

## Tuna at Risk of Extinction Due to Extremely High Demand

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The first study of its kind to estimate the volume of tuna taken from the ocean shows tuna are being depleted at significant levels. Global catch has risen over 1,000% since the 1960s. This rate is not sustainable and will lead to extinction if its continued.

An estimated 6 million tonnes are caught annually, according to the study written in Fisheries Research. Part of this demand is from

canned tuna, now popular across the world. Because we've developed methods-refrigeration and canning- to store fish for lengthy periods of time, the demand for fish has exploded.

Researcher Angie Coulter said of the fishing, "Tuna fisheries have expanded into every region that we can possibly exploit. There are no new fishing grounds to explore and we are catching fish at the highest rate we can."

The first of its kind study examines both fish caught and discarded fish caught unintentionally-also known as bycatch. And the amount of tuna we are pulling out of the sea is enormous. Most fishing is managed by regional fisheries, tuna is managed by five Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Much of the data for the study came from these organizations.

Japan has long been the dominant tuna fishing country, followed by the United States and now continued by other Asian countries. The Pacific Ocean has long been a central fishing spot for Tuna.

Tuna populations are significant to supply chains and economic health around the globe. Just as these supply chains and economies are linked, so are tuna linked to other sea creatures and ecosystems. Tuna both eat fish and are eaten by fish. Removing them from the food chain would affect both sides.

Tuna is also closely linked with shark populations. Sharks are often caught in tuna nets and are one of the highest proportion of bycatch in

tuna fishing. 82,000 tons of blue shark were caught in 2016, according to the study.

Food systems and agriculture are experiencing significant changes around the globe. Read One Green Planet news on plant based diets and the meat industry.

Link:

<https://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/tuna-at-risk-of-extinction-due-to-extremely-high-demand/>