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

WCPFC-SC22-2026-AR-CCM13
7 July 2026

Submitted by Republic of Marshall Islands

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Oceanic and Industrial Affairs Division
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

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 2025	Yes

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1 SUMMARY

In 2025, there were eleven Marshall Islands-flagged purse seine vessels operating throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The total catch estimates by the national purse seine fleet in 2025 was 68,768 metric tons. Additionally, retained catch estimates, from forty chartered longline vessels associated with the domestically-based Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV), totaled 5,102 metric tons.

The commercial catches within the RMI EEZ are taken predominantly by the purse seine fishery but longline and pole-and-line operations also occur. In 2025, estimated total catch for all gears combined was 30,718 metric tons with purse seine accounting for 85% followed by longline 13% and pole-and-line 2%. Purse seine catch in the RMI EEZ decreased from 33,768 metric tons in 2024 to 26,487 metric tons in 2025.

The RMI Observer program's 51 active observers carried out 116 purse seiner and 76 long line trips during 2025. Bilateral trips on Taiwan flagged vessels accounted for more than half of the purse seiner observer trips. As in previous years, observers were also utilized to monitor transshipment and unloading activities in Majuro port.

2 FLAG STATE REPORTING

Annual catch and effort estimates for the national purse seine fleet, fishing throughout the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC-CA) during the last five years are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1. In 2025, total catch estimates were 68,768 metric tons for the purse seine fleet. Skipjack is the prominent species caught comprising 82% of the total followed by yellowfin, 13% and bigeye tuna 5%.

There were 40 foreign long-liners chartered in 2025 whose catch estimates are provided in Table 2. All chartered vessels are based locally and fish almost exclusively in the RMI EEZ. Vessel numbers for both purse seine and longline vessels are presented in Table 3 below.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate catch distributions for the RMI flagged purse seine and chartered longline fleets from 2024 to 2025. Purse seine catch and effort areas widened in 2025 with an increase in catches in the adjacent high seas compared to the previous year. As previously stated, longline vessels predominantly operate in the EEZ and effort was more concentrated in the south in 2025.

Table 1. Annual catch and effort estimates for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area

Species	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard
ALBACORE	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	0	0	0
BIGEYE TUNA	683	23	433	0	713	19	829	3	3,359	11
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SKIPJACK	81,741	1,362	81,445	34	59,723	411	81,074	598	56,432	313
YELLOWFIN	7,005	213	4,088	5	7,072	43	8,086	9	8,975	14
BLACK MARLIN	2	6	0	20	5	4	1	4	1	10
BLUE MARLIN	1	10	6	1	7	5	5	7	1	16
STRIPED MARLIN	3	2	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.32
INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.30
SWORDFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.04
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLUE SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SILKY SHARK	0	47	0	66	0	59	0	101	0	67
HAMMERHEAD SHARK	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.07
MAKO SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.12
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	0	0	0	16	0	3	0	6	0	5
PORBEAGLE / SALMON SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WHALE SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	1
THRESHER SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**89,435**	**1,664**	**85,984**	**142**	**67,520**	**546**	**90,156**	**736**	**68,768**	**438**

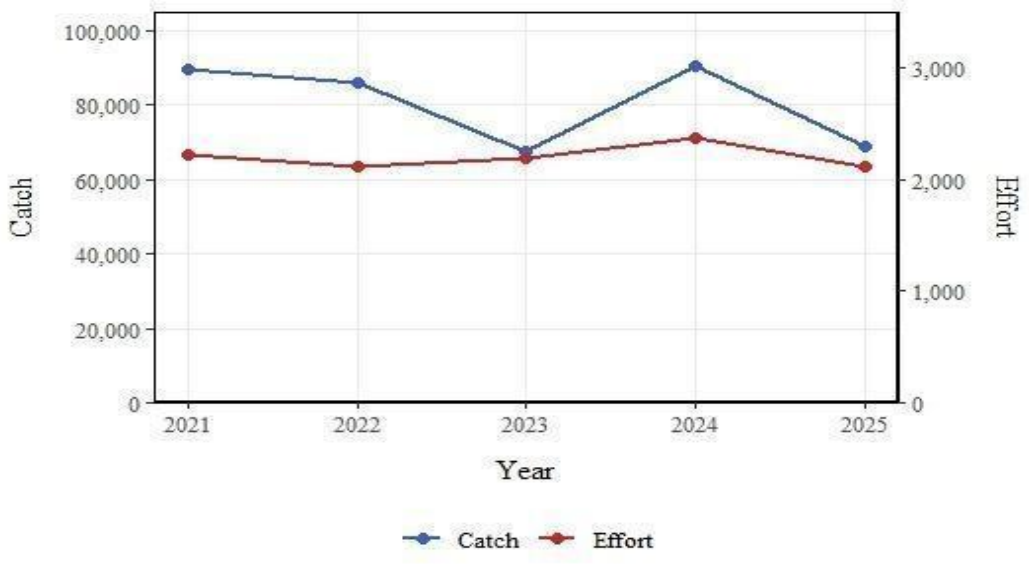

Figure 1. Annual catch and effort for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area

Table 2. Annual catch estimates for the Marshall Islands-chartered longline vessels, by species and year, for the WCPFC Convention Area

Species	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard
ALBACORE	53	1	149	1	93	2	289	2	165	0
BIGEYE TUNA	915	13	1,151	22	1,414	14	2,065	42	2,500	1
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SKIPJACK	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	50	25	0
YELLOWFIN	620	14	940	24	667	9	1,695	110	1,842	6
BLACK MARLIN	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	6	60	0
BLUE MARLIN	130	0	188	0	125	0	399	13	336	0.41
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	115	0
INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
SWORDFISH	15	8	15	0	16	5	22	17	44	4
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
BLUE SHARK	0	114	0	245	0	460	0	0	0	0
SILKY SHARK	0	68	0	47	0	319	0	630	0	0
HAMMERHEAD SHARK	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
MAKO SHARK	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	8	0	0
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	0	13	0	4	0	5	0	33	0	0
PORBEAGLE / SALMON SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WHALE SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THRESHER SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**1,733**	**236**	**2,446**	**348**	**2,315**	**817**	**4,471**	**933**	**5,102**	**12**

Table 3. Number of Marshall Islands-chartered and flagged vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2021-2025

	Longline				Purse Seine			
Year \ GRT	0-50	51-200	201-500	500+	0-500	501-1000	1001-1500	1500+
2021	0	27	0	0	0	0	7	4
2022	0	23	0	0	0	0	7	4
2023	0	29	0	0	0	0	7	4
2024	0	34	0	0	0	0	7	4
2025	0	41	0	0	0	0	6	4

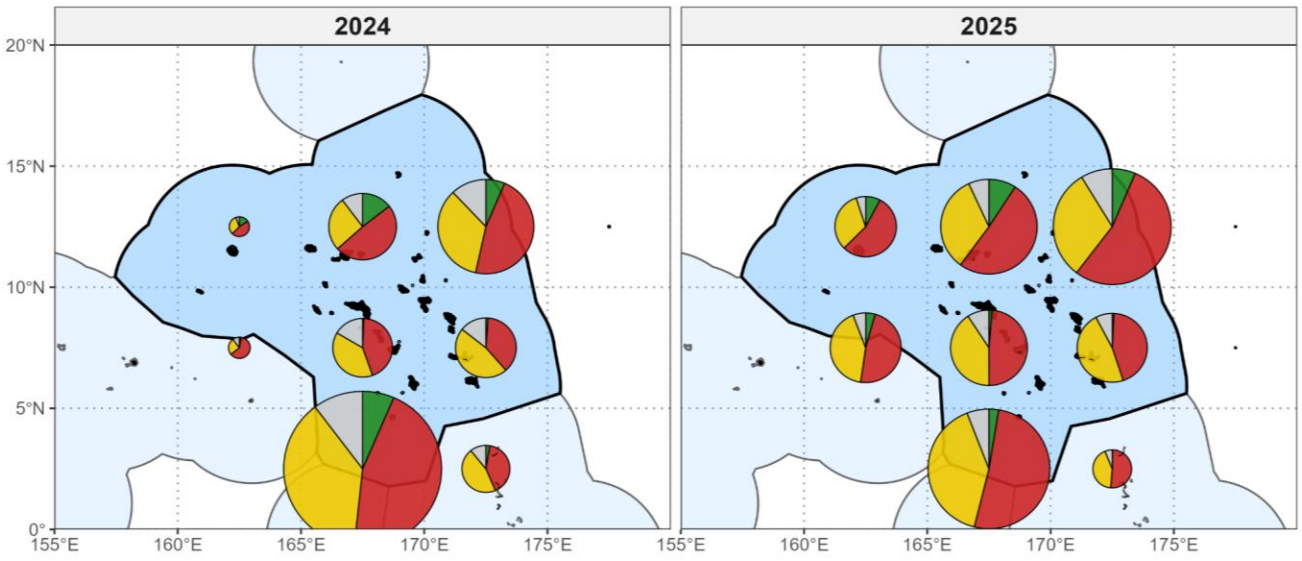

Figure 2. Annual distribution of catch by the Marshall Islands-chartered longline vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2024 and 2025 (Red - BET, Yellow - YFT, Green - ALB)

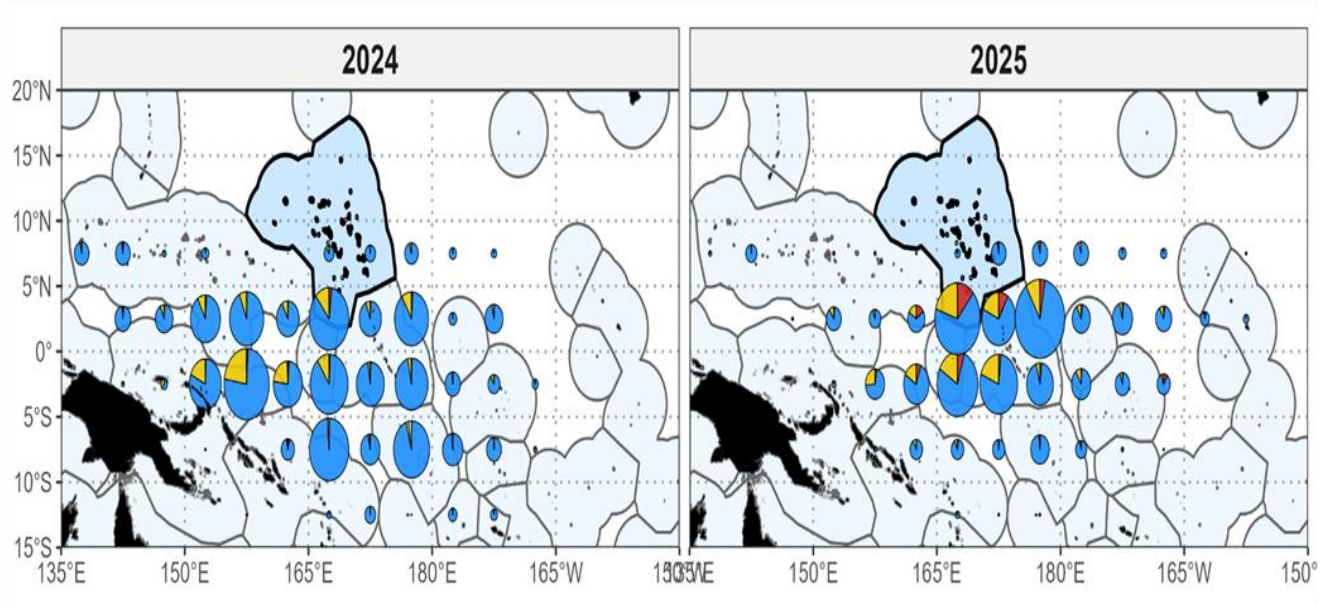

Figure 3. Annual distribution of catch by the Marshall Islands Domestic Purse seine vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2024 and 2025 (Blue - SKJ, Yellow - YFT, Red - BET)

3 COASTAL STATE REPORTING

Table 4 provides a description of foreign-flagged vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands waters over the past five years. A total of 191 foreign vessels were licensed however; not all were actively fishing in the RMI EEZ during the period. Domestically-based foreign longline vessels affiliated with the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) have been operating under charter with the RMI since 2016, hence the inclusion of the charter component of the catches in the flag state reporting above.

Table 4. Number of foreign longline, pole-and-line and purse seine vessels licensed to fish in the RMI EEZ, by year and flag

FLAG	GEAR	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CHINA	LL	18	22	29	27	31
	PS	9	10	12	12	11
FSM	LL	12	11	10	11	9
FSMA	PS	83	79	86	93	89
JAPAN	LL	2	1	6	0	0
	PL	25	3	13	5	8
	PS	29	22	25	28	22
KIRIBATI	PS	4	2	2	0	0
KOREA	PS	21	20	22	16	0
NAURU	PS	0	0	2	0	2
PHILIPPINES	PS	15	15	6	0	0
CH-TAIPEI	LL	0	0	0	0	0
	PS	21	23	22	21	18
TUVALU	PS	1	1	1	1	1
VANUATU	PS	0	0	3	2	0
USA	PS	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**LL**	**32**	**34**	**45**	**38**	**40**
	PL	**25**	**3**	**13**	**5**	**8**
	PS	**183**	**172**	**181**	**173**	**143**

Available logsheet data indicate that total catch by purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ decreased from 33,804 metric tons in 2024 to 26,487 mt in 2025 with 24% taken by the RMI fleet (Table 5). The catch rates in the RMI EEZ are usually influenced by the prevailing environmental conditions, with higher catches recorded during or immediately following strong El Nino periods. Skipjack tuna continues to be the dominant catch, accounting for 73% of the total catch in 2025.

The domestically-based foreign longline fleet comprises vessels from China and FSM and are managed and operated under Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Luen Thai. In-zone longline catch estimates are provided in Table 6. Bigeye and yellowfin catches continue to account for the major part of the target catch composition. As with the purse seine fishery, most of the longline fishing effort occurs in the southern areas of the RMI EEZ however in the longline fishery, effort is more widely distributed throughout the zone.

In 2025, provisional catches from the pole-and-line fleet significantly increased to 541 metric tons from 69 mt in the previous year (Table 7). Skipjack is the main species making up the catch composition for this fleet and nearly

accounts for the entire catch total each year. The RMI continues its efforts to deploy observers on board the Pole & Line fleet to attain coverage for validation purposes.

Table 5. Annual catches of the purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2021-2025

		Catches (metric tonnes)							Catches (metric tonnes)					
Flag	Year	SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL	Flag	Year	SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL
China	2021	0	0	0	0	0	RMI	2021	12,083	2,220	123	0	14,426
	2022	295	10	0	0	305		2022	17,531	505	144	0	18,180
	2023	403	11	1	0	415		2023	9,311	488	244	0	10,043
	2024	0	0	0	0	0		2024	5,882	406	58	0	6,346
	2025	0	0	0	0	0		2025	4,835	1,033	403	0	6,271
FSM	2021	6,959	3,047	89	0	10,095	Solomon Is	2021	20	495	35	0	550
	2022	3,750	224	78	0	4,052		2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	8,004	1,132	27	0	9,163		2023	70	50	0	0	120
	2024	2,795	359	53	0	3,207		2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2025	1,953	795	486	0	3,234		2025	956	288	28	0	1,272
Japan	2021	1,386	2,097	10	0	3,493	Chinese Taipei	2021	7,210	4,679	143	0	12,032
	2022	318	2	0	0	320		2022	8,203	400	209	0	8,812
	2023	1,203	27	2	0	1,232		2023	8,904	1,570	37	0	10,511
	2024	0	0	0	0	0		2024	11,384	1,164	150	0	12,698
	2025	0	0	0	0	0		2025	1,841	590	157	0	2,588
Kiribati	2021	2,345	840	5	0	3,190	Tuvalu	2021	681	508	7	0	1,196
	2022	4,681	196	35	0	4,912		2022	756	89	5	0	850
	2023	4,443	446	23	0	4,912		2023	543	67	0	0	610
	2024	5,827	286	30	0	6,143		2024	10	0	0	0	10
	2025	7,828	2,430	409	0	10,667		2025	430	24	14	0	468
Korea	2021	2,077	2,898	23	0	4,998	Vanuatu	2021	80	75	0	0	155
	2022	251	19	0	0	270		2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	5,823	560	3	0	6,386		2023	255	30	0	0	285
	2024	590	15	0	0	605		2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2025	600	77	40	0	717		2025	0	0	0	0	0
Nauru	2021	3,364	1,937	85	0	5,386	**TOTAL EEZ**	2021	36,206	18,815	520	0	55,541
	2022	3,044	493	62	0	3,599		2022	38,829	1,938	533	0	41,300
	2023	2,133	76	9	0	2,218		2023	41,092	4,457	346	0	45,895
	2024	4,455	265	39	0	4,759		2024	30,943	2,495	330	0	33,768
	2025	810	355	105	0	1,270		2025	19,253	5,592	1,642	0	26,487
PNG	2021	1	19	0	0	20							
	2022	0	0	0	0	0							
	2023	0	0	0	0	0							
	2024	0	0	0	0	0							
	2025	0	0	0	0	0							

Table 6. Annual catches of longline fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2021-2025. *Source: Unraised logsheet data*

		Catch (metric tonnes)				
Flag	Year	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
China	2021	1	32	25	6	64
	2022	0	0	0	0	0
	2023	21	35	25	6	87
	2024	1	7	6	1	15
	2025	0	0	0	0	0
FSM	2021	27	447	281	90	845
	2022	58	326	282	75	741
	2023	23	333	168	28	552
	2024	77	477	445	128	1,127
	2025	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	2021	32	109	108	21	270
	2022	24	96	88	30	238
	2023	4	77	20	18	119
	2024	0	0	0	0	0
	2025	0	0	0	0	0
RMI-Chartered	2021	63	1,098	726	214	2,101
	2022	150	1,214	977	263	2,604
	2023	103	1,550	728	206	2,587
	2024	313	2,283	1,877	573	5,046
	2025	165	2,489	1,834	445	4,933
TOTAL EEZ	2021	123	1,686	1,140	331	3,280
	2022	232	1,636	1,347	368	3,583
	2023	151	1,995	941	258	3,345
	2024	391	2,767	2,328	702	6,188
	2025	165	2,489	1,834	445	4,933

Table 7. Annual catches of pole-and-line fleet operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2021-2025

		Catch (metric tonnes)			
Flag	Year	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
Japan	2021	1	750	9	760
	2022	0	880	13	893
	2023	0	516	0	516
	2024	0	27	0	27
	2025	0	541	0	541

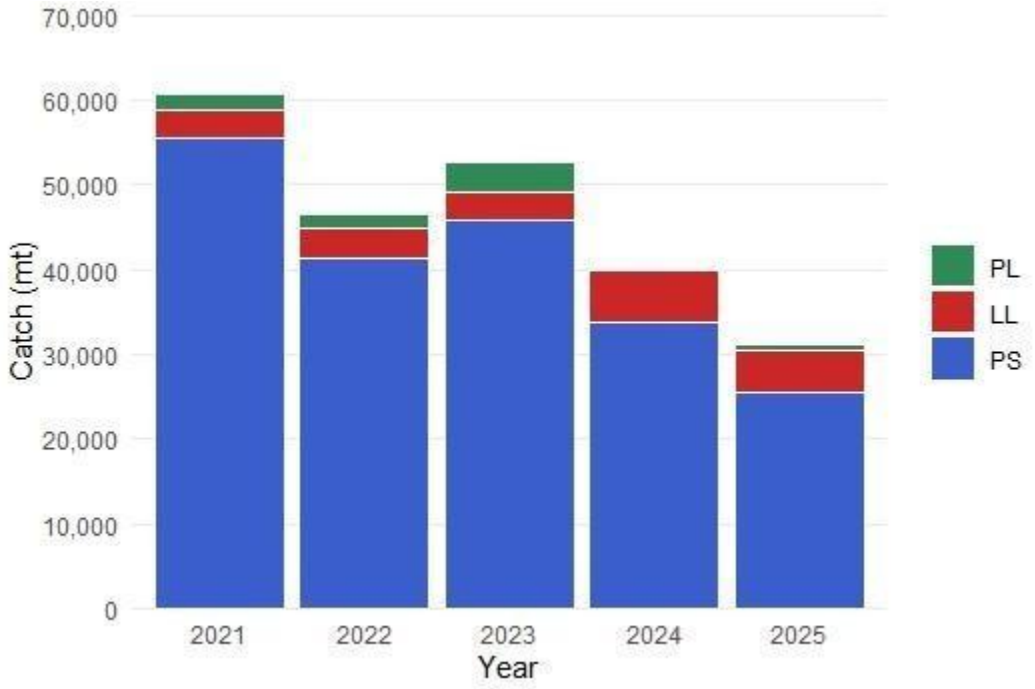

Figure 4. Total catch by the different gears operating in the RMI EEZ

4 DISPOSAL OF CATCH

As mentioned earlier, the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd. (MIFV) operates the Longline Fish base with domestically-based foreign longline vessels. In 2025, there was a provisional total of 5,150 metric tons of fish unloaded by the longline fleet and most of it was bound for export markets (Table 8). The MIFV exports mainly fresh chilled tuna species to markets in the US. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatch) are shipped to Asia via transport containers and/or sold locally.

Majuro port is the only designated port for transshipment in the RMI. There were an estimated 193 purse seine transshipments and landings undertaken in Majuro in 2025 with a provisional total of 147,608 metric tons transshipped (Table 9). During the first quarter of the year, purse seine fishing concentrated in the western regions of the ocean resulted in a significant decrease in the number of vessel entries. Additionally, most transshipments by the national purse seine fleet are usually carried out in Majuro, however, foreign ports in the region are occasionally utilized (Table 10).

Table 8. Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels in 2025

Species	Unloaded Catch (mt)
Albacore	165
Big Eye	2,612
Blue Marlin	276
Mahi Mahi	5
Moon Fish	1
Sailfish	11
Striped Marlin	11
Sword Fish	40
Wahoo	67
Yellow Fin	1,963
TOTAL	**5,150**

Table 9. Provisional purse seine transshipments and landings in Majuro port in 2025

Flag	Number of Entries	SKJ	YFT	BET
China	3	1,591	155	34
Federated States of Micronesia	42	24,890	6,194	2,186
Marshall Islands	46	26,272	5,441	2,455
Nauru	44	24,421	5,347	2,282
Taiwan	48	26,560	8,167	1,955
Tuvalu	10	8,207	1,028	423
TOTAL	193	111,941	26,331	9,336

Table 10. Purse seine transshipments by RMI-flagged vessels in 2025

Annex II (1)					
Species	**Quantity Transshipped (MT)**	**Transshipped in port**	**Transshipped in WCP-CA**	**Caught in WCP-CA**	**Product Form**
SKJ	53,165	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole
YFT	15,139	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole
BET	2,708	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole
Annex II (2)					
Port	**Number of Transshipments**	**Transshipped in port**	**Transshipped in WCP-CA**	**Caught in WCP-CA**	**Product Form**
KIRITIMATI	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole
MAJURO	46	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole
POHNPEI	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole
TARAWA	28	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole

5 ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

MIMRA's joint venture with the Nature Conservancy (TNC), Pacific Islands Tuna Provisions (PITP), and the EU and German cooperation funded FISH4ACP program were ongoing initiatives to promote tuna landings and further promote on-shore development and increase the RMI's participation throughout the tuna value chain. One notable accomplishment that was achieved under the FISH4ACP program was the acquisition of the Starloader machine. The mechanized tuna loading system was introduced to improve the efficiency of unloading tuna from purse seine fishing vessels directly into refrigerated containers for export. This initiative supports the country's goal of increasing the amount of tuna processed and handled locally rather than relying mainly on offshore transshipment.

The Pan Pacific Foods (PPF) loining plant continued operations in 2025 however was limited to cold storage and containerization of fish. As has been reported before, the company also operates six RMI-flagged purse seine vessels which supply the plant with raw materials. The plant did not produce any processed fish during 2025 due in part to ongoing renovations but continued to land fish for containerized exports.

Total volume of exports was 12,332 metric tons with whole containerized tuna exports making up the majority (Table 11). MIFV and Pacific International Inc. (PII) have steadily increased their numbers of containerized whole tuna exports in recent years. PITP exported the highest volume of whole tuna at 3,548 metric tons in 2025. The RMI continued to engage in projects to increase onshore opportunities with national stakeholders and partners.

Table 11. Total Purse Seine whole tuna exports (mt) in 2025, by destination and species

Destination	SKJ	YFT	BET
CHINA	2,863	975	31
JAPAN	0	202	0
PHILIPPINES	3,335	27	69
THAILAND	2,613	424	176
TAIWAN	67	525	9
VIETNAM	0	1,016	0
TOTAL	**8,878**	**3,169**	**285**

6 FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

The RMI continues to support domestic fisheries development aspirations in the region so long as it goes hand in hand with sustainable management measures that do not put a disproportionate burden on SIDS, in accordance with Article 30 of the Convention.

Other notable future prospects for the RMI tuna fishery involve further observer and debriefer capacity development as MIMRA continues to progressively train and recruit additional fisheries observers. MIMRA has also utilized observers (when in port) to carry out port monitoring duties on unloadings taking place in Majuro port. Work continued towards developing port monitoring apps and increased usage of electronic crane scales for all landing and transshipment events.

7 DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Data management and handling capacity continues to be a vital tool for MIMRA. The SPC-OFP has been very instrumental in the RMI's data efforts. MIMRA continues to employ a dedicated port sampler covering almost 100% of longline unloadings at the MIFV fish base. The port sampler along with other staff collate the data and enter into the TUFMAN II database. MIMRA continues to utilize SPC's Onshore port sampling app, which has improved the flow of data and allows for inputs of biological sampling data.

MIMRA intends to shift its focus towards the PNA FIMS as the standard by which it will manage and handle its data complemented by existing databases such as the TUFMAN II currently in use. This is partly due to the use of FIMS e-Reporting (ER) by more fishing vessels, notably the longline fleets fishing in the RMI which increased its ER coverage to over 90% in 2025. The FIMS electronic monitoring (EM) module was developed during the year whilst ongoing work to fully utilize EM on local fleets continued to be a MIMRA priority.

There were 52 active RMI observers employed under the MIMRA Observer Program in 2025. The observer office conducted several trainings including refresher and MSC trainings as well as FIMS eObs with the PNA office. There was one basic training for new observers conducted in 2025. A total of 116 purse seiner and 76 longliner vessel trips were observed during the year (Table 12), an increase of total trips from the previous year.

Table 12. Observer purse seiner trips by flag in 2025

Vessel Type	Arrangement	Flag	Trips	Sea Days
Purse Seiner	FSMA	FM	27	895
		KI	4	148
		NR	6	175
		TV	3	69
		TW	1	29
	BILATERAL	TW	75	2170
Longliner	MIFV	CN	76	1153
	Total		**192**	**4,639**

APPENDIX 1 - CMM REPORTING

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

8 April 2024[1]

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

CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 3	This is not a target catch for RMI vessels however, 165 mt of NP ALB were caught as bycatch by the chartered longline fleet operating in the RMI EEZ.
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	Not applicable. No RMI vessels fishing south of 15°S.
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	Not applicable. No RMI vessels fish south 20°S.
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	104 in-port transshipments (Kiritimati 2; Majuro 46; Pohnpei 10; Tarawa 28) = 71,012 mt (prov.). See table 10.
CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5	RMI continues to undertake more awareness work on this specific reporting obligation with vessel masters.

Interactions with cetaceans on RMI-flagged purse seine vessels

Species	Number	Fate
SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE	3	Released
TOTAL	**3**	

[1] Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions of the Commission, as of WCPFC20 (Dec 2023). First issued on 8 April 2024. Changes made from Addendum for 2022 include the revised CMM 2023-03 for North Pacific Swordfish and **WCPFC20 Agreed Audit Points.**

Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	This does not apply to RMI. There were no RMI flagged longline fishing vessels in 2024.
CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4	Not applicable. No RMI vessels fished south of 20°S
CMM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Para 13	There were no RMI flagged longline fishing vessels in 2024.
CMM 2023-03 [North Pacific Swordfish], para 4	Not applicable. No RMI vessels fished north of 20°N.