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

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA



ANNUAL REPORT
to the
**WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC
FISHERIES COMMISSION
(WCPFC)**

Report: **PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES,
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS FOR YEAR 2024.**

Country: **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

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Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the commission by the 30 th April 2025.	Yes
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Revision Notes:

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2. Summary

The PNG tuna fishery comprises two main sectors, the purse seine and the longline. The purse seine sector consists of a mix of domestic and foreign access vessels. The domestic component includes PNG flagged vessels as well as Locally Based Foreign (LBF) chartered vessels operating under domestic charter arrangements to support onshore tuna processing facilities in PNG.

The longline sector also includes both domestic and foreign access vessels. Access for foreign longline vessels was prohibited from 1996 to 2014 following a government directive to reserve longline operations in PNG waters for national participation only. However, foreign access was reintroduced in 2015, and since then, PNG has observed increasing foreign longline vessel activity within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). A small number of domestic longline vessels continue to operate in PNG waters, with the fleet size fluctuating between 1 and 15 vessels since 2020.

A total of 48 purse seine vessels in the PNG national fleet¹ were active in the WCPFC Convention Area in the year 2024. A total estimated annual catch of 315,624 mt of targeted tuna species were caught by the PNG national purse vessels in 2024 utilizing an estimated overall logsheet effort of 7,790 fishing days (*Table 1b & 1b*). This was an increase of 115,957 mt of catch and an increase of 1,296 logsheet fishing days compared to the 2023 fishing year. The increase was a result of the extensive La Nina months in 2024.

There was only one (1) domestic longline vessel active inside PNG waters in 2024. A total of 96 mt of target tuna species (YFT, ALB & BET) were harvested using an overall effort of 24 Hundred Hooks (*Table 1a*).

The Foreign purse seine vessels operating in the PNG EEZ in the last five years (2020-2024) have recorded an average annual tuna catch of approximately 246,400 metric tonnes, with a corresponding average fishing effort of 6,043 vessel-days.

The Foreign longline vessels operating in the PNG EEZ in the last five years (2020-2024) have a recorded average annual catch of approximately 1,232 metric tonnes, with an average effort of around 16,953 hundred hooks deployed per year.

PNG is striving to build its domestic fishing industry and increase onshore investment. This approach has seen fishing licenses linked to domestic onshore investments, as the rights to fish in PNG are linked to onshore investment. The country is working towards processing all fish caught within its waters domestically and is expecting to see a continuous increase in the domestic tuna production over the years.

¹ PNG National Fleet comprised of both the PNG flag vessels and the LBF chartered vessels.

3. Tabular Annual Fisheries Information

Table 1(a): Annual catch (mt) and effort estimates for the PNG tuna longline fleet by primary species for the WCPFC Convention Area for year 2020-2024. Source: SPC

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Provisional)
Effort (HHooks)		5,746	-	53,271	58,658	24
Tuna Catch (mt)	Albacore	19	-	595	112	2
	Bigeye	17	-	179	262	72
	Skipjack	0	-	8	12	0
	Yellowfin	116	-	1779	1083	22
	Total Tuna	152	-	2,378	1,469	96
Billfish Catch (mt)	Black Marlin	6	-	10	8	-
	Blue Marlin	1	-	33	46	-
	Striped Marlin	5	-	3	1	-
	Swordfish	0	-	8	5	-
	Total Billfish	13	-	33	60	-
Shark Catch (mt)	Blue Shark	-	-	3	0	-
	Silky Shark	-	-	52	0	-
	Hamerhead Sharks	-	-	0	1	-
	Mako Shark	-	-	0	0	-
	Oceanic White Tip	-	-	9	0	-
	Thresher Sharks	-	-	0	0	-
	Total Sharks	-	-	0	0	-

Figure 1 (a): Historical annual catch (mt) for the PNG longline fleet by primary species in the WCPFC Convention area.

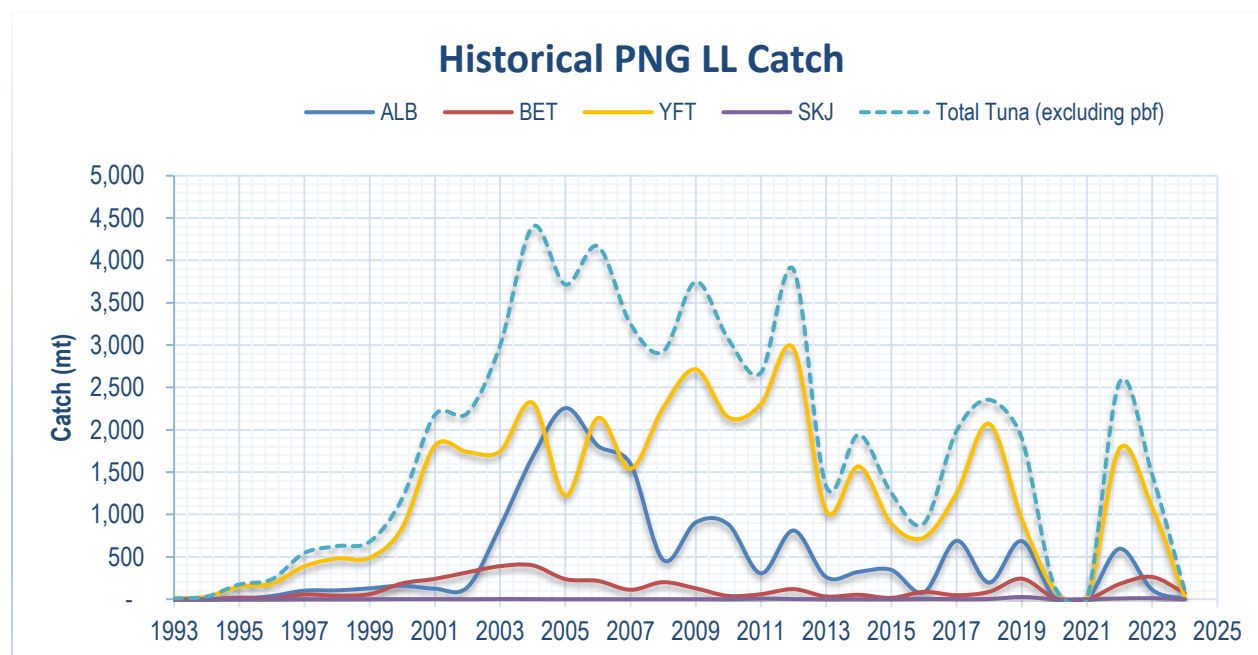


Table 1(b): Annual catch (mt) and effort (fishing days) estimates for the PNG National Purse Seine fleet by primary species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2020-2024. Source: SPC TUFMAN 2 PS ACE.

Year		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Provisional)
Effort (fishing & searching days)		6,708	6,344	6,519	6,494	7,790
Catch (mt)	Albacore	4	7	-	-	3
	Bigeye	2,870	3,447	2,271	1,468	1,598
	Pacific Bluefin	-	-	-	-	-
	Skipjack	109,989	102,389	132,359	97,090	200,620
	Yellowfin	85,458	63,498	81,077	101,109	113,403
	Total	198,321	169,341	215,707	199,667	315,624

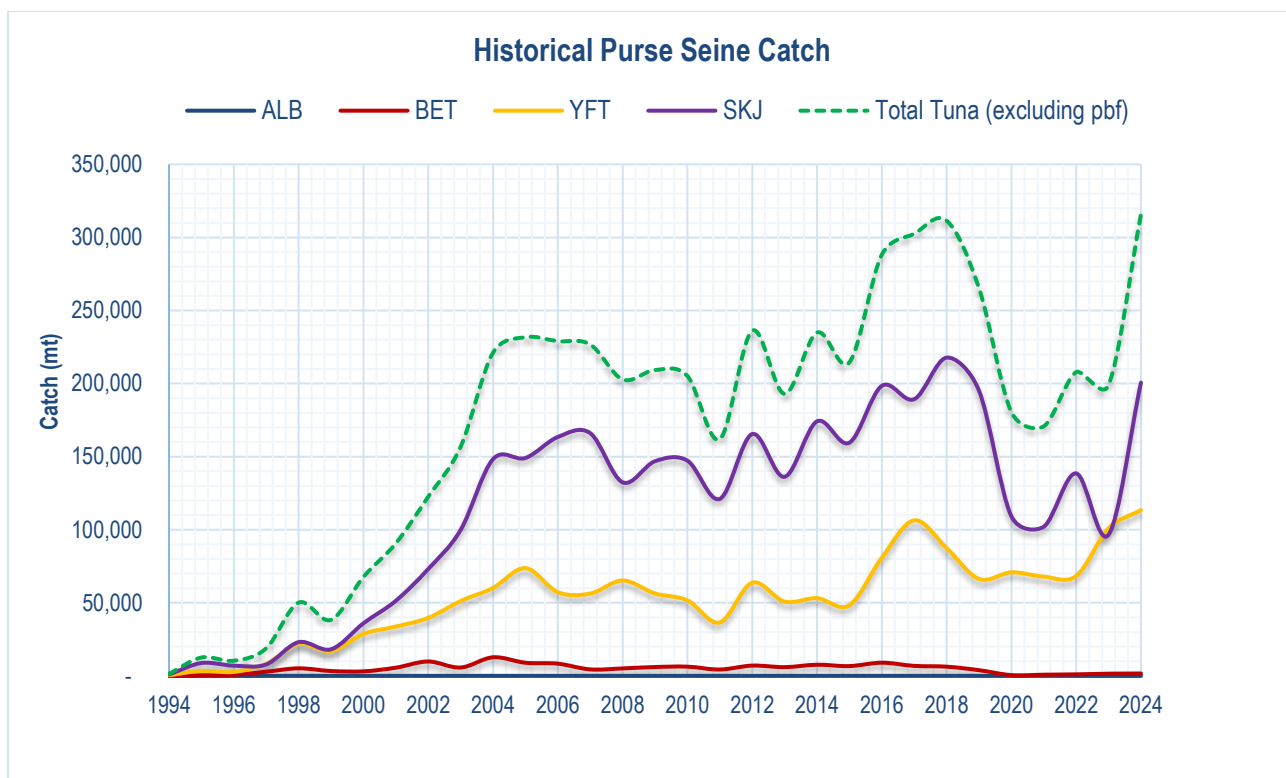


Figure 1 (b): Historical annual catch for the PNG purse seine fleet by primary species in the WCPFC Convention area.

Table 2(a). Number of PNG longline vessels by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention area for years 2020-2024. Note that there was no domestic LL operation inside PNG waters in 2021.

Yr	Size Class (GRT)				Total
	0-50	51-200	201-500	500+	
2020	0	6	0	0	6
2021	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	10	0	10
2023	0	0	11	0	10
2024	0	0	0	1	1

Table 2(b). Number of PNG purse seine vessels by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention area for years 2020- 2024.

Yr	0-50	51-200	201-500	500+	Unknown	Total
2020	6	6	24	2	0	38
2021	3	8	26	3	0	40
2022	3	9	26	4	1	43
2023	3	10	16	5	0	34
2024	3	10	22	11	2	48

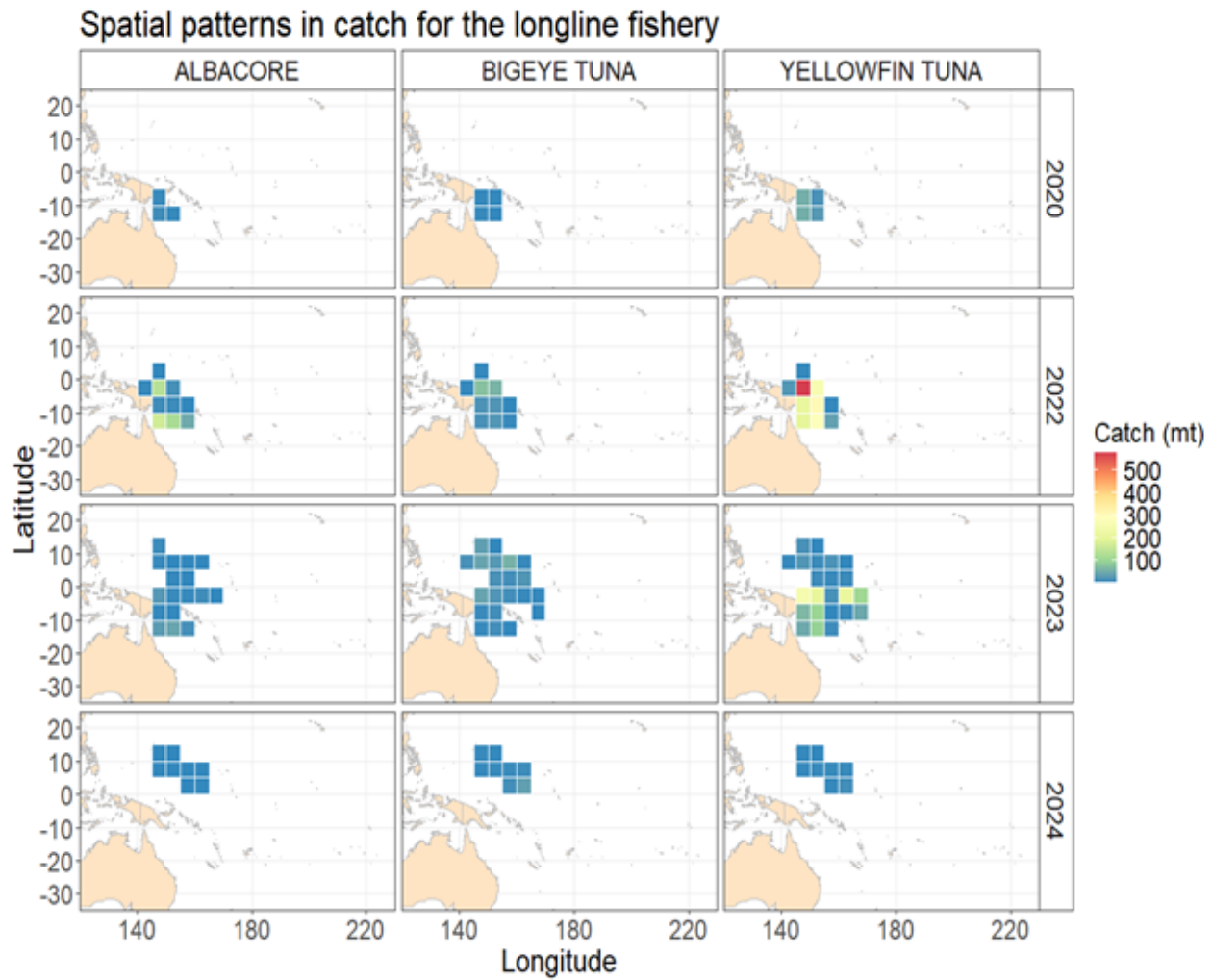


Figure 3(a). PNG active LL fleet Annual distribution of target catch in the WCPFC Convention area for year 2020-2024.
Source: SPC

Spatial patterns in catch for the purse seine fishery

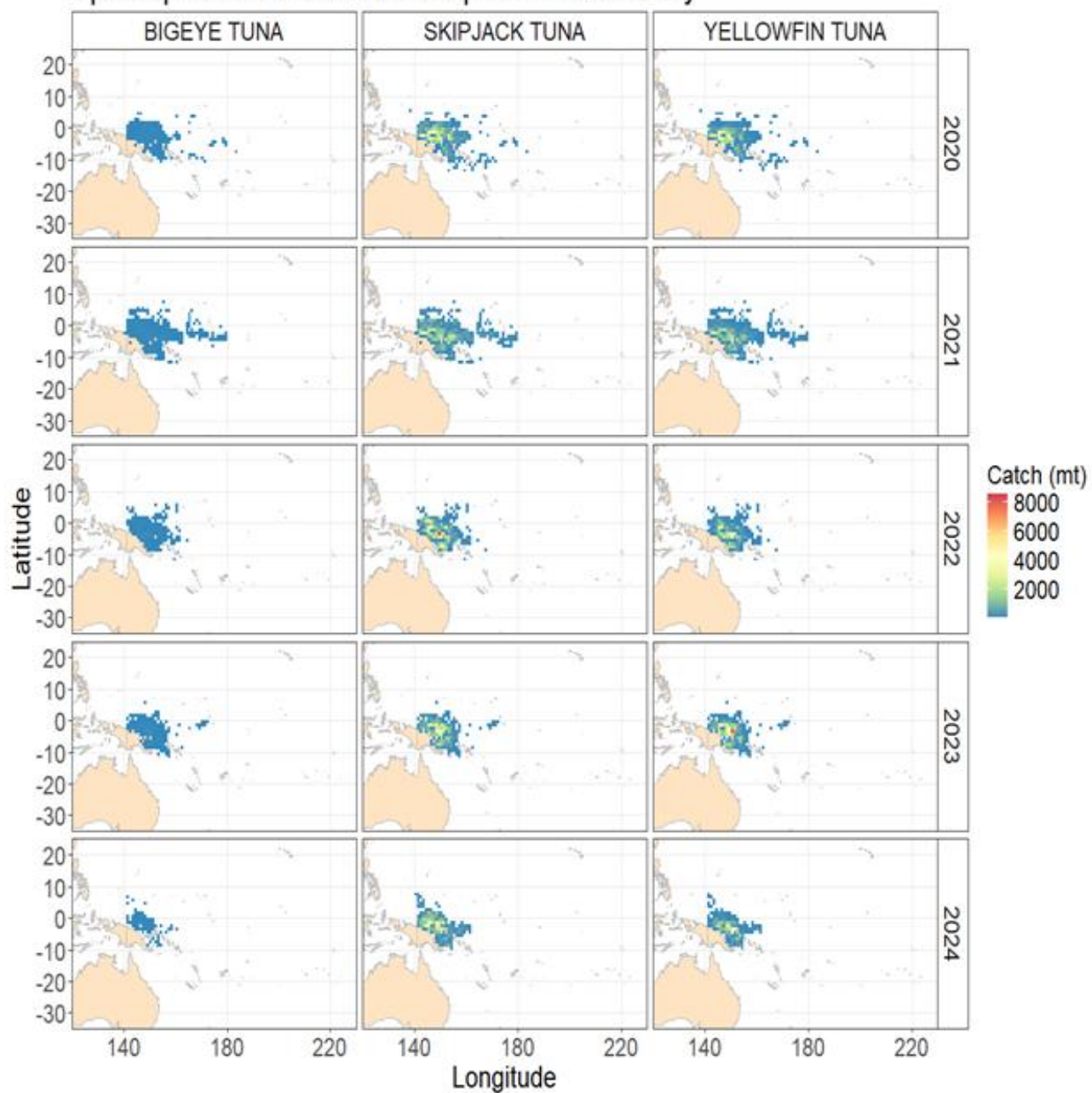


Figure 3(b). Annual distribution of target tuna catch of the PNG purse seine fleet active in the WCPFC Convention area for year 2020-2024. Source: SPC

Table 3. Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest (seabirds, turtles and marine mammals) by PNG vessels, in the WCPFC Convention Area for years 2020-2024 Source SPC.

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
AQUATIC MAMMALS NEI		1			
BALEEN WHALES NEI	11	11	6	2	
BEAKED WHALES NEI	11				
BLAINVILLE'S BEAKED WHALE			1		
BLUE WHALE	1				
BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	0	12	3	15	10
BRYDE'S WHALE	23	20	24	4	5
COMMON DOLPHIN	5	10	15	26	3
CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE	1	1			
DOLPHINS NEI	4				
FALSE KILLER WHALE	70	34	20	30	30
FLATBACK TURTLE		1		1	
FRASER'S DOLPHIN		2			
GIANT MANTA	82	103	58	30	64
GINKGO-TOOTHED BEAKED WHALE		3			
GREEN TURTLE	6	3	3	10	1
HAWKSBILL TURTLE	1	7	1	1	1
HUMPBACK WHALE	1	1			
INDO-PACIF. BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	7	12	15	1	
LEATHERBACK TURTLE			1		
LOGGERHEAD TURTLE				1	1
LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN			5		
MANTAS, DEVIL RAYS NEI	0	0	4	1	0
MELON-HEADED WHALE	1		1		
MINKE WHALE		1			
MOBULA	32	48	58	42	88
OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	4	6	4	1	6
PANTROPICAL SPOTTED DOLPHIN				1	
PYGMY KILLER WHALE	1		5		
RISSO'S DOLPHIN	7	2		4	
ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN	5		1	3	
SEI WHALE	15	9	22	5	11
SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE	0				4
SPERM WHALE		1	2		
SPINNER DOLPHIN	7	3		1	32
STRIPED DOLPHIN	0	3	21		
WHALE SHARK	61	44	17	21	24
Grand Total	356	338	287	200	280

Table 4(a). Annual estimated catches (mt) of non-target, associated and dependent species, including sharks, by the PNG purse seine vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2020-2024. Data Source; SPC

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BALEEN WHALES NEI	1.5				
BARRACUDAS NEI	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	
BIGEYE TREVALLY			0.0		0.0
BLACK MARLIN	8.5	10.7	6.4	11.9	9.9
BLACK TRIGGERFISH		1.0		0.0	0.2
BLACKFIN BARRACUDA			0.0		
BLAINVILLE'S BEAKED WHALE	2.0		2.0	0.0	
BLUE MARLIN	11.5	8.5	3.8	3.4	12.4
BLUE SEA CHUB / SNUBNOSE CHUB / TOPSAIL DRUMMER		0.0			0.0
BLUE SHARK				0.0	
BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	0.8		0.7	0.4	
BRYDE'S WHALE			40.0		2.5
BULLET TUNA	20.2	8.3	3.3	48.1	40.2
COMMON DOLPHIN			0.1		
COMMON DOLPHINFISH	1.0	0.3	0.4	6.7	0.6
DOLPHINS NEI	0.2	0.2			1.0
EASTERN PACIFIC BONITO	67.5	26.0	68.1	114.4	500.1
FALSE KILLER WHALE		1.1	1.4	1.2	8.7
FILEFISHES NEI		1.5			
FLATBACK TURTLE				0.0	0.0
FRIGATE AND BULLET TUNAS					0.3
FRIGATE TUNA	75.2	57.3	10.4	89.1	175.9
GIANT MANTA	22.8	11.7	8.7	13.0	16.2
GOLDEN TREVALLY	0.1		0.0		0.0
GREAT BARRACUDA	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4
GREAT HAMMERHEAD	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	
GREAT WHITE SHARK			0.1		
GREEN TURTLE	0.0			0.0	0.0
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS NEI			0.0		0.3
HAWKSBILL TURTLE			0.0	0.1	
HUMPBACK WHALE				1.0	
INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.7	2.3
KAWAKAWA	40.2	42.1	36.9	24.1	33.5
LOGGERHEAD TURTLE			0.0		0.0
LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN		0.1			
LONGFIN BATFISH		0.0		0.0	
MACKEREL SCAD	20.7	9.7	4.1	5.9	8.5
MAKO SHARKS					0.2
MANTAS, DEVIL RAYS NEI	8.9	5.3	5.7	18.5	7.2
MARINE TURTLES NEI		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

MOBULA	9.6	14.6	4.5	0.9	5.0
NARROW-BARRED SPANISH MACKEREL				0.0	
OCEAN SUNFISH	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5
OCEAN TRIGGERFISH (SPOTTED)	2.3	2.4	1.5	0.3	2.6
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.3
OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE	0.0		0.0	1.0	0.1
OTHER FISH	6.2	8.2	2.0	16.0	0.2
PELAGIC STINGRAY		0.0		0.0	0.0
PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	0.1		0.1	0.0	0.1
PICKHANDLE BARRACUDA					0.0
RAINBOW RUNNER	32.2	12.8	27.3	30.3	37.2
RISSO'S DOLPHIN	0.0	0.2	0.2		
ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHIN			0.0		0.7
SANDBAR SHARK					0.3
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD		0.2			
SEI WHALE				5.3	11.0
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	1.4	2.3			
SHARPTAIL MOLA	0.0	0.0	0.1		0.0
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH		0.1	0.2	0.1	0.8
SHORTFIN MAKO		0.1		0.2	
SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE	0.0				
SILKY SHARK	300.3	172.4	133.9	98.1	337.8
SILVERTIP SHARK			0.0	0.1	
SLENDER SUNFISH		0.0		0.1	
SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD	0.0			1.0	
SPERM WHALE	0.4				
SPINNER DOLPHIN					0.1
SPOTFIN DRAGONET	0.1				
STINGRAYS, BUTTERFLY RAYS NEI		0.0	0.4		0.0
STRIPED MARLIN	0.2	0.0		0.4	0.2
SWORDFISH	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
TIGER SHARK				0.1	0.0
TRIGGERFISHES, DURGONS NEI	3.4	2.6	1.0	9.6	2.6
TRIPLETAIL		0.0			
TUNAS NEI	50.0	155.0	70.5		
UNICORN LEATHERJACKET FILEFISH		0.0	0.0		
UNSPECIFIED	0.2	0.0		0.2	0.1
WAHOO	0.1	0.0		0.1	
WHALE SHARK	61.2	78.2	44.1	153.2	178.4
WHITETIP REEF SHARK	0.1				
WINGHEAD SHARK				0.1	
YELLOWTAIL AMBERJACK				0.3	7.8

Table 4(b). Annual estimated catches (by weight) of non-target, associated, and dependent species, including sharks, by the PNG longline vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area, for the years 2020 -2024. Data Source; SPC.

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BARRACUDAS NEI	0.0	-	2.2	3.1	
BIGEYE SMALL (PAPAHI)		-	0.1		
BLACK MARLIN	10.6	-	5.8	8.3	
BLUE MARLIN	2.0	-	16.4	46.3	3.4
BLUE SHARK		-		0.1	
COMMON DOLPHINFISH		-	1.2	5.4	1.3
EASTERN PACIFIC BONITO		-		0.0	
ESCOLAR		-	0.2	0.4	0.0
GREAT BARRACUDA		-		0.5	0.1
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS NEI		-			
INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH	9.6	-	9.6	27.6	0.3
MAKO SHARKS		-			
MANTAS, DEVIL RAYS NEI		-			
MARLINS,SAILFISHES,ETC. NEI		-	0.3		
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK		-			
OILFISH	1.3	-	3.9	4.2	0.2
OPAH	0.0	-	5.0	1.5	
OTHER FISH		-	15.6	5.5	0.0
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA		-	3.1	4.4	0.6
PÁTZCUARO CHUB		-		0.0	
PORBEAGLE SHARK		-			
RAINBOW RUNNER		-		0.0	
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD		-		1.3	0.3
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH		-	0.1	0.0	
SHORTFIN MAKO		-			
SICKLE POMFRET		-	1.3	0.3	0.1
SILKY SHARK		-			
SKIPJACK TUNA	0.2	-	6.5	12.3	1.0
STRIPED MARLIN	3.6	-	2.2	1.5	
SWORDFISH	0.3	-	4.7	5.3	0.7
THRESHER SHARKS NEI		-		0.2	
UNSPECIFIED		-	0.5		
WAHOO	5.9	-	7.1	8.5	1.9

Table 5. Estimated annual coverage of operational catch/effort, observer and port sampling data for the PNG vessels by gear, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, for years 2020-2024. Source: SPC & NFA.

Year	Gear	Logsheet Coverage (%)	Observer Coverage (%)		Port Sampling
			Trip	Days	
2020	LL	100	3	1	0
	PS	100	52	47	0
2021	LL	0	0	0	0
	PS	67	49	52	0
2022	LL	63	0	0	0
	PS	84	33	28	0
2023	LL	89	0	0	20
	PS	100	25	23	0
2024	LL	99	0	0	0
	PS	99	29	30	0

4. Background

Tuna in Papua New Guinea (PNG) national waters are harvested primarily through two fishing methods: purse seine and longline, with the purse-seine fishery accounting for approximately 99% of the total tuna catch.

Purse-seine operations began in PNG waters in the early 1980s and have since grown significantly in scale and intensity. The highest recorded combined purse seine (Domestic, FB²) catches occurred in 2010, 2022, and 2024, each exceeding 600,000 metric tonnes.

The longline fishery, on the other hand, began prior to the purse-seine fishery, initially operated by foreign fleets under access arrangements. However, in 1996, a change in Government policy restricted longline operations exclusively to national participants, effectively removing foreign access to PNG's longline fishery.

In 2015, the longline fishery was reopened on a limited basis through a trial albacore fishery, aimed at assessing albacore catch rates. Under this initiative, five foreign-flagged ultra-low temperature (ULT) longline vessels were granted access to PNG waters under domestic charter arrangements. This marked the first step toward the reintroduction of foreign longline fleets into PNG's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

By 2016, 20 foreign longline vessels were operating under bilateral access agreements. This number grew significantly, reaching 61 licensed foreign longline vessels in 2023. In the same year, PNG's national fleet consisted of 10 chartered longline vessels actively fishing in the EEZ. However, these

² FB: Foreign Bilateral Vessels

chartered vessels were reflagged as foreign vessels in 2024, leaving only one PNG-flagged longline vessel active in that year.

PNG's tuna fishery reflects a strategic balance between domestic industry development and access by Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs). Domestic development is promoted through a licensing model that requires vessels to offload catches for in-country processing. Vessels operating under this model may be reflagged to PNG, granted reduced license fees, allowed to fish within Archipelagic Waters (AW), or sponsored under the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (FSMA) to operate in the waters of other Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA).

The fishery is managed under the National Tuna Fishery Management and Development Plan (NTFMDP), which establishes the legal and management framework for all tuna fishing activities in PNG. The Plan includes catch and effort controls, gear restrictions, Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) regulations, and other tools for resource conservation, management, and the prevention of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The purse-seine fishery is further guided by regional and sub-regional management framework (WCPFC Management Measures, PNA Implementing Arrangements, FFA Harmonized Minimum Terms and Conditions etc), which are incorporated into the NTFMDP. The Plan is updated as necessary to align with national development priorities and PNG's regional and international fisheries obligations. The Plan was updated in 2025.

5. Flag State Reporting

This section reports activities by the national fleet inside the waters of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (WCPFC CA) including PNG's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The national fleet comprises of longline and purse seine vessels under PNG flag and those foreign flag vessels under domestic charter arrangements.

5.1 National Fleet: Tuna Longline

There was only one (1) domestic tuna longline vessel active in the WCPFC CA in 2024. A total of 96 mt of target tuna species (YFT, ALB & BET) were harvested using an overall effort of 24 Hundred Hooks (Table 1a).

5.2 National Fleet: Purse Seine

Catches from the PNG National purse seine fleet comprise mostly of skipjack with the highest composition, followed by yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Although skipjack is the main target species in this fishery, yellowfin and bigeye are also commercially important.

Catches by the PNG domestic fleet have generally seen a comeback in 2024 (*Figure 1b*) as a result of favorable fishing conditions (La Nina) in the year 2024. A total logsheets catch of SKJ 200,620mt,

YFT 113,403mt and BET 1,598mt were recorded caught by the PNG purse fleet in the WCPFC convention area (*Table 1b*) utilizing an overall logsheet effort of 7,790 fishing days.

6. Coastal State Reporting

This section captures reports on activities of foreign flag and other small scale domestic fishery activities in the national waters. The foreign flag vessels comprised of the foreign purse seine vessels and the re-introduced foreign tuna longline vessels. Activities of the now banned domestic shark longline fishery and a very small handline fishery are also reported under this section since all their activities are inside PNG waters.

6.1 Purse Seine - Foreign Bilateral Vessels

Foreign purse seine vessels operating within the PNG Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are licensed under Bilateral Access Agreements between Papua New Guinea and either foreign fishing companies or national fishing associations from the respective flag States. This category also includes vessels operating under multilateral frameworks such as the U.S. Multilateral Treaty and the FSM Arrangement. Over the past five years, these foreign-flagged vessels have recorded an average annual tuna catch of approximately 246,400 metric tonnes, with a corresponding average fishing effort of 6,043 vessel-days within PNG's EEZ.

6.2 Longline - Foreign Vessels

Foreign bilateral longline vessels operating in PNG waters are licensed under Bilateral Access Agreements between Papua New Guinea and its bilateral access partners, which may include individual companies, fishing associations, or State authorities of the flag country. Over the past five years, these vessels have recorded an average annual catch of 1,232 metric tonnes, with an average effort of approximately 16,953 hooks deployed per year.

In line with the government's long-term policy to domesticate tuna longline fishing and promote local participation, foreign bilateral longline fishing activities were banned in PNG waters from 1996 onward. For over two decades, no foreign bilateral longline vessels were granted access until 2015, when a trial albacore fishery was conducted using six (6) Taiwanese-flagged ultra-low temperature (ULT) longline vessels under a charter arrangement. This trial marked the initial step toward reintroducing foreign longline operations in PNG. Subsequent policy changes implemented after 2020 have since allowed the re-entry of full foreign longline fleets into PNG waters under regulated access agreements.

6.3 Shark Longline

The shark longline fishery was managed under a separate management plan from the tuna longline fishery. The fishery was limited to 9 vessels, setting 1,200 hooks per day with a total allowable catch of 2,000 mt dressed weight per year. All vessels in this fishery fished only in the PNG waters.

The shark fishery was closed in the first quarter of 2014 in response to the CMM 2011-04 and CMM 2013-08 which prohibited landings of Oceanic White-Tip and Silky Shark respectively. Figure 4a and 4b shows the recorded catch, number of vessels and effort (hundred hooks) since 2009. Considerable amount of tuna (mainly yellowfin) and billfishes are also caught in this fishery as bycatch. The average estimated catch in 2010-2015 was 1,344.26 mt with 1,011.47 mt being shark catches alone (*Table 8*).

Table 8: Annual catch estimates (mt) of shark species and effort estimate (hundred hooks) for PNG domestic shark longline fleet in waters under national jurisdiction. Data source: PNG NFA.

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average
<i>Effort (HHooks)</i>	22,790	27,934	20,817	16,367	6,129	18,808
Blacktip Shark	18.93	2.81	1.31	5.59	7.45	9.22
Blacktipped Reef Shark	19.75	43.98	36.53	11.17	12.79	24.85
Blue Shark	10.21	18.93	16.08	16.59	9.38	14.24
Galapagos Shark	0.99	0.29	0.06	2.89	2.69	1.38
Grey Reef Shark	23.87	8.42	2.59	4.68	2.1	8.33
Hammerhead Shark	39.15	22.34	18.64	31.06	15.09	25.26
Oceanic White Tip	12.9	7.15	3.74	7.42	7.66	7.77
Silky Shark	907.26	1,292.90	902.46	796.12	399.27	859.6
Silvertip Shark	6.37	0.45	0.39	0.38	0.3	1.58
Tiger Shark	8.76	2.15	1.21	2.16	0.16	2.89
Shark Unidentified	71.72	80.25	52.65	54.61	22.6	56.37
SHARK TOTAL	1,119.90	1,479.66	1,045.64	932.65	479.48	1,011.47
Albacore	1.46	7.32	9.68	1.37	0.23	4.01
Bigeye	3.66	2.37	10.69	18.96	15.56	10.25
Yellowfin	140.03	173.98	205.34	112.84	25.58	131.55
Black Marlin	10.85	4.38	3.51	9.12	2.79	6.13
Blue Marlin	53.92	113.04	65.63	64.83	16.32	62.75
Sailfish	43.85	65.9	35.16	28.69	9.98	36.72
Striped Marlin	0.99	1.23	1.69	1.13	0.65	1.14
Swordfish	49.3	77.57	86.61	56.39	21.71	58.31
Other	36.75	21.79	20.53	26.37	4.28	21.94
OVERALL TOTAL	1,460.72	1,947.22	1,484.46	1,252.35	576.57	1,344.26

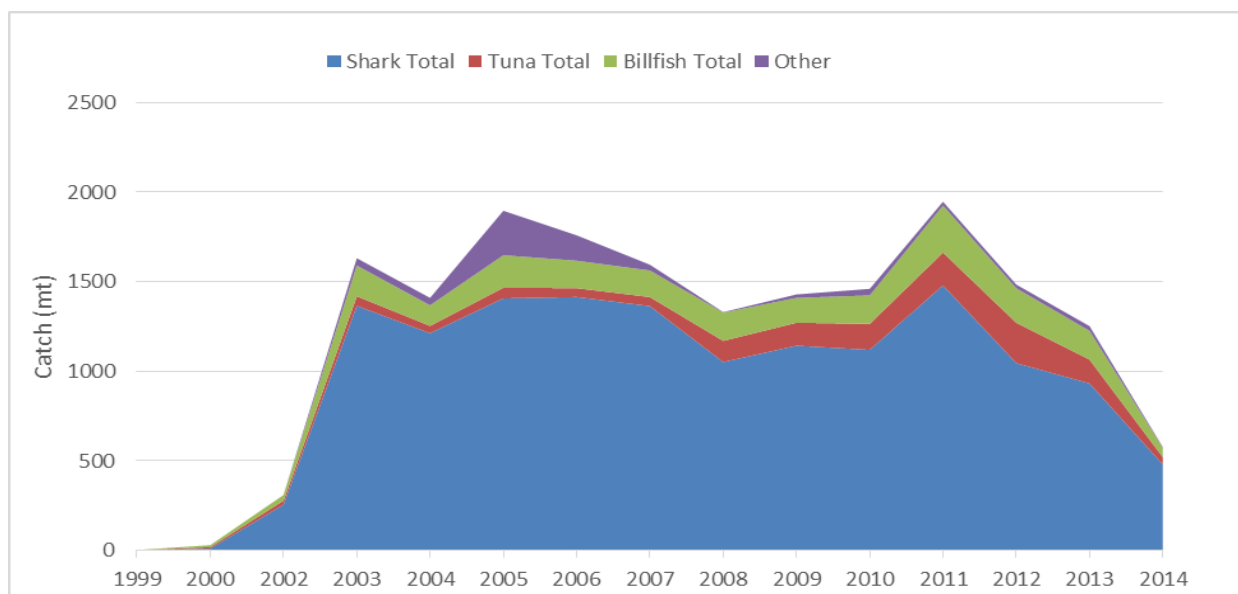


Figure 4a: Catch estimate by shark longline vessels. Data source: NFA

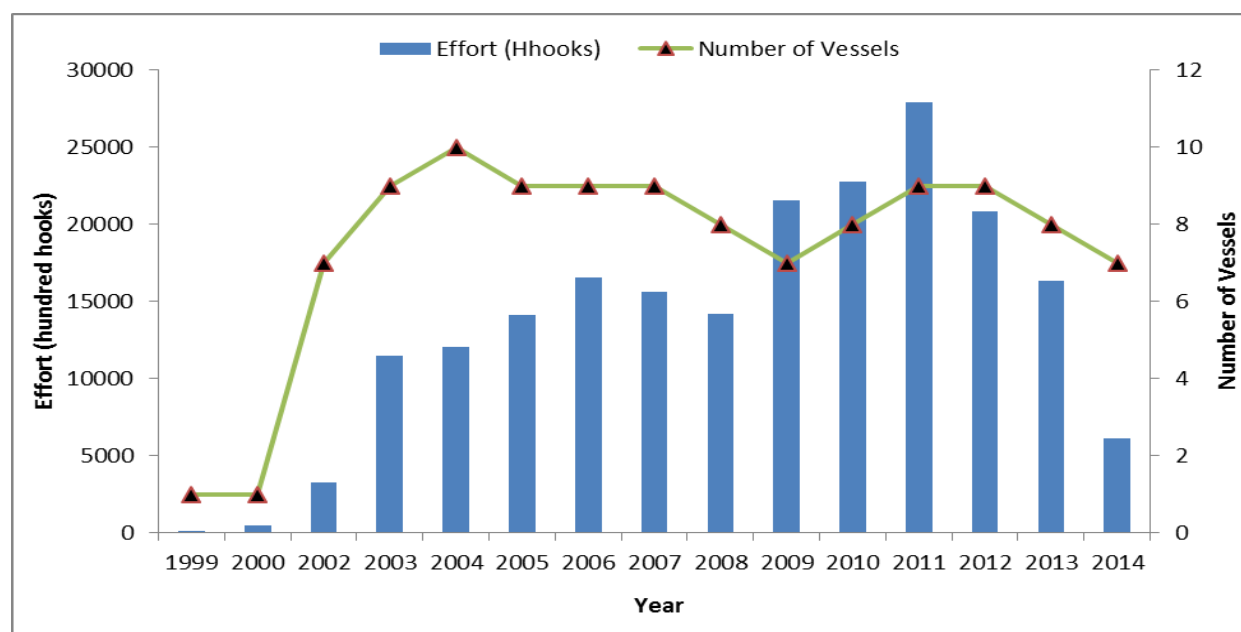


Figure 4b: Effort estimates (hhooks) and the number of shark longline vessels. Data source: NFA

6.4 Handline

The trial on handline fishery commenced in 2005 with an initial fleet of 10 pump-boats. By 2009, the number of active vessels had declined to 5 vessels primarily due to high operational costs associated with artisanal fishing during the early stages of the fishery.

The pump-boats were solely owned and operated by local fishers. Despite some growth potential,

most vessels ceased operations within a few years. Annual catch by these vessels was relatively small, typically not exceeding 10 metric tonnes (estimated), and was marketed to domestic fish processing companies and local supermarkets. At present, no handline fishery exists in PNG, and there are no pump-boats currently operating in PNG waters.

7. Socio-Economic Factors

Papua New Guinea is focused on building its domestic tuna industry to an extent where the socio-economic benefits generated from the domestic tuna industry can offset those that are currently obtained from the bilateral access arrangements.

Some of the government's main focus areas include increase downstream processing of tuna products and value adding, increase employment, increase export earnings, improve enabling infrastructure and improve industry operating environment. The government is also looking at expanding and enhancing International Trade and market access for fishery products as well as supporting, maintaining and encouraging genuine Foreign Direct Investment, and optimization of national participation in the tuna fishery and processing sector.

The government of PNG is now working in collaboration with members within the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) under the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi) in implementing FFA Leaders directives to optimize socio-economic returns from their shared tuna resources.

8. Exports

The quantity of processed tuna products exported from the PNG domestic industry has been steadily increased since the 90's, surpassing 100,000 mt from 2012 onward. Peak export quantity were recorded in 2014 and 2020, reaching slightly above 200,000 tonnes with corresponding export revenues of approximately USD 440 million and USD 424 million, respectively. The export quantities and values have been largely driven by market demands and availability of suitable raw materials, specifically, market preferred tuna sizes for processing. The sharp decline in production in 2015 was attributed to reduced catches within PNG's national waters, primarily due to the El Nino southern oscillation. The downward trend in export quantities after 2020 has been linked to the scaling down of operations in several domestic processing plants. This contraction was influenced by the challenging financial and operational environment brought on by the Russian-Ukraine conflict, which disrupted global supply chain and economic stability. The majority of PNG's tuna export consist of canned and frozen processed tuna products (*Figure 5b*).

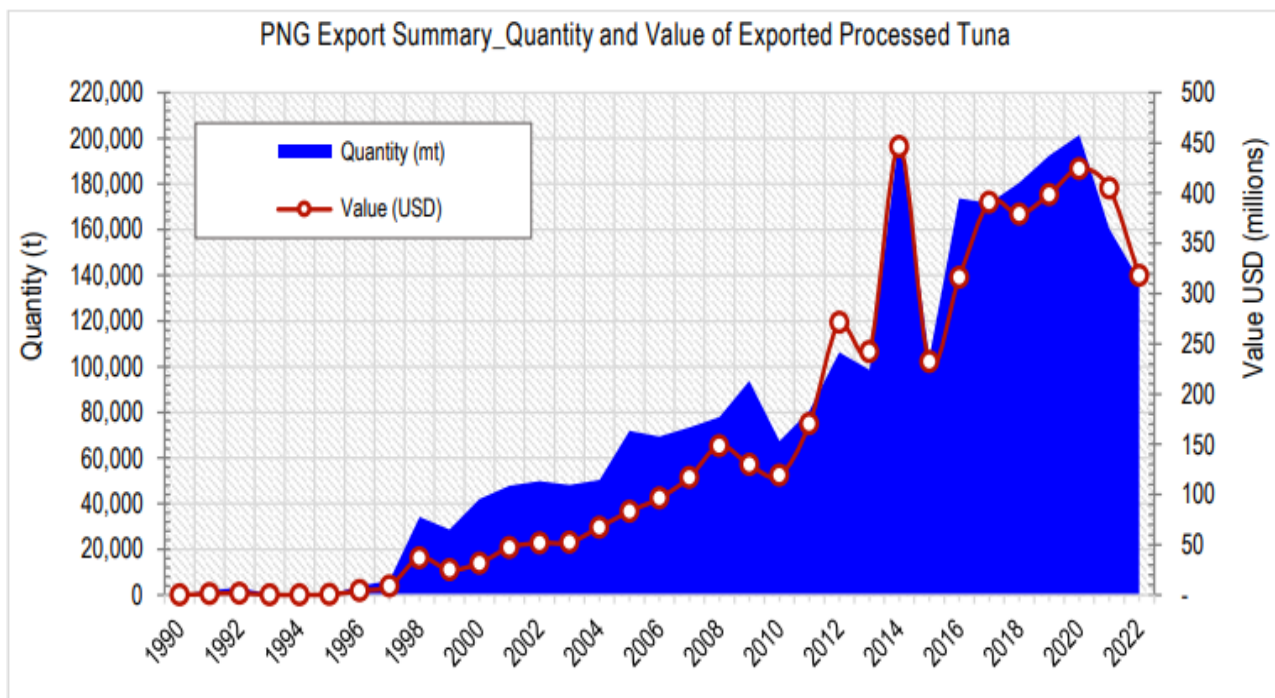


Figure 5a: Quantity (tons) and value (USD) of processed tuna export products by domestic companies. Data source; NFA

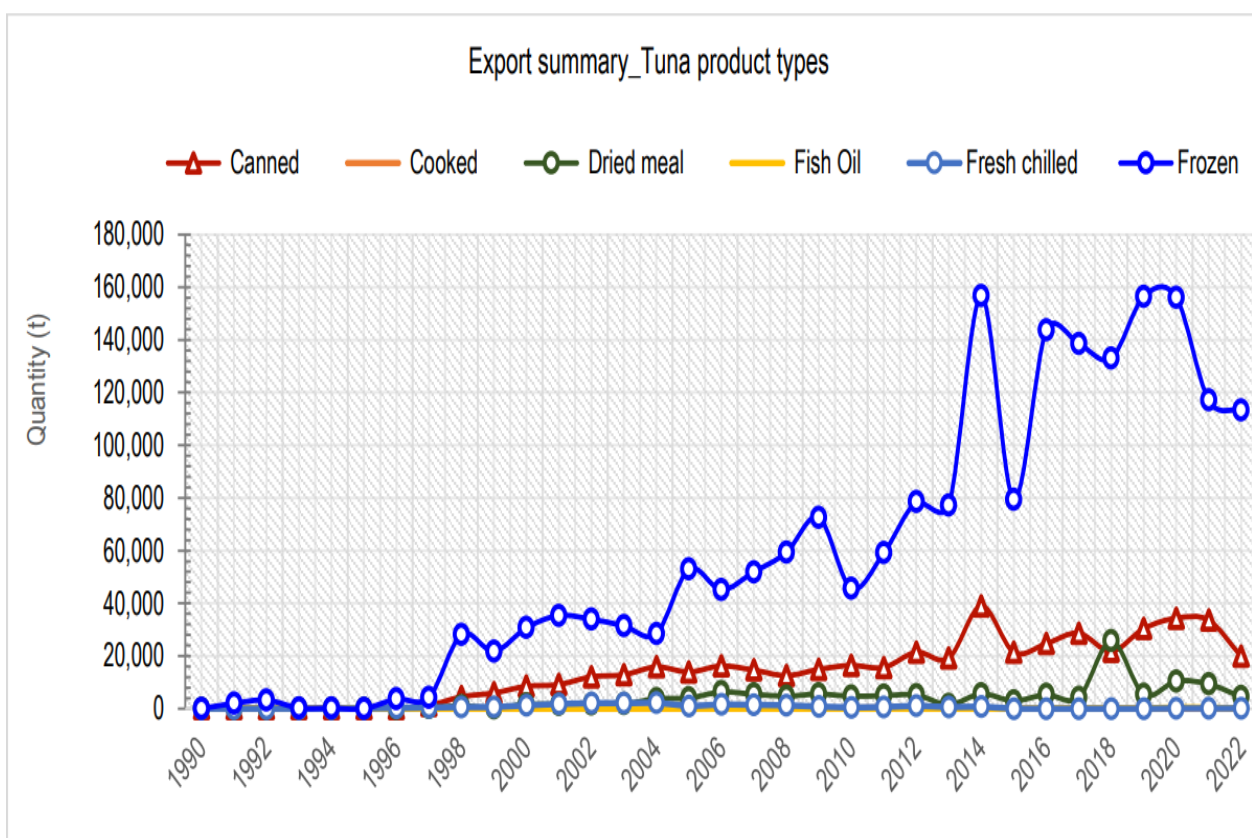


Figure 5b: Quantity of exports by processed product type. Data source; NFA



ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1

8 April 2024³

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

<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:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>b. vessels operating under charter, lease or other similar mechanism as part of their domestic fishery south of 20°S; and</p> <p>c. any other vessels fishing within their waters south of 20°S.</p> <p>This information shall be provided in Part 1 of 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><i>*Note: WCPFC11 confirmed a common understanding that “total catch” in this reporting requirement refers to both targeted and bycatch catches of swordfish.</i></p> <p>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted the required information contained in the template in Annex 2 of CMM in its AR Pt 1.</p>	<p>There were no fishing activities conducted by the PNG National Fleet south of 20° South. As a result, there were no catch or effort directed at swordfish or any other bycatch species in that area.</p>																															
<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>A sample report format is provided as guidance to assist CCMs with reporting (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 4)</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</th><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th colspan="3">No. of Hooks</th><th colspan="3">Days Fished</th><th colspan="3">Days at Sea</th></tr><tr><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th><th>Total estimated</th><th>Observer</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</td><td>Distant-water</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>23,632</td><td>1,575</td><td>6.6%</td></tr></table>	CCM Fleet	Fishery	No. of Hooks			Days Fished			Days at Sea			Total estimated	Observer	%	Total estimated	Observer	%	Total estimated	Observer	%	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Distant-water							23,632	1,575	6.6%	<p>Refer to Table A3 for detail information on PNG LL National Fleet Observer Coverage.</p>
CCM Fleet	Fishery			No. of Hooks			Days Fished			Days at Sea																							
		Total estimated	Observer	%	Total estimated	Observer	%	Total estimated	Observer	%																							
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Distant-water							23,632	1,575	6.6%																							

³ Reporting requirements requested by CMMs and decisions of the Commission, as of WCPFC20 (Dec 2023). First issued on 8 April 2024. Changes made from Addendum for 2022 include the revised CMM 2023-03 for North Pacific Swordfish and WCPFC20 Agreed Audit Points.

CMM 2009-06
[Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)

CCMs shall report on all transshipment activities covered by this Measure (including transshipment 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.

WCPFC15 Outcome document para 48: The Commission agreed to the TCC14 recommendation that the template provided in TCC14-2018-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).

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.

Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission:

(1) 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:

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						
received						

(2) 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:

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				
received				

Transshipment activities were carried out in the PNG ports in year 2024.

AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms receipt by the CCM in AR Pt 1 of the required information in the prescribed format contained at Annex II of CMM 2009-06, and confirms that the report includes the required information for all CCM transshipment events in the Convention Area of all HMFS covered by the Convention, as well as HMFS taken in the Convention Area and transhipped outside the Convention Area, in accordance with paras 10, 11, and 12 of CMM 2009-06.

[CMM 2009-06](#)
[Transshipment], Para 11
(ANNEX II)

CMM 2009-06 ANNEX II
TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED ANNUALLY BY
CCMs

Each CCM shall include in Part 1 of its Annual Report to the Commission:

(1)

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:

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 transshipped outside the Convention Area;

d.

caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the Convention Area;

e.

species;

f.

product form; and

g.

fishing gear used

(2)

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:

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; and

e.

fishing gear.

<p><u>CMM 2011-03</u> [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>AUDIT POINT [RP] Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report on instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of flagged vessels and as reported in ARPt1 under para 2(b) of CMM.</p>	<p>A total of 37 instances were recorded of purse seine PNG purse seine vessels interaction with seven (7) species of cetaceans.</p>
<p><u>CMM 2018-03</u> [Seabirds] Para 13</p>	<p>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 below for Part 1 reporting template guideline). These reports shall include information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report using the reporting template in Annex 2 of CMM 2018-03 on seabird interactions reported or collected by observers.</p>	<p>There was only 1 PNG LL fishing vessels operating in the year 2024. There was no reported cases of seabird interaction in the 2024 fishing period.</p>

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, summarising 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).

Year	Fishing effort				Observed seabird captures	
	Number of vessels	Number of hooks	Observed hooks	% hooks observed	Number	Rate ²
[year]						
[year]						
[year]						
[previous year e.g. 2017]						
[current year e.g. 2018]						

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

2 Provide data as captures per one thousand hooks.

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-30°S	25°S to 23°N	North of 23°N		
	No mitigation measures						
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°N	SS/BC/WB/DSLS						
	SS/BC/WB/(MOD or BDB)						
Provide any other combination of mitigation measures here							
	Totals (must equal 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	Total
E.g. Antipodean albatross					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
[species name]					
Total					

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

<p><u>CMM 2006-04</u> [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>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted in its ARPt1:</p> <p>a. the number of its flagged vessels that fished for MLS south of 15S between 2001-2004 and has nominated the maximum number of its flagged vessels that are permitted to continue to fish for MLS south of 15S</p> <p>b. the catch levels of CCM flagged vessels that have taken MLS as a bycatch</p> <p>the number and catch levels of its vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S.</p>	<p>There were no PNG vessels fishing targeting South West Pacific Strip Marlin south of 15° South in the 2024 fishing period.</p>
<p><u>CMM 2015-02</u> [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>WCPFC20 Outcome: The Commission agreed that the term “actively fishing for” used in CMM 2015-02 is applied to: ‘Vessels fishing south of 20 degrees South with an annual catch of albacore in that area with South Pacific albacore greater than 50% of the catch of potential target tuna (albacore, yellowfin and bigeye, southern bluefin, skipjack) and swordfish.’</p> <p>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that the CCM submitted information on annual catch levels by its flagged vessels taking SP Albacore, as well as the number of CCM flagged vessels actively fishing for SP Albacore south of 20S, with catch levels reported by species groups.</p>	<p>There were no PNG LL vessels targeting South Pacific Albacore south of 20° South in the year 2024.</p>

<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 1: Annex I: Average annual fishing effort for 2002-2004 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific albacore in the North Pacific Ocean</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">CCM</th><th rowspan="2">Area¹</th><th rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th colspan="2">2002-04 Average</th><th colspan="2">Year</th><th colspan="2">Year</th><th colspan="2">Year</th><th colspan="2">Year</th><th colspan="2">Year</th></tr><tr><th>No. of vessels</th><th>Vessel days</th><th>No. of vessels</th><th>Vessel days</th><th>No. of vessels</th><th>Vessel days</th><th>No. of vessels</th><th>Vessel days</th><th>No. of vessels</th><th>Vessel days</th><th>No. of vessels</th><th>Vessel days</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p><i>* Note: WCPFC10 clarified that this reporting responsibility lies with the flag State</i></p> <p>AUDIT POINT [RP] The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on catch and effort by CCM flagged vessels engaged in directed fishing for NP albacore north of the equator, by gear type and days fished (effort) and by weight (catch), using the template at Annex 1 of CMM 2019-03.</p>	CCM	Area ¹	Fishery	2002-04 Average		Year		Year		Year		Year		Year		No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days																																											<p>There were no PNG LL vessel targeting North Pacific Albacore north of the equator in the year 2024.</p>
CCM	Area ¹				Fishery	2002-04 Average		Year		Year		Year		Year		Year																																																							
		No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels		Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days																																																									
<p>CMM 2023-03 [North Pacific Swordfish], para 4</p>	<p>All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of North Pacific swordfish in the Area and all fishing effort in those fisheries as well as catch and effort across the North Pacific subject to the measures in paragraph 2, by gear type using the template provided in Annex 1.</p> <p><i>Note: CMM 2023-03:</i> <i>Paragraph 2: The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort of their fisheries taking more than 200 metric tons per year of North Pacific swordfish in the Area is not increased beyond 2008-2010 average annual levels⁴⁵.</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 3 clarifies that paragraphs 2 and 4 shall not be applied to those fisheries taking less than 200 metric tons of North Pacific swordfish in the Area per year. However, if the catches of such fisheries exceed 200 metric tons in any given year, the Commission shall adopt appropriate management measure for such fisheries.</i></p> <p>Annex 1. Average annual fishing effort for 2008-2010 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish</p> <table><tr><th>C</th><th>Area⁶</th><th>Fishery</th><th>2008-2010 Average</th><th>Year</th><th>Year</th><th>Year</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	C	Area ⁶	Fishery	2008-2010 Average	Year	Year	Year								<p>There were no PNG LL fishing vessel targeting North Pacific Swordfish north of the equator in 2024.</p>																																																							
C	Area ⁶	Fishery	2008-2010 Average	Year	Year	Year																																																																	

⁴ For the US swordfish longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the maximum number of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010.

⁵ For the Chinese Taipei's coastal artisanal longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the number of vessels licensed during 2008-2010.

⁶ If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report the Area and North Pacific Ocean separately.

M		(gear type)	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days ⁷	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days

Table A1. Estimated quantity (mt) of tuna transhipped by PNG National Fleet (PG flag and chartered vessels) inside PNG ports in 2024. Report from the PNG National Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS).

a) Offloaded and received;	b) Transshipped in domestic port (quantity in metric tons)	c) Transshipped in pacific island port inside the Convention Area (quantity in metric tons);	d) Tuna caught inside the Convention Area	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear
	307,551	Nil	Reefer to Table 1b	SKJ	Frozen	PS
Offloaded	116,849	Nil	Reefer to Table 1b	YFT	Frozen	PS
	2,590	Nil	Reefer to Table 1b	BET	Frozen	PS

Table A2. Estimated number of transshipments by PNG National Fleet in 2024. Report from national Catch Documents Scheme (CDS).

Offloaded	No. of transshipment in domestic port	No. of transshipped in pacific island country ports inside the convention area	Caught inside the convention area	Fishing gear
Offloaded	625	-	Refer to Table 1b	PS

⁷ Fishing days shall be the total days of fishing (both targeting and bycatch). CCMs can consider the plural effort metrics in Annex 1 to this CMM in their entirety and in the case of fisheries that take NPS as bycatch, the metric of “fishing days” may not be appropriate for assessing the compliance with the effort control provision.

Table A3. Observer coverage for the PNG Longline National Fleet activity in 2024

CM M Fleet	Fishery	No. of Hooks			Days Fished			Days at Sea			No. of Trips		
		Total Estimate d	Ob s	%	Total Estimate d	Ob s	%	Total Estimate d	Ob s	%	Total Estimate d	Ob s	%
PNG	Longlin e	24 HH	-	-	66	-	-	84	-	-	6	-	-