

Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)

What's at the bottom of the Balearic Sea?



WHO IS Federació Balear de Confraries de Pescadors?

- ▶ The Federació represents the 16 fishermen's guilds/brotherhood of the Balearic Islands, islands placed in the western part of the Mediterranean Sea.
- ▶ In Spain, 'Cofradías de Pescadores' are traditional local fishers associations that manage small-scale fisheries and represent fishers interests, business interests as well as social interests.



BALEARIC FISHING FLEET

- ▶ Small fleet of bottom trawlers of lengths between 16 and 24 mts.
- ▶ Fleet of small-scale fishing boats
- ▶ Small fleet of purse seine vessels of lengths between 9 and 16 mts.



BOOM, CRISIS and OVERFISHING

- ▶ Emergence of industrial fishing and purse seine vessels with advanced technologies, pressure on bluefin tuna populations increased exponentially, as they became a luxury product in high demand, especially among Japanese culture.
- ▶ Overfishing, combined with illegal fishing, led to the collapse the bluefin tuna stocks.
- ▶ The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) declared this species Endangered on 2011.

CONSERVATION and RECOVERY

▶ ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas)

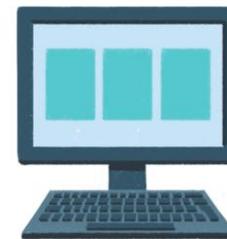
2007: Council Regulation (EC) No 1559/2007 Multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

- ▶ TAC reduction
- ▶ Fishing Control
- ▶ Protection of juveniles.
- ▶ The Recovery Plan is extended successively.



2019: Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council, modifies the Recovery Plan and establishes conservation measures for bluefin tuna, turning it into a Management Plan.

- ▶ Sustainable management of fishing activity
- ▶ Adjusted Odds
- ▶ Strict Monitoring
- ▶ Periodic scientific evaluation.



CURRENT SITUATION

In 2021, the IUCN changed its **Global** conservation status from "endangered" to "least concern"



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

Thunnus thynnus

ABSTRACT

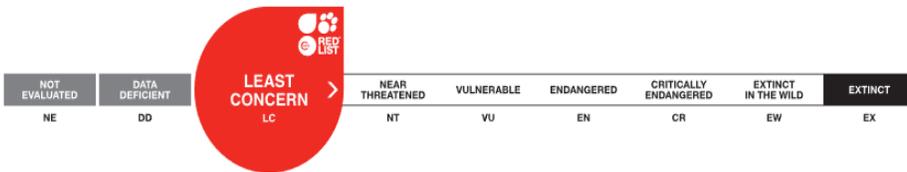
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus thynnus* has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2021. *Thunnus thynnus* is listed as Least Concern.

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Text Overview

THE RED LIST ASSESSMENT i

► [Collette, B.B., Boustany, A., Fox, W., Graves, J., Juan Jorda, M. & Restrepo, V. 2021. *Thunnus thynnus*. *The IUCN Red List* ...](#)



LAST ASSESSED

15 January 2021

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

Global

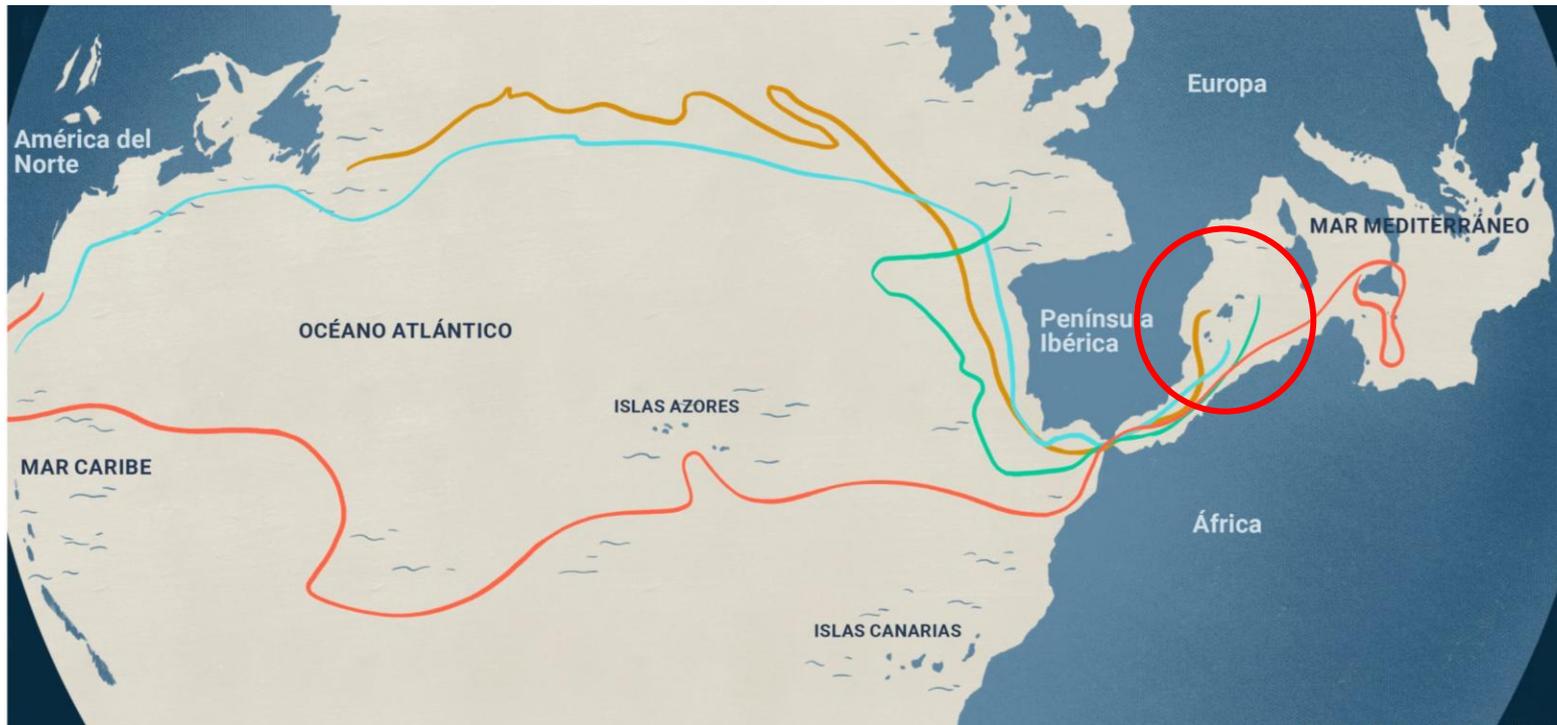
[Assessment in detail](#)

feedback

The IUCN indicates on its website that Mediterranean's population status is "endangered", but this rating needs to be updated.

WHY BALEARIC ISLANDS?

The great migration of the bluefin tuna: annually, the bluefin tuna undertakes a journey that takes it from the Atlantic to its breeding areas in the Mediterranean.



Examples of some of the route trajectories from different years

- Ruta de entrada al Mediterráneo, 1999.**
Rooker et al. 2007. Reviews in Fisheries Science, 15, 265-310.
- Ruta de entrada al Mediterráneo, 2001.**
Rooker et al. 2007. Reviews in Fisheries Science, 15, 265-310.
- Ruta de salida del Mediterráneo, 2013.**
Badia et al 2016. Peer J Preprints 4:e1813v1.
- Ruta de entrada al Mediterráneo, 2004.**
Datos proporcionados por Molly Lutcavage y Tim Lam.

PRACTICES INDUSTRIAL PURSE SEINERS

- Purse seine fishing season, from May 26th to July 1st.
- Spanish Quota (6 emb.), with a total of 1.712 tons.
- Through commercial alliances and re-registration under the flag of other countries, they manage to have more quota.
- The fishing operations of the purse seine fleet are carried out in or very close to the trawling grounds.
- The tuna caught by the purse seine fleet are transferred to floating cages, which will be towed by auxiliary vessels until they reach their destination farms.



TRAWLER BOAT PROBLEMS

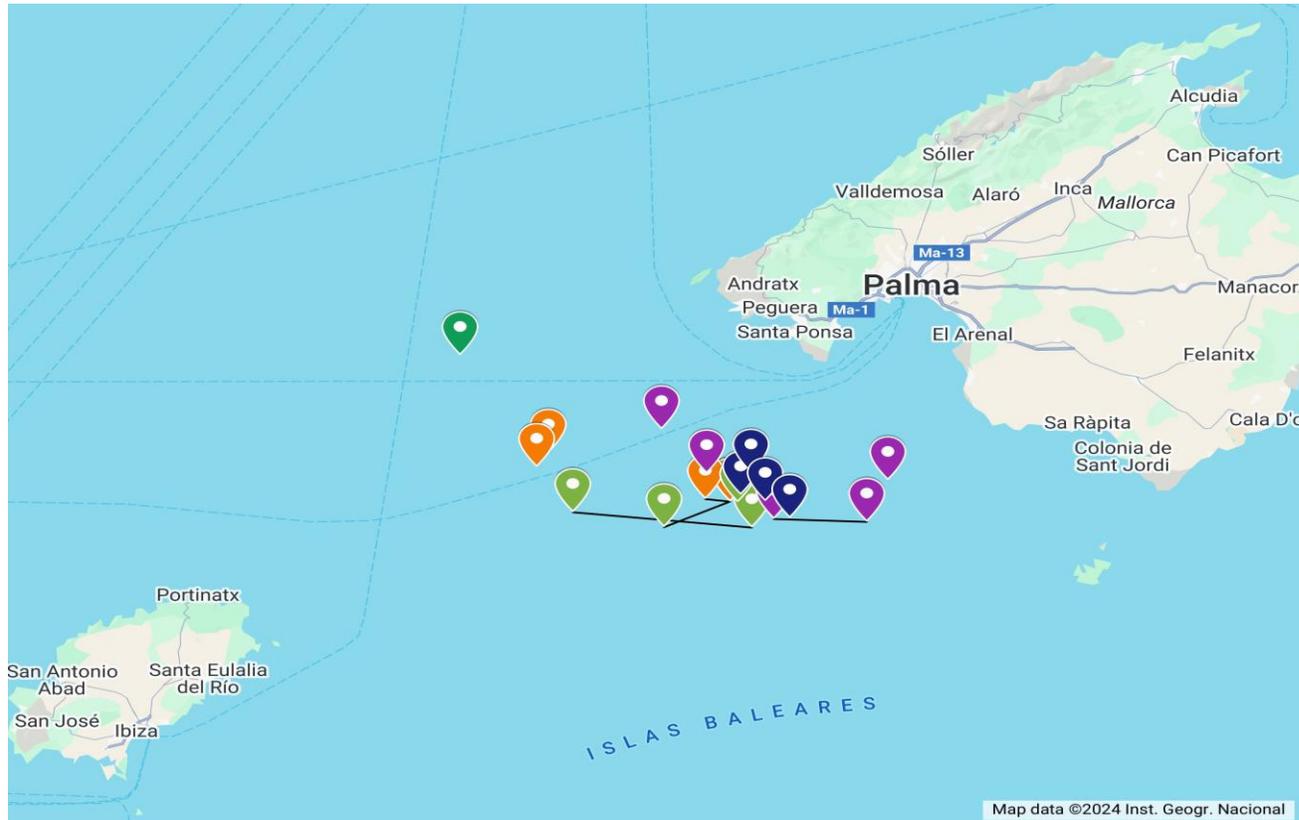
After the fishing operations of the purse seine fleet, the Balearic trawlers that fish in the area catch, in deep waters, specimens of bluefin tuna in an advanced state of decomposition.

Consequences of these captures:

1. DANGER DURING FISHING
2. LOST FISHING DAY - Marketable catch made, must be returned to the sea.
3. DISINFECTION WORK OF THE WORKING AREA OF THE VESSEL - Decomposing corpses give off histamine, a toxin dangerous for human consumption.

TRAWLER BOAT PROBLEMS

Location of catches of bluefin tuna carcasses



TRAWLER BOAT PROBLEMS



TRAWLER BOAT PROBLEMS



A BETTER FUTURE FOR FISHERIES

▶ MORE VIGILANCE:

- ▶ Increased vigilance over the practices of industrial purse seiners operating in Mediterranean waters.
- ▶ ICCAT observers.

▶ COMPENSATION FUND FOR TRAWL FLEET:

- ▶ Regulation 2019/1022, Multiannual plan for demersal fishing in the Western Mediterranean is aggravated by the accidental capture of these decomposing specimens.
- ▶ Loss of profit.



IMPACT ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SMALL GEAR FLEET

- ▶ Feeling of contempt for the Mediterranean small gear fleet.
 - ▶ The Mediterranean small gear fleet was one of the victims of the Bluefin Tuna Stock Recovery Plan that began in 2007.
 - ▶ “Discards” of the purse seine fleet are perceived by the small gear fleet as a contempt for the sacrifice to which the small gear fleet was subjected during more than a decade of the Recovery Plan.



A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE FISHERY

- ▶ Increase in quota for artisanal fishing in the Mediterranean.
 - Traditional and Small Scale
 - Selective and Low Impact
 - It regulates seasonal fishing in the area.
 - Diversification.
 - Less pressure on other fisheries.
 - Benefits for the local purse seine fleet of small pelagics.

Thank you for your interest

