



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**

6-14 August 2013
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

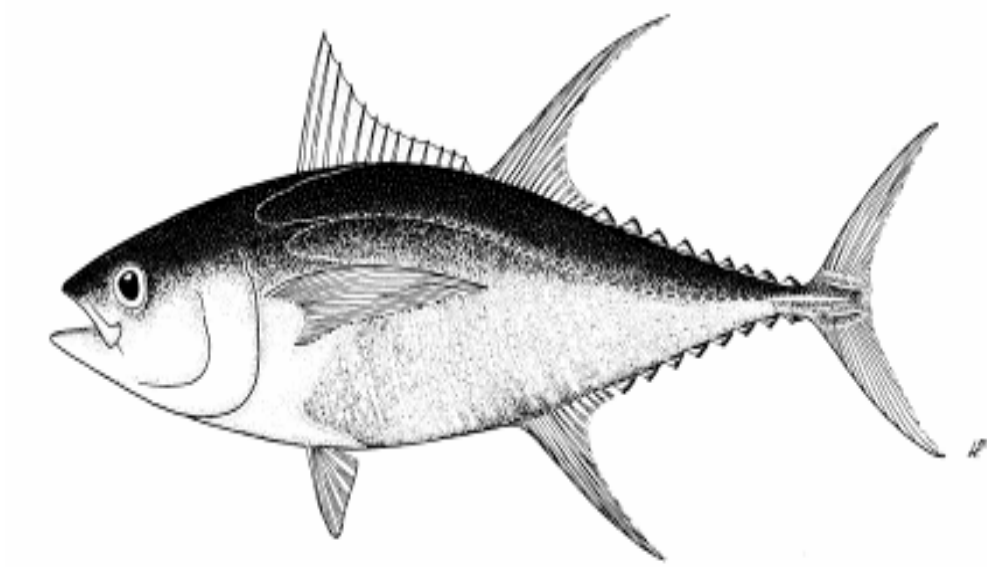
**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

WCPFC-SC9-AR/CCM-16

NIUE

WCPFC-SC9

COUNTRY FISHERIES REPORT – NIUE



Fisheries Division

**Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Niue**

2013

1. Abstract

The primary fishing company that invested heavily in Fishing within Niue waters, did not continue its operations in 2011 and 2012, therefore, there was no fishing in Niue's EEZ in 2012.

The main focus of work was to carry our analysis with the help of SPC and FFA in setting limits which was incorporated in the Pelagic Development and Management Plan.

Work was done mostly towards the Albacore Fishery via the FFA subcommittee on Billfish and Tuna, in trying to get a CMM for adoption at WCPFC

2. Tabular Annual Fisheries Information

As explained above there was no fishing in Niue's EEZ in 2012

3. Background

Catch that had been caught in the past has Albacore at 80 per cent from the overall species caught, with yellowfin and others following.

At the peak of the Niue Fishing Factory processing plant, 2010 was the best catch rate being recorded with the timeline of 3 months fished. At this stage only a few Long Line operators were engaged in the Fishery.

The Fishing vessels were all Cook Island flagged and offloaded in American Samoa, with transshipment of all vessels at Niue designated port, with 100 percent observer coverage during transshipment.

4. Flag State Reporting

Niue is not a flag state

5. Coastal State Reporting

Niue drafted a Management plan for pelagic fishing, with limits set on main tuna species targeted based on the best catch rates and those neighbouring countries catches that are similar in size and rate.

6. Socio-economic factors

The climatic factors that influenced catch of artisanal fishermen at the time of operations by the foreign vessels in Niue waters caused some misunderstandings and unfounded allegations. Niue at the time of catch by foreign vessels sold at a much lower price of fish to the locals caused concern with private business owners with market competition.

7. Disposal of catch

At the designated port of transshipment.

8. Onshore developments

The processing plant is still inactive and most shore developments are of access to onshore facilities (wharf upgrade).

The wharf upgrade is to provide ease of access and safer offload to fishing vessels given the open nature of Niue's only port. This was identified by the last operations as one key area for improvement.

9. Future Prospects of the fishery

Using the pelagic development plan to determine the set amount of catch for future prospects which will be a result of partnerships and can be long-term or short-term.

10. Status of tuna fishery data collection systems

We are using Tuna artisanal log books and calendars to collect data from all artisanal fishermen. The information from log books includes catch, effort and size etc. The calendars are mainly for canoe fishermen to record their fishing days. Fisheries staff collects the data on a weekly basis via phone.

The process of data collection is enshrined in the Licensing terms and conditions of foreign vessels fishing in Niue waters, reporting and data collection is mandatory with authorised Officers rights to set the terms, though these are based on data requirements of SPC and WCPFC.

Penalties are imposed on denying or refusal of access to data

11. Research activities covering target and non-target species

Data coverage of catch, effort and size data for all species is around 20%. This is mainly due to shortage of staff to collect data and the supply of log books to fishermen. The calendars have just been introduced for the second part of this year and this data is collected via the phone.

A wahoo tagging program was done in 2010 with satellite tags and using the ARGOS satellite tracking device to track the movement of wahoo.