



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION**

Manila, Philippines
14 – 21 August 2024

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

WCPFC-SC20-AR/CCM-18

PALAU

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART I: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
REPUBLIC OF PALAU- 2023**

Republic of Palau

**Division of Oceanic Fishery Management
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment
Inawo Keith || Oiterong-Chin Zilah**

July 14, 2024

<p>Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by <u>30 April 2024</u></p>	<p><u>YES</u></p>
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I. ABSTRACT

In 2023, Palau licensed a total of 38 fishing vessels comprising of 19 Longlines and 19 Purse Seines. The licensed longlines included 1 national (PW) flagged vessel, 16 Japan (JP) flagged vessels, and 2 Chinese-Taipei (TW) flagged vessels. The licensed Purse Seines included 19 JP flagged vessels. Total Longline catches caught and reported for 2023, approximated about 531 metric tons (MT) of fish with 22.49MT of Albacore, 298.42MT of Bigeye, 0.25MT of Skipjack, 156.57MT of Yellowfin, 0.87MT of Pacific Bluefin Tuna, and all other catches totaling to 52.49MT. In 2023 there were no Reported Purse Seine catches. Of all the recorded catch caught in 2023, a total of 37.89MT was landed in Palau port and were sold and donated locally.

II. BACKGROUND

The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office is mandated to carry out the purposes of Title 27 of Palau National Code to adopt fisheries regulations, negotiate and conclude foreign fishing agreements, issue foreign fishing permits, and perform other duties and functions for the management, exploitation and conservation of all living resources in the extended and exclusive fishery zone of the Republic of Palau. The Title 27 of the Palau National Code is the primary fisheries legislation regulating the harvest of highly migratory fish stocks and fishing vessels that fish in the waters of the Republic of Palau.

III. FLAG STATE REPORT

In 2023, Palau licensed 1 National (PW) Flag Longline vessel. In total of 9 trips its recorded catch totaled 8.32 metric tons. Yellowfin was the most species caught with 4.96 metric tons and was responsible for 60% of all the catches. Table 1 presents the number of catches for Palau national flag longline vessel and the figure 1 shows the catches of the flag state vessels trend over the years.

Table 1. Flag State Annual Catches

SPECIES	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.
ALB	11.81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.14	0
BET	1162.35	0.17	0.52	0	0	0	0.99	0	2.66	0
PBF	2.08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SKJ	1.39	0	0	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	0
YFT	2295.76	0	0	0	0	0	4.68	0	4.96	0
BLM	3.36	0	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	0.11	0
BUM	88.60	0	0	0	0	0	0.28	0	0.20	0
MLS	0.65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.09	0
SWO	35.87	0	0	0	0	0	0.03	0	0.16	0
GRAND TOTAL	3601.88	0.17	0.52	0	0	0	6.09	0	8.32	0

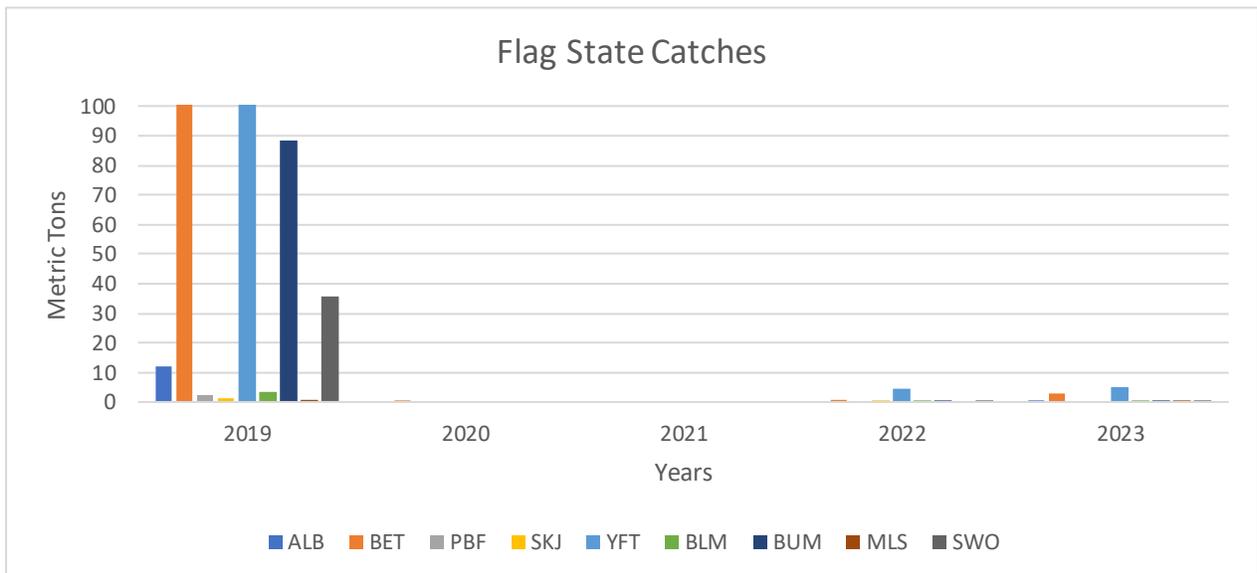


Figure 1. Chart of the flag state annual catch

Table 2 shows the number of the licensed longline national and chartered vessels by gear and size category while Figure 2 displays its trend over the years.

Table 2. Number of Licensed Fishing Vessel (National and Chartered) by Gear and Size Category

GEAR	LONGLINE (National)						LONGLINE (Chartered)						
	YEAR GRT	0-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	100+	Total Vessels	0-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	100+	Total Vessels
2023		0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022		0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2
2021		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020		0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019		0	1	1	0	0	2	0	27	10	2	0	39

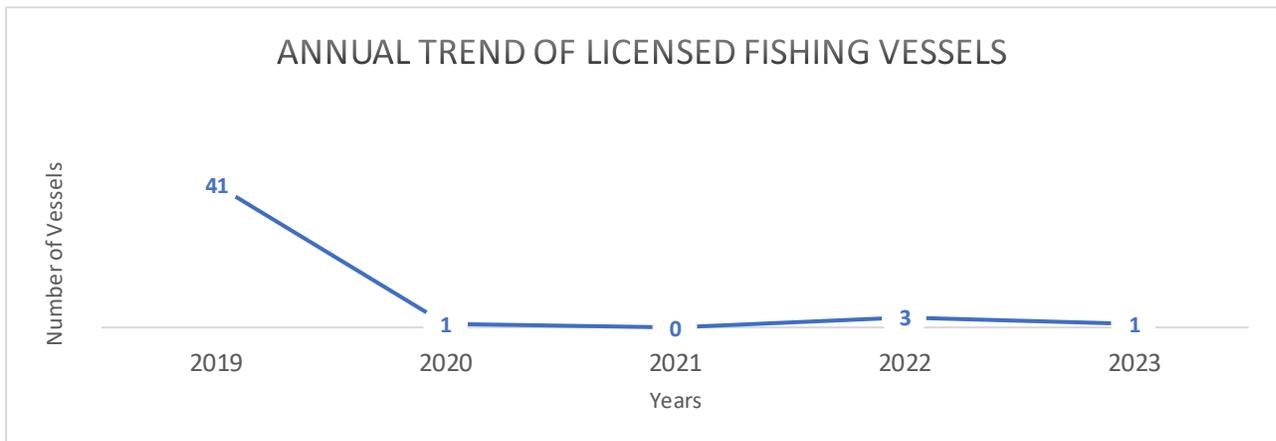


Figure 2. Chart of Palau Licensed National and Chartered Longline Fishing Vessels

IV. COASTAL STATE REPORT

Domestic Based Fleet

In 2023, Palau licensed 2 domestic-based foreign flagged longline vessels. Its recorded catch totaled 39.13 metric tons. Bigeye was the main species caught with 16.65 metric tons accounting to 43% of the total catch. Table 3 presents the annual catch for all domestic based vessel with figure 3 illustrating its catch distribution.

Table 3. Annual catch (MT) by species for the Republic of Palau Longline fishery.

SPECIES	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.
ALB	9.27	0	0	0	0.18	0	0.2	0	0.65	0
BET	855.19	0	0.52	0	17.17	0	10.2	0	16.65	0
PBF	1.31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.20	0
SKJ	1.05	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	0	0.25	0
YFT	1644.06	0	0	0	16.18	0	13.76	0	16.06	0
BLM	2.27	0	0	0	5.34	0	0.1	0	0.77	0
BUM	62.64	0	0	0	0.1	0	2.43	0	1.87	0
MLS	0.47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.09	0
SWO	25.71	0	0.04	0	1.79	0	1.35	0	2.59	0
GRAND TOTAL	2,601.97	0	0.56	0	40.76	0	28.05	0	39.13	0

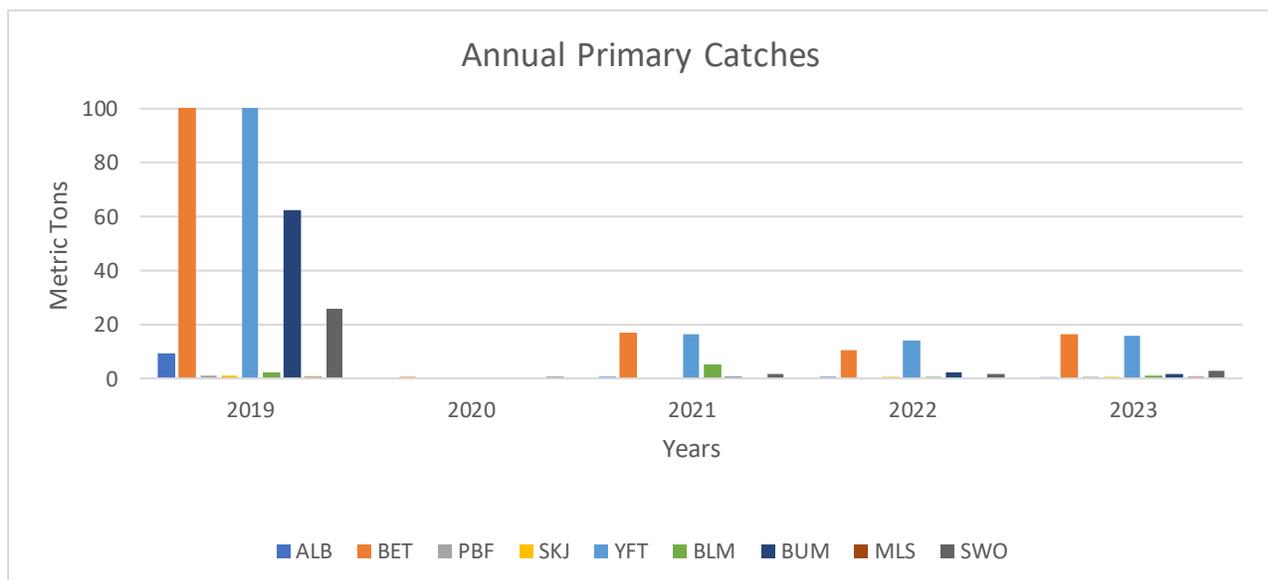


Figure 3. Historical Annual Primary Catch presented as a bar graph.

There were no observers' placements in 2023 so there are no data provided. Electronic monitoring trial was carried out in 2018 on some of the vessels and a total of 6 trips were analyzed and entered into Dorado TUBS Report. Table 4 displays the data provided for observed species of special interests, including seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals.

Table 4. Observed Annual Estimated catches of Species of Special Interests

YEAR	SEABIRD				TURTLE				MARINE MAMMAL			
	Species	No. Alive	No. Dead	Total	Species	No. Alive	No. Dead	Total	Species	No. Alive	No. Dead	Total
2023	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
2022	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
2021	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
2020	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
2019	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0

Other than the primary species catches presented in Table 1, there were some non-targets, associated and dependent species that were caught. Table 5 below presents these catches by species each year caught by domestic based fishing vessel. Data along the years shows that Sailfish were the most caught species.

Table 5. Annual Estimated Catches of Non-Target, Associated, and Dependent Species.

Species Name	Total Annual Longline Catches (MT)					Total Catch
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
BARRACUDA NEI	0.4	0	0	0.01	0.088	0.498
COMMON DOLPHINFISH	2.3	0	0.06	0.532	0.722	3.614
ESCOLAR	0.84	0	0.87	0.024	0.032	1.766
OILFISH	2	0	0.28	0.007	0	2.287
OPAH	0	0.17	0.07	0.302	1.199	1.741
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	16.35	0	0.76	0.494	0.531	18.135
SICKLE POMFRET	0	0	0.09	0.125	0.521	0.736
WAHOO	0.29	0	0	0.01	0.026	0.326
OTHER FISH	0.43	0	0.09	0	0	0.52
Annual Grand Total	22.61	0.17	2.22	1.504	3.119	56.634

Distant Water Fleet

In 2023, Palau licensed a total of 35 foreign flagged, foreign-based fishing vessels of 16 longlines and 19 purse seines. Table 6 shows the break-down of these licensed vessels by year, by flag, by gear, and by size category with Figure 4 showing its trend.

Table 6. Number of foreign fishing vessels, active in the WCPFC Convention Area.

YEAR	FLAG	GEAR	Size Category (GRT)				Total Vessels
			0-500	501-1000	1001-1500	1501+	
2023	JP	LL	16	0	0	0	16
	JP	PS	0	0	13	6	19
2023 Total Vessels			16	0	13	6	35
2022	JP	LL	19	0	0	0	19
	JP	PS	0	0	9	6	15
2022 Total Vessels			19	0	9	6	34
2021	JP	LL	27	0	0	0	27
	JP	PS	0	0	20	7	27
	PG	PS	0	0	1	0	1
	PH	PS	0	0	11	0	11
2021 Total Vessels			28	0	32	7	66
2020	JP	LL	32	0	0	0	32
	JP	PS	0	0	23	6	29
	PH	PS	0	3	16	1	20
	TW	LL	2	0	0	0	2
2020 Total Vessels			34	3	39	7	83
2019	JP	LL	34	0	0	0	34
	JP	PS	0	0	23	4	27
	PG	PS	0	0	1	0	1
	PH	PS	0	6	14	1	21
	SB	PS	0	0	3	0	3
	TW	PS	0	0	4	2	6
	VU	PS	0	0	2	1	3
2019 Total Vessels			34	6	47	8	95

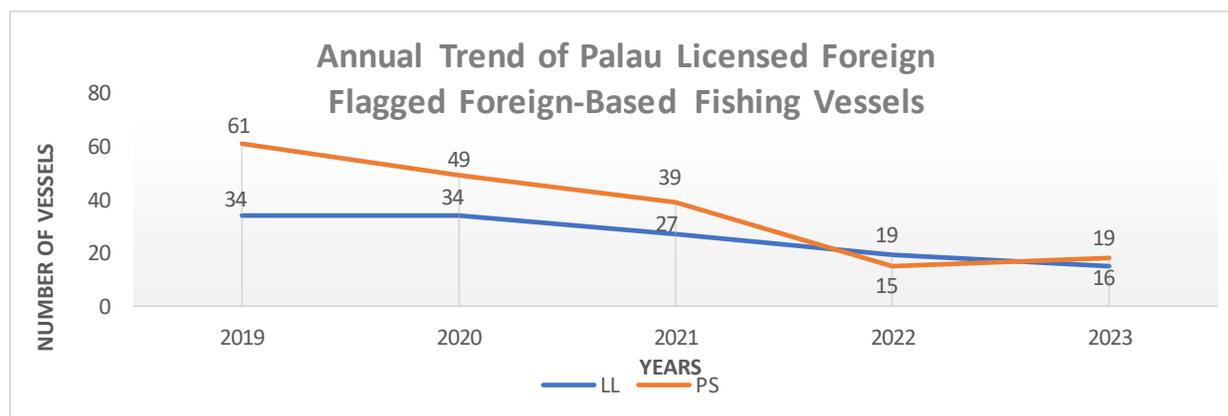


Figure 4: Annual trend of Palau Licensed Vessels by Gear

(a) Distant Water Longline Catch Report

The Palau-licensed foreign flagged longline vessels provisional catch for 2023 totaled 480.21 metric tons. Bigeye accounted almost 58% of all the catch that were caught. Table 7 displays a five-year (2019-2023) annual longline catches in Palau’s exclusive economic zone by flag and by species with Figure 5 displaying trend over the years.

Table 7. Longline Catches (MT) by year, by flag, and by species in Palau EEZ.

YEAR	FLAG	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	Total Catches
2023	JP	21.71	279.13	135.56	43.81	480.21
2023 Total		21.71	279.13	135.56	43.81	480.21
2022	JP	1.85	406.49	269.47	36.63	714.43
2022 Total		1.85	406.49	269.47	36.63	714.43
2021	JP	3.36	897.06	314.53	99.97	1314.92
2021 Total		3.36	897.06	314.53	99.97	1314.92
2020	JP	0.54	438.83	91.18	39.92	570.47
	TW	0.07	15.85	14.34	11.15	41.41
2020 Total		0.61	454.68	105.53	51.07	611.89
2019	JP	3.44	54.34	30.47	4.94	93.19
2019 Total		3.44	54.34	30.47	4.94	93.19

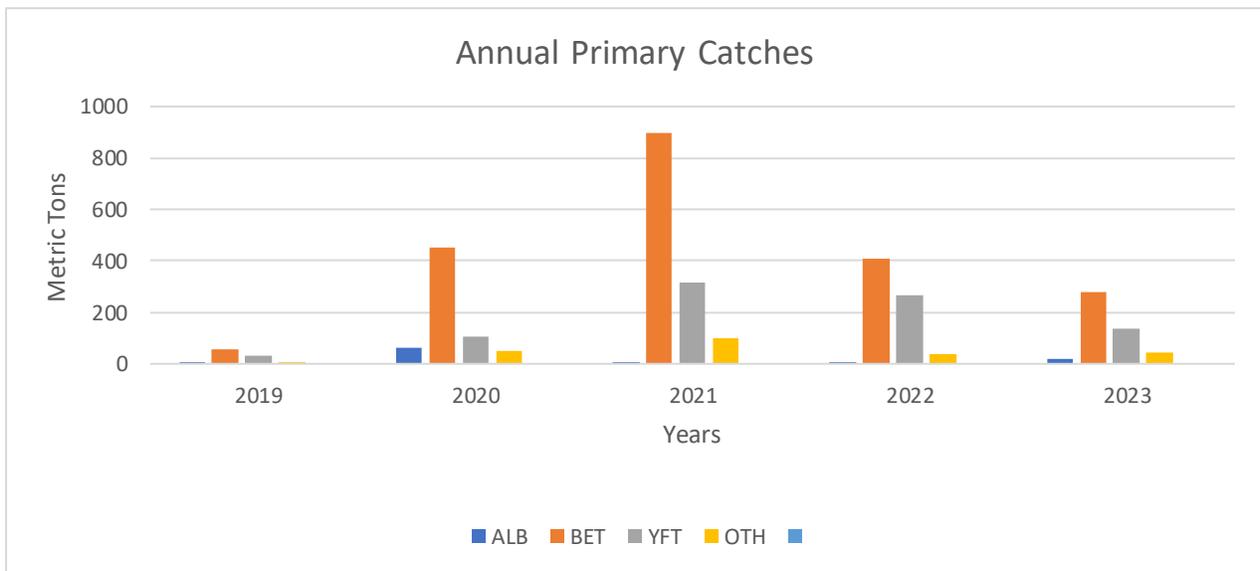


Figure 5. Annual catch trend in Palau’s EEZ.

(b) Distant Water Purse Seine Catch Report

In 2023, there were no reported Purse Seine catches in Palau waters. Catches caught and reported by Purse Seine Vessels fishing in Palau waters for the past five years, from 2019 to 2023, totaled 2,300 metric tons. Table 8 displays purse seine annual catches with Figure 5 showing the catch trend through the years.

Table 8. Purse Seine Catches (MT) by year, by flag, and by species in the Palau EEZ.

YEAR	FLAG	BET	SKJ	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
2023	JP	0	0	0	0	0
2023 Total		0	0	0	0	0
2022	FM	0	67	3	0	70
2022 Total		0	67	3	0	70
2021	JP	0	0	0	0	0
	PG	0	0	0	0	0
	PH	0	0	0	0	0
2021 Total		0	0	0	0	0
2020	JP	0	0	0	0	0
	PH	0	0	0	0	0
2020 Total		0	0	0	0	0
2019	JP	0	934.29	231.12	0.02	1165.43
	PH	0	49.2	2.8	0.2	52.2
	PG	0	390.5	84	0.19	474.69
	US	0	545	65	0.37	610.37
2019 Total		0	1918.99	382.92	0.78	2,302.69

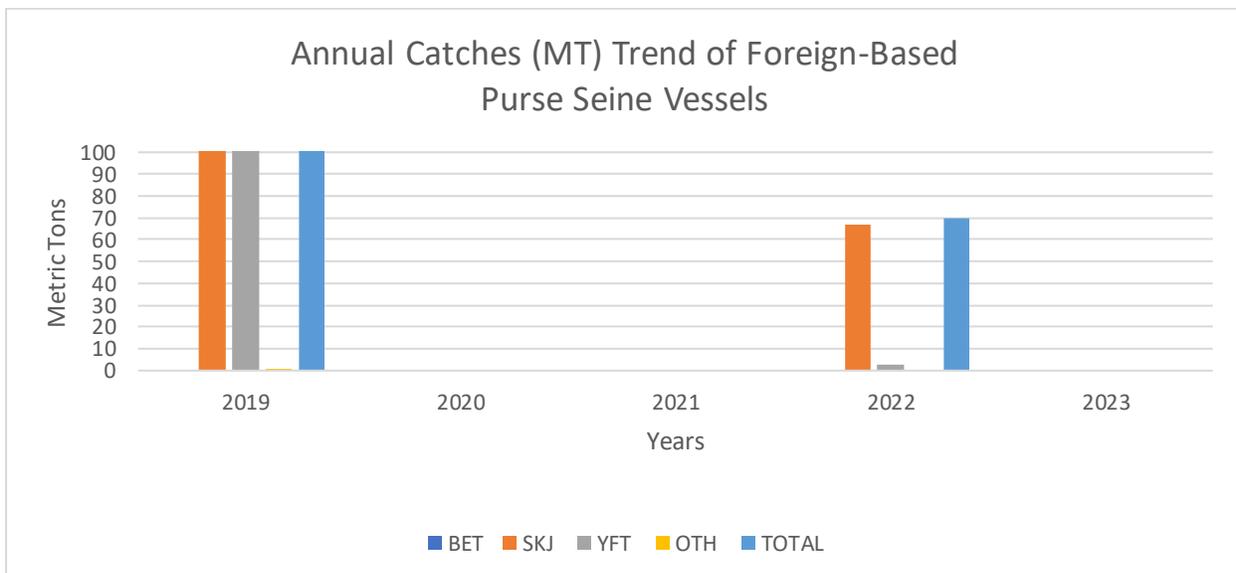


Figure 5. Purse Seine: Annual Catch Trend in Palau EEZ.

V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Palau's locally based fishing industries are very committed in ensuring their viability and vibrancy but the unpredictable price signals and shifting number of fishing vessels pose significant challenges. Other changes like establishment of Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) and COVID19 have also affected Palau's fishery. These challenges pose a great impact on Palau's economy. Realistic resource pricing and recognition of the value of fishery commodities along with conservation policies are some of the good practices that would help promote and stabilize Palau's economy.

VI. DISPOSAL OF CATCH

From the total recorded catch caught in Palau EEZ in 2023, about 37.89 metric tons of fish were landed in Malakal Port. The landings are done only by domestically based longline vessel. Of this landed catch, about 36 MT were locally sold and about 1.89MT were donated. Palau's Fishery Port is incapable of accommodating unloading operations of purse seine vessels so there are no purse seine unloading operations done in Palau port. Table 9 presents the breakdown of the catches by species.

Table 9. 2023 Landed Catches (MT) by Species

Species	Local sales	Donations	Total
BET	14.66	0.96	15.62
YFT	15.43	0.86	16.29
SWO	1.93	0.01	1.95
BUM	0.61	0.00	0.61
BLM	0.52	0.00	0.52
PBF	0.16	0.00	0.16
SSP	0.44	0.02	0.47
OTH	2.24	0.04	2.28
Total	36.01	1.89	37.89

VII. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Local companies with aspirations of entering into tuna fishery ventures continue to have difficulties in investments of resources, like vessels, facilities, infrastructures, and the market. Even with these challenges, there are a few who persistently seeks opportunities to be involved in fishery.

VIII. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

In October 2015 Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMSA) was passed by the Republic's Congress to preserve eighty percent (80%) of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone as Palau National Marine Sanctuary. This area is a no-take area and is protected from all exploitation. Palau in 2021 worked to commence its pole and line fishery.

IX. STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Palau is currently implementing all latest versions of SPC's regional data forms. SPC TUFMAN 2 Database System is fully utilized to streamline and collate all data. The Locally Based Foreign Companies are required to submit their fishing reports on monthly basis. The Foreign Based Japanese Longline and Purse Companies are submitting their Logsheets through Email, Facsimile, and Postal Service. The data are altogether reconciled and then entered into the TUFMAN 2 Database. The collected data are scanned with the Slops 3 software on Fujitsu Scanner and are sent to SPC via Hightail Dropbox.

(a.) Logsheets/Unloading/Port Sampling data collection and verification

Dedicated fisheries port samplers and compliance officers are presented at all times during offloading of longline vessels at respected port to collect data and information. With ensuring reported data, the presented officers check and make sure that the forms used are properly filled and completed correctly.

(b.) Observer program

There were no observer placements in 2023.

(c.) Transshipment

There were no transshipment activities in 2023.

X. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET AND NON-TARGET SPECIES

There were no research activities covering target and non-target performed in 2023. The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office continues to represent and protect Palau's interest in international and regional bodies in the development of conservation and management measures of the highly migratory fish stocks.



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

8 April 2024¹

SECTION A: SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN ANNUAL REPORT PART 1 AS REQUIRED BY CMMS AND OTHER DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

<p>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</p>	<p>CCMs shall report to the Commission the total number of vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch of swordfish for the following:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>b. vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of their domestic fishery south of 20°S; and</p> <p>c. any other vessels fishing within their waters south of 20°S.</p> <p>This information shall be provided in Part 1 of 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.</p> <p><i>*Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.</i></p> <p>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted the required information contained in the template in Annex 2 of CMM in its AR Pt 1.</p> <p>The Palau flagged vessel did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Swordfish</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vessels</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW</td> <td>2023</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Swordfish					Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)	PW	2023	0	0	0																									
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<p>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>A sample report format is provided as guidance to assist CCMs with reporting (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4)</p> <p>This is not applicable as the FV is fishing only in the PW EEZ.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</th> <th rowspan="2">Fishery</th> <th colspan="3">No. of Hooks</th> <th colspan="3">Days Fished</th> <th colspan="3">Days at Sea</th> <th colspan="3">No. of Trips</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Total Est.</th> <th>Obs.</th> <th>%</th> <th>Total Est.</th> <th>Obs.</th> <th>%</th> <th>Total Est.</th> <th>Obs.</th> <th>%</th> <th>Total Est.</th> <th>Obs.</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Palau</td> <td>National-LL</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CCM Fleet	Fishery	No. of Hooks			Days Fished			Days at Sea			No. of Trips			Total Est.	Obs.	%	Palau	National-LL	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%									
CCM Fleet	Fishery			No. of Hooks			Days Fished			Days at Sea			No. of Trips																												
		Total Est.	Obs.	%	Total Est.	Obs.	%	Total Est.	Obs.	%	Total Est.	Obs.	%																												
Palau	National-LL	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%																												

¹ Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions of the Commission, as of WCPFC20 (Dec 2023). First issued on 8 April 2024. Changes made from Addendum for 2022 include the revised CMM 2023-03 for North Pacific Swordfish and WCPFC20 Agreed Audit Points.

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

CCMs shall report on all transshipment activities covered by this Measure (including transshipment 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 transshipment 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: Transshipment 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:

There were no transshipment activities approved, authorized, or conducted in Palau waters or at its Ports for 2023.

(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 transhipped outside the Convention Area;	d) Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear
offloaded	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
received	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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	e) Fishing gear
offloaded	0	0	0	N/A
received	0	0	0	N/A

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms receipt by the CCM in AR Pt 1 of the required information in the prescribed format contained at Annex II of CMM 2009-06, and confirms that the report includes the required information for all CCM transshipment events in the Convention Area of all HMFS covered by the Convention, as well as HMFS taken in the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area, in accordance with paras 10, 11, and 12 of CMM 2009-06.

**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).

Not Applicable. No Purse Seine Vessels operates as Palau Flag Vessel or chartered by Palau in 2023.

AUDIT POINT [RP] Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of flagged vessels and as reported in ARPt1 under para 2(b) of CMM.

CMM 2018-03
[Seabirds] Para 13

CMM 2018-03:
[Seabirds] Annex 2.
Guidelines for
reporting templates
for Part 1 report

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 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.

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report using the reporting template in Annex 2 of CMM 2018-03 on seabird interactions reported or collected by observers.

The following tables should be included in the annual Part 1 country reports, summarising the most recent five years.

There were no seabird interactions data reported in 2023 for Palau flagged vessel. The Palau flagged vessel did not fish in the areas South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N-25°S as specified in the CMM 2018-03 (Seabirds), therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.

Table X: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for Palau [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N-25°S¹].

Year	No. of Vessels	Fishing Effort			Observed Seabird Captures	
		Number of Hooks	Hooks Observed	% Hooks Observed	Number	Rate
2019	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table Y: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in 2023.

	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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TL + WB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	NS + WB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TL + WB + NS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	HS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other options north of 23°N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here					
	Totals (must equal 100%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table Z: Number of observed seabird captures in Palau longline fisheries, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	North of 23°N	23°N-25°S	Total
N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

SECTION B: 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.

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted in its ARPt1:

- a. the number of its flagged vessels that fished for MLS south of 15S between 2001-2004 and has nominated the maximum number of its flagged vessels that are permitted to continue to fish for MLS south of 15S**
 - b. the catch levels of CCM flagged vessels that have taken MLS as a bycatch**
- the number and catch levels of its vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S.**

The Palau flagged vessel did not fish south of 15°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.

South West Striped Marlin				
Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)
PW	2023	0	0	0

**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 encouraged to provide data from periods prior to these dates.

WCPFC20 Outcome: The Commission agreed that the term “actively fishing for” used in CMM 2015-02 is applied to: ‘Vessels fishing south of 20 degrees South with an annual catch of albacore in that area with South Pacific albacore greater than 50% of the catch of potential target tuna (albacore, yellowfin and bigeye, southern bluefin, skipjack) and swordfish.’

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information on annual catch levels by its flagged vessels taking SP Albacore, as well as the number of CCM flagged vessels actively fishing for SP Albacore south of 20S, with catch levels reported by species groups.

The Palau flagged vessel did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.

South Pacific Albacore				
Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)
PW	2023	0	0	0

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 I: Average Annual Catch (MT) and fishing Effort (Days) of North Pacific Albacore

North Pacific Albacore																				
CCM	Area	Fishery	2002-04 Average			2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
			No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch
Palau	WCPA	LL	PW had no National Fleet as well as chartered vessels for these years			40	4223	7.75	1	6	0.00	0	0	0.00	1	25	0.00	1	48	0.14

* Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on catch and effort by CCM flagged vessels engaged in directed fishing for NP albacore north of the equator, by gear type and days fished (effort) and by weight (catch), using the template at Annex 1 of CMM 2019-03.

CMM 2023-03
[North Pacific
Swordfish], para 4

All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of North Pacific swordfish in the Area and all fishing effort in those fisheries as well as catch and effort across the North Pacific subject to the measures in paragraph 2, by gear type using the template provided in Annex 1.

Note: CMM 2023-03:

Paragraph 2: The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort of their fisheries taking more than 200 metric tons per year of North Pacific swordfish in the Area is not increased beyond 2008-2010 average annual levels¹².

Paragraph 3 clarifies that paragraphs 2 and 4 shall not be applied to those fisheries taking less than 200 metric tons of North Pacific swordfish in the Area per year. However, if the catches of such fisheries exceed 200 metric tons in any given year, the Commission shall adopt appropriate management measure for such fisheries.

Annex 1. Average annual fishing effort for 2008-2010 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish

Not Applicable to Palau, as per Paragraph 3 of CMM 2023-03. Palau flagged vessel did not exceed 200 MT of catches of North Pacific Swordfish in 2023.

North Pacific Swordfish														
CCM	Area	Fishery	2008-2010 Average			2021			2022			2023		
			Catch	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch	No. of vessels	Fishing days
Palau	WCPA-North	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

¹ For the US swordfish longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the maximum number of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010.

² For the Chinese Taipei's coastal artisanal longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the number of vessels licensed during 2008-2010.

