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FACTSHEET

2011

Offshore Fisheries

ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PACIFIC TUNA

Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)

PNA FACTS:

ADOPTED IN:
1982 (NAURU)

SECRETARIAT:
MAJURO, MARSHALL
ISLANDS.

SIZE OF AREA:

14.3 MILLION SQ. KM
ANNUAL TUNA CATCH
(AS AT 2008):
APPROX. 1.2 MILLION
METRIC TONNES.

ANNUAL ESTIMATED
VALUE (AS AT 2008):
OVER US\$2 BILLION.

The Nauru Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest (Nauru Agreement) or PNA is a sub-regional agreement on terms and conditions for tuna purse seine fishing licenses. It brings together eight Pacific Island countries to sustainably manage tuna and increase economic benefits for their peoples. PNA members are Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau (PU), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Their combined exclusive economic zones (EEZs) control 25 per cent of the world's supply of tuna (see figure 1).

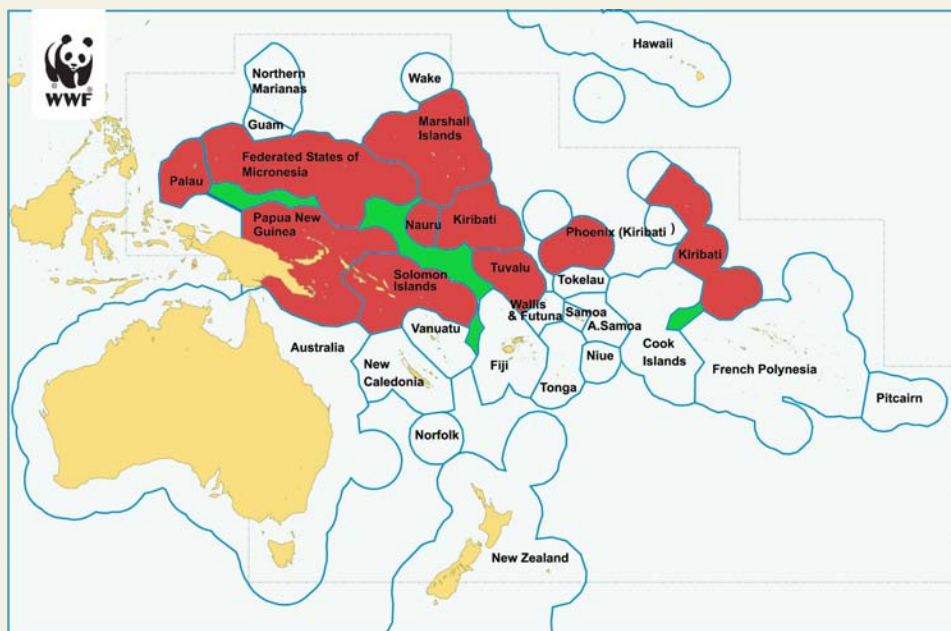


Figure 1: Shaded in red is the PNA area, which combines the EEZs of 8 Pacific Island nations and shaded in green are the high seas areas.

Implementing Arrangements

The Nauru Agreement has 3 Implementing Arrangements (1982, 1990 and 2008), which set out specific rules for fishing in these countries.

1st Arrangement

- The introduction of a **regional register** for foreign fishing vessels, which was adopted by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and became operational in 1988.
- It was later followed by the development of a **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**, which requires all licensed vessels to fit an Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) that monitors the vessel's position, speed and course allowing for its surveillance round the clock.

2nd Arrangement

- Prohibition of **transshipment** at sea;
- **High seas** catch reporting and maintenance of log books.
- Recording catch and effort on a daily basis;
- Placement of observers upon request by a licensing Party;
- Request for an electronic position and data transfer device to be installed on the vessel.

3rd Arrangement

- A ban on fishing vessels from operating in high seas pockets adjacent to the EEZs as a term of their licences.
- A ban on the use of **Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)** on purse seine vessels in the PNA members' EEZs between July and September of each year.
- Catch retention of bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna on board purse seine vessels as a means of preventing fish dumping and **bycatch**.

Knowing Your Terms:

Bycatch - the capture of non-target species (and discarded juveniles of target species) in fishing gear.

Fish Aggregating Device (FADs) – a device used to draw in fish of all sizes.

High Seas – the open ocean which is not within the territorial waters or jurisdiction of any particular country.

Regional Register – an official list of vessels authorised to purse seine for tuna in the PNA waters.

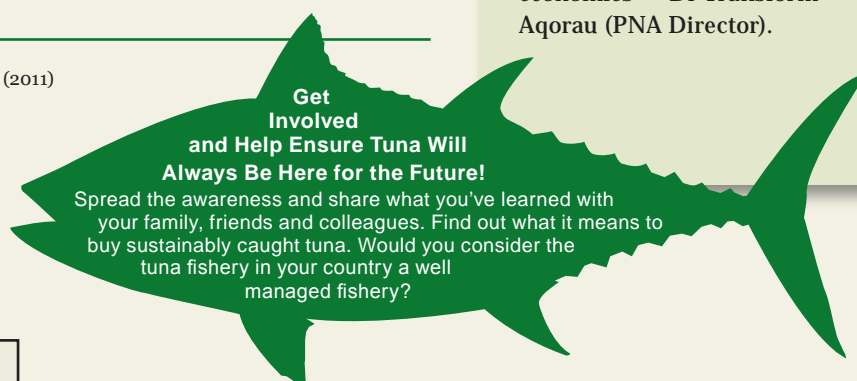
Transshipment – unloading of fish from a vessel that caught fish to another vessel.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) – a tracking system developed to assist with monitoring the position, speed and direction of fishing vessels in the EEZs of FFA member states.



“The PNA is about assertive expression of self determination, of helping yourself, and ensuring and working hard towards integrating the largest industry in the region into your domestic economies” – Dr Transform Aqorau (PNA Director).

Source: Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, FFA (2011)



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