



Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing: Challenges for the Indo-Pacific and especially Oceania

Discussions with the Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies

30 September, 2020

Mark S. Young
Executive Director
International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network

Framework for Discussion

- The IUU Fishing Problem In Oceania
- Regional MCS Framework
- Innovative MCS Tools to Address the Issue

**FISHERIES
ENFORCEMENT**

Quantification of IUU Fishing in the Pacific Island Region

- In 2016, the first attempt was made to quantify the volume, species composition and value of IUU fishing in Pacific tuna fisheries
- Study aimed to quantify the level of IUU fishing associated across four risk categories:
 - Unlicensed/unauthorized fishing;
 - Misreporting;
 - Non-compliance with other license conditions (e.g. FAD fishing during the purse seine closure period); and
 - Post-harvest risks (e.g. illegal transshipping).
- Estimates were developed for each of three main fishing sectors - purse seine, tropical longline and southern longline – and then aggregated to produce an overall estimate.

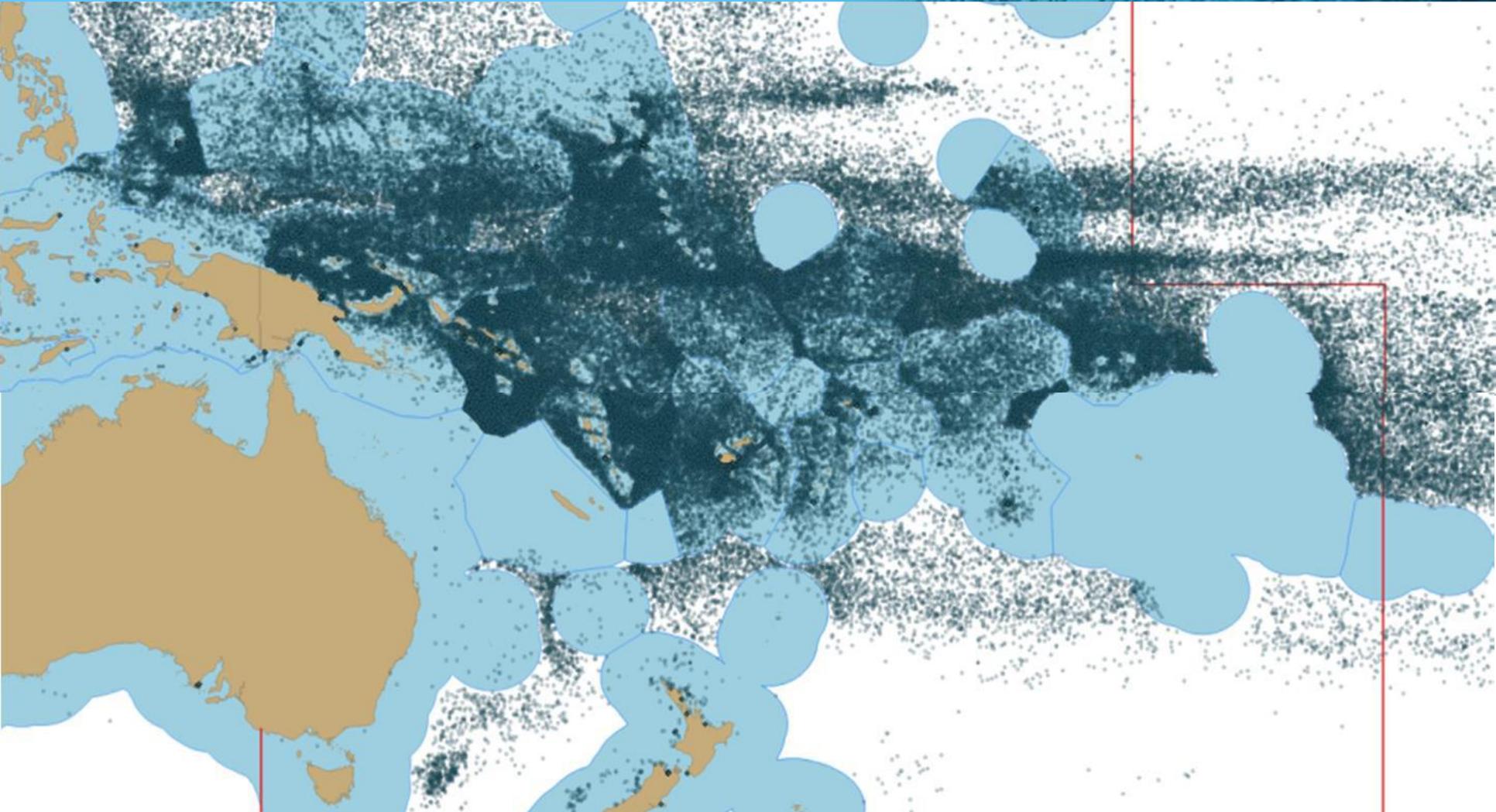
Key Messages Arising from the Analysis

- The estimated value of total product involving IUU fishing activity in tuna fisheries was \$616.1M USD – economic loss to FFA Members of \$152.7M USD per year
- Estimates of IUU fishing were dominated by the licensed fleet which accounted for over 95% of the total volume and value of IUU activity estimated.
 - *This was consistent with previous studies and has important implications for MCS planning and investment*
- Stronger catch monitoring arrangements are required in the longline sector
 - Mechanisms to independently verify catch in the longline sector is limited for many fleets; and
 - Additional measures are required to strengthen confidence in catch reporting and compliance with catch-based management measures

Key Messages Arising from the Analysis

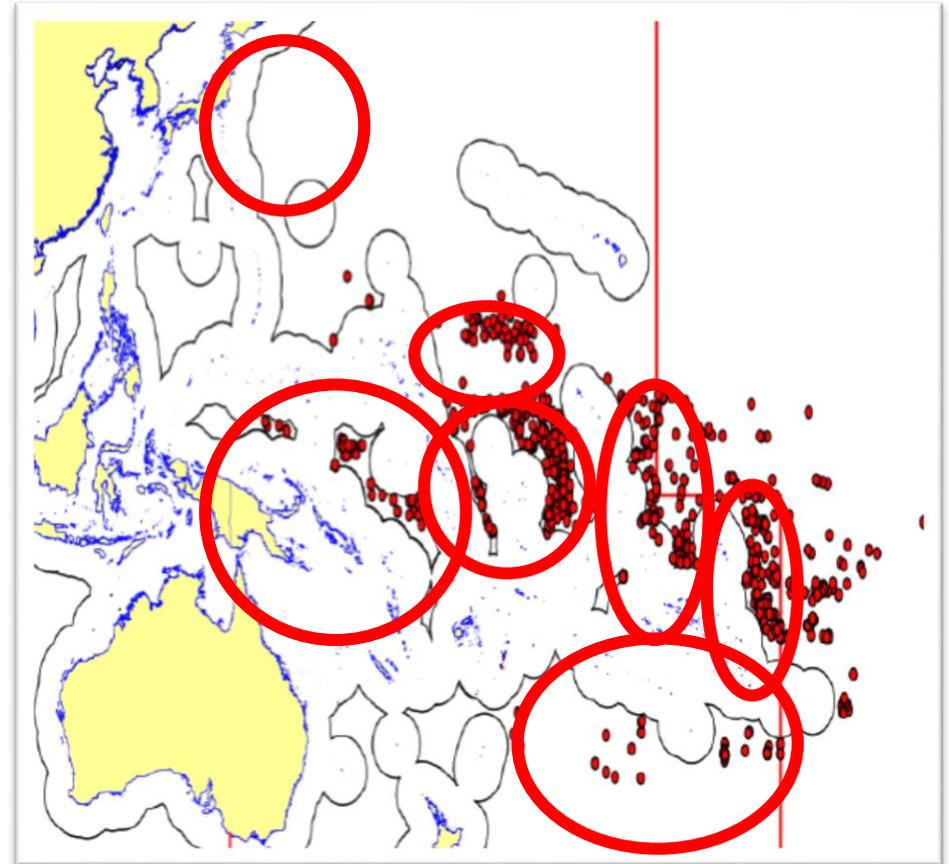
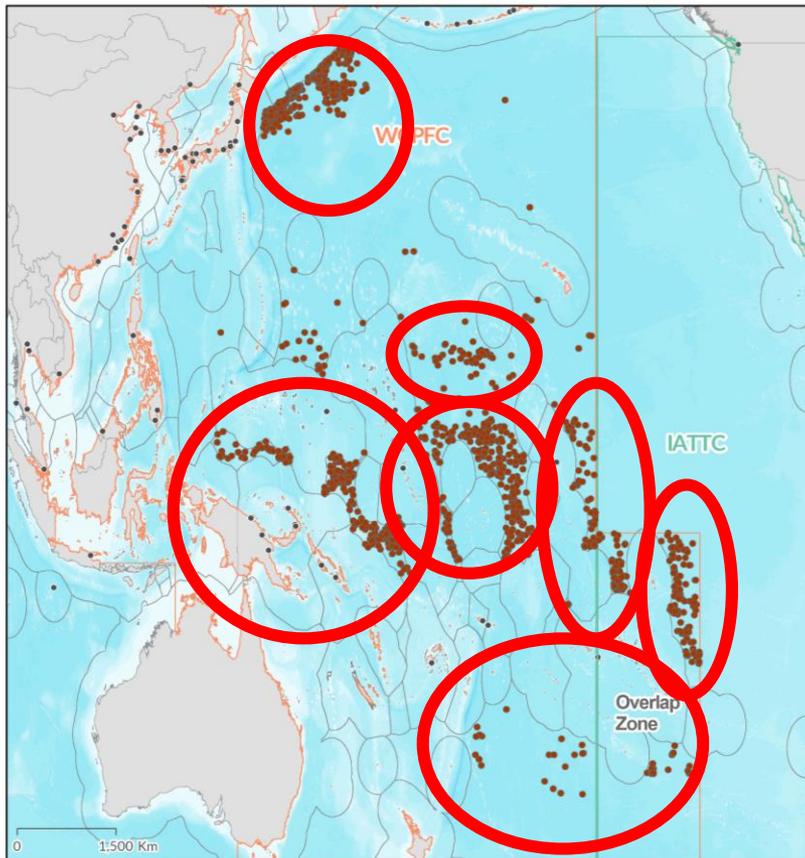
- Considerable uncertainty exists on the extent of illegal transshipment
- More accurate estimates of IUU activity require stronger monitoring and coordination of relevant statistics
 - Information available to support quantification of many risks was relatively limited
- Strong in zone MCS arrangements must be mirrored on the high seas
 - There is a need for stronger monitoring of catch and transshipment activity across all sectors, and in particular the longline sectors.

VMS Activity in the Oceania Region

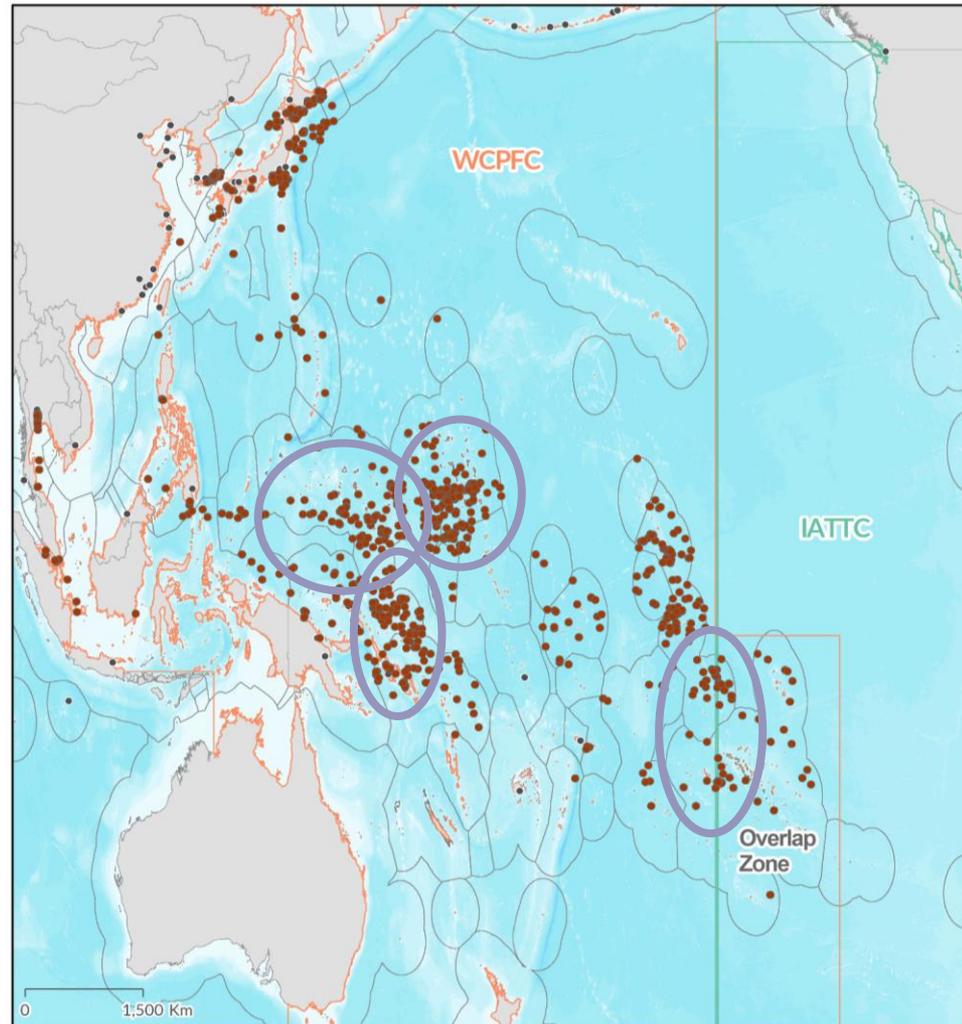


Possible Transshipment Events – High Seas

WCPFC TCC 13 – 2016 High Seas Transshipping Reported Data



Possible Transshipment Events – Within EEZs



Forum Fisheries Agency

An advisory body providing expertise, technical assistance other support to members to help countries sustainably manage their fishery resources falling within their EEZs.

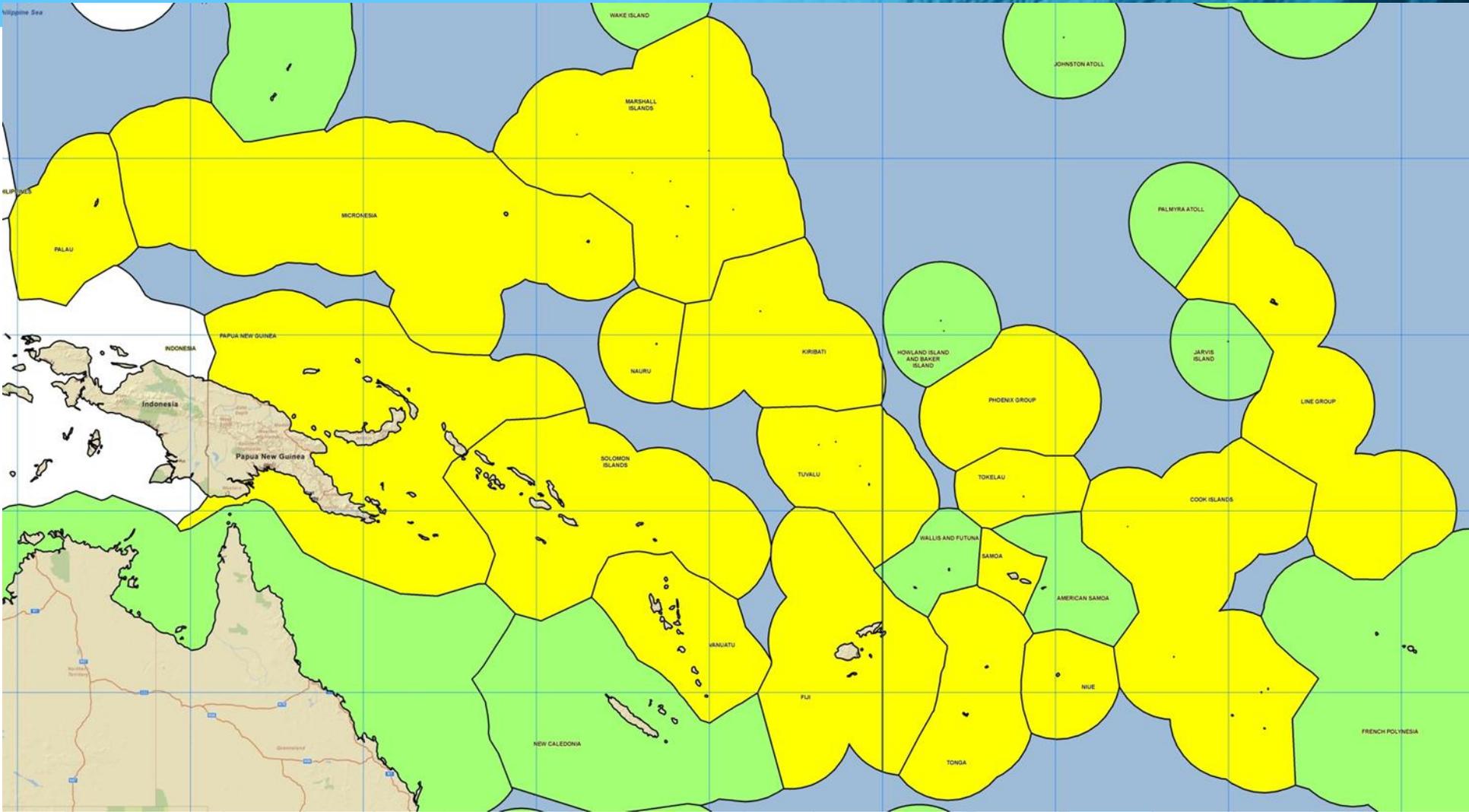
Vision Statement

“...We, the Member Countries of the Forum Fisheries Agency, will enjoy the highest level of economic and social benefits that is compatible with sustainable use of our tuna resources...”

FFA’s Corporate Mission

“...To enable Member Countries manage, conserve and use the tuna resources in their Exclusive Economic Zones and beyond, through enhancing national capacity and strengthening regional solidarity...”

FFA Member Area of Responsibility



FFA Regional MCS Strategy



FFA Regional MCS Strategy

- The Strategy focuses on four overarching priority objectives for the regional MCS framework that address critical areas of the regional MCS framework that require strengthening.
 - Regional standards are in place for effective and efficient MCS systems
 - Quality information is available and accessible to national and regional officials to assess IUU fishing risks and plan MCS activities
 - Procedures established and operationalized to conduct effective MCS activities
 - Effective compliance and enforcement through efficient use of available information, analyses, and intelligence achieved through whole of government engagement

Wide Range of MCS “Tools”

- Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center
- Regional Surveillance Picture
- Regional Surveillance Operations
- Quadrilateral Defense Group (Australia, France, New Zealand, U.S.)
- Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement
- U.S. Shiprider Agreements (In place with 11 FFA members)
- WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme (14 total/8 FFA)

Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center

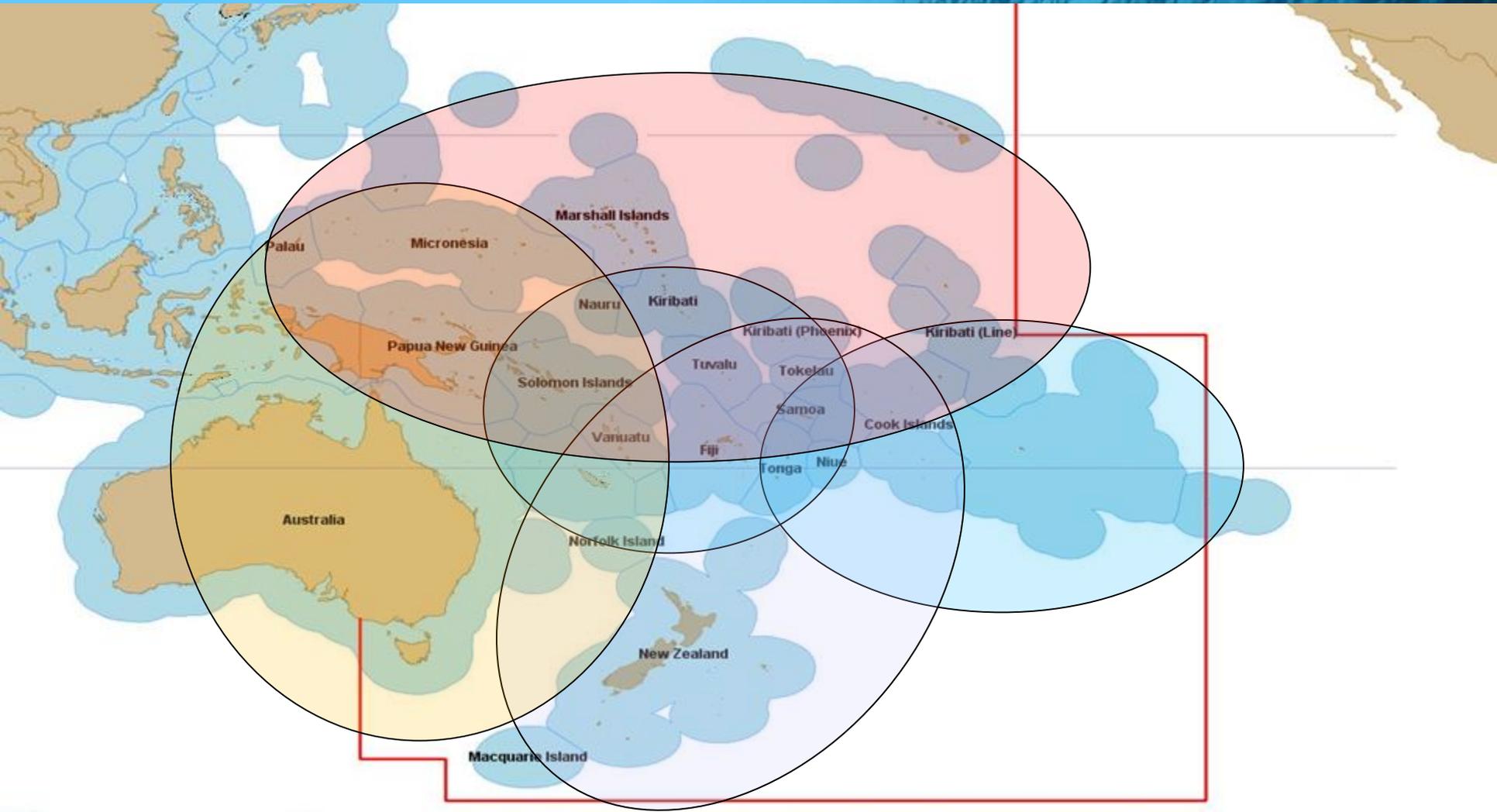


FFA Regional Surveillance Operations

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION DURING MULTI-LATERAL OPERATIONS



Fisheries Surveillance



Niue Treaty

- In 1992, FFA members adopted the *Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific* (Niue Treaty).
- The objective was to enhance regional coordination and cooperation in fisheries surveillance and law enforcement, and increase the ability of Pacific Island countries to effectively enforce their fisheries laws.
- Parties have agreed to cooperate in the enforcement of their fisheries laws and regulations and to develop regionally agreed procedures for the conduct of fisheries surveillance and law enforcement.

Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement

- *The cross-vesting of enforcement powers to enable cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities*

Provides for flexible cooperation in conducting a broad range of cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities, ranging from at-sea patrols and aerial surveillance to investigations and follow-up assistance and the conduct of port inspections

Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement

- *The exchange of fisheries law enforcement data and the use of fisheries data for broader law enforcement purposes*

Establishes a minimum standard of data and intelligence that is to be exchanged under the Agreement for fisheries purposes as well as options for receiving and sharing fisheries data and intelligence for broader law enforcement purposes

Surveillance Assets



Maximizing Boarding Opportunities



International MCS Network

- **Mission:** To promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination of the members of the Network through information exchange, capacity development and joint work in order to achieve the improved effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.
- **Goals:** In order to carry on the Mission, the Network will focus on the following three Strategic Objectives:
 - Facilitate increased information exchanges and collaborative MCS activities amongst members;
 - Coordinate and encourage international cooperation on MCS and raise awareness of MCS issues; and
 - Help to strengthen the capacity of members to implement and maintain effective MCS regimes.
- Current membership includes 70 Member countries and RFMOs to include 12 of the 17 members of FFA and the FFA Secretariat.



Questions?



Mark Young
Executive Director
International Monitoring, Control and
Surveillance Network
myoung@imcsnet.org