

Bluefin tuna fisheries and capture based culture: review and prospects over the next thirty years

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Abstract

Bluefin tuna capture today is focused on large fish caught by longline and smaller fish caught by purse seine for on-growing for between 3 months and 3 years. There has recently been the emergence of full life cycle farming in Japan with South Korea (Pacific bluefin tuna) and Australia (southern bluefin tuna) and France, Italy, Spain and Croatia (Atlantic bluefin tuna) amongst others working towards this goal. The paper reviews the history of the fisheries for the three species (four stocks) and their prospects for sustainability under the new fisheries regime that came in during the mid- to late-2000s. A look to the future of the market for toro sashimi tuna, the main output from longline fisheries and capture based culture, with the projected increase in supplies from the wild and capture based culture, is presented. The fisheries management requirements that will allow the bluefin stocks to recover are also presented.