



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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5-13 August 2015

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

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**WCPFC-SC11-AR/CCM-14**

**NAURU**

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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS  
ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014**

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**NAURU**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	[ YES ]
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## **1. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION**

### **1.1 Fishery Characteristics**

- a) Nauru's Offshore Fishery was again subjugated by the Distant Water Fishing Nation's purse seine vessels. Their Primary target is the tuna like species, especially skipjack (*SKJ*), which are principally for the foreign canneries.
- b) The majority of these vessels are licensed under a bilateral agreement or multilateral arrangement and treaty.
- c) Japan and China are the only DWFN's with agreements that covers both purse seine and longline fishing in Nauru's EEZ and the catches are essentially for the Asian sashimi markets.
- d) Nauru does not have a commercial scale fleet of any kind under its flag or through any charter arrangement.
- e) The Artisanal Fishery still remains the foremost source of fish protein for Nauru's populace. The fishery encompasses principally of motorized skiffs and canoes. Targeted species are commonly free-school or FAD aggregated coastal pelagic species and catches are essentially for subsistence, exchange or saleable at a trivial scale.

## 2. Offshore and Catch Estimates

### 2.1 Purse Seine Fishery

The species caught in Nauru's offshore fishery as per previous years is primarily made up of skipjack (*katsuwonus pelamis*) with the rest, yellowfin (*thunnus albacares*) and bigeye (*thunnus obesus*) tunas.

In 2014, the skipjack (SKJ) catch in Nauru's EEZ continue to increase (table 1 and figure 1) from the previous year, thus, making it another record year and the YFT and BET catch was stable.

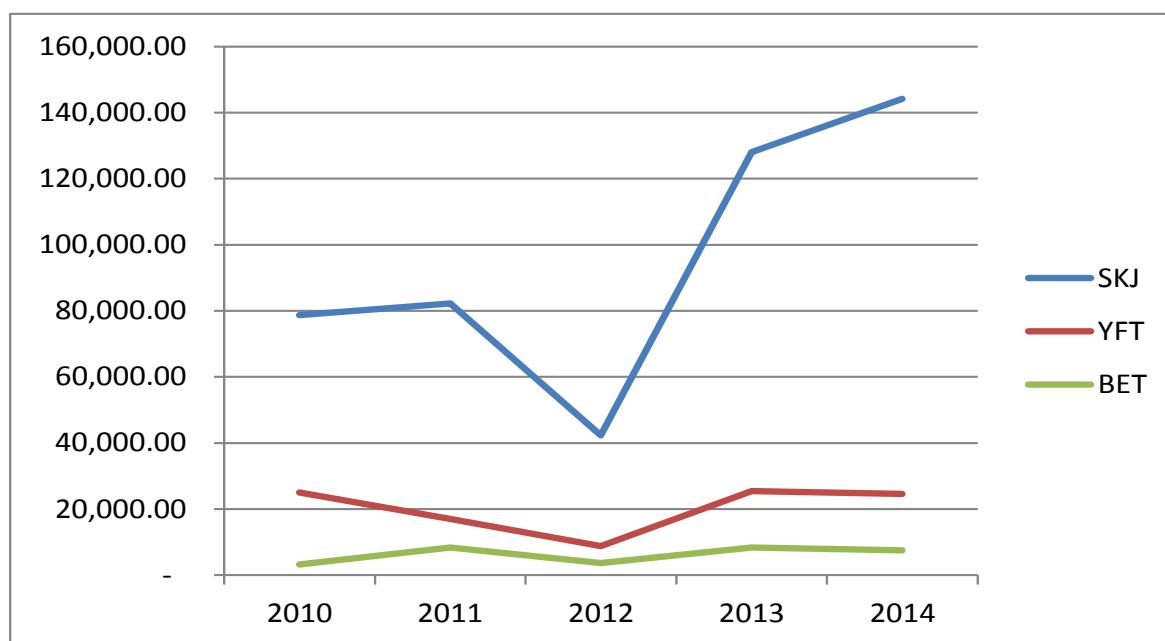
There was a significant increase of skipjack catch by the Taiwanese fleet (>30,000mt). Although the whole FSMA fleet catch remained stable, the PG flagged fleet catch doubled from the previous year.

The average skipjack catch in Nauru's EEZ for the past 5 years had increased by 121, 536.20 MT.

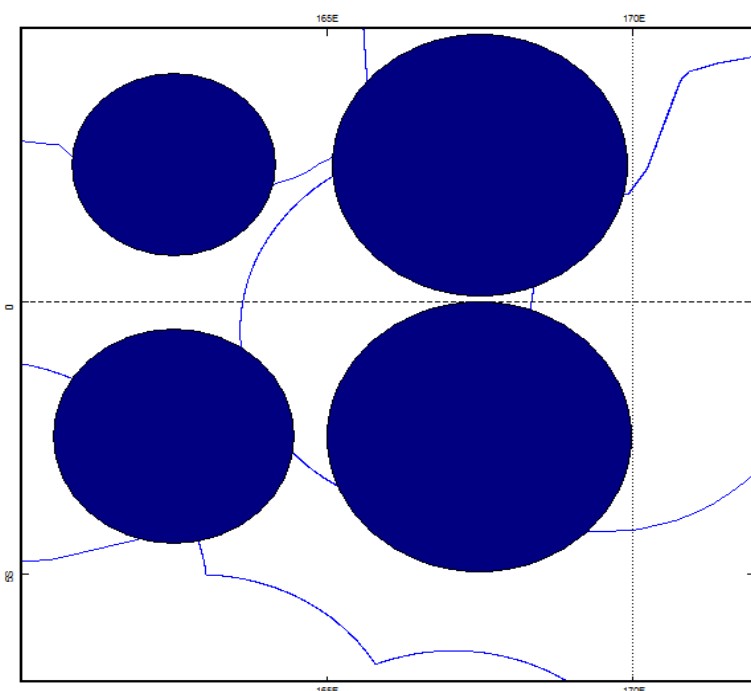
(Note: the figures are according to SPC estimates derived from logsheets which includes multilaterally-licensed vessels as well as vessels licensed to fish in Nauru according to the Palau Arrangement Vessel Days Management Scheme).

YEAR	SKJ	YFT	BET	TOTAL
2010	78,662	24,991	3,224	106,876
2011	82,256	17,022	8,399	107,678
2012	42,296	8,751	3,605	54,653
2013	127,987	25,464	8,344	161,795
<b>2014</b>	<b>144,175</b>	<b>24,599</b>	<b>7,505</b>	<b>176,679</b>

**Table 1:** Summary of total catches in Nauru's EEZ by all DWFN fleets from 2010– 2014. **Source:** Un-raised logsheet data collected by Nauru held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database, SPC (Catches for 2014 are provisional).



**Figure 1:** Trend of total catches of the 3 main tuna species in Nauru's EEZ over a 5 year period.



**Figure 2:** 2014 Purse seine fishing effort (5°x5°) in Nauru’s EEZ. **Source:** *Regional CES database.*

## 2.2 Longline Fishery

Logistically Nauru is ideally located in the midst of the tuna highway, nevertheless, its isolation and lack of important berthing infrastructures is considered by the distant water fishing nations an unfeasible longline fishery.

In 2013, two foreign fishing countries; Japan and China agreed to revisit Nauru’s unexploited long line fishery. Japan with six (6) vessels commenced longline activities in early 2013 and China with four (4) vessels initiated its agreement in late 2013.

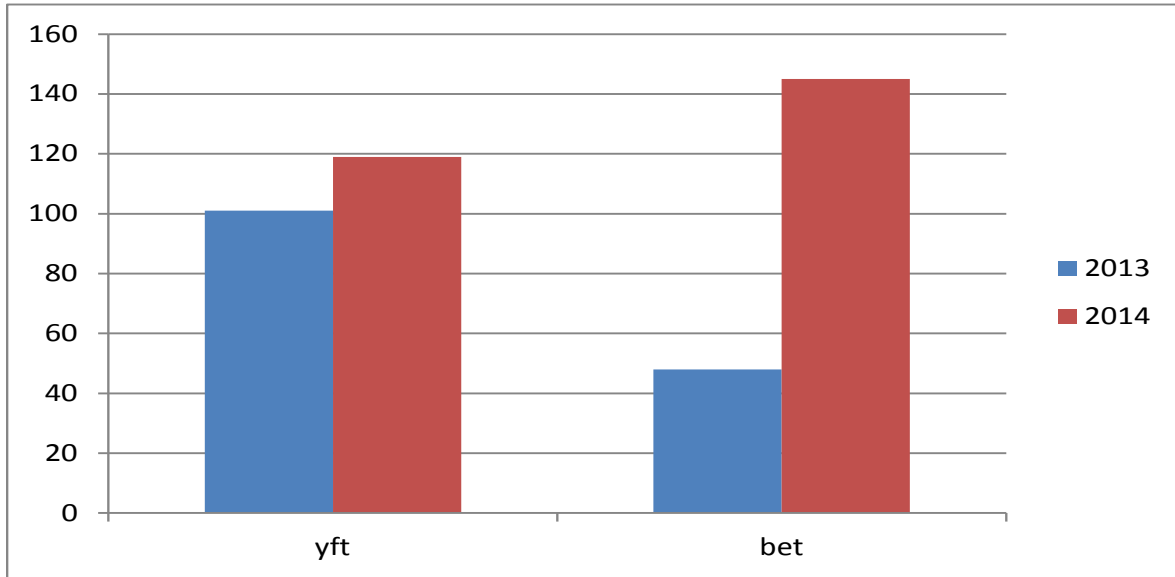
In 2014, there was a 31% increase of catches (*table 2 – 3, fig 2*) by the Japanese fleet, while the Chinese catch was stable since fishing commenced in 2013 and catches are primarily for the Asian sashimi market.

YEAR	FLAG	YFT	BET	TOTAL
2013	JP	42	18	61
	CN	59	30	89
	<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>150</b>
2014	JP	71	100	172
	CN	48	45	93
	<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>265</b>

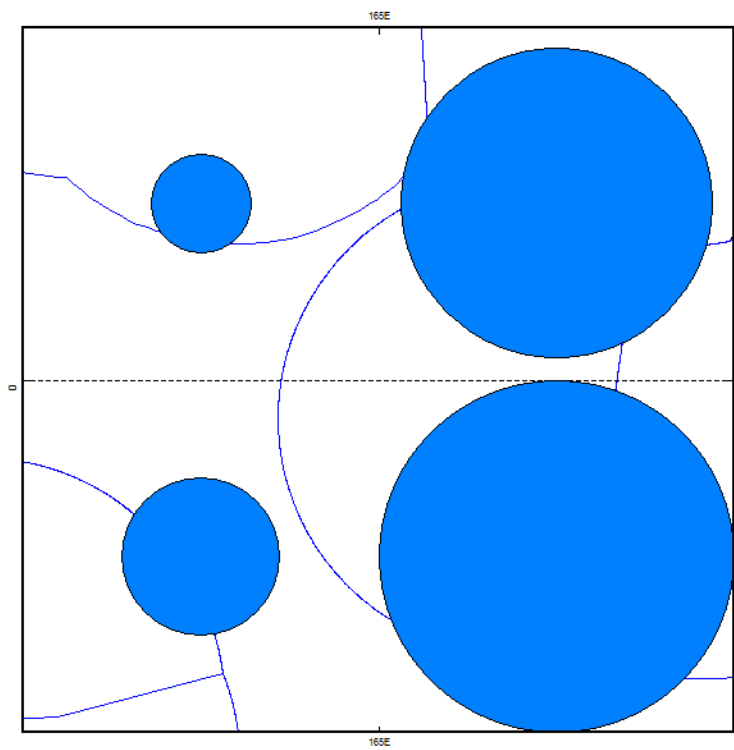
**Table 2:** Longline catches (MT) by flag in Nauru’s EEZ for 2013 and 2014. **Source:** *Un-raised logsheet data collected by Nauru and held in the regional database, SPC. (2014 catch are provisional)*

YEAR	YFT	BET	TOTAL
2013	101	48	150
<b>2014</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>265</b>

**Table 3:** Summary of longline catches in metric tons by fleet for 2013-14.



**Figure 3:** Longline Catch (MT) trends for last 2 years.



**Figure 4:** 2014 Longline catch effort (5°x5°) in Nauru's EEZ. Source: Regional CES database

### 3. Artisanal fleet

Nauru's artisanal fleet encompasses of small skiffs and canoes operated by local fishers who fish for either subsistence, barter or small scale commercial within its territorial waters.

Data are collected by surveyors through interviews from NFMRA'S Coastal Division at varies landing sites after a fishing trip.

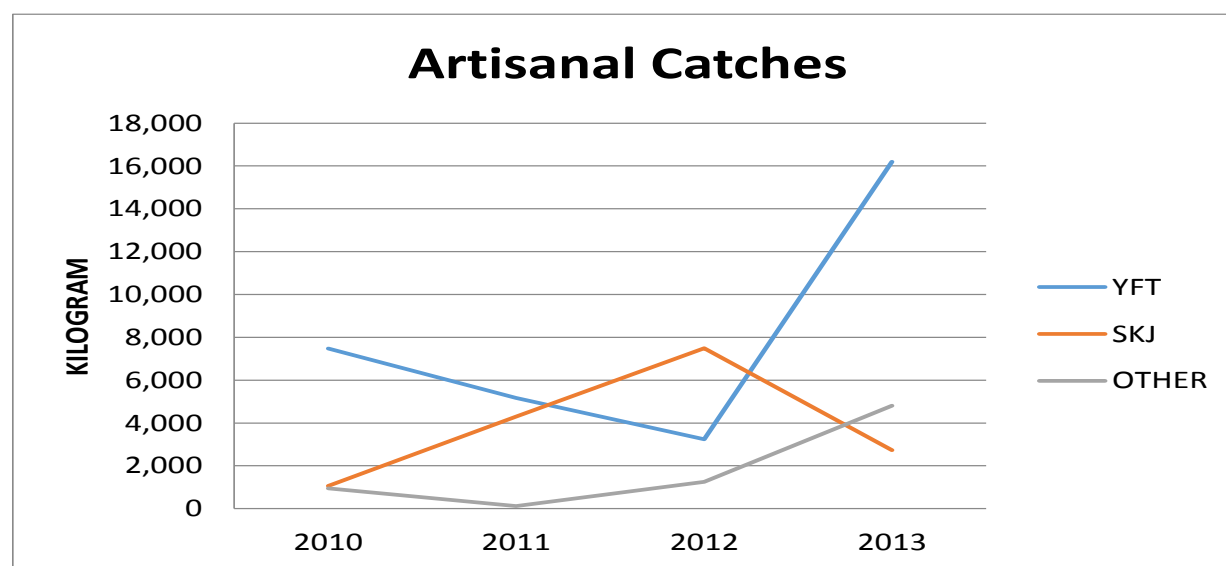
As highlighted in the national reports for the 18<sup>th</sup> MCSWG and TDW9, the 2014 artisanal catch estimates are not available. The 2013 records are re-submitted as a best effort estimate.

The significant increase of YFT catches in 2013 illustrated on tables 4 and fig 3 is due to the increase of data collected from the canoe fishers who primarily targets the species.

*NOTE: Nauru, stresses that the issues is NOT with data collection, but with the chronic unreliability of the internet service provider and the recurrent power failures.*

YEAR	Artisanal Catches (Kilograms)			
	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Others	Total
2010	7,474	1,056	941	9,470
2011	5,162	4,301	113	9,576
2012	3,243	7,497	1,254	11,994
2013	16,192.6	2,728.4	4,806.3	23,727.3
<b>2014</b>	-	-	-	-

**Table 4:** Annual catch estimates for the NAURU ARTISANAL fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2010 - 2014. (Source: TUFART Coastal Fisheries survey of un-raised estimates based on FAD Fishing Canoe logbook)



**Figure 5:** 4 year trend for total Artisanal catches (KG) in Nauru from 2010 - 2013. (2014 not available)

#### 4. Foreign Fleet and Licensing Structure

As for previous years, majority of the commercial fleet licensed to operate in Nauru's EEZ comprises of the Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs).

In 2014, Nauru licensed 226 purse seines (PS) and 10 Longline (LL) vessels to operate in its EEZ, 31% of the vessels are licensed under FSMA. In support of the fishing fleet, 15 tankers and 2 fish carriers were similarly licensed.

Table's 5 and 6 illustrates a detailed breakdown of the fleets by flag and size. The bulk of the purse seine vessels fall within the 1001 -1500 GRT category; 46 vessels in the 501 to 1000 size group and 53 vessels fit the super seine (1500+) category.

FOREIGN FLAGGED VESSELS						
FLAG	GEAR	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
CHINA(CN)	PS	12	-	5	4	3
CHINA (CN)	LL	4	-	4	-	-
JAPAN(JP)	LL	6	-	6	-	-
JAPAN(JP)	PS	30	-	-	27	3
FSMA (KI)	PS	11	-	1	7	3
FSMA(FM)	PS	9	-	4	1	4
FSMA (MH)	PS	12	-	-	7	5
FSMA (PH)	PS	-	-	-	-	-
FSMA (PG)	PS	36	2	5	24	5
PILLIPHINES (PH)	PS	3	-	1	2	-
KOREA (KR)	PS	26	-	12	10	4
TAIWAN (TW)	PS	29	-	9	18	2
UST (US)	PS	40	-	-	18	22
VANUATU(TV)	PS	1	-	-	-	1
VANUATU (TW)	PS	3	-	-	-	3
NEW ZEALAND(NZ)	PS	4	-	-	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>226</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>53</b>

**Table.5:** Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed to Nauru in 2014 **Source:** Nauru's license database

SUPPORT VESSELS					
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
KOREA(TK)	8	-	-	-	8
PANAMA(FC)	2	-	-	-	2
TAIWAN(TK)	7	-	1	-	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>

**Table.6:** Support Vessels Licensed to Nauru in 2014. **Source:** Nauru's license database.



## 5. Socioeconomic

Revenue derived from fishing licenses continues to provide the bulk of non aid income for Nauru which comprises approximately 25% of the total state revenue for the last financial year.

Nauru's only ongoing development made from the offshore fishing industry is the Observer Program (*NROBP*).

There were five Non-PIRFO certified or Taiwan trained observers from 2013; three (3) have been certified and two (2) are no longer active. Three (3) observers are being trained as PIRFO de-briefers.

Nauru's Fishery Observer Program total number of trips for 2014:-

• NROB	-	12
• FFA	-	14
• PNA	-	14
• SPC	-	2

The Artisanal fishery still remains a steadfast source of fish protein and income generator for Nauru's local community.

## 6. Research and Statistics

Nauru Fishery's principal concern is the ongoing advancement of personnel skills to the necessary levels through participation in regional capacity building workshops and training.

Like the rest of the region Nauru has embraced the regional database systems; i.e. TUFMAN and TUFART which had been developed by OFP/SPC, relentless refining of these systems to meet Nauru's requirements is constant.

Nauru would like to acknowledge the continuous support and assistance provided by all the regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO's) for their persistent work on research, statistics and conservations at a sustainable level throughout the years not only for Nauru's, but also the other PICT's common resource, the "*highly migratory fish stock*".