



**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-24

TOKELAU

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

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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 2xxx	No
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

ABSTRACT

The Tokelau General Fono approved and endorsed the Tokelau Fisheries Policy in 2012 which clearly specifies the fisheries in Tokelau fisheries waters into two main parts;

1. Inshore Fisheries – (0-12nm TW) specific for food security
2. Offshore Fisheries – (12-200nm EEZ) specific for revenue generation,

Tokelau has also identified a buffer zone (closed area) of 13nm in addition to the 12nm TW closed to any fishing for food security.

There is no commercial fishing industry in Tokelau but it has quite a large artisanal fleet of about 30-40 small 12' to 16' open aluminium dinghies powered by 15-30HP outboards.

Our Fisheries Policy has also specified LL fishing in two categories;

1. Tropical LL Fishery – targeting YFT/BET
2. Albacore LL Fishery – targeting ALB

In 2014 there was a 15% proportionate decrease in days across all PNA VDS participants and Tokelau's days for 2014 were decreased from 1,000 days to 985. All of Tokelau's 2014 fishing days were utilised by way of sale to bilateral fishing partners, traded between VDS participating members, contributed to the UST Pool, contributed to the sub-pooling parties.

Some of Tokelau's days that were purchased by bilateral partners were also transferred to other VDS participant member waters (this only occurs if and when the member agrees to the transfer of effort and is only effected when the bilateral partner agrees to the conditions of the transfer set out by the member)

In 2014, excluding the UST vessels, a total of 26 PS vessels were licensed by Tokelau (11 flagged by Korea, 2 flagged by Kiribati, 4 flagged by Spain, 3 flagged by Ecuador, 2 flagged by El Salvador and 4 flagged by NZ). The majority of effort that occurred in Tokelau's EEZ for 2014 were carried out by PS and a majority of this effort occurred in the north and north eastern parts of the Tokelau EEZ.

Only 3 LL vessels, flagged to Kiribati, were licensed by Tokelau in 2014. These LL were licensed under the Tropical Tuna Fishery targeting YFT and BET

Transshipment in Tokelau waters is prohibited therefore no transshipment occurred in 2014.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Tokelau continues to develop its tuna management capacities. Current focus include strengthening the capacities of its Fisheries personnel within Fisheries Division, annually reviewing and updating its Offshore Fisheries Management Plan. Independently reviewing our Fisheries Policy is also scheduled for the end of the 2015.

Tokelau like many of the countries in the region continues to develop and build sustainable fisheries through sound management decisions that will allow the people of Tokelau to continue benefiting from into the future.

ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Tokelau has been for the past few years been participating in the PS VDS under the Parties to the Palau Arrangement. In 2013 it commenced selling its' fishing days under this scheme. Our Fisheries Policy has also specified LL fishing in two categories;

- 1 Tropical LL Fishery – targeting YFT/BET
- 2 Albacore LL Fishery – targeting ALB Tuna Fisheries in Tokelau include two elements.

Foreign Purse-Seine and Longline fishing.

Offshore fishing is undertaken by foreign fishing vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States.

There has been little movement regarding the following and there is no indication that it is likely to change over the next few years - Tokelau does not have the capacity to flag fishing vessels so there are no Tokelau-flagged fishing vessels. There are no port, wharfage and mooring infrastructure and facilities in Tokelau to cater for transshipment, port sampling or processing of large-scale tuna catches. All catches by foreign licensed vessels are offloaded outside Tokelau.

Logsheet data for the United States purse-seine vessels under the Treaty (USMLT) are obtained from SPC and data for the New Zealand purse-seine vessels can also be obtained from the SPC pending Tokelau requesting NZ to authorise SPC to release these data.

Logsheet data for the foreign longliners that have been licensed by Tokelau have not been obtained due to lack of capacity and resources both human and financial however, having the Tokelau Fishing License General Conditions and Schedules annually reviewed and updated caters for the implementation of current and newly adopted WCPFC CMMs.

The following tables show the annual catch and effort levels in Tokelau waters by foreign fishing vessels for the period 2011 to 2014.

Table 1. Annual Foreign purse-seine catches in Tokelau waters from 2011 to 2014.
(based on raised logsheet data)

VESSEL FLAG	YEAR	EFFORT (days)	CATCH (mt)			TOTAL
			BET	SKJ	YFT	
EC	2011	6	10	94	9	113
	2012	23	76	1,068	62	1,206
	2013	35	156	1,900	116	2,171
	2014	4	29	225	21	274
ES	2011	8	6	196	6	208
	2012	2	6	160	6	172
	2013	16	116	1,391	111	1,618
	2014	39	220	2,939	162	3,320
KI	2011	147	56	1,908	93	2,056
	2012	25	0	820	10	831
	2013	5	7	305	12	324
	2014	23	59	867	118	1,043
KR	2012	37	1	1,487	18	1,506
	2013	14	54	740	88	883
	2014	22	23	1,045	69	1,137
NZ	2010	23	0	629	4	632
	2011	98	34	2,324	50	2,408
	2012	23	8	351	31	390
	2013	20	21	483	37	541
	2014	2	0	0	0	0
SV	2011	9	168	820	156	1,143
	2012	45	171	1,193	186	1,550
	2013	18	26	441	31	498
	2014	5	69	622	110	801
US	2010	155	114	2,611	401	3,126
	2011	601	452	12,533	645	13,631
	2012	581	408	12,882	1,595	14,885
	2013	291	465	8,517	839	9,821
	2014	456	624	15,002	1,547	17,173

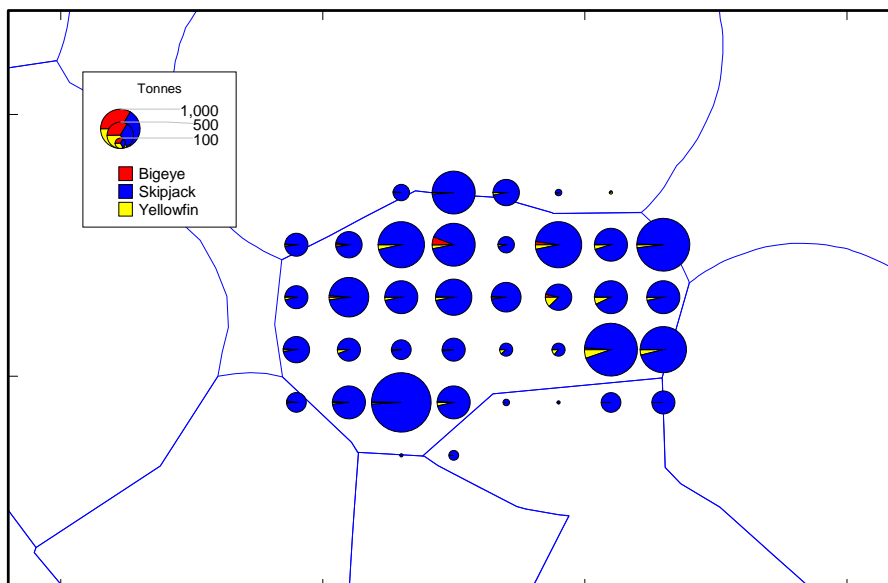


Figure 1. Distribution of purse seine catch by species in the Tokelau EEZ, 2014

Table 2. Annual Foreign longline catches in Tokelau waters from 2011 to 2014. (based on unraised logsheet data)

Year	FLAG	SETS	CATCH (metric tonnes)												
			ALB	BET	YFT	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO	BSH	MAK	OCS	FAL	THR	
2011	FJ	170	41.339	74.743	58.878	0.746	8.477	1.087	2.013	0	0	0	0	0	
2012	FJ	131	41.123	83.847	27.714	0	11.237	0.713	4.276	0	0	0	0		
2011	TW	115	17.106	55.82	31.361	0.054	5.722	0.641	1.583	0	0	0	0		
2012	TV	266	110.299	141.013	85.474	0.197	27.321	1.219	6.342	0	0	0	0		
2014	KI	219	97.746	55.259	62.029	0	19.121	0.033	3	1.128	0	0	0	0.184	

National Fleet – Artisanal Tuna Fishery.

This consists of small aluminium boats/dinghies ranging from 12 – 16 ft in length with power outputs ranging from 15 – 30hp outboard motors. The artisanal fishery is primarily for local consumption and uses troll and handline methods targeting mainly skipjack and yellowfin tuna.

Most artisanal fishing activities in Tokelau waters occur within 4 nautical miles from shore. Domestic fisheries development in Tokelau is severely constrained by market access and lack of infrastructure, and the Government is committed to developing strategies that will provide opportunities for participation in small-scale commercial tuna fishery developments.

Due to lack of data collected from the artisanal fishery, the following table however provides an estimated annual catch and effort by the Tokelau artisanal fleet from 2008 to 2012. The SPC Artisanal Catch Forms are now being used in the hope it will help improve data collection.

Table 3. *Estimated Artisanal tuna catches in Tokelau waters, 2012*

Year	Month	RAISED CATCH (kgs)			
		SKJ	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
2012	1	0	41,298	1,140	42,438
2012	2	2,655	17,663	2,738	23,055
2012	3	5,990	6,436	2,803	15,229
2012	4	6,000	360	0	6,360
2012	5	0	6,840	1,440	8,280
2012	6	3,773	6,192	3,485	13,450
2012	7	9,767	4,502	2,895	17,164
2012	8	254	1,917	4,077	6,247
2012	9	8,870	5,136	1,984	15,990
2012	10	69,073	3,137	3,820	76,030

2012	11	12,477	9,339	3,327	25,143
2012	12	3,971	3,499	3,078	10,548
2012	TOTAL	122,830	106,317	30,785	259,932

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Tokelau is seriously concerned about the quality of catch and effort data relating to the Tokelau EEZ fisheries. Due to a variety of reasons—including poor administration and IUU fishing—the fisheries statistics for the Tokelau EEZ are less than adequate. While not necessarily material for stock assessment purposes, Tokelau will not be constrained by the paucity and poor quality of the catch and effort data as it proceeds to determine the nature and extent of the fishing rights in its EEZ.

TUFMAN - TUF-ART

The tuna research and statistical needs of Tokelau are largely met by the assistance and support of the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme. Part of this assistance is the implementation of the Tuna Management System (TUFMAN) in Tokelau. It is now fully functional with ongoing assistance with training as new systems are developed. This initiative will empower the fisheries division with a tool to help provide advice to local government and also help fulfil its obligations and commitments to the commission and other regional organisations. Whilst TUFMAN manages the commercial data (offshore fisheries) TUF-ART has been implemented for managing the artisanal fishery (inshore fisheries).

Monitoring

All foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish in Tokelau waters are required to carry an FFA approved Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) or Mobile Transmitting Unit (MTU) and whilst within Tokelau waters, they are monitored by the FFA installed Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). This is a critical part of MCS and a workstation was installed in Tokelau in 2005. Tokelau aims to strengthen MCS capabilities, through participation in regional and sub-regional strategies and through use of regional infrastructure. Due to limited resources available, Tokelau must participate in regional and sub-regional collaborations to combat IUU in the Tokelau EEZ. As a member of the Palau Arrangement, Tokelau is now implementing the VDS for their purse seine fisheries. Any vessels operating under a new US Tuna Treaty will also use the PNA VDS.

Tokelau appreciates the value an Observer Programme and will consider appropriate collaborative effort in the region. In the meanwhile required observer services are provided by other FFA members' country observer programmes. Tokelau has no port and wharfage infrastructure so there is no Port Sampling Programme.

Tokelau is a party to the Te Vaka Toa arrangement and it provides for parties to work collaboratively with respect to monitoring and enforcement in their EEZs. Tokelau is committed to sharing MCS assets and information with other members with the view that in time the Te Vaka Toa arrangement will strengthen the MCS arrangements for Tokelau's EEZ.

MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Management

In June 2011 Tokelau adopted a new Fisheries Policy. Since then Tokelau had developed an Offshore Fisheries Management Plan (to be endorsed in June 2013) covering the tuna fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone, and commenced the consultations of management plans for the inshore fisheries (lagoons, reefs and coastal waters of the Territorial Sea) for each atoll.

For the offshore fisheries Tokelau has set the following zone-based limits:

<i>Fishery</i>	<i>Zone-based Limit</i>	<i>Status</i>
Purse seine fishery	1000 vessel days	WCPFC formally notified
Albacore longline fishery	2500 tonnes	Interim limit
Tropical longline - Yellowfin	4000 tonnes	Interim limit
Tropical longline - Bigeye	2000 tonnes	Interim limit

To implement the purse seine limits Tokelau has become a Participant to the Palau Arrangement and joined the PNA's Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). In the US Tuna Treaty renewal negotiations Tokelau is now in the 'PNA plus Tokelau' pool. Tokelau is currently implementing and testing the VDS systems to ensure these are ready to manage the purse seine fisheries as of 1 January 2013. Pending full implementation of the VDS Tokelau has set a limit of 20 purse seine licenses (excluding vessels licensed under the US Tuna Treaty).

In the longline fisheries the interim zone limits are backed up by limits on the number of vessels to be licensed each year (up to 12 vessels in the albacore fishery and up to 8 vessels in the tropical longline fishery). Tokelau will work with coastal states with an interest in the longline fisheries prior to formally notifying the country limits to the Commission.

Tokelau has also revised its licensing conditions to meet Tokelau's obligations under CMM 2008-01 and to be consistent with the standardised format recommended by FFA. The Tokelau EEZ Fishing Regulations are under review to ensure that they will support the Tokelau Fisheries Policy and Offshore Fisheries Management Plan.

Capacity Building

Following on from adopting the new Tokelau Fisheries Policy, there is now a strong focus on capacity-building for the Tokelau Fisheries division.

Since 2012 fisheries personnel has spent 115 days in total in training on fisheries management related issues. Tokelau is committed in ensuring capacity building for fisheries personnel.

