

## Tuna fisheries news

### Tokelau joins PNA's Vessel Day Scheme

On 1 May 2012, Tokelau signed an agreement with the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) to join the purse-seine Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). Given Tokelau's small size, remote location and lack of infrastructure, its ability to develop its own large-scale tuna fishing, processing and marketing sectors is constrained. In recognising these limitations, Tokelau intends to focus on maximising the economic benefits associated with being a tuna resource owner, and in doing so, will work alongside PNA members in implementing the VDS. Tokelau currently maintains a bilateral access arrangement with New Zealand's purse-seine fleet (4 vessels). Forty US purse-seine vessels also have access to Tokelau's waters under the US Multilateral Tuna Treaty. The highest recorded purse-seine catch in Tokelau's EEZ during the past ten years was 6000 t (350 purse-seine fishing days) in 2002.

### Kiribati renews Fisheries Partnership Agreement with EU

Kiribati and the European Union (EU) have initialled a new protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA), which provides continued access for four EU purse seiners and six longliners to Kiribati's Exclusive Economic Zone and replaces the current Protocol which is due to expire on 16 September 2012. Under the new Protocol, the annual financial contribution from the EU is € 1,325,000 for a reference tonnage of 15,000 t. This is a considerable increase on the financial contribution

provided under the previous Protocol of € 478,400, however, the reference tonnage has also more than doubled from 6400 t. The number of vessels covered under the new agreement remains the same. A standard feature of Fisheries Partnership Agreements is the earmarking of a certain proportion of the financial contribution for sectoral policy support. € 350,000 of the financial contribution will be used by Kiribati for the promotion of responsible and sustainable fishing in its waters.

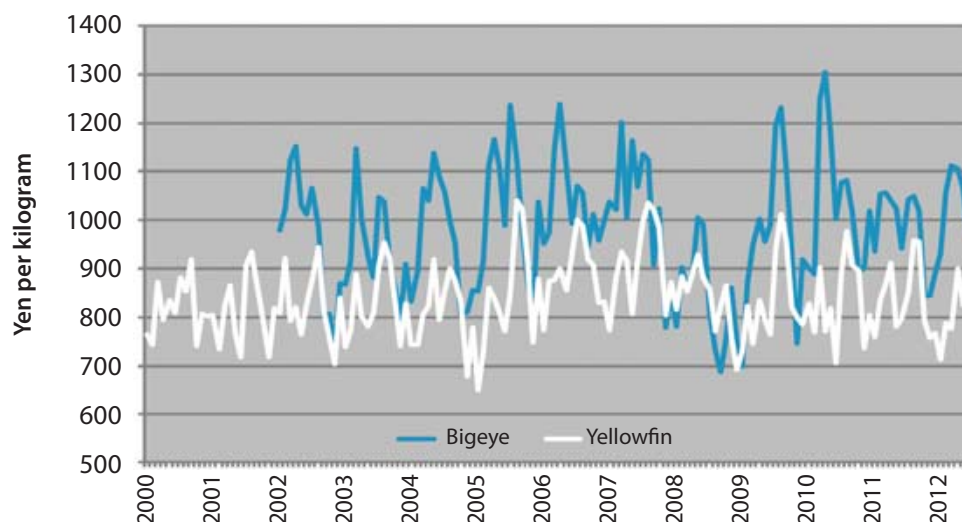
Kiribati was the first Pacific Island country to establish a fishing agreement with the EU (in 2003). Since this time, the EU has also established FPAs with Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, however, the fishing opportunities offered under these agreements are far less utilised than those under the Kiribati agreement. While the EU-Kiribati FPA covers both purse-seine and longline vessels, fishing opportunities offered to longline vessels are yet to be taken up. The EU longline fleet operating in the WCPO generally fishes in southern waters and targets swordfish, rather than tuna.

It is currently unclear whether the new Protocol incorporates the Vessel Day Scheme for the purse-seine vessels. The prior Protocol did not include provisions on VDS, hence, unlike other bilateral fishing partners, EU purse-seine vessels have not been subject to a limit on fishing days.

Solomon Islands is also due to renegotiate a new Protocol with the EU in the coming few months.

*Source: FFA FISHERIES TRADE NEWS Volume 5: Issue 3, May-June 2012.*

### Japan fresh sashimi prices (origin Oceania) to June 2012



*Source: FFA FISHERIES TRADE NEWS Volume 5: Issue 4, July-August 2012.*