

PACIFIC TUNA TAGGING PROGRAMME



MONTHLY TAGGING SUMMARY – JUNE 2008

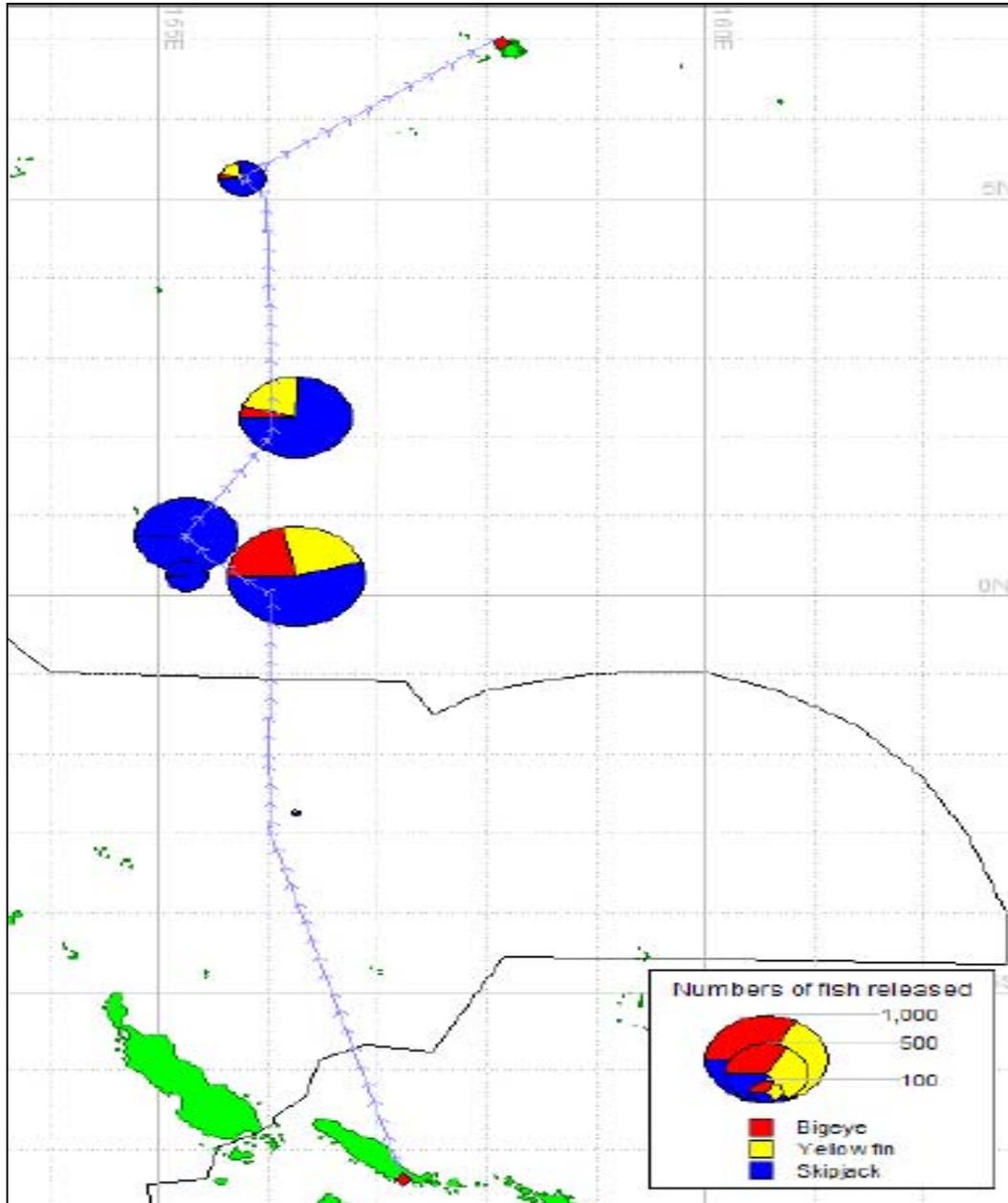


Figure 1. Tag release pie charts by species for WP1 releases.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

As a continuation of Phase 2 of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (PTTP), the main tagging platform, FV Soltai 105, commenced charter operations in late June, from its base in Noro, Solomon Islands. This cruise sees the extension of the PTTP into the greater western Pacific and was given the cruise designation **WTP-Phase 2 (WP1)**. The cruise sees the main tagging platform extending tagging operations into Micronesia and through to the Philippines and Indonesia and through Papua New Guinea before returning to Noro to complete the first five month charter.

TAG RELEASES

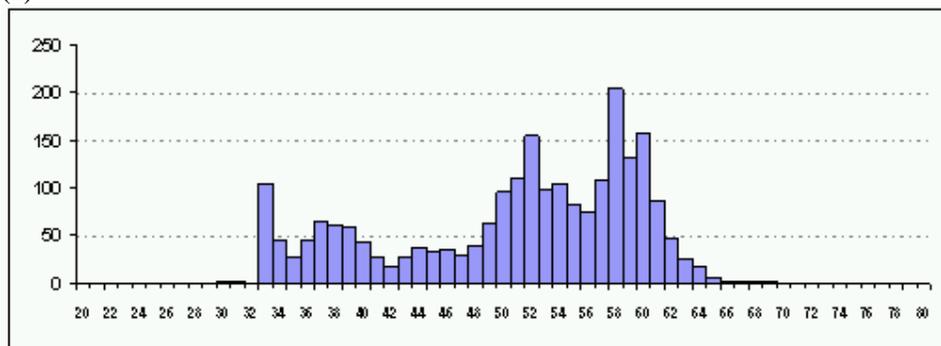
The total number of tag releases during Phase 1 and Phase 2 as at 30 June 2008, (which includes the first central Pacific cruise (CP-1)*) now stands at over 102, 940. Release numbers by tag type and species are given in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Total number of tag releases by tag type and species.

	Skipjack	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Total
Conventional Tag	62984	1178	38238	102400
Archival Tag	2	56	260	318
Sonic Tag	69	10	116	195
Archival + Sonic Tag	0	8	19	27
Total	63055	1252	38633	102940

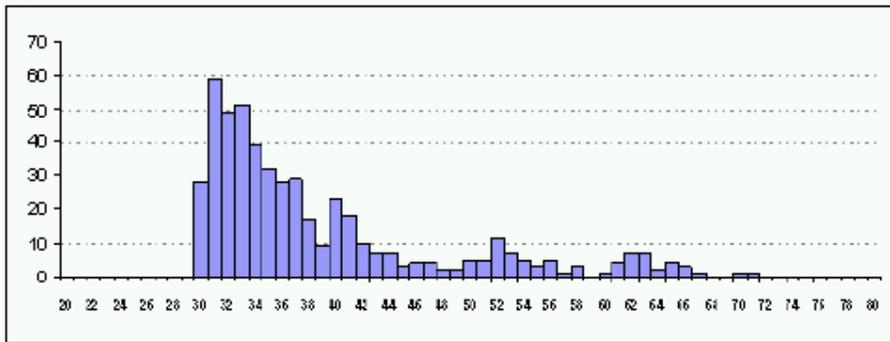
The precise number of tag releases for late June at the commencement of WP-1 were unavailable at the time this was written but is believed to be in the vicinity of 3, 000. These tag releases have not been included in the number of tag releases presented here. **Figure 1** shows the proportion of tags released in an area by species for WP1. **Figure 2 (a,b,c)** show the size distribution of tag releases by species, SKJ, YFT and BET respectively for WP1, as at 30 June 2008.

(a)



* See May 2008 Summary

(b)



(c)

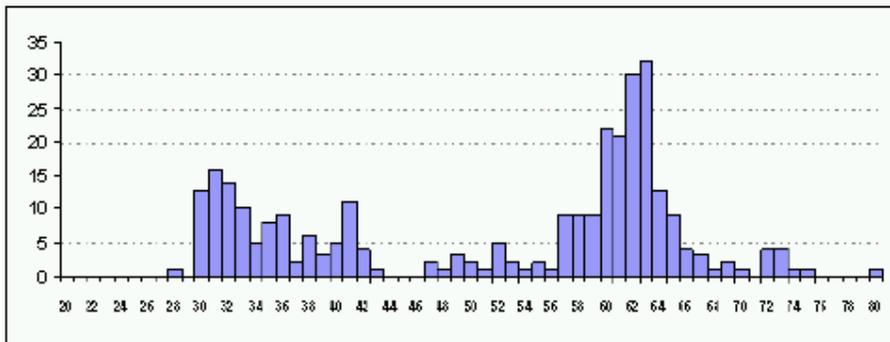


Figure 2 (a,b,c). Size distribution of tunas (a: SKJ, b: YFT and c: BET) tagged during WP1 as at 30 June 2008.

TAG RECOVERIES

104 tags were recovered in May and 948 tags were recovered during June 2008. This brings the total number of tags recovered to 11550 with a recovery rate of 11.2% for conventional tags (Table 1), 15.4% for archival tags (Table 2) and 9.9% for sonic tags (Table 3). The May and June tag recoveries were dominated by returns from the Solomon Islands purse seiners – NFD and Global Investment (Table 4). Returns from the more than 30, 000 Solomon Islands releases should continue to increase in the coming months as recoveries from the recent releases are received.

Table 2. Total number of conventional tag returns, as at 30 June 2008.

	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
June 2008 recoveries	369	567	11	947
Total to June 30 2008	6859 (12.7%)	4433 (12.9%)	258 (22.4%)	11550 (11.2%)

Table 3. Total number of archival tag returns as at 30 June 2008.

	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
June 2008 recoveries	0	1	0	1
Total to June 30 2008	1 (50%)	31 (13.5%)	11 (22.9%)	43 (15.4%)

Table 4. Total number of sonic tag returns as at 31 May 2008.

	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
May 2008 recoveries	0	0	0	0
Total to May 31 2008	3 (4.3%)	12 (8.9%)	7 (38.9%)	22 (9.9%)

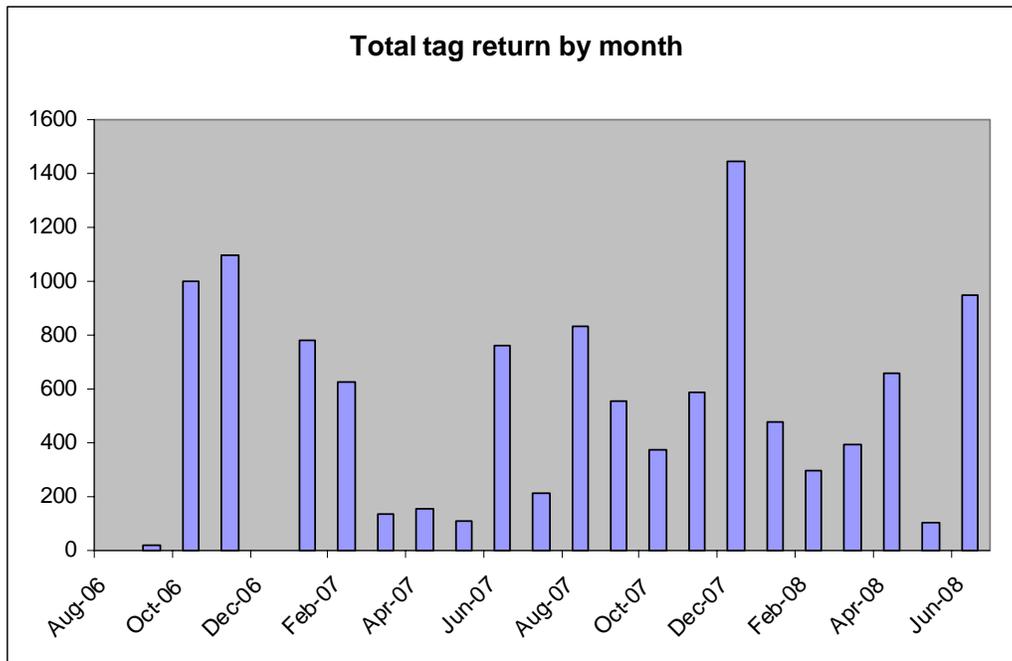


Figure 3. Total tag returns per month.

Table 5. Tag returns by vessel flag.

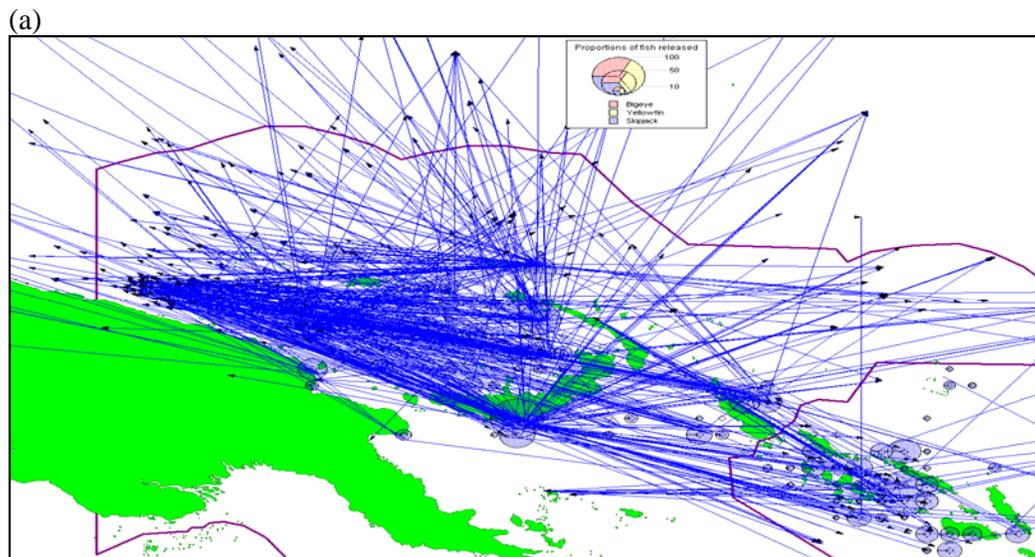
	June 2008 returns	Total returns
China	0	36
Fiji	0	1
FSM	0	11
Indonesia	2	85
Japan	0	291
Kiribati	0	13
Korea	34	272
Marshall Islands	0	8
New Zealand	0	3
Panama	0	8
PNG	7	5556
Philippines	5	976
Solomon Islands	875	2598
Seychelles	0	1
Taiwan	10	312
United States	11	20
Vanuatu	2	916
Non identified	0	203

Table 6. Number of tag returns by source (where found).

Tag Return Source	June 2008 returns	Total returns
American Samoa	0	16
China	0	4
FSM	0	1
IATTC	0	135
Indonesia	2	77
IOTC	0	5
Japan	0	271
Korea	0	130
Marshall Islands	1	10
Philippines (Direct)	8	368
Philippines (Frabelle)	0	162
PNG (Frabelle)	0	645
PNG (NFA)	0	90
PNG (RD)	0	5022
PNG (SSTC)	0	145
PNG (Other)	1	34
Solomon Islands (NMFMR)	0	74
Solomon Islands (Soltai)	23	188
Solomon Islands (Global Investment)	0	944
Solomon Islands (NFD)	857	2349
Solomon Islands (Other)	0	51
Tagging Vessel	0	23
Thailand	54	757
Other	1	7
Total	947	11508

TAGGED FISH MOVEMENTS

Figure 4 (a,b,c), shows the displacement of the tagged population before recapture, for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye respectively.



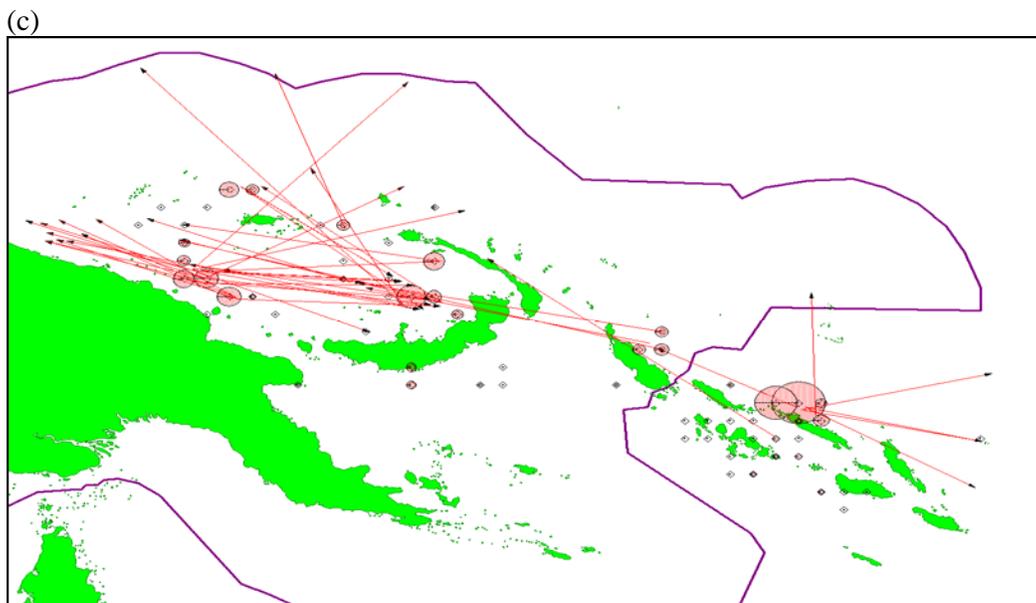
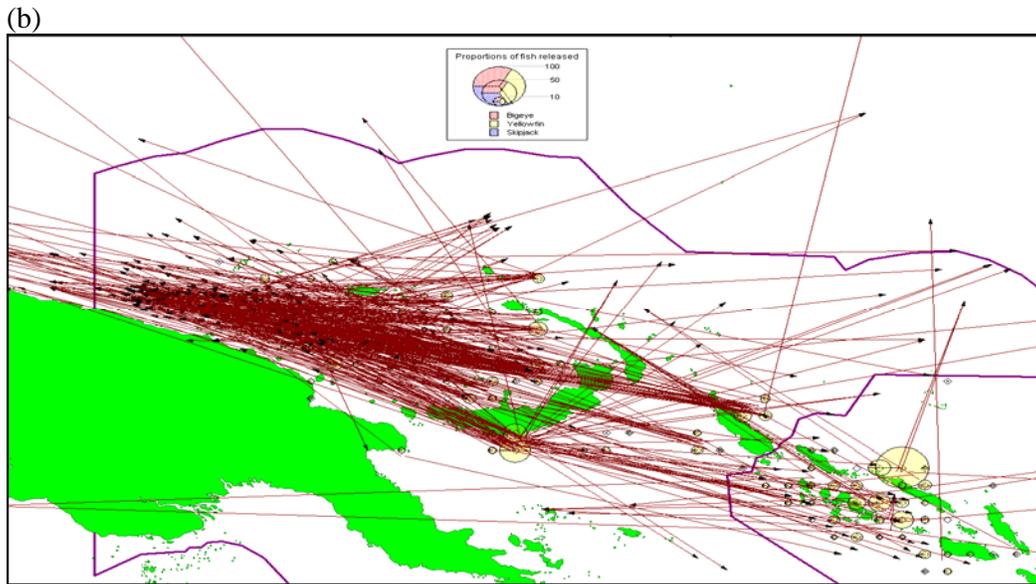


Figure 4 (a,b,c). Displacement of tagged population by species, from tag recovery data.