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Bluefin tuna escaped endangered list

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- Federal officials have decided to keep bluefin tuna off the endangered species list.

Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine says the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is turning down a petition from the Center For Biological Diversity seeking an endangered status for the giant, highly migratory fish. NOAA officials were holding a news conference late Friday morning to discuss the decision.

The Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity claimed bluefin tuna is facing possible extinction because of overfishing. But fishermen say the western Atlantic population is being fished at sustainable levels.