Tuna is among the top seafood imports to the United States, surpassed only by salmon and shrimp. (http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/foreign-trade/index) Tuna species represent 16% of the value of all marine capture fisheries in the world, according to FAO, and are caught in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans and in the Mediterranean Sea. (http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/projects/tuna-biodiversity/en/).

Nations fish for tuna in their own EEZs, in waters offshore of their EEZs, on the high seas, and in distant waters not adjacent to flag state coasts. Landings from “distant waters” refer here to quantities taken by vessels in all FAO major fishing areas other than those adjacent to the flag state’s EEZ. (http://firms.fao.org/firms/fishery/459/en) These can include ocean areas under the jurisdiction of tuna RFMOs, including high seas, and ocean areas within the EEZs of another nation, accessed via a Foreign Fishing Arrangement (FFA) or Trade in Fishing Services (TIF) agreement. (Gillett 2016, International Bank 2014).

More than 40 species of tuna are harvested by 85 nations, using all types of access agreements and fishing gear. (http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap939e/ap939e.pdf) Table [X] provides a summary of tuna fishing and some examples of these arrangements. Although Russia, Japan, and Spain have been at times the largest DWF nations, China’s DWF fleet is now the world’s largest in terms of numbers of vessels. In addition to its own high seas and EEZ tuna fisheries, it is a member of four of the five t-RFMOs, and fishes under 14 bi-lateral agreements 7 interagency agreements and has DWF fleets active in countries throughout Asia, Africa, and Oceania. (Mallory 2014)

The t-RFMOs develop management measures and the member nations perform monitoring, compliance, and surveillance for their fleets. (Allen 2010, FAO-FI) Three of the t-
RFMOs have marine mammal conservation measures, and others have reporting requirements either through logbooks or observers. (Gillman 2011)

Industrial tuna fisheries are dynamic in response to market, stock, and ocean conditions, and can move quickly from the Atlantic to the Pacific or Indian Oceans. (FAO-FI) The Indian Ocean (Anderson 2014) and the waters of Pacific Island nations are areas of most recent growth (Gillett 2016). Because tuna RFMOs have not adopted management measures related to the level of bycatch of marine mammals in tuna fisheries—with the exception of fisheries in the Eastern Tropical Pacific overseen by IATTC—the extent and potential effects of interactions are uncertain, and may be significantly underestimated. (Clark 2014, FAO 2010, Van der Elst, RP and BI Everett 2015, Anderson 2014).

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<td>EEZs, WCPFC, CCSBT</td>
<td>China bilateral with Vietnam; Japan/Taiwan bilateral; EU/Philippines deal in draft; US, EU, Taiwan, Korea, China, Japan, Philippines have access agreements to fish in EEZs of parties to Nauru Agreement.</td>
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**Key to abbreviations in Table**

Gear type
- **G:** Gillnet
- **L:** Longline
- **P:** Pole-and-line
- **S:** Purse seine
- **T:** Troll

**ABF:** Atlantic bluefin  
**ALB:** Albacore  
**BET:** Bigeye  
**SBF:** Southern Bluefin  
**SKJ:** Skipjack  
**YFT:** Yellowfin