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**ANNUAL REPORT – PART 1  
INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

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**WCPFC-SC3-AR PART 1/WP-28**

**TOKELAU**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WCPF COMMISSION FOR 2007**

### **Abstract**

Tokelau is still developing its tuna management capacities. It currently has two staff members committed full time to commercial fisheries management. The tuna research and statistics needs are largely being met by SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme.

Offshore fishing in Tokelau, over the past five years, has been undertaken by foreign fishing purse seine vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States. Tokelau also started licensing longline vessels this year, 2007. A FFA VMS was installed in 2004 which means that licensed foreign fishing vessels can now be monitored while within Tokelau waters.

Tokelau has proposed the establishment of an Observer program in the new drafted Fisheries Rules and its implementation is expected when the Rules are endorsed. The lack of infrastructure that allows trans-shipment to be carried out in Tokelau is a contributing factor to there being no port sampling coverage in Tokelau.

## **Part 1: Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Tokelau is in the process of developing its tuna management capacities. Key initiatives include strengthening the capacities of the Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment; preparation of a National Tuna Development and Management Plan; establishment of a new licensing system and statistical database; and the installation of a national facility for the operation of the FFA VMS.

#### **1.1 ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION**

The tuna fisheries of Tokelau include two elements.

The first is the small, but important artisanal fishery, with catches made from small boats, largely for local consumption. Domestic fisheries development in Tokelau is severely constrained by market access and lack of infrastructure, and the Government is committed to a development strategy that will provide opportunities for Tokelauans to participate in small-scale commercial tuna fishery development.

The second is offshore fishing in Tokelau waters, which is undertaken by foreign fishing vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States. Vessels licensed in recent years include New Zealand and United States purse seiners, and a small number of Vanuatu long-liners. There are no facilities in Tokelau for transshipping or processing large-scale commercial tuna catches. All catches by foreign licensed

vessels are offloaded outside Tokelau. Levels of fishing by these vessels and licensing revenues have fluctuated substantially.

There are no Tokelau flag fishing vessels.

**Table 1:** shows catch and effort in Tokelau waters by commercial fishing vessels for the period 2002 to 2006. All fishing reported in this table is by purse seine vessels.

Year	Vessel Nos	Days	SKJ	Catch by Species			TOTAL
				YFT	BET	OTH	
2002	30	368	5,665	689	53	0	6,407
2003	13	27	36	35	0	0	71
2004	19	51	623	220	0	0	843
2005	17	119	4,731	99	0	0	4,830
2006	9	32	869	150	0	0	1,019

**Table 2:** shows the number of vessels licensed by Tokelau since 2002, excluding US purse seine vessels that are licensed under the Multilateral Treaty with the US. Tokelau only started licensing long-line vessels in 2007.

Vessel Type	Licensed Vessels	License Duration	
		From:	To:
PS	3	07-Mar-2002	06-Mar-2003
PS	3	15-Sep-2005	31-Mar-2006
PS	3	15-Sep-2006	31-Mar-2007
LL	2	25-Apr-2007	24-Apr-2008

## 1.2 RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Tokelau presently has a small fisheries administration with only two staff members currently committed full time to commercial fisheries management. The tuna research and statistics needs of Tokelau are largely met by the support of the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme.

All foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish in Tokelau waters are required to carry on board a FFA approved ALC. While within Tokelau waters, they are monitored through the FFA VMS installed in Tokelau in 2004.

Tokelau has yet to establish both an Observer program and a port sampling coverage. However, in the new drafted Fisheries Rules, the establishment of an Observer program is proposed and should be implemented once these Rules are endorsed. The lack of infrastructure that allows transshipment to be carried out in Tokelau is a contributing factor to no port sampling coverage in Tokelau