



**Western and  
Central Pacific  
Fisheries  
Commission**

**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

**Twentieth Regular Session**

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

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**Report on Operation Nasse 2024**

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**WCPFC-TCC20-2024-DP09**

**22 September 2024**

**Submitted by Australia on behalf of Australia, France, New Zealand, United States of  
America, Cook Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu and the FFA.**



## **Report to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Technical and Compliance Committee**

### **Overview of Operation Nasse**

Operation Nasse is an annual, multi-lateral Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) activity involving personnel and patrol assets from the 'Pacific Quad' (Australia, France, New Zealand, and the United States of America) and Pacific Island Country partners. The operation coincides with the albacore tuna season in the high seas of the South Pacific.

The operation makes an important contribution to compliance and monitoring within the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), and helps strengthen regional cooperation to address IUU fishing.

Operation Nasse 2024 (NASSE24) aimed to:

- detect, investigate and report IUU fishing activity
- validate information reported by flag States to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including to the WCPFC, SPRFMO and CCSBT
- enhance MCS tools and communications to support regional and national maritime surveillance efforts.

The main phase of NASSE24 occurred throughout May to August 2024. A Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) was hosted by Australia, with participants from Australia, New Zealand, United States of America, Cook Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu and the FFA in attendance. Aerial and surface assets were deployed by Australia, New Zealand, France, the United States, and the Cook Islands.

## **Outcomes of the Operation**

Key achievements of NASSE24 included:

- three surface patrols on the high seas, resulting in six high seas boardings and inspections and two radio interrogations
- 12 surveillance flights which observed more than 80 fishing vessels
- 20 in-port inspections
- analysis of FFA provided Hawkeye360 Radio Frequency data in the Area of Operations.
- an expanded JCC participation to include Pacific Island Countries
- the deployment of the Cook Island Guardian Patrol Boat Te Kukupa II in support of NASSE24.

Through this operation, participating nations continue to provide robust monitoring, control, and surveillance to ensure the sustainable management of Pacific fisheries.

Potential breaches of WCPFC CMMs were identified from HSBI:

- **CMM 2009-09 – Vessels without Nationality;**

The nationality of five vessels were only able to be verified upon boarding in the absence of a flag or other identifying markings indicating nationality.

- **CMM 2018-03 – Conservation Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing For Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds;**

Five vessels were identified as potentially non-compliant with seabird mitigation measures, including by not meeting specifications of tori lines and weighted branch lines.

- **CMM 2022-06 - Conservation and Management Measure on Daily Catch and Effort Reporting;**

Two vessels were identified as potentially non-compliant with maintaining an electronic log onboard.

Australia would like to thank regional partners, fishers, and flag States for their cooperation during Operation Nasse 2024.