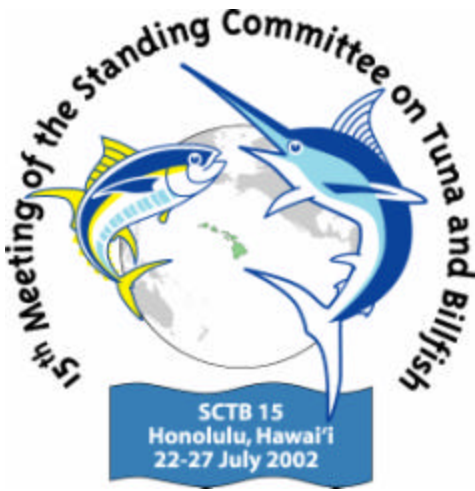
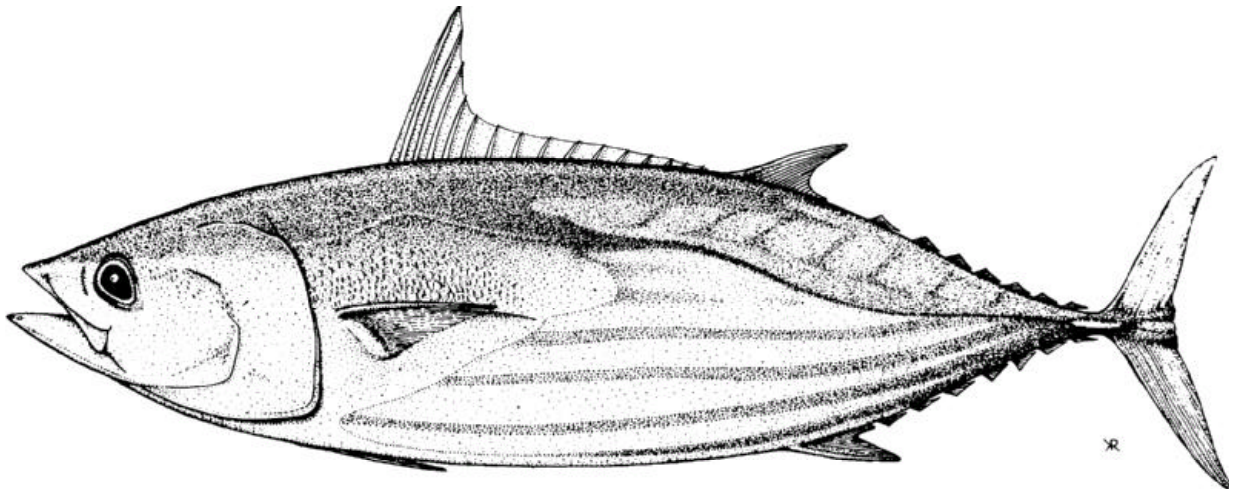


SCTB15 Working Paper

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## **Vanuatu Tuna Fishery Report**



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Vanuatu Tuna Fishery Report  
 15th SCTB  
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**Introduction**

The tuna fishery in Vanuatu continues to be based offshore meaning that tuna and tuna-like species is largely being landed elsewhere other than in Vanuatu. This is still the current status quo since the demise of the now defunct transshipment base in Espiritu Santo, which was being used at that time by both Japanese and Taiwanese tuna long liners targeting albacore.

The following are reported catches taken by Vanuatu licensed fishing vessels within the Vanuatu EEZ between 1997 and 2001 compiled from completed log sheets.

It should be noted also that some 2001 and 2002 has been submitted for compilation and therefore the 2001 data below is thus inconclusive.

**Total catch for all species and all ears combined 1997-2001**

yy	EEZ	Long line catch (metric tons)	Purse seine catch (metric tons)	Total catch (metric tons)
1997	VU	294.869	0	294.869
1998	VU	180.797	72.5	253.297
1999	VU	945.444	0	945.444
2000	VU	2688.532	0	2688.532
2001	VU	791.173	271.2	1062.373

**Current fleet structure as 15<sup>th</sup> Jul 2002**

Flag	# Of Vessels	Long Liner	Area Of Operation	Base
BZ	2	v	EEZ	foreign
CH	14	v	EEZ	foreign
CT	40	v	EEZ	foreign
FJ	10	v	EEZ	foreign
KR	14	v	EEZ	foreign
PA	2	v	EEZ	foreign
US	2	v	EEZ	foreign
VU	6	v	EEZ	foreign
	90			

### Long line catch by species 1997-2001

yy	alb_mt	bet_mt	bft_mt	sbf_mt	skj_mt	yft_mt	blm_mt	blz_mt	mls_mt	sfa_mt	ssp_mt	swo_mt	shk_mt	oth_mt
1997	249.608	3.827	0	0	0	36.457	0.094	2.178	1.535	0	0	0.77	0.239	0.161
1998	155.605	2.461	0	0	0	17.966	0	0.49	1.69	0.71	0	0.595	0	1.28
1999	852.886	18.324	0	0	0	18.781	0.89	15.71	9.394	0.95	0	5.985	5.303	17.225
2000	2027.36	71.006	0	0	0	391.82	4.927	25.21	46.46	0.75	0.54	20.81	28.422	71.231
2001	526.968	30.836	0	0	0	176.62	0.766	7.536	3.271	0.21	0.13	2.908	26.31	15.62

### Purse seine catch by species 1997-2001

yy	school	bet_mt	skj_mt	yft_mt	oth_mt
1998	ASS	0	68	4.5	0
1998	OTH	0	0	0	0
1998	OTH	0	0	0	0
1999	OTH	0	0	0	0
2000	UNA	0	0	0	0
2000	UNA	0	271.2	0	0

It isn't surprising that catch by purse seiners are low because purse seining in Vanuatu EEZ is a rare. Note that the purse seine catch was caught by US purse seiners.

### Final market destination of catches / disposal of catch

All catch were being off-loaded in Fiji and Pago Pago, American Samoa. Taiwanese long liners generally target albacore for the tuna cannery while vessels of mainly Fijibased Korean and Chinese vessels including Fiji vessels, were targeting fresh tunamarket in terms of Yellow-fin and big eye tuna. These fresh fish were being sent to the Japanese and US markets from Fiji.

### Onshore developments (transshipment, processing etc)

The only significant onshore development there has been in post 1996 was in 2000 for a transshipment activity by Taiwanese vessels in Port Vila Harbour.

There are in fact 2 US long liners now based in Vanuatu however no serious operations has begun yet to the extent of processing onshore. It is envisaged that they might land the catch in Fiji.

### Future prospects and developments

There has been recent activity by Chinese interests looking at establishing operations in Vanuatu but it is still too early to say whether or not these are genuine.

The fisheries act has been extensively revised and is to be subjected to the necessary legislative processes towards the end of 2002. It should therefore provide a better framework for fisheries conservation and management, domestically, regionally and internationally.

Fisheries Department has built into its recurrent processes for 2003, the recruitment of a competent fisheries statistician to be responsible for the fisheries database. This has been indeed a handicapped area, which hopefully will be improved, in terms of improved and timely data gathering, compilation, analysis and accessibility.

Vanuatu intends to undertake the implementation of a vessel monitoring aboard at least 50% of all Vanuatu flag tuna long liners by mid-2003, along with a system of electronic catch data reporting including that transshipped.