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

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WALLIS AND FUTUNA



**ANNUAL REPORT – PART 1
INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

COVERING 2018-2022

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS



WALLIS AND FUTUNA

**2022
Annual Report –Part 1**

Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics

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Scientific data was provided to the Commission
in accordance with relevant rules

Aggregated data was provided for year 2018 to
2022

1. ABSTRACT

Wallis and Futuna Islands fishing fleets comprise of small scale vessels (less than 10 m long) not mainly targeting tuna and species of interest to the WCPFC, either commercial and recreational. Fishing tuna for subsistence is not going on, except marginally. Vessels operate different fishing gears in the same trip. Tuna catches mainly take place in the territorial waters. The data is made available to the Fisheries Dpt through small commercial fishermen's logsheets. Catches by recreational and subsistence fisheries are unreported and are estimated through estimates of recreational effort and assuming that catch rates are equal to commercial fishery.

2. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Table 1 : Annual catch (kg) and effort estimates for the Wallis and Futuna small scale commercial fleet having fished primary species, 2018-2022

		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Small scale fisheries**	Effort*					
	Nb of trips total	1200	1214	1009	886	1127
	Nb of trips with tuna and tuna-likes fished	472	756	492	358	286
	Catches of key species					
	Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	3742	10979	5325	2631	2499
	Big eye tuna (BET)	0	0	0	0	0
	Skipjack (SKJ)	6750	8006	6825	3644	2230
	Dogtooth tuna (DOT)	1338	650	163	70	142
	Swordfish (SWO)	0	0	0	0	0
	Blue marlin (BUM)	131	0	0	0	0
Striped marlin (MLS)	648	1051	1102	111	455	

(*) The fishing effort is difficult to estimate because of predominance of non-target and multiple-gear fisheries. Numbers of trips has been estimated through the annual total trips and the number of target species caught according to logsheets submitted by commercial fishermen. The trips data corresponded only to professional fishermen.

(**) no fleet targeting mainly tuna. "Small scale fisheries" encompasses inshore or near-shore fishermen with mixed fishing techniques.

Table 2 : Number of commercial vessels active (all gears and species) - 2018 to 2022.

Small scale fisheries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	23	23	41	40	39

*Table 3 : Annual estimated catches of sharks (kg) - 2017 to 2021.*****

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Silvertip shark (ALS)	0	0	12	0	0
Blacktip reef shark (BLR)	0	0	27	0	5

Requiem sharks (SKH)	0	40	13	5	0
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(****) catches from all fishing gears. In addition, there is no data on incidental catches of sensitive species such as marine birds and turtles. Most of the shark bycatches are a result of deepwater fishing for snappers, and are under-reported. However, some fishermen report increasing encounters and catches of sharks around the islands.

Table 4 : Estimated annual coverage of fishing logsheets and observer data not necessarily related to tuna fishing for years 2017-2021.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Nb of logsheets	1200	1214	1009	886	1127
Nb of fish surveyed and measured	0	0	687	6206	14286

(*****) A program of landing surveys by the Fisheries Dpt of Wallis and Futuna started 2020.

3. BACKGROUND

There have been no large or middle scale tuna fishing activities taking place in Wallis and Futuna EEZ since 2012. Last records of activity date back in 2011, with a single 140 UMS domestic based longliner, licensed from 2010 to 2014, which operated a few trips before stopping in 2012.

Professional small-scale fishery is monitored through fuel subsidizing scheme requirements. In 2022, Wallis & Futuna commercial small-scale fishery fleet counted 39 boats (20 in Wallis and 19 in Futuna) using artisanal gears (handline, trolling, spearfishing, gillnetting...) and operating mainly within territorial waters. In 2022, tuna and tuna-like species made up about 4% of the catches in Wallis and 42% of the catches in Futuna, so about 10% of the overall catch.

Subsistence and in a smaller extent recreational catches have been estimated through various means and could make up to 80% of the overall catch. From the census carried out in 2014, 181 boats were counted, though not all of them were used for fishing.

There is currently two nearshore FAD around Wallis Island. The FAD programme is still ongoing with the reinforcement of device positions and FAD fishing training to foster fishermen shift from reef fishing to tuna fishing. Two FAD devices are waiting to be set around Futuna shortly.

Recently the fisheries division started implementing a new small-scale fishery survey protocol based on length-weight measurement in order to improve data collection.

4. FLAG STATE REPORTING

No flagged tuna fishing fleet.

5. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

As said above, data related to small scale nearshore commercial tuna fishing is collected from logsheets within the frame of fuel subsidizing scheme. To estimate overall catch, it's been considered that commercial catches makes up to 80% of the overall catch.

Historical data from log sheets has been reviewed and checked in 2020. Since 2020, fisheries division is implementing a landing survey protocol based on interviews and length-weight photographic measurements for mainly commercial fishery and some subsistence activities.

In the absence of fishing operations by a domestic fleet in the EEZ and in the convention area, and of foreign fleet licensed to fish within the EEZ, there is no other information related to tuna fishing to be submitted to the Commission.

6. PROSPECTS

A small scale offshore fishery of a few vessels (3 to 4, less than 10m long vessels, powered by outboard engines) is developing, aiming at fishing schools and around FADs. Not designed for remote operations, they sometimes go away from the islands at their own risks and expenses, raising safety and economic viability issues.

A 11 m long boat is expected to start operating vertical longline and horizontal longline early 2023 in Futuna, with a production anticipated to reach 20 mt/year.

Offshore fishing development policy endorsed in the early 2000's is being currently updated. A planning work is underway to update and come up with a realistic plan. In regards to the marketing opportunities in country and outside, the fleet is likely to be constrained to one longliner in the middle run.

7. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

No research activity specifically related to tuna species has been undertaken in 2022. Hard work has been devoted to assessment of coastal and reef resources, using the Length Based Spawning Potential Ratio assessment method. Outcomes show concerning statut for a number of reef species, fostering authorities towards longline tuna fishing development.