



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

WCPFC-SC9-AR/CCM-10

KIRIBATI

Part one report: Annual report to the commission for 2013.

1. SUMMARY

Tuna fishery in Kiribati composed of foreign fishing fleets licensed to fish by the Government and the artisanal fishery, consist of local small skiff with 15-40 horse-power engine that target skipjack and small yellowfin to provide food for the local people.

The major gear types used to fish tuna in Kiribati's waters are purse-seining and pole and lining which mainly target skipjack and yellowfin tuna. Long lining is also employed by foreign fleets, targeting bigeye tuna. The artisanal fishermen used trolling and hand lining to catch shallower tuna species like skipjack and yellow fin.

In 2012, Kiribati licensed a total of 491 foreign fishing vessels including supporting vessels like reefer carriers and tanker vessels. Kiribati also have flagged vessels active within the WCPFC area. The number of purse seine national fleets was increasing to nine (9) vessels, long line national fleets was three (3) and a pole and line national fleet was still having one vessels.

Tuna remain the most important resources to Kiribati and for that reason the sustainable development and management of the resource is very vital for the Country.

2. Background;

Kiribati Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is located in the Western Central Pacific Ocean, with 33 islands and covering approximately 3.5 million km² of ocean within 167°W-146°E and 8°N-14°S. It is make up of three groups of islands the Gilbert region in the west, the Phoenix region in the centre and the Line Islands in the east.

There are four tuna species that are commercially fished by foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish by the Government. These include skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*; albacore tuna, *Thunnus alalunga*; yellowfin tuna (YFT), *T. albacores*; and big eye tuna (BET), *T. obesus*.

Kiribati does not have the capacity to harvest its own tuna resource therefore engaged in join-ventured fishing operation with other foreign fishing companies mainly to increase its share from the harvesting of tuna.

The artisanal fishery which comprises of small skiffs or crafts, usually less than 7 meters also form an important integral of the tuna fishery in Kiribati. Such fishery catches a certain amount of the resource which mostly for local consumption. Vertical hand-lining and trolling are often used by the artisanal fisherman to harvest tuna mainly in the surrounding area of the 33 islands of Kiribati. The tuna harvested mainly for subsistence use but extra catch usually sold locally.

3. FLAG STATE REPORTING

3.1 Kiribati's Flagged Vessels

The number of national fleets active within the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission area continued to increase since 2008. In 2012, Kiribati registered on the WCPFC's vessels register a total of 14 fishing vessels and 54 supporting vessels. Kiribati national fishing fleets includes; 9 purse-seines, 1 pole-line, 4 longline vessels.

The total number of artisanal boats in 2012 was 4968 which is based on the result of the 2010 artisanal survey.

Table 1 below provides the number of Kiribati's fishing vessels active within the Commission area for the last 5 years.

Gear	LONGLINE		
Size class (GRT)	2010	2011	2012
0-10			
10-50			
50-200	1	1	
200-500			1
500+			3
Gear	PURSE-SEINE		
Size class (GRT)	2010	2011	2012
0-500			
500-1,000		1	
1,000-1,500	4	5	6
1,500+	2	1	3
Gear	POLE and LINE		
Size class (GRT)	2010	2011	2012
0-10			
10-50			
50-200			

200-500	1	1	1					
500+								
Gear	ARTISANAL TROLL							
Length (m)		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
> 7		??	4895	4766	4766	4766	4766	4766

*Source: TUFMAN v5.0

3.2 Annual Catches in the WCPFC Convention area

3.2.1 Longline Fishery

In 2012 Kiribati has three longline vessels namely Teraka no.8, Teraka no. 18 and Teraka no.28 actively fish in the WCPFC Convention area. The total tuna catches obtained in 2012 is 610.17 mt (table 2) an increase of 39% compared to the 2011 catch and 88% in comparison to the 2010 catch. Such elevate catch observed resulted as Kiribati longline fleets increase from 1 in 2010 and 2011 to 3 in 2012. Bigeye tuna is the main target species comprised 73% of the total catch. Albacore tuna and yellow fin tuna constitute the remaining of 26.9% of the catches.

Table 2: Annual catch (mt) in the WCPFC Convention area for Kiribati's Longline fleet for 2010-2012

Gear	LONGLINE		
Species	2010	2011	2012
YELLOWFIN	3.859	115.06	116.23
BIGEYE	3.288	70.34	450.96
SKIPJACK	0	0.13	0
ALBACORE	65.708	177.21	42.98
OTHERS	.410	7.78	0

*Source: TUFMAN

3.2.2 Purse-Seine Fishery

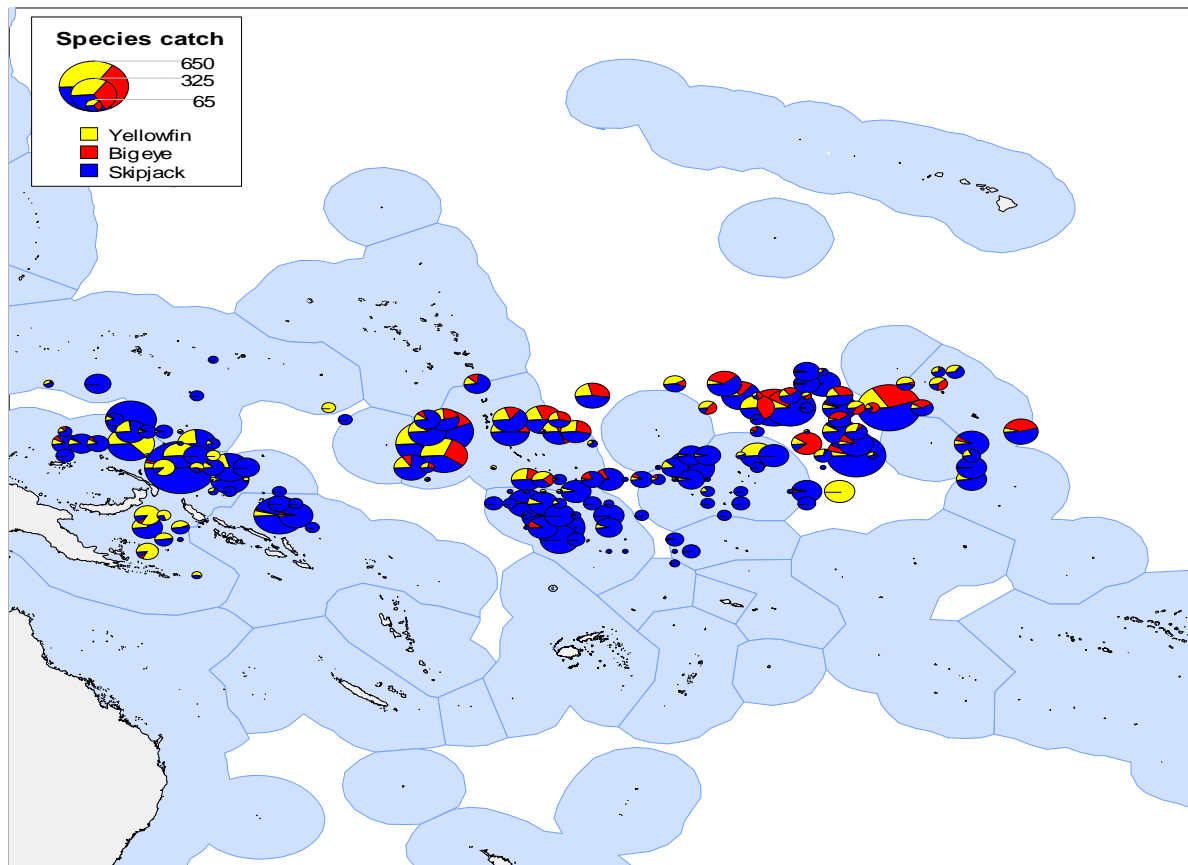
Accordingly the catches for Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessel totalled to 52,167mt in 2012. The observed catches have improved by 11% when compared to the 2011 catches and by 50% in comparison to the 2010 catch level. The increase in the catches in 2012 is a result of the expansion of Kiribati purse-seine vessels as noted in table 1.

The spatial distribution of catches for the 6 purse-seine fleets actively fishing from 2010 to 2012 was displayed in diagrams below.

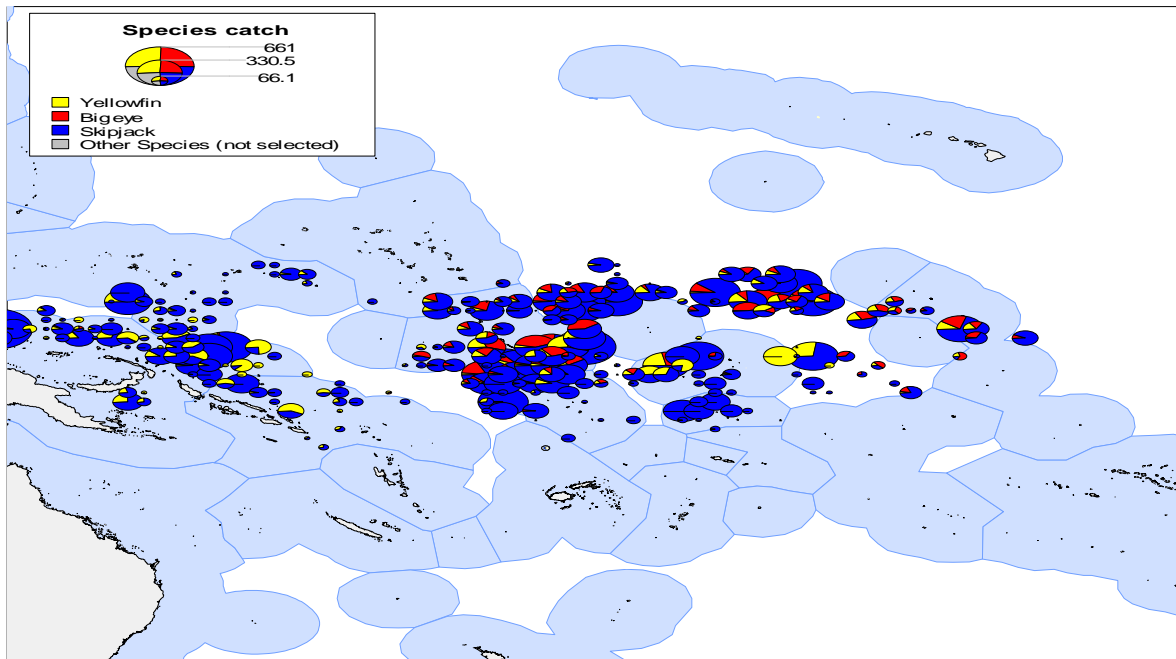
Table 3: Annual Catch (mt) in the WCPFC Convention area for Kiribati's Purse-Seine fleets for 2010-2012

SPECIES	YEAR		
Species	2010	2011	2012
SKIPJACK	19362	35818.46	42,527
YELLOWFIN	3966	6450.83	8,914.5
BIGEYE	2419	4245.08	725.5

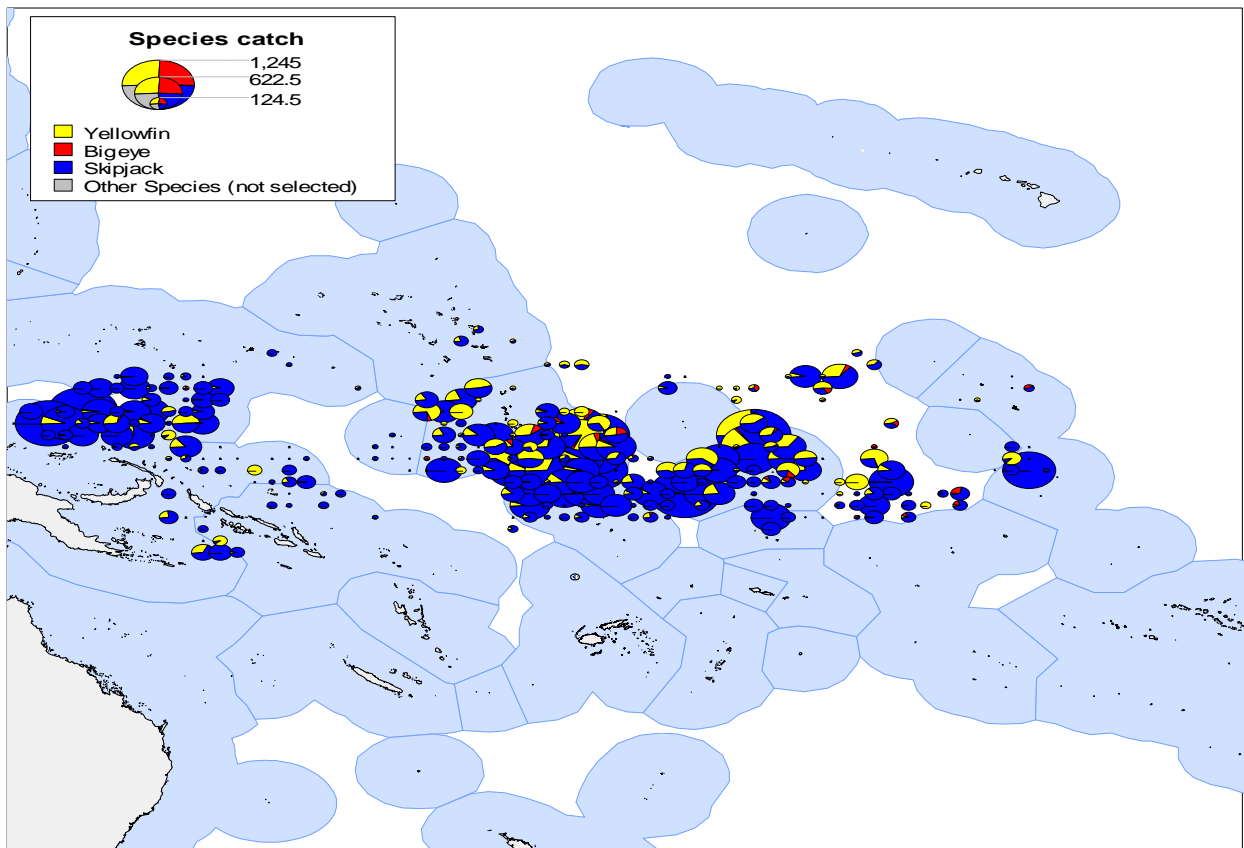
Figure 1; Catch distribution for purse seine national fleets vessels 2010



Catch distribution for purse seine national fleet vessels 2011



Catch distribution for purse seine national fleet vessels 2012



*Source: TUFMAN

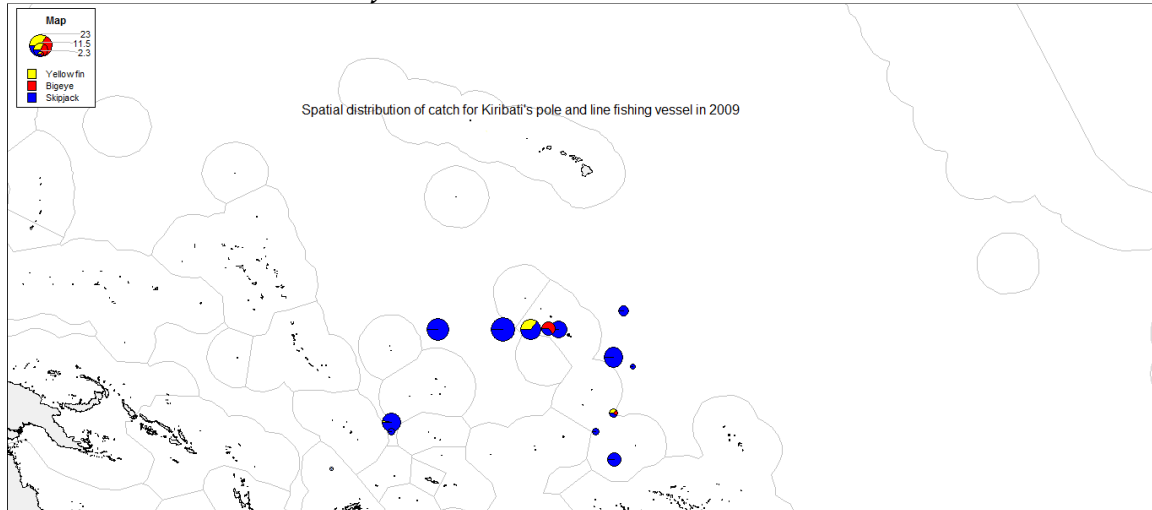
3.2.3 Pole & Line Fishery

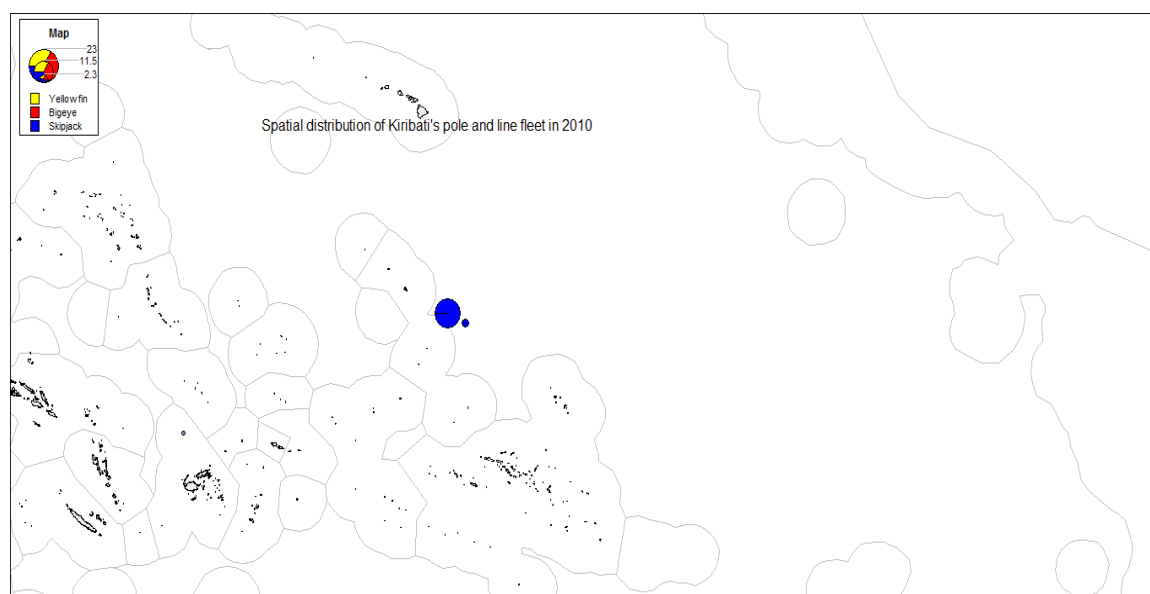
Kiribati's pole-line vessel, Akawa, which commenced fishing in 2009 fished mainly within the Kiribati's EEZ but to a greater extent, the Line Islands and the high seas (Fig 4). The total catch for Akawa reached over 159 mt in 2011 and declined to only 19 mt in 2010 (Table 4). The dropped in the catch as reported in 2010 can be attributed to the delay in logsheet submission by the company.

Table 4: Annual Catch (mt) in the WCPFC Convention area for Kiribati's Pole & Line fleet for 2008-2012

Gear	POLE and LINE						
Species	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
YELLOWFIN				9.5	0	9.5	9.5
BIGEYE				8	0	8	8
SKIPJACK				141.5	19	141.5	141.5

Figure 4: Distribution of fishing effort for Kiribati Pole-line fleet active in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2009-2010





*Source: MFMRD TUFMAN database, 2010

3.2.4 Artisanal Fishery

The artisanal fishery uses boat of not more that 7 meters with 30-40 HP outboard engines to catch tuna. Both trolling and hand lining are used by the artisanal fishermen to fish for tuna mainly skipjack and yellowfin within the 12nm of the islands. The estimated tuna catches for the artisanal boats are shown in the following table which is based on the result of the 2010 artisanal fisheries survey as no survey made in 2011 and 2012 respectively (Table 5).

Table 5: Annual Catch (mt) in the WCPFC Convention area for Kiribati's fleet for 2006-2012

Gear	ARTISANAL TROLL						
Species	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SKIPJACK	940	8223	8238.08	8438.08	8438.08	8438.08	8438.08
YELLOWFIN	1120	4347	4328.8	4528.8	4528.8	4528.8	4528.8
BIGEYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.3 Disposal of catch

The only catch landed in Kiribati were those caught by Artisanal Fishermen, which usually for subsistence use and extra often sold in the local markets. Catch for Commercial national tuna fishing fleets and those of the license foreign fleets usually unloaded in overseas ports like Japan, Spain and Pago Pago.

However some of the licensed purse-seine fleets transhipped their catch to reefer carriers at Kiribati's designated port and some licensed loglines at seas within the EEZ. Accordingly longline fleets were allowed to tranship their catch to reefer at sea (within Kiribati's EEZ) in the presence of an observer either onboard the long line fishing vessels or the reefer carrier.

In 2012, a total of 521,221.78mt of tuna was transhipped in Kiribati waters. There are 98% of the catches unloaded to reefer carriers in ports while remaining 2% was transhipped at sea by the licensed long line vessels.

Among the 14 nations to conduct transhipment in Kiribati, Korea was the dominant state, to conduct transhipment its catches in Kiribati waters.

Table 10: Summary of Tuna Catch Transshipment in Kiribati in 2012

Unloading catch at Kiribati Port 2012

Gear	Flag state	SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	Sharrk	Bait	Oth	Mixed	
									SKJ/YFT	Total(mt)
LL	CHINA	0	1.1	4.8	0.954	0	0	0.775	0	7.63
	FIJI	0	10	15.30	1.10	0	12	4.80	19.32	62.52
	KIRIBATI	0.725	0.829	5.242	4.731	0	0	6.149	0	17.676
	KOREA	4.656	405.24	540.704	21.682	20.878	0	289.33	0	1282.53
	Total	5.381	417.17	566.05	28.47	20.88	12	301.05	19.32	1370.36
PS	EQUATOR	6,581.00	1,726.00	668.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,975.00
	EL SALVADOR	3,986.00	1,168.00	759.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,913.00
	FIJI	11,109.00	12,139.00	79,110.00	13,422.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	115,780.00
	FSM	2,099.00	95.00	172.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	357.50	2,723.50
	JAPAN	3,644.00	754.90	145.30	3.00	0.00	0.00	45.50	0.00	4,592.70
	KIRIBATI	16,755.00	4,452.00	461.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	695.00	22,363.00
	KOREA	73,602.29	20,819.79	1,201.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	7.33	21.00	95,656.40
	NZ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	PNG	435.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	445.00
	SPAIN	4,113.00	1,283.00	834.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,230.00
	TW	3,116.00	311.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,430.00
	US	8,116.50	3,262.00	52.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,725.00	13,156.00
	VU	7,642.00	684.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,326.00
	Total	141,198.79	46,699.69	83,410.80	13,430.00	0.00	0.00	52.83	2,798.50	287,590.60

Unloading catch at Kiribati waters 2012

Gear	Flag state	SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	Sharrk	Bait	Oth	SKJ/YFT(mixed)	Total(mt)
LL	KOREA	91.788	347.095	930.788	52.366	2.621	0	210.72	0	1635.378
Total		91.788	347.095	930.788	52.366	2.621	0	210.72	0	1635.378

3.4 Future Prospect of the Fishery in Kiribati

The key priority area for Kiribati is to develop its Tuna Fishery in a sustainable manner which will be achieved by establishing of joint ventured (JV) fishing operation and fish processing with interested foreign companies. Kiribati through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development will continue to engage in In 2012, Kiribati have established quite a number of joint venture fishing companies with its foreign fishing

partners and operationalized a joint-ventured tuna loining processing plant in Tarawa, Kiribati to enable better returns from the harvesting of tuna resources.

3.5 Status of tuna fishery data collection system

3.5.1 Logsheet Data Collection

Log sheet submission from Kiribati’s national fleets and licensed foreign fishing vessels still not accomplished the required 100% coverage. Higher logsheet coverage of approximately 87% being provided by Kiribati’s national fleets and much lower logsheets coverage delivered from foreign fleets licensed to fish in Kiribati’s EEZ.

Recovery of log sheets data from licensed foreign long line vessels by far the major impediment in obtaining good data coverage for licensed fleets. This due to the poor compliance of the fishing masters to submit log sheets in a timely manner coupled with the submission of logsheet which usually made after completion of fishing trips, often take over a year long.

Other problems that are related with our technical default machines like fax, and internet connection that we depend on in receiving such information, like logsheets data.

3.5.2 National Observer Program

In 2012 a total of 68 Kiribati national observers placed on board foreign fishing vessels to assist in both the national and regional observer data collection program.

The major drawback for Kiribati to provide good quality observer data; include the lack of qualified observer de-briefers to check the quality of observer data and to brief observers, especially new recruiters prior to boarding of fishing vessels. The following table provided the summary of national observers placement for 2008-2012.

Table 11: Annual observer placement (2008-2012)

<i>Year</i>	<i>LL</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>FFA</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>2008</i>	3	21	2	26
<i>2009</i>	3	46	2	51
<i>2010</i>	0	140	4	144
<i>2011</i>	1	85	0	86
<i>2012</i>	13	55	0	68

3.5.3 Port Sampling

Kiribati’s port-samplers and observers are responsible for collecting of port sampling data collection. In 2012, all 189 purse-seine entered Betio port are sampled. Data collected scanned and send to SPC for re-processing.

3.5.4 Artisanal fishery data Collection

There was no artisanal survey conducted in 2011 and 2012 due to shortage of staff and limited funding. Fisheries artisanal survey is important in obtaining the background information with regard to tuna fishing by artisanal fisherman.

3.5.5 Conclusion

Kiribati will continue to work collaboratively at a national, regional and subregional level to ensure for the sustainability of the tuna resources so future generation can also enjoy the benefits derived from the harvesting of the resources.