

Ecological sustainability

- IATTC mandated to ensure ecologically sustainability of EPO tuna fisheries
 - Antigua Convention, IATTC Resolutions, and improved reporting (SAC-10-14, SAC-10 INF-B)
 - Development of the "EASI-Fish" ERA model for data-poor species (SAC-09-12, BYC-09-01)
- Single species assessments important

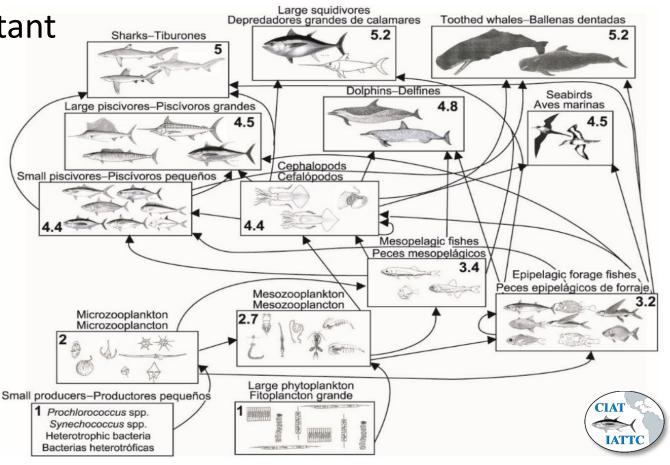


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Single species assessments important

- But how does tuna fishing affect ecosystem dynamics?
- Diet analysis in 1990s and 2000s
- ETP ecosystem model ("ETP7")



- ETP7 used early software (v5.1) from 2003 and not used for reporting
- EwE (v6.6) improved with many ecological indicators
- In 2017, staff updated the ETP7 model with new data 1970-2014
- Since 2017, staff update ETP7 annually with catch and effort data and report on indicators in "Ecosystem Considerations" report (SAC-12-12)
- 2021 update (ETP-21) was required to:
 - Improve model structure to link ontogenetic stages (e.g., small and large YFT)
 - Update biological parameters with new information since 2003
 - Rebalance the model after including revised longline catch estimates (SAC-12-12)
 - Calibrate the model to new time series data available for target and bycatch species





Why not develop a new EPO model?



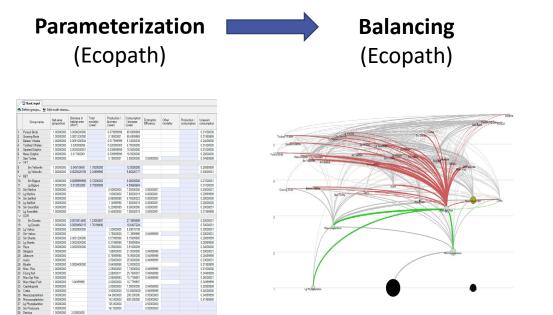
Why not develop a new EPO model? A very long process

Parameterization

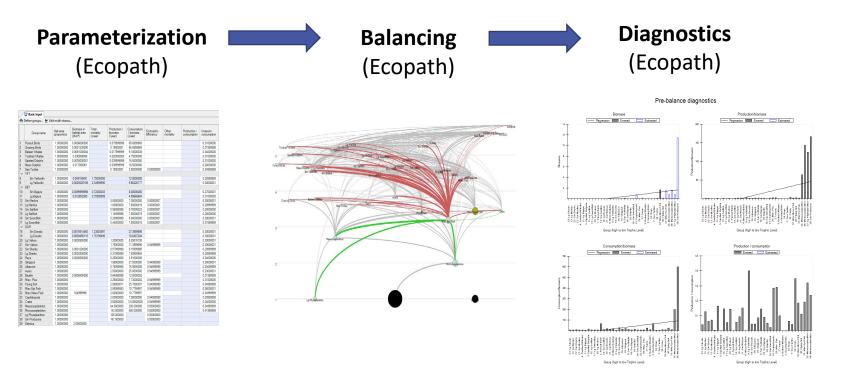
(Ecopath)

	Group name	Hab area (proportion)	Biomass in habitat area (t/km²)	Total mortality (/year)	Production / biomass (/year)	Consumption / biomass (/year)	Ecotrophic Efficiency	Other mortality	Production / consumption	Unassim. consumption
	Pursuit Birds	1,00000000	0.0006000000		0.079999998	65,6999969				0.31000000
2	Grazing Birds	1,00000000	0.0001230000		0.15000001	65,6999969				0.31999999
3	Baleen Whales	1,00000000	0.0091000004		0.017999999	9.10000038				0.34000000
	Toothed Whales	1,00000000	0.030999999		0.020000000	6.75000000				0.31000000
5	Spotted Dolphin	1,00000000	0.0035000001		0.039999999	16.5000000				0.31000000
	Meso Dolphin	1,00000000	0.017000001		0.039999999	16.5000000				0.28000000
,	Sea Turbea	1,00000000			0.15000001	3.50000000	0.50000000			0.3499999
v	YET									
3	Sm Yellowfin	1,00000000	0.049109481	1.75000000		12.0000000				0.2899999
9	La Yellowfin	1,00000000	0.0025025189	2.34999990		5.86226177				0.3000000
	RET		0.0023023123	2.5423333		200420111				
10	Sn Bioeve	1,00000000	0.009999998	0.72000003		8,00000000				0.2700000
11	La Bioeve	1,0000000	0.012852080	0.75999999		4.59968684				0.31000000
12	Sn Marins	1,0000000	0.012002000	U./5000000	0.50000000	7 00000000	0.80000007			0.3000000
13	La Marins	1,0000000			1,00000000	7.80000019	0.80000001			0.2899999
	Sm Sailfish	1,0000000			0.56399999	9.75000023	0.80000001			0.28000000
5	Lo Sailfish	1,0000000			1.14399998	7.80000019	0.80000001			0.2800000
	Sn Swortish	10000000				9.00000000				0.2800000
					0.20999999		0.80000001			
7	Lg Swortfish DOR	1.00000000			0.44000000	7.80000019	0.80000001			0.31999999
8	Sm Dorado	1.00000000	0.0015514490	1.23083997		27.3999996				0.3000000
9	Lg Doredo	1,00000000	0.0009456115	1.76199496		13.6407204				0.3000000
20	Lg Wahoo	1.00000000	0.0000900000		1.20000005	8.29076195				0.3000000
21	Sm Wahoo	1.00000000			1,75000000	11.3999996	0.94999999			0.3000000
22	Sn Sharks	1.00000000	0.0001200000		0.57999998	9.15999985				0.2899999
23	Lg Sharks	1,00000000	0.0002800000		0.31999999	7.80999994				0.2899999
34	Rays	1.00000000	0.0000500000		0.25000000	3.91000009				0.34000000
3	Skipjack	1.00000000			1.88000000	21.5000000	0.94999999			0.30000000
8	Albacore	1.00000000			0.76999993	16.9500008	0.94999999			0.29499990
27	Auris	1.00000000			2.50000000	25.0000000	0.54999999			0.3300000
28	Bluefin	1.00000000	0.0008400000		0.64999998	12.8000002				0.31999999
23	Misc. Pisc	1.00000000			2.25000000	7.73000002	0.94999999			0.31000000
30	Flying fish	1,00000000			2.88000011	25,7800007	0.94999999			0.3499999
31	Misc Epi Fish	1,00000000			2.06999993	10,7799997	0.34999999			0.3600000
32	Misc Meso Fish	1,00000000	1.64999998		2.00000000	10.7799997				0.3499999
33	Cephalopods	1,00000000			2.00000000	7.00000000	0.94999999			0.2899999
34	Crabs	1,00000000			3.50000000	10.00000000	0.94999999			0.34000000
	Mesozooplankton	1,00000000			64,0000000	200,000000	0.50000000			0.3499999
	Microzooplankton	1,00000000			143.000000	600,000000	0.50000000			0.41999999
37	Lo Phytoplankton	1,00000000			125.000000		0.50000000			
8	Sm Producers	1,00000000			157,000000		0.50000000			
ñ	Detritus	1,0000000	2 00000000							

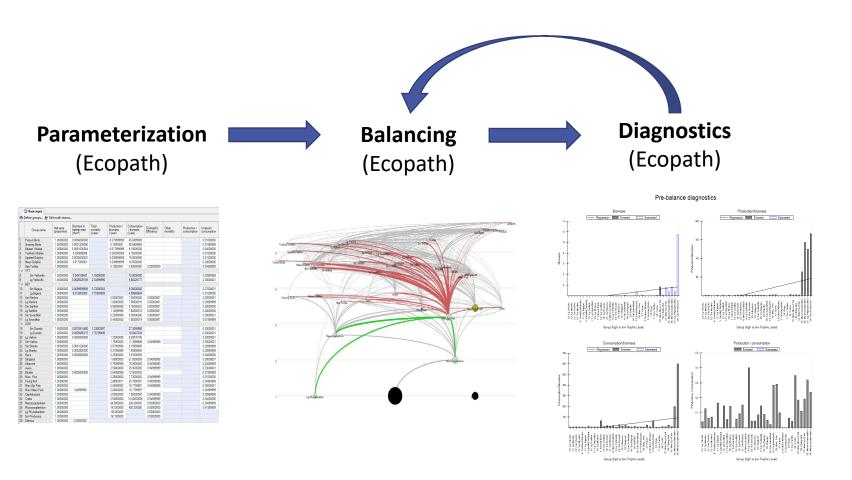




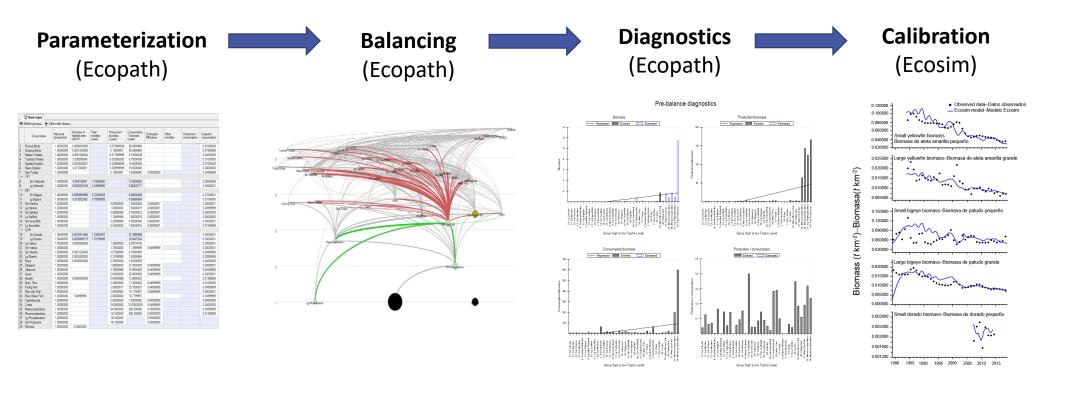




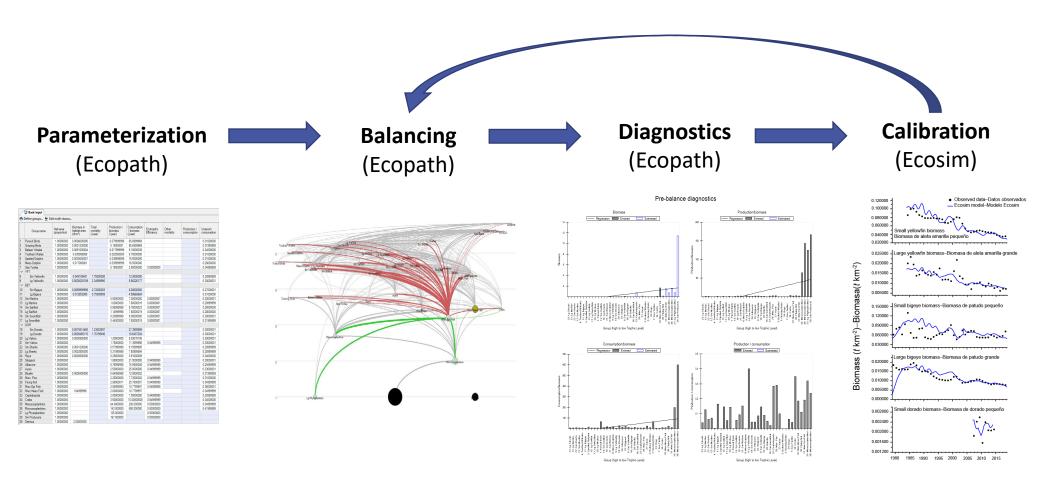




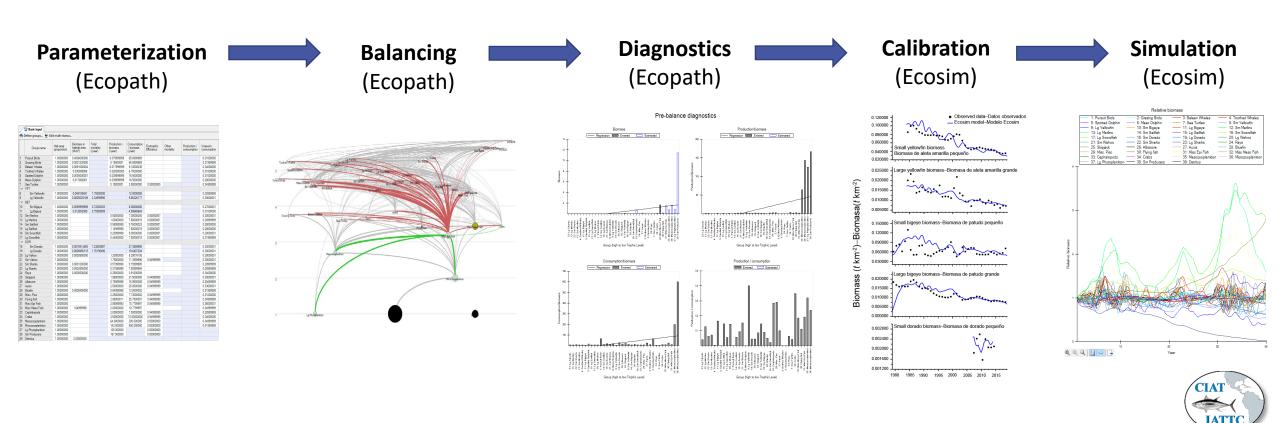












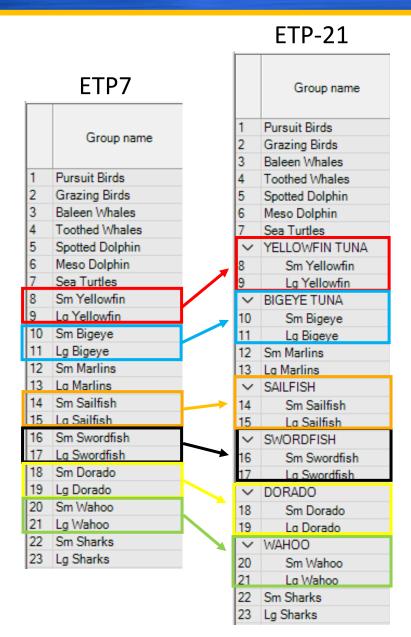
Revising ETP7 model structure

ETP7

	Group name						
1	Pursuit Birds						
2	Grazing Birds						
3	Baleen Whales						
4	Toothed Whales						
5	Spotted Dolphin						
6	Meso Dolphin						
7	Sea Turtles						
8	Sm Yellowfin						
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10	Sm Bigeye						
11	Lg Bigeye						
12	Sm Marlins						
13	La Marlins						
14	Sm Sailfish						
15	La Sailfish						
16	Sm Swordfish						
17	Lg Swordfish						
18	Sm Dorado						
19	Lg Dorado						
20	Sm Wahoo						
21	Lg Wahoo						
	Sm Sharks						
22	om onarks						

- ETP7 contained ontogenetic stages to reflect known differences in diet and biology
 - But stages not linked act as independent biomass pools

Revising ETP7 model structure

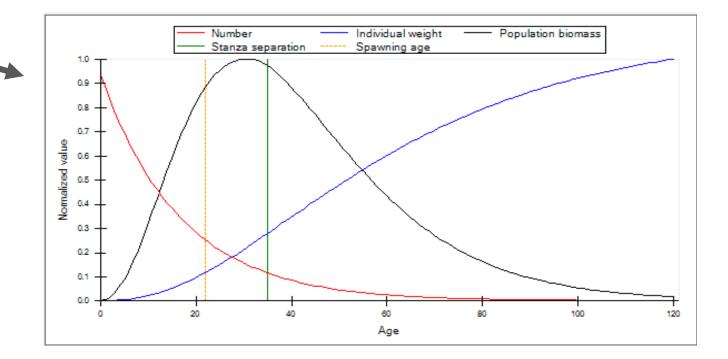


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- ETP-21 linked 12 groups (6 species) as multi-stanza delay-difference sub-models

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- ETP-21 linked 12 groups (6 species) as multi-stanza delay-difference sub-models

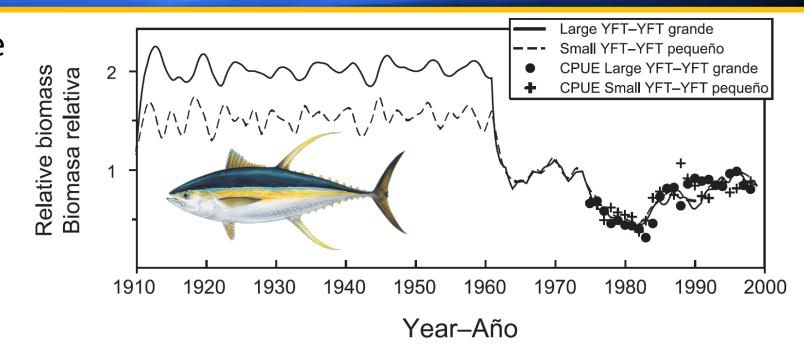


Results

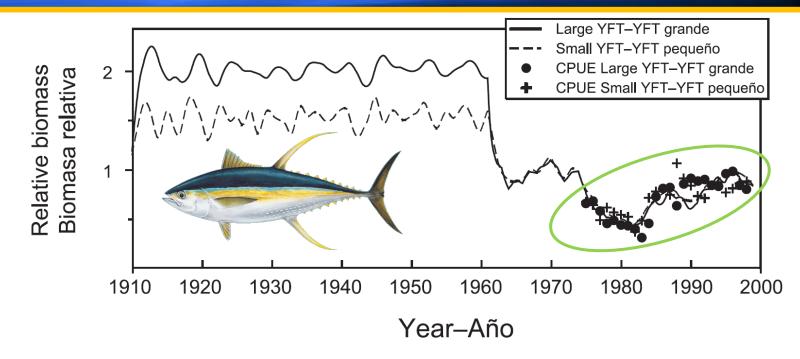
Model Calibration to Time Series Data



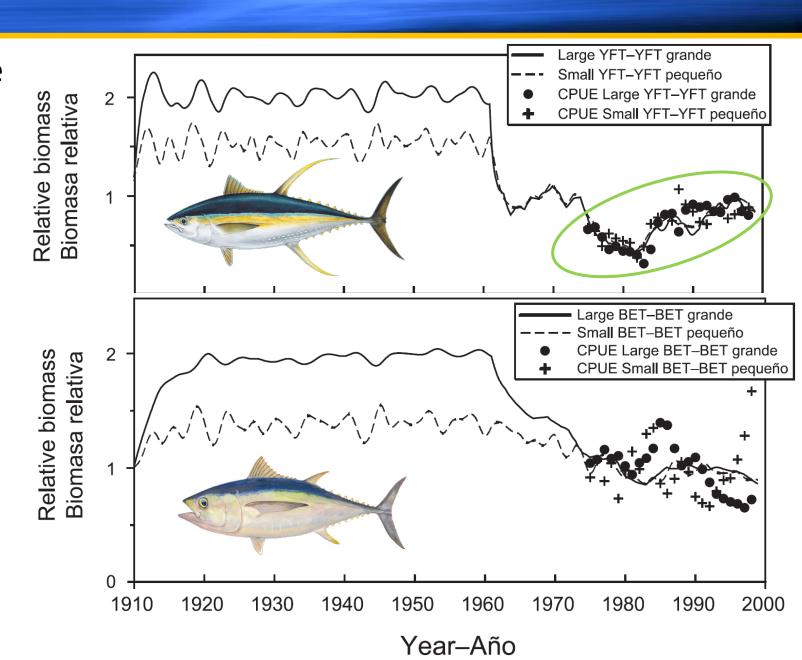
- ETP7 calibrated using time series 1975-1999 from stock assessments
 - Relative biomass
 - Total mortality (Z)
- Small & Large YFT
 - Excellent fit to CPUE data



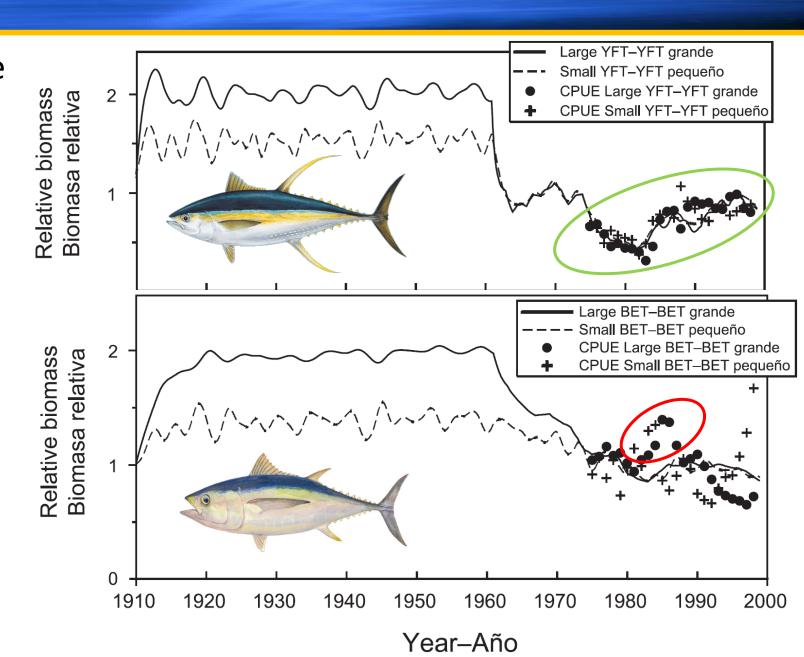
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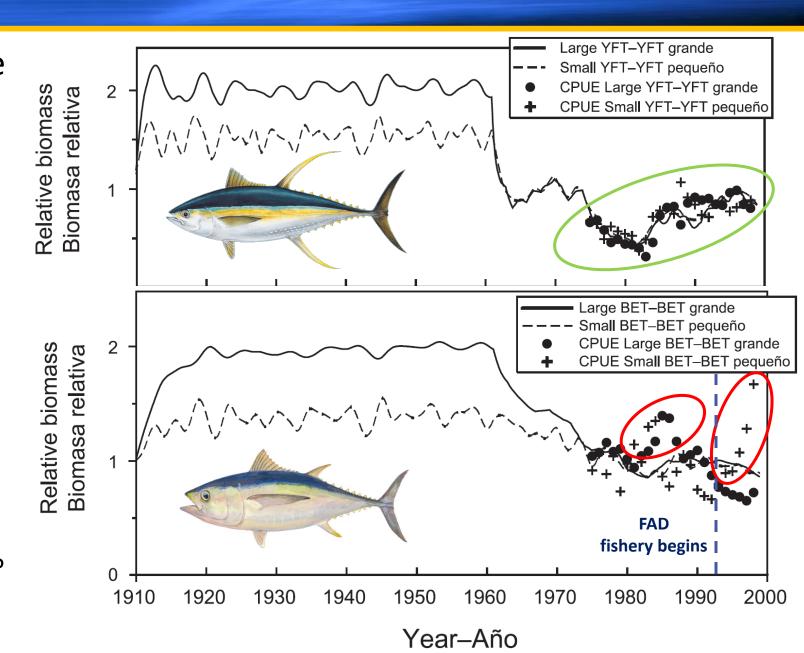
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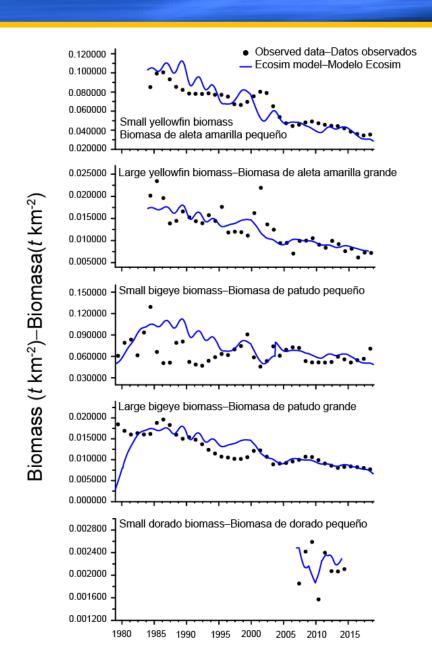
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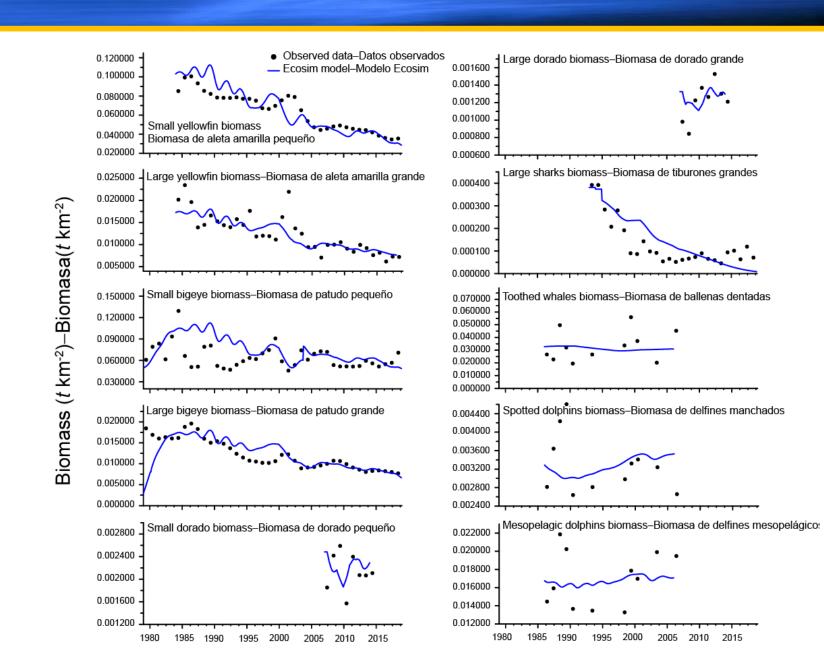
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 - Nominal OBJ CPUE ≠ abundance?
- Poor predictive ability



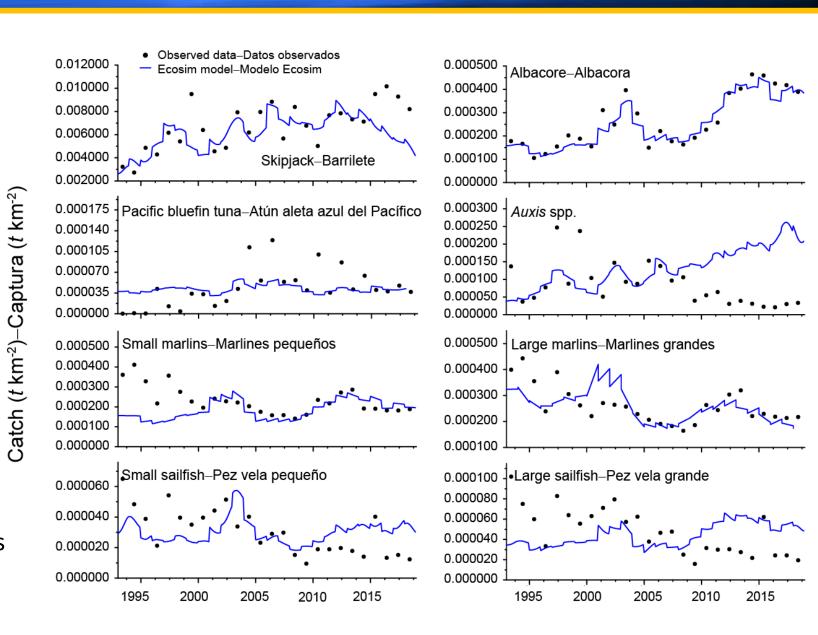
- Time series
 - Relative biomass
 - Fishing mortality (F)
 - Catch (retained + discarded)
- 25 functional groups
 - Small & large size classes
- Biomass and catch
 - Assessed species



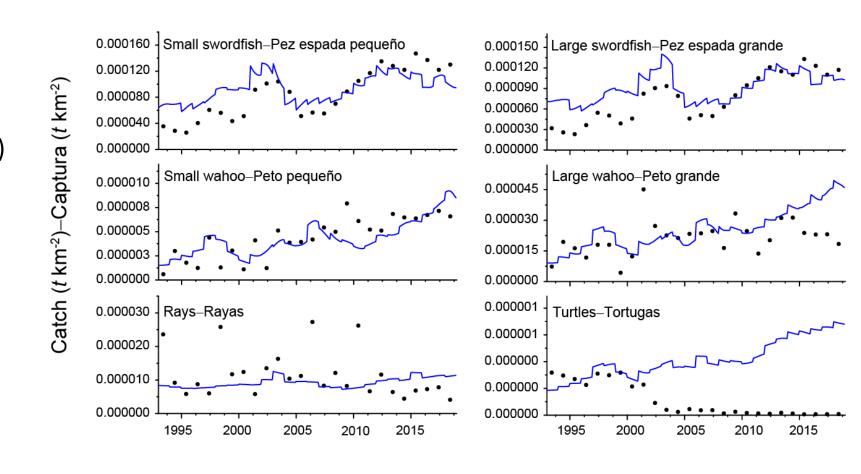
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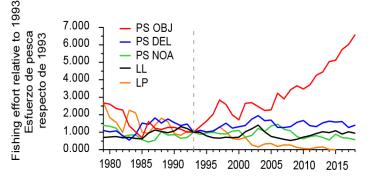


Results

Historical changes in the structure of the ETP ecosystem for the period 1979-2018



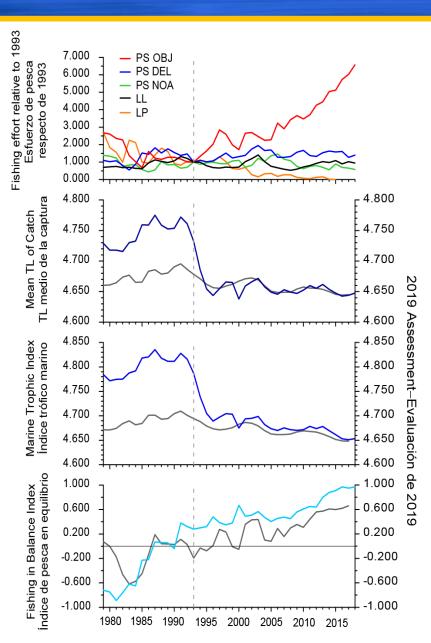
Fishing-based indicators



- Nominal fishing effort scaled from 1993
 - Coincidentally, start of the FAD fishery
 - ~7-fold increase in number of OBJ sets 1993-2018



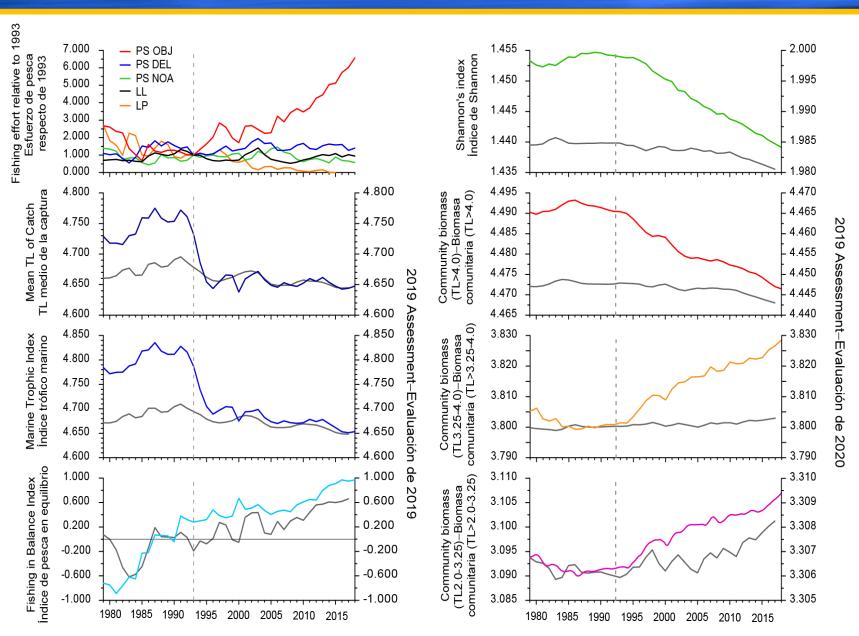
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 - ~7-fold increase in number of OBJ sets 1993-2018.
- TL_c and MTI declined by 0.05 for 1991-2018
 - Change in TL_c of ≥ 0.1 per decade is significant
- FIB >0 since 1991
 - Indicates expansion of fishery, likely due to increasing catch of bycatch species



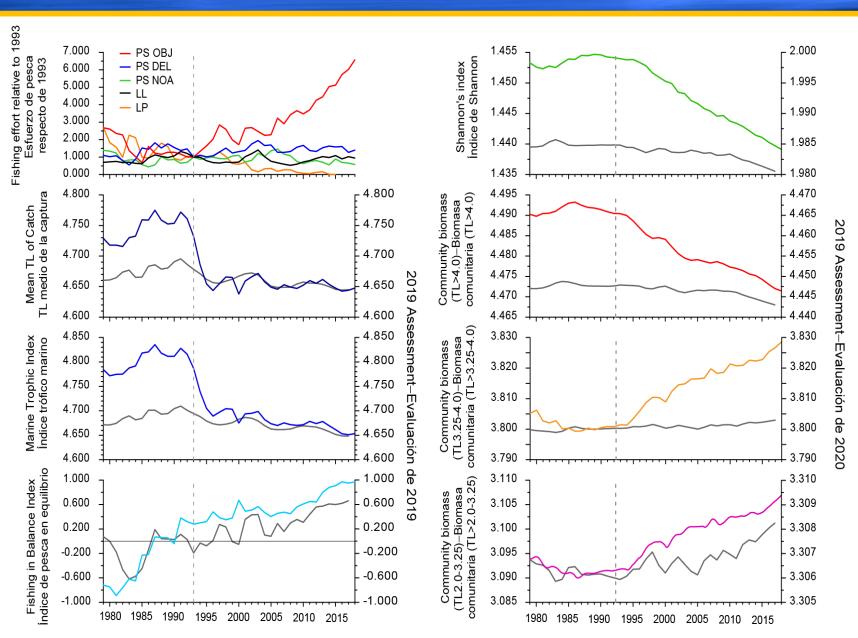
Community-based indicators



- Declining "evenness"
 - Changing relative biomass
- Alternating biomass trends by TL
 - Decline of predators (>4.0)
 - Increase of prey (3.25-4.0)
- Minor trophic cascade



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- Declining "evenness"
 - Changing relative biomass
- Alternating biomass trends by TL
 - Decline of predators (>4.0)
 - Increase of prey (3.25-4.0)
- Minor trophic cascade
- Continued trends, certainly requires monitoring



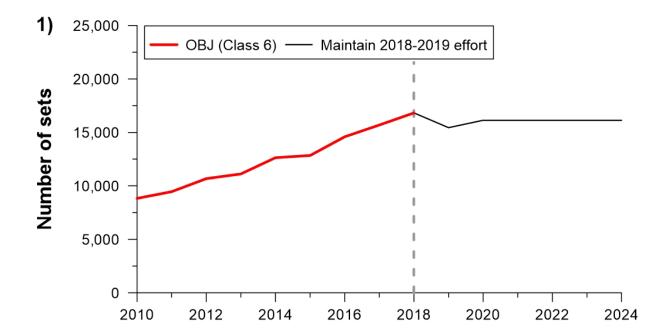
Results

Simulating the potential impacts of FAD fishing on key species and ecosystem structure



Modelled scenarios

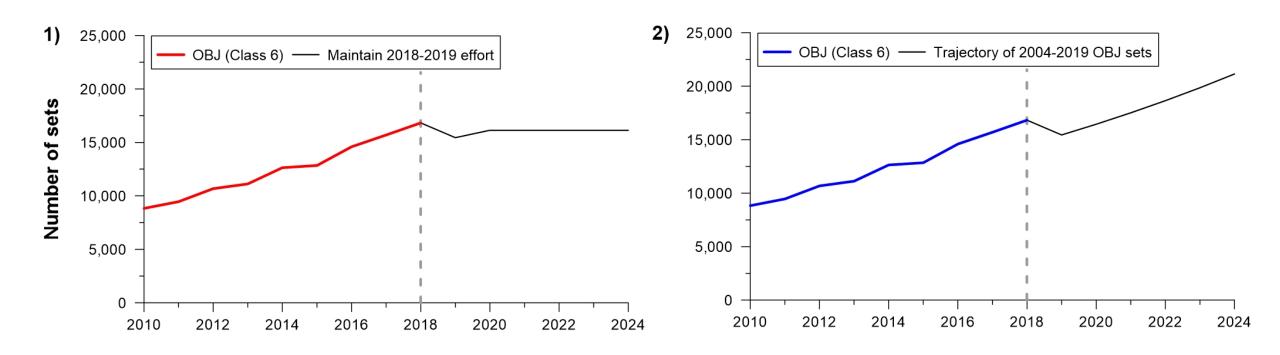
- 1. Average no. of OBJ sets for 2018-2019 maintained from 2018 to 2024
 - Effort for all other fisheries maintained at 2018 levels



Modelled scenarios

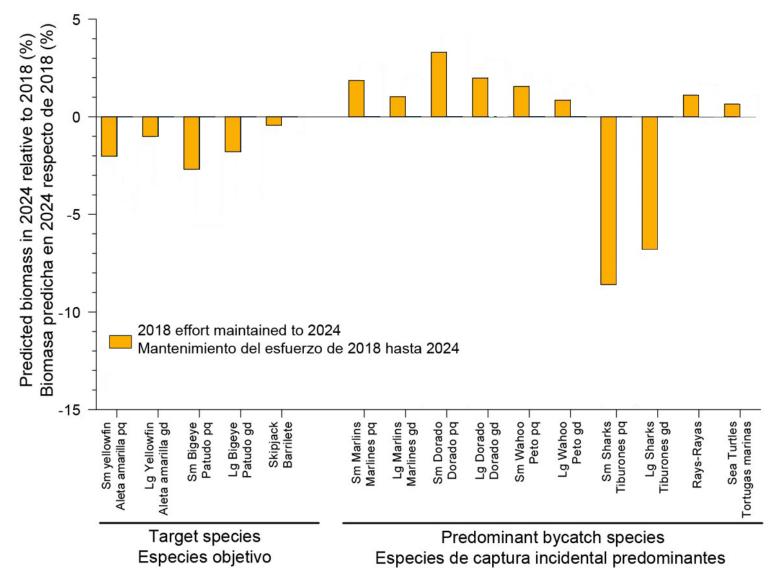
2. Increase OBJ sets following the trajectory from 2004-2019

Effort for all other fisheries maintained at 2018 levels



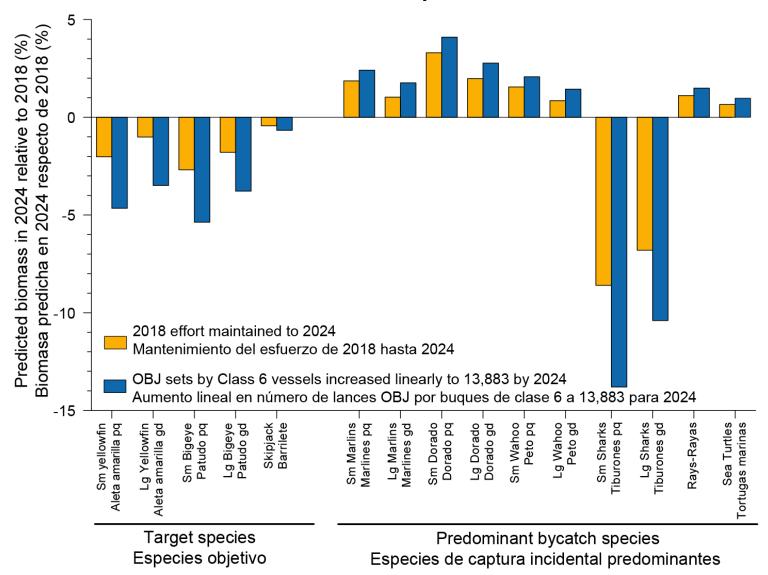
1) Maintain 2018/2019 effort

• Biomass of tunas $\sqrt{1-3}\%$, retained bycatch $\sqrt{1-3}\%$, sharks $\sqrt{7-9}\%$



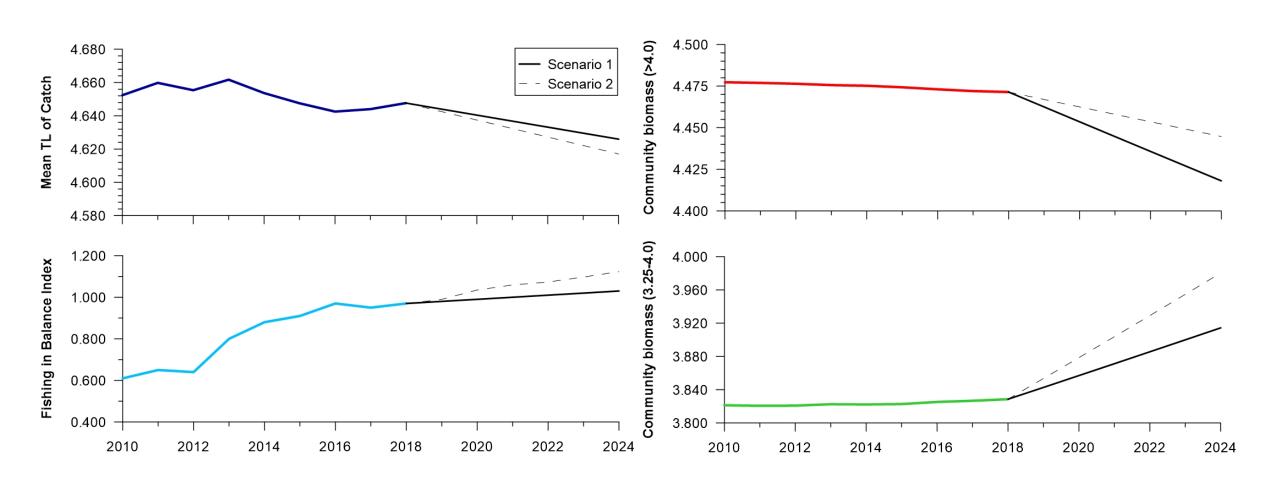
2) Increase OBJ effort

• Biomass of tunas \downarrow 1-5%, retained bycatch \uparrow 1-6%, sharks \downarrow 11-14%



Changes to ecosystem structure

Continued decline of TLc & TL>4.0; increase FIB & TL 3.25



Summary

- ETP-21 improved realism of the ETP ecosystem and calibration improved reliability of forecasts by reproducing past population trends.
- The structure of the ETP substantial changed over the history of the EPO tuna fishery, and more pessimistic than 2019 assessment.
- Changes most significant since the early 1990s coinciding with the increase in OBJ sets, increasing by ~50% every 5 years; 7-fold since 1993.
- Maintaining 2018-2019 effort levels resulted in biomass declines of target species, but especially small and large sharks.
- Increase in OBJ effort predicted to result in further biomass declines for tuna and sharks and compromise the ETP structure.

Future research

- If ETP-21 or new model used, data improvements are required
- Data for catch (retained and discards) & effort (SAC-12-09)
 - Longline (especially shallow vs. deep sets)
 - Purse-seine class 1-5 by set type
 - Coastal 'artisanal' fleets (longline & gillnets)
- Foundation of the model is diet data from early 1990s
 - EPO has experienced some of the strongest El Nino events on record
 - FAD impacts may have altered predator-prey dynamics
- EPO ecological sampling program required to update diet matrix and key model parameters (e.g. consumption rates, SAC-10 INF-E)





Questions?

