Deepwater Snapper

Towards improved stock assessments and management

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Oceanic Fisheries Programme

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

SPC / CPS

Australian Government

AusAID

SPC Deepwater Snapper project
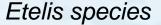
- Assistance provided to several countries:

    - Vanuatu
    - Samoa
    - Tonga
    - Marshall Islands
    - New Caledonia
    - Papua New Guinea

Deepwater Snapper Fisheries

- Small-scale fisheries (<20 vessels per country)

- Relatively easy to monitor

- Samoan hand reels - ~150 - 500 m

- *Etelis* and *Pristipomoides* species

- High vulnerability to fishing

Etelis species

Pristipomoides species

Work Plan

4 main work areas:

1. Capacity development
2. Biological studies
3. Fisheries assessment and management
4. **Fisheries data collection**

Fisheries Data Collection

Aim: to develop a standardised approach to deepwater snapper data collection across the Pacific region

1. Implement a common database system, which minimises development and maintenance costs;

2. Consistency in how and what data are collected and how they are analysed; and

3. Easy to compare fisheries among countries

Fisheries Data Collection

Activities

- Support development of deepwater snapper fisheries monitoring in-country (e.g. logsheets and port sampling)

- We originally planned to develop new database (SNAPMAN) … BUT,

- It makes more sense to utilise existing artisanal data forms and database (**TUF-ART**)

Fisheries Data Collection

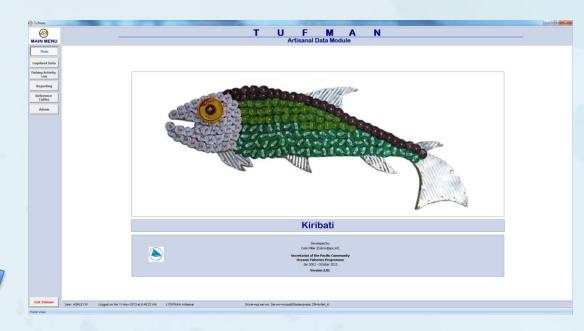**Fishing Logsheet**

Catch & Effort data

TUF-ART Database

Sampling Logsheet

Length data

Important to record correct species

New species of short tail snapper

Etelis carbunculus

Etelis marshi

New species

Why is it important to distinguish between these species in logsheets and database?

Because they have completely different biology

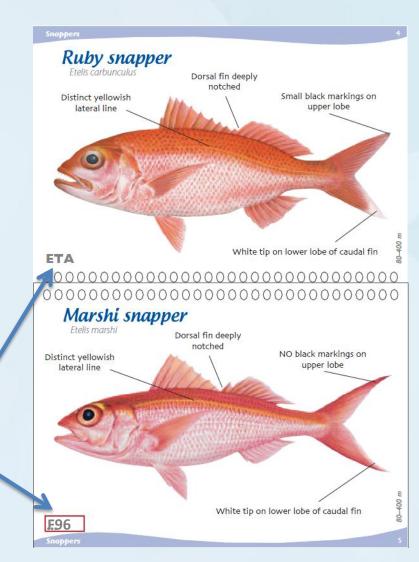|	*Etelis carbunculus*	*Etelis marshi* (new species)
Max. size	130 cm (30$^+$ kg)	65cm (5 kg)
Maturity	~70 cm	~25 cm

Identification cards

3-letter species codes

Recommendations

1. Use **TUF-ART** logsheets to record deepwater snapper catch and effort data

2. Use **TUF-ART** database to enter, store and manage deepwater snapper data

3. Request assistance from SPC if needed

Questions?