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Annual Report on WCPFC high seas transshipment reporting

WCPFC-TCC9-2013-RP05

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Paper prepared by the Secretariat

1. Article 29 (1) of WCPF Convention states as a general rule “In order to support efforts to ensure accurate reporting of catches, the members of the Commission shall encourage their fishing vessels, to the extent practicable, to conduct transshipment in port.” Recognising this point, the Commission adopted CMM 2009-06, and this states that there shall be no transshipment on the high seas except where a CCM has determined, in accordance with certain the guidelines (para 37) that it is impracticable for certain vessels to operate without being able to transship on the high seas and has advised the Commission of such (para 34).

Authorisations to transship on the high seas

2. In recent months, including as part of draft Compliance Monitoring Report (draft CMR), some CCMs have provided clarification with respect to notifications of their determinations of impracticability in accordance with paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06. In 2013, in response to the TCC8 direction (see TCC8 summary report, para 340) the WCPFC Secretariat has maintained a list of high seas transshipment authorized vessels on the secure side of the WCPFC website (<http://www.wcpfc.int/transshipment-authorisations>). A summary of this list is provided in Table 1, this updates information on authorisations which is provided in WCPFC-TCC9-2013-17.

Review of information reported on pre-transshipment notices and declarations, with a focus on 2012 and 2013

3. WCPFC has received reporting for over 1700 transshipment events since June 2010. The spread of transshipments since the introduction of CMM 2009-06 is shown in Figure 1 and Table 2.

Table 1. Summary of currently high seas transshipment authorized vessels which have been advised to the WCPFC(as at 8th September 2013.)

	Total vessels	Receiving	Offloading
Belize	* 1	-	* 1
China	461 ²	6	455
Japan	621 ³	0	621
Kiribati		0	
Republic of Korea	114	3 ⁴	111
Panama		0	-
Philippines	1	-	1
Chinese Taipei	96	-	96
United States of America	162	-	162
Vanuatu	80	3	77
	1535	12	1523

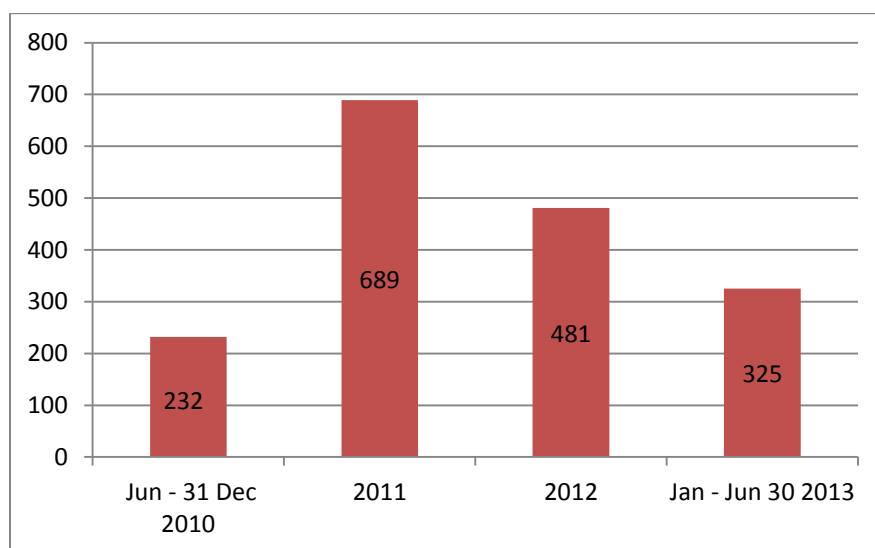


Figure 1. Number of transshipment events reported to WCPFC in accordance with CMM 2009-06. Note some of the transshipment events may have occurred in national waters.

Table 2. Summary of High Seas transshipments reported to the WCPFC from June 2010 –June 2013

	June – 31 Dec 2010	2011	2012	Jan – Jun 30 2013
Number of transshipments reported to WCPFC	232	686	481	325
Number of receiving vessels	17	23	18	16
Number of offloading vessels	158	280	231	202

¹ Belize provided in the 2013 draft CMR reply (28 August 2013) confirmation that one vessel was authorized to transship in 2012.

² China clarified in their 2013 draft CMR reply (28 August 2013) that prior advice had been transmitted to WCPFC prior to entry into force of CMM 2009-06: “Each Chinese longline vessels listed in WCPFC Record of Fishing vessels is authorized by Chinese Government to make at-sea transshipment as long as the Measure exists. And so does the carrier vessel.”

³ Japan provided a letter that confirms that their determination that it is impracticable for all its longline vessels with deep freezer to have to transship in port (received 10 July 2012)

⁴ Chartered vessels (1 Panama flagged, and 2 Vanuatu flagged vessel)

4. Reporting to WCPFC for the 2012 calendar year is summarized in Table 3 – 5 and Figures 2 and 3 which follow. There are a couple of caveats to the information provided herein:

- a. TCC8 tasked WCPFC Secretariat to undertake an analysis of transshipment activities with VMS data and to the extent possible ROP data. We have been working out how we might best deliver on this task as there are limitations with the present WCPFC VMS system. In recent discussions with the ED, Compliance Manager and the FFA DDG, some software that FFA had been using to analyze VMS data to detect potential transshipment activity was discussed. WCPFC recently wrote to the FFA to see if it might be possible for WCPFC to access this software, but were advised that this was not available. WCPFC has looked more broadly, including to other CCMs, to see if they might have some tools that would assist WCPFC with examining WCPFC VMS data to identify incidents when fishing vessels are in close proximity to a carrier (as an indicator of possible transshipment activity). If the software becomes available, a report on its findings will be prepared for CCMs out of session and in advance of WCPFC10. As noted in WCPFC-TCC9 -2013 RP02 *Annual Report on the Observer Programme*, transshipment observer reports have only recently started to flow to the WCPFC, and the WCPFC intends to start to review the information therein to verify reports of transshipments that have been received;
- b. During August some CCMs have provided updates which are intended to complete their reporting to WCPFC of transshipment events, particularly for the 2012/13 year;
- c. The required summary reporting provided by some CCMs in Annual Report Part 1 (CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11), should provide a useful basis for future checking of reported transshipment activities;
- d. It should be noted that some reported transshipment activities occurred in the IATTC Convention Area excluding the overlap area, and within national waters of CCMs within the Convention Area; and
- e. The WCPFC Secretariat has recently commenced a process of providing CCMs feedback on possible gaps in reports of transshipment activities under CMM 2009-06.

5. Some points of note from the information provided related to 2012 year and first six months of 2013 include:

- a. Reported high seas transshipments were sparse in the north western part of the WCPFC Convention Area, and were more dense in the tropical eastern Pacific;
- b. Few high seas transshipment activities were reported to have occurred in the high seas pockets;
- c. Few high seas transshipment activities were reported to have occurred in the southern part of the Convention Area;
- d. Significant quantities of longline caught bigeye tuna and swordfish are reported to have been transshipped during 2012 and first six month of 2013 in the high seas of the Convention Area (Table 3);
- e. The first six months of 2013, suggests that the level of reported transshipments may have increased compared to the 2012 level;
- f. The list of vessels maintained by the Secretariat based on CCMs advice of their vessels that are authorized to be involved in high seas transshipments is not presently a comprehensive list that includes all vessels that are reported to be involved in high seas transshipments; and
- g. The WCPFC Secretariat holdings of advance notifications and transshipment declarations in 2012 does not appear to include reporting for all transshipment events that should have been reported.

Table 3. Summary information comparing the reported quantities of highly migratory fish stocks which were reported have been transshipped in 2012, with the provisional longline catch estimates for the WCPFC Statistical Area. [BUM = blue marlin, MLS = striped marlin, SWO = swordfish]

	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	BUM	MLS	SWO
Reported quantities on WCPFC high seas Transshipment Declarations (Mt)	3,780	19,229	3,877	95	852	328	2,723
2012 provisional longline catch estimates in WCPFC Statistical Area (Mt)⁵	98,854	76,599	85,245	1,378	13,813	3,377	18,981
Reported quantities of high seas transshipments as a % of total provisional catch estimates	3.82%	25.10%	4.55%	6.89%	6.17%	9.71%	14.35%

Table 4. Provisional summary of reported transshipments events to WCPFC for the 2012 calendar year This table does not take into account all recent submissions and updates provided as replies to the draft Compliance Monitoring Report 2013, and may be subject to revision.⁶

	Count of vessels in reports received		Count of reported transshipment events				AR Pt 1 advice on events in 2012
	As receiving vessels	As offloading vessels	Receiving vessel	Offloading vessel	advance notifications received CMM 09-06 35 a iii)	declarations received CMM 09-06 35 a iv)	
Belize		1	3		1	1	
China		76		153	126	6 ⁷	
Indonesia		7		26	15	12	
Japan		23		40	46	41	77
Kiribati	4		67		21	52	
Republic of Korea	1	29	3	34	29	17	60
Panama	1		89		14	48	
Philippines		2		5	5	6	
Chinese Taipei		70		173	186	190	204
Vanuatu	12	23	314	40	323	331	
	18	231	476	471	766	704	341

⁵ Table 3: Longline catches in WCPFC Statistical Area, by species, and Table 18: Commercial catches of billfish in the WCPFC Statistical Area by gear type and species (WCPFC-SC9-2013/ST-IP-1_rev 1)

⁶ Note the table attributes by flag, and does not presently take into account notified charter arrangements to WCPFC.

⁷ This number does not take into account the updates of transshipment declarations for 2011/12 which were provided by China to the Secretariat in August 2013.

Table 5. Reported quantities (Mt) of transshipments of highly migratory fish stocks by species and sharks combined, by month by year, based on reports to WCPFC under CMM 2009-06 para 35 a iv). Based on reports received by WCPFC Jan 2012 to June 2013.

YEAR: 2012

MONTH	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	BUM	MLS	SWO	SHK	ANY
JAN	431	1,826	344	19	103	31	289	193	151
FEB	688	1,361	193	0	13	55	250	50	120
MAR	359	1,732	338	0	68	29	437	128	208
APR	339	2,271	260	15	190	41	323	343	337
MAY	38	1,231	167	0	20	11	273	14	31
JUN	74	2,183	377	3	48	26	316	80	79
JUL	834	1,090	314	1	122	18	119	150	158
AUG	249	502	77	3	38	15	46	17	44
SEP	132	410	109	0	22	13	47	9	15
OCT	95	947	209	0	67	9	118	83	201
NOV	41	2,319	539	46	113	35	189	63	81
DEC	501	3,359	952	7	48	45	316	63	72
Total	3,780	19,229	3,877	95	852	328	2,723	1,194	1,497

YEAR: 2013 – Jan – Jun 30

MONTH	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	BUM	MLS	SWO	SHK	ANY
JAN	71	2,515	748	2	81	30	245	46	92
FEB	408	1,395	315	18	109	20	300	113	82
MAR	341	2,764	618	52	135	46	333	79	55
APR	294	2,062	484	15	453	47	423	234	444
MAY	194	2,323	489	14	81	38	461	151	188
JUN	979	2,042	536	31	132	33	296	89	123
Total	2,289	13,101	3,190	133	992	215	2,059	714	984

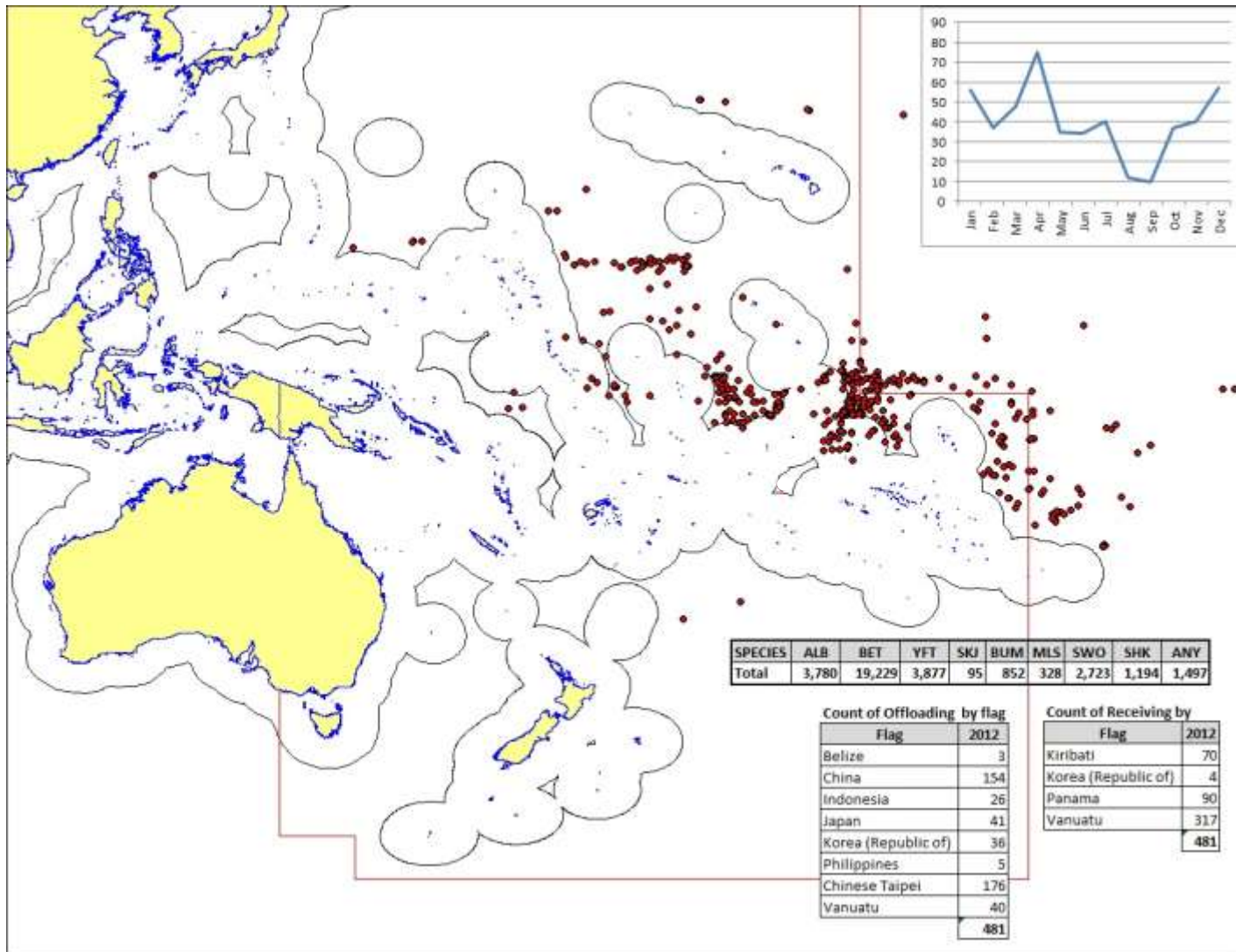


Figure 2. Map plotting positions of transshipments of highly migratory fish stocks for 2012, based on reports to WCPFC under CMM 2009-06 paragraph 35 a iv). The graph at top right shows the number of transshipments by month, and the tables at bottom right show the total annual quantities (Mt) of highly migratory fish stocks by species or grouped, with number of transshipments by flag CCM.

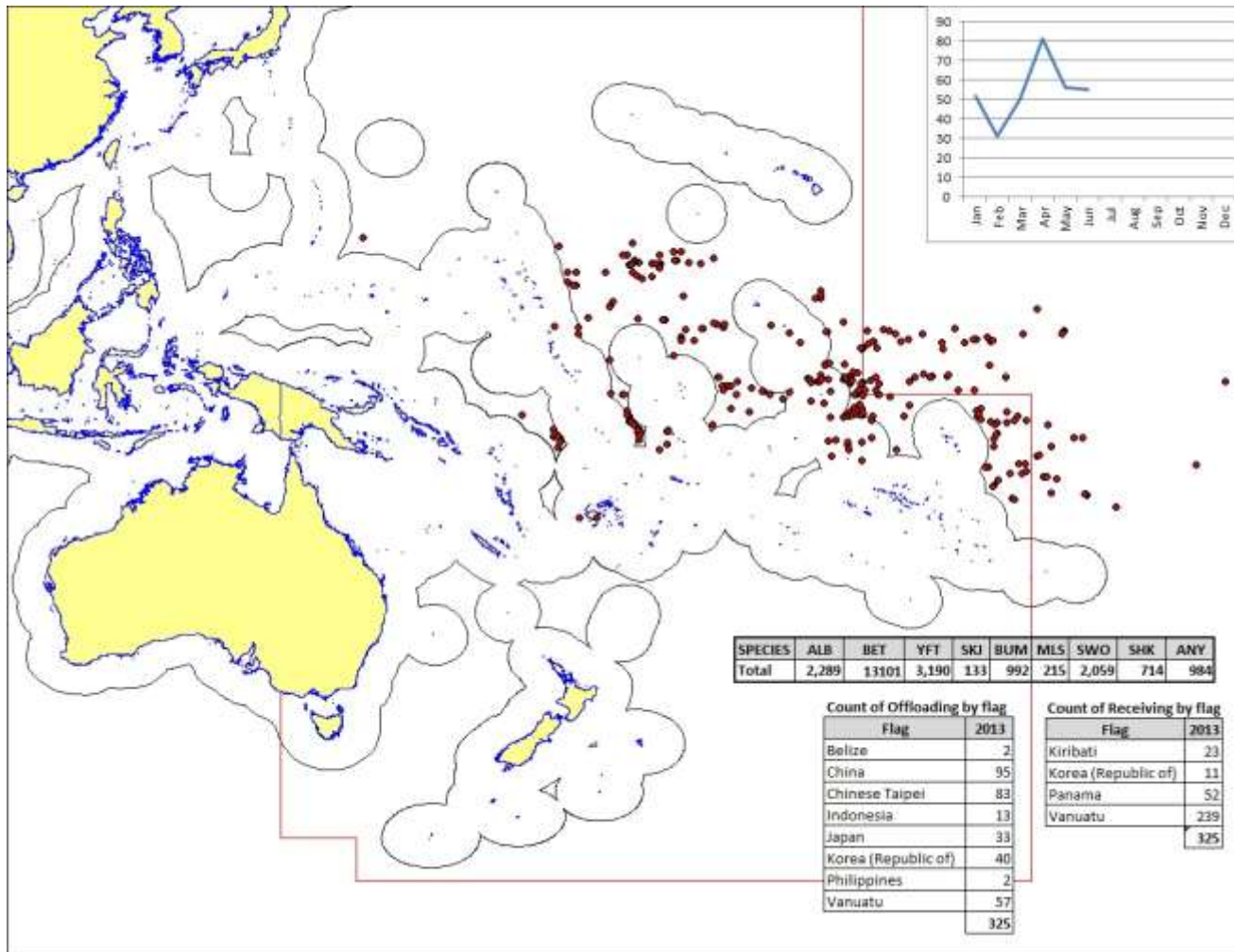


Figure 3. Map plotting positions of transshipments of highly migratory fish stocks from Jan 1 to June 30 2013, based on reports to WCPFC under CMM 2009-06 paragraph 35 a iv). The graph at top right shows the number of transshipments by month, and the tables at bottom right show the total annual quantities (Mt) of highly migratory fish stocks by species or grouped, with number of transshipments by flag CCM.