

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Thunnus thynnus

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| English name: Blue-fin tuna | Scientific name: <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> | |
| Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Perciformes Family: Scombridae | Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758 | |
| Subspecies,Variations,Synonyms: <i>Scomber thynnus</i> | Generation length: 7 | |
| Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishery (F02) | Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishery (F02) | |
| IUCN Criteria: – | HELCOM Red List Category: | NA Not Applicable |
| Global / European IUCN Red List Category: EN/NE | Habitats Directive: – | |
| Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): CR | | |
| Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/–, Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden: <i>Prohibited to fish for and land this species all year round / NA</i> | | |

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

The blue fin tuna is an Atlantic species and only a very rare visitor to the HELCOM area. This species has become rare relative to historical levels because of massive overfishing. Based on the most recent stock assessment (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, ICCAT 2010), summed spawning stock biomass for both the Eastern and Western Atlantic stocks has declined at least 51% since 1970.

Habitat and ecology

This is a pelagic, oceanodromous, schooling species that seasonally can be found close to shore. It preys on small schooling fishes or on squids and red crabs. This species has a maximum size over 300 cm fork length (FL), but a more common length is up to 200 cm. Age of first maturity is about 3–5 years (115–121 cm FL), with a longevity of 35 years or more.

Description of major threats

The species is threatened by overexploitation outside the HELCOM area.

Assessment justification

The species is not reproducing within the HELCOM area. It is assumed that the proportion of the population occurring in the Kattegat, the Belts and the Sound is and has been less than 2% of the European population both currently and in the past. Hence it is considered Not Applicable (NA) for the assessment.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

The species has a management plan that should be followed but no additional protection actions are currently needed in the HELCOM area.

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Common names

D -Blauflossenthunfisch; ES –; GB –; DK -Atlantisk tun; FIN –Tonnikala; LV -Zilā tunzivs; LT -Paprastasis tunas; PL -Tuńczyk błękitnoplętywy; RU -Sinij tunetz; S –Tonfisk

References

- Collette, B., Amorim, A.F., Boustany, A., Carpenter, K.E., de Oliveira Leite Jr., N., Di Natale, A., Die, D., Fox, W., Fredou, F.L., Graves, J., Viera Hazin, F.H., Hinton, M., Juan Jorda, M., Kada, O., Minte Vera, C., Miyabe, N., Nelson, R., Oxenford, H., Pollard, D., Restrepo, V., Schratwieser, J., Teixeira Lessa, R.P., Pires Ferreira Travassos, P.E., Uozumi, Y. (2011). *Thunnus thynnus*. In: IUCN 2012. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org (viewed 27 January 2013)
- HELCOM (2007). HELCOM Red list of threatened and declining species of lampreys and fish of the Baltic Sea. Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings No. 109. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 40 pp.
- HELCOM (2012). Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species. Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 130. Helsinki Commission, Helsinki. 203 pp.
- ICCAT (2010). Report of the 2010 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session. Madrid, Spain, 6–12 September 2010. Available at: http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2010_BFT_ASSESS_REP_ENG.pdf