

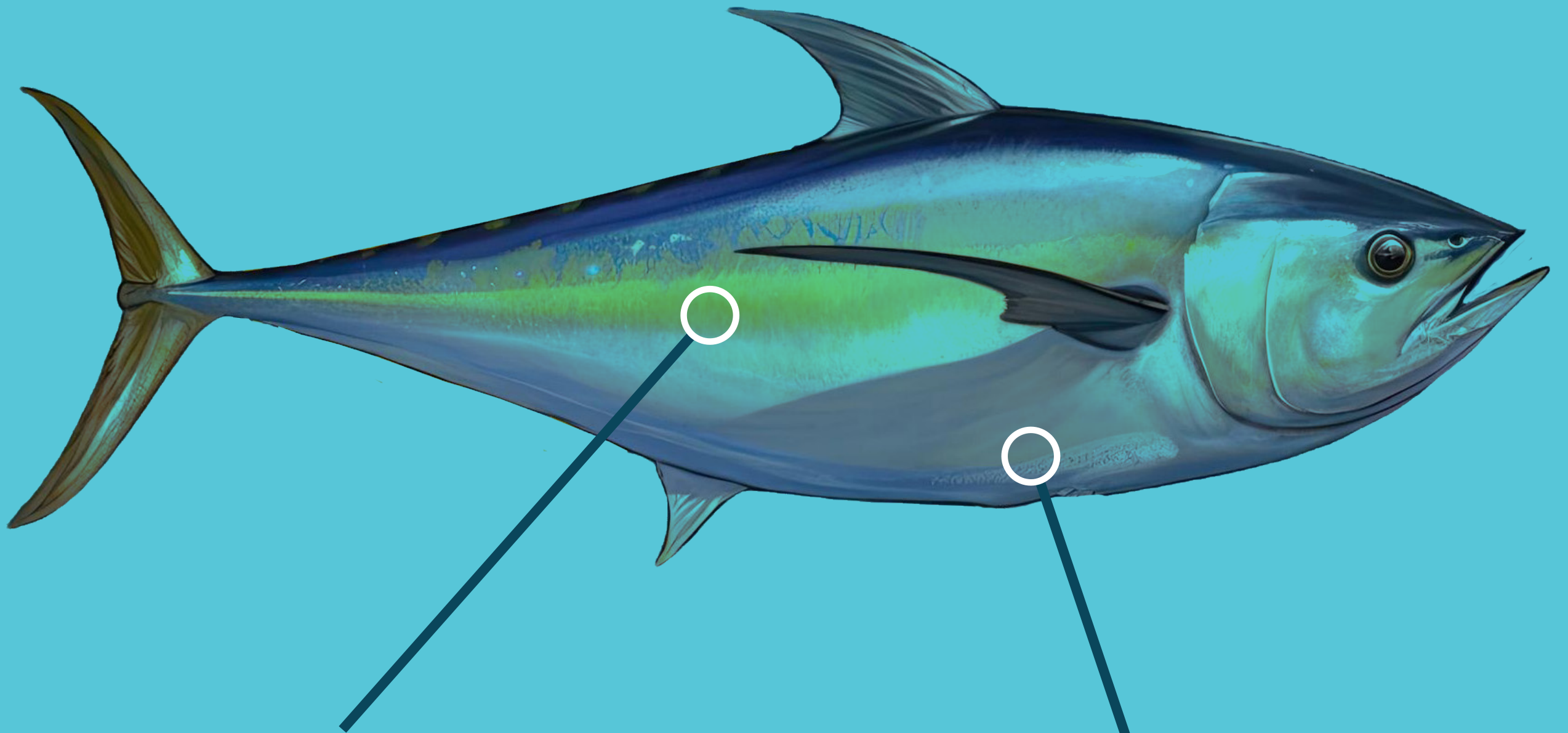
The *Species* of

SEA2SEE



Yellowfin Tuna

Thunnus albacares



**The second
most fished
tuna species in
the world after
skipjack tuna**

**1,569,619 tons caught
in 2022**

Fishing

Over one million tons of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) are captured each year.

It is mainly fished in the **Pacific Ocean (63%)**, followed by the **Indian Ocean (27%)** and the **Atlantic Ocean (10%)**, primarily with using purse seines.

Its exploitation has been steadily increasing for over **50 years** and often involves the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs), which account for approximately **40% of purse seine catches**. Fish caught under FADs have an average weight of **3 to 4 kg** (mostly immature individuals).

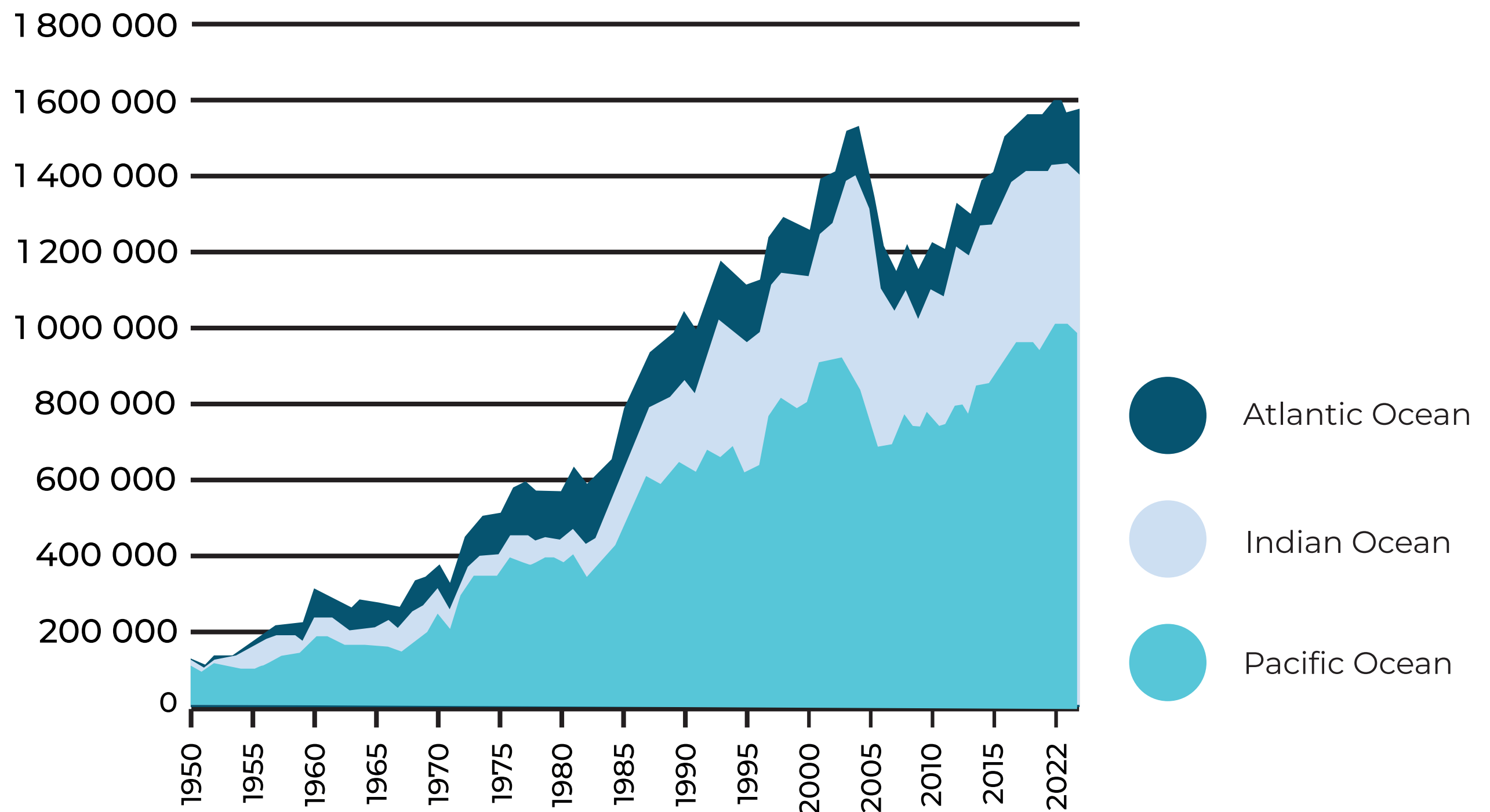
The fleets of various European countries primarily fish in the Indian Ocean, with **68,530 tons** out of a total of **107,521 tons** landed in **2022**.

Fishing

The leading European fishing nation is **Spain** with **62,735** tons in **2022**, followed by **France** - **42,282** tons in **2022**.

A certain reporting challenge is that yellowfin tuna caught in excess of quotas is often reported as bigeye tuna.

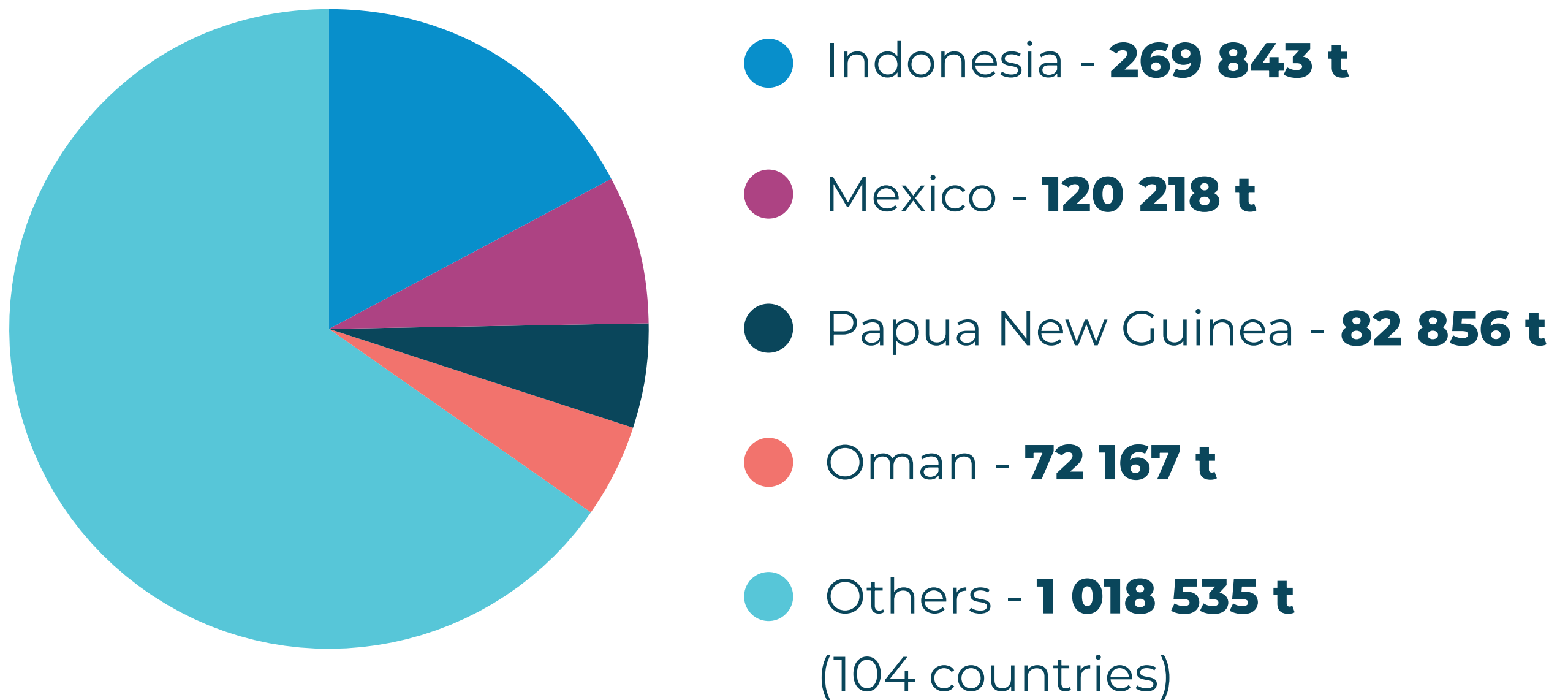
World landings of yellowfin tuna (in tons):



Source: FAO 2024

Fishing

Main yellowfin tuna fishing countries in 2022 (in tons):



Source: FAO 2024

Consumption

Yellowfin tuna is widely used in the canned food industry in Europe. Also sold as fresh, skinless loins (fillets). Processed into loins in producing countries, the tuna is sold by wholesalers serving retail markets and the restaurant industry.

- The Western and Central Pacific stock, the Eastern Pacific stock, and the Atlantic stock are considered to be in good condition, but increasing catches and exceeding scientific recommendations and Total Allowable Catches (TACs) in the Atlantic raise concerns among scientists.
- The Indian Ocean stock is considered degraded and overfished.
- Fishing with FADs results in high bycatch of juvenile tuna from various species and endangered species.
- There is no minimum catch size regulation for this species.

Consumption Recommendations

- **Preferred:**

Western and Central Pacific stock, Eastern Pacific stock.

- **Consume in moderation:**

Atlantic stock (estimated to be in good condition, but catches exceed TACs and scientific recommendations).

- **Prioritize individuals with a fork length (FL) of > 115 cm, or large loins/steaks from mature individuals that have had time to reproduce.**

- **Check the Latin name of the species: yellowfin tuna is sometimes illegally sold under the name "bluefin tuna."**

- **Avoid:**

Indian Ocean stock.

Consumption Recommendations

- **Avoid buying Yellowfin tuna caught using FADs;** some fisheries are certified FAD-free and this label is found on canned products.
- Before buying fresh, frozen, processed, or canned tuna, **research its origin.**



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