



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

WCPFC-SC9-AR/CCM-13

NAURU

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012**



NAURU

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April, 2013	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

1. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

1.1 Fishery Characteristics:

- a) The Offshore Fishery is dominated by Distant Water Fishing Nations Purse Seiners, target species are skipjack and yellowfin tuna destined for foreign canneries. A majority of the fishing vessels fall under the 1001 – 1500 GRT size class, and are either licensed bilaterally or multilaterally i.e. FSM Arrangement or US Treaty.
- b) There has been no change to the number of longline fishing vessels licensed since 2011 under the Japan access arrangement, which has been the only bilateral arrangement covering longlining in Nauru. Catches from the vessels are mainly for the Japanese sashimi markets.
- c) Nauru has no commercial scale domestic fisheries of any kind under its flag or through a charter arrangement.
- d) The Artisanal Fishery comprised mainly of motorized skiffs and outrigger canoes the targeted species are coastal pelagic species which either are free-schools or aggregated by FAD. Catches are either for subsistence, barter or commercial at a small scale.

2. Offshore Catch and Effort Estimates

The majority of species caught in the commercial offshore fishery as per previous years is made up of SKJ with the rest YFT and BET tuna.

Effort in the purse seine fishery remained relatively stable since 2010 and purse-seiners have spent an average of 3100 days per year in Nauru's EEZ for the past 3 years (note: this figure is according to SPC estimates derived from logsheets and includes multilaterally-licensed vessels as well as vessels licensed to fish in Nauru according to the Palau Arrangement Vessel Days Management Scheme).

The catches for 2012 (table 1) compiled from operational data are not consistent with the number of days vessels spent in NR EEZ and will be amended when further data are entered into the database and appropriate raising factors calculated.

Table 1: Summary of total catches in Nauru EEZ by all DWFN fleets from 2008 - 2012

YEAR/SPECIES	SKJ	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
2008	60,735	1,041	5,382	27	67,185
2009	44,805	1,140	13,421	20	59,386
2010	80,617	1,768	24,003	32	106,420
2011	82,969	7,893	14,401	-	105,263
2012	2451	1	599	-	3050

Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by Nauru and held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database, SPC;. Catches for 2012 are incomplete and provisional.

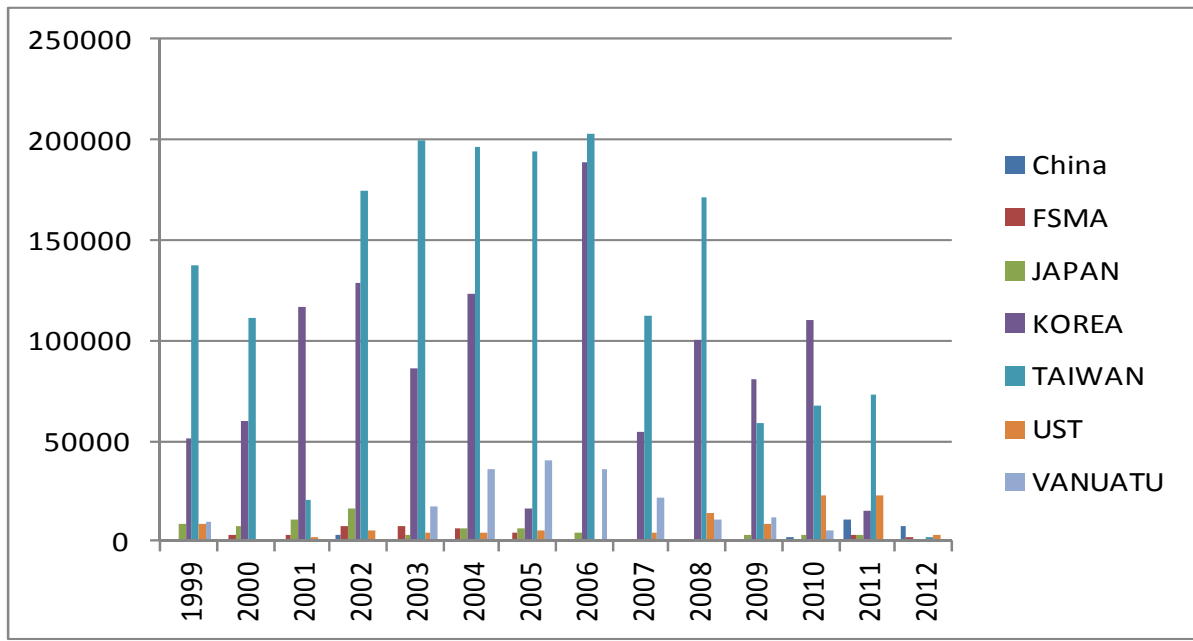


Figure 2: Trend of total catches by DWFN's in Nauru's EEZ over a 14 year period.

3. Artisanal Fleet

Nauru's artisanal fleet comprises mainly of small skiffs and canoes operated by local fishers who fish for subsistence, barter or small scale commercial within the 12 mile zone. Data is collected by surveyors (interviews) from Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority's (NFMRA) Coastal Section at landing sites after a fishing trip. Total sampled catches for the past 5 years have been stable, averaging 9,660kg per year (Table 3). The past three years trend (Table 4) indicated a significant increase in the proportion of SKJ in artisanal catches especially the latter two years.

Expert assistance and support by SPC has been essential to the data collection in providing research, logbooks and the TUFART database system.

Further refining of the data collection process to suit local conditions is ongoing.

YEAR	Tuna Catches (Kilograms)			
	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Others	Total
2008	8,258	1,605	1,547	11,410
2009	4,462	391	991	5,844
2010	7,474	1,056	941	9,470
2011	5,162	4,301	113	9,576
2012	3,243	7,497	1,254	11,994

Table 3: Annual catch estimates for the NAURU ARTISANAL fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2008 - 2012. (Source: Coastal Fisheries survey of un-raised estimates based on FAD Fishing Canoe logbook)

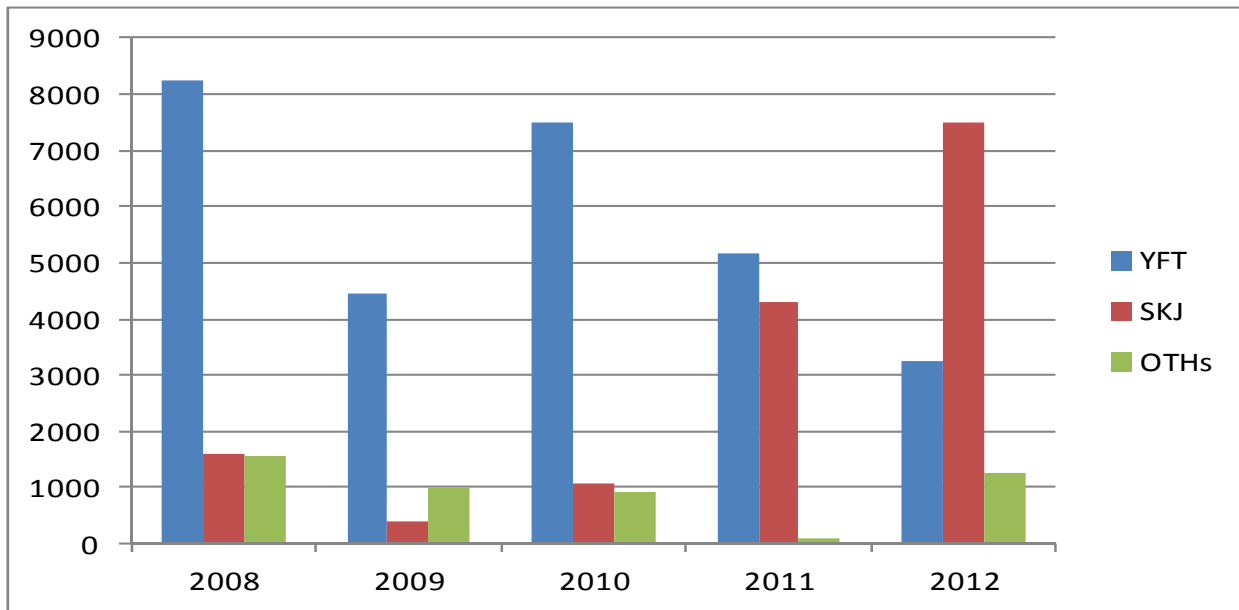


Figure 4: Trend for total Artisanal catches in Nauru from 2008 – 2012.

4. Licensing and Fleet Structure:

The majority of the commercial fleet operating in Nauru's EEZ consists of all the main Purse Seine vessels of other CCM's

In 2012 there were 198 foreign purse seine vessels licensed to operate in Nauru's EEZ. In support of the purse seine fleets Nauru licensed an additional 8 foreign bunkers and 1 fish carrier vessels, although the fish carrier did not undertake any operations within the port of Nauru. The following table (Tables 5 and 6) gives a detailed breakdown of the fleets by country and size. A majority (72) of the purse seine vessels fall within the 1001 -1500 GRT category followed by the smaller 501 to 1000 size group (41) and 38 vessels fitting the super seine category of over 1500+ GRT.

FISHING VESSELS						
FLAG	GEAR	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
CHINA (CN)	PS	11	-	5	4	2
FSMA	PS	8	-	4	1	3
JAPAN (JP)	LL	7	7	-	-	-
JAPAN (JP)	PS	34	21	2	9	2
KIRIBATI (KI)	PS	7	-	-	3	4
KOREA (KR)	PS	29	-	9	14	6
MARSHALL (RM)	PS	10	1	-	6	3
PHILLIPINES (PI)	PS	1	-	-	1	-
PNG (PG)	PS	1	1	-	-	-
TAIWAN (TW)	PS	34	-	14	18	2
TUVALU (TV)	PS	1	-	-	-	1
UST	PS	39	21	1	5	12
VANUATU (VU)	PS	16	-	-	11	5
TOTAL		198	41	35	72	38

Table.5: Foreign Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2012

SUPPORT VESSELS					
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
KOREA	1				1
PANAMA	4				4
SINGAPORE	1				1
TAIWAN	1				1
TUVALU	1				1
TOTAL	8				8

Table.6: Foreign Support Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2012

5. Socioeconomic Considerations

Revenue derived from fishing licenses continues to provide the bulk of non aid income for Nauru comprising over a quarter of the total state revenue for the last financial year as well as the projected budget for Treasury in the new financial year.

Apart from the National Observer Program's increasing cadre of trained observers placed on foreign fishing vessels there is no other development from the offshore fishing industry.

The Artisanal fishery remains a reliable source of protein diet and income generator for the local community.

6. Research and Statistics

There remains a strong need to enhance and upgrade the skills of NFMRA staff personnel through participation in regional capacity building workshops and training as Nauru embraces the recently installed and other future database systems; i.e. TUFMAN, TUFART and TUBMAN, developed by OFF/SPC/FFA.

Nauru also acknowledges the ongoing support and assistance received through the AusAID Fisheries Management Institutional Strengthening Project by in-country visits, training and workshops from expert consultants.