E. Atlantic fisheries under derogations

Management measures

2. Technical measures

- Closed fishing seasons / gear
- Prohibition to use spotting aircrafts
- Increase of the minimum size + regional derogations
- By-catch limitations (quantity + conditions for landing)
- Sport and recreational under specific provisions

Control measures

1. ICCAT records of authorised vessels + traps
2. Pre-authorisations for activity
 - Joint fishing operations
 - Transhipments
3. Pre-notification of arrivals in port
 - Landings
 - Transhipments
4. Designated ports (landings + transhipments)
5. "Real time" catch reporting (logbook + catch report 10/5 days)
6. Observers on catching vessels, joint fishing operation, traps (harvest) and farms (caging and harvest)

Control measures

7. **Compulsory inspections** (landings, transhipments and caging operations)
8. **Cross checking** of data
9. **Prohibition of any marketing operation for illegal fish** (Specific Marking, Labelling and Tail tag provisions for E. Atlantic)
10. **Compulsory use of ICCAT conversion factors**
11. **Enforcement** measures + sanctions

Joint International Inspection Scheme

- Rules agreed by ICCAT in 1975
- Control on the high sea
- Boarding of/by ICCAT CP vessels and inspectors
- Inspection reports to the Flag State and ICCAT

VMS

- ICCAT Recommendation 07-08 (timing, format and conditions for the use of VMS messages)

Communications

- Port and Farm States:
Reports on landings, transshipments, transfer and caging operations to the flag State
- Flag State:
Monthly report on catches to ICCAT
- ICCAT
Trigger point of 85 % of the respective CPC quota
Closure of the fishery (to be done by the CPC concerned)

Catch Reporting

- Logbook
 - obligation to complete by the master of the catching vessel
 - general information (quantities, date, location, gear) +
 - specific information for « joint fishing operation »
- Catch report
 - made by the master of the catching vessel
 - timing 10/5 days ("real time" catch reporting)
 - allocation of quantities for « joint fishing operations »
 - also for nil catch return
 - sent to the flag State and ICCAT (follow-up of the quota up-take)

Landings

- Obligation to land in designated ports (ICCAT listing)
- Pre-notification of arrival to the Port State
- Landing declaration (weighted quantity + catch area)
- Compulsory inspection of each landing by the Port State
- Record of landings (by the Port State, to the Flag States)
- ICCAT Catch Document

Transhipments

- Prohibition to tranship at sea (except under ICCAT Rec 06-11)
- Obligation to tranship in designated ports (ICCAT listing)
- Pre-notification of arrival by the receiving vessel (to the Port State)
- Pre-authorisation for the catching vessel (by its Flag State)
- Inspection (by the Port State)
- ICCAT transhipment declaration (signed by both masters)
- Record of transhipments (by the Port State, to the Flag State)
- ICCAT Catch Document

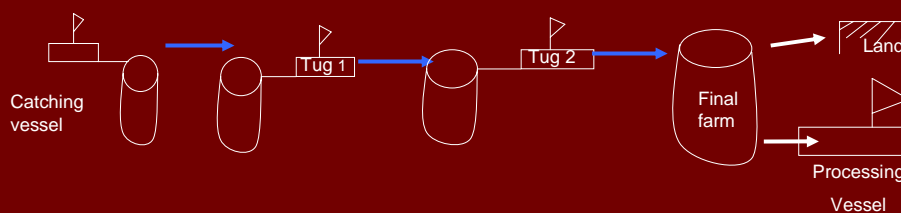
Trap activities

- ICCAT record of authorised traps
- Record of catches
- Observer (all harvests)
- ICCAT Catch Document

Transfer and caging activities

"Transfer activities" means any transfer of BFT

- from the catching vessel to the final farm
- from a farm (or a trap) to a processing vessel, transport vessel (or to land)



Conditions for the acceptance of the BFT

- Farming operations are only allowed to authorised and registered farms
- The BFT must be supplied by authorised vessels (catching, tugs)
 - recorded on the ICCAT records (to provide and transfer for caging)
 - equipped with VMS
- The BFT is accompanied by the ICCAT transfer declaration
- The Flag State of the catching vessel has formally authorised the final transfer to the farm, before the caging operation starts
- Imported BFT must be accompanied by the relevant validated ICCAT Catch Document

Catch + Transport

- **ICCAT transfer declaration**
 - Unique ICCAT model, completed by the master of the catching vessel
 - Delivered to the tug vessel, passed on during subsequent transfers, and delivered to the farm at the end of the towing process
 - Accompanying documents
 - Certification of the origin of the fish (transfer to own farms)
 - ICCAT Catch Document
- **Seizure or release of illegal fish on request of the Flag State**

Caging operations

- Caging declaration (by the farm)
 - for each caging operation (unique ICCAT model)
 - delivered to the Farm State
- Caging report (by the Farm State)
 - after each caging operation
 - validated by an observer
 - sent to the Flag State + ICCAT
- Inspection of each caging operation
- Observer present during all caging operations

Harvest

- Pre-notification of arrival by the receiving vessel (to the Farm State)
- Inspection of the receiving vessel (by the Farm State)
- Observer present during all harvest operations
- Marketing declaration (by the farm)
- Annual Marketing report (by the Farm State, to ICCAT)
- ICCAT Catch Document

BFT Recovery plan - EU

- First priority
- Council Regulation n° 1559/07 (transposition of ICCAT Rec 06/05)
- Additional provisions
 - control of the fishing effort (annual fishing plans)
 - limitation of catch (individual quotas vessels > 24 m)
 - compulsory inspection in absence of catch reports or in case of any infringement
 - obligation for a vessel to cease fishing (quota exhausted)
 - obligation for masters to cooperate during inspection
 - prohibition of any marketing for illegal products (in case of any infringement, or invalid accompanying documentation)

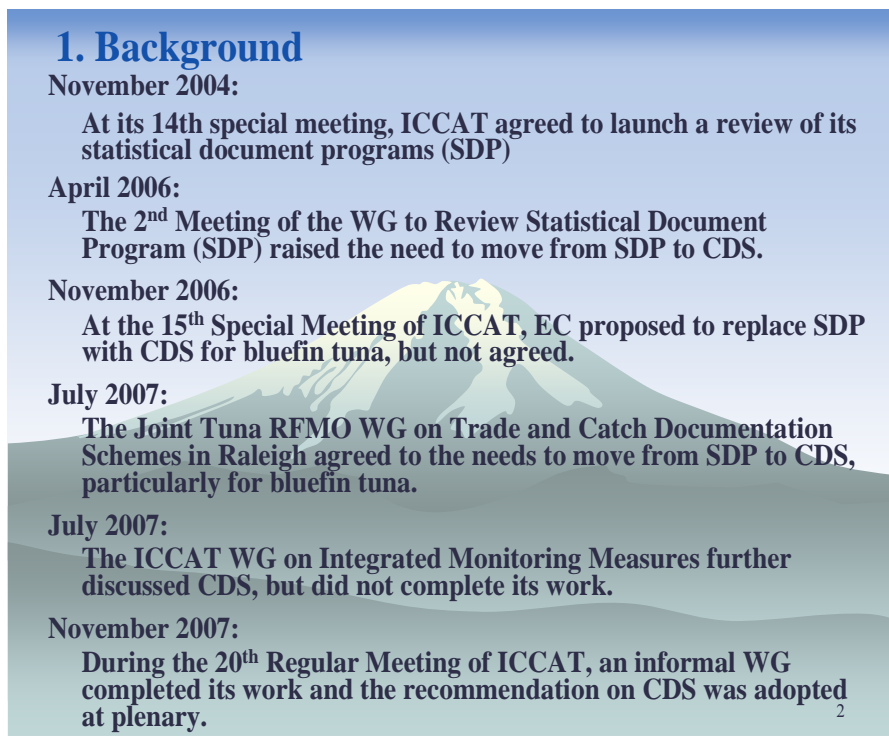
BFT Recovery plan - EU

Structure of the BFT inspection programme

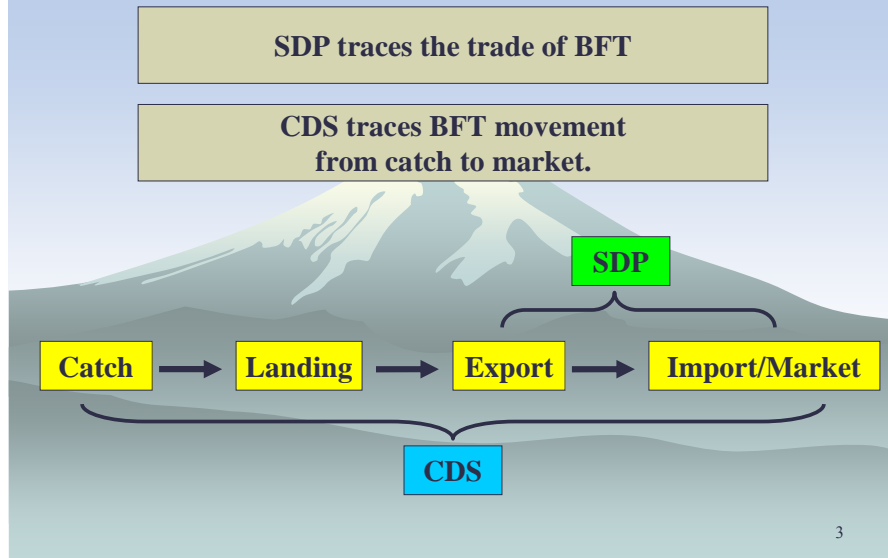
1. Specific control and inspection programme
2. Joint deployment plan (Community Control Agency)
 - 49 fishing patrol vessels (364 active days)
 - 16 aircrafts (70 surveillance flights)
 - 170 days of port / trap inspections
3. European Commission programme

How the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme is Implemented

S. Ota, Japan



2. Difference between SDP and CDS



3. General implementation of CDS

- ◆ The fishing vessel master or trap operator or the operator of farms shall complete an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) and request validation when BFT is landed, transferred to farms, harvested or transhipped.
- ◆ The BCD shall be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag state of the vessel or the state of the trap or farm.
- ◆ Such validation shall be made only when the information contained is verified and BFT has been caught in compliance with ICCAT conservation measures.
- ◆ Validation is exempted in case that all BFT are tagged by the flag state or the trap state.

3. General implementation of CDS (continued)

- ◆ When BFT is re-exported, an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC) shall be used.
- ◆ The BFTRC shall be validated by the re-exporting state and accompanied by a copy of the validated BCD relating to the BFT previously imported.
- ◆ When live BFT is exported to a farm in another state, raised, harvested and exported again, a BFTRC shall not be used, and one BCD traces all the movements (One BCD has two TRADE sections).
- ◆ It is prohibited to put BFT from different years or countries in the same cage unless effective measures are taken to determine the country's origin and catch year when BFT is harvested.
- ◆ When the shipment of BFT is split into several pieces, copies of the original BCD shall be used.

5

4. BCD form

The sample BCD form in the recommendation indicates six sections: Catch, Transfer, Transshipment, Farming, Harvest from farm, and Trade. This may vary as follows:

Basic	Country A	Country B
CATCH	CATCH	CATCH
TRANSFER		TRADE
TRANSSHIPMENT	TRADE	TRANSFER
FARMING		TRANSSHIPMENT
HARVEST		FARMING
TRADE		HARVEST
		TRADE

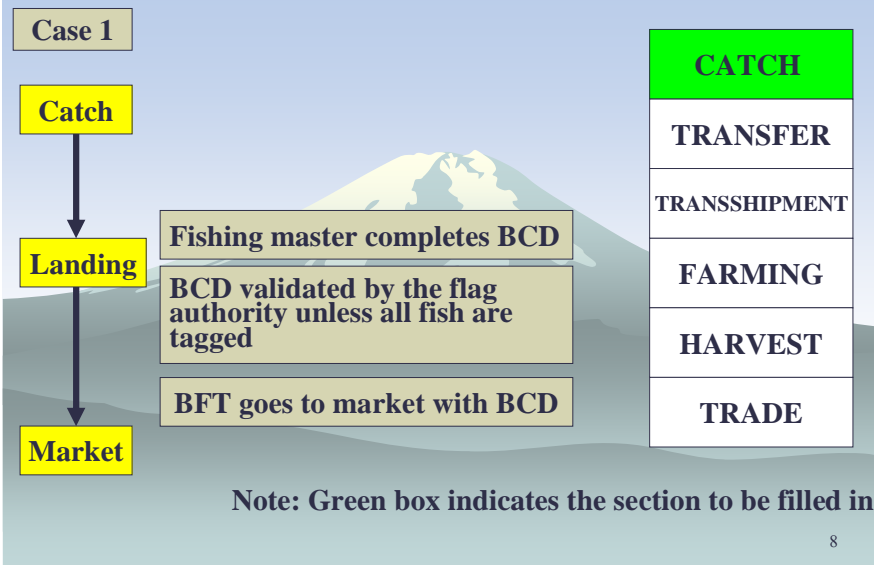
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5. Verification and cooperation

- ◆ The validated BCDs or BFTRCs must be sent within 5 working days to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the countries where the bluefin tuna will be domestically traded, transferred or imported.
- ◆ The information on BCDs and BFTRCs are entered by the ICCAT Secretariat in a database on a password protected section of its website.
- ◆ If a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a BCD, the final importing State and the CPC whose competent authorities validated the BCD(s) or BFTRC(s) shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.

7

6. How to implement CDS

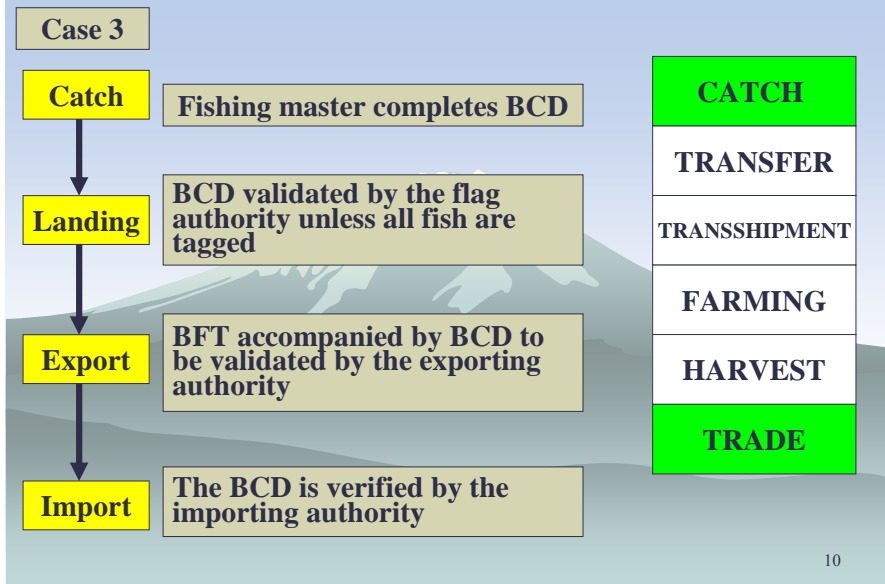


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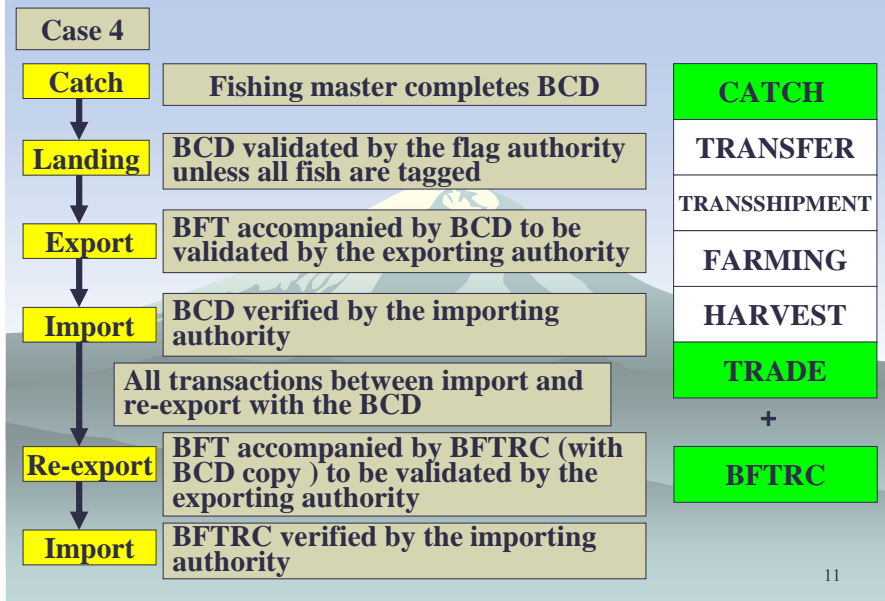
6. How to implement CDS (continued)



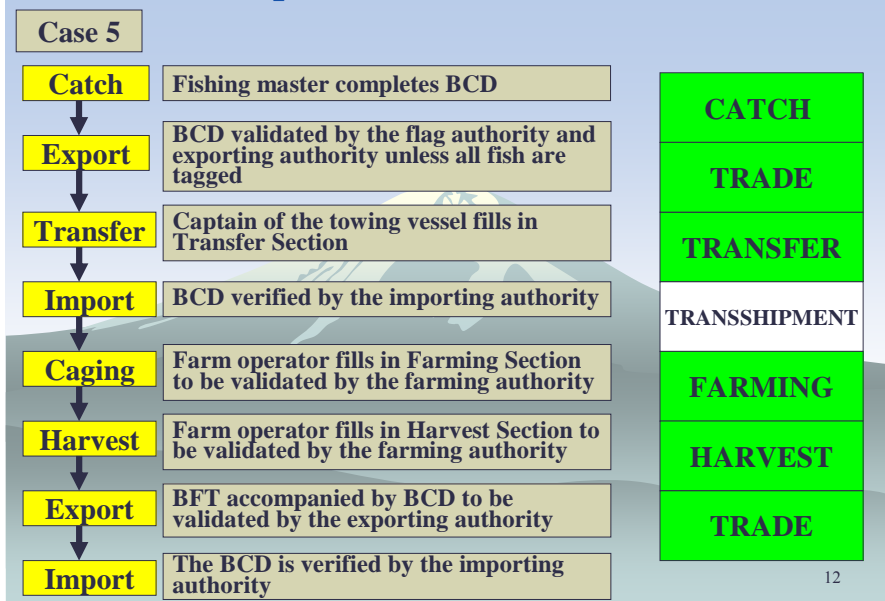
6. How to implement CDS (continued)



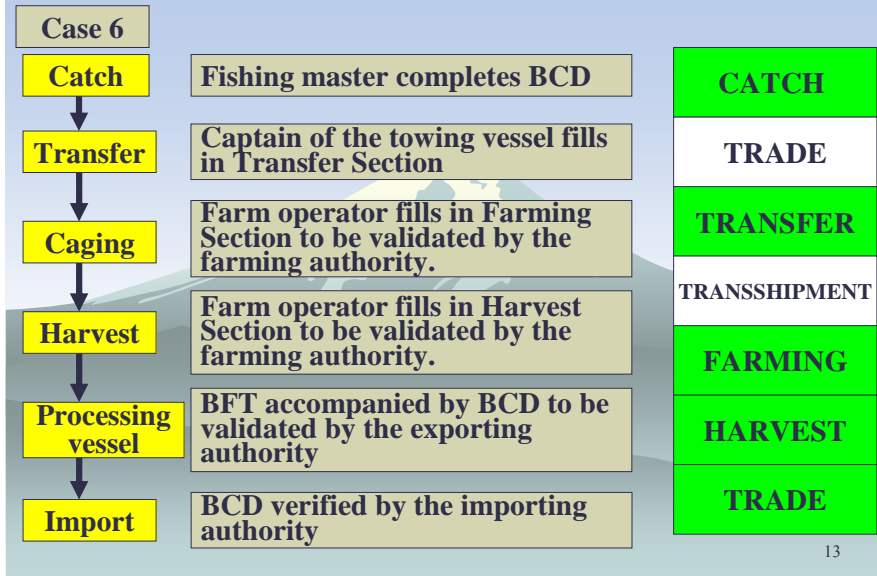
6. How to implement CDS (continued)



6. How to implement CDS (continued)



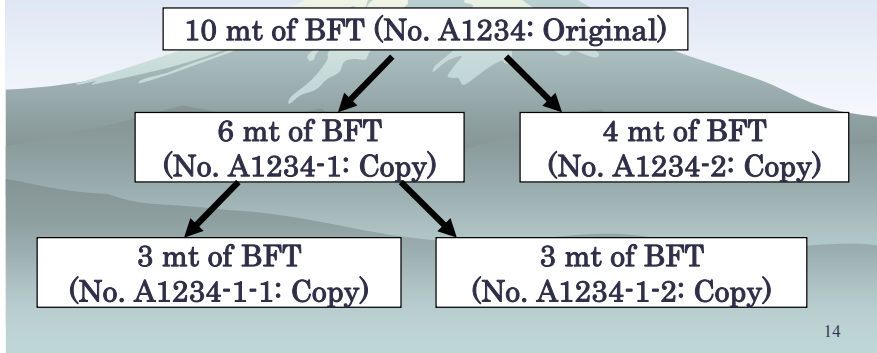
6. How to implement CDS (continued)



7. How to handle specific cases

Split shipment

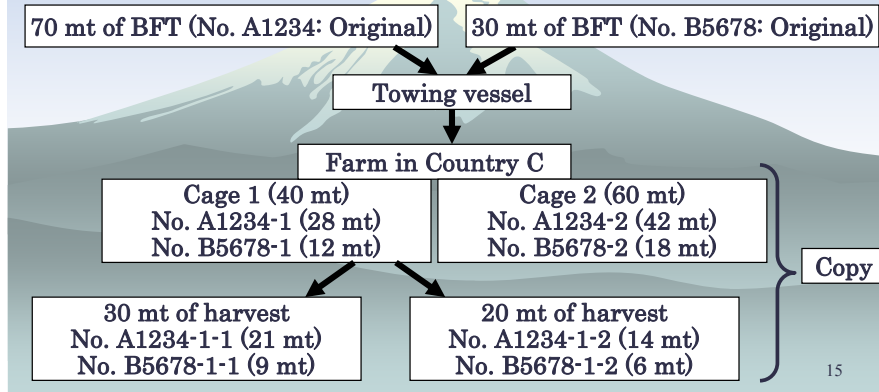
A fisherman caught 10 metric tons of BFT and completed a BCD (BCD No. A1234), which was then validated by the flag authority. 6 metric tons were sold to Exporter A and 4 metric tons to Exporter B. Exporter A exported 3 metric tons twice.



7. How to handle specific cases (continued)

Joint operation

100 mt is caught by a joint fishing operation of two fishing vessels, one from Country A and another from Country B. 70 mt is the quota of Country A and 30 mt that of Country B. The fish is divided into 40 mt and 60 mt and put into two cages of a farm in Country C, farmed and harvested twice.



15

8. Conclusion

- ◆ The coverage of CDS is wider compared to SDP. This makes implementation of CDS more complicated than that of SDP, but CDS is necessary to ensure compliance of conservation and management measures.
- ◆ Given that a CITES listing proposal of BFT is envisaged in 2010, CDS is expected to play its expected role as soon as possible.
- ◆ Because there may be more trade of BFT disguised as other tuna species as a result of the tightened regulations, trade authorities should be more careful.

16

**Joint Statement
on the Sustainable Use of the Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Resource**

The managers and stakeholders (fishing industry representing all gears, farming establishments, buyers and traders) participating in the Meeting of Managers and Stakeholders in Atlantic Bluefin Fishery have re-affirmed, in order to ensure the prompt recovery and sustainable use of the bluefin tuna resource, the need to:

- Fully comply with all the pertinent conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT, and in particular, the provisions of the Bluefin Tuna Recovery Plan;
- Prudently manage their fishing/caging/reefer capacity, fishing effort and market imports in such a manner that brings them into line with the decreasing levels of TAC foreseen in the Bluefin tuna Recovery Plan;
- Apply the catch documentation scheme for the full 2008 fishing season in order to ensure its uniform introduction and effectiveness as a key element of the Recovery Plan, and noting that market States accord with this approach;
- Encourage CPCs involved in the fisheries and market for bluefin tuna to cooperate in the fight against IUU activities, notably, through regular exchange of information on fishing activities in their areas or in adjacent areas;
- Further encourage CPCs to exchange data on fishing activities in their waters by flag vessels of other CPCs, which are licensed to fish in their waters under private trade arrangements with the authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission and/or under joint fishing operations;
- Consider and support the adoption of the necessary conservation and management measures based upon the best available scientific advice in the review of the existing recovery plans scheduled at the next ICCAT meeting;
- Participate actively in data collection so as to contribute to the assessment of stock status, providing the best available scientific advice for the review of the Recovery Plan.