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

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SOLOMON ISLANDS

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PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Solomon Islands

2015

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS 2014

SOLOMON ISLANDS

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 2015	**YES**

1. ABSTRACT

The Tuna fishery of Solomon Islands is vitally important to the people of Solomon Islands economically and socially. This fishery consists of the commercial (domestic and foreign fleets) sector, the artisanal and subsistence sector. The Solomon Islands Government depends much on this fishery as it brings significant revenues through access fees, taxes, duties and levies. The artisanal fishery (sector) contributes to the social wellbeing of Solomon Islanders, though will not be covered in this report.

Most of the presented data (logsheet) in this report were unraised data extracted from the Tufman database system and other systems such as the SPC web reporting tools, Web recon, VMS data and information's from companies. It must be noted that the entire information provided for Solomon Islands tuna fisheries in this report are from available data logsheets.

Fishing activities the Solomon Islands zone comprises purse seining, longlining and pole-and-line fishing. Around 204 purse seine vessels were licensed to fish in Solomon Islands waters in 2014, with a total catch of 34,163 mt of tuna. Purse seine catches comprised skipjack (59%), yellowfin (39%) and bigeye tuna (1%). The domestic fleet only accounted for 6 of the 204 vessels, with a catch share of 21,521 mt, or approximately 63% of the purse seine total. Approximately 80% of the domestic purse seine catch was taken from the Main Group Archipelago (MGA), which are archipelagic waters. The MGA is reserved exclusively for domestic vessels. EEZ purse seine VDS days allocated to each of these fleets was Korea, 1,350 days, Japan 192 days, Taiwan 405 days and new Zealand 34 days. Only around one third of these days were used, with most activity in 2014 taking place in the Eastern part of the Western Pacific Ocean.

More than 159 longliners fished inside the Solomon Islands in 2014 with a total catch of 14,130 mt. The main catches comprised albacore (46%), yellowfin (35%) and bigeye tunas (9%), as well as bycatches of predominantly billfish and shark (10%). The fleet comprised 137 locally based charter vessels, mostly from Taiwan and China. Other vessels fishing in the Solomon Islands zone were flagged in Japan and Korea. The locally based charter vessels account for 86% of the total longline catch.

A small domestic pole-and-line fleet, 3 vessels in total, fished inside the MGA in 2014. This fleet caught 915 mt, 87% comprising skipjack, 13% yellowfin tuna. Japanese pole-and-line vessels

also fished in the Solomon Islands EEZ in 2014. Eight Japanese vessels were licensed with a total catch of 246 mt.

2. Tabular Annual Fisheries Information

Table 1. Annual catch and effort estimates for the Solomon Islands, by gear and primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area and [other broad ocean area], for years 2010-2014

Purse seine (Flagged)								
	No' vessels	Days	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Albacore	Others	Total
2010	5		8,084	4,733	148			12,965
2011	5		14,930	10,276	355			25,561
2012	5		15,508	10,763	228			26,499
2013	6		14,203	10,466	100			24,769
2014	6	1,114	9,971	10,994	82	0	474	22,635
Purse seine (chartered)								
2010	9	2012	27416	9586	261	-5	2	39297
2011	9	3229	42918	12814	96	-5	116	59193
2012	10	2481	30528	10359	121	-5	159	43668
2013	6	1198	14361	9851	152	-5	56	25638
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pole-and-line								
2010	3		0	0	0			0
2011	3		722	149	0			871
2012	3		1,877	258	0			2,135
2013	3		1,389	277	0			1,666
2014	3		536	114	0			650

Longline (Charter)		Trips						
2010	132	444	0	4,558	638	21,938	1,962	29,096
2011	130	269	0	2,612	835	16,132	1,150	20,729
2012	128	402		4,534	1,099	7,616	1,133	14,382
2013	122	388	93	3,856	873	11,684	1,010	17,516
2014	137	459	209	11,637	3,114	15,117	1,269	31,346

Figure 1. Historical annual catch for the Solomon Islands, by gear and primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area presented as a line graph.

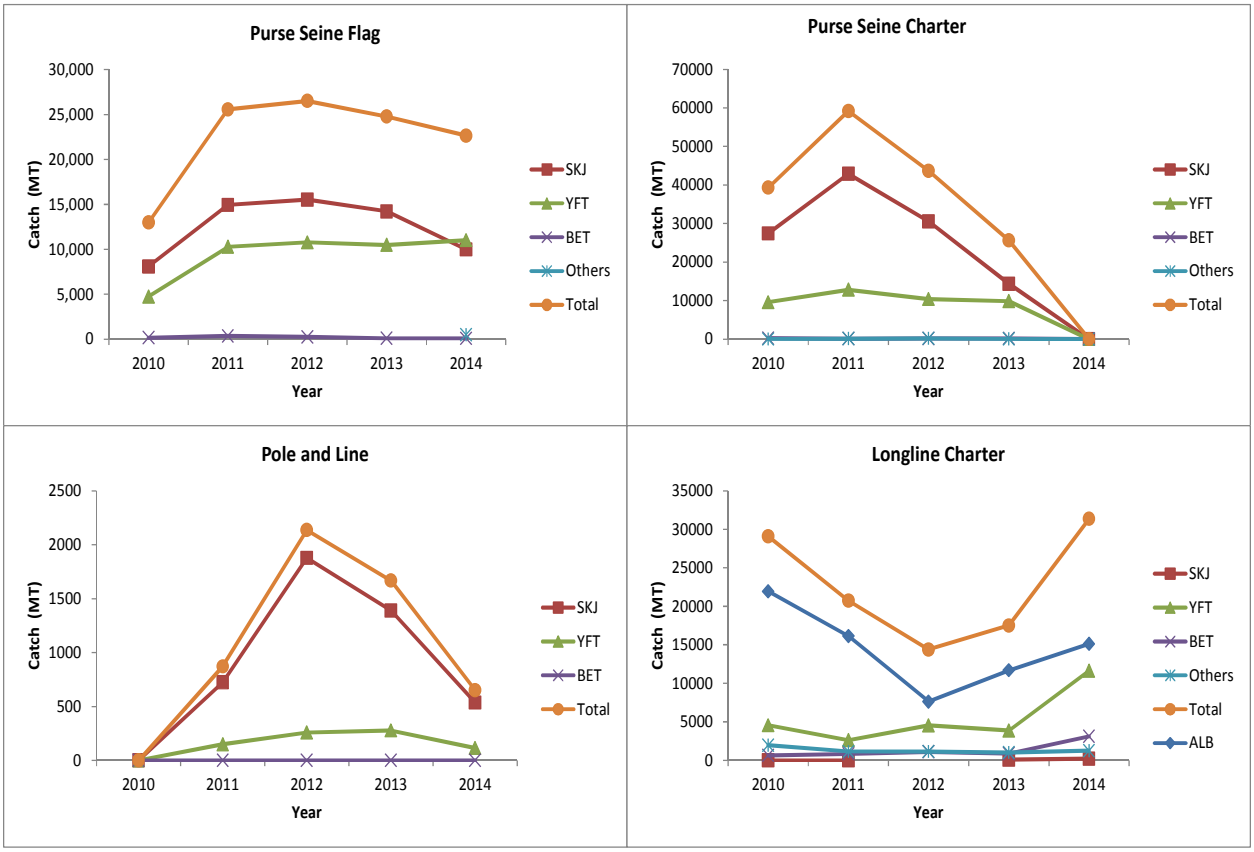


Figure 2. Historical annual vessel numbers for the Solomon Islands by gear for the WCPFC Convention Area presented as a line graph.

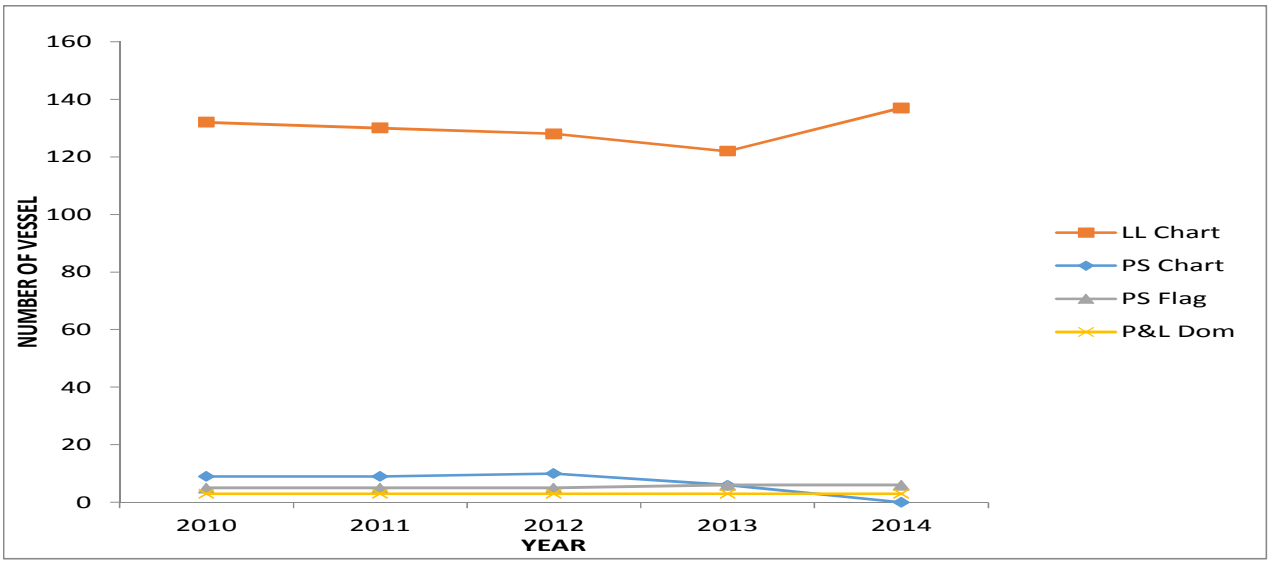


Table 2. Number of Solomon Islands vessels, by gear and size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2010-2014.

Size class (GRT)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Purse seine (domestic and chartered)					
0-500	0	0	0	2	0
501-1000	12	12	7	7	5
1001-1500	0	0	1	1	2
1501+	0	0	2	2	0
Pole-and-line					
51-150	0	1	1	1	0
151+	0	2	2	3	3
Longline					
51-200	115	150	120	144	160
201-500	0	1	18	29	0

Figure 3. Annual distributions of target species catch and effort by the **Solomon Islands purse seine** active in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2010-2014.

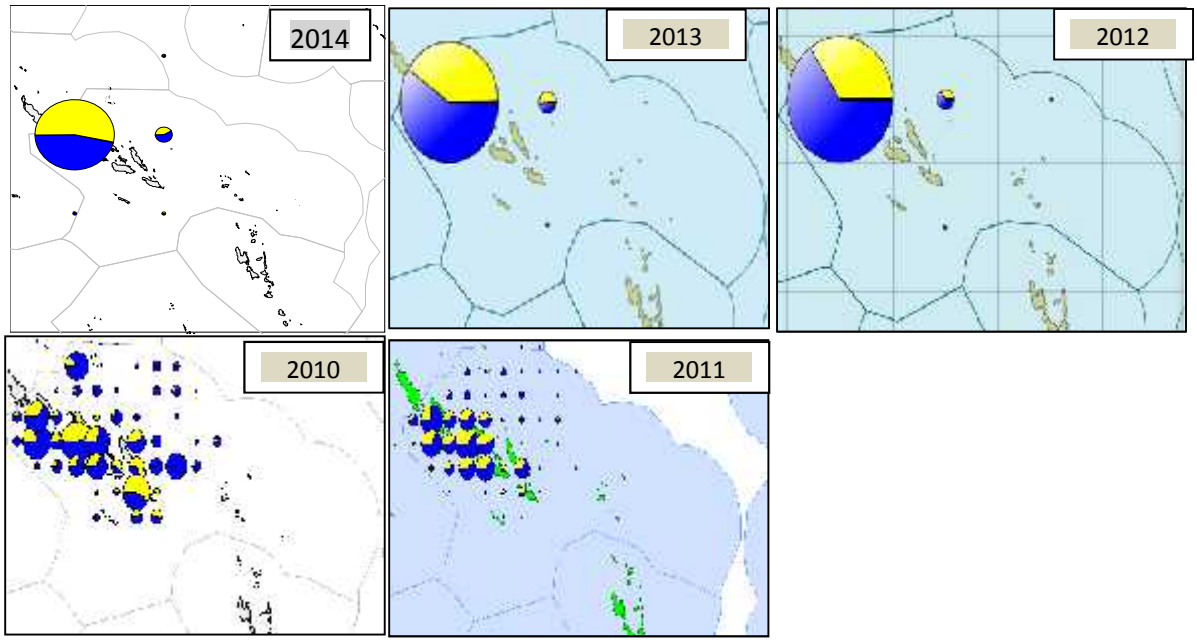


Figure 3.1. Annual distributions of target species catch and effort by the **Solomon Islands pole-and-line** active in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2010-2014.

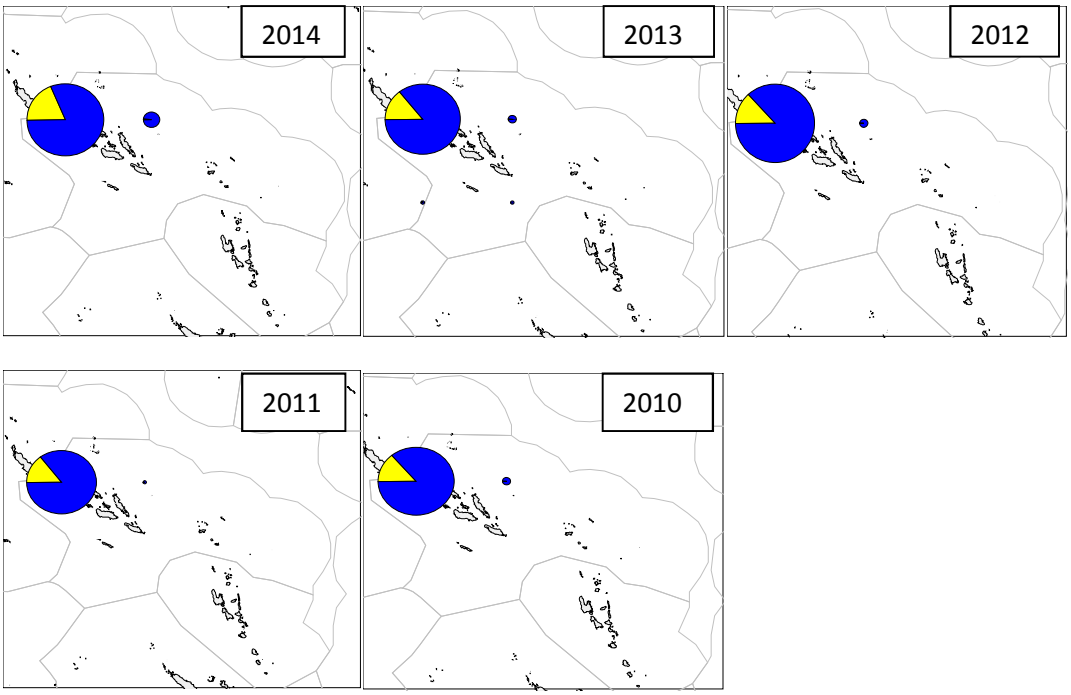


Figure 3.2. Annual distribution of target species catch and effort by the **Solomon Islands longline** active in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2010-2014.

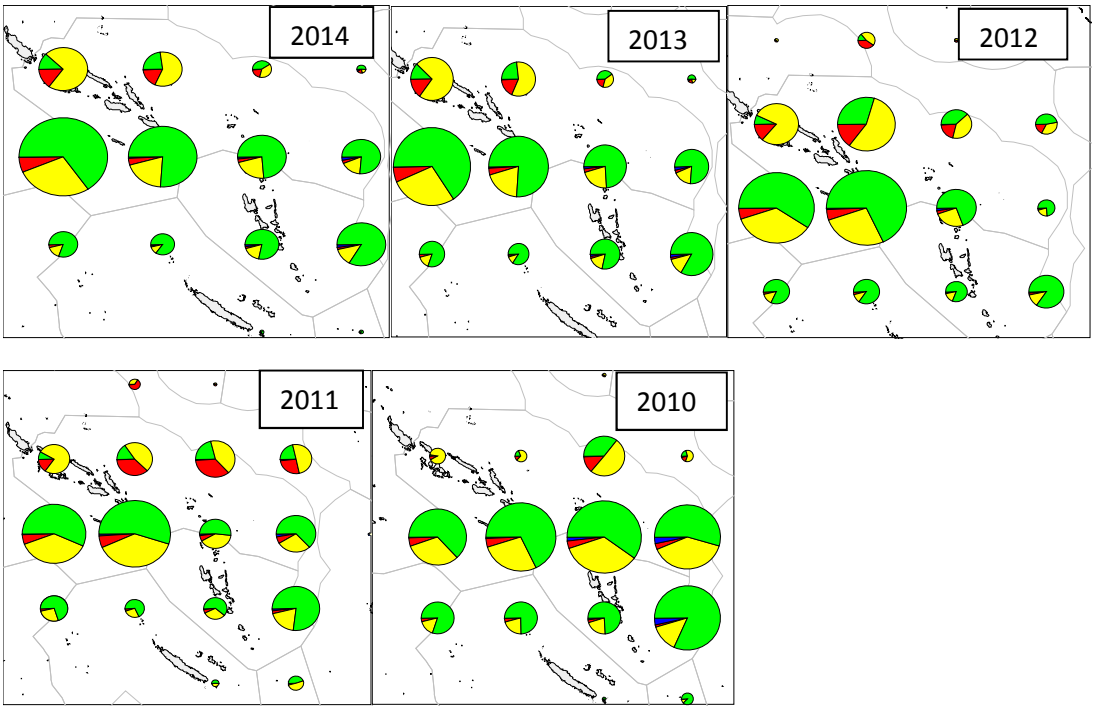


Table 3. Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) by gear for the Solomon Islands **purse seine and longline**, 2014 in the WCPFC Convention Area.

Year	Gear	Category	Species	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead
2010	Single Purse Seine	MARINE MAMMALS	PORPOISE HARBOR	1	0	0
	Single Purse Seine	MARINE MAMMALS	RISSO'S DOLPHIN	1	0	0
2011	Single Purse Seine	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW FAO)	1	0	0
2012	Single Purse Seine	MARINE MAMMALS	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	0	0	0
	Single Purse Seine	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW FAO)	1	0	0
	Single Purse Seine	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	1	0	0
	Long line	BIRDS	BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	1	0	1
	Long line	BIRDS	CAPE PIGEON	5	0	1
	Long line	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	2	0	2
	Long line	MARINE REPTILES	HAWKSBILL TURTLE	1	1	0
	Long line	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	5	2	3
	Long line	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW FAO)	2	3	5
	Long line	BIRDS	WHITE-CHINNED PETREL	1	0	1
2013	**No data found according to observers records**					
2014	Single Purse Seine	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW FAO)	1	0	0

Table 4. Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the **Solomon Islands**, by gear and species, in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2010-2014.

(a) Longline.

Species	Long Line					Total by Species
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
	sp_mt	sp_mt	sp_mt	sp_mt	sp_mt	
BARRACUDAS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.975	0.15	0.994	2.294	9.878	**14.291**
BLACK MARLIN	40.66	31.717	20.97	29.033	73.275	**195.655**
BLACKFIN BARRACUDA	0.128			0.195		**0.323**
BLACKTIP REEF SHARK	1.52					**1.520**
BLACKTIP SHARK	2.808		1.44			**4.248**
BLUE MARLIN	331.968	443.93	336.824	241.717	419.79	**1774.229**
BLUE SHARK	4.635	0.11		2.673	17.908	**25.326**
BLUEFIN TUNA (ATLANTIC)				0.3	0.906	**1.206**
BLUEFIN TUNAS (PACIFIC)			0.192		0.906	**1.098**
ESCOLAR			0.335	0.588	1.213	**2.136**
GALAPAGOS SHARK	0.04					**0.040**
GREAT BARRACUDA		0.53	2.96	3.765	5.169	**12.424**
GREY REEF SHARK	13.019					**13.019**
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	54.227					**54.227**
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	0.05	15.453	14.288	45.148	81.874	**156.813**
MANTA RAYS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.135			0.008		**0.143**
MARLIN	0.515	0.625	0.255		0.8	**2.195**
MARLINS, SAILFISHES, SPEARFISHES (UNIDENTIFIED)	7.837		0.085			**7.922**
OCEAN SUNFISH	0.01	0.05	1.575	0.27	0.81	**2.715**
OCEANIC TRIGGERFISH (UNIDENTIFIED)	6.84					**6.840**
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	40.974				0.119	**41.093**
OILFISH	29.393	50.682	75.991	76.7	101.595	**334.361**
OPAH / MOONFISH	521.575	9.803	39.17	52.891	105.383	**728.822**
OTHER FISH	61.06	270.244	266.322	190.216	113.908	**901.750**
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA				1.592	22.876	**24.468**
RAINBOW RUNNER				0.235		**0.235**
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	13.351	17.858	15.542	45.498	131.089	**223.338**
SHARK FINS	23.565	0.83			0.463	**24.858**
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	3.686	55.786	90.682	49.875	41.817	**241.846**
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	284.756	7.4	4.226	3.211	31.927	**331.520**
SILKY SHARK	0.313	4.458		1.048	16.881	**22.700**
SILVER-TIP SHARK	14.273					**14.273**
STRIPED MARLIN	6.313	9.294	5.04	3.465	24.539	**48.651**
SUNFISH (R. TRUNCATA)	75.453	0.678	1.947	4.153	2.547	**84.778**
SWORDFISH	5.971	68.715	87.817	50.561	80.78	**293.844**
UNSPECIFIED	134.432	1.117	5.292	0.737	1.112	**142.690**
WAHOO		95.598	87.719	104.848	168.655	**456.820**

(b) Purse seine

Species	Purse seine					Total by Species
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
	sp_mt	sp_mt	sp_mt	sp_mt	sp_mt	
BARRACUDAS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.04	0.04				**0.08**
BLACK MARLIN	0.22				0.71	**0.93**
BLUE MARLIN	0.8		0.49		0.48	**1.77**
GREAT BARRACUDA		0.11	0.01			**0.12**
KAWAKAWA				1.5	15	**16.5**
MACKEREL SCAD / SABA	0.1	0.11	0.301	0.05		**0.561**
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	0.48	0.06	0.17	0.02	0.734	**1.464**
MANTA RAYS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.23			0.08	0.17	**0.48**
MARLIN			1.115			**1.115**
OCEAN TRIGGERFISH (SPOTTED)		0.23				**0.23**
OCEANIC TRIGGERFISH (UNIDENTIFIED)	1.26	0.45	0.411	0.9		**3.021**
OTHER FISH	0.69	117.83	151.959	35.705	405.688	**711.872**
PELAGIC STING-RAY			0.06	9.98		**10.04**
RAINBOW RUNNER	2.975	2.78	6.395		32.175	**44.325**
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)			0.06			**0.06**
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)			1.545	1.266	5.094	**7.905**
SILKY SHARK	0.31		0.19		3.73	**4.23**
STRIPED MARLIN			0.965			**0.965**
SWORDFISH	0.1			2.86		**2.96**
UNSPECIFIED	0.15		0.555		0.9	**1.605**
WAHOO	0.01	0.14				**0.15**

Table 5. Estimated annual coverage of operational catch/ effort, port sampling and observer data for the **Solomon Islands**, by gear, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, by gear, for years 201-2014.

GEAR	FLEET	YEAR	CATCH/EFFORT DATA COVERAGE	PORT SAMPLING COVERAGE	OBSERVERS DATA COVERAGE
Long Line	Solomon Island national fleet	2010	HIGH	NIL	LOW
		2011	MEDIUM	NIL	HIGH
		2012	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
		2013	LOW	LOW	LOW
		2014	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW
Purse seine	Solomon Island national fleet	2010	MEDIUM	NIL	HIGH
		2011	HIGH	NIL	HIGH
		2012	MEDIUM	LOW	HIGH
		2013	LOW	LOW	HIGH
		2014	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM
Pole and Line	Solomon Island national fleet	2010	NIL	NIL	NIL
		2011	HIGH	NIL	LOW
		2012	HIGH	LOW	LOW
		2013	HIGH	LOW	LOW
		2014	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM

3. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant information to the Commission on fishing activities of CCMs and cooperating non-CCMs, including management and compliance issues. This purpose, this report covers the fishing operation of the domestic Solomon Islands fishing fleets operating in the WCPFC Convention areas during the period 2010 to 2014. For statistical purposes the Convention area also includes Archipelagic Waters. Further, this report will also cover foreign fishing vessels operating within the Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Most of the presented data (logsheet) in this report were unraised data extracted from the Tufman database system and other systems such as the SPC web reporting tools, Web recon, VMS data and information's from companies. It must be noted that the entire information provided for Solomon Islands tuna fisheries in this report are from available data logsheets.

The report discusses flag state reporting and coastal state reporting. Discussions on socio-economic status of the Solomon Islands fisheries along with issues of catch disposal, port

sampling, transhipment and observers programme will be discussed according to the data presented. This report focuses on fisheries done from 2010-2014.

The Tuna fishery of Solomon Islands is vitally important to the people of Solomon Islands economically and socially. This fishery consists of the commercial (domestic and foreign fleets) sector, the artisanal and subsistence sector. The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) depends much on this fishery as it brings significant revenues through access fees, taxes, duties and levies. The artisanal fishery (sector), which is very small by comparison, contributes to the feed security and social wellbeing of Solomon Islanders, though will not be covered in this report.

The tools applied to ensure that the fisheries are effectively managed include the Fisheries Act, 1998, recently updated to the Fisheries Management Act, 2015, and the Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plan, 2014. The objective of the Fisheries Management Act is to ensure the long-term management, conservation, development and sustainable use of Solomon Islands fisheries and marine ecosystems for the benefit of the people of Solomon Islands.

This Tuna Management and Development Plan (TMDP) is designed to guide future management and development of tuna fisheries to achieve the overall goal of the Government of the Solomon Islands. The TMDP sets out a series of goals, strategies and actions by which the overall goal will be achieved. Preparation of the TMDP is provided for under Clause 17 of the Fisheries Management Act 2015.

The TMDP is consistent with the *Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2011 – 2020*, including its overarching theme, *To Build Better Lives for All Solomon Islanders*, and objectives including, *Increase economic growth and equitably distribute employment and income benefits*, and, *Effectively respond to climate change and manage the environment and risks of natural disasters*. The TMDP is also consistent with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources' Corporate Plan, and particularly the key outcomes: *The orderly development and quality management of Solomon Islands fisheries and marine resources*; and, *Solomon Islands receives maximum economic and social benefits from the sustainable use of its fisheries and marine resources*

The purse seine fishery catches predominantly skipjack tuna with a bycatch of yellowfin tuna, and small amounts of bigeye tuna. The Management regime under the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) is the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). Solomon Islands' Party Annual Effort

(PAE) of 4,000 VDS Fishing Days for 2015 is approximately 9% of the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for all PNA Parties[1]. Fishing effort for tuna taken in the Main Group Archipelago does not form part of the PNA TAE system but Solomon Islands has adopted compatible Vessel Day Management measures with a limit set for Archipelagic access of 1,000 Vessel Days.

There are currently around 246 licensed purse seine vessels with an entitlement to fish in the Solomon Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). These comprise a small domestic fleet of 6 vessels[2], and a larger distant water fleet of 240 vessels. Of the purse seine distant water effort only 156 Distant Water Vessels were active inside the Solomon Island EEZ in that year, as well as a small number of FSMA vessels. The Distant Water fleet operates throughout PNA waters, with access provided to the Solomon Islands EEZ under several types of arrangement including: (i) Arrangements between the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the governments of bilateral partners; (ii) vessels operating under the Multi Lateral Treaty with the USA; and (iii) vessels operating under a cross-party, multi-zone access pool. Vessels from other Pacific island nations fish under the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (FSMA).

The domestic fleet is owned by two companies: National Fisheries Developments (NFD) and Western Solomons Joint Ventures (WSJV). These vessels fish in the Main Group Archipelago (MGA), and occasionally in the EEZ.

The longline fishery comprises two overlapping fisheries: a large-vessel fleet (from Japan and Korea) targeting yellowfin and bigeye tuna (with a bycatch of albacore) and a small-vessel fleet (mostly from Taiwan and China) targeting albacore tuna (with a bycatch of yellowfin and bigeye tuna). The Taiwanese and Chinese fleets, are now restricted to 120 in number, fish either under charter arrangement with locally-based companies, or as domestic vessels, of which there are currently only two registered. Access to the fishery has been by way of limited entry licensing but as from 2016 the management system will change to a Longline Vessel Days Scheme (LL VDS) scheme. Solomon Islands is also a Party to the Tokelau Arrangement which sets a zonal albacore catch limit of 14,500 tonnes.

From 1980 - 1999 Solomon Islands supported one of the largest pole and line fleets in the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) with the fleet dominated by local vessels. The fishery

[1] Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshal Islands, Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu. Cook Islands is in the process of applying.
[2] In the preceding years, 8 purse seine vessels fished under charter arrangement. These were no longer active in 2014.

declined in the 2000s due to low fish prices and a breakdown in civil order associated with ethnic tensions and most effort was transferred to the purse seine fishery. NFD has re-established a small pole and line fleet with the intent to expand further. The domestic fishery takes place exclusively inside the MGA for which a VDS limit of 400 pole and line vessel days. There is also a limited distant water pole and line operation in the northern part of Solomon Islands' EEZ. Access to this fishery is also expected to be determined by a market-based tender system.

4. FLAG STATE REPORTING

There are three commercial tuna fisheries in the Solomon Islands, in addition to the small-scale net and line fisheries used to supply local markets.

4.1. Domestic Fleet

The domestic fleet mainly comprises a small fleet of purse seine, longline and pole-and-line vessels, which are flagged to Solomon Islands. These vessels are low in number relative to the DWFN fleets and only fish in the Solomon Islands EEZ, mainly in the archipelagic waters. This fleet plays an important role in the Solomon Islands economy as they landed their catch at the Noro Cannery in Solomon Islands. In the last 5 years, this domestic fleet was comprised 5-6 small size seiners and 1-3 pole-and-line vessels. There were no domestic longline vessels registered in the Solomon Islands fleet prior to 2012. However, in late 2013, 2 longline vessels were licensed domestically by South Seas Investment Ltd.

In 2014, a total of 16 vessels were registered, these included 6 purse seine, 3 pole-and-line, 2 carrier sand 5 scout (supporting) vessels. Five of the six purse seine vessels were under 50 meters and with a carrying capacity less than 500 mt. These vessels are largely dependent on anchored FAD sets, but are also known to fish free school and on log sets.

4.2. Data Coverage

Generally, the level of data coverage for the national fleet is good though it varies between fleets and companies. The logsheet coverage for the domestic purse seine fleet is 100%, with the NFD fleet now submitting logsheets electronically through the SPC web reporting tool. NFD vessels will be switching to the e-log integrated FIMS (iFIMS) system from 2016.

All the domestic purse seine are monitored on the vessels monitoring system (VMS), extended as from 2015 to include the pole-and-line vessels. Pole-and-line vessels also submit loghsheets. These also fish for baitfish and baitfish catch logs to MFMR.

Data collected from the domestic fleet include, catch data (logsheets), observers trip data and unloading and landing data. However, only the catch logsheet data is presented in this report.

4.3 Catch Estimates and distribution

4.3.1 Purse Seine

The average annual catch estimates for the domestic purse seine fleet for the last 5 years (2010-2014) is about 22,486 mt. Fishing patterns is 2014 (Table 1) showed a higher dependency for the domestic fleet inside the MGA (accounting for 87% of the total effort). Catches in 2014 were 21,521 mt with the breakdown by species of skipjack (59%), yellowfin (39%) and bigeye tuna (1%). The MGA is reserved exclusively for domestic vessels.

The Solomon Islands flagged (purse seine) vessels have fished predominantly on anchored FADs and concentrated their efforts more within the main group archipelagic (MGA) waters (accounting for 87% of the total effort). The MGA is reserved exclusively for domestic vessels.

The catch and effort distribution pattern has shown the fleet concentrated in the northern part of the Main Group Archipelago (MGA) and in the north-western part of Solomon Island waters. As shown in Figure 3, the pattern for the catch and effort distribution in the last 5 years has been very similar, which indicates a high concentration of FADs in these areas. The data for this catch distribution is generated from the TUFMAN database. Logsheet coverage for the domestic purse seine sector in 2014 is around 90%. Observer coverage for domestic purse seine fleet in 2014 was around 70%.

4.3.2 Pole-and-line

The average annual catch estimates for the domestic pole-and-line fleet for the last 4 years (2011-2014) was 5,322 MT (Table 1). The catch composition shows that skipjack tuna dominated the catch with the average of 85% followed by Yellowfin tuna with 15%. No bigeye tuna is caught in this fishery. The total catch to 650 mt, due to some periods of inactivity. All domestic catches for the pole-and-line fleet are taken inside the MGA. Logsheet coverage for the

domestic pole-and-line sector in 2014 was 100%. Observer coverage for domestic pole-and-lie fleet in 2014 was around 5%.

4.3.3 Locally based foreign (chartered) long line

A large number of foreign flagged longline fishing vessels access Solomon Island waters under charter arrangement. The charter arrangements were first established in late 1990s when only a few vessels were licensed. The number of charter licence holders was 137 vessels in 2014. These numbers were reduced as a precautionary action in 2015 to 120. These vessels are mainly from Taiwan, China, Fiji and Vanuatu.

The annual catch estimates for the locally based longline fishery in Solomon Islands EEZ ranges between 13,400mt – 31,500 mt in the last 5 years. Note that these data are somewhat problematic because of the issue of raised logbook data. The catches shown for the years 2013 to 2014 represent raised data. All catches by the longline sector is caught inside EEZ, but with no access allowed for the MGA.

Logsheet coverage for the locally based foreign longliners in 2014 is more than 50%.

5. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

Solomon Islands had a long history of having fishing access arrangements with distant water fishing nations (DWFN), Japan, Korea and Taiwan. These DWFNs have been operating in the Solomon Islands under bilateral arrangements. The number of DWFN vessels under these arrangements has increased since the 1990s, though declined during the ethnic tension period (2009-2012). By 2014, a total of 153 purse seine vessels were licensed under these arrangements, which Korea licensed 28, Japan licensed 30 vessels, Taiwan 30, and New Zealand 4. USA and FSMA vessels had access under the FSMA and US Treaty Agreements respectively.

There were no foreign flagged purse seiners fishing under charter arrangement in Solomon Island waters in 2014.

The bilateral access arrangements with Korea, Japan and Taiwan have also included longline. 31 DWFN licences were allocated to both Japan, with 11 licenses, and Korea, with 20 licences in 2014, but none to Taiwan.

The foreign fishing vessels operating in Solomon Islands waters fish outside of 30 nautical miles from the baseline and outside of the archipelagic waters. These measures are incorporated in

their license conditions. All vessels operating in Solomon Islands EEZ have VMS onboard and they can be easily monitored.

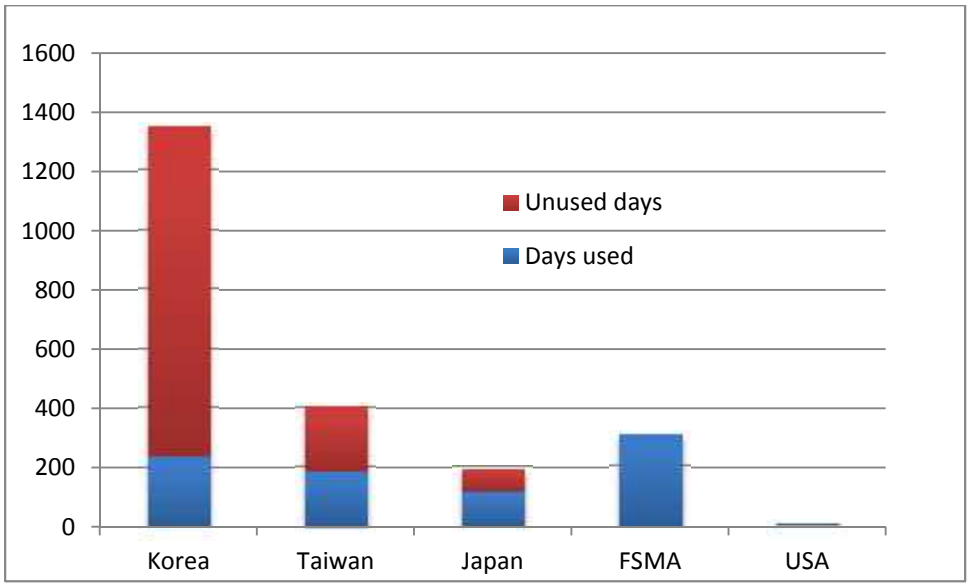
In the Solomon Islands uses both input and to manage it's tuna fishery. Most of these controls have been adopted at the regional level through the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and management procedures are incorporated into the Solomon Islands national legislations. For instance the application, monitoring and tracking of fishing vessels on the VMS, 100% observer coverage on purse seine vessels, and application of the PNA VDS.

Submission of tuna data from the fishing vessels to MFMR is a requirement under their licenses. The MFMR received the following data and information from the fishing vessels, (i) weekly and zone reports, (ii) catch logsheets and (iii) unloading and transshipment reports. In addition, VDS data is also taken from the vessels that are licensed to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ.

The MFMR provides catch logsheet, observer and port sampling data to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). These data support SPC in formulating stock assessments for key target and bycatch species including skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tuna, as well as some key shark species.

VDS days allocated to each of these fleets was Korea, 1,350 days, Japan 192 days, Taiwan 405 days and new Zealand 34 days. Figure 4 shows the percentage day's uptake in 2014.

Figure 4: Days allocated and used by foreign distant water vessels, 2014



Foreign purse seine vessels under have concentrated their fishing effort up north of the EEZ and spreading eastwards. For instance the Japanese fleet in 2011 and 2012, fished up north spreading more towards the east and down towards the center of the EEZ.

The longline vessels operating under bilateral arrangements fished outside of the 30NM from the baselines, and excluded from the archipelagic and territorial waters. Generally, the level of longline fishing effort is higher towards the southern part of the EEZ. The Taiwanese flagged vessels concentrated more in the south towards the east of the EEZ. Similar fishing pattern was shown by the Japanese fleet. However, based on the data available the foreign fleets seem to fish within the same vicinity.

Generally, the data coverage for the foreign fishing vessels has improved in recent years, though it varies between fleets and flags. It is a requirement under the Solomon Islands legislation that all fishing vessels licensed to fish in Solomon islands EEZ must report to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Solomon Islands.

As part of the requirements, all vessels must submit the following reports to the MFMR within a prescribe time periods.

(i) Catch logsheets
(ii) Weekly and zone reports
(iii) Transshipments and unloading reports
(iv) Other reports as may be required by the MFMR from time to time.

The data coverage for the logsheets presented in this report is determined by verifying catch logsheet data received by MFMR against the VMS data, noting that the VMS coverage is 100% of the vessels trips. The logsheet coverage for the foreign fleets varies between fleets.

The Solomon Islands national observer programme was first established in the late 1980s. By 2013, the observer staff comprised more than 80 observers with fully functional observer trainers and observer de briefers. The number of observers is set to be maintained at 80 observers.

A total of 111 observer trips were made in 2013, which 167 trips made on foreign boats and 31 trips on the domestic or local boats. The observer coverage recorded by gear, indicated that 165 observer trips were made on the purse seine fleets, 16 trips on the long line fleets and 17 on the

pole-and-line. Observer coverage on purse seine vessels is at 100%, whilst observer coverage on longliners remains under 5%.

Observer coverage for the foreign purse seine fleet was 100% in 2014. Observer coverage for the foreign longline fleet is flag state obligation.
Port sampling takes place in Honiara and Noro In ports activity only covers the longline vessels. Longline unloading in these 2 ports continues to increase. Port sampling data is not available to present in this report.

The Solomon Islands designated transshipment ports are, Noro Port in the Western part of Solomon Islands, Tulagi, and Island just outside of Honiara and Honiara Port. Transshipment at sea is prohibited under the laws of Solomon Islands.

Honiara port is one of the hotspots for transshipment activities for most of the foreign fleets, especially for the Korean and Taiwanese fleets. The transshipments in Honiara port are dominated by the purse seine vessels. Very few longline vessels transship.

The number of vessels transshipping in Honiara and Noro Ports in the last 5 years ranges from 166 to 221 vessels. The highest recorded in 2010 which 221 vessels come in Port. In 2013 a total of 166 vessels come in port for transshipment, which a total of 124,088MT were transshipped.

6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Solomon Islands tuna fishery is a primary development sector, vital for national economic development and social vibrancy of the country. The economic and social value attached to the natural resource makes this resource highly valuable for Solomon Islands. The Government has placed high regard for this industry by ensuring legislative mechanisms are in place for safeguards in the exploitation and management of this important resource by passing the Fisheries Management Act in Parliament this year. The Fisheries Management Act 2015 sets guidelines and safeguards to protect and maintain the exploitation of tuna stock at a sustainable level. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) is mandated to ensure the national objective of sustainable development, management and exploitation of the tuna stock is maintained for future generations of Solomon Islands.

Besides logging, mining and agricultural development, tuna fisheries is a key employment and export earning for Solomon Islands Government's revenue collection through the payment of access fees, taxes and duties.

Tuna fisheries on average contributed 7-10% of total export earnings for that year. The tuna fisheries brought in infrastructure development as in the case of Noro Cannery developments and other social benefits to the communities nearby in the Western Province such as opportunities for health services, schools and housing for locals.

7. EXPORTS & TRADE

SolTuna and NFD export most of their product to the European Markets. Cold storage facilities at Noro had enabled them to export frozen catches and the recent set up of its loining facilities had enabled them to produce both pre-cooked and frozen loins for the overseas market. Sales comprise frozen cooked loins of skipjack and yellowfin to the European market, frozen albacore loins to the USA, and canned skipjack and yellowfin to domestic, Australian and Pacific island markets. NFD purse seine fishing vessels also retains most of its by-catches for sale to the domestic markets.

There are also some sashimi exports (Ultra Low Temperature) which are transshipped to carriers for sale in Japan. The carriers are supplied by the locally based charter companies.

8. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS

The country currently had one major onshore development at Noro, Western province which is operating as SolTuna Ltd. This company has recently upgraded its cooking and loining facilities and has a capacity to produce 150 mt/day. The plan employs more than 1,500 workers. There were also long-term development plans in the pipeline particularly to invest in onshore processing. New initiatives in this area have been in operation since 2013 and additional onshore processing facilities are earmarked for other three sites; Noro, Bina harbour and Suava Bay. These three development projects however are slow to take off the ground from initial consultations that had taken place. Recent change in Government however has placed renewed effort to prioritise the fisheries development initiatives, specifically to facilitate the construction of the three projects in the next four years.

9. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERIES

The DCC Government prioritisation of fisheries development is noteworthy. Through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine resources (MFMR) future prospect of the fishery looks remarkably rewarding is fully implemented. The government had major plans for the Future Development of Tuna Industry in Solomon Islands. The economic potential of the major projects will not only boost the country's export earning but will also provide a major employment hub for the people of Solomon Islands especially those in Malaita Province and address the crippling unemployment rate in the country.

10. STATUS OF TUNA FISHERIES DATA COLELCTION SYSTEMS

10.1 Data collection and verification

As of 2015, MFMR implemented the Fisheries Information Monitoring System (FIMS), which provides the basis for analysing vessel day uptake for domestic and foreign purse seine and longline vessels. As of 2015, all purse seiners were required to submit e-logs which can also be submitted directly to SPC, and are automatically integrated into the SPC TUFMAN system. FIMS also contains provision for observer reporting and monitoring of deployments and catch documentation. It is proposed that the forthcoming longline vessel day scheme will be monitored by FIMS, with e-logs rolled out over a period of two years.

SPC TUBS supports the recording of data from observer modules. This data is also supported and enhanced by the application of Tabulates which record real time observer data.

10.1 Port sampling programme

Recent reports indicated that the port sampling programme had been suspended since 2008. The programme was then revived in 2012 and continued into 2013 and 2014. Currently the programme had been suspended again since February 2015.

10.2 Transhipment

Transhipment report for previous and past years have been recorded in excels spreadsheet. Recent upgrades and to the Tufman database system have enabled MFMR staff to begin updating all available records. In 2014, additional records received on transhipment activity occurring in the high seas. These formations were from a Chinese Taipei flagged vessel which was chartered to a Solomon Islands local Company. This activity was recorded was report as transhipment in

areas outside of the convention area and beyond national jurisdiction. The information provided was extracted from records kept by enforcement officers and available information from the Tufman database System. **Attachment 1** contains the Transhipment reporting requirements under CMM 09-06 para11.

11. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET AND NON-TARGET SPECIES

Research activities covering target and non-target species is area that has not been well attended to in the Solomon Islands. More needs to be done to support biological studies, support stock assessment, biomass surveys, oceanography and ecological studies to name a few. At present, little is known about both target and non-target species.

ATTACHMENT 1

2014 - Transhipment report for Honiara port and in area outside of Solomon Islands national jurisdiction.

A Offloaded

Total catch by Species offloaded by purse seine vessels transhipping I Honiara port	
Species	**Total transhipped catch in metric tonnes**
Yellowfin	2288.036
Skipjack	9210
Bigeye Tuna	45.734
Albacore	1406.947
others	271.219
	13221.94 Mt

Table re-designed but all figures remain unchanged

B Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

All transhipments information reported were conduct in port Honiara. A transhipment activity was reported on the 10th January 2014 at position Latitude 30°52N and Longitude 151°00W by a Solomon Island chartered Longline vessel HUNG RUNG NO. 2 transhipping to receiving vessel TUNA PRINCESS. The position where this activity occurred was well outside Solomon Islands area of national jurisdiction.

TRANSHIPMENT PRODUCT				
Species	Type of product			
	Whole (kg)	Gilled, gutted and tailed (kg)	Gutted, headed and tailed (kg)	TOTAL (kg)
Bigeye		8000		8000
Yellowfin		925		925
Swordfish			497	497
Stripped Marlin		80		80
Albacore		105420		105420
				114922 kg

C Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;

All transhipments were conducted in Honiara port which is within the convention area. There was transhipment noted to have occurred outside of convention Area. According to section B the position reported was in the Northern Pacific region.

D Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;

All catch were caught inside the convention Area, this also includes the transhipped catches from HUNG RUNG NO.2 as their catches were from the WCPFC HS.

<table>
<tr><td>E</td><td>Species;</td><td>The Species transhipped by Purse Seiners are, SKJ, YFT, and BET. While Species transhipped by Long liners are ALB, YFT, BET and Others or Bycatch (Barracuda, Opah, Wahoo, Blue Marline, Black marlin, Sword Fish, and skip Jack).</td></tr>
<tr><td>F</td><td>Product form; and</td><td>All of the species transhipped are all in frozen product form.</td></tr>
<tr><td>G</td><td>Fishing gear used</td><td>There were 14 Purse Seiners involved in conducting transhipment in Port. While for long liners a total of 131 vessels locally charted based Vessels had been conducted transhipment in Port Honiara. The reason behind this trend was the tuna migration especially skip jack tuna and yellow fin tuna mostly they migrated towards Kiribati, Tuvalu and PNG, thus it leaves few Purse Seiners in Solomon Islands waters as Purse Seiners target this species. But for longliners their target species is mainly Albacore, Yellow fin, Bigeye and bycatch thus the number of Longliner boats is high compared to Purse Seiners in Solomon Islands EEZ.</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>A</td><td>Received:</td><td>
Total catches received by carrier vessels from Purse seine vessels in Honiara port. (2014)
<table>
<tr><th>Carrier vessels</th><th>Total received in Metric tonnes</th></tr>
<tr><td>San Wan fontaine</td><td>2705</td></tr>
<tr><td>Houta Maru</td><td>1960</td></tr>
<tr><td>Lake Success</td><td>410</td></tr>
<tr><td>Salt Lake</td><td>900</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sun Flower 7</td><td>1365</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hua Fa 107</td><td>3710</td></tr>
</table>
Total catches received by carrier vessels from Longline vessels in Honiara port. (2014)
<table>
<tr><th>Carrier vessels</th><th>Total received in Metric tonnes</th></tr>
<tr><td>Toamoana 168</td><td>1106.5599</td></tr>
<tr><td>Yuh Fa 201</td><td>818.419</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>12,974.9789 Mt</td></tr>
</table>
Table re-designed but all figures remain unchanged
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td>B</td><td>Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction;</td><td>All transhipments were conducted in Honiara. Since there was a reported activity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The receiving vessel TUNA PRINCESS (YJQT4) may have had loaded the exact reported amount.

<table><tr><th>SPECIES</th><th>TOTAL (kg)</th></tr><tr><td>Bigeye</td><td>8000</td></tr><tr><td>Yellowfin</td><td>925</td></tr><tr><td>Swordfish</td><td>497</td></tr><tr><td>Stripped Marlin</td><td>80</td></tr><tr><td>Albacore</td><td>105420</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>114922 kg</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>C</td><td>Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;</td><td>All transhipment was conducted in Honiara. Only one by receiving vessel TUNA PRINCESS was reported outside the conversion area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; and</td><td>All catch were caught inside the convention Area and were all in frozen form.</td></tr>
<tr><td>E</td><td>Fishing gear.</td><td>Carrier Vessels.</td></tr>
</table>

ATTACHEMENT 2

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1 - Specific information provided as a requirement by CMMs

CMM Reference	Description	Response
CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4	All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of albacore north of the equator and all fishing effort north of the equator in fisheries directed at albacore. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished.* [* footnote 1: The first such report shall be due on April 30th, 2006 and shall cover calendar year 2004. Small Island Developing States will make their best efforts to comply with this first reporting deadline.] ** Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State*	**CMM 2005-03 is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its flagged vessels fished north of the equator**
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	In accordance with paragraph 1, CCMs shall provide information to the Commission, by 1 July 2007, on the number of their vessels that have fished for striped marlin in the Convention area south of 15°S, during the period 2000 – 2004, and in doing so, nominate the maximum number of vessels that shall continue to be permitted to fish for striped marlin in the area south of 15°S. CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the catch levels of their fishing vessels that have taken striped marlin as a bycatch as well as the number and catch levels of vessels fishing for striped marlin in the	**CMM 2006- 04 is also not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its flagged vessels fished for striped Marlin in that convention area south of 15°S during the period of 2000 – 2004.**

CMM Reference	Description	Response
	Convention Area south of 15°S.	
CMM 2007-04 [Seabirds], Para 9	CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds, including bycatches and details of species, to enable the Scientific Committee to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPF Convention applies. Note: CMM 2007-04 was in effect until the end of June 2014. On 1 July 2014, CMM 2012-07 replaced 07-04	**According to observer's data, there were no bird interactions during 2014.**
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	CCMs shall report to the Commission the total number of vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch of swordfish for the following: a. vessels flying their flag anywhere in the Convention Area south of 20°S other than vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of the domestic fishery of another CCM; b. vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of their domestic fishery south of 20°S; and c. any other vessels fishing within their waters south of 20°S. This information shall be provided in Part 1of each CCM's annual report. Initially, this information will be provided in the template provided at Annex 2 for the period 2000-2009 and then updated annually. 1 Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC 11 **Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.*	**CMM 2009-03 is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its vessels fish 20°South of the convention area.**
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	CCMs shall report on all transhipment activities covered by this Measure (including transhipment activities that occur in ports or EEZs) as part of their Annual Report in accordance with the	**The information for CMM 09-06, Para II (ANNEX II) had been provided in the WCPFC Annual Report**

CMM Reference	Description	Response
	guidelines at Annex II. In doing so, CCMs shall take all reasonable steps to validate and where possible, correct information received from vessels undertaking transshipment using all available information such as catch and effort data, position data, observer reports and port monitoring data. ANNEX II TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY CCMs Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission: (1) the total quantities, by weight, of highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure that were transhipped by fishing vessels the CCM is responsible for reporting against, with those quantities broken down by: a. offloaded and received; b. transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction; c. transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area; d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; e. species; f. product form; and g. fishing gear used (2) the number of transhipments involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by fishing vessels that is responsible for reporting against, broken down by: a. offloaded and received; b. transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction; c. transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area; d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; and	**Part 1. Please refer to Attachment 1**

CMM Reference	Description	Response
	e. fishing gear.	
CMM 2010-05 [South Pacific albacore], Para 4	CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the catch levels of their fishing vessels that have taken South Pacific Albacore as a bycatch as well as the number and catch levels of vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore in the Convention area south of 20°S. Initially this information will be provided for the period 2006-2010 and then updated annually.	**CMM 2010-05 is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its vessels fish 20°South of the convention area.**
CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4	Each CCM shall include key shark species*, as identified by the Scientific Committee, in their annual reporting to the Commission of annual catch and fishing effort statistics by gear type, including available historical data, in accordance with the WCPF Convention and agreed reporting procedures. … *footnote 2: The key shark species are blue shark, silky shark, oceanic whitetip shark, mako sharks, and thresher sharks, porbeagle shark (south of 20°S, until biological data shows this or another geographic limit to be appropriate) and hammerhead sharks (winghead, scalloped, great, and smooth). **Note*; Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) was included as a key shark species by WCPFC9 (2012) *** Note also; para 4 is under the resolve part of the CMM* ***Commencing in reports that cover activities post-1 January 2013***	**Refer to WCPFC Annual report part1for catch statistics on key species**.
CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5	CCMs shall include in their Part 1 Annual Report any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, reported under paragraph 2(b).	**According to observers data there were no cetaceans interaction with Solomon Islands Purse seine flagged vessels during 2014**
CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3	CCMs shall estimate, through data collected from observer programs and other means, the number of releases of oceanic whitetip shark, including the status upon release (dead or alive), and	**According to logsheet data, no data were found for 2014 but however there were 9 oceanic whitetip sharks caught according to**

CMM Reference	Description	Response
	report this information to the WCPFC in Part 1 of their Annual Reports. ***Commencing in reports that cover activities post-1 January 2014***	**observer's data**
CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06	CCMs shall advise in their Part 1 Annual Report of any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, including details required under paragraph 4(b). ***Commencing in reports that cover activities post-1 July 2014***	**According to observers data there was no instance where whale shark had been encircled during 2014**
CMM 2012-07 [Seabirds], Para 9	CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers, including mitigation used, observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers, to enable the Scientific Committee to estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPF Convention applies. See Annex 2 for Part 1 reporting template guideline. Alternatively, statistically rigorous estimates of species-specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers should be reported.	**According to the observer data there were no seabird interactions for 2014.**
CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3	CCMs shall estimate, through data collected from observer programs and other means, the number of releases of silky shark caught in the Convention Area, including the status upon release (dead or alive), and report this information to the WCPFC in Part 1 of their Annual Reports.	**According to the observer data there were 318 Silky Shark species caught in the convention area in 2014. These species were discarded as unwanted species and these are all dead when they are discarded. Refer to WCPFC Annual Report part 1.**
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para	CCMs are expected to include in Annual Report Part 1 their reported longline observer coverage for the 2014 calendar year.	**Observer coverage for 2014 is included WCPFC Annual Report Part 1.**

CMM Reference	Description	Response
484(b)		