



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION
11-19 August 2026
Apia, Samoa (Hybrid)**

COMPILATION OF CATCH DISCARDS

**WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP06
30 July 2026**

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide information to the Scientific Committee (SC) on the catch discard data that the Secretariat received in accordance with [CMM 2025-04](#) paragraph 16. Information on catch discards was also requested by the Commission at WCPFC22.¹
2. This paper focuses on reported discard data for 2024 and 2025 with supporting information in Annex A showing a complete list of the discarded species and volumes from 2010 to 2023.

Background

3. WCPFC22 adopted [CMM 2025-04](#) Conservation and Management Measure on the Application of High Seas FAD Closure and Catch Retention which superseded CMM 2009-02. Paragraph 16 of this CMM tasks the Secretariat with compiling the information submitted in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 15 and making it available to flag CCMs, SC, and TCC.
4. Paragraph 12 of CMM 2025-04 requires operators of vessels to provide to the CCM authority or the Secretariat information about catch discards as soon as possible, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after any discard. Paragraph 13 requires this information to be provided to the observer on board.
5. Paragraph 14 of CMM 2025-04 requires that any flag CCMs that require their vessels to provide the information in paragraph 12 only to the flag CCM shall notify this arrangement to the Secretariat by the end of February 2026.
6. Paragraph 15 of CMM 2025-04 requires any flag CCMs that require their vessels to provide the information for catch discards only to the flag CCM shall compile the information submitted from 1 January to 31 December in the previous year and report it to the Secretariat by 7 July annually.

¹ [https://meetings.wcpfc.int/WCPFC22 Outcomes and Summary Report/29456](https://meetings.wcpfc.int/WCPFC22_Outcomes_and_Summary_Report/29456) paragraph 495

Rules for reporting catch retention reflected in discard categories

7. Paragraph 9 of CMM 2025-04 clarified reporting definitions where the operator of a vessel determines that fish should not be retained on board because they are “unfit for human consumption”:
8. “Unfit for human consumption” includes, but is not limited to fish that:
 - i. is meshed or crushed in the purse seine net; or
 - ii. is damaged due to shark or whale depredation; or
 - iii. has died and spoiled in the net where a gear failure has prevented both the normal retrieval of the net and catch and efforts to release the fish alive; and
9. “Unfit for human consumption” does not include:
 - i. Undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition;
 - ii. Spoiled or contaminated as the result of an act or omission of the fishing vessel.

Notifications received

10. As of 20 July 2026, the Secretariat had not received any paragraph 14 notifications from flag CCMs notifying the Secretariat of an arrangement to require operators to send catch discard notifications to the flag CCM during 2026.
11. The Secretariat confirms receipt of Chinese Taipei’s compilation of catch discard information for RY2025 on 7 July 2026 in accordance with paragraph 15.

Catch discard notifications in 2024 and 2025

12. The discard reports received from vessel operators have been entered into a Secretariat database. The notifications are currently emailed to several different email addresses. To simplify the management of this reporting, the Secretariat has established a new email address which will be notified to CCMs – discards@wcpfc.int. There is currently no further direction regarding the administration or use of these data. CCMs are asked to consider any further administration of this data and its use that would add value to the reporting. In the future, for example, the Secretariat could include any logbook or observer reported information on discards that could be used to compare the completeness and quality of reporting and could provide information on the general distribution of discard locations.
13. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the number of catch discard notifications received for purse seine vessels in 2024 and 2025 for fish identified as unfit for human consumption. Seven CCMs reported discards in 2024 and six CCMs in 2025. In both years, Nauru submitted substantially more catch discard notifications than any other CCM, accounting for over half of all notifications received by the Secretariat. At the time of preparing this report, not all RY2025 discards submitted by Chinese Taipei had been entered into the Secretariat database.

14. Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the reported discard volumes by species and reason for discard in 2024 and 2025. Skipjack tuna accounted for most reported discard volumes in both years, with yellowfin tuna comprising most of the remaining reported volume. The principal reasons reported for discards were fish assessed as insufficient well space, shark or whale depredation, and fish meshed or crushed in the net. The number of notifications should not be interpreted as directly corresponding to discard volume, as individual notifications may involve substantially different quantities of fish. Annex A Figure 5 provides historical context for reported discard volumes by species from 2010 to 2023, showing that skipjack tuna has consistently accounted for the largest reported discard volumes over the reporting period.



Figure 1. The number of catch discard notifications by flag CCMs that were submitted from vessel operators from 1 January to 31 December 2024, on the high seas between 20°S and 20°N. Chinese Taipei is incomplete as of 23 July 2026.



Figure 2. The number of catch discard notifications by flag CCMs that were submitted from vessel operators from 1 January to 31 December 2025, on the high seas between 20°S and 20°N.

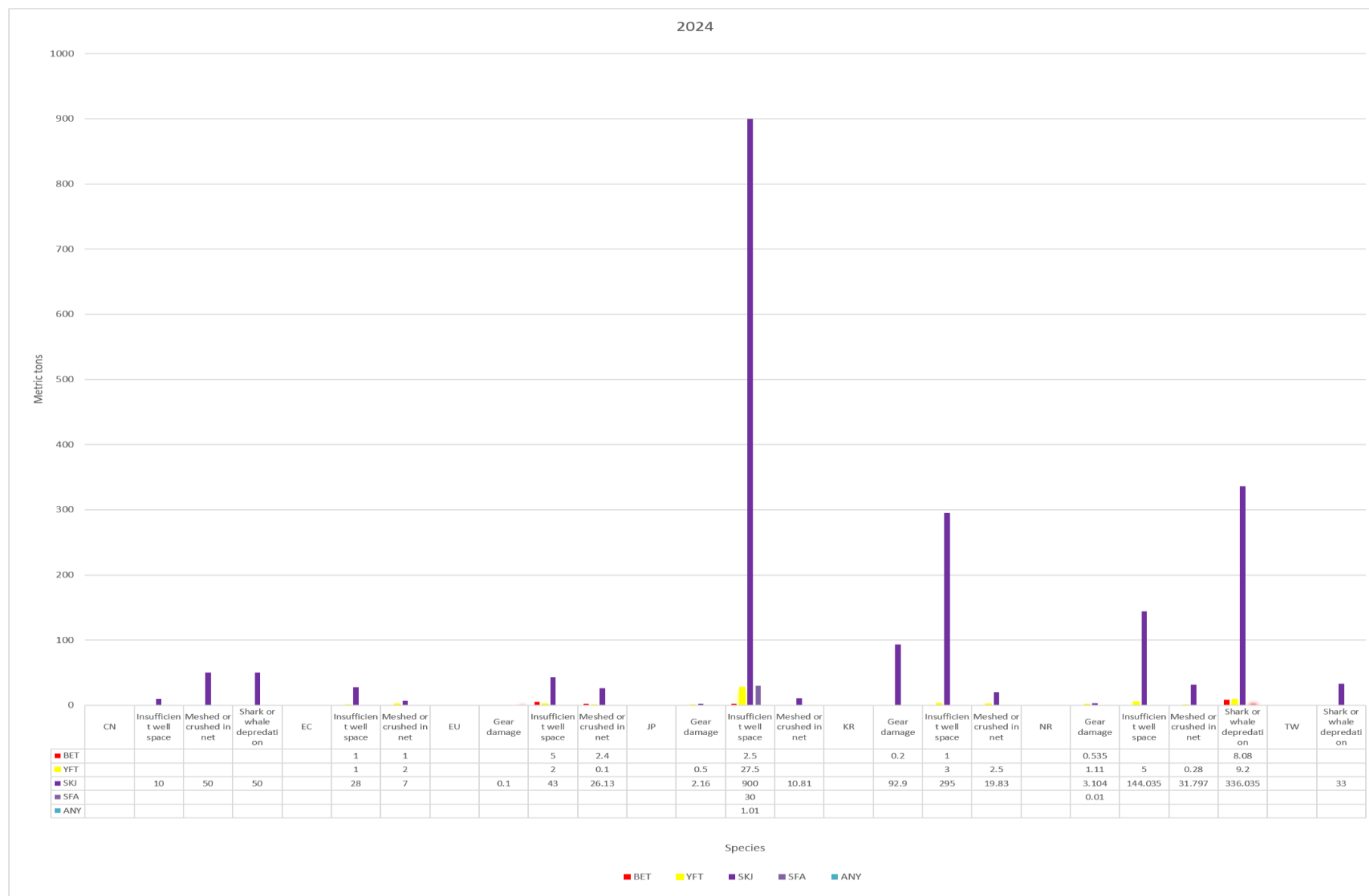


Figure 3. The quantity of discarded species in metric tons and the reasons for discards in 2024 submitted by vessel operators for each CCM.

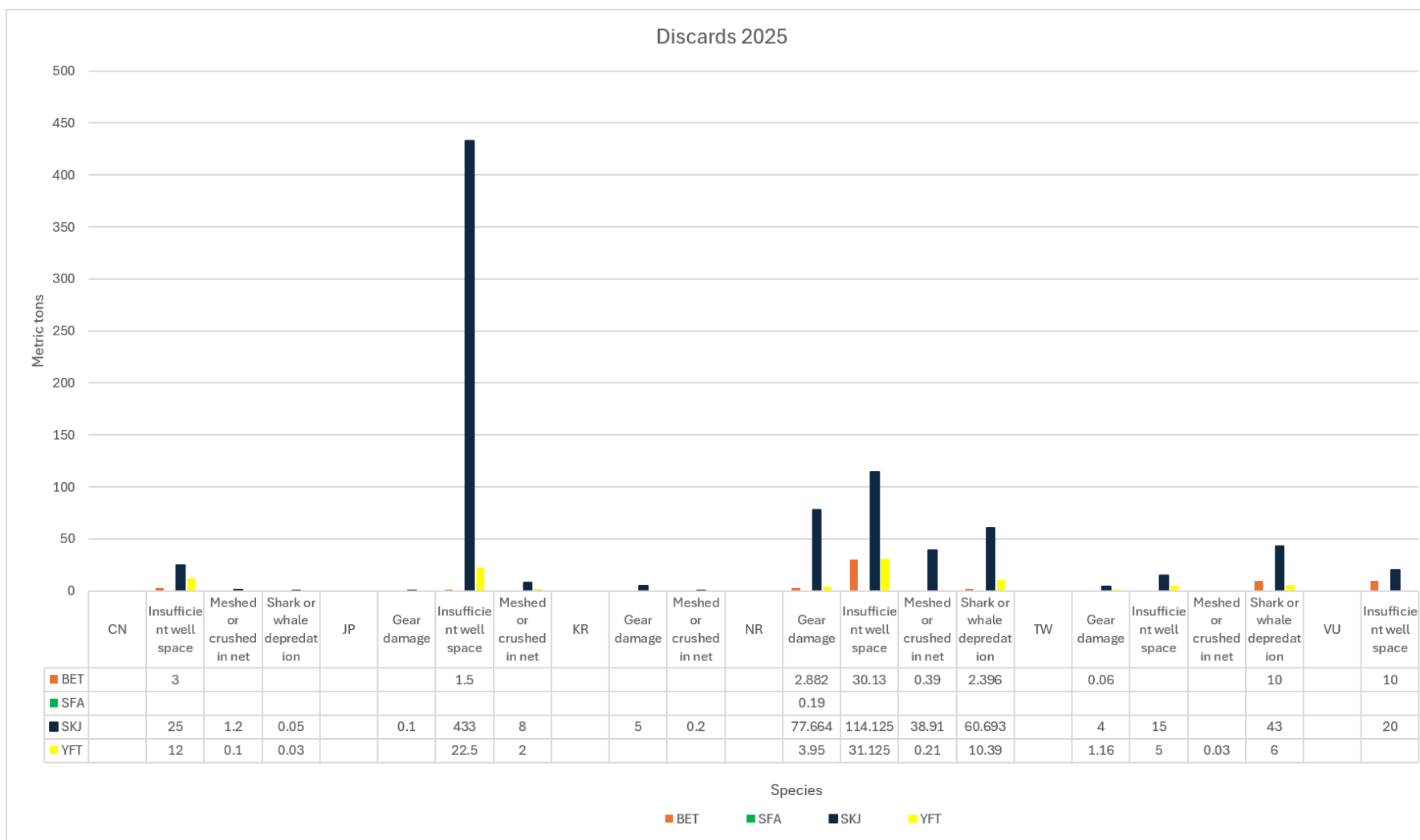


Figure 4. The quantity of discarded species in metric tons and the reasons for discards in 2025 submitted by vessel operators for each CCM.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that SC22:

- i. **Note** the Secretariat has established a dedicated catch discard notification email address (discards@wcpfc.int) to streamline the management of notifications from vessel operators and flag CCMS; and
- ii. **Provide** feedback on this report to inform future presentations of data compilations; and
- iii. **Provide** any further advice on the administration of this data to improve the value of reporting.

Figure 5. Reported discard volumes by species (metric tonnes), 2010–2023.

No.	Year	Bigeye Tuna	Yellowfin tuna	Skipjack	Sailfish	Sharks	Other species
1	2010	16.0	127.5	957.3	0	0	0
2	2011	14.0	96.7	589.0	0	0	0
3	2012	35.7	362.9	4555.5	0	0	53.0
4	2013	148.1	285.7	5120.0	0	0	6.5
5	2014	65.7	195.7	4005.3	0	0	0.5
6	2015	48.4	4575.7	4138.5	0	0	0.4
7	2016	109.7	517.4	3978.0	0	0	2.3
8	2017	55.1	370.7	2952.3	0	0.1	0.2
9	2018	58.0	240.0	3833.5	0	0	3.6
10	2019	34.2	243.1	4401.5	0	0	0.0
11	2020	27.3	282.	2426.7	0	0	0
12	2021	1.0	2.9	307.0	0	0	0
13	2022	0.3	8.7	97.1	0	0	0
14	2023	2.6	46.2	431.0	0	0	0.5

