

## The looting of the seas

90% of global fish stocks are exploited. The populations can hardly recover from this.





## The meaning of overfishing

If more natural resources are consumed than can regrow, this is overuse. In the case of fisheries, this means overfishing because more fishes are caught than are naturally reproduced. It is measured in terms of the catch quota, which is set as the production quota of a certain quantity of the species caught. The term for this is maximum sustainable yield (MSY). If the catch figures are less than or equal to MSY, the stock is fished moderately or up to the limit; if they are greater, overfishing occurs.

## Particularly affected areas

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the global share of overfished stocks has tripled over the last 40 years, reaching over 30%. According to the FAO, nearly 60% of fish stocks are at maximum exploitation. Only for 7% of the assessed stocks catches could be increased. Scientists report that 90% of predatory fishes worldwide have been lost.<sup>1</sup> The Mediterranean and the Black Sea are the most heavily overfished areas at 78%.<sup>2</sup> Among the species concerned are swordfish, tuna, hake, red mullet, sole, anchovies, sardines and crustaceans and molluscs, including shrimps and octopus.

## Tuna - a doubtful intake

Tuna is one of the most popular edible fish in the world; in countless sandwiches it is the main ingredient. There are eight species in total, 50% of which are endangered due to overfishing. For 25% of the species stocks are declining and thus potentially at risk. In view of the rising demand, pressure is increasing massively on the few species that are not yet overfished.

Atlantic bluefin tuna is particularly high priced. Its meat is a component of sushi.

This species is considered highly endangered. Although research efforts are enormous, tuna cannot be bred until today. However, young animals are caught and fed in fattening farms.<sup>3</sup> Due to the record prices paid for Atlantic bluefin tuna and the continuing demand for its flesh, the number of unreported cases of additional illegal catching and fattening is high.<sup>4</sup>

**No matter how delicious tuna may taste, do not eat it anymore. For its protection and the protection of the marine ecosystem.**

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<sup>1</sup> FAO 2018

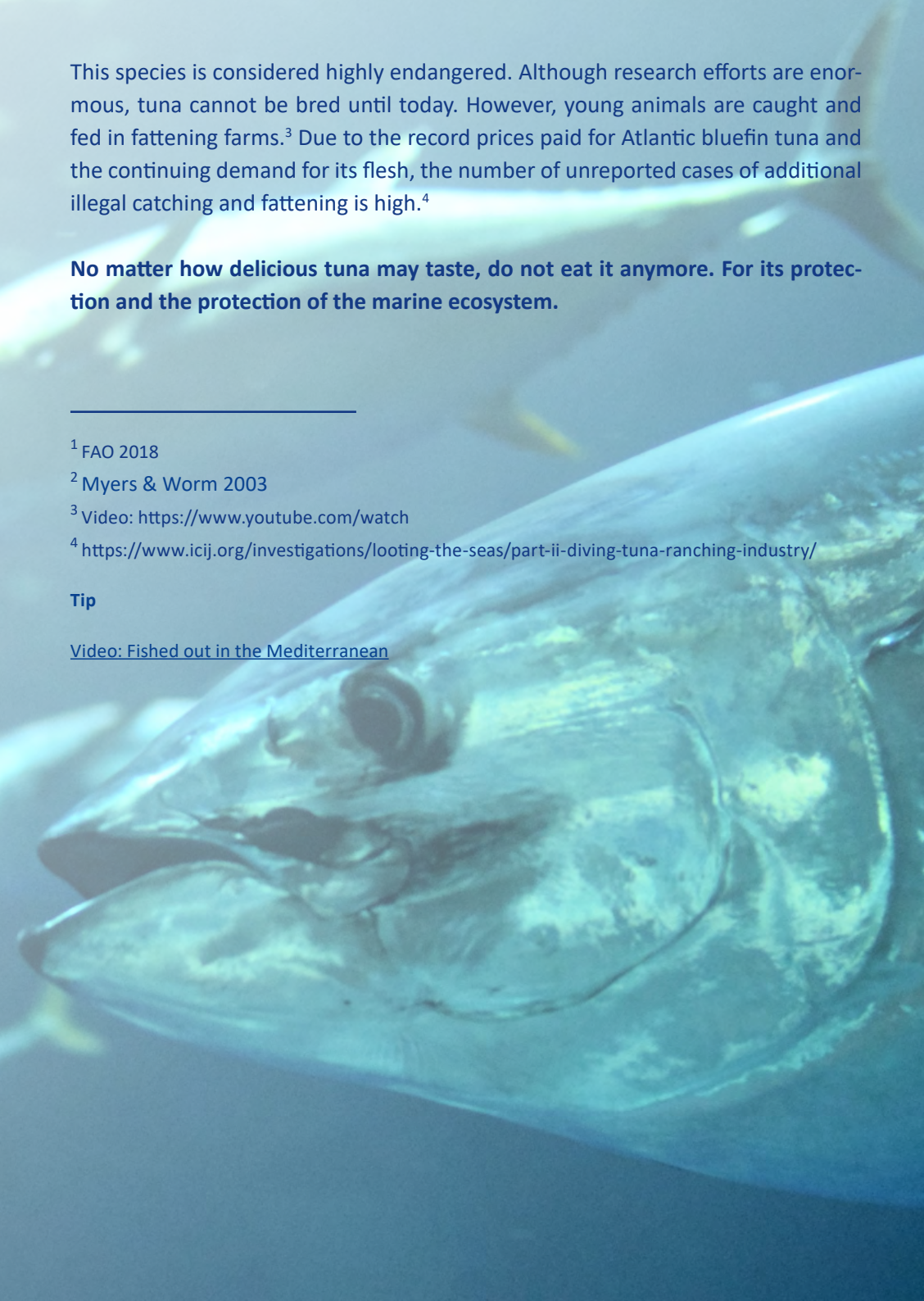
<sup>2</sup> Myers & Worm 2003

<sup>3</sup> Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.icij.org/investigations/looting-the-seas/part-ii-diving-tuna-ranching-industry/>

### Tip

[Video: Fished out in the Mediterranean](#)





**Let's give the seas a break.**

Sustainably. For marine life. For us. For our descendants.

[www.kyma-sea.org/break](http://www.kyma-sea.org/break)



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