Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Nuku'alofa, Tonga
13 – 21 August 2025

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

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KIRIBATI

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Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources
KIRIBATI

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by **30th April 2025**	[YES]
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions.	

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1 Abstract

Kiribati tuna fisheries comprise mainly of small-scale artisanal fisheries operating small-sized wooden skiff (<7m) inside 12nm, commercial and domestic purse seines, pole and lines and domestic longline. Domestic purse seiners and longlines represent vessels either chartered or operating under joint venture arrangements. Foreign purse seiners from distant water fishing nations continue to access Kiribati's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under bilateral, regional, and multilateral access arrangements. Support vessels like tanker and reefer carriers also licensed by Kiribati through bilateral fishing agreements.

Annual catch estimates for Kiribati longline fleets continues to increase since 2022 whilst drop is notable by Kiribati purse seine fleets in 2021. Key tuna species harvested include Skipjack tuna (*Katsuowonus pelamis*) targeted by purse seiners for overseas cannery processing and small-scale artisanal troll fishing for domestic consumption. Higher grade tunas such as Yellowfin (*Thunnus albacores*) and Bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) were primary species in the longline fishery destined for local processing for overseas export. Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga)* tuna catch is also significant which is targeted by longline fleets.

Kiribati's EEZ remain accessed by foreign and commercial fishing operators from Korea, Chinese-Taipei, Japan and the United States including purse seiners licensed under regional arrangements such as the FSMA. Apart from catcher vessels (purse seine, longline and pole and line) other gears such tankers and reefer carriers also allowed to operate in Kiribati's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to support fishing operation. Current bilateral access governed under fishing agreement between the Government and respective individual fishing companies or associations are normally run for one year.

Purse seine fishery is vital to Kiribati economy for it provides the majority of Government budget annually through the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). Revenues from transshipment activity have also contributed to the national economy. The closure of the Longline fishery in 2017 had no major economic implications for the national economy. However, revenue from the purse seine fishery continues to support the national budget on an annual basis.

Present longline that remain access to Kiribati's EEZ either owned or chartered by joint venture companies; Kiribati Fish Limited Company (KFL), Kiritimati Island Fish Limited (KIFL) and Kiribati Blue Pacific Limited (KBPL). KFL owns a processing in Betio, Tarawa while KIFL has established offices 3+in Tarawa and plans to establish as well operational and processing bases in Kiritimati Island which is an ideal location given concentration of the longline fishery in the Line area. On the contrary, the pole and line fishery has not been significant in terms of vessel number and economic contribution. However, it remains vital to the employment sector, in particular crewing and seafaring.

Kiribati has 100 vessels active in the Convention Area in 2024 consisting of 67 longlines and 33 purse seiners. Tuna is central for Kiribati livelihood and economic backbone of the Government therefore sustainable management of the resource is vital for the nation.

2 Tabular Annual Fisheries Information

This report provides annual catch estimates of tuna, non-target species and bycatch caught by Kiribati vessels for the period 2020-2024. Refer to appended Tables and Figures.

3 Background

Kiribati has no major commercial fisheries for highly migratory species in the WCPO apart from domestic small-scale artisanal and troll fishery. Management of key tuna species was regulated under national laws, regulations, and policies including management and conservation measures adopted at the regional and Commission level.

3.1 Pole and Line

The only commercial fishery in the country was the pole and line developed by the Government of Kiribati back in the 1980s. The domestic company Te Mautari Limited (TML) is a wholly government – owned company established to develop a national pole-and-line fishery. The company plagued with technical and economic difficulties resulting from a wide range of geographical, management and development challenges such as isolation, infrastructural limitation and variability in resource abundance. Efforts exerted on revitalizing the company performance, however the company eventually wind up its operations in the late 1990s.

3.2 Longline

Kiribati's EEZ is famous for longline fishing targeting premium grade tunas. Longline operators in the past were mainly foreign operators licensed under bilateral access arrangements the majority of which were mostly Asian countries such as Japan, Korea, China and Chinese-Taipei. Longline fishing is concentrated mostly in the Phoenix and Line group in the east compared to the Gilbert area in the west. Closure of the fishery by Kiribati in 2017 ceased operation of longline companies except KFL/KIFL chartered vessels.

3.3 Purse seine

Kiribati is yet to have the capacity to own and operate purse seine fishery to harvest and export tuna overseas. The Kiribati Government through the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources (MFOR) established joint venture companies and charter arrangement with fishing partners aiming to develop the national tuna industry in future. Countries that currently have joint venture and charter arrangement with the Government of Kiribati are Korea and China. Like the rest of PNA membership, Kiribati regulates purse seine fishing in its waters through the Vessel Day Scheme - the scheme that apply across all bilateral fishing agreements.

3.4 Troll and Vertical Hand Line

Artisanal fishery forms part of tuna fishery and comprises mostly of local fishermen catching tuna mainly for locally sale and domestic consumption. Common fishing methods used in this fishery are trolling targeting Skipjack tuna and vertical hand lining for Bigeye and Yellowfin. Boats used in this fishery are typically small wooden skiff (usually <7 meters) powered by 15-40 HP outboard engines.

4 Flag State Reporting

This section reports national fleets in the Convention Area by gear type, trends in terms of fishing patterns, effort, targeted species, and trends in vessel size composition.

4.1 Kiribati vessels

Kiribati operates longline and purse seine fishery through joint venture and charter arrangement. There was one pole and line vessel flag under Kiribati in 2015 established under a bilateral arrangement however the vessel shortly deregistered due to change in licensing arrangement with the owner of vessel.

4.1.1 Annual catch estimates for the national longline fleet

There is a significant increase in the annual catch for Kiribati longline fleet since 2022. The peak in the catch throughout the years 2020 to 2024 is 16,732.87mt which is in 2024 with the lowest catch observed in the year 2021 with 2,710mt.

Table 1. Annual catch estimates for the Kiribati longline fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2020-2024

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Albacore	1,884	985	2,162	2,591.20	6,514.66
Bigeye Tuna	1,570	625	2,707	4,993.02	3,025.72
Black Marlin	72	9	33	35.18	30.62
Blue Marlin	89	80	214	309.51	1,002.64
Pacific Bluefin Tuna	0	0	0	0.09	0.04
Skipjack Tuna	35	39	110	89.81	913.65
Striped Marlin	20	18	27	47.22	53.93
Swordfish	180	50	401	310.62	171.04
Yellowfin Tuna	1,279	904	2,535	2,754	5,020.57
Total	5,129	2,710	8,189	11,130.65	16,732.87

4.1.2 Historical annual catch estimates for the national longline fleet

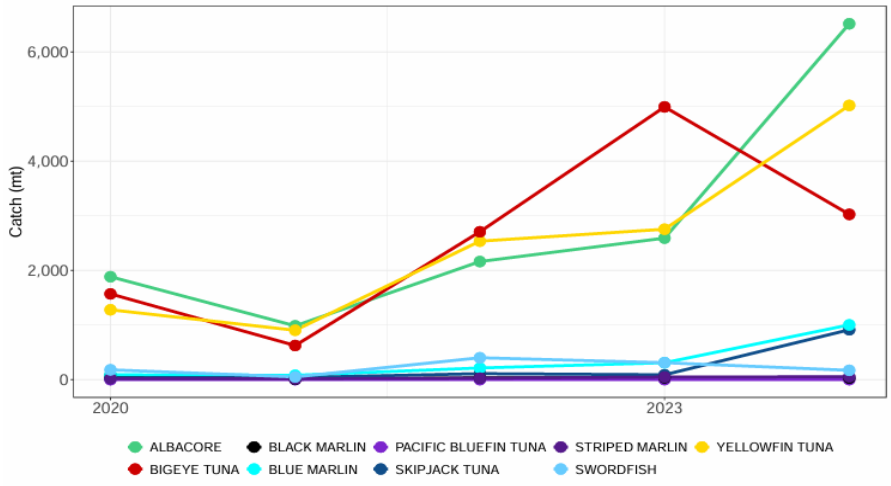

Figure 1: Historical annual catch estimates for the Kiribati longline fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area.

4.1.3 Annual catch estimates for the national purse seine fleet.

The annual catch by the Kiribati purse seine fleet for 2021 to 2024 is gradually increasing by around 4% since 2021. The drop by around 9% is observed in 2021 from the 2020 catch. The highest catch was in 2024 with 243,431.21mt.

Table 2. Annual catch estimates for the Kiribati purse seine fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area.

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ALBACORE	0	0	0	2.20	0.00
BIGEYE TUNA	11,017	8,532	7,935	1,821.85	1,627.88
SKIPJACK TUNA	161,043	145,429	156,810	215,847.56	224,273.98
YELLOWFIN TUNA	28,316	27,200	22,931	20,566.08	17,529.35
TOTAL	200,376	181,161	187,676	238,237.69	243,431.21

4.1.4 Historical annual catch estimates for the national purse seine fleet.

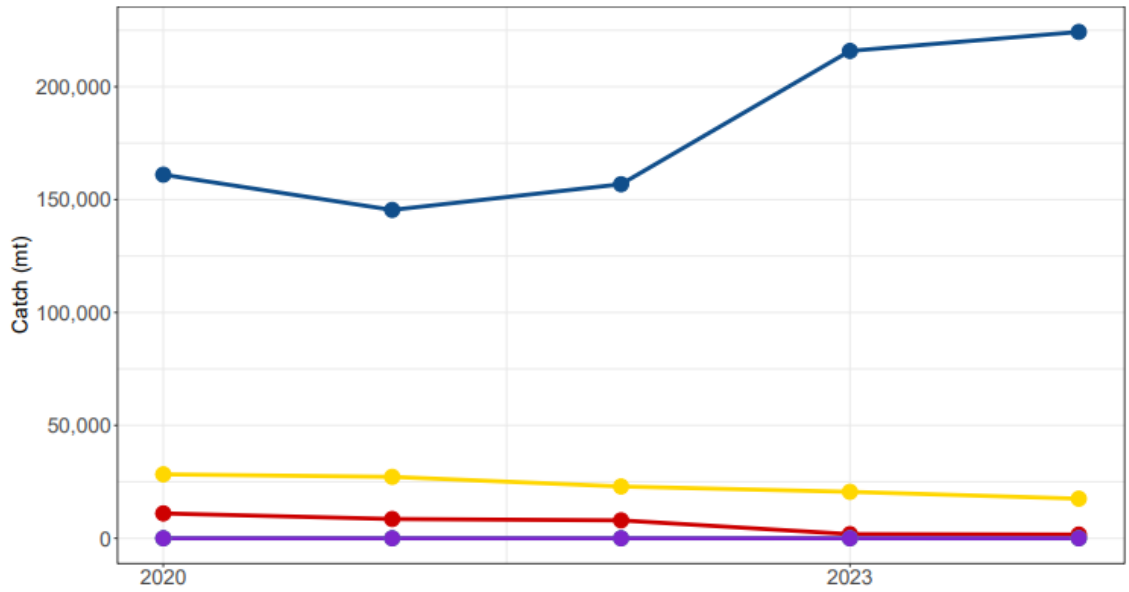

Figure 2: Historical annual catch estimates for the Kiribati purse seine fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area.

4.1.5 Historical annual vessel numbers for the national fleet

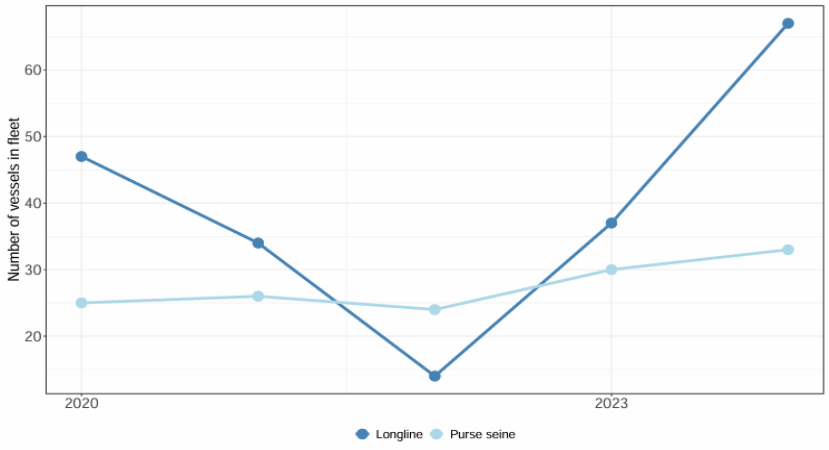

Figure 3: Historical annual vessel numbers for the Kiribati fleet, by gear, for the WCPFC Convention Area

4.1.6 Number of active vessels by gear and size category over recent years

Table 3: Kiribati longline vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, over 2020-2024

Gear	Size Category (GRT)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Longline	0 - 50	1	0	0	0	0
	51 - 200	9	6	6	7	3
	201 - 500	20	15	5	14	46
	500+	17	13	3	16	18

Table 4: Kiribati purse seine vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, over 2020-2024

Gear	Size Category (GRT)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Purse seine	0 - 500	0	0	0	0	0
	501 - 1000	0	0	0	0	0
	1001 - 1500	11	10	7	11	10
	1500+	14	16	17	19	23

4.1.7 Distribution of catches of target species for different national fisheries.

Spatial patterns in catch for the longline fishery

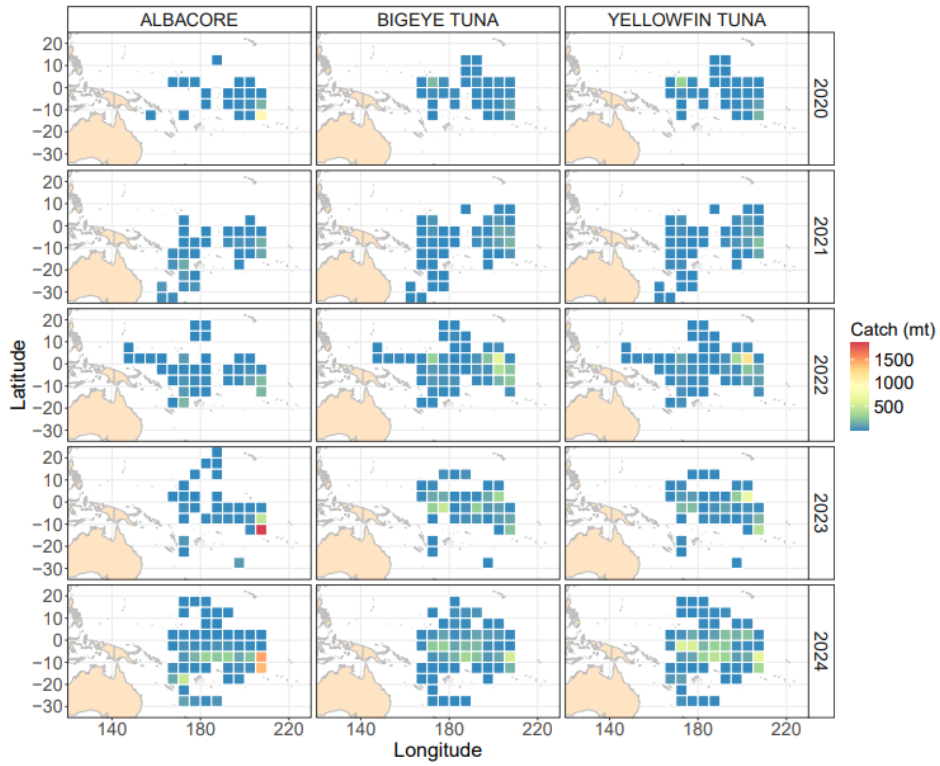

Figure 4: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Kiribati longline fishery.

Spatial patterns in catch for the purse seine fishery

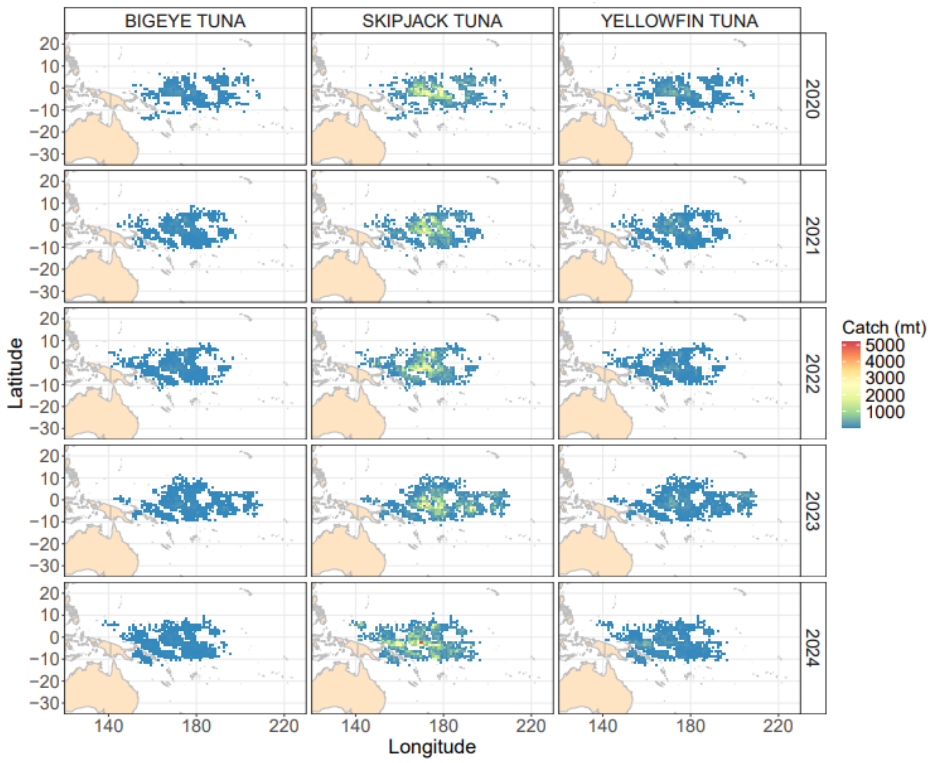

Figure 5: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Kiribati purse seine fishery.

4.1.8 Captures of species of special interest (SSIs)

Note that the tables below are specified to include – seabird, turtle and marine mammals in the instructions but we also include things (other species) like some rays and sharks. Note that Alive plus Dead does not necessarily equal Total due to unknowns.

Observed catches of SSIs by the longline fleet

Table 5: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle, and marine mammals) by the Kiribati longline fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2020-2024

Year	Category	Species	Alive	Dead	Total
2020	BIRDS	ALBATROSSES NEI	0	1	1
2020	BIRDS	BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS	0	1	1
2020	BIRDS	BOOBIES AND GANNETS NEI	0	1	1
2020	BIRDS	BULLER'S ALBATROSS	0	1	1
2020	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	1	0	1
2020	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	1	0	1
2023	MARINE REPTILES	LEATHERBACK TURTLE	4	0	4
2023	RAYS	SPINETAIL MOBULA	19	0	19
2024	BIRDS	ALBATROSSES NEI	0	1	1
2024	MARINE MAMMALS	PANTROPICAL SPOTTED DOLPHIN	1	0	1
2024	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	1	0	1
2024	MARINE REPTILES	LEATHERBACK TURTLE	1	0	1
2024	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	0	2	2
2024	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	1	0	1
2024	RAYS	MANTA RAYS	2	0	2
2024	RAYS	MOBULA	1	0	1
2024	RAYS	SPINETAIL MOBULA	25	1	26
2024	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	1	0	1

Table 6: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) by the Kiribati purse seine fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years

2020-2024, to the extent possible. Note that the Total may not reflect the sum of Alive and Dead as some animals are reported with an Unknown status.

Year	Category	Species	Alive	Dead	Total
2020	MARINE MAMMALS	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	0	0	6
2020	MARINE MAMMALS	BRYDE'S WHALE	2	0	2
2020	MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE	22	0	68
2020	MARINE MAMMALS	MELON-HEADED WHALE	0	0	7
2020	MARINE MAMMALS	ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN	3	0	48
2020	MARINE MAMMALS	SEI WHALE	1	0	1
2020	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	1	0	1
2020	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	1	0	1
2020	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	23	2	36
2020	RAYS	MOBULA	2	0	27
2020	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	12	0	14
2022	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	0	0	1
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	BALEEN WHALES NEI	2	0	2
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	28	0	28
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	BRYDE'S WHALE	9	0	10
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE	35	0	36
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	SEI WHALE	9	0	9
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	SPINNER DOLPHIN	26	0	26
2023	MARINE REPTILES	FLATBACK TURTLE	1	0	1
2023	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	3	0	3
2023	MARINE REPTILES	LEATHERBACK TURTLE	1	0	1
2023	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	3	0	3
2023	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	3	0	3
2023	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	47	5	150

2023	RAYS	MANTAS, DEVIL RAYS NEI	0	0	5
2023	RAYS	MOBULA	107	25	206
2023	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	4	0	7
2024	MARINE MAMMALS	BRYDE'S WHALE	1	0	1
2024	MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE	7	0	16
2024	MARINE MAMMALS	LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN	2	0	2
2024	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	2	0	2
2024	MARINE REPTILES	HAWKSBILL TURTLE	1	0	1
2024	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	3	0	3
2024	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	1	0	1
2024	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	23	1	60
2024	RAYS	MANTAS, DEVIL RAYS NEI	0	0	6
2024	RAYS	MOBULA	25	0	108
2024	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	10	0	10

4.1.9 Annual catch estimates for non-target, associated and dependent species for the national longline fleet

Table 7: Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the Kiribati longline fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2020-2024

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BLUE SHARK	0	38	183	75.87	305.57
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS NEI	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH	0	0	0	0.00	62.17
MAKO SHARKS	0	0	2	0.55	2.43
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	0	0	0	6.72	23.54
PORBEAGLE SHARK	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH	0	0	0	0.00	3.77
SILKY SHARK	0	1	0	11.13	31.02
THRESHER SHARKS NEI	0	0	3	1.67	7.65
WHALE SHARK	0	0	0	1.59	0.00

4.1.10 Annual catch estimates for non-target, associated and dependent species for the national purse seine fleet

Table 8: Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the Kiribati purse seine fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2020-2024

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BLACK MARLIN	15	7	4	17.63	13.92
BLUE MARLIN	29	12	36	45.01	40.10
BLUE SHARK	0	0	0	0.16	0.09
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS NEI	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH	0	0	0	0.00	1.20
MAKO SHARKS	0	0	0	0.24	0.43
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	7	1	13	7.79	9.32
PORBEAGLE SHARK	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
SILKY SHARK	169	74	144	162.83	158.96
STRIPED MARLIN	1	0	0	7.01	4.01
SWORDFISH	0	0	0	0.78	0.05
THRESHER SHARKS NEI	0	0	0	0.00	0.07
WHALE SHARK	4	2	0	1.02	50.70

5 Coastal State Reporting

The number of vessels licensed in 2024 was 375 which is an increase by 97 vessels from last year 2023. The least number of vessels licensed in Kiribati is 248 which is 2022. Highest is also observed in 2024.

Table 9. Annual vessels licensed by Kiribati, 2020-2024

Year	Bunker	Carrier	Longline	Pole & Line	Others	Purse Seine	Total
2020	14	78	39	0	0	218	349
2021	14	75	39	0	0	213	341
2022	11	62	44	0	0	131	248
2023	14	74	71	0	0	118	277
2024	15	74	84	0	1	201	375

The majority of distant water fishing nations currently fishing inside Kiribati's EEZ came from Korea, Japan, Chinese-Taipei and the United States include domestic vessels operating under the FSMA arrangement. Fishing activities are managed under bilateral access arrangements,

license conditions, national laws and regulations, and regional and international requirements for licensing.

In terms of gear, the Government permitted licensing of five main gears namely, purse seine, longline, pole-and-line including supporting vessels like tankers and reefer carriers. Although tankers and carriers are not catcher vessels they were defined as fishing vessels under the Fisheries Act 2010. The terms and conditions to manage access and activities of these fisheries vary between gears.

Japanese pole and line fishery is the only operator in this fishery inside Kiribati's EEZ through access agreement. However, their presence in the region and worldwide appears contracted in recent years.

5.1 Licensed Vessel by Gear

Kiribati fishery is predominantly purse seine by gear type for it accounts to around 60% on average for vessel licensed from 2020-24. The bulk of which comes from Korea, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, and the United States.

Longline vessels were 84 in 2024. There is an increase in this fishery after 2020 with 39 vessels in 2020 and 2021 then increase to 44 vessels for 2022 and 71 vessels for 2023. The increase confined to charter longline operating under locally owned companies, KFL and KIFL. Recovery in this fishery depends entirely on the resumption of the fishery by the Government and in particular the affordable benchmark price of a day under the PNA Longline VDS.

Supporting vessels such as tankers and carriers have not fluctuated much since 2020. The number of tankers has been consistent on average around 14 vessels while the carriers slightly decrease to around 62 vessels in 2022 then increase to 74 vessels in 2023 and 2024 respectively. The majority of reefer carriers were registered under Panama flag.

The pole and line fishery continue to diminish the same trend observed in other waters. There were also research vessels (other) chartered by SPC to conduct stock assessment and tuna tagging inside Kiribati' EEZ issued with licence by Kiribati authority. Overall trend shows a slight increase in licensed vessels (since 2020) and perhaps the purse seiner is responsible for much of the fluctuations in vessel number between 2023 and 2024.

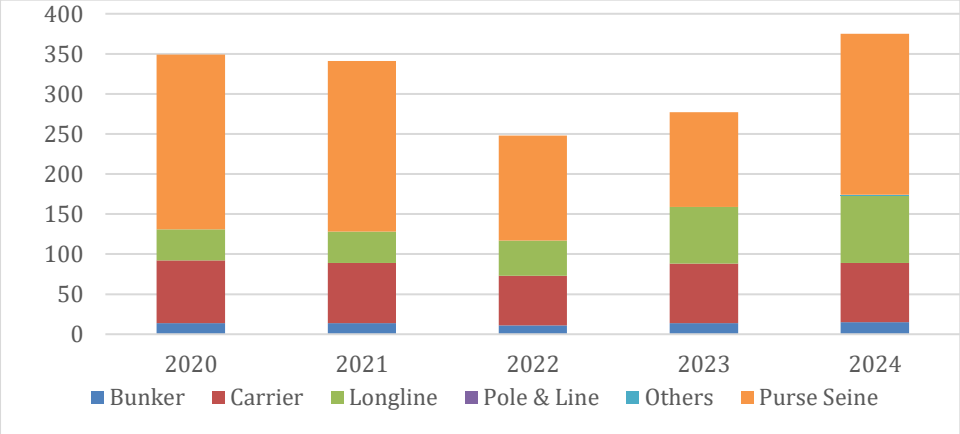

Figure 6. Depiction of annual licensed vessel by gear type, 2020-2024.

5.2 Catch by Flag.

Figure 7 illustrates annual catch by major fishing fleets inside Kiribati EEZ for the period 2020-2024. Apart from catch by national fleet, other major fishing fleet include Korea, Chinese-Taipei and the United States. Total catch by most fleets was high in 2023 but some decline observed for other years, 2020, 2021 and 2024 due in part to a general reduction of the purse seine catch for the WCPFC area, and a move of the main fishery to the west under La Nina conditions.

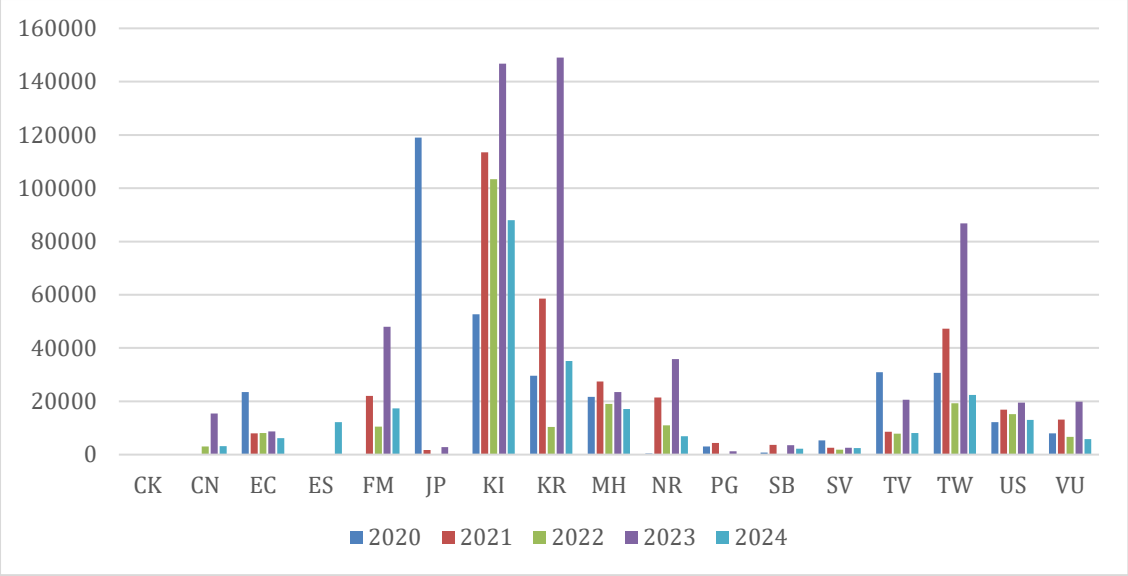

Figure 7. Depiction of annual catch by major fleet inside Kiribati EEZ, 2020-2024.

Closure of Kiribati longline fishery to distant water fishing nations commenced in 2017 the result of which greatly impacted longline catch and effort in Kiribati's EEZ for proceeding years. KFL chartered vessels were exempted from this arrangement to continue fish for this fishery to supply the processing plant.

Fishing activities of licensed vessels are regulated through access agreements and licence conditions specific to each gear. This applies to all licensed foreign and domestic vessels however domestic vessels and charter vessels have exceptional arrangements with the Government of Kiribati such as access to the domestic fishing zone (DFZ) closed to vessels licensed under bilateral agreements, FAD exemptions and other concessions. Apart from these all vessels prohibited for conducting transshipment in High Seas, fish in closed areas and ban fishing certain species, in particular shark under the Shark Regulation.

Like other licensed vessels, effort distribution by flag vessels is heavily influenced by variations in climatic conditions and spatial distribution of stock in waters of national jurisdiction and areas where they hold a licence. Main target species for purse seiners are skipjack while chartered longline vessels target yellowfin tuna – the raw material required by the KFL. Other fish are also caught as a bycatch species.

6 Socio-economic factors

Recent domestication of a tuna industry has changed the way Kiribati negotiates access and licensed fishing vessels in its waters. This is exemplified by exit of DWFN longline after

closure of the longline fishery for foreign vessels in 2017 and exemptions granted to joint venture vessels to fish inside Kiribati domestic fishing zones.

7 Disposal of Catch

Transshipment in port is compulsory for all licensed purse seiners. This allows monitoring of catch transshipped, provides for deterring IUU fishing in areas where the transshipping vessel fished and provide direct and indirect benefits from transshipment activity. While it is mandatory for purse seine vessels to transship in port, longlines were exempted to conduct transship outside port. This is aimed at minimizing operational costs to KFL and to constantly supply the processing plant with tuna raw materials.

Under special access arrangements some companies require to land a certain portion of their catch to KFL. These catches come in fresh (usually from longlines) and frozen from purse seiners. Landing volumes were processed and exported as fresh and frozen products (loins and fillets) to overseas markets. KFL holds commercial landing data and its major export markets include Japan, United States, EU, New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Philippines. Under grade tunas including bycatch species sold locally for domestic consumption at cheaper prices.

8 Onshore Development

8.1 Processing Plant

KFL is the sole fishing company who has a processing establishment in the country. KFL is the joint venture entity established between the Government of Kiribati, Golden Ocean (Fiji) and Zhejiang Ocean Family (China). Established in 2010, the company operates mainly on longline fishery targeting overseas market in fresh and loin products. The company operates from its headquarters in Betio, Tarawa and has contributed to the employment of locals in the plant. Historical employment record obtained from KFL showed an increase trend from 50 staff in 2013 to 262 in 2018 then drop to 212 for 2020 and 2021. An increase observed again for 2022 to around 220 staff and then a drop to 150 for 2023. The latter year observed an increase to 214 staff.

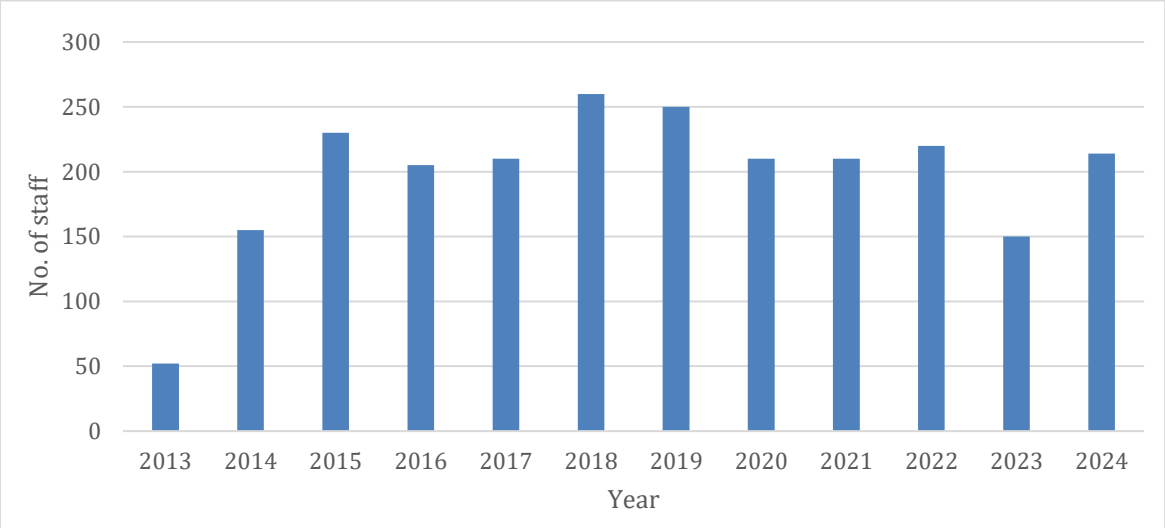

Figure 8. KFL staff and employment record, 2013-2024.

Apart from the processing plant the company owns machinery such as side-lifters, crane trucks and chiller vehicles to assist production and transportation of fishery products for overseas exportation. The company also offered fisheries related services such as sale of fishing gears, fuel, baits, spare parts, and ice to local fishermen.

Expansion of KFL operations and support facilities would increase the country's export volume in future. KIFL has been recently established with its base office in Kiritimati Islands in the Line Group but there is one newly established operating facility in Ambo, Tarawa, to assist with their current operation and accommodation of staff. The company purse seine and longline fleet are currently operating now.

8.2 Longline Vessel Project

The Government purchased three small-scale longline fleets in 2019. These vessels will contribute to tuna production at the domestic level and increase external market accessibility through KFL. These longline vessels are currently operated (trialed) by Central Pacific Producers Limited (CPPL) to assess its viability with a long-term aim of developing and expanding the longline fishery in future if the project proves economically successful.

9 Future Prospect of the Fishery

The long-term objective of the Government is to explore a wider benefit from participation in the value-added products for tuna through expansion of opportunities for direct and indirect employment in the fishing industry as well as conditioning licensed vessels to tie access with crewing. However, the key to maximization of economic return from tuna fishing and greater protection of high value tuna species including commercially valuable pelagic and coastal fisheries through effective enforcement remains integral for long-term sustainability of the fisheries industry for the nation's future prospect. Integration of fisheries management system through a centralized database is essential for monitoring and conservation of fishery resources at all levels.

10 Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

10.1 Logsheet Data Collection and Verification

Logsheet data collection and verification is an ongoing activity by fisheries. With recent recruited compliance officer and VMS Officer have assisted in the improvement of monitoring activities in line with the Commission requirements and conservation management measures (CMMs). Logsheets can be received either through companies, operators of fishing vessels or through observers. Fishing report and timely data submission requirements enforced through licence conditions. Despite that, an efficient system is gravely needed to address existing gaps in data management including observer reports and transshipment.

10.2 Observer Programme

Observers remain an important tool to monitor and deter IUU fishing. The current arrangement requires 100% placement on purse seiners and 5% for longline vessels. Variance in coverage between these gears reflects the difference between the two gears in terms of operational behavior and working condition on these vessels. By comparison, longlines are more challenging than purse seiners. At the national level, Observer engagement with monitoring works on board vessels is now an ongoing activity after being relaxed in 2020, 2021 and probably the beginning of 2022 due to COVID pandemic.

10.3 Port Sampling Programme

Kiribati supports SPC port sampling program however due to financial constraints the program ceased in 2014. Another reason is the absence of full-time official and counterpart of SPC to take on the job. Observers normally tasked to undertake this job when they are not onboard. This proved ineffective when observers were not available. All data retrieved from port sampling activities were sent to SPC.

10.4 Unloading / Transshipment

Many transshipment activities conducted in port are carried out between licensed fishing vessels and carrier boats. Transshipment is high when fishing favors Kiribati waters, particularly during El Niño periods. Since Kiribati does not have a canning factory fish from purse seiners normally transshipped to overseas destinations. In recent years, the Government imposed on licensed vessels a requirement to offload a certain portion of high-grade tuna species to KFL. This is an additional catch besides catch landed by KFL vessels to ensure sufficient raw materials needed for processing are maintained. All landing and export data currently held at KFL.

11 Research Activities Covering Target and Non-target Species.

Being a member to the WCPC, Kiribati is supportive to oceanic research activities and scientific stock assessment through issuance of license to research vessels to conduct those activities in its EEZ. There was a position of national tagging officer as a counterpart of SPC on tuna tagging exercise, but the post no longer exists now due to lack of specific funds for the post.

Addendum to Annual Part I Report

Section A

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: WCPFC11confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish

Table 1: Total number of vessels fishing for swordfish and the catch (mt) of swordfish south of 20S.

flag	year	vessels	swo_n	swo_mt
KI	2022	0	0	0
KI	2023	4	0	0
KI	2024	6	39	2

Observer coverage (WCPFC11 decision- para 484(b))

CCMs are to compile and include in Annual Report Part1 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).

Table 2: Observer coverage of longline fleet activity where hooks are in hundred hooks from logbook data and fishing days, sea days, and trips are all calculated from VMS data. Coverage percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

			Hooks			Fishing days			Sea days			Trips		
year	flag	gear	hooks	obs	cov %	fish days	obs	cov %	sea days	obs	cov %	trips	obs	cov %
2,024	KI	L	461,467	39,467	9	16,746	1,125	7	17,186	1,559	9	193	10	5

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:

(1) the total quantities, by weight, of highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure that were transshipped by fishing vessels the CCM is responsible for reporting against, with those quantities broken down by:

a. offloaded and received;

b. transshipped in port, transshipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transshipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

c. transshipped 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

No transshipment quantity data available.

(2) the number of transshipments 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. transshipped in port, transshipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transshipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

c. transshipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the Convention Area;

d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; and

e. fishing gear

No transshipment count data available

CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para5

CCMs shall include in their Part1 Annual Report any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, reported under paragraph2(b).

Table3: Summary of the number of cetacean encirclements by purse seine nets in reporting year

flag	date	lat	lon	eez	species	number	fate
KI	02/05/2024	-3.33	168.53	GL	FALSE KILLER WHALE	3	Released
KI	30/05/2024	-3.72	176.32	GL	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
KI	18/06/2024	-3.13	172.59	GL	FALSE KILLER WHALE		Released
KI	26/06/2024	-0.37	176.60	GL	FALSE KILLER WHALE	6	Released
KI	07/08/2024	-2.40	170.43	GL	BRYDE'S WHALE	1	Released
KI	11/05/2024	-3.97	173.48	GL	FALSE KILLER WHALE	2	Released
KI	23/05/2024	-2.53	170.78	GL	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
KI	04/06/2024	-3.58	176.22	GL	FALSE KILLER WHALE	12	Released
KI	11/05/2024	5.32	141.53	FM	BALEEN WHALES NEI		Released
KI	08/12/2024	-6.12	176.08	TV	ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN	3	Released
KI	09/02/2024	-3.82	178.29	GL	COMMON DOLPHIN		Released

CMM 2018-3 [Seabirds], Para 13

CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part1 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 include information on:

1. the proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures used; and

2. observed and reported species-specific seabird by catch rates and numbers or statistically rigorous estimates of species-specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactionsper1,000 hooks) and total numbers

Table(s) x (by area)

Table 4: Reported longline activity (hundred hooks and number of vessels), observed (hundred) hooks, number of seabird captures, and the capture rate(#seabirds/1000 hooks), by year in the area south of 30S.

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2020	KI	53	172,700	694	1	1.4
2021	KI	57	182,566	0	0	
2022	KI	50	0	0	0	
2023	KI	66	0	0	0	
2024	KI	73	0	0	0	

Table 5: Reported longline activity (hundred hooks and number of vessels), observed (hundred) hooks, number of seabird captures, and the capture rate(#seabirds/1000hooks), by year in the area between 30S and 25S.

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2020	KI	53	95,400	29,969	0	0
2021	KI	57	479,600	0	0	
2022	KI	50	0	0	0	
2023	KI	66	0	0	0	
2024	KI	73	644,000	0	0	

Table 6: Reported longline activity (hundred hooks and number of vessels), observed (hundred) hooks, number of seabird captures, and the capture rate(#seabirds/1000 hooks), by year in the area between 25S and 23N.

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2020	KI	53	18,416,817	725,235	3	0
2021	KI	57	11,976,088	381,467	0	0
2022	KI	50	20,748,939	501,961	0	0
2023	KI	66	27,646,249	1,640,234	0	0
2024	KI	73	45,502,762	2,711,957	1	0

Table 7: Reported longline activity (hundred hooks and number of vessels), observed (hundred) hooks, number of seabird captures, and the capture rate (#seabirds/1000 hooks), by year in the area north of 23N.

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2020	KI	53	0	0	0	
2021	KI	57	0	0	0	
2022	KI	50	0	0	0	
2023	KI	66	0	0	0	
2024	KI	73	0	0	0	

Table(s) y (by area)

Table 8: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in reporting year, in the area south of 30S.

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2024	KI	4. Other combination	BC MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS BC MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS MOD	0	0

Table 9: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in reporting year, in the area between 30S and 25S.

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2024	KI	4. Other combination	BC MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS BC MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS MOD	0	0

Table 10: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in the reporting year, in the area between 25S and south of 23N.

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2024	KI	4. Other combination	BC MOD	6	1.2
2024	KI	4. Other combination	MOD	155	30.0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS BC MOD	6	1.2
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS MOD	350	67.7

Table 11: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in the reporting year, in the area north of 23N.

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2024	KI	4. Other combination	BC MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS BC MOD	0	0
2024	KI	4. Other combination	NS MOD	0	0

Table z

Table 12: Number of observed seabird captures in longline fisheries in the reporting year, by species and area.

year	species	south30S	b25S_30S	b23N_25S	north23N	total
2024	ALBATROSSES NEI	0	0	1	0	1

Section B

CMM 2006-04 [Southwest Pacific 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.

Table 13: There is currently no agreed definition of “fishing for” stripe marlin, therefore, this table summarizes all longline vessels fishing south of 15S and all associated catch of striped marlin.

flag	year	vessels	num	mt
KI	2022	11	94	4
KI	2023	23	232	10
KI	2024	36	802	28

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 CMM2015-02 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.’

Table 14: Summary of the number of vessels fishing for (as defined above) South Pacific albacore as well as the number and mt of albacore harvested from the past 5 years. It should be noted that southern bluefin tuna is not a key species in the SciData, and therefore, catches are not currently required to be reported to the WCPFC. This lack of reporting could result in more vessels determined to be fishing for albacore, if in fact southern bluefin were targeted.

Addressed through the regular provision of operational catch/effort logsheet data to SPC, who automatically include these data in the WCPFC database, as per our authorization

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 efforts 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 efforts 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.

There was no fishing effort or albacore catch north of the equator in 2024.

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 levels.

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 measures for such fisheries.

Table 15: Summary of fishing vessels in the North Pacific and the number and metric tonnes of North Pacific swordfish catches reported in the past 5 years. The number of vessels reported in this table represents all longline vessels fishing in the North Pacific.

flag	year	vessels	swo_n	swo_mt
KI	2020	0	0	0
KI	2021	0	0	0
KI	2022	0	0	0
KI	2023	0	0	0
KI	2024	0	0	0