



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Koror, Palau
16 - 24 August 2023

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

WCPFC-SC19-AR/CCM-18

PALAU

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART I: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
REPUBLIC OF PALAU- 2022

Republic of Palau

Division of Oceanic Fishery Management
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment
Oiterong, Zilah D. || Inawo, Keith O.

July 14, 2023

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <p>Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by <u>30 April 2023</u></p> | <p><u>YES</u></p> |
|---|--------------------------|

I. ABSTRACT

In 2022, Palau licensed a total of 37 fishing vessels comprising of 22 Longlines and 15 Purse Seines. The licensed longlines included one national (PW) flagged vessel, 19 Japan (JP) flagged vessels, and two Chinese-Taipei (TW) flagged vessels. The licensed Purse Seines included 15 JP flagged vessels. Total Longline catches caught and reported for 2022, approximated about 744 metric tons (MT) of fish with 2.04MT of Albacore, 416.68MT of Bigeye, 0.12MT of Skipjack, 283.231MT of Yellowfin, and all other catches totaling to 41.57MT. The reported Purse Seine catches totaled 70MT, with 67MT of Skipjack and 3 MT Yellowfin. Since Palau's Fishery Port is incapable of accommodating purse seine operations, catch landings are only done by the domestically based longline vessels. Of all the recorded catch caught in 2022, a total of 24.98MT of catch was landed in Palau port and were sold and donated locally.

II. BACKGROUND

The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office is mandated to carry out the purposes of Title 27 of Palau National Code to adopt fisheries regulations, negotiate and conclude foreign fishing agreements, issue foreign fishing permits, and perform other duties and functions for the management, exploitation and conservation of all living resources in the extended and exclusive fishery zone of the Republic of Palau. The Title 27 of the Palau National Code is the primary fisheries legislation regulating the harvest of highly migratory fish stocks and fishing vessels that fish in the waters of the Republic of Palau.

III. FLAG STATE REPORT

In 2022, Palau licensed 1 National (PW) Flag Longline vessel and 2 chartered Chinese Taipei (TW) flag Longline vessels. Table 1 presents the number of the licensed national/chartered vessels by gear and size category while Figure 1 displays its trend over the years.

Table 1. Number of Licensed Fishing Vessel (National and Chartered) by Gear and Size Category

| GEAR | LONGLINE (National) | | | | | | LONGLINE (Chartered) | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|-------|-------|--------|------|----------------------|------|-------|-------|--------|------|---------------|
| | YEAR GRT | 0-25 | 26-50 | 51-75 | 76-100 | 100+ | Total Vessels | 0-25 | 26-50 | 51-75 | 76-100 | 100+ | Total Vessels |
| 2022 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2021 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2019 | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 27 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 39 |
| 2018 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 26 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 38 |

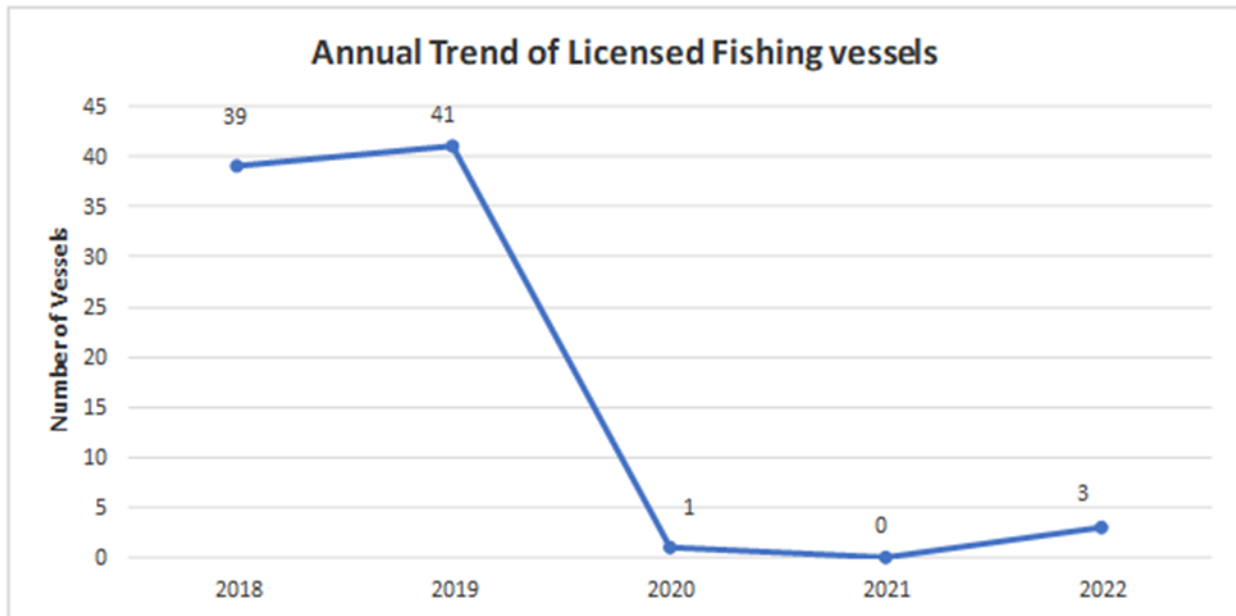


Figure 1. Chart of Palau Licensed National and Chartered Longline Fishing Vessels

IV. COASTAL STATE REPORT

Domestic Based Fleet

In 2022, Palau licensed 2 domestic-based foreign flagged longline vessel and 1 Palau flagged longline vessel. Its recorded catch totaled 28.05 metric tons. Yellowfin was the main species caught with 3.76 metric tons accounting to 49% of the total catch. Table 2 presents the annual catch for this vessel with figure 2 illustrating its catch distribution.

Table 2. Annual catch (MT) by species for the Republic of Palau Longline fishery.

| SPECIES | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-------------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | Ret. | Disc. | Ret. | Disc. | Ret. | Disc. | Ret. | Disc. | Ret. | Disc. |
| ALB | 14 | 0 | 9.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.18 | 0 | 0.20 | 0 |
| BET | 777 | 0 | 855.19 | 0 | 0.52 | 0 | 17.17 | 0 | 10.2 | 0 |
| PBF | 3 | 0 | 1.31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SKJ | 0 | 0 | 1.05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.01 | 0 |
| YFT | 1463 | 13 | 1644.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16.18 | 0 | 13.76 | 0 |
| BLM | 8 | 0 | 2.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.34 | 0 | 0.1 | 0 |
| BUM | 60 | 6 | 62.64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.10 | 0 | 2.43 | 0 |
| MLS | 0 | 0 | 0.47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SWO | 43 | 0 | 25.71 | 0 | 0.04 | 0 | 1.79 | 0 | 1.35 | 0 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 2,368.00 | 19 | 2,601.97 | 0 | 0.56 | 0 | 40.76 | 0 | 28.05 | 0 |

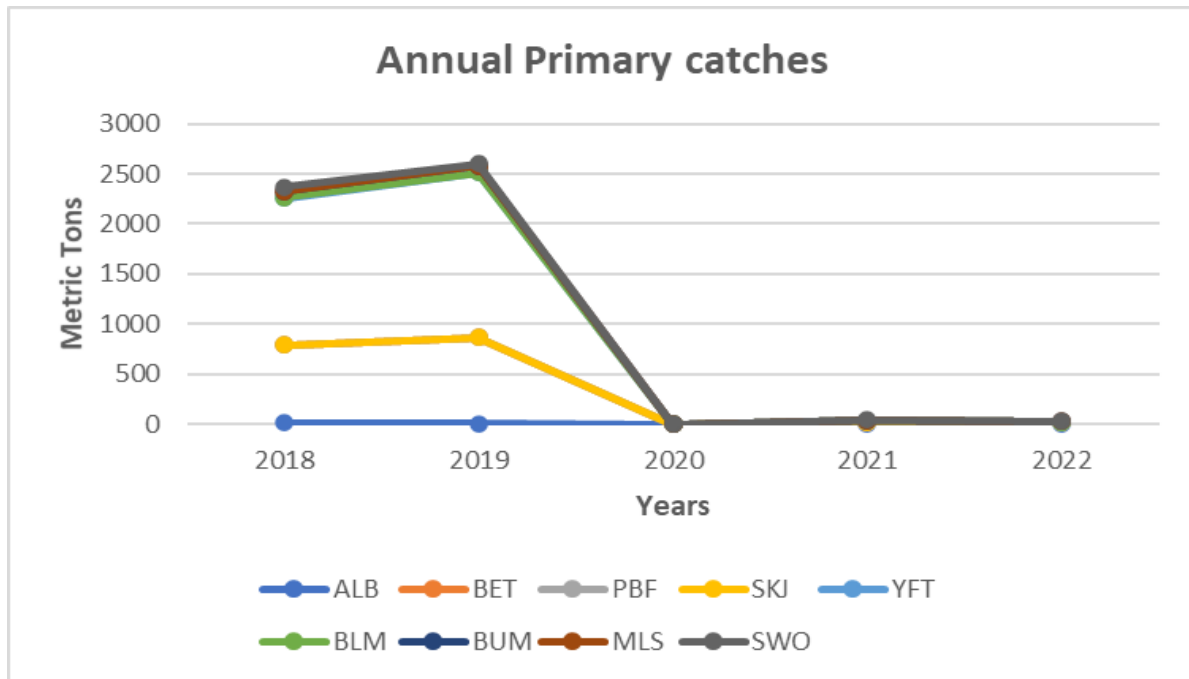


Figure 2. Historical Annual Primary Catch presented as a line graph.

There were no observers' placements in 2022 so there are no data provided. Electronic monitoring trial was carried out in 2018 on some of the vessels and a total of 6 trips were analyzed and entered into Dorado TUBS Report. Table 3 displays the data provided for observed species of special interests, including seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals.

Table 3. Observed Annual Estimated catches of Species of Special Interests

| YEAR | SEABIRD | | | | TURTLE | | | | MARINE MAMMAL | | | |
|------|---------|-----------|----------|-------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------|---|-----------|----------|-------|
| | Species | No. Alive | No. Dead | Total | Species | No. Alive | No. Dead | Total | Species | No. Alive | No. Dead | Total |
| 2022 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2021 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2019 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2018 | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | Olive Ridley | 0 | 1 | 1 | Dolphins / Porpoises (Unidentified) | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | | | | | Marine Turtle (Unidentified) | 13 | 14 | 27 | | | | |

Other than the primary species catches presented in Table 1, there were some non-targets, associated and dependent species that were caught. Table 4 below presents these catches by species each year caught by domestic based fishing vessel. Data along the years shows that Oilfish and Sailfish were the most caught species.

Table 4. Annual Estimated Catches of Non-Target, Associated, and Dependent Species.

| Species Name | Total Annual Longline Catches (MT) | | | | | Total Catch |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | |
| BARRACUDA NEI | 0.08 | 0.4 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.49 |
| COMMON DOLPHINFISH | 1.51 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.06 | 0.532 | 4.402 |
| ESCOLAR | 2.04 | 0.84 | 0 | 0.87 | 0.024 | 3.774 |
| OILFISH | 4.88 | 2 | 0 | 0.28 | 0.007 | 7.167 |
| OPAH | 0.5 | 0 | 0.17 | 0.07 | 0.302 | 1.042 |
| SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC) | 19.02 | 16.35 | 0 | 0.76 | 0.494 | 36.624 |
| SICKLE POMFRET | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 0.09 | 0.125 | 0.265 |
| WAHOO | 1.76 | 0.29 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 2.06 |
| OTHER FISH | 0.29 | 0.43 | 0 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.81 |
| Annual Grand Total | 30.13 | 22.61 | 0.17 | 2.22 | 1.504 | 56.634 |

Distant Water Fleet

In 2022, Palau licensed a total of 34 foreign flagged, foreign-based fishing vessels of 19 longlines and 15 purse seines. Table 5 shows the break-down of these licensed vessels by year, by flag, by gear, and by size category with Figure 3 showing its trend.

Table 5. Number of foreign fishing vessels, active in the WCPFC Convention Area.

| YEAR | FLAG | GEAR | Size Category (GRT) | | | | Total Vessels |
|---------------------------|------|------|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| | | | 0-500 | 501-1000 | 1001-1500 | 1501+ | |
| 2022 | JP | LL | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| | JP | PS | 0 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| 2022 Total Vessels | | | 19 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 34 |
| 2021 | JP | LL | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| | JP | PS | 0 | 0 | 20 | 7 | 27 |
| | PG | PS | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | PH | PS | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 2021 Total Vessels | | | 28 | 0 | 32 | 7 | 66 |
| 2020 | JP | LL | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| | JP | PS | 0 | 0 | 23 | 6 | 29 |
| | PH | PS | 0 | 3 | 16 | 1 | 20 |
| | TW | LL | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2020 Total Vessels | | | 34 | 3 | 39 | 7 | 83 |
| 2019 | JP | LL | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| | JP | PS | 0 | 0 | 23 | 4 | 27 |
| | PG | PS | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | PH | PS | 0 | 6 | 14 | 1 | 21 |
| | SB | PS | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| | TW | PS | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| | VU | PS | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 2019 Total Vessels | | | 34 | 6 | 47 | 8 | 95 |
| 2018 | JP | LL | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| | JP | PS | 0 | 0 | 23 | 4 | 27 |
| | PH | PS | 0 | 4 | 12 | 1 | 17 |
| | TW | PS | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2018 Total Vessels | | | 35 | 4 | 38 | 5 | 82 |

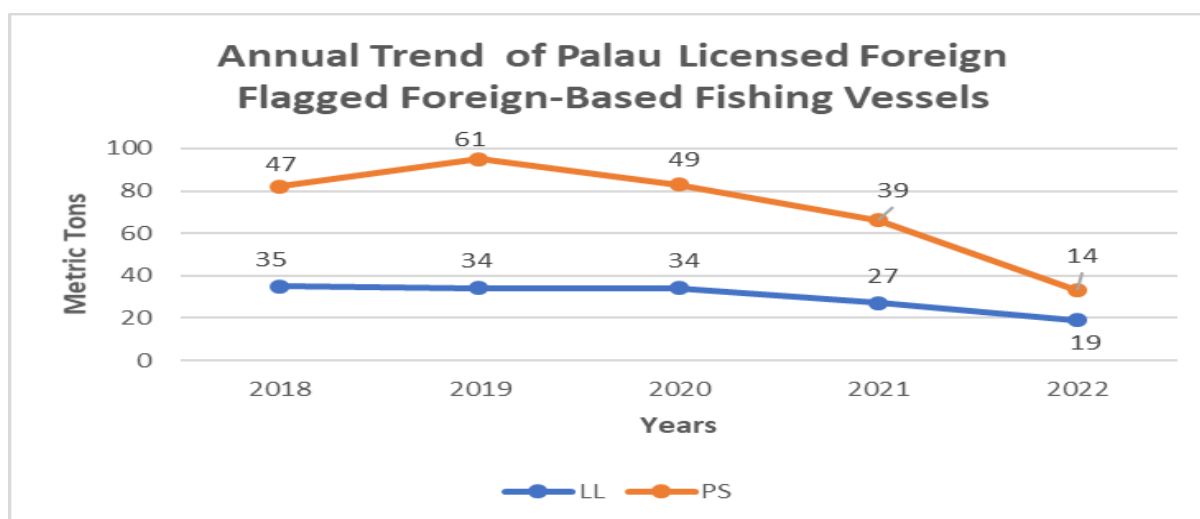


Figure 3: Annual trend of Palau Licensed Vessels by Gear

(a) Distant Water Longline Catch Report

The Palau-licensed foreign flagged longline vessels provisional catch for 2022 totaled 714.43 metric tons. Bigeye accounted almost 57% of all the catch that were caught. Table 6 displays a five-year (2018-2021) annual longline catches in Palau’s exclusive economic zone by flag and by species with Figure 4 displaying trend over the years.

Table 6. Longline Catches (MT) by year, by flag, and by species in Palau EEZ.

| YEAR | FLAG | ALB | BET | YFT | OTH | Total Catches |
|-------------------|------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2022 | JP | 1.85 | 406.49 | 269.47 | 36.63 | 714.43 |
| 2022 Total | | 1.85 | 406.49 | 269.47 | 36.63 | 714.43 |
| 2021 | JP | 3.36 | 897.06 | 314.53 | 99.97 | 1314.92 |
| 2021 Total | | 3.36 | 897.06 | 314.53 | 99.97 | 1314.92 |
| 2020 | JP | 0.54 | 438.83 | 91.18 | 39.92 | 570.47 |
| | TW | 0.07 | 15.85 | 14.34 | 11.15 | 41.41 |
| 2020 Total | | 0.61 | 454.68 | 105.53 | 51.07 | 611.89 |
| 2019 | JP | 3.44 | 54.34 | 30.47 | 4.94 | 93.19 |
| 2019 Total | | 3.44 | 54.34 | 30.47 | 4.94 | 93.19 |
| 2018 | JP | 0 | 19.05 | 5.88 | 1.06 | 25.99 |
| 2018 Total | | 0 | 19.05 | 5.88 | 1.06 | 25.99 |

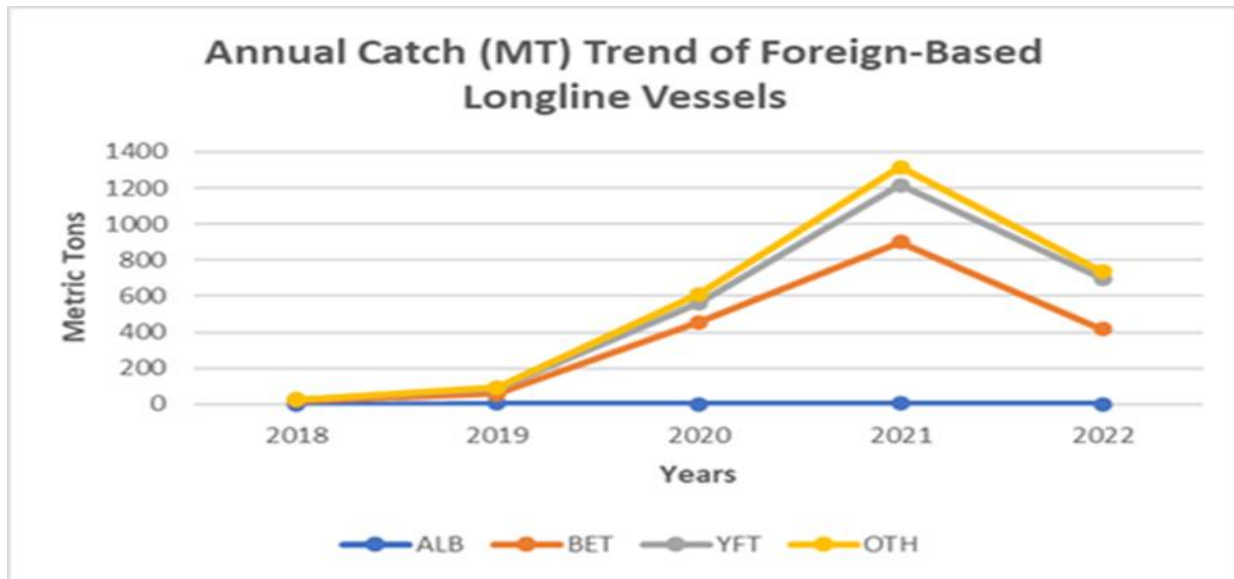


Figure 4. Annual catch trend in Palau’s EEZ.

(b) Distant Water Purse Seine Catch Report

In 2022, Palau had 1 FM flagged Purse Seine vessel, which had about 70 metric tons catches caught. Out of the 70 mt catches 67 mt were skipjack tuna and the other 3 mt were yellowfin tuna. Catches caught and reported by Purse Seine Vessels fishing in Palau waters for the past five years, from 2018 to 2022, totaled more than 6,000 metric tons. Table 7 displays purse seine annual catches with Figure 5 showing the catch trend through the years.

Table 7. Purse Seine Catches (MT) by year, by flag, and by species in the Palau EEZ.

| YEAR | FLAG | BET | SKJ | YFT | OTH | TOTAL |
|-------------------|------|-----|---------|--------|------|-----------------|
| 2022 | FM | 0 | 67 | 3 | 0 | 70 |
| 2022 Total | | 0 | 67 | 3 | 0 | 70 |
| 2021 | JP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PH | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2021 Total | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 | JP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | PH | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 Total | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2019 | JP | 0 | 934.29 | 231.12 | 0.02 | 1165.43 |
| | PH | 0 | 49.2 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 52.2 |
| | PG | 0 | 390.5 | 84 | 0.19 | 474.69 |
| | US | 0 | 545 | 65 | 0.37 | 610.37 |
| 2019 Total | | 0 | 1918.99 | 382.92 | 0.78 | 2,302.69 |
| 2018 | FM | 0 | 785 | 230 | 3 | 1,018.00 |
| | PG | 24 | 1518 | 263 | 0 | 1,805.00 |
| | SB | 0 | 597 | 83 | 0 | 680 |
| | VU | 0 | 231 | 134 | 0 | 365 |
| 2018 Total | | 24 | 3131 | 710 | 3 | 3,868.00 |

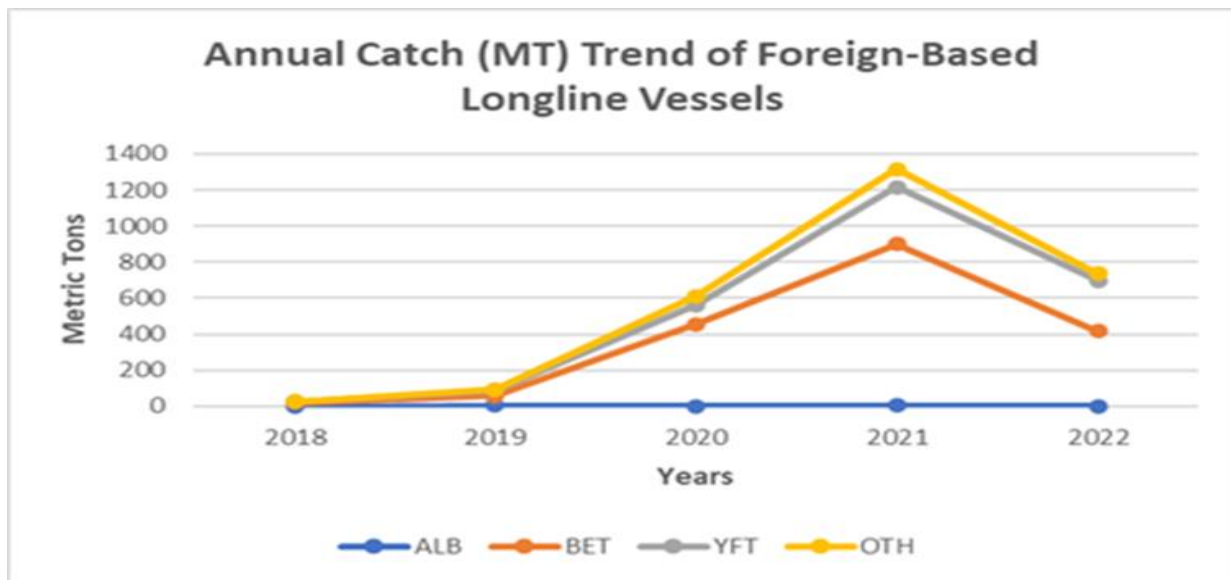


Figure 5. Purse Seine: Annual Catch Trend in Palau EEZ.

V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Palau's locally based fishing industries are very committed in ensuring their viability and vibrancy but the unpredictable price signals and shifting number of fishing vessels pose significant challenges. Other changes like establishment of Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) and COVID19 have also affected Palau's fishery. These challenges pose a great impact on Palau's economy. Realistic resource pricing and recognition of the value of fishery commodities along with conservation policies are some of the good practices that would help promote and stabilize Palau's economy.

VI. DISPOSAL OF CATCH

From the total recorded catch caught in Palau EEZ in 2022, about 25 metric tons of fish were landed in Malakal Port. The landings are done only by domestically based longline vessel. Of this landed catch, about 23 MT were locally sold and the rest were donated. Palau's Fishery Port is incapable of accommodating unloading operations of purse seine vessels so there are no purse seine unloading operations done in Palau port. Table 8 presents the breakdown of the catches by species.

Table 8. Landed Catches (MT) by Species

| Species | Local Sales | Donation | Total |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| BET | 13.19 | 0.64 | 13.19 |
| YFT | 8.19 | 1.14 | 8.19 |
| SWO | 0.53 | 0 | 0.53 |
| BLM | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTH | 1.22 | 0.07 | 1.22 |
| Total | 23.13 | 1.85 | 24.98 |

VII. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Local companies with aspirations of entering into tuna fishery ventures continue to have difficulties in investments of resources, like vessels, facilities, infrastructures, and the market. Even with these challenges, there are a few who persistently seeks opportunities to be involved in fishery.

VIII. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

In October 2015 Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMSA) was passed by the Republic's Congress to preserve eighty percent (80%) of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone as Palau National Marine Sanctuary. This area is a no-take area and is protected from all exploitation. Palau in 2021 worked to commence its pole and line fishery.

IX. STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Palau is currently implementing all latest versions of SPC's regional data forms. SPC TUFMAN 2 Database System is fully utilized to streamline and collate all data. The Locally Based Foreign Companies are required to submit their fishing reports on monthly basis. The Foreign Based Japanese Longline and Purse Companies are submitting their Logsheets through Email, Facsimile, and Postal Service. The data are altogether reconciled and then entered into the TUFMAN 2 Database. The collected data are scanned with the Slops 3 software on Fujitsu Scanner and are sent to SPC via Hightail Dropbox.

(a.) Logsheet/Unloading/Port Sampling data collection and verification

Dedicated fisheries port samplers and compliance officers are presented at all times during offloading of longline vessels at respected port to collect data and information. With ensuring reported data, the presented officers checks and make sure that the forms used are properly filled and completed correctly.

(b.) Observer program

There were no observer placements in 2022.

(c.) Transshipment

There were no transshipment activities in 2022.

X. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET AND NON-TARGET SPECIES

There were no research activities covering target and non-target performed in 2022. The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office continues to represent and protect Palau's interest in international and regional bodies in the development of conservation and management measures of the highly migratory fish stocks.



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

23 March 2023¹

SECTION A: SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN ANNUAL REPORT PART 1 AS REQUIRED BY CMMS AND OTHER DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

| <p>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</p> | <p>CCMs shall report to the Commission the total number of vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch of swordfish for the following:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>b. vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of their domestic fishery south of 20°S; and</p> <p>c. any other vessels fishing within their waters south of 20°S.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>*Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.</i></p> <p>The Palau flagged and chartered vessels did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th colspan="5">Swordfish</th> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vessels</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TW (Chartered)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Swordfish | | | | | Flag | Year | Vessels | Catch (Numbers) | Catch (MT) | PW (National) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | TW (Chartered) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------|---------|-----------------|------------|---------------|------|---|-------|---|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|
| Swordfish | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flag | Year | Vessels | Catch (Numbers) | Catch (MT) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PW (National) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TW (Chartered) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>There was no observer placement in 2022.</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th colspan="8">Observer Coverage</th> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th rowspan="2">CCM Feet</th> <th rowspan="2">Gear</th> <th colspan="3">Days</th> <th colspan="3">Trips</th> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <th>Est. Total No. of Days</th> <th>No. of Fishing Days Observed</th> <th>Days Coverage</th> <th>Est. Total No. of Trips</th> <th>No. of Observed Trips</th> <th>Trip Coverage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Palau</td> <td>LL</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Observer Coverage | | | | | | | | CCM Feet | Gear | Days | | | Trips | | | Est. Total No. of Days | No. of Fishing Days Observed | Days Coverage | Est. Total No. of Trips | No. of Observed Trips | Trip Coverage | Palau | LL | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Observer Coverage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CCM Feet | Gear | Days | | | Trips | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Est. Total No. of Days | No. of Fishing Days Observed | Days Coverage | Est. Total No. of Trips | No. of Observed Trips | Trip Coverage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Palau | LL | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

¹ Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions of the Commission, as of WCPFC19 (Dec 2022). First issued on 23 March 2023. Changes made from Addendum for 2021, include including the new CMM 2022-02 for North Pacific Swordfish and **WCPFC19 Agreed Audit Points**.

**CMM 2009-06
[Transshipment],
Para 11 (ANNEX
II)
CMM 2009-06
[Transshipment],
Para 11 (ANNEX
II)**

CCMs shall report on all transshipment activities covered by this Measure (including transshipment 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 transshipment 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: Transshipment 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:

There were no transshipment activities approved, authorized, or conducted in Palau waters or at its Ports for 2022.

(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:

| 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 caught outside the Convention Area; | e) Species | f) Product Form | g) Fishing Gear |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Offloaded | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Received | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A |

(2) the number of transshipments 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 caught outside the Convention Area; | e) Fishing Gear |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------|
| Offloaded | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Received | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A |

**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).

AUDIT POINT [RP] Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of flagged vessels and as reported in ARPt1 under para 2(b) of CMM.

Not Applicable. No Purse Seine Vessels operates as Palau Fleet or chartered by Palau in 2022.

**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.
AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report using the reporting template in Annex 2 of CMM 2018-03 on seabird interactions reported or collected by observers.

There were no seabird interactions data reported in 2022 for Palau flagged vessels as well as vessels operating under Palau charter. The Palau flagged and chartered vessels did not fish in the areas South of 30°S; 25°S 30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N 25°S as specified in the CMM 2018-03 (Seabirds), therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.

**CMM 2018-03
[Seabirds] Annex
II**

Table X: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for Palau [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N–25°S¹].

| Year | No. of Vessels | Fishing Effort | | | Observed Seabird Captures | |
|------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|------|
| | | Number of Hooks | Hooks Observed | % Hooks Observed | Number | Rate |
| 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table Y: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in 2019.

| | 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 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Options required south of 25°S | TL + NS | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | TL + WB | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | NS + WB | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | TL + WB + NS | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | HS | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other options 25°S-30°S | WB | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | TL | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other options north of 23°N | SS/BC/WB/DSLS | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here | | | | | |
| | Totals (must equal 100%) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Table Z: Number of observed seabird captures in Palau longline fisheries, by species and area.

| Species | South of 30°S | 25°S- | North of 23°N | 23°N – | Total |
|---------|---------------|-------|---------------|--------|-------|
| N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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>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.</p> <p>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted in its ARPt1:</p> <p>a. the number of its flagged vessels that fished for MLS south of 15S between 2001-2004 and has nominated the maximum number of its flagged vessels that are permitted to continue to fish for MLS south of 15S</p> <p>b. the catch levels of CCM flagged vessels that have taken MLS as a bycatch</p> <p>the number and catch levels of its vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S.</p> <p>The Palau flagged and chartered vessels did not fish south of 15°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="397 703 1372 861"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">South West Striped Marlin</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vessels</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TW (Chartered)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | South West Striped Marlin | | | | | Flag | Year | Vessels | Catch (Numbers) | Catch (MT) | PW (National) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | TW (Chartered) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|--|--|------|------|---------|-----------------|------------|---------------|------|---|---|---|----------------|------|---|---|---|
| South West Striped Marlin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flag | Year | Vessels | Catch (Numbers) | Catch (MT) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PW (National) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TW (Chartered) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information on annual catch levels by its flagged vessels taking SP Albacore, as well as the number of CCM flagged vessels actively fishing for SP Albacore south of 20S, with catch levels reported by species groups.</p> <p>The Palau flagged and chartered vessels did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="397 1228 1372 1386"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">South Pacific Albacore</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vessels</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TW (Chartered)</td> <td>2022</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | South Pacific Albacore | | | | | Flag | Year | Vessels | Catch (Numbers) | Catch (MT) | PW (National) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | TW (Chartered) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Pacific Albacore | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flag | Year | Vessels | Catch (Numbers) | Catch (MT) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PW (National) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TW (Chartered) | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 3

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.

* Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on catch and effort by CCM flagged vessels engaged in directed fishing for NP albacore north of the equator, by gear type and days fished (effort) and by weight (catch), using the template at Annex 1 of CMM 2019-03.

Annex I: Average Annual Catch (MT) and fishing Effort (Days) of North Pacific Albacore

| CCM | Area | Fishery | 2002-04 Average | | | 2018 | | | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | 2021 | | | 2022 | | |
|-------|------|---------|--|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|--------|----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|
| | | | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch |
| Palau | WCPA | LL | Palau had no National Fleet as well as Chartered Vessels | | | 38 | 4433 | 14,123 | 40 | 4223 | 7,757 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 0 |

CMM 2022-02 [North Pacific Swordfish], para 4

All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of North Pacific swordfish in the Area and all fishing effort in those fisheries subject to the measures in paragraph 2, by gear type using the template provided in Annex 1.

Note: CMM 2022-02 paragraph 3 clarifies that paragraphs 2 and 4 shall not be applied to those fisheries taking less than 200 metric tons of North Pacific swordfish in the Area per year. However, if the catches of such fisheries exceed 200 metric tons in any given year, the Commission shall adopt appropriate management measure for such fisheries.

Not Applicable as per Paragraph 3 of CMM 2022-02. Vessels operating as Palau flag or chartered by Palau in 2022 and previous years did not exceed 200 MT of catches of North Pacific Swordfish.

| CCM | Area | Fishery | 2008-10 Average | | | 2018 | | | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | 2021 | | | 2022 | | |
|-------|------|---------|-----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-------|
| | | | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch | No. of Vessels | Vessel Days | Catch |
| Palau | WCPA | LL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |