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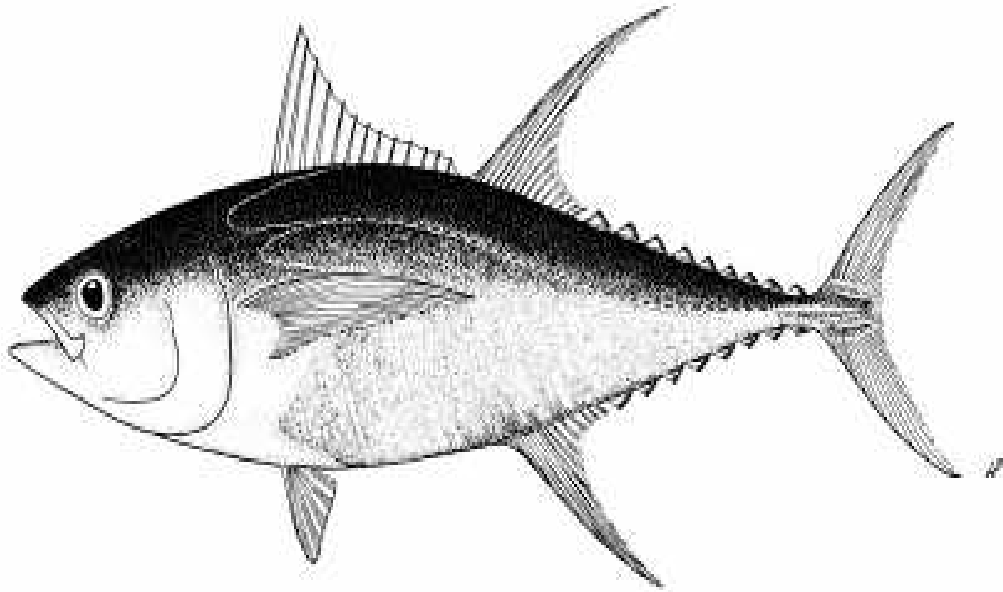
**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

WCPFC-SC11-AR/CCM-17 Rev 1

NIUE

WCPFC-SC11

COUNTRY FISHERIES REPORT – NIUE



Fisheries Division

**Ministry of Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Niue**

2015

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	NO
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1. Abstract

There were no noticeable changes to Niue's pelagic fisheries in 2014. As it has only re-established in the previous year, gradual progression is expected. A total of five out of eight vessels that were licensed to fish in 2014 engaged in fishing. These vessels were flagged to Fiji, Cook Islands, United States and Taiwan. As expected, albacore made up the majority of the catches, followed by yellowfin and bigeye. The effort is slightly lower in 2014 compared to 2013 and it was concentrated on the north western part of the island. Niue continues to develop its pelagic fisheries with guidance from its Pelagic Management and Development Plan.

2. Background

Catch that had been caught in the past has Albacore at 80 per cent from the overall species caught, with yellowfin and others following.

At the peak of the Niue Fishing Factory processing plant, 2010 was the best catch rate being recorded with the timeline of 3 months fished. At this stage only a few Long Line operators were engaged in the Fishery.

The Fishing vessels were all Cook Island flagged and offloaded in American Samoa, with transshipment of all vessels at Niue designated port, with 100 percent observer coverage during transshipment.

At the 10th Annual WCPFC meeting in Cairns, Niue declared its longline and purse seine limits. These limits are incorporated into the National Pelagic Management and Development Plan.

3. Annual Data Summary and Species Catch Distribution by Longline vessels from 2009-2014.

Niue's total catch (mt) for 2014 is a slight decrease from the previous year. Albacore remains the dominant catch followed by yellowfin and bigeye. The catch of albacore, however, is slightly lower than the amount caught in the previous year whilst yellowfin and bigeye have increased slightly from the previous year. Catch of other fish including black marlin, blue marlin, striped marlin and swordfish remain fairly the same from previous years.

The slight decrease in the total catch (mt) may be attributed to the decrease in the number of trips, more specifically a decrease in the overall effort exerted on Niue's pelagic fish stocks.

The concentration of effort has shifted slightly to the north-western part of the island in 2014 (Figure 4) compared to previous years (Figures 1, 2 and 3). The fishing vessels made fairly similar number of trips to Niue.

Year	Vessels	Catch (metric tonnes)									
		ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO	OTHER	TOTAL
2009	3	138	7	5	12	1	1	4	1	8	183
2010	6	97	4	1	8	0	1	0	0	5	120
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	6	234	11	5	29	0	11	1	2	19	312
2014	5	183	14	7	47	0	11	0	2	13	277

Table1. Annual catch estimates in Niue’s EEZ. Data Source: Operational (logsheet) catch/effort data, unraised. The catch for 2010 is for the first 4 months of the year before fishing operations by the fisheries partner ceased.

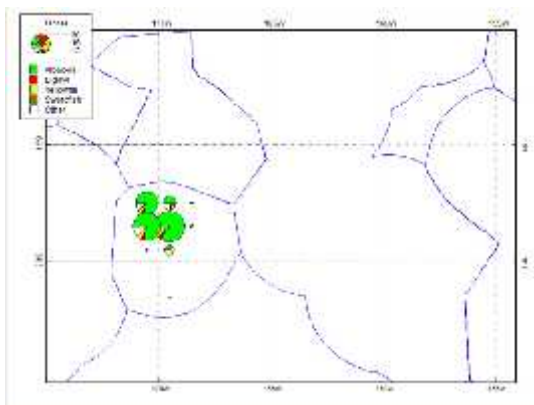


Figure 1. 2009 Longline catch distribution by species (source: unraised logsheet data)

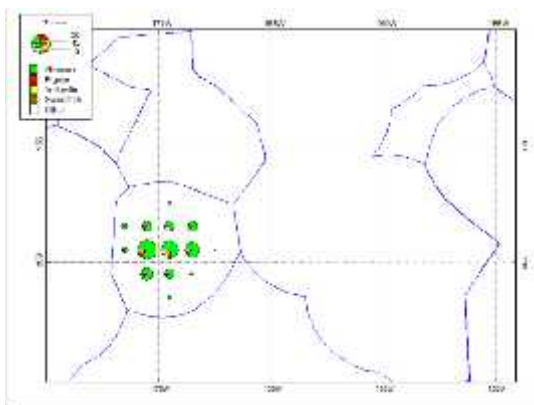


Figure 2. 2010 Longline catch distribution by species (source: unraised logsheet data)

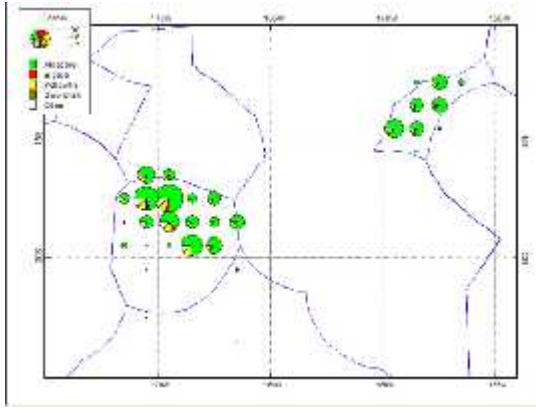


Figure 3. 2013 Longline catch distribution by species (source: unraised logsheet data)

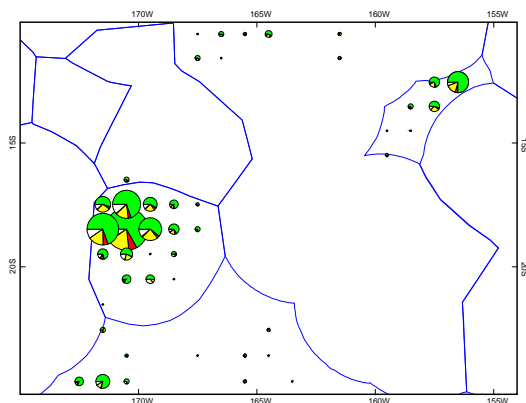


Figure 4. 2014 Longline catch distribution by species (source: unraised logsheet data)

4. Flag State Reporting

Niue is not a flag state

5. Coastal State Reporting

Niue has a Management plan for pelagic fishing, with limits set on main tuna species targeted based on the best catch rates and those neighbouring countries catches that are similar in size and rate.

6. Socio-economic factors

Pelagic fish that is caught by offshore foreign vessels is not sold in Niue. This catch is offloaded at ports designated by the flag state.

As it was in the previous year, artisanal catch was sold to restaurants and to the general public for home consumption at around \$15 per kilo. All fishermen whether they are subsistence or chartered fishermen sell fish. Fish is not often available in shops in the capital as customers usually order fish directly from fishermen prior to their fishing trip.

7. Disposal of catch

The Disposal of catch is at the designated port of transhipment.

Sharks that are caught in Niue's waters must be discarded as per Niue's legislation and the National Pelagic Management plan.

8. Onshore developments

The processing plant is still inactive and most shore developments are of access to onshore facilities (wharf upgrade).

The wharf upgrade is to provide ease of access and safer offload to fishing vessels given the open nature of Niue's only port. This was identified by the last operations as one key area for improvement.

9. Future Prospects of the fishery

The Pelagic Development and Management plan is a mechanism to drive current and future prospects which can be aided by long term and short term partnerships.

10. Status of tuna fishery data collection systems

The process of data collection is enshrined in the Licensing terms and conditions of foreign vessels fishing in Niue waters. Reporting and data collection is mandatory with authorised Officers rights to set the terms, though these are based on data requirements of SPC and WCPFC.

Penalties are imposed on denying or refusal of access to data.

Artisanal fisheries data collection is carried out per quarter of the year. Boat fishermen are required under the license agreement to record the size and effort of tuna and by-catch using the artisanal tuna log book provided by SPC.

11. Research activities covering target and non-target species

There were no comprehensive discussions to carry out research type activities on target and non-target species in Niue's waters in 2014.

A wahoo tagging program was done in 2010 with satellite tags and using the ARGOS satellite tracking device to track the movement of wahoo.

With the introduction of new canoe logbooks, Niue's Coastal Fisheries will gain valuable insight into the catch rates and distribution and other relevant factors of target and non-target species.

Research involving offshore target and non-target species is subject to the availability of funding and work required under the National Pelagic Management and Development Plan.