
**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL
PACIFIC OCEAN**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
[5-9 December 2005]
and
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
[12-16 December 2005]**

29th November 2005

NATIONAL REPORT

FIJI

[[DRAFT FOR CLEARANCE]]

1. Introduction

1.1 The Fisheries Department through support from Government introduced and implemented its first Tuna Development and Management Plan in 2002. This saw the establishment of a new Offshore Management Services Division within the Fisheries Department to specifically implement and administer the plan and the key programmes included plan are:

- i) Licensing Programme
- ii) Enforcement Programme – Dockside Boarding and Inspection
- iii) National Observer Programme – Placement and Port Sampling
- iv) Offshore Data Programme

1.2 At this point Fiji would like to thank the Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat to the Pacific Community for providing the necessary training to enable the officers under the respective programmes acquire the necessary skills to effectively carry out their regional obligations in ensuring a sustainable fishery for this part of the world.

1.3 The domestic tuna fishery used to be dominated by the skipjack pole and line fishery supplying the then Japanese/Fiji Government owned cannery at the Pacific Fishing Company in Levuka.

1.4 The domestic pole and line fishery somewhat demised some 15 years ago and supply to the now Government owned cannery are from the domestic tuna long line fleet and DWFN fleet that operates within the Convention area.

1.5 The domestic tuna fishery is now dominated by the fresh and chilled tuna sashimi targeting BET and YFT for the Japanese and United States of America market through airfreight.

1.6 The Fiji Islands being within the southern albacore tuna zone, the catch by the domestic fleet obviously is dominated by ALB. Domestic caught ALB is either sent to canneries in Levuka or Pagopago or loined and exported to the foreign markets. High value non-tuna fish species associated with schooling tuna are also exported for better returns.

1.7 Fiji licensed vessels are required to land all their catch taken within Fiji waters in Fiji for processing and packaging. This requirement does not apply to Fiji/Japan bi-lateral arrangement vessels and US registered purse seiners under the US multilateral treaty that seldom take fish from our waters.

1.8 Most of the domestic based vessels, qualified by their respective flag states to operate beyond the EEZ, also hold licenses from neighbouring island states and high seas permits from their flag states. Their entire catches are usually unloaded in Fiji for processing, packaging and then re-exported by air or sea freight.

1.9 Interestingly Fiji is also host to a portion of the Vanuatu licensed tuna long line fleet that use Suva as their base.

1.10 In compliance with the WCPFC Convention, Fiji assumed issuing high seas permits to its flagged vessels from 2004.

1.11 All fishing vessels coming from outside Fiji waters irrespective of flagging, are boarded for inspection at our designated ports of Suva and Levuka. Similar inspection is conducted prior to vessels departing for the fishing grounds. Fishing vessels fishing entirely within our waters for a particular trip are given lower priority for inspection but like other fishing vessels, they are required to submit to our dockside boarding officers SPC catch logs at the completion of each fishing trip.

1.12 The National Observer Programme is responsible for the placement of observers on licensed vessels and also carries out port sampling on vessels unloading their catch at out ports. The Programme also contributes to the Regional Observer Programme under the US multilateral treaty administered by FFA.

1.13 All catch data collected from the domestic fleet are referred to our data operators for inputting and analysis by our analyst for domestic use. The raw data are then referred to SPC in Noumea for the regional recording. A detail explanation on this programme was delivered in Noumea during the Scientific Committee meeting earlier in the year.

2. Fleet structure

2.1 Fiji's tuna fleet is dominated by long liners ranging from 14 m – 40 m in length having various flags.

2.2 Since 2004 Fiji issued licenses only to vessels flying flags belonging to Members and Co-operating Non-members. To date we have a total of 28 vessels that has Fiji high seas permits.

2.3 Fiji has only one flagged pole and line vessel and supplies its catch to the *tataki* processing factory in Suva.

2.4 Due to Fiji's geographical position and alluring infrastructure, more foreign flagged vessels are opting to base their operations in Fiji (but not licensed) through charter arrangements with local companies and access neighbouring fishing grounds and high seas. In 2005 a total of 52 long liners come under this category of which, 11 are Fiji flagged while 41 are foreign. Most of these 52 vessels are authorised to fish in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu or high seas or a combination of any of the four. All these vessels land their catch in Fiji.

2.5 Some Fiji licensed long liners have dual authorisation with neighbouring island states and land all their catch in Fiji. The only Fiji licensed long liners that do not venture outside Fiji waters are those less than 20 m in length and do not have the endorsement to do so due to their limitations size and manning qualifications.

2.6 (a) **Fiji Flagged Vessels Active in the WCPFC Convention Area by Gear Type**

Pole and Line Vessels:

TABLE 1

Year	< 30 m LOA	TOTAL
2002	2	2
2003	1	1
2004	1	1
2005	1	1

Longliners:

TABLE 2

Year	0 – 20 m LOA	21 m – 30 m LOA	> 31 m LOA	TOTAL
2002	14	26	11	51
2003	10	25	14	49
2004	9	19	15	43
2005	8	19	14	41

(b) **Foreign Flagged Vessels Authorised to take fish from Fiji's EEZ by Gear Type and Flag**

* Pole and Line Vessels:

TABLE 3

Year	Flag	0 – 40 m	41 m – 60 m	>61 m LOA	TOTAL
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		LOA	LOA		
2002	Nil	0	0	0	0
2003	Nil	0	0	0	0
2004	JP	0	8	5	13
2005	JP	0	1	0	1

* Purse Seiners:

TABLE 4

Year	Flag	0 – 40 m LOA	41 m – 60 m LOA	>61 m LOA	TOTAL
2002	Nil	0	0	0	0
2003	JP	0	0	1	1
2004	JP	0	0	1	1
2005	JP	0	0	1	1

* UNDER FIJI/JAPAN BI-LATERAL ARRANGEMENT

Longliners:

TABLE 5

Year	Flag	0 – 20 m LOA	21 m – 30 m LOA	>31 m LOA	TOTAL
2002	AU	0	2	0	2
	CI	0	1	0	1
	CM	0	2	0	2
	CN	0	15	6	21
	HN	1	0	0	1
	NZ	1	3	0	4
	TW	3	8	0	11
	VU	0	9	1	10
TOTAL		5	40	7	52
2003	AU	0	2	0	2
	BZ	0	2	1	3
	CN	0	22	5	27
	ES	0	1	0	1
	NZ	0	3	0	3
	TW	3	8	1	12
	VU	0	3	1	4
TOTAL		3	41	8	52
2004	CN	0	28	4	32
	NZ	0	1	0	1
	TW	2	2	0	4
	VU	0	3	0	3
TOTAL		2	34	4	40

2005	CI	0	1	0	1
	CN	0	25	4	29
	NZ	0	1	0	1
TOTAL		0	27	4	31

3. Annual Estimate Catch of Fiji Flagged Vessels in the WCPO Convention Area

3.1 Table 7 summarises the catch by Fiji flagged long line vessels inside and outside of Fiji's fisheries waters.

TABLE 7

SPECIES	CATCH LANDED (MT)		
	2002	2003	2004
ALB	4,967	3,392	3,783
BET	512	424	404
YFT	1,343	1,376	1,517
SWO	62	45	38
SFA	91	67	8
BLZ	34	25	56
BLM	36	26	21
MLS	88	64	22
SSP	12	9	19
MAH	31	23	54
WAH	119	87	73
SHK	635	462	388
OTHER	440	320	268
TOTAL	8,370	6,320	6,651

4. Estimated Annual Catches in the Fiji's EEZ by all Flagged Long Line Vessels

4.1 Table 8 summarises catch by all long line vessels authorised to fish within Fiji's fisheries waters.

TABLE 8

SPECIES	CATCH LANDED (MT)		
	2002	2003	2004
ALB	6,542	4,208	5,171
BET	653	474	452

YFT	1,671	1,469	1,920
SWO	431	75	63
SFA	110	25	12
BLZ	267	95	77
BLM	200	28	28
MLS	56	46	29
SSP	206	19	26
MAH	262	152	74
WAH	260	161	99
SHK	745	272	535
OTHER	786	299	299
TOTAL	12,189	7,323	8,785

5. Developments and trends in the domestic and/or offshore industry

5.1 Fiji through Bumble Bee and Pacific Fishing Company contracts about 22 Taiwanese flagged albacore long liners to supply its raw materials. The operation of PAFCO, which is the only source of income for some 800 people on the island of Ovalau, is vital and is very much, being tendered with all care by Government.

5.2 Fiji's fisheries legislation is currently being reviewed and once enacted, it should encompass most of the articles in the WCPO Convention.

6. Application of conservation and management measures on the high seas and complementary measures in waters under national jurisdiction.

6.1 High Seas Infringement

Fiji does not have any report for infringements on its vessels in the WCPO Convention area.

6.2 Port State Measures

Fiji is working towards achieving 100% on measures as in *Article 27* of the WCPO Convention.