

the Coral Triangle newsletter

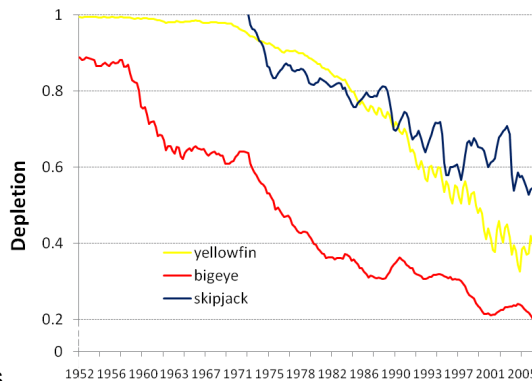
Updates from WWF's Coral Triangle programme

February 2010

In focus: TUNA

Saving the Coral Triangle's Dwindling Tuna Stocks

A recent assessment of the 3 most important tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific regions shows alarming trends, based on averages from 6 Sub-regions in the whole Western and Central Pacific (see figure, showing biomass depletion for yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tunas from 1952 to 2005). The Coral Triangle belongs to Sub-region 3, the most productive area, and the fishing ground for the world's largest purse seine fishery.



Armed with new commitments from fisheries businesses and the Philippine government on the use of circle hooks during the Coral Triangle Initiative Business Summit (January 19-20, 2010), the WWF Coral Triangle programme's Tuna and Bycatch strategies are off to a hot start this year by deploying a range of approaches to reverse the decrease in tuna stock sizes.

From policy (regulating the use of fish aggregating devices) to market approaches (linking buyers such as Culimer, Anova, Coop with responsible suppliers in the Coral Triangle), including original research (modelling to determine tuna spawning areas in the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas), the programme's Tuna Strategy will also be convening a think tank this year that will seek to develop revolutionary ways to manage tuna while also raising much-needed funds to support conservation.

With data from the Secretariat for the Pacific Commission showing that fishing intensity has reduced bigeye and yellowfin tuna populations to levels that could undermine their sustainability, the Coral Triangle programme Tuna and Bycatch strategies have a challenging and full year ahead.

In the news

Marine reserves fix food chains, link by link
Conservation managers need to take a long-term view when assessing the value of marine protected areas, according to a paper in today's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.
► Full story: [CSIRO](#)

Fisheries expansion sign of non-sustainability, only small-scale fisheries sustainable, says leading fisheries scientist Daniel Pauly
"There is no such thing as sustainable trawling," Pauly said to more than 600 attendants at the World Seafood Summit 2010.
► Full story: [Sydafrika](#)

WWF's vision for the Coral Triangle is to protect its unique wildlife, conserve its natural resources, and create sustainable economic opportunities for the people and communities of the region. Our work addresses tuna, live reef fish, turtles, bycatch, protected areas and climate change.
► more at panda.org/coraltriangle



Source: Coral Geographic (Veron *et al.*, unpublished data)

Canned Tuna in the Coral Triangle—a Global Icon in Need of Fixing



Tuna sandwich by Dave Lifson from [Flickr](#)

On February 25, eight Pacific nations announced they would seek sustainable seafood certification for up to 40% of their skipjack tuna fishery, potentially bringing a significant source of canned tuna into the range of sustainable seafood choices available to consumers. The WWF Coral Triangle programme plans to actively participate as a stakeholder in the full assessment of the fisheries leading to this certification effort, as part of the programme's Tuna Strategy focus on engaging with canneries in the region.

For the Coral Triangle, the stakes are high. If you are eating a tuna sandwich anywhere in the world, there is a 25% chance that the fish comes from the Coral Triangle. In 2006, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Solomon Islands and Indonesia processed around 259,800 tons of tuna (TRAFFIC, 2009)—and this output is increasing.

The fact that the tuna supply chain in the Coral Triangle includes only a handful of very large traders offers opportunities to impact a substantial part of the tuna trade in the Coral Triangle. How? By engaging these companies towards fisheries conservation and sustainability through the adoption of responsible sourcing policies, and by ridding the supply chain of illegally caught fish.

The WWF Coral Triangle programme is currently working in Indonesia (2 sites) and in the Philippines (2 sites) towards the promotion of best fishing practices that can lead to certification, with funding from the private sector.

The commitment by the 8 Pacific nations opens the door for WWF to further expand its engagement with other fisheries companies willing to become more sustainable...

The month ahead

Living Planet Talk Series: “Sustainable seafood – how YOU can make a difference”

Saturday, 6 March 2010, 3 - 4 pm
National Geographic Store, Vivo City #01-19, Singapore

Speaker : Abigail Virjee, Coral Triangle Partnership Manager, WWF

Staff profile

After 7 years at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Singapore, Lineke van Nederpelt joined WWF in April 2008 as Operations Executive



© Lineke van Nederpelt

for WWF International's Asia Pacific Programme, based out of Singapore. Prior to that, Lineke was in the shipping sector in the Netherlands.

Lineke has lent a skillful hand more than once in supporting the WWF Coral Triangle programme. She was part of the organising team of the first Panda Ball in Asia for fundraising, helped organise the Asia Dive Expo in Singapore, and regularly assists in communications/ logistic-related issues for WWF colleagues passing through Singapore. In addition, she provides support for the WWF Singapore office, including the launch of the Singapore Seafood Guide.

Her greatest experience in life was a 1-year backpack trip around the world. This allowed Lineke to see many places and species WWF is supporting, from the Amazon in Brazil to the ghats in India, the rhinos in Nepal, the orangutans and elephants deep in the jungles of Borneo, the Mekong and the Yangtze rivers, and the beautiful marine life in Fiji.

Lineke can occasionally be spotted in a panda suit to help promote WWF!

CEO corner

Eric Bohm, WWF Hong-Kong

We are rapidly approaching a significant crisis point in the state of the world's fisheries. In the past 2 decades society has become increasingly concerned about the finite life-span of non-renewable resources.

We have been so focused on this issue that we have not been sensitive to the fact that the combination of increasing human population, substantial economic growth and the escalation in exploitative technology has now placed our global fisheries on the brink of becoming a non-renewable resource.

To place the extent of the depletion in context, this tragedy has unfolded within the time of the generation known as "baby-boomers"; the generation immediately following World War II. The demand for food has escalated and created an industry that is still stuck in the mindset that the ocean's resources are infinite. That was an argument presented to me in 1961 on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. That resource disappeared forever in 1996! Infinity implies a time frame longer than just thirty-five years.

There must now be a clarion call from all segments of our society, starting with governments and industry leaders to curb the irresponsible treatment of one of our planet's most valuable resources. We all share in an obligation to future generations to now be conscious that our consumption behaviour must be based on sustainability. The Coral Triangle NI is a crucial programme to ensure we do leave a legacy of abundant oceans for the benefit of those future generations.



© Eric Bohm

Animal of the month

Imagine having a 7m-long winged creature glide above your head as you drift above a coral reef somewhere in the Coral Triangle. Hello **mantas**! The largest of rays, mantas range throughout the tropical waters of the world, usually around coral reefs.

They have the largest brain-to-body ratio of the sharks and rays. Mantas are curious about humans and can swim among divers, as Jürgen and Stella Freund relate in their fascinating blog post from Raja Ampat.

► [Blog](#)



© Jürgen FREUND

WWF news

WWF-Malaysia Egg=Life campaign

Following the success of last year's "Egg=Life" campaign, which garnered 100,000 signatures from the public in support of improving turtle conservation legislation (the target was 40,000 signatures), WWF-Malaysia launched a new advocacy campaign for turtles in January 2010.

► [Full story](#)

Whale Shark Butchery in the Philippines

An 18-foot long whale shark, de-finned and dying, was found in a sheltered cove in the municipality of Tingloy. Whale sharks are classified by the IUCN as *vulnerable* and are protected by Philippine law. WWF calls for all sectors to step up enforcement efforts nationwide.

► [Full story](#)

Coral Triangle Set to Gain from Certifying Key Canned Tuna Fishery

Eight Pacific nations announced on February 25 they would seek sustainable seafood certification for up to 40% of their skipjack tuna fishery, potentially bringing a significant source of canned tuna into the range of sustainable seafood choices available to consumers.

► [Full story](#)

Coral Triangle Blog

► follow the photo expedition!

blogs.panda.org/coral_triangle

From Snowy Paris, Tackling Sustainable Seafood in the Tropics

In the immediate aftermath of the Coral Triangle Initiative Business Summit in Manila, the 2010 Seafood Summit opened its doors on 31 January in Paris to hundreds of representatives from the seafood industry and the conservation community. Among them was a strong delegation of WWF staff including Dr Geoffrey Muldoon, the WWF Coral Triangle programme's Live Reef Food Fish Trade strategy leader, with an agenda to further galvanize support for promoting, recognising and rewarding sustainable seafood in the Asia-Pacific region.

The WWF-organized panel on the Coral Triangle emphasized the need for approaches outside frameworks such as Marine Stewardship Council (FSC) to accommodate the needs of small-scale fisheries in developing countries that dominate this region. In the case of the Coral Triangle, alternatives include providing incentives for small-scale fishers (e.g. market access) to incrementally improve their fishing practices. The panel also highlighted the need for private and non-government sectors to play a much more significant role in helping small-scale fisheries to adopt better management practices in regions such as the Coral Triangle.

The Paris Summit adds another milestone to WWF's ongoing efforts to radically shift the seafood paradigm to recognise the challenges and opportunities in the Coral Triangle—and to change industry's practices in the region towards improved stewardship of the seas. As the year unfolds, it is expected that these efforts will translate into more partnerships with fisheries firms, fuelling the growth of the sustainable seafood movement.

Recent publications

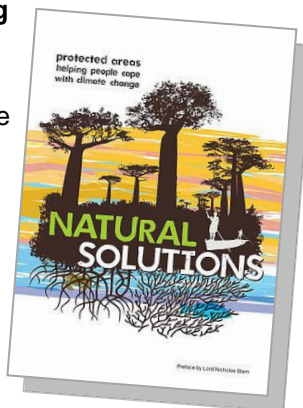


The WWF Singapore seafood guide gives consumers and businesses the information they need to make sustainable seafood choices. In fact, in an opinion poll commissioned by WWF, 80% of Singaporeans asked said they would either stop eating seafood or reduce the amount of seafood they ate if they knew it was being unsustainably harvested.

► [Download the guide](#)

Natural Solutions: protected areas helping people cope with climate change is a new WWF report in the Arguments for Protection series to which the Coral Triangle programme contributed. This report, as Lord Stern states in the preface, clearly articulates for the first time how protected areas contribute significantly to reducing the impacts of climate change and what is needed for them to achieve more.

► [Download the report](#)



Chef Jingles' Tuna Bow Tie Pasta Salad

Ingredients

- 1 lb bow tie or shell pasta
- 3 oz. Capers
- 1 small onion
- 4 cloves of garlic
- ½ cup *kalamata* olives
- ¼ cup parsley
- 1 lemon
- 2 cans of MSC-certified yellowfin tuna
- olive oil

To make

Finely chop capers, onion, garlic & parsley. Set aside in bowl. Cook pasta until al dente, and drain. Toss in your mixed ingredients, and add *kalamata* olives and albacore. Top with the juice of 1 lemon and olive oil to taste. Crack fresh ground pepper. Garnish with few sprigs of parsley.

Courtesy of Dr Jose Ingles (WWF Coral Triangle programme Tuna Strategy leader) and [MSC](#)

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