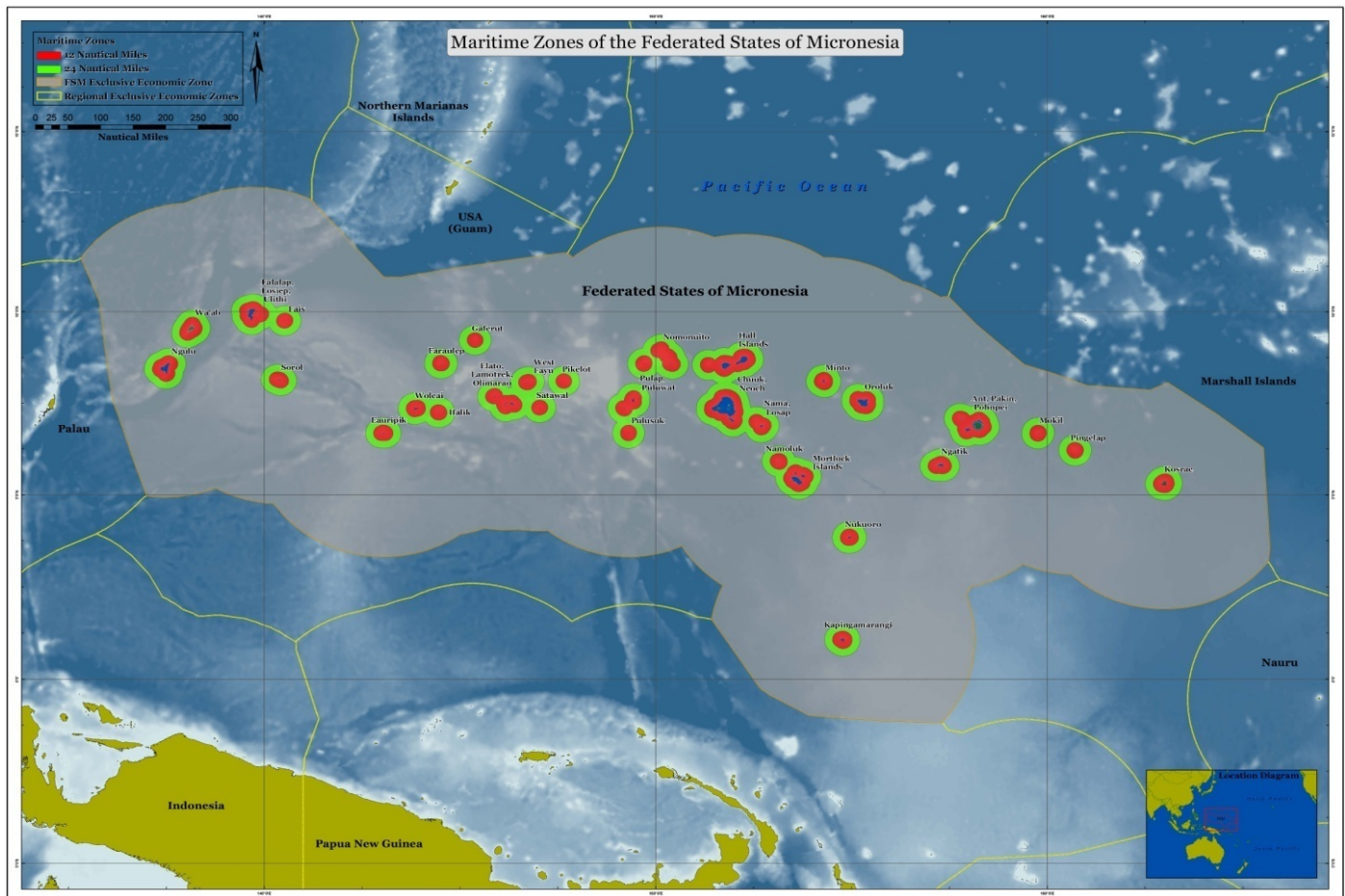




# NATIONAL OCEANIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



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## Message from the Chairman

It is with pleasure but also with some regret that I submit to you the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority's (NORMA) 2012-2013 Annual Report. I say with pleasure as this report was finally completed but regret that it is so late coming out due to a variety of reasons which I do not intend explain. There is no excuse for this report to be late and I hope that the Authority will do all its best efforts to report more regularly and in accordance with the law. As Chairman, I encourage our management team to remain committed to their mission and to make every effort to dedicate time to completing future annual reports. The 2014-2015 will also be a combined report to allow them to catch up with their reporting obligations and under the new Executive Director's leadership, I am sure he will commit to ensuring that future reports are submitted on time.

Thank you and I hope this report will be useful to those who read it and use the information for planning purposes. Please feel free to contact the Authority should you have any questions or seek clarification.



Jackson T. Soram

Chairman

## Message from the Executive Director

It gives me great pleasure to issue the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Authority. This report is being issued 3 years later and we wish to extend our apologies to the President, Members of Congress and to the general public for this late submission. The period covers a period under the former Executive Director Mr. Patrick Mackenzie who left the Authority in mid-July of 2015. As such, I wish to thank Mr. Mackenzie for his leadership during his four year tenure as the Executive Director. During his time, we saw increases in revenue collections rise nearly three-fold largely thanks to the introduction of the PNA Minimum Benchmark Price for VDS days, a benchmark that continues to increase over the years recognizing the value of our tuna resources and our EEZ's in which they live. On behalf of the Authority Board of Directors and staff of NORMA, we thank Mr. Mackenzie for his service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

The Authority will do its best to keep up to date with its annual reports from here on and we hope that this report, albeit, late, is still informative to those who use it for their own purposes. Thank you for your interest and support for NORMA's activities.



Eugene Pangelinan

Executive Director

## Introduction

This is the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (Authority). It covers the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013. The report outlines fishing activities in the FSM EEZ, that of its fishing fleet and highlights the major accomplishments of the Authority during the reporting period.

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Federated States of Micronesia is situated between 135° and 165° east longitude and 10°N to 5°S latitude (Figure 1). Covering an area over one million square miles of the western and central Pacific Ocean, the EEZ is the third largest among the Pacific Island members of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA<sup>1</sup>). Except for the U.S. purse seine fleet, which fishes under a multilateral treaty, most of the major distant water fishing nations engage in fishing activities in the FSM EEZ under bilateral fishing agreements with the FSM Government. The FSM issues fishing licenses to most commercial fishing gear types with the majority of licenses covering purse seine and longline fishing. Skipjack (SKJ), yellowfin (YFT) and bigeye (BET) tuna are the main target species which skipjack accounts for more than 90% of the total catch in the fishery. Transshipment of tuna catches occur in FSM ports by both the longline and purse seine fleets.

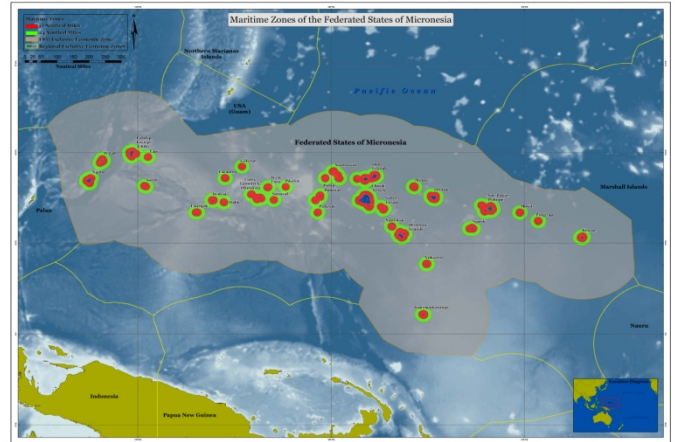


Figure 1: FSM EEZ

NORMA's mandate is to be an effective guardian and manager of the living and non-living marine resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the FSM for people living today and for the generations to come. The Authority strives to:

1. Ensure that these resources are used in a sustainable way;
2. Obtain maximum sustainable economic benefits from the resources; and
3. Promote economic security for the nation through their use.

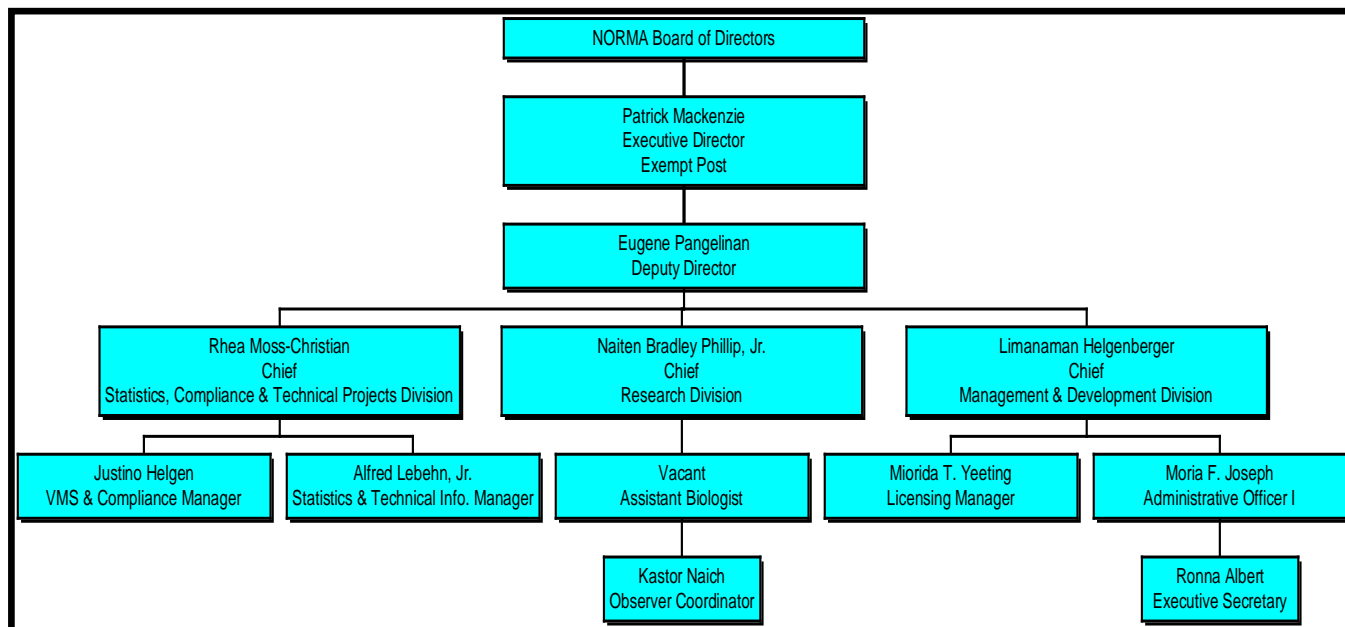
The Authority is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President in consultation with the State Governors and receives the advice and consent of Congress. The 2012 – 2013 Board of Directors are:

1. National Government – Mr. Jackson Soram, Chairman
2. Pohnpei State – Mr. Michael Lieman, Vice Chairman
3. Yap State – Mr. Peter Garamfel
4. Kosrae State – Steven George/Simpson Abraham
5. Chuuk State – Alanso Cholymay

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency - <https://www.ffa.int>

## NORMA's Current Organizational Chart (2012-2013)



### I. Overview of the Tuna Fishery

#### *Stock status of the Western Central Pacific Ocean*

The tuna fishery in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) is diverse, ranging from small-scale, artisanal operations in the coastal waters of Pacific states, to large-scale, industrial purse-seine, pole-and-line and longline operations in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of Pacific states and in international waters (high seas). The four main species are targeted by tuna fishery are skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*).

The 2012 provisional total tuna catch in the Western Central Pacific-Convention Area (WCP-CA) was estimated at 2,613,528 metric tons (mt) compared to 2,627,796 mt in 2013. In 2012 the purse seine fishery accounted for 1,816,503 mt slightly less than the highest record catch for this fishery at 1,899,015 mt in 2013. With pole and line taking an estimated 224,207 mt in 2012 compared to the lowest catch in 40 years at 221,715 mt in 2013. The longline fishery in 2012 was estimated at 262,072 mt whereas 230,137 for 2013. The WCP-CA for 2012 represented 82% of the total Pacific Ocean catch 3,205,980 mt, and 59% of the global tuna catch provisional estimates is 4,456,605 mt. As compared to 2013, global tuna catch provisional estimates is 4,517,435 mt (WCPFC-SC9-2013/GN WP-1, SPC Tuna Fishery 2013 overview and stock status, 2012).

#### *National Fleet Activities*

There were 30 FSM flagged vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area in 2013 compared to 29 vessels in 2012. The processed 2013 logsheet data indicated that 20 FSM flagged longline vessels and 10 purse seine vessels submitted catch data for fish caught within the Convention Area. In 2013, 18 FSM flagged longline vessels operated and based out of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and 2 in the Cook Islands (CI).

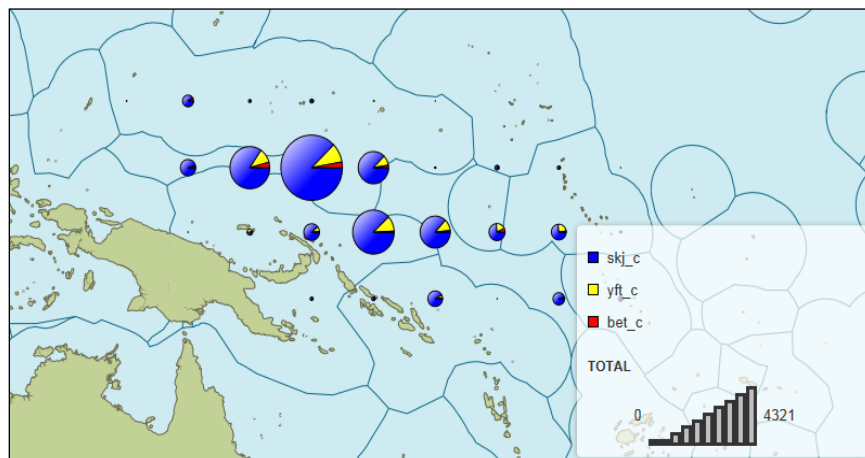
The total catch of the three main target species (yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack) by FSM flagged vessels in the WCPFC convention area for the year 2012 was estimated to be 37,810mt and in 2013 is estimated to have declined by 30% to 26,118. In 2012, purse seine catch accounted for 95% of the catch or 36,233mt compared to 2013 at 92% or 24,182mt. By gear type, purse seiners accounted for 92%, or 24,182mt and longliners at 8%, or 1,936mt.

FSM purse seiners concentrated most of their fishing effort in the lower equatorial region, mostly within the lower FSM waters in 2013 and dispersing into the upper waters of Papua New Guinea (PNG). This fishing pattern for 2013 appears to show FSM purse seiners concentrating mostly in the South and have extended toward the South East of PNG (See Table 1 and Figure 3).

**Table 1: Annual catch and effort estimates for the FSM purse-seine fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2009-2013. Source: SPC**

SPECIES	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
YELLOWFIN	2,344	2,887	3,154	3,805	2,693
BIGEYE	93	140	245	713	696
SKIPJACK	16,891	15,337	17,024	31,715	20,793
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,328</b>	<b>18,364</b>	<b>20,423</b>	<b>36,223</b>	<b>24,182</b>

**Figure 2: Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) for the FSM purse seine fleet for 2013. Source: SPC**



The total 2013 catch for all species in the WCPFC Convention Area for the FSM flagged longline vessels was reported to be 1,936mt an increase of 418mt from previous year. Effort data showed all 20 vessels fished

actively. There were 22 vessels showing fishing effort within FSM, RMI, and CI while 10 vessels were mainly fishing in RMI's EEZ for the whole of 2013. The total catch by the 20 active vessels is comprised of 90% (703 mt) bigeye, 5% (530 mt) yellowfin, and 5% (530 mt) of albacore. Other species and incidental catches is recorded as 703 mt (Table 2).

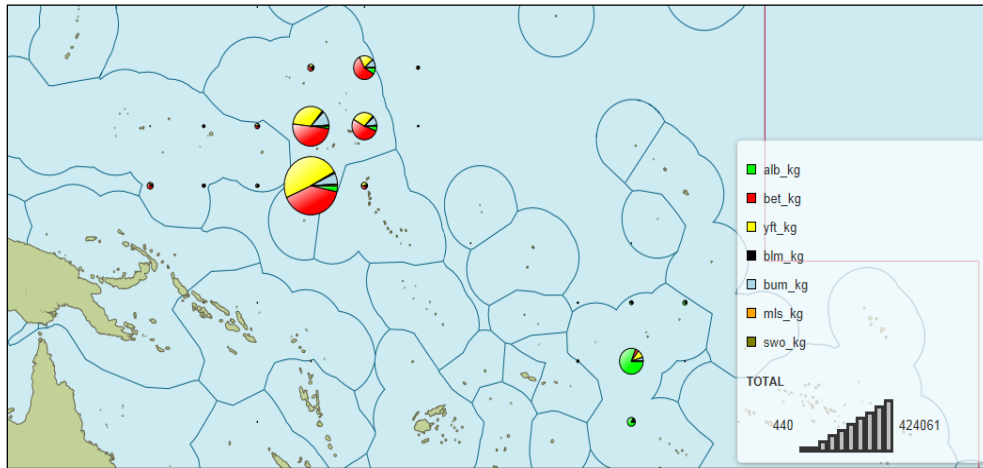
Effort for the 20 active FSM longline vessels is more pronounced within the eastern section of FSM EEZ and South East of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) for 2013 (Figure 4) and South of the Cook Islands (CI) . Since June 2011 to present, all FSM longline vessels are now doing frozen operations.

**Table 2: Annual catch and effort estimates for the FSM longline fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2009-2013. Source: SPC**

SPECIES	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
YELLOWFIN	659	454	442	382	530
BIGEYE	1,656	975	930	948	703
BLUE MARLIN	293	176	77	111	147
BLACK MARLIN	25	46	97	21	12
SKIPJACK	0	1	0	0	1
ALBACORE	53	54	17	44	530
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA	0	0	0	0	0
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	1	0	0
SWORDFISH	30	16	13	12	13
<b>Total</b>	1,582	2,716	1,722	1,577	1,936



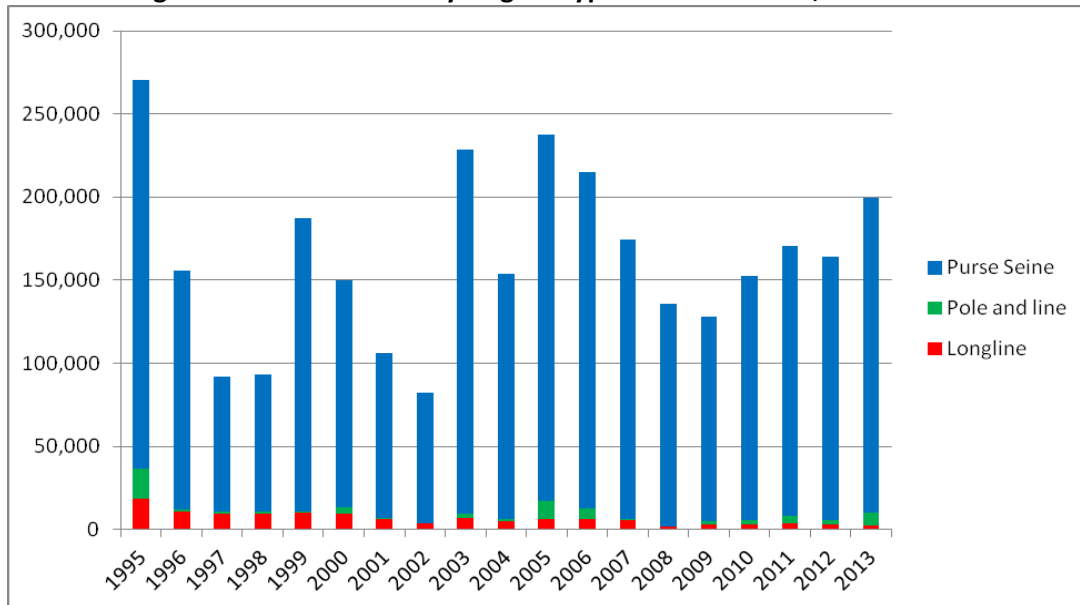
**Figure 3: Annual distribution of FSM national longline fleet by target species catch and effort, 2013.**



### Activities Inside the FSM EEZ

The 2013 catch by the tuna fishery increased by 37,335mt compared to last year in the FSM EEZ and is estimated to be 199,588mt (Figure 5). This increase in catch was by two gear types (purse seine and pole and line) with a decrease by the longline vessels within the FSM waters. Purse seine accounted for 189,301mt followed by longliners 2,182mt with 8,105mt catch by the pole and line vessels.

**Figure 4: Trend of Catch by all gear-types in FSM Waters, 1995-2013.**



The 2013 total catch by purse seine gear type within the FSM EEZ is recorded as 189,711mt (Table 3) compared to 158,269mt in 2012. Over the last decade, the purse seine total catch within the EEZ has fluctuated between 50,000 to 200,000mt over the past 19 years (Figure 3).

There is a lower volume of catch by Japan unlike previous year with a higher volume from Chinese Taipei and the FSMA<sup>2</sup> vessels. All purse seine fleet vessels concentrated their fishing efforts mostly at the Southern part of the FSM EEZ in 2013 (Table 3).

**Table 3: Catch by Purse Seine, 2009-2013**

FLAG	Year	Catch (Metric tonnes)			TOTAL
		SKJ	YFT	BET	
CHINA	2009	11,075	1,781	485	13,341
	2010	4,337	890	160	5,387
	2011	7,259	1,650	375	9,284
	2012	6,677	542	171	7,390
	2013	9,156	1,253	76	10,485
	<b>Year</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
CHINESE TAIPEI	2009	23,215	4,264	1,553	29,033
	2010	19,258	3,622	1,254	24,133
	2011	37,310	10,809	2,125	50,244
	2012	26,837	1,687	92	28,617
	2013	35,047	3,054	1,868	39,969
	<b>Year</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
JAPAN	2009	30,530	4,891	401	35,822
	2010	45,469	3,524	233	49,226

<sup>2</sup> "FSMA" means the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement, which is a sub-regional access agreement amongst PNA countries. Vessels must meet minimum level criteria to qualify for a regional access license under the FSMA, which can be used to fish in any PNA member country.

	2011	37,447	7,604	711	45,763
	2012	55,845	4,818	836	61,499
	2013	44,947	2,247	451	47,645
	<b>Year</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
KOREA	2009	3,606	658	80	4,344
	2010	9,359	1,637	360	11,356
	2011	8,913	3,326	171	12,410
	2012	10,214	1,870	41	12,125
	2013	17,353	1,073	77	18,503
	<b>Year</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
USA	2009	17,204	2,501	868	20,574
	2010	18,695	3,311	1,195	23,201
	2011	10,638	1,830	579	13,048
	2012	6,783	612	48	7,443
	2013	25,869	1,502	286	27,657
	<b>Year</b>	<b>SKJ</b>	<b>YFT</b>	<b>BET</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
FSMA	2009	15,986	3,051	607	19,644
	2010	25,378	5010	1270	31,658
	2011	22,517	5,506	1,206	29,229
	2012	28,663	5,491	1,559	35,713
	2013	38,781	4,609	2,062	45,452
<b>TOTAL EEZ</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>171,153</b>	<b>13,738</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>189,711</b>

The total longline catch targeting yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the FSM EEZ in 2013 by the three fleets was 2,182mt compared to 3,354mt in 2012. This decrease of catch was associated to only three fleets this year while four fleets operated last year. China fleet did not fish in FSM in 2013. Catch by flag, Japan accounted

for 97% (1,280mt), the domestic-based Chinese Taipei longliners increased compared to last year accounting for 7% (768mt) while FSM accounted for 1% (134mt) (Table 4).

**Table 4: Catch by Longline, 2009-2013**

Fleet	Year	Catch (Metric tonnes)		
		YFT	BET	Total
China	2009	282	105	387
China	2010	175	72	247
China	2011	233	51	284
China	2012	213	43	256
China	2013	0	0	0
FSM	2009	647	275	921
FSM	2010	435	204	640
FSM	2011	629	376	1,005
FSM	2012	194	556	750
FSM	2013	46	88	134
Chinese Taipei	2009	409	201	610
Chinese Taipei	2010	376	320	696
Chinese Taipei	2011	173	149	322
Chinese Taipei	2012	54	84	138
Chinese Taipei	2013	224	544	768
Japan	2009	452	390	842
Japan	2010	645	587	1,232
Japan	2011	1,311	691	2,002
Japan	2012	620	1,590	2,210
Japan	2013	506	774	1,280
<b>Total EEZ</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>2,182</b>

Pole and line catch within the FSM EEZ for 2013 is indicating a total of 8,105mt of tuna species compared to 2,570mt in 2012. Current catch record in Table 5 is showing the break-down of the three target species, (BET 7mt, YFT 11mt, and SKJ 8,087mt). The pole and line fishing effort is only Japanese and mainly focused South of the FSM EEZ for the year 2013 (Figure 6).

**Table 5: Catch by Pole & Line, 2009-2013**

Fleet	Year	BET	SKJ	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
Japan	2009	0	89	3	0	92
	2010	0	2,795	4	0	5
	2011	0	4,782	37	0	4,819
	2012	8	2,552	10	0	2,570
	2013	7	8,087	11	0	<b>8,105</b>

**Figure 5: Pole and Line effort, 2012**

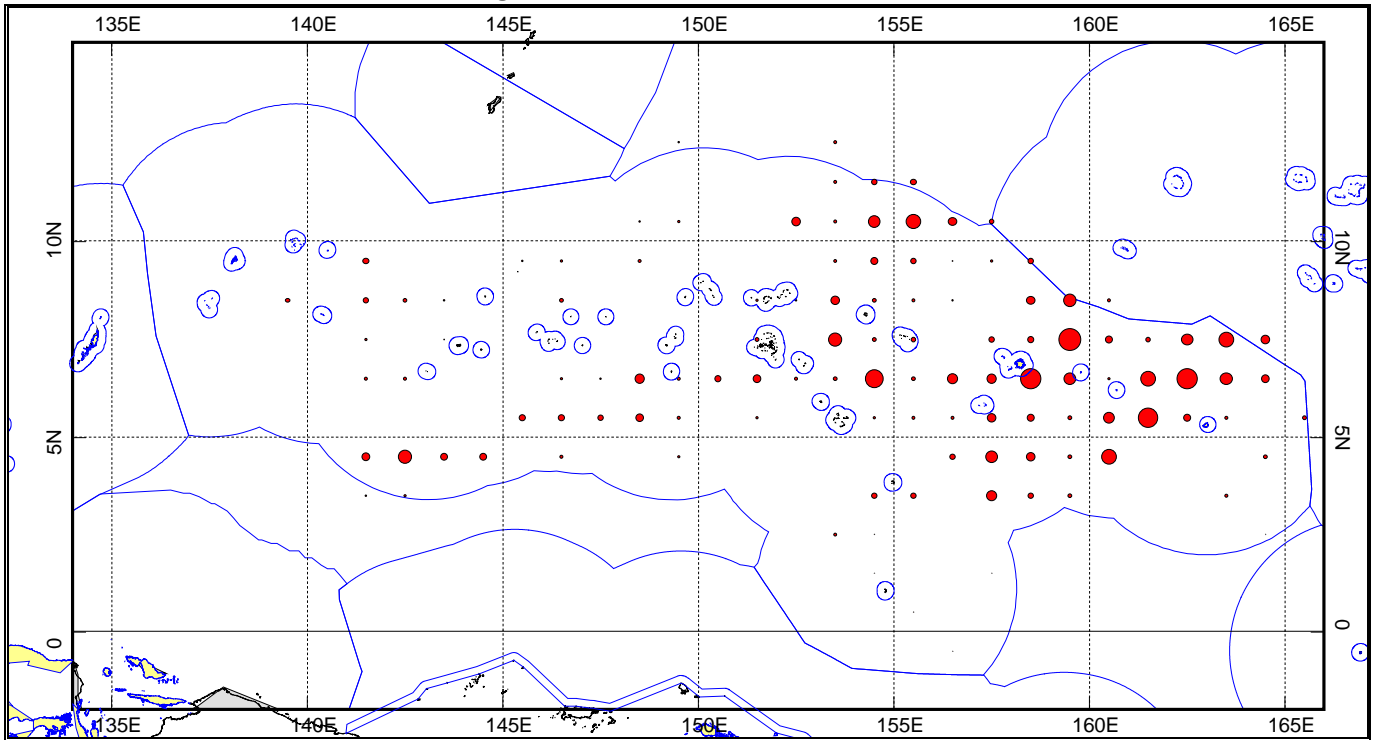
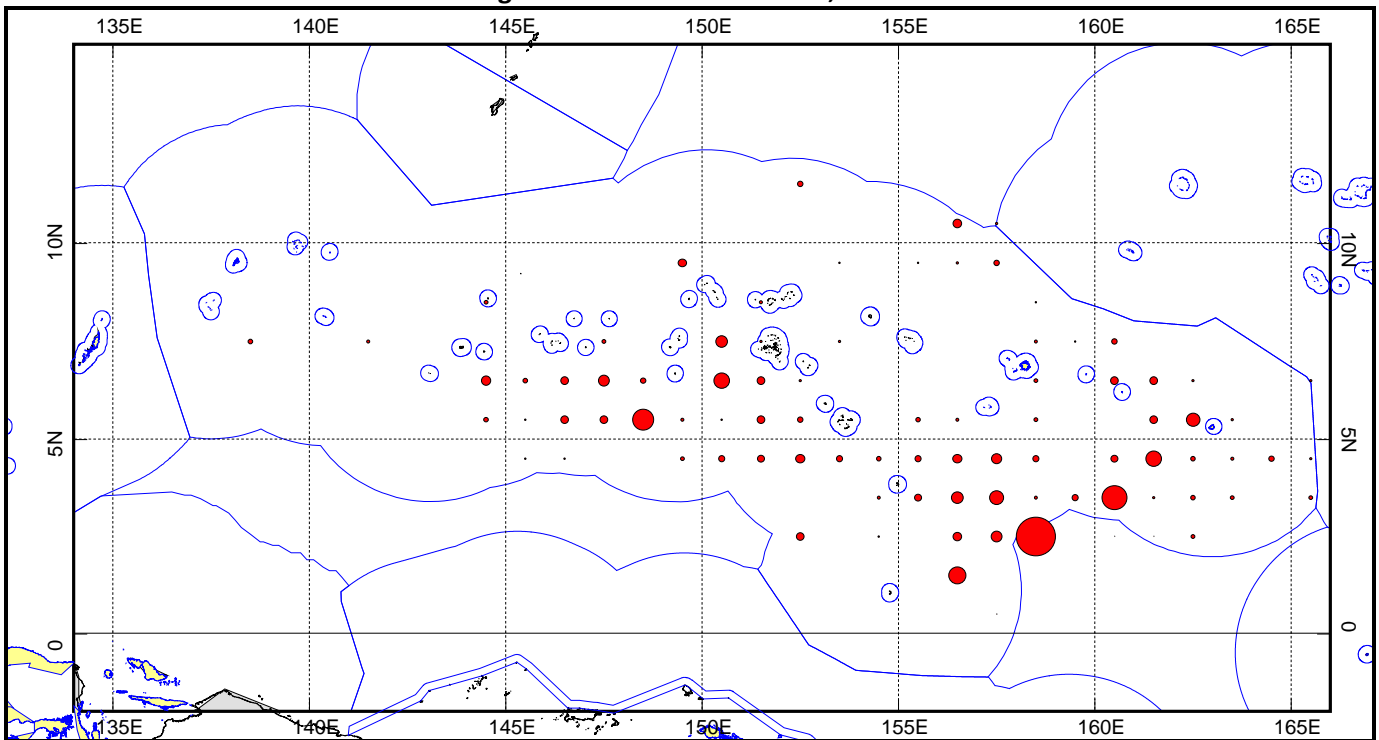


Figure 6: Pole and Line effort, 2013



## II. NORMA Divisions and Activities

### Management and Development Division

The Management & Development Division (MDD) within NORMA comprises of 3 Sections employing a total of 4 staff. The sections are License, Finance & Administration and Economics. The Staff includes the Chief of the Division, License Manager, Administrative Officer and the Executive Secretary. MDD's core functions include among others issuance of Permits to Fishing Partners, Research and Support<sup>3</sup> Vessels, economic analysis on the value of fishing within the FSM EEZ, and management of NORMA's Operational budget inclusive of carrying out day-to-day administrative tasks. This section provides a brief overview of Fishing and Fishing related access fees collected, Licenses by Gear Type and Flag issued and Operational Finance and Administration carried out by the Division for Fishing Years 2012-2013 and Fiscal Years 2012-2013. A fishing year covers January to December.

### Fishing and Fishing Related Access

Permits are issued in accordance with Title 24 of the Federated States of Micronesia Code (FSMC) to all Research Vessels, Domestic Based Local Vessels, Domestic based Foreign Vessels and Foreign Fishing Partners including Support vessels to allow them to conduct fishing and related activities within the FSM Economic Exclusive Zone. By law, Foreign and Domestic Based Foreign Fishing fleets must enter into an access

<sup>3</sup> Support include Bunker and Reefer

agreement with NORMA before a permit can be issued. This provision however does not apply to local vessels.

**Table 6: Access Agreements detailing Term, Company Name, Number of Vessels and Gear Type.**

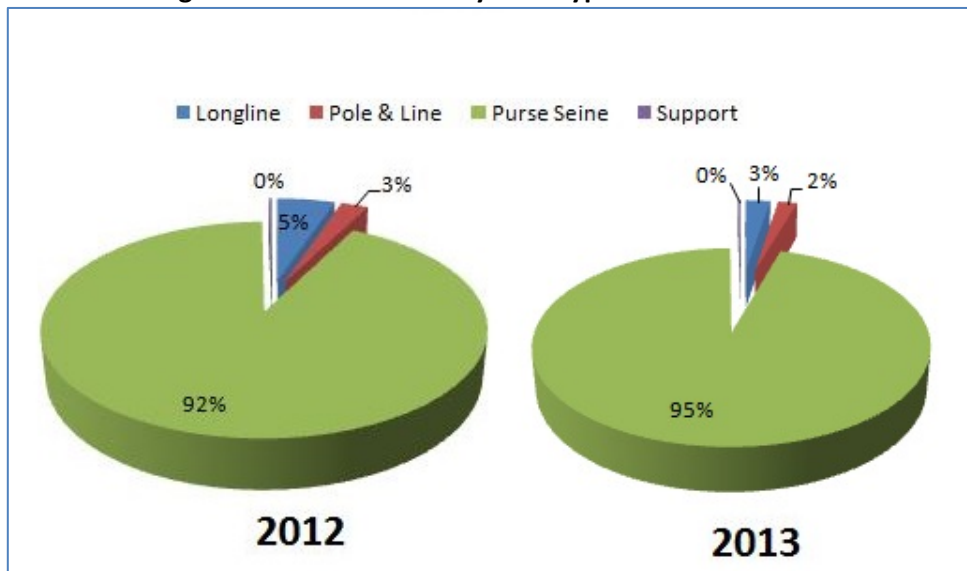
Category	Parties/Partners	Agreement Term	Number of Vessels	Gear Type
<b>Multilateral</b>	Multilateral Fisheries Treaty between the U.S. and Certain Pacific Island Countries (USMLT)	2003-2013, 2014 Interim period	45	Purse Seine
	FSM Arrangement for Regional Preferential Access (FSMA)	Rollover since 1995	60	Purse Seine
<b>Bilateral</b>	Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fisheries Association	Effective 2009 for 10 years	35	Purse Seine
	National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association of Japan	Effective 2009 for 10 years	Max of 60 LL<20GRT; Max of 25LL>20GR T;20 ULT	Longline (Fresh/Chilled) and Ultra-Low Temp (Freezer)
	Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association	Effective 2009 for 10 years	27	Pole and Line
	Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Purse Seine Boatowners and Exporters Association	2009 for 5 years	34	Purse Seine
	Korea Overseas Fisheries Association	Aug 3, 2011 - Dec 31, 2012; Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2013	28	Purse Seine
	Distant Water Fisheries Branch of China Fisheries Association	Jan 1, 2012-Dec 31, 2013	10	Purse Seine
	Cape St. Vincent	Feb 10 – December 31, 2012	1	Purse Seine
	Luen Thai Fishing Venture Ltd. (LTFV) Purse Seine	March 2011 for 10 years	12	Purse Seine
	Luen Thai Fishing Venture Ltd. (Longline)	2011 for 10 years	120 LL = LL>20GRT & LL<20GRT	Longline (Fresh/Chilled)
	Luen Thai Fishing Venture Ltd. (Longline)	Oct 21, 2011 – Dec 31, 2012	9	Ultra-Low Temperature (Freezer)
	Kasar Fishing Corporation	Dec 30, 2011 to Dec 31, 2012; Jan 8 – Dec 31, 2013	1;2	Purse Seine
	Taiyo Micronesia Corporation	May 8 – Dec 31, 2012; Jan 9 – Dec 31, 2013	1	Purse Seine

**Table 7: Total revenues collected by Gear Type for Fishing Management Years 2012 & 2013.**

Year	Longline	Pole & Line	Purse Seine	Support	Total <sup>4</sup>
2012	\$1,517,200	\$715,842	\$27,123,287	\$80,700	\$29,437,029
2013	\$793,625	\$612,110	\$29,731,302	\$71,400	\$31,208,437
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,310,825</b>	<b>\$1,327,952</b>	<b>\$56,854,589</b>	<b>\$152,100</b>	<b>\$60,645,466</b>

Total Revenue collected for Fishing Years 2012 & 2013 was \$60.6 Million as shown in Table 7. Of this total, Purse Seine fee collected represents approximately 94 percent or \$56.8 Million, Longline at 4 percent or \$2.3 Million, Pole & Line at 2 percent or \$1.3 Million and Support Vessels less than 1 percent or \$152,100 of the total collected. Comparing all the revenues collected, Longline, Pole & Line and Support Vessels decreased from 2012 to 2013 while Purse Seine collections increased between the 2 years. The significant decrease for the Longline fee collection was due to several Longline fleet Partners discontinuing fishing activities for Fishing Year 2013. For Pole & Line, high operational cost with low economic rent led to discontinuing operations as well. Conversely, because Purse Seine Fisheries represent most of fees collected, there is still an increase in total from 2012 to 2013. Refer to the following Figure 7 illustrating the trend for fee collected by gear types for both fishing years.

**Figure 7: Revenue Share by Gear type 2012 & 2013**



<sup>4</sup> Total include USMLFT and FSMA Share.



**Table 8: Total licenses issued by Gear type and Flag - 2012**

FLAG	BUNKER		CARRIER		LONGLINE		POLE AND LINE		RESEARCH		PURSE SEIN		LIGHTBOAT		US TREATY		FSMA		TOTAL	
	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS
BELIZE	8	2																	8	2
COOK ISLANDS	6	2																	6	2
CHINA			15	6	19	18			2	2	12	12					2	2	50	40
GERMANY									1	1									1	1
FIJI					1	1													1	1
FSM	2	1			6	5					11	11					7	7	26	24
INDONESIA									1	1									1	1
JAPAN					58	40	22	22	13	9	32	32					1	1	126	104
KIRIBATI	23	9	31	16													7	7	61	32
KOREA	5	2	57	20					2	1	29	29							93	52
MARSHALL ISLANDS	2	1	3	1													10	10	15	12
PANAMA	1	1	88	35					2	1									91	37
PAPUA NEW GUINEA											2	2					5	5	7	7
PHILIPPINE											4	4	1	1			8	8	13	13
RUSSIA			2	1															2	1
SINGAPORE	4	2																	4	2
SIERRA LEONE	4	1																	4	1
TUVALU	4	1																	4	1
TAIWAN			3	1	21	19					31	31					3	3	58	54
UNITED STATES									3	2					29	29			32	31
ST. VINCENT									1	1									1	1
VIETNAM	1	1																	1	1
VANUATU			10	7													13	13	23	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>440</b>

**Table 9: Total licenses issued by Gear type and Flag - 2013**

FLAG	BUNKER		CARRIER		LONGLINE		POLE AND LINE		RESEARCH		PURSE SEINE		US TREATY		FSMA		TOTAL		
	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	LICENSES	VLS	
BELIZE	3	1	3	1														6	2
COOK ISLANDS	4	1																4	1
CHINA			12	4					1	1	14	14			2	2		29	21
GERMANY									1	1								1	1
FSM					1	1					11	11			8	8		20	20
JAPAN					48	33	23	23	16	9	29	29			1	1		117	95
KIRIBATI	25	9	42	19											7	7		74	35
KOREA	7	3	47	20							28	28						82	51
MARSHALL ISLANDS	3	1	4	1											10	10		17	12
PANAMA	1	1	70	33														71	34
PAPUA NEW GUINEA															6	6		6	6
PHILIPPINE											3	3			11	11		14	14
SINGAPORE	1	1																1	1
TUVALU	3	1																3	1
TAIWAN			3	2	13	10					32	32			4	4		52	48
UNITED STATES									4	3				40	40			44	43
VIETNAM	2	1																2	1
VANUATU			10	5											12	12		22	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>403</b>	

Total permits issued for FYs 2012 & 2013 were 1,193. Similar to Table 7 as also illustrated in Figure 7, number of licenses decreased from 2012 to 2013 due to the discontinuation of fishing activities by several Fishing Partners. Nevertheless, fees collected from the Purse Seine fisheries still increased from 2012 to 2013 because more fishing rights were sold to Purse Fishing Partners in 2013.

## Finance and Administration

NORMA employs a total of 11 full-time positions with contracts to individuals assuming responsibilities in the areas of Data Entry, Debriefing, Observer Coordination and Observers on Fishing Vessels.

Total budget for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 was \$880,614 with total expenditure of \$817,036 leaving a balance of \$63,578 for the reporting period. The major expenses for 2012 were for the purchases of laptops and copiers. For FY 2013, a new vehicle was purchased for the Executive Director.

**Table 10: NORMA Operational budget for FY 2012 to and FY 2013**  
Source: FSM Department of Finance & Administration

Fiscal Year	Budget	Expenditure	Remaining Balance
<b>2012</b>	<b>\$417,807</b>	<b>\$378,939</b>	<b>\$38,868</b>
CONSUMEABLES	\$62,100	\$59,064	\$3,036
CONTRACTUAL	\$49,900	\$49,792	\$108
FIXED ASSETS	\$11,000	\$9,720	\$1,280
PERSONNEL	\$209,791	\$190,028	\$19,763
TRAVEL	\$85,016	\$70,335	\$14,681
<b>2013</b>	<b>\$462,807</b>	<b>\$438,097</b>	<b>\$24,710</b>
CONSUMEABLES	\$61,100	\$59,678	\$1,422
CONTRACTUAL	\$65,900	\$61,612	\$4,288
FIXED ASSETS	\$41,000	\$37,414	\$3,586
PERSONNEL	\$209,791	\$206,101	\$3,690
TRAVEL	\$85,016	\$73,292	\$11,724
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$880,614</b>	<b>\$817,036</b>	<b>\$63,578</b>

## Highlights, Challenges and Opportunities

One of the many accomplishments within NORMA during the reporting period was the development of the Information Management System (IMS). The project was led by the late Mr. Collin Brown in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for FSM and RMI. The project aimed to integrate relevant sets of fisheries-related information and make them available at the “press of a button”. The system would be in line with “best practice” data and information management, utilizing the latest technology to allow fisheries managers to make informed decisions in a timely manner. The IMS would also allow for electronic exchanges on a national and regional basis involving partner agencies and the fishing industry itself. The sad passing of the late Colin Brown during the project slowed down the work of IMS.

As reported in Table 8 and 9 more than one thousand permits were issued during Fishing Years 2012 and 2013 with only 1 staff within License Section. Often the Chief of the Division including the Executive Secretary assist in reviewing and issuing permits due to the numerous license applications are submitted or when the License Manager is away from work.

During the review period, license procedures were developed as part of the IMS project and also in response to the Performance Audit of the NORMA conducted by Office of the National Public Auditor. Other Standard Operational Procedures are currently being developed and will be reported in NORMA’s next Annual report.

Capacity Building training in the areas of Economic Analysis, Licensing and Accounting were carried out through both years. One of the limitations in attending trainings for the division is the fact that issuing license and day-to-day operations remain among others core daily functions and given that only one staff assumes related responsibilities in each area, opportunities are turned down at times.

### Research Division

The NORMA Research Section collects fisheries catch and effort data, unloading, biological sampling and catch composition on commercial tuna species that is used in national and regional tuna stock assessments. The NORMA observer program and port sampling operates under the Research Section. They form an integral part of the Authority’s conservation and monitoring mandate. Programs have been implemented and modified in line with developments in the fishery, and in line with regional programs and emerging electronic technologies. An overview of the provisional estimates of the total catch for 2013 and developments are summarized below.

### NORMA’s National Fisheries Observer Program

The FSM’s National Fisheries Observer Program (NFOP) contracted over 90 fisheries observers in 2013 compared to 84 in 2012. The NFOP achieved 468 observed trips in 2013 compared to 437 in 2012 covering longline, pole and line, and purse seine vessels. Of the 468 observer placements in 2013, 461 trips were on purse seiners, 3 trips on longliners, and 4 pole and liners (Table 10). The top three flag vessels for observer placement were with Japan at 139, Chinese Taipei <sup>5</sup>107, and USA at 73 placements.

**Table 11: Observer Trip Coverage per Flag and Gear-type, 2013**

2012			2013		
Gear Type	Trips	Flag	Gear Type	Trips	Flag
Longline			Longline		
	9	China		0	China
	0	FSM		0	FSM
	5	Chinese Taipei		0	Chinese Taipei
	4	Japan		3	Japan
Purse Seine			Purse Seine		
	12	China		43	China
	104	FSM +(FSMA)		68	FSM +(FSMA)
	153	Japan		132	Japan
	36	Korea		38	Korea

<sup>5</sup> Chinese Taipei is also Taiwan

	70	Chinese Taipei		107	Chinese Taipei
	40	USA		73	USA
Pole and Line			Pole and Line		
	4	Japan		4	Japan
<b>Pole and Line</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>Pole and Line</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Longline</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>Longline</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Purse Seine</b>		<b>415</b>	<b>Purse Seine</b>		<b>461</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>437</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>468</b>

FSM and RMI completed 61 observer placements under the continued bilateral arrangement for reciprocal placements of observers on their respective vessels. By early December 2013 with the newly created PNA Observer Agency the FSM and RMI bilateral arrangement was ceased. Only two observer placements were done for PNA Observer Agency in 2013. Two FSM longlines are based in the Cook Islands had two successful observer placements by the Cook Island Fisheries (CFA 21 and CFA 22). There were three successful observer placements by RMI observers for the FSM flag longline vessels based in the Marshall Islands.

Due to the increase of number fisheries observers for the purse seine fleet for 100% observer coverage and 5% coverage for longline, a significant number of observer trainings and hiring's were done in 2013, as follows:

- The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification training for sub-regional fisheries observers and trainers was held in early April. A total of 17 FSM fisheries observer are now MSC received (Pohnpei, FSM).
- Successful hiring of an observer coordinator in July.
- FFA and SPC funded observer sub-regional training was done in early July to August in collaboration with the FSM Yap Maritime Institute (FMI), as an initiative to engage with the College of Micronesia (COM-FSM) maritime programs. Graduate students of FMI are also recruited into the FSM NFOP. The other observer sub-regional training (Yap, FSM).
- FFA/SPC funded observer sub regional training in October (Pohnpei, FSM)
- Observers cross endorsement certificating training to certify 2 FSM observers for cross endorsement trips (Majuro, Marshall Islands).
- Debriefing training for part A and B. A total of 10 FSM debriefer trainee's have successfully completed part A and on-going assessment for part B. Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) debriefer course for part B of is under review for potential candidates to attend part C and become certified PIRFO debriefers (Pohnpei, FSM).
- FSM in collaboration with FFA underwent e-reporting and monitoring trial using De-Lorme inReach devices. Two of FSM observers completed the trial in late 2013. Future trial plans are in review with the lessons learned (Pohnpei, FSM).
- Introductory and refresher courses on tuna biological sampling training was done in late 2013 certifying seven observers (Pohnpei, FSM).
- Completed SPC spill sampling project 360 with two FSM flag purse seines in early 2013 (Pohnpei, FSM).

## Observer Revolving Fund

The 2012 Observer Revolving Fund (ORF) opening balance was \$799,525.00 and the total expense was \$410,520.74 as compared to what was collected in 2013 at \$645,549.48 with \$489,355.44 as the total expense (*FSM Audit report, observer and port sampling revolving fund 2015*). The main expenditure for the ORF was towards the observer contractual services. The ORF expenditure also include the salaries of port sampling work, salary of two data entry staff, debriefing fees to validate data quality of observers and other observer equipments.

## Port Sampling Program

The National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA) operates a port sampling program and continuously monitors unloading and transshipment activities within FSM ports. In addition, NORMA continues to use its observer program to assist in conducting port sampling activities. FSM's main port for unloading and transshipment is in Pohnpei port for the past five years with the aim of covering an estimated 80% of catch weight unloaded or transshipped. In 2013, there was no purse unloading to port, but only to carrier vessels at anchorage same as other years. NORMA's current sampling records showed 246 purse seine vessels transshipped 192,472mt and 18 longline vessels transshipped 9,142mt of tuna (Table 11 and 12) for a total of 201,614mt in 2013 compared to 227 purse seine in 2012. Further review and improvement on estimated transshipment volume amount unloaded in Pohnpei port is on-going.

FSM has continued sampling the United States purse seine vessels that transshipped in FSM since 2010 in accordance with contractual services between FSM and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The contractual services include port sampling program and port sampling data collection for the USMLFT vessels transshipping in FSM ports. A total of 11 USMLFT vessels transshipped 40,978mt in Pohnpei port (Table 11).

The Unloading data for 2013 is still provisional and is an under-estimate of the total volume of purse seine vessel unloading in Pohnpei port provided in table 10 and 11. A majority of the 2013 unloading data is pending reconciliation. The 2013 longline unloading record is showing a total of 32 unloadings in Pohnpei port with a volume of 179mt of tuna and other species by three longline fleets compared to 39 unloadings in 2012 (Table 12).

**Table 12: Purse Seine unloadings, 2012-2013**

**2012**

Port	Flag	No. of Vessels	Tonnage (mt)
Pohnpei	Japan	36	26,345
	Taiwan	52	38,636
	Korea	51	39,866
	China	17	12,643
	USA	26	22,174
	FSM	25	16,118
	Vanuatu	11	10,444
	Kiribati	9	5,240

<b>Total</b>		<b>227</b>	<b>171,466</b>
<b>2013</b>			
<b>Pohnpei</b>	Japan	29	19,803
	Taiwan	82	67,747
	Korea	21	13,915
	China	20	13,473
	USA	47	40,978
	FSM	11	8,850
	Vanuatu	23	18,735
	Kiribati	10	6,256
	Majuro	3	2,185
<b>Total</b>		<b>246</b>	<b>191,942</b>

**Table 13: Longline unloadings<sup>6</sup>, 2012**

Port	Flag	Species	Mt	Unloadings
<b>POHNPEI</b>				
	CN	BET	9	1
	CN	YFT	119	
	CN	OTH	0	
	TW	BET	2,792	37
	TW	YFT	3,802	
	TW	OTH	0	
	FM	BET	444	1
	FM	YFT	1,365	
	FM	OTH	611	
<b>Total</b>			<b>9,142</b>	<b>39</b>

**Table 14: Longline unloadings, 2013**

POHNPEI	Flag	Species	Mt	Unloadings
	CN	BET	13	5
	CN	YFT	4	
	CN	OTH	0	
	TW	BET	1	1
	TW	YFT	0	
	TW	OTH	0	
	FM	BET	95	26
	FM	YFT	28	
	FM	OTH	38	
<b>Total</b>			<b>179</b>	<b>32</b>

<sup>6</sup> Port of Unloadings: CN=China; TW=Taiwan; FM=FSM; OTH=Other

## Highlights, Challenges and Opportunities

With a significant increase in the number of fisheries observers due to the implementation of the 100% purse seine and observer transshipment observer coverage, the Research Section hired a full time observer coordinator to take on the responsibility of observer placement, monitoring and coordination. This position was vacated with the departure of Steven Retalmi and the late Clement Wichilmel in 2012. The observer coordinator has taken the responsibility well, however a number of challenges were recommended for further training and capacity building issues especially in the area of data management, collection and analysis.

A successful achievement for the Research Section was in August 2013 when one of its senior observers completed the SPC Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) certification training and became a fully certified observer debriefer. The role of a debriefer is for data verification and provides feedback for observer data quality. Currently, 3 other FSM senior observers are on the path to become certified PIRFO debriefers and another is on its way to become a PIRFO certified trainer and assessor. An additional 5 senior observers are doing trainee debriefers. Such opportunities are part of the career path for FSM fisheries observers and NORMA is building on this to support capacity building within FSM, and the Pacific Island region.

As often the case, taking advantage of observer training and workshops opportunities for qualified fisheries observers is not easy. Therefore, NORMA can only hire and train a certain number of observers within a year into its observer pool as we are heavily reliant on FFA and SPC for training support. A proposed cost recovery scheme is being proposed by FFA for all the regional observer programs to place the cost of management, training and coordination among others for full cost recovery.

The NFOP has trained and employed over 80 fisheries observers from throughout the FSM. The significant increase numbers of observers have also played a critical role for other opportunities within the Research Section. For example, here are some work opportunities for FSM observers throughout the region; scientific research by international universities and research institutes for Marine Scientific Research (MSR) in the FSM EEZ. The PNA Marine Stewardship Council certification scheme (MSC) for skipjack tuna, FFA and SPC e-reporting/monitoring trials, WCPFC cross-endorsement training of observers on purse seine to monitor Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and WCPFC boundary, Port sampling in Pohnpei port, FFA-US Treaty purse seine, the monitoring of transshipment of fish carriers within the WCPFC convention areas.

NORMA's on-going problem with payment processing continues to hold setbacks on observer placement and monitoring for the Research Section. All of NORMA's observers are employed under contractual services and are subject to national finance payment processing. These delays are caused during processing contract renewals and when there is depletion of funds. Proposed financial officer and a program manager may play major roles in ensuring funds are distributed on a timely matter and observer placements run smoothly.

## Statistics, Compliance and Technical Projects Division (SCTD)

The Statistics, Compliance and Technical Projects Division (SCTD) of NORMA consists of 3 units; the Statistic /IT unit, VMS/Compliance and Technical Project.

The Section continues in pursuing its goal as to provide timely and quality IT services for internal and external purposes for the Authority and, data entries of all catch log sheets for management and scientific purposes, closely monitor movement operations of fishing vessels to ensure compliance with fishing license agreement, and license terms and condition, monitor and control Purse Seine Vessel Days Scheme (VDS) fishing within and outside FSM EEZ, and to manage National IMS system. However these were the achievements for the Division in 2012 and 2013.

### Statistics/Information Technology (IT) Unit

The Statistics/IT Unit aims to collect and assess NORMA's information on fisheries resources and to provide advice to executive management on the conservation of these resources with relation to fisheries management and development. Continues control and monitor catch logsheets collected from fishing vessels during the unloading and also from fishing companies. Data are utilized locally for different purposes including reports such as annual reports and quarterly report. Some of the tasks by this unit include:

- Update TUFMAN fisheries database and send with scanned data to SPC for fisheries stock assessments, scientific reporting and compliance monitoring purposes.
- Two data entry staff hired with SPC assistance.
- Provide backup VMS support and assistance.
- Provide overall IT support to the Authority.

### VMS/Compliance Unit

Compliance is one of the critical units within NORMA. It involves the operational implementation of laws and management controls, overseeing compliance with terms and conditions of access agreements and laws, rules and regulations of the FSM and provides guidance in monitoring and enforcing the Title 24 of the Act and regulations, and effectively use of information and intelligence collected through Monitoring and Control process.

### Fisheries Management Surveillance Working Group

#### 2012

- There was 1 Fisheries Surveillance Working Group that was carried out.

#### 2013

- There were 3 Surveillance working group meetings carried out mandated under Title 24.

### 2012/2013 vessels issued with Citations and Apprehended

- Per Table 15, the most common violation by vessels relates to the absence of permit either onboard or in the wheelhouse mostly on the purse seiners. For Long liners, the common violation is the absence of the International Code of Signals (INTERCO) on board. Misreporting fetches the highest fine per violation.



- In 2012 there were 7 vessels issued with citations for failure to meet additional or special condition of fishing permits and failure to mark vessel in accordance with FAO standard specifications.
- There are 12 vessels that were apprehended for violating FSM Title 24 and taken to port for prosecution and turned out to have all of them settled their cases out of court.
- In 2013 there are 12 vessels were issued citations for failure to meet additional or special condition of fishing permits and failure to mark vessel in accordance with FAO standard specifications.
- There are 7 vessels were apprehended for violating FSM Title 24 and taken to port for prosecution and turned out to have all of them settled their cases out of court.

**Table 15: Violations and Prosecutions, 2012/2013**

Citation Type	# of Vessels	Vessel Types	Average amt. of Settlement/Fine	Total Amount in 2012	Total Amount in 2013
Original Permit Not Onboard/Not properly Displayed	14	Long Liner (LL)-1 Purse Seiner (PS)-10 Others (O)-3	\$50,000	\$167,000	\$72,000
INTERCO not Onboard	6	LL-6	\$1,000	\$6,000	0
Misreporting	6	LL- 5 PS-1	\$15,000- \$500,000	\$160,000	\$500,000
Markings not per FAO Standards	5	LL-3 PS-2	\$1,000	0	\$5,000.00
Not Reporting on VMS/Missing ALC	3	LL –1 PS-1 O- 1	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$280,000
Obstructed Call Sign	2	LL–1	\$1,000	\$1,000	0
Not meeting Special Permit Conditions	2	LL-1 PS-1	\$50,000	0	\$150,000
Not Monitoring Radio Frequencies	2	LL-2	\$1,000	0	\$2,000
FAD fishing during Closure	1	PS-1	\$100,000	\$100,000	0
			<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$534,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,009,000</b>

### Vessel Day Scheme

The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) is a Purse Seine scheme where vessel owners can purchase and trade days fishing at sea in places subject to the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA). The purpose of the VDS is to constrain and reduce catches of target tuna species, and increase the rate of return from fishing activities through access fees paid by Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs).

Figure 8: Party Allowable Effort, 2012

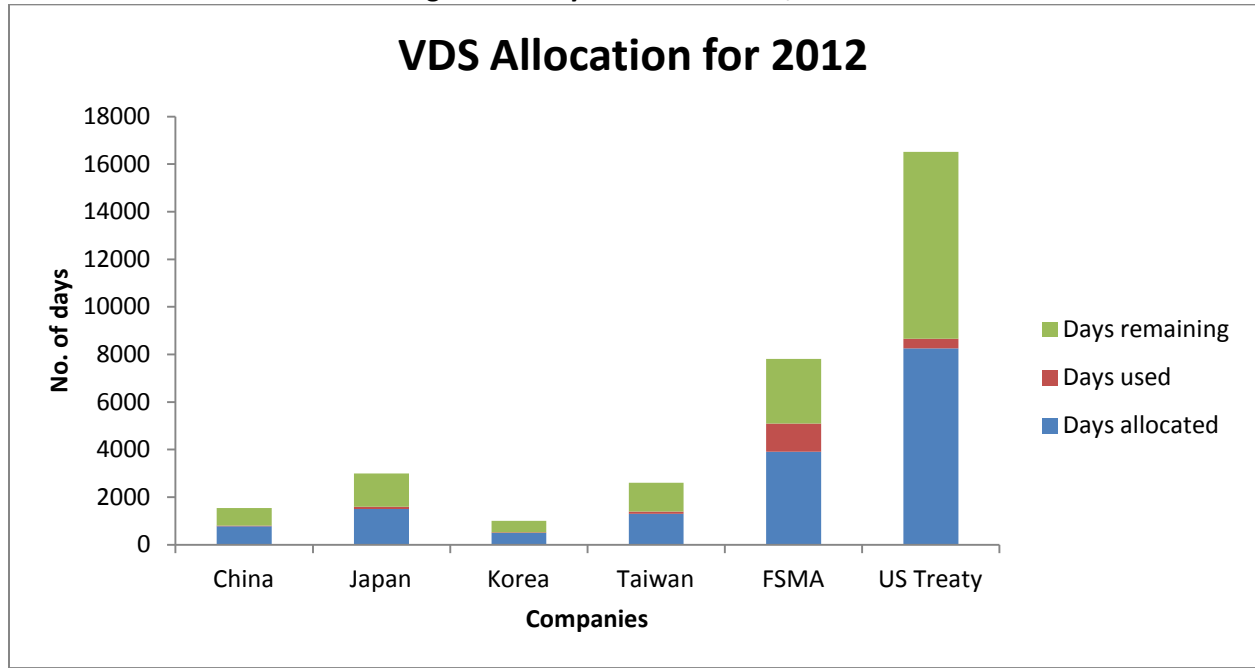
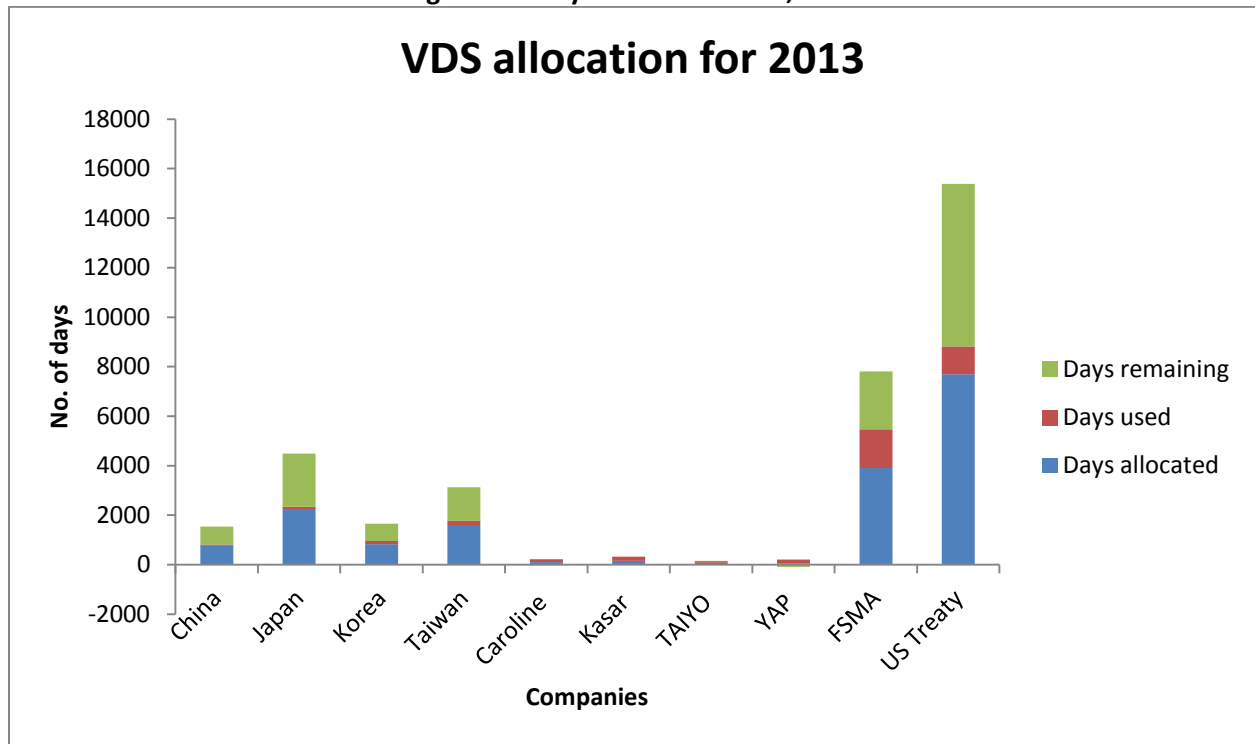


Figure 9: Party Allowable Effort, 2013



## Vessel Monitoring System

- VMS is a satellite based, near real time, position tracking system for monitoring the location of vessels equipped with the appropriate technology.
  - 2012 NORMA Compliance section was issued with an access by the WCPFC to view commission registered fishing vessels in the 100nm buffer zone in the high seas adjacent to the 200nm boundary line of FSM to view commission vessels in the high seas within 100nm
  - 2013 FSM had completed an interim VMS SOP which was being used by the VMS Technical Officer in carrying out MCS responsibilities.
  - 2013 FSM was issued with the WCPFC VMS account that enables NORMA VMS officer to view all commission registered fishing vessels transiting and navigating through in FSM EEZ
  - VMS Manager continue to monitor the ongoing incursions by the Philippine flag group seiner that were being picked up on the WCPFC VMS intruding into FSM EEZ on series occasions and possibly conducting illegal transshipment into FSM EEZ.
  - In 2012 and 2013, a total of 1,116 license fishing and support vessels were being monitored by NORMA VMS Manager
  - From 2012 to 2013, the FFA Surveillance Google Earth Picture also continue to provide NORMA compliance section another effective tool in Monitoring non compliant fishing vessels through the use of AIS as another alternative tool in monitoring fishing vessels in the region

Figure 10: 2012 VMS Monitored Licensed Vessels

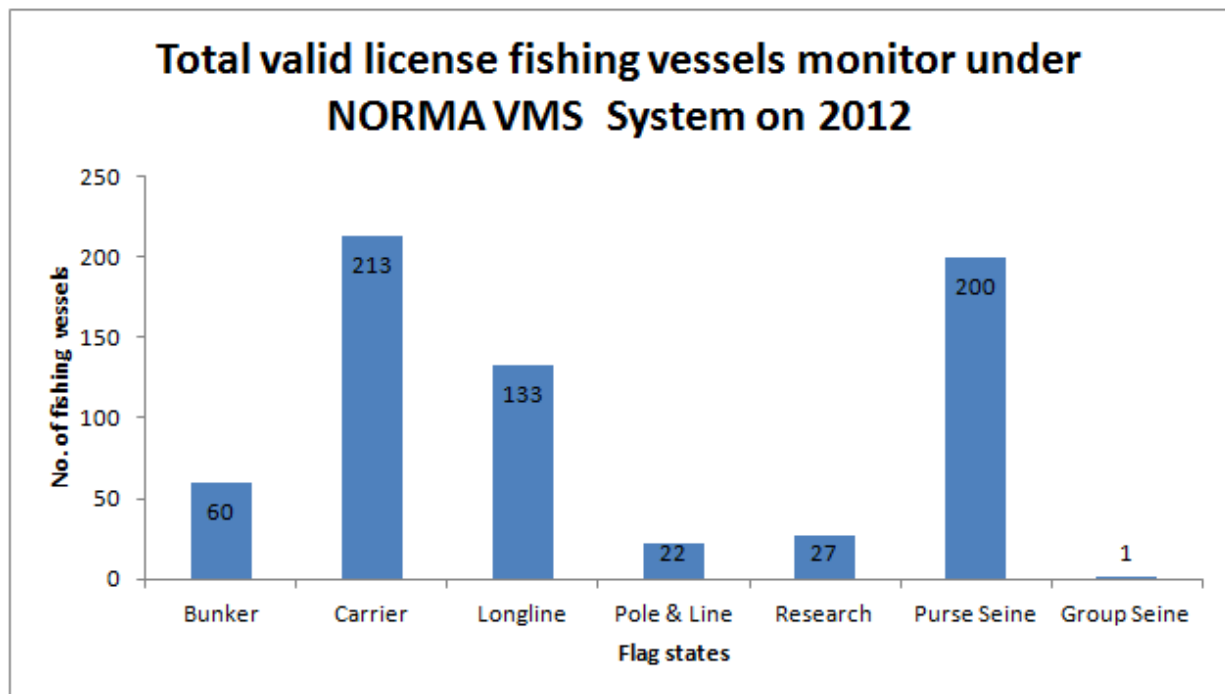
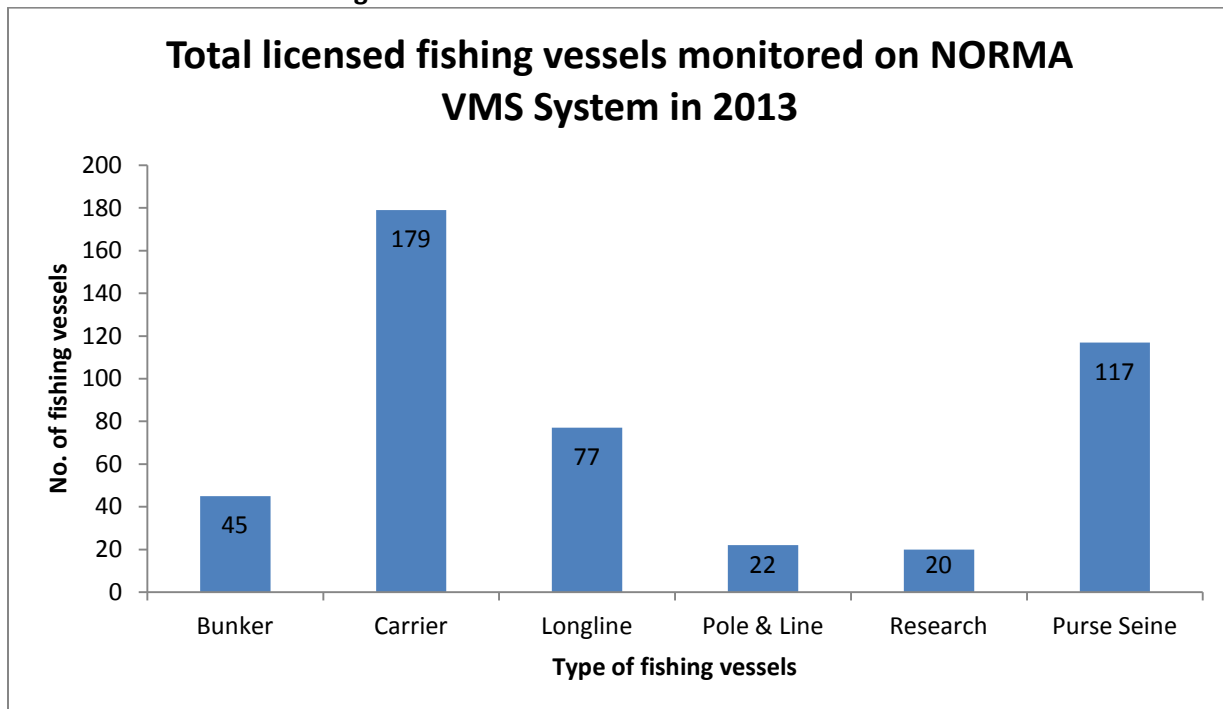


Figure 11: 2013 VMS Monitored licensed Vessels



## Technical Projects

Technical projects can cover a range of activities not otherwise handled by other Divisions. At present, the SCTD is involved in fisheries-related trade negotiations, maritime boundary delimitation and Continental Shelf claims.

### Continental shelf and Maritime Boundary Projects – 2012/2013

- **(19-30 November 2012):** The Statistics and IT Manager attended the 10th Pacific Islands Countries Advanced Article 76 of UNCLOS and Maritime Boundaries Development Workshop at the University of Sydney, Australia. The two-week long work focused on the following:
  - Further develop countries their respective Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) claims (Article 76 of UNCLOS-UN Convention on the Law of the Sea);
  - Develop the solutions for their territorial sea baselines and archipelagic baselines, maritime zones and outer limits (including the territorial seas, contiguous zone and the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)) with a view to having national maritime legislation/declarations finalized in accordance with UNCLOS;
  - Facilitate and finalize shared boundary arrangements with a view to signing maritime boundary agreements/treaties between neighboring and adjacent countries;

- **(25 Nov-06 Dec 2013):** The Statistics and IT Manager attended the 11th Pacific Islands Countries Advanced Article 76 (UNCLOS) and Maritime Boundaries Development Workshop at the University of Sydney, Australia. During the course of the two weeks the following tasks were undertaken with respect to FSM's continental shelf and maritime boundary projects. The following work was carried out during the two-week long process:
- FSM met with the US government regarding the maritime boundary between FSM and US (Guam) area. US sent their proposed median line and during the whole of the two weeks FSM and SPC worked on matching up our own median line with the US. From 7 to 11 and finally 16 basepoints was the final result of the median line construction to be agreed on both sides.
  - FSM/PNG maritime boundaries remain on hold as FSM awaits PNG to respond to diplomatic note already sent regarding the amended Treaty. FSM deposited their extended continental shelf claim on the Euripik Rise on August 30, 2013. During the workshop the advisors prepared FSM if they are to do a formal presentation of the deposit to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf at the next session which was in 2014.

### **NORMA's IMS and data management**

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)<sup>7</sup> have been working collaboratively on the Regional Information Management Facility (RIMF) with NORMA. This work has focused on building a comprehensive fisheries information management system to improve access to a number of databases, tools and services to undertake analysis of available data.

NORMA's Information Management System (IMS) was updated in 2013 with the development and implementation of Observer Program Management (OPM) system, which is used to manage observer placements, and associated data. The OPM database reporting functions are in a developmental phase (i.e. generated data summary of annual trips, flags, sea days, etc.).

The Research Section in collaboration with FFA and SPC is currently trialing electronic technology data collection methods with FSM observers. This includes electronic monitoring (EM) digital video cameras and reporting (ER) software logsheets. The demands for more frequent, more precise and more types of fishery dependant data for the Authorities science, compliance and management continue to rise every year.

To further continue IMS and data management development, a position for an e-reporting officer is being explored as well as funding to ensure that the development phase of the IMS is achieved in a more cost-effective and sustainable approach with emerging electronic technologies in fishery-dependant data collection programs.

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<sup>7</sup> [Secretariat of the Pacific Community - http://www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int)

## Highlights, Challenges and Opportunities

Staff continued to benefit from short term training courses and meetings organized and funded by regionally and international organizations local and overseas which enables NORMA staffs to develop staff skills and knowledge in various capacity building.

- Need more training and capacity building in data management , collection and analysis, Compliance with national law, VMS and VDS analysis
- Increase the public awareness on Fisheries National Law
- Encourage the public to report any illegal fishing activities as it is more effective and cost efficient
- Compliance section continuing trying to make an immediate and transparent working together with local people\_and other agencies.

## III. NORMA's Participation in Sub-Regional, Regional and International Fisheries Organizations

### PARTIES TO THE NAURU AGREEMENT (PNA)<sup>8</sup>

In 2013, the Authority attended a number of national, regional and international meetings where tuna and tuna fisheries management and development are concerned.

#### Thirty Second Annual Meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA32) was held in Koror, Palau in late February early March 2013. PNA32 was preceded by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Palau Arrangement and 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the FSM Arrangement. In addition, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the VDS Technical and Science Committee was held. The major outcomes included:

- the adoption to increase the minimum benchmark for a purse seine vessel day under the Purse Seine Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) from \$5,000 per day to \$6,000 per day. While PNA members enjoyed nearly tripling their annual purse seine revenues, the Parties agreed to increase the benchmark to \$6,000 to achieve greater economic benefits.
- Parties agreed to implement the new non-fishing days definitions in 2013 to strengthen the VDS and maintain its integrity as a credible management scheme for the purse seine fishery in PNA waters.
- The Parties also adopted a Limit Reference Point (LRP) for the skipjack fishery at 20% Spawning Biomass (SBo) with a provisional risk of 5%.
- The Parties adopted the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for 2013 with a provisional TAE for 2014 and 2015. The TAE was set at 34,685 Days.
- The Parties adopted the Party Allowable Effort (PAE) for 2013 with FSM receiving 5,826 Days for 2013.
- The FSMA Parties agreed to continue the transitional arrangement for the FSM with the pool of 3,907 days and once the pool was exhausted, Home Party's would allocate days to the FSMA for their vessels to fish in other Party's waters with payment of \$2,500 for every day fished in other Party's waters.

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<sup>8</sup> [The Parties to the Nauru Agreement - http://www.pnatuna.com](http://www.pnatuna.com)

- Party's agreed to contribute days to the US Treaty for the six month period June-December 2013 and considered a range of options for the 2014 period to be agreed to later.

### **10th Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission <sup>9</sup>(WCPFC10)**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC10) was held in Cairns, Australia from 2-6 December 2013 and the Cairns International Convention Center.

The key decisions of WCPFC10 include among others:

- Adoption of CMM2013-01 to replace CMM2012-01 to conserve and manage bigeye mortality by extending the fad closure to four months (July to October).
- Adoption of CMM2013-06 on Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States and CMM2013-07 on Criteria on Developing CMMs that takes into account impact on SIDS.
- A revised CMM 2013-02 on Compliance Monitoring Scheme.
- A CMM on daily catch reporting on the high seas CMM2013-05).
- A CMM on the prohibition on retention of Silky Sharks.

In WCPFC10, Indonesia became a full Contracting Party to the WCPFC. FFA's proposal on a Port State CMM for the WCPFC was almost adopted when Japan at the last minute objected to its adoption on the basis that it required more time to understand the FFA proposal.

### **Other Regional and International Meetings Attended:**

- PACP-EPA Trade and Fisheries High Level Meeting in Brussels (July 2013)
- FFA Management Options Workshop, Honiara, Solomon Islands (November 2013)

### **For Further Information**

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<sup>9</sup> [Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission - http://www.wcpfc.int](http://www.wcpfc.int)