



## **UK priority species pages – Version 2**

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**SPECIES PAGES FOR 2007 UK BAP PRIORITY SPECIES**

(see endnotes for an explanation of the various components of this compilation).

**Thunnus thynnus (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Blue-fin Tuna**

**1 General information**

Level 1	Marine species
Level 2	bony fish
On 1997 UK BAP list	

**2 UK BAP criteria<sup>i</sup>**

1. International threat	2. International responsibility (2a) + moderate decline in UK (2b)	3. Marked decline in the UK	4. Other important factor(s)
False	False	True	True

**3 Evidence for Criteria<sup>ii</sup>**

Criterion 1	
Criterion 2a	
Criterion 2b	
Criterion 3	W. Atlantic populations are declined by 90% since 1975 (1975 = ¼ million individuals, 1991 = less than 22,000 individuals). E. Atlantic populations are ½ of what they were in 1970. The spawning biomass, which represents the number of bluefin which have reached sexual maturity, has been estimated to be less than 20 per cent of what it was in the 1970s, and this is exacerbated by the fact that many are caught at a weight of between five and 20kg, well before they have reached reproductive age.
Criterion 4	Until the 1970s catches of Bluefin Tuna were taken through international sport fishing. Through the development of the Japanese speciality market in the early 1970s perspectives changed and the Japanese market has driven this fishery. A highly prized delicacy in Japan's most exclusive sushi restaurants, a single bluefin can bring fishermen up to U. S. \$30,000, and sell at auction in Tokyo for more than U. S. \$60,000. Provides a food source for Orcinus orca and pilot whales.

**4 Distribution by Country**

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	International Waters
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	Y	N		
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## 5 Distribution Information

Distribution data source	
Distribution data notes	
number of sites (where less than or equal to 10)	
Units used for number of sites	

## 6 Actions identified by experts<sup>iii</sup>

## 8 Additional information from specialists<sup>iv</sup>

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Thunnus thynnus
NBN common name	Blue-fin Tuna
classification level 1	Marine species
classification level 2	bony fish



## 10 Species designations<sup>v</sup>

Abbreviation	Reporting Category	Designation	Designation description	Year	Source	Comment
OSPAR	OSPAR	OSPAR	OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats.	2008	OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats, 2008.	OSPAR Regions where the species occurs= V. OSPAR Regions where the species is under threat and/or in decline= All where it occurs. The main threat is the high rate of catch of juvenile fish of the species (SCRS Report, page 59).
England NERC S.41	Biodiversity Lists - England	England NERC S.41	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2008	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for England only
BAP:2007	Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species	Priority Species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).	2007	UK list of Priority Habitats and Species	not on former UK BAP list

## UK BAP 2008 reporting<sup>vi</sup>

(nb this only applies to species on the original 1997 UK BAP priority species list)

### ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> An explanation of these criteria is included at Annex 3 of [UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Report on the Species and Habitat Review](#). BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2007. This review was organised in two stages. Stage 1 looked at the scientific evidence for selecting the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats while stage 2 considered the conservation action needed for these species and habitats and provided signposts to the means of implementing action.

<sup>ii</sup> The information on evidence and the species distribution is as presented on the UK BAP website. Users can download a spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#) from the home page of the UK BAP website.

<sup>iii</sup> Actions were assigned to each and every priority species by expert groups convened at Stage 2 of the Review process. These were subsequently categorised into “signpost categories”. This information is as shown on the UK BAP website See the link for [categorisation \(signposting\) of UK priority species](#).

<sup>iv</sup> This information has been derived from Stage 1 of the priority species review, and is presented in the “marine”, “terrestrial invertebrates” and “other terrestrial species” sheets within the spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#). The information presented here varies according to the taxonomic group. Please note that some of these data have been written for other Expert Group members and may not be of great value to a wider audience.

<sup>v</sup> Information on conservation designations has been extracted from JNCC’s collation of information on [species designations](#). The designations shown in version 2 of these pages are as at December 2010.

<sup>vi</sup> As part of the 2008 UK BAP reporting round lead partners of national plans were asked to answer a number of specific questions. The data will be analysed and used for the UK and country level reports. All of the responses provided through BARS as part of the 2008 reporting exercise are available to [download](#). Note that in the December 2010 version of these pages (version 2) includes corrections to previously truncated text fields.