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A COMPENDIUM OF FISHERIES INDICATORS FOR TARGET TUNA STOCKS IN THE WCPFC CONVENTION AREA

WCPFC-SC22-2026-SA-WP07

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1 Executive Summary

The principal purpose of this paper is to provide empirical information on recent patterns in fisheries for the Scientific Committee's (SC) consideration. For SC22, we present a compendium of fishery indicators for all 'key' target tuna species (skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore tuna). In 2026, full stock assessments were conducted for bigeye and yellowfin, but not for South Pacific albacore (last assessed in 2024) or skipjack (last assessed in 2025). Trends for South Pacific albacore tuna are also described in more detail in the regularly requested stand-alone paper: *Trends in the South Pacific albacore longline and troll fisheries* (McKechnie et al., 2026b). New this year is a similar paper focusing on trends in the bigeye fisheries (McKechnie et al., 2026a).

The indicators that are documented include: total catch by gear, nominal CPUE trends, spatial distribution of catch and CPUE and associated trends, size composition of the catch and trends in average size, the retention of which were requested by WCPFC21. These include data available from the WCPFC databases as of **15 July 2026**. It is difficult to confidently interpret the stock status-related implications of trends in any indicators in isolation from other data sets and a population dynamics model. Therefore, short-term stochastic projections for WCPO skipjack and albacore are also presented to assess potential stock status at the end of 2027 in light of recent catch and effort trends.

2 Data and Methods

To track developments in key target tuna species not formally assessed in the current year, a formal request was made to develop stock indicators (Scientific Committee's Work Programme for 2008-2010, Project 24), and these were first reported to SC4 in 2008 (Hampton and Williams, 2008). More recent versions of this now-annual SC paper have addressed the request from SC9 for descriptive text to assist in interpreting the paper contents. The indicators that are tracked have remained largely the same throughout the period this document has been produced. Acknowledging that these are nominal indicators and have not been corrected for factors such as effort creep or environmental conditions, their purpose is to illustrate and highlight rather than explain how the indicators have varied over time.

Stock indicators for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore tuna are presented here. Skipjack was assessed in 2025 (Teears et al., 2025), and South Pacific albacore underwent a full assessment conducted in 2024 (Teears et al., 2024). Bigeye (Kim et al., 2026) and yellowfin (Magnusson et al., 2026) tuna were assessed this year and will be presented at SC22. Commentary provided in this paper, principally through the main tables which link to all figures, compares the values of various indicators to previous years, particularly by comparing 2025 values to 2024 and to the average for 2020-2024.

Stock projections, for skipjack and South Pacific albacore, which are not assessed this year, were performed from the last year of each assessment: 2022 for South Pacific albacore and 2024 for skipjack. Future recruitments were modelled as deviations around the stock recruitment relationship from the period over which the stock-recruitment relationship was estimated within each assessment model. For each stock, projections were performed over the grid of assessment runs defined by SC20 (South Pacific albacore) and SC21 (skipjack). Stocks were projected through to 2025, as necessary, using actual catch and effort levels in the intervening years, and then through to 2027 assuming 2025 catch and effort levels remained constant. We note that the near-future status of stocks will initially be influenced by recent recruitment levels estimated within the stock assessment model. When reporting results, depletion is presented as $\mathrm{SB}_{recent}/\mathrm{SB}_{F=0}$, where the median $\mathrm{SB}/\mathrm{SB}_{F=0}$ over the last four years of the projection was calculated. No projections are presented for bigeye (Kim et al., 2026) or yellowfin (Magnusson et al., 2026) as those assessments are new this year and SC has yet to agree on a final grid.

Indicators are based on annual catch estimates for the WCPFC-Convention Area (WCPFC-CA), and aggregate catch and effort data for the gear specific analyses. In some instances, individual fleets have been used for particular indicators. Given the large number of indicators, descriptive text is tabulated below for each stock.

Note that the figures presented may include or exclude specific fleets that are included in summaries made for other purposes (e.g. CMM tables), and therefore may not be identical to those produced elsewhere. Furthermore, these numbers will change as more data become available. One notable change introduced in 2024 concerns how the expanded numbers and weights at length were computed (Figures 6, 14, 23 and 31), primarily affecting calculations for the Other fisheries. The recognized "Other" gears for which size data are collected are: Drift gillnet, Handline (large fish), Handline (small fish) and Ringnet. The new methodology improves on the previous methodology by expanding sample length frequencies of individual minor gear types to their respective total catch and then summing those expanded numbers and weights. This represents a change from previous years, and from the methodology used in other publications, where summing raw observer data were summed irrespective of source.

3 Note on reduced observer coverage since 2020

Observer coverage levels were greatly reduced in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to the impacts of COVID-19. As a broad indicator of the impact on observer coverage rates, the purse seine fleet coverage level declined from $\sim$ 90% in 2018-19 to $\sim$ 15% in 2021 and 2022. Coverage levels for the purse seine fleet are improving, having risen from 65% to 70% to 80% between 2023 and 2025. Longline coverage remains suboptimal, ranging between $\sim$ 3% and $\sim$ 7% over the past three years, with 2025 estimated at less than the mandated 5%. Details of observer coverage of fishing effort in the WCPFC-CA are summarized in Panizza et al. (2026).

To estimate the potential errors associated with lower observer sampling rates, Peatman et al. (2022) reviewed the potential impacts on purse seine species composition estimates. They determined that catch estimates of bigeye and, to a lesser extent, yellowfin were most sensitive to reduced observer coverage.

Regarding the figures presented and discussed in this paper, the indicators potentially most affected by the reduced observer coverage are the 2020-2022 values for the total purse seine catch and CPUE estimates for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack. Size distributions of the catch may also be affected by the decreased sampling of on-board catch and/or the misreporting of FAD-associated catch as free-school catch. Longline catch and CPUE are likely to have been less affected.

4 Additional detail on changes from 2024 to 2025 in the WCPO purse seine fishery

The 2025 purse seine fishery differed substantially from the 2024 fishery. This was particularly noteworthy with regard to the change in the ratio of both FAD-associated to FAD-unassociated (free-school sets), as well as changes in the ratio of bigeye tuna catch. Table 5 and Figure 33 are provided to illustrate the changes.

5 Exclusive Economic Zone boundaries disclaimer

The information provided on the maps in this report is for general informational purposes only. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries are subject to international agreements, disputes, and interpretations, which may not be fully captured here.

6 Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the SC paper preparation process

The R and Quarto code used to generate the figures in this report has been developed and refined over the past 15 years. Google's Gemini AI coding assistant was used this year to refine and automate the code, as well as to develop diagnostic tools to test all output. All code was manually reviewed. No AI assistance was used for any aspect of the report writing. The methodology, model implementation, and the scientific conclusions are the responsibility of the authors.

Acknowledgments

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7 Tables

Skipjack

Table 1: Summary of skipjack tuna stock indicators, comparing 2025 values against 2024 and the 2020–2024 average, with links to the corresponding figures. Numbers for the most recent year of catch and effort are provisional. Tropical tuna catch, effort and CPUE data for the EPO were incomplete for 2025 at time of publication, thus Figures 3 and 4 project 2024 EPO data into 2025.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 1	Total catch by gear	Total catch in 2025 was 1,668,409t, a 19% decrease from 2024 and a 7% decrease from the 2020-2024 average. Purse seine catch in 2025 (1,367,099t) was a 21% decrease from 2024 and a 8% decrease from the 2020-2024 average. Pole-and-line catch (87,286t) was a 19% decrease from 2024 and a 35% decrease from the 2020-2024 average catch. Catch by other gears (see Vidal et al. (2026) for descriptions) totaled 208,595t, a 3% decrease from 2024 and 24% increase from the average catch in 2020-2024. Data allocation procedures are being re-evaluated for Troll data and thus it is not included in this summary. The initial indication is that 2025 was the lowest year for skipjack catch in the WCPFC-CA since 2017. In 2025, the percentage of total catch by gear was: purse seine - 82%, other gear 13%, pole-and-line 5%, longline and troll <1%.
Figure 2 - top	Tropical pole-and-line CPUE	Pole-and-line CPUE for the Japanese fleet in 2025 (9.11t per vessel day) increased by 12% from 2024 and increased by 43% from the 2020-2024 average. The Solomon Islands Pole-and-line fleet did not register any catch in 2025. CPUE had been relatively steady at appoximately 2 mt/day over the previous decade, but effort has steadily decreased and operations ceased in 2024
Figure 2 - bottom	Tropical purse seine CPUE	Free-school CPUE in 2025 (24.94t per vessel day) decreased by 29% from 2024 and decreased by 13% from the 2020-2024 average. Log-associated CPUE in 2025 (28.59t per vessel day) decreased by 34% from 2024 and decreased by 9% from the 2020-2024 average. Drifting FAD CPUE in 2025 (31.73t per vessel day) decreased by 29% from 2024 and decreased by 16% from the 2020-2024 average. Anchored FAD CPUE in 2025 (10.19t per vessel day) decreased by 21% from 2024 and decreased by 20% from the 2020-2024 average. The 2025 CPUE decline from the record high values seen in 2024 across all gears brought values back to levels more commonly seen in recent years.
Figure 3	Maps of catch by gear	Compared to the longer time frame, the continued reduction in catch and spatial contraction of the pole-and-line fishery in recent years is notable, particularly in the equatorial zone. After a demonstrable westward shift in catches observed in 2024, the spatial distribution of purse seine catch was roughly similar to that seen over the long term, reflecting neither an eastern El Niño nor a western La Niña effect.
Figure 4	Purse seine effort and CPUE maps	The relative distribution of purse seine effort and CPUE changed from 2024. There was an eastward shift of the center of activity back to the central Pacific, akin to the long term spatial distribution of catch. The very high CPUE values observed between 180°and 170°W in 2024 were notably lower, and there was less purse effort noted below 10°S. In 2025, the highest CPUEs were seen in the high seas region beween the Phoenix and Line Islands of Kiribati.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 5	Spatial concentration of catch	In 2025 90% of the purse seine catch was taken in 640 1°x 1° squares. This was a 1% increase from 2024 and a 3% increase from 2020-2024 average. Over the longer term (25 years), the minimum number of 1°x 1° squares in which 90% of the purse seine catch has been taken has slowly, but steadily, increased from a range of 550-600 to a range of 600-650. 90% of the pole-and-line catch was taken in 210 1°x 1° degree squares. This was an 21% decrease from 2024 and an 15% decrease from the 2020-2024 average. After experiencing a sharp contraction between 1980 and 2000 (from 800+ to less than 400 cells), the pole-and-line fishery had been relatively steady over the past 20 years, in terms of how many 1°x 1° cells (between 250 and 350) from which 90% of the catch has been taken. As 2025 data are provisional, it is perhaps too soon to conclude that another step in pole-and-line skipjack catch concentration has started.
Figure 6	Catch at length by gear type in both numbers and weight	In most years, the catch at length in numbers of fish is broadly bimodal. One peak comprises small fish, generally smaller than 40 cm, taken in various small fish gears, such as handlines and ringnets, mostly (but not entirely) operating in Indonesia and the Philippines; the other peak is comprised of larger fish, generally between 45 and 70 cm, mostly caught in the purse seine fisheries. While numbers of skipjack caught are roughly equal between the two fisheries, catch by weight is dominated by the purse seine fisheries. The 2025 distribution was skewed to the left, which occurred because of the much higher proportion of sampled FAD-associated catch. As a result, the weight-frequency (right column) showed a broader and flatter distribution than seen in the past decade.
Figure 7	Mean weight by gear type	The mean weight of individual fish taken across all gears in 2025 (2.01kg) decreased by 22.7% from 2024 and decreased by 6.5% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of Other gear fish (1.52kg) decreased by 7.7% from 2024 and increased by 8.2% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of pole-and-line caught fish (2.46kg) decreased by 8.1% from 2024 and decreased by 9.4% from the average in 2020-2024. The mean weight of skipjack from FAD sets (1.74kg) decreased by 18.7% from 2024 and decreased by 12.3% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of skipjack from free-school (unassociated) purse seine sets (2.91kg) decreased by 17.1% from 2024 and increased by 3.5% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of skipjack declined across all gears, ranging from 0.2 kg (Other gears) to 0.7 kg (Purse seine-unassociated). The mean weight across gears (weighted by catch) was the lowest since 2000, except for 2022, a Covid year when the absence of observers may have caused a bias in the data.
Figure 8	Stochastic stock projections	Under recent fishery conditions, the WCPFC-CA skipjack stock is projected to stabilise just above the TRP adopted through CMM 2022-01. The projections indicate that median WCPO $SB_{2024-2027}/SB_{F=0} = 0.53$, and the corresponding risk $SB_{2024-2027}/SB_{F=0} < LRP = 0\%$. With regards to MSY related metrics, median $SB_{2024-2027}/SB_{MSY} = 2.69$ and $F_{2023-2026}/F_{MSY} = 0.32$. The risk that $SB_{2024-2027} < SB_{MSY} = 0\%$ and $F_{2023-2026} > F_{MSY} = 0\%$. Note the Limit Reference Point (LRP) is 20% $SB_{F=0}$ and the TRP value, calculated based on the 2025 assessment, is 52% $SB_{F=0}$.

South Pacific albacore

Table 2: Summary of South Pacific albacore tuna stock indicators, comparing 2025 values against 2024 and the 2020–2024 average, with links to the corresponding figures. Numbers for the most recent year of catch and effort are provisional. Albacore tuna catch, effort and CPUE data for the EPO were incomplete for 2025 at publication time, thus Figures 11 and 12 project 2024 EPO data into 2025.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 9	Total catch by gear	For the southern WCPFC-CA, total albacore catch was 55,570t, a 23% decrease from 2024 and a 13% decrease from the 2020-2024 average. Longline catch in 2025 (54,268t) decreased by 23% from 2024 and decreased by 10% from the 2020-2024 average. Data allocation procedures are being re-evaluated for Troll data and thus are not included in this summary. With the exception of the Covid-impacted fishing year of 2021, the 2025 South Pacific albacore was at its lowest catch level since the year 2000.
Figure 10	South Pacific albacore longline CPUE	Japanese longline CPUE (0.74 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 54% from 2024 and decreased by 47% from the 2020-2024 average. Korean longline CPUE (0.78 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 29% from 2024 and increased by 18% from the 2020-2024 average. Chinese longline CPUE (1.31 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 18% from 2024 and decreased by 3% from the 2020-2024 average. Finally, Chinese Taipei longline CPUE in 2025 (2.79 fish per 100 hooks) increased by 15% from 2024 and increased by 60% from the 2020-2024 average. The 2025 increase was the 4th consecutive year of an increae and the Chinese Taipei albacore CPUE is at its highest level since the mid-1990s.The Combined CPUE time series is a weighted average of the individual fleet time series; it is the same as the Japanese CPUE for the years prior to 1963. The 2025 combined mean CPUE value of 1.44 fish per 100 hooks is a decrease of 10% from 2024 and the 2020-2024.
Figure 11	Maps of catch by gear	In recent years, catches have concentrated in the 10°S-20°S latitudinal band. While 2025 estimates remain provisional, the spatial distribution of the longline catch is generally similar to the distribution of catches seen over the preceding 5-year period. There was a notable reduction in catches in the region between 175°W and 155°W, along the 5°S band, relative to 2024.
Figure 12	Longline effort and CPUE maps	Over the entire time series, catch rates have been highest south of 20°S, and the overall pattern is for increasing CPUE as you traverse from north to south. In the more recent period, catch rates have been highest in the high seas areas between 20°S and 30°S. CPUE in the region around southern Melanesia (Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji) dropped substantially from 2024. In 2025, the highest catch rates were seen around 170°W, in the high seas area south of Tonga and Niue.
Figure 13	Spatial concentration of catch	In 2025 90% of the longline catch was taken in 61 5°x 5° degree squares of the southern WCPFC-CA. This was a 22% increase from 2024 and a 6% increase from the 2020-2024 average. The trend over the past five years had been a steady decrease in the minimum fished area to capture 90% of the catch, decreasing from around 65 to around 55 5°x 5° degree squares.
Figure 14	Catch at length by gear type in both numbers and weight	The catch in numbers of fish and weight (t) shows that the largest fish are caught in the longline fisheries and the troll catch is made up of small fish, typically less than 80cm in length. The troll catch, mostly comprised of juvenile fish, shows more irregular modes, sometimes with two modes possibly representing different year classes.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 15	Mean weight by gear type	While the mean weight of individual fish taken across all gears is relatively stable over the long-term, 2025 (16.56kg) was a 4.6% decrease from 2024 and a 3.8% increase from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of longline caught fish (17.4kg) in 2025 decreased by 5% from 2024 and decreased by 3.4% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of fish caught by troll gear (5.29kg) was a 3.5% increase from 2024 and increased by 7.2% from the 2020-2024 average.
Figure 16	Stochastic stock projections	Under recent fishery conditions, the South Pacific albacore stock in the WCPFC-CA is projected to fluctuate above the TRP in the short term. The projections indicate that median WCPFC-CA $SB_{2024-2027}/SB_{F=0} = 0.53$, and the corresponding risk that median $SB_{2024-2027}/SB_{F=0} < LRP = 0\%$. With regards to MSY-related metrics, median $SB_{2024-2027}/SB_{MSY} = 2.63$. $F_{2023-2026}/F_{MSY} = 0.15$. The risk that $SB_{2024-2027} < SB_{MSY} = 0\%$ and $F_{2023-2026} > F_{MSY} = 0\%$. Note the Limit Reference Point (LRP) is 20% $SB_{F=0}$ and the TRP value, calculated based on the 2024 assessment, is 50% $SB_{F=0}$.

Bigeye

Table 3: Summary of bigeye tuna stock indicators, comparing 2025 values against 2024 and the 2020–2024 average, with links to the corresponding figures. Numbers for the most recent year of catch and effort are provisional. Tropical tuna catch, effort and CPUE data for the EPO were incomplete for 2025 at publication time, thus Figures 19, 20 and 21 project 2024 EPO data into 2025.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 17	Total catch by gear	Total catch in 2025 was 155,864t, a 6% increase from 2024 and a 7% increase from the 2020-2024 average. Longline catch in 2025 (52,145t) decreased by 5% from 2024 and decreased by 6% from the 2020-2024 average. Purse seine catch in 2025 (63,579t) increased by 43% from 2024 and increased by 10% from the 2020-2024 average. Pole-and-line catch (1,815t) decreased by 38% from 2024 and decreased by 28% from the 2020-2024 average. Catch by other gears (see Vidal et al. (2026) for descriptions) totaled 38,325t and was an 13% decrease from 2024 and 33% increase from the 2020-2024 average. In 2025, the percentage catch by gear was: purse seine - 41%, longline 33%, other gear 25%, pole-and-line 1%, troll <1%. The 2025 catch of bigeye was the highest since 2018, driven largely be a sharp increase in FAD-associated purse seine catch, which increased by 22,000 mt from 2024 to 2025.
Figure 18 - top	Tropical pole-and-line CPUE	Japanese pole-and-line CPUE in 2025 (0.022t per vessel day) increased by 305% from 2024 and increased by 186% from the 2020-2024 average. The 2025 CPUE was a rebound to values seen most of the past two decades, following the sharp drop seen in 2024. It should be noted that such large percentage changes can occur due to the very small numbers in the time series
Figure 18 - middle	Tropical purse seine CPUE	Free-school CPUE in 2025 (0.19t per vessel day) increased by 13% from 2024 and decreased by 11% from the 2020-2024 average. Log-associated CPUE in 2025 (1.33t per day) decreased by 18% from 2024 and decreased by 15% from the 2020-2024 average. Drifting FAD CPUE in 2025 (3.16t per day) increased by 6% from 2024 and increased by 2% from the 2020-2024 average. Anchored FAD CPUE in 2025 (0.24t per day) decreased by 44% from 2024 and decreased by 8% from the 2020-2024 average. Aside from the long slow decline in anchored FAD CPUE, there is little pattern regarding trends in Bigeye CPUE across school types.
Figure 18 - bottom	Tropical longline CPUE (20°N to 10°S)	Japanese longline CPUE in 2025 (0.16 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 72% from 2024 and decreased by 70% from the 2020-2024 average. Korean longline CPUE (0.62 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 0% from 2024 and increased by 2% from the 2020-2024 average. US (Hawaiian) longline CPUE (0.09 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 63% from 2024 and decreased by 61% from the 2020-2024 average. The 2025 Japanese longline CPUE value was a sharp drop from recent years and represented by a considerable margin, the lowest value on record. The USA Hawaii fleet CPUE was similarly a record low in the nearly 30 year time series.
Figure 19	Maps of catch by gear	Compared to the longer time frame, a higher proportion of the catch in recent years has been taken by purse seine, with longline catches becoming increasingly marginal especially in the 10°N-10°S equatorial band. In 2025, relative to the previous five years, purse seine catches increased between 170°W and 150°W.
Figure 20	Longline effort and CPUE maps	Longline CPUE in the recent period was little changed from that seen across the longer time frame. Higher catch rates are now generally limited to the equatorial eastern region of the WCPFC-CA, with highest rates in 2025 centered around 130°W.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 21	Purse seine effort and CPUE maps	Areas of high bigeye catch rates expanded considerably in 2025; higher catch rates were seen around the equator from the dateline all the way to the eastern edge of the WCPFC-CA.
Figure 22	Spatial concentration of catch	In 2025 90% of the longline catch was taken in 103 5°x 5° degree squares of the WCPFC-CA. This was a 4% increase from 2024 and a 2% decrease from the 2020-2024 average. There has been little or no trend in longline catch concentration over the past 40 years, with around 100 cells accounting for 90% of the catch. 90% of the purse seine catch in 2025 was taken in 481 1°x 1° degree squares of the southern WCPFC-CA. This was a 25% decrease from 2024 and a 20% decrease from the 2020-2024 average. The spatial concentration of bigeye purse seine catch had shown little trend since leveling off at around 600 cells in the late 2010s; the 2025 value was the lowest value since the late 1990s.
Figure 23	Catch at length by gear type in both numbers and weight	The catch in numbers of fish is predominantly made up of small fish (30-70cm) from the small-scale Other fisheries (largely Indonesia/Philippines). Larger fish (>100cm), as well as the majority of the total catch in weight, are generally caught in the longline fisheries. Intermediate sized fish (40cm-80cm) are taken in the purse seine fisheries. By weight, approximately equal amounts of catch are taken by purse seine and longline fisheries. In 2025, the size distribution of bigeye taken in the dFAD-associated fishery was larger than seen over the past decade.
Figure 24	Mean weight by gear type	The mean weight of individual fish taken across all gears in 2025 (10.07kg) increased by 9.7% and increased by 27.1% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of longline caught fish (35.67kg) decreased by 14% from 2024 and decreased by 18.8% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of Indonesia / Philippines domestic caught fish (6.68kg) decreased by 3% from 2024 and increased by 15.7% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of free-school caught purse seine fish (7.31kg) increased by 9.5% from 2024 and increased by 43.4% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of FAD caught fish (8.16kg) increased by 52% from 2024 and increased by 60.6% from the 2020-2024 average.
NA	Stochastic stock projections	NA — as a new assessment has been undertaken in 2026, and a final grid is still to be selected by SC, no projections are presented for bigeye here. Kim et al. (2026) will aim to present some preliminary projections based on the new assessment.

Yellowfin

Table 4: Summary of yellowfin tuna stock indicators, comparing 2025 values against 2024 and the 2020–2024 average, with links to the corresponding figures. Numbers for the most recent year of catch and effort are provisional. Tropical tuna catch, effort and CPUE data for the EPO were incomplete for 2025 at publication time, thus Figures 27, 28 and 29 project 2024 EPO data into 2025.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 25	Total catch by gear	Total catch in 2025 was 677,123t, a 8% decrease from 2024 and a 7% decrease from the 2020-2024 average. Purse seine catch in 2025 (356,144t) decreased by 3% from 2024 and decreased by 8% from the 2020-2024 average. Longline catch in 2025 (80,928t) decreased by 10% from 2024 and decreased by 2% from the 2020-2024 average. Pole-and-line catch (9,434t) decreased by 37% from 2024 and decreased by 53% from the 2020-2024 average. Catch by other gears (see Vidal et al. (2026) for descriptions) totaled 230,614t and was a 11% decrease from 2024 and a 2% decrease from the average catch in 2020-2024. This is mainly due to the large fluctuations in estimates for the other gears in Indonesia in recent years. In 2025, percentage catch by gear was: purse seine - 53%, longline - 12%, other gear - 34%, pole-and-line - 1%, troll - <1%.
Figure 26 - top	Tropical pole-and-line CPUE	Japanese pole-and-line CPUE in 2025 (0.039t per vessel day) decreased by 14% from 2024 and decreased by 42% from the 2020-2024 average. The Solomon Islands has had no pole-and-line fishery since 2024.
Figure 26 - middle	Tropical purse seine CPUE	Free-school CPUE in 2025 (7.98t per day) was a 4% decrease from 2024 and decreased by 18% from the 2020-2024 average. Log-associated CPUE in 2025 (8.39t per vessel day) decreased by 14% from 2024 and decreased by 7% from the 2020-2024 average. Drifting FAD CPUE in 2025 (5.97t per vessel day) decreased by 1% from 2024 and showed no change from the 2020-2024 average. Anchored FAD CPUE in 2025 (6.38t per vessel day) decreased by 41% from 2024 and decreased by 22% from the 2020-2024 average.
Figure 26 - bottom	Tropical longline CPUE (20°N to 10°S)	Japanese longline CPUE in 2025 (0.18 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 84% from 2024 and decreased by 82% from the 2020-2024 average. Korean longline CPUE (1.15 fish per 100 hooks) decreased by 24% from 2024 and increased by 30% from the 2020-2024 average. The yellowfin longline CPUE for both fleets has continued to increase from the low levels seen during the 2000s and early 2010s, with CPUE values 50-100% higher in the 2020s. The 2025 value was less than half the previous low value, seen in the early 2000s
Figure 27	Maps of catch by gear	Compared to the longer time frame, a slightly higher proportion of the catch in recent years has been taken by the purse seine fishery within the 10°N-10°S equatorial band, and were highest in the mid-tropical WCPFC-CA band, mirroring skipjack. Compared to 2024, 2025 saw a region of slightly increased yellowfin catches just to the east of 160°E. Catch in the Indonesian/Philippines region by Other gears remains notably high.
Figure 28	Longline effort and CPUE maps	Longline CPUE in the recent period has generally been lower than that seen historically. Relatively high catch rates are now found only in the tropical western region of the WCPFC-CA. Over the last five years, there has been a strong contraction in the high CPUE area compared to the long-term. Compared to 2024, there was a region of higher CPUE just east of the dateline centered on the equator.

Figure	Indicator	Description
Figure 29	Purse seine effort and CPUE maps	Areas of high CPUE have fragmented over time, across the tropical WCPFC-CA, and were concentrated in the west of the tropical region in 2025, with some localised high CPUE achieved in other areas, around the high seas pocket region between Tuvalu and Kiribati.
Figure 30	Spatial concentration of catch	In 2025 90% of the longline catch was taken in 100 5°x 5° degree squares of the southern WCPFC-CA. This was a 5% decrease from 2024 and a 0% decrease from 2020-2024 average. 90% of the purse seine catch in 2025 was taken in 425 1°x 1° degree squares of the southern WCPFC-CA. This was an 0% decrease from 2024 and a 7% decrease from 2020-2024 average.
Figure 31	Catch at length by gear type in both numbers and weight	The catch in numbers of fish was predominantly made up of small fish (<50cm) from the Indonesia/Philippines Other fisheries. Large fish (>90cm) are mostly caught in the longline and unassociated purse seine fisheries and larger yellowfin dominate the catch by weight, in contrast to catch in number. Small yellowfin are also taken in sizable numbers in the free-school fishery. Conversely, large yellowfin are taken in some Other gears, especially in the handline fishery.
Figure 32	Mean weight by gear type	The mean weight of individual fish taken across all gears in 2025 (4.38kg) decreased by 20.4% from 2024 and increased by 3.3% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of longline caught fish (22.8kg) decreased by 25.2% from 2024 and decreased by 23.8% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of Indonesia / Philippines domestic caught fish (3.16kg) decreased by 29.3% from 2024 and increased by 13.7% from the 2020-2024 average. The mean weight of free-school caught purse seine fish (10.6kg) increased by 10.1% from 2024 and decreased by 4.9% from the 2020-2024 average. Free-school caught yellowfin show a long-term decrease in mean weight, from 20kg to around 10kg in recent years. The 2024 and 2025 mean weights were a return to the lower values of recent times, following 2023's large average weight; as noted for skipjack, the very low mean weights of 2021 and 2022 may reflect a bias related to the absence of observers aboard purse seine vessels. The mean weight of FAD caught fish (3.01kg) increased by 19% from 2024 and decreased by 5.1% from the 2020-2024 average.
NA	Stochastic stock projections	NA — as a new assessment has been undertaken in 2026, and a final grid is still to be selected by SC, no projections are presented for yellowfin here. Magnusson et al. (2026) will aim to present some preliminary projections based on the new assessment.

Purse seine effort and catch comparison

Table 5: Comparison of purse seine effort (days, sets) and catch (mt) by set-association type (Unassociated/Free-school vs Associated/FAD) for 2024 and 2025, with percentage change.

	Unassociated (Free school) — 2024 vs 2025					
Year	**Days**	**Sets**	**BET (mt)**	**YFT (mt)**	**SKJ (mt)**	**Tuna (mt)**
2024	27,108	44,029	4,456	225,972	949,170	1,179,599
2025	20,825	29,984	3,875	166,339	519,706	689,921
% Change	**-23%**	**-32%**	**-13%**	**-26%**	**-45%**	**-42%**
	Associated (FAD) — 2024 vs 2025					
Year	**Days**	**Sets**	**BET (mt)**	**YFT (mt)**	**SKJ (mt)**	**Tuna (mt)**
2024	22,380	12,852	34,440	86,886	560,836	682,161
2025	30,012	19,709	56,427	124,819	605,273	786,520
% Change	**+34%**	**+53%**	**+64%**	**+44%**	**+8%**	**+15%**

8 Figures

Skipjack

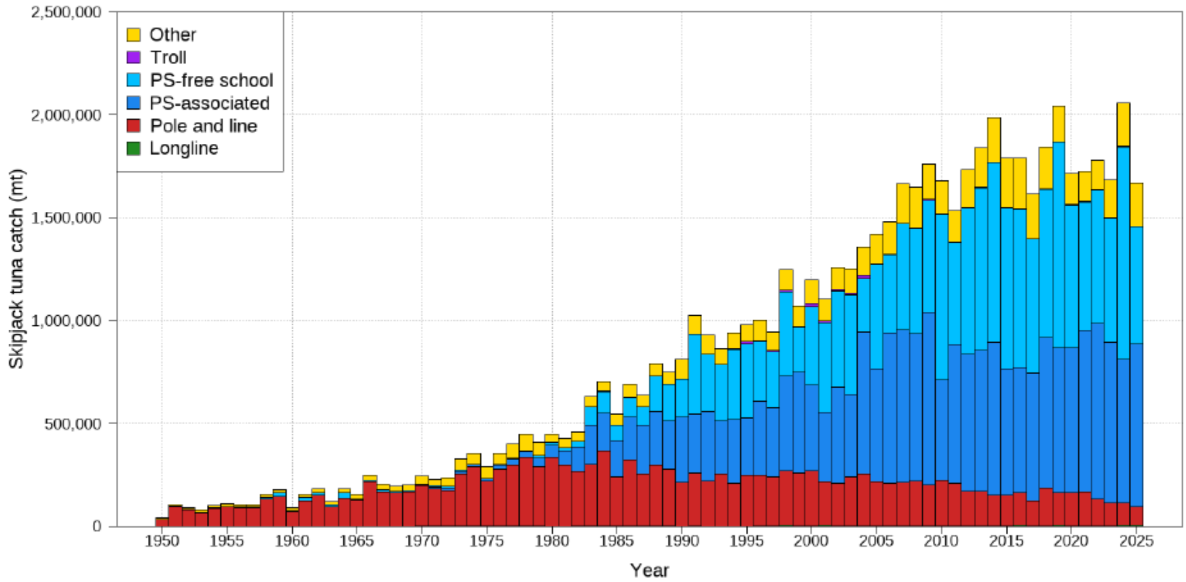

Figure 1: Skipjack tuna catch (mt) by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA. Note that the catch legend is common to all species total catch plots and does not imply actual catch by all gear types.

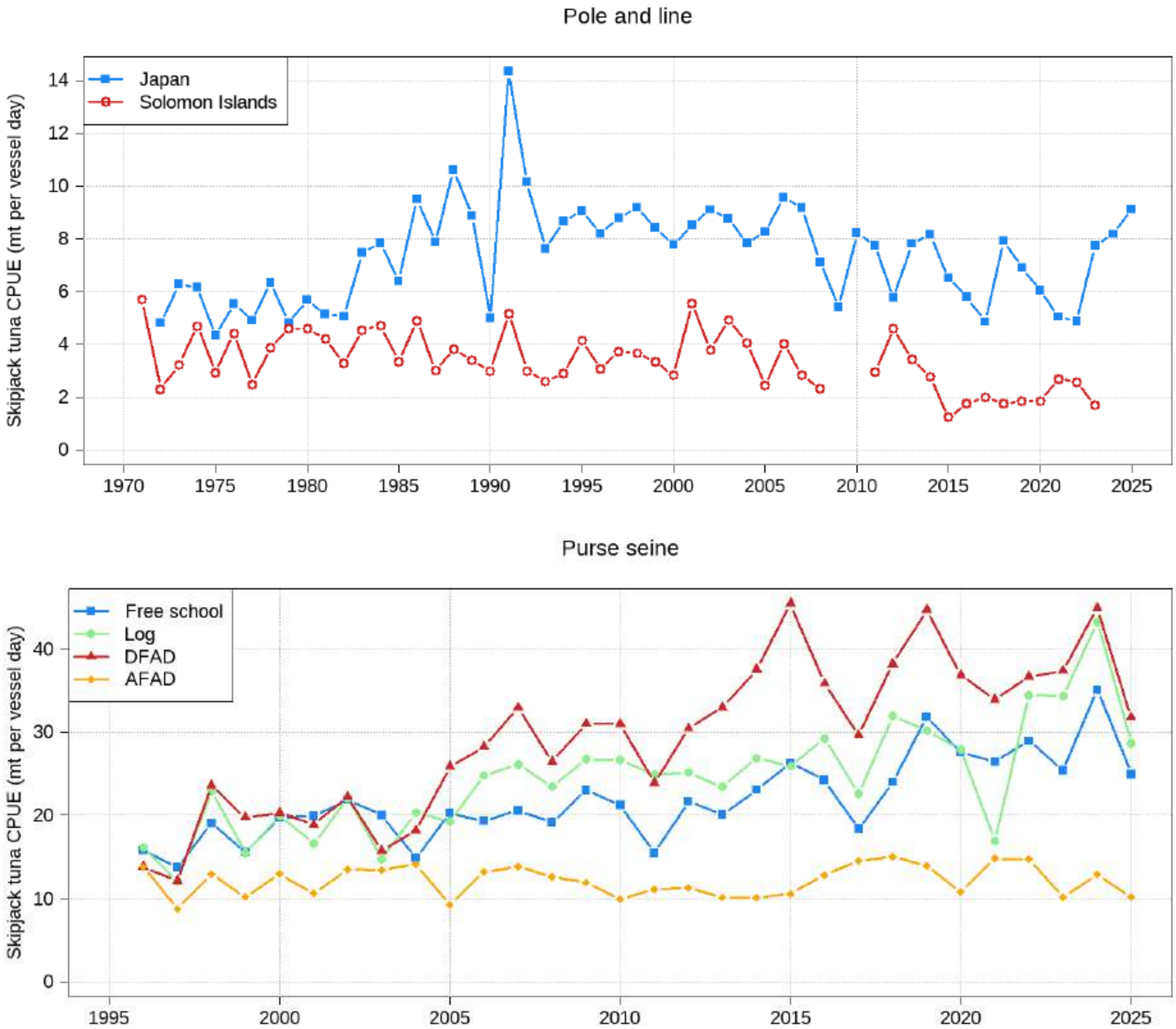

Figure 2: Skipjack tuna catch per unit effort in the tropical WCPFC-CA by year for major pole-and-line fishing fleets (top), and purse seine (all fleets combined) for the major set types (bottom). For CPUE calculations the catches from Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, as well as the Japanese coastal fleet, are excluded. Note different time series lengths.

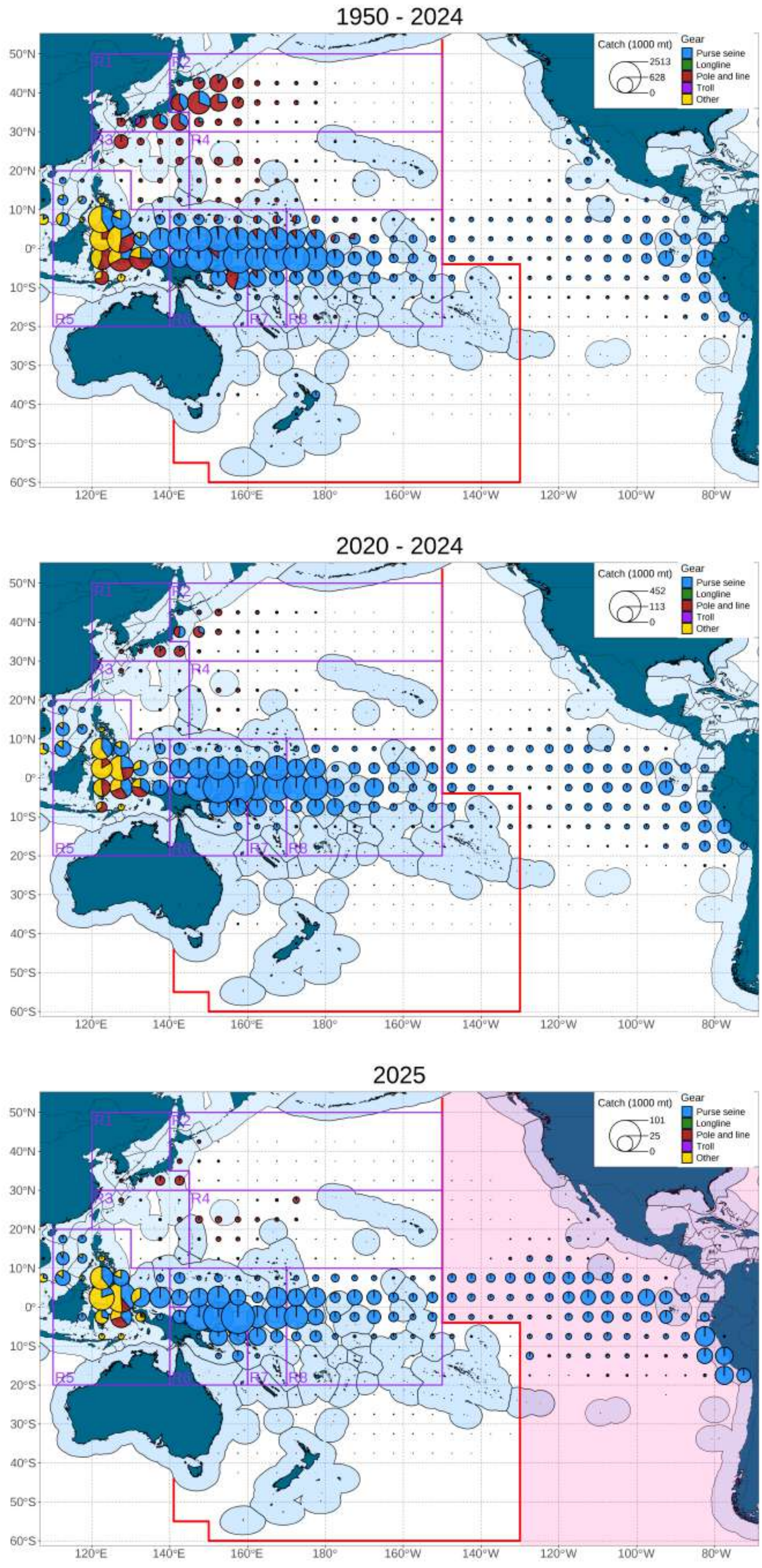

Figure 3: Skipjack tuna catch distribution by gear type and 5°x 5° region for the Pacific Ocean for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note that the catch scale differs between panels and the figure legends provide the catch associated with each maximum circle size. The skipjack assessment regions are outlined in purple, the WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

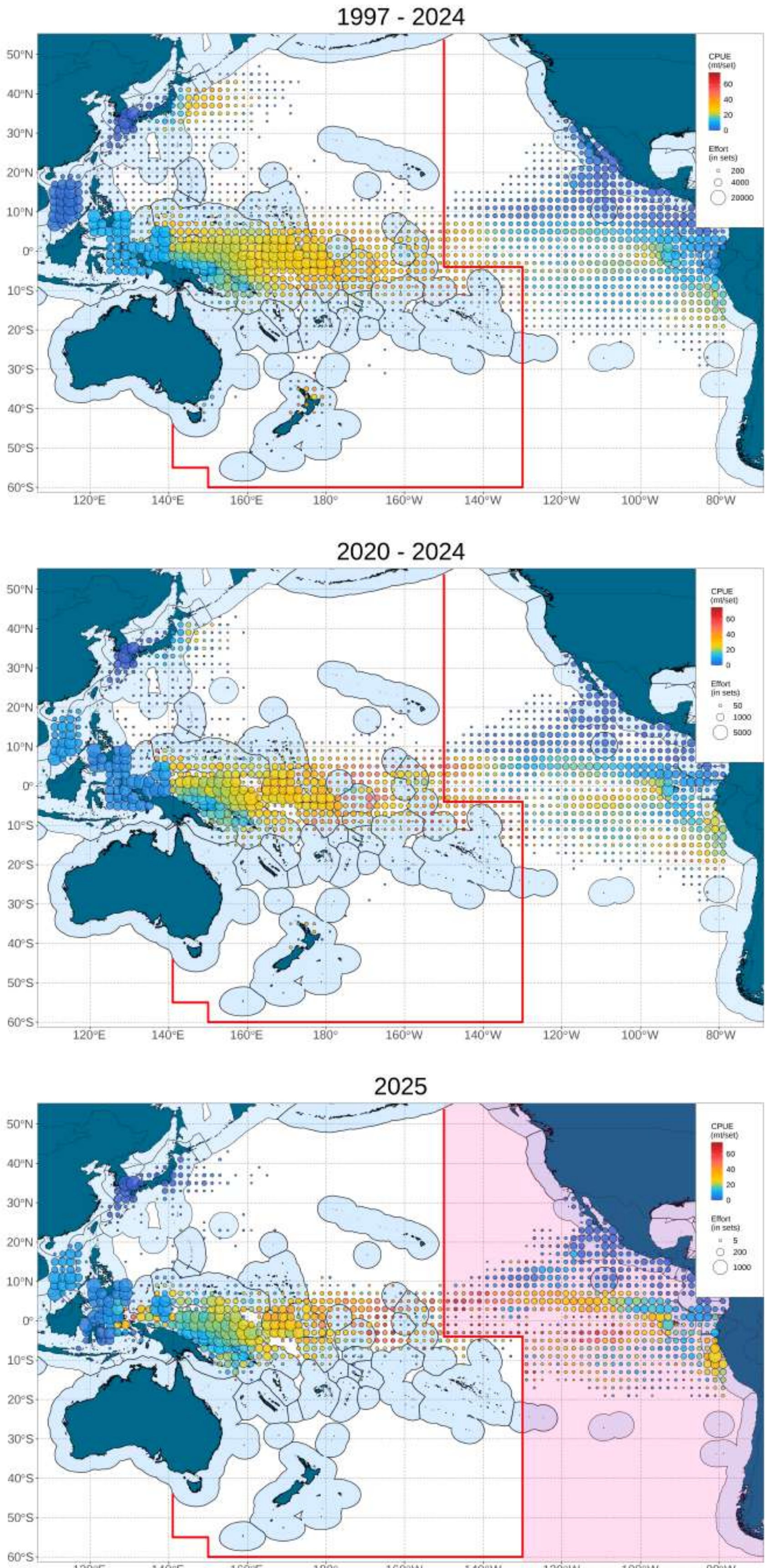

Figure 4: Distribution of 2°x 2° purse seine effort (represented by circle size) and skipjack tuna CPUE (represented by colour) for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Catch and effort data for the EPO in 2025 reflect 2024 data. Note the difference in effort scales between plots. The WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

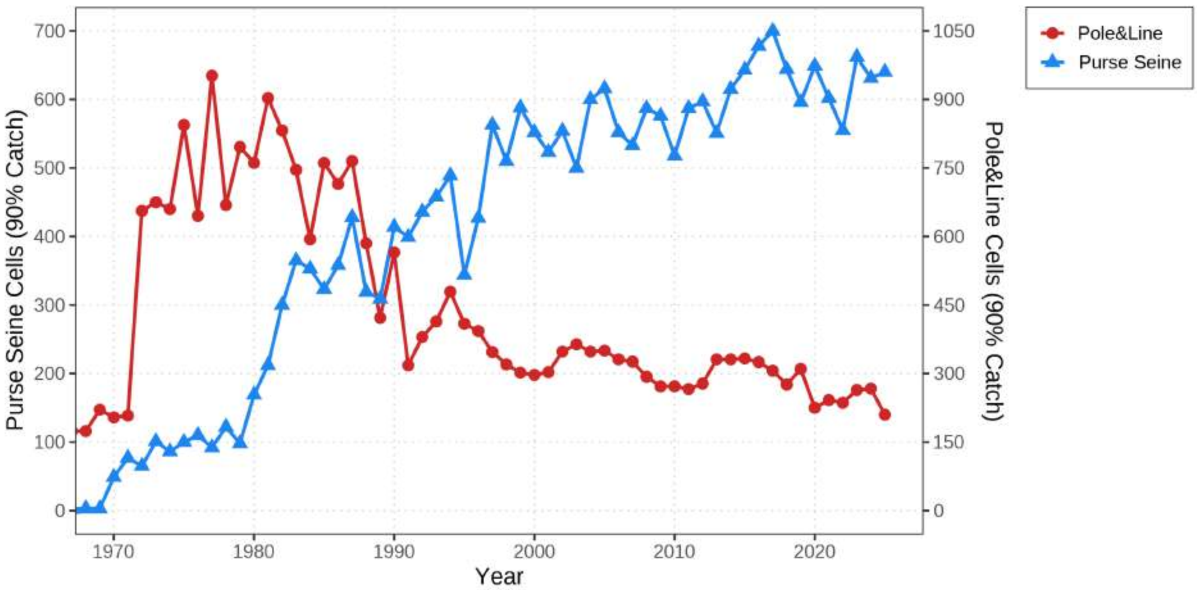

Figure 5: Spatial concentration of skipjack tuna catch for purse seine and pole-and-line fisheries by year for the WCPFC-CA.

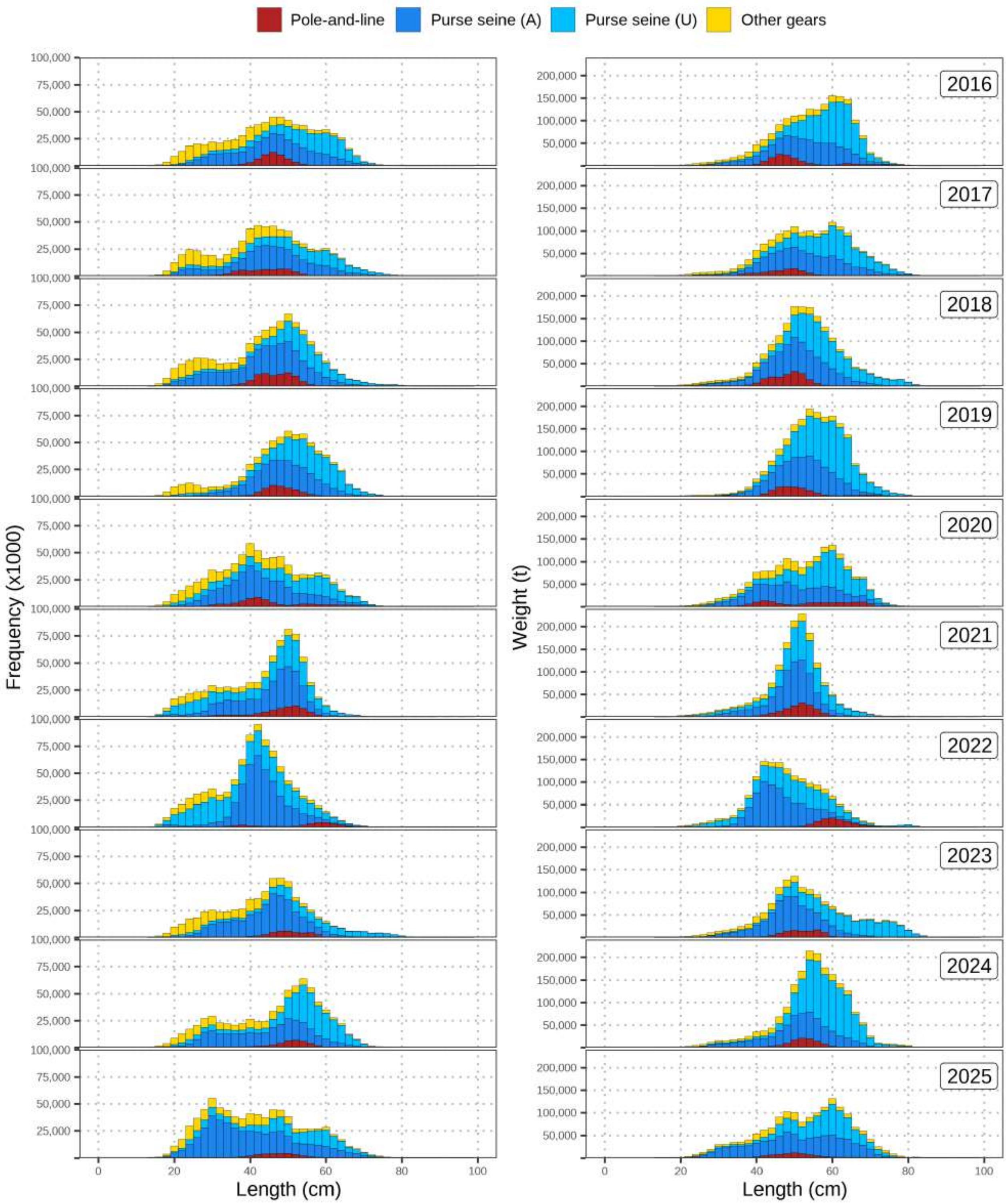

Figure 6: Catch-at-size of skipjack tuna by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA. Catch is provided in thousands of fish (left) and metric tonnes (right). For purse seine catch, "U" indicates Unassociated (Free-school), "A" indicates Associated (FAD, Log, Animal).

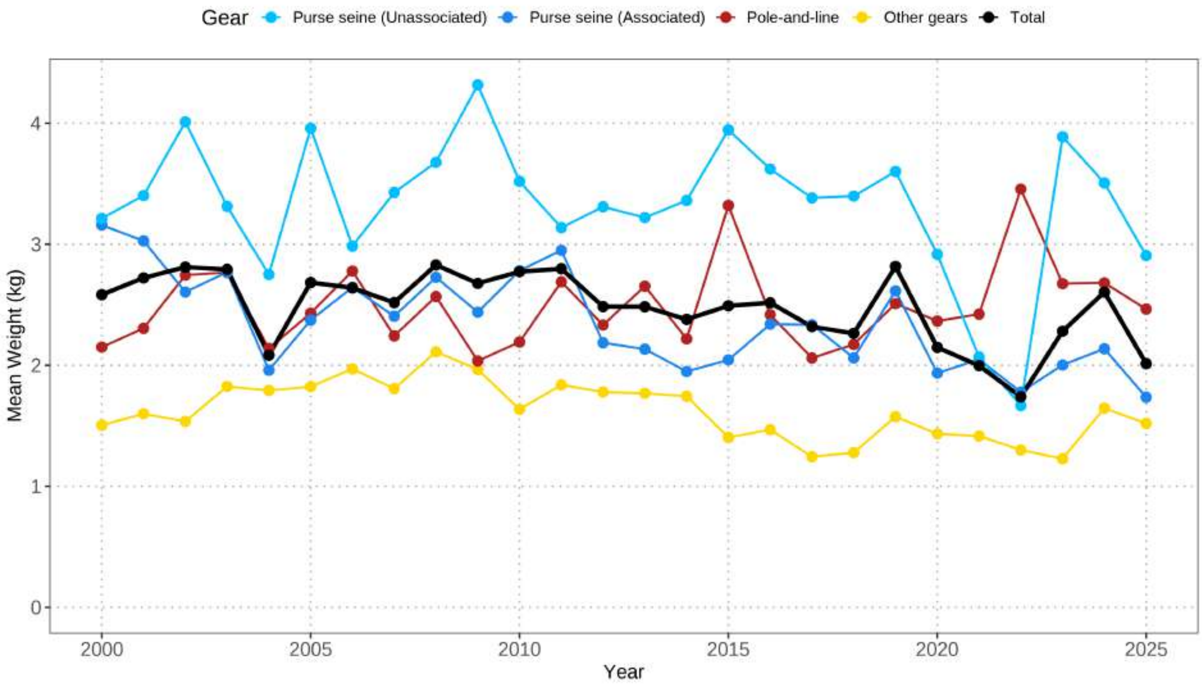

Figure 7: Mean weight (kg) of individual skipjack tuna taken by gear and year for the WCPFC-CA. The 'Total' line represents the weighted mean skipjack weight for the total catch.

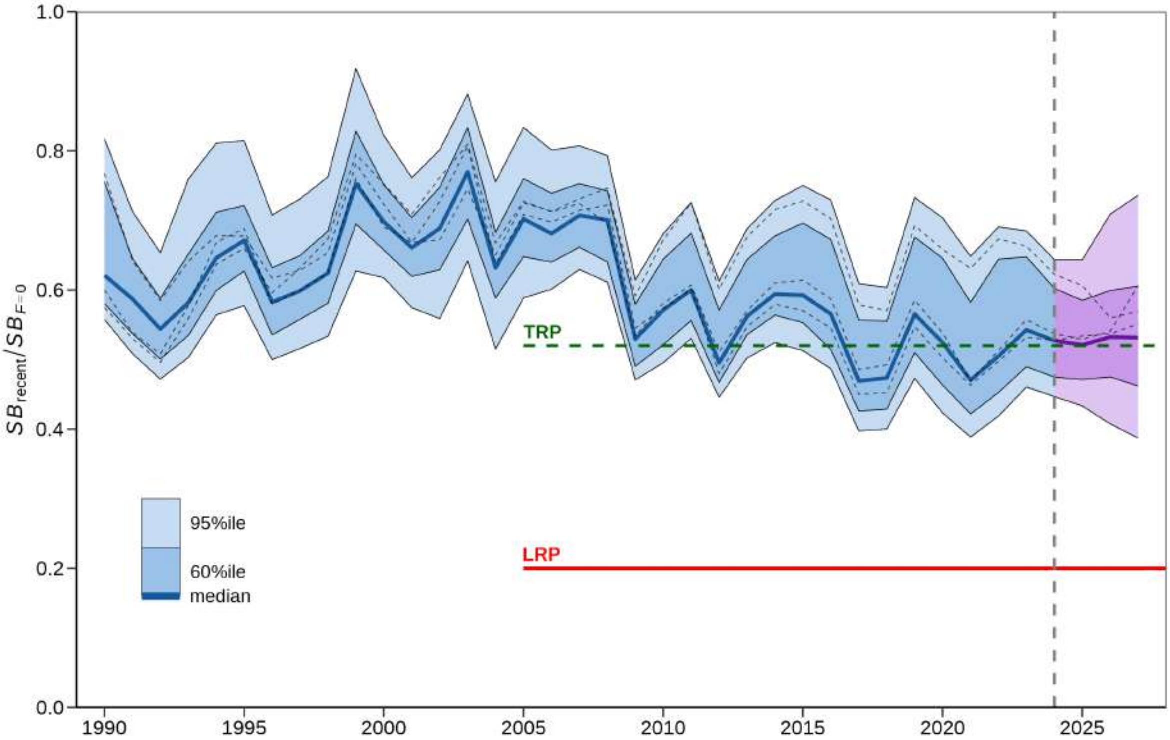

Figure 8: Skipjack spawning biomass depletion ($SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$) from the uncertainty grid of assessment model runs for the period 1990 to 2024 (the vertical line at 2024 represents the last year of the assessment), and stochastic projection results for the period 2025 to 2027 assuming actual catch and effort levels in 2025 continued until 2027. Prior to 2025 the data represent the 60th and 95th percentiles of the uncertainty grid from the assessment models and the median. During the projection period (2025-2027) levels of recruitment variability estimated over the period used to estimate the stock-recruitment relationship (1984-2020) are assumed to continue in the future. Projections are from the model runs of Teears et al., 2025. The dashed lines indicate three example trajectories (chosen randomly out of 13,550) from the model grid. The red dashed line represents the WCPFC agreed limit reference point (0.20), the green line the WCPFC target reference point adopted through CMM 2022-01 (0.52)

South Pacific albacore

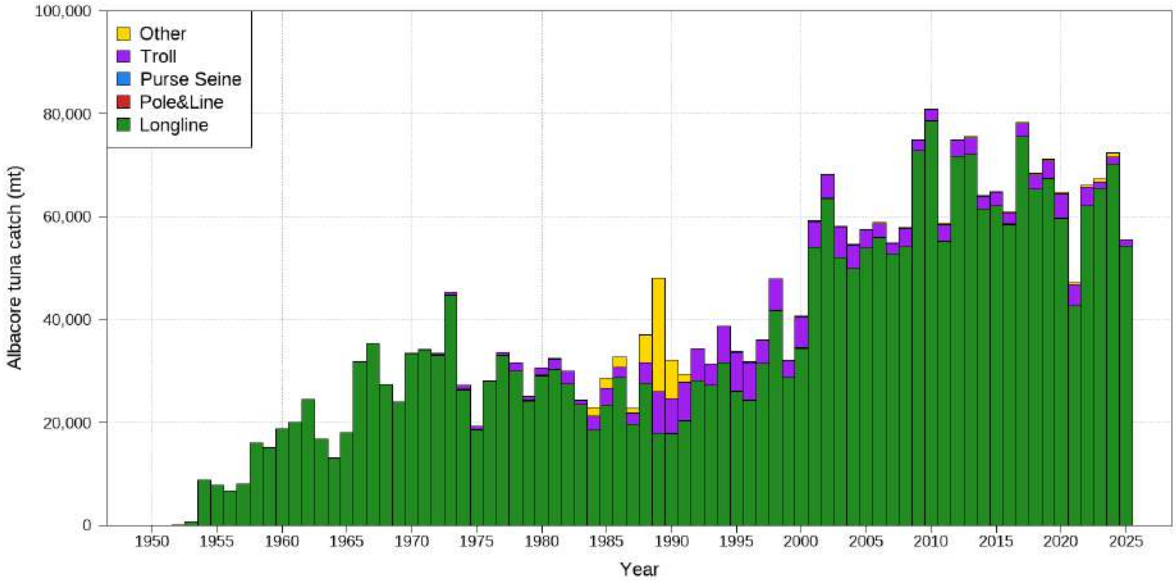

Figure 9: South Pacific albacore tuna catch (mt) by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA south of the equator. Note: 'Other' gear here includes artisanal catch as well as driftnet catches in the 1980s and early 1990s.

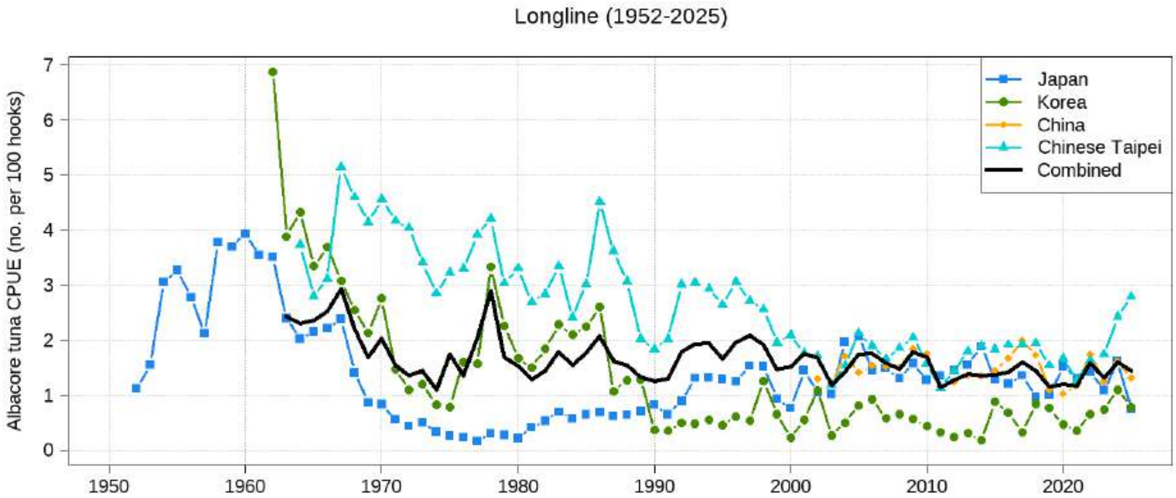

Figure 10: South Pacific albacore tuna catch per unit effort in the southern WCPFC-CA (south of 10°S) by year for major longline fleets.

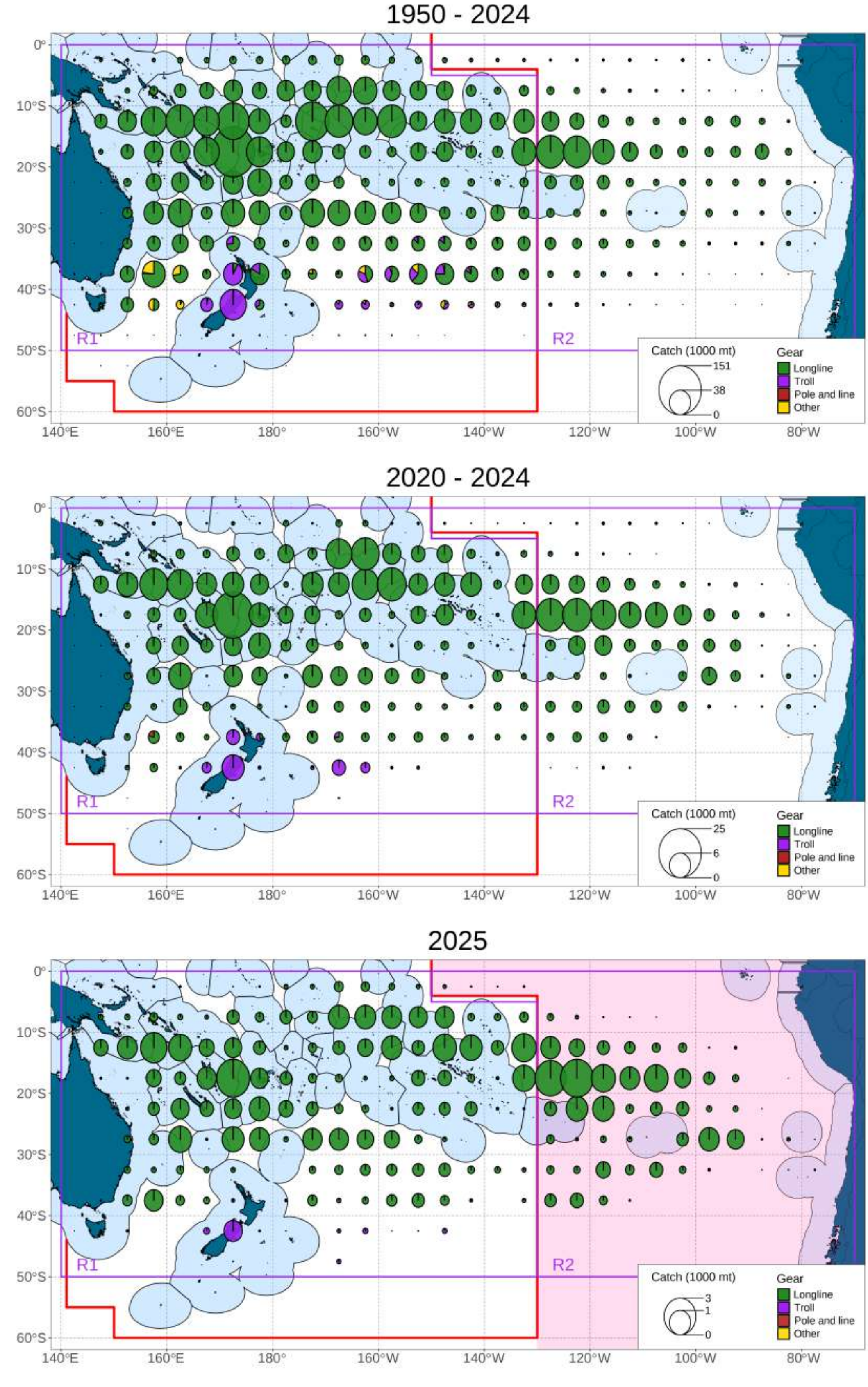

Figure 11: South Pacific albacore tuna catch distribution by gear type and 5°x 5° region for the Pacific Ocean for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note that the catch scale differs between panels and the figure legends provide the catch associated with each maximum circle size. The 2024 South Pacific albacore assessment regions are outlined in purple, the WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024; the 2024 assessment removed the subregions within the WCPFC-CA.

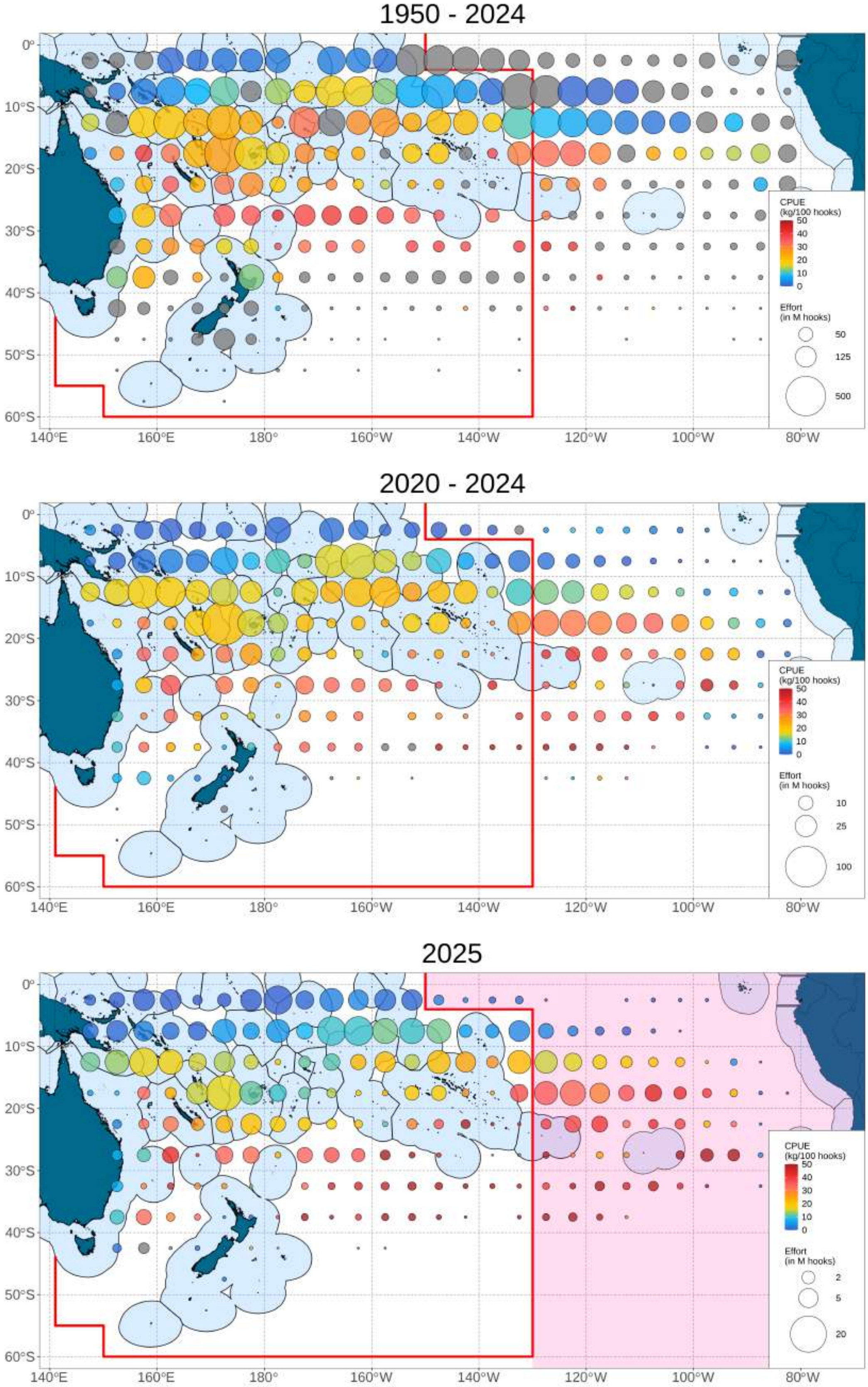

Figure 12: Distribution of 5°x 5° longline effort (represented by circle size) and South Pacific albacore tuna CPUE (represented by colour) for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note the difference in effort scales between plots. The WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

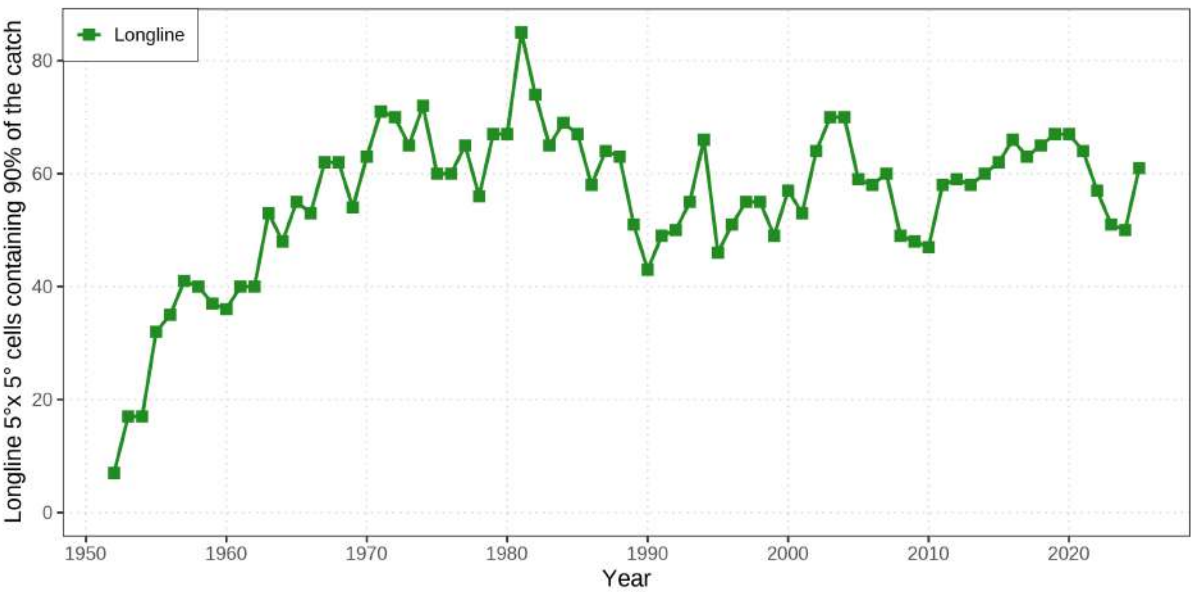

Figure 13: Spatial concentration of South Pacific albacore tuna catch for the longline fishery by year for the WCPFC-CA.

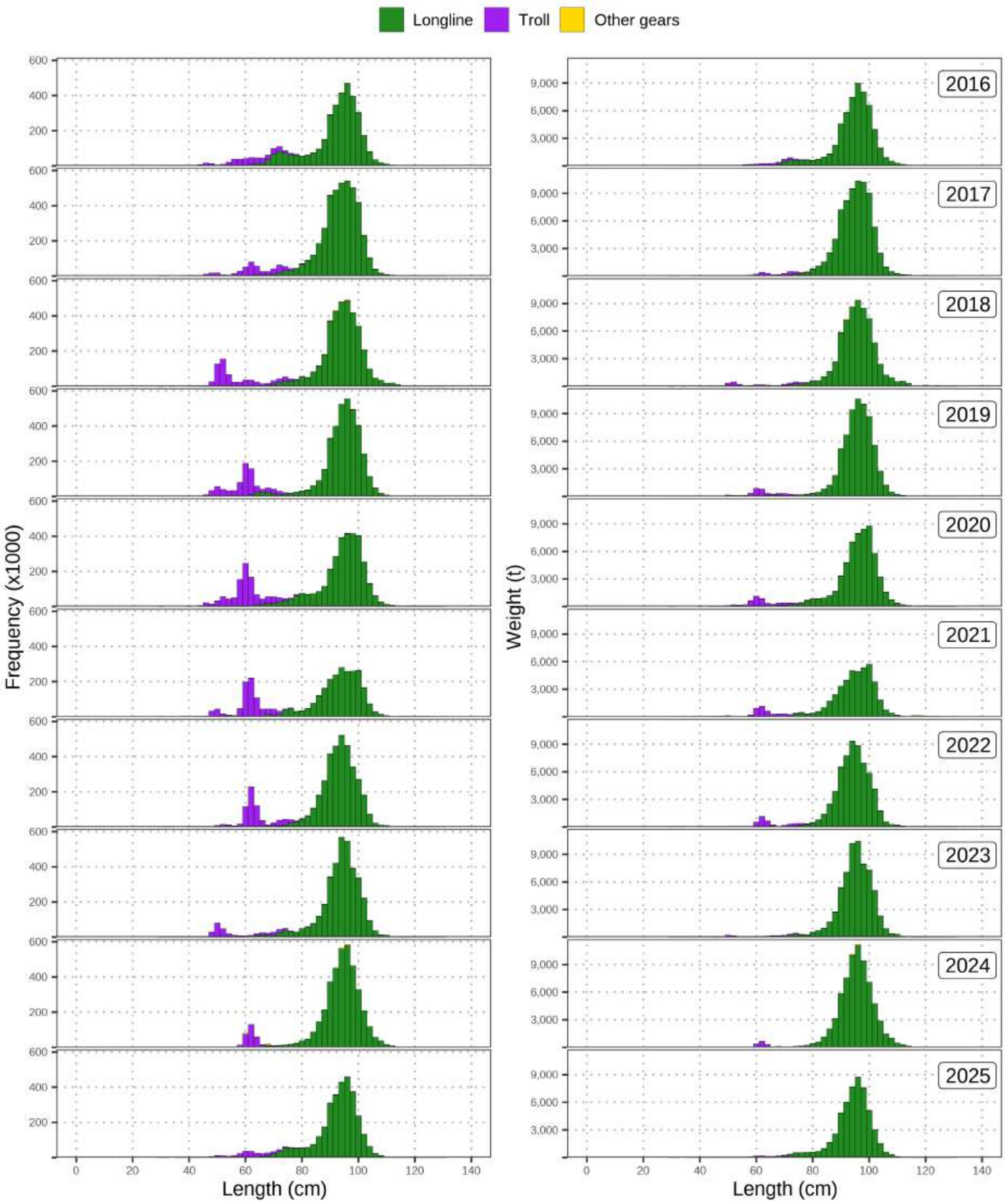

Figure 14: Catch-at-size of South Pacific albacore tuna by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA. Catch is provided in thousands of fish (left) and metric tonnes (right).

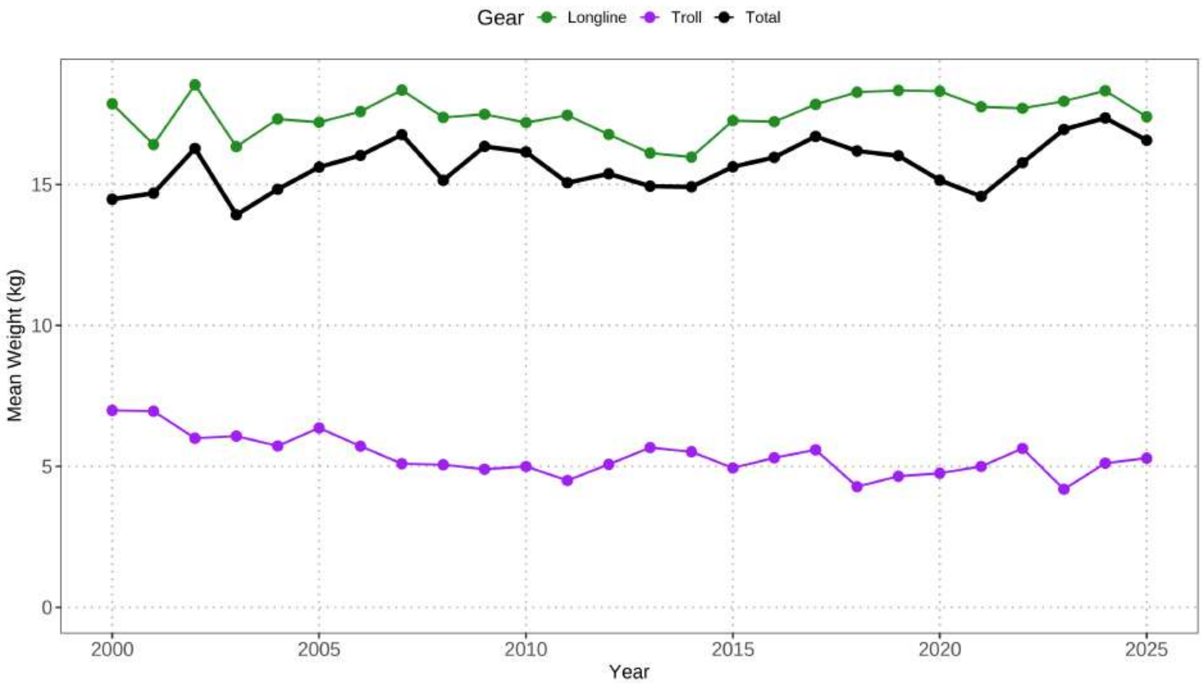

Figure 15: Mean weight (kg) of individual South Pacific albacore tuna taken by gear and year for the WCPFC-CA. The 'Total' line represents the weighted mean albacore weight for the total catch.

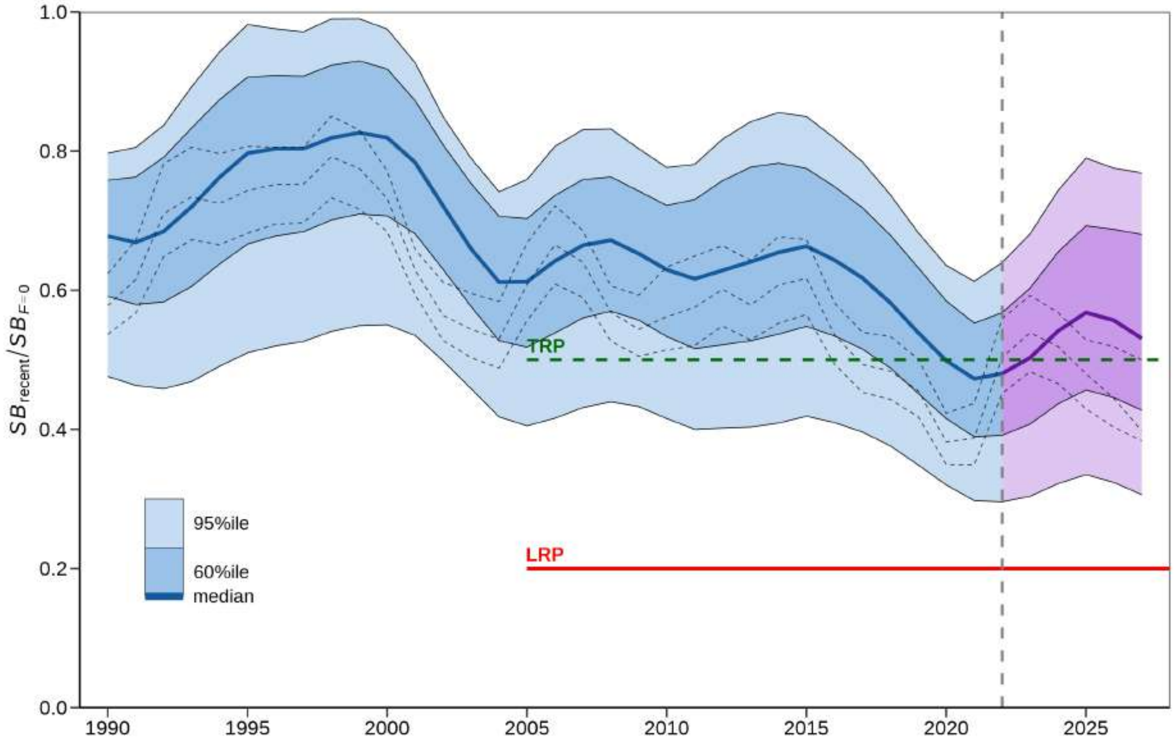

Figure 16: Stochastic projection results of South Pacific albacore tuna spawning biomass ($SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$) from 2022 using actual catch and effort levels in 2023 through 2025 and then through to 2027 assuming 2025 levels continued. Prior to 2023 the data represent the 60th and 95th percentiles from the 100 ensemble model runs. Levels of recruitment variability estimated for the period used to estimate the stock-recruitment relationship (1960-2020) are assumed to continue in the future. Projections are from the model runs of Teears et al., 2024, and are projected on the basis of albacore catch. The dashed lines indicate three example trajectories (chosen randomly out of 10,000) from the projection grid. The red dashed line represents the WCPFC agreed limit reference point (0.20) and the green dashed line the TRP value, which calculated based on the 2024 assessment, is 50% SBF=0.

Bigeye

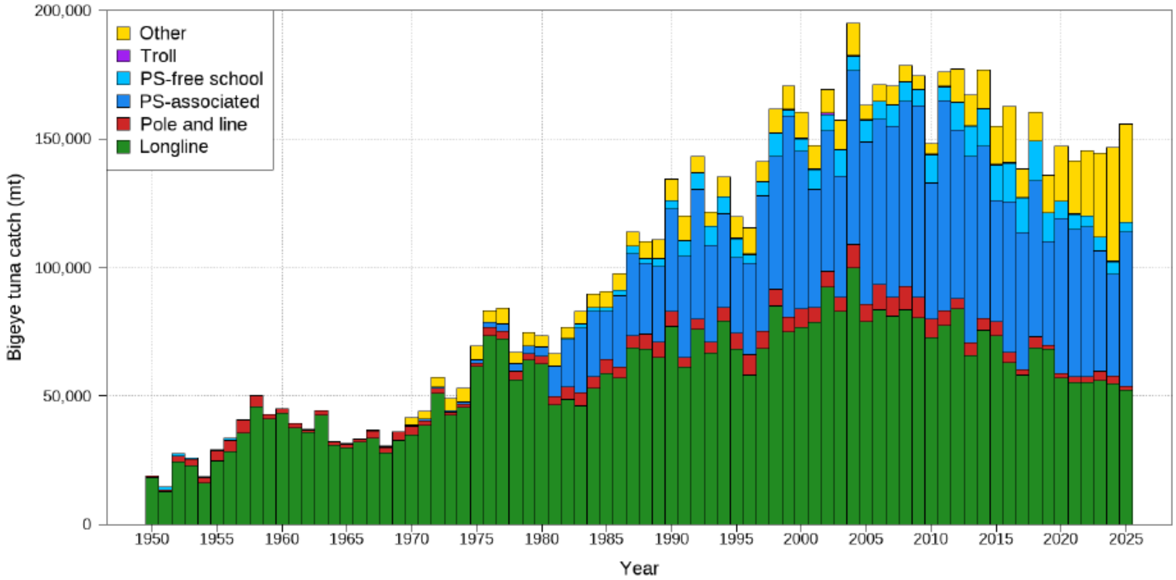

Figure 17: Bigeye tuna catch by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA.

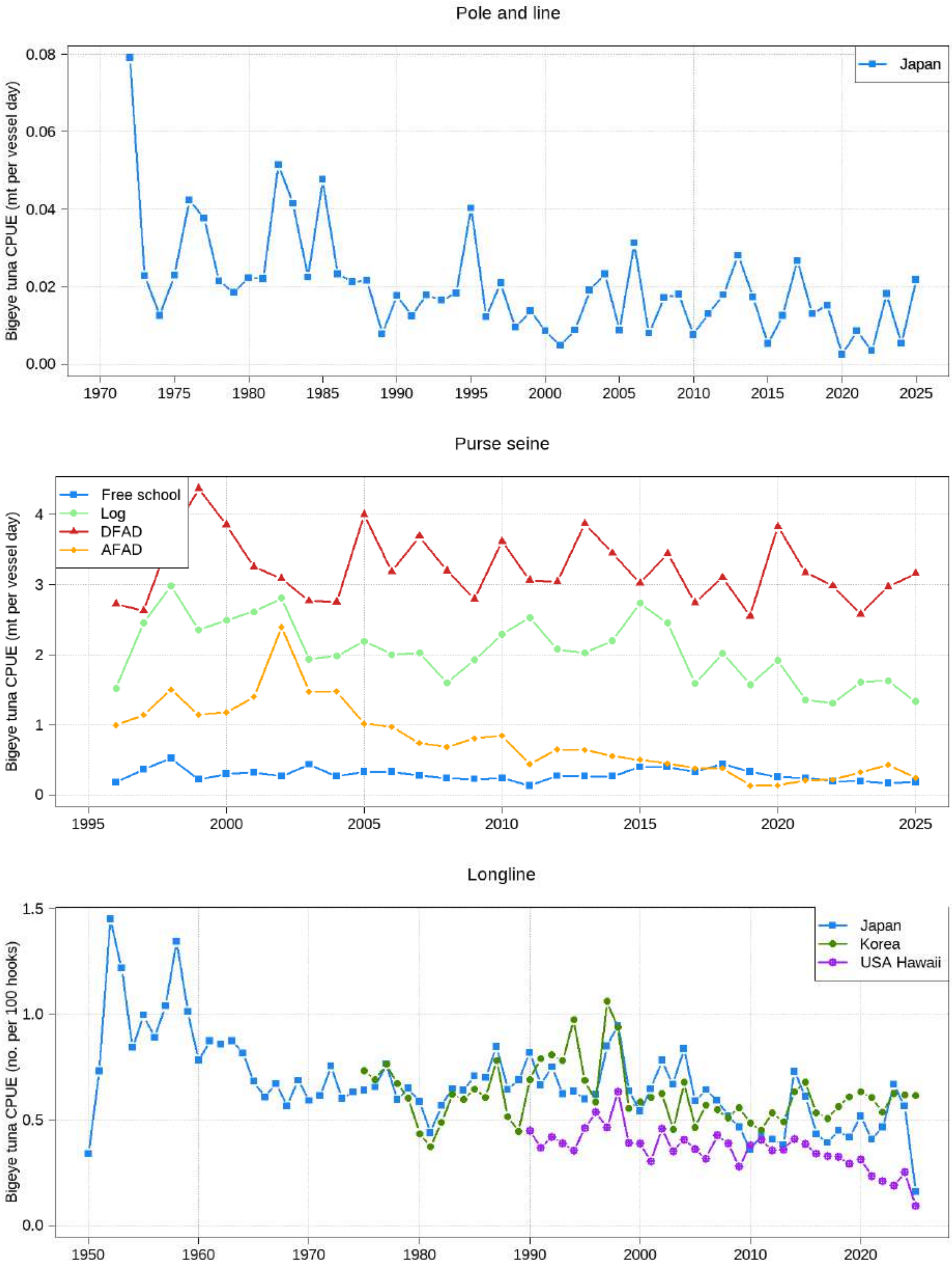

Figure 18: Bigeye tuna catch per unit effort in the tropical WCPFC-CA by year for major pole-and-line fishing fleets (top), purse seine for the major set types (middle), and tropical longline for three fleets (bottom; 20°N to 10°S, WCPFC-CA). Note different time series lengths.

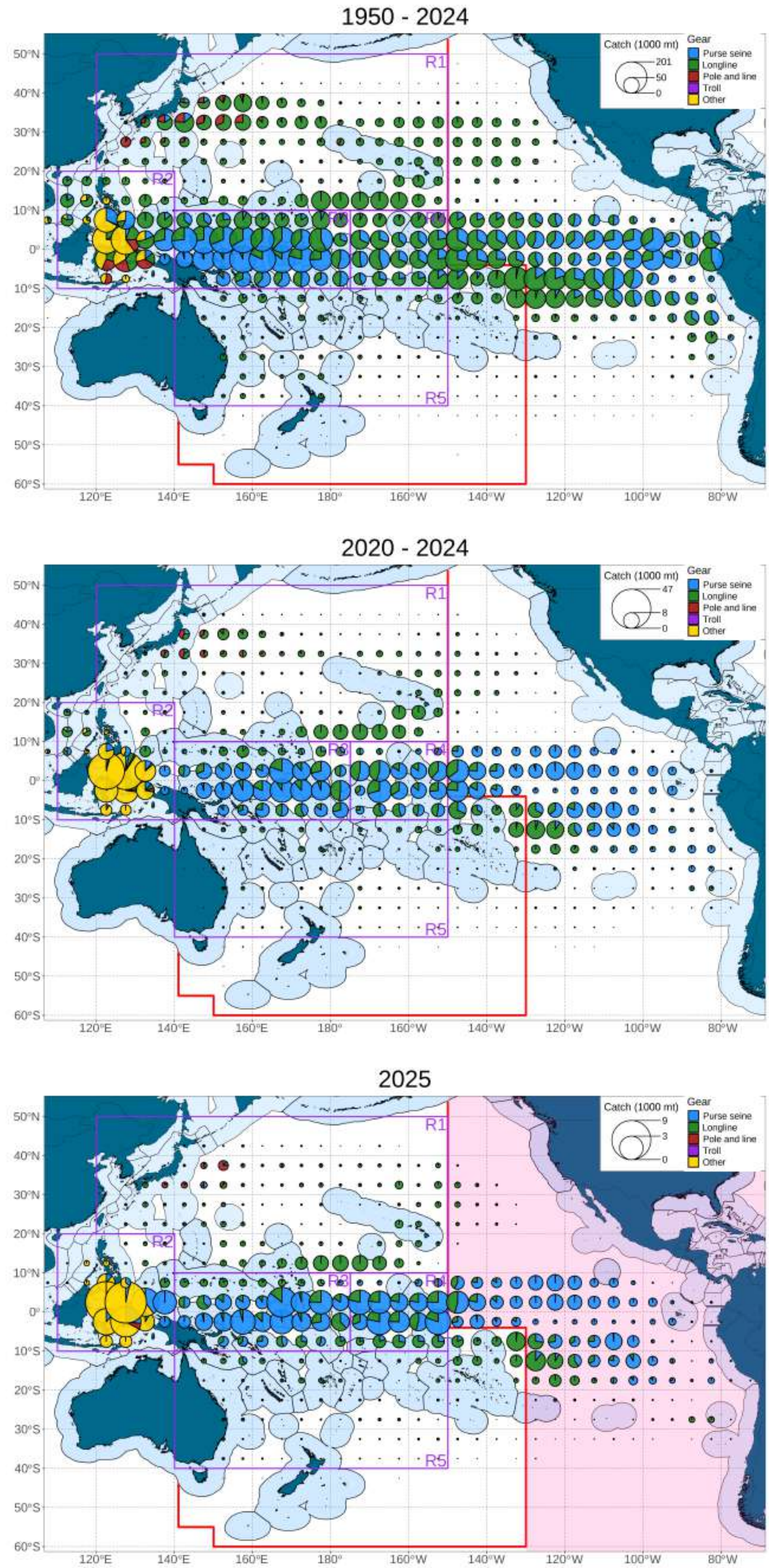

Figure 19: Bigeye tuna catch distribution by gear type and 5°x 5° region for the Pacific Ocean for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note that the effort scale differs between panels and the figure legends provide the catch associated with each maximum circle size. The bigeye assessment regions are outlined in purple, the WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

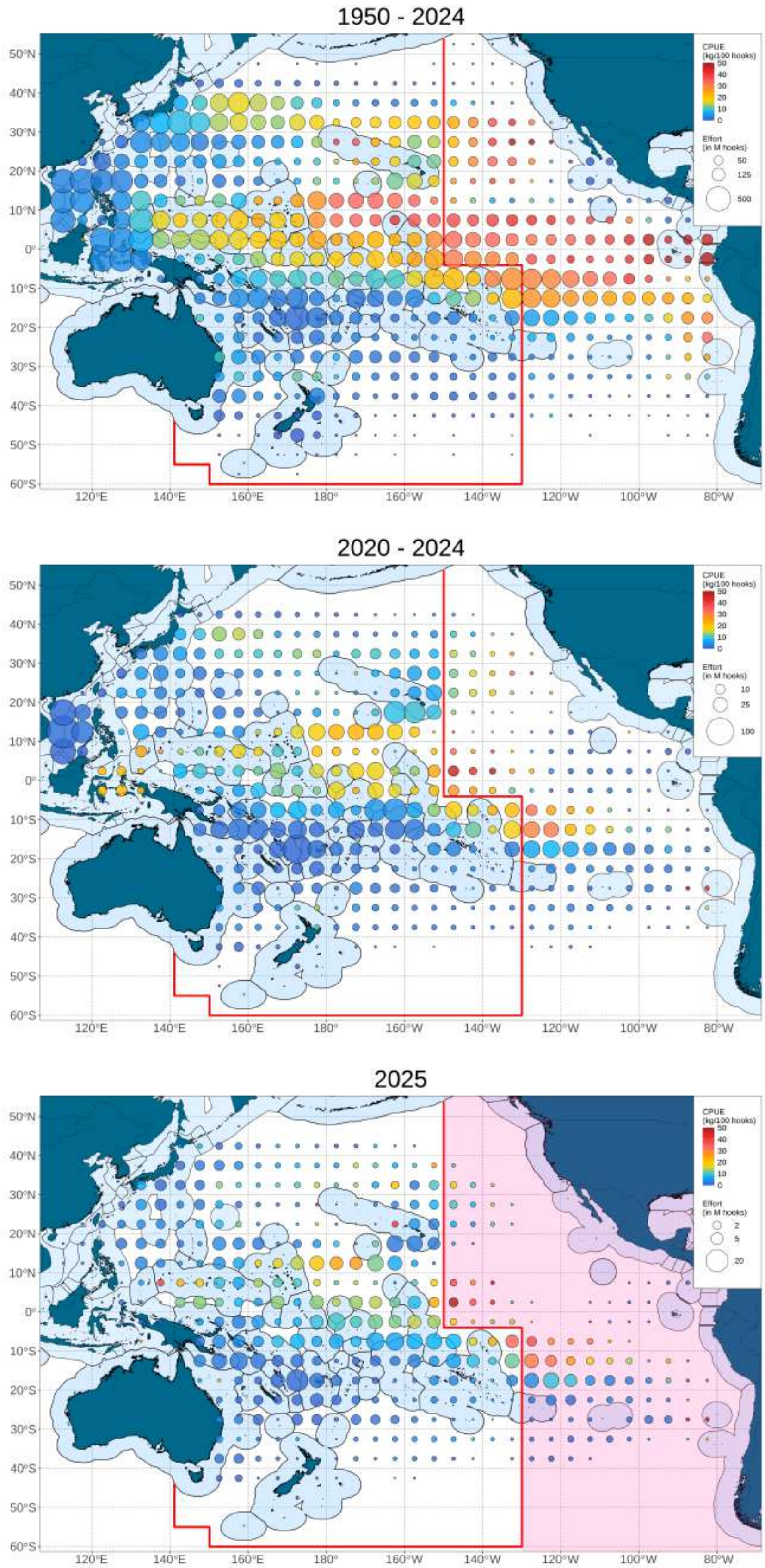

Figure 20: Distribution of 5°x 5° longline effort (represented by circle size) and bigeye tuna CPUE (represented by colour) for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note the difference in effort scales between plots. The WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

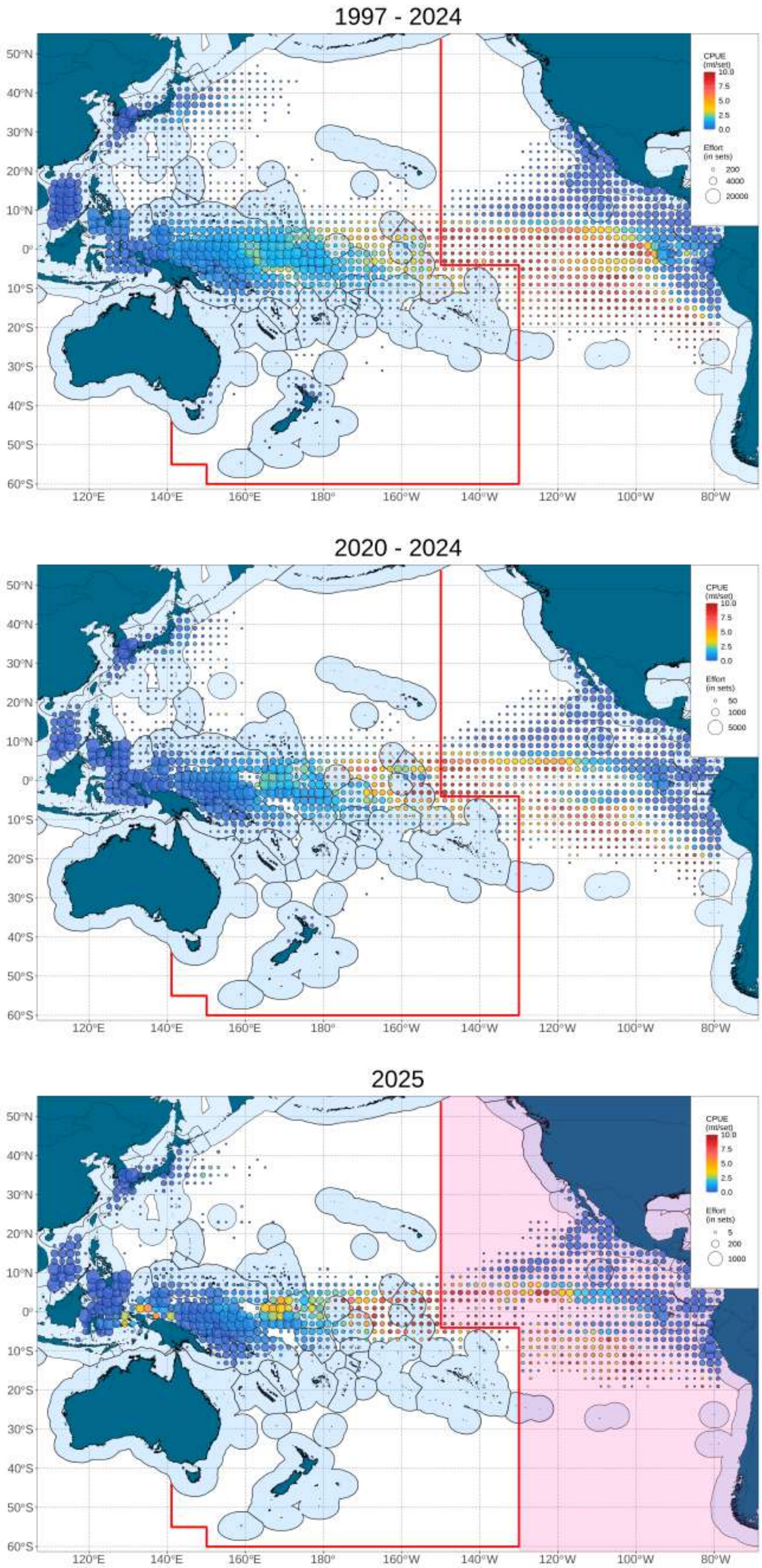

Figure 21: Distribution of 2°x 2° purse seine effort (represented by circle size) and bigeye tuna CPUE (represented by colour) for the period 1997–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note the difference in effort scale between plots. The WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

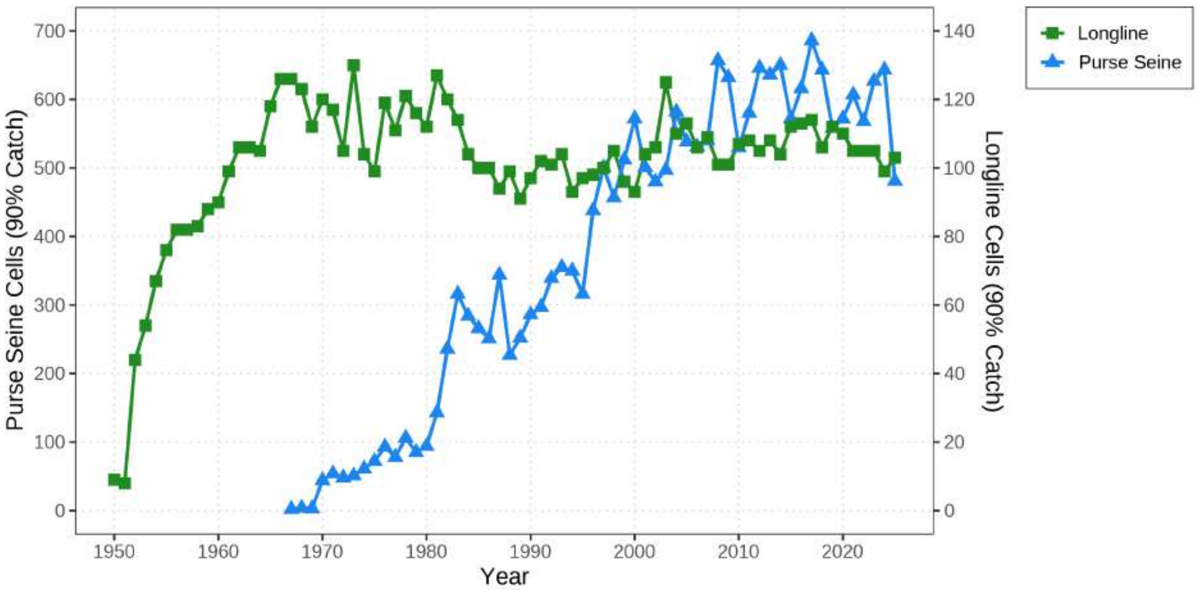

Figure 22: Spatial concentration of bigeye tuna catch for purse seine and longline by year for the WCPFC-CA.

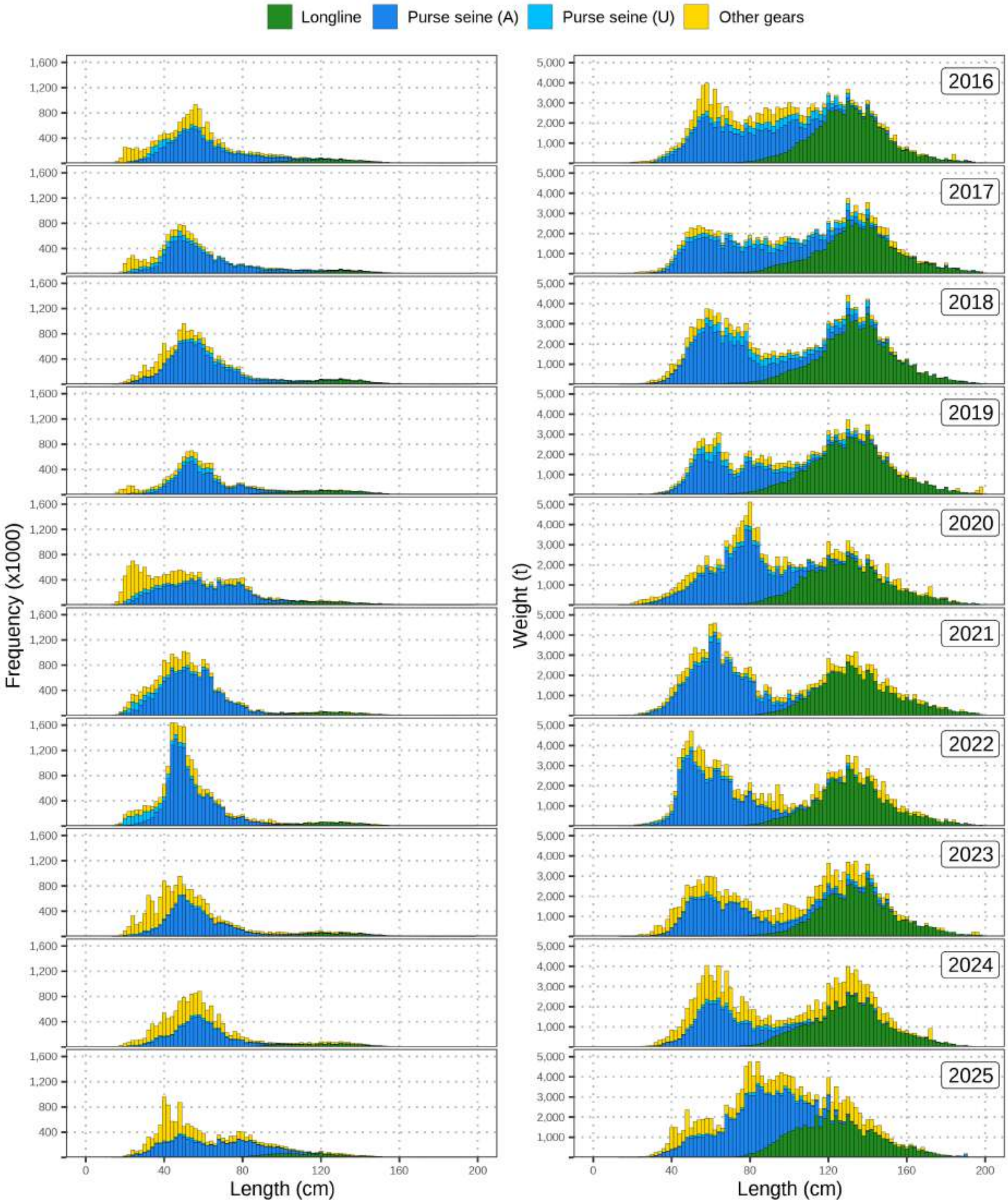

Figure 23: Catch-at-size of bigeye tuna by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA. Catch is provided in thousands of fish (left) and metric tonnes (right). For purse seine catch, "U" indicates Unassociated (Free-school), "A" indicates Associated (FAD, Log, Animal).

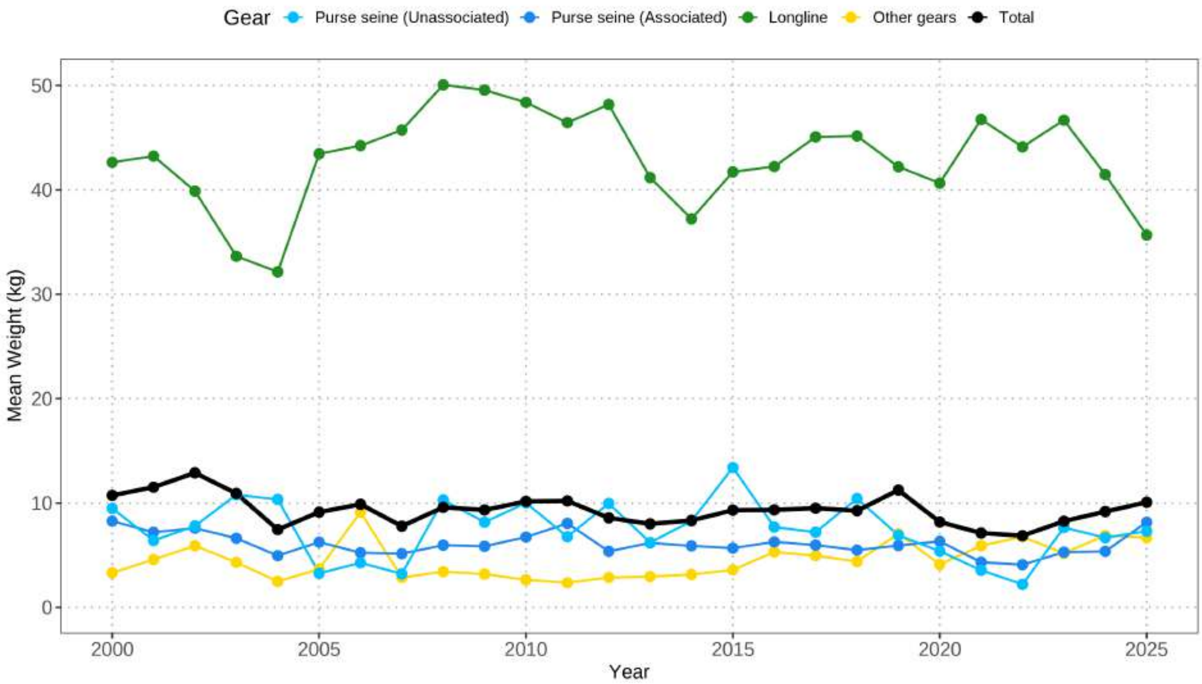

Figure 24: Mean weight (kg) of individual bigeye tuna taken by gear and year for the WCPFC-CA. The 'Total' line represents the weighted mean bigeye weight for the total catch.

Yellowfin

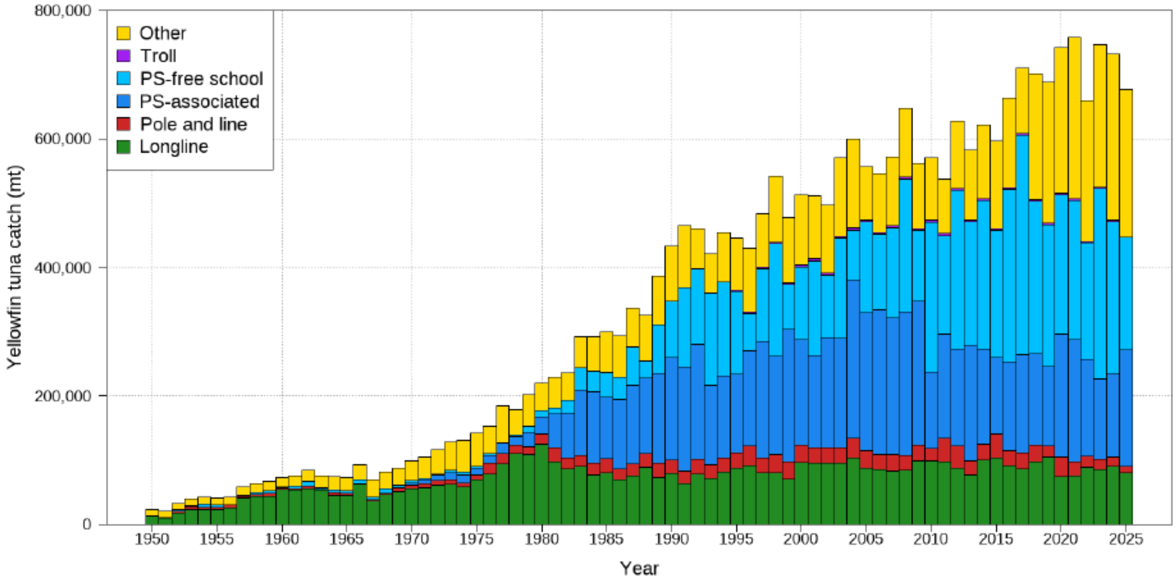

Figure 25: Yellowfin tuna catch (mt) by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA.

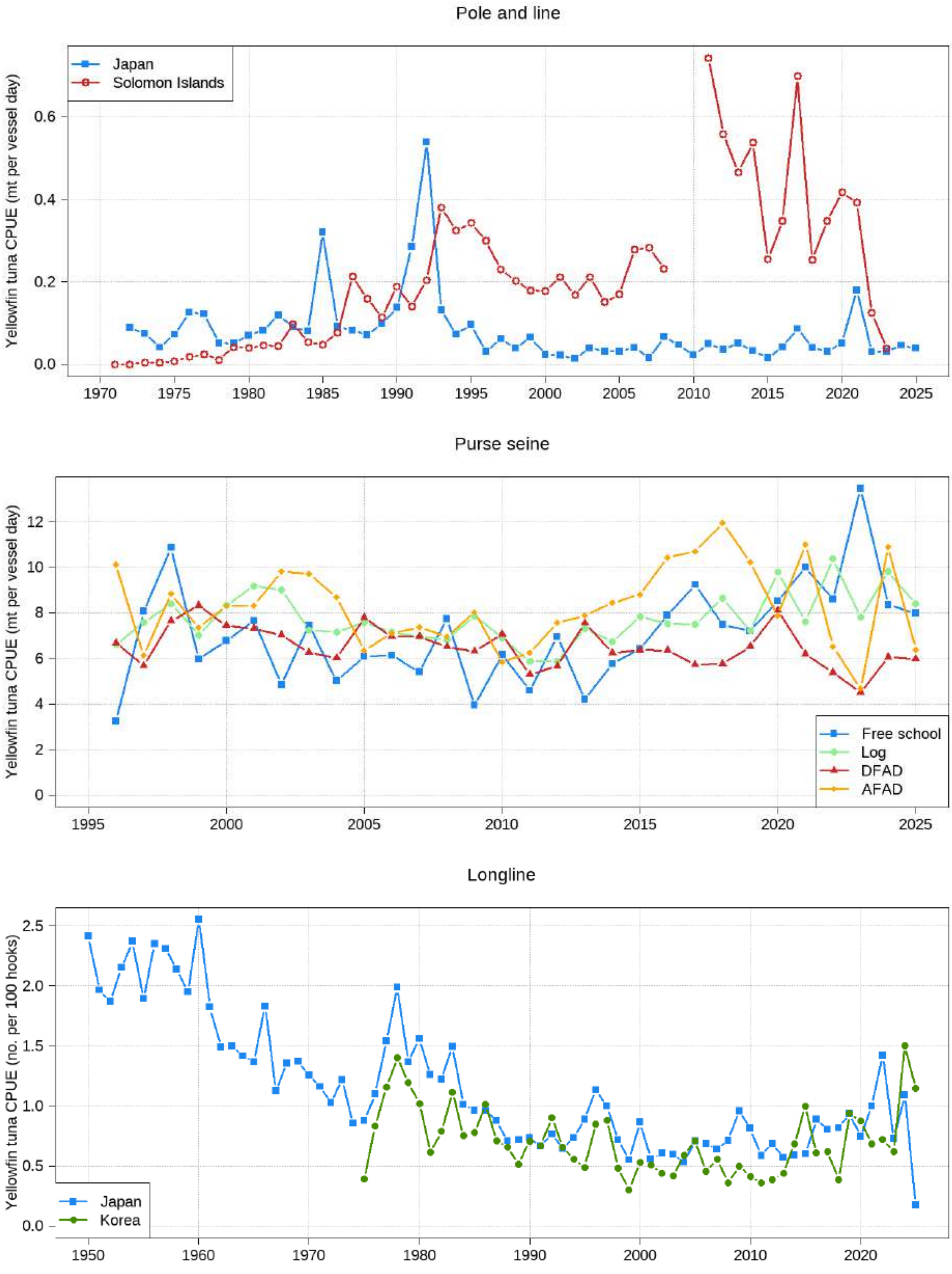

Figure 26: Yellowfin tuna catch per unit effort in the tropical WCPFC-CA by year for major pole-and-line fishing fleets (top), purse seine for the major set types (middle), and tropical longline for two fleets (bottom; 20°N to 10°S, WCPFC-CA). Note different time series lengths.

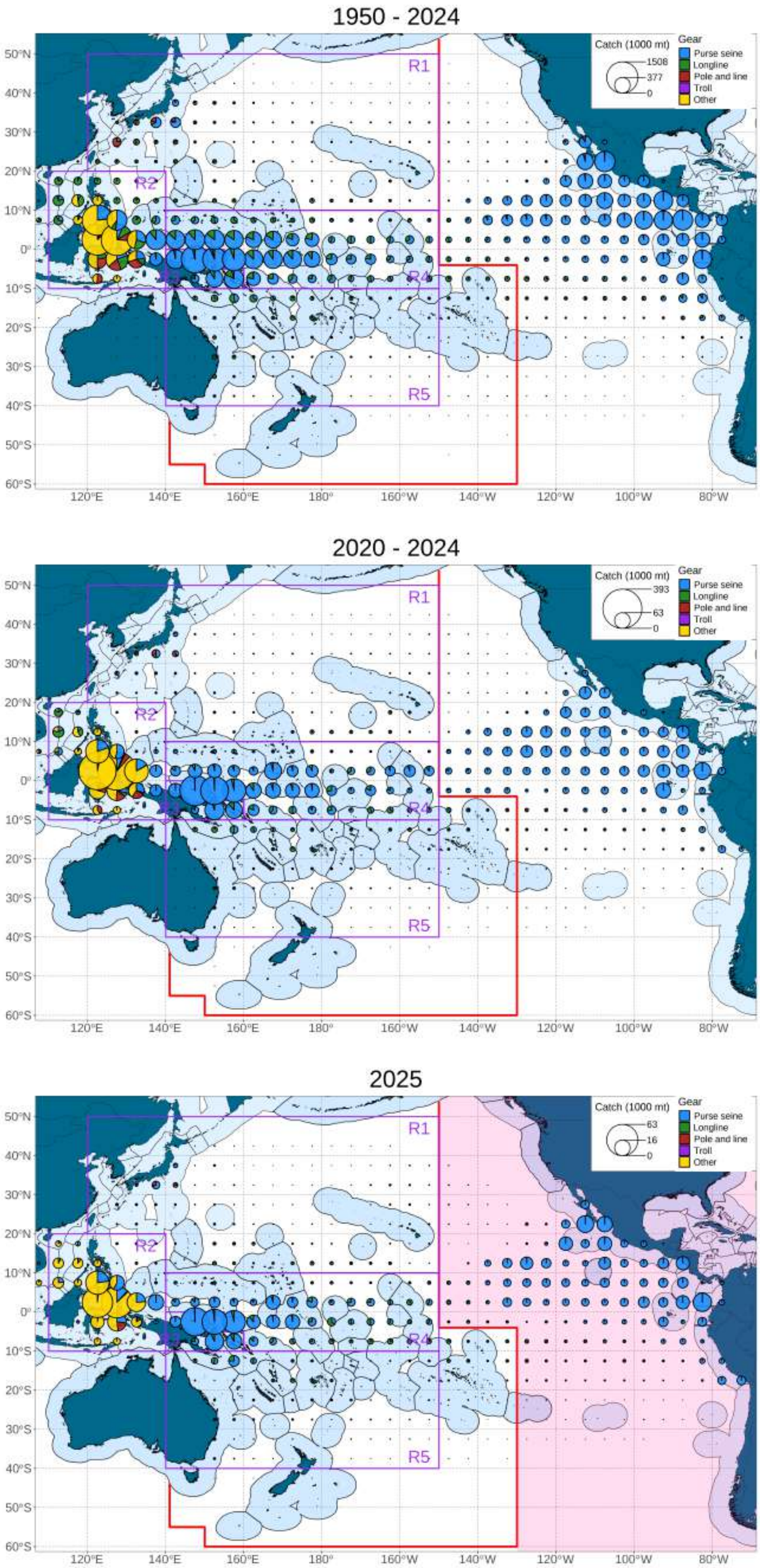

Figure 27: Yellowfin tuna catch distribution by gear type and 5°x 5° region for the Pacific Ocean for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note that the catch scale differs between panels and the figure legends provide the catch associated with each maximum circle size. The yellowfin assessment regions are outlined in purple, the WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

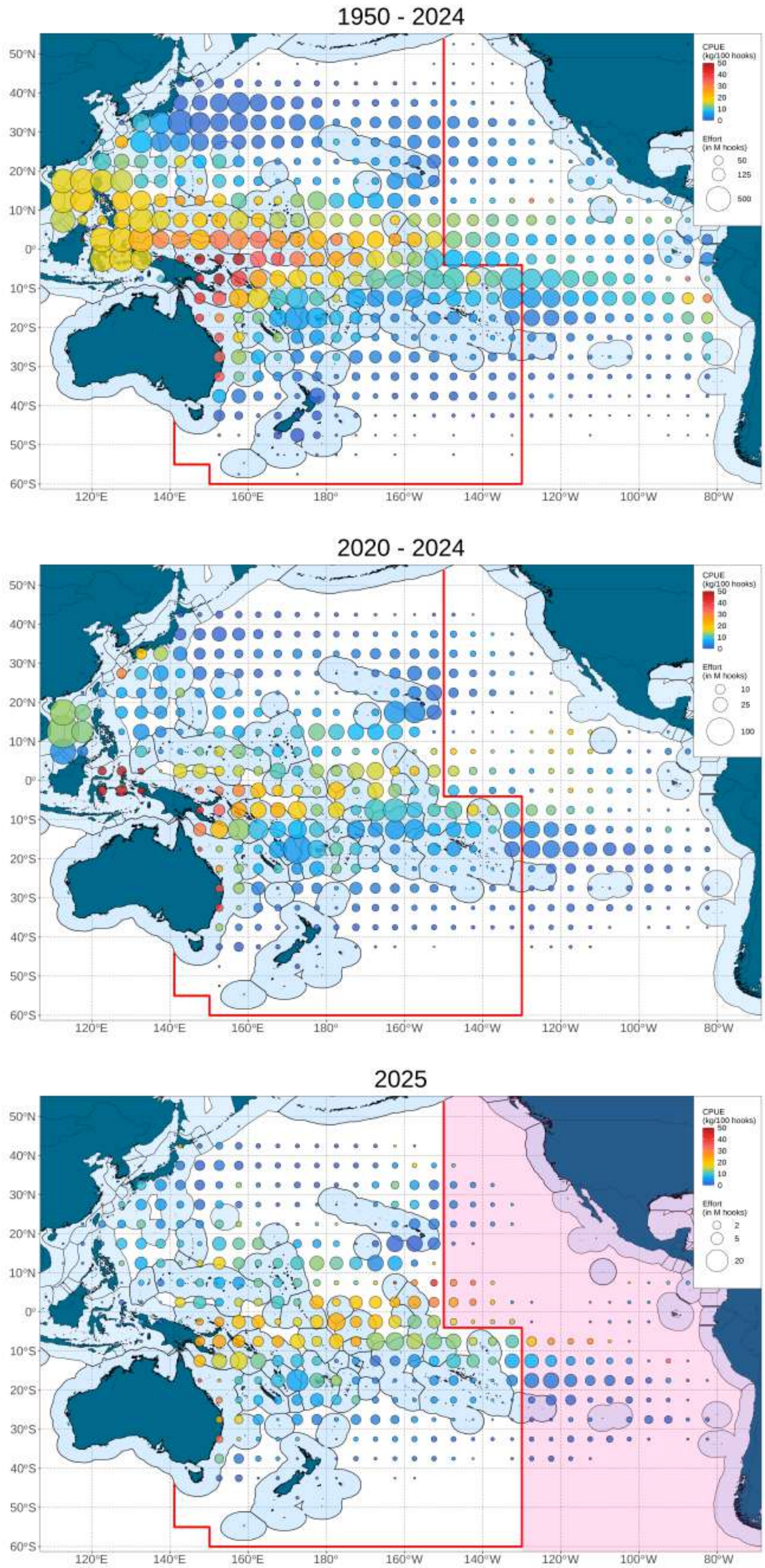

Figure 28: Distribution of 5°x 5° longline effort (represented by circle size) and yellowfin tuna CPUE (represented by colour) for the period 1950–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note the effort scale difference between plots. The WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

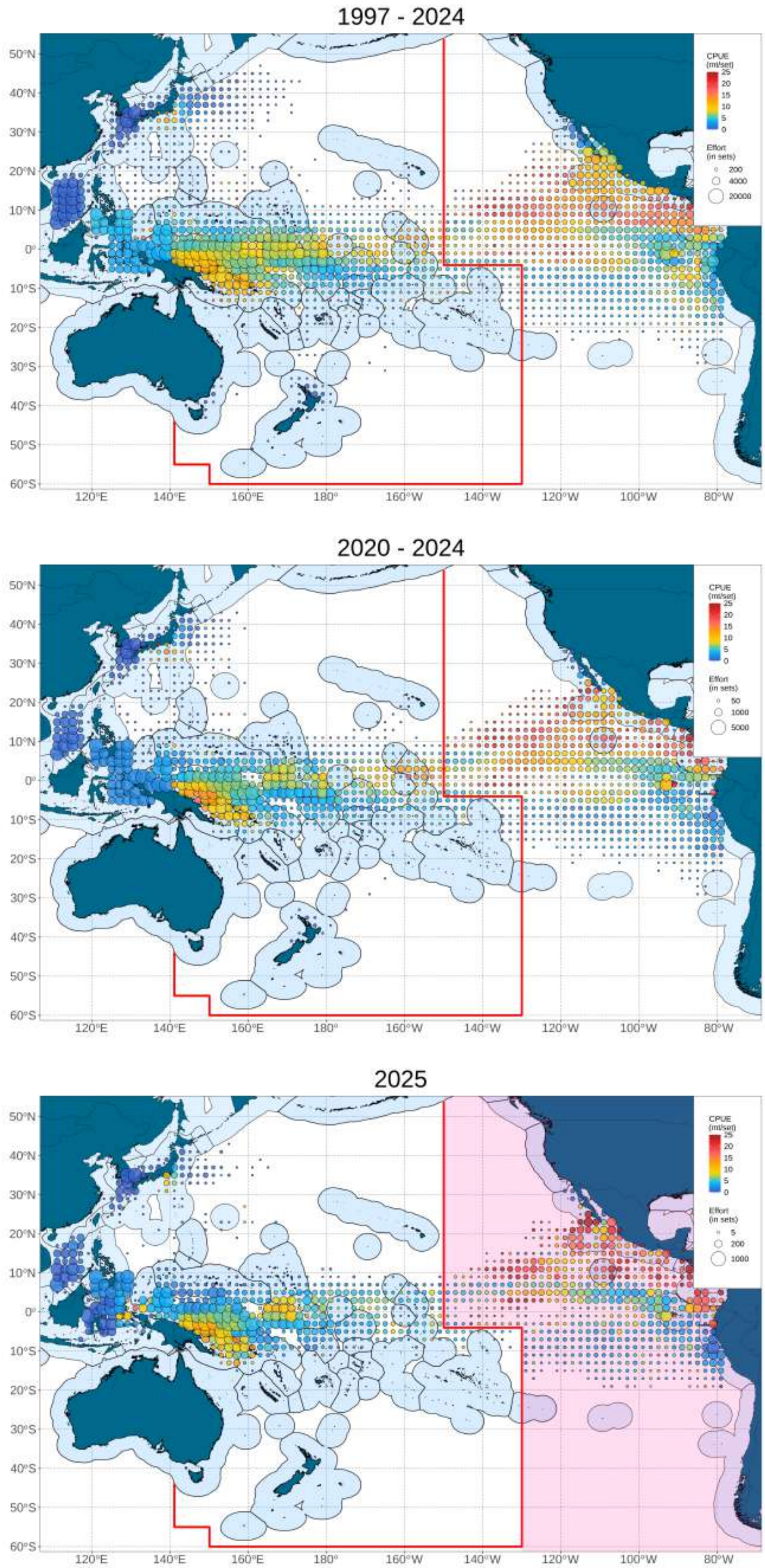

Figure 29: Distribution of 2°x 2° purse seine effort (represented by circle size) and yellowfin tuna CPUE (represented by colour) for the period 1997–2025 (top), 2021–2025 (middle) and 2025 (bottom). Note the differences in circle size scale between plots. The WCPFC-CA is outlined in red and the IATTC-CA is shaded in pink for 2025 to highlight those data are cloned from 2024.

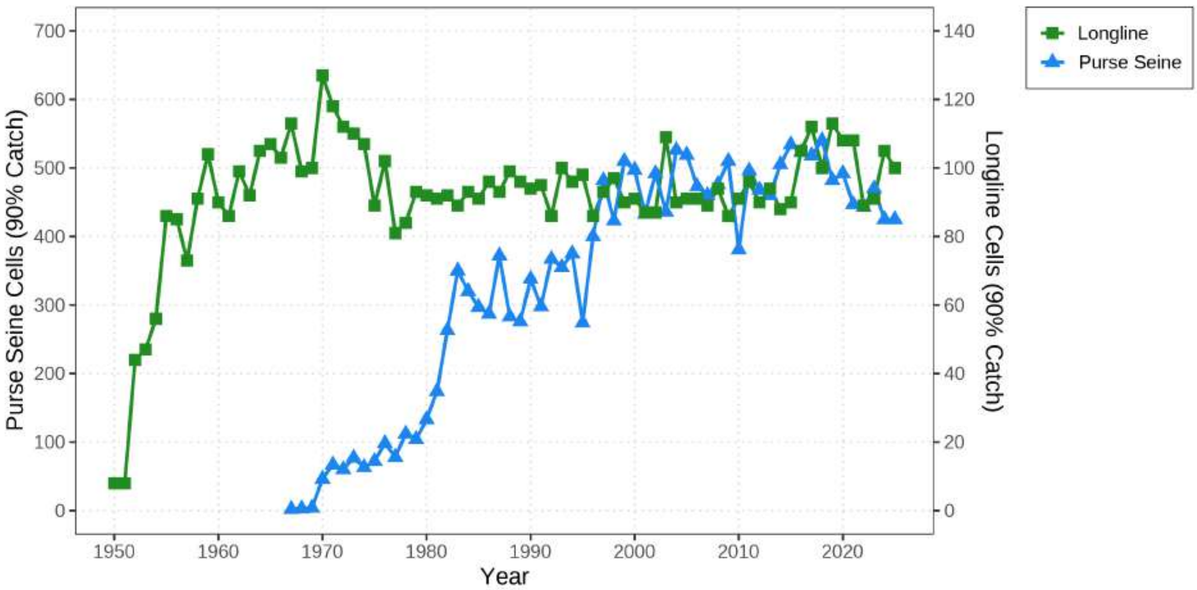

Figure 30: Spatial concentration of yellowfin tuna catch for purse seine and longline by year for the WCPFC-CA.

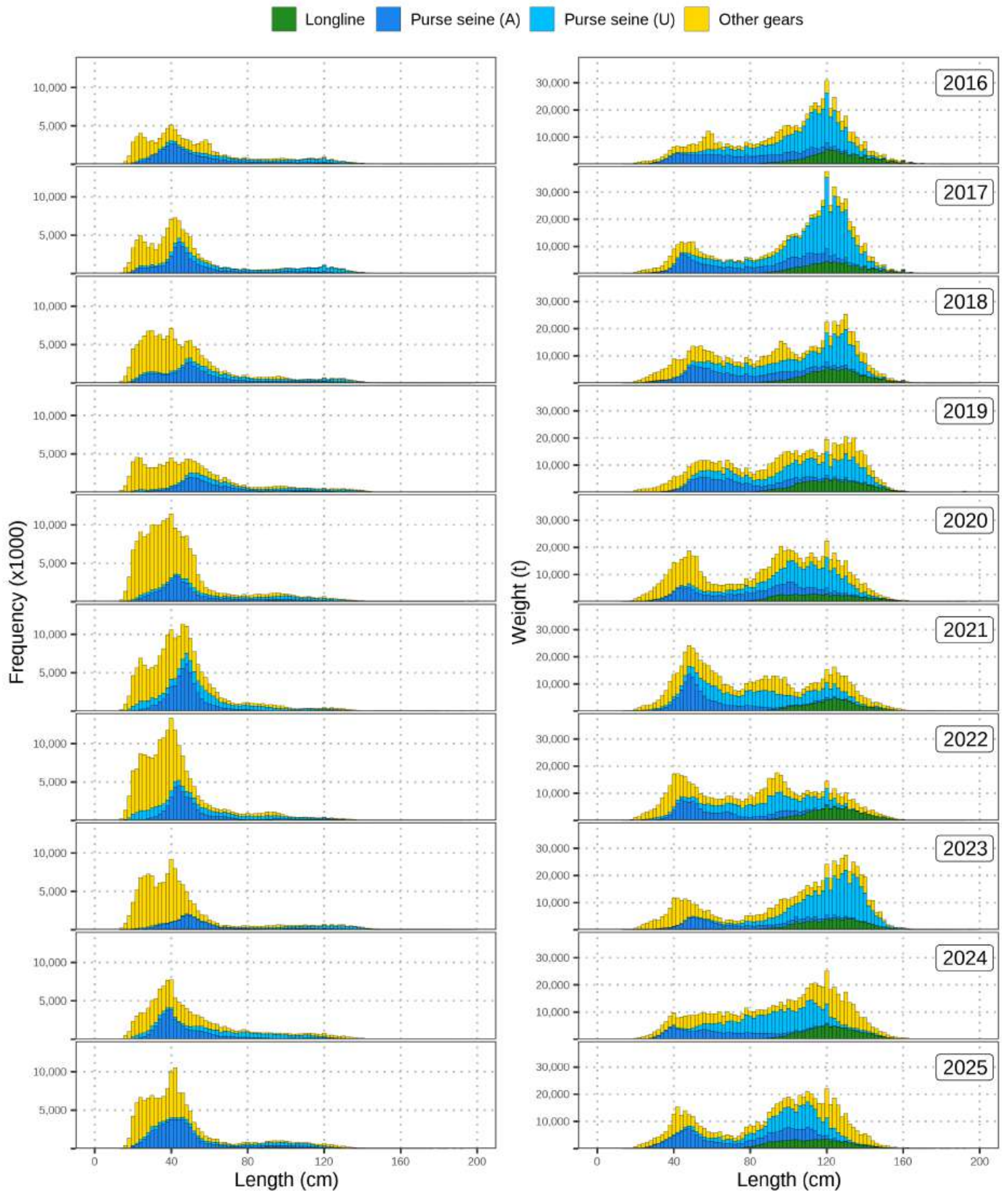

Figure 31: Catch-at-size of yellowfin tuna by gear type and year for the WCPFC-CA. Catch is provided in thousands of fish (left) and metric tonnes (right). For purse seine catch, "U" indicates Unassociated (Free-school), "A" indicates Associated (FAD, Log, Animal).

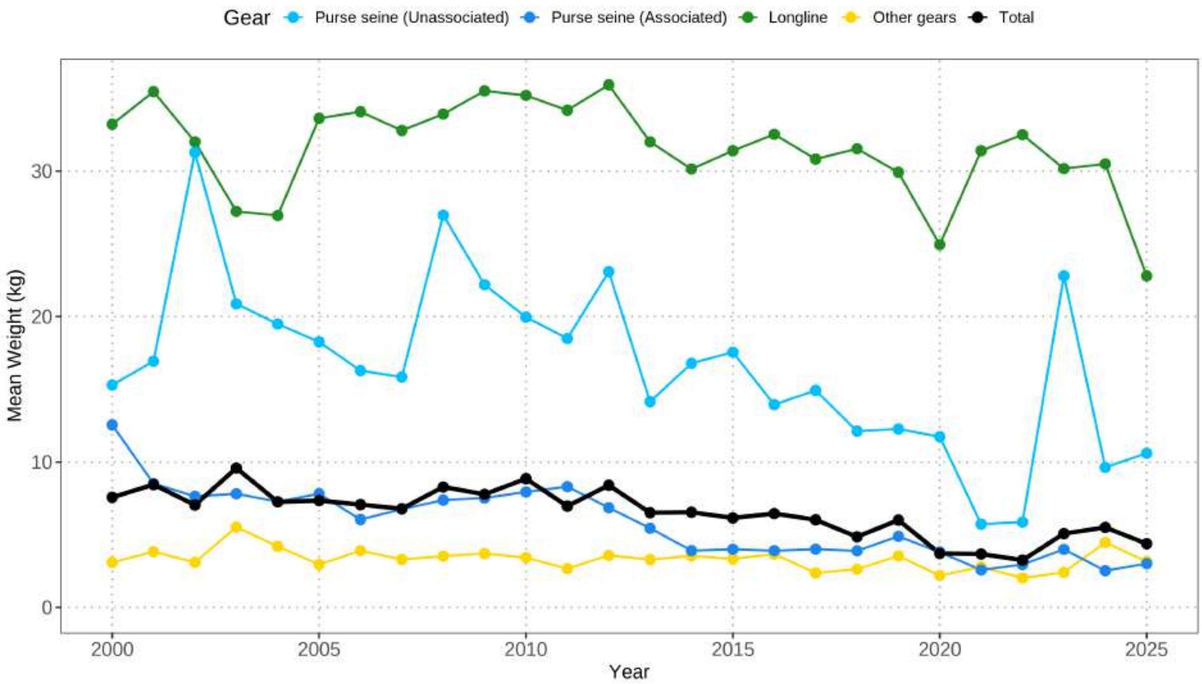

Figure 32: Mean weight (kg) of individual yellowfin tuna taken by gear and year for the WCPFC-CA. The 'Total' line represents the weighted mean yellowfin weight for the total catch.

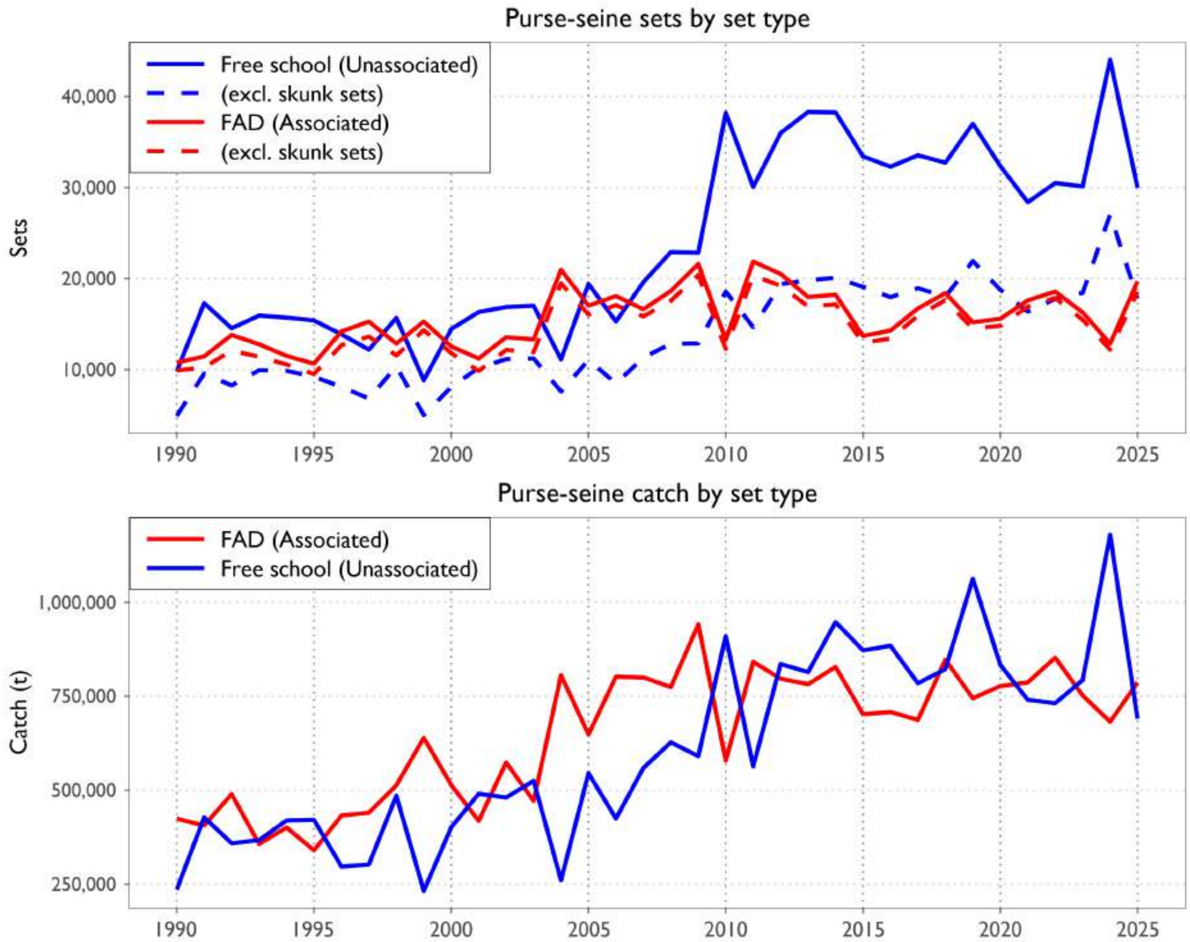

Figure 33: Illustration of the relative annual number of sets (top) and catch tonnage (bottom) by set association type (unassociated vs associated) over the period 1990-2025 The associated sets include all set association types, including FADS, logs, etc. Illustrated data are from raised logsheet data for the WCPFC tropical purse-sine fisehry, excluding the domestic fleets of Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.