

# ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna are native to both the western and eastern Atlantic Ocean, as well as the Mediterranean Sea.

This type of tuna can grow to weigh more than 450 kgs. Fully matured adults are normally up to 2.5m long and weigh around 250kgs.

Whilst all members of the tuna family are warm-blooded, the Bluefin tuna have a highly developed ability to regulate their body temperature. This is what allows them to seek food in the rich but cold waters of the north Atlantic.



## CONSERVATION

Overfishing continues despite warnings. The **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas** (ICCAT) sets limits on the amount of tuna which can be fished. However, because of human demand, these limits are difficult to enforce.

The Atlantic Bluefin Tuna is considered an endangered fish.



Like all other types of tuna, the Bluefin have muscular bodies which allow them to swim really fast. They can reach speeds of up to 50 miles per hour.

This speed is what allows them to catch their favourite foods including mackerel and sardines.

In turn, the Bluefin Tuna are hunted by their natural predators, sharks and whales.



Bluefin Tuna is one of the most highly prized fish used in Japanese raw fish dishes.



## THREATS TO BLUEFIN TUNA

Global demands for Bluefin Tuna as a food for humans is the predominant threat to Atlantic Bluefin Tuna.

Bluefin aquaculture (cultivating and farming Bluefin) is not sustainable because it relies on catching wild young Bluefin tuna instead of captive breeding.

The **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas** (ICCAT) have stated that in the last 40 years, the numbers of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna have declined dramatically. This means that there is around 72% less tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and 82% in the Western Atlantic. Atlantic Bluefin have become extinct in the Black Sea.

