

# ***TUNA MARKETS & SEINER CAPACITY***

RFMO TUNA MANAGEMENT  
WORKSHOP

BRISBANE JUNE 2010

# ***Sustainability – A Growing Concern***

- FAD fishing
- By-catch and non-target species
- Bluefin fiasco
- Sea birds, turtles, sharks
- More and more consumers - particularly in the EU want “eco-friendly” tuna

# ***Meeting those concerns.....***

- Brands and supermarkets looking for eco-friendly tuna
- Replacement of today's seiner catch by Pole & Line fish is highly unlikely
- Certification: a trend - but difficult for purse seine tuna fisheries

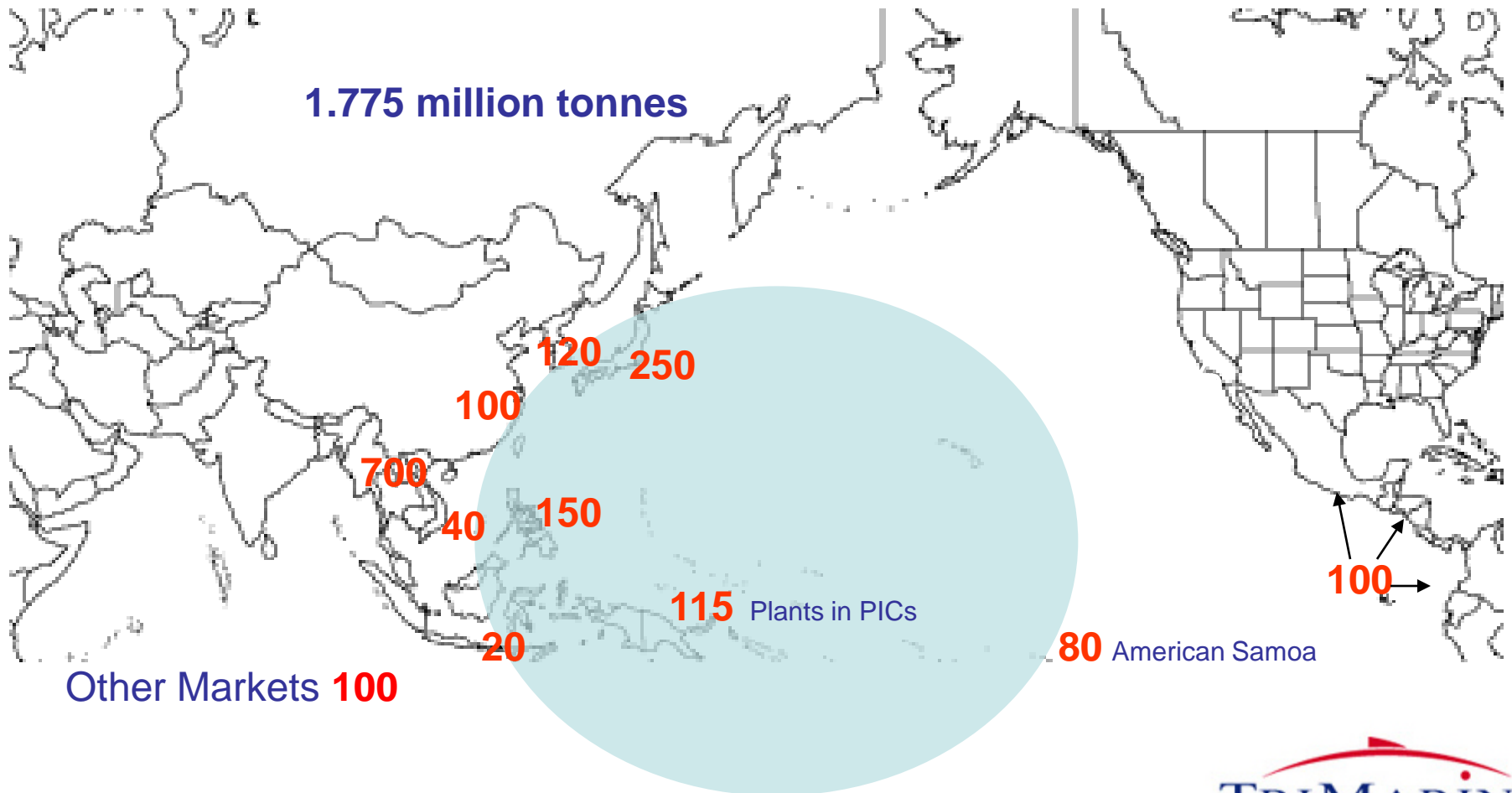
# ***The EU Market***

- About 40% of global canned tuna consumption
- IUU regulation in force since January 1<sup>st</sup> – some flag States not yet compliant
- Certification enables verification of SPS (“EU number”) status of fishing vessels
- GSP regime under review: tariffs drive trade flows

# *A Two Tier Market*

- EU is a premium YF market. Fish without IUU certification and EU numbers cannot be imported
- Fish with “origin” re preferential tariffs is valuable
- YF that does not comply is selling ex-vessel at lower prices today
- Will the SJ market follow suit?

# Markets: WCPFC Seiner Catch



# Fleet Expansion

Is **overcapacity** a major risk?

*Sovereignty*

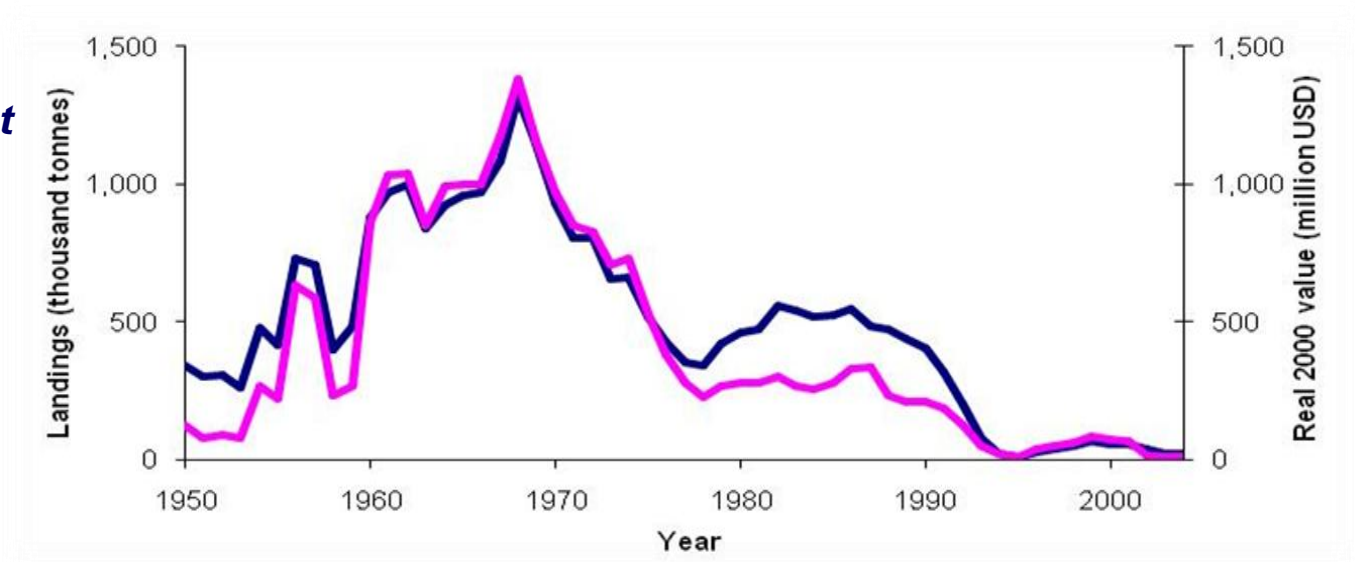
*Legitimate Aspirations*

*Economic development*

*Jobs*

*Food Security*

*History*



Atlantic Cod catch and value in Canadian EEZ

## The Future for Tuna Fisheries?

# ***Why Control Fishing Effort?***

- One new WCPFC seiner adds about 10,000 tonnes of annual catch
- Without controls new boats will continue to enter the fisheries (not only WCPFC)
- The WCPFC SJ resource is apparently abundant – but for how long?



# ***Why control.....***

- The increased supply will depress prices – should tuna be a cheap food item?
- Increasing fleet size will result in:
  - Eventual decline of resource
  - Declining returns to boat and resource owners
  - Increasing consumer resistance
- Most boat owners want some form of capacity limitation

# ***What RFMOs Should Do***

- Fix capacity limits for each RFMO – and restrict transfers between RFMOs
- Agree on a standard for measuring capacity
- Enforce transparency:
  - Publish the full details of management schemes
  - Publish names of vessels, licenses and dates

# ***Continued.....***

- Recognize the merits of transferring capacity to Coastal States
- Accept that within fixed capacity limits all fleets cannot continue to grow
- Address the issue of subsidies – a major factor in some vessel investments

***THANK YOU!***

