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Offshore Fisheries

ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PACIFIC TUNA

Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)



**THE WCPFC
CONVENTION AREA
HOLDS THE WORLD'S
LARGEST TUNA
FISHERY.**

Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific

The tuna fishery is an important economic resource for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Almost 70 per cent of the global tuna catch comes from the Pacific Ocean. According to the most recent assessment in 2009, 58 per cent was harvested from the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) alone. That represents 2.48 million tonnes of the total global catch, which is equivalent to a landed value of about US\$4 billion.

Establishment of the WCPFC

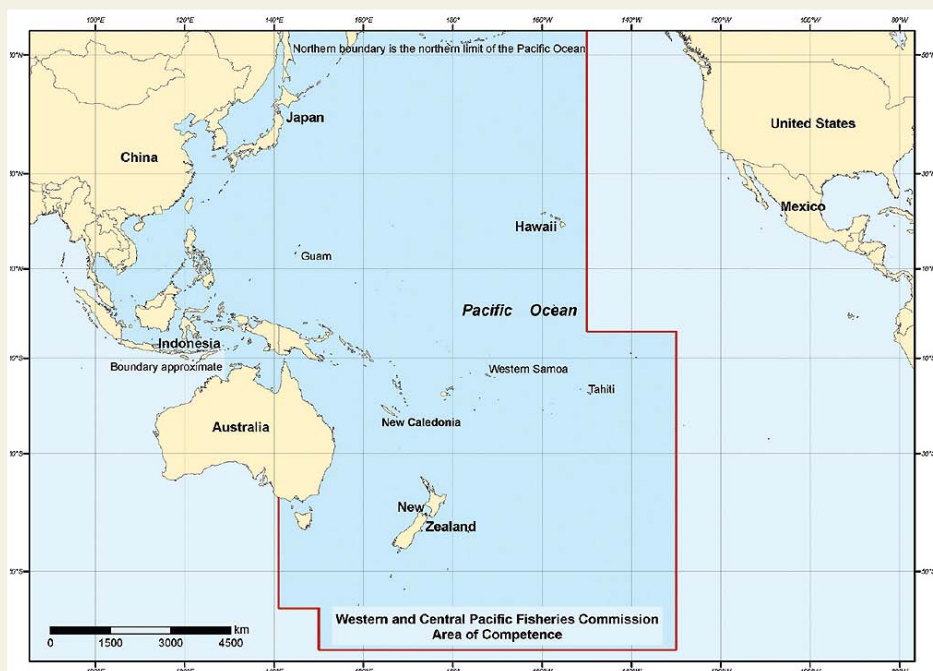
The high incidence of overfishing coupled with widespread illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in Pacific Island waters is worrying. Without clear scientific advice and sound management measures, this lucrative industry will collapse.

To address this, the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the WCPO (WCPFC Convention) was opened for signing in Hawaii, in 2000. This led to the establishment of the WCPFC or the Tuna Commission on 19 June 2004.

The Tuna Commission generally depicts the provisions of the UN Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) and the special attributes of the WCPO region. It addresses issues in the management of high seas fisheries by incorporating a precautionary principle, ecosystem factors, and decision-making based on the best available scientific information.

Source: WCPFC & Secretariat of the Pacific Community, SPC (2011).

WCPFC Convention Area



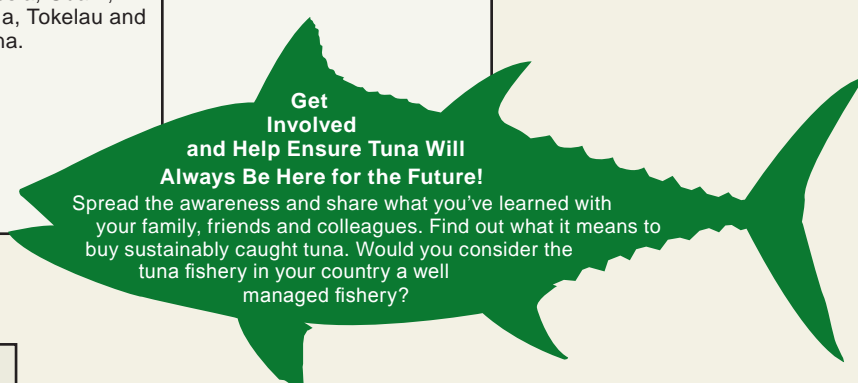
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Map of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area.


WCPFC/Tuna Commission Members

Membership to the Tuna Commission is divided into three different groups.

Contracting Parties	Participating Territories	Cooperating Non-Members
<p>Includes custodian states and fishing nations</p> <p>Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, the European Community, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America and Vanuatu.</p>	<p>Territories that have participating and speaking rights at the commission meeting</p> <p>American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau and Wallis & Futuna.</p>	<p>States that have fishing interest in the region but did not sign the WCPFC Convention. They require the full consensus of the contracting parties to join.</p> <p>Belize, El Salvador, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Senegal and Vietnam.</p>



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