

Small-Scale Tuna Tagging Projects

CURRENT STATUS

WPTDA, 30 June – 4 July 2008

Small-scale project in Maldives

Background:

- Fisheries is the 2nd most important economic activity in the country
- Pole-and-line fishery actives for thousand years
- Annual catch: 150,000 tons (export for more 100 millions USD)
- 85% of the catch is skipjack
- Rapid development of a handline fishery for large yellowfin (26% in value of the export sin 2006)

- Several tagging projects implemented:
 - 1991/92 (IPTP) and 1993/95 (WB)
 - 2004 – IOTC
 - 2007 - IOTC

Introduction

- Small-scale projects implemented to complete the main phase of the IOTTP : RTTP-IO
 - release in the Central and Eastern Indian Ocean
 - release of larger fish (South Africa, Mayotte...)
 - study of interactions between fisheries
- Small-scale supported by the EC DG-Fish and Government of Japan
- Small-scale started in 2002 with pilot phase in Mayotte, Seychelles and Oman
- Previous Small-scale implemented in :
 - Mayotte 2004/2005: 115 yft tagged
 - Maldives 2005: 5023 tagged (3751 skj, 1258 yft, 14 unk)
 - Lakshadweep 2006/2007: 4958 tagged (4794 skj, 164 yft)

Small-scale project in Maldives

Main goal:

- Complete the releases of the RTTP-IO
- Study interactions between Maldivian PL fishery and the European Purse-seine fishery based in Seychelles
- Release during the same project fish in the North, Center and South Maldives

Activities:

- 2 campaigns organized in the North and the South
- Several trips organized from Malé

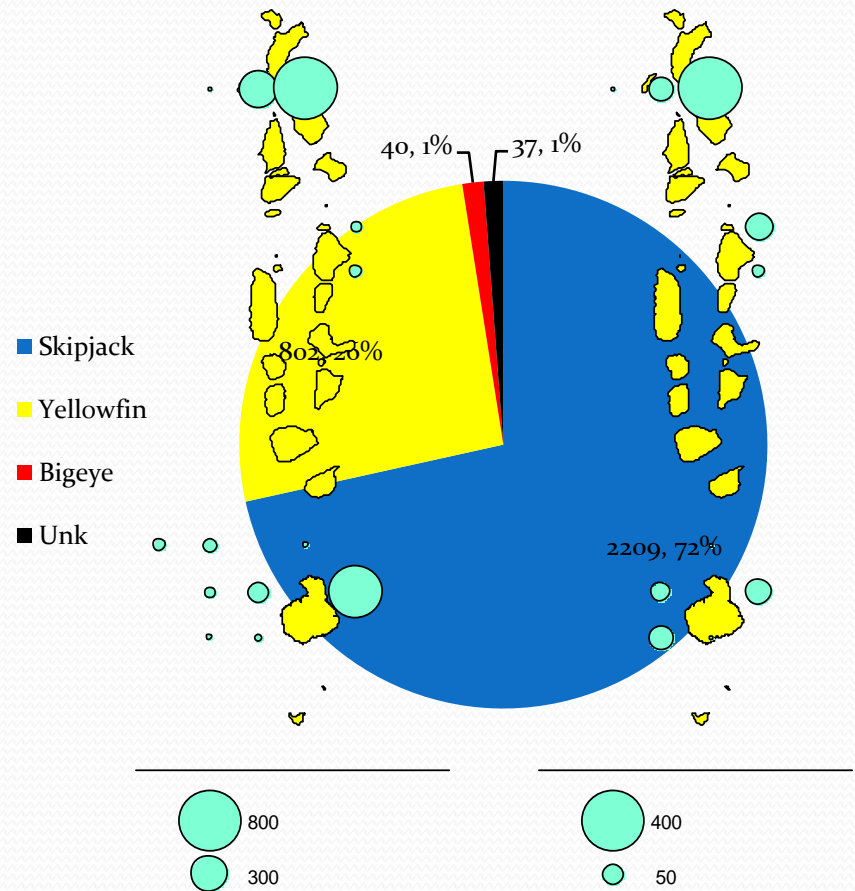
Small-scale project in Maldives

Release:

Species	North		Center		South	
	ST	DT	ST	DT	ST	DT
Skipjack	977	218	69	4	927	14
Yellowfin	408	91	101	6	171	25
Bigeye	35	5	0	0	0	0
Unknow	5	2	1	0	29	0
TOTAL	1741		181		1166	

Skipjack Releases

Yellowfin Releases



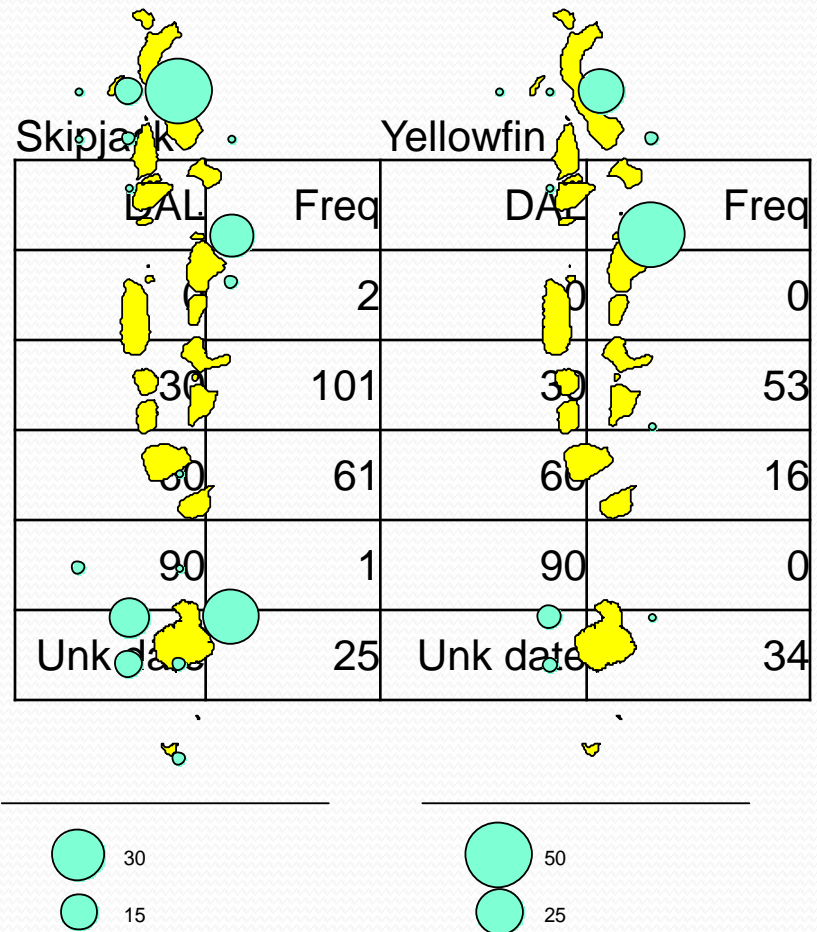
Small-scale project in Maldives

Reported recapture:

Species	Releases	Recoveries	% Recovery
Skipjack	2209	171	8%
Yellowfin	802	90	11%
Bigeye	40	4	10%
Unknown	37	0	--
Total	3088	265	9%

Skipjack Recaptures

Yellowfin Recaptures



Small-scale project in Maldives

Problems:

- Low catch since 2007 => fishermen reluctant to participate to tagging
- Increase of fuel cost => no search for free school, fishing mainly around FAD (influence time at liberty)
- Reporting decreasing on the island => recovery scheme was adapted with the buying companies

Future:

- More tagging to be done in 2008
- Strategy to be changed => charter of a PL for tagging cruises

Small-scale project in Indonesia

Main goal:

- Complete the releases of the RTTP-IO
- Release tagged tuna in the Eastern Indian Ocean



Activities:

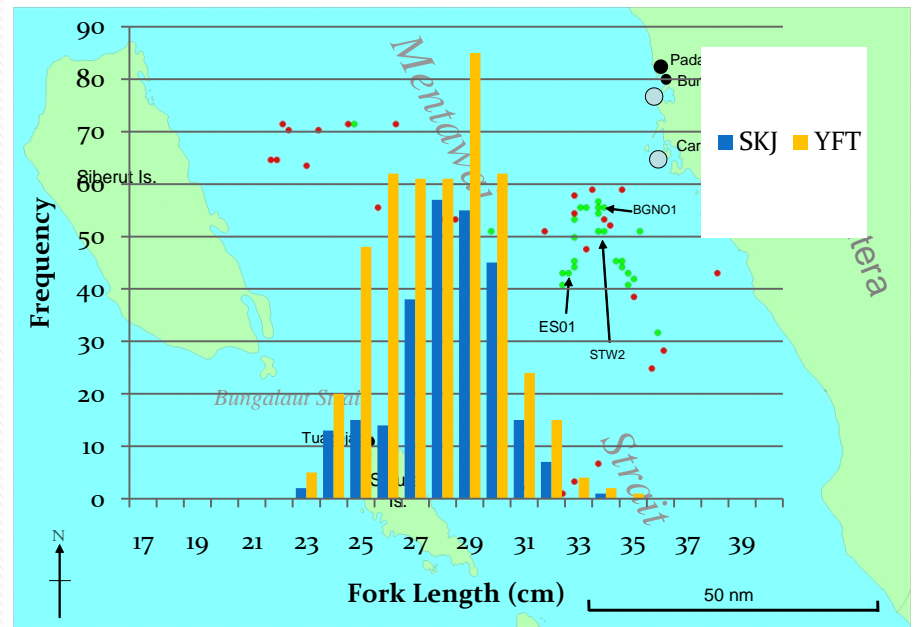
- 1 cruise organized in October 2006
- 2 cruises in August – September 2007



Small-scale project in Indonesia

Release:

	C1	C2	C3	Total
YFT	0	348	112	460
SKJ	0	48	214	262
Unk		--	4	4



Small-scale project in Indonesia

Reported recapture:

- Recovery scheme developed in the 3 main landings points of the West Sumatra coast: Sibolga, Bengkulu and Padang/Bungus (also Mentawai)

	Recoveries
YFT	3
SKJ	8
Unk	1
Total	12

- Five recoveries with more than 100 days at sea

Small-scale project in Indonesia

Problems:

- El Nino + Dipole effect => change in oceanographic conditions in the region resulting in very low tuna fishing
- Low abundance inside the Mentawai straight
- Vessel not a baitboat => limited autonomy
- Size of the vessel

Future:

- Budget not sufficient for chartering a bigger PL
- Other fishing techniques to be tried in 2008 (handlining, jigging, dangling...) from different areas

Small-scale project in Andamans

Main goal:

- Complete the releases of the RTTP-IO
- Release tagged tuna in the Eastern Indian Ocean

Activities:

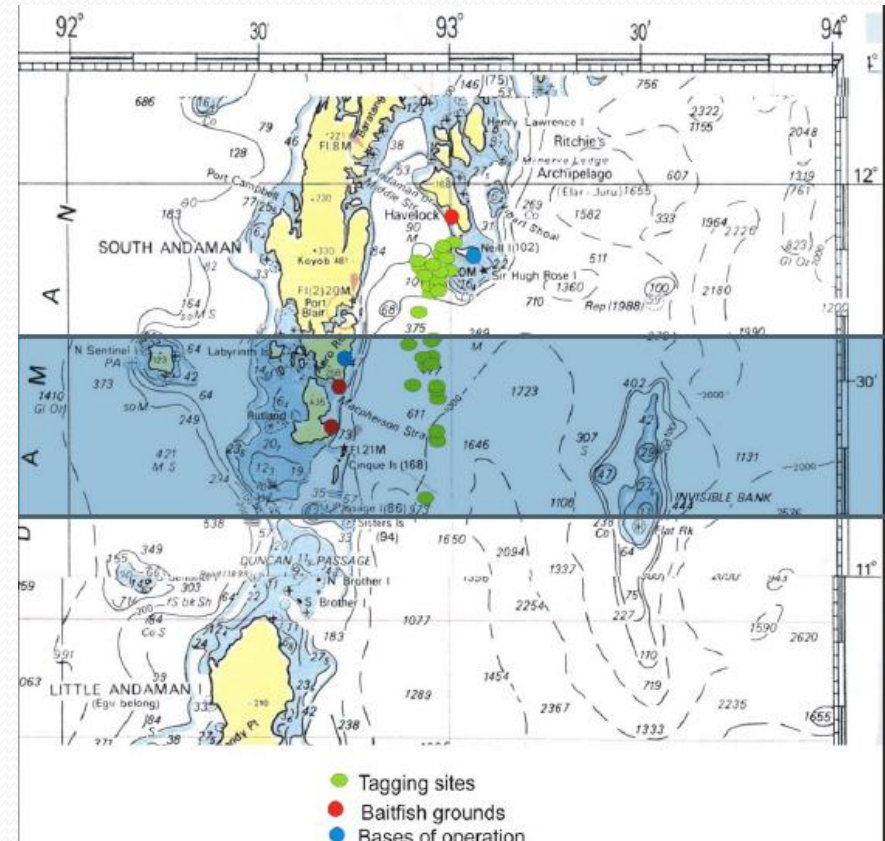
- 2 PL from Lakshadweep transferred to Andaman islands with the crew
- Tagging activities from Port Blair in January and February 2008
- Several bait/tuna fishing grounds investigating

Small-scale project in Andamans

Results:

	Tagged
YFT	323
SKJ	1009
Total	1332

- 140 double tagged
- YFT tagged mainly using troll lines
- SKJ tagged using mainly pole-and-lines
- 3 fish recovered so far



Small-scale project in Andamans

Problems:

- Logistic => transportation of 2 small PL from Lakshwdweep to Andamans
- Size of the vessels => limited autonomy and range of activity

Future:

- Activities in the Andamans will not be extended in 2008

Future developments

- Continue tagging projects in the Eastern Indian Ocean from Indonesia
- Continue tagging project in Maldives with new strategy
- Deploy more tags with the South African sport fishery
- Study opportunity to deploy popup tags within the different SS projects
- Integrate all the data gathered during the different tagging projects into the main database