

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION

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

WCPFC-SC12-AR/CCM-22 Rev 1 (24 September 2016)

**SOLOMON ISLANDS** 



## MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

### PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS 2015

#### **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in			
accordance with the decision relating to the provision	YES		
of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2016			

#### 1. ABSTRACT/SUMMARY.

The tuna fishery is vitally important to the people of Solomon Islands economically and socially. Consisting of the commercial (domestic and foreign fleets), the artisanal and subsistence sector, the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) depends on the revenues through access fees, taxes, duties and levies. The artisanal fishery is small in comparison to the commercial sector, but, along with the subsistence sector is a significant contributor to the food security and social wellbeing of Solomon Islanders.

Fishing activities in the Solomon Islands zone comprise purse seining, longlining and pole and line fishing. The tools applied to ensure that the fisheries are effectively managed include the Fisheries Management Act 2015, National Fisheries Regulations and the Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plan (TMDP), 2014. The catch information provided in this report is 'raised' data. Logsheet data were extracted from the newly installed Tufman 2 database system and other systems such as the SPC web reporting tools, Web recon, VMS data and additional information from fishing companies. Data collected in 2015 from the domestic fleets in a form of hardcopy catch logsheets, e-logsheets, observer's trip data and unloading and landing data is considered to be successful with an 84% reconciliation rate in 2015. It's anticipated the ongoing implementation of e-monitoring of data will continue to improve this rate in coming years.

*Purse seine:* The purse seine fishery catches predominantly skipjack with a bycatch of yellowfin, and small amounts of bigeye. 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. Fishing effort 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.

In 2015, there were around 138 licensed purse seine vessels for the EEZ. These comprised a small domestic fleet of 7 vessels, a larger distant water fleet of 131 vessels and a small number of Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (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 FSMA. The domestic fleet is owned by two companies: National Fisheries Developments (NFD) and Western Solomon's Joint Ventures (WSJV). These vessels fish in the Main Group Archipelago (MGA), and occasionally in the EEZ.

Longline: The longline fishery comprises a large-vessel fleet (from Japan and Korea) targeting yellowfin and bigeye (with a bycatch of albacore) and a small-vessel fleet (mostly from Taiwan and China) targeting yellowfin, albacore and bigeye. The Taiwanese and Chinese fleets, are now restricted to 100 in number and fish under locally based arrangements. 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, whereupon, the set limit will be 29,000 LL

VDS. Solomon Islands is also a Party to the Tokelau Arrangement which sets a zonal albacore non-binding catch limit of 14,500 tonnes. NFD has a small domestic pole-and-line fleet which takes place exclusively inside the MGA and for which a VDS limit of 400 pole and line vessel days is set.

Catch Estimates and distribution: The average annual catch estimates for the domestic purse seine fleet for the last 5 years (2011 - 2015) is about 22,486 Mt. Skipjack tuna dominates the domestic purse seine catch at 57% followed by yellowfin at43%The domestic fleet has concentrated their effort within the MGA and predominantly on anchored FADs. The total catch estimate for the domestic pole-and-line fleet over the last 5 years (2011-2015) was 6,963.63 MT. Skipjack tuna dominated the pole-and-line catch (83%) followed by Yellowfin (17%). Only 0 .90% of bigeye is caught in this fishery. The annual catch estimates for the locally based foreign longline fishery ranged between 13,400mt – 31,500 mt in the last 5 years.

The Fisheries Management Act 2015 sets guidelines and safeguards to protect and maintain the exploitation of tuna stock at a sustainable level. The government has major plans for the development of the tuna industry. The Noro based onshore processing company SolTuna and NFD export most of their product to the European Markets. Cold storage facilities at Noro have enabled them to export frozen catches and the recent set up of its loining facilities has enabled them to produce both pre-cooked and frozen loins for the overseas market. In 2016 further development in Malaita at Bina Harbour is being supported to progress, under the leadership of MFMR in partnership with other sectors in SIG.

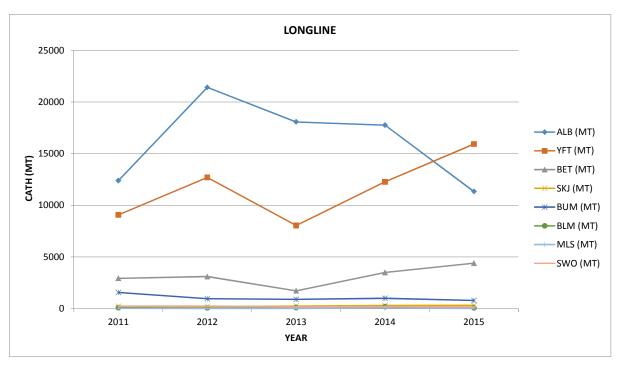
#### 2. Tabular Annual Fisheries Information. (NATIONAL FLEETS)

**Table 1**. Annual catch and effort estimates for the Solomon Islands Locally based Longline fleet, by gear and primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2011 to 2015. (*Source: VMS /logsheeet recon data*)

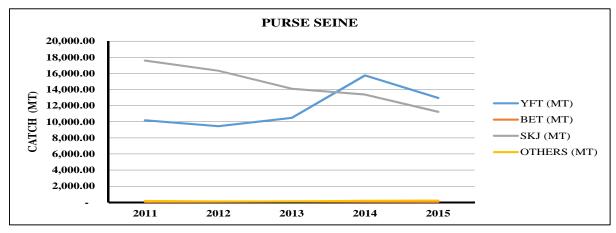
	RAISED LONGLINE CATHES										
YEAR	GEAR	NB OF TRIPS	ALB (MT)	YFT (MT)	BET (MT)	SKJ (MT)	BUM (MT)	BLM (MT)	MLS (MT)	SWO (MT)	TOTAL (MT)
2011	Longline	1255	12383.86	9068.38	2924.77	228.88	1560.07	86.39	31.68	239.98	26524.01
2012	Longline	1497	21416.23	12696.14	3097.54	200.84	956.82	59.24	15.77	245.09	38687.67
2013	Longline	1535	18071.99	8038.8	1721.59	251.31	897.57	91.56	12.65	176.45	29261.92
2014	Longline	1382	17757.17	12268.31	3499.59	310.36	997.69	181.79	51.02	201.84	35267.77
2015	Longline	1104	11334.15	15923.35	4390.31	319.55	789.3	63.23	14.68	167.14	33001.71

**Table 1 a.** Annual catch estimates for domestic purse seiners and pole and line fleets for year 2011 – 2015 (Source: NFD, company data).

	U	NRAISED PUR	SE SEINE CATHES		
Year	YFT (MT)	BET (MT)	SKJ (MT)	OTHERS (MT)	TOTAL (MT)
2011	10,179.00	43.00	17,590.90	160	27,972.90
2012	9,438.21	54.00	16,331.85	104	25,928.06
2013	10,466.65	99.50	14,103.85	107	24,777.00
2014	15,743.14	63.70	13,378.20	181	29,366.04
2015	12,953.10	34.10	11,237.82	208	24,433.02
	UN	RAISED POLE	AND LINE CATHE	S	
Year	YFT (MT)	BET (MT)	SKJ (MT)	OTHERS (MT)	TOTAL (MT)
2011	144.515	0	684.189	0	828.704
2012	254.0965	0	1835.065	0	2089.1615
2013	271.7725	0	1332.94	0	1604.7125
2014	292.63	0.9	1237.53	0	1531.06
2015	221.99	0	688	0	909.99



**Figure 1.** Historical annual catch for the National fleet, by the Longline fishery for the primary species in the WCPFC Convention Area. (*Source: VMS /logsheeet recon data*)



**Figure 1a.** Historical annual catches for the National fleet, by the Purse seine fishery for the primary species in the WCPFC Convention Area. (*Source: NFD, Company data, TUFMAN 2 logsheet data*)

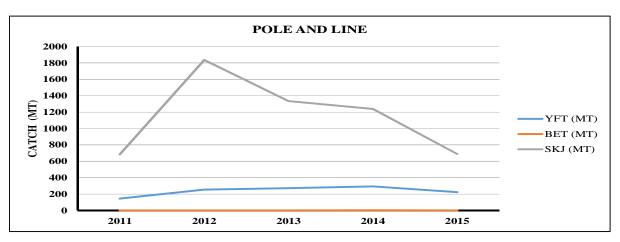
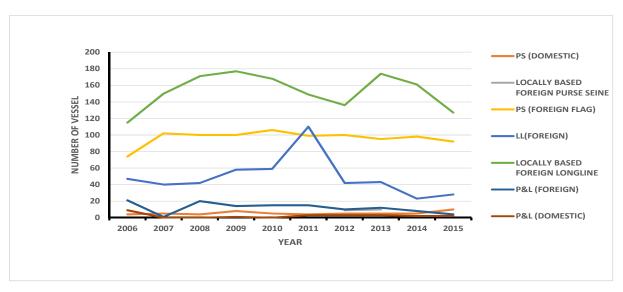


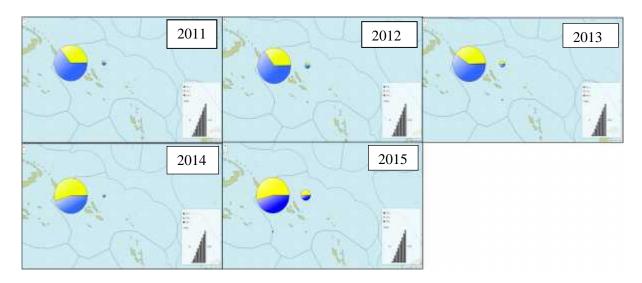
Figure 1 b. Historical annual catch by the pole-and-line national fleet for primary species in the Convention Area.



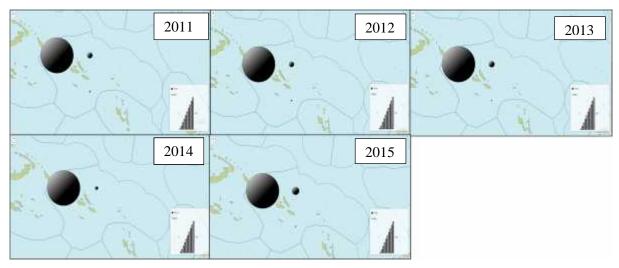
**Figure 2.** Summary of historical annual vessel numbers for Solomon Islands National fleet, by gear for the WCPFC Convention Area for year 2006 -2015.

**Table 2.** Summary of number of National fleet vessels, by gear and size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years from 2011 – 2015.(*Source: SOLIC database/Solomon Is Licensing section*)

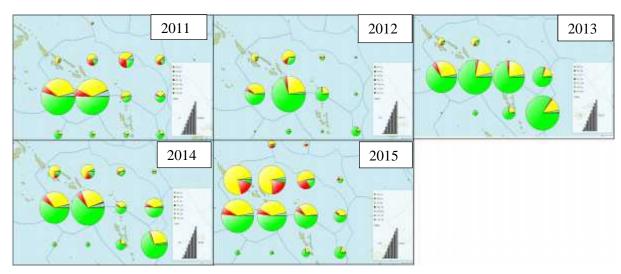
	PURSE SEINE						
Year	00-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT	TOTAL		
2011	0	31	55	25	111		
2012	0	33	62	24	119		
2013	0	31	58	19	108		
2014	0	24	64	15	103		
2015	1	20	67	12	100		
	•	LONG LIN	E				
Year	0-50	51-200GRT	201-500 GRT*	500+	TOTAL		
2011	0	170	78	4	425		
2012	0	125	48	0	382		
2013	2	141	66	0	389		
2014	0	122	58	0	327		
2015	0	86	61	0	147		
		POLE A	ND LINE	•			
Year	0-50	51-200GRT	201-500 GRT *	500+	TOTAL		
2011	0	3	14	0	17		
2012	0	3	9	0	12		
2013	0	2	12	0	14		
2014	0	2	9	0	11		
2015	0	2	4	1	7		
	* Including v	vessels under bila	teral arrangment w	ith Solomon			



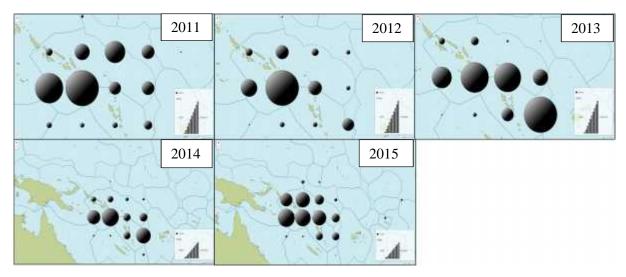
**Figure 3**. Annual distribution of target species catch by the purse seine **National Fleet** active in the WCPFC Convention Area (SB EEZ)



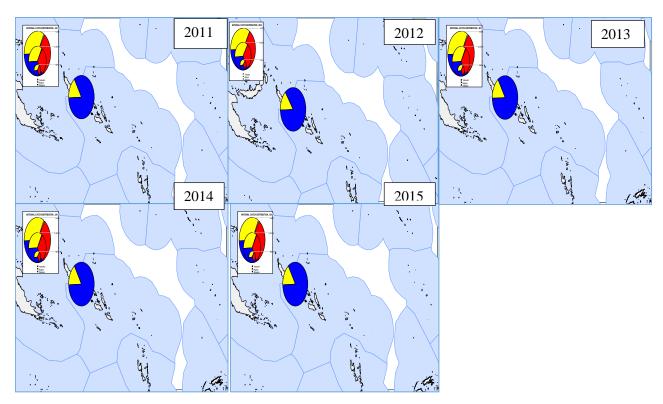
**Figure 3 a**. Annual distribution of effort by the domestic purse seine **National Fleet** active in the WCPFC Convention Area. (SB EEZ).



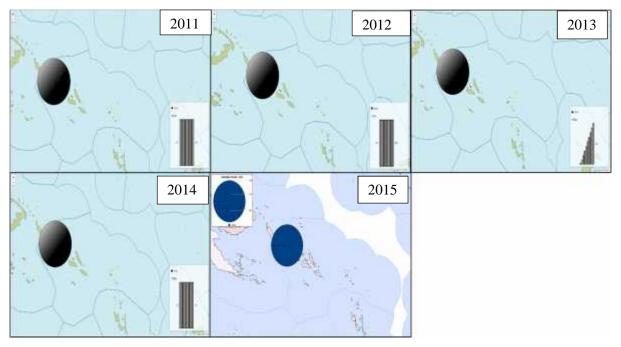
**Figure 3 b.** Annual distribution of target species catch by the Longline **National Fleet** active in the WCPFC Convention Area (SB EEZ)



**Figure 3c**. Annual distribution of effort by the Longline **National Fleet** active in the WCPFC Convention Area. (SB EEZ).



**Figure 3 d**. Annual distribution of target species catch by the pole and line **National Fleet** active in the WCPFC Convention Area (SB EEZ)



**Figure 3 e**. Annual distribution of effort by the Pole and line **National Fleet** active in the WCPFC Convention Area. (SB EEZ).

Table 3. Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest

Year	Fear	Category	Species	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead
2011	S	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW	1	0	0
2012	S	MARINE MAMMALS	Rough-toothed dolphin	2	0	0
	S	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	1	0	0
	S	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW	1	0	0
	S	MARINE MAMMALS	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	0	0	0
	L	BIRDS	BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	1	0	1
	L	BIRDS	CAPE PIGEON	5	0	1
	L	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	2	0	2
	L	MARINE REPTILES	HAWKSBILL TURTLE	1	1	0
	L	MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	5	2	3
	L	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW	5	3	2
	L	BIRDS	WHITE-CHINNED PETREL	1	0	1
2013	NO DA	TA AVAILABLE IN DO	ORADO (TUBS REPORTING)			
2014	S	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	2	0	0
	S	MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW	2	0	0
2015	S	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	2	0	0
	S	MARINE REPTILES	HAWKSBILL TURTLE		0	0

**Table 4**. Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated, and dependent species by the **Longline National Fleets** in SB EEZ. (TUFMAN 2 web reporting)

Species Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL BY
Species Mairie	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	SPECIES
BLACK MARLIN	40.66	48.739	20.97	29.033	73.275	11.458	224.135
BLACKTIP REEF SHARK	1.52	0	0	0	0	0	1.52
BLACKTIP SHARK	2.808	0	1.44	0	0	0	4.248
BLUE MARLIN	331.968	443.93	336.824	241.717	419.79	62.193	1836.422
BLUE SHARK	3.62	0.11	0	2.673	17.908	16.491	40.802
GALAPAGOS SHARK	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0.04
GREY REEF SHARK	13.019	0	0	0	0	0	13.019
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	54.227	0	0	0	0	0	54.227
MAKO SHARK	0	0	0	0.62	0.03	0	0.65
MARLINS	0.515	0.625	0.255	0	0.8	0	2.195
MARLINS/SAILFISH/SPEARFISHES (UNIDENTIFIED)	7.837	0.5	0.085	0	0	0	8.422
OCEANIC WHITE -TIP SHARK	40.974		0	0	0.119	0	41.093
SHARK FINS	23.565	0.83	0	0	0.463	0	24.858
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	3.686	777.259	117.833	49.875	41.817	0	990.47
SILKY SHARK	87.752	4.458	0	1.048	16.881	1.075	111.214
SILVER-TIP SHARK	14.273	0	0	0	0	0	14.273
STRIPED MARLIN	11.864	13.441	5.04	3.465	24.539	0.475	58.824
SWORDFISH	75.453	62.031	87.817	50.561	80.78	13.406	370.048

**Table 4 a.** Annual estimated catches of non-target, associated, and dependent species catches by the purse seine **National Fleets** in Solomon's EEZ in 2010- 2015. (Source: TUBs reporting)

Species Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL BY
Species Name	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	SPECIES
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK			0.1			0.09	0.19
BLACK MARLIN	0.45	1.444	1.05	0.33	0.07	0.1	3.444
BLACKTIP SHARK						6.89	6.89
BLUE MARLIN	0.35	1.08	2.37	0.48	5.18	0.6	10.06
BRONZE WHALER SHARK					3.04	0.06	3.1
GREAT HAMMERHEAD			0.04				0.04
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK		0.05	0.075		0.03	0.01	0.165
SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	0.15		2.13	0.12			2.4
SILKY SHARK	1.623	6.384	10.288		30.313	7.346	55.954
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	1.12	0.28	0.26	0.3	1.96
SWORDFISH	0	0	0.2				0.2

Table 5. Estimated annual coverage of operational catch /effort, port sampling and observer data for 2015

GEAR	YEAR	CATCH/EFFORT DATA COVERAGE		OBSERVERS DATA COVERAGE
Long line	2015	36%	0%	0.00%
Purse Seine	2015	49%	0%	51.20%
Pole and Line	2015	100%	0%	0%

#### Legend

- ➤ CATCH EFFORT DATA COVERAGE is determined by trip coverage of logsheets
- OBSERVERS DATA COVERAGE is determined by observers trip report via Tubs report

#### 3. Background.

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), the artisanal and subsistence sector. The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) depends to a great degree on this fishery as it brings significant revenues through access fees, taxes, duties and levies. The artisanal fishery is very small in comparison to the commercial sector, but is a significant contributor to the food security and social wellbeing of Solomon Islanders. The artisanal and subsistence

sectors will not be covered in this report.

The tools applied to ensure that the fisheries are effectively managed in Solomon Islands include the Fisheries Management Act 2015, National Fisheries Regulations and the Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plan (TMDP), 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.

The TMDP is designed to guide future management and development of tuna fisheries to achieve the overall goal of the Government of the Solomon Islands. Preparation of the TMDP is provided for under the Fisheries Management Act 2015 and it is consistent with the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2011 – 2020, including its overarching theme, To Build Better Lives for All Solomon Islanders. It addresses strategy 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' (MFMR) Corporate Plan, and particularly the identified role of the MFMR to regulate 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 yellowfin and skipjack tuna with a very small bycatch. 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. 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.

In 2015, there were around 138 licensed purse seine vessels with an entitlement to fish in the Solomon Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). These comprised a small domestic fleet of 7 vessels, a larger distant water fleet of 131 vessels and a small number of Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (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 FSMA.

The domestic fleet is owned by two companies: National Fisheries Developments (NFD) and Western Solomon's 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 yellowfin and bigeye tuna north of  $7.5\,^{\circ}$  S, and albacore tuna south of  $7.5\,^{\circ}$  S (with a bycatch of sharks and

tuna like socies). The Taiwanese and Chinese fleets, are now restricted to 100 in number and fish under locally based arrangements 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, operating under a PAE of 29,000 LL VDS. Solomon Islands is also a Party to the Tokelau Arrangement which sets a non-binding 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 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 pole and line fishery takes place exclusively inside the MGA for which a VDS limit of 400 pole and line vessel days is set.

#### 4. FLAG STATE REPORTING.

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. And covers the fishing operation of the domestic Solomon Islands fishing fleets operating in the WCPFC Convention areas during the period 2011 to 2015. 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).

The catch information provided in this report is 'raised' data. Logsheet data were extracted from the newly installed TUFMAN 2 database system and other systems such as the SPC web reporting tools, Web recon, VMS data and additional information from fishing companies. The report discusses flag state reporting and coastal state reporting. The socio-economic status of the Solomon Islands fisheries will be discussed along with issues of catch disposal, port sampling, transhipment and the observer programme. in This report has been compiled by the staff of the statistics section of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)

#### 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 and only fish in the Solomon Islands EEZ. Locally registered purse seiners were permitted to fish within the main archipelagic waters. These purse seine vessels were less than 50 meters in length and with a fish 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. This fleet plays an important role in the Solomon Islands economy as they land their catch at the Noro Cannery in Solomon Islands. In the last 5 years, this domestic fleet was comprised 5-7 small size seiners and 3 pole-and-line vessels. There were no domestic longline vessels registered in the Solomon Islands until 2015. The registered vessel in 2015 was not actively fishing. In 2015, 10 purse seiners were still active (5 NFD and 3 Southern Seas Investment and 2 from Western Venture).

**Table 1:** Solomon Islands flagged vessels by gear type licensed to fish in 2011 – 2015

Gear type	Number of vessel by year							
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015			
Longline	0	0	2	0	1			
Purse seine	5	5	6	7	8			
Pole & line	3	3	3	3	2			
TOTAL	8	8	11	10	11			

#### 4.2. Data Coverage

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 data coverage for the domestic vessels ranges from 40% to 84% of vessel days in the last 5 years. We presume the reason for the lower coverage rates are due to the non-retrieval of logsheets from foreign vessels who unload in other ports.

Generally, in 2015 the level of data coverage for the national fleet is good though it varies between fleets and companies. The logsheets (hard copy) coverage for the domestic purse seine fleet is 100% although VMS reconciliation suggests there is only 80 % plus coverage. This is because the VMS also records non fishing trips.

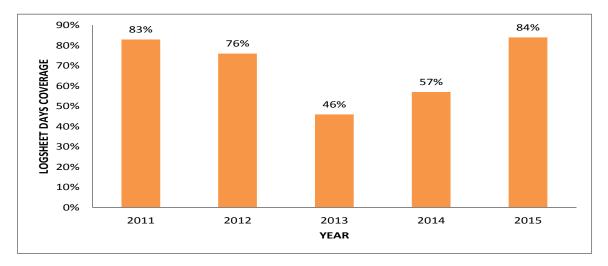


Figure 1: Domestic purse seine vessels VMS logsheet reconciliation coverage (Source: Web recon)

NFD fleets are currently submitting logsheets electronically through IFIMs and these are verified by a statistic officer in MFMR using FIMs system before e-lodging these logsheets to SPC.

Data collected in 2015 from the domestic fleets in a form of hardcopy catch logsheets, e-logsheets, observer's trip data and unloading and landing data is considered to be successful with an 84% reconciliation rate. It's anticipated the ongoing implementation of electronically monitoring of data will continue to improve this rate in 2016 and coming years.

#### 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 (2011 - 2015) is about 22,486 Mt. Fishing patterns in 2014 (Table 1) showed the domestic fleet has concentrated their effort within the MGA (accounting for 87% of the total effort). The Solomon Islands flagged (purse seine) vessels have fished predominantly on anchored FADs. The MGA is reserved exclusively for domestic vessels.

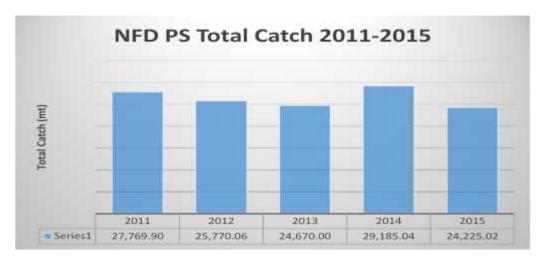


Figure 2. Purse seine total catch 2011-2015: source NFD company data.

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 2, 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 2015 is around 100%. Observer coverage for domestic purse seine fleet in 2015 was also 100%.

#### 4.3.2 Pole-and-line

The total catch estimate for the domestic pole-and-line fleet over the last 5 years (2011-2015) was 6,963.63 MT (Figure 3). The catch composition shows that skipjack tuna dominated the catch with an average of 83% followed by Yellowfin tuna with 17%. Only 0 .90% of bigeye tuna is caught in this fishery. In 2015 a total only 909 MT was caught. All domestic catches for the pole-and-line fleet are taken inside the MGA. Logsheet coverage for the domestic pole-and-line sector in 2015 was 100%. Observer coverage for domestic pole-and-lie fleet in 2015 was around 5%.

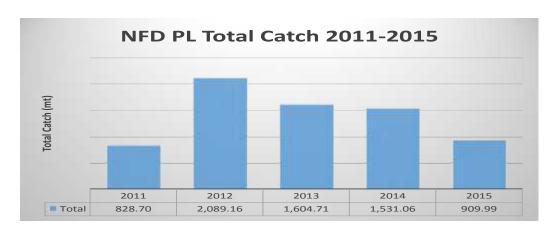


Figure 3. Pole and Line catches taken from the NFD records

#### 4.3.3 Locally based foreign long liners

A large number of foreign flagged longline fishing vessels have historically accessed 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 registered in Taiwan and China, with a small number registered in Belize, Fiji and Vanuatu. From 2016 charter arrangements ceased, with a system of bilateral arrangements operating through domestically based companies, under the proviso that product is landed into Solomon Island ports.

The annual catch estimates for the locally based foreign 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 2015 represent raised data. All catches by the foreign longline sector is caught inside EEZ, but with no access allowed for the MGA. Logsheet coverage for the locally based foreign longliners in 2015 is more than 50%. The longline fleet is now in the process of transferring to an e-logbook system. Solomon Islands is also in the process of strengthening its commitment to data accuracy with the introduction to e-monitoring.

#### 5. COASTAL STATE REPORTING.

Solomon Islands has 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 2015, a total of 92 purse seine vessels were licensed under these arrangements.

The bilateral access arrangements in 2015 with Korea, Japan and Taiwan have also included the licensing of 28 longline and 4 pole and line vessels. In 2015 there were no foreign flagged purse seiners fishing under charter arrangement to local companies.

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.

Solomon Islands use both input and output controls to manage its 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.

In addition, VDS data is also taken from the vessels that are licensed to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ. In 2015 (Figure 4) VDS days allocated to each of these purse seine fleets was Korea, 1600 days, Japan 317 days and Taiwan 473 days.

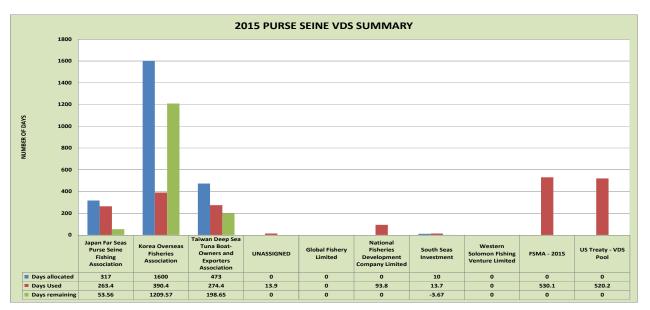


Figure 4: Days allocated and used by foreign distant water vessels, domestic and other agreements in 2015.

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 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. A similar fishing pattern was shown by the Japanese fleet.

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.

#### 6. Socio-economic factors.

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 in 2015. 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 in 2015. The tuna fisheries have 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. In 2015a total of 7,592019 kg of frozen tuna were exported to the overseas market by NFD and SSI which is valued at SBD 113,0415,70. Further information are provided in the table below.

**Table 2.** 2015 tuna export by Solomon Islands fishing companies.

2015 Tuna export by Fishing Company								
NFD								
Fronzen	Fronzen PS & LL Tuna by Destination							
Destination	Qty ( KG )	Value (SBD)						
Japan	2,798,007	43,729,776						
Thailand	1,672,585	25,554,900						
American Samoa	236,534	3,548,010						
Taiwan	205,319	3,066,385						
Korea	173,350	2,686,497						
Philipines	133,283	2,085,498						
Vietnam	146,768	2,218,779						
Indonesia	122,520	1,556,911						
Srilanka	121,592	1,889,067						
fiji	97,531	1,462,965						
Total	5,707,489	87,798,788						
	SSI							
Fronzen	LL Tuna by De	stination						
Destination	Qty ( KG )	Value (SBD)						
China	960,851	10,488,858						
Jaspan	662,776	10,759,300						
American Samoa	143,817	2,158,072						
Taiwan	90,949	1,406,067						
Thailand	26,137	403,485						
Total	1,884,530	25,215,782						
		113,014,570						

#### 7. Disposal of catch.

SolTuna and NFD export most of their product to the European Markets. Cold storage facilities at Noro have enabled them to export frozen catches and the recent set up of its loining facilities has 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 retain most of their 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 companies.

#### 8. Onshore developments.

The country currently has only 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 plant employs more than 1,500 workers. There are 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 have been earmarked for three other three sites for a number of years; Noro, Bina harbour and Suava Bay. These three development projects have been very slow to take off following initial consultations that had taken place. Recent change in Government however has placed renewed effort to prioritise the fisheries development initiatives. In 2016 The Bina Harbour Development project is now being supported to progress, under the leadership of MFMR in partnership with other sectors in SIG.

#### 9. Future Prospects of the fishery

The current Government prioritisation of fisheries development is noteworthy. Through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine resources (MFMR) the future prospect of the fishery looks remarkably rewarding if fully implemented. The government has major plans for the future development of the tuna industry in Solomon Islands and tangible support to facilitating the onshore development at Bina is a good example. 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 and address the crippling unemployment rate in the country.

#### 10. Status of tuna fishery data collection systems

#### 10.1 Logsheet 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

expected to be 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 (2017 onwards) will be monitored by FIMS, with e-logs rolled out over a period of two years.

TUFMAN 2 was installed in Solomon Islands in May 2016 and past data from TUFMAN is slowly being migrated into it.

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

#### **10.2 Observer programme**

The Solomon Islands national observer programme was first established in the late 1980s. By 2015, the observer staff comprised more than 101 observers with fully functional observer trainers and observer de briefers. The number of observers is set to be maintained at 101 observers.

A total of 341 observer trips were made in 2015, which 300 trips made on foreign boats and 25 trips on the domestic boats and 16 on locally based foreign vessels The observer's trips recorded by gear indicated that 335 trips were made on the purse seine fleets, 6 trips on the long line fleets and no trips on the pole-and-line fleet. 88% of these are ROP trips, 7% are NON ROP trips and <sup>1</sup>5% of a MIX of NON ROP and ROP trips. Observer coverage on purse seine vessels is at 100%, whilst observer coverage on longliners remains under 5%.

#### 10.3 Port sampling programme

The port sampling programme in Honiara and Noro was suspended in February 2015 and has remained dormant since.

#### 10.4 Unloading's/Transhipment

The Solomon Islands designated transhipment ports are, Noro Port in the Western part of Solomon Islands, Tulagi and Honiara Port. Solomon Islands have 2 unloading ports one in Noro and one at the Solfish facilities in Honiara. These are mainly used by longline vessels. Honiara port is one of the hotspots for transhipment activities for most of the foreign fleets, especially for the Korean and Taiwanese fleets. The transhipments in Honiara port are dominated by the purse seine vessels.

Transhipment reports for previous years have been recorded in excel spreadsheet. The TUFMAN 2 was installed for Solomon Islands in May 2016; this will now enabled MFMR staff to begin updating all available records. The total transhipped catch in 2015 is shown in the table 2.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Overall 2015 coverage for vessels that are a mix of non ROP and ROP trip

Table 3. Total transhipped catch in Honiara port.

Species	Total Transshipped catch in Metric Tonnes
Yellow Fin	5,919.50
Skip Jack	29,562.45
Big Eye Tuna	213.3
Others	0
Total	35,695.25 Mt

This report can be viewed in **Attachment 1** which contains the Transhipment reporting requirements under CMM 09-06 paral1.

#### 11. Research activities covering target and non-target species

Research activities covering target and non-target species is an area that has not being well attended to in the Solomon Islands. More needs to be done to support biological studies, stock assessment, biomass surveys, oceanography and other ecological studies.

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

- Transhipment report for Honiara port and in areas within Solomon Islands national jurisdiction.

1		iomara port and in areas within S			
A	Offloaded				
		Total catch by species offloaded by purse seine vessels transshipping at Honiara Port			
		Species	Total Transhipped catch in Metric Tonnes		
		Yellow Fin	5,919.5		
		Skip Jack	29,562.45		
		Big Eye Tuna	213.3		
		Others	0		
		Total	35,695.25 Mt		
В	Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction;	Honiara port. No transhipment was noted to have occurred beyond areas of national jurisdiction.			
С	Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;		ucted in Honiara port which is within were no transhipments noted to have on area.		
D	Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;	convention Area, According	oniara port were caught within the g to all transhipping vessels catch oted to be outside of the convention		
Е	Species;		Purse Seiners are, SKJ, YFT, and		
F	Product form; and	All of the species transhipped	are all in frozen product.		
G	Fishing gear used	The fishing gear used was purse seine vessels. A total of 58 Purse Seiners do transhipment activities in Honiara port.			
2					
A	Received:	Total of 17 carrier vessels received catches from purse seine fishing vessels in Honiara port in 2015.			
		Carrier Vessels	Total Transshipped catch in Metric Tonnes		

		Euro Star	950	
		Fortuner Reefer	2215	
		Frio Antartic	3850	
		Houta Maru	2795	
		Hua Fu 107		
			570	
		Lake Glory	3936.25	
		Lake Success	1270	
		Ocean Jin	961	
		Mononok	2191	
		Lake Win	2415	
		Viva 106	2310	
		Oceanus	2697	
		Pharostar	2645	
		Salt Lake	2600	
		Sanwan fontaine	985	
		Sunflower 7	695	
		Torah	2610	
		TOTAL (MT)	35,695.25 Mt	
В	Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped areas of national jurisdiction;	No Transhipment was conducted beyond areas of national jurisdictions		
С	Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;			
D	Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; and	All catch were caught inside the convention Area and were all in frozen form.		
E	Fishing gear.	Purse Seiner and Carrier Vessels.		

### **ATTACHEMENT 2**

## Yellow highlights are revised information provided during TCC12

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

CMM	Description	Response
Reference		z coponso
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 Convention Area south of 15°S.	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 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 2015
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 10f each CCM's	CMM 2009-03 is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its vessels fish 20°South of the convention area.

CMM	Description	Response
Reference		_
	annual report. Initially, this information will be provided in the template provided at Annex 2 for the period 2000-2009 and then updated annually.  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 2009-06 [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 guidelines at Annex II. In doing so, CCMs shall take all reasonable steps to validate and where possible, correct information received from vessels undertaking transhipment 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, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction; c. transhipped 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 at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped heyond areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped heyond areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped heyond	The information for CMM 09-06, Para II (ANNEX II) had been provided in the WCPFC Annual Report Part 1. Please refer to Attachment 1

CMM Reference	Description	Response
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 <b>20</b> °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	This CMM is not applicable to Solomon Island as it's vessels did not fish south of 20°S, However a report concerning the key shark species catch statistics can be sighted in the Annual report part1.
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 cetacean's interaction with Solomon Islands Purse seine flagged vessels during 2015. Thus no records of cetaceans interactions inserted into the annual report part 1
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 report this information to the WCPFC in Part 1 of their Annual Reports.  Commencing in reports that cover activities post-1 January	According to logsheet data, no data were found for 2015  An estimated 2 oceanic white tip shark were taken

	2014	by purse seine vessels and both were released alive.
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 recorded instance where whale shark had been encircled during in 2015
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 observer's data, there were no bird interactions during 2015.
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 1.075 metric tonnes of Silky Shark individuals were caught within the convention area in 2015. These species were discarded as unwanted species and these are all dead when they are discarded.  Refer to table 4 of the Annual Report part 1.
		An estimated 1,050 silky sharks were caught from purse seine vessels; all were discarded/released. An estimated 65 silky shark were released alive.
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	CCMs are expected to include in Annual Report Part 1 their reported longline observer coverage for the 2014 calendar year.	Observer coverage for 2015 for longliner is way below the 5% expected coverage. Records show that there were only 6 trips made on longline vessels. Further information is in the Annual Report Part 1.

#### CDS and Mass Balance Reconciliation Trial

(WCPFC 12 decision, para 532)

#### WCPFC12 Summary Report para 532

The Commission accepted TCC11's recommendations with the Secretariat's proposed modifications to the 2016 Mass Balance Reconciliation tasking and adopted the report of the CDS-IWG (WCPFC12-2015-19c) and the 2016 CDS-IWG work plan (Attachment T).

## **Excerpt from WCPFC12 Summary Report Attachment T** The CDS-IWG agreed to

1. Recommend that CCMs are encouraged to include in Annual Report Part 1, in standardized format, the information outlined in DP03 Table 1 and Table 2. For the purposes of the trial, CCMs are encouraged where available to include these tables (the information outlined in DP03 Table 1 and Table 2) related to the 2013 calendar year in their 2016 Annual Report Part 1 (so that there is at least one common year that can be the basis of the first trial MBR).

Table 1 - Minimum requirements for Disposal of Species (Export and Domestis Solomon Islands will not

Solomon Islands will not report on this CMM due to non-availability of .data/ information's

#### Requirement

Flag CCM

Catch Location (CCM EEZ or WCPFC HS area)

Destination (Domestic or Country)

Gear Code

Net weight (processed) kg

Estimated whole weight

Table 2 - Receipt and Redistribution of Species (re-export and re-imports, trans be considered as either export or import)

#### Requirement

Export year

Export CCM or Domestic

Import CCM

Harvest year

Gear code

Net weight (processed) kg

Estimated whole weight

#### CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4

CCMs shall report annually to the Commission the annual catch levels taken by each of their fishing vessels that has taken South Pacific albacore, as well as the number of vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore, in the Convention area south of 20°S. Catch by vessel shall be reported according to the following species groups: albacore tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, swordfish, other billfish, and sharks. Initially this information will be provided for the period 2006-2014 and then updated annually. CCMs are encouraged to provide data from periods prior to these dates.

CMM 2010-05 is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its vessels fish 20°South of the convention area.