



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21st Century

Producer: Patrick Fries/Francis Mead

Script version: Final

Duration: 7.48

SOLOMON ISLANDS : SAVING THE PACIFIC'S TUNA

INTRO

In the Western and Central Pacific they are a part of the culture – and a multi-billion dollar business. They are eaten everywhere around the world – and they are becoming easier and easier to catch. Will modern technology mean the end of tuna – or will it help them survive?

VIDEO

FISH AND FISHING VARIOUS

NARRATION:

It is fished every day and in nearly every ocean on the planet.

An immense volume is captured and processed to keep up with the insatiable global demand. (9")

FACTORIES, RESTAURANTS

It is served in trendy restaurants around the world. And in tin cans for school lunches. They are among the most valuable commodities in the ocean.

It's tuna. Yellow fin... big eye... albacore... and skip jack. (16")

FISH BEING CAUGHT

4.5 million tons of tuna are caught each year and nearly half of the Global supply is caught in the western and central pacific. It's a 5 billion dollar a year industry and an economic lifeline for dozens for small island nations. But for how much longer? (16")

ANDREW HUDSON

ANDREW HUDSON:

People consider the ocean an endless bounty, but the ocean is far from unlimited. (4")

NARRATION:

Technology is making it much easier to catch Tuna - and that in turn is threatening a whole way of life – (6")

MAP: WESTERN PACIFIC
REGION

ANDREW HUDSON:

The Pacific is so dependent on these fisheries resources, that a collapse could be devastating, and it might be decades for them to recover from that, if at all. (7")

NARRATION:

The fisheries of the western and central pacific cover 40 million Square kilometers. (4")

It's a vast area populated by small island countries, which according to international law own all of the fish within 200 miles of their coastline. But most countries can't afford navy ships or aircraft to patrol their waters, leaving their prized fishing grounds a target for Ocean thieves. 17 of the countries are part of an alliance that help manage and protect their most valuable asset... fish. (24")

Based on the Solomon Islands,
A multi-national task force for the pacific islands Forum fisheries agency is Tracking some 2,000 commercial ships that are operating within the jurisdiction of the Pacific island

countries. (24")

STEVE MASIKA:

*Oooh, that's an
interesting track. It's not licensed, so
it should not be doing those tracks.
This is definitely not innocent passage. (7")*

NARRATION:

Each ship transmits a signal
That is similar to an airplane
Transponder and
That provides vital clues as
To whether the boat is
Operating legally. (7")

NAT SOT

SCREEN SHOWING SHIP TRACKS *"So as you can see at the front window there
The first fishing contact there that is right at
42 on my pot"*

AIRCRAFT

Despite these efforts, in the past ten
years, overall catch
Rates, both illegal and legitimate
Have more than doubled. And while
skipjack are still abundant, the prized
blue fin is already over-fished,
and big eye and
yellow fin stocks are declining. (10")

That's why the UN Development

Programme has also worked with small island countries to bring in a fisheries convention and to manage fish stocks. Andrew Hudson is an ocean management expert with UNDP. (11")

ANDREW HUDSON

ANDREW HUDSON:

The good news is that the Pacific Island countries have taken concrete steps toward improving their understanding of the fisheries, improving and putting in place management regimes, and monitoring compliance regimes, that if they carry them forward in full which I think they are capable of doing, could lead to true sustainability for those fisheries going forward. (18")

NARRATION:

TAGGING OF FISH

Managing the tuna fisheries
Depends upon knowing more
About what

Tuna do in the ocean.
Researchers for the secretariat of the
pacific community are tagging
thousands of tuna with devices that
will provide important data. (11")

Tags tell scientists how far tuna travel,

TUNA TAG ANIMATION

how fast they grow and how
Deep they go for food...
The tagging essentially allows the tuna
to talk to scientists who will use the
information to protect them from
being overfished...(19")

NATSOT

*That was in 2011 and it is only recorded
Now (3")*

FISHING SHOTS

NARRATION

More than sixty thousand
tags have been released. (3")

STREET SCENES

Nowhere are people more protective of their
fisheries than in the western and central
pacific. It's a way of life. It defines their
culture. It's how islanders make their living.

SOL TUNA PROCESSING PLANT

And feed their families. And without it,
everything falls apart. (14")

MAP SOLOMONS

PLANT

In the coastal village of Noro in the Solomon
Islands, the morning commute consists of
islanders boarding the company van bound
for the Sol Tuna processing plant. (8")

HEARTY MATAMARU:

How many tons for today? 60 tons. (1")

NARRATION:

25 year old Hearty Matamaru (mat-ah-mar-oo) is one of seventeen hundred Solomon islanders making a living at the sol tuna processing plant. (7")

HEARTY MATAMARU:

That's very good yea...nice cleaning...better than that one. This is really good. (4")

NARRATION:

Here, one hundred metric tons of tuna are skinned...

de-boned... processed... canned... and packaged every single day. (8")

HEARTY MATAMARU:

This cannery is really important to the people here. To their lives, to their families and to the surrounding communities as well. We are worried if the tuna stock is gone, because the job here depends very much on the fish that we have in our waters. (16")

HARBOUR

NARRATION:

The same tuna that provides jobs at the sol tuna processing plant, also keeps a small fleet of Solomon fishing boats working. (7")

FISHING TRAWLER

PETAIA DELAIVERATA JR:

Ok guys stand by... lets go. (1")

NARRATION:

The Solomon Ruby is heading to sea in the hopes of catching 350 metric tons of skipjack tuna. (6")

PETAIA DELAIVERATA JR:

*Solomon Emerald... Solomon Emerald...
copy?(2")*

NARRATION:

Fish master Junior Delaverata, (day-la-verratta) grew up in the Solomons and commands a crew of his fellow islanders. (6")

SONAR SCANNER

He says technology has become an essential tool in the boat cockpit. (3")

PETAIA DELAIVERATA JR:

It's quite easier now when there is a spot of fish 100 meters away. The sonar can tell you the density of the fish, how many tons there is, how deep it is and how far it is away from the boat. (12")

TRAWLER LAYS NETS

NARRATION:

It's not long before a large school of tuna are spotted, and the crew races to lay nets and gather the catch. Before long, hundreds of tons of tuna start coming up over the rail. But this kind of modern technology is a

double-edged sword. (22")

DELAIVERATA

PETAIA DELAIVERATA JR:

As a pacific islander myself, I would ask one question. Will the next generation enjoy this industry as we do now? It's so very easy to catch fish. That's

OCEAN SHOTS

*the worrying part... more boats,
more fish harvested from the sea.(18")*

NARRATION:

For now, the western and central pacific is still the most productive fishery on the planet, but the risk of depleting stocks of tuna sends a signal that has to be heeded: (10")

HUDSON ON CAMERA

ANDREW HUDSON:

We know very well now, and the ocean is telling us very clearly, that we need to find more sustainable approaches to ocean utilization. (7")

NARRATION:

We know the oceans are talking to us. Their message is - that if we listen - they will continue to provide for generations to come. (9")

TEXT ON SCREEN:

- Since this film was made in 2014, some Pacific tuna is fished sustainably but big-eye tuna is still under threat.

- Two-thirds of tuna found in the worlds restaurants and shops comes from the Pacific

- The United Nations declared 2 May World Tuna Day - first marked in 2017 - to reinforce the urgent need to manage tuna stocks and protect them from disappearing from our seas (20")