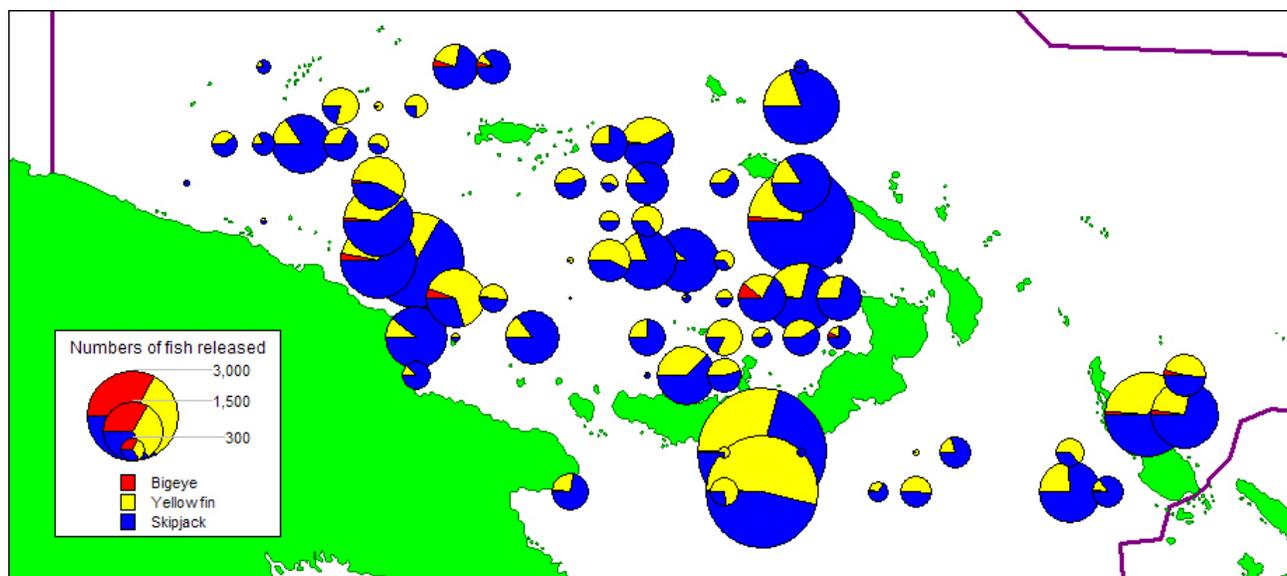


REGIONAL TUNA TAGGING PROJECT – PHASE 1 PNG
MONTHLY TAGGING SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2007



TAG RELEASES

No field work has been undertaken since May 2007, therefore the numbers of releases remain unchanged since the previous report (Table 1).

Table 1. Tag releases, August 2006 -May 2007.

	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
Conventional tags	40338	20300	633	61271
Archival tags	2	233	48	283
Sonic tags	69	135	18	222
Total	40409	20651	691	61751

TAG RECOVERIES

September was another busy month for tag returns (Figure 1), with 535 conventional tag returns, 2 archival tags and 1 sonic tag. This brings the total number of tag returns to 6,269, with an overall recovery rate of 10.2% (Table 2) for conventional tags, 11.3% for archival tags (Table 3) and 7.7% for sonic tags (Table 4).

Table 2. Conventional tag recoveries, as at 30 September 2007.

	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
September 1st – 30th recoveries	314	210	11	535
Total to September 30th	3723 (9.2%)	2344 (11.3%)	202 (29.2%)	6 269 (10.2%)

Note : numbers include returns that were double tagged with conventional and electronic tags.

Tag reporting arrangements were considerably enhanced in the Philippines (General Santos City and Zamboanga) and in Indonesia (Bitung, Sorong, Jayapura, Ternate and Kendari) with the appointment of Tag Recovery officers in these locations.

Table 3. Archival tag recoveries, as at 30 September 2007.

	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
September 1st – 30th recoveries	-	2	-	2
Total to September 30th	1 (50%)	21 (9%)	10 (20.8%)	32 (11.3%)

Table 4. Sonic tag recoveries, as at 30 September 2007.

	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
September 1st – 30th recoveries	-	1	-	1
Total to September 30th	2 (2.9%)	8 (5.9%)	7 (38.9%)	17 (7.7%)

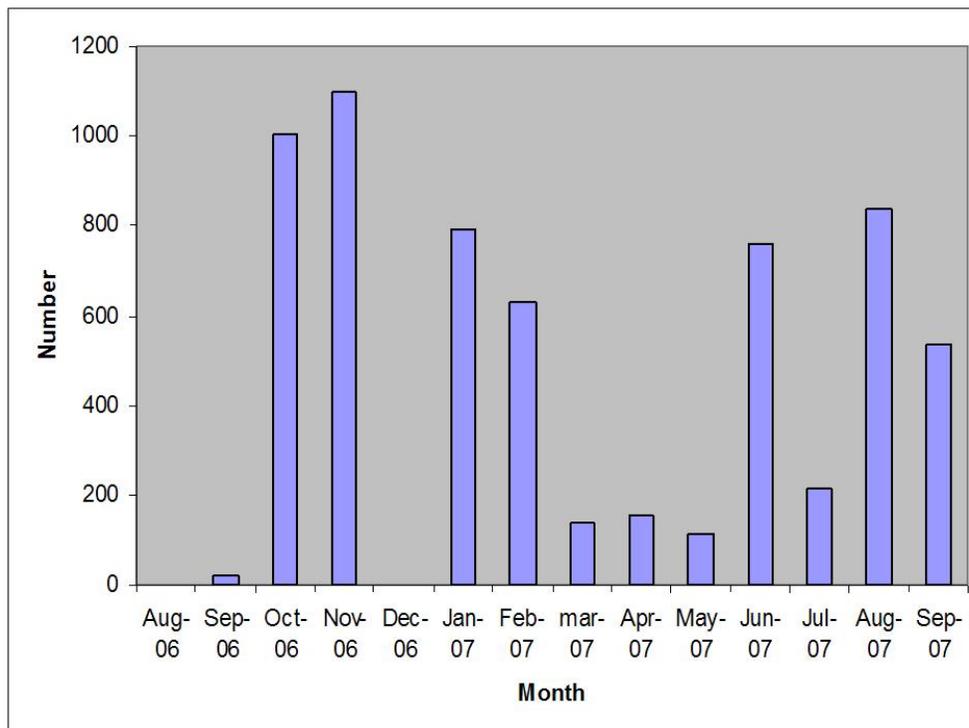


Figure 1. Number of tag returns by month.

The September recoveries were dominated by a large delivery of tags from the RD fishing company in PNG, Frabelle in PNG and our recovery contact in Thailand (Table 5).

NATIONAL TAG LOTTERIES

We are planning to conduct a number of national lotteries for tag returns in the near future. Further information and local publicity regarding these events will be made available through the local tag recovery contacts.

Table 5. Number of tag recoveries by source (location found).

Tag return source	September returns	Total returns
American Samoa	5	10
China	0	1
FSM	0	1
IATTC	0	50
Indonesia	0	34
IOTC	2	2
Japan	0	171
Korea	0	71
Other	0	5
Philippines (direct)	43	98
Philippines (Frabelle)	0	162
PNG (Frabelle)	120	352
PNG (NFA)	0	87
PNG (other)	17	45
PNG (RD)	170	4625
PNG (SSTC)	37	60
Solomon Islands (Soltai)	25	72
Tagging vessel	0	22
Thailand	116	401
TOTAL	535	6269

Overall, tag recoveries continue to be dominated by PNG flagged or affiliated vessels fishing primarily in the Bismarck Sea, where most of the tagged tuna were released (Table 5). However, significant recaptures of tagged tuna continue to be made by all of the major purse seine fleets (Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Vanuatu).

Table 6. Number of tag recoveries by vessel flag.

Flags	September 2007 returns	Total returns
Non identified	18	203
China	9	19
FSM	0	3
Indonesia	0	35
Japan	4	181
Kiribati	0	5
Korea	7	110
Marshall Islands	1	4
New Zealand	1	2
PNG	241	4969
Philippines	179	479
Solomon Islands	26	83
Taiwan	44	136
United States	0	4
Vanuatu	5	35
Palau	0	1
TOTAL	535	6269

TAGGED FISH MOVEMENTS

Updated graphics showing the movements of tagged tuna are shown below in figures 2-4. Skipjack continue to show the greatest mobility, followed by yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

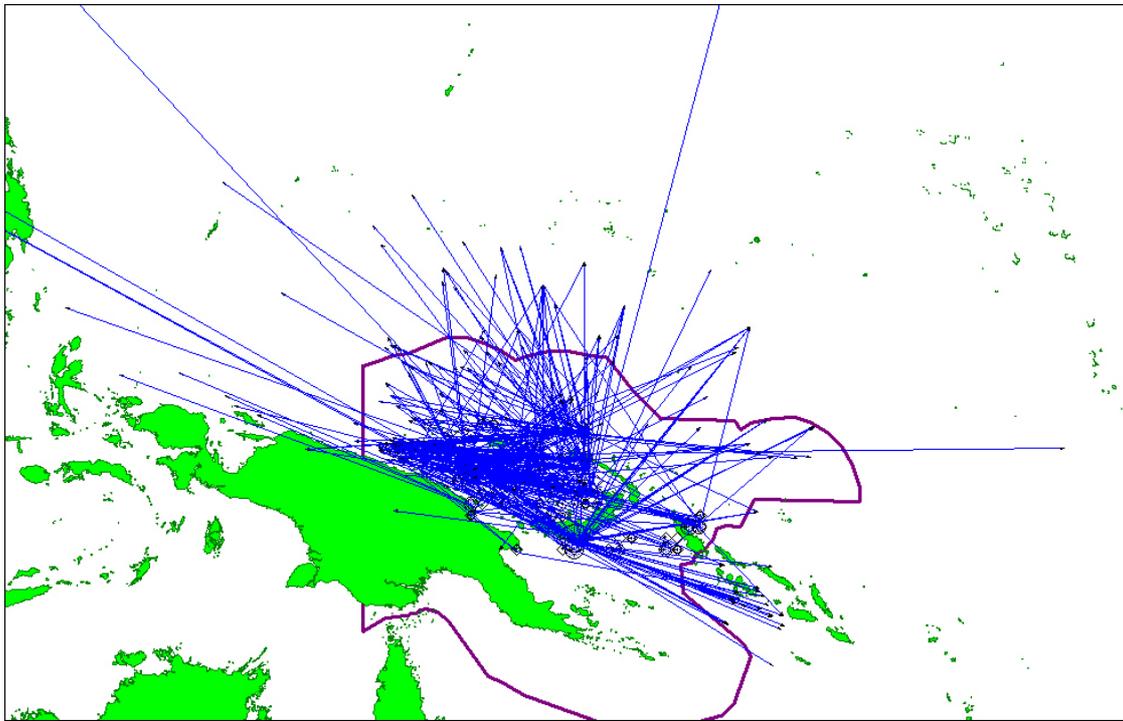


Figure 2. Displacements of tagged SKIPJACK > 300 nmi.

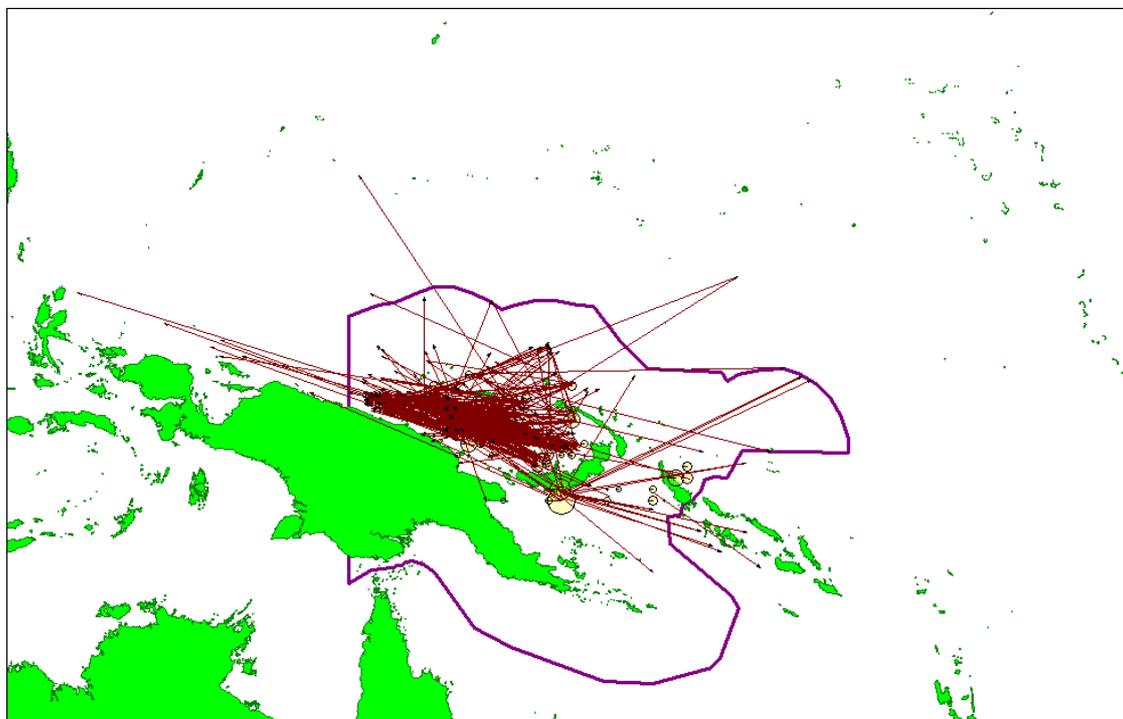


Figure 3. Displacements of tagged YELLOWFIN > 200 nmi.

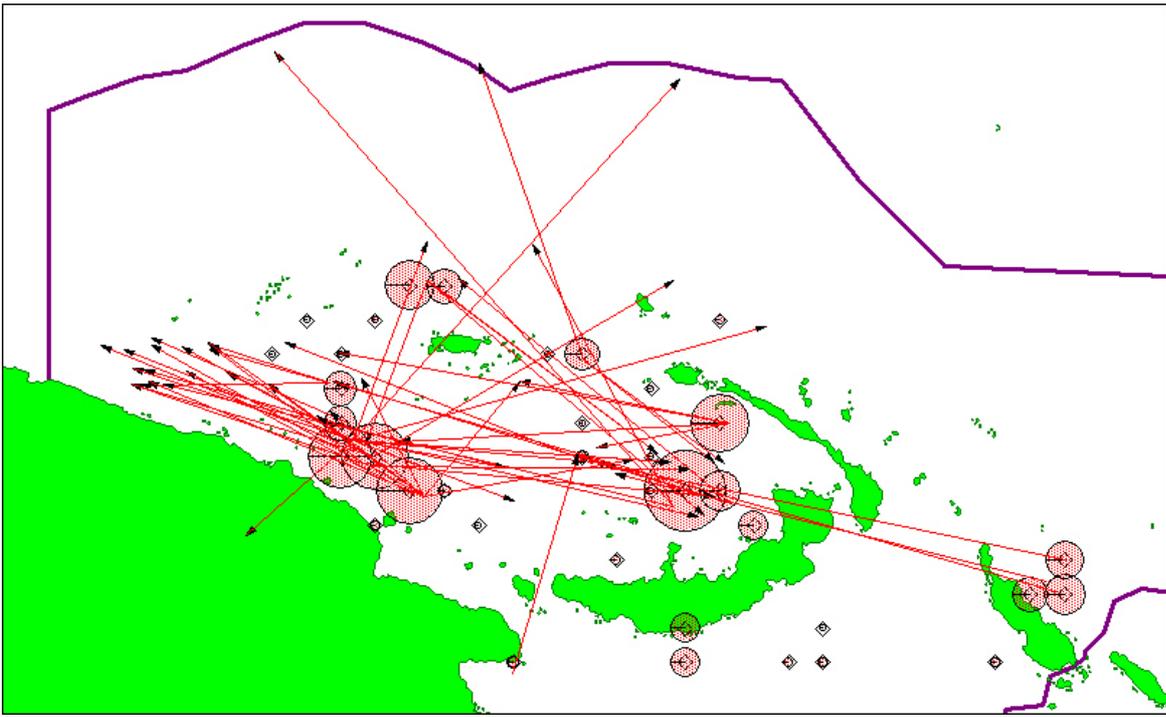


Figure 4. Displacements of tagged BIGEYE > 100 nmi.