

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TENTH REGULAR SESSION

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

WCPFC-SC10-AR/CCM-13

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

## **Republic of the Marshall Islands**

Annual Report to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Part 1: Information of fisheries, statistics and research

> Oceanic and Industrial Affairs Division Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority Republic of the Marshall Islands

> > August 2014

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2014

Yes

#### **SUMMARY**

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) continued to operate ten purse seine vessels fishing throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and four longline vessels which typically fished within the RMI EEZ north of the equator. The total catch by the national purse seine fleet in 2013 was provisionally estimated to be 77,634mt of which 19% was taken within the RMI EEZ. Total catch by the longline fleet decreased significantly from the previous year to 144mt as the fleet only fished during the first quarter of 2013 before reflagging to FSM. There are also numerous onshore fishery development undertakings including a longline fishbase servicing domestically-based foreign longline fishing vessels as well as a tuna loining plant.

The commercial catches within the RMI EEZ are taken predominately by the purse seine fishery but longline and pole-and-line operations also take place as briefly noted above. The estimated total catch for all gears combined in 2013 was 35,363 mt with 78% taken by the purse seine fishery followed by longline catches (17%) and pole-and-line catches (5%).

Available observer data for the RMI purse seine fleet indicated one turtle, twenty-eight marine mammals, and no seabird interactions recorded. There was only one observer trip on RMI-flagged longline vessels however, data was not yet available during the reporting period.

The RMI has a total shark ban measure in place since late 2011. Recent efforts to reinstate observer placement on ilongline vessels in the RMI are ongoing. Observer deployment In 2013 indicate 38 active observers were placed on 172 purse seine trips and 3 on longline trips.

#### FLAG STATE REPORTING

Annual catch and effort estimates for the national purse seine fleet, fishing throughout the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC-CA) during the last five years, are presented in Table 1a with historical estimates further provided in Figure 1a. In 2013, total catches reported through logsheets totaled 77,634 metric tonnes (mt) for purse seine fleet, a 19% increase compared to the previous year. Of this total catch, 91% was comprised of skipjack tuna followed by yellowfin (7%) and bigeye tuna (2%). Additionally, about 19% of the total catch was taken within the RMI EEZ. The reported catch and effort estimates from the national longline fleet are illustrated in Table 1b and Figure 1b. Only three vessels were active during the first quarter of 2013 and thereafter, all RMI-flagged longline vessels reflagged to FSM thus the significant decline in estimated catches. Bigeye and yellowfin tunas are the primary target species of this fleet and account for around 88% of the total catch.

Table 1a. Annual catch (mt) estimates for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area

Species	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SKIPJACK	39,697	49,046	67,786	56,540	70,688
YELLOWFIN	1,532	7,213	5,766	6,031	5,431
BIGEYE	2,233	1,567	1,695	694	1,515

Table 1b. Annual catch (mt) estimates for the Marshall Islands longline vessels, by species and year, for the WCPFC Convention Area

Species	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
YELLOWFIN	120	117	92	109	47
BIGEYE	381	257	249	324	80
BLUE MARLIN	52	52	46	43	9
BLACK MARLIN	0	0	6	9	0
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	0	0
ALBACORE	10	17	2	16	7
PACIFIC BLUEFIN	0	0	0	0	0
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	0	0	0
SWORDFISH	4	5	3	4	1

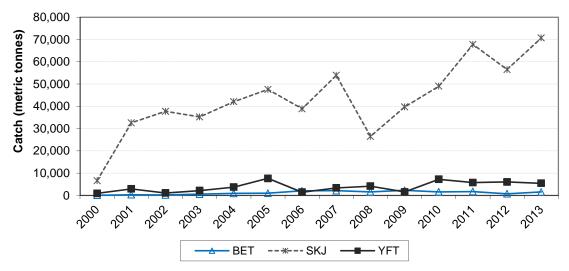


Figure 1a. Historical annual catch for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area

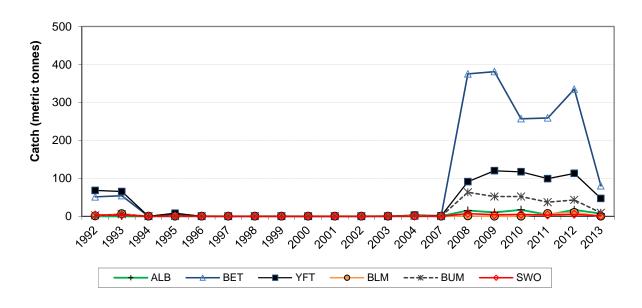


Figure 1b. Historical annual catch for the Marshall Islands longline vessels, by primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area

As previously stated, three longline vessels operated under the RMI flag during the earlier part of 2013, while the purse seine vessel numbers remained at ten (Table 2 & Figure 2).

Table 2. Number of Marshall Islands-flagged vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2009-2013

		Lo	ngline			Purse seine			
Year GRT	0-10	10-50	50-200	200-500	0-500	500-1,000	1,000-1,500	1500+	
2009	0	0	4	0	0	0	5	0	
2010	0	0	4	0	0	0	6	3	
2011	0	0	4	0	0	0	7	3	
2012	0	0	4	0	0	0	7	3	
2013	0	0	3	0	0	0	7	3	

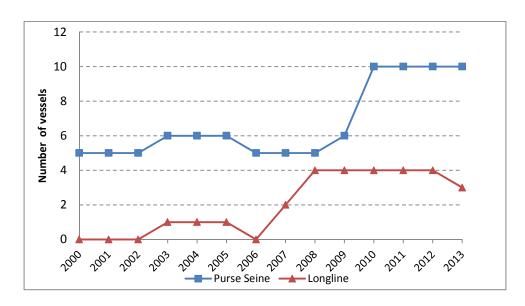


Figure 2. Historical annual vessel numbers for the Marshall Islands, by gear, for the WCPFC Convention Area

Figure 3a provides an illustration of the distribution of effort for the national purse seine fleet over the past two years. As the fleet is based out of Majuro, the effort is concentrated in the southern half of the RMI, and into the EEZs of Kiribati, Nauru and other adjacent EEZs. As in 2012, in-zone effort by the purse seine fleet continued to increase in 2013 as the fleet is exempt from the FAD closure when operating in the RMI EEZ. The national longline fleet effort is more widely distributed within the EEZ where it primarily fishes, although 2013 effort was more confined to the southern portion (Figure 3b).

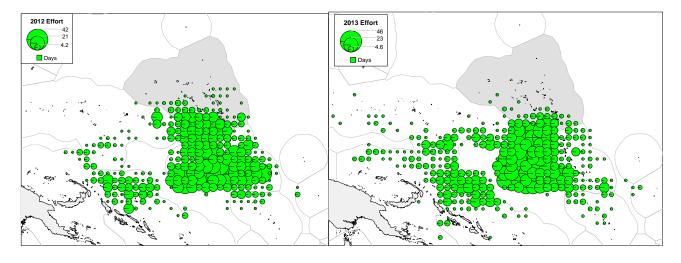


Figure 3a. Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) by the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels active in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2012 (left) and 2013 (right)

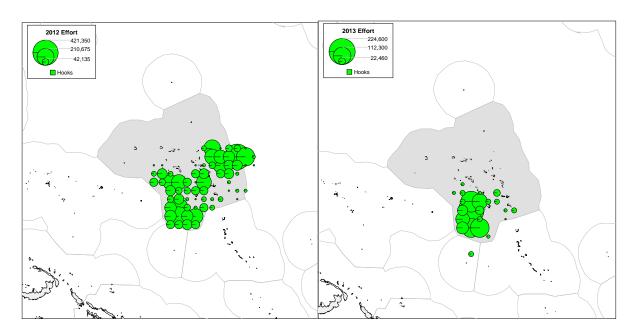


Figure 3b. Annual distribution effort (100s of hooks) by the Marshall Islands longline vessels active in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2012 (left) and 2013 (right)

Preliminary data for observed interactions with species of special interest by the RMI purse seine fleet are shown in Table 3. During 2013, there was one turtle interaction reported however, its fate was unknown. Twenty-eight instances of marine mammal interactions were observed with most being released alive. No seabird interactions were observed during the period.

Further, Table 4 shows the observed number of shark catches by the national purse seine fleet during 2013. A total of 142 sharks were recorded with silky sharks comprising a bulk of the catch. Most sharks were discarded in line with RMI legislation banning shark retention by all vessels. One observer longline trip was undertaken in 2013 however, data was not yet available to allow reporting of sharks. However, it can be provisionally assumed that there was no shark catch recorded in 2013. Catches of other non-target species are provided in the unloadings section of this report. Observer coverage is still required for verification and measuring the level of discards and the RMI is striving to achieve this in the coming months.

Table 3. Observed estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) from Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, in the WCPFC Convention Area, for 2013 to the extent available.

Gear	Category	Species	Number	Alive	Dead	Unknown
S	BIRDS	BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	0	0	0	0
S	MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE	3	2	0	1
S	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	1	0	0	1
S	MARINE MAMMALS	Rough-toothed dolphin	22	12	3	7
S	MARINE MAMMALS	SPERM WHALE	1	0	0	1
S	MARINE MAMMALS	DOLPHINS/PORPOISES (UNIDENTIFIED)	2	0	2	0

Table 4. Observed estimated catches of sharks from Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2013.

Gear	Species	Number	Retained	Discarded
S	BLACKTIP SHARK	2	0	2
S	Devil Manta Ray (Mobula nei)	8	0	8
S	Giant manta	4	0	4
S	LONG FINNED MAKO SHARK	1	0	1
S	SILKY SHARK	121	7	114
S	WHALE SHARK	6	0	6

#### COASTAL STATE REPORTING

Table 5 provides a description of foreign-flagged vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands waters over the past five years. A total of 174 foreign vessels were licensed however, not all were active during the period. Domestically-based foreign longline vessels operating under the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture fly foreign flags of registration and not necessarily the RMI.

Table 5. Number of foreign longline, pole-and-line and purse seine vessels licenced to fish in the RMI EEZ, by year and flag. (Note: Vanuatu includes PNG home party vessels)

				Year		
FLAG	GEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHINA	LL	33	22	22	21	23
	PS	4	1	2	2	2
FSM	LL	6	11	11	15	11
	PS	4	6	7	7	3
JAPAN	LL	6	14	16	5	1
	PL	12	26	25	21	15
	PS	30	31	30	29	24
KIRIBATI	PS	1	2	5	9	9
KOREA	PS	26	0	0	26	27
CH-TAIPEI	LL	0	2	2	2	2
	PS	18	16	16	9	6
TUVALU	PS	1	1	1	1	1
VANUATU	PS	19	20	22	16	11
USA	PS	38	38	39	39	39
TOTAL	LL	45	49	51	43	37
	PL	12	26	25	21	15
	PS	142	116	122	138	122

Available logsheet data indicate that total catch by purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ increased from 17,657 mt in 2012 to 27,635 mt in 2013 and most of the catch (53%) was taken by the domestic fleet (Table 6). Skipjack tuna continues to be the dominant catch, accounting for over 93% of the total catch in the last year. Most of the purse seine fishing in-zone is restricted to southern areas of the EEZ.

The domestically-based foreign longline fleet comprises of vessels from China, Chinese Taipei and FSM which are managed and operated under Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Luen Thai. Japanese longline vessels offload their catch in ports in Japan. Catch estimates for the domestically-based vessels have been raised using unloadings data. The overall catch estimates by all longline fleets in 2013 indicate about a 6% decrease from the previous year (Table 7). Bigeye catch continues to account for the major part of the target catch composition. As with the purse seine fishery, most of the longline fishing effort occurs in the southern areas of the RMI EEZ however in the longline fishery, effort is more widely distributed throughout the zone.

In 2013, catches from the pole-and-line fleet decreased by almost half compared to the previous year (Table 8). The short-term trend shows some variability between years. Skipjack is the main species making up the catch composition for this fleet and accounts for almost 100% of the total. However, the RMI observer program did not have coverage on this fleet for validation purposes.

Figure 4 illustrates the variability in catch trends in the RMI EEZ for all gears combined. Catches have steadily increased in the last three years with 2013 having the highest combined totals. The catches in the EEZ are mainly taken by the purse seine fishery which account for about 64% of the catch.

Table 6. Annual catches of purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2009-2013

(Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

	Catch (metric tonnes)						
Flag	Year	BET	SKJ	YFT	OTH	Total	
China	2009	0	84	0	0	84	
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	
	2011	0	0	0	0	0	
	2012	0	0	0	0	0	
	2013	33	379	0	0	412	
FSM	2009	0	675	45	0	720	
	2010	0	35	0	0	35	
	2011	0	0	0	0	0	
	2012	0	63	0	0	63	
	2013	0	246	2	0	248	
Japan	2009	6	690	41	0	737	
	2010	0	0	0	0	0	
	2011	50	1,032	112	1	1,195	
	2012	18	576	42	0	636	
	2013	0	80	5	0	85	
Korea	2009	1	530	6	0	537	
Roica	2010	0	0	0	0	0	
	2011	0	0	0	0	0	
	2012	0	0	0	0	0	
	2013	38	3,762	9	0	3,809	
RMI	2009	285	4,089	75	1	4,451	
Kivii	2010	105	4,224	154	0	4,483	
	2011	103	5,606	206	3	5,918	
	2011	201	11,660	286	14	12,161	
	2012	916	13,190	457	0	14,563	
Tuvalu	2013	0	13,190	0	0	14,303	
Tuvatu	2009	5		0	0		
			665		0	670	
	2011	0	405	0		405	
	2012	0	1.705	0	0	1.004	
CII. TII.	2013	98	1,705	20	1	1,804	
Chinese Taipei	2009	1	904	29	0	934	
	2010	0	214	113	0	327	
	2011	21	885	49	0	955	
	2012	5	730	52	0	787	
	2013	72	1,259	1	0	1,332	
USA	2009	13	2,736	89	0	2,838	
	2010	69	7,385	260	0	7,714	
	2011	147	6,980	419	0	7,546	
	2012	58	3,170	162	0	3,390	
	2013	132	4,127	50	0	4,309	
Vanuatu	2009	0	135	35	0	170	
	2010	0	535	30	0	565	
	2011	0	540	5	0	545	
	2012	1	612	7	0	620	
	2013	6	1,048	19	0	1,073	
TOTAL EEZ	2009	306	9,843	320	1	10,471	
	2010	179	13,058	557	0	13,794	
	2011	321	15,448	791	5	16,565	
	2012	283	16,811	549	14	17,657	
	2013	1,295	25,796	543	1	27,635	

Table 7. Annual catches of longline fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2009-2013 (Source: catch estimates of locally-based fleet derived from best combination of logsheet and unloadings data, others are unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

			Catch	(metric ton	nes)	
Flag	Year	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	Total
China	2009	57	2,156	732	359	3,304
	2010	109	1,882	793	395	3,179
	2011	55	1,852	609	358	2,874
	2012	128	2,336	777	396	3,637
	2013	125	1,763	1,235	470	3,593
FSM	2009	23	711	227	98	1,059
	2010	39	710	285	179	1,213
	2011	23	516	146	105	790
	2012	50	1,016	398	217	1,681
	2013	84	1,001	665	258	2,008
Japan	2009	23	147	68	31	269
	2010	76	344	194	70	684
	2011	18	370	181	141	710
	2012	1	32	10	8	51
	2013	1	11	3	1	16
RMI	2009	10	381	120	56	567
	2010	17	257	117	57	448
	2011	4	259	99	47	409
	2012	17	335	113	58	523
	2013	7	80	47	10	144
Ch-Taipei	2009	0	0	0	0	0
	2010	1	108	28	2	139
	2011	33	167	52	46	298
	2012	58	308	74	58	498
	2013	20	117	64	40	241
TOTAL EEZ	2009	113	3,395	1,147	544	5,199
	2010	242	3,301	1,417	703	5,663
	2011	133	3,164	1,087	697	5,081
	2012	254	4,027	1,372	737	6,390
	2013	237	2,972	2,014	779	6,002

Table 8. Annual catches of pole-and-line fleet operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2009-2013 (Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

		Catch (metric tonnes)						
Fleet	Year	BET	BET SKJ YFT OTH TOTA					
JAPAN	2009	1	475	0	1	476		
	2010	1	3,122	1	0	3,124		
	2011	1	287	1	0	288		
	2012	3	3,652	15	0	3,669		
	2013	3	1,719	4	0	1,726		

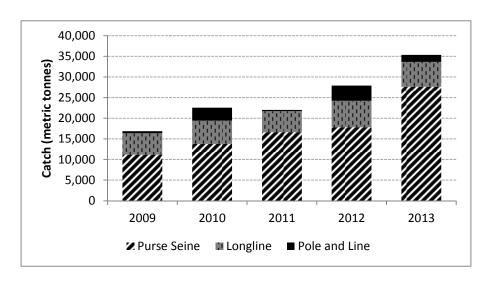


Figure 4. Total catch by the different gears operating in the RMI EEZ

#### **DISPOSAL OF CATCH**

As mentioned earlier, the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd. operates the Longline Fishbase with domestically-based foreign longline vessels. The four RMI-flagged longline vessels that comprised the national longline fleet have since reflagged to FSM in early 2013.

There was a total of 5,246 mt tons of fish unloaded in 2013 by the fleet and most of the unloaded catches were bound for export markets (Table 9). The MIFV exports mainly fresh chilled tuna species to markets in the US, China and Canada. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatch), designated as OTHER, are shipped to China and Philippines via transport containers and/or sold locally.

Majuro lagoon is the only designated port for transshipment in the RMI and this continues to provide a considerable source of revenue for the local economy as well an opportunity to collect data directly from vessels. In 2013, there was an estimated 270 purse seine transshipments undertaken in Majuro with a provisional total of 182,382 mt of tuna transshipped (Table 10). Additionally, most transshipments by the national purse seine fleet were carried out in Majuro, however, foreign ports in the region were occasionally utilized (Table 11).

Table 9. Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels, 2013

Species	Export	Other	Total
ALBACORE	6	196	202
BIGEYE	2,453	80	2,533
BLUE MARLIN	49	553	602
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH	4	48	52
OPAH / MOONFISH	2	0	2
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	0	8	8
SWORDFISH	4	41	45
WAHOO	16	101	117
YELLOWFIN	1,453	231	1,684
	3,987	1,258	5,246

Table 10. Provisional purse seine transshipments in Majuro port in 2013

		Transhipped catch (metric tonnes)							
Flag	No. of PS transhipments	SKJ	YFT	ВЕТ	YFT + BET	SKJ + YFT + BET	TOTAL		
China	25	14,670	1,273	0	320	402	16,66		
El Salvador	1	956	113	71	0	0	1,140		
FSM	2	390	0	0	0	0	390		
Kiribati	1	5	0	0	0	0	:		
RMI	113	68,479	5,358	0	520	1,425	75,782		
NZ	3	0	0	0	0	2,961	2,961		
Tuvalu	6	4,410	310	0	0	20	4,740		
Taiwan	59	28,769	3,355	0	0	2,472	34,596		
USA	40	28,472	1,114	50	0	1,955	31,591		
Vanuatu	20	13,697	815	0	0	0	14,512		
TOTAL	270	159,848	12,338	121	840	9,235	182,382		

Table 11. Purse seine transshipments in by RMI-flagged vessels in 2013

Annex II (1)						
SPECIES	QUANTITY OFFLOADED (METRIC TONNES)	Transhipped in port	Transhipped in WCP-CA	Caught in WCP-CA	Product Form	Gear
YFT	5,358.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
BET	0.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
SKJ	68,479.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
MIXED (YFT_BET)	520.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
MIXED (SKJ_YFT_BET)	1,425.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
Annex II (2)						
Port	Number of Transhipments	Transhipped in port	Transhipped in WCP-CA	Caught in WCP-CA	Product Form	Gear
POHNPEI	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
ZHOUSHAN	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
MAJURO	113	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
HONIARA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
RABAUL	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine

#### ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

MIMRA, on behalf the Government, still maintains a joint venture partnership with Koo's Fishing Company, Ltd. (KFC). This venture continues to provide additional revenue stream as well as a catalyst for further on-shore developments. KFC recently launched 2 additional fishing vessels in 2010, F/V Marshalls 202 and F/V Marshalls 203, which also fish under the FSM Arrangement for Regional Access currently administered by the PNA Office.

The Pan Pacific Foods (PPF) loining plant continued operations in 2013 with viable production outputs supported by ongoing hiring and recruitment of local Marshallese employees (total of 350 employees; 250 on average/day working one shift). As has been reported before, the company also operates three (3) purse seine vessels which supply the plant with raw materials from time to time. In 2013, a total of 5,704mt was offloaded to the plant from both PPF and KFC vessels (4,695 mixed SKJ\_BET\_YFT and 1009 YFT). As well, 2,972 mt of pre-cooked tuna loins and related products were exported to various markets (Table 12).

Table 12. Total exports (mt) for Pan Pacific Foods loining plant in 2013, by product and destination.

	Product (mt)				
Destination	Loin (SKJ)	Whole (Mixed SKJ_BET_YFT)	Fishmeal	Flakes	
Algeria	0	0	0	52	
China	0	210	0	0	
Taiwan	0	0	316	0	
Thailand	39	952	0	0	
USA	548	0	0	0	
Vietnam	0	855	0	0	
	587	2,017	316	52	

#### **FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY**

The RMI remains keen to further develop its domestic fishery through innovative and sustainable means. All of these prospects are lined up bearing in mind the sound scientific advice and conservation concerns through practicable measures. The RMI intends to support domestic fisheries development aspirations in the region so long as it goes hand in hand with sustainable management measures that do not put a disproportionate burden on SIDS, in accordance with Article 30 of the Convention.

Other notable future prospects for the RMI tuna fishery involve further observer capacity development as MIMRA continues to progressively train and recruit additional fisheries observers. Additional developments and improvements to in-house data management systems is another area of focus that the RMI will continue to pursue so as to streamline our overall management efforts. In this regard, relevant details are briefly provided in the next section below.

### **DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

MIMRA continues to employ a dedicated port sampler covering almost 100% of longline unloadings. Collated data are entered into the TUFMAN database as well as being sent to SPC-OFP on a regular basis for further analysis. Preliminary data for 2013 indicate that over 80,000 fish were measured mostly comprised of the two main target species, bigeye and yellowfin tunas (Table 13). Also in 2013, there were more effort refocused into port sampling on purse seine vessels transshipping in Majuro and over 20,000 fish were sampled (Table 14).

Data management and statistical capability continues to be a vital tool for MIMRA. The SPC-OFP has been very instrumental in the Oceanic Division's data efforts, as evidenced by such activities as the successful integration and regular updates of the TUFMAN and CES at MIMRA. Recent joint assistance from SPC and FFA has allowed for considerable improvements in data collection and management where it is envisaged that a more integrated fisheries information management system will assist in streamlining most if not all of our reporting obligations.

There has been considerable developments in this area in recent years. With support from the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), an information management system (IMS) project was initiated by RMI, FSM, and Cook Islands with technical assistance from both FFA and SPC database specialists. The project has enabled MIMRA to adopt and utilize an online portal for collecting and accessing vital fisheries statistics "at a click of a button". An ongoing work in progress, the portal currently syncs with SPC's TUFMAN database and FFA's RIMF. Additional enhancements are undertaken on a constant basis to further enable effective use of fisheries data for reporting purposes.

The MIMRA Observer program continues to focus its efforts in its recruitment of observers and conducting full observer training courses, refreshers and debriefing training. In late 2013, MIMRA re-established its training facilities at the College of the Marshall Islands (Arrak Campus). This joint effort involves the establishment of a Maritime and Vocational Training Institute on the campus. The idea is to promote a learning environment where trainees are provided with meals and accommodation and are required to stay within campus grounds for the duration of each observer course. As shown in Table 15, a provisional total of 175 trips on purse seine vessels (4,788 sea days) were carried out by 38 active observers in 2013. Coordination of sub-regional trips under the FSMA shifted to the PNAO in late 2013 and MIMRA observers completed 4 trips with 34 total sea days as shown on Table 15.

Table 13. Total number of fish sampled from longline unloadings Majuro port, 2013

	Number measured				N	Number not measure		
Month	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH
January	0	4,419	5,549	5	694	59	424	5,562
February	0	3,584	3,790	7	400	32	307	5,529
March	14	3,803	2,848	3	615	22	188	3,900
April	3	3,722	6,482	20	1,202	98	256	4,067
May	4	2,967	1,144	7	285	38	174	1,772
June	0	3,059	2,286	7	346	76	193	2,489
July	0	4,510	2,917	7	552	140	324	2,843
August	1	3,250	2,521	6	431	76	133	2,522
September	12	3,869	1,879	16	882	144	92	2,534
October	0	3,750	2,552	21	1,267	183	93	2,775
November	0	2,562	5,013	0	716	204	256	3,587
December	0	2,024	3,243	0	406	98	71	4,187
	34	41,519	40,224	99	7,796	1,170	2,511	41,767

Table 14. Total number of fish sampled from purse seine transshipments in Majuro port, 2013

Month	SKJ	YFT	BET
January	1,164	131	19
February	547	166	4
March	0	0	0
April	300	0	0
May	1,918	114	53
June	2,866	444	215
July	2,486	456	222
August	1,017	144	32
September	185	75	20
October	2,337	50	37
November	3,192	461	187
December	1,312	204	54
	17,324	2,245	843

Table 15. Observer trips in 2013, by arrangement

	Tri	ps	SeaDays		
Arrangement	Purse Seine Longline Pu		Purse Seine	Longline	
FFA	69	0	1839	0	
MIMRA	47	3	1223	42	
RA	50	0	1625	0	
FFA/FSMA	2	0	25	0	
PNAO/FSMA	4	0	34	0	
TOTAL	172	3	4746	42	

### **APPENDIX 1 – CMM REPORTING**

CMM Reference	Description	Response
CMM 05-03	North Pacific Albacore	This is not a target of the Marshall Islands longline fishery however, 7mt was caught as by-catch in 2013.
CMM 06-04	SW Striped Marlin	NOT APPLICABLE
CMM 07-04	Seabirds	No seabirds interactions reported in 2013 for purse seine fleet.
CMM 09-03	SW Swordfish	NOT APPLICABLE
CMM 09-06	Transhipments	See Table 11. A total of 123 in-port transhipments (75,782 mt) were carried out by RMI-flagged purse seine vessels in the WCP-CA. Five ports utilized for transhipments with 92% occurring in home port of Majuro.
CMM 10-05	South Pacific Albacore	NOT APPLICABLE
CMM 10-07	Sharks	see Table 4
CMM 11-03	Cetaceans	See Appendix Table 1.
CMM 11-04	Oceanic White-Tip Shark	Ban on shark retention in place since late 2011 and available observer data indicate no catches of this species by RMI-flagged purse seine vessels. No available coverage for the longline fleet which have since reflagged to FSM as of April 2013.
CMM 12-04	Whale Sharks	See Appendix Table 2.
CMM 13-01	Tropical Tunas	Total tuna caught by both RMI-flagged purse seine and longline fleets was 77,761mt (SKJ=70,688mt, BET=1,595mt, YFT=5,478mt)
CMM 13-08	Silky Sharks	See Appendix Table 3. 121 interactions noted on observer reports.

Table 1. Observed interactions with cetaceans on RMI-flagged purse seine vessels, 2013

Gear	Flag	Species	Number	Dead	Alive	Unknown
S	MH	FALSE KILLER WHALE	3	0	2	1
S	MH	Rough-toothed dolphin	22	3	12	7
S	MH	SPERM WHALE	1	0	0	1
S	MH	DOLPHINS/PORPOISES (UNIDENTIFIED)	2	2	0	0

Table 2. Observed interactions with whale sharks on RMI-flagged purse seine vessels, 2013

Gear	Flag	Species	Alive	Dead	Unknown
S	MH	WHALE SHARK	4	2	0

Table 3. Observed interactions with silky sharks on RMI-flagged purse seine vessels, 2013

Gear	Flag	Species	Number	Alive	Dead	Unknown
S	MH	SILKY SHARK	121	114	7	0