



Pacific Tuna Tagging Project

WCPFC-SC20 2024

Fisheries and Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis

SPC-OFP

SC20 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project

The Pacific Tuna Tagging Project is a WCPFC project in place since 2006.

Its objective is to obtain data to support WCPO stock assessments, and to better understand the interactions between tropical tuna species and major fishing gears, and better interpret fisheries data.

Here, we provide a brief summary of:

- Project 42: Pacific Tuna Tagging Project Report and Work-plan for 2024-2027 (SC20-RP-PTTP-01)
- Project 42: Report of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project Steering Committee (SC2-RP-PTTP-02)

**PACIFIC TUNA TAGGING PROJECT
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Electronic Meeting
1 August 2024 (from 10:00-10:30 hours Pohnpei time (UTC+11 hours))

DRAFT AGENDA

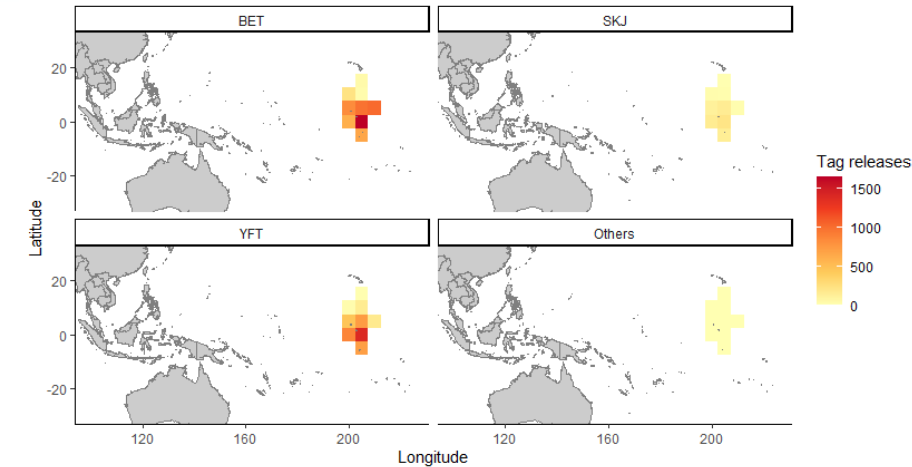
WCPFC-SC20-2024

- 1. PRELIMINARIES**
 - 1.1 Review and Adoption of Agenda
- 2. PTPP PROGRESS REPORT**
 - 2.1 2023 CP16 Cruise
 - 2.2 Tag Seeding
 - 2.3 2023-2024 Tag Recovery and Data Analyses
- 3. RELATED TAG ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1 Tagging Platforms Update
- 4. OTHER REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL TAGGING**
 - 4.1 Other tagging projects
- 5. WORK PLAN 2024-2027**
 - 5.1 Tagging Cruises
 - 5.2 Tag Seeding
 - 5.3 Tag Recovery and Data Analyses
- 6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
 - 6.1 Administrative Matters
 - 6.2 Recommendations to SC20
- 7. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

POTP Activities 2023-2024

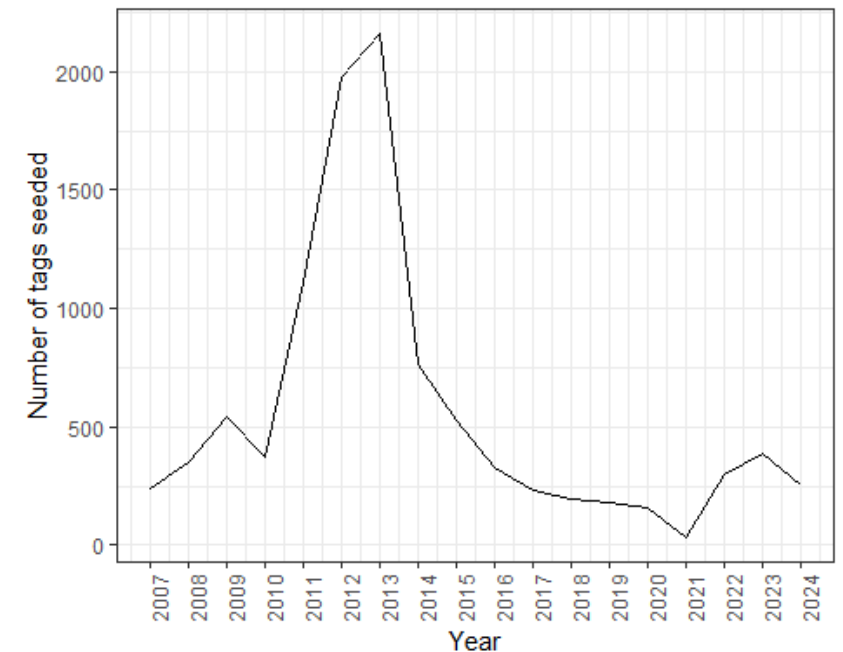
Wild Fish Tagging

- Bigeye-focussed Central Pacific tagging cruise implemented
- 45-day cruise onboard Gutsy Lady 4, 16th Aug – 29th Sept 2023
- **11,319 tuna tagged** (53% BET, 40% YFT, 7% SKJ)
- 76 industry drifting FADs visited, 1 TAO buoy
- **Biological samples** taken from 306 individuals



Tag Seeding

- Tag seeding is a critical method of informing tag reporting rates for WCPO stock assessments
- Starting 2024 we are supporting a large increase in tag seeding
- A 10-fold increase from recent years, spread across fleets and regions
- Estimate reporting rates more comprehensively than in the past



PTTP Workplan 2024-2027

Wild Fish Tagging

- Scheduled 2024 skipjack-focussed cruise, contingent on planned refurbishment of F/V Soltai 105 in the Solomon Islands
- Scheduled 2025 bigeye-focussed central Pacific cruise
- Future research cruises are planned to utilise the Regional Fisheries Research Vessel, now at the recruitment of shipyard and management company stage
- Further engagement with industry for access to drifting FADs to support research cruises



Tag Recovery and Analyses

- Improved engagement and recovery across region in parallel to large-scale tag seeding
- Supporting analyses for 2025 WCPO skipjack assessment: tagging effects, reporting rate estimation and tag mixing
- Continued support for higher levels of tag seeding by ROPs



Tag seeding onboard purse seine vessels (NON-SECRET)
A manual for observers

Recommendations to SC20

- Note the critical importance of effective tag seeding for informing stock assessment and support the increased deployment and fleet coverage of tag seeding experiments through regional and national observer programmes.
- Note the need for member participation and support in tag reporting as both wild and seeded tags continue to be found throughout the fishery.
- Note and support the ongoing regional fisheries research vessel project.
- Consider and support the PTPP work-plan for 2024-2027, and indicative budget presented here

Budget	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total	USD 1,433,875.00	USD 1,402,880.00	USD 1,450,000.00	USD 1,450,000.00	USD 1,475,000.00	USD 1,475,000.00	USD 1,475,000.00
WCPFC	USD 730,000.00	USD 730,000.00	USD 730,000.00	USD 800,000.00	USD 875,000.00	USD 950,000.00	USD 950,000.00
Republic of Korea	USD 166,000.00	USD 166,000.00	USD 166,000.00	USD 166,000.00	USD 166,000.00	USD 166,000.00	USD 166,000.00
SSP	USD 537,875.00	USD 506,880.00	USD 554,000.00	USD 484,000.00	USD 434,000.00	USD 359,000.00	USD 359,000.00
SSP%	38%	36%	38%	33%	29%	24%	24%