



NORMA ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2023



National Oceanic Resource Management Authority

FSM National Government

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ALB	Albacore Tuna
BET	Bigeye Tuna
CA	Convention Area
CDS	Catch Documentation Scheme
CP	Corporate Plan
DWFNs	Distant Water Fishing Nations
eCS	Extended Continental Shelf
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FCD	Fisheries Compliance Division
FCS	Fisheries Compliance Strategy
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FIMS	Fisheries Information Management System
FMD	Fisheries Management Division
FMY	Fishing Management Year
FSD	Fisheries Science Division
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
IMS	Information Management System
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NORMA	National Oceanic Resources Management Authority
NTIS	Niue Treaty Information System
OP	Observer Program
ORF	Observer Revolving Fund
PAE	Party Allowable Effort
PIRFO	Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
POA	PNA Observer Agency
SKJ	Skipjack Tuna
SP	Strategic Plan
T-3	Technology for Tuna Transparency
TAE	Total Allowable Effort
VDS	Vessel Day Scheme
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
WCPO-CA	Western and Central Pacific Ocean – Convention Area
YFT	Yellowfin Tuna

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THE AUTHORITY

The Authority is comprised of five Board of Directors, one member from each FSM State appointed by the President of the FSM, in consultation with the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Congress and one at-large member appointed by the President of the FSM with the advice and consent of the Congress.

The organization includes a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and members responsible for adopting regulations and fulfilling duties and responsibilities *outlined in Section 205 of Title 24 for the sustainable management, development, and use of fisheries resources in the EEZ.* (Check with Lou with Title 24)

The Executive management is led by an Executive Director, who supervises the overall operations of NORMA. This position is supported by a Deputy Director and Five Assistant Directors, Corporate Service Division, Fisheries Compliance Division, Fisheries Science Division, Fisheries Economic and Development Division, and Fisheries Management Division.

The Deputy Director acts in the absence of the Executive Director and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of NORMA. These responsibilities include supervising staff, preparing fisheries negotiation strategies, compiling statistics and data analysis, administering all foreign and domestic fishing agreements, and providing technical assistance to States. Additionally, they develop policy regarding fisheries and fisheries development and implement policies.

While NORMA is crucial in the development of the tuna fisheries sector, its principal role is to facilitate and provide advice since the development of the fisheries sector falls under the portfolio of the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) and Department of Justice (DOJ).

Chairman's Remark



It is an honor to serve as the Chairman of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA). As one of the most valued government-owned entities managing the most valuable resource in the FSM, I am pleased to report NORMA's activities for 2020-2023.

One of NORMA's mission serves to develop the fisheries that would in turn benefit the FSM citizens through collaborative efforts between the National and State Government among others.

NORMA furthermore collaborates with subregional and regional organizations to manage and conserve the fisheries for economic benefits to the Members and sustainability of the targeted fish stocks in the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

The entire Board thanks and acknowledges the support of the President and Congress, the National and State government departments, the private sector actors, and our management and staff at NORMA for a job well-done.

Peter Garamfel

Chairman

ABOUT NORMA



The National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA) is the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Government agency responsible for managing the FSM's fisheries resources from the 12-nautical mile (NM) Territorial Seas out to the 200 NM Exclusive Economic Zone. Fisheries resources inside the 12 NM Territorial Seas are managed by the four individual states (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae). NORMA works closely with the Department of Resources & Development (R&D), the Department of Justice (DoJ), the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (TC&I) among other national and state agencies to fulfill its fisheries management duties.

Message from the Executive Director

We are pleased to join our Chairman of the Board in presenting our 2020-2023 Annual Report, in which we highlight some of our most recent accomplishments, critical partnerships as well as the key data on oceanic fisheries in the FSM.

Through the World Bank Pacific Region Ocean Scape Program (WB PROP) and NORMA's Strategic Plan, NORMA expanded its organizational structure to allow the Authority to carry out its roles efficiently and effectively across the various areas within the offshore fisheries. Similarly, the institutional strengthening allowed for strategic approach to facilitate collaborative and focused efforts in contributing to relevant sub-regional and regional fisheries crop agencies in the interest of the FSM and its citizens.

As part of the institutional strengthening, there is a greater focus on facilitating the development of fisheries through the 2021-2026 Fisheries Investment Policy. The Policy aims at maximizing the value of participatory rights under the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) and fostering economic growth in the FSM. This policy aligns with the 2016 directives of the FSM Leadership.

NORMA continues to progress the T3 Challenge through the Electronic Monitoring (EM) initiative FSM seeks to accomplish on all FSM longliners by 2023. The project intends to address data gaps in the longline fisheries and simultaneously supporting existing human and other monitoring tools.

Title 24 designate NORMA to delimit the maritime boundaries of the FSM and its extended Continental Shelves (eCS). Working with a Task Force established to undertake this work, NORMA has completed the delimitation of FSM maritime boundaries. Furthermore, all the claims for eCS have also been deposited to the UN Commission on Extended Continental Shelf (UN Commission) for its review and recommendation. One of the claims that has been successfully approved by the UN Commission is the Ontong Java Plateau (OJP) which is a joint claim by the FSM, PNG and Solomon Islands.

The NORMA Observer Program resumed placement of observers onboard fishing vessels in 2022 after the closure of activities at the ports due to COVID. The closure of the ports and prohibition of observer placements caused a significant decline in the number of FSM observers however NORMA continued to recruit and train new observers accordingly. One of the objectives of the program is to promote development through employment of locals on board fishing vessels thus fishing partners are encouraged to utilize the FSM observers to promote development and enhanced partnership.

Moreover, NORMA is committed to being a training ground for aspiring citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia with a passion for fisheries management, development, statistical and scientific analysis of fisheries data, and non-compliance-related work. Through this program, Ms. Louisa Movick was recruited as a Legal Intern closely supervised by NORMA and the Department of Justice (DOJ). After several years of on the job training, Ms. Movick has gained the experience and is serving as the Legal Advisor for NORMA beginning 2023.

Conclusively, our sincere gratitude to the support, guidance and contributing to the successful operations from the NORMA Board of Directors, as well as the Office of the President and Vice President.

VISION & MISSION

01 VISION

NORMA is professional, well resourced, authority having the full capacity to carry out its mandated duties

02 MISSION

The mission of the Authority is to be an effective guardian and manager of the marine resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia for people living today and for generations of citizens to come.

The Authority works to: Ensure that these resources are used in a sustainable way; Obtain the maximum sustainable economic benefits from the resources; and Promote economic security for the nation through their use.

Corporate Activities

The NORMA Strategic Plan 2018-2023 was developed by the NORMA Board of Directors to give strategic direction to the administration of NORMA over the five-year period. It is aligned to the fisheries goals stated in the FSM National Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023, the mandate in the Marine Resources Act 2002, and the activities in the Management Plan on Tuna Fisheries for the Federated States of Micronesia 2015.

“...to ensure the sustainable development, conservation and use of the marine resources in the exclusive economic zone by promoting development of, and investment in, fishing and related activities in the context of effective stewardship.”

Strategic Plan

The NORMA Strategic Plan contains three overarching goals and 15 Strategic Actions that recognize the importance of fisheries to the people and economy of FSM and balance the dual needs of the long-term sustainability of fish stocks while maximizing the value of oceanic resources and opening opportunities for domestic participation in the industry. Figure below outlines the strategic actions and goals for NORMA’s Strategic Plan.

Strategic Action

Strategic Action

Goal 1

Strengthening the governance and effectiveness of NORMA

- 1.Board has the skills and knowledge for effective decisions.
- 2.Staff have the skills and capacity to effectively implement the strategic plan.
- 3.Improve governance systems and processes.
- 4.Recruitment and retention mechanisms improved.
- 5.Promote transparency and awareness of NORMA contributions.
- 6.NORMA is adequately resourced.

Strategic Action

Goal 2

Ensure the long-term sustainable management of oceanic resources for the benefit of FSM

- 7.Implement zone-based management for FSM fisheries.
- 8.Meet regional and national obligations.
- 9.Manage external influences (e.g. climate change, geopolitical influences, etc.) on oceanic resources.
- 10.Implement effective Monitoring, Control, Surveillance & Enforcement as part of fisheries mgmt.
- 11.Use the best available scientific information and the precautionary principle to make decisions.e.

Strategic Action

Goal 3

Maximize the value of oceanic resource to the FSM

- 12.Ensure fisheries revenue is sustainable and secure.
- 13.Facilitate and promote opportunities for the people of FSM to invest in and participate in the oceanic fisheries industry.
- 14.Utilize FSMs bilateral relations to create best value.
- 15.Support policies and actions to increase market access and opportunities for FSM fisheries..

Corporate Plan Overview

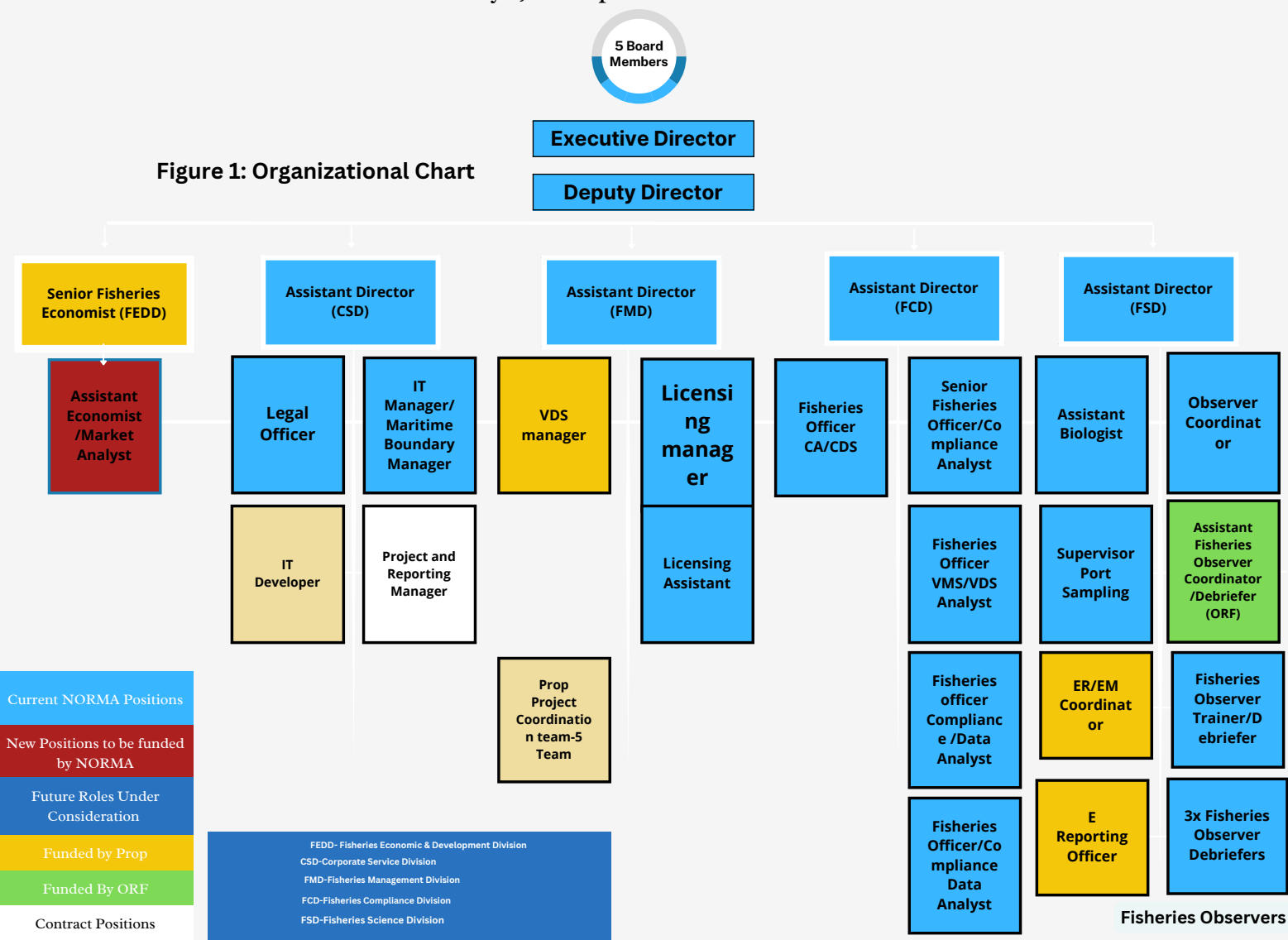
The NORMA Corporate Plan (CP) is how the organization implements its Strategic Plan annually. The aim is to make NORMA a leader in fisheries management in the Pacific and a model for other Pacific island nations. Our NORMA divisions play a pivotal role in our progress. They report quarterly against the three major strategic goals of the organization, as well as associated actions. An annual review, a culmination of their efforts, is completed on progress against the organization's strategic plan in the compilation and assessment of the quarterly corporate reports. The CP thus guides the annual progress against key organizational goals and has several notable components. These include the following



Organizational Chart

To gain a broader understanding of NORMA, this chart visually represents the roles within the organization. The organizational chart serves the vital purpose of clarifying roles and responsibilities within NORMA. It helps team members understand their duties, reporting lines, and how their roles contribute to the overall business objectives. Additionally, it acts as a blueprint for internal communication. The new structure of NORMA consists of five named divisions with positions aligned based on their functions, resulting in increased efficiency and focus within each division. A new division called the Fisheries Economics and Development Division was established as part of this proposed structure. This division includes the position of an assistant economist/market analyst, who reports to the senior economist.

Figure 1: Organizational Chart

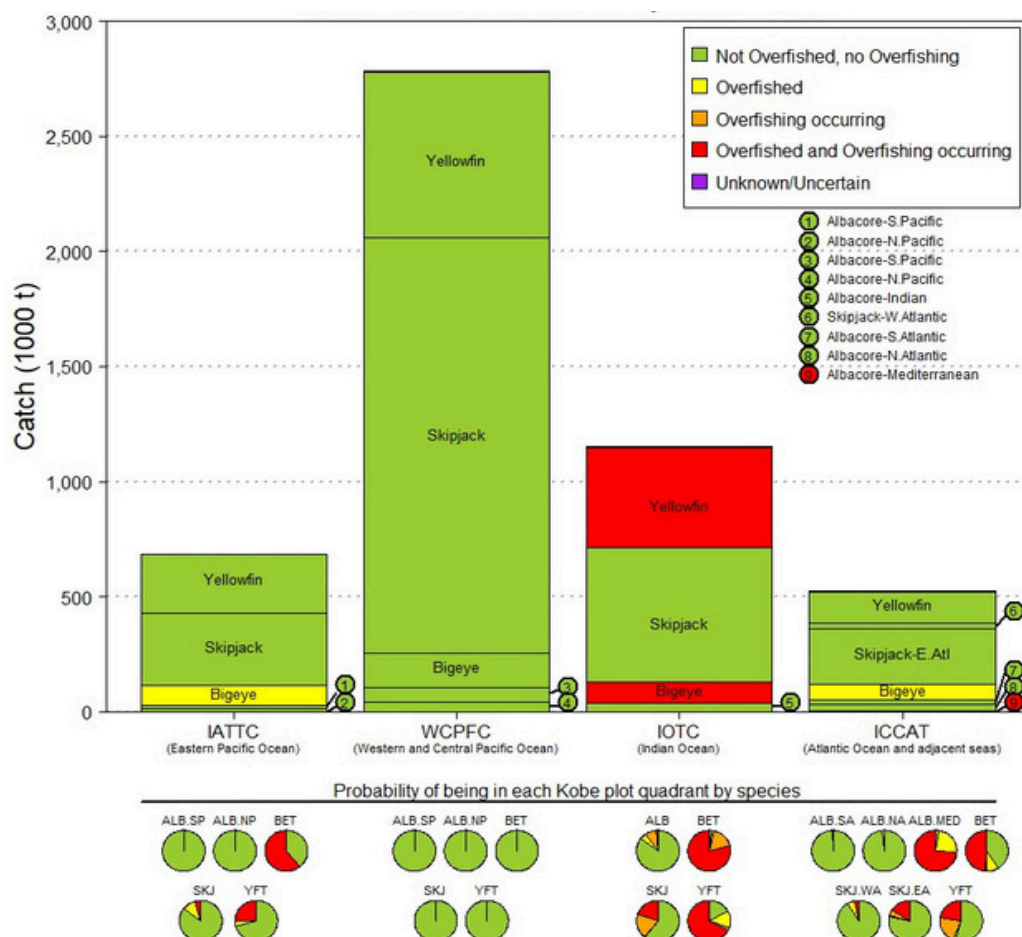


STATUS OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES

ASSESSMENT OF THE FOUR MAJOR TUNA FISHERIES

Together – our Vessel Monitoring System and FIMS, the Observer Program, Electronic Monitoring, the Vessel Day System, and Catch Documentation Scheme - NORMA continues working with its partners to maintain a healthy fishery. According to scientists at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), all four major tuna stocks are not overfished or depleted, and the current spawning stock is estimated to be large enough to sustain present fishing levels into the future. The WCPO is the only ocean area where all four significant stocks are “in the green.”

Figure 2: Catch and Stock Status by Tuna RFMO



STOCK STATUS

Tuna sustainability

The yellowfin and bigeye were newly assessed in 2023 and are plotted alongside albacore and skipjack on a single Majuro plot.

All four are considered to be in a healthy, sustainable status and none overfished. All four species are estimated to have a 0% probability of currently experiencing overfishing nor being overfished (as shown in the green quadrants).

The Majuro Plot

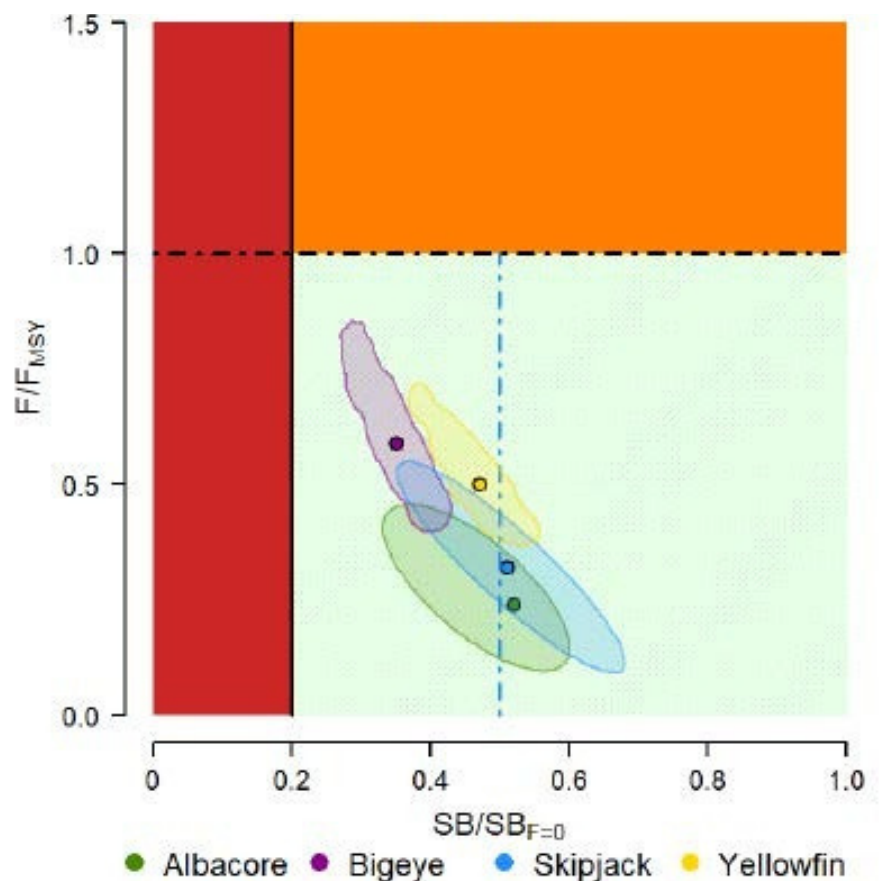
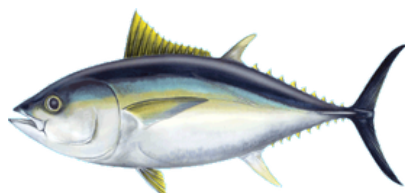


Figure 3: Majuro Plot, Stock Status Summary for the four WCPO Target Tuna Stock



Albacore



Big Eye



Skip Jack

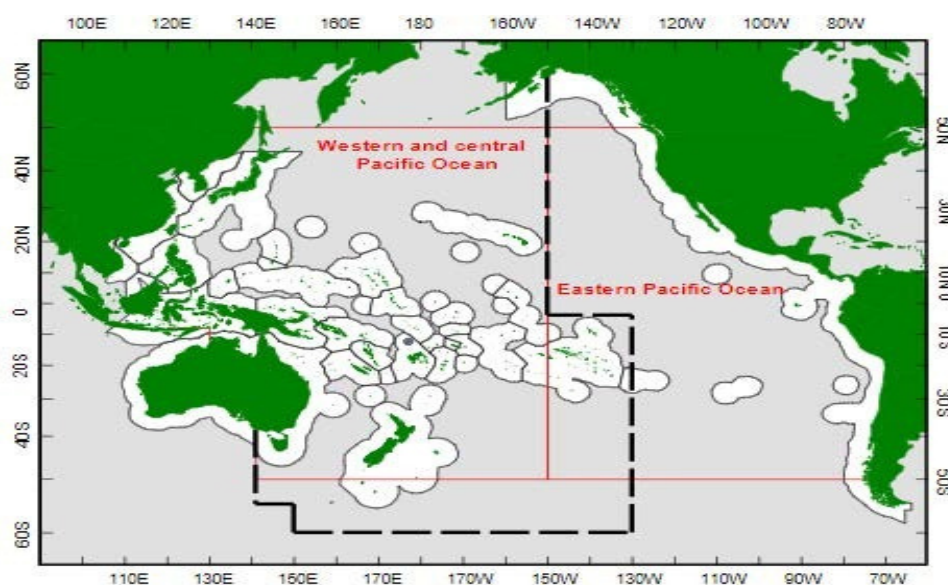


Yellowfin

FSM FLEET IN THE WCPO-CA

The FSM EEZ - the third-largest EEZ among the Pacific Island members of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) member countries sits within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) Conventional Area (CA). Like all licensed fishing vessels operating within the WCPO-CA, FSM flag vessels, purse seiners, and longliners utilize allocated fishing days both in the FSM EEZ and throughout the WCPO-CA.

Figure 4: Western & Central Pacific Ocean Conventional Area

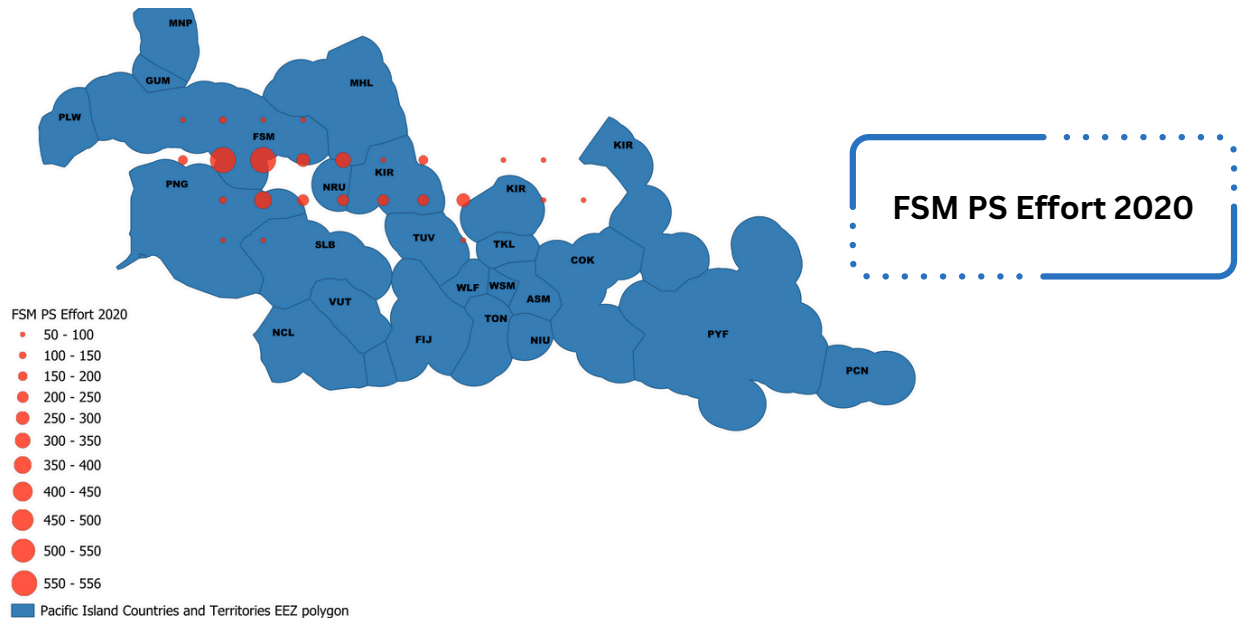


FSM EEZ is situated between 135° and 165° east longitude and 10°N and 5°S latitude and covers an area of over one million square miles of the WCPO. Based on VMS in 2020-2023, FSM National fleet by gear is comprised of an average of 27 purse seiners and 59 longlines that fished actively throughout the WCPO. The WCPO-CA tuna catch for the FSM National fleet from 2020-2023 was estimated at 655,770 mt. In addition to provisional tuna catch from 2020-2023, the FSM purse seine accounted for an estimated 637,833 mt – 97%, and the FSM longline fishery accounted for an estimated 17,937 mt – 3%. Over the 4-year period, there have been noticeable changes in the total tuna catch by the FSM National fleet. 2023 recorded the lowest total tuna catch. The FSM purse seine's catch in the WCPFC-CA decreased from 177,905 mt in 2020 to 147,197 mt in 2023; the FSM longline fishery also experienced a decrease in catch, from 4,704 mt in 2020 to 4,104 mt in 2023. The highest catch volume by tuna species by FSM purse seine from 2020-2023 is the skipjack (502,155 mt – 77%), followed by yellowfin (114,334 mt – 17%) and bigeye (21,347 mt – 3%). From the longline, yellowfin (6,647 mt – 1%) is the highest catch volume from 2020-2023, followed by bigeye (6,359 mt – 1%) and albacore (4,747 mt – 0.7%) (see Figure 1 above).

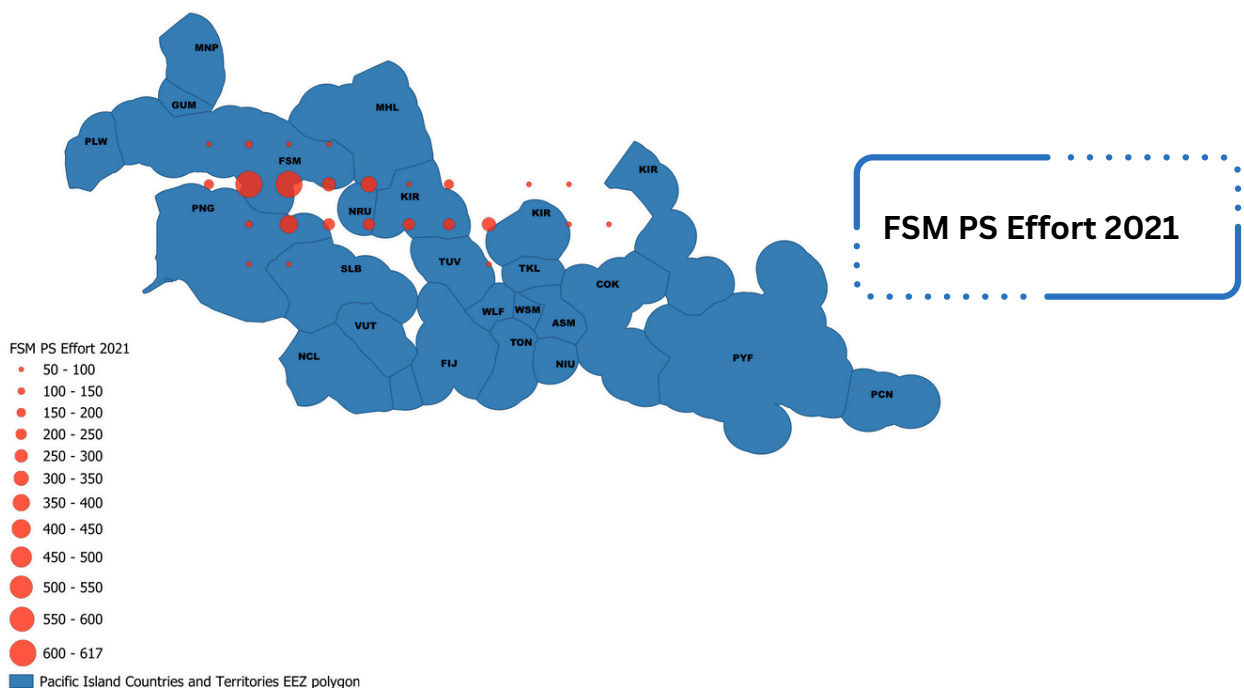
Figures 5 and 6 below shows the annual distribution of catch within the WCPO-CA by FSM flagged vessels for 2020-2023-along with the analysis of target species of tuna.

Annual Distribution of Catch by FSM Purse Seiners in WCPFC-CA

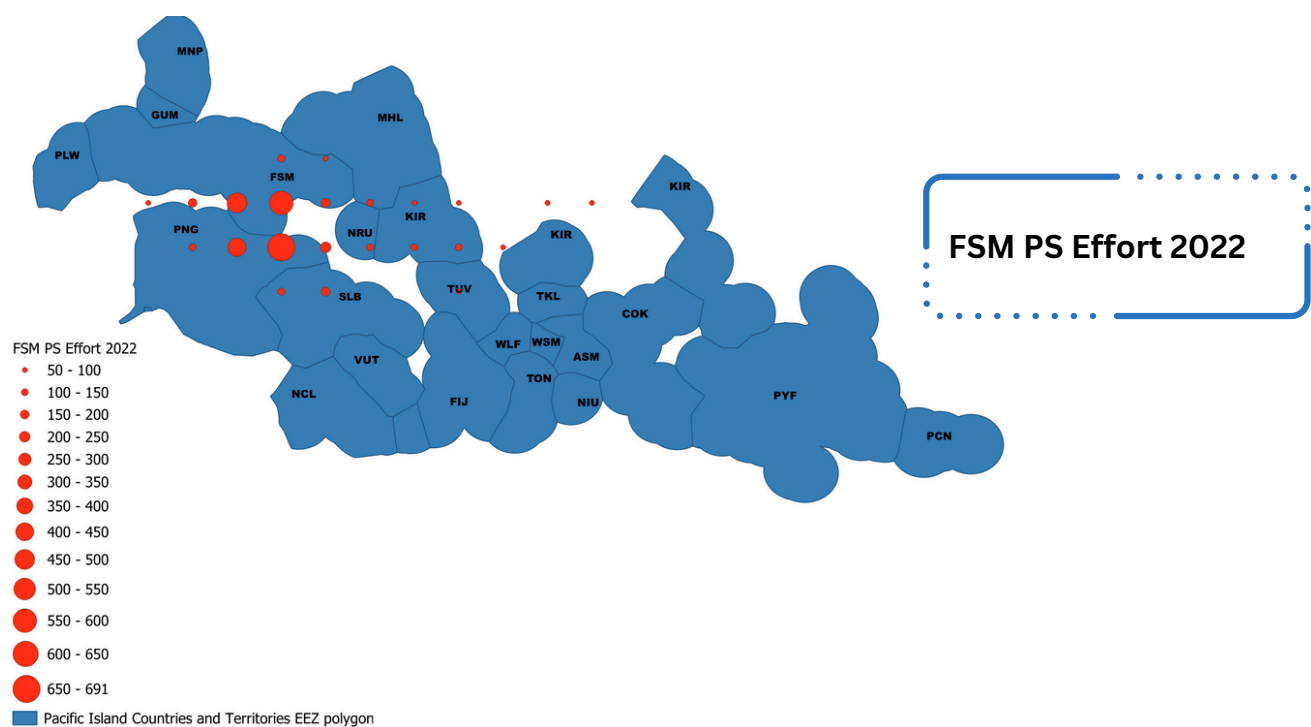
Figure 5: FSM Purse Seiners Effort 2020-2023



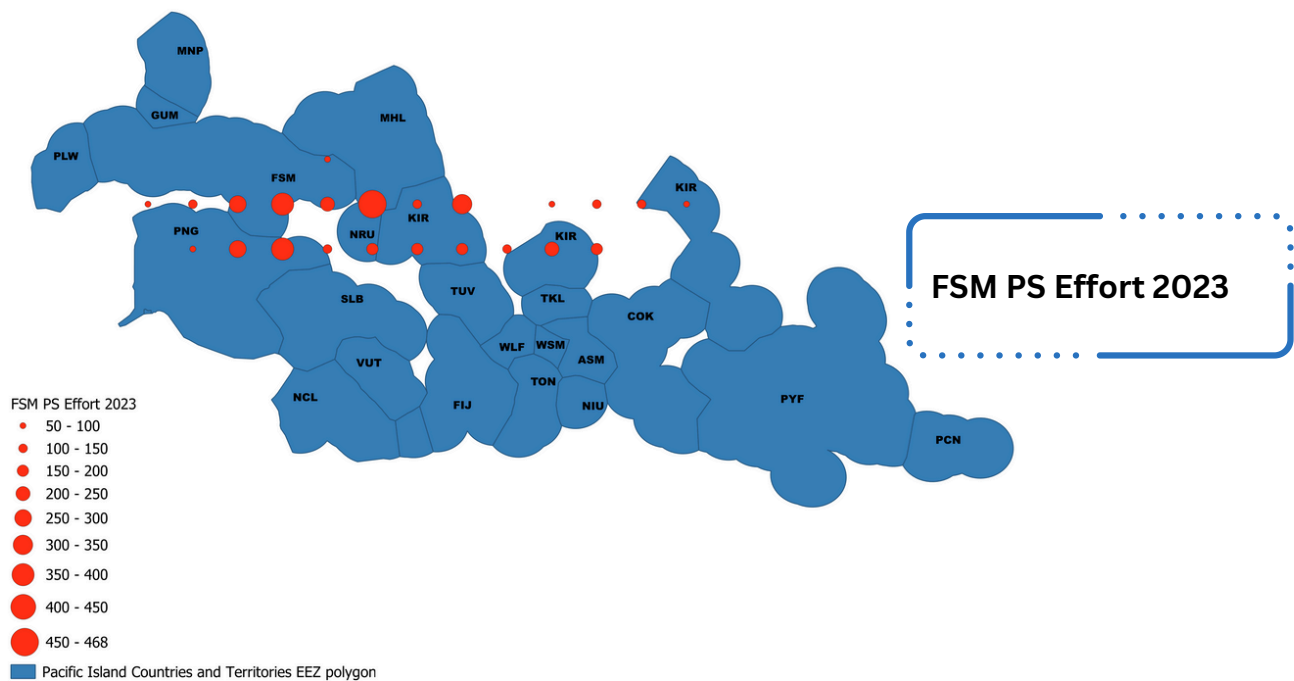
In 2020, most efforts for FSM purse seiners are highly concentrated in southeast of FSM EEZ while there is also evident of effort exhibited eastward towards Nauru and Kiribati. The FSM purse seine fishing effort in 2020 is also influenced with an observed effect of ENSO oscillation in 2020 which it is mostly La Nina.



In year 2021, the ENSO condition is strong La Nina and it also influenced most of FSM purse seiners to be heavily concentrated in the FSM EEZ while also fish in other PNA Members' EEZ.



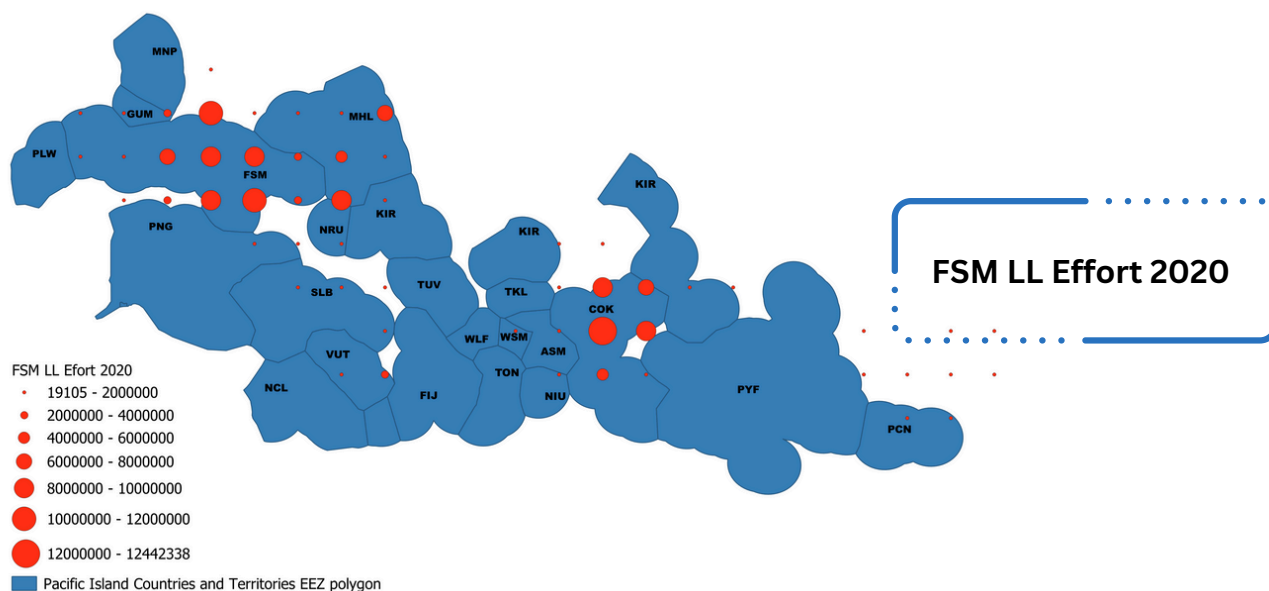
In 2022, the ENSO condition is persisted with strong La Nina and as a result, this also influenced the FSM purse seiners fishing effort to be highly concentrated in FSM EEZ and PNG EEZ.



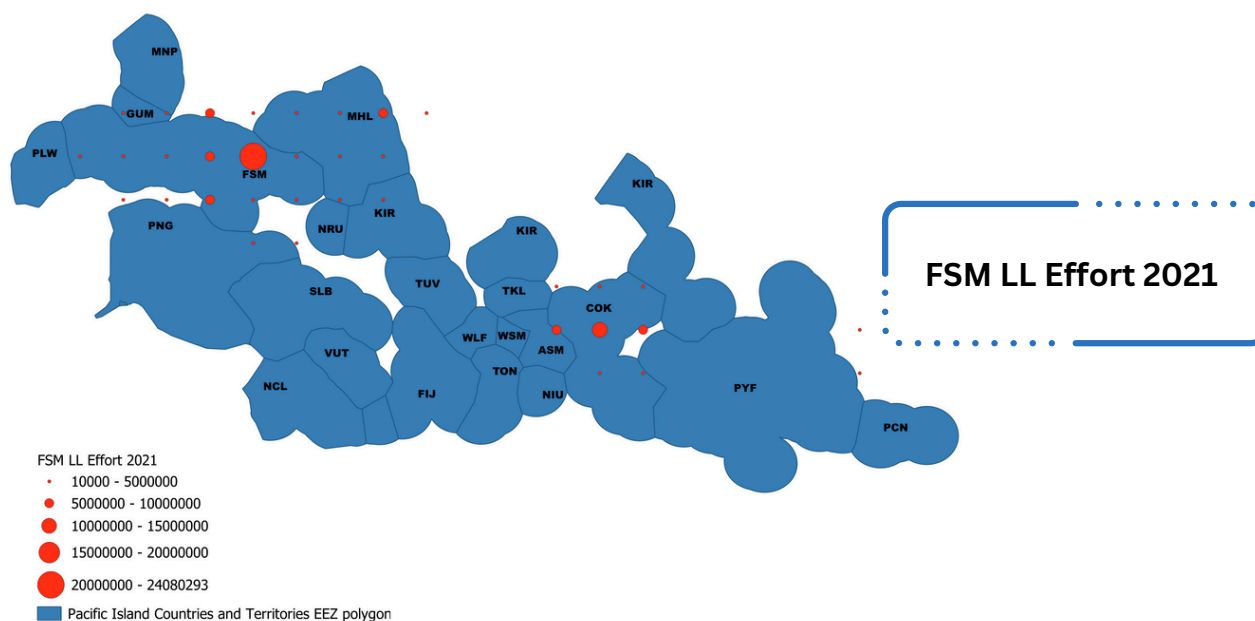
In 2023, in contrary to previous year 2020-2022, the ENSO condition was shifted from La Nina to El Nino at the begining of 2023 towards the whole year. As a result, there is also high effort of FSM purse seiners distributed in PNG, Nauru and Kiribati.

Annual Distribution of Catch by FSM Longliners in WCPFC-CA

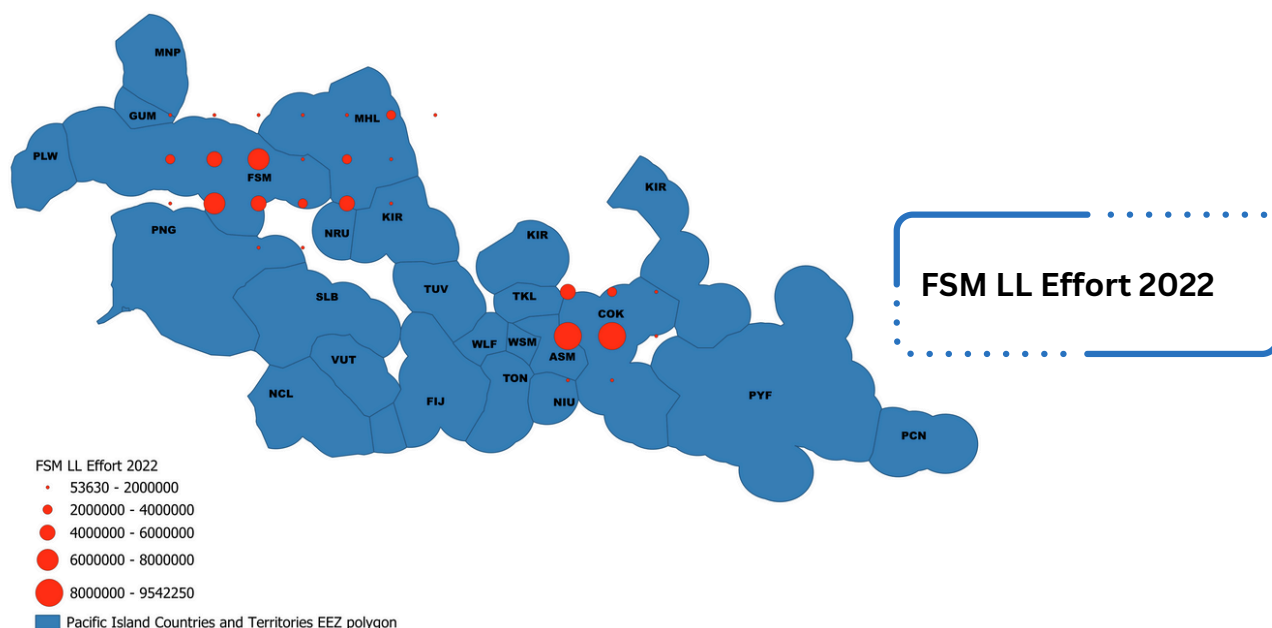
Figure 6: FSM Longliners Effort 2020-2023



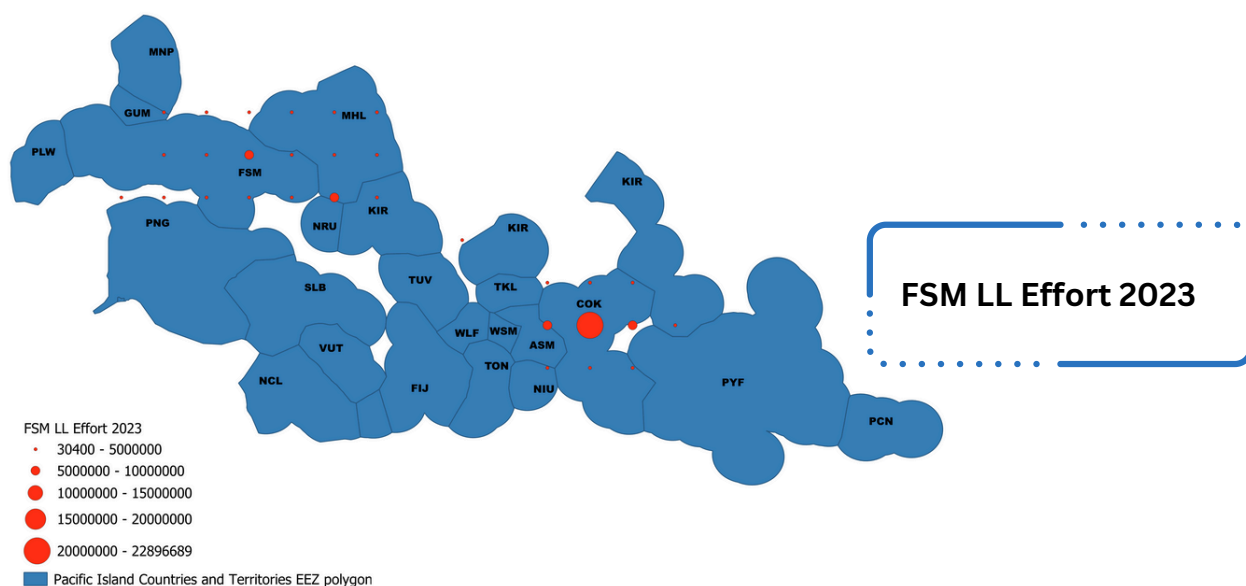
As noted earlier for the ENSO condition in 2020, the difference with the FSM purse seine and FSM longline fleet is tuna targeted species. While there is longline fishing effort in FSM and RMI EEZ, the operation in the north is mostly for fresh yellowfin. Further to the south particularly Cook Island EEZ, this is mostly contributed by chartered longlines to FSM that fish for albacore tuna species.



Although the year 2021 was observed as a strong La Nina, with difference purpose of fishing operation and tuna target species, there is still effort split between the north and south of the FFA EEZs.



In 2022, there is no change from the FSM longline fishing operation as the ENSO condition is still in favor to FSM EEZ with the persisted strong La Nina in the whole year.



As the ENSO condition was shifted from La Nina to El Nino at the beginning of 2023 towards the whole year, there is an evident of high effort of FSM longline concentrated mostly in the Cook Island EEZ.

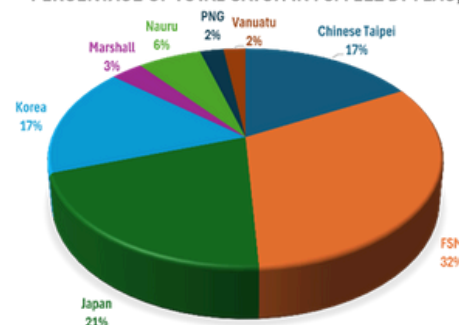
ANNUAL CATCH IN THE FSM EEZ

Within fishing period 2020-2023, the provisional catch in the FSM EEZ is 235,332mt. The majority of tuna catch in FSM EEZ is none other than the FSM National fleet accumulated to 30% followed by Chinese Taipei and Japan with 18% respectively and Korea with a 17%. The remaining catch are mostly the PNA members (Nauru, Marshall Island, PNG, and Solomon Is).

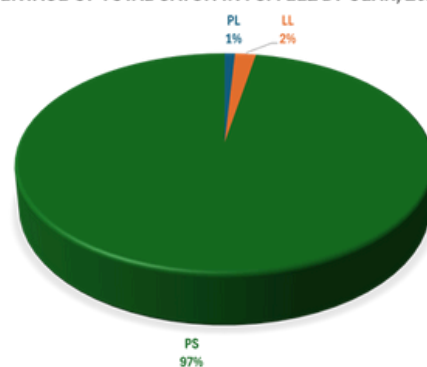
The total catch estimates for purse seine fishing are 178,115 metric tons (mt) for skipjack, 29,924 mt for yellowfin, and 9,512 mt for bigeye. Skipjack, yellowfin, and bigeye make up 81%, 17%, and 2% of the total catch, respectively. Notably, no albacore catches have been recorded for the purse seine fleet. For longline fishing, the total catch provision is 4,233 mt (49%) for bigeye, 4,006 mt (46%) for yellowfin, and 454 mt (5%) for albacore. No catches have been recorded for skipjack in longline fleets. In pole-and-line fishing, the predominant catch is skipjack at 5,041 mt (98%), followed by bigeye at 95 mt (1.8%), and yellowfin at 7 mt (0.1%)

The predominant tuna species caught in FSM EEZ from 2020-2023 is skipjack, accounting for 80% of 399,975 mt, followed by yellowfin for 17% of 86,219 mt and bigeye for 3% of 14,041 mt. Albacore catch is reported within 2020-2023 in FSM EEZ, but less than 1% of 454 mt of the accumulated tuna catch. It is also worth noting that most flags fishing in the FSM EEZ have purse seine fleets except Australia. In addition, only a few flags (China, FSM, and Japan) have longline fleets, while only two flags have pole-and-line fleets (Japan and Solomon Islands).

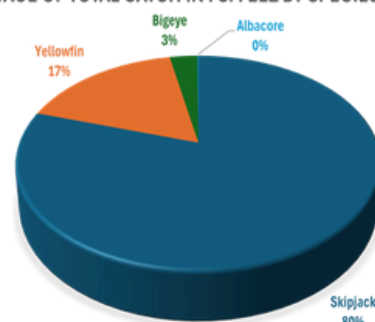
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CATCH IN FSM EEZ BY FLAG, 2020-2023



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CATCH IN FSM EEZ BY GEAR, 2020-2023



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CATCH IN FSM EEZ BY SPECIES, 2020-2023



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CATCH IN FSM EEZ BY FLAG BY GEAR, 2020-2023

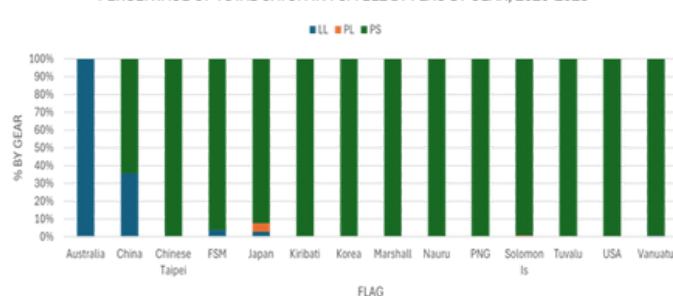


Figure 7: Annual catch in the FSM EEZ by Flag Gear and Species 2020-2023

FSM Fisheries Compliance Strategy

The Federated States of Micronesia has adopted a Fisheries Compliance Strategy to be implemented through collaboration between NORMA and the Department of Justice (DoJ). The purpose of the FCS is to provide direction for fisheries compliance activities undertaken by NORMA and the DoJ and prioritize these activities to ensure the sustainable use of fishery resources and maximise sustainable economic benefits from these resources.

The FCS was developed in part to respond to the need to implement an effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) methodology to support the long-term sustainable management of oceanic resources for the benefit of the FSM. The FCS was also developed in response to an evaluation of FSM's MCS and enforcement measures and compliance methodology.

Vision

A compliance framework that seeks to achieve optimal levels of compliance through the application of consistent and targeted compliance activities that promote the sustainable use and protection of FSM's fishery resources and support effective fisheries management.

Objectives

The FCS focuses on four priority objectives that address critical areas of FSM's compliance framework that require strengthening.

- Compliance activities are risk-based approach, encourage voluntary compliance and provide effective deterrents for non-compliant behaviour.
- Compliance activities are supported by integrated, fit-for-purpose, cost-effective MCS measures that provide accurate and timely data and information.
- Compliance activities are transparent, non-discriminatory and cost-effective and applied in a consistent, coordinated and cooperative manner.
- Adequate levels of compliance capacity are established and supported including through targeted capability development maintained through effective training processes, partnerships and resources

CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

The CDS supports NORMA in providing certification for the legality of catch. It is required for countries with a Competent Authority and other importation rules to help combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Non-EU certificates are issued to vessels flying the FSM flag, and European catch certificates are received for the NORMA to endorse Section 7 as the transshipment authorization port. Figure 8 on the right displays the numbers of both EU and non-EU catch certificates received, endorsed, and issued from the years 2020 to 2023.

Figure 8: EU Catch Certificates received, endorsed and issued from 2020-2023

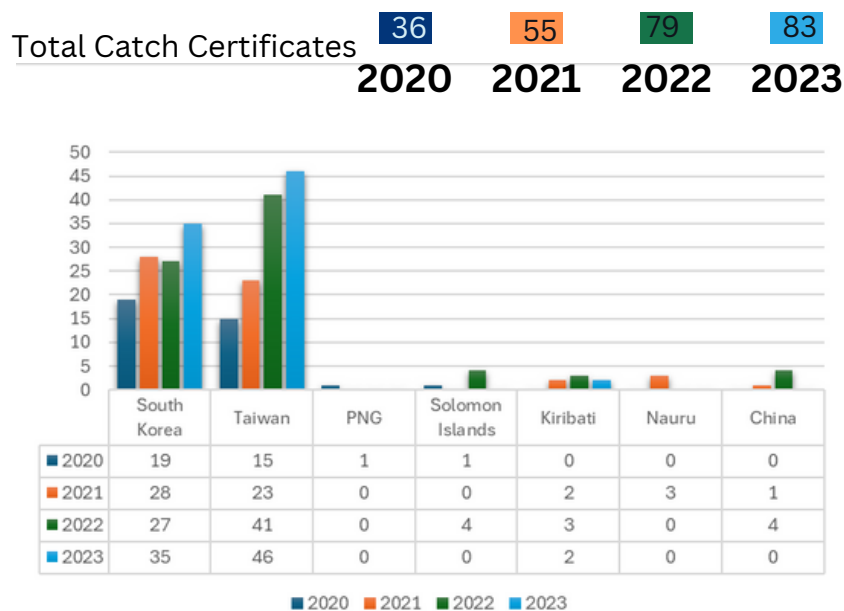
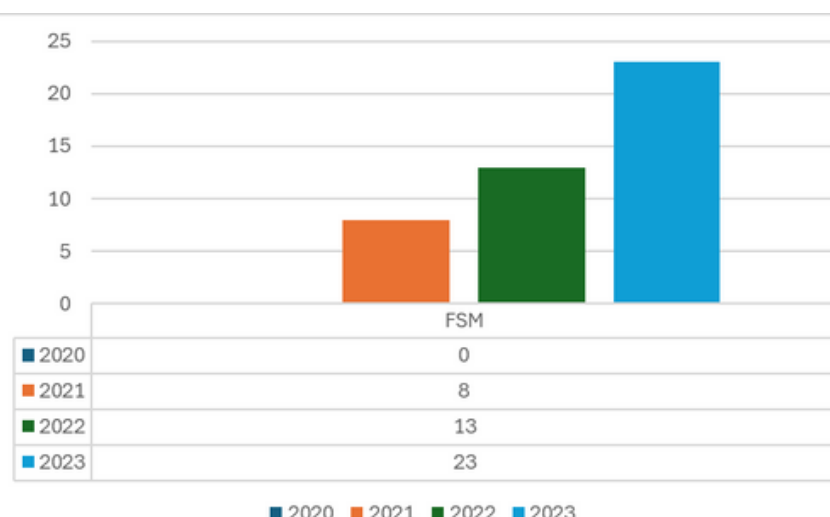


Figure 9: FSM non EU Catch certificates received, endorsed and issued from 2020-2023.



Vessel Entries to the FSM Port 2020-2023

Figure 10 summarizes all the entries to the FSM Port from 2020 to 2023. The report combines all types of vessels, including fish carriers, purse seines, and longline vessels. It's important to note that some vessels may have visited the port more than once, which is why some of the numbers appear high. Specifically, Yap port received only one longline vessel during the year 2021

Figure 10: Vessel Entries to the FSM Port from 2020-2023

Port/Flag	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total by Port/Flag
Kosrae	21	35	209	145	50	460
Kiribati				2		2
Tuvalu				0	2	2
Vanuatu			1	2		3
Marshall Is			1	1	2	4
Nauru		1	4	0		5
Taiwan			6			6
Panama			24	4		28
Korea		3	17	13		33
China			90	56	11	157
FSM	21	31	66	67	35	220
Pohnpei	222	199	342	310	229	1302
Solomon	3			1		4
Tuvalu	1				4	5
Kiribati	2	4		2	2	10
Vanuatu		4	7	1	4	16
Japan					19	19
Marshall Is	1	4		6	10	21
PNG	23					23
US	40	8				48
Nauru		30	18	35	4	87
Korea	29	22	9	28	21	109
Panama			47	50	18	115
China			112	30	13	155
Taiwan	48	65	61	61	38	273
FSM	75	62	88	96	96	417
Yap			1			1
China			1			1
Total by Year	243	234	552	455	279	1763

Transshipment and Unloading in the FSM Port

Figure 11: Volume of Transshipment in FSM Ports, 2020-2023.

Year	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Grand Total
2020	6,618	155,549	162,167
2021	29,848	81,626	111,474
2022	7,260	178,496	185,756
2023	5,051	85,671	90,722
Grand Total	48,777	501,341	550,118
Average by State	12,194	125,335	

From 2020-2023, Pohnpei and Kosrae continues to be the main port of transshipment with Pohnpei being the busiest port for transshipment. By average from 2020-2023, Pohnpei will receive 125k metric tons of transshipment while Kosrae receives 12k metric tons.

Figure 12: Volume of Unloading in FSM Ports, 2020-2023.

Year	YAP	Pohnpei	Kosrae	Grand Total
2020	174	3,143	24,354	27,671
2021		1,622	24,838	26,460
2022		2,407	30,218	32,625
2023		1,929	10,868	12,797
Grand Total	174	9,102	90,278	99,553
Average by State	174	2,275	22,569	

From 2020-2023, except Chuuk, only Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap are the main ports of unloading with Kosrae being the busiest port for unloading. By average from 2020-2023, Kosrae will receive 22k metric tons of unloading while Pohnpei receives 2k metric ton followed with Yap 174 metric but worth noting Yap only has 1 activity of unloading back in 2020.

Vessel Day Scheme

Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) is a management scheme under the Palau Arrangement which aims to set total allowable effort (TAE) limits in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). The key objectives of the VDS are: (1) to assert the rights of the Parties to the Palau Arrangement and Tokelau to their tuna resources, (2) to conserve the tuna resources in their waters, (3) to make access scarce and valuable, and (4) to increase revenue and support domestic development for the Parties by availing fishing zones and creating and increasing domestic opportunities and benefits in the tuna fishery.

Every calendar-management year, Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) are allocated allowable efforts (PAE) from the annually-agreed TAE to sell to fishing partners to fish in their EEZ or to trade amongst each other pursuant to their access agreements. Table below provides the historical TAE and FSM's PAE for both purse seiners (PS) and long liners (LL).

*VDS PAE (Party Allowable Effort) Days distributed to FSM from PNA to allocate to their bilateral partners.

*Unused days are days remaining from the companies that they have bought, but did not use.

*Usage is days actually fished in FSM EEZ

*Trade in are days partners buy from other PNA members to fish in FSM EEZ

*Trade out are days partners pay to take out from their allocation and go fish in other PNA waters.

Historical longline TAE & PAE

	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAE	171,175	171,175	160,020	160,020
FSM	30,928	30,928	27,838	27,838
% of TAE	18.10%	18.10%	17.40%	17.40%

Historical PS PAE Allocation against TAE

	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAE	45,034	45,035	45,033	45,033
FSM	7,702	7,873	7,806	7,763
% of TAE	17.10%	17.50%	17.30%	17.20%

VDS is a zone-based management tool that grants the coastal states rights to manage their fishery by limiting days, as oppose to the previous management tool wherein it focuses on catch, catch quotas, and capacity (number of vessels).

Fishing Fees Revenues 2020-2023

The Figure 13 provides a revenue distribution by various combined fee types from 2020 to 2023 fishing fiscal years. The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) category, which combines Purse Seine, Longline, and FSM Arrangement (FSMA) revenues, consistently represents the largest revenue source across all years, accounting for approximately 92-96% of total annual revenue. Within this category, Purse Seine revenue serves as the most significant contributor, driving the majority of VDS earnings. This category showed a steady upward trend from \$64.9 million in 2020 to \$69.5 million in 2022, with a slight decrease to \$67.8 million in 2023. This pattern demonstrates the critical importance of VDS to the overall fishing economy while revealing a moderate level of year-to-year stability.

Administrative Fees showed fluctuation over the four-year period. Starting at \$1.36 million in 2020, they increased slightly to \$1.4 million in 2021 before dropping significantly to \$1.12 million in 2022, and then recovering slightly to \$1.19 million in 2023. This category represents approximately 1.7-2.0% of the total annual revenue, making it a relatively minor but still significant contributor to overall earnings.

License Fees for Pole & Line operations show a consistent downward trend over the four-year period, decreasing from \$388,941 in 2020 to \$276,000 in 2023. This represents a decline of approximately 29% over the period. As a percentage of total revenue, this category declined from 0.56% in 2020 to 0.39% in 2023, indicating its diminishing relative importance in the overall revenue structure.

Revenue from Related Activities, which encompasses supporting vessels such as Carriers and Bunkers, displayed volatility over the period. Starting at \$73,800 in 2020, it decreased to \$52,000 in 2021, then increased to \$77,700 in 2022, before declining again to \$57,600 in 2023. This category consistently represents the smallest portion of total revenue, accounting for only 0.08-0.11% across the four years.

The "Other" category, which includes other associated fees and revenue from the US Treaty, exhibited the most dramatic fluctuation, starting at a relatively high \$3.08 million in 2020, then decreasing substantially to \$1.63 million in 2021, further declining to \$1.24 million in 2022, before stabilizing at \$1.31 million in 2023. This represents a significant overall decrease of 57.4% from 2020 to 2023. As a percentage of total revenue, this category declined from 4.41% in 2020 to 1.85% in 2023.

The fishing industry revenue remained relatively stable from 2020 to 2023, with VDS (Purse Seine, Longline, FSMA) consistently generating the vast majority of income. Purse Seine operations within the VDS category stand as the primary revenue driver throughout this period. While some categories such as License Fees and Other Revenue showed declining trends, the overall revenue structure maintained its stability, demonstrating the industry's resilience during this period.

Note: The 2023 figures exclude the July 2023 Constitutional Referendum Revenue Split, which may impact the complete picture of revenue for that year.

Figure 13.

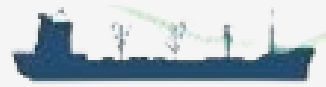
Revenue



Fee Types	2020	2021	2022	2023*
VDS (Purse Seine, Longline, FSMA)	\$ 64,916,126.00	\$ 65,840,633.00	\$ 69,543,753.00	\$ 67,768,687.00
Administrative Fees	\$ 1,363,200.00	\$ 1,396,550.00	\$ 1,124,300.00	\$ 1,187,500.00
License Fees (Pole & Line)	\$ 388,941.00	\$ 304,128.00	\$ 313,450.00	\$ 276,000.00
Related Activities (Bunker/Carriers)	\$ 73,800.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 77,700.00	\$ 57,600.00
Other	\$ 3,075,908.00	\$ 1,627,442.00	\$ 1,239,253.00	\$ 1,309,341.00
Total	\$ 69,817,975.00	\$ 69,220,753.00	\$ 72,298,456.00	\$ 70,599,128.00

Source: NORMA Records

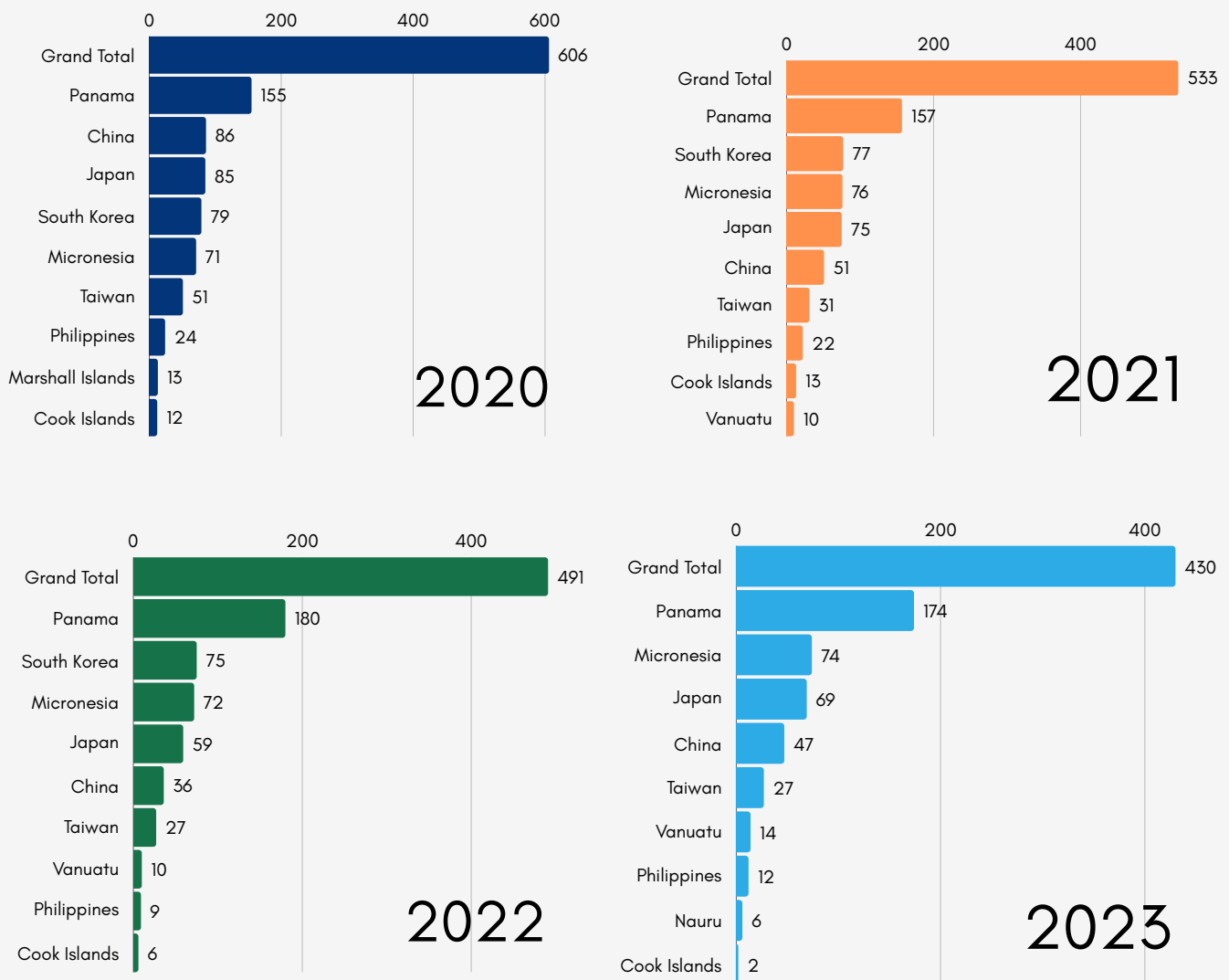
*July 2023 Constitutional Referendum Revenue Split exclusive



TOTAL LICENSE ISSUED BY FLAG

Figure 14 highlights the number of vessels registered under various countries' flags operating within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from 2020 to 2023. It is noteworthy that there has been a decline in the number of licensed vessels over the past four years. The majority of the vessels operating within the FSM EEZ are registered under Panama's flag, including carriers and bunkers. Subsequently, FSM, Japan, South Korea, and China have the highest number of flagged vessels operating within the FSM EEZ

Figure 14: Number of Foreign Flagged Vessels Licensed to fish in the FSM EEZ 2020-2023



Fisheries Investment Policy



Photo By FSM PIO

The National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA) is dedicated to effectively managing oceanic resources, maximizing value, and promoting investments to create economic benefits for the FSM people. In pursuit of this mission, NORMA is welcomed the FSM National Oceanic Fisheries Investment Policy, 2021-2026, aimed at maximizing the value of participatory rights under the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) and fostering economic growth in the FSM. This policy aligns with the 2016 directives of the FSM Leadership, seeking to enable the fisheries sector to contribute to the FSM's transition to economic growth driven by project yields or income from its assets, particularly its valuable tuna resources.

The main challenge lies in realigning fisheries policy to support economic growth by generating revenue through VDS fees and leveraging the value of participatory rights under the VDS to create broader economic benefits. NORMA has joined forces with the FSM Department of Resources and Development to introduce the National Oceanic Fisheries Investment Policy (NOFIP) for the period 2021-2026. This policy seeks to enhance economic growth by maximizing the value of participatory rights under the VDS and strengthening FSM's offshore fishery sector. The primary objective is to transform the revenue generated from VDS days into broader economic advantages. The NOFIP was formally adopted during the 1st National Fisheries Summit in 2021 by the Chuuk and Kosrae State Governments, in collaboration with the National Government.

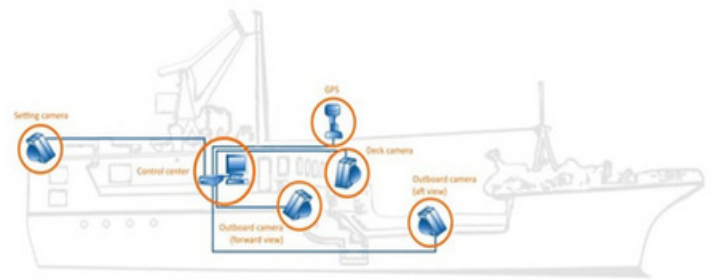
However, challenges stemming from the impact of COVID-19 have led to delays in convening subsequent Fisheries Summits and collaborating with the Pohnpei and Yap Governments to advance the policy. NORMA is fully committed to achieving comprehensive adoption and implementation of the NOFIP by all five governments through a cooperative approach involving stakeholders. This collective effort is crucial in identifying the critical roles of each entity in achieving fiscal sustainability and driving economic growth in the development of the FSM's tuna fishery.

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

T-3 Electronic Monitoring



FSM, a developing country committed to achieving a full tuna fishery transparency through Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems, pushes forward to address data gaps in the longline fishery while complementing and supplementing existing monitoring tools.



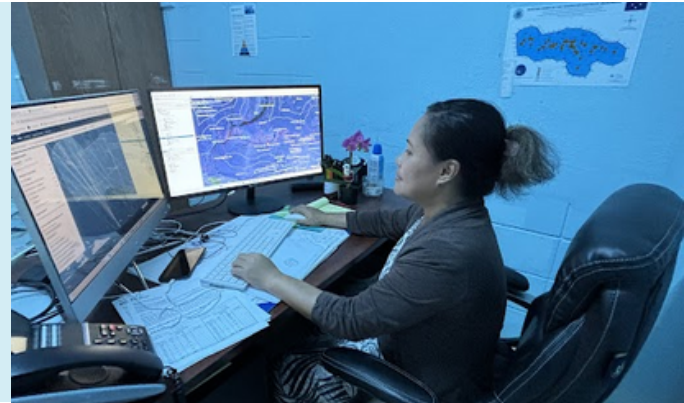
From installations of onboard systems and strategically placed cameras, The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) conducted at-sea trials of EM systems on over 30 fishing trips within FSM's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). All data collected were analyzed by trained NORMA personnel, and results were produced that aided in enforcing compliance measures and providing additional scientific assessments on species of special interests. At the end of 2023, NORMA had completed EM system installations on all FSM-flagged vessels fishing within its EEZ.



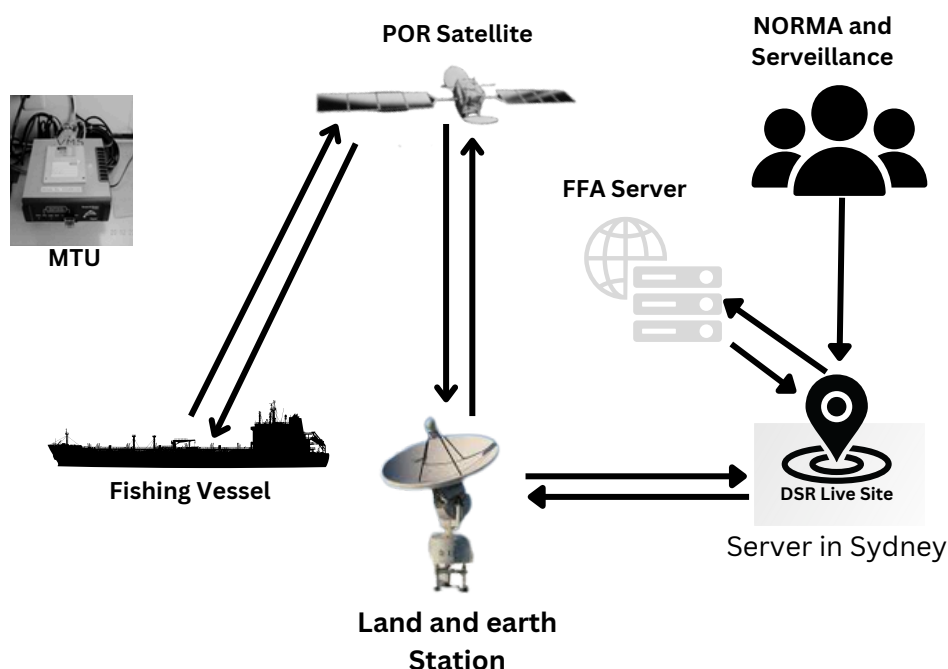
With continuous support from the national government and stakeholders, NORMA has been diligently working on establishing its national EM program, involving the development of footage analysis protocols and ensuring regional alignment of EM standards and specifications. In addition, by 2023 all FSM flag longline has fully installed and equipped with EM. NORMA has been actively participating in innovative developments through automated computing and machine learning, enabling a stable foundation to maintain as electronic monitoring evolves further.



Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)



The Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) plays a vital role in monitoring and managing all vessels that pass through the FSM EEZ. With its capacity to collect, manage, and analyze fishing activities, the VMS allows NORMA Management to make informed decisions based on real-time tracking of vessel movements using satellite technology. To achieve this, the VMS employs a range of satellite-based tools, including the FFA VMS, Google surveillance, and the WCPFC VMS, which track fishing vessels' near real-time position. It's worth noting that the VMS Regulation, a significant milestone, was signed into effect on December 11, 2017, providing a robust regulatory framework for the VMS. Throughout the reporting period, the Unit carefully monitored fishing vessels' movements and operations to ensure compliance with fisheries laws and regulations. The team collected relevant fishing data for management purposes and took legal action against non-compliant vessels. Furthermore, the PNA Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) was carefully managed through bilateral fishing access agreements. At the 26th MCS Working Group meeting held in late March 2023, all members actively engaged and updated on emerging technology opportunities and trials coordinated by the FFA Secretariat. An exciting avenue for exploration is the Starboard Maritime Intelligence system, provided by Starboard Maritime Intelligence Limited.



FSM EEZ & ECS

FSM Exclusive Economic Zone

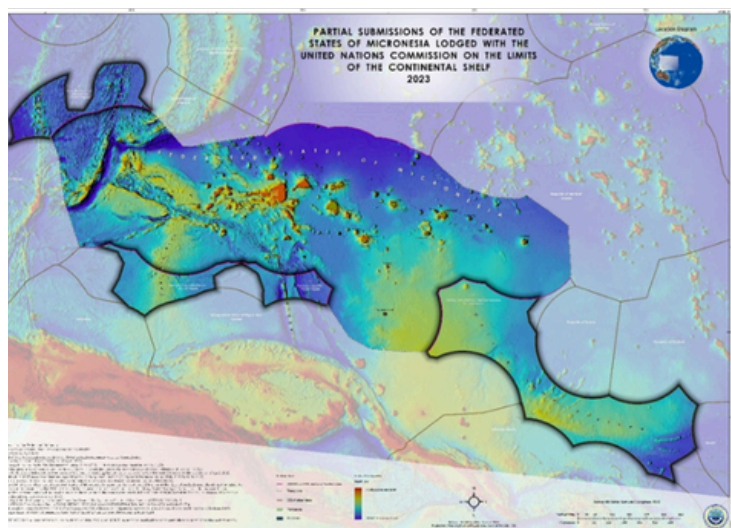
The exclusive economic zone of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM EEZ) is positioned between 135° and 165° east longitude and 10°N and 5°S latitude, encompassing a vast area of over one million square miles within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

CONTINENTAL SHELF BEYOND 200 NAUTICAL MILES

(Area A (Area North of Yap): 188,685km²)

On 22 April 2022, the Federated States of Micronesia submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by Article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, information on the limits of the Continental Shelf, by Article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured in respect of the Area North of Yap. The Convention entered into force for the Federated States of Micronesia on 16 November 1994. According to the submitting State, this is a partial submission.

The Convention entered into force for the Federated States of Micronesia on 16 November 1994. According to the submitting State, this is a partial submission.



Partial submissions of the FSM lodged with the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)

By the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, a communication is being circulated to all Member States of the United Nations, including States Parties to the Convention, to make public the executive summary of the submission, including all charts and lists of geographical coordinates of points contained in that summary. The consideration of the submission will be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission scheduled to be held in New York between January and March 2023 (the General Assembly will determine the exact dates in December 2022 through its annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea). Upon completion of the consideration of the submission, the Commission will make recommendations under Article 76 of the Convention.

Observer Program

With the President's Emergency Declaration and the suspension of 100% observer coverage on purse seine in 2020, the FSM Observer Program was temporarily suspended. It is also worth noting the financial support FSM Observers received from the FSM National Government through its pandemic unemployment assistance program. Despite the challenges the FSM Observer Program faced during COVID-19, NORMA continues to provide refresher training to ensure FSM Observers are recertified for their firefighting, sea safety, and basic first aid certifications.

In addition to the refresher training NORMA has provided, the FSM Observer Program also implemented observer ER and GEN-3 critical incident cases in 2020-2021. As the WCPFC agreed in 2022 to resume the placement of observers on purse seine during a transitional period up to 1 January 2023, FSM implemented refresher training for purse seine and longline data collection to properly prepare FSM observers before their redeployment

While the suspension on 100% observer coverage on purse seine was in effect is also worth noting that FSM Observer Program continues to provide report monitoring for purse seine maritime stewardship council (MSC) transshipment/unloading in FSM ports including a 100% coverage for all longline unloading.



Internship Program



The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has been instrumental in shaping our internship program in recent years. Interns have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience by contributing their services. The program focuses on providing comprehensive professional development opportunities for interns, recognizing the high level of scrutiny on NORMA's activities. NORMA is committed to being a training ground for aspiring citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia with a passion for fisheries management, development, statistical and scientific analysis of fisheries data, and non-compliance-related work. The internship program is a key capacity-building initiative, aiming to ensure that interns have the necessary skills to integrate into the economy's development. This initiative aligns with the requirements outlined in the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP), emphasizing the importance of investing in human capital for economic growth and progress.

Internship highlight

Louisa Movick interned under the supervision of NORMA's Legal Advisor, AAG Johnson Asher in 2021. During her internship, she assisted AAG Asher with legal reviews and research related to issues related to NORMA's mandate and work. The internship was designed to familiarize Louisa with the fisheries and national legal framework that guide NORMA's work. Louisa handled various matters falling under the Legal Advisor's jurisdiction, such as access agreements, bilateral negotiations, and board-related issues. In 2022, Louisa officially joined NORMA's team as a Legal Assistant. In this role, she expanded her responsibilities beyond the internship, serving as the "in-house" legal assistant and being the first point of contact for reviewing legal issues before they were forwarded for final review. Additionally, she provided legal advice, drafted legal documents, and handled other requested matters. Her contract was extended into two terms. In 2023, Louisa assumed the responsibilities of conducting legal reviews and providing legal advice. However, her work was subject to endorsement and legal sufficiency from the Department of Justice.

Stakeholders Engagement

NORMA recognizes the importance of promoting transparency and raising awareness about the organization's contributions to the FSM for achieving improved effectiveness. It understands that engaging with various stakeholders, including government, private sector, schools, and communities, is essential for fostering transparency and awareness. NORMA has taken critical steps to engage with these stakeholders, demonstrating its commitment to this objective.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS WTD

World Tuna Day is an annual event observed to raise awareness about the significance of tuna and the challenges faced by tuna populations. In 2020-2021, the COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges, and most states were compelled to commemorate the day virtually. However, in 2022, the celebrations returned to normal, and each state observed the day in their respective locations. World Tuna Day provides an opportunity to share best practices in sustainable fisheries management, promote social and economic benefits of managing tuna stocks, and highlight the threats faced by tuna populations. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) heavily relies on tuna for various aspects such as security, nutrition, economic development, employment, government revenue, livelihood, and recreation. Each state organized its celebrations, including activities such as drawing competitions, tuna derbies, cooking contests, and more. These activities aimed to raise awareness about the importance of tuna and the need for sustainable management practices. The FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP) identifies the development of the oceanic sector as a crucial aspect for the country's future growth. In order to achieve this, it is essential to involve all stakeholders, including the public and especially the youth. In the past, public involvement has been minimal, but in recent years, the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has conducted public campaigns and awareness programs that specifically target young school children.

2020



2021



2022



2023



Maritime Boundaries

COM Students Learn about FSM EEZ

On January 20th, 2023, NORMA staff and associates from Blue Prosperity Micronesia met with students from the College of Micronesia to discuss the FSM Maritime Boundary (MB) & Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Projects, as well as SeaSketch on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for FSM Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The objective of the meeting was to impart knowledge to the students regarding the significance of Maritime Boundaries and the notable milestones achieved by the FSM in relation to the ECS. These milestones include the initial submission on the limit of the continental shelf in 2009 concerning the Ontong Java Plateau, a full submission and presentation to the CLCS regarding the Eauripik Rise on March 14th, 2014, as well as ongoing work on an additional extended continental shelf submission covering the North of Yap area, which was successfully lodged with the CLCS on April 22nd, 2022



Kolonia Students Visits NORMA Office

On the 8th of December 2023, the team at NORMA warmly received a group of 8th-grade students from Kolonia School. The primary objective of their visit was to provide the students with a comprehensive understanding of NORMA's role in the FSM economy. Through a guided tour and engaging presentations, the students were exposed to the inner workings of NORMA, gaining insights into the intricate processes and responsibilities of its various divisions.



NORMA BUDGET

NORMA approved budget and Expenditure 2020-2023

Category	Account Class	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023
		Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual
Operations	Personnel	658,705	412,198	669,217	619,732	820,685	619,732	820,685	609,787
	Travel	140,897	64,470	74,242	74,242	111,363	22,413	111,363	78,739
	Contractual	168,150	190,411	186,100	186,100	200,741	118,556	200,741	250,111
	Consumable	73,300	73,300	75,800	75,800	86,370	65,746	86,370	76,594
	Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000	30,000
	Sub-total	1,041,052	740,379	1,005,359	955,874	1,219,159	826,447	1,249,159	1,045,230
Grants & Subsidies	WCPFC Membership	257,284	{49,266}	318,397	{44,746}	318,397	{115,804}	434,201	{170,800}
	FFA Membership	62,638	62,546	63,000	57,657	63,000	57,657	63,000	57,657
	PNA Membership	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Sub-total	319,922.00	62,546.00	381,397.00	57,657	391,397.00	67,657	507,201.00	67,657
	World Tuna Day	25,000	22,109	40,000	34,700	70,000	52,500	70,000	60,318
CIP	FFC Meetings	80,000	2,500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Hosting of WCPFC, SC, TCC	0.00	0.00	10,000	0.00	10,000	6,588	10,000	5,000
	T3 Challenge	0.00	0.00	100,000	77,215	150,000	150,000	150,000	43,010
	Internship			5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.00
	Sub-total	105,000	24,609	155,000	116,915	235,000	214,088	235,000	108,328
	Grand-total	1,465,974	827,534	1,541,756	1,130,446	1,845,556	1,108,192	1,991,360	1,221,215

During the reporting period, NORMA's responsibilities and program activities have increased, resulting in a larger budget. This budget is aligned with the goals outlined in NORMA's five-year Strategic Plan and supports the organization's national, regional, and international partnerships. One noticeable impact of this expansion is the increase in NORMA's WCPFC membership, which directly correlates with the higher fleet and catch by FSM-flagged vessels in the WCPO-CA in the previous year.



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