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

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PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN and CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISION (WCPFC)

PART1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

PHILIPPINE ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT UPDATE

June 2019

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, 2019	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

PHILIPPINE ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT 2019

Summary

The Philippines expresses its strong commitment to promote effective management in order to achieve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) in accordance with the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the WCPF Convention. In giving effect to the provisions of the WCPF Convention, the Philippines upholds that conservation and management measures developed by the Commission, including the recent CMM 2018-01 on the conservation and management of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack in WCPO.

There are various ongoing activities such as the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP), Philippine Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP), catch documentation/validation, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), collaborations with various government agencies (e.g. PSA, PFDA) including the tuna industry, supports Philippine efforts towards improving tuna data collection. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has 525 trained observers (60% are active) and 90 trained debriefers. The VMS has already been operationalized particularly for those vessels operating in international waters (e.g. HSP1, Indian Ocean, other PIC waters). Philippines has approved Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 260 on the rules and regulations on the implementation of the vessel monitoring measure in accordance with Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act 10654.

Philippines has been continuously given limited access to High Seas Pocket 1 as Special Management Area (SMA) allowing only 36 traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group. Philippine-flagged vessels operating in HSP1 are managed under the DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order 245-4 (FAO 245-4). Out of 36 catcher vessels there were thirty three (33) vessels that entered HSP1 for 2018. The total tuna catch of these vessels operating in HSP1 for the period of January to December 2018 is around 21,611MT equal to 2,749fishing day/s.

The provisional catch estimates for the four tuna species of concern of the WCPFC in 2018are as follows: skipjack – 125,542MT; yellowfin – 92,356MT; bigeye – 2,697MT; and albacore – 238MT with a total provisional catch of 220,834MT.

The Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas Project (WPEA-SM) which aims to improve the management of highly migratory species in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas area, has just recently concluded and the Western Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project continues to assist Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam improve monitoring and management of tuna catches that will contribute to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Philippines through the BFAR-NFRDI and other concerned agencies together with the tuna industry is doing a lot of efforts to improve data collection and to strengthen its national capacity and international cooperation particularly on various transboundary concerns in relation to the sustainable conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks.

BACKGROUND

The Philippines is still one of the top fish producing countries in the world. Over 1.6 million Filipinos depend on the fishing industry for their livelihood. The Philippines is also considered a major tuna producer in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).The fishing industry's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) in 2017 was 1.2% and 1.4% at current and constant prices, respectively *(Philippine Fisheries Profile, 2017).*

Also in 2017, the foreign trade performance of the fishery industry gave a net surplus of 622 million dollars. Tuna remained as the top export commodity with a collective volume of 305,466MT for fresh/chilled/frozen, smoked/dried, and canned tuna products valued at US $504million.Canned tuna, though, constitutes bulk of tuna products being exported. In general, tuna exports is up by 195% in terms of volume and in terms of value by 77.6% than the previous year. Major markets for this commodity include Spain, Japan and Italy *(Philippine Fisheries Profile, 2017).*

Chilled/frozen fish comprised the bulk of the total import in terms of value. Tuna, mackerel and sardines are the major import fish commodities in 2017. Tuna has the largest import share of 36% with an import value of US $222million. Chilled/frozen tuna were mostly supplied by Papua New Guinea, Taiwan (ROC),China, Korea and Japan. Other fishery imports include mackerel, 28% and sardines 1.4%. *(Philippine Fisheries Profile, 2017).*

ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

A. FLEET STRUCTURE

The fishing sector consists of municipal and commercial components, with the former involving vessels less than 3 GT in size, and under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Units (LGUs). The number of municipal vessels is not well documented in most areas. The larger commercial vessels (> 3GT) are required to fish outside municipal waters, beyond 15km off the shoreline and are required to secure commercial fishing vessel license (CFVL) at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which is subject to renewal every three (3) years. With the implementation of RA 9379 or the Handline Fishing Law, this gives a separate category for the handline vessels which were formerly considered under the municipal fishing vessels.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) classification of registered Philippine vessels operating in the Western and Central Pacific Region is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Classification of Philippine registered vessels in WCPFC
Source: WCPFC Website, as of 8 June 2019

Type of Vessel	Number of Registered Vessels				Total
	<250 GT	>250 - 500GT	>500 - 1,000GT	> 1,000 GT	
Fish Carrier	85	9	5	14	**113**
Purse seine	33	3	11	23	**70**
Support Vessel	153	1			**154**
Total	**271**	**13**	**16**	**37**	**337**

B. ANNUAL TUNA CATCH IN THE PHILIPPINE EEZ

Since 1987, the official fishery statistics for the Philippines have been compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), based on probability (stratified random sampling by data collectors) and non-probability surveys (interviews by regular BAS staff) surveys, supplemented by secondary data from administrative sources e.g. landings sites and ports (Vallesteros, 2002). Annual Fisheries Statistics for commercial, municipal, inland and aquaculture sectors are published for three year time framesand include volume and value of production by province and by region, information on fish prices and foreign trade statistics.

Catch breakdown by the 31 main marine species is available[1]. Estimates of annual bigeye and yellowfin catches for the past years have been reported as a combined catch (yellowfin/bigeye tuna) but for 2005 BAS started to separate catches for these two species of tunas (Table 2).However, there is still a need to improve the identification of these two (2) species to accurately reflect the actual catch of yellowfin and bigeye.

The annual tuna catch estimates include all the tuna catch unloaded in Philippine ports regardless where they were caught and does not separate those catches from foreign waters or whether it is caught by foreign-flagged vessel.

Table 2. Total tuna catch, by species, for 2014-2018
Source: PSA Annual Fisheries Statistics; 2018data are provisional

Year	Commercial			Municipal			TOTAL
	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	
2014	194,583	94,256	6,188	39,270	45,664	4,980	**384,942**
2015	199,153	102,400	5,258	34,392	40,987	5,614	**387,804**
2016	181,610	70,565	8,106	30,321	35,103	7,505	**333,209**
2017	211,794	70,565	19,325	29,872	36,730	8,623	**375,299**
2018	229,349	59,913	21,932	29,026	32,524	9,202	**383.947**

Note: The annual tuna catch estimates for 2014-2018includes all the tuna catch unloaded in Philippine ports regardless where they were caught and does not separate those catches from foreign waters or caught by foreign-flagged vessel which may account for around 208,035MT for 2018.

The 12thTuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Review Workshop last 27- 28May 2019 was conducted to review and validate Philippine catch estimates by species and gear type. Data from different sources, namely, BFAR (NSAP, logsheets, cannery receipts, Philippine FOP), PSA, PFDA and industry were presented and reviewed. Table 3 provides a breakdown of catch by gear and species according to the process undertaken in the workshop with the current 2018 PSA estimates. After removing the foreign-flagged catch landed in the Philippines (207,343MT) from the PSA estimate, there was a difference of around 33,335MT. The difference could be due to the difficulties in estimating the diverse municipal fisheries and could be explained as possible bias in the probability surveys due to very low coverage. The workshop participants noted that while the industrial fleet estimates are now becoming more reliable, there is still some problem in determining and validating the estimates of the small-scale municipal fisheries that needs to be resolved in the near future. But the workshop also noted that the estimation process has been improving compared to the previous years.

[1] Around 20% of the municipal catch and 6-8% of the commercial landings are not captured by these 30 species

Table 3. Reconciliation of 2018 Tuna Catch Estimates by Gear and Species with the 2018 PSA Total Tuna Catch Estimates (in MT)
Source: 12th Philippine/WCPFC Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Review Workshop Report

GEAR / SPECIES	SKJ	YFT	BET	TOTAL
Purse seine	54,691	18,482	1,180	**74,353**
Hook-and-line	14,574	44,994	983	**60,551**
Others	4,111	3,123	201	**7,435**
TOTAL	**73,376**	**66,599**	**2,364**	**142,339**

* Note: Provisional catch estimate does not include catches of Philippine flagged purse seine vessels in PNG and other PIC waters which accounts for around 78,257MT for 2018.

Also included in the tuna catch estimates are catches of Philippine-flagged vessels fishing in high seas pocket #1 (HSP1). Since2012, Philippines was given limited access to High Seas Pocket 1 as Special Management Area (SMA) allowing only 36 traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group. Philippine-flagged vessels have been operating under the Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area (DA-BFAR-FAO 245-3). Out of 36 catcher vessels there were thirty three (33) vessels that entered HSP1 for 2018. The total tuna catch of these vessels operating in HSP1 for the period of January to December 2018 is around 21,611MT equal to 2,749 fishing day/s.

Tuna catch breakdown by gear is not available from the present Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA, formerly BAS) national statistics publication. However, the WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook has also provided an estimated breakdown of catch by gear (Table 4).

No other fishing by foreign flag vessels is permitted in the Philippines EEZ, but a considerable amount of IUU fishing, based on the regularity of apprehensions of vessels illegally fishing in Philippine waters, would seem to occur, much of it involving tuna vessels. A desk study carried out in 1995 (PTRP, 1995) concluded that IUU longline catches of up to 10,000MT (40% yellowfin) may have been taken in some years.

Landings by foreign longline vessels are permitted in Davao (Toril) port, where around 1,000 - 4,000MT (2014 – 2018) of mostly tuna is landed annually (Table 8).

Table 4. Estimated catch of oceanic tuna species, by gear type, for 2012–2017 in Western and Central Pacific Oceans (in MT)
Source: WCPFC Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2017

Year/Species	Handline	Hook-and-Line	Longline	Purse seine	Ringnet	Others	Total
2012							
Skipjack	439	10,600	-	113,817	23,255	3,078	151,189
Yellowfin	14,449	8,400	61	45,381	5,590	1,247	75,128
Bigeye	508	1,000	248	4,466	655	43	6,920
Total	15,396	20,000	309	163,664	29,500	4,368	233,237
2013							
Skipjack	708	10,360	-	100,077	30,714	2,910	144,769
Yellowfin	12,731	11,000	27	44,815	6,829	3,365	78,767
Bigeye	767	440	167	3,664	449	216	5,703
Total	14,206	21,800	194	148,556	37,992	6,491	229,239
2014							
Skipjack	3,806	6,374	111	130,426	37,885	6,086	184,688
Yellowfin	26,925	8,434	153	50,359	7,118	3,258	96,247
Bigeye	713	58	63	4,347	499	92	5,772
Total	31,444	14,866	327	185,132	45,502	9,436	286,707
2015							
Skipjack	2,820	12,833	-	88,891	37,471	11,797	153,812
Yellowfin	20,825	17,726	-	40,716	7,955	2,266	89,488
Bigeye	743	585	-	2,612	373	220	4,533
Total	24,388	31,144	-	132,219	45,799	14,283	247,833
2016							
Skipjack	1,954	5,864	-	84,970	26,475	6,420	125,683
Yellowfin	17,593	14,188	-	41,109	8,290	2,546	83,726
Bigeye	850	327	-	3,605	363	124	5,269
Total	20,397	20,379	-	129,684	35,128	9,090	214,678
2017							
Skipjack	3,038	10,742	-	64,456	27,827	4,878	110,941
Yellowfin	23,961	14,862	-	31,199	9,592	4,187	83,801
Bigeye	1,294	506	-	2,354	611	335	5,100
Total	28,293	26,110	-	98,009	38,030	9,400	199,842

C. ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE CONVENTION AREA

In addition to the estimated catch by Philippine vessels in the EEZ (see above), to this must be added catches by Philippines flag vessels taken outside the EEZ and elsewhere in the Convention area. The extra - EEZ catches are assumed to include those made by purse seine and ring net vessels in adjacent areas and based in overseas ports, and catches by the wide-ranging handline vessels. BFAR has already required fishing vessels such as purse seine and ringnet to adopt the logsheet system to address the above issue. The fisheries data collection system records all catch landed by Philippine registered vessels including those fish caught outside Philippine waters (e.g. PNG, PIN waters).

Purse seine catches in the PIC waters

Data on the catch by Philippine flag purse seine vessels fishing in Papua New Guinea (PNG) waters are available from the SPC Regional Database, and are summarized for the period 2014-2018 below.

Table 5. Catch by Philippine flag purse seine vessels in PIC waters, 2012-2018.
Source: SPC Regional Tuna Fishery Database and BFAR 12

Year	No. of Vessels	Catch (in MT)			
		Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Total
2014	29	64,191	39,945	2,843	106,979
2015	23	46,298	27,384	1,578	75,260
2016	22	47,825	22,451	1,118	71,394
2017	34	47,909	17,110	1,675	66,694
2018	15	52,166	25,758	333	78,257

* 2018 – preliminary; with fishing access in PNG

Longline catches

Since 2015 to present, there is no Philippine longline vessel that operates within the WCPFC Convention Area (WCPFC-CA). But there were two (2) or more distant-water Philippine longline vessels that operate in the past that have been granted fishing access in other PIC waters (e.g. Kiribati), catches for these vessels are summarized below.

Table 6. Catches of Distant – water Philippine flag longline vessel/s fishing in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2011 – 2014 (MT)

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014
Yellowfin	**145.77**	**60.63**	**27.16**	**2.78**
Bigeye	**777.06**	**247.83**	**166.56**	**52.90**
Albacore	**36.39**	**23.96**	**30.47**	**1.16**
Others	**174.96**	**62.66**	**10.69**	**38.67**
Total	**1,134.18**	**398.08**	**234.87**	**95.51**

DISPOSAL OF CATCH

Most of the **municipal** tuna catches are landed as wet fish all over the Philippines. Much of the municipal catch is processed by drying, salting, smoking etc. A portion of the municipal tuna catch would enter large scale commercial processing like the large handline-caught tuna exported as sashimi and marketed either frozen or smoked, mostly in General Santos City and possibly small amounts are sold as wet fish direct to canneries.

The **commercial** domestic tuna catch of oceanic tunas is increasingly directed towards processing by domestic canneries, based in the Philippines and elsewhere, with lesser amounts to frozen smoked operations. The estimated 169,000MT annual output of 8 canneries is mostly supplied by landings from Philippine purse seiners and ring netters, both local vessels and via carriers from overseas operations. Overseas operations also supply canneries in PNG (~50,000MT p.a.); some tuna is imported to supplement cannery supply.

Official figures for **exports of tuna products** for the period 2014-2018 are tabulated below. The first category includes chilled sashimi quality fish and frozen whole fish for tuna canning.

Table 7. Tuna exports by commodity, 2014 –2018
Source: PSA Fisheries Statistics for 2014–2018

Tuna commodity, by volume (MT)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Fresh/chilled/frozen	28,808	26,815	22,381	25,637	32,938
Dried/smoked	1,460	548	1,252	1,434	5,274
Canned	58,660	73,411	66,284	75,928	152,780
TOTAL VALUE (million USD)	459.83	414.42	274.26	283.50	492.53

* 2018 provisional data

ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS

A. HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE

The General Santos Fish Port Complex (GSFPC), the country's major tuna unloading port, with around 245,000MT total unloadings in 2018, has undergone expansion and improvement. Major components of the said expansion/improvement project includes construction of deep wharves, cold storage and processing area, port handling equipment, power substation, waste water treatment plant, water supply system and other ancillary facilities. GSFPC port facilities have already met international standards for HACCP GMP-SSOP and accredited by the European Union (EU), Japan and United States. Six other major fish ports in the country are proposed for rehabilitation in the near future. The Navotas Fish Port Complex, in Metro Manila is the second largest tuna landings are recorded with unloadings of around 10,000 MT annually. Rehabilitation project for NFPC includes upgrading of port facilities *(such as roads, electrical and power system, landing quay and west breakwater)*, construction of cold storage and processing plant, and waste water treatment facilities.

B. PROCESSING PLANTS

There are currently 8tuna canneries in the Philippines, 6in General Santos and 2 in Zamboanga.

There are two Philippine-owned and operated canneries in Papua New Guinea one in Madang and another one in Lae processing around 50,000MT per year.

Most of the handline catch supply fresh and frozen sashimi grade to the export processors and some to the domestic market. There are more than 17 frozen tuna processors in the Philippines, 70% of which are located in General Santos City and supports about 3,000jobs. Majority of its production is exported to US and European countries.

OTHER CMM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Conservation and Management Measure-2005-03 (North Pacific Albacore)

In 2018, Philippine catches for north pacific albacore is around 238MT. Catches for this species were mainly contributed by municipal hook-and-line fishery using vessels less than 3GT, targeting yellowfin tuna, operating in the northern part of the Philippines and seasonal in nature. Philippines has difficulty in quantifying fishing effort for this fishery due to the diverse nature of municipal fisheries in the country. Fishing effort for municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) are difficult to quantify, as recognized by the Commission, there are some fleets such as those from the Philippines that have some practical difficulties compiling this information. Also it would be important to note that Philippines do not target albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), this species is mainly caught as bycatch and seasonal in nature. But with increased port sampling coverage by our National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP), Philippines will likely be able to quantify fishing effort in the coming years.

B. Conservation and Management Measure 2017-06(Seabirds)

Based on available information (e.g. observer reports), there were no reported seabird interaction for 2018since there are no Philippine-flag vessel operating in the WCPFC convention area (*North of 23^{o} North* or *South of 30^{o} South*) and even for vessels operating within *23^{o} North - 30^{o} South.*

C. Conservation and Management Measure 2009-03 (Swordfish)

Philippines does not have vessels that mainly targets swordfish but our fleet do have some records of catches for this species of around 155MT in 2018 as by-catch for our hook-and-line fishery that were mainly operating in Philippine waters and none of our vessel was operating south of 20^{o}S.

D. Conservation and Management Measure 2010-07 (Sharks)*

Since 2009, Philippines has been implementing its National Plan of Action for Sharks. Based on available reports (e.g. observer reports, port sampling), the total estimated instances or releases for sharks in 2018 was 74 that occurred in Philippine EEZ and HSP1 [(Silky sharks – 65 released dead,6 released alive and 2 fully utilized); (Oceanic White-tip shark – 1 released dead)].

E. Conservation and Management Measure 2011-03 (Protection of Cetaceans from Purse seine Operation)*

Based on available reports in 2018, when a cetacean was unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net during the purse seine operation, Philippine purse seine vessel crew always tried their best effort or always took reasonable steps to ensure the cetacean safe release including stopping the net roll and not recommencing fishing operation until the animal has been released safely and alive and no longer at risk of recapture.In 2018, there was a total of 31 estimated instances that a cetacean was unintentionally encircled by a purse seine net, 10was released alive, 20released dead/fully utilized [e.g. (Bottlenose dolphin – 1 instance released alive and 7 released dead); (Pantropical spotted dolphin – 1instance encircled and released dead/fully utilized); (Spinner dolphin - 1 instance encircled and released dead); (Melon-headed whale – 1 instance encircled and was released dead); Rough-toothed dolphin – 10

instances and were released dead); (Bryde's Whale – 3 instances encircled and were all released alive); (Whale shark - 6 instances encircled and were all released alive)]. These reported instances occurred in Philippine EEZ,high seas pocket #1 (HSP1) and other Pacific Island countries (PIC) EEZ (e.g. PNG)

Based on the report of the fishing master, they would usually stop the net roll once they noticed a cetacean and let the cetacean move out of the net. There are also instances that they do not notice the cetacean prior to net setting or during net rolling.

F. Conservation and Management Measure 2011-04 (Oceanic White-tip Shark)*

Philippines has already prohibited its vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any oceanic whitetip shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention and require its vessels to release any oceanic whitetip shark that is caught as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible. In 2018, there one (1) reported alleged incident or instance that an oceanic white-tip shark was encircled in the purse seine net during the purse seine operation and was released dead. This alleged incident occurred in high seas.

G. Conservation and Management Measure 2012-04 (Protection of Whale Sharks from Purse Seine Operation)*

Since 1998, whale sharks are considered protected species in the Philippines under Fisheries Administrative Order No. 193 or the Ban on the taking or catching, selling, purchasing and possessing, transporting and exporting of Whale Sharks and Manta Rays (FAO 193 series of 1998). Based on available reports in 2018, there were no reported alleged incidents or instances that a whale shark was encircled in the purse seine net during the purse seine operation in Philippine EEZ or HSP1. But there were six (6) alleged incidents or instances that a whale shark was encircled in the purse seine net during the purse seine operation that occurred in other Pacific Island Countries EEZ (e.g. PNG).These species were all released alive.

H. Conservation and Management Measure 2013-08 (Silky Sharks)*

Since the effectivity of CMM 2013-08 (July 1, 2014), Philippines has already prohibited its vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any silky sharks, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention and require its vessels to release any silky shark that is caught as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible. Based on available reports for 2018, there was a total estimated release of 73 for silky shark (65 released dead, 4 6 released alive and 2 fully utilized). These were incidentally caught silky sharks during the purse seine operation that occurred both in Philippine EEZ and HSP1.

I. Conservation and Management Measure 2016-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

The Philippines does not conduct fishing activities targeting Pacific bluefin tunas in the area north of 20° N. However, in some years, there are by-catches of Pacific Bluefin tunas in areas south of 20° N. These fishing vessels utilize handline/hook-and-line fishing gears. For 2018, two (2) pieces of Pacific Bluefin tunas were reported caught weighing around 465 kilograms (1 pc @ ~250kgs and 1 pc @ ~215kgs).

Philippines has improved its catch documentation mechanisms to monitor all tuna landings throughout the country.

STATUS of TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

A. LOGSHEETS DATA COLLECTION

Since 2008, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) launched the catch documentation scheme which includes the catch and effort logsheet system for the purse seine and ringnet vessels. Aside from this BFAR also requires canneries to submit monthly cannery unloading data. TUFMAN Database and PECAN Database systems are being utilized to process the data collected from logsheets and cannery receipts, respectively. All these efforts are geared towards improving tuna statistics/data gathering. DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO 238): Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2008 on Catch Certification Scheme requires all vessels especially those exporting in EU market to submit catch logsheets as requirement for the issuance of Catch Certificates and this helped improve timely logsheets data compliance. BFAR Administrative Circular No. 251 series of 2014 or the Traceability System for Fish and Fishing Products, establishes traceability system for wild-caught, farmed fish and other aquatic products. One of the data requirements for wild-caught fish products for traceability/documentation is to submit logsheets.

Logsheets submission is also required for all vessels under Section 38 of the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550) as amended by Republic Act 10654.

B. OBSERVER PROGRAM and VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)

The BFAR regularly conducts observer training, twice in a year to recruit new observers. There are 525 trained observers (60% active) ready to board the vessels especially to those vessels intending to fish during the FAD closure period within the Philippine EEZ and for high sea pocket # 1 (HSP1) operation.All our HSP1 fishing operations have 100% observer coverage.The program has 90 trained debriefers to conduct debriefing procedures and protocols to the observers. There is also observer coverage to those vessels fishing in the PNG EEZ, provided by PNG NFA.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has operationalized the national VMS particularly for those vessels fishing in high sea pocket #1 (HSP1). The Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550) as amended by Republic Act 10654, Section 119 details the implementation requirements of the Vessel Monitoring Measure (VMM) for catcher and carrier vessels 30GT and above. While Section 116 details implementation requirements for fisheries observer coverage for fishing vessels 200GT and above, and also those fishing vessels that fish during the FAD closure period. In 2018, Philippines adopted the rules and regulations on the implementation of the vessel monitoring measure (VMM) and observer coverage which can be found in Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 260 and FAO 261, respectively. Philippines has started to upgrade its VMS though the Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System-Phase II (PHILO-2) Project.

There were three (3) DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Orders that supports the implementation the Philippine Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP) and operationalization of Vessels Monitoring System (VMS). These were FAO No. 240: Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of Fisheries Observer Program in the High Seas, FAO No. 241: Regulations and Implementation of the Vessel Monitoring

System in the High Seas and FAO 245-4: Regulation and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area.

C. PORT SAMPLING PROGRAM

The National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) has continued to collect port sampling data (e.g. species composition, length frequency and vessel catch and effort information) in major tuna landing sites. In 2010 – 2013, the West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFMP) was able to increase port sampling coverage covering some of the major tuna landing areas around the country. Since 2014, the Philippine government through BFAR gave more funding to support expansion of the NSAP which aims to cover / monitor almost all the tuna landing areas in the country to come-up with a more reliable data particularly for the diverse municipal tuna fisheries, for our WCPFC data obligation and also for better fisheries management. Data from NSAP has been used as basis for coming up reliable tuna catch composition during the annual tuna catch estimates review workshops.

D. UNLOADING

Landings / unloadings by foreign vessels is permitted in only one port in the Philippines - Davao (Toril), as noted earlier. Table 8 below lists the details of these foreign flag vessel unloadings in Davao Fish Port.

Table 8. Vessel Arrivals and Unloading Volumes by Foreign Vessels, Davao Fish Port, 2014 - 2018
Source: PFDA, 2018

Year	Port Calls	Volume of Unloadings (MT)
2014	305	2,988
2015	291	2,227
2016	280	1,853
2017	355	983
2018	226	692

RESEARCH&FUTURE ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET & NON-TARGET SPECIES

The West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFMP) was implemented from January 2010 to December 2013. The phase-2 of this project entitled Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas aims to strengthen national capacities and regional cooperation to implement fishery sector reforms that will sustain and conserve the highly migratory fish stocks in the West Pacific Ocean and East Asian Seas while considering climatic variability and change has just concluded and the Western Pacific East Asia – Improved Tuna Monitoring Project continues to assist Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam improve monitoring and management of tuna catches that will contribute to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA)10654 “An act to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Republic Act 8550, otherwise known as “ The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, and for other

purpose, took effect last October 2015. One of the policy declarations of the law was *"to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the adjacent high seas, consistent with the primordial objective of maintaining a sound ecological balance, protecting and enhancing the quality of the international conventions and cooperate with other states and international bodies, in order to conserve and manage threatened aquatic species, straddling and highly migratory fish stocks and other living marine resources"*. Section 32 also states that *"all distant water fishing vessels shall comply with the conservation and management measures of RFMOs where they are conducting fishing"*. The IRR has outlined in detail our policy approaches and the corresponding timelines in carrying out the objectives of the law.

The 15th WCPFC Regular Session in December2018 has adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (CMM 2018-01). Philippines has approved and implemented its own Fisheries Administrative Order No. 245-4(FAO 245-4) on the Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area. This was supported by other FAOs such as the National Tuna Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Management Policy (FAO No. 244), FAO 236-5: Extension of FAO 236-4 series of 2015 or theRules and Regulations on the Operations of Purse Seine and Ring Net Vessels Using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) locally known as *Payaos* during the FAD Closure Period, and other FAOs which have been approved and implemented.These national laws, rules and regulations also applies to our 2018 operation in the WCPFC Convention Area. These DA-BFAR Fisheries Administrative Orders will make sure that conservation and management objectives on CMM 2018-01 will not be compromised.

In 5 May 2018, Philippine Senate adopted a resolution concurring in the accession to the Agreement on the FAO Port State Measures (PSMA) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF). The said Agreement was also ratified by the President of the Philippines on 10 August 2017.

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ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1_PHILIPPINES

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs[2]

CMM 2005-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 4	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*	*Thunnus alalunga* – 238MT (2018) --- catches for this species are mainly coming from municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) and this is not a target species for these gear/s. Fishing effort for municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) are difficult to quantify, as recognized by the Commission there are some fleets such as the Philippines that has some practical difficulties compiling this information. Also it would be important to note that Philippines do not target albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), this species is mainly caught as bycatch and seasonal in nature.

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

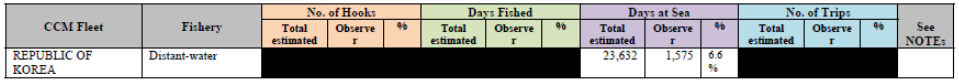
CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	In accordance with paragraph 1, CCMs shall provide information to the Commission, by 1 July 2007, on the number of their vessels that have fished for striped marlin in the Convention area south of 15°S, during the period 2000 – 2004, and in doing so, nominate 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.	Philippines has no vessels fishing in the Convention Area south of 15°S.
CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	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 1of 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.*	Philippines does not have vessels that mainly targets swordfish but our fleet do have some records of catches for this species of around 155MT in 2018 as by-catch for our hook-and-line fishery that were mainly operating in Philippine waters and none of our vessel was operating south of 20ºS.
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	CCMs shall report on all transhipment activities covered by this Measure (including transhipment 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 transhipment using all available information such as catch and effort data, position data, observer reports and port monitoring data.	Philippines flagged vessels have no transhipment activities in the WCPFC – CA for 2018 (There are no PH-LL vessel which are active/operating and PS/RN operation are considered group seining operation).

	ANNEX II TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY CCMs Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission: (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: 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 transshipped 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 (2) the number of transhipments 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. 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; and e. fishing gear.	
CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4	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	In 2018, the total estimated incidents or releases for sharks was 74 [(Silky sharks – 66 released dead, 6 released alive, 1 fully

	the WCPF Convention and agreed reporting procedures. CCMs shall also report annual retained and discarded catches in Part 2 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). *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). **Note*; Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) was included as a key shark species by WCPFC9 (2012)	utilized); (Oceanic White-tip shark – 1 released dead)].
CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 4	CCMs shall include in their Part 1 Annual Report any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, reported under paragraph 2(b).	In 2018, there was a total of 31 estimated instances that a cetacean was unintentionally encircled by a purse seine net, 10was released alive, 20released dead/fully utilized [e.g. (Bottlenose dolphin – 1 instance released alive and 7 released dead); (Pantropical spotted dolphin – 1instance encircled and released dead/fully utilized); (Spinner dolphin - 1 instance encircled and released dead); (Melon-headed whale – 1 instance encircled and was released dead); Rough-toothed dolphin – 10 instances and were released dead); (Bryde's Whale – 3 instances encircled and were all released alive); (Whale shark - 6 instances encircled and were all released alive)]. These reported instances occurred in Philippine EEZ,high seas pocket #1 (HSP1) and other Pacific Island countries (PIC) EEZ (e.g. PNG)

		Based on the report of the fishing master, they would usually stop the net roll once they noticed a cetacean and let the cetacean move out of the net.
CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3	CCMs shall estimate, through data collected from observer programs and other means, the number of releases of oceanic whitetip shark, including the status upon release (dead or alive), and report this information to the WCPFC in Part 1 of their Annual Reports.	In 2018, there was one observed/estimated instance for oceanic whitetip shark and was released dead. This alleged incident occurred in high seas.
CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06	CCMs shall advise in their Part 1 Annual Report of any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels, including details required under paragraph 4(b).	Based on available reports in 2018, there were no reported alleged incidents or instances that a whale shark was encircled in the purse seine net during the purse seine operation in Philippine EEZ or HSP1. But there were six (6) alleged incidents or instances that a whale shark was encircled in the purse seine net during the purse seine operation that occurred in other Pacific Island Countries EEZ (e.g. PNG).These species were all released alive.
CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3	CCMs shall estimate, through data collected from observer programs and other means, the number of releases of silky shark caught in the Convention Area, including the status upon release (dead or alive), and report this information to the WCPFC in Part 1 of their Annual Reports.	In 2018, the total estimated releases for sharks was 73 [(Silky sharks – 65 released dead, 6 released alive, 2 fully utilized)].
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision –	CCMs are to compile and include in Annual Report Part 1 to be submitted from 2015 onwards, observer coverage for <u>their longline</u> fleet activity in the previous calendar	Philippines has no longline vessel/s fishing in the WCPFC-CA for 2018. For other

<table>
<tr>
<td>para 484(b)</td>
<td>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 (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4)
 
<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</th><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th colspan="3">No. of Hooks</th><th colspan="3">Days Fished</th><th colspan="3">Days at Sea</th><th colspan="3">No. of Trips</th><th rowspan="2">See NOTEs</th></tr>
<tr><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th></tr>
<tr><td>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</td><td>Distant-water</td><td colspan="3"></td><td colspan="3"></td><td>23,632</td><td>1,575</td><td>6.6 %</td><td colspan="3"></td><td></td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>gears (e.g. handline, troll), these are mainly municipal or artisanal gears that mainly operates in our waters within our national jurisdiction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>PH has no vessel fishing in the Convention Area south of 20°S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 2017-06 [Seabirds] Para 9</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>There were no reported seabird interactions for 2018, either from longline or other gears. There were no Philippine-flagged longline vessel/s operating in WCPFC Convention area for 2018.</td>
</tr>
</table>