

Catch Discards

WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP06

Agenda Item 3.2



Purpose

- Provides compiled catch discard data information to SC22 (CMM 2025-04, paragraph 16 tasking)
- CMM 2025-04 relates to discarded catch on the high seas between 20°S and 20°N
- Provides historical summary of reported data but focuses on 2024 and 2025
- Chinese Taipei compiled data for 2025 partially entered

Background

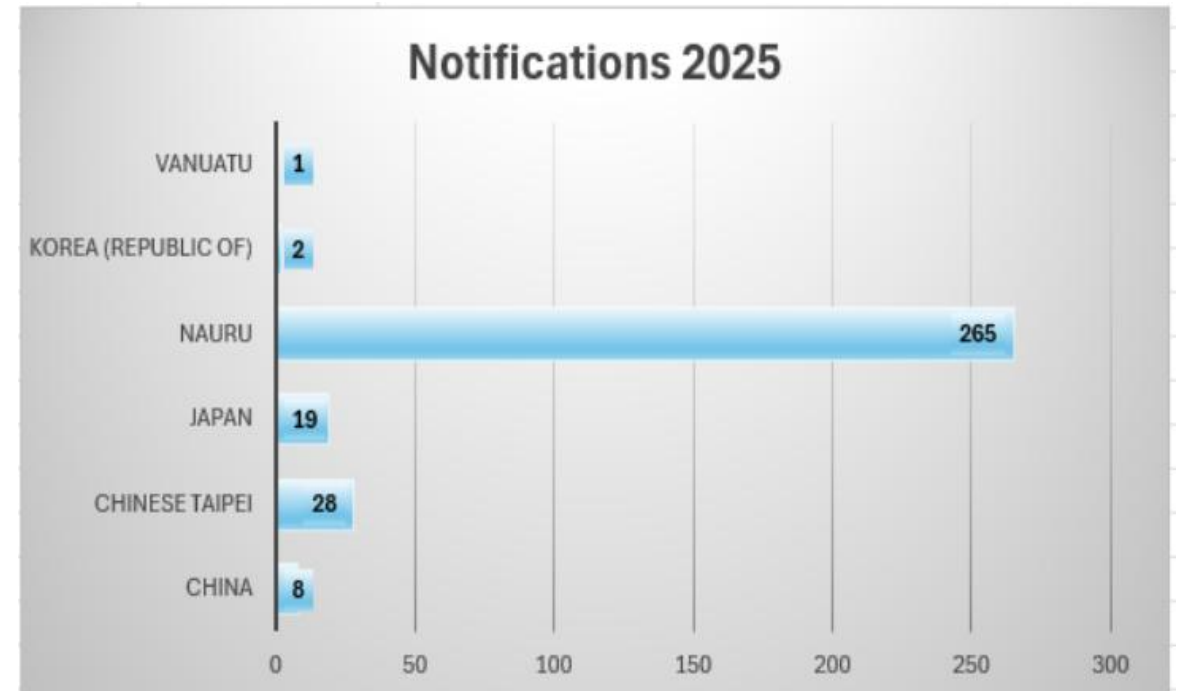
- Vessel operators:
 - provide data to CCM authority or the Secretariat no later than seventy-two (72) hours after any discard. (para 12)
 - provide to observer (para 13)
- If flag CCM notifies Secretariat by end of February that their vessels will only provide para 12 data to the flag CCM, flag CCM compiles 1 January to 31 December data and provides to the Secretariat by 7 July.

Reporting to the Secretariat

- Secretariat has established a new email address for better reporting management (discards@wcpfc.int).
- Secretariat:
 - enters data from vessel operators and compiled data from flag CCMs;
 - compiles all notified data for flag CCMs, SC and TCC
- No notifications from flag CCMs that vessel operators only report to flag CMM
- Chinese Taipei submitted its RY2025 compiled catch discard information for 2025 on 7 July 2026

2024 – 2025 Notifications

- 7 CCMs submitted notifications in 2024, and 6 CCMs in 2025
- Nauru submitted the highest number of catch discard notifications in both reporting years



Categories for reporting

- Reporting categories species and amount for fish that vessel operator determines as unfit for human consumption (para 9) includes:
 - is meshed or crushed in the purse seine net; or
 - is damaged due to shark or whale depredation; or
 - has died and spoiled in the net;
- and excludes:
 - Undesirable in terms of size, marketability, or species composition;
 - Spoiled or contaminated as the result of an act or omission of the fishing vessel

Discarded species, quantity and reason

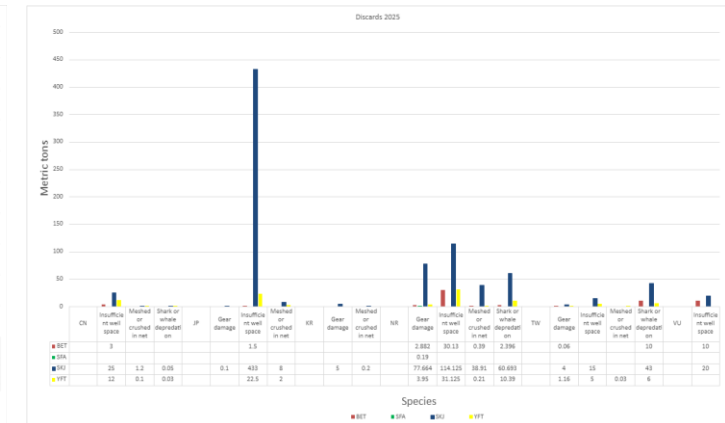


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- Principle reasons:
 - Gear damage
 - Insufficient well space
 - Meshed or crushed in net
 - Shark or whale depredation



- Total discards for RY2024 2189.826Mt
- Total SKJ-2082.901 (95% of total discards)
- Total YFT-54.19 (2.5%)



- Total discards for RY2025 1000.985Mt
- Total SKJ-845.942 (84.5%)
- Total YFT-94.495 (9%)

Recommendations

- It is recommended SC22:
 - a. Note the Secretariat is establishing a specific catch discard notification email – discards@wcpfc.int to simplify the management of notifications from vessel operators and flag CCMs; and
 - b. Provide feedback on this report to inform future presentations of data compilations; and
 - c. Provide any further advice on the use or management of this data to improve the value of reporting.

