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

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WALLIS AND FUTUNA



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

COVERING 2020-2024

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS



WALLIS AND FUTUNA

2024 Annual Report –Part 1

Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics

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Fisheries data officer**

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Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with relevant rules	Aggregated data was provided for year 2020 to 2024
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1. ABSTRACT

Wallis and Futuna Islands fishing fleets are composed of small scale vessels (<10 m) not mainly targeting tuna and species of interest to the WCPFC. Those vessels are operating different fishing gears in the same trip. Tuna catches are mainly recorded in the territorial waters. Data made available to the Fisheries Dpt comes only from small commercial fishermen's logsheets. Catches made by recreational fishery are unreported and estimated from reported catches using empirical ratio.

2. ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Table 1 : Annual catch (kg) and effort estimates for the Wallis and Futuna professional fleet for primary species, for the territorial waters of Wallis and Futuna and for years 2019-2023.

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Small scale fisheries**	Effort*					
	Nb of trips total	1009	886	1127	680	633
	Nb of trips with tuna and tuna-like species fished	492	358	286	258	118
	Catches of key species					
	Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	5325	2631	2499	1238	978
	Big eye tuna (BET)	0	0	0	0	0
	Skipjack (SKJ)	6825	3644	2230	1019	552
	Dogtooth tuna (DOT)	163	70	142	99	5
	Swordfish (SWO)	0	0	0	0	0
	Blue marlin (BUM)	0	0	0	0	0
	Striped marlin (MLS)	1102	111	455	428	305

(*) The fishing effort is difficult to estimate because of predominance of non-target and multiple-gear fisheries. Numbers of trips has been estimated through the annual total trips and the number of target species caught according to logsheets submitted by commercial fishermen. The trips data corresponded only to professional fishermen.

(**) no fleet targeting mainly tuna. "Small scale fisheries" encompasses inshore or near-shore fishermen with mixed fishing techniques.

Table 2 : Number of Wallis and Futuna commercial vessels active in the territorial waters of Wallis and Futuna (not necessarily targeting tuna species), for years 2019 to 2023.

Small scale fisheries	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	41	40	39	40	42

*Table 3 : Annual estimated catches of sharks (kg), by the Wallis and Futuna fleet in the territorial waters of Wallis and Futuna, for years 2019 to 2023.*****

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Silvertip shark (ALS)	12	0	0	0	0
Blacktip reef shark (BLR)	27	0	5	2	3

Requiem sharks (SKH)	nei	13	5	0	0	0
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(****) catches from all fishing gears. In addition, there is no data on incidental catches of sensitive species such as marine birds and turtles. Most of the shark bycatches are a result of deepwater fishing for snappers, and are under-reported.

Fishermen report increasing encounters and catches of sharks around the islands.

Table 4 : Estimated annual coverage of fishing card and observer data not necessarily related to tuna fishing for years 2019-2023.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Nb of logsheets	1009	886	1127	680	633
Nb of fish surveyed and measured	0	6206	14286	9726	6668

(*****) A program of landing surveys by the Fisheries Dpt of Wallis and Futuna started 2020.

3. BACKGROUND

There have been no large or middle scale tuna fishing activities taking place in Wallis and Futuna EEZ since 2012. Last records of activity date back in 2011, with a single 140 UMS domestic based longliner, licensed from 2010 to 2014, which operated a few trips before stopping in 2012.

Professional small-scale fishery is monitored through fuel subsidies log sheets. In 2024, Wallis & Futuna commercial small-scale fishery fleet counted 42 boats (23 in Wallis and 19 in Futuna) using artisanal gears (handline, trolling, spearfishing, gillnetting...) operating mainly within territorial waters. In 2024, tuna and tuna-like species made up about 6% of the catches in Wallis.

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

There is currently four nearshore FAD around Wallis Island. The FAD programme is still ongoing with the reinforcement of device positions and FAD fishing training to foster fishermen shift from reef fishing to tuna fishing. Two FAD devices are waiting to be set around Futuna shortly.

In 2020, the fisheries division started implementing a new small-scale fishery survey protocol based on length-weight measurement in order to improve data collection.

4. FLAG STATE REPORTING

No flagged tuna fishing fleet.

5. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

Small scale commercial near shore fisheries tuna fishing data is collected from logsheets within the frame of fuel subsidizing scheme. To estimate overall catch, it's been considered that commercial catches makes up to 80% of the overall catch.

Historical data from log sheets has been reviewed and checked in 2020. The trips number reported here corresponds to commercial sector only because we don't have sufficient data about subsistence fishermen (table 1). To deal with this, the fisheries division is implementing since January 2020 a new survey protocol based on IKASAVEA and length-weight photographic measurements for both commercial and subsistence fisheries. More than 40000 fishes have been measured since the beginning but not enough tunas to evaluate the species status in Wallis and Futuna.

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

6. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY

A small scale offshore fishery of a few vessels (3 to 4 less than 10m long vessels) is being developed on Wallis and Futuna. But this raises problems of safety and viability.

Several middle scale tuna fishing projects are currently being discussed but they are still at an early stage.

There is a will of developing a longline tuna fishery, constrained in the middle run to one longliner in regards to the marketing opportunities in country and outside. starting by an experimental campaign to get a better knowledge of catch rates, operational costs and domestic market response. Wallis and Futuna government is still looking for a regional partner to charter a longline vessel