

# IUCN SSC Tuna and Billfish Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Bruce B. Collette

## Chair

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## Red List Authority Coordinator

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## Location/Affiliation

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## Number of members

30



## Mission statement

To bring together a variety of stakeholders to increase knowledge on the global status and conservation of the world's tuna and billfish species.

## Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

### Barometer of life

#### ■ Red List

i. We are still trying to raise funds to initiate reassessments of the tunas and billfishes. We have had some leads, but nothing has come to fruition. (KSR #32)

#### ■ Research activities

i. Progress in preparation of book "*Tunas and Billfishes of the World*", which will update biology and threats of all the species. (KSR #43)

ii. Paper published in *Science* on migration of the Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*). (KSR #32)

iii. Paper published in *Science* on available knowledge and management of the Pacific bluefin tuna. (KSR #32)

## Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

### Barometer of life

Red List: complete reassessments for 51 scombrids and 10 billfishes.

Research activities: complete book on tunas and billfishes.

## Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Targets have not yet been achieved during 2016-2017; however, Arizona State University has recently been added as a new partner in the IUCN Red List Partnership, with reassessments of the world's tuna and billfishes included in its five year commitment to the Red List. This will hopefully increase capacity to fundraise for reassessments of the tunas and billfishes, but increased capacity and funds are much needed. Reassessments of the world's tunas and billfishes will greatly improve and consolidate the current state of knowledge of these species around the globe. Many regional and national fisheries management organizations, in addition to other sustainable seafood and research organizations, are relying on these data to inform and update current policies and management recommendations.



Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) off Cancun  
Photo: Daniel Botelho

**Summary of activities (2016-2017)**

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Key Priority Area ratio: 1/7

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Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (4 activities)
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Main KSRs addressed: 32, 43

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KSR: Key Species Result



Members of the Tuna and Billfish SG  
Photo: TBSG archives