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Vanuatu's Annual Report
Fisheries Department

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
GOVERNMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU



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Annual Report to the SPRFMO Science Working Group

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1. Description of Fishery

Vanuatu flagged vessels commenced operations in the jack mackerel fishery in 2003. The number of vessels operating each year is shown in Table 1. The vessels are all 'sister ships' of 105 metres in length with a GRT of 7,805. The vessels ceased operating at the end of the 2016 season when they were sold and reflagged.

Table 1: Number of Vanuatu vessels operating in the Pacific jack mackerel fishery by year

Year	Number of vessels	Catch (t)
2003	4	53,959
2004	4	94,685
2005	4	77,356
2006	6	129,535
2007	4	112,501
2008	4	100,066
2009	4	79,942
2010	4	45,908
2011	2	7,617
2012	2	16,068
2013	2	14,809
2014	2	15,324
2015	2	21,227
2016	2	15,563
2017	0	0

In 2017, Vanuatu transferred its quota to Chile.

3. Fisheries data collection and research activities

In 2017, Vanuatu authorised the Secretariat to provide Martin Pastoors from EU with all of the Vanuatu tow by tow data to allow a comprehensive standardisation analysis for the offshore fleet. A paper on this matter by Pastoors and Hinzen, "CPUE Standardisation for the offshore fleet fishing for jack mackerel in the SPRFMO area" was subsequently submitted to the SC in 2018 (SCW6-DOC 05).

4. Vanuatu observer program

The Vanuatu observer program currently has 34 observers accredited under the Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observer Scheme (PIRFO). Observer training is carried out by the South Pacific Commission and Forum Fisheries Agency, with cross accreditation training being done by WCPFC and IATTC. Vanuatu observers are often placed on carrier vessels and longliners in the areas under these RFMOs.

5. Seabird mitigation

Vanuatu trawlers operating in 2016 used tori lines to mitigate seabird interactions with the trawl warps despite there being no requirement to do so as the vessels did not discharge any biological material.

Vanuatu maintains its interest in SPRFMO fisheries and may have fishing activities in the SPRFMO area in the future.