



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Fifteenth Regular Session
25 September – 1 October 2019
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WCPFC RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS

WCPFC-TCC15-2019-RP05
9 August 2019

Paper by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper presents for the consideration and information of TCC15, the annual summary of information contained in the WCPFC Record of Fishing (RFV) and the status of its operation.

Background

2. The RFV was established pursuant to Article 24 (paragraphs 4 – 7) of the WCPF Convention. Conservation and Management Measures on *WCPFC Record of fishing vessels and authorization to fish* (CMM 2018-06) and *Standards, specifications and procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV SSPs)* (CMM 2014-03) regulates how the RFV operates. The RFV is a publicly accessible list through the WCPFC website, providing a combined list of CCMs vessels that are entitled to fly its flag and are authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The WCPFC Secretariat maintains the RFV on behalf of the members of the Commission.

3. This paper, as in previous years, is an annual summary of information contained within the RFV and on the operation of the RFV. It is provided in accordance with paragraph 15 of CMM 2018-06 and paragraph 14 of CMM 2014-03. The paper covers:

- Update from WCPFC15;
- A summary of the information contained in the WCPFC RFV;
- Completeness of the fields in the RFV;
- RFV and fished/did not fished report;
- Review of RFV implementation under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme; and
- Observations and administrative notes

Update from WCPFC15

4. At WCPFC15, the Commission agreed to expand the requirements for IMO numbers so that effective from 1 April 2020, flag CCMs shall ensure that all their motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 GRT (or 100 GRT) down to a size of 12 meters in length overall (LOA), authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM's area of national jurisdiction have an IMO or LR issued. This decision is in footnote 4 of CMM 2018-06.

Summary of the information contained in the WCPFC RFV as at 31 July 2019

5. This section provides an annual summary of the information contained in the RFV as required under CMM 2018-06 paragraph 15. The RFV is continuously publicly available via the WCPFC web site at <http://www.wcpfc.int/record-fishing-vessel-database> as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 2014-03. The summary statistics, presented as graphs and tables below, are automatically updated, as the RFV changes and is reflective of what is in the RFV at that point in time. There are a number of filters that users can apply to the charts. CCMs are referred to <http://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts/types> for the latest RFV summary statistics and these can be printed from the website as pdf files.

Figure 1:

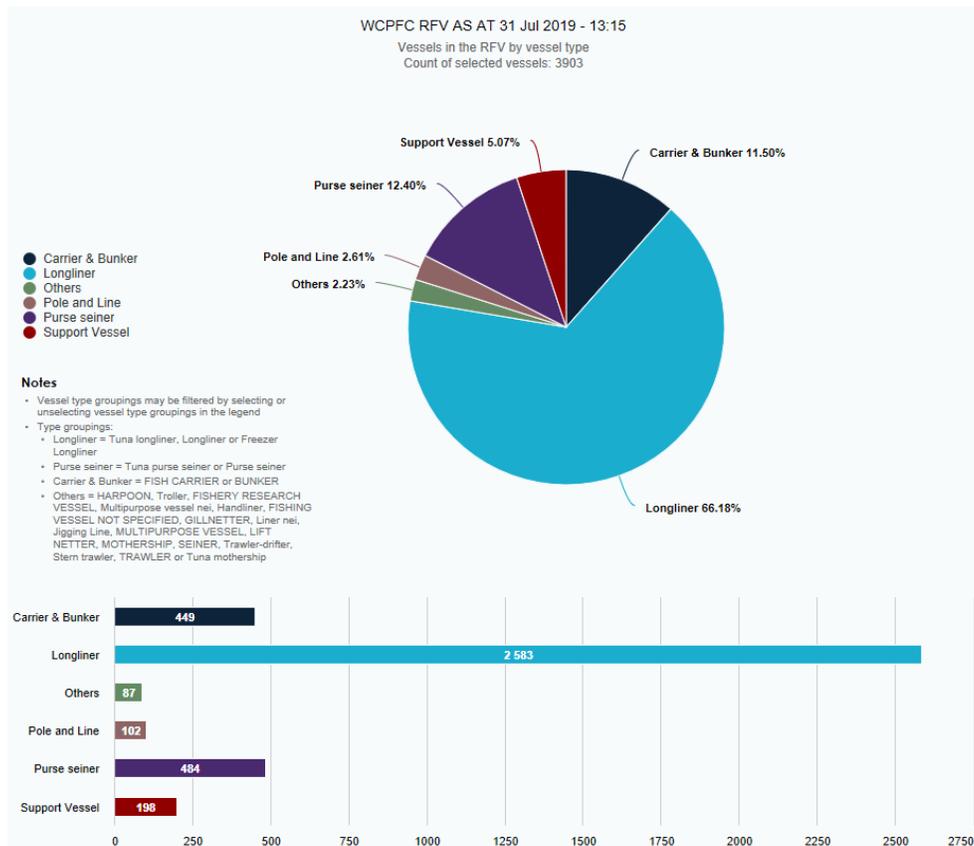


Figure 2:

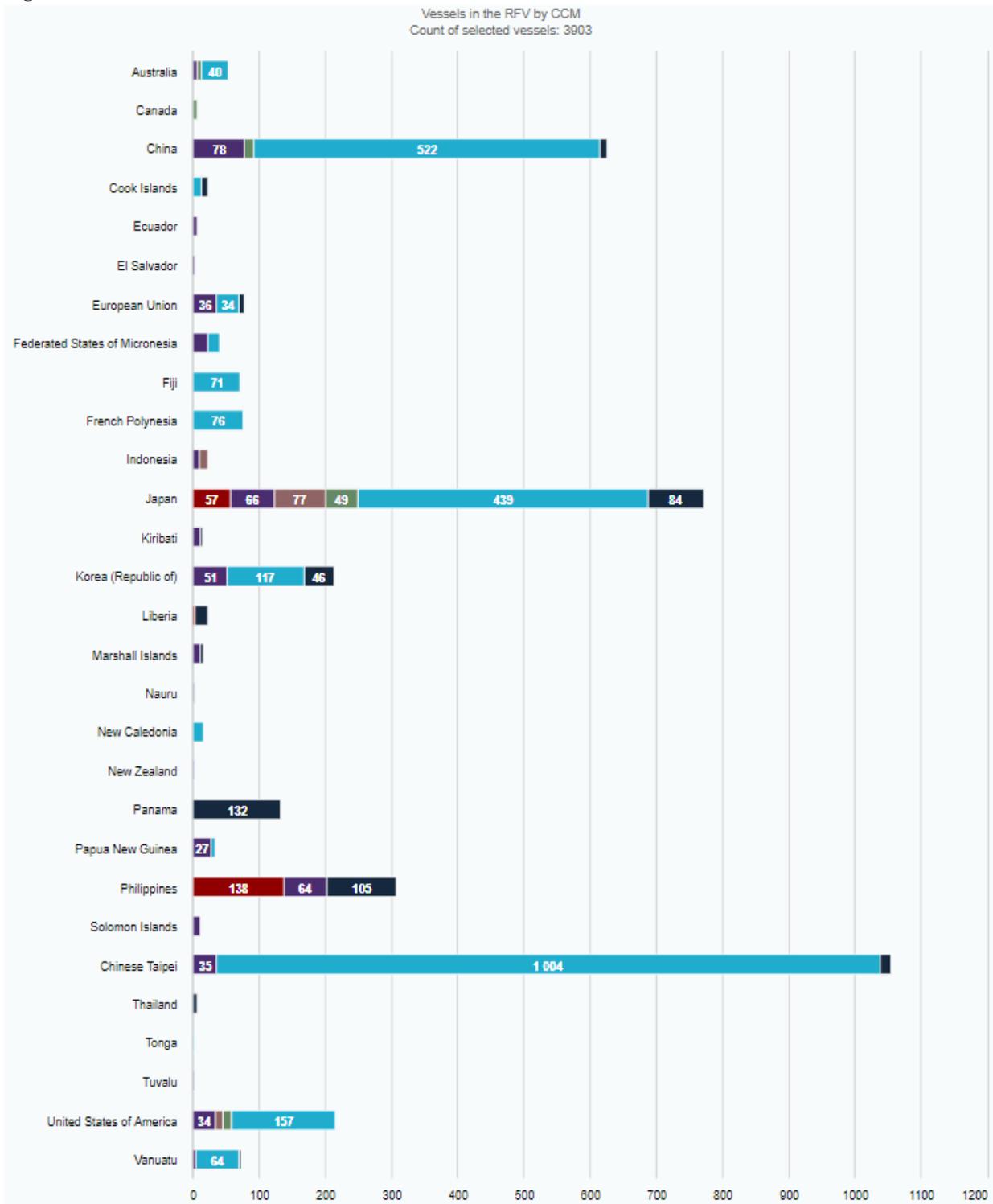


Figure 3:

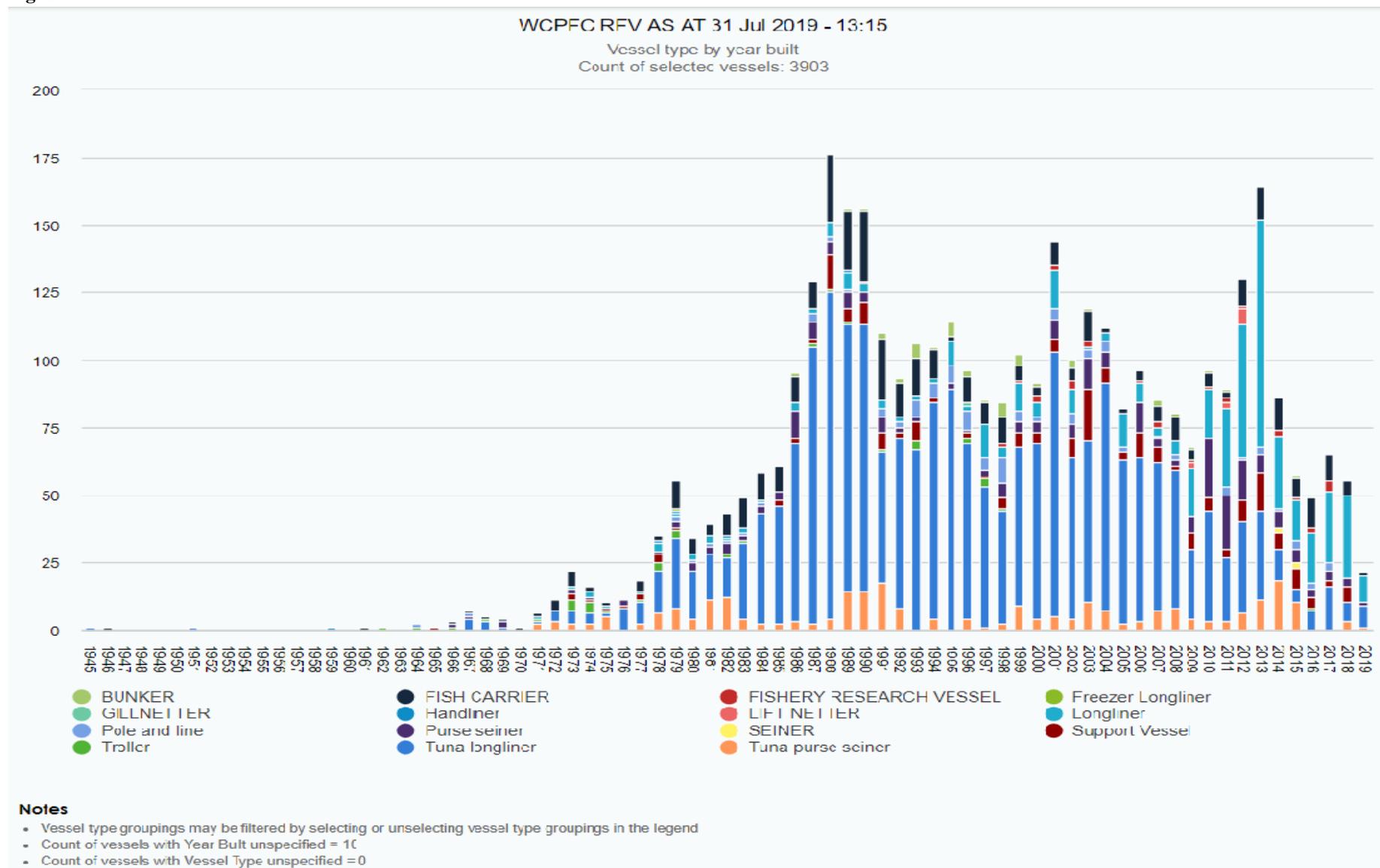


Figure 4: WCPFC RFV AS AT 31 July 2019

Number of Vessels authorized to transship (ie. field Authorisation to transship on the high seas = YES)

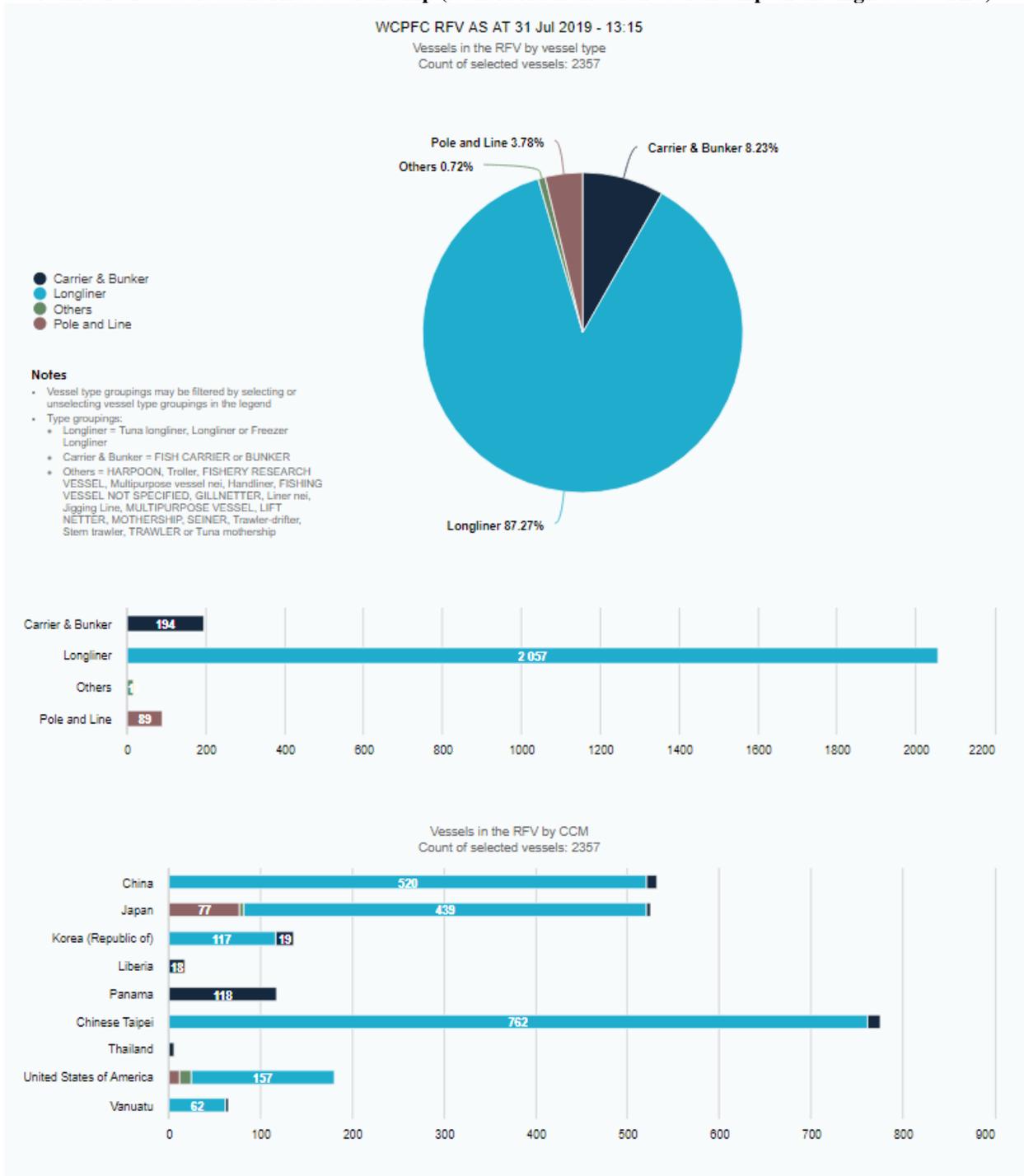
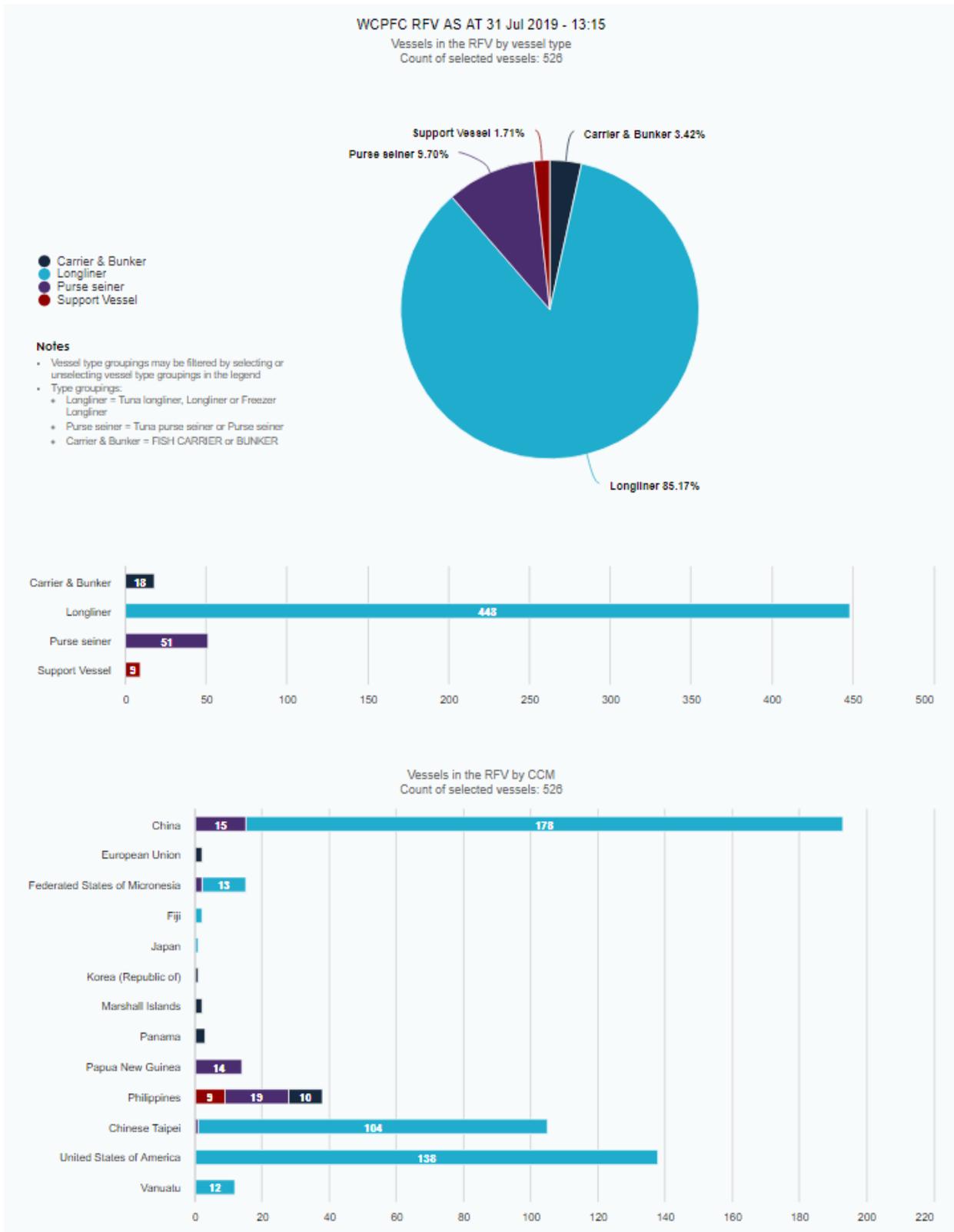


Figure 5: WCPFC RFV AS AT 31 July 2019
Number of Vessels that answered 'Yes: CCM-flagged' in the field 'Under Charter'



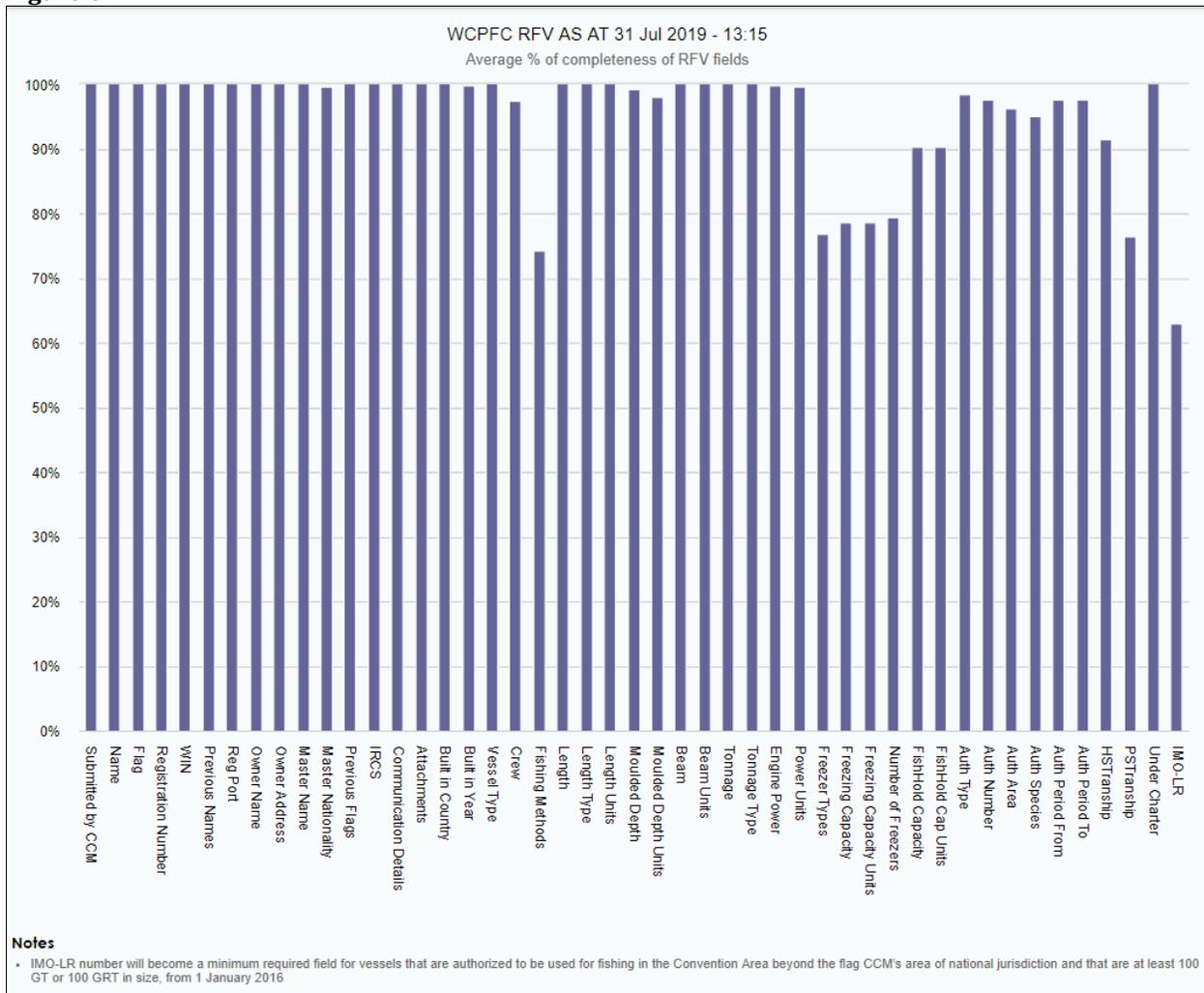
6. As reported to TCC11, WCPFC11 agreed that the information reported by flag CCMs as part of the RFV updates, related to charter notifications and high seas transshipment authorizations should be treated as public domain data (WCPFC11 Summary Report para 500). Accordingly, this information was made publicly available on the RFV website in 2015. CCMs are reminded that in accordance with Attachment 1 of CMM 2014-03, the charter information relates to vessels in which it is notified as chartered under CMM 2016-05 or is considered to be chartered under CMM 2017-05 paragraph 42. The Secretariat has observed in some instances, that CCMs are entering data into the charter-fields in the RFV for vessels which are **not** formally notified as chartered by a chartering CCM under CMM 2016-05 (or its predecessor CMM). In addition, some formally notified charters in accordance with CMM 2016-05 are yet to be updated on the RFV. As at 31 July 2019, there were 526 vessels in the RFV which has ‘YES-CMM flagged’ in the field ‘Under Charter’ (see Figure 5 on previous page), 518 of which had a charter authorization periods that are current. However, according to the Secretariat’s records based on CMM 2017-05 notifications, there were only 384 vessels with current authorization charter period, notified to be chartered under CMM 2016-05 (or its predecessor). The Secretariat urges CCMs to check that they are using the charter fields correctly. Only the submitting CCM, which is usually the flag CCM, can update its own vessels on the RFV. Only after the flag CCM has duly received advice from the chartering CCM of charter notifications (CMM 2016-05), would there be an expectation by the Secretariat that flag CCMs would update the relevant fields on the RFV for their submitted vessels.

Completeness of the fields in RFV

7. CMM 2018-06 paragraph 6 requires a list of information to be submitted by CCMs with respect to each vessel entered in its record. The RFV SSPs also require CCMs to submit complete vessel record data to the WCPFC Secretariat that meet the structure and format specifications of Attachment 1 (of CMM 2014-03). Attachment 1 identified “minimum data requirements” which must be present for the vessel to be included on the RFV. Footnote 3 (of CMM 2014-03) clarified that although vessels with only the minimum required data will be added to and maintained on the RFV, this does not relieve the responsible CCM of its obligations to provide all the data required under the WCPFC’s applicable conservation and management measures (CMM 2018-06 paragraph 6).

8. This information as well as a current evaluation of completeness of the RFV fields by CCM is viewable by CCMs on the secure CCM-pages of the website.

Figure 6:



9. CCMs are referred to the WCPFC website for the latest RFV summary statistics for Figure 1 – Figure 6 that are available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts/types> and can be printed from the website as pdf files.

RFV and Fished/Did not fished Report

10. CMM 2018-06 paragraph 9 states that before 1 July of each year, each Member shall submit to the Executive Director a list of all vessels that appeared in its record of fishing vessels at any time during the preceding calendar year, together with each vessel's WCPFC identification number (WIN) and an indication of whether each vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond its area of national jurisdiction. The indication shall be expressed as (a) fished, or (b) did not fish. CCMs are reminded that in accordance with CMM 2018-06 paragraph 9, an indication of 'fished' means the vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM's area of national jurisdiction. This is an important piece of information that assists the Secretariat in reviewing the applicability of certain CMMs and is used in its task of preparing the draft CMR in response

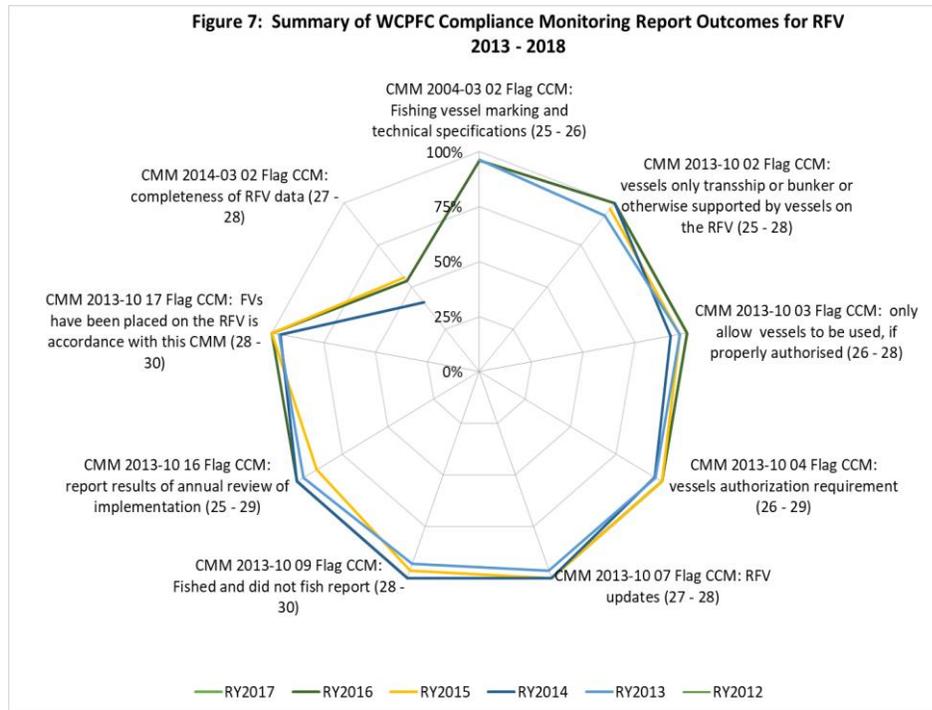
to the tasking set out in paragraph 22 of CMM 2018-07 entitled *Conservation and Management Measure for Compliance Monitoring Scheme*.

11. In 2019 the Secretariat maintained its usual practice of providing relevant CCMs with an Excel spreadsheet template based on Secretariat records of the list of vessels that were included on the RFV (authorized to fish in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCMs jurisdiction) for at least one day during the preceding calendar year. The templates are prepared with a view to assisting CCMs in providing their reports, through the template providing CCMs with a list of their flagged vessels on the RFV and the option of choosing “fished” or “did not fish” from a drop-down menu. The use by CCMs of the template also has the advantage in that it provides the WCPFC Secretariat with a report that can be automatically loaded into the WCPFC RFV databases (no manual data entry into WCPFC records is needed).

12. By 1 July 2019, all 29 flag CCMs (including 5 CNMs) have submitted their fish/did not fish report for 2018 calendar year. Timeliness of submission of this report continued to improve with all reports received by the deadline. Annex 1 to this paper provides a summary of reporting by CCMs in their fished/did not fish report for the past three years. As required by paragraph 13 of CMM 2014-03, this information is integrated with the RFV and available for use in compliance reviews and MCS analyses by the Secretariat for completing the draft CMR.

Review of RFV implementation by applicable CCMs under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) 2013 – 2018

13. Figure 7 provides an overview of the result of evaluation of RFV related CMMs (CMM 2004-03, CMM 2013-10 and CMM 2014-03) under the CMS over the years. CMM 2004-03 was evaluated in the Reporting Year (RY) 2013 and RY2016; CMM 2013-10 was evaluated annually (RY 2012 to RY 2017) and CMM 2014-03 was evaluated annually from 2015-2017 (RY2014-RY2016). Figure 7 shows a general trend of consistently high levels of implementation by applicable flag CCMs with CMM 2004-03 (96% for both RY2013 and RY2016) as well as CMM 2013-10 where percentage of implementation by applicable CCMs ranges from 96% to 100%. While Figure 7 shows some improvement, there are continuing implementation challenges being faced by applicable CCMs in ensuring that it completes all required data fields for each vessel CCM has entered into the RFV: in RY2014, 41% of the flag CCMs were expected to have submitted complete data for each vessel record in the RFV whereas for RY2016 this improved marginally to just over 50% of applicable flag CCMs fully implementing this reporting requirement of CMM 2014-03 paragraph 2. It is clear that many flag CCMs continue to face difficulties in fully implementing the requirement for complete data for each vessel that is entered in the RFV.



Historical RFV information

14. WCPFC14 confirmed that the historical RFV information should be considered “public domain information” in accordance with the WCPFC data access rules and procedures. In addition, WCPFC14 tasked the Secretariat to periodically update and make available for download from the WCPFC website, the RFV in full (WCPFC14 Summary Report paragraph 428). The Secretariat posted the first full version of the RFV including all historical information associated with the RFV to the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessels> in February 2018 and was updated in August 2018 and March 2019. The most recent updated file was posted to the website on 31 July 2019.

Secretariat observations and administrative notes

15. In the operation of the WCPFC RFV in the past year, the Secretariat makes the following observations:

- The implementation of the RFV SSPs, since its coming into force in June 2014, together with the reviews of RFV data completeness through the Compliance Monitoring Scheme have greatly streamlined and improved the operation of the RFV including the completeness of the information within the RFV.
- VID (WCPFC vessel identification number) number, which is a system identifier for a vessel in the RFV is now generally understood to be an important feature that is necessary to maintain the quality of the RFV database and historical RFV data linkages to other WCPFC datasets. CCMs can view history for an individual vessel record on the

intranet, using three dots shortcut see section 2.4 of the ‘Managing RFV On-line Guide’ for guidance on how to do this.

- The RFV is a central data source in the WCPFC’s Integrated MCS databases. An important part of the day to day administration by the Secretariat of the WCPFC RFV involves the management of the vessel history in the RFV. The Secretariat makes best efforts to check for and avoid the creation of duplicate records in the RFV and will regularly liaise with CCMs to this end. CCMs should note that when a vessel is ‘deleted’ from the RFV, in practice the record is no longer viewable on the public views of the RFV. The vessel record is archived, and the vessel status is changed from “active” to “deleted”. CCMs can re-instate/re-list a deleted vessel and section 3.3 and section 4 of the ‘Managing RFV On-line Guide’ provide the procedures on how to do this. CCMs are reminded to use these procedures in order to avoid creating duplicate records in the RFV. The effect of duplicates in the RFV means the history of a vessel is not consolidated in one place and this create extra and complicated tasks for the Secretariat Compliance and IT team in terms of consolidating these duplicate records.
- As reported to previous TCCs, the Secretariat continued to receive queries, although not as many as in previous years, relating to expired or blank authorization period for a vessel on the RFV, mostly from high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) party and markets. The Secretariat continues to maintain the advice provided previously that if a vessel flagged to a Commission member or Cooperating Non-member is listed on the RFV, this implies, through reference to CMM 2018-06, that the flag State considers that the vessel is “entitled to fly its flag and is authorized to fish in the Convention Area” and that that the expiry of authorization date is an administrative matter between the flag State and the vessel (TCC9 Summary Report, para 324).
- CCMs are reminded to send all general RFV inquiries, requests for assistance and submissions of electronic files to update the RFV to the email address: contact.rfv@wcpfc.int

Recommendation

16. TCC15 is invited to consider and note this paper.

Annex 1:

