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-11 Rev1
(20 July 2015)

KIRIBATI

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELENTH 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-11

KIRIBATI

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	[YES]
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions.	

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION

5-13 August 2015
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
KIRIBATI

1. Abstract/Summary

Tuna fishery in Kiribati is composed of national and foreign fishing fleets licensed to fish by the Government, Kiribati domestic fishing vessels and the artisanal fishery which made up of local small skiffs with 15-40 horse-power engine that target skipjack and small yellowfin tuna that mainly provide food for the local people and for domestic market.

The major gear types used for commercial fishing for tuna in Kiribati's waters are purse-seiners and pole and liners which mainly target skipjack and yellowfin tuna. Long lining was also employed by foreign fleets that target bigeye tuna. The artisanal fishermen used trolling and hand lining to catch shallower tuna species like skipjack and yellow fin.

Kiribati's have also domestic vessels that fished for tuna within the WCPFC area. In 2014 Kiribati operated a total of 14 purse seine vessels, 5 long liners and one pole and liner as Kiribati flagged and Chartered Vessels. .

Tuna remain the most important resources to Kiribati and for that reason the sustainable development and management of the resource is very vital for the Country.

2. Background

Kiribati Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is located in the Western Central Pacific Ocean, with 33 islands and covering approximately 3.5 million km² of ocean within 167°W–146°E and 8°N–14°S. It is made up of three groups of islands the Gilbert region in the west, the Phoenix region in the centre and the Line Islands in the east.

There are four tuna species that are commercially fished by foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish by the Government. These include skipjack tuna, K*atsuwonus pelamis*; albacore tuna, *Thunnus alalunga*; yellowfin tuna (YFT), *T. albacores*; and big eye tuna (BET), *T. obesus*.

Kiribati does not have the capacity to harvest its own tuna resource therefore engagment in join-ventured fishing operation with other foreign fishing companies may provide that opportunity but most importantly the arrangement was considered to increase its share from the harvesting of tuna. In 2014 Kiribati operated 14 purse-seine fishing vessels under 7 joint venture fishing companies to maximize its benefit from the harvesting of tuna.

The artisanal fishery is also part of the tuna fishery in Kiribati which comprises of local fishermen employing small skiffs or crafts, usually less than 7 meters with 15-40 horse-power engines. Such fishery catches a certain portion of the tuna resource mainly for local consumption and extra catches often sold locally. The artisanal fishermen used vertical hand-lining and trolling to harvest tuna within the vicinity of the islands of Kiribati. The estimated number of artisanal boats is shown in the following table which is based on the result of the 2010 artisanal fisheries survey as no survey have made since then.

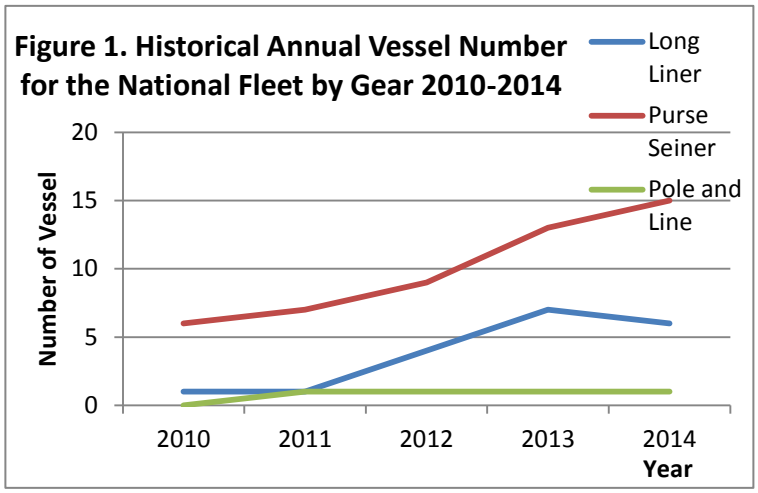
3. Flag State Reporting

3.1. Kiribati Flagged Vessels

Gear	**Long Line**				
Size (GRT)	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**
0-10					
10-50					
50-200	1	1		1	1
200-500			1		
500+			3	6	5
Total	**1**	**1**	**4**	**7**	**6**
Gear	**Purse Seine**				
0-500					
500-1000		1		1	1
1000-1500	4	5	6	8	8
1500+	2	1	3	4	5
Total	**6**	**7**	**9**	**13**	**14**
Gear	**Pole and Line**				
0-10					
10-50					
50-200					
200-500		1	1	1	1
500+					
Total		**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Gear	**Artisanal Boats**				
>7 meters	**4766**	**4766**	**4766**	**4766**	**4766**

Table 1. Number of Kiribati registered vessels 2010-2014

The number of Kiribati's fleets active within the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission area increased since 2010. In 2014, Kiribati registered on the WCPFC's vessels register a total of 44 vessels (7 bunker vessels, 17 reefer carriers, 5 longline vessels, 1 pole and lines vessel and 14 purse-seine vessels). This is a further increase in the number of fishing vessels registered under Kiribati flag from 21 vessels in 2013 to 22 vessels in 2014 respectively.



The total number of artisanal boats in 2013 was estimated to be 4766 which is based on the result of the 2010 artisanal survey.

3.2. Annual Catches in the WCPFC Convention Area

3.2.1. Purse Seine Fishery

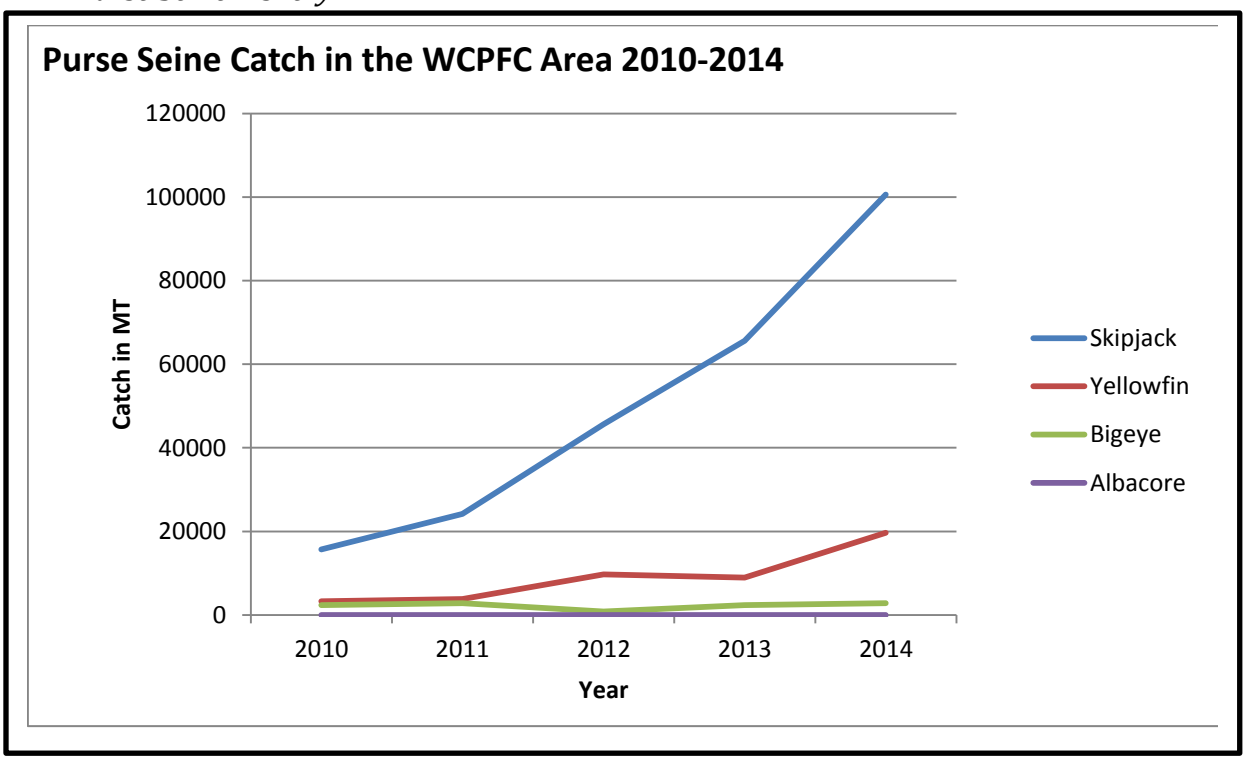
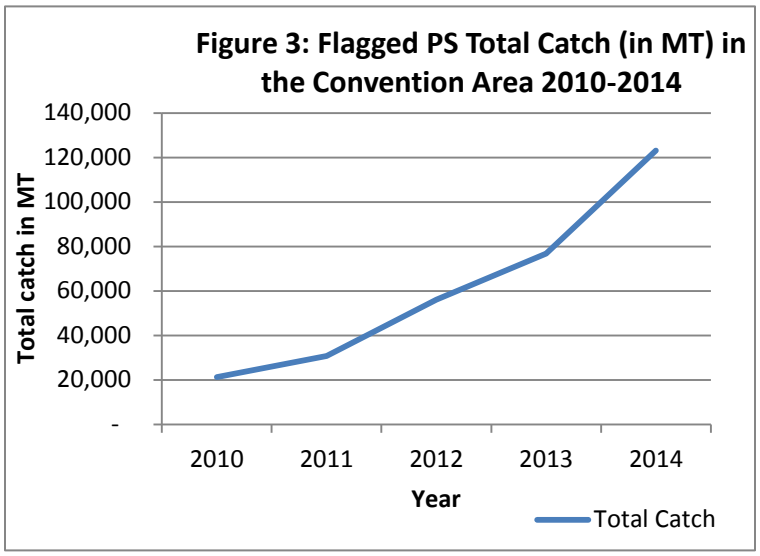


Figure 2. National Purse Seine Catch (in MT) in the WCPFC area.



Accordingly the catches for Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessel totaled up to 123,068 mt in 2014. The observed catches have improved by 60% when compared to the 2013 catches. The catches elevated in 2014 as a result of the increase in the number of Kiribati purse-seine vessels from 13 -14. Refer to Figure 3 for trend in fishery effort.

The Kiribati's purse seine fleets concentrated their fishing effort mostly within Kiribati's EEZ of Kiribati with some effort expended in Tuvalu's, Marshall's and PNG's waters and within the high seas as depicted in Figure 3 below. . The vessels did not fish at 10ºNorth and South of the Equator as reflected in the Figure 4.

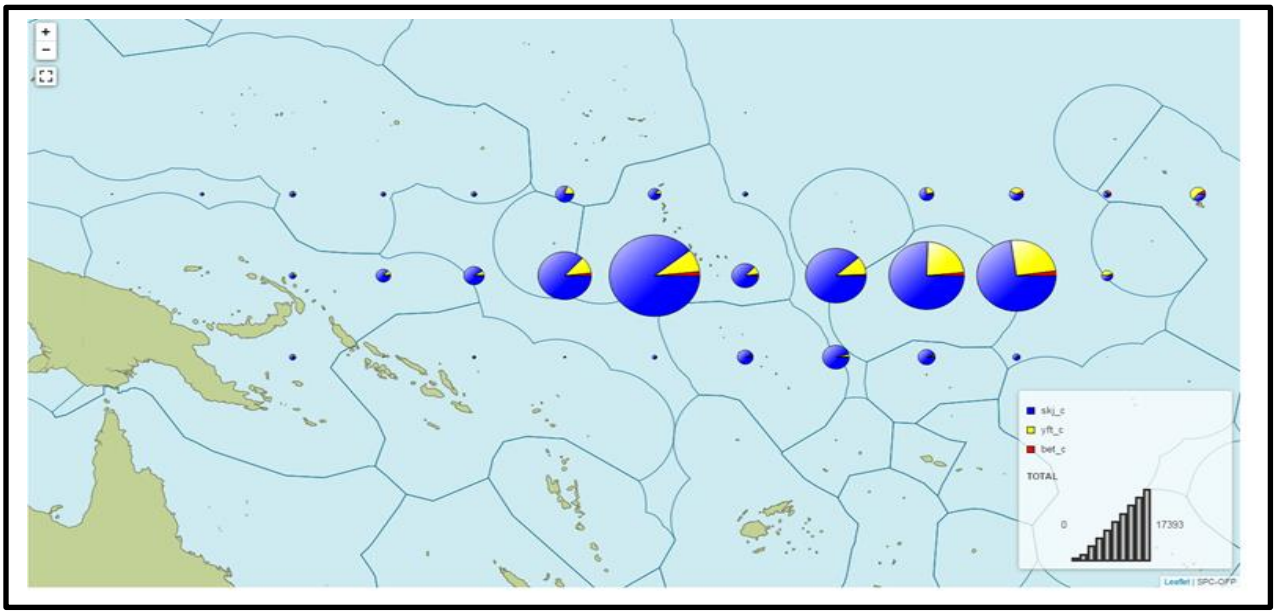


Figure 4. Spatial Distribution of Purse Seine Catch in the WCPFC Area 2014.

3.2.2. Long Line Fishery

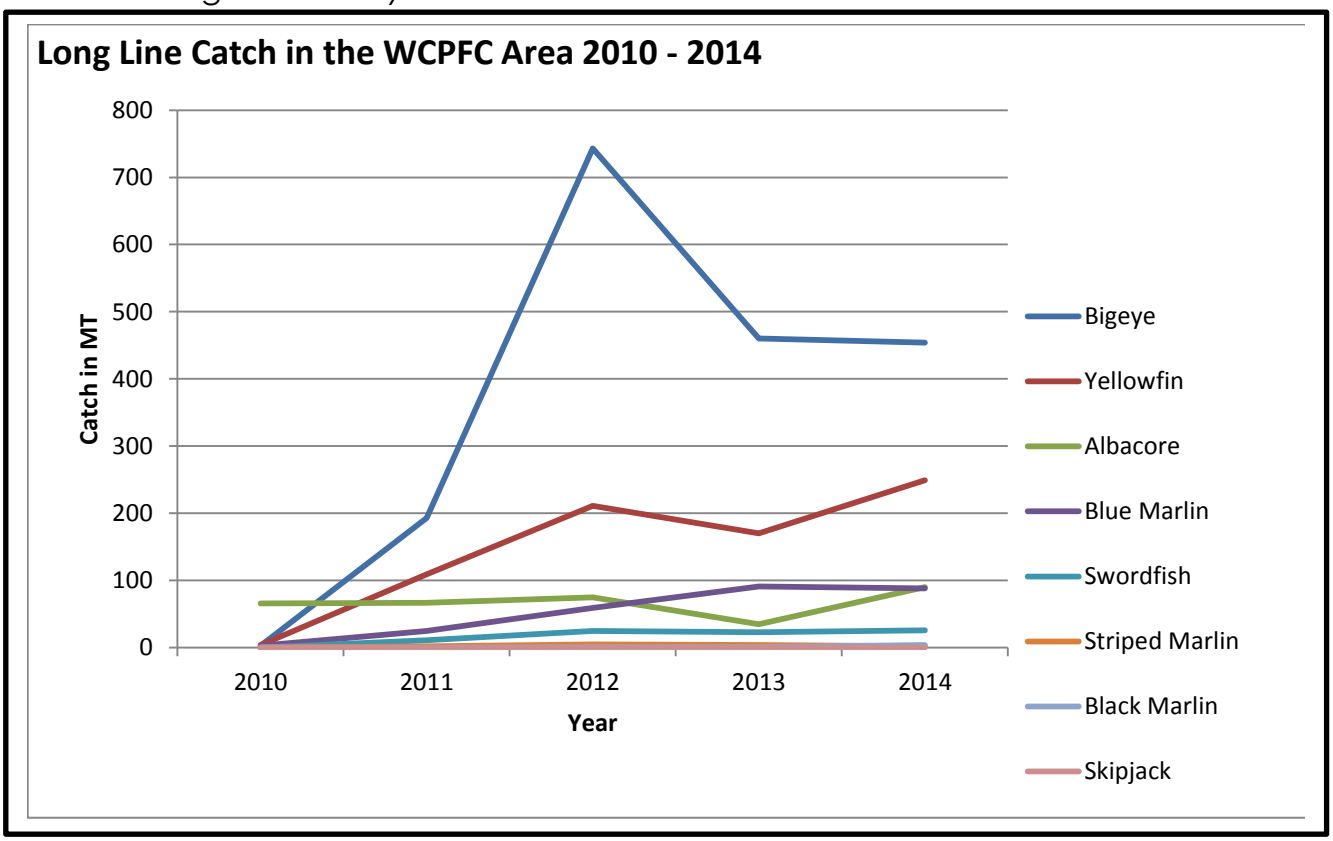
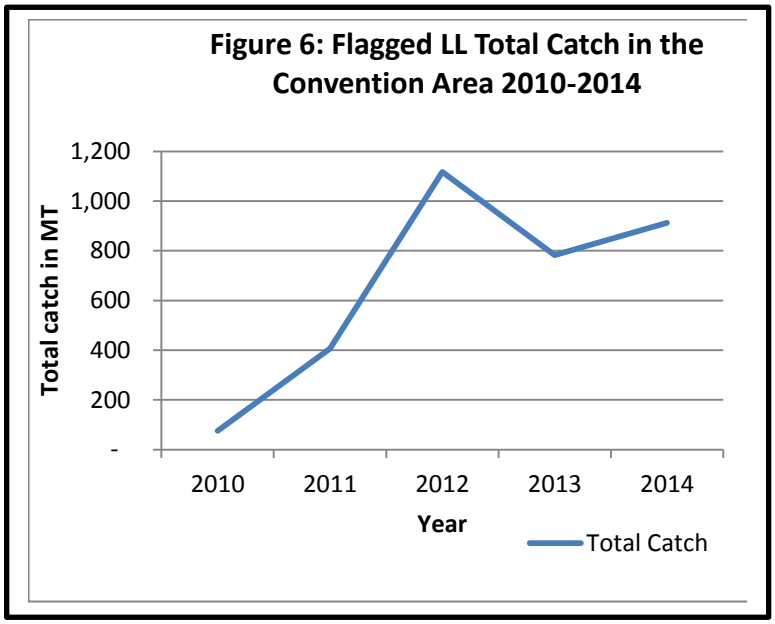


Figure 5. National Long Line Catch (in MT) in the WCPFC area.

The number of Kiribati longline flagged vessels decreased from 7 vessels in 2013 to 6 vessels in 2014 respectively. The 6 fleets registered under Kiribati actively fishing in the WCPFC convention area and caught a total of 913 mt of tuna in 2014. Figure 6 shows fluctuations of tuna catches for Kiribati's longline fleets during the year 2010-2014.



In terms of fishing grounds, in 2014, the long line national fleets concentrated their fishing effort mostly within the Phoenix Islands of Kiribati, a few efforts

expended in the Gilbert group and a few in the high seas close to the Marshall Islands.

The spatial distribution of catches for the 14 purse-seine fleets actively fishing within the Convention Area 2014 was displayed in Figure 7.

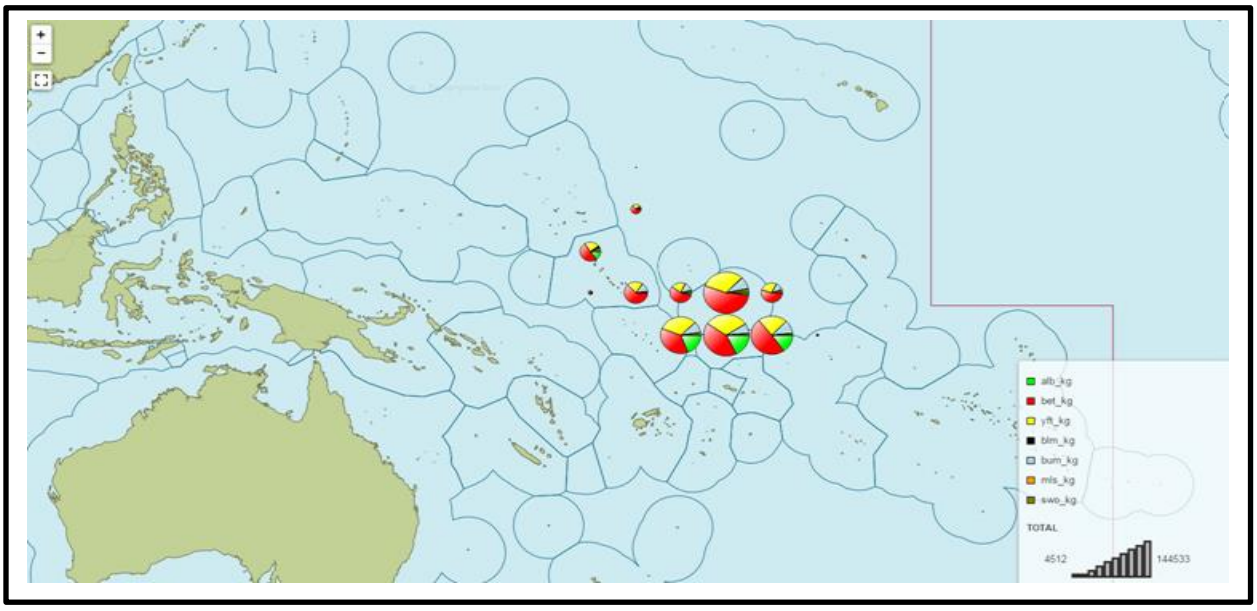


Figure 7. Spatial Distribution of Long Line Catch in the WCPFC Area 2014.

3.2.3. Pole and Line Fishery

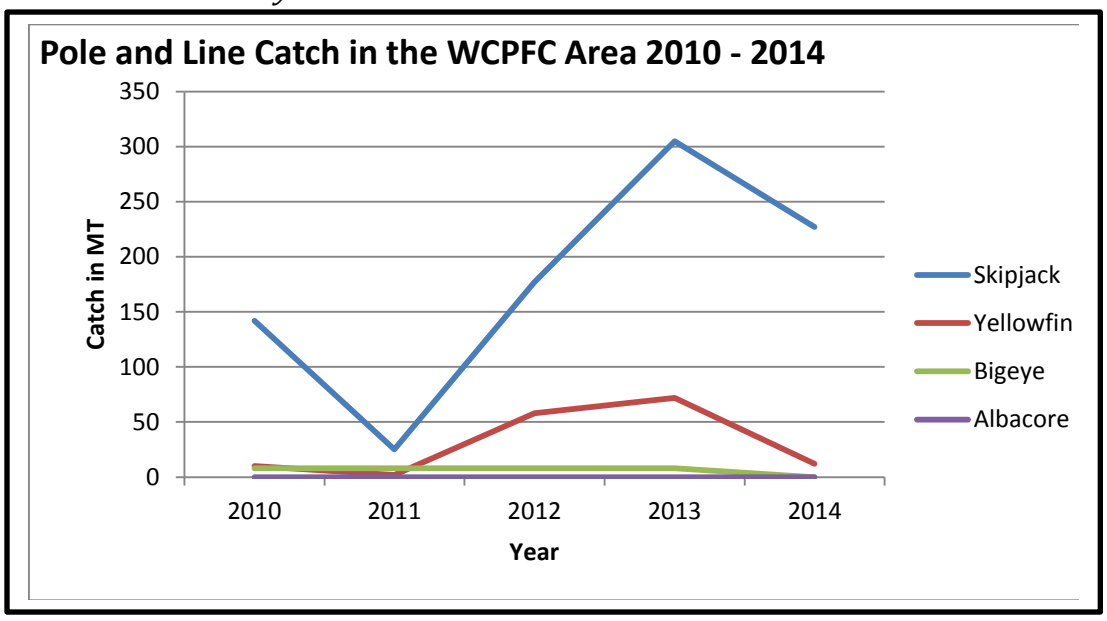
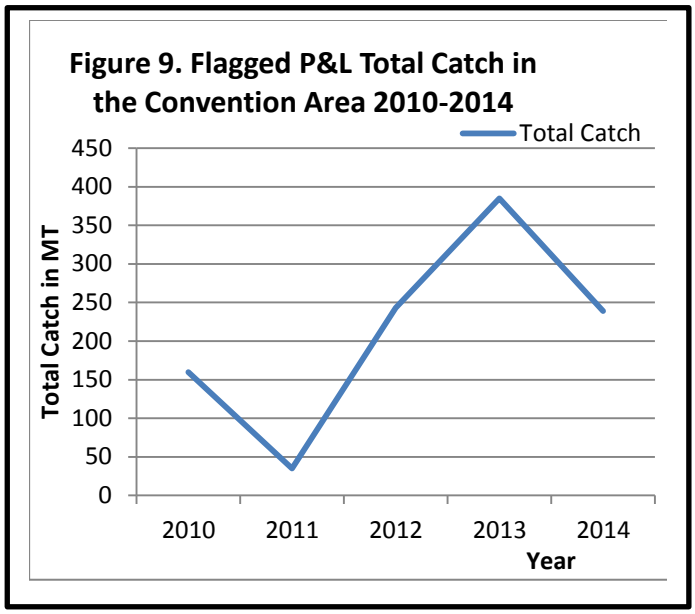


Figure 8. National Pole and Line Catch in the WCPFC area.

Kiribati has only 1 registered pole and line vessel, namely Akawa. This pole and line vessel was operated by the Spanish company, Intertun Ltd., but registered under Kiribati's flag. The vessel targeted only skipjack and yellowfin tuna mostly with little catch observed for the bigeye tuna. There is an increase in catch effort in the year 2012 to 2013 as can be viewed in the adjacent Figure 9.



The spatial distribution of catches for the pole and line actively fishing within the Convention Area 2014 was displayed in Figure 10.

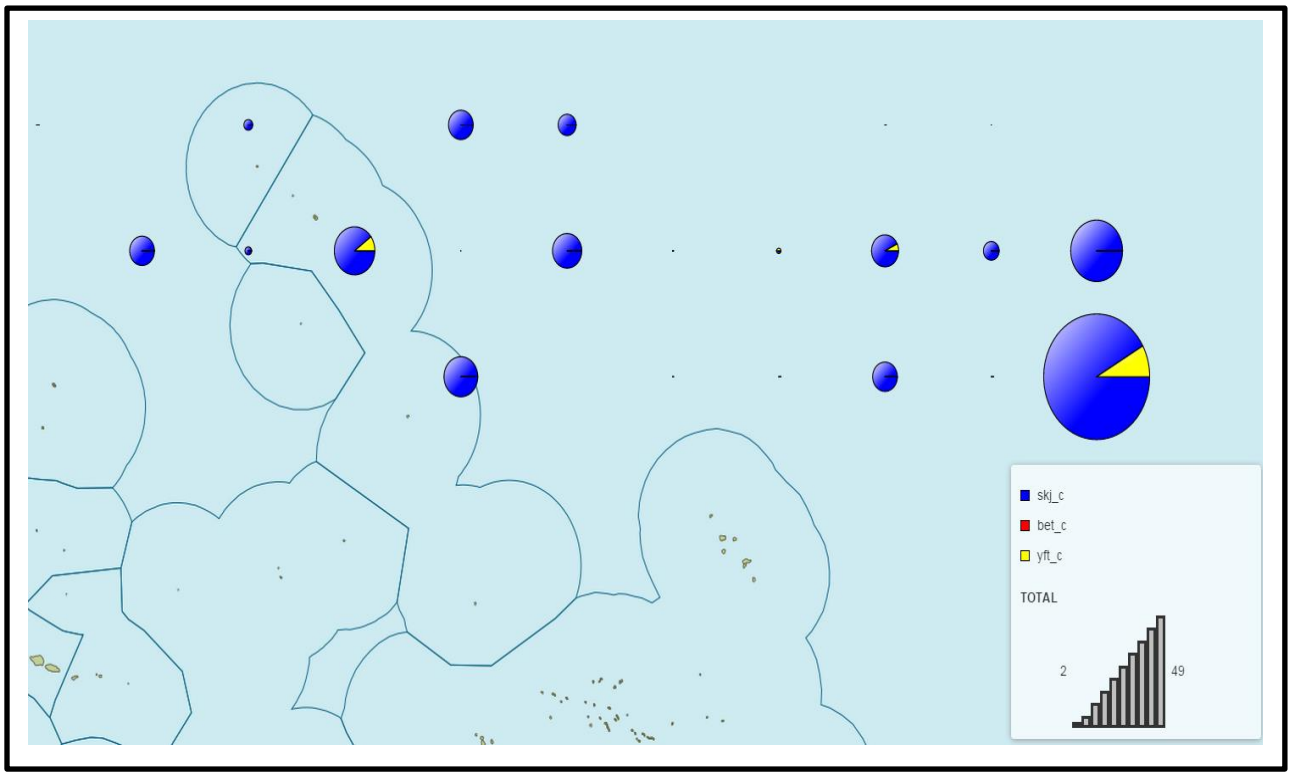


Figure 10. Spatial Distribution of Pole and Line Catch in the WCPFC Area 2014.

4. Disposal of Catch

Gear	Port	Tonnage	Percentage
Purse Seiner	FSM	2075	3%
	Kiribati	65701	81%
	Marshall	5305	7%
	Solomon	3010	4%
	Fiji	900	1%
	Tuvalu	4120	5%
Pole and Liner	Kiribati	300	100%
Long Liner	Samoa	647	90%
	Taiwan	72	10%

Table 5. Transshipment activities of Flagged Vessels.

The above table represents the total transshipped catch at each port. For the purse seiners and pole and liner, the fleet is encouraged to transship in Kiribati designated ports and evidences of this is the 81% purse seine and 100% pole and line transshipment in Kiribati ports. On the other hand, the long liners usually transshipped to factories in Samoa and Taiwan.

5. Onshore Developments

Kiribati has the inspiration to do onshore developments. In the year 2012, the Government of Kiribati, through the Fisheries Ministry, establishes a joint venture processing plant namely Kiribati Fish Limited which was based in Tarawa. Most catches from the company's vessels were processed at KFL onshore factory and were exported to the US and Japan international markets.

Kiribati will continue to look for other viable onshore developments in order to maximize its returns from tuna fisheries developments.

6. Future Prospects of the Fishery

The key priority area for Kiribati is to develop its Tuna Fishery in a sustainable manner which will be achieved by establishing of joint ventured (JV) fishing operation and fish processing plants with interested foreign companies. Kiribati through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development have established quite a number of joint venture fishing companies with its foreign fishing partners and operationalized a joint ventured tuna loining processing plant in Tarawa, Kiribati. Such arrangements intended to enable better returns from the harvesting of tuna resources.

7. Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

a. Logsheet Data Collection and Verification.

Log sheet submission from Kiribati's national fleets have improved but still not accomplished the required 100% coverage. It is anticipated that by 2015 or 2016, Kiribati will achieved near to or equal to 100% coverage logsheet data for all its national flagged vessels including those under the charter arrangement. Kiribati currently reviewing its internal process and to establish mechanisms that will ensure that all its national fleets fully complies with the entire Commission requirements that includes data submission.

Kiribati continued to have technical difficulty relating to default machines like fax, and internet connection which the office depend on to receives reports from national fleets like logsheet data and others.

b. Observer Programme

All Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessels including chartered vessels placed 100% observers' coverage in 2014.

Furthermore, the 5% observer coverage for Kiribati longline vessels has been attained in 2014. The observer coverage was calculated by dividing the number of trips with observer placed onboard the vessels by the total number of fishing trips of the vessel conducted for one year period. Kiribati will continue to work with its fishing companies to ensure that the 5% required observer coverage for longline will be maintained in future.

c. Port Sampling Programme

Kiribati supports SPC's port sampling programme but due to the unavailability of required financial assistance, the programme ceased in November last year, 2014. All data retrieved from port sampling activities by our national observers were sent to SPC.

8. Research Activities Covering Target and Non-target Species.

Kiribati is very supportive towards regional research activities such as tuna tagging. Through the continuous support of SPC, a national tag recovery officer (TRO) is based in the country to collect tagging information received from observers, and local fishermen.

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs

<table>
<tr><th>CMM Reference</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4</td><td>Some of KI LL vessels fished within this area and catch 0.19mt as a bycatch. (logsheet data)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4</td><td>KI vessels fished in this area but not targeting striped marlin. There was no catch of striped marlin based on the available data (logsheet data)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2007-04 [Seabirds], Para 9</td><td>Base on observer data, there were no interaction of sea birds</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</td><td>Some of KI vessels active within the area but not targeting swordfish. There was no catch of swordfish based on the available data (logsheet data).</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-06 [Transhipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</td><td>Transhipment record based on KI port record.
<table>
<tr><th>Offload</th><th>Receive</th></tr>
<tr><td>a.</td><td>a.</td></tr>
<tr><td>- 16216.00mt</td><td>1169mt</td></tr>
<tr><td>-All transhipment in port</td><td>All tranship in port</td></tr>
<tr><td>-Caught inside the convention area.</td><td>-Caught inside the convention area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>-SKJ, YFT, BET for PS, BET and YFT for LL</td><td>-SKJ, YFT, BET for PS, BET and YFT for LL</td></tr>
<tr><td>-Frozen</td><td>-Frozen</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>CMM Reference</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>For PS flag vessels (9 vessels)</td><td>For Reefer carrier (3 vessels)</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>b.</td><td>b.</td></tr>
<tr><td>25</td><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>- All transhipment in port</td><td>All transhipment in port</td></tr>
<tr><td>- Same as above</td><td>Same as above</td></tr>
<tr><td>All caught inside the convention area</td><td>All caught inside the convention</td></tr>
<tr><td>Purse seiner</td><td>Reefer carrier</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-05 [South Pacific albacore], Para 4</td><td>Some of KI vessels operate within the area but not targeting albacore. There was no catch for albacore based on the available data (logsheet data).</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4</td><td>Summary of shark catch based on logsheet report(TUFMAN)
<table>
<tr><th>Gear</th><th>Species</th><th>Numbers</th></tr>
<tr><td>LL</td><td>Blue shark</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Shark unidentified</td><td>199</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>200</td></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>Great Hammerhead</td><td>40</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>CMM Reference</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Manta Rays (unidentified)</td><td>20</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pelagic Sting-Ray</td><td>30</td></tr>
<tr><td>Shark (unidentified)</td><td>5545</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>5635</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5</td><td>Base on observer data reported, there is no cetaceans interactions for the KI PS vessels for 2014</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3</td><td>The total catch for oceanic whitetip sharks summaries below based on observer data for 2014
<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Release</th></tr>
<tr><td>Dead</td><td>Alive</td></tr>
<tr><td>0</td><td>7</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06</td><td>Summary below based on observer data. All whale sharks were discarded and not retained.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>CMM Reference</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Gear</th><th># of catch</th><th>weight (mt)</th></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>3</td><td>1.55</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2012-07 [Seabirds], Para 9</td><td>There is no interaction of sea bird.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3</td><td>Based on the available observer reports, a total of 446 Silky sharks were caught but release alive.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)</td><td>Kiribati is unable to meet the required observer coverage for LL which is 5% and 100% coverage for purse-seine vessels. The observer coverage was calculated by dividing the number of trips where an observer is placed onboard the vessel by the total number of trips the vessel conducted during one year.</td></tr>
</table>