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

WCPFC-SC10-AR/CCM-07

FIJI

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT TO THE

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS FOR 2013

FIJI

OFFSHORE FISHERIES DIVISION

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF FISHRIES AND FORESTS

JUNE 2014

FIJI

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the commission by 30th April 2014.	[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 2013, approximately 44.3% of the fishing occurred in Fiji's waters with 25.4% in the High Seas. When taking into consideration the overall catches by this fleet, that is to include catches in other EEZs, approximately 30.3% 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 decrease in the Fiji flagged long line catches when comparing all the vessels catches from 2009 to 2013.

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 stakeholders along with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community's' technical support, have made significant efforts to ensure that the fishery is maintained in a sustainably manageable form, whilst encouraging economic viability.

For the year 2013, Fiji maintains it vessel cap at 65 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 stakeholders 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 of around 1,290,000 km^2 and is made up of 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 Kingdom of Tonga to the South East. In addition to this, approximately 40 percent of the EEZ is bordered by the high seas to the general southern area, north western and north north western region.

Fishing activity for highly migratory fish stocks in and around Fiji waters has been occurring since the early 1950s and was dominated by foreign fleets. Local participation in the commercial tuna fishing began in the mid-1970s through the pole and line fishery to supply its local cannery. With the introduction of the more efficient purse seine fishery, the domestic pole and line fishery ended giving way to the long line fishery targeting fresh and chilled sashimi tuna.

Around the second quarter of the year 2013, the domestic fishing industry hived out to test other viable fishery, such as mahi-mahi fishery.

In the year 2013, Fiji had a total of 108 fishing vessels operating in its waters as well as authorised to fish in high seas. From these 108 vessels, the Fiji flagged longline vessel fleet had a license cap of 65 vessels, 11 of which were foreign flagged chartered fishing vessels. In addition to this, a total of 43 vessels were Fiji flagged authorized to fish in the High Seas by Fiji. The Fiji flagged longline vessel fleet license cap is 5 vessels less from the year 2012.

The Offshore Fisheries Division is responsible for the implementation of all MCS initiatives at national level that includes the WCPFC CMMs. In total there are 53 personnel, of which 49 are technical officers, and 4 under administration. In addition to this, there are 26 that come under the Regional Observer Program and 2 SPC funded project officers.

2013 was a challenging year for the division in that we were required to better our legislation and capacity in order to effectively combat IUU fishing. In response, Government provided 25 new positions to the division and supported the formulation/revision of our offshore fisheries laws, national plan of actions and management plans. All this were made possible through the technical assistance from FFA, SPC and WCPFC.

2.0 ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

2.1 TUNA CATCHES

Table 1. Annual Catch estimates for the Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet, 2009 – 2013

TOTAL ANNUAL CATCH ESTIMATES FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FISHING FLEET 2009-2013 [MT]					
SPECIES	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**PROVISIONAL 2013**
ALBACORE	7,166	7,279	7,793	7,958	5,786.9
BIG-EYE	689	532	681	1,019	667.5
YELLOW FIN	2,564	2,144	2,248	2,081	1,292.8
TUNA LIKE	3,430	4,441	1,422	1,388	1,229.4
TOTAL	**13,849**	**14,396**	**12,145**	**12,446**	**8,976.6**

The table 1 above shows the total catches for the year 2013 as well as for the past 4 years.

It should be noted that there was a drop for all the catches; tuna and tuna like species for the year 2013 when compared to all the catches for the past four years.

Ultimately, a point to be raised is that the years 2011 to 2013 catch estimates have included Fiji's Archipelagic and Territorial seas catches in addition to Fiji's EEZ and the High Seas catch estimates.

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, 2013.

TOTAL ANNUAL TUNA LIKE CATCH FOR FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FISHING FLEET 2013 [MT]	
SPECIES	**WEIGHTS [MT]**
BILLFISH	
SWORDFISH	104.7
BLUE MARLIN	169.4
BLACK MARLIN	44.5
STRIPED MARLIN	32.3
SPEARFISH	3.8
TOTAL	**354.6**
TUNA LIKE SPECIES	
WAHOO	157.3
MAHIMAHI	313.3
BARRACUDAS	3.9
ESCOLARS	3.9
OPAH	82.3
OTHER SPECIES	314.2
TOTAL	**874.8**

Table 2 above shows the catch estimates of Bill-fish and Tuna like Species from Fiji's flagged long line fisheries. It should be noted that the shark catches are now listed under topic 2.6, titled "Catch Based on Relevant CMMs".

2.3 FLEET STRUCTURE

Table 3. Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet Structure, 2010 – 2013.

FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET STRUCTURE 2010 -2013				
LENGTH (m)	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**
<21m	7	8	11	11
21m-30m	43	42	38	37
>31m	43	71	64	59
TOTAL	**92**	**121**	**113**	**108**

Table 3 above shows Fiji's flagged long line Fleet Structure from 2010 to 2013. The fleet structure for 2013 consists of the 65 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 and in other EEZs, by virtue of their respective license arrangements.

By virtue of their size class [<21m] 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 <21m 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 transhipment their fresh fish out at sea. This meant that the companies could call in the transhipment 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 transhipment 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 transhipment activity only occurs in Fiji's Territorial seas.

The final size class, >30m category, mostly uses freezers to preserve their catch at subzero 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.

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.

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.

2.4 FISHING PATTERNS

Figure 1A. Fiji Flagged Long Line Fleet Structure, 2013.

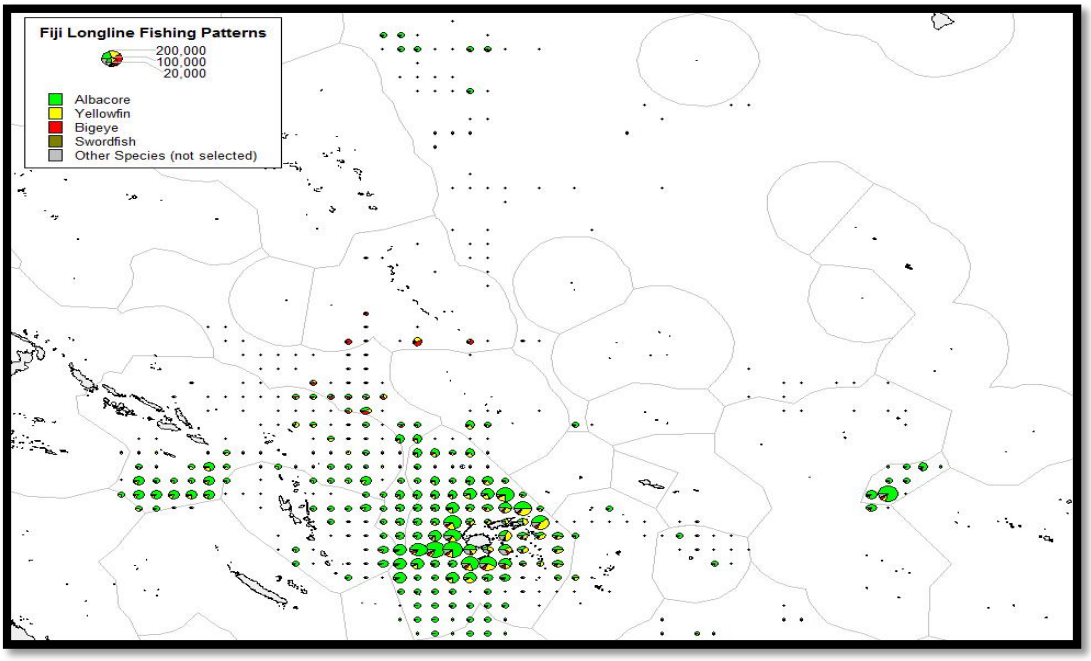

Figure 1A above is a snapshot of Fiji's Flagged long line fleet catches for the 3 tuna species as well as swordfish in 2013, namely albacore (green), bigeye (red), and yellowfin (yellow). As in the imagery, much of the catch is carried out in Fiji's EEZ with certain portions in others EEZs (where the vessels are licensed to) and in nearby high seas, where vessels obtain High Seas Authorisations, in order to gain access. It should be noted that 30.3% of the Fiji flagged long-line overall catches were obtained in the other EEZs.

It should also be noted that all vessels in the Fiji flagged long line fleet that fished north of the equator in 2013 for North Pacific striped marlin and North Pacific albacore and South Pacific albacore and swordfish, have been addressed in this paper. (Refer to 2.6 – "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, 2009 – 2013

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS. MARINE TURTLES 2009 - 2013											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
		No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD
MARINE TURTLES	GREEN TURTLES	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	**18**	**4**
	LOGGERHEAD TURTLES	2	2	3	2	7	4	2	1	**4**	**3**
	HAWKSBILL TURLE	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	**3**	**0**
	LEATHERBACK TURTLES	1	0	3	3	2	0	2	1	**7**	**1**
	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	**8**	**6**
	FLATBACK TURTLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**	**1**
	TURTLES [UNIDENTIFIED]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
TOTAL TURTLES		**6**	**5**	**8**	**6**	**12**	**7**	**6**	**3**	**41**	**15**

Table 4A above shows the observed incidences of gear interactions with marine turtles by the Fiji Observer program Observers, whilst on placement trips from the years 2009 to 2013. It should be noted that all observers in the Fiji Observer program are certified and trained in the mitigation/handling/releasing of sea turtles under the SPC/FFA PIRFO Standards.

The Fiji Fisheries Offshore Division has ensured that all Fiji licensed long line fishing vessels change their hooks arrangements to Circle Hooks and also that industry stake holders were made aware, through awareness trainings, on the proper mitigation and turtle handling techniques, such as the techniques used when using a turtle de-hooker and also 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 all Fiji fishing vessels at the beginning of the 2007 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. Similarly, posters of the proper means of handling sea turtles and turtle identification booklets were also made available to the respective fishing companies and also resuscitation pamphlets have been issued with the relevant trainings being conducted.

Table 4B. Annual Table of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2009 – 2013.

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF VESSEL INTERACTIONS AND SIGHTINGS MARINE MAMMALS 2009 – 2013											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
		No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD
MARINE MAMMALS	DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES	2	0	11	0	5	0	6	0	81	0
	TOOTHED WHALES	1	0	8	0	11	0	11	1	121	0
	NON-TOOTHED WHALES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
	MARINE MAMMALS [UNIDENTIFIED]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	WHALE SHARKS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
TOTAL MARINE MAMMALS		3	0	20	0	16	0	17	1	208	0

Table 4B above shows the observed incidences of vessel interactions and sightings of marine mammals by the Fiji Observer program observers whilst on placement trips from the years 2009 to the year 2013.

It should be noted that all Observers in the Fiji Observer Program are certified and trained in the proper identification of marine mammals and are also certified under the SPC/FFA PIRFO Standards.

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

Table 4C. Annual Table of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2009 - 2013.

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS SEABIRDS 2009 - 2013											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
		No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD
SEA BIRDS	SEAS BIRDS	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	5
TOTAL SEA BIRDS		0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	5

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 of seabirds and also are certified under the SPC/FFA PIRFO Standards.

A total of 8 seabirds interactions were observed and reported for the year 2013. Of these 8 seabirds: 4 of the seabirds sighted were classified as Albatrosses, 3 of which were sighted flying above the set, whilst 1 was caught on the hook and was discarded. The other 4 of the seabirds that were also sighted belonged to the species of Petrels; 3 were caught on the hook on its abdomen during hauling time and were discarded dead, whilst 1 was entangled in the branch line with a shark species.

Regardless, all Fiji licensed vessels employ deep setting tuna long line fishing strategies and also use weighted branch-lines.

2.6 CATCH BASED ON RELEVANT CMMs.

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, 15 Fiji flagged vessels were logged in this area having a big-eye catch of 25.98 mt, a yellow-fin catch of 35.32 mt, albacore catch of 467.15 mt, swordfish had a catch of 4.19 mt, stripped marlin had 1.42 and others had a total catch of 49.27 mt.

Table 5. Annual Table Fiji flagged long line catches in the IATTC overlap area, 2013.

TOTAL ANNUAL 2013 CATCH ESTIMATES EAST 150 DEGREES WEST (IATTC OVERLAP)		
FIJI FLAGGED VESSELS NO.	**SPECIES**	**TOTAL (MT)**
15	ALBACORE	467.15
	BIGEYE	25.98
	YELLOWFIN	35.32
	SWORDFISH	4.19
	STRIPPED MARLIN	1.42
	OTHERS	49.27
TOTAL		**583.33**

Table 5 above shows the 2013 catch estimates in metric tonnes and the number of vessels, for the Fiji flagged long lining vessels that had fished along the IATTC overlap area.

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 19 Fiji flagged long line vessels were logged to have caught albacore North of the equator at a total of 339.249 mt of North Pacific albacore fishing at a total of 32 days for the year 2013.

It should be noted that these catches were caught as by-catches and not as targeted species.

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 2013; 18.2 mt of Striped Marlin were logged to have been caught by 40 Fiji flagged long line vessels. Of the 18.2 mt, 1.3 mt were logged by 7 of the 11 chartered long line fishing vessels which had fished in Fiji's EEZ for the year 2013.

It should be noted that these catches were caught as by-catches and not as targeted species.

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, there were a total of 8 seabird's interactions that were observed and reported for the year 2013.

Of this 8 seabirds, 4 of the seabirds sighted were Albatrosses; 3 of which were sighted flying above the set, whilst 1 was caught on a hook, dead. The other 4 of the seabirds that were also sighted belonged to the species of Petrels; all 4 were caught on the hook on its abdomen during hauling time and were discarded dead.

It should be noted that the Fiji flagged long lining vessels 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 2012-01 BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN

In the year 2013, as in Table 6 below, only 4 US Treaty Purse Seine Fishing vessels made a total of 13 sets in Fiji's waters and caught a total of 225.9 mt of tuna.

Table 6. Annual Table Purse Seine catches in Fiji's Water, 2008 - 2013.

2013 ANNUAL CATCH BY US TREATY PURSE SEINE VESSELS IN FIJI'S WATER [MT]						
NO. OF VESSELS	**SETS**	**BET**	**YFT**	**SKJ**	**OTHR**	**TOTAL**
5	**13**	**9**	**16**	**200.9**	**0**	**225.9**

Source: FFA

CMM 2008-03 SEA 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 to have the Licensed Fleet vessel crews trained and equipped with turtle mitigation techniques, devices and identification booklets.

CMM 2009-03 SWORDFISH

In the year 2013 and in accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-03, 32 Fiji flagged long lining vessels caught a total of 10.9 mt. Of the 11 chartered long line fishing vessels, 9 chartered long line fishing vessels caught 3.2 mt of swordfish in the area South of 20 degrees South within Fiji's EEZ.

Table 7.Annual Table of the Fiji Flagged Long Lining Fleet, 2010 - 2013

TOTAL ANNUAL 2013 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		
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
2013	21.4	49	4.5	9	25.9	58

Table 7 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 2010 to the years 2013, for swordfish caught south of 20° south.

It should be noted that these catches were caught as by-catches and not as targeted species.

CMM 2009-06 TRANSHIPMENT

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-06 on transhipment, 5 transhipment events occurred in 3 separate ports by 4 Fiji flagged long lining vessels as in Tables 8A to 8C below.

In total, 192.66 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 Tarawa being 147.33 metric tonnes, the total transhipped species in Apia being 12.13 mt and finally a total transhipped species in Kaohsiung at 33.19 metric tonnes.

The species listed in Tables 8A to 8C below were all caught in the WCPFC Convention area and have been reported as such.

No Fiji fishing vessels transhipped in the high seas or any EEZ in 2013.

Table 8A. Annual Table for Fiji flagged long line fleet transhipping in Other Ports [Tarawa, 2013].

TOTAL 2013 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET TRANSHIPPING IN OTHER PORTS TARAWA [MT]			
PORT	SPECIES	CONDITION	TOTAL [MT]
TARAWA	ALBACORE	FROZEN	2.32
	BIGEYE	FROZEN	33.95
	YELLOWFIN	FROZEN	96.22
	SWORDFISH	FROZEN	4.00
	BLUE MARLIN	FROZEN	7.87
	STRIPPED MARLIN	FROZEN	0.07
	WHITE MARLIN	FROZEN	0.61
	OTHERS	FROZEN	2.29
TOTAL			147.33

Table 8B. Annual Table for Fiji flagged long line fleet transhipping in Other Ports [Apia, 2013].

TOTAL 2013 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET TRANSHIPPING IN OTHER PORTS APIA [MT]			
PORT	SPECIES	CONDITION	TOTAL [MT]
APIA	BIGEYE	FROZEN	7.00
	YELLOWFIN	FROZEN	4.09
	SWORDFISH	FROZEN	0.85
	STRIPED MARLIN	FROZEN	0.10
	OTHERS	FROZEN	0.09
TOTAL			12.13

Table 8C. Annual Table for Fiji flagged long line fleet transhipping in Other Ports [Kaohsiung, 2013].

TOTAL 2013 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE FLEET TRANSHIPPING IN OTHER PORTS KAOHSIUNG [MT]			
PORT	SPECIES	CONDITION	TOTAL [MT]
KAOHSIUNG	BIGEYE	FROZEN	17.26
	YELLOWFIN	FROZEN	14.10
	SWORDFISH	FROZEN	1.12
	STRIPPED MARLIN	FROZEN	0.71
TOTAL			33.19

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, 11 Fiji flagged long line fishing vessels were logged to have caught 3.0 mt Striped Marlin in the region of interest north of the equator for the year 2013.

It should be noted that these catches were caught as by-catches and not as targeted species.

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 40 Fiji's flagged long lining vessels that logged a total catch of 599.7 mt of South Pacific albacore. In this region of interest, 9 of the 11 chartered long line fishing vessels in Fiji's licensed fleet were logged to have caught South Pacific albacore at a total weight of 222.0 mt.

CMM 2010-07–SHARKS

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

Table 9. Fiji Flag Long line fleet: TABLE OF SHARK CATCH, 2013.

FIJI FLAGGED LONG LINE CATCH ESTIMATES: SHARKS CATCHES [MT] 2013	
SPECIES	**MT**
BLUE SHARK	12.4
SILKY SHARK	2.4
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP[1]	2.0
LONG FIN MAKO	0.03
SHORT FIN MAKO	0.9
PELAGIC THRESHER	0.03
PORBEAGLE SHARK	0.6
GREAT HAMMERHEAD	0.2
SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD	0.2
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD	0.4
WINGHEAD HAMMERHEAD	0
OTHER SHARKS	19.3
TOTAL	**38.5**

NOTE: The above table weights were acquired from the Fiji flagged logsheets entered into the TUFMAN Server.

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.

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.

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.

Additionally, Fiji is party to the Convention of the International Trade on the Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna and will be complying with the decision of the Conference of the Parties, which was held in Bangkok in 2013.

[1] OCS were caught and released, refer to CMMs on oceanic white-tip 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 2012-01, 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 showed that:

1) 5 were landed on-board, de-hooked and released alive.
2) 5 were caught in the branch line and were struck off close to the vessel.
3) 5 that were tangled by the branch line 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 2012-01, Table 6.

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 2013, a total of 1,000.2 metric tonnes of tuna was processed and exported with albacore products making a total of 80.5% [805.4 mt] of Fiji's total export, big-eye tuna products at 3.9% [38.6 mt] and yellow-fin tuna products at 2.0% [20.1 mt] with other species making up the final 13.6% [136.1 mt].

Fiji continues to provide tuna products to the local PAFCO cannery and to the canneries in both China [140,110 mt] and American Samoa [5,412.7 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 10. Estimated Annual Coverage, 2008 - 2013.

	PERCENTAGE COVERAGE (%)					
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**
CATCH/EFFORT	**99**	**99**	**99**	**99**	**99**	**99**
OBSERVER	**2.5**	**3.1**	**2.9**	**3**	**8.5**	**10.1**
PORT SAMPLING	**8.3**	**7.1**	**7.7**	**3.6**	**15**	**10**
TRANSHIPMENT	**-**	**-**	**-**	**100**	**100**	**100**

A] LOGSHEETS AND LANDINGS DATA.

As in Table 10 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 with the 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 is a priority.

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 10 above, the Fiji National Observer coverage for the year 2013 has increased to 10.1% 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.

It should also be noted that as of April 2013, the mahi-mahi fishery in Fiji was initiated with 100% observer coverage.

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 year 2013 to the years prior have been delivered to the Secretariat for the Pacific Community for further analysis.

The Fiji Observer Program, in the year 2013, continued to implement its fully funded training program and in the same light, furthered its only trainee trainer's certification process. These observer's, 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.

This training also certified observers that are currently being utilised in the Port Monitoring Program, Port Sampling Program and also in monitoring Fiji's 100% transhipment at port coverage levels, whilst awaiting their deployment.

The Fiji Regional Observer Program was able to carry out a minimum of 15 Purse Seiner trips, for the year 2013. 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 ports of where they disembarked, in the event that a certified PIRFO Debriefer was 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 10 above, Fiji's Port Sampling coverage was at 15% for the year 2013. 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 transhipping 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 10 above, the coverage of authorised transhipment 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 transhipment 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' export markets and maintained a degree of economic profitability for companies.

With respect to the monitoring of transhipment 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 transhipment 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.

2] RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

A] CETACEAN MITICATION 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 2013, 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 2013, 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 continued to provide pivotal support to the department by ways of technical assistance pertaining to capacity building and the continued strengthening of the various legal instruments.

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 2013 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 stake holders in Fiji on various matters, is complimented.