



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

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**WCPFC-SC6-AR/CCM-13**

**NAURU**

## Background

The main feature of Nauru's tuna fisheries is that it is dominated by the offshore purse seine fishing fleet operated by distant water fishing nations. Nauru does not have any flagged vessels fishing in the WCPO and it has already given authorisation to the SPC to release all its distant water fishing nation operational data that is provided to them, to the WCPFC for reporting purposes.

The artisanal fishery although it contributes a small proportion of our overall annual catch estimates, continues to provide an important source of food for the population and is evenly made up of canoe fishermen and small aluminium dinghy operators. Their catch data is compiled by the Coastal Division of NFMRA and is collected through creel surveys and the Canoe Catch Logbook provided by SPC. Improvements in data collection processes have seen an increase in reported catches for 2009 Artisanal fleet.

## Fleet Structure

This fleet comprises all the small skiffs and canoes operated by local artisanal fishermen. The fishing method for the canoes is primarily jig hand- lining while for the small skiffs it is trolling. The data is collected by the Coastal Fisheries Division of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority with the assistance of the SPC who provided FAD Canoe Fishing logbooks for local fishermen to report their catches. The data collection has been refined to suit local conditions and there is increasing improvement in the level of responses from artisanal fishers which has led to better data collection.

**Table 1.** Annual catch estimates for the NAURU ARTISANAL fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention area, 2009 between Jan - July.

YEAR	Catch (Kg)				
	Yellow Fin	Skipjack Tuna	Big Eye Tuna	Others	Total
2007	11.1	7.4	0	2.0	20.5
2008	2149.9	1403.19	33.15	831.98	4418.22
<b>2009</b>	<b>4461.6</b>	<b>391.2</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>932.9</b>	<b>5843.7</b>

(Source: Raised estimate based on canoe Logbook data; Coastal/NFMRA)

## Distant Water Fishing Partner Purse seine fleets:

In 2009 there were 167 foreign purse seiners licensed to fish in Nauru ( an increase of 37 new boats). Providing support to most these purse seine fleets were an additional 15 Bunker vessels (additional 7 new support vessels). Table 2 gives a breakdown of the fleets by country and by size according to the size categories. The majority of the purse seine vessels fall between the 1001 -1500 GRT category (65) and the smaller 501 to 1000 size group (68). In 2009, 33 vessels were listed in the super seiner category of over 1500 GR

Table.2 Foreign Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2009

Flag	No of vessels	Gear	0-500 Grt	501-1000Grt	1001-1500Grt	1500+ Grt
Japan	33	PS	1	30	2	0
Korea	27	PS	0	11	13	3
Chinese Taipei	32	PS	0	14	16	2
New Zealand	3	PS	0	0	1	2
China	12	PS	0	10	0	2
United States	38	PS	0	2	17	19
FSM	4	PS	0	1	1	2
RMI	4	PS	0	0	3	1
Vanuatu	13	PS	0	0	11	2
Kiribati	1	PS	0	0	1	0
Total	167		1	68	65	33

### Coastal State Reporting

#### Annual Catch Estimates of the Distant Water Fishing Nation Purse seine fleet

Table 3 below shows the recent activities of the foreign fishing fleet in Nauru over the last 5 years since 2005. The Catch Data from this fishery is compiled from the operator's Catch Logbooks which are required, as part of the licensing conditions, to be submitted after completion of a fishing trip in a prescribed form. This national catch data is then forwarded to SPC for their regional data processing and in August 2009, Nauru authorised the SPC to release operational catch data of foreign fishing vessels in its EEZ to the WCPFC.

Table 3.

China	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
2005	50	3270	894	4214
2006	3	8409	106	8518
2007	16	1657	114	1787
2008	99	477	910	1486
2009	120	6696	552	7367
Total	<b>288</b>	<b>20509</b>	<b>2575</b>	<b>23372</b>
FSM	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
2005	27	850	189	1066
2006	10	968	57	1035
2007	15	1636	113	1764
2008	1	48	8	57
2009	12	235	40	287
Total	<b>65</b>	<b>3736</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>4208</b>
Japan	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
2005	47	5468	894	6409
2006	46	3469	791	4305
2007	38	912	101	1051
2008	17	424	35	476
2009	0	0	0	0
Total	<b>148</b>	<b>10273</b>	<b>1821</b>	<b>12241</b>

Table 3. cont'd

<b>Kiribati</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2006	15	242	126	384
2007	2	493	27	522
2008	2	0	11	13
Total	<b>19</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>919</b>
<b>Korea</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2005	39	2827	1184	4049
2006	222	12108	2991	15321
2007	73	12036	1700	13809
2008	164	13858	3897	17919
2009	165	14934	1821	16919
Total	<b>662</b>	<b>55763</b>	<b>11593</b>	<b>68018</b>
<b>MH</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2005	101	7277	793	8172
2006	49	2450	34	2533
2007	356	15851	566	16773
2008	314	2362	831	3508
2009	172	1977	121	2271
Total	<b>992</b>	<b>29917</b>	<b>2347</b>	<b>33256</b>
<b>NZ</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2005	1	853	10	864
2006	9	43	24	77
2007	31	1077	112	1220
2008	23	835	102	960
2009	2	101	14	117
Total	<b>67</b>	<b>2908</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>3237</b>
<b>PG</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2005	190	6719	1458	8366
2006	108	8284	745	9137
2007	98	8166	944	9208
2008	162	4115	1735	6012
2009	169	5788	1091	7049
Total	<b>727</b>	<b>33072</b>	<b>5974</b>	<b>39773</b>
<b>Solomon's</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2005	0	124	0	124
2006	4	37	26	68
Total	<b>4</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>TW</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2005	68	7934	855	8856
2006	65	12689	1306	14061
2007	107	8151	952	9210
2008	195	8910	2182	11287
2009	186	12334	1429	13949
Total	<b>621</b>	<b>50019</b>	<b>6724</b>	<b>57364</b>

US	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
2005	299	4179	867	5345
2006	288	723	558	1569
2007	90	4362	316	4768
2008	287	12300	3085	15672
2009	166	8225	586	8978
<b>Total</b>	<b>1130</b>	<b>29790</b>	<b>5411</b>	<b>36331</b>
VU	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
2005	16	3949	161	4126
2006	17	1431	120	1568
2007	40	6263	410	6713
2008	44	1312	588	1944
2009	49	390	285	724
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>13346</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>15075</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4890</b>	<b>250230</b>	<b>38866</b>	<b>293986</b>

#### Annual Catch Estimates for the Distant Water Purse seine fleet:

The fishing data in table 2 shows that the total provisional catch data for 2009 is on the lower end of the 5 year range where it is 30% less from the highest catch in year 2007.. The catch from the US treaty fleet is significantly less from the previous year which is inverse to the growing increase in their fleets although we expect a correction in the total catches once all the catch reports are summed. The rest of the bilateral fleets produced relatively similar catch figures from the previous year with the exception of Japan which has yet to register any provisional catch data in Nauru for 2009.

#### **Other significant national developments**

##### Interim Authorisation to the National Observer program

In October 2009, Nauru's National Observer Program was granted an *interim authorisation* and its observers were approved to participate in the WCPFC Regional Observer Program after satisfactorily demonstrating to have met the minimum standards required by the Commission. In addition to the PNA 3<sup>rd</sup> Implementing Agreement Observer requirements, this has given our observers more opportunity to expand our coverage rates and hence provide more useful data to the Commission.

##### Authorisation to SPC to release operational log sheet data to WCPFC

Nauru has recently authorised SPC to release the operational log sheet data of fishing vessel activities in its EEZ, to the Tuna Commission. This obligation will allow full and complete coverage of the activities of all licensed fishing vessels operating in the Nauru Exclusive Economic Zone down to operational levels.

END OF REPORT