



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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CHARTER ARRANGEMENT OPTIONS

WCPFC-TCC5-2009/10

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Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Background

1. Following a directive at WCPFC2 that the Commission develop a charter arrangements scheme (CAS) in 2006, the Secretariat produced a paper on vessel chartering arrangements for consideration at TCC2 (WCPFC/TCC2/2006/15), which also included a draft proposal. Japan also tabled a proposal at TCC2 (WCPFC/TCC2/2006/DP06) for a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) on vessel chartering, based on the existing ICCAT scheme. TCC2 was unable to reach agreement for development of a Measure and deferred further consideration of the matter.

2. At WCPFC3, FFA members tabled a draft proposal (WCPFC3/2006/DP06 Rev.1) which, together with Japan's existing draft proposal, was referred by the Commission to TCC3 for further consideration and advice. At TCC3, Japan presented a delegation paper containing their comments on the FFA proposal (WCPFC-TCC3-2007/DP08). TCC3 was not able to advance the issue further and the matter was again deferred.

3. TCC4 had limited discussion on possible arrangements for vessel chartering. FFA members requested that the Secretariat conduct a gaps analysis to determine what measures related to vessel chartering that are not already implemented under other CMMs could usefully be considered for a new CMM on vessel chartering arrangements. Other CMMs, while noting the importance of avoiding any impacts on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) fishery development, also noted that vessel chartering arrangements must be in accordance with international law and flag States will necessarily maintain responsibility for their vessels on the high seas. These CMMs acknowledged that this is a problematic issue but one which must be solved because of the potential links between vessel chartering and IUU fishing. Decision points from that Session (see paragraphs 249-251 of the TCC4 Summary Report) record that:

- “Charter schemes were identified as an important matter particularly for Small Island Developing States;
- FFA members were encouraged to meet with Japan in an effort to make progress on this issue;
- The Secretariat is directed to produce an analysis of existing draft CMMs by Japan and FFA with respect to chartering for consideration at TCC5.”

4. The 2008 annual session of the Commission at Busan confirmed prioritization of the development of a CAS in 2009 (see paragraph 272, WCPFC5 Summary Report). CMMs adopted at Busan also reflect

an expectation that a CAS will be developed during 2009 (CMM 2008-01 (para. 2) and CMM 2008-05 para. 7).

5. The paper prepared for TCC2 (WCPFC/TCC2/2006/15) on chartering arrangements contains relevant background information to support further consideration of charter arrangements at TCC5.

Considerations in developing a charter arrangements scheme for the WCPFC Convention Area

6. Three key issues discussed in relation to charters during the PrepCon and Commission meetings, include:

- a. the need to satisfy the economic needs of some CCMs who rely on charters for the sustainable development of their tuna fisheries;
- b. concerns that the unregulated use of charters may lead to an increase or transfer in fishing effort that undermines the effectiveness of Commission conservation and management measures; and
- c. the need to ensure that charters do not become a loophole leading to IUU fishing in the Convention Area.

7. CCMs accept that charter vessels can present an economically efficient means for developing States to develop their fisheries. Some CCMs consider that the Scheme should not make it more difficult for them to find vessels for charter and joint venture operations to support the development of their fisheries. There is also a concern that any Scheme does not limit CCMs from chartering vessels to harvest their national allocations beyond their existing fishing capacity, to be able to benefit from possible extension of their fisheries to the high seas.

8. In developing the CAS, consideration will also need to be given to the data provision requirements of the Commission described in *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission*¹:

“Flag states or entities shall be responsible for providing to the Commission scientific data covering vessels they have flagged, except for vessels operating under joint venture or charter arrangements with another state such that the vessels operate, for all intents and purposes, as local vessels of the other State, in which case the other State shall be responsible for the provision of data to the Commission.”

9. During 2009, the Secretariat and SPC-OFP have been working with CCMs to correctly attribute catch for vessels that have operated in the Convention Area under lease, charter or other similar arrangements (see WCPFC-SC5-2009/ST-SWG/WP01).

IUU fishing concerns

10. Globally, concerns have been expressed that the use of charters may provide loopholes for increased IUU fishing. There are three particular concerns in this regard:

- a. it can be very difficult to establish the genuine identity of who is ultimately controlling the chartered vessel (beneficial owner);
- b. confusion can arise over responsibility for control of the chartered vessel on the high seas; and
- c. boat owners may exploit the transfer of responsibility for vessels from their flag State to another State in order to avoid compliance with conservation and management measures.

¹ As adopted at WCPFC4, Guam, USA, December 2007

11. To address the above concerns, the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) requires²:

All States involved in a chartering arrangement, including flag States and other States that accept such an arrangement, should, within the limits of their respective jurisdictions, take measures to ensure that chartered vessels do not engage in IUU fishing³.

12. Further detail on the IPOA provision and proposals for its implementation are provided in Section 4.1.1 of No 9 of the FAO Series of Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries on Implementation of the IPOA-IUU. The Technical Guidelines note four possible responses including:

- a. requiring that chartered vessels take on the nationality of the State in which it has been chartered to fish;
- b. not allowing chartered vessels to fish on the high seas;
- c. making both States involved responsible for controlling the high seas fishing conducted pursuant to a charter arrangement; and,
- d. providing for boarding and inspection of chartered vessels on the high seas through regional arrangements of the sort provided for in Articles 21 and 22 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

13. The FAO Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries on Implementation of the IPOA-IUU further notes:

that RFMOs may have a role to play in ensuring that chartering arrangements for stocks under their purview do not lead to IUU fishing. Among other things, agreed rules for chartering arrangements can ensure that vessels do not engage in “flag hopping” to gain access to more than one member’s quota. Chartering rules can also provide for the orderly development of fisheries by developing States, while also allowing the RFMO to allocate access to fishery resources in a fair and transparent manner.

14. The Commission’s Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorisation process (CMM 2004-01) limits potential charter vessels to those from CCMs.

Comparison of existing proposals

15. A comparison of current CAS proposals that have supported discussion in previous TCCs is presented at Attachment A.

Gaps analysis of existing CMMs in respect of charter arrangements

16. An analysis of existing CMMs and potential gaps with respect to chartering is presented at Attachment B.

Options for moving forward

A. *No action, maintain status quo*

17. The current situation is one in which many different types of arrangements exist throughout the WCPF Convention Area, some of which may or may not fall into a chartering category. This option means that the Commission has only a weak role in monitoring charter arrangements thereby creating a

² IPOA-IUU paragraph 37

potential loophole for IUU fishing activities. This option does not address the existing data gaps and uncertainties associated with charter vessels, such as attribution of catch. It is also inconsistent with Commission calls for development of a CAS.

B. Commission Guidelines

18. This option involves the development and implementation of guidelines for charter arrangements. The Commission, through various existing CMMs, has tasked itself with developing a Scheme for regulating chartering arrangements, but since the Scheme itself has not yet been developed, guidelines cannot be developed at this point.

C. Notification Process

19. Paragraph 2 of CMM 2008-01 (Bigeye tuna and Yellowfin tuna) and Paragraph 7 of CMM 2008-05 (Swordfish) provide that “vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism by developing islands States and participating territories, as an integral part of their domestic fleet, shall be considered to be vessels of the host island State and territory”.

20. To give effect to this provision in both measures, and to clarify the operations of charter vessels in the Convention Area, the Commission needs to adopt a notification process for CCMs to advise of the vessels which are operating under “lease, charter or other similar mechanisms” and acknowledgement of responsibility for these vessels in all matters concerning the Commission. The notification should include information clarifying details on i) attribution of catch by chartered vessels, including for purposes of calculating contributions to the annual budget of the Commission, ii) responsibilities on provision of data⁴, and, iii) responsibility over chartered vessels that operate on the high seas areas of the Convention Area.

21. In moving forward in this way the provisions of CMM 2008-01 (paragraph 2) and CMM 2008-5 (paragraph 7) for the development of arrangements to support lease, charter and other similar arrangements could be satisfied⁵.

Recommendations

22. CCMs are invited to provide TCC5 with:

- a) Additional information relating to charter, lease or similar mechanisms that historically, or currently, form part of their domestic fleet arrangements; and
- b) Advice on options for arrangements for a CAS, as called for at WCPFC5, and identification of any additional work to support that.

⁴ Confirmation that the provisions in *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission* will apply.

⁵ It is possible that the domestic legislation of some CCMs will mean that vessels may not be sourced from those CCMs for lease, charter or other similar arrangements.

Attachment A

Element	Japanese Proposal	FFA Proposal
Preambular principles	Consistency with WCPF Convention; Art 92 of UNCLOS; Needs and interests of all Members and PTs consistent with relevant WCPFC rules and regulations; mindful of reflagging problems; need to regulate charter arrangements; consistency with other RFMOs; in accord with Art 10 of WCPFC.	Art 92 of UNCLOS; contribution to sustainable fisheries development; ensure that charter arrangements do not promote IUU activities or undermine CMMs; recognizing need to regulate.
Application	CCM vessels which explicitly agree to apply CMMs and enforce them on their vessels	CCM vessels operating under charter, lease, etc, by another Member/PT as an integral part of domestic fleet. To be considered as an integral part of the domestic fleet, the vessel must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Be licensed to fish in waters under the jurisdiction of the chartering Member/PT; · Catch must be normally unloaded in the ports of the chartering Member/PT or a neighboring CCM; or · The commercial entity chartering the vessel must be legally established in the chartering Member/PT.
Compliance responsibility	Chartering Members/PTs and flag CCMs	Chartering Member/PT and flag CCM; flag State responsibility when charter vessel fishing on high seas.
Charter duration	As initial step in fishery development of chartering nation, consistent with development schedule	No time limit

Authorized charter vessels	Charter vessels must be registered to CCMs	Must be on WCPFC vessel record and licensed to fish in waters under the jurisdiction of the chartering Member/PT
Fishing areas authorized (i.e. high seas, national jurisdiction, multiple EEZs, etc)	No high seas; only waters under national jurisdiction of chartering Member/PT	Silent, but implication is wherever authorized by chartering Member/PT or flag State CCM
Catch attribution	Counted against chartering Member/PT	Counted against chartering Member/PT, unless existing alternative arrangement in place and details are provided to the Commission (silent on distinction between high seas and EEZ catch)
MCS requirements	Observers (10% of vessels or 10% of fishing time); VMS	No distinction; same MCS rules apply to chartered vessels as to all authorized vessels
Ex-vessel requirements	Unloading exclusively in ports of chartering Member/PT or under their direct supervision	Catch shall “normally” be unloaded in the ports of the chartering Member/PT or a neighboring CCM
Data collection and reporting requirements	Chartering Member/PT and flag CCM to record catches; Chartering Member/PT and flag CCM to report catch and other info	Not explicit, but charter vessels subject to same reporting requirements in accord with relevant CMMs
Consistency with other RFMOs	Yes	Silent
Business requirements	Must be legally established in chartering Member/PT	Commercial entity chartering the vessel must be legally established in the chartering Member/PT (those that do not have system of national company registration shall establish an alternative arrangement for securing control over the charterer).

Information to be provided to the Executive Director by chartering Member/PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. name and registration of chartered vessel b. name and address of vessel owner c. description of vessel, incl length, type and fishing method d. species covered by the charter and quota, catch limit or other type of fishing opportunity allocated to the chartering Member/PT e. charter duration f. consent of flag CCM g. measures adopted to implement scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. name of fishing vessel, port of registry and WIN b. name and address of owner c. name and address of charterer d. fishing method e. charter duration
Information to be provided to the ED by the flag CCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. flag CCM consent to charter arrgmt b. measures adopted to implement scheme c. agreement to comply with WCPFC CMMs d. termination of charter 	None
Notification provisions of changes	Both the chartering Member/PT and the flag CCM to inform Exec Director of the termination of the charter [at the relevant time]	<p>Within 15 days or in any case, within 72 hours before commencement of fishing activities under a charter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. any additional chartered vessels along with info above b. any changes in information previously provided c. termination of any charter
Transshipment	Current suggested language is bracketed	No distinction; charter vessels subject to same requirements as other vessels.

Attachment B

Conservation and Management Measure	Provision
2004-01 (Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish)	<p>Measure requires Commission members to authorize their vessels to fish in the Convention Area and to take necessary measures to ensure such vessels comply with Commission conservation and management measures. Vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area must be on the WCPFC Record of Vessels.</p> <p>Therefore, vessels must be duly authorized by their flag State and included on the Vessel Record in order to be eligible for charter. CCMs are responsible for placing their flagged vessels on the Record of Vessels and in doing so, accept responsibility for those vessels.</p>
2004-03 (Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels)	<p>Measure applies to all vessels authorized to fish in areas beyond vessel flag State's area of national jurisdiction. Each member of the Commission has responsibility for ensuring that its authorized vessels have the required markings. Who has responsibility for maintaining this provision under a CAS?</p>
2004-04 (Resolution on Conservation and Management Measures)	<p>None applicable</p>
2005-02 (South Pacific Albacore)	<p>Applies to CCMs whose vessels fish for SPALB south of 20°S. SIDS/PTs exempt from effort limit with a view to promoting development of fisheries in <u>own areas of national jurisdiction</u>.</p>
2005-03 (North Pacific Albacore)	<p>Calls for CCMs' vessels fishing for NPALB to not increase effort beyond current levels; CCMs responsible for reporting their catch data.</p>

2006-04 (Striped Marlin in the South West Pacific)	CCMs responsible for ensuring no increase in the number of their vessels fishing for STMAR south of 15°S; SIDS/PTs exempt from effort limit for development of fisheries for striped marlin in the Convention Area south of 15°S from 2000 - 2004 levels and the legitimate rights and obligations of coastal States who may wish to pursue a responsible level of development within their fisheries waters; CCMs responsible for reporting catch data for their vessels fishing for STMAR.
2006-07 (Establishment of the Regional Observer Programme)	N/A, establishes IWG-ROP.
2006-08 (Boarding and Inspection Procedures)	Commission Members are responsible for ensuring that vessels flying their flag accept boarding and inspection by authorized inspectors in accordance with the procedures. In the case of a chartered vessel, the flag State has responsibility in the event of a boarding and inspection.
2007-01 (Regional Observer Programme)	Applies to all authorized vessels fishing exclusively on the high seas and authorized vessels fishing on the high seas and in one or more zones of coastal States; applicable to vessels not fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of the vessel's flag State; CCMs are responsible for ensuring its vessels are prepared to accept observers and to meet minimum observer coverage levels; CCMs also responsible for informing vessel captains of observer requirements and for sourcing observers.
2007-02 (Vessel Monitoring System)	The Commission VMS applies to all vessels fishing for highly migratory fish stocks in the high seas areas of the Convention Area. CCMs are responsible for ensuring their vessels comply with Commission VMS requirements and also ensure compatibility between national and high seas VMS.
2007-03 (IUU Vessel List)	Prohibits chartering of a vessel that is on the IUU list.
2007-04 (Seabirds)	Measure applies to all CCM-flagged vessels. CCMs are responsible for imposing these measures on their flagged vessels.

2008-01 (Bigeye and yellowfin tuna)	Vessels operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanism by developing island States and PTs as integral part of domestic fleet are considered vessels of host island state or territory.
2008-02 (Cooperating Non-Members)	None applicable
2008-03 (Sea Turtles)	Applicable to all CCM-flagged vessels. CCMs are responsible for imposing these measures on their flagged vessels.
2008-04 (Driftnets)	Applicable to all CCM-flagged vessels. CCMs are responsible for imposing these measures on their flagged vessels.
2008-05 (Swordfish)	Vessels operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanisms as an integral part of the domestic fleet of a coastal State, shall be considered to be vessels of the host State or Territory. Such charter, lease or other similar mechanism shall be conducted in a manner so as not to invite IUU vessels. SIDS and PTs in the Convention Area are allowed to pursue responsible level of development of their own fisheries in the Convention Area south of 20°S.
2008-06 (Sharks)	Applicable to all CCM-flagged vessels. CCMs are responsible for imposing these measures on their flagged vessels.
Resolutions	
2005-02 (Reduction of Overcapacity)	None applicable
2005-03 (Non-target Species)	None applicable
2008-01 (Aspirations of Small Island Developing States and Territories)	Resolution calls for CMMs to be developed and interpreted so as not to undermine legitimate development aspirations of SIDS/PTs.

Attachment C

Notes on potential vessel chartering arrangements for fleets based on Pacific-Island countries since 2000. [These notes are to be used as a guideline only and do not necessarily represent what may have occurred. Table produced by SPC-OFP].

Country	FLEET	fleet_id	Notes
COOK ISLANDS	COOK ISLANDS		<p>Locally-based Cook Island fleet. There may have historically been some chartering arrangements whereby NZ vessels were chartered and included as a part of the locally-based fleet. Some of these vessels fishing in the northern fishery are based out of Pago Pago.</p> <p>There may have been some American Samoan vessels chartered as the Cook Islands vessels several years ago.</p> <p>Note that some Cook Island-flagged vessels were chartered in Niue during 2007.</p> <p>Information lacking – follow-up required.</p>
	USA (AMERICAN SAMOA)	AS	<p>(see above – the American Samoan fleet fishing in the Cooks may have done so under a charter arrangement, rather than an access arrangement. These vessels are based out of Pago Pago.</p> <p>Information lacking – follow-up required.</p>
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	CHINA		<p>Chinese vessels fishing based in FSM under an access arrangement. As far as we are aware, there have not been any charter arrangements with these vessels.</p> <p>Information lacking – follow-up required.</p>
	CHINESE TAIPEI	OS	<p>Chinese Taipei offshore vessels based in FSM (and Guam?) fishing under an access arrangement. As far as we are aware, there have not been any charter arrangements with these vessels.</p> <p>Information lacking – follow-up required.</p>
	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA		<p>Domestic fleet. (There may have been some charter vessels fishing in the domestic fleet)</p>
	JAPAN		<p>Japanese vessels based out of Japan and Guam fishing under an access arrangement.</p>

Country	FLEET	fleet_id	Notes
FIJI	CHINA		Chinese offshore vessels based in Suva fishing under an access arrangement. Not sure what charter arrangements could be in place that might potentially include these vessels in the domestic fleet – follow-up required.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	DW	Chinese Taipei distant-water vessels offloading in Levuka. These vessels may not have a license to fish in Fiji but use the cannery to dispose of their albacore catch.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	OS	Chinese Taipei offshore vessels based in Suva fishing under an access arrangement. Not sure what charter arrangements could be in place that might potentially include these vessels in the domestic fleet – follow-up required.
	FIJI		There are apparently a variety of foreign-flagged vessels which have been listed as potential charter vessels fishing in the Fiji domestic fleet. The details or prerequisites for establishing whether they are charter vessels or not, is not known. Follow-up required. Foreign flagged vessels that may have been chartered in the past 10 years include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Cook Islands · China · Korea · NZ · Chinese Taipei · USA · Vanuatu
	REPUBLIC OF KOREA		Korean distant-water vessels offloading in Levuka. These vessels may not have a license to fish in Fiji but use the cannery to dispose of their albacore catch.
	VANUATU	DW	Vanuatu distant-water vessels offloading in Levuka. These vessels may not have a license to fish in Fiji but use the cannery to dispose of their albacore catch.

Country	FLEET	fleet_id	Notes
FRANCE (FRENCH POLYNESIA)	FRANCE (FRENCH POLYNESIA)	PF	Domestic Fleet
FRANCE (NEW CALEDONIA)	FRANCE (NEW CALEDONIA)		Domestic Fleet
KIRIBATI	CHINA		Distant-water Chinese fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	DW	Distant-water Chinese-Taipei fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	JAPAN	JP	Distant-water Japanese fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	KIRIBATI		Domestic fleet
	REPUBLIC OF KOREA		Distant-water Korean fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	VANUATU	DW	Distant-water Vanuatu fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
MARSHALL ISLANDS	CHINA	OS	Offshore Chinese fleet based in Majuro managed by MIFV/Luenthai JV company – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	OS	Offshore Chinese-Taipei fleet based in Majuro managed by MIFV/Luenthai JV company – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA		FSM flagged vessels based in Majuro (CLEARWATER) – not considered to be in a charter arrangement
	JAPAN	JP	Distant-water Japanese fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	MARSHALL ISLANDS		Domestic Fleet. RMI-flagged vessels based in Majuro managed by MIFV/Luenthai JV company – not chartered but flagged !
NIUE	COOK ISLANDS		Cook Islands vessels fishing in Niue prior to charter arrangements (see below)

Country	FLEET	fleet_id	Notes
	NIUE		Domestic Fleet. Several Cook Island-flagged vessels were chartered in Niue during 2007. <u>Niue officially informed the WCPFC of the charter arrangements.</u>
PALAU	CHINA		Offshore Chinese fleet based in Koror, Palau managed by local JV? company – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	OS	Offshore Chinese-Taipei fleet based in Koror, Palau managed by local JV? company – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA		FSM flagged vessels based in Koror – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
	INDONESIA		Indonesian flagged vessels based in Koror – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
	JAPAN	JP	Japanese vessels based out of Japan and Guam fishing under an access arrangement.
	KIRIBATI		Kiribati flagged vessels based in Koror – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
	PALAU		One domestic vessel only. (No apparent charter arrangements – to be confirmed)
	VIETNAM		Vietnamese flagged vessels based in Koror – not considered to be in a charter arrangement.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	CHINESE TAIPEI	DW	Mainly (exclusively?) shark-target vessels licensed to fish in PNG waters.
	PAPUA NEW GUINEA		Domestic fleet which may contain some chartering of foreign-flagged vessels. Details not available, Follow-up required.
SAMOA	SAMOA		Domestic fleet
SOLOMON	BELIZE		Distant-water Belize fishing under an access arrangement.

Country	FLEET	fleet_id	Notes
ISLANDS	CHINA		Distant-water Chinese fishing under an access arrangement.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	DW	Distant-water Chinese Taipei fishing under an access arrangement.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	OS	These vessels represent the locally-based offshore Taiwanese flagged vessels that have not been considered to be chartered by the Solomon Islands. The details are not clear and some of these may have been chartered. Follow-up required.
	FIJI	AU	Fiji fleet based in Suva and licensed to fish in the Solomon Islands waters. This fleet may contain some chartered vessels (see Country = FIJI above).
	JAPAN	JP	Distant-water Japanese fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	REPUBLIC OF KOREA		Distant-water Korean fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	SOLOMON ISLANDS		These vessels are essentially included within a number of charter arrangements which do not now exist. The details of the charter arrangements are not available and it has been difficult to determine which vessels are considered to be a part of the Solomon Islands longline fleet under charter arrangement and which are foreign vessels under bilateral access arrangement. Follow-up required.
	VANUATU	DW	Distant-water Vanuatu fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	VANUATU	OS	Vanuatu offshore fleet based in Suva. There may be some vessels starting to utilize Port Vila to offload their catch. Follow-up required.

Country	FLEET	fleet_id	Notes
TONGA	FIJI	CN/KR	Some of the Fiji-based/chartered Chinese and Korean flagged vessels fished in Tonga a few years ago, but are no longer active or may have now flagged as Tongan vessels. They may have been charter to fish in Tonga, but the details are not available. Follow-up required.
	TONGA		Domestic fleet
TUVALU	CHINESE TAIPEI	DW	Distant-water Chinese Taipei fishing under an access arrangement.
	INDONESIA		[Thought to be a Indonesian-flagged vessel fishing under the same access agreement as the DWFN TW fleet] Follow-up required.
	JAPAN	JP	Distant-water Japanese fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
	REPUBLIC OF KOREA		Distant-water Korean fleet fishing under an access arrangement.
USA (AMERICAN SAMOA)	CHINA		Distant-water Chinese offloading catch to cannery – no access agreement.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	DW	Distant-water Chinese-Taipei offloading catch to cannery – no access agreement.
	COOK ISLANDS		Cook Islands fleet offloading catch to cannery – no access agreement.
	REPUBLIC OF KOREA		Distant-water Korean offloading catch to cannery – no access agreement.
	USA (AMERICAN SAMOA)		Domestic fleet
	VANUATU	DW	Distant-water Vanuatu offloading catch to cannery – no access agreement.
VANUATU	CHINESE TAIPEI	DW	Distant-water Chinese Taipei fishing under an access arrangement.

Country	FLEET	fleet_id	Notes
	CHINA		[there may be some offshore vessels starting to utilize Port Vila to offload their catch]. Some of these vessels may be under charter arrangements. Follow-up required.
	CHINESE TAIPEI	OS	Fleet based in Suva and licensed to fish in Vanuatu waters. This fleet may contain some chartered vessels (see Country = FIJI above).
	FIJI	AU	Fiji fleet based in Suva and licensed to fish in Vanuatu waters. This fleet may contain some chartered vessels (see Country = FIJI above). There may be some vessels starting to utilize Port Vila to offload their catch.
	VANUATU	DW	Distant-water Vanuatu fleet fishing locally but also throughout the Pacific Ocean.
	VANUATU	OS	Domestic fleet but based in Suva. There may be some vessels starting to utilize Port Vila to offload their catch. Follow-up required.

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