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

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SOLOMON ISLANDS



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES
COMMISSION**

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS 2016

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 2017	YES DATA HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION.
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Contents

1. ABSTRACT/SUMMARY	2
2. TABULAR ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION (NATIONAL FLEET)	3
2.1 Annual catch estimates	3
2.2 Historical information on National Fleet.	3
2.3 Size category	4
2.4 Catch and Effort distributions	5
2.5 Species of special interest	6
2.6 Non-target, associated and dependent species	7
2.7 Estimated annual coverage	8
3. BACKGROUND	9
4. FLAG STATE REPORTING	10
4.1 Domestic Fleet - Solomon Islands Flagged vessels	10
4.2 Catch Estimates and distribution	10
4.2.1 Purse Seine	10
4.2.2 Pole-and-line	12
5. COASTAL STATE REPORTING	13
5.1 Foreign Fishing vessels	13
5.1.1 Purse seiners	13
5.1.2 Foreign Locally based long liners	14
Table 11. Foreign Locally Based Longline size category	14
5.1.3 Foreign Pole and Line	15
6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS	16
7. DISPOSAL OF CATCH	16
8. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT	16
9. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY	17
10. STATUS OF THE FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS	17
10.1 Data collection and verification	17
10.1 Port sampling programme	17
10.2 Transshipment	17
11. RESEARCH	17
ATTACHMENT I	18
ATTACHEMENT II	21

1. ABSTRACT/SUMMARY

The Solomon Islands tuna fishery comprises purse-seine, longline and pole and line sectors. The purse seine sector is a mix of both domestic¹ and foreign vessels. The longline fleet are all foreign flagged vessels where a number of these vessels are locally based. The pole and line fleet are also a mix of both domestic and foreign vessels. The domestic pole and line vessel fished exclusively in Solomon Islands EEZ. The distant water fleets access Solomon Islands EEZ under several types of arrangements including: (i) Bilateral fishing access arrangements between the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the governments of bilateral partners; (ii) vessels operating under Parties to the Nauru agreement (PNA); (iii) vessels operating under a cross-party, multi-zone access pool. Vessels from other Pacific Island nations fish under the FSMA and (iv) vessels under the Multilateral treaty between FFA member countries and the United States of America².

In 2016, Solomon Islands licensed 203 locally flagged or foreign, locally based fishing vessels to fish in the Solomon Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). These vessels included 10 National Fleet³ (flagged) (8 purse seiners and 2 pole and line) vessels and a foreign fleet from DWFN of 87 purse seiners and 91 foreign longliners (locally based). In addition, Solomon Islands under its bilateral arrangements with Japan, also licensed 11 Japanese pole and line vessels and 4 light seine vessels under trial arrangements with China. There are also a number of foreign support fleets which comprises of 16 carrier vessels, 14 bunkers.

The total catch estimate in 2016 by Solomon Islands flagged purse seine and pole and line vessels was 55,303.13 MT. The catch consisted of 35,299.88 MT of skipjack, 18,430.81 MT of yellowfin and 1573 MT of bigeye tuna, most of which were caught in the inner Main Group Archipelago (MGA) and within Solomon Islands EEZ. The purse seine fleet had an estimated effort of 1449 fishing days with a total of 1656 sea days and the pole and line fleet effort with an estimated 270 Sea days. There was an increase to the average annual catch by Solomon Islands flagged vessels due to the addition of three large purse seiners from SSI joining the flagged National Fleet.

2016 total annual estimated catch by foreign purse seine vessels fishing under PNA and FSMA arrangements in Solomon waters was 53,224.00 MT. These catch estimates consists of 35278 MT of skipjack, 17499MT of yellowfin, 425 MT of bigeye and 22 MT of albacore. The estimates for foreign locally based longline vessel was 8123 MT which consist of 3648 MT of yellowfin, 2489 MT of albacore, 858 MT of bigeye tuna and 1129 MT of other species. These foreign locally based longliners had an estimated effort of 2569 sea days. These estimates are for fishing by these foreign vessels in the Solomon Islands EEZ only.

The overall catch by all active fishing vessels within the Solomon Islands EEZ for 2016 was about 116,650.69 MT. This was dominated by skipjack (61%), followed by 34% of yellowfin 2% of bigeye tuna, 2% of albacore and 1% of other species.

Solomon Islands strives towards building its fishing industry. In 2016 one onshore development project was prioritised following a feasibility study of suitable sites. The Solomon Islands MFMR was given the mandate to be the lead agency on progressing the onshore development, including land settlement in 2016.

¹ Domestic vessels – Vessels flagged in Solomon Islands. These vessels represent Solomon Islands NATIONAL FLEET.

² Multilateral US treaty is not covered in this report.

2. TABULAR ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION (NATIONAL FLEET)

2.1 Annual catch estimates

Table 1. (a) Annual catch and effort estimate for Solomon Islands national fleets (flagged) purse seine vessel by primary species and their discards for the WCPFC Convention area from 2012 – 2016. Note new reporting format has been adopted for 2016 as required by WCPFC.

NATIONAL FLEET - Purse seine - Primary species catches in WCPFC Area raised with VMS							
Category	Species	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
		Raised Catch (MT)	Raised Catch (MT)	Raised Catch (MT)	Raised Catch (MT)	Retained estimate (MT)	Discards estimates (MT)
1. TUN	ALB				0		0
1. TUN	BET	753.33234	1716.3468	736.24155	242.53047	1573.429122	7.500428496
1. TUN	PBF				0		0
1. TUN	SKJ	26063.283	31340.794	22053.051	16639.161	34837.88591	921.0912856
1. TUN	YFT	17254.545	10232.2	25814.867	12013.148	18339.81496	91.91914281
						54751.13	1020.510857

Table 1. (b) Annual catch and effort estimate for Solomon Islands flagged national fleets: pole and line vessel by primary species and their discards for the WCPFC Convention area from 2012 – 2016.

NATIONAL FLEET - Pole and Line - Primary species in the WCPFC Convention area				
Year	Skipjack Catch (MT)	Yellowfin Catch (MT)	Bigeye Catch (MT)	TOTAL
2012	1877	258	0	2135
2013	1389	277	0	1666
2014	1238	293	1	1532
2015	688	222	0	910
2016	462	91	0	553

2.2 Historical information on National Fleet.

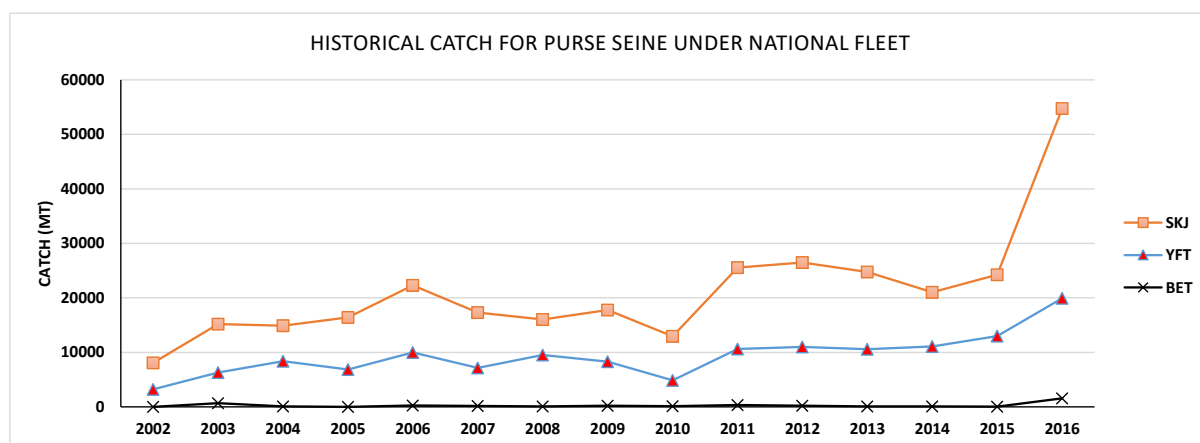


Figure 1 (a). Historical annual catch for purse seiners under national fleets by primary species for the WCPFC Convention area.

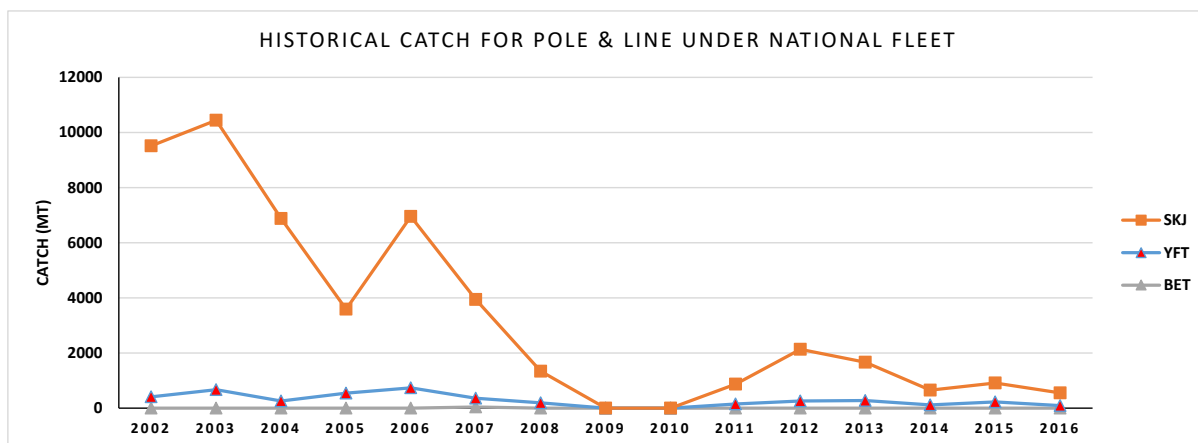


Figure 1 (b). Historical annual catch for pole and line under national fleet by primary species for the WCPFC Convention area.

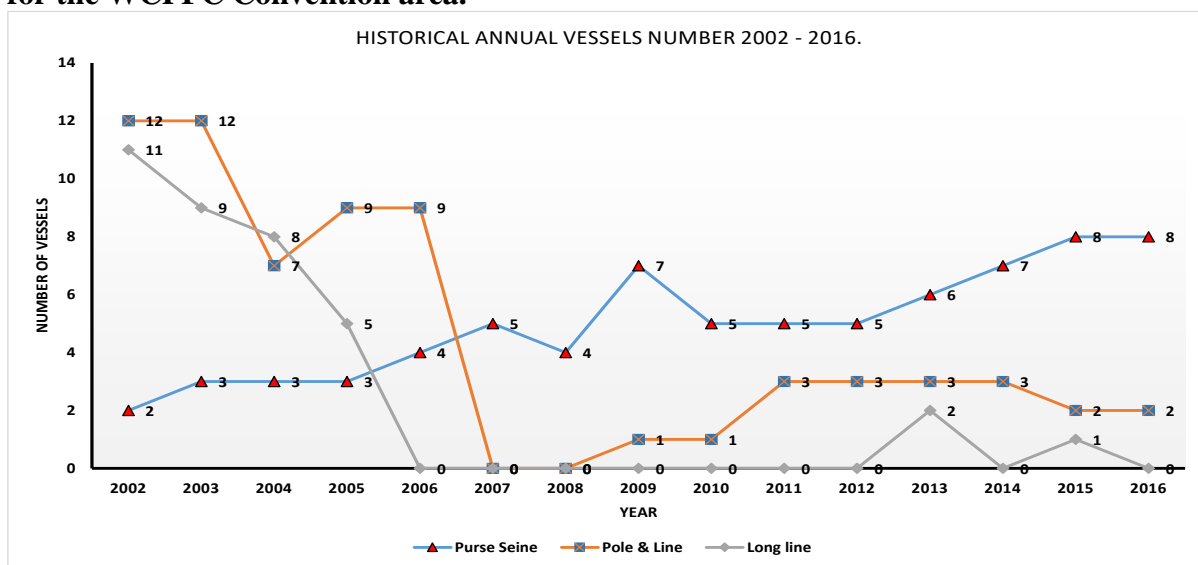


Figure 2. Historical annual number of vessels in the national fleet by gear for the WCPFC Convention area.

2.3 Size category

Table 2. Number of vessels under national fleet by gear type and size category (GRT) active in the WCPFC Convention area during 2012 -2016. ⁴

NATIONAL FLEET- Number of vessels Size category active in the WCPFC Convention area.									
YEAR	PURSE SEINE				TOTAL	POLE AND LINE			TOTAL
	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500 + GRT		0-50 GRT	51-150 GRT	150 +	
2012		5			5			3	3
2013		5	2		7			3	3
2014		5			5			2	2
2015		5	3		8			2	2
2016		5	3		8			2	2

⁴ Longline vessels are not include in table 2 as no vessel of this gear type are flagged locally.

2.4 Catch and Effort distributions

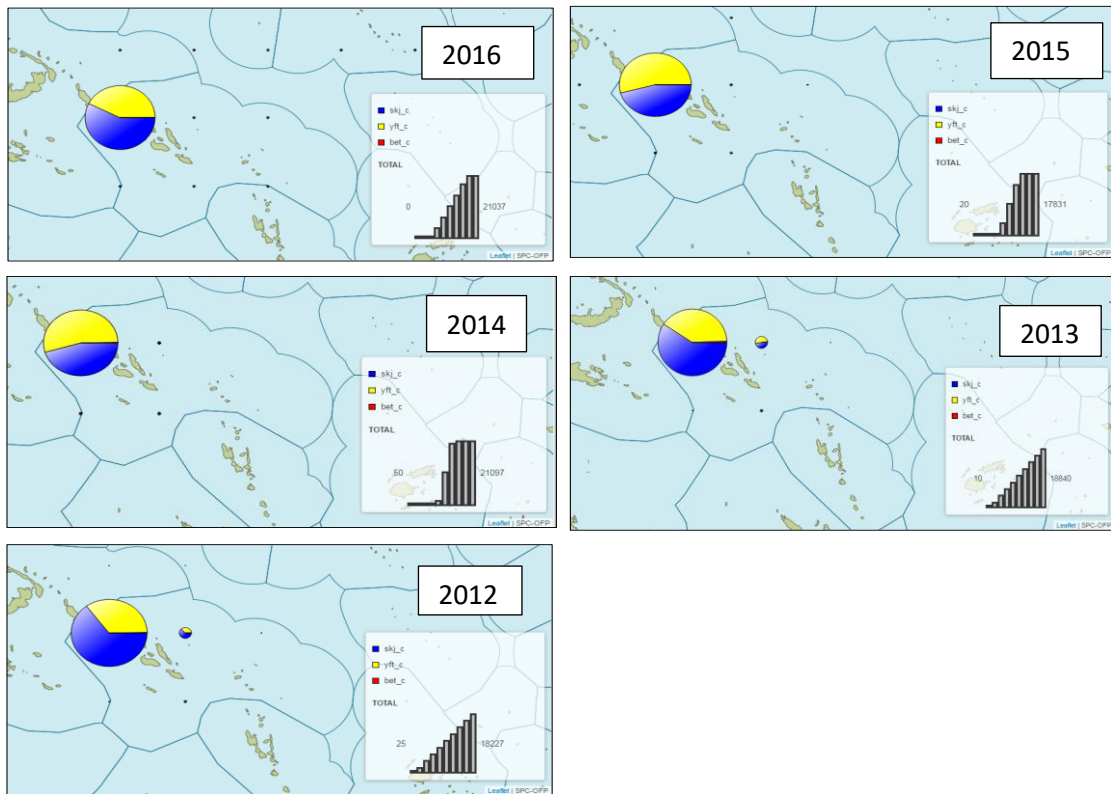


Figure 3 Annual catch distribution by purse seine national fleets active in the WCPFC Convention area for 2012- 2016. Yellow = yellowfin, blue = skipjack.

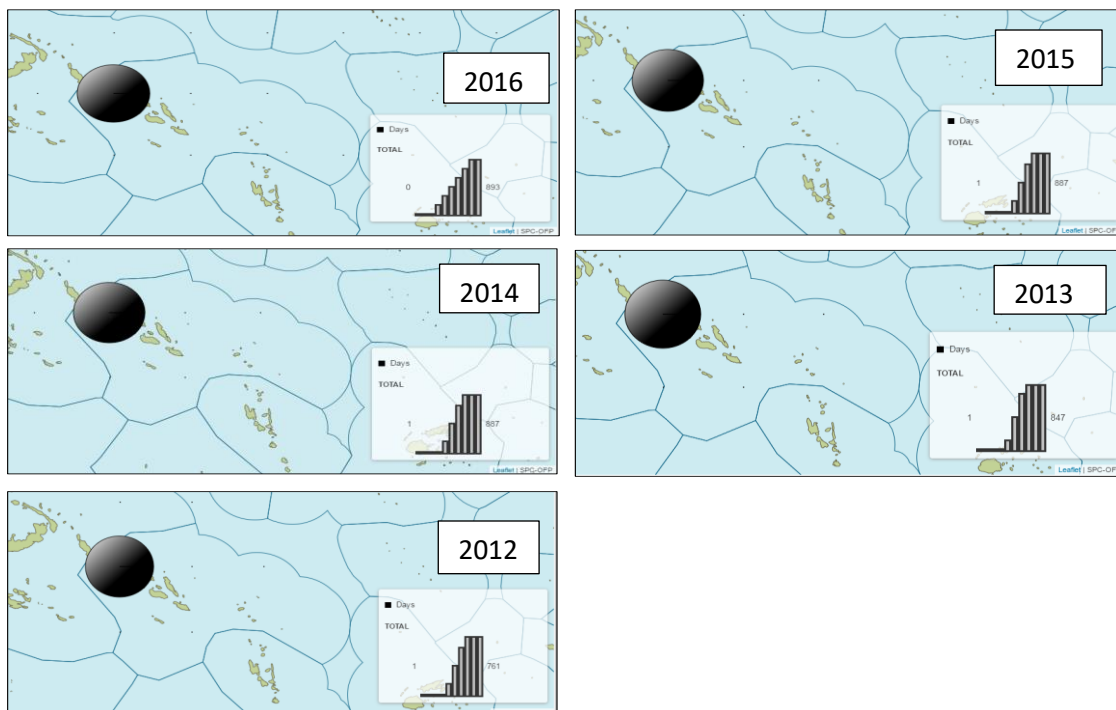


Figure 3 (a) Annual effort distribution by purse seine national fleet active in the WCPFC Convention area for 2012- 2016.

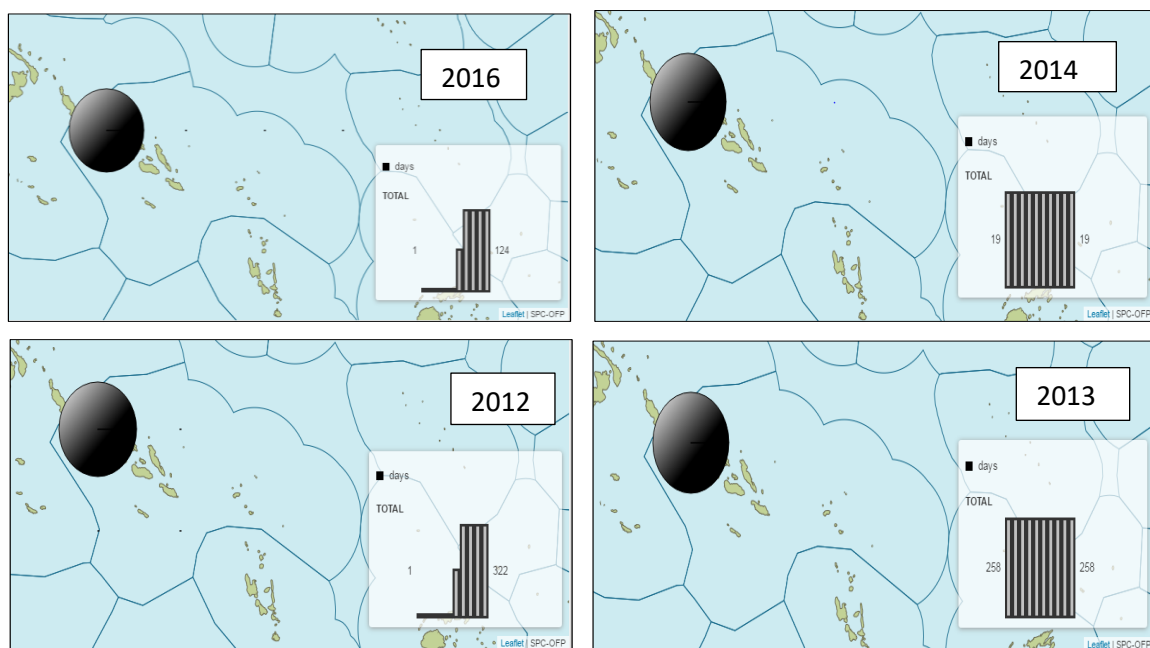


Figure 3 (b). Annual effort distribution by pole and line national fleet active in the WCPFC convention area.

2.5 Species of special interest

Table 3. Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest by the purse seine national fleet in the WCPFC Convention area for 2012 -2016.

Category	Species	2012			2013			2014			2015			2016		
		No.	No. Alive	No. Dead	No.	No. Alive	No. Dead	No.	No. Alive	No. Dead	No.	No. Alive	No. Dead	No.	No. Alive	No. Dead
BIRDS	CAPE PIGEON	5	0	1												
BIRDS	BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	1	0	1												
BIRDS	WHITE-CHINNED PETREL	1	0	1												
MARINE MAMMALS	ROUGH TOOTHED DOLPHIN	2	0	0												
MARINE MAMMALS	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	15	0	0												
MARINE MAMMALS	DOLPHIN, FRASER'S										1	0	0			
MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE													1	0	0
MARINE REPTILES	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW FAO)	27	3	23	1	0	0	2	0	0						
MARINE REPTILES	LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	5	2	3							1	0	0	1	0	0
MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	2	0	2				2	0	0	2	0	0			
MARINE REPTILES	HAWKSBILL TURTLE	1	1	0							1	0	0			
WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	1	0	0										2	0	0

2.6 Non-target, associated and dependent species

Table 4. Annual estimated catches of non – target, associated and dependent species including sharks by purse seine national fleet from 2010 – 2016 in the WCPFC Convention area. (Sources: Dorado and TUBs reports). Note new reporting format has been adopted for 2016 as required by WCPFC.

PURSE SEINE - NATIONAL FLEET - Annual estimates of non-target, associated and depended species includins sharks. Raised Method - observers kgs/TRIP raised to total trips										
Species Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	ACE method #1 Discards estimates (MT)	Observers TUBs report Total No. Discard	Status
AMBERJACK / GIANT YELLOWTAIL	0.41	0	0	0	0	0	0			
BARRACUDA (S. JELLO)	0.27	0	0	0	0	0	0			
BARRACUDAS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.38	0	0.138	0.14	0.043	0	0			
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK			0.1			0.09	0.1			
BLACK MARLIN	0.45	1.444	1.05	0.33	0.07	0.1	0.7	9.129999978		
BLACKTIP SHARK						6.89	0.2			
BLUE MARLIN	0.35	1.08	2.37	0.48	5.18	0.6	1.4	1.319999967		
BRONZE WHALER SHARK					3.04	0.06	3.2			
BULLET TUNA	0.1		0.075	0	0	0	0			
CRESTFISH/UNICORNFISH					0.002	0	0			
Devil Manta Ray (Mobula nei)	0.75	0.2	0.73	0.1	2.265	0.34	0.1			
DRIFT FISH	0.1						0			
DRUMMER (BLUE CHUB)		0.036	0.042	0.021			0			
FILEFISH (UNICORN LEATHERJACKET)						0.086	0			
FRIGATE TUNA			5.873	2.36	10.156		10.8			
Giant manta		0.05	1.27		1.27	0.86	1.1			
GOLDEN TREVALLY			0.002				0			
GREAT BARRACUDA	0.35	0.498	1.537	0.215	1.029	1.518	0			
GREAT HAMMERHEAD			0.04				0			
HAPUKU (HAPUKU WRECKFISH)	0	0	0.01				0			
KAWAKAWA		0.02		0.55	13.785	4.51	3.2			
LONGSNOUTED LANCETFISH	0.35						0			
MACKEREL SCAD / SABA	3.06	0.262	0.746	2.691	2.762	2.582	1.9			
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	2.29	0.592	7.791	0.215	9.938	13.657	0			
MANTA RAYS (UNIDENTIFIED)			1.015		0.37	0.2	0			
OCEAN SUNFISH	0	0.05	0.2		2.9	0.5	0			
OCEAN TRIGGERFISH (SPOTTED)	3.93	1.763	2.383	1.63	8.195	2.609	0.9			
OCEANIC TRIGGERFISH (UNIDENTIFIED)	2.39	0.395	1.333		0.794		0.5			
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK		0.05	0.075		0.03	0.01	0	0.3	3	Dead
PELAGIC STING-RAY			0.225		0.005	0.001	0			
RAINBOW RUNNER	15.249	16.519	65.854	7.874	58.003	70.155	39.2			
RAINBOW SARDINES NEI	0	0	0.05				0			
ROUDI ESCOLAR	0.15	0					0			
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	0.5	0			0.138		0			
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD						0.05	0	0		
SHARP TAIL MOLA	0	0	0.1		0.06	0.09	0			
SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	0.15		2.13	0.12			0			
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH					0.03	0.05	0			
SHORTSNOUTED LANCETFISH	0.65						0			
SICKLE POMFRET		1.011					0			
SILKY SHARK	1.623	6.384	10.288		30.313	7.346	31.4	128.326	689	?
SLIMY MACKEREL	0	0	0.001				0			
SNAKE MACKEREL	0.5			1089.126			0			
SOAPFISH	0.87						0			
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	1.12	0.28	0.26	0.3	0.2			
SWORDFISH	0	0	0.2				0	9.9		
TRIPLE-TAIL			0.03		0.071		0			
WAHOO	4.62	0.332	0.577	0.101	0.572	0.506	0			
SPANISH MACKEREL (NARROW-BARRED)				0.03			0			
BIGEYE TREVALLY				0.01			0			

2.7 Estimated annual coverage

Table 5. Estimated annual coverage of operational catch and effort data, port sampling and observers data for the national fleet by gear from 2012 – 2016. (Legend categories of coverage- HIGH – 80% - 100%, MEDIUM – 50% - 79% and LOW 0% - 49%).

GEAR	FLEET	YEAR	CATCH/EFFORT DATA COVERAGE	PORT SAMPLING COVERAGE	OBSERVERS DATA COVERAGE
Purse seine	Solomon Island national fleet	2012	MEDIUM	Nil	HIGH
		2013	MEDIUM	Nil	HIGH
		2014	LOW	Nil	HIGH
		2015	HIGH	Nil	HIGH
		2016	MEDIUM	Nil	HIGH
Pole and Line	Solomon Island national fleet	2012	HIGH	Nil	LOW
		2013	HIGH	Nil	LOW
		2014	HIGH	Nil	LOW
		2015	HIGH	Nil	LOW
		2016	HIGH	Nil	LOW

3. BACKGROUND

Solomon Islands tuna fisheries make a significant contribution to the economy of the country, through government revenue, employments and exports. The Solomon Islands Government depends to a great degree on this fishery as it brings significant revenues through access fees, taxes, duties and levies. The tuna industry in Solomon Islands employ more than 2000 employees. The artisanal fishery for tuna is very small in comparison to the commercial sector, but is a significant contributor to the food security and social wellbeing of Solomon Islanders.

Management tools applied to ensure that fisheries are effectively managed in Solomon Islands include the *Fisheries Management Act 2015*, National Fisheries Regulations 2017 and the Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plan (TMDP) 2014. The objective of the 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. 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, to ensure that Solomon Islands receives maximum economic and social benefits from the sustainable use of its fisheries and marine resources. Preparation of the TMDP is provided for under the *Fisheries Management Act 2015* and it is consistent with the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2035, under its overarching theme, 'To Build Better Lives for All Solomon Islanders'. The NDS strategic objectives relevant to fisheries management and development include: '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 Solomon Islands tuna fishery is composed of purse-seine, longline and pole and line sectors. 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 3997 VDS Fishing Days for 2016 is approximately 8.7% of the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for all PNA parties. Fishing effort for tuna taken in the Main Group Archipelago (MGA) does not form part of the PNA TAE system. Solomon Islands, however, has adopted compatible vessel day management measures with a limit set for archipelagic access of 1,000 Vessel Days.

Foreign longline vessels are now managed under the VDS. Under the VDS, foreign longliners have to be locally based with their own arrangement between vessel owners and locally registered companies. This arrangement started in 2016 whereby strict conditions apply to unloading of catches locally. Additional control and management measures are incorporated in their license conditions.

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. Currently Solomon Islands still maintain 2 pole and line vessels under its national fleet.

4. FLAG STATE REPORTING

This section reports activities by the national fleet in waters of the WCPFC convention area including Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The national fleet is composed of domestic purse seine and pole and line vessels which are flagged in Solomon Islands and are operated by domestic companies.

4.1 Domestic Fleet - Solomon Islands Flagged vessels.

The domestic fleet in 2016 comprised Solomon Islands flagged purse seine and pole-and-line vessels. These vessels fished in the Solomon Islands EEZ. Purse seine vessels less than 50 meters in length and with a fish carrying capacity less than 500 MT were permitted to fish within the main archipelagic waters. . 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, by supporting the operation of locally based fish cannery in Noro and providing direct employment for both skilled and unskilled workforce in the cannery. In 2016 the domestic fleet comprised of 5- 500 MT small seiners 3- 1000 Plus MT purse seiners and 2 pole-and-line vessels.

The catch information provided in this report are catches from logsheet data. Catch data were extracted from the TUFMAN 2 (Dorado). These catches were verified by fishing company's records.

Table 6. Number of Solomon Islands flagged vessels by gear.

GEAR TYPE	NUMBER OF VESSEL BY YEAR				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
LONGLINE	0	2	0	1	0
PURSE SEINE	5	6	7	8	8
POLE & LINE	3	3	3	2	2
TOTAL	8	11	10	11	10

4.2 Catch Estimates and distribution

4.2.1 Purse Seine

In 2016 the catch estimate for the five NFD domestic purse seine was 24,460.00 MT. 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 under 500 GRT. Catch estimates for the domestic purse seine vessels operated by the Southern Seas Investment (SSI) was estimated to be 7385.14 MT and with a total discarded catch of 123.099 MT. According to these information's provided by these respective companies, the total catch (**Unraised**) was estimated at **31845.14 MT**.

NFD PS TOTAL CATCH 2012 - 2016

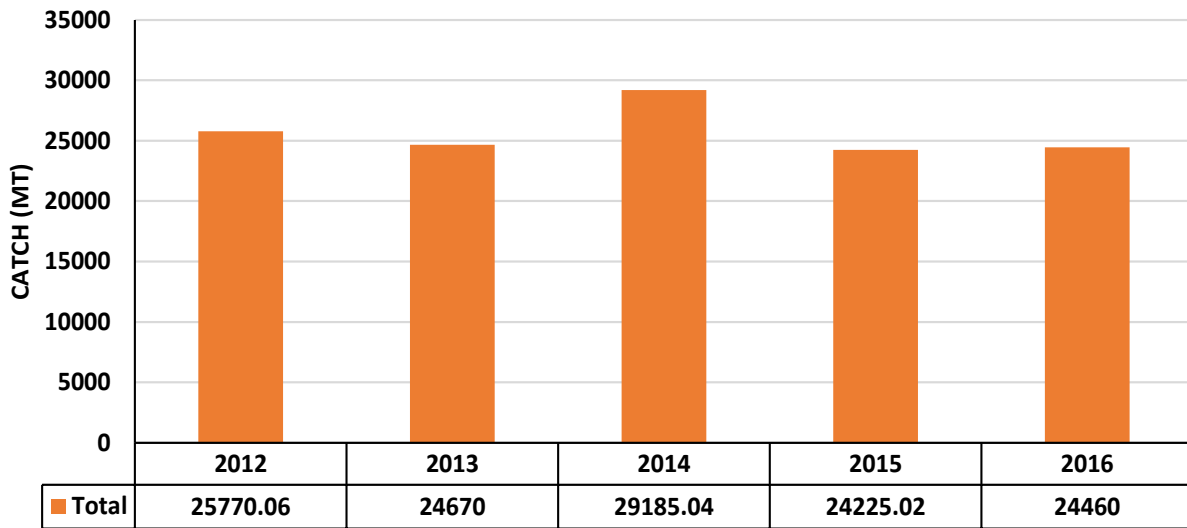


Figure 4. NFD domestic purse seine total catch from 2012-2016.⁵

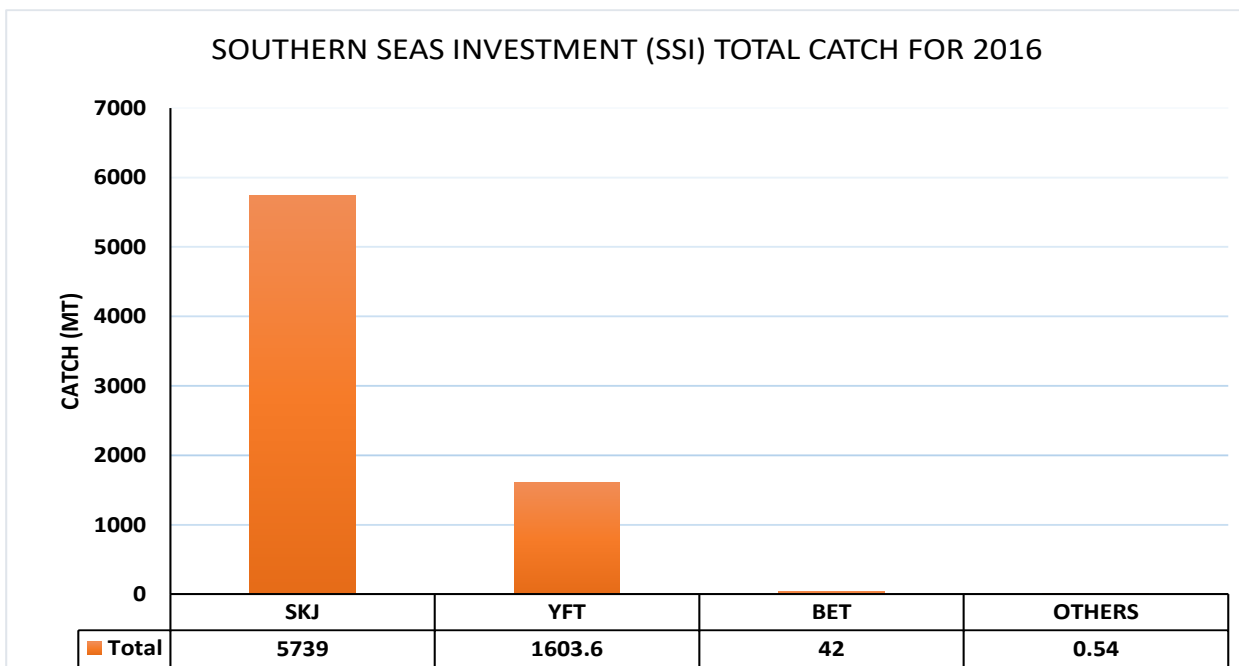


Figure 5. Southern Seas Investment domestic Purse seine total catch by species for 2016.⁶

Table 7. Total discards for SSI purse seiners in 2016.⁷

Total Discards for SSI purse seine in 2016 (MT)			
Tuna	Billfish	Shark	others
102.85	1.692	2.14	16.417

⁵Data provided by company (NFD)

⁶ Data provided by Southern Seas Investment (SSI)

⁷(SSI) Data.

4.2.2 Pole-and-line

The total catch estimate (unraised) for the domestic pole-and-line fleet in 2016 was 553.55MT (Figure 6). The catch composition shows that skipjack tuna dominated the catch with an average of 83% followed by yellowfin tuna with 17%. Bigeye tuna makes up only 0.90% of his fishery. All catches by the domestic pole-and-line fleet are taken inside the MGA. Logsheet coverage for the domestic pole-and-line sector in 2016 was 100%. Observer coverage for domestic pole-and-line fleet in 2016 was around 24 %.

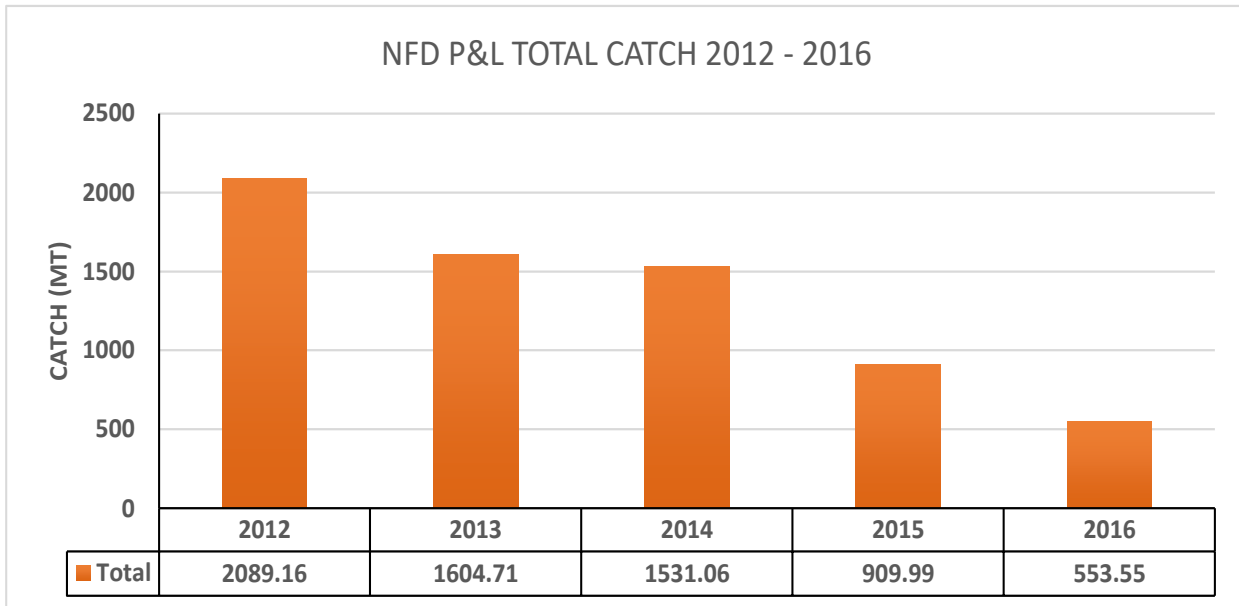


Figure 6. Pole and line catch from 2012 – 2016 provide by NFD records

5. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

This section reports activities in national waters by foreign fleets including foreign locally based longline, foreign longline, foreign purse seine and foreign pole and line vessels under bilateral arrangements between Solomon Islands and respective flag states. Activities of all vessels reported in this section are from inside Solomon Islands EEZ.

5.1 Foreign Fishing vessels

Solomon Islands has a history of having fishing access arrangements with distant water fishing nations (DWFN) like Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The DWFNs are operating in the Solomon Islands under bilateral arrangements. These arrangements included the licensing of purse seine, longline and pole and line vessels to have fishing access to the Solomon Islands EEZ. These foreign fishing vessels are permitted to fish in waters outside of 30 nautical miles from the baseline, excluding the archipelagic waters. Apart from this arrangement, DWFN purse seine vessels also have access through other arrangements such as the FSMA and Parties to the Nauru Agreements (PNA).

Table 8. Number of foreign fishing vessels licenced to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ in 2016.

FLAG	Number of Vessel by Gear Type				
	PS	LL	PL	LS	TOTAL
JAPAN	30	1	11		42
KOREA	24	1			25
TAIWAN	24	36			60
CHINA		42		4	46
FIJI		11			11
KIRIBATI	9				9
TOTAL	87	91	11	4	193

5.1.1 Purse seiners

2016 catches for foreign purse seiners under the bilateral arrangements within the Solomon Islands EEZ are shown in Table 9. These vessels also gain access to the WCPFC area through other arrangements such as the FSMA and PNA arrangements. The total estimated catch for these foreign purse seiner was estimated to be around **53,224 MT**

Table 9. Total estimated catches by foreign purse seine vessels active in Solomon Islands EEZ in 2016. JP (Japan); KR (Korea); TW (Taiwan)

2016 TOTAL CATCHES BY FOREIGN PURSE SEINERS							
FLAG	Number of vessel	YEAR	Catch /species (MT)				TOTAL
			SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	
JP	30	2016	3909	4462	23	2	8396
KR	24	2016	26746	10249	245	20	37260
TW	24	2016	4623	2788	157	0	7568
TOTAL			35278	17499	425	22	53224

5.1.2 Foreign Locally based long liners

Foreign locally based longline vessels are vessels that have own arrangements with locally based companies. This arrangement started in 2016 where strict conditions now apply in unloading their catches locally. Additional control and management measures are incorporated in their license conditions. 82 vessels were actively fishing in 2016, which comprises of 36 Taiwanese, 40 Chinese and 6 Fijian registered (flagged) vessels. Their total estimated was **8123 MT**. Generally, the level of longline fishing effort is higher towards the southern part of the EEZ. (Figure 7). The Taiwanese flagged vessels concentrated more in the south eastern side of the EEZ.

Table 10. Catch estimates for Foreign Locally based Longline Fleet in 2016.

2016 CATCHES BY FOREIGN LOCALLY BASED LONGLINER											
FLAG	Year	Vessels	Trips	Sea Days	Fishing Days	100s of Hooks	ALB Catch (MT)	BET Catch (MT)	YFT Catch (MT)	OTHER Catch (MT)	TOTAL Catch (MT)
TW	2016	36	141	7677	7407	190465	1286	680	2985	957	5907
CN	2016	40	85	2376	2183	64048	1148	126	529	146	1949
FJ	2016	6	9	336	332	9215	55	52	134	26	267
Total by species							2489	858	3648	1129	8123

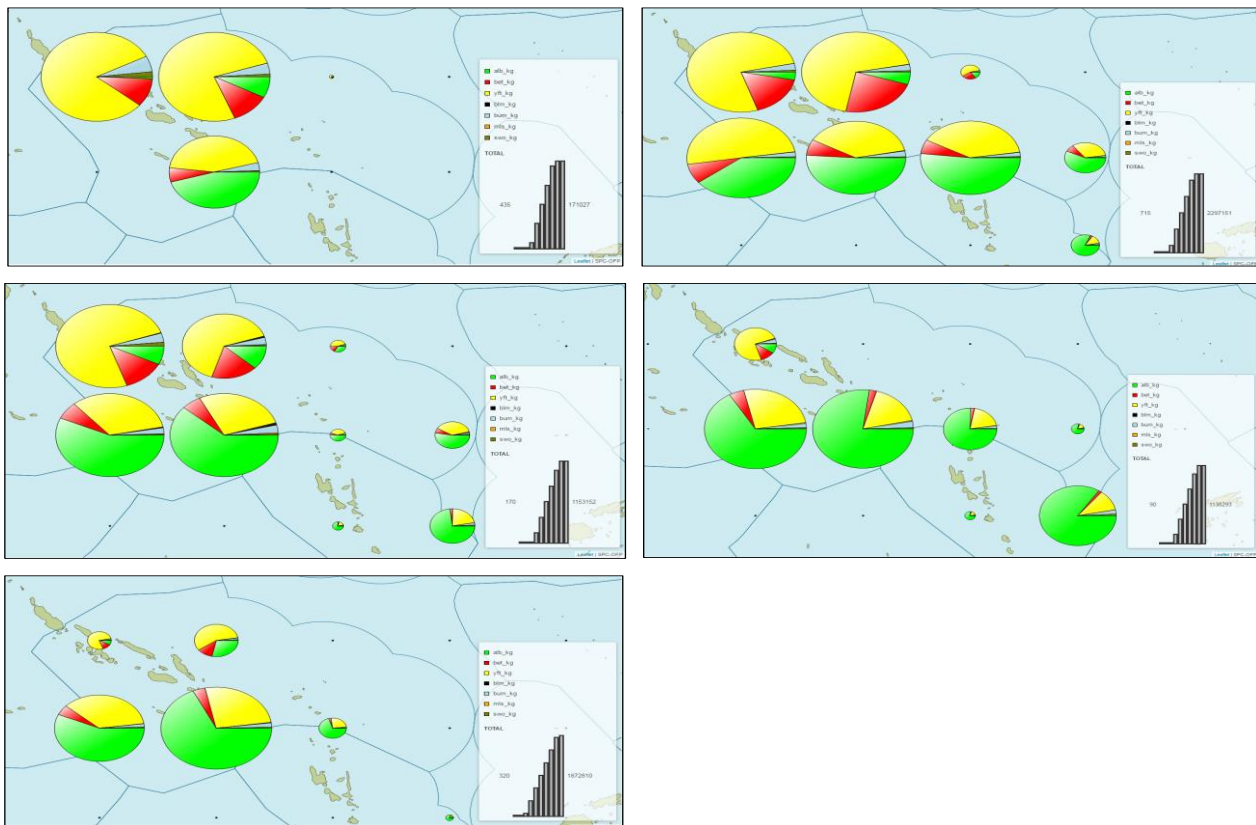


Figure 7. Catch and effort distribution for Foreign locally based Longliners in 2012 – 2016.

Table 11. Foreign Locally Based Longline size category.

LONGLINE					
YEAR	0-50 GRT	51-200 GRT	201-500 GRT	500 +	TOTAL
2012	0	125	48	0	382
2013	2	141	66	0	389
2014	0	122	58	0	327
2015	0	86	61	0	147
2016	0	60	31	0	91

Table 12. Annual estimated catches of non – target, associated and dependent species including sharks by Locally based Foreign Longline vessels from 2010 – 2016 in the WCPFC Convention area. Sources - Dorado and TUBs reports.

FOREIGN LONGLINE - Locally based -Annual Estimated catches of non-target,associated and dependent species, including sharks							
Species Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt
BARRACUDAS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.975	0.15	0.994	2.294	9.878	2.145	1.417
BLACK MARLIN	40.66	48.739	20.97	29.033	73.275	11.458	0.148
BLACKFIN BARRACUDA	0.128	0	0	0.195	0	0	0
BLACKTIP REEF SHARK	1.52	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLACKTIP SHARK	2.808	0	1.44	0	0	0	0
Black Snapper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.04
BLUE MARLIN	331.968	443.93	336.824	241.717	419.79	62.193	36.518
BLUE SHARK	3.62	0.11	0	2.673	17.908	16.491	6.527
BLUEFIN TUNA (ATLANTA)	0	0	0	0.3	0.906	0	0
BLUEFIN TUNA (PACIFIC)	0	0	0.192	0	0.906	0	0
ESCOLAR	0	0	0.335	0.588	1.443	0	0
GALAPAGOS SHARK	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0
GREAT BARRACUDA	0	0.53	2.96	3.765	5.169	0.147	0.01
GREY REEF SHARK	13.019	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	54.227	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	0.05	15.453	14.288	45.148	81.874	9.087	9.03
MAKO SHARK	0	0	0	0.62	0.03	0	0
MANTA RAYS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.135	0		0.08	0	0	0
MARLINS	0.515	0.625	0.255	0	0.8	0	0
MARLINS/SAILFISH/SPEARFISHES (UNIDENTIFIED)	7.837	0.5	0.085	0	0	0	0
OCEAN SUNFISH	0.01	0.05	1.69	0.27	0.81	0	0.175
OCEANIC TRIGGERFISH (UNIDENTIFIED)	6.84	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCEANIC WHITE -TIP SHARK	40.974		0	0	0.119	0	0
OILFISH	29.393	71.616	75.991	76.7	101.595	12.578	6.985
OPAH / MOONFISH	22.17	9.803	39.17	52.891	105.383	15.49	6.48
OTHER FISH	318.482	270.244	266.322	190.216	113.908	10.757	8.417
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA	0	0	0	1.592	22.876	0	0
RAINBOW RUNNER	0	0	0	0.235	0	0	0
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	31.942	17.858	15.542	45.498	131.089	15.773	18.812
SHARK FINS	23.565	0.83	0	0	0.463	0	0
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	3.686	777.259	117.833	49.875	41.817	0	3.496
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	284.756	7.4	4.226	3.81	31.927	7.907	6.504
SICKLE POMFRET	0	0	0	0.01	0.015	0.015	0.025
SILKY SHARK	87.752	4.458	0	1.048	16.881	1.075	0
SILVER-TIP SHARK	14.273	0	0	0	0	0	0
SLENDER SUNFISH	3.88	0.04	0	0.427	0.2	0.16	0
STRIPED MARLIN	11.864	13.441	5.04	3.465	24.539	0.475	0.14
SWORDFISH	75.453	62.031	87.817	50.561	80.78	13.406	7.355
SUNFISH (R.TRUNCATA)	75.453	0.678	1.947	4.153	2.547	0	0.08
UNSPECIFIED	134.432	41.299	5.292	5.135	1.112	0.116	0.244
WAHOO	107.273	130.047	87.719	104.8487	168.655	24.99	19.888

5.1.3 Foreign Pole and Line

Foreign pole and line vessels accessing Solomon Islands EEZ are fleets under bilateral arrangements between Solomon Islands and Japan. 11 vessels were allowed access in 2016. Although these vessels were issued with fishing permit they took very little advantage of this to access to Solomon Islands EEZ. No catches were recorded to have been caught in our EEZ.

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 safeguarding the exploitation and management of this important resource by passing the Fisheries Management Act in Parliament in 2015 and the offshore fisheries regulations in 2017. 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 earner for Solomon Islands Government's revenue collection through the payment of access fees, taxes and duties.

Based on data published in 2016, 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 2015 a total of 7,592,019 kg of frozen tuna were exported to the overseas market by NFD and SSI which was valued at SBD 113,041,570.

The estimated catch for 2015 was 61,670 tonnes with an estimated value of catch at 223 million USD⁸

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 Islands 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 transhipped to carriers for sale in Japan. The carriers are supplied by the locally based companies.

8. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Solomon Islands currently has only one major onshore development at Noro, Western Province 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 2000 workers. There are also long-term development plans in the pipeline particularly to invest in onshore processing. New initiatives in this area have been promoted since 2013 and additional onshore processing facilities have been earmarked for other three sites for a number of years. In 2016 the Bina Harbour site in Malaita Province was prioritised based on a feasibility study, and the MFMR was given a mandate by the Solomon Islands Government to lead the land settlement and subsequent development of the site.

⁸ Information from Economic and Development Indicators and Statistics: Tuna Fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean 2016 – Solomon islands catch and values

9. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

The Government's future plans for onshore fisheries remain a priority. The steps that were undertaken in 2016 include initiating necessary agreements for land settlement and access agreements amongst landowners and the Government as well as designing a governance structure for a project management office. These stages need to be completed before moving on to any activities on the ground.

In 2016 significant effort to address the EU yellow card have helped secure the future of export markets to support onshore fisheries development. Such development has economic potential that will boost the country's export earning, provide a major employment hub for the rural people of Solomon Islands and address the crippling unemployment rate in the country and improve the livelihood of communities in the vicinity of the development.

10. STATUS OF THE FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

10.1 Data collection and verification

Since 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. By 2016, all purse seiners were required to submit e-logs which can also be submitted directly to SPC, and are automatically integrated into the SPC TUFMAN 2 system. FIMS and TUFMAN 2 also contain provisions for observer reporting and monitoring of deployments and catch documentation. The proposed longline vessel day scheme will be monitored by FIMS, with e-logs rolled out over a period of two years. 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.

10.1 Port sampling programme

The port sampling programme was suspended in 2008. The programme was then revived in 2012 to 2014. Currently the programme had been suspended again since February 2015.

10.2 Transshipment

Transshipment report for previous and past years have been recorded in excel spreadsheet. Recent upgrades and to the TUFMAN 2 database system have enabled MFMR staff to begin populating the database with all available, historical records. In 2014, it became evident that there was transshipment activity occurring in the high seas from a Chinese Taipei flagged vessel which was chartered to a Solomon Islands Company. This activity was recorded and reported as transshipment in areas outside of the convention area and beyond national jurisdiction. The 2016 transshipment information provided were extracted from records kept by enforcement officers and available information from the TUFMAN 2 System. **Attachment 1** contains the 2016 transshipment reporting requirements under CMM 09-06 para11 for Solomon Islands, Honiara.

11. RESEARCH

No research activities covering target and non-target species is current in the Solomon Islands. More needs to be done to support biological studies, support stock assessment, biomass surveys, oceanography and ecological studies to name a few.

ATTACHMENT I

2016 - Transhipment report for Honiara port and in areas within Solomon Islands national jurisdiction.

1															
A Offloaded	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total catch by species offloaded by purse seine vessels transshipping at Honiara Port</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Species</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Total Transshipped catch in Metric Tonnes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yellow Fin</td> <td>23,036.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skip Jack</td> <td>69,472.435</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Big Eye Tuna</td> <td>1,013.412</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>11.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>93,533.947 Mt</td> </tr> </table>	Total catch by species offloaded by purse seine vessels transshipping at Honiara Port		Species	Total Transshipped catch in Metric Tonnes	Yellow Fin	23,036.90	Skip Jack	69,472.435	Big Eye Tuna	1,013.412	Others	11.2	Total	93,533.947 Mt
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Others	11.2														
Total	93,533.947 Mt														
B Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction;	All transhipments information reported were conducted in Honiara port. No transhipment was noted to have occurred beyond areas of national jurisdiction.														
C Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;	All transhipments were conducted in Honiara port which is within the convention area. There were no transhipments noted to have occurred outside the convention area.														
D Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;	All catch transhipped in Honiara port were caught within the convention Area, According to all transshipping vessels catch logsheet, no catches were noted to be outside of the convention area.														
E Species;	The Species transhipped by Purse Seiners are, SKJ, YFT, and BET.														
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 and Longline vessels. A total of 140 Purse Seiners and 63 Long-liners do transhipment activities in Honiara port.														

A Received:

Total of 39 carrier vessels received catches from purse seine fishing vessels in Honiara port in 2016.

No.	Carrier Vessels	Total Transshipped catch in Metric Tonnes
1	Badaro	3,545.418
2	Chan Han 6	2,337
3	Chang Li No.1	1,429
4	Cherry Star	1,870
5	Dong Horng No.222	140.831
6	Euro Star	3,050
7	Fontuner Reefer	2,219.3
8	Francisca L.T	780
9	Green Gape	1,890
10	Hai Fengs	1,390
11	Houta Maru	3,166
12	Kai De	1,070
13	Khana	1,655
14	Lake Castle	4,485
15	Lake Hill	2,340
16	Lake Nova	2,670
17	Lake Win	360
18	Ocean Jin	3,362
19	Oceanus	410
20	Orion No.1	440
21	Pharostar	5,649
22	PS Reefer	3,195
23	Saltlake	3,495
24	Sanwa Fontaine	2,876
25	Sein Frontier	1,890
26	Sein Princess	1,050
27	Sein Queen	6,895
28	Sein Star	3,500
29	Sein Sun	4,421.335
30	Shin Ho Chu 102	895
31	SOHOH	2790
32	Sun Flower 7	6135
33	Suruga-1	1620
34	Tai Fu No.1	3,765.447
35	Torah	4,500
36	Viva 106	1,550
37	Tai Xiang	160.616
38	Tiara 108	260
39	Jonathan Ace	277
	TOTAL (MT)	93,533.947 Mt

B	Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction;	All transhipments were conducted in Honiara Port. No Transhipment was conducted beyond areas of national jurisdictions
C	Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;	All transhipment were conducted in Honiara Port.
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, Long-liner and Carrier Vessels.

ATTACHMENT II.

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs⁹

<p>CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4</p>	<p>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.]</p> <p><i>* Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State</i></p>	<p>CMM 2005-03 is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its flagged vessels fished North of equator</p>
<p>CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>CMM 2006- 04 does not apply 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.</p>
<p>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>CMM 2009-03 does not apply to Solomon Islands as none of its vessels fish south of 20°S in the convention area.</p>

⁹ Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC13 (Dec 2016)

	<p>This information shall be provided in Part 1 of each CCM's annual report. Initially, this information will be provided in the template provided at Annex 2 for the period 2000-2009 and then updated annually.</p> <p><i>*Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.</i></p>	
<p>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</p>	<p>CCMs shall report on all transshipment activities covered by this Measure (including transshipment 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 transshipment using all available information such as catch and effort data, position data, observer reports and port monitoring data.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANNEX II TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY CCMs</p> <p>Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission:</p> <p>(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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. offloaded and received; b. transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction; c. transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area; d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; e. species; f. product form; and g. fishing gear used <p>(2) the number of transshipments involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this</p>	<p>The information for CMM 09-06, Para II (ANNEX II) will be provided in the WCPFC Annual Report Part 1. Refer to Attachment 1</p>

	<p>measure by fishing vessels that is responsible for reporting against, broken down by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. offloaded and received; b. transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction; c. transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area; d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; and e. fishing gear. 	
CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4	<p>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. CCMs shall also report <u>annual retained and discarded catches in Part 2</u> of their annual report. CCMs shall as appropriate, support research and development of strategies for the avoidance of unwanted shark captures (e.g. chemical, magnetic and rare earth metal shark deterrents).</p> <p>*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).</p> <p>*Note; Whale Sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) was included as a key shark species by WCPFC9 (2012)</p>	<p>Solomon Island fishing vessels did not fish south of 20°S, However table 4 of the annual report part 1 reported some key shark species.</p>
CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 4	<p>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).</p>	<p>Information on this CMM, please refer to part 1 annual report.</p>
CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3	<p>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.</p>	<p>Information on this CMM, please refer to part 1 annual report table 4</p>
CMM 2012-04 [Whale]	<p>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</p>	<p>Information on this CMM, please refer to part 1 annual report. Only 2 individuals were</p>

sharks], Para 06	vessels, including details required under paragraph 4(b).	reported by our National Fleet. (Table 3).																						
CMM 2012-07 [Seabirds], Para 9 Applies until 1 Jan 2017 (see CMM 2015-03 below)	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.	Information on this CMM, please refer to part 1 annual report.																						
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.	Information on this CMM, please refer to table 4 in the part 1 annual report.																						
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))	<p>CCMs are to compile and include in Annual Report Part 1 to be submitted from 2015 onwards, observer coverage for their longline fleet activity in the previous calendar year, noting that revisions can be provided at the annual TCC meeting.</p> <p>A sample report format is provided as guidance to assist CCMs with reporting (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="427 1384 1023 1462"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</th> <th rowspan="2">Fishery</th> <th colspan="3">No. of Hooks</th> <th colspan="3">Days Fished</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Total estimated</th> <th>Observed</th> <th>%</th> <th>Total estimated</th> <th>Observed</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</td> <td>Distant-water</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CCM Fleet	Fishery	No. of Hooks			Days Fished			Total estimated	Observed	%	Total estimated	Observed	%	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Distant-water							<p>Zero coverage by Solomon islands observers in foreign locally based longline in 2016.</p> <p>Information on this CMM, please refer to part 1 annual report.</p>
CCM Fleet	Fishery			No. of Hooks			Days Fished																	
		Total estimated	Observed	%	Total estimated	Observed	%																	
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Distant-water																							
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.	Operational data will be submitted by SPC on-behalf of Solomon Islands. Estimated operational data for national fleet is in Table 5 of the part 1 annual report.																						

CMM 2012-07: [Seabirds] No data provide as none of Solomon Islands vessels fished South of 30°S; North of 23°N

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°S¹]. 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				