Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

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

WCPFC-SC21-AR/CCM-20
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PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN and CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (WCPFC)

PART1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

PHILIPPINE ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT UPDATE

July 2025

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April, 2024	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

PHILIPPINE ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT 2024

Summary

The Philippines expresses its strong commitment to promoting effective management in order to achieve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) in accordance with the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the WCPF Convention. In giving effect to the provisions of the WCPF Convention, the Philippines upholds that conservation and management measures developed by the Commission, including the recent CMM 2023-01 on the conservation and management of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack in WCPO.

There are various ongoing activities such as the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP), Philippine Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP), catch documentation/validation, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), collaborations with various government agencies (e.g. PSA, PFDA) including the tuna industry, supports Philippine efforts towards improving tuna data collection. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has 752 trained observers (60% are active) and 90 trained debriefers. The VMS has already been operationalized particularly for those vessels operating in international waters (e.g. HSP1, Indian Ocean, other PIC waters). Philippines has approved Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 260 on the rules and regulations on the implementation of the vessel monitoring measure in accordance with Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act 10654.

Philippines has been continuously given limited access to High Seas Pocket 1 as Special Management Area (SMA) allowing only 36 traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group. Philippine-flagged vessels operating in HSP1 are managed under the DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order 245-4 (FAO 245-4). Out of 36 catcher vessels, there were twenty-three (23) vessels that entered HSP1 for 2024. The total tuna catches of these vessels operating in HSP1 for the period of January to December 2024 is around 34,791MT from 2,564 fishing day/s.

The provisional catch estimates for the four tuna species of concern of the WCPFC in 2024 are as follows: skipjack – 115, 355MT; yellowfin – 79,865MT; bigeye – 4,981MT; and albacore – 833MT with a total provisional catch of 201,034MT.

The Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas Project (WPEA-SM) which aims to improve the management of highly migratory species in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas area, was concluded and the Western Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project continues to assist Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam improve monitoring and management of tuna catches that will contribute to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Philippines through the BFAR-NFRDI, PSA, and other concerned agencies together with the tuna industry is doing a lot of efforts to improve data collection and to strengthen its national capacity and international cooperation particularly on various transboundary concerns in relation to the sustainable conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks.

BACKGROUND

The Philippine fishing industry contributed over 1.0% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2024, with a Gross Value Added (GVA) of more than ₱201,978 million in the fishing and aquaculture sector (PSA, 2025). Moreover, the fisheries production by volume in 2024 is approximately 4,058,692.66 MT, with 868,324.12 is from commercial fisheries, 969,030.31 are from municipal fisheries, and aquaculture with more than 2,221,338.23 (PSA, 2025). According to the World Bank (2023), the sector provides employment to over 1.6 million Filipinos, representing approximately 4% of the national labor force. It also supplies about 50% of the country's dietary protein intake. Additionally, the Philippines is recognized as a major tuna producer in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

Also, in 2024, the foreign trade performance of the fishery industry gave a net surplus of 1,190,542, 000 US dollars (PSA, 2024). Tuna remained as the top export commodity with a collective volume of 130,708MT for fresh/chilled/frozen, smoked/dried, and canned tuna products valued at US $479 million. Canned tuna, though, constitutes bulk of tuna products being exported. In general, tuna exports decreased by 19% in terms of volume and decreased by 8% in terms of value (PSA, 2023).

Chilled/frozen fish comprised the bulk of the total import in terms of value. Tuna, mackerel and *Salmonidae* and cuttlefish are the major import fish commodities in 2024. Tuna has the largest import share of 34% with an import value of US $286million. Other fishery imports include mackerel 11%, *Salmonidae* 5%, cuttlefish 7% and roundscad 7% (PSA, 2024).

ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

A. FLEET STRUCTURE

The fishing sector consists of municipal and commercial components, with the former involving vessels less than 3 GT in size, and under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Units (LGUs). The number of municipal vessels is not well documented in most areas. The larger commercial vessels (> 3GT) are required to fish outside municipal waters, beyond 15km off the shoreline, and are required to secure a commercial fishing vessel license (CFVL) at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which is subject to renewal every three (3) years. With the implementation of RA 9379 or the Handline Fishing Law, this gives a separate category for the handline vessels which were formerly considered under the municipal fishing vessels.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) classification of registered Philippine vessels operating in the Western and Central Pacific Region is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Classification of Philippine Registered Vessels in the Active List of WCPFC*

Source: WCPFC Website, as of 09 June 2025

a. Purse Seine

	<250GT	>250-500GT	>500-1000GT	>1000GT	Total
2020	30	4	13	26	73
2021	32	2	14	27	75
2022	33	1	16	28	78
2023	37	1	15	28	81
2024	44	1	15	31	91

b. Fish Carrier

	<250GT	>250-500GT	>500-1000GT	>1000GT	Total
2020	77	9	5	15	106
2021	78	9	5	15	107
2022	80	9	5	15	109
2023	83	9	5	15	112
2024	95	10	5	15	125

c. Support Vessel

	<250GT	>250-500GT	>500-1000GT	>1000GT	Total
2020	153	1			154
2021	156	1			157
2022	170	1			171
2023	196	2			198
2024	222	3			225

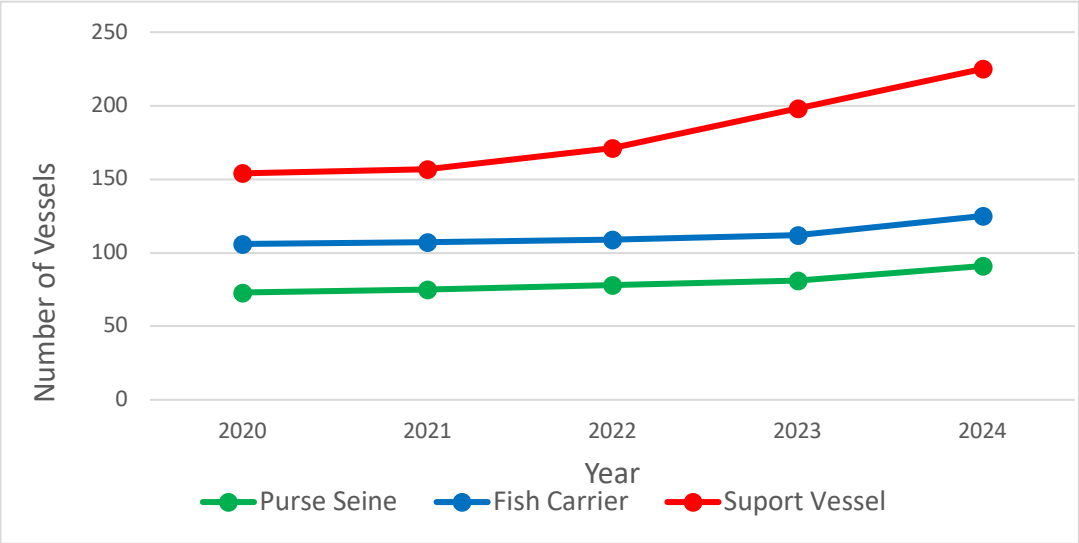


Figure. 1. Historical Number of Vessels Active in WCPFC-CA (2020-2024)

B. ANNUAL TUNA CATCH IN THE PHILIPPINE EEZ

Philippines, compiled the data based on probability (stratified random sampling by data collectors) and non-probability surveys (interviews by regular PSA staff), supplemented by secondary data from administrative sources e.g. landings sites and ports (Vallesteros, 2002). Annual Fisheries Statistics for commercial, municipal, inland and aquaculture sectors are published for three- year time frames and include volume and value of production by province and by region, information on fish prices and foreign trade statistics.

Catch breakdown by the 31 main marine species is available[1].Estimates of annual bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches beginning 2020-2024 have been reported by PSA (Table 2).

The annual tuna catch estimates include all the tuna catch unloaded in Philippine ports regardless where they were caught and does not separate those catches from foreign waters or whether it is caught by foreign-flagged vessel.

Table 2. Total tuna catch, by species, for 2020-2024
Source: PSA Annual Fisheries Statistics; 2024 data are provisional

Year	Commercial			Municipal			TOTAL
	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	
2020	234,521	62,649	6,005	26,083	32,240	13,929	**375,427**
2021	218,744	40,298	5,189	24,393	33,835	12,124	**334,580**
2022	219,505	49,358	8,717	37,333	35,397	10,322	**360,632**
2023	174,567	61,267	5,472	36,970	27,440	8,526	**314,242**
2024	243,342	64,921	7,218	41,318	26,818	11,023	**394,640**

Note: The annual tuna catch estimates for 2020-2024 includes all the tuna catch unloaded in Philippine ports regardless where they were caught and does not separate those catches from foreign waters or caught by foreign-flagged vessel which may account for around 120,419MT for 2024.

The 18th Tuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Review Workshop last 4-7 June 2025 was conducted to review and validate Philippine catch estimates by species and gear type. Data from different sources, namely, BFAR (NSAP, logsheets, cannery receipts, Philippine FOP), PSA, PFDA and industry were presented and reviewed. Table 3 provides a breakdown of catch by gear and species according to the process undertaken in the workshop with the current 2024 PSA estimates. After removing the foreign-flagged catch landed in the Philippines (120,419MT) from the PSA estimate, there was a difference of around 41,479MT. The difference could be due to the difficulties in estimating the diverse municipal fisheries and could be explained as possible bias in the probability surveys due to very low coverage. The SPC presented updates on the tropical tuna measure in item agenda 7 on preliminary assessment of Philippine tuna catches under the Tropical Tuna Measure according to

[1] Around 43.59% of the municipal catch and 56.41% of the commercial landings are not captured by these top 31 species

CMM 2023-01. According to Attachment #2 in the CMM, for purse seine vessels operating in high seas pocket 1 (HSP1), Philippine has a total effort limit not exceed 4,659 days and vessels shall not exceed 36 fishing vessels. Large-fish Handline catches outside TS and AWs use the NSAP fishing ground data to determine the total Handline catch inside and outside AWs/TS, and in WCPFC Area. The estimates for 2024 was 10% of the total handline catches outside of AWs. The estimate for Large-fish Handline at 3,802 MT which is within the limit set forth in the measure of 13,343 MT, this is within the limit and within compliance of the measure.

The NFRDI secured additional funding to support hiring of enumerators through Philippine government, WPEA and other funding sources to ensure better port sampling. Also to improve catch estimate for tuna, it was suggested during the workshop to invite the BARMM (MAFAR to upcoming workshops noting that the said region has significant tuna catches based on PSA estimates.

Table 3. Reconciliation of 2024 Tuna Catch Estimates by Gear and Species with the 2024 PSA Total Tuna Catch Estimates (in MT)*
Source: 18th Philippine/WCPFC Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Review Workshop Report

GEAR / SPECIES	SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	TOTAL
Purse seine	54,848	19,121	1,402	0	**75,370**
Ring Net	28,359	6,691	220	2	**35,271**
Handline	3,648	33,424	2,398	647	**40,118**
Hook-and-line	21,679	17,262	711	89	**39,741**
Others	6,821	3,368	250	95	**10,534**
TOTAL	**115,355**	**79,865**	**4,981**	**833**	**201,034**

Also included in the tuna catch estimates are catches of Philippine-flagged vessels fishing in high seas pocket #1 (HSP1). Since 2012, Philippines was given limited access to High Seas Pocket 1 as Special Management Area (SMA) allowing only 36 traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group. Philippine-flagged vessels have been operating under the Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area (DA-BFAR-FAO 245-4). Out of 36 catcher vessels, there were twenty-three (23) vessels that entered HSP1 for 2024. The total tuna catches of these vessels operating in HSP1 for the period of January to December 2024 is around 34,791MT from 2,564 fishing day/s.

Tuna catch breakdown by gear is not available from the present Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA, formerly BAS) national statistics publication. However, the WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook has also provided an estimated breakdown of catch by gear (Table 4).

Table 4. Estimated catch of oceanic tuna species, by gear type, for 2019–2023 in Western and Central Pacific Oceans (in MT)
Source: WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2024

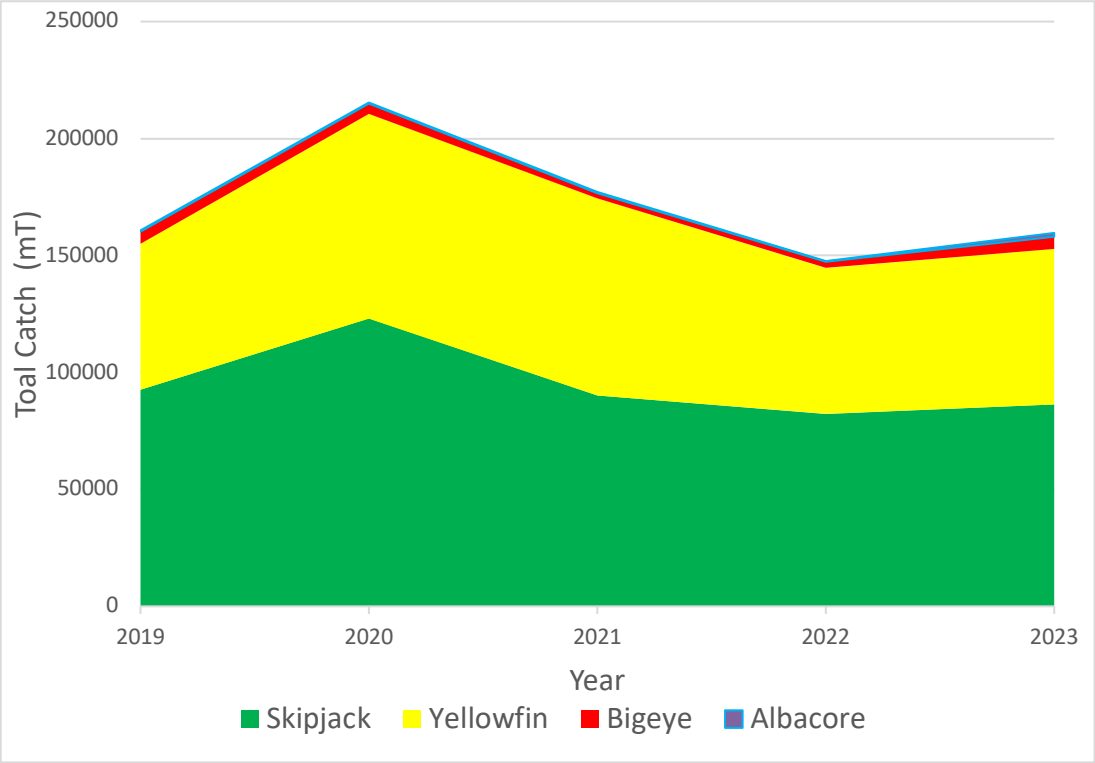
Year/Species	Hook-and-Line[1]	Purse Seine[2]	Others	Total
2019				
Skipjack	12,236	65,064	4,230	81,530
Yellowfin	37,018	28,961	2,164	68,143
Bigeye	1,908	1,060	57	3,025
Albacore	645	13	27	685
Total	51,807	101,799	6,478	160,084
2020				
Skipjack	9,753	90,029	6,724	106,506
Yellowfin	37,391	36,231	2,581	76,203
Bigeye	1,576	2,387	137	4,100
Albacore	326	13	20	359
Total	49,046	156,822	9,462	215,330
2021				
Skipjack	14,387	70,400	5,499	90,286
Yellowfin	49,444	31,045	3,310	83,799
Bigeye	1,133	1,397	123	2,653
Albacore	105	0	68	173
Total	65,069	102,842	9,000	176,911
2022				
Skipjack	12,015	63,491	6,825	82,331
Yellowfin	34,289	25,555	2,554	62,398
Bigeye	1,434	934	218	2,586
Albacore	105	0	68	173
Total	47,843	89,980	9,665	147,488
2023				
Skipjack	17,440	64,681	4,169	86,290
Yellowfin	45,235	19,141	2,192	66,568
Bigeye	2,211	2,811	131	5,153
Albacore	1,437	0	107	1,544
Total	66,323	86,633	6,599	159,555

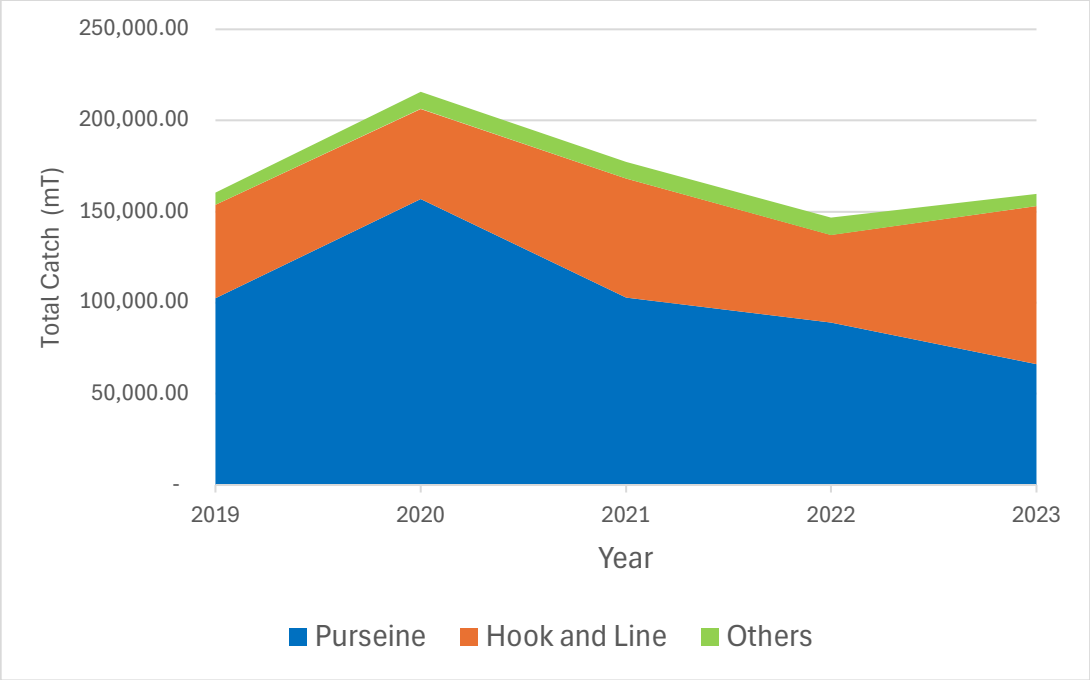
[1] Includes handline catches

[2] Includes ringnet catches

No other fishing by foreign flag vessels is permitted in the Philippines EEZ, but a considerable amount of IUU fishing, based on the regularity of apprehensions of vessels illegally fishing in Philippine waters, would seem to occur, much of it involving tuna vessels. A desk study carried out in 1995 (PTRP, 1995) concluded that IUU longline catches of up to 10,000MT (40% yellowfin) may have been taken in some years.

Landings by foreign longline vessels are permitted in Davao (Toril) port, where around 161 MT (2020 – 2024) of mostly tuna is landed annually (Table 8).





C. ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE CONVENTION AREA

In addition to the estimated catch by Philippine vessels in the EEZ (see above), to this must be added catches by Philippines flag vessels taken outside the EEZ and elsewhere in the Convention area. The extra - EEZ catches are assumed to include those made by purse seine and ring net vessels in adjacent areas and based in overseas ports and catches by the wide- ranging handline vessels. BFAR has already required fishing vessels such as purse seine and ringnet to adopt the logsheet system to address the above issue. The fisheries data collection system records all catch landed by Philippine registered vessels including those fish caught outside Philippine waters (e.g. PNG, PIC waters).

Purse seine catches in the PIC waters

Data on the catch by Philippine flag purse seine vessels fishing in Papua New Guinea (PNG) waters are available from the SPC Regional Database, and are summarized for the period 2020-2024 below.

Table 5. Catch by Philippine flag purse seine vessels in PIC waters, 2020-2024.
Source: SPC Regional Tuna Fishery Database and BFAR 12

Year	No. of	Catch (in MT)			
	Vessels	**Skipjack**	**Yellowfin**	**Bigeye**	**Total**
2020	6	15,681	12,462	19	28,162
2021	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0
2024	-	199	118	0	317

* 2020 data does not include catch of PH flagged vessels chartered by PICs. For 2021-2023, all Philippine flagged vessels that fished in PNG waters were chartered by PNG, thus no catch for this fleet in 2021-2023. For 2024, 317MT originated from other EEZ other than PNG logbook data. Catches from PNG water presumed under charter arrangements.

Longline catches

Since 2016 to present, there is no Philippine longline vessel that operates within the WCPFC Convention Area (WCPFC-CA). But there were two (2) or more distant-water Philippine longline vessels that operate in the past that have been granted fishing access in other PIC waters (e.g. Kiribati), catches for these vessels are summarized below.

Table 6. Catches of Distant – water Philippine flag longline vessel/s fishing in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2011 – 2014 (MT)

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014
Yellowfin	145.77	60.63	27.16	2.78
Bigeye	777.06	247.83	166.56	52.90
Albacore	36.39	23.96	30.47	1.16
Others	174.96	62.66	10.69	38.67
Total	1,134.18	398.08	234.87	95.51

DISPOSAL OF CATCH

Most of the municipal tuna catches are landed as wet fish all over the Philippines. Much of the municipal catch is processed by drying, salting, smoking etc. A portion of the municipal tuna catch would enter large scale commercial processing like the large handline-caught tuna exported as sashimi and marketed either frozen or smoked, mostly in General Santos City and possibly small amounts are sold as wet fish direct to canneries.

Only one (1) canneries has provided their annual input of 14,633.73 MT from Celebes Canning Corporation. However, the previous estimated annual output of the five (5) canneries was 100,853.46MT, which is an annual output of five (5) canneries are mostly supplied by landings from Philippine purse seiners and ring netters, both local vessels and via carriers from overseas operations. Recent records on Philippine cannery unloading also stated that Philippine-flagged vessels unloaded a total of 1,878,795MT of fresh tuna and 3,610,741MT of frozen tuna while Foreign-flagged vessels unloaded a total of 11,818MT of fresh tuna and 5,532,722MT of frozen tuna from two (2) out of five (5) canneries.

The catch from the High Seas Pocket 1 was distributed in nearby markets, canneries, smoked and fishmeal processing facilities. The majority of the catch was distributed to canneries (59.42%) and local markets (38.03%). The remaining 2.31% and 0.24% went to the preparation of fishmeal and smoked fish, respectively. Catch of lower quality was frequently sold as raw materials for processing into cans, smoked, and fishmeal, which entails lower prices and is categorized as losses (Montojo et. al. 2020). Moreover, more than 1.9% of the landed catch of General Santos City accounts to 1.9% post harvest losses as of 2023; while, a one time assessment in high seas accounts to more than 17%.

Official figures for exports of tuna products for the period 2020-2024 are tabulated below. The first category includes chilled sashimi quality fish and frozen whole fish for tuna canning.

Table 7. Tuna exports by commodity, 2020 –2024

Source: PSA Fisheries Statistics for 2020–2024

Tuna commodity, by volume (MT)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fresh/chilled/frozen	43,102	9,941	35,202	18,794	20,282
Dried/smoked	3,420	1,776	0	0	-
Canned	88,547	83,035	72,599	68,076	-
Prepared/Preserved	-	-	-	-	110,426
TOTAL VALUE (million USD)	489.03	384.694	401.187	369.636	479.004

**** 2024 provisional data***

ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS

A. HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE

The General Santos Fish Port Complex (GSFPC), the country's major tuna unloading port, with around 283,769MT total unloading in 2024. Major expansion and improvement of the General Santos Fish Port Complex is projected to cost approximately PHP 2.488 billion. This initiative aims to enhance port facilities, increase capacity for fish handling and processing, modernize equipment and infrastructure, and support the sustainable growth of the fisheries sector in the region.

As of the 2024 4th Quarter Review of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), the current status of its flagship infrastructure rehabilitation projects, shows that Davao Fish Port Complex (FPC) and Sual FPC have both achieved 100% completion. The Iloilo FPC is 95.47% complete, while Zamboanga FPC and Camaligan FPC have reached 55.88% and 56.04% completion, respectively. For the General Santos FPC, Package 1 stands at 39.31% completion, and Package 2 at 8.94%. Meanwhile, the Navotas FPC has completed 75.70% of Phase 1 and 82.83% of Phase 2.

B. PROCESSING PLANTS

There are currently five (5) out of eight (8) tuna canneries in the Philippines.

There are two Philippine-owned and operated canneries in Papua New Guinea one in Madang and another one in Lae processing around 50,000MT per year.

Most of the handline catch supply fresh and frozen sashimi grade to the export processors and some to the domestic market. There are more than 17 frozen tuna processors in the Philippines, 70% of which are located in General Santos City and supports about 3,000 jobs. Majority of its production is exported to US and European countries.

OTHER CMM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Conservation and Management Measure 2022-04 (Sharks)*

Since 2009, Philippines has been implementing its National Plan of Action for Sharks and was updated in 2017. It also implemented the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 272 on Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks for Philippine Fishing Vessels adopting provisions in WCPFC CMM 2022-04. Based on available reports (e.g. observer reports, port sampling), Philippines documented in HSP1 164 encircled silky sharks, with 63 released alive and 104 released dead in 2024.

Additionally, one (1) oceanic whitetip shark was recorded encircled and subsequently released alive during the same year.No recorded encirclement of sharks in Philippine EEZ in 2024.

B. Conservation and Management Measure 2023-02 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

The Philippines does not conduct fishing activities targeting Pacific bluefin tunas in the area north of 20° N. However, in some years, there are by-catches of Pacific Bluefin tunas in areas south of 20° N. These fishing vessels utilize handline/hook-and-line fishing gears. For 2024, PH has 3.517MT record of Pacific Bluefin Tuna catches in Philippine EEZ along the provinces of Aurora, Quezon, Bicol and Samar approximately 14 pieces with weight ranges from 141-463kg as reported during the 16th WPEA-NSAP catch estimate review workshop. Philippines has improved its catch documentation mechanisms to monitor all tuna landings throughout the country.

C. Conservation and Management Measure 2018-04 (Sea Turtles)

Section 102 of the amended Philippine Fisheries Code or republic act 10654, imposes penalties for the fishing or taking of rare, threatened or endangered species which includes sea turtles. CMM 2018-04 is clearly explained to the captains and crew of the vessel during the Annual pre-departure course. Philippines provided a “SSI Incident Report Form” where the vessel is required to report incidents of Sea Turtle interaction and the action taken to release the animal. In 2024 Philippines, has recorded a total of 1 Sea turtle as reported by Fisheries Observer onboard. The species was released alive (Loggerhead turtle-1).

D. Conservation and Management Measure 2019-05 (Mobulid Rays)

Fisheries Administrative Order 193 penalizes the taking or catching, selling, purchasing and possessing, transporting and exporting of Whale sharks and Manta Rays. In 2023, the Philippines has adopted the Fisheries Administrative Order 272 on the Rules and Regulations for the Conservation and Management of Sharks for Philippines fishing vessels. "Shark" referred here is the shark defined in the UN-IPOA-SHARKS which includes all species of sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes). Under this FAO there is a prohibition on retaining onboard species of sharks that are considered Endangered, threatened and Protected (ETP). In 2024, there are 5 instances of mobulid rays (*Mobula spp.*) were reported caught by purse seine vessels, and 3 were released alive and 2 dead.

STATUS of TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

A. LOGSHEETS DATA COLLECTION

Since 2008, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) launched the catch documentation scheme which includes the catch and effort logsheet system for the purse seine and ringnet vessels. Aside from this BFAR also requires canneries to

submit monthly cannery unloading data. TUFMAN Database and PECAN Database systems are being utilized to process the data collected from logsheets and cannery receipts, respectively. All these efforts are geared towards improving tuna statistics/data gathering. DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO 238): Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2008 on Catch Certification Scheme requires all vessels especially those exporting in EU market to submit catch logsheets as requirement for the issuance of Catch Certificates and this helped improve timely logsheets data compliance. BFAR Administrative Circular No. 251 series of 2014 or the Traceability System for Fish and Fishing Products, establishes traceability system for wild-caught, farmed fish and other aquatic products. One of the data requirements for wild-caught fish products for traceability/documentation is to submit logsheets.

Logsheets submission is also required for all vessels under Section 38 of the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550) as amended by Republic Act 10654.

B. OBSERVER PROGRAM and VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)

The BFAR regularly conducts observer training, twice in a year to recruit new observers. There are 752 trained observers (90% active) ready to board the vessels especially to those vessels intending to fish during the FAD closure period within the Philippine EEZ and for high sea pocket # 1 (HSP1) operation. All our HSP1 fishing operations have 100% observer coverage. The program has 90 trained debriefers to conduct debriefing procedures and protocols to the observers. There is also observer coverage to those vessels fishing in the PNG EEZ, provided by PNG NFA.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has operationalized the national VMS particularly for those vessels fishing in high sea pocket #1 (HSP1). The Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550) as amended by Republic Act 10654, Section 119 details the implementation requirements of the Vessel Monitoring Measure (VMM) for catcher and carrier vessels 30GT and above. While Section 116 details implementation requirements for fisheries observer coverage for fishing vessels 200GT and above, and also those fishing vessels that fish during the FAD closure period. In 2018, Philippines adopted the rules and regulations on the implementation of the vessel monitoring measure (VMM) and observer coverage which can be found in Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 260 and FAO 261, respectively. Philippines has started to upgrade its VMS though the Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System-Phase II (PHILO-2) Project

There were three (3) DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Orders that supports the implementation the Philippine Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP) and operationalization of Vessels Monitoring System (VMS). These were FAO No. 240: Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of Fisheries Observer Program in the High Seas, FAO No. 241: Regulations and Implementation of the Vessel Monitoring

System in the High Seas and FAO 245-4: Regulation and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area.

C. PORT SAMPLING PROGRAM

The National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) has continued to collect port sampling data (e.g. species composition, length frequency and vessel catch and effort information) in major tuna landing sites. In 2010 – 2013, the West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFMP) was able to increase port sampling coverage covering some of the major tuna landing areas around the country. Since 2014, the Philippine government through BFAR gave more funding to support expansion of the NSAP which aims to cover / monitor almost all the tuna landing areas in the country to come-up with a more reliable data particularly for the diverse municipal tuna fisheries, for our WCPFC data obligation and also for better fisheries management. Data from NSAP has been used as basis for coming up reliable tuna catch composition during the annual tuna catch estimates review workshops.

Since 2022, the new NSAP database system has included the FMA and coordinates for each fishing ground it is recommended that BFAR/NFRDI in collaboration with WCPFC/SPC, to further consider updating the new NSAP database system to support reports that could produce catch breakdown by FMAs with maps. It was further recommended that BFAR/NFRDI, in collaboration with WCPFC/SPC, proceed with the testing and further development of the new NSAP database system over the coming months and develop a plan for the gradual introduction of the new system including the NSAP mobile app to Regional NSAP offices, which may involve some introductory training where required.

Initial NSAP database roll-out on 21-22 March 2022, a dedicated workshop was conducted during 17-19 January 2023 in General Santos City to orient NSAP personnel on the various reports available in the new NSAT2 Database system. The said activity was facilitated by SPC in collaboration with NFRDI and was well attended by NSAP personnel from various regional offices.

The application of NSAP-eDGES in 2023, particularly in General Santos City as pilot site, was successful despite encountering some system error. These issues have already been coordinated to SPC for system improvement. NFRDI continue to liaise with other regions that intend to use the said NSAP-eDGES app. NSAP regions intend to use the app will provide BFAR/NFRDI and WCPFC/SPC with a list of new accounts to be added for NSAP eDGES and NSAP T2 with the assistance from WCPFC/SPC will continue to update the NSAP eDGES app as needed.

Most tuna landing sites have been covered by NSAP monitoring. Estimation on catches from non-NSAP sites is limited and previously some NSAP regional offices use various methodologies which may include estimation using catch records from land transport permits (LTP). NFRDI will consider requesting additional funding

from WPEA-SPF Project as dedicated activity to come up with detailed methodologies to be used by NSAP to estimate the non-NSAP sampling sites.

D. UNLOADING

Landings / unloading by foreign vessels is permitted in only one port in the Philippines - Davao (Toril), as noted earlier. Table 8 below lists the details of these foreign flag vessel unloading in Davao Fish Port.

Table 8. Vessel Arrivals and Unloading Volumes by Foreign Vessels, Davao Fish Port, 2020 - 2024
Source: PFDA, 2025

Year	Port Calls	Volume of Unloadings (MT)
2020	39	110
2021	15	0
2022	39	19
2023	9	6
2024	2	26

RESEARCH & FUTURE ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET & NON-TARGET SPECIES

The West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFMP) was implemented from January 2010 to December 2013. The phase-2 of this project entitled Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas aims to strengthen national capacities and regional cooperation to implement fishery sector reforms that will sustain and conserve the highly migratory fish stocks in the West Pacific Ocean and East Asian Seas while considering climatic variability and change has just concluded and the Western Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project continues to assist Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam improve monitoring and management of tuna catches that will contribute to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The WPEA-ITM Project New Zealand Aid Programme extension of implementing arrangement for the Philippines was until March 2025.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA)10654 "An act to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Republic Act 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998", and for other purpose, took effect last October 2015. One of the policy declarations of the law was *"to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the adjacent high seas, consistent with the*

primordial objective of maintaining a sound ecological balance, protecting and enhancing the quality of the international conventions and cooperate with other states and international bodies, in order to conserve and manage threatened aquatic species, straddling and highly migratory fish stocks and other living marine resources". Section 32 also states that *"all distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the conservation and management measures of RFMOs where they are conducting fishing"*. The IRR has outlined in detail our policy approaches and the corresponding timelines in carrying out the objectives of the law.

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ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

15 February 2021[1]

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

CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	CCMs shall report to the Commission the total number of vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch of swordfish for the following: 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; b. vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of their domestic fishery south of 20°S; and c. any other vessels fishing within their waters south of 20°S. This information shall be provided in Part 1of 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. **Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.*	Philippines does not have vessels that mainly targets swordfish but our fleet do have some records of catches for this species as by-catch for our hook-and-line fishery that were mainly operating in Philippine waters and NONE of our vessel was operating south of 20°S.
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	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. A sample report format is provided as guidance to assist CCMs with reporting (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4)	Philippines has no longline vessel/s fishing in the WCPFC-CA for 2024. For other gears (e.g. handline, troll), these are mainly municipal or artisanal gears that mainly operates in our waters within our national jurisdiction.

[1] Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions of the Commission, as of WCPFC17 (Dec 2020). First issued on 15 February 2021. Changes made from Addendum for 2020, include separating the annual reporting requirements that specify needing to be included in Annual Report Part 1 (Section A) from those that may be included in Annual Report Part 1 if they are not otherwise provided to WCPFC (Section B). The entry into force of CMM 2019- 04 *Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks* for most CCMs in late 2020 and the specified reporting in Section VII, has removed a few annual reporting requirements from this Addendum.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td><table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</th><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th colspan="3">No. of Hooks</th><th colspan="2">Days Fishe</th></tr>
<tr><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th></tr>
<tr><td>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</td><td>Distant-water</td><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
</table></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</td><td>CCMs shall report on all transhipment activities covered by this Measure (including transhipment 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 transhipment 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: Transhipment 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:

(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:
<table><tr><th>a) offloaded and received;</th><th>b) transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction</th><th>c) transhipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the Convention Area;</th><th>d) c insi Con Are cau the Con Are</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">offloaded</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">received</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></td><td>Attached in Page 25-26 of this Paper is the report of Philippines flagged vessels that have conducted transhipment activities in the WCPFC – CA for 2024 (There are no PH-LL vessel which are active/operating and PS/RN operation are considered group seining operation).</td></tr>
</table>

(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 the Conventio and transhipp the Conventio
offloaded			
received			

ANNEX II
TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY CCMs

Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission:

(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 transshipped outside the Convention Area;
   d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;
   e. species;
   f. product form; and
   g. fishing gear used

(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; and e. fishing gear.	
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).	In 2024, there were 121 estimated instances that a cetacean was unintentionally encircled by a purse seine net, 103 released alive and 18 released dead e.g. (Bottlenose dolphin–14 instances encircled and 3 released alive, 11 released dead; Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphin– 6 instances encircled, 4 released alive, 2 released dead; Rough toothed dolphin – 90 instances encircled, 87 released alive, 3 released dead; spinner dolphin-9 instances encircled and 9 released alive; Pantropical Spotted dolphin– 2 instances encircled, all released dead). These reported instances occurred in Philippine EEZ,high seas pocket #1 (HSP1) and other Pacific Island countries (PIC) EEZ (e.g. PNG) Based on the report of the fishing master, they would usually stop the net roll once they noticed a cetacean and let the cetacean move out of the net.
CMM 2018-03	CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported	There were no reported seabird interactions for 2024, either from longline or other gears. There were no Philippine-flagged longline

[Seabirds] Para 13	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.	vessel/s operating in WCPFC Convention area for 2024.

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

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

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [*CCM*] [South of 30^{o}S; 25^{o}S-30^{o}S; North of 23^{o}N; or 23^{o}N – 25^{o}S[1]]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); and the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate [2]
[year]						
[year]						
[year]						
[previous year e.g. 2017]						
[current year e.g. 2018]						

1 Insert 'North of 23oN', 'South of 30oS', '25oS-30oS' or '23oN – 250oS'. For CCMs fishing in all areas, provide separate tables for each area.

2 Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Proportion of mitigation types[1] used by the fleet in [year].

	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						
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS						
	TL + WB						
	NS + WB						
	TL + WB + NS						
	HS						
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB						
	TL						
Other options north of 23^0N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS						
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)						
Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here							
	Totals (must equal 100%)						

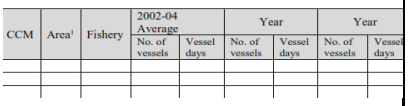
[1] TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge, HS = hook-shielding device.

Table z: Number of observed seabird captures in [*CCM*] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	**South of 30°S**	**25°S-30°S**	**North of 23°N**	**23°N –25°S 25°S**	**Total**
E.g. Antipodean albatross					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
Total					

<u>SECTION B:</u> 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.	Philippines has no vessels fishing in the Convention Area south of 15°S.
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	PH has no vessel fishing in the Convention Area south of 20°S.

	encouraged to provide data from periods prior to these dates.	
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 1: **Annex I: Average annual fishing effort for 2002-2004 and annual North Pacific albacore in the North Pacific Ocean**  | CCM	Area[1]	Fishery	2002-04 Average		Year		Year	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days | ** Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State*	*Thunnus alalunga* – 833MT(2024) -catches for this species are mainly coming from municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) and this is not a target species for these gear/s. Fishing effort for municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) are difficult to quantify, as recognized by the Commission there are some fleets such as the Philippines that has some practical difficulties compiling this information. Also it would be important to note that Philippines do not target albacore (Thunnus alalunga), this species is mainly caught as bycatch and seasonal in nature.

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

1. Total Quantities by Weight

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 transshipped outside the Convention Area;	d) caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear	Quantity in Metric Tons (MT)
offloaded							
received							

2. Number of Transhipments

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	Number of Transhipments
offloaded					
received					