



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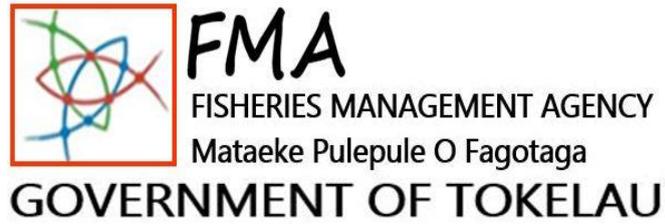
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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

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**WCPFC-SC16-AR/CCM-24**

**TOKELAU**



**2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES  
COMMISSION  
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 2020	<b>Yes</b>
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## ABSTRACT

Tokelau does not have a commercial fishing fleet however it has a large artisanal fleet of about 190 small 10' to 16' motorised aluminium boats powered by 15-30HP outboard motors. These artisanal fishing boats operate within the 12nm Territorial Sea (TS), but generally do not venture out further than 5nm from shore. For food security purposes, Tokelau has also established a buffer zone (closed area) of 13nm extending from the 12nm TS closed to any foreign fishing.

Coverage of Tokelau artisanal data continues to improve since the introduction of the SPC TAILS software in 2016. The total tuna catch reported from this fishery in 2019 was 61 metric tons (mt) with skipjack (65%) and yellowfin (35%) tunas making up the majority of the catch composition.

The commercial fishery in Tokelau is comprised of purse seine and longline vessels operating under various multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements. In 2019, the total catch by the purse seine and longline fisheries were 3,904mt and 2,120 mt, respectively. Both fisheries are managed in full compliance with the vessel day schemes (VDS) established under the Palau Arrangement.

While transshipment in the Tokelau Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) is permitted by law, in certain circumstances, as a matter of policy Tokelau does not currently allow transshipment to occur in her EEZ, TS or Internal Waters. Tokelau did not approve nor authorise any transshipment activity in her waters in 2019.

## ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

### National Fleet – Artisanal Tuna Fishery

Tokelau's artisanal fleet consists of around 190, small 10' – 16' outboard motorised aluminium boats operating out of the three atolls. These vessels fish primarily for local consumption and use surface trolling and vertical handline methods that mainly target skipjack and yellowfin tuna.

Most artisanal fishing activities in Tokelau's waters occur within 5 nautical miles from shore. Domestic fisheries development in Tokelau is severely constrained by market access and lack of infrastructure. The Government continues her commitments in developing strategies that will provide these artisanal fishers with opportunities to participate in small-scale commercial tuna fishery developments.

Any commercial inshore fisheries developments need to be authorised by the Taupulega (Village Council) of each respective atoll and is subject to a cost-benefit and market analysis, and an environmental impact assessment to demonstrate it will not jeopardise her food security and will result in creating net economic gains.

Table 1 provides the annual catch estimates by the Tokelau artisanal fleet in the last three years, based on data collected through the SPC TAILS software.

**Table 1: Estimated Artisanal tuna catches in Tokelau waters, 2017-2019**

RAISED ESTIMATES (MT)				
Year	SKJ	YFT	BET	TOTAL
2017	38.5	29.0	0.1	67.6
2018	27.8	27.0	0.0	54.8
2019	39.6	21.1	0.0	60.6

### Coastal state reporting

For the past few years, Tokelau has been participating in the PNA purse seine vessel day scheme (PS VDS) established under the Parties to the Palau Arrangement. The Tokelau EEZ limit for the purse seine fishery is 1,000 days.

In 2016, Tokelau also became a participant in the PNA longline (LL) VDS and was allocated a total of 5,000 fishing days. In 2017 it commenced selling her LL fishing days under this vessel day scheme.

Offshore commercial fishing is undertaken by foreign fishing vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States. A total of 72 vessels were licenced to fish in Tokelau during 2019 (Table 1).

Total catch by the longline fishery in Tokelau in 2019 was 2,120mt about 60% higher than the previous year. Albacore tuna is the main species caught with moderate catches of yellowfin and bigeye also taken, primarily by Cook Islands and Vanuatu flagged vessels (Table 1 and Figure 1a). The longline catches tend to be distributed to the southern parts of the EEZ (Figure 2).

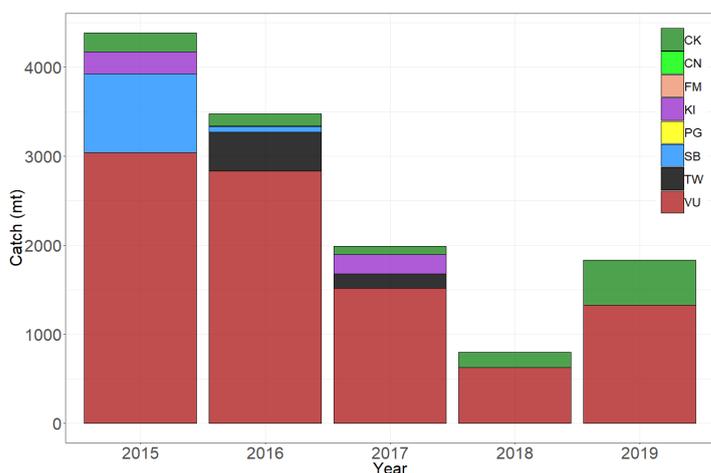
Purse seine fishing in Tokelau has been highly variable in the last five years (Table 1 and Figure 1b). Catches have ranged from about 40,000mt in 2015 to 3,904mt in 2019 with skipjack being the dominant catch (>90%). Distribution of catch in the Tokelau EEZ is highly influenced by interannual variations in oceanographic conditions and tend to be concentrated in the northern parts of the EEZ (Figure 3).

**Table 2: Number of bilateral licences issued in 2019.**

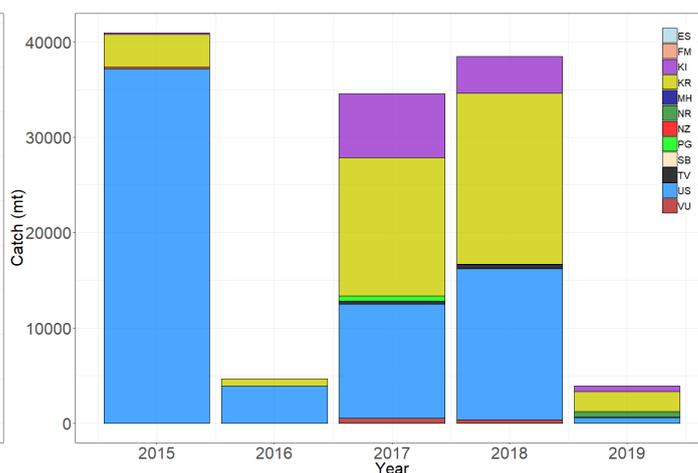
FLAG	PURSE SEINE	LOGLINE
Cook Islands	0	3
Kiribati	10	0
Korea	24	0
Nauru	2	0
Philippines	4	0
Tuvalu	1	0
Taiwan	5	0
Vanuatu	4	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>12</b>

**Table 3: Annual catches in Tokelau EEZ from 2015 to 2019. (Source: unraised logsheet data)**

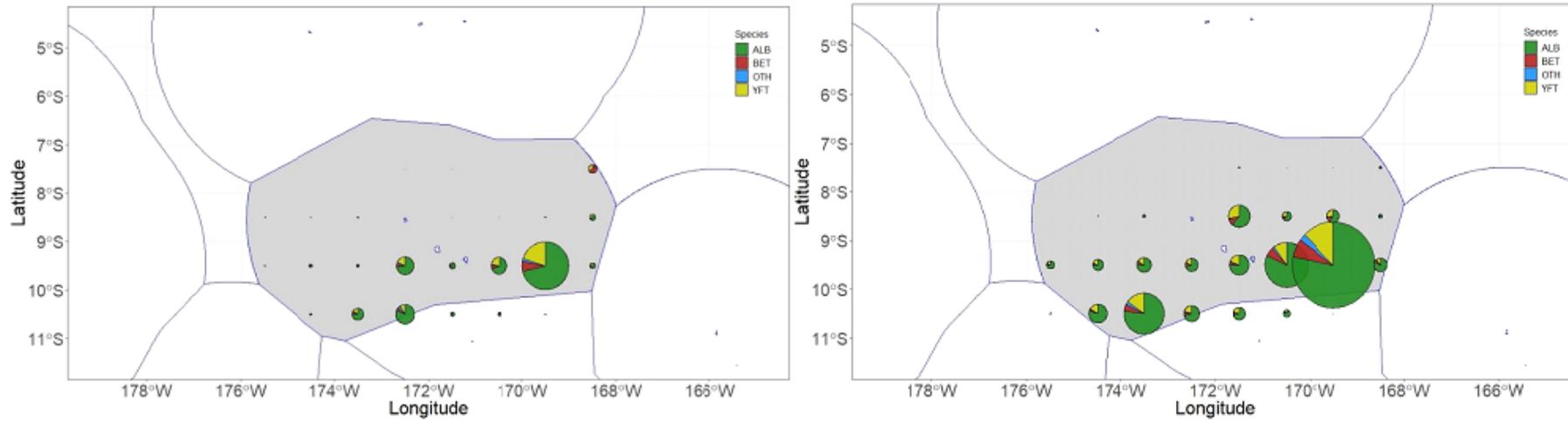
Year	Gear	Effort (days)	CATCH (MT)					TOTAL
			ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	OTH	
2015	Longline	3,942	2,575	638	0	1,173	527	4,913
	Purse Seine	1,167	0	45	40,188	726	23	40,981
2016	Longline	4,077	2,247	462	0	770	387	3,866
	Purse Seine	176	0	121	4,260	291	11	4,682
2017	Longline	2,169	1,424	158	0	408	264	2,254
	Purse Seine	736	0	282	32,758	1,502	26	34,569
2018	Longline	993	595	54	0	148	78	875
	Purse Seine	883	0	572	36,121	1,769	118	38,580
2019	Longline	1,727	1,387	126	0	318	289	2,120
	Purse Seine	143	0	28	3,749	125	3	3,904



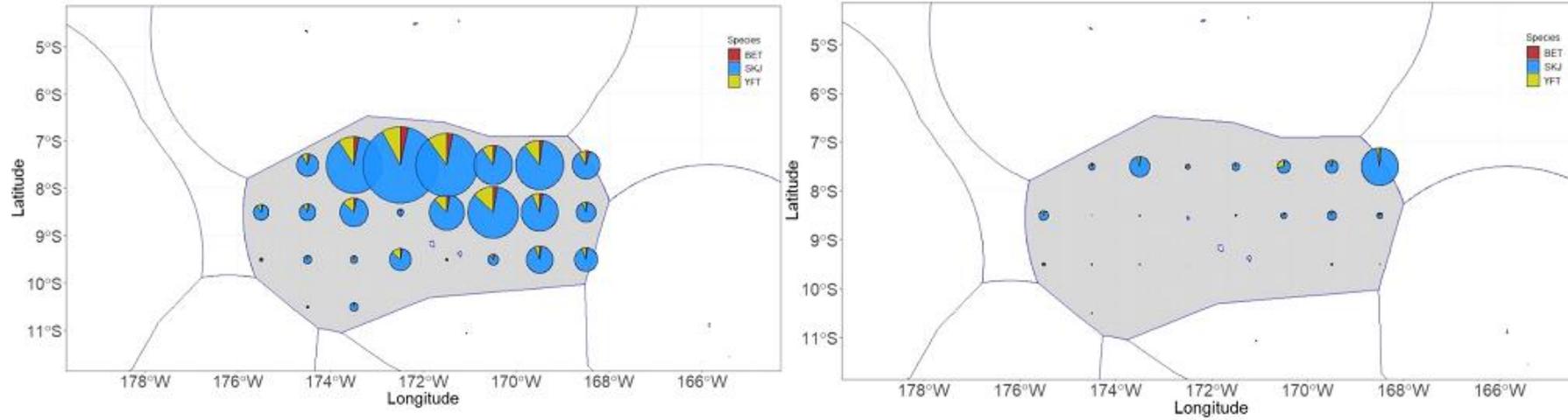
**Figure 1a: Annual catch of tuna by longline vessels in the Tokelau EEZ, by flag.**



**Figure 1b: Annual catch of tuna by purse seine vessels in the Tokelau EEZ, by flag.**



**Figure 2:** Distribution of longline catches by species in the Tokelau EEZ in 2018 (left) and 2019 (right)



**Figure 3:** Distribution of purse seine catches by species in the Tokelau EEZ in 2018(left) and 2019 (right)

### TUFMAN 2 – ARTISANAL FISHERIES COMPONENT

The tuna research and statistical needs of Tokelau are largely met by the assistance and support of SPCs' Oceanic Fisheries Programme. Part of this assistance is the implementation of the Tuna Management System TUFMAN, now upgraded to TUFMAN 2, in Tokelau. It is now fully functional with ongoing assistance with training as new systems are developed. This initiative will empower the Fisheries Management Agency with a tool to help provide advice to local government and to help fulfil its obligations and commitments to the Commission and other regional organisations. Whilst TUFMAN 2 manages the commercial data (offshore fisheries) TUF-ART has been implemented for managing the artisanal fishery (inshore fisheries). The new artisanal fisheries component of TUFMAN 2 was introduced to Tokelau fisheries officers in late 2016. One of the major improvements to the data system was the update to TAILS software in 2018.

#### 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 Transceiver (MTU) and whilst within Tokelau waters, they are monitored by the FFA installed Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). This is a critical part of MCS and a workstation was installed in Tokelau in 2005. Tokelau aims to strengthen MCS capabilities through participation in regional and sub-regional strategies and through regional infrastructures. Due to limited resources available, Tokelau must participate in regional and sub-regional collaborations to combat IUU in the Tokelau EEZ. As a participant in the PNA VDS established under the Palau Arrangement, Tokelau is now implementing the VDS for their purse seine fisheries and the longline fisheries and vessels licensed to fish against Tokelau's vessel days within its EEZ are also monitored through the PNA VDS systems. Any vessels operating under a revised US Tuna Treaty will also use the PNA VDS.

Tokelau appreciates the value of an Observer Programme and will consider appropriate collaborative effort in the region. Required observer services are provided through the FFA Regional Observer Programme (within which Tokelau has a very limited number of observers) and other FFA members' country observer programmes and the PNA Observer Programme. Tokelau has no port and wharfage infrastructure so there is no Port Sampling Programme and no port sampling is carried in Tokelau.

Tokelau falls under the umbrella of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement, an agreement that provides for cooperation in fisheries surveillance and enforcement in the South Pacific region. Tokelau is committed to working cooperatively with respect to monitoring and enforcement, and the sharing of MCS assets and information with her counterparts to strengthen the MCS arrangements for Tokelau's EEZ.

Surface and air patrols/surveillance of Tokelau's EEZ are undertaken by New Zealand and FFA coordinated patrols, with input and assistance from the Tokelau Fisheries Management Agency.

## APPENDIX I CMM Reporting

<b>CMM 2019-03</b> <b>[North Pacific Albacore], Para 3</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2006-04</b> <b>[South West striped Marlin], Para 4</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2009-03</b> <b>[Swordfish], Para 8</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> <li>• The Tokelau EEZ is geographically situated between approximately 6 and 11 degrees South latitude and is therefore outside of the area of application.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2009-06</b> <b>[Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2010-07</b> <b>[Sharks], Para 4</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2011-03</b> <b>[Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2011-04</b> <b>[Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2012-04</b> <b>[Whale sharks], Para 06</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2013-08</b> <b>[Silky sharks], Para 3</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Observer coverage (WCPFC)</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> </ul>

<b>11 decision – para 484(b)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>
<b>CMM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Para 13</b>	<p><b>*N/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tokelau is not a flag state.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not authorize vessels to fish on the High Seas.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not charter Foreign Fishing Vessels.</li> <li>• Tokelau does not have a domestic commercial fishing industry.</li> </ul>