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FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-13

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Annual Report to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Part 1: Information of fisheries, statistics and research

Republic of the Marshall Islands



Oceanic and Industrial Affairs Division
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

August 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 April 2018	Yes
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SUMMARY

In 2017, there were eight Marshall Islands-flagged and two chartered purse seine vessels operating throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The total catch estimates by the national purse seine fleet in 2017 was 64,527 metric tons. Additionally, retained catch estimates, from thirty-one chartered longline vessels associated with the domestically-based Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV), totaled 2,675 metric tons.

The commercial catches within the RMI EEZ are taken predominantly by the purse seine fishery but longline and pole-and-line operations also occur. In 2017, estimated total catch for all gears combined was 26,383 mt with purse seine accounting for 86% followed by longline 14% and pole-and-line <1%. Purse seine catch in the RMI EEZ decreased significantly from 78,767 in 2016 to 22,707 in 2017.

The RMI Observer Program's 58 active observers carried out 153 purse seine and 39 longline trips during 2017. Additionally, 44 longline trips were electronically observed in an e-Monitoring trial with domestically-based vessels. Observers were also utilized to monitor transshipment activity in Majuro port since the initiative started in late 2015. Available observer data for the RMI purse seine fleet indicated 1 turtle, 41 marine mammals, and no seabird interactions recorded during the year.

FLAG STATE REPORTING

Annual catch and effort estimates for the national purse seine fleet, fishing throughout the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC-CA) during the last five years are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1. In 2017, total catch estimates was 64,527 metric tons for the purse seine fleet. Skipjack is the prominent species caught comprising 79% of the total followed by yellowfin, 13% and bigeye tuna, 8%.

There were 31 foreign long-liners chartered in 2017 whose catch estimates are provided in Table 2. All chartered vessel are based locally and fish almost exclusively in the RMI EEZ. Vessel numbers for both purse seine and longline vessels are presented in Table 3 below.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate catch and effort distributions for the RMI flagged purse seine and chartered longline fleets. Purse seine catch and effort is primarily concentrated in the southern part of the RMI EEZ and the adjacent EEZs. As previously stated, longline vessels predominately operate in the EEZ and effort is more widely distributed within the RMI zone.

Table 1. Annual catch and effort estimates for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by species and year, in the WCPFC Convention Area (Source: Raised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Species	2013	2014	2015	2016		2017	
				Retain	Discard	Retain	Discard
SKIPJACK	60,645	62,182	77,021	50,522	355	50,936	195
YELLOWFIN	12,461	10,333	7,253	7,783	65	8,612	40
BIGEYE	4,528	3,381	2,595	1,749	6	4,971	31
BLUE SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLUE MARLIN	24	18	32	4	8	7	14
BLACK MARLIN	14	13	13	4	8	1	10
OCEANIC WHITETIP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
STRIPED MARLIN	1	0	1	1	1	0	2
SWORDFISH	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
MAKO SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SILKY SHARK	0	5	4	0	29	0	190
THRESHER SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
PORBEAGLE SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAMMERHEAD SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WHALE SHARK	0	0	1	6	22	0	0

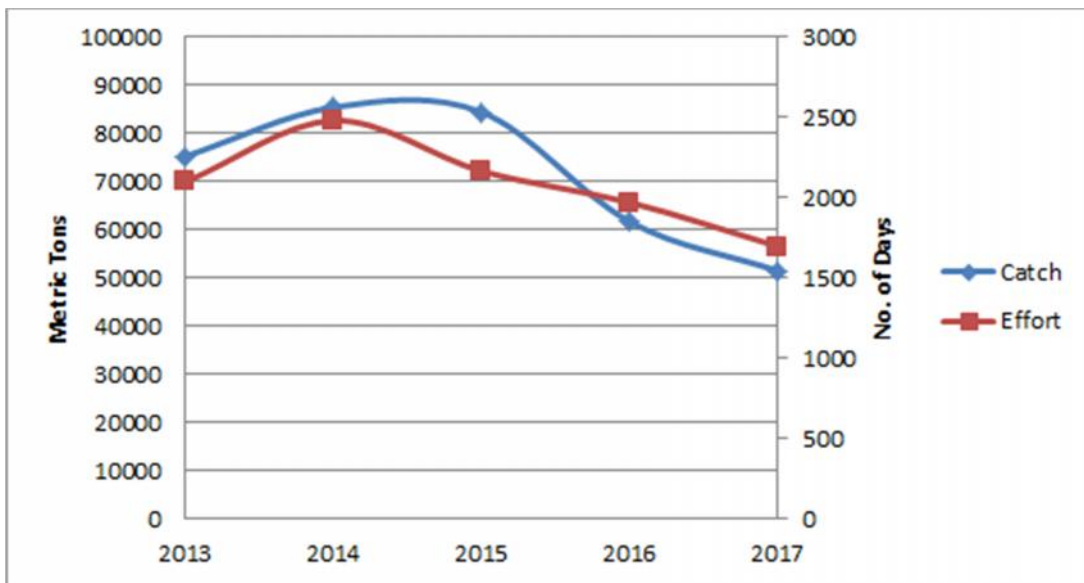


Figure 1. Annual catch and effort for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels for the WCPFC Convention Area

Table 2. Annual catch estimates for the Marshall Islands longline vessels, by species and year, for the WCPFC Convention Area (Source: Raised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Species	2013	2014	2015	2016			2017		
				Retain	Discard	Discard (No.)	Retain	Discard	Discard (No.)
YELLOWFIN	47	0	0	555	23	0	933	15	46
BIGEYE	80	0	0	692	8	0	1208	21	44
BLUE MARLIN	9	0	0	127	0	0	208	2	3
BLACK MARLIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	3	8
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
ALBACORE	7	0	0	25	0	0	45	2	4
PACIFIC BLUEFIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	1	1
SWORDFISH	1	0	0	13	0	4	80	3	4
BLUE SHARK	9	0	0	0	0	744	0	16	35
OCEANIC WHITETIP	2	0	0	0	0	27	0	5	4
THRESHER SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.1	8	67
MAKO SHARK	1	0	0	0	0	3	0.9	10	11
HAMMERHEAD SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
SILKY SHARK	5	0	0	0	0	220	0	16	20

Table 3. Number of Marshall Islands-flagged vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2013-2017

Year	GRT	Longline				Purse Seine			
		0-50	51-200	201-500	500+	0-500	501-1000	1001-1500	1500+
2013		0	0	3	0	0	7	3	
2014		0	0	0	0	0	7	5	
2015		0	0	0	0	0	7	5	
2016		0	24	0	0	0	7	3	
2017		0	31	0	0	0	7	3	

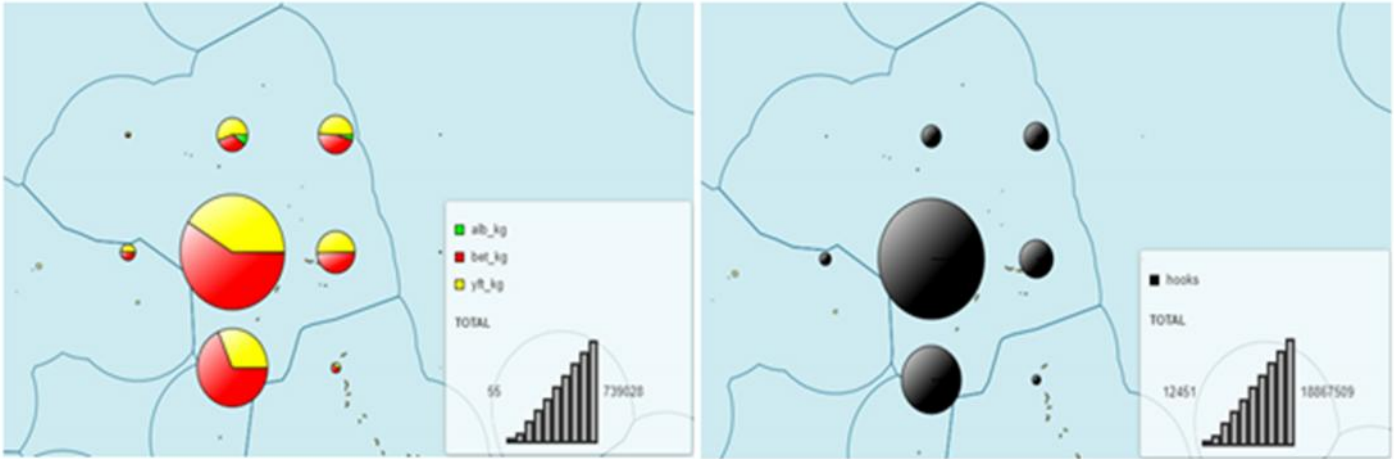


Figure 2. Annual distribution of catch (metric tons) and effort (hooks) by the Marshall Islands long-line vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2017

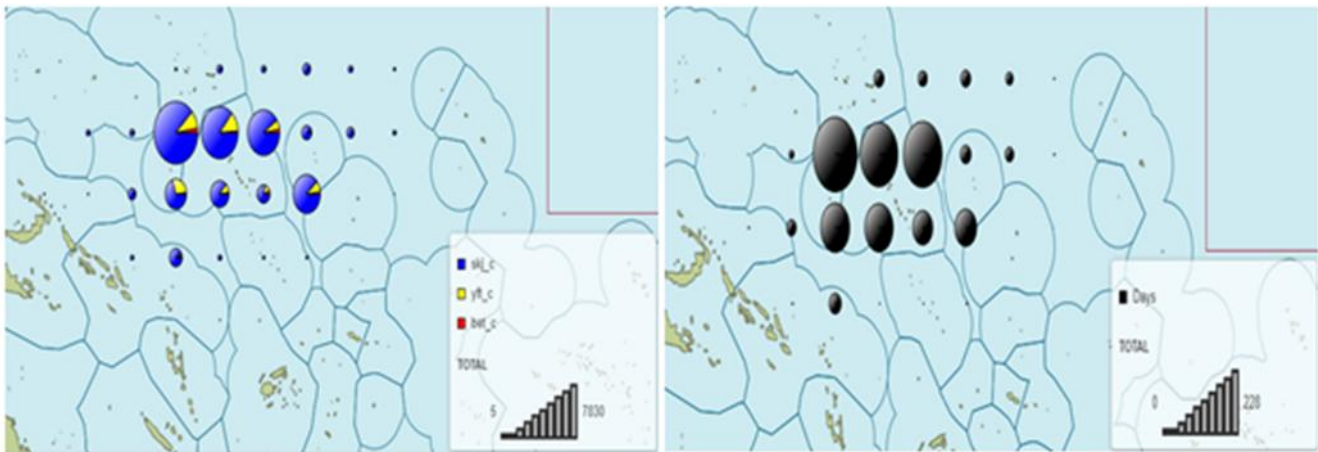


Figure 3. Annual distribution of catch (metric tons) and effort (days) by the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2017

Preliminary data for observed interactions with species of special interest by the RMI purse seine fleet are shown in Table 4. During 2017, there was 1 sea turtle interaction reported and which was released alive. From reported incidents of marine mammal interactions, there were a total of 38 individuals unintentionally caught where all but 3 individuals were released alive. There were 3 interactions with whale sharks and all were released alive. No seabird interactions were observed during the period.

Table 4. Observed interactions with species of special interest (seabird, turtle and marine mammals) on Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, in 2017.

		Number	Dead
MARINE MAMMALS			
	Rough-toothed dolphin	3	3
	FALSE KILLER WHALE	30	0
	BRIDE'S WHALE	5	0
MARINE REPTILES			
	OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	1	0
WHALE SHARK			
	WHALE SHARK	3	0
		42	3

COASTAL STATE REPORTING

Table 5 provides a description of foreign-flagged vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands waters over the past five years. A total of 257 foreign vessels were licensed however, not all were actively fishing in the RMI EEZ during the period. Domestically-based foreign longline vessels operating under the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) entered into charter with the RMI in 2017 hence the inclusion of the charter component of the catches in the flag state reporting above.

Table 5. Number of foreign longline, pole-and-line and purse seine vessels licensed to fish in the RMI EEZ, by year and flag.

FLAG	GEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CHINA	LL	23	26	26	27	30
	PS	2	6	7	0	6
FSM	LL	11	14	14	12	13
FSMA	PS	38	57	54	76	76
JAPAN	LL	1	8	8	2	6
	PL	15	20	13	11	16
	PS	24	28	29	30	25
KOREA	PS	27	26	5	25	26
NZ	PS	0	0	2	0	0
CH-TAIPEI	LL	2	2	2	0	0
	PS	6	25	25	26	27
TUVALU	PS	1	1	1	0	1
USA	PS	39	39	39	33	31
VANUATU	PS	3	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	LL	37	50	50	41	49
	PL	15	20	13	11	16
	PS	140	185	162	190	192

Available logsheet data indicate that total catch by purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ decreased from 78,767 mt in 2016 to 22,707 mt in 2017 with 32% taken by the RMI fleet followed by the Chinese Taipei fleet (Table 6). The catch rates in the RMI EEZ are usually influenced by the prevailing environmental conditions, with higher catches recorded during or immediately following strong El Nino periods. Skipjack tuna continues to be the dominant catch, accounting for 86% of the total catch in 2017.

The domestically-based foreign longline fleet comprises of vessels from China, FSM and previously Chinese Taipei are managed and operated under Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Luen Thai. Japanese longline vessels offload their catch in ports in Japan. In-zone longline catch estimates are provided in Table 7. Bigeye and yellowfin catches continue to account for the major part of the target catch composition. As with the purse seine fishery, most of the longline fishing effort occurs in the southern areas of the RMI EEZ however in the longline fishery, effort is more widely distributed throughout the zone.

In 2017, catches from the pole-and-line fleet decreased by 83% compared to the previous year (Table 8). The short-term trend continues to show a trend of catch reduction between years. Skipjack is the main species making up the catch composition for this fleet and accounts for 100% of the total in 2017. The RMI has yet to place observers on board these vessels and as a result observer coverage for validation purposes has not been achieved.

Table 6. Annual catches of purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2013-2017
(Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

		Catches (metric tonnes)					Catches (metric tonnes)						
Flag	Year	SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL	Flag	Year	SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	TOTAL
China	2013	1,797	35	0	0	1,832	RMI	2,013	12,372	654	388	4	13,418
	2014	2,019	229	20	0	2,268		2,014	16,268	1,043	401	18	17,730
	2015	80	5	0	0	85		2,015	3,074	536	11	0	3,621
	2016	0	0	0	0	0		2,016	8,737	170	114	0	9,021
	2017	0	0	0	0	0		2,017	6,404	623	221	4	7,252
FSM	2013	316	28	14	0	358	Solomon Is	2,013	0	0	0	0	0
	2014	2,536	247	47	0	2,830		2,014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	812	275	26	0	1,113		2,015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	1,665	142	56	0	1,863		2,016	1,040	120	10	0	1,170
	2017	5	5	0	2	12		2,017	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	2013	80	5	0	0	85	Tuvalu	2,013	1,779	98	3	2	1,882
	2014	0	0	0	0	0		2,014	213	2	0	0	215
	2015	86	6	5	0	97		2,015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0		2,016	0	0	0	0	0
	2017	112	60	2	0	174		2,017	0	0	0	0	0
Kiribati	2013	60	0	0	0	60	Chinese Taipei	2,013	1,779	98	3	0	1,880
	2014	243	126	6	0	375		2,014	11,406	522	38	0	11,966
	2015	435	80	0	0	515		2,015	3,363	1,033	14	0	4,410
	2016	4,078	632	31	0	4,741		2,016	11,725	1,200	163	0	13,088
	2017	649	118	14	0	781		2,017	5,808	803	138	10	6,759
Korea	2013	5,761	80	5	0	5,846	USA	2,013	6,538	213	60	0	6,811
	2014	5,312	378	25	0	5,715		2,014	15,697	378	87	0	16,162
	2015	0	0	0	0	0		2,015	11,135	1,823	40	0	12,998
	2016	18,745	1,296	103	0	20,144		2,016	13,257	823	119	0	14,199
	2017	779	180	27	0	986		2,017	3,252	297	90	0	3,639
PNG	2013	3,093	90	5	0	3,188	Vanuatu	2,013	6,538	213	60	0	6,811
	2014	10,997	528	44	0	11,569		2,014	735	10	0	0	745
	2015	2,845	537	30	0	3,412		2,015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	11,232	1,159	42	0	12,433		2,016	0	0	0	0	0
	2017	2,564	360	178	2	3,104		2,017	0	0	0	0	0
Philippines	2013	0	0	0	0	0	TOTAL EEZ	2,013	40,113	1,514	538	6	42,171
	2014	770	14	0	0	784		2,014	66,196	3,477	668	18	70,359
	2015	93	0	0	0	93		2,015	21,923	4,295	126	0	26,344
	2016	1,850	248	10	0	2,108		2,016	72,329	5,790	648	0	78,767
	2017	0	0	0	0	0		2,017	19,573	2,446	670	18	22,707

Table 7. Annual catches of longline fleets operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2013-2017
 (Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Flag	Year	Catch (metric tonnes)				Total
		ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	
China	2013	125	1,763	1,235	470	3,593
	2014	84	2,817	1,419	360	4,680
	2015	63	1,200	740	152	2,155
	2016	16	280	185	75	556
	2017	0	4	3	0	7
FSM	2013	84	1,001	665	217	1,967
	2014	49	1,445	738	258	2,490
	2015	56	953	529	178	1,716
	2016	26	475	338	150	989
	2017	16	440	350	116	921
Japan	2013	1	11	3	1	16
	2014	17	278	112	44	451
	2015	2	122	81	25	230
	2016	2	89	89	21	201
	2017	12	108	148	29	297
RMI	2013	7	80	47	10	144
	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	23	678	515	174	1,390
	2017	43	1,147	888	299	2,379
CH-Taipei	2013	20	117	64	40	241
	2014	22	140	77	18	257
	2015	1	11	30	4	46
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
	2017	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EEZ	2013	237	2,972	2,014	738	5,961
	2014	172	4,680	2,346	680	7,878
	2015	122	2,286	1,380	359	4,147
	2016	67	1,522	1,127	420	3,136
	2017	71	1,698	1,389	445	3,604

Table 8. Annual catches of pole-and-line fleet operating in the RMI EEZ, by flag and species, 2013-2017
 (Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Flag	Year	Catch (metric tonnes)			
		BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
Japan	2013	3	1,719	4	1726
	2014	3	3,317	21	3341
	2015	0	615	2	617
	2016	0	429	1	430
	2017	0	72	0	72

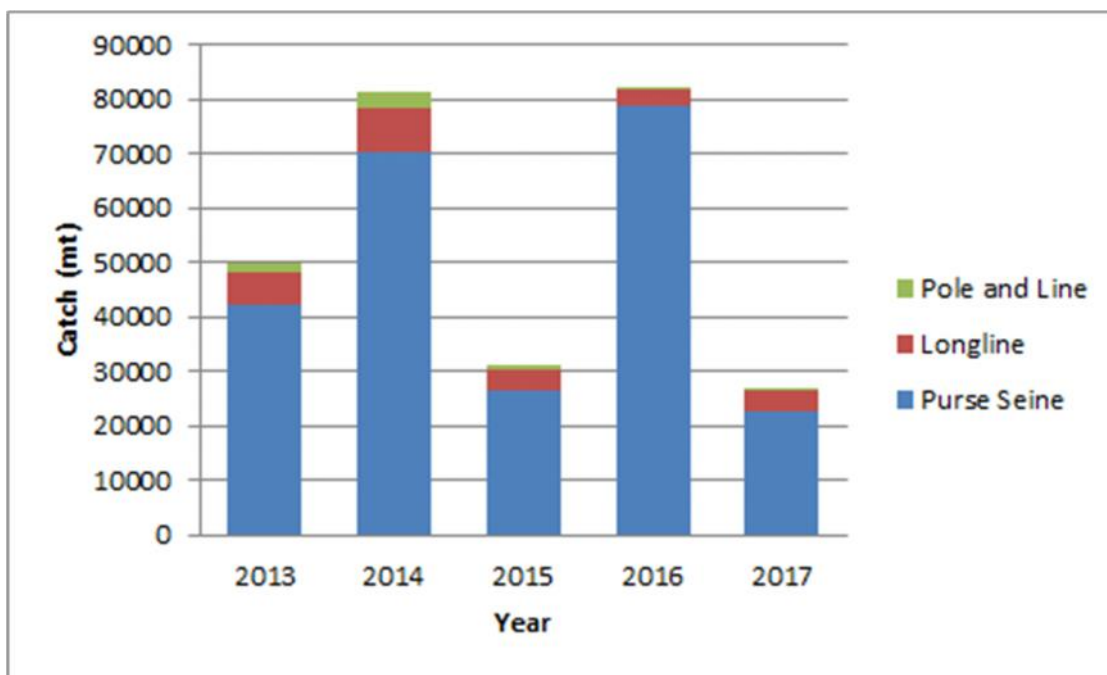


Figure 4. Total catch by the different gears operating in the RMI EEZ

DISPOSAL OF CATCH

As mentioned earlier, the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture, Ltd. (MIFV) operates the Longline Fish base with domestically-based foreign longline vessels. In 2017, there was a provisional total of 4,067 mt of fish unloaded by the longline fleet and most of it was bound for export markets (Table 9). Ongoing work on improving direct importation of unloadings data into the TUFMAN II database continues to progress with assistance from SPC. The MIFV exports mainly fresh chilled tuna species to markets in the US, China and Canada. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatch), designated as Local, are shipped to Asia via transport containers and/or sold locally. In 2017, MIFV also purchased purse seine-caught fish, mostly whole frozen skipjack (1,777 mt), which were included with container shipments destined for Asian markets (see Table 12).

Majuro port is the only designated port for transshipment in the RMI and continued to be a favorable port for transshipment in 2017. There was an estimated 423 purse seine transshipments undertaken in Majuro in 2017 with a provisional total of 292,552 mt transshipped (Table 10). Additionally, most transshipments by the national purse seine fleet are usually carried out in Majuro, however, foreign ports in the region are occasionally utilized (Table 11).

Table 9. Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels in 2017

Species	Export	Local	TOTAL
Albacore	0	34	34
Bigeye	2,088	66	2,154
Blue Marlin	14	264	278
Opah	2	0	2
Mahi Mahi	5	23	28
Sailfish	0	7	7
Swordfish	6	21	27
Wahoo	7	35	42
Yellowfin	1,288	207	1,495
TOTAL	3,410	657	4,067

Table 10. Provisional purse seine transshipments in Majuro port in 2017

Flag	Number of PS Transshipment	SKJ	YFT	BET	TOTAL
China	72	37,460	9,815	784	48,059
FSM	25	12,159	3,473	223	15,855
Kiribati	8	4,795	426	10	5,231
Korea	5	3,055	646	434	4,135
RMI	44	29,555	3,970	124	33,649
PNG	48	25,293	8,930	1,146	35,369
Phillipines	5	2,580	1,393	567	4,540
Solomon Islands	14	6,635	2,355	48	9,038
Tuvalu	2	1,575	90	-	1,665
CH-Taipei	132	69,295	23,100	1,538	93,933
USA	60	28,916	8,490	1,023	38,429
Vanuatu	8	2,101	473	75	2,649
TOTAL	423	223,419	63,161	5,972	292,552

Table 11. Purse seine transshipments by RMI-flagged vessels in 2017

Annex II (1)						
SPECIES	QUANTITY OFFLOADED (mt)	Transhipped in port	Transhipped in WCP-CA	Caught in WCP-CA	Product Form	Gear
YFT	5,039	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
BET	168	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
SKJ	44,016	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
Annex II (2)						
Port	Number of Transshipments	Transhipped in port	Transhipped in WCP-CA	Caught in WCP-CA	Product Form	Gear
MAJURO	55	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
POHNPEI	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
TARAWA	19	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine
ZHOUSHAN	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Frozen Whole	Purse Seine

ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

MIMRA, on behalf the Government, still maintains a joint venture partnership with Koo's Fishing Company, Ltd. (KFC). This venture continues to provide additional revenue stream as well as a catalyst for further on-shore developments.

The Pan Pacific Foods (PPF) loining plant continued operations in 2017 with viable production outputs supported by ongoing hiring and recruitment of local Marshallese employees. As has been reported before, the company also operates three RMI-flagged and two chartered purse seine vessels which supply the plant with raw materials. Total exports, as reported by the company in 2017, was 2,398 mt and are included in Table 12 below.

Table 12. Total Purse Seine exports (mt) in 2017, by product and destination

Destination	Product (mt)		
	Loin (SKJ)	Whole (SKJ&YFT)	Fishmeal
China	0	44	0
CH-Taipei	0	49	40
Fiji	130	52	0
Japan	0	196	0
Korea	0	99	0
Philippines	0	248	0
Thailand	223	828	0
Vietnam	0	1,666	0
TOTAL	353	3,182	40

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

The RMI continues to support domestic fisheries development aspirations in the region so long as it goes hand in hand with sustainable management measures that do not put a disproportionate burden on SIDS, in accordance with Article 30 of the Convention.

Other notable future prospects for the RMI tuna fishery involve further observer and debriefer capacity development as MIMRA continues to progressively train and recruit additional fisheries observers. Since the latter half of 2015, MIMRA has also utilized observers (when in port) to carry out port monitoring duties on transshipments taking place in Majuro port. Coverage is currently at almost 100%.

Additional developments and improvements to in-house data management systems is another area of focus that the RMI intends to progress so as to streamline our overall management and monitoring efforts. In this regard, relevant details are briefly provided in the next section below.

DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Data management and handling capacity continues to be a vital tool for MIMRA. The SPC-OFP has been very instrumental in the RMI's data efforts. Recent joint assistance from SPC and FFA allowed for considerable improvements in data collection and management where it was envisaged that a more integrated fisheries information management system will assist in streamlining most if not all of our reporting obligations.

MIMRA continues to employ a dedicated port sampler covering almost 100% of longline unloadings at the MIFV fish base. The port sampler along with other staff collate the data and enter into the TUFMAN II database.

MIMRA intends to shift its focus towards the PNAO FIMS as the standard by which it will manage and handle its data complemented by existing databases such as the TUFMAN II currently in use. Current e-Monitoring (EM) trial has seen further development of e-Reporting (ER) and EM initiatives. In 2017, 6 longline vessels were equipped with EM cameras early in the year. A total of 44 trips were observed electronically by 9 observers trained in EM. It is envisaged that these trainings will encourage observers to adapt by using new tools and technology in gathering data more efficiently in a timely manner.

In 2017, there were 58 active RMI observers employed under the MIMRA Observer Program; including 10 additional observers who were certified in May and 7 more in December. A total of 153 purse seine trips and 39 longline trips were observed (Table 13).

Table 13. Observer trips in 2017

Arrangement	Flag	Purse Seine	Longline
		Number of Trips	
Bilateral/MIMRA	CH-Taipei	36	
	China	4	36
	FSM	0	3
	USA	2	
POA/FSMA	FSM	37	
	Kiribati	11	
	PNG	31	
	China	4	
	Solomon Is.	4	
	Philippines	2	
FSMA/USMLT	USA	22	
TOTAL		153	39

APPENDIX 1 – CMM REPORTING

CMM 2005-03, Para 4	North Pacific Albacore	This is not a target catch for RMI vessels however, 45 mt of NP ALB were caught as bycatch by the chartered longline fleet.																				
CMM 2006-04, Para 4	South West striped Marlin	Not applicable. No RMI vessels fishing south of 15°S																				
CMM 2009-03, Para 8	Swordfish	Not applicable. No RMI vessels fish south 20°S																				
CMM 2009-06, Para 11 (ANNEX II)	Transshipment	76 in-port transshipments (Majuro 55; Tarawa 19; Pohnpei 1; Zhoushan 1) = 49,223 mt (<i>prov.</i>). National purse seine fleet consists of both flagged and chartered vessels. (See Table 11)																				
CMM 2010-07, Para 4	Sharks	Discards of the key shark species reported on purse seine logsheet totaled 27mt (bigeye thresher shark- 0.5, oceanic white-tip shark- 0.5, silky shark- 23, whale shark- 3) while observed number of interactions are listed below. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Retained</th> <th>Discarded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK</td> <td>13</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SILKY SHARK</td> <td>1420</td> <td>0</td> <td>1420</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WHALE SHARK</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Number	Retained	Discarded	BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	1	0	1	OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	13	0	13	SILKY SHARK	1420	0	1420	WHALE SHARK	3	0	3
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CMM 2011-03, Para 4	Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans	Observed interactions with cetaceans on RMI-flagged purse seine vessels in 2017. Work in progress to update logsheets to include information on safe release. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Number of Incidents</th> <th>Alive</th> <th>Dead</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bride's whale</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>False Killer Whale</td> <td>5</td> <td>24</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rough-toothed Dolphin</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>7</td> <td>29</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Number of Incidents	Alive	Dead	Bride's whale	1	5	0	False Killer Whale	5	24	6	Rough-toothed Dolphin	1	0	3	TOTAL	7	29	9
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CMM 2011-04, Para 3	Oceanic whitetip sharks	<p>Estimated number of oceanic white-tip sharks on RMI-flagged purse seine vessels in 2017</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="669 306 1511 489"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Life Status</th> <th>Observed Number</th> <th>Estimated Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK</td> <td>Alive</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dead</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Life Status	Observed Number	Estimated Number	OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	Alive	7	7	Dead	6	6
Species	Life Status	Observed Number	Estimated Number										
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	Alive	7	7										
	Dead	6	6										
CMM 2012-04, Para 06	Whale sharks	<p>There were two whale shark interactions and one landing reported by RMI-flagged purse seine vessels in 2017, all released alive. Work in progress to update logsheets to include information on safe release.</p>											
CMM 2012-07, Para 9	Seabirds	<p>No seabird interactions reported in 2017.</p>											
CMM 2013-08, Para 3	Silky sharks	<p>Estimated number of silky sharks on RMI-flagged purse seine vessels in 2017</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="669 968 1497 1121"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Life Status</th> <th>Observed Number</th> <th>Estimated Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">SILKY SHARK</td> <td>Alive</td> <td>413</td> <td>415</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dead</td> <td>1000</td> <td>1005</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Life Status	Observed Number	Estimated Number	SILKY SHARK	Alive	413	415	Dead	1000	1005
Species	Life Status	Observed Number	Estimated Number										
SILKY SHARK	Alive	413	415										
	Dead	1000	1005										
WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	Observer coverage	<p>This does not apply to RMI. There were no RMI flagged longline fishing vessels in 2017.</p>											
CMM 2015-02 Para 4	South Pacific Albacore	<p>Not applicable. No RMI vessels fish south 20°S</p>											