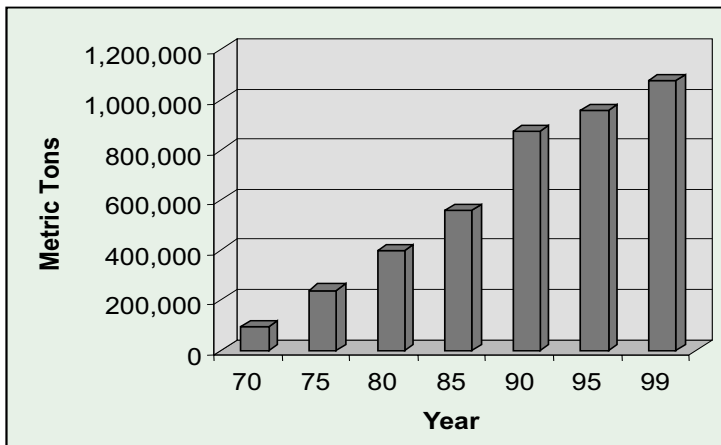


The Tuna Fishery in the Pacific Islands

Regional Tuna Catch

The total volume and value of the catch from the tuna fishery in the Pacific Islands is large and growing larger. Although there is considerable annual variation, the volume of the catch has increased about elevenfold in the last 30 years (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Annual Tuna Catch in the Pacific Islands Area, 1970 to 1999



Sources: SPC (1996); T. Lawson personal communication (2000)

The value of the catch has also increased remarkably. From about \$375 million² in 1982 (Clark 1983), the value increased to \$1.2 billion in 1993 (World Bank 1995), \$1.6 billion in 1994 (FFA 1995), \$1.7 billion in 1995 (FFA 1996), and \$1.9 billion in 1998 (Van Santen and Muller 2000).

² Unless otherwise specified, all dollar amounts in this report refer to United States dollars.

Tuna Landings in FFA Island Member Countries

Table 1 gives the estimated tuna catch of the FFA member countries, using information from the SPC Catch and Effort Logsheet Database, SPC (2000), and other sources. Since the figures are based on vessel logsheets (with some adjustment), both their coverage and their accuracy can be assumed to vary between fleets. In general, the catch figures given are deemed reasonable for the major purse seine fleets (US, Japan, Korea, Taipei,China) and for the Japanese pole/line fleet. For domestic longliners and those from Korea and Taipei,China, however, the data may greatly underrepresent the true catch.

**Table 1: Estimated Tuna Catch of FFA Member Countries in the Pacific Islands,
by Nationality of Fishing Vessel, 1999 (metric tons)**

Country	Nationality of Fishing Vessel												TOTAL		
	China	Fiji	FSM	Japan	Kiribati	Korea	PNG	Phil. Samoa	Sol. Is.	Tonga	Taipei,China	US		Vanuatu	
Cook Is.	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	197	0	216	
Fiji	0	2,144	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	1	98	795	0	3,061	
FSM	1,031	0	2,499	59,708	250	55,885	54	0	0	0	63,103	599	4,900	188,029	
Kiribati	0	0	960	10,199	0	10,512	183	0	484	0	38,826	56,167	15,060	132,391	
Marshall	0	0	38	17,884	0	9,525	0	0	0	0	4,675	45	1,050	33,217	
Nauru	0	0	1,009	6,712	140	10,465	0	0	18	0	15,212	6,407	1,435	41,398	
Niue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	
PNG	0	0	3,148	20	4,928	887	49,666	15,178	90	0	38,660	21,475	3,730	137,783	
Palau	995	0	0	46	65	0	13	0	0	0	1,249	0	0	2,368	
Solomon Is.	0	1	49	4	85	909	18	0	69,092	0	2,228	1,107	0	73,493	
Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,300	0	0	308	0	5,608	
Tokelau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,123	0	2,123	
Tonga	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	265	2	29	0	310	
Tuvalu	0	0	109	4,338	0	5	0	0	90	0	1	35,989	0	40,532	
Vanuatu	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	118	
Total	2,026	2,224	7,812	98,934	5,468	88,207	49,934	15,178	5,300	69,774	268	164,107	125,241	26,175	660,649

Source: SPC Catch and Effort Logsheet Database, with adjustments