

Thunnus thynnus (Atlantic Bluefin Tuna)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)
Order: *Perciformes* (Perch-like Fishes)
Family: *Scombridae* (Mackerels, Tunas, Bonitos)

General comments: none

No Species Conservation Range Maps Available for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

IUCN Red List Status: Endangered

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Thunnus thynnus is listed as a Species of Concern by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):

Status: E, Last Examination: 5/1/2011, Change: New, Canada Occurrence: Atlantic Ocean

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Atlantic Bluefin Tuna:

Formation Name	Subtidal
Macrogroup Name	Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)
Habitat System Name: Nearshore	Notes: juveniles found at depths<30m in GOM during summer months, though primarily in the southern GOM off MA and NH>
Habitat System Name: Offshore	**Primary Habitat** Notes: adults found primarily offshore in Maine as part of annual migrations
Habitat System Name: Upwelling Zones	Notes: assumed aggregations as feeding areas, seasonally important when other fish aggregations (eg herring) are not present

Stressors Assigned to Atlantic Bluefin Tuna:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity	High Severity	
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat **Biological Resource Use**

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: While fishing mortality in the Western Atlantic has been effectively reduced based on TACs and other measures, fishing mortality continues to be very high in the Eastern Atlantic. The species is also susceptible as bycatch in longlining and other pelagic fishing.

Thunnus thynnus (Atlantic Bluefin Tuna)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)

Order: *Perciformes* (Perch-like Fishes)

Family: *Scombridae* (Mackerels, Tunas, Bonitos)

IUCN Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Oil and Gas Drilling

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico may impact spawning aggregations if oil spills occur during spawning season (e.g. BP Oil Spill)

IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Recreational Activities

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Recreational fishing accounts for a portion of fishing mortality and can be reduced with regulations, however the impact on species recovery may not be significant or the effects are not seen for at least 3 generations.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Changes in SST, prey composition and locations may have significant impacts on forage base, location of forage areas, and timing and location of spawning.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Temperature Extremes

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Changes in SST, prey composition and locations may have significant impacts on forage base, location of forage areas, and timing and location of spawning.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Atlantic Bluefin Tuna:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.