



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

**A PROPOSAL FOR CLEARER GUIDELINES TO SATISFY
THE REQUIRED LEVEL OF ROP LONGLINE OBSERVER COVERAGE**

**WCPFC-TCC9-2013-09
10 September 2013**

A paper by the WCPFC Secretariat and SPC-OFP

Issues

1. The current guidelines for longline observer coverage (CMM 2007/01) are insufficient and are proving difficult for the WCPFC Secretariat to monitor and evaluate. The following issues have been identified:
 - Some CCMs are not aware of what they need to achieve in order to satisfy the obligation for 5% ROP coverage in the longline fishery, in particular the units for determining coverage were not defined in the measure (e.g. catch, effort, boats, or trips) nor are instructions provided as to the spatial/temporal scale that representativeness of observer coverage should be achieved;
 - Compliance with the measure has two aspects, 1) flag-state responsibility for coverage of their vessels, and 2) observer provider responsibilities for the provision of information from those trips that they cover;
 - However, the WCPFC Secretariat do not have sufficient information to measure compliance with respect to longline ROP coverage;
 - Some CCMs interpret the measure to indicate that a trip can be a mixture of ROP and non-ROP, and while not the intent of the measure, adds extra complexity for determining coverage.

This paper reviews longline ROP coverage requirements in CMM 2007-01 and the current structure of the longline fleet to make specific recommendations for how the measure be implemented by CCMs.

CMM Requirements

2. The specific requirements for ROP Longline coverage is described in CMM 2007-01 - Attachment K, Annex C paragraph 6:

*6. No later than 30 June 2012, CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each **fishery** under the jurisdiction of the Commission (except for vessels provided for in paras 9 and 10). In order to facilitate the placement of observers the logistics may dictate that this be done on the basis of trips.*

3. Noting that the ROP scope is vessels fishing exclusively on the high seas of the Convention Area, and vessels fishing on the high seas and in the waters under the national jurisdiction of one or more coastal States and vessels fishing in the waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States (CMM 2007-01 para 5), and the implementation of the ROP for troll and pole-and-line vessels is deferred (paragraph 10).

Proposed Guidelines

Introduction

4. The following guidelines are proposed for consideration by TCC to help the members with the interpretation of how CMM 2007/01 observer coverage applies to longline vessels and also to assist with getting an appropriate spread of coverage to strengthen, *inter alia*, the scientific assessments of the WCPFC fisheries.

5. This proposal will provide clearer guidelines to CCMs on what they need to do to satisfy ROP longline observer coverage for their fleets and will provide the WCPFC Secretariat with more appropriate and accurate information to measure compliance with ROP data coverage requirements.

6. Table 1 shows a breakdown of CCM longline fleets and the required level of coverage which will produce the overall ROP Longline coverage of 5%, as stipulated in CMM 2007-01.

7. For most CCM longline fleets, particularly the domestic longline fleets, the proposal is no different from the status quo in that CMM 2007-01 requires that a target of 5% of the longline vessel trips that occur in waters under the jurisdiction of the Commission should have an observer. Most CCMs that have domestic fleets restricted to the waters of national jurisdiction (that is, their home EEZ where vessel trips are non-ROP trips) have indicated that they are working towards having observer coverage that is at least compatible with the ROP required coverage of 5%, even though it is not a WCPFC obligation.

Longline observer coverage by “fishery”

8. Some flag-state CCMs have diverse longline fleets with the clear differences in (i) broad areas of operation, (ii) the species targeted, (iii) size of vessel, (iv) fish storage capabilities and (v) trip length. The term ‘**fishery**’ is used in the CMM 2007/01 and has been used in the past, in particular with respect to broad areas of operation and target species, as the basis for the logical separation of the catch and effort data within one longline fleet for WCPFC assessments. For example, the “fishery” in the eastern tropical WCPFC area where distant-water Chinese Taipei longline vessels

target bigeye tuna is distinct to the “fishery” in the temperate waters south of 20°S where distant-water Chinese Taipei vessels target albacore tuna.

9. Appendices 1-4 provide an indication of the differences in spatial coverage and species targeting for several flag-state CCMs, highlighting the different ‘fisheries’. The 5% ROP longline coverage needs to be applied to each ‘fishery’ so that representative observer data can be collected from all components of the WCPFC tuna fisheries and made available for the work of the WCPFC. The breakdown by flag and fishery proposed in these guidelines is not a new concept and is consistent with how the longline fishery data (catch/effort and size data) have been prepared and subsequently used in stock assessments in the past. The need to ensure representative observer data collection is by ‘fishery’ is also consistent with several CMM reporting obligations and other related work of the WCPFC, for example, monitoring sea-bird interaction in the more temperate-water fisheries.

10. According to Table 1, those fleets that will require coverage for more than one ‘fishery’ to meet the ROP longline requirements stipulated in CMM 2007/01 will be China, Indonesia, Japan, Chinese Taipei, USA and Vanuatu.

Unit for measuring Longline observer coverage

11. For most CCM longline fleets which have standard departure and return to port patterns, the obvious unit to measure longline observer coverage is the VESSEL TRIP¹ and the existence of logsheet or VMS data which are close to or at 100% coverage allows the coverage to be easily determined. Determining a Vessel Trip for a distant-water longline vessel that has very long trips and transships at sea is difficult as there is no obligation to define a trip in this context, and this type of information is mostly unavailable.

12. These guidelines therefore suggest that observer coverage for distant-water longline vessels transshipping at sea should be undertaken using ‘days-at-sea’ which should be a monthly reporting obligation for observer providers covering longline fleets. The WCPFC Secretariat will then be in a position to evaluate compliance with respect to observer coverage by comparing the observer days-at-sea by fleet and fishery with the overall fleet/fishery activity (i.e. days-at-sea) determined from the VMS and available logbook data.

13. To assist flag-state CCMs and observer service providers plan for observer deployment in the longline fishery each year, the WCPFC Secretariat (with assistance from the Science/Data service provider) could consider publishing a table of the total number of days-at-sea for each fleet/fishery (as listed in Table 1) that is required to satisfy the ROP coverage in that calendar year. This information would be based and compiled from the previous year’s VMS data and published before the end of January each year. This would then serve as a guideline as to what ROP Longline activity the WCPFC expects to be covered in the coming year for each fleet/fishery combination. An estimate of the required ROP trips could also be produced (where relevant) to facilitate the work of observer providers in planning their forthcoming observer deployments for the year.

¹ which is defined as the point of departure from port to commence fishing to the next return to port for offloading

Improvements in monitoring compliance of longline observer coverage

14. To further assist the work of the WCPFC in measuring compliance, it is suggested that observer providers send the following basic list of observer trips to the WCPFC Secretariat as an obligation for reporting on a monthly basis (i.e. covering observer trips completed in that month)

- I. Vessel name
- II. Flag
- III. Fishery (as per Table 1).
- IV. Departure from port and Return to port dates (... or in the case of vessels transshipping at sea, the first date at sea after a transshipment and the date of the next transshipment, which provides the days-at-sea)
- V. Observer Service provider name
- VI. Whether the trip is considered an ROP trip or a non-ROP trip
- VII. Total days during the trip which are considered to be ROP (for trips which are partial ROP and partial non-ROP for example, a trip both within the home EEZ and on the adjacent high seas).

Recommendations

15. The TCC is invited to review, consider and recommend to the Commission that it –
- (i) Approve the proposed guidelines for ROP longline coverage by fleet/fishery described in Table 1;
 - (ii) Approve the proposal for CCM observer providers to submit a monthly list of observer trips that were completed in the preceding month which will assist in measuring compliance with respect to ROP longline coverage;
 - (iii) Approve the requirement for the WCPFC Secretariat (with assistance from the Science/Data service provider) to provide a table of the total number of days-at-sea (and estimated trips, where relevant) for each fleet/fishery (as listed in Table 1) that is required to satisfy the ROP longline coverage, before the end of January (in the year to be covered);
 - (iv) Recognize that “days-at-sea” is the common currency for measuring longline effort for the purpose of determining 5% ROP coverage utilizing the VMS;
 - (v) Recognize that provision of coverage information and monitoring may be implemented in the first instance as “trips” for many CCMs, but that the suitability of this approach will be reviewed over time.

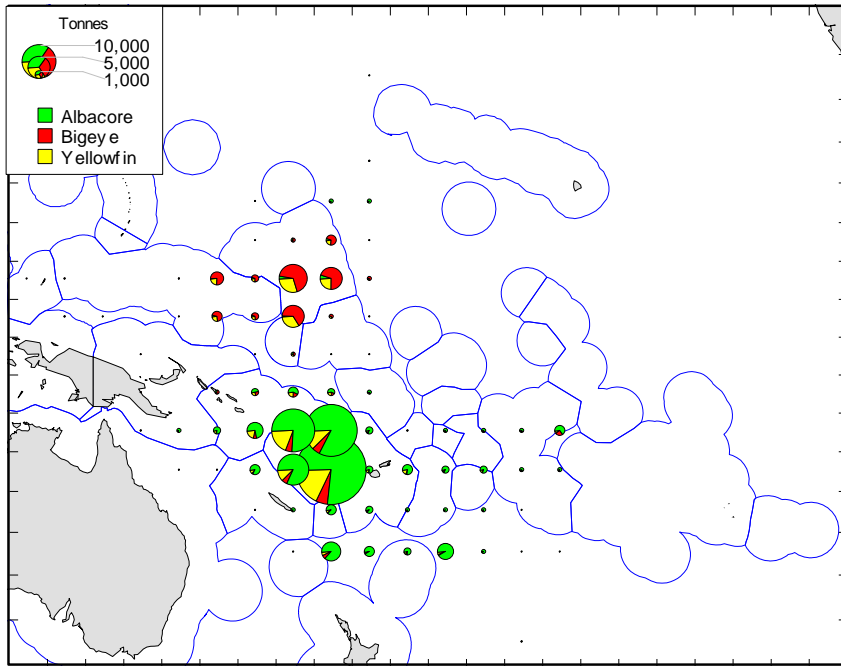
Table 1. Observer coverage targets for Longline fleets active in the WCPFC Area

CCM Fleet	Fishery	ROP Longline coverage required (days-at-sea)	See Note(s)
AUSTRALIA	Domestic	5%	1, 3
BELIZE	Distant-water	5%	2, 5
CHINA	Pacific Islands based	5%	2, 4
	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 6
COOK ISLANDS	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 6
FSM	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
FIJI	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
FRENCH POLYNESIA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
INDONESIA	Domestic	5%	1, 3
	Distant-water	5%	2, 5
JAPAN	Offshore (north of 15°N)	5%	2, 3, 6
	Pacific Islands	5%	2, 4
	Distant-water - Tropical	5%	2, 5, 6
	Distant-water - South of 20°S	5%	2, 5, 6
KIRIBATI	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
MARSHALL ISLANDS	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
NAURU	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
NEW CALEDONIA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
NEW ZEALAND	Domestic	5%	1, 3
NIUE	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
PALAU	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
PHILIPPINES	Distant-water	5%	2, 5
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 6
SAMOA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
SENEGAL	Distant-water	5%	2, 5
SOLOMON ISLANDS	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
TONGA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
TUVALU	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
CHINESE TAIPEI	Domestic/Asian based STLL	5%	1, 3, 6
	Pacific Island based STLL	5%	2, 4
	Distant-water - North of 20°N	5%	2, 5, 6
	Distant-water – Tropical	5%	2, 5, 6
	Distant-water South of 20°S	5%	2, 5, 6
USA	California-based	5%	1, 3
	HAWAII	5%	1, 3
	AMERICAN SAMOA	5%	1, 3
VANUATU	Domestic	5%	1, 3, 4
	Distant-water - North of 20°N	5%	2, 5, 6
	Distant-water - North of 20°N	5%	2, 5, 6
	Distant-water - South of 20°S	5%	2, 5, 6
WALLIS AND FUTUNA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
VIETNAM	Domestic	5%	1, 3

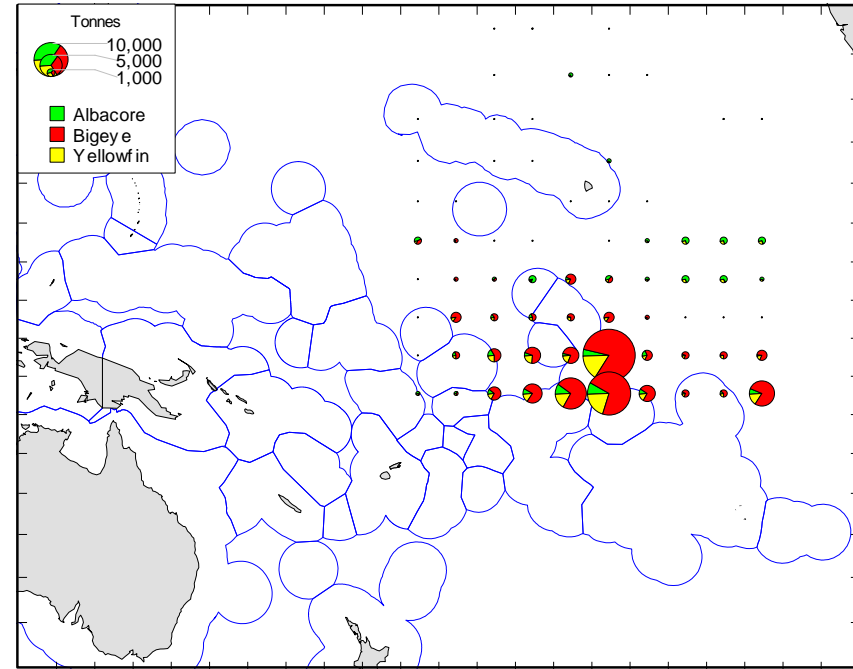
Notes

1. Most (if not all) vessel trips (and therefore most days-at-sea) would be non-ROP trips since mostly restricted to waters of national jurisdiction. For the Pacific Island countries, the ROP trips that are conducted outside the waters of national jurisdiction will normally be covered by Observer providers from the coastal state (i.e. PIC Observer providers other than the flag state)
2. All vessel trips (and therefore days-at-sea) would be defined as ROP trips.
3. The DOMESTIC Observer provider would normally cover this fleet.
4. Pacific Islands Observer provider(s) would normally cover this fleet.
5. The Observer provider(s) covering these trips are not known.
6. The FLAG-STATE Observer provider(s) may be covering these trips

APPENDIX 1 – Distribution of CHINESE longline catch by species (Pacific-islands based and distant-water FLEETS)

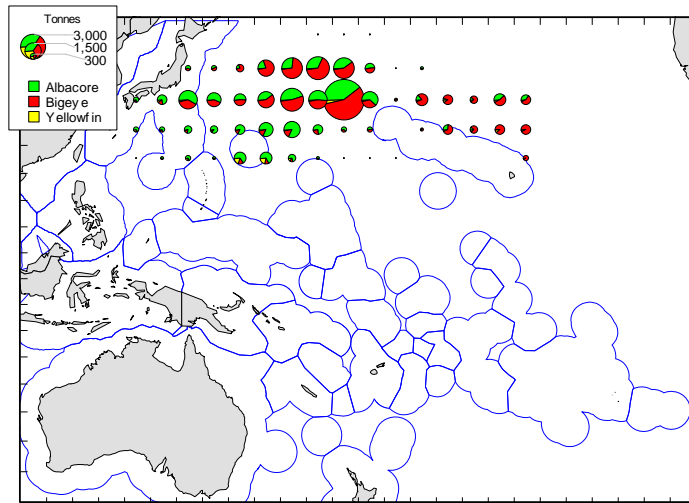


Catch by species, Pacific Islands-based, 2005-2012

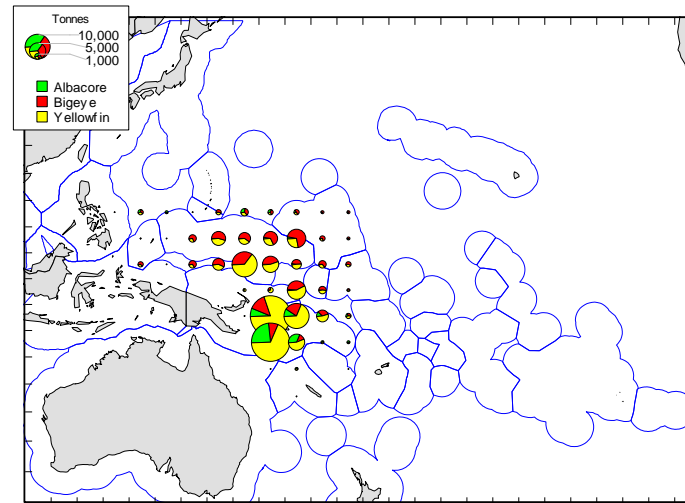


Catch by species, DISTANT-WATER, 2005-2012

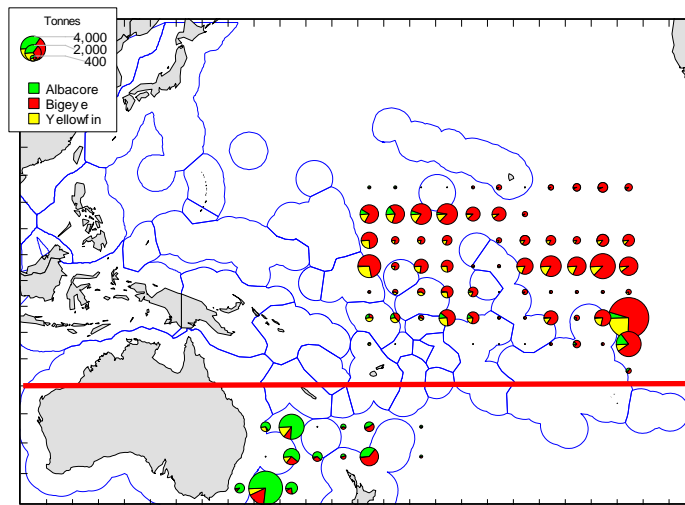
APPENDIX 2 – Distribution of JAPANESE longline catch by species (Offshore north of 15°N, Pacific-islands and distant-water FLEETS)



Catch by species, Japan north of 15°N, 2005-2012

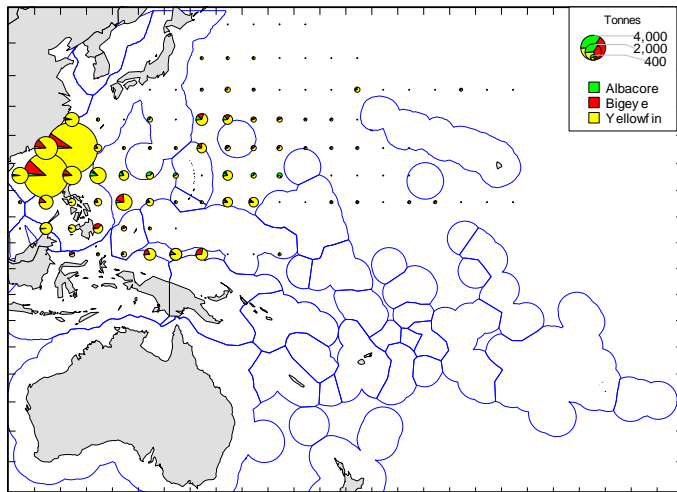


Catch by species, PACIFIC ISLANDS, 2005-2012

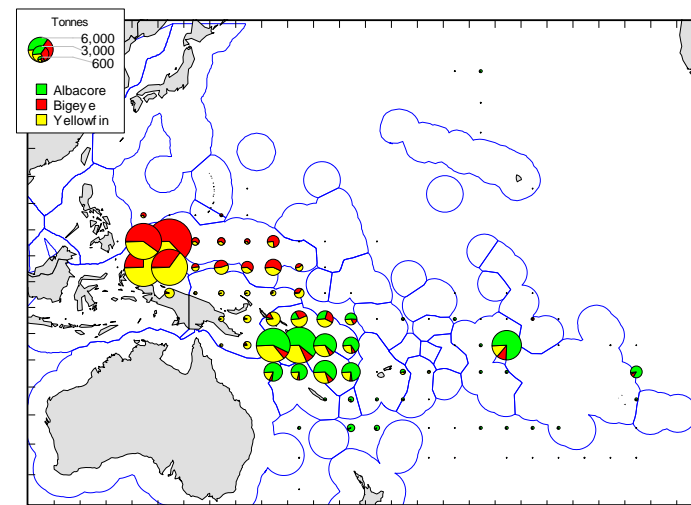


Catch by species, DISTANT-WATER (tropical, south of 20°S), 2005-2012

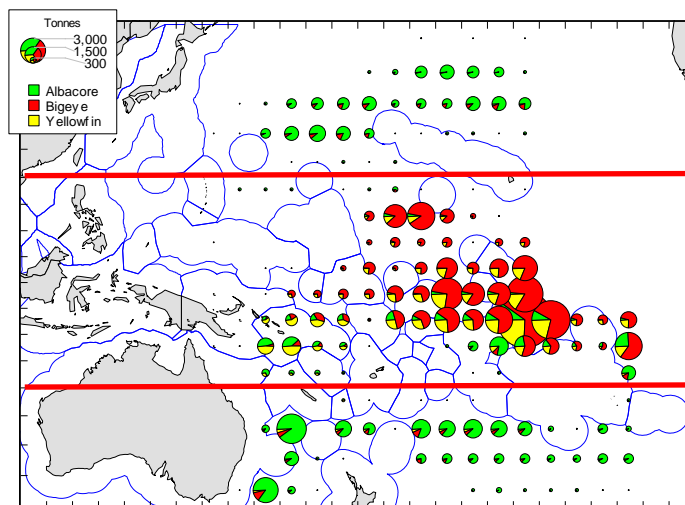
APPENDIX 3 – Distribution of CHINESE TAIPEI longline catch by species (Domestic-based STLL, Pacific-islands based STLL and distant-water FLEETS)



Catch by species, Domestic-based STLL vessels, 2005-2012

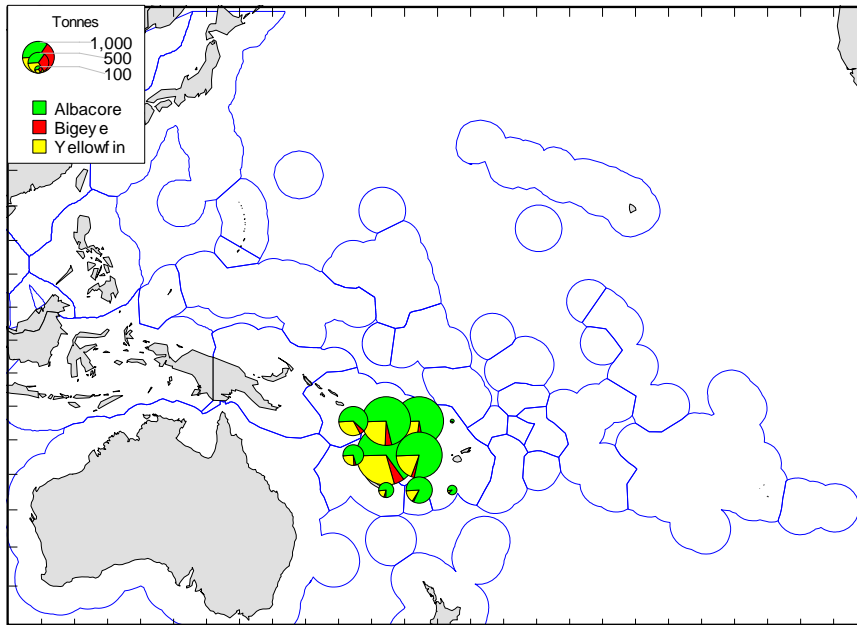


Catch by species, PACIFIC ISLANDS Based STLL, 2005-2012

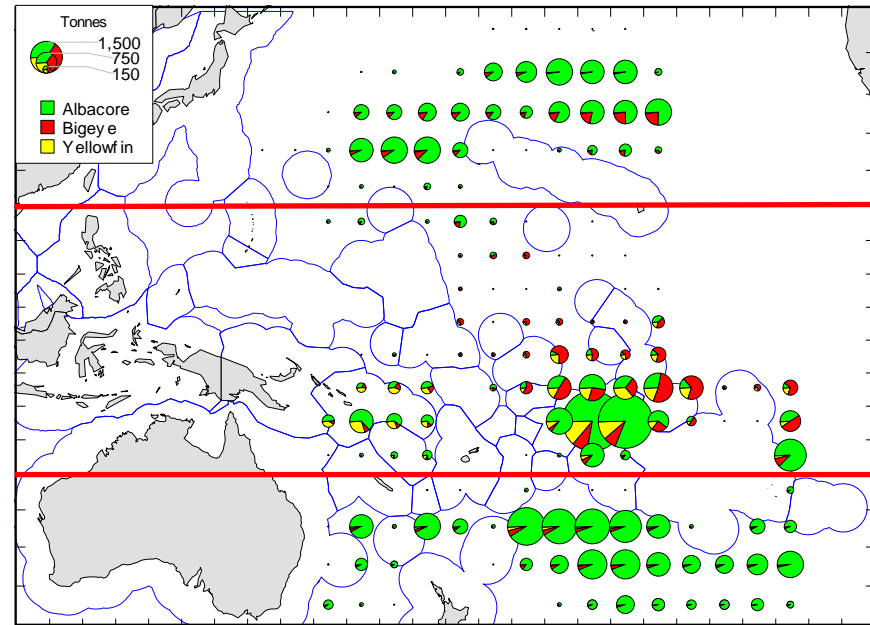


Catch by species, DISTANT-WATER (north of 20°N, tropical, south of 20°S), 2005-2012

APPENDIX 4 – Distribution of VANUATU longline catch by species (Domestic and distant-water FLEETS)



Catch by species, Domestic (offshore), 2005-2012



Catch by species, DISTANT-WATER, 2005-2012
(north of 20°N, tropical, south of 20°S)