SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

Rarotonga, Cook Islands
9 – 17 August 2017

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

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KIRIBATI

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
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.	

1. Abstract/Summary

Tuna fishery in Kiribati is made up of artisanal fishing which involves small skiff boats operated by 2 to 3 local fishermen each and fished within the 12nm of the islands of Kiribati and the commercial purse-seine and longline vessels that fished within Kiribati's Exclusive Economic Zones. There is no pole and line fishing operated in Kiribati in 2016.

The domestic fishing vessels operated by the Government include purse-seine and longline vessels that fished for tuna within Kiribati's EEZ and offload their catches to Kiribati's processing plants. The Government also licensed Commercial purse-seine and longline vessels that owned by foreign companies to fish within Kiribati's Exclusive Economic Zones.

In 2016 Kiribati operated a total of 23 purse seine vessels (12 flagged vessels and 11 chartered vessels) and 16 longline vessels (1 flagged longline vessels and 15 chartered). There was no pole-and-line vessel operated under Kiribati last year.

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 in Kiribati's EEZ which 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 its foreign fishing companies that can provide such opportunity. In 2016 Kiribati operated a total of 24 purse seine vessels (13 flagged vessels and 11 chartered vessels) and 21 longline vessels (1 flagged longline vessels and 20 chartered).

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 1911 which is based on the result of the 2015 artisanal fisheries survey.

3. Flag State Reporting

3.1. Kiribati Vessels

LONG LINE

Year	00-50 GRT	51-200 GRT	201-500 GRT	500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2012	0	0	1	3	4
2013	0	0	1	3	4
2014	0	0	1	5	6
2015	1	8	5	0	14
2016	1	7	10	3	21

PURSE SEINE

Year	00-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2012	0	0	1	3	4
2013	0	0	1	3	4
2014	0	0	1	5	6
2015	0	3	10	8	21
2016	0	2	12	10	24

POLE AND LINE

Year	00-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2012	1	0	0	0	1
2013	1	0	0	0	1
2014	1	0	0	0	1
2015	1	0	0	0	1
2016	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1. Number of Kiribati registered vessels 2012-2016

The number of Kiribati's fishing fleets active within the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission area increased since 2012. In 2016, Kiribati registered a total of 67 vessels (12 bunker vessels, 10 reefer carriers, 21 longline vessels and 2 purse-seine vessels), both as flagged and chartered. This is an increase from 49 in 2015 to 67 in 2016.

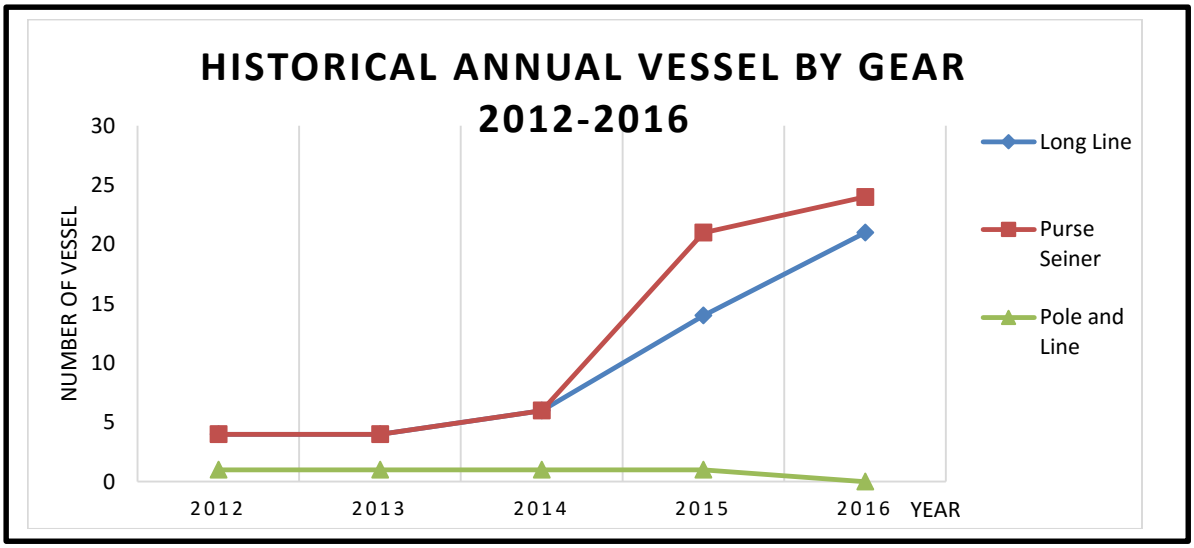
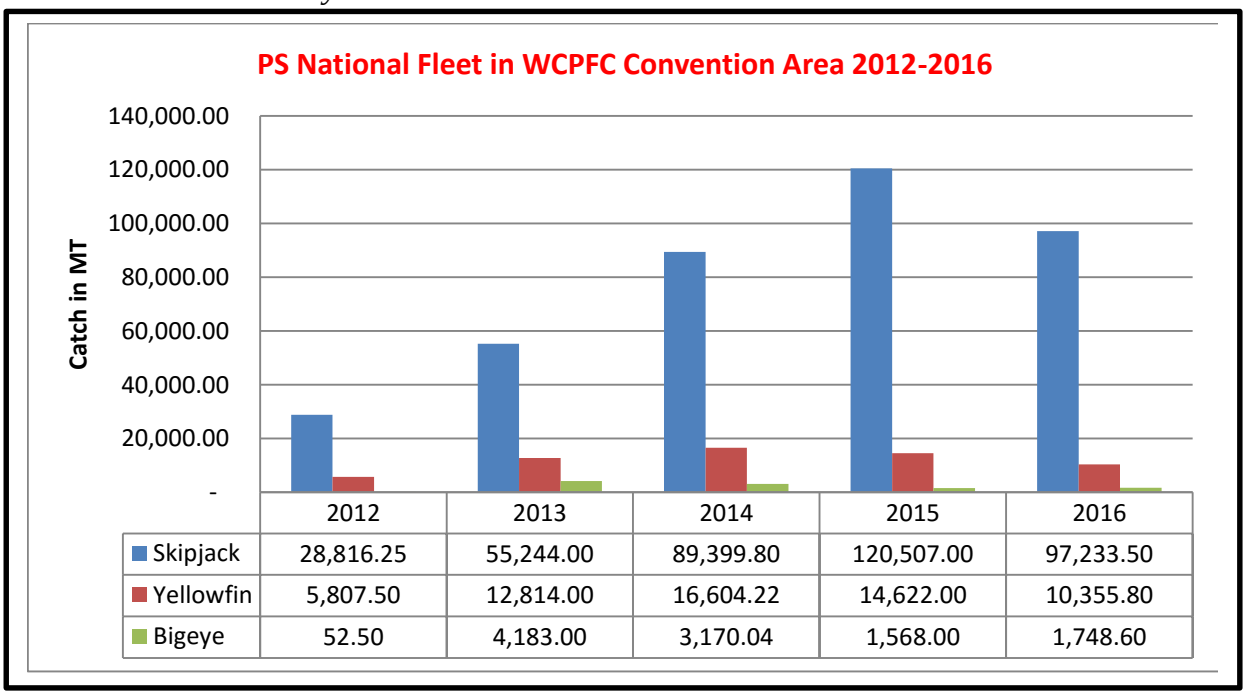


Figure 1: Historical number of vessels 2012-2016.

3.2. Annual Catches in the WCPFC Convention Area

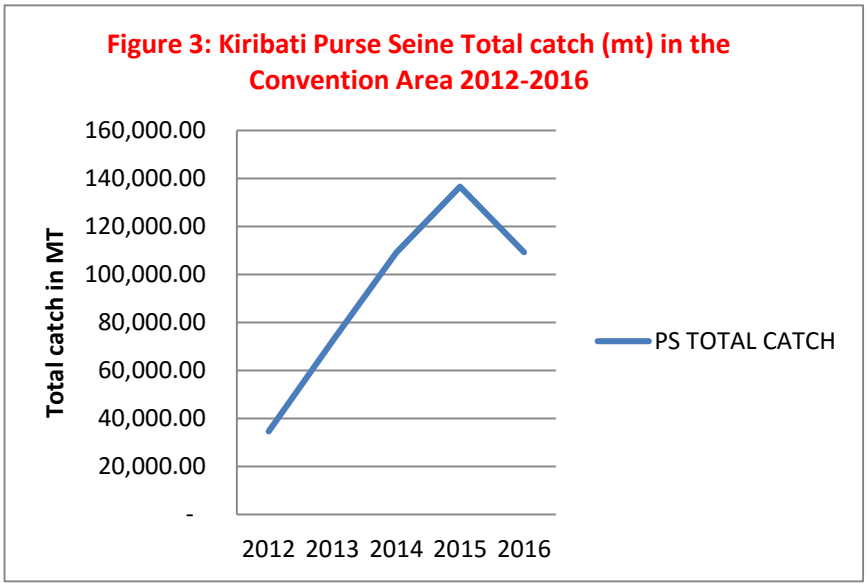
3.2.1. Purse Seine Fishery



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Skipjack	28,816.25	55,244.00	89,399.80	120,507.00	97,233.50
Yellowfin	5,807.50	12,814.00	16,604.22	14,622.00	10,355.80
Bigeye	52.50	4,183.00	3,170.04	1,568.00	1,748.60

Figure 2: Purse Seine Catch in the Convention Area 2012-2016

Accordingly the catches in 2016 for Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessel was decreased in comparison with the 2015 record. In 2015, catch reached 137,000 MT however the catch dropped to approximately 110,000 MT. The decrease in catch in 2016 was associated with seasonal changes. Refer to Figure 3 for trend in fishery effort.



Spatial Distribution of Catch for the Purse Seine Fishery:

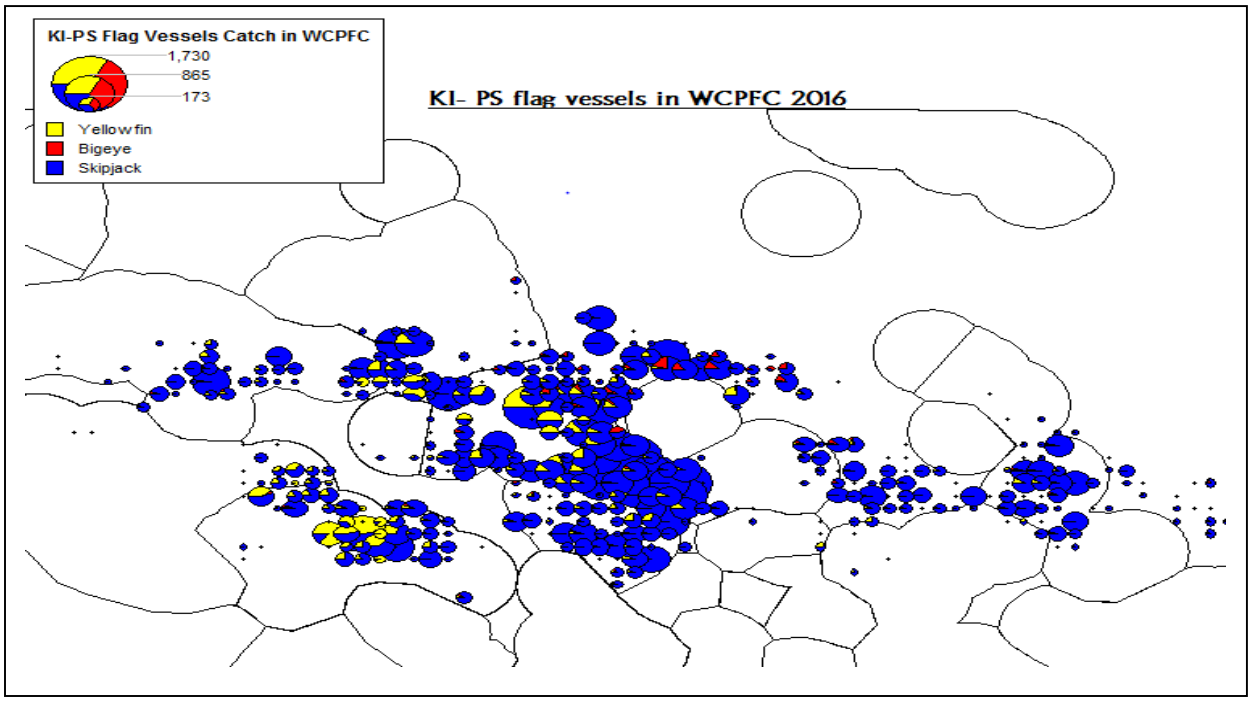


Figure 4: Catch Distribution of Kiribati flagged Purse Seiners 2016.

The distribution of catch Kiribati flagged purse seiners is more like spreading across the tropical Pacific with catches concentrated mainly in the waters of Tuvalu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands. Unlike the chartered purse seine vessels, the majority catch is taken out from the Kiribati EEZ with less in the waters of Papua New Guinea and the Marshall Islands as in Figure 5 below.

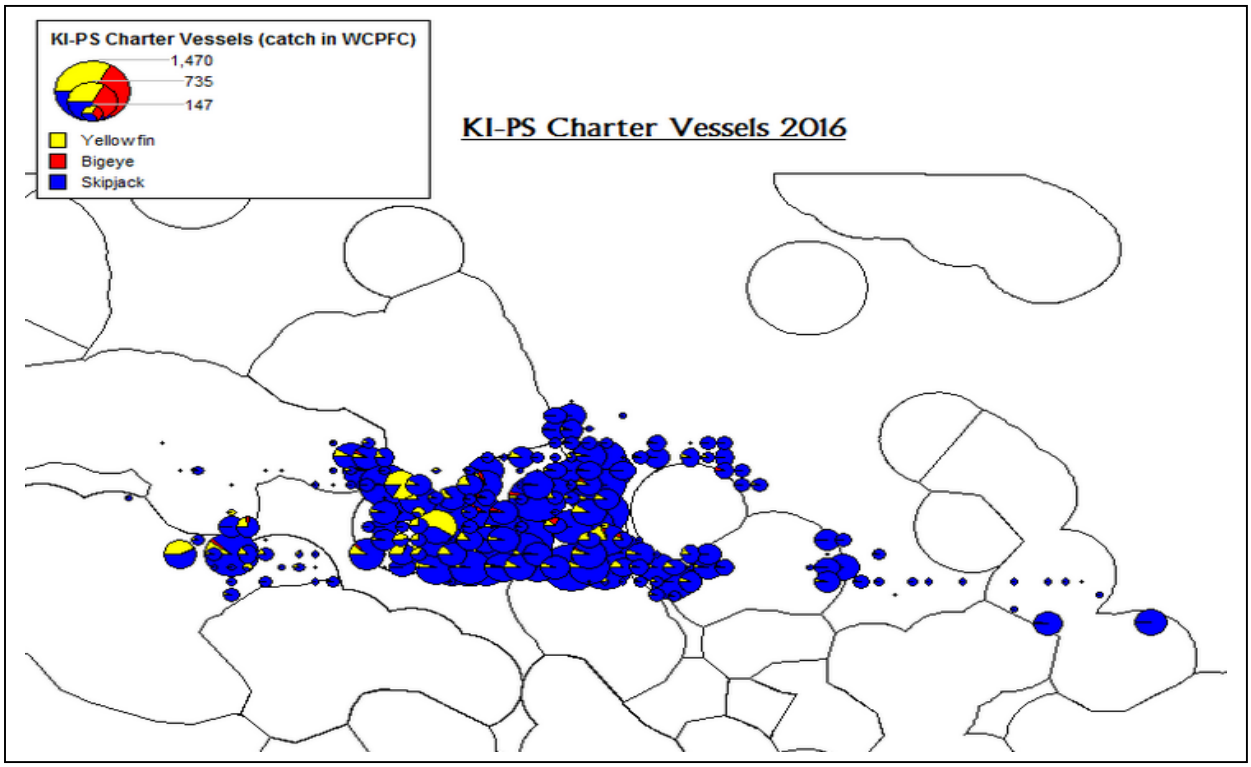


Figure 5: Catch Distribution of Chartered Purse Seine Vessels 2016.

3.2.2. Long Line Fishery

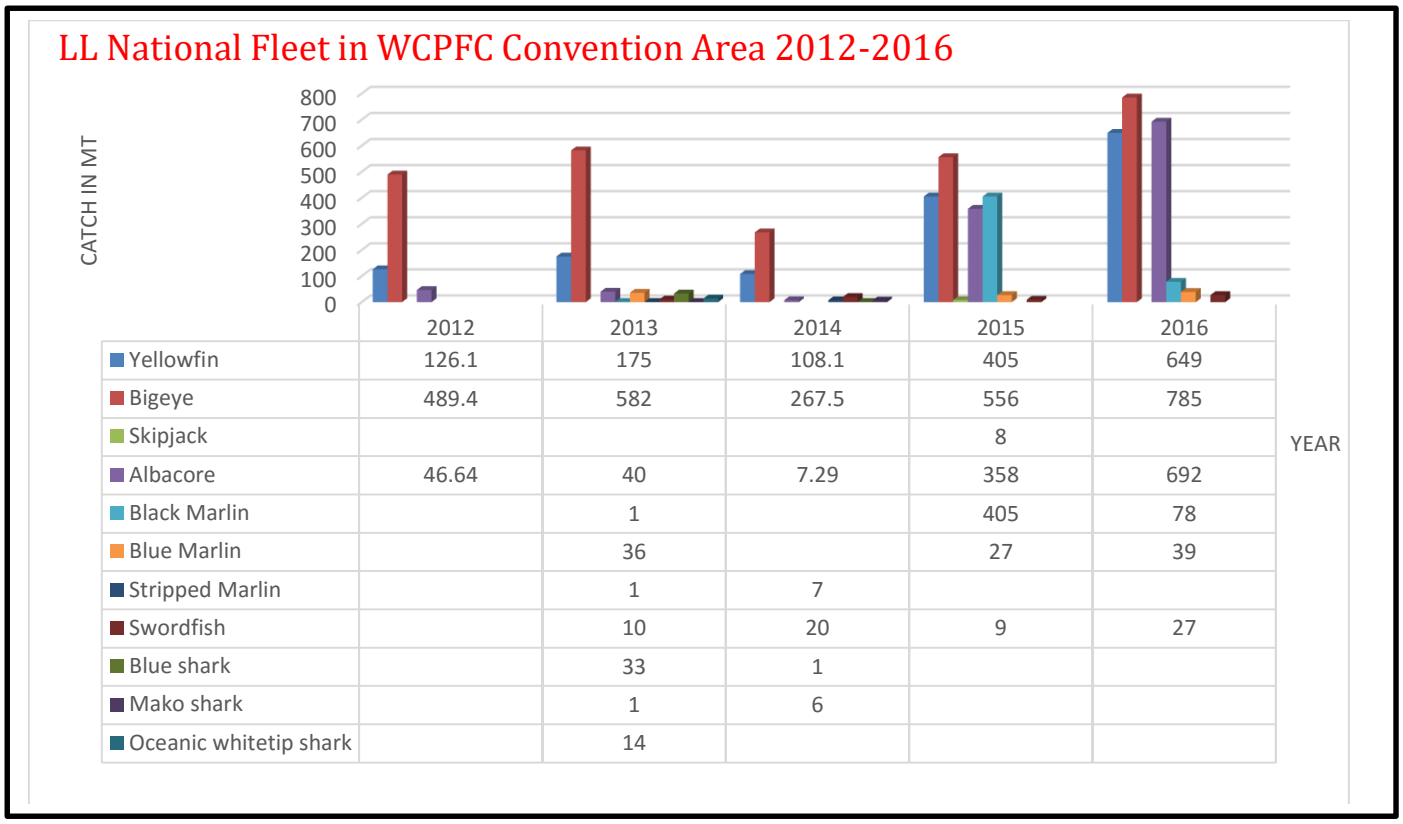
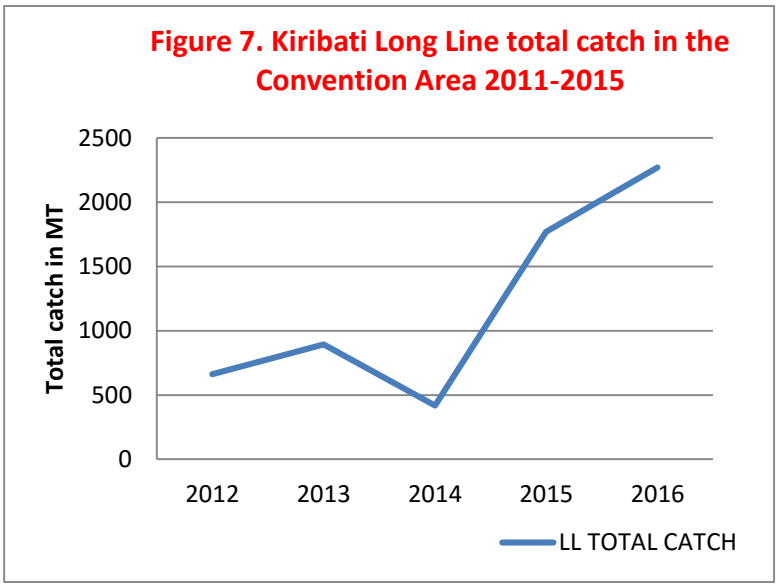


Figure 6. National Long Line Catch (in MT) in the WCPFC area.

The number of Kiribati longline flagged vessels has been increasing since 2015 as chartered vessels considered as part of the national fleet. The 18 fleets registered under Kiribati in 2016 actively fished in the WCPFC convention area and caught a total of 2,270 mt of tuna in 2016. Figure 7 shows increase of tuna catches for Kiribati's longline fleets during the year 2012-2016. The reason for a rapid increase in catch levels is the inclusion of chartered boats to the national fisheries.



Long Line Spatial Distribution of Catch:

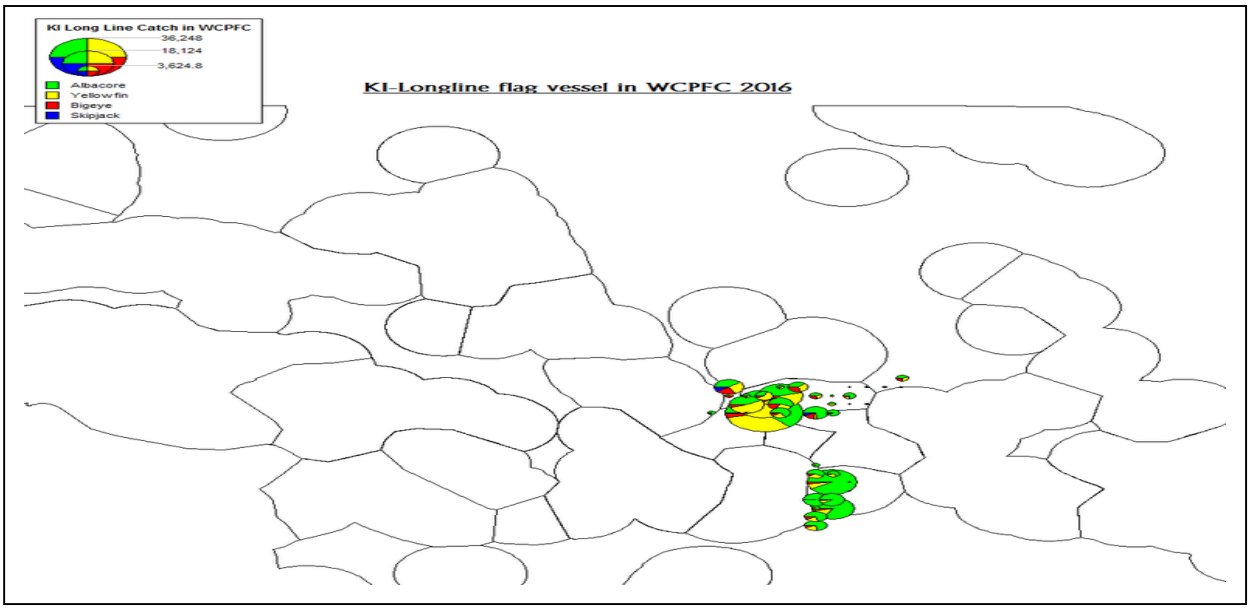


Figure 8: Kiribati flagged long line vessel catch distribution 2016.

Kiribati had only 1 flagged long line operating in 2016 namely Teraaka No.1. The vessel is based in Apia, Samoa and fished mostly in the Southern Pacific ocean in Niue, Tokelau and Samoa. The other non-flagged (Figure 9) but chartered vessels operated out of Tarawa and these vessels are mostly in the Kiribati islands with less efforts exerted in the High Seas and in waters of the Republic of Marshall Islands.

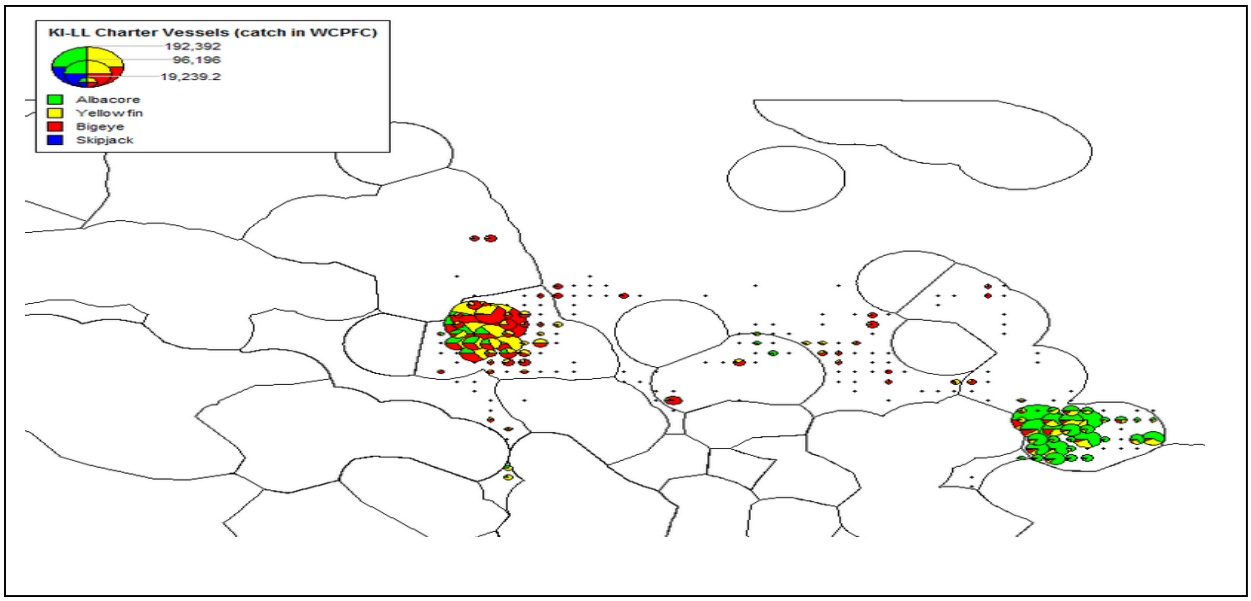
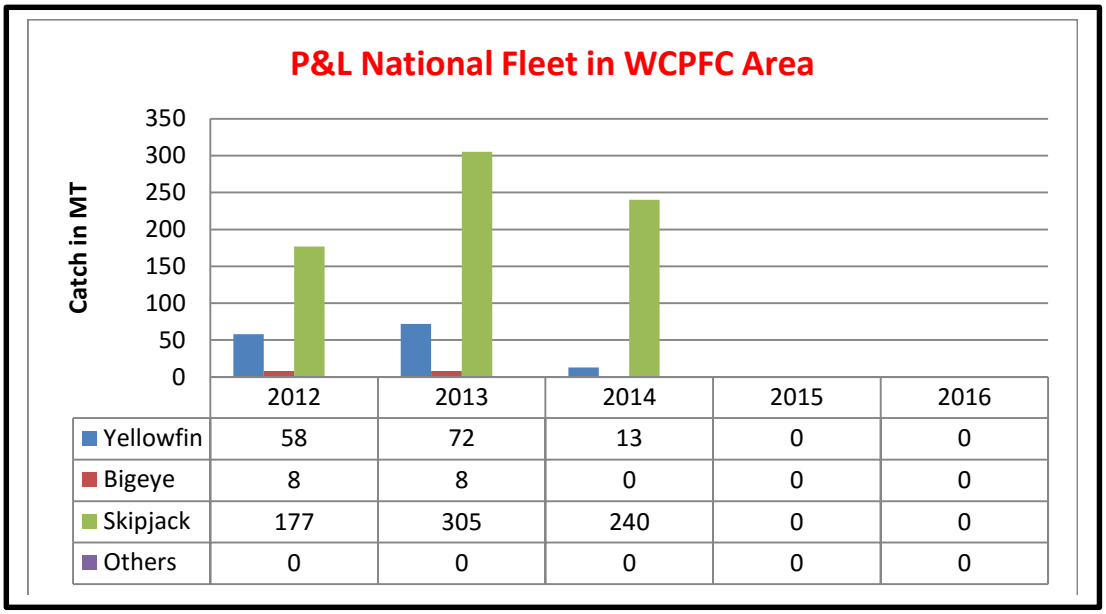


Figure 9: Spatial Distribution of Catch for Kiribati Chartered vessels, 2016

3.2.3. Pole and Line Fishery



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Yellowfin	58	72	13	0	0
Bigeye	8	8	0	0	0
Skipjack	177	305	240	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 10. National Pole and Line Catch in the WCPFC area.

Kiribati once flagged one pole and line vessel named 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 operated until January 2015 and was then de-registered from Kiribati. Since then, there had been no recorded catch as the vessel is de-flagged.

3. Disposal of Catch

The above table represents the total transshipped catch at each port. The current arrangement encourage purse seiners to offload in Kiribati designated ports to allow for economic returns from the fishery. For the long liners, there is very little transshipment data received except the domestic vessels offloading their catch to a local factory in Tarawa.

KIRIBATI VESSELS (PURSE-SEINE and LONGLINE) UNLOADING IN KIRIBATI PORTS (in MT)

PORT	SKJ	BET	YFT	OTHERS	TOTAL	TYPE
KIRIBATI	33,982.25	1,499.05	4,138.97	128.66	39,748.93	FROZEN

KIRIBATI PURSE-SEINE VESSELS UNLOADING IN OTHER PORTS

PORT	SKJ	BET	YFT	OTHERS	TOTAL	TYPE
AMERICAN SAMOA	671.00	21.00	56.00	-	748.00	FROZEN
FIJI	678.00	3.00	403.00	-	1,084.00	FROZEN

FSM	3,649.45	52.00	316.33	-	4,017.78	FROZEN
GENERAL SANTOS	170.00	3.00	267.00	-	440.00	FROZEN
JAPAN	7,082.00	374.00	1,802.00	-	9,258.00	FROZEN
KOREA	435.00	25.00	30.00	-	490.00	FROZEN
MARSHALL	17,744.00	238.00	2,787.30	-	20,769.30	FROZEN
PNG	335.00	-	130.00	-	465.00	FROZEN
SOLOMON (HONIARA)	8,261.00	160.00	2,694.00	-	11,115.00	FROZEN
TUVALU (FUNAFUTI)	14,300.00	156.00	699.00	-	15,155.00	FROZEN
GRAND TOTAL	**53,325.45**	**1,032.00**	**9,184.63**	**-**	**63,542.08**	

KIRIBATI LONGLINES UNLOADING IN OTHER PORTS

PORT	SKJ	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL	TYPE
HIGH SEAS	-	713.13	282.24	14.46	1,009.83	FROZEN
JAPAN	19.04	42.15	345.81	862.11	1,269.12	FROZEN
KIRIBATI SEAS	-	97.70	51.97	5.28	154.94	FROZEN
GRAND TOTAL	**19.04**	**852.98**	**680.02**	**881.85**	**2,433.89**	

Table 2. Transshipment activities of Registered Vessels 2016.

4. Onshore Developments

1. Processing Plants

Kiribati has the inspiration to do onshore developments. In the year 2012, the Government of Kiribati, through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, establishes a joint venture processing plant namely Kiribati Fish Limited (KFL) which was based in Tarawa. The Government chartered vessels that are locally based in Kiribati fished and unload their catches to KFL to be processed and exported to to the US and Japan international markets.

In addition, local fishermen also fished and sell their catches to the local plant to be processed and exported. In 2015, a project was rolled out on installing solar power grids to the outer islands fish centers. This allows the local fishermen to access ice needed during fishing and act as a storage facility for fish products ready to be sold to KFL.

2. Long Line Vessel Project

The Government of Kiribati have purchased 3 long line vessels to be operated by the local fishermen. The project will allow Kiribati to operate its owned vessels and support the local processing plants. The vessels are small scale fishing vessels that will target tuna and fish for more than 5 days.

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

5. Future Prospects of the Fishery

The key priority area for Kiribati is to develop its own Tuna Fisheries in a sustainable manner. Kiribati through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development have established joint venture fishing companies with its foreign fishing partners and operationalized a joint ventured tuna loining processing plant that based in Tarawa, Kiribati. Such arrangements established to maximize returns from the harvesting of Kiribati's tuna resources.

6. Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

a. Logsheet Data Collection and Verification.

Kiribati currently reviewing its internal process and to establish mechanisms that will ensure that all its national fleets fully complies with the Commission requirements that includes data provision.

b. Observer Programme

All Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessels including chartered vessels placed 100% observers' coverage in 2016.

Furthermore, the 5% observer coverage for Kiribati longline vessels has been attained in 2016. 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% requirement is met by its flagged and chartered vessels. .

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.

7. 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

CMM Reference	Response
CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4	Some of KI LL vessels fished within this area and catch 64.31 MT as a bycatch. (logsheet data)
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	KI vessels fished in this area but not targeting striped marlin. (logsheet data)
CMM 2007-04 [Seabirds], Para 9	Base on observer data, there were no interaction of sea birds
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	Some of KI vessels active within the area but not targeting swordfish. (logsheet data)

<table>
<tr><th>CMM Reference</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-06 [Transhipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</td><td>Transhipment record based on KI port record.
<table>
<tr><th>Offload</th><th>Receive</th></tr>
<tr><td>a.</td><td>a.</td></tr>
<tr><td>492.377.57</td><td>20,606.00MT</td></tr>
<tr><td>-All transhipment in port, Kiribati sea and High seas</td><td>All transhipment in port</td></tr>
<tr><td>-Caught inside the convention area.</td><td>-Caught inside the convention area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>-SKJ, YFT, BET for PS, BET and YFT for LL</td><td>-SKJ, YFT, BET for PS, BET and YFT for LL</td></tr>
<tr><td>-Frozen</td><td>-Frozen</td></tr>
<tr><td>KI-PS FLAG – 12, KI-LL FLAG - 1, KI-PS CHATTERED – 13, KI-LL CHATTERED - 17</td><td>For Reefer carrier (4 vessels)</td></tr>
<tr><td>b.</td><td>b.</td></tr>
<tr><td>43</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>- All transhipment in port and at sea</td><td>All transhipment in port</td></tr>
<tr><td>- same as above</td><td>Same as above</td></tr>
<tr><td>All caught inside the convention area</td><td>All caught inside the convention</td></tr>
<tr><td>Purse seiner, Long line</td><td>Reefer carrier</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
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<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>CMM Reference</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-05 [South Pacific albacore], Para 4</td><td>Some of KI vessels operate within the area but not targeting albacore. There were approximately 27.125 metric tons of catch of South Pacific albacore recorded in 2016.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4</td><td>Summary of shark catch

<table>
<tr><td>Gear</td><td>Flag</td><td>Species</td><td>Catch (n)</td></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>KI</td><td>SILKY SHARK</td><td>96</td></tr>
<tr><td>PS</td><td>KI</td><td>OTHERS</td><td>5</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>Total</td><td>101</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5</td><td>Base on observer data report, there was no instance in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of KI vessels in 2016</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3</td><td>There were no interactions with Oceanic white tip shark in 2016 according to observers’ reports.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>CMM Reference</th><th>Response</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06</td><td>Based on the observer data, there were 2 instances in whale sharks have been encircled and released alive by flagged vessels in 2016. The investigation was carried out on the 8th of August confirming the encircled whales were released alive.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2012-07 [Seabirds], Para 9</td><td>There is no interaction of sea bird.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3</td><td>Based on the observer data report, the 2016 total catch for Silky sharks is 96 and release alive.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)</td><td>The observer coverage reached 5% as extracted from observer data.
<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</th><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th colspan="3">No. of Trips</th><th rowspan="2">See NOTES</th></tr>
<tr><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th></tr>
<tr><td>KIRIBATI</td><td>Pacific Islands</td><td>113</td><td>6</td><td>5.3%</td><td>8, 9</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
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