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

WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-22

SOLOMON ISLANDS



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS 2017

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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1. ABSTRACT/SUMMARY

The Solomon Islands tuna fishery comprises of purse-seine, longline and pole and line sectors. The purse seine sector is a mix of both domestic and foreign vessels. The longline fleet are all foreign flagged vessels where a number of these vessels are locally based. The pole and line fleet are also a mix of both domestic and foreign vessels. The domestic pole and line vessel fished exclusively in Solomon Islands EEZ. The distant water fleets access Solomon Islands EEZ under several types of arrangements including

-) Bilateral fishing access arrangements between the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the governments of bilateral partners
-) Vessels operating under Parties to the Nauru agreement (PNA).
-) Vessels operating under a cross-party, multi-zone access pool. Vessels from other Pacific Island nations fish under the FSMA and
-) Vessels under the multilateral treaty between FFA member countries and the United States of America

In 2017, Solomon Islands licensed 267 fishing vessels that are locally flagged, foreign and foreign locally based fishing vessels to fish in the Solomon Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). 13 of these vessels are locally flagged (National Fleet) which comprises of 10 purse seiners and 2 pole and line 1 longline vessels (inactive). 145 vessels are Locally based foreign fishing vessel which comprises of 64 longlines, 4 light seiners, 64 Carrier and 13 fuel bunker vessels. Solomon Islands under its bilateral fishing arrangements with Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Philippines also licenced 109 vessel. This comprises 103 Purse seine, 4 pole and line vessels and 2 Carrier.

The estimated total catch in 2017 by all Solomon Islands National Fleet was 46,297.1 MT. The Purse seine catch consist of 28,249.1 MT of skipjack, 17,292.7 MT of yellowfin and 169.36 MT of bigeye tuna. The Pole & Line catch consist of 435 MT of Skipjack and 151 MT of Yellowfin tuna. Most of which were caught in the inner Main Group Archipelago (MGA) and within Solomon islands EEZ. The purse seine fleet had an estimated effort of 1460 sea days with a total of 1279 fishing days and the pole and line fleet effort 255 Sea days with 231 fishing days. There was a decrease in catch in the Solomon Islands EEZ by flagged vessels possibly due to the reduced effort.

Total estimated catch in 2017 by all foreign purse seine vessels fishing in Solomon Islands EEZ was 102,590.00MT. This catch estimates consists of 84,682.00MT of skipjack tuna, 16,931.00MT of yellowfin tuna and 977 MT of bigeye tuna. The total catch estimates for foreign longline vessel was 10,964 MT, this consist of 4,510.96 MT of yellowfin tuna, 4,650.97 MT of albacore tuna, 789.28 MT of bigeye tuna and 1013.72 MT of other species. These foreign longlines had a total estimated effort of 10301 sea days with 9663 fishing days. The estimated catch for foreign Pole & Line was 28 MT of Skipjack. These catch estimates are for foreign fishing vessels active in the Solomon Islands EEZ.

The overall total catch by all fishing vessels licenced by Solomon Islands active in the convention area for 2017 was estimated at 159,880.04 MT of tuna. This represents 64% of skipjack, 31% of yellowfin 1% of bigeye tuna, 3 % of albacore and 1% of other species. This represent a differences to 2016 catches. (SKJ 3 % increase, YFT 3 % decrease, BET 1 % decrease, ALB a 1 % increase and Other species remain at 1 %.).

Solomon Islands strives towards building its fishing industry. Since 2016 one onshore development project was prioritised following a feasibility study of suitable sites. The Solomon Islands MFMR was given the mandate to be the lead agency on progressing the onshore development, including land settlement in 2016.

2. TABULAR ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION (NATIONAL FLEET)

2.1 Annual catch estimates

Table 1.a Annual catch and effort estimate for Solomon Islands national fleets (flagged) purse seine vessel by primary species and their discards for the WCPFC Convention area from 2013 – 2017. (Table 1.a using the ACEs method).

NATIONAL FLEET - Purse Seine - Key species catches in WCPFC Area with raised VMS								
Category	Species	2013	2014	2015	2016		2017	
		Raised Catch (MT)	Raised Catch (MT)	Raised Catch (MT)	Retained estimate (MT)	Discards estimates (MT)	Retained estimates (MT)	Discards estimates (MT)
1. TUN	ALB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1. TUN	BET	279.59	154.67	36.45	1644.896	7.821	169.36	0.747591845
1. TUN	PBF	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
1. TUN	SKJ	25063.27	22541.60	13362.20	26615.919	249.0399999	28249.06	0.150418861
1. TUN	YFT	17946.48	25907.89	15496.20	15423.859	40.14999995	17292.71	0.085914313
2. BIL	BLM	0.43	0.21	0.09	3.299999967	9.129999978	3.27	0.001448061
2. BIL	BUM	0	1.03	0	4.8399999	1.319999967	0.12	0.000957396
2. BIL	MLS	0.16	0.11	0.26	0.99	0	1.69	0.49839334
2. BIL	SWO	0	0	0	1.6499999	9.9	0.14	0
3. SHK	BSH	0	0	0	0	1.319999967	0	0
3. SHK	FAL	0	0	0.35	0	128.326	1.49	0.05586405
3. SHK	HAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.453085355
3. SHK	MAK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. SHK	OCS	0	0	0	0	0.32999997	0	0.09061597
3. SHK	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. SHK	RHN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.001675443
3. SHK	THR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.475740265

Table 1.b Annual catch and effort estimate for Solomon Islands pole and line national fleets in the WCPFC Convention area from 2013 – 2017.

NATIONAL FLEET- Pole and Line-Primary species in the WCPFC Conventional Area									
Flag Code	Year	Vessels	Trips	Sea Days	Fish Days	SKJ Catch (MT)	BET Catch (MT)	YFT Catch (MT)	TOTAL Catch (MT)
SB	2017	2	17	255	231	435	0	151	591
SB	2016	2	19	270	254	462	0	91	553
SB	2015	1	1	19	19	688	0	222	16
SB	2014	3	3	19	19	1238	1	293	62
SB	2013	3	45	332	328	1877	0	277	1198

2.2 Historical information on National Fleet.

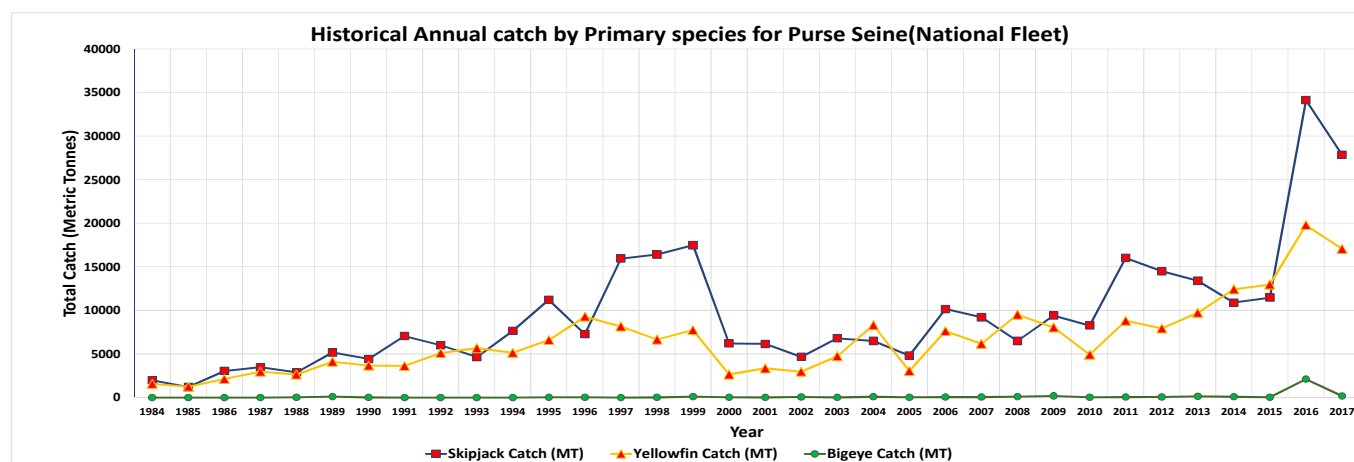


Figure 1a. Historical annual catch for purse seiners under national fleets by primary species for the WCPFC Convention area from 1984 – 2017.

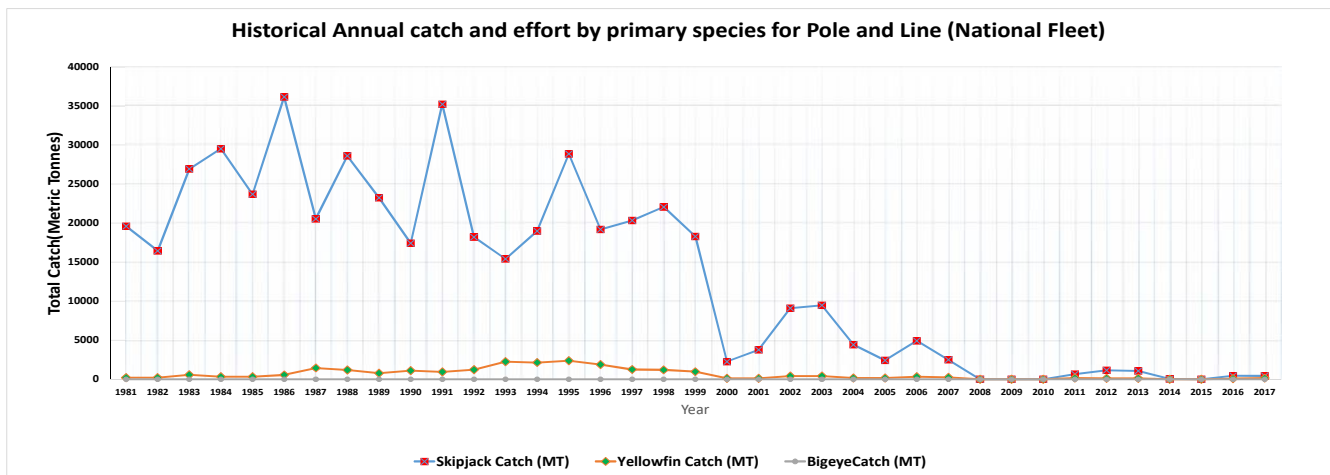


Figure 1b. Historical annual catch for pole and line under national fleet by primary species for the WCPFC Convention area from 1981 – 2017.

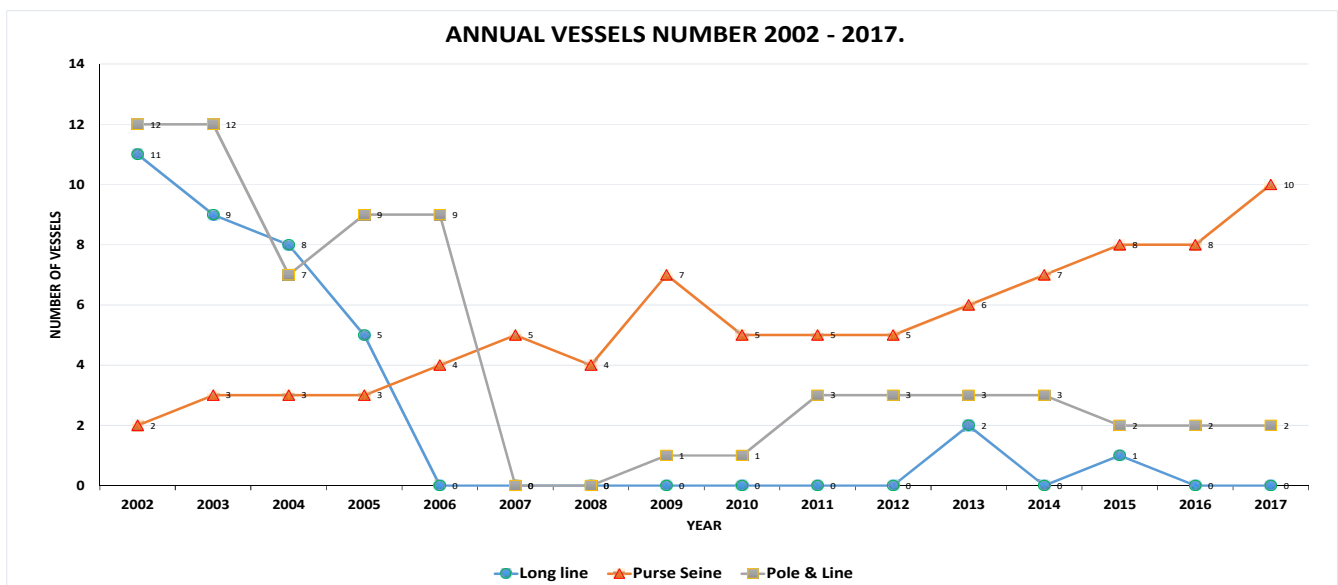


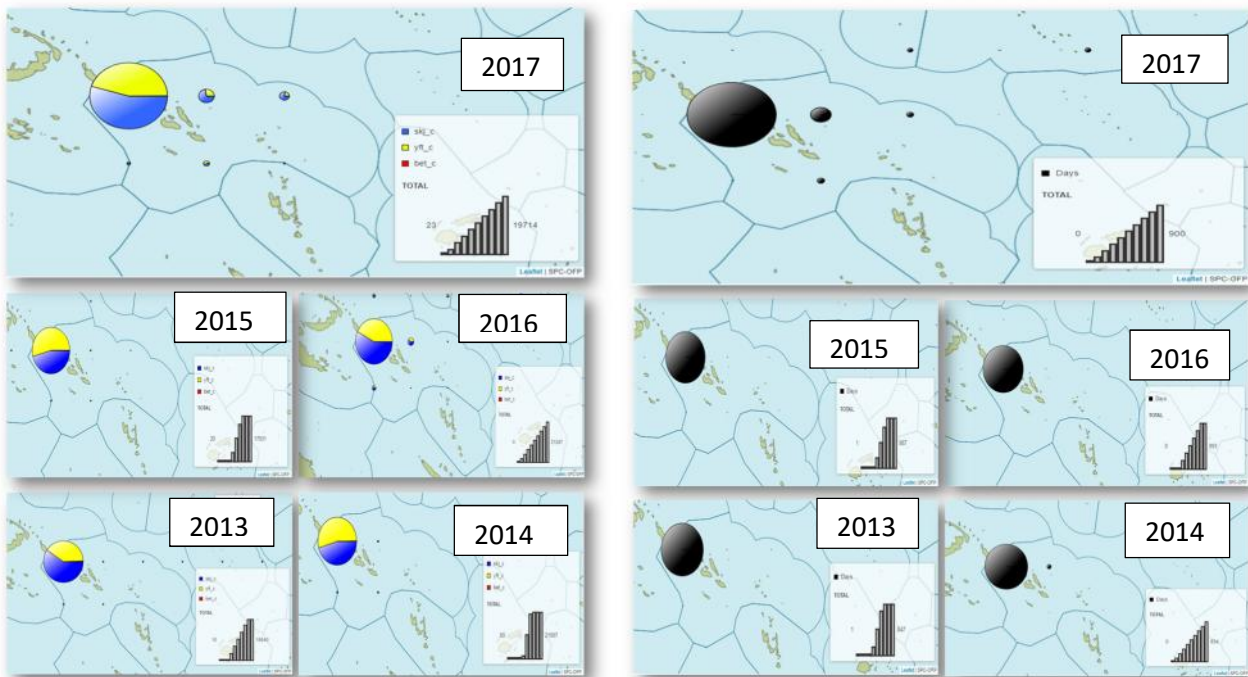
Figure 2. Historical annual number of vessels in the national fleet by gear for the WCPFC Convention area from 2002 – 2017.

2.3 Size category

Table 2. Number of vessels under national fleet by gear type and size category (GRT) active in the WCPFC Convention area during 2013 -2017.

Year	PURSE SEINE					POLE & LINE				
	00-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT	TOTAL	0-50 GRT	51-200 GRT	201-500 GRT	500+	TOTAL
2013	0	31	58	19	108	0	2	12	0	14
2014	0	24	64	15	103	0	2	9	0	11
2015	1	20	67	12	100	0	2	4	1	7
2016	0	5	3	0	8	0	0	2	0	2
2017	0	5	3	2	10	0	2	0	0	2

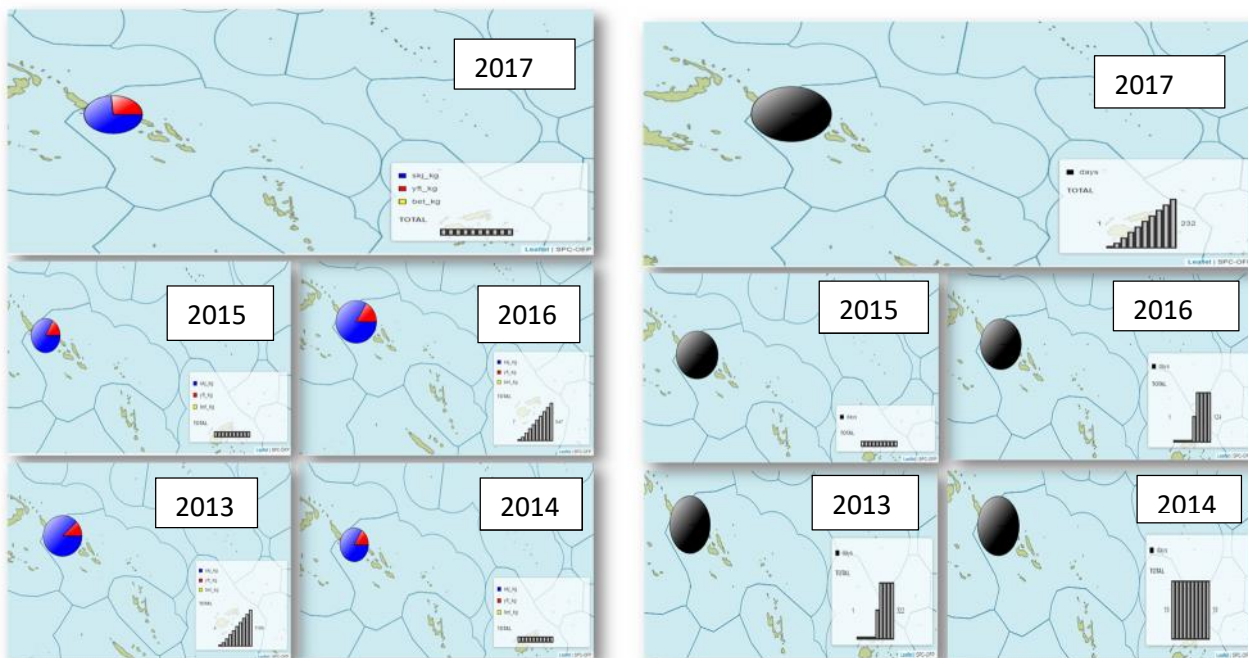
2.4 Catch and Effort distributions



Catch

Effort

Figure 3a. Annual catch and effort distribution by purse seine national fleets active in the WCPFC Convention area for 2013 - 2017. Yellow = yellowfin, blue = skipjack. Effort distributions are represented in black circles



Catch

Effort

Figure 3b. Annual catch and effort distribution by pole and line national fleets active in the WCPFC Convention area for 2013 - 2017. Red = yellowfin, blue = skipjack. Effort distributions are represented in black circles.

2.5 Species of special interest

Table 3. Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest by the purse seine national fleet in the WCPFC Convention area for 2013 - 2017.

Year	2013			2014			2015			2016			2017		
	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead	Number	No. Alive	No. Dead
SPERM WHALE	3	2	0				1	1	0						
INDO-PACIFIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	31	29	2				1	1	0	4	4	0			
BEAKED WHALE BLAINVILLE'S	1	1	0	12	12	0	2	2	0						
SEI WHALE	13	12	0	3	3	0	5	5	0	28	27	1	1	1	0
COMMON DOLPHIN	9	0	0							188	188	0			
SPINNER DOLPHIN	10	10	0				56	49	0	25	19	6			
ROUGH TOOTHED DOLPHIN	8	4	2	10	10	0	53	42	5	21	20	0			
BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	34	21	8	22	22	0	32	32	0	25	25	0	4	3	0
HUMPBACK WHALE	4	4	0							3	3	0			
FALSE KILLER WHALE	363	352	1	251	247	0	287	284	0	83	81	2	10	9	1
PYGMY KILLER WHALE	23	15	6										1	1	0
KILLER WHALE										1	1	0			
BRIDE'S WHALE	8	8	0	4	4	0	21	21	0	21	21	0	5	5	0
SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE	62	61	0	6	6	0	27	27	0	33	33	0	0	0	0
BALEEN WHALES NEI	10	10	0												
PYGMY SPERM WHALE	3	3	0												
MELON HEADED WHALE	2	2	0							4	4	0			
MARINE MAMMAL (UNIDENTIFIED)	8	7	0				6	6	0	6	6	0			
MINKE WHALE	1	1	0	8	8	0	8	8	0	5	5	0			
RISSO'S DOLPHIN	20	19	1				18	9	0						
GINKGO-TOOTHED BEAKED WHALE				1	1	0									
WHALE SHARK	56	44	3	28	27	0	2	2	0	37	37	0	34	33	0
BLUE WHALE							1	1	0						
DOLPHIN FRASER'S							5	4	0						
DOLPHINS / PORPOISES (UNIDENTIFIED)							2	2	0						
GREEN TURTLE	19	15	0	8	6	0	76	64	3	4	4	0	2	1	0
OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (NEW FAO)	10	7	1	7	7	0	12	12	0	8	8	0			
HAWKSBILL TURTLE	21	18	0	1	1	0	11	11	0	4	4	0	2	1	0
FLATBACK TURTLE	1	1	0				2	2	0	2	2	0			
LEATHERBACK TURTLE (NEW FAO)	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1						
LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	22	21	0	3	3	0	11	8	0	6	6	0	1	1	0
MARINE TURTLE (UNIDENTIFIED)				1	1	0				2	2	0			

2.6 Non-target, associated and dependent species

Table 4. Annual estimated catches of non – target, associated and dependent species including sharks by purse seine national fleet from 2013 – 2017 in the WCPFC Convention area. (Sources: Dorado and TUBs reports).

NATIONAL FLEET - Purse Seine - Annual Estimated Catches of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks in WCPFC Convention Area , for 2013 to 2017.								
		2013	2014	2015	2016		2017	
Category	Species	Raised Catch (MT)	Raised Catch (MT)	Raised Catch (MT)	Retained estimate (MT)	Discards estimates (MT)	Retained estimates (MT)	Discards estimates (MT)
BIL	MLS	0.16	0.11	0.26	0.99	0	1.69	0.49839334
BIL	SWO	0	0	0	1.6499999	9.9	0.14	0
SHK	BSH	0	0	0	0	1.319999967	0	0
SHK	FAL	0	0	0.35	0	128.326	1.49	0.05586405
SHK	HAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.453085355
SHK	MAK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHK	OCS	0	0	0	0	0.32999997	0	0.09061597
SHK	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHK	RHN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.001675443
SHK	THR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.475740265

2.7 Estimated annual coverage

Table 5. Estimated annual coverage of operational catch and effort data, port sampling and observers data for the national fleet by gear from 2013 – 2017.

GEAR	FLEET	YEAR	CATCH/EFFORT DATA COVERAGE	PORT SAMPLING COVERAGE	OBSERVERS DATA COVERAGE
Purse seine	Solomon Island national fleet	2013	MEDIUM	NIL	HIGH
		2014	LOW	NIL	HIGH
		2015	HIGH	NIL	HIGH
		2016	MEDIUM	NIL	HIGH
		2017	HIGH	NIL	HIGH
Pole and Line	Solomon Island national fleet	2013	HIGH	NIL	LOW
		2014	HIGH	NIL	LOW
		2015	HIGH	NIL	LOW
		2016	HIGH	NIL	LOW
		2017	HIGH	NIL	MEDIUM
(Legend categories of coverage-					
HIGH	80% - 100%,				
MEDIUM	50% - 79%				
LOW	0% - 49%)				

TUFMAN data system indicated high coverage for Purse seine National fleet and medium coverage for the pole and line Fleets.

3. BACKGROUND

The Solomon Islands tuna fishery is composed of purse-seine, longline and pole and line sectors. The purse seine fishery catches predominantly yellowfin and skipjack tuna with a very small bycatch. The tuna fisheries make a significant contribution to the economy of the country, through government revenue, employments and exports. The Solomon Islands Government depends to a great degree on this fishery as it brings significant revenues through access fees, taxes, duties and levies. The tuna industry in Solomon Islands employ more than 2000 employees. The artisanal fishery for tuna is very small in comparison to the commercial sector, but is a significant contributor to the food security and social wellbeing of Solomon Islanders.

Management tools applied to ensure that fisheries are effectively managed in Solomon Islands include the Fisheries Management Act 2015, National Fisheries Regulations 2017 and the Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plan (TMDP) 2014. The objective of the 2015 Act is to ensure the long-term management, conservation, development and sustainable use of Solomon Islands fisheries and marine ecosystems for the benefit of the people of Solomon Islands.

The TMDP is designed to guide future management and development of tuna fisheries to achieve the overall goal of the Government of the Solomon Islands. The TMDP is also consistent with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources' (MFMR) Corporate Plan, and particularly the identified role of the MFMR to regulate the orderly development and quality management of Solomon Islands fisheries and marine resources; and, to ensure that Solomon Islands receives maximum economic and social benefits from the sustainable use of its fisheries and marine resources. Preparation of the TMDP is provided for under the Fisheries Management Act 2015 and it is consistent with the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2035, under its overarching theme, 'To Build Better Lives for All Solomon Islanders'. The NDS strategic objectives relevant to fisheries management and development include: 'Increase economic growth and equitably distribute employment and income benefits' and 'Effectively respond to climate change and manage the environment and risks of natural disasters'.

The management regime under the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) is the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). Solomon Islands' Party Annual Effort (PAE) of 3997 VDS Fishing Days since 2016 is approximately 8.7% of the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for all PNA parties. Fishing effort for tuna taken in the Main Group Archipelago (MGA) does not form part of the PNA TAE system. Solomon Islands, however, has adopted compatible vessel day management measures with a limit set for archipelagic access of 1,000 Vessel Days.

Foreign longline vessels are now managed under the VDS. Under the VDS, foreign longlines have to be locally based with their own arrangement between vessel owners and locally registered companies. This arrangement started in 2016 whereby strict conditions apply to unloading of catches locally. Additional control and management measures are incorporated in their license conditions.

From 1980 - 1999 Solomon Islands supported one of the largest pole and line fleets in the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) with the fleet dominated by local vessels. The fishery declined in the 2000s due to low fish prices and a breakdown in civil order associated with ethnic tensions and most effort was transferred to the purse seine fishery. NFD has re-established a small pole and line fleet with the intent to expand further. The domestic pole and line fishery takes place exclusively inside the MGA for which a VDS limit of 400 pole and line vessel days is set. Currently Solomon Islands still maintain 2 pole and line vessels under its national fleet.

4. FLAG STATE REPORTING

This section reports activities by the national fleet (locally flagged vessels) in waters of the WCPFC convention area including Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Purse seine and pole and line vessels were the only gear type operated by locally registered companies.

4.1 Locally flagged vessels.

These flagged purse seine and pole-and-line vessels fished in the Solomon Islands EEZ. Purse seine vessels less than 50 meters in length and with a fish carrying capacity less than 500 MT were permitted to fish within the main archipelagic waters. These vessels are largely dependent on anchored FAD sets, but are also known to fish free school and on log sets. This fleet plays an important role in the Solomon Islands economy, by supporting the operation of locally based fish cannery in Noro and providing direct employment for both skilled and unskilled workforce in the cannery. The domestic fleet number in 2017 comprised of 5- 500 MT small seiners, 5 - >1000 Plus MT purse seiners and 2 – < 300 MT pole-and-line vessels.

Table 6. Number of Solomon Islands flagged vessels by gear.

GEAR	NUMBER OF VESSEL BY YEAR				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
LONG LINE	2	0	1	0	0
PURSE SEINE	6	7	8	8	10
POLE & LINE	3	3	2	2	2
TOTAL	11	10	11	10	12

4.2 Catch Estimates and distribution

4.2.1 Purse Seine

In 2017 the total catch estimate for 10 **National fleet** purse seine was 45718.00 MT. The domestic fleet has concentrated their effort within the MGA (accounting for 87% of the total effort). The Solomon Islands flagged purse seine vessels have fished predominantly on anchored FADs. The MGA is reserved exclusively for domestic vessels under 500 GRT. The catch information provided are from logsheet data. These were extracted from the TUFMAN 2 (Dorado) data system. These catches were verified by fishing company’s records. It could be noted in figure 4 the increasing trend of the total catches by the purse seine National fleet.

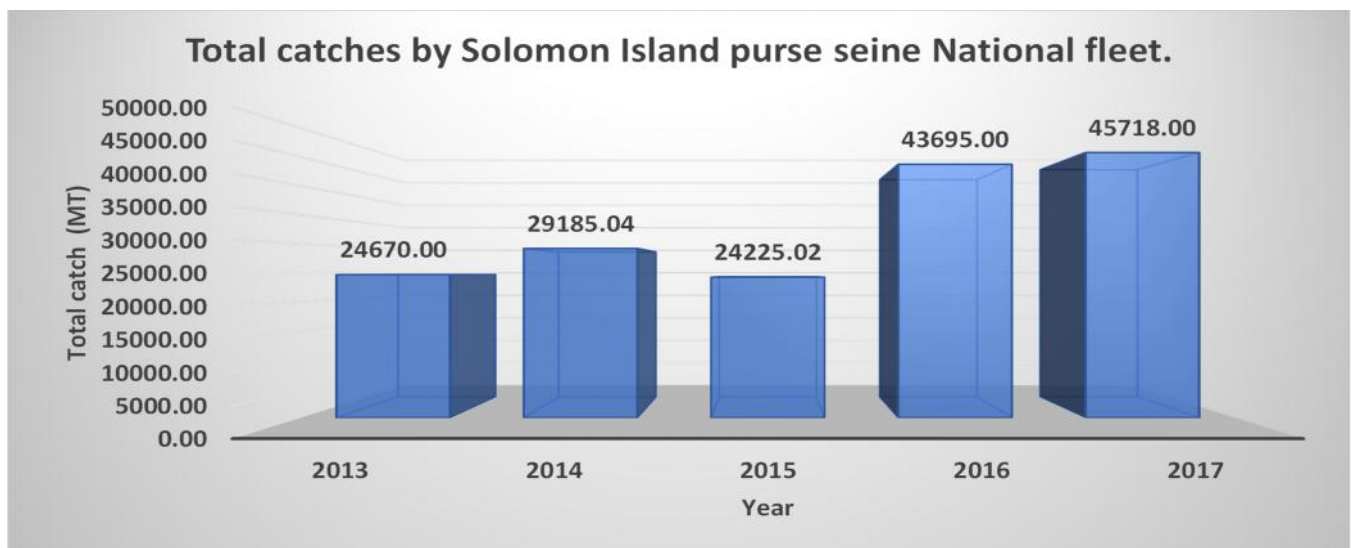


Figure 4. Total catches by Solomon Islands purse seine National fleet from 2013 – 2017.

4.2.2 Pole-and-line

The total catch estimate for the domestic pole-and-line fleet in 2017 was 586 MT (Figure 5). The catch composition shows that skipjack tuna with 74% followed by yellowfin tuna with 26%. This fishery. All catches by the domestic pole-and-line fleet are taken inside the MGA. Logsheet coverage for the domestic pole-and-line sector in 2017 was 100%. Observer coverage for domestic pole-and-line fleet in 2017 was around 50 %.

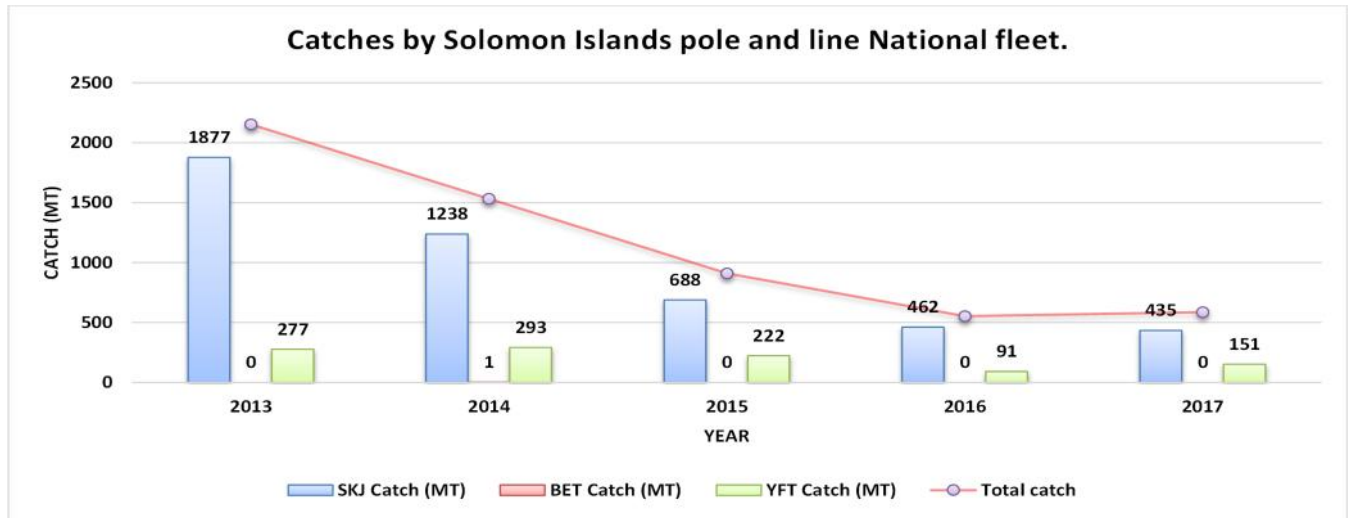


Figure 5. Catches by species including total catch by Solomon Islands Pole and line National fleet from 2013 - 2017

5. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

This section reports activities in national waters by foreign fleets including foreign locally based longline, foreign longline, foreign purse seine and foreign pole and line vessels under bilateral arrangements between Solomon Islands and respective flag states. Activities of all vessels reported in this section are from inside Solomon Islands EEZ.

5.1 Foreign Fishing vessels

Solomon Islands has a history of having fishing access arrangements with distant water fishing nations (DWFN) like Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The DWFNs are operating in the Solomon Islands under bilateral arrangements. These arrangements included the licensing of purse seine, longline and pole and line vessels to have fishing access to the Solomon Islands EEZ. These foreign fishing vessels are permitted to fish in waters outside of 30 nautical miles from the baseline, excluding the archipelagic waters. Apart from this arrangement, DWFN purse seine vessels also have access through other arrangements such as the FSMA and Parties to the Nauru Agreements (PNA).

Table 7. Number of foreign fishing vessels licenced to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ in 2017.

Number of foreign licence vessels by flag an by gear in 2017							
Flag	Purse Seine	Longline	Pole and Line	Light Fishing Vessel	Reefer Carrier	Bunker	Total by Flag
Japan	29		4				33
Korea	26				25	6	57
Taiwan	25	30			3		58
Phillipines	9				5		14
Papua New Guinea	4						4
Kiribati	10				1	3	14
China		30		4			34
Vanuatu		2			2		4
Fiji		1					1
Panama					31		31
Cook Islands						4	4
Marshall Islands						1	1
Total by Gear	103	63	4	4	67	14	255

5.1.1 Purse seiners

These foreign purse seiner's vessels are under bilateral arrangements with Solomon Islands EEZ. These vessels also gain access to the WCPFC area through other arrangements such as the FSMA and PNA arrangements. The total estimated catch for these foreign purse seiner was estimated to be around **102,590 MT** of key tuna species.

Table 8. Total catches by foreign purse seine vessels active in Solomon Islands EEZ in 2017. JP (Japan); KR (Korea); TW (Taiwan); Kiribati); FM (Federated States of Micronesia) and others. (source: Dorado)

Total Catch estimates and Effort of Primary tuna species by Foreign Purse Seine fleets in Solomon Islands EEZ in 2017								
Flag Code	Vessels	Trips	Sea Days	Fish Days	SKJ Catch (MT)	BET Catch (MT)	YFT Catch (MT)	TOTAL Catch (MT)
JP	3	3	7	7	125	5	38	168
KR	26	128	1306	950	31604	272	9637	41513
KI	6	15	180	153	2465	29	821	3315
FM	8	12	145	119	2646	32	233	2911
MH	8	13	115	98	3532	61	130	3723
PG	26	58	549	459	13912	127	2689	16728
TV	1	1	7	4	70	0	5	75
TW	23	74	754	626	21788	372	3091	25251
CN	2	2	38	22	163	0	10	173
US	14	36	284	260	8377	79	277	8733
	117	342						
Total Catch (MT)			3385	2698	84682	977	16931	102590

5.1.2 Foreign Locally based long liners

Foreign locally based longline vessels are vessels that have own arrangements with Solomon Islands locally based companies. This arrangement started in 2016 and continued on in 2017 where strict conditions now apply in unloading their catches locally. Additional control and management measures are incorporated in their license conditions. 71 vessels were actively fishing in 2017, which comprises of 31 Taiwanese, 34 Chinese, 2 Fijian and 4 Vanuatu registered (flagged) vessels. Their total estimated catch was **10,964.91 MT**. Generally, the level of longline fishing effort is higher targeting Albacore concentrated on the south of the EEZ.

Table 9. Catch estimates for Foreign Locally based Longline Fleet in 2017.

Total catch estimates and effort by active Foreign Longline vessels fishing in the Solomon Islands EEZ in 2017.										
FLAG	Vessels	Trips	Sea Days	Fishing Days	100s of Hooks	ALB Catch (MT)	BET Catch (MT)	YFT Catch (MT)	OTHER Catch (MT)	TOTAL Catch (MT)
CN	34	91	2330	1991	64542	2194.53	136.39	1087.66	201.69	3620.27
TW	31	139	7411	7170	191573	2249.05	577.69	3231.45	773.01	6831.2
FJ	2	6	275	274	7424	89.41	64.67	125.07	16.58	295.72
VU	4	13	285	228	8530	117.98	10.53	66.78	22.44	217.72
Total effort	71	249	10301	9663	272069					
Total catch (MT)						4650.97	789.28	4510.96	1013.72	10964.91

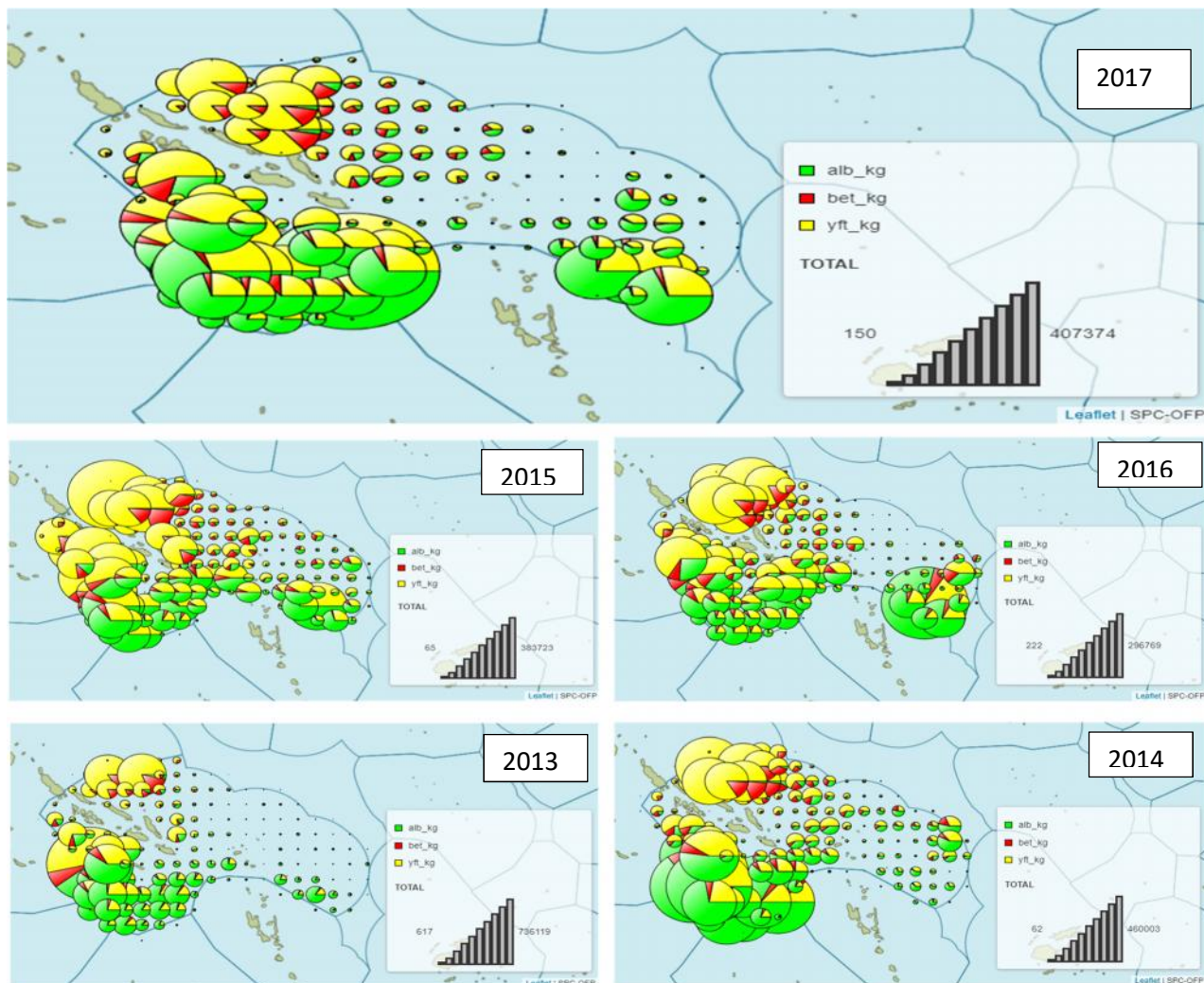


Figure 6. Catch and effort distribution for Foreign locally based Longline Fleet in 2013–2017.

Table 10. Annual estimated catches of non – target, associated and dependent species including sharks by Locally based Foreign Longline vessels from 2010 – 2017 in the WCPO area. Sources – Dorado

Annual Estimated catches of non-targeted, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by Foreign Locally based								
Species Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	Sp_mt	sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt	Sp_mt
BARRACUDAS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.975	0.15	0.994	2.294	9.878	2.145	1.417	38.929
BLACK MARLIN	40.66	48.739	20.97	29.033	73.275	11.458	0.148	10.069
BLACKFIN BARRACUDA	0.128	0	0	0.195	0	0	0	0.11
BLACKTIP REEF SHARK	1.52	0	0	0	0	0	0	
BLACKTIP SHARK	2.808	0	1.44	0	0	0	0	
Black Snapper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.04	
BLUE MARLIN	331.968	443.93	336.824	241.717	419.79	62.193	36.518	365.726
BLUE SHARK	3.62	0.11	0	2.673	17.908	16.491	6.527	40.911
BLUEFIN TUNA (ATLANTA)	0	0	0	0.3	0.906	0	0	
BLUEFIN TUNA (PACIFIC)	0	0	0.192	0	0.906	0	0	
ESCOLAR	0	0	0.335	0.588	1.443	0	0	2.434
GALAPAGOS SHARK	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GREAT BARRACUDA	0	0.53	2.96	3.765	5.169	0.147	0.01	9.363
GREY REEF SHARK	13.019	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	54.227	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.04
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH / DORADO	0.05	15.453	14.288	45.148	81.874	9.087	9.03	32.746
MAKO SHARK	0	0	0	0.62	0.03	0	0	27.034
MANTA RAYS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0.135	0		0.08	0	0	0	
MARLINS	0.515	0.625	0.255	0	0.8	0	0	
MARLINS/SAILFISH/SPEARFISHES (UNIDENTIFIED)	7.837	0.5	0.085	0	0	0	0	0.271
OCEAN SUNFISH	0.01	0.05	1.69	0.27	0.81	0	0.175	
OCEANIC TRIGGERFISH (UNIDENTIFIED)	6.84	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OCEANIC WHITE -TIP SHARK	40.974	0	0	0	0.119	0	0	0.371
OILFISH	29.393	71.616	75.991	76.7	101.595	12.578	6.985	146.369
OPAH / MOONFISH	22.17	9.803	39.17	52.891	105.383	15.49	6.48	107.314
OTHER FISH	318.482	270.244	266.322	190.216	113.908	10.757	8.417	4.734
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA	0	0	0	1.592	22.876	0	0	
RAINBOW RUNNER	0	0	0	0.235	0	0	0	
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	31.942	17.858	15.542	45.498	131.089	15.773	18.812	0.02
SHARK FINS	23.565	0.83	0	0	0.463	0	0	
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	3.686	777.259	117.833	49.875	41.817	0	3.496	
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	284.756	7.4	4.226	3.81	31.927	7.907	6.504	0.426
SICKLE POMFRET	0	0	0	0.01	0.015	0.015	0.025	0.123
SILKY SHARK	87.752	4.458	0	1.048	16.881	1.075	0	0.32
SILVER-TIP SHARK	14.273	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SLENDER SUNFISH	3.88	0.04	0	0.427	0.2	0.16	0	
STRIPED MARLIN	11.864	13.441	5.04	3.465	24.539	0.475	0.14	3.241
SWORDFISH	75.453	62.031	87.817	50.561	80.78	13.406	7.355	67.713
SUNFISH (R.TRUNCATA)	75.453	0.678	1.947	4.153	2.547	0	0.08	1.25
UNSPECIFIED	134.432	41.299	5.292	5.135	1.112	0.116	0.244	2.665
WAHOO	107.273	130.047	87.719	104.8487	168.655	24.99	19.888	160.116

5.1.3 Foreign Pole and Line

Foreign pole and line vessels accessing Solomon Islands EEZ are fleets under bilateral arrangements between Solomon Islands and Japan. 4 vessels were given permits in 2017. Although these permits were issued for the whole year, they took very little advantage of this to access to Solomon Islands EEZ. Only 3 trips entered Solomon Islands EEZ.

6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Solomon Islands tuna fishery is a primary development sector vital for national economic development and social vibrancy of the country. The economic and social value attached to the natural resource makes this resource highly valuable for Solomon Islands. The Government has placed high regard for this industry by ensuring legislative mechanisms are in place for safeguarding the exploitation and management of this important resource by passing the Fisheries Management Act in Parliament in 2015 and the offshore fisheries regulations in 2017. The Fisheries Management Act 2015 sets guidelines and safeguards to protect and maintain the exploitation of tuna stock at a sustainable level. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) is mandated to ensure the national objective of sustainable development, management and exploitation of the tuna stock is maintained for future generations of Solomon Islands.

Besides logging, mining and agricultural development, tuna fisheries is a key employment and export earner for Solomon Islands Government's revenue collection through the payment of access fees, taxes and duties.

7. DISPOSAL OF CATCH

Sol Tuna and NFD export most of their product to the European Markets. Cold storage facilities at Noro have enabled them to export frozen catches and the recent set up of its loining facilities has enabled them to produce both pre-cooked and frozen loins for the overseas market. Sales comprise frozen cooked loins of skipjack and yellowfin to the European market, frozen albacore loins to the USA, and canned skipjack and yellowfin to domestic, Australian and Pacific Islands markets. NFD purse seine fishing vessels also retain most of their by-catches for sale to the domestic markets.

According to the company records the breakdown for disposal of catch in 2017 are indicated in the table below.

Table 11. Disposal of catches by Longline and Purse seine vessels operated by National Fisheries Development (NFD).

2017 Disposal of Catch for Longline and Purse Seine Fishing Fleet						
Gear Type	Albacore (mt)	Bigeye (mt)	Yellowfin (mt)	Skipjack (mt)	Total (mt)	DESTINATION
LongLine		171.205	864.288		1,035.49	Japan
LongLine		1.71	63.608		65.32	Korea
LongLine	702.56				702.56	Solomon Islands
LongLine	86.375	4.053	7.559		97.99	Re-packed (SI)
LongLine		15.171	39.486		54.66	Taiwan
LongLine	421.517	18.987	49.746		490.25	Thailand
Total	1210.126	211.126	1024.69		2,445.94	
Purse Seine		80.218	215.888	408.172	704.278	NFD Noro (Solomon Islands)
Purse Seine		61.511	9558.328	11912.253	21532.092	Soltuna Noro (Solomon Islands)
Purse Seine		1.251	1755.502	3601.682	5358.435	Thailand
Total		142.98	11529.718	15922.107	27594.805	

8. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Solomon Islands currently has only one major onshore development at Noro, Western Province operating as Sol Tuna Ltd. This company has recently upgraded its cooking and loining facilities and has a capacity to produce 150 MT/Day. The plant employs more than 2000 workers. There are also long-term development plans in the pipeline particularly to invest in onshore processing. New initiatives in this area have been promoted since 2013 and additional onshore processing facilities have been earmarked for other three sites for a number of years. In 2016 the Bina Harbour site in Malaita Province was prioritised based on a feasibility study, and the MFMR was given a mandate by the Solomon Islands Government to lead the land settlement and subsequent development of the site. To date no development has yet to start.

9. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

The Government's future plans for onshore fisheries remain a priority. The steps that were undertaken in 2016 include initiating necessary agreements for land settlement and access agreements amongst landowners and the Government as well as designing a governance structure for a project management office. These stages need to be completed before moving on to any activities on the ground.

2017 Solomon Islands still believes in a secure future of export markets to support onshore fisheries development. Such development has economic potential that will boost the country's export earning, provide a major employment hub for the rural people of Solomon Islands and address the crippling unemployment rate in the country and improve the livelihood of communities in the vicinity of the development.

10. STATUS OF THE FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

10.1 Data collection and verification

Since 2015, MFMR implemented the Fisheries Information Monitoring System (FIMS), which provides the basis for analysing vessel day uptake for domestic and foreign purse seine and longline vessels. By 2016, all purse seiners were required to submit e-logs which can also be submitted directly to SPC, and are expected to be automatically integrated into the SPC TUFMAN 2 system. FIMS and TUFMAN 2 also contain provisions for observer reporting and monitoring of deployments and catch documentation. The proposed longline vessel day scheme will be monitored by FIMS, with e-logs rolled out over a period of two years but still facing few issues. SPC TUBS supports the recording of data from observer modules. This data is also supported and enhanced by the application of Tablets which record real time observer data. In 2017 TUFMAN 2 still supports manual entering and verification of catch logsheets and still plays a major role in providing for the country's international reporting obligations.

10.1 Port sampling programme

The port sampling programme was suspended in 2008. The programme was then revived in 2012 to 2014. Currently the programme had been suspended again since February 2015.

10.2 Transshipment

The 2017 transshipment information provided were extracted from records kept by enforcement officers and available information from the TUFMAN 2 System. **Attachment 1** contains the 2017 transshipment reporting requirements under CMM 09-06 para 11 for Solomon Islands, Honiara.

11. RESEARCH

No research activities covering target and non-target species is current in the Solomon Islands. More needs to be done to support biological studies, support stock assessment, biomass surveys, oceanography and ecological studies to name a few.

ATTACHMENT I

2017 - Transshipment report for Honiara port and in areas within Solomon Islands national jurisdiction.

1																
A	Offloaded	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Total catch by species offloaded by purse seine vessels transshipping at Honiara Port</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Species</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Total Transhipped catch in Metric Tons</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yellow Fin</td> <td style="text-align: right;">22,029.54 Mt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skip Jack</td> <td style="text-align: right;">69,666.02 Mt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Big Eye Tuna</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,100.11 Mt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td style="text-align: right;">542.88 Mt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">93,984.74 Mt</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total catch by species offloaded by purse seine vessels transshipping at Honiara Port		Species	Total Transhipped catch in Metric Tons	Yellow Fin	22,029.54 Mt	Skip Jack	69,666.02 Mt	Big Eye Tuna	1,100.11 Mt	Others	542.88 Mt	Total	93,984.74 Mt
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D	Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;	All catch transhipped in Honiara port were caught within the convention area. According to all transshipping vessels catch logsheet's no catches were noted to have been caught in positions outside of the convention area.														
E	Species;	The Species transhipped by Purse Seiners are, SKJ, YFT, and BET.														
F	Product form; and	All of the species transhipped are all in frozen product.														
G	Fishing gear used	The fishing gear used were purse seine fishing vessels. A total of 58 purse seiners did transshipment activities to carrier vessels in Honiara port in 2017.														

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Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs¹

<p>CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>CMM 2005-03 (North Pacific Albacore) is not applicable to Solomon Islands This is a confirmation that none of our Flagged vessels in all gear types fished or had fished for albacore in area North of equator.</p>
<p>CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>CMM 2006- 04 is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its flagged vessels fished or had fished for striped Marlin in that convention area south of 15°S.</p>
<p>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</p>	<p>CCMs shall report to the Commission the total number of vessels that fished for swordfish and the total catch 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 1 of 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.</p>	<p>CMM 2009-03, is not applicable to Solomon Islands as none of its domestic or chartered vessels fish south of 20°S in the convention area. SB EEZ is not in the area South of 20 degrees South.</p>

¹ Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC13 (Dec 2016)

<p>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</p>	<p>CCMs shall report on all transshipment activities covered by this Measure (including transshipment 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 transshipment using all available information such as catch and effort data, position data, observer reports and port monitoring data.</p> <p>ANNEX II TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY CCMs</p> <p>Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission:</p> <p>(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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; e. species; f. product form; and g. fishing gear used <p>(2) the number of transshipments involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by fishing vessels that is responsible for reporting against, broken down by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	<p>Transshipment information for CMM 09-06, Para II (ANNEX II) will be provided as attachment 1 to the Annual Report Part 1.</p>

	<p>d. caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area; and</p> <p>e. Fishing gear.</p>																																																																																										
CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4	<p>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 <u>annual retained and discarded catches in Part 2</u> 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).</p> <p>*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).</p> <p>*Note; Whale Sharks (Rhincodon typus) was included as a key shark species by WCPFC9 (2012)</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">CMM 2010-07 Shark species discards by Purse seine National Fleet vessels</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Catch Estimates (tonnes)</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Discard</th> <th>Discard</th> <th>Discard</th> <th>Discard</th> <th>Discard</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BLACKTIP SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> <td>190</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BLUE SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>11</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRONZE WHALER SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>111</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GREAT HAMMERHEAD</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHORT FINNED MAKU SHARK</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SILKY SHARK</td> <td>557</td> <td>1584</td> <td>1180</td> <td>3066</td> <td>511</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SILVER-TIP SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WHALE SHARK</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The data come from observer it is based on raised estimates. From observers data, 2017 coverage is 47.2 %</p>	CMM 2010-07 Shark species discards by Purse seine National Fleet vessels						Catch Estimates (tonnes)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Discard	Discard	Discard	Discard	Discard	BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	0	0	2	3	2	BLACKTIP SHARK	0	4	190	0	0	BLUE SHARK	0	0	0	11	0	BRONZE WHALER SHARK	0	111	1	0	0	GREAT HAMMERHEAD	0	0	0	0	1	OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	0	1	2	6	1	PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	0	0	1	0	0	SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD	0	0	1	4	0	SHORT FINNED MAKU SHARK	1	0	3	1	0	SILKY SHARK	557	1584	1180	3066	511	SILVER-TIP SHARK	0	0	0	1	0	WHALE SHARK	0	0	1	4	27
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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	Coverage by Solomon islands observers in foreign locally based longline was very low. Only 2 observer's trip were done in 2017																																																																																									

	(WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4) 	
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.	Operational was submitted by SPC on-behalf of Solomon Islands. Estimated operational data for national fleet is in Table 5 of the part 1 annual report
CMM 2017-06 [Seabirds] Para 9	CCMs shall annually provide to the Commission, in 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.	This CMM report depends on the availability of data collected by observers or as reported by vessels Captains. (See next page)

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

Table 12: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N – 30°S¹]. 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); and the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2013	1				4	
2014	1	4000			3	
2015					0	
2016					0	

2017					0	
2018					0	

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 13: Proportion of mitigation types¹ used by the fleet.

	Combination of Mitigation Measures	Proportion of observed effort using mitigation measures					
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	No mitigation measures	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TL + NS						
	TL + WB						
	NS + WB						
	TL + WB + NS						
	SS/BC/WB/DSLS						
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)						
	TL						
Provide other combination of mitigation measures here							
	Totals (must equal 100%)						

¹ 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 14: Number of observed seabird captures in [CCM] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	North of 23°N	23°N – 30°S	T
E.g. Antipodean albatross	0	0		
Boobies and Gannets	0	0		
Gulls –Terns and Skuas	0	0		
E.g. Flesh footed shearwater	0	0		
E.g. Great winged petrel	0	0		
E.g. White chinned petrel	0	0		
E.g. Unidentified	0	0		
Total	0	0		