



**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-18

PALAU

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART I: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
REPUBLIC OF PALAU- 2019

Republic of Palau

Division of Oceanic Fishery Management
Bureau of Marine Resources
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism
Oiterong, Zilah D. || Sisior, Kathy

Final
July 10, 2020

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by <u>30 April 2020</u>	<u>YES</u>
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I. ABSTRACT

Tuna fishing in the Palau Exclusive Economic Zone is dominated by the locally based foreign longline fleet of Chinese Taipei and the offshore based longline and purse seine fleet of Japan and Philippines. In 2019, Palau licensed a total of 136 fishing vessels comprising of 75 longliners and 61 purse seiners. The licensed longlines include 2 Palau Flagged Vessels, 39 Palau Chartered Taiwan Flagged Vessels, and 34 Japanese Flagged Vessels. The licensed purse seines include flagged vessels from Japan (27), Papua New Guinea (1), Philippines (21), Solomon Islands (3), Taiwan (6), and Vanuatu (3).

Total catches caught and reported for 2019, from both longline and purse seine vessels, approximated about 5918 metric tons (MT) of fish with 11.81MT of Albacore, 1,166.82MT of Bigeye, 1,920.38MT of Skipjack, 2,686.85MT of Yellowfin, and all other catches totaling to 132.14MT. Since Palau's Fishery Port is incapable of accommodating purse seine operations, catch landings are only done by longline vessels. In 2019, a total of 1,515.32MT of catches were landed in Palau port, and of which about 1,444.56 MT were exported which Japan as the primary export destination. The rest of the landed catch were sold or donated locally.

II. BACKGROUND

The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office, Bureau of Marine Resources under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, is mandated to carry out the purposes of Title 27 of Palau National Code to adopt fisheries regulations, negotiate and conclude foreign fishing agreements, issue foreign fishing permits, and perform other duties and functions for the management, exploitation and conservation of all living resources in the extended and exclusive fishery zone of the Republic of Palau. The Title 27 of the Palau National Code is the primary fisheries legislation regulating the harvest of highly migratory fish stocks and fishing vessels that fish in the waters of the Republic of Palau.

In addition to Fisheries Bilateral Agreement between Palau and Japan Fishing Association, Palau also have agreements with locally Based Foreign Chinese Taipei Fishing Companies and Offshore Based Philippine Companies

In developing countries, like Palau, sustainable developments would mean the commitment of resources toward continued improvement in living standard. In October 2015 Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMSA) was passed by the Republic's Congress to preserve eighty percent (80%) of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone as Palau National Marine Sanctuary. The PNMS Transition Regulations were adopted and promulgated to govern fishing during a wind-down period until 2020 when Palau National Marine Sanctuary will be fully functioning. The progress toward sustainable developments is demanding and will not be achieved without political will and improved policies.

III. FLAG STATE REPORT

The recorded catch estimates for both national and chartered fleets in 2019 totaled 3,601.88 metric tons. Yellowfin was the main species caught with 2,295.76 metric tons accounting to 63% of the total catches as bigeye follows with 1,162.35 metric tons or 32% of the total catches. Table 1 presents the annual catch and effort for both the national and chartered fleets with figure 1 and figure 3 illustrating their catch distribution. There were no national and chartered fishing vessels for years 2015 and 2016 so there are no data provided for those years.

Table 1. Annual catch (MT) and Effort (Hooks) in the WCPFC Convention Area by species for the Republic of Palau Longline fishery.

Longline National/Chartered Fleet Catch(MT) and Effort(Hooks)								
Year	2015	2016	2017		2018		2019	
Effort (Hooks)	0	0	72,152		69,066		68,406	
SPECIES	Ret./Disc.	Ret./Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.	Ret.	Disc.
ALB	0	0	47.25	0	14	0	11.81	0
BET	0	0	1105.33	0	777	0	1162.35	0.17
PBF	0	0	2.7	0	3	0	2.08	0
SKJ	0	0	2.88	0	0	0	1.39	0
YFT	0	0	1351.32	0	1463	13	2295.76	0
BLM	0	0	4.58	0	8	0	3.36	0
BUM	0	0	59.44	0	60	6	88.60	0
MLS	0	0	0.08	0	0	0	0.65	0
SWO	0	0	24.07	0	43	0	35.87	0
GRAND TOTAL	0.00	0.00	2,597.65	0.00	2,368.00	19.00	3,601.88	0.17

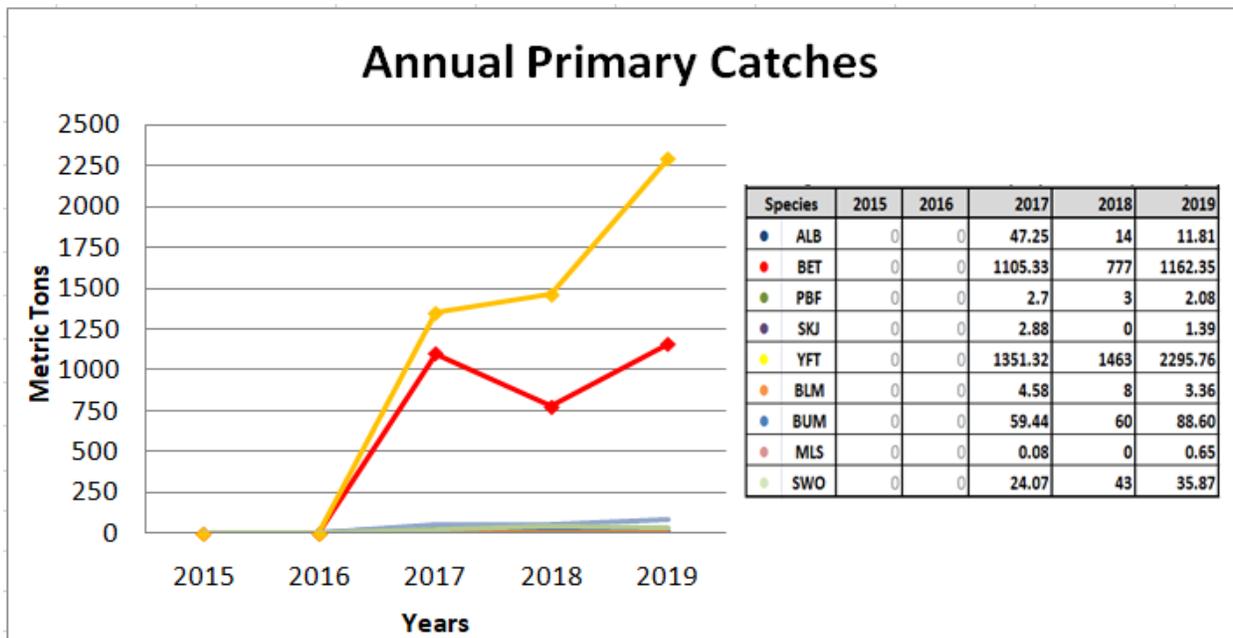


Figure 1. Historical Annual Primary Catch for the National and Chartered fleet in the WCPFC Convention Area presented as a line graph.

In 2019, Palau licensed two (2) longline vessels as its national flagged vessels. These longline vessels are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which catch estimates are required by the WCPFC. There were no Purse Seine vessels licensed as national vessel or chartered in 2019. Palau chartered all thirty-nine (39) Palau licensed longline Chinese-Taipei flagged vessels in 2019. Table 2 and Figure 2 present the number of these licensed vessels by gear and size category.

Table 2. Number of Licensed Fishing Vessel (National and Chartered) by Gear and Size Category

GEAR	LONGLINE (National)						LONGLINE (Chartered)						
	YEAR GRT	0-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	100+	Total Vessels	0-25	26-50	51-75	76-100	100+	Total Vessels
	2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2017	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	25	8	2	0	35
	2018	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	26	10	2	0	38
	2019	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	27	10	2	0	39

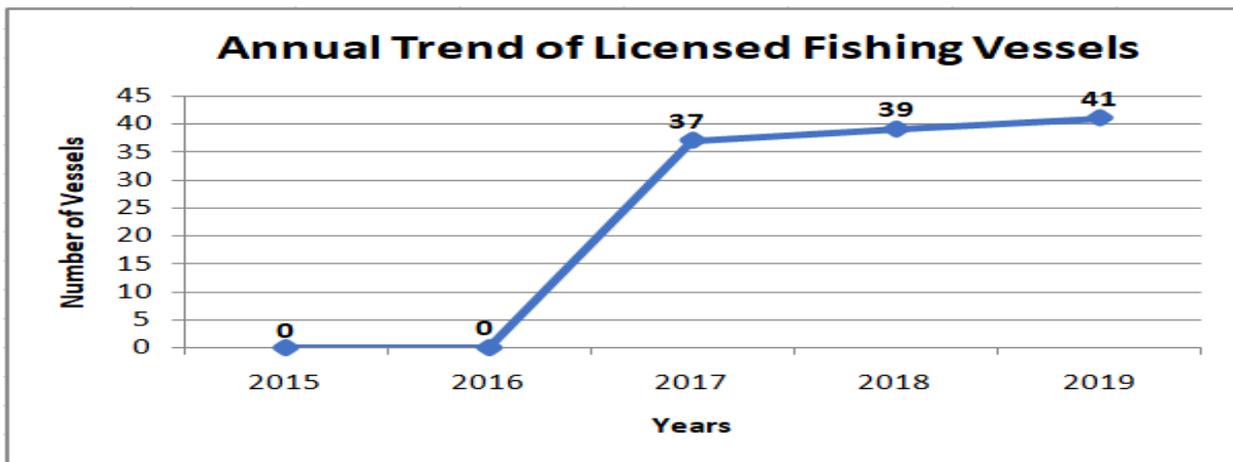


Figure 2. Chart of Palau Licensed National and Chartered Longline Fishing Vessels Operating in the WCPFC Convention Area

The following figure illustrate catch and effort (hooks) distribution for Palau licensed (National and Chartered) fishing in 2019.

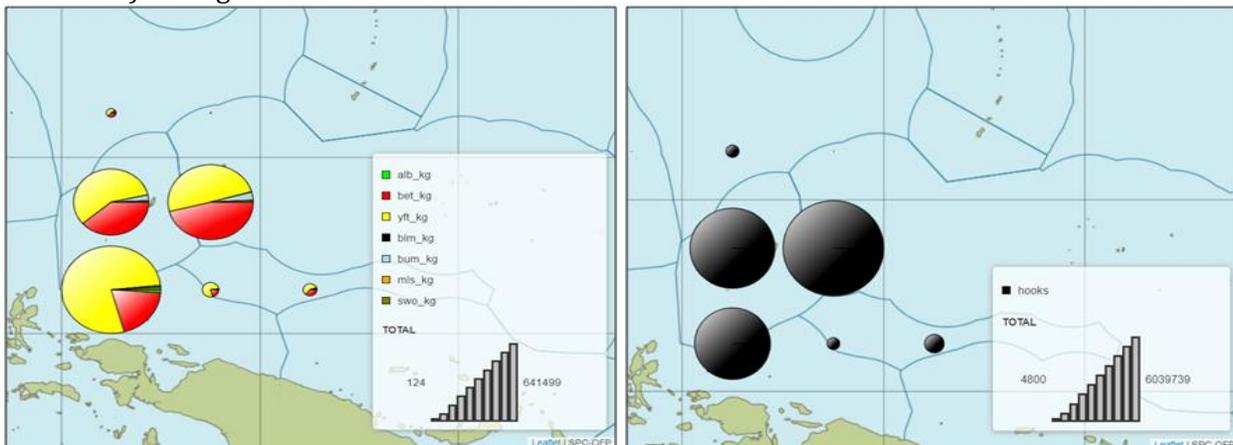


Figure 3. Distribution of catches and effort (hooks) by national fleet active in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2019.

There were no observer placements in 2019 so there are no data provided. Electronic monitoring trial was carried out in 2018 on some of the vessels and a total of 6 trips were analyzed and entered into Dorado TUBS Report. Table 3 in this report displays the data provided for observed species of special interests, including seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals.

Table 3. Observed Annual Estimated catches of Species of Special Interests in the WCPFC Convention Area.

GEAR	LONGLINE											
	SEABIRD				TURTLE				MARINE MAMMAL			
	Species	No. Alive	No. Dead	Total	Species	No. Alive	No. Dead	Total	Species	No. Alive	No. Dead	Total
2019	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
2018	N/A	0	0	0	Olive Ridley	0	1	1	Dolphins / Porpoises (Unidentified)	1	0	1
	N/A	0	0	0	Marine Turtle (Unidentified)	13	14	27				
2017	N/A	0	0	0	Olive Ridley	1	0	1	N/A	0	0	0
2016	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
2015	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0

Other than the primary species catches presented in Table 1, there were some non-targets, associated and dependent species that were caught. Table 4 below presents these catches by species each year caught by national fleet. Data along the years shows that Oilfish and Sailfish were the most caught species.

Table 4. Annual Estimated Catches of Non-Target, Associated, and Dependent Species in the WCPFC Convention Area.

Species Name	Total Annual Longline Catches (MT)					Total Catch
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
BARRACUDA NEI	0	0	0.08	0.08	0.40	0.56
COMMON DOLPHINFISH	0	0	2.82	1.51	2.30	6.63
ESCOLAR	0	0	0.20	2.04	0.84	3.08
OILFISH	0	0	4.48	4.88	2.00	11.36
OPAH	0	0	0.53	0.50	0.00	1.03
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	0	0	13.18	19.02	16.35	48.55
SICKLE POMFRET	0	0	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05
WAHOO	0	0	1.03	1.76	0.29	3.08
OTHER FISH	0	0	0.00	0.29	0.43	0.72
Annual Grand Total	0	0	22.32	30.13	22.60	75.05

IV. COASTAL STATE REPORT

(a) Licensing

In 2019, Palau licensed a total of ninety-five (95) foreign flagged fishing vessels comprised of thirty-four (34) longlines and sixty-one (61) purse seines. Table 5 shows the break-down of these licensed vessels by year, by flag, by gear, and by size category with Figure 4 showing its trend. Available data and figures indicate an increase of fishing vessels due to the additional Philippine purse seine vessels and new entries from Vanuatu and Solomon flagged vessels into Palau Fisheries.

Table 5. Number of foreign fishing vessels, by year, by flag, by gear and size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area.

YEAR	FLAG	GEAR	Size Category (GRT)				Total Vessels
			0-500	501-1000	1001-1500	1501+	
2019	JP	LL	34	0	0	0	34
	JP	PS	0	0	23	4	27
	PG	PS	0	0	1	0	1
	PH	PS	0	6	14	1	21
	SB	PS	0	0	3	0	3
	TW	PS	0	0	4	2	6
	VU	PS	0	0	2	1	3
2019 Total Vessels			34	6	47	8	95
2018	JP	LL	35	0	0	0	35
	JP	PS	0	0	23	4	27
	PH	PS	0	4	12	1	17
	TW	PS	0	0	3	0	3
2018 Total Vessels			35	4	38	5	82
2017	JP	LL	21	0	0	0	21
	JP	PS	0	0	25	4	29
	TW	LL	2	0	0	0	2
	TW	PS	0	0	3	0	3
2017 Total Vessels			23	0	28	4	55
2016	CN	LL	3	0	0	0	3
	JP	LL	19	0	0	0	19
	JP	PS	0	0	26	4	30
	TW	LL	33	0	0	0	33
	VU	LL	3	0	0	0	3
2016 Total Vessels			58	0	26	4	88
2015	JP	LL	19	0	0	0	19
	JP	PS	0	0	24	6	30
	TW	LL	30	0	0	0	30
	VU	LL	2	0	0	0	2
2015 Total Vessels			51	0	24	6	81

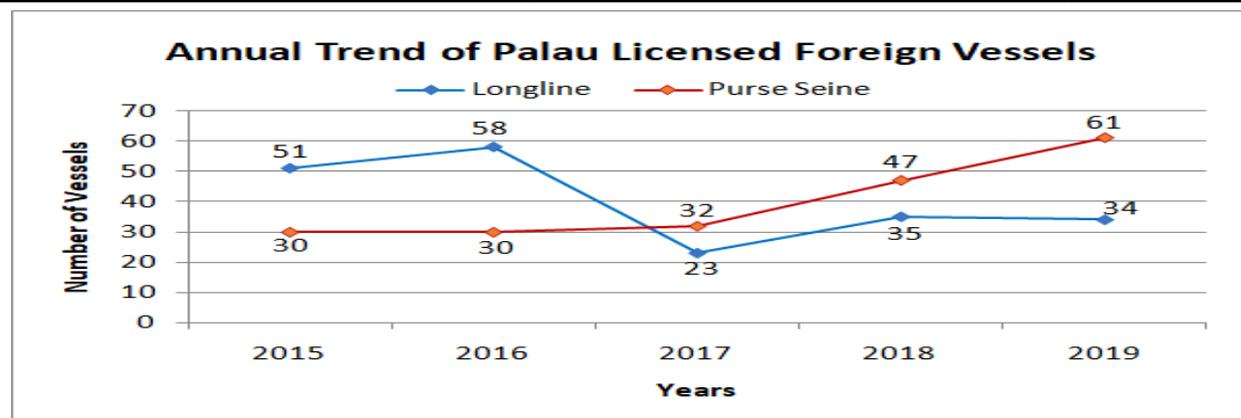


Figure 4: Annual trend of Palau Licensed Vessels by Gear

(b) Longline Catch Report

The Palau-licensed foreign longline vessels provisional catch for 2019 totaled 13.43 metric tons. Yellowfin was the prominent species that accounted more than 60% of all the catch that were caught. The 2019 data shows significant decrease because there was not much fishing undertaken in Palau EEZ. Table 6 displays a five-year (2015-2019) annual longline catches in Palau’s exclusive economic zone by flag and by species with Figure 5 displaying annual catch distribution and trend over the years. All foreign flagged vessel logsheets are required by SPC to be entered by their personnel only and are not entered in-country.

Table 6. Longline Catches (MT) by year, by flag, and by species in Palau EEZ.

YEAR	FLAG	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	Total Catches
2019	JP	0	4.47	8.17	0.79	13.43
2019 Total		0	4.47	8.17	0.79	13.43
2018	JP	0	19.05	5.88	1.06	25.99
2018 Total		0	19.05	5.88	1.06	25.99
2017	JP	2.47	1189.33	472.99	104.47	1769.26
	TW	0	21.81	31.91	1.15	54.87
2017 Total		2.47	1211.14	504.9	105.62	1824.13
2016	CN	0	24.99	14.73	1.23	40.95
	JP	5.5	321.55	258.02	39.86	624.93
	TW	0.16	793.16	968.97	79.09	1841.38
	VU	0	19.39	8.61	3.13	31.13
2016 Total		5.66	1159.09	1250.33	123.31	2538.39
2015	JP	9.61	196.64	77.44	30.15	313.84
	TW	0.01	451.7	524.6	18.89	995.2
	VU	0.04	20.31	10.59	2.03	32.97
2015 Total		9.66	668.65	612.63	51.07	1342.01

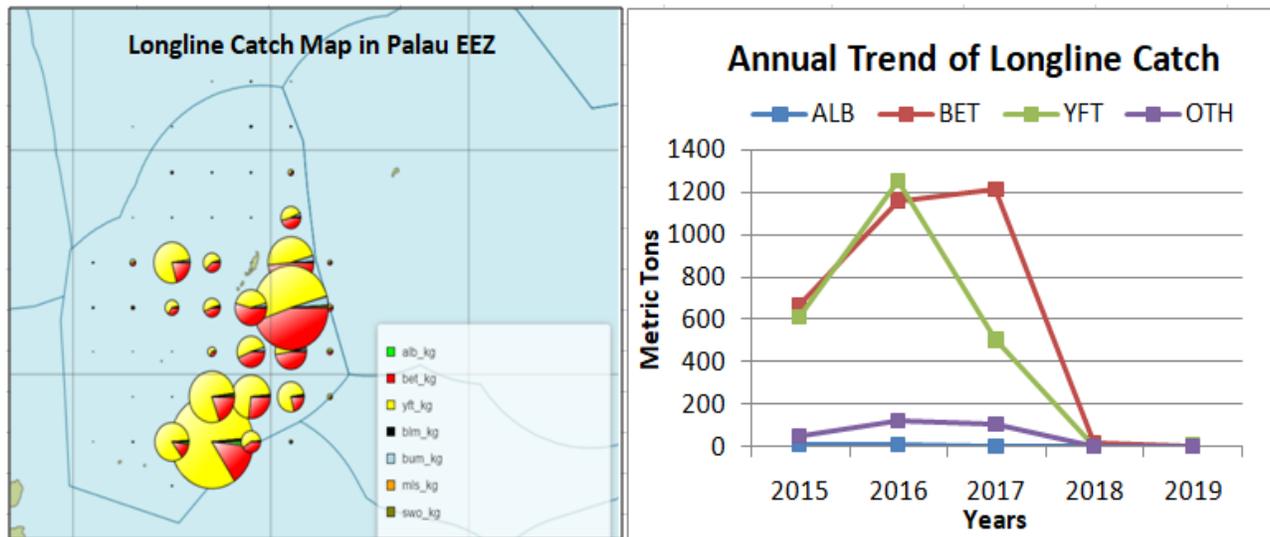


Figure 5. Annual catch distribution and trend of Catch caught in Palau’s EEZ.

(c) Purse Seine Catch Report

Catches caught and reported by Purse Seine Vessels fishing in Palau waters for years 2015 to 2019 totaled more than 13,000 metric tons. For 2019, the provisional total catch was 2,302 metric tons. This significant decrease in catch data is also because most of Purse Seine vessels did not fish in Palau EEZ. Table 7 displays purse seine annual catches for years 2015 to 2019 with Figure 6 showing catch distribution and trend through the years.

Table 7. Purse Seine Catches (MT) by year, by flag, and by species in the Palau EEZ.

FLAG	YEAR	BIGEYE	SKIPJACK	YELLOWFIN	OTHER	TOTAL
2019	JP	0	934.29	231.12	0.02	1165.43
	PH	0	49.20	2.80	0.20	52.20
	PG	0	390.50	84.00	0.19	474.69
	US	0	545.00	65.00	0.37	610.37
2019 Total		0	1918.99	382.92	0.78	2,302.69
2018	FM	0	785	230	3.00	1,018.00
	PG	24.00	1518.00	263.00	0	1,805.00
	SB	0	597.00	83.00	0	680.00
	VU	0	231.00	134.00	0	365.00
2018 Total		24	3131.00	710.00	3.00	3,868.00
2017	FM	0	41.00	25.00	0	66.00
	JP	6.00	1428.00	541.00	1.00	1,976.00
	PG	0	1701.00	1082.00	3.00	2,786.00
	TW	0	100.00	0	0	100.00
2017 Total		6	3270.00	1648.00	4.00	4,928.00
2016	FM	0	5.00	0	0	5.00
	JP	2.00	147.00	6.00	0	155.00
	PG	0	1596.00	698.00	3.00	2,297.00
2016 Total		2	1748.00	704.00	3.00	2,457.00
2015	JP	0	168.00	1.00	0	169.00
2015 Total		0.00	168.00	1.00	0	169.00
Grand Total		32.00	10,235.99	3,445.92	10.78	13,724.69

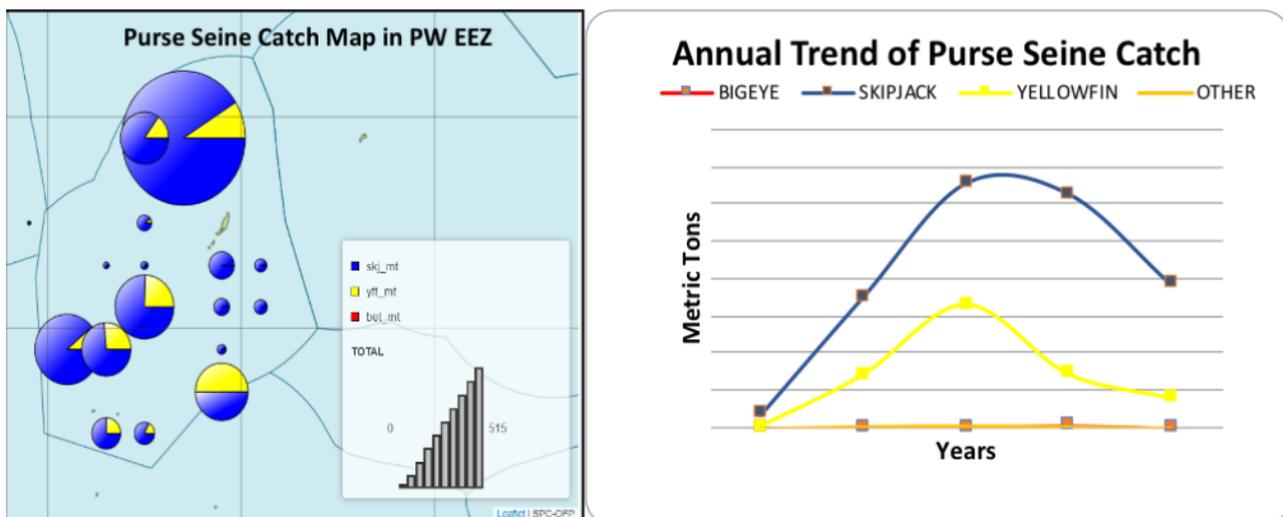


Figure 6. Purse Seine: Annual Catch Distribution and Trend of Catches in Palau EEZ.

V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

As fishing companies and managers look forward, bearing in mind a new reality of limited landings and fewer participants, they must address important social questions about how to achieve viable fisheries. Palau's locally based fishing industries are very committed in ensuring their viability and vibrancy but the unpredictable price signals and shifting number of fishing vessels pose significant challenges. Other changes like establishment of Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) have also affected Palau's fishery. These challenges pose a great impact on Palau's economy which is highly dependent on tuna as its only export commodity. Realistic resource pricing and recognition of the value of fishery commodities along with conservation policies are some of the good practices that would help promote and stabilize Palau's economy.

VI. DISPOSAL OF CATCH

From the total recorded catch caught in Palau EEZ in 2019, about 1515.32 metric tons of fish were landed in Malakal Port. The landings are done only by longline vessels because Palau's Fishery Port is incapable of accommodating unloading operations of purse seine vessels. Of the landed catch, a total of 1,444.56 metric tons were exported and Japan was the primary export destination. The rest were donated/sold locally, based on the average rate of weight per kilo at \$4.45¹. Table 8 presents the breakdown of the catches by species and market.

Table 8. Landed Catches (MT) by Species and Market

Species	Export	Local	Grand Total
Albacore	0	0	0
Bigeye	504.94	20.36	525.29
Yellowfin	939.62	48.35	987.97
Skipjack	0	0	0
Other	0	2.06	2.06
Grand Total	1,444.56	70.77	1,515.32

VII. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Local companies with aspirations of entering into tuna fishery ventures continue to have difficulties in investments of resources, like vessels, facilities, infrastructures, and the market. Even with these challenges, one local fishing company was still able to manage two (2) vessels as domestic vessels. These vessels are restricted to fish only within Palau waters and all data are reported under the flag state section of this report.

¹ Total Average Rate Charge of \$4.45 for local sales is calculated and averaged from rate charges ranging from \$3.50 to \$5.00

VIII. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

In October 2015 Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMSA) was passed by the Republic's Congress to preserve eighty percent (80%) of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone as Palau National Marine Sanctuary. This area is a no-take area and is protected from all exploitation. A limited twenty percent (20%) Domestic Fishing Zone is created for domestic fishing while commercial exports of fish from Palau will be prohibited. These reforms will be implemented over a wind-down period from January 2016 through December 31 2019. The PNMS Transition Regulations were adopted and promulgated to govern fishing during a wind-down period and by 2020, Palau National Marine Sanctuary will be fully functioning.

IX. STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

As stated before, Palau is currently implementing all latest versions of SPC's regional data forms. SPC TUFMAN 2 Database System is fully utilized to streamline and collate all data. The Locally Based Foreign Companies are required by the Division to submit their fishing reports on monthly basis. The Foreign Based Japanese Longline and Purse Companies are submitting their Logsheets through Email, Facsimile, and Postal Service. The data are altogether reconciled and then entered into the TUFMAN 2 Database. The collected data are scanned with the Slops 3 software on Fujitsu Scanner and are sent to SPC via Hightail Dropbox.

(a.) Logsheets/Unloading/Port Sampling data collection and verification

Dedicated fisheries port samplers and compliance officers are presented at all times during offloading of longline vessels at respected port to collect data and information. With ensuring reported data, the presented officers checks and make sure that the forms used are properly filled and completed correctly.

(b.) Observer program

There were no observer placements in 2019 as the Division of Oceanic Fisheries is very short staffed to carry out observer works.

(c.) Transshipment

Transshipment activities would only be allowed to be carried out at Malakal port and are permitted strictly for reasons that may concern the limited port space and flight schedules. There were no transshipments happened in 2019.

X. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET AND NON-TARGET SPECIES

There were no research activities covering target and non-target performed in 2019. The Division of Oceanic Fishery Management Office continues to represent and protect Palau's interest in international and regional bodies in the development of conservation and management measures of the highly migratory fish stocks.



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

Specific information to be provided in Part 1 as required by CMMs²

13 March 2020

<p>CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Albacore],Para 3</p>	<p>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 using the template provided in Annex 1.</p> <p>Annex I: Average Annual Catch (MT) and fishing Effort (Days) of North Pacific Albacore</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">CCM</th> <th rowspan="2">Area</th> <th rowspan="2">Fishery</th> <th>2002-04 Average</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th colspan="3">2017</th> <th colspan="3">2018</th> <th colspan="3">2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="3">Palau had no Natinal Fleet as well as Chartered Vessels</th> <th>No. of Vessels</th> <th>Vessel Days</th> <th>Catch</th> <th>No. of Vessels</th> <th>Vessel Days</th> <th>Catch</th> <th>No. of Vessels</th> <th>Vessel Days</th> <th>Catch</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Palau</td> <td>WCPA</td> <td>LL</td> <td colspan="3"></td> <td>34</td> <td>1114</td> <td>0.986</td> <td>35</td> <td>1210</td> <td>14.123</td> <td>38</td> <td>780</td> <td>7.757</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Dorado Tufman Report: Regional #20b: CMM 05-03: NP Albacore by National Fleet</i></p>	CCM	Area	Fishery	2002-04 Average	2015	2016	2017			2018			2019			Palau had no Natinal Fleet as well as Chartered Vessels			No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	No. of Vessels	Vessel Days	Catch	Palau	WCPA	LL				34	1114	0.986	35	1210	14.123	38	780	7.757
CCM	Area				Fishery	2002-04 Average	2015	2016	2017			2018			2019																												
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Palau	WCPA	LL				34	1114	0.986	35	1210	14.123	38	780	7.757																													
<p>CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin],Para 4</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>a)Not applicable for Palau national vessels as they are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which CMM 2006-04 (South-West Striped Marlin) specifies and are required by WCPFC;</p> <p>b) The vessels operating under Palau charter did not fish south of 15°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">South West Striped Marlin</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vessels</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2019</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Dorado Tufman Report: Regional #21: CMM 06-04: SW Striped Marlin by National Fleet</i></p>	South West Striped Marlin					Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)	PW (National)	2019	0	0	0																											
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<p>CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish],Para 8</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>a)Not applicable for Palau flagged vessels as they are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which CMM 2009-03 (Swordfish) specifies and are required by WCPFC;</p> <p>b) The vessels operating under Palau charter did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">South Pacific Swordfish</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vessels</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2019</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Dorado Tufman Report: Regional #22: CMM 09-03: SP Swordfish by National Fleet</i></p>	South Pacific Swordfish					Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)	PW (National)	2019	0	0	0																											
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²Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions by the Commission, as of WCPFC16(Dec 2019). First issued on 13 March 2020

<p>CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)</p>	<p>CCMs shall report on all transshipment activities covered by this Measure (including transshipments 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 transshipment using all available information such as catch and effort data, position data, observer reports and port monitoring data.</p> <p>WCPFC15 Outcome document para 48: The Commission agreed to the TCC14 recommendation that the template provided in TCC14-RP03 Annex 3 be used by all applicable CCMs for their future reporting in Annual Report Part 1, as per CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11 (Attachment O of WCPFC15).</p> <p>Annex 3 of RP03: Transshipment information to be provided annually by CCMs as required by CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11 in accordance with the guidelines in Annex II of the measure.</p> <p>There were no transshipment activities approved, authorized, or conducted in Palau waters or at its Ports for 2019.</p> <p>a) 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:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="418 562 1555 814"> <thead> <tr> <th>a) Offloaded and Received;</th> <th>b) Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction</th> <th>c) Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;</th> <th>d) Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;</th> <th>e) Species</th> <th>f) Product Form</th> <th>g) Fishing Gear</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Offloaded</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Received</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>b) the number of transshipments involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by fishing vessels that is responsible for reporting against, broken down by:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="418 877 1555 1075"> <thead> <tr> <th>a) Offloaded and Received;</th> <th>b) Transhipped in port, transhipped at sea in areas of national jurisdiction, and transhipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction</th> <th>c) Transhipped inside the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area;</th> <th>d) Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;</th> <th>e) Fishing Gear</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Offloaded</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Received</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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;	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing Gear	Offloaded	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	Received	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	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;	e) Fishing Gear	Offloaded	0	0	0	N/A	Received	0	0	0	N/A
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<p>CMM 2010-07 [Sharks], Para 4</p>	<p>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 the WCPF Convention and agreed reporting procedures. CCMs shall also report <u>annual retained and discarded catches in Part 2</u> 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)</p> <p>All shark fishing is prohibited in Palau. Any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be set free.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="418 1331 1536 1726"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">SHARKS</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Fate</th> <th>Status Upon Release</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BLUE SHARK</td> <td>Discarded/Released</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>200.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAKO SHARK</td> <td>Discarded/Released</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>1.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PORBEAGLE SHARK</td> <td>Discarded/Released</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SILKY SHARK</td> <td>Discarded/Released</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>563.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAMMERHEAD SHARK</td> <td>Discarded/Released</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>1.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THRESHER SHARK</td> <td>Discarded/Released</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>3.62</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Dorado Tufman Report: Regional #26: CMM 10-07: Shark Catches by National Fleet Summary</i></p>	SHARKS				Species	Fate	Status Upon Release	Number	BLUE SHARK	Discarded/Released	Unknown	200.85	MAKO SHARK	Discarded/Released	Unknown	1.03	PORBEAGLE SHARK	Discarded/Released	Unknown	0	SILKY SHARK	Discarded/Released	Unknown	563.56	HAMMERHEAD SHARK	Discarded/Released	Unknown	1.03	THRESHER SHARK	Discarded/Released	Unknown	3.62				
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<p>CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>Not Applicable. No Purse Seine Vessels operates as Palau Fleet or chartered by Palau</p>																																				

<p>CMM 2011-04 [Oceanic whitetip sharks], Para 3</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>All shark fishing is prohibited in Palau. Any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be set free.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="415 296 1549 426"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Oceanic Whitetip Shark</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Gear</th> <th>Est. Number</th> <th>Fate</th> <th>Status Upon Release</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2019</td> <td>LL</td> <td>0</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Dorado Tufman Report: Regional #25: CMM 11-04: Oceanic Whitetip Shark Interactions in Purse Seine and Longline Fisheries.</i></p>	Oceanic Whitetip Shark						Flag	Year	Gear	Est. Number	Fate	Status Upon Release	PW (National)	2019	LL	0	N/A	N/A												
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<p>CMM 2012-04 [Whale sharks], Para 06</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>Not Applicable. No Purse Seine Vessels operates as Palau Fleet or chartered by Palau</p>																														
<p>CMM 2013-08 [Silky sharks], Para 3</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>All shark fishing is prohibited in Palau. Any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be set free.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="415 758 1565 888"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Silky Shark</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Gear</th> <th>Est. Number</th> <th>Fate</th> <th>Status Upon Release</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2019</td> <td>LL</td> <td>563.56</td> <td>Discarded</td> <td>Unknown</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Dorado Tufman Report: Regional #25: CMM 13-08: Silky Shark Species Catches by National Fleet</i></p>	Silky Shark						Flag	Year	Gear	Est. Number	Fate	Status Upon Release	PW (National)	2019	LL	563.56	Discarded	Unknown												
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<p>Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b))</p>	<p>CCMs are to compile and include in Annual Report Part 1 to be submitted from 2015 onwards, observer coverage for their longline fleet activity in the previous calendar year, noting that revisions can be provided at the annual TCC meeting.</p> <p>There was no observer placement in 2019 as Palau’s Division of Oceanic Fishery is very understaffed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="415 1077 1560 1367"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8">Palau 2019 Observer Coverage</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2">CCM Feet</th> <th rowspan="2">Gear</th> <th colspan="3">Days</th> <th colspan="3">Trips</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Est. Total No. of Days</th> <th>No. of Fishing Days Observed</th> <th>Days Coverage</th> <th>Est. Total No. of Trips</th> <th>No. of Observed Trips</th> <th>Trip Coverage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Palau (National)</td> <td>LL</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Dorado TUBS Report: ADMIN #50: Coverage: Longline Observer Coverage</i></p>	Palau 2019 Observer Coverage								CCM Feet	Gear	Days			Trips			Est. Total No. of Days	No. of Fishing Days Observed	Days Coverage	Est. Total No. of Trips	No. of Observed Trips	Trip Coverage	Palau (National)	LL	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
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<p>CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>a) Not applicable for Palau flagged vessels as they are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which CMM 2015-02 (South Pacific Albacore) specifies and are required by WCPFC;</p> <p>b) The vessels operating under Palau charter did not fish south of 20°S, therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="415 1766 1560 1892"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">South Pacific Albacore</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Flag</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Vessels</th> <th>Catch (Numbers)</th> <th>Catch (MT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PW (National)</td> <td>2019</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	South Pacific Albacore					Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)	PW (National)	2019	0	0	0															
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**CMM 2018-03
[Seabirds] Para 13**

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.

- a) **Not applicable. There were no seabird interactions data reported in 2019 for Palau flagged vessels as well as vessels operating under Palau charter.**
- b) **Palau flagged vessels are restricted to fish domestically and do not fish in any other areas for which CMM 2018-03(Seabirds) specifies and are required by WCPFC; The vessels operating under**
- c) **Palau charter did not fish in the areas South of 30°S; 25°S 30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N 25°S as specified in the CMM 2018-03 (Seabirds), therefore there are no records of catch from the designated area.**

**CMM 2018-03
[Seabirds] Annex II**

Table X: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for Palau [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N–25°S¹].

Year	No. of Vessels	Fishing Effort			Observed Seabird Captures	
		Number of Hooks	Hooks Observed	% Hooks Observed	Number	Rate
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table Y: Proportion of mitigation types used by the fleet in 2019.

	Combination of Mitigation Measures	Proportion of observed effort using mitigation measures			
		South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N
	No mitigation measures	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Options required south of 25°S	TL + NS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TL + WB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	NS + WB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TL + WB + NS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	HS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other options 25°S-30°S	WB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other options north of 23°N	SS/BC/WB/DLS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here					
	Totals (must equal 100%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table Z: Number of observed seabird captures in Palau longline fisheries, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	North of 23°N	23°N – 25°S	Total
N/A	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0