

The Atlantic Bluefin Needs Protection NOW.



An open letter to NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco:

Marine scientists warn that Atlantic bluefin tuna, one of the fastest and most valuable fish in the sea, is headed for commercial extinction. The United States, which in recent years has often failed to play a leadership role in international conservation, should help lead the effort to keep this magnificent species from disappearing forever.

A proposal has been made to list Atlantic bluefin for protection on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). If adopted, this would restrict all international trade of this rapidly declining ocean giant, much as elephants were protected when CITES stopped the international ivory trade in 1989.

By co-sponsoring this proposal, the United States can take a leadership role in encouraging other nations to protect one of the world's most spectacular creatures. If we remain silent, Atlantic bluefin tuna may very well be doomed.

Dr. Lubchenco, when the science clearly indicates that international trade in a species needs to stop, our country has a responsibility to lead.

Co-sponsor a CITES Appendix I listing of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Sincerely,

**Blue Ocean Institute ■ Conservation Law Foundation ■
Environmental Defense Fund ■ Greenpeace USA ■ Marine Fish
Conservation Network ■ Oceana ■ Pew Environment Group**