

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15

	Species	Comment	Recommendation
19	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 19 [Monaco]. Inclusion in Appendix I.</p> <p>Atlantic Bluefin Tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> is found throughout the North Atlantic and its adjacent seas, particularly the Mediterranean. The species is generally regarded as comprising two stocks, one spawning in the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida (the West stock), and the other in the Mediterranean (the East stock).</p> <p>The species has been extensively fished for centuries with current demand for high value sushi and sashimi, largely in Japan. The majority of global fishery production is for export.</p> <p>The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which came into force in 1969, is responsible for the management of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna.</p> <p>The footnote on the “Application of decline for commercially exploited aquatic species” states the historical extent of decline should be the primary criterion of consideration in Appendix I, that it should extend as far back into the past as possible, and that it can be estimated or inferred using indirect or direct methods. Guidelines in the footnote suggest that historical declines for species with low productivity should be to within 15–20% of the historical baseline and, for species with medium productivity, declines to within 10–15% of the historical baseline are appropriate for listing in Appendix I. The species is considered by ICCAT’s SCRS (Standing Committee of Research and Statistics) to be of low-to-medium productivity. On the basis of estimated historical extent of decline from un-fished stock, the SCRS considered that there was a greater than 90% probability that both East and West stocks had declined to less than 15% of their unexploited population sizes and therefore it appeared that <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> met the biological criteria for Appendix I. The species is clearly affected by trade.</p> <p>While a reduction in catch for the East stock was agreed by ICCAT in 2009 and, if implemented effectively, could potentially lead to some stock recovery, ICCAT’s SCRS recognizes a history of catch in excess of the agreed Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of the order of 60% above the TAC per year (for 1998–2007). Its 2009</p>	ACCEPT

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15

Species	Comment	Recommendation
	<p>summary report for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna recognizes the TAC was ineffective in controlling overall catch. There is no reason to assume that this situation will change in the immediate future. Despite low quotas imposed for the West stock, recovery has not occurred.</p> <p>The resolution (document CoP15 Doc. 52) proposed to accompany the listing would appear not to be consistent with <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) Annex 4 A.1</i> which directs that “no species listed in Appendix I shall be removed from the Appendices unless it has been first transferred to Appendix II, with monitoring of any impact of trade on the species for at least two intervals between meetings of the Conference of the Parties”.</p>	