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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

WCPFC-SC18-AR/CCM-08

FRENCH POLYNESIA



WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission	YES
by the 26 april 2022.	

1. Abstract

French Polynesia professional tuna fleet in 2021 comprised 73 tuna longliners (ranging from 13 m to 24 m) operating only within French Polynesia Economic Zone and 354 small boats (5m to 11 m) using artisanal gears (pole and line, handlines, trolling...) and operating inside the territorial waters.

The overall nominal catches for the professional tuna fisheries in 2021 is estimated around 8 923 metric tons, albacore accounting for 33%, yellowfin tuna for 35 %, and big eye tuna for 12 % and skipjack for 5 %.

Effort and total catch trends of the longline fleet show a slow increase since 2018 after a steady decrease since 2005. The artisanal near shore fishery show a slow and steady decrease since 2015 partly driven by the strengthening of the training of fishermen.

Since 2006, all sharks except make are fully protected inside the entire French Polynesia Economic Zone. In december 2012, the make was also protected making French Polynesia EEZ the biggest sanctuary for sharks.

2. Annual Fisheries Information

Tuna fishery is a major component of the development of French Polynesia economy, either for economical and social aspects. Its professional tuna fishery is divided into two components: a small scale coastal fishery and an offshore long line fishery. There is no longer fishing agreement inside the EEZ for foreign fleet since December 2000.

The **professional small scale near shore fishery** comprises two types of boat: the *poti marara*, (literally 'flying-fish boats') which are small boats, 6-8 m in length, made from wood or FRP and suitable for many different fishing techniques (trolling, vertical longlining or harpooning) and the *bonitiers* ('skipjack boats'), which are 10-to-12 m long boats made from wood or FRP, targeting skipjack using mainly pole-and-line. This fleet operates inside the territorial waters mostly.

The **longliners fleet** comprises only tuna longliners using drifting longline. Only three boats have freezer capacity. This fleet operates exclusively inside the French Polynesia EEZ

2.1. Annual catch and effort estimates

Species	2017	2018	2019	20	20	2021	
Species	2017	2018	2019	Retained	Discard	Retained	Discard
Albacore Catch	2 148	3 058	3 393	2 780	31	2 662	27
Bigeye Catch	897	1 063	934	855	16	1 020	25
Pacific Bluefin Catch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skipjack Catch	37	31	14	14	40	13	66
Yellowfin Catch	1 434	1 314	1 309	1 080	56	2 219	131
Black Marlin Catch	21	16	11	18	0	18	2
Blue Marlin Catch	163	224	274	240	7	173	3
Striped Marlin Catch	73	81	88	97	2	128	1
Swordfish Catch	150	219	168	162	15	172	2
Total	4 923	6 006	6 191	5 245	168	6 407	257

Table 1 – Annual catch estimates for the longline fleet in the convention area

Table 2 - Annual catch estimates for the small scale nearshore fleet in the convention area

Species	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Skipjack	770	378	396	350	391
Yellowfin tuna	844	975	844	901	887
Dolphin fish	301	227	215	217	160
Billfish	294	256	275	292	239
Wahoo	95	96	93	77	55
Albacore tuna	212	235	285	175	275
Other	153	193	184	157	169
Total	2 701	2 361	2 292	2 169	2 176

Table 3 – Annual fishing effort by fleet

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Small scale near shore fleet (fishing days)	40 279	38 283	37 336	36 651	35 100
Longline fleet (million of hooks)	16.0	16.9	17.6	17.9	19.4

2.2. Fleet structure

	I	1	1		1
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
00-50 GRT	34	37	37	36	37
51-200 GRT	27	29	32	36	36
201-500 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
500+ GRT	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vessels	61	66	69	72	73

Table 4 – Number of vessel by size for the longline fleet

Table 5 – Number of vessel by size for the small scale near shore fleet

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
00-50 GRT	390	383	373	354	354
51-200 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
201-500 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
500+ GRT	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vessels	390	383	373	354	354

2.3. Fishing pattern

More than three fourth of the nearshore fishery is based in the Society archipelago. Although the individual fishing effort shows some vicissitude the global fishing effort is relatively stable within the year and no clear seasonal trends can be highlighted.

The longliners fleet, most entirely based in Tahiti, usually exploit 40 % of the EEZ but the core fishing ground remains historically in the north part of the EEZ $(10^{\circ}-20^{\circ} \text{ S}/140^{\circ}-150^{\circ} \text{W})$.

2.4. Accidental catches and discards

Recorded interactions with species of special interest are summarized in table 6. Interactions with mammals mostly relate to depredation.

Year	Category	Species	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead
		BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	16	0	16
2021	BIRDS	BOOBIES AND GANNETS NEI	2	0	2
	PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS NEI	11	1	10	
		BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	1	0	1
		BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS	2	0	2
2020	BIRDS	LAYSAN ALBATROSS	3	0	3
		PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS NEI	21	1	20
	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	2	2	0
		BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS	3	0	3
	BIRDS	GULLS - TERNS AND SKUAS	1	0	1
2019		PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS NEI	5	0	5
	MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	1	0
	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	1	1	0
	BIRDS	BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS	3	0	3
2018		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	5	0	5
2018	MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	1	0
	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	1	0	1
		BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	4	0	4
		BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS	1	0	1
2017	BIRDS	GULLS - TERNS AND SKUAS	2	0	2
2017		LAYSAN ALBATROSS	2	0	2
		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	15	0	15
	MARINE MAMMALS	SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE	1	1	0

Table 6 – Observed	catches of	species of s	special interest	by the	longline fleet
Table 0 Observed	catches of	species of a	pectal interest	by the	iongime neer

Discards by the longline fleet are estimated around 4% of the nominal catch. The breakdown for the main key species is reported in table 7 (sharks not included). There is no discard for the coastal fleet.

Species Group	Species Name	Discard (MT)
	ALBACORE	27
	BIGEYE	25
Tuna	PACIFIC BLUEFIN	0
	SKIPJACK	66
	YELLOWFIN	131
	BLACK MARLIN	2
Dillfich	BLUE MARLIN	3
Billfish	STRIPED MARLIN	1
	SWORDFISH	2
Total		257

Table 7 –Catch estimates of discards of target species by the longline fleet in 2021

All sharks are prohibited to fishing and fining is also prohibited. The caches of sharks represent 9% of the nominal catch. On the overall, 89 % of the sharks caught were alive when released.

Table 8 –Catch estimates of sharks and proportion of sharks caught alive when released by the longline fleet in 2021

Species Name	Number	Weight (MT)	Proportion alive
BLUE SHARK	7 605	169	97%
SILKY SHARK	3 435	98	75%
GREAT HAMMERHEAD	26	2	100%
MAKO SHARK	508	64	86%
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	5 360	259	88%
PORBEAGLE SHARK	-	0	-
WHALE SHARK	2	0	-
THRESHER SHARK	353	2	89%
Total	17289	593	89%

Note: Number and weight estimation use observer and logsheet data, proportion alive use observer data. All sharks are released.

3. Research and statistics

3.1. Statistical data collection system

The data collection system for the longline fishery comprises six components.

• Fishing license

Fishing license for the domestic vessels is delivered for the life of the boat, presuming it does not change property and clears its annual visit for security. Any change of property or main modification on the vessel is subject to a re-licensing procedure. Currently, French Polynesia has not limited the number of domestic vessels authorised to operate in its EEZ.

Fishing permit for foreign vessels is delivered on an annual basis; no permit has been authorised since the end of the fishing agreement on December 2000.

• Boat activity

Every week day, the Fisheries office census the activity of the fleet at the fishing port. The main purpose is to monitor (in real time) the gross activity of the fleet. These data are also used as the main input for estimating the production of the vessels which do not report their catches correctly. Since 2013, this census is combined with the analyses of the VMS data.

Logbook

Licensed operators are required to record and submit daily records of fishing activities at an operational level to the Fisheries Office. Coverage rate is 100 %.

Unloadings

All the licensed long line boats have the obligation to unload their catches within the fishing port of Papeete. The port manager monitor the amount of fish unloaded in order to collect unloading fees. Coverage rate for the overall landings is 100 % of the commercial catches.

• Observer programme

The French polynesia's Observer Program began in September 2002 with EU funding by the PROCFISH projet (2002-2007) and then by the SCIFISH project. In 2021, the staff was made of seven observers, two port samplers and one coordinator. Observers trips were conducted only on board of domestic longliners. The coverage for 2021 is 6.6 % of the days at sea. Protocols and forms are those used by SPC. Data are processed by SPC.

Year	<u>No</u> observers	<u>No trips</u>	<u>No days</u> <u>at sea</u>	<u>No</u> sets	<u>No hooks</u>	<u>%</u> covergage
2005	3	18	422	255	635 114	2.9 %
2006	6	20	487	312	723 149	5.9 %
2007	2	17	217	138	305 977	1.8%
2008	4	17	300	206	510 115	2.5 %
2009	6	51	800	488	1 130 574	6.5%
2010	5	44	768	453	894 426	6.5%
2011	6	33	531	355	1 130 880	6.2 %
2012	6	34	521	282	825 810	4.1 %
2013	6	38	697	346	886 303	4.4%
2014	6	42	717	432	850 452	4.5 %
2015	6	40	556	321	607 455	3.6%
2016	4	25	477	323	555 952	3.4%
2017	10	43	751	467	773 427	5.3%
2018	7	25	430	270	448 780	2.8%
2019	8	45	757	479	726 934	4.9%
2020	7	48	933	591	795 583	6.3%
2021	7	57	1 056	658	874 318	6.6%

Table 9 – Observers trips in French Polynesia since 2005.

Port sampling

There has been regular but low coverage sampling in Papeete for several years and very limited in recent year due to logistical difficulties. However, these difficulties were partly overcome by the completion of a centralised unloading facility in Papeete and since 2005 a team of two port samplers carried out port-sampling operations.

Year	<u>No unloadings</u>	No unloadings sampled	Sampling coverage
2005	892	232	26%
2006	876	210	24%
2007	926	335	36%
2008	858	439	51%
2009	883	477	54%
2010	841	407	48%
2011	883	446	51%
2012	938	386	41%
2013	972	346	36%
2014	941	433	46%
2015	1014	410	40%
2016	965	416	43%
2017	969	174	18%
2018	1 005	92	9%
2019	1 080	266	25%
2020	999	200	20%
2021	1 068	232	22%

Coastal fishery

Data collection for the coastal fisheries is more difficult to handle since the vessels are scattered all around the numerous islands of French Polynesia. The monitoring process rely on two components: a licensing procedure and logsheets. Coverage rate for the logsheets is 100 %.

3.2. Research

The observers regularly collect biological samples of the four main tunas (muscle, liver, stomac, gonads and otholits) and swordfish (otholiths) which are sent to the Oceanic Fisheries Program of the SPC.



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

15 February 2021¹ <u>SECTION A:</u> SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN ANNUAL REPORT PART 1 AS REQUIRED BY CMMS AND OTHER DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	CCMs shall report to the Commission the total number of vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch of swordfish for the following: a. vessels flying their flag anywhere in the Convention Area south of 20°S other than vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of the domestic fishery of another CCM; b. vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of their domestic fishery south of 20°S; and c. any other vessels fishing within their waters south of 20°S. This information shall be provided in Part 1 of each CCM's annual report. Initially, this information will be provided in the template provided at Annex 2 for the period 2000-2009 and then updated annually. *Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.	In 2021, 42 vessels caught 23 MT as bycatch in south of 20°S and 1 vessel targeted swordfish during 3 exploratory trips and caught 20 MT in south of 20°S. There's no vessel operating under charter in FP. No other vessels fishing within south of 20° S.
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¹ Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions of the Commission, as of WCPFC17 (Dec 2020). First issued on 15 February 2021. Changes made from Addendum for 2020, include separating the annual reporting requirements that specify needing to be included in Annual Report Part 1 (Section A) from those that may be included in Annual Report Part 1 if they are not otherwise provided to WCPFC (Section B). The entry into force of CMM 2019-04 *Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks* for most CCMs in late 2020 and the specified reporting in Section VII, has removed a few annual reporting requirements from this Addendum.

Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	CCMs are to compile and include in Annual Report Part 1 to be submitted from 2015 onwards, observer coverage for their longline fleet activity in the previous calendar year, noting that revisions can be provided at the annual TCC meeting. A sample report format is provided as guidance to assist CCMs with reporting (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4) Image: CCM Fleet Fishery Fishery Fisher of Day: Fisher of Total Observe	In 2021, the longline observer coverage was 6.6% based on number of observer sea days. The French Polynesia observer program operates only in EEZ-FP. Days at sea Total Observer % 16 015 1056 6.6				
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	CCMs shall report on all transhipment activities covered by this Measure (including transhipment activities that occur in ports or EEZs) as part of their Annual Report in accordance with the guidelines at Annex II. In doing so, CCMs shall take all reasonable steps to validate and where possible, correct information received from vessels undertaking transhipment using all available information such as catch and effort data, position data, observer reports and port monitoring data. WCPFC15 Outcome document para 48: The Commission agreed to the TCC14 recommendation that the template provided in TCC14-2018-RP03 Annex 3 be used by all applicable CCMs for their future reporting in Annual Report Part 1, as per CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11 (Attachment O of WCPFC15). Annex 3 of RP03: Transhipment information to be provided annually by CCMs as required by CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11 in accordance with the guidelines in Annex II of the measure. Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission: (1) the total quantities, by weight, of highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure that were transhipped by fishing vessels the CCM is responsible for reporting against, with those quantities broken down by:	No transhipment is allowed, and no transshipment occurred in 2021 for the French Polynesia national fleet.				

and received;	port, transhipped at sea in areas of nationalinside the Conventio and transs jurisdiction, and		Convention AreaConventionand transshippedArea and		e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear	
offloaded								
received								
and received				vention Area	Convention		gear	
offloaded		nd areas of		nshipped outside vention Area	caught outsid Convention			
offloaded received	transhipped beyor	nd areas of						
received	transhipped beyor	nd areas of on	the Con	vention Area	Convention A	Area	CCMs	
received	transhipped beyor national jurisdicti	nd areas of on 	the Con ANN ON TO	vention Area	Convention A	Area	CCMs	

	 a. offloaded and received; b. transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction; c. transhipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the Convention Area; d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; e. species; f. product form; and g. fishing gear used (2) the number of transhipments involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by fishing vessels that is responsible for reporting against, broken down by: a. offloaded and received; b. transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction; c. transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area; d. caught inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area; 	
CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5	CCMs shall include in their Part 1 Annual Report any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, reported under paragraph 2(b).	French Polynesia does not operate any purse seine vessels as part of the national fleet.
CMM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Para 13	CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers to enable the estimation of seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the Convention applies. (see below for Part 1 reporting template guideline). These reports shall include information on: 1. the proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures used; and 2. observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers or statistically rigorous estimates of species- specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers.	All the information is detailed in the tables below.

CMM 2018-03: [Seabirds] Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report The following tables should be included in the annual Part 1 country reports, summarising the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30° S; 25° S- 30° S; North of 23° N; or 23° N – 25° S¹]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); and the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).

Year		Fishing	Observed seabird captures			
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2017	61	16 008 982	773 427	4.8%	23	0.0297
2018	66	16 971 488	448 780	2.6%	8	0.0178
2019	69	17 573 770	749 979	4.3%	9	0.0120
2020	72	17 945 992	795 583	4.4%	27	0.0339
2021	73	19 452 602	889 174	4.6%	29	0.0326

1 Insert 'North of 23oN', 'South of 30oS', '25oS-30oS' or '23oN – 250oS'. For CCMs fishing in all areas, provide separate tables for each area.

2 Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Proportion of mitigation types¹ used by the fleet in 2021.

		Proportion	of observed eff	fort using m	itigation m	easures
	Combination of Mitigation Measures	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N	
	No mitigation measures		100	34.8		
Options	TL + NS					
required south	TL + WB					
of 25°S	NS + WB					
	TL + WB + NS					
	HS					
Other options	WB					
25°S-30°S	TL					
Other options	SS/BC/WB/DSLS					
north of 23 ⁰ N	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)					
Provide any	MOD			61.5		
other	NS			2.2		
combination of	NS MOD			1.6		
mitigation measures here	TL MOD					
	Totals (must equal 100%)		100	100		

 1 TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge, HS = hook-shielding device.

Table z: Number of observed seabird captures in [*CCM*] longline fisheries, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	North of 23°N	23°N -25°S	Total
BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)		16			16
BOOBIES AND GANNETS		2			2
PETRELS AND		11			11
Total		29			29

KEI OKI I	AKI I, IF NOT OTHERWISE REPORTED ANNUALLY TO WCPFC	
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	In accordance with paragraph 1, CCMs shall provide information to the Commission, by 1 July 2007, on the number of their vessels that have fished for striped marlin in the Convention area south of 15° S, during the period $2000 - 2004$, and in doing so, nominate the maximum number of vessels that shall continue to be permitted to fish for striped marlin in the area south of 15° S. CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the catch levels of their fishing vessels that have taken striped marlin as a bycatch as well as the number and catch levels of vessels fishing for striped marlin in the Convention Area south of 15° S.	In 2021, 72 vessels caught as bycatch 87 MT of striped marlin in south of 15°S.
CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4	CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the annual catch levels taken by each of their fishing vessels that has taken South Pacific albacore, as well as the number of vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore, in the Convention area south of 20°S. Catch by vessel shall be reported according to the following species groups: albacore tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, swordfish, other billfish, and sharks. Initially this information will be provided for the period 2006-2014 and then updated annually. CCMs are encouraged to provide data from periods prior to these dates.	Addressed through the regular provision of operational catch/effort logsheet data to SPC, who automatically include these data in the WCPFC databases, as per our authorization.

<u>SECTION B:</u> ADDITIONAL ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT PART 1, IF NOT OTHERWISE REPORTED ANNUALLY TO WCPFC

CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific	All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of albacore north of the equator and all fishing effort north of the equator in fisheries directed at albacore. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished using the template provided in Annex 1. Annex 1: Annex 1: Annex 1: he North Pacific Ocean												s directed y gear e reported t a emplate	Our national fleet did not fish north of equator.		
Albacore], Para 3	ССМ А	rea ¹ Fisher	y 2002-04 Average No. of vessels		Yo No. of vessels	ear Vessel days	Yo No. of vessels	vessel days	Y No. of vessels	ear Vessel days	Y No. of vessels	ear Vessel days	Y No. of vessels	ear Vessel days	Year No. of Vessel vessels days	
	* Not State	e: WC													he flag	

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