



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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8-16 August 2018**

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

**WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-18
Rev 1 (1 August 2018)**

PALAU

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART I: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
REPUBLIC OF PALAU- 2017

Republic of Palau

Division of Oceanic Fishery Management
Bureau of Marine Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism
Oiterong, Zilah D. || Sisior, Kathy

July 24, 2018
Rev.1

<p>Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by <u>30 April 2018</u></p>	<p><u>YES</u></p>
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I. Abstract

Tuna fishing in the Palau Exclusive Economic Zone is dominated by the locally based foreign longline fleet of Chinese Taipei and the offshore based longline and purse seine fleet of Japan. In 2017, Palau licensed a total of 92 fishing vessels comprising of 60 longlines (58 Chinese-Taipei and 2 Palau flagged vessels) and 32 purse seiners (3 Chinese-Taipei and 29 Japan flagged vessels). In development of its domestic tuna fishery, Palau licensed 2 longline vessels as a national fleet. Out of 37 licensed Chinese-Taipei flagged longline vessels, 35 vessels were chartered in 2017.

Total catches caught and reported for 2017, from both longline and purse seine vessels, approximated about 9,349 metric tons (MT) of fish with 49MT of Albacore, 2322MT of Bigeye, 3272MT of Skipjack, 3504MT of Yellowfin, and all other catches totaling to 200MT. Since Palau's Fishery Port is incapable of accommodating purse seine operations, catch landings are only done by longline vessels. Of the 2181 MT of catches that are landed in port, a total of 2050 MT was exported and Japan was the primary export destination. The rest were sold or donated locally.

In developing countries, like Palau, sustainable developments would mean the commitment of resources toward continued improvement in living standard. In October 2015 Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMSA) was passed by the Republic's Congress to preserve eighty percent (80%) of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone as Palau National Marine Sanctuary. The PNMS Transition Regulations were adopted and promulgated to govern fishing during a wind-down period until 2020 when Palau National Marine Sanctuary will be fully functioning. The progress toward sustainable developments is demanding and will not be achieved without political will and improved policies.

II. Flag State Report

The recorded catch estimates for both national and chartered fleets in 2017 totaled 2,597.60 metric tons. Yellowfin was the main species caught with 1,351.32 metric tons accounting to 52% of the total catches as bigeye follows with 1,105.33 metric tons or 43% of the total catches. Table 1 presents the annual catch and effort for both the national and chartered fleets with figure 1, figure 3, and figure 4 illustrating their catch distribution. There were no national and chartered fishing vessels for years 2013 to 2016 so there are no data provided for those years.

Palau recently licensed two (2) longline vessels as its national fleet in 2017. These longline vessels are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which catch estimates are required by the WCPFC. Palau also chartered thirty-five (35) out of thirty-seven (37) Palau licensed longline Chinese-Taipei flagged vessels in 2017. There were no Purse Seine vessels licensed as national vessel or chartered in 2017. Table 2 and Figure 2 present the number of these licensed vessels by gear and size category.

There were no observer placements for 2017 on these vessels so the data provided below are generated from logsheet reports. Because there was no observer placement, there are also no data provided for observed species of special interests, including seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals as stated in Table 3.

Table 1. Annual catch (MT) and Effort (Hooks) in the WCPFC Convention Area by species for the Republic of Palau Longline fishery. There are no available reported catches of whale shark, porbeagle shark or hammerhead sharks.(Source: Tufman Report: Longline #31)

GEAR	LONGLINE (NATIONAL)					LONGLINE (CHARTERED)					Annual Grand Total				
	YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016
EFFORT (Hooks)	0	0	0	0	2,517	0	0	0	0	69,635	0	0	0	0	72,152
SPECIES					Ret(MT) Disc(No.)					Ret(MT) Disc(No.)					Ret(MT) Disc(No.)
ALBACORE	0	0	0	0	0.04 0	0	0	0	0	47.21 0	0	0	0	0	47.25 0
YELLOWFIN	0	0	0	0	36.52 0	0	0	0	0	1314.80 0	0	0	0	0	1351.32 0
BIGEYE	0	0	0	0	27.37 0	0	0	0	0	1077.96 0	0	0	0	0	1105.33 0
PACIFIC BLUEFIN	0	0	0	0	0.20 0	0	0	0	0	2.50 0	0	0	0	0	2.70 0
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	0	0.00 0	0	0	0	0	2.88 0	0	0	0	0	2.88 0
BLACKMARLIN	0	0	0	0	0.08 0	0	0	0	0	4.50 0	0	0	0	0	4.58 0
BLUE MARLIN	0	0	0	0	2.00 0	0	0	0	0	57.44 0	0	0	0	0	59.44 0
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	0	0	0.00 0	0	0	0	0	0.08 0	0	0	0	0	0.08 0
SWORDFISH	0	0	0	0	0.58 0	0	0	0	0	23.49 2	0	0	0	0	24.07 2
BLUE SHARK	0	0	0	0	0.00 133	0	0	0	0	0.00 465	0	0	0	0	0.00 598
OCEANIC WHITETIP	0	0	0	0	0.00 0	0	0	0	0	0.00 0	0	0	0	0	0.00 0
THRESHER SHARK	0	0	0	0	0.00 6	0	0	0	0	0.00 5	0	0	0	0	0.00 11
MAKO SHARK	0	0	0	0	0.00 36	0	0	0	0	0.00 8	0	0	0	0	0.00 44
SILKY SHARK	0	0	0	0	0.00 31	0	0	0	0	0.00 1808	0	0	0	0	0.00 1839
Grand Total	0	0	0	0	66.79 206	0	0	0	0	2530.86 2288	0	0	0	0	2597.65 2494

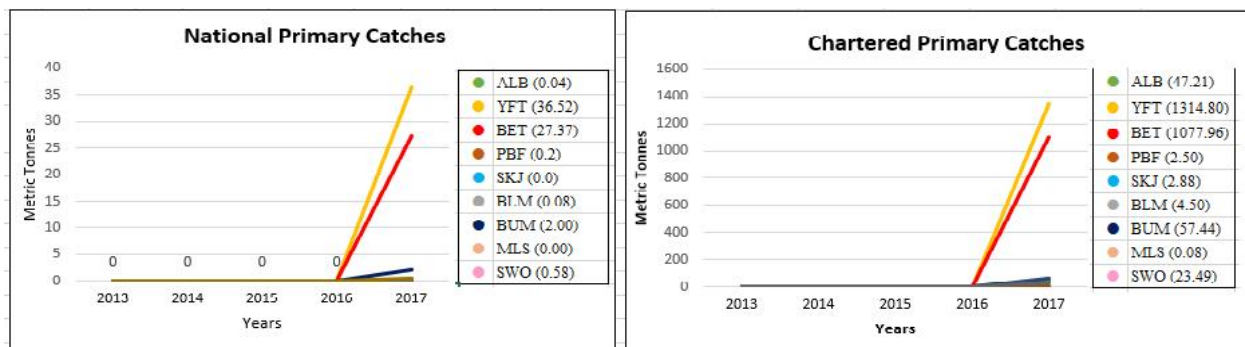


Figure 1. Historical Annual Primary Catch for the National and Chartered fleet in the WCPFC Convention Area presented as a line graph.

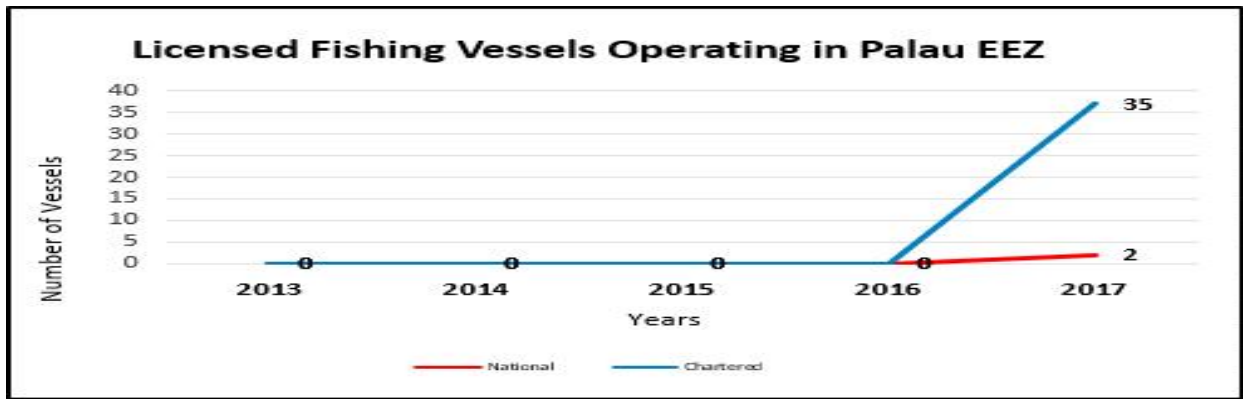


Figure 2. Historical Annual Longline Fishing Vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area

Table 2. Number of Licensed Fishing Vessel (National and Chartered) by Gear and Size Category

GEAR	GRT	LONGLINE (National)					Total Vessels	LONGLINE (Chartered)					Total Vessels
		0-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	100+		0-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	100+	
Year													
2013		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017		0	1	1	0	0	2	0	25	8	2	0	35

The following figures illustrate catch and effort (hooks) distribution for Palau flagged vessels and chartered vessels fishing in 2017.

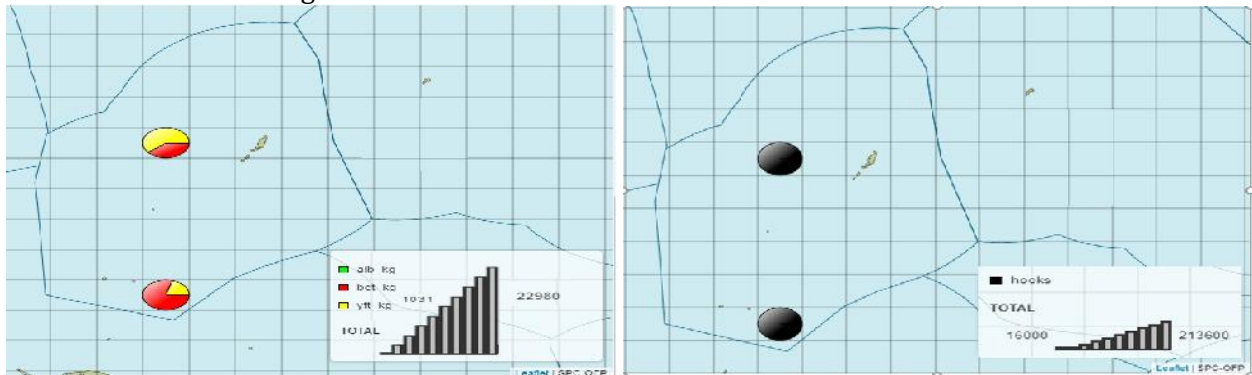


Figure 3. Distribution of catches and effort(hooks) by national fleet active in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2017.

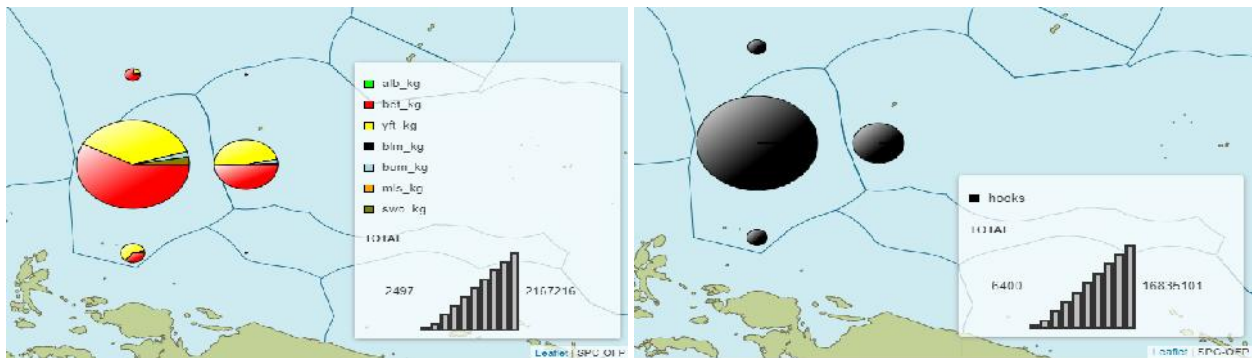


Figure 4. Distribution of catches and effort(hooks) by chartered fleet active in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2017.

Table 3. As there is no observer coverage, there are no observations for species of special interest.

GEAR	LONGLINE		
	SEABIRD	TURTLE	MARINE MAMMAL
2013	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0

III. Background

The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office is mandated to carry out the purposes of Title 27 of Palau National Code to adopt fisheries regulations, negotiate and conclude foreign fishing agreements, issue foreign fishing permits, and perform other duties and functions for the management, exploitation and conservation of all living resources in the extended and exclusive fishery zone of the Republic of Palau. The Title 27 of the Palau National Code is the primary fisheries legislation regulating the harvest of highly migratory fish stocks and fishing vessels that fish in the waters of the Republic of Palau.

In addition to Fisheries Bilateral Agreement between Palau and Japan Fishing Association, Locally Based Foreign Chinese Taipei Fishing Companies, Palau also have agreements with FSM Arrangement and the US Multilateral Fisheries Treaty. Although vessels operating under US Multilateral Fisheries Treaty and FSMA rarely fish in Palau's EEZ for its distance from transshipment ports and processing plants, records show in Table 7 that in the last two years, FSMA vessels have attained some significant fishing in the area.

IV. Coastal State Report

(a) Licensing

In 2017, Palau licensed twenty-three (23) longlines and thirty-two (32) purse seines, a total of fifty-five (55) foreign flagged fishing vessels. The Japan flagged vessels include 21 longlines 29 purse seines and Chinese-Taipei flagged vessels include 2 longlines and 3 purse seines. Table 5 shows the break-down of licensed vessels from 2013 to 2017 that operated in Palau's EEZ by flag, by gear and by size category. Figure 5 shows the annual trend of these licensed vessels by gear. Available data and figures indicates the drop of longline vessels as all Chinese-Taipei flagged longline vessels were all chartered in 2017. These chartered vessels are recorded as Flag State data and are detailed in Table 2.

Table 5. Number of foreign fishing vessels, by year, by flag, by gear and size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area.

Year	Flag	Gear	Size Category (GRT)				Total Number of Vessels
			0-500	501-1000	1001-1500	1500+	
2017	JP	LL	21	0	0	0	21
	JP	PS	0	0	25	4	29
	TW	LL	2	0	0	0	2
	TW	PS	0	0	3	0	3
2016	CN	LL	3	0	0	0	3
	TW	LL	33	0	0	0	33
	JP	LL	19	0	0	0	19
	JP	PS	0	0	26	4	30
	VU	LL	3	0	0	0	3
2015	TW	LL	30	0	0	0	30
	JP	LL	19	0	0	0	19
	JP	PS	0	0	24	6	30
	VU	LL	2	0	0	0	2
2014	BZ	LL	1	0	0	0	1
	TW	LL	41	0	0	0	41
	JP	LL	28	0	0	0	28
	JP	PS	0	0	17	4	21
	VU	LL	1	0	0	0	1
2013	BZ	LL	1	0	0	0	1
	TW	LL	54	0	0	0	54
	JP	LL	28	0	0	0	28
	JP	PS	0	0	5	0	5

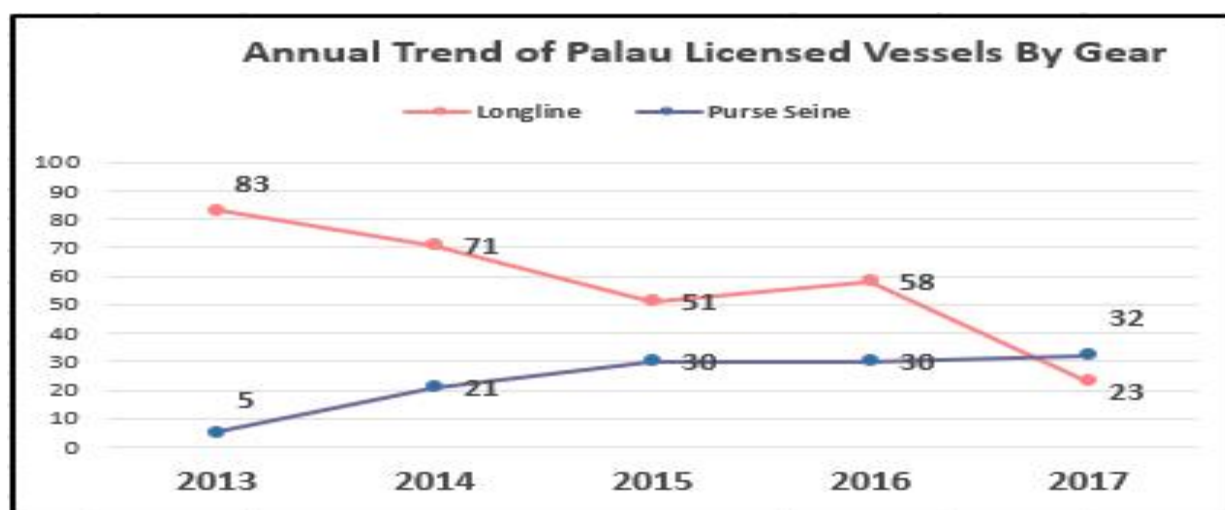


Figure 5: Annual trend of Palau Licensed Vessels by Gear

(b) Longline Catch Report

The Palau-licensed foreign longline vessels provisional catch for 2017 totaled 1,824.13 metric tons. Bigeye was the prominent species that accounted more than 50% of all the catch that were caught. Table 6 displays a five-year (2013-2017) annual longline catches in Palau’s exclusive economic zone by flag and by species with Figure 6 displaying annual catch distribution and trend over the years.

The 2017 data presents the decrease of catches from the previous year for reasons that included Palau chartering almost all Chinese-Taipei flagged vessels, the Chinese flagged vessels that did not renew their licenses, and the Vanuatu flagged vessels that became Palau’s domestic fleet. The catches for the chartered vessels and the domestic fleet are all reported as flag state data and are detailed in Table 1 of this report.

Table 6. Longline Catches (MT) by year, by flag, and by species in Palau EEZ.

Year	FLAG	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	Total Catches
2017	JP	2.47	1189.33	472.99	104.47	1769.26
	TW	0	21.81	31.91	1.15	54.87
2017 Total		2.47	1211.14	504.90	105.62	1824.13
2016	CN	0	24.99	14.73	1.23	40.95
	JP	5.5	321.55	258.02	39.86	624.93
	TW	0.16	793.16	968.97	79.09	1841.38
	VU	0	19.39	8.61	3.13	31.13
2016 Total		5.66	1159.09	1250.33	123.31	2538.39
2015	JP	9.61	196.64	77.44	30.15	313.84
	TW	0.01	451.7	524.6	18.89	995.2
	VU	0.04	20.31	10.59	2.03	32.97
2015 Total		9.66	668.65	612.63	51.07	1342.01
2014	JP	1.06	495.51	152.65	72.01	721.23
	TW	1	894.24	447.4	12.97	1355.61
	VU	0	12	3.92	1.53	17.45
2014 Total		2.06	1401.75	603.97	86.51	2094.29
2013	BZ	0	4.51	1.03	0.26	5.8
	JP	73.35	786.48	151.34	148.16	1159.33
	TW	0	1230.25	613.45	27.24	1870.94
2013 Total		73.35	2021.24	765.82	175.66	3036.07
GRAND TOTAL		93.20	6,461.87	3,737.65	542.17	10,834.89

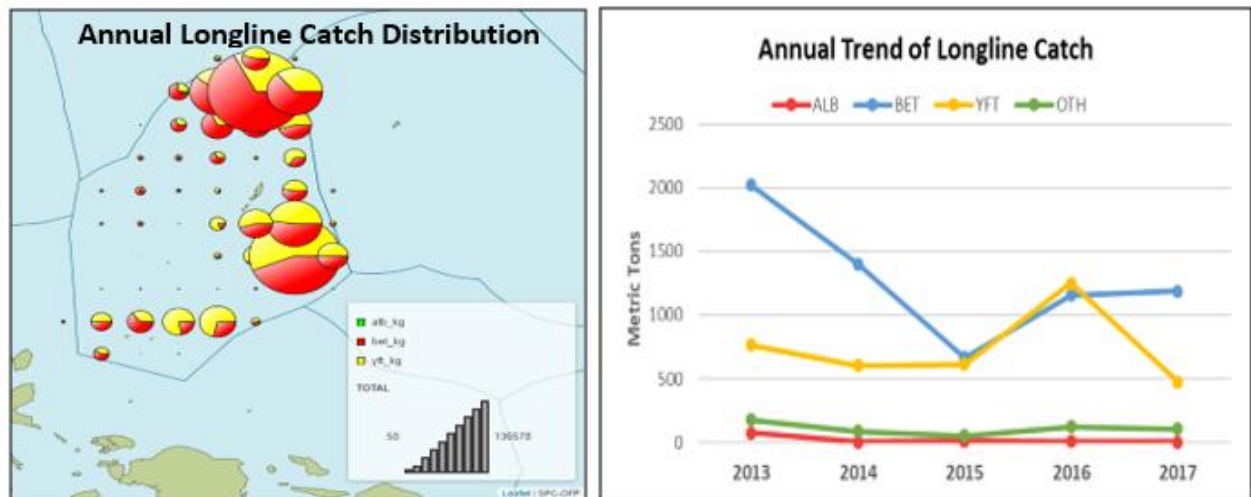


Figure 6. Annual catch distribution and trend of Catch caught in Palau’s EEZ.

(c) Purse Seine Catch Report

Catches caught and reported by Purse Seine Vessels fishing in Palau waters for years 2013 to 2017 totaled 8614 metric tons. For 2017 alone, the provisional total catch was 4928 metric tons. Table 7 displays purse seine annual catches for years 2013 through 2017 with Figure 7 showing catch distribution and trend through the years.

Table 7. Purse Seine Catches (MT) by flag, by year, and by species in the Palau EEZ.

FLAG	YEAR	BIGEYE	SKIPJACK	YELLOWFIN	OTHER	TOTAL
FSM	2013	0	0	0	0	0
	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	5	0	0	5
	2017	0	41	25	0	66
Japan	2013	2	241	3	0	246
	2014	0	453	0	0	453
	2015	0	168	1	0	169
	2016	2	147	6	0	155
	2017	6	1428	541	1	1976
Kiribati	2013	0	10	0	0	10
	2014	0	70	276	0	346
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
	2017	0	0	0	0	0
PNG	2013	0	5	0	0	5
	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	1596	698	3	2297
	2017	0	1701	1082	3	2786
Chinese Taipei	2013	0	0	0	0	0
	2014	0	0	0	0	0
	2015	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0
	2017	0	100	0	0	100
2013		2	256	3	0	261
2014		0	523	276	0	799
2015		0	168	1	0	169
2016		2	1748	704	3	2457
2017		6	3270	1648	4	4928
GRAND TOTAL		10.00	5965.00	2632.00	7.00	8614.00

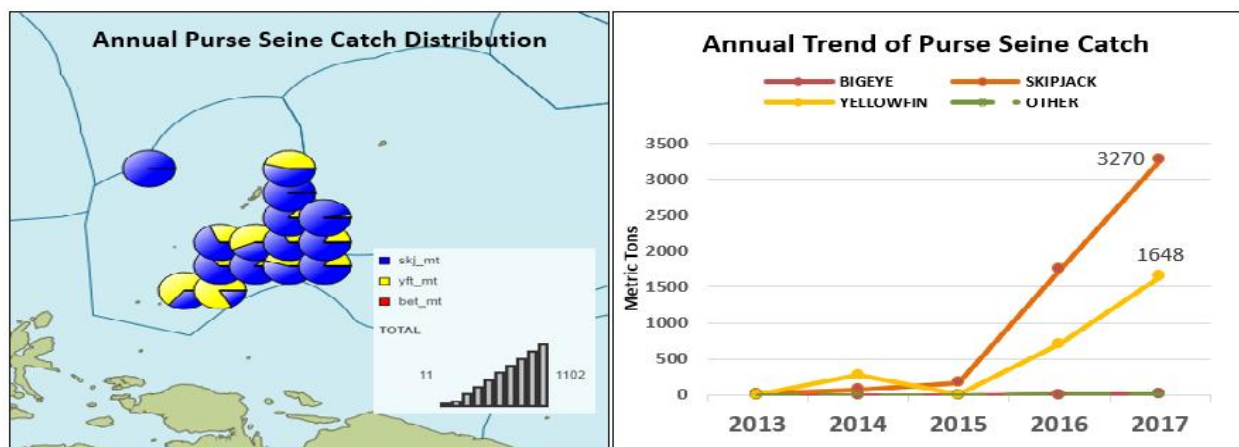


Figure 7. Purse Seine: Annual Catch Distribution and Trend of Catches in Palau EEZ.

V. Socio-Economic Factors

As fishing companies and managers look forward, bearing in mind a new reality of limited landings and fewer participants, they must address important social questions about how to achieve viable fisheries. Palau's locally based fishing industries are very committed in ensuring their viability and vibrancy but the unpredictable price signals and shifting number of fishing vessels pose significant challenges. Other changes like establishment of Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) and the decline in export commodity prices have also indirectly affected Palau's fishery. These challenges pose a great impact on Palau's economy which is highly dependent on tuna as its only export commodity. Realistic resource pricing and recognition of the value of fishery commodities along with conservation policies are some of the good practices that would help promote and stabilize Palau's economy.

VI. Disposal of Catch

From the total recorded catch caught in Palau EEZ, a provisional total of 2,181.57 metric tons of fish were landed in Malakal Port. The landings are done only by longline vessels because Palau's Fishery Port is incapable of accommodating unloading operations of purse seine vessels. In 2017, total provisional catch of 2,050 metric tons were exported with Japan as the primary export destination. The rest were donated/sold locally, based on the average rate of weight per kilo at \$3.80¹. Table 8 presents the breakdown of the catches by species and market destination.

Table 8. Landed Catches (MT) by Species and Market

Species	Export			Local	Grand Total
	JP	KR	US		
Albacore	0	0	0	0	0
Bigeye	945.83	0	15.69	8.65	970.18
Yellowfin	1087.76	0.11	1.00	25.90	1114.77
Skipjack	0	0	0	2.88	2.88
Other	0	0	0	93.75	93.75
Grand Total	2033.59	0.11	16.69	131.18	2181.57

VII. Onshore Development

Although local companies with aspirations of entering into tuna fishery ventures continues to have difficulties in investments of resources, like vessels, facilities, infrastructures, and the markets, a local fishing company managed to acquire two (2) vessels and registered them as locally flagged domestic fleet. These vessels are restricted to fish only within Palau waters and all data are reported under the flag state section.

¹ Total Average Rate Charge of \$3.80 for local sales is calculated and averaged from rate charges ranging from \$3.00 to \$6.00

VIII. Future Prospects of the Fishery

In October 2015 Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMSA) was passed by the Republic's Congress to preserve eighty percent (80%) of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone as Palau National Marine Sanctuary. This area is a no-take area and is protected from all exploitation. A limited twenty percent (20%) Domestic Fishing Zone is created for domestic fishing while commercial exports of fish from Palau will be prohibited. These reforms will be implemented over a wind-down period from January 2016 through December 31 2019. The PNMS Transition Regulations were adopted and promulgated to govern fishing during a wind-down period and by 2020, Palau National Marine Sanctuary will be fully functioning.

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Palau government and Industry stakeholders in Palau and Okinawa, initiated a cooperative trial project on longline electronic monitoring (EM) in the summer of 2016. To date, there are total of nine (9) vessels participating (on a contractual basis) in the EM trial project which altogether had made a total of 58 trips. Table 9 shows the outline of each vessel by fleet and the number of trips taken.

Table 9. Longline vessels participating in the Palau EM Project

Fleet	Flag	No. of Vessels	No. of Trips
National	PW	2	18
Chartered	TW	4	24
Foreign	JP	3	16
TOTAL		9	58

IX. Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

As stated before, Palau is currently implementing all latest versions of SPC's regional data forms. SPC TUFMAN 2 Database System is fully utilized to streamline and collate all data. The Locally Based Foreign Companies are required by the Division to submit their fishing reports on monthly basis. The Foreign Based Japanese Longline and Purse Companies are submitting their Logsheets through Email, Facsimile, and Postal Service. The data are altogether reconciled and then entered into the TUFMAN 2 Database. The collected data are scanned with the Slops 3 software on Fujitsu Scanner and are sent to SPC via Hightail Dropbox.

(a.) Logsheets/Unloading/Port Sampling data collection and verification

Dedicated fisheries port samplers and compliance officers are presented at all times during offloading of longline vessels at respected port to collect data and information. With ensuring reported data, the presented officers checks and make sure that the forms used are properly filled and completed correctly.

(b.) Observer program

There were no observer trips taken in 2017.

(c.) Transshipment

Transshipment activities are only allowed to be carried out at Malakal port and are permitted strictly for reasons that may concern the limited port space and flight schedules. There was a total of 50 transshipments that happened in 2017, and all were done by the chartered vessels. National fleets did not carry out any transshipment in 2017. The table below (Table 9) shows details of the transshipment activities that took place.

Table 9. Transshipment Activities in 2017 by Species by fleet

2017 Transshipment Activities				
ANNEX II (1)				
Species	Chartered Fleet		National Fleet	
	Quantities	Weight (MT)	Quantities	Weight (MT)
ALBACORE	0	0	0	0
BIGEYE	655	18.30	0	0
YELLOWFIN	1221	41.60	0	0
PACIFIC BLUEFIN	0	0	0	0
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	0
BLACK MARLIN	0	0	0	0
BLUE MARLIN	0	0	0	0
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	0	0
SWORDFISH	0	0	0	0
Grand TOTAL	1876	59.90	0	0
ANNEX II (2)				
Port	Malakal, Koror		Malakal, Koror	
No. of Transshipments	50		0	
Transshipment at Sea	YES – All 50 transshipments were done in PW Port (Malakal Port)		N/A	
Transshipment in WCP-CA	YES –All transshipped inside WCP-CA in PW EEZ at Malakal Port		N/A	
Caught in WCP-CA	YES – All caught in WCP-CA		N/A	
Product Form	All FRESH		N/A	
Fishing Gear	All LONGLINE		All LONGLINE	

X. Research Activities Covering Target and Non-Target Species

There was no research activities covering target and non-target performed in 2017. The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office continues to represent and protect Palau’s interest in international and regional bodies in the development of conservation and management measures of the highly migratory fish stocks.



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs²

26 February 2018

<p>CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4</p>	<p>Albacore catches (Source: Tufman Report: Regional #20)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Gear</th> <th>Flag</th> <th>Period</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">2017</td> <td rowspan="2">LL</td> <td rowspan="2">National (PW)</td> <td>Jan-Jun</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul-Dec</td> <td>0.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">2017</td> <td rowspan="2">LL</td> <td rowspan="2">Chartered (TW)</td> <td>Jan-Jun</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul-Dec</td> <td>47.21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Gear	Flag	Period	Catch (MT)	2017	LL	National (PW)	Jan-Jun	0	Jul-Dec	0.04	2017	LL	Chartered (TW)	Jan-Jun	0	Jul-Dec	47.21
Year	Gear	Flag	Period	Catch (MT)																
2017	LL	National (PW)	Jan-Jun	0																
			Jul-Dec	0.04																
2017	LL	Chartered (TW)	Jan-Jun	0																
			Jul-Dec	47.21																
<p>CMM 2006-04 [South West Striped Marlin], Para 4</p>	<p>a. Not applicable for Palau flagged vessels as they are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which CMM 2006-04(South-West Striped Marlin) specifies and are required by WCPFC;</p> <p>b. The vessels operating under Palau charter did not fish south of 15°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p> <p>(Source: Tufman Report: Regional #21)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">South West Striped Marlin</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Flag</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">2017</td> <td>National (PW)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chartered (TW)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	South West Striped Marlin				Year	Flag	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)	2017	National (PW)	0	0	Chartered (TW)	0	0				
South West Striped Marlin																				
Year	Flag	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)																	
2017	National (PW)	0	0																	
	Chartered (TW)	0	0																	
<p>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8</p>	<p>a. Not applicable for Palau flagged vessels as they are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which CMM 2009-03 (Swordfish) specifies and are required by WCPFC;</p> <p>b. The vessels operating under Palau charter did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p>																			
<p>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</p>	<p>In 2017, there was a total of 50 transshipments done by chartered vessels that happened at Malakal Port within Palau EEZ. From these transshipments there were nearly 60 metric tons of fish that were transshipped. For more detailed information on these transshipments please refer to Table 9.</p>																			

² Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC14 (Dec 2017)

CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4	<p>All shark fishing is prohibited in Palau. Any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be set free. There were no observer placements on Palau National Vessels so there are no observer data to report. Data provided are raised catch estimates from Longline Logsheets which has been submitted to SPC.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="435 310 1404 714"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Catch (n)</th> <th>Retained</th> <th>Discarded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BLUE SHARK</td> <td>598</td> <td>0</td> <td>598</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SILKY SHARK</td> <td>1839</td> <td>0</td> <td>1839</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARKS</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAKO SHARK</td> <td>44</td> <td>0</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THRESHER SHARK</td> <td>11</td> <td>0</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PORBEAGLE SHARKS</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMMERHEAD SHARKS</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WHALE SHARKS</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>2492</td> <td>0</td> <td>2492</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Catch (n)	Retained	Discarded	BLUE SHARK	598	0	598	SILKY SHARK	1839	0	1839	OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARKS	0	0	0	MAKO SHARK	44	0	44	THRESHER SHARK	11	0	11	PORBEAGLE SHARKS	0	0	0	HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	0	0	0	WHALE SHARKS	0	0	0	TOTAL	2492	0	2492
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CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 4	<p>Not Applicable. No Purse Seine Vessels operates as Palau Fleet or Chartered</p>																																								
CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3	<p>All shark fishing is prohibited in Palau. Any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be set free. There were no observers placements in 2017 so there are no observer data to report. Data provided are raised catch estimates from Longline Logsheets which has been submitted to SPC. Refer to Table 1 for details.</p>																																								
CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06	<p>Not Applicable. No Purse Seine Vessels operates as Palau Fleet.</p>																																								
CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3	<p>All shark fishing is prohibited in Palau. Any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be set free. There were no observer placements in 2017 so there are no observer data reports to confirm the fates of the discarded Silky Sharks as dead or alive. Data provided are raised catch estimates from Longline Logsheets which has been submitted to SPC. Refer to Table 1 for details.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="435 1228 1404 1354"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Catch (n)</th> <th>Retained</th> <th>Discarded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SILKY SHARK</td> <td>1839</td> <td>0</td> <td>1839</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>1839</td> <td>0</td> <td>1839</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Catch (n)	Retained	Discarded	SILKY SHARK	1839	0	1839	TOTAL	1839	0	1839																												
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Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))	<p>Not Applicable. Palau flagged vessels are restricted to fish domestically therefore ROP does not apply nor this decision for coverage. As for the chartered vessels, there were no observer placements in 2017 so the coverage for 2017 is 0%.</p>																																								
CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4	<p>a. Not applicable for Palau flagged vessels as they are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which CMM 2015-02 (South Pacific Albacore) specifies and are required by WCPFC;</p> <p>b. The vessels operating under Palau charter did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p>																																								
CMM 2017-06 [Seabirds] Para 9	<p>Not Applicable. There were no observers placements in 2017 so there are no observer's data to report on seabird interaction. Additionally, there were no seabird interactions reported in the logsheets.</p>																																								