

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

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

TOKELAU

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 2xxx	Yes
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

ABSTRACT

Tokelau is taking its obligations and responsibilities under the WCPFC convention very seriously, and is developing its tuna management capacities. These include strengthening the capacities of the fisheries personnel, implementing its Offshore Fisheries Management Plan, strengthening the legal framework relating to the management of the Tokelau EEZ, establishing a statistical database and implementing systems to manage zone-based limits of our EEZ fisheries. We are committed to developing and managing the two elements of tuna fisheries in Tokelau, namely the National Artisanal Tuna Fishery and the Foreign Purse seine and Long-line fishery.

Historically, Tokelau has been licensing Purse seiners under the US Tuna Treaty and New Zealand through a bilateral agreement. More recently other parties have emerged resulting in new bilateral agreements. Log-sheet data for all purse seine vessels that have fished in Tokelau waters are available at SPC

Due to lack of capacity and resources both human and financial, Tokelau has not always been able to obtain all log-sheet data for foreign long-liners licensed to fish in Tokelau waters. However, with our new license conditions, reporting requirements and obligations by licensed vessels in Tokelau's EEZ should now improve.

There has been an increase in the catches in the last few years and it could mainly be due to the El Nino climatic phenomena around this region during those years. The majority of the catch for those years is mainly skipjack with some yellowfin and bigeye.

While there are still issues in the management of Tokelau EEZ, we are committed to improving on that as obligated under the WCPFC Convention. We have therefore set zone-based limits (as included in this report).

In January of this year Tokelau started implementing its purse seine limits through the PNA VDS, while the long-line limits are set at 12 licenses per year for vessels targeting the albacore fishery and 8 licenses for vessels targeting the yellowfin and bigeye fisheries

Tokelau is thankful to New Zealand, SPC and FFA for their support in the past years, and we continues to rely on them to assist in building and strengthening capacity and capabilities in tuna management to enable us to face the challenges ahead. Tokelau also welcome all other parties that wishes to help us in this regard including WCPFC.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Tokelau continues to develop its tuna management capacities. Current focus include strengthening the capacities of the its Fisheries personnel within Fisheries Division, endorsing and implementing the Offshore Fisheries Management Plan, 2014 - 2016; consulting and applying the Inshore Fisheries Management Plans for each atoll; executing the new Fisheries Regulations, 2012; maintaining and upgrading the Statistical Database; and strengthening systems that manage zone-based limits for EEZ fisheries.

These are highlights of some of the more prominent developments in the management of Tokelau's Fisheries in 2012. Tokelau formally joined the Palau Arrangement and established a zone-based limit for purse seining; and enacting the new Tokelau (EEZ) Fishing Regulations, 2012 strengthening the legal framework relating to the management of Tokelau's EEZ in keeping with the Tokelau Policy.

ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Coastal State Reporting

Tuna Fisheries in Tokelau include two elements.

Foreign Purse-Seine and Longline fishing.

Offshore fishing is undertaken by foreign fishing vessels of distant water fishing nations and neighbouring Pacific Island States. The levels of fishing by these vessels and revenues generated from vessel licensing have fluctuated substantially over the last few years.

There has been little movement regarding the following and there is no indication that it is likely to change over the next few years - Tokelau does not have the capacity to flag fishing vessels so there are no Tokelau-flagged fishing vessels. There are no port, wharfage and mooring infrastructure and facilities in Tokelau to cater for transshipment, port sampling or processing of large-scale tuna catches. All catches by foreign licensed vessels are offloaded outside Tokelau.

Logsheets data for the United States purse-seine vessels under the Treaty (USMLT) are obtained from SPC and data for the New Zealand purse-seine vessels can also be obtained from the SPC pending Tokelau requesting NZ to authorise SPC to release these data.

Logsheets data for the foreign longliners that have been licensed by Tokelau have not been obtained due to lack of capacity and resources both human and financial however, the reviewed vessel licensing regimes in 2012 should strengthen the reporting obligations in the conditions of the licenses. The following tables show the annual catch and effort levels in Tokelau waters by foreign fishing vessels for the period 2008 to 2012. All catches reported in Table 1 are by US flagged purse-seine vessels licensed under the Treaty.

Table 1. Annual Foreign purse-seine catches in Tokelau waters from 2008 to 2012. (based on raised logsheet data)

Year	CATCH (metric tonnes)				
	ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
2008	0	178	3,193	560	3,931
2009	0	308	5,910	1,049	7,267
2010	0	110	3,378	273	3,761
2011	0	598	18,617	1,157	20,372
2012	0	1,034	17,279	2,103	20,417

Table 2. Annual Foreign longline catches in Tokelau waters from 2008 to 2012. (based on raised logsheet data)

Year	CATCH (metric tonnes)				
	ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	TOTAL
2008	33	11	0	3	47
2009					
2010					
2011	76	106	0	100	282
2012	93	47	0	55	195

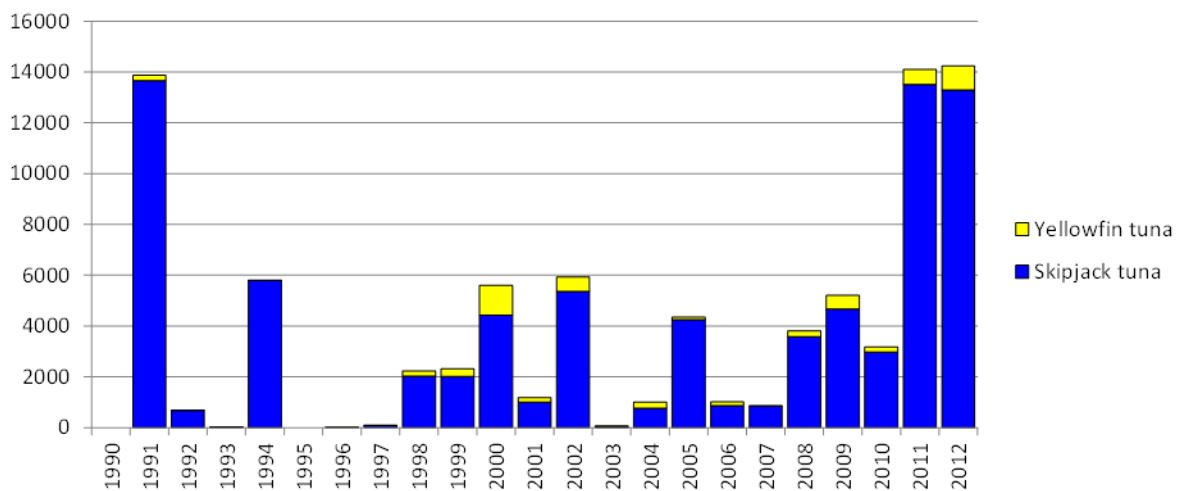


Figure 1. Annual tuna species catches by US purse seine vessels in Tokelau waters, 1990-2012

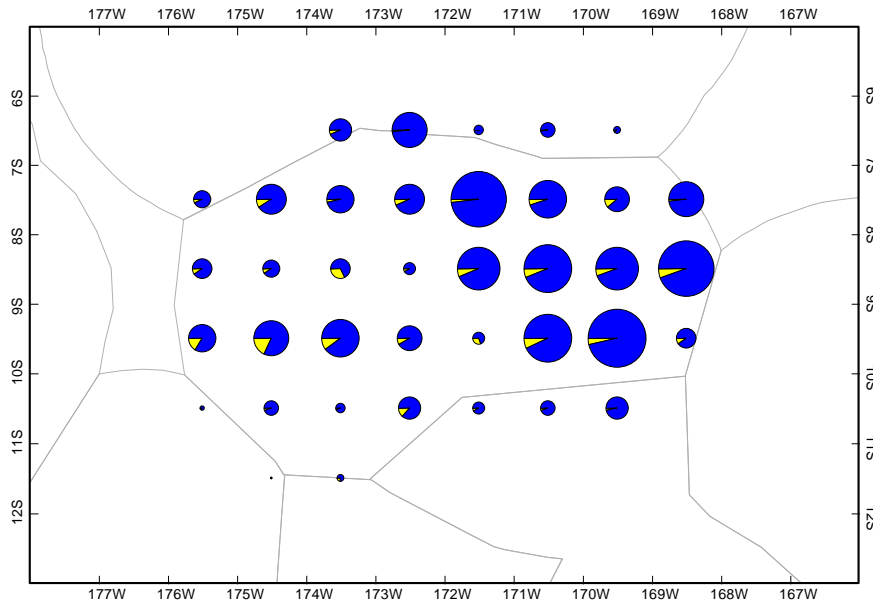


Figure 2. Distribution of tuna species catches by US purse seine vessels in Tokelau waters, 2012

National Fleet – Artisanal Tuna Fishery.

This consists of small aluminium boats/dinghies ranging from 12 – 16 ft in length with power outputs ranging from 15 – 30hp outboard motors. The artisanal fishery is primarily for local consumption and uses troll and handline methods targeting mainly skipjack and yellowfin tuna.

Most artisanal fishing activities in Tokelau waters occur within 4 nautical miles from shore. Domestic fisheries development in Tokelau is severely constrained by market access and lack of infrastructure, and the Government is committed to developing strategies that will provide opportunities for participation in small-scale commercial tuna fishery developments.

Due to lack of data collected from the artisanal fishery, the following table however provides an estimated annual catch and effort by the Tokelau artisanal fleet from 2008 to 2012. The SPC Artisanal Catch Forms are now being used in the hope it will help improve data collection.

Table 3. Estimated Artisanal tuna catches in Tokelau waters, 2012

Year	Month	RAISED CATCH (kgs)			
		SKJ	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
2012	1	0	41,298	1,140	42,438
2012	2	2,655	17,663	2,738	23,055
2012	3	5,990	6,436	2,803	15,229
2012	4	6,000	360	0	6,360
2012	5	0	6,840	1,440	8,280
2012	6	3,773	6,192	3,485	13,450
2012	7	9,767	4,502	2,895	17,164
2012	8	254	1,917	4,077	6,247
2012	9	8,870	5,136	1,984	15,990
2012	10	69,073	3,137	3,820	76,030
2012	11	12,477	9,339	3,327	25,143
2012	12	3,971	3,499	3,078	10,548
2012	TOTAL	122,830	106,317	30,785	259,932

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Tokelau is seriously concerned about the quality of catch and effort data relating to the Tokelau EEZ fisheries. Due to a variety of reasons—including poor administration and IUU fishing—the fisheries statistics for the Tokelau EEZ are less than adequate. While not necessarily material for stock assessment purposes, Tokelau will not be constrained by the paucity and poor quality of the catch and effort data as it proceeds to determine the nature and extent of the fishing rights in its EEZ.

TUFMAN - TUF-ART

The tuna research and statistical needs of Tokelau are largely met by the assistance and support of the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme. Part of this assistance is the implementation of the Tuna Management System (TUFMAN) in Tokelau. It is now fully functional with ongoing assistance with training as new systems are developed. This initiative will empower the fisheries division with a tool to help provide advice to local government and also help fulfil its obligations and commitments to the commission and other regional organisations. Whilst TUFMAN manages the commercial data (offshore fisheries) TUF-ART has been implemented for managing the artisanal fishery (inshore fisheries).

Monitoring

All foreign fishing vessels that are licensed to fish in Tokelau waters are required to carry an FFA approved Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) or Mobile Transmitting Unit (MTU) and whilst within Tokelau waters, they are monitored by the FFA installed Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). This is a critical part of MCS and a workstation was installed in Tokelau in 2005. Tokelau aims to strengthen MCS capabilities, through participation in

regional and sub-regional strategies and through use of regional infrastructure. Due to limited resources available, Tokelau must participate in regional and sub-regional collaborations to combat IUU in the Tokelau EEZ. As a member of the Palau Arrangement, Tokelau is now implementing the VDS for their purse seine fisheries. Any vessels operating under a new US Tuna Treaty will also use the PNA VDS.

Tokelau appreciates the value an Observer Programme and will consider appropriate collaborative effort in the region. In the meanwhile required observer services are provided by other FFA members' country observer programmes. Tokelau has no port and wharfage infrastructure so there is no Port Sampling Programme.

Tokelau is a party to the Te Vaka Toa arrangement and it provides for parties to work collaboratively with respect to monitoring and enforcement in their EEZs. Tokelau is committed to sharing MCS assets and information with other members with the view that in time the Te Vaka Toa arrangement will strengthen the MCS arrangements for Tokelau's EEZ.

MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Management

In June 2011 Tokelau adopted a new Fisheries Policy. Since then Tokelau had developed an Offshore Fisheries Management Plan (to be endorsed in June 2013) covering the tuna fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone, and commenced the consultations of management plans for the inshore fisheries (lagoons, reefs and coastal waters of the Territorial Sea) for each atoll.

For the offshore fisheries Tokelau has set the following zone-based limits:

<i>Fishery</i>	<i>Zone-based Limit</i>	<i>Status</i>
Purse seine fishery	1000 vessel days	WCPFC formally notified
Albacore longline fishery	2500 tonnes	Interim limit
Tropical longline - Yellowfin	4000 tonnes	Interim limit
Tropical longline - Bigeye	2000 tonnes	Interim limit

To implement the purse seine limits Tokelau has become a Participant to the Palau Arrangement and joined the PNA's Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). In the US Tuna Treaty renewal negotiations Tokelau is now in the 'PNA plus Tokelau' pool. Tokelau is currently implementing and testing the VDS systems to ensure these are ready to manage the purse seine fisheries as of 1 January 2013. Pending full implementation of the VDS Tokelau has set a limit of 20 purse seine licenses (excluding vessels licensed under the US Tuna Treaty).

In the longline fisheries the interim zone limits are backed up by limits on the number of vessels to be licensed each year (up to 12 vessels in the albacore fishery and up to 8 vessels in the tropical longline fishery). Tokelau will work with coastal states with an interest in the longline fisheries prior to formally notifying the country limits to the Commission.

Tokelau has also revised its licensing conditions to meet Tokelau's obligations under CMM 2008-01 and to be consistent with the standardised format recommended by FFA.

The Tokelau EEZ Fishing Regulations are under review to ensure that they will support the Tokelau Fisheries Policy and Offshore Fisheries Management Plan.

Capacity Building

Following on from adopting the new Tokelau Fisheries Policy, there is now a strong focus on capacity-building for the Tokelau Fisheries division.

Since 2012 fisheries personnel has spent 115 days in total in training on fisheries management related issues. Tokelau is committed in ensuring capacity building for fisheries personnel.