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

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Submitted by Papua New Guinea

2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS

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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 2026: [Yes/No]	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

1 Abstract

This report provides a comprehensive overview of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) tuna fisheries for 2025, detailing trends in catch, effort, and management within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the wider Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area. The purse-seine fishery remains the dominant sector, contributing over 99% of total production. In 2025, the national purse-seine fleet recorded a total catch of 329,075 metric tonnes (mt), a 4.09% increase from 2024. This growth was driven by favorable La Niña conditions, with skipjack tuna (215,043 mt) and yellowfin tuna (112,652 mt) as the primary species.

In contrast, the domestic longline fishery experienced a significant contraction, with no PNG-flagged vessels operational in 2025 following the reflagging of the chartered fleet in 2024. However, foreign bilateral longline operations continued under regulated access agreements, maintaining an average annual catch of approximately 4,078 mt over the last five years. The report also highlights the closure of the shark longline and handline fisheries, reflecting a strategic shift toward sustainable tuna management and the prohibition of certain shark species landings.

Fisheries management in PNG is governed by the National Tuna Fishery Management and Development Plan (NTFMDP), revised in 2025 to align with regional Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and PNG's national development aspiration. Beyond biological sustainability, the PNG government is prioritizing socio-economic optimization through the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi), focusing on downstream processing, employment, and increased export earnings. While tuna exports peaked in 2024 at 280,000 mt ($600 million), 2025 figures indicate a stabilization of the market, emphasizing the need for continued monitoring of both production volumes and global market values.

2 Background

Tuna resources within Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are exploited predominantly through two industrial fishing methods: purse seine and longline. The purse-seine fishery is the dominant harvesting sector, consistently contributing approximately 99% of total national tuna production by volume.

Purse-seine operations commenced in PNG waters in the early 1980s and have since expanded substantially in both spatial extent and fishing effort. This expansion reflects increased participation by domestic fleets and foreign bilateral arrangements, coupled with enhanced fishing efficiency associated with Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) use and technological advancements. Peak aggregate purse-seine catches (inclusive of domestic and FB fleets) were recorded in 2010, 2022, and 2024, each exceeding 600,000 metric tonnes, indicating periods of elevated stock availability and/or fishing effort concentration within PNG waters as a result of the favorable fishing conditions brought about by the ENSO.

In contrast, the longline fishery has a longer historical presence, initially dominated by distant water fishing nation (DWFN) fleets operating under access agreements. A significant policy shift in 1996 resulted in the closure of the longline fishery to foreign participation, restricting operations exclusively to nationally flagged or domestically based entities. This policy was intended to promote domestic industry development

and value retention within PNG.

In 2015, the longline sector was partially liberalized under a controlled re-entry framework through the implementation of a trial albacore fishery. This initiative aimed to evaluate catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) performance and economic viability of albacore targeting within PNG waters. Under this arrangement, five foreign-flagged ultra-low temperature (ULT) longline vessels were authorized to operate under domestic charter agreements, marking a cautious reintroduction of foreign participation into the longline fishery. Subsequent expansion occurred in 2016, with 20 foreign longline vessels operating under bilateral access agreements. This number increased progressively, reaching 61 licensed foreign longline vessels by 2023. In parallel, PNG's domestically based fleet comprised 10 chartered longline vessels actively operating within the EEZ during the same period. However, a restructuring of vessel registration status in 2024 resulted in the reflagging of these chartered vessels to foreign registries, leaving only a single PNG-flagged longline vessel operational in that year. Subsequently, in 2025 saw no national tuna longline flagged vessels fishing in PNG EEZ.

PNG's tuna fisheries governance framework reflects a deliberate policy balance between domestic industry development and the strategic allocation of access to DWFNs. This is operationalized through a licensing regime that incentivizes onshore value addition, including mandatory catch offloading for in-country processing. Incentive mechanisms include preferential licensing fees, eligibility for reflagging under PNG registry, authorized access to Archipelagic Waters (AW), and participation under the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (FSMA), enabling qualifying vessels to operate within other Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) jurisdictions.

The fishery is managed under the National Tuna Fishery Management and Development Plan (NTFMDP) which provides the overarching legal and policy framework governing all tuna fishing activities within PNG's jurisdiction. The NTFMDP incorporates a comprehensive suite of management measures, including effort controls (e.g., Vessel Days Scheme alignment), catch monitoring, gear restrictions, FAD management regulations, and monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) mechanisms aimed at mitigating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Management of the purse-seine fishery is further reinforced through integration with regional and sub-regional frameworks, including Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), PNA Implementing Arrangements, and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Harmonized Minimum Terms and Conditions (HMTCs). These instruments are operationalized domestically through the NTFMDP, ensuring coherence between national policy objectives and PNG's regional and international fisheries obligations. The NTFMDP was most recently revised in 2025 to reflect evolving management priorities, regional commitments, and industry development objectives.

3 Flag State Reporting

This section reports activities by the national fleet inside the waters of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC CA) including PNG's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The national fleet comprises of longline and purse seine vessels under PNG flag and those foreign flag vessels

under domestic charter arrangements.

3.1 National Fleet: Tuna Longline

PNG did not have any domestic tuna longline vessels fishing in its EEZ nor the wider the WCPFC CA in 2025. This reflected a sharp decline in domestic vessel numbers, from 10 vessels in 2023 to one vessel in 2024, and ultimately no longline fishing operations took place for this category in 2025.

3.2 National Fleet: Purse Seine

Catches from the Papua New Guinea (PNG) national purse-seine fleet are overwhelmingly dominated by skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), which consistently constitutes the largest proportion of total landings equating to approximately 65% of total tuna catches caught. This is followed by yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and, to a lesser extent, bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*). Although skipjack remains the principal target species, both yellowfin and bigeye represent important secondary species, contributing substantially to the overall economic value and species composition of the fishery.

In 2025, total catches from the PNG domestic purse-seine fleet increased by 4.09% relative to the 2024 fishing season, reaching a cumulative production of 329,075.3 metric tonnes (mt). This incremental growth reflects a continuation of the positive catch trajectory observed in recent years and is largely attributable to favourable oceanographic conditions associated with a La Niña phase in the Western Pacific Ocean. Such conditions are known to enhance skipjack availability and aggregation within PNG waters.

Utilizing an overall logsheet effort of 3,775 fish days, the 2025 logsheet data indicates that skipjack accounted for 215,043 mt, followed by yellowfin at 112,652 mt, and bigeye at 1,298 mt (Table 1). These figures reaffirm the strong dominance of skipjack within the purse-seine fishery, while also highlighting the sustained contribution of yellowfin and the relatively minor, yet commercially relevant, presence of bigeye tuna.

Papua New Guinea's Flag vessels for the past 5 years (Table 2) had caught a total of 1,281,220 mt of tuna at an average of 256,244 mt per year. The average breakdown of catches by species are; SKJ at 157,223 mt, YFT at 96,826 mt, and BET at 1,448 mt per year.

3.3 Annual catch estimates for the national purse seine fleet

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	**2025**
Albacore	6.3	0.5	0.1	1.4	**80.3**
Bigeye tuna	1,041.5	1,093.4	1,607.5	1,611.7	**1,298.3**
Pacific bluefin tuna	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Skipjack tuna	122,552.8	144,650.4	105,316.6	202,691.6	**215,043.8**
Yellowfin tuna	76,405.0	70,541.5	109,648.2	113,684.6	**112,652.9**
Total	**200,005.6**	**216,285.8**	**216,572.4**	**317,989.3**	**329,075.3**

Table 2: Annual catch estimates for the Papua New Guinea purse seine fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605.

3.4 Annual catch estimates for the national longline fleet

Species	2022	2023	2024
Albacore	595	133.5	**1.7**
Bigeye tuna	179	291.0	**132.3**
Black marlin	10	9.8	**0.0**
Blue marlin	33	50.6	**3.4**
Striped marlin	3	1.6	**0.0**
Pacific bluefin tuna	1	4.5	**0.6**
Skipjack tuna	8	13.9	**1.0**
Swordfish	8	6.9	**0.7**
Yellowfin tuna	1,779	1,228.7	**22.8**
Total	2,616	1,740.5	**162.5**

Table 3: Annual catch estimates for the Papua New Guinea longline fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605.

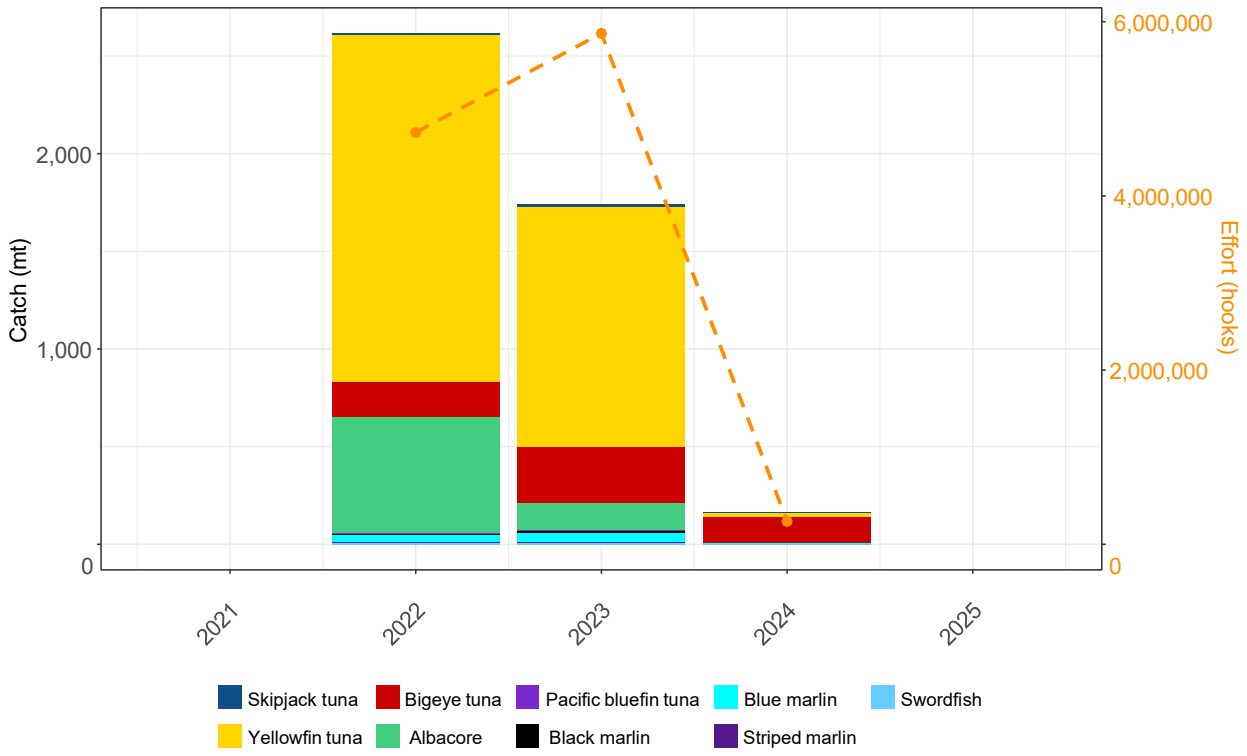


Figure 1: Historical annual catch estimates (mt) and effort (no. of hooks) for the Papua New Guinea long-line fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2021-2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605 and 3597 (hooks).

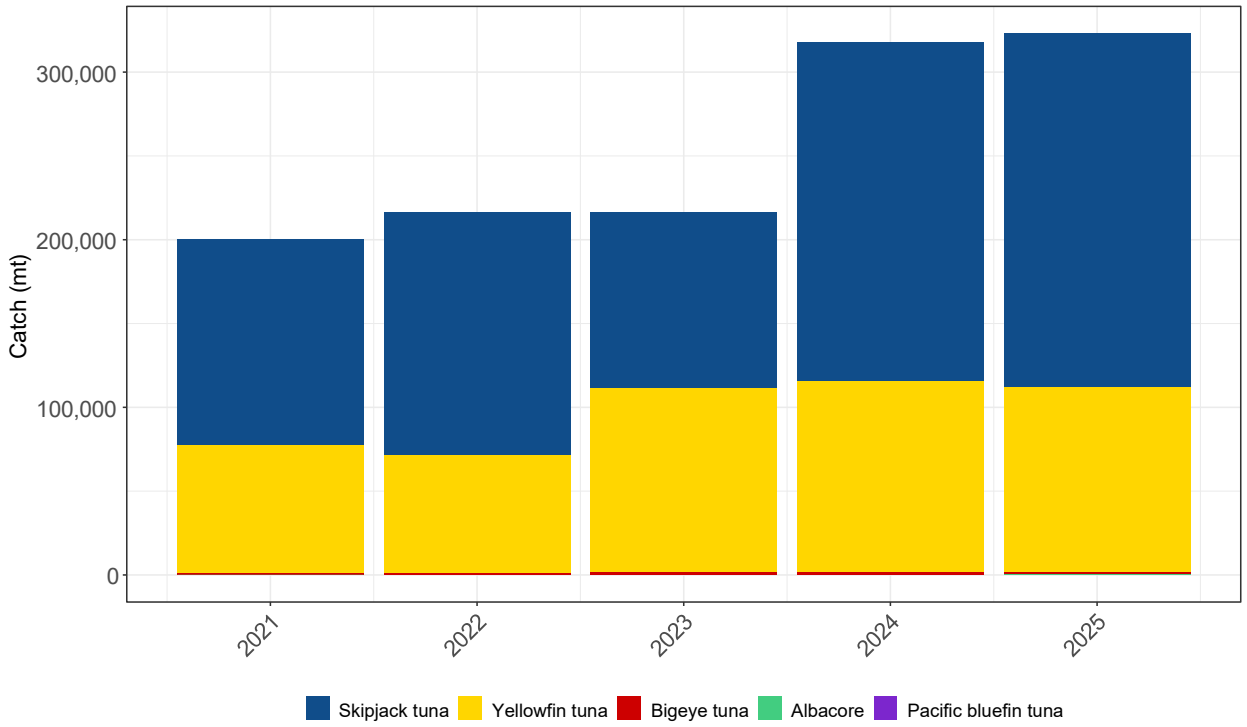


Figure 2: Historical annual catch estimates (mt) for the Papua New Guinea purse seine fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2021-2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605.

3.5 Historical annual vessel numbers for the national fleet

Figure 3 displays the total number of active vessels in Papua New Guinea's national fleet from 2021 to 2025.

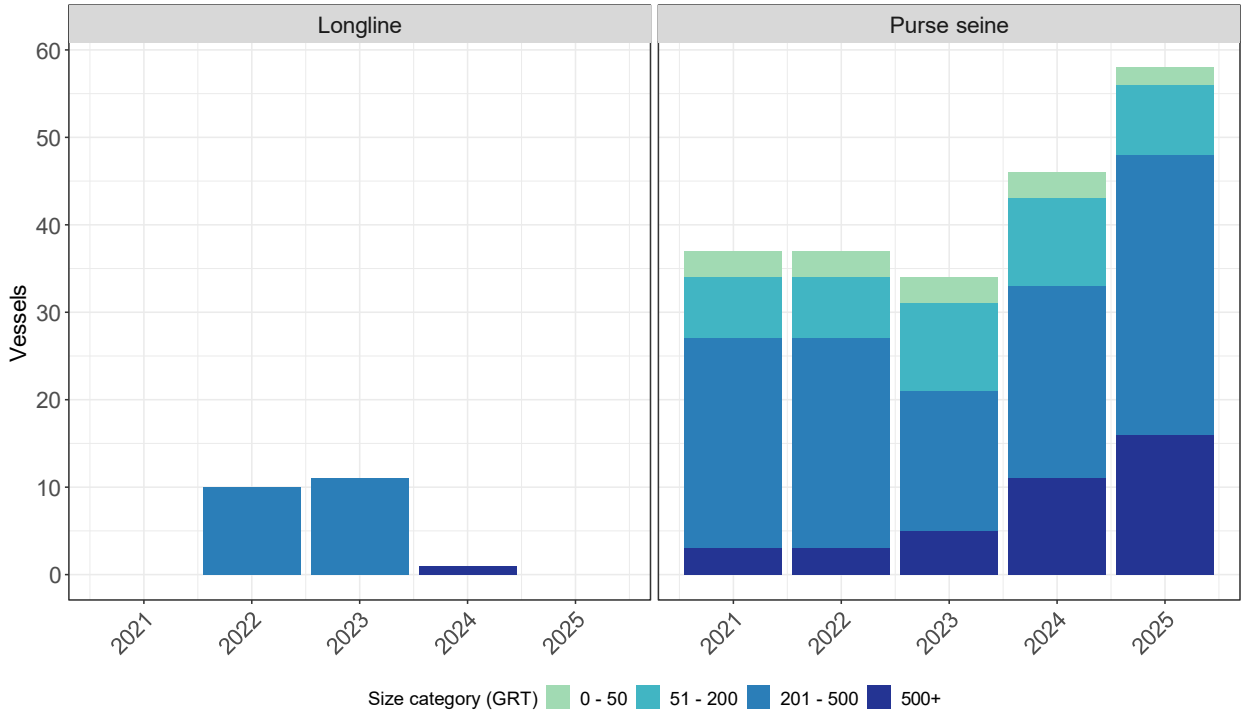


Figure 3: Historical annual vessel numbers for the Papua New Guinea fleet, by gear, for the WCPFC Convention Area. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605.

Gear	Size Category (GRT)	2022	2023	2024	2025
Longline	0 - 50	0	0	0	0
	51 - 200	0	0	0	0
	201 - 500	10	11	0	0
	500+	0	0	1	0

Table 4: Number of Papua New Guinea longline vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, over 2021-2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605.

Gear	Size Category (GRT)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Purse seine	0 - 50	3	3	3	3	2
	51 - 200	7	7	10	10	8
	201 - 500	24	24	16	22	32
	500+	3	3	5	11	16

Table 5: Number of Papua New Guinea purse seine vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605.

3.6 Distribution of catches of target species for different national fisheries

In this section we present the spatial distribution of catch (in metric tonnes) by species, Albacore, Bigeye tuna, and Yellowfin tuna, from Papua New Guinea's fleet across the period 2021- 2025, primarily concentrated within and just outside Papua New Guinea's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Spatial distribution pattern in catch for purse seine fishery

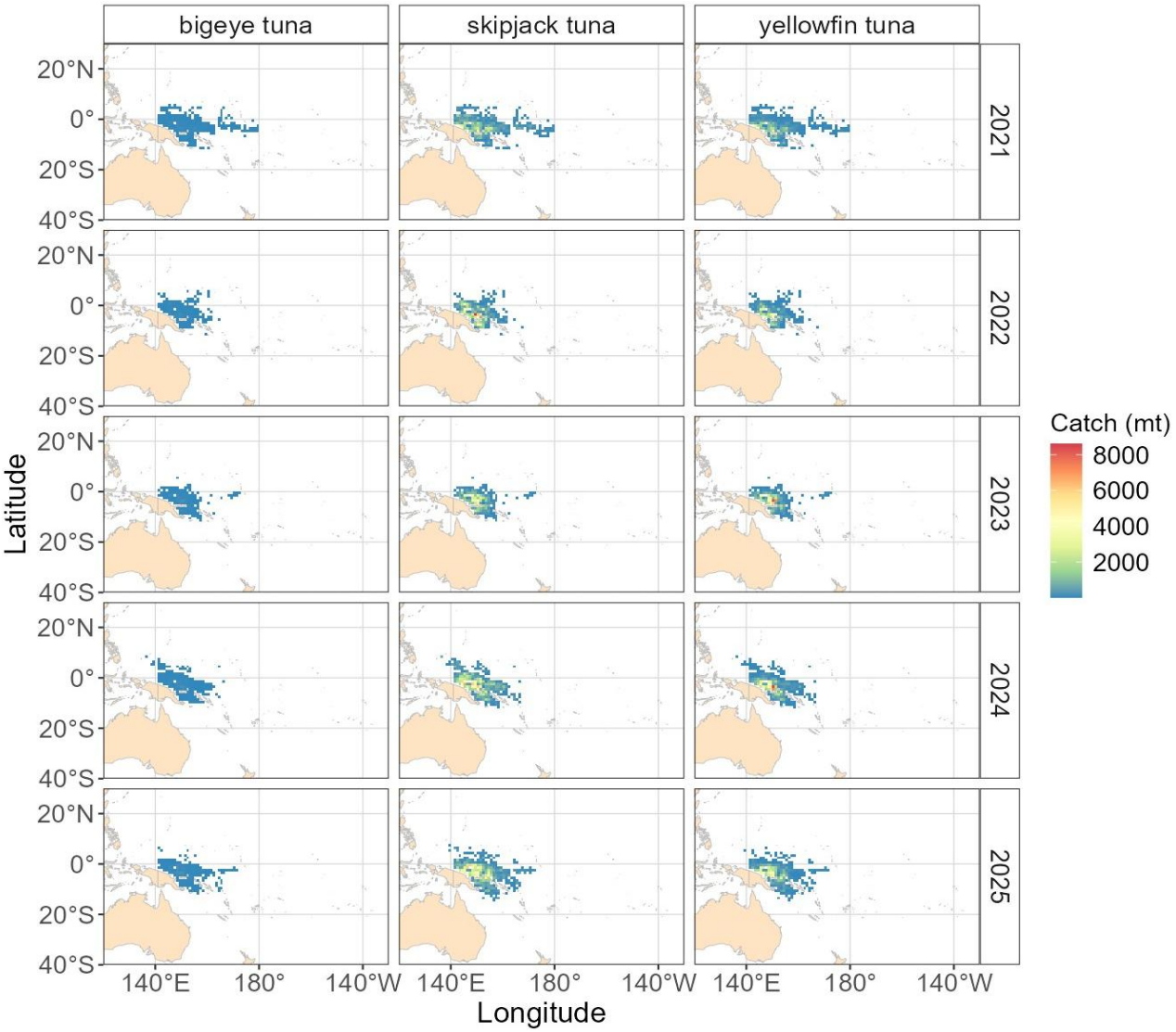


Figure 4: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Papua New Guinea purse seine fishery. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3608

Spatial distribution pattern in catch for longline fishery

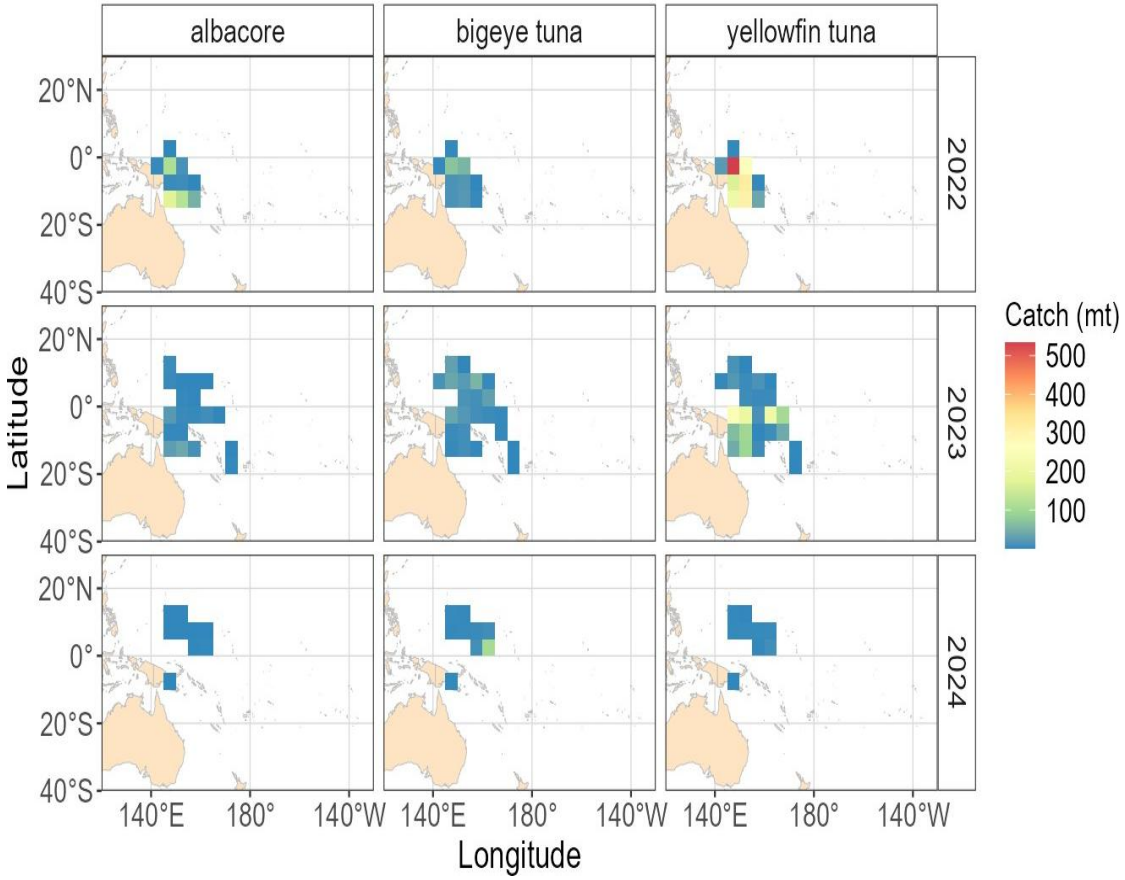


Figure 5: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Papua New Guinea longline fishery. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3608.

3.7 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 like some rays and sharks. Note that Alive plus Dead does not necessarily equal Total due to unknowns.

Table 6 provides a summary of observed interactions with special interest species by Papua New Guinea's purse seine fleet from 2021 to 2025. In case of missing years in the table below, this indicates that no interactions with target species were reported during those years.

3.7.1 Observed catches of SSIs by the purse seine fleet

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2021	marine mammals	aquatic mammals nei	1	1	0
2021	marine mammals	baleen whales nei	11	11	0
2021	marine mammals	bottlenose dolphin	12	12	0
2021	marine mammals	bryde's whale	20	20	0
2021	marine mammals	common dolphin	10	10	0
2021	marine mammals	cuvier's beaked whale	1	1	0
2021	marine mammals	false killer whale	35	34	1
2021	marine mammals	fraser's dolphin	2	2	0
2021	marine mammals	ginkgo-toothed beaked whale	3	3	0
2021	marine mammals	humpback whale	1	1	0
2021	marine mammals	indo-pacif. bottlenose dolphin	19	12	4
2021	marine mammals	minke whale	1	1	0
2021	marine mammals	risso's dolphin	2	2	0
2021	marine mammals	sei whale	9	9	0
2021	marine mammals	sperm whale	1	1	0
2021	marine mammals	spinner dolphin	3	3	0
2021	marine mammals	striped dolphin	3	3	0
2021	marine reptiles	flatback turtle	1	1	0
2021	marine reptiles	green turtle	3	3	0

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2021	marine reptiles	hawksbill turtle	7	7	0
2021	marine reptiles	olive ridley turtle	6	6	0
2021	rays	giant manta	293	103	5
2021	rays	mantas, devil rays nei	24	0	0
2021	rays	mobula	213	48	0
2021	whale shark	whale shark	46	44	0
2022	marine mammals	baleen whales nei	6	6	0
2022	marine mammals	blainville's beaked whale	1	1	0
2022	marine mammals	bottlenose dolphin	3	3	0
2022	marine mammals	bryde's whale	24	24	0
2022	marine mammals	common dolphin	15	15	0
2022	marine mammals	false killer whale	24	20	3
2022	marine mammals	indo-pacif. bottlenose dolphin	19	15	4
2022	marine mammals	long-beaked common dolphin	5	5	0
2022	marine mammals	melon-headed whale	1	1	0
2022	marine mammals	pygmy killer whale	5	5	0
2022	marine mammals	rough-toothed dolphin	1	1	0
2022	marine mammals	sei whale	22	22	0
2022	marine mammals	sperm whale	2	2	0
2022	marine mammals	striped dolphin	21	21	0
2022	marine reptiles	green turtle	3	3	0
2022	marine reptiles	hawksbill turtle	1	1	0
2022	marine reptiles	leatherback turtle	1	1	0
2022	marine reptiles	olive ridley turtle	4	4	0
2022	rays	giant manta	149	58	3
2022	rays	mantas, devil rays nei	27	4	1

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2022	rays	mobula	127	58	14
2022	whale shark	whale shark	17	17	0
2023	marine mammals	baleen whales nei	2	2	0
2023	marine mammals	bottlenose dolphin	20	15	5
2023	marine mammals	bryde's whale	4	4	0
2023	marine mammals	common dolphin	26	26	0
2023	marine mammals	false killer whale	30	30	0
2023	marine mammals	indo-pacif. bottlenose dolphin	1	1	0
2023	marine mammals	pantropical spotted dolphin	1	1	0
2023	marine mammals	risso's dolphin	4	4	0
2023	marine mammals	rough-toothed dolphin	3	3	0
2023	marine mammals	sei whale	5	5	0
2023	marine mammals	spinner dolphin	1	1	0
2023	marine reptiles	flatback turtle	1	1	0
2023	marine reptiles	green turtle	10	10	0
2023	marine reptiles	hawksbill turtle	1	1	0
2023	marine reptiles	loggerhead turtle	1	1	0
2023	marine reptiles	olive ridley turtle	1	1	0
2023	rays	giant manta	140	30	8
2023	rays	mantas, devil rays nei	14	1	0
2023	rays	mobula	165	42	5
2023	whale shark	whale shark	22	21	0
2024	marine mammals	baleen whales nei	3	3	0
2024	marine mammals	bottlenose dolphin	20	18	2
2024	marine mammals	bryde's whale	8	8	0
2024	marine mammals	common dolphin	27	25	1

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2024	marine mammals	false killer whale	50	45	1
2024	marine mammals	humpback whale	4	4	0
2024	marine mammals	indo-pacif. bottlenose dolphin	26	24	2
2024	marine mammals	melon-headed whale	1	0	0
2024	marine mammals	rough-toothed dolphin	11	7	4
2024	marine mammals	sei whale	17	17	0
2024	marine mammals	short-finned pilot whale	4	4	0
2024	marine mammals	spinner dolphin	37	32	0
2024	marine reptiles	green turtle	3	3	0
2024	marine reptiles	hawksbill turtle	4	4	0
2024	marine reptiles	loggerhead turtle	1	1	0
2024	marine reptiles	olive ridley turtle	11	10	0
2024	rays	giant manta	359	127	30
2024	rays	mantas, devil rays nei	60	1	0
2024	rays	mobula	708	149	39
2024	whale shark	whale shark	36	35	0
2025	marine mammals	bottlenose dolphin	400	397	0
2025	marine mammals	bryde’s whale	9	9	0
2025	marine mammals	common dolphin	10	10	0
2025	marine mammals	false killer whale	32	32	0
2025	marine mammals	humpback whale	1	1	0
2025	marine mammals	long-beaked common dolphin	12	12	0
2025	marine mammals	pantropical spotted dolphin	7	6	0
2025	marine mammals	risso’s dolphin	6	6	0
2025	marine mammals	rough-toothed dolphin	10	0	10
2025	marine mammals	sei whale	15	15	0

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2025	marine mammals	spinner dolphin	4	4	0
2025	marine reptiles	green turtle	4	4	0
2025	marine reptiles	hawksbill turtle	2	2	0
2025	marine reptiles	leatherback turtle	1	1	0
2025	marine reptiles	loggerhead turtle	4	4	0
2025	marine reptiles	olive ridley turtle	3	3	0
2025	rays	giant manta	366	102	26
2025	rays	mantas, devil rays nei	9	0	0
2025	rays	mobula	356	187	80
2025	whale shark	whale shark	18	18	0

Table 6: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) by the Papua New Guinea purse seine fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2021-2025, 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. Source -SPC Tufman 2, report 2953.

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

Table 7 provides a summary of observed interactions with non-target species by Papua New Guinea's purse seine fleet from 2021 to 2025. In case of missing years in the table below, this indicates that no interactions with non-target species were reported during those years.

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Black marlin	14.0	18.6	16.2	17.9	16.0
Blue shark	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
Blue marlin	35.8	39.0	23.6	63.4	36.7
Silky shark	202.5	210.1	150.5	790.6	503.9
Mako sharks (mak)	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.0	0.4
Striped marlin	10.3	4.7	0.3	12.9	4.1
Oceanic whitetip shark	0.6	0.7	2.0	1.5	2.1

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Whale shark	9.8	44.5	153.6	180.3	27.3
Sailfish	2.4	7.6	0.0	14.3	28.1
Hammerhead sharks (spn)	0.3	0.4	0.0	19.3	0.5
Shortbill spearfish	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.9	1.3
Swordfish	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5
Thresher sharks (thr)	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3

Table 7: Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the Papua New Guinea purse seine fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605.

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

Species	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
Black marlin	10.0	9.8	0.0
Blue shark	3.0	13.9	2.8
Blue marlin	33.0	50.6	3.4
Silky shark	52.0	18.6	0.4
Mako sharks (mak)	0.4	2.3	0.0
Striped marlin	3.0	1.6	0.0
Oceanic whitetip shark	9.0	5.6	0.8
Sailfish	0.0	0.0	0.4
Hammerhead sharks (spn)	0.0	0.0	0.3
Swordfish	8.0	6.9	0.7
Thresher sharks (thr)	0.5	0.3	0.0

Table 8: Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the Papua New Guinea longline fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, report 3605

4 Coastal State Reporting

This section captures reports on activities of foreign fleet and other small scale domestic fishery activities in the national waters. The foreign flag vessels comprised of foreign purse seine vessels and the reintroduced foreign tuna longline vessels.

4.1 Purse Seine – Foreign Bilateral Vessels

Foreign-flagged purse seine vessels operating in the Papua New Guinea Exclusive Economic Zone (PNG EEZ) are authorized through flag-state access arrangements negotiated by the Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority with foreign governments or fishing entities, including bilateral fisheries access agreements and multilateral regional access instruments such as the U.S. Multilateral Treaty and the FSM Arrangement.

Over the most recent five-year period, this fleet segment recorded a mean annual tuna catch of 314,777 metric tonnes and a mean annual fishing effort of 7,909 vessel-days within the PNG EEZ.

4.2 Longline – Foreign Vessels

Foreign bilateral longline vessels operating in PNG waters are licensed under Bilateral Access Agreements between Papua New Guinea and its bilateral access partners, which may include individual companies, fishing associations, or state authorities of flag country. Over the past five years, these vessels have recorded an average annual catch of 4,078 metric tonnes, with an average effort of approximately 111,650H hooks deployed per year.

In line with the government's long-term policy to domesticate tuna longline fishing and promote local participation, foreign bilateral longline fishing activities were banned in PNG waters from 1996 onward. For over two decades, no foreign bilateral longline vessels were granted access until 2015, when a trial albacore fishery was conducted using six (6) Taiwanese-flagged ultra-low temperature (ULT) longline vessels under a charter arrangement. This trial marked the initial step toward reintroducing foreign longline operations in PNG. Subsequent policy changes implemented after 2020 have since allowed the re-entry of full foreign longline fleets into PNG waters under regulated access agreements.

4.3 Shark Longline

The shark longline fishery was managed under a distinct management plan separate from the tuna longline fishery. Access to the fishery was restricted to nine vessels, each permitted to deploy up to 1,200 hooks per day, with an annual total allowable catch (TAC) of 2,000 mt dressed weight. All vessels operating in this fishery fished exclusively within PNG waters. The shark fishery was closed in the first quarter of 2014 in response to CMM 2011-04 and CMM 2013-08, which prohibited the landing of oceanic whitetip shark (Carcharhinus longimanus) and silky shark (Carcharhinus *falciformis*), respectively. Figures below present the recorded catch, number of vessels, and fishing effort (hundreds of hooks) from 2009 onward. This fishery also yields substantial bycatch, primarily yellowfin tuna (Thunnus *albacares*), as well as billfishes. The mean estimated catch for 2010–2015 was 1,344.26 metric tons (mt), of which 1,011.47 mt comprised of sharks. Table 9 shows the fishing effort and catch composition of Shark, Tuna, and Billfish Species between 2010 - 2014.

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Mean
Effort (Hhooks)	**22,790**	**27,934**	**20,817**	**16,367**	**6,129**	**18,808**
Sharks						
Blacktip Shark	18.93	2.81	1.31	5.59	7.45	9.22
Blacktip Reef Shark	19.75	43.98	36.53	11.17	12.79	24.85
Blue Shark	10.21	18.93	16.08	16.59	9.38	14.24
Galapagos Shark	0.99	0.29	0.06	2.89	2.69	1.38
Grey Reef Shark	23.87	8.42	2.59	4.68	2.10	8.33
Hammerhead Shark	39.15	22.34	18.64	31.06	15.09	25.26
Oceanic Whitetip Shark	12.90	7.15	3.74	7.42	7.66	7.77
Silky Shark	907.26	1,292.90	902.46	796.12	399.27	859.60
Silvertip Shark	6.37	0.45	0.39	0.38	0.30	1.58
Tiger Shark	8.76	2.15	1.21	2.16	0.16	2.89
Unidentified Sharks	71.72	80.25	52.65	54.61	22.60	56.37
Total Sharks	**1,119.90**	**1,479.66**	**1,045.64**	**932.65**	**479.48**	**1,011.47**
Tunas & Billfish						
Albacore	1.46	7.32	9.68	1.37	0.23	4.01
Bigeye Tuna	3.66	2.37	10.69	18.96	15.56	10.25
Yellowfin Tuna	140.03	173.98	205.34	112.84	25.58	131.55
Black Marlin	10.85	4.38	3.51	9.12	2.79	6.13
Blue Marlin	53.92	113.04	65.63	64.83	16.32	62.75
Sailfish	43.85	65.90	35.16	28.69	9.98	36.72
Striped Marlin	0.99	1.23	1.69	1.13	0.65	1.14
Swordfish	49.30	77.57	86.61	56.39	21.71	58.31
Other Species	36.75	21.79	20.53	26.37	4.28	21.94
Overall Total Catch	**1,460.72**	**1,947.22**	**1,484.46**	**1,252.35**	**576.57**	**1,344.26**

Table 9: Detailed Annual Catch composition (metric Tons) and fishing Effort (Hundred Hooks) for Shark, Tuna, and Billfish Species (2010-2014). Data Source: PNG NFA LAR.

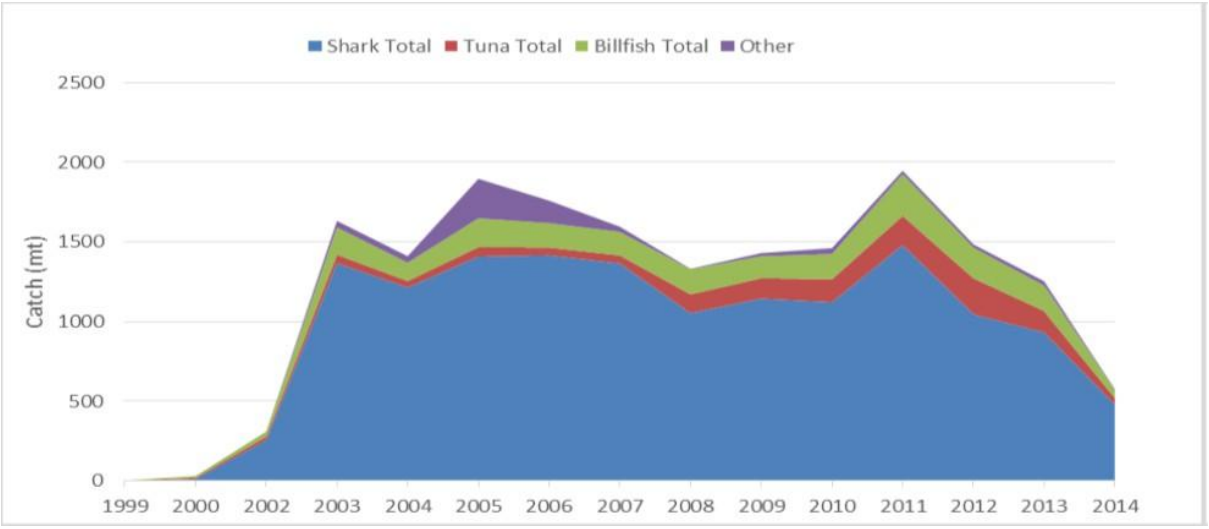


Figure 6: Detailed Annual Catch composition (metric Tons) and fishing Effort (Hundred Hooks) for Shark, Tuna, and Billfish Species (2010-2014). Data Source: PNG NFA LAR.

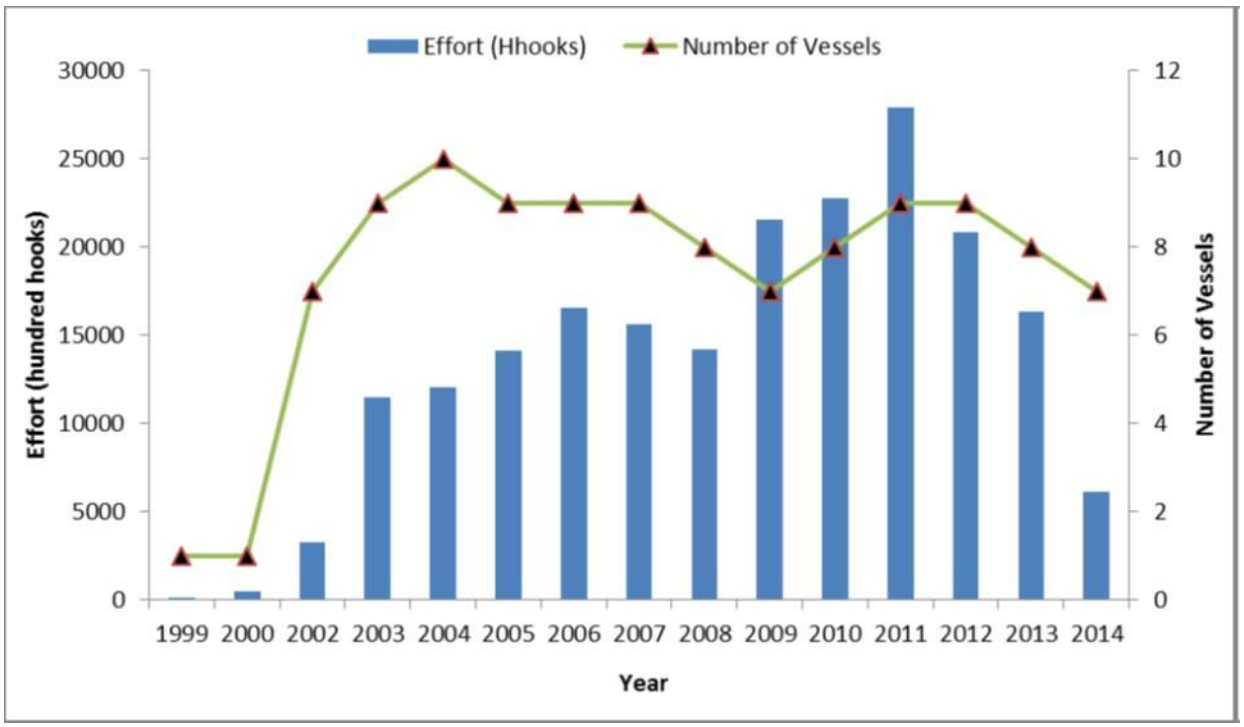


Figure 7: Detailed Annual Catch composition (metric Tons) and fishing Effort (Hundred Hooks) for Shark, Tuna, and Billfish Species (2010-2014). Data Source: PNG NFA LAR.

4.4 Handline

The handline fishery trial commenced in 2005 with an initial fleet of 10 pump-boats. By 2009, the number of active vessels had declined to five, principally due to the high operational costs associated with artisanal fishing during the early development phase of the fishery. The pump-boats were exclusively owned and operated by local fishers. Although the fishery exhibited some potential for expansion, most vessels discontinued operations within a few years of commencement. Annual catch from these vessels was relatively low, generally not exceeding an estimated 10 metric tonnes, and was supplied to domestic fish processing companies and local supermarkets. At present, no active handline fishery operates in Papua New Guinea (PNG), and no pump-boats are currently operating in PNG waters.

4.5 Catch and Effort Trends

This section presents the catch and effort trends in the PNG EEZ from foreign fleet.

Gear	Year	Vessels	Trips	Days	Alb (mt)	Bet (mt)	Yft (mt)	Skj (mt)	Others (mt)	Total (mt)
LL					**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
	2021	8	28	358	131	56	391	–	53	631
	2022	40	208	3,219	1,202	368	3,935	–	332	5,837
	2023	26	183	3,231	929	223	2,006	–	228	3,386
	2024	29	245	4,041	1,592	540	2,456	–	372	4,960
	2025	**27**	**211**	**3,300**	**859**	**380**	**2,418**	**–**	**372**	**4,027**
PS					**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
	2021	803	1,066	5,666	–	4,040	42,875	175,464	187	222,566
	2022	957	1,347	8,286	–	4,150	56,050	316,306	301	376,806
	2023	525	662	4,724	–	1,905	27,903	108,449	286	138,544
	2024	1,145	1,555	11,957	–	3,626	104,765	411,663	976	521,030
	2025	**1,045**	**1,330**	**9,885**	**–**	**7,059**	**66,580**	**273,569**	**882**	**348,090**

Table 10: Annual catches in Png EEZ per gear (LL = Longline; PS = Purse seine) for the last 5 years. Source -SPC Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

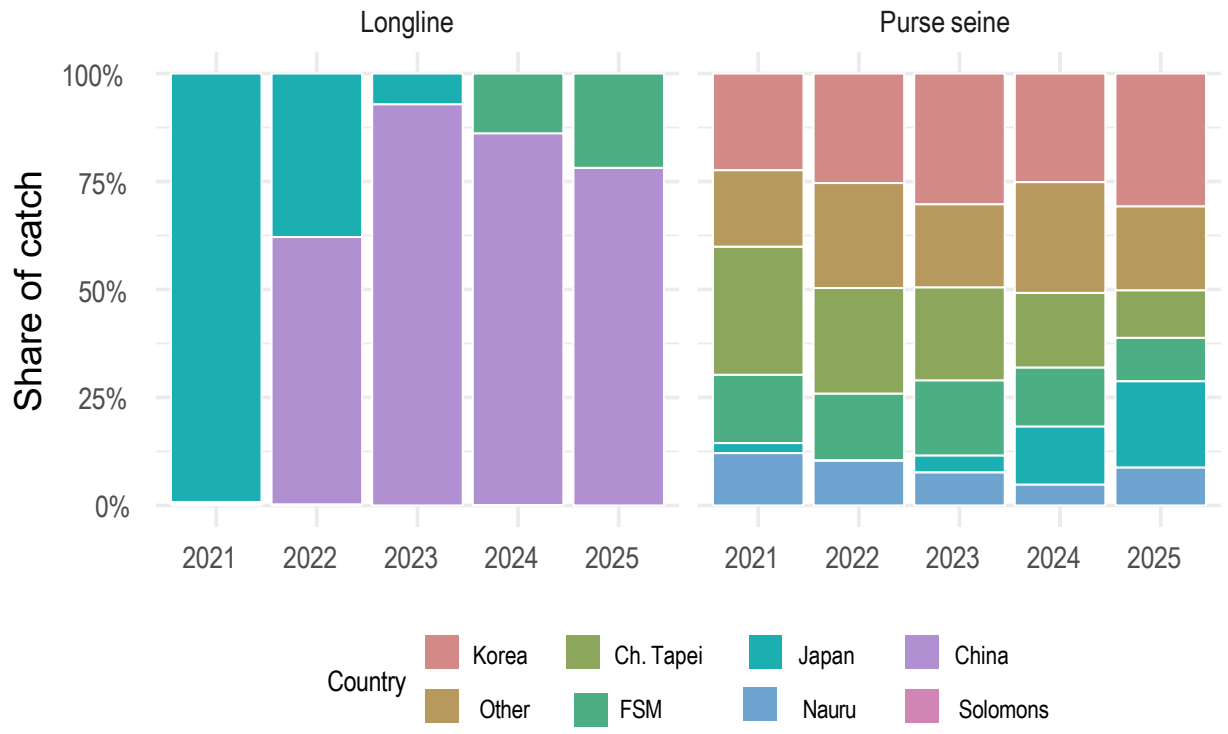


Figure 8: Percentage of total catch (all species) in the PNG EEZ, by flag during the last 5 years. Source – S P C Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

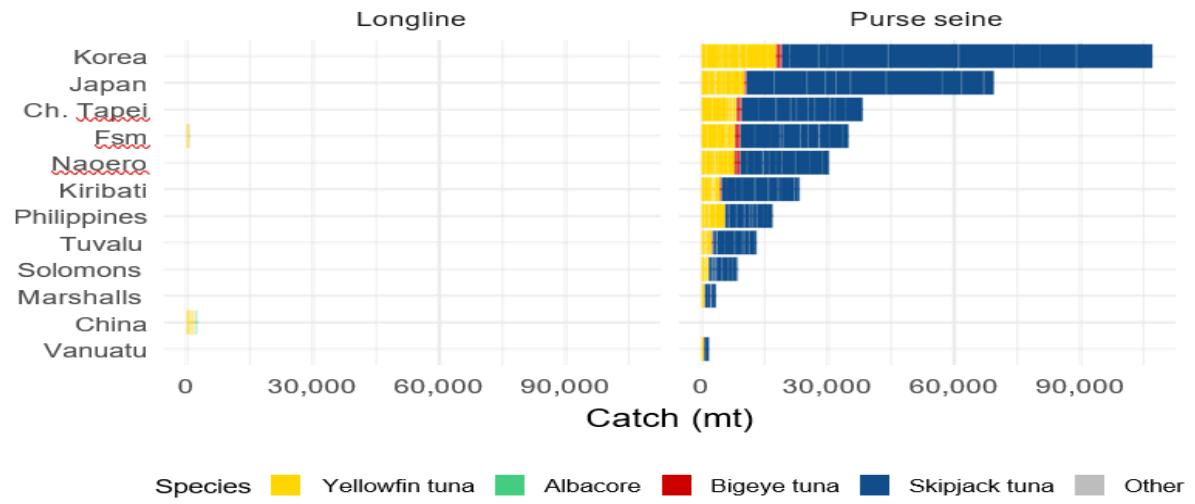


Figure 9: Annual catch of tuna in the PNG EEZ by flag during 2025. Source – SPC Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

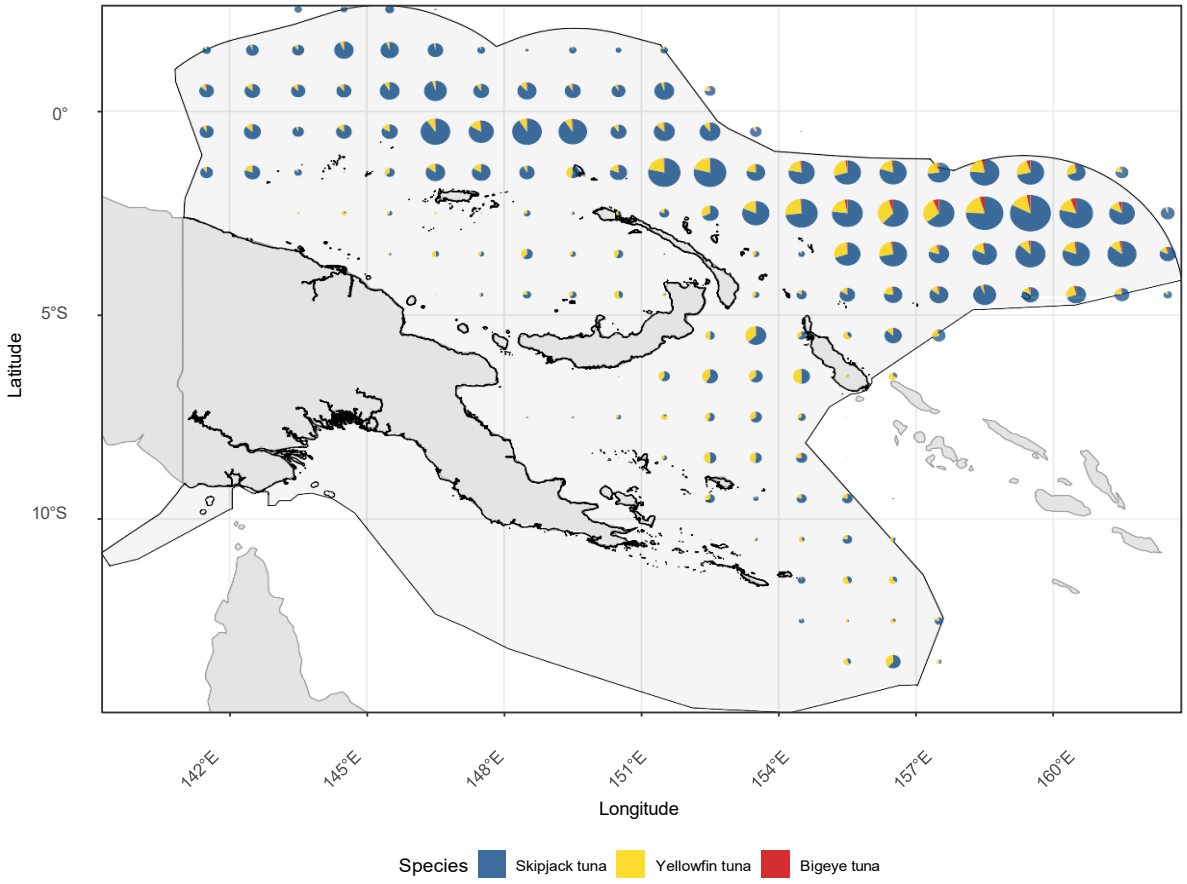


Figure 10: Catch of the three main tuna species by purse seine vessels fishing in the PNG EEZ, in each 1x1 degree cell in the EEZ and the immediate surrounding area during 2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 2904.

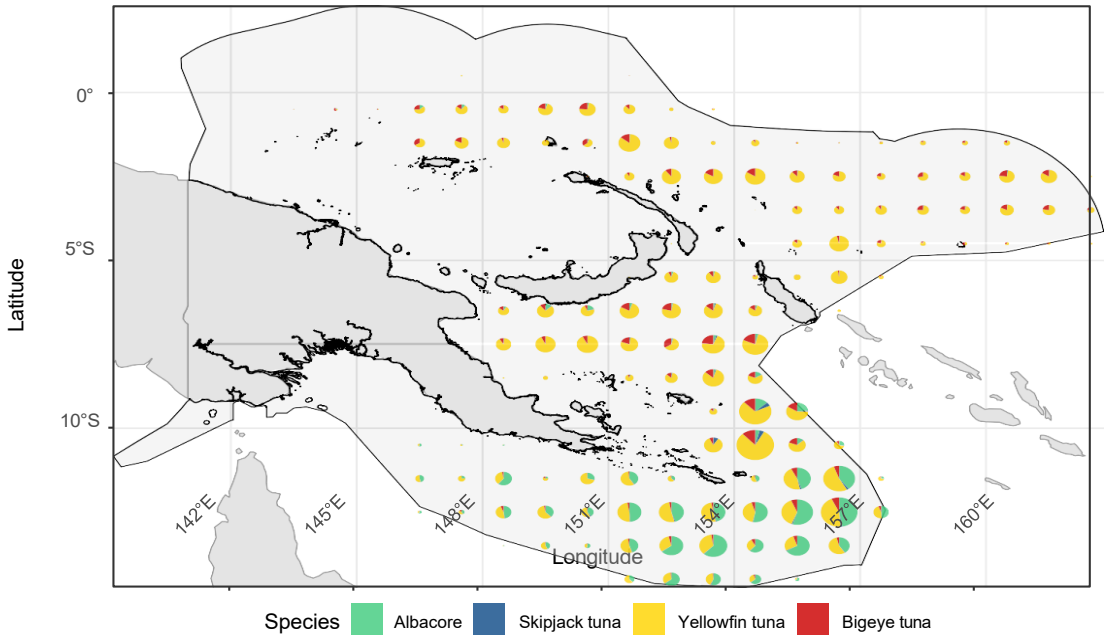


Figure 11: Catch of the three main tuna species by longline vessels fishing in the PNG EEZ, in each 1x1 degree cell in the EEZ and the immediate surrounding area during 2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3375.

4.6 Annual catch estimates - artisanal

Table 11 presents the raised and unraised estimates per species for 2025, and Table 12 shows the percentage contribution of each species. Data is sourced from Tails and Ikasavea (landing surveys). Raised estimates are calculated based on the local knowledge of average monthly trips per landing sites.

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	0	0.02	0.01
unraised	0	0.02	0.01

Table 11: Raised and unraised annual artisanal catch estimates in mt

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	0	66.67	33.33
unraised	0	66.67	33.33

Table 12: Percentage of the artisanal tuna ACE associated with each of the key species

5 Socio-economic factors

Papua New Guinea is focused on building its domestic tuna industry to an extent where the socio-economic benefits generated from the domestic tuna industry can offset those that are currently obtained from the bi-lateral access arrangements. Some of the government's focus areas include increase downstream processing of tuna products and value adding, increase employment, increase export earnings, improve enabling infrastructure and improve industry operating environment. The government is also looking at expanding and enhancing International Trade and market access for fishery products as well as supporting, maintaining and encouraging genuine Foreign Direct Investment, and optimization of national participation in the tuna fishery and processing sector. The government of PNG is now working in collaboration with members within the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) under the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi) in implementing FFA Leaders directives to optimize socio-economic returns from their shared tuna resources.

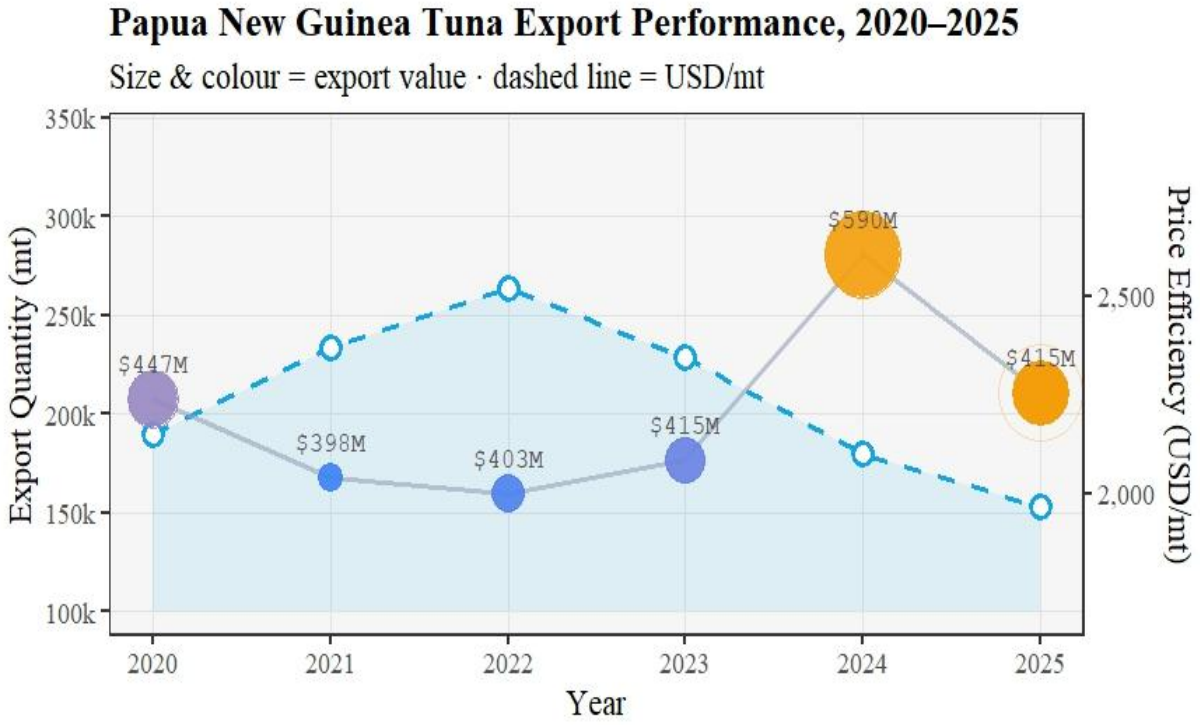
6 Exports

The quantity of processed tuna products exported from the PNG domestic industry has been steady between 100,000 mt and 200 000 mt from 2020 onward (Figure 12). Peak export quantity was recorded in 2024, reaching slightly above 250,000 tonnes with corresponding export revenues of approximately 590 million USD. The export quantities and values have been largely driven by market demands and availability of suitable raw materials, specifically, market preferred tuna sizes for processing. This increase in production was attributed to high catches within PNG's national waters, primarily due to the La Nina southern oscillation.

Export quantity and value from 2020 to 2025 show substantial variability when expressed in percentage terms (Figure 12). Export volumes declined by approximately 19% from 2020 to 2021 and a further 5% from 2021 to 2022. This downward trend reversed in 2023, with a moderate increase of about 11%, followed by a sharp surge of roughly 58% in 2024, marking the most significant expansion in the series. However, this growth was not sustained, as export quantity fell again by approximately 25% in 2025. Export value exhibited a similar but less pronounced pattern. There was an initial decrease of about 9% between 2020 and 2021, followed by a slight increase of around 1% in 2022 and a further 2–3% rise in 2023. A substantial jump of approximately 41% occurred in 2024, aligning with the surge in export volume. In 2025, export value declined by roughly 29%, reflecting the contraction in export quantity and indicating sensitivity of total revenue to production changes.

Analysis of value per tonne reveals contrasting dynamics. Unit values increased consistently from 2020 to 2022, with gains of approximately 12% and 7% in successive years, indicating improving market prices or higher-value exports. This trend reversed in 2023 with a decline of about 8%, followed by further decreases of roughly 11% in 2024 and 6% in 2025. The decline in unit value during periods of increased production suggests potential market saturation or a shift toward lower-value products.

Overall, the percentage trends highlight a non-linear relationship between export quantity and value. While both indicators experienced strong growth in 2024, declining unit values suggest diminishing returns at higher production levels. These patterns point to the influence of market demand, supply dynamics, and external economic factors, emphasizing the need to monitor both volume and price indicators when assessing export performance and informing fisheries management strategies.



PNG tuna exports overview with dual-axis scaling.

Addendum

7.0.1 Section A

7.0.1.1 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 1 of 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*

Flag	Year	Vessels	swo_n	swo_mt
PG	2022	0	0	0
PG	2023	0	0	0
PG	2024	0	0	0

Table 13: Total number of vessels fishing for swordfish and the catch (mt) of swordfish south of 20S. Source - Tufman 2, report 2918.

7.0.1.2 Observer coverage (WCPFC11 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).

No data reported in 2025 for observer coverage.

7.0.1.3 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: 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:

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

No data reported in 2025 for transhipment quantities.

(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

Table 12a. Estimated quantity (mt) of tuna transhipped by PNG National Fleet (PNG flag and chartered vessels) inside PNG ports in 2025. Report from the PNG National Catch Documentations Scheme (CDS).

a) Offloaded and received	b) Transshipped in domestic port (quantity in metric tons)	c) Transshipped in pacific island port inside the Convention Area (quantity in metric tons);	d) Tuna caught inside the Convention Area	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear
	345,925	Nill	Refer to Table 1	SKJ	Frozen	PS
	135,673	Nill	Refer to Table 1	YFT	Frozen	PS
	5,438	Nill	Refer to Table 1	BET	Frozen	PS
offloaded	2	Nill	Refer to Table 1	ALB	Frozen	PS
	0	Nill	Refer to Table 2	SKJ	Frozen	LL
	0	Nill	Refer to Table 2	YFT	Frozen	LL
	0	Nill	Refer to Table 2	BET	Frozen	LL
	0	Nill	Refer to Table 2	ALB	Frozen	LL

Note: Transshipment information for PNG National Fleet only (Domestic flag and Chartered Vessels).

Table 12b. Estimated number of transshipments by PNG National Fleet in 2025. Source: Report from NFA National Catch Documents Scheme (CDS).

Offloaded	No. of transshipment in domestic port	No. of transshipped in pacific island country ports inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	Fishing gear
Offloaded	776	-	Refer to Table 1	PS
Offloaded	0	-	Refer to Table 2	LL

7.0.1.4 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).

Flag	Date	Lat	Lon	EEZ	Species	Number	Fate
PG	27/03/2025	0621.862S	15349.309E	PG	INDO-PACIF. BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	7	Released
PG	11/05/2025	0121.883S	14911.209E	PG	FIN WHALE	1	Released
PG	24/07/2025	0410.889S	15104.480E	PG	DOLPHINS NEI	2	Released
PG	17/09/2025	0206.647S	15101.510E	PG	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
PG	08/10/2025	0552.394S	15313.714E	PG	BRYDE'S WHALE	1	Released
PG	14/10/2025	0702.989S	15251.595E	PG	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
PG	12/10/2025	0216.000S	15425.999E	PG	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	2	Released
PG	16/12/2025	0558S	15552E	PG	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
PG	13/05/2025	0205.957S	15245.836E	PG	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
PG	10/07/2025	0124.790S	14602.710E	PG	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
PG	18/06/2025	0202.007S	15929.192E	PG	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released
PG	09/07/2025	0430.829S	15113.170E	PG	DOLPHINS NEI	1	Released
PG	24/07/2025	0400.820S	14918.979E	PG	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	5	Released
PG	15/09/2025	0250.911S	14933.111E	PG	SEI WHALE	1	Released
PG	14/10/2025	0342.816S	14541.616E	PG	FALSE KILLER WHALE	1	Released

Flag	Date	Lat	Lon	EEZ	Species	Number	Fate
PG	11/10/2025	0255.630S	15300.634E	PG	BRYDE'S WHALE	1	Released
PG	18/10/2025	0403.340S	14756.809E	PG	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	4	Released

Table 14: Summary of the number of cetacean encirclements by purse seine nets in reporting year. Source - Tufman 2, report 3222.

7.0.1.5 CMM 2018-3 [Seabirds], Para 13

CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 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 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.

Table(s) x (by area)

No data reported in 2025 for longline activity in the region.

No data reported in 2025 for area south of 30S.

No data reported in 2025 for area between 30S and 25S.

No data reported in 2025 for area between 25S and 23N.

No data reported in 2025 for area north of 23N.

Table(s) y (by area)

No data reported in 2025 for area south of 30S.

No data reported in 2025 for area between 30S and 25S.

No data reported in 2025 for area between 25S and south of 23N.

No data reported in 2025 for area north of 23N.

Table z

No data reported in 2025 for seabird interactions.

7.0.2 Section B

7.0.2.1 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.

Flag	Year	Vessels	Num	Weight_kg
PG	2022	0	0	0
PG	2023	1	0	0
PG	2024	0	0	0

Table 15: There is currently no agreed definition of "fishing for" striped marlin, therefore, this table summarises all longline vessels fishing south of 15S and all associated catch of striped marlin. Source - Tufman 2, report: 2917.

7.0.2.2 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.

No data reported in 2025 for fishing effort or catch of albacore north of the equator.

7.0.2.3 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 measure for such fisheries.

No data reported in 2025 for fishing effort or catch of North Pacific swordfish.