

## SUMMARY OF U.S. YELLOWFIN TUNA FISHERIES AND RESEARCH IN THE CENTRAL-WESTERN PACIFIC FOR 1989 AND 1990

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### Fisheries

The U.S. has no tuna fisheries in the central-western Pacific solely for yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*. All of the tuna fisheries are multispecies, either targeting the complex of tropical tunas or swordfish, and taking yellowfin tuna as part of the total catch.

The total landings by U.S.-flag vessels of tunas from the central-western Pacific in 1989 and 1990 are shown in Table 1. The total landing of yellowfin was 42,600 mt in 1989 and 58,900 mt in 1990. Only 3% of the total yellowfin landings were taken by artisanal, or small-scale fisheries (handline, longline and pole-and-line) which are primarily based in Hawaii. The bulk of the landings was taken by the U.S. distant-water purse seine fleet, which is based in American Samoa and Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

### Research

U.S. government research on yellowfin tuna in the central-western Pacific is conducted by the Honolulu and La Jolla Laboratories of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), National Marine Fisheries Service. The research is organized for multi-discipline and multi-species approach; hence, the focus is largely on complexes of scientific questions relating to the large pelagic species or fisheries rather than exclusively on a single question and single species, such as yellowfin tuna.

The tuna research in 1989 and 1990 includes activities such as maintaining a tuna fisheries data base, developing mathematical models for evaluating migration patterns on stock assessment results, monitoring condition of stocks, evaluating developments in the fisheries, understanding tuna physiology and behavior, and understanding the reproductive biology and spawning behavior. Results and progress on the research are regularly reported in the "Administrative Report" series of the SWFSC and in technical publications. A summary of recent tuna and tuna-related research activities are contained in the SWFSC Administrative Report LJ-91-08 of May 1991.

**Table 1.** U.S. landings (mt) of tuna from the central-western Pacific.

YEAR	YELLOWFIN <sup>1</sup>	SKIPJACK	BIGEYE	ALBACORE
1989	42,600	92,000	600	4,500
1990	58,900	108,100	1,800	4,200

<sup>1</sup> May include some bigeye tuna mixed in landings labelled yellowfin.