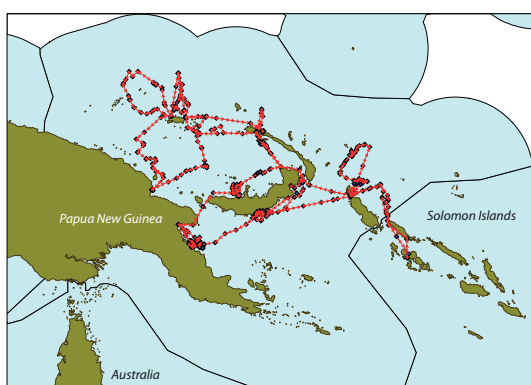


## Second cruise of Papua New Guinea tagging project successfully completed

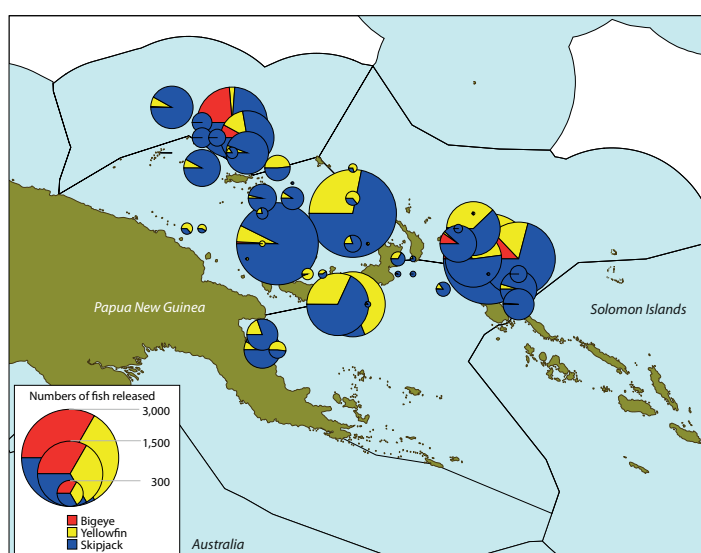
*F/V Soltai 105 returned to its base port on 19 March 2012 after fishing in Papua New Guinea (PNG) waters (see cruise track map). Although the 2012 cruise lasted only two months, nearly the same number of fish were tagged as in the 2011 cruise, which lasted three months: 39,925 fish, including 28,311 skipjack, 9,606 yellowfin and 2,008 bigeye tunas (see release by species map). It is worth noting that the relatively large number of bigeye tagged had never been achieved before in PNG waters.*

Over 6,000 tags have been recovered from the 2011 cruise releases (15%), showing that the tag recovery systems installed in the main PNG tuna catch unloading sites are working well. More than 70% of these tags have been recovered by PNG-based purse seiners.

The third and last PNG tagging cruise will take place in the first quarter of 2013 and will, no doubt, bring the total number of tuna tagged well over 100,000 for the project.



Cruise track of 2012 PNG tagging trip.



Fish releases by species during the 2012 PNG tagging trip.



F/V Soltai 105 in tagging action (Image: Malo Hosken).