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-11
Rev 2 (4 Dec 2016)

KIRIBATI

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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KIRIBATI

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 2xxx	[YES]
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions.	

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

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
KIRIBATI

1. Abstract/Summary

Tuna fishery in Kiribati is made up of national and foreign fishing fleets that are licensed to fish in Kiribati waters. Domestically, Kiribati has small scale artisanal vessels, which are made up of local small skiffs with 15-40 horse-power engines that target skipjack and small yellowfin tuna for domestic consumption.

However, there are also major gear types that were used for commercial fishing for tuna in Kiribati waters. These are foreign but locally operated purse-seiners and pole and liner which mainly target skipjack and yellowfin tuna. Long lining was also employed by foreign fleets that target bigeye tuna. The artisanal fishermen used trolling and hand lining to catch shallower tuna species like skipjack and yellow fin.

Kiribati's have also domestic vessels that fished for tuna within the WCPFC area. In 2015 Kiribati operated a total of 21 purse seine vessels, 21 long liners and one pole and liner as Kiribati-flagged and Chartered Vessels.

Tuna remain the most important resources to Kiribati and for that reason the sustainable development and management of the resource is very vital for the Country.

2. Background

Kiribati Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is located in the Western Central Pacific Ocean, with 33 islands and covering approximately 3.5 million km² of ocean within 167°W–146°E and 8°N–14°S. It is made up of three groups of islands the Gilbert region in the west, the Phoenix region in the center and the Line Islands in the east.

There are four tuna species that are commercially fished by foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish by the Government. These include skipjack tuna, K*atsuwonus pelamis*; albacore tuna, *Thunnus alalunga*; yellowfin tuna (YFT), *T. albacores*; and big eye tuna (BET), *T. obesus*.

Kiribati does not have the capacity to harvest its own tuna resource therefore engaged in join-ventured fishing operation with other foreign fishing companies that can provide that opportunity but most importantly the arrangement was considered to increase share from the harvesting of tuna.

The artisanal fishery is also part of the tuna fishery in Kiribati which comprises of local fishermen employing small skiffs or crafts, usually less than 7 meters with 15-

40 horse-power engines. Such fishery catches a certain portion of the tuna resource mainly for local consumption and extra catches often sold locally. The artisanal fishermen used vertical hand-lining and trolling to harvest tuna within the vicinity of the islands of Kiribati. The estimated number of artisanal boats is 4766 which is based on the result of the 2010 artisanal fisheries survey as no survey have been made since then.

3. Flag State Reporting

3.1. Kiribati Flagged Vessels

LONG LINE FLAG STATE

Year	00-50 GRT	51-200 GRT	201-500 GRT	500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2011	0	0	1	0	1
2012	0	0	1	3	4
2013	0	0	1	3	4
2014	0	0	1	5	6
2015	1	8	5	0	14

PURSE SEINE

Year	00-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2011	0	0	1	0	1
2012	0	0	1	3	4
2013	0	0	1	3	4
2014	0	0	1	5	6
2015	0	3	10	8	21

POLE AND LINE

Year	00-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2011	1	0	0	0	1
2012	1	0	0	0	1
2013	1	0	0	0	1
2014	1	0	0	0	1
2015	1	0	0	0	1

Table 1. Number of Kiribati registered vessels 2010-2014

The number of Kiribati's fleets active within the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission area increased since 2011. In 2015, Kiribati registered a total of 49 vessels (8 bunker vessels, 5 reefer carriers, 14 longline vessels, 1 pole and lines vessel and 21 purse-seine vessels). This is an increase from 44 in 2014 to 49 in 2015.

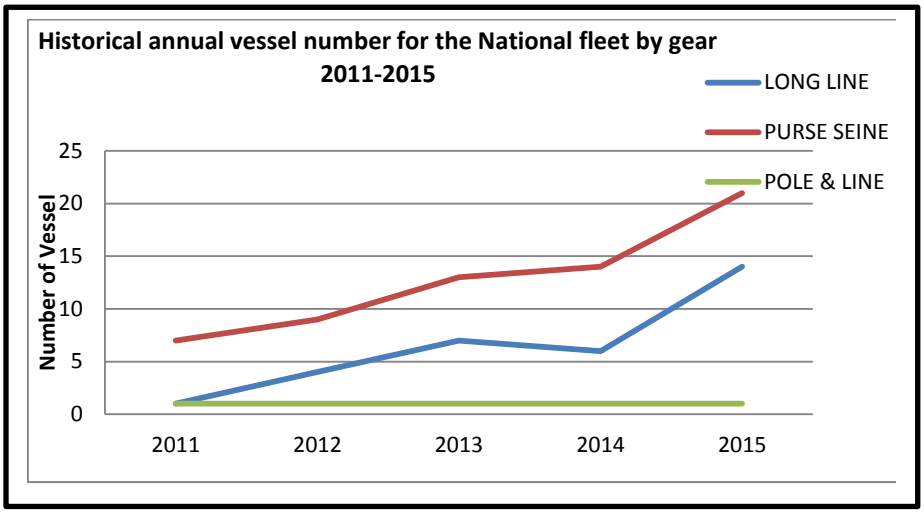
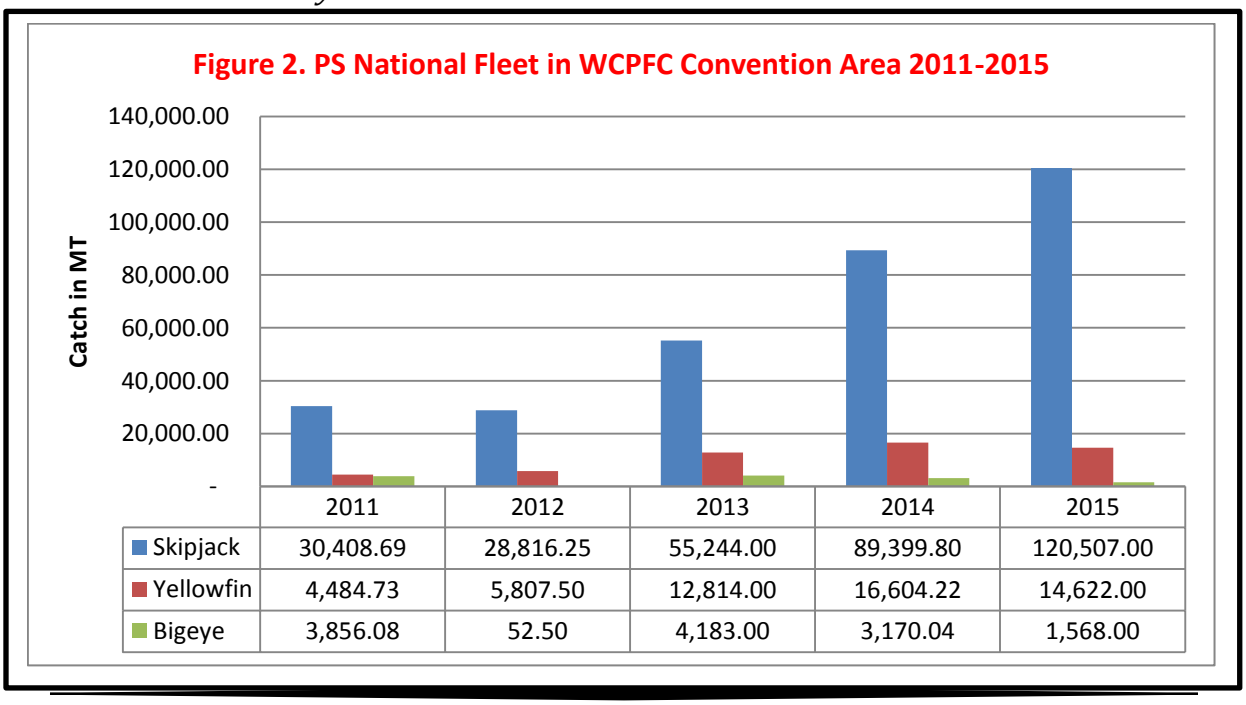


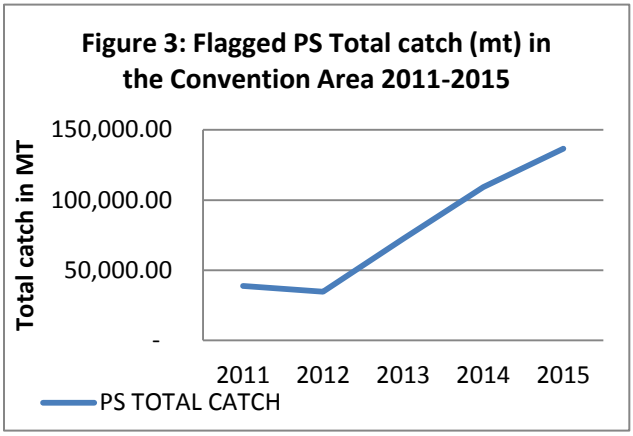
Figure 1: Historical number of vessels 2011-2015.

The total number of artisanal boats in 2015 was estimated to be 4766 which is based on the result of the 2010 artisanal survey.

3.2. Annual Catches in the WCPFC Convention Area

3.2.1. Purse Seine Fishery





Accordingly the catches for Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessel totaled up to 136,697.06 mt in 2014. The observed catches have improved by 25% when compared to the 2014 catches. The catches elevated in 2015 as a result of the increase in the number of Kiribati registered vessels. Refer to Figure 3 for trend in fishery effort.

The Kiribati's purse seine fleets concentrated their fishing effort mostly within Kiribati's EEZ of Kiribati with some effort expended in Tuvalu's, Marshalls, Cook Island and with little efforts in the high seas as depicted in Figure 3 below. The vessels did not fish at 10ºNorth and South of the Equator as reflected in the Figure 4.

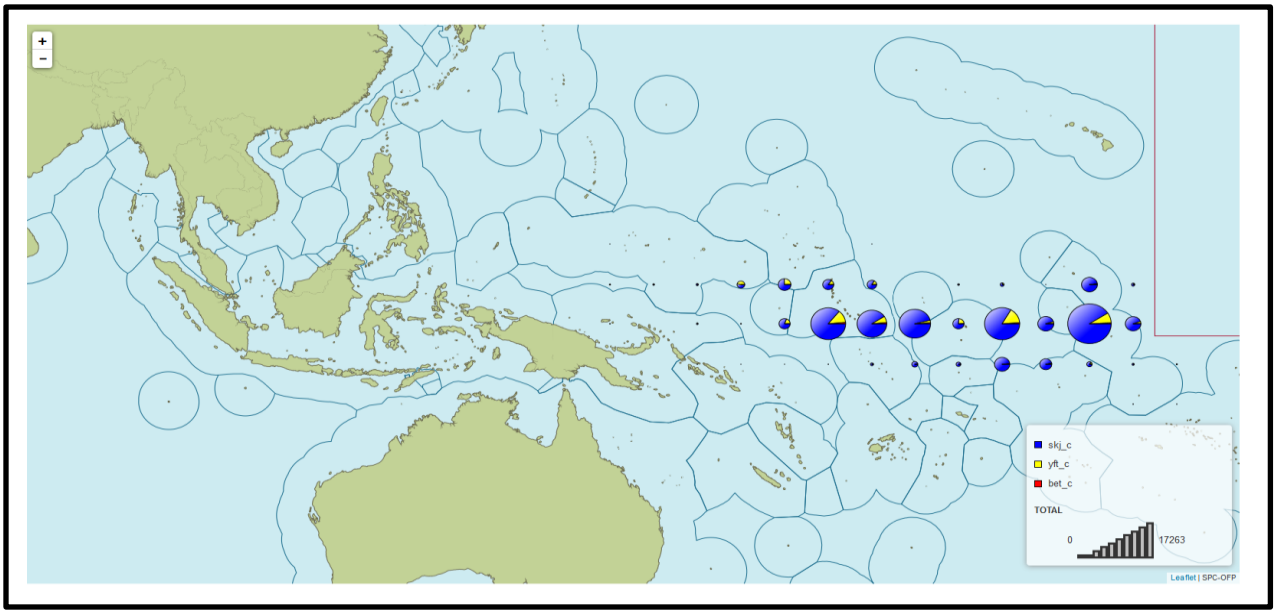
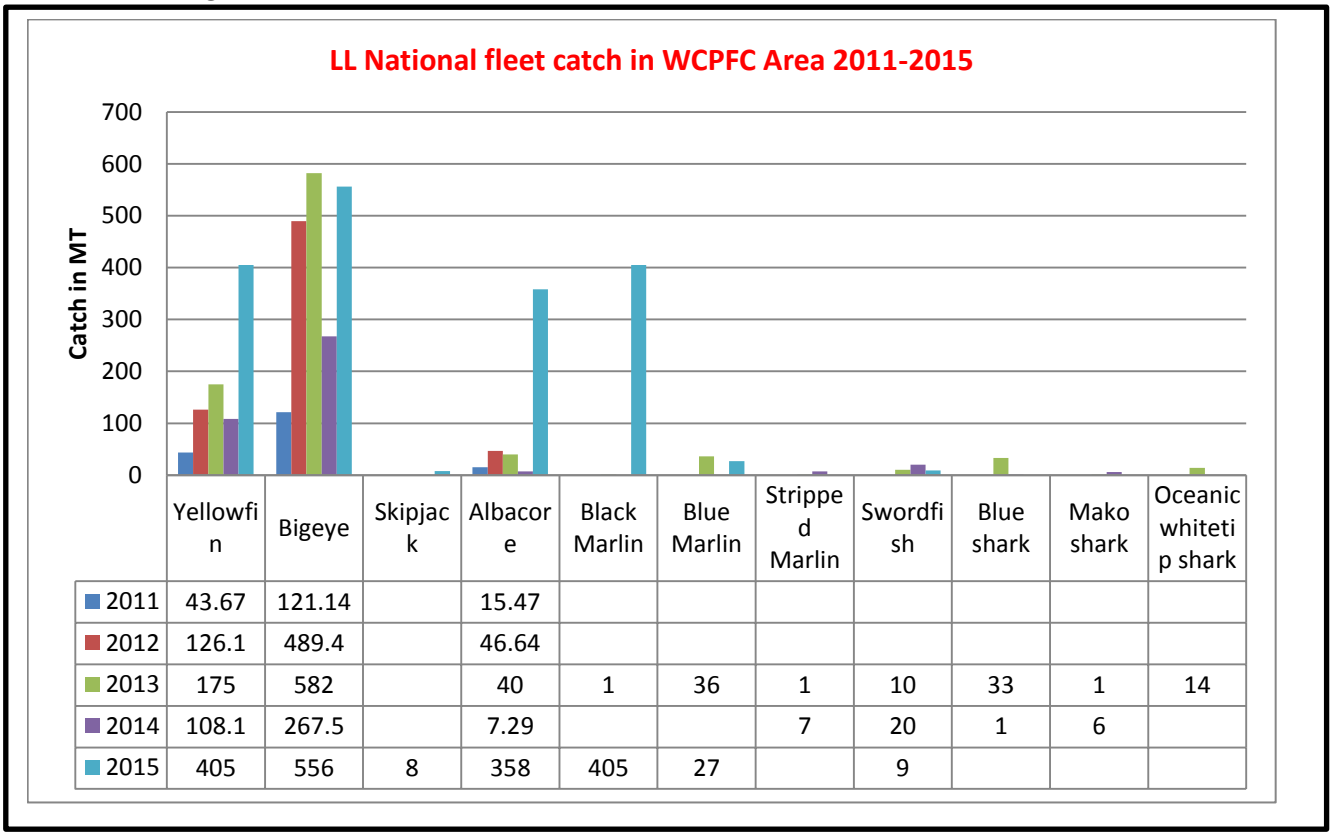


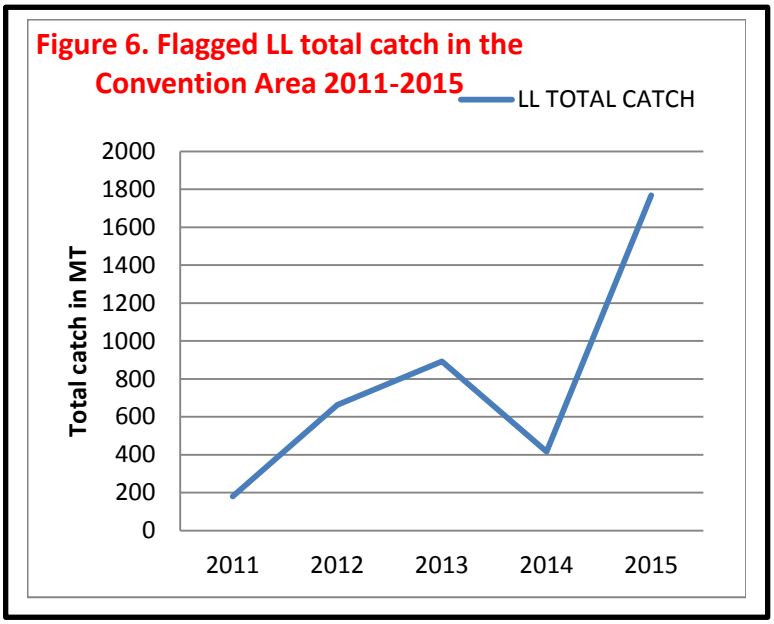
Figure 4. Spatial Distribution of Purse Seine Catch in the WCPFC Area 2015.

3.2.2. Long Line Fishery



	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Skipjack	Albacore	Black Marlin	Blue Marlin	Stripped Marlin	Swordfish	Blue shark	Mako shark	Oceanic whitetip shark
2011	43.67	121.14		15.47							
2012	126.1	489.4		46.64							
2013	175	582		40	1	36	1	10	33	1	14
2014	108.1	267.5		7.29			7	20	1	6	
2015	405	556	8	358	405	27		9			

Figure 5. National Long Line Catch (in MT) in the WCPFC area.



The number of Kiribati longline flagged vessels increased from 6 vessels in 2014 to 21 vessels in 2015 respectively. The 21 fleets registered under Kiribati actively fished in the WCPFC convention area and caught a total of 3,920 mt of tuna in 2014. Figure 6 shows fluctuations of tuna catches for Kiribati's longline fleets during the year 2011-2015. The reason for a rapid increase in catch levels is the inclusion of chartered boats to the national fisheries.

In terms of fishing grounds, in 2015, the long line national fleets concentrated their fishing effort mostly north of the Kiribati Group Islands and a few efforts expended in the south of the Line group.

The spatial distribution of catches for the 21 long line fleets actively fishing within the Convention Area 2015 was displayed in Figure 7.

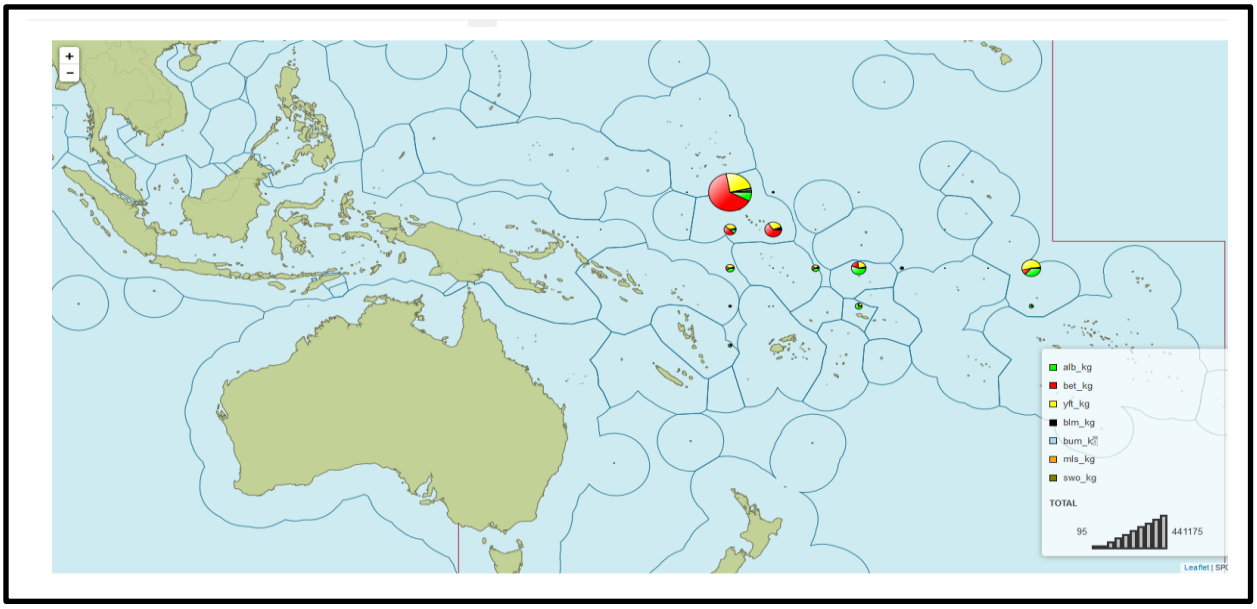


Figure 7. Spatial Distribution of Long Line Catch in the WCPFC Area 2015.

3.2.3. Pole and Line Fishery

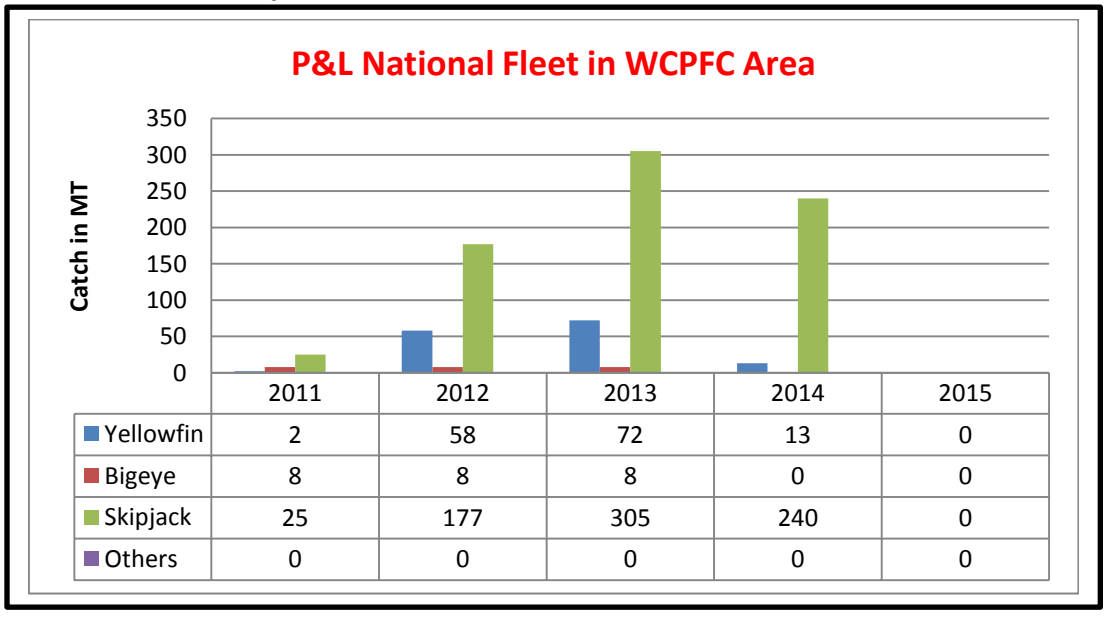


Figure 8. National Pole and Line Catch in the WCPFC area.

Kiribati has only 1 registered pole and line vessel, namely Akawa. This pole and line vessel was operated by the Spanish company, Intertun Ltd., but registered under Kiribati's flag. The vessel targeted only skipjack and yellowfin tuna mostly with little catch observed for the bigeye tuna. However, the vessel only operated in the month of January 2015 and was then de-registered from Kiribati. Also, it is confirmed that the vessel did not engage in any fishing activities in 2015.

4. Disposal of Catch

KI-PS flag and charter vessels unloading in Kiribati port

Port Name	SKJ	YFT	BET	MIX	Total	Type of product
Kiribati	41,110	3,904	1,035	20,212	66,261	frozen

KI-PS flag vessels unloading in other ports

Port Name	SKJ	YFT	BET	MIX	Total	Type of product
Funafuti	4,967	1,758	47	7,868	14,640	frozen
Honiara	135	120	-	565	820	frozen
Suva	700	39	1	-	740	frozen
Pohnpei	565	235	10	2,065	2,875	frozen
Majuro	-	-	-	730	730	frozen
Korea	-	-	-	750	750	frozen
Total	**6,367**	**2,152**	**58**	**11,978**	**20,555**	**frozen**

KI-LL flag vessels transhipment in Kiribati port (kg)

Port name	SKJ	YFT	BET	Oth	MIXED	Total	Type of product
Kiribati	-	1,366	1,609	40	-	3,015	frozen

Table 5. Transshipment activities of Kiribati Vessels 2015.

The above table represents the total transshipped catch at each port. For the purse seiners, the fleet is encouraged to transship in Kiribati designated ports and evidences of this is the 76% purse seine transshipment in Kiribati designated ports while the rest catches distributed to other major Pacific Islands port and Korea. For the long liners, there is very little transshipment data received except the domestic vessels offloading their catch to a local factory in Tarawa. For the pole and line fisheries, there were no catch recorded.

5. Onshore Developments

Kiribati has the inspiration to do onshore developments. In the year 2012, the Government of Kiribati, through the Fisheries Ministry, establishes a joint venture processing plant namely Kiribati Fish Limited which was based in Tarawa. Most catches from the company's vessels were processed at KFL onshore factory and were exported to the US and Japan international markets.

Kiribati will continue to look for other viable onshore developments in order to maximize its returns from tuna fisheries developments.

6. Future Prospects of the Fishery

The key priority area for Kiribati is to develop its Tuna Fishery in a sustainable manner which will be achieved by establishing of joint ventured (JV) fishing operation and fish processing plants with interested foreign companies. Kiribati through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development have established quite a number of joint venture fishing companies with its foreign fishing partners and operationalized a joint ventured tuna loining processing plant in Tarawa, Kiribati. Such arrangements intended to enable better returns from the harvesting of tuna resources.

7. Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

a. Logsheet Data Collection and Verification.

Log sheet submission from Kiribati's national fleets have improved but still not accomplished the required 100% coverage. It is anticipated that by 2016 or 2017, Kiribati will achieved near to or equal to 100% coverage logsheet data for all its national flagged vessels including those under the charter arrangement. Kiribati currently reviewing its internal process and to establish mechanisms that will ensure that all its national fleets fully complies with the entire Commission requirements that includes data submission.

Kiribati continued to have technical difficulty relating to default machines like fax, and internet connection which the office depend on to receives reports from national fleets like logsheet data and others.

b. Observer Programme

All Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessels including chartered vessels placed 100% observers' coverage in 2015.

Furthermore, the 5% observer coverage for Kiribati longline vessels has not been attained in 2015. The observer coverage was calculated by dividing the number of trips which is with observer placed onboard the vessels by the total number of fishing trips of the vessel conducted for one year period. Kiribati will continue to work with its fishing companies to ensure that the 5% required observer coverage for longline will be maintained in future.

c. Port Sampling Programme

Kiribati supports SPC's port sampling programme but due to the unavailability of required financial assistance, the programme ceased in November 2014. All data retrieved from port sampling activities by our national observers were sent to SPC.

8. Research Activities Covering Target and Non-target Species.

Kiribati is very supportive towards regional research activities such as tuna tagging. Through the continuous support of SPC, a national tag recovery officer (TRO) is based in the country to collect tagging information received from observers, and local fishermen.

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs[1]

9 March 2016

<table>
<tr><td>CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4</td><td>No KI vessels fish in this area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4</td><td>KI vessels did not fish in this area and not targeting striped marlin. (log sheet data)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</td><td>No KI vessels fish in this area, no catch data</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</td><td>Transhipment record for KI-flag vessels 2015
<table>
<tr><th>Offload</th><th>Receive</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>86, 819 mt
- All transhipment in port
- Caught inside the convention area
- for PS- SKJ, BET, YFT for LL - BET, YFT
- Frozen for PS and Fresh for LL
- PS and LL</td><td>2,280mt
- Transhipment in Convention area, IATTC and High Seas
- Caught inside convention area
- BET, YFT, BLM, SWO, ALB, BUM
- Frozen, whole, gutted and headed, gilled, gutted and tailed, gilled and gutted
- Reefer Carrier</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>128
- All transhipment in port
- Same as above
- PS and LL</td><td>24
- Transhipment in Convention area, IATTC and High Seas
- Same as above
- Reefer Carrier</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-05</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

[1] Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC12 (Dec 2015)

<table>
<tr><td>[South Pacific albacore], Para 4

Applies until Feb 2016 (see CMM 2015-02 below)</td><td>- KI vessels operate within the area but not targeting albacore.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Gear</th><th>Flag</th><th>Species</th><th>Numbers</th></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>KI</td><td>OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>KI</td><td>SILKY SHARK</td><td>88</td></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>KI</td><td>WHALE SHARK</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>91</td></tr>
<tr><td>LL</td><td>KI</td><td>BLUE SHARK</td><td>16</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 4</td><td>Based on observer data, there is no interaction with cetaceans in 2015.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3</td><td>An estimated 14 oceanic white tip shark were taken by purse seine vessels and all were released/discarded (2 of these were dead).

No oceanic white tip shark were taken by longline vessels.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06</td><td>Summary below based on observer data. Caught whale sharks were not retained.
<table>
<tr><th>Gear</th><th># of catch</th><th>weight (mt)</th></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>2</td><td>2.24</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2012-07 [Seabirds], Para 9 Applies until 1 Jan 2017 (see CMM 2015-03 below)</td><td>There is no interaction of sea bird.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3</td><td>An estimated 625 silky sharks were caught from purse seine vessels; all were discarded/released, except for observer reports of 3 individuals retained [currently being investigated]. An estimated 63 silky shark were</td></tr>
</table>

	released alive. No silky shark were taken by longline vessels.
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	The 5% observer coverage was not met in 2015.
CDS and Mass Balance Reconciliation Trial **(WCPFC 12 decision, para 532)**	
Commencing in reports that cover activities post-1 January 2016	
CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4	
Commencing in reports that cover activities post-1 January 2017	
CMM 2015-03 [Seabirds] Para 9	

CMM 2012-07 / CMM 2015-03: [Seabirds]

Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report related to seabird fishery interactions

The following tables should be included in the Part 1 country reports, summarising the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [*CCM*] [South of 30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N - 30°S[1]]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks) and mitigation types used by the fleet.

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate [2]
2006						
2007						
2008						
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						

[1] State North of 23°N, South of 30°S or 23°N - 30°S, for CCMs fishing in all areas provide separate tables for each;

[2] Provide as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Number of observed seabird captures in [*CCM*] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	**South of 30°S**	**North of 23°N**	**23°N - 30°S**	**Total**
E.g. Antipodean albatross				
E.g. Gibson's albatross				
E.g. Unidentified albatross				
E.g. Flesh footed shearwater				
E.g. Great winged petrel				
E.g. White chinned petrel				
E.g. Unidentified				
Total				