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

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Submitted by Cook Islands

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



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
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1. Abstract

The 2025 Annual Report for the Cook Islands presents a comprehensive overview of the nation's fisheries, research, and statistics as related to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The report covers the performance of the national fleet as a Flag State, activities within the Cook Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone as a Coastal State, the artisanal fisheries, and the nation's compliance with specific Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Flag State performance over the last five years shows that Cook Islands flag vessels have averaged about 4,333 metric tons of tuna annually, with the catch mainly comprising skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye tuna. In 2025, the national purse seine fleet harvested a total of 1,133.7 metric tons, a substantial portion of which was skipjack tuna at 933.8 metric tons. The longline fleet recorded a lower total catch of 51.6 metric tons in 2025, with albacore being the primary species. In terms of vessel numbers, the active fleet in 2025 included two longline vessels in the 51–200 gross registered tonnage (GRT) category and one purse seine vessel in the 201–500 GRT category.

Coastal State and artisanal fisheries activity within the Cook Islands' EEZ is influenced by foreign distant water fishing nations. In 2025, total catches in the EEZ reached 3,457 metric tons for longline gear and 411 metric tons for purse seine gear. The report also highlights the artisanal fishery, which in 2025 had estimated annual catches of 14.74 metric tons for skipjack and 36.12 metric tons for yellowfin tuna.

Environmental compliance and research coverage the report's monitoring of interactions with species of special interest (SSIs), including marine reptiles such as hawksbill and olive ridley turtles, rays like giant manta and mobula, and seabirds. For example, the longline fleet reported seven seabird captures in 2021, but recent years have shown zero to minimal interactions in most areas. The Cook Islands remains compliant with its reporting obligations, having submitted all required scientific data to the Commission by April 30, 2026.

2. Background

The fishing history of the Cook Islands in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area reflects a significant transition from traditional commercial practices to a more structured national industry. Avatiu Harbour on Rarotonga long served as the primary unloading point for commercial seafood distribution, and local participation reached a pivotal milestone in 2019 with the licensing of the first Cook Islands-flagged purse seine vessel. This national development is further supported by international bilateral agreements, including one with the European Union that provides sectoral benefits.

To manage its resources sustainably, the Cook Islands introduced a Quota Management System for the pelagic longline fishery in December 2016. By 2024 and 2025, the national fishing fleet comprised both longline and purse seine vessels, primarily targeting albacore (longline) and skipjack tuna (purse seine). While commercial longline activities are heavily concentrated in the northern regions of the Cook Islands (north of 15° south latitude), flagged vessels also operate extensively beyond national jurisdiction and out of foreign ports such as Suva, Apia, and Pago Pago.

Beyond large-scale commercial operations, the fishery remains central to local communities through artisanal fisheries, operating across all 12 inhabited islands utilizing trolling and hand-lining techniques to support local livelihoods. Local markets are supported by a dedicated fresh fish longline vessel (under 80 GRT) based in Rarotonga that targets tuna and billfish specifically for domestic consumption.

The commercial landscape within the Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone has diversified, with purse seine fishing historically conducted mainly by U.S. Treaty vessels and, since 2015, bilateral agreements attracting various foreign fleets. By 2025, foreign-flagged distant water fishing nations continued to maintain a significant

presence, though catch levels have shown fluctuations across both longline and purse seine gears. To enhance data accuracy and oversight, the Ministry of Marine Resources has been transitioning toward 100% electronic reporting and integrated database systems like TUFMAN2.

3. Flag State Reporting

Over the past five years, Cook Islands flagged vessels have caught a total of 21,665 metric tons of tuna, averaging 4,333 metric tons per year. This overall average is primarily composed of skipjack tuna (3,269 metric tons per year), yellowfin tuna (356 metric tons per year), and bigeye tuna (238 metric tons per year).

In 2025, the national purse seine fleet recorded a total catch of 1,133.7 metric tons within the WCPFC Convention Area, marking a significant decrease from the 5,753.6 metric tons caught in 2024. The 2025 species breakdown shows 933.8 metric tons of skipjack tuna, 157.3 metric tons of bigeye tuna, and 42.6 metric tons of yellowfin tuna.

The national longline fleet's total catch in 2025 was 51.6 metric tons, continuing a downward trend from 173.8 metric tons in 2024 and 276.2 metric tons in 2023. The primary species caught in 2025 included albacore (19.1 metric tons), yellowfin tuna (14.1 metric tons), blue marlin (8.7 metric tons), skipjack tuna (3.7 metric tons), bigeye tuna (3.1 metric tons), striped marlin (2.4 metric tons), swordfish (0.4 metric tons), and Pacific bluefin tuna (0.1 metric tons).

The active national fleet in 2025 consisted of two longline vessels in the 51–200 GRT size category and one purse seine vessel in the 201–500 GRT size category. While the number of active longline vessels increased by one from 2024, the purse seine fleet decreased by one vessel (previously in the 500+ GRT category).

The 2025 report highlights catches of species of special interest (SSIs) with the purse seine fleet recording interactions with one giant manta and one mobula ray, both with unknown fate. No SSI interactions were reported for the longline fleet in 2025.

Non-target, associated, and dependent species show notable patterns. For the purse seine fleet, significant non-target catches included silky sharks (13.3 metric tons), blue marlin (11.6 metric tons), oceanic whitetip sharks (1.0 metric ton), and hammerhead sharks (0.3 metric tons). For the longline fleet, the primary associated species caught in 2025 were blue marlin (8.7 metric tons), striped marlin (2.4 metric tons), shortbill spearfish (1.1 metric tons), and swordfish (0.4 metric tons).

Cook Islands's flag vessels have maintained a five-year total of 21,665 metric tons of tuna, averaging 4,333 metric tons per year. The average breakdown of catches by species are SKJ at 3,269 metric tons, YFT at 356 metric tons, and BET at 238 metric tons per year.

3.1 Annual catch estimates for the national purse seine fleet

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bigeye tuna	152	275	38.3	388.5	157.3
Skipjack tuna	3,447	4,325	2,430.0	5,139.4	933.8
Yellowfin tuna	171	47	705.2	225.7	42.6
Total	3,770	4,647	3,173.5	5,753.6	1,133.7

Table 2: Annual catch estimates for the Cook Islands purse seine fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605.

3.2 Annual catch estimates for the national longline fleet

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Albacore	767	952	218.7	104.5	19.1
Bigeye tuna	83	75	8.5	10.8	3.1
Black marlin	9	5	1.9	0.4	0.0
Blue marlin	37	43	4.6	13.4	8.7
Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Striped marlin	10	6	5.8	8.7	2.4
Pacific bluefin tuna	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Skipjack tuna	34	21	3.6	6.9	3.7
Swordfish	12	14	2.3	2.2	0.4
Yellowfin tuna	309	209	30.8	26.9	14.1
Total	1,261	1,325	276.2	173.8	51.6

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

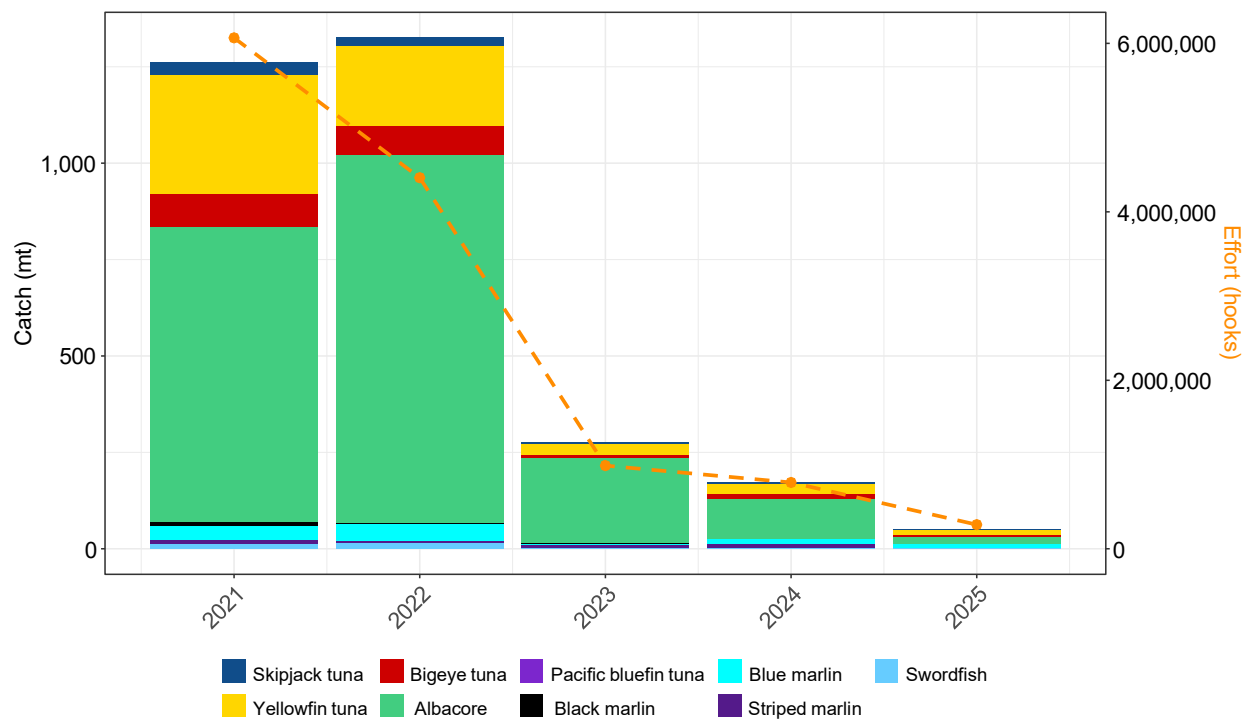


Figure 1: Historical annual catch estimates (mt) and effort (no. of hooks) for the Cook Islands longline fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605 and 3597 (hooks).

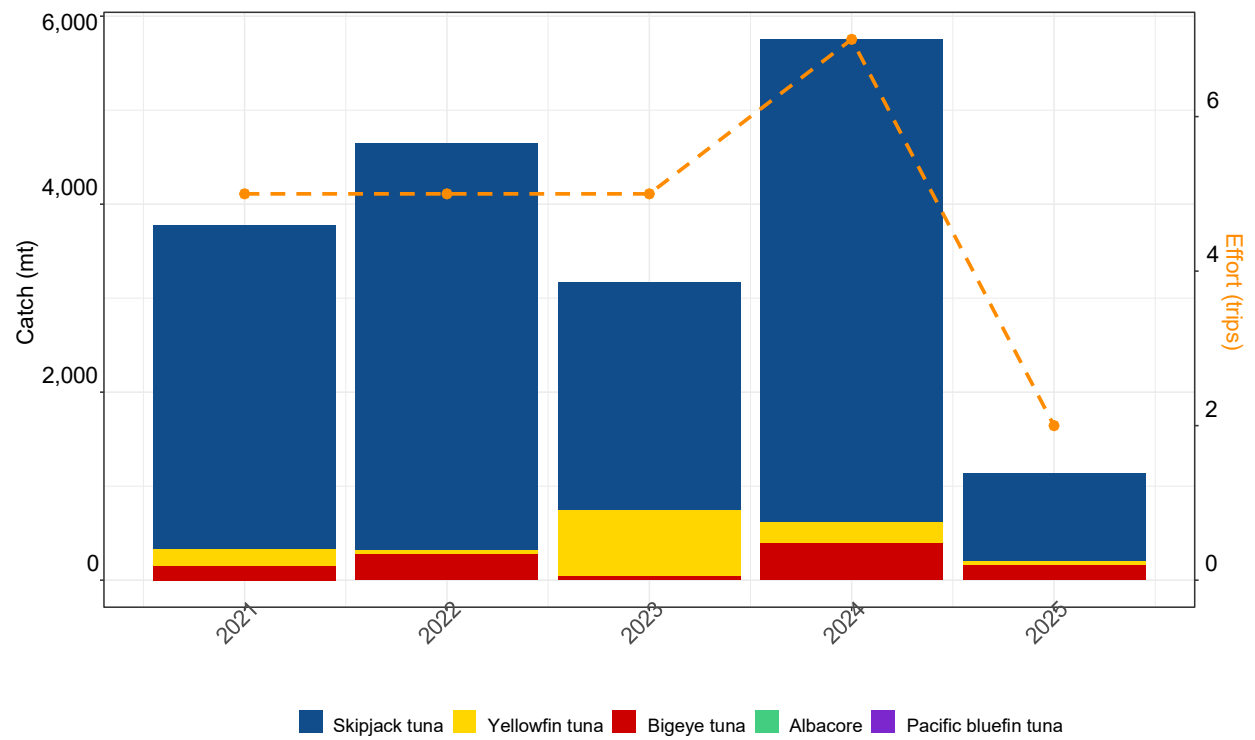


Figure 2: Historical annual catch estimates (mt) for the Cook Islands purse seine fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605 and 3590 (trips).

3.3 Historical annual vessel numbers for the national fleet

Figure 3 displays the total number of active vessels in Cook Islands's national fleet from 2021 to 2025.

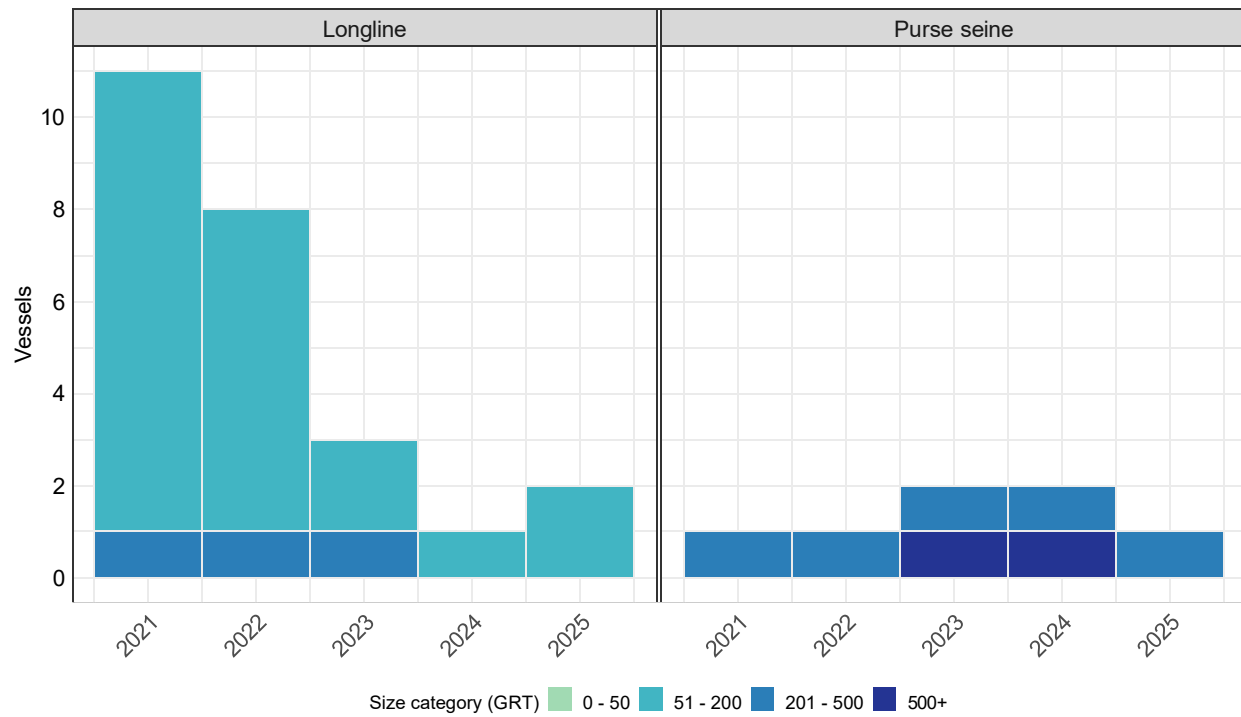


Figure 3: Historical annual vessel numbers for the Cook Islands fleet, by gear, for the WCPFC Convention Area. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605.

gear	Size Category (GRT)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Longline	0 - 50	0	0	0	0	0
	51 - 200	10	7	2	1	2
	201 - 500	1	1	1	0	0
	500+	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4: Number of Cook Islands longline vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, over 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605.

gear	Size Category (GRT)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Purse seine	0 - 50	0	0	0	0	0
	51 - 200	0	0	0	0	0
	201 - 500	1	1	1	1	1
	500+	0	0	1	1	0

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

3.4 Distribution of catches of target species for different national fisheries

This section presents the spatial distribution of catch, in metric tonnes, by species—Albacore, Bigeye tuna, and Yellowfin tuna—from the Cook Islands fleet over the period 2021–2025. The catches are primarily concentrated within and just outside the Cook Islands’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

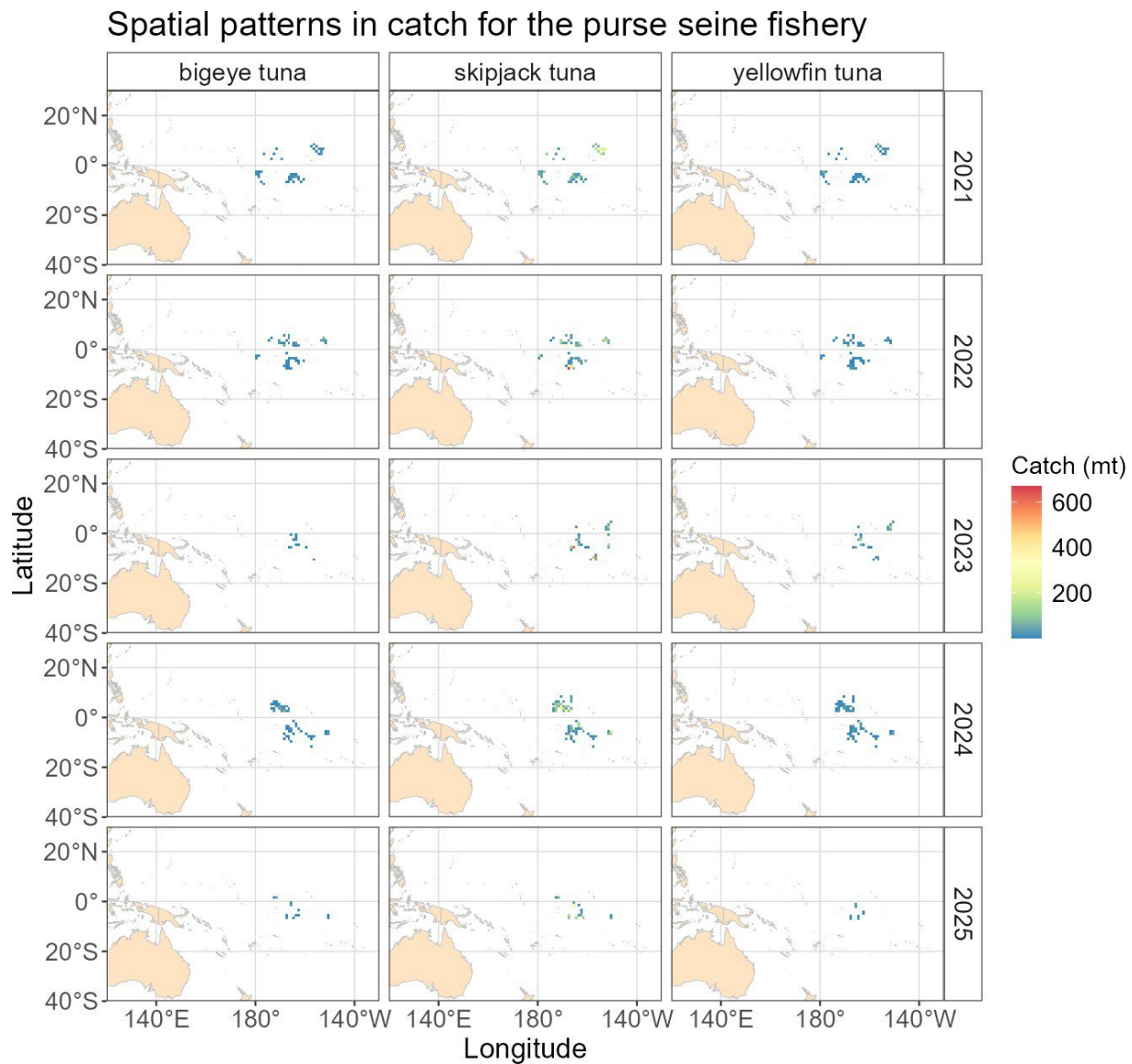


Figure 4: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Cook Islands purse seine fishery.
Source - Tufman 2, report 3608.

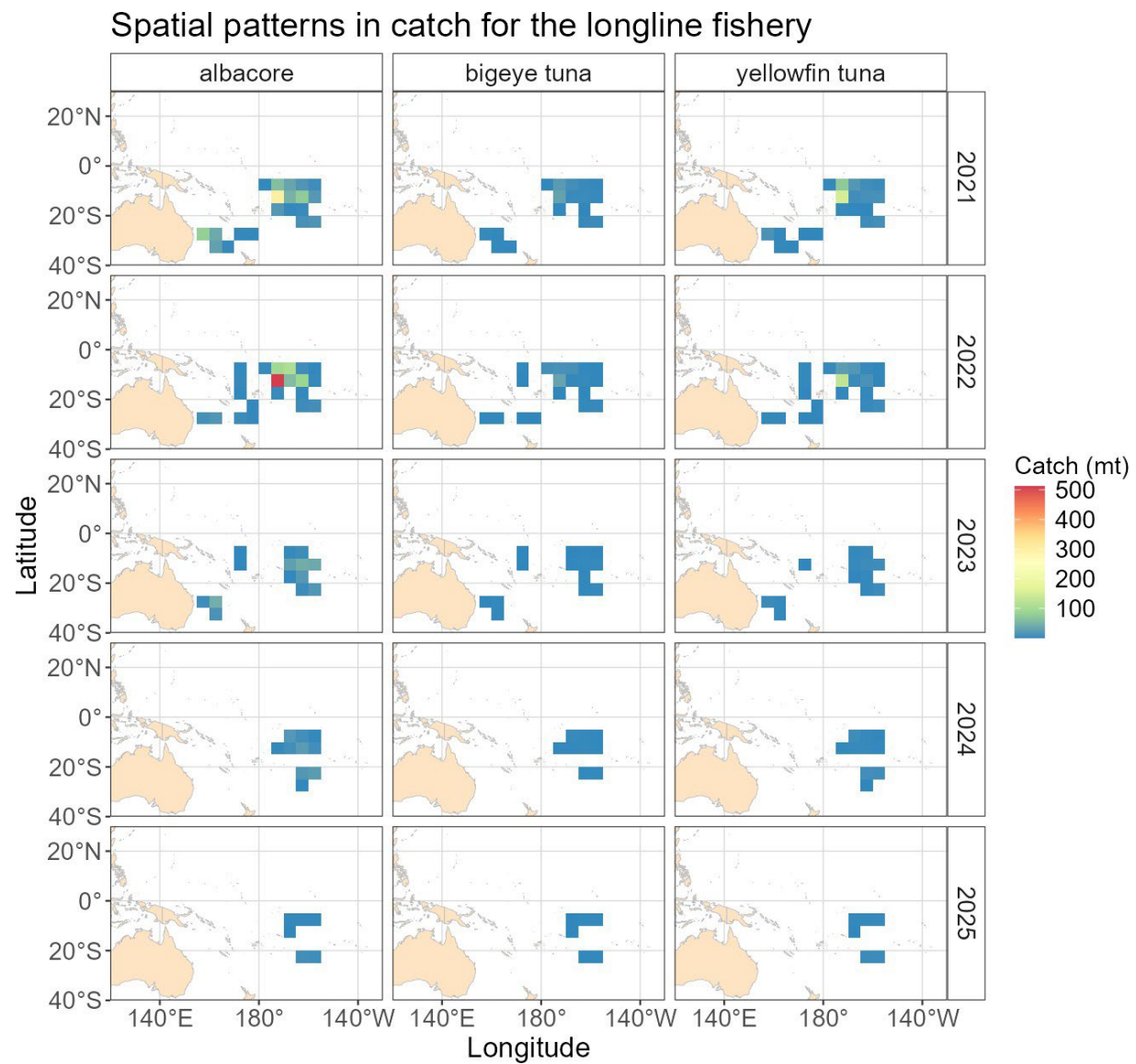


Figure 5: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Cook Islands longline fishery.
Source - Tufman 2, report 3608.

3.5 Captures of species of special interest (SSIs)

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The tables are set up to include seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals, but may also show some rays and sharks. Note that Alive plus Dead does not necessarily equal Total due to unknown outcomes. Table 6 summarizes observed interactions with SSIs by Cook Islands' purse seine fleet for 2021–2025. If a year is missing in the table, it indicates that no interactions with the target species were reported during that year.

1.1.1 Observed catches of SSIs by the purse seine fleet

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2023	marine reptiles	hawksbill turtle	1	1	0
2024	marine reptiles	olive ridley turtle	1	1	0
2024	rays	giant manta	1	1	0
2025	rays	giant manta	1	0	0
2025	rays	mobula	1	0	0

Table 6: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) by the Cook Islands 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 - Tufman 2, report 2953.

1.1.2 Observed catches of SSIs by the longline fleet

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2021	birds	petrels and shearwaters nei	7	0	7
2023	birds	bird (unidentified)	1	0	1
2024	rays	giant manta	1	1	0

Table 7: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) by the Cook Islands longline fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 2953.

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

Table 8 provides a summary of observed interactions with non-target species by Cook Islands'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	2024	2025	2021	2023	2022
Black marlin	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Blue shark	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Blue marlin	9.2	11.6	0.2	1.5	0.0
Silky shark	12.9	13.3	0.0	0.1	0.6
Striped marlin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Oceanic whitetip shark	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Hammerhead sharks (spn)	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 8: Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the Cook Islands purse seine fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605.

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

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Black marlin	9	5.0	1.9	0.4	0.0
Blue shark	5	8.0	23.9	0.0	0.0
Blue marlin	37	43.0	4.6	13.4	8.7
Silky shark	0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0
Mako sharks (mak)	1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Striped marlin	10	6.0	5.8	8.7	2.4
Oceanic whitetip shark	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sailfish	0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Shortbill spearfish	0	0.0	0.0	4.2	1.1
Swordfish	12	14.0	2.3	2.2	0.4
Thresher sharks (thr)	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 9: Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the Cook Islands longline fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605

4. Coastal State Reporting

Fishing activity within the Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is primarily conducted by foreign-flagged distant water fishing nations, with this section outlining the catch and effort trends for 2025 based on those foreign operations and the local artisanal sector.

In the longline fishery within the EEZ, the total catch for 2025 was 3,457 metric tons, down from 8,756 metric tons in 2024. This was harvested by 29 vessels across 176 trips and 2,845 fishing days. The 2025 catch composition included 1,721 metric tons of albacore, 959 metric tons of yellowfin tuna, 430 metric tons of bigeye tuna, and 347 metric tons of other species.

The primary foreign fleets active in the longline sector during 2025 were from China, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Kiribati. For the purse seine fishery within the EEZ, the total catch in 2025 was 411 metric tons, a substantial decline from 5,170 metric tons in 2024. This activity involved 36 vessels operating for 16 fishing days, with the majority of catches comprising 341 metric tons of skipjack tuna, 40 metric tons of bigeye tuna, 29 metric tons of yellowfin tuna, and 1 metric ton of other species.

The purse seine catch in 2025 was largely attributed to vessels flagged to Kiribati and the United States, with additional contributions from Spain and Ecuador.

Artisanal fishery catch estimates continue to play a crucial role in local food security and livelihoods. Data for this sector are collected through landing surveys using the Tails and Ikasavea applications, and the raised annual 2025 estimates indicate 36.12 metric tons of yellowfin tuna, representing 71% of the artisanal tuna catch; 14.74 metric tons of skipjack tuna, representing 28.98%; and 0.01 metric tons of bigeye tuna, representing 0.02%. These estimates are calculated based on local knowledge of average monthly fishing trips per landing site to provide a more accurate representation of total local production.

4.1 Fishing Licenses

Licensing activity over the past five years shows a steady pattern of issuance to both Cook Islands and foreign-flagged vessels, with fluctuations driven in part by annual catch conditions. In 2021, licenses issued to Cook Islands vessels consisted of longline licenses for 13 vessels, purse seine licenses for 1 vessel, and bunker licenses for 8 vessels. Foreign vessels were issued 51 longline licenses, 10 purse seine licenses, and 3 bunker licenses. The following year, 2022, saw 6 longline licenses, 1 purse seine license, and 5 bunker licenses issued to Cook Islands vessels, while foreign flags were allocated 59 longline licenses, 7 purse seine licenses, and 4 bunker licenses. In 2023, Cook Islands-flagged vessels received 2 longline licenses, 2 purse seine licenses, and 4 bunker licenses, with foreign-flagged vessels receiving 50 longline licenses, 24 purse seine licenses, and 9 bunker licenses. It is notable that 2023 was a strong El Niño year, and the Cook Islands EEZ experienced high catches, which coincided with the largest number of licenses issued. In 2024, Cook Islands vessels were issued 1 longline license, 2 purse seine licenses, and 3 bunker licenses, while foreign vessels received 42 longline licenses, 30 purse seine licenses, and 9 bunker licenses. The 2025 figures show Cook Islands-flagged vessels with 1 longline license, 1 purse seine license, and 3 bunker licenses, and foreign-flagged vessels with 33 longline licenses, 5 purse seine licenses, and 10 bunker licenses.

4.2 Catch and Effort Trends

Gear	Year	Vessels	Trips	Days	Alb (mt)	Bet (mt)	Yft (mt)	Skj (mt)	Others (mt)	Total (mt)
LL					–	–	–	–	–	–
	2,021	42	267	5,033	2,257	413	1,316	–	444	4,428
	2,022	56	362	6,823	6,299	714	1,588	–	731	9,332
	2,023	57	445	8,101	7,502	865	2,053	–	901	11,320
	2,024	42	362	6,204	5,280	627	1,753	–	1,097	8,756
	2,025	29	176	2,845	1,721	430	959	–	347	3,457
PS					–	–	–	–	–	–
	2,021	44	49	109	–	174	331	2,397	3	2,905
	2,022	31	33	69	–	90	108	1,855	3	2,056
	2,023	80	89	153	–	318	603	6,396	6	7,323
	2,024	74	85	87	–	61	129	4,976	3	5,170
	2,025	36	46	16	–	40	29	341	1	411

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

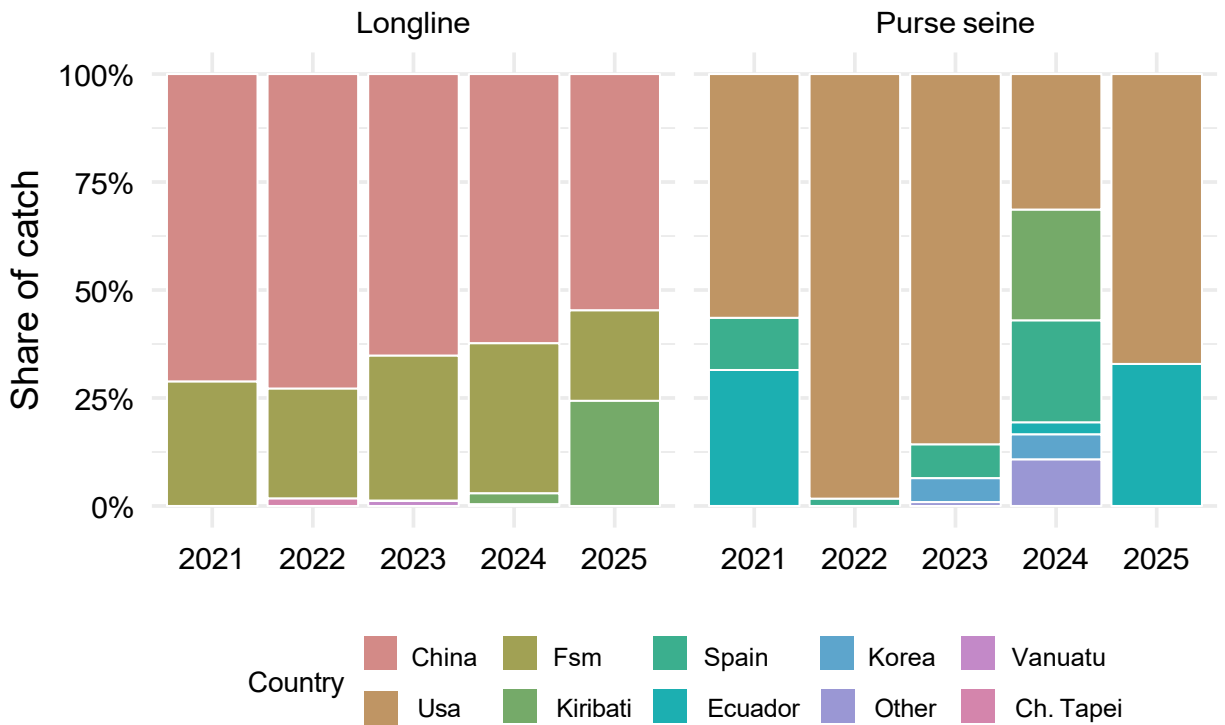


Figure 6: Percentage of total catch (all species) in the Cook Islands EEZ, by flag during the last 5 years.
Source - Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

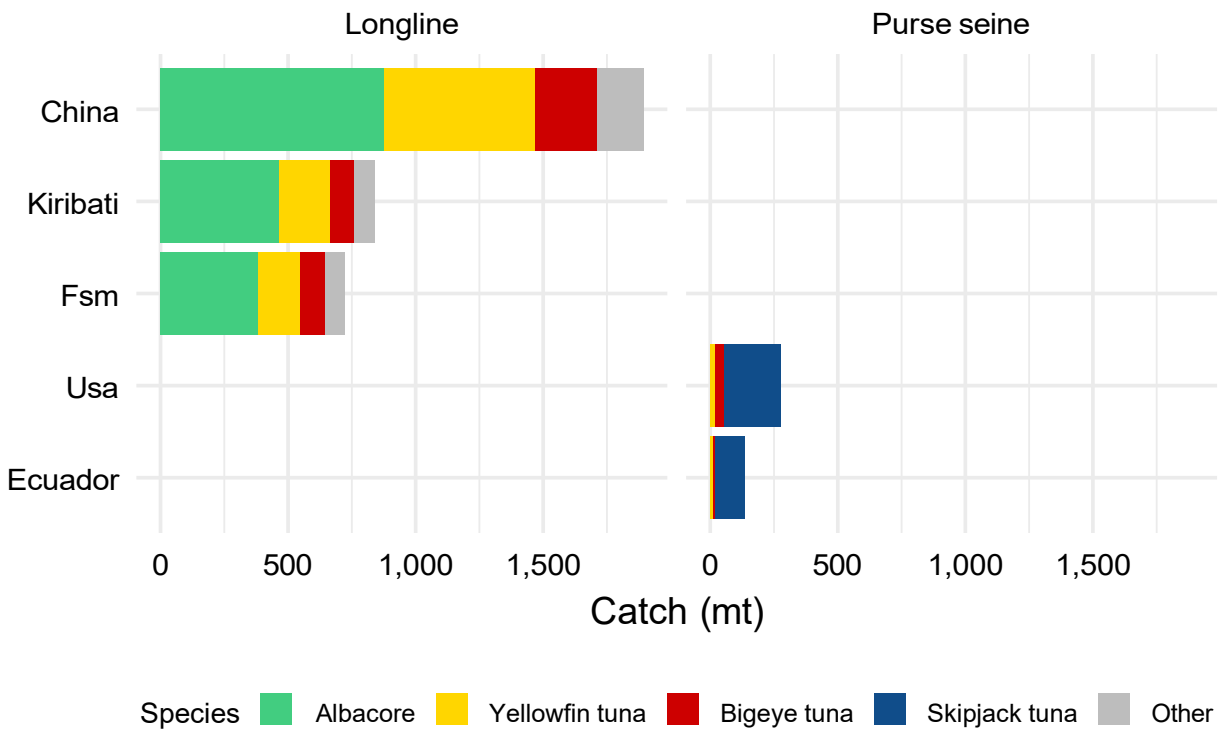


Figure 7: Annual catch of tuna in the Cook Islands EEZ by flag during 2025. Source - Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

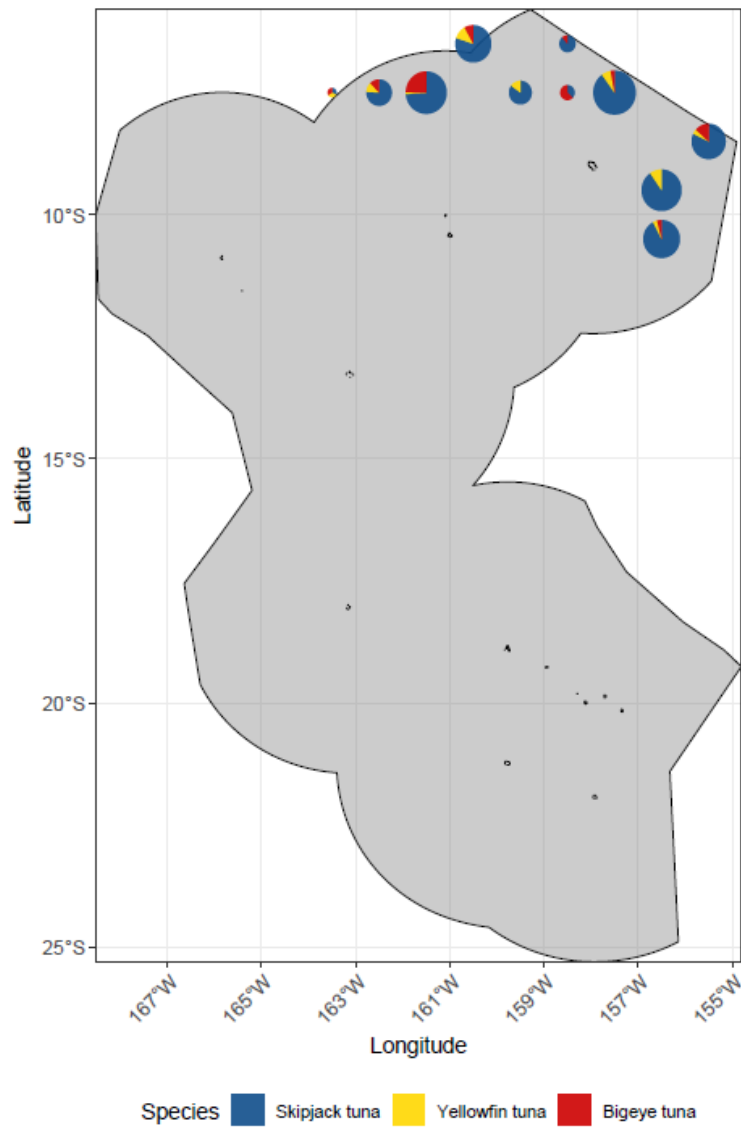


Figure 8: Catch of the three main tuna species by purse seine vessels fishing in the Cook Islands EEZ, in each 1x1 degree cell in the EEZ and the immediate surrounding area during 2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 2904.

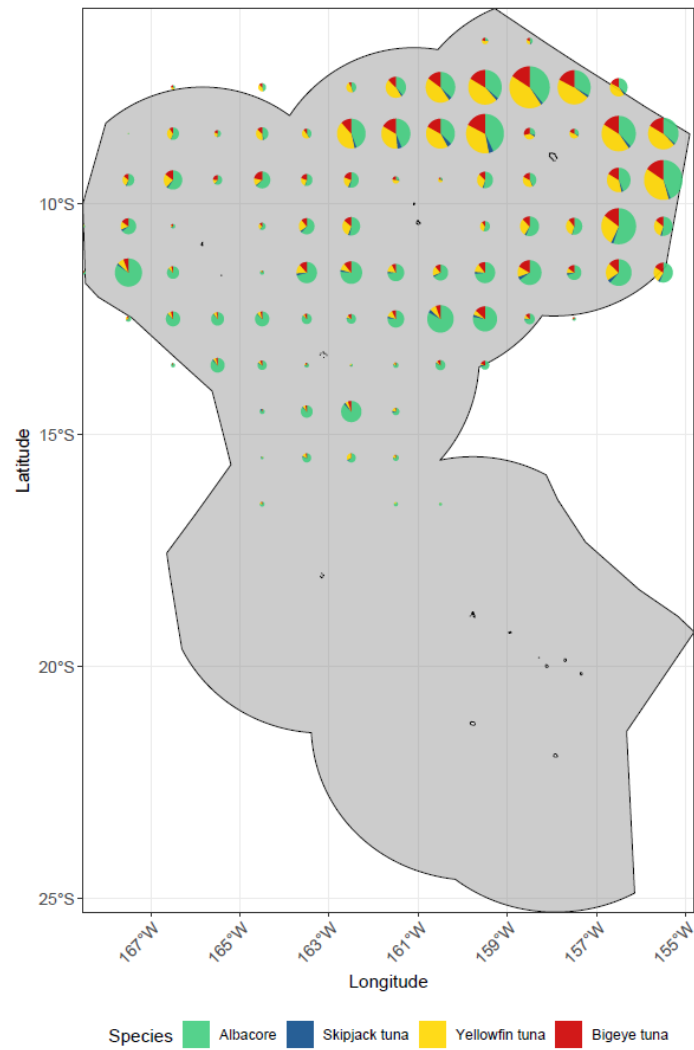


Figure 9: Catch of the three main tuna species by longline vessels fishing in the Cook Islands EEZ, in each 1x1 degree cell in the EEZ and the immediate surrounding area during 2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3375.

4.3 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 Ikaavea (landing surveys). Raised estimates are calculated based on the local knowledge of average monthly trips per landing sites.

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	0.01	14.74	36.12
unraised	0.01	3.96	12.65

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

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	0.02	28.98	71.00
unraised	0.06	23.83	76.11

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

5. Socio-economic factors

The socio-economic landscape of the Cook Islands' fisheries is shaped by a complex interplay between international commercial activity, national regulatory frameworks, and the needs of local communities. Several factors stand out as central to the industry's socio-economic impact. The nation remains economically dependent on fishing, with foreign-flagged distant water fishing nations contributing the vast majority of total catches within the EEZ. In 2025, foreign longline and purse seine fleets harvested substantial volumes of tuna, which in turn support local employment opportunities in related maritime services. The viability of both local and foreign operations is heavily influenced by regulatory frameworks such as the Quota Management System and limits on purse seine fishing effort, designed to ensure long-term sustainability but also shaping the scale of commercial participation in the region. The composition of the foreign fleet, including vessels from China, the United States, Spain, and various Pacific nations, affects the Cook Islands' international relations, while shifting global market demand for key species like albacore and skipjack tuna directly influences catch trends and targeting strategies. Beyond large-scale commerce, the artisanal fishery remains a critical socio-economic pillar for local communities across the 12 inhabited islands, providing essential food security and livelihoods through traditional methods like trolling and hand-lining. Sustainability initiatives, notably the designation of 100% of the EEZ as a no-shark fishing zone, guide practices across all vessels operating in Cook Islands waters and are essential for maintaining the ecological health that underpins long-term economic growth. Onshore development remains a goal, with a focus on enhancing local economic benefits; while processing facilities have faced past resource and infrastructure challenges, there is a strategic plan to develop Penrhyn as a northern maritime hub for transshipment, refueling, and unloading to capture greater value from the regional industry. If you'd like, I can help summarize these points into a concise briefing for stakeholders or draft a short overview for a report.

6. Onshore Developments

Historically, the Cook Islands has attempted to establish onshore processing facilities to capture more value from its fisheries, but past trials faced significant limitations in infrastructure and resources needed for sustainable operations. Recognizing these challenges, a new tuna management development plan has been established to pivot the strategy toward enhancing regional maritime capabilities. Since most commercial fishing activity is concentrated in the northern regions of the Cook Islands EEZ (north of 15° south latitude), the government aims to leverage this geographic advantage. A central component of the plan is transforming Penrhyn, a northern island, into a strategic maritime hub. This development is intended to provide essential services to passing vessels, including transshipment and unloading operations to facilitate regional fishing activities, and fuel access and refueling services for both foreign and national fleets operating in the northern waters. By investing in these support services and infrastructure, the Cook Islands seeks to improve local economic outcomes and solidify its position as a key player in the Pacific fishing industry.

7. Future Prospects of Fishery

The future of the Cook Islands fishery is defined by a commitment to digital transformation, regional cooperation, and strategic infrastructure development. The focus will be on integrating electronic reporting across the entire fleet to improve data management and efficiency, including continued use of the Onboard application for all longline vessels operating within the EEZ and refining the HiFish integration with the TUFMAN2 database. To enhance real time data collection, the Ministry of Marine Resources is trialing the OLLO observer data application, a tool designed to capture essential at sea information from the domestic fleet and ensure high quality data even on extended trips.

Sustaining artisanal data coverage remains a priority, with efforts to address geographic isolation by using the Tails application so fisheries officers can record catch data in areas with limited internet connectivity and keep local fishers integrated into national statistics. Regional capacity building will continue through partnerships with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC-OFP) and neighboring South Pacific nations, which are important for developing technical skills, standardizing reporting protocols, and maintaining the goal of 100% logsheet coverage for the commercial fleet.

A strategic northern expansion is planned under the Tuna Management Development Plan, which aims to leverage the high concentration of commercial fishing in the northern EEZ. The proposal to develop Penrhyn as a maritime hub for transshipment and refueling is a key prospect intended to improve local economic outcomes and support both national and foreign fleets. If you'd like, I can help outline a simple implementation timeline or map out the key stakeholders involved in each initiative.

8. Research and Statistics

In 2025, while there was no major research initiatives conducted in the Cook Islands, MMR actively participated in the SPC bio-sampling and genetics sampling program. This program involved sampling tuna as part of the observer program initiatives, with fisheries officers collaborating alongside contracted Cook Islands observers. This partnership aims to enhance understanding of tuna populations and support sustainable fisheries management through genetic analysis, contributing valuable data for regional conservation efforts.

9. Addendum

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.

flag	year	vessels	swo_n	swo_mt
CK	2021	3	48	3
CK	2022	2	28	3
CK	2023	2	30	2
CK	2024	1	20	2
CK	2025	1	9	0

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

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*

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted the required information contained in the template in Annex 2 of CMM in its AR Pt 1.

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 report available – Cook Islands did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025, therefore, Cook Islands does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

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 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 transhipped 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 transshipment quantities.

- (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. 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

No data reported in 2025 for transshipment quantities.

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms receipt by the CCM in AR Pt 1 of the required information in the prescribed format contained at Annex II of CMM 2009-06, and confirms that the report includes the required information for all CCM transshipment events in the Convention Area of all HMFS covered by the Convention, as well as HMFS taken in the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area, in accordance with paras 10, 11, and 12 of CMM 2009-06.

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).

AUDIT POINT [RP] Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of flagged vessels and as reported in ARPt1 under para 2(b) of CMM.

No data reported in 2025.

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)

year flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2021 ck	11	60,655	1,252	7	0.0559
2022 ck	8	44,051	57	0	0.0000
2023 ck	3	9,870	1,429	1	0.0070
2024 ck	1	7,871	1,005	0	0.0000

Table 14: This table shows total longline effort in vessels and hundred hooks, observed effort in hundred hooks, number of seabird captures, capture rate (# seabirds/1000 hooks), and number of seabird captures by area. Source - Tufman 2, reports: 3612 and 3605.

year flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2021 ck	11	1,176	0	0	0
2022 ck	8	0	0	0	0
2023 ck	3	329	0	0	0
2024 ck	1	0	0	0	0

Table 15: 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. Source - Tufman 2, reports: 3612 and 3605.

year flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2021 ck	11	4,242	1,140	7	0.0614

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2022	ck	8	728	0	0	0.0000
2023	ck	3	1,545	0	0	0.0000
2024	ck	1	20	0	0	0.0000

Table 16: 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 30S and 25S. Source - Tufman 2, reports: 3612 and 3605.

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2021	ck	11	55,205	111	0	0.000
2022	ck	8	43,323	57		0.000
2023	ck	3	7,996	1,429	1	0.007
2024	ck	1	7,851	1,005		0.000

Table 17: 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. Source - Tufman 2, reports: 3612 and 3605.

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2021	ck	11	32	0	0	0
2022	ck	8	0	0	0	0
2023	ck	3	0	0	0	0
2024	ck	1	0	0	0	0

Table 18: 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. Source - Tufman 2, reports: 3612 and 3605.

Table(s) y (by area)

No report to submit of long line activity for area south of 30°S

No report to submit of long line activity for area between 30°S and 25°S

No report to submit of long line activity for area between 25°S and 23°N

No report to submit of long line activity for area north of 23°N

Table z

Cook Islands did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, reports for the CMM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Annex 2 is not applicable to Cook Islands due to above notes.

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report using the reporting template in Annex 2 of CMM 2018-03 on seabird interactions reported or collected by observers.

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.

flag	year	vessels	num	weight_kg
CK	2,021	7	171	8.4
CK	2,022	5	100	5.1
CK	2,023	3	102	5.5
CK	2,024	1	164	8.8
CK	2,025	1	53	2.4

Table 19: 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.

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 CMM 2015-02 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.’

No report available – Cook Islands did not charter nor flag any long line vessels in 2025, and have no vessels fishing south of 20S, hence the CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4 is not applicable to Cook Islands.

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information on annual catch levels by its flagged vessels taking SP Albacore, as well as the number of CCM flagged vessels actively fishing for SP Albacore south of 20S, with catch levels reported by species groups.

CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Swordfish], 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.

Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State

gear	flag	year	vessels	days	n	wt
L	CK	2,021	1	1	50	0

Table 20: Summary of vessels fishing in the North Pacific and the number and metric tonnes of North Pacific albacore catches reported in the past 5 years. The number of vessels reported in this table represents all longline vessels fishing in the North Pacific. Source - Tufman 2, report: 3602.

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on catch and effort by CCM flagged vessels engaged in directed fishing for NP albacore north of the equator, by gear type and days fished (effort) and by weight (catch), using the template at Annex 1 of CMM 2019-03.

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 report available – Cook Islands’s vessel did not fish in the North Pacific area, therefore, the CMM2023-03 [North Pacific Swordfish], para 4 is not applicable to Cook Islands.