



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

ELECTRONIC MEETING
11-20 August 2020

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

WCPFC-SC16-AR/CCM-29

WALLIS AND FUTUNA



**ANNUAL REPORT – PART 1
INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

COVERING 2015-2019

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS



WALLIS AND FUTUNA

**2019
Annual Report –Part 1**

Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics

**Chloé FAURE
Fisheries data officer**

**Service de la Pêche et de Gestion
des Ressources Marines**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with relevant rules	Aggregated data was provided for year 2015 to 2019
--	---

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.

Professional small-scale fishery is monitored through fuel subsidies log sheets. In 2019, Wallis & Futuna professional small-scale fishery fleet counted 24 boats (11 in Wallis and 13 in Futuna) using artisanal gears (handline, trolling, spearfishing, gillnetting...) operating within territorial waters. Tuna and tuna-like species constituted about 37 % of their overall catch.

Subsistence and recreational catch have been estimated through various means and could make up to 80% of the overall catch. From the census carried out in 2014, 181 boats were counted, though not all of them were used for fishing.

There are currently two nearshore FADs around Wallis Island. The FAD programme is still ongoing with the reinforcement of device positions and FAD fishing training to foster fishermen shift from reef fishing to tuna fishing.

Recently the fisheries division started implementing a new small-scale fishery survey protocol based on TAILS and length-weight measurement in order to improve data collection.

2. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Table 1 : Annual catch and effort estimates

		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
LL	Nb of trips	None					
	Nb of hooks	None					
	Catches of key species (altogether)	No record					
	Nb of trips¹						
	Nb of trips/total	781	851	804	1190	1212	4838
	Nb of trips/trolling	238	379	410	688	895	2610
	Nb of trips/tuna caught	237	248	184	331	490	1490
Other (small scale fisheries)	Catches of key species (kg)						
	Albacore (ALB)	344,55	148,9	119,5	997,2	526,6	2136,75
	Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	2387,647	2621,1	2222,7	3078,555	11003,45	21313,49
	Bigeye tuna (BET)	16,6	0	0	0	0	16,6
	Skipjack (SKJ)	4239,2	3306	1685,1	5400,6	6404,63	21035,53

¹ The fishing effort is difficult to estimate in the context of Wallis and Futuna because of predominance of non-target and multiple-gear fisheries. So the numbers of trips have been estimated through the annual total trips (a), the trips where fisherman trolled (b) and the number of trips when the WCPFC target species have been caught (c)

Dogtooth tuna (DOT)	0	37,5	18	0	250	305,5
Swordfish (SWO)	0	533	0	518	841,5	1892,5
Blue marlin (BUM)	130	0	100	105	0	335
Striped marlin (MLS)	200	48	82	0	0	330

Small scale commercial nearshore fisheries data is collected from log sheets in the frame of fuel subsidizing scheme. However, these data don't account for the overall production. The fisheries division recently implemented a new survey protocol based on TAILS and length-weight photographic measurements for both commercial and subsistence fisheries.

2019 has been an outstanding year for tuna catches, particularly at the end of the year which could be explained by good environmental conditions. This has to be looked at more closely in order to better understand the tuna dynamics in Wallis and Futuna and better predict the economic and ecological outcomes of a potential longline fishery in the EEZ.

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

		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
LL	51-200 UMS	0	0	0	0	0
Other (small scale fisheries)		18	15	19	23	24

In the absence of fishing operations by a domestic fleet in the EEZ and in the convention area and of foreign fleet licensed to fish within the EEZ, there is no other information related to tuna fishing to be submitted to the Commission.

3. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Several middle scale tuna fishing projects are currently being discussed but they are still at an early stage. One is carried by a local fishermen currently fishing in French Polynesia, and consists of a 10-11m long longliner. Operations may start early 2021 at soonest.

A recent study from SPC oceanic division² has shown that Wallis & Futuna EEZ could withstand up to 8 longliners if the goal was to meet the same fishing effort than neighboring countries. However, this study doesn't account for ecological, social and commercial aspects.

Talks opened in 2013 towards a fishing agreement with American purse seiners were suspended and as of today, there is no indication of a re-opening process.

In regards to WCPFC requirements and implementation of management measures, work still needs to be done in liaison with Secretariat (SPC) and French Government, still having competency over Wallis and Futuna EEZ, in order to update Fisheries staff knowledge and practice and also assess the compliance of legal frame for offshore fishing activities to the commission's measures.

4. CMM'S SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

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

² S.Hare (2019), *Potential de la pêche à la palangre et étude des données de positionnement VMS à Wallis et Futuna*, SPC, pp.23

There is currently no purse seine activity in the EEZ. Draft agreement with American purse seiners was setting limits to 3000mt all species together before discussions stopped. However, an increasing number of FAD buoys seem to be drifting across the EEZ and near coasts, fostering the Fisheries Dpt to start collecting data on those “lost” dFADS and join SPC’s work to assess their impacts.

CMM 2012-07 §9: Seabirds interactions with fisheries

Without longlining by domestic fleet since 2011 and small-scale fleet operating nearshore, there’s no interaction of fishing activities with seabirds.

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)
2015	0	0	0	-	0	0
2016	0	0	0	-	0	0
2017	0	0	0	-	0	0
2018	0	0	0	-	0	0
2019	0	0	0	-	0	0

CCM 2011-03 §3: Cetaceans interactions with fisheries

As there is no industrial fishery in the Wallis and Futuna EEZ, no cetacean bycatch has been observed or noticed.

CCM 2010-07 §4: Sharks interactions with fisheries

Table 4 : Sharks interactions with fisheries in kg by year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Whitetips sharks	0	0	30	0	0
Sharks nca	86	12	0	0	40
Total	86	12	30	0	40

According to log sheets, sharks are occasionally caught by artisanal fishers.