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# GATHERING RELEVANT INFORMATION ON PELAGIC ECOSYSTEM, TUNA RESOURCES AND RELATED FISHERIES, FOR WIDESPREAD LOCAL DIFFUSION: A general synthesis for New Caledonian stakeholders

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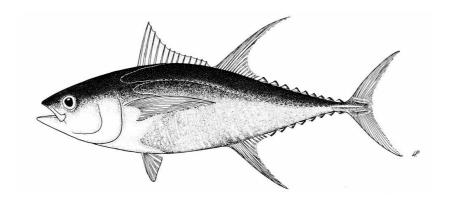
Paper prepared by

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ADECAL. ZoNeCo programme for the sustainable management of marine resources in New Caledonia EEZ. Noumea, New Caledonia.

# Gathering relevant information on pelagic ecosystem, tuna resources and related fisheries, for widespread local diffusion:

A general synthesis for New Caledonian stakeholders.



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ADECAL (New-Caledonia Economic Development Agency) ZoNeCo programme for the sustainable management of marine resources in New Caledonia EEZ

#### 1- Context

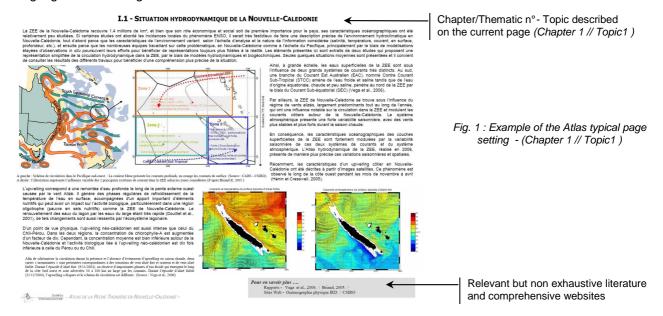
Following the establishment of the concept of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the Governments of France and New Caledonia and the three Provinces, together with Noumea-based research institutions, have designed and launched, in 1991, the multi-disciplinary ZoNéCo programme for sustainable management of marine resources of New Caledonia. This programme, aiming at opening new avenues for both EEZ governance and economic development was the starting point of the ongoing initiative to establish an essential fishing & aquaculture monitoring facility for scientists and development actors.

In this scope, a synthetic and comprehensive document (Tuna fisheries Atlas in New-Caledonia") has been recently distributed to the longline fishery industry and the related management institutions.

### 2- An initiative to gather existing information for local stakeholders

This synthesis is not intended to be an exhaustive reference for scientists but is rather designed for commercial fishermen and policy makers. It aims at gathering and simplifying all relevant information on environment and tuna resources in Western Central Pacific in order to provide a comprehensive "state of art" of fisheries sciences in relation to tuna fisheries.

Information has been extracted from literature and reports and has been compiled by major thematics. For each thematic, every topic is described in one page and the selected literature is systematically highlighted on the right-down corner.



This manual includes chapters covering:

- 1- The general description of the hydrodynamic environment, in the pacific and around New Caledonia boundaries. Focus is made on the influence of ENSO events on physical environment and tuna fisheries, on both scales.
- 2- **The tuna fisheries' dynamics** in the Western Central Pacific and in New Caledonia are then described, with a focus on the longline fishery. The local fishery is compared to the fisheries operating in the South West Pacific. Status of stocks, provided by the WCPFC, are highlighted for the targeted species.
- 3- A particular chapter is dedicated to **management issues for regional tuna fisheries** and major initiatives that have been implemented. Precisely, the role and structure of the WCPFC are described, priority issues for the commission are listed and duties or responsibilities of every member country are noted.
- 4- A comprehensive **snapshot of the New Caledonia longline fishery through 1°1° statistical maps** (NC fisheries development stages, seasonal variations of yields and effort, for target and by-catch species ...). The number of maps has been deliberately limited in order to highlight only the most comprehensive patterns. The CES (Catch and Effort Query System) interface, implemented and maintained by SPC, was used to present NC statistics on a map form.

This document (printed A3 size) is to date available in French only. Interested parties can contact Pablo N. CHAVANCE (pablo.chavance@offratel.nc) at ADECAL (ZoNéCo Programme) for more information.