



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WCPFC RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS

WCPFC-TCC16-2020-RP05

31 August 2020

Paper by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper presents the annual summary of information from the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) and reports on the operation of the RFV for consideration by TCC16.

Background

2. The RFV was established pursuant to Article 24 paragraphs 4 – 7 of the WCPF Convention. The Conservation and Management Measures on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish (CMM 2018-06) and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV SSPs) (CMM 2014-03) regulate how the RFV operates.

3. The RFV provides a list of all vessels flagged to each CCM that are authorized to fish in the Convention Area beyond each CCMs areas of national jurisdiction. The WCPFC Secretariat maintains the RFV on behalf of Commission members. The RFV is publicly accessible on the WCPFC website at <http://www.wcpfc.int/record-fishing-vessel-database> and provides a range of summary reports which can be printed as pdf files. These summary reports use data that is automatically updated as changes are made to the RFV, reflecting data at that point in time. There are several filters that users can apply to the charts for example, to identify vessels authorized to transship on the high seas and charter vessels.

4. This paper presents the annual summary of information from the RFV and reports on the operation of the RFV² covering:

- A summary of the information in the WCPFC RFV;
- CCM charter notifications and recording charters on the RFV
- A report on the completeness of fields in the RFV;
- An update from WCPFC16 - changes to requirement for IMO/LR number;
- The RFV and fished/did not fished report;

¹ CMM 2014-03 paragraph 9

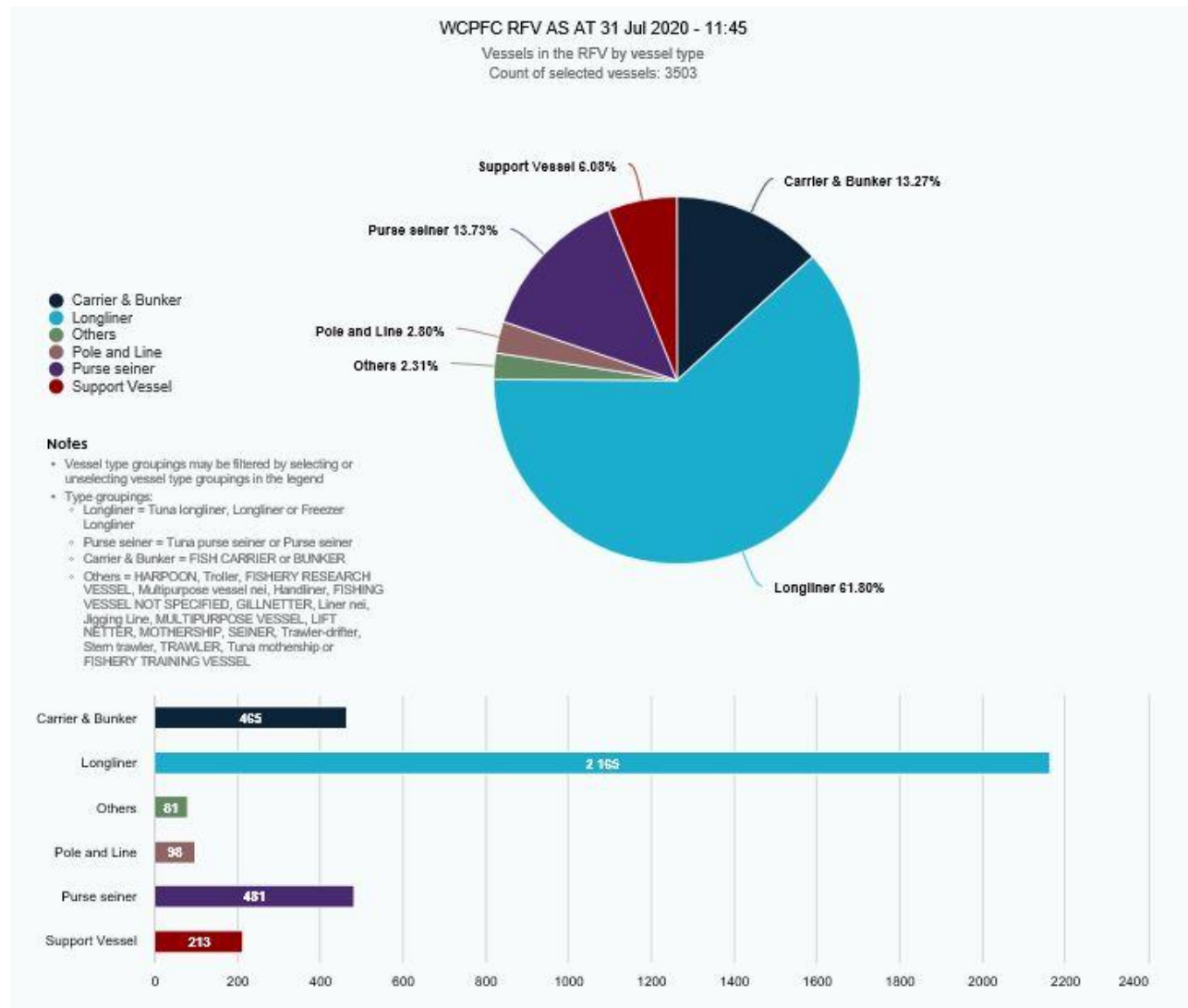
² CMM 2018-06 paragraph 15 and CMM 2014-03 paragraph 14

- A review of RFV implementation under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme;
- Access to historical RFV information; and
- Observations and administrative notes.

Summary of the information contained in the WCPFC RFV

5. Figures 1-5 in this section of the report provide an annual summary of information contained in the RFV³ as at 31 July 2020. CCMs are referred to <http://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts/types> for the most recent RFV summary statistics.

Figure 1:



³ CMM 2018-06 paragraph 15

Figure 2:

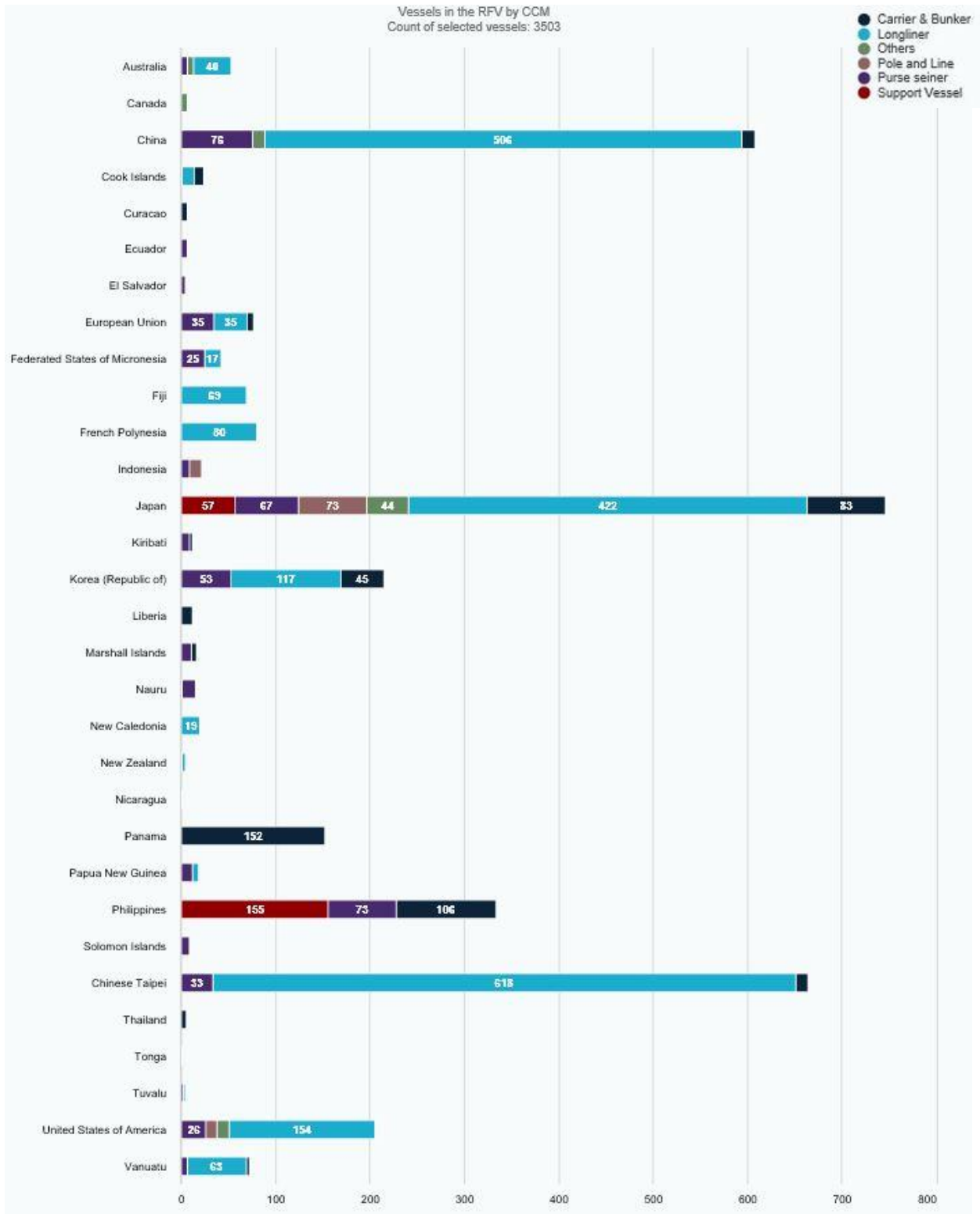


Figure 3:

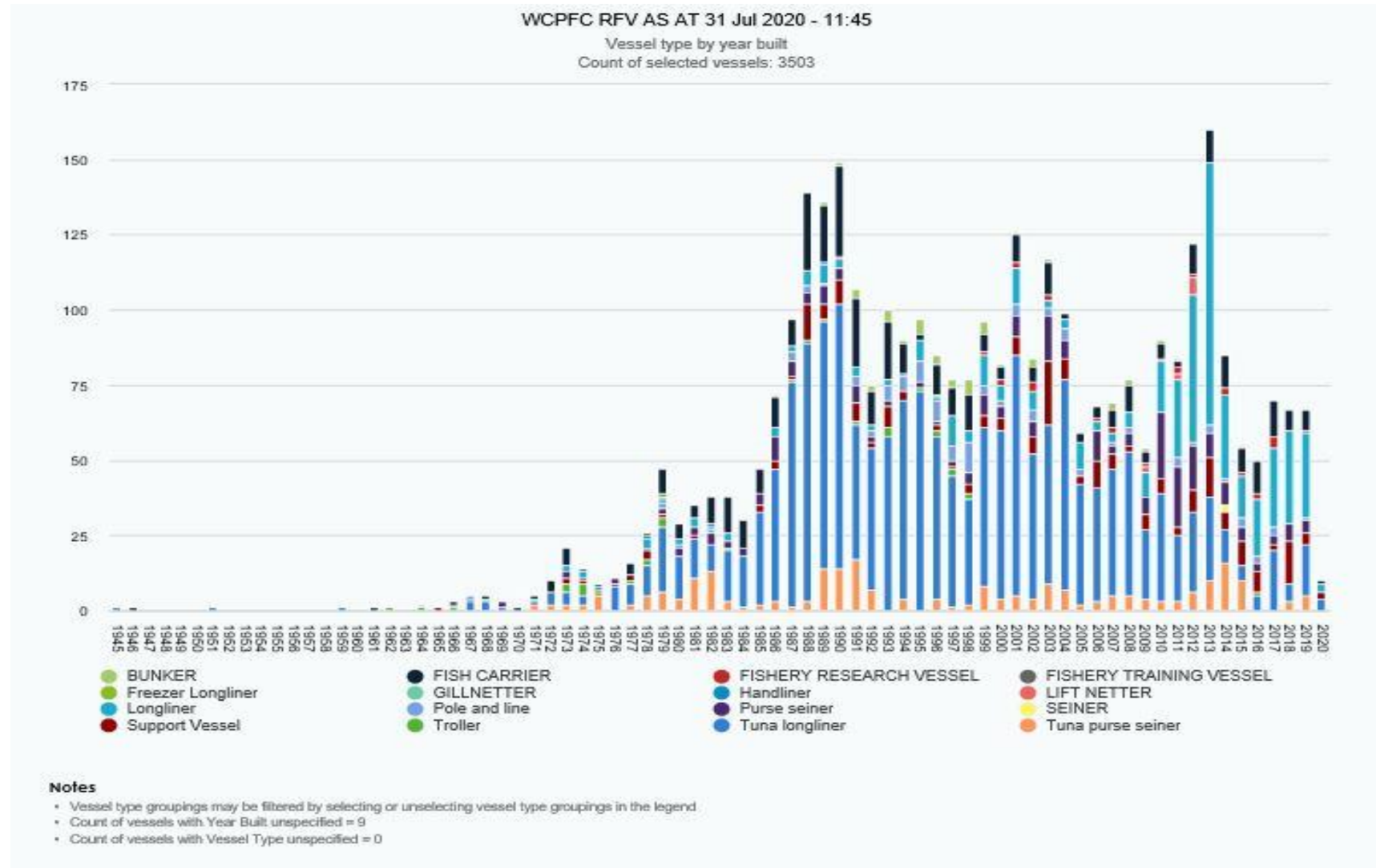
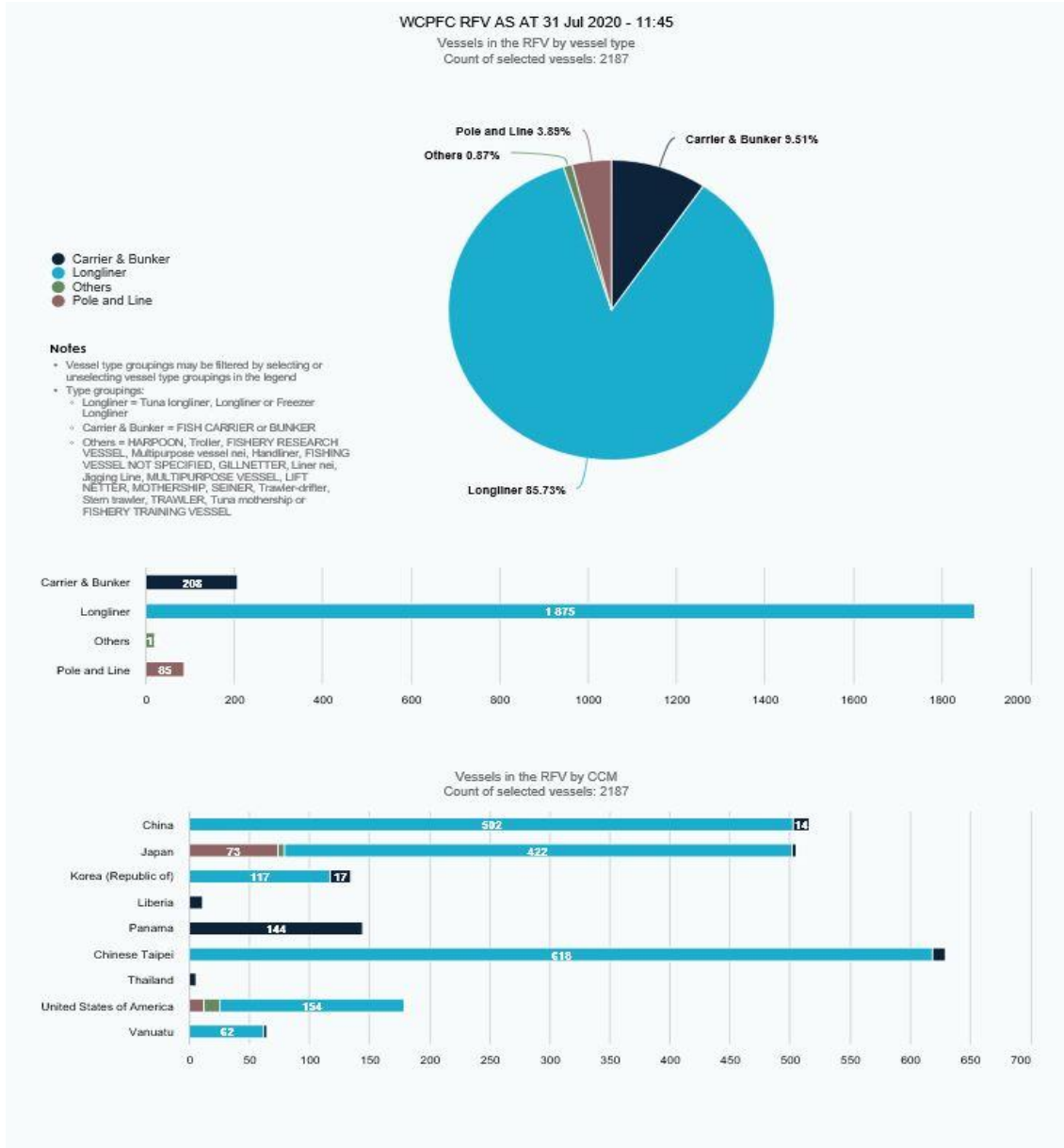
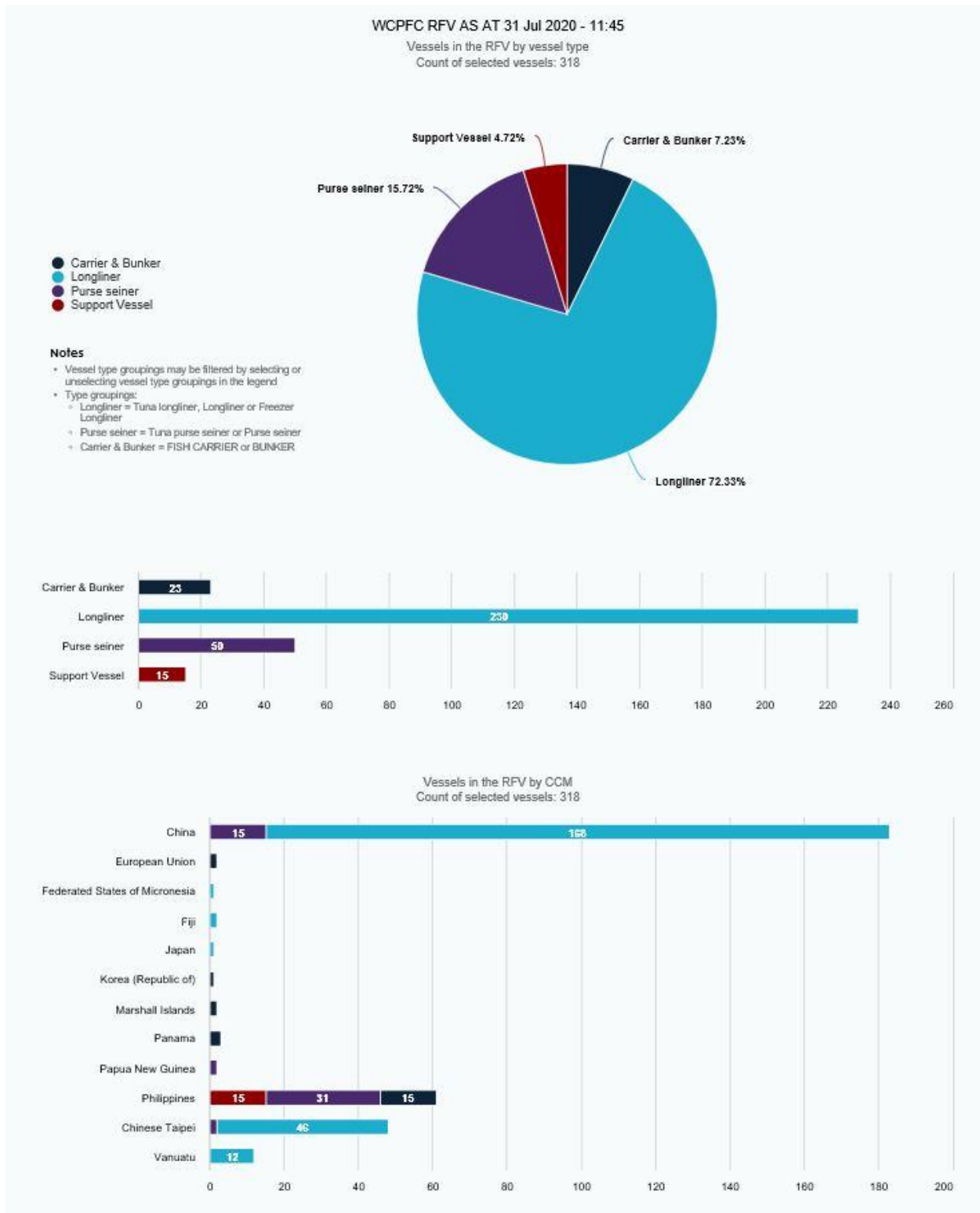


Figure 4: Number of vessels identified in the RFV by CCMs as authorized to transship



6. Figure 4 shows that on 31 July 2020, 62% or 2187 of the vessels on the RFV were authorized for high seas transshipment; 86% of those authorised are longliners. Transshipment on the high seas is prohibited for purse seine vessels. For any other type of vessels, high seas transshipments are prohibited on the high seas without an authorization (CMM 2009-06). The authorization status is shown when the responsible CMM answers “Yes” in the “Authorize to transship on the high seas” field in the RFV. In accordance with Attachment 1 of CMM 2014 – 03, the CCM is to enter “yes” if the responsible CCM has made an affirmative determination under paragraph 37 of CMM 2019-06 and has authorized the vessel to be used for transshipping highly migratory stocks (HMS) on the high seas in the Convention Area, and the authorization is currently valid.

Figure 5: Number of vessels identified in the RFV by CCMs as ‘Under Charter’



CCM charter notifications and recording charters on the RFV

7. Information reported by flag CCMs as part of the RFV updates relating to charter notifications and high seas transshipment authorizations are to be treated as public domain data (WCPFC11 Summary Report para 500). Accordingly, this information, shown in Figures 4 and 5 above, has been publicly available on the RFV website since 2015.

8. CCMs are reminded that in accordance with Attachment 1 of CMM 2014-03, the charter information relates to vessels which are notified as chartered under CMM 2019-08 or CMM 2018-06 paragraph 42. The Secretariat has observed in some instances, that CCMs are entering data into the charter-fields in the RFV for vessels which are **not** formally notified as chartered by a chartering CCM under CMM 2019-08 (or its predecessor CMM). In addition, some formally notified charters in accordance with CMM 2019-08 are yet to be updated on the RFV. As at 31 July 2020, there were 318 vessels in the RFV which has 'YES-CMM flagged' in the field 'Under Charter' (refer to Figure 5 on previous page), 300 of which had a current charter authorization period. However, according to the Secretariat's records based on CMM 2018-06 notifications, there were only 159 vessels with a current authorization charter period, notified as chartered under CMM 2019-08 (or its predecessor).

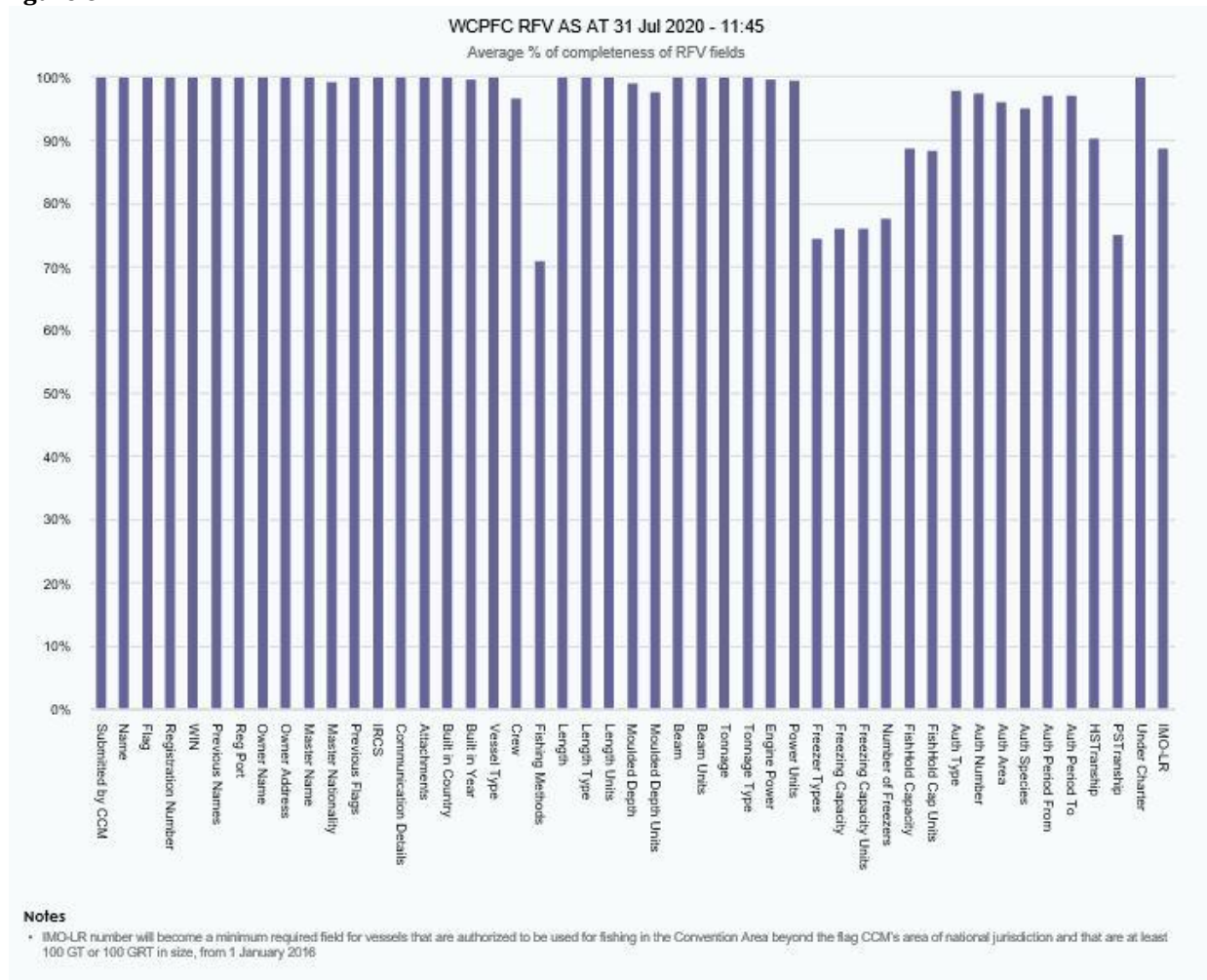
9. The Secretariat urges CCMs to check that they are using the charter fields correctly. Only the submitting CCM, which is usually the flag CCM, can update its own vessels on the RFV. Only after the flag CCM has duly received advice from the chartering CCM of charter notifications (CMM 2019-08), would there be an expectation by the Secretariat that flag CCMs would update the relevant fields on the RFV for their submitted vessels.

Completeness of the fields in RFV

10. CMM 2018-06 paragraph 6 requires a list of information to be submitted by CCMs for each vessel entered in its record. The RFV SSPs also require CCMs to submit complete vessel record data to the WCPFC Secretariat to meet the structure and format specifications of Attachment 1 (of CMM 2014-03). Attachment 1 identifies "minimum data requirements" which must be present for the vessel to be included on the RFV. CMM 2014-03 Footnote 3 clarifies that although vessels with only the minimum required data will be added to and maintained on the RFV, this does not relieve the responsible CCM of its obligations to provide all the data required under the WCPFC's applicable conservation and management measures (CMM 2018-06 paragraph 6).

11. The required information, as well as a current evaluation of completeness of the RFV fields by CCM, can be viewed by CCMs on the secure CCM-pages of the website.

Figure 6:



12. CCMs are referred to the WCPFC website for the latest RFV summary statistics for Figures 1 – 6 that are available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts/types> and can be printed from the website as pdf files.

Update from WCPFC16 - (IMO Numbers)

13. At WCPFC15 the Commission agreed to expand the requirements for IMO numbers. From 1 April 2020, flag CCMs are to ensure all motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 GRT (or 100 GRT) down to a size of 12 meters in length overall (LOA) that are authorized to fish in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM's area of national jurisdiction, have an IMO or LR issued.⁴

14. Prior to 1 April 2020, the Secretariat reminded relevant flag CCMs of this new requirement and the need to update the RFV accordingly. At that time there were 273 vessels from 15 CCMs that had no IMO or LR. As of 31 July 2020, this figure had reduced to 112 vessels from 7 CCMs that required review. It may be that some of these vessels do not fish outside of national jurisdiction but CCMs have not shown these as 'N/A' in the fields 'Authorization Type', 'Authorization

⁴ CMM 2018-06 footnote 4

Number’, ‘Authorization Area’ and ‘Authorization Species’ on the RFV. Clarification is required as to the status of these vessels in relation to CMM 2018-06 footnote 4. All remaining vessels need to have either the IMO or LR included or show ‘N/A’ in the relevant RFV fields to confirm that their vessels does not fit within the requirement.

15. As of 31 July 2020, two CCMs that have not provided IMO-LR numbers have also not indicated the period the vessel is not authorized by its flag State to be used for fishing for highly migratory fishing stocks beyond flag State areas of national jurisdiction.

RFV and Fished/Did not fished Report

16. As part of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS), CMM 2018-06 paragraph 9 states that before 1 July of each year, each Member shall submit to the Executive Director, a list of all vessels that appeared in its record of fishing vessels at any time during the preceding calendar year, together with each vessel’s WCPFC identification number (WIN) and an indication of whether each vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond its area of national jurisdiction. The indication shall be expressed as (a) fished, or (b) did not fish. CCMs are reminded that an indication of ‘fished’ means the vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM’s area of national jurisdiction. This information is integrated with the RFV⁵ and is important as it assists the Secretariat in reviewing the applicability of certain CMMs, supports compliance reviews and MCS analyses and is used in preparing the draft CMR⁶.

17. In 2020 the Secretariat again provided relevant CCMs with an Excel spreadsheet template with a list of their vessels from the RFV that were authorized to fish in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCMs jurisdiction for at least one day during the preceding calendar year. The templates allow the CCM to choose “fished” or “did not fish” from a drop-down menu for each of the listed vessels. The template is designed to assist CCMs to provide their reports and to allow the WCPFC Secretariat automatically load flag CCM reports into the WCPFC RFV databases (no manual data entry into WCPFC records is needed). As required by paragraph 13 of CMM 2014-03, this information is integrated with the RFV and available for use in compliance reviews and MCS analyses by the Secretariat for completing the draft CMR.

18. The timeliness of flag CCMs submitting this report has continued to improve with all reports for 2019 received by the deadline of 1 July 2020. **Table 1** summarises reporting by CCMs in their fished/did not fish report for 2019. **Annex 1** summarises CCM fish/did not fish reports for the previous three years (2016-2018).

⁵ CMM 2014- 03 paragraph 13

⁶ Tasks required by CMM 2019-06 paragraph 22

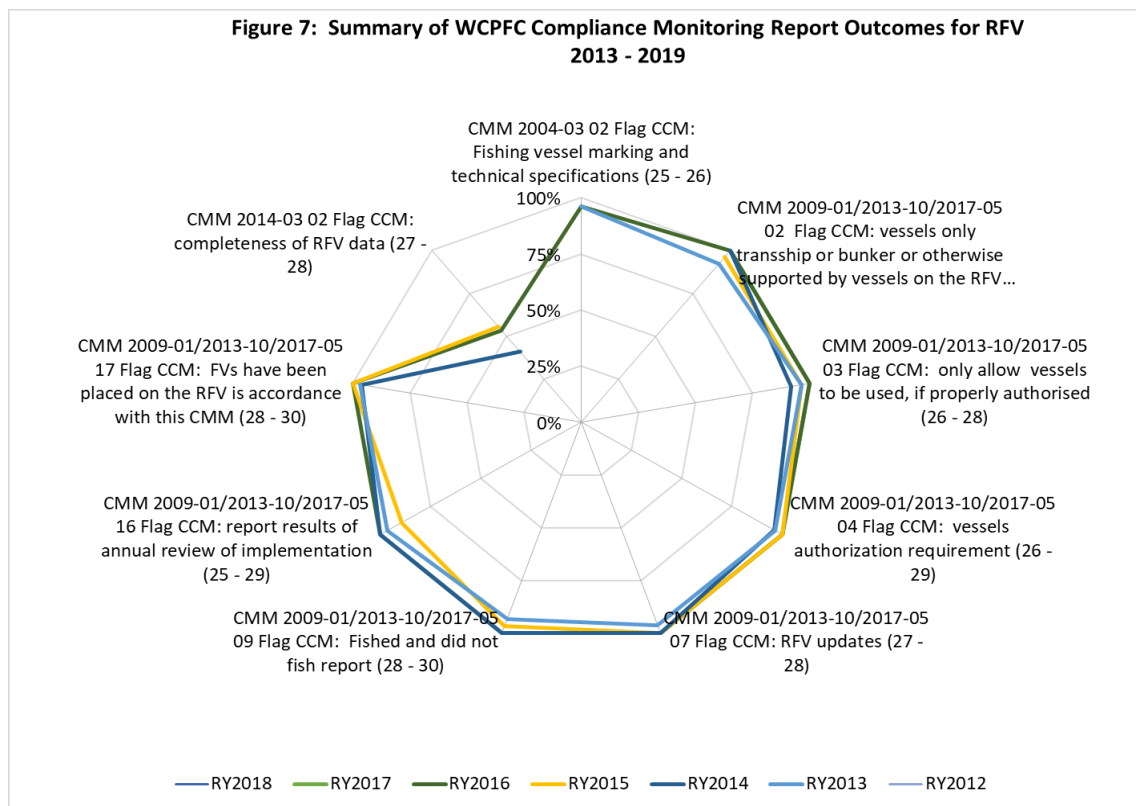
Table 1: Summary of CCM fished/did not fish report for 2019

	Vessel Count	Fished Count	Did Not Fish Count
AU	54	4	50
CA	16	0	16
CK	26	19	7
CN	648	386	262
EC	7	5	2
EU	79	5	74
FJ	72	37	35
FM	41	40	1
ID	22	0	22
JP	803	548	255
KI	18	14	4
KR	217	160	57
LR	27	3	24
MH	16	16	0
NC	19	0	19
NI	1	0	1
NR	11	11	0
NZ	4	4	0
PA	166	87	79
PF	78	0	78
PG	35	24	11
PH	432	307	125
SB	11	5	6
SV	4	2	2
TH	6	0	6
TO	1	0	1
TV	4	2	2
TW	1070	646	424
US	221	183	38
VU	77	73	4
Grand Total	4164	2581	1605

Review of RFV implementation by applicable CCMs under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) 2013 – 2018

19. Figure 7 provides an overview of the result of evaluation of RFV related CMMs (CMM 2004-03, CMM 2013-10 and CMM 2014-03) under the CMS over the years. CMM 2004-03 was evaluated in the Reporting Year (RY) 2013 and RY2016; CMM 2013-10 was evaluated annually (RY 2012 to RY 2017) and CMM 2014-03 was evaluated annually from 2015-2017 (RY2014-RY2016). Figure 7 shows a general trend of consistently high levels of implementation by applicable flag CCMs with CMM 2004-03 (96% for both RY2013 and RY2016) as well as CMM

2013-10 where percentage of implementation by applicable CCMs ranges from 96% to 100%. While Figure 7 shows some improvement, there are continuing implementation challenges being faced by applicable CCMs in ensuring all required data fields for each vessel the CCM has entered into the RFV are completed: in RY2014, 41% of the flag CCMs were expected to have submitted complete data for each vessel record in the RFV whereas for RY2016 this improved marginally to just over 50% of applicable flag CCMs fully implementing this reporting requirement of CMM 2014-03 paragraph 2. It is clear that many flag CCMs continue to face difficulties in fully implementing the requirement for complete data for each vessel that is entered in the RFV.



20. While Figure 7 above provide an overview of the result of the evaluation of the RFV CMM over the years, Annex 2 gives final details for each obligation/paragraph that were assessed and how CCMs have performed under the CMS over the years.

Historical RFV information

21. WCPFC14 confirmed that the historical RFV information should be considered “public domain information” in accordance with the WCPFC data access rules and procedures. In addition, WCPFC14 tasked the Secretariat to periodically update and make available for download from the WCPFC website, the RFV in full (WCPFC14 Summary Report paragraph 428). The Secretariat posted the first full version of the RFV including all historical information associated with the RFV to the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessels> in February 2018 and have posted

routine update of this file. The most recent updated file was posted to the website on 3 March 2020 as at the date this report was written.

Secretariat observations and administrative notes

22. The Secretariat makes the following observations about the operation of the WCPFC RFV in the past year:

- *Improved RFV data completeness* - The implementation of the RFV SSPs, since coming into force in June 2014, together with the reviews of RFV data completeness through the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, have continued to allow opportunities for streamlining improving the operation of the RFV and improving its completeness.
- *Using the VID (WCPFC vessel identification number)* - The VID is a system identifier for a vessel in the RFV, an important feature necessary to maintain the quality of the RFV database and historical RFV data linkages to other WCPFC datasets. CCMs can view history for an individual vessel record on the intranet, using the three dots shortcut. See section 2.4 of the ‘Managing RFV On-line Guide’ for guidance on how to do this.
- *Managing duplicate records in the RFV* - The RFV is a central data source in the WCPFC’s Integrated MCS databases. An important part of the Secretariat’s daily administration of the RFV involves managing the vessel history in the RFV. The Secretariat checks for and tries to avoid the creation of duplicate records in the RFV and will regularly liaise with CCMs to this end. CCMs should note that when a vessel is ‘deleted’ from the RFV, the record remains but is no longer viewable on the public views of the RFV. The vessel record is archived, and the vessel status is changed from “active” to “deleted”. CCMs can re-instate/re-list a deleted vessel and section 3.3 and section 4 of the ‘Managing RFV On-line Guide’ provide the procedures on how to do this. CCMs are reminded to use these procedures in order to avoid creating duplicate records in the RFV. The effect of duplicates in the RFV means the history of a vessel is not consolidated in one place and this create extra and complicated tasks for the Secretariat Compliance and IT team in terms of consolidating these duplicate records.
- *Updating vessel authorization periods* - As reported to previous TCCs, the Secretariat continued to receive queries, although not as many as in previous years, relating to expired or blank authorization period for a vessel on the RFV, mostly from high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) party and markets. CCMs should note that, if a vessel flagged to a Commission member or Cooperating Non-member is listed on the RFV, this implies, through reference to CMM 2018-06, that the flag State considers that the vessel is “entitled to fly its flag and is authorized to fish in the Convention Area” and that that the expiry of authorization date is an administrative matter between the flag State and the vessel (TCC9 Summary Report, para 324).
- *Recording charter vessel information* - The Secretariat has observed some instances where CCMs are entering data into the charter-fields in the RFV for vessels which are **not** formally notified as chartered by a chartering CCM under CMM 2019-08 (or its

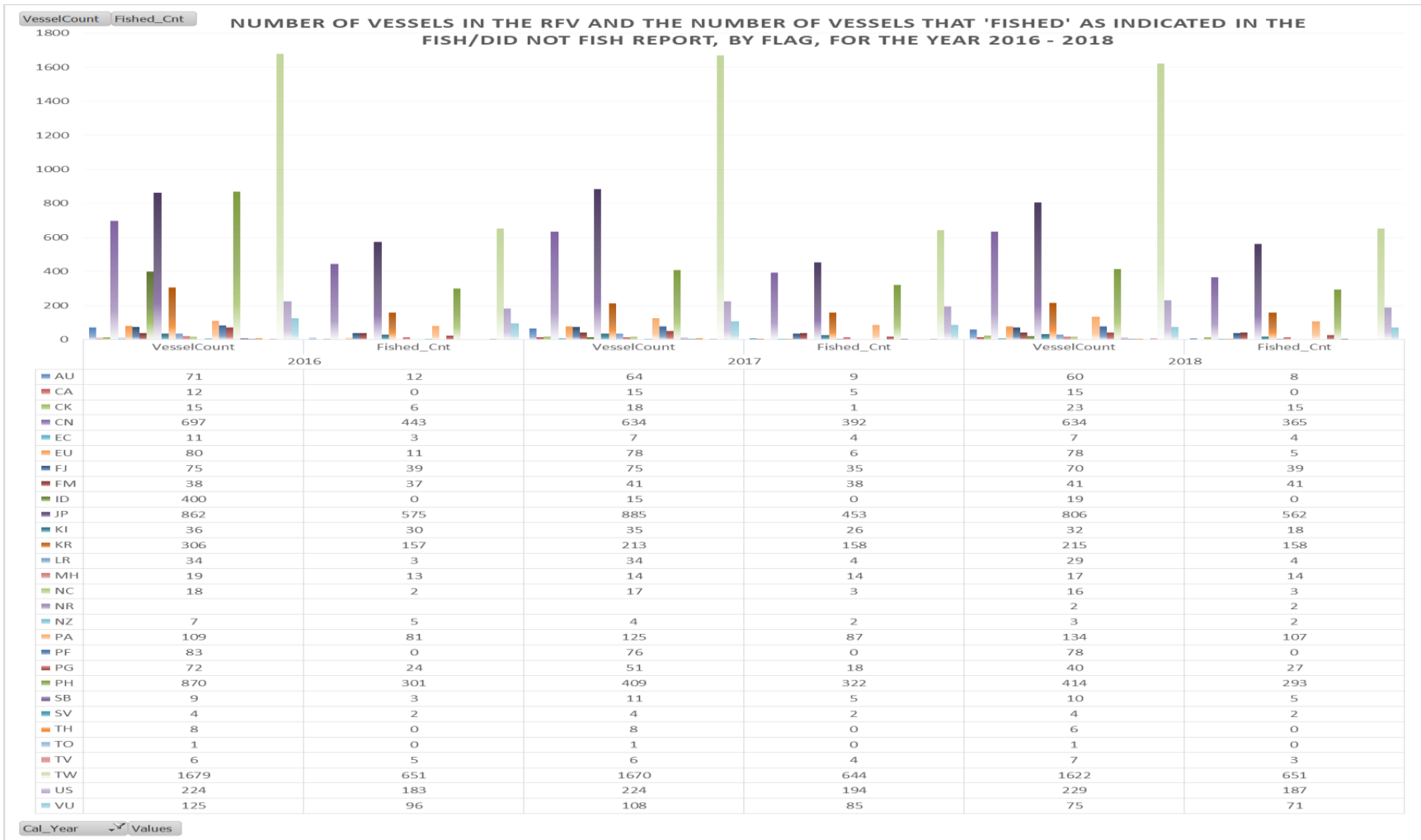
predecessor CMM). In addition, some charters formally notified in accordance with CMM 2019-08 are yet to be updated on the RFV. As at 31 July 2020, 300 of the 318 vessels in the RFV which are flagged in the RFV as chartered had a current charter authorization period. However, the Secretariat's records of CMM 2018-06/CMM 2019-08 notifications show only 159 vessels with a current authorization charter period.

- *Missing IMO information - (CMM 2018-06 footnote 4)* - Many CCMs have updated the RFV for vessels that, as of 1 April 2020, require an IMO in accordance with CMM 2018-06 footnote 4. However, as of 31 July 2020, there are 112 vessels from 7 CCMs that require review. It may be that some of these vessels do not fish outside of national jurisdiction but where that is the case, CCMs need to show these as 'N/A' in the following RFV fields 'Authorization Type', 'Authorization Number', 'Authorization Area' and 'Authorization Species' on the RFV.
- *Notifications of purse seine vessels authorized to engage in transshipment outside of port under Intersessional Decisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic* – To date, CCMs have made different interpretations of the notification provision related to purse seine vessels authorized under the Intersessional Decision to engage in transshipment activities outside of port. The Secretariat has:
 - i) Received notifications from some CCMs of authorizations made under the Intersessional decision related to individual transshipment events;
 - ii) Received submissions by email of lists of the purse seine vessels of a CCM that are authorized under the Intersessional decision to engage in transshipment outside of port; and
 - iii) Noted that other CCMs have taken the approach of entering "YES" in the "Purse seine authorized to transship at sea" RFV field as the indication of a vessel that is authorized under the Intersessional decision to engage in transshipment outside of port.
- CCMs are reminded to send all general RFV inquiries, requests for assistance and submissions of electronic files to update the RFV to the email address: contact.rfv@wcpfc.int

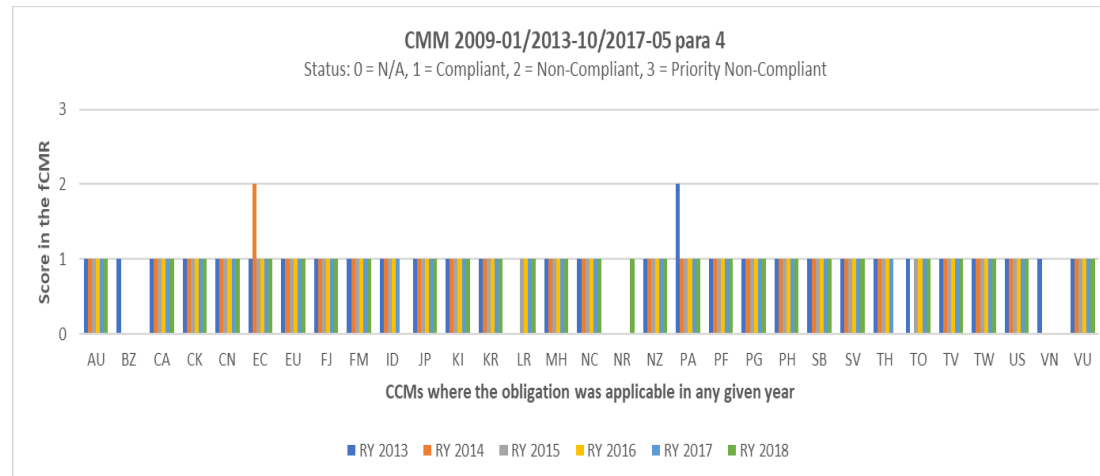
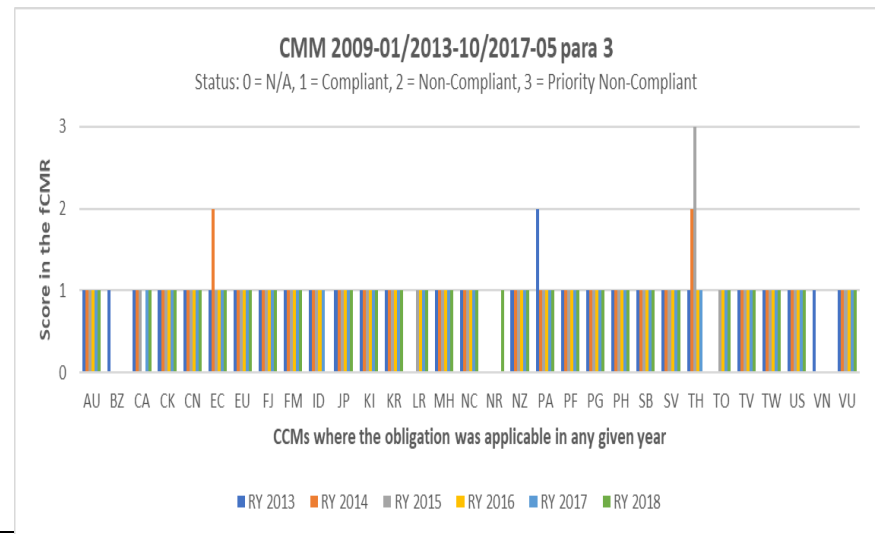
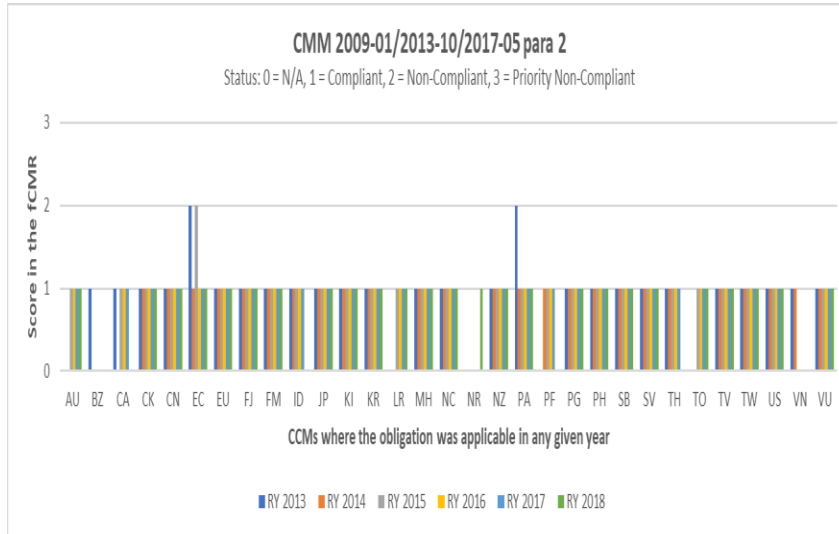
Recommendation

23. TCC16 is invited to consider and note this paper.

Annex 1:

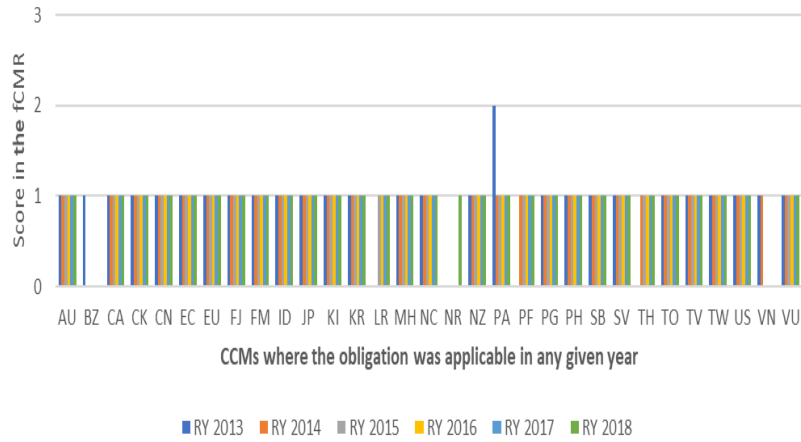


Annex 2: Result of the assessment of the RFV CMM (2009-01/2013-10/2017-05) under the CMS over the years



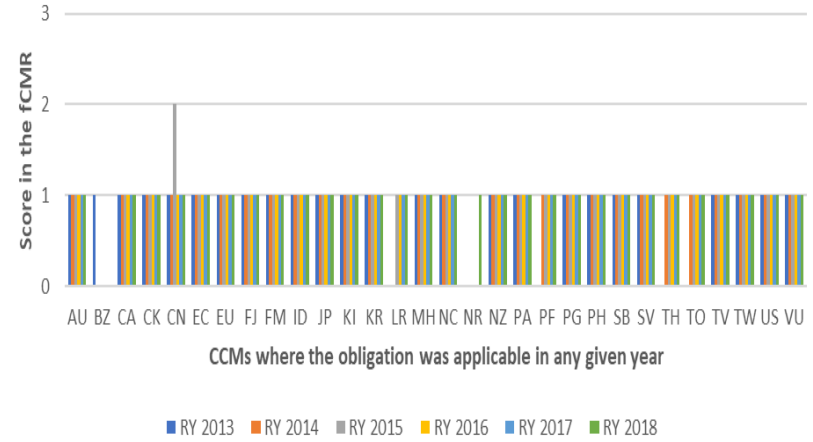
CMM 2009-01/2013-10/2017-05 para 7 (Report)

Status: 0 = N/A, 1 = Compliant, 2 = Non-Compliant, 3 = Priority Non-Compliant



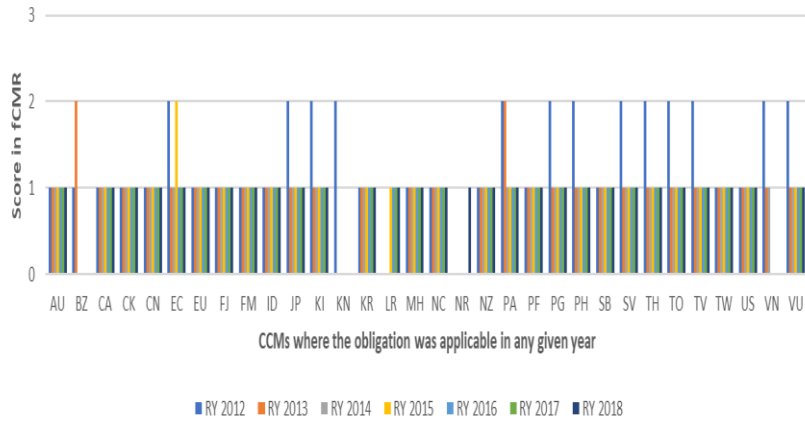
CMM 2009-01/2013-10/2017-05 para 7 (Deadline)

Status: 0 = N/A, 1 = Compliant, 2 = Non-Compliant, 3 = Priority Non-Compliant



CMM 2009-01/2013-10/2017-05 para 9 (Report)

Status: 0 = N/A, 1 = Compliant, 2 = Non-Compliant, 3 = Priority Non-Compliant



CMM 2009-01/2013-10/2017-05 para 9 (Deadline)

Status: 0 = N/A, 1 = Compliant, 2 = Non-Compliant, 3 = Priority Non-Compliant

