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

WCPFC-SC17-AR/CCM-26

TUVALU



FISHERIES DEPARTMENT MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND TRADE GOVERNMENT OF TUVALU



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTIC

Scientific data was provided to the	
Commission in accordance with the decision	YES
relating to the Provision of Scientific data to	
the Commission by the 30 th April 2021.	

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ABSTRACT

Tuvalu's fishery comprised of four active vessels authorised to fish in the WCPO Convention Area in 2020. There were three purse seiner and one longliner. The fishing catch and effort for Purse seine in 2020 were scattered around the PNA groups such as Nauru, Kiribati EEZ, Tokelau and mostly concentrated in the Phoenix & Line groups which adjacent to the West High Seas and Tuvalu EEZ, and some in Indonesia EEZ. While the fishing catch and effort for longline were mainly fished in the High Seas adjacent to Norfolk Island and NZ EEZ and some effort in Tuvalu EEZ.

The Tuvalu Purse seine flagged vessels catch total in 2020 was 9,765mt. The increase in catch from 2019 to 2020 were due to the number of purse seine flagged vessel was increased from 1 to 3 respectively. The highest catch species was skipjack tuna of 8788mt (90%) in total, 584mt (6%) of yellowfin tuna and 397mt (4%) for bigeye tuna. The Tuvalu's longline flagged vessels catch total in 2020 was 158mt. Albacore tuna species accounted of the highest catch of 122mt (77%), yellowfin tuna of 20mt (12%), bigeye tuna of 10mt (6.5%) and 5mt (3.5%). The decreasing of catch was due to the vessel's maintenance and faced some financial problem due to pandemic COVID 19.

There were 204 fishing vessels licensed to fish in Tuvalu EEZ in 2020. The vessels consisted of Purse seine, longline, fish carrier, bunker and pole & line. The number of longliner decreases from 2019 to 2020 of 70 to 31 respectively. Likewise, to purse seine has been decreases from 104 to 98 in 2020. There were four supported vessels such as bunker vessel. The number has been increasingly due to pandemic COVID 19 the purse seine prefers to bunker at sea rather than came to shore.

The total catches of tuna from fishing vessels fished in Tuvalu's EEZ for 2020 were 86,036mt. The total catches for 2020 were decreasing due to the number of US vessel fished in Tuvalu waters were also decreasing from 14% to 8% in 2019 to 2020 respectively. The highest catches were from Korean flagged vessels of 37,218mt (43%), followed by Taiwan flag of 9,381mt (11%) then Kiribati flag of 8,972mt (10%). Japan flagged vessel is the smallest catches of 200mt (0.2%) since only one vessel were licensed to fish in Tuvalu waters in 2020.

During the pandemic COVID 19, the first batch repatriations to all the Tuvaluans observers in July 2020 and the last batch in October. The recruitment process, trainings and zoom meeting for observers were still carried on. There were 10 new observers recruited and training, additional to the active observers were 85 including one female. Within this number of observers 23 were certified debriefer, seven debriefer assessor, 73 MSC and four cross endorsement observers.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Tuvalu's fishery comprised of four active vessels that authorized to fish in the WCPO Convention Area in 2020. The number of purse seiner vessels were increased from one to three and one longline vessel. The Tuvalu Fisheries Department also manage and monitors all fishing activities in the Tuvalu EEZ that is carried out by foreign fishing vessels under the access agreements.

The Tuvalu flagged purse seine vessel fished mainly were scattered around the PNA groups such as Nauru, Kiribati EEZ, Tokelau and mostly concentrated in the Phoenix & Line groups which adjacent to the West High Seas and Tuvalu EEZ, there were few in Indonesia EEZ. The longliner mostly fished with some effort in the High Seas adjacent to Norfolk Island and NZ EEZ and some effort in Tuvalu EEZ. In The purse seine catches were transshipped in Funafuti port, Kiritimati and Tarawa. The longliner offloaded all their catches in Suva port, Fiji.

3.0 FLAG STATE REPORTING

3.1 DOMESTIC FLEET

Under the WCPFC RFV there were four flagged vessels authorised to fish in the WCPO Area in 2020. There were three purse seiner and one longliner. The number of purse seine and long line flagged vessels according to size category in the past five years is shown in the tables below.

Table 1a: Number of Tuvalu Purse Seiner flagged vessels and size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2016 -2020. Source: TUFMAN 2.

Year	00-500 GRT	501-1000 GRT	1001-1500 GRT	1500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2016	0	0	0	1	1
2017	0	0	0	2	2
2018	0	0	0	1	1
2019	0	0	0	1	1
2020	0	1	0	2	3

Table 1b: Number of Tuvalu Long Seiner flagged vessels and size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2016 -2020. Source: TUFMAN 2.

Year	00-50 GRT	51-200 GRT	201-500 GRT	500+ GRT	Total Vessels
2016	2	0	0	0	2
2017	2	0	0	0	2
2018	0	2	0	0	2
2019	0	1	0	0	1
2020	0	1	0	0	1

3.2 CATCH DATA

3.2.1 Purse Seine

The Tuvalu Purse seine flagged vessels catch total in 2020 was 9,765mt (Table 3 & Figure 1). The increase in catch from 2019 to 2020 were due to the number of purse seine flagged vessel was increased from 1 to 3 respectively. The highest catch species was skipjack tuna of 8788mt (90%) in total, 584mt (6%) of yellowfin tuna and 397mt (4%) for bigeye tuna.

Table 2: Number of Tuvalu Purse seiner flagged vessels and size category, active in the WCPO Area from 2016 - 2020. Source: TUFMAN 2.

YEAR	BET	SKJ	YFT	Total
2016	0	5970	140	6110
2017	8	4551	1082	5641
2018	345	9226	1379	10950
2019	9	5559	200	5768
2020	397	8784	584	9765

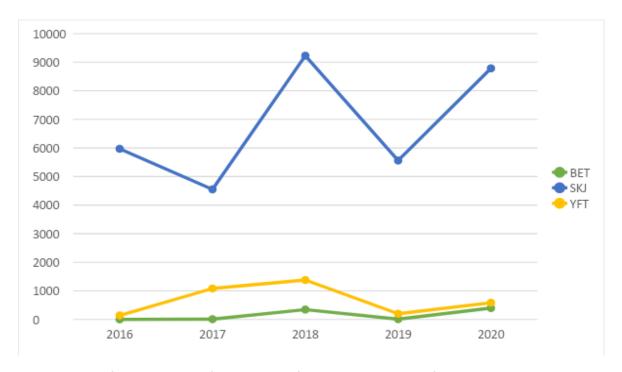


Figure 1: Chart of annual catches of target species for Tuvalu Purse seiners for the WCPO Convention Area over the past five years (2016 – 2020). Source: TUFMAN 2

3.2.2 Longline

The Tuvalu's longline flagged vessels catch total in 2020 was 158mt (Table & Figure). The decreasing of catch was due to the vessel's maintenance and faced some financial problem due to pandemic COVID 19. Albacore tuna species accounted of the highest catch of 122mt (77%), yellowfin tuna of 20mt (12%), bigeye tuna of 10mt (6.5%) and 5mt (3.5%).

Table 3: Annual raised catch estimates (mt) for the Tuvalu longline fleet in the WCPO Convention Area over the past five years (2016 -2020). Source: TUFMAN 2.

YEAR	ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	Total
2016	52.73	106.04	3.39	126.32	288.48
2017	172.66	108.01	3.81	163.43	447.91
2018	118.15	65.34	13.66	103.19	300.34
2019	63.89	51.87	16.34	76.13	208.23
2020	122.84	10.36	5.53	20.11	158.84

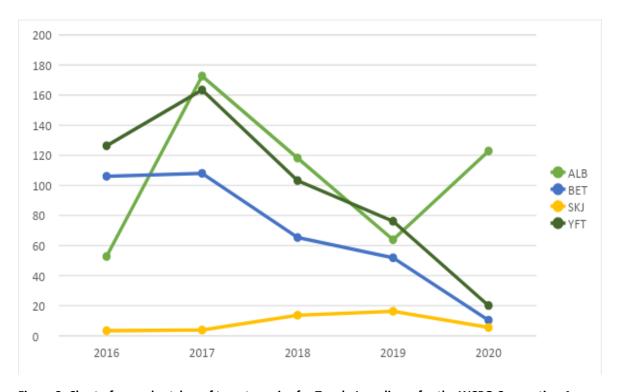
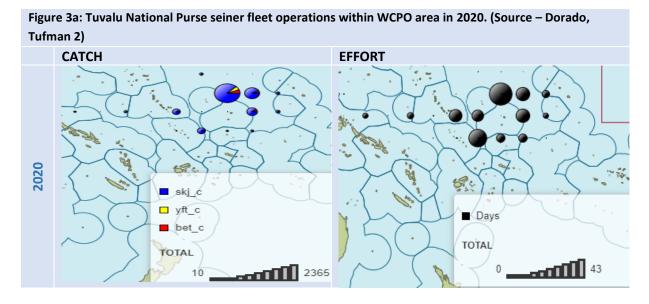


Figure 2: Chart of annual catches of target species for Tuvalu Long liners for the WCPO Convention Area over the past five years (2016 -2020). Source: TUFMAN 2.

3.3 FISHING PATTERN AND DISTRIBUTION

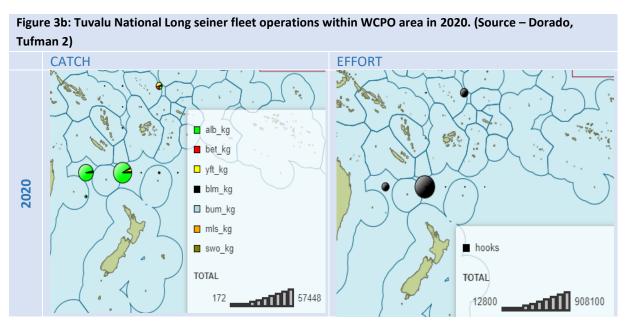
3.3.1 Catch and Effort Distribution for Purse seiners

The fishing catch and effort for Purse seine in 2020 were scattered around the PNA groups such as Nauri, Kiribati EEZ, Tokelau and mostly concentrated in the Phoenix & Line groups which adjacent to the West High Seas and Tuvalu EEZ, there were few in Indonesia EEZ. Skipjack tuna species were the highest catch (Figure 3a).



3.3.2 Catch and Effort Distribution for Longliners

The fishing catch and effort for longline were mainly fished in the High Seas adjacent to Norfolk Island and NZ EEZ and some effort in Tuvalu EEZ in 2020 (Figure 3b).



3.3.3 ARTISANAL FISHERIES

The small-scale artisanal tuna data collection program continues with the collecting of information on reef fish and main tuna target species using creel survey. Most of this tuna were caught by handline troll fishing. These data collection program was managed by the Coastal Fisheries Section. In Figure shown below stated the total of catch were 1,295.19mt, the highest catch were yellowfin tuna species of 760.7mt (59%), skipjack tuna species 534.4mt (41%) and no catch for bigeye tuna species (Table 4 & Figure 5). The inconsistent data collection shows the incomplete reporting from data collectors. This is an internal issue and need to improve in the near future.

Table 4: Annual catches (kgs) landed by artisanal fishermen – unraised data. Source: TUFMAN 2

SPECIES	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
BET	4,650	3,041	3,112.313	0	0
SKJ	38, 434.8	7,199.74	4,409.915	6,566.94	534.43
YFT	24,863.3	7,277.37	2.076.86	1,561.47	760.76
TOTAL	67,948.1	17,518.11	9,599.088	8,128.41	1,295.19

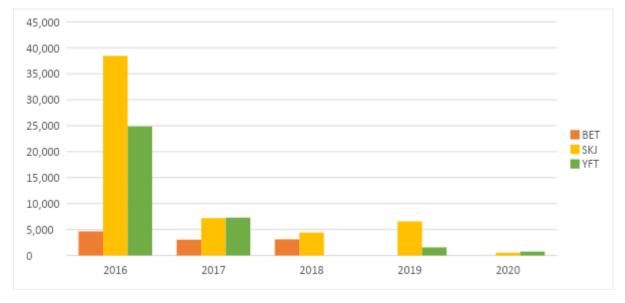


Figure 4: Trend of artisanal catches from 2016 to 2020.

3.4 SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The observer data is not yet available and sharks interaction are derived from logsheet data.

3.5 NON-TARGET ASSOCIATED OR DIFFERENT SPECIES

The annual catch estimates for non-target species caught by Tuvalu flagged vessels in shown in the Table 5. There were no catches of non-target species for purse seine in 2020 compared to longline where there were 4.694mt (Table 5).

Table 5: Annual raised catch estimates (mt) of non-target, associated or dependent species for Tuvalu flagged vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area. Source: TUFMAN 2.

YEAR	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO	BSH	FAL	HAM	MAK	TOTAL
Purse seine									
2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Longline									
2020	0.00	3.145	0.15	1.399	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.694
2019	0.215	10.7	0	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.125
2018	0.785	14.185	0	2.365	3.313	0.794	0.043	0.043	21.544
2017	0.17	20.3	0.02	5.997	1.713	0.694	0.00	0.00	28.894
2016	0.014	11.621	0.0166	3.711	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.3626

4.0 COASTAL STATE REPORTING

4.1 FISHING LICENSES

Issuance of fishing license and access agreement to fishing companies is an on going activities annually. The department was continued issuing the licenses to an online based system. Tuvalu Government were still continuing issue fishing license to its domestic companies, bilateral partners such as Korea, Taiwan, China, Philippines and Sub Regional Pooling arrangement. There were also vessels were authorised under multilateral arrangements – the US Treaty and FSM Arrangement.

There were 204 fishing vessels licensed to fish in Tuvalu EEZ in 2020 (Table 6). The vessels consisted of Purse seine, longline, fish carrier, bunker and pole & line. The number of longliner decreases from 2019 to 2020 of 70 to 31 respectively. Likewise, to purse seine has been decreases from 104 to 98 in 2020. There were four supported vessels such as bunker vessel. The number has been increasingly due to pandemic COVID 19 the purse seine prefers to bunker at sea rather than came to shore. In Table 6 & 7 noted that the number of vessels mainly purse seine bilateral and multi-lateral have been already adjusted from the past five years and additional of the number of active vessels from the sub regional pooling arrangement. This has been done to ensure we have consistent data for future reporting.

Table 6: Number of licenses issued for fishing in Tuvalu's EEZ, by flag and gear type from 2016 to 2020. Source: TUFMAN 1 & PNA FIMS.

Years	Longline	Purse seine	Pole & Line	Fish Carrier	Bunker	TOTAL
2016	66	86	3	41	1	197
2017	115	82	0	40	0	237
2018	77	93	0	45	0	215
2019	70	104	14	51	0	239
2020	31	98	16	55	4	204

Table 7: Numbers of PS bilateral & multilateral licensed vessels authorized to fish in Tuvalu EEZ from 2015 to 2020. Key: FSMA – Federated State of Micronesia Arrangement, SRP – Sub Regional Pooling, UST – US Treaty. Source: PNA FIMS.

Years	Bilateral	FSMA	SRP	UST	TOTAL
2016	86	90	2	39	217
2017	82	95	17	33	227
2018	93	67	13	27	200
2019	104	68	51	27	250
2020	98	70	44	25	237

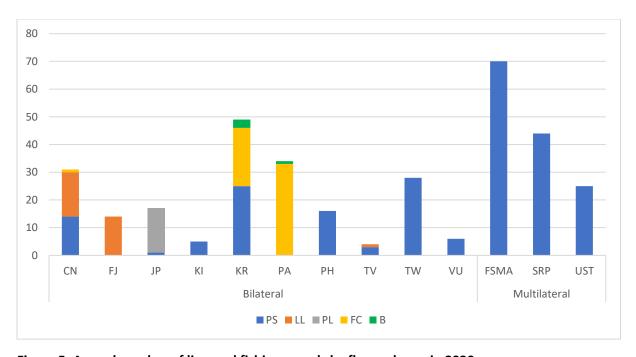


Figure 5: Annual number of licensed fishing vessels by flag and gear in 2020.

4.2 CATCHES IN TUVALU'S EEZ

Most catches of tuna species in Tuvalu's EEZ in 2020 were made by vessels operating under bilateral arrangements such as Korea, Taiwan and Kiribati; and Multilateral arrangement – the US Treaty and FSM Arrangement (Figure 7).

The total catches of tuna from fishing vessels fished in Tuvalu's EEZ for 2020 were 86,036mt. The total catches for 2020 were decreasing due to the number of US vessel fished in Tuvalu waters were also decreasing from 14% to 8% in 2019 to 2020 respectively. The highest catches were from Korean flagged vessels of 37,218mt (43%), followed by Taiwan flag of 9,381mt (11%) then Kiribati flag of 8,972mt (10%). Japan flagged vessel is the smallest catches of 200mt (0.2%) since only one vessel were licensed to fish in Tuvalu waters in 2020.

Japanese pole and line tuna catches had an unraised estimated catch of 55mt in Tuvalu EEZ. This is an decreased of catch compared to 2019.

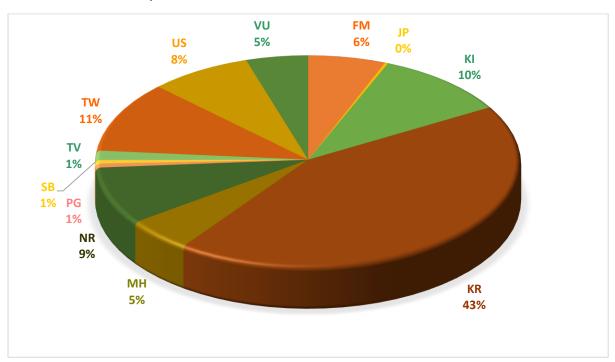


Figure 6: Total raised catch estimates (mt) in Tuvalu EEZ by flag for 2020. Source: TUFMAN 2

In terms of catch composition, for purse seiners that fished in Tuvalu EEZ in 2019 and 2020, skipjack tuna species is the highest dominant species then followed by the yellowfin tuna species for purse seine fishing. While for longline the catch composition is dominant by yellowfin tuna species and the number of flagged vessel were decreased due to the online licensing system (ELR) that most of longline fishing vessels refuse to apply online because it costly for the company.

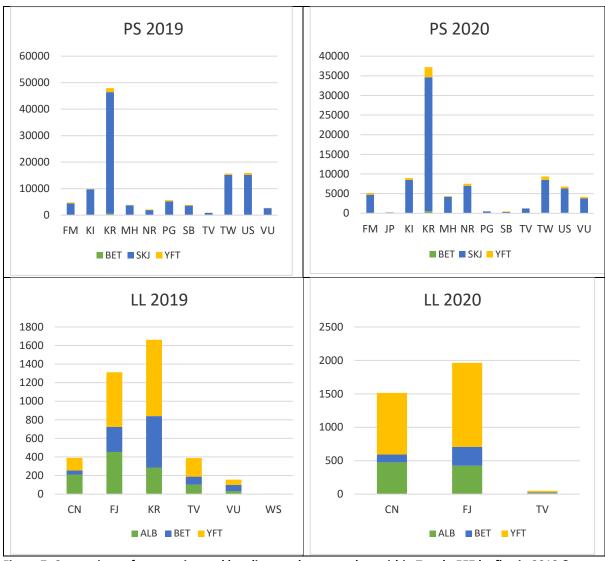


Figure 7: Comparison of purse seine and longline total tuna catches within Tuvalu EEZ by flag in 2019 & 2020. Source: TUFMAN 2

5.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC FACTORS

The fisheries licensing continues provide fisheries revenue to the Government of Tuvalu annually. This is important in supporting government services particularly the health, education and other important area of government development.

6.0 DISPOSAL OF CATCH

Due to the pandemic COVID 19 the Tuvalu Purse seine vessel transshipped in a designated transshipment area whereas was stated in the Condition for Transhipment Order. The Tuvalu longline vessel continue offload its catches in Suva port, Fiji.

7.0 ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS

The National Fisheries Corporation of Tuvalu (NAFICOT) has been reformed to comply with the provisions of the Public Enterprises (Performance and Accountability) Act 2009 and acts as a vehicle for the GOT's commercial fishery interests. The NAFICOT management was finally established with the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Officer in 2020.

8.0 FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

Tuvalu still continues to promote domestication of its tuna fishery, although the challenges are great. However opportunities for employment of fisherman /seafarers on board fishing vessels would be valuable benefits for the development of our resources.

9.0 STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

Please note that all catch and effort estimates in this report are provisional only. There is additional data processing still required to further refine the estimates.

9.1 LOGSHEET DATA COLLECTION AND VERIFICATION

Tuvalu Fisheries Department continued to receive catch logsheets from foreign and domestic vessels at the end of each fishing trip. This year there is a great improvement in the logsheet coverage from all gears in Tuvalu EEZ. However, the Fisheries Department is still facing difficulties with foreign fishing companies due to late submission of their longline logsheets. Enforcement needs to be strengthened in order to minimize delays in submission, and misreporting on logsheets continues to be suspected in some cases. Electronic reporting will be introduced in all fisheries, in order to avoid future delays in data collection and verification processes. The annual coverage of operational catch/effort and port sampling and observer data for Tuvalu's national fishing fleet, based on reports received to date, is shown below (Table 8). The observer coverage was quite low due to pandemic COVDI 19, most of the observers were repatriated in July to October 2020. The coverage of port sampling also needs to be confirmed, but it is believed to be comprehensive.

Table 8: Estimated annual coverage of operational cath/effort, port sampling and observer data (sea days) from Tuvalu National Fleet in 2020. ** Provisional estimates.

Data type	Purse seine coverage (%)	Longline coverage rate (%)
Logsheet	97.15	73.2
Observer	8.3	0
Port sampling	NA	NA

9.2 OBSERVER PROGRAMME

During the pandemic COVID 19, the first batch repatriations to all the Tuvaluans observers in July 2020 and the last batch in October. The recruitment process, trainings and zoom meeting for observers were still carried on. There were 10 new observers recruited and training, additional to the active

observers were 85 including one female. Within this number of observers 23 were certified debriefer, seven debriefer assessor, 73 MSC and four cross endorsement observers.

Table 9 shows below that in 2020 the Tuvalu national observer program the number of both trips and sea days was quite low due to the repatriation of observers.

Table 9: Observer trips and sea days in 2019-2020 by regional and national observer program.

Observer Program	2019		2020	
	Trips	Sea days	Trip	Sea days
Tuvalu National Observer Program	165	4252	72	2158
PNA Observer Program	137	3945	19	1905
FFA Treaty Observer Program	3	109	14	515
TOTAL	305	8606	105	4578

10.0 CMM REPORTING

<u>SECTION A:</u> SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN ANNUAL REPORT PART 1 AS REQUIRED BY CMMS AND OTHER DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

CMM 2009-03 [Swordfish], Para 8	There was no Tuv	alu vessel recorded fi	shing in the Convention A	Area south of 20°S								
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484(b)	The observer cove collection system	e observer coverage of 0% on longline vessel. Details on this is in the Part 1 report under the status of tuna fishery data llection system										
CMM 2009-06 [Transhipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	The total quantiti	Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission: The total quantities, by weight, of highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure that were transhipped by fishing vessel the CCM is responsible for reporting against, with those quantities broken down by:										
	a) offloaded	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 transshipped 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 9385MT	In Funafuti, Kiritimati Island, Tarawa	Inside the Convention Area	Inside the Convention Area	SKJ (8,456MT)	Frozen	PS					

		The state of the s	Area	ing highly migratory fish stocks covered by th				PS at is			
	responsible for r a) offloaded and received	b) transhipped in po transhipped at sea in national jurisdiction, transhipped beyond national jurisdiction	en down by: rt,		nipped inside the tion Area and oped outside the tion Area	d) caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area		e) fishing gear			
	Offloaded 10	In Funafuti, Kiritimati Tarawa	Island,	Inside th	ne Convention Area	Inside the Conven	tion Area	PS			
CMM2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5	NO DATA										
CMM 2018 -03 [Seabirds] Para 13	There is no repo	nere is no report by observers on the interactions with seabirds, see below for full tables on mitigation									

ANNEX

CMM 2018-03: [Seabirds] Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report

The following tables should be included in the annual Part 1 country reports, summarizing the most recent five years.

Table x: Effort, observed and estimated seabird captures by fishing year for [CCM] [South of 30°S; 25°S-30°S; North of 23°N; or 23°N – 25°S¹]. For each year, the table gives the total number of hooks; the number of observed hooks; observer coverage (the percentage of hooks that were observed); the number of observed captures (both dead and alive); and the capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).

capture rate (captures per thousand hooks).										
Year	Fishing effort									

					Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
2016	1	1530286	225262	15	0	0
2017	1	1933574	121395	6	0	0
2018	1	1322860	11430	8	0	0
2019	1	813230	819788	0	0	0
2020	1	538600	0	0	0	0

 $^{^{1}}$ Insert 'North of 23°N', 'South of 30°S', '25°S-30°S' or '23°N - 250°S'. For CCMs fishing in all areas, provide separate tables for each area.

Table y: Proportion of mitigation types¹ used by the fleet in [year].

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

² Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

	Totals (must equal 100%)		100	

 $^{^{1}}$ TL = tori line, NS = night setting, WB = weighted branch lines, SS = side setting, BC = bird curtain, BDB = blue dyed bait, DSLS = deep setting line shooter, MOD = management of offal discharge, HS = hook-shielding device.

Table z: Number of observed seabird captures in [CCM] longline fisheries, 2012, by species and area.

Species	South of 30°S	25°S-30°S	North of 23°N	23°N -25°S 25°S	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross					
Total					

SECTION B: ADDITIONAL ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT PART 1, IF NOT OTHERWISE REPORTED ANNUALLY TO WCPFC

CMM 2006-04 [South West striped Marlin], Para 4	There was one Tuvalu vessel recorded fishing south of 15 degrees south and were 0.15mt of striped marlin catches in this area.
CMM 2015-02 [South Pacific Albacore] Para 4	Addressed through the regular provision of operational catch/effort logsheet data to SPC, who automatically include these data in the WCPFC databases, as per our authorisation.

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.

Annex 1:

CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 3

CCM	Area	Fishery	2002- 04 Average	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels		No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels
Tuvalu	NPA	Albacore	0	5	1	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{*} Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State