



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

7-15 August 2012  
Busan, Republic of Korea

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

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**WCPFC-SC8-AR/CCM-13 (Rev 1)**

**NAURU**

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## **NAURU**

### **1. Annual Fisheries Information**

#### **1.1 Fishery characteristics:**

a) The offshore fishery is dominated by Purse seiners with very scant longline operation- The offshore purse seine fishery by distant water nations makes up the main commercial fishery in Nauru. It targets skipjack destined for the canning market and to a lesser extent the katsuobushi market in Japan. The majority of these vessels fall under the larger 1001GRT-1500GRT class and they are from all the major purse seining nations of the WCPFC CCM's but with an increasing number being licensed under the FSMA Regional Access Agreement being flagged to FFA member countries

b) Following on from the relative increase in longline operation from the previous year, Nauru experienced a decline in this fishing activity in 2011.

c) There are no commercial scale domestic fisheries of any category operating under the Nauru flag or through charter arrangements.

d) The artisanal fishery is comprised mainly of local fishermen operating on small motorized skiff (avg length 2m) and outrigger canoes, targeting tuna and other coastal pelagic fishes, that are both freeschooling and congregating around coastal FAD's

#### **1.2 Catch and effort estimates:**

The majority of catch species in the commercial offshore fishery is made up of Skipjack (7.9% of total catches in 2011) with the rest made up of yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Effort in the purse seine fishery remained relatively stable from the previous year i.e. in 2011 fishing vessels spent 3227 days in Nauru's EEZ as compared to 3741 days in 2010 ( a difference of around 500 days). Total catches in Nauru's EEZ for 2011 remained around the 100,000mt mark with only a negligible decrease of around 1000mt from the 2010 total catch. Of the catches by species Yellowfin catches dropped from its record high in 2010 of 24,000 metric tonnes to 14,401 metric tonnes in 2011 (ref Table 1)

YEAR/SPECIES	SKJ	BET	YFT	OTH
2007	50,960	984	6,884	28
2008	60,735	1,041	5,382	27
2009	44,805	1,140	13,421	20
2010	80,617	1,768	24,003	32
2011	<b>82,969</b>	<b>7,893</b>	<b>14,401</b>	<b>NA</b>

Table.1: Summary of total catches (mt) in Nauru EEZ by all fleets 2006- 2011 (raised data as of May 2012)

In a wider perspective, the offshore industrial catches in Nauru over the last 20 years have increased gradually from the early 1990's where the average total catch rarely exceeded 20,000mt ( ref Table 2) . Towards the end of that decade Nauru entered into more bilateral arrangements with distant water fleets and the effort and catches increased commensurately interspersed with some extreme El Nino conditions in the early 2000's. Since then the catches have corrected and assumed a pattern of relatively stable increase .

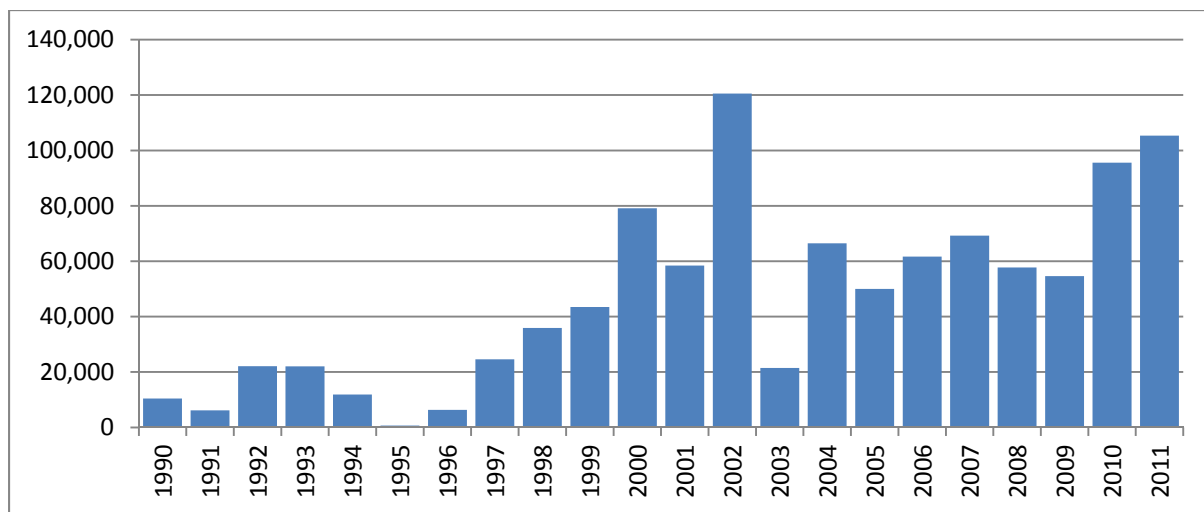


Table 2: Trend of catches in Nauru over a 20 year period

The Artisanal fishery vessels consist mainly of canoes and skiffs operated by local fishers that fish within the 12 mile zone mainly for subsistence or small scale commercial. As the PART 1' reports emphasis is on national fleets operating in the WCPFC Convention Area, Nauru will include only the catch estimates for the artisanal fleet as their national fleet catch as depicted in Table 3 for future reports.

<b>NAURU DOMESTIC CATCH ESTIMATES 2011</b>					
<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>SPECIES (KG)</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>OTH</b>	
<b>JANUARY</b>	442	869.5	0	0	1311.5
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>MARCH</b>	70.5	433	0	0	503.5
<b>APRIL</b>	290	602	0	0	892
<b>MAY</b>	1451.4	360.6	0	109.8	1921.8
<b>JUNE</b>	1269	114	0	3	1386
<b>JULY</b>	1144.5	348	0	0	1492.5
<b>AUGUST</b>	199	877	0	0	1076
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	296	696.4	0	0	992.4
<b>OCTOBER</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>DECEMBER</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5162.4</b>	<b>4300.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>112.8</b>	<b>9575.7</b>

Table 3. Annual tuna catch (aggregated in kg) estimates for the Nauru Artisanal fleet, for the WCPFC Convention Area, 2011

### 1.3. Licensing and fleet structure

The major commercial fleet operating in the Nauru EEZ consists of all the main Purse seining fleet of CCM's, with the exception of the European Union. Also involved are Pacific Island flag vessels operating under regional access arrangements. A total of 187 purse seiners were licensed by Nauru during 2011 and 8 longliners from Japan making up the total number.. The numbers under each flag and their size category is depicted in Table 3. The majority of these purse seine vessels fall under the 1001-1500GRT category. Table 4 shows the category of support vessels licensed during the 2011/2012 period.

FISHING VESSELS						
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	GEAR	0-500GRT	501-1000GRT	1001-1500GRT	1500 +GRT
JAPAN	8	LL	8			
JAPAN	34	PS	21	2	9	2
KOREA	28	PS		11	13	4
CHINESE TAIPEI (TW)	30	PS		14	13	2
NEW ZEALAND	2	PS			1	1
CHINA	11	PS		5	6	
US	37	PS		1	17	19
FSM	39	PS		6	23	10
RMI	1	PS			1	
VANUATU (TW)	4	PS				4
PHILLIPINES	1	PS			1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>42</b>

Table 4. List and size categories of Fishing vessels for the 2011/2012 period

SUPPORT VESSELS						
FLAG	NO OF VESSELS	GEAR	0-500GRT	501-1000GRT	1001-1500GRT	1500 +GRT
<b>China</b>	2					2
<b>Kiribati</b>	1					1
<b>Korea</b>	5					5
<b>RMI</b>	1					1
<b>Panama</b>	5					5
<b>Singapore</b>	3					3
<b>Taiwan</b>	3					3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>					<b>20</b>

Table 5. List and size categories of Support vessels for the 2011/2012 period.

### Socioeconomic considerations

Revenue derived from fishing licenses continues to provide the bulk of non-aid income for Nauru comprising over a quarter of the total state revenue for the last financial year as well as the projected budget for the Treasury in the new financial year. There are no direct spinoffs to the offshore fishing industry for the local economy however, aside from the national observer program which has a cadre of 10 trained observers working on the foreign fishing vessels at any one time. The local artisanal fisheries provide a significant source of protein to the national diet as well a reliable source of income for the participants in the sector.

### Research and Statistics

Nauru has fully implemented the SPC TufMan Database system which allows it to streamline and collate our data collection and management systems. Ongoing work is continuing to link this with the PNA VDS scheme that would allow accurate and timely correlation of fishing effort in our EEZ. This is further enhanced by the FFA VMS System that provides a MCS component to our fisheries management process. Our staff continues to upgrade their skills with these new developments through their participation in regional capacity building workshops. Additionally ongoing support is also received under the Institutional strengthening project with the engagement of expert assistance in country and visiting consultants and this has provided excellent transfer of technical skills and knowledge to local staff in improving their overall job performance