



# PTTP Bi-Monthly Summary

October–November 2008

Brought to you by SPC - Oceanic Fisheries Programme



## Project News

### TAGGING IN INDONESIA

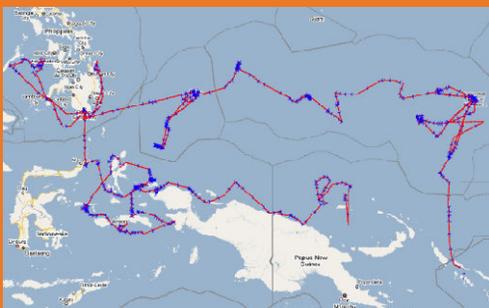


Figure 1. Soltai 105 vessel cruise track

The main tagging platform, Soltai 105, entered Indonesian waters on 28 September 2008, extending the second phase of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) into Indonesia.

A total of 25,197 tunas were tagged and released in Indonesian waters. Tagging was conducted around the Islands of Sulawesi and Maluku and off Irian Jaya.

The tagging vessel entered the waters of Papua New Guinea (PNG) on 31 October 2008. A total of 10,533 tunas were tagged and released in PNG waters during cruise 6. Fishing was conducted to the north of the Admiralty Islands and New Ireland and to the east to tag tunas in the high seas pocket to its north.

The tagging vessel returned to its home port in Noro, Solomon Islands on 23 November 2008. This marked the completion of the fieldwork for 2008, and a return home for the hard working and professional crew of the Soltai 105, after nearly five months at sea.

A second leg of tagging in the wider western and central Pacific is scheduled for early next year.

## Tag Releases

The total number of tag releases as of 23 November stands at **56,756** for Phase 2. This brings the total number of tag releases for the whole Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) to **161, 771**. Figure 1 shows the vessel cruise track as of 23 November. Figure 2 shows the proportion of tunas tagged and released in each area by species.

## Tag Recoveries

Recaptures from the recent releases are starting to be reported. The total number of tag recoveries as at 23 November stands at 497 for Phase 2. This brings the total number of tag recoveries for the whole project to **15,607**, with a **9.65%** recovery rate. Figure 4 shows the movement of tagged tunas from the area where they were tagged.

The number of tag recoveries per month (Figure 5) fluctuated greatly, with the largest amounts of tags being returned a month or so after the commencement of tagging operations.

Table 1. Tag releases and recoveries as of 23 November 2008

	Releases	Recoveries	%
<b>Skipjack</b>	100,894	9,314	9.23%
<b>Yellowfin</b>	56,355	5,753	10.2%
<b>Bigeye</b>	4,446	540	12.14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,695</b>	<b>15,607</b>	<b>9.65%</b>

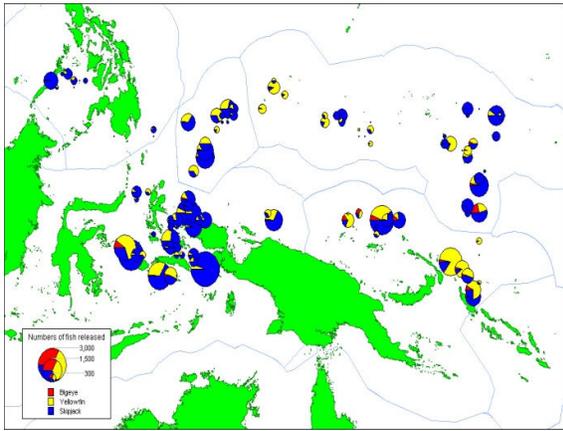
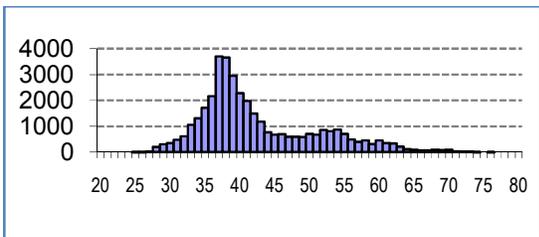
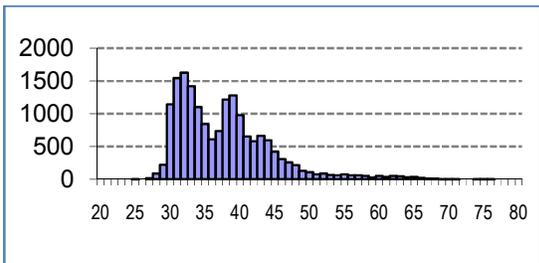


Figure 2. Tag release pie charts by species

Skipjack,  $n= 37,562$



Yellowfin,  $n=17,602$



Bigeye,  $n= 1,464$

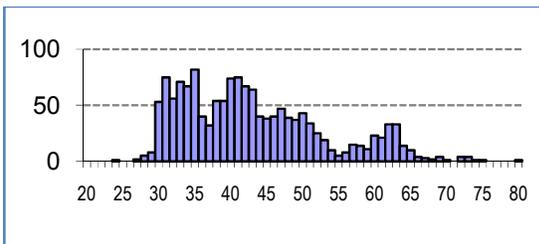
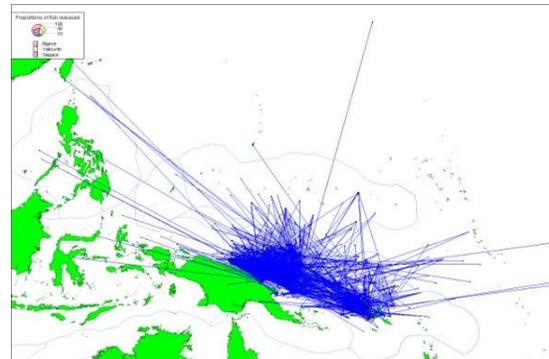
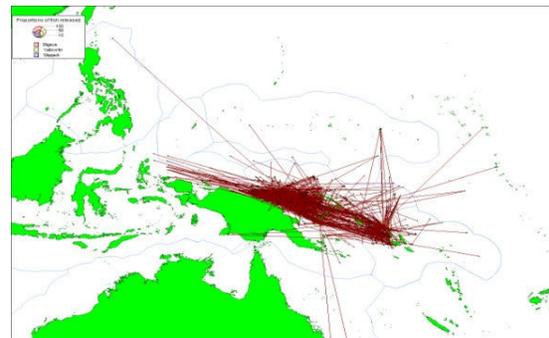


Figure 3. Length frequency plot of tagged tunas

(a)



(b)



(c)

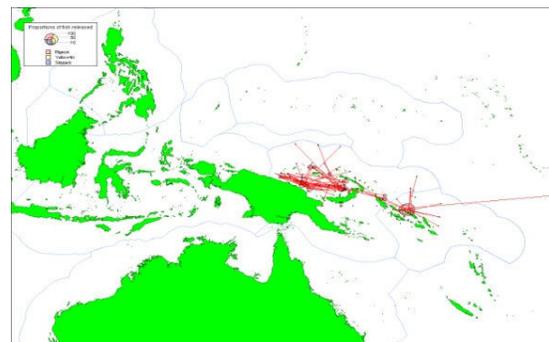


Figure 4. Tag displacement plots from tag recaptures

Table 2. Tag returns by vessel flag

Australia	2
China	108
Ecuador	89
Fiji Islands	2
Federated States of Micronesia	15
Indonesia	635
Japan	814
Kiribati	15
Korea	417
Marshall Islands	14
New Zealand	4
Panama	10
Papua New Guinea	5781
Philippines	1387
Seychelles	1
Solomon Islands	3642
Spain	121
Taiwan	654
Tonga	3
United States	158
Unknown	636
Vanuatu	1043
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,551</b>

### Tag Return Lotteries

Tag return lotteries were conducted in Noro, Solomon Islands in November.

The winners were:

1. Junior Hiele
2. James Tuita
3. Henry (Solomon Premier - NFD)
4. Ismae Laura
5. Clay Arisikera
6. Silas Maelasi
7. Commins Mesau
8. Mark Doe
9. John Ben

Special thanks to Dr Antony Lewis and Ms Cynthia Wickham for conducting the lottery in Noro. Pictured below are (from left to right) Dr Antony Lewis, Mr Milton Sibisopare, General Manager of Soltai Fishing and Processing Limited, and Mr Adrian Wickham, Director of National Fisheries Development, participating in the lottery. On the next page are photos of Ms Cynthia Wickham presenting prizes to two of the winners: Commins Mesau (in green) and Junior Hiele (in blue).



## PROFILES

In this section we acknowledge those who have contributed to the success of the project. In each edition of this newsletter over the coming months, we will profile an SPC staff member involved in the project as well as one of our tag recovery contacts.

### SPC PERSONNEL

Peter Williams



Peter obtained a BSc in marine biology from Sydney University, New South Wales in 1978. After further professional education in computer programming, he commenced working for a large software house in Sydney in late 1979. During the early 1980s, he was employed as Development Manager and completed a post-graduate diploma in information technology from Macquarie University, Sydney. Peter joined SPC in 1987 as the Assistant Fisheries Statistician (later renamed to Fisheries Database Manager) and was initially tasked with establishing the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) databases. Other than database-related work, he has a keen interest in various tuna fishery areas, particularly by-catch issues. In 1999, he completed an MBA (Technology Management) conducted through Deakin University, Melbourne, Victoria. He is married to Andrea, and has three beautiful daughters: Adeline, Coralie and Margaux.

## TAG RECOVERY CONTACTS

Teresa Athayde, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission



Teresa is the Regional Tuna Tagging Project – Indian Ocean (RTTP-IO) Publicity and Tag Recovery Officer. The RTTP-IO is being conducted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Teresa is in charge of the RTTP-IO publicity and tag recovery activities. Teresa's duties include the advertising of the project at local, national and international levels; the set up of recovery networks in more than 15 countries; and the retrieving of tagged tunas across the Indian Ocean and beyond.

Teresa is based in the Seychelles, the largest port unloading and transshipment of tuna in the Indian Ocean, from where she manages a local team of six samplers, coordinates ongoing activities across the region and revises all recoveries reported to the project.

Regards,

The Tagging Team