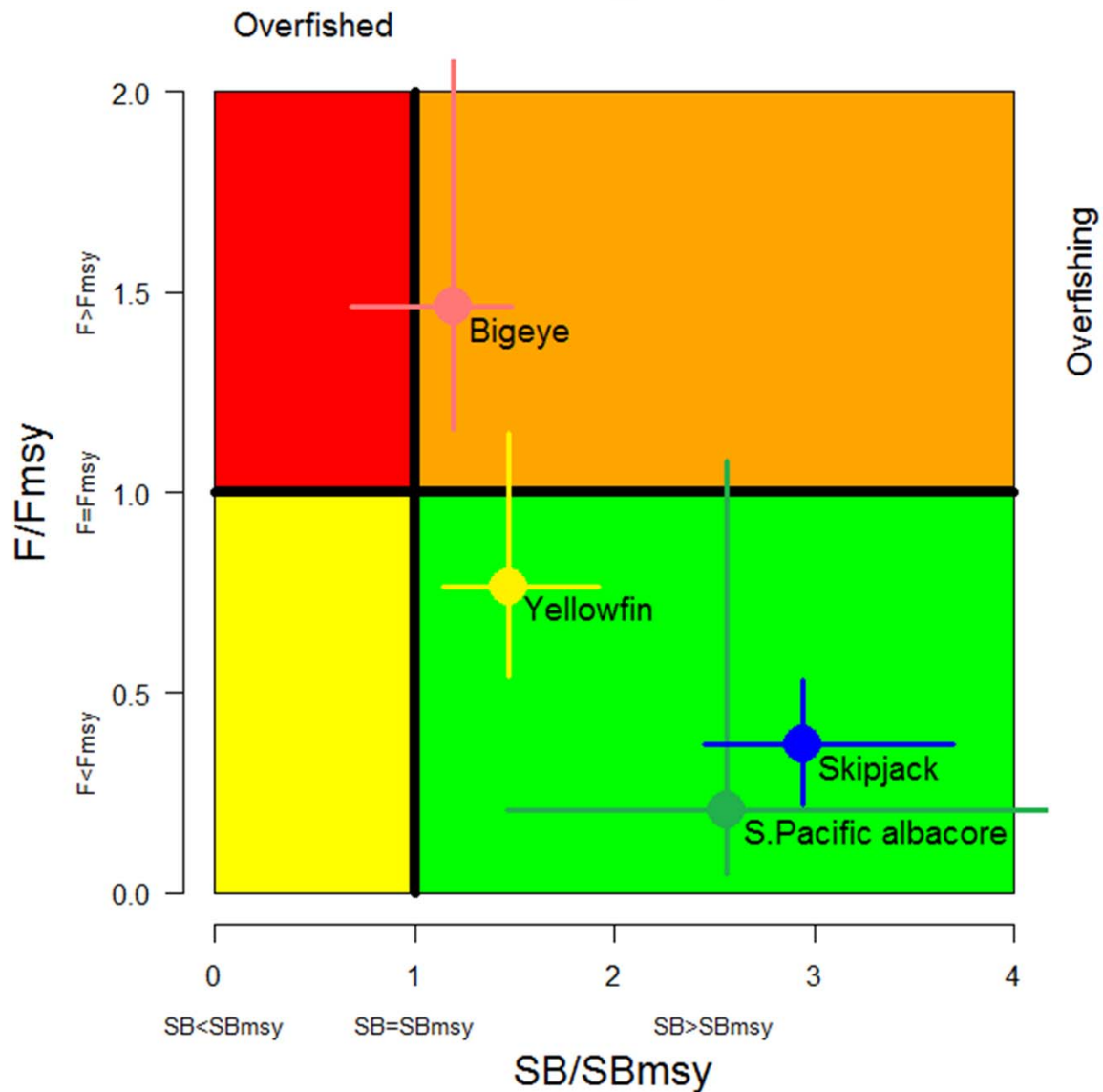# Status and trends in bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tunas

Oceanic Fisheries Programme[1]

Working Group on Tropical Tunas
Mita Conference Centre, Tokyo Japan
27-30 August 2013

[1] Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP), Noumea, New Caledonia
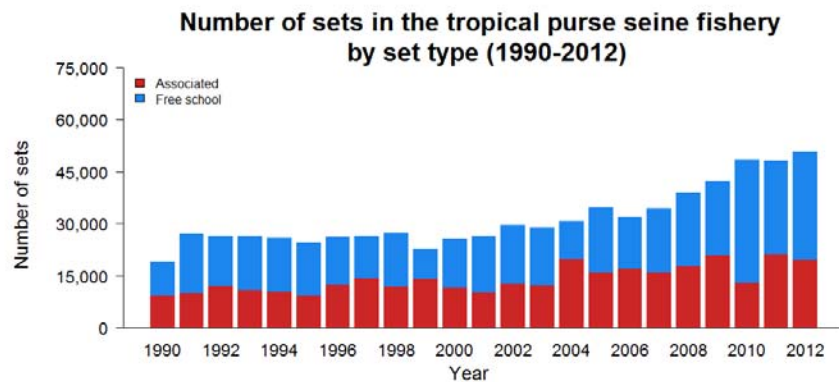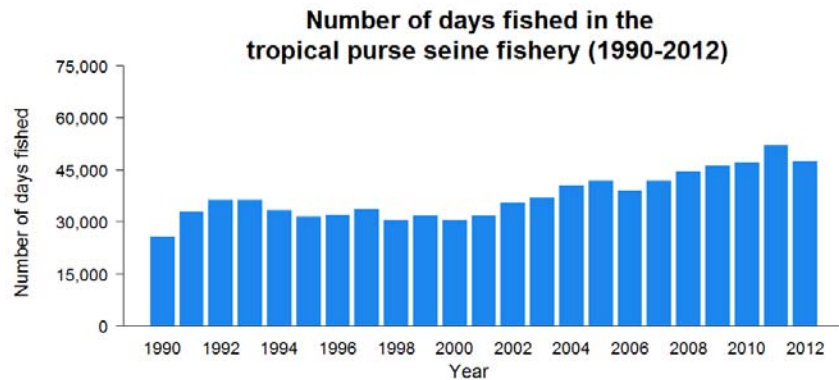
- All stocks <u>above the level that will produce the MSY</u>
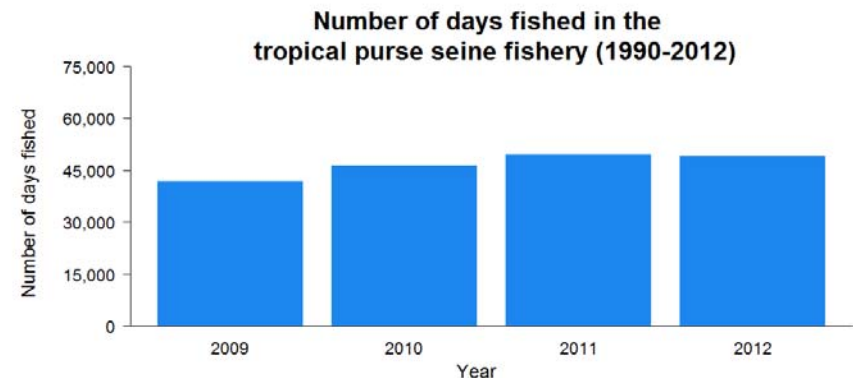- All stocks <u>at or near their lowest estimated biomass level</u>

PS Effort

(20°N – 20°S, excluding domestic PS effort for ID and PH)

Number of days fished in the tropical purse seine fishery (1990-2012)

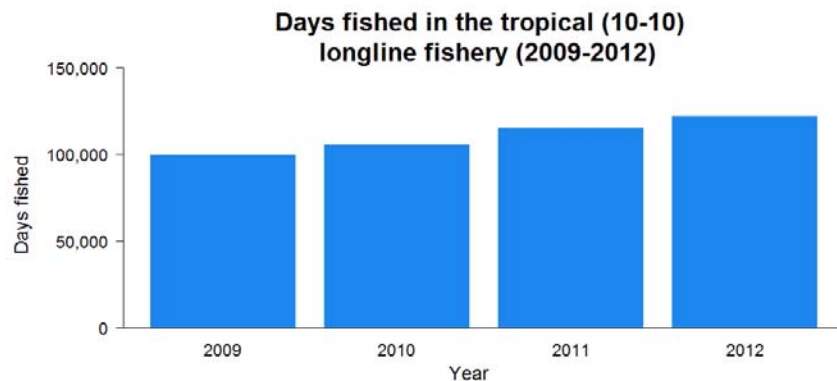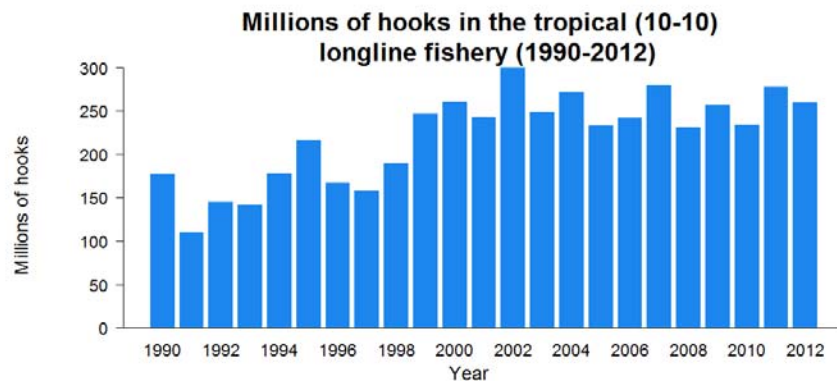Number of sets in the tropical purse seine fishery by set type (1990-2012)

- VMS days similar to 2011
- Total sets up 5% on 2011, FAD sets down on 2011 but up 10% on 2007-11 average
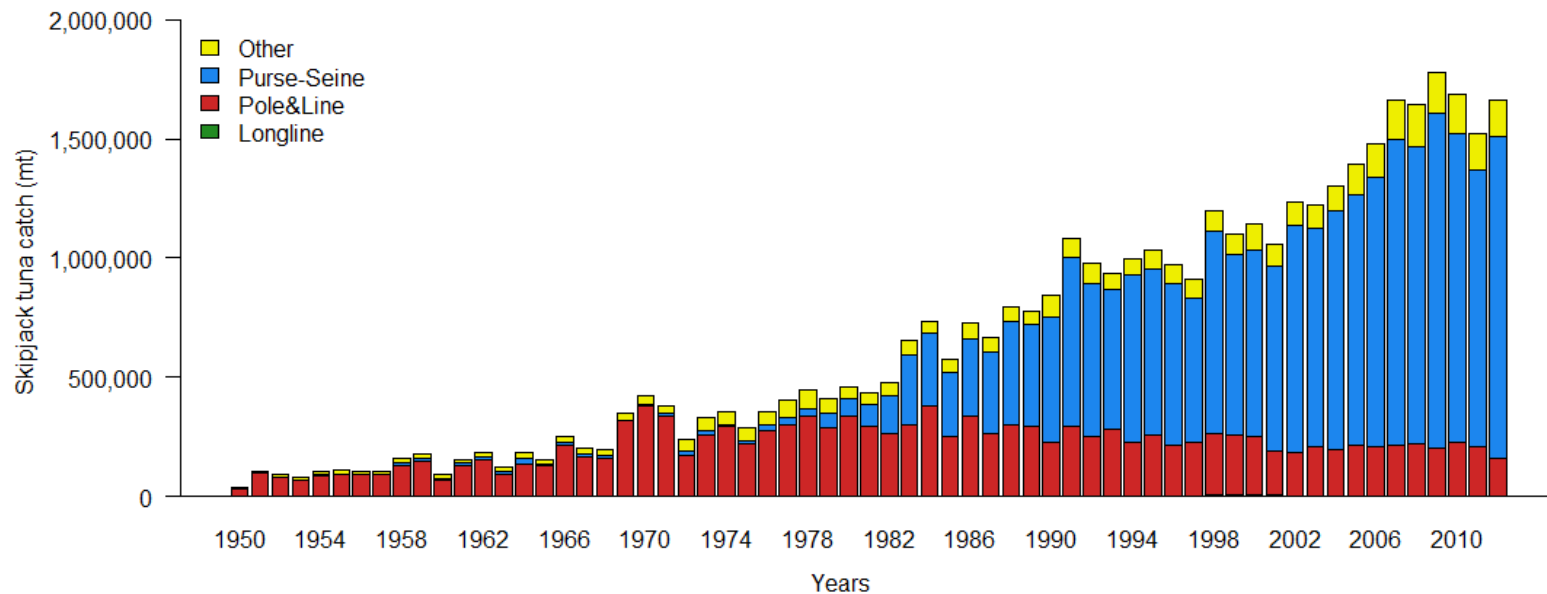- Logsheet days down 10% due to change in reporting

Number of days fished in the tropical purse seine fishery (1990-2012)

Tropical longline effort (10N-10S)

Millions of hooks in the tropical (10-10) longline fishery (1990-2012)

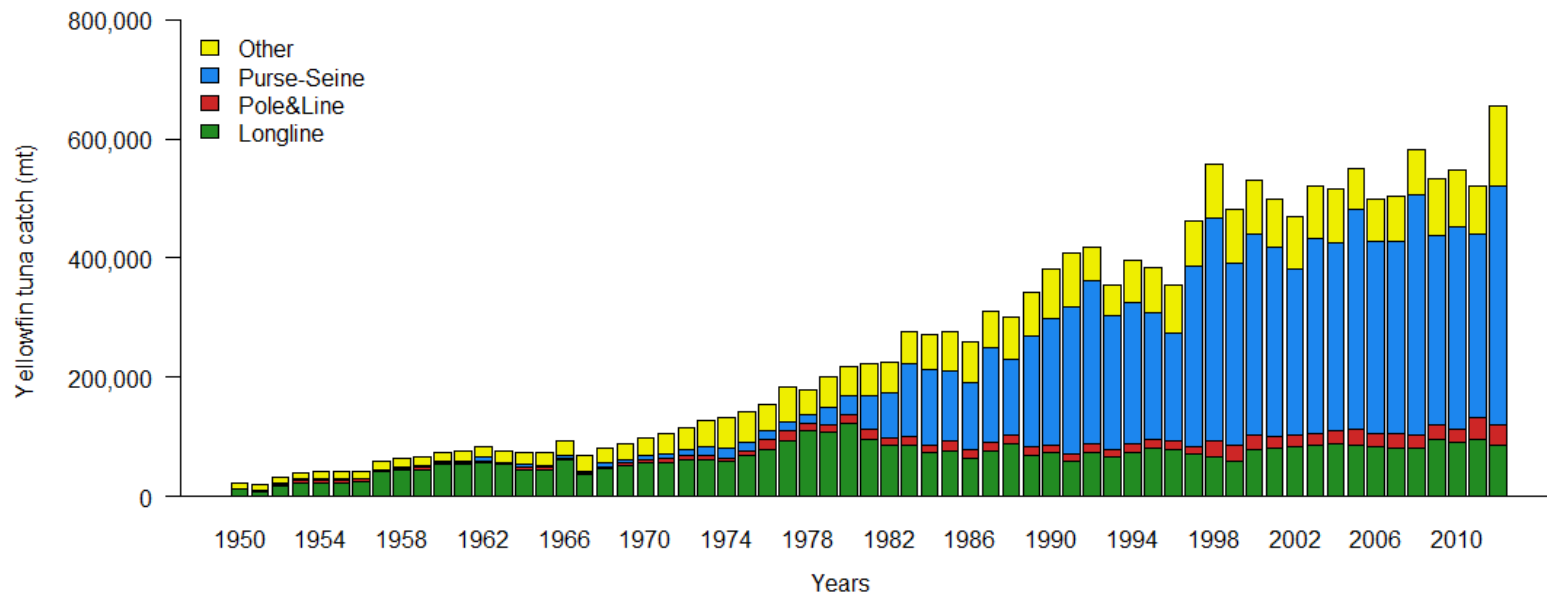Days fished in the tropical (10-10) longline fishery (2009-2012)

- Hooks down 7% on 2011, but little change to five year average

- VMS up 6% on 2011, but 14% on last three years

- Increasing coverage of the Commission VMS?
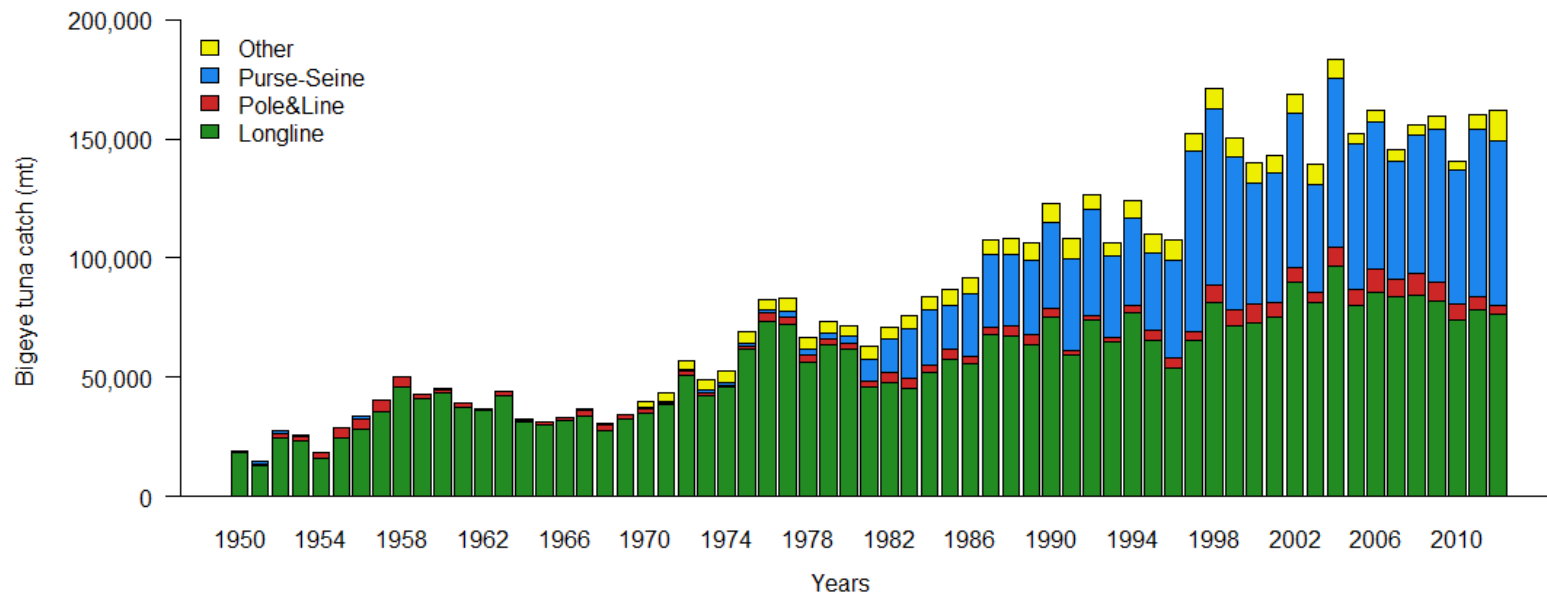
Skipjack

- 1.7 million t – up 9% from 2011
- Pole and line down 24% from 2011 and last five years
- Purse seine up 16% on 2011 – and 5% on five year average

Yellowfin tuna

- 655kt a clear record – up 26% from 2011 and 22% on last five years

- Longline down 10% but purse seine up 29%

- *Increase in ID catches drive "other" (up 69%)*
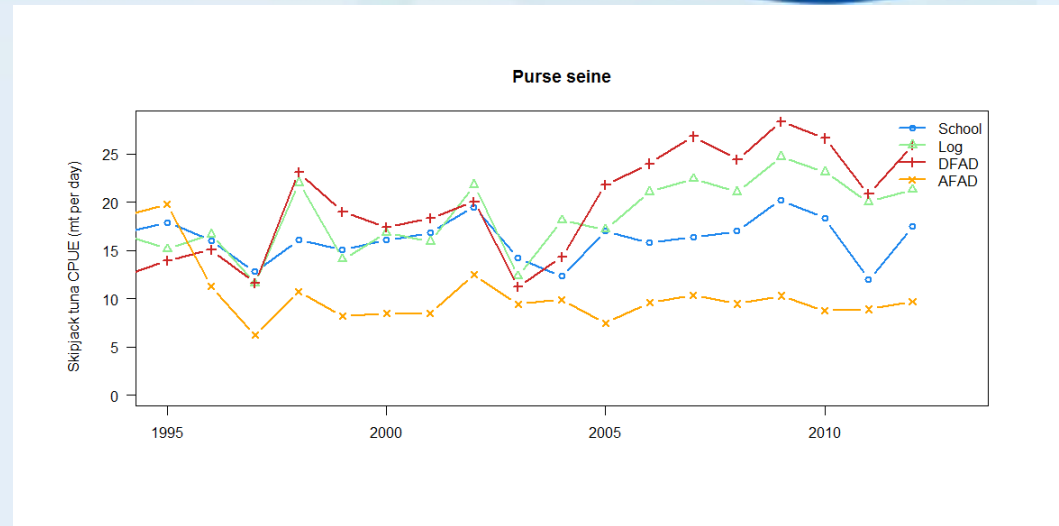
Bigeye tuna

- 161kt up 1% on 2011, but up 6% on last five years
- Longline down 2% on 2011 and 5% on last five years
- P. seine down 2% on 2011, but up 16% on last five years
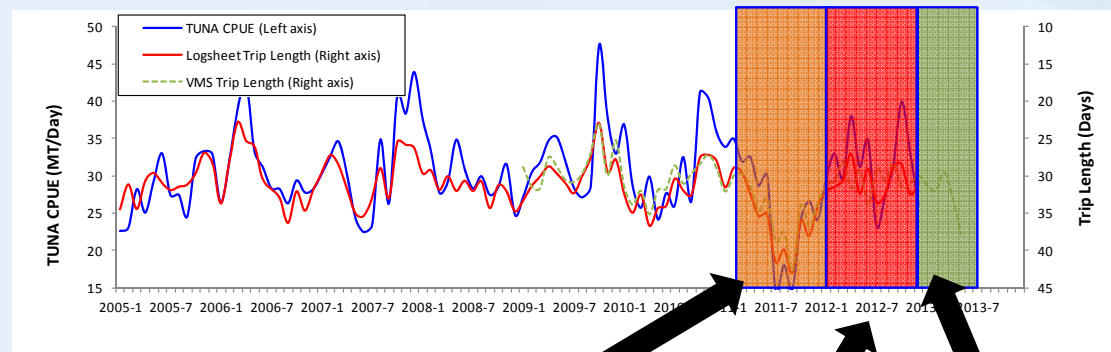- *Increase from ID contributes to "other" (up 128%)*

SKJ catch rates

- PS CPUE generally increasing as stock is declining

- Large drop in late 2011

- Preliminary analysis suggests episode of poor recruitment

- New event or natural consequence of reduced stock size?
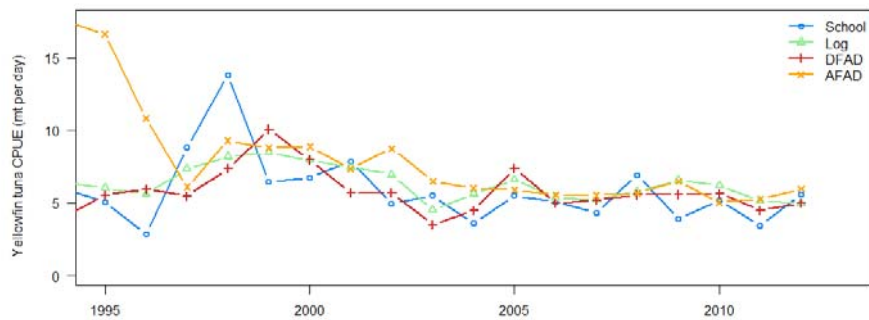

2011

2012
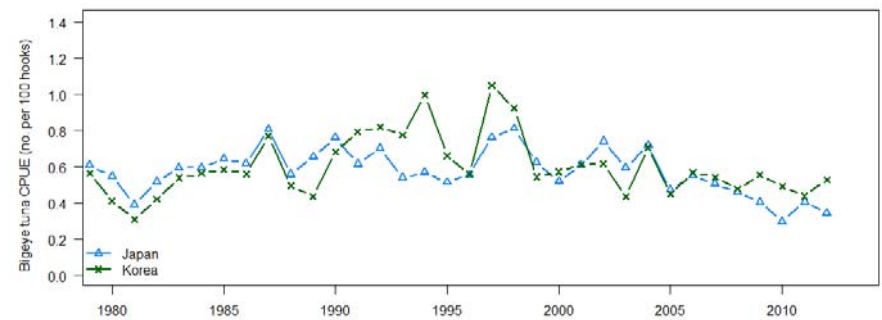
2013
Jan-Jun

BET and YFT CPUE

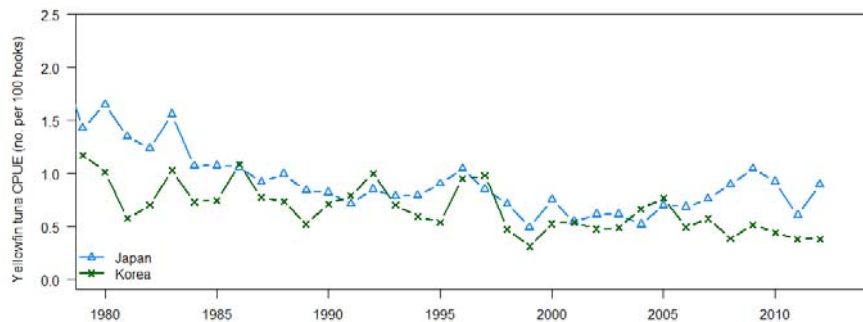**Yellowfin tuna**

Bigeye tuna

- decline in YFT CPUE for PS
- longer term YFT LL CPUE decline reduced in recent years
- decline in BET LL CPUE since mid 1990s

WCP-CA Purse seine fishery

Number of vessels