

Overview of Tuna Fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, Including Economic Conditions - 2024

SC21-2025 / ST-GN-01

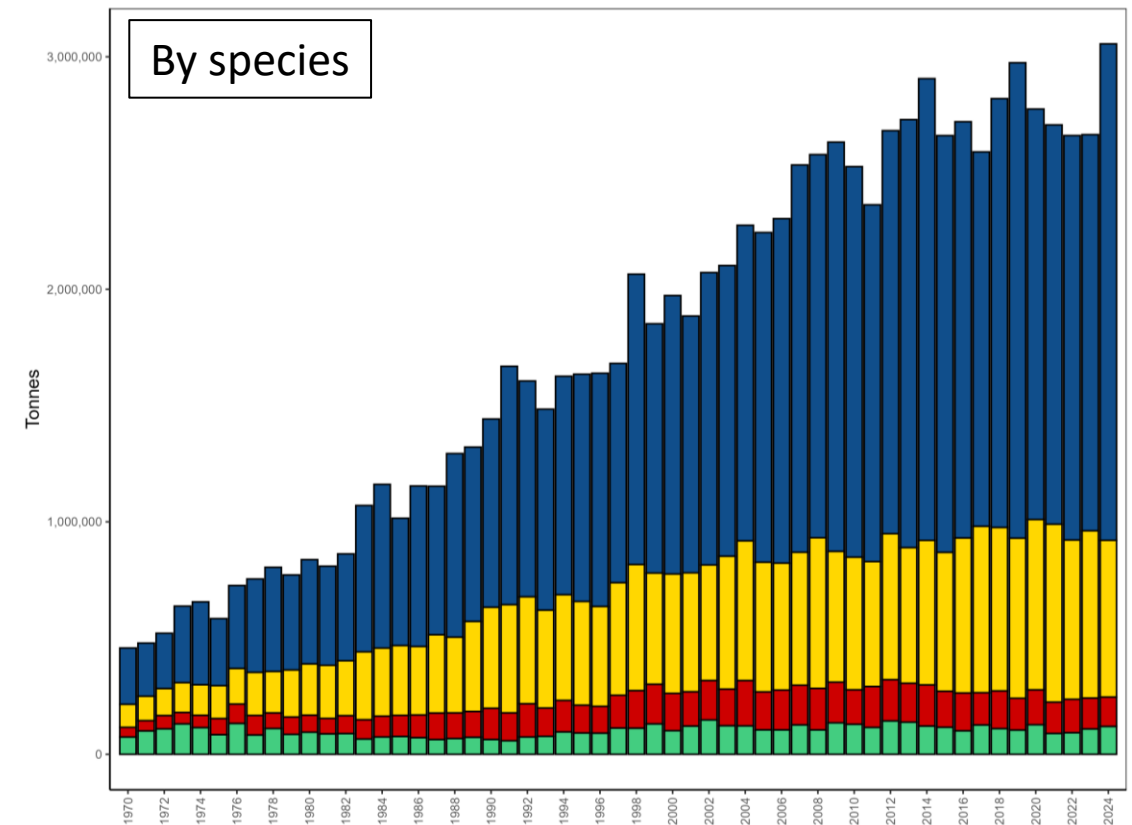
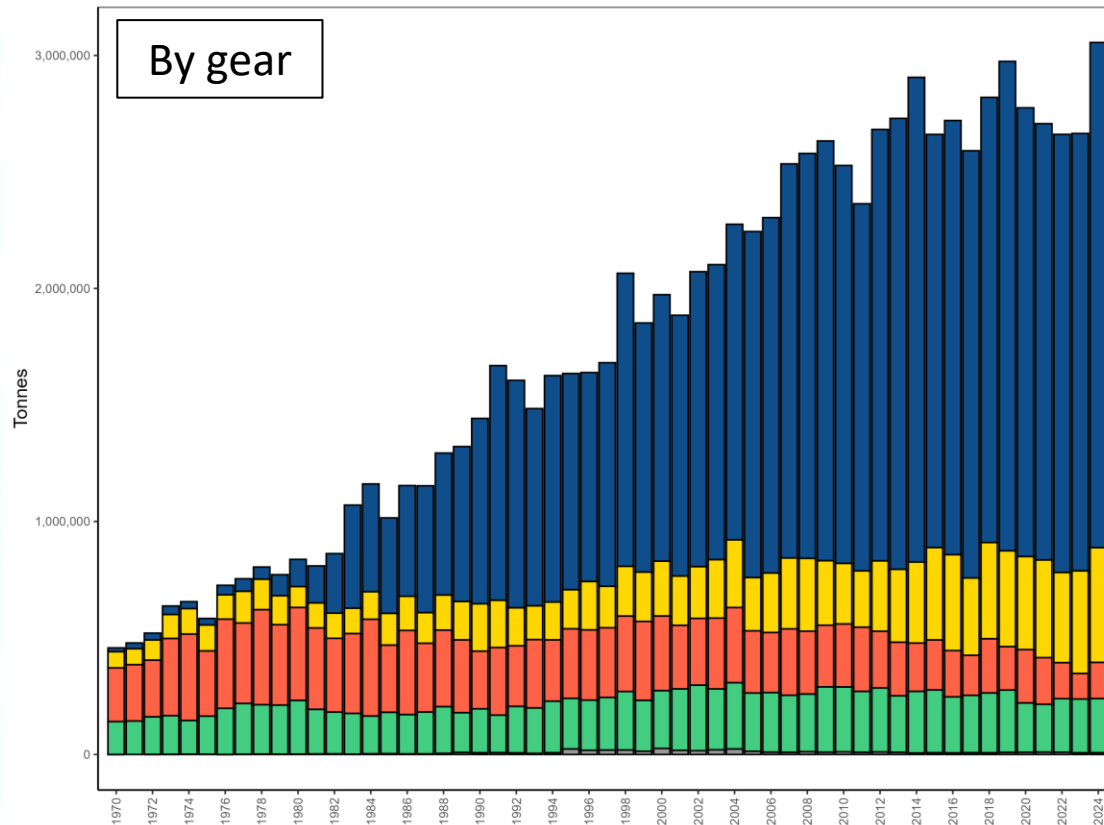
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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
13–21 August 2025

WCPFC Tuna Catches (~3 mill mt in 2024)



- PS – 2,148,963 (71%)
- PL – 154,612 (5%)
- LL – 231,704 (9%)
- OTH – 488,870 (16%)

- SKJ – 2,107,666 (70%)
- YFT – 677,594 (22%)
- BET – 119,023 (4%)
- ALB – 119,867 (4%)

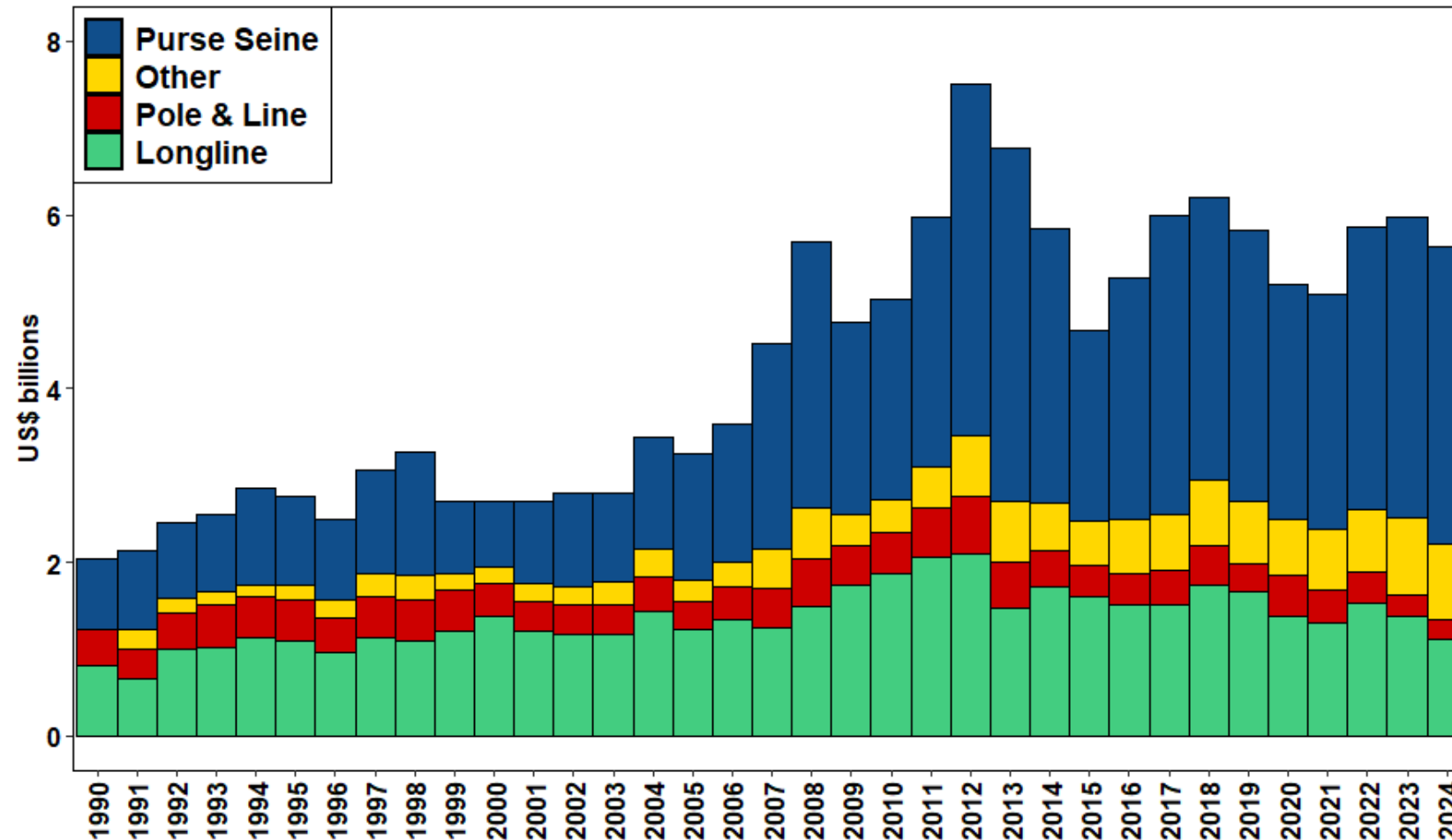
WCPFC Tuna Catch Value by Gear



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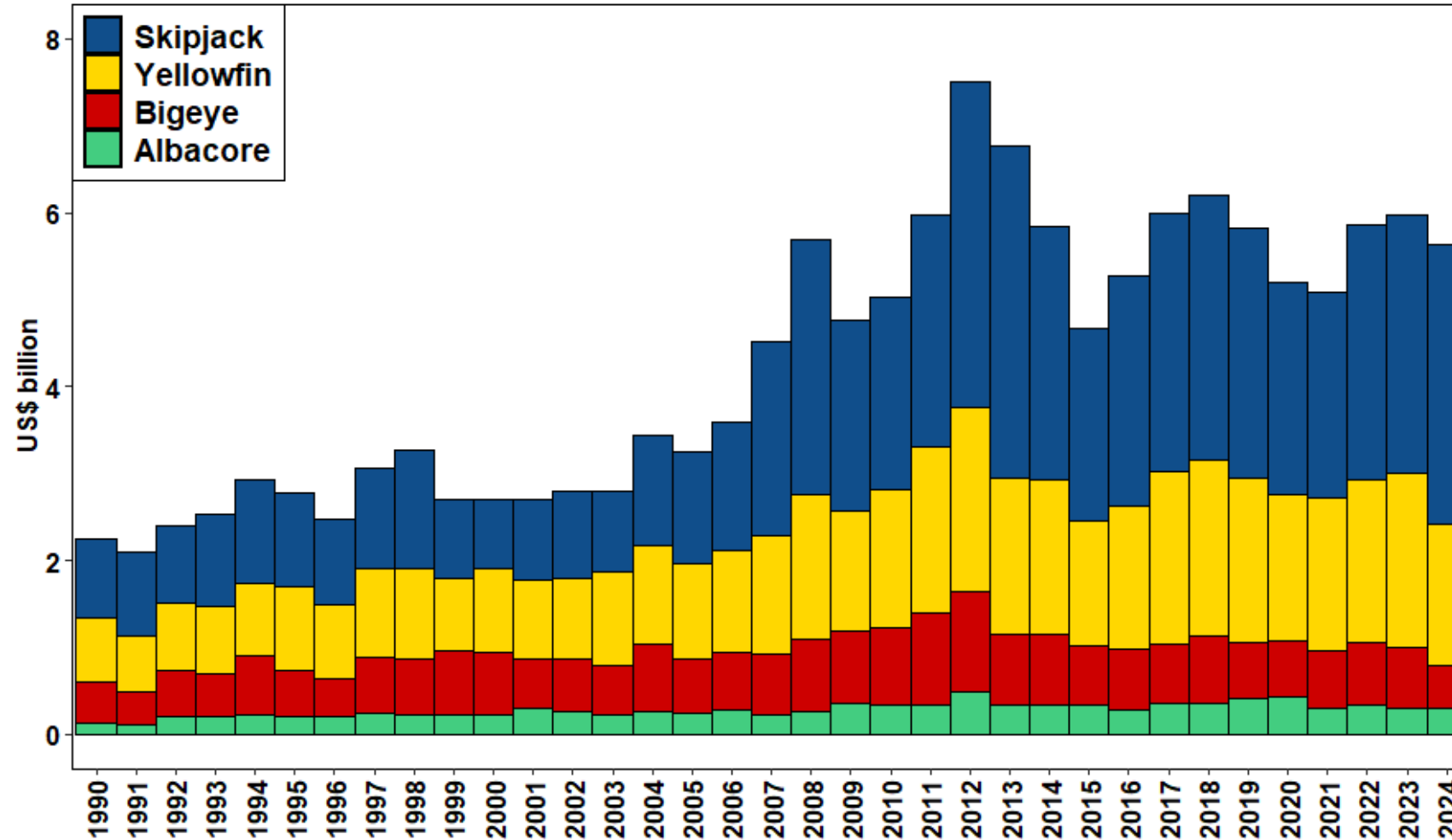
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2024 Estimates (billions)

- Total Catch: \$5.6 (-6%)
- Purse seine: \$3.4 (-1%) – 61% value
- Longline: \$1.1 (-20%) – 20% value
- Pole-and-line: \$0. 23 (-11%) – 4% value
- Other: \$0.88 (-0.5%) – 16% value

WCPFC Tuna Catch Value by Species



2024 Estimates (billions)

- SKJ: \$3.21 (+8%) – 57% value
- YFT: \$1.62 (-20%) – 29% value
- BET: \$0.51 (-26%) – 9% value
- ALB: \$0.29 (-5%) – 5% value

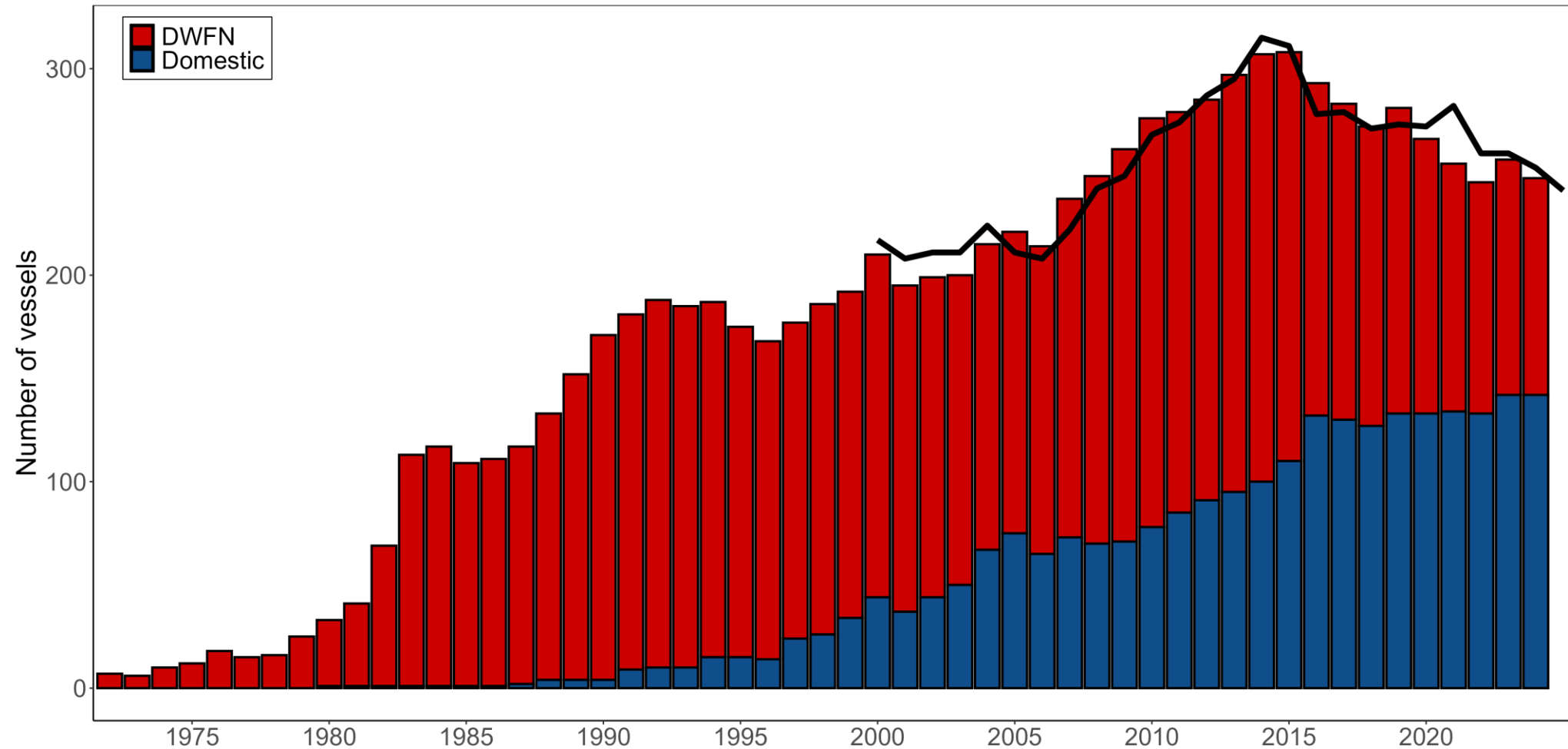
WCPFC Purse Seine Fishery



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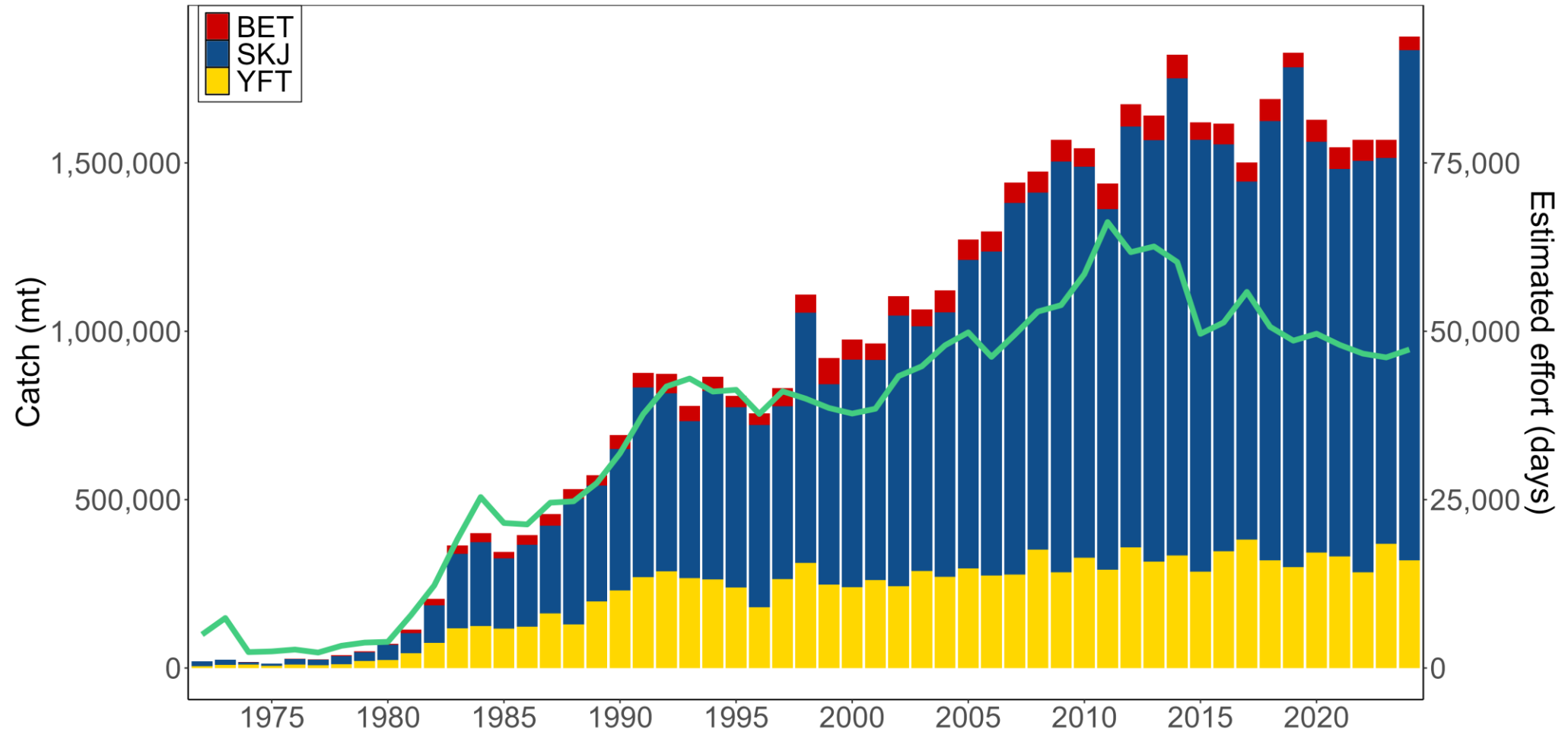
WCPFC Purse Seine Fishery



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WCPFC Purse Seine Fishery

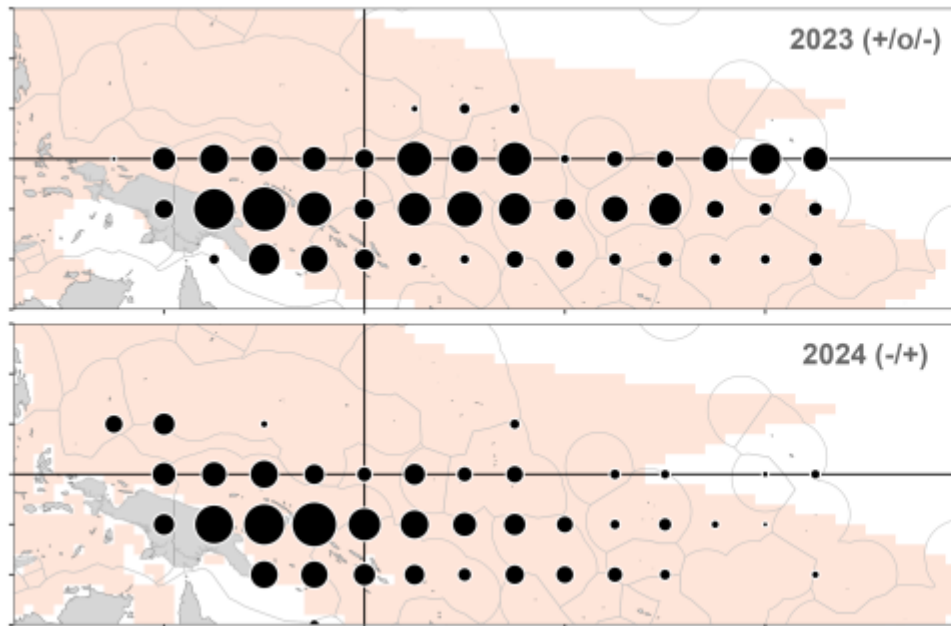


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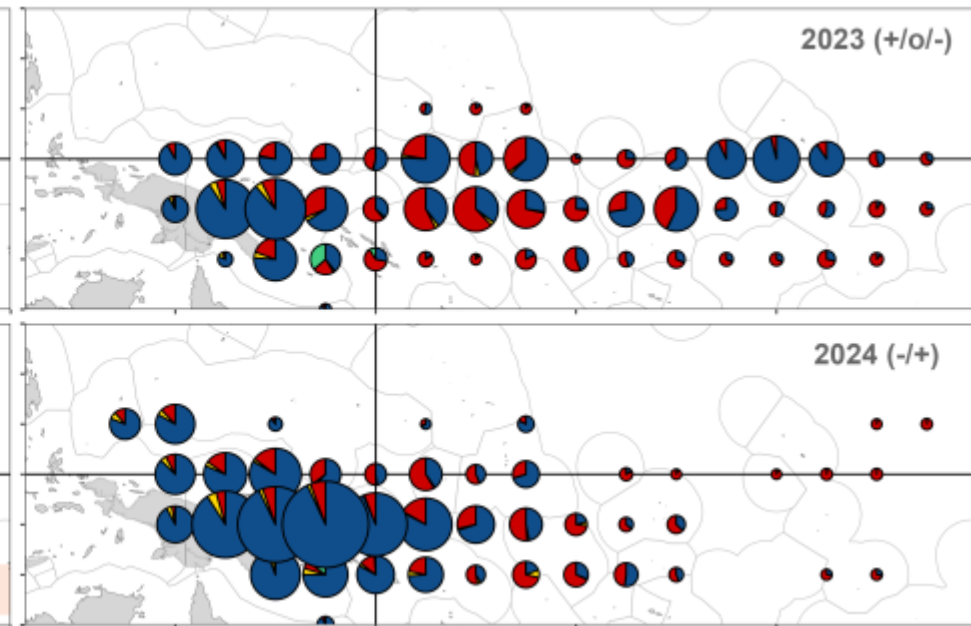


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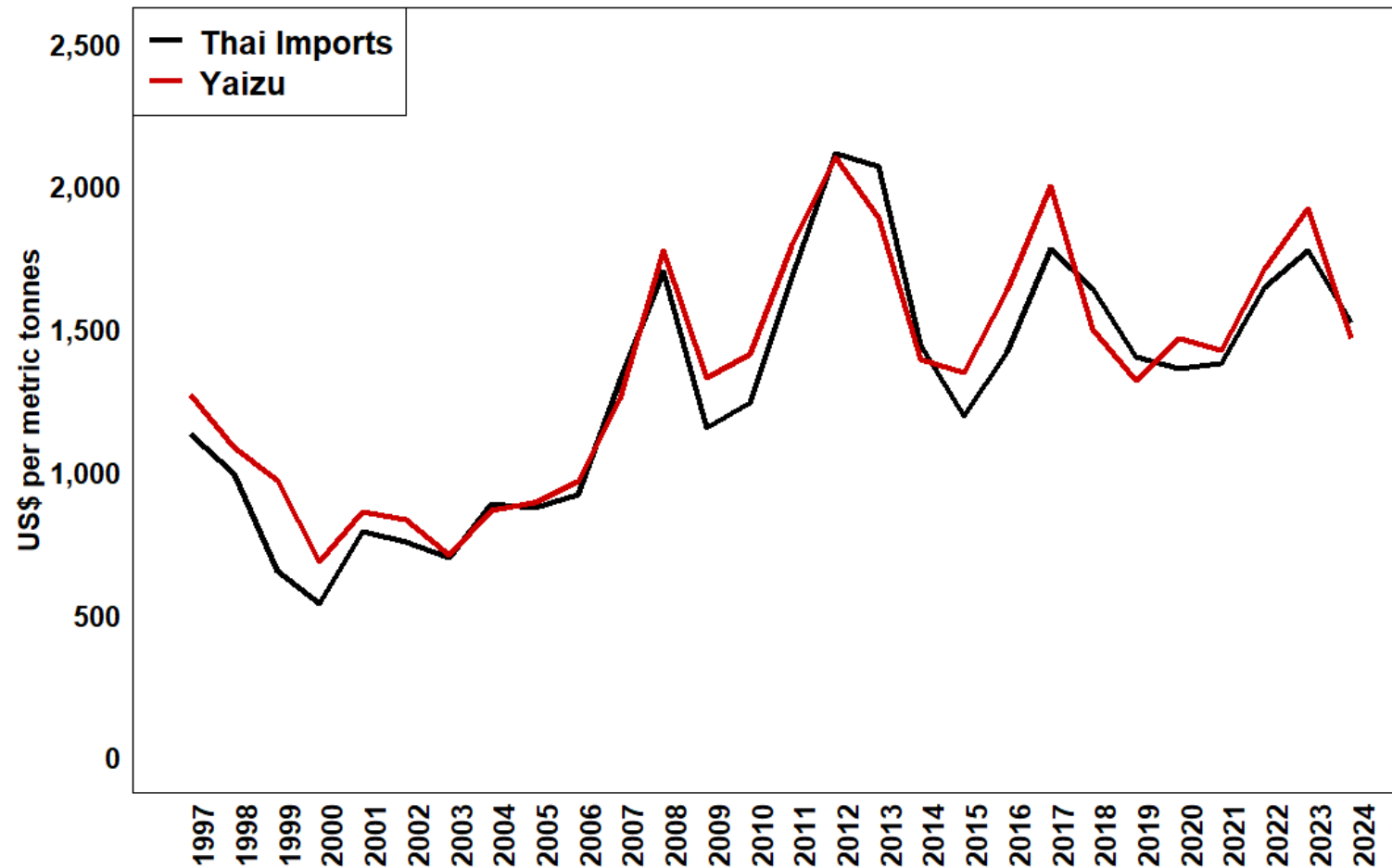
Days



Sets



Purse Seine-caught tuna skipjack price



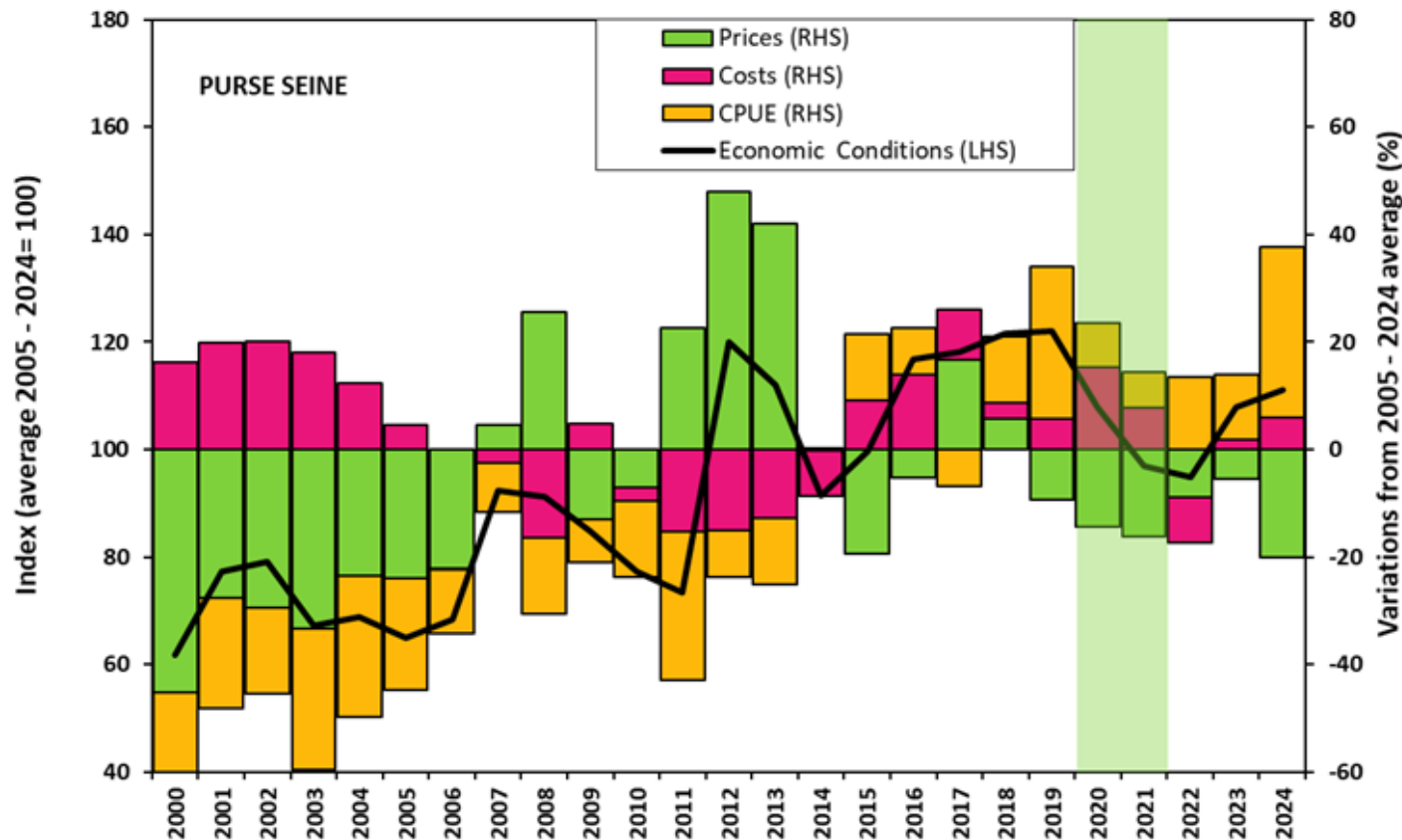
Thai Import Skipjack Price 2024

- US\$ \$1,523/mt (-14%) from 2023.

Yaizu Skipjack Price 2024

- US\$ \$1,466/mt (-24%) from 2023.

Purse Seine – Economic Conditions



PURSE SEINE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS INDEX

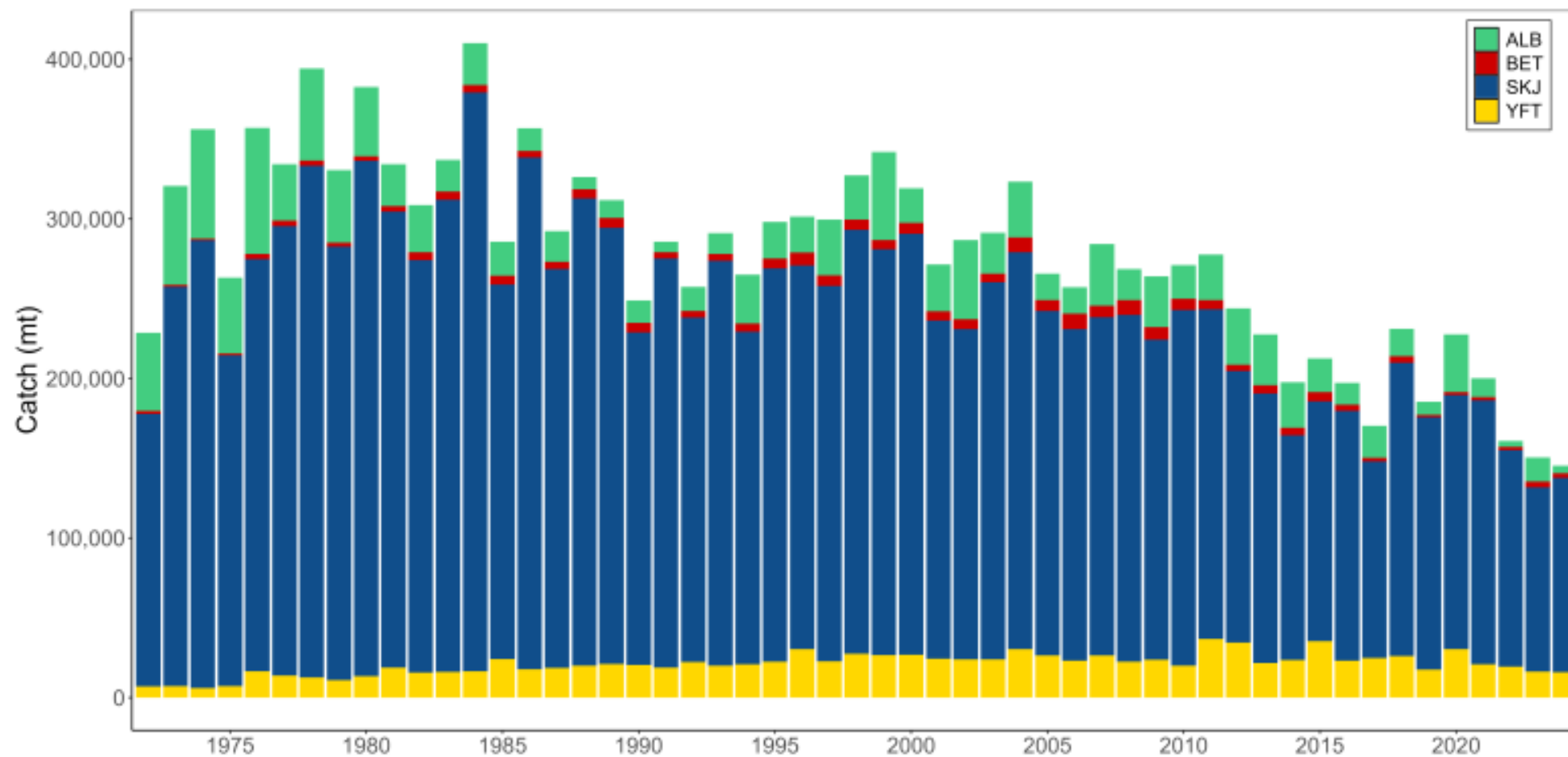
Note: Caveat: 2020-21, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the cost structure may have been underestimated.

In 2024, economic conditions reached 111- well above average - driven by high CPUE and declining fuel costs.

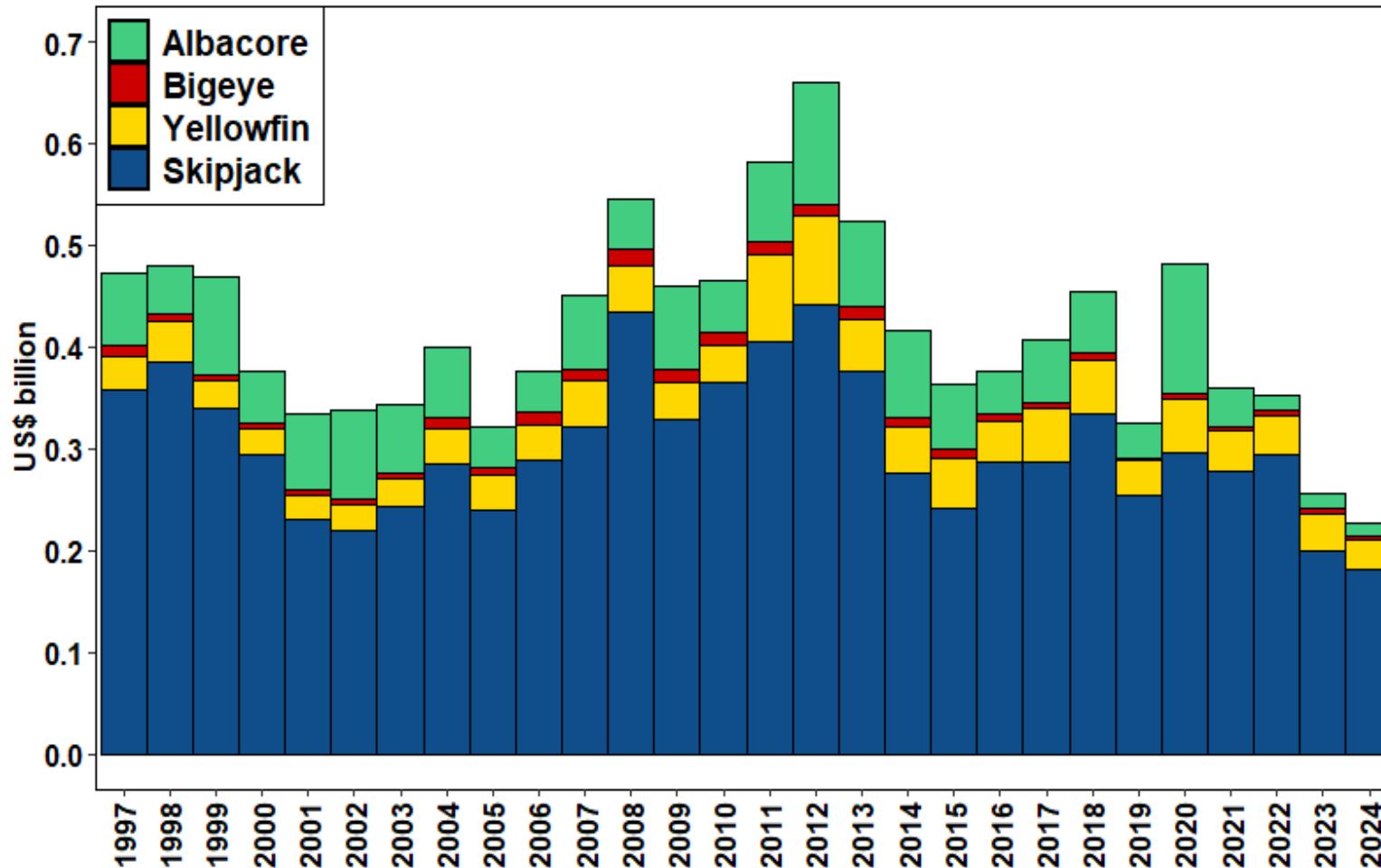
Recent years 2018-2023, conditions driven by high CPUE

- In 2022, the index was below average due to a sharp increase in fuel costs, exacerbated by the Russia–Ukraine conflict

Pole-and-Line Catch



Pole-and-Line Catch Value

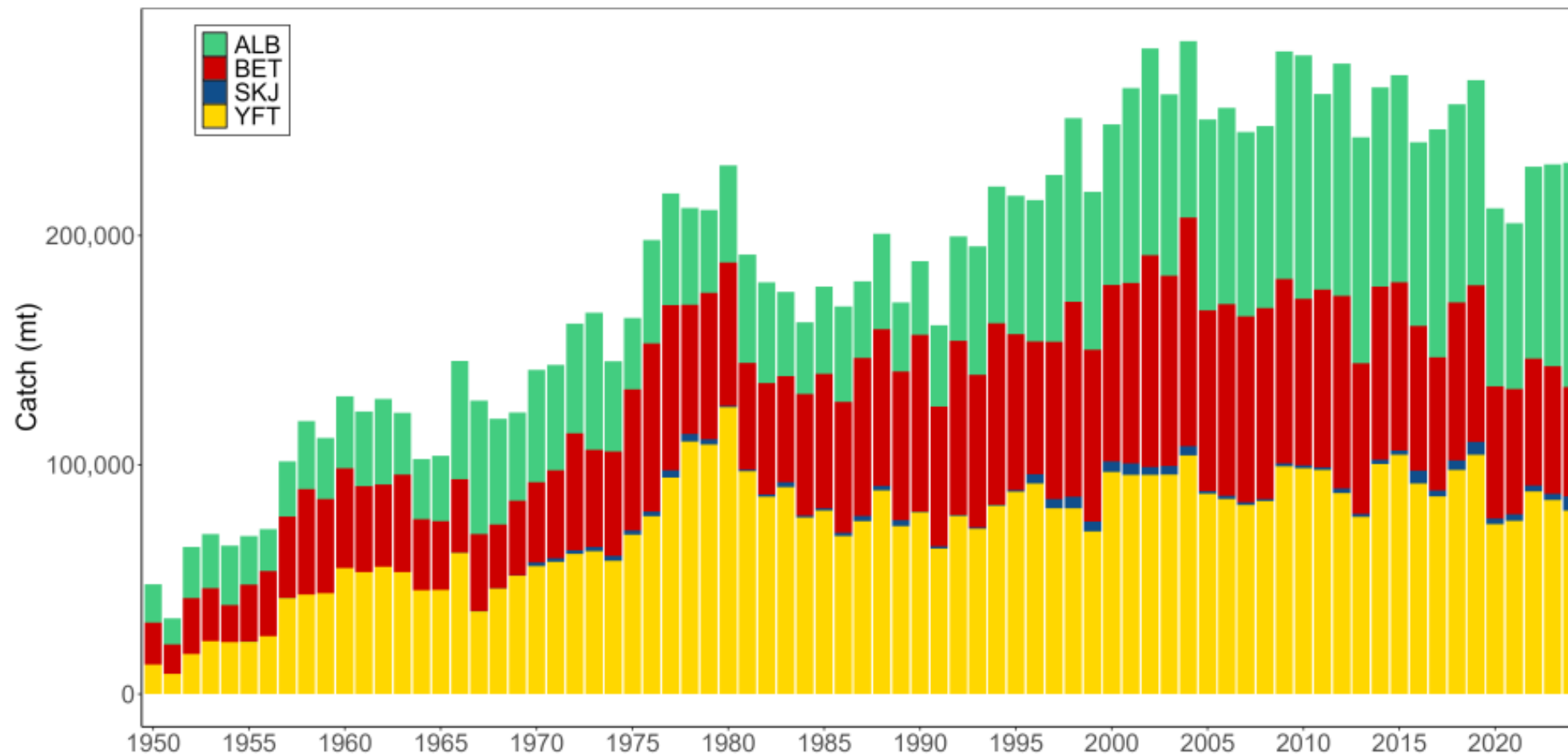


2024

Total value \$227m

- down 11% primarily due to a 30% drop in Yaizu prices for pole-and-line caught skipjack.
- Value of skipjack down 9% (\$18 million) to \$182 million – 80% of total value.
- Value of yellowfin, bigeye and albacore- down 23%,14% and 11% respectively.

Longline Catch



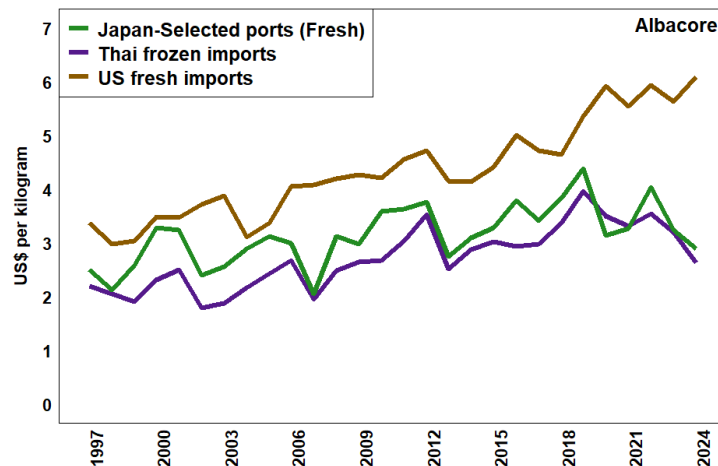
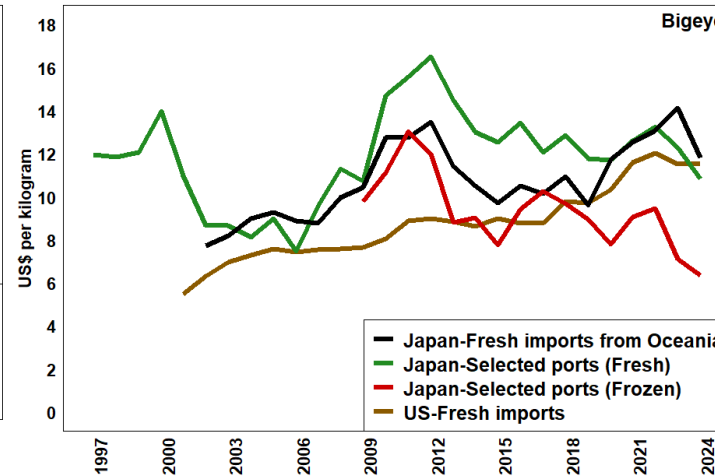
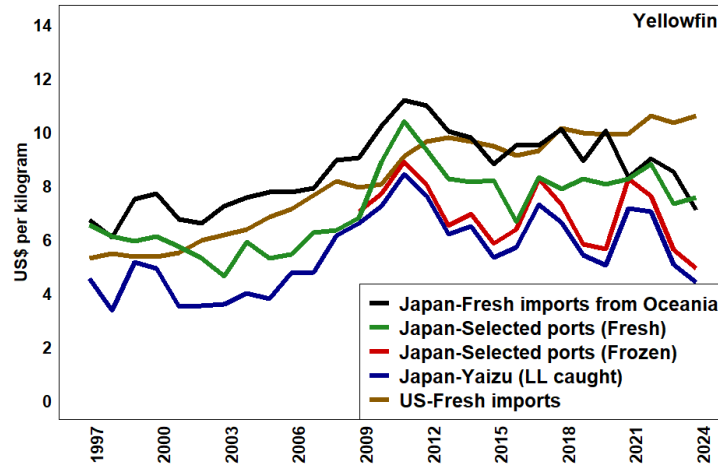
Longline-caught tuna price



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❖ Yellowfin 2024

- In USD terms: JP prices ↓ across major markets, except ↑ for fresh product from selected Japanese ports
- However, US fresh import price ↑ to \$10.58/kg vs previous year.

❖ Bigeye 2024

- In USD terms: JP prices ↓ across major markets.
- However, US fresh import price ↑ to \$11.57/kg vs previous year.

❖ Albacore 2024

- In USD terms: Thai frozen import and selected Japanese ports fresh prices ↓.
- However, US fresh import price ↑ (8%) to a record high \$6.10/kg.

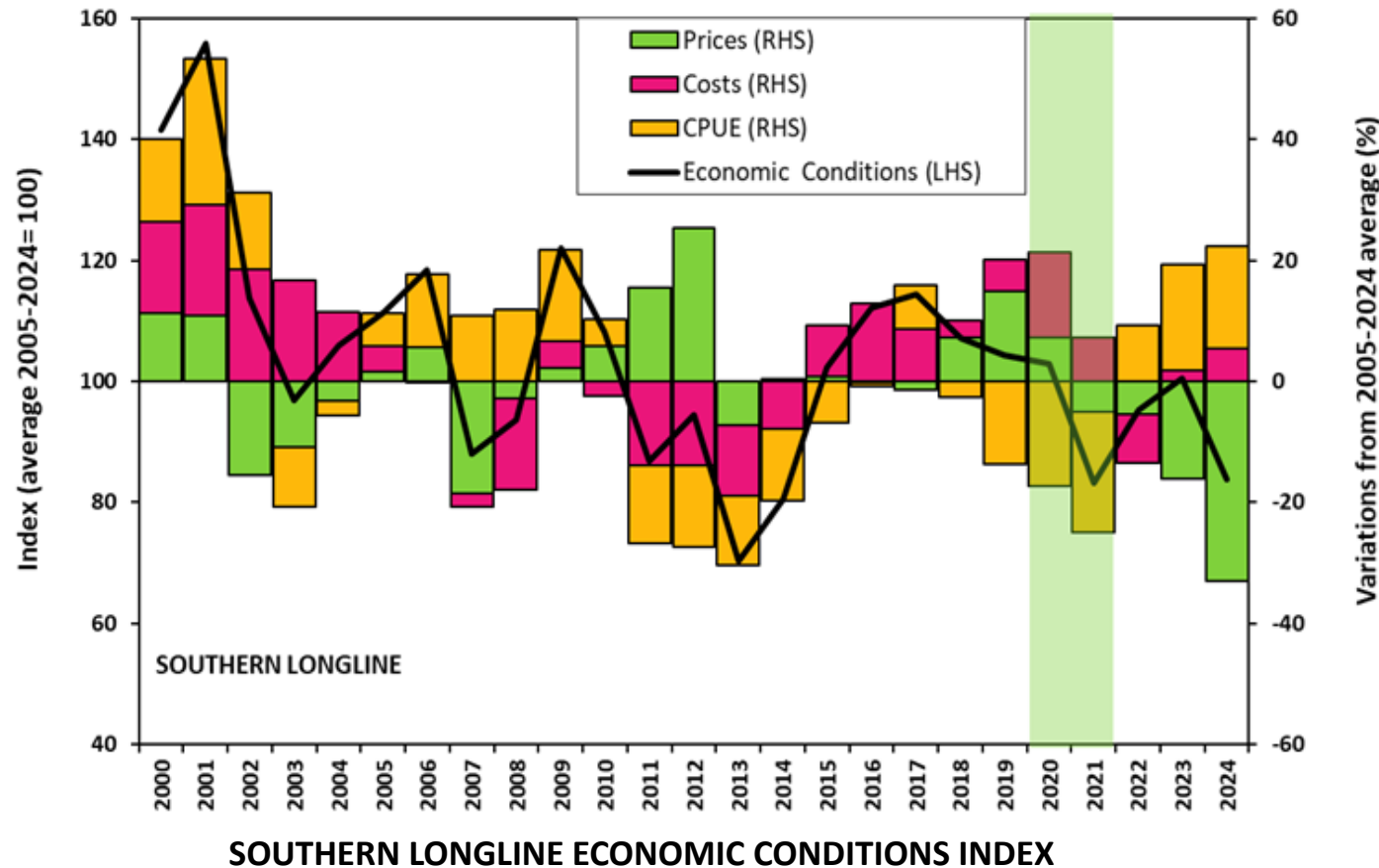
Southern Longline – Economic Conditions



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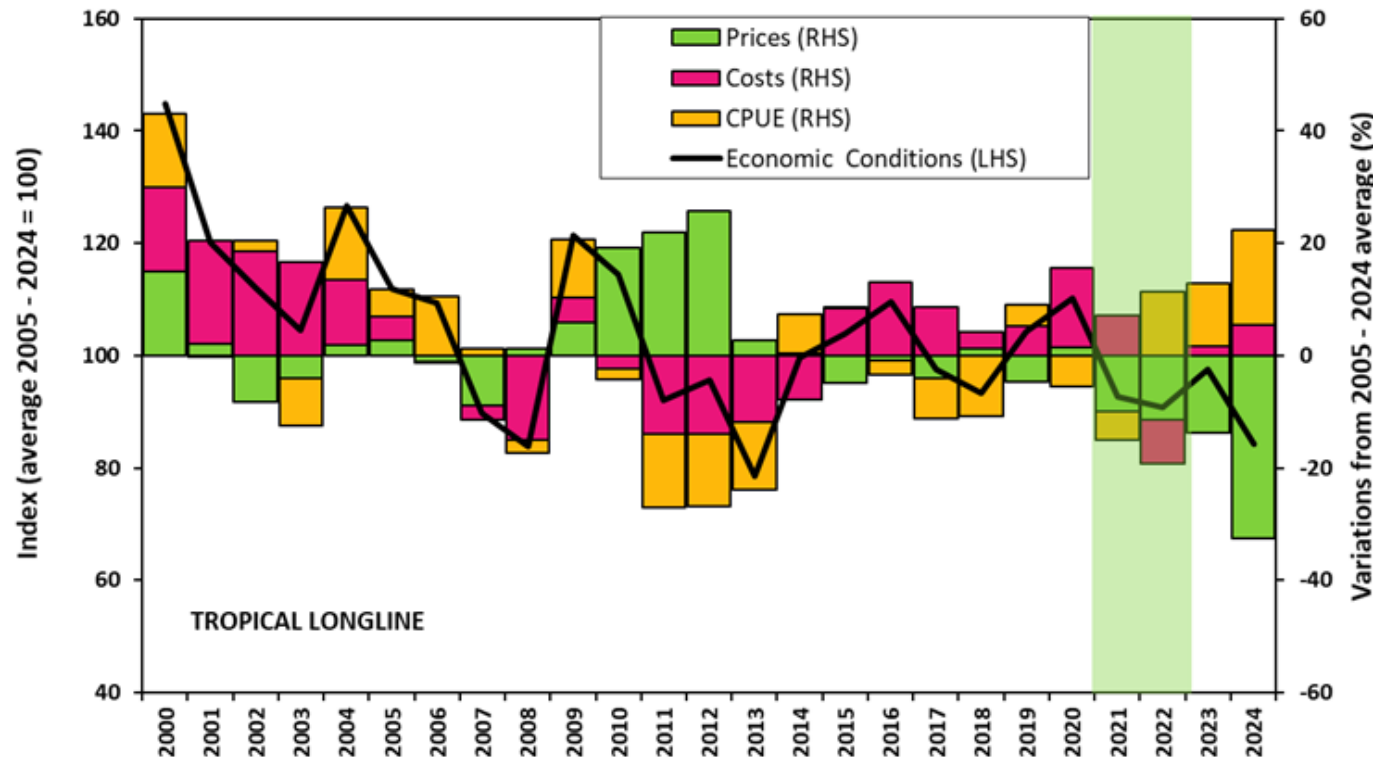
In 2024, economic conditions below its 20-year average, primarily due to a decline in fish prices despite high catch rates and declining fuel costs

Recent years

- 2018-2019, conditions driven by high prices
- 2020-2021 conditions worsened due to low CPUE- in part due to COVID-19.
- 2022, conditions improved due to increase in CPUE.
- 2023, conditions driven by high CPUE and declining fuel costs.

Note: Caveat: 2020-21, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the cost structure may have been underestimated.

Tropical Longline – Economic Conditions



TROPICAL LONGLINE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS INDEX

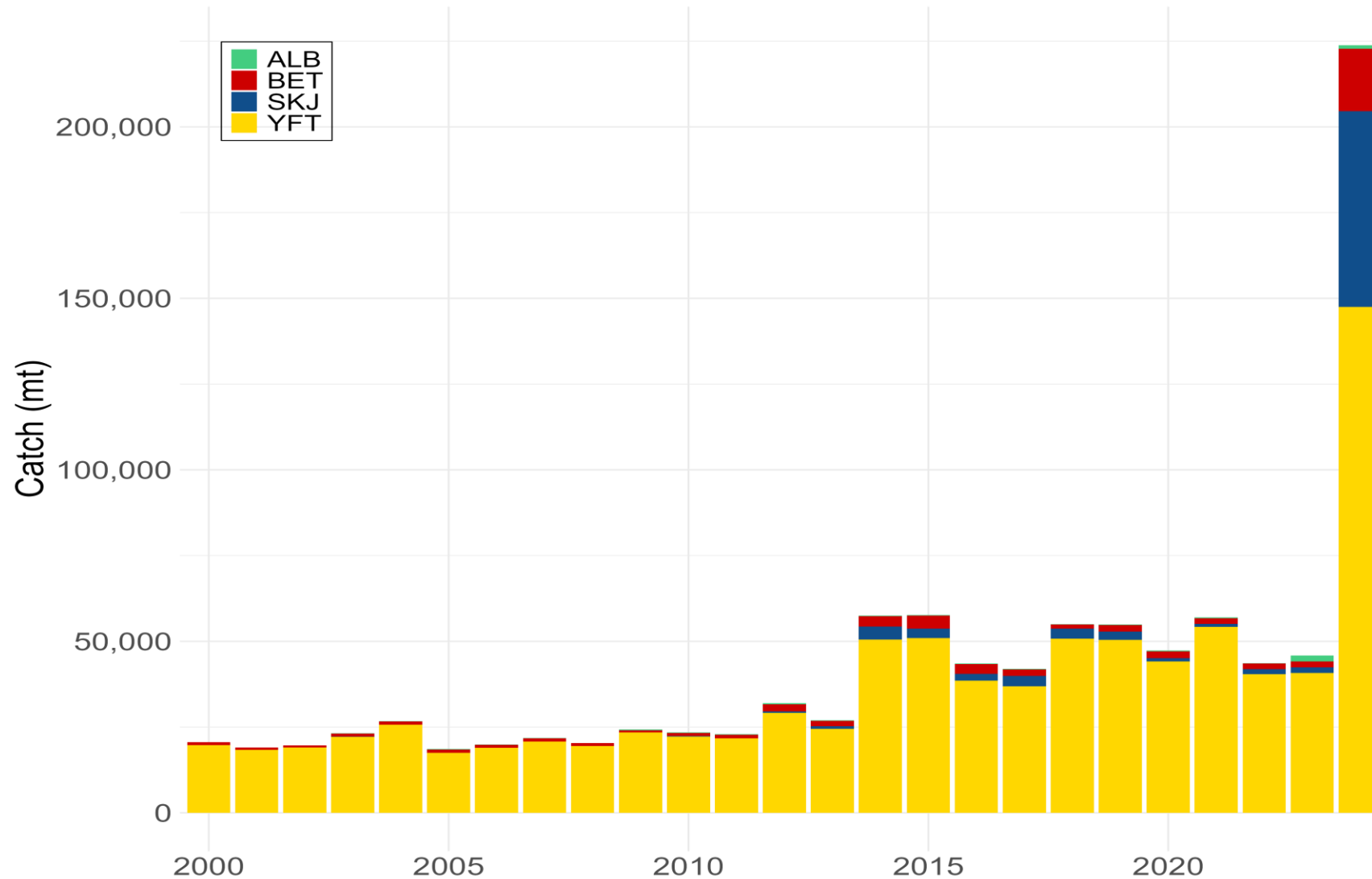
Note: Caveat: 2020-21, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the cost structure may have been underestimated.

In 2024, economic conditions below its 20-year average, primarily due to a decline in fish prices despite high catch rates and declining fuel costs

Recent years

- 2019-2020, conditions hovering around 20 year long term average.
- 2021 conditions worsened due to low CPUE.
- 2022, condition worsened due to escalating fuel prices from the Russia/Ukraine conflict.
- 2023, conditions improved –approaching 20 year long term average due to high CPUE and declining fuel costs.

Large-fish handline



Key highlights from 2024



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Catch

- 2024 was a record year for tuna catches in the WCPFC – with notable SKJ increases
- YFT declined slightly from 2023, but relatively stable over the past decade
- BET catches show high inter-annual variability but continue to trend downward
- Provisional SP ALB catches are up from 2023, but do not yet include 2024 updates for the EPO

Catch values

- LONGLINE - US\$ 1.1 billion (20% decrease from 2023)
- PURSE SEINE - US\$ 3.4 billion (1% decrease from 2023)
- POLE & LINE - US\$ 227 million (11% decrease from 2023)

Economics conditions

- PURSE SEINE - Index remain above the 20-year average at 111
- SOUTHERN LONGLINE - Index below the 20-year average at 84
- TROPICAL LONGLINE - Index below the 20-year average at 84