



Bluefin Symposium

3-4 February 2021



Event organized by WWF and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Session 1: Science

Objective: providing a state of play on science, including stock status, the main scientific uncertainties, and the impacts of current management.

Observer – Some uncertainties are still unresolved, especially on current productivity and recent recruitments, and then predicted stock size and reference points are uncertain.

**Proposed ways: - Develop research and move towards new approaches
- Avoid a new overcapacity.**

Session 2: Markets

Objective: Discuss how new market channels and market diversification could help minimize the risks for producers and drive sustainability of the fisheries.

Observer – “Fish less but sell better”: the complexity and globalization of the bluefin tuna trade and the **crucial role of consumers** in supporting seafood sustainability have been highlighted.

Moreover, **Illegal fishing** inevitably leads to a fall in market prices due to **unfair competition**, whereas fishing cooperative, but also from a sustainability perspective, must make it possible to **maintain a high added value of the product, to ensure coherent management of small-scale coastal fishing.**



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Session 3: Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated fishing of bluefin tuna

Objective: Consideration of the relationship between IUU fishing and loopholes in management, highlighting possible long-term solutions.

*Observer – Industry and market leaders also recommended **new and improved controls to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**. It has been highlighted the complexities of managing a species when IUU fishing is taking place. A high level of controls at sea and on land must be maintained in order not to fall back into the excesses of the past.*

Session 4: Harvest Strategy

Objective: an overview of the ongoing development process of this framework for future management for Atlantic bluefin tuna designed to ensure a long-term, sustainable, and profitable fishery.

*Observer – One new management approach for the bluefin called for this week is the adoption of a "harvest strategy" for the stock. A harvest strategy features pre-agreed rules for how many fish can be caught based on population abundance. **"Harvest strategy adoption has the potential to provide more safety for the bluefin resource, more stability for industry, and greater management efficiency"**.*

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