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Long Distance Advisory Council

TROPICAL TUNAS:

State of exploitation and perspectives for 2026

Working Group 1

Highly Migratory (Tuna and Tuna-like) Stocks and its RFMOs

Tuesday, 10th March 2026

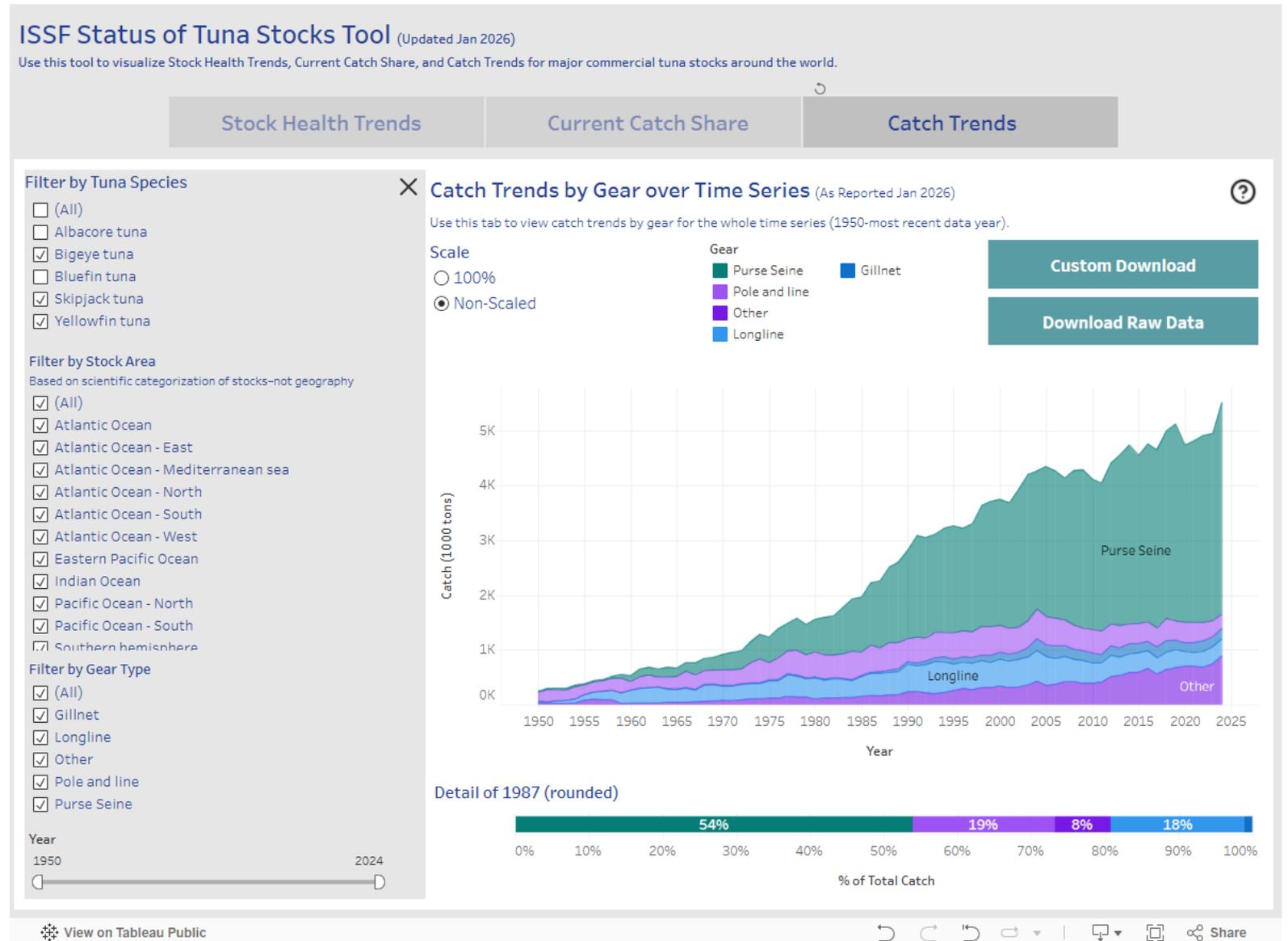
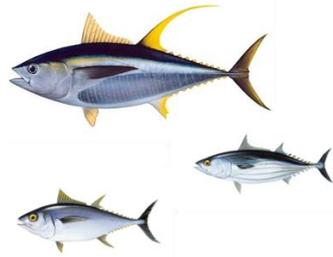
Gorka Merino - gmerino@azti.es

Outline

- Overview of tropical tunas worldwide (few changes since October 2025).
- Focus on ICCAT and IOTC.

Tropical tunas: Status and perspectives for 2026

- Global production record high in 2024.
- 5.5 M tons of tropical tunas.



Tropical tunas: Status and perspectives for 2026

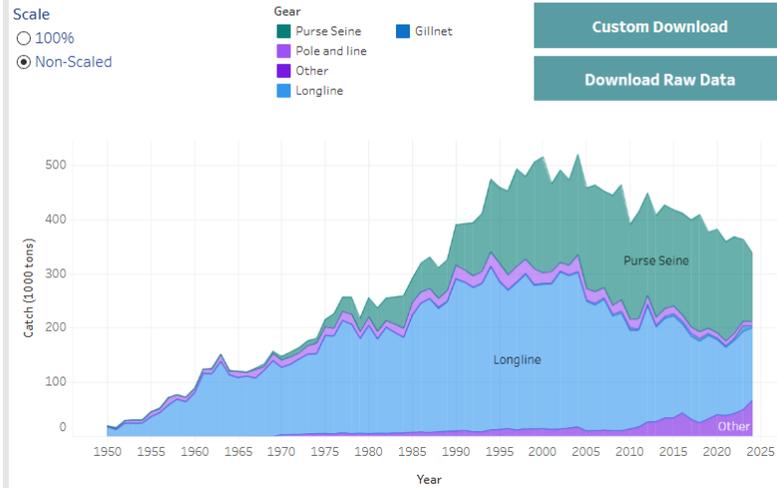
- Trends by species (bigeye decreasing, yellowfin/skipjack increasing)

BIGEYE



Catch Trends by Gear over Time Series (As Reported Jan 2026)

Use this tab to view catch trends by gear for the whole time series (1950-most recent c

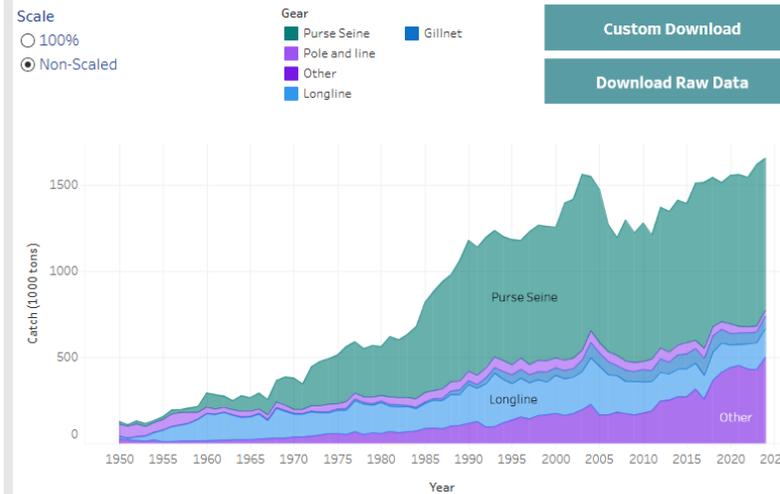


YELLOWFIN



Catch Trends by Gear over Time Series (As Reported Jan 2026)

Use this tab to view catch trends by gear for the whole time series (1950-most recent data year).

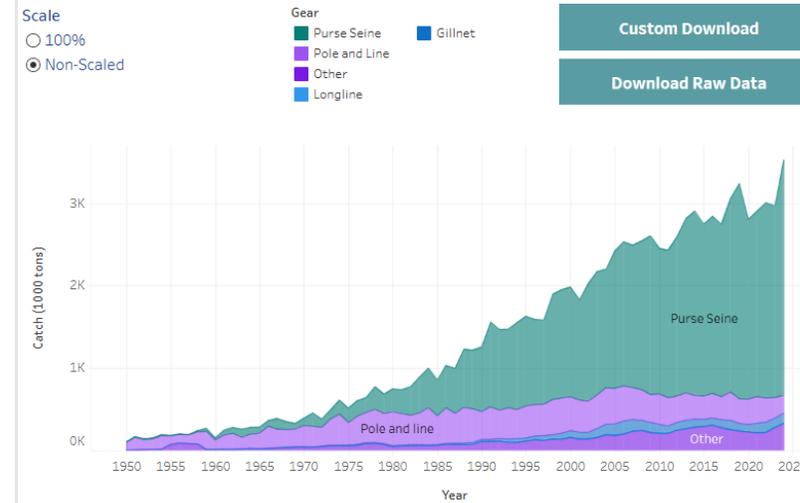


SKIPJACK



Catch Trends by Gear over Time Series (As Reported Jan 202

Use this tab to view catch trends by gear for the whole time series (1950-most recent data year).



Tropical tunas: Status and perspectives for 2026

ISSF Status of Tuna Stocks Tool (Updated Jan 2026)

Use this tool to visualize Stock Health Trends, Current Catch Share, and Catch Trends for major commercial tuna stocks around the world.

Stock Health Trends

Current Catch Share

Catch Trends

Filter by Tuna Species

- (All)
- Albacore tuna
- Bigeye tuna
- Bluefin tuna
- Skipjack tuna
- Yellowfin tuna



Filter by Stock Area

Based on scientific categorization of stocks—not on geography

- (All)
- EPO - Eastern Pacific Ocean
- WCPO - Western and Central Pacific Ocean
- PO - Pacific Ocean - North
- PO - Pacific Ocean - South
- AO - Atlantic Ocean
- AO - Atlantic Ocean - East
- AO - Atlantic Ocean - Mediterranean sea
- AO - Atlantic Ocean - North
- AO - Atlantic Ocean - South
- AO - Atlantic Ocean - West
- IO - Indian Ocean
- SH - Southern hemisphere

Stock Health (As Reported 2011 - Jan 2026)

Use this tab to generate a visual of different tuna stocks' health, by abundance and fishing mortality, since 2011 based on scientific data.

Scale

- 100%
- Non-Scaled

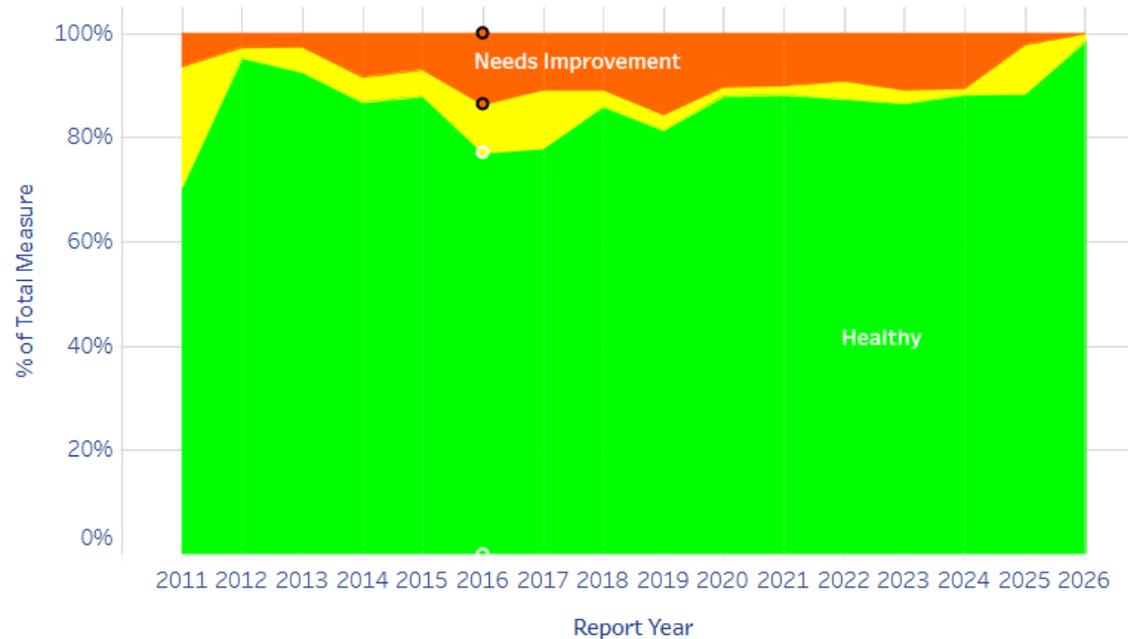
Share by:

- Catch (1000 tons)
- Stocks

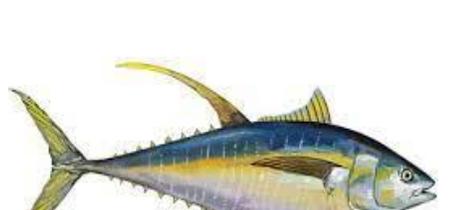
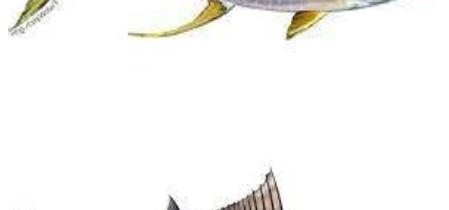
According to:

- Stock Abundance
- Fishing Mortality

- Needs Improvement
- Intermediate
- Healthy



Tropical tunas: Status and perspectives for 2026

Status of the stocks	 ICCAT CICTA CICAA	 iotc ctoi	 Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	 CIAT IATTC
	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2025	Overfished ($0,98 \times B_{MSY}$) but not subject to overfishing 2025	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2023	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2024
	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2024	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing (corroborated in 2025) 2024	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2023	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2025
	Not overfished and not subject to overfishing 2022	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2023	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2025	Not Overfished & not subject to overfishing 2021

ICCAT/IOTC management (and advice)

- IOTC: Clear advice and management for tropical tunas.
 - BET: 92,670 tons for period 2026-28 (from adopted MP, Resolution 22-03).
 - SKJ: 565,745 tons for period 2027-29 (from adopted MP , Resolution 24-07).
 - YFT: Corroborated by SC in 2025, precautionary (median MSY) = 421 th tons.
- ICCAT: Recommendation 24-01. Multiple measures.
 - BET: 73,011 tons.
 - FADs closure of 45 days.
 - YFT TAC recommended by SCRS using K2SM. Allocation to be discussed in Panel 1.
 - Continue MSE...

ICCAT TROPICAL TUNAS MSE



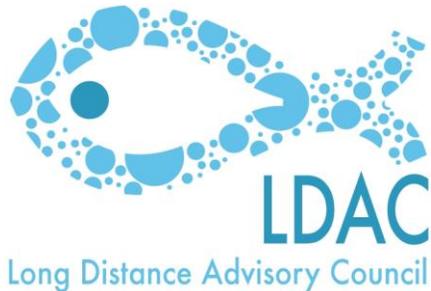
Meetings in 2026

- Panel 1 (online, 30th March) → Present progress and request guidance.
- Intersessional meeting of the TT Species Group (including MSE). Technical.
- Panel 1 (tbd, 5-7th May) → Present progress and preliminary results. Feedback on preferences + Yellowfin TAC.
- Species Groups and SCRS plenary (Madrid, 14-25 September) → Results and advice (?).
- Panel 1 (14-15 November) → Progress and SCRS advice, recommendation for adoption? 2026 or 2027.

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