



P.O. Box 100
Koror, Republic of Palau

PALAU MARITIME AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 100
KOROR, REPUBLIC OF PALAU 96940

WP. 12

Lawn

Phone: 488-2408/2490

Fax: 488-1512

Telex: (728) 8914

**SPC Port Sampling Workshop
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PALAU PORT SAMPLING REPORT

BY

MASUBED TKEL
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INTRODUCTION

Tuna Sampling in Palau started in 1991 by a specialist from South Pacific Commission (SPC). Kevin Williams was contracted by SPC to begin the program and train a local worker to do the tuna sampling in Palau. SPC had funded the first year of tuna sampling in Palau. The government of Palau then took over the funding for the program until now. Since the installment of the program, there have been tuna sampling on most of the scheduled off-loading on the two biggest tuna transshipping companies' ports in Palau, namely Palau International Traders Inc. and Palau Marine Industries Co.

Sampling is done when either company is having operation, that is off-loading fish. There are few times that both companies are off-loading in the same day. When this happens the sampler would spend needed time to sample the required amount of tuna fish, then move on to the next company. When the fish are being off-loaded, the sampler would be standing by the weighing scale and record the weight once the fish crosses the weighing scale then measure the fish length and record them accordingly. For Palau, the sampler was trained to measure at least fifty fish from two vessels every off-loading day.

The vessels which come to off-load their catch in Palau are all long liners. Only a few Japanese purse seiners come to fish in Palau, but they normally take their fish back to Japan ports for off-loading, with the exception of the vessels that get into difficulties while in the Palau waters. A very rare thing that happens few times with Japanese, is that vessel would get agrounded or get short on fuel, which forces the vessel to come to local ports to off-load their catch.

REJECTED FISH

Rejected fish are stored in freezers and later shipped out to Taiwan for canaries. Most rejected fish are tuna that are not able to pass the grade that is required for the tuna fish to go to Japan for sashimi. All the fish other than tuna are considered reject fish which go straight to freezer on the arrival. Only a few times that a marline get shipped out to Japan on a plaine when the fish is very fresh and there is enough space on the flight. This is done by both the companies (PITI/PMIC). The whole amount of rejected fish for a given off-loading day per vessel is approximately ten percent of the over all catch for that vessel. Chinese fleets seems to catch more non tuna fish then the rest of the fishing fleets. Taiwan fishing fleets catch some marlines, but they normaly keep them in their freezers for off-loading on their trips back to Taiwan.

TUNA TRANSHIPPING COMPANIES BRIEFS

PITI which is the older company of the two major tuna transshipping companies in Palau, manages a bigger port with bigger and better facilities and more employees. The company is now being managed by Japanese and few Chinese. The company employs Palauans and Filipinos at about the same amount with few Chinese.

PMIC on the other hand, has just started so they are still developing their facilities. The company owns its own airplane with pilots who fly to Japan for sashimi transshipment. The pilots are stationed in the company's compound. The company is owned and run by Taiwanese. Only a few locals work for the company and the rest are Filipinos and Taiwanese.

Both companies charter mostly Mainland Chinese fishing vessels and only few Taiwanese fishing vessels. All these fishing vessels are long liners and they come in all different sizes. The most commonly used vessels by the Taiwanese are less than fifty gross tons. Chinese fishing vessels come in different sizes; less than fifty, between fifty and hundred and over hundred.

PALAU LOCALLY BASED COMPANIES

1992-1993 Fishing Period vessel listing

PITI:

Allowable number of permit issued to Palau International Trader Incorporated (PITI) under the Agreement approved by OEK in November 2, 1990 was not to exceed 250 fishing vessels. This report cover the period of November 2, 1992 to November 1, 1993. The actual permit that was issued to PITI were 90 that includes Taiwanese, and Chinese longline fishing vessels.

Following break-down of permits issued to Taiwanese and Chinese fishing vessels:

1. Taiwanese = 8 vessels with PMA permit
2. Chinese = 50 vessels with PMA permit

TOTAL PERMIT ISSUED 58

PMIC

The Agreement between Palau Maritime Authority (PMA), and Palau Marine Industry Corporation (PMIC) specify that allowable number of longline fishing vessels were not to exceed 200 fishing vessels for each fishing period. One hundred forty (140) permits are guaranteed after the lump sum payment of One Hundred Twenty Six thousand U.S Dollar (\$126,000) is paid within thirty (30) day of OEK's approval of the Agreement. The fishing period of the Agreement was June 12, 1991 to June 11, 1992.

Following are actual of permits issued to Taiwanese and Chinese fishing vessels:

1. ↗ Taiwanese = 74 vessels with PMA permit
2. ↘ Chinese = 1 vessel with PMA permit

TOTAL PERMIT ISSUED 75

CATCH RECORDS

Following are the break downs for the two companies catch for the years 1991 and 1992.

PITI

Total catch for the year 1991:

Species	BET	YFT	BLZ	SWF	BFT
Number	13302	24665	262	19	17
Weight	1217.98	833.48	15.88	1.41	2.65

The total catch for 1991 does not include the catch for months February and October through December due to lack of data.

Total catch for the year 1992:

Species	BET	YFT	BLZ	SWF	BFT
Number	18555	23605	73	2	0
Weight	1009.76	919.39	5.05	.22	.00

PMIC

Total catch for the year 1991:

Species	BET	YFT	BLZ	SWF	BFT
Number	3469	6841	109	0	0
Weight	170.65	226.67	8.07	.00	.00

The total catch for 1991 does not include the catch for months July and September through December due to lack of data.

Total catch for the year 1992:

Species	BET	YFT	BLZ	SWF	BFT
Number	14766	18832	32	8	0
Weight	757.81	723.66	2.50	.39	.00

FISHING VESSELS LISTINGS

Following is the Japanese fishing vessels listing for years 1991 through 1993:

1991 Fishing Period

Long liner vessels:

Permit A	=	125
Permit B	=	5

Total longliners	=	130

Single Purse seine vessels	=	70
Group seiner Vessels	=	0

Total Purse seiners	=	70

Pole/Line vessels	=	3 (permit A)
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Anchor vessels	=	0
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Carrier vessels	=	0
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Total fishing vessels for 1991	=	203
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1992 Fishing Period

Long liner vessels:

Permit A	=	72
Permit B	=	5

Total longliners	=	77

Single Purse seine vessels	=	46 (permit A)
Group seiner Vessels	=	0

Total Purse seiners	=	46

Pole/Line vessels	=	0
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Anchor vessels	=	0
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Carrier vessels	=	0
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Total fishing vessels for 1991	=	123
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1993 Fishing Period

Long liner vessels:

Permit A	=	57
Permit B	=	5

Total longliners	=	63

Single Purse seine vessels	=	46 (permit A)
Group seiner Vessels	=	0

Total Purse seiners	=	46

Pole/Line vessels	=	2
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Anchor vessels	=	0
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Carrier vessels	=	0
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Total fishing vessels for 1991	=	111
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SAMPLING PROGRAM

Sampling is done with a two meter wooden stick with a plastic attached to the far end and a sliding plastic is used to move back back and forth for measurement. The form that is used to record the samples are the same forms that are distributed out by the specialists from SPC. Attached with the report is the same copy of the forms that are used on the fishing ports. Fish are sampled right after they are weighed to make sure that the fish length and weight are right.

On one off-loading day for a fishing port, the sampler would take length measurements for at least one hundred fish and record them with their individual weight measures. Both the companies (PITI/PMIC) have their fish off-loading, on the average of two to three times a week during the fishing season in Palau. There are few times that either company would off-load their fish at night or on the weekends which make it difficult for the sampler to meet the schedules.

All the sampled fish records are sent to SPC for statistical analysis. During 1993 there an average of one hundred tuna fish were sampled from at least eighty Taiwanese and Chinese vessels from both PITI and PMIC. Most of these data were from the month of May through November. These are the month when Palau normally have more fishing activities.

RELATED ISSUES

The issues that are getting most local concerns regarding the marine pollution is increasing and the concerned Palauans are gaining more supports from the government agencies and few other concerned companies. Palau Environment Protection Authority raised a red flag on the fishing companies when the office announced that the waters by the fishing companies' ports were getting much dirty and needs more attention to. PITI was the one that seemed to have much serious problem of the two due to the fact that it was the first company to operate. PMIC on the other hand had the same kind of problem, but with less concern because their water has not got that worst. Tour companies have also voiced their concerns through some of the local news letters. They are concerned that the clean water that the tourists come to Palau to dive in might eventually lose its beauty.

Palauan officials are now trying to lower the amount of foreign fishing vessels that come to fish in Palau for the next years to come. A major issue is being debated on whether Palau should let Ting Hong company, a fishing company from Taiwan, come to tranship tuna fish from Palau at Koror port. The two existing companies, PITI and PMIC, have showed their strong filling publicly on urging Palau not to let the Ting Hong company come to operate in Palau. Part of the concern with the two existing companies is that there may not be enough fishing ground for every fishermen to fish in. The Palauan officials are looking at it as the additional problem to the pollution in the waters of Palau.