

## Speaking Points

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### *European Parliament, Hearing on Bluefin Tuna, 12 September 2006*

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#### **Bluefin Tuna in farms: the Mediterranean area**

2006: 22,520 tonnes farmed

- to be compared with 2005 data: 30,765 tonnes farmed – and 2004: 29,677 tonnes farmed
- in the context of on overall farming capacity in the Mediterranean of 55,000 tonnes.

#### **Catches in traditional fishing grounds around Balearic Islands**

2006: 2,270 tonnes caught

- to be compared with 2004 data: 8,340 tonnes caught – and 1995: 14,699 tonnes caught (historical maximum).

#### **Bluefin tuna now caught in waters of Central and Eastern Mediterranean**

- In 2006, around 9,000 tonnes of bluefin tuna have been caught in and around Libya's "62 nm Fisheries Protected Zone".

#### **Illegality**

- Illegal **flights** of bluefin tuna spotting airplanes are operating from Malta's Luka airport to Lampedusa (Italy), Pantelleria (Italy), Tripoli (Libya), Mitiga (Libya) mainly; and also from Paphos (Cyprus) to Alexandria (Egypt) and Port Said (Egypt) in June 2006.
- Illegal double registered **purse seine vessels** (hi-tech industrial tuna fishing method whereby boats use encircling surface nets): example of one vessel, registered in the ICCAT list, with two different names (Nawras and Ta Matthews) and flags (Libya and Malta).

#### **ICCAT rule infringement**

- Transfer of non-declared Turkish catches to a reefer vessel (Melilla 206) working for a Korean Company. (Turkey has no ICCAT quota but may fish under "others" quota, an amount to be shared with Cyprus and Malta).
- Illegal transfers of quotas between ICCAT Contracting Parties. (French purse seiners fishing under Tunisian quota).