



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

WCPFC-SC12-AR/CNM-35

THAILAND

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

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 2016	NO
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: Thailand as a cooperating Non Member, the participatory rights of Thailand in WCPO are limits to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only. The commitment from Thailand to provide data from canneries located in Thailand to assist in the work of commission.	

I. Introduction

Thailand's Exclusive Economic Zone is rich in fishery resources. Therefore, its fishing sector has contributed tremendously to the country's economy and society. Marine fisheries activities of Thailand support the various downstream industries, e.g. ship building and fish processing industries. Fishery products are a main source of animal protein in the diet, and are an important foreign currency earner. Fishery products are not only consumed domestically, but also exported. The value of fish exported has continued to grow.

The participatory rights of Thailand in WCPO in year 2015 were limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

II. Annual Fisheries Information

A. Annual Catch and Effort by Primary Species and Gear in the WCPFC

As a Cooperation Non-Member, Thailand has participatory rights limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only. In 2015, no fishing vessels from Thailand operated in the WCPFC Competent Area. There were only Thai carrier vessels listed in the WCPFC record for transshipment tuna production from this area.

B. Fishing Patterns (Catch by time/area)

In 2015, Thai fishing vessels did not fish for tunas in the WCPFC Competent Area.

C. Estimated Total Catches of Non-Target, Associated and Dependent Species.

In 2015, Thai fishing vessels did not fish for tunas in the WCPFC Competent Area.

D. Domestic Tuna Fisheries.

Thai neritic tuna and king mackerel species in Thai waters comprise species: *Thunnastonggol*, *Euthynnusaffinis*; *Auxisthazard*; *A. rochie*; *Katsuwonus pelamis*; *Sarda orientalis*; and *Scomberomus spp.* Purse seines are the main fishing gear for fishing these pelagic fish. Besides, they were caught by gill nets and trawling nets. However, the trend

of neritic tuna catches from the Gulf of Thailand, the Andaman Sea and adjacent areas have been drastically decreasing from 325,312 tons in 2004 to 48,416 and 46,922 tons in 2012 and 2013, respectively.

E. Oversea Tuna Fisheries.

Apart from regular fishing for neritic tuna within its national jurisdiction, Thailand has developed a large-scale tuna fishing fleet and ventured out to fish in the distant areas since 2000. In fact, the area of fishing operation is specifically in the Indian Ocean due to its geographical proximity to Thailand. There were Thai tuna longliners operated in the Indian Ocean since 2007. During 2011-2015, fishing grounds for Thai flag fishing vessels were mainly in the Western coast of the Indian Ocean. The total catches during 2011-2015 were 373.44, 470.40, 307.74, 571.90 and 599.72 tons, respectively. The major species were bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin tuna (*T. albacares*), albacore tuna (*T. alalunga*), billfish, sharks and miscellaneous species with the percentage of 44.43, 21.17, 12.70, 12.27, 6.05 and 5.13, respectively. In 2015, Thailand authorized six large-scale tuna longliners to operate in IOTC Competent Area. The fishing day were recorded of 563 fishing days with the catch of 599.72 tonnes. The major species caught were albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*), bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*), yellowfin tuna (*T. albacares*), miscellaneous species, billfish, and sharks with the percentage of 31.84, 21.84, 15.40, 12.51, 10.16 and 8.25, respectively. However, in 2016 Thailand has not authorized any longliners to operate in IOTC area. There are only three Thai research vessels operating to conduct scientific researches in the Indian Ocean.

Currently, Thailand still lacks of capacity to venture to operate in the WCPFC area.

Having a large scale tuna canning industry and situating in a strategic location, Thailand has a pivotal policy and aspiration to operate in tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean particularly in the high seas with a view to providing steady supply of raw materials to support the need and requirement of our rapid development in tuna canneries. If such aspiration becomes successful, Thailand will be able to reduce its dependency on importing of a large quantity of tunas around the world and is capable of providing raw material to its tuna canning industry.

F. Tuna Processing Industry.

In 2015 four main tuna species have been imported to use for tuna cannery which are skipjack, yellowfin, albacore, and bigeye. Overall, in 2015, Thailand imported 671,352.36 tons of tuna production with the value of 30,684.79 million Baht. Around 71.4% of the imported tuna production was skipjack, followed by yellowfin and albacore (Table 1). The main suppliers were Taiwan (19%), U.S.A (13.6%), Republic of Korea (12.8%), Kiribati (10.4%), China (7.5%), Papua New Guinea (7.5%), Indonesia (5.8%), Japan (4.5%), Maldives (3.6%) and Marshall Island (2.8%).

Table 1 Import of tuna production of Thailand in 2015 (Tons)

Species of tuna	Year 2015	Percentage 2015
Skipjack	479,135.88	71.4
Yellowfin	129,554.79	19.3
Albacore	34,195.45	5.1
Bigeye	20,708.74	3.1
Bluefin	47.15	0.0
Southern Bluefin	0.74	0.0
Other	7,708.62	1.1
Total	671,352.36	100

Source: Adapted from Customs Department

In 2015, Thailand exported 551,427 tons of tuna canned to international market with the value of 66,040 million Baht. Africa was the main market which accounted for 21% of total products, followed by Middle East (17%), USA (15.5%), EU (10.4%), South America (7.3%), Australia (7.1%), Japan (6.1%) and Canada (5.2%) (Table 2)

Table 2 Export of canned tuna of Thailand by countries 2015

Countries	Amount (tons)	Value (million Baht)
Africa 47	116,478	11,086
Middle East 15	91,379	11,062
USA	83,470	10,912
EU 28	55,850	7,200
South America	39,430	3,823
Australia	38,335	5,672
Japan	32,887	5,136
Canada	27,701	3,908
Others	52,341	5,259
Total	537,871	64,058

Source: Adapted from Customs Department
