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

WCPFC-SC19-AR/CCM-13

REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

Annual Report to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Part 1: Information of fisheries, statistics and research

Republic of the Marshall Islands



Oceanic and Industrial Affairs Division
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

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| 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 2023 | Yes |
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1 SUMMARY

In 2022, there were eleven Marshall Islands-flagged purse seine vessels operating throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The total catch estimates by the national purse seine fleet in 2022 was 85,984 metric tons. Additionally, retained catch estimates, from twenty-three chartered longline vessels associated with the domestically-based Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV), totaled 2,446 metric tons.

The commercial catches within the RMI EEZ are taken predominantly by the purse seine fishery but longline and pole-and-line operations also occur. In 2022, estimated total catch for all gears combined was 45,600 metric tons with purse seine accounting for 90% followed by longline 8% and pole-and-line 2%. Purse seine catch in the RMI EEZ decreased from 54,640 metric tons in 2021 to 41,123 metric tons in 2022.

The RMI Observer program's 33 active observers carried out 9 purse seine trips during 2022. RMI observers started embarking on purse seiners toward the end of the year when the borders opened after the COVID19 pandemic. Observers were also utilized to monitor transshipment and unloading activities in Majuro port.

2 FLAG STATE REPORTING

Annual catch and effort estimates for the national purse seine fleet, fishing throughout the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC-CA) during the last five years are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1. In 2022, total catch estimates were 85,984 metric tons for the purse seine fleet. Skipjack is the prominent species caught comprising 95% of the total followed by yellowfin, 4% and bigeye tuna at less than 1%.

There were 23 foreign long-liners chartered in 2022 whose catch estimates are provided in Table 2. All chartered vessels are based locally and fish almost exclusively in the RMI EEZ. Vessel numbers for both purse seine and longline vessels are presented in Table 3 below.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate catch distributions for the RMI flagged purse seine and chartered longline fleets from 2021 to 2022. Purse seine catch and effort is primarily concentrated in the southern part of the RMI EEZ and the adjacent EEZs. As previously stated, longline vessels predominantly operate in the EEZ and effort is more widely distributed within the RMI zone.

Table 1. Annual catch and effort estimates for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area

| Species | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| | Retain | Dis card | Retain | Dis card | Retain | Dis card | Retain | Dis card | Retain | Dis card |
| ALBACORE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BIGEYE TUNA | 3,039 | 30 | 616 | 21 | 718 | 24 | 683 | 23 | 433 | 0 |
| PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SKIPJACK TUNA | 60,212 | 625 | 84,253 | 719 | 74,625 | 1,521 | 81,741 | 1,362 | 81,445 | 34 |
| YELLOWFIN TUNA | 9,429 | 72 | 10,654 | 98 | 6,564 | 245 | 7,005 | 213 | 4,088 | 5 |
| BLACK MARLIN | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 20 |
| BLUE MARLIN | 6 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 1 |
| STRIPED MARLIN | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| SWORDFISH | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BLUE SHARK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SILKY SHARK | 0 | 85 | 0 | 69 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 47 | 0 | 66 |
| HAMMERHEAD SHARKS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| MAKO SHARKS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| PORBEAGLE/SALMON SHARK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WHALE SHARK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| THRESHER SHARKS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 72,688 | 823 | 95,533 | 939 | 81,913 | 1,893 | 89,434 | 1,664 | 85,984 | 143 |

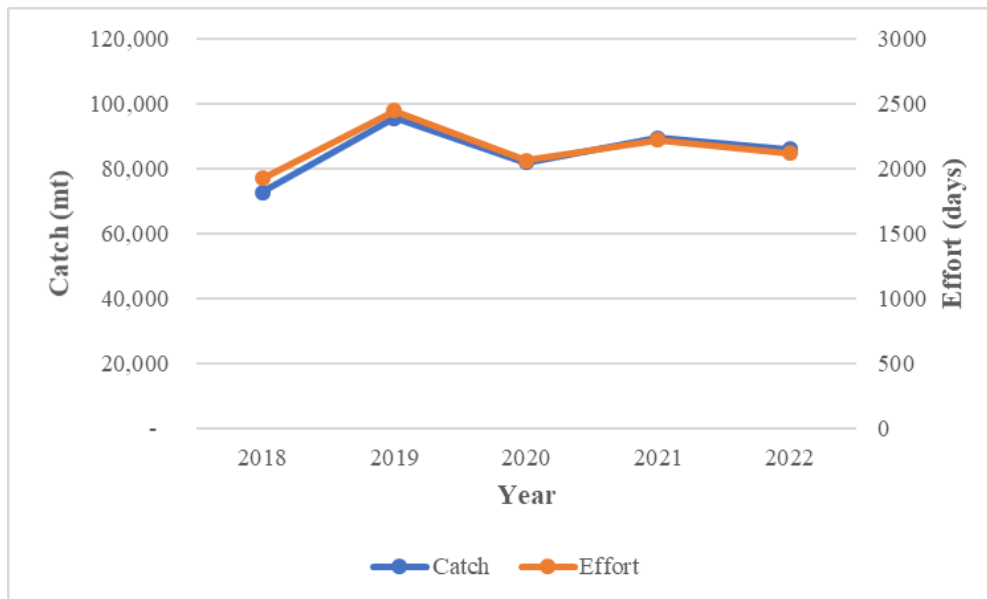


Figure 1. Annual catch and effort for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area

Table 2. Annual catch estimates for the Marshall Islands-chartered longline vessels, by species and year, for the WCPFC Convention Area

| Species | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | Retain | Discard | Retain | Discard | Retain | Discard | Retain | Discard | Retain | Discard |
| ALBACORE | 30 | 3 | 97 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 53 | 1 | 149 | 1 |
| BIGEYE TUNA | 1,122 | 24 | 1,428 | 30 | 751 | 13 | 915 | 13 | 1,151 | 22 |
| PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| SKIPJACK TUNA | 0 | 14 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| YELLOWFIN TUNA | 639 | 68 | 1,152 | 23 | 730 | 13 | 620 | 14 | 940 | 24 |
| BLACK MARLIN | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| BLUE MARLIN | 115 | 2 | 189 | 3 | 98 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 188 | 0 |
| STRIPED MARLIN | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SWORDFISH | 14 | 11 | 24 | 16 | 10 | 7 | 15 | 8 | 15 | 0 |
| BLUE SHARK | 0 | 11 | 0 | 94 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 114 | 0 | 245 |
| SILKY SHARK | 0 | 46 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 68 | 0 | 47 |
| HAMMERHEAD SHARKS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| MAKO SHARKS | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK | 0 | 8 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 4 |
| PORBEABLE / SALMON SHARK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WHALE SHARK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| THRESHER SHARKS | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,922 | 205 | 2,890 | 244 | 1,599 | 59 | 1,733 | 236 | 2,446 | 349 |

Table 3. Number of Marshall Islands-chartered and flagged vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2018-2022

| Year \ GRT | Longline | | | | Purse Seine | | | |
|------------|----------|--------|---------|------|-------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| | 0-50 | 51-200 | 201-500 | 500+ | 0-500 | 501-1000 | 1001-1500 | 1500+ |
| 2018 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 |
| 2019 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 |
| 2020 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 |
| 2021 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 |
| 2022 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 |

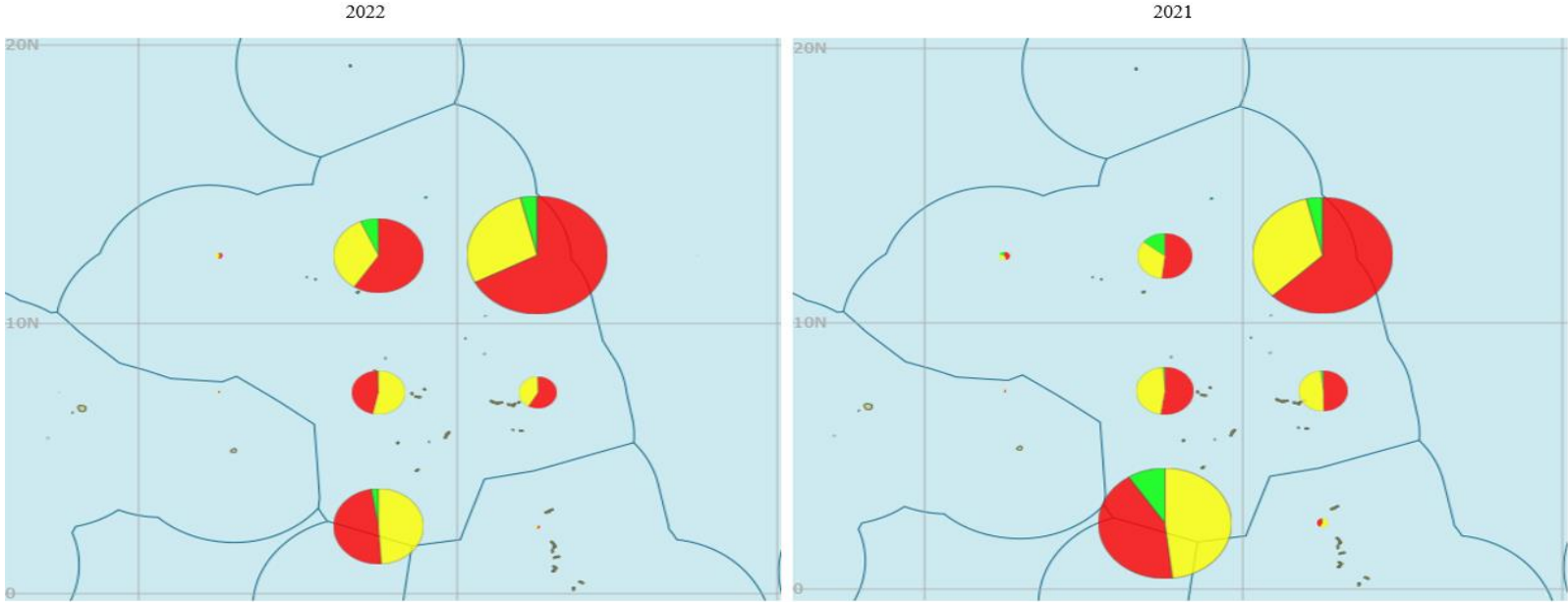


Figure 2. Annual distribution of catch by the Marshall Islands-chartered longline vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2022 and 2021 (Red - BET, Yellow - YFT, Green - ALB)

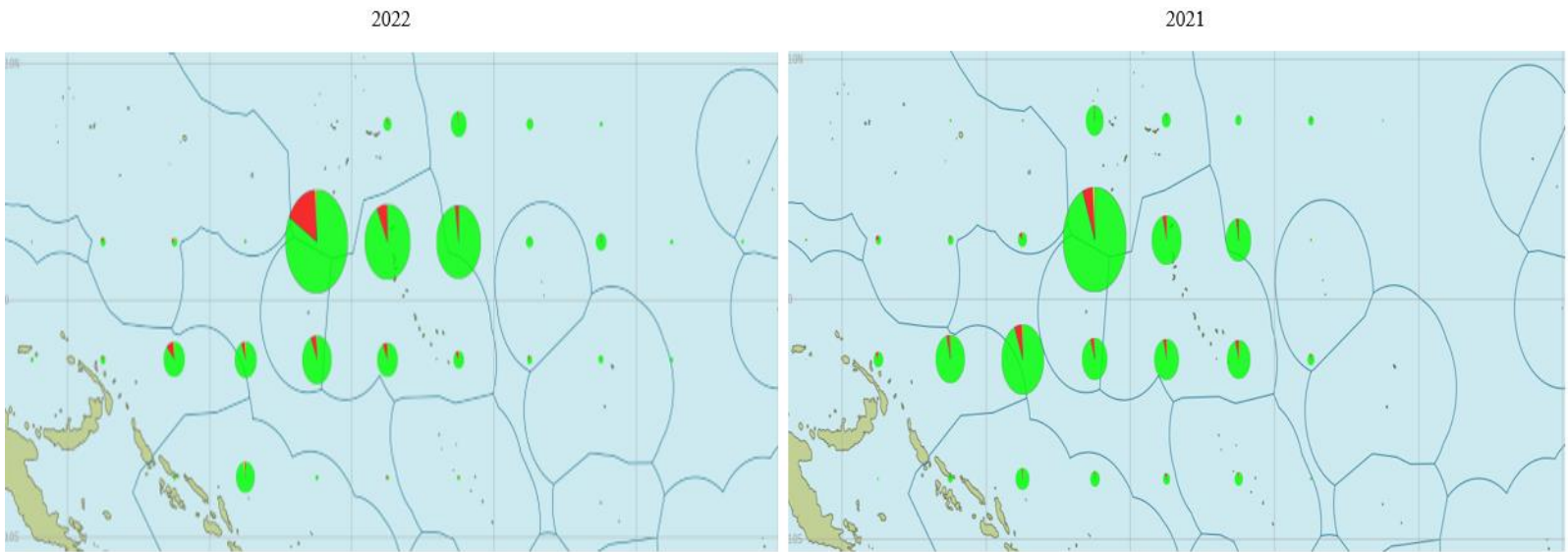


Figure 3. Annual distribution of catch by the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2022 and 2021 (Green – SKJ, Red – YFT, Yellow – BET)

3 COASTAL STATE REPORTING

Table 4 provides a description of foreign-flagged vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands waters over the past five years. A total of 232 foreign vessels were licensed however, not all were actively fishing in the RMI EEZ during the period. Domestically-based foreign longline vessels affiliated with the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) have been operating under charter with the RMI since 2016, hence the inclusion of the charter component of the catches in the flag state reporting above.

Table 4. Number of foreign longline, pole-and-line and purse seine vessels licensed to fish in the RMI EEZ, by year and flag

| FLAG | GEAR | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| CHINA | LL | 0 | 22 | 20 | 18 | 22 |
| | PS | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| FSM | LL | 9 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| FSMA | PS | 49 | 54 | 70 | 83 | 79 |
| JAPAN | LL | 6 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | PL | 11 | 20 | 21 | 25 | 3 |
| | PS | 25 | 26 | 28 | 29 | 22 |
| KIRIBATI | PS | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| KOREA | PS | 24 | 25 | 25 | 21 | 20 |
| PHILIPPINES | PS | 13 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| CH-TAIPEI | LL | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PS | 23 | 24 | 18 | 21 | 23 |
| TUVALU | PS | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| USA | PS | 31 | 6 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | LL | 15 | 41 | 32 | 32 | 34 |
| | PL | 11 | 20 | 21 | 25 | 3 |
| | PS | 179 | 162 | 190 | 183 | 195 |

Available logsheet data indicate that total catch by purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ decreased from 54,640 metric tons in 2021 to 41,123 mt in 2022 with 44% taken by the RMI fleet (Table 5). The catch rates in the RMI EEZ are usually influenced by the prevailing environmental conditions, with higher catches recorded during or immediately following strong El Nino periods. Skipjack tuna continues to be the dominant catch, accounting for 94% of the total catch in 2022.

The domestically-based foreign longline fleet comprises vessels from China, FSM and previously Chinese Taipei are managed and operated under Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Luen Thai. Japanese longline vessels offload their catch in ports in Japan. In-zone longline catch estimates are provided in Table 6. Bigeye and yellowfin catches continue to account for the major part of the target catch composition. As with the purse seine fishery, most of the longline fishing effort occurs in the southern areas of the RMI EEZ however in the longline fishery, effort is more widely distributed throughout the zone.

In 2022, provisional catches from the pole-and-line fleet increased to 893 metric tons from 777 mt in the previous year (Table 7). Skipjack is the main species making up the catch composition for this fleet and nearly accounts for the entire catch total each year. The RMI has yet to place observers on board these vessels and as a result observer coverage for validation purposes has not been achieved.

Table 5. Annual catches of purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2018-2022

| | | Catches (metric tonnes) | | | | | Catches (metric tonnes) | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------------------------|------|--------|--------|-----|-----|--------|
| Flag | Year | SKJ | YFT | BET | OTH | TOTAL | Flag | Year | SKJ | YFT | BET | OTH | TOTAL |
| China | 2018 | 274 | 128 | 13 | 1 | 416 | RMI | 2018 | 5,769 | 419 | 36 | 25 | 6,249 |
| | 2019 | 280 | 30 | 20 | 1 | 331 | | 2019 | 1,587 | 19 | 51 | 5 | 1,662 |
| | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2020 | 9,027 | 482 | 154 | 7 | 9,670 |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2021 | 12,083 | 2,220 | 123 | 1 | 14,427 |
| | 2022 | 295 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 305 | | 2022 | 17,531 | 505 | 144 | 14 | 18,194 |
| FSM | 2018 | 2,602 | 230 | 57 | 7 | 2,896 | Solomon Is | 2018 | 415 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 415 |
| | 2019 | 220 | 49 | 13 | 6 | 289 | | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2020 | 5,197 | 1,064 | 108 | 12 | 6,380 | | 2020 | 251 | 129 | 25 | 1 | 406 |
| | 2021 | 6,959 | 2,947 | 89 | 4 | 9,999 | | 2021 | 20 | 495 | 35 | | 550 |
| | 2022 | 3,750 | 224 | 78 | 4 | 4,056 | | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Japan | 2018 | 472 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 485 | Chinese Taipei | 2018 | 5,729 | 436 | 50 | 7 | 6,222 |
| | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2019 | 1,237 | 133 | 7 | 3 | 1,380 |
| | 2020 | 40 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 70 | | 2020 | 2,798 | 711 | 256 | 7 | 3,772 |
| | 2021 | 1,384 | 2,096 | 10 | 3 | 3,493 | | 2021 | 7,167 | 4,463 | 143 | 2 | 11,775 |
| | 2022 | 318 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 320 | | 2022 | 8,118 | 380 | 204 | 6 | 8,707 |
| Kiribati | 2018 | 754 | 125 | 31 | 1 | 911 | Tuvalu | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2019 | 186 | 28 | 1 | 0 | 215 | | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2020 | 2,899 | 1,343 | 40 | 3 | 4,284 | | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2021 | 2,345 | 665 | 5 | 1 | 3,016 | | 2021 | 680 | 497 | 6 | 1 | 1,184 |
| | 2022 | 4,591 | 196 | 30 | 1 | 4,818 | | 2022 | 756 | 89 | 5 | 1 | 851 |
| Korea | 2018 | 3,955 | 430 | 20 | 0 | 4,405 | Vanuatu | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2019 | 460 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 475 | | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2020 | 3,963 | 1,860 | 118 | 7 | 5,949 | | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2021 | 2,077 | 2,898 | 23 | 0 | 4,998 | | 2021 | 80 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 155 |
| | 2022 | 251 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 270 | | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nauru | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | USA | 2018 | 2,814 | 62 | 22 | 3 | 2,901 |
| | 2019 | 171 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 196 | | 2019 | 353 | 80 | 17 | 1 | 451 |
| | 2020 | 3,400 | 1,059 | 95 | 15 | 4,569 | | 2020 | 1,340 | 323 | 75 | 3 | 1,741 |
| | 2021 | 3,047 | 1,914 | 80 | 2 | 5,043 | | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2022 | 3,044 | 493 | 62 | 2 | 3,601 | | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PNG | 2018 | 3,604 | 313 | 24 | 13 | 3,954 | TOTAL EEZ | 2018 | 26,424 | 2,168 | 253 | 58 | 28,903 |
| | 2019 | 379 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 395 | | 2019 | 4,874 | 395 | 109 | 16 | 5,394 |
| | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2020 | 28,915 | 7,000 | 871 | 55 | 36,841 |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2021 | 35,842 | 18,270 | 514 | 14 | 54,640 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 2022 | 38,655 | 1,918 | 523 | 28 | 41,123 |
| Philippines | 2018 | 36 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 49 | | | | | | | |
| | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |

Table 6. Annual catches of longline fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2018-2022

| Flag | Year | Catch (metric tonnes) | | | | Total |
|---------------|------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| | | ALB | BET | YFT | OTH | |
| China | 2018 | 1 | 169 | 129 | 28 | 327 |
| | 2019 | 0 | 16 | 17 | 5 | 38 |
| | 2020 | 1 | 66 | 45 | 9 | 121 |
| | 2021 | 1 | 32 | 25 | 6 | 63 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FSM | 2018 | 17 | 705 | 373 | 104 | 1,199 |
| | 2019 | 41 | 695 | 594 | 140 | 1,470 |
| | 2020 | 10 | 686 | 533 | 111 | 1,340 |
| | 2021 | 36 | 637 | 392 | 125 | 1,189 |
| | 2022 | 71 | 438 | 373 | 107 | 989 |
| Japan | 2018 | 3 | 49 | 47 | 10 | 109 |
| | 2019 | 2 | 66 | 46 | 12 | 126 |
| | 2020 | 1 | 180 | 25 | 17 | 223 |
| | 2021 | 32 | 109 | 108 | 21 | 270 |
| | 2022 | 24 | 96 | 88 | 30 | 238 |
| RMI-Chartered | 2018 | 31 | 1,287 | 713 | 174 | 2,205 |
| | 2019 | 91 | 1,219 | 1,045 | 241 | 2,596 |
| | 2020 | 9 | 708 | 679 | 119 | 1,515 |
| | 2021 | 53 | 899 | 610 | 179 | 1,741 |
| | 2022 | 138 | 1,101 | 886 | 232 | 2,357 |
| CH-Taipei | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2019 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 40 |
| | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL EEZ | 2018 | 52 | 2,210 | 1,262 | 316 | 3,840 |
| | 2019 | 134 | 2,000 | 1,719 | 417 | 4,269 |
| | 2020 | 21 | 1,640 | 1,282 | 256 | 3,199 |
| | 2021 | 122 | 1,677 | 1,136 | 331 | 3,265 |
| | 2022 | 233 | 1,636 | 1,347 | 368 | 3,584 |

Table 7. Annual catches of pole-and-line fleet operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2018-2022

| Flag | Year | Catch (metric tonnes) | | | |
|-------|------|-----------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| | | BET | SKJ | YFT | TOTAL |
| Japan | 2018 | 0 | 1,017 | 1 | 1,018 |
| | 2019 | 0 | 1,022 | 2 | 1,024 |
| | 2020 | 0 | 2,609 | 10 | 2,619 |
| | 2021 | 2 | 761 | 14 | 777 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 880 | 13 | 893 |

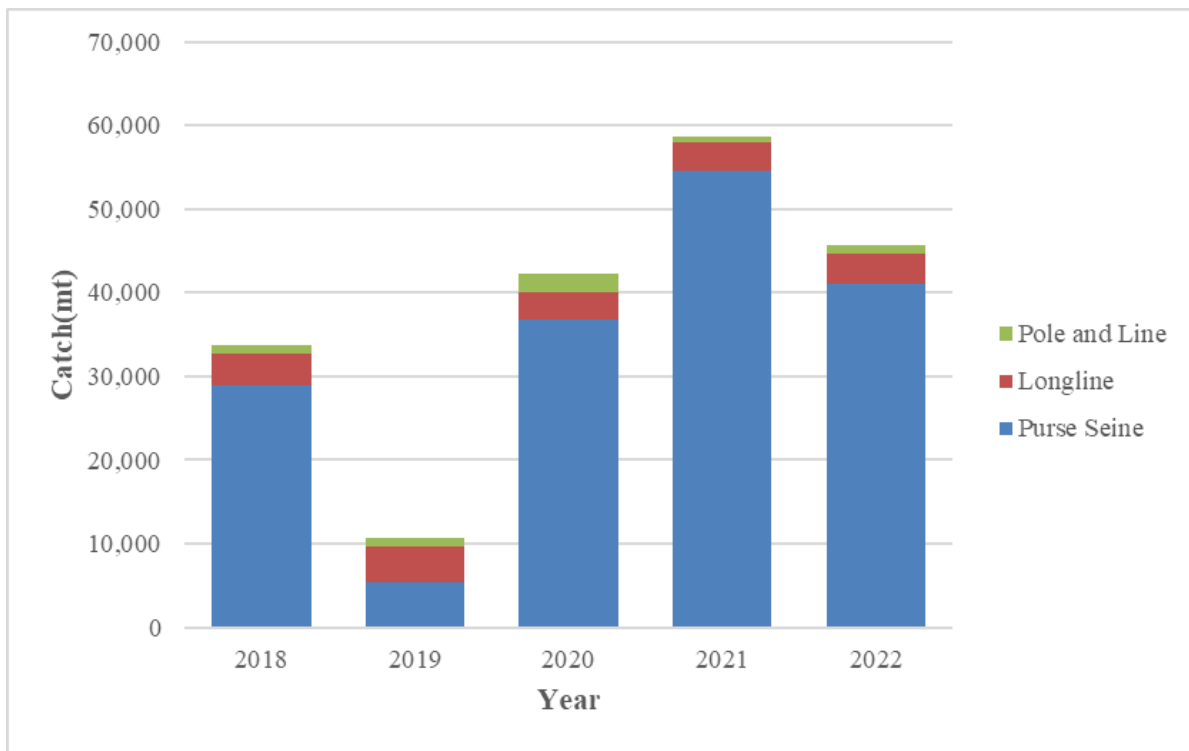


Figure 4. Total catch by the different gears operating in the RMI EEZ

4 DISPOSAL OF CATCH

As mentioned earlier, the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd. (MIFV) operates the Longline Fish base with domestically-based foreign longline vessels. In 2022, there was a provisional total of 3,582 metric tons of fish unloaded by the longline fleet and most of it was bound for export markets (Table 8). The MIFV exports mainly fresh chilled tuna species to markets in the US, China and Canada. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatch) are shipped to Asia via transport containers and/or sold locally.

Majuro port is the only designated port for transshipment in the RMI. There were an estimated 257 purse seine transshipments undertaken in Majuro in 2022 with a provisional total of 218,758 metric tons transshipped (Table 9). Port restrictions due to COVID19 and purse seine fishing concentrated in the western regions of the ocean resulted in a significant decrease in the number of vessel entries. Additionally, most transshipments by the national purse seine fleet are usually carried out in Majuro, however, foreign ports in the region are occasionally utilized (Table 10).

Table 8. Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels in 2022

| Species | Unloaded Catch (mt) |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Albacore Tuna | 208 |
| Big Eye Tuna | 1,675 |
| Blue Marlin | 253 |
| Mahi Mahi | 4 |
| Moon Fish | 3 |
| Sailfish | 9 |
| Striped Marlin | 14 |
| Swordfish | 17 |
| Wahoo | 35 |
| Yellowfin Tuna | 1,364 |
| TOTAL | 3,582 |

Table 9. Provisional purse seine transshipments in Majuro port in 2022

| Flag | Number of PS Transshipments | SKJ | YFT | BET |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| China | 8 | 5,682 | 459 | 10 |
| El Salvador | 1 | 819 | 176 | 275 |
| Federated States of Micronesia | 39 | 30,237 | 3,655 | 493 |
| Kiribati | 1 | 850 | 225 | 5 |
| Korea, Republic of | 1 | 380 | 335 | 715 |
| Marshall Islands | 65 | 50,190 | 3,081 | 443 |
| Nauru | 46 | 34,815 | 4,558 | 562 |
| Papua New Guinea | 9 | 6,010 | 1,527 | 133 |
| Solomon Islands | 3 | 1,943 | 146 | 126 |
| Spain | 3 | 4,512 | 588 | 1,475 |
| Taiwan | 74 | 50,215 | 6,580 | 1,038 |
| Tuvalu | 7 | 5,471 | 1,008 | 24 |
| TOTAL | 257 | 191,123 | 22,337 | 5,299 |

Table 10. Purse seine transshipments by RMI-flagged vessels in 2022

| Annex II(1) | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Species | Quantity Transshipped (mt) | Transshipped in port | Transshipped in WCP-CA | Caught in WCP-CA | Product Form |
| SKJ | 79,541 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |
| YFT | 4,011 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |
| BET | 421 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |
| Annex II(2) | | | | | |
| Port | Number of Transshipments | Transshipped in port | Transshipped in WCP-CA | Caught in WCP-CA | Product Form |
| Kosrae | 1 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |
| Majuro | 65 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |
| Pohnpei | 7 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |
| Rabaul | 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |
| Tarawa | 25 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Frozen Whole |

5 ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

MIMRA, on behalf of the Government, still maintains a joint venture partnership with Koo's Fishing Company, Ltd. (KFC). This venture continues to provide an additional revenue stream as well as a catalyst for further on-shore developments.

The Pan Pacific Foods (PPF) loining plant continued operations in 2022 however was limited to cold storage and containerization of fish. As has been reported before, the company also operates six RMI-flagged purse seine vessels which supply the plant with raw materials. The plant did not produce any processed fish during 2022 due in part to COVID19 restrictions and staff shortages.

Total volume of exports was 9,196 metric tons with whole containerized tuna exports making up the majority (Table 11). MIFV and Pacific International Inc. (PII) have steadily increased their numbers of containerized whole tuna exports in recent years. PPF exported the highest volume of whole tuna at 3,954 metric tons in 2022.

Table 11. Total Purse Seine whole tuna exports (mt) in 2022, by destination and species

| Destination | SKJ | YFT | BET |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Vietnam | 10 | 2,334 | 1 |
| Thailand | 4,291 | 1,191 | 267 |
| Philippines | 1,077 | 0 | 0 |
| Japan | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 5,379 | 3,549 | 268 |

6 FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

The RMI continues to support domestic fisheries development aspirations in the region so long as it goes hand in hand with sustainable management measures that do not put a disproportionate burden on SIDS, in accordance with Article 30 of the Convention.

Other notable future prospects for the RMI tuna fishery involve further observer and debriefer capacity development as MIMRA continues to progressively train and recruit additional fisheries observers. Since the latter half of 2015, MIMRA has also utilized observers (when in port) to carry out port monitoring duties on transshipments taking place in Majuro port. Due to COVID19 restrictions, port monitoring was not fully implemented until September of 2022 but coverage for portside unloadings had been in place since the year prior.

7 DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Data management and handling capacity continues to be a vital tool for MIMRA. The SPC-OFP has been very instrumental in the RMI's data efforts. MIMRA continues to employ a dedicated port sampler covering almost 100% of longline unloadings at the MIFV fish base. The port sampler along with other staff collate the data and enter into the TUFMAN II database. In 2019 SPC introduced Onshore, an electronic port sampling app that would improve data flow and eliminate the use of paper sampling forms. The trialing of Onshore showed great potential but further improvements are being taken into consideration.

MIMRA intends to shift its focus towards the PNAO FIMS as the standard by which it will manage and handle its data complemented by existing databases such as the TUFMAN II currently in use. Further development of e-Reporting (ER) and EM initiatives continue to be a priority for MIMRA.

In 2022, there were 33 active RMI observers employed under the MIMRA Observer Program. This is a decrease from previous years due to COVID19 travel restrictions effecting operations and resulting in observers seeking employment elsewhere. Deploying of observers on purse seine vessels halted in February of 2020 due to the restrictions but was recommenced in September of 2022. A total of 9 purse seiner vessel trips were observed but no observer longliner trips were made during the year (Table 12).

Table 12. Observer purse seiner trips by flag in 2022

| Arrangement | Flag | Sea days | Trips |
|-------------|------|----------|-------|
| FSMA | NR | 53 | 1 |
| | FM | 105 | 2 |
| Bilateral | TW | 252 | 6 |
| TOTAL | | 410 | 9 |

8 APPENDIX 1 – CMM REPORTING



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs¹

| | |
|--|--|
| CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 3 | This is not a target catch for RMI vessels however, 149mt of NP ALB were caught as bycatch by the chartered longline fleet operating in the RMI EEZ. |
| CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4 | Not applicable. No RMI vessels fishing south of 15°S. |
| CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8 | Not applicable. No RMI vessels fish south 20°S. |
| CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II) | 102 in-port transshipments (Kosrae 1; Majuro 65; Pohnpei 7; Rabaul 4; Tarawa 25) = 83,973 mt (<i>prov.</i>). See table 10. |
| CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5 | There were no reports of instances in which cetaceans were encircled by purse seine nets in 2022. |
| Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)) | This does not apply to RMI. There were no RMI flagged longline fishing vessels in 2022. |
| CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4 | Not applicable. No RMI vessels fish south 20°S |
| CMM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Para 13 | There were no RMI flagged longline fishing vessels in 2022. |

¹ Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC16 (Dec 2019).
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