



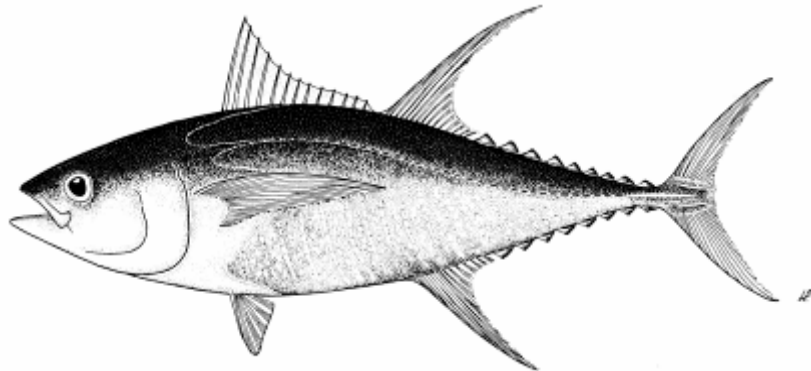
**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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Manila, Philippines

**NATIONAL TUNA FISHERY REPORT
NAURU**

WCPFC-SC2-2006

Tuna Fishery Report



Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority
Nauru

July 2006

Nauru Tuna Fishery Report

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL
PACIFIC OCEAN

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Introduction:

The Nauru Exclusive Economic Zone is one of the more productive tuna fishing grounds in the WCPF convention area as far as the purse seine fishery is concerned. Although relatively small in size (320,000km²) it has continuously yielded high level of catches from all the major purse seine fleets that are licensed to fish in its waters. The total catch ratio in relation to the size of the EEZ is one of the highest in the WCPF area. Being a purse seine fishery, the majority of the tuna catches are skipjack, yellowfin and to a lesser extent bigeye tuna. Aside from this, there is also a small local longline fleet being operated by the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority but the catch levels are very marginal at this stage and the remainder of the tuna fishery is made up of local artisanal fishermen operating out of small aluminum dinghies and wooden canoes.

Fleet Structure:

Domestic Fleet:

Nauru has no domestic commercial fleet operating in the WCPF area operating under its flag. There are two small longliners (less than 10m) operated by NFMRA (Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority) but the maximum operating capacity of these two vessels invariably limit their operations to the EEZ of Nauru. The fleet is yet to be fully operational and is still undergoing trial fishing operations to determine the viability of operating a longline venture in Nauru and have therefore yet to embark on a fully commercial scale.

Distant Water Fishing Nation Fleet:

During 2005, Nauru licensed a total of 146 purse-seiners from the following countries:

Purse-seine Fleet	Number of vessel
Japan	33
Korea	28
Taiwan	32
FCF (Vanuatu)	1
China	6
USA	16
New Zealand	3
FSM Arrangement	27

All these vessels are either licensed bilaterally or thru a multi-lateral arrangement with the Forum Fisheries Agency and all licenses are for a fixed period renewable at the expiry of each period. None of the vessels call in to port unless for emergency or crew transfers.

Annual Catches of foreign fleets

Table 1 shows the annual catches by foreign purse seine fleets in the Nauru EEZ for the past five years.

The US Treaty fleet has been operating in Nauru since the inception of the US Treaty and therefore has the longest operating history in Nauru. However since the early 2000's several of the new fleets notably the Korean and Taiwanese Purse seiners have had very prominent fishing seasons in Nauru with significantly high levels of catches. This is most apparent in 2002 which yielded consistently high levels of catch across all fleets operating in Nauru. Coincidentally this was an El Nino year which tends to produce a pattern of high levels of catch in the Nauru EEZ.

Tables 1. Annual catches (in Metric tonnes) by foreign purse seine fleets in the NAURU EEZ, by flag and species, 2001-2005 (Source : Unraised logsheet data collected held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database, SPC; catches for 2005 are incomplete and provisional)

Fleet	YEAR	SKJ	YFT	BET	TOTAL
China	2001				
	2002	1,215	256	0	1,471
	2003	155	20	0	175
	2004	548	8	0	556
	2005	1,798	358	0	2,158
FSM Arrangement	2001	7,737	3,385	52	11,174
	2002	20,561	1,508	68	22,136
	2003	4,679	782	5	5,466
	2004	17,976	763	394	19,141
	2005	14,987	2,450	551	17,996
Japan	2001	3,976	1,755	2	5,942
	2002	15,144	1,824	37	17,466
	2003	2,137	720	21	3,040
	2004	5,218	618	3	5,944
	2005	3,023	525	15	3,682
Korea	2001	8,195	4,182	5	12,382
	2002	26,510	2,205	75	28,790
	2003	720	155	10	885
	2004	9,405	609	6	10,020
	2005	2,810	1,215	0	4,025
Chinese Taipei	2001	10,395	4,471	39	14,905
	2002	35,240	2,796	248	38,284
	2003	3,730	902	65	4,697
	2004	19,085	1,219	33	20,342
	2005	7,442	856	54	8,352
US Treaty	2001	1,604	127	10	1,741
	2002	4,101	1,316	10	5,426
	2003	3,687	733	71	4,491
	2004	6,143	814	59	7,016

	2005	3,873	998	48	4,924
Vanuatu	2001	1,970	575	0	2,545
	2002	2,445	35	0	2,480
	2003	925	10	0	935
	2004	2,625	335	10	2,971
	2005	3,319	150	0	3,470
TOTAL EEZ	2001	33,877	14,495	108	48,689
	2002	105,215	9,939	438	116,054
	2003	16,033	3,322	172	19,689
	2004	61,000	4,366	505	65,990
	2005	37,252	6,551	668	44,606

Longline Fishery

The longline fishery is insignificant compared to the purse seine fishery and is currently exploited by the local domestic fleet of two small inshore longliners operated by the NFMRA. The catches from the two vessels has been erratic due to continuous mechanical breakdown however the breakdown since 2003 is as follows:

Table 2. Domestic Longline catches (kgs) by species, 2003

Bigeye Tuna	Yellowfin Tuna	Skipjack Tuna	Albacore	Black Marlin	Sail Fish	Sword Fish	Wahoo	Barracuda
8,898	4,839.30	2,301.90	1,489.30	119.05	265.10	238.55	112	107.40
Shark	Oil Fish	Rudder Fish	Broadbill	Moon Fish	Dolphin Fish	Blue Marlin		Total
497	56.05	63.10	195.50	43.70	35.50	464.65		19,726

The catches in 2003 were very high for this domestic fleet but it must be clarified that the NFMRA entered in a trial joint venture with a 30m foreign longliner and most of those catches were from this vessel. However this demonstrated the potential of the longline fishery when fully developed and is one where the NFMRA has undertaken extensive work (with assistance from SPC, FFA and OFCF) to appraise the viability of developing it.

Table 3. Domestic Longline Catch (kgs) by species, 2004

Bigeye Tuna	Yellowfin Tuna	Albacore	Black Marline	Sail Fish	Shark	Broadbill	Dolphin Fish	Total
414.95	634.050	9	39.60	37.80	53.70	2.30	19.90	1,211.30

Table 4. Domestic Longline Catch (kgs) by species, 2005

Bigeye	YFTuna	Albacore	Black Marlin	SailFish	Shark	Broadbill	Dolphin Fish	Total
400.5	315			60		130.8		942.3

Markets

The majority of purse seine catches in Nauru are destined for the major canneries around the Asia Pacific region with the exception of the Japanese fleet and those serving the Japanese markets as these catches (skipjacks especially) tend to be supplied to a mixture of either the cannery or the Katsuobushi markets in Japan.

The longline catches from the domestic fleet serves the local market with some trial shipments being sent to the Japanese sashimi market.

Future prospects and development

We anticipate the Purse Seine fishery to remain relatively stable unless there is some drastic environmental changes as in the El Nino/La Nina phenomenon. The proposed Vessel Day Scheme which comes into effect in the Western Central Pacific Purse seine fishery in September this year may have some impact on the allocation of catches by fleet. With the Purse seine fishery being a purely offshore industry, there is little infrastructure development onshore related to this sector.

Nauru is very keen on developing its domestic longline fleet and has recently enlisted the help of expert staff from SPC, OFCF Japan and other private consultants to look into this matter and make recommendations. However there are still some constraints relating to financial, managerial and operational issues that need to be sorted out before the venture becomes viable and this has become one of the key national objectives for the Fisheries sector in Nauru in its development program.

Nauru is also working on improving its data collection programs as part of its obligations under the WCPFC Convention and some of those measures include:

- Receiving a Catch Report Form Scanner from the SPC OFP Division which will expedite the provision of Catch Data to SPC for processing
- plans on implementing the TUFMAN program to integrate all aspects of the Data Collection process and the creation of a Catch Data Officer position within the Oceanic Section of NFMRA to become the national focal point for this purpose in the near future
- Ongoing participation in the Observer Training Programme.

End of Report