



# ISSF STOCK STATUS RATINGS – 2012

Status of the World Fisheries for Tuna



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are 23 stocks of the major commercial tuna species worldwide (6 albacore, 4 bigeye, 4 bluefin, 5 skipjack and 4 yellowfin stocks). This document summarizes the results of the most recent scientific assessments of these stocks, as well as the current management measures adopted by the RFMOs. In addition, this report ranks the status and management of the 23 stocks using a consistent methodology in terms of three [factors](#): Abundance, Exploitation/Management (fishing mortality) and Environmental Impact (bycatch).

In 2011, the catch of major commercial tunas was 4.2 million tonnes. Fifty-eight percent of it was skipjack tuna, followed by yellowfin (26%), bigeye (10%) and albacore (6%). Bluefin tuna accounts for only 1% of the global catch.

Globally, 65% of the stocks are at a healthy level of abundance, 26% are overfished and 9% are at an intermediate level. In terms of exploitation, 39% of the stocks are experiencing a low fishing mortality rate, 22% are being over-exploited, and 39% have a high fishing mortality that is being managed adequately (Figure 1).

When viewed from the point of view of total catch (Figure 2), 94% of the catch comes from healthy stocks. This is due to the fact that skipjack stocks contribute more than one half of the global catch of tunas, and they are all in a healthy situation (Table 1). In contrast, most bluefin stocks and 3 out of 6 albacore stocks are overfished, but combined they make a relatively small fraction of the total catch.

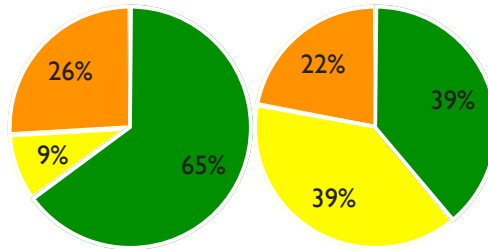


Figure 1. Distribution of stocks of major commercial tunas according to abundance ratings (left) and fishing mortality ratings (right). The percentages correspond to the number of stocks with a given ranking.

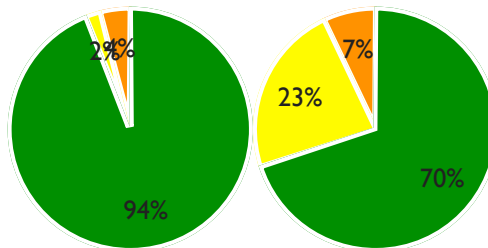


Figure 2. Distribution of stocks of major commercial tunas according to abundance ratings (left) and fishing mortality ratings (right). The percentages correspond to the total catch of all stocks with a given ranking.

Table 1. Biomass, Fishing Mortality (F) and Environmental Impact ratings for 23 tuna stocks. The table is sorted by species. Catch is for 2011 in thousands of tonnes.











































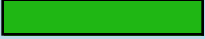
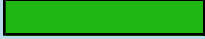






























































































| STOCK                 | CATCH | BIOMASS   | F  | BYCATCH   |
|-----------------------|-------|---|--|---|
| <b>Albacore tuna</b>  |       |   |  |   |
| PO-ALB-N              | 76    |    |    |    |
| PO-ALB-S              | 73    |    |    |    |
| AO-ALB-N              | 20    |    |    |    |
| AO-ALB-S              | 24    |    |    |    |
| AO-ALB-M              | 5     |    |    |    |
| IO-ALB                | 39    |    |    |    |
| <b>Bigeye tuna</b>    |       |   |  |   |
| EPO-BET               | 82    |    |    |    |
| WPO-BET               | 151   |    |    |    |
| AO-BET                | 78    |    |    |    |
| IO-BET                | 87    |    |    |    |
| <b>Bluefin tuna</b>   |       |   |  |   |
| PO-PBF                | 18    |  |  |  |
| AO-BFT-E              | 10    |  |  |  |
| AO-BFT-W              | 2     |  |  |  |
| SH-SBT                | 9     |  |  |  |
| <b>Skipjack tuna</b>  |       |   |  |   |
| EPO-SKJ               | 284   |  |  |  |
| WPO-SKJ               | 1,540 |  |  |  |
| AO-SKJ-E              | 173   |  |  |  |
| AO-SKJ-W              | 39    |  |  |  |
| IO-SKJ                | 398   |  |  |  |
| <b>Yellowfin tuna</b> |       |   |  |   |
| EPO-YFT               | 203   |  |  |  |
| WPO-YFT               | 431   |  |  |  |
| AO-YFT                | 100   |  |  |  |
| IO-YFT                | 303   |  |  |  |

Table 2. Biomass, Fishing Mortality (F) and Environmental Impact ratings for 23 tuna stocks. The table is sorted by ocean or ocean region. Catch is for 2011 in thousands of tonnes.

| STOCK                      | CATCH | BIOMASS   | F  | BYCATCH   |
|----------------------------|-------|---|--|---|
| <b>Eastern Pacific</b>     |       |   |  |   |
| EPO-BET                    | 82    |    |    |    |
| EPO-YFT                    | 203   |    |    |    |
| EPO-SKJ                    | 284   |    |    |    |
| <b>Western Pacific</b>     |       |   |  |   |
| WPO-BET                    | 148   |    |    |    |
| WPO-YFT                    | 431   |    |    |    |
| WPO-SKJ                    | 1,540 |    |    |    |
| <b>Pacific Ocean</b>       |       |   |  |   |
| PO-ALB-N                   | 76    |    |    |    |
| PO-ALB-S                   | 73    |    |    |    |
| PO-PBF                     | 18    |    |    |    |
| <b>Atlantic Ocean</b>      |       |   |  |   |
| AO-BET                     | 78    |   |   |   |
| AO-YFT                     | 100   |  |  |  |
| AO-SKJ-E                   | 173   |  |  |  |
| AO-SKJ-W                   | 39    |  |  |  |
| AO-ALB-N                   | 20    |  |  |  |
| AO-ALB-S                   | 24    |  |  |  |
| AO-ALB-M                   | 5     |  |  |  |
| AO-BFT-E                   | 10    |  |  |  |
| AO-BFT-W                   | 2     |  |  |  |
| <b>Indian Ocean</b>        |       |   |  |   |
| IO-BET                     | 87    |  |  |  |
| IO-YFT                     | 303   |  |  |  |
| IO-SKJ                     | 398   |  |  |  |
| IO-ALB                     | 39    |  |  |  |
| <b>Southern Hemisphere</b> |       |   |  |   |
| SH-SBT                     | 9     |  |  |  |