



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

WCPFC-SC7-AR/CCM-13

NAURU

Abstract:

The majority of the catches in Nauru 's EEZ is taken by foreign fishing vessels under bilateral and regional licensing arrangements. In 2010 the total effort in the Nauru EEZ was 3911 days. The total raised catch estimates was 106,420mt with skipjack being the dominant catch species. This figures represent significant increases from the previous year

1. Annual Fisheries Information

1.1 Fishery characteristics:

- a) All Purse seiners with some longliners- 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 medium 50-80m class and they are from all the major purse seining nations of the WCPFC CCM's
- b) There has been a recent increase in longline vessels applying to fish in Nauru but the figures both in catches and numbers are still relatively low.
- c) There is no commercial scale domestic fishery of any category operating under the Nauru flag or through charter arrangements.

1.2 Catch and effort estimates:

The majority of catch species in the fishery is made up of Skipjack (75% of total catches in 2010) and the rest is yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Effort in the purse seine fishery increased significantly from the previous year in 2010. i.e in 2010 fishing vessels spent 3911 days in Nauru's EEZ as compared to 2363 days in 2009 (an increase of 40%). Total catches in Nauru 's EEZ increased by 46% in 2010 and the total of 106,420mt is the second highest on record after 2002 total catch. Yellowfin catches in 2010 is the highest ever recorded in a single year at 24,003 mt. (table.1)

Species	SKJ	BET	YFT	OTH
2006	50,960	984	6,884	28
2007	60,735	1,041	5,382	27
2008	44,805	1,140	13,421	20
2009	50,950	909	5,840	20
2010	80,617	1,768	24,003	32

Table.1: Summary of total catches (mt) in Nauru EEZ by all fleets 2006- 2010 (raised data as of May 2011)

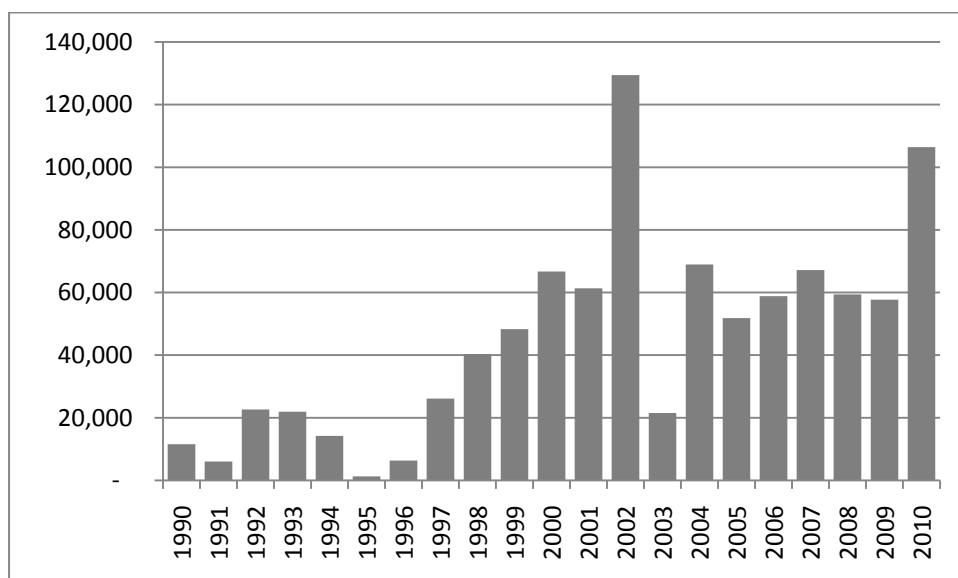


Table 2. Shows a graphical trend of catches in Nauru over a 20 year period

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 as well as other Pacific Island flag vessels operating under regional access arrangements. A total of 182 purse seiners were licensed by Nauru during 2010. The numbers under each flag and their size category is depicted in Table 3. The majority of these purse seine vessels fell under the 1001-1500GRT category. 4 additional Japanese longliners were licensed in 2010.

Flag	No of Vessels	Gear	0-500GRT	501-1000GRT	1001-1500GRT	1500+GRT
Japan LL	4	LL	4	0	0	0
Japan	33	PS	0	0	29	4
Korea	28	PS	0	13	12	3
Chinese Taipei	29	PS	0	14	13	2
New Zealand	3	PS	0	0	1	2
China	6	PS	0	0	5	1
United States	33	PS	0	0	17	16
FSM	38	PS	0	7	23	8
RMI	1	PS	0	0	1	
Vanuatu	4	PS	0	0	0	4
PNG	1	PS	0	0	1	
Total			0	34	102	46

Table.3 Size category and number of vessels licensed to Nauru by Flag in 2010.

1.4 Socioeconomic considerations:

Fisheries revenue still contributes a significant portion of Nauru's total budget but the recent revamping of the Phosphate industry has eased the sole reliance of years past. Without commercial vessels operating under domestic arrangements, employment in this fishery remains negligible with trained observers being the only personnel directly employed by the industry. The vessel day scheme has economic as well as conservation objectives and Nauru has adhered to

the hard limits imposed under this scheme by closing its EEZ to bilaterally licensed fishing partners in late 2010 when its Party allowable effort was reached. Nauru aims to seek more financial benefits under this scheme by entering into trading arrangements with other PNA partners.

2. Research and statistics:

Nauru has received training under the SPC –OFP TUFMAN program and is utilising this effectively to collate and disseminate important catch statistics with its fisheries. Likewise it has increased its cadre of trained observers accredited by the WCPFC program and this is adding capacity to its monitoring program.