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

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NAURU

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
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ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2013**



NAURU

1. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

1.1 Fishery Characteristics

- a) Nauru's Offshore Fishery is dominated by the Distant Water Fishing Nation's Purse Seines, its primary target are Skipjack and Yellowfin tuna that are intended for foreign canneries.
- b) The majority of the fishing vessels are between the 1001 – 1500 GRT size and are licensed under either a Bilateral Agreement or a Multilateral Agreements; i.e. US Treaty or FSM Arrangement.
- c) There has been no significant change to the quantity of longline vessels licensed to fish in Nauru's EEZ since 2012. Japan is the only fishing nation with bilateral agreement covering longline and catches are mainly for the Japanese sashimi markets.
- d) Nauru does not have any commercial scale fisheries of any kind under its flag or through charter arrangement.
- e) The Artisanal Fishery remains the major source of fish protein for Nauru's populace, and it contributes 2.03% of Nauru's GDP. The artisanal fishery is comprised mainly of motorized skiffs and canoes. The Target species are generally coastal pelagic species which are either free-school or FAD aggregated. Catches are basically for subsistence, barter or commercial at a small scale.

2. Offshore and Catch Estimates

The majority of species caught in Nauru's offshore fishery as per previous years is made up of skipjack (SKJ), yellowfin (YFT) and bigeye (BET) tuna.

In 2013 there was a significant increase for the past five years of purse seine effort (table 1). The overall catches also increased significantly in 2013 compared to the past 4 years (2009-2012). Average total catch by DWFN's in Nauru's EEZ for the past 5 years is 96,924.40mt; SKJ caught averaged 74,424.17mt and both YFT and BET averaged 11,250.10mt. The average number of effort in Nauru's EEZ for past 5 years is 3,007.10 days.

(Note: the figures are according to SPC estimates derived from logsheets which includes multilaterally-licensed vessels as well as vessels licensed to fish in Nauru according to the Palau Arrangement Vessel Days Management Scheme).

YEAR	EFFORT (Days)	SKIPJACK	YELLOWFIN	BIGEYE	TOTAL
2009	2,333.20	49,943.20	10,126.90	1,901.90	61,972.00
2010	3,731.30	79,533.70	24,977.20	3,190.30	107,701.20
2011	3,236.30	82,066.50	17,146.60	8,300.50	107,513.60
2012	1,790.50	42,182.80	8,157.30	3,551.40	53,891.50
2013	4,263.70	118,394.60	25,580.30	9,568.70	153,543.60

Table 1: Summary of total catches in Nauru's EEZ by all DWFN fleets from 2009 – 2013.

(Source: Un-raised logsheet data collected by Nauru held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database, SPC.)

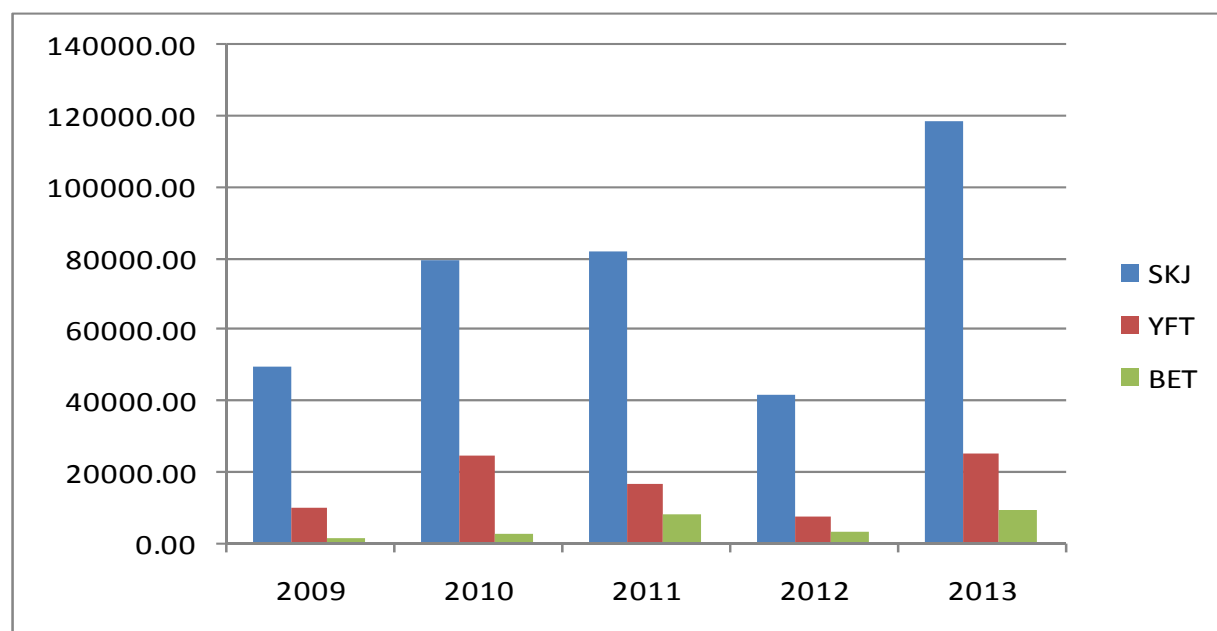


Table2: Trend of total catches by Foreign Fleet in Nauru's EEZ over a 5 year period.

3. Artisanal fleet

Nauru's artisanal fleet comprises mainly of skiffs and canoes (table 5) that are operated by local fishers who fish for either subsistence, barter or small scale commercial within its territorial waters. Data are collected by surveyors (interviews) from NFMRA'S Coastal Section at 3 major landing sites.

As shown on tables 3 and 4, there is a vast increase in numbers of yellowfin recorded compared to previous years in 2013. This is due to the consistency in data collection and the additional canoe data that was collected at landing sites where concentration of Yellowfin tuna was landed.

The continued assistance and support of recent visits by SPC experts has been essential of the improvement of data collection; this was by way of facilitating the program with transports, measuring equipments, capacity building of staff towards field work, data entry and incentives to assist in gaining the confidence and cooperation of local fishers.

Although all data are now uploaded on the Tuna Fisheries Artisanal (TUFART) database system which was developed by SPC, further refining of the system to suit local conditions is still ongoing.

YEAR	Tuna Catches (Kilograms)			
	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Others	Total
2009	7,099	1,158	182.5	8,438.5
2010	62	56.5	0	118.5
2011	5,405.5	5,576	0	10,981.5
2012	8,025.3	3,219	315	11,559.3
2013	15,927.6	2,732.4	1,730.8	20,390.8

Table 3: Annual catch estimates for the NAURU ARTISANAL fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2009 - 2013. (Source: TUFART Coastal Fisheries survey of un-raised estimates based on FAD Fishing Canoe logbook)

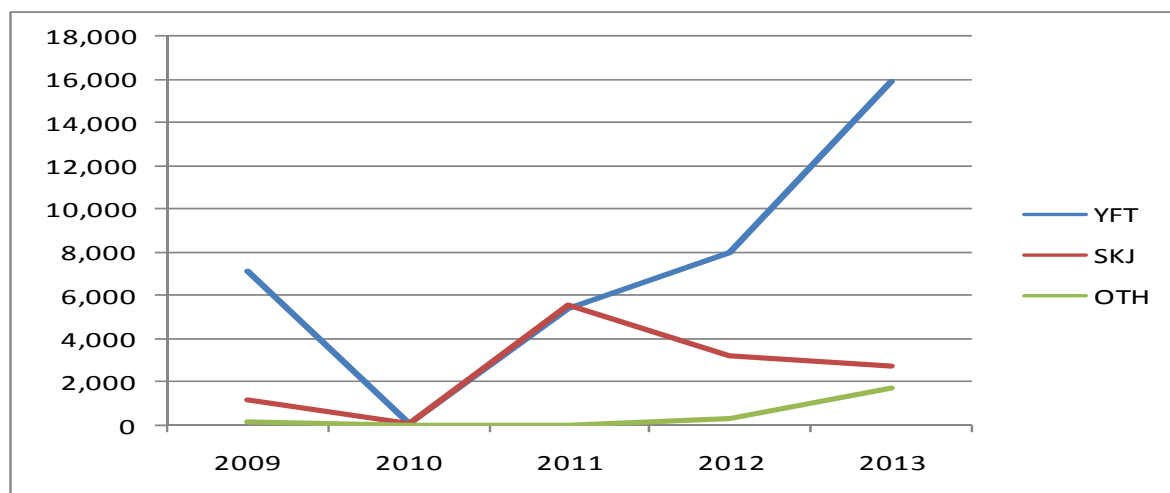


Table 4: 5 year trend for total Artisanal catches in Nauru from 2009 - 2013.

ACTIVE BOAT TYPES	NUMBER
Boats with paddle - Canoes	36
Boats with motors - Skiffs/Outboards	72
TOTAL	108

Table 5: Active artisanal fleet in 2013.

4. Licensing and Fleet Structure

The majority of the commercial fleet operating in Nauru's EEZ consists of all the main Purse Seine fleet of the Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs).

In 2013 there were 195 foreign purse seine vessels licensed to operate in Nauru's EEZ. In support of the purse seine fleet, Nauru licensed an additional 6 bunkers and 1 fish carrier.

Table 6 and 7 is a detailed breakdown of the fleets by country and size. A majority of the purse seine vessels fall within the 1001 -1500 GRT category. There are 44 vessels that are in the super seine category - 1500+ GRT.

FISHING VESSELS						
FLAG	GEAR	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
CHINA (CN)	PS	12	-	5	4	3
JAPAN (JP)	LL	3	3	-	-	-
JAPAN (JP)	PS	32	19	2	9	2
KIRIBATI (FSMA)	PS	7	-	-	3	4
FSM (FSMA)	PS	9	-	5	2	2
MARSHALL (FSMA)	PS	10	-	1	6	3
PILLIPHINES (FSMA)	PS	4	-	-	2	2
PNG (FSMA)	PS	32	-	16	13	3
KOREA (KR)	PS	28	-	8	14	6
TAIWAN (TW)	PS	33	-	11	18	4
US (UST)	PS	29	-	12	6	11
TUVALU (VU)	PS	1	-	-	-	1
VANUATU (VU)	PS	3	-	-	-	3
TOTAL		195	22	52	77	44

Table.6: Foreign Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2013

SUPPORT VESSELS					
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
KOREA	1				1
PANAMA	2				2
SINGAPORE	2				2
TAIWAN	1				1
TUVALU	1				1
TOTAL	7				7

Table.7: Foreign Support Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2013

5. Socioeconomic

Revenue derived from fishing licenses continues to provide the bulk of non aid income for Nauru comprising over 15% of the total state revenue of the last financial (2013-14) year.

The only development made from the offshore fishing industry is Nauru's Fisheries Observer Program (NFOP). Apart from the Observer Program Coordinator/Manager and assistant; the program has a cadre of 29 trained observers (5 non-PIRFO certified - Taiwan trained) and 3 trainee De-briefers. The NFOP have undertaken a total of 48 trips - 14 National, 29 FFA and 5 PNA - mostly on purse seiners.

The Artisanal Fishery still remains a reliable source of fish protein diet and income generator for Nauru's local communities.

6. Research and Statistics

Upgrading skills of NFMRA personnel through participation in regional capacity building workshops and training is always ongoing. Nauru, like most other regions has now embraced the database systems; i.e. TUFMAN and TUFART which had been developed by OFP/SPC. However, constant refining of both systems to meet Nauru's requirements is ongoing.

Nauru would like to acknowledge the ongoing support and assistance provided through the AusAID Fisheries Management Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP). The project managed by Mr. Being Yeeting is focused on developing Nauru's Coastal Fisheries Management framework.

In addition, Nauru acknowledges New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) in providing a volunteer Coastal Fisheries Scientist - Mr. Nicholas Hay - whom is contracted for 2 years to support and share his expertise by providing on the job training on Effective and Sustainable Coastal Resource Audit for Nauru's Coastal Fisheries under the supervision of FFA and supported by SPC.