

## REVISION OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA TASK I NOMINAL CATCHES FROM SPAIN

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### SUMMARY

*This document presents a revision of Spanish bluefin tuna nominal annual catches over the period 1950 to 2015. The revision has not affected the total catches. Changes are mainly related to gap completion, errors correction, time series improvement and reduction of unclassified gears*

### RÉSUMÉ

*Ce document présente une révision des captures annuelles nominales de thon rouge de UE-Espagne pendant la période 1950-2015. La révision n'a pas affecté les captures totales. Les changements ont principalement consisté à combler les lacunes, corriger les erreurs, améliorer les séries temporelles et réduire les engins non classifiés.*

### RESUMEN

*En el documento se presenta una revisión de las capturas españolas nominales anuales de atún rojo durante el período comprendido entre 1950 y 2015. La revisión no ha afectado a las capturas totales. Los cambios se relacionan principalmente con el relleno de años en blanco, corrección de errores, mejora de las series temporales y la reducción de los artes sin clasificar.*

### KEYWORDS

*Catch, bluefin tuna fisheries, Thunnus thynnus*

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## **1. Introduction**

At the 2016 Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) data preparatory meeting (Anon, 2017), the Group recognized the need for a revision of nominal annual catches (T1NC). This revision required the participation of the ICCAT Secretariat, fishing countries scientists and data mining from the Atlantic Wide Research Program for Bluefin tuna (GBYP). The aims were to eliminate as much as possible catches from unclassified gears, improve the internal consistency of each one of the series in T1NC, eliminate duplicates, complete as much as possible data gaps identified in the past.

## **2. Material and methods**

The revision, was split into two periods (1950 to 1989 and 1990 to 2015), and was made for the East Atlantic stock (BFT-E) by Ocean/Sea (East Atlantic, ATE; and Mediterranean Sea, MED). Unclassified gears included in the revision were: UNCL, SURF and SPOR.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### ***Period 1950 to 1989. Atlantic***

Unclassified (SURF) catches in 1963 allocated to Canary BB fleet (gap); remainder unclassified (SURF) catches (1982-1984, 1986) merged with HAND artisanal fleet (gaps); TRAP fisheries updated (1950-1989) with GBYP information using a two criteria approach (T1NC total (ATE+MED) < GBYP total (ATE+MED) AND GBYP(ATE) > T1NC(ATE)) in order to account for the T1NC joint (ATE+MED) reports (affected years: 1950, 1955-1956, 1958-1959, 1968, 1978, 1980-1981) (**Table 1**).

### ***Period 1950 to 1989. Mediterranean***

Unification of LL (LLHB) catches (Mediterranean fleet) (1963-1979); unclassified SURF catch in 1983 (383 t) reclassified as BB (can have some PS catch); unclassified (SPOR) catches (1975-1982) moved to Spanish Mediterranean recreational/sport fishery; unclassified (UNCL) catches (1984-1989) identified as two longline Spanish fisheries (LLJAP and LLALB) and temporary reclassified as LL (until a better gear differentiation is obtained); allocated to GILL (1989) a portion (3 t) of the UNCL catches (714 + 3); TRAP fisheries updated (1950-1989) with GBYP information using a two criteria approach (T1NC total (ATE+MED) < GBYP total (ATE+MED) AND GBYP(MED) > T1NC(MED)) in order to account for the T1NC joint (ATE+MED) reports (affected years: 1963, 1967- 1968, 1979, 1980) (**Table 2**).

### ***Period 1990 to 2015. Atlantic***

Recovered GILL catch series (1990-1996, ongoing recovery process) and removal of UNCL (identified as GILL) catches in 1992 (2 t) and 1994 (2 t); catches from BB Cantabrian fleet targeting BFT (25 t) moved to BB fishery in Gulf of Cadiz (correction); TROL Cantabrian catches catching BFT as by-catch (2001-2015) reclassified as BB (with two corrections in 2007 and 2008, where data were wrongly reported as kilograms but were in fact tones: 2007 changed to 404 t, 2008 changed to 599 t); 2010 all gear catches were updated because were mistakenly replaced by 2011 catches; TRAP fisheries updated (1990-2007 only) with GBYP information using a two criteria approach (T1NC total (ATE+MED) < GBYP total (ATE+MED) AND GBYP(ATE) > T1NC(ATE)) in order to account for the T1NC joint (ATE+MED) reports (changed years: 1990, 1998-1999, 2003, 2006) (**Table 1**).

### ***Period 1990 to 2015. Mediterranean***

Unclassified (UNCL) gear catches (1990-1996) split (using average ratios of 97-98) into LLALB (17%, 1990-1996) and LLJAP (83%, 1990-1993) series being the remainder of the 1994-1996 catches (discounted 17%) allocated to other gears (GILL, SURF, HAND, etc.); unclassified (SURF) catches (2000-2001) allocated to BB series; 2010 all gear catches were updated because were mistakenly replaced by 2011 catches; TRAP fisheries updated (1990-2007, with no changes afterwards) with GBYP information using a two criteria approach (T1NC total (ATE+MED) < GBYP total (ATE+MED) AND GBYP(MED) > T1NC(MED)) in order to account for the T1NC joint (ATE+MED) reports (changed years: 1990, 2006) (**Table 2**).

The revision of bluefin Task I catches has not affected the total catches. Changes are mainly related to gap completion, errors correction, time series improvement and reduction of unclassified gears.

## **References**

- Anon. 2017. Report of the 2016 ICCAT Bluefin Data Preparatory Meeting. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 73(6): 1861-1956.



