Much has been made in recent years of the potential role of strengthened RFMOS in managing straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. We have seen the gutting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization in the name of reform. ICCAT, the commission responsible *inter alia* for the management of Atlantic bluefin tuna, has come under attack in recent weeks by ENGOs for its failure to take effective actions to protect eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna. And now the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC0) is also coming under attack for failure to adopt effective conservation measures to conserve big eye and yellowfin tuna.

In its Dec 8th issue Nature magazine signalled that a bold move by eight Pacific island nations to preserve the world's last large stocks of tuna was expected to face strong resistance at the WCPFC meeting. The islands have banned fleets that fish with purse-seine nets from operating in a region of international waters roughly the size of India,an area known as the Eastern High Seas. But critics claim that the WCPFC has yet again failed to take any effective action to reduce the decline of valuable big eye and yellowfin tuna. The Commision followed the familiar course of throwing overboard the scientific advice, rejecting its own Scientific Committee's recommendation of an immediate 29 per cent reduction in the big eye tuna catch.

TAGS:sustainable, fishing, fisheries, overfishing, conservation, tuna, bluefin tuna, ICCAT, WCPFC, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna

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