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

WCPFC-SC11-AR/CCM-04

COOK ISLANDS



Ministry of Marine Resources
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

COOK ISLANDS

Annual Fisheries Report

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2015.	YES
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1. Abstract

The 2014 Cook Islands National fleet consisted of thirteen longline vessels and one troll vessel operating within the WCPFC-Convention Area, south of the equator, targeting albacore. One additional Cook Island flagged longliner and one carrier vessel were under a charter arrangement with the Solomon Islands therefore are not included in this report. Overall fishing effort in number of hooks decreased by only 3% from 2013; and the total catch of primary species was 2,238mt in the longline fishery and 21mt by trolling. Total catch of primary species increased by approximately 200 tonnes from the previous year. Albacore accounted for 55% (1,276mt) of the total longline catch within the Convention Area, followed by yellowfin tuna at 24% (553mt) and bigeye at 8% (194mt).

No vessels carried out marlin specific targeting and all catches of marlin species were taken as by-catch in the albacore longline fishery. Blue marlin was the most caught billfish species in 2014.

The retention of any shark or shark part within the Cook Islands EEZ is prohibited. Limited shark retention is therefore taken by flagged vessels fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

2. Background

In 2014, the Cook Islands tuna fishery consisted of longline fishing vessels targeting tuna and tuna like species, with one troll vessel operating in the Southern High Seas. There is a significant artisanal fishery operating out of each of the inhabited islands and a prominent historical troll catch that ceased in the mid 2000's. The majority of the longline fishing activity is concentrated in the Northern Cook Islands waters, in the areas north of 15°S. Some longline fishing also takes place in other areas of jurisdiction within the WCPFC Convention Area. Historically purse seine fishing has been conducted in the CK EEZ by US Treaty vessels only.

Albacore tuna is the main target species for Cook Island flagged longline vessels fishing in the Convention Area. These vessels are generally based out of Pago Pago, American Samoa. Their catch is mostly unloaded to the canneries. They may also unload some by-catch species in Apia, Western Samoa and in Rarotonga, Cook Islands for the domestic market, or export via local Cook Island agents.

Two small locally based vessels operate out of Rarotonga and target a range of species that caters mainly for the local market with some exports to Japan, New Zealand and the USA. These vessels are below 80mt GRT and operate typically within 100nm of Rarotonga.

One longliner and one carrier vessel were chartered to the Solomon Islands during 2014, as such; all catches taken within the Solomon Islands EEZ associated with these vessels are not included here. Similarly, any observer coverage on board these vessels is excluded from the Cook Islands National Longline fleet observer coverage.

As of December 2012, the entire Cook Islands EEZ was declared a shark sanctuary, prohibiting the targeting or capturing of any shark species.

3. FLAG SATE REPORTING

3.1 Catch and Effort Trends

Total effort in the WCPFC-CA is approximately 5.3 million hooks (Table 1a), with approximately 5.2 million hooks of effort attributed to the CK EEZ (Table 1b). The total 2014 National Fleet catch of tuna and billfish within the Convention Area has decreased from previous years and is below the 2010-2014 average (Figure 1). The peak in total catch and effort during 2012 is an indication of the 17 additional chartered longline vessels introduced for a bigeye and swordfish Exploratory Program (Figure 1). The vast majority of Cook Islands fleet catches are taken within the Cook Islands EEZ with less than 3% taken beyond the EEZ in 2014 (Table 1b).

Albacore remains the primary catch species of the National Fleet within the WCPFC-CA, comprising 55% of the total 2014 catch, indicating a 14% decrease in albacore catch from the previous year. This may be attributed to the removal of two longliners from the Cook Islands National fleet. Yellowfin tuna catch increased by 33% from 2013 to 2014, while total bigeye catch decreased to 8% (Figure 2).

The Cook Islands artisanal fleet operates out of each inhabited island. Yellowfin tuna is the main target species of the artisanal fishery with more than 116mt of YFT caught in 2014 (Table 1a). Trolling, handlining, and spearfishing are the most common fishing methods used by artisanal fishers. There is no mandate for artisanal fishers to provide catch and effort data, therefore all artisanal data is un-raised and is based on reported catches from each of the twelve inhabited Cook Islands where artisanal fishing takes place.

The total raised shark logsheet catch estimates for the National longline fleet within the WCPFC-CA was 3.02mt. Wahoo is the most dominant catch of non-target species by-catch of the longline fishery totalling 48mt (Table 4), and the second most caught species in the artisanal fishery (Table 1d). Based on observer data available, there were no interactions with species of special interest in 2014.

Table 1a. Annual catch in metric tonnes and effort estimates for the National Fleet by gear and primary species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2010 – 2014. Longline catches are raised using VMS data and artisanal and troll catches are not raised.

Year	Gear	Effort	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO
2010	LL	59,851 Hhks	2,423	319	192	124	0	19	43	24	78
2011	LL	69,704 Hhks	2,182	925	394	135	0	24	39	16	41
2012	LL	156,684 Hhks	2,757	1624	693	308	0	37	93	28	140
2013	LL	62,244 Hhks	1,354	208	346	40	0	11	35	12	16
2014	LL	53,644 Hhks	1,186	184	504	137	0	11	30	19	14
	Troll	9,200 Hk Hrs	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Artisanal	32,349 Hrs	2.54	0.28	116.1	15.67	0	0.2	6.851	0	0.142

Table 1b. Annual catch estimates in metric tonnes for the National Fleet by gear and primary species within and beyond national jurisdiction in 2014. Operational logsheet data was raised using VMS data. Artisanal data is not raised.

Area	Gear	Effort	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO
CK EEZ	LL	52,229 Hhks	1,151.6	181.02	491.06	136.5	0.37	11.33	28.3	19.4	14.3
	Troll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Artisanal	32,349 Hrs	2.54	0.28	116.1	15.67	0	0.2	6.851	0	0.142
Beyond CK EEZ	LL	1,411 Hhks	34.59	3.155	13.88	1.405	0.015	0	2.6	0.15	0.92
	Troll	9,200 Hook Hrs	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

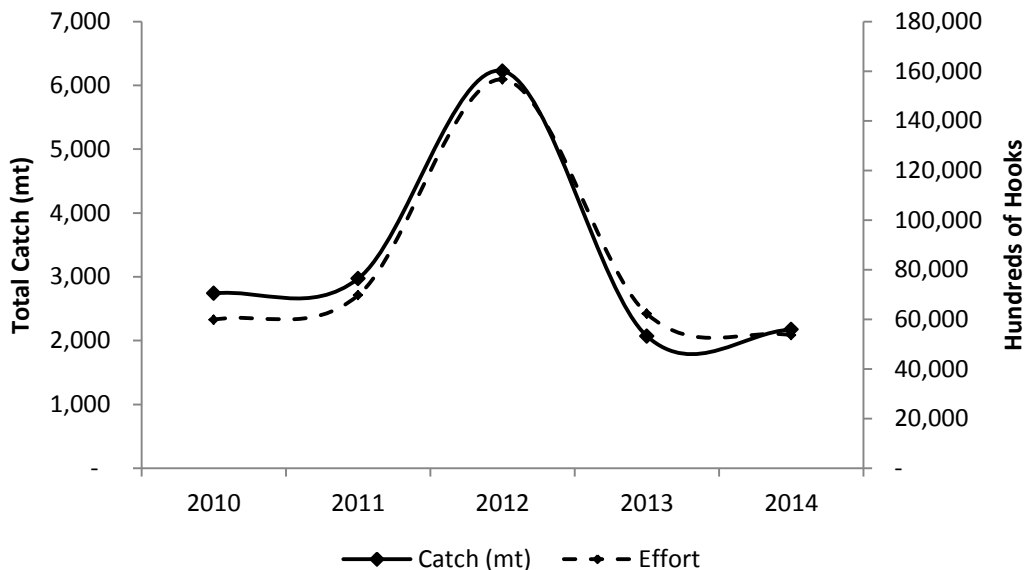


Figure 1. Historical total annual catch estimates for the National Longline Fleet for the WCPFC Convention Area, 2010 – 2014.

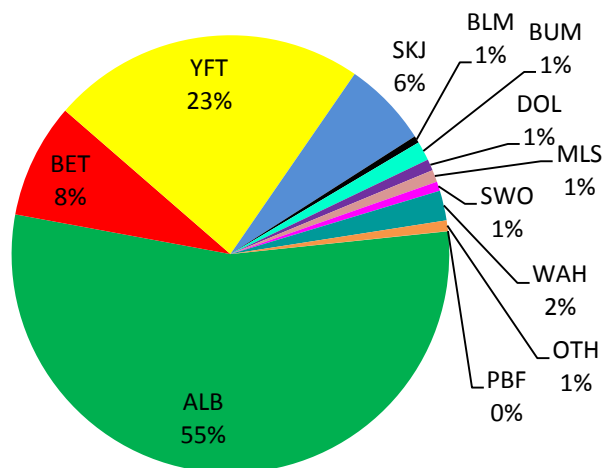


Figure 2. Total catch composition of the National Longline Fleet fishing within the WCPFC-CA in 2014.

Table 1c. Annual un-raised catch estimates in metric tonnes for all Cook Island licenced longline vessels, by primary species and broad ocean area for 2010-2014.

Area	Year	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BUM	BLM	MLS	SWO
1. WCPFC Convention Area	2010	2,066.328	170.27	293.49	60.09	0.15	23.97	8.62	8.88	30.618
	2011	2,008.63	276.30	515.70	51.69	0	18.26	9.87	6.175	16.34
	2012	2,967.19	1,603.35	713.10	310.97	1.25	95.44	29.43	36.352	124.383
	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
2. WCPFC Convention Area (Sth of Equator)	2010	2,066.328	170.27	293.49	60.09	0.15	23.97	8.62	8.88	30.618
	2011	2,008.63	276.30	515.70	51.69	0	18.26	9.87	6.175	16.34
	2012	2,967.19	1,603.35	713.10	310.97	1.25	95.44	29.43	36.352	124.383
	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
3. WCPFC Convention Area (Nth of Equator)	2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2012	0.735	56.371	4.515	0	0.024	2.672	0	0.446	5.852
	2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. WCPO Area	2010	2,066.328	170.27	293.49	60.09	0.15	23.97	8.62	8.88	30.618
	2011	2,008.63	276.30	515.70	51.69	0	18.26	9.87	6.175	16.34
	2012	2,967.19	1,603.35	713.10	310.97	1.25	95.44	29.43	36.352	124.383
	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
5. WCPO (Sth of Equator)	2010	2,066.328	170.27	293.49	60.09	0.15	23.97	8.62	8.88	30.618
	2011	2,008.63	276.30	515.70	51.69	0	18.26	9.87	6.175	16.34
	2012	2,967.19	1,603.35	713.10	310.97	1.25	95.44	29.43	36.352	124.383
	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91
6. WCPO (Nth of Equator)	2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2012	0.735	56.371	4.515	0	0.024	2.672	0	0.446	5.852
	2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. North Pacific Ocean	2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2012	0.735	56.371	4.515	0	0.024	2.672	0	0.446	5.852
	2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. South Pacific Ocean	2010	2,066.328	170.27	293.49	60.09	0.15	23.97	8.62	8.88	30.618
	2011	2,008.63	276.30	515.70	51.69	0	18.26	9.87	6.175	16.34
	2012	2,967.19	1,603.35	713.10	310.97	1.25	95.44	29.43	36.352	124.383
	2013	1,341.04	200.20	337.83	38.74	0.09	33.47	13.33	11	17.578
	2014	1,186.20	184.15	504.95	137.90	0.37	30.93	11.33	19.55	14.91

Table 2. Annual catch estimates in metric tonnes for the National Longline Fleet in the WCPFC Convention Area for non-target and by-catch species (including sharks) for 2014. Shark estimates are raised logsheet catch estimates.

2014	SSP	SFA	DOL	LAG	OIL	WAH	BSH	FAL	OCS	MAK	THR	SHK	OTH
	3.34	0.83	18.85	10.11	0.78	48.8	1.85	0.74	0.32	0.04	0.07	0	23.4

3.2 Catch and Effort Spatial Distribution

In 2014, almost 97% of all National Longline Fleet fishing effort took place within the Cook Islands EEZ. Effort from the National Fleet is quite distinct between the northern and southern fisheries delineated around 15°S. There is a prominent band of fishing effort from the North West and northern central zones of the EEZ with increased yellowfin catch west of Pukapuka Island. This pattern is typically attributed to the fact that most Cook Island flagged vessels operate out of Pago Pago, American Samoa conducting shorter, more frequent trips to the CK EEZ and therefore not travelling very far into the zone. Approximately 3% of the total national fleet fishing catch was taken within Niue waters. A small amount of effort around Rarotonga is ascribed by the small domestic fleet that operates out of Avatiu (Figure 3a).

2013 annual catch and effort distribution (Figure 3b) follows a similar trend to that of 2014, with most effort being concentrated within the CK EEZ, and minimal pockets of effort attributed to other areas of national jurisdiction and the high seas. The swordfish and bigeye exploratory program in 2012 however, had a much larger catch of bigeye, both in zone and on the high seas (Figure 3c). This is because of the arrangement that allowed all catch of the Chinese charter vessels be attributed to the Cook Islands during their 2012 licencing period.

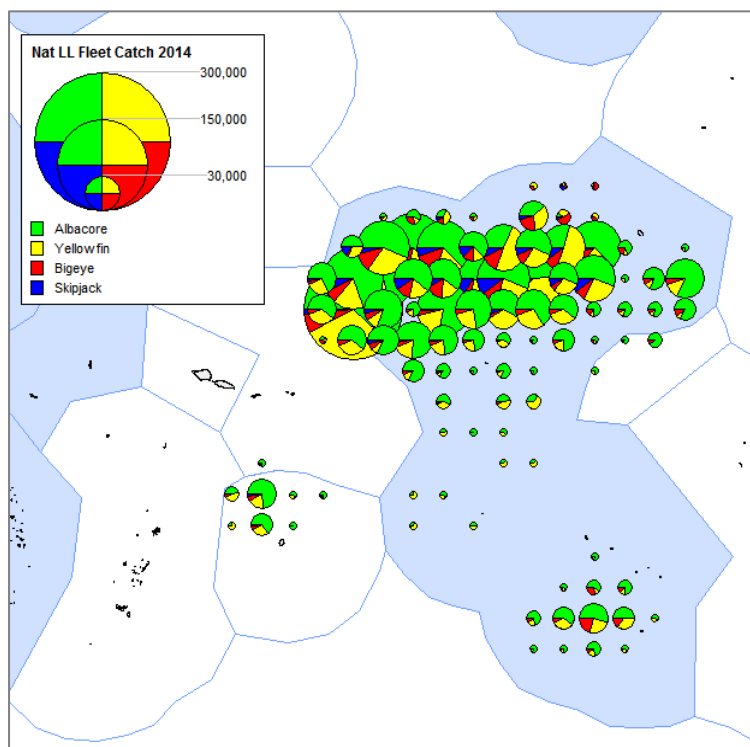


Figure 3a. Catch distribution (1° x 1°) of key tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2014.

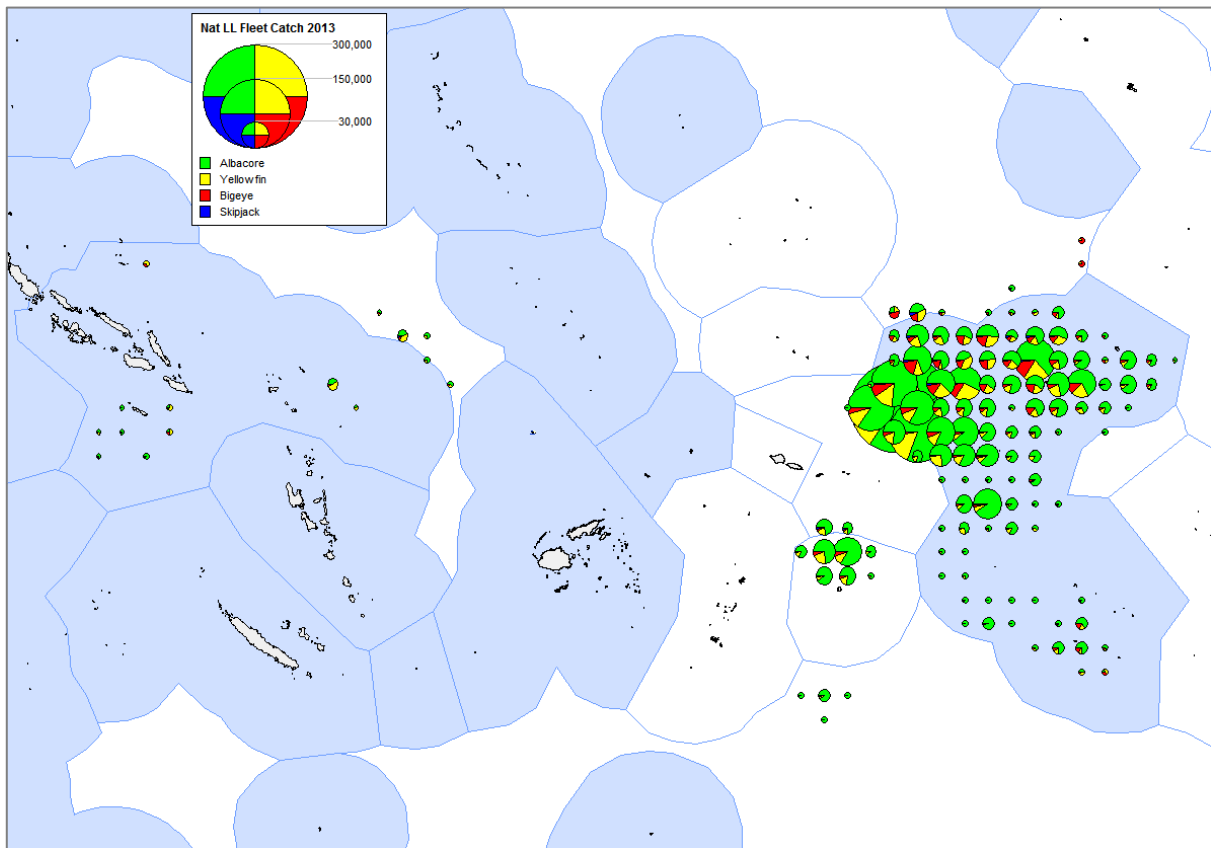


Figure 3b. Catch distribution ($1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$) of tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2013.

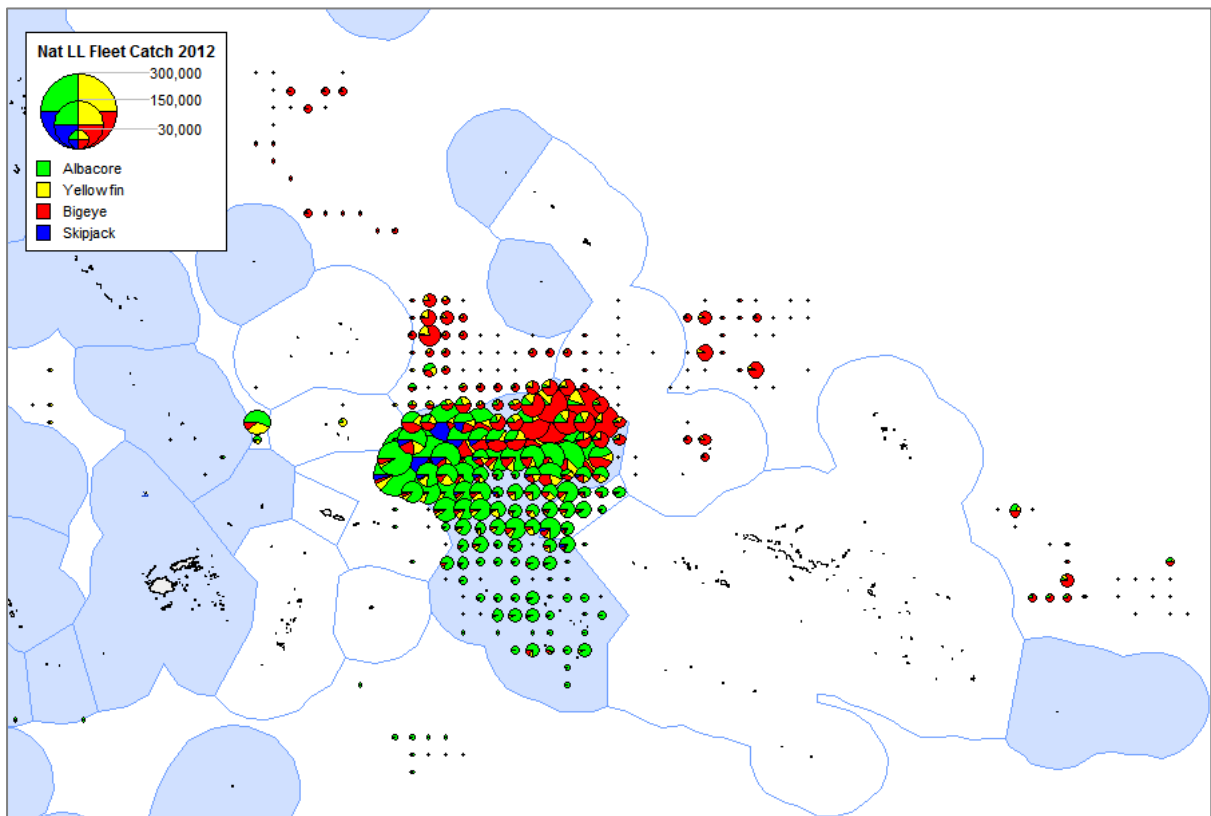


Figure 3c. Catch distribution ($1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$) of tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2012.

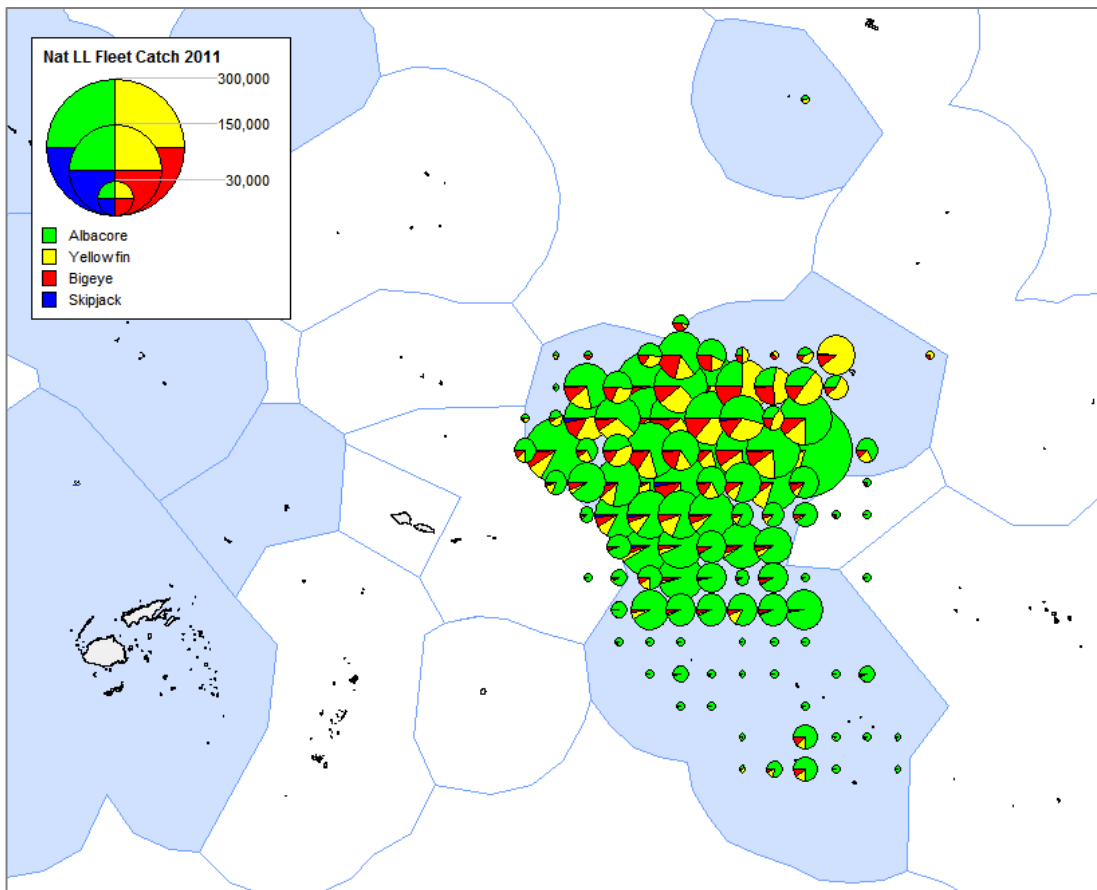


Figure 3d. Catch distribution (1° x 1°) of tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2011.

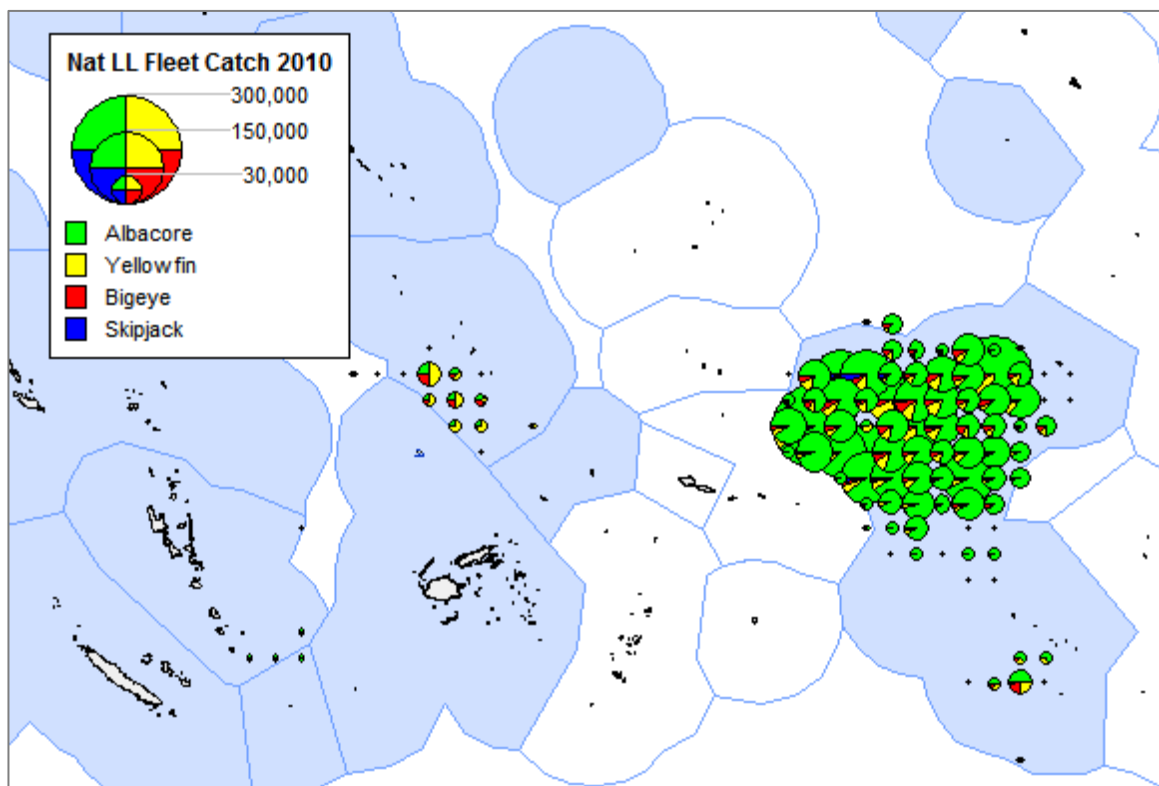


Figure 3e. Catch distribution (1° x 1°) of tuna species for the National Longline Fleet within the WCPFC-CA 2010.

3.3 Licencing and Fleet Structure

In 2014, the Cook Islands National fleet consisted of fourteen longline vessels and one additional longline vessel that operated as a troll vessel in the Southern High Seas within the WCPFC-Convention Area. Fourteen Cook Islands flagged vessels were active and authorised to fish within the Convention Area. Among these, two domestically based vessels were licenced to fish within national jurisdiction only. Twelve vessels were authorised to fish both within the Cook Islands EEZ and the High Seas, though rarely fished beyond the waters of national jurisdiction. The majority of the National Fleet vessels were between 51 and 200 GRT (Table 3). All vessels licenced to fish in zone are prohibited to fish with 12nm (territorial seas) of all islands and 24nm of Rarotonga.

Table 3. Number of National Fleet vessels by gear, size and authorised area, active within the WCPFC Convention Area 2010-2014.

Year	00-50 GRT		51-200 GRT		201-500 GRT		500+ GRT		Total
	LL	Troll	LL	Troll	LL	Troll	LL	Troll	
2010	2		12		3		0		17
2011	2		19		3		0		24
2012	8		30		3		0		41
2013	2		19		3		0		24
2014	0		12	1	1		0		14

4. COASTAL STATE REPORTING

4.1 Catch and Effort Trends

Foreign flagged vessel catch within the CK EEZ totalled 3,543mt, comprising 75% of the total in zone catch. Cook Island flagged vessels accounted for the remaining 25% of the total in zone catch (Figure 4). Again, albacore was the highest caught species in zone overall (4,694mt) followed by yellowfin tuna (2,115mt) and bigeye (752mt) (Table 4).

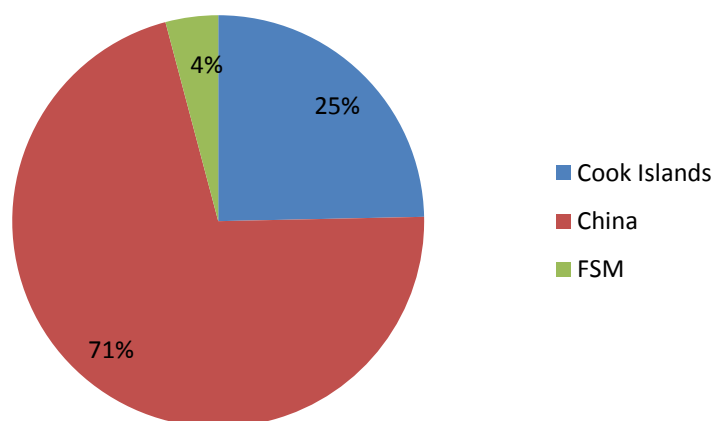


Figure 4. Total catch composition by flag state within the CK EEZ 2014.

Table 4. Annual catch estimates for all licensed (foreign and Cook Islands flagged) vessels within the Cook Islands EEZ, for tuna and billfish species in 2014. Operational logsheet data was raised using VMS data.

All Vessels	Hhks	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	PBF	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO
CK EEZ	135,020	4,694.8	752.41	2,115.7	227.2	0.57	11.7	321.2	24.5	54.2

A total of thirty-four Non-Cook Island flagged vessels were licenced and authorised to operate within the Cook Islands EEZ during 2014, of which only 24 vessels actively fished in zone (Table 5). Foreign flagged fishing in 2014 was undertaken by two Chinese companies, comprised of both Chinese and FSM flagged vessels that operate out of Pago Pago, American Samoa. No troll licences have been issued by the Cook Islands since 2009 and only purse seine licences issued under the US Multi-lateral Treaty were authorised to fish in Cook Islands waters in 2014.

Table 5. Number of active Non-Cook Island flagged vessels by gear authorised to operate within the Cook Islands EEZ by size in 2014.

GRT Range	Longline	Carrier	Bunker	Total
0-10	-	-	-	-
10-50	-	-	-	-
50-200	24	-	-	24
200-500	-	-	-	-
500+	-	-	-	-
Total	24	-	-	24

5. Socio-economic Factors

High operating costs out of Rarotonga continue to hinder domestic industry growth. Only two small scale domestic fresh fish vessels operate out of and unload to local markets in Rarotonga. Some Chinese flagged vessels continue to operate out of Pago Pago but will unload to shipping containers in the port of Rarotonga. Here, their catch is transhipped from vessel to shipping container and shipped back to American Samoa. The local economy benefits from the purchase of fuel; temporary labour to assist with the unloading's, purchase of provisions and associated port fees. These vessels are also permitted to seasonally sell frozen by-catch to local businesses. This activity allows the Ministry of Marine Resources to conduct routine port side boarding inspections and port sampling of catches.

6. Future Prospects of the Fishery

The Cook Islands commercial longline fishery is currently only limited by a cap on the number of longline vessels authorised to fish within the EEZ (50). The Ministry of Marine Resources is exploring the mechanisms for introducing a quota management system (QMS) applicable to albacore and bigeye in the longline fishery. A number of technical working groups that included support from FFA and SPC were conducted in 2014 to help develop a QMS for the Cook Islands. Pending some legislative reviews and possible changes, the system is aimed at being rolled out in January 2016.

7. Research and Statistics

7.1 Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems

a) Logsheet data collection and verification

97% logsheet coverage was achieved for the National longline fleet in 2014. Most logsheets are received as original copies via the post after the completion of a trip or, received in electronic format via email either weekly or after the completion of a trip (scanned). Unloading forms are received by most foreign flagged vessels however some reinforcement is still required for the National Fleet in submitting additional data from time to time.

b) Observer Programme

The Cook Islands National Observer Program has grown significantly in recent years. In 2014 there were seven Non-Cook Islander observers, five of which were based out of Apia and two in Rarotonga. A total of 199 observed sea days were achieved on Cook Island flagged vessels in 2014, within the WCPFC-CA with an overall coverage of approximately 9.8% (Table 6).

c) Port Sampling Programme

The operationalization of the Cook Islands Fisheries Field Office in Pago Pago in 2014 has now increased the capacity for port sampling of the Cook Islands National Fleet that operates out of American Samoa though port sampling coverage is still limited. Most port sampling occurs in Rarotonga on the small domestic fresh fish longliners that average 2-3mt per trip. Coverage of port sampling is low, but regular. Approximate coverage of port sampling of the National Fleet in 2014 was 23% (Table 6).

d) Unloading/Transshipment

A number of Chinese flagged longliners transhipped in the port of Avatiu, Rarotonga. These vessels were unloading frozen albacore, bigeye and yellowfin from the vessel to shipping containers. A small proportion of frozen by-catch (mahi mahi, wahoo, billfish) was permitted to be sold on the local market during peak tourism season. Approximately 20% of these transshipments in Rarotonga were fully monitored by Marine Resources staff and 100% of by-catch unloads were also fully monitored.

Table 6. Estimated annual coverage of operational catch and effort, port sampling and observer data for the National Fleet, by gear, active in the WCPFC Convention area for 2010 – 2014.

Year	Operational Catch & Effort	Port Sampling	Observer Data (days at sea)
2010		7.7%	
2011	77%	3.5%	1.3%
2012	82.5%	10.4%	5.7%
2013	97%	16%	8.9%
2014	97%	23%	9.8%

7.2 Research Activities

No major research activities were carried out during 2014. Opportunistic biological sampling is conducted on artisanal tuna species when possible on behalf of SPC.

Appendix 1 – CMM Reporting

Summary Table

CMM Reference	Description	Response
CMM 05-03	North Pacific Albacore	NOT APPLICABLE
CMM 06-04	South West Striped Marlin	Eight vessels fishing south of 15°S caught 229 pieces of SW Striped Marlin with a total catch of 11mt
CMM 07-04	Seabirds	According to available observer data, no seabird interactions occurred with Cook Island flagged vessels fishing in the Convention Area.
CMM 09-03	South West Pacific Swordfish	Three vessels fishing south of 20°S caught 132 pieces totally 6.42mt
CMM 09-06	Transshipments	NOT APPLICABLE
CMM 10-05	South Pacific Albacore	Three vessels fishing for South Pacific Albacore south of 20°S caught a total of 2,884 pieces weighing 58.26mt.
CMM 10-07	Sharks	Based on observer data available, there were 2 retentions of sharks and 298 discards. Raised logsheet catch estimates indicate 3.02mt of shark catch.
CMM 11-03	Cetaceans	NOT APPLICABLE No Cook Island flagged purse seine vessels.
CMM 11-04	Oceanic White-Tip Shark	According to logsheet data, all OCS (0.31mt) were discarded. According to available observer data, one OCS was discarded dead as an uneconomical species (DUS).
CMM 12-04	Whale Sharks	NOT APPLICABLE No Cook Island flagged purse seine vessels.
CMM 12-07	Seabirds	No seabird interactions were recorded from logsheets or observer data.
CMM 13-08	Silky Sharks	According to available observer data, 43 silky sharks were captured within the CK EEZ and discarded.
Observer Coverage	Longline	Observer coverage is measured using 'at sea days'. Based on an estimated 2,234 VMS days, and 199 observed days, coverage is 9.8%.

CMM 05-03 – North Pacific Albacore

THIS CMM IS NOT APPLICABLE.

No Cook Islands flagged vessels fished north of the Equator.

CMM 06-04 – SW Striped Marlin

No vessels specifically targeted striped marlin and all subsequent catches of MLS were taken as by-catch from the albacore longline fishery. Eight vessels caught 229 pieces of striped marlin; a total of 11.09mt taken south of 15°S.

Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Numbers)	Catch (MT)
CK	2012	15	99	5.175
CK	2013	10	87	3.875
CK	2014	8	229	11.09

CMM 07-04 – Seabirds

According to available observer data, no seabird interactions occurred with Cook Island flagged vessels fishing in the Convention Area.

CMM 09-03 – SW Pacific Swordfish

Three vessels fishing south of 20°S caught 154 pieces of SW Pacific swordfish at 7.59mt

Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Number)	Catch (MT)
CK	2012	8	201	6.60
CK	2013	4	185	7.54
CK	2014	3	154	7.59

CMM 09-06 – Transhipments

THIS CMM IS NOT APPLICABLE.

No Cook Islands flagged vessels (excluding those under charter by another CCM) conducted any transhipment activities within the Convention Area.

CMM 10-05 – South Pacific Albacore

Three vessels fishing for South Pacific Albacore south of 20°S caught a total of 2,884 pieces weighing 58.26mt.

Flag	Year	Vessels	Catch (Number)	Catch (MT)
CK	2012	8	2594	49.00
CK	2013	4	1165	22.12
CK	2014	3	2884	58.26

CMM 10-07 – Sharks

Noting the implementation of a shark sanctuary in late 2012, retention of sharks by any vessel in the CK EEZ is now prohibited. Total shark species catch based on raised logsheet estimates south of 20°S was approximately 3.02mt. Observer reports recorded 298 discarded species of sharks and 2 retentions.

Species	Number	Retained	Discarded
SILKY SHARK	49	0	49
OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	2	0	2
SANDBAR SHARK	3	0	3
BLACKTIP SHARK	2	0	2
PELAGIC STING-RAY	207	1	205
LONG FINNED MAKO SHARK	2	0	2
BLUE SHARK	23	0	23
RAJA RAYS NEI	1	1	0
GREAT WHITE SHARK	2	0	2
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	4	0	4
SHORT FINNED MAKO SHARK	4	0	4
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	2	0	2
Total	301	2	298

CMM 11-03 – Cetaceans

THIS CMM IS NOT APPLICABLE.

There are no Cook Islands flagged purse seine vessels authorised to fish anywhere within the WCPFC-CA in 2014. The only purse seine vessels fishing within the Cook Islands EEZ were those authorised under the US Multilateral Treaty.

CMM 11-04 – Oceanic White-Tip Shark

Based on available observer data, one oceanic white tip shark was captured during 2014 on National Fleet vessels. All specimens that were captured within the Cook Islands EEZ were discarded. According to raised logsheet estimates 0.32mt were discarded and 0mt of OCS were retained.

Gear	Flag	Species	EEZ	# of Individuals	Discarded		Retained
					Alive	Dead	
L	CK	OCEANIC WHITE-TIP SHARK	CK	1	0	1	0

CMM 12-04 – Whale Sharks

THIS CMM IS NOT APPLICABLE.

There were no Cook Islands flagged purse seine vessels within the National Fleet in 2014. The only purse seine vessels fishing within the Cook Islands EEZ were those authorised under the US Multilateral Treaty.

CMM 12-07 – Seabirds

No seabird interactions were recorded from logsheets or observer data.

CMM 13-08 – Silky Sharks

According to available observer data, 43 silky sharks were captured during 2014. All 43 individuals captured within the Cook Islands EEZ were discarded. Seven were cut free (DCF) alive and healthy (A1), eleven were discarded alive and healthy as uneconomic species (DUS), twelve were discarded alive injured and distressed (A2), another two discarded alive but dying and a further eleven individuals were discarded dead (D).

Species	Flag	EEZ	DCF	DUS					Total
			A1	A1	A2	A3	D		
SILKY SHARK	CK	CK	7	11	12	2	11	43	

WCPFC11 Decision – Longline Observer Coverage

Fishery	Year	Days at Sea		
		Total Estimated	Observed	% Coverage
CK Nat LL Fleet	2013	2612	292	8.9%
	2014	2234	199	9.8%