BlueBalance Initial Report

Southern Bluefin Tuna

Overfished to extinction?

Thunnus maccoyii (Southern Bluefin Tuna)(SBFT) is a species of ray-finned fishes in the family mackerels. They are listed as critically endangered by IUCN. Individuals can grow to 8ft, live up to 40 years, and weigh up to 600lbs.

<https://www.fishbase.se/summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=145&AT=Southern+bluefin+tuna>

According to Our Endangered World, the main reason Southern Bluefin Tuna is endangered is overfishing. They are being caught faster than they can reproduce, and if this trend continues, the species will become extinct. Factors like bycatch (when tuna are caught accidentally by fishers), overfishing, and climate change are the biggest threats facing both endangered bluefin tuna populations and the species affiliated with them. Bluefin tuna populations have declined severely from overfishing and illegal fishing over the past few decades –not just Southern bluefin tuna, but also Pacific bluefin tuna and Atlantic bluefin tuna. Population declines have been largely driven by the demand for this fish in high end sushi markets.

EOL is dedicated to tracking knowledge and conservation of many species and lists SBFT as critically endangered. They use FishBase for stock tracking.

<https://eol.org/pages/46577338>

FishBase SBFT page (include fish summary IUCN data(endangered), use and stock references)

<https://www.fishbase.se/summary/SpeciesSummary.php?ID=145&AT=Southern+bluefin+tuna>

article on the relationship between fish and overfishing. Uses RAM database.

<https://ourworldindata.org/fish-and-overfishing>

GRSF (Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries) <https://i-marine.d4science.org/web/grsf/home>

* uses Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS): <http://firms.fao.org>
* RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database: <http://ramlegacy.org>
* FishSource: <http://www.fishsource.com>

FIRMS BFT page includes scientific analysis, management, and history

<https://firms.fao.org/firms/resource/6010/en>

FishSource BFT page includes plots+data for BioMass, landings, SSB (spawning stock biomass), SSBMSy (spawning stock biomass capable of producing maximum sustainable yield)

<https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1145>