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

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**WCPFC-SC9-AR/CCM-07 Rev 1**

**FIJI**

**ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT TO THE  
WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES  
COMMISSION**

**PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND  
STATISTICS FOR 2012**

**FIJI**

**OFFSHORE FISHERIES DIVISION**

**FISHERIES DEPARTMENT**

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND FORESTS**

**MAY 2013**

**FIJI**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the commission by 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.	[YES]
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

## **ABSTRACT**

The Fiji flagged long line fleet is one that predominantly targets albacore. For the year 2012, approximately 64% of the fishing occurred in Fiji's waters with 36% in the High Seas. When taking into consideration the overall catches by this fleet, that is to include catches in other EEZs, approximately 26% of the overall catch for this fleet was made in other EEZs, where the Fiji flagged long line vessels are licensed to.

There has been a diminutive increase in the Fiji flagged long line catches when comparing the fleet's low catches from 2011 to 2012, which shows a daunting level of recovery in the fishery. The most significant increase though was made in 2012 big-eye catches, which indicates a significant increase in its catch levels for this species when compared to the last 4 years, at the very least.

Fiji, through the Ministry of Fisheries' Offshore Fisheries Division's role as the arm of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of the fishery, in cooperation where applicable with line ministries, the industries stakes holders along with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat for the Pacific Communities support and technical staff; have made significant efforts to ensure that the fishery is maintained in a sustainably manageable form, whilst encouraging economic viability.

For the year 2012, Fiji maintains its vessel cap at 70 long line fishing vessels and the Total Allowable Catch [TAC] for the three major tuna species [Albacore, Big-eye, Yellow-fin] at 15,000 mt. It has also furthered the awareness of the relevant Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's Conservation and Management Measures to the industry stake holders in an amicable form.

## 1.0 Background

Fiji is located between 12° and 20° S latitude and 177° E 177°W longitude and has an EEZ area of around 1,290,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is made up 300 islands.

This EEZ is flanked by the five Pacific Island nations of Vanuatu to the west, Solomon Islands to the North West, Tuvalu in the North, Wallis and Futuna to the North East and the Kingdom of Tonga to the South East. In addition to this, approximately 40% of the EEZ is bordered by the high seas to the general southern area, north western and north north western region.

Its offshore fishery was initially dominated by the pole and line fishing industry, but with the difficulties faced via the acquisition of the relevant bait types, a transition was made towards Purse Seining. For Fiji, though, the more lucrative, albacore targeting long line fishery was seen to be the more cost effect and thus, the more economically viable.

In the year 2012, this Fiji flagged long-line vessel fleet consisted of a vessel fleet that had a license cap of 70 vessels, 11 of which were chartered fishing vessels. In addition to this, a total of 43 vessels were Fiji flagged and authorised to fish in the High Seas pocket by Fiji, 10 less vessels from the year 2011.

Fiji currently has 7 processing facilities, 3 major wharfs as a base for un-loadings and processing of exports of both fresh and frozen loins, sashimi and a cannery. In addition to this, Fiji continues to maintain its link to the European Union market through the Ministry of Fisheries' and other relevant line Ministries' advancing facilitation in ensuring that the markets requirements are met, the result of which are 18 EU approved vessels, 3 EU approved processing facilities and 1 EU approved cold storage facility.

With the formulation of the Offshore Fisheries Division in 2005, it has made every effort to effectively implement the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fiji's offshore fishing industry and the fishery in general from Fiji's perspective, in alignment to national objectives and both regional and international instruments; with the aim of sustainably managing the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in its waters.

With aspects of the said sustainable management in mind, the development of both the Offshore Fisheries Divisions' National and Regional Observer programs and the advancement of its Compliance and Enforcement capabilities via the applicable capacity building coupled with the reinforcement of the Divisions authorities, namely the Offshore Fisheries Management Decree and its relevant regulations; Fiji is determined to play it role in the management of the highly migratory fish stocks in its EEZ and as a flag state and also in assisting in the policing effort against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

Fiji's current licensing and high seas authorisations requires all vessels to comply with relevant WCPFC CMMs. All Fiji flagged long line vessels are required to report all catches on all trips under Fiji's national laws. All Fiji fishing vessels are required under Fiji's licensing and high seas authorisations to implement all relevant CMMs.

## 2.0 ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

### 2.1 TUNA CATCHES

**Table 1. Annual Catch estimates for the Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet, 2008 – 2012.**

<b>TOTAL ANNUAL CATCH ESTIMATES FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FISHING FLEET 2008-2012 [MT]</b>					
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>PROVISIONAL 2012</b>
ALBACORE	7,609	7,166	7,279	7,793	7949.1
BIG-EYE	667	689	532	681	1017.1
YELLOW FIN	2,748	2,564	2,144	2,248	2077.7
TUNA LIKE	3,214	3,430	4,441	1422	1390.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,238</b>	<b>13,849</b>	<b>14,396</b>	<b>12,145</b>	<b>12434.7</b>

As in Table 1 above, for the year 2012, the total catch recovered slightly but still left much to be desired off when comparing it to the low total catches of 2009 at 13,849 mt. Where there is seen to be a cycle of high catch estimates to a low followed by a high ones on an annual basis, the years 2011 and 2012 catch remained in close proximity at 12,145 mt to 12434.7 mt respectively.

It should be noted that there is a steady rise in Albacore catches from the lowest catch estimates in the above five year comparison at 2009's 7,166 mt to the 2012 7,949.1 mt. The Fiji flagged long line fleet however, made a significant rise in Big-eye catches from the last five years at 1017.1 mt. Yellow-fin catches reflected a decrease from 2011's 2,248 mt at 2012's 2077.7 mt, which was the 5 year comparisons reported all time low for yellow-fin catches since 2010's 2,144 mt in Fiji's waters.

Ultimately, a point to be raised is that the years 2011 and 2012 catch estimates have included Fiji's Archipelagic and Territorial seas catches in addition to Fiji's EEZ and the High Seas catch estimates, which further stresses the near diminutive recovery in Fiji's long line fishery.

## 2.2 BILLFISH AND TUNA LIKE SPECIES CATCHES

**Table 2. Annual Estimated Catches of Tuna like, Associated and Dependent Species for the Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet, 2012.**

<b>TOTAL ANNUAL TUNA LIKE CATCH FOR FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FISHING FLEET 2012 [MT]</b>	
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHTS [MT]</b>
<b>BILLFISH</b>	
SWORDFISH	154.3
BLUE MARLIN	254.8
BLACK MARLIN	75
STRIPED MARLIN	43.3
SPEARFISH	12.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>540.1</b>
<b>TUNA LIKE SPECIES</b>	
WAHOO	196.7
MAHI MAHI	198.5
BARRACUDAS	6.2
ESCOLARS	4.9
OPAH	139.9
<b>OTHER SPECIES</b>	<b>304.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>850.6</b>

Table 2 above shows the catch estimates of Bill-fish and Tuna like Species from Fiji's flagged long lining fisheries. It should be noted that the shark catches are now listed under topic 2.5, titled "Catch Based on Relevant CMMs".

## 2.3 FLEET STRUCTURE

**Table 3. Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet Structure, 2009 - 2012.**

<b>FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET STRUCTURE 2009 -2012</b>				
<b>LENGTH (m)</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>&lt;21m</b>	7	7	8	11
<b>21m-30m</b>	43	43	42	38
<b>&gt;31m</b>	43	42	71	64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>113</b>

Table 3 above shows Fiji's flagged long line Fleet Structure from 2009 to 2012. The fleet structure for 2012 consists of the 70 Fiji licensed vessels; of which 11 vessels are chartered Chinese flagged tuna long line fishing vessels. In addition to this, 43 vessels are listed as Fiji flagged and fished in the Fiji EEZ, nearby high-seas pockets and in other EEZs, by virtue of their respective license arrangements.

By virtue of their size class [ $<21\text{m}$ ] and hence the limited supplies the vessel are able to carry and in some cases, the time span in which they are able to carry ice to effectively transport fresh fish to their shore base, the smaller vessels spend approximately one to three weeks at sea. These vessels mostly utilize iced sea water or slurry to house the fish as soon as it is caught [processed] and then have the fish packed into ice the morning after, in order to maintain freshness. It should be noted that the 11 vessels in Table 3 above and that occur in the  $<21\text{m}$  size class, predominantly fish in Fiji's Archipelagic and Territorial seas and are monitored where capacity allows, by the Fiji Observer Program.

The 21m-30m category, which spend anywhere from a three weeks to a month, utilizes the same overnight slurry method in order to maintain the proper temperature before packing the fish into freezers. 3 companies in Fiji that have this method of fish handling and whose vessels are in the 21m-30m vessel category, have authorisations to transshipment their fresh fish out at sea. This meant that the companies could call in the transshipment vessels, which are monitored at a 100% rate by the Fiji Observer Program, in order to transfer fish in it freshest state. It should be noted that any other vessels requesting for transshipment capabilities of this nature are only allowed to do so with the condition that a Fiji Observer Program observer be on-board and that the transshipment activity only occurs in Fiji's Territorial seas.

The final size class,  $>30\text{m}$  category, mostly uses freezers to preserve their catch at sub zero temperatures. These vessels mainly stay at sea for longer periods of time, that is, for more than a month. In addition, these vessels are also monitored by the Fiji Observer program when the vessels are fishing in Fiji's EEZ and in the High Seas pockets.

It should be noted that as Memorandums of Understandings with neighbouring States have yet to be established, regardless of Fiji's efforts, the Fiji Observer Program shall maintain this reporting stance in its reporting efforts towards a better coverage and to its obligations as a flag state both nationally and regionally.

## 2.4 FISHING PATTERNS

Figure 1A. Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet Structure, 2012.

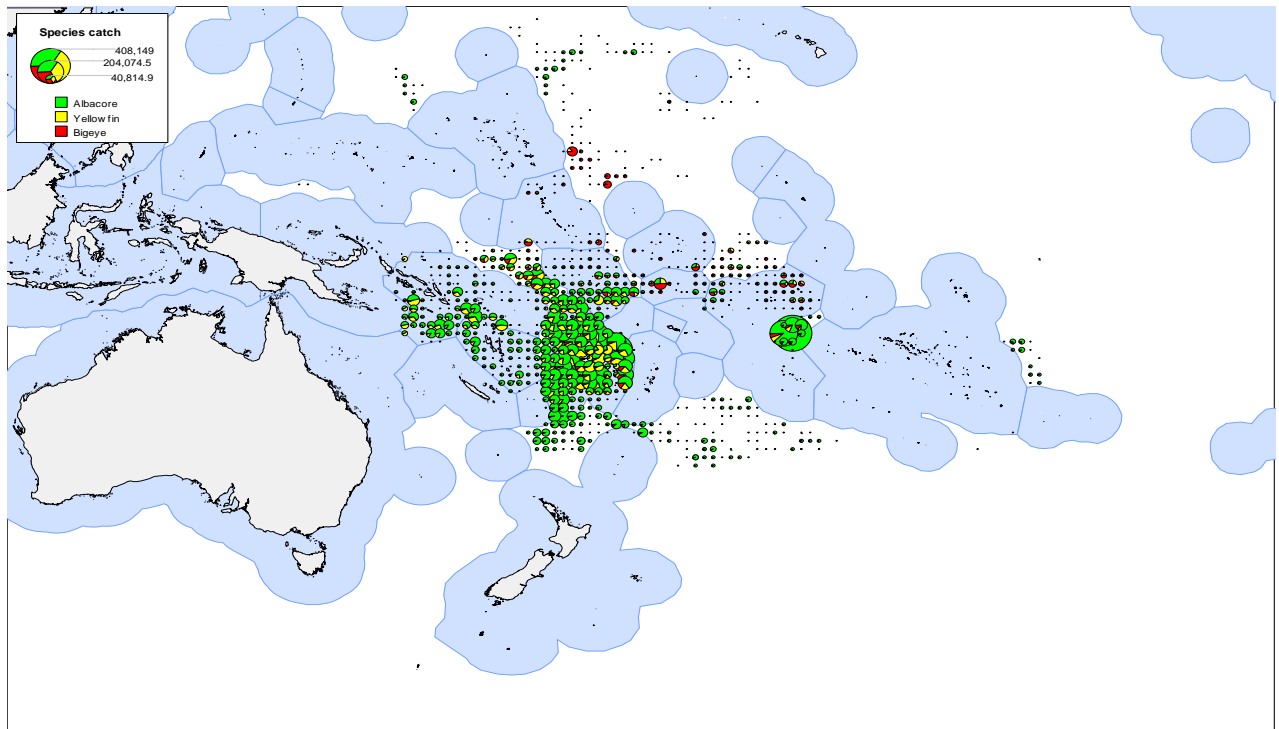
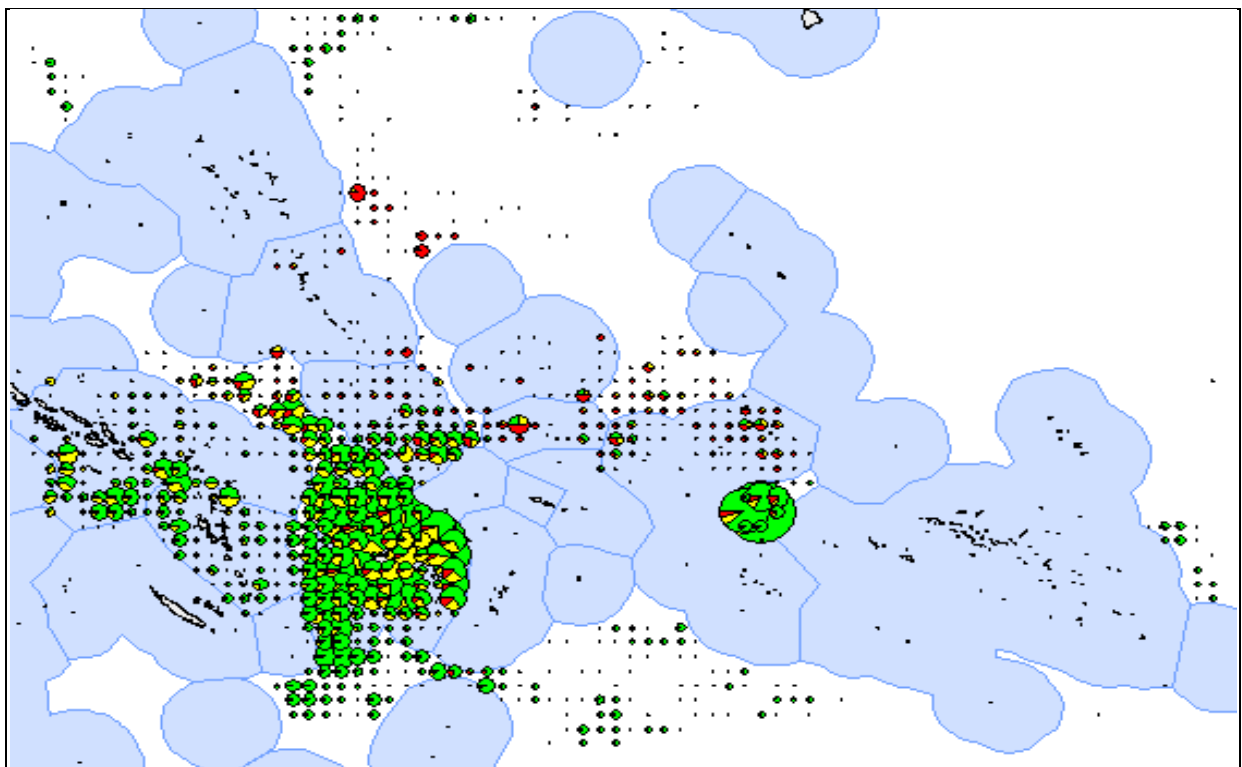


Figure 1B. Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet Structure, 2012.





The above Figures 1A and Figure 1B is a snapshot of Fiji’s flagged long line fleet catches for the 3 tuna species in 2012, namely Albacore [Green], Big-eye [Red] and Yellow-fin [Yellow]. As in the imagery, much of catch is carried out in Fiji’s EEZ with certain portions in other EEZs [Where the vessels are licensed to.] and in the nearby high seas pockets, where the vessels obtain High Seas Authorisations, in order to gain access. It should be noted that 26% of the Fiji flagged long-line overall catches were obtained in the Other EEZs.

It should also be noted also that all vessels in the Fiji flagged long line fleet that fished north of the equator in 2011 for North Pacific Striped Marlin and North Pacific Albacore and South Pacific Albacore and Swordfish, have been addressed in this paper. [Refer to 2.5 –“Catch Based on Relevant CMMs”.]

## 2.5 OBSERVED INTERACTIONS OF SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

**Table 4A. Annual Table of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2008 - 2012.**

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS. MARINE TURTLES 2008 - 2012											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
		No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD
<b>MARINE TURTLES</b>	GREEN TURTLES	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
	LOGGERHEAD TURTLES	0	1	2	2	3	2	7	4	2	1
	HAWKSBILL TURLE	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0
	LEATHERBACK TURTLES	0	1	1	0	3	3	2	0	2	1
	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1
	TURTLES [UNIDENTIFIED]	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL TURTLES</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 4A above shows the observed incidences of gear interactions with marine turtles by the Fiji Observer program observers whilst on placement from the years 2008 to the years 2012. It should be noted that all observers in Fiji’s Observer program are certified and trained in the mitigation/handling/releasing of sea turtles and are certified under the SPC/FFA PIRFO Standards.

The Fiji Fisheries Offshore Division has endeavoured to ensure that all Fiji licensed long line fishing vessels change their hooks arrangements to Circle Hooks and also that industry stake holders be made aware, through awareness trainings, on the proper mitigation and handling techniques of turtles, such as the techniques used when using a turtle de-hooker and also in cutting the line close to the mouth when a turtle has swallowed a hook instead of de-hooking it.

Proper turtle mitigation devices such as turtle de-hookers have also been assigned to licensed vessels at the beginning of the 2012 licensing periods, with the aim of the fishing company’s continuation in their maintenance of such gear types in preparation of the likely event that a turtle is ensnared on the vessels gear. Posters of the proper means by which to handle sea turtles and turtle

identification booklets are also made available to the respective fishing companies at the beginning of the 2012 licensing period.

**Table 4B. Annual Table of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2008 - 2012.**

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF VESSEL INTERACTIONS AND SIGHTINGS											
MARINE MAMMALS											
2008 - 2012											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
		No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD
MARINE MAMMALS	DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES	0	0	2	0	11	0	5	0	6	0
	TOOTHED WHALES	0	0	1	0	8	0	11	0	11	1
	NON-TOOTHED WHALES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	MARINE MAMMALS [UNIDENTIFIED]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	WHALE SHARKS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL MARINE MAMMALS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 4B above shows the observed incidences of vessel interactions and sightings of marine mammals by the Fiji Observer program observers whilst on placement from the years 2008 to the years 2012.

It should be noted that all observers in Fiji's Observer program are certified and trained in the proper identification methods of Marine Mammals and are certified under the SPC/FFA PIRFO Standards.

The interactions with vessels that were sighted by the observers were that the marine mammals were swimming in the vicinity of the vessel and at times, during the hauling operations, either swimming in nearby schools or taking bait fish that is thrown back into the sea.

There was a single monitored instance where a false killer whale was found entangled in the long lines mainline during a set.

**Table 4C. Annual Table of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2008 - 2012.**

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS											
SEABIRDS											
2008 - 2012											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
		No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD
SEA BIRDS	SEAS BIRDS	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL SEA BIRDS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 4C above shows the gear Interactions of the sea birds with the Fiji flagged fishing vessels, as observed by the Fiji Observer program observers. It should be noted that all observers in the Fiji Observer program are certified and trained in the identification if sea birds and also are certified under the SPC/FFA PIRFO Standards.

It should also be noted that in the implementation of the Conservation and Management Measure 2007-04 for Sea-birds, the Fiji Offshore Division's Observer program maintains that no sea-birds have been caught on tuna long lines in the past five years, including 2012. Irregardless, all Fiji Licensed vessels employ deep setting tuna long line fishing strategies and also use weighted branch-lines.

## 2.6 CATCH BASED ON RELEVANT CCMs.

### SCIENTIFIC DATA TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION/IATTC OVERLAP [E 150 DEGREES W]

Concerning the overlap area with IATTC that is east of the 150 degrees west, 23 Fiji Flagged vessels were logged in this area having a big-eye catch of 179.8 mt, a yellow-fin catch of 127.8 mt, skipjack catch of 16.9 mt and also a Blue Marlin catch 51.2 mt.

### CMM 2005-03 –NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-03, on the reporting of catches of all North Pacific Albacore, a total number of 15 Fiji flagged long line vessels were logged to have caught Albacore north of the equator at a total of 213.2 mt of North Pacific Albacore fishing at a total of 357 Days for the year 2012.

### CMM 2006-04 STRIPED MARLIN IN THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2006-04, concerning the catches of the Fiji flagged long line vessels South of 15 degrees South for Striped Marlin in the year 2012; 28.5 mt of Striped Marlin were logged to have been caught by 52 Fiji flagged long line vessels. Of the 28.5 mt, 9 of the 11 Chartered Long line Fishing Vessels which had fished in this range logged 2.8 mt of Stripped Marlin for the year 2012.

**Table 5. Annual Table of the Fiji Flagged Long Lining Fleet, 2008 - 2012.**

TOTAL ANNUAL 2012 SWORDFISH CATCH ESTIMATES SOUTH OF 20° SOUTH BY THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINING FLEET AND CHARTERED VESSELS IN FIJI [MT]						
YEAR	FIJI FLAGGED VESSELS		CHARTERED VESSELS		TOTAL [MT]	TOTAL VESSELS
	TONNES	VESSEL NUMBERS	TONNES	VESSEL NUMBER		
2009	15.0	27	3.9	11	18.9	38
2010	22.6	39	4.1	9	26.7	48
2011	29.9	56	5.3	11	35.2	67
2012	44.4	66	6.4	9	50.8	75

Table 5 above shows the vessel numbers and weights in metric tonnes of both the Fiji flagged long lining fleet and its Chartered vessels' catch estimates from the years 2009 to the years 2012, for swordfish caught south of 20° south.

### **CMM 2007-04 & CMM 2012-07 SEA BIRDS**

Concerning the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2007-04 & 2012-07 on Sea Birds, the mitigation for the impacts of fishing for the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Sea-birds, whilst there were not detrimental seabird interactions of any kind, neither observed nor reported; the Fiji flagged long lining fleets employs both the recommended “weighted branch line” and “deep setting line shooter” mitigation methods, as prescribed in Table 1 of the mitigation methods listed in CMM 2007-04 & 2012-07 on Sea Birds.

### **CMM 2008-01 BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN**

In the year 2012, as in Table 6 below, only 4 US Treaty Purse Seine Fishing vessels made a total 16 sets in Fiji’s Waters and caught a total of 505 mt of tuna.

**Table 6. Annual Table Purse Seine catches in Fiji’s Water, 2008 - 2012.**

<b>2012 ANNUAL CATCH BY US TREATY PURSE SEINE VESSELS IN FIJI’S WATER [MT]</b>						
<b>NO. OF VESSELS</b>	<b>SETS</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>OTHR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>505</b>

Source: FFA

### **CMM 2008-03 SEAS TURTLES**

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2008-03 on Sea Turtles, the Fiji flagged long lining fleet utilises circle hooks in the pre-dominantly long liner fishery. It is also the continued endeavour of the Offshore Fisheries Division in Fiji that the Licensed Fleet vessel crews also be trained and equipped with turtle mitigation techniques, devices and identification booklets.

### **CMM 2009-03 SWORDFISH**

In the year 2012 and in accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-03, 57 Fiji flagged long lining vessels caught a total of 30.7 mt. Of the 11 Chartered Long line Fishing Vessels, 9 Chartered Long line Fishing Vessels fished for Swordfish in the area South of 20 degrees South with a total Swordfish Catch of 5.9 metric tonnes.

### **CMM 2009-06 TRANSHIPMENT**

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-06 on transshipment, 19 transshipment events occurred in 3 separate ports by 7 Fiji flagged long lining vessels as in Tables 7A to 7C below.

In total, 5459.3 metric tonnes of tuna, billfish and non-tuna like species were transhipped in other ports in various processed forms with the total transhipped species in Tuvalu being 337.1 metric tonnes, the total transhipped species in Apia being 520.6 mt and finally a total transhipped species in Pohnpei at 4601.5 metric tonnes.

The species listed in Tables 7A to 7C below were all caught in the WCPFC Convention area and have been reported as such.

**Table 7A. Annual Table for Fiji flagged long line fleet transshipping in Other Ports [Tuvalu, 2008 - 2012.**

TOTAL 2012 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET TRANSHIPPING IN OTHER PORTS - TUVALU [MT]								
PORT	SPECIES	CONDITION	GILL & GUTTED	HEAD OFF	DRESSED	ROUND	OTHER	TOTAL
TUVALU	ALBACORE	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.6	0.0	58.6
	BIGEYE	FROZEN	144.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	144.7
	YELLOWFIN	FROZEN	87.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.2
	SKIPJACK	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
	BLUE MARLIN	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	26.7	0.0	0.0	26.7
	SWORDFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	4.7
	SPEARFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8
	STRIPED MARLIN	FROZEN	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
	SAILFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
	OPAH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
	OILFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
	SHARK	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	7.9	0.0	0.0	7.9
	SHARK FIN	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
	OTHER	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	4.2	4.3
TOTAL			232.0	0.0	41.8	58.9	4.5	337.1

**Table 7B. Annual Table for Fiji flagged long line fleet transshipping in Other Ports, 2008 - 2012.**

TOTAL 2012 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET TRANSHIPPING IN OTHER PORTS – APIA [MT]								
PORT	SPECIES	CONDITION	GILL & GUTTED	HEAD OFF	DRESSED	ROUND	OTHER	TOTAL
APIA	BIGEYE	FRESH	134.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	134.3
		FROZEN	161.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	161.7
	YELLOWFIN	FRESH	76.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	76.9
		FROZEN	115.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	115.6
	BLACK MARLIN	FRESH	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
		FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	BLUE MARLIN	FRESH	4.7	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.0
		FROZEN	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
	STRIPED MARLIN	FRESH	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2
		FROZEN	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
	SWORDFISH	FRESH	0.0	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7
		FROZEN	0.0	2.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	3.3
TOTAL			496.1	23.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	520.6

**Table 7C. Annual Table for Fiji flagged long line fleet transshipping in Other Ports, 2008 - 2012.**

TOTAL 2012 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET TRANSHIPPING IN OTHER PORTS - POHNPEI [MT]								
PORT	SPECIES	CONDITION	GILL & GUTTED	HEAD OFF	DRESSED	ROUND	OTHER	TOTAL
POHNPEI	ALBACORE	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.5	146.2	157.7
	BIGEYE	FROZEN	64.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2340.6	2405.4
	YELLOWFIN	FROZEN	83.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1171.0	1254.0
	SKIPJACK	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.9
	SWORDFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	158.8	160.9
	SPEARFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	3.5	4.0
	BLUE MARLIN	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	9.3	0.0	335.4	344.7
	SAILFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6	1.9
	STRIPED MARLIN	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.5	15.5
	OPAH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.7	3.2
	OIL	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	4.9	6.0
	OTHER	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	40.9	41.5
	SHARK	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.0	189.1	194.6
	SHARK FIN	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	7.7
	KINGFISH	FROZEN	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.5
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1604.0</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>106.1</b>	<b>129.2</b>	<b>4431.2</b>	<b>4601.5</b>

#### **CMM 2010-01 –NORTH PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN**

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2010-01, on the reporting of catches of all North Pacific Striped Marlin, 12 Fiji flagged long line fishing vessels were logged to have caught 5.6 mt Striped Marlin in the region of interest north of the equator.

#### **CMM 2010-05 –SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE**

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2010-05 on South Pacific Albacore caught south of 20° south, there were a total number of 62 Fiji's flagged long lining vessels that logged a total catch of 1066.3 mt of South Pacific Albacore. In this region of interest, all 11 Chartered Long line Fishing vessels in Fiji's licensed fleet, were logged to have caught South Pacific Albacore at a total weight of 427.7 mt.

## **CMM 2010-07–SHARKS**

In accordance with CMM 2010-07 on Sharks, the following table is provided.

**Table 8. Fiji Flag Long line: TABLE OF SHARK CATCH, 2012.**

<b>FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE CATCH ESTIMATES: SHARKS CATCHES [#]</b>	
BLUE SHARK	74
SILKY SHARK	41
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP	14
LONG FIN MAKO	1
SHORT FIN MAKO	43
PELAGIC THRESHER	4
PORBEAGLE SHARK	0
GREAT HAMMERHEAD	8
SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD	243
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD	1
WINGHEAD SHARK	0
OTHER SHARKS	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>473</b>

As yet, the current standardised SPC log-sheet does not have separations of the two pelagic and big-eye thresher sharks and a separation of the 4 hammerhead shark species. As such, in order to provide for the above table, the Fiji National Observer data on sharks observed were raised to the average weights for sharks logged in the Fiji fishing vessels log sheet for the year 2012; in Fiji's TUFMAN server. 939

In comparison to the total catch estimates for sharks the years 2011 and the years 2012, there has been a 50% decrease. This is an attribute of the increased awareness and cooperation between the Ministry of Fisheries in Fiji and the fishing industry stakeholders on the issue of the sustainability of sharks and the related Conservation and Management Measure.

It should be noted that the license condition which is currently being enforced in the Fiji fleet determines that no shark lines be carried and or utilised on-board the pre-dominantly long liner fishery.

In addition, the Ministry is making every effort to finalise the National Plan of Action on Sharks and is attesting to this by implementing the 5% fin to carcass ratio, as determined in the Conservation and Management Measure 2010-07 on Sharks.

## **CMM 2011-03 – CETACEANS**

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2011-03 on Cetaceans, it should be noted that Fiji does not have a purse seining fleet but is signatory to the United States Treaty and therefore has the said treaties vessels fishing in its waters, as addressed in the above mentioned CMM 2008-01, Table 6.

As required by paragraph 2 (b) of the Measure, if this said event of encircling Cetaceans did occur in Fiji's waters, it shall be reported by the flag State.

### **CMM 2011-04 OCEANICS WHITE-TIP SHARKS**

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2011-04, that requires the reporting of Oceanic White-tip Sharks that are released either alive or dead, the Fiji National Observer Program data shows that 5 had escaped, 5 were released as they were small in size and 285 were released dead.

### **CMM 2012-04 WHALE SHARKS**

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2012-04 on Whale Sharks, it should be noted that Fiji does not have a purse seining fleet but is signatory to the United States Treaty and therefore has the said treaties vessels fishing in its waters, as addressed in the above mentioned CMM 2008-01, Table 4B.

As required by paragraph 4 (b) of the Measure, if this said event of encircling Whale Sharks did occur in Fiji's waters, it shall be reported by the flag State.

## **3 MARKETING**

Tuna fresh and frozen sashimi products, loins and whole fish continues to be exported from Fiji to the various major markets such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Hawaii the United States of America and Canada, amongst others.

For the year 2012, a total of 30,310 metric tonnes of tuna was processed and exported with albacore products making a total of 55.2% [16,720 mt] of Fiji's total export, big-eye tuna products at 5.5% [1681 mt] and yellow-fin tuna products at 22.1% [6694 mt] with other species making up the final 17.2% [5215 mt].

Fiji continues to provide tuna products to the local PAFCO cannery and to the canneries in both China [3360 mt] and Bangkok [457 mt].

Tuna like non-target species continue to be sold at local processor outlets with a portion sold as exports where the market is available.



## 4 RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

### 1] STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Table 9. Estimated Annual Coverage, 2007 - 2011.

	PERCENTAGE COVERAGE (%)					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CATCH/EFFORT	99	99	99	99	99	99
OBSERVER	2.2	2.5	3.1	2.9	3	8.5
PORT SAMPLING	6.3	8.3	7.1	7.7	3.6	15
TRANSHIPMENT	-	-	-	-	100	100

#### A] LOGSHEETS AND LANDINGS DATA.

As in Table 9 above, the collection of log-sheets continues to be maintained at and above the 99% coverage levels along with their related landing forms. With the introduction of the Data Registrar position in the Fiji Offshore Division and continuous reconciliation of the said log sheets and the relevant landings data, this level of coverage continues to be maintained.

The continued effort in consistent monthly reconciliations and continued company visits in order to maintain the 99% coverage levels has been markedly improved from 2011 to the year 2012, especially with the introduction of the Vessel Monitoring System information sets that is being incorporated into the reconciliation process.

Data entry personnel continue to carry out “checks” in the TUFMAN system with its backups and scans of both log-sheets and landings being continuously sent to the Secretariat for the Pacific Community.

#### B] OBSERVER PROGRAM

As in Table 9 above, the Fiji National Observer coverage for the year 2012 has risen to 8.5% with a higher coverage level. Trips varied from the one to two week vessels fishing primarily in Fiji’s Archipelagic and Territorial waters and on vessel going upwards of three weeks in the Fiji’s EEZ area.

The Fiji National Observer data, once fully debriefed is entered into Fiji’s harmonised observer data summary for further analysis with respect to reporting purposes and compliance or rather non-compliance issues. All Observer data sets from the years 2012 to the years prior have been delivered to the Secretariat for the Pacific Community for further analysis.

The Fiji Observer program was, in the year 2012, able to secure funds and implement its first fully funded training program and in the same light, further its only trainee trainer’s certification process. These observers, having met the criterion of the SPC/FFA PIRFO certification were immediately deployed to long line vessels fishing in Fiji’s EEZ area and the adjacent and surrounding High Seas pockets.

This training also certified female observers that are currently being utilised in the Port Monitoring program, data entry activities and also in monitoring Fiji's 100% transshipment coverage levels.

The Fiji Regional Observer program was able to carry out a minimum of 30 Purse Seiner trips, for the year 2012. With the assistance of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency staff, the Fiji ROP observers were able to embark on vessels from both American Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia upon the United States Treaty and the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement Purse Seine vessels respectively, amongst other ports.

These Fiji ROP Observers were then able to be debriefed, upon their return, either at the ports of where they disembark in the event that a certified PIRFO Debriefing officer is available or in Fiji, where there is now a certified debriefer and two trainee debriefers. Should the Fiji ROP observer be debriefed in Fiji, the information is then sent directly to the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency.

### **C] PORT SAMPLING AND THE PORT MONITORING PROGRAM**

As in Table 9 above, Fiji's Port Sampling coverage was at 15% for the year 2012. Having a dedicated port sampler, with both the Fiji National and Regional Observers program observer's assistance, was able to cover vessels with an aim of at least three vessels per week.

The Port Monitoring program, which was introduced in 2011, has continued to be maintained since then. It was made in a response to a levy that was passed by the Government of the day on vessels that were less than 40 meters and that were transshipping their catch for landing in Fiji.

In response to this, the Port Monitoring program was made in order to trace the fish/catch of a vessel from the vessel to its destination, that is, to find out whether the fish was processed, placed in a reefer for transfer at a later date or if it was placed in storage.

### **D] TRANSHIPMENT**

As in Table 9 above, the coverage of authorised transshipment fishing vessels in Fiji is at a 100% and is carried out by the Fiji Regional Observer Program observers whilst awaiting their placement upon either the United States Treaty or the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement purse seiner vessel.

It should be noted that it is a condition of any authorised transshipment in Fiji's waters that an Observer be placed onboard in order to monitor the activity and that it only be carried out in Fiji's Territorial waters. This activity has assisted companies in tapping into the fresh tuna and tuna like products' exports markets and maintained a degree of economic profitability for companies especially in the years 2011 and 2012, where catch estimates were low by comparison to other years and in contradiction to the expected cycle where catch rates were to increase in the year 2012.

With respect to the monitoring of transshipment in Fiji's port, the Port Monitoring program that was initiated in the year 2011 has continued with the aim of, amongst other things, monitoring the transshipment in ports at 100% coverage levels. This port monitoring data set is then matched against the landing permits and should unlisted species be landed, it would then be reported as such and investigated into.

As for transshipment in other ports, it has been addressed topic 2.5 titled the “Catch Based on Relevant CCMs”.

## **2] RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

### **A] CETACEAN MITIGATION DEVICES**

The Fiji Ministry of Fisheries’ Offshore Fisheries Division continues its stance to support research activities that aim to benefit the tuna long line fishery in Fiji and in the region. As such, in 2012, it continued to support the research by the Australian Antarctic Division in Fiji, on the effectiveness of whale/cetacean mitigation devices against whale depredation; along with the respective voluntary industry stakeholders.

### **B] BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING**

In the year 2012, the Fiji National Observer program formulated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, on the need to collect biological samples out of Fiji’s waters.

## **3] OTHER**

At this point, Fiji would like to show its continuous appreciation to the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and the Forum Fisheries Agency in both its technical and policy making support.

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency was able to provide pivotal support, amongst other things, in the year 2012 on both its technical and policy making capacity to Fiji. It assisted the Offshore Fisheries Division in formulating more efficient and country specific reporting queries and intranet capabilities. In terms of policy making, its facilitation in the delivery of the Offshore Fisheries Management Decree and the eventual Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations along with the National Plan of Action on Sharks, to name a few, is to be commended.

The Secretariat for the Pacific Communities continued assistance in its technical capacity and assistance with reporting queries is also appreciated. Fiji is grateful for its assistance in the facilitation of the 2012 Fiji National Observer training, the provision for the Memorandum of Understanding on biological Sampling, as well as the provision of funds for the two much needed data operators. Its continued assistance in the upgrading and maintenance of the TUFMAN server in Fiji and the capacity building workshops of the Divisions staff members, is greatly appreciated.

The above, coupled with continued support within the Government system in both a financial and administrative capacity along with the continued cooperation expressed by the industry stakeholders in Fiji on various matters, is complimented.