

# The Global Tuna Atlas: Services of interest to FAO, RFMOs, scientific Community and general public

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- 1 Standing on the shoulder of giants
- 2 Monitoring fisheries and stocks
- 3 Making the most of tuna fisheries data

# Knowledge of data in the hands of the tRFMO Secretariats

## Public domain tuna data sets

- **Numerous:** Nominal catch, spatial catch, spatial effort, raw size data, catch@size
- **Rich:** Long time series, basin-scale dimension, many species, etc.
- **Complex:** Specific terms, different coding systems between data sets, different units, redundancy, etc.
- **Heterogenous:** Data sources, processing and curation levels, species of interest, confidentiality rules, etc.
- **Uncertain:** Variability and gaps in many artisanal fisheries, biases in longline size data, species composition in purse seine, etc.

# Generate an operational global data set for science

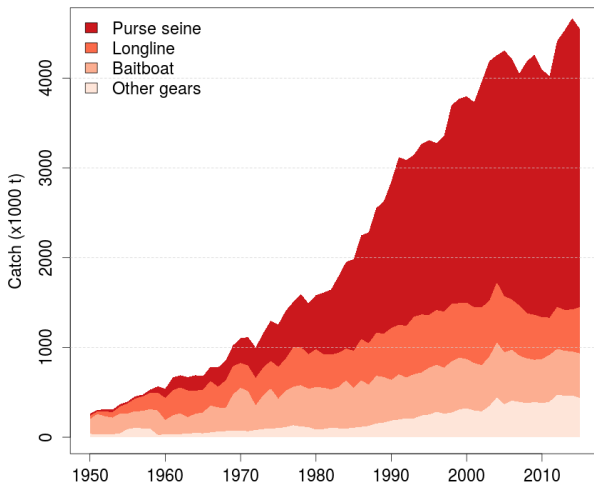
## Reconciling tRFMO data sets

- Selection of data sets and reduction of redundancy for users
- Redistribution of catch/effort on land
- Conversions of catch into weight with description of factors/keys used
- Conversions of effort into a few units (hooks, days fished, sets)
- Addition of gear groups and species groups
- Standard code lists to facilitate understanding, merging and comparison across stocks/oceans/species/areas
- Standard metadata catalogue to help in both dissemination and interpretation (Emmanuel/Paul's presentations)

## Direct interest of the Tuna Atlas to FAO

- Monitoring global fisheries production in the context of food security
- Assessing the relative importance of fisheries
- Linking with consumption of fish and fishery products
- Promoting exchanges of information and methods between tRFMOs
- Informing the general public on tuna fisheries
- Use case of spatial fisheries data portable to other case studies
- Facilitate comparison between data sources (Justel-Rubio et al., 2016)
- Provide data sets for management and science (see below)

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# Direct interest to the tRFMOs Secretariats

## Thinking global

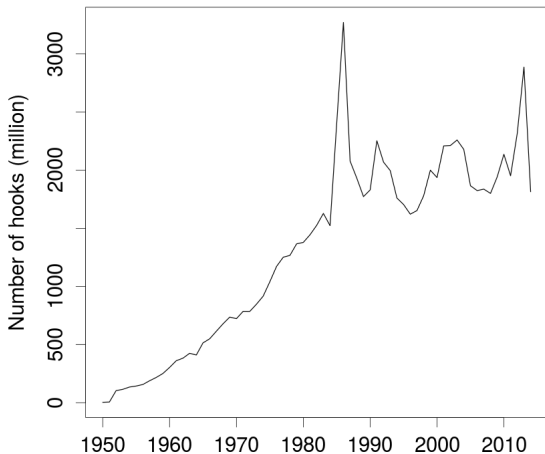
- Contribute to the mapping and evolution of code lists and standards
- Provide feedbacks through identification of data inconsistencies
- Develop a generic approach for metadata production
- Increase the visibility of tRFMO data sets with metadata catalogue
- Provide (potential) complementary solutions of data access, extraction, and visualization



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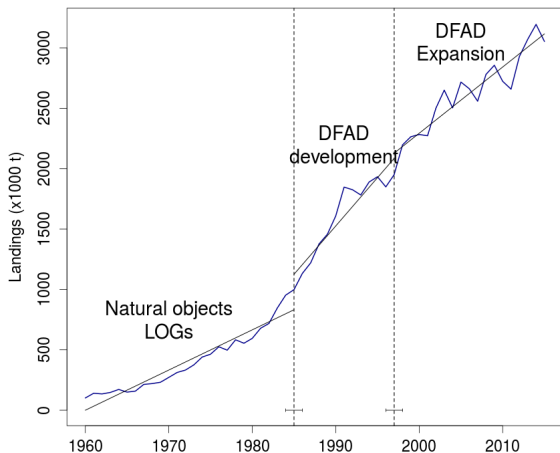
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# Monitoring global fishing effort and capacity



Annual changes in global longline effort during 1950-2014

# Monitoring global changes in fishing strategy



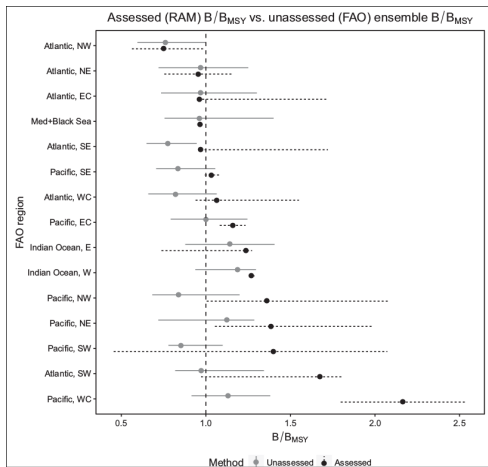
Annual changes in global catch on floating objects/FADs during 1950-2014

# Assessments mainly based on catch data

## Approaches

- Detection of patterns in time series of catch for defining fisheries status, e.g. collapse (Garcia and Grainger, 1997; Mullon et al., 2005)
- Data poor modelling approaches, including Management Strategy Evaluation (Carruthers et al., 2012; Rosenberg et al., 2017)
- Changes in mean trophic level of the catch at community scale (Pauly and Palomares, 2005)

# Assessments based on catch data

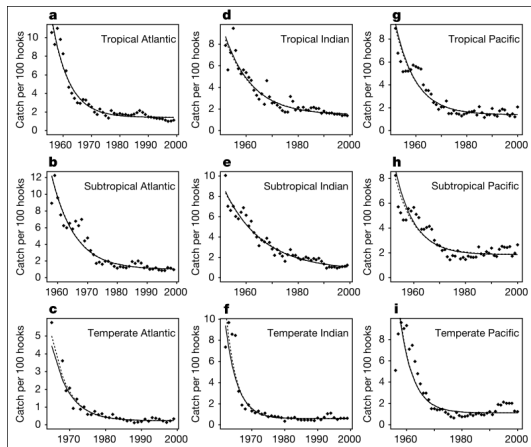


Comparison of stock status between assessed vs. unassessed stocks at basin scales (Anderson et al., 2017; Rosenberg et al., 2017)

## Some patterns in CPUE time series observed across oceans

- Strong initial decline in longline CPUEs observed across oceans (Myers and Worm, 2003; Sibert et al., 2006; Polacheck, 2006)
- Major “jump” in longline CPUE in the mid-1970s due to development of deep-water longline
- Increasing CPUEs in purse seine linked to FAD fishery expansion
- Comparison of catch rates between oceans
- Local effects of seamounts on fisheries productivity

# Some patterns in CPUE time series observed across oceans



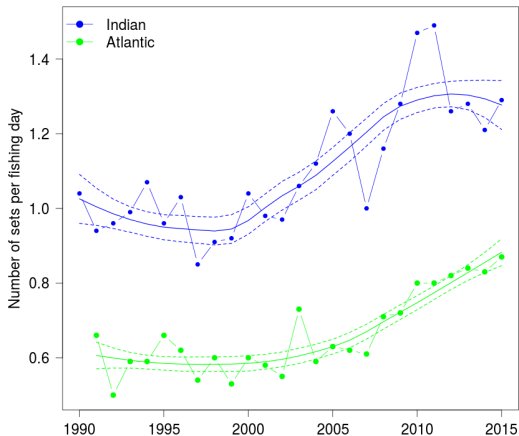
Changes in Japanese longline CPUEs – not abundance (Myers and Worm, 2003)

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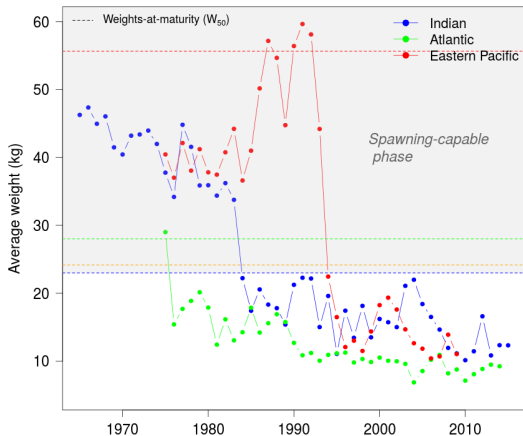


# Increasing fishing efficiency linked to purse seine strategy



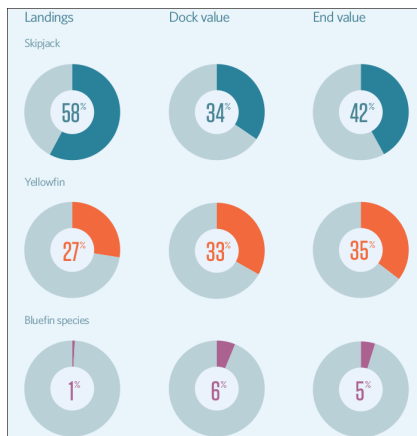
Annual changes in number of sets per fishing day during 1991-2015

# Temporal changes in fishing pattern across oceans



Annual mean weight in bigeye tuna during 1965-2014

# Quantifying the economic value of tuna catches



Dock and end value for skipjack, yellowfin, and bluefins (Galland et al., 2016)

# Addressing questions of spatial management for tunas



**OPEN** **Winners and losers in a world where the high seas is closed to fishing**

SUBJECT AREAS:  
 CONSERVATION  
 BIOLOGY  
 ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

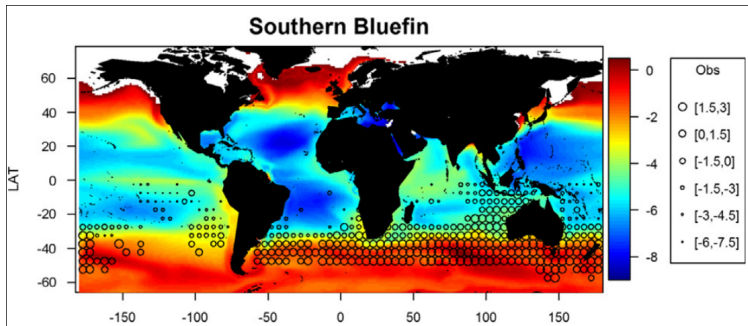
U. Rashid Sumaila<sup>1</sup>, Vicky W. Y. Lam<sup>2</sup>, Dana D. Miller<sup>1</sup>, Louise Teh<sup>1</sup>, Reg A. Watson<sup>3</sup>, Dirk Zeller<sup>2</sup>, William W. L. Cheung<sup>4</sup>, Isabelle M. Côté<sup>5</sup>, Alex D. Rogers<sup>6</sup>, Callum Roberts<sup>7</sup>, Enric Sala<sup>8</sup> & Daniel Pauly<sup>2</sup>

Estimation of catch within national jurisdictional waters and question of distribution of fisheries benefits (Sumaila et al., 2015; White and Costello, 2014)

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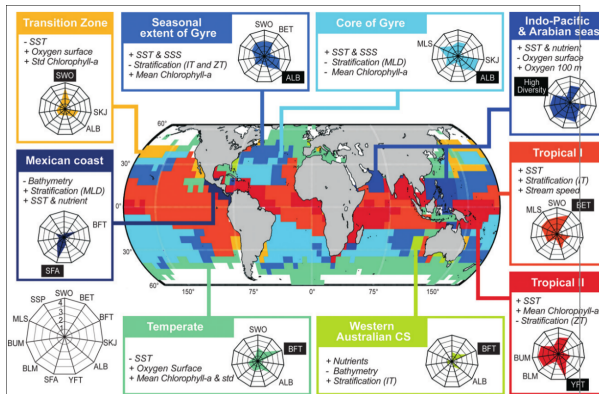
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# Modelling habitat preferences of tuna populations



Observed CPUEs with predictions of habitat for southern bluefin (Arrizabalaga et al., 2015)

# Understanding the biogeography of tuna communities



Classification of large ecological provinces described by similar tuna composition (Reygondeau et al., 2012)

# Exploring the range-abundance relationship in tunas

PNAS

## Range contraction in large pelagic predators

Boris Worm<sup>a,1</sup> and Derek P. Tittensor<sup>a,b,c</sup>

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Edited\* by Robert T. Paine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and approved May 31, 2011 (received for review February 18, 2011)

Large reductions in the abundance of exploited land predators have led to significant range contractions for those species. This pattern can be formalized as the range-abundance relationship, a general macroecological pattern that has important implications for the conservation of threatened species. Here we ask whether similar responses may have occurred in highly mobile pelagic predators, specifically 13 species of tuna and billfish. We analyzed two multi-

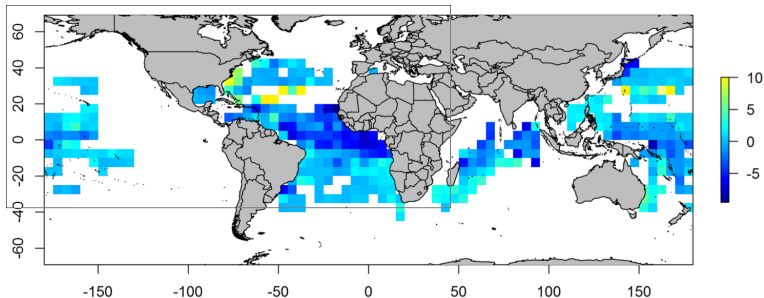
patterns in addition to the effects of reducing abundance via the hunting or culling of animals.

For marine fishes, particularly for pelagic and highly mobile species such as tuna and billfish, it is an open question whether similar patterns apply. Large reductions in abundance are a standard outcome of fisheries management for maximum yield (16–18), but how this may affect the range size of a species is

Use of FAO Tuna Atlas to relate spatial extent with abundance derived from assessment models (Worm and Tittensor, 2011)



# Assessing the effects of ocean warming on tuna distribution



Change in the percentage of tropical tuna in longline catch between the 1960s and the 2000s (Monllor-Hurtado et al., 2017)

# Large-scale analyses of bycatch on threatened species

## REPORT

*Ecology Letters*, (2004) 7: 221–231

doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2004.00573.x

### Quantifying the effects of fisheries on threatened species: the impact of pelagic longlines on loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles

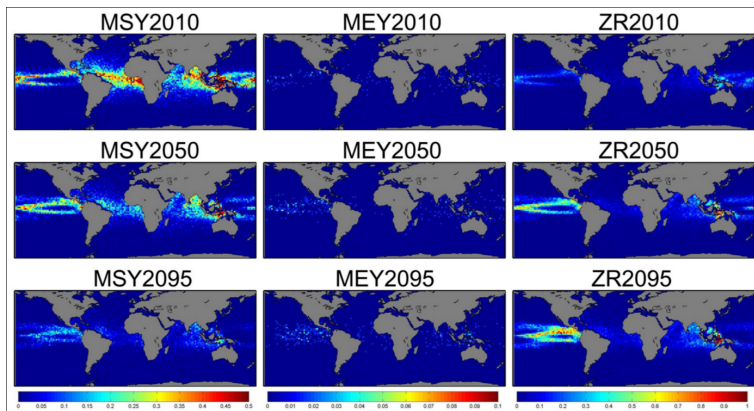
Rebecca L. Lewison\*, Sloan A. Freeman and Larry B. Crowder  
 Duke University Marine Laboratory, Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, 135 Duke Marine Lab Road, Beaufort, NC 28516, USA  
 \*Correspondence: E-mail: rebecca.lewison@duke.edu

#### Abstract

The depletion of fish stocks from global fisheries has been a long-standing concern. More recently, incidental catch of non-target (termed bycatch) vertebrates also has been proposed as a serious conservation issue. Here we present a bycatch assessment for loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles that are incidentally caught by global pelagic longlines. We integrate catch data from over 40 nations and bycatch data from 13 international observer programmes. Despite infrequent rates of encounter, our analyses show that more than 200 000 loggerheads and 50 000 leatherbacks were likely taken as pelagic longline bycatch in 2000. Our analyses suggest that thousands of these turtles die each year from longline gear in the Pacific Ocean alone. Given 80–95%

Use of bycatch information available from tuna RFMOs for quantifying effects of longline on the conservation of sea turtles (Lewison et al., 2004)

# Global ecosystem models and IPCC/IPBES scenarios



Spatial catch-effort data are inputs for ecosystem models such as APECOSM and SEAPODYM. Projections of skipjack abundance in 2050-2100 (Dueri et al., 2016)

# Make the Tuna Atlas great again!

## Key points

- Public-domain tuna data (catch, effort, size) are just one component of the data sets for management
- The spatial dimension of the data is however of much interest for many research questions
- The knowledge of the data sets comes from the tRFMOs and the data curation should be reflected in the metadata
- The standards adopted facilitate the connection between the tuna Atlas and other sources (environmental data, RAM Legacy database, FAD-tracking data, etc.)
- The Tuna Atlas is a [link](#) between the RFMO Secretariats and a wider audience of researchers

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