Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

WCPFC-SC22-2026-GN-01

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WCPO TUNA FISHERIES

2025 Overview

Catch, value, and economic conditions in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries

WCPFC SC22 • Apia, Samoa • 11–19 August 2026

2025 at a Glance

Catch decreased from 2024's record year, and so did total value — but the WCPO remains the world's largest tuna fishery.

2.59M mt

Total 2025 catch — down 15% from 2024's record 3.06M mt

US$5.4B

Total delivered catch value — down 5% from 2024

72% / 49%

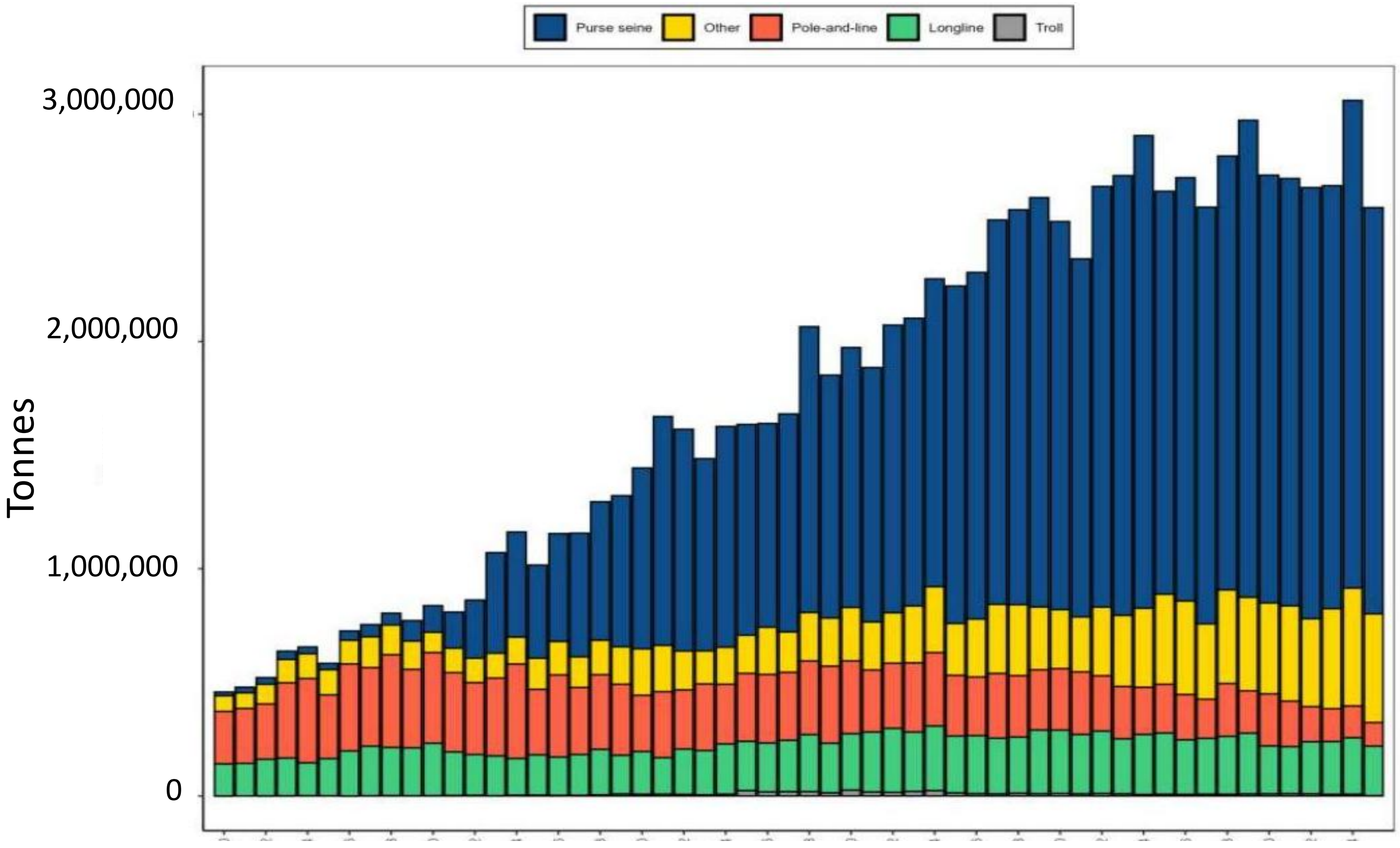
Share of total Pacific-wide / global tuna catch in 2025

- *Skipjack still dominates volume (64% of catch); purse seine remains the dominant gear (69% of catch, 57% of value).*
- *Relative contribution of primary gears is down in 2025 and the other gear category is up to 19% from 16% in 2024.*

LONG-TERM CONTEXT

Overall Convention Area Catch: 2.6 million mt

(decrease of 472,000 mt from 2024)



Purse seine
1,787,386 mt — 69%
(▼ from 16%)

Longline
218,014 mt — 8%
(lower than 10-yr average)

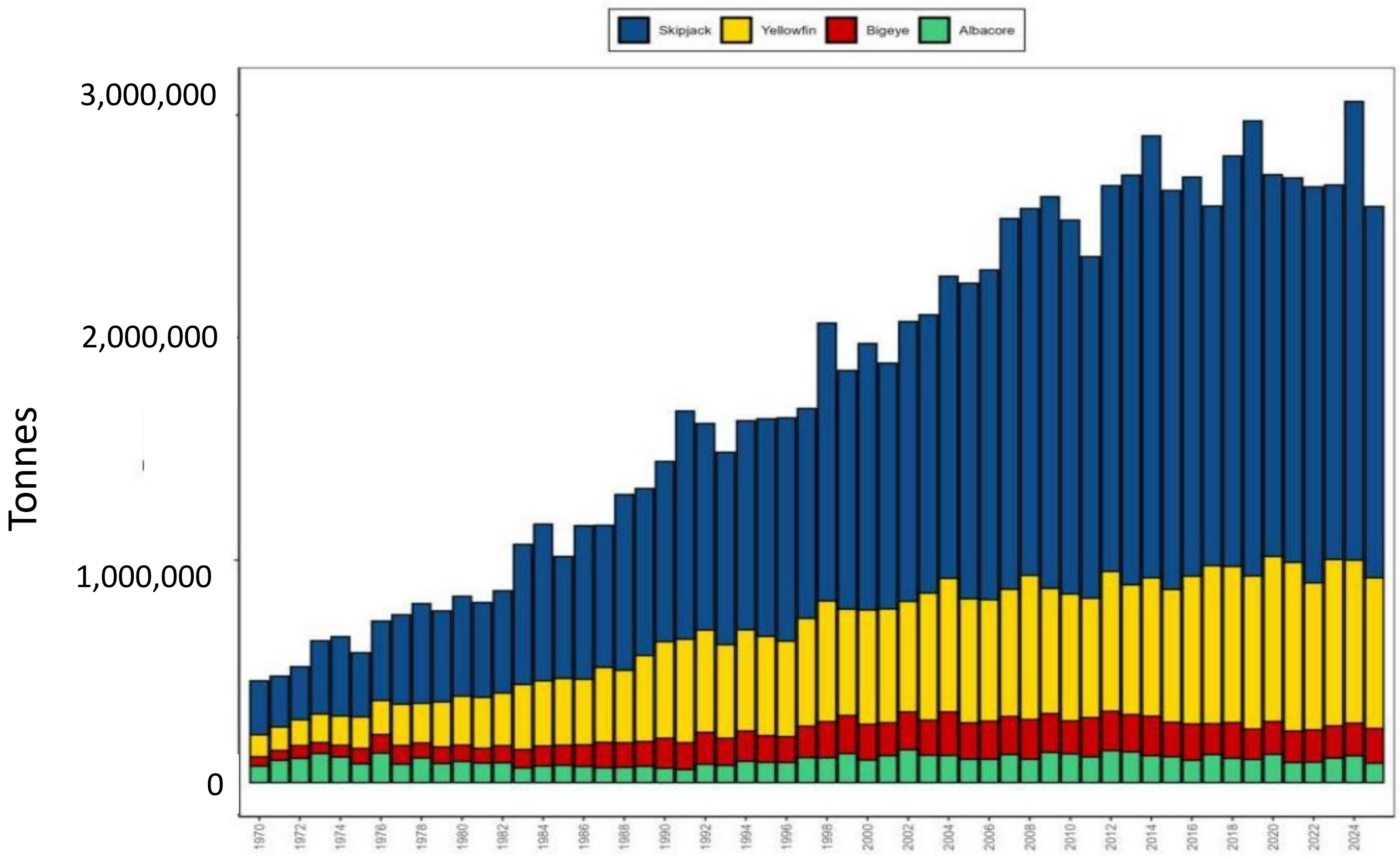
Pole-and-line
103,588 mt — 4%
(lowest since 1960s)

Other
479,957 mt — 19% (▲ from 16%)

Catch (mt) by gear, WCPFC-CA, 1970–2025 — purse seine, pole-and-line, longline, troll & other gears

2025 CATCH BY SPECIES

Catches generally down from 2024



Skipjack

1,668,409 mt — 64%

Yellowfin

677,123 mt — 26%

Bigeye

155,864 mt — 6% (▲ vs 2024)

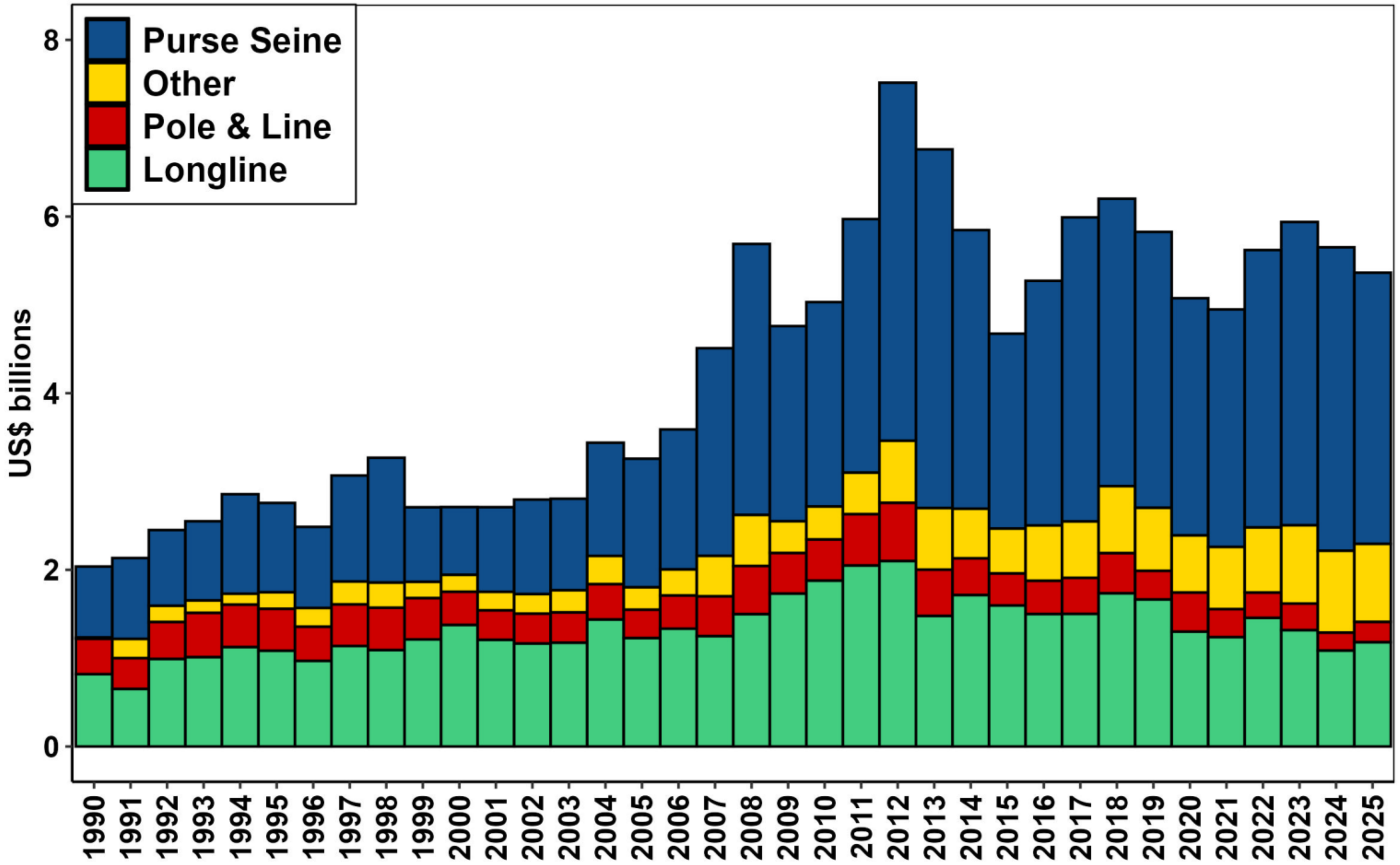
Albacore

87,549 mt — 3% (lowest since 1993)

Catches for three of the four species declined from 2024;
skipjack fell ~400,000 mt from its record;
albacore declined ~33,000 mt from 2024

Overall Convention Area Catch Value: US$5.4 billion

(decrease of US$287 million (-5%) from 2024)



2025 Estimates (US$ Billions)

Purse seine
3.1 — 57%
(▼ 11% ($0.365) from 2024)

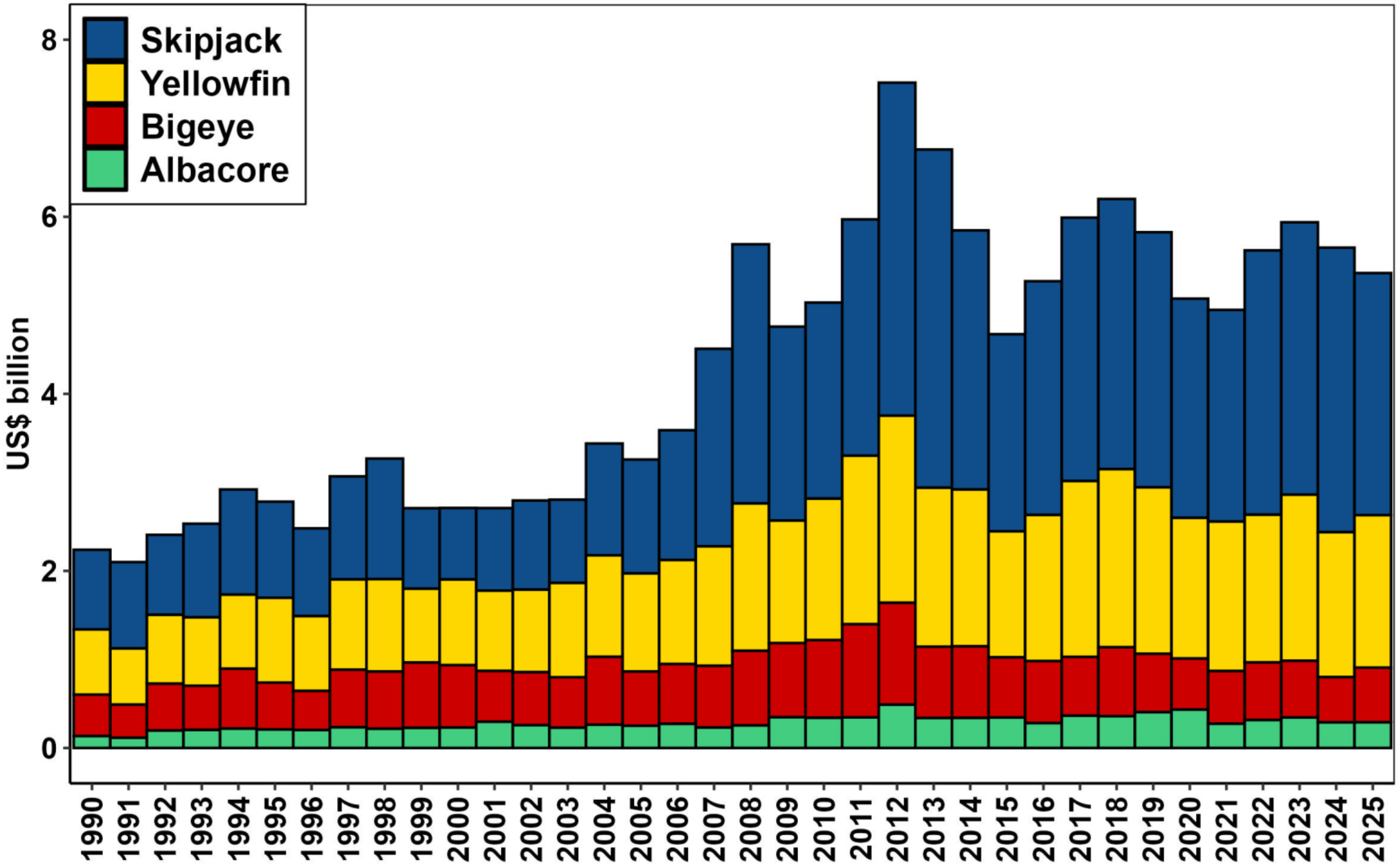
Longline
1.2 — 22%
(▲ 9%($0.094) from 2024)

Pole-and-line
0.230 — 4%
(▲ 13%($0.027) from 2024)

Other
0.882 — 16%
(▼ 5% ($0.043) from 2024)

Catch value (US$ billions) by gear, WCPFC-CA, 1990–2025 — purse seine, pole-and-line, longline, troll & other gears

2025 CATCH VALUE BY SPECIES



2025 Estimates (US$ Billions)

Skipjack
2.7 — 57%
(▼ 15% ($0.480) from 2024)

Yellowfin
1.7 — 29%
(▲ 5%($0.086) from 2024)

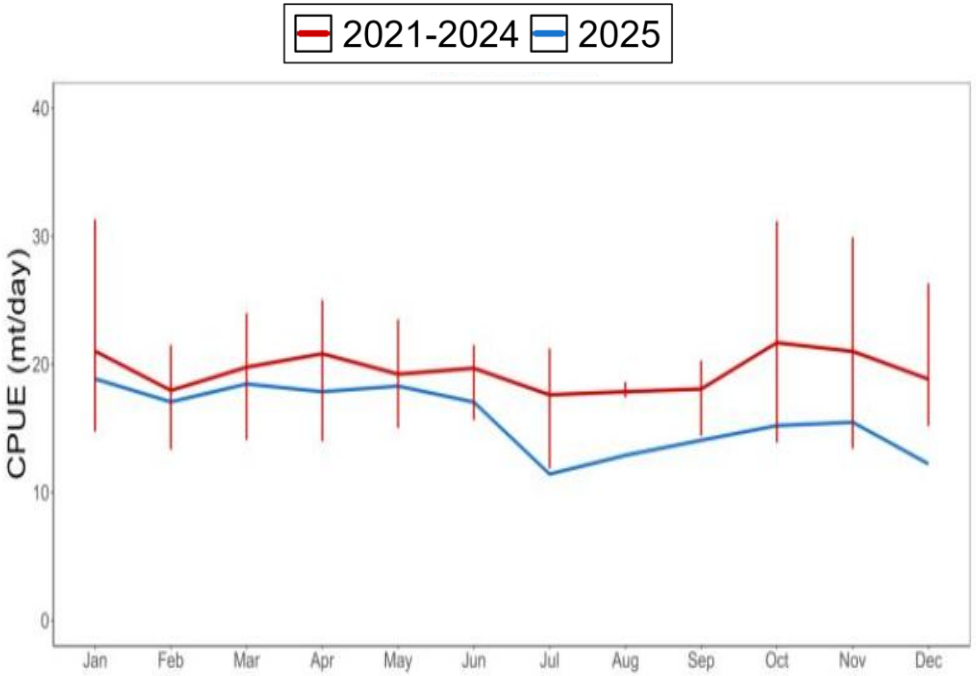
Bigeye
0.617 — 9%
(▲ 21%($0.106) from 2024)

Albacore
0.291 — 5%
(▲ 0.1% ($330K) from 2024)

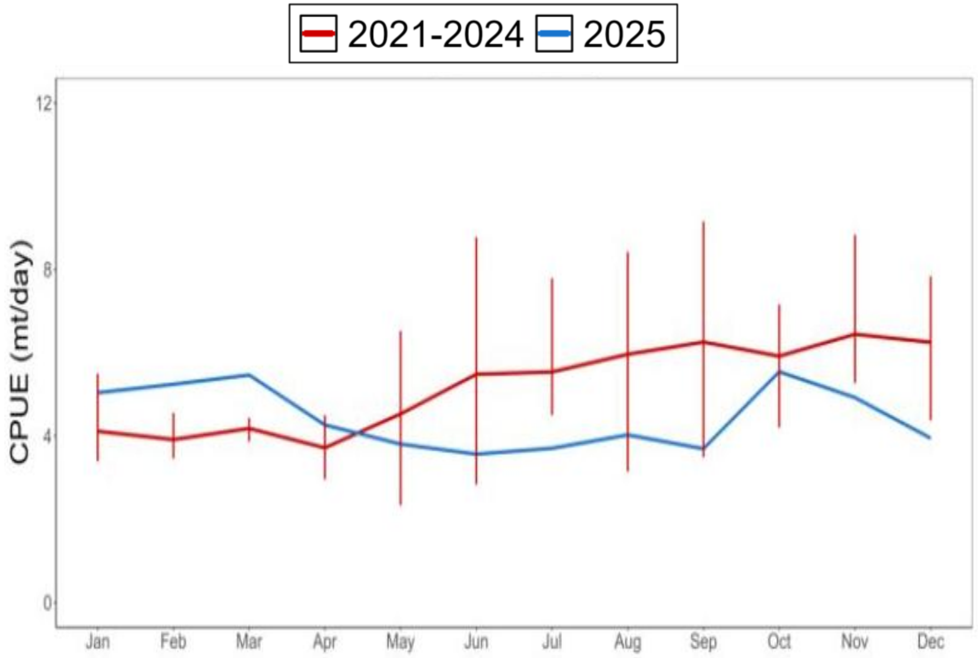
Catch values for three of the four species increased from 2024;
Skipjack fell ~US$1.09 billion from its record in 2013 (US$3.82 billion)

CATCH-PER-UNIT-EFFORT (CPUE)

Purse seine catch rates generally lower in 2025



Skipjack CPUE (mt/day) — 2025 vs 2021–2024 average



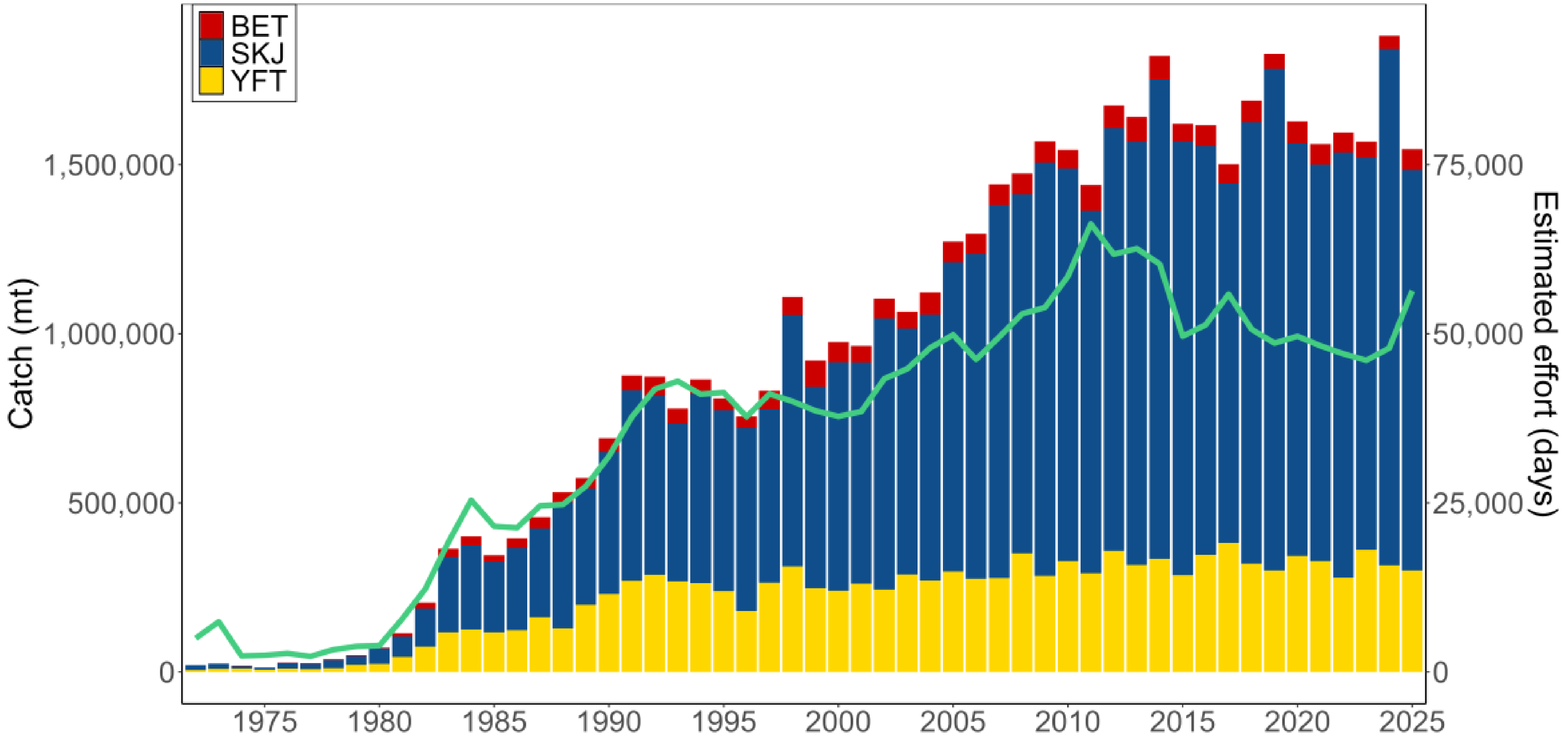
Yellowfin CPUE (mt/day) — 2025 vs 2021–2024 average

Skipjack catch rates ran below the 2021–2024 average for most of 2025, most notably Jul–Dec

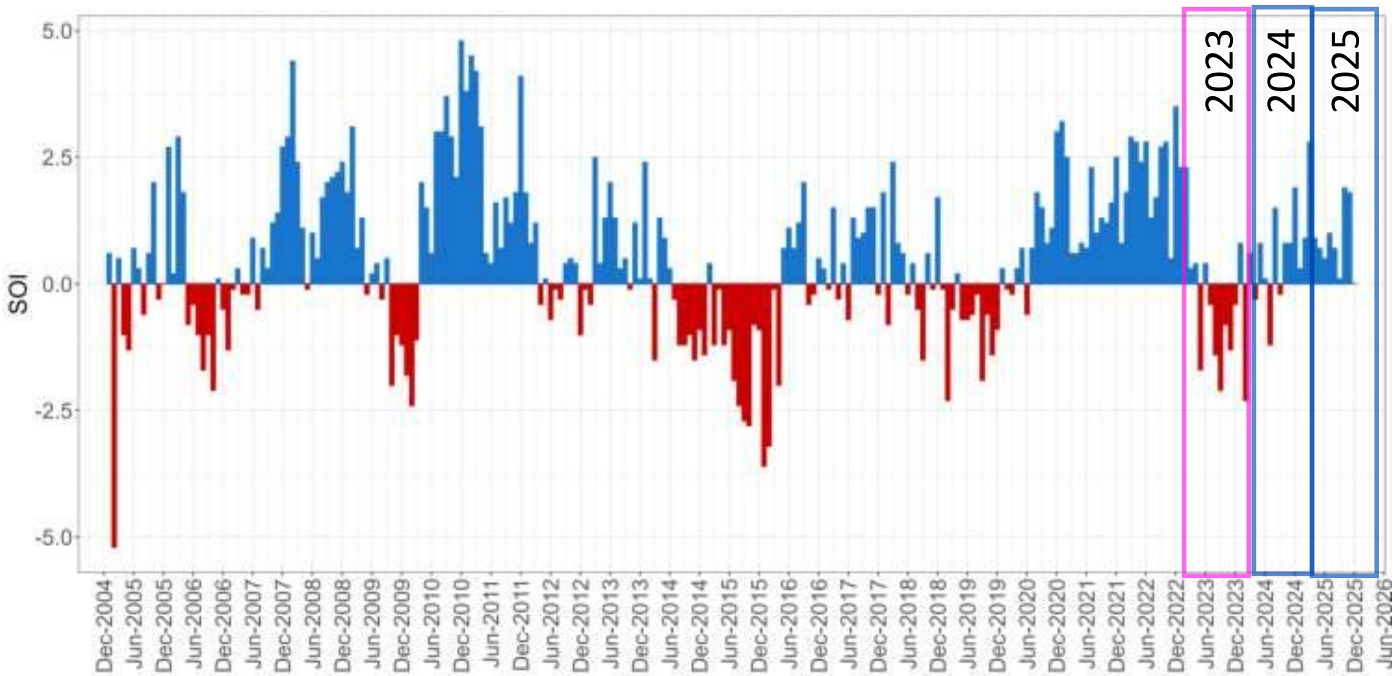
Yellowfin rates were stable (4–6 mt/day) but also below average from June onward

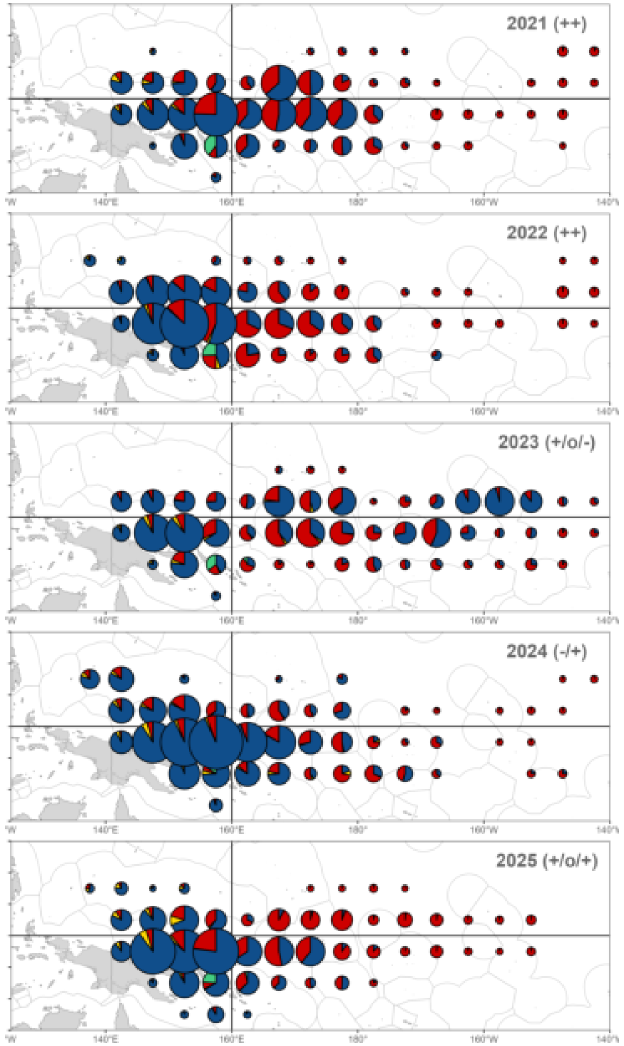
CATCH-PER-UNIT-EFFORT (CPUE)

Purse seine catch rates generally lower in 2025



ENSO Impacts on Purse Seine Distribution

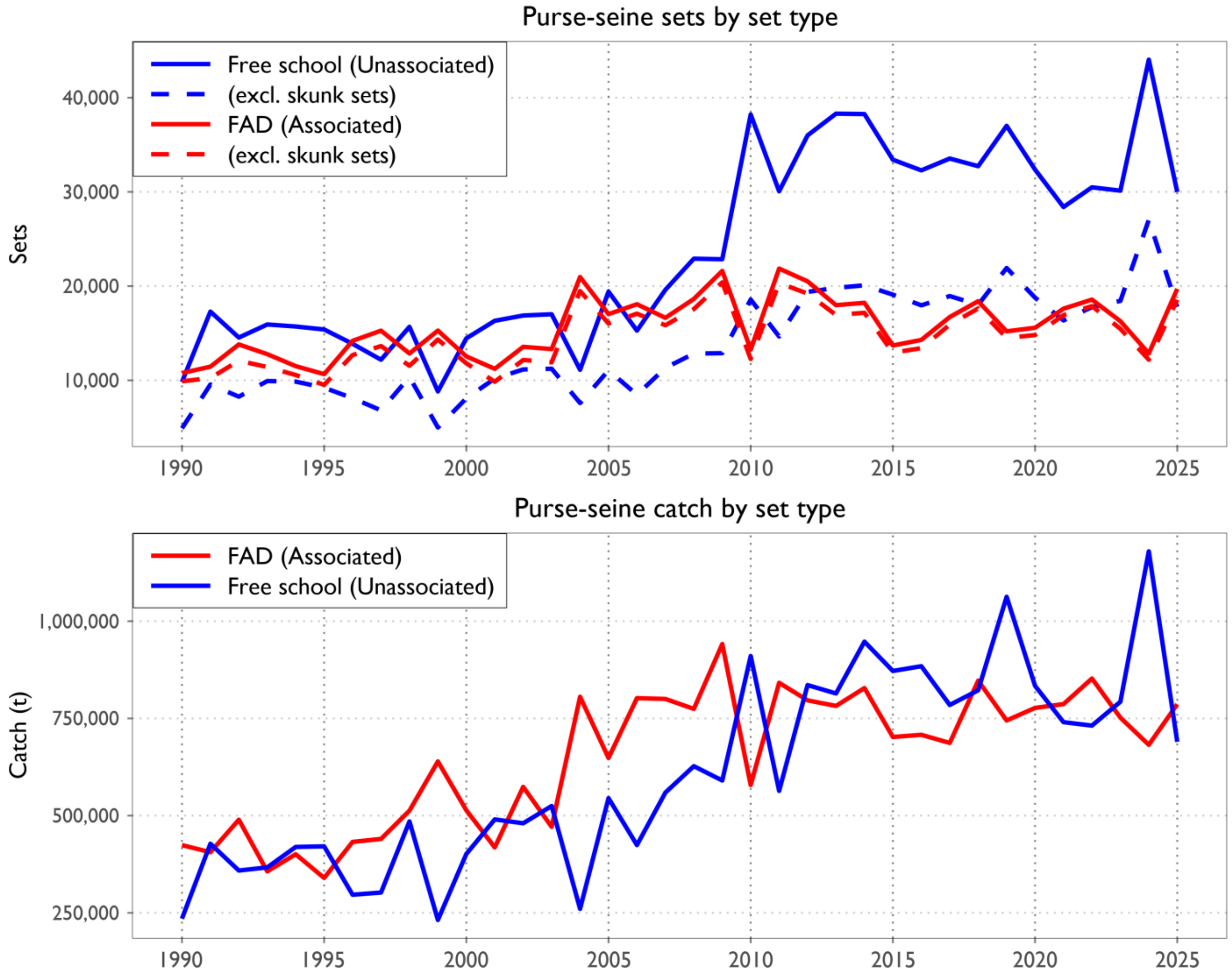




Red = FAD-Ass. Blue = Free school

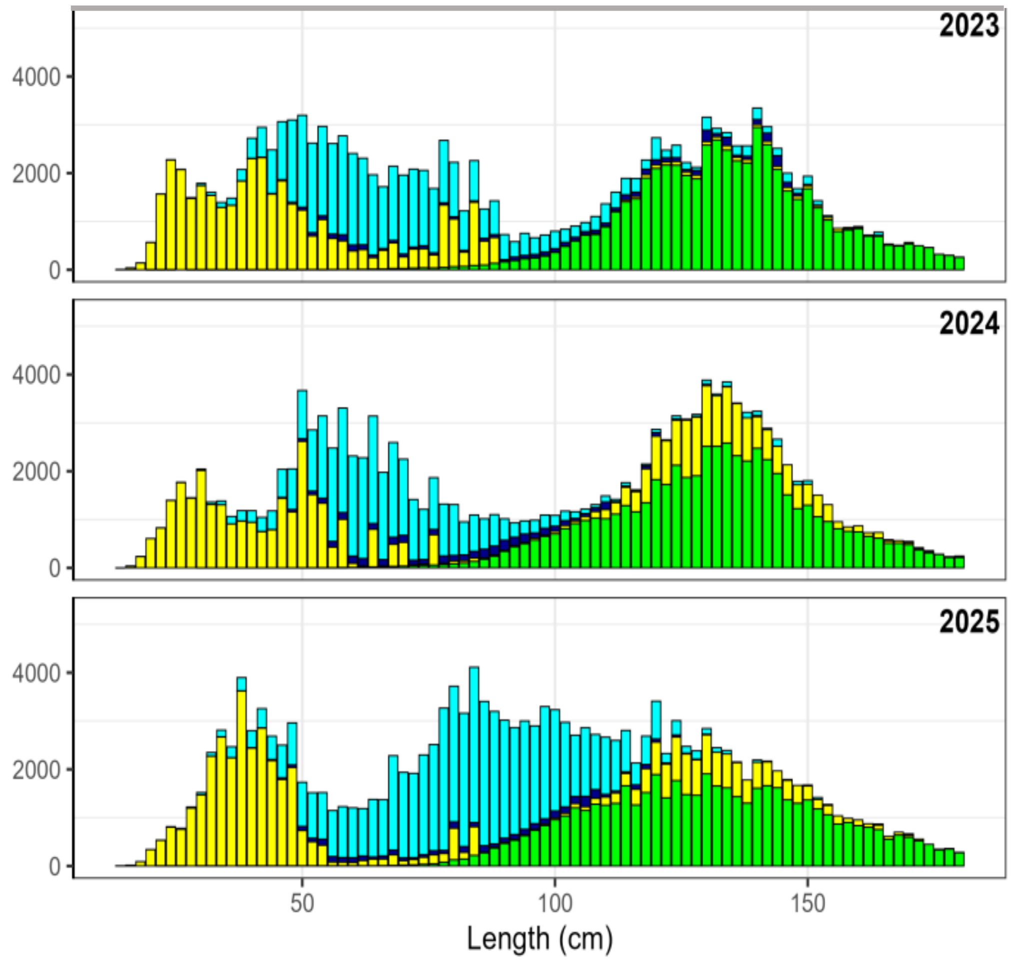
- La Niña conditions have mostly prevailed since 2020, except 2023
- Mid-2026: shift to neutral; possible El Niño ahead
- 2025: greater reliance on drifting FAD sets than 2024

Change in 2025 PS fishing (SA-WP-07)

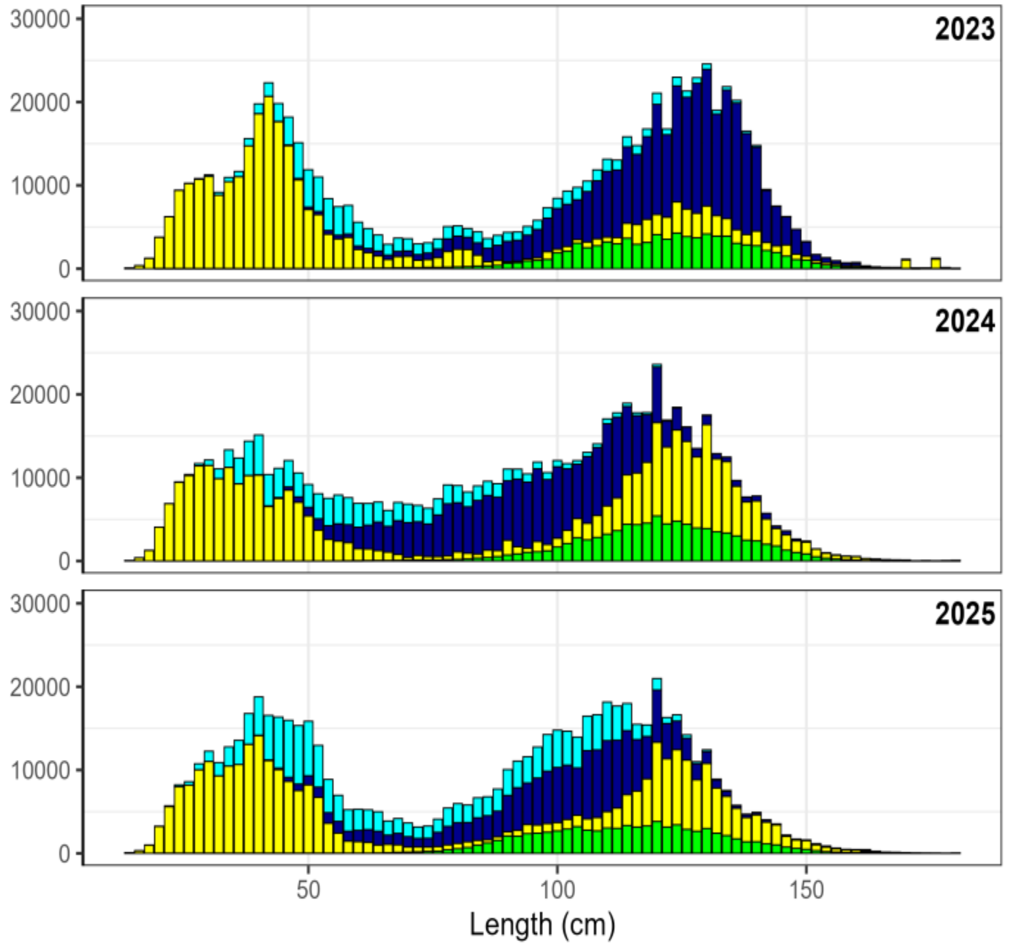


SIZE COMPOSITION

Estimated annual catch (mt) by size (cm) and gear type

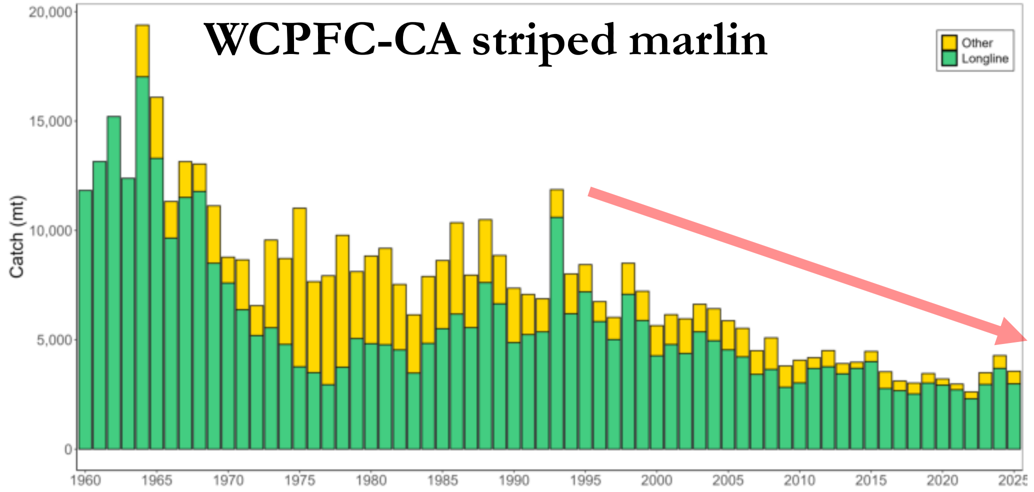


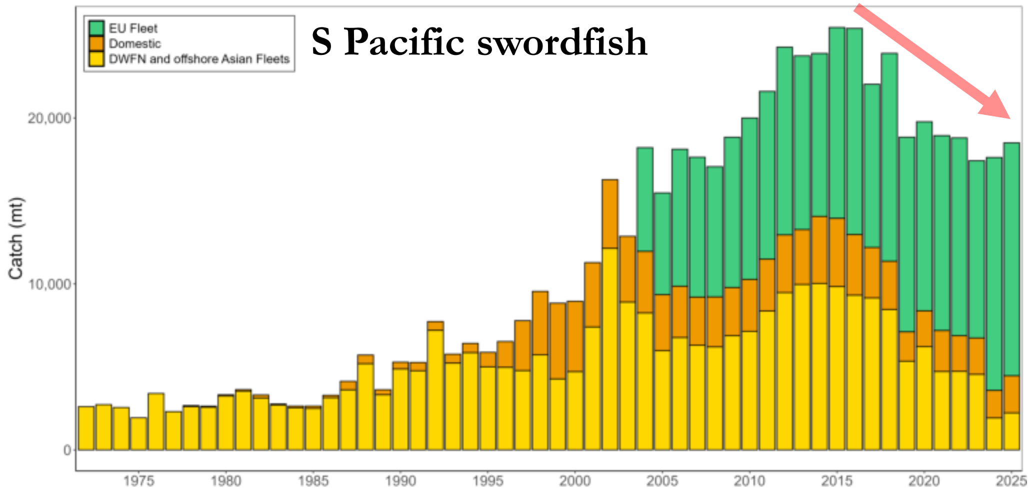
Bigeye

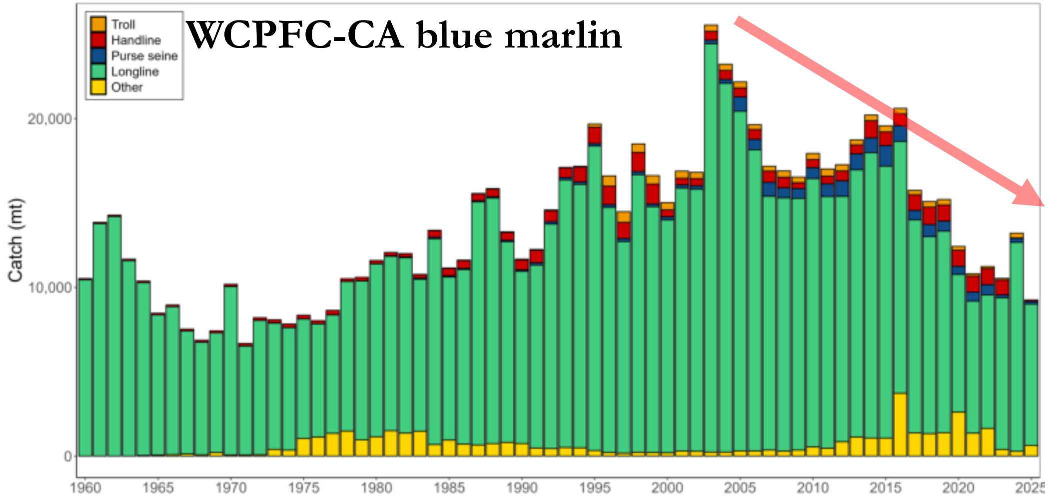


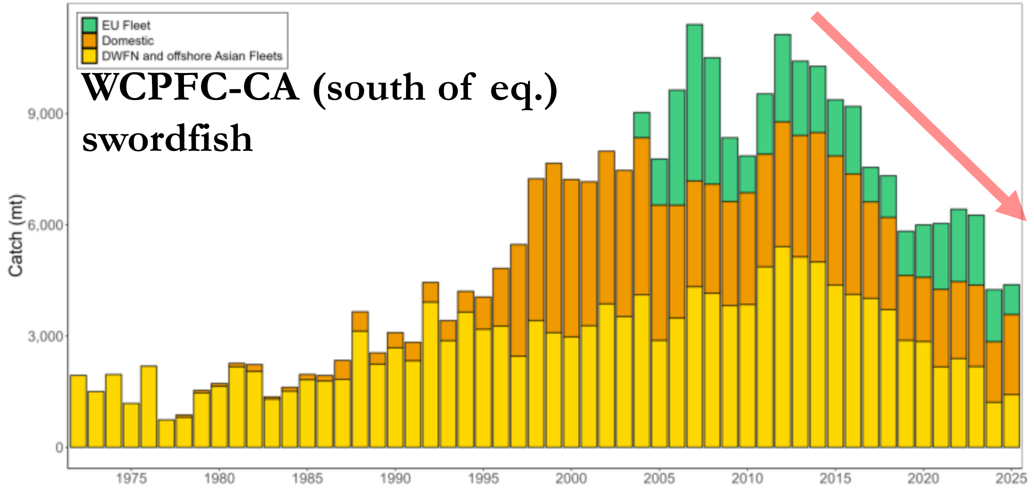
Yellowfin

Catch Histories: Billfish

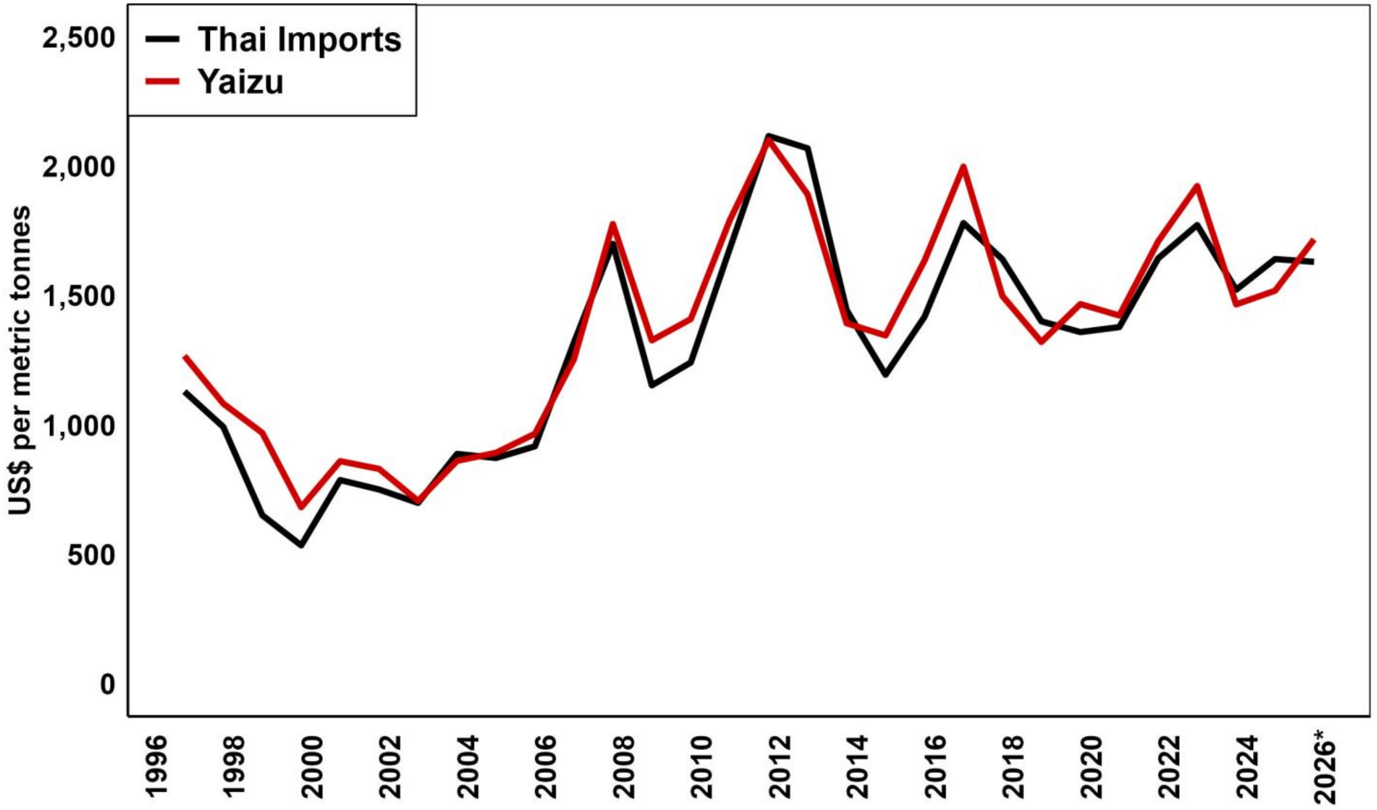








Purse Seine – caught tuna skipjack price



Thai Import Skipjack Price 2025

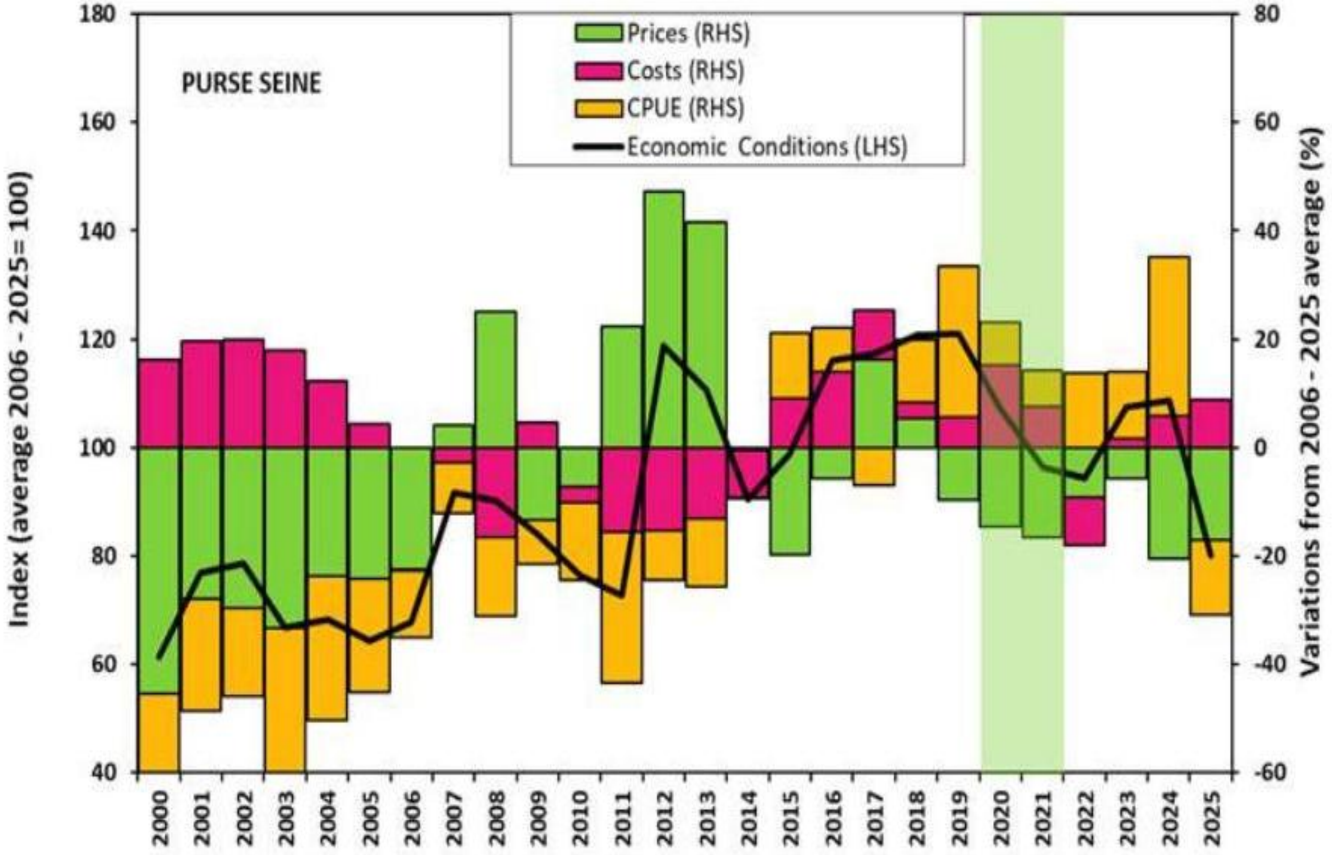
- US$ $1,641/mt (+8%) from 2024.

Yaizu Skipjack Price 2025

- US$ $1,519/mt (+4%) from 2024.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS INDEX (2006–25 AVG = 100)

Fishery Economics Weakened Across the Board



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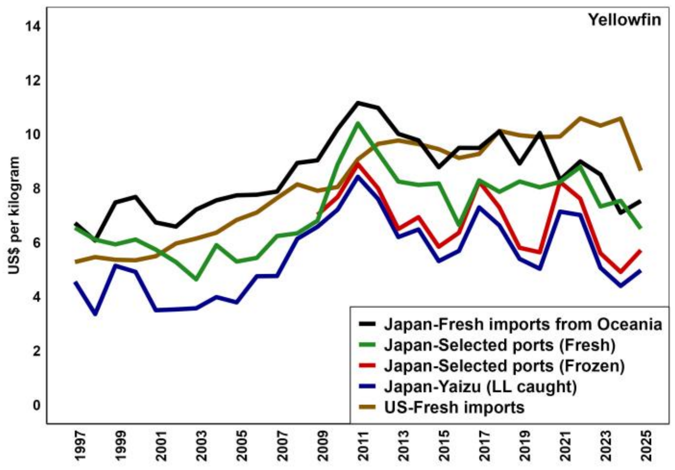
Tropical purse seine

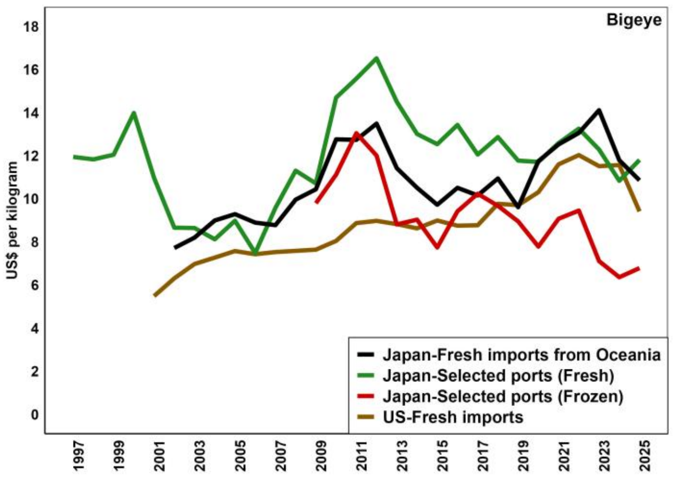
Catch rates & fish prices below average outweighed cheaper fuel

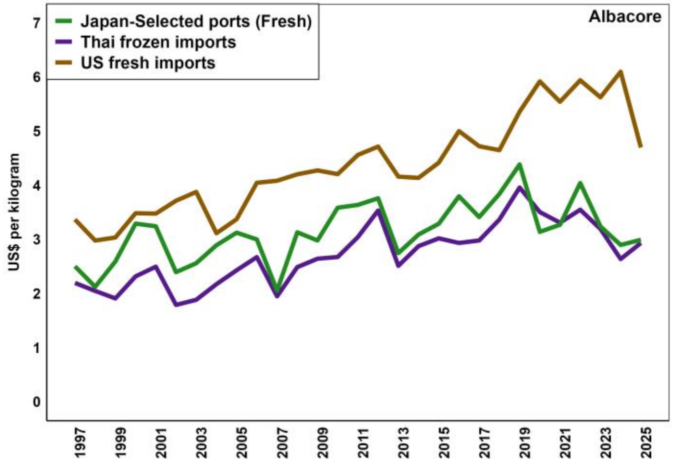
Recent years 2018-2024, conditions driven by high CPUE

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

Longline – caught tuna price







❖ Yellowfin 2024

- In USD terms: JP prices ↑ across major markets, except ↓ for fresh product from selected Japanese ports
- However, US fresh import price ↓ to $8.65/kg vs previous year ($10.58).

❖ Bigeye 2024

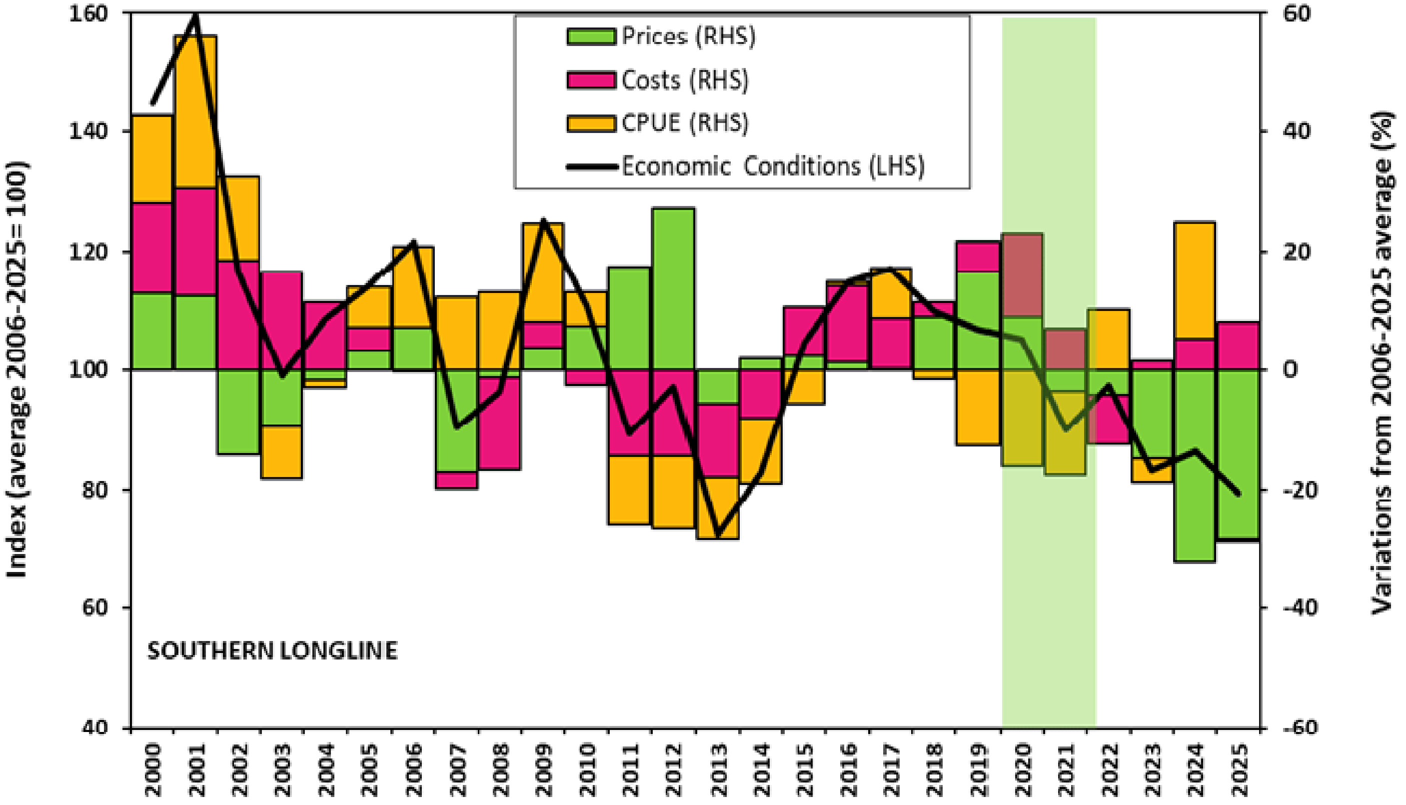
- In USD terms: JP prices ↑ across major markets , except ↓ for fresh product from Oceania
- However, US fresh import price ↓ to $9.42/kg vs previous year($11.57).

❖ Albacore 2024

- In USD terms: Thai frozen import and selected Japanese ports fresh prices ↑.
- However, US fresh import price ↓ (23%) to $4.70/kg.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Fishery Economics Weakened Across the Board



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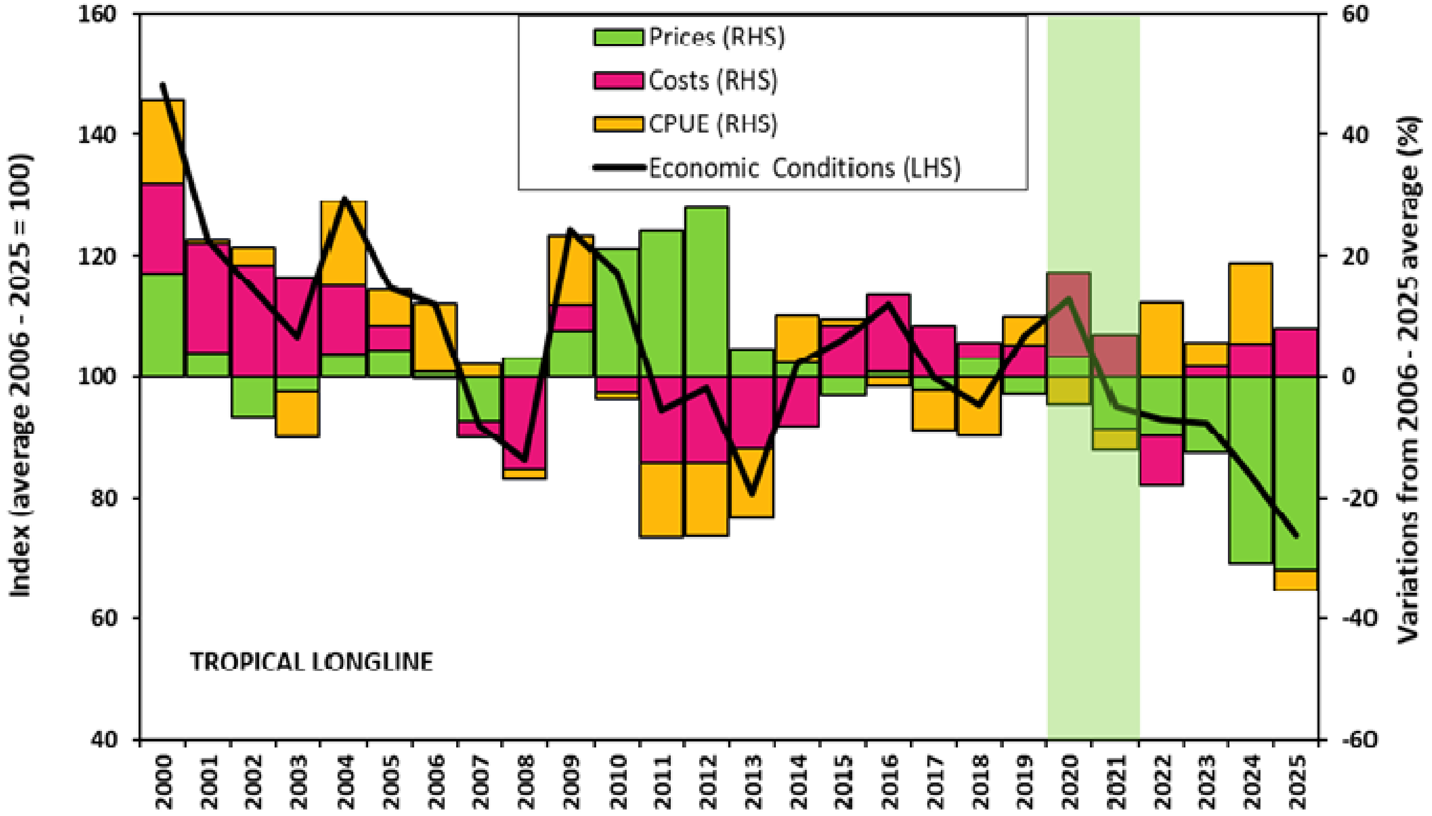
Southern longline

Weighed down by lower catch rates, weak fish prices

Recent years

- 2020-2021 conditions worsened due to low CPUE- in part due to COVID-19.
- 2022, conditions improved due to increase in CPUE – despite escalating fuel prices from the Russia/Ukraine conflict.
- 2023, conditions eased due to reduced CPUE despite declining fuel costs.
- 2024, conditions improved due to increase in CPUE and lower fuel costs.

Fishery Economics Weakened Across the Board



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Tropical longline

Lowest driver: falling catch rates and low fish prices

Recent years

- 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
- 2024, condition worsened primarily due to decline in fish prices despite high catch rates and declining fuel costs

2025 CATCH VALUE BY GEAR (US$5.4B TOTAL)

Longline & Pole-and-Line Values Up While Others Down

Purse seine	**US$3.1B**	57% of value	–11% vs 2024
Longline	**US$1.2B**	22% of value	+9% vs 2024
Other / small-scale gears	**US$882M**	16% of value	–5% vs 2024
Pole-and-line	**US$230M**	4% of value	+13% vs 2024

Key highlights from 2025

Catch

- 2025 catches down ~470K mt from record in 2024
- BET catches increased in 2025, with indications of larger individuals in the FAD catches, compared to previous years
- Relative proportion of catches from Other gears increased to 19% of the catch total
- Provisional SP ALB catches are down from 2024, but do not yet include 2025 updates for the EPO

Catch values

- LONGLINE - US$ 1.2 billion (9% increase from 2024)
- PURSE SEINE - US$ 3.1 billion (11% decrease from 2024)
- POLE & LINE - US$ 230 million (13% increase from 2024)

Economics conditions

- PURSE SEINE - Index below the 20-year average at 80
- SOUTHERN LONGLINE - Index below the 20-year average at 79
- TROPICAL LONGLINE - Index below the 20-year average at 74