Tuna Tagging Programs Undertaken by SPC in the WCPO

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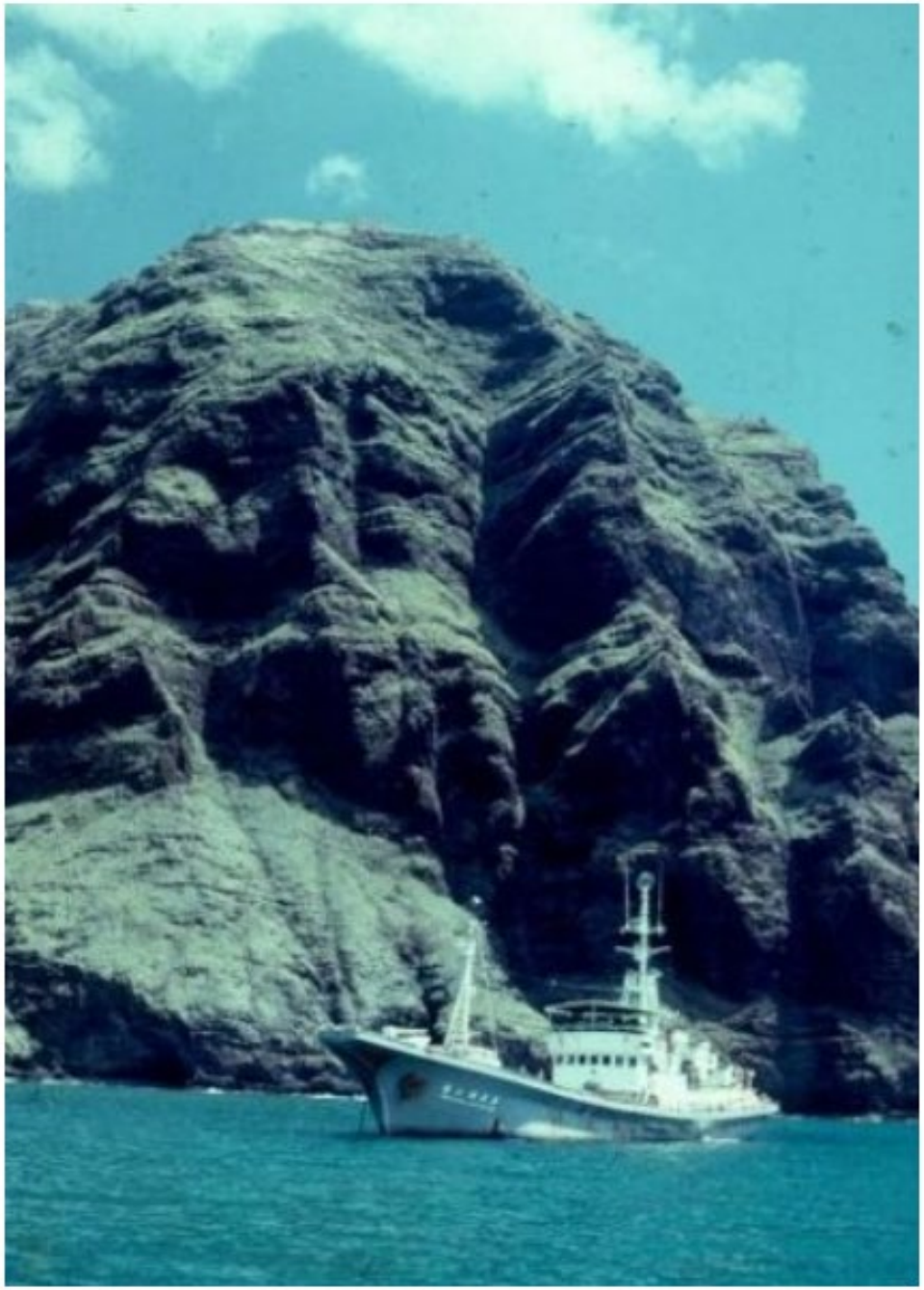
WCPO Tagging Programs

Program	Years	Objectives
Skipjack Survey and Assessment Programme (SSAP)	1977-1981	1. Survey and assess skipjack resources in SPC member waters to determine potential for catch increase 2. Evaluate baitfish resources in SPC member waters for feasibility of supporting pole and line fisheries
Regional Tuna Tagging Program (RTTP)	1989-1992	1. Conduct tagging of skipjack throughout the range of main fisheries to update tag-based assessment 2. Conduct tagging of yellowfin to support stock assessment and evaluation of interaction between purse seine and longline fisheries
Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP)	2006-	1. Tag skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna to support spatially-based stock assessments 2. Conduct e-tagging of yellowfin and bigeye to better understand horizontal and vertical movements and association with FADs

Methodology

- Utilisation of chartered Japanese-style pole-and-line vessels, baiting using *bouke-ami* gear
- Consistent tagging techniques
  - Vinyl tagging cradles with measurement scale
  - Conventional plastic dart tags with heat-fused barb/streamer attachment for RTTP and PTTP
  - Stainless steel tagging applicators
  - Careful fish selection for tagging
  - Voice recording of tag #, species, length



TE TAUTAI

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION
REGIONAL TUNA TAGGING PROJECT
ET2FA

SOLTAI No.102

3H4PT
SOLTAI No.102

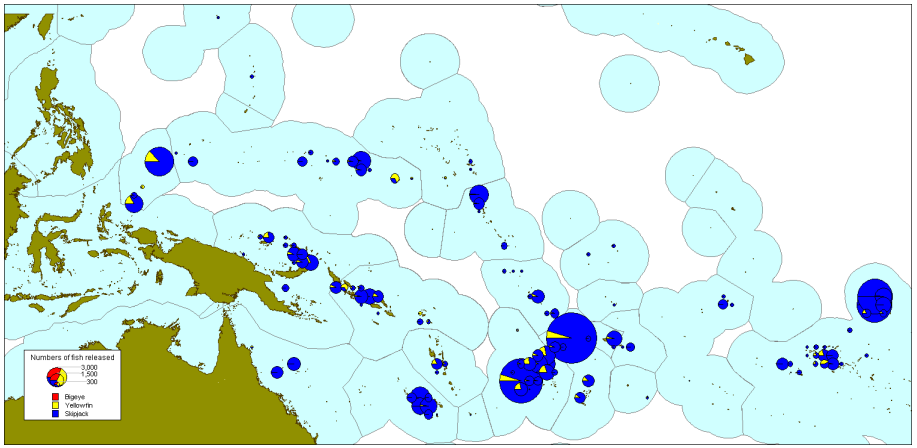
SOL FAI No105

Skipjack Survey and Assessment Programme (SSAP)

1977-1981

Releases

147,507	(93.7%)	SKJ
9,884	(6.3%)	YFT
65	(0.0%)	BET

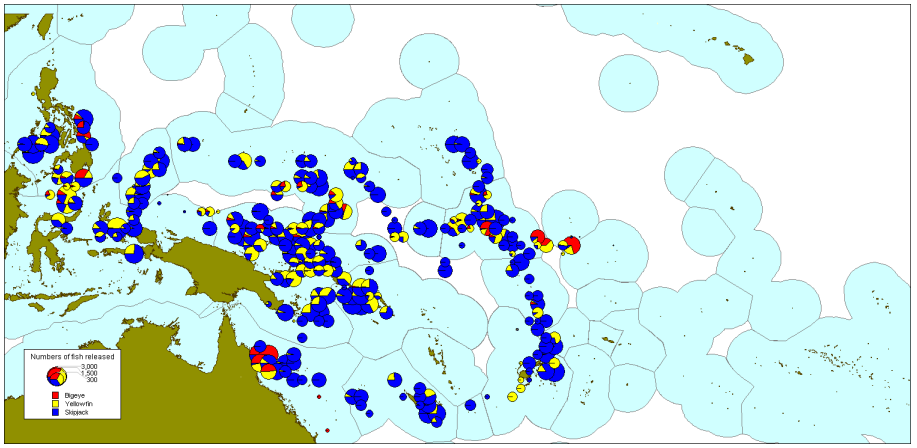


Regional Tuna Tagging Project (RTTP)

1989-1992

Releases

98,401	(67.1%)	SKJ
40,075	(27.3%)	YFT
8,074	(5.5%)	BET

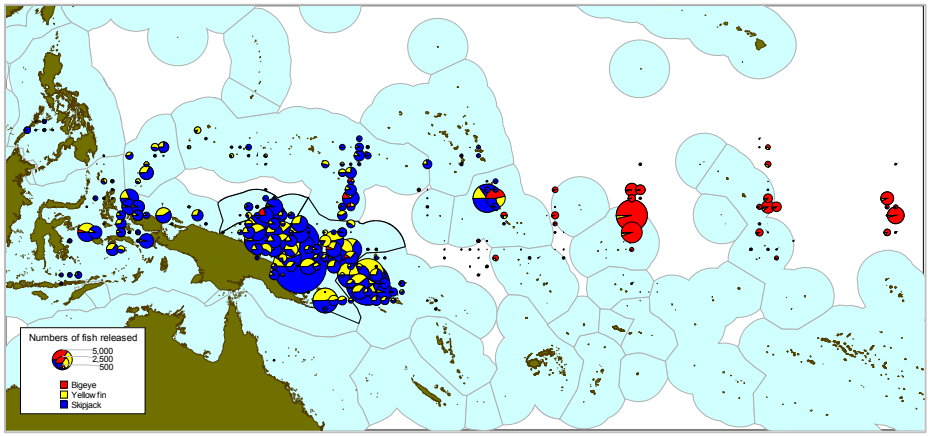


Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP)

2006-

Releases to date

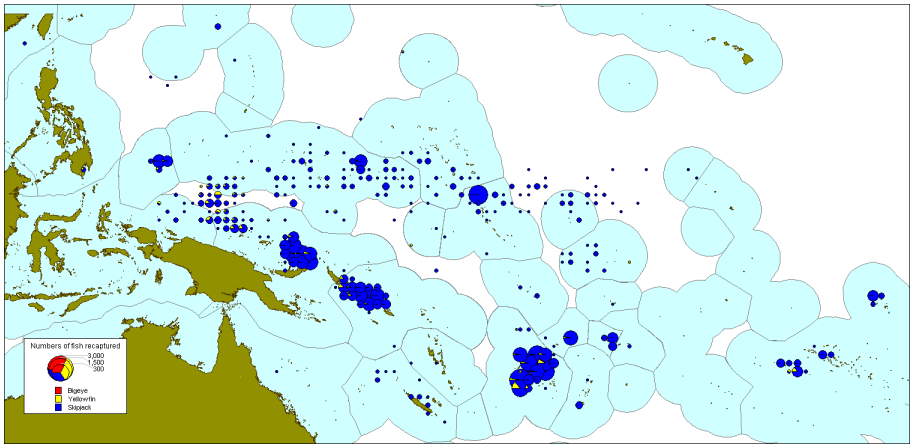
272,639	(63.0%)	SKJ
110,289	(25.5%)	YFT
49,434	(11.4%)	BET



Skipjack Survey and Assessment Programme (SSAP)

Recoveries

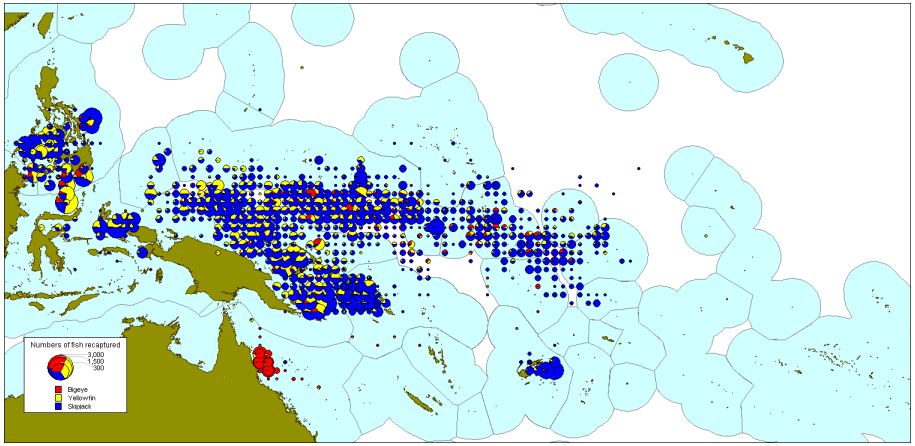
7,126	(4.8%)	SKJ
281	(2.8%)	YFT
0	(0.0%)	BET



Regional Tuna Tagging Project (RTTP)

Recoveries

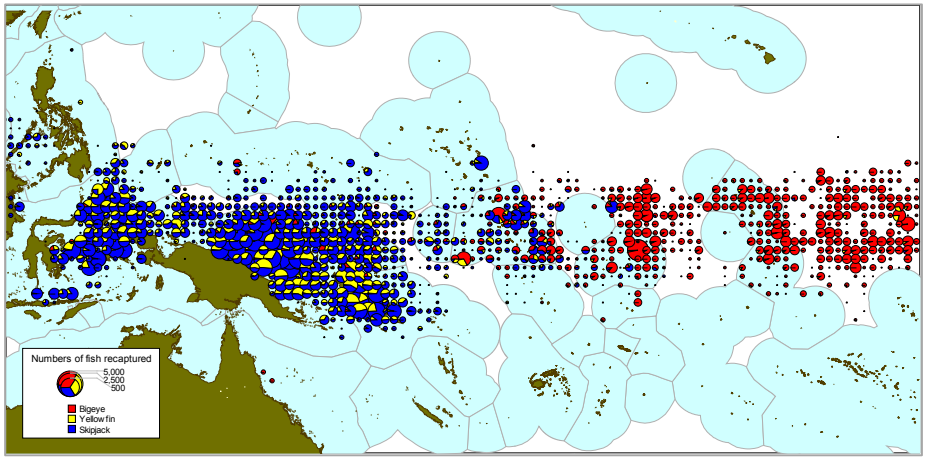
12,447	(12.6%)	SKJ
4,950	(12.4%)	YFT
975	(12.1%)	BET



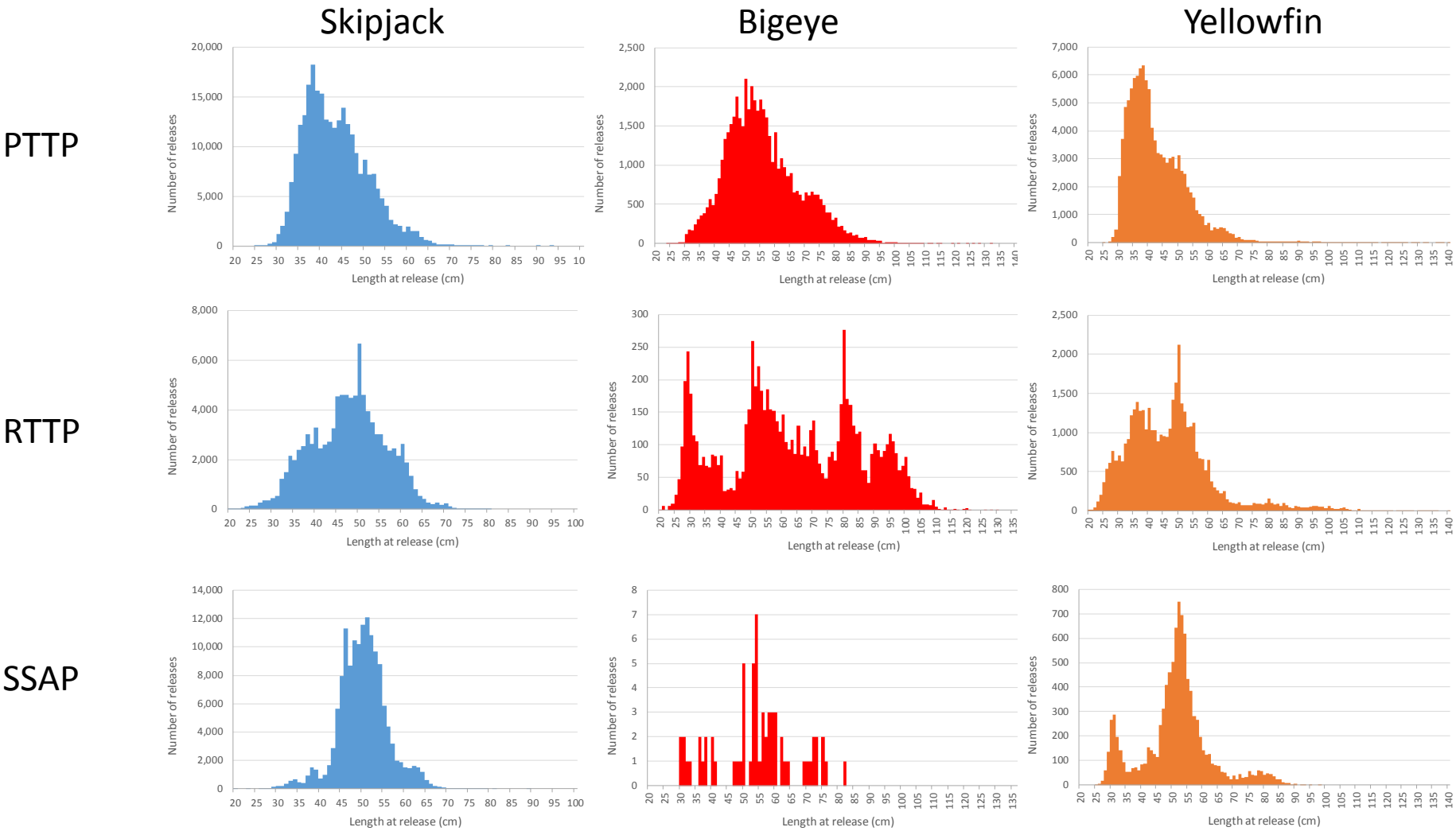
Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP)

Recoveries (to date)

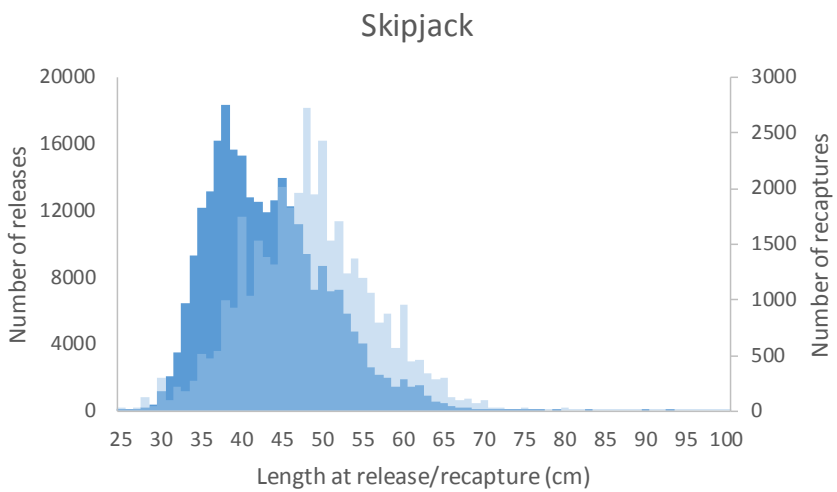
47,177	(17.3%)	SKJ
18,257	(16.6%)	YFT
13,252	(26.8%)	BET

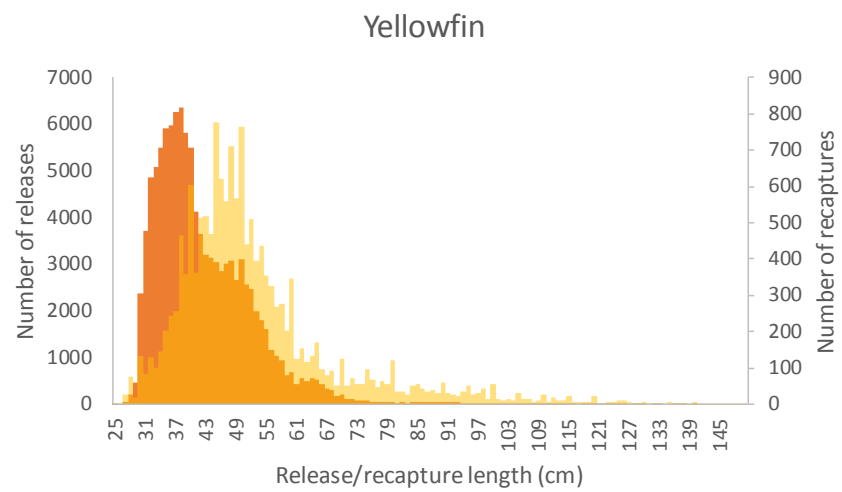


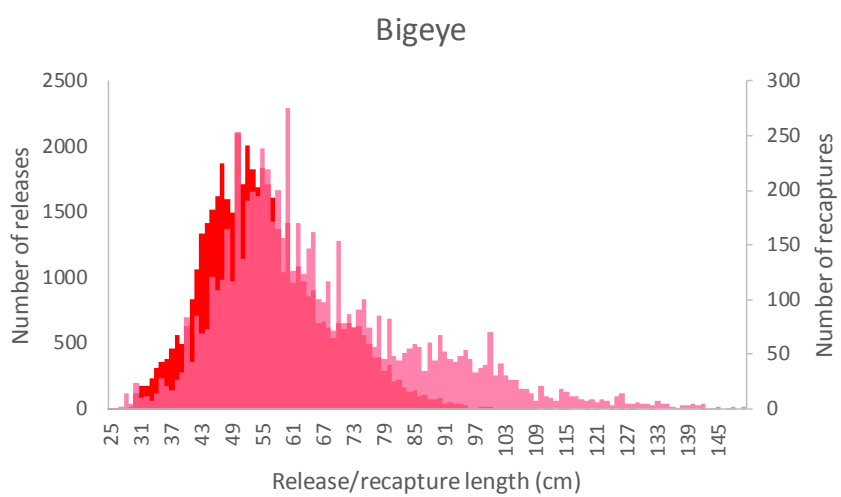
Size-at-release



Size-at-release/recapture (PTTP)

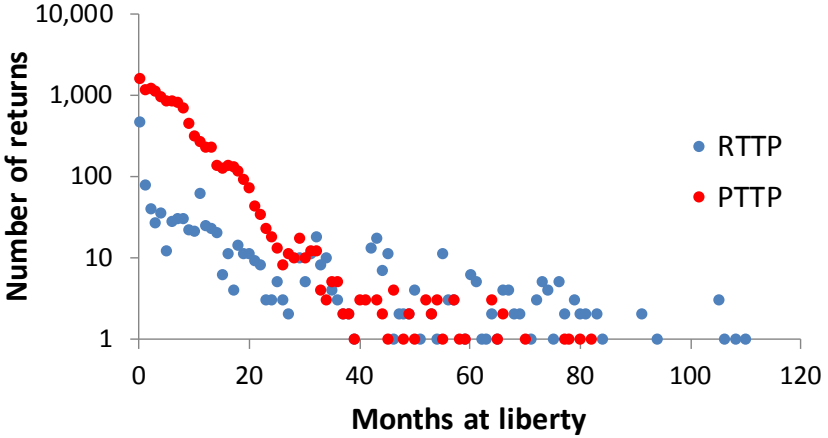






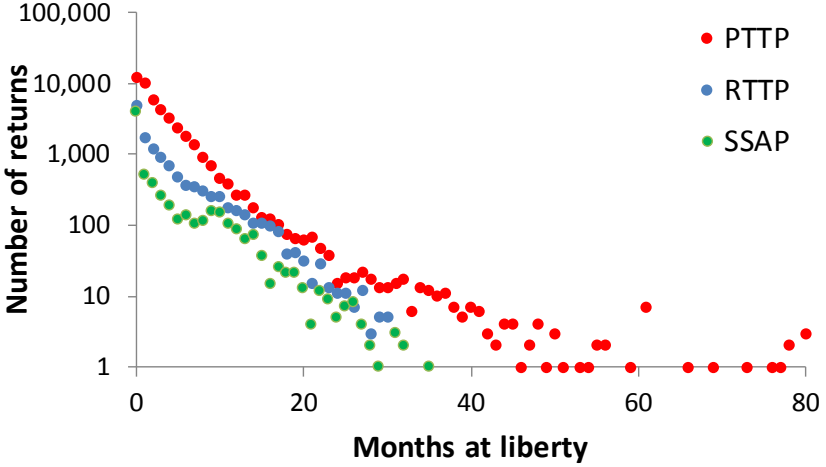
Bigeye Tag Attrition

Max TAL RTTP 13.8 yr
PTTP 6.8 yr



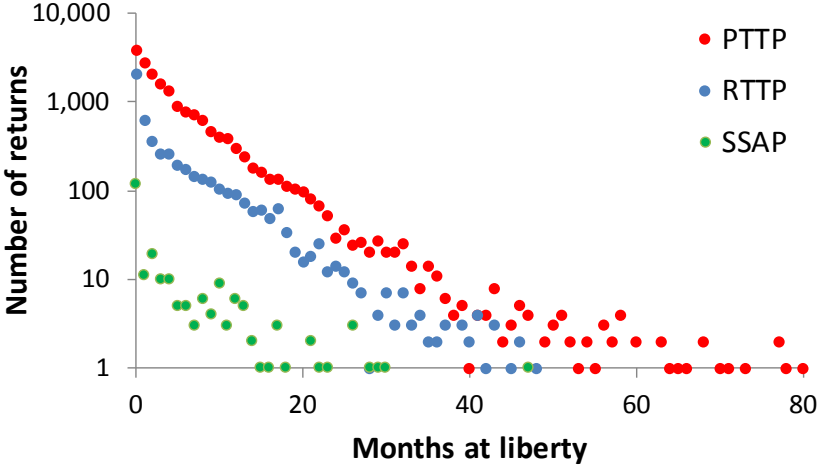
Skipjack Tag Attrition

Max TAL SSAP 2.9 yr
RTTP 5.0 yr
PTTP 7.7 yr

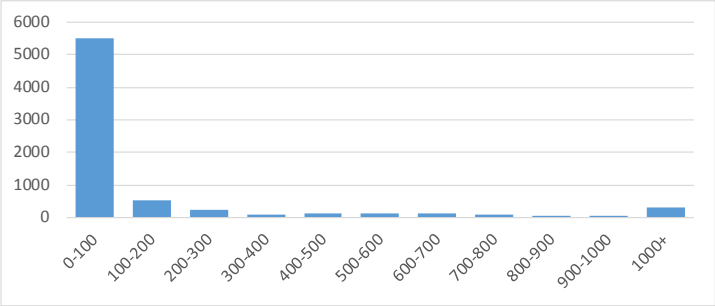


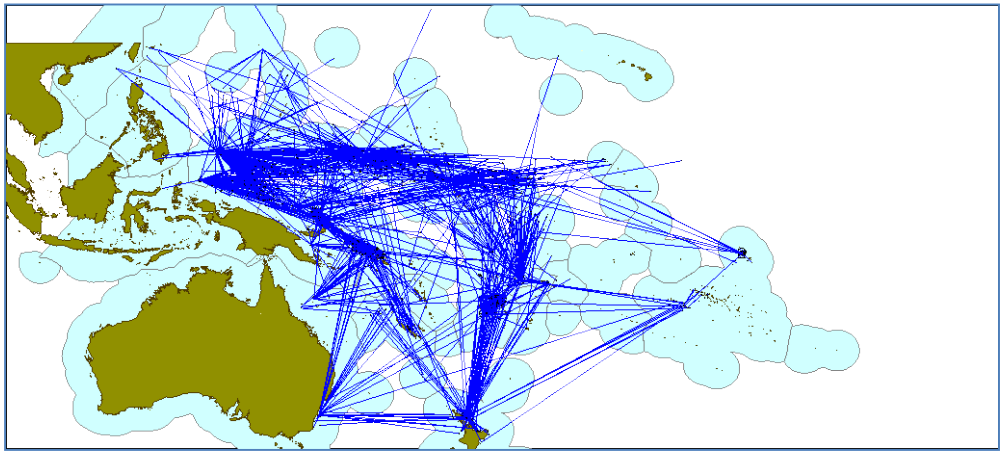
Yellowfin Tag Attrition

Max TAL SSAP 3.9 yr
RTTP 6.5 yr
PTTP 6.7 yr

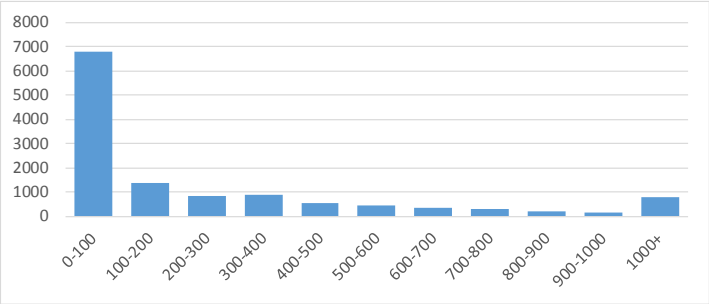


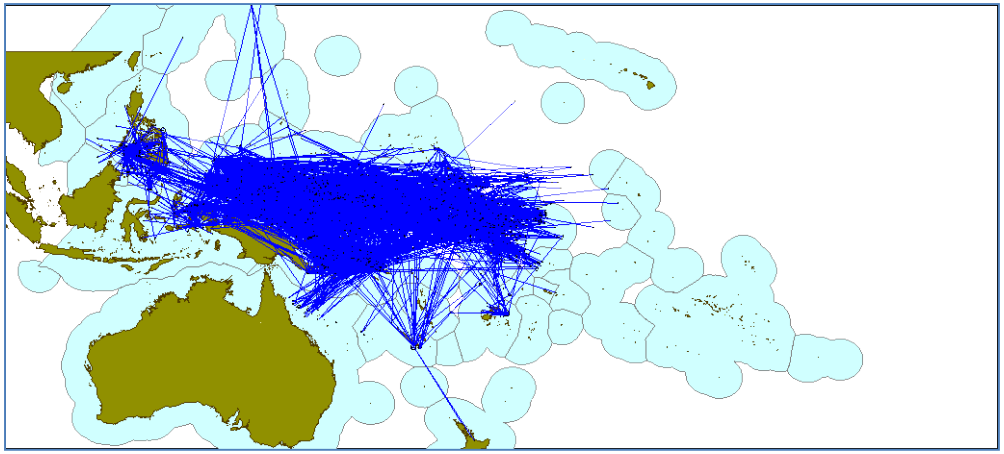
SSAP – Skipjack



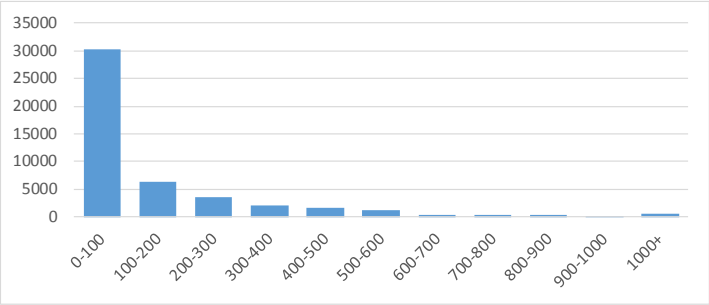


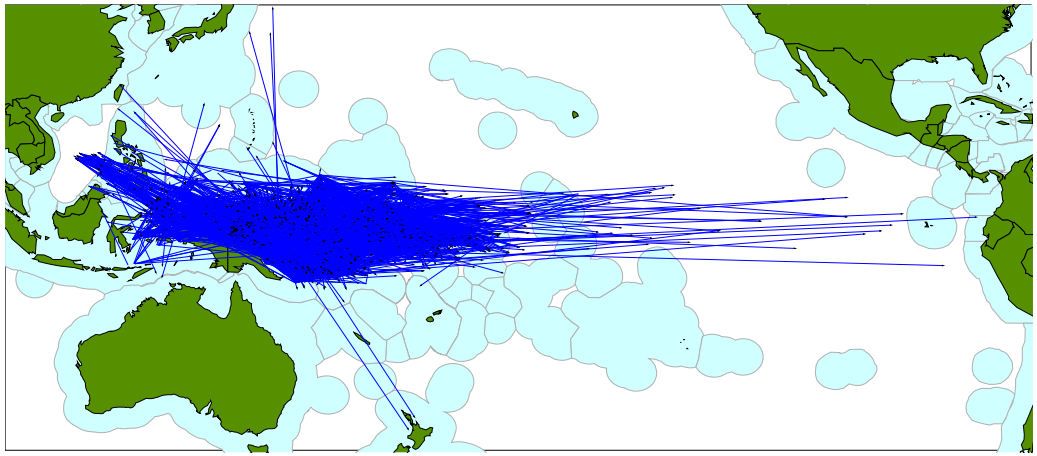
RTTP – Skipjack



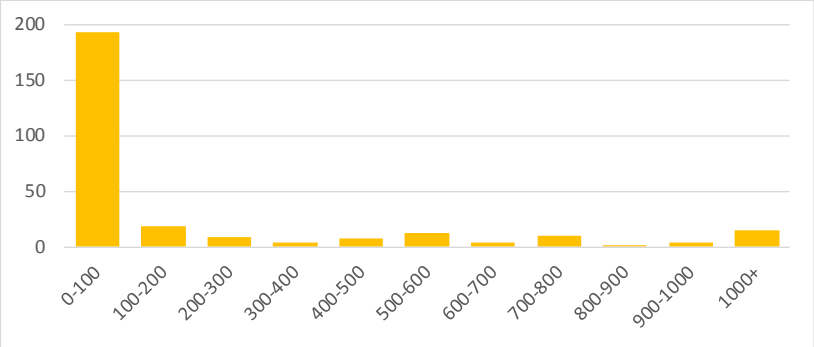


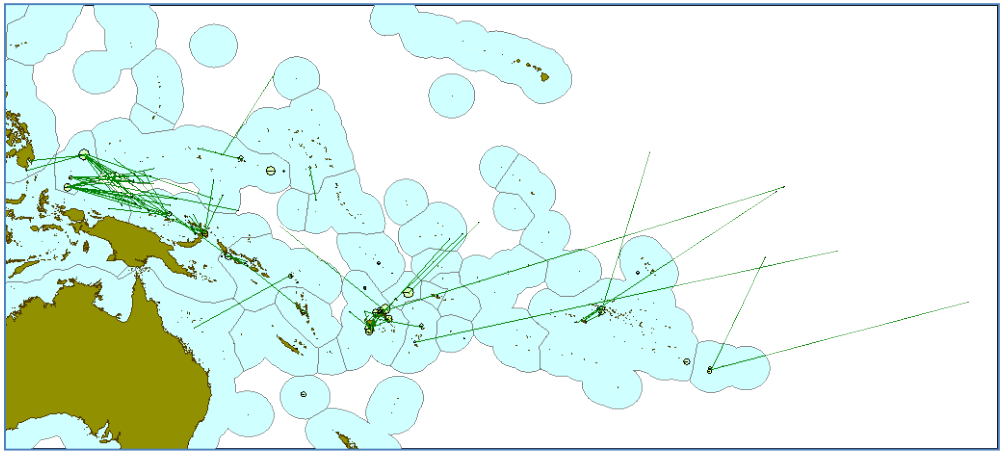
PTTP – Skipjack



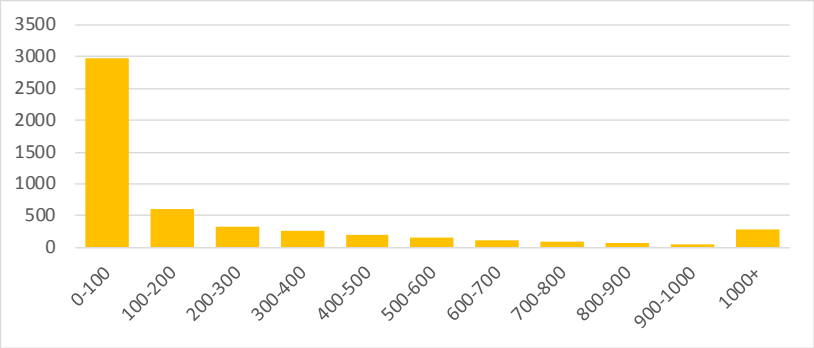


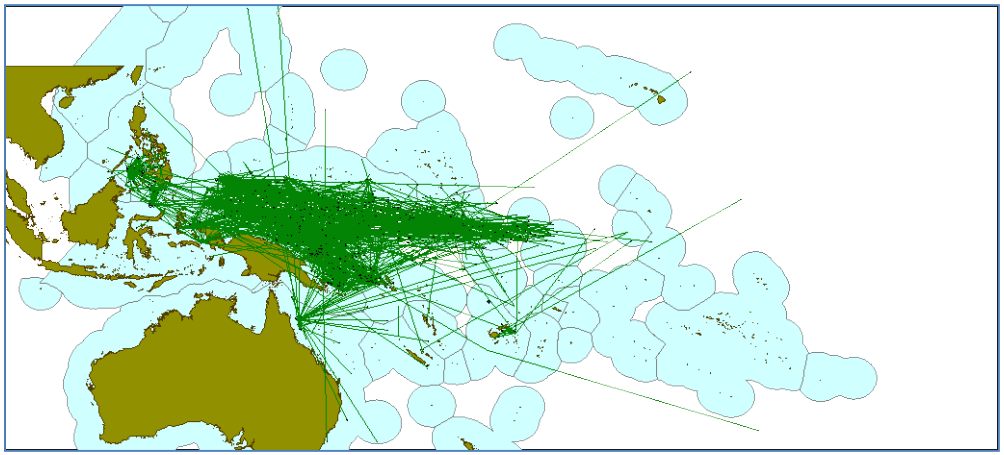
SSAP – Yellowfin



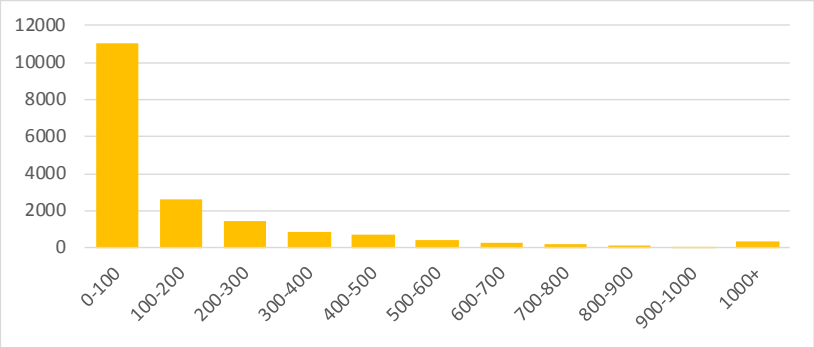


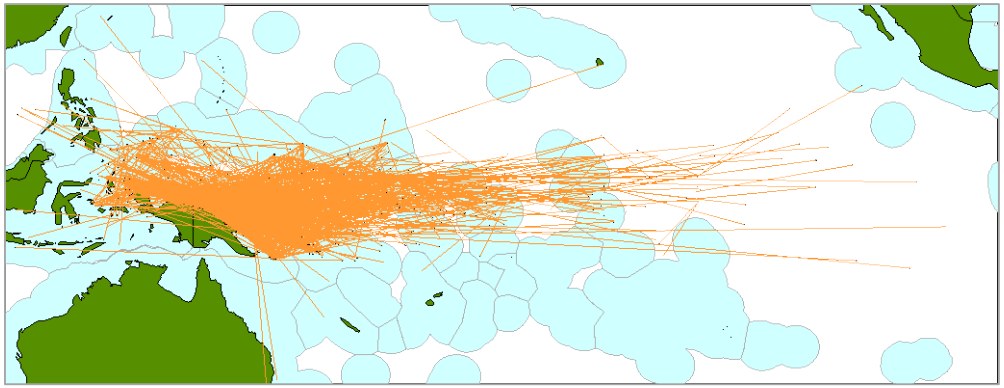
RTTP – Yellowfin



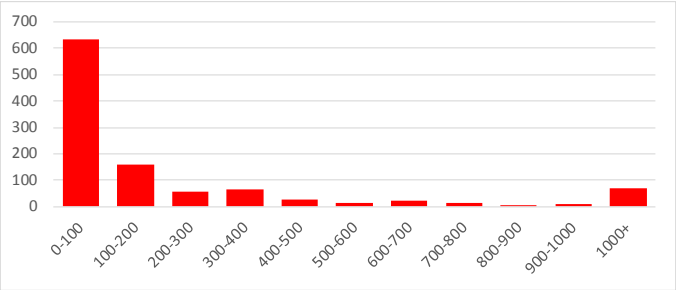


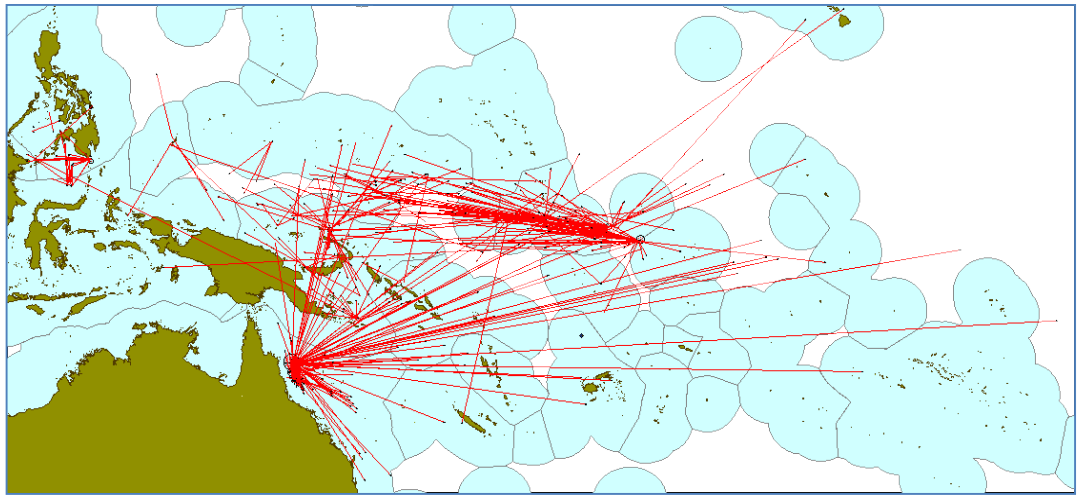
PTTP – Yellowfin



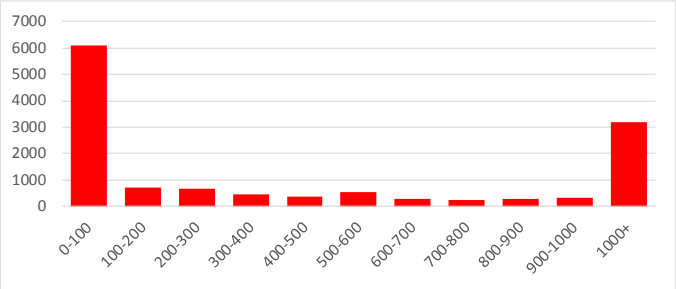


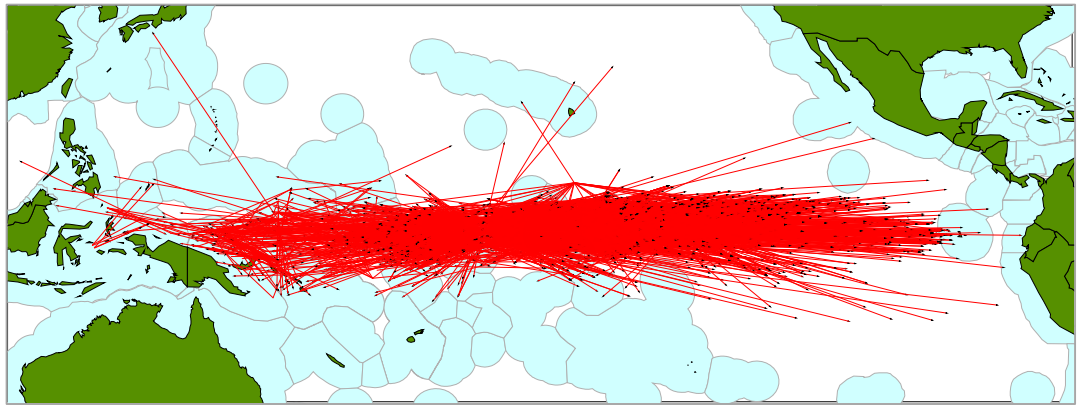
RTTP – Bigeye





PTTP – Bigeye





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