



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

7-15 August 2012
Busan, Republic of Korea

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

WCPFC-SC8-AR/CCM-28

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

2011

Annual Report –Part 1

Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics

Bruno MUGNERET
Principal fisheries officer

Service des Affaires Rurales et de la Pêche
(Bureau de la Pêche et de l’Aquaculture)

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with relevant rules	YES for year 2011 NO for year 2007 to 2010
There was no provision of data for years 2007 to 2010 owing to the absence of tuna fishing in the EEZ by locally flagged vessels over 10 m long and outside territorial waters.	

1. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Wallis and Futuna Islands are located south equator between 10°S and 15°S, at the eastern edge of warm pool.

The EEZ is 250 000 km² large, one of the three smallest in the region, and is surrounded by Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu and Tokelau.

Throughout the 80's and 90's, several licensing agreements were signed with Japanese and Korean fishing associations as part of general agreements with Pacific French Territories. The number of licenses offered under these agreements fell down from 50 to 2 over years, but no license has ever been effectively requested.

Up until late 2010, there hasn't been any domestic fleet fishing for tuna fleet, with the exception of a few short attempts.

2. RECENT ACTIVITY

Domestic fleet is made up of one single 140 UMS longliner based in Wallis Island. As mentioned above, one single longliner is based in Wallis and Futuna since late 2010 but it hasn't operated during 2011 because of staffing and cashflow issues. This resulted in an overall fishing effort of only 25 sets over the whole year.

Apart from this longliner, less than 20 small artisanal fishing boats mostly targeting bottom species are also catching tuna and other pelagic species as by-catch and around coastal FADs, and game fishing is taking place without being monitored.

3. LEGAL FRAME

As French Overseas Territory, Wallis and Futuna Islands have competency for ruling territorial waters but EEZ keeps under French Government jurisdiction.

In the absence of licensing legislation for offshore fishing operations, the conditions for fishing in the EEZ, particularly obligations respective to data submission and collection, are being set by an agreement between the company and the French Government representative, as tax rebates.

A legal frame is expected to be submitted to the Territorial Assembly for endorsement by 2013.

4. DATA COLLECTION

Data collection relies on operational data submitted by the company on logsheets. Satellite monitoring will be put in place shortly. The Fisheries Dpt structure is not appropriate at the moment to implement a broader data collection program and the low level of activity is not worth investing in capacity building like observers and port samplers.

5. ANNUAL CATCH AND EFFORT DATA

Without VMS, the coverage rate of logsheets is assumed to be 100% but this can't be ascertained.

In the absence of observing and port sampling data, and given that weights were not reported on the logsheets, total weight couldn't be raised and reported.

Albacore total weight was derived from the number of fishes, considering growth, size distribution and selectivity assumptions used in the last available assessment.

Table 1 : catch and effort (aside artisanal small scale fishery)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Nb of hooks ¹	-	-	-	-	62 500

Table 2. Estimated catch of tuna species and others

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Albacore	Total weight* (mt)	-	-	-	-	3,2
	Nb of fish	-	-	-	-	198
Bigeye	“	-	-	-	-	58
Skipjack	“	-	-	-	-	137
Yellowfin	“	-	-	-	-	133
Striped marlin	“					14
Swordfish	“					6
Dolphin fish	“					161
Wahoo	“					110

* derived from biological and selectivity parameters as of last available assessments

Table 3 : domestic fleet - number of vessels flagged

LL	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
51-200 UMS	0	0	0	0	1

6. DISPOSAL OF CATCH

The fish was disposed of on the domestic market where it was sold fresh and whole for the most of it, and loined for a small part.

7. FUTURE PROSPECTS

The company is expected to increase its operations in 2012². Foreign vessels licensing may be considered in a near future, aiming at fostering partnership with the local company in order to help overcome logistics, staff and efficiency issues experienced last year.

¹ Average nb of hooks between floats = 40

² As of may 2012, no activity