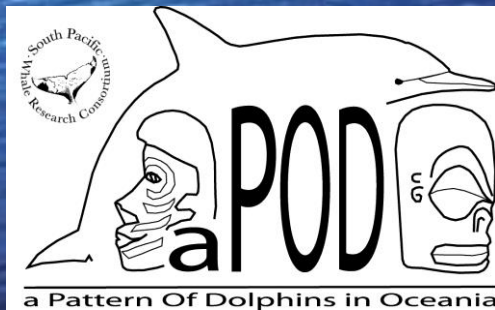




Solomon Islands: resumption of traditional drive-hunts in 2013

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3.1.7 CMS MOS 4, 5 Aug 2021



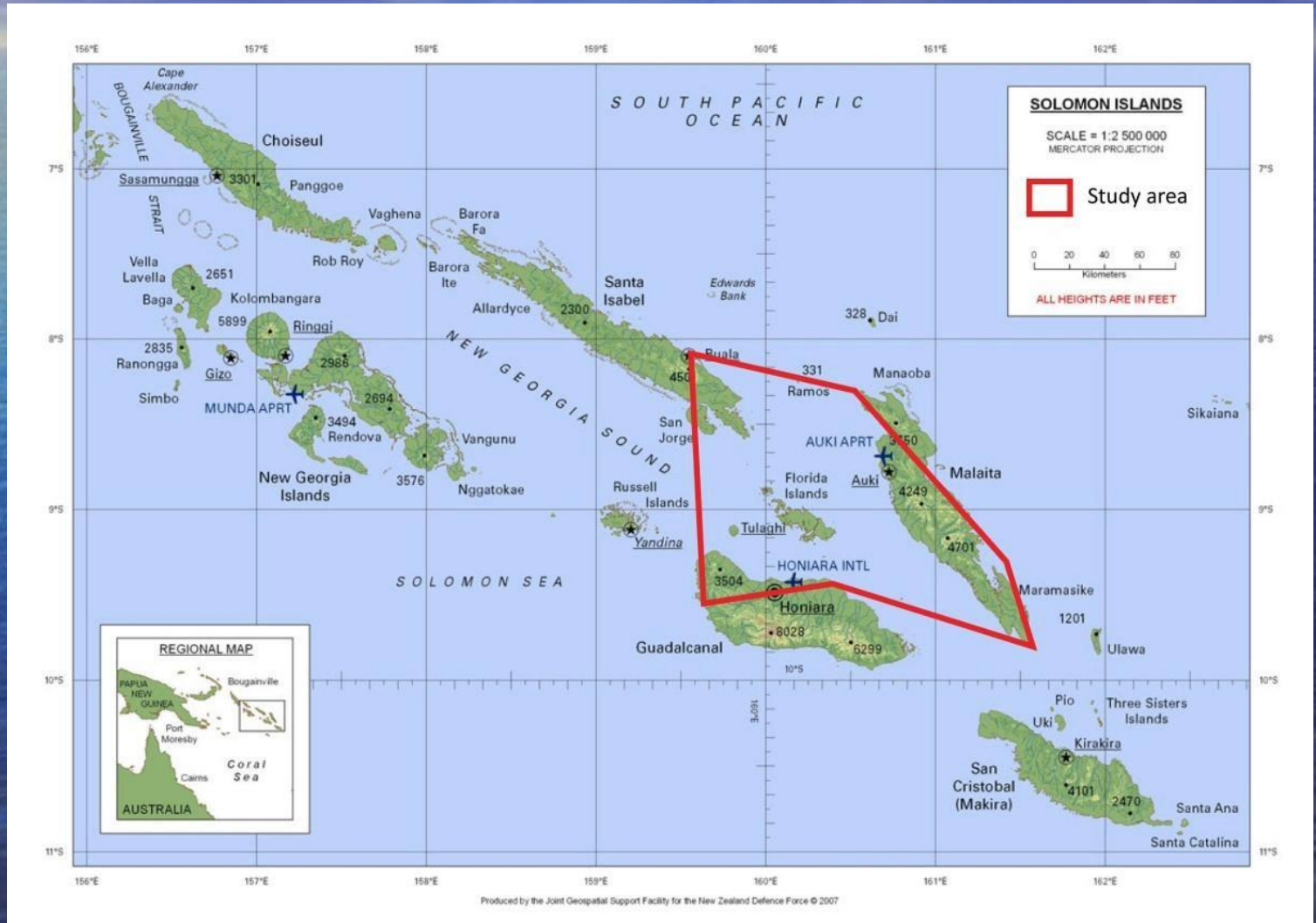


Background

- Long-history of dolphin drive-hunt in Malaita, mainly for teeth (traditional currency, bride price...) but also for meat.
- Only a few villages have a tradition of hunting dolphins, but teeth are widely used by Malaitans.
- Dolphin hunts used to be widely spaced out but scale of hunting increased enormously in the 60' s for unknown reasons.
- In the 90' s, only Fanalei appear to still be hunting on a regular basis. Usually catching several hundreds dolphins per year.
- In 2010, a MoU is signed between Fanalei-Walande-Bita' ama and Earth Island Institute (EII) to stop the hunt in exchange of \$\$.



Background





Resumption of hunting in 2013

- December 2012: 134 dolphins (announced as bottlenose but in fact spotted) are killed by villagers from Ata' a. Ata' a used to be a hunting community (like Walande and Bitama) but were not part of the EII deal.
- January 2013: Fanalei community resumes hunting with a large catch of 700+ pantropical spotted dolphins, soon follow by another catch of 300.
- Reasons are unclear but local newspaper talk about financial dispute within the Fanalei community.



In response to urgent need to document hunt, Marc arranged a visit to Fanalei in March 2013, with assistance from MFMR and support from IFAW and aPOD

Catches report for 2013

11 successful catches from 3 different species

	Date	Latin name	Traditional name	Number caught
1	21/01/2013	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Unubulu	700+
2	24/01/2013	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Unubulu	60+
3	05/02/2013	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Unubulu	126+
4	06/02/2013	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Unubulu	300
5	09/02/2013	<i>Tursiops truncatus?</i>	Robo manole	15
6	11/02/2013	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	Raa	56
7	20/02/2013	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	Raa	33
		<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Unubulu	70
9	06/03/2013	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	Raa	70
10	20/03/2013	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Unubulu	54
11	23/03/2013	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Unubulu	214
Total Unubulu				1,524+
Total Raa				159
TOTAL				1698+

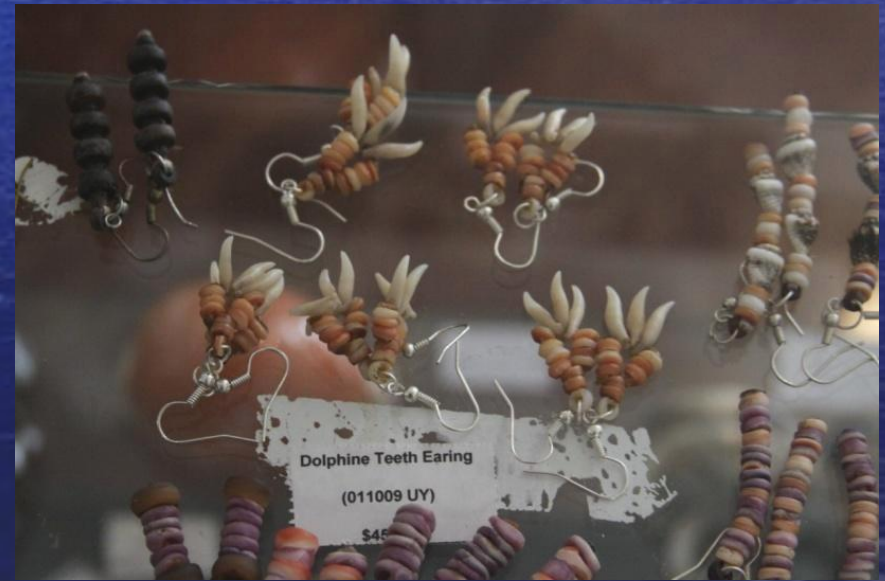


Catches records

2002

Meeting start	start and go		and out		ala well on	9/5/02
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Rana MAT						
			9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
x	x	x	x	x	x	x
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
x	x	x	x	x	x	x
27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
x	Δ	•	•	•	Δ	Δ
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	96 RAA	Δ	•	•	•	•
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Δ	Δ	x	Δ	Δ	Δ
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
x	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	•	RAA 64

Catch records by species, from A. Balei, Malaita



Earrings made of dolphin teeth for sale in a hotel of Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Samples collection and species identification

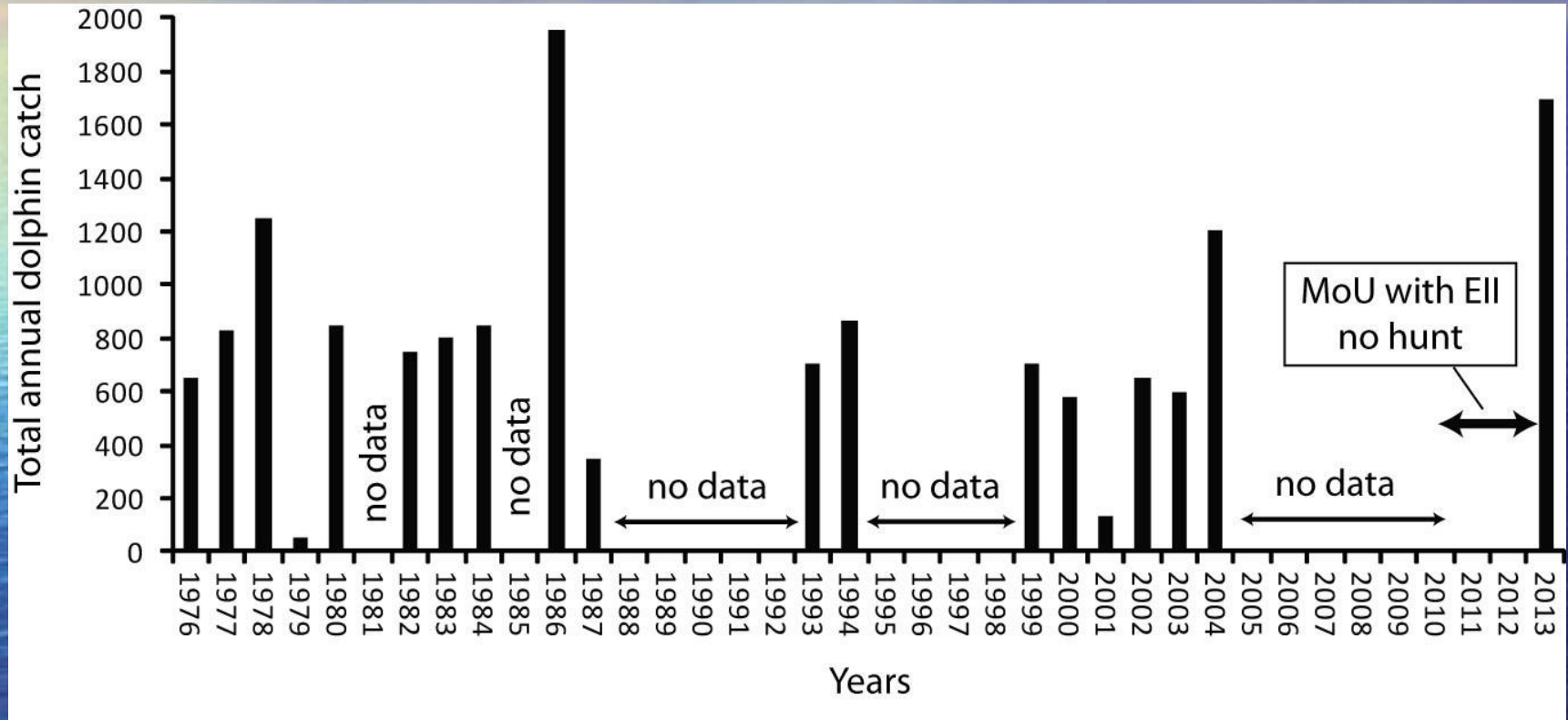


Traditional species names	Sample type	Number	Molecular sp. ID
Unubulu	Skin	7	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>
	Meat	10	
	Tooth	5	
Raa	Meat	1	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>
	Tooth	6	
Robo Manole	Tooth	1	<i>Feresa attenuata</i>

First record of pygmy killer whale in the Solomon Islands

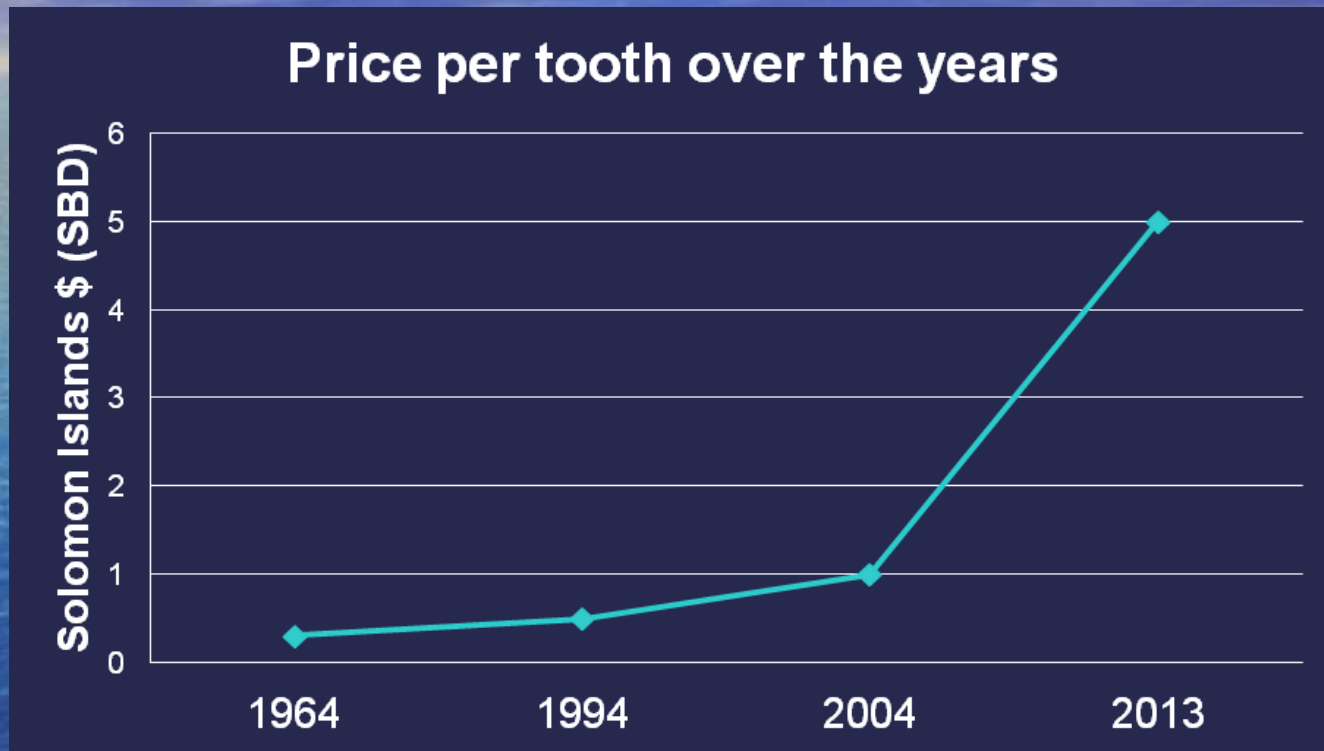


Past and present catch records



Summary of total annual catch for Fanalei (1976 – 2013). $N_{\text{MIN}} = 15,444$, mean = 813.

Economical value of hunting



Plus benefit from selling dolphin meat locally.



Future Research in the Solomon

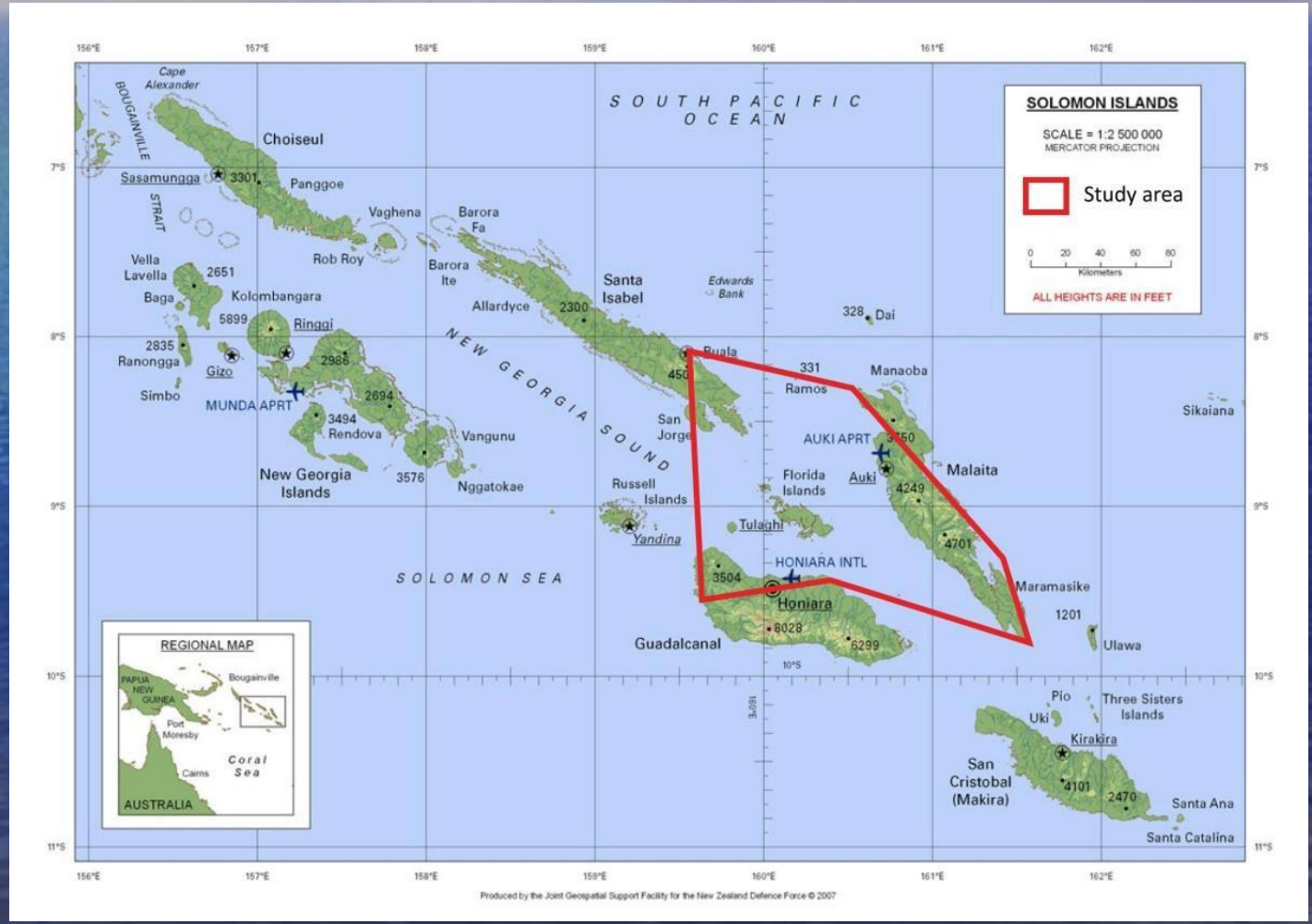
- Abundance estimates of drive-hunted species using line-transect methods (aerial or large vessel surveys), in collaboration with traditional owners
- Observer program during drive-hunt season (records and sampling)
- Assessment of eco-tourism potential in the Florida Islands
- Abundance estimate and population monitoring of coastal dolphins, *T. aduncus*, around Guadalcanal.





Scale of Future Research (1)

Area to be surveyed





Scale of Future Research (2)

- Socio-cultural study to link customs and traditional knowledge with stewardship

