



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

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**WCPFC-SC12-AR/CNM-32**

**LIBERIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES  
COMMISSION**

**PART I: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND  
STATISTICS**

**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

**26 September 2016**

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.
Liberian flagged vessels are engaged in transshipment activities <u>only</u> in the WCPFC Convention, and none of those vessels conducted transshipment activities during the 2015 period.	

### **1. Abstract/Summary**

The Republic of Liberia is situated within the east central Atlantic region of the Gulf of Guinea. With an Atlantic coastline of about 579 km and a continental shelf averaging 34 km in width, the marine fishing grounds of Liberia cover 186 322.2 km<sup>2</sup> within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The fishing area extends from the shrimp-rich Shebro grounds bordering Sierra Leone in the west, to the Cavalla River Basin bordering Côte d'Ivoire in the east, and the tuna pelagic fishing grounds extending out into the Atlantic Ocean.

Liberia's continental shelf area has considerable marine fish species. The main oceanic pelagic resources are tuna and tuna-like species such as yellowfin tuna, bonito and marlin. Demersal fish species are also found in marine waters and are harvested on a commercial basis. Crustaceans such as shrimp, crabs and lobsters are less abundant but are of much higher value than finfish species, and are targeted for the export market.

There are four (4) main sectors: Industrial, Artisanal Fisheries, Inland, and Aquaculture. Artisanal Fisheries are a key sector in Liberia, providing food and livelihood to coastal communities. There are approximately 3,300 canoes and more than 11,000 fishers operating actively from 114 fish landing sites along the coastline. The artisanal fleet comprises the indigenous Kru canoe, operated by Kru fishermen using paddles or sail. Artisanal Fisheries are governed as a section of the Marine Division of the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF), created by Legislation in 1957 under the National Resources Law within the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to regulate fishing activities in Liberian waters. Major activities include registration of artisanal fishing canoes, inspection of fishing canoe and fishing gears, granting of fishing license to fishermen, record of catch data, and deployment of fisheries enumerators at landing sites. In 2010, the BNF (through the MOA) finalized the new Fisheries Regulations to ensure that the sectors are well managed and regulated.

The Liberia Maritime Program was established in 1948 with the launch of its Registry during the post-World War II period. Today, the Liberian Registry is the second largest in the world, with approximately 3,900 vessels of more than 131 million gross tons, which represents

11% of the world's ocean going fleet. The Liberian Registry, is administered by the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry (LISCR, LLC), a wholly U.S. owned and operated company that provides the day-to-day management for the Republic of Liberia's (ROL) ship and corporate registry.

The Liberian Registry does not register fishing/catching vessels. However, it does register reefers, tankers, dry bulk carriers, etc.

## **2. Tabular Annual Fisheries Information**

Liberia has no fishing/catching vessels in the WCPFC Convention Area, and therefore lacks such information.

## **3. Background**

Liberia is a Cooperating Non Member (CNM) of the WCPFC. There are currently twenty nine (29) carrier and support Liberian flagged vessels registered with the WCPFC.

## **4. Coastal State Reporting**

Liberia is not one of the coastal States in the WCPFC Convention Area.

## **5. Socio-economic Factors**

Liberia's Maritime Program has positioned Liberia on the course of becoming a nation whose Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is unduly supported by the entire maritime sector. Its world renowned Registry ensures that its Flag is flown by some of the world's largest fleets and its use of sea ports as the gateway to the national economy makes it a Port State in the West Africa region.

## **6. Disposal of Catch**

Liberia does not have fishing/catching vessels in the WCPFC Area.

## **7. Onshore Developments**

Liberia is neither a coastal State in the WCPFC Area nor does it have support facilities therein.

## **8. Future Prospect of Fishery**

The Liberian Registry has no plans to register fishing/catching vessels now or in the near future.

## **9. Status of Tuna Fishery Data Collection Systems**

Liberian flagged vessels are required to submit transshipment declarations to the Commission and the Registry upon carrying out transshipment activities. Similarly, all Liberian flagged vessels engaged in transshipment activities in the WCPFC Area are equipped with vessel monitoring systems, tracking the vessels' locations for management and enforcement purposes.

#### **10. Research Activities Covering Target and Non-Target Species**

Liberia has not conducted any research activities covering target and non-target species.