Conservation of southern bluefin tuna

Published by AGRINFO on 04 Apr 2023

EU prohibits targeted fishing of southern bluefin tuna by EU vessels

Regulation (EU) 2023/675 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2023 laying down conservation and management measures for the conservation of southern bluefin tuna

Update

The Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna was adopted in 2020. This Regulation implements relevant resolutions of the Convention into EU law. It applies to EU fishing vessels that fish in the area of distribution of southern bluefin tuna under the Convention, and to EU Member States importing, exporting or re-exporting southern bluefin tuna.

Impacted products

southern bluefin tuna

What is changing?

Management, conservation and control measures established under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna are now binding for fishing vessels under EU law.

Timeline

Date of entry into force: 13 April 2023.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Southern bluefin tuna imported into the EU must be accompanied by a catch certificate in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 and by an export or re-export form, as applicable.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

CCSBT's record of authorised fishing vessels is only open to Members and Cooperating Non-Members. Fishing vessels not on the record are not authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, or land southern bluefin tuna. The EU does not accept imports or domestic landings of southern bluefin tuna product from vessels that are not on these lists.

Background

Council Decision (EU) 2015/2437 established the EU as a Contracting Party to the Convention. The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) promotes the Convention's aims to cooperate in the conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna.

EU fishing vessels do not target southern bluefin tuna, but the area of distribution of this species overlaps with other convention areas where the EU long-line fleet targets tropical tunas and other tuna-like species. In these areas, the EU has reported accidental by-catch of southern bluefin tuna in the past. EU fishing vessels are only authorised to have such by-catch when they are included in the CCSBT Record of Vessels authorised to fish for, or carry, southern bluefin tuna. Vessels not on that record are prohibited from retaining southern bluefin tuna on board, or transhipping or exporting it.

Resources

Council Decision (EU) 2015/2437 concerning the membership of the Union in the Extended Commission of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Sources

Regulation (EU) 2023/675

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole*

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*