SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

Busan, Republic of Korea
8-16 August 2018

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

WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-11

KIRIBATI

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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 comprises of small-scale artisanal fishermen operating small skiff boats of less than 7-meters in length within 12nm and commercial purse seines and longline vessels licensed to fish inside Kiribati's 200nm Exclusive Economic Zone. These commercial purse seiner and longline vessels owned and operated mostly by distant water fishing nations (DWFN). In addition, there are also vessels registered under Kiribati flag fishing under joint venture and charter arrangements. In 2017 a total of 26 fishing vessels flag under Kiribati. Although the majority of licensed vessels offload in other ports there are also vessels required to land a certain portion of their catch in Kiribati. Tuna remains the mainstay for Kiribati sustenance and economic development hence sustainable and management of marine resources is vital for the nation.

2 Tabular Annual Fisheries Information

Refer to appended Tables.

3 Background

Kiribati's 3.5 million square kilometer Exclusive Economic Zone lies within 167°E – 146°W and 8°N-14°S in the WCPO and is divided into three major zones; the Gilbert in the west, Phoenix in the center and the Line to the East. These areas are an important fishing ground for fishing vessels where major commercially tuna species such as Skipjack (*Katsuowonus pelamis*), Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), Yellowfin (*Thunnus albacores*) and Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) fished in these areas. Kiribati is yet to have the capacity necessary to fully develop its tuna industry therefore engaged in join venture fishing partnership with foreign fishing partners who can provide the opportunity for Kiribati to develop its own domestic tuna industry. Of the 26 vessels registered under Kiribati 16 were chartered and 10 joint venture vessels. The charter vessels comprise of 6 longlines (4 flag to China and 2 Fiji flag) and 10 purse seine vessels all flag under China. These vessels were operated by Kiribati Fish Limited (KFL) - a processing plant in Tarawa exporting tuna product overseas. Joint venture vessels, on the other hand, are all purse seiners. These 10 purse seiners are all flag under Kiribati and managed by joint venture arrangements established between Kiribati and Korean fishing companies. Kiribati artisanal fishery also forms part of tuna fishery and comprises mostly of local fishermen catching tuna mainly for locally sale and domestic consumption. Fishing techniques used in this fishery are trolling and vertical hand lining. Boats are normally small skiff (usually less than 7 meters) powered by 15-40 HP outboard engines. The estimated number of artisanal boasts based on the 2015 artisanal fisheries survey is 1,911.

4 Flag State Reporting

This section describes recent activities by the national fleets in the Convention Area by gear type including development trends in each fishery such as change in fishing patterns, fleet operations, targeted species, trends in size composition.

4.1 Kiribati vessels

Table 1. Kiribati Longlines vessels

Size class	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0–10	0	0	0	0	0	0
10–50	0	0	0	1	0	1

50–200	0	1	1	8	5	6
200–500	1	0	0	5	9	0
500+	3	6	5	0	3	0

Table 2. Kiribati Pole and Line vessels

Size class	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0–10	0	0	0	0	0	0
10–50	0	0	0	0	0	0
50–200	0	0	0	0	0	0
200–500	1	1	1	1	0	0
500+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3. Kiribati Purse Seine vessels

Size class	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0–500	0	0	0	0	0	0
500–1,000	0	1	1	3	2	0
1,000–1,500	6	8	8	10	15	7
1,500+	3	4	5	8	10	12

The total number of Kiribati flag vessel active in the WCPO has increased since 2014 particularly the longline and purse seine fisheries and their fluctuation affect total number of Kiribati vessels annually. The pole and line fishery on the other hand was stable since 2013 until 2016 when there was no pole and line vessel flag under Kiribati. Significant change in the number of longline and purse seine vessel largely affect Kiribati vessels. There is also an increase in size capacity (+1,500) for purse seiners since 2013.

4.2 Annual Catches in WCPFC Convention Area

This section discusses annual catch estimates for registered vessels by gear and target species.

4.2.1 Longline Fishery

Table 4. Longline Catch

Species	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017-retained	2017 - discard
YELLOWFIN	126.10	175	108.1	405	395	358.60	0
BIGEYE	489.40	582	267.5	556	434	267.43	19.60
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	8	0	48.70	7.50
ALBACORE	46.64	40	7.29	358	470	691.43	0
BLACK MARLIN	0	1	0	405	54	0	0
BLUE MARLIN	0	36	0	27	27	0	0
STRIPPED MARLIN	0	1	7	0	1	95.20	0
SWORDFISH	0	10	20	9	18	54.41	0
BLUE SHARK	0	33	1	0	0	0	9.63
MAKO SHARK	0	1	6	0	0	0	0
OCEANIC WHITETIP	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
SILKY SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	114.10
THRESHER SHARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Annual catch for longlines ranges between 400 MT to 1,700 MT. Highest catch achieved in 2015 when 1,768 MT recorded but stabilizes around 1,400 MT on average in subsequent years. Bigeye (35%), Albacore (26%) and Yellowfin (24%) constitute the majority of longline catch from 2013-17 and while Bigeye catch decreased in recent years an increase catch in other species is noted, particularly Albacore as it accounts about half (48%) of total catch in 2017. Yellowfin and Bigeye contribute 24% and 18% respectively in that year. A significant amount of bycatch species also reported by the fishery in 2017.

4.2.2 Pole and Line Fishery

Table 5. Pole and Line catch

Species	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
YELLOWFIN	58	22	13	13	0	0
BIGEYE	0	0	0	0	0	0
SKIPJACK	177	305	240	240	0	0
OTHERS	0	0	0	0	0	0

Catch for pole and line fishery is mainly Skipjack and Yellowfin however catch for this fishery is lowest compared to other gears. As stated earlier there was no pole and line vessel since 2015 therefore there is no catch record for this fishery for 2016 and 2017.

4.2.3 Purse Seine Fishery

Table 6. Purse Seine catch

Species	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
YELLOWFIN	28,816.25	55,244.00	89,399.80	120,507.00	87,808.50	123,953.40
BIGEYE	5,807.50	12,814.00	16,604.22	14,622.00	9,585.70	21,450.00
SKIPJACK	52.50	4,183.00	3,170.04	1,568.00	1,458.00	5,239.30
OTHERS						

Purse seine catch increased from 70,000 MT in 2013 to over 150,000 MT in 2017. Catch fell by 28% in 2016 but recovered in 2017 peaked at 150,642 MT in that year. Catch proportion for this fishery is dominated by Skipjack accounting for more than 80% between 2013 and 2017. Lowest catch produced in 2013 of 72,241 MT.

4.2.4 Artisanal & Troll

Table 7. Artisanal and Troll catch

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
SKIPJACK	8,238	8,310	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190
YELLOWFIN	4,328	1,672	2,169	2,169	2,169	2,169	2,169
BIGEYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WAHOO	0	0	574	574	574	574	574
OTHERS	0	0	65	65	65	65	65

Poor monitoring of artisanal catch from local fishers means standardized catch was used from 2013. Catch from this fishery is mainly for consumption and small-scale export at the domestic level.

4.2.5 Catch and Effort Distribution for Kiribati Registered Vessels

Figure 2 and 3 summarize effort distribution by Kiribati registered purse seines and longlines in the WCPO. Purse seine effort mostly concentrates in the Gilbert area. This pattern is

similar to longline but longline effort extended eastward to the Line group and in other areas south of 14°S.

Figure 1. Spatial distribution of fishing effort within the Convention Area by the National Purse seine fleet

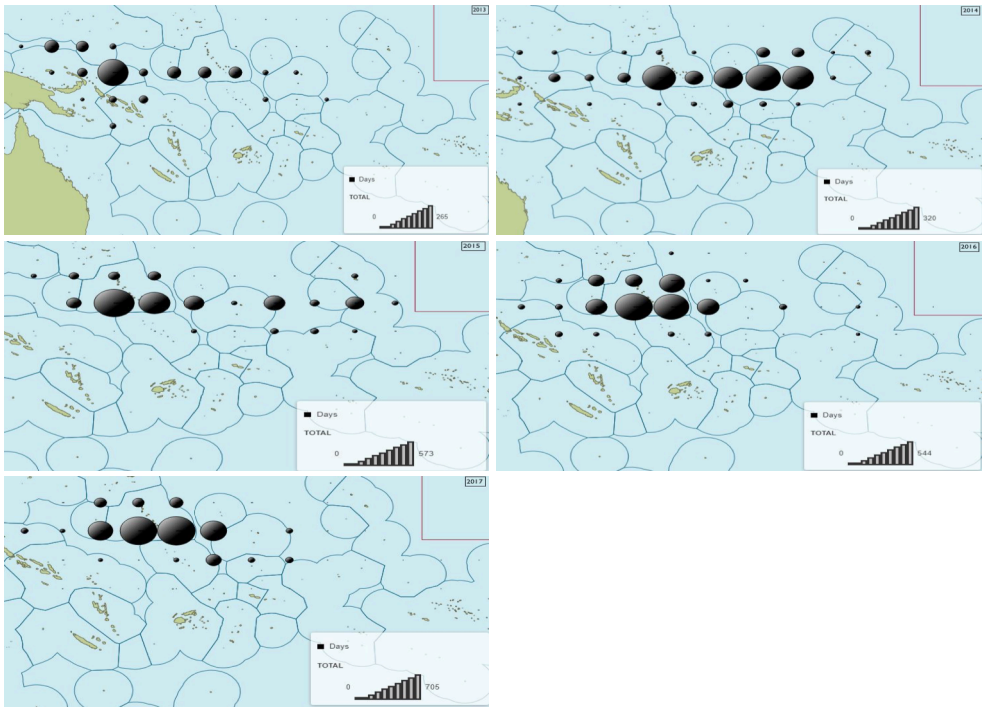
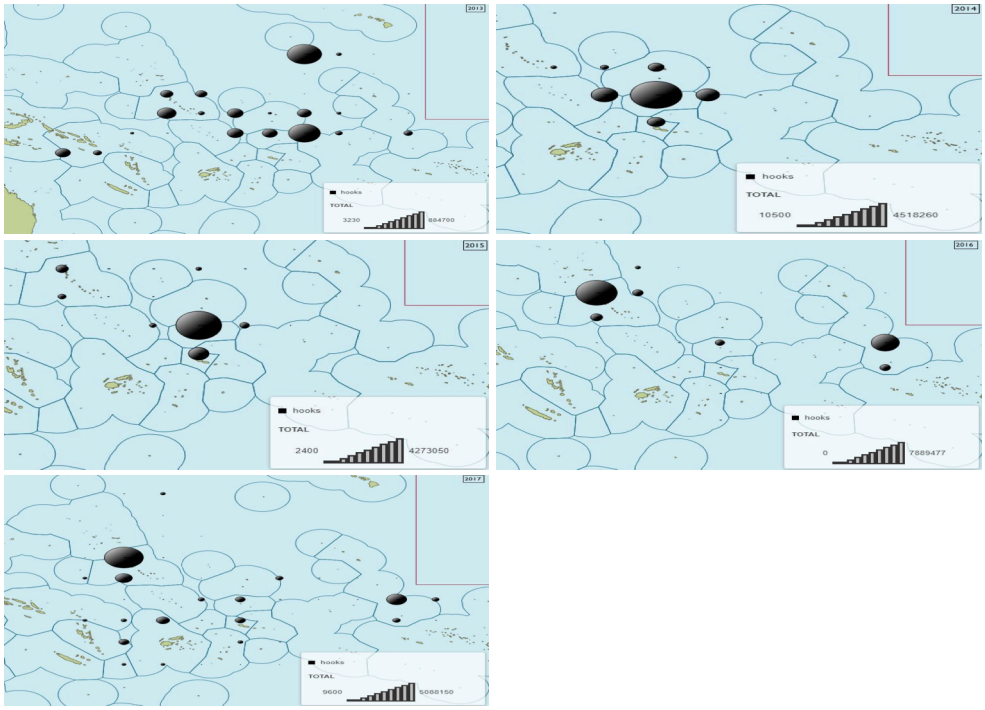


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of fishing effort within the Convention Area by the National Longline fleet



5 Coastal State Reporting

Kiribati closed its longline fishery to DWFN in 2017. This greatly impacted longline fishery in Kiribati EEZ in terms of effort and catch volume. The only longline vessels allowed to fish are KFL chartered vessels. However, Kiribati continues to license other gears such as purse seiners and supporting vessels like tankers and carrier vessels. Fishing activities of these vessels inside Kiribati's EEZ is regulated under specific licence conditions. This is in contrast to domestic vessels, which under exceptional arrangements allowed to fish inside Kiribati's domestic fishing zones (DFZ). Apart from that all license vessels prohibited for conducting transshipment in High Seas or fish closed areas such as Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA). Effort distribution is heavily influenced by several factors such as climatic conditions and movement of tuna stocks in national waters and in other waters where they hold a licence. Target species for licensed purse seiners include Skipjack

6 Socio-economic factors

Domestication of a tuna industry recently changed the way Kiribati licensed its fishing partners noting closure of the longline fishery for foreign vessels and exemptions to charter and joint venture vessels to fish inside Kiribati domestic fishing zones.

7 Disposal of Catch

Transshipment in port is compulsory for all licensed purse seiners. This allows monitoring of catch transshipped, provides for deterring IUU fishing in areas where the transshipping vessel fished and provide direct and indirect benefits from transshipment activity. While it is mandatory for purse seine vessel to transship in port, longlines were exempted to conduct transship outside port. This is purposely to minimize operational cost to KFL and to constantly supply the processing plant with tuna raw materials. Additionally, some companies also required to offload a certain portion of their catch to the factory. These catches come in fresh (usually from longlines) and frozen from purse seiners. Landing volumes were processed and exported as fresh and frozen products (loins and fillets) to overseas markets. KFL holds landing data and its major markets include Japan, Europe and the US. Under grade tunas and other bycatch species usually sold locally.

8 Onshore Development

8.1 Processing Plant

KFL is the only processing establishment in the country. The company has its own purse seine and longline fleets licensed under chartered arrangements. Under the Commission rule catch by charter vessels counted as Kiribati catch although these vessels were foreign flag. KFL currently operates 16 foreign flag vessels; 10 of which are longlines and 6 purse seiners. There are also reefer carrier vessels chartered by KFL in transshipping of catch including chiller vehicles owned by the Company to transport products from factory to the airport. Expansion of KFL operation and support facilities would increase country export volume in future.

8.2 Longline Vessel Project

Government's long-term vision is to build its domestic fleets and plans are underway to arrange the purchasing, owning and managing of Government's first longline vessels. These vessels will be operated and managed by locally selected recipients of this project to assess

its viability with the aim of expanding the project to the wider community in future when the project proved successful.

9 Future Prospect of the Fishery

The Government is also keen to explore wider benefits from participation in the value added products for tuna through expansion of opportunities for direct and indirect employment in the fishing industry as well as conditioning licensed vessels to tie access with crewing. However, key to maximization of economic return from tuna fishing and greater protection of high value tuna species including commercially valuable pelagic and coastal fisheries through effective enforcement remains integral for long-term sustainability of the fisheries industry for the nation future prospect.

10 Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

10.1 Logsheet Data Collection and Verification

Logsheet data collection and verification is an ongoing activity by fisheries. New recruited compliance officers have improved monitoring activities in line with the Commission requirements and CMMs. Logsheets can be received from companies or operators of fishing vessels or through observers. Fishing report and data submission requirements enforced through licence conditions.

10.2 Observer Programme

One of MCS tools to monitor and deter IUU is placement of observers onboard fishing vessels. The current arrangement requires 100% placement on purse seiners and 5% for longlines - the latter attained in 2016 as normally placement on longlines is far more challenging than purse seiners given harsh working condition on longlines and the way they operate away too long without visiting a port. Observer coverage is calculated by dividing the number of trips (observer placed onboard the vessel) by the total number of fishing trips of the vessel in a year. Kiribati will continue to work with its fishing partners to ensure the required coverage is met by its flag and chartered vessels. Note that observers from the national observer program cannot be placed on Kiribati flag vessels but compensated through observer providers in the region.

10.3 Port Sampling Programme

Kiribati supports SPC port sampling program however due to financial constraints the program ceased in 2014. Another reason was the absence of full time port samplers to take on the job and observers normally tasked to undertake this job when they are not onboard. This proved ineffective when observers are not available. All data retrieved from port sampling activities were sent to SPC.

10.4 Unloading / Transshipment

The majority of transshipment activities conducted in port were carried out between licensed fishing vessels and carrier boats. Transshipment is high when fishing favors Kiribati waters, particularly during El Niño periods. Since Kiribati does not have a canning factory fish from purse seiners normally transshipped to overseas destinations. In recent years the Government imposed on licensed vessels a requirement to offload a certain portion of Yellowfin catch to KFL. This is an additional catch besides catch landed by KFL vessels to ensure sufficient raw materials needed for processing is sufficient. Most landing and export data currently held at KFL.

11 Research Activities Covering Target and Non-target Species

Kiribati is supportive to regional research activities and stock assessment activities conducted in the WCPO through licences issued to research vessels, recruitment of a national tagging recovery officer and support to other oceanic research programs. The post of a national tag officer does not exist anymore and this may due to funding reasons. Compliance officers currently undertake this role.

ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs[1]

26 February 2018

<table>
<tr><td>CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4</td><td>There were 15 KI vessels fished north of the equator with total days of 813 and caught 32.73mt of Albacore as bycatch.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4</td><td>There were 6 KI vessels fished in the area south of 15°S but no Striped Marlin caught in 2017.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish],Para 8</td><td>There were 2 KI vessels fished and caught 0.35mt of Swordfish in the area south 20°S as bycatch. Kiribati EEZ located above 20°S.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>1)</td><td>1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>a. OFFLOAD</td><td>a. RECIEVE</td></tr>
<tr><td>b. 59,263.53mt</td><td>b. 3,869.00mt</td></tr>
<tr><td>c. All transshipment in port</td><td>c. All transshipment in port</td></tr>
<tr><td>d. Caught in the Convention area</td><td>d. Caught in the Convention area</td></tr>
<tr><td>e. SKJ, YFT, BET for PS, SKJ, YFT, BET for LL</td><td>e. SKJ, YFT</td></tr>
<tr><td>f. Frozen</td><td>f. Frozen</td></tr>
<tr><td>g. KI-PS FLAG - 10 KI-LL FLAG - 1, KI-PS CHARTTERED - 12, KI-LL CHARTTERED - 2</td><td>g. KI-RC FLAG – 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>2)</td><td>2)</td></tr>
<tr><td>a) 103</td><td>a) 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) All transshipment in port</td><td>b) All transshipment in port</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) All transshipment in port</td><td>c) All transshipment in port</td></tr>
<tr><td>d) Caught in the Convention area</td><td>d) Caught in the Convention area</td></tr>
<tr><td>e) Purse seine, Long line</td><td>e) Reefer Carrier</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4</td><td>The catch summary for shark species 2017 shown in the table below are raised estimates based on observer data in accordance with WCPFC Convention and agreed reporting procedures.</td></tr>
</table>

[1]Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC14 (Dec 2017)

Gear	Species	Estimated Number	Retained	Discarded
PS	Great Hammerhead	1	0	1
	Oceanic White-tip Shark	8	0	8
	Silky Shark	886	0	886
	Smooth Hammerhead	1	0	1
	Whale Shark	8	0	8
LL	Blue Shark	2	0	2
	Silky Shark	7	0	7

Source of data: TUBS

CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 4

Based on observer data report, the estimated total number of Cetaceans for 2017 is two (2) and all released alive.

Gear	Species	Estimated Number	Dead	Alive
PS	Cetaceans	2	0	2

CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3

Based on the observer data report, the total estimated number for Oceanic Whitetip shark is eight (8). Six (6) were released alive and two (2) released dead.

Gear	Species	Estimated Number	Dead	Alive
PS	Whitetip shark	8	2	6

CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06

The total estimated number of whale shark encircled by some KI fleets in 2017 was eight (8). All released alive.

Date	EEZ	Species	Catch (n)	FATE
14/02/2017	TK	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA
3/6/2017	TV	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA
17/12/2017	GL	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA
25/02/2017	PG	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA
2/3/2017	PG	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA
1/3/2017	PG	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA
8/9/2017	GL	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA
9/1/2017	PG	WHALE SHARK	1	Released-DPA

CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3

c) Based on the observer data report (TUBS), the total estimated number of Silky Shark for 2017 was 893 as tabulated in the table below.

Note: 262 released Alive, 628 released dead and 3 released unknown.

Gear	Flag	Species	Estimated Number	Life Status
S	KI	SILKY SHARK	261	Alive
	KI	SILKY SHARK	625	Dead
L	KI	SILKY SHARK	1	Alive
	KI	SILKY SHARK	3	Dead
	KI	SILKY SHARK	3	Unknown

<table>
<tr><td>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)</td><td>According to national record, Kiribati attained the required 5% observer coverage on long line vessels. Coverage on purse seine is 100% for 2017.
<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 LL</td><td>Pacific Islands</td><td>103</td><td>5</td><td>4.8%</td><td>8, 9</td></tr>
<tr><td>KIRIBATI PS</td><td>Pacific Islands</td><td>27</td><td>27</td><td>100%</td><td></td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4</td><td>Any catch of Albacore caught south of 20°S have been submitted to SPC.</td></tr>
<tr><td>CMM 2017-06 [Seabirds] Para 9</td><td>There were no reported interactions with Seabirds in the observer data.</td></tr>
</table>