

IUCN SSC Tuna and Billfish Specialist Group

2019 Report



Bruce B. Collette

Chair

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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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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 organisations, in addition to other sustainable seafood and research organisations, are relying on these data to inform and update current policies and management recommendations.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

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

Research activities: complete the book *Tunas and Billfishes of the World*.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. We have recently hired a post-doc who will spend 25% of her time on the tuna/billfishes reassessments, and a consultant who will help her compile stock assessment data. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. *Tuna and Billfishes of the World* (Collette and Graves 2019) was published. All Word docs and maps in the book have been provided to the Red List Authority and post-doc to start entering the updated species data into the IUCN SIS database. (KSR #43)

Acknowledgements

We thank Arizona State University and the Red List Committee IBAT funds for providing funds to support our new post-doc, Krista Kemppinen, who will help with the tuna and coral reassessments over the next year. We also thank David Shiffman and Maria Juan Jorda, who have volunteered many hours to help with tuna data collection.

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



Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 1/5

Assess **2** **II**

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



Bruce B. Collette and Beth Polidoro, Abu Dhabi, 2015
Photo: TBSG archives