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WCPFC-SC4-AR PART 1/WP-26

SOLOMON ISLANDS

2007 National Tuna Fishery Report

Solomon Islands

Summary

Solomon Islands is a member of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as WCPFC and PNA. Being a member of the above organization has enabled our national fleets to fish these RFMOs' waters for tuna and other highly migratory fish species. Solomon Islands fleet is comprised of 5 purse seine and 9 pole & line active fishing vessels for 2007. Catch and Effort coverage for the Solomon Islands fleets have been high but the size data coverage is uncertain. Within the Solomon Islands Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ), the foreign fleets with high catch and effort data coverage are the Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Vanuatu, and the US fleets whilst the Belize and the Fiji fleets also have significant catch and effort data coverage. In the period 2002 – 2007 the annual catch estimates of the Solomon Islands fleet have generally increased, mainly the purse seine fleet. Further more, it has been noted that there were more sets on associated than unassociated schools of fishes. In the purse seine fleets total catches have increased from 6,782 mt to 22,313 in 2006, comprising 60% skipjack, 39% yellowfin and 1 % bigeye. In 2007, the catches drop to 17,306 mt due to mainly change in fleet size. In 2006, provisional data show that catches of all major tuna species have increased with around over 12,333mt of skipjack, 8,256mt yellowfin and 669mt of bigeye harvested. The major tuna species in the Pole-and-Line fleet catch was dominated by skip jack (89%), then yellowfin (10%) and lastly bigeye (1%). Raised and provisional estimates for the Longline fleet in 2004, the highest in the last 6 years were 207mt, 294mt and 440mt for albacore, bigeye and yellowfin respectively, but if all logsheets are raised the annual catch could be higher. Data for the Solomon Islands' EEZ were based on logsheets data received mainly from the foreign fishing companies from China, Fiji, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan Vanuatu, and US. The fleet size for all these countries have increased rapidly since 2004, based on the number of license issued from 2004 to 2007 as shown in **Table 4**. Unfortunately, the catch/effort distribution for the Solomon Islands EEZ in the year 2007 is incomplete and not up to par due to the non submissions of operational data's to the Solomon Islands Fisheries Department by some fishing companies fishing within the nation's EEZ.

Introduction

The tuna fishery in the Solomon Islands is diverse, ranging from small-scale artisanal operations mainly in our archipelagic waters, to large-scale, industrial purse-seine, pole-and-line and Longline operations in both the exclusive economic zone of Solomon Islands and on the high seas. The main species targetted by these fisheries are skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*) and albacore tuna (*T. alalunga*). This report will focus more on the large-scale tuna fishery since data for small-scale fishery is not available when during the time of this report.

This report is prepared by *Hudson Wakio (National Tuna Data Coordinator)* of the Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. The report covers the fishing operations of the Solomon Islands fishing fleets operating in the WCPFC areas during the period 2002 to 2007, as well as reporting on the fishing operations of foreign fishing vessels fishing within the Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The report mainly focuses on the **Fleet Structures, Annual Catch Estimates, and Catch/Effort Distributions**. It also raise issues where new and further efforts are required from the nation as a whole, to enhance the nation's role in contributing to the overall conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPFC areas.

1 Annual Fisheries Information for National Fleet

1.1 National Fleet reporting

The Solomon Islands fishing fleet's is comprised of Purse Seine, Long Line and Pole & Line vessels which fishes mainly within the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the WCPFC areas. Fishing within the EEZ of coastal states is possible via entering into bilateral fishing access agreements and sub-regional arrangements for Purse Seine fishing as in the FSM Arrangement.

Table 1: Number of Solomon Islands Purse-Seine, Longline and Pole & Line active vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2002-2007

(Source: Licensing Division, Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Long line	11	9	8	5	-	-
Purse Seine	2	3	3	3	4	5
Pole & Line	12	12	10	7	11	9
Total	25	26	19	13	13	14

1.2 Data coverage

Data regarding the fishing operations of the Solomon Islands fleet's have been provided by the various members in whose jurisdictions the nation's vessels may have operated on and those that are collected within the nation. The catch and effort data coverage for the Solomon Islands fleet's are high but the size data coverage remains uncertain and unpredictable because the port sampling and observer program has not been in operation for the past few years. **Table 2** below shows data estimates of annual catch, effort and size coverage's. The inferences for high, medium, and low scores on the catch/effort and size data coverage is provided in **Annex 1** of this report. A high score for catch or effort simply depicts that more than 80% of the data has been covered and question marks indicates that there was no data coverage.

Table 2: Estimated annual coverage of catch, effort and size data for Solomon Islands fishing fleets in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2004-2007.

Gear	Fleet	Year	Catch/Effort data coverage	Size data coverage
Long Line	Solomon Islands	2004-2005	HIGH	LOW
		2005-2006	MEDIUM	LOW
		2006-2007	Longline fleet inactive during this period	Longline fleet inactive during this period
Purse Seine	Solomon Islands	2004-2005	HIGH	LOW
		2005-2006	HIGH	LOW
		2006-2007	HIGH	LOW
Pole & Line	Solomon Islands	2004-2005	HIGH	LOW
		2005-2006	HIGH	LOW
		2006-2007	HIGH	LOW

1.3 Annual Catch and Effort Estimates for the period 2002 – 2007

The annual catch and effort estimate is derived only from the Solomon Islands fleets, fishing within the WCPFC areas. General observation concluded that the annual catch and effort estimates have increased continuously for the Purse Seine and the Long Line fleets while the catch for Pole & Line decreases.

The nation's Purse Seine fleets recorded an increase in efforts through the number of days vessels spent searching for fish and fishing as depicted through 268 days in 2002 to an increase of 614 days in 2007. Refer to **Table 3a** below. The effort in the total number of sets had increased but more so for the associated sets.

The total annual estimated catches increased from 6,782 mt in 2002 to 22,313 mt in 2006, the highest in 6 years. During the same period, 2002 to 2007, all Tuna species in the catch increased making Skipjack the dominant species catch (60%) followed by Yellow Fin (39%), and then Big Eye (1%).

However, in the same period, Pole & Line annual catch estimates fluctuate due to changes in fleet sizes and financial problem faced by the fishing companies. The Pole & Line fleets recorded its highest total annual catch estimates as 10,793 mt in 2003 and also recorded a fluctuating in effort in the number of fishing days as shown in *Table 3b* below.

In the period 2002 to 2005, the Long Line fleets recorded highest total annual catch estimate at 967mt in 2004 as shown in *Table 3c* below, unfortunately, there is no data available to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for this period to calculate the effort applied. Further, species composition of the 3 main tuna types was also unavailable to the said Ministry for this period.

Tables 3 (a): Annual catch and effort estimates for the Solomon Islands purse-seine fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2002-2007.

(Source: 2007 Raised logsheet data and Solomon Islands 2006 Catch Report)

Year	Effort			Catch (metric tonnes)				
	Days Fishing & Searching	Assoc. Sets	Unass. sets	SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL
2002	195	198	52	4,884	3,196	15	-	6,782
2003	371	295	41	8,874	5,645	659	-	15,191
2004	437	367	68	6,497	8,313	80	-	17,043
2005	327	341	43	9,554	6,871	-	-	16,425
2006	424	335	67	12,333	9,732	248	-	22,313
2007	614	427	52	10,164	6,984	159	-	17,306

Tables 3 (b): Annual catch and effort estimates for the Solomon Islands Pole & Line fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2002-2007.

(Source: 2007 Raised logsheets data and Solomon Islands 2006 Catch Report).

Year	Days Fishing & Searching	Catch (metric tonnes)				
		SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL
2002	-	9,114	405	0	-	9,786
2003	1,942	9,779	669	0	-	10,793
2004	1,102	6,625	257	0	-	6,882
2005	1,020	3,051	538	0	-	3,599
2006	1,640	6,224	734	0	-	6,988
2007	1,044	3,579	321	37	-	4,003

Tables 3(c): Annual catch and effort estimates for the Solomon Islands Longline fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2002-2005

(Solomon Islands 2006 Catch Report)

Year	Effort (100s of hooks)	Catch (metric tonnes)								
		ALB	BET	YFT	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO	OTH	TOTAL
2002	-	121	401	401	0	2	1	4	264	956
2003	-	95	385	258	0	2	0	5	36	781
2004	-	207	294	440	0	2	2	4	18	967
2005	-	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	9

1.4 Catch distribution

The national Purse Seine fleet operates mainly between 05 degrees S and 12 degrees S and 154 degrees E and 162 degrees E. Effort in Purse Seine fishing is measured on days of fishing and searching for fishes. **Figure 1** below clearly shows the Annual Catch Distributions of Solomon Islands National Purse Seine Fleets while **Figure 3** shows the Annual Effort distribution of the same gear.

Further, Pole and Line fleet operate similarly to the Purse Seine fleet as clearly depicted in **Figure 2** and **Figure 4** below, the Annual Catch Distributions of the Solomon Islands national Pole and Line Fleet and the Annual Effort Distributions respectively.

Figure 1: 2007 annual catch distributions by species for Solomon Islands Purse Seine fleet
(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies)

Key: Blue = Skip Jack Tuna, Green = Big Eye Tuna, Red = Yellow Fin Tuna

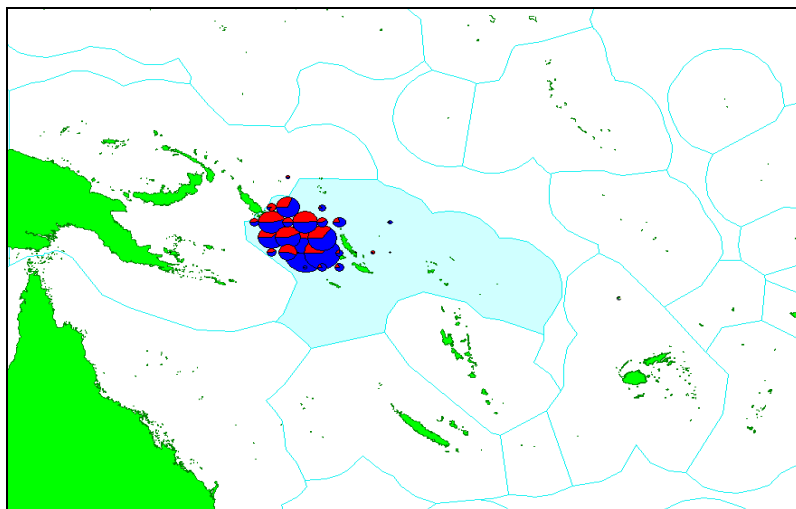
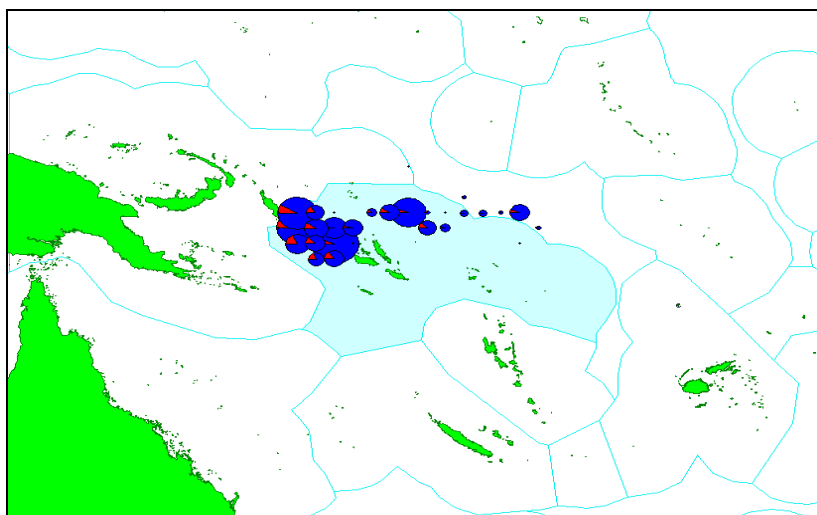


Figure 2: 2007 annual catch distributions by species for Solomon Islands Pole & Line fleet
(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies)

Key: Blue = Skip Jack Tuna, Green = Big Eye Tuna, Red = Yellow Fin Tuna



Note: Solomon Islands does not have any domestic Longline fishery since 2005, therefore map showing annual catch distribution for Longline fishery was not produced

Figure3: Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) for the Solomon Islands purse seine fleet throughout the WCPFC Convention Area for 2007
(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies)

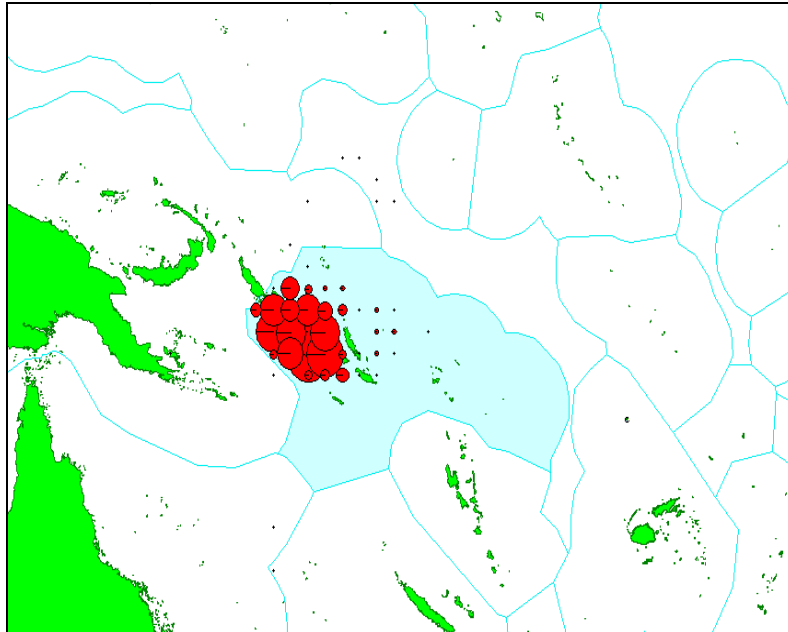
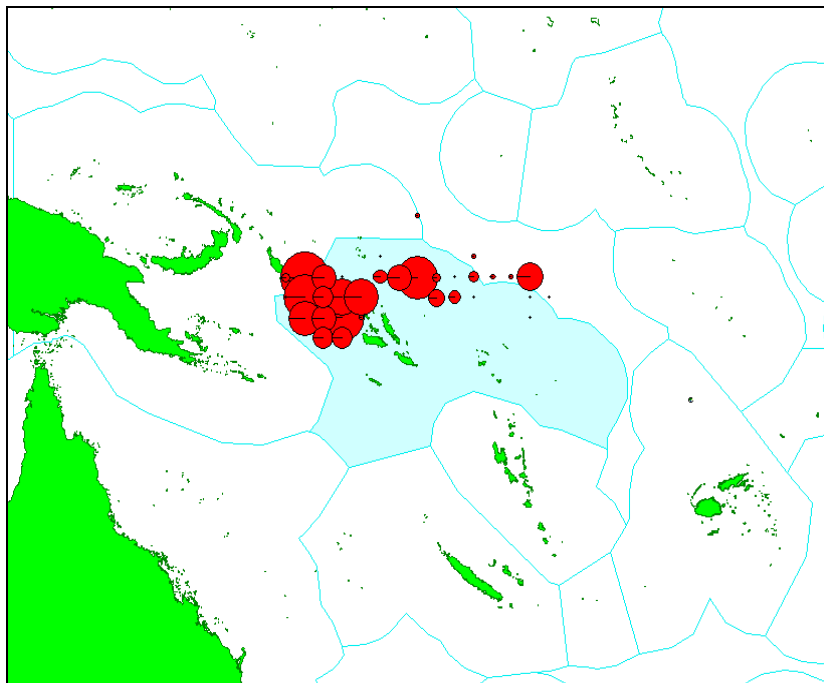


Figure4: Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) for the Solomon Islands pole & fleet throughout the WCPFC Convention Area for 2007
(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies)



Note: Solomon Islands does not have any domestic Longline fishery since 2005, therefore map showing effort distribution (days fishing and searching) for Longline fishery can not produce

1.5 Estimated Annual total catches of non-target, associated and dependent species by Solomon Islands purse seine fleets, 2002-2007.

The estimated total annual catches of non-target, associated and dependant species of the Solomon Islands Purse Seine Fleets for the period 2002 to 2007 is not provided here as the necessary observer data for producing the estimated figure were unavailable during the preparation of this report even though the nation has had an observer coverage for Purse Seine fishing for some part of the said period. (The observer program has been inactive since late 2005).

2 Annual Fisheries Information for Foreign Fleet

2.1 Foreign Fleet reporting

Tuna fisheries in the Solomon Islands is dominated by fleets from distant water fishing nations such as China, Fiji Islands, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Vanuatu, US, and the EU. Fishing in Solomon Island waters for tuna & tuna like species have been made possible through bilateral and multilateral access agreements. **Table 4** below shows details of all foreign Fishing vessels licensed to fish within Solomon Islands EEZ in the period 2002 to 2007. The table also includes foreign chartered fishing vessels categorized according to their flag of registration.

Table 4: Number of foreign fleet vessels licensed to fish in the Solomon Islands EEZ by year, flag and gear type.

(Source: Licensing Division, Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources)

KEY: LL – Longline, PL – Pole-and-Line, PS – Purse Seine

Year								
	2004		2005		2006		2007	
FLAG	No. Vessels	Gear Type	No. Vessels	Gear Type	No. Vessels	Gear Type	No. Vessels	Gear Type
Belize	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	LL
China	12	LL	14	LL	24	LL	41	LL
	6	PS	6	PS	6	PS	6	PS
Fiji	3	LL	3	LL	18	LL	12	LL
Japan	9	LL	19	LL	31	LL	33	LL
	11	PL	11	PL	24	PL	8	PL
	21	PS	32	PS	26	PS	34	PS
Korea	16	LL	19	LL	37	LL	47	LL
	28	PS	28	PS	28	PS	28	PS
New Zealand	4	PS	4	PS	4	PS	4	PS
Taiwan	19	LL	30	LL	33	LL	36	LL
	29	PS	31	PS	33	PS	33	PS
Vanuatu	11	LL	11	LL	10	LL	10	LL
	5	PS	3	PS	7	PS	8	PS
US TREATY	19	PS	11	PS	13	PS	12	PS

The Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese and Vanuatu fleets are the dominant fleets operating within the Solomon Islands EEZ, both in terms of vessel numbers, length and capacity. Most vessels which are licensed to fish in the Solomon Island waters are greater than 100 GRT. **Figures 5 (a) to 5(d)** below shows

foreign Purse Seine and Long Line vessels licensed to fish within Solomon Islands EEZ by flag, by length and by capacity

Figure 5(a): 2007 Licensed Purse Seine Vessel Length by Flag

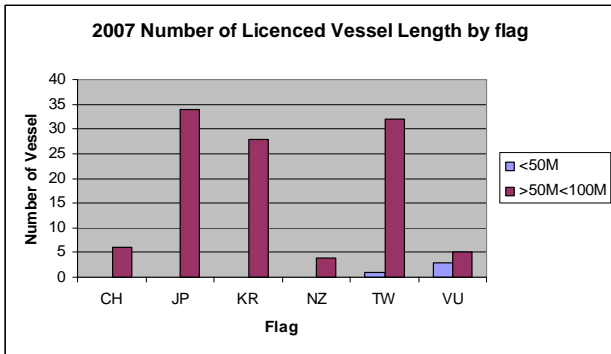


Figure 5(b): 2007 Licensed Purse Seine Vessel Capacity by Flag

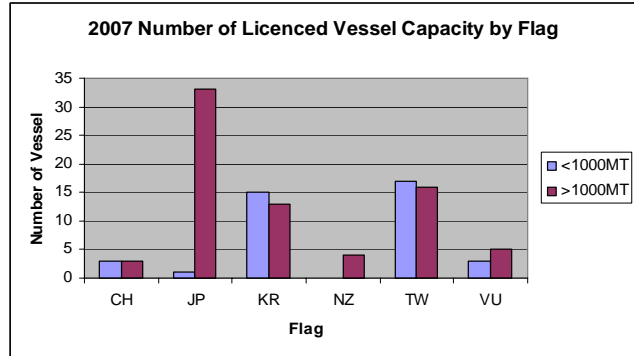


Figure 5(c): 2007 Licensed Longline Vessel Length by Flag

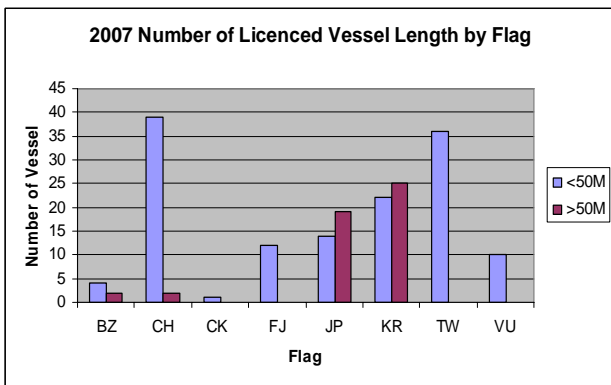
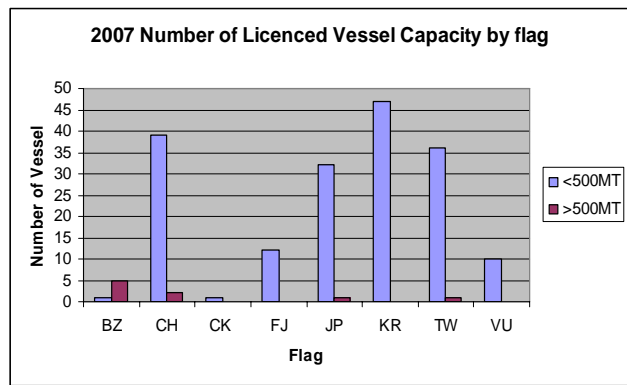


Figure 5(d): 2007 Licensed Longline Vessel Capacity by Flag



2.2 Estimated data coverage

Coverage of log sheets from foreign fishing fleets fishing within the Solomon Islands EEZ extends back to the year 2002 and has a low record which varies among the years. The only recent high coverage catch and effort rates are those from the Korean and Taiwanese Purse Seine fleets. Refer to **Table 6** below.

Missing data has been the most significant problem faced by the Solomon Islands Fisheries Ministry and as such it has been impossible to estimate the coverage rates for some years. Due to the unknown estimated catch, effort and size data coverage amongst the foreign fleets that operates in the Solomon Islands, the catch and effort levels for the nation's EEZ is difficult to estimate. However, it is understood that most of these foreign fleets have been unloading their catches in other designated ports in the WCP Region.

Most of the presented data (logsheet) in this report are obtained from fishing industries and entered into this report based on the Tufman database thus, it should be noted that data provided for the Solomon Islands in this report are from available data logsheets.

Table 6: Estimated coverage of catch, effort and size data for bilateral-arrangement, for foreign fleets dominated Fishing in Solomon Islands EEZ.

Fleet	Gear	Year	Catch/Effort data coverage	Size data coverage
China	LL	2004-2007	LOWHIGH	LOW
	PS	2004-2007	LOW	LOW
Fiji	LL	2004-2007	MEDIUM	LOW
Japan	LL	2004-2007	LOW	LOW
	PL	2004-2007	LOW	LOW
	PS	2004-2007	HIGH	LOW
Korea	LL	2004-2007	MEDIUM	LOW
	PS	2004-2007	MEDIUM	LOW
New Zealand	PS	2004-2007	MEDIUM	LOW
Taiwan	LL	2004-2007	MEDIUM	LOW
	PS	2004-2007	HIGH	LOW
Vanuatu	LL	2004-2007	HIGH	LOW
	PS	2004-2007	HIGH	LOW

2.3 Annual catches in the Solomon Islands EEZ

In the period 2002 to 2007 the total annual catch for most of the foreign Purse Seine Fleets that were undertaking fishing operations in the Solomon Island waters had increased from 31,062 to 80,096mt, over more than two fold increase. The increase was largely attributed to the Korean fleets which recorded over 44% of the total catch for the said period and the Taiwanese fleets contributed 11%. In fact catches for the Taiwanese fleets have been declining over the said period when compared to other fleets. It was noted that, catches for the FSM and US fleets have steadily increased during this period. Refer to **Table 7a** below.

The annual estimated Tuna catch composition by weight for 2007, was dominated by Skip Jack (73%), followed by Yellow Fin (19%), and then, Big Eye (3%). These catch proportions are similar to the historical Tuna catch compositions in the nation.

It has been estimated that the annual total catch for foreign Long Line fleets in 2007 are as follows, 4,651mt Albacore, 639mt Big Eye and 2,885 Yellow Fin. Refer to **Table 7b** below.

Recent Tuna fisheries in the Solomon Islands have generally been considered as a rapid expansion of fishing efforts. This is an issue that needs to be seriously considered, if it wishes to enhance the conservation and management of its Tuna stock by discouraging and controlling over harvesting.

Table 7a: Annual catches by foreign purse seine fleets in the Solomon Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2003-2007

(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies and FFA, SPC)

Fleet	YEAR	Catch (metric tones)				
		SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL
China	2003	-	-	-	-	-
	2004	-	-	-	-	-
	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	-	-	-	-	-
JAPAN	2003	3,772	515	49	0	4335
	2004	11,968	1,634	154	0	13755
	2005	11,575	1,581	149	0	13,303
	2006	10,832	1,479	140	0	12,449
	2007	7,293	996	94	0	8,382
KOREA	2003	4,596	1,520	30	0	6,146
	2004	18,342	6,064	119	0	24,525
	2005	13,623	4,504	88	0	18,216
	2006	18,560	6,137	120	0	24,817
	2007	26,708	8,940	182	0	35,830
NEW ZEALAND	2003	-	-	-	-	-
	2004	-	-	-	-	-
	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	1,754.8	144.5	64.7	0	1,964
	2007	2.7	0	0.9	0	3.6
TAIWAN	2003	3,833	773	20	0	4,627
	2004	8,897	1,795	47	0	10,739
	2005	11,653	2,351	62	0	14,066
	2006	2,851	575	15	0	3,441
	2007	5,829	1,176	31	0	7,036
VANUATU	2003	-	-	-	-	-
	2004	-	-	-	-	-
	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	8,410	2,138	0	0	10,548
	2007	4,075	2,005	0	0	6,080
US TREATY	2003	5991.9	1,726	18	0	7,736
	2004	6682.9	1,341	46	0	8,071
	2005	1696.2	548	4	0	2,248
	2006	6916	702	30	0	7,542
	2007	-	-	-	-	-

Table 7b: Annual catches by foreign Longline fleets in the Solomon Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2004-2007

(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies)

Fleet	YEAR	Catch (metric tones)				
		ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
Belize	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	4.7	13.5	36.9	12.3	67.3
CHINA	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	186.4	20	30.7	23.5	288.1
FIJI	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	2.2	0.5	1.3	0.8	4.9
JAPAN	2005	503	188	1,234.2	150	2,075
	2006	304.2	113.6	746.5	90.7	1,255
	2007	696	260	1,707.7	207.4	2,871.1
KOREA	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	2501	205	529.6	108.4	1,091
TAIWAN	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	1,059	112.2	490.3	238.9	1,900.5
VANUATU	2005	-	-	-	-	-
	2006	-	-	-	-	-
	2007	204.1	28.3	89.6	35.3	357.3

2.4 Annual distribution of fishing effort

Efforts for Purse Seine and Pole & Line fishing in the Solomon Islands was generally seen to have taken place more in the western part of the nation's EEZ which borders PNG and the northern part which borders the high seas enclave. It is believed that the said trend took place due to the high preference of catching Skipjack Tuna which are mainly found to be in equatorial waters.

Fishing efforts for Long Line fishing are seen to be generally taking place more in the same areas as Purse Seine fishing, evident for Korea and Japan Long Line fleets fishing in the Solomon waters. China and Taiwan Long Line fleets fishing efforts concentrates more in the Eastern parts of the nation's EEZ which borders the Fiji Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Refer to **Figures 6 (a) to 6 (h)** below.

Wide spread Long Line fishing within the Solomon Islands EEZ is probably due to the distribution of targeted tuna species. Yellowfin catch was high in the western area while albacore and Bigeye catch are high in the Eastern area (**Figure 7(a) and 7(b)**).

The graphical representation of the distribution of fishing of the various fleets namely, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, China and Vanuatu active in the Solomon Islands EEZ during 2007 is shown in Figures 6(a) – 6(h).

(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies and FFA)

Figure 6(a) Korea Purse Seine

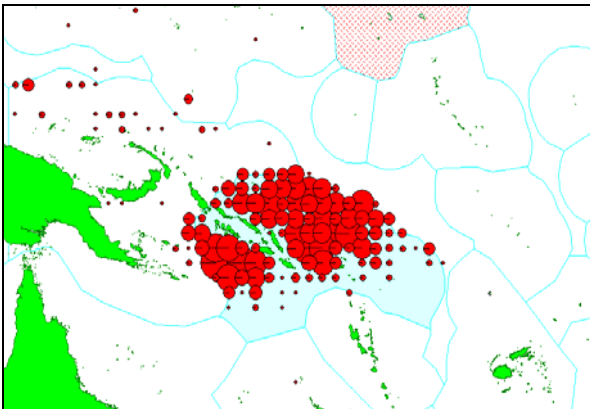


Figure 6(b) Taiwan Purse Seine Fleet

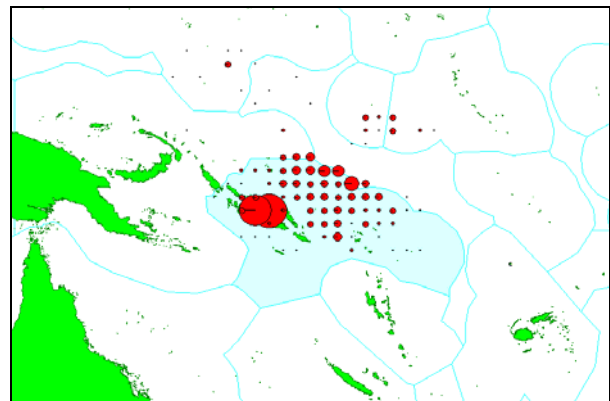


Figure 6(c) Japan Purse Seine Fleet

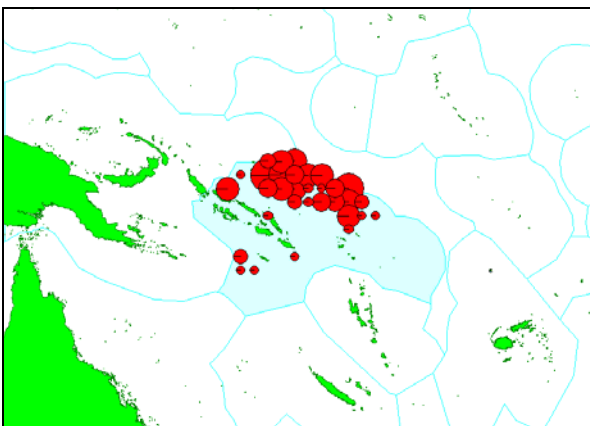


Figure 6(d) Vanuatu Purse Seine fleet

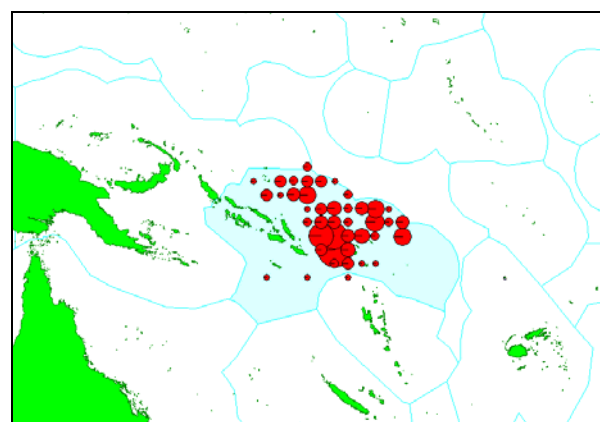


Figure 6(e) China Longline Fleet

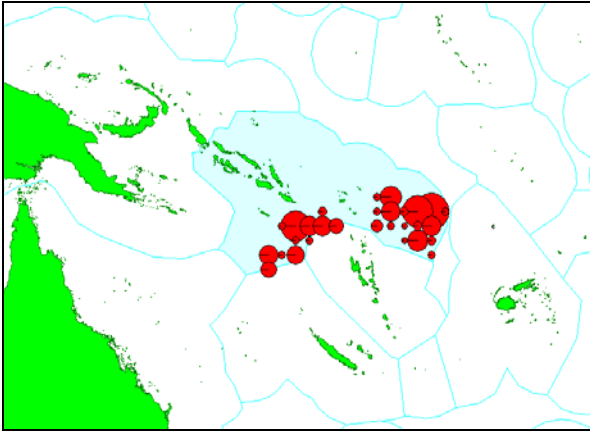


Figure 6(f) Japan Longline fleet

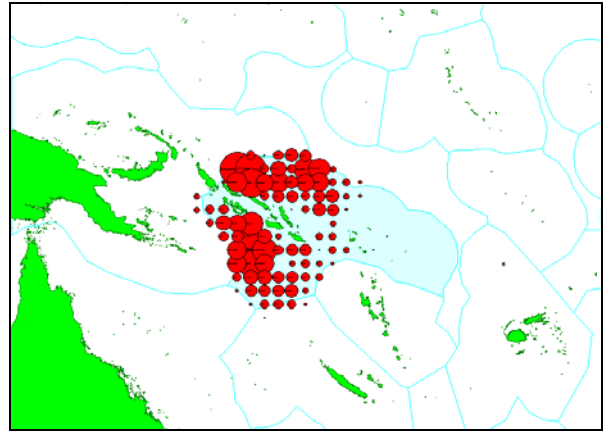


Figure 6(g) Korea Longline Fleet

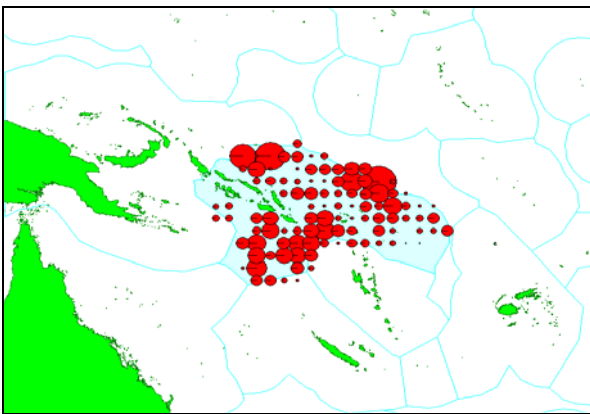
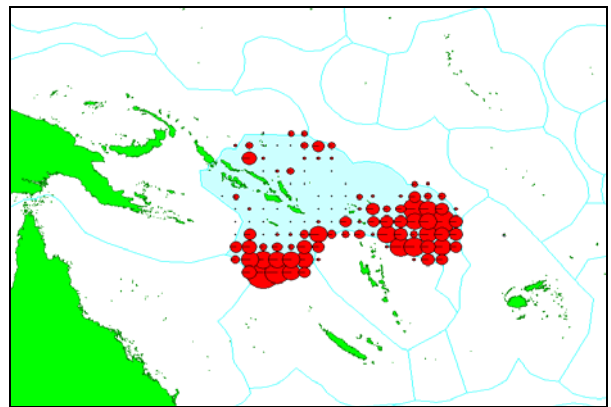


Figure 6(h) Taiwan Longline fleet



2.5: Distribution of Catch by Species

The distribution of catches by species is noted to be simultaneous to the distribution of efforts for the same period of time in the same fishing area. This is evident in both catch and effort distributions concentrated more on the western parts of the Solomon Islands EEZ bordering the eastern EEZ boundary of PNG as well as the high seas enclave. Japan, Korea and some other foreign fleets frequent the above mentioned area with their Purse Seine and Long Line fleets. Refer to **Figure 7(a)** below. In the said area, catch is high and Skip Jack has been noted to be the dominant species caught via Purse Seine fishing method and Yellowfin via Long Line method.

On the other hand, catch distribution by species for China and Taiwan Long Line fleets are recorded to be high towards the Eastern areas of Solomon Islands EEZ, which borders the western EEZ boundaries of Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Albacore is noted to be the highest catch in this area, followed by Yellowfin and then Bigeye. Refer to **Figure 7 (b)** below.

Figure 7(a): 2007 annual catch distribution by species for Japan flag Longline fleet
(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies and FFA)

Key: Key: Red = Albacore, Blue = Bigeye, Green= Yellowfin Tuna

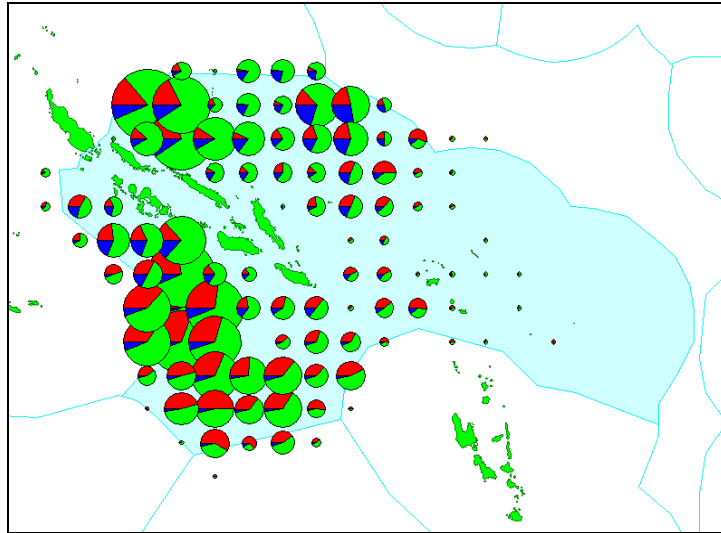
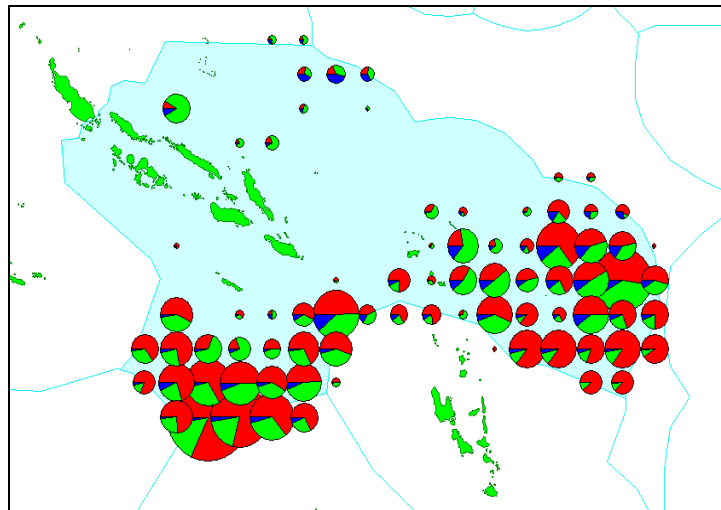


Figure 7(b): 2007 annual catch distribution by species for Taiwan flag Longline fleet
(Source: raised logsheets data collected and provided by fishing companies and FFA)

Key: Key: Red = Albacore, Blue = Bigeye, Green= Yellowfin Tuna



3. Research and Statistics

3.1 Collection of Observer and Port sampling data

Port Sampling has been suspended for the past few years because of financial constrains and lack of human resources and logistical experience to coordinate Port Sampling duties. However, after the observers training in April 2008, the Port Sampling was revived under new coordination of the new Observer coordinator. Hopefully, data should be available for our 2008 National Report

Despite having a national observes program, it does not operate fully to target required coverage of 20% and Port Sampling duties. The long delay (7 month) of reviewing the observer's contract by the Attorney General's chambers contributes extensively to the fewer placements during the recent peak of transshipment period in Honiara. However, after the April 2008 observers training, placement/boarding is gradually increasing with the aim of 20% coverage by the end of 2008. This depends very much on the number of fishing vessels coming into port for Transshipment.

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4. Onshore Development

The Soltai Fishing and Processing Limited (SFPL) was established after the former joint venture partners Maruha Company of Japan and the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) liquidated their operation in 2000 due to the ethnic tension related problems. In 2001, new negotiations between SIG and Western Province Government (WPG) resulted in the joint venture agreement to the establishment of SFPL. Currently, the average production is 28 tones per day, but the company is anticipating increase production when its new cold storage and new power supply is installed. The three main products produced by Soltai are fish meal, loining and canned tuna which are sold locally and exported to Japan, Italy, Germany, and Fiji.

This year 2008, the National Government through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) plans to establish two (2) new onshore tuna loin processing facilities at Suava Bay in Malaita Province and Tenaru of Guadalcanal Province. Ground work for this is already underway and the actual construction should commence before the end of the year or early next year.

For the locals to participate in the tuna fishery, the National Government also plans to engage and involve the participation of our local people with the introduction of pump-boats. National Fishery Development has already imported three “pump boats” in an effort to support greater domestication of our fishery. If using these three pump boat is successful, the government will procure the purchase of about 10 additional pump boats in the second half of this year. These boats will be sold to interested groups and individuals upon registration as business entities.

ANNEX 1

Table 8: Categories of coverage for catch, effort and size data.

Category	Catch/Effort data coverage	Size data coverage
HIGH	> 80%	> 15%
MEDIUM	50-80%	5-15%
LOW	0-50%	0-5%

LEGEND:

- “**Catch/Effort data coverage**” is determined by comparing the annual catch from operational (logsheet) data to the **total** annual catch, as determined by unloadings or other types of data/information.
- “**Size data coverage**” is determined by comparing the number of trips covered by port sampling and observers (collecting size data) with the estimated number of **actual** trips undertaken by this fleet during that year.