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# The sustainability of the bluefin tuna resource: A fishery and aquaculture integrated challenge

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**SUMMARY** – This short introduction deals with the various directions in which fisheries and aquaculture could harmonize in the future to provide a sustainable fishery for bluefin tuna. The pertinent questions are proposed which cover not only the fisheries aspects but also the socio-economic policy to be considered for the future.

**Key words:** Resources, sustainability, fisheries, aquaculture.

**RESUME** – *"Durabilité des ressources de thon rouge : Un défi d'intégration halieutique et aquacole". Cette courte introduction présente les différents axes autour desquels la pêche et l'aquaculture pourraient s'harmoniser dans le futur pour constituer des pêcheries durables de thon rouge. Les problématiques pertinentes sont proposées, couvrant non seulement les aspects halieutiques mais également les politiques socio-économiques à considérer pour l'avenir.*

**Mots-clés :** Ressources, durabilité, pêche, aquaculture.

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Today the preservation of the sea's resources must be approached in terms of three main themes: (i) first, the management of living resources and the quality of the environment; (ii) secondly, the preservation of the human and socio-economic environment of the world of fishing; and (iii) finally, meeting consumers' demands by ensuring the development of seafood production.

The resources of tuna fish, and in particular of bluefin tuna in the temperate zones and big eye Tuna in tropical zones, are an integral part of this challenge.

In Europe, the fishermen and the fish merchants themselves have taken the initiative for the progressive change from fishing to aquaculture. This is a remarkable adventure which is now well on the way in the Mediterranean in the Spanish region of Murcia and Cartagena. This shows just how strong is the capacity for innovation, risk-taking and the desire to modernise within these industries.

This evolution from capture to aquaculture with the creation of added economic value is unique in Europe. It creates jobs and maritime activities without entailing a significant increase in captures which could be detrimental to the stock.

It was in Spain, which currently holds the presidency of the EU, hosts and co-organises this meeting and is Europe's leading country in terms of fishing, where this profound change first took place.

As of today, we must ask ourselves questions concerning the long term sustainability of the tuna fishing and aquaculture activities:

(i) Sustainability of the resource in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean seas to be shared between a rich North and a poorer South.

(ii) Sustainability of the socio-professional tissue of fishing and its related jobs.

(iii) Sustainability of the quality of the coastal environment, which is increasingly attracting new activities: tourism, green tourism, aquaculture, fishing as a leisure activity, etc.

(iv) Sustainability in sharing and maintaining a balance between the different uses and users in the coastal environment.

(v) Sustainability of the provision of sea products in Europe.

(vi) Sustainability in terms of the quality, safety, traceability and the image of European productions.

(vii) Finally, sustainability of development at the extreme periphery of the European Union in regions where the great pelagic species are an important source of wealth.