

IDENTIFYING THE SPATIAL STOCK STRUCTURE OF TROPICAL PACIFIC TUNA STOCKS: **METHOD OF WORK**

9-12th October 2018
Noumea, New Caledonia

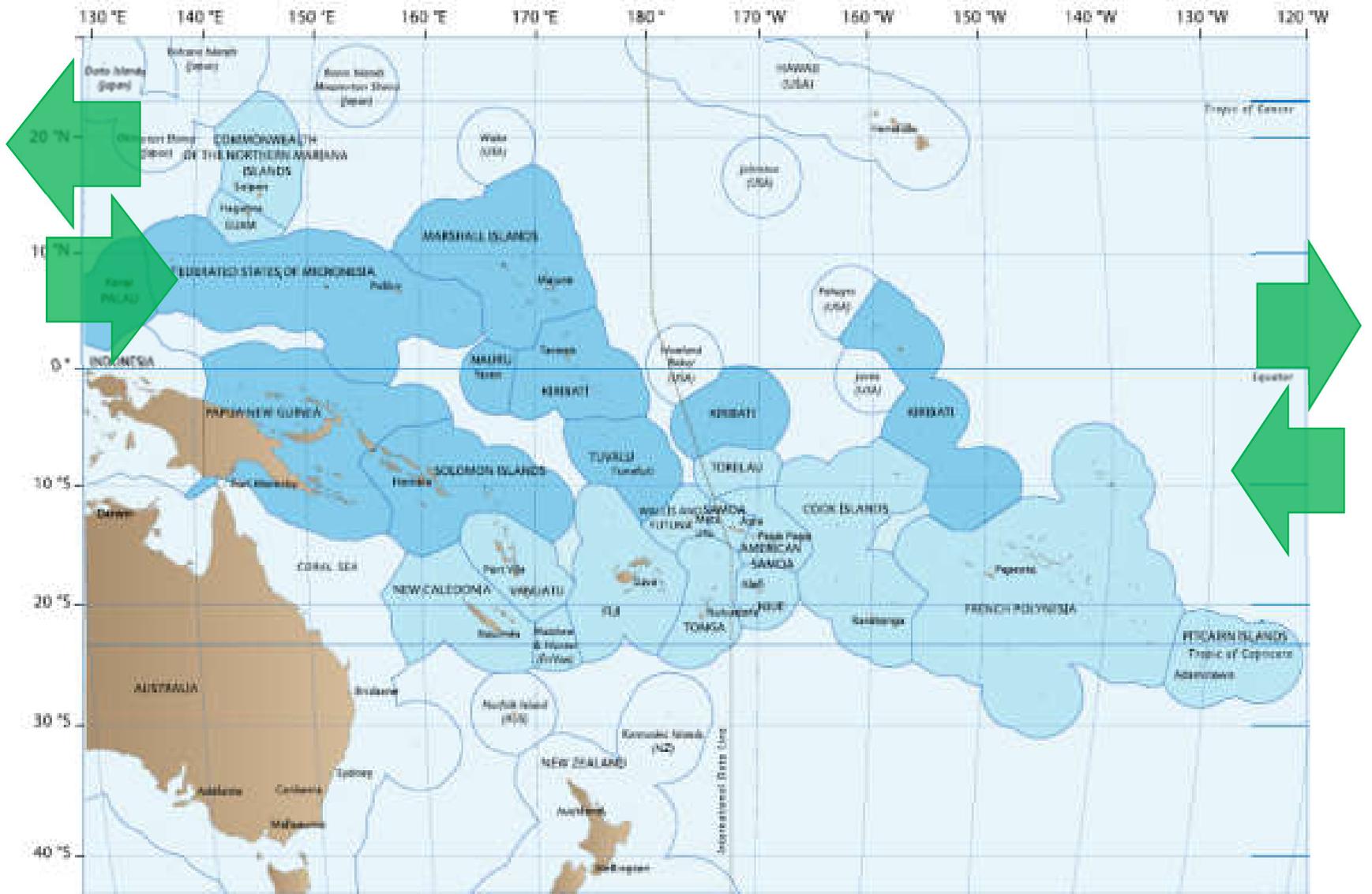
Workshop Structure

- Asked some of participants to provide short summary talks of current knowledge, background to methods to “ignite/stimulate” discussion:
 - Use some small group discussion if needed
- Intent is to develop two documents:
 - a Research Strategy that best addresses the issues of stock structure in tropical tuna species in the WCPFC (and supports the same in IATTC)
 - Draft by Friday
 - Key questions, tasks and timelines
 - Template provided
 - a Review Paper to consolidate the discussion of the workshop at a strategic review level
 - Draft distributed
 - Peer review to stimulate broader collaborations

Key questions for the workshop

- How should stocks be defined for assessment in WCPFC?
- What level of structuring would influence current assessment approaches?
 - What stock structure hypotheses are the best candidates to test
- What data and how would it be incorporated into the assessment framework?
 - Describe the [extra] parameters to be estimated in the assessment model with inclusion of stock-structure data sources?
- What could the data collected to delineate stock structure be used to estimate other assessment parameters
 - Spawning biomass, movement, reproductive potential
- How else could/should we use stock structure related information
 - Traceability

SCOPE



SCOPE

The objectives of this project are to:

- assemble knowledge on the spatial structure of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks in the Pacific
- assess how best to apply modern molecular genetic technologies to identify the stock structure of these three tuna species across the tropical Pacific, and
- make recommendations to the WCPFC Scientific Committee about the most effective steps to take to identify stock structure of tropical tuna species and to incorporate the information into tuna stock assessments.

Why:

- To co-ordinate and prioritise increased requests for access to sample
- To focus future sampling efforts
- To design and plan future research
- To support funding applications

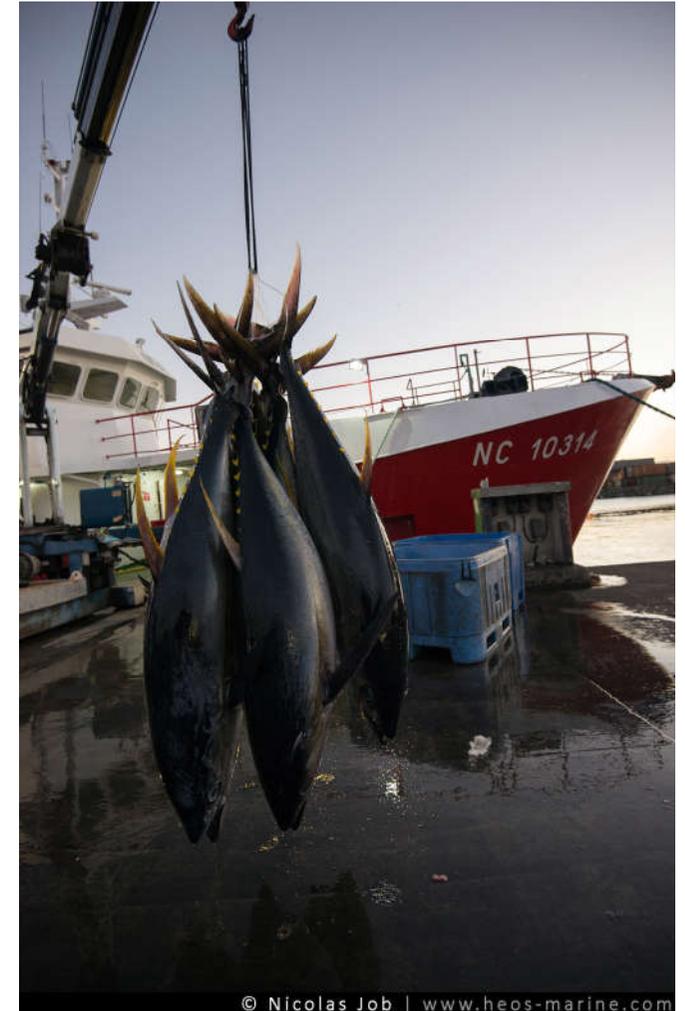
And, of course, IATTC

Key questions for the workshop

- How would information on stock structures influence management?
 - Can provenance be estimated and could it be used to verify CDR, prosecute IUU, etc?
- What are the key design issues for implementing a stock structure study
 - Can general data sampling apply or is a targeted approach required?
 - How to determine sampling stratifications, numbers, etc?
 - What else can we leverage off of it/integrate it with?
- What budget is required?
- What is the realistic timeframe?

Research Strategy

- Priority of the work/ value proposition?
- What are the priority candidate hypotheses
- Is there a structured approach to the data collection and analyses?
- Collaborative arrangements
- Co-investment opportunities
- Timeframe
- Institutional endorsements, arrangements and relationships
 - SPC, WCPFC, IATTC



Method of Work

- Head Rapporteur
 - Brad Moore
- Rapporteur assistants
 - Ashley Williams
 - Johann Bell
 - Valerie Allain
 - Karen Evans
 - Don Bromhead
 - Joe Scutt Phillips
 -+ volunteers?
- Detailed notes for reference
- **All presenters** to provide a one paragraph summary by close of day (before BBQ 😊)
- Research plan template to be expanded and completed this week
- Synthesis to be included in review paper (comments this week – e.g. Evans et al. 2015 in Marine Policy)
- Google Doc
 - Rapid meeting report document
- Participants can check and correct material over the week
- Must be in editing (track changes mode)

Summary

- Focus on WCPO tropical tunas – but albacore, IATTC and other species should not be forgotten
- Sorry, but there is work to do this week
- Rapporteur – and BBQ
- Two key outputs
- Free and frank discussion

