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PART 1: INFORMATION OF FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

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Submitted by Vanuatu

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



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1 Abstract

The major tuna species caught from the foreign fishing vessels in the Vanuatu EEZ in 2025 was dominated by 57% of albacore, 28 % of yellowfin, 4% of bigeye and lastly 11% for others species of the total catch. In 2025, there was a decrease in the catch compared to 2024 from 7,682 metric tonnes of fish recorded to 6,419 metric tonnes of fish. This decrease in catch is primarily due to a decrease in effort and can also be attributed to a combination of factors, including fishing conditions, environmental factors, and potentially reduced fishing effort. In 2021, the total catch recorded was 3,716 metric tons (MT). In 2022, the catch increased evidently to 7,073 MT which was then followed by an reduction in 2023 to 4,681 MT. In 2024 however, the highest catch of 7682 metric tons was recorded in the five year period which proved favorable fishing conditions. In 2025, a total catch of 6,419 metric tons was recorded which is a reduction for 2024 records. Historically, between 2016 and 2017, a significant increase in catch was experienced and this was largely due to fishing vessels re-turning to operate within the Vanuatu Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This shift contributed to fluctuations in catch volumes during those years, influenced by factors such as access to onshore facilities, availability of markets, and favourable fishing patterns. From 2020 to 2022, catch volumes continued to fluctuate. In 2020, the total catch was 7,996 MT. The lowest catch during this period occurred in 2021, with only 3,716 MT recorded, mainly due to the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on fishing operations. In 2022, catches rebounded to 7,073 MT, a recovery attributed to the normalization of operations following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. As economic activities resumed and fishing effort increased, catch volumes showed improvement.

In the period 2021-2025 the annual catch estimates of the Vanuatu longline fleets in the WCPO showed a decrease in catches between 2021 to 2022 with a total estimate of 11,307Mt to 7,061Mt and a further decrease from 2022 to 2023 with 2023 catches at 6,670Mt. This reduction improved from 2023 to 2024 where a record of 7,788MT was achieved and in 2025 an even reduced record of 5,770 MT was recorded which is the lowest recorded in the five year period. This reduction is experienced as a result of reduced fishing effort where the number of vessels fishing reduced.

Purse seiners on the other hand experienced an increase in catch estimates between the years 2021 to 2022 due to the increase in vessel effort and recording a total of 48,587Mt in 2021 and 69,541Mt in 2022 the highest record in the five years attributed. This number then reduced in 2023 to 53,907MT and further reduced to 27,754MT and 15,149MT in 2024 and 2025 respectively with 2025 records as the lowest in the five year period. This catch was dominated by skipjack making up 80% of the catch followed by Yellowfin at 10% and lastly bigeye at 9.3% of the catch in 2025. Raised 2025 data shows that catches of the main tuna species for Purse seines reduced evidently from 39,436Mt of skipjack in 2021 to 12,190Mt in 2025, the lowest caught for this species. Longline vessels also experienced a decrease in catches of Albacore as a main tuna species for this fishery with a catch total of 6,165Mt in 2021 to 2,550Mt in 2025, the lowest recorded for the 5 years.

Since 2014, locally based vessel operation had ceased as vessels were based entirely in Fiji and the Solomon Islands, however in 2019, locally based vessels moved back to fish in the Vanuatu EEZ where unloading of fish was experienced from 6 locally based foreign fishing vessels offloading fish into the Fish processing facility in Port Vila. These operations were continued to 2024 when the vessels were recalled for maintenance work before proceeding operations in 2025.

2 Background

The main commercial tuna and billfish species caught in the Vanuatu EEZ and by the Vanuatu fleet in the WCPFC consists of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), black marlin (*Makaira indica*), blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*).

As part of Vanuatu's obligation to report the WCPFC CMMS's for key shark species, data has also been compiled, some of which are now covered in the longline fleet tables, these are blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) and mako shark (*Isurus* spp.). The main industrial fishing methods employed in the Vanuatu EEZ has been dominated by the longline gear outside 24 miles, however a few Artisanal fishers are found fishing within the 12 miles around FAD's catching mainly Skipjack and Yellowfin. Individual fleets presented herein cover vessels with high catch and effort data coverage and these are mostly Chinese fleets with a few Fiji fleets. Other fleets such as Taiwanese fleets have cease operations over the last few years in the Vanuatu EEZ however, in 2021 a few Chinese flag vessels chartered to Kiribati were fishing in the Vanuatu EEZ. Fishing by these fleets is based through bilateral agreements and the issuance of Foreign fishing licenses.

The report covers the fishing activities in the Vanuatu EEZ and operations of the Vanuatu flag vessels that were active in the WCPFC and other broad ocean areas during the period 2017 to 2025. The report mainly focuses on the fleet structures, annual catch estimates and catch/effort distributions. The report also raises areas where new and further effort is required on the part of Vanuatu to enhance its role in contributing to the overall conservation and management of highly migratory stocks in the WCPFC area. Most of the current presented data were obtained from Tufman2 database and which were originally collected and verified by the Vanuatu Fisheries Data Management Unit (VFDMU).

Vanuatu recognizes that there are critical data 'gaps' that need attention and focus on. Therefore, with the limitation of resources, the department has been working closely with SPC and FFA to collect as much information and data as possible to fill in these gaps. The delegation of designated ports recognized as PSMA countries for our Flagged Vessels have been established however are yet to be implemented and these will enable us to monitor landings of fish in foreign ports including those in Kaohsiung, Shimizu and Busan which are currently the ports mainly being utilized. In 2023 and 2024 a few countries like Thailand, have begun sharing landing data as part of their PSMA obligations to Vanuatu and these data are useful in verification of catch data provided.

3 Flag State Reporting

Vanuatu is currently a member of WCPFC, IATTC, SPRFMO and has ratified the NPFC. The membership of Vanuatu in these RFMOs has enabled Vanuatu's fishing fleet to fish these RFMO's waters for tuna and other highly migratory fish species. The Vanuatu fleet consists of 2 purse seiners and 34 long-liners with authorization to fish in the WCPFC area in 2025. The Vanuatu fleet consists of purse seine and longline vessels fishing between the Pacific and Indian Ocean. Fishing inside the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of coastal states

had been possible by way of Bilateral Fishing Access (BFA) for both longlines and purse seiners. Vanuatu operates a vessel registry, the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR). The VISR has recorded over 90 vessel registrations since 2014, and currently there is a total of 128 vessels on the Vanuatu registry and these comprise of 1 carrier, 56 Longlines, 13 Refrigerated cargo ship, 40 Trawlers, 6 Purse seines, 6 Squid jiggers and 6 oil bunkers. It is a requirement through the Vanuatu Fisheries Act that all Vanuatu fishing vessels acquire an International Authorization to Fish Certificate (IATF) in order to operate in the high seas within the Pacific Ocean.

3.1 Catch and Effort Trends

The annual catch and effort estimates have been estimated for the Vanuatu fleet operating under bilateral arrangements and the large-scale longline vessels (LSLV) operating in the wider WCPFC Area. The general observation since 2021 was that there has been a variation in the annual catch and effort estimates for both the purse seine and the longline fleet. The major tuna species for the Vanuatu longline fleet catch was dominated by albacore then bigeye and lastly yellowfin. Raised estimates for the longline fleet in 2025 were 2,550 MT for albacore, 1,863 MT for bigeye and 644 MT for yellowfin respectively and these catch estimates were determined from logsheet data raised using information on actual vessel Activity (VMS data). During the period 2021-2025, the longline fleet recorded its highest total annual catch estimate as 10,205.13Mt in 2021 (Table 1(a)). The longline fishery recorded the highest catches for albacore in 2021 being 6,165Mt and the lowest in 2025 as 2,550Mt. The highest catch for bigeye was in 2021 with 3,039Mt and lowest in 2025 with 1,863Mt. Yellowfin catches however, showed an increase from 2021 then decrease then an increase again in 2024 with the highest recorded catch in 2024 with 1,308Mt and the lowest in 2022 and 2023 with 578Mt and 528Mt respectively. Albacore continues to be the dominant species in the catch for 2025 followed by bigeye and then yellowfin. Effort for the longline fishery has slightly decreased in recent years from 2021-2024 and remained somewhat stable to 2025 as can be seen in Table 5. This fluctuation in effort is evident through the measure of the number of vessels licensed and number of days fished and sets deployed.

The purse seine fleet that operated under bilateral arrangements recorded a decrease in total catch from 2021, and slightly increased from 2022 levels with catch records as 48,587MT and 69,541Mt respectively. This amount reduced in 2023 to 53,907Mt and further reduced to 27,754Mt in 2024 and 15,149 in 2025 (Table 1(b)). The effort in the total number of sets had also increased from this period of 2021 to 2022 and reduced from 2023 to 2025. During this period, the main tuna species in the catch being Skipjack also showed an increase in catch from 39,436Mt in 2021 to 58,338Mt in 2022. In 2023 and 2024, the catch for Skipjack reduced to 42,579Mt and 23,466Mt. This is also the same for the other two species Yellowfin with the catch in 2021 being 8,327Mt then increased in 2022 and 2023 with 10,313Mt and 10,934 respectively and reduced in 2024 to 4,060Mt. Bigeye also recorded the highest catch in 2025 being 1,411MT and lowest catch in 2024 being 227Mt.

The purse seine fleets were mainly operating within the 5 degrees North and 5 degrees South and between 150 degrees East and 175 degrees West. The effort in the purse seine fishery is measured as days fishing and searching, Figures 2) b) shows the catch distributions of purse seine vessels that operated under the bilateral agreements. The longline effort is given as 100s of hooks. The longline efforts are distributed between 40 degrees North and 40 degrees South. This implies that both the southern and northern albacore stocks were

targeted. However, there was more effort experienced in the south i.e., between 10 degrees South and 40 degrees South and this effort has increased from 2020 to 2021 as effort increased in terms of vessels numbers and days fished and decreased in 2022 and this can be seen Figure 2) a) where catch has increased for both the north and south pacific region targeting Albacore.

The catch and effort data coverage for the Vanuatu fleet are high, but the size data coverages are uncertain as most of these vessels are landing their catch elsewhere and this would mostly be corroborated by the observers and port samplers in whose jurisdictions catch may have been landed or transshipped. The inferences for high, medium, and low scores for the catch/effort, and size data coverage, are provided in Appendix II. Estimated Annual total catches of non-target, associated and dependent species by the Vanuatu purse seine fleets and longline fleets in 2021-2025 has been sought from the Tufman2 reporting database as shown in Table 3 and 4 and as well as in Annex 1 where there is a summary table for all CMM's concerned. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic observer placements were very low as repatriation took place, however, post covid and in 2025, observer placement on Vanuatu flag vessels has immensely improved with Vanuatu meeting its Observer coverage requirement for WCPFC.

Appendix 1 summary table also provides information on the observed species of interest (SSI) collected through observer reports for the year 2025 by ROP observers on Purse seiners and by Vanuatu observers on the Vanuatu flag longliners. Observer reports continue to be submitted to SPC for processing for all vessels being observed on by Vanuatu's Observer program.

Vanuatu's Flag vessels for the past 5 years (Table 2) had caught a total of 252,990 mt of tuna at an average of 50,598 mt per year. The average breakdown of catches by species are; SKJ at 23,696 mt, YFT at 7,828 mt, and BET at 3,148 mt per year.

3.2 Annual catch estimates for the national purse seine fleet

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Albacore	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Bigeye tuna	823.3	889.4	393.5	227.0	1,411.5
Skipjack tuna	39,436.5	58,338.5	42,579.0	23,466.4	12,190.7
Yellowfin tuna	8,327.5	10,313.1	10,934.7	4,060.9	1,547.0
Total	48,587.3	69,541.0	53,907.5	27,754.3	15,149.2

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

3.3 Annual catch estimates for the national longline fleet

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Albacore	6,165	3,556	2,923.4	2,923.0	2,550.1
Bigeye tuna	3,039	2,117	2,531.5	2,446.7	1,863.4
Black marlin	2	3	2.1	1.8	1.0
Blue marlin	167	164	146.7	307.3	81.9
Striped marlin	187	69	107.1	167.6	96.5
Pacific bluefin tuna	0	1	0.0	0.8	1.3
Skipjack tuna	204	83	26.6	286.4	152.7
Swordfish	642	490	404.3	346.3	379.6
Yellowfin tuna	901	578	528.9	1,308.8	644.0
Total	11,307	7,061	6,670.6	7,788.7	5,770.5

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

Year	Species code	WCPFC Convention Area (S of Equator)	WCPFC Convention Area (N of Equator)	South Pacific Ocean	North Pacific Ocean	WCPO
2025	alb	2,220.24	689.90	1,928.07	543.36	2,298.24
2025	bet	1,576.35	1,233.95	1,116.12	980.38	1,589.78
2025	mls	59.67	52.25	52.29	34.21	0.00
2025	pbf	1.01	0.00	1.15	0.00	0.00
2025	skj	105.08	53.37	87.39	33.01	152.37
2025	swo	489.98	80.88	467.38	68.72	0.00
2025	yft	715.67	287.86	469.14	251.06	718.30

Table 4: Annual raised catch estimates for the Vanuatu longline vessels, for tuna and billfish by Broad Ocean areas over 2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3609, 3083 and 3616.

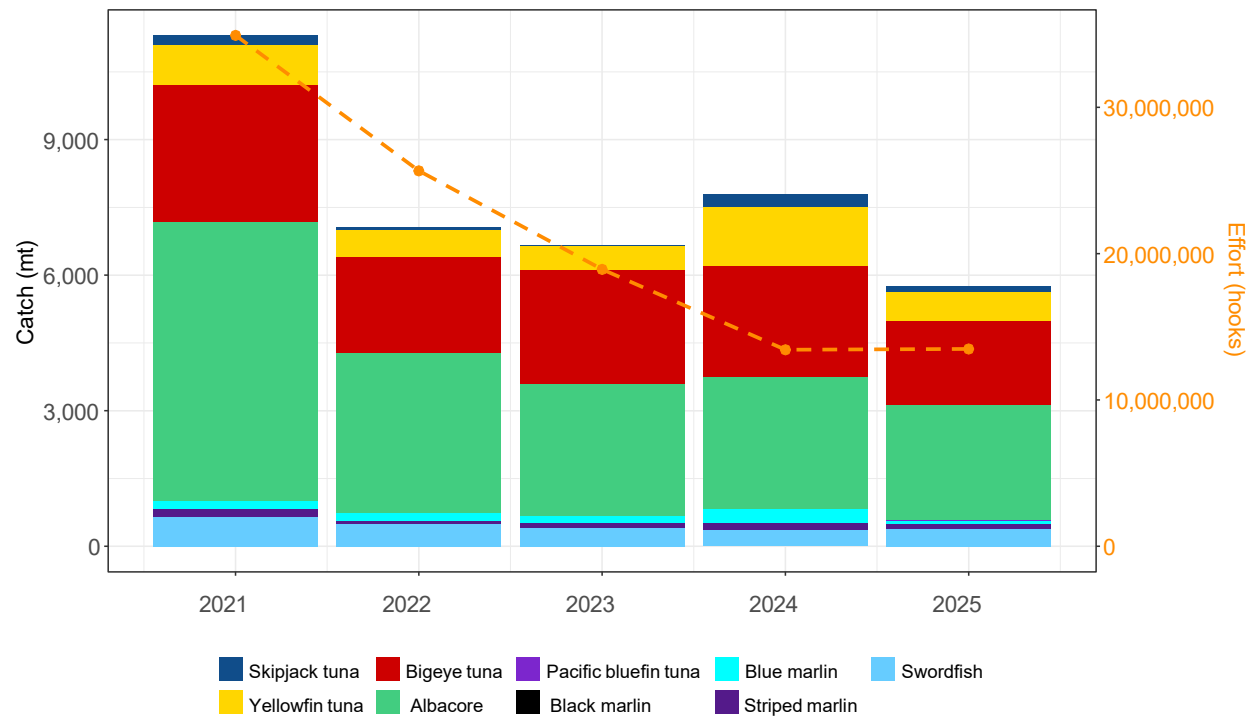


Figure 1: Historical annual catch estimates (mt) and effort (no. of hooks) for the Vanuatu longline fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605 and 3597 (hooks).

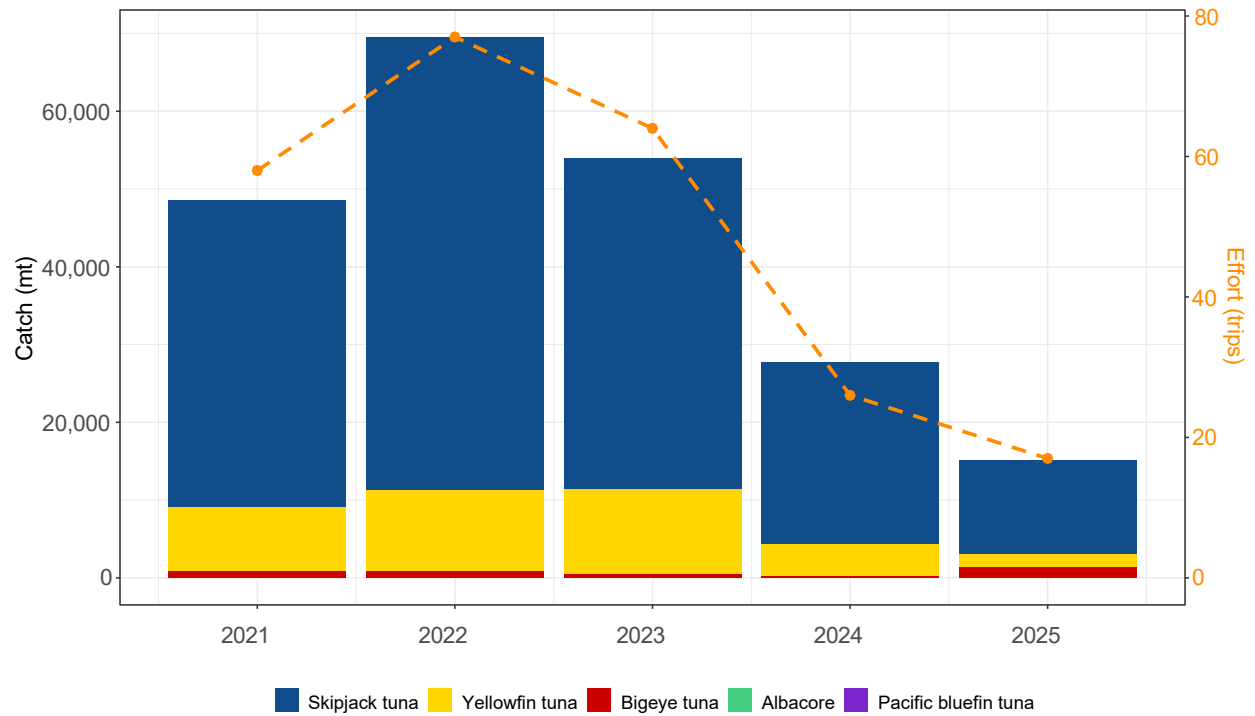


Figure 2: Historical annual catch estimates (mt) for the Vanuatu purse seine fleet, by primary species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605 and 3590 (trips).

3.4 Historical annual vessel numbers for the national fleet

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

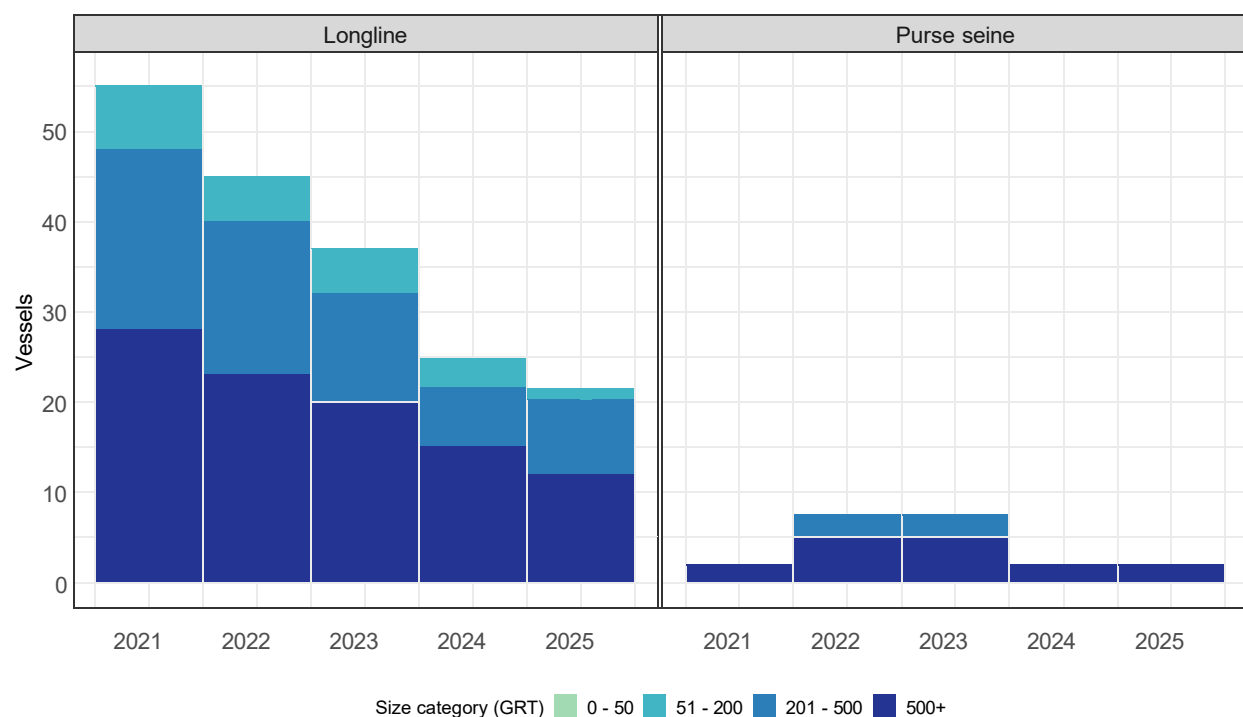


Figure 3: Historical annual vessel numbers for the Vanuatu fleet, by gear, for the WCPFC Convention Area.
Source - Tufman 2, report 3605.

gear	Size Category (GRT)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Longline	0 - 50	0	0	0	0	0
	51 - 200	8	7	5	2	1
	201 - 500	20	16	12	8	9
	500+	28	23	20	14	12

Table 5: Number of Vanuatu 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	0	3	2	0	0
	500+	2	5	5	2	2

Table 6: Number of Vanuatu purse seine vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605.

3.5 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 Vanuatu's fleet across the period 2021- 2025.

Figure 4 highlights key fishing areas in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, primarily concentrated within and just outside Vanuatu's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

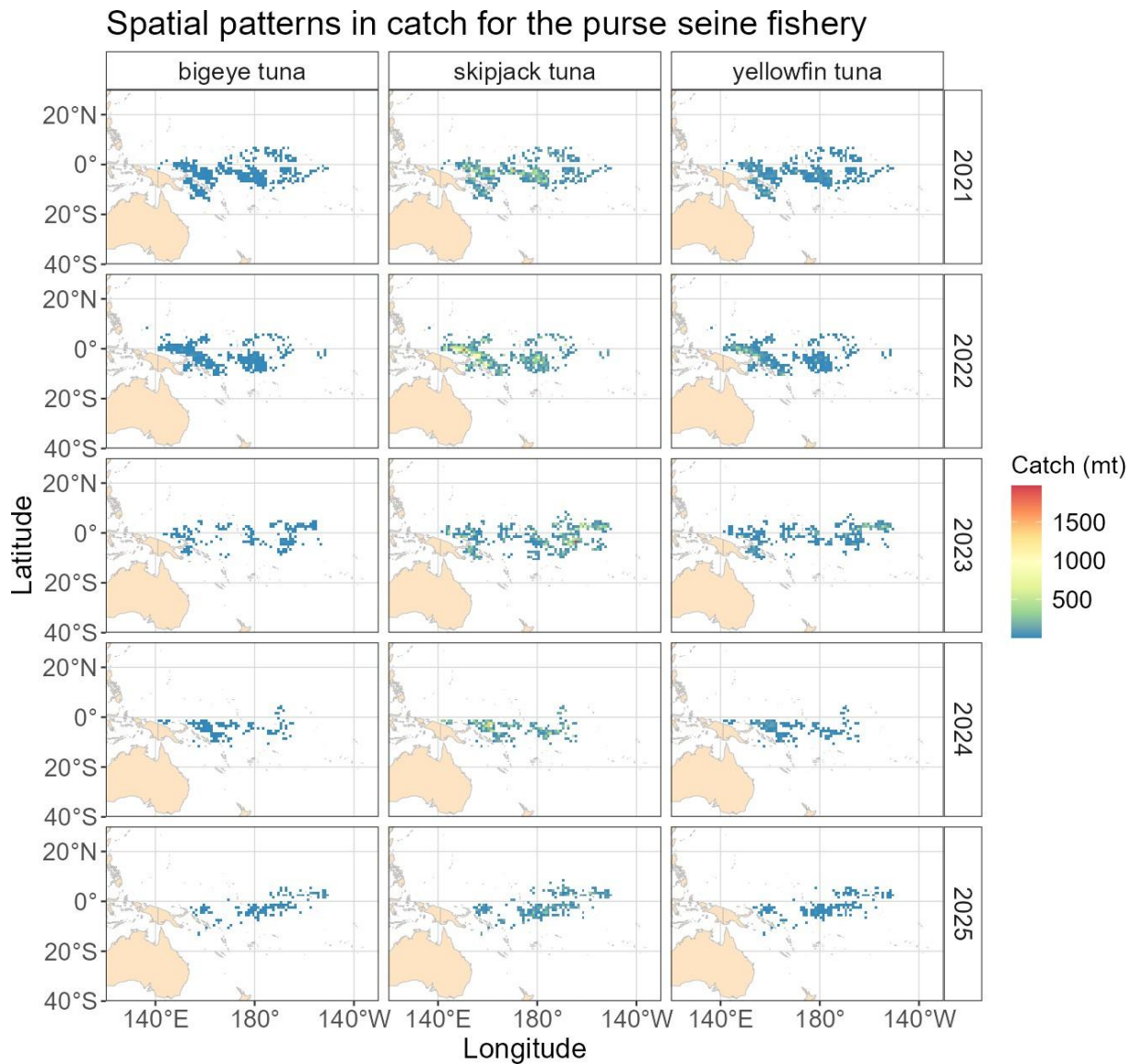


Figure 4: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Vanuatu purse seine fishery.
Source - Tufman 2, report 3608.

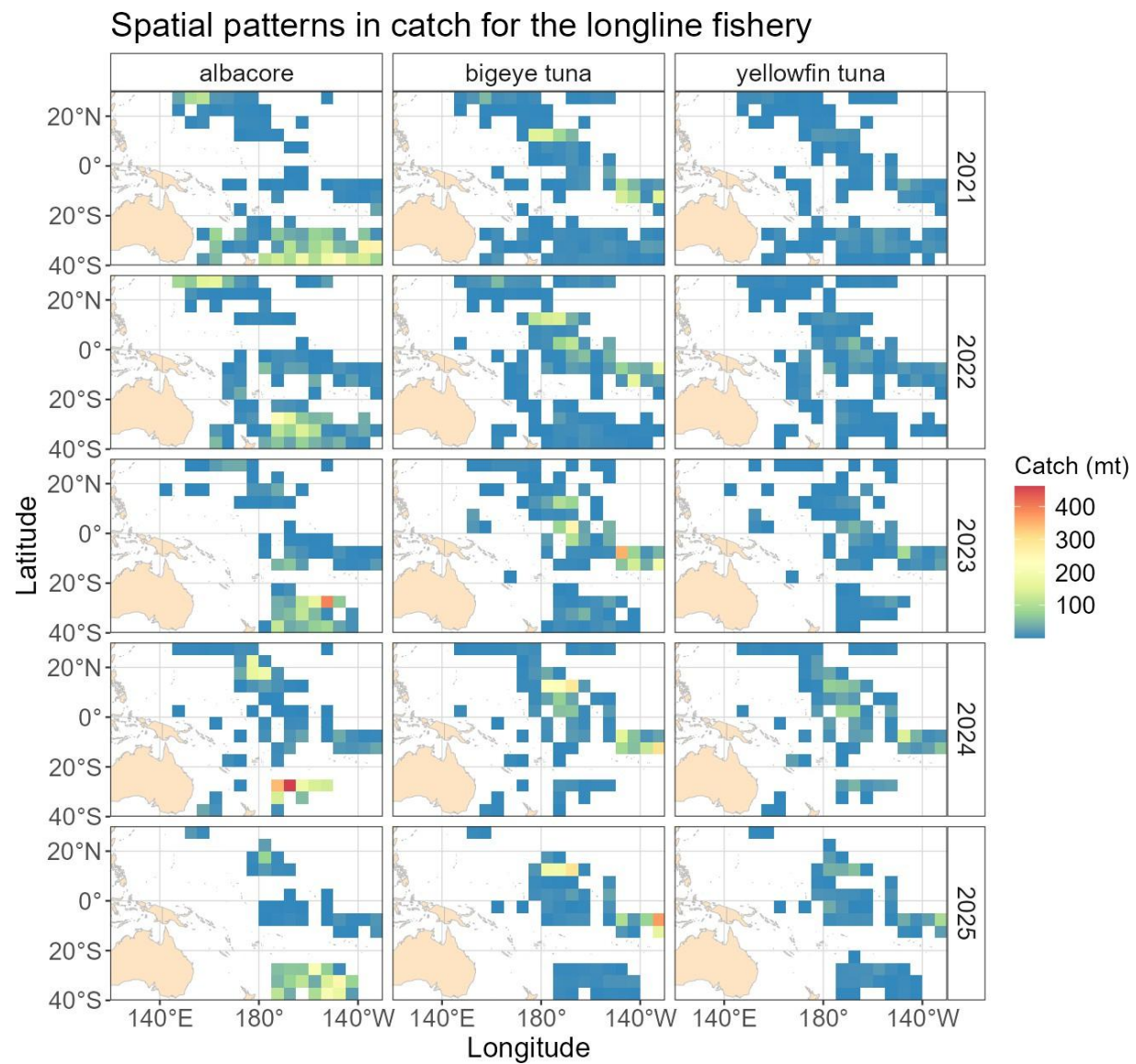


Figure 5: Map showing the distribution of target species catch (mt) for the Vanuatu longline fishery. Source - Tufman 2, report 3608.

3.6 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 7 provides a summary of observed interactions with special interest species by Vanuatu'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.

3.6.1 Observed catches of SSIs by the purse seine fleet

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2023	marine mammals	bryde's whale	3	3	0
2023	marine mammals	sei whale	4	4	0
2023	marine reptiles	hawksbill turtle	1	1	0
2023	marine reptiles	loggerhead turtle	1	1	0
2023	marine reptiles	olive ridley turtle	2	2	0
2023	rays	giant manta	7	5	2
2023	rays	mantas, devil rays nei	1	0	0
2023	rays	mobula	49	18	6
2023	whale shark	whale shark	0	0	0
2024	rays	giant manta	87	13	51
2024	rays	mantas, devil rays nei	26	0	0
2024	rays	mobula	10	0	6
2025	rays	giant manta	10	3	4

Table 7: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) by the Vanuatu 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.

3.6.2 Observed catches of SSIs by the longline fleet

Year	Category	Species	Total	Alive	Dead
2023	birds	black-footed albatross	9	0	9
2023	birds	laysan albatross	14	0	14
2024	birds	albatrosses nei	16	1	15
2024	birds	black-footed albatross	46	3	43
2024	birds	laysan albatross	34	0	34
2024	birds	petrels and shearwaters nei	4	0	4
2024	marine reptiles	green turtle	4	2	2
2024	marine reptiles	loggerhead turtle	1	1	0
2024	rays	giant manta	1	1	0
2025	birds	albatrosses nei	13	4	9
2025	birds	black-footed albatross	16	0	16
2025	birds	laysan albatross	22	0	22
2025	marine mammals	indo-pacif. bottlenose dolphin	2	2	0
2025	marine reptiles	loggerhead turtle	4	4	0
2025	rays	giant manta	8	8	0

Table 8: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) by the Vanuatu longline fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 2953.

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

Table 9 provides a summary of observed interactions with non-target species by Vanuatu'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	0.6	1.4	9.5	0.3	0.0
Blue marlin	2.3	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.2

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Silky shark	16.6	49.0	7.9	20.8	1.3
Striped marlin	0.2	0.3	1.2	0.0	0.0
Oceanic whitetip shark	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2
Whale shark	0.0	0.0	24.2	0.0	0.0
Sailfish	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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

Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Black marlin	2	3.0	2.1	1.8	1.0
Blue shark	1,825	1,025.0	822.6	423.0	352.0
Blue marlin	167	164.0	146.7	307.3	81.9
Silky shark	0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0
Mako sharks (mak)	268	88.0	18.7	32.2	122.2
Striped marlin	187	69.0	107.1	167.6	96.5
Oceanic whitetip shark	1	0.1	0.0	10.4	0.0
Sailfish	0	0.0	0.0	7.6	1.8
Hammerhead sharks (spn)	0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0
Shortbill spearfish	0	0.0	0.0	41.6	8.4
Swordfish	642	490.0	404.3	346.3	379.6
Thresher sharks (thr)	0	33.0	0.2	2.9	0.4

Table 10: Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the Vanuatu longline fleet, in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2021-2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3605

4 Coastal State Reporting

The Vanuatu Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is approximately 690,000 square kilometres and includes over 80 islands and an area of archipelagic waters. Commercial tuna fishing commenced in Vanuatu in 1957 with the establishment of the Japanese South Pacific Fishing Company Limited (SPFC) longline transshipment base at Palekula, Espiritu Santo Island. The base, consisting of a wharf and cold storage facilities, was substantially upgraded in 1974. After handling annual landings of between 4-15,000 tonnes since 1969, SPFC closed its operations in the late 1980s and the facility was turned over to the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu. US purse-seiners, licensed under the US Treaty fished on four occasions in Vanuatu waters in 1999 with very small catches and again in 2020 with one vessel undergoing one trip.

In the Vanuatu EEZ fishing has been through Bilateral Fishing Agreements (BFA) particularly with Fiji and Solomon Island based companies. These catch proportions were similar to the historical tuna catch compositions. The recent tuna fishery in Vanuatu has generally seen a rapid expansion of fishing effort since 2006 but slowing decreased from 2013 and then rose again from 2016 to 2017 where it then decreased in 2018, increased in 2019, decreases again in 2020, further decreased in 2021 and then increased in 2022 and again decreases in 2023 and again increased in 2024 and expected to increase 2025. It is noted that high catches were usually obtained with high effort.

This section reports on fishing activity in your EEZ conducted by foreign countries (Distant Water Fishing Nations).

4.1 Fishing Licenses

Gear	Year	0-50	51-200	201-500	500+	Total
LL	2021		19	20		39
	2022		17	35		52
	2023		21	27		48
	2024		14	56		70
	2025		14	22		36

Table 11: Number of licenses issued annually by size category over the last 5 years.

4.2 Catch and Effort Trends

During the period 2015 to 2019, the total annual catch for all the foreign fleets in Vanuatu EEZ had fluctuated. Starting in 2013, the catch level was 8,181mt, but there is an upturn from 8,181Mt in to 6,600mt in 2014 and 2015. However, there was an increase to 9,918Mt in 2016 and further increase in 2017 to 13,232mt. In 2018, there was a subsequent decrease to 7,594Mt, followed by a slight increase to

8,939Mt in 2019. This was followed by another slight decline in 2020 to 7,976MT and a subsequent decrease to 3,716MT in 2021. In 2022 the catch levels rebounded to 7,073Mt and again decreases in 2023 to 4,681MT and again rebounded to 7,681MT in 2024 and expected to increase over the recorded value of 6,419mt in 2025. The reduction in catch from 2013-2015 was a result of the effort decline that took place for that period as the vessels shifted their operations to Solomon Islands. The catch was largely attributed to the Chinese fleet which recorded over 70% of the total catch in the previous years. Fishing effort continued to decrease from 2014 to 2015 from 65 vessels to 49 vessels but increased to 74 vessels in 2016 and again to 75 in 2019 but reduced from 71 vessels in 2020 to 66 in 2021, 57 in 2022, 48 in 2023, increased to 70 in 2024 and decreased to 35 in 2025. The reduction in the last few years before Covid 19 hit was due to the shift towards the eastern pacific where fishing was believed to be very good and after 2015 vessels started coming back to fish in the VU EEZ. However, in the year 2019 to 2021, the reduction was witnessed as a result of the Covid19 pandemic that hit late 2019 and affected vessel operations from 2020 to 2021. In 2022 there was a further rise in catch level as fishing effort increased and fishing activity returned to pre- pandemic levels after the COVID-19 outbreak. In 2023 there was a reduction in catch due to reduction in fishing effort, in 2024 the catch rebounded again with a total catch of 7,6821MT and in 2025 the total catch is 6,419mt and will expect to increase once all logsheets have been submitted and entered. Unraised and provisional estimates for these licensed fleets in 2025 were 3,678mt, 1,779mt and 281mt for albacore, yellowfin and bigeye respectively and these catch estimates were determined from logsheets data. The annual estimated tuna catch composition by weight for 2025, was again dominated by albacore (57%), yellowfin (21%) , minor bigeye (3%) and 10% other tuna and tuna-like species. In 2024, catch rates however, increased compared to 2023 levels due to the increase in effort which is recorded as the number of fishing vessels fishing as well as the number of hooks used and trips taken. Logsheet coverage for 2025 is averaged at 85.63%. Thus, catch figures as seen in Table 12 are sure to improve slightly when logsheet coverage increases to 100%. The annual longline estimated tuna catch composition by weight for 2024, was again dominated by albacore (66%), yellowfin (27%), minor bigeye 4.4% and other tuna-like species 10.6%). These catch proportions were similar to the historical tuna catch compositions. The recent tuna fishery in Vanuatu has seen a general decrease in fishing effort (number of vessel) in 2025.

Data regarding the fishing operations of the Vanuatu fleet have been provided by the various members in whose jurisdictions the vessels may have operated, and also by various established fishing agents in Vanuatu.

Gear	Year	Vessels	Trips	Days	Alb (mt)	Bet (mt)	Yft (mt)	Others (mt)	Total (mt)
LL					–	–	–	–	–
	2021	56	284	4,456	2,662	122	630	302	3,716
	2022	55	376	6,139	5,101	218	1,131	623	7,073
	2023	64	295	4,824	3,303	155	787	437	4,681
	2024	64	346	6,055	5,001	196	1,613	874	7,682
	2025	60	405	6,232	3,678	281	1,779	682	6,419

Gear	Year	Vessels	Trips	Days	Alb (mt)	Bet (mt)	Yft (mt)	Others (mt)	Total (mt)
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Table 12: Annual catches in Vanuatu EEZ per gear (LL = Longline; PS = Purse seine) for the last 5 years.
Source - Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

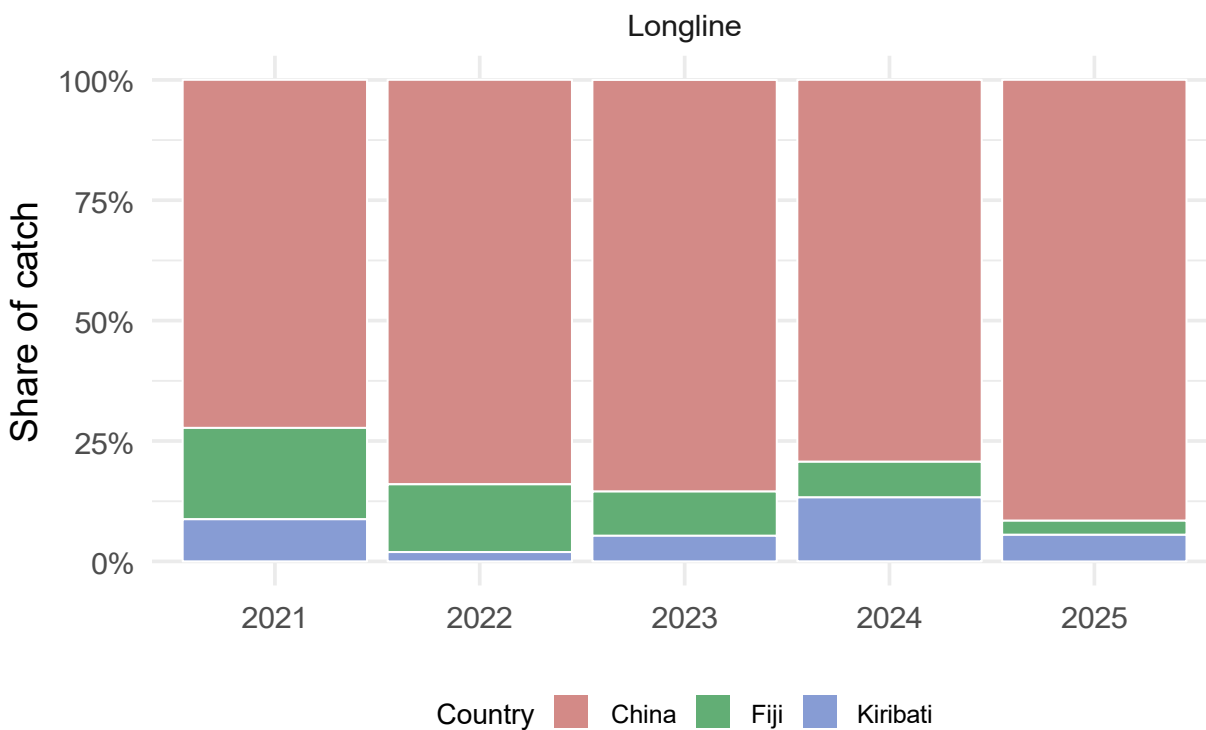


Figure 6: Percentage of total catch (all species) in the Vanuatu EEZ, by flag during the last 5 years. Source - Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

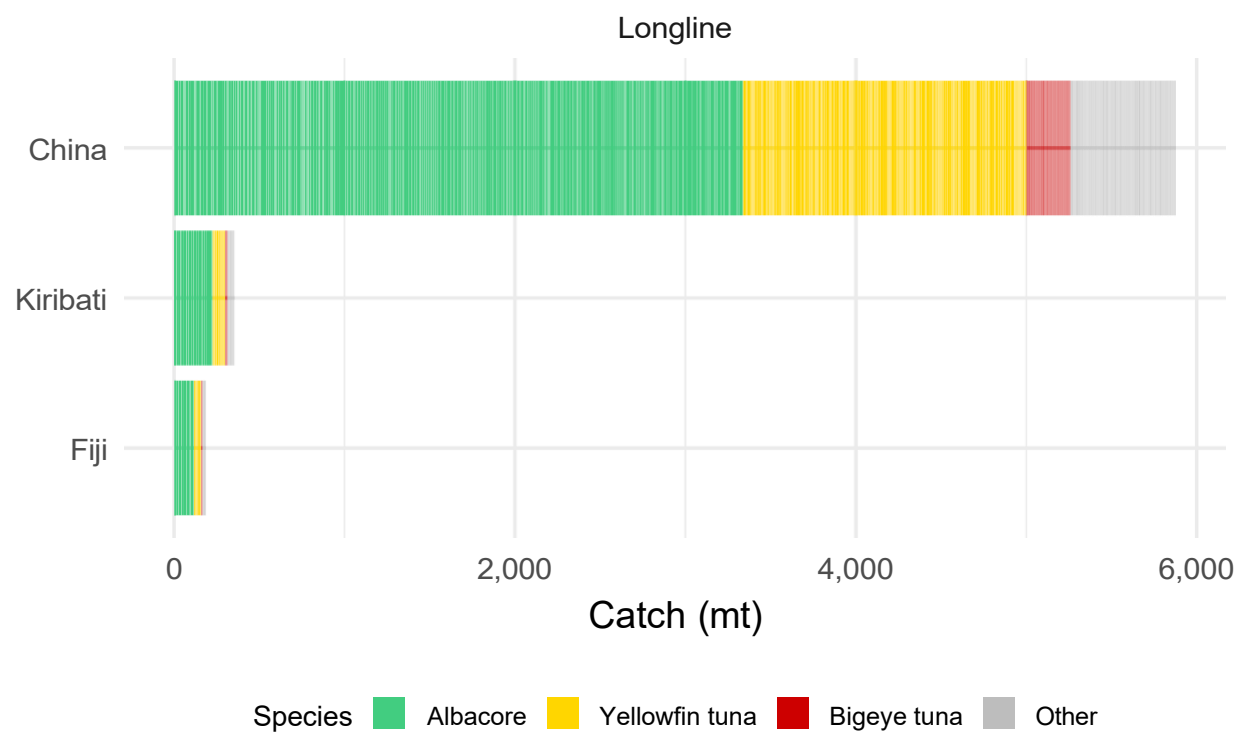


Figure 7: Annual catch of tuna in the Vanuatu EEZ by flag during 2025. Source - Tufman 2, reports 2900 and 2894.

The distribution of longline catch, and its species composition within the EEZ and the adjacent area in 2025. This shows that catch is highest in the Northeast and Eastern parts of Vanuatu EEZ, and this pattern is consistent with the results presented in previous Part 1 reports. Albacore was the species most caught in all spatial cells followed by Yellowfin tuna which also corroborates with the overall 2025 catch composition (Table 12) and results from previous years.

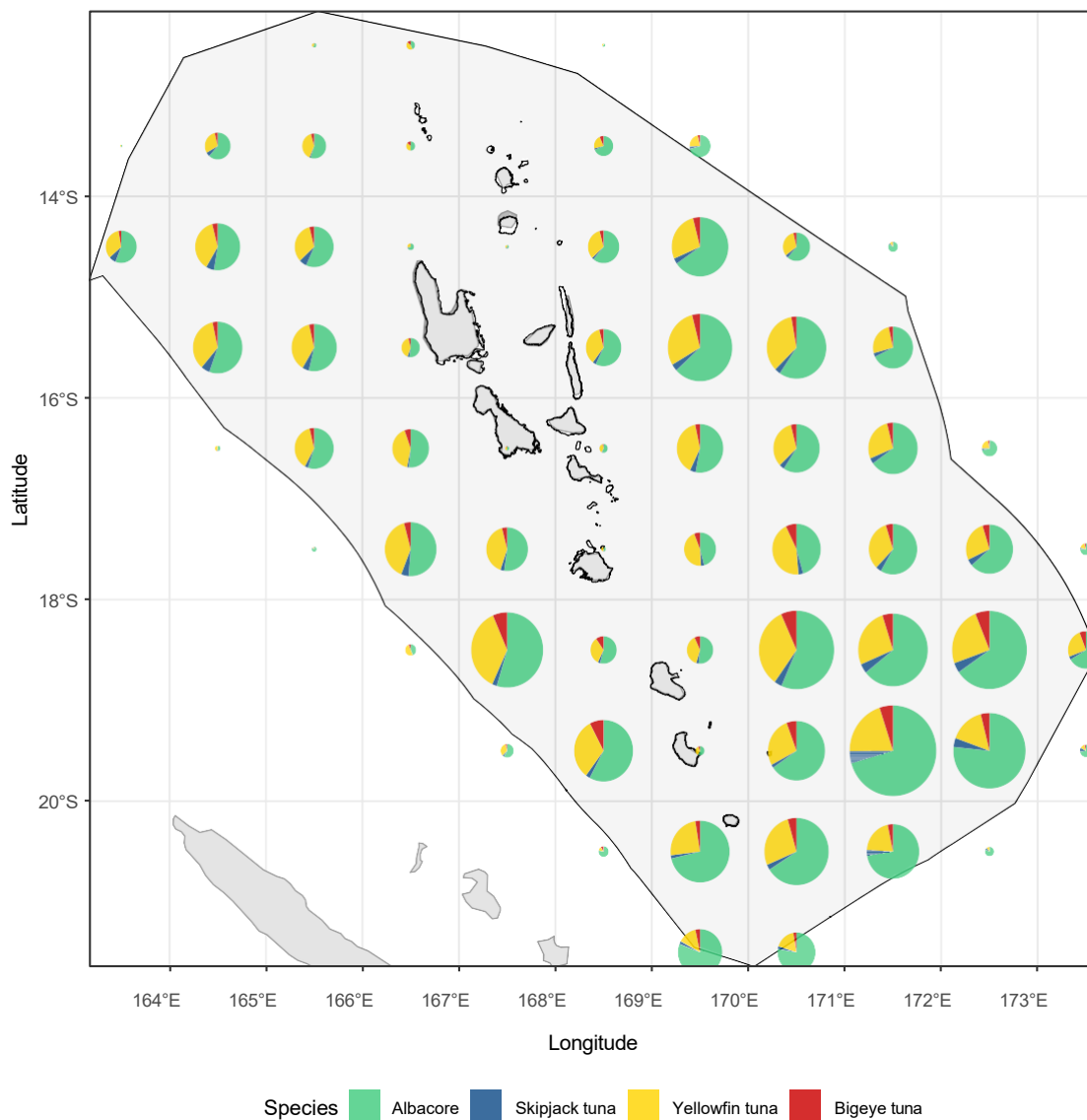


Figure 8: Catch of the three main tuna species by longline vessels fishing in the Vanuatu EEZ, in each 1x1 degree cell in the EEZ and the immediate surrounding area during 2025. Source - Tufman 2, report 3375.

4.3 Annual catch estimates - artisanal

In support of Vanuatu being both a flag and coastal state, this section presents annual catch estimates derived from Vanuatu's artisanal fishery data. To improve the estimate of annual production, catch landings recorded in *TAILS* are raised using estimated fishing activity — the number of boats and canoes estimated to fish daily at each landing site. Table 13 presents the raised and unraised estimates per species for 2025, and Table 14 shows the percentage contribution of each species.

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	1.13	30.26	42.86
unraised	0.40	18.76	17.88

Table 13: Raised and unraised annual artisanal catch estimates in mt

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	1.52	40.75	57.72
unraised	1.08	50.65	48.27

Table 14: Percentage of the artisanal tuna ACE associated with each of the key species

5 Socio-economic factors

Since 2013 the number of Foreign and locally based foreign license has dropped as most vessels were moving to the Solomon Islands EEZ and towards the eastern pacific where fishing was reported to be very good. Vessels that were offloading their catch in the Vanuatu EEZ through transshipment were also reporting low catches towards the end of 2013 to early 2014 thus Transshipment in port was not as regular as before and towards the end of 2014 Transshipment in port has ceased. Locally based operations however ceased after 2014 and was only ignited back in 2019 under the Sino-Van company which licensed 6 vessels to fish and offload their catches in Port Vila both for local sales and export to international markets. However, in 2023, the vessels offload of the 6 locally based foreign fishing vessels shifted to Fiji as a result of the pontoon being damaged during the twin tropical cyclone that hit Vanuatu in March 2023, in 2024 the vessels went to slipway and in 2025 only 2 locally based vessels operating.

For local artisanal fisherman, fishing in FADs have recently become a priority with the reduction increase in fuel prices due to the Covid pandemic as well as the war between Ukraine and Russia which affected the global distribution of fuel and in turn affected fuel prices locally. This has made it an important asset for more Artisanal fisherman who target FAD's both to catch skipjack for Baitfish and to catch yellowfin to sell in the local markets.

The TUFMAN2 database has been fully utilized since July 2016 after the shift from TUFMAN 1 which it was only used for licensing up until 2019 when the licensing component of the Tufman system was pushed into the FFA-RIMF system. The TAILS system has also been trailed out in Vanuatu in 2016 and from 2021 there has been a successful rollout to all 6 provinces in Vanuatu and present in 26 islands covering 50 landing sites and 32 Area councils. The extension to all other remaining 39 Area councils was met in 2022. Fishers including small gleaning activities, skiffs and motorized canoes are being registered within the TAILS system with the objective of enhancing the capacity to collect data for coastal, deep bottom and pelagic fisheries. The RIMF FFA database has been utilized to cater for the recording of Landing and Unloading data, transshipment data as well as MCS boarding and inspection information. There is plan to include the entry of catch and effort data from the non-Tuna RFMOs in the coming year in the RIMF system.

6 Onshore Developments

The processing plant (Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Limited) in Port Vila harbor seized operations in February 2014 due to movement of the fleet to the Solomon Islands. The Chinese fishing Base known as the Sino-Van company is a joint venture to the Vanuatu government owned 6 locally based Chinese fishing vessels that were licensed in late 2019 and currently fishing the Vanuatu EEZ and offload their catch in Port Vila and export their catch to China, USA, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand. Vanuatu has rolled out E reporting on 95% of its Vanuatu flag vessels from 2020 to 2021 and in 2022 the coverage increases up to 100%. Through the Vessel Day Scheme, Vanuatu plans to implement the ER system on all licensed vessels operating within its EEZ in the coming year. Vanuatu has plans to develop its onshore activities to further enhance and utilize the current fish landing activities taking place. In 2024, the Department of Fisheries was moved from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Biosecurity to the newly established Ministry of

Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs. In 2025 there was no major developments.

7 Future Prospects of Fishery

Vanuatu has maintained its position to limit the number of licenses to 70 Foreign License and 40 Locally Based Foreign license however the license fee has been increased by 50% of the current fee. Vanuatu has plans to move to vessel day scheme (VDS). The Vanuatu Fisheries Department in November last year 2023 has soft launch the longline vessel day scheme (VDS) along with stake holder consultations regarding the transition to the new system. In 2024, the staff were trained on how to implement the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) activities and in 2025 the Vanuatu Fisheries signs MOU with PNA for implementation of vessel day scheme. In 2025, the Vanuatu Fisheries Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) to support the implementation of the Vessel Day Scheme, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the sustainable management of Vanuatu's tuna fisheries.

8 Research and Statistics

8.1 Estimated data coverage

Coverage of logsheets from foreign fleets fishing in the Vanuatu EEZ extends back as far as the 1970s and has been low and variable among years. There has also been significant missing data throughout the years thus the difficulty in estimating coverage rates for some years. However, with the inclusion of VMS data into the Tufman system that is being used to report catches, there has been tremendous improvement in estimating logsheet coverage and estimating catch production respectively.

Logsheets for Vanuatu flag vessels is currently being submitted through electronic reporting from a trial that has been in place since 2019 and which has extended to 100% of the Vanuatu flag vessels in 2024 and 2025. ER has proven effective by reducing the amount of effort on data entry to data checking and quality control. Data coverage is however, still low on the collection of size frequency data as most of Vanuatu's flagged vessels as well as the licensed vessels that fish in the Vanuatu EEZ have been unloading their catch in foreign ports in the region such as Fiji, Western Samoa and Solomon Islands and internationally such as Taiwan and Japan.

Vanuatu is looking into strict measures in terms of estimating catch and effort data, since most of our licensed vessels are currently offloading all or part of their catches overseas, either to the factory or on the carrier vessel in port. One of the major steps for Vanuatu in 2016 was to move to the TUFMAN2 database which allows for the sharing of logsheet data between countries to which licensed vessels operated. This sharing has allowed access to view Logsheets from vessels who are license to operate in the Vanuatu waters with other members sharing the same interests. And this is currently being fulfilled since 2017 as logsheet data is being shared by countries which has significantly reduced the amount of work load on entering data and giving more time to fixing and validating the data. Most of the current presented data were obtained from the OFP/SPC database, and were originally collected and supplied by Vanuatu and other member countries.

8.2 Status of Tuna Fisheries Data Collection Systems

8.2.1 Logsheet Data collection and Verification

There have been vast improvements with the collection of logsheet data since it has become one of the special licensing conditions; which has forced vessel owners to keep up with the submission of logsheet data. For the licensed vessels fishing inside VU EEZ the logsheet coverage based on VMS Data was between 80%-100% from 2014 to 2024 and in 2025 the coverage is 80.5% and will improve once all logsheets are submitted and all outstanding data are being entered. Whereas for the Vanuatu flag vessels the coverage for Longline for 2014-2020 is 100% except for 2018 and 2019 the coverage is 98.37% and 99.33% respectively which is obtained through reconciliation with VMS data sought from the Vanuatu VMS system. For Purse seine vessels, logsheet coverage from both 2014 and 2025 has been at 100. All Vanuatu fleets in 2025 (longline and purse seine) are 100% electronic reporting fulfilling a 100% coverage of all fleets reporting using ER.

Assistance from trainings held by SPC on data verification has assisted in allowing data verification to be done nationally by officers as a means of improving data quality and compliance.

8.2.2 Observer and Port Sampling Programme

The Vanuatu Observer program established in 2008 and now has 54 regional certified PIRFO observers who observe on Purse Seiners, Long Liners and Fish Carriers that are operating in the WCPFC area. Since its establishment in 2008, Fisheries Observers have been involved in Longliners and Purse seiner vessel operations and later covering fish carrier vessels in the effort to collect more information on carrier vessels at sea. In 2017, Vanuatu National Observer Programme has managed to put in place its first Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and Standard operational Procedures. This is a great improvement to the program. The program has also purchased safety gears such as 2-way In Reach Communicating Device, Personal Locator Device (PLB) and Life vests and has also received few of these equipment from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). In 2023 and 2024 recruitment of observers took place within the provinces of Vanuatu. Currently there is a total of 51 (45 males and 6 females) active and trained observers in the program.

8.2.3 Unloading and Transshipment

Unloading and Transshipment in Vanuatu port has been by way of locally based foreign vessels fishing in Vanuatu EEZ. Since 2009 there has been 100% port sampling for all unloading and transshipment activity in Vanuatu EEZ. Transshipment has been constantly carried out within the harbor mostly targeting albacore for canning (e.g. Fiji and Solomon) or other species such as sharks (mainly fins), Marlins, wahoo, Sword fish and other relevant by-catch including low grade yellow fin and big eye. Transshipment is 100% sampled in measurement and estimated capacity weight of each fish well; all fish for transshipment are stored frozen in blast freezers. Transshipment often occurs once a month until 2014 when there were only 4 transshipments in the Vanuatu port. As of then, transshipment activities has since ceased. For Vanuatu-flagged fishing vessels, transshipment by longline vessels takes place on the high seas, while 100% of purse seine transshipment occurs at port. In Vanuatu, unloading activities slowly occurred in 2017 and 2018 where 2 unloading took

place as a way of showcasing and promoting Vanuatu's capacity of having its vessels resume unloading activities in Vanuatu. In 2019, vessels resumed landing activities under the joint agreement between the Vanuatu government and the SinoVan fishing company which experienced a total of 9 unloading that took place by 6 locally based foreign vessels. Landed catch were exported to China, USA, New Zealand and Japan with the sales of frozen catch also provided to the local markets. In 2024, all six locally based vessels went to slipway, and Vanuatu licensed two additional locally based vessels towards the end of the year crossing over to 2025. It is expected that more of the company vessels will engage in offloading their catch in the Port Vila port in the following year developing the local market of Port Vila and Santo. Vanuatu-flagged longline vessels offload or unload their catch at designated ports such as Kaohsiung, Busan, American Samoa (when under charter), and Suva, while purse seine vessels mainly offload in Papua New Guinea. The landed catch is exported to markets in the USA, China, and Thailand, with some also sold locally.

8.2.4 Disposal of Catch

Fresh Tuna previously landed in Vanuatu by Locally Based Foreign vessels were exported by air to Japan as well as USA and New Zealand, while other frozen fish including Albacore are exported to China and the remaining catch sold in the local markets in Port Vila. The Foreign fleets that have been licensed to fish in Vanuatu EEZ unload 100% of their catch (both their fresh and frozen) either, in Pago Pago or Fiji in 2019, while in 2025 the 2 licensed locally based vessels engaged in fishing 100% offload their catch in Vanuatu port.

8.3 Research Activities

In 2025, Vanuatu issued 1 Research license to a Local fishing operator who carried out exploratory and research fishing in Vanuatu's waters for Deep bottom shrimps specifically at identifying potential of the fishery and market opportunities. The findings and results of this research activity will be produced in 2026 as part of the license condition for the vessel operator. Apart from this research license, no other research activities were undertaken. .

9 Addendum

9.0.1 Section A

9.0.1.1 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.

flag	year	vessels	swo_n	swo_mt
VU	2021	29	1,278	100
VU	2022	11	756	50
VU	2023	10	417	32
VU	2024	5	253	16
VU	2025	8	331	21

Table 15: 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.

9.0.1.2 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).

			Hooks			Fishing days			Sea days			Trips		
year	flag	gear	hooks	obs	cov %	fish days	obs	cov %	sea days	obs	cov %	trips	obs	cov %
2025	VU	L	131,698	11,754	8.9	4,882	334	9.3	4,271	693	16.2	125	6	8.7

Table 16: Observer coverage of longline fleet activity where hooks are in hundred hooks from logbook data and fishing days, sea days, and trips are all calculated from VMS data. Coverage percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. Source - Tufman 2, report 2986.

9.0.1.3 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: 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.**

1.a.	Offloaded and Received
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Offloaded	4019.962
Received	25170.832
1.b.	Transshipped in Port, At Sea, and ABNJ
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Port	27187.997
Within EEZ	
High Seas	2022.72
1.c.	Transshipped Inside and Outside CA
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Inside CA	29210.717
Outside CA	
1.d.	Caught Inside and Outside CA
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Caught Inside CA	28830.941
Caught Outside CA	379.776
1.e.	Species
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Species	Weight (mt)
SKIPJACK TUNA	18,031.3
YELLOWFIN TUNA	8,410.5
BIGEYE TUNA	2,469.3
BLUE MARLIN	63.8
ALBACORE TUNA	61.2
OILFISH	50.4
SWORDFISH	47.1
OTHER FISH	34.1
STRIPED MARLIN	19.9
BLUE SHARK	18.7

OPAH / MOONFISH (LAG)	1.9
WAHOO	1.5
SPEARFISH - SHORT-BILLED	0.6
BLACK MARLIN	0.3
DOLPHIN	0
1.f.	Product Form
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Product Form	Weight (mt)
Whole	27,186.0
Gilled and Gutted	1,769.6
Dressed	166.2
Head Off	58.8
Gilled, Gutted and Tailed	27.7
Gutted, Headed and Tailed	2.3
2.a.	Number of Transshipment Offloaded and Received
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Offloaded	32
Received	37
2.b.	Number of Transshipment in Port, At Sea, and ABNJ
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Port	38
Within EEZ	
High Seas	32
2.c.	Number of Transshipment Inside and Outside CA
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Inside CA	70
Outside CA	
2.d.	Number of Transshipment Caught Inside and Outside CA
RFMO / Year	WCPFC / 2025
Caught Inside CA	65
Caught Outside CA	11

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 transshipped

outside the Convention Area, in accordance with paras 10, 11, and 12 of CMM 2009-06.

9.0.1.4 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).

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.

9.0.1.5 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)

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2023	vu	37	189,276	1,439	23	0.1598
2024	vu	24	134,320	13,544	100	0.0738
2025	vu	22	134,849	6,536	51	0.0780

Table 17: 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
2023	vu	37	19,651	0	0	0.0000
2024	vu	24	3,395	405	2	0.0494
2025	vu	22	18,712	0	0	0.0000

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 south of 30S. Source - Tufman 2, reports: 3612 and 3605.

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
2023	vu	37	20,140	0	0	0.0000
2024	vu	24	16,967	4,464	15	0.0336
2025	vu	22	9,384	0	0	0.0000

year	flag_id	nb_vessel	hhooks	hhooks_obs	n_birds	capture_rate
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Table 19: 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
2023	vu	37	94,664	0	0	0
2024	vu	24	85,782	3,508	0	0
2025	vu	22	91,818	3,435	0	0

Table 20: 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
2023	vu	37	54,858	1,439	23	0.1598
2024	vu	24	28,175	5,110	83	0.1624
2025	vu	22	14,934	3,077	51	0.1657

Table 21: 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)

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2025	VU	4. Other combination	MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	No Mitigation	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS WB MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	WB MOD	0	0

Table 22: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in reporting year, in the area south of 30S. Source - Tufman 2, report: 3315.

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2025	VU	4. Other combination	MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	No Mitigation	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS WB MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	WB MOD	0	0

Table 23: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in reporting year, in the area between 30S and 25S. Source - Tufman 2, report: 3315.

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2025	VU	4. Other combination	MOD	20	9.6
2025	VU	4. Other combination	No Mitigation	84	40.2
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS	38	18.2
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS MOD	5	2.4
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS WB MOD	15	7.2
2025	VU	4. Other combination	WB MOD	47	22.5

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
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Table 24: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in the reporting year, in the area between 25S and south of 23N. Source - Tufman 2, report: 3315.

year	fleet	reqs	mitigation	sets	percent
2025	VU	4. Other combination	MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	No Mitigation	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	NS WB MOD	0	0
2025	VU	4. Other combination	WB MOD	0	0

Table 25: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in the reporting year, in the area north of 23N. Source - Tufman 2, report: 3315.

Table z

year	species	south30s	btwn25s30s	btwn23n25s	north23n	n_birds
2025	ALBATROSSES NEI	0	0	0	13	13
2025	BLACK- FOOTED ALBATROSS	0	0	0	16	16
2025	LAYSAN ALBATROSS	0	0	0	22	22

Table 26: Number of observed seabird captures in longline fisheries in the reporting year, by species and area. Source - Tufman 2, report: 3314.

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.

9.0.2 Section B

9.0.2.1 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
VU	2,021	42	1,712	104.9
VU	2,022	18	613	36.6
VU	2,023	14	590	37.4
VU	2,024	8	1,072	77.0
VU	2,025	8	318	20.6

Table 27: 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.

9.0.2.2 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 – Vanuatu 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 Vanuatu.

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 group s.

9.0.2.3 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.

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

gear	flag	year	vessels	days	n	wt
L	VU	2,021	29	2,196	207,839	2,441
L	VU	2,022	25	1,341	137,863	1,789
L	VU	2,023	17	1,106	91,282	1,229
L	VU	2,024	12	565	33,460	511
L	VU	2,025	9	294	36,049	510

Table 28: 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.

9.0.2.4 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.

flag	year	vessels	swo_n	swo_mt
VU	2,023	16	754	48.099
VU	2,024	11	323	23.257
VU	2,025	5	117	3.953

Table 29: Summary of vessels fishing in the North Pacific and the number and metric tonnes of North Pacific swordfish 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: 3513.

9.0.2.5 CCMM 2013-08 - Conservation and Management Measure for Silky Sharks

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any silky shark caught in the Convention Area, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
2. CCMs shall require all vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM to release any silky shark that is caught in the Convention Area as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible.

gear	species	number	weight date	eez	fate
ps	silky shark	0	10 10/01/2025	sb	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	10 11/02/2025	pg	discarded

gear	species	number	weight date	eez	fate
ps	silky shark	0	10 17/01/2025	sb	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	20 03/04/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	20 12/01/2025	sb	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 02/09/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 07/03/2025	gl	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 09/04/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 16/03/2025	h5	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	40 08/01/2025	gl	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	40 19/02/2025	pg	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	40 25/01/2025	tv	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	50 21/03/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	100 05/09/2025	i5	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	5 21/02/2025	pg	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	20 04/04/2025	h5	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	20 10/04/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 08/04/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 13/01/2025	sb	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 13/02/2025	h4	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	30 27/02/2025	tv	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	40 20/02/2025	pg	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	40 26/02/2025	tv	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	50 03/03/2025	pg	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	50 13/03/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	50 18/02/2025	pg	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	50 22/03/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	60 28/02/2025	tv	discarded

gear	species	number	weight date	eez	fate
ps	silky shark	0	70 24/03/2025	px	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	80 08/02/2025	tv	discarded
ps	silky shark	0	200 01/04/2025	px	discarded
ll	silky shark	1	12 08/01/2025	i5	retained

Table 30: Source - Tufman 2, report: 2955.

9.0.2.6 CMM 2012-04 - Conservation and Management Measure for protection of whale sharks from purse seine fishing operations

1. This measure shall apply to the high seas and exclusive economic zones of the Convention Area. CCMs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from setting a purse seine on a school of tuna associated with a whale shark if the animal is sighted prior to the commencement of the set.
2. CCMs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is not deliberately encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall:
 - (a) ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release.; and
 - (b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, including the number of individuals, details of how and why the encirclement happened, where it occurred, steps taken to ensure safe release, and an assessment of the life status of the whale shark on release (including whether the animal was released alive but subsequently died)

No data reported in 2025 for conservation and management measure for protection of whale sharks from purse seine fishing operations.

9.0.2.7 CMM 2011-04 - Conservation and Management Measure for Oceanic Whitetip Sharks

1. Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any oceanic whitetip shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
2. CCMs shall require all vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM to release any oceanic whitetip shark that is caught as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible.

No data reported in 2025 for conservation and management measure for oceanic whitetip sharks.

9.0.2.8 CMM 2010-07 - Conservation Management Measure for Sharks

Each CCM shall include key shark species, as identified by the Scientific Committee, in their annual reporting to the Commission of annual catch and fishing effort statistics by gear type, including available historical data, in accordance with the WCPF Convention and agreed reporting procedures. CCMs shall also report annual retained and discarded catches in Part 2 of their annual report. CCMs shall as appropriate, support research and development of strategies for the avoidance of unwanted shark captures (e.g. chemical, magnetic and rare earth metal shark deterrents)..

gear	species	number	retain	discard	unknown	finned_retain	finned_trunk_discard
s	oceanic whitetip shark	14	0	14	0	0	0
s	silky shark	100	0	100	0	0	0
l	bigeye thresher shark	52	1	51	0	1	8
l	blue shark	635	483	152	0	437	24
l	cookie cutter shark	3	0	3	0	0	0
l	crocodile shark	551	4	546	1	0	1
l	great hammerhead	1	0	1	0	0	0
l	great white shark	4	0	4	0	0	0
l	kitefin shark	52	0	52	0	0	0
l	longfin mako	2	0	2	0	0	0
l	oceanic whitetip shark	15	0	15	0	0	0
l	shortfin mako	68	2	66	0	1	36
l	silky shark	7	0	7	0	0	0
l	thresher shark (vulpinus)	1	0	1	0	0	1

Table 31: Source - Tufman 2, report: 2939.