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

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FRENCH POLYNESIA

DIRECTION DES
RESSOURCES MARINES
PU FA'AHOTU MOANA

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION

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

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by the 30 april 2018.	YES

1. Abstract

French Polynesia professional tuna fleet in 2017 comprised 61 tuna longliners (ranging from 13 m to 24 m) operating only within French Polynesia Economic Zone and 467 small boats (5m to 11 m) using artisanal gears (pole and line, handlines, trolling…) and operating inside the territorial waters.

The overall nominal catches for the professional tuna fisheries in 2017 is estimated around 7 980 metric tons, albacore accounting for 29%, yellowfin tuna for 28 %, and big eye tuna for 11 % and skipjack for 10 %.

Effort and total catch trends of the longline fleet show a slow decrease since 2005 after a steady increase since the beginning of this fleet in the early 90's. In contrast these trends for the artisanal near shore fishery show a slow and steady increase partly driven by the increase of the population.

Since 2006, all sharks except mako are fully protected inside the entire French Polynesia Economic Zone. In december 2012, the mako was also protected making French Polynesia EEZ the biggest sanctuary for sharks.

2. Annual Fisheries Information

Tuna fishery is a major component of the development of French Polynesia economy, either for economical and social aspects. Its professional tuna fishery is divided into two components : a small scale coastal fishery and an offshore long line fishery. There is no longer fishing agreement inside the EEZ for foreign fleet since December 2000.

The **professional small scale near shore fishery** comprises two types of boat: the *poti marara*, (literally 'flying-fish boats') which are small boats, 6-8 m in length, made from wood or FRP and suitable for many different fishing techniques (trolling, vertical longlining or harpooning) and the *bonitiers* ('skipjack boats'), which are 10-to-12 m long boats made from wood or FRP, targeting skipjack using mainly pole-and-line. This fleet operates inside the territorial waters mostly.

The **longliners fleet** comprises only tuna longliners using drifting longline. Only five boats have freezer capacity. This fleet operates exclusively inside the French Polynesia EEZ

2.1. Annual catch and effort estimates

Tableau 1 – Annual catch estimates for the longline fleet in the convention area

Metric tons	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Albacore Catch	3,512	2,917	3,392	3,245	2,125
Yellowfin Catch	615	756	1,074	941	1,387
Bigeye Catch	787	703	800	556	872
Skipjack Catch	34	33	37	37	20
Pacific Bluefin Catch	0	0	0	0	0
Black Marlin Catch	0	2	26	16	21
Blue Marlin Catch	243	237	240	209	160
Striped Marlin Catch	107	102	100	73	71
Swordfish Catch	128	117	108	100	147
Total	5,426	4,867	5,777	5,177	4,793

Tableau 2 - Annual catch estimates by for the small scale nearshore fleet in the convention area

Metric tons	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Skipjack	873	922	806	638	770
Yellowfin tuna	616	661	921	771	844
Dolphin fish	558	659	374	325	301
Billfish	258	284	266	258	294
Wahoo	149	138	152	141	95
Albacore tuna	339	326	288	367	212
Other	329	504	193	213	153
Total	3,120	3,493	3,000	2,713	2,701

Tableau 3 – Annual fishing effort by fleet

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Small sclare near shore fleet (fishing days)	42 347	46 996	44 040	41 436	40 279
Longline fleet (million of hooks)	16.2	14.2	16.7	16.9	16.0

2.2. Fleet structure

Tableau 4 – Number of vessel by size for the longline fleet

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
00-50 GRT	31	32	33	34	34
51-200 GRT	34	30	28	25	27
201-500 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
500+ GRT	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vessels	65	62	61	59	61

Tableau 5 – Number of vessel by size for the small scale near shore fleet

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
00-50 GRT	427	437	448	443	467
51-200 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
201-500 GRT	0	0	0	0	0
500+ GRT	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vessels	427	437	448	443	467

2.3. Fishing pattern

More than three fourth of the nearshore fishery is based in the Society archipelago. Although the individual fishing effort shows some vicissitude the global fishing effort is relatively stable within the year and no clear seasonal trends can be highlighted.

The longliners fleet, most entirely based in Tahiti, usually exploit 40 % of the EEZ but the core fishing ground remains historically in the north part of the EEZ (10°-20° S /140°-150°W).

2.4. Accidental catches and discards

Recorded interactions with species of special interest are summarized in table 6. Interactions with mammals only relate to depredation.

Discards by the longline fleet are estimated around 6 % of the nominal catch. The breakdown for the main key species is reported in table 7 (sharks not included). There is no discard for the coastal fleet.

Tableau 6 –Estimated catches of species of special interest by the longline fleet

Year	Category	Species	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead
2017	BIRDS	BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	6	0	6
		GULLS - TERNS AND SKUAS	2	0	2
		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	6	0	6
2016	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	1		1
		LEATHERBACK TURTLE	1	1	
	BIRDS	BIRD (UNIDENTIFIED)	3		3
		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	7	1	6
2015	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	1	0	1
	BIRDS	PETRELS AND PUFFINS	6	2	4
2014	BIRDS	GULLS - TERNS AND SKUAS	2	0	2
		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	6	2	4
	MARINE REPTILES	HAWKSBILL TURTLE	1	0	1
2013	BIRDS	CAPE PIGEON	2	0	0
		GULLS - TERNS AND SKUAS	2	0	2
		PETRELS AND PUFFINS	5	0	5
	MARINE REPTILES	LEATHERBACK TURTLE	1	1	0
		LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	1	0	1

Tableau 7 –Catch estimates of discards of target species by the longline fleet in 2017

Species Group	Species Name	Discard (MT)
Tuna	ALBACORE	22
	BIGEYE	22
	SKIPJACK	0
	YELLOWFIN	2
Billfish	BLACK MARLIN	9
	BLUE MARLIN	1
	STRIPED MARLIN	1
	SWORDFISH	63
Total		119

All sharks are prohibited to fishing and fining is also prohibited. The caches of sharks represent 6% of the nominal catch. On the overall, 90 % of the sharks caught were alive when released.

Tableau 8 –Catch estimates of sharks by the longline fleet in 2017

Species Name	Number	Weight
PELAGIC STING-RAY	7 203	66
SILKY SHARK	2 441	37
BLUE SHARK	2 102	64
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	831	38
SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	746	27
BRONZE WHALER SHARK	729	14
PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	136	8
CROCODILE SHARK	119	0,5
LONG FINNED MAKO SHARK	85	2
TIGER SHARK	85	7
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	68	0,5
SANDBAR SHARK	51	3
BLACKTIP SHARK	34	0,7
GREY REEF SHARK	34	0,7
SEAL SHARK / BLACK SHARK	34	0,1
SILVER-TIP SHARK	34	1,0
Total	14 729	268

Note: All sharks are released.

3. Research and statistics

3.1. Statistical data collection system

The data collection system for the longline fishery comprises six components.

- *Fishing license*

Fishing license for the domestic vessels is delivered for the life of the boat, presuming it does not change property and clears its annual visit for security. Any change of property or main modification on the vessel is subject to a re-licensing procedure. Currently, French Polynesia has not limited the number of domestic vessels authorised to operate in its EEZ.

Fishing permit for foreign vessels is delivered on an annual basis; no permit has been authorised since the end of the fishing agreement on December 2000.

- *Boat activity*

Every week day, the Fisheries office census the activity of the fleet at the fishing port. The main purpose is to monitor (in real time) the gross activity of the fleet. These data are also used as the

main input for estimating the production of the vessels which do not report their catches correctly. Since 2013, this census is combined with the analyses of the VMS data.

- *Logbook*

Licensed operators are required to record and submit daily records of fishing activities at an operational level to the Fisheries Office. Coverage rate is 100 %.

- *Unloadings*

All the licensed long line boats have the obligation to unload their catches within the fishing port of Papeete. The port manager monitor the amount of fish unloaded in order to collect unloading fees. Coverage rate for the overall landings is 100 % of the commercial catches.

- *Observer programme*

The French polynesia's Observer Program began in September 2002 with EU funding by the PROCFISH projet (2002-2007) and then by the SCIFISH project. In 2017, the staff was made of ten observers (up to 6 available at the same time), two port samplers and one coordinator. Observers trips were conducted only on board of domestic longliners. The coverage for 2017 is 5.9 % of the fishing days (sets). Protocols and forms are those used by SPC. Data are processed by SPC.

Tableau 9 – Observers trips in French Polynesia since 2005.

Year	No observers	No trips	No days at sea	No sets	No hooks	% covergage
2005	3	18	422	255	635,114	2.9 %
2006	6	20	487	312	723,149	5.9 %
2007	2	17	217	138	305,977	1.8%
2008	4	17	300	206	510,115	2.5 %
2009	6	51	800	488	1,130,574	6.5%
2010	5	44	768	453	894,426	6.5%
2011	6	33	531	355	1,13,880	6.2 %
2012	6	34	521	282	825,810	4.1 %
2013	6	38	697	346	886,303	4.4%
2014	6	42	717	432	850,452	4.5 %
2015	6	40	556	321	607,455	3.6%
2016	4	25	477	323	555,952	3.4%
2017	10	51	860	527	947,340	5.9%

- *Port sampling*

There has been regular but low coverage sampling in Papeete for several years and very limited in recent year due to logistical difficulties. However, these difficulties were partly overcome by the completion of a centralised unloading facility in Papeete and since 2005 a team of two port samplers carried out port-sampling operations.

Tableau 10 – Port sampling operations since 2005

Year	No unloadings	No unloadings sampled	Sampling coverage
2005	892	232	26%
2006	876	210	24%
2007	926	335	36%
2008	858	439	51%
2009	883	477	54%
2010	841	407	48%
2011	883	446	51%
2012	938	386	41%
2013	972	346	36%
2014	941	433	46%
2015	1014	410	40%
2016	965	416	43%
2017	969	174	18%

Coastal fishery

Data collection for the coastal fisheries is more difficult to handle since the vessels are scattered all around the numerous islands of French Polynesia. The monitoring process rely on two components : a licensing procedure and logsheets. Coverage rate for the logsheets is 100 %.

3.2. Research

The observers regularly collect biological samples of the four main tunas (muscle, liver, stomac, gonads and otholits) and swordfish (otholiths) which are sent to the Oceanic Fisheries Program of the SPC.

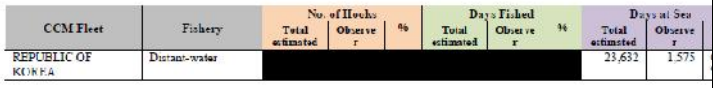
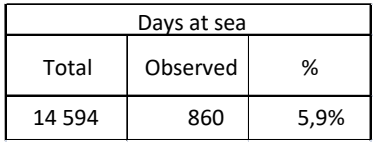
ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1 - Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs

CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4	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.] ** Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State*	FP national fleet do not fish north of the equator
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	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.	In 2017, 59 vessels caught 54 MT of striped marlin as a bycatch, south of 15°S.
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para	CCMs shall report to the Commission the total number of vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch	In 2017, no vessel targeting swordfish but 16 MT of swordfish were caught as a bycatch, south of 20°S.

8	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. This information shall be provided in Part 1of 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. **Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that "total catch" in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.*	
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	CCMs shall report on all transhipment activities covered by this Measure (including transhipment 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 transhipment using all available information such as catch and effort data, position data, observer reports and port monitoring data. ANNEX II TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY CCMs	No transshipment is allowed for French Polynesia national fleet.

	Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission: (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: 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 transshipped 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 (2) the number of transhipments involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by fishing vessels that is responsible for reporting against, broken down by: 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.	

<table>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4</td><td>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 annual retained and discarded catches in Part 2 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).
*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).
*Note; Whale Sharks (Rhincodon typus) was included as a key shark species by WCPFC9 (2012)</td><td>All catches are released
<table><tr><th>Species</th><th>2013 (MT)</th><th>2014 (MT)</th><th>2015 (MT)</th><th>2016 (MT)</th><th>2017 (MT)</th></tr><tr><td>BLUE SHARK</td><td>15</td><td>21</td><td>17</td><td>32</td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td>SILKY SHARK</td><td>3</td><td>10</td><td>12</td><td>95</td><td>37</td></tr><tr><td>GREAT HAMMERHEAD</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK</td><td>30</td><td>41</td><td>15</td><td>30</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK</td><td>11</td><td>39</td><td>42</td><td>82</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>PORBEAGLE SHARK</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>WHALE SHARK</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>THRESHER SHARK (VULPINAS)</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Total discards sharks</td><td>58</td><td>110</td><td>86</td><td>239</td><td>155</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 4</td><td>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).</td><td>No purse seine fleet in FP.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3</td><td>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.</td><td>All sharks are released.
In 2017, the estimation of oceanic whitetip sharks caught is 831 (88 % released alive).</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06</td><td>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</td><td>No purse seine fleet in FP.</td></tr>
</table>

	vessels, including details required under paragraph 4(b).	
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.	All sharks are released. In 2017, the estimation of silkysharks caught is 2441 (71 % released alive).
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	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. A sample report format is provided as guidance to assist CCMs with reporting (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4) 	In 2017, the longline observer coverage was 5.9% based on number of observer sea days. The French Polynesia observer program operates only in EEZ-FP. 
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.	French Polynesia provides this data in our annual scientific data provided to the commission. i.e operational level data
CMM 2017-06	CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in	In 2017, 6 Petrels and puffins, 2 gulls (terns and skuas)

[Seabirds] Para 9	Part 1 of their annual reports, all available information on interactions with seabirds reported or collected by observers to enable the estimation of seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the Convention applies. (see Annex 2 for Part 1 reporting template guideline). These reports shall include information on: 1. the proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures used; and 2. observed and reported species specific seabird bycatch rates and numbers or statistically rigorous estimates of species- specific seabird interaction rates (for longline, interactions per 1,000 hooks) and total numbers.	and 6 unidentified birds where reported (100% dead). No specific mitigation measure is currently in place but line shooter for deep setting is systematically used.

CMM 2012-07 / CMM 2015-03: [Seabirds]
Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report related to seabird fishery interactions

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

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

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate [2]
2012	64	12718100	825 810	6%	2	0,002
2013	65	14808400	886 303	6%	9	0,010

2014	62	14395200	850 452	6%	10	0,012
2015	61	16728400	607 455	4%	6	0,010
2016	59	16958300	555 952	3%	10	0,018
2017	61	16003800	947,340	6%	14	0,015

[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, 2017, by species and area.

Species	**South of 30°S**	**North of 23°N**	**23°N - 30°S**	**Total**
PETRELS AND PUFFINS	-	-	6	6
GULLS (Terns and skuas)	-	-	2	2
BIRD (Unidentified)	-	-	6	6
Total	**-**	**-**	**14**	**14**