



Identifying the Spatial Stock Structure of Tropical Pacific Tuna Stocks

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Workshop Objectives



- To assess how best to apply modern genetic technologies to identify the stock structure of SKJ, YFT and BET, including developing a sampling design to address the questions
- To assess how best to incorporate the results into future stock assessment and ecosystem modelling, and inform the testing of candidate harvest strategies
- To produce a research agenda for delineating the spatial structure of the tuna stocks

Products and Markets



1. Product and market issues and considerations around stock structure
2. What you perceive genetics might be able to do for you?

1. Product and market considerations around stock structure



- There is widespread consideration of stock structure in markets
- Often a matter of taste, with markets preferring products of the same species from different stocks
- The major new element is consideration of sustainability by markets, as well as wholesalers and retailers

1. Product and market considerations around stock structure cont'd...



- Growing consumer preference for sustainability
- Growing preference also by retailers and brand owners for sustainability (consistency of supply)
- Improved knowledge of stock structure has potential to add value to PNA fisheries because it could:
 - a) Improve the quality of management
 - b) Identify tuna products as being from stocks in PNA waters- (which have been assessed as sustainable)

2. What can genetics do for PNA?



- Use of DNA testing for commercial purposes is growing fast
- 2 major purposes of DNA Testing:
 - Species identification (mislabelled/ substituted)
 - Origin of catch/product (traceability)
- 2 examples of DNA Testing:
 - OPRT DNA Testing of bigeye imported into Japan
 - DNA Testing of MSC labelled products such as Pacifical- the PNA labelled canned tuna.

2 Questions



1. Are these commercial DNA testing programs useful for scientific research purposes?
2. Would scientific research analyses be useful for commercial purposes?