



EAST ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA: THE STORY OF A RECOVERY

Alberto Martín. Senior Fisheries Manager MSC

BLUEFIN TUNA

A large school of bluefin tuna swimming in deep blue water. The fish are sleek, silver-blue with yellowish fins, and are swimming in various directions, creating a sense of movement and depth.

- Bluefin can swim as fast as **110 Km/h**
- They can dive to **>1.000m**
- The biggest bluefin caught was **679 kg** bluefin in 1979 in Nova Scotia, Canada.

BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES



Three Bluefin tuna species:

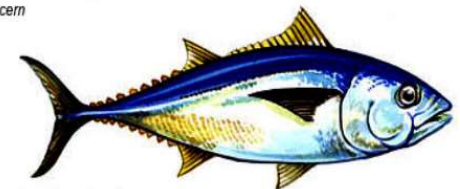
1. Atlantic BFT:
2. Pacific BFT
3. Southern BFT



Atlantic bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus*
IUCN Red List Status: *Endangered*



Pacific bluefin tuna, *Thunnus orientalis*
IUCN Red List Status: *Least Concern*



Southern bluefin tuna, *Thunnus maccoyii*
IUCN Red List Status: *Critically Endangered*

Source: Pew Charitable Trust

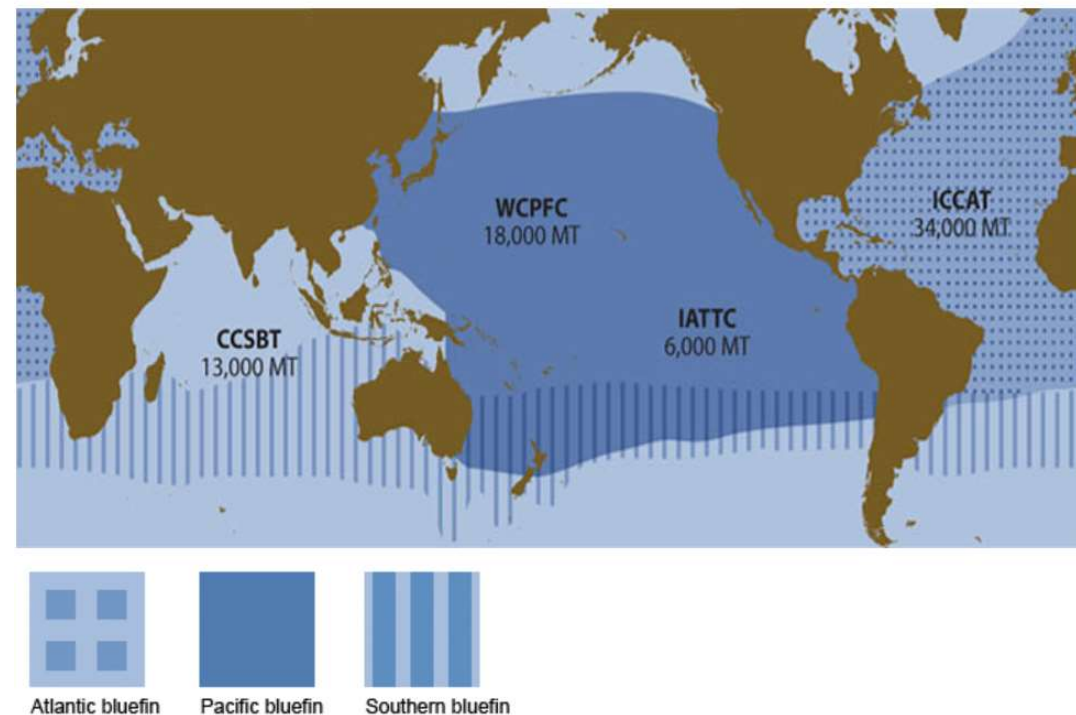
BLUEFIN TUNA STOCKS



Four Bluefin tuna stocks:

1. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
2. Western Atlantic
3. Pacific
4. Southern

Where bluefin live and how much is caught in each RFMO by metric tonne.



Source: Pew Charitable Trust

BLUEFIN TUNA STOCKS SITUATION



STOCK	CATCH	SSB	F	BYCATCH
<u>PO-PBF</u>	14			
<u>AO-BFT-E</u>	29			
<u>AO-BFT-W</u>	2			
<u>SH-SBT</u>	17			

Source: Status of the World Fisheries for Tuna. ISSF 2021

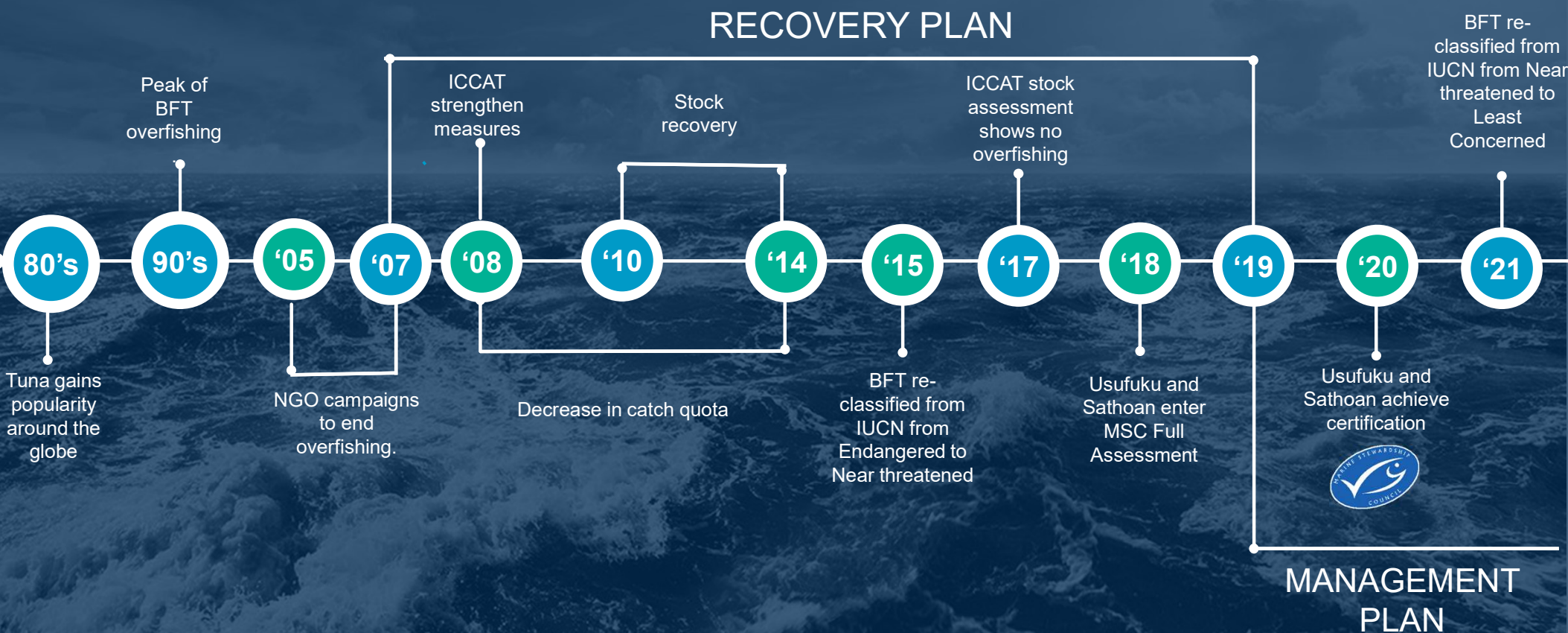


Prog. Oceanogr. (2010)



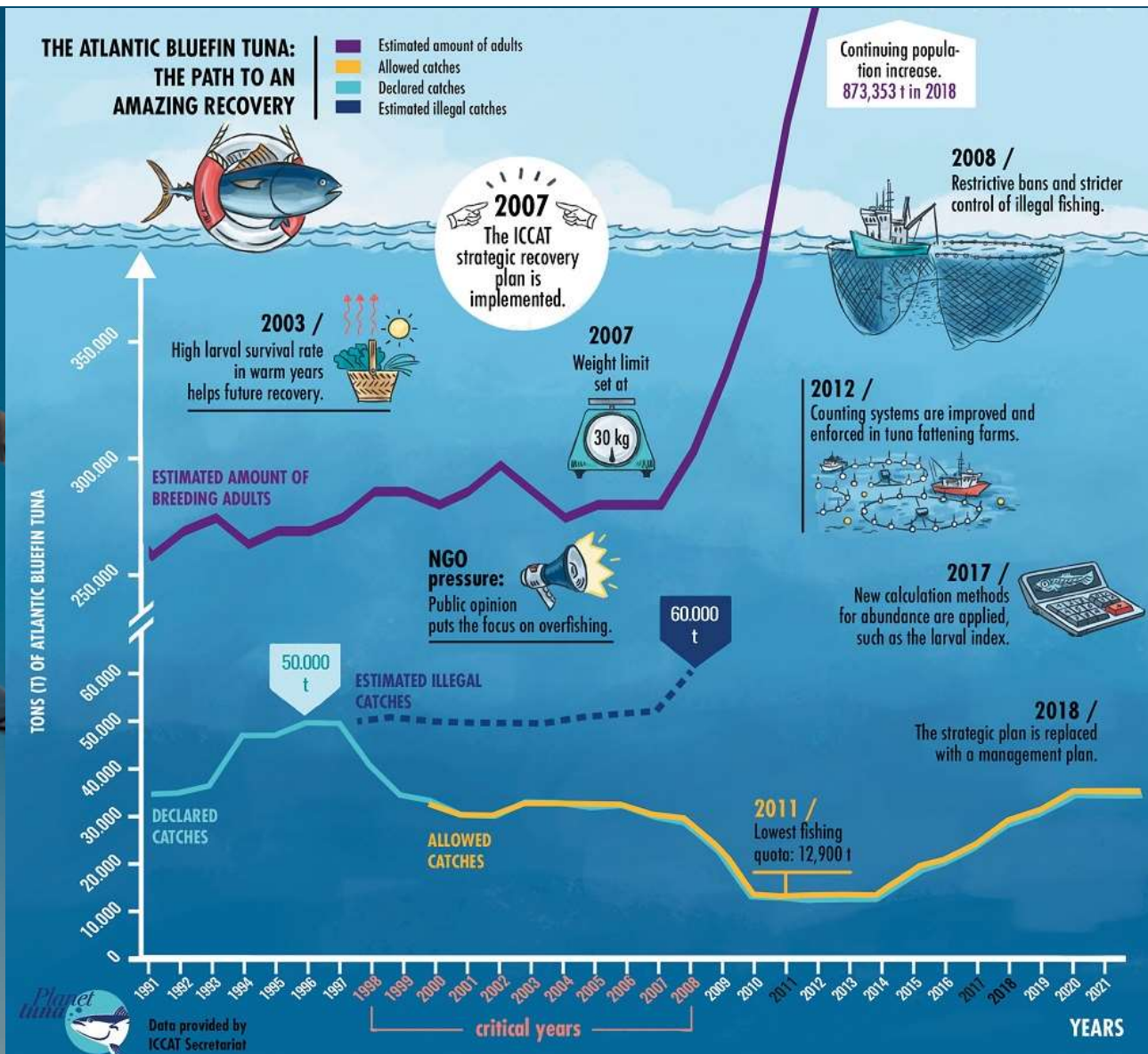
Source: @planetuna

The BFT history



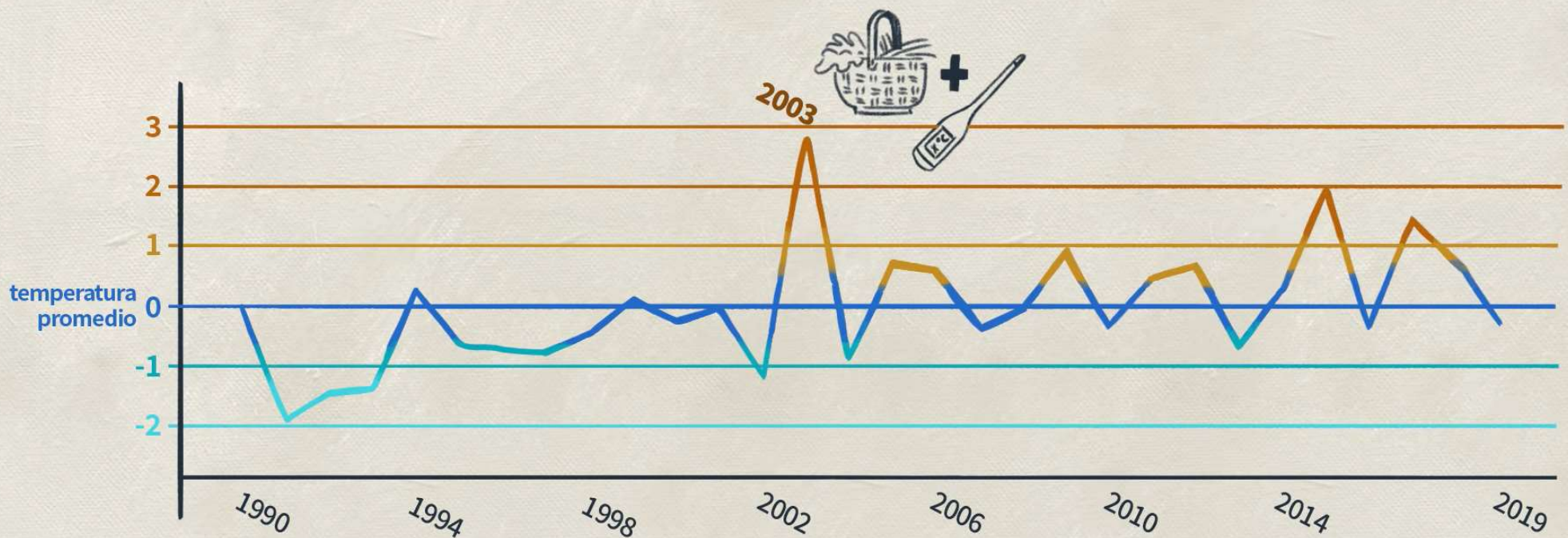
THE ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA: THE PATH TO AN AMAZING RECOVERY

- Estimated amount of adults
- Allowed catches
- Declared catches
- Estimated illegal catches



Source: @planettuna

Average Temperature in the Breeding Zone (Balearic Islands)



Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT (2020)

Source: @planetuna

Management Measures in Place

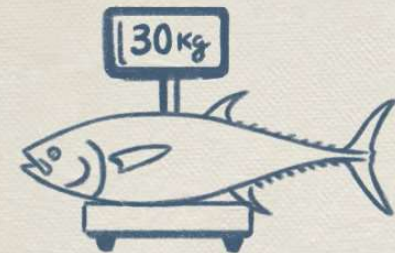
Quota reduction



Prohibition of technical help to fishing



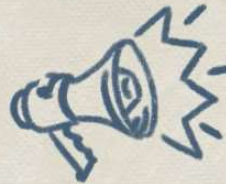
Prohibition of juvenile fishing



Reduction IUU fishing



NGOs pressure



Time and area closures





Eastern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries in the MSC programme

BFT FISHERIES IN MSC



BFT FISHERIES IN MSC



Fishery name	Status (UoC)	Species	Gear Type	Ocean Area	Catch (t)
Usufuku Honten Northeast Atlantic longline bluefin tuna fishery	Certified	Atlantic bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	Hooks And Lines - Longlines: Pelagic longline	27 (Atlantic, Northeast)	57
SATHOAN French Mediterranean Bluefin tuna artisanal longline and handline fishery	Certified	Atlantic bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	Hooks And Lines - Longlines: Pelagic longline, handline and pole-lines are also used	37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea)	246
JC Mackintosh's Greenstick, handline and fishing rod bluefin tuna fishery	In Assessment	Atlantic bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	Hooks And Lines - Handlines and pole-lines (mechanized): Greenstick	27 (Atlantic, Northeast), 37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea)	50
	In Assessment	Atlantic bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	Hooks And Lines: trolling, live bait hand line, and hand line with stone (deeper waters)	27 (Atlantic, Northeast), 37 (Mediterranean and Black Sea)	50



QUESTIONS?

Alberto Martín. Senior Fisheries Manager MSC