



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
5-13 August 2015

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

WCPFC-SC11-AR/CCM-08

FRENCH POLYNESIA



WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION

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

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<p>Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by the 30 april 2015.</p>	<p>YES</p>
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1. Abstract

French Polynesia professional tuna fleet in 2014 comprised 61 tuna longliners (ranging from 13 m to 24 m) operating only within French Polynesia Economic Zone and 448 small boats (5m to 11 m) using artisanal gears (pole and line, handlines, trolling...) and operating inside the territorial waters.

The overall nominal catches for the professional tuna fisheries in 2014 is estimated around 11 283 metric tons, albacore accounting for 38%, yellowfin tuna for 13 %, skipjack for 8 % and big eye tuna for 7 %.

Effort and total catch trends of the longline fleet show a slow decrease since 2005 after a steady increase since the beginning of this fleet in the early 90's. In contrast these trends for the artisanal near shore fishery show a slow and steady increase partly driven by the increase of the population.

Since 2006, all sharks except mako are fully protected inside the entire French Polynesia Economic Zone. In december 2012, the mako was also protected making French Polynesia EEZ the biggest sanctuary for sharks.

2. Annual Fisheries Information

Tuna fishery is a major component of the development of French Polynesia economy, either for economical and social aspects. Its professional tuna fishery is divided into two components : a small scale coastal fishery and an offshore long line fishery. There is no longer fishing agreement inside the EEZ for foreign fleet since December 2000 .

The **professional small scale near shore fishery** comprises two types of boat: the *poti marara*, (literally 'flying-fish boats') which are small boats, 6-8 m in length, made from wood or FRP and suitable for many different fishing techniques (trolling, vertical longlining or harpooning) and the *bonitiers* ('skipjack boats'), which are 10-to-12 m long boats made from wood or FRP, targeting skipjack using mainly pole-and-line. This fleet operates inside the territorial waters mostly.

The **longliners fleet** comprises only tuna longliners using drifting longline. Only five boats have freezer capacity. This fleet operates exclusively inside the French Polynesia EEZ

2.1. Annual catch and effort estimates

Tableau 1 – Annual catch estimates for the longline fleet in the convention area

Metric tons	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Albacore Catch	3,483	3,225	3,594	3,512	3,744
Yellowfin Catch	418	491	758	615	783
Bigeye Catch	436	607	654	787	741
Skipjack Catch	22	19	50	34	33
Pacific Bluefin Catch	-	-	-	-	-
Black Marlin Catch	-	-	1	-	1
Blue Marlin Catch	260	201	241	243	240
Striped Marlin Catch	127	124	117	107	105
Swordfish Catch	80	89	116	128	142

Tableau 2 - Annual catch estimates by for the small scale nearshore fleet in the convention area

Metric tons	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Skipjack	1131	874	1219	873	922
Yellowfin tuna	556	558	722	616	661
Dolphin fish	506	368	396	558	659
Billfish	256	258	282	258	284
Wahoo	146	135	128	149	138
Albacore tuna	204	254	274	339	326
Other	235	239	263	329	504
Total	3034	2687	3284	3120	3493

Tableau 3 – Annual fishing effort by fleet

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Small sclare near shore fleet (fishing days)	30 950	36 528	40 641	42 347	46 996
Longline fleet (million of hooks)	17.0	18.4	16.8	16.2	14.2

2.2. Fleet structure

Tableau 4 – Number of vessel by size for the longline fleet

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
00-50 GRT	31	31	28	31	32
51-200 GRT	31	31	31	34	30
201-500 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
500+ GRT	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vessels	61	59	64	65	62

Tableau 5 – Number of vessel by size for the small scale near shore fleet

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
00-50 GRT	368	413	427	437	448
51-200 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
201-500 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
500+ GRT	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vessels	368	413	427	437	448

2.3. Fishing pattern

More than three fourth of the nearshore fishery is based in the Society archipelago. Although the individual fishing effort shows some vicissitude the global fishing effort is relatively stable within the year and no clear seasonal trends can be highlighted.

The longliners fleet, most entirely based in Tahiti, usually exploit 45 % of the EEZ but the core fishing ground remains historically in the north part of the EEZ (10°-20° S /140°-150°W).

2.4. Accidental catches and discards

Recorded interactions with species of special interest are summarized in table 6. Interactions with mammals only relates to depredation.

Discards by the longline fleet are estimated around 5 % of the nominal catch. The breakdown by species is reported in table 7 and table 8. There is no discard for the coastal fleet.

Tableau 6 –Observed catches of species of special interest by the longline fleet

Year	Category	Species	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead
2014	BIRDS	GULLS - TERNS AND SKUAS	2	0	2
		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	6	2	4
	MARINE REPTILES	HAWKSBILL TURTLE	1	0	1
2013	BIRDS	CAPE PIGEON	2	0	0
		GULLS - TERNS AND SKUAS	2	0	2
		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	5	0	5
	MARINE REPTILES	LEATHERBACK TURTLE	1	1	0
		LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	1	0	1
2012	BIRDS	LAYSAN ALBATROSS	1	0	1
	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	1	0	1
		OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	1	0	1
2011	MARINE REPTILES	LEATHERBACK TURTLE	1	1	0
		LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	1	1	0
		OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	1	0	0
2010	BIRDS	BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	1	0	1
		BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS	1	1	0
	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	1	0	1

Tableau 7 –Catch estimates of discards of target species by the longline fleet in 2014

Species Group	Species Name	Discard (MT)
Tuna	ALBACORE	25.4
	BIGEYE	90.4
	SKIPJACK	46.7
	YELLOWFIN	56.7
Billfish	BLACK MARLIN	-
	BLUE MARLIN	9.1
	SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	-
	SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	13.0
	STRIPED MARLIN	2.2
	SWORDFISH	4.8
Other fish	ATLANTIC POMFRET / RAY'S BREEM	-
	BRILLIANT POMFRET	-
	MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	4.8
	OPAH / MOONFISH	2.0
	SICKLE POMFRET	0.1
	WAHOO	4.0
Total		259.3

Tableau 8 –Catch estimates of discards of non-target species by the longline fleet in 2014

Species Group	Species Name	Discard (MT)
OTHER FISH	ALASKA POLLOCK(=WALLEYE POLL.)	-
	AMBERJACKS	0.1
	BARRACOUTA (SNOEK)	0.0
	BATFISH	0.4
	BATFISHES	-
	BLACK GEMFISH	0.1
	BLACK MACKEREL	7.6
	BLUE SPRAT	-
	CRESTFISH	0.4
	CRESTFISH/UNICORNFISH	1.2
	DEALFISHES	0.5
	ESCOLAR	45.7
	FILEFISH (SCRIBBLED LEATHERJACKET)	-
	FILEFISH (UNICORN LEATHERJACKET)	0.5
	GLAUERT'S ANGLERFISH	-
	GREAT BARRACUDA	4.3
	GREATER AMBERJACK	-
	LARGE-HEADED SCORPIONFISH	-
	LONGSNOUTED LANCETFISH	12.2
	OCEAN SUNFISH	2.1
	OILFISH	18.4
	PELAGIC PUFFER	0.1
	PILCHARD (AUSTRALIAN)	-
	RAZORBACK SCABBARDFISH	0.2
	RED SEA CATFISH	-
	ROUDI ESCOLAR	10.8
	SARGENT MAJOR	-
	SHORTSNOUTED LANCETFISH	0.5
	Slender sunfish	15.8
	SNAKE MACKEREL	16.4
	SNAKE MACKERELS AND ESCOLARS	0.0
	SOAPFISH	0.0
	UNSPECIFIED	2.3
Total		139.4

All sharks are prohibited to fishing and fining is also prohibited. The catches of sharks represent 7,6 % of the nominal catch. In average 89 % of the sharks are released alive.

Tableau 9 – Catch estimates of sharks by the longline fleet in 2014

Species Name	Number	Weight (MT)
BLUE SHARK	6,022.2	184.3
SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	1,844.4	132.1
PELAGIC STING-RAY	9,422.2	81.9
LONG FINNED MAKO SHARK	977.8	81.9
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	1,488.9	68.1
BRONZE WHALER SHARK	466.7	10.3
SANDBAR SHARK	200.0	10.3
Giant manta	22.2	7.0
SILKY SHARK	422.2	6.5
SILVER-TIP SHARK	177.8	4.9
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	533.3	3.6
DUSKY SHARK	44.4	2.9
PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	222.2	1.5
SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD	22.2	0.3
CROCODILE SHARK	66.7	0.2
Total	21,933.3	595.6

Tableau 10 – Proportion of sharks caught by the long line fleet in 2014 alive when released

Species	Proportion alive
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	94%
BLUE SHARK	92%
BRONZE WHALER SHARK	50%
CROCODILE SHARK	100%
DUSKY SHARK	100%
Giant manta	100%
LONG FINNED MAKO SHARK	91%
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	61%
PELAGIC STING-RAY	98%
PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	60%
SANDBAR SHARK	87%
SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	74%
SILKY SHARK	58%
SILVER-TIP SHARK	88%
SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD	0%
Overall average	89 %

3. Research and statistics

3.1. Statistical data collection system

The data collection system for the longline fishery comprises six components.

- *Fishing license*

Fishing license for the domestic vessels is delivered for the life of the boat, presuming it does not change property and clears its annual visit for security. Any change of property or main modification on the vessel is subject to a re-licensing procedure. Currently, French Polynesia has not limited the number of domestic vessels authorised to operate in its EEZ.

Fishing permit for foreign vessels is delivered on an annual basis; no permit has been authorised since the end of the fishing agreement on December 2000.

- *Boat activity*

Every week day, the Fisheries office census the activity of the fleet at the fishing port. The main purpose is to monitor (in real time) the gross activity of the fleet. These data are also used as the main input for estimating the production of the vessels which do not report their catches correctly. In 2013, this census will be combined with the analyses of the VMS data.

- *Logbook*

Licensed operators are required to record and submit daily records of fishing activities at an operational level to the Fisheries Office. Coverage rate is estimated around 96 %.

- *Unloadings*

Most of the licensed long line boats have an obligation to unload their catches within the fishing port of Papeete. The port manager has to monitor the amount of fish unloaded in order to collect unloading fees. Coverage rate for the overall landings is estimated around 100 % of the commercial catches.

- *Observer programme*

The French polynesia's Observer Program began in September 2002 with EU funding by the PROCFISH projet (2002-2007) and then by the SCIFISH project. In 2014, the staff was made of six observers, two port samplers and one coordinator. Observers trips were conducted only on board of domestic longliners. The coverage for 2014 is 4,5 % of the fishing trips. Protocols and forms are those used by SPC. Data are processed by SPC.

Table 6 – Observers trips in French Polynesia since 2005.

Year	No observers	No trips	No days at sea	No sets	No hooks	% coverage
2005	3	18	422	255	635,114	2.9 %
2006	6	20	487	312	723,149	5.9 %
2007	2	17	217	138	305,977	1.8%
2008	4	17	300	206	510,115	2.5 %
2009	6	51	800	488	1,130,574	6.5%
2010	5	44	768	453	894,426	6.5%
2011	6	33	531	355	1,13,880	6.2 %
2012	6	34	521	282	543474	4,1 %
2013	6	38	697	346	658578	4,4%
2014	6	42	717	432	714952	4,5 %

▪ *Port sampling*

There has been regular but low coverage sampling in Papeete for several years and very limited in recent year due to logistical difficulties. However, these difficulties were partly overcome by the completion of a centralised unloading facility in Papeete and since 2005 a team of two port samplers carried out port-sampling operations.

Table 7 – Port sampling operations since 2005

Year	No unloadings	No unloadings sampled	Sampling coverage
2005	892	232	26%
2006	876	210	24%
2007	926	335	36%
2008	858	439	51%
2009	883	477	54%
2010	841	407	48%
2011	883	446	51%
2012	938	386	41%
2013	972	346	36%
2014	941	433	46%

Coastal fishery

Data collection for the coastal fisheries is more difficult to handle since the vessels are scattered all around the numerous islands of French Polynesia. The monitoring process rely on two components : a licensing procedure and logsheets. Coverage rate for the logsheets is 95%.

3.2. Research

The observers regularly collect biological samples of the four main tunas (muscle, liver, stomach, gonads and otholiths) and swordfish (otholiths) which are sent to the Oceanic Fisheries Program of the SPC.

During the year 2009, observers were trained by staff from CSIRO to tag swordfish with pop up mark. The first specimen was tagged in december 2009 and one more specimen was tagged in

2010. Two tags were deployed in 2012 (one in march and one in october). No tag has been deployed in 2013.

In January 2013, a longliner retrieve a tag on a blue marlin (75 kg) tagged in Kona (Hawaii) on the 9th august 2012.

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1 - Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs

CMM Reference	Response
CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4	FP fleet do not fished north of the equator
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	In 2014, 62 vessels caught 75 MT of striped marlin as a bycatch, south of 15°S.
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	In 2014, no vessel targeting swordfish but 9 MT of swordfish as a bycatch, south of 20°S.
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	No transshipment is allowed for French Polynesia national fleet. All catches are unloaded in Papeete
CMM 2010-05 [South Pacific albacore], Para 4	In 2014, 62 longliners targeting albacore caught 332 MT of albacore, south of 20°S.
CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4	See tables 9 and 10 in the main report
CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5	NA. No purse seine fleet in FP.
CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3	In 2014, an estimated of 1489 oceanic whitetip sharks were caught and released (61 % alive).
CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06	NA. No purse seine fleet in FP.
CMM 2012-07 [Seabirds], Para 9	In 2014, 2 gulls were reported (100% dead) and 6 Petrels and puffins (67% dead).
CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3	In 2014, an estimated 422 silky sharks were caught and released (58% alive).
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))	In 2014, the longline national observer coverage was 4,5% of the fishing trips of the longline fleet.