



The Pew Charitable Trusts / Research & Analysis / Global Tuna Fishing

FACT SHEET

Global Tuna Fishing

June 21, 2012

Environmental Science

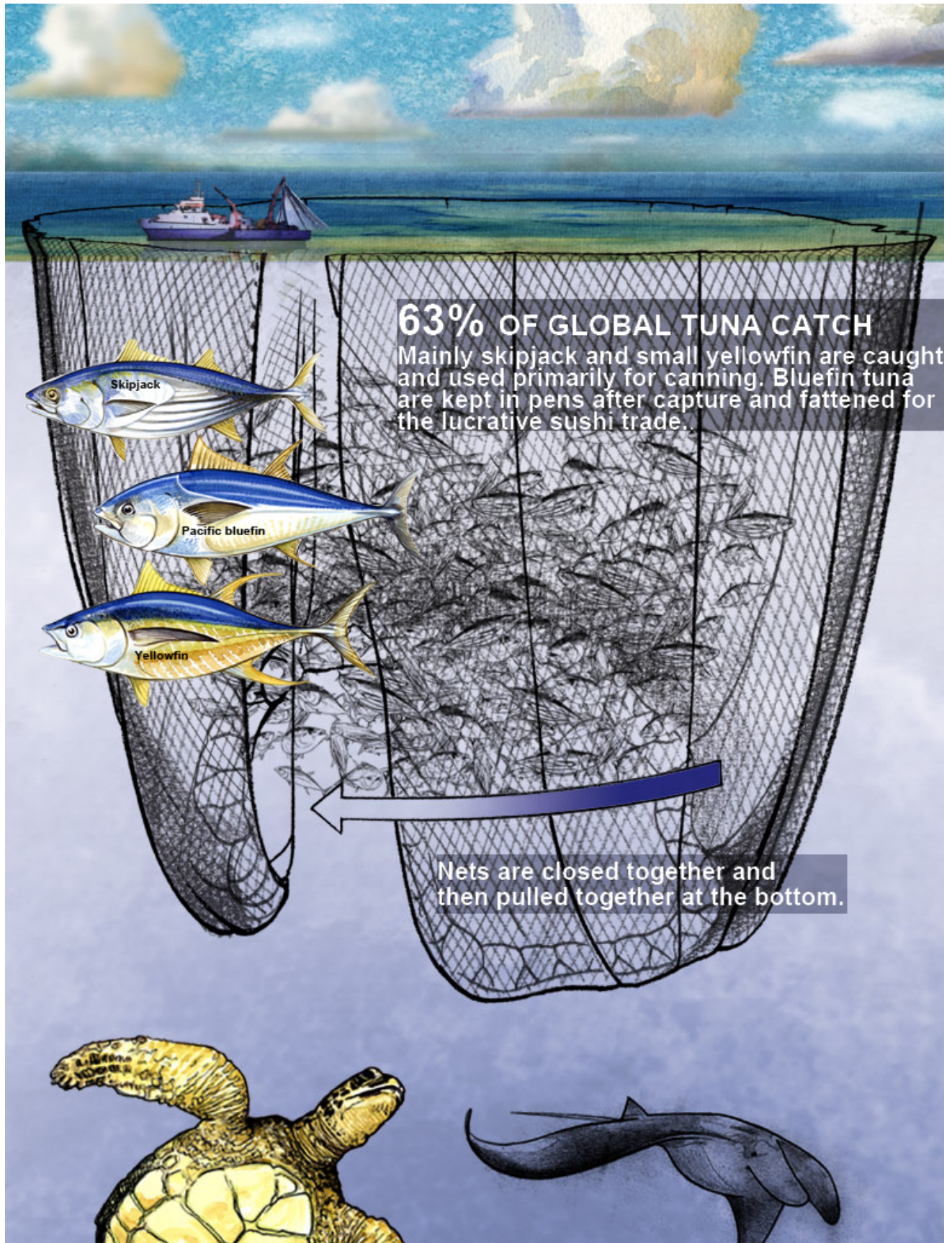
Tuna species are found throughout the world's oceans. Atlantic, Pacific, and southern bluefin tuna are prized for the sushi and sashimi market. Skipjack, yellowfin, and big-eye tunas are found mainly in the tropics, while albacore, like bluefin, are also found in temperate waters. These species are used for a mixture of canned and fresh products. Explore our graphics to learn more about how tuna are fished worldwide.

- Purse-Seine Fishing
- Longline Fishing
- Pole-and-Line Fishing

Just how important is global tuna fishing? View our graphic of worldwide canned tuna consumption.

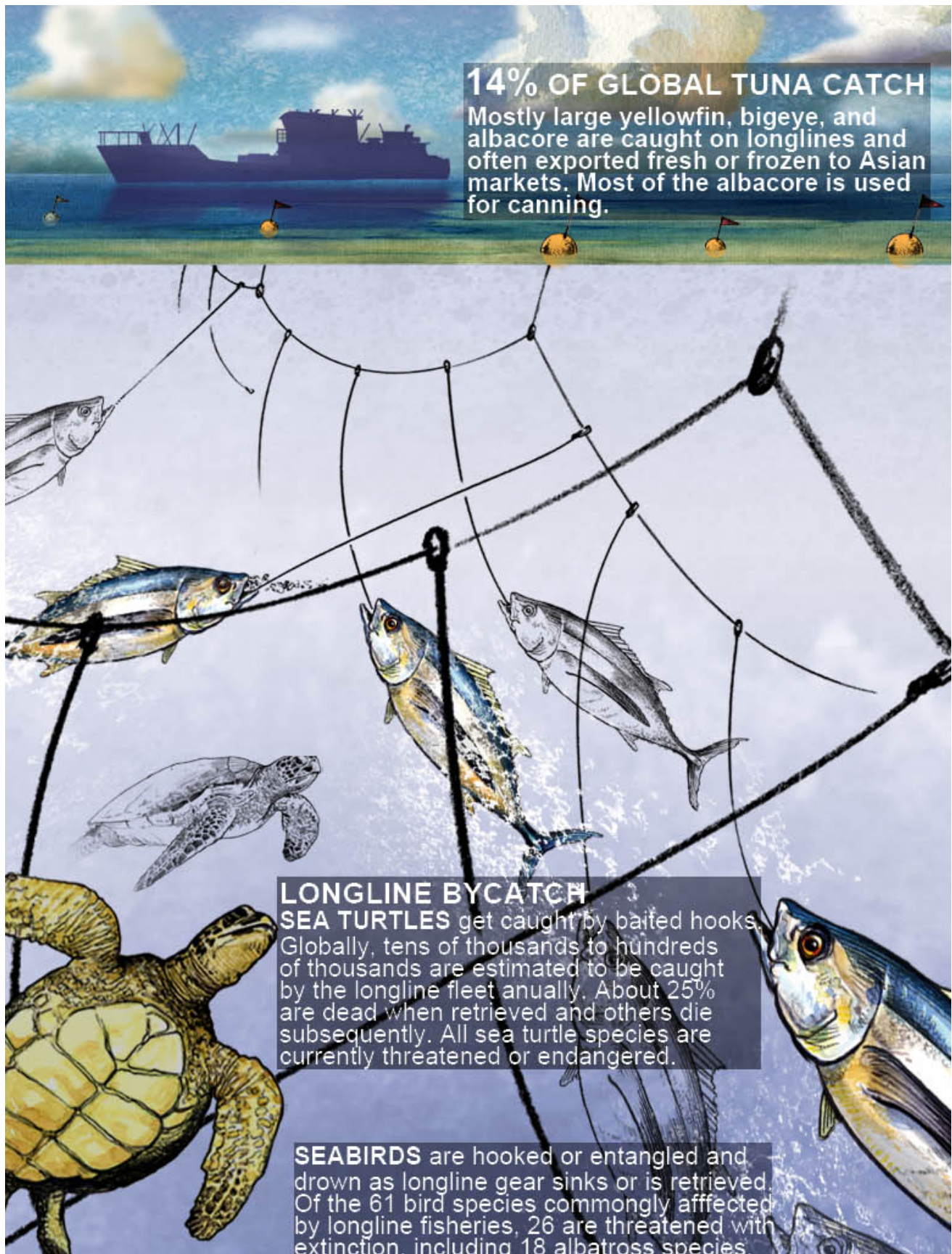
Purse-Seine Fishing

Large nets encircle schools of fish, using fish aggregating devices (FADs) to attract them. These nets are then closed - like a drawstring purse - to capture the fish.



Longline Fishing

Lines with baited hooks are strung at evenly spaced intervals along a central fishing line, which can be up to 100 km in length. Longlines are set near the surface to catch tuna.



14% OF GLOBAL TUNA CATCH

Mostly large yellowfin, bigeye, and albacore are caught on longlines and often exported fresh or frozen to Asian markets. Most of the albacore is used for canning.

LONGLINE BYCATCH

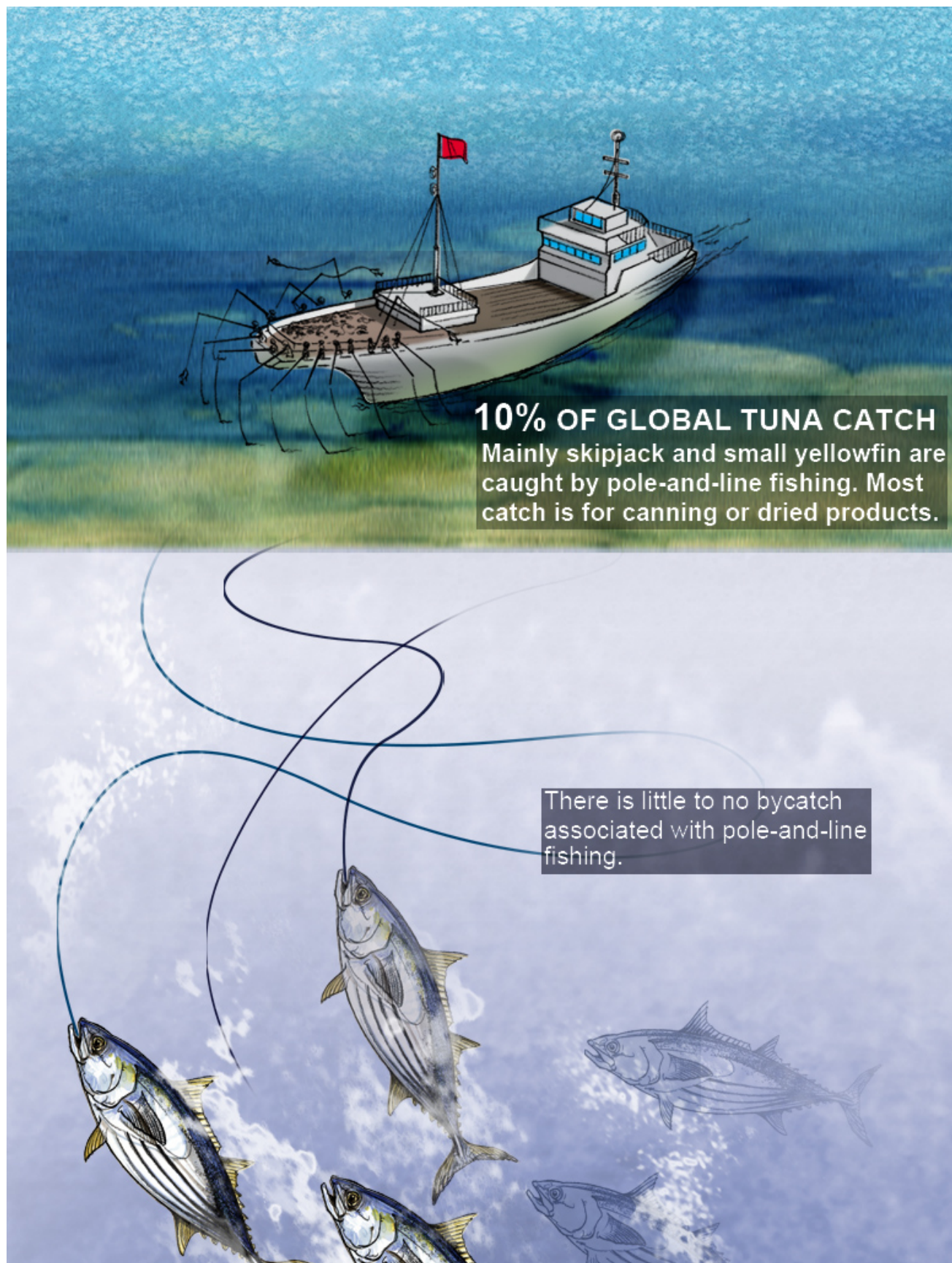
SEA TURTLES get caught by baited hooks.

Globally, tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands are estimated to be caught by the longline fleet annually. About 25% are dead when retrieved and others die subsequently. All sea turtle species are currently threatened or endangered.

SEABIRDS are hooked or entangled and drown as longline gear sinks or is retrieved. Of the 61 bird species commonly affected by longline fisheries, 26 are threatened with extinction, including 18 albatross species.

Pole-and-Line

A hooked line is attached to a pole. Some are hand operated but mechanized systems are also used to catch tuna. This highly selective gear takes fish one at a time, with little bycatch.

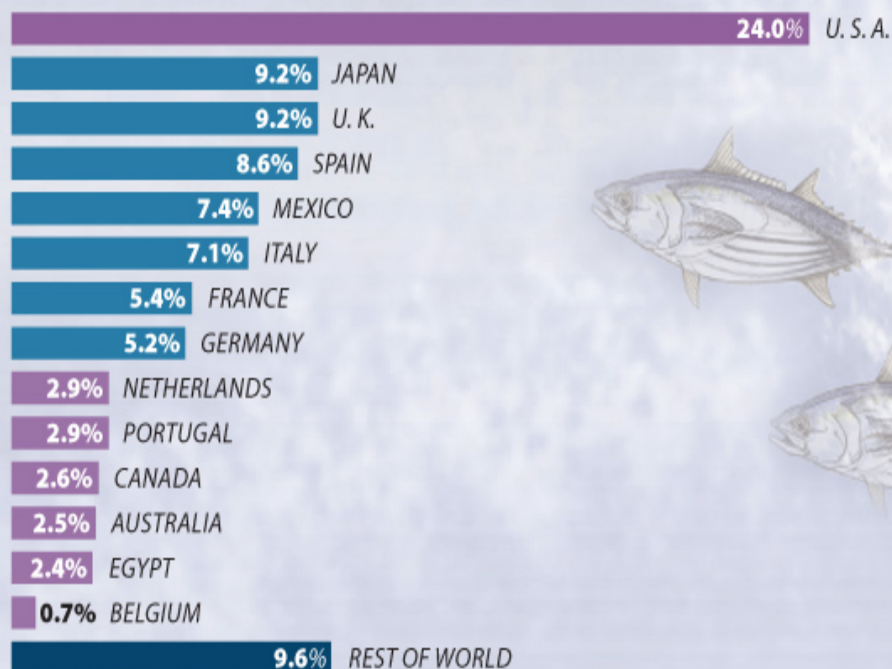


Tuna Consumption Globally

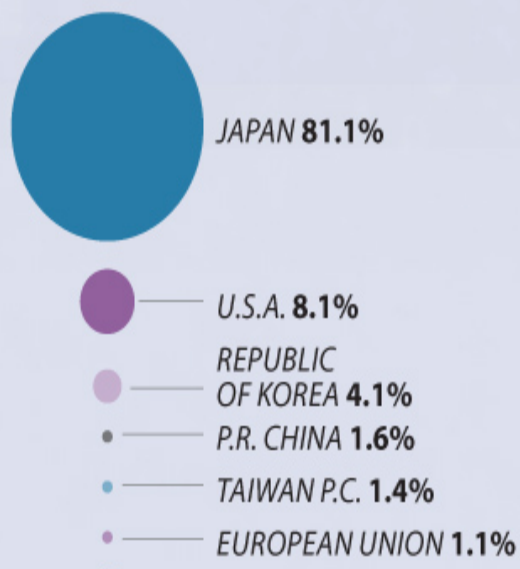
An enormous amount of tuna is consumed around the world. Learn more.

TUNA CATCH AND CONSUMPTION

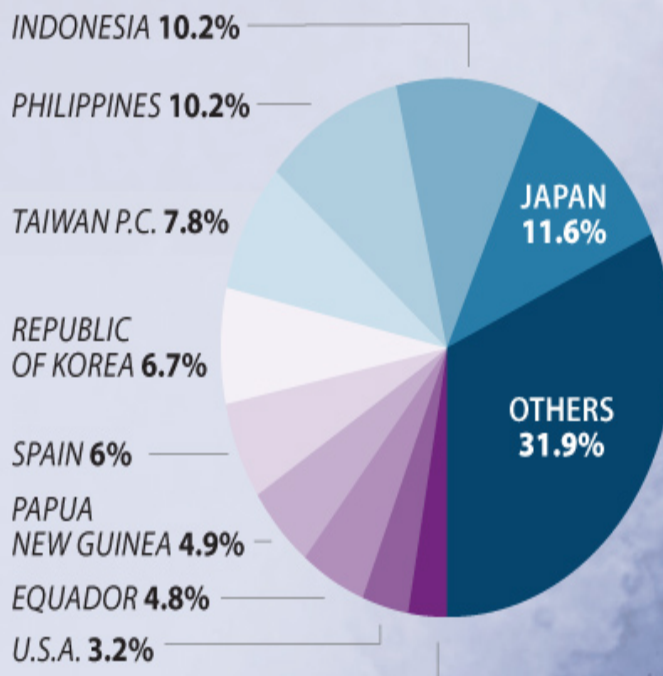
GLOBAL CANNED TUNA CONSUMPTION 2010



GLOBAL FRESH TUNA CONSUMPTION 2010



TOP 10 TUNA CATCHERS



TOPICS

Oceans, Environment

PROJECTS

Environmental Science