



FACTSHEET

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PACIFIC ISLANDS
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



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Offshore Fisheries

ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PACIFIC TUNA

Fishing in the Western & Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) - 2

Global Tuna Catch

BY GEAR:

PURSE SEINE - 60%

LOONGLINE - 14%

POLE-AND-LINE - 10%

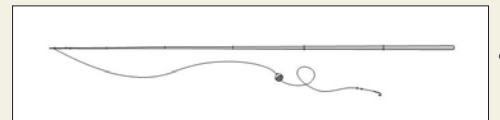
TROLL - 2%

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 (primarily targeting the same species, skipjack) 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. A gradual reduction in numbers of vessels has occurred in all pole-and-line fleets over the past decade. Pacific Island domestic fleets have declined in recent years – fisheries formerly operating in Palau, Papua New Guinea and Kiribati are no longer active, only one vessel is now operating (seasonally) in Fiji, and fishing activity in the Solomon Islands fishery has reduced significantly from the level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, with a now reduced level of catch by Japanese distant-water vessels in the tropical WCPO between 20N and 10S.



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An illustration of a pole-and-line gear.

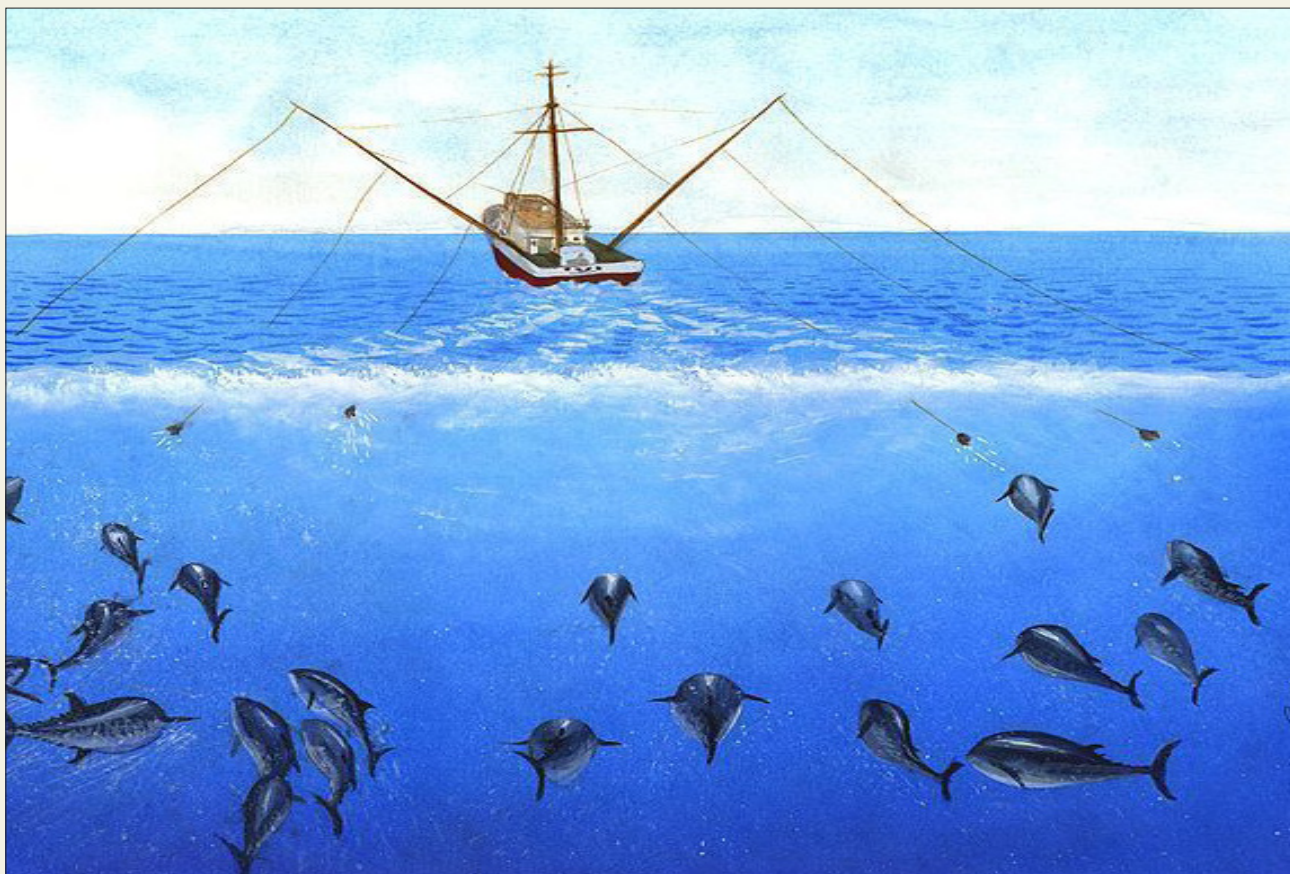
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Pole-and-line fishing operation being carried out. Fish is lured to the boat by using bait and/or water spraying.

Troll

Large-scale trolling targets albacore tuna for canning. Gear types other than purse seine, longline and pole-and-line are responsible for about 10 per cent of tuna catch in the WCPO.

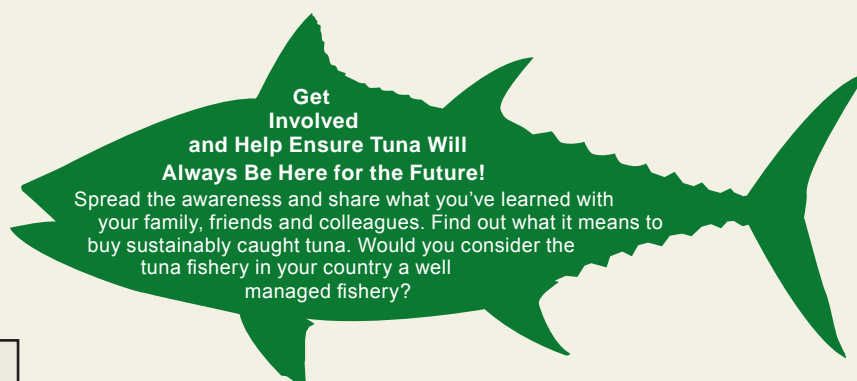
Large-scale trolling is an important part of this although it does not occur in Pacific Island waters. Trolling works by towing artificial lures with barbless hooks, 'trolls', behind a fishing vessel at a speed of about 6 knots. It is carried out in cool waters to the south and north of the Pacific Islands region. Annually, about 50,000 tonnes of albacore is troll-caught in the south and marketed primarily to the US. According to the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO), troll fishing continues to thrive in small-scale fisheries sectors in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.



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Drawing of tuna trolling lines fishing operation. A trolling line consists of a line with live baits or lures and is trailed by a vessel near the surface or at a certain depth.

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



For more information

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Why we are here

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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