

## LOCAL - Overfishing of western Pacific Bigeye Tuna

### Overfishing of western Pacific bigeye tuna continues

Overfishing of bigeye tuna continues in the western and central Pacific tuna fishery, the world's biggest tuna fishery, according to the 2010 tuna fishery assessment report released this month by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Though the species is not at risk of extinction, and is never likely to be, the assessment found that bigeye fishing effort needs to be reduced by at least 32% from the average levels for 2006-2009 to ensure long-term sustainability.

Using fisheries and biological data, some going back to the 1950s, SPC has assessed the trends and current stocks of the four tuna species mainly targeted by fishers: skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and south Pacific albacore. The 2010 catch for all four species is estimated at 2,421,113 tonnes, the second highest annual catch on record. It represents 83% of the total Pacific Ocean catch and 60% of the global tuna catch.

"Overall, the fishery is in the best shape of all the tuna fisheries in the world", says John Hampton, SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme Manager. "On a scale of 1-10, we estimate it as 6-7, a green traffic light tinged with orange." But there has been an upward trend in total tuna catch for many years, mainly due to increases in purse-seine fishery catches, which accounted for 75% of the 2010 catch. Bigeye represents just 5% of the fishery's total tuna catch. Most of the bigeye catch is taken in equatorial areas, both by purse seine and longline. The purse-seine fisheries and domestic surface fisheries of the Philippines and Indonesia take large numbers of small bigeye. The assessment report states that yellowfin, skipjack and south Pacific albacore tuna stocks are being fished at a moderate level and stocks are reasonably healthy. But Hampton cautions against complacency and stresses the need for responsible management actions to keep the stocks healthy.

"Though some species are being fished within generally accepted levels, this does not mean that there is potential for higher catches," he says. "Now is the time to think about limiting catches, or fishing effort, at around the current levels." In particular, the report recommends that the yellowfin catch in the western equatorial Pacific be limited to around current levels and that limits on skipjack fishing be considered.

**For interview:** John Hampton, Oceanic Fisheries Programme Manager, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, New Caledonia, Phone: +687 262 000, Email: JohnH@spc.int

**Download the report:** The report, 'The western and central Pacific tuna fishery: 2010 overview and status of stocks', is available from: <http://www.spc.int/oceanfish>, or directly at: [http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Brochures/Policy\\_Brief14\\_12.pdf](http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Brochures/Policy_Brief14_12.pdf)

**Photographer:** Malo Hosken, SPC



Picture: SPC tagging vessel coming alongside a purse seine vessel to recover several tags found on fish caught the same day. Tagging is one of the key tools used by SPC to monitor tuna stocks.

## LOCAL - DINOSAURS in Dili

### Dinosaurs in Dili....



Do YOU know where to look for DINOSAURS in Dili ??

This is a question I often ask my friends and visitors to Dili. Almost always they look at me as if I have two heads stuck in the clouds.

It's one of this city's best kept secrets but there are DINOSAURS to be seen roaming around the entrance hall of one of the most prominent public buildings in the city, the Presidential Palace on Comoro Road.

What's this all about? It's a magnificent exhibition about the geological history of Timor from the far reaches of the geological past, when DINOSAURS and their friends roamed across the planet, right up to the present day.

Put together by Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich from Monash University, Melbourne and her team, the displays are beautifully illustrated and clearly explained in Tetum, Portuguese and English.

Loads of fascinating fossils spill out of the displays to help illustrate how the Timor of today was created by geological cataclysm. Pride of place goes to two fine DINOSAUR skeletons, the biggest of which, a TYRANNOSAURUS REX with teeth big enough to have chomped a London double decker bus, fiercely guards the exhibition. I really recommend this to the Guide Post readers and kids of all ages, big and small, as a great place to visit to learn a little bit about what is beneath our feet here in Dili. Just turn up at the side entrance of the palace, leave your ID with the guards, and take a stroll into geological history!!

The exhibition co-ordinator is Martino Ornai and he is on hand to answer your questions whenever you visit. If you want to organize a group visit, contact him in advance: e-mail [HECAMJOJANAT@gmail.com](mailto:HECAMJOJANAT@gmail.com) telephone 7368424. The exhibition is open Monday - Friday from 8am to 12 noon and from 2pm to 5pm.

Steve Thompson - Geologist

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## The 'Darwin Awards'

### OUT WITH A BANG!

Confirmed by Darwin, 19 April 2000 - Georgia

Robert, a mechanic at a Montezuma tire store, was killed when a tire on the wheel he was repairing exploded. He had been at tempting to fix a crack in a tractor-trailer wheel rim with a welding torch. Any mechanic can tell you that heating air in a sealed container, such as a truck tire, causes the gas to expand and the pressure to increase. But the mechanic had been repairing tires for years and was too busy to deflate the tire before fixing the crack. Witnesses say that when the four-foot-diameter tire exploded, the rim left the axle "with great velocity" and struck Robert in the head, killing him instantly. The forces of the explosion are enough to knock a pickup truck off of a nearby lift, and the report was heard at the local police station one mile away. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited and fined the tire and wheel company, but the owner says he will contest the findings. "He was trained. The manager and the customer told him not to, but he did it anyway."

### GRENADE JUGGLER

Unconfirmed by Darwin, May 2001 - Croatia

A college student dropped the ball when a hand grenade exploded while he was juggling it at a party in Vidovci. Six students watching him were also injured. A spectator is usually disqualified from winning a Darwin Award caused by another's idiocy, but this audience should have known better than to gape at a man juggling explosives. The six onlookers earn Honorable Mentions for their disregard of common sense, and the juggler wins a Darwin for his lethal stupidity.

### FIREWORKS FIASCO

Confirmed by Darwin, 4 July 2000 - New York

America's Independence Day celebration is festival for pyromaniacs. People routinely lose fingers and eyes in fireworks explosions, year after year, seemingly oblivious to the dangers and the bigger the fireworks, the greater the damage. Keith, thirty-four, suffered partial decapitation when he peered into the mouth of a launching tube containing what he thought was a malfunctioning aerial firework. The unlicensed pyrospectacular display was to be the grand finale of his party, and his haste to correct the problem he placed his head directly over the opening. After a short delay the fireworks exploded, giving both his head and his party an impromptu yet spectacular grand finale.

### SHELL SHOT

Unconfirmed by Darwin, 20 October 1999 - Texas

A twenty-one-year-old man died from shrapnel wound when he and his friends discovered and began shooting at two explosive devices. The three men found the seventy-five-millimeter "ceremonial military rounds" while cleaning out a building and someone decided it would be a worthy challenge to see if they could trigger the explosives with gunfire. You know what? It worked. One man died at the scene, and the remaining two stepped aside to let the Fort Hood Bomb Disposal Unit do their job.

From the book : *The Darwin Awards II - Unnatural Selection* by Wendy Northcutt

## WORLDWIDE



### Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang resigns from its board

Jerry Yang, the co-founder of Yahoo!, has resigned from its board. Mr Yang founded the online company in 1995 with David Filo and was its chief executive from June 2007 until January 2009. His resignation comes two weeks after the company hired former PayPal executive Scott Thomson to be its new chief executive.

Mr Yang annoyed some shareholders by turning down a \$47.5bn (£31bn) takeover offer from Microsoft in 2008. The company's current market value is about \$20bn. Mr Yang has also resigned from the boards of Yahoo Japan and Alibaba Group and said in a statement: "The time has come for me to pursue other interests outside of Yahoo!". He also expressed support for the company's current management. "I am enthusiastic about the appointment of Scott Thompson as Chief Executive Officer and his ability, along with the entire Yahoo! leadership team, to guide Yahoo! into an exciting and successful future," he said. Yahoo! shares rose 3.4% in after-hours trading. Some analysts had seen Mr Yang as an impediment to the sale or restructuring of the business. "This is clearly a positive. It provides a more objective and unemotional approach to strategic alternatives," said Brett Harris at Gabello & Co. "It's also good for the new CEO. He has one less entrenched legacy board member to resist his vision." In addition to leaving the board, Mr Yang is also giving up his title of "Chief Yahoo". "While I and the entire board respect his decision, we will miss his remarkable perspective, vision and wise counsel," said Yahoo! chairman Roy Bostock. *BBC*



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