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

WCPFC-SC5-AR/CCM-13

NAURU

Background

The main feature of Nauru's tuna fisheries is that it is dominated by the offshore purse seine fishing fleet operated by distant water fishing nations. The focus of this report will therefore be slanted towards Coastal state reporting obligations.

The artisanal fishery continues to provide an important source of food for the population and is evenly made up of canoe fishermen and small aluminum dinghy operators. Their catch data is compiled by the Coastal Division of NFMRA and is collected through creel surveys and the Canoe Catch Logbook provided by SPC. Improvements in data collection processes have seen an increase in reported catches for 2008.

The largest fishery is the Purse Seine fleet by the Distant Water Fishing Nations. In the early to mid 90's the dominant fleet was the US purse seiners followed by PIC domesticated boats under the FSM Arrangement but since then other nations from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and more recently the Chinese have all negotiated access into the Nauru EEZ. Consequently the total annual purse seine catches in Nauru EEZ have gradually risen to relatively significant proportions in the region.

Besides Purse seining there is no other significant commercial fishery that is in current operation although the NFMRA trialed longline operation with two midsized vessels in early 2000's with little success and eventually scrapped. Likewise the Japanese under Bilateral Agreement applied for several Pole and Line and Longline licenses but these were also short-lived.

Fleet Structure

Artisanal fleet

This fleet comprises all the small skiffs and canoes operated by local artisanal fishermen. The data collected by the Coastal Fisheries Division of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority with the assistance of the SPC who provided FAD Canoe Fishing logbooks for local fishermen to report their catches. The data collection has been refined to suit local conditions and the marked difference from 2007 to 2008 is a result of that refinement and improved data collection.

Table 1. Annual catch estimates for the NAURU ARTISANAL fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2008. (Source: Raised estimate based on Canoe logbook data; Coastal/NFMRA)

Year	Catch (kg)				
	Yellowfin Tuna	Skipjack Tuna	Big Eye Tuna	Others	Total
2006
2007	11.1	7.4		2.0	20.5
2008	2149.9	1403.19	33.15	831.98	4418.22

Domestic fleet

The two longliners operated by the Nauru Fisheries Corporation were decommissioned in 2008 and therefore there is no recent catch data beyond those presented at SC2.

Fishing Partner Purse seine fleets:

In 2008 there were 130 foreign purse seiners licensed to fish in Nauru. Providing support to most these purse seine fleets were an additional 6 Bunker vessels. Table 2 gives a breakdown of the fleets by country and by size according to the size categories. The majority of the purse seine vessels fall within the 1001 -1500 GRT category (89) followed by the smaller 501 to 1000 size group (38) and 31 vessels fitting in the superseiner category of over 1500 GRT (14)

Table.2 Foreign Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2008

Flag	No of vessels	Gear	0-500Grt	501-1000Grt	1001-1500Grt	1500Grt+
Japan	33	PS	0	1	30	2
Korea	27	PS	0	11	13	3
New Zealand	3	PS	0	0	1	2
Chinese T	33	PS	0	18	16	1
US	9	PS	0	2	18	16
China	10	PS	0	5	5	2
Vanuatu	6	PS	0	0	0	3
FSM	3	PS	0	1	0	2
Kiribati	1	PS	0	0	1	0
Marshall Is	5	PS	0	0	5	0
Total	130		0	38	89	31

Coastal State Reporting

Annual Catch Estimates for the Distant Water Purse seine fleet:

Table 2 below shows the recent activities of the foreign fishing fleet in Nauru over the last 5 years since 2004. The Catch Data from this fishery is compiled from the operator's Catch Logbooks which are required, as part of the licensing conditions, to be submitted after completion of a fishing trip.

Table 2. Annual catches by major purse seine fleets in the NAURU EEZ, by flag and species, 2004-2008 (Source : Regional tuna fisheries database; 2008 data are provisional)

Fleet	Year	Days	CATCH (metric tonnes)				
			SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL
China	2004	52	1,045	5	1	0	1,051
	2005	222	3,270	894	50	0	4,214
	2006	406	8,409	106	3	0	8,518
	2007	135	1,657	114	16	0	1,787
	2008	115	341	250	35	0	626
FSM Arrangement	2004	576	17,308	831	151	0	18,290
	2005	479	14,573	2,481	233	0	17,287
	2006	423	10,849	1,153	105	0	12,107
	2007	551	26,069	1,634	478	0	28,181
	2008	349	6,807	2,167	341	0	9,315
Japan	2004	343	5,179	882	298	0	6,359
	2005	317	5,462	893	47	0	6,403
	2006	261	3,463	789	46	0	4,298
	2007	31	861	98	34	0	993
	2008	6	0	0	0	0	0
Korea	2004	403	9,736	857	53	0	10,646
	2005	257	2,827	1,184	39	0	4,049
	2006	326	12,108	2,991	222	0	15,321
	2007	391	12,036	1,700	73	0	13,809
	2008	486	14,282	3,932	52	0	18,265
New Zealand	2004	99	1,461	250	83	0	1,793
	2005	32	853	10	1	0	864
	2006	21	43	24	9	0	77
	2007	38	916	72	21	0	1,009
	2008	32	819	102	22	0	943
Chinese Taipei	2004	665	18,878	1,182	54	0	20,114
	2005	339	7,934	855	68	0	8,856
	2006	580	12,689	1,306	65	0	14,061
	2007	312	8,151	952	107	0	9,210
	2008	355	6,270	1,216	109	0	7,595
USA	2004	326	5,508	768	267	0	6,543
	2005	182	4,179	867	299	0	5,345
	2006	63	723	558	288	0	1,569
	2007	119	3,517	118	229	0	3,864
	2008	465	13,227	1,546	438	0	15,210
Vanuatu	2004	116	2,750	349	29	0	3,128
	2005	139	3,949	164	13	0	4,126
	2006	79	1,424	115	9	0	1,548
	2007	149	5,959	366	20	0	6,345
	2008	62	1,343	602	11	0	1,956
TOTAL EEZ	2004	2,580	61,865	5,124	934	0	67,923
	2005	1,967	43,047	7,347	750	0	51,144
	2006	2,159	49,708	7,043	748	0	57,498
	2007	1,726	59,167	5,054	978	0	65,199
	2008	1,869	43,089	9,814	1,008	0	53,911

Coastal State Reporting (continued)

Annual Catch Estimates for the Distant Water Purse seine fleet:

In the current La Nina / Neutral oceanographic conditions, the fishing data in table 2 shows that the total provisional catch data for 2008 is not in great variance with previous years, although there is significant variance in catches between some years within the same fleets. Catches by the US fleet has increased significantly between 2007 and 2008 and more increase is expected as the fleet grows in number to their maximum quota under the current Treaty. Of the bilateral fleets, Korea and Chinese Taipei continue to provide the bulk of the catches in 2008, while Japan's catch has gradually declined as the fleet gains new access in other members EEZ.

END OF REPORT