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

WCPFC-SC19-AR/CCM-20

PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN and CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)

PART1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

PHILIPPINE ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT UPDATE

July 2023

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
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

PHILIPPINE ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT 2022

Summary

The Philippines expresses its strong commitment to promoting effective management in order to achieve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) in accordance with the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the WCPF Convention. In giving effect to the provisions of the WCPF Convention, the Philippines upholds that conservation and management measures developed by the Commission, including the recent CMM 2021-01 on the conservation and management of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack in WCPO.

There are various ongoing activities such as the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP), Philippine Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP), catch documentation/validation, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), collaborations with various government agencies (e.g. PSA, PFDA) including the tuna industry, supports Philippine efforts towards improving tuna data collection. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has 604 trained observers (60% are active) and 90 trained debriefers. The VMS has already been operationalized particularly for those vessels operating in international waters (e.g. HSP1, Indian Ocean, other PIC waters). Philippines has approved Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 260 on the rules and regulations on the implementation of the vessel monitoring measure in accordance with Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act 10654.

Philippines has been continuously given limited access to High Seas Pocket 1 as Special Management Area (SMA) allowing only 36 traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group. Philippine-flagged vessels operating in HSP1 are managed under the DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order 245-4 (FAO 245-4). Out of 36 catcher vessels, there were twenty-seven (27) vessels that entered HSP1 for 2022. The total tuna catches of these vessels operating in HSP1 for the period of January to December 2022 is around 22,682 MT from 2,562 fishing sets.

The provisional catch estimates for the four tuna species of concern of the WCPFC in 2022 are as follows: skipjack – 89,215MT; yellowfin – 55,086MT; bigeye – 3,014MT; and albacore – 173MT with a total provisional catch of 147,488MT.

The Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas Project (WPEA-SM) which aims to improve the management of highly migratory species in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas area, was concluded and the Western Pacific East Asia
– Improved Tuna Monitoring Project continues to assist Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam improve monitoring and management of tuna catches that will contribute to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Philippines through the BFAR-NFRDI and other concerned agencies together with the tuna industry is doing a lot of efforts to improve data collection and to strengthen its national capacity and international cooperation particularly on various transboundary concerns in relation to the sustainable conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks.

BACKGROUND

The Philippines is still one of the top fish producing countries in the world. Over 2.1 million Filipinos depend on the fishing industry for their livelihood (PSA, 2022). The Philippines is also considered a major tuna producer in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The fishing industry's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) in 2022 was 1.2% (PSA, 2023)

Also, in 2022, the foreign trade performance of the fishery industry gave a net surplus of 794 million dollars (PSA, 2023). Tuna remained as the top export commodity with a collective volume of 107,801MT for fresh/chilled/frozen, smoked/dried, and canned tuna products valued at US $401 million. Canned tuna, though, constitutes bulk of tuna products being exported. In general, tuna exports increased by 14% in terms of volume and increased by 4% in terms of value (PSA, 2023).

Chilled/frozen fish comprised the bulk of the total import in terms of value. Tuna, mackerel and sardines are the major import fish commodities in 2022. Tuna has the largest import share of 34% with an import value of US $269 million. Other fishery imports include mackerel, 11% cuttlefish. 9% and roundscad, 8% (PSA, 2023).

ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

A. FLEET STRUCTURE

The fishing sector consists of municipal and commercial components, with the former involving vessels less than 3 GT in size, and under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Units (LGUs). The number of municipal vessels is not well documented in most areas. The larger commercial vessels (> 3GT) are required to fish outside municipal waters, beyond 15km off the shoreline, and are required to secure a commercial fishing vessel license (CFVL) at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which is subject to renewal every three (3) years. With the implementation of RA 9379 or the Handline Fishing Law, this gives a separate category for the handline vessels which were formerly considered under the municipal fishing vessels.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) classification of registered Philippine vessels operating in the Western and Central Pacific Region is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Classification of Philippine Registered Vessels in the Active List of WCPFC*

Source: WCPFC Website, as of 7 June 2023

a. Purse Seine

	<250GT	>250-500GT	>500-1000GT	>1000GT	Total
2018	45	10	14	22	91
2019	33	9	5	14	61
2020	30	4	13	26	73
2021	32	2	14	27	75
2022	33	1	16	28	78

b. Fish Carrier

	<250GT	>250-500GT	>500-100GT	>1000GT	Total
2018	101	9	7	15	132
2019	85	9	5	14	113
2020	77	9	5	15	106
2021	78	9	5	15	107
2022	80	9	5	15	109

c. Support Vessel

	<250GT	>250-500GT	>500-100GT	>1000GT	Total
2018	173	1			174
2019	153	1			154
2020	153	1			154
2021	156	1			157
2022	170	1			171

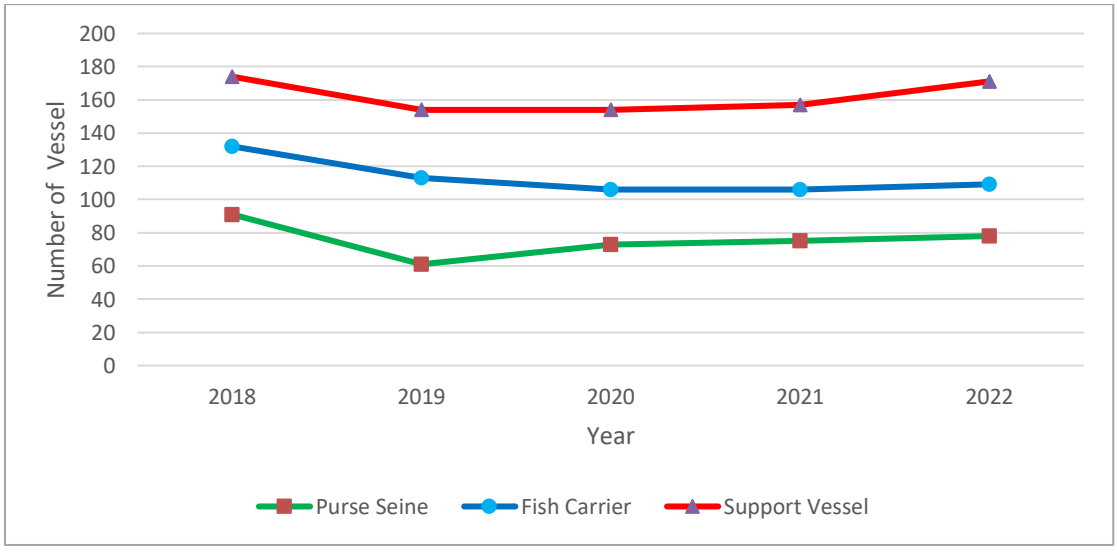


Figure. 1. Historical Number of Vessels Active in WPFC-CA (2017-2022c)

B. ANNUAL TUNA CATCH IN THE PHILIPPINE EEZ

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), as the official fishery statistics for the Philippines, compiled the data based on probability (stratified random sampling by data collectors) and non-probability surveys (interviews by regular PSA staff), supplemented by secondary data from administrative sources e.g. landings sites and ports (Vallesteros, 2002). Annual Fisheries Statistics for commercial, municipal, inland and aquaculture sectors are published for three-year time frames and include volume and value of production by province and by region, information on fish prices and foreign trade statistics.

Catch breakdown by the 31 main marine species is available[1]. Estimates of annual bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches beginning 2018-2022 have been reported by PSA (Table 2).

The annual tuna catch estimates include all the tuna catch unloaded in Philippine ports regardless where they were caught and does not separate those catches from foreign waters or whether it is caught by foreign-flagged vessel.

Table 2. Total tuna catch, by species, for 2016-2022
Source: PSA Annual Fisheries Statistics; 2022 data are provisional

Year	Commercial			Municipal			TOTAL
	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	
2018	229,349	59,913	21,932	29,026	32,524	9,202	**383,947**
2019	238,793	63,914	6,297	27,582	35,437	11,460	**383,483**
2020	234,521	62,649	6,005	26,083	32,240	13,929	**375,427**
2021	218,744	40,298	5,189	24,393	33,835	12,124	**334,580**
2022	219,505	49,358	8,717	37,333	35,397	10,322	**360,632**

Note: The annual tuna catch estimates for 2018-2022 includes all the tuna catch unloaded in Philippine ports regardless where they were caught and does not separate those catches from foreign waters or caught by foreign-flagged vessel which may account for around 150,928MT for 2022.

The 16thTuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Review Workshop last 25-26 May 2023 was conducted to review and validate Philippine catch estimates by species and gear type. Data from different sources, namely, BFAR (NSAP, logsheets, cannery receipts, Philippine FOP), PSA, PFDA and industry were presented and reviewed. Table 3 provides a breakdown of catch by gear and species according to the process undertaken in the workshop with the current 2022 PSA estimates. After removing the foreign-flagged catch landed in the Philippines (150,928MT) from the PSA estimate, there was a difference of around 62,216MT. The difference could be due to the difficulties in estimating the diverse municipal fisheries and could be explained as possible bias in the probability surveys due to very low coverage. It was stated in recommendation #2 during the workshop that the WCPFC/SPC should take into consideration that not all Philippine catches reported in this workshop are taken from WCPFC Convention area (e.g. West Philippine Sea). It is important that this is taken into consideration in the data summaries particularly for the Technical Compliance Committee (TCC) consideration. It is recommended that future workshops should consider another agenda item that would discuss catches that should be considered under the tropical tuna measure. The workshop participants noted that while the industrial fleet estimates are now becoming more reliable,

[1] Around 21.2% of the municipal catch and 3.8% of the commercial landings are not captured by these top 31 species.

there is still some problem in determining and validating the estimates of the small- scale municipal fisheries that needs to be resolved in the near future. But the workshop also noted that the estimation process has been improving compared to the previous years. It was also recommended in the workshop that NFRDI in collaboration with BFAR should lobby with relevant government agencies to provide appropriate resources for NSAP in order to participate in various activities and deliver what are requested from them.

Noting the difference between the output of the 16th PTUNASTAT workshop and PSA tuna catches estimates, it was recommended that study will be conducted to compare NSAP and PSA estimates by landing site in a particular region/s (e.g. Region 11), to review and give a better explanation of the difference in the catch estimates. The Philippines may also consider having a pre- assessment workshop between PSA and NSAP between the NSAP review workshop and PTUNASTAT, to review any huge difference if there are any.

Table 3. **Reconciliation of 2022 Tuna Catch Estimates by Gear and Species with the 2022 PSA Total Tuna Catch Estimates (in MT)**
Source: 16th Philippine/WCPFC Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Review Workshop Report

GEAR / SPECIES	SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	TOTAL
Purse seine*	70,374	18,244	1,361	-	89,979
Hook-and-line*	12,015	34,289	1,434	105	47,843
Others	6,825	2,554	218	68	9,665
TOTAL	**89,215**	**55,086**	**3,014**	**173**	**147,488**

*Purse seine includes ringnet catches and Hook and line includes handline catches

Also included in the tuna catch estimates are catches of Philippine-flagged vessels fishing in high seas pocket #1 (HSP1). Since 2012, Philippines was given limited access to High Seas Pocket 1 as Special Management Area (SMA) allowing only 36 traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group. Philippine-flagged vessels have been operating under the Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area (DA-BFAR-FAO 245-4). Out of 36 catcher vessels, there were twenty-seven (27) vessels that entered HSP1 for 2022. The total tuna catches of these vessels operating in HSP1 for the period of January to December 2022 is around 22,682 MT from 2,562 fishing day/s.

Tuna catch breakdown by gear is not available from the present Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA, formerly BAS) national statistics publication. However, the WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook has also provided an estimated breakdown of catch by gear (Table 4).

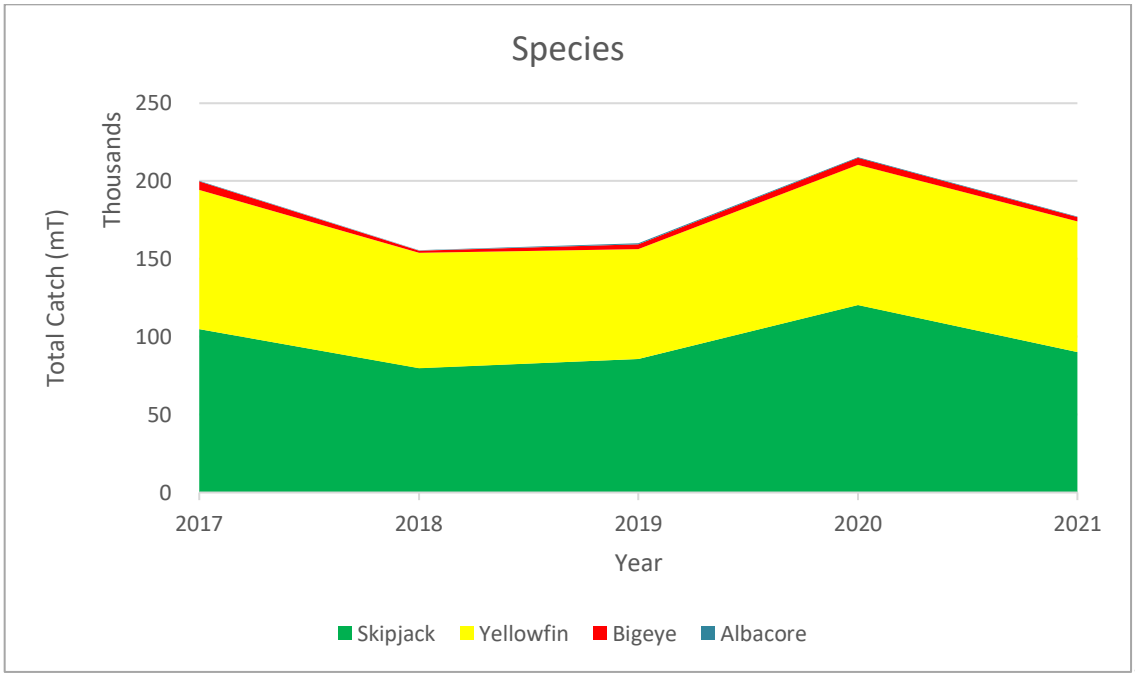
No other fishing by foreign flag vessels is permitted in the Philippines EEZ, but a considerable amount of IUU fishing, based on the regularity of apprehensions of vessels illegally fishing in Philippine waters, would seem to occur, much of it involving tuna vessels. A desk study carried out in 1995 (PTRP, 1995) concluded that IUU longline catches of up to 10,000MT (40% yellowfin) may have been taken in some years.

Landings by foreign longline vessels are permitted in Davao (Toril) port, where around 19 – 1,089MT (2018 – 2022) of mostly tuna is landed annually (Table 8).

Table 4. Estimated catch of oceanic tuna species, by gear type, for 2017–2021 in Western and Central Pacific Oceans (in MT)
Source: WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2021

Year/ Species	Hook-and-Line[2]	Purse Seine[3]	Others	Total
2017				
Skipjack	13,780	89,162	4,878	104,820
Yellowfin	38,823	46,657	4,187	89,667
Bigeye	1,800	3,221	335	5,356
Albacore	114	19	90	223
Total	54,517	136,059	9,490	200,066
2018				
Skipjack	14,575	61,110	4,111	79,796
Yellowfin	45,941	25,083	3,123	74,147
Bigeye	987	307	201	1,49
Albacore	212	3	23	238
Total	61,715	86,503	7,458	155,676
2019				
Skipjack	12,236	69,226	4,230	85,692
Yellowfin	37,018	31,450	2,164	70,632
Bigeye	1,908	1,109	57	3,074
Albacore	645	13	27	685
Total	51,807	101,798	6,478	160,083
2020				
Skipjack	9,753	103,992	6,724	120,469
Yellowfin	37,391	50,050	2,581	90,022
Bigeye	1,576	2,767	137	4,480
Albacore	326	13	20	359
Total	49,046	156,822	9,462	215,330
2021				
Skipjack	14,387	70,400	5,499	90,286
Yellowfin	49,444	31,045	3,310	83,799
Bigeye	1,133	1,397	123	2,653
Albacore	306	7	27	340
Total	65,270	102,849	9,000	177,078

[2] Includes handline catches
[3] Includes ringnet catches



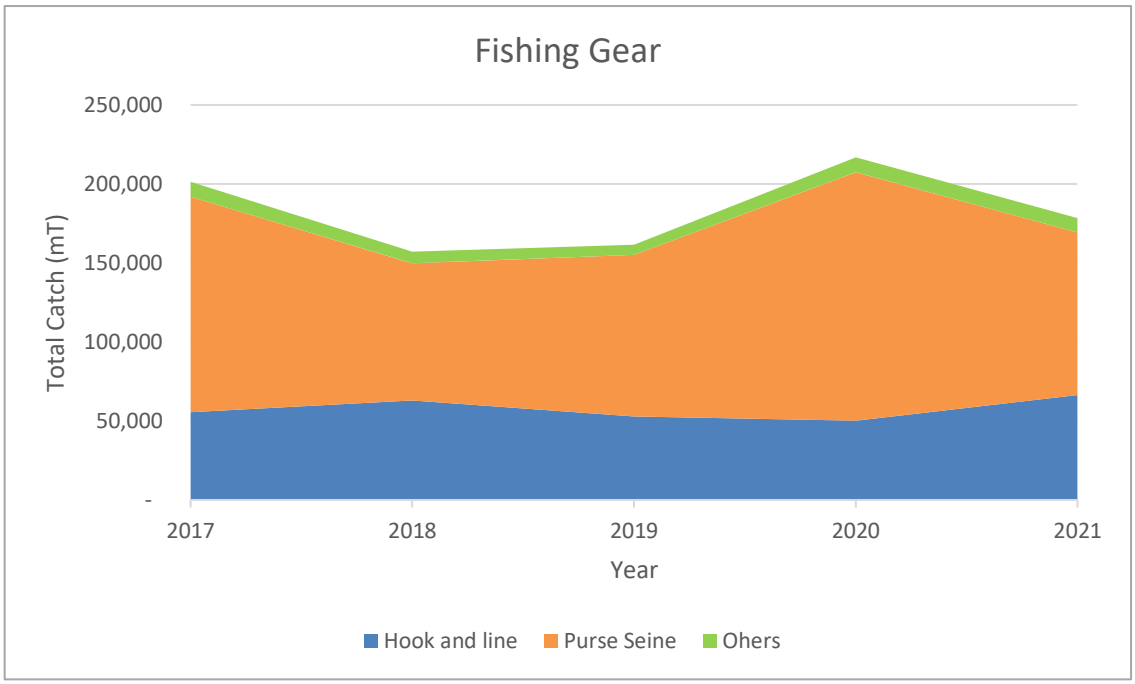


Figure 2. Historical Annual Catch by Gear and Species

C. ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE CONVENTION AREA

In addition to the estimated catch by Philippine vessels in the EEZ (see above), to this must be added catches by Philippines flag vessels taken outside the EEZ and elsewhere in the Convention area. The extra - EEZ catches are assumed to include those made by purse seine and ring net vessels in adjacent areas and based in overseas ports and catches by the wide- ranging handline vessels. BFAR has already required fishing vessels such as purse seine and ringnet to adopt the logsheet system to address the above issue. The fisheries data collection system records all catch landed by Philippine registered vessels including those fish caught outside Philippine waters (e.g. PNG, PIN waters).

Purse seine catches in the PIC waters

Data on the catch by Philippine flag purse seine vessels fishing in Papua New Guinea (PNG) waters are available from the SPC Regional Database, and are summarized for the period 2018-2022 below.

Table 5. **Catch by Philippine flag purse seine vessels in PIC waters, 2018-2022.**
Source: SPC Regional Tuna Fishery Database and BFAR 12

Year	No. of	Catch (in MT)			
	Vessels	**Skipjack**	**Yellowfin**	**Bigeye**	**Total**
2018	15	52,166	25,758	333	78,257
2019	8	4,429	1,922	349	6,700
2020	6	15,681	12,462	19	28,162
2021	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0

* 2017-2020 data does not include catch of PH flagged vessels chartered by PICs. For 2021-2022, all Philippine flagged vessels that fished in PNG waters were chartered by PNG, thus no catch for this fleet in 2021-2022.

Longline catches

Since 2016 to present, there is no Philippine longline vessel that operates within the WCPFC Convention Area (WCPFC-CA). But there were two (2) or more distant-water Philippine longline vessels that operate in the past that have been granted fishing access in other PIC waters (e.g. Kiribati), catches for these vessels are summarized below.

Table 6. Catches of Distant – water Philippine flag longline vessel/s fishing in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2011 – 2014 (MT)

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014
Yellowfin	145.77	60.63	27.16	2.78
Bigeye	777.06	247.83	166.56	52.90
Albacore	36.39	23.96	30.47	1.16
Others	174.96	62.66	10.69	38.67
Total	1,134.18	398.08	234.87	95.51

DISPOSAL OF CATCH

Most of the municipal tuna catches are landed as wet fish all over the Philippines. Much of the municipal catch is processed by drying, salting, smoking etc. A portion of the municipal tuna catch would enter large scale commercial processing like the large handline-caught tuna exported as sashimi and marketed either frozen or smoked, mostly in General Santos City and possibly small amounts are sold as wet fish direct to canneries.

The commercial domestic tuna catch of oceanic tuna is increasingly directed towards processing by domestic canneries, based in the Philippines and elsewhere, with lesser amounts to frozen smoked operations. The estimated 100,853.46MT annual output of five (5) canneries are mostly supplied by landings from Philippine purse seiners and ring netters, both local vessels and via carriers from overseas operations. Recent records on Philippine cannery unloading also stated that Philippine-flagged vessels unloaded a total of 3,613.23MT of fresh tuna and 6,919.04MT of frozen tuna while Foreign-flagged vessels unloaded a total of 0.5MT of fresh tuna and 5,269.35MT of frozen tuna from three (3) out of five (5) canneries. Overseas operations also supply canneries in PNG (~993MT).

The catch from the High Seas Pocket 1 was distributed in nearby markets, canneries, smoked and fishmeal processing facilities. The majority of the catch was distributed to canneries (59.42%) and local markets (38.03%). The remaining 2.31% and 0.24% went to the preparation of fishmeal and smoked fish, respectively. Catch of lower quality was frequently sold as raw materials for processing into cans, smoked, and fishmeal, which entails lower prices and is categorized as losses (Montojo et. al. 2020).

Official figures for exports of tuna products for the period 2018-2022 are tabulated below. The first category includes chilled sashimi quality fish and frozen whole fish for tuna canning.

Table 7. Tuna exports by commodity, 2018 –2022
Source: PSA Fisheries Statistics for 2018–2022

Tuna commodity, by volume (MT)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fresh/chilled/frozen	32,938	30,150	43,102	9,941	35,202
Dried/smoked	5,274	2,620	3,420	1,776	0
Canned	152,780	87,185	88,547	83,035	72,599
TOTAL VALUE (million USD)	492.53	477.72	489.03	384,694	401.187

**** 2022 provisional data***

ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS

A. HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE

The General Santos Fish Port Complex (GSFPC), the country's major tuna unloading port, with around 256,485MT total unloading in 2022, has undergone expansion and improvement. Major components of the said expansion/improvement project include construction of deep wharves, cold storage and processing area, port handling equipment, power substation, waste water treatment plant, water supply system and other ancillary facilities. GSFPC port facilities have already met international standards for HACCP GMP-SSOP and accredited by the European Union (EU), Japan and United States. Six other major fish ports in the country are proposed for rehabilitation in the near future. The Navotas Fish Port Complex, in Metro Manila is the second largest tuna landings are recorded with unloading of around 8,118MT annually. Rehabilitation project for NFPC includes upgrading of port facilities *(such as roads, electrical and power system, landing quay and west breakwater)*, construction of cold storage and processing plant, and wastewater treatment facilities.

B. PROCESSING PLANTS

There are currently five (5) out of eight (8) tuna canneries in the Philippines.

There are two Philippine-owned and operated canneries in Papua New Guinea one in Madang and another one in Lae processing around 50,000MT per year.

Most of the handline catch supply fresh and frozen sashimi grade to the export processors and some to the domestic market. There are more than 17 frozen tuna processors in the Philippines, 70% of which are located in General Santos City and supports about 3,000 jobs. Majority of its production is exported to US and European countries.

OTHER CMM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Conservation and Management Measure 2019-04 (Sharks)*

Since 2009, Philippines has been implementing its National Plan of Action for Sharks and was updated in 2017. Based on available reports (e.g. observer reports, port sampling), the total estimated instances or releases for sharks in 2022 was 61 that occurred in Philippine EEZ and HSP1 [(Silky sharks – 42 released dead, 18 released alive; (Oceanic White-tip shark –1 piece encircled and released alive and Whale Shark- no case encountered).

B. Conservation and Management Measure 2020-02 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

The Philippines does not conduct fishing activities targeting Pacific bluefin tunas in the area north of 20° N. However, in some years, there are by-catches of Pacific Bluefin tunas in areas south of 20° N. These fishing vessels utilize handline/hook-and-line fishing gears. For 2022, PH has 2.392MT record of Pacific Bluefin Tuna catches approximately 9 pieces at 250kg each as reported during the 14th WPEA-NSAP tuna catch estimate review workshop. Philippines has improved its catch documentation mechanisms to monitor all tuna landings throughout the country.

C. Conservation and Management Measure 2018-04 (Sea Turtles)

Section 102 of the amended Philippine Fisheries Code or republic act 10654, imposes penalties for the fishing or taking of rare, threatened or endangered species which includes sea turtles. CMM 2018-04 is clearly explained to the captains and crew of the vessel during the Annual pre-departure course. Philippines provided a "SSI Incident Report Form" where the vessel is required to report incidents of Sea Turtle interaction and the action taken to release the animal. In 2022 Philippines, has recorded a total of 5 sea turtles interaction with Purse seine fisheries, all were released alive (3 Olive ridley turtle, 1 Loggerhead turtle and 1 unidentified turtle).

D. Conservation and Management Measure 2019-05 (Mobulid Rays)

Fisheries Administrative Order 193 penalizes the taking or catching, selling, purchasing and possessing, transporting and exporting of Whale sharks and Manta Rays. During the annual pre-departure course, the provisions of CMM 2019-05 is also explained to the captains and crew of the vessel. Philippines has also provided a "SSI Incident Report Form" where the vessel is required to report incidents of Mobulids interaction and the action taken to release the animal. In 2023, there are 4 instances of mobulid rays reported caught by purse seine vessels, and all were released alive (1 Pelagic Stingray, 2 Giant Manta and 1 *Mobula spp*.).

STATUS of TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

A. LOGSHEETS DATA COLLECTION

Since 2008, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) launched the catch documentation scheme which includes the catch and effort logsheet system for the purse seine and ringnet vessels. Aside from this BFAR also requires canneries to submit monthly cannery unloading data. TUFMAN Database and PECAN Database systems are being utilized to process the data collected from logsheets and cannery receipts, respectively. All these efforts are geared towards improving tuna statistics/data gathering. DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO 238): Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2008 on Catch Certification Scheme requires all vessels especially those exporting in EU market to submit catch logsheets as requirement for the issuance of Catch Certificates and this helped improve timely logsheets data compliance. BFAR Administrative Circular No. 251 series of 2014 or the Traceability System for Fish and Fishing Products, establishes traceability system for wild-caught, farmed fish and other aquatic products. One of the data requirements for wild-caught fish products for traceability/documentation is to submit logsheets.

Logsheets submission is also required for all vessels under Section 38 of the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550) as amended by Republic Act 10654.

B. OBSERVER PROGRAM and VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)

The BFAR regularly conducts observer training, twice in a year to recruit new observers. There are 634 trained observers (60% active) ready to board the vessels especially to those vessels intending to fish during the FAD closure period within the Philippine EEZ and for high sea pocket # 1 (HSP1) operation. All our HSP1 fishing operations have 100% observer coverage. The program has 90 trained debriefers to conduct debriefing procedures and protocols to the observers. There is also observer coverage to those vessels fishing in the PNG EEZ, provided by PNG NFA.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has operationalized the national VMS particularly for those vessels fishing in high sea pocket #1 (HSP1). The Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550) as amended by Republic Act 10654, Section 119 details the implementation requirements of the Vessel Monitoring Measure (VMM) for catcher and carrier vessels 30GT and above. While Section 116 details implementation requirements for fisheries observer coverage for fishing vessels 200GT and above, and also those fishing vessels that fish during the FAD closure period. In 2018, Philippines adopted the rules and regulations on the implementation of the vessel monitoring measure (VMM) and observer coverage which can be found in Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 260 and FAO 261, respectively. Philippines has started to upgrade its VMS though the Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System-Phase II (PHILO-2) Project.

There were three (3) DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Orders that supports the implementation the Philippine Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP) and operationalization of Vessels Monitoring System (VMS). These were FAO No. 240: Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of Fisheries Observer Program in the High Seas, FAO No. 241: Regulations and Implementation of the Vessel Monitoring System in the High Seas and FAO 245-4: Regulation and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area.

C. PORT SAMPLING PROGRAM

The National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) has continued to collect port sampling data (e.g. species composition, length frequency and vessel catch and effort information) in major tuna landing sites. In 2010 – 2013, the West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFMP) was able to increase port sampling coverage covering some of the major tuna landing areas around the country. Since 2014, the Philippine government through BFAR gave more funding to support expansion of the NSAP which aims to cover / monitor almost all the tuna landing areas in the country to come-up with a more reliable data particularly for the diverse municipal tuna fisheries, for our WCPFC data obligation and also for better fisheries management. Data from NSAP has been used as basis for coming up reliable tuna catch composition during the annual tuna catch estimates review workshops.

Since 2022, the new NSAP database system has included the FMA and coordinates for each fishing ground it is recommended that BFAR/NFRDI in collaboration with WCPFC/SPC, to further consider updating the new NSAP database system to support reports that could produce catch breakdown by FMAs with maps. It was further recommended that BFAR/NFRDI, in collaboration with WCPFC/SPC, proceed with the testing and further development of the new NSAP database system over the coming months and develop a plan for the gradual introduction of the new system including the NSAP mobile app to Regional NSAP offices, which may involve some introductory training where required.

Initial NSAP database roll-out on 21-22 March 2022, a dedicated workshop was conducted during 17-19 January 2023 in General Santos City to orient NSAP personnel on the various reports available in the new NSAP2 Database system. The said activity was facilitated by SPC in collaboration with NFRDI and was well attended by NSAP personnel from various regional offices.

Most tuna landing sites have been covered by NSAP monitoring. Estimation on catches from non-NSAP sites is limited and previously some NSAP regional offices use various methodologies which may include estimation using catch records from land transport permits (LTP), deriving estimates using an old boat-and-gear inventory, rapid assessment through the conduct of interviews to key informants (e.g. buyers, fisherfolks) in the landing sites. The workshop may further discuss how to pursue this activity.

D. UNLOADING

Landings / unloading by foreign vessels is permitted in only one port in the Philippines - Davao (Toril), as noted earlier. Table 8 below lists the details of these foreign flag vessel unloading in Davao Fish Port.

Table 8. Vessel Arrivals and Unloading Volumes by Foreign Vessels, Davao Fish Port, 2018 - 2022
Source: PFDA, 2023

Year	Port Calls	Volume of Unloadings (MT)
2018	226	692
2019	178	1,089
2020	39	110
2021	15	0
2022	39	19

RESEARCH & FUTURE ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET & NON-TARGET SPECIES

The West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFMP) was implemented from January 2010 to December 2013. The phase-2 of this project entitled Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas aims to strengthen national capacities and regional cooperation to implement fishery sector reforms that will sustain and conserve the highly migratory fish stocks in the West Pacific Ocean and East Asian Seas while considering climatic variability and change has just concluded and the Western Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project continues to assist Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam improve monitoring and management of tuna catches that will contribute to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The WPEA-ITM Project New Zealand Aid Programme extension of implementing arrangement for the Philippines was until March 2025.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA)10654 "An act to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Republic Act 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998", and for other purpose, took effect last October 2015. One of the policy declarations of the law was *"to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the adjacent high seas, consistent with the primordial objective of maintaining a sound ecological balance, protecting and enhancing the quality of the international conventions and cooperate with other states and international bodies, in order to conserve and manage threatened aquatic species, straddling and highly migratory fish stocks and other living marine resources"*. Section 32 also states that *"all distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the conservation and management measures of RFMOs where they are conducting fishing"*. The IRR has outlined in detail our policy approaches and the corresponding timelines in carrying out the objectives of the law.

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ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

15 February 2021[1]

SECTION A: 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 1of 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.*	Philippines does not have vessels that mainly targets swordfish but our fleet do have some records of catches for this species as by-catch for our hook-and-line fishery that were mainly operating in Philippine waters and NONE of our vessel was operating south of 20oS. Also in 2022, NO catch of Swordfish was reported by Fisheries Observer in HSP1.
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)	Philippines has no longline vessel/s fishing in the WCPFC-CA for 2022. For other gears (e.g. handline, troll), these are mainly municipal or artisanal gears that mainly operates in our waters within our national jurisdiction.

[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.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td><table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</th><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th colspan="3">No. of Hooks</th><th colspan="2">Days Fishe</th></tr>
<tr><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observe r</th><th>%</th><th>Total estimated</th><th>Obser r</th></tr>
<tr><td>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</td><td>Distant-water</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
</table></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</td><td>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:
<table>
<tr><th></th><th>a) offloaded and received;</th><th>b) transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction</th><th>c) transhipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the Convention Area;</th><th>d) c insi Con Are cau the Con Are</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">offloaded</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">received</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table></td><td>Attached in Page 25-26 of this Paper is the report of Philippines flagged vessels that have conducted transhipment activities in the WCPFC – CA for 2022 (There are no PH-LL vessel which are active/operating and PS/RN operation are considered group seining operation).</td></tr>
</table>

(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 the Conventio and transhipp the Conventio
offloaded		
received		

ANNEX II
TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY CCMs

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:
   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 caught outside the Convention Area; and e. fishing gear.	
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).	In 2022, there were 246 estimated instances that a cetacean was unintentionally encircled by a purse seine net, 220 released alive and 26 released dead [e.g. (False killer whale - 1 instance encircled and released alive; Bottlenose dolphin – 10 instance encircled, 5 released alive, 5 released dead; (Indo Pacific Bottlenose dolphin – 39 instance encircled, all released alive); Common dolphin – 2 instance encircled, 1 released alive and 1 released dead; spinner dolphin-46 instances encircled, 41 released alive, 5 released dead; Pantropical spotted dolphin - 14 instance encircled, 12 released alive 2 release dead; Rough-toothed dolphin – 134 instances encircled, 121 released alive and 13 were released dead;). These reported instances occurred in Philippine EEZ,and high seas pocket #1 (HSP1). Based on the report of the fishing master, they would usually stop the net roll once they noticed a cetacean and let the cetacean move out of the net.
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	There were no reported seabird interactions for 2022, either from longline or other gears. There were no Philippine-flagged longline vessel/s operating in WCPFC Convention area for 2022.

	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.	

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^{o}S; 25^{o}S-30^{o}S; North of 23^{o}N; or 23^{o}N – 25^{o}S[1]]. 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]
[year]						
[year]						
[year]						
[previous year e.g. 2017]						
[current year e.g. 2018]						

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 types[1] 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 23^0N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS						
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)						
Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here							
	Totals (must equal 100%)						

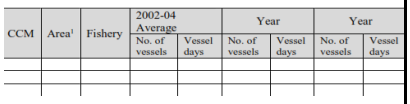
[1] TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge, HS = hook-shielding device.

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 25°S**	**Total**
E.g. Antipodean albatross					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
Total					

<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 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.	Philippines has no vessels fishing in the Convention Area 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	PH has no vessel fishing in the Convention Area south of 20°S.

	encouraged to provide data from periods prior to these dates.	
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. Annex 1: **Annex I: Average annual fishing effort for 2002-2004 and annual f North Pacific albacore in the North Pacific Ocean**  | CCM	Area[1]	Fishery	2002-04 Average		Year		Year	
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			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days
								| ** Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State*	*Thunnus alalunga* – 173MT(2022) -catches for this species are mainly coming from municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) and this is not a target species for these gear/s. Fishing effort for municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) are difficult to quantify, as recognized by the Commission that there are some fleets such as the Philippines that has some practical difficulties compiling this information. Also it would be important to note that Philippines do not target albacore (Thunnus alalunga), this species is mainly caught as bycatch and seasonal in nature.

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

1. Total Quantities by Weight

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	g) Fishing gear	Quantity in Metric Tons (MT)
offloaded	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	SKJ	Frozen Whole Round	Purse Seine	40,043.58
offloaded	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	YFT	Frozen Whole Round	Purse Seine	20,193.33
offloaded	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	BET	Frozen Whole Round	Purse Seine	335.61
offloaded	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	COMBINED	Frozen Whole Round	Purse Seine	9,477.76
offloaded	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	OTHERS	Frozen Whole Round	Purse Seine	1.50
received	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	SKJ	Frozen Whole Round	Reefer Carrier	0
received	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	YFT	Frozen Whole Round	Reefer Carrier	0
received	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	BET	Frozen Whole Round	Reefer Carrier	0
received	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	OTHERS	Frozen Whole Round	Reefer Carrier	0

2. Number of Transhipments

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	Number of Transhipments
offloaded	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	Purse Seine	128
received	Transhipped in Port	Transhipped inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	Reefer Carrier	0