

Bluefin Tuna Bulletin nº 102

The voice of the bluefin - news from WWF Mediterranean on the bluefin tuna fishery in crisis.

* * * CITES secretariat recommends adoption of Atlantic bluefin tuna trade ban * * *

From CITES Comments and Recommendations on Proposals:

"The Secretariat concurs with the majority of the FAO Ad Hoc Expert Advisory Panel, that this species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. A marked decline in the population size in the wild has been observed as ongoing". (...) "On the basis of the available information prior to the discussion at CoP15, the Secretariat recommends that this proposal be adopted".

<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/doc/E15-68A02.pdf>

CITES Press Release:

http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml

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Conservation Body Favors Bluefin Tuna Export Ban 5/02/2010 - ABC News

The agency that monitors trade in endangered species says it favors a global ban on the export of bluefin tuna. The group that oversees the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, says the ban on bluefin tuna trade is scientifically justified.

Scientific chief David Morgan says CITES is "recommending that the parties accept the proposal," which is strongly opposed by Japan, where tuna is a popular ingredient in sushi. The

175 nations that are members of CITES will meet in Qatar's capital of Doha from March 13-25 to consider 42 conservation proposals.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9755114>

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CITES backs bluefin tuna ban to be decided next month 5/02/2010 - Reuters

The conservation group CITES backed on Friday a proposal to ban international trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna, saying the species prized by sushi lovers needed to recover from commercial overfishing. Monaco has proposed protecting bluefin tuna, which can fetch up to \$100,000 in Japan, by listing it under appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

"In our opinion, the criteria for including the species in appendix 1 are met and international commercial trade in bluefin tuna should be prohibited," David Morgan, head of CITES scientific unit, told a news briefing. Some 175 countries are due to vote on 40 proposals during a CITES meeting in Doha, Qatar, from March 13-25.

France said on Wednesday it would support a ban on global trade in bluefin tuna, but after an 18-month delay. France, Italy and Spain account for half of the world's total allowable catch of bluefin tuna.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE6141DJ.htm>

Please see www.panda.org/tuna or contact WWF Mediterranean Programme for further information.

Regards,

WWF