



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**Rarotonga, Cook Islands
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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
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ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016**



NAURU

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 10 th July 2017	[YES]
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ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016**



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 vessels is *katsuwonus pelamis* (*Skipjack*) and *thunnus albacares* (*Yellowfin*) which are intended for the foreign canneries.
- c. Most of the vessels are between 1001 to 1500 gross tonnage and are licensed either under a bilateral access agreement by Nauru, or under the FSM Arrangement or US Treaty, both of which involve licensing by regional administrators.
- d. One Long Line vessel was licensed for one trip in 2016.
- e. **Nauru does not have a commercial fishery of any kind under its flag or by charter arrangements active in the WCPFC convention area, and this was the case for entire year 2016.**
- f. The Artisanal Fishery consists of motorized skiffs and canoes which target tuna and coastal pelagic species that are generally free-school or aggregated around near-shore anchored FADs; the catches are entirely for subsistence, barter and local sale on a minor scale.

2. OFFSHORE CATCH ESTIMATES

The 3 major tuna species caught in Nauru's offshore fishery as in previous years are skipjack (*SKJ*), yellowfin (*YFT*) and bigeye (*BET*).

There was an increase of catches (*table 1*) in Nauru's EEZ in 2016 for these 3 species compared to 2015, with skipjack and yellowfin the most significant, although skipjack catch is still below 2013 and 2014 levels.

The average catch of these species for the past 5 years in the EEZ is skipjack at 98,500mt; yellowfin 19,300mt and bigeye at 3,400mt.

The catch trend shown below (*fig 1*) points there should be a further increase of catches for the coming years as indicated by the trend from 2012 to 2014 especially with skipjack and yellowfin species.

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

YEAR	SKJ (MT)	YFT (MT)	BET (MT)	TOTAL (MT)
2012	50,026	8,751	3,605	54,653
2013	139,011	17,825	2,261	113,160
2014	161,537	24,599	7,505	176,679
2015	53,244	14,550	1,079	68,873
2016	90,016	30,951	2,572	123,538

Table 1: Tuna catches in Nauru's EEZ by all DWFN fleets for the past 5 years. **Source:** Raised logsheet data collected by Nauru held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database (TUFMAN 2), SPC (2016 catches are provisional).

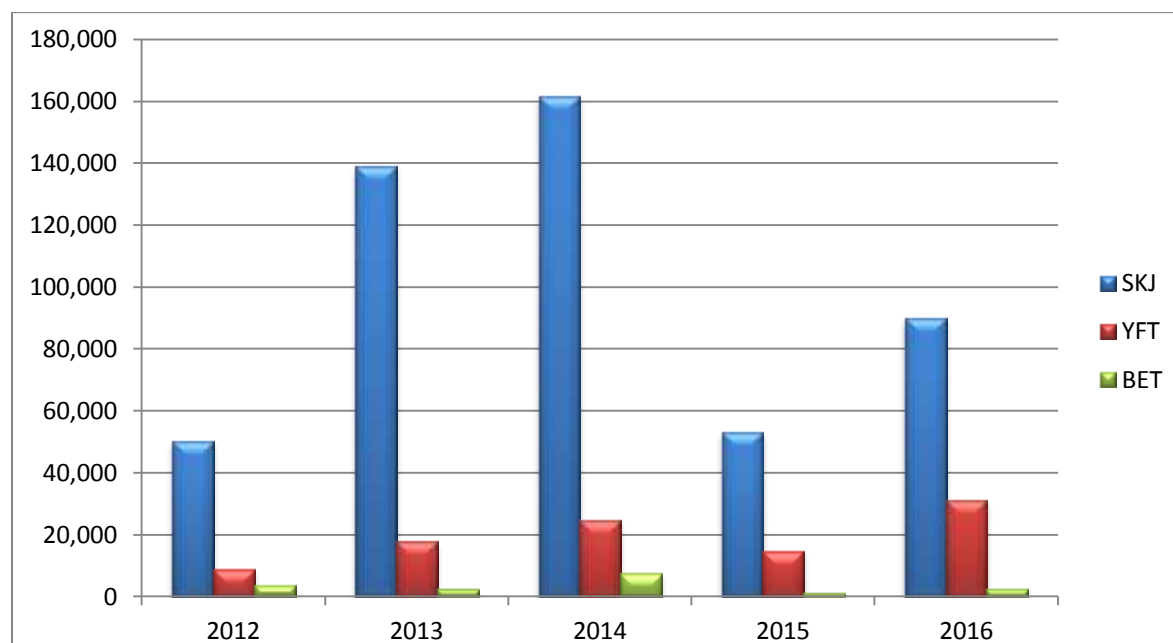


Figure 1: Trend of total catches over a 5 year period by foreign fleets fishing in Nauru's EEZ. **NOTE:** There was a significant reduction in catch for 2015 due to the migration of tuna away from the Nauru EEZ during a strong El Nino event.

3. FOREIGN FLEET and LICENSING STRUCTURE

In 2016, as from previous years, foreign vessels comprised the entire commercial fleet licensed to operate in Nauru's EEZ.

There were 220 fishing vessels (219 purse seines and 1 Longline) licensed by Nauru and 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 are detailed analysis of the fleets by flag and size. The majority (134) of the vessel's gross tonnage is within the 1001 -1500 category; 20 vessels between the 501 to 1000 GRT group, and 65 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	-	2	6	4
JAPAN (JP)	LL	1	1	-	-	-
JAPAN (JP)	PS	30	-	-	26	4
FSMA (KI)	PS	11	-	-	6	5
FSMA (FM)	PS	12	-	3	2	7
FSMA (MH)	PS	12	-	-	7	5
FSMA (PG)	PS	41	-	5	27	9
KOREA (KR)	PS	25	-	6	15	4
MARSHALLS	PS	5	-	-	5	-
TAIWAN (TW)	PS	29	-	4	23	2
UST (US)	PS	35	-	-	14	21
SUB REGIONAL (KI)	PS	7	-	-	3	4
TOTAL		220	1	20	134	65

Table.2: Bilateral and Multilateral Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed by Nauru in 2016.

SUPPORT VESSELS					
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
KOREA (TK)	7				7
TUVALU (TK)	1				1
COOKS (TK)	2				2
KIRIBATI (TK)	4				4
MARSHALLS (TK)	1				1
PANAMA (FC)	2				2
TOTAL	17				17

Table.3: Support Vessels (TK – Tanker; FC – Fish Carrier) Licensed to Nauru in 2016

4. ARTISANAL FLEET

Nauru's artisanal fleet is comprised of small skiffs and canoes that are owned and operated by local fishermen, who fish either for subsistence, barter or local sale at a small scale.

There are more than 130 active boats and canoes in Nauru and motorized skiffs (110) make up the bulk of the fleet.

Artisanal tuna data are collected through interviews of fishermen or boat owners by NFMRA coastal fisheries personnel at the two main landing sites; Gabab Channel and Anibare Community Boat Harbor.

The process of the data collection is; depending on the number of boats at each landing site on the day; half or a minimum of 5 boat are randomly chosen for survey by the officer assigned to each site.

YEAR	Artisanal Catches MT**			
	Yellowfin	Skipjack	Others	Total
2012	3.20	7.50	1.30	12.0
2013	16.20	2.73	4.81	23.7
2014*	NA	NA	NA	NA
2015	8.34	0.77	0.03	9.1
2016	22.3	2.7	0	25

Table 4: Source: TUFMAN 2 - Artisanal Coastal Fisheries survey of raised estimates based on FAD Fishing Canoe logbooks. *No data is available for 2014. ** Note that this is the sampled catch, not the total catch. The proportion of artisanal trips sampled is unknown.

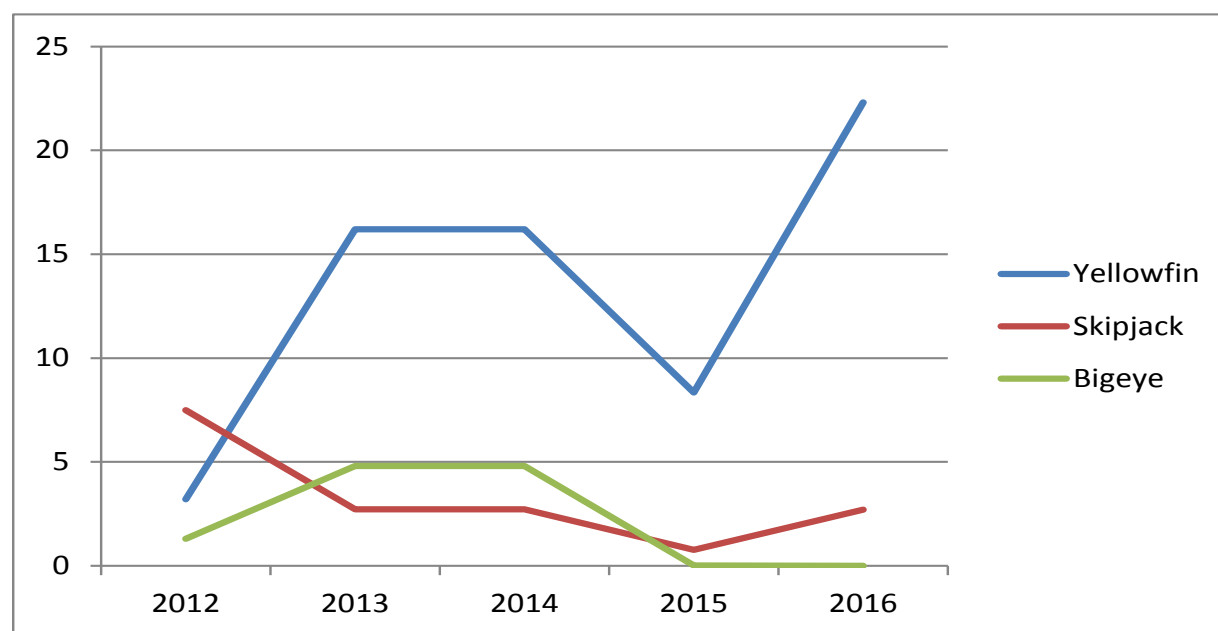


Figure 2: 5 year trend for total Artisanal catches (MT) in Nauru from 2012 - 2016. *2014 trend is based on the previous year's data due to the unavailability of data for that year.

5. SOCIOECONOMIC

- The revenue derived from foreign tuna fishing access continues to provide the bulk of non-aid income for Nauru's state budget, thereby financing much of the public infrastructure that supports the general population.
- Nauru's Observer Program (*NROB*) is a notable outcome of the offshore fishing industry.
 - There are forty (40) Pre-PIRFO trained observers; two (2) certified observers were added during the year; six (6) trainee PIRFO De-briefers (Part A), and one (1) PIRFO Certified De-briefer, Assessor and Observer Trainer.
 - The Nauru Observer program debriefed 20 National and 31 sub-regional (PNA) programs.
 - The NROB has 40 observers accessible for purse seine gear only and 1 observer available for all gear types. The NROB program has 16 EPO Cross endorsed **MSC** certified observers and one biological sampler.
 - The Nauru Observer Program number of trips for 2016 is listed below:-

➤ National		17
➤ FFA (UST)	-	0
➤ PNA	-	31
- 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 ongoing priority still the development of its human capital through varies regional capacity building workshops, attachments and trainings.
- Nauru currently uses the "TUFMAN 2" database system and the "TAILS" app developed by the SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Program for collecting data.
- Nauru highly commends the constant determination of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Oceanic Fisheries Programme (*SPC/OFP*) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (*FFA*) in their ongoing efforts in developing efficient data collecting, monitoring and management tools and also for their assistance and support through the essential capacity building programs.

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 2016
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 Longline fleet

Table.5