



PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

SOLOMON ISLANDS - 2011



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

9-17 August 2011
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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

WCPFC-SC7-AR/CCM-21

SOLOMON ISLANDS



**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND
STATISTICS 2010**

SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Aug 2011

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 th April 2010	YES
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Solomon Islands Government, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support provided by SPC in providing expertise and technical assistance towards improving the tuna data collections and management systems of Solomon Islands, particularly in developing and maintenance of TUFMAN database which makes it easier in producing this report. I would also like to thank FFA and WCPFC for funding support provided for Solomon Islands representative to attend the (i) FFA Science Working Group (SWG) meeting and (ii) the 7th Scientific Committee Regular Session (SC7) meeting in Pohnpei, Federate State of Micronesia.



ABSTRACT

The tuna fishery of Solomon Islands is very important as it contributes significantly towards the national economy as well as the social wellbeing of the people. However management of the fishery is quite complex as it consists of various fleets with diverse gear and vessel sizes, as well as the multi species involves. In 2010 more than 400 vessels were licensed to operate in Solomon Islands EEZ. These include 180 purse seine, 216 tuna longlines, 13 shark longlines, and 16 pole and line vessels. The fleet composition is dominated by the foreign fleets which operate more than 98.6% of the vessels and the domestic fleet with only 1.4%.

The provisional total annual catch estimates within the Solomon Islands EEZ for 2010 is approximately 128,842 mt, with skipjack dominated the catch with about 95,229mt followed by yellowfin tuna with 23,136mt, albacore with 6,357mt and bigeye tuna with 2,140mt. From the total catch estimated, more than 89% were land outside of Solomon Islands and approximately 11% landed locally. The Government of Solomon Islands is trying to turn this figure around by encouraging investors to invest more in the value adding and processing sector. As such the Government had taken the initiatives by acquiring 2 proposed processing sites on Guadalcanal, and 1 on Malaita. The Government recognizes that the economic and social benefits for the people of Solomon Islands could be maximised should the larger proportion of the catch is processed locally.



INTRODUCTION

The Solomon Islands tuna fishery could be divided into 2 broad categories, (i) the commercial tuna industry and, (ii) Non- commercial component. The commercial tuna industry comprises of (i) the commercial domestic (local) fleet and (ii) the foreign distant water fleets. Generally these two fleets are critically important to the national economy. The non-commercial component is the subsistence or small-scale artisanal tuna fishery. This sector is characterized as using of traditional dug-out canoes or small outboard motor (OBM) powered canoes with manual hand lines. The subsistence fishery had been existed well before the introduction of the commercial tuna industry, and played an important role in the rural food security for decades. In addition, the introduction of OBM powered canoes into the artisanal sector is to increase catch and subsequently generate small income to meet other family needs.

The commercial domestic (local) fleet comprises of the purse seine vessels operated by the National Fisheries Development Ltd (NFD), the pole and line fleet by the Soltai Fishing and Processing Ltd and the long line fleet once were operated by the Solgreen Enterprise Ltd.

The Foreign fleet on the other hand comprises of purse seine, long line and pole and line vessels, which fished in Solomon Islands EEZ under (i) bilateral arrangements, (ii) multilateral arrangements and (iii) joint venture (development) agreements.

This report looks at the fishing operations by both the National fleets and foreign fleets that are licensed to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ. The report will not focus on the non-commercial or artisanal tuna fishery as no data is available on this fishery.

1. Flag State Reporting



1.1. Domestic Fleet

The Solomon Islands domestic fleet comprises of the locally registered vessels wholly owned by local companies. These include commercial purse seine, pole and line and longline vessels licensed to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ. As a flag State, Solomon Islands have all the responsibilities to monitor and report all these vessels fishing activities within and outside of the Solomon Islands EEZ.

Generally the number of vessels in the domestic fleets continues to decline over the years, since Solomon Islands experience the ethnic crises (1999-2002). In the domestic purse seine fishery the number of vessels has been around 4–7 vessels annually in the last 5 years. In 2010, only 5 local vessels were licensed in the domestic purse seine fishery.

The domestic pole and line fishery of Solomon Islands had been one of the active and largest in the WCPO in 1980s and 90s. During those period the the pole and line effort and catch was very high compared to other fleets. However the effort and catch started to decline since 2000 during the height of the ethnic tension. The number of vessels started to decline from more than 30 vessels prior to the ethnic tension down to 12 during and after the ethnic tension. The fleet further reduced in numbers and in 2007 only 9 vessels were licensed, the number further declined in 2008 with only 1 vessel licensed and eventually the fleet ceased operational for 2009 and 2010 respectively.

The domestic longline fleet had been not active since the closure of the Solgreen Company in early 2005s. As such there is no fishing activity by the domestic longline fleet within the EEZ for the last 5 years.

Table 1: Number of vessels by gear type in the Domestic fleet of Solomon Islands from 2005-2010.

Year



Gear type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Long line	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seine	4	5	4	7	5
Pole & Line	11	9	1	0	1
Total	13	14	5	7	6

1.1. Data Coverage

The level of data coverage for the domestic fleet is determined by comparing the catch logsheets received against the VMS data. In 2010 the data coverage for the domestic fleet only looked at the purse seine fishery. There are no domestic longline and pole and line fisheries operational in 2010. Generally the logsheet coverage for the domestic purse seine fishery improved significantly over the years, and was estimated to be more than 90% level in 2010.

The coverage from other data source ranges from low to medium, with the observers' data seems to be high in 2010 compared to the previous years. There have been no longline and pole and line observers data collected for the domestic fleets in 2010. The last observer data collected for the domestic longline fleet was in 2004.

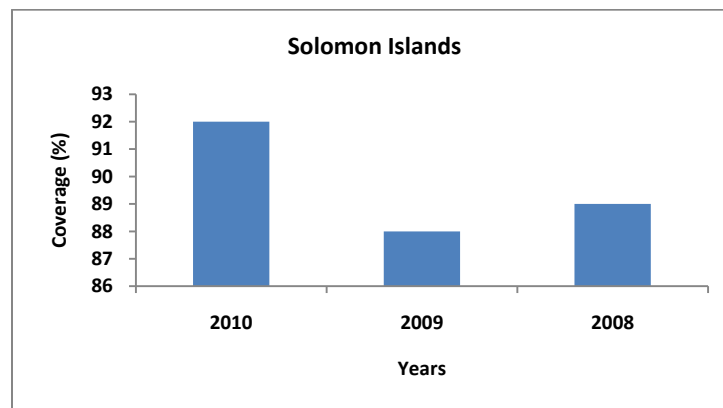


Fig 1: Data coverage rate by percentage (%) for the purse seine logsheets and estimated by comparison against the VMS data for 2008-2009

1.2. Annual Catch and Effort Estimates



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The annual catch estimates for the domestic fleet was obtained from the catch and effort logsheets received by the MFMR. This report covers catch and effort estimates for the period from 2006-2010 respectively. During this period, highest catch was recorded in 2006 with the total annual catch of 29,301 tones for all tuna species, and the lowest catch was made in 2010 with only 12,934t. The catch composition shows that skipjack tuna had dominated with an average of 11,530mt, followed by yellowfin with 8,032mt for the last 5 years.

For the fleet catch composition, the purse seine fleet had dominated the catch in the last 5 years with an average of 17,275mt annually. The pole and line fleet’s average catch for 2006-2008 is estimated around 4,000mt per year. There is no longline vessels operated for the domestic fleet in the last 5 years after the closure of the Solgreen Company in 2005

Table 2: Annual catch and effort estimates for the Solomon Islands local purse seine fleet by species in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2006-2010

Year	Searching & Fishing days	Assoc. Sets	Un-assoc. Sets	Catch (mt)				
				SKJ	YFT	BET	Others	Total
2006	424	335	67	12,333	9,732	248	0	22,313
2007	614	427	52	10,164	6,984	159	0	17,306
2008	634	573	56	6,528	9,417	93	34	16,072
2009				9,464	8,095.5	192.8	0	17,752.3
2010	558			8,207	4,692	35	0	12,934

Table 2(a): Annual catch and effort estimates for the Solomon Islands Pole and Line fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2006-2010

Year	Searching & Fishing Days	Assoc. Sets	Un-Assoc. Sets	Catch (MT)			
				SKJ	YFT	BET	Total
2006	1,640	-	-	6,224	734	0	6,988
2007	1,044	-	-	3,579	321	37	4,003
2008	-	-	-	1151	189	0	1,340
2009	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1.3. Catch Distribution



The Solomon Islands domestic purse seine fleets fishing efforts seem to be concentrated more up in the northern part of the EEZ towards the west as shown in fig 2. The catch distribution analysis was based on the catch and effort logsheets received from the national purse seine fleet. In 2010, the purse seine efforts were concentrated from the centre of the EEZ towards the north, and moving more towards the western side of the EEZ. The effort seems to be heavily around the and inside the main group archipelago (MGA). Most of the sets are made on FADs, which are deployed within the EEZ around and inside the MGA. There are less or no fishing activities further south and towards the eastern parts of the EEZ.

The domestic pole and line and longline fisheries are not actively operational in 2010, therefore no data available for the catch and effort distributions for the 2 fisheries.

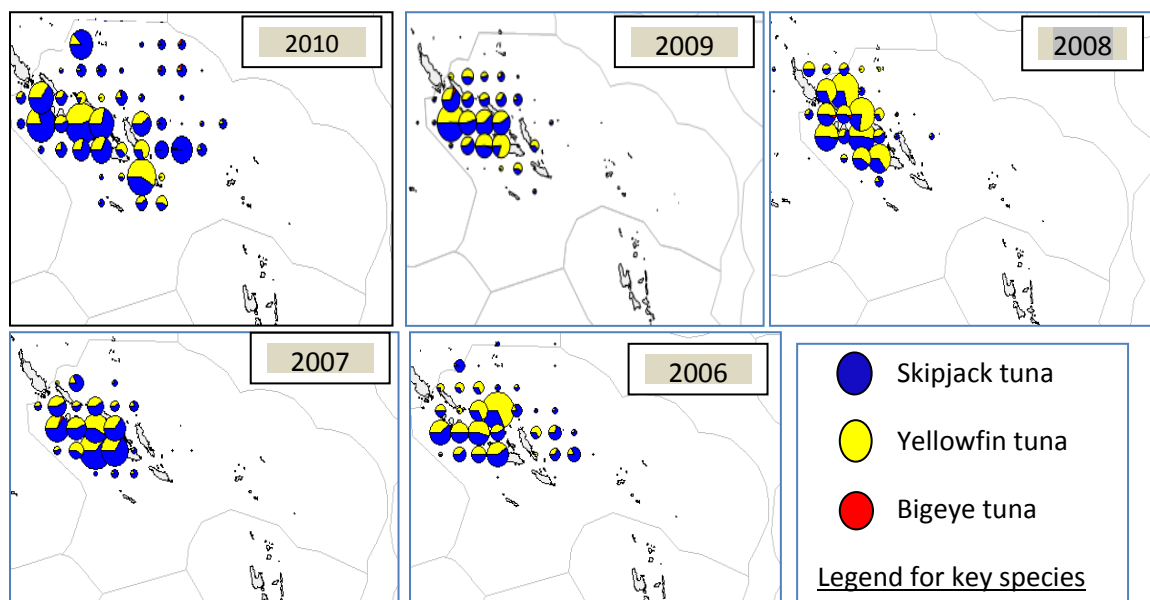


Fig 2: Annual catch and effort Distributions by Tuna species for the Solomon Islands National Purse Seine fleet for 2006-2010

2. Coastal State Reporting



2.1. Foreign Fleet

The foreign fleet consists of the vessels that are licensed to fish in Solomon Islands waters under (i) bilateral, (ii) multilateral and (iii) joint venture or chartered arrangements. The bilateral arrangements include the distant waters fishing nations (DWFN) such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan, New Zealand and vessels under the EU agreement. The other component is the multilateral or US treaty and FSM arrangements. The operations of the vessels under the US treaty and FSM arrangements were administered by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) on behalf of the member countries. The last component is the vessels operating under the joint venture or chartered arrangements. Under this arrangement a local company chartered the foreign fishing vessels to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ. This could be seen as a joint venture arrangement between a foreign company (boat owners) and a local company.

The foreign vessels licensed to fish in Solomon Islands waters increased significantly over the years compared to the national (domestic) fleet. In 2010, the total number of foreign vessels registered in Solomon Islands EEZ was more than 400 fishing vessels. These include 175 purse seine, 216 tuna long line, 13 shark longline and 15 pole and line vessels.

Table 3: Number of Foreign fishing vessels licensed to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ by year, flag, and gear type for 2004-2009

Flag	License Period (Year)									
	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	No. of vessels	Gear type	No. of vessels	Gear type	No. of vessels	Gear type	No. of vessels	Gear type	No. of vessel	Gear type
Belize	-	-	5	LL	3	LL	5	LL	0	LL
China	24	LL	41	LL	67	LL	64	LL	60	LL
	6	PS	6	PS	6	PS	7	PS	5	PS
Fiji	18	LL	12	LL	1	LL	16	LL	23	LL
Japan	31	LL	33	LL	25	LL	24	LL	28	LL
	24	PL	8	PL	12	PL	10	PL	35	PS
	26	PS	34	PS	34	PS	34	PS	13	PL
Korea	37	LL	47	LL	38	LL	12	LL		
	28	PS	28	PS	30	PS	26	PS	28	PS
New Zealand	4	PS	4	PS	4	PS	3	PS	4	PS
Taiwan	33	LL	36	LL	37	LL	49	LL	89	LL
	33	PS	33	PS	34	PS	33	PS	35	PS
Vanuatu	10	LL	10	LL	1	LL	1	LL	1	LL
	7	PS	8	PS	6	PS	7	PS	3	PS
FSM Arrangements	24	PS	26	PS	27	PS	30	PS	>30	PS



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US Treaty	13	PS	12	PS	-	-	39	PS	>30	PS
Spain					1 4	LL PS	1 3	LL PS	4	PS
Cook Is					1	LL	1	LL		
Kiribati					1	LL	2	LL		
Tuvalu					1	PS	-	-	1	PS
Marshall Islands									2	PS

2.2 Data Coverage

The level of data coverage for the foreign fleet tends to vary between fleets and countries. Though there are some improvements in the logsheet coverage in the last few years. Generally the logsheet coverage for the purse seine fishery seems to be better compared to the longline fishery over the years.

In this report the coverage for the logsheet data is determined by comparing the amount of logsheets received against the VMS records by flags. In the purse seine fishery the logsheet coverage for Taiwan and Korea fleets seems to be high compared to other countries. The coverage for the vessels under multilateral arrangements (USA) seems to low as they are directly reporting to the FFA administration. On the other hand, logsheet coverage for vessels under chartered arrangements (e.g. China, some Taiwanese, Fiji, Marshall Is. & Vanuatu) seems to be very low compared to the bilateral fleets (Taiwan, Korea, Japan).

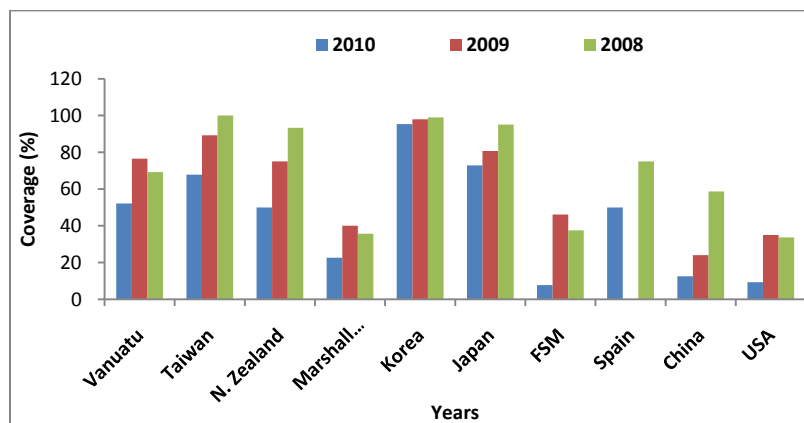


Fig 3: Data coverage rate by percentage for purse seine logsheets and estimated by comparison against the VMS data for 2008-2010



The logsheets coverage for the foreign longline fleets seems to be low compared to the foreign purse seine fleets. Generally the Japanese longline fleets coverage is much higher compared to other countries. The coverage for the vessels under chartered arrangements (Korea, Vanuatu, China, Fiji, and Belize) seems to be lower compared to the fleets under bilateral arrangements (e.g. Taiwan, Japan).

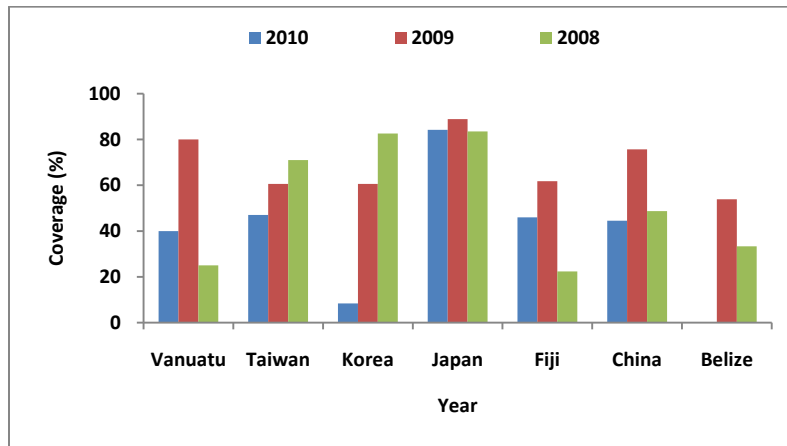


Fig 3a: Data coverage rate by percentage for the longline logsheets and estimated by comparison against VMS data for 2008-2010

1.4. Annual catch in Solomon Islands EEZ

Purse seine

The annual catch estimates is obtained from the catch and effort logsheets submitted to the MFMR by the fishing Industry. The provisional total annual catch estimates in Solomon Islands EEZ for the foreign purse seine fleet for 2010 is around 98,317mt. These comprises of 85,877mt of skipjack, 11,307mt of yellowfin and 1,105mt of bigeye tuna. The Korean fleet had dominated the catch with a total of 49,137mt followed by the Taiwanese fleet with 18,654mt, Japanese fleet with 9,885mt and the US treaty vessels with 9,905mt respectively.



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Table 4: Annual Catch estimates by tuna species and Nationality for the foreign purse seine fleets in Solomon Islands Waters for 2006-2010

Flag	Year	SKJ	BET	YFT	others	Total
China	2006					
	2007					
	2008	765		105	0	870
	2009	575	0	23	0	598
	2010	1,863	107	191	0	2,161
Japan	2006	10,832	140	1,479	0	12,449
	2007	7,293	94	996	0	8,382
	2008	4,198	185	938	0	5,321
	2009	10,099	124	1,411	0	11,634
	2010	8,285	201	1,400	0	9,885
Korea	2006	18,560	120	6,137	0	24,817
	2007	26,708	182	8,940	0	35,830
	2008	44,921	72	6,815	4	51,812
	2009	25,591	72	2,705	12	28,381
Taiwan	2010	43,167	499	5,471	1	49,138
	2006	2,851	15	575	0	3,441
	2007	5,829	31	1,176	0	7,036
	2008	8,105	53	1,109	5	9,271
	2009	9,947	40	2,079	1	12,066
Vanuatu	2010	11,728	70	890	0	12,688
	2006	8,410	0	2,130	0	10,548
	2007	4,075	0	2,005	0	6,080
	2008	3,846	9	457	7	4,319
	2009	6,291	1	741	1	7,034
New Zealand	2010	3,667	70	111	23	3,871
	2006	1,755	65	145	0	1,964
	2007	3	1	0	0	4
	2008	3,009	0	339	93	3,479
	2009	101	4	3	0	107
USA	2010	1,080	17	50	0	1,147
	2006	6,916	30	702	0	7,542
	2007					
	2008					
	2009	10,326	19	922	0	11,268
Spain	2010	9,181	110	614	0	9,905
	2006					
	2007	216	0	19	0	235
	2008	31	0	17	0	48
	2009					
FSM arrangement	2010					
	2006					
	2007					
	2008					
	2009	6,555	54	2,028	0	8,637
	2010	6,113	20	2,419	0	8,552

Note: US Treaty and FSM arrangement annual catch estimates for 2010 was obtained from FFA



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Longline

The provisional total annual catch estimates for the foreign longline fleets in Solomon Islands EEZ for 2010 is approximately 17,137mt. There are some differences in the catch composition with the fleets. For instance the Chinese, Fijian and Taiwanese fleets recorded that albacore tuna dominated their catches, while the Japanese catch is dominated by yellowfin tuna.

Table 4(a): Annual Catch estimates by species and nationality for the foreign Longline fleets in Solomon Islands EEZ for 2006-2010

Flag	Year	Alb	BET	YFT	others	Total
China	2006					
	2007	186	20	31	24	288
	2008	714	51	152	74	991
	2009	3,057	149	952	367	4,524
	2010	1,468	71	566	232	2,337
Fiji	2006					
	2007	2	1	1	1	5
	2008	120	6	20	7	153
	2009	1,198	102	528	94	1,922
	2010	879	64	540	57	1,541
Belize	2006					
	2007	5	14	37	12	67
	2008	4	19	24	7	54
	2009	7	5	10	1	24
	2010					
Taiwan	2006					
	2007	1,059	112	490	239	1,901
	2008	1,202	180	929	264	2,574
	2009	2,326	128	1,003	297	3,753
	2010	2,556	287	2,029	1,094	5,966
Vanuatu	2006					
	2007	204	28	90	35	357
	2008	31	2	28	2	83
	2009	186	11	67	16	280
	2010	53	9	61	39	126
Japan	2006	304	114	747	91	1,255
	2007	696	260	1,708	207	2,871
	2008	748	478	2,932	414	4,571
	2009	1,031	512	3,574	476	5,593
	2010	1,401	576	4,553	637	7,167

Note: The catch in the table above consist of both the vessels under bilateral and chartered arrangements



Table 4(b). Annual Catch estimates for the Japanese foreign Pole and line fleet operating in Solomon Islands waters

JAPANESE POLE AND LINE FLEET				
YEAR	CATCH			
	SKIPJACK	YELLOWFIN	BIGEYE	TOTAL
2006	72	0	0	72
2007	35	0	0	35
2008	590.7	3.5	0	594.2
2009	363	2	0	365
2010	1145	0	0	1145

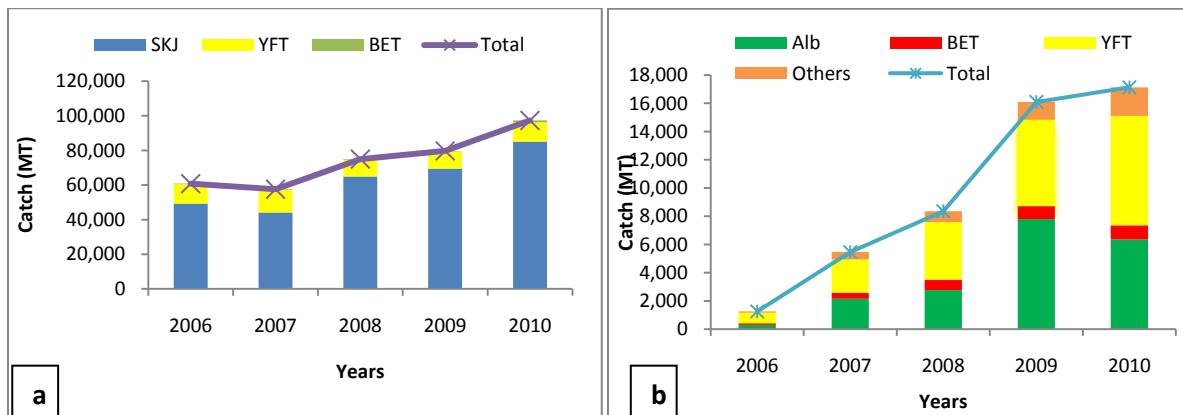


Fig 4. The total annual catch estimates and by species for the foreign (a) purse seine (b) longline fleets in Solomon Islands EEZ for 2006-2010.

1.5. Catch and effort Distribution

Purse seine

The annual catch and effort distributions for the foreign purse seine fleets vary between different flags. Generally the 2010 catch and effort distribution seems to be concentrated more up north of the EEZ. However the Japanese and Taiwanese fleets tend to concentrate up north towards the western part of the EEZ, and less effort towards the centre and east of the EEZ. The Korean fleet seems to concentrate their effort up north spreading towards the west and east, though less activities down south of the EEZ. The New Zealand concentrated in the middle towards the east of the EEZ, and few fishing efforts in other parts of the EEZ.

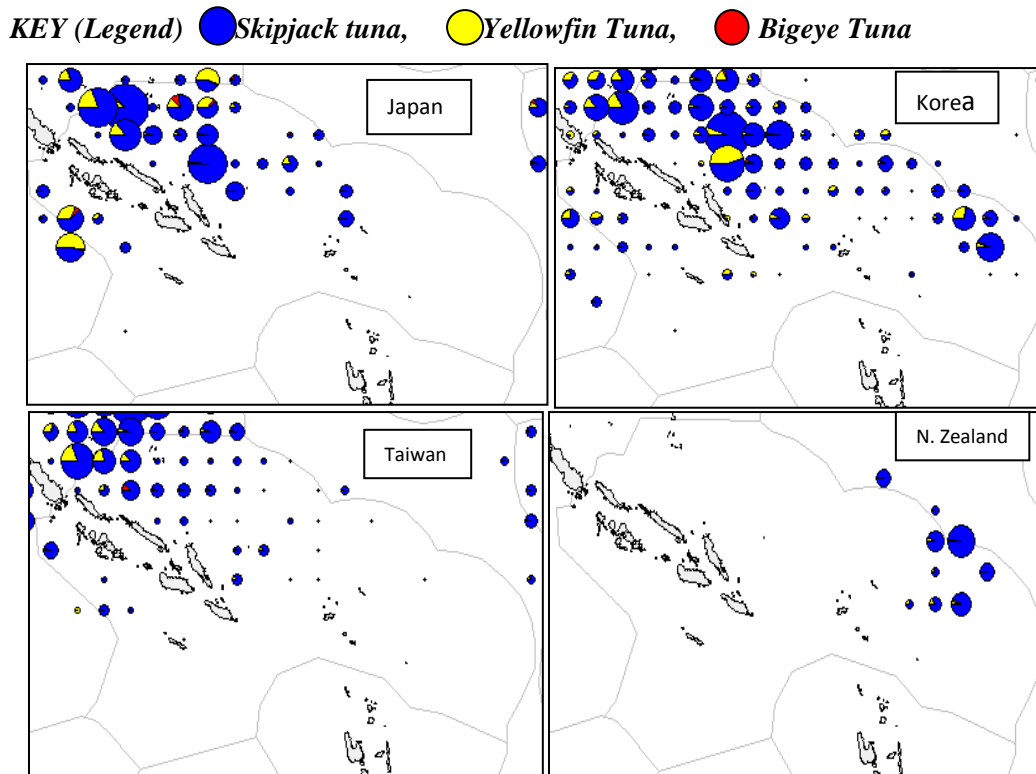


Fig 5. Annual catch and effort distribution for 2010 for the Foreign Purse seine Fleet licensed to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ under bilateral arrangements.

Longline

Generally the foreign longline fleets seems to concentrate their fishing effort down south of the Solomon Islands EEZ. The 2010 effort for the Taiwanese fleet seems to be concentrated in the south spreading to the west and east of the EEZ. The fleet effort moves up to the centre of the EEZ towards the eastern part of the EEZ. The Japanese fleet concentrated towards the west, spreading up north and down south of the EEZ. The fleet's efforts seem to be scattered but very little in other parts of the EEZ.

The catch and effort distribution for the vessels fishing under the chartered arrangements are grouped together in this report. These include the Fijian and Chinese flagged vessels. These two fleets put much of their fishing effort on the Southern part of the EEZ, though they seems to



spread towards both the eastern and western directions. There is less activities in other part of the EEZ as well.

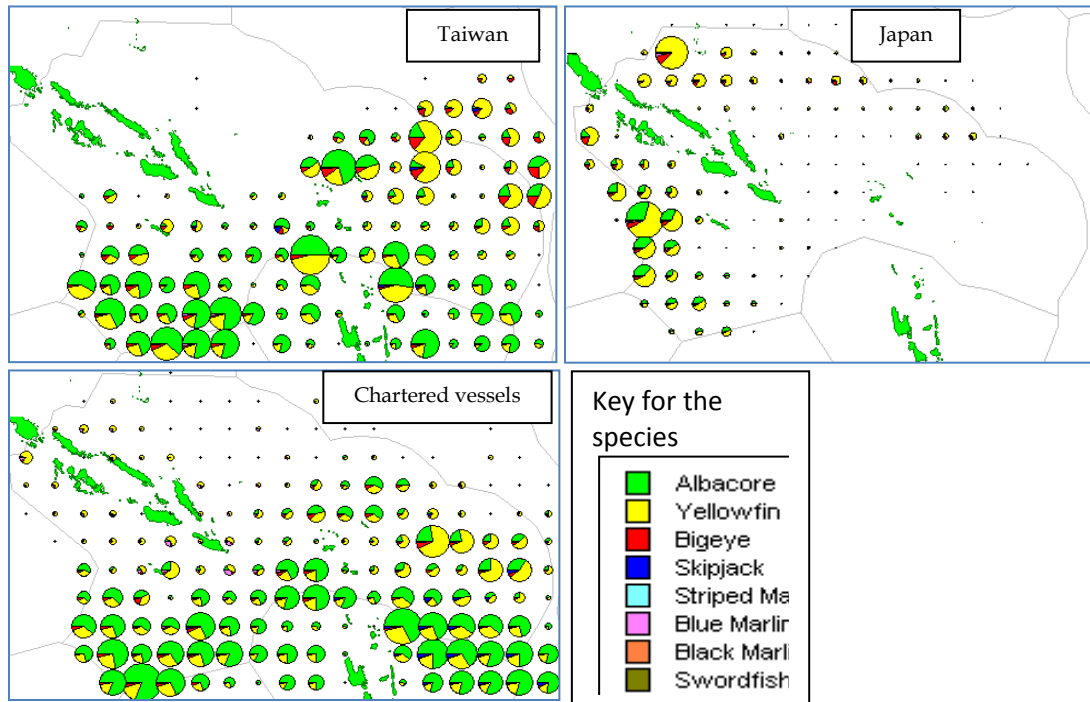


Fig 5(a). Catch and effort distribution for bilateral vessels (Taiwan & Japan) and the vessels under chartered arrangements (Fiji & China) in SI EEZ for 2010

1.6. Distribution of catch by species

The analysis of the catch and effort data has shown that skipjack tuna is widely distributed from the centre and towards the northern (Fig 2 & 3) part of the Solomon Islands EEZ. As such the purse seine fishing effort within this area seems to be higher compared to other parts of the EEZ. There is less purse seine fishing effort from the centre towards the southern part of the EEZ, though only the New Zealand purse seine fleet indicated some effort at the centre towards the east of the EEZ.

In the longline fishery, most of the efforts were carried out towards the southern part of the EEZ. There are some indications that most of the albacore were caught down south of the EEZ spreading towards the east and west. On the other hand the yellowfin tuna seems to be



distributed towards the east from the centre of the EEZ. There is some yellowfin catch distribution indicated towards the western part of the EEZ, spreading down south and up north.

The bigeye tuna seems to be distributed down at the centre of the EEZ towards the east. There are also some indication that the bigeye tuna distributed in the western part of the EEZ spreading towards the south and north.

3. Research and Statistics

The MFMR of Solomon Islands government had been collecting and managing the operational tuna data for the tuna fishery since 1980s. There is no actual field research or assessment undertaken by the Solomon Islands Government to determine the status of the tuna stock within the EEZ in recent years.

However the MFMR had worked closely with Regional Fisheries organisations and regional member countries in the process of collecting and managing of fisheries operational data. The fisheries operational data are important as they provide information on fishing trends, fishing practices, species composition and size information. This information is important for stock status analysis undertaken by the OFP of the SPC. SPC and FFA have been instrumental in the last decades for providing technical and scientific advice to the Solomon Islands and other member countries on the status of the tuna stock. As such Solomon Islands will continue to provide relevant fisheries data to SPC for further scientific analysis. Again as an obligation, Solomon Islands will continue to provide data to WCPFC annually.

3.1. Observers Coverage

Observer data is paramount important as it provides first hand information on fishing activities, gear, species composition, discard rates and species. The Solomon Islands national observer programme is one of the biggest and active observer programme in the region. The observers' coverage prior to 2010 on the fishing vessels of the distant water fishing nations is quite low. However the coverage is very high on purse seine fleets under the 100% observer coverage enforced under CMM 2008-01. In 2010 a total of 215 placements (trips) were made by the Solomon Islands observers. About 94.42% of the total placements (trips) were made on foreign



boats and 5.58% were made on the domestic fleets. The purses seine fleet coverage for the observer placement is 99.53% compared to the longline observer coverage which is only 1.47%. Generally the coverage by Solomon Islands observers on the longline fleets is very low, compared to purse seine.

The total number of observers working with the Solomon Islands observer programme is more than 90 observers in 2010. An addition of more than 60 new observers were recruited in June 2011, this has increase the number to more than 150 observers. The increase will surely enhance the 100% coverage for the purse seine fleets. The observer coverage for the longline fleet is one of the priorities of the Solomon Islands Government. However a few things need to be sorted out to start implementing longline coverage.

3.2. Port Sampling

Generally the Port sampling activities in the Solomon Islands has been very low prior to 2008. However, the port sampling activities end since 2008 due to inadequate man power and resources, as such no update size data available from port sampling for the last few years. The MFMR has planned to revive the port sampling activities in Solomon Islands ports before end of 2010.

3.3. Shark Fishery

A number of small longline vessels had been targeting shark in Solomon Islands EEZ under chartered arrangements since early 2000. In 2010 13 vessels, mainly Taiwanese flagged were licensed in this fishery. Generally the logsheet data coverage for this fishery is relatively low, however the little data available had been analyzed and shown that the number of silky sharks taken is higher compared to other species. In 2010 about 347mt of silky sharks were taken by this fleet and 34.78mt in 2009 respectively. Basically other species were identified to be common and higher in the 2010 and 2009 catch were grey reef, oceanic white-tip, blue, and black-tip shark.

It is important to note here that this fishery does no longer exist in Solomon Islands in 2011. All shark licenses had been ceased as of the end December 2010.

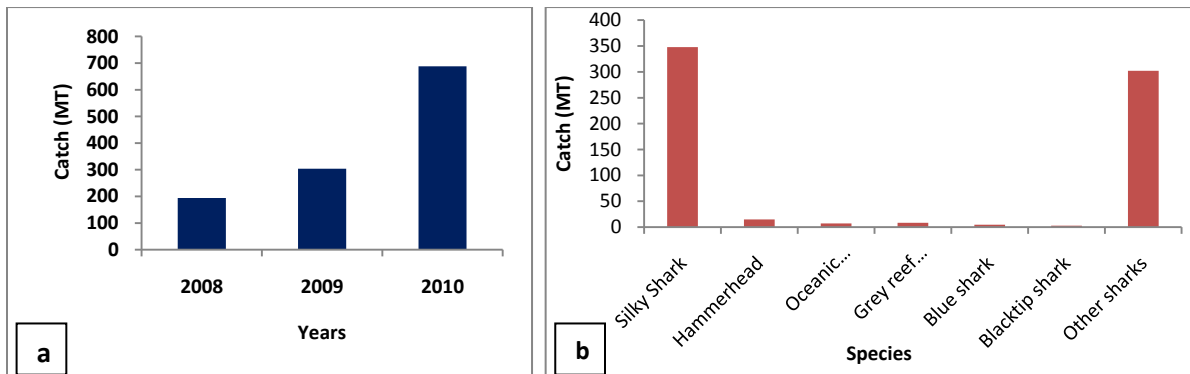


Fig 6. (a) Total annual catch estimates for shark for 2008-2010 and (b) catch by shark species for 2010 in the convention area by chartered shark (Taiwanese flag) fleet.

3.4. Transshipments Data

Honiara port had been one of the hotspot for Transshipments among the foreign fleets since the ban was imposed on the high-seas transshipment in 1990s. Over the years the number of purse seine vessels calling in Honiara port for transshipment is relatively higher compared to the longline vessels. In 2010 approximately 221 foreign fishing vessels called in Honiara port for transshipment which 155,030mt of tuna were transshipped, this is an increase of more than 7,560mt compared to 2009.

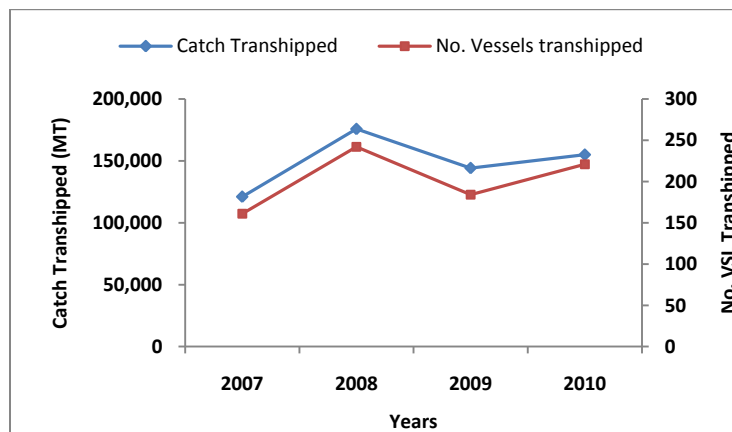


Fig 7: Total catch and vessels by year transhipped in Honiara port during transshipment -2007-2010.



3.5. Socio-economic Factors

The total economic benefits derived from the tuna fishery could not be well presented in this paper. However the tuna fishery had contributed significant towards the national economy as well as the social wellbeing of the people of Solomon Islands. The fishery had brought infrastructure developments and proper sanitations in rural communities, created employment opportunities, both on fishing vessels and at the processing plants such as the Noro, in the Western Province. The spin-off benefits from transshipment activities in Honiara port continues to become important for the local farmers, casino and hotel owners. The transshipment and port charges/levies continue to generate significant unexpected millions of dollars into the National Government revenues.

The average total tuna catch estimates in the Solomon Islands EEZ for the last 5 years is more than 100,500mt. However only a small proportion of the catch is landed and processed in the Solomon Islands. The economic benefits derived from the catch could be maximised should a larger proportion of the catch is landed and processed locally. In recognition of this problem the Government of Solomon Islands is taking the initiatives by promoting and encouraging more investors to participate into local processing and value adding. As such the Government had acquired and secured 2 processing sites on Guadalcanal and 1 on Malaita Provinces. The land acquisition processes for the 3 sites have been completed, and work on Doma site on Guadalcanal was started. Work on the Suafa bay site on Malaita and Tenaru site on Guadalcanal is yet to be started.