



REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

FISHING LICENSE REVENUES

IN KIRIBATI

2018 Report

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development and Ministry of
Finance and Economic Development

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Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoK	Government of Kiribati
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal Unregulated Unreported
MFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MFMRD	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
PIPA	Phoenix Islands Protected Area
PMU	Police Maritime Unit
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TAE	Total Allowable Effort
VDS	Vessel Day Scheme
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fishing Commission

1 Background and Introduction

This is the fifth review of fishing revenue carried out by the MFMRD in collaboration with the MFED, SPC and FFA for the purpose of monitoring revenue from fishing licensing fees in Kiribati. The objective of this review is to monitor the revenue from fishing license fees in Kiribati and ensure maximum sustainable value is being obtained.

The information used in this review has been obtained from bodies such as MFED, MFMRD, SPC and FFA. The report provides a summary of the following: revenue, volumes of catch, prices, multilateral, and bilateral agreements and sets out future trends.

The FFA countries accounts for approximately 29 percent of the world's catch of tuna, or 49.8 percent of the total value. Tuna is estimated to be worth USD 5.3 billion in the global market – USD2.6 million in FFA countries alone. Of the fishing nations in the Pacific, Kiribati has had the highest volume of catch averaged around 480 metric tonnes over the past three years, (2015-2017). This accounted for 33 percent to total average catch (2015-2017) in the FFA member EEZ and 1518 percent of WCPFC Convention Area catch.

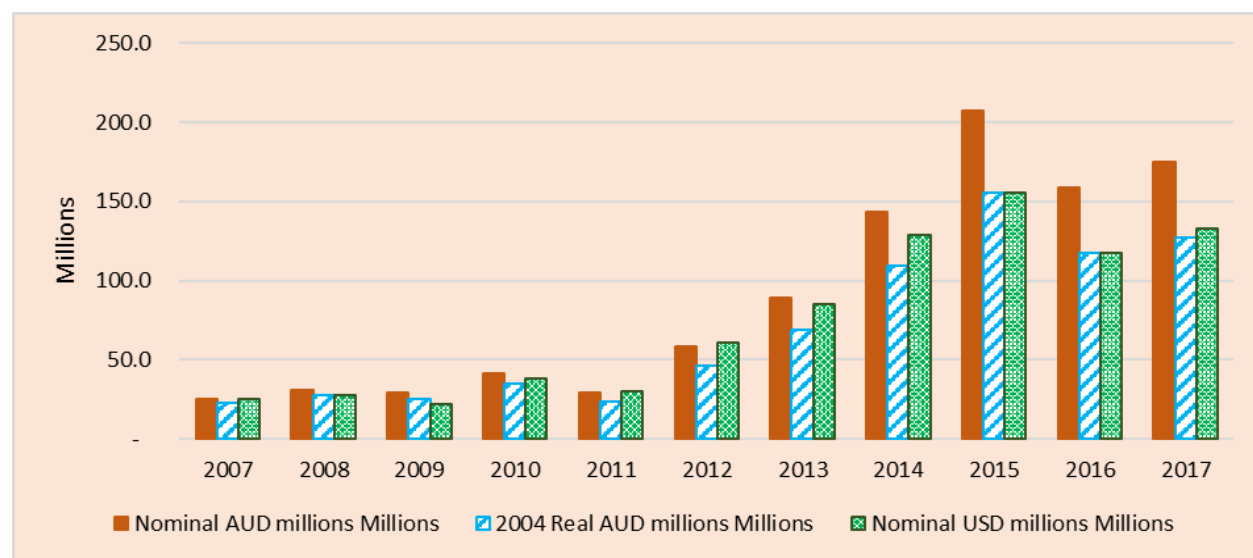
2 Overall Revenue Trends

This section discusses the following key drivers of revenue trends: i) volumes of catch; ii) market prices of catch; and iii) changes in revenue as a proportion of the market value of catch. The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) continues to remain the main factor for improving revenue performances from fishing licenses.

2.1 Total Revenue

Fishing revenue, and particularly fishing license revenue, is the main income source for the Government of Kiribati accounting for 72 percent of total Government revenue in 2017. Since the implementation of the VDS there has been a substantial increase in the revenue from fishing licenses and transshipment fees (Figure 1 and Table 1). As illustrated in Figure 1 and Table 1, the collection up to 2009 was just around 20 million in average. The low fishing license collection in those years is due to the absence of the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). The scheme was introduced in 2011 and implemented in 2012. The increased in fishing revenue was first realized in 2012 and reaching its peak in 2015. The collection in 2016 and 2017 was AUD \$158 and AUD \$174 million respectively shows a decline in revenue collection, however it is still high by historical standards. This highlights the importance of managing volatile fishing revenue as a key fiscal anchor for Government.

Figure 1. Total Fishing Revenue (Excl. Development Fund), Kiribati, 2007 - 2017



Sources: MFED, RBA, ABS

Table 1: Total Fishing Revenue (Excl. Development Funds), Kiribati, 2007-2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nominal AUD millions	25.4	31.2	29.5	41.7	29.1	58.3	89.0	143.1	207.1	158.8	174.7
2004 Real AUD millions	23.3	27.6	25.5	35.1	23.7	46.6	69.2	109.4	155.7	117.7	127.0
Nominal USD millions	25.1	27.5	22.0	38.4	30.3	60.6	85.4	128.6	155.3	117.5	132.8

Sources: MFED, RBA, ABS

The unprecedented rise in fishing license revenue since 2012 is consistent with the experiences of other countries in the Pacific who are Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), but the importance of fishing revenue to the Kiribati national budget is more critical than other nations.

Fishing license revenue as a proportion of total revenue increased from 47 percent in 2011 to 72 percent in 2017; around 146 percent of estimated nominal GDP. This was a slight fall from 82 percent of total license revenue proportion in 2015 but still high by historical standards.

Table 2: Total License Revenue as proportion of the Kiribati National Budget 2011-2017

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
License Revenue	29.1	58.3	89.0	141.6	197.8	143.3	169.1
Transshipment revenue	NA	NA	NA	NA	9.2	15.5	5.3
Other fishing revenue	NA	NA	0.8	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Total Fishing Revenue	29.1	58.3	89.8	142.7	207.1	159.0	174.7
<i>as percentage of total revenue</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>63.9</i>	<i>70.8</i>	<i>76.0</i>	<i>81.8</i>	<i>75.3</i>	<i>72.0</i>
<i>as percentage nominal GDP*</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>71.6</i>	<i>90.9</i>	<i>66.3</i>	<i>72.2</i>
Domestic Revenue**	33.1	33.0	37.0	34.8	41.4	47.4	49.1
Budget Support***	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	4.8	4.8	18.8
Total Revenue	62.2	91.3	126.8	187.8	253.3	211.2	242.7

* Numbers changed to reflect revised nominal GDP numbers

** Domestic revenue is total revenue less budget support, less total fishing revenue

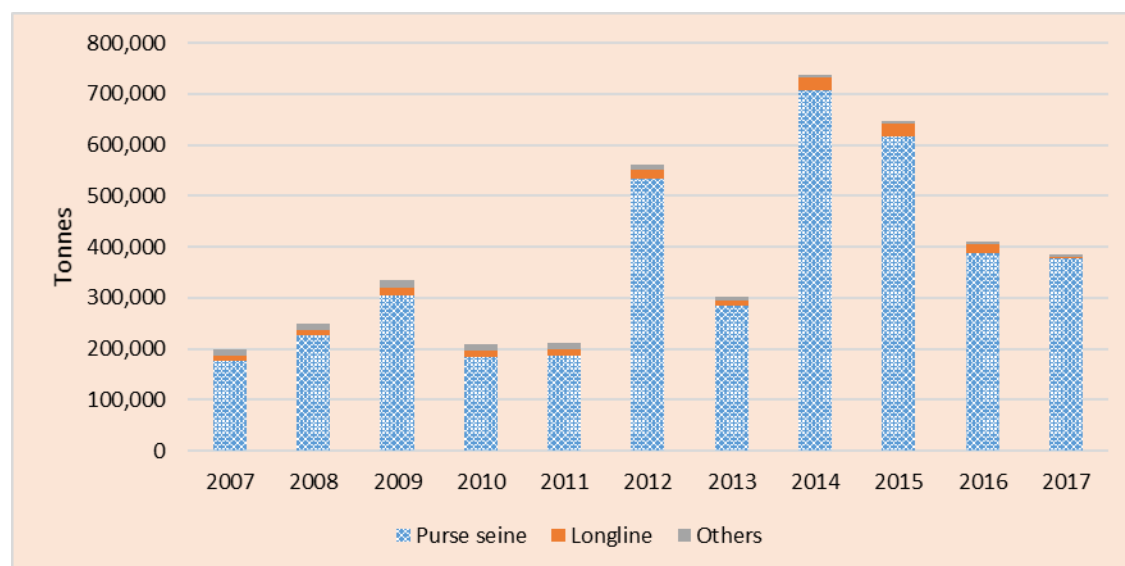
*** Numbers changed to reflect actual budget support received by government.

The 2017 Budget took a conservative view on trend fishing license revenues, at around AUD 121.7 million with the four-year average (2012-2015) of license revenue. As of 8 May 2018, license revenue for 2017 reached a total of AUD \$169.1 million.

The volume of the tuna catches harvested from Kiribati EEZ has slightly decreased with purse seine fishing vessels continuing to harvest large catches (Figure 2 and Table 2). The total volume of catch of all gears in 2017 reached 384,800 tonnes with 98 percent of the catch caught by purse seine vessels. This volume of catch decreased by 6% from the 410,467 tonnes of catch harvested in 2016.

In 2017, Kiribati waters were again the most productive tuna fishing zone in the Central and Western Pacific – the third year in a row. Kiribati accounted for 15 percent of all Central and Western Pacific tuna catch in 2017, a significant decline from 24 percent in 2015. The large change in the proportion of total catch is due to a decline in the Kiribati catch together with an increase in catch in other Forum nations. Kiribati accounted for 8 percent of the global catch in 2017 (including international waters).

Figure 2. Total Catch by Gear, Kiribati, 2007-2017



Source: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Table 3: Total Catch by Gear (metric tonnes), Kiribati, -2007 – 2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Purse seine	177,295	227,940	304,217	185,147	187,186	534,558	283,861	707,278	617,001	387,488	377,796
Longline	9,131	8,074	16,206	11,694	12,335	16,964	12,106	24,691	24,314	18,621	2,645
Others	12,819	13,190	13,577	13,159	12,602	10,277	5,425	4,632	4,599	4,359	4,359
Total	199,245	249,204	334,000	210,000	212,123	561,799	301,392	736,600	645,914	410,467	384,800

Source: Oceanic Fisheries Programme, SPC

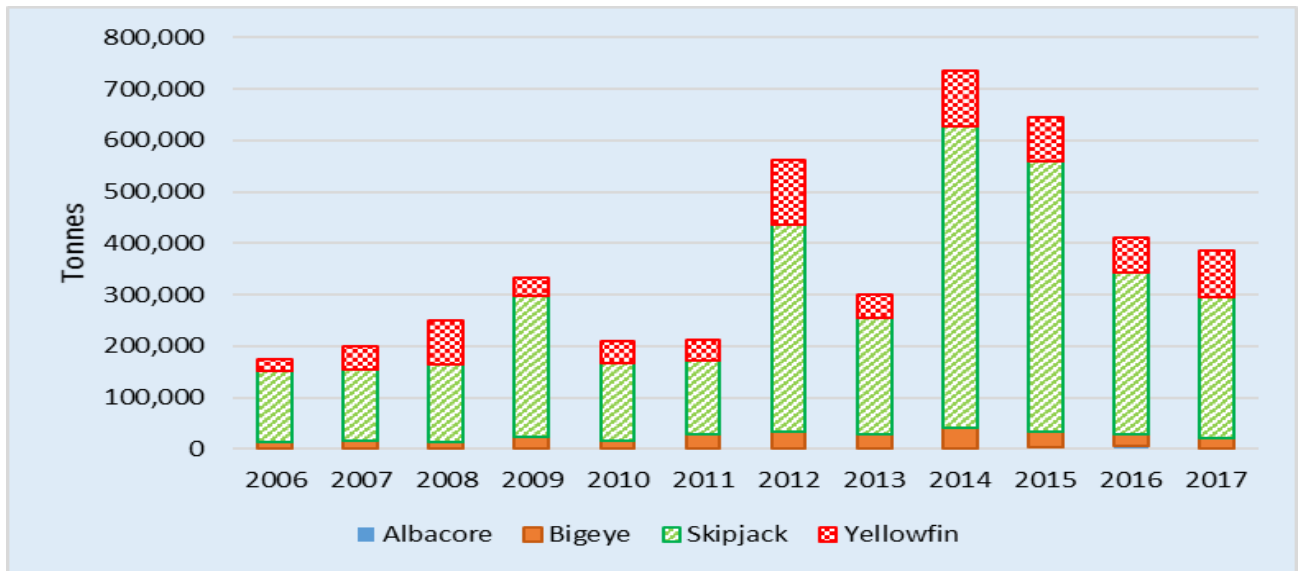
As the main target species of the purse seine fishery, volumes of Skipjack continued to be high in 2017 at 274,789 tonnes, a decline of 12 percent from 313,449 tonnes in 2016 and it is well below the record set in 2014. Skipjack remains by far the most dominant catch for Kiribati, representing 71 percent of all catch in 2017.

Of the other key species:

- The quantity of the Yellowfin catch was 89,778 tonnes, a 31 percent increase from 2016. Yellowfin accounted for 23 percent of total catch in 2017.
- The volume of Bigeye continued to fall from the record 39,555 tonnes harvested in 2014, declining a further 50 percent to 19,807 tonnes in 2017. Bigeye represents 5 percent of the total catch in 2017. This pattern may indicate that measures put into place to manage and conserve this fishery are working as preliminary scientific results released at the recent Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission also show that BET is not at risk as earlier advised.
- The catch for Albacore fell significantly by 91 percent in 2017, from a record of 4,932 tonnes in 2016. This only accounts for 0 percent of total catch. This fishery is not yet developed but is fished by vessels supplying onshore processing plant in Betio, Tarawa.

In terms of catch by species, Skipjack accounted for 71 percent of total catch; 23 percent for yellowfin; 5% for Albacore while Bigeye only accounts for 0.11% for the year 2017. Total catch by species in 2017 declined by 6 percent.

Figure 3. Total Catch by Species (metric tonnes), Kiribati, 2006-2017



Source: Forum Fisheries Agency

Table 4: Total Catch by Species (metric tonnes), Kiribati, 2006-2017

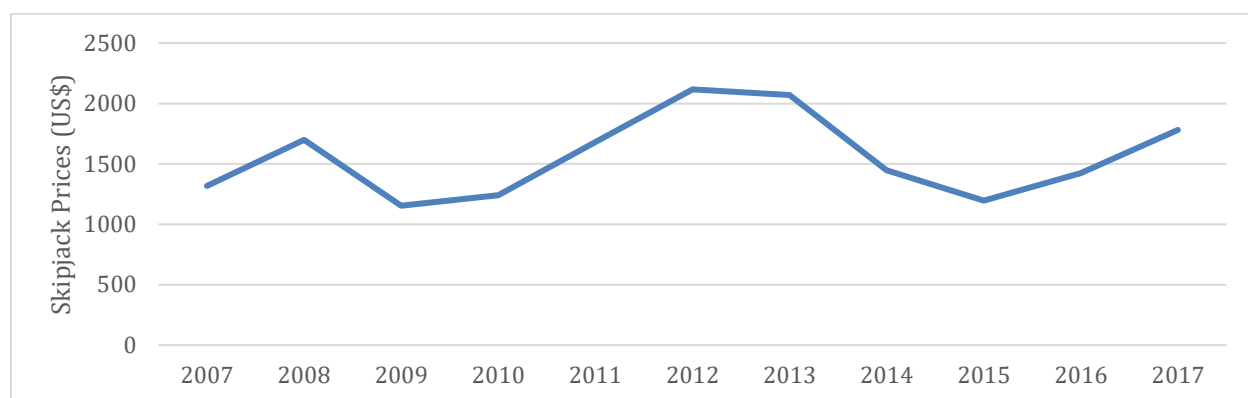
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Albacore	300	677	386	1,221	1,219	597	1,329	923	1,553	2,607	4,932	426
Bigeye	12,272	15,535	14,139	23,487	15,654	28,403	33,368	26,814	39,555	31,094	23,630	19,807
Skipjack	140,386	139,318	149,367	272,107	149,432	143,608	402,565	227,114	587,137	526,786	313,449	274,789
Yellowfin	21,812	43,715	85,313	37,185	43,695	39,515	124,537	46,541	108,354	85,427	68,456	89,778
Total	174,770	199,245	249,204	334,000	210,000	212,123	561,799	301,392	736,600	645,914	410,467	384,800

Source: Forum Fisheries Agency

Prices and Catch Values

The increase in revenue between 2009 and 2012 were driven partly by higher skipjack import prices. (Figure 4). However, lower prices have been associated with a higher volume of catch. This combination of lower prices but higher volume has meant that the total value of the catch has remained at high levels.

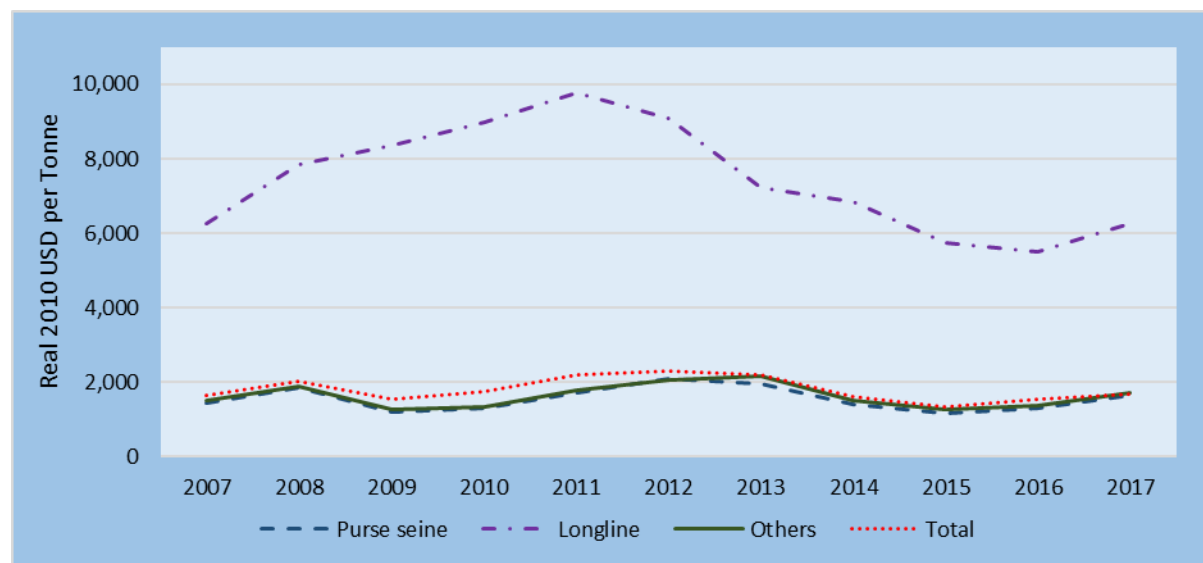
Figure 4. Skipjack Import Prices (c&) in US\$/mt



Source: Forum Fisheries Agency

The value of catch per tonne for Kiribati (in real USD) is reflected in Figure 5 below. The highest value per tonne peaked in 2012. For longline fishing the peak was in 2011. Longline fishing continues to achieve the highest value of catch per tonne.

Figure 5. Value of Catch Per Tonne by Gear, Kiribati 2007-17



Source: SPC, MFED calculations.

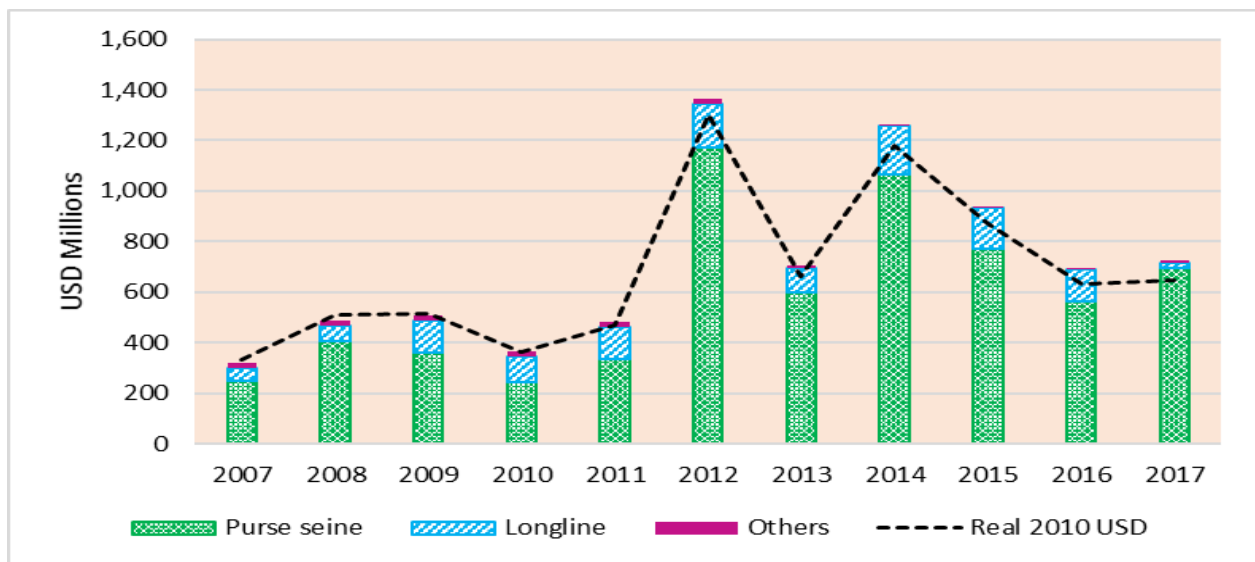
Table 5: Value per Tonne by Gear (Real 2010 USD), Kiribati, 2007 -2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Purse seine	1,456	1,849	1,197	1,305	1,711	2,092	1,971	1,404	1,158	1,322	1,634
Longline	6,273	7,858	8,367	8,964	9,758	9,092	7,224	6,834	5,730	5,506	6,263
Others	1,523	1,877	1,283	1,351	1,789	2,076	2,161	1,522	1,271	1,375	1,706
Total	1,666	2,041	1,540	1,738	2,217	2,318	2,203	1,603	1,349	1,536	1,677

Source: Forum Fisheries Agency, World Bank, MFED

Purse seine fishing continues to remain the highest catch value by far with the 2017 figure at USD \$697.29 million (Figure 6 and Table 6), a 24 percent increase from 2016. Long line fishing remains second largest with only USD\$20.24 million in 2017, a decline of 84 percent on the 2016 result. The total value of all catch obtained in 2017 was USD 725.94 million, a 5 percent increase from the value obtained in 2016. In 2012, prices were much higher and remains the peak year for total catch value.

Figure 6. Total Catch Value by Gear, Kiribati, 2007-17



Source: Forum Fisheries Agency and World Bank

Table 6: Total Catch Value by Gear, Kiribati, 2007-2017 (USD Millions)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Purse seine	247.35	404.36	358.90	241.42	333.04	1,172.34	597.23	1,067.16	770.77	564.39	697.29
Longline	52.15	59.94	130.44	105.83	127.92	169.46	96.82	190.62	162.92	123.48	20.28
Others	18.66	23.64	17.31	17.76	23.22	22.35	11.99	7.56	6.31	6.60	8.37
Total USD	318.16	487.94	506.65	365.02	484.17	1,364.15	706.04	1,265.34	939.99	694.47	725.94

Source: Forum Fisheries Agency

Value Capture

The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) established by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement is implemented in all members' waters to license purse seine fishing vessels. Kiribati as a member has fully implemented this scheme to license purse seine fishing vessels operating in its waters. VDS is the primary effort management tool, and is independent of price and volume, relying on a charge per day of fishing effort.

Table 7. Pre and Post VDS – Impact on Revenue and Catch

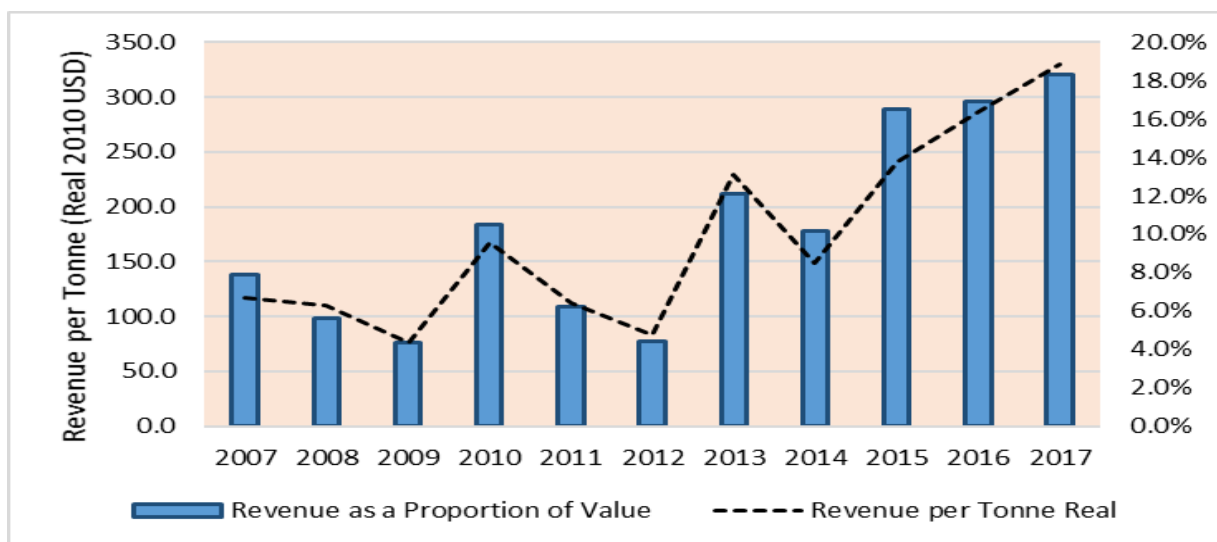
	Pre-VDS						Post-VDS						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fishing License	25.0	25.8	25.4	31.2	29.5	41.7	29.1	58.3	89.0	141.6	197.8	143.3	169.1
Total catch	210,980	174,770	199,245	249,204	334,000	210,000	212,123	561,799	301,392	736,600	645,914	410,467	384,800
Average fishing license						30							118.3
Average total catch						229,700							464,728

Source: MFED, FFA

The pre-VDS average for fishing license revenue between 2005 – 2010 is \$30 million and 229,700 tonnes for total catch. Between 2011 – 2017, fishing license revenue is averaged at \$118.3 million and 464,728 tonnes respectively. The post versus pre VDS impact on government average revenue and catch, increased significantly by 294 percent and 102 percent respectively.

The impact of VDS on total fishing license revenue has improved significantly since 2012. Figure 7 reflected a big change in government's revenue since the implementation of VDS in 2011, but price impact occurred only from 2012 and after. Under this new scheme (VDS) – PNA members switched from a catch basis to a charge per day of fishing effort. Under this scheme, all fishing vessels interested in fishing activities within the waters of PNA members – are limited to a minimum benchmark charged per day. The benchmark was initially set at \$5,000 in 2011, \$6,000 in 2013 and \$8,000 in 2015 – this is the basis to the improved revenue for government between periods 2011 to date as fishing vessels are subject to the number of days purchased at a benchmark price of \$8,000 per day. Taking 2010 as a baseline, the improved fishing revenue increased significantly by 374 percent at end 2015 – the number decreased by 14.5 percent in 2017 but was still high by historical standards.

Figure 7. Revenues as Proportion of Value and Per Tonne, Kiribati, 2007-17



Source: MFED, MFMRD and Forum Fisheries Association data

Figure 7 and Table 8 highlights that in 2017, fishing revenue per tonne reached \$330.2 per tonne in 2004 terms – a 15 percent real increase from the previous year.

Table 8: Revenues as a Proportion of Value and Per Tonne, Kiribati, 2007-17

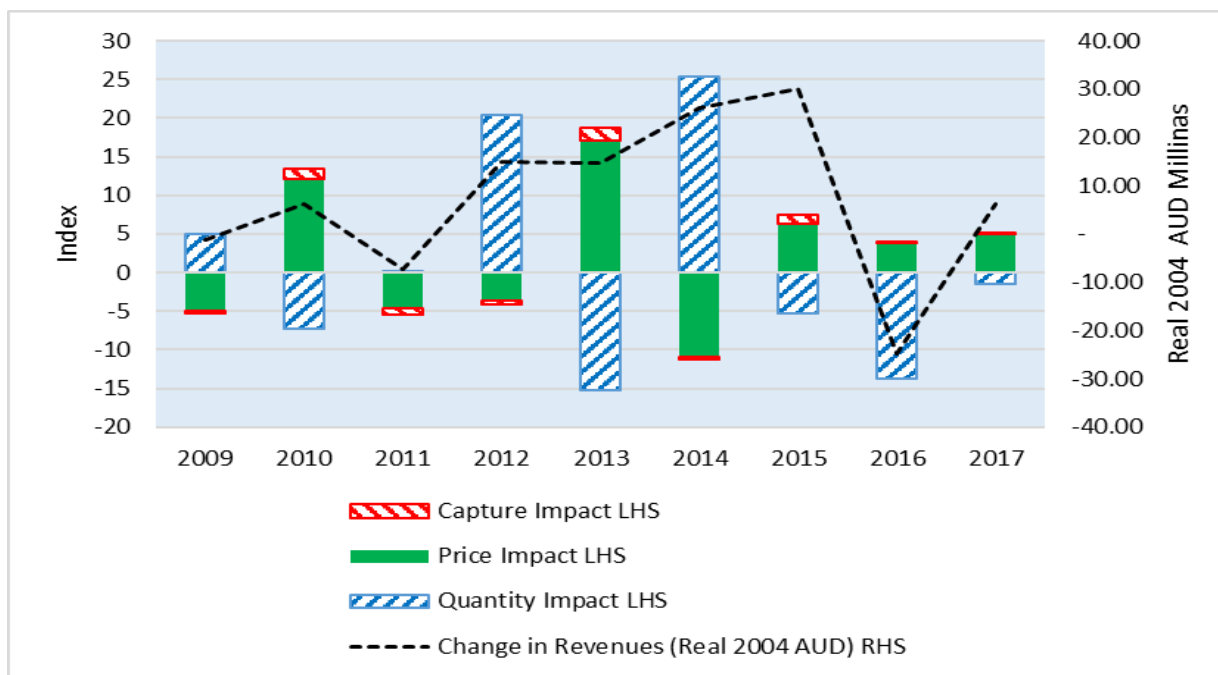
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Revenue as a Proportion of Value	7.9%	5.6%	4.3%	10.5%	6.2%	4.4%	12.1%	10.2%	16.5%	16.9%	18.3%
Revenue per Tonne Real	116.7	110.6	76.4	167.0	111.9	83.0	229.6	148.5	241.1	286.7	330.2

Source: MFED, Forum Fisheries Agency

Proportion of fishing license revenue to the value of catch was set on high record in 2017 at 18.3 percent. The revenue to value ratio has remained above 10 percent for the past four years.

Figure 8 depicts the breakdown of changes in revenue from: (i) the impacts of changes in the volume of catch; (ii) changes in the weighted average price for tuna from Kiribati waters; and (iii) factors which reflect the ability of GoK to capture catch values. Most of the decline in fishing revenue stemmed from volume changes, with price and value capture slightly offsetting the impact on total revenue. This contrast with the experience in 2015 and 2017 where the decline in volume was offset by price and capture improvements.

Figure 8. Drivers of Revenue Growth (Index measure), Kiribati, 2009-17



Source: MFED, and Forum Fisheries Agency

3 International and Regional Agreements

Kiribati is a member of four regional fisheries organizations which are the FFA, SPC, WCPFC and IATTC. FFA promotes regional co-operation and support to develop fisheries policies to build national capacity and regional solidarity for the sustainable management of tuna in the Pacific. SPC acts as the regional center for tuna fisheries research, fishery monitoring, stock assessment and data management. WCPFC is responsible for the management and conservation of tuna within the Western Central Pacific Ocean including the management of high seas within the area. IATTC is responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and other marine resources in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Kiribati is also an active member of the sub-regional body, PNA. There are eight countries in this sub-regional body which includes the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. PNA has been reported to be successful in the implementation of the Vessel Day Scheme generating increasing significant revenue to its members including Kiribati. In 2016, PNA members received in total USD470 million, an increase of 27 percent from USD370 million in 2015. This sub-regional body is established to manage the tuna fisheries in the members'

waters. PNA conservation measures include high seas closures to fishing, controls on Fish Aggregating Devices, protection for whale sharks and 100 percent coverage of purse seine fishing vessels with PNA and national observers.

3.1 Vessel Day Scheme

The PNA is responsible for the implementation of the VDS. VDS is a management system established to conserve resources and secure economic benefits to the participating countries through sustainable development. The scheme sets overall limits on the number of days purse seine fishing vessels can be licensed to fish in PNA waters (Total Allowable Effort). Days are allocated to each country (Party Allowable Effort) to manage but the arrangement also allows days to be transferred to other participating countries in the scheme. The scheme has been very successful since its implementation providing these eight PNA member countries with significant revenue. The members combined have experienced an increase of from US\$139 million in 2010 to US\$456 million in 2017. PNA ministers agreed to maintain the minimum benchmark fee for VDS days at USD8,000 but most fishing nations are paying significantly more than this benchmark price to ensure security of fishing days in these lucrative waters.

The PNA total allowable effort was set at 44,590 days for 2017 and indicative 45,005 days for 2018 and 2019. Kiribati has continued its efforts to remain within its Party Allowable Efforts.

All members of the PNA except Kiribati have signed up for the long-line VDS system. Kiribati recently joined the long-line VDS system in 2019 however will continue to trial a catch-based management system based on the allocated longline PAE as it seriously considers the sustainability of the tuna stocks. Kiribati plans to implement catch management system as soon as the study is complete.

3.2 Other Agreements

Kiribati has several bi-lateral agreements with its traditional partners fishing in its waters since early 1990's. There are also other fishing agreements with countries such as the European Union and United States of America. The latter is a multi-lateral treaty involving other Pacific Island Parties including Kiribati.

Note that no EU vessels operated in Kiribati waters in 2016 therefore no revenue was received from this arrangement in 2017. UST treaty vessels had bilateral arrangements with Kiribati once their allocated days under the UST treaty were fully utilized.

Table 9 below shows the total revenue received from agreements with United States under the multi-lateral treaty and others in 2017. The revenue received from these fishing partners, are denominated in terms of vessel fishing days.

Table 9: Fishing Agreements 2017

Agreement	Catch (Tonne)	License Revenue (US\$)	Development Fund (US\$)	Total Revenue (US\$)	Revenue per Tonne (US\$)
US (incl. US Treaty)	48,075	\$6.4m	\$0m	\$6.4m	\$130.68
Other	366,164	\$128.3m	\$0m	\$128.3m	\$350.39
Total	414,239	\$134,700,000m	\$0m	\$134.7m	\$481.07

Source: MFMRD

It is important to note that overall, the revenue received per tonne of catch for all agreements remains high in comparison to figures for 2014. As stated, earlier revenue from the EU and UST in 2016 dropped significantly as there were no vessels licensed by these fishing partners in 2017.

4 Revenue Projections

For 2019, the estimated revenue projection remains AU\$130 million. This remains uncertain because of the extreme volatility experienced in the industry coupled with continue declining in the number of licensed vessels annually. Weather patterns will play a large part in the movement of fish, and exchange rate volatility will affect the total revenue. Protection of endangered species of tuna such as BET will continue to be an issue of concern despite improved condition of the species in recent stock assessment results.

4.1 El Niño Southern Oscillation

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) event that commenced in May 2015 ended in May 2016¹. The weather pattern to date has favorably favored Kiribati. El Niño is an irregular natural occurring event that is associated with warmer waters in the central Pacific. In the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), tuna stocks tend to move eastwards and are more abundant during El Niño period. For Kiribati, El Niño means higher rainfall and higher fish stocks which are attracted to the warmer seas.

Currently ENSO indicators in the Pacific Ocean are neutral however most climate models for the central Pacific indicate the likelihood to reach borderline or weak El Nino for months March, April, and May². In a La Niña event, drought conditions prevail in Kiribati and fish stocks are lower than normal.

4.2 Phoenix Islands Protected Area.

PIPA remains closed prohibiting fishing. This area is 11.3 percent of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Kiribati. The total area is equivalent to the size of the State of California. PIPA is the largest designated Marine Protected Area in the world and was placed on the World Heritage List in 2010. PIPA aims to conserve fisheries stocks and maintain biodiversity. The World Heritage List describes PIPA as a “superlative natural phenomenon of global importance”³.

The effects of the closure of PIPA were originally uncertain, however, revenue in 2017 was not unduly affected as MFMRD has continued its efforts to increase revenue through other means. The Ministry

¹ Bureau of Meteorology, Australia

² Bureau of Meteorology, Australia

³ www.whc.unesco.org

continued to increase transshipment revenue despite a drop in transshipment revenue in 2017 (US\$5.3m) compared to 2016 (US\$12m) and strengthened its monitoring and compliance efforts to fight IUU fishing activities in close collaboration with the PMU for vessels operating in the EEZ.

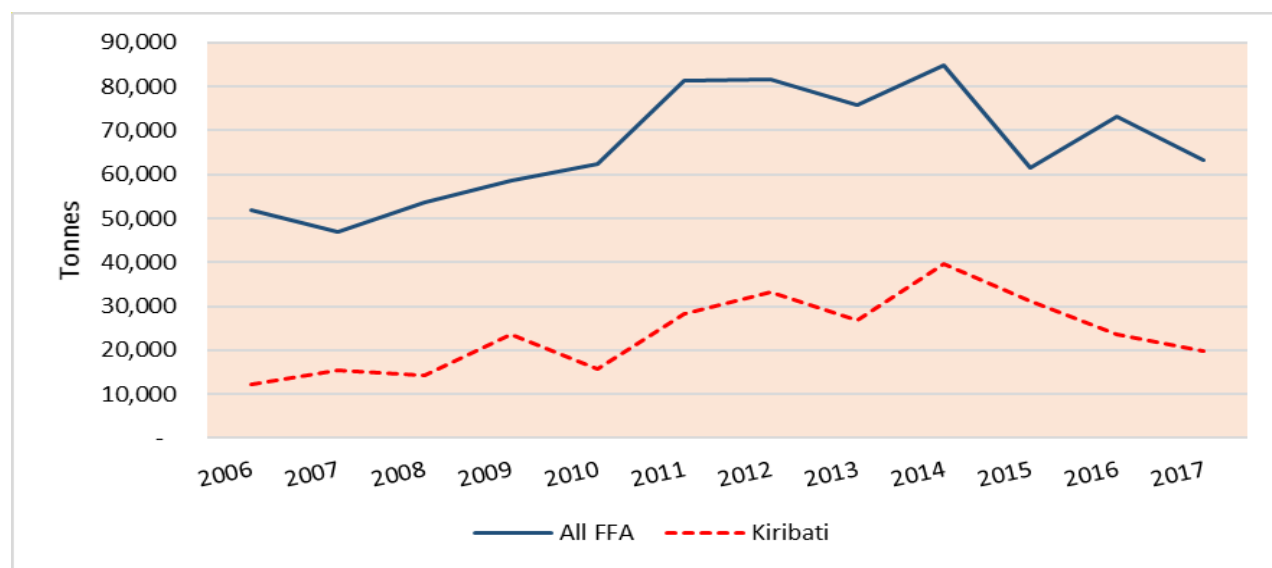
In June 2015, a Marshall Islands-flagged Taiwanese purse seine fishing vessel was seized for illegal fishing activities in the PIPA region. The owners paid USD2 million in fines in 2017. For 2016, revenue from penalties accumulated to AUD2.2 million. That figure doubled in 2017 as various fines for vessels amounted to AU\$4.4 million, indicating that MFMRD is committed to fighting IUU fishing activities in its waters.

4.3 Conservation of tuna stocks

The 2017 assessment by SPC⁴ concluded that bigeye tuna is not in an overfished status and no overfishing is occurring. The assessment used new growth data confirmed to provide a more accurate growth for bigeye compared with the old growth data used in previous assessment. 20 percent is the limit that the WCPFC has decided represents an unacceptable risk to the stock. The BET tuna catch in Kiribati is relatively small with 5 percent of the total volume of catch in Kiribati in 2017. The volume of the BET catch in 2017 was 19,807 tonnes, a fall of 16 percent of the catch in 2016. Nevertheless, Kiribati accounts for 31 percent of the catch of BET in FFA members’ waters in 2017, a slightly decline of 1 percent from 2016 (Figure 9).

Both SKJ and YFT are in a much more reasonably healthy state. SKJ accounts for 71 percent of the total tuna catch in 2017 in Kiribati. The 2014 assessment by the SPC says that SKJ is currently only moderately exploited, and fishing mortality levels are sustainable. YFT accounts for 23 percent of the tuna catch in Kiribati in 2017. The assessment of YFT tuna indicate that the stock is not experiencing overfishing.

Figure 9. Volume of BET Catch by FFA Members, 2006-2017



Source: FFA

⁴ Pacific Community, “The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery: 2014 Overview and Status of Stocks.”

5 The Way Forward

With the Government's Kiribati 20 Year vision, focusing on fisheries and tourism sectors, MFMRD aims to develop a transshipment hub in Tarawa and Kiritimati offering services for fishing vessels to support their operations when fishing in Kiribati and nearby waters. This will also include expanding tuna processing which will produce positive results to both Kiribati and fishing operators.

A new freight agreement with Nauru Airlines means that greater quantities of higher-grade tuna will be able to be exported in the future. In addition, the signing of the agreement with Solomon Airlines will also contribute to the export of fish overseas. Both have commenced in 2017 and will provide additional export income and boost employment through value adding of these resources in country.

Monitoring and surveillance of fishing vessel movements continues. The observer program continues to assist monitoring and surveillance efforts through the placement of observers on board vessels operating in the waters of Kiribati. In 2016, Kiribati purse-seine flagged vessels including chartered vessels were 100 percent covered by observers. An observer coverage of 4.8 percent was attained for Kiribati longline vessels in 2017 which is lower than the required coverage of 5 percent for longline.

The Government of Kiribati is keen to explore wider benefits from participation in the value-added products for tuna. The GoK is keen to expand opportunities for employment in the fishing industry such as in overseas plants. Fishing vessels and supporting vessels such as mother carriers and tankers operating in Kiribati waters are also required to employ a minimum number of crew during the term of the license.

The key to the maximization of revenue from tuna fishing is the long-term sustainability of the industry. Greater protection for commercially valuable species, and enforcement of the PNA Total Allowable Effort, together with the operations of PIPA will remain the key areas for sustainability of the fishing stock.