



Fisheries sector in French Polynesia

CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
PARLIAMENTS GROUP

11 SEPTEMBRE 2019



1- The maritime cluster of French Polynesia

NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, CREATED IN JUNE 2014 IN PAPEETE

Presentation



- ▶ **Composition :**

- ▶ 80+ businesses and 7 institutional partners from all maritime sectors

- ▶ **Objective :**

- ▶ Make the Sustainable Blue Economy the engine of economic recovery in French Polynesia

- ▶ **Modes of action :**

- ▶ Communication & promotion ;
- ▶ Synergies between stakeholders and local, national, regional and international networks

Relations with institutions

Selected examples

▶ **With Polynesian and French national Parliament :**

- ▶ Organisation of 4th Forum on the Blue Economy: « Managing maritime spaces » (2017)
- ▶ Contribution to report on Law Leroy (Blue Economy; 2017) and to report on sustainable fisheries (2019)

▶ **With local and French national Government:**

- ▶ Member of steering committee maritime trainings strategic plan
- ▶ Quarterly videoconferencing cycle with the Overseas Directorate General;
- ▶ Annual meetings with the French Secretary General of the Sea under the French Prime Minister

▶ **With the Economic, social, environmental and cultural Council:**

- ▶ Member representing Economic Development



2- Inception of the fishing industry in French Polynesia

Some data

- ▶ 66 tuna longliners for 23 companies (2018)
- ▶ 350 employed fishermen
- ▶ 700+ jobs on land
- ▶ 6 342 tons of fish caught (2018)
- ▶ 1 289 tons of fish exported : about 12 M€ (2018) and 10% of total exports
- ▶ First client country for exports: USA = 95 % of fish exports
- ▶ 1997: Purse seine fishing ban
- ▶ 2000: end of fisheries agreements
- ▶ 100% of 5 millions de km² EEZ: Emblematic marine species sancturay (marine mammals, marine turtles, sharks)

The end of fishing agreements

- ▶ 1980-1990s: 2 distant water fishing nations' fleet with tuna fishing licenses (Korea + Japan)
- ▶ Creation of the Sea Investment Fund :
 - ▶ Funded by fishing agreements
 - ▶ Objective: develop a local fleet
- ▶ Development of infrastructure (on land)
- ▶ From 1989: Fishing techniques trainings, including longline fishing
- ▶ Early 1990s: Establishment of local longline fleet through public aid (European, French, local)
- ▶ Establishment of Local shipyards in partnership with French construction sites
- ▶ 2000: end of fishing agreements

The fishing port of Papeete - infrastructure

- ▶ Timeline :
 - ▶ 1993 : First pier(150m)
 - ▶ 1995 : First fish auction market
 - ▶ 1999 : logistics building (freezer)
 - ▶ 2001 : Second pier(100m)
 - ▶ 2002 : collective sanitation
 - ▶ 2003 : export building
 - ▶ 2005 : first auction market renovated
- ▶ Cost of current infrastructure:
 - ▶ 14,54 M€ (pier excluded)



SEML TAHITI NUI RAVA'AI example

- ▶ 2000: launch of local fleet development program
- ▶ Positive outcomes:
 - ▶ Know-how in longline fishing
 - ▶ Creation of social status for fishermen
 - ▶ Developpement of local market and testing export sector
- ▶ Half-toned success:
 - ▶ Too fast a rythm for boat orders (43 vessels in 3 years)
 - ▶ Too few trained people with varied performance
 - ▶ Inadequacy between boats selection and shipowners' demand (failure of the frozen sector, but success of the fresh sector)

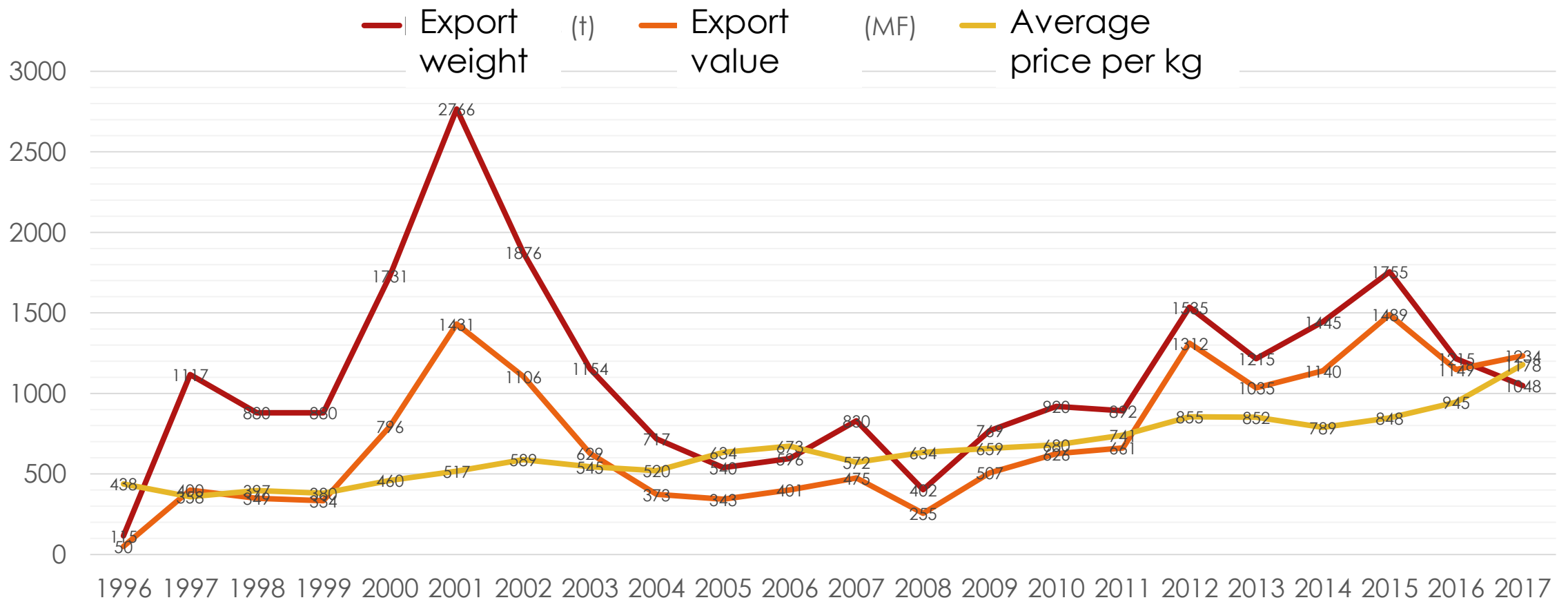
The new beginning of the sector

- ▶ Strong local market enabled stabilisation of activity
 - ▶ Strong and sustained demand: 80% of total production consumed domestically
- ▶ Adoption of master plan elaborated with in consultation with industry professionals
 - ▶ Local tax support scheme for investment
 - ▶ Operating subsidies (diesel, freight, currency, HACCP plans ...)
 - ▶ Return of French national tax aids to investment

Export: a new growth driver

- ▶ Fresh fish exports benefited from regular air connections
- ▶ 2018: Eco-certification « Marine Stewardship Council » (MSC) of entire French Polynesia tuna fishing :
 - ▶ albacore - *thunnus alalunga*
 - ▶ yellowfin - *thunnus albacares*
- ▶ Label supports access to more profitable segments
- ▶ Expanding destinations

Evolution of fish exports from French Polynesia



Development objectives of the sector

- ▶ Double production in 10 yrs : 6,000 to 12,000 tons per year (low ecological ceiling: 13,000t)
- ▶ Strengthen professional training offer, including for officers
- ▶ Progressively increase number of vessels: 5 – 7 vessels per year
- ▶ Increase exploited zone by domestic fleet
- ▶ Have appropriate handling equipment for fishing vessels
- ▶ Develop employment on land, including through increasing domestic added value (maintenance, naval repair, refueling, ship refueling, advanced bases ...)

The strategy implemented by the sectoral policy

1 – Manage the fleet

- ▶ Balance growth and sustainable use of resources
- ▶ Master the fishing effort by supporting enlargement strategies

2 – Economic levers:

- ▶ Densify the value chain for the benefit of the country
- ▶ Measures to support the ecosystem around fishing

▶ 3 – Human resources:

- ▶ Create training courses on sea trades

4 – Public leadership:

- ▶ Strengthen monitoring of sector and adapt support mechanisms



Mauruuru, Merci and Thank you