



West Pacific East Asia Project

SC21-RP-WPEA-01

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Background

- Catch in this region represents around 30% of the annual catches of key tuna species in the WCPO
- Including about 40% of the total yellowfin tuna catch in the WCPO
- Data collection is incredibly challenging with many hundreds of ports and many thousands of vessels
- Also, incredibly important for WCPO stock assessments

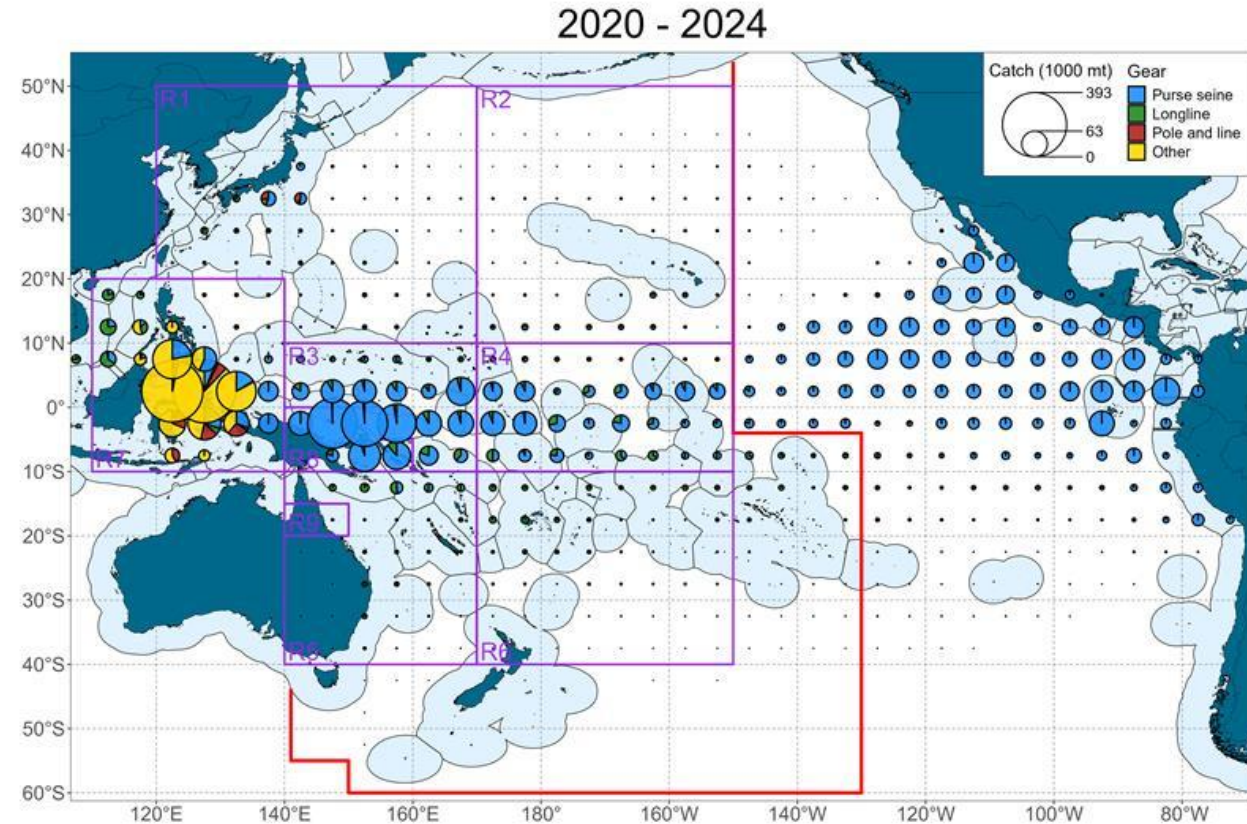


Figure 1. Catch of yellowfin tuna by gear type from 2020-2024.



Update since project start July 2024

- Shared Activities
 - Negotiations training (August 2024)
 - Working Group planning meeting (January 2025)
 - Stock Assessment/Harvest Strategy training (May 2025)
- In Country Activities
 - Enumerators supported in IDN/PHL
 - Annual Catch Estimates Workshops supported IDN/PHL (and VNM)
 - SPC Pre Assessment Workshop IDN
 - Support to attend SC, TCC, WCPFC
- Bonus Activity
 - Yellowfin Connectivity study (Project 128) (May 2025)

Challenges

- VNM Implementing Agreement not yet signed
 - Limits ability for in country work
- Observer Data Workshop postponed
 - Was planned for October 2025
- Scheduling in country work

Opportunities

- Increased focus on WCPFC improvements at country ACE workshops
- Supporting Connectivity project
- Start thinking about to support this work after this project ends in 2027

Recommendation to SC21

- SC21 will note the progress to date on the new WPEA-SPF project, which began in July 2024.

