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

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**WCPFC-SC8-AR/CCM-23**

**TOKELAU**



# GOVERNMENT OF TOKELAU

## Malō o Tokelau

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### TOKELAU

#### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WCPF COMMISSION FOR 2011

#### Part 1. (Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics)

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 2012	<b>YES</b>
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

## INTRODUCTION

Tokelau is in the process of developing its tuna management capacities. Key initiatives include strengthening the capacities of the its Fisheries Personnel within the Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment; preparing an Offshore Fisheries Management Plan; initiating development of Inshore Fisheries Management Plans for each atoll; strengthening the legal arrangements relating to the management of the Tokelau EEZ; establishing a Statistical Database; and implementing systems to manage zone-based limits for EEZ fisheries.

### 1. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION.

Tuna Fisheries in Tokelau includes two elements.

#### **1.1 National Fleet – Artisanal Tuna Fishery.**

This fleet comprises of small aluminium boats/dinghies ranging from 12 – 16 ft in length with power outputs ranging from 15 – 30hp outboard motors. These boats fish primarily for local consumption using troll and handline methods targeting mainly skipjack and yellowfin tuna and depending on the abundance of tuna surface feeding schools, traditional pole fishing is sometimes used.

The majority of tuna handline fishing occurs at all hours of the day around specific fishing sites and a little around FADs targeting yellowfin and bigeye using locally available baitfish mainly big eye scad (*Selar crumenophthalmus*), flying fish (*Exocoetus volitans*) and yellowtail scad/atule mate. Trolling occurs mainly in the early hours of the mornings and in the late afternoons targeting surface feeding schools of both skipjack and yellowfin.

Most artisanal fishing activities in Tokelau waters occur within 4 nautical miles from shore. Domestic fisheries development in Tokelau is severely constrained by market access and lack of infrastructure, and the Government is committed to developing strategies that will provide opportunities for Tokelauans to participate in small-scale commercial tuna fishery developments.

Due to lack of data collected from the artisanal fishery, the following table however provides an estimated annual catch and effort by the Tokelau artisanal fleet from 2002 to 2011. The newly developed SPC Artisanal Catch Forms will be introduced to the artisanal fishers to be used in the future and translation of this form into Tokelauan has already begun for easier use and reference by the fishers.

YEAR	BOATS	SIZE_GRT	CATCH_MT		
			SKJ	YFT	BET
2002	29	0-10	5	2	0.9
2003	28	0-10	2	1	0.1
2004	30	0-10	2	1	0.2
2005	30	0-10	5	1	0.5
2006	35	0-10	4	1.5	0.5
2007	42	0-10	6	2	0.5
2008	46	0-10	6	2	0.2
2009	54	0-10	8	2.5	1
2010	54	0-10	8	2.5	1
2011	54	0-10	8	2.5	1

**Table 1.** Annual artisanal catch and effort estimates from 2002 – 2011.

### **1.2 Coastal State Reporting – Foreign Purse-Seine and Longline fishing.**

Offshore fishing is undertaken by foreign fishing vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States. The levels of fishing by these vessels and revenues generated from vessel licensing have fluctuated substantially over the last few years.

Tokelau does not have the capacity to flag fishing vessels so there are no Tokelau-flagged fishing vessels. There are no port, wharfage and mooring infrastructure and facilities in Tokelau to cater for transshipment, port sampling or processing of large-scale tuna catches. All catches by foreign licensed vessels are offloaded outside Tokelau.

Logsheet data for the United States purse-seine vessels under the Treaty (USMLT) are obtained from SPC and data for the New Zealand purse-seine vessels can also be obtained from the SPC pending Tokelau requesting NZ to authorise SPC to release these data.

Logsheet data for the foreign longliners that have been licensed by Tokelau have not been obtained due to lack of capacity and resources both human and financial however, it is envisaged that the review of the vessel licensing regimes will strengthen the reporting obligations in the conditions of the licenses. The following tables show the annual catch and effort levels in Tokelau waters by foreign fishing vessels for the period 2007 to 2011. All catches reported in Table 3 are by US flagged purse-seine vessels licensed under the Treaty.

<b>PURSE SEINE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FLEET</b>	<b>No. VESSELS</b>
	2008	NZ	4
		US TREATY	36
	2009	NZ	3
		US TREATY	39
	2010	NZ	4
		US TREATY	37
	2011	KIRIBATI	3
		ECUADOR	6
		EL SALVADOR	2
		US TREATY	37
		SPAIN	4
		NZ	4
		REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>

<b>LONGLINE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FLEET</b>	<b>No. VESSELS</b>
	2007	VANUATU	2
		US	2
	2008	US	4
		COOK ISLANDS	2
	2009	US	1
	2010	JAPAN	6
		FIJI	2
	2011	FIJI	3
		US	1
		KIRIBATI	3
		TUVALU	2
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>

**Table 2.** Foreign licenses by GEAR and FLEET in Tokelau waters from 2007 to 2011.

YEAR	CATCH_MT		
	SKJ	YFT	BET
2007	834.4	36.3	0
2008	3575.4	235.2	135.1
2009	4933.8	552.3	26.8
2010	2970.9	204.9	36.5
2011	11036.6	403.4	150.1

**Table 3.** Annual Foreign purse-seine catches in Tokelau waters from 2007 to 2011. (based on unraised logsheet data)

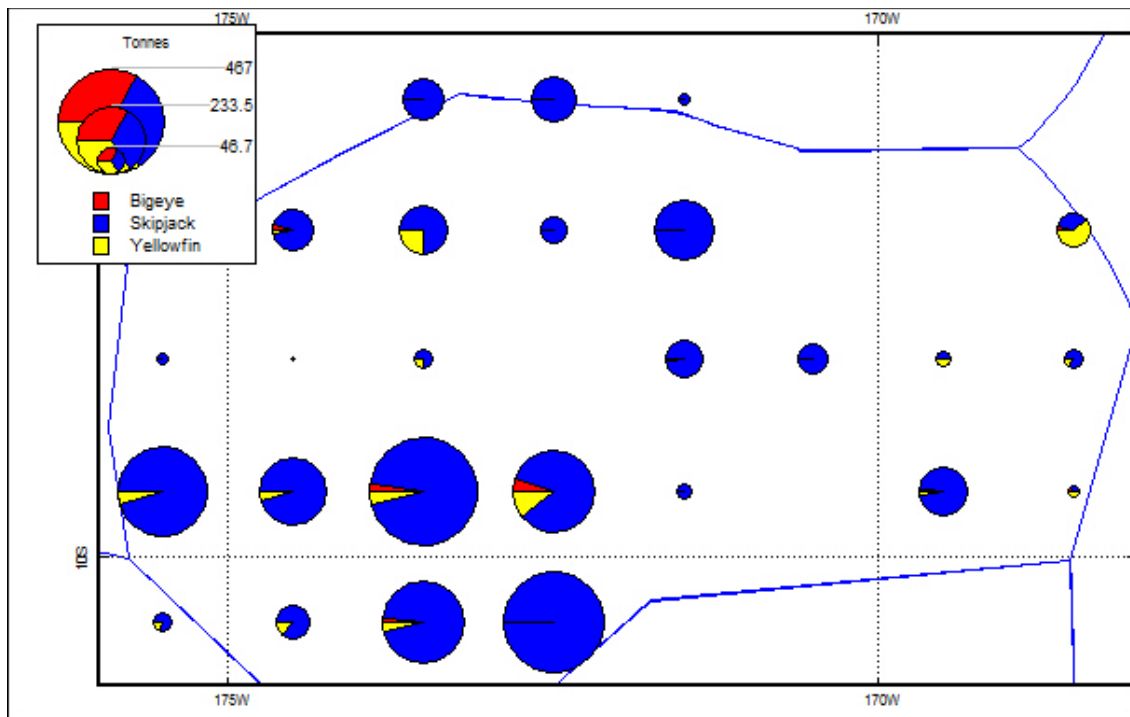
SPECIES	CATCH_MT
ALB	41.9
BET	107.4
YFT	72.6
SKJ	0.006

**Table 4.** Annual Foreign longline catches in Tokelau waters for 2011. (based on unraised logsheet data)

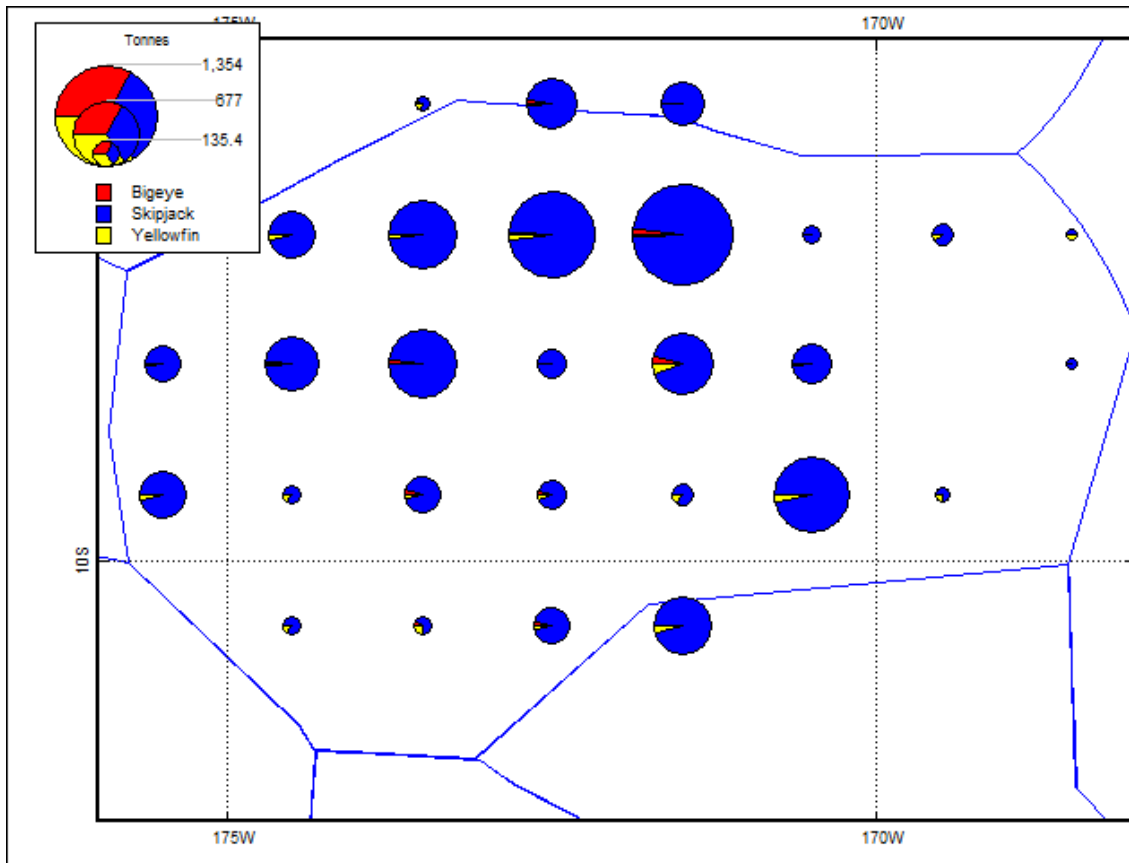
Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of purse-seine catch in Tokelau waters, by species, for 2010 and 2011. The high levels of catch could be due mainly to the occurrence of the El Nino climatic phenomena around this region during those years, and the majority of the catch for both years is mainly skipjack with some yellowfin and bigeye.

Whilst Figure 1 shows the 2010 catch distribution to be concentrated mainly in Tokelau's waters in the west, Figure 2 shows the catches in 2011 to be evenly distributed.

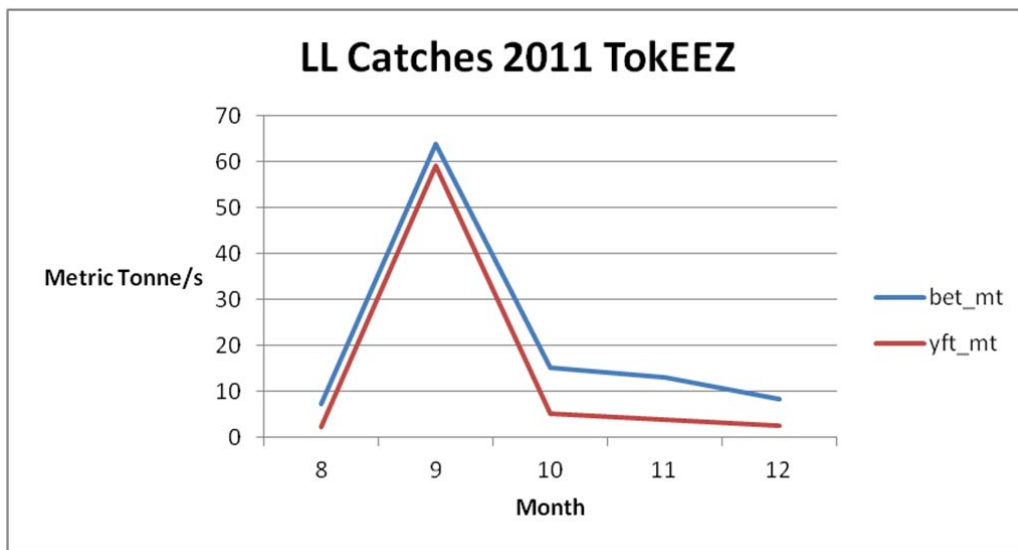
Figure 5 shows the trends in total US PS catch levels, in metric tonnes per year per species, in Tokelau waters for the periods 1990 to 2011.



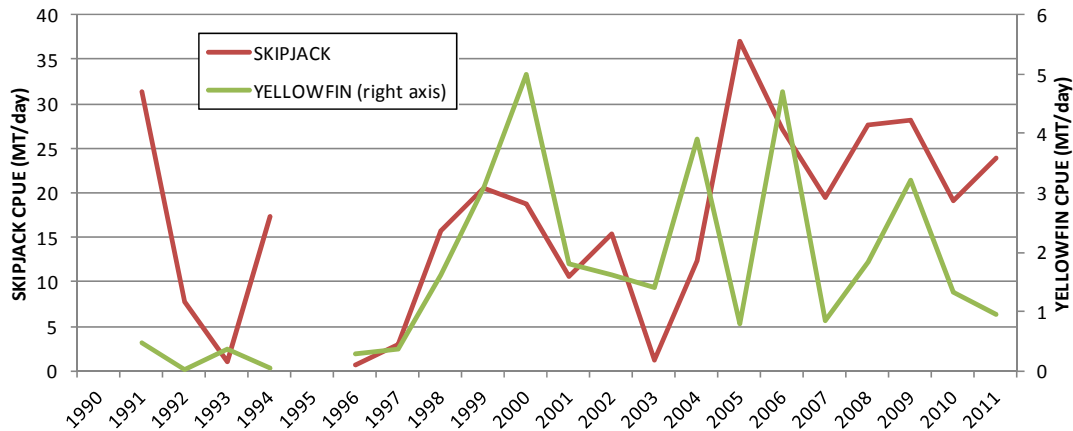
**Figure 1.** Distribution of US PS catches in Tokelau waters in 2010.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of US PS catches in Tokelau waters in 2011.



**Figure 3.** Distribution of foreign longline catches by species in Tokelau waters in 2011.



**Figure 4.** Trends in total US PS catches by species, in metric tonnes per year, in Tokelau waters for the periods 1990 to 2011.

## 2. RESEARCH AND STATISTICS.

Tokelau is seriously concerned about the quality of catch and effort data relating to the Tokelau EEZ fisheries. Due to a variety of reasons—including poor administration and IUU fishing—the fisheries statistics for the Tokelau EEZ are less than adequate. While not necessarily material for stock assessment purposes, Tokelau will not be constrained by the paucity and poor quality of the catch and effort data as it proceeds to determine the nature and extent of the fishing rights in its EEZ.

### TUFMAN - TUF-ART

The tuna research and statistical needs of Tokelau are largely met by the assistance and support of the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme. Part of this assistance is the implementation of the Tuna Management System (TUFMAN) in Tokelau. It is envisaged that it will be fully functional by the end of September 2012. This initiative will empower the fisheries division with a tool to help provide advice to local government and also help fulfil its obligations and commitments to the commission and other regional organisations. Whilst TUFMAN manages the commercial data (offshore fisheries) TUF-ART will be implemented for managing the artisanal fishery (inshore fisheries).

### Monitoring

All foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish in Tokelau waters are required to carry an FFA approved Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) or Mobile Transmitting Unit (MTU) and whilst within Tokelau waters, they are monitored by the FFA installed Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) workstation which was installed in Tokelau in 2005. All purse seine vessels must carry an observer.

Tokelau is in the process of building an Observer Programme. While it is being developed the required observer services are provided by other FFA members' country observer programmes. Tokelau has no port and wharfage infrastructure so there is no Port Sampling Programme.

In 2011 Tokelau became a party to the Te Vaka Toa arrangement. This provides for parties to work collaboratively with respect to monitoring and enforcement in their EEZs. Parties can share MCS assets, information technology, and trained personnel. Over time the Te Vaka Toa arrangement will strengthen the MCS arrangements for Tokelau's EEZ.

### 3. MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

#### Management

In June 2011 Tokelau adopted a new Fisheries Policy. Since then Tokelau has developed a draft Offshore Fisheries Management Plan covering the tuna fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone, and commenced preparation of management plans for the inshore fisheries (lagoons, reefs and coastal waters of the Territorial Sea) of each atoll.

For the offshore fisheries Tokelau has set the following zone-based limits:

<i>Fishery</i>	<i>Zone-based limit</i>	<i>Status</i>
Purse seine fishery	1000 vessel days	WCPFC formally notified
Albacore longline fishery	4348 tonnes	Interim limit
Tropical longline - Yellowfin	4000 tonnes	Interim limit
Tropical longline - Bigeye	2000 tonnes	Interim limit

To implement the purse seine limits Tokelau has become a Participant to the Palau Arrangement and joined the PNA's Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). In the US Tuna Treaty renewal negotiations Tokelau is now in the 'PNA plus Tokelau' pool. Tokelau is currently implementing and testing the VDS systems to ensure these are ready to manage the purse seine fisheries as of 1 January 2013. Pending full implementation of the VDS Tokelau has set a limit of 20 purse seine licenses (excluding vessels licensed under the US Tuna Treaty).

In the longline fisheries the interim zone limits are backed up by limits on the number of vessels to be licensed each year (up to 12 vessels in the albacore fishery and up to 8 vessels in the tropical longline fishery). Tokelau will work with coastal states with an interest in the longline fisheries prior to formally notifying the country limits to the Commission.

Tokelau has also revised its licensing conditions to meet Tokelau's obligations under CMM 2008-01 and to be consistent with the standardised format recommended by FFA.

The Tokelau EEZ Fishing Regulations are under review to ensure that they will support the Tokelau Fisheries Policy and Offshore Fisheries Management Plan.

#### Capacity Building

Following on from adopting the new Tokelau Fisheries Policy, there is now a strong focus on capacity-building for the Tokelau Fisheries division.

- In April 2012, with the assistance of the New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, all personnel of Tokelau's fisheries division took part in an intensive two-week capacity building workshop.
- Staff have been trained by SPC to use and implement the TUFMAN and TUF-ART data management systems.
- Observers are being trained in Vanuatu under the FFA Observer Programme. Further observer training will be undertaken in 2013 for the PNA Observer Programme.
- In September 2012 three staff members will be in PNG for PNA VDS training. Following staff training the VDS systems will be trialled in Tokelau before going live in January 2013.