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

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TOKELAU



GOVERNMENT OF TOKELAU

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TOKELAU ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WCPF COMMISSION FOR 2009

Part 1 (Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics)

INTRODUCTION

Tokelau is in the process of developing its tuna management capacities. Key initiatives include strengthening the capacities of the Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment; reviewing of the National Tuna Development and Management Plan; reviewing of the licensing regimes through legislations, establishing a statistical database; and the continuous upgrading of the national facility for the operation of the FFA VMS.

1.1 ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Tuna fisheries in Tokelau include two elements.

The first is the small, but important, artisanal fishery, comprising of small boats ranging from 12 to 16 ft dingies, which fish primarily for local consumption using troll and handline methods.

Domestic fisheries development in Tokelau is severely constrained by market access and lack of infrastructure, and the Government is committed to a development strategy that will provide opportunities for Tokelauans to participate in small-scale commercial tuna fishery development.

The second is the offshore fishery which is currently undertaken by foreign fishing vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States. Vessels licensed in recent years include New Zealand and United States purse seiners, and a small number of Vanuatu, Chinese Taipei and United States long-liners. There are no facilities in Tokelau to cater for transshipment or for the processing of large-scale commercial tuna catches. All catches by foreign licensed vessels are offloaded outside Tokelau.

The levels of fishing by these vessels and revenues generated from foreign fishing vessel licensing have fluctuated substantially over the last few years.

Tokelau does not have the capacity to flag fishing vessels thus there are no Tokelau flagged fishing vessels.

Year	Vessels Nos	Days	Catch by Species			
			SJK	YFT	BET	OTH
2002		368	5665	689	53	0
2003		27	36	35	0	0
2004		66	764	241	0	0
2005		114	4256	90	0	0
2006		32	869	150	0	0
2007		43	843	36	0	0
2008		63	1785	102	17	0

The table above shows catch and effort in Tokelau waters by commercial fishing vessels for the period 2002 to 2008. All catches reported in this table are by purse seine vessels. Tokelau only started licensing longline vessels in 2007.

1.2 RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Tokelau presently has a small fisheries administration with only three staff members currently committed full time to commercial fisheries management. The tuna research and statistics needs of Tokelau are largely met by the support of the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme.

All foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish in Tokelau waters are required to carry on board an FFA approved Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) or Mobile Transmitting Unit (MTU) and whilst within Tokelau waters they are monitored by the FFA installed Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) workstations installed in Tokelau in 2004.

Tokelau has yet to establish an Observer and a port sampling programmes. However, in the draft Sea and Fisheries Rules 2009, the establishment of an Observer program is proposed and is expected to be implemented once these draft Sea and Fisheries Rules are endorsed.

The lack of port and wharfage infrastructure and facilities to allow boarding and inspection and transshipment to be carried out in Tokelau is the major contributing factor to there being no port sampling programmes conducted in Tokelau.