



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

WCPFC-SC15-AR/CCM-29

**WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS
(COVERING 2013-2018)**

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

**2018
Annual Report –Part 1**

Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics

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Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with relevant rules	Aggregated data was provided for year 2013 to 2018
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1. ABSTRACT

There have been no large or middle scale tuna fishing activities taking place in Wallis& Futuna EEZ since 2012.

Last records of activity date back in 2011, with a single 140 UMS domestic based longliner, licensed from 2010 to 2014, which operated a few trips before stopping from 2012 on.

Twenty-three small scale fishery vessels are registered as commercial fishing crafts. They're catching tuna and others pelagic species along with bottom species. Game fishing is being carried out by a decreasing number of small boats, not numbered but estimated less than .

There are currently 1 nearshore FAD around Wallis Island and one near Futuna. Despite some uncertainty over positive FAD impacts for fishermen's activity, the program is still going on, targeting up to FAD fishing training to foster fishermen shift from reef fishing to tuna fishing.

Logsheets from small scale commercial fishery has been the only source of data so far, as a condition for fuel subsidy. However it is uncertain in what extent this data covers the whole fishery, and data quality issues remain, like species identification by fishermen. .

2. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Table 1. Annual catch and effort estimates

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
LL	Nb of trips	None					
	Nb of hooks	None					
	Catches of key species (altogether)	No record					
Other (small scale fisheries)	Nb of trips	844	600	781	851	820	1197
	Catches of key species (kg)						
	Albacore (ALB)	310	448	345	149	120	997
	Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	3825	2447	2388	2621	2223	3035
	Skipjack (SKJ)	4604	4977	4239	3306	1685	4963
	Bigeye tuna (BET)	0	0	17	0	0	0
	Swordfish (SWO)	2072	403	0	533	0	398
	Blue marlin (BUM)	78	155	130	0	100	105
	Striped marlin (MLS)	14	192	200	48	82	0

Table 2. Domestic fleet – number of vessels flagged and licensed

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
LL	51-200 UMS	1	1	0	0	0	0
Other (small scale fisheries)		18	15	18	15	19	23

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In the absence of fishing operations by a domestic fleet in the EEZ and without license granted to any foreign vessel for access to EEZ, there is no other information related to tuna fishing to be submitted to the Commission.

3. DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

Several projects related to tuna fishing are currently on the table, but at an early stage. One is coordinated by the Chamber of Trade, Industry, Craft and Agriculture and comprises of 3 longliners around 12 m long and a fish processing plant onshore. Another one is made of a 16,5m longliner and a private fish processing and sale unit. Authorities are in the process of auditing both in the light of

Given the lack of visibility on operational profitability and marketing options, SPC's assistance has been requested to carry out a study on potential catch rates in the EEZ, based on near region references, in order to avoid oversized fishing capacity. Further work also needs to be carried out in relation to seamounts impacts on tuna distribution across the EEZ, following on from late Biopelagos research project by SPC and IRD (2016-2019).

4. CMM'S SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

CMM 2012-07 §9 : SEABIRDS INTERACTIONS WITH FISHERIES

Fishing methods used by small scale fishery don't cause interactions with seabirds. Without longlining activities in the EEZ, there's no incidental catch to be reported.

Table 3 : interactions with seabirds

year	LL fishing effort				Observed seabirds captures	
	Nb vessels	Nb hooks	Nb hooks observed	% hooks observed	Number	Rate (/ 1000 hks)
2007	0	0	0	-	0	0
2008	0	0	0	-	0	0
2009	0	0	0	-	0	0
2010	0	0	0	-	0	0
2011	1	62500	0	0 %	0	0
2012	0	0	0	-	0	0
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	0	0	-	0	0

CMM 2015-01 §23 : effort or catch limits on purse seining

Lastly, there's no purse seine activity in the EEZ at the moment. Discussions with American purse seiners opened in 2014 were suspended until further notice.