



## OFFSHORE FISHERIES FACTSHEET

### Tuna Fishing Techniques in the Western & Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO)

THE purse seine, longline, pole-and-line and troll fishing operations are four industrial fishing methods undertaken in the WCPO within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Pacific states and on international waters (high seas).

Main tuna species targeted by these fisheries are skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*) and albacore tuna (*T. alalunga*).

#### Fishing Methods:

##### Purse-Seine:

This fishing method mainly targets skipjack and small yellowfin, which are mostly caught for canning. Skipjack generally accounts for 70 – 85 per cent of the purse seine catch, with yellowfin accounting for 15 – 30 per cent and bigeye accounting for only a small proportion.

##### Longline:

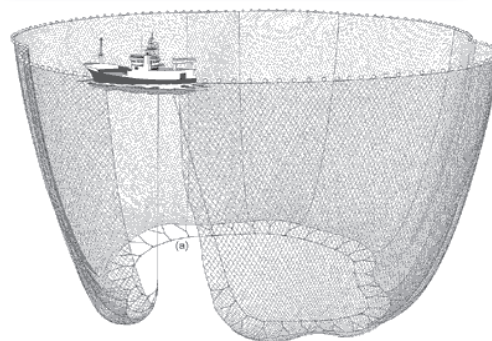
Most tuna caught from a longline gear are large size yellowfin, bigeye and albacore. The prime yellowfin and bigeye often are exported fresh to overseas markets. Most of the albacore is for canning. The longline fishery continues to account for around 10 – 13 per cent of the total WCPO region.

### ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF TUNA IN THE PACIFIC

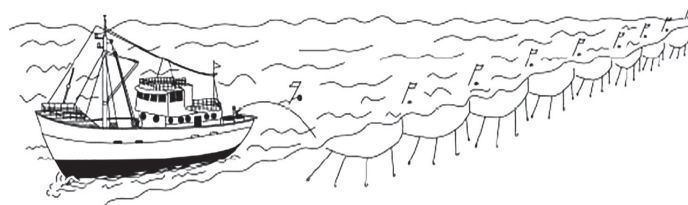
#### FACT BOX 1

##### 2017 Provisional WCPO Tuna Catch & Species Breakdown

- 2,557,611t / Record catch - 2,883,204t, 2014
- 78% of Pacific Ocean catch of 3,262,111t
- 54% of global tuna catch of 4,738,243t
- Skipjack – 1,627,971t or 64% of total catch
- Yellowfin – 681,444t or 27% of total catch
- Bigeye – 129,173t or 5% of total catch
- Albacore – 90,664t or 4% of total catch



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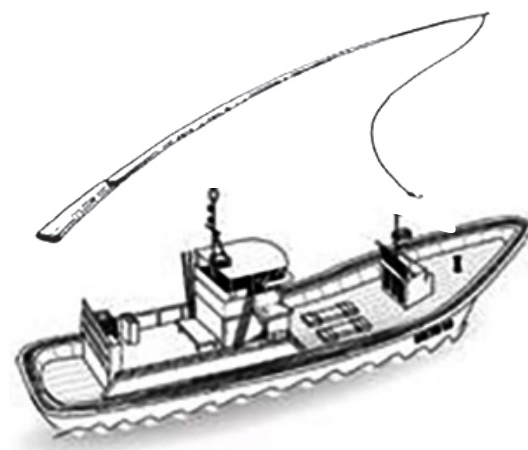
#### FACT BOX 2

##### 2017 WCPO Tuna Catch Estimates per Fishery

- 1,825,444t - Purse seine fishery (71% of catch / Record catch - 2,059,008t, 2014)
- 243,276t - Longline fishery (10% of catch / Record catch - 2,059,008t, 2004)
- 151,232t - Pole-and-Line fishery (6% of catch) / Record catch - 415,016t, 1984)
- Troll gear accounted for <1% of total catch (10,972t) / Record catch - 141,117t, 2016.
- Remaining 13% accounted for the variety of artisanal gear mostly used in Eastern Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, which is also a record

## Pole-and-Line:

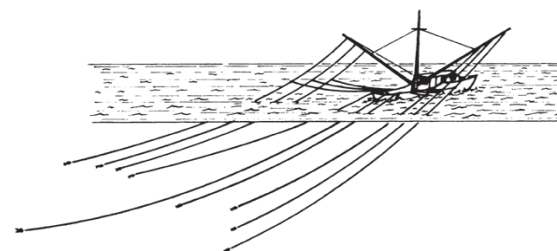
Mainly skipjack and small yellowfin tuna are caught by pole-and-line gear. Most catch is for canning or producing a dried product. Economic factors and technological advances in the purse seine fishery have seen a gradual decline in the number of vessels in the pole-and-line fishery and in the annual pole-and-line catch during the past 15 - 20 years. Pacific Island domestic fleets have also declined in recent years with fisheries formerly operating in Palau, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Fiji are no longer active and fishing activity in the Solomon Islands fishery has reduced significantly from the level experienced during the 1990s. Most of the current pole-and-line catch occurs in the waters around Japan and Indonesia.



## Troll

Large-scale trolling targets albacore tuna for canning. Responsible for about 10 per cent of tuna catch in the WCPO.

Trolling works by towing artificial lures with barbless hooks, 'trolls', behind a fishing vessel at a speed of about 6 knots. It is carried out in cool waters to the south and north of the Pacific Islands region.



## 2019 WCPFC Convention Area Estimated Registered Vessels: 3,904

### WCPFC Convention Area Registered Tuna Longliners & Longliners: 2,425

1. **Australia:** 2 (Tuna Longliners) 38 (Longliners) = 40
2. **China:** 163 (Tuna Longliners) 357 (Longliners) = 520
3. **Cook Islands:** 7 (Tuna Longliners) 6 (Longliners) = 13
4. **Federate States of Micronesia:** 12 (Tuna Longliners) 5 (Longliners) = 17
5. **Fiji:** 42 (Tuna Longliners) 29 (Longliners) = 71
6. **French Polynesia:** 76 (Tuna Longliners) = 76
7. **Japan:** 434 (Tuna Longliners) 5 (Longliners) = 439
8. **Korea (Republic of):** 117 (Tuna Longliners) = 117
9. **New Caledonia:** 16 (Tuna Longliners) = 16
10. **New Zealand:** 3 (Longliners) = 3
11. **United States of America:** 2 (Longliners) = 2
12. **Papua New Guinea:** 7 (Tuna Longliners) = 7
13. **Portugal:** 9 (Tuna Longliners) = 9
14. **Spain:** 23 (Tuna Longliners) = 23
15. **Chinese Taipei:** 980 (Tuna Longliners) 25 (Longliners) = 1,005
16. **Tonga:** 1 (Tuna Longliners) = 1
17. **Tuvalu:** 2 (Tuna Longliners) = 2
18. **Vanuatu:** 64 (Tuna Longliners) = 64

### WCPFC Convention Area Registered Pole and Line: 102

1. **Indonesia** – 13
2. **Japan** – 77
3. **United States of America** – 12

### WCPFC Convention Area Registered Purse Seiners and Tuna Purse Seiners: 485

1. **Australia:** = 7 (Purse Seiner)
2. **China:** 70 (Purse Seiner) 8 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 78
3. **Ecuador:** 7 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 7
4. **El Salvador:** 4 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 4
5. **Federated States of Micronesia:** 23 (Purse Seiner) = 23
6. **France:** 14 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 14
7. **Indonesia:** 9 (Purse Seiner) = 9
8. **Japan:** 38 (Purse Seiner) 28 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 66
9. **Kiribati:** 1 (Purse Seiner) 10 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 11
10. **Korea (Republic of):** 24 (Purse Seiner) 27 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 51
11. **Republic of Marshall Islands:** 6 (Purse Seiner) 5 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 11
12. **Nauru:** 2 (Purse Seiner) = 2
13. **New Zealand:** 1 (Purse Seiner) = 1
14. **Papua New Guinea:** 15 (Purse Seiner) 12 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 27
15. **Philippines:** 38 (Tuna Purse Seiner) 28 (Purse Seiner) = 66
16. **Solomon Islands:** 5 (Purse Seiner) 6 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 11
17. **Spain:** 22 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 22
18. **Chinese Taipei:** 34 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 34
19. **Tuvalu:** 2 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 2
20. **United States of America:** 34 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 34
21. **Vanuatu:** 5 (Tuna Purse Seiner) = 5

### WCPFC Convention Area Registered Troller: 31

1. **Japan** – 19
2. **United States of America** – 12



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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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