

Title: **Exploration of United States Domestic Economic Impacts of the Cites Appendix I Listing for Bluefin Tuna**

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Abstract: Bluefin tuna (BFT) stocks in both the Western and Eastern Atlantic are in danger of commercial extinction due to over harvest. Years of exceeding mortality quotas and lack of management action is to blame, as is illegal fishing in the Eastern Atlantic. The species qualifies for a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I listing and such a listing will be voted on at the upcoming (March 2010) CITES meeting. A CITES Appendix I listing prohibits all trade in listed species and prohibits domestic industry from landing BFT outside of their territorial waters. The US has a fairly robust BFT industry that targets BFT with hand gear and purse seines and also incidentally catches BFT in other tuna and swordfish longline gear, but the industry has failed to catch its quotas for several years. Currently the US imports 23.9% more BFT than it produces. CITES would act as a protectionist trade measure in this instance, increasing domestic BFT prices due to this current trade deficit. Price elasticities are taken from the literature and applied to current prices to forecast a range of potential price increases. These price increases are then used to forecast the economic impacts of a CITES Appendix I listing. In the short term, until BFT begins to recover and availability in the Western Atlantic continues to be low, a CITES Appendix I listing would increase revenues and economic impacts for the domestic harvesters and primary dealers. On the other hand, a CITES Appendix I listing would reduce revenues for importers.