



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

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Species of Special Interest Vulnerability and Mitigation

IOTC ROS SFO TR17.1

Category: IOTC fisheries impacts on ecosystems,
interactions with SSIs and mitigation

[IOTC ROS SFO TR17]



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This module aims to familiarize Observers with the meaning of SSI (as defined by IOTC), of vulnerability and of mitigation.



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IOTC SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST (SSI)

- all marine turtles
- all marine mammals
- all seabirds
- whale sharks
- oceanic white tip sharks
- thresher sharks
- striped marlin
- black marlin
- blue marlin
- Indo-Pacific sailfish



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Species of Special Interest include **all marine turtles**, **all marine mammals**, **all seabirds**, shark species with a retention ban: **whale sharks** (Res 13/05), **oceanic white tip sharks** (Res 13/06) and **thresher sharks** (Res 12/09.); and billfish species included in Res 18/05: **striped, black and blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish** (IOTC-2018-SC21-R[E]).



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MEANING OF MITIGATION IN RELATION TO IOTC SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST (SSIs)

Mitigation measures are a means to prevent, reduce or control the adverse effects of a specific fishery on a species of interest.

The IOTC requires CPCs to ensure that their flagged fishing vessels make use of specific fishing gear and practices to mitigate against mortality of non-target SSIs and minimize their bycatch.



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MEANING OF VULNERABILITY IN RELATION TO IOTC SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST (SSIs)

The IOTC describes a species vulnerability in terms of its susceptible to accidental landing, primarily as a result of hunting for food or accidentally interacting with a fishing vessel.



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MEANING OF VULNERABLE SPECIES AS DEFINED BY THE IUCN

A vulnerable species is one which has been categorized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as likely to become endangered unless the circumstances that are threatening its survival and reproduction improve.

Many of the species classified by the IOTC as SSI are listed under the IUCN red list of endangered species.



IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

The IUCN Red List assesses the conservation status of species at a global level, drawing on expert knowledge from around the world. It uses a set of quantitative criteria to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species. These criteria are relevant to most species and all regions of the world. With its strong scientific base, the IUCN Red List is recognised as the most authoritative guide to the status of biological diversity. International agreements such as the IOTC and other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) use IUCN Red List data to guide decision making and as an indicator of the status of nature.



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The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria are intended to be an easily and widely understood system for classifying species at high risk of global extinction. It divides species into nine categories: Not Evaluated, Data Deficient, Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild and Extinct.

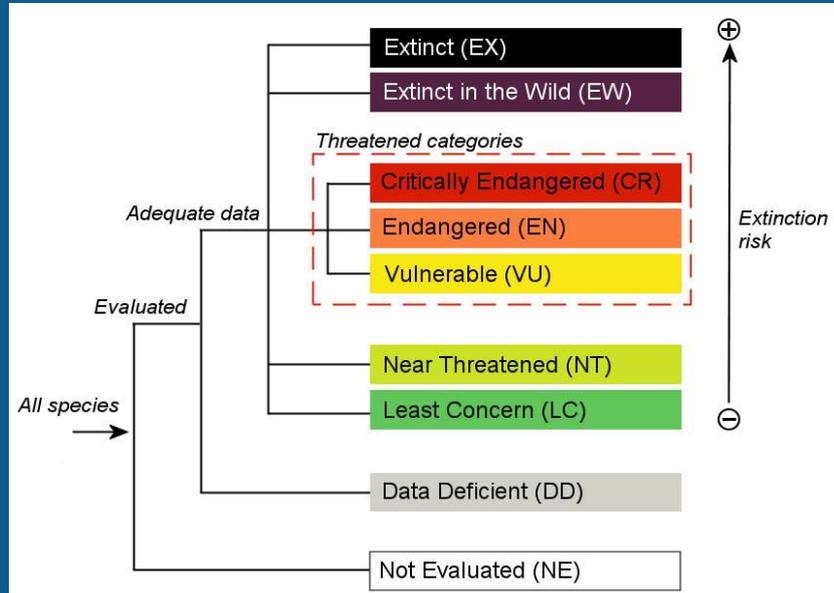
What does each category mean ?

In descending order of threat, the IUCN Red List threat categories are as follows:

- *Extinct or Extinct in the Wild*
- *Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable*: species threatened with global extinction.
- *Near Threatened*: species close to the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened without ongoing conservation measures.
- *Least Concern*: species evaluated with a lower risk of extinction.
- *Data Deficient*: no assessment because of insufficient data.



IUCN NATURE OF THE CATEGORIES



What does IUCN mean by "threatened" ?

Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with global extinction.



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IUCN SPECIES CARDS

Common name: **Hawksbill Turtle**

Scientific name: *Eretmochelys imbricata*

ANIMALIA – REPTILIA

GLOBAL

Hawksbill Turtle

Eretmochelys imbricata

↓ Decreasing

<CR>

Population trend

IUCN vulnerability status



IUCN Red List of Threatened Species web site, provides species classification cards. These cards list the species scientific and common name, provide the species as well as the population trend for that specific species (increasing in numbers, decreasing, stable).



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ANY QUESTIONS?



send us a message via Talents LMS

*Images copied from the IUCN website
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>*



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