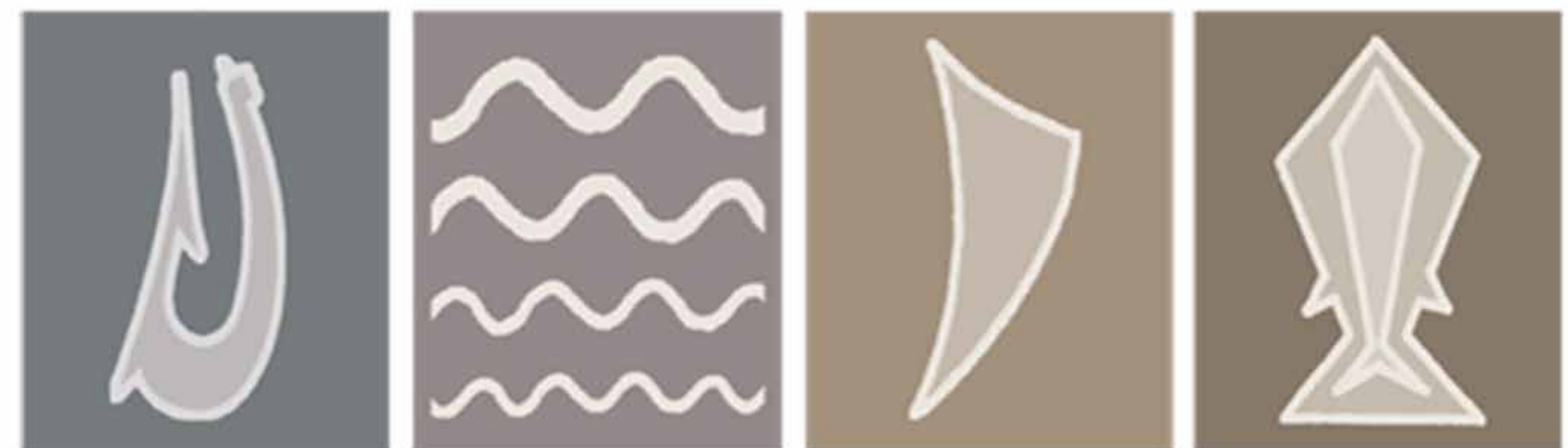
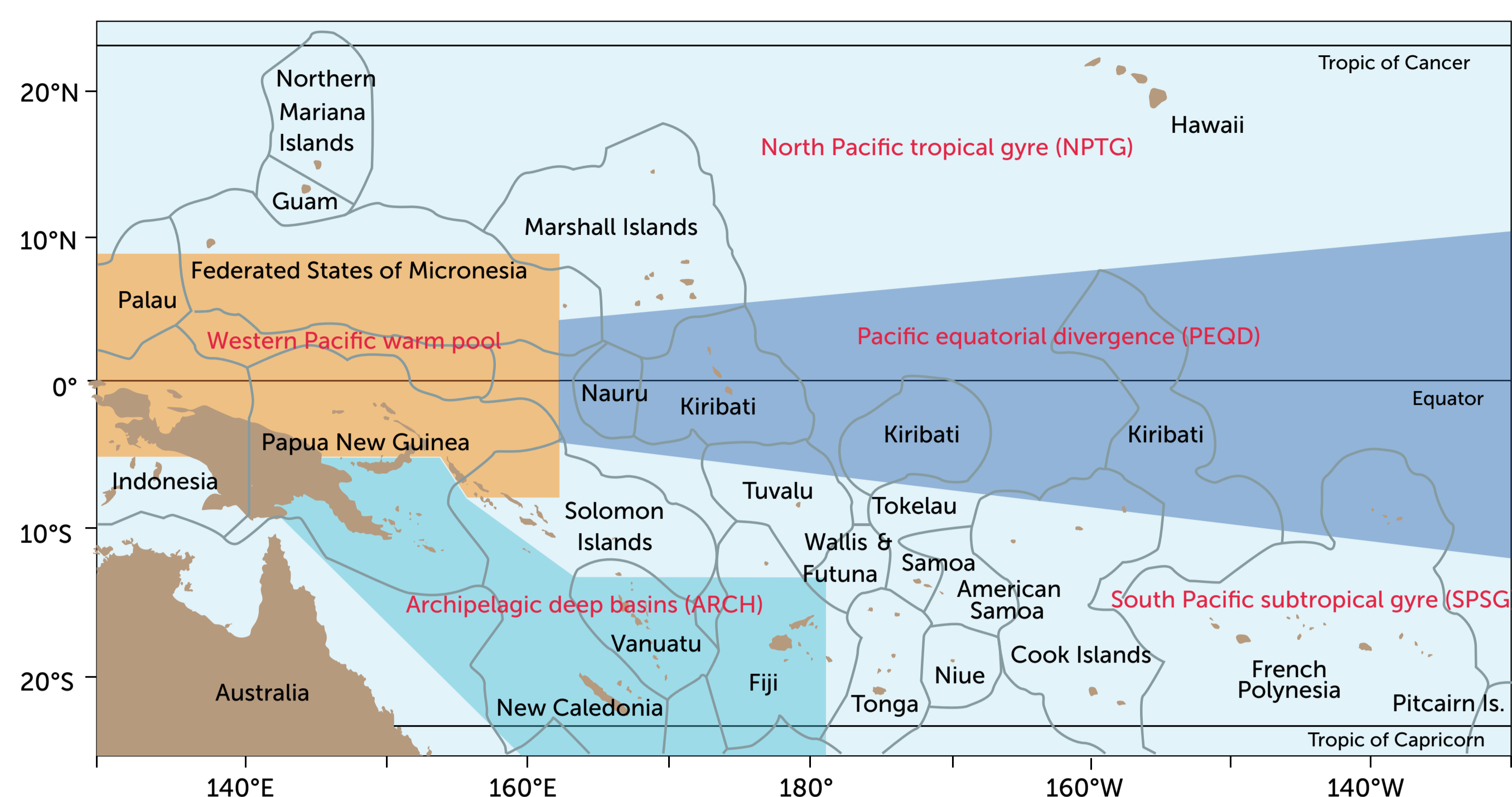


PACIFIC ISLANDS



OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



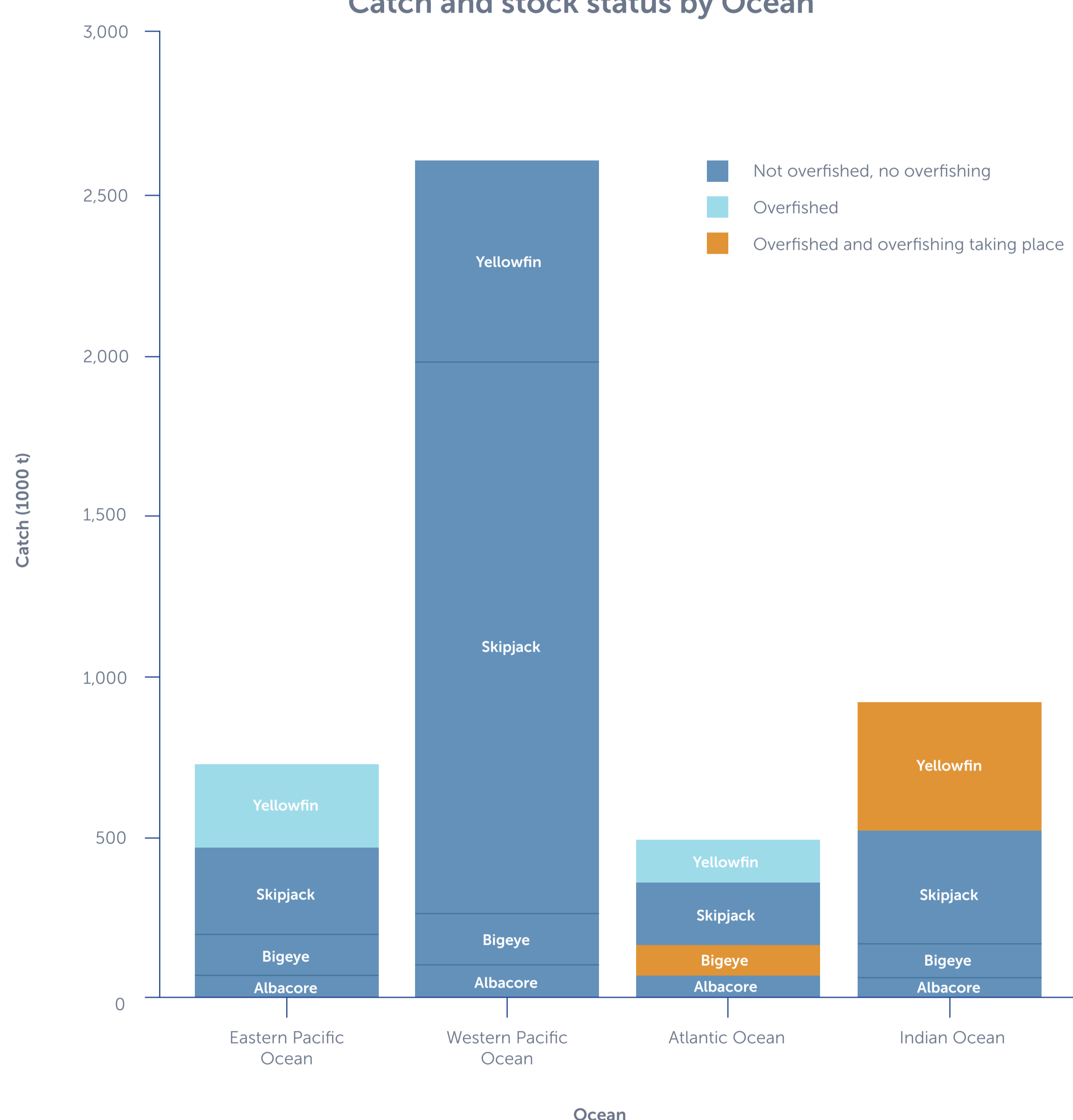
Map shows tropical Pacific Island region with 5 ecological zones, including the Western Pacific warm pool, critical for tuna populations. (Source: SPC)

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) manage a large area of the Pacific Ocean rich with tuna

There are 22 PICTs in the tropical and subtropical zones of the Pacific. Their combined Exclusive Economic Zones is greater than 27million². The PICTs' combined land area is about 2% of their combined EEZs.

This region has the greatest dependence on fisheries in the world. Tuna is largely caught in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), which also include the waters of Indonesia and Philippines.

Catch and stock status by Ocean



There is a wealth of tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean, especially the Western Pacific, where the latest scientific analysis indicates that fishing is mostly sustainable.

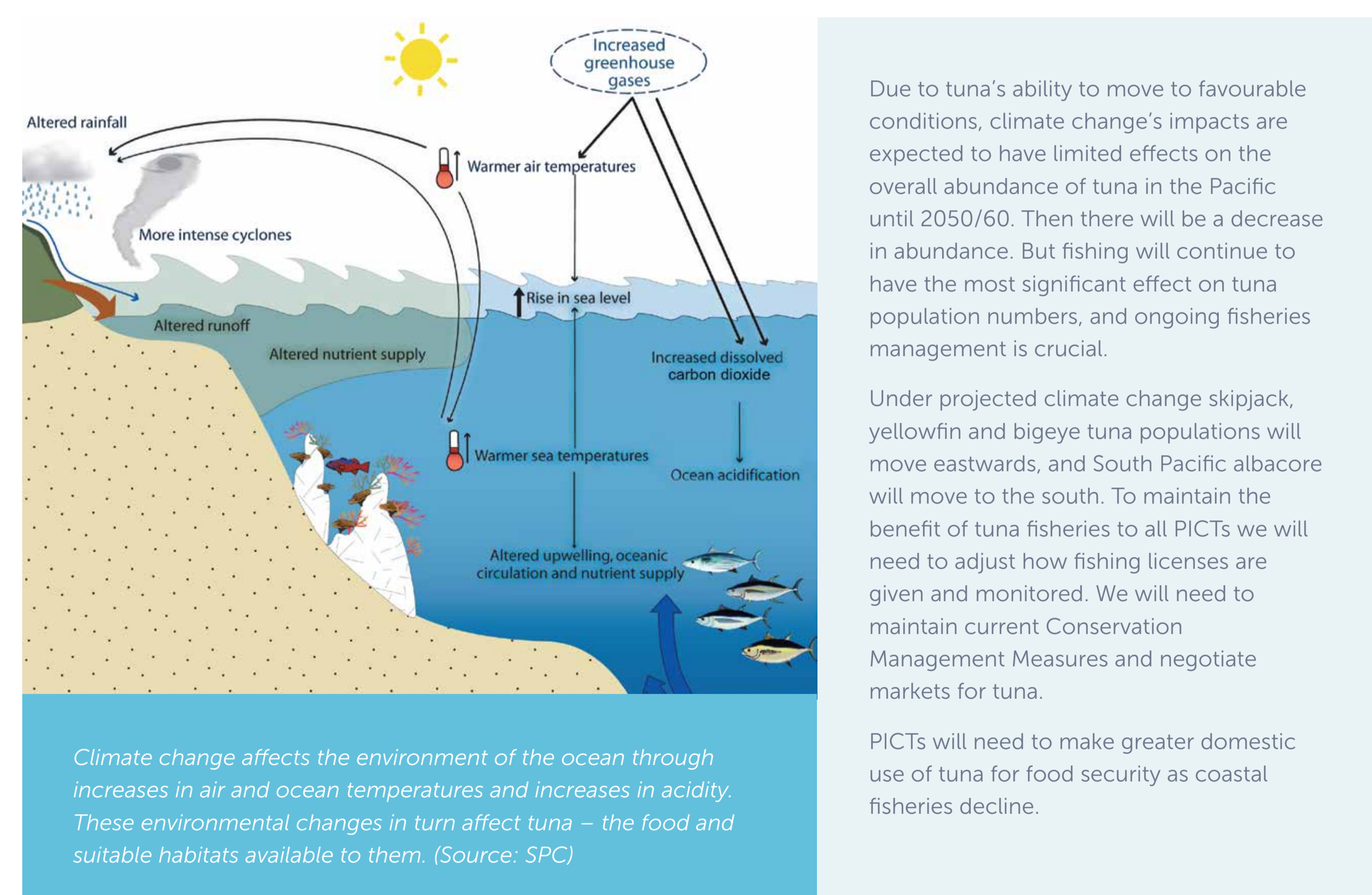
Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP2) supports PICTs to conserve and manage their tuna fisheries

The Pacific tuna fisheries are vitally important for the livelihoods and economies of PICTs (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). PICTs benefit economically through the sale of license fees to fishing vessels from more distant countries, especially Japan, USA, China, Chinese Taipei, Korea and Spain. (e.g. in 2013-14, 7 PICTs received 10-84% of their government revenue from these fees).



Tuna processing by some PICTs (American Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) has created more than 23,000 jobs in addition to other jobs as crew or observers on fishing vessels. (Photo credit: Francisco Blaha)

OFMP2 project finds out more about likely impacts of climate change on Pacific tuna



Climate change affects the environment of the ocean through increases in air and ocean temperatures and increases in acidity. These environmental changes in turn affect tuna – the food and suitable habitats available to them. (Source: SPC)



Meeting the Global Environment Facility's Indicators of Success

1. OFMP2 gains agreement from PICTs on transboundary issues in 2018

OFMP2 Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) identified 6 major risks to Pacific oceanic fisheries:

- 1) Overfishing leading to collapse in fishing revenues and livelihoods
- 2) Bycatch of important non-target species unknown or too high
- 3) Tuna stock ranges alter, expand and probably shift east
- 4) Decrease in tuna food due to decrease in food availability
- 5) Possible degradation of the Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem, including its unique habitats and species
- 6) Pollution of coastal environments

The issues causing these risks are:

- Weaknesses in fisheries management and compliance
- Climate change impacts
- Inadequate application of ecosystems-based management
- Coastal effects on offshore oceanic ecosystems
- Land-based and fishing vessel pollution.

A Strategic Action Programme details strategies to overcome these issues to ensure sustainability of the Pacific's marine resources, including tuna populations, as well as long term economic and food security for PICTs.



David Voussen, (Centre) Professor of Ocean Governance at Rhodes University in South Africa and consultant to United Nations on ocean and coastal management and governance completed the TDA in 2018, and presented it to the OFMP2 Steering Committee. (Photo Credit: Jenni Metalfie)

He says: "All the available scientific monitoring evidence and modelling supports the conclusion that the tuna fishery in the Convention area (for WCPCF) is sustainable and is currently not being overfished. This is down to the fact that the countries, regional fisheries bodies and partner agencies have been working closely together through this Convention to effectively implement the various activities and requirements in terms of monitoring and managing the fisheries, both within their EEZs and in the high seas as well".

2. OFMP2 brings international agencies together for national benefits

OFMP2 builds on FFA's regional coordination and policy strengths. FFA helps its 17 member countries to:

- Manage and develop their tuna fisheries
- Ensure effective monitoring, control and surveillance
- Analyse and promote economic opportunities and markets for their tuna
- Participate in regional decision-making about managing tuna, including those made by the WCPCF.

OFMP2 relies on the expertise of Pacific Community (SPC) fisheries scientists to help PICTs to assess and monitor their tuna stocks and marine ecosystems, and manage and interpret the data they collect.



OFMP2 works with SPC to provide annual stock-assessment training workshops to increase regional fisheries officers' ability to:

- understand and interpret the results from the regional oceanic fisheries' stock assessments
- communicate this information to fishery managers within their countries
- increase their confidence to participate in scientific discussions of the WCPCF – in particular, during meetings of its Scientific Committee. (Photo Credit: SPC)

3. Vessel Day Scheme ensures sustainable tuna catches for eco markets

OFMP2 assisted the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) to develop a successful Vessel Day Scheme that:

- Caps fishing effort in terms of days at a level recommended by scientists
- Allocates days to vessels based on likely tuna populations available and historical fishing effort
- Sells days to foreign vessels, which can be traded
- Monitors vessels to make sure they comply with the scheme through electronic monitoring as well as observers on every purse-seine vessel



Purse seining dominates tuna fishing efforts in the Pacific, which is why PNA's Vessel Day Scheme is so important for maintaining sustainable catch of tuna. (Photo credit: Malo Hoskens, SPC)

4. Conservation Management Measures (CMMs) help PICTs combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing on the high seas

OFMP2 works with FFA to help PICTs to formulate and enforce CMMs to fight IUU fishing. For example, a recent CMM agreed at the WCPCF is for all large fishing vessels to have an internationally recognised unique vessel identifiers (UVI) number.

5. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission helps PICTs manage their tuna resources

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention set up the Commission to reform, realign, restructure and strengthen PICTs national fisheries laws, policies, institutions and programs. The PICTs participate in an annual forum each year, which sets Conservation and Management Measures.

OFMP2 supports the participation of PICTs in the annual meeting, and the communication of the outcomes.



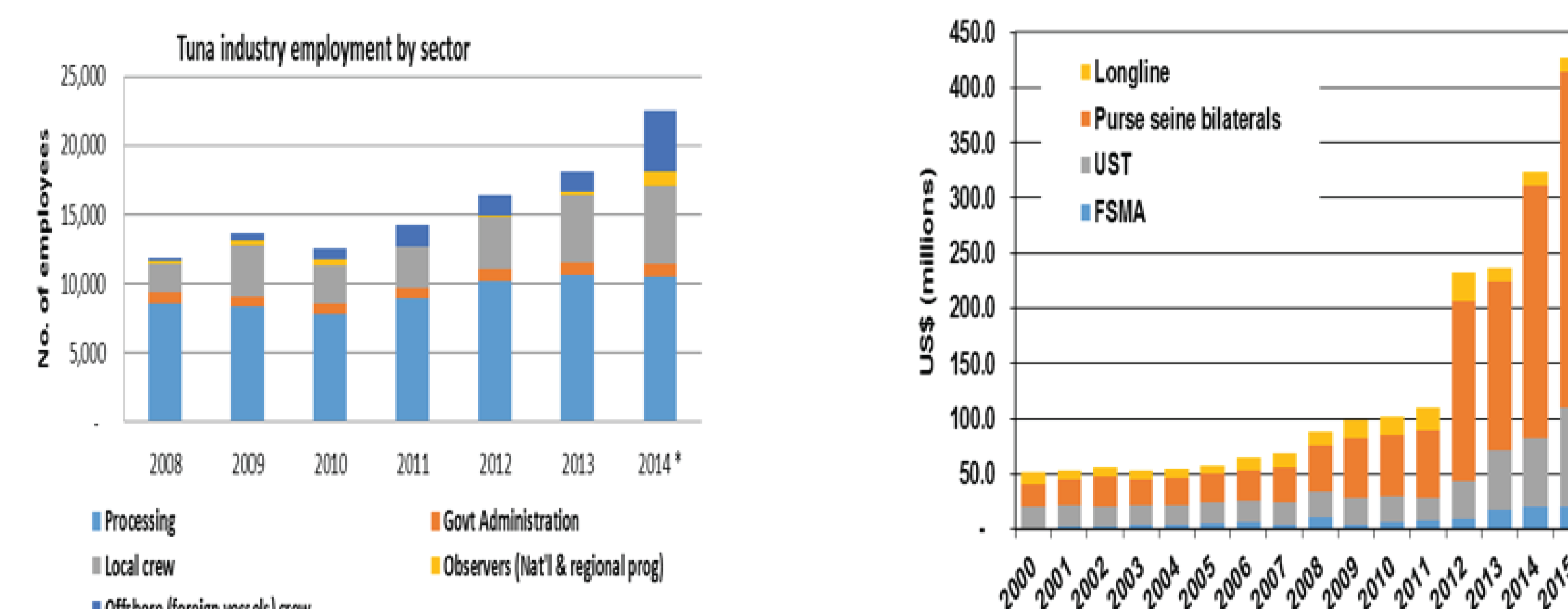
Caption: One of the CMMs agreed by all members to the WCPCF Convention is to have observers on every purse seine vessel, which helps to ensure catch limits are met and bycatch minimised. (Photo credit: Francisco Blaha)

6. Parties to Nauru Agreement e-Monitoring ensures sustainability of tuna and other species

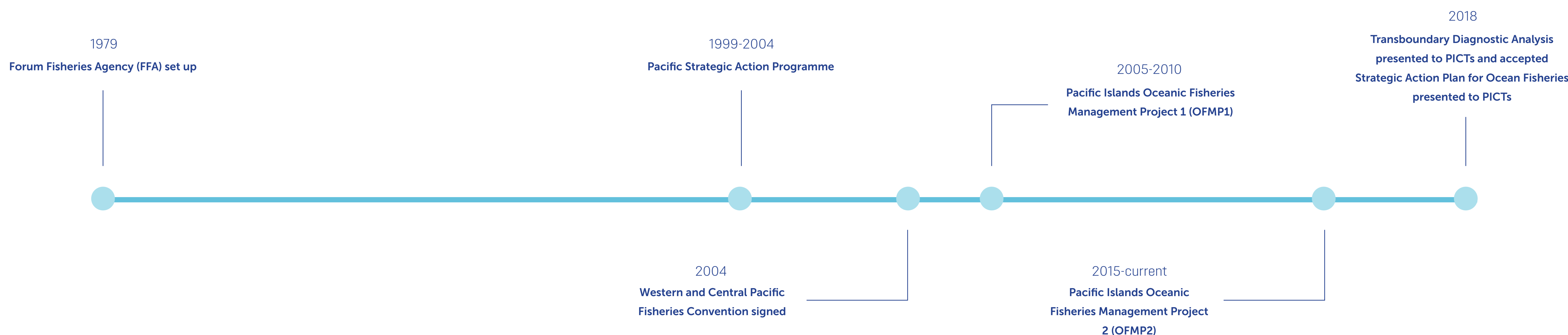
PNA, with support from OFMP2, have introduced an electronic Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), which ensures purse seine fishing vessels:

- All have observers
- Are banned from operating on the high seas adjacent to PICTs' Exclusive Economic Zones
- Do not use Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) between July and September each year
- Do not set nets where there are tuna schools associated with whale sharks
- Use a minimum mesh net size (9mm).

7. PNA countries increase their incomes from licences, and employment thanks to their fishing management initiatives



The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu) have significantly increased their income from fishing licences (graph on left) and employment associated with fishing (graph on right), thanks to initiatives created to conserve and develop their tuna fisheries. (UST - United States Treaty; FSMA is Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement giving shared access to PNA EEZs for PNA domestic vessels)



For further information:

www.sustainpacific.net is the one-stop portal of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project, to help those involved or interested in managing and conserving the Pacific's fisheries. Here you can see the latest information on activities and progress towards achieving conservation management measures for sustaining our Western and Central Pacific fisheries.

www.tunapacific.org is the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project's news hub; Spreading the word on Pacific actions for sustainable ocean fisheries management.

The Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP2) is a Global Environment Facility Project implemented by FAO and UNDP with FFA as the executing partner.