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

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Submitted by Niue

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



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Abstract

Niue is not a flag state and does not host transshipments in its ports or EEZ, and is therefore exempt from compiling the information required in Annual Report Part 1 under WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). Yet, this report compiles relevant information on Niue's domestic artisanal fishery, including raised and unraised tuna catch estimates.

Background

Niue has not licensed any foreign fishing vessels for the past six years, resulting in no offshore catch to report for 2025. Domestic artisanal fishers continue to supply restaurants, families, and local markets, though at an inconsistent rate. Reduced annual catches have at times made it difficult to maintain reliable supply for food security. Shark depredation has also contributed to the decline, significantly impacting fishers' gear and morale.

As tourism grows, marine activities have diversified accordingly. Niue Fisheries is working with the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project to establish management arrangements for Niue's newest and largest marine protected area. The MPA will cover significant inshore and offshore habitats and species, as well as fishing and non-fishing activities. Catch-and-release sport fisheries may be permitted within the area under licence.

Flag state reporting

Although Niue is not a flag state, this section presents annual catch estimates derived from 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 1 presents the raised and unraised estimates per species for 2025, and Table 2 shows the percentage contribution of each species.

Table 1: Raised and unraised annual artisanal catch estimates in mt

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	1.08	1.27	8.06
unraised	0.16	0.35	1.83

Table 2: Percentage of the artisanal tuna ACE associated with each of the key species

Method	BET	SKJ	YFT
raised	10.37	12.20	77.43
unraised	6.84	14.96	78.21

Socio-economic factors

Whale watching is on the rise, with locals increasingly taking tourists out on charters during the June–September whale migration season.

Disposal of catch

Sharks that are caught in Niue’s waters must be discarded as per Niue’s legislation and the National Pelagic Management plan.

Onshore developments

The processing plant remains inactive, with no immediate plans for reactivation. Most current onshore development relates to access infrastructure, in particular the wharf upgrade. The upgrade aims to provide easier and safer offloading for fishing vessels, given the exposed nature of Niue’s only port, an issue identified during the last operational review as a key area for improvement. A boat and canoe launching site on the southern side of the island has also been used to offload catch when the main port was too rough for normal operations.

Future prospects of the fishery

The Pelagic Development and Management Plan provides the framework for guiding current and future prospects in the fishery, supported by long- and short-term partnerships. One key long-term partnership is with the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project, which is establishing management arrangements for Niue's newest and largest marine protected area. The MPA will cover significant inshore and offshore habitats and species, along with both fishing and non-fishing activities. Work with NOW is already underway to develop surveillance tools for monitoring parts of the MPA. Negotiations regarding Niue's High Seas allocation are also ongoing.

Status of tuna fishery data collection systems

The process of data collection is enshrined in the Licensing terms and conditions of foreign vessels fishing in Niue waters. Reporting and data collection is mandatory with authorised Officers rights to set the terms, though these are based on data requirements of SPC and WCPFC. Penalties are imposed on denying or refusal of access to data. For Artisanal data, a data officer has been identified and appointed to recommence collecting of data 4 days per week. In some cases including Saturday to cover Fishing competitions held by various Communities. In previous years fishermen were relied upon to record their own data. Along with the offshore data, this data is entered and stored in the TUFMAN database developed by SPC.

Research activities covering target and non-target species

Research on pelagic species is subject to funding availability and the priorities set out in the National Pelagic Management and Development Plan. In 2010, a wahoo tagging programme was conducted using satellite tags and the ARGOS tracking system to study wahoo movements. In 2019, tuna and shark tagging was carried out in collaboration with the NOW project. In 2016, Niue hosted Pristine Seas (National Geographic) to research pelagic fish assemblages using mid-water baited remote underwater video stations (BRUVS); at the same time, the Pacific Community conducted finfish and invertebrate surveys with Niue Fisheries staff. Further research is expected subject to funding availability.

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.
- Niue is not a flagged state.
 - Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
 - Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.

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

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.

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 transshipped outside the Convention Area;
 - d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;
 - e. species;
 - f. product form; and
 - g. fishing gear used

No report available – Niue did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, Niue does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue did not approve nor authorize any transshipment activity.

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

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue did not approve nor authorize any transshipment activity.

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.

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

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

No interactions with cetaceans were reported to or by Niue 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)

No report available – Niue did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, Niue does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

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No report available – Niue did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, Niue does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

Table(s) y (by area)

No report available – Niue did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, Niue does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

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Table z

No report available – Niue did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, Niue does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

No interactions with cetaceans were reported to or by Niue in 2025.

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.

No report available – Niue did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, Niue does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.

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

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.

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 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

No report available – Niue did not flag nor charter any long-line vessels in 2025 , therefore, Niue does not have any report to submit for the CMM; Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)).

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.

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

- Niue is not a flagged state.
- Niue does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.
- Niue does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.

Niue does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.