



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

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NAURU

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015**



NAURU

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 2 nd July 2016	[YES]
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1. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

1.1 Fishery Characteristics

- a) Nauru's Offshore Fishery as in previous years is dominated by the Distant Water Fishing Nation's (DWFNs) Purse Seiners.
- b) The primary target of the DWFN vessels are Skipjack (*Katsuwonus Pelamis*), and Yellowfin (*Thunnus Albacares*) which are intended for foreign canneries.
- c) Most of the vessels are in the 1001 – 1500 gross tons size and are licensed either under bilateral access agreements by Nauru, or under the FSM Arrangement or US Treaty by Regional Administrators.
- d) One Long Line vessel was licensed for one trip in the Nauru EEZ in 2015.
- e) Nauru did not have a commercial fishery of any kind under its flag or by charter arrangements active in the WCPFC convention area in 2015.
- f) The Artisanal Fishery comprises motorized skiffs and canoes targeting tuna and coastal pelagic species that are generally free-school or aggregated around nearshore anchored FADs aggregated. Catches are essentially for subsistence, barter and commercial sale on a minor scale.

2. Offshore Catch Estimates

The 3 major tuna species caught in Nauru’s offshore fishery as in previous years is made up of skipjack (*SKJ*), yellowfin (*YFT*) and bigeye (*BET*).

There was a considerable decrease in overall catch (*table 1*) in Nauru’s EEZ compared to of past 2 years. The species composition of the catch remained similar.

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

YEAR	SKJ	YFT	BET	TOTAL
2011	82,256	17,022	8,399	107,678
2012	42,296	8,751	3,605	54,653
2013	98,610	12,933	1,617	113,160
2014	144,175	24,599	7,505	176,679
2015	53,244	14,550	1,079	68,873

Table 1: Tuna catches in Nauru’s EEZ by all DWFN fleets past 5years. **Source:** Raised logsheet data collected by Nauru held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database (TUFMAN 2), SPC (2015 Catches are provisional).

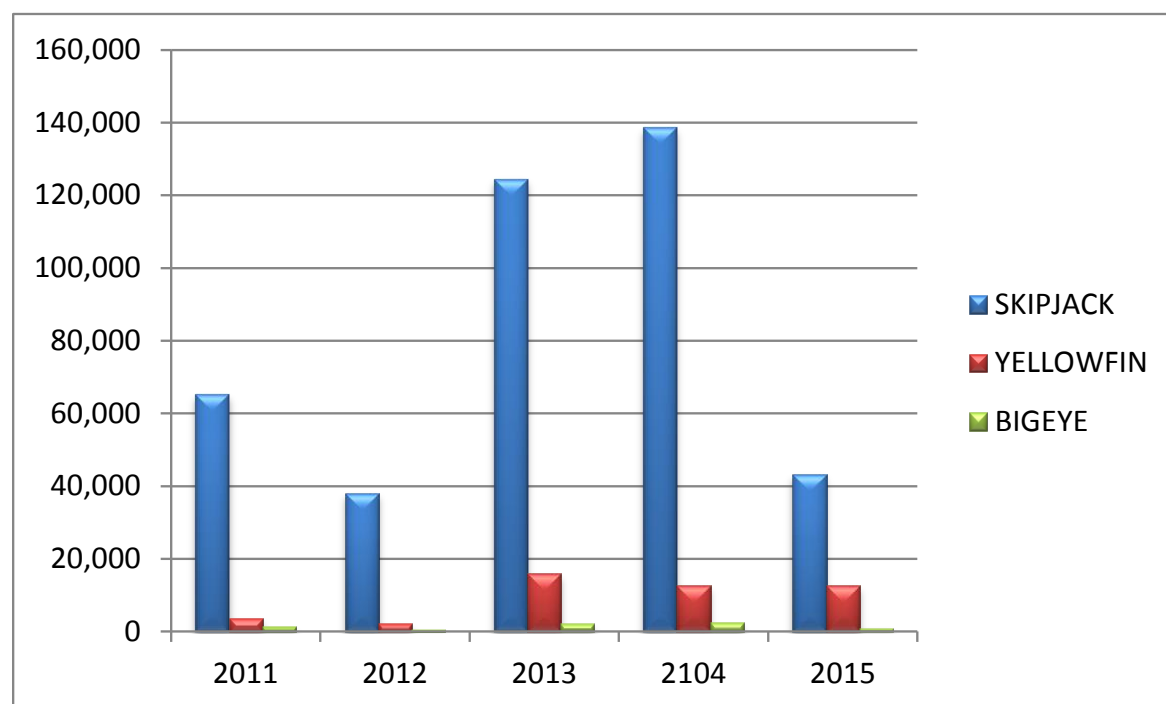


Figure 1: Trend of total catches over a 5 year period by foreign fleets active in Nauru’s EEZ.

3. Foreign Fleet and Licensing Structure

In 2015, as for previous years, foreign vessels comprised the entire commercial fleet licensed to operate in Nauru's EEZ.

There were 213 vessels - 212 purse seines and 1 Longline - licensed by Nauru; in support of the fishing vessels, 15 tankers (TK) and 2 fish carriers (FC) were licensed (although no transshipments or landings occurred).

Table 2 and 3 is a detailed analysis of the fleets by flag and size. The majority (118) of the vessel's gross tonnage is within the 1001 -1500 category; 35 vessels between the 501 to 1000 GRT group, and 60 in the super seine (1500+) category.

FOREIGN FLAGGED VESSELS						
FLAG	GEAR	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
CHINA (CN)	PS	12	-	5	4	3
JAPAN (JP)	LL	1	-	1	-	-
JAPAN (JP)	PS	32	-	-	27	3
FSMA (KI)	PS	11	-	-	6	5
FSMA (FM)	PS	12	-	3	2	7
FSMA (MI)	PS	12	-	-	7	5
FSMA (PG)	PS	41	-	5	27	9
PILLIPHINES (PH)	PS	2	-	-	-	-
KOREA (KR)	PS	26	-	12	10	4
TAIWAN (TW)	PS	33	-	9	18	2
UST (US)	PS	35	-	-	17	18
VANUATU (TV)	PS	1	-	-	-	1
VANUATU (TW)	PS	3	-	-	-	3
NEW ZEALAND (NZ)	PS	2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		213	-	35	118	60

Table.2: Bilateral and Multilateral Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed by Nauru in 2015.

SUPPORT VESSELS					
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
KOREA (TK)	6				6
TAIWAN (TK)	5		1		4
SINGAPORE (TK)	2				2
KIRIBATI (TK)	1				1
MARSHALLS (TK)	1				1
PANAMA (FC)	2				2
TOTAL	17		1		16

Table.3: Support Vessels (TK – Tanker; FC – Fish Carrier) Licensed to Nauru in 2015

4. Artisanal fleet

Nauru’s artisanal fleet is encompassed of small skiffs and canoes owned and operated by local fishermen who fish for subsistence, barter or commercial at a small scale.

There are 112 active boats and canoes in Nauru and motorized skiffs make up the bulk of the fleet.

Data are collected through interviews of fishermen or boat owners by coastal personnel at the two main landing sites, Gabab Channel and Anibare Community Boat Harbor which are frequently used by skiff fishermen and Aiwo boat harbor often used by canoes fishers.

The process of the data collection is; pending the number of boats sited at the landings on the day, half or minimum of 5 are randomly chosen and surveyed by personnel assigned to the sites.

Nauru regrets to report that the 2014 data are not available and an effort in retrieving the missing data is ongoing.

YEAR	Artisanal Catches (Kilograms)			
	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Others	Total
2011	5,162	4,301	113	9,576
2012	3,243	7,497	1,254	11,994
2013	16,192.6	2,728.4	4,806.3	23,727.3
2014	NA	NA	NA	NA
2015	8,341	771	27	9,139

Table 4: Source: TUFMAN 2 - Artisanal Coastal Fisheries survey of un-raised estimates based on FAD Fishing Canoe logbooks.

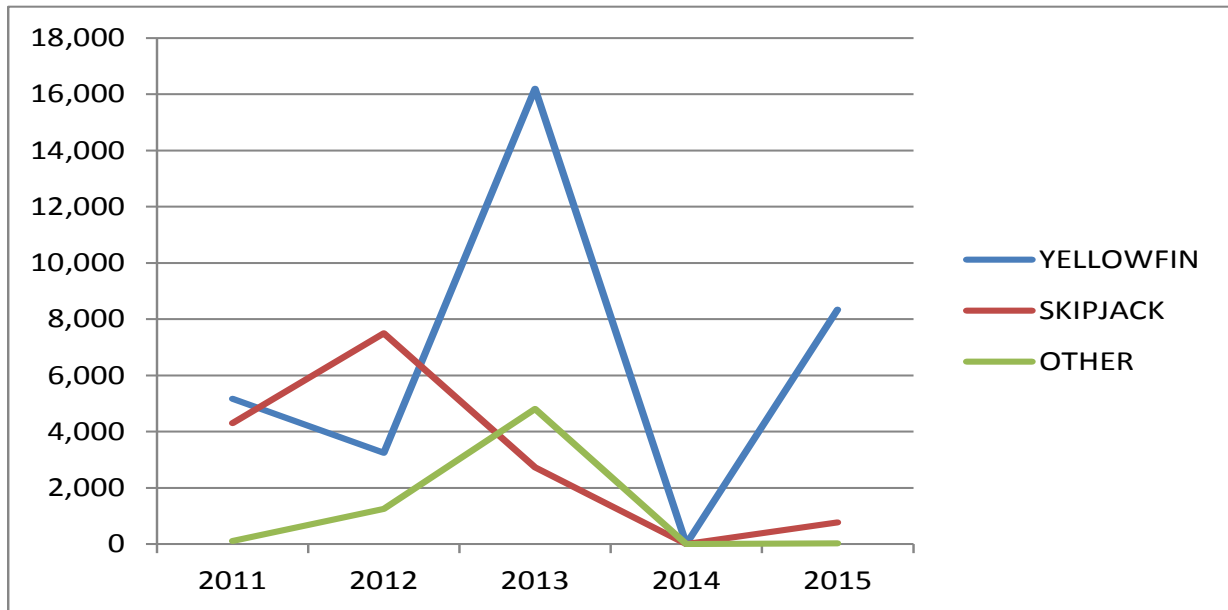


Figure 2: 5 year trend for total Artisanal catches (KG) in Nauru from 2011 - 2015. (2014 catch not available).

5. Socioeconomic

The revenue derived from fishing licenses of a fiscal year continues to provide the bulk of non-aid income for Nauru's state budget.

Nauru's Observer Program (*NROB*) is the notable development made from the offshore fishing industry.

The NROB has a total of thirty five (35) PIRFO Certified Observers; five (5) PIRFO De-briefers (Part A), and one (1) PIRFO Certified De-briefer and Observer Trainer.

The program also has thirteen (13) **MSC** certified Observers.

In 2015, the Assistant Observer Coordinator resigned and a new one was recruited and five (5) new observers were also added and will be trained with the NFA.

Nauru Observer Program total trips for 2015:

- **National** - 13
- **FFA** - 3
- **PNA** - 25

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

6. Research and Statistics

Nauru Fishery and Marine Resources Authority's priority is to the continuous up skilling of its personnel through various regional capacity building workshops, attachments and trainings.

In 2016, Nauru like other countries shifted to the new database system, *TUFMAN 2*, developed by OFP/SPC.

Nauru acknowledges the ongoing and unrelenting determination of OFP/SPC and FFA in its effort in developing an efficient data collection, monitoring and management systems and their capacity building programs.

Nauru, again, acknowledges the ongoing support and assistance provided by AUSAID Fisheries Management through the Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP). The project in 2015 is still focused on developing Nauru's Coastal Fisheries Management structures.

7. CMM REPORTING

CMM REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSE
CMM 05-03	North Pacific Albacore	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 06-04	South West Striped Marlin	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 07-04	Seabirds	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 09-03	South West Pacific Swordfish.	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 09-06	Transshipments	Not Applicable – No transshipment in 2015
CMM 10-05	South Pacific Albacore	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 10-07	Sharks	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 11-03	Cetaceans	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 11-04	Oceanic White Tip Shark	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 12-04	Whale Sharks	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 12-07	Seabirds	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
CMM 13-08	Silky Sharks	Not Applicable - Nauru has no National fleet
Observer Coverage	Longline	Not Applicable - Nauru has no Longlines

Table.5