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

WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-07

FIJI

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS FOR 2017

FIJI

OFFSHORE FISHERIES DIVISION

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

JUNE 2018

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 longline fleet is one that predominantly targets albacore. For the year 2017, approximately 67% of the fishing occurred in Fiji's waters with 33% in the International waters. Overall catches by this fleet, which includes catches in other EEZs, approximately 23% was made in other EEZs, where the Fiji National Longline fleet vessels are licensed to fish, whilst 77% of the catch was made in Fiji's EEZ and the High Seas.

There was a slight increase in the Fiji National longline fleet catches for the year 2015 and 2016 when compared to the fleet's low catch of 2013. These high catches were due to the reporting being based on landings data that reflects the actual catch landed in Fijian ports, as compared to the past years reporting that was centered on logsheet data.

However, for 2017 the annual catch estimates are based on logsheet data which resulted in a higher catch volume of 17,933mt, compared to landing data of 17, 149mt.

A significant increase is reflected in 2017 albacore catches of 9,837mt, the highest catch recorded since 2013 of 6,202mt. A slight drop in bigeye catch was reported in 2017 of 1,083mt compared to 2016 catches of 1,191mt.

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 other line ministries, the Industry stakeholders, along with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Pacific Community's (SPC) support and technical staff; have made significant efforts to ensure that the fishery is maintained in a sustainably manageable form, whilst encouraging economic viability.

In 2017 the Fiji national longline fleet had a license cap of sixty vessels, nine of which were chartered fishing vessels that were licensed to fish in Fiji's EEZ. In addition to this, a total of forty-one Fiji flagged vessels were authorised to fish in the High Seas.

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 Act 2012 and its Regulations in 2014, the Ministry has made every effort to effectively implement the MCS and enforcement (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 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 authorisations requires all vessels to comply with relevant WCPFC CMM's and report all catches on all trips in accordance with Fiji's national laws.

2. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

2.1. TUNA CATCHES

Table 1. Annual Catch estimates for the Fiji National Fleet, 2013 – 2017

TOTAL ANNUAL CATCH ESTIMATE FOR FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FISHING FLEET 2013 - 2017					
[MT]					
SPECIES	2013	2014	2015	2016	Provisional 2017
ALBACORE	6,202	6,703	7,793	7,291	9,837
BIGEYE	658	1,586	1,169	1,191	1,083
YELLOWFIN	1,328	3,594	3,609	3,934	4,638
TUNA LIKE SPECIES	1,293	1,702	1,986	2,142	2,375
TOTAL	9,508	13,585	14,559	14,558	17,933

Table 1 above shows the provisional catches for 2017 as well as for the past 4 years, excluding areas within other jurisdictions. Despite the drop in catches for 2013 to 9,508mt, 2014, 2015 and 2016 shows a steady rise in catch whilst 2017 shows quite an increase in catch to 17,933mt due to accessibility to a wider fishing area within WCPO, and more efficient data collection and data reconciliation process.

It should also be noted that for the years 2015 and 2016 landing data was used to estimate catch as it is the actual catch landed at Fijian ports by the Fiji national longline fleet. The catch for 2017 was estimated using logsheet data as a more reliable data source with high coverage percentage (97.5 %) with other data sources. Increased coverage has given more accurate figures of the raised catch estimates for 2017. It should also be noted that there is a steady rise in albacore catches from 2015 to 2016 however it spiked in 2017.

Yellowfin annual catches has increased in the last four years from 1,293mt to 2,375mt.

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, 2017.

TOTAL ANNUAL NON TARGET SPECIES CATCH FOR THE FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FISHING FLEET 2017 [MT]	
SPECIES	WEIGHT [MT]
BILLFISH SPECIES	
SWORDFISH	122
BLUE MARLIN	152
BLACK MARLIN	82
STRIPED MARLIN	36
SPEAR FISH	68
SAILFISH	51
TOTAL	511
TUNA LIKE SPECIES	
WAHOO	254
MAHIMAHI	547
BARRACUDAS	95
ESCOLARS	1
OPAH	328
OTHER SPECIES	639
TOTAL	1,864
TOTAL [BOTH SPECIES]	2,375

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, 2013 – 2017.

FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FLEET STRUCTURE 2013 - 2017					
Length [m]	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<21	11	9	10	9	9
21 - 30	37	48	45	41	45
> 30	59	48	47	39	30
TOTAL	107	105	102	89	84

The fleet structure for 2017 consists of the 84 Fiji national vessels; of which 9 vessels are chartered foreign flagged vessels. The remaining 75 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 45 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 quality for the market preference.
3. Greater than 30 m category – there are 30 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 Catch in WCPFC Convention Area, 2017.

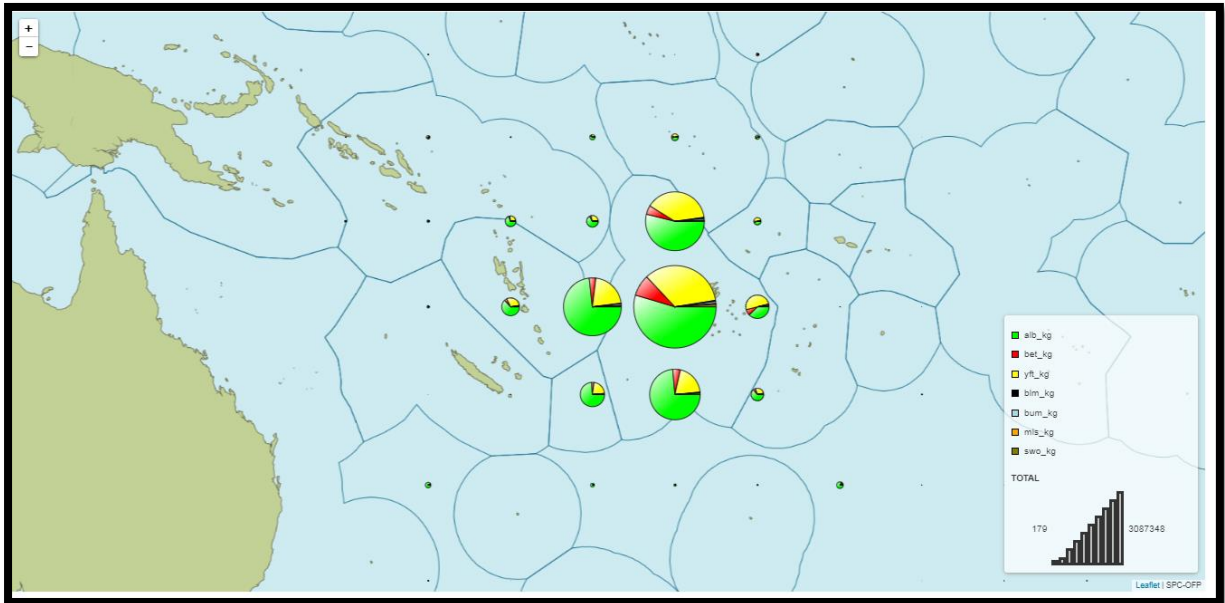


Figure 1 is a snapshot of Fiji's National Fleet catches for the 3 tuna species in 2017, namely Albacore [Green], Bigeye [Red] and Yellowfin [Yellow]. Much of the catch is caught in Fiji's EEZ with certain portions in other EEZs, where the vessels are licensed to fish and in the high seas.

2.5. OBSERVED INTERACTIONS OF SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

Table 4 A. Annual Tables of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2013 – 2017

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF GEAR INTERACTIONS[2013 - 2017]											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
		No.	Dead	No.	Dead	No.	Dead	No.	Dead	No.	Dead
MARINE TURTLES	GREEN TURTLES	18	4	20	7	4	3	17	17	18	10
	LOGGERHEAD TURTLES	4	3	14	6	6	2	9	5	16	9
	HAWKSBILL TURLE	3	0	12	6	2	0	17	7	20	11
	LEATHERBACK TURTLES	7	1	8	2	5	1	7	0	1	0
	LEATHERBACK TURTLES [NEW FAO]	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	8	8
	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES	8	6	14	6	23	21	9	8	9	9
	FLATBACK TURTLE	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
	TURTLES [UNIDENTIFIED]	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0		0
TOTAL TURTLES	41	15	73	30	40	27	60	37	72	47	

Table 4A above shows the observed incidences of gear interactions with marine turtles by the Fiji Observers, whilst on placement trips from the years 2013 to 2017. It should be noted that 25 turtles were released alive and 47 were landed dead and then discarded, the higher number of interaction is due to the high observer coverage of 29.9% for 2017.

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 flagged and licensed vessels change their hooks arrangements to circle hooks, through awareness and trainings, on the proper mitigation and turtle handling techniques.

Table 4 B. Annual Tables of Interactions for Species of Special Interest, 2013 – 2017

ANNUAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TABLE OF VESSEL INTERACTIONS AND SIGHTINGS											
CATERGORY	SPECIES	YEARS									
		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
		No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD	No.	DEAD
MARINE MAMMALS	DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES	81	0	3	0	3	1	8	0	10	1
	FALSE KILLER WHALE	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	3	0
	SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
	PYGMY SPERM WHALE	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	GINKGO-TOOTHED BEAKED WHALE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	SEI WHALE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	MELON HEADED WHALE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	BLUE WHALE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	SPERM WHALE	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	TOOTHED WHALES	121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NON-TOOTHED WHALES	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	MARINE MAMMALS [UNIDENTIFIED]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WHALE SHARKS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL MARINE MAMMALS	208	0	11	0	11	1	13	0	16	1	

Table 4B above shows the observed incidences of vessel interactions and sightings of marine mammals by the Fiji observers whilst on placement trips from 2013 to 2017.

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, none of the Fiji flagged vessels fished in this area.

2.6.2 CMM 2005-03-NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-03, on north Pacific albacore, 6 Fiji National Fleet vessels reported a total of 22.93mt of North Pacific Albacore, fishing for 126 days in 2017.

For the 6 months January to June, 2017 a total of 6 Fiji National Fleet vessels logged to have caught a total of 22.93 mt of North Pacific Albacore fishing for 126 days.

For the 6 months July to December, 2017 none of the Fiji National Fleet vessels logged to have caught a North Pacific Albacore, although one vessel fished for 21 days in this area

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, 27mt of striped marlin were reported by 40 Fiji National Fleet vessels south of 15 degrees south. Of the 27mt, 1.53 mt were reported by 3 of the 9 chartered foreign flagged vessels which were licensed in Fiji's EEZ for 2017.

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

2.6.4 CMM 2009-03 SWORDFISH

In 2017 and in accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-03, 58 Fiji flagged long line vessels caught a total of 39.18mt of swordfish.

Seven of the nine chartered foreign flagged vessels caught 5.93 mt of swordfish in the area south of 20 degrees South within Fiji's EEZ.

No foreign flagged vessels fishing south of 20 south have reported in to have caught swordfish in Fiji's EEZ.

Table 5. Annual Swordfish catch for Fiji National Fleet, 2013 – 2017

2017 ANNUAL SWORDFISH CATCH ESTIMATES SOUTH OF 20° SOUTH BY FIJI FLAGGED AND CHARTERED VESSELS						
YEAR	FIJI FLAGGED		CHARTERED VESSELS		TOTAL [MT]	TOTAL VESSELS
	TONNES	VESSEL NUMBERS	TONNES	VESSEL NUMBERS		
2013	21.4	49	4.5	9	25.9	58
2014	13	30	4.2	8	17.2	38
2015	17.8	32	4.7	6	22.5	39
2016	39.4	49	5.8	6	45.2	55
2017	33.25	51	5.93	7	39.18	58

Table 5 above shows the vessel numbers and weights in metric tonnes of swordfish catch estimated for south of 20 degrees south by the Fiji national fleet for 2013 to 2017.

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

2.6.5 CMM 2010-01 –NORTH PACIFIC STRIPED MARLIN

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2010-01, none of Fiji National Fleet vessels reported striped marlin catches north of the equator in 2017.

It should be noted that this is a non - targeted species.

2.6.6 CMM 2009-06 TRANSHIPMENT

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-06 on transshipment, 2 transshipment events occurred in Fiji’s Archipelagic and Territorial Seas by 3 Fiji National Fleet vessels as in Tables 6A.

The transshipped species which are listed in the tables below were all caught inside the Convention Area.

Table 6A. Annual Table for Fiji National Fleet transshipping in Fiji’s Archipelagic and Territorial Seas [2017].

TOTAL 2017 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONGLINE TRANSHIPPING IN FIJI'S FIJI'S ARCHIPELAGIC AND TERRITORIAL SEAS						
GEAR TYPE	AREA	# OF TRANSHIPMENT	FISHED AREA	SPECIES	PRODUCT TYPE	TOTAL[MT]
LL	FIJI'S ARCHIPELAGIC AND TERRITORIAL SEAS	2	ALL TRANSHIPPED FISH WAS CAUGHT INSIDE THE CONVENTION AREA	BIGEYE	FROZEN	0.19
				YELLOWFIN	FROZEN	4.74
				SWORDFISH	FROZEN	0.13
				MAHIMAH	FROZEN	0.20
				WAHOO	FROZEN	0.28
TOTAL						5.54

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-06 on transshipment, 2 transshipment events occurred in Fiji's Archipelagic and Territorial Seas by 4 Fiji National Fleet vessels as in Tables 6B.

Table 6B. Annual Table for Fiji National Fleet transshipping in Fiji Port [2017].

TOTAL 2017 ANNUAL CATCH FOR THE FIJI FLAGGED LONGLINE TRANSHIPPING IN FIJI'S PORT						
GEAR TYPE	AREA	# OF TRANSHIPMENT	FISHED AREA	SPECIES	PRODUCT TYPE	TOTAL[MT]
LL	SUVA	2	ALL TRANSHIPPED FISH WAS CAUGHT INSIDE THE CONVENTION AREA	ALBACORE	FROZEN	410
TOTAL						

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 any other EEZ or Ports.

2.6.7 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 7. Fiji National Fleet: Table of Key Shark Species and their fate, 2017

FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FLEET VESSELS KEY SHARK SPECIES INTERACTION AND FATE 2017 [ESTIMATED FIGURES]					
GEAR	SPECIES	NUMBER	RETAIN	DISCARD	ESCAPE
LL	BLUE SHARK	4,595	10	4,562	23
	BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	64	-	64	-
	SILKY SHARK	1,037	3	1,034	-
	LONG FINNED MAKO SHARK	117	3	114	-
	OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	167	-	167	-
	PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	17	-	17	-
	SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	351	-	348	3
	SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD	7	-	7	-
	TOTAL	6,355	17	6,312	27

Table 7 includes key shark species in accordance with the WCPFC Convention and agreed reporting procedures [Estimated values] on the retained and discarded catches of the key shark species for 2017 using Observer data.

It should also be noted that no Porbeagle and Whale Sharks were reported and or observed in 2017.

2.6.8 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 Treaty vessels to fish in its waters.

2.6.9 CMM 2011-04 OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARKS

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2011-04, the Fiji National Observer Programme data shows the estimated number of shark interaction and its status.

- 1) 167 discarded dead

2.6.10 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 and no whale sharks were caught by Fiji Fleet.

2.6.11 CMM 2013 - 08 SILKY SHARKS

In accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2013-08, the Fiji National Observer Programme data shows the estimated number of silky shark interaction and its status.

- 1) 1,034 were discarded dead.
- 2) 3 Retained (Dead)

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

The 2017 Observer coverage for Fiji was 29.9% based on observed trips.

CCM FLEET	FISHERY	TOTAL TRIPS TAKEN BY FLEET	TOTAL TRIPS OBSERVED & PROCESSED	%	NOTE:
FIJI	LL	686	205	29.9	The 2017 Observer coverage for Fiji was 29.9% based on National Observer trips.

2.6.13 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, who automatically include these data in the WCPFC databases, as per our authorization.

2.6.14 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 were 7 seabird interactions observed or reported for the year 2017.

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.

2.6.15 CMM 2017-06: [Seabirds] Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report

Table 8: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N – 30°S¹].

Table 8A: 23°N – 30°S

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2017	3	6,664,818	138,246	2.07%	7	0.007

Table 8B: North of 23°N

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8C: south of 30°S

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2017	4				0	0

Table 9: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet.

Combination of Mitigation Measures	2017
No mitigation measures	
TL + NS	
TL + WB	
NS + WB	
TL + WB + NS	
SS/BC/WB/DSLS	50 % WB / 50% DSLS
SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)	
TL	
Totals (must equal 100%)	100%

TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge.

Table 10: 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
Albatross	0	0	2	2
Petrels and Puffins	0	0	2	2
Boobies and Gannets	0	0	2	2
Black Footed Albatross	0	0	1	1
Total	0	0	7	7

2.6.16 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 reported striped marlin catch north of the equator in 2017.

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

2.6.17 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 2017 is based on the available observer data. Of the 72 that were interacted, 25 turtles were released alive and 47 were landed dead and then discarded.

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 the EU market. 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 2017, a total of 17,149mt of tuna was landed of which 13,852 mt of tuna was processed and exported with albacore products making a total of 63% [8,725mt] of Fiji's total fish exports. Bigeye tuna products at 5% [759 mt] and yellowfin tuna products at 25% [3,389mt] with other species making up the final 7% [979mt]; whilst 3,297 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.

4. STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS IN USE

4.1 STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Table 11. Estimated Annual Coverage, [2013 – 2017]

PERCENTAGE COVERAGE (%)					
YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
LOGSHEET	99	99	94	97	95.5
OBSERVER	10.1	18.7	19	23	29.9
PORT SAMPLING	10	12	25	60	69
TRANSHIPMENT	100	100	100	100	100

A) LOGSHEETS AND LANDINGS DATA.

The reconciliation of data sets (logsheets and landing) was maintained at 95.5%. The Data Registrar ensures the prompt submission of logsheets and landing by companies to maintain high reconciliation percentage.

B) OBSERVER PROGRAMME

B1: Placement

The Fiji National Observer coverage for 2017 has risen to a high of 29.9%. 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 programs such as the US Multilateral Treaty

B2: De- briefing

Fiji Observers are de-briefed at the end of every trip to ensure data reporting quality is maintained. In 2017 a total of 205 trips were de-briefed, registered and processed.

B3: Port Sampling

Fiji's port sampling program is carried out on Fiji's National Fleet at Suva Port and in 2017 a total of 100 port samplings out of the targeted 144 was achieved [69%]. This activity is carried out by observers whilst on shore. All species and size composition is submitted to SPC].

B4: Biological Sampling

A total of 17 biological samplings were conducted by Fiji observers in 2017. Four samplings were carried out at sea whilst thirteen were carried out in port. All samples were referred to SPC for further analysis.