



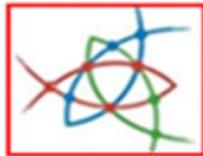
**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

ELECTRONIC MEETING
10-18 August 2022

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

WCPFC-SC18-AR/CCM-24

TOKELAU



T O K E L A U
Fisheries Management Agency
Mataeke Pulepule o Fagotaga



**2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES
COMMISSION**
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2022	Yes
--	------------

ABSTRACT

Tokelau does not have a commercial fishing fleet however it has a large artisanal fleet of about 190 small 10' to 16' motorised aluminium boats powered by 15-30HP outboard motors. These artisanal fishing boats operate within the 12nm Territorial Sea (TS), but generally do not venture out further than 5nm from shore. For food security purposes, Tokelau has also established a buffer zone (closed area) of 13nm extending from the 12nm TS closed to any foreign fishing.

Coverage of Tokelau artisanal data continues to improve since the introduction of the SPC TAILS software in 2016. The total tuna catch reported from this fishery in 2021 was 50.6 metric tons (mt) with skipjack (36%), yellowfin (60%) and bigeye (3%) tunas making up the majority of the catch composition.

The commercial fishery in Tokelau is comprised of purse seine and longline vessels operating under various multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements. In 2021, the total catch by the purse seine and longline fisheries were 5,863.18mt and 1,870.78 mt, respectively. Both fisheries are managed in full compliance with the vessel day schemes (VDS) established under the Palau Arrangement.

While transshipment in the Tokelau Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) is permitted by law, unless there are exceptional circumstances, as a matter of policy Tokelau does not currently allow transshipment to occur in her EEZ, TS or Internal Waters. Tokelau did not approve any transshipment activity in her waters in 2021.

ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

National Fleet – Artisanal Tuna Fishery

Tokelau's artisanal fleet consists of around 190, small 10' – 16' outboard motorised aluminium boats operating out of the three atolls. These vessels fish primarily for local consumption and use surface trolling and vertical handline methods that mainly target skipjack and yellowfin tuna.

Most artisanal fishing activities in Tokelau's waters occur within 5 nautical miles from shore. Inshore fisheries are conserved and managed to meet the food security and cultural needs of each atoll. Domestic fisheries development in Tokelau is severely constrained by market access and lack of infrastructure.

Any commercial inshore fisheries developments need to be authorised by the Taupulega (Village Council) of each respective atoll and is subject to a cost-benefit and market analysis, and an environmental impact assessment to demonstrate it will not jeopardise her food security and will result in creating net economic gains.

Table 1 provides the annual catch estimates by the Tokelau artisanal fleet in the last three years, based on data collected through the SPC TAILS software.

Table 1: Estimated Artisanal tuna catches in Tokelau waters, 2018-2021

RAISED ESTIMATES (MT)				
Year	SKJ	YFT	BET	TOTAL
2018	27.8	27.0	0.0	54.8
2019	39.6	21.1	0.0	60.6
2020	27.5	22.6	0.0	50.1
2021	18.3	30.6	1.7	50.6

Coastal state reporting

For the past few years, Tokelau has been participating in the PNA purse seine vessel day scheme (PS VDS) established under the Parties to the Palau Arrangement. The Tokelau EEZ limit for the purse seine fishery is 1,000 fishing days.

In 2016, Tokelau also became a participant in the PNA longline (LL) VDS and was allocated a total of 5,000 fishing days. In 2017 it commenced selling her LL fishing days under this vessel day scheme.

Offshore commercial fishing is undertaken by foreign fishing vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States. A total of 53 vessels were licenced to fish in Tokelau during 2021 (Table 2).

Longline fishing activity in the Tokelau EEZ has been variable over recent years (Fig 2). In some years catches were almost negligible, although in the most recent five years, between 500 and almost 3,000mt of the three main tuna species have been caught. Vessels flagged to Kiribati, Cook Islands and Vanuatu have accounted for most of this catch. The longline catches tend to be concentrated in the southern parts of the EEZ, reflecting the dominance of albacore targeting.

Purse seine fishing in Tokelau has been highly variable in the last five years (Table 1 and Figure 1b). Vessels flagged to the US, Korea and Kiribati account for the vast majority (>90%) of fishing effort in the last 5 years. Catches in the last decade ranged between about 5,000mt and 45,000mt. Distribution of catch in the Tokelau EEZ is highly influenced by interannual variations in oceanographic conditions and tend to be concentrated in the northern parts of the EEZ (Figure 3).

Table 2: Number of bilateral licences issued in 2021.

FLAG	PURSE SEINE	LONGLINE
Cook Islands	0	6
Kiribati	7	0
Korea	18	0
Philippines	6	0
Tuvalu	3	0
Vanuatu	2	10
Ecuador	1	0
TOTAL	37	16

Table 3: Annual catches in Tokelau EEZ from 2017 to 2021. (Source: unraised logsheet data)

Year	Gear	Effort (days)	CATCH (MT)					TOTAL
			ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	OTH	
2016	Longline	4,077	2,247	462	0	770	387	3,866
	Purse Seine	176	0	121	4,260	291	11	4,682
2017	Longline	2,169	1,424	158	0	408	264	2,254
	Purse Seine	736	0	282	32,758	1,502	26	34,569
2018	Longline	993	595	54	0	148	78	875
	Purse Seine	883	0	572	36,121	1,769	118	38,580
2019	Longline	1,727	1,387	126	0	318	289	2,120
	Purse Seine	143	0	28	3,749	125	3	3,904
2020	Longline	2,983	1,218	166	0	585	326	2,295
	Purse Seine	392	0	107	14,492	501	8	15,109
2021	Long Line	1,029	360.56	78.24	0	289.68	104.29	1,870.78
	Purse Seine	151.16	0	76	5254.1	370	3.92	5,863.18

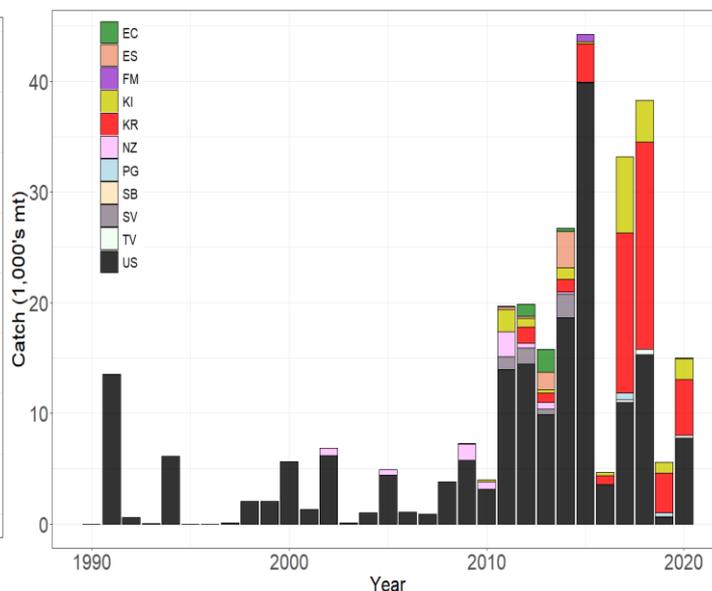
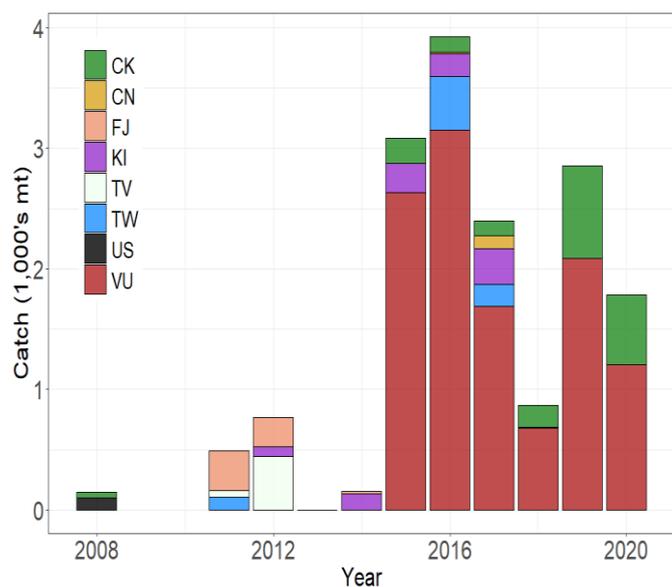


Figure 1a: Annual catch of tuna by longline vessels in the Tokelau EEZ, by flag.

Figure 1b: Annual catch of tuna by purse seine vessels in the Tokelau EEZ, by flag.

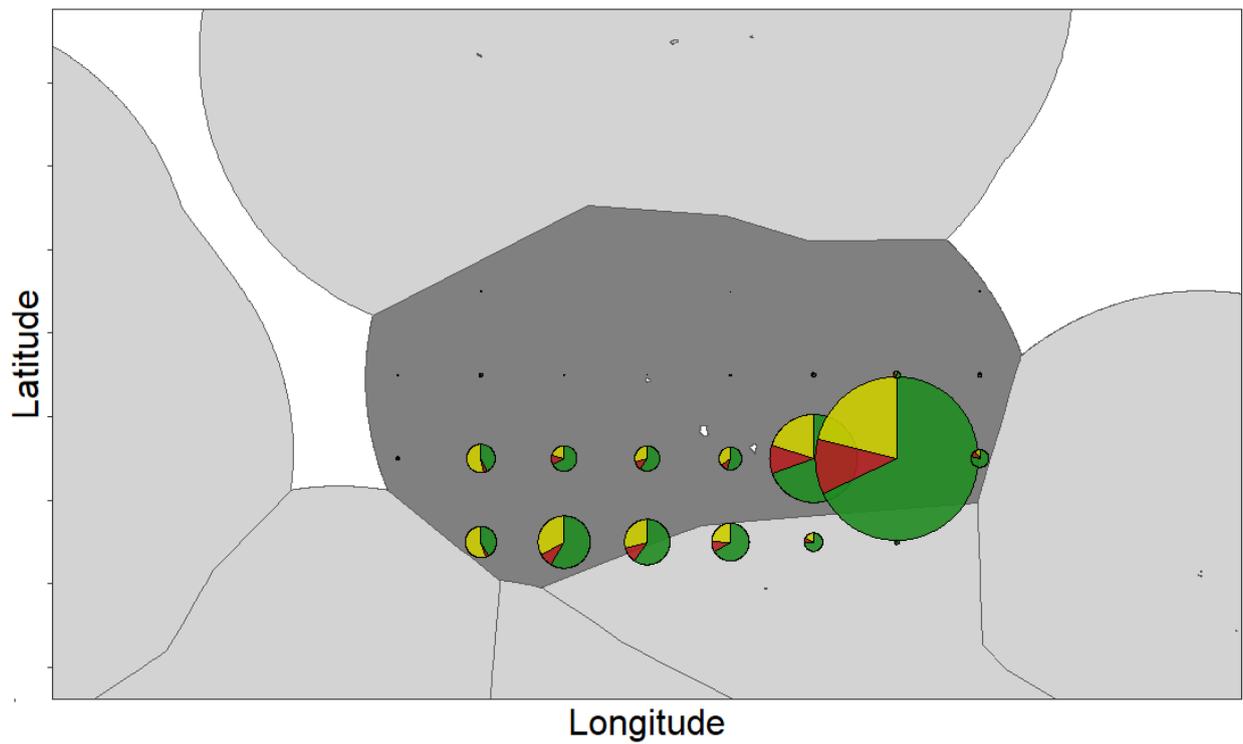
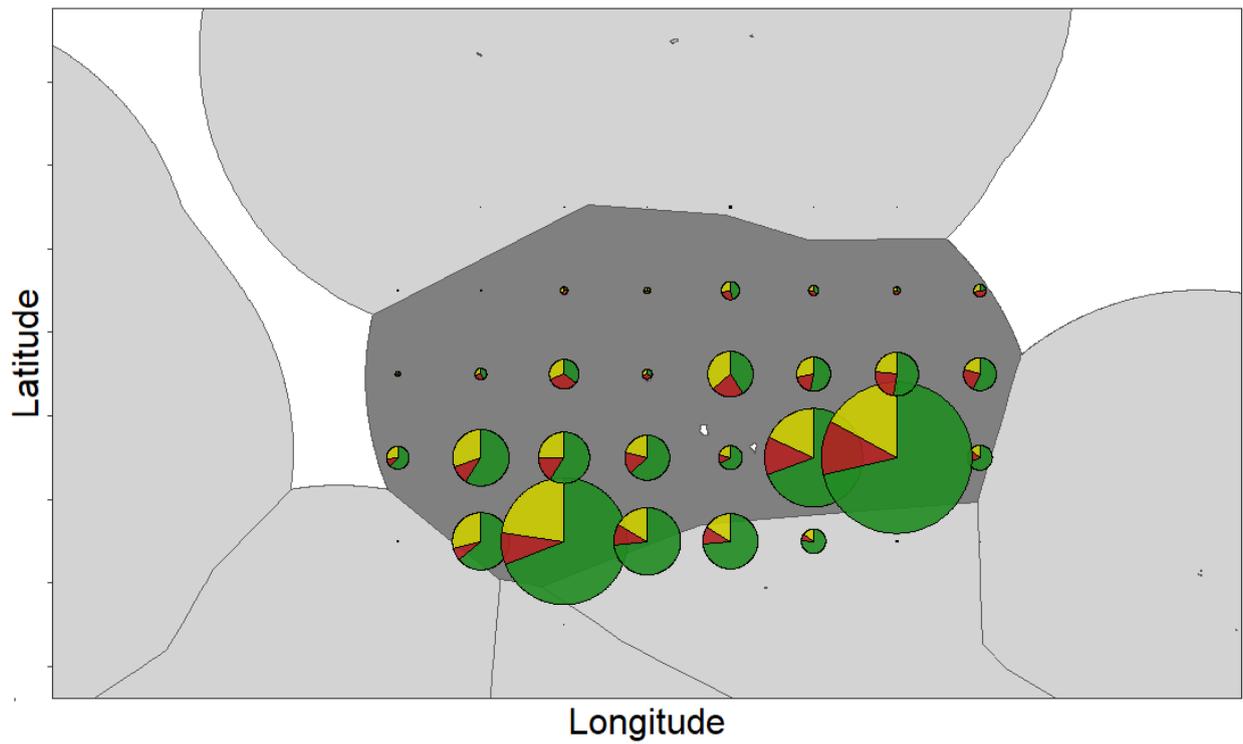


Figure 2: Catch of the three main tuna species (green = albacore, red = bigeye, yellow = yellowfin) by longline vessels fishing in the Tokelau EEZ, over the period 2010-19 (top panel) and 2020-21 (bottom panel).

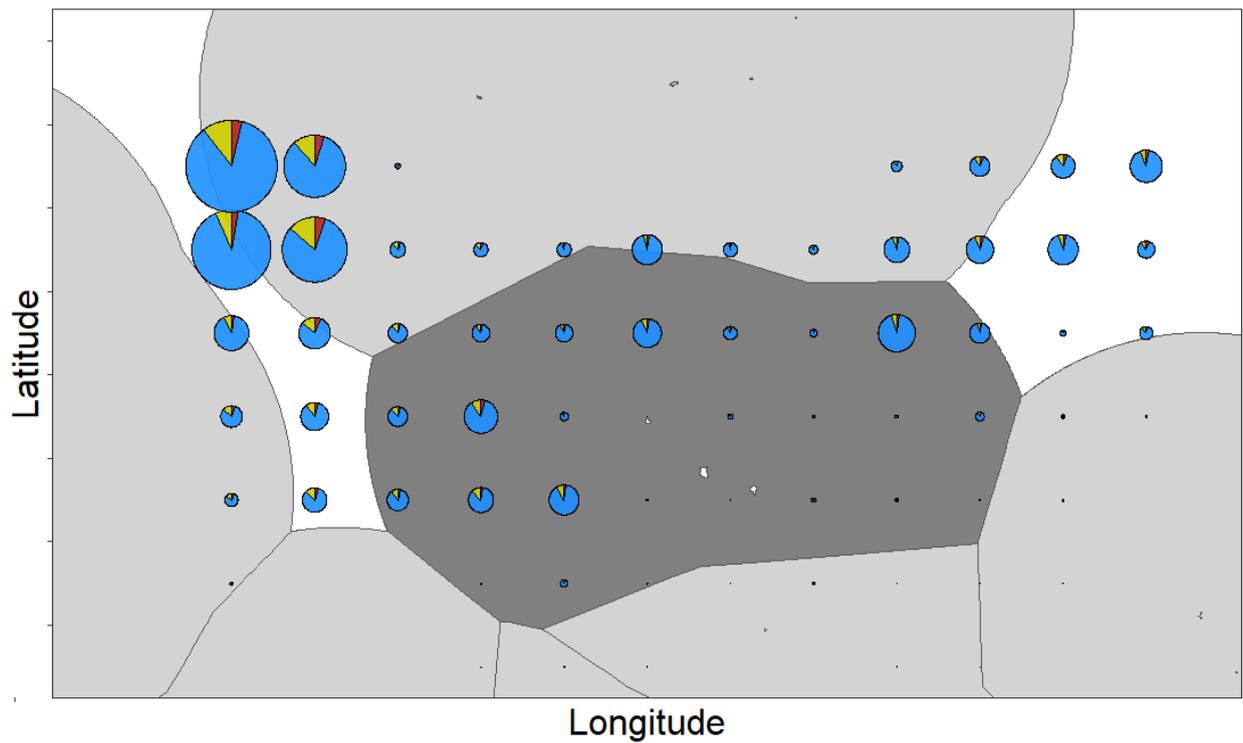
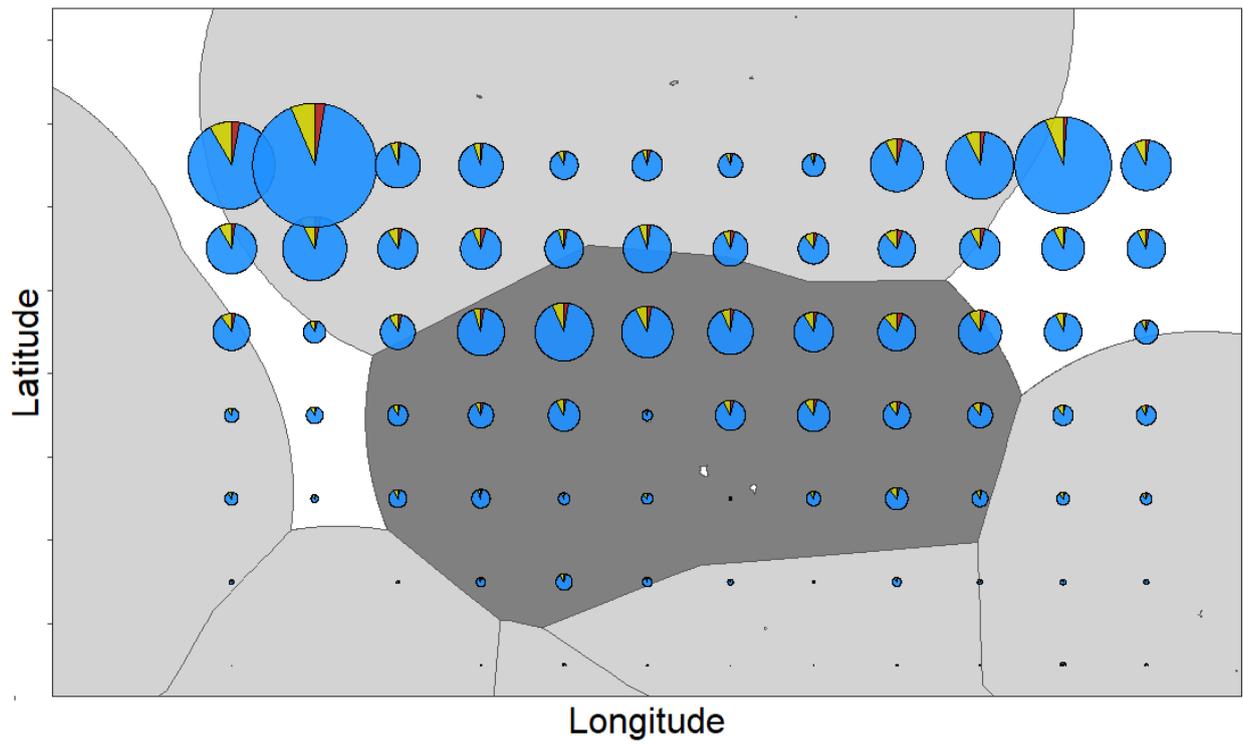


Figure 3: Catch of the three main tuna species (blue = skipjack, red = bigeye, yellow = yellowfin) by purse seine vessels fishing in the Tokelau EEZ, over the period 2010-19 (top panel) and 2020-21 (bottom panel).

TUFMAN 2 – ARTISANAL FISHERIES COMPONENT

The tuna research and statistical needs of Tokelau are largely met by the assistance and support of SPCs' Oceanic Fisheries Programme. Part of this assistance is the implementation of the Tuna Management System TUFMAN, now upgraded to TUFMAN 2, in Tokelau. It is now fully functional with ongoing assistance with training as new systems are developed. This initiative will empower the Fisheries Management Agency with a tool to help provide advice to local government and to help fulfil its obligations and commitments to the Commission and other regional organizations. Whilst TUFMAN 2 manages the commercial data (offshore fisheries) TUF-ART has been implemented for managing the artisanal fishery (inshore fisheries). The new artisanal fisheries component of TUFMAN 2 was introduced to Tokelau fisheries officers in late 2016. One of the major improvements to the data system was the update to TAILS software in 2018.

Monitoring

All foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish in Tokelau waters are required to carry an FFA approved Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) or Mobile Transceiver (MTU) and whilst within Tokelau waters, they are monitored by the FFA installed Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). This is a critical part of MCS and a workstation was installed in Tokelau in 2005. Tokelau aims to strengthen MCS capabilities through participation in regional and sub-regional strategies and through regional infrastructures. Due to limited resources available, Tokelau must participate in regional and sub-regional collaborations to combat IUU in the Tokelau EEZ. As a participant in the PNA VDS established under the Palau Arrangement, Tokelau is now implementing the VDS for their purse seine fisheries and the longline fisheries and vessels licensed to fish against Tokelau's vessel days within its EEZ are also monitored through the PNA VDS systems. Any vessels operating under a revised US Tuna Treaty will also use the PNA VDS.

Tokelau appreciates the value of an Observer Programme and will consider appropriate collaborative effort in the region. Required observer services are provided through the FFA Regional Observer Programme (within which Tokelau has no current active observers) and other FFA members' country observer programmes and the PNA Observer Programme. Tokelau has no port and wharfage infrastructure so there is no Port Sampling Programme and no port sampling is carried out in Tokelau.

Tokelau is committed to working cooperatively with respect to monitoring and enforcement, and the sharing of MCS assets and information with her counterparts to strengthen the MCS arrangements for Tokelau's EEZ.

Surface and air patrols/surveillance of Tokelau's EEZ are undertaken by New Zealand and FFA coordinated patrols, with input and assistance from the Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency.

APPENDIX I CMM Reporting

<p>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • The Tokelau EEZ is geographically situated between approximately 6 and 11 degrees South of latitude and between 167 and 176 degrees West of longitude, and is therefore outside of the area of application. • Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.
<p>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry. <p>** Tokelau does not have a National Observer Programme</p>
<p>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • Tokelau has no ports and is therefore not a Port State. • While transshipment is permitted by law in certain circumstances, as a matter of policy, Tokelau does not currently allow transshipments to occur in her EEZ, Territorial Seas or Internal Waters. <p>** Tokelau did not approve nor authorize any transshipment activity in her waters in 2021.</p>
<p>CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry. <p>** No interactions with cetaceans were reported to or by Tokelau in 2021</p>
<p>CMM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Para 13</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry. <p>** No interactions with Seabirds were reported to or by Tokelau in 2021.</p>

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.

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, summarizing 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 effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2016						
2017						
2018						
2019						
2020						
2021						

1 Insert ‘North of 23°N’, ‘South of 30°S’, ‘25°S-30°S’ or ‘23°N – 25°S’. 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 [year].

	Combination of Mitigation Measures	Proportion of observed effort using mitigation measures				
		South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N	
	No mitigation measures					
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS					
	TL + WB					
	NS + WB					
	TL + WB + NS					
	HS					
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB					
	TL					
Other options north of 23°N	SS/BC/WB/DSL					
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)					
Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here						
	Totals (must equal 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, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	North of 23°N	23°N –25°S	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
Total					

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

<p>CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • The Tokelau EEZ is geographically situated between approximately 6 and 11 degrees South of latitude and between 167 and 176 degrees West of longitude, and is therefore outside of the area of application. • Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.
<p>CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • The Tokelau EEZ is geographically situated between approximately 6 and 11 degrees South of latitude and between 167 and 176 degrees West of longitude, and is therefore outside of the area of application. • Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.
<p>CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 3</p>	<p>* N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau is not a flag state. • Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas. • Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels. • The Tokelau EEZ is geographically situated between approximately 6 and 11 degrees South of latitude and between 167 and 176 degrees West of longitude, and is therefore outside of the area of application. • Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.