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COMMON OCEANS PROGRAM

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PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY
IN THE OCEAN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION



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The COMMON OCEANS PROGRAM is a global partnership funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), promoting sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) with a particular focus on tuna and deep-sea fisheries, the Sargasso Sea and cross-sectoral cooperation. Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Program brings together the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), regional fisheries management organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.



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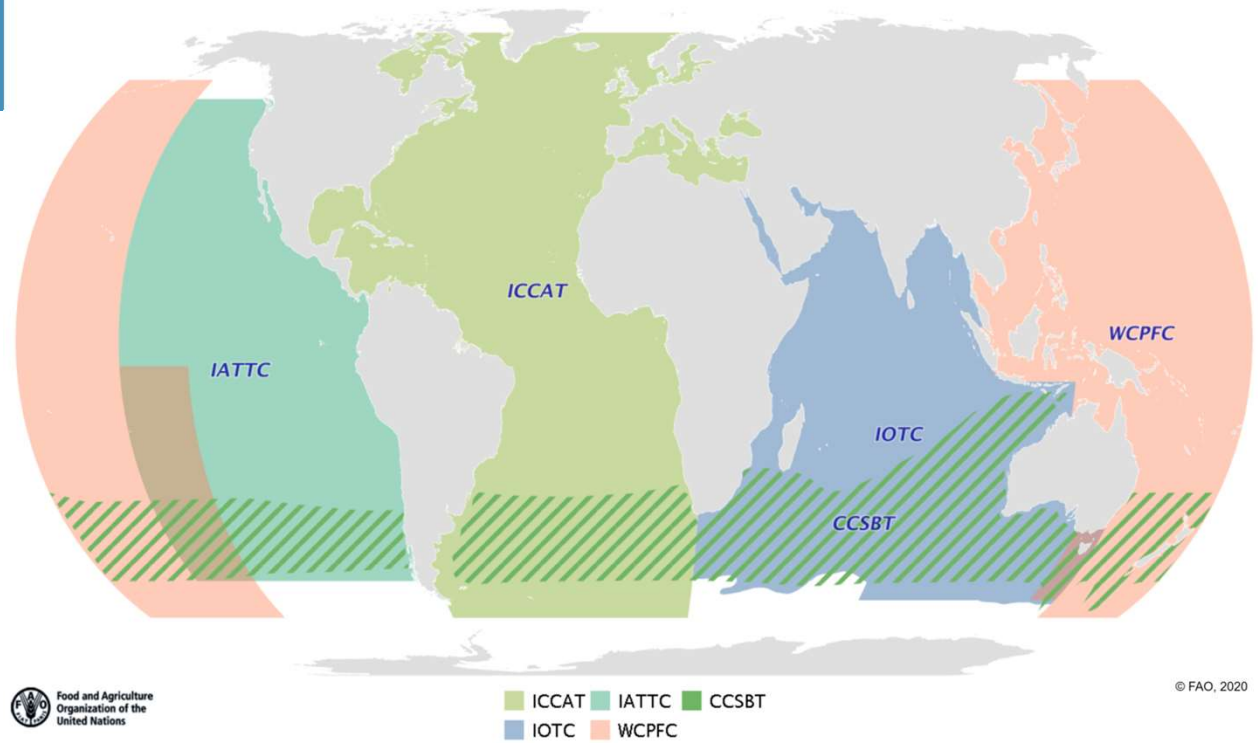
Partners

RFMOs

CCSBT, IATTC, IOTC, WCPFC

Executing partners

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), BirdLife International (BLI), Conservation International (CI), INFOPESCA, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF/ISSA), International MCS Network (IMCSN), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Whaling Commission (IWC), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), PEW Charitable Trusts, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Ocean Foundation (TOF), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF - US & Pakistan)



Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) areas of competence

Source: FAO Fisheries Division

Highlights

Budget: USD14.4 million
Tuna catch: 5-7 million tonnes

Strengthening tuna fisheries governance

Harvest strategies and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

Reinforcing compliance with monitoring and control systems

Capacity building and technological tools, including CDT, EM/ER

Reduce impact of tuna fishing on biodiversity

Bycatch mitigation and gear conversion or modification



Achievements 2014-2019

DEVELOPING NEW TOOLS FOR TACKLING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING



First university-certified training course in **fisheries enforcement and compliance** for Fisheries Officers from Pacific Island countries.



Electronic monitoring systems trialed in Fiji and Ghana to improve monitoring, compliance and data collection in tuna fishing.



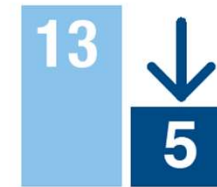
Global, comprehensive list of authorized vessels updated in real time available online.

Improving tuna fisheries



Consensus on developing harvest strategies – a pre-agreed approach to determine catch limits **for all major commercial tuna stocks** – is making tuna fisheries more sustainable and transparent in all **5** tuna RFMOs.

Tuna stocks



experiencing overfishing down from 13 to 5.



Turtle mortality in Western and Central Pacific Ocean

is expected to go down by



First-ever global estimate on **seabird bycatch** in tuna longline fishing in the Southern hemisphere.

