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ANNUAL REPORT – PART 1 INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

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WALLIS AND FUTUNA

**Service de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture
WALLIS**

1. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Wallis and Futuna Islands are standing in the subequatorial latitudes between 10°S and 15°S, north Fiji and Toga. This location is south and east the edges of the warm pool.

The EEZ is sizing 250 000 km², ranking among the three smallest in the region. Surrounded by Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu and Tokelau EEZs, it is hardly accessible to foreign vessels without crossing the latters, unless coming in from the north by a sharp high seas corridor.

Throughout the 80's and 90's, several licensing agreements were signed with Japanese and Korean fishing associations as parts of general agreements with Pacific French Territories. The number of licenses offered under these agreements fell down from 50 to 2 through years, but no license has ever been effectively requested. The last negotiation held in 1999 for the 2000 campaign failed.

With regard to the in-house market, it is critically undersupplied with pelagics, forcing to import to cover up the demand. In 2005, the overall fish imports amounted 91 tonnes, featuring mostly cans (98%).

2. CURRENT STATUS OF TUNA FISHERY

There's no fleet currently operating in Wallis and Futuna waters at a noticeable scale.

Coastal fishery fleet, nearing 200 small boats under 7m long, most of them plywood-made, restrains to reef-slopes and lagoon for safety reasons. Some 20 to 30 recreational fishers only and even fewer near-shore fishermen are occasionally fishing around FADs, using troll-lines and hand-lines. Their overall catches and effort are not measured nor estimated at that stage.

3. RECENT FISHING ACTIVITY

Given the above and since no vessel was licensed in 2006, there's no catch to report for last year and no trends to show for the past years.

Last recordings date back to 2005, from an experimental fishing campaign by a French Polynesia flagged longliner targeting albacore and processing fish into frozen loins. The campaign took place from 12th May to 20th July and comprised 42 sets, summing 132 720 hooks. The table below shows catches in numbers from logsheets filled in by the skipper and in weights raised from unloading reporting.

	ALB	YF	BE	SKJ	MARLINS	MISC	SHARKS AND RAYS
NUMBERS	1,813	503	53	52	20	81	104
WEIGHTS (mt)	30.09	11.60	1.54	0.29	0.86	0.94	3.98
CPUE (nb / 100 hooks)	1.44	0.45	0.04	0.04	0.02		
CPUE (kg / 100 hooks)	22,7	8,7	1,16	0,22	0,65		

No additional information on these catches and the fishing strategy, such as size distribution, is available.

4. UPCOMING AND MID-TERM DEVELOPMENTS

An off-shore fishery development plan was endorsed in 2003, based upon estimates of sustainable catches in the EEZ ranging from 450 mt to 1250 mt per year depending on the

The plan roughly splits in two phases along five years :

- the first two years would be dedicated to gradually address and even raise the in-house market's demand (estimated to 200 mt) with two 15-16 m longliners operating on a week basis
- then, benefiting the experience gained throughout the first phase, a fleet of three 21 m longliners at most would be gradually set up to export fresh fish or frozen loins

Hopefully, the first step will be done early 2008 with a 15 m Super-Alia being delivered. Its annual yields are expected to edge 60 mt. Beside this, the building of the European Community funded fishing port is expected to get started by the end of 2007 for achievement by 2009.

5. MONITORING

Yet, the Fisheries Dpt staff is getting prepared to the monitoring purposes, benefiting workshops offered by SPC. Two observers had been trained at SPC late 2006 in the perspective of an upcoming experimental fishing (currently standing by).