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

WCPFC-SC13-AR/CCM-07

FIJI

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS FOR 2016

FIJI

OFFSHORE FISHERIES DIVISION

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

JUNE 2017

| | |
|--|-------|
| Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the commission by 30 th April 2017 | [YES] |
| If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: | |

ABSTRACT

The Fiji National Fleet¹ is one that predominantly targets albacore. For the year 2016, approximately 89.56% of the fishing occurred in Fiji's fisheries waters with 10.44% in international waters. When taking into consideration the overall catches by this fleet which is to include catches in other EEZs, approximately 0.2% of the overall catch for this fleet was made in other EEZs where the Fiji National Longline fleet vessels are licensed to fish, whilst 99.8 % of the catch was made in Fiji's EEZ and the High Seas.

There has been a significant increase in the Fiji National longline fleets catches for the year 2016 when compared to the fleet's low catch of 2014 and 2015. These high catches were due to the reporting being based on landings data that reflects the actual catch landed in Fiji ports, as compared to the past years reporting, that was centered on Log sheet data. A significant increase though, was reflected in 2015's albacore catches of 7,793 mt, the highest catch recorded since 2012's catch of 7,958 mt. A slight increase in Bigeye, Yellowfin and tuna like species catch was noticed in 2016 compared to 2015's catch.

Fiji, through the Ministry of Fisheries' Offshore Fisheries Division's role as the arm of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of the fishery, in cooperation where applicable with line ministries, the Industries stakes holders along with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities support and technical staff; have made significant efforts to ensure that the fishery is maintained in a sustainably manageable form, whilst encouraging economic viability.

This is facilitated through the various WCPFC CMMs, the Offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012 and its Regulations 2014 in addition to the Tuna Management Development Plan 2014-2018 and other assessments such as the Bio-Economic analysis on the Fiji fishing industry in addition to the various national plans of actions.

In the year 2016 the Fiji national longline vessel fleet consisted of vessels that had a license Cap of sixty, nine of which were chartered fishing vessels that were licensed to fish in Fiji's EEZ. In addition to this, a total of thirty-three vessels were Fiji flagged and authorized to fish in the High Seas pockets.

¹ Fiji National Fleet – Inclusive of Fiji Flagged Vessels and Fiji Chartered Vessels

1. BACKGROUND

Fiji is located between 10° S and 25° S latitude and 177° E 173°W longitude and has an EEZ area of 1.29M km² and is made up of more than 300 islands.

This EEZ is flanked by the five Pacific Island nations of Vanuatu to the west, Solomon Islands to the North West, Tuvalu in the North, Wallis and Futuna to the North East and the Kingdom of Tonga to the South East. In addition to this, approximately 40% of the EEZ is bordered by the high seas to the Southern area, Western and North Western region.

In enforcing the Offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012 and its Regulations in 2014, the Department has made every effort to effectively implement the MCS&E of Fiji's offshore fishing industry and the fishery in general with the aim of sustainably managing the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in its waters.

With aspects of the sustainable management in mind, the development of both the' National and Regional Observer Programmes and the advancement of its Compliance and Enforcement capabilities Fiji is determined to play its role in the management of the highly migratory fish stocks that pass through its EEZ. As a responsible flag State, coastal State and port State, Fiji will continue to welcome any new MCS&E initiatives that will contribute to global combat of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

It should be noted that Fiji's current licensing and high seas authorizations requires all vessels to comply with relevant WCPFC CMMs and report all catches on all trips under Fiji's national laws

2. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

2.1. TUNA CATCHES

Table 1. Annual Catch estimates for the Fiji National Fleet, 2012 – 2016

| TOTAL ANNUAL CATCH ESTIMATE FOR FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FISHING FLEET 2012-2016 (MT) | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Species | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | Provisional 2016 |
| ALBACORE | 7,958 | 6,202 | 6,703 | 7,793 | 7,269 |
| BIGEYE | 1,019 | 685 | 1,586 | 1,169 | 1,190 |
| YELLOWFIN | 2,081 | 1,328 | 3,594 | 3,609 | 3,928 |
| TUNA LIKE SPECIES | 1,388 | 1,293 | 1,702 | 1,986 | 2,140 |
| TOTAL | 12,446 | 9,508 | 13,585 | 14,559 | 14,527 |

Table 1 above shows the total catches for 2016 as well as for the past 4 years. Despite the drop in catches for 2013, 2016 provisional data shows an increase in catch mainly due to accessibility to a wider fishing area within WCPO. It should be noted that there was a drop in Albacore catches in 2013 which steadily rose overall to 2015 with a slight tapering into 2016. Additionally, the Fiji National Fleet saw a significant rise in Bigeye catches from 2013 to 2014 and stabilised in 2015 to 2016. Yellowfin catches reflected a significant decrease from 2012 to 2013, however, these catches increased from 2014 to 2016 respectively; at a steady rate.

2.2. BILLFISH AND NON TARGET SPECIES CATCHES

Table 2. Annual Estimated Catches of Non-targeted Species, Associated and Dependent Species for the Fiji National Fleet, 2016.

| TOTAL ANNUAL NON TARGET SPECIES CATCH FOR FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FISHING FLEET 2016 [MT] | |
|--|----------------|
| SPECIES | WEIGHT [MT] |
| BILLFISH SPECIES | |
| SWORDFISH | 117.77 |
| BLUE MARLIN | 179.65 |
| BLACK MARLIN | 4.4 |
| STRIPED MARLIN | 30.45 |
| SPEAR FISH | 74.77 |
| SAIL FISH | 42.66 |
| MARLIN | 21.95 |
| TOTAL | 471.65 |
| TUNA LIKE SPECIES | |
| WAHOO | 279.69 |
| MAHIMAHI | 396.66 |
| BARRACUDAS | 47.65 |
| ESCOLARS | 42.31 |
| OPAH | 305.78 |
| OTHER SPECIES | 595.48 |
| TOTAL | 1667.57 |
| TOTAL [BOTH SPECIES] | 2,140 |

Table 2 above shows the catch estimates of Billfish and non-targeted Species from Fiji's National Fleet. It should be noted that the shark catches are now listed under topic 2.6, titled "Catch Based on Relevant CMMs".

2.3. FLEET STRUCTURE

Table 3. Fiji National Fleet Structure, 2012 – 2016.

| FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FLEET STRUCTURE, 2012-2016 | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| LENGTH (m) | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| <21 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| 21m-30m | 38 | 37 | 48 | 45 | 41 |
| >31m | 64 | 59 | 48 | 47 | 39 |
| TOTAL | 113 | 107 | 105 | 102 | 89 |

The fleet structure for 2016 consists of the 89 Fiji national vessels; of which 9 vessels are chartered foreign flagged vessels. The remaining 80 vessels are Fiji flagged and fished in Fiji's EEZ, other EEZs and high seas within the WCPO.

Fiji National Fleet are categorised as follows:

1. Less than 21m category - there are 9 vessels under this category and mainly use ice for preserving their catch which is targeted for the fresh sashimi market. They predominantly fish within Fiji's Archipelagic Waters and Territorial Seas spending one to two weeks on each trip.
2. 21m and less than 30m category – there are 41 vessels under this category and they use ice slurry and freezers to preserve their catch. This category of vessels mainly fish within Fiji's EEZ and spends three weeks to two month per fishing trip. Fresh catch are usually caught towards the end of the fishing trip to maintain its standard for the market preference.
3. Greater than 30 m category – there are 39 vessels under this category and they use freezers to preserve their catch. This category of vessels mainly fish within Fiji's EEZ and outside Fiji's national jurisdiction targeting Albacore. They spend more than three months on each trip.

2.4. FISHING PATTERNS

Figure 1. Fiji Flagged Fleet Structure, 2016.

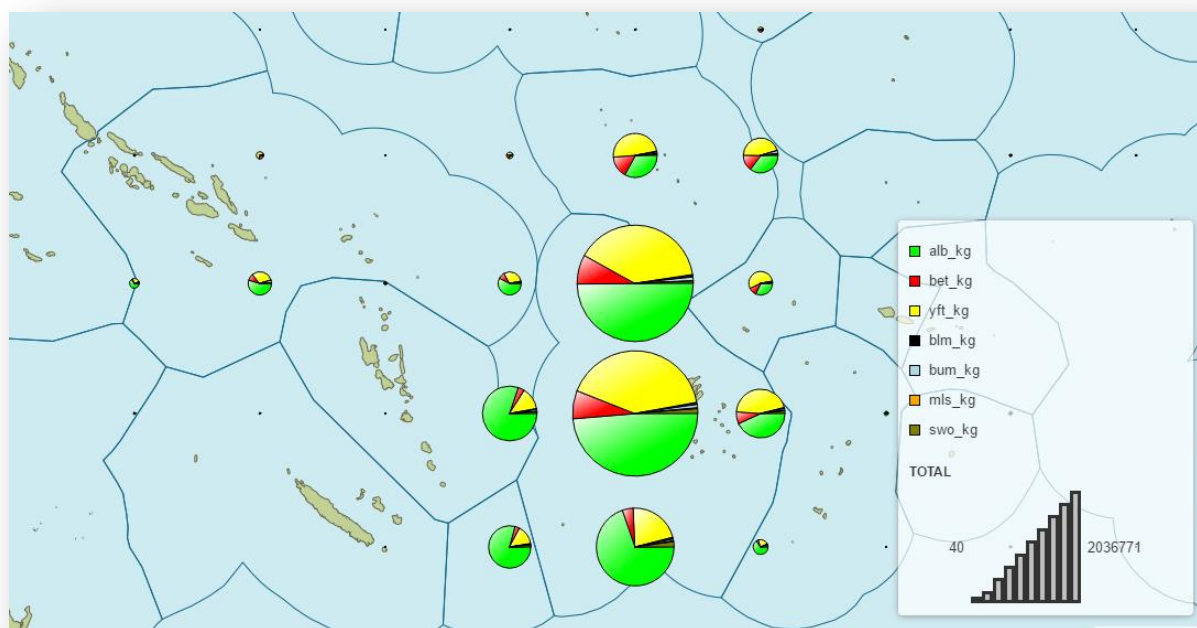


Figure 1 is a snapshot of Fiji’s National Fleet catches for the 3 tuna species in 2016, namely Albacore [Green], Bigeye [Red] and Yellowfin [Yellow]. As in the imagery, much of the catch is caught in Fiji’s EEZ with certain portions in other EEZs, where the vessels are licensed to and in the high seas.

2.5. OBSERVED INTERACTIONS OF SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

Table 4 A. Annual Tables of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2012 – 2016

| ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST, TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS [2012-2016] | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Category | SPECIES | Years | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | |
| | | Number | Dead | Number | Dead | Number | Dead | Number | Dead | Number | Dead |
| MARINE REPTILES | GREEN TURTLE | 1 | 0 | 18 | 4 | 20 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 3 |
| | OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW FAO) | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 6 | 23 | 21 | 5 | 4 |
| | HAWKSBILL TURTLE | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 3 |
| | FLATBACK TURTLE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | LEATHERBACK TURTLE (NEW FAO) | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | LOGGERHEAD TURTLE | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| TOTAL TURTLES | | 6 | 3 | 41 | 15 | 70 | 28 | 40 | 32 | 33 | 13 |

Table 4A above shows the observed incidences of gear interactions with marine turtles by the Fiji Observers, whilst on placement trips from the years 2012 to 2016. It should be noted that 19 turtles were released alive, with 13 dead with one in an unknown condition.

A point to note is that all observers in the Fiji Observer program are certified and trained in the mitigation/handling/releasing of sea turtles under the SPC/FFA PIRFO Standards. Fiji ensures that all its licensed vessels change their hooks arrangements to Circle Hooks, in addition to awareness and trainings, on the proper mitigation and turtle handling techniques.

Table 4B. Annual Table of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2012 – 2016.

| ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST, TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS [2012-2016] | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Years | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Category | SPECIES | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | |
| | | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead |
| MARINE MAMMALS | FALSE KILLER WHALE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTAL MARINE MAMMALS | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

Table 4B above shows the observed incidences of vessel interactions and sightings of marine mammals by the Fiji observers whilst on placement trips from 2012 to 2016.

The 2 interactions were sighted as either swimming in the vicinity of the vessel, during the hauling process or taking bait fish that is thrown back into the sea.

Table 4C. Annual Table of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2012 – 2016.

| ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST, TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS [2012-2016] | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Years | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Category | SPECIES | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | |
| | | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead | Number | No. Dead |
| SEABIRDS | SEABIRDS | 0 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL BIRDS | | 0 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

No gear interactions of the sea birds with the Fiji National Fleet fishing vessels were observed by the Fiji observers for the year 2016.

Note: All Fiji vessels employ deep setting line shooter and also use weighted branch-lines.

2.6. CATCH BASED ON RELEVANT CMMs.

2.6.1 SCIENTIFIC DATA TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION/IATTC OVERLAP [E 150 DEGREES W]

Concerning the overlap area with IATTC, 12 Fiji flagged vessels were logged in this area having a Bigeye catch of 0.39 mt, Albacore catch of 5.93 mt, Yellowfin catch of 0.43 mt, Swordfish catch of 0.01 mt, skipjack catch of 0.11 mt and also blue marlin catch of 0.03 mt with other species having a total catch of 0.01mt.

Table 5. Annual Table Fiji flagged long line catches in the IATTC overlap area, 2016.

| TOTAL ANNUAL 2016 CATCH ESTIMATES EAST 150 DEGREES WEST (IATTC OVERLAP AREA) | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|--|
| FIJI FLAGGED VESSEL NO | SPECIES | TOTAL (MT) | |
| 12 | ALBACORE | 5.93 | |
| | BIGEYE | 0.39 | |
| | YELLOWFIN | 0.43 | |
| | SKIPJACK | 0.11 | |
| | BLUE MARLIN | 0.03 | |
| | SWORD FISH | 0.01 | |
| | OTHERS | 0.01 | |
| TOTAL | | 6.91 | |

Table 5 above shows the vessel numbers and weights in metric tonnes that the Fiji National Fleet catch estimates for the years 2016, along the IATTC overlap area based on Log-sheet data. Chartered vessels not separated as per the new custom runs on TUFMAN II reports in Dorado.

2.6.2 CMM 2005-03-NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-03, on North Pacific Albacore, 8 Fiji National Fleet vessels were logged to have caught a total of 5.88 mt of North Pacific Albacore, fishing for 226 days in 2016.

It should be noted that these catches were caught as non - targeted species.

2.6.3 CMM 2006-04 STRIPED MARLIN IN THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2006-04, 22.74 mt of Striped Marlin were logged to have been caught by 69 Fiji National Fleet vessels south of 15 degrees south. Of the 22.74 mt, 0.42 mt were logged by 8 of the 9 chartered foreign flagged vessels which were licensed in Fiji's EEZ for 2016.

It should be noted that these catches were caught as non - targeted species.

2.6.4 CMM 2007-04 & CMM 2012-07 SEA BIRDS

Concerning the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2012-07 on Sea Birds, the mitigation for the impacts of fishing for the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Sea-birds, there was no seabird interactions observed or reported for the year 2016.

The Fiji flagged long lining fleet employs both the recommended “weighted branch line” and “deep setting line shooter” mitigation methods, as prescribed in Table 1 of the mitigation methods listed in CMM 2007-04 & 2012-07 on Sea Birds.

2.6.5 CMM 2012-01 BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN

For 2016, no purse seine fishing was reported to have occurred in Fiji’s fisheries water by US Treaty vessels.

2.6.6 CMM 2008-03 SEA TURTLES

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2008-03 on Sea Turtles, the Fiji National Fleet utilises circle hooks in the pre-dominantly long line fishery. It is also the continued endeavour of Fiji that crews on its licensed vessels are trained and equipped with turtle mitigation techniques, devices and identification booklets.

Table 4 A. Annual Tables of Interactions for Species of Special Interest for 2012-2016 is based on the available observer data. Of the 33 that were interacted, a total of 19 marine turtles were released alive while 13 were dead and one with an unknown condition.

2.6.7 CMM 2009-03 SWORDFISH

In 2016 and in accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-03, 49 Fiji flagged long line vessels caught a total of 39.4 mt of Swordfish.

Six of the nine chartered foreign flagged vessels caught 5.8 mt of Swordfish in the area South of 20 degrees South within Fiji’s EEZ.

Table 7. Annual Swordfish catch for Fiji National Fleet, 2012 – 2016

| TOTAL ANNUAL 2016 SWORDFISH CATCH ESTIMATES SOUTH OF 20° SOUTH BY FIJI NATIONAL LONG LINING FLEET AND CHARTERED VESSELS IN FIJI (MT) | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
| YEAR | FIJI FLAGGED | | CHARTERED VESSELS | | TOTAL (MT) | TOTAL VESSELS |
| | TONNES | VESSEL NUMBERS | TONNES | VESSEL NUMBERS | | |
| 2012 | 44.4 | 66 | 6.4 | 9 | 50.8 | 75 |
| 2013 | 21.4 | 49 | 4.5 | 9 | 25.9 | 58 |
| 2014 | 13 | 30 | 4.2 | 8 | 17.2 | 38 |
| 2015 | 14.9 | 32 | 5.2 | 7 | 20.1 | 39 |
| 2016 | 39.4 | 49 | 5.8 | 6 | 45.2 | 55 |

Table 7 above shows the vessel numbers and weights in metric tonnes of Swordfish catch estimate for south of 20 degrees south by the Fiji National Fleet for 2012 to 2016. It should be noted that these catches were caught as non - targeted species.

2.6.8 CMM 2009-06 TRANSHIPMENT

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-06 on transshipment, 13 transshipment events occurred in Fiji's Archipelagic and Territorial Seas by 26 Fiji National Fleet vessels as in Tables 8A.

The transhipped species which are listed in the tables below were all caught inside the convention area.

Table 8A. Annual Table for Fiji National Fleet vessels transshipping in Fiji's Archipelagic and Territorial Seas [2016]

| TOTAL 2016 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONGLINE TRANSHIPMENT IN FIJI'S ARCHIPELAGIC AND TERRITORIAL SEAS | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------|--|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| GEAR TYPE | AREA | # of VESSELS | # of TRANSHIPMENT | FISHED AREA | SPECIES | PRODUCT TYPE | TOTAL (MT) |
| LL | FIJI'S ARCHIPELAGIC AND TERRITORIAL SEAS | 26 | 13 | ALL TRANSHIPED FISH WAS CAUGHT WITHIN THE COVENTION AREA | BIGEYE | FROZEN | 5.39 |
| | | | | | YELLOWFIN | FROZEN | 10.55 |
| | | | | | ALBACORE | FROZEN | 1.28 |
| | | | | | WAHOO | FROZEN | 0.23 |
| | | | | | MAHIMAHI | FROZEN | 0.17 |
| | | | | | OPAH | FROZEN | 0.15 |
| | | | | | BLACKTOM | FROZEN | 0.006 |
| | | | | | OGO | FROZEN | 0.08 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | 17.856 |

It should be noted that all transshipment in Archipelagic Waters and Territorial Seas had 100% observer coverage.

No Transshipment Activities occurred by Fiji National Fleet in Port and in any other EEZ or Ports.

2.6.9 CMM 2010-01 –NORTH PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2010-01, none of the Fiji National Fleet vessels caught Striped Marlin north of the equator in 2016. The relevant mandatory reports required of the relevant Commission on a bi-annual term were prepared and disseminated accordingly.

It should be noted that such catches if caught as non - targeted species.

2.6.10 CMM 2015-02 –SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure CMM 2015-02- this is addressed through the regular provision of operational catch/effort log-sheet data to SPC, whom automatically includes these data sets into the WCPFC databases, as per SPC's requirement.

2.6 11 CMM 2010-07–SHARKS

In accordance with CMM 2010-07 on key Sharks and based on the available observer data, the following table is provided.

Table 9.Fiji National Fleet: Table of Key Shark Species and their fate, 2016

| FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FLEET VESSELS KEY SHARK SPECIES INTERACTION AND FATE 2016 | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------|----------|------------|
| GEAR TYPE | SPECIES | NUMBER | RETAINED | DISCARDED |
| LL | BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK | 33 | 1 | 32 |
| | BRONZE WHALER SHARK | 83 | 0 | 83 |
| | GREAT HAMMERHEAD | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | LONG FINNED MAKO SHARK | 177 | 0 | 175 |
| | OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK | 64 | 0 | 61 |
| | PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| | SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED) | 92 | 0 | 92 |
| | SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK | 225 | 3 | 220 |
| | SILKY SHARK | 115 | 4 | 111 |
| | SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| | THRESHER SHARK (VULPINAS) | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| TOTAL | | 810 | 8 | 795 |

Table 9 includes key shark species in accordance with the WCPFC Convention and agreed reporting procedures on the retained and discarded catches of the key shark species for 2016 using Observer data. It should be noted that the “retained” total of 8 ought to be 15. The difference is in that 2 long finned makos, 3 oceanic whitetips, 2 short finned makos had unknown conditions.

2.6.12 CMM 2011-03 – CETACEANS

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2011-03 on Cetaceans, it should be noted that Fiji does not have a purse seine fleet but is a party to the United States Treaty and therefore allows for the said treaty vessels to fish in its waters.

2.6.13 CMM 2011-04 OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARKS

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2011-04, the Fiji National Observer Programme data showed that:

- 1) 18 discarded dead
- 2) 43 discarded alive
- 3) 3 unknown condition
- 4) None were retained

2.6.14 CMM 2012-04 WHALE SHARKS

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2012-04 on Whale Sharks, it should be noted that Fiji does not have a purse seine fleet.

2.6.15 CMM 2013 - 08 SILKY SHARKS

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2013-08, the Fiji National Observer Programme data showed that:

- 1) 37 were discarded dead.
- 2) 71 discarded alive
- 3) 3 discarded (unknown condition)
- 4) 4 were retained

2.6.16 Observer coverage (WCPFC 11decision – para484 (b))

The 2016 Observer coverage for Fiji was 23% based on observed trips.

3. MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

Fiji's major markets include Japan and United States of America where most of sashimi grade fish are exported as well as and EU markets. Fish products for cannery are exported to Thailand, American Samoa, Taiwan and Vietnam. In addition, products for cannery are also sold to our canneries based out of Suva and Levuka.

In 2016, a total of 14,527 mt of tuna was landed of which 9,621.69 mt of tuna was processed and exported with Albacore products making a total of 48% [4584.08mt] of Fiji's total export. Bigeye tuna products at 11% [1013.98mt] and Yellowfin tuna products at 32% [3057.62mt] with other species making up the final 10% [966.01mt] ; whilst 4,906.16 mt was sold locally.

Tuna like non-target species continue to be sold at local processor outlets with a portion sold as exports where the market is available. Fiji's cannery Pacific Fishing Company (PAFCO) is currently undergoing re- development works to its premises to improve market access and to meet the high end export market demand.

At the same time Fiji continues to come up with new innovative products ready for the supermarket shelves in addition to eco-labelling.

4. STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS IN USE

4.1 STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Table 10. Estimated Annual Coverage, [2012 – 2016]

| Percentage Coverage (%) | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Year | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| Catch/Effort | 99 | 99 | 99 | 94 | 97 |
| Observer | 8.5 | 10.1 | 18.7 | 19 | 23 |
| Port Sampling | 15 | 10 | 12 | 25 | 60 |
| Transshipment | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

A] LOGSHEETS AND LANDINGS DATA.

The reconciliation of data sets (Logsheets, Landing, and VMS) was maintained at 97%. The Data Registrar ensures the reconciliation of log -sheets and the relevant landing data and VMS information sets are reconciled on a regular basis with all entered information sets for TUFMAN backups being sent to SPC.

B] OBSERVER PROGRAMME

B1: Placement

The Fiji National Observer coverage for 2016 has risen to a high of 23%. Fiji observers are placed on board Fiji National Fleet covering areas within Fiji's national jurisdiction, and beyond (ABNJ). Fiji also contributes its observers to sub-regional observer programme such as the US Multilateral Treaty and more recently is endeavoring to have an observer presence in the WCPFC-IATTC cross endorsement agreement.

B2: De- briefing

Fiji Observers are de- briefed at the end of every trip to ensure data reporting quality is maintained. In 2016 a total of 153 observed trips were de-briefed. The Fiji National Observer program continues to work with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency on the development of this de-briefing capacity to more of its observers noting that there are 7 Fiji National Observer and 47 Regional Observers under the program.

B3: Port Sampling

Fiji's port sampling programme is carried out on Fiji's National Fleet at Suva Port and in 2016 a total of 89 port samplings were achieved. This activity is carried out by observers whilst not on placement.

B4: Biological Sampling

A total of 8 biological samplings were conducted by Fiji observers in 2016. Four samplings were carried out at sea whilst another four were carried out in port. All samples were referred to SPC for further analysis.