



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

11-22 August 2008
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

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

WCPFC-SC4-AR PART 1/WP-17 (Rev)

NAURU

Introduction

The Nauru Exclusive Economic Zone has provided relatively stable catch data for the purse fishery that has been operated by the major distant water fleets but 2007 was influenced by the ENSO events that began to form during the year.

As the ENSO conditions shifted the pattern of fishing further to the west, the catches began to decrease as compared to the same period in the previous year resulting in an overall decline in the total catch for 2007.

For 2007, data for the artisanal catches of previous years were finally collated and made available for this report. It is collected by the Coastal Department of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority through landing surveys of local fishermen.

Fleet Structure

Artisanal fleet

This fleet comprises all the small skiffs and canoes operated by local artisanal fishermen. The data has recently been collected by the Coastal Department of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority with the assistance of the SPC who provided FAD Fishing logbooks for local fishermen to report their catches. The data collection is still new and is in the process of refinement to suit local conditions. Table 1 presents the data for 2007.

Tables 1. Annual catch estimates for the NAURU ARTISANAL fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2007. (Source : Raised estimate based on Canoe logbook data; M. Blanc, pers. comm..)

Year	Catch (metric tonnes)			Total
	Yellowfin Tuna	Skipjack Tuna	Others	
2006
2007	11.1	7.4	2.0	20.5

Domestic fleet

The two longliners operated by the Nauru Fisheries Corporation were still out of commission during 2007 and therefore there is no recent catch data beyond those presented at SC2

Fishing Partner Purse seine fleets:

In 2007 there were 131 foreign purse seiners licensed to fish in Nauru. In support of some of these purse seine fleets Nauru licensed an additional 6 Bunker vessels. The following table gives a breakdown of the fleets by country and by size according to the size categories. The majority of the purse seine vessels fall within the 1001 -1500 GRT category (76) followed by the smaller 501 to 1000 size group (40) and 15 vessels fitting in the superseiner category of over 1500 GRT (14)

Table.2 Foreign Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2007

Flag	No of vessels	Gear	0-500Grt	501-1000Grt	1001-1500Grt	1500Grt+
Japan	33	PS	0	1	31	1
Korea	27	PS	0	14	11	2
New Zealand	3	PS	0	0	1	2
Chinese T	33	PS	0	16	15	2
US	9	PS	0	2	6	1
China	10	PS	0	5	4	1
Vanuatu	6	PS	0	0	1	5
FSM	4	PS	0	2	1	1
Kiribati	1	PS	0	0	1	0
Marshall Is	5	PS	0	0	5	0

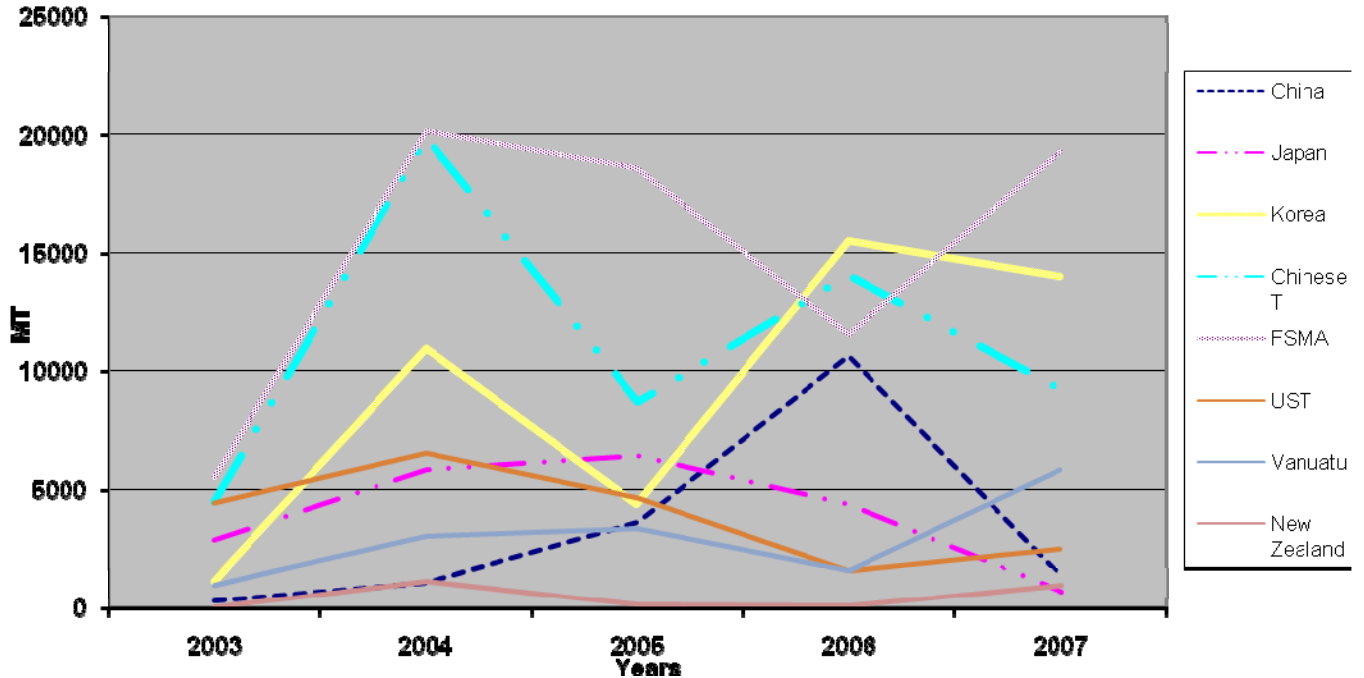
Annual Catches of foreign fleets

Table 3 shows the catch data from 2002 to 2006 (up to June 06) for the purse seine fleet operating in Nauru:(Annual Catches by foreign purse seine fleets in the Nauru EEZ, by flag and species, 2002-2005: Source- Unraised logsheet data collected held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database, SPC; catches for 2007 are incomplete and provisional)

Fleet	Year	Days	CATCH (metric tonnes)				TOTAL
			SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	
China	2003	20	243	29	1	0	274
	2004	53	1,045	5	1	0	1,051
	2005	160	2,764	746	42	0	3,552
	2006	457	10,511	106	3	0	10,620
	2007	100	1,220	105	0	0	1,325
FSM Arrangement	2003	295	4,704	706	91	0	5,501
	2004	576	17,249	831	146	0	18,225
	2005	475	14,432	2,491	220	0	17,143
	2006	409	10,364	1,195	36	0	11,596
	2007	411	17,634	1,470	200	5	19,309
Japan	2003	298	2,062	707	20	0	2,789
	2004	375	5,179	611	5	0	5,794
	2005	317	5,463	893	47	0	6,403
	2006	261	3,542	774	44	0	4,360
	2007	28	610	42	18	15	685
Korea	2003	127	920	183	3	0	1,106
	2004	405	10,373	601	43	0	11,017
	2005	267	3,089	1,176	85	0	4,349
	2006	329	12,518	2,745	246	0	15,510
	2007	391	12,390	1,560	20	0	13,970
New Zealand	2003	2	0	3	0	0	4
	2004	99	1,461	250	83	0	1,793
	2005	32	853	10	1	0	864
	2006	21	34	16	5	0	54
	2007	32	841	91	3	0	934
Chinese Taipei	2003	234	3,559	814	75	0	4,448
	2004	665	18,878	1,182	54	0	20,114
	2005	339	7,934	855	68	0	8,856
	2006	580	12,689	1,306	65	0	14,061
	2007	310	8,141	1,031	63	0	9,235
USA	2003	270	3,586	622	139	0	4,347
	2004	326	5,508	768	267	0	6,543
	2005	182	4,179	867	299	0	5,345
	2006	62	707	541	272	0	1,519
	2007	86	2,202	177	44	0	2,423
Vanuatu	2003	36	921	10	1	0	932
	2004	116	2,750	360	18	0	3,128
	2005	139	3,949	172	5	0	4,126
	2006	79	1,424	124	0	0	1,548
	2007	148	5,488	319	31	0	5,838
TOTAL EEZ	2003	1,282	15,996	3,074	330	0	19,400
	2004	2,614	62,442	4,607	615	0	67,665
	2005	1,911	42,664	7,209	767	0	50,639
	2006	2,198	51,789	6,807	672	0	59,268
	2007	1,506	48,526	4,795	378	21	53,720

Table.4 Catches in Nauru by Flag 2003-2007

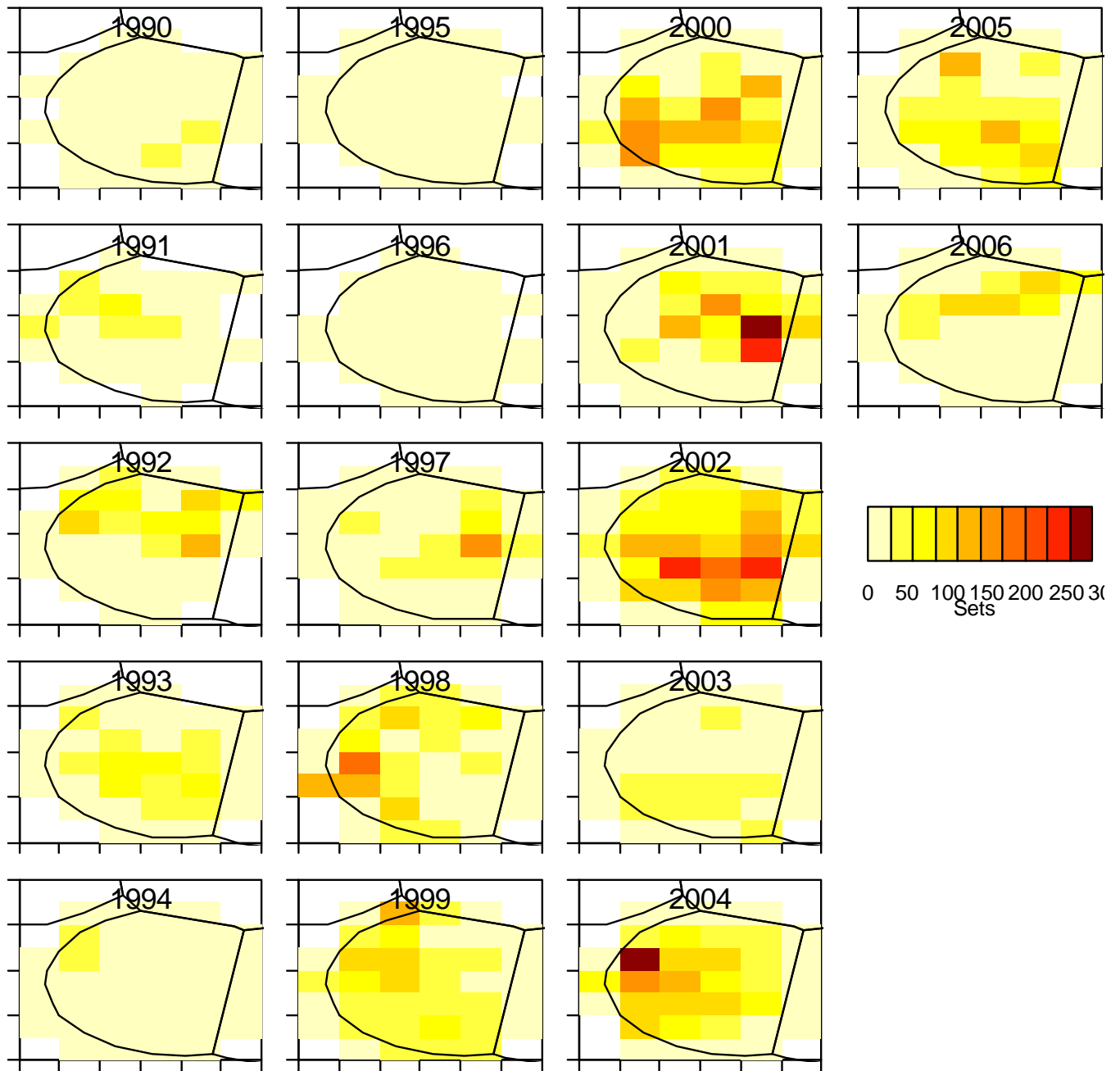
Total Annual catches 2003-07



The trend in Purse seine catches have fluctuated since 2003 by the fleets and the table does not show any noticeable pattern that is common with all the fleets. The FSMA and the Vanuatu flagged fleet shows the only significant increases from 2006 to 2007 while most of the others reported decreases. This table is presented with the fact that catches for 2007 are incomplete and provisional and may be amended upwards as more catch log sheets are received.

Patterns (Catch by time/area)

The charts below shows the annual fishing patterns of all the foreign purse fleets in the Nauru EEZ from 1990 to 2006 depicted by the number of sets i.e the level of effort in area matched by the different gradient in shading; the lighter shades representing lower effort and the darker shades for higher effort. In the years of high fishing effort it can be seen that those effort are concentrated between the latitudes of 1N and 3S



(Source: SPC NTSFR Draft report for Nauru 2007 based on Unraised logsheet data; catches for 2006 are incomplete)

Research and Statistics:

The nature of the industrial fishery in Nauru does not provide for an ideal environment for data and other statistical collection. It is a fishery that focuses on the licensing of offshore fishing operations, namely Purse seining, The vessels very rarely call into port for transshipment operations given the lack of essential port facilities thus limiting the data collection that the Authority undertakes to the collection and collation of Catch Report Forms from the fishing vessels after they have completed their trips. The Log sheets are entered into a database and then forwarded to the Oceanic Fisheries Program at SPC.

Likewise Nauru's is also limited with its observer program to the Regional Observer programs under the US Treaty and FSM Arrangement. There are provisions in the fishing agreements for Observers to be placed on Bilaterally licensed fishing vessels however given the lack of port facilities and the small size of the EEZ, the logistics of placing observers make the exercise impractical.

Nauru is in the final stages of completing its Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management plan with the assistance of the Forum Fisheries Agency and within the Plan will be the inclusion of a Ecological Risk Assessment analysis and a National Tuna Fisheries Status report which will provide the necessary scientific input towards the plan. The latter two reports are being developed with the assistance of the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Program.