



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION**

Bali, Indonesia
3-11 August 2016

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

WCPFC-SC12-AR/CCM-15

NEW CALEDONIA

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

NEW CALEDONIA - ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Part 1

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 2016	YES
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Summary:

Fishing for tuna and associated species by New Caledonian vessels started in 1981 with pole-and-line (less than 3 vessels) which stopped very rapidly (1981: 228 mt; 1982: 998 mt; 1983: 492 mt).

Some domestic longliners started operating at the same time and it took almost 20 years before this domestic fleet had a significant activity.

This fleet operates only in the New Caledonian EEZ.

In 2015, the New-Caledonian government has granted 18 licences to longliner vessels. 17 licensed domestic longliners were active. Similarly to past years there were no foreign vessels licensed or chartered to operate in the New Caledonian EEZ.

There was a 12% decrease of the total estimates catches reported last year compared to 2014. The annual estimates catches of 2,830 mt was mainly composed of albacore which is the target species of all the vessels and accounted for 44% of the total (1,580 mt). Yellowfin was second with 852 mt (30%). Striped marlin and swordfish are the main bycatch of the fishery (58 mt and 9 tonnes respectively).

Catches of sharks have been decreasing since 2006, due to an increasing use of monofilament branchlines and the adoption of a regulation in April 2013 prohibiting the retention of any shark or ray on-board. Until then, makos were the only sharks species kept on-board to be sold on the local market (trunks).

In 2015, observer activities carried out under the New Caledonia programme punctually reached a 3.4% coverage rate of the longline sets. The objectives of this activity are to collect information to be checked with the other sources of data and to provide accurate data for stock assessments (biological samples, size composition, estimates of incidental catch ...).

During all the trips observed in 2015, there was no sea turtle or sea bird interaction. The incidental catches of shark and ray species were reported by the observer programme at 274 individuals in 2015.

Catch statistics

As a counterpart to their licenses the New Caledonian fishing companies must provide logsheets which are collected by the New Caledonia fisheries authority at the end of the trips. The coverage rate of collected logsheets is 100%.

In accordance with the provision of scientific data to the Commission all the logsheets data are made available to the SPC/OFP dropbox by batches.

In parallel, the fisheries department started to develop a new statistical system in 2014 using TUFMAN as the central software to manage the tuna fisheries data. 2015 is the first entire year to be processed. One of the major objectives of this process is to cross-check information and generate statistics more easily and more accurately.

For the first time, all of the data presented in this report come from the Dorado system (Tufman & Tubs reports from SPC).

Therefore, effort and catch estimated statistics in table 1 are extracted from logsheets and observer program data. The estimated total catches represent 2,830 mt in 2015 (3,065 mt in 2014).

As the target species of the New Caledonian tuna fisheries, the South Pacific albacore is the predominant species in the catches with 1,583 mt (56%) in 2015. Albacore annual catches on the south of 20° South for the years 2013-2015 were respectively 976 mt, 1,328 mt, 992 mt.

In 2015 the average weight of albacore was 18 kg, which is very similar to the weights recorded in the previous years. The average weight of yellowfin was 25 kg and 30 kg for bigeye.

No New Caledonian vessel targets bigeye, sharks, marlins or swordfish. Therefore, all the catch reported for these species are bycatch. In particular, only 54 mt of striped marlin (south of 15° South) and 9 mt of swordfish were landed in 2015, of which 7 mt were caught south of 20° South.

Since the adoption of the new regulation for the conservation of sharks in April 2013, which prohibits the retention of any shark and ray, all the sharks must be released by the vessels as soon as possible. The incidental catches of shark and ray species were reported by the observer programme at 274 individuals in 2015.

Many species show seasonal patterns in their abundance around New Caledonia which induces similar fluctuations in the reported catch levels (see table 3 and figure 3).

No New Caledonian vessel takes part in transshipment activities in the WCPFC area.

Fleet structure and fishing activity

In 2015, 18 domestic tuna longliners were licensed to fish and 17 were active. Similarly to past years there were no foreign vessels licensed or chartered to operate in the New Caledonian EEZ.

Table 2 shows that all active vessels in 2015 are less than 200 tons GRT. These vessels have limited cruising range within the EEZ. Although the larger longliners nearing 150 tons can stay at sea for two or more weeks the average trip length for the whole fleet is only 11 days, 7 of which are fished.

There was no fishing activity by the fleet neither north of the equator, nor south of 30° South.

Globally, 317 fishing trips were reported in 2015, totaling 3,423 days at sea and 2,278 days fished.

Monitoring activities

Observer activity has been carried out in New Caledonia for more than 20 years. After being operated under EU-funded programmes, this activity is now funded by the New Caledonia government.

Observer activity

In 2015, 10 trips were observed by two observers on-board five vessels of the domestic companies, representing 79 fishing days and almost 5,024 fish observed. Over this period of time the observer activity covered about 3.4 % of the fishing activity (in number of hooks observed).

During the trips observed in 2015, no turtle or sea bird interaction was reported.

The accidental catch of shark and ray species were reported by the observer program at 274 individuals in 2015.

Port sampling activity

In 2015, due to funding limitation no port sampling was carried out. However, length frequency data are still collected by observers on-board the vessels.

No unloading or transshipment involving foreign vessels, carriers and bunkers, took place in the domestic ports.

Vessel Monitoring System

New Caledonia has been operating a Vessel Monitoring System in its EEZ since early 2005.

All licensed vessels must have transmitters on board. Due to safety regulations all of them are equipped with Inmarsat-C terminals but some vessels also have a dedicated Argos beacon on board.

The monitoring is carried out by the New Caledonia fisheries department, so as to help:

- a. check the VMS data with the number of logsheets provided by the fishing companies
- b. the French Navy survey the EEZ.

Since 2010 all the location data have been managed under a dedicated software which can accept various sources of VMS data and provide related statistics.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1: Days fished and catch by species from New Caledonian longliners
in the WCPFC area

Catch (tonnes)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
ALBACORE	1 669	1 684	1 565	1 738	1 529
BIGEYE	55	50	57	58	59
BLACK MARLIN	48	43	35	35	32
BLUE MARLIN	27	16	17	41	21
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	117	95	91	150	98
OPAH / MOONFISH	73	75	79	99	53
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA	0	2	1	1	
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	7	5	5	6	6
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	13	9	13	15	11
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	0	6
STRIPED MARLIN	73	58	44	48	53
SWORDFISH	12	11	8	12	9
UNSPECIFIED	2	2	3	3	1
WAHOO	51	35	36	41	24
YELLOWFIN	596	549	500	705	807
TOTAL	2 744	2 632	2 453	2 951	2 709
DAYS FISHED	2 536	2 612	2 439	2 259	2 278
Nb HOOKS	4 768 281	4 938 562	4 560 826	4 312 484	4 359 200

Table 1bis: Days fished and estimates catch (raised by observers data) by species from New
Caledonian longliners in the WCPFC area

Catch estimates (tonnes)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
ALBACORE	1 756	1 768	1 627	1 797	1 583
BIGEYE	59	50	65	64	63
BLACK MARLIN	48	44	38	36	35
BLUE MARLIN	28	16	19	41	21
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	122	99	93	155	104
OPAH / MOONFISH	75	75	81	101	55
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA	0	2	1	1	0
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	7	5	5	6	6
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	14	10	15	16	12
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	0	6
STRIPED MARLIN	75	58	47	48	58
SWORDFISH	12	11	8	14	9
UNSPECIFIED	2	42	37	11	1
WAHOO	54	36	37	43	26
YELLOWFIN	650	595	553	734	852
TOTAL	2 903	2 809	2 627	3 065	2 830

Table 1ter: estimated catch for shark species of interest (observers data) from New Caledonian longliners in the WCPFC area

2015	Observed catch (nb)	Estimated catch releases (nb)	Observed catch death releases (nb)	Estimated catch death releases (nb)	Estimate catch death (mt)
Blue shark	175	5 000	7	200	13
Mako shark	14	400	9	257	21
Oceanic whitetip shark	1	29	0	0	0
Silky shark	6	171	1	29	1
Thresher sharks	12	343	7	200	3
Hammerhead sharks	-	-	-	-	-
Porbeagle shark	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	208	5 943	24	686	38

Figure 1: historical annual catch by the New Caledonia longliners (from logsheets / CES) in the WCPFC area

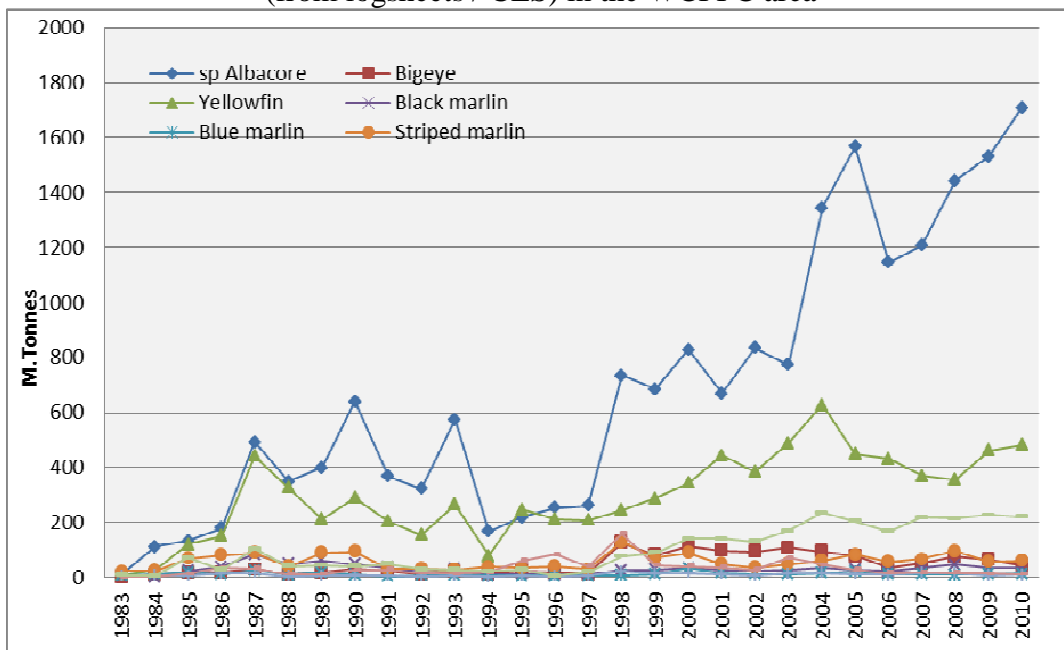


Table 2: number of domestic longliners active by GRT class

Vessel by tjb	0-50	51-200
2011	2	17
2012	0	19
2013	0	17
2014	0	17
2015	1	16

Figure 2: New Caledonian longline vessels licensed

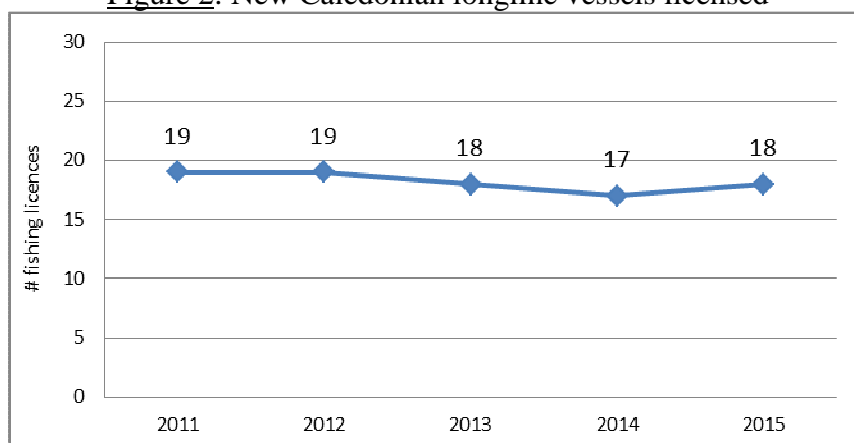


Table 3: number of fish caught per month in 2015 (not raised-no sharks)

Nb of fish	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SP Albacore	9 949	7 543	4 994	3 816	7 518	6 974	7 544	9 168	4 508	9 054	9 477	7 904
Yellowfin	601	1 528	2 393	2 738	5 229	3 807	5 170	3 222	1 792	2 150	2 225	1 447
Bigeye	344	353	125	152	234	163	175	113	96	59	27	36
Striped marlin	26	12	9	24	46	36	60	48	41	93	257	142
Black marlin	37	25	36	57	21	30	20	27	27	29	22	18
Blue marlin	42	25	46	35	12	5	9	13	11	21	15	11
Swordfish	11	6	12	12	15	8	12	2	7	6	15	10
Others	1 500	1 497	921	917	1 031	1 078	968	940	1 301	1 366	2 183	2 734
Total	12 510	10 989	8 536	7 751	14 106	12 101	13 958	13 533	7 783	12 778	14 221	12 302

Table 3bis: average weight (kg) per month in 2015

Average weight	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
SP Albacore	17,94	17,44	17,55	17,42	17,64	16,87	16,54	17,53	16,6	18,84	18,33	16,91
Bigeye	25,86	29,48	30,65	31,19	31,83	33,51	32,03	32,62	34,11	35,32	33,26	29,42
Yellowfin	24,35	20,66	22,6	23,85	23,53	23,31	25,36	25,58	24,88	27,75	29,28	32,96
Striped marlin	47,64	61,75	60,56	62,21	67,85	59,83	60,33	64,06	79,68	78,24	68,58	64,19
Swordfish	63,83	63,75	74,83	58,5	67,6	61,75	77,83	101,5	64,71	63,5	102,47	74,5

Figure 3: annual average weight of interest species (kg)

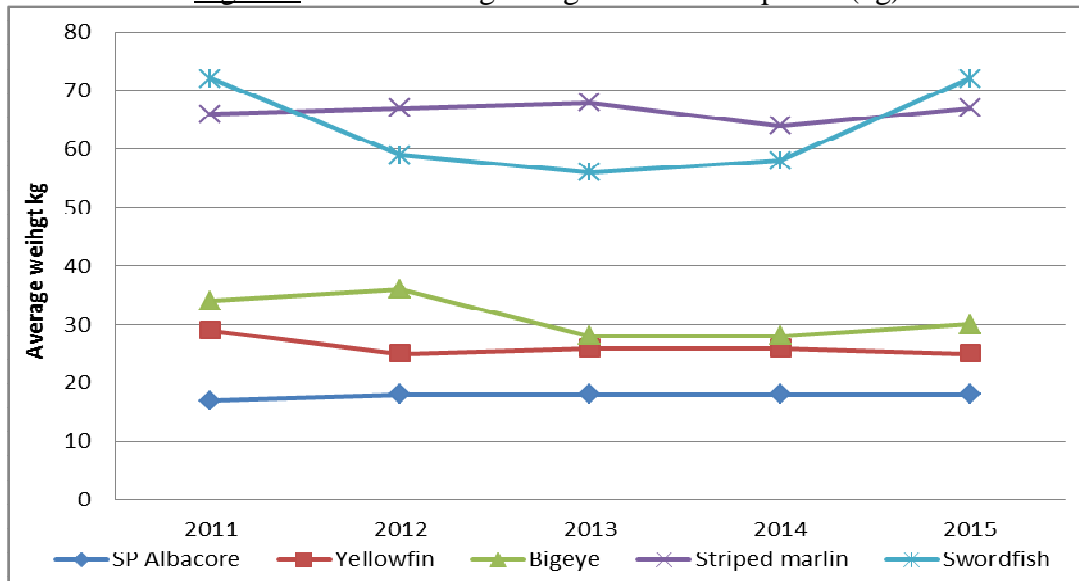


Table 4: number of observed species in 2015

FAO code	Species Group	Species Name	Number	% observed
ALB	TUN	ALBACORE	2861	57%
YFT	TUN	YELLOWFIN	888	18%
ALX	OTHER FISH	LONGSNOUTED LANCETFISH	266	5%
BSH	SHK	BLUE SHARK	175	3%
SKJ	TUN	SKIPJACK	172	3%
DOL	OTHER FISH	MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	159	3%
LAG	OTHER FISH	OPAH / MOONFISH	129	3%
BET	TUN	BIGEYE	67	1%
PLS	SHK	PELAGIC STING-RAY	51	1%
WAH	OTHER FISH	WAHOO	49	1%
GBA	OTHER FISH	GREAT BARRACUDA	38	1%
SSP	BIL	SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	33	1%
BLM	BIL	BLACK MARLIN	23	0%
MLS	BIL	STRIPED MARLIN	21	0%
LEC	OTHER FISH	ESCOLAR	14	0%
AML	SHK	GREY REEF SHARK	14	0%
SMA	SHK	SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	14	0%
PTH	SHK	PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	12	0%
BRZ	OTHER FISH	POMFRETS AND OCEAN BREAMS	11	0%
FAL	SHK	SILKY SHARK	6	0%
BUM	BIL	BLUE MARLIN	3	0%
GES	OTHER FISH	SNAKE MACKEREL	3	0%
SWO	BIL	SWORDFISH	3	0%
	OTHER FISH	BARRACUDINAS (FAMILY)	1	0%
LEC	OTHER FISH	BLACK MACKEREL	1	0%
LOP	OTHER FISH	CRESTFISH/UNICORNFISH	1	0%
MNT	SHK	Devil Manta Ray (Mobula nei)	1	0%
	OTHER FISH	GLAUERT'S ANGLERFISH	1	0%
MEW	WHALE	Melon-headed whale	1	0%
OCS	SHK	OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	1	0%
OIL	OTHER FISH	OILFISH	1	0%
PRP	OTHER FISH	ROUDI ESCOLAR	1	0%
SFA	BIL	SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	1	0%
TST	OTHER FISH	SICKLE POMFRET	1	0%
GES	OTHER FISH	SNAKE MACKERELS AND ESCOLARS	1	0%
Total général			5024	100%

Figure 4: breakdown of shark and ray species recorded by observers in 2016

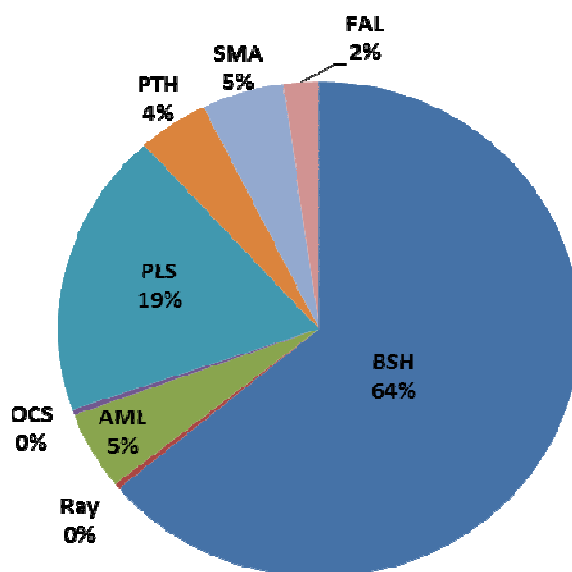


Table 5: number of commercial fish species observed in 2016

Tuna				
Species	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ
Number of fish observed	2861	67	888	172

Other commercial species			
Species	DOL	LAG	WAH
Number of fish observed	159	129	49

Billfishes						
Species	BLM	BUM	MLS	SFA	SSP	SWO
Number of fish observed	23	3	21	1	33	3

Table 6: Longline observer coverage of the New Caledonian tuna fleet

Year	No. of hooks observed	No. of hooks fished	Rate %
2009	405 844	4 920 450	8.2
2010	424 327	4 677 009	9.1
2011	316 337	4 768 281	6.6
2012	316 755	4 938 562	6.4
2013	298 344	4 560 826	6.5
2014	271 208	4 312 484	6.3
2015	147 337	4 359 200	3.4

Table 7: effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by year for New Caledonian vessels – 23° N – 30° S

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of active vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate (per thousand hooks)
2009	27	4 920 450	405 844	8.2	0	0,000
2010	20	4 677 009	424 327	9.1	4	0,009
2011	19	4 768 281	316 337	6.6	5	0,016
2012	19	4 938 562	316 755	6.4	1	0,003
2013	17	4 560 826	298 344	6.5	3	0,010
2014	17	4 312 484	271 208	6.3	2	0,007
2015	17	4 359 200	147 337	3.4	0	0

Table 7bis: Number of observed seabird captures in the New Caledonia longline fishery in 2015

Species	South of 30°S	North of 23°N	23°N – 30°S	Total
Unidentified petrels or shearwaters	0	0	0	0

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

CMM 2005-03 North Pacific Albacore	Nothing to report					
CMM 2006-04 South West Striped Marlin	No vessel target for striped marlin south of 15°S in 2015 (However estimate catch 58 mt)					
CMM 2007-04 Seabirds	No seabird interactions (petrels and shearwaters) in 2015 Area 23°N – 30°S					
CMM 2009-03 Swordfish	No vessel target for swordfish south of 20°S in 2015 (However estimate catch 9 mt)					
CMM 2009-06 Transshipment	Nothing to report					
CMM 2010-05 South Pacific albacore	All vessels (17) fishing for South Pacific albacore south of 20°S in 2015 Catch 990 mt					
CMM 2010-07 Sharks	All sharks released					
	2015	Observed catch (nb)	Estimated catch releases (nb)	Observed catch death releases (nb)	Estimated catch death releases (nb)	Estimate catch death (mt)
	Blue shark	175	5 000	7	200	13
	Mako shark	14	400	9	257	21
	Oceanic whitetip shark	1	29	0	0	0
	Silky shark	6	171	1	29	1
	Thresher sharks	12	343	7	200	3
	Hammerhead sharks	-	-	-	-	-
	Porbeagle shark	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	208	5 943	24	686	38
CMM 2011-03 Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans	Nothing to report					

CMM 2011-04 Oceanic whitetip sharks	All oceanic whitetip sharks released						
	2015	Observed catch (mt)	Estimated catch (mt)	Estimated number of releases	Released alive %		
	Oceanic whitetip shark	0,07	2	29	100%		
CMM 2012-04 Whale sharks	Nothing to report						
CMM 2012-07 Seabirds	Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
		Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate (per thousand hooks)
	2015	17	4 359 200	147 337	3.4	0	0
CMM 2013-08 Silky sharks	All silky sharks released						
	2015	Observed catch (mt)	Estimated catch (mt)	Estimated number of releases	Released alive %		
	Silky shark	0,22	6	171	83%		
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision –para 484(b))	3.4% (number of hooks observed)						
CMM 15-02	NC has communicated operational data as a level of detail which allows the commission to make this CMM itself						

Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision –para 484(b))

N°. Of hooks			Days fished			Day at sea			N°. of trips		
Total estimated	Observer	%	Total estimated	Observer	%	Total estimated	Observer	%	Total estimated	Observer	%
4 359 200	147 337	3,4%	2 278	79	3,5%	3 423	130	3,8%	317	10	3,2%

Minimum requirement for Disposal of species (export and domestic market)

Export & domestic market	Tuna		Billfish	other fish
Flag CCM	New-Caledonia			
Catch location	CCM EEZ			
Destination	74 % Domestic	26% export	100% domestic	100% domestic
Gear code	LL			
Estimate whole weight tonnes	1 853	651	140	186

Receipt and redistribution of species(re-export and re-export, transshipment activities to be considered as either export or import)

Export year	-
Export CCM or domestic	-
Import CCM	-
Harvest year	-
Gear code	-
Net weight (processed) kg	-
Estimate whole weight	-