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FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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8-16 August 2018**

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

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**WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-04**

**COOK ISLANDS**



**Ministry of Marine Resources**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

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WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

Fourteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

8<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, August 2018

Busan, South Korea

**COOK ISLANDS**

**Annual Fisheries Report - 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

The 2017 Cook Islands National fleet consisted of ten longline and six bunker vessels operating within the WCPFC Convention Area, south of the equator. Overall fishing effort in number of hooks increased by 9% from 2016, however the total catch of primary species<sup>1</sup> (3,162mt) noted an eight percent increase with 2016 catch levels. Albacore accounted for 72% (2,281mt) of the total longline catch within the Convention Area, followed by Yellowfin tuna at 15% (475mt) and Bigeye at 6% (201mt). All National Fleet longline catch estimates are total raised catch estimates based on available data.

No vessels carried out marlin specific targeting and all catches of marlin species were taken as by-catch in the albacore longline fishery. Blue marlin was the most caught billfish species in 2017 (63mt) followed by Black Marlin with a reported catch of 33mt.

154mt of fish was reported in the artisanal fishery which spans across all 12 inhabited islands of the Cook Islands. Yellowfin tuna is the dominant catch of the artisanal fishery and is mostly caught by trolling, hand lining and spearfishing. Artisanal fishery data is raised based on nominal data for the months July-Dec 2017.

In 2017 the Cook Islands authorised six Korean foreign purse seine vessels, seven Kiribati flagged vessels and one Tuvalu flagged vessel, in addition to the US bilateral and multilateral Treaty to operate within its EEZ. Two Spanish purse seine vessels were also authorised to fish under the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA), with a capped total of 7,000mt. The total purse seine catch estimate in the Cook Islands EEZ was 19,635mt. The Cook Islands has declared a purse seine limit for its EEZ of 1,250 days and a Skipjack limit of 30,000 mt in any consecutive 4 quarter period.

The retention of any shark or shark part within the Cook Islands EEZ is prohibited. No shark retention is therefore taken by flagged vessels fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

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<sup>1</sup> Primary species for longline gear is described as albacore, yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tuna, black marlin, blue marlin, and striped marlin and swordfish

## 2. Background

In 2017, the Cook Islands tuna fishery consisted of longline fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna like species. There is an important artisanal fishery operating out of each of the inhabited islands and a historical troll fishery that existed in the mid 2000's. In December 2016 a new longline regulation for a quota system (QMS) was passed. Under the QMS, purchased quota is reported on a weekly basis, and daily reporting when 80% of quota allocation is reached. A total allowable commercial catch (TACC) of 9,750 tonnes of Albacore tuna and 3,500 tonnes of Bigeye tuna has been set for commercial longline vessels. Of this, only 80% has been allocated by the Minister to sell as quota in any given calendar year. The QMS was operationalized in January 2017.

The majority of the longline fishing activity is concentrated in the Northern Cook Islands waters, in the areas north of 15 degrees south. Some longline fishing by Cook Islands vessels also takes place in areas beyond national jurisdiction within the WCPF Convention Area. Historically purse seine fishing has been conducted in the Cook Islands EEZ by US Treaty vessels only. During 2016 the US and Pacific Island states negotiated a new US Fisheries Treaty with a six year term. Under the agreement the Cook Islands commits 350 fishing days annually to the Treaty at the start of each calendar year. In 2017 the US acquired 323 fishing days under this pool. In addition the Cook Islands licensed two Spanish purse seine fishing vessels under the European Union Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Arrangement. Under the 5 year agreement there is a 4 year protocol for a fisheries access agreement allowing up to 7,000 tonnes per year to be fished. The Cook Islands has existing bilateral agreements with US, Kiribati and Korean flagged vessels.

Albacore tuna is the main target species for Cook Island flagged longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area.

Three small locally based vessels operated out of Rarotonga in 2017 and targeted fish mainly for the local market, with some exports to Japan. These vessels are below 80mt GRT and typically operate within 100nm of Rarotonga.

The other Cook Islands vessels are based out of the foreign ports of Suva, Pago Pago and Apia with unloading predominantly in Apia.

### 3. FLAG STATE REPORTING

#### 3.1 Catch and Effort Trends

Total longline effort in the WCPF-Convention Area is approximately 4.3 million hooks (Table 1a), with approximately 4.2 million hooks of effort attributed to the CK EEZ (Table 1b). In 2017 the total Cook Islands catch of tuna and billfish within the Convention Area increased from previous years but remains below the 2013-2017 average (Figure 1). In 2017 the bulk of Cook Islands catch was taken within the Cook Islands EEZ with 30% taken in areas beyond national jurisdiction in 2017 (Table 1b).

Albacore remained the primary catch species within the WCPF-Convention Area, comprising 66% of the total 2017 catch, and indicating a stable catch level of albacore catch composition from 2016. This stability in catch may be attributed to the continued observed climatic condition of increased El Niño-Southern Oscillation, which is characterised by periods of warm sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific. Such conditions are favourable for tuna stock migrating through the WCPF-Convention Area. This is attributed to notable increase in frequency and size of Albacore, Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in Cook Islands waters. Yellowfin tuna catch composition maintained from 2016 to 2017 at 16% of total catch, while bigeye catch decreased to 5.5% of the total Cook Islands catch compared to 2016 levels.

The Cook Islands artisanal fleet operates out of each inhabited island. Yellowfin tuna is the main pelagic target species of the artisanal fishery with more than 92mt of Yellowfin tuna caught in 2017 (Table 1a). Trolling, handlining, and spearfishing are the most common fishing methods used by artisanal fishers. There is no mandate for artisanal fishers to provide catch and effort data, however in June 2017, the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) announced a fuel subsidy program for small scale artisanal fisherman. The rationale for this subsidy is the increasing costs of fishing reported by artisanal fisherman via island fishing associations, and its impacts on food security and livelihoods. The subsidy is partially funded by the Government of the Cook Islands and the European Union through the Sustainable Partnership Agreement (SFPA) fund. While logsheet data collection has improved, more work is needed to improve logsheet submissions to MMR. Due to the isolating geographic location of some islands, particularly in the northern group of the Cook Islands, the transportation of logsheets to Rarotonga for processing into the artisanal database is logistically difficult. There are data gaps in terms of understanding artisanal fisheries fishing effort within the Cook Islands. Such information is vital to establish catch, catch-effort and means to determine fuel subsidy allocations submitted to MMR. The MMR anticipates improved coverage in artisanal data collections with the introduction of E-Reporting initiatives such as the SPC Tails application, which synchronises artisanal catch data to the database automatically from mobile devices even with limited internet connectivity. In 2017 a 15% subsidy applied for the islands of Rarotonga and Aitutaki, and 25% for all other islands.

**Table 1a. Annual catch in metric tonnes and effort estimates for the National Fleet by gear and primary species in the WCPF Convention Area, 2013 – 2017. Longline catch estimates are raised using VMS data and nominal artisanal catches are raised from southern group catch estimates for 2017.**

Year	Gear	Effort	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO
2013	LL	62,244 Hhks	1,354	208	346	40	0	11	35	12	16
2014	LL	53,644 Hhks	1,186	184	504	137	0	11	30	19	14
	Troll	9,200 Hk Hrs	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Artisanal	32,349 Hrs	2.54	0.28	116.1	15.67	0	0.2	6.851	0	0.142
2015	LL	61,826 Hhks	1,167	151	339	86	0	15	36	19	18
	Artisanal	18,713 Hrs	1.27	0.32	92.2	11.33	0	0	0.8	0	0
2016	LL	54,382 Hhks	1,265	183	314	37	1	16	43	19	23
	Artisanal	14,965 Hrs	6.79	0.073	76.75	6.79	0	0	0.38	0.07	0.09
2017	LL	43,605 Hhks	2,567	298	608	67	2	41	89	24	56
	Artisanal	17,302 Hrs	0.294	0.126	92.05	4.173	0	0.120	2.72	0.976	0

**Table 1b. Annual catch estimates in metric tonnes for the National Fleet by gear and primary species within and beyond national jurisdiction in 2017. Operational logsheet data is raised using VMS data.**

Area	Gear	Effort	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO
CK EEZ	LL	41,971 Hhks	2058.2	178	491	53	2	32	62	19	36
Beyond CK EEZ	LL	1,634 Hhks	508.6	120	117	14	0	9	27	5	20



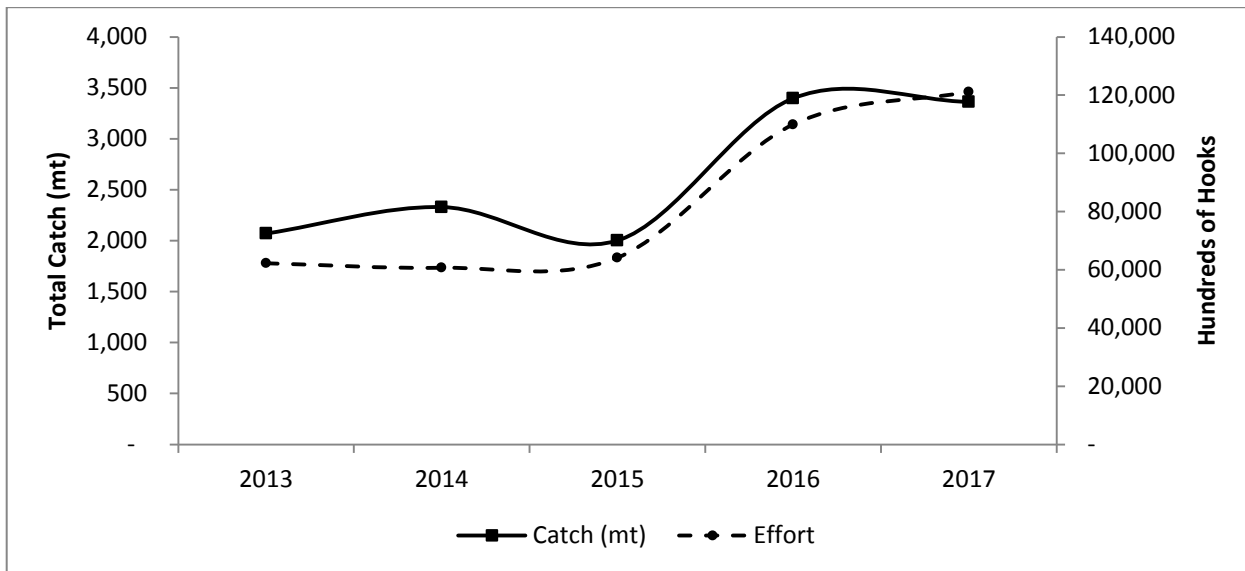


Figure 1. Historical total annual catch estimates for the National Longline Fleet for the WCPF Convention Area, 2013 – 2017.

Table 1c. Annual un-raised catch estimates in metric tonnes for the National Longline Fleet, by primary species and broad ocean area for 2017.

Area	Year	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BUM	BLM	MLS	SWO
<b>1. WCPF Convention Area</b>	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
	2015	1,167	151	339	86	0	15	36	19	18
	2016	962	123	229	31	1	22	14	16	17
	2017	2281	201	467	56	1	62	33	18	39
<b>2. WCPF Convention Area (Sth of Equator)</b>	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
	2015	1,167	151	339	86	0	15	36	19	18
	2016	961	112	224	31	1	19	21	16	16
	2017	1868	156	439	50	1	58	28	16	34
<b>3. WCPF Convention Area (Nth of Equator)</b>	2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2016	0.3	10.5	3.9	0.1	0	1.2	0	0.1	0.3
	2017	3	22	13	0.9	0	3	0	0	0.2

<b>4. WCPO Area</b>	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
	2015	1,167	151	339	86	0	15	36	19	18
	2016	962	123	229	31	1	22	14	16	17
	2017	1807	173	449	50	1	61	28	16	33
<b>5. North Pacific Ocean</b>	2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2016	0.3	10.5	3.9	0.1	0	1.2	0	0.1	0.3
	2017	3.7	22	13	0.8	0	3.8	0	0	0.2
<b>6. South Pacific Ocean</b>	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
	2015	1,167	151	339	86	0	15	36	19	18
	2016	2103	294	544	46	0.3	99	14	17	42
	2017	2276	178	453	55	1.7	58	33	18	39

**Table 2. Annual catch estimates in metric tonnes for the National Fleet in the WCPF Convention Area for non-target and by-catch species (including key shark species<sup>2</sup>) for 2017. Shark estimates are raised using logsheet catch estimates; nominal artisanal catches are not raised.**

<b>Gear</b>	<b>SSP</b>	<b>SFA</b>	<b>DOL</b>	<b>LAG</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>WAH</b>	<b>BSH</b>	<b>FAL</b>	<b>OCS</b>	<b>MAK</b>	<b>THR</b>	<b>SPZ</b>	<b>RHN</b>
LL	9.3	18	40	10	27	80	0.45	0	0	0	0	0	0
Artisanal	0	0	10.91	0	1.78	21.4	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	0

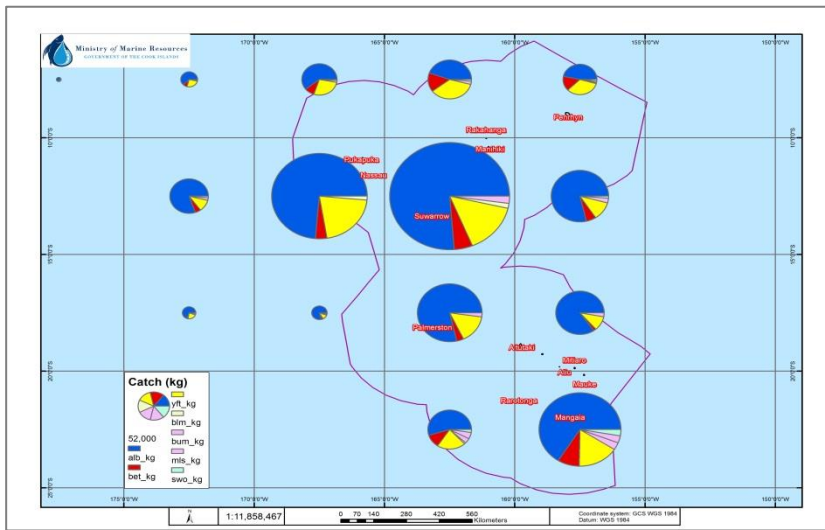
<sup>2</sup> Key species include BSH, FAL, OCS, MAK, THR, SPZ, and RHN. Shark species are recorded by catch numbers

## 3.2 Catch and Effort Spatial Distribution

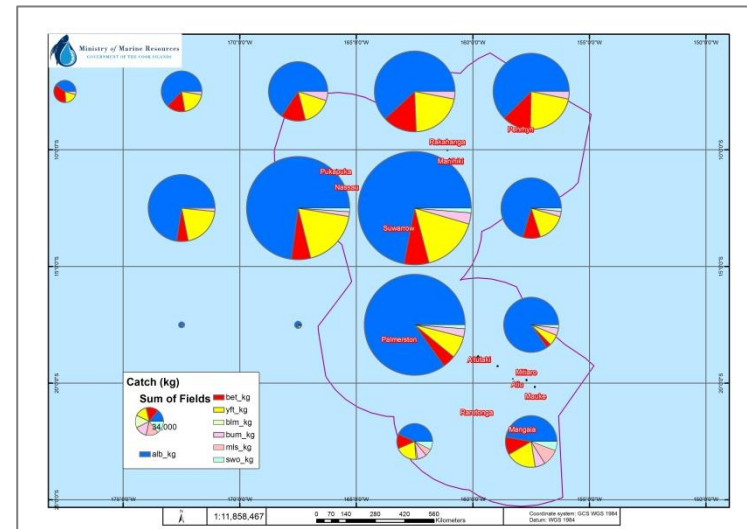
In 2017, around 80% of all Cook Islands longline fishing effort took place within the Cook Islands EEZ, indicating a decrease in in-zone effort of 12% when compared to 2015. In zone effort is quite distinct between the northern and southern fisheries delineated at 15°S. There is a prominent band of fishing effort from the northwest and central northern regions of the EEZ with increased Yellowfin and Albacore catch west of Pukapuka Island. This pattern is typically attributed to the fact that most Cook Islands operate out of the Pago Pago, American Samoa and Apia, Samoa conducting shorter, more frequent trips to the Cook Islands EEZ and therefore not travelling very far into the zone. Approximately 14% of the total national catch was caught within the north western sector of the EEZ which borders American Samoa's EEZ. Approximately 2% of Cook Islands catch was taken in the EEZ of Samoa. The relatively small amount of effort around Rarotonga is ascribed to the small domestic fleet that operates out of Avatiu (Figure 3a).

In July 2017, the Cook Islands passed the 2017 Marae Moana Act and set a 50 nautical miles (nm) commercial exclusion zone around all islands in the Cook Islands. The intent of Marae Moana is to protect and conserve the ecological, biodiversity and heritage values of the Cook Islands marine environment. Marae Moana is designed as a multi-use marine protected area extending over the entire Exclusive Economic Zone of the Cook Islands. Longlining and purse seine activity will be prohibited within 50nm around all islands, to be enforced by 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

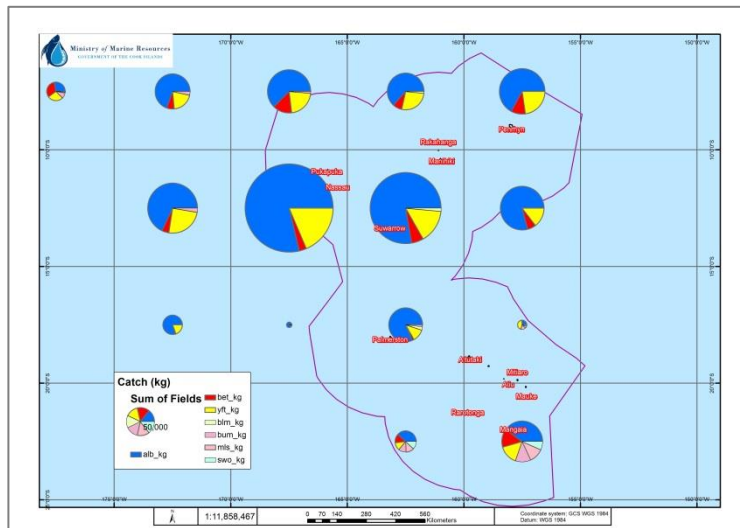
2017 annual catch and effort distribution (Figure 3a) shows a notable focus with in-zone catch compared to the spatial trends in 2016 and 2015, with most effort being concentrated towards the American Samoa EEZ. There is a strong delineation between the north and south of the Cook Islands EEZ, as well as some catch in the EEZs of Tokelau and Tuvalu. Albacore continues to dominate the national longline fishery followed by Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna, with the majority of catch focused in the equatorial band in the north of the Cook Islands.



**Figure 3a. Catch distribution (5 x 5) of key tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2017.**



**Figure 3b. Catch distribution (5 x 5) of key tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2016.**



**Figure 3c. Catch distribution (5 x 5) of tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2015.**

### 3.3 Licencing and Fleet Structure

From January 2017 the Cook Islands commercial longline fishery has been managed with a quota based management system, which removes the vessel cap limits previously in place. In 2017, the Cook Islands National fleet consisted of ten longline vessels and six bunker vessels operating within the WCPF-Convention Area. Of these, three domestically based vessels were licenced to fish within national jurisdiction only. Six vessels were authorised to fish both within the Cook Islands EEZ and the High Seas, though rarely fished beyond the waters of national jurisdiction. One vessel was authorised to fish on the High Seas only.

Most commercial vessels were between 51 and 200 GRT (Table 3). All vessels licenced to fish in zone were prohibited to fish within 12nm (territorial seas) of all islands and 24nm of Rarotonga. Purse seine vessels were prohibited to fish within 24nm of all islands and 48nm of Rarotonga. An estimated 265 artisanal vessels actively fished throughout the Cook Islands in 2017.

**Table 3. Number of National Fleet vessels by gear, size and authorised area, active within the WCPFC Convention Area 2011-2016.**

Year	00-50 GRT		51-200 GRT		201-500 GRT	500+ GRT		Total
	LL	Artisanal	LL	Troll	LL	LL	Bunker	
2013	2	358	19		3	0		24
2014	0	420	12	1	1	0		14
2015	0	315	10		1	1	3	15
2016	0	292	10	0	1	0	4	15
2017	0	265	9	0	1	0	6	16

## 4. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

### 4.1 Catch and Effort Trends

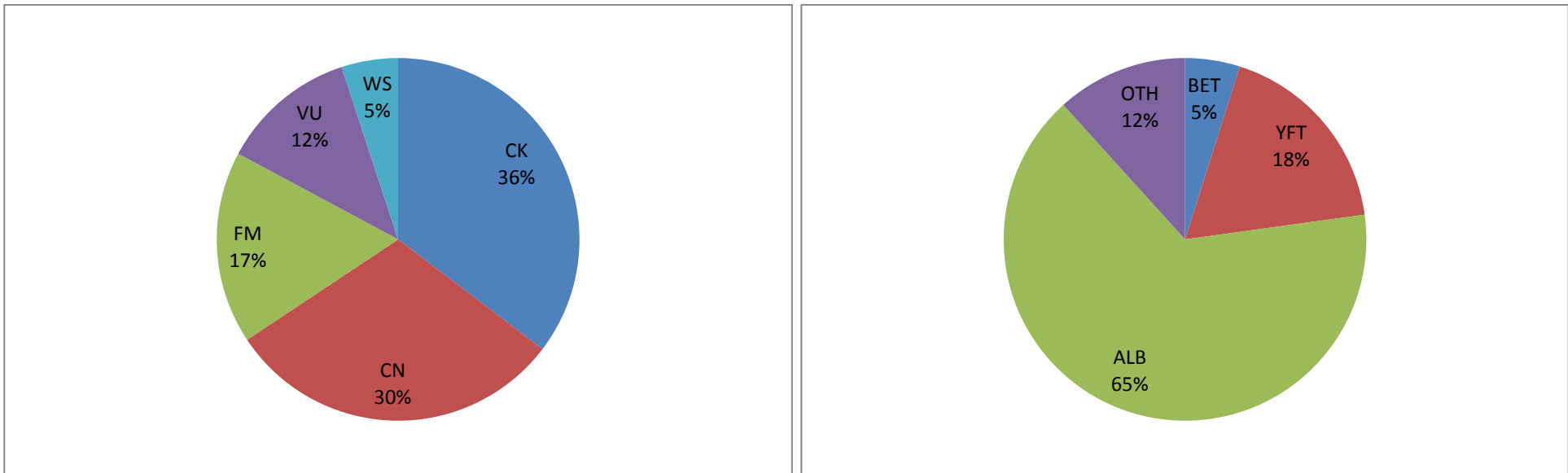
Foreign flagged longline vessel catch within the Cook Islands EEZ totalled 2,591mt (Table 4), comprising 77% of the total longline catch. Cook Islands vessels accounted for the remaining 23% of the total catch. Albacore comprised of 40% for foreign flagged catch composition, followed by Yellowfin tuna, comprised of 47% and Bigeye comprised 33% (Figure 4b).

The Cook Islands purse seine fishery has been limited to 1250 days and a 30,000mt of SKJ catch limit in any consecutive 4 quarter period. The US Fleet took 85% of the overall purse seine catch followed by Korea (10%) and the European Union (3%), highlighted in Figure 4c). Foreign flagged purse seine vessel catch totalled 19,595mt (Table 4). The catch was mostly skipjack tuna, comprising 89% of the total purse seine catch (Figure 4d).

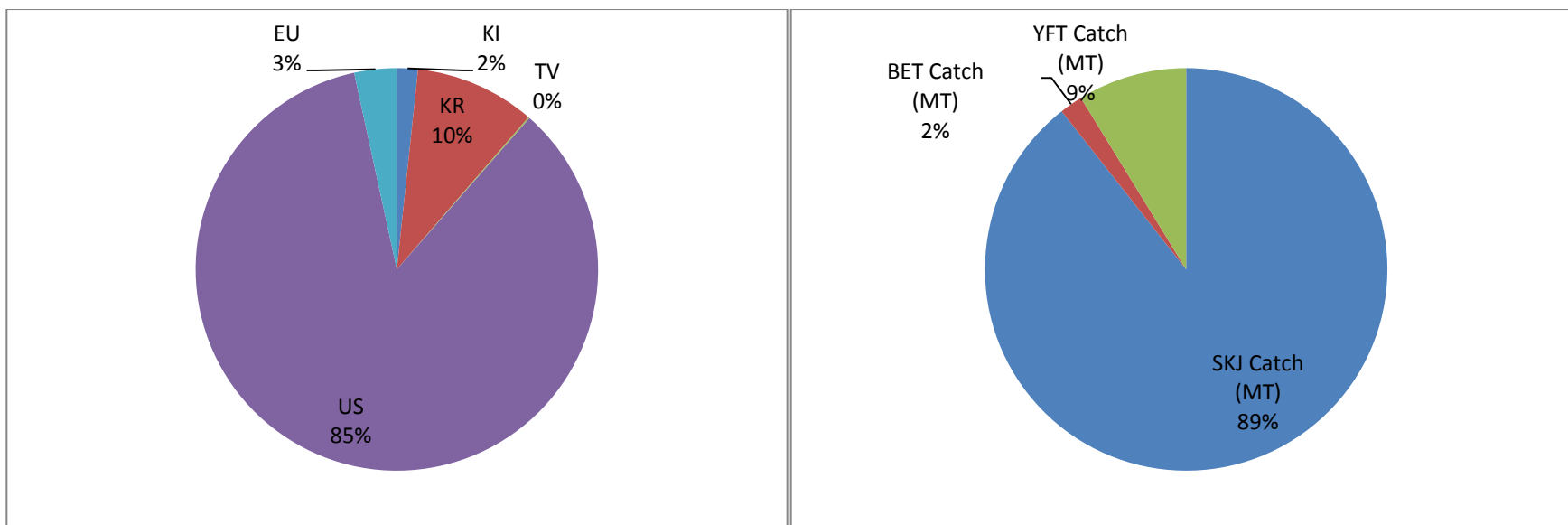
**Table 4. Annual catch estimates in metric tonnes for all licensed foreign vessels by gear within the Cook Islands EEZ, for tuna and billfish species in 2017. Operational logsheet data was raised using VMS data, with 79% logsheet coverage for foreign flagged longline vessels and 86% logsheet coverage for foreign purse seine vessels.**

Foreign Vessels	Gear	Effort	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO	Total (inc OTH)
CK EEZ	LL	135,867 Hhks	2,404	287	562	61	2	38	87	23	54	3,521
	PS	500 days	0	363	1,716	17,492	0	0	1	0	0	19,595

A total of seventy foreign flagged vessels were licenced and authorised to operate within the Cook Islands EEZ during 2017, 54 longliners (Figure 4a) and 16 purse seiners (Table 5). Foreign flagged fishing in 2017 was undertaken by four Chinese longline companies, two Spanish purse seine companies, two Korean purse seine companies, one Kiribaiti and one US purse seine company.



**Figure 4a (left) and 4b (right). Longline catch by flagged vessels within the CK EEZ (4a); longline catch by species (4b)**



**Figure 4c (left) and 4d (right). Purse seine logsheet data catch by foreign flagged vessels within the CK EEZ (left) and species composition (right).**



**Table 5. Number of active foreign flagged vessels by gear authorised to operate within the Cook Islands EEZ by size in 2017.**

GRT Range	Longline	Carrier	Bunker	Purse seine	Total
0-10	-	-	-	-	-
10-50	-	-	-	-	-
50-200	17	-	-	-	17
200-500	37	-	-	-	37
500+	-	-	-	16	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	-	-	<b>16</b>	<b>70</b>

## 5. Socio-economic Factors

High operating costs out of Cook Islands ports continue to hinder domestic industry growth. In 2017 only three small scale domestic fresh fish vessels operated out of Rarotonga, with unloading to the Port of Avatiu. The local economy benefits from the purchase of fuel; temporary labour to assist with the unloading's, purchase of provisions and associated port fees. These vessels are also permitted to seasonally sell frozen by-catch to local businesses. This activity allows the Ministry of Marine Resources to conduct routine port side boarding and inspections and port sampling of catches.

## 6. New Fishery Developments

In 2016, the Government of the Cook Islands approved a quota system of two longline fisheries tuna species. This was implemented through the Marine Resources (Large Pelagic Longline Fishery and Quota Management System) Regulations 2016 (QMS) which came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, by placing a quota limit on the Albacore (ALB) and Bigeye Tuna (BET) fisheries in Cook Island waters. The QMS Regulations placed a commercial quota limit or total allowable commercial catch (TACC) and total allowable catch (TAC) for each of the species being;

- i. 9,750 mt ALB (TAC)
- ii. 9,698 mt ALB (TACC)
- iii. 3,500 mt BET (TAC)
- iv. 2,500 mt BET (TACC)

In 2017, the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) in conjunction with Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) held an introductory Training workshop in Avarua. The workshop was targeted for MMR outer islands Fisheries Officers. The workshop trained officers for the integration of coastal monitoring and data collection methods and the streamlining of this process through the use of E-reporting mediums, such as the android 'Tails' application developed by the SPC.

MMR anticipates improved coverage in artisanal data collections with the introduction of E-

Reporting initiatives such as the Pacific Community (SPC) 'Tails' application, which is designed to synchronise artisanal catch data to the database automatically from mobile devices. A significant outcome of this is that the technology can operate with limited internet connectivity and provides a solution to the problems of geographic isolation that is experienced on many islands.

## 7. Research and Statistics

### 7.1 Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

#### a) Log sheet data collection and verification

88% logsheet coverage was achieved for the commercial longline fleet in 2017. Most logsheets were received as original copies via the post after the completion of a trip or, received in electronic format via email either weekly or after the completion of a trip (scanned). Unloading forms were received by all foreign flagged vessels.

In 2017, MMR and SPC held a trial for the e-reporting application 'On-Board' developed by SPC and was placed on one domestic vessel. The trial elicited a positive response from crew. MMR aims to achieve 100% electronic monitoring and reporting by 2019, and will aim to implement resources such as the 'on-board' application to achieve this. To date, MMR have conducted industry consultations with the longline industry for operators fishing in Cook Islands waters, and as a result have requested a laptop version of 'On-Board' be developed to synchronise with the existing hardware available on all fishing vessels. Trials for a laptop version of 'On-Board' are anticipated to begin in July 2018.

Locally based commercial vessels undertake short trips (< 1 week), allowing MMR to provide feedback and training more regularly. Vessels operating out of Pago Pago spend longer at sea and are consequently more difficult to provide timely feedback to, however MMR anticipates to use vessels operating in and out of Pago Pago as part of the laptop 'On-Board' trials. In January 2018, one longline vessel reefed, and several weeks of logsheets were lost or destroyed in the salvage operations.

#### b) Observer Programme.

Due to a significant restructure of the Cook Islands National Observer Programme in 2016, at the beginning of 2017 only 3 active Observers remained in the employ of the Cook Islands, with two based in Apia and one in Rarotonga. An MOU was signed in June 2016 between MMR and the Fisheries Department of Tonga to utilise their observers, with a pool of 15 Observers being available under this MOU. In 2017, MMR recruited and trained two more Observers to retain on staff at MMR and contracted another pool of Observers from around the Pacific to be available. A total of 256 sea days were observed on Cook Islands longline vessels in 2017 within the WPCF-Convention Area with an overall coverage of 7.6% (Table 6).

**Table 6. Estimated annual coverage of operational catch and effort, port sampling and observer data for the National Fleet, active in the WCPF Convention area for 2013 – 2017.**

Year	Operational Catch & Effort	Port Sampling	Observer Data (Days at Sea)
2013	97%	16%	8.9%
2014	97%	23%	9.8%
2015	100%	35%	12.8%
2016	100%	18%	7.7%
2017	88%	10%	7.6%

**c) Port Sampling Programme**

In 2017 most port sampling occurred in Rarotonga on locally based fresh fish longliners which average a catch of 2-3mt per trip. Approximate coverage of port sampling of the Domestic National Fleet in 2017 was 10% (Table 6). In 2017 MMR commenced a programme to increase port sampling in foreign ports, especially Apia and Pago Pago.

## 7.2 Research Activities

No major research activities were carried out during 2017.

# Appendix 1

## CMM Reporting 2017

CMM Reference	Description	Response																					
<b>CMM 05-03</b>	North Pacific Albacore	<p>Four Cook Island flagged vessel fished north of the equator in 2017 with a reported catch of 3.712mt</p> <p>74 vessels days were recorded. Observer data for this trip is unavailable. The 6 monthly reporting is provided as follows :</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Period</th> <th>Vessel Number</th> <th>Vessel Days</th> <th>Catch (Number)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CK</td> <td>2017</td> <td>Jan-Jun</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CK</td> <td>2017</td> <td>Jul-Dec</td> <td>4</td> <td>74</td> <td>171</td> <td>3.712</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Flag	Year	Period	Vessel Number	Vessel Days	Catch (Number)	Catch (MT)	CK	2017	Jan-Jun	0	0	0	0	CK	2017	Jul-Dec	4	74	171	3.712
Flag	Year	Period	Vessel Number	Vessel Days	Catch (Number)	Catch (MT)																	
CK	2017	Jan-Jun	0	0	0	0																	
CK	2017	Jul-Dec	4	74	171	3.712																	
<b>CMM 06-04</b>	South West Pacific Striped Marlin	Striped Marlin is not targeted by Cook Islands flagged vessels. All catches of MLS were reported as by-catch in the albacore longline fishery. 22 Cook Island flagged vessels caught 304 MLS, totalling 17.222mt in the Convention Area south of 15°S.																					
<b>CMM 09-03</b>	Swordfish	<p>The Cook Islands have no vessels targeting swordfish; all catch of swordfish are taken as by-catch.</p> <p>Eight vessels flagged to the Cook Islands caught 176 Swordfish totalling 11.758mt in the Convention Area South of 20°S.</p>																					
<b>CMM 09-06</b>	Transhipments	<p><b>NOT APPLICABLE</b></p> <p>Vessels flagged to CK did not conduct any transhipment activities within the Convention Area.</p>																					

CMM 10-07	Sharks	<p>After the establishment of a shark sanctuary in late 2012, the retention of shark by any vessel in the Cook Islands EEZ is prohibited. No shark retention may arise from CK flagged vessels fishing on the high seas or in other areas of national jurisdiction, as this provision has been placed on all licensing conditions.</p> <p>Longline logsheet coverage for the CK National Fleet was 88%. Logsheet estimates of shark catches and discards/releases are outlined in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="614 566 1449 1332"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Source: Logsheet data – 88% coverage</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Fate</th> <th>Catch (n)</th> <th>Catch (mt)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BLUE SHARK</td> <td>Released</td> <td>2,721</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAKO SHARKS</td> <td>Released</td> <td>50</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PORBEAGLE SHARK</td> <td>Released</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHORT FIN MAKO SHARK</td> <td>Released</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SILKY SHARK</td> <td>Released</td> <td>49</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMMERHEAD SHARKS</td> <td>Released</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MACKEREL SHARKS PORBEAGLES NEI</td> <td>Released</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK</td> <td>Released</td> <td>608</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SILKY SHARK</td> <td>Released</td> <td>54</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THRESHER SHARK (VULPINUS)</td> <td>Released</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THRESHER SHARKS</td> <td>Released</td> <td>62</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>3,553</b></td> <td><b>0</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Source: Logsheet data – 88% coverage				Species	Fate	Catch (n)	Catch (mt)	BLUE SHARK	Released	2,721	0	MAKO SHARKS	Released	50	0	PORBEAGLE SHARK	Released	5	0	SHORT FIN MAKO SHARK	Released	5	0	SILKY SHARK	Released	49	0	HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	Released	2	0	MACKEREL SHARKS PORBEAGLES NEI	Released	1	0	OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	Released	608	0	SILKY SHARK	Released	54	0	THRESHER SHARK (VULPINUS)	Released	1	0	THRESHER SHARKS	Released	62	0	<b>Total</b>		<b>3,553</b>	<b>0</b>
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CMM 11-03	Cetaceans	<p><b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> The Cook Islands does not have any flagged purse seine vessels.</p>																																																								
CMM 11-04	Oceanic White-Tip Shark	<p>Four Oceanic White Tip sharks were records from 2017 observer data.</p> <p>According to logsheet data, an estimated 13 Oceanic White Tip sharks were reported as discarded.</p>																																																								
CMM 12-04	Whale Sharks	<p><b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> The Cook Islands do not have any flagged purse seine vessels, no whale sharks were caught.</p>																																																								
CMM 15-03	Seabirds	<p>No seabird interactions were recorded from logsheets or observer data.</p>																																																								
CMM 13-08	Silky Sharks	<p>14 Silky Sharks were recorded from 2017 observer data.</p> <p>According to logsheet data, an estimated 54 silky sharks were</p>																																																								

		released. Longline logsheet data for 2017 was 88%.
<b>Observer Coverage WCPFC11 Decision</b>	Longline	Observer coverage is measured using 'at sea days'. Based on an estimated 3,345 VMS days and 256 observed days, CK achieved 7.6% observer coverage.
<b>CMM 15-02</b>	South Pacific Albacore	Addressed through the regular provision of operational catch/effort logsheet data to SPC, who automatically include these data in the WCPFC databases, as per our authorisation

