



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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

**WCPFC-SC21-AR/CCM-26
7 July 2025**

TUVALU



TUVALU FISHERIES AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

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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1.0 ABSTRACT

Tuna catches in Tuvalu's EEZ in 2024 was mostly caught using purse seine fishing methods. The Tuvalu Fisheries Department continues to monitor and control all fishing activities within the Tuvalu EEZ. Our bilateral partners carry out the majority of these fishing activities under access agreements and regional procedures outlined in the FSMA and US Treaty.

The Tuvalu catch estimated for 2024 by the registered vessels is lower than the previous year. The total catch expected for 2024 PS is approximately 44,373 mt. The catch composition in 2024 was consistent with past tendencies, with Skipjack tuna accounting for around 39,173mt (88%) of the entire catch. Yellowfin and bigeye tunas accounted for 3,852mt (9%) and 1,347mt (3%) of the catch, respectively.

The Fisheries Department issued 132 fishing licences for the year 2024 under the category of bilateral agreements. Purse Seine has been the leading gear type for the past three years. The 132 licences do not include purse seine fishing vessels licenced under the FSM Arrangement and the US Treaty. The bilateral arrangements covered 81 purse seine vessels, the FSM Arrangement registered 93 vessels, and the US Treaty registered 15 vessels.

The Purse Seine Tuna species catches in Tuvalu's EEZ in 2024 totalled 74,517mt, with the majority being caught by vessels operating under our bilateral and regional arrangements. Skipjack tuna has dominated the catch within Tuvalu's exclusive economic zone. Skipjack tuna accounts for 67,822mt (91%) of the total catch, followed by 6264mt (8%) of yellowfin tuna and 430.71mt (1%) of bigeye tuna collected by Tuvalu's purse seine fleet.

The foreign longline fleet that continued to operate within Tuvalu's exclusive economic zone in 2024 was 1532mt. Albacore tuna has the biggest catches at 554mt (36%), followed by bigeye tuna at 433mt (28%), skipjack at 315mt (21%), and billfish at 229mt (15%). Chinese flagged vessels caught the most, with 815mt (53% of the total), followed by Kiribati hired vessels with 650mt (42%), and Fiji flagged vessels with 67mt (4%).

In 2024, there were 79 active observers in Tuvalu's observer programme (TVOB). The programme has continued its customary procedure of posting observers on purse seiners (to contribute to 100% coverage), and 13 observers have been posted on Fish Carriers.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Tuvalu-flagged vessels employed only one type of fishing method within the WCPO Convention Area in 2024. By the middle of June 2024, there were six purse seiners, but one of them was deflagged, reducing the total number of PS Tuvalu flagged vessels to five. The Tuvalu Fisheries Department manages and monitors all fishing operations carried out by foreign fishing vessels within the Tuvalu Exclusive Economic Zone in compliance with the access agreements.

In 2024, Tuvalu purse seiner fishing effort and catch were primarily centred in the Kiribati EEZ, particularly the Phoenix and Line groups, as well as Tuvalu, Nauru, and PNG EEZs, with few were fishing in the High Seas.

3.0 FLAG STATE REPORTING

3.1 DOMESTIC FLEET

The number of vessels in the Purse seine fleet remained consistent from 2021 to 2024, maintaining a total of six vessels throughout this period until mid of June 2024 when one of the vessels was de-flagged under Tuvalu. A notable trend was observed in the distribution of vessel sizes within the fleet. Since 2021, there has been a gradual increase in the number of vessels in the 1,500 GRT and above category, indicating a shift towards an increase capacity vessel.

Table 1: Number of Tuvalu Purse Seine Vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area over 2020 - 2024

Vessel Category	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0 – 500 GRT	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
501 – 1000 GRT	1	16.67%	2	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	33.33%	2	33.33%
1001 – 1500 GRT	0	0%	1	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	16.67%	1	16.67%
1500+ GRT	2	33.33%	3	50%	3	50%	3	50%	3	50%
Total	3		6		6		6		6	

3.2 CATCH DATA

3.2.1 Purse Seine

A decrease in the number of active Purse Seine vessels contributed to a reduction in total catch for this fishery in 2024. Notably, a significant decline in catch was recorded in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. Following this downturn, catch levels showed a recovery trend through 2021 to 2023. However, in 2024, a slight decrease in catch was observed, slightly due to the de-flagging of one Tuvalu flagged vessel. The catch composition for 2024, remained consistent with historical patterns, dominated by Skipjack tuna which accounted for approximately 39,173mt (88%) of the total catch. Yellowfin and Bigeye tunas comprised 3,852mt (9%) and 1,347mt (3%) of the catch respectively.

Table 2: Annual Catch estimates for Tuvalu Purse Seine fleet, by primary species and year in the WCPFC Convention Area

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ALBACORE	0	0	0	150	0
BIGEYE TUNA	614	809	1,102	297.72	1,347.28
SKIPJACK TUNA	8,384	23,898	33,798	35,647.94	39,173.71
YELLOWFIN TUNA	805	4,931	6,521	11,480.69	3,852.66
Total	9,803.00	29,638.00	41,421.00	47,576.35	44,373.65

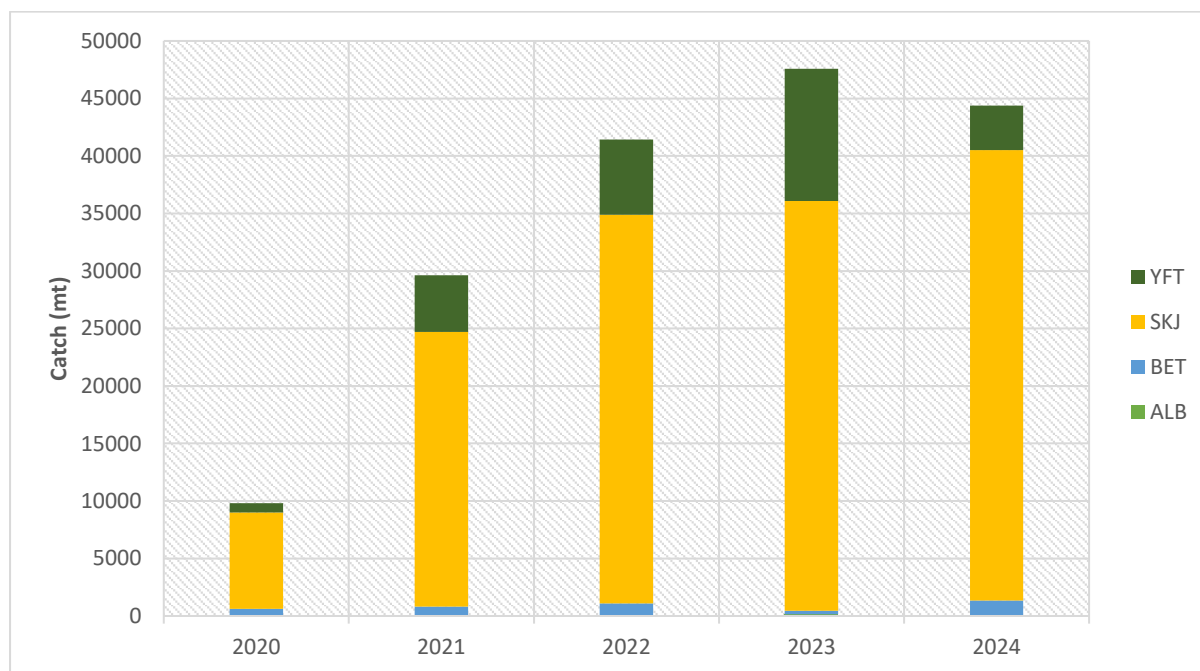


Figure 1: Annual catches target species for Tuvalu Purse Seiner for the WCPFC Convention Area over the past 5 years.

3.3 FISHING PATTERN AND DISTRIBUTION

3.3.1 Catch and Effort Distribution for Purse Seiners

In 2024, purse seine fishing effort extended across the equatorial region, covering the Kiribati EEZ including Phoenix and the Line group. The majority of the catch occurred within the EEZs of Tuvalu, Nauru, Solomon and Papua New Guinea EEZ, with additional fishing activity also taking place in the High Seas. The most abundant species caught was Skipjack tuna (Figure 2).

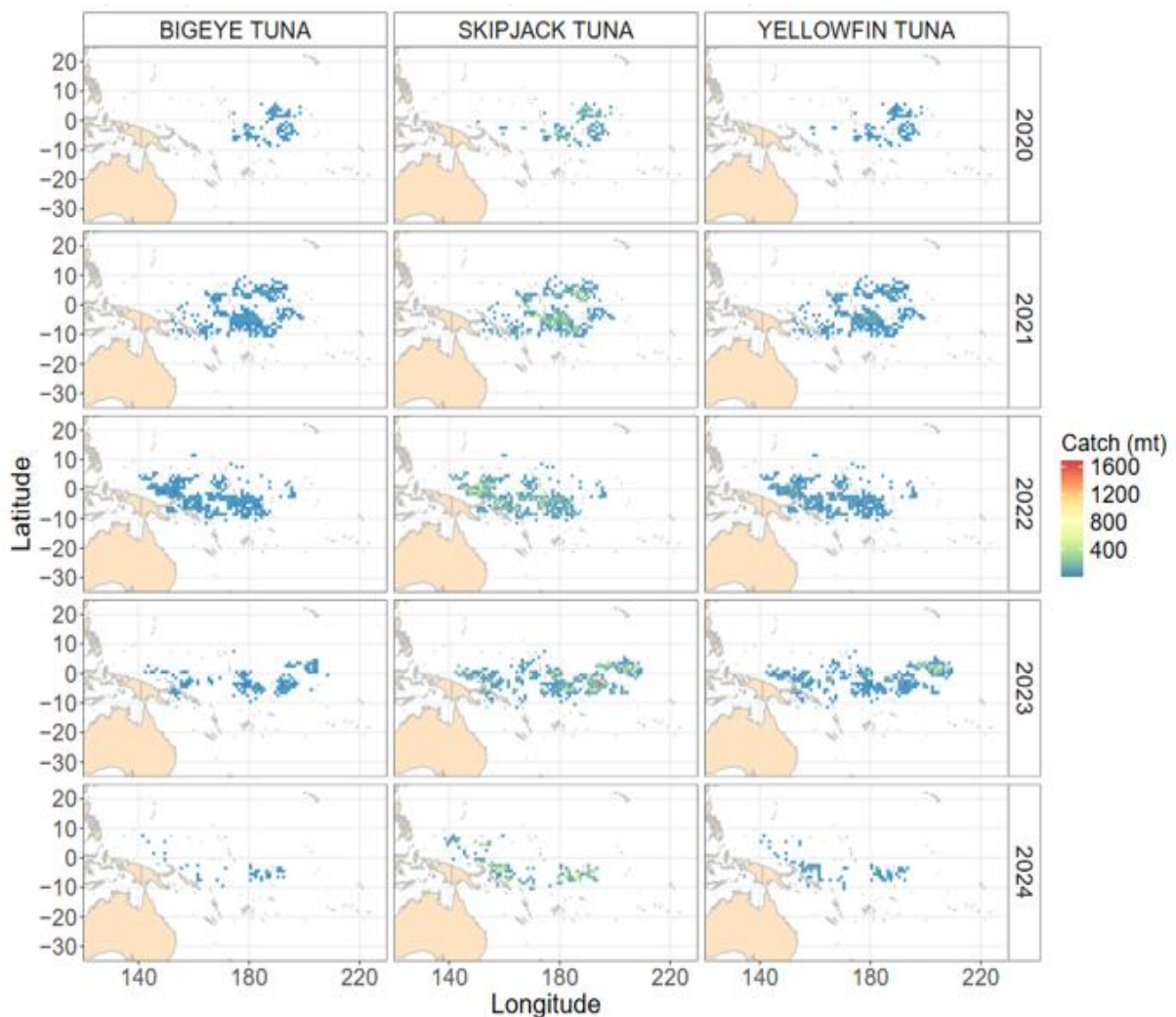


Figure 2: Spatial patterns in catch for TV Purse Seine

3.4 ARTISANAL FISHERIES

As of 2024, data collection from artisanal fisheries across Tuvalu's eight islands is ongoing, with the sector continuing to play a key role in supporting household consumption and supplying small-scale domestic markets. The raised catch estimates of three key tuna species caught by artisanal fishers are Skipjack tuna accounting for approximately 0.21mt (84%) of the total catch, and Yellowfin tuna comprising around 0.04mt (16%) and no catches for Bigeye. Both species with high catch are vital for food security and local livelihoods. The main fishing

vessels used in this fishery are small wooden skiffs and fiberglass boats, which are commonly employed for nearshore fishing activities in Tuvaluan waters.

3.5 SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The Tuvalu-flagged vessels have provided an observer report on a whale shark interaction. It was caught by accident and released unharmed by opening the net. Other species of special interest are included in the table below.

Year	Category	Species	Alive	Dead	Total
2020	RAYS	MOBULA	0	0	2
2022	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	2	0	2
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	AQUATIC MAMMALS NEI	1	0	1
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	COMMON DOLPHIN	0	0	10
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	FALSE KILLER WHALE	5	0	5
2023	MARINE MAMMALS	SEI WHALE	1	0	1
2023	MARINE REPTILES	GREEN TURTLE	2	0	2
2023	RAYS	CHILEAN DEVIL RAY	0	0	1
2023	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	7	1	53
2023	RAYS	MANTAS, DEVIL RAYS NEI	0	0	10
2023	RAYS	MOBULA	2	0	28
2023	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	4	0	5
2024	MARINE MAMMALS	BRYDE'S WHALE	4	0	4
2024	RAYS	GIANT MANTA	0	1	30
2024	RAYS	MOBULA	2	0	18
2024	WHALE SHARK	WHALE SHARK	1	0	1

Table 3: Observed annual estimated catches of species of special interest by Tuvalu purse seine fleet in the WCPFC Convention Area

3.6 NON-TARGET ASSOCIATED OR DEPENDENT SPECIES

The annual estimates of non-target species caught by our flagged vessels are provided in Table 4. According to Purse Seine data, the total catch of non-target species for the year 2024 was 78 mt.

Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BLACK MARLIN	3	0	7	11.58	3.59
BLUE MARLIN	0	3	15	10.71	11.13
BLUE SHARK	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
HAMMERHEAD SHARKS NEI	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
INDO-PACIFIC SAILFISH	0	0	0	0.00	0.21
MAKO SHARKS	0	0	0	0.10	0.00
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	0	0	0	1.36	1.01
PORBEAGLE SHARK	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH	0	0	0	0.00	0.30
SILKY SHARK	0	12	12	19.81	59.06
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	0	2.21	1.84
SWORDFISH	0	0	0	0.05	0.90
THRESHER SHARKS NEI	0	0	0	0.24	0.00
WHALE SHARK	0	0	0	0.10	0.00

Table 4: Annual catch estimates for non-target, associated and dependent species for the national Purse Seine fleet.

4.0 COASTAL STATE REPORTING

4.1 FISHING LICENSES

To operate within Tuvalu's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), all fishing vessel operators are required to comply with national laws by agreeing to the terms and conditions outlined by the Government of Tuvalu and signing an official access agreement. Licensing continued to be administered through the PNA Fisheries Management Information System (FIMS), with industry users accessing the platform via iFIMS.

In 2024, the Government of Tuvalu issued the majority of fishing licenses to bilateral partners, including the Philippines, Korea, Taiwan, China, Kiribati, and Vanuatu. In addition to EEZ access, Tuvalu also issued high seas fishing permits to its nationally flagged vessels, allowing them to operate in areas beyond national jurisdiction as part of the national fleet's offshore activities. Furthermore, access to Tuvalu's EEZ was also granted under multilateral

arrangements such as the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Arrangement, which provide regional access rights under respective agreements.

During the 2024 licensing period, a total of 132 fishing licenses were issued under bilateral agreements, as detailed in Table 5 and illustrated in Figure 4. The purse seine method remained the predominant fishing gear used over the past five years. It should be noted that the 132 licenses listed in Table 6 exclude those vessels operating under the FSM Arrangement, which are recorded separately in Table 6. Specifically, 81 vessels were licensed under bilateral agreements, 93 under the FSM Arrangement, and 15 vessels under the US Treaty.

Table 5: Number of Licenses issued for fishing in Tuvalu EEZ by vessel gear type from 2020 to 2024.

YEAR	Purse Seine	Longline	Pole & Line	Fish Carrier	Bunker	Total
2020	97	14	16	56	3	186
2021	109	27	12	26	8	182
2022	93	23	1	6	10	133
2023	96	9	0	33	11	149
2024	81	26	0	16	9	132

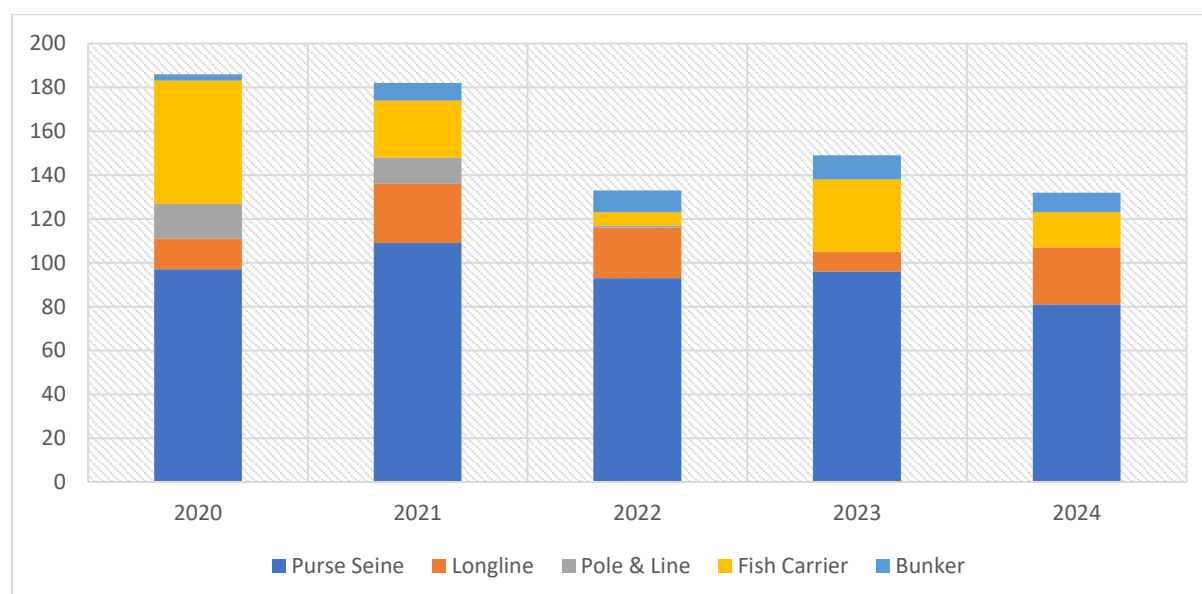


Figure 3: Annual Licensed issued by vessel gear type from 2020 to 2024

Table 6: Number of PS bilateral & multilateral licensed vessels authorized to fish in Tuvalu EEZ from 2020 to 2024.

YEAR	Bilateral	FSMA	UST	Total
2020	97	67	25	189
2021	109	83	17	209
2022	93	82	7	182
2023	96	86	12	194
2024	81	93	15	189

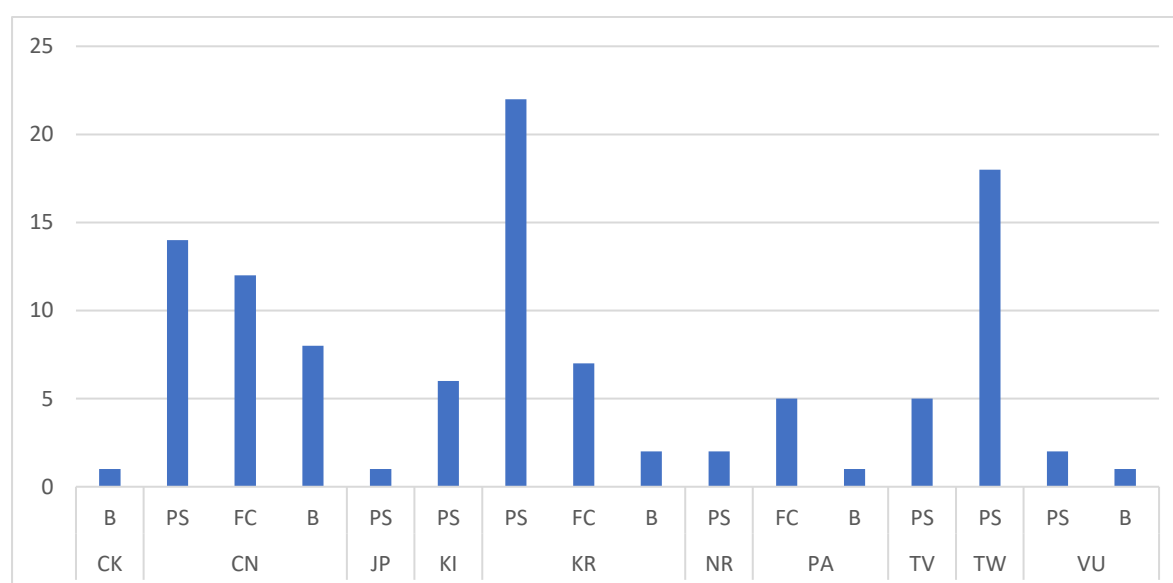


Figure 4: Annual number of licensed fishing vessels by gear and flag

4.2 TUNA CATCH IN TUVALU EEZ

Tuvalu's Exclusive Economic Zone encompasses an oceanic area of roughly 749,790 km². As a result, the Tuvalu Fisheries Department continues to closely monitor the inshore and offshore fisheries, with cooperation from regional Pacific groups.

The total purse seine catches of tuna species in Tuvalu's EEZ for 2024 were 74,517mt, caught mostly by vessels operating under our bilateral and regional arrangements, with catch by flag shown in figure 6. Skipjack tuna has dominant the highest catch taken inside our EEZ with Kiribati Flag vessels leading the table with the most catch. Skipjack tuna catches are estimated to be around 67,822 (91%) of the total catch, a 6264mt (8%) of Yellowfin tuna and 430.71mt (1%) of Bigeye tuna caught by the Purse seine fleet in Tuvalu's EEZ.

The total catches of longline fleet continued to operate within Tuvalu EEZ were 1532mt as shown in figure 7. Albacore tuna species is the highest catches of 554mt (36%), bigeye tuna accounts for second catches of 433mt (28%) mt, follow by the skipjack catches of 315mt

(21%) and other species such as billfish of 229mt (15%). Chinese flagged vessels caught the highest catches of 815mt (53%) of the total, Kiribati chartered vessels of 650mt (42%) and Fiji flagged vessels of 67mt (4%).

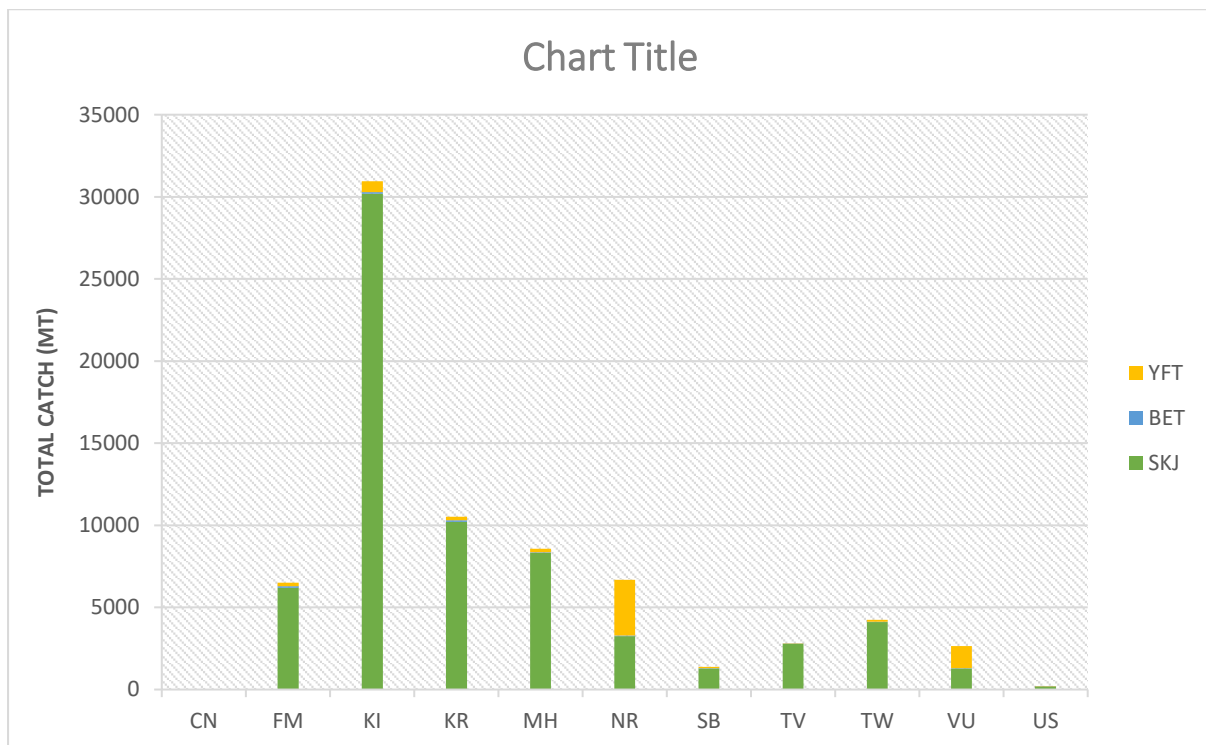


Figure 5: Total raised purse seine catches estimates (mt) in Tuvalu EEZ by flag and species for 2024
Source: TUFMAN 2

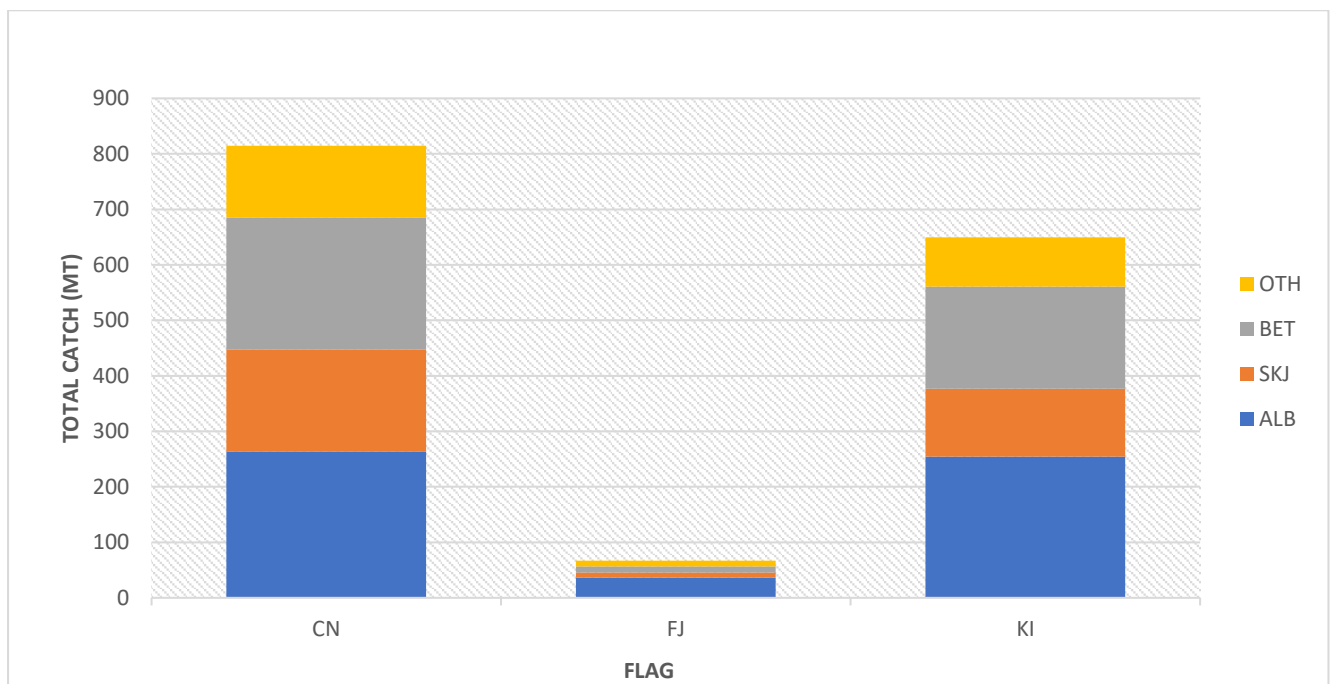


Figure 6: Total raised catch estimates (mt) in Tuvalu EEZ by flag and species for 2024. Source: TUFMAN 2

5.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC FATORS

The Government of Tuvalu receives yearly fisheries revenue from the licencing of fisheries. Maintaining government services, particularly those pertaining to health, education, and other sectors of government spending, depends on this.

6.0 DISPOSAL OF CATCH

Tuvalu and other ports in the region served as transshipment locations for the Tuvalu Purse Seine vessels. The CMM reporting Annexe contains the data.

7.0 ONSHORE DEEVELOPMENT

The National Fisheries Corporation of Tuvalu (NAFICOT), which has been reformed to meet the criteria of the Public Enterprises (Performance and Accountability) Act 2009, represents the commercial fishing interests of the GOT. The NAFICOT management was formally established in 2020 by the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Officer. As for now, the NAFICOT continuously marketing local fishermen's catches.

8.0 FUTURE PROSPECT OF FISHERY

Tuvalu presently encourages the domestication of its tuna fishery in spite of major challenges. Nonetheless, a significant step in the growth of our resources would be the ability to employ seafarers to work on fishing vessels.

9.0 STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY AND DATA COLLECTION

9.1 LOGSHEET DATA COLLECTION

The Tuvalu Fisheries Department collects logsheet data weekly via email from vessel operators. These logsheets must be supplied by the vessel operator within 7 working days for Purse Seiners and 14 working days for Longliners after the journey has been completed. For vessels unloading in Funafuti, our compliance officers gather logsheets onboard the vessels and send them over to our data entry officers, who enter the data into the Tufman 2 database. These logsheets are verified daily by authorised officers who have access to the system. According to the available data, Tuvalu Flagged Purse Seiners Logsheets have 100% coverage.

9.2 OBSERVER PROGRAM

In 2024, there were 79 active observers under the Tuvalu's observer programme (TVOB). The programme has continued their normal routine in placing of observer on Purse seiner (to contribute to the achievement of 100% coverage) and there were 13 observers were deployed on Fish Carrier.

10.0 CMM REPORTING

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

CMM 2009 -03 [Swordfish], Para 8	Not applicable – There were no Tuvalu-flagged vessels recorded fishing in the Convention Area South of 20 degree South.																		
Observer coverage (WCPFC 11 decision – para 484 (b))	There were 93.5% the number of trips on TV flagged purse seine vessel that were covered by observers. <table><tr><td rowspan="2">CCM Fleet</td><td rowspan="2">Fishery</td><td colspan="3">No. of Trips</td></tr><tr><td>Trip Estimates</td><td>Observed trips</td><td>Trip coverage (%)</td></tr><tr><td>TV</td><td>PS</td><td>62</td><td>58</td><td>93.5%</td></tr></table>						CCM Fleet	Fishery	No. of Trips			Trip Estimates	Observed trips	Trip coverage (%)	TV	PS	62	58	93.5%
CCM Fleet	Fishery	No. of Trips																	
		Trip Estimates	Observed trips	Trip coverage (%)															
TV	PS	62	58	93.5%															
CMM 2009-06 [Transshipment], Para 11 (ANNEX II)	(1) The total quantities, by weight, of highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure that were transshipped by fishing vessels the CCM is responsible for reporting against, with those quantities broken down by: <table><tr><td>a) Offloaded and received;</td><td>b) Transshipped in port, transshipped at sea in areas of national</td><td>c) Transshipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the</td><td>d) Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the</td><td>e) Species</td><td>f) Product form</td></tr></table>						a) Offloaded and received;	b) Transshipped in port, transshipped at sea in areas of national	c) Transshipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the	d) Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the	e) Species	f) Product form							
a) Offloaded and received;	b) Transshipped in port, transshipped at sea in areas of national	c) Transshipped inside the Convention Area and transshipped outside the	d) Caught inside the Convention Area and caught outside the	e) Species	f) Product form														

		jurisdiction, and transshipped beyond areas of national jurisdiction;	Convention Area;	Convention Area;		
	44,456.64MT	Honiara, Solomon Rabaul, PNG Pohnpei, FSM Tarawa, Kiribati Funafuti, Tuvalu Busan, Korea Pagopago, American Samoa Majuro, Marshall Islands	Inside the Convention Area	Inside the Convention Area	SKJ (38,286.88MT)	Frozen whole round
		Honiara, Solomon Rabaul, PNG Pohnpei, FSM Tarawa, Kiribati Funafuti, Tuvalu Busan, Korea Pagopago, American Samoa Majuro, Marshall Islands	Inside the Convention Area	Inside the Convention Area	BET (1017.2 MT)	Frozen whole round
		Honiara, Solomon Rabaul, PNG Pohnpei, FSM Tarawa, Kiribati Funafuti, Tuvalu Busan, Korea	Inside the Convention Area	Inside the Convention Area	YFT (5152.26MT)	Frozen whole round

		Pagopago, American Samoa Majuro, Marshall Islands				
(2) The number of transshipments involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by fishing vessels that responsible for reporting against, broken down by:						
	a) Offload 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 outside the Convention Area	e) Fishing gear	
	13	Honiara, Solomon Rabaul, PNG Pohnpei, FSM Tarawa, Kiribati Christmas, Kiribati Funafuti, Tuvalu Busan, Korea Majuro, Marshall Islands	Inside the Convention Area	Inside the Convention Area	PS	

CMM 2011-03 [Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans], Para 5	There were no recorded interactions or encirclements of cetaceans by TV-flagged vessels in 2024.
CM 2018-03 [Seabirds] Para 13	There were no recorded interactions with seabirds by TV-flagged vessels in 2024, nor the previous 5 years. There were no TV-flagged longline vessels operating in 2024.

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).

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.

Not applicable - There were no TV-flagged longline vessels operating in 2024

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.

Not applicable - There were no TV-flagged longline vessels operating in 2024

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					

Not applicable - There were no TV-flagged longline vessels operating in 2024

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	Not applicable - No Tuvalu-flagged vessels fished south of 15 degrees south in 2024.
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 authorization
CMM 2019-03 [North Pacific Albacore], Para 3	Not applicable - No Tuvalu flagged vessels fished in the CMM area in 2024.