



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

WCPFC-SC15-AR/CCM-14

NAURU

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2019	[YES]
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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
ON THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018**



1. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

1.1 Fishery Characteristics

- a) Nauru's Offshore Fishery as in previous years is dominated by the Distant Water Fishing Nation's (*DWFNs*) Purse Seines few support vessels.
- b) The primary target of the DWFN vessels are **Katsuwonus Pelamis** (*SKJ*), **Thunnus Albacares** (*YFT*) and **Thunnus Obesus** (*BET*) and catches are mainly for the foreign market and canneries.
- c) The bulk sizes of the vessels are between 1001 – 1500 gross tons and are licensed either under a bilateral agreement, multilateral arrangement, sub regional pooling or treaty.
- d) No Longline vessels were licensed in 2018.
- e) Nauru became a flag state in 2018 under a joint venture arrangement with two purse seiners under its flag. The vessels are licensed under the FSM Arrangement and are active in the WCPFC Convention area.
- f) The Artisanal Fishery encompassed mainly of motorized skiffs and canoes. Target species are tuna and coastal pelagic species that are generally free-school or FAD aggregated. Catches are mainly for subsistence, barter and commercial on a minor scale.

2. Offshore Catch Estimates

Skipjack (*Katsuwonus Pelamis*), Yellow fin (*Thunnus Albacares*) and Big Eye (*Thunnus Obsesus*) are the 3 major tuna species caught in Nauru’s offshore fishery and as in previous years, all the catches are distributed to the foreign fish markets or canneries.

In 2018 there is a significant increase of catches (*table 1*) in Nauru’s EEZ. This was primarily due to good fishing conditions in 2018 compared to recent years, and could also be an indication that there has been a major improvement of data validation and verification of data by the whole region.

In comparison to the previous year there is a significant increase of skipjack catches of approximately 98,900mt and minor increases to yellow fin (2,100mt) and big eye (300mt).

The total catches in 2018 increased by 4,000mt compared to the total in 2014. That is an average of 102,000mt catches per year, with skipjack averaging more than 84,000mt and yellow fin more than 16,000mt for the past five years.

(Note: the figures are according to SPC estimates derived from logsheets which includes multilaterally-licensed vessels as well as bilateral vessels licensed to fish in Nauru according to the Palau Arrangement Vessel Day Management Scheme).

FOREIGN CATCH ESTIMATES (MT)				
YEAR	SKJ	BET	YFT	TOTAL
2014	138,998	2,338	13,040	154,679
2015	41,960	920	11,674	54,883
2016	62,167	1,980	23,705	88,101
2017	40,417	1,214	14,815	56,534
2018	139,369	1,536	16,971	158,211

Table 1: Tuna catches in Nauru’s EEZ by all DWFN fleets past 5 years. **Source:** Un-raised logsheet data collected by Nauru held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Database (TUFMAN 2) at SPC. (2018 Catches are provisional)

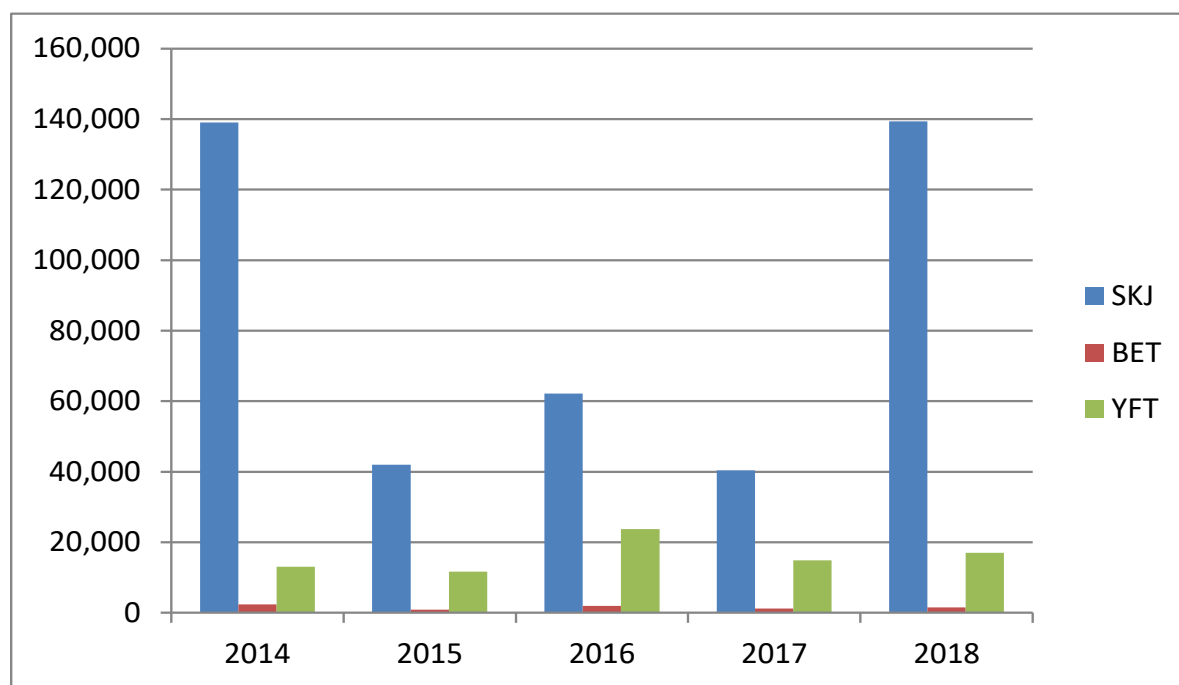


Figure 1: Trend of total catches over a 5 year period by foreign fleets active in Nauru’s EEZ from 2014 to 2018.

3. Foreign Fleet Licensing Structure

As in previous years, the **Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs)** dominates the commercial fleets that were licensed to operate in Nauru's EEZ in 2018.

There were a total of 261 vessels – 246 purse seines with 15 support vessels, comprised of 13 tankers (TK) and 2 fish carriers (FC).

Table 2 and 3 is a detailed analysis of the fleets by flag and size. The majority (142) of the vessel's gross tonnage is within the 1001 -1500 category; 17 vessels are between 501 to 1000 GRT category and 101 fishing and support vessels are in the 1500+ category.

FOREIGN FLAG FISHING VESSELS						
FLAG	GEAR	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
CHINA (CN)	PS	12	-	-	7	5
JAPAN (JP)	PS	27	-	-	23	4
FSM (FM)	PS	9	-	-	3	6
KOREA (KR)	PS	25	-	6	11	8
TAIWAN (TW)	PS	27	-	3	24	-
PHILIPPINES (PH)	PS	14	-	3	11	-
KIRIBATI (SR)*	PS	10	-	-	2	8
TUVALU (TV)	PS	1	-	1	-	-
UNITED STATES (US)	PS	15	-	-	8	7
VANUATU (VU)	PS	2	-	-	2	-
Papua New Guinea (PG)	PS	14	1	-	10	3
FSM ARRANGEMENT (CN)	PS	2	-	-	-	2
FSM ARRANGEMENT (FM)	PS	20	-	3	4	13
FSM ARRANGEMENT (MH)	PS	8	-	-	7	1
FSM ARRANGEMENT (PG)	PS	16	-	-	10	6
FSM ARRANGEMENT (KI)	PS	3	-	-	-	3
FSM ARRANGEMENT (SB)	PS	5	-	-	4	1
FSM ARRANGEMENT (TV)	PS	1	-	1	-	-
FSM ARRANGEMENT (NR)	PS	2	-	-	-	2
US TREATY (US)	PS	33	-	-	16	17
TOTAL		246	1	17	142	86

Table 2: Bilateral, Multilateral and *Sub Regional (SR) Fishing Vessels (by Flag) Licensed by Nauru in 2018.

FOREIGN FLAG SUPPORT VESSELS					
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	0-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
KOREA (TK)	6	-	-	-	6
MARSHALL (TK)	2	-	-	-	2
PANAMA (TK)	2	-	-	-	2
PANAMA (FC)	2	-	-	-	2
COOK(TK)	3	-	-	-	3
TOTAL	15	-	-	-	15

Table 3: Support Vessels (TK – Tanker; FC – Fish Carrier) Licensed by Nauru in 2018

4. Flag State Reporting

Nauru, for the first time under a joint venture (JV) arrangement, became a “flag State” with two purse seine vessels registered under its flag.

In its inaugural venture, the two vessels caught a total of 8,810mt of tuna with more than 7,000mt skipjacks (SKJ), 39mt bigeye (BET) and 1,711mt yellowfin (YFT), the vessels averaged 1,766mt catches per month at 2.3 trips per day, all its catches are exported to the foreign markets and canneries.

5. National fleet Catch Estimates

YEAR	National Fleet Catch Estimates (MT)			
	SKJ	BET	YFT	TOTAL
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0	0
2018	7,060	39	1,711	8,810

Table 4: Nauru flag vessel catches in the Convention Area in 2018. **Source:** Raised catches from logsheet data held in the Regional Tuna Fisheries Management Database, (TUFMAN2)

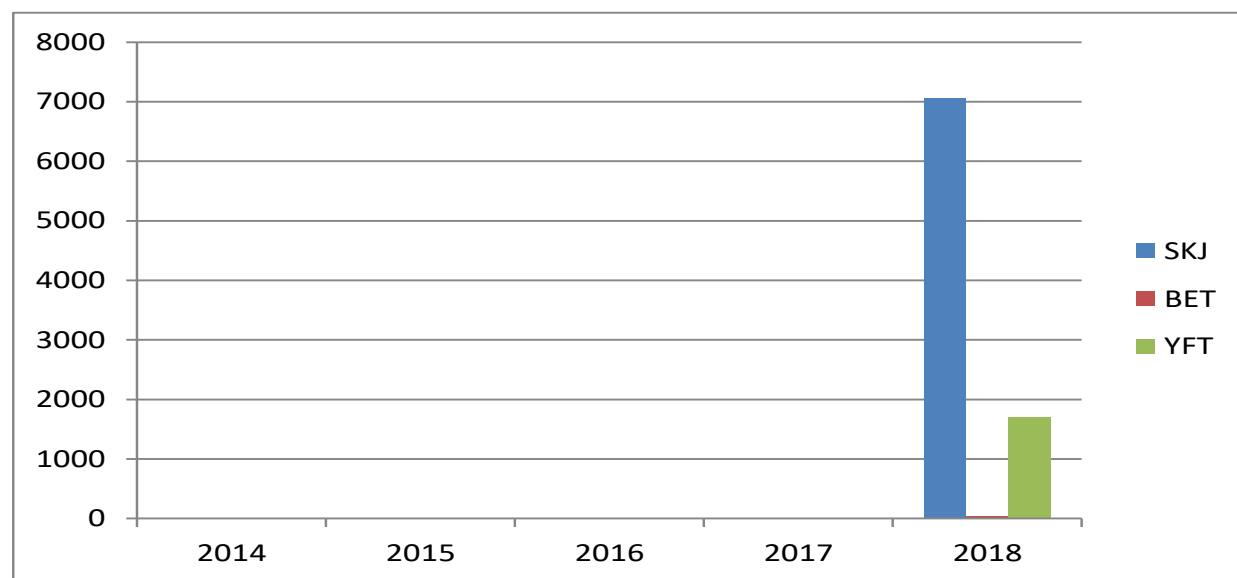


Figure 2: Nauru's flag vessels total catch in MTs over a 5 year period caught in the WCPFC Convention Area from 2014 to 2018. (2018 catches are provisional.)

6. National Fleet Structure

TYPE	NO OF VESSELS	0 – 500 GRT	501 – 1000 GRT	1001 – 1500 GRT	1500+ GRT
PS	2	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	2	-	-	-	2

Table 5: Nauru flag vessels in 2018

7. Artisanal fleet

Nauru's artisanal fleet encompasses of small motorized skiffs and canoes that are fully owned and operated by local fishermen for either subsistence, barter or commercial at a small scale.

There are 112 active motorized boats and canoes in Nauru and the motorized boats make up the bulk of the artisanal fleet. Currently, a census to review the number of active and non-active boats is in progress.

The process of collecting data is through random interviewing of fishermen by Coastal's data collectors assigned to the 3 main landing sites; Gabab Channel and Anibare Community Boat Harbor which are frequent by motorized skiffs and Aiwo boat harbor where majority of canoe fishers land.

There was a change in species composition of the artisanal catch in 2018, with yellowfin tuna the predominant species in the catch. This situation is not uncommon for some coastal tuna fisheries, but we are also checking the potential for the surveyor's random preference of yellow fin tuna over skipjacks.

**Nauru regrets to report that no figures are available for 2014 due to the data being misplaced and all efforts of retrieving the data were unsuccessful.*

8. Artisanal Fleet Catch Estimates

YEAR	Artisanal Catch Estimates (MT)			
	Skipjack (SKJ)	Yellowfin (YFT)	Others	Total
2014*	0	0	0	0
2015	8.341	0.771	0.005	9.117
2016	11.482	1.504	0	12.986
2017	22.3	2.7	0.076	8.639
2018	5.5	11.25	0.2	16.9

Table 6: Source: TUFMAN2 - Artisanal Coastal Fisheries survey of un-raised estimates based on Coastal surveying reports.

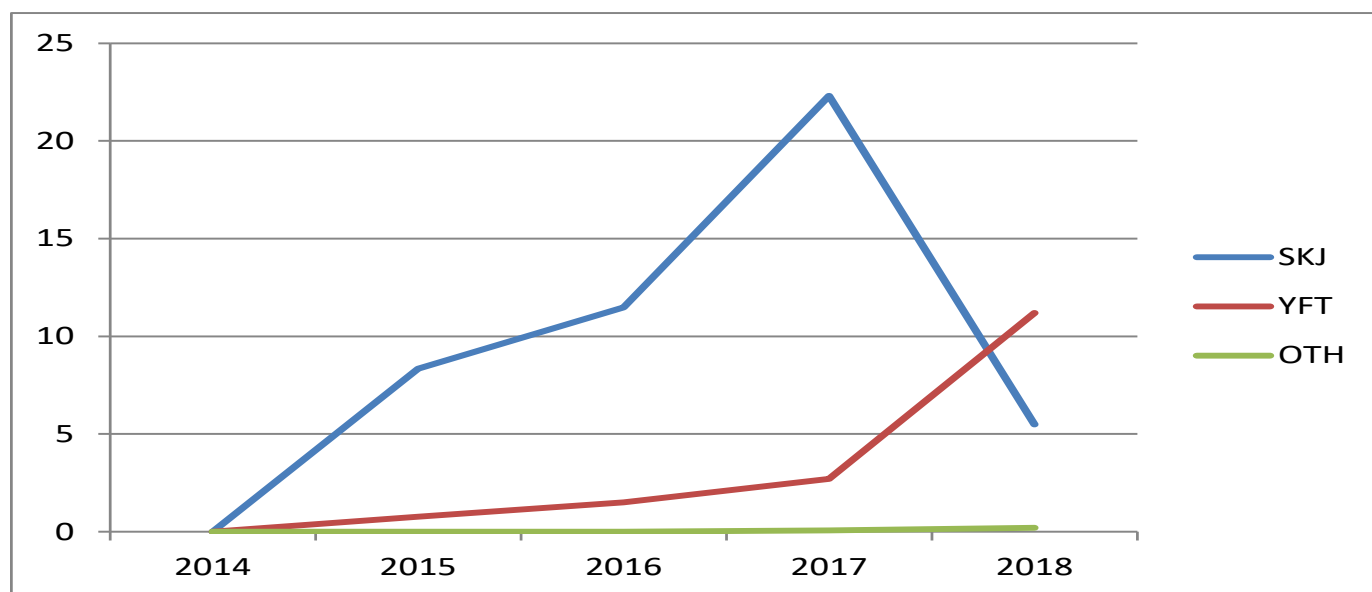


Figure 3: 5 year trend for total raised Artisanal catches (MT) in Nauru from 2014 - 2018. Source Tufman2

9. Socioeconomic

The revenue derived from fishing licenses and vessel day scheme (VDS) of the fiscal year continues to provide the bulk of non-aid income for Nauru's financial state budgets.

Nauru's Observer Program (*NROB*) is the notable development made from the offshore fishing industry. The *NROB* has a total of forty (40) PIRFO Certified Observers, but twenty (20) are active; five (5) trainee de-briefers (*Part A*), one (1) PIRFO Certified De-briefer and Observer Trainer.

The program also has fifteen (15) MSC certified Observers.

Nauru Observer Program total trips for 2018:

- **National** - 17
- **FFA** - 2
- **PNA** - 22

The Artisanal fishery still remains a reliable source of fish protein diet and minor income generator for Nauru's local community.

10. Research and Statistics

Nauru Fishery and Marine Resources Authority's priority is to continue the up-skilling of its human capital through various regional capacity building workshops, attachments and trainings.

Nauru like all other Pacific regions has now embraced *TUFMAN 2* as its primary tuna database system and *TAILS* as its artisanal data collecting tool.

Nauru commends the unrelenting efforts of SPC/OFP and FFA in developing efficient tools for data collection, monitoring and management systems.

Nauru acknowledges the support and assistance provided by the Secretariat of the Community's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (*FAME*) in 2018 for donating 2 tablets for the Artisanal data collection project of Nauru's Coastal Fisheries.

The significant outcome of the *FAME* assistance and support saw a Nauru Fisheries artisanal data surveyor; Mr. Slade Brisco Benjamin, who was part of the initial launching of the OFP/SPC developed "TAILS" app; first to upload the milestone figure of 20,000 artisanal data to *TUFMAN2* the regional database.

Nauru acknowledges the continuous support and assistance that has been provided by the WCPFC, SPC and FFA throughout the year in financial and technical support and capacity building programs.



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

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

05 July 2019

CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4	NOT APPLICABLE: <i>Nauru flagged vessels did not target or catch North Pacific Albacore north of the equator.</i>					
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	NOT APPLICABLE: <i>Nauru Flagged vessel did not catch any Striped Marlin, nor did any vessels fish south of 15 degrees south.</i>					
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	NOT APPLICABLE: <i>Nauru Flagged vessels did not catch any swordfish, nor did any vessels fish south of 20 degrees south.</i>					
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	(1) the total quantities, by weight, of highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure that were transshipped by fishing vessels the CCM is responsible for reporting against, with those quantities broken down by:					
a) offloaded and received;	b) transshipped in port, transshipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transshipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction	c) transshipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the Convention Area;	d) caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear
Offloaded 6,960MT	Transshipped in port - Kiritimati Port (KI)	Transshipped inside the convention area - KI	Caught inside the convention area	SKJ (5,249MT)	Frozen	PS
	Transshipped in port - Funafuti Port (TV)	Transshipped inside the convention area - TV	Caught inside the Convention area	YFT (1,682MT)	Frozen	PS
			Caught inside the convention area	BET (29MT)	Frozen	PS
Received						

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

(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:

a) offloaded and received	b) transshipped in port, transshipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transshipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction	c) transshipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the Convention Area	d) caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area	e) fishing gear
Offloaded 8	Kiritimati Port – 7 transshipments	Inside Convention Area - KI	Inside Convention Area	PS
	Funafuti Port – 1 transshipment	Inside Convention Area - TV	Inside Convention Area	PS
Received				

CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4

Nauru flagged vessels interaction with shark is tabled below:

Gear	Species	Number	Discarded	Retained
PS	OCS	2	3	0
PS	FAL	51	65	0
PS	RHN	1	2	0

Based on the 78% Observer Coverage the above table shows the raised estimates of shark caught by NR's fleet.

CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5

Gear	PS
Flag	NR
Species	Pygmy Sperm Whale (PYW)
Date	23 Nov 2018
Latitude	0102.430S
Longitude	16413.375W
EEZ	H5
Fate	DPU
Caught Condition	Alive
Discarded Condition	Unknown
Interaction Code	OTH – Not Specified
Interaction Discard	OTH – Not specified
Type	Interaction
Number of Individuals	1

Source: data is from e-reports by vessel Masters

<p>CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3</p>	<p>Nauru flagged vessels interacted with Oceanic whitetip sharks and the status of the shark is tabled below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 300 1419 443"> <thead> <tr> <th>FATE</th> <th>Observed Number</th> <th>Estimated Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Alive</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dead</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data are based on 78% Observer Coverage.</p>	FATE	Observed Number	Estimated Number	Alive			Dead	2	3	Unknown																		
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Alive																													
Dead	2	3																											
Unknown																													
<p>CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06</p>	<p>One Whale shark was unintentionally encircled and was injured on release:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 636 1117 1083"> <tbody> <tr><td>Gear</td><td>PS</td></tr> <tr><td>Flag</td><td>NR</td></tr> <tr><td>Species</td><td>RHN</td></tr> <tr><td>Date</td><td>23 Nov 2018</td></tr> <tr><td>Latitude</td><td>0102.430S</td></tr> <tr><td>Longitude</td><td>16413.375W</td></tr> <tr><td>EEZ</td><td>H5</td></tr> <tr><td>Fate</td><td>Discarded Alive</td></tr> <tr><td>Caught Condition</td><td>Alive</td></tr> <tr><td>Discarded Condition</td><td>Alive and Injured</td></tr> <tr><td>Interaction Code</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Interaction Discard</td><td>OTH – Not Specified</td></tr> <tr><td>Type</td><td>Interaction</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of Individuals</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: <i>data is from e-reports by vessel Masters</i></p> <p>*Note: <i>Under Nauru Fisheries (PNA Third Implementing Arrangement) Regulations 2010 section 6A prohibit sets within one nautical mile of a whale shark and requires that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure its safe release if unintentionally encircled.</i></p>	Gear	PS	Flag	NR	Species	RHN	Date	23 Nov 2018	Latitude	0102.430S	Longitude	16413.375W	EEZ	H5	Fate	Discarded Alive	Caught Condition	Alive	Discarded Condition	Alive and Injured	Interaction Code	1	Interaction Discard	OTH – Not Specified	Type	Interaction	Number of Individuals	1
Gear	PS																												
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Interaction Code	1																												
Interaction Discard	OTH – Not Specified																												
Type	Interaction																												
Number of Individuals	1																												
<p>CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="480 1346 1419 1488"> <thead> <tr> <th>FATE</th> <th>Observed Number</th> <th>Estimated Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Alive</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dead</td> <td>51</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Due to the 78% observer coverage (<i>see Observer Coverage WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)</i>) the raised estimates of Silky Shark fates are shown on table above. .</p>	FATE	Observed Number	Estimated Number	Alive	1	2	Dead	51	65	Unknown	3	4																
FATE	Observed Number	Estimated Number																											
Alive	1	2																											
Dead	51	65																											
Unknown	3	4																											
<p>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))</p>	<p>Not Applicable, Nauru did not operate any longline vessels in the national fleet during 2018 Source: <i>Tufman2 TUBS report (51)</i></p>																												
<p>CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4</p>	<p>Addressed through the regular provision of operational catch/effort logsheet data to SPC, who automatically include these data in the WCPFC databases, as authorized by Nauru.</p>																												

CMM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Para 13	NOT APPLICABLE - <i>Nauru did not flag, charter or license any longline vessels in 2018.</i>
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CMM 2018-03: [Seabirds] Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report

The following tables should be included in the annual Part 1 country reports, summarizing the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N – 25°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
[year]						
[year]						
[year]						
[previous year e.g. 2017]						
[current year e.g. 2018]						

¹ Insert ‘North of 23°N’, ‘South of 30°S’, ‘25°S-30°S’ or ‘23°N – 25°S’. For CCMs fishing in all areas, provide separate tables for each area.

² Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

Table y: Proportion of mitigation types¹ used by the fleet in [year].

	Combination of Mitigation Measures	Proportion of observed effort using mitigation measures					
		South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N		
	No mitigation measures						
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS						
	TL + WB						
	NS + WB						
	TL + WB + NS						
	HS						
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB						
	TL						
Other options north of 23°N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS						
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)						
Provide any 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, HS = hook-shielding device.
Table z: Number of observed seabird captures in [CCM] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	North of	23°N –25°S	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
Total					