



July 23, 2009

Dear ABTA Members:

Following for your information is a list of Q &A about Cites and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna. And a link to Seafood News for an article recently published. I will keep you informed as we learn more about this Cities issue and work to develop a strategy to keep Americans fishing. Rich

CITES FAQ

What is the difference between Cites 1 and Cites 2?

CITES 1 imposes a ban on all international trade in the species among the 175 nations while CITES 2 only imposes strict reporting requirements on international trade.

If there was a Cites listing would ICCAT still be necessary?

Yes, there will still be a need for ICCAT. CITES does not take over management authority. As the Japanese like to refer to it, the fish is simply in the CITES JAIL prohibiting international trade. ICCAT scientists will still have to recommend a "monitoring quota". You have to have some minimal level of catches and effort to determine how the stock is doing to eventually determine if the stock can get out of jail.

If there was a Cites listing in March 2010, the US would still have its ICCAT allowed quota?

Yes, at whatever reduced level the quota might be. This assumes NMFS will allow a "monitoring fishery" and sales. We have no promise of this and we should not concede that NMFS supports a listing.

Will a Cites 1 listing really stop the flow of BFT worldwide?

I'm sure there will be some level of black-market. The Japanese auction is a pretty public affair easily monitored though by anyone including WWF, Greenpeace, etc.

How often do the countries meet to vote on potentially listing something on Cites?

Every 2 years.



Has the US ICCAT Advisory Committee taken any position on a Cites listing?

Not on this recent listing proposal yet. We will have an opportunity at the fall meeting to force the issue. I don't believe the IAC took a position on the 1991 proposal.

Does England land any BFT?

Yes, I am not sure of the volume. The EC allots 50 mt for them but most of the catches are made in Northern Ireland.

If BFT was listed on the Cites 1 list could the Japanese still fish for BFT and bring them back for sale in Japan?

Yes, Under an ICCAT monitoring quota.

If BFT was listed as Cites 1 could Eastern Atlantic and Med countries still catch the tiny BFT for local consumption?

Yes

What was the scientific recommendation for Eastern BFT in 2008? What new measures were adopted at ICCAT for the East/Med in 2008?

The advice was that catches should be reduced to between 8,000 to 15,000 mt. The agreement for the East was about 28 pages long attempting to establish management infrastructure like reporting requirements, documentation, observer coverage levels, etc.

Would the 2009 Eastern catch be the first catch under these new measures?

The issue will center on what the 2008 catches were. Did they get the fishery down to 29,000 mt? Will they report their 2008 catches? On time? Will they be accurate or will they conflict with WWF estimates with which ICCAT's scientific arm (SCRS) has agreed with in the past.

Why would we think the 2008 Eastern catch would show any change?

Because they should be complying with agreements already on the books!!!



When will the 2008 numbers be out?

Usually they are required by July when a stock assessment is scheduled. There is no Bluefin assessment this year so they have to have the numbers available for the Compliance Committee before the November meeting.

Which of the countries are the biggest offenders in the East/Med?

France, Spain, Malta, Libya, Turkey, and sometimes Morocco are the largest offenders.

Will the science support BFT as endangered?

Absolutely not, the science now warns of a potential eastern fishery collapse, a much different matter. However, left unchecked, a political will, internationally and domestically is present and a battle to keep it off Cites must be waged.

What % of BFT caught is marketed in Japan? US?

This is a very difficult question because no one has a good handle on the European consumption from the artesian fishery or BFT dying in the farms. But clearly a big proportion of the total catch of BFT ends up in Japan. A reasonable guess might be better than 80%. The US imports between 400 to 800 mt per year. In recent years more of our domestic production remains here. Our dealers would have a better handle on this.

Where else is BFT sold?

I would think that nearly every developed country in the world (at least in its Capitol city) would have sushi bars requiring BFT or Bigeye or Yellowfin tuna

Could the buyer countries control the problem by not buying BFT from a country once it exceeded its allotted ICCAT quota?

Sure if the political will existed. It has been a main topic of discussion at ICCAT in recent years. The EC has begged Japan to do so. But there are free trade issues that have to be addressed. Japan exports lots of products as we all know well and is always concerned about trade barrier retaliation.

Many feel that the Cites effort is born out years of frustration at ICCAT to unsuccessfully control the Eastern Atlantic/Med fishermen.

Absolutely