



## NGO Statement on Atlantic bluefin tuna

November 2009



Following more than 30 years of decline, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' (ICCAT) scientists have confirmed the dire state of the Atlantic bluefin tuna during a special meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics this October. There is now no question that the species qualifies for inclusion in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendix I. An Appendix I listing for Atlantic bluefin tuna will complement and strengthen the management actions that need to be taken by ICCAT.



Countless opportunities have been lost by ICCAT to set science-based catch limits, curb overfishing of Atlantic bluefin tuna, and control the rampant illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing which occurs throughout the fishery. Now, populations of Atlantic bluefin tuna are nearing commercial extinction. The undersigned organizations therefore call upon ICCAT to take the essential action at its 2009 meeting of adopting a zero quota for all stocks of the North Atlantic bluefin fishery until their populations have fully recovered.