



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
5-13 August 2015

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

WCPFC-SC11-AR/CNM-35

THAILAND

ANNUAL REPORT TO

THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

THAILAND ANNUAL FISHERY REPORT 2014

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES



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

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 30 April 2015	NO
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions. Thailand as a Cooperating Non Member, the participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only. The commitment from Thailand to provide data from canneries located in Thailand to assist in the work of the Commission.	

I. Introduction

Thailand's Exclusive Economic Zone is rich in fishery resources. Therefore, its fishing sector has contributed tremendously to the country's economy and society. Marine fisheries of Thailand have been rapidly developed and ranked among the top-ten fishing nations in the world. Apart from generating substantial incomes and employment, it also supported the various downstream industries, e.g. ship building and fish processing industries. Fishery products are a main source of animal protein in the diet, and are an important foreign currency earner. Fishery products are not only consumed domestically, but also exported. The value of fish exported has continued to grow.

At its 11th Regular Session in 2014, the Commission, agreed to renew CNM status for 2015 to Thailand on the understanding that Thailand will cooperate fully with the Commission in the acquisition and exchange of fishery information and data. WCPFC 11 noted the need for cooperation between Thailand and the Commission and the commitment from Thailand to provide data from canneries located in Thailand to assist in the work of the Commission. **The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.**

II. Annual Fisheries Information

A. Annual Catch and Effort by Primary Species and Gear in the WCPFC

As a Cooperating Non-Member, Thailand has participatory rights limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only. In 2014, no fishing vessels from Thailand operated in the WCPFC Competent Area. Thailand has five carrier vessels listed in the WCPFC record of fishing vessels, they engage in transshipping of tuna production from this area.

B. Fishing Patterns (Catch by time/area)

In 2014, Thai fishing vessels didn't fish for tunas in the WCPFC Competent Area.

C. Estimated Total Catches of Non-Target, Associated and Dependent Species

In 2014, Thai fishing vessels didn't fish for tunas in the WCPFC Competent Area.

D. Domestic Tuna Fisheries

Thai vessels are fishing for neritic tunas in the Gulf of Thailand and in the Andaman Sea. Neritic tuna and king mackerel species in the Andaman Sea Coast, Thailand comprise 7 species (*Thunnus tonggol*, *Euthynnus affinis*, *Auxis thazard*, *A. rochie*, *Katsuwonus pelamis* and *Sarda orientalis*, *Scomberomorus* spp.). These species were caught from purse seine, king mackerel gill net and trawl, while purse seine was the main fishing gear. The trend of neritic tuna catches have been decreasing from 37,037 tons in 1998 to 8,670 tons in 2010. The production was quite stable around 11,889 and increase to 22,218 in 2011. These neritic tuna species are more or less have its production trend similarity.

E. Oversea Tuna Fisheries

Apart from regular fishing for neritic tunas within its national jurisdiction, Thailand has developed a large-scale tuna fishing fleet and ventured out to fish in the distant areas since 2000. In fact, the area of fishing operation is specifically in the Indian Ocean due to its proximity to Thailand. Three Thai tuna longliners were operated in the Indian Ocean in 2007 and in 2008-2009 only two Thai tuna longliners kept on fishing there. Fishing grounds were mainly in the western coast of Indian Ocean. During 2009 to 2013, fishing operations were recorded 2,073 fishing days. The highest total catch was in 2010 with 607.69 tons followed by 2012, 2011, 2013 and 2009 respectively (470.41, 373.44, 307.74 and 295.22 tons). The highest CPUE was found in 2010 with 13.62 fish/1,000 hooks followed by 2012 and 2013, respectively (10.83 and 10.16 fish/1,000 hooks). Bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna caught by number (and weight) were 24,126 fish (1,120.61 tons) and 10,531 fish (374.47 tons), respectively. The average percentage composition by number of the bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna were 45.17% and 19.72% and by weight 54.54% and 18.23%, respectively. The composition of bigeye tuna by fishing zones during 2009-2013 was the highest catch in the East Coast of Somalia (15,571 fish and 690.85 tons) and the lowest catch in Arabian Sea (86 fish and 3.70 tons). The composition of yellowfin tuna by zone during 2009-2013 was also the highest catch in the the East Coast of Somalia (5,527 fish and 190.62 tons) and the lowest catch in the Arabian Sea (84 fish and 3.07 tons). With respect to tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean, Thailand apparently has authorized six large-scale tuna longliners to operate in the IOTC Competent Area. In addition to the above-mentioned tuna fishing vessels, three Thai research vessels have been used to conduct scientific researches in the Indian Ocean.

Currently, Thailand still lacks of capacity to venture to operate in the WCPFC Commission area.

Having a large scale tuna canning industry and situating in a strategic location, Thailand has a pivotal policy and aspiration to operate in tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean particularly in the high seas with a view to providing steady supply of raw materials to support the need and requirement of our rapid development in tuna canneries. If such aspiration becomes successful, Thailand will be able to reduce its dependency on importing of a large quantity of tunas around the world and is capable of providing raw material to its tuna canning industry.

E. Tuna Processing Industry

Rapid fishery development has driven Thailand to become one of the leading countries in tuna industry in particular having tuna canneries and exporting of tuna products. Due to limited national tuna fishery production, Thailand has to rely on import of a large amount of tunas in order to meet the high demand of raw material in its tuna processing industry each year.

In 2014, four main tuna species have been imported to use for tuna cannery which are skipjack, yellowfin, albacore, and big eye. Overall, in 2014, Thailand imported 700,347.01 tons of tuna production with the value of 36,819.06 million Baht. Around 74% of the imported tuna production was skipjack, followed by yellowfin and albacore (Table 1). The main suppliers were Taiwan (21%), U.S.A. (16%), Japan (7%), Indonesia (7%), China (7%) Vanatu (6%), South Korea (6%), Philippines (4%), Kribati (4%) and Marshall island (4%).

Table 1 Import of tuna production of Thailand in 2014 (Ton)

Species of Tuna	Year 2014	Percentage 2014
Skipjack	520,578.21	74
Yellowfin	101,424.18	15
Albacore	50,327.89	7
Bigeye	17,527	2
Bluefin	140.66	0
Southern Bluefin	1.70	0
Other	10,347.36	2
Total	700,347.01	100

Source: Adapted from the Customs Department

In 2014, Thailand exported 586,469.16 tons of tuna canned to international market with the value of 75,276.44 million Baht. Africa was the main market which accounted for 21.1 % of the total products, followed by USA (18.8%), Middle East (14.5%), EU (9.8%), Australia (7.4%), Japan (5.7%), Canada (5.7%) and South America (5.3%) (Table 2).

Table 2 Export of canned tuna of Thailand by countries 2014

Countries	Amount (ton)	Value (million Baht)
Africa 47	123,671.21	13,226.22
USA	110,276.98	14,643.46
Middle East15	85,187.98	10,864.94
EU28	57,360.81	7,835.11
Australia	43,485.96	6,964.11

Japan	33,850.58	5,718.18
Canada	33,536.42	4,742.52
South America	31,295.20	3,384.58
Others	67,803.86	7,897.32
Total	586,469.47	75,276.44

Source: Adapted from the Customs Department