



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 16 DEC. 2011
MARE/D2/NA/sfb D(2011) 1372399

Subject: RAC MED opinion on bluefin tuna

Dear Mr Kahoul,

The Commission would firstly like to thank the RAC MED for its opinion dated 24 October 2011 and its ongoing commitment to the sustainable management of bluefin tuna stocks in the Mediterranean.

In the absence of a full stock assessment in 2011, the scientific advice provided by the ICCAT Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) on Eastern Bluefin tuna did not differ significantly from 2010. Despite improvements in data reporting and a substantial decrease in fishing mortality through the full implementation of the recovery plan, the fishery is still adapting to these new measures and it may take several years to have a concrete effect.

In this context ICCAT decided not to re-open the recovery plan during the 2011 ICCAT Annual Meeting. Discussions and potential amendments to the recovery plan may therefore be expected in 2012 covering notably the issues raised in the RAC MED opinion on bluefin tuna.

Yours sincerely,

Lowri Evans

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