

28 International Waters

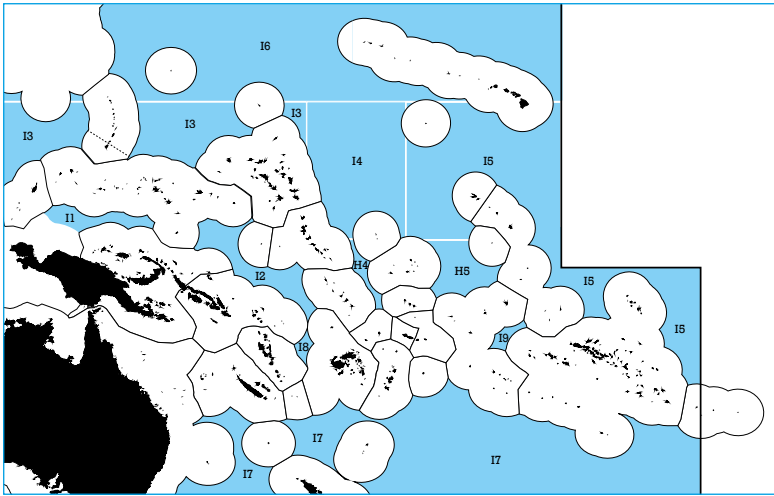
Volumes and Values of Fish Harvests in International Waters (IW)

Eleven different bodies of international water (IW) in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) are recognised in the current SPC/FFA statistics. The codes for those areas and descriptions are given in Table 28-1, and the areas are shown in Figure 28-1.

Table 28-1: International Waters in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean

Code	Description
11	Doughnut hole between Papua New Guinea and Federated States of Micronesia
12	Doughnut hole between FSM, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Is. Nauru, Tuvalu
13	International waters east of the Philippines to Guam, above FSM, around Marshall Islands, up to 20°N and west of 175°E (not including areas 11, 12 and 18)
14	International waters east of Marshall Islands and Kiribati, from the equator up to 20°N and east of 175°E to 170°W
15	International waters around Line Group from the equator up to 20°N, east of 170°W to 150°W, and south of the equator to 20°S from 155°W-130°W
16	The remainder of International waters not covered above in the Northern Hemisphere of the WCPFC area.
17	The remainder of International waters not covered above in the Southern Hemisphere of the WCPFC area
18	International waters bordered by Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
19	International waters between Cook Islands and French Polynesia
H4	International waters between Tuvalu, Phoenix and Tokelau, from the Equator down to 10°S and east of 175°E to 170°W
H5	International waters between Phoenix and Line Groups, from the Equator down to 10°S, east of 170°W to 155°W (excludes International Waters between Cook Islands and French Polynesia = Area "19")

Source: FFA (2015)



Source: SPC, Oceanic Fisheries Programme

Figure 28-1: The 11 Bodies of International Waters in the WCPO
Key: Refer to Table 28-1, above

Estimates of the volumes and values of catches of the four main commercial species of tuna in the area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission for the years 1997–2014 have been made by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA 2015), using data sourced from the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community. The following should be noted with respect to these data:

- The FFA/SPC prices are all “delivered” prices, in that they reflect the price received at entry to the country in which they are usually sold, whether for processing or consumption.
- Bycatch represents an important aspect of the volume, and sometimes the value, of offshore longline fisheries, but bycatch is not included in the FFA estimate.

Estimates of the volume and value of the catches in international waters are given in Table 28-2, below. The figures presented have been modified from FFA (2015) to reflect bycatch and the “in-zone” value.

Table 28-2: Volume and Values of Fisheries Production from International Waters

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Purse seine volume (mt)	76,935	66,851	89,075	89,631	134,547
Longline volume corrected for bycatch (mt)	122,954	112,538	115,668	111,033	89,754
Pole and line volume (mt)	69,778	66,653	72,271	43,184	38,273
Trolling volume (mt)	307	472	235	390	284
Other gear volume (mt)	363	130	129	129	129
Purse seine value corrected (US\$)	88,672,647	105,784,008	164,819,374	156,912,557	174,282,948
Longline value corrected (US\$)	601,792,736	612,143,019	603,716,683	455,815,610	384,547,760
Pole and line value corrected (US\$)	147,975,132	155,874,804	221,743,431	95,891,453	93,543,816
Trolling value corrected (US\$)	739,103	1,293,091	747,441	881,712	735,106
Other gear value corrected (US\$)	442,753	213,930	280,594	251,982	203,460
Total volume corrected (mt)	270,338	246,644	277,378	244,366	262,988
Total value corrected (US\$)	839,622,371	875,308,852	991,307,523	709,753,315	653,313,090

Source: FFA (2015)

Using the table above, FFA (2015) and some SPC unpublished data, the following observations can be made on catches:

- In 2014 the fish catches in the 11 bodies of international waters in the WCPO (262,988 mt) are equal to about 14.4% of all offshore catches in the zones of the 22 countries and territories of the Pacific Islands area.
- The fleets that had the most catches by volume in 2014 in the international waters were Japanese pole-and-line (17% of the total IW catch), USA purse seine (13%), Kiribati purse seine (11%), Japan purse seine (10%) and Philippine purse seine (9%).
- Of the fleets flagged in PICTs, the fleets that had the most catches by volume in 2014 in the international waters were Kiribati purse seine (11% of the total IW catch), Vanuatu longline (3%), Fiji longline (1%) and PNG purse seine (1%).