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Annual Report of the Russian Federation to the Scientific Committee

Russian Federation

The Federal Agency for Fishery
Russian Federal Research Institute for Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO)
Atlantic Branch of VNIRO (AtlantNIRO)

National Report of the Russian Federation for 2025
to the SPRFMO Scientific Committee Meeting

Content

Summary	3
Introduction	3
1 Description of the Russian Federation Fisheries in the South Pacific.....	4
2 Catch, Effort and CPUE Summaries	9
3 Fisheries data collection and research activities.....	9
4 Biological Sampling and Length/Age Composition	9
5 Ecosystem approach considerations.....	9

Summary

This report presents information on the Russian Federation's (RF) fishing activities in 2025 within the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) area.

Russian fleet did not fish in the SPRFMO area in 2025.

Introduction

No aquatic bioresources were harvested by RF in the SPRFMO area in 2025. Therefore, information is lacking for 2025 on:

- 1) catches, fishing effort, and CPUE indicators;
- 2) collection of scientific and fisheries data;
- 3) biological sampling and catch size-age composition;
- 4) ecosystem approach considerations.

1. Description of the Russian Federation Fisheries in the South Pacific

1.1. Fishery in 1972-2025

Practically right after finding of the huge concentrations of jack mackerel in the South Pacific by the Russian researchers in the second half of 1970 – the first half of 1980, this species became the basic object for fishery in the area. Chub mackerel was also one of the main important species for fishery.

The development of fishery stimulated studying of biology and stock conditions of jack mackerel. Till the beginning of 1990 the main researches of oceanic jack mackerel were made by the Russian scientists. From 1955 till 1992 Russia executed 562 expeditions in the South Pacific.

The USSR fishing fleet worked actively in the South Pacific in 1979-1991. In the XXI century, prior to 2015, the Russian fishery was irregular. In 2015-2023 one to three Russian trawlers was engaged in the jack mackerel fishery annually (with the exception of 2016). In 2024 three Russian vessels entered the SPRFMO regulatory area, but only two of them actually engaged in fishing operations.

The information about the number vessels, which fished in the area is shown in Tables 1-2.

Table 1. Number of the fishing vessels in the South-East Pacific from 1977 till 2025.

Year	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Number of vessels	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	81	75	92
Year	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Number of vessels	90	92	104	113	91	93	84	113	120	110
Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of vessels	43	3	4	3	?	0	0	0	0	0
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of vessels	0	3	3	3	0	0	1	6	1	2
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of vessels	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025						
Number of vessels	2	3	2	0						

Note: “?” means that the information is absent

Table 2. Number of the fishing vessels in the South-West Pacific from 1977 till 2025.

Year	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Number of vessels	?	?	?	?	4	13	13	6	4	55
Year	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Number of vessels	?	1	12	20	42	?	?	?	?	?
Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of vessels	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Number of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Note: “?” means that the information is absent.

The Russian catches of jack mackerel and chub mackerel from 1972 to 2024 in the South-East Pacific and from 1977 to 2024 in the South-West Pacific are presented in the Tables 3-4 and Figures 1-4. There was no Russian fishing activity in the South-West Pacific from 2000 to 2024.

The largest catch of jack mackerel was taken in the South-East Pacific in 1990 (1122297 t), and in the South-West Pacific in 1986 (146200 t) (Fig. 1, 3). As concerns chub mackerel, the largest catches of this species were taken in 1990 (74168 t) and in 1991 (828 t) in the South-East and in the South-West Pacific accordingly (Fig. 2, 4).

Table 3. Russian catch of jack mackerel and chub mackerel in the South-East Pacific in tons.

Catch, t	Year									
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Jack mackerel	5500	0	0	0	0	0	49220	532209	544970	771630
Chub mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1773	5800	48300	41500
Catch, t	Year									
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Jack mackerel	735898	866500	1056600	837700	785000	818628	938288	1096292	1122297	591800
Chub mackerel	41878	4416	71952	38275	1920	3835	34805	28160	74168	18257
Catch, t	Year									
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Jack mackerel	32000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chub mackerel	970	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catch, t	Year									
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jack mackerel	0	7540	62300	7040	0	0	4800	9113	41315	8229
Chub mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	387	535		12
Catch, t	Year									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jack mackerel	0	0	0	2561	0	3188	4685	9423	5245	12151
Chub mackerel	0	0	0	463	0	37	52	44	396	1905
Catch, t	Year									
	2022	2023	2024	2025						
Jack mackerel	29443	43374	12110	0						
Chub mackerel	18017	17062	5931	0						

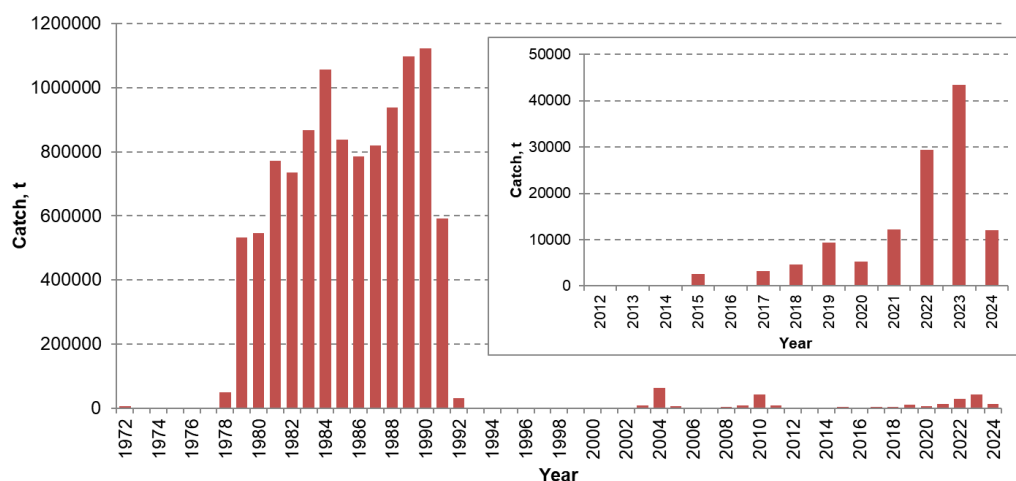


Figure 1. Russian catch of jack mackerel in the South-East Pacific.

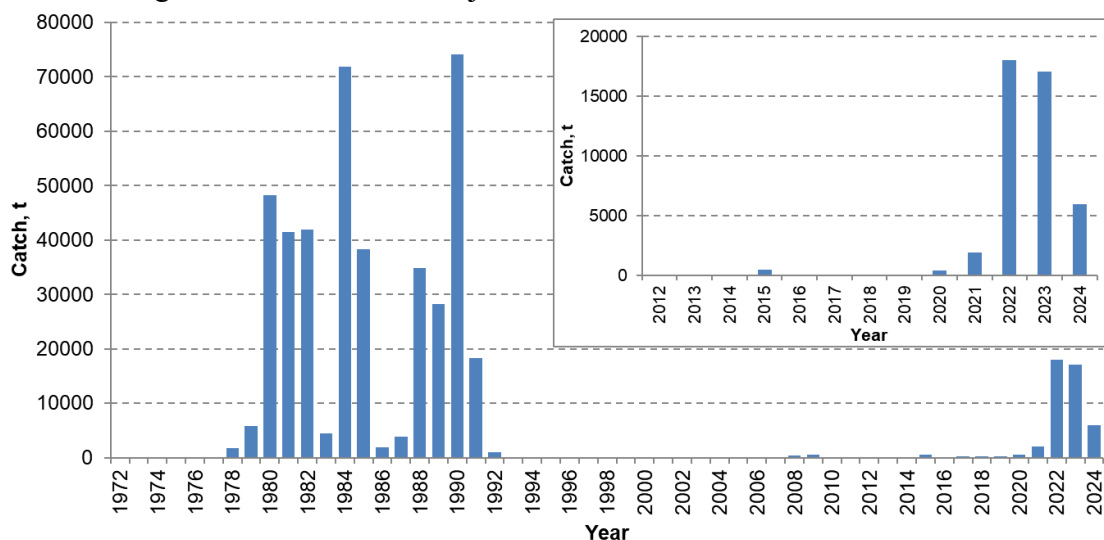


Figure 2. Russian catch of chub mackerel in the South-East Pacific.

Table 4. Russian catch of jack mackerel and chub mackerel in the South-West Pacific in tons.

Catch, t	Year									
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Jack mackerel	710	254	0	13	0	4953	10651	22300	133350	146200
Chub mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
Catch, t	Year									
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Jack mackerel	107379	58997	57243	67618	127828	2892	4586	2008	1677	2280
Chub mackerel	50	200	700	100	828	?	326	204	75	0
Catch, t	Year									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Jack mackerel	886	52	223	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chub mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catch, t	Year									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jack mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chub mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catch, t	Year									
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Jack mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chub mackerel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Note: “?” means that the information is absent.

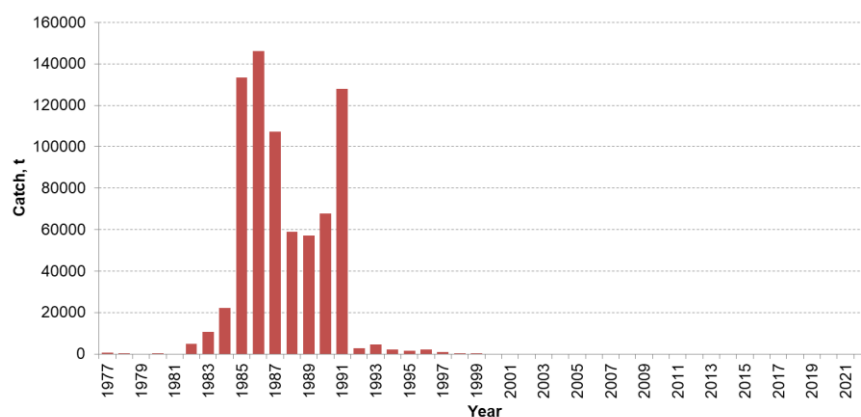


Figure 3. Russian catch of jack mackerel in the South-West Pacific.

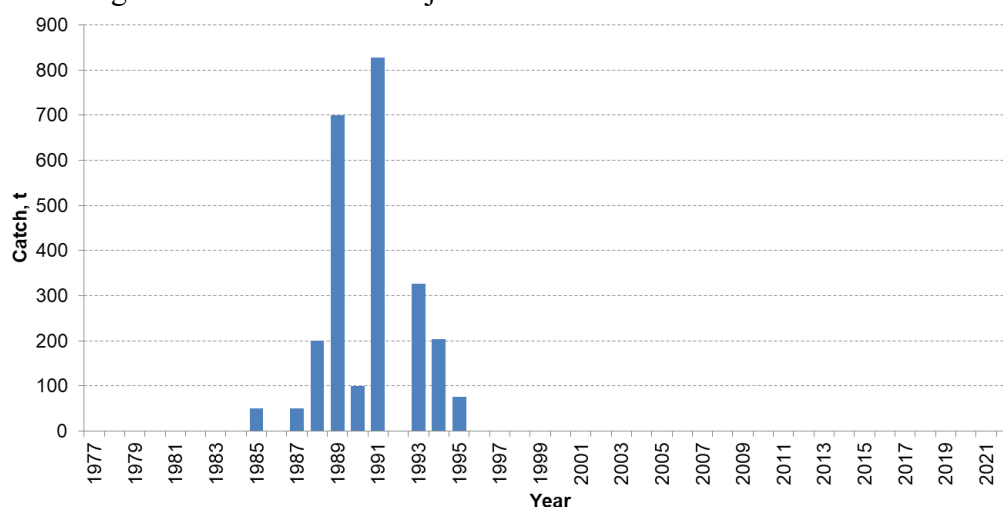


Figure 4. Russian catch of chub mackerel in the South-West Pacific.

In 2015 and 2020-2022, Russian fishing vessels periodically performed midwater trawlings on seamounts of Nazca ridge and Sala-y-Gomez ridge catching jack mackerel and redbait; alfonsino occurred in bycatch (Table 5). In 2022, the trawler “Admiral Shabalin” surveyed submarine elevations but no commercial concentrations were found. One redbait catch of 45 t was taken. After 2022 no pelagic fishing operations were conducted over underwater seamounts.

Table 5. Russian catches of redbait (EMM *Emmelichthys nitidus*) and alfonsinos (BYS *Beryx splendens*) on seamounts of Nazca ridge and Sala-y-Gomez ridge.

Catch, t	Year							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Redbait	30	0	0	0	0	9	3555	45
Alfonsino	0	0	0	0	0	108	1193	0

1.2. Fishery in 2024

Fishing of pelagic fish in the high seas of the South Pacific Ocean (the SPRFMO Commission Regulatory Area) in 2024 was conducted by Russian trawlers "Admiral Shabalin" and "Maironis" (Fig. 5).

On March 1, the trawler Admiral Shabalin began searching for fishable concentrations, surveying the area from 32°00'S to 15°30'S along the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Chile and Peru. However, no fishable aggregations were found, and on March 22, the vessel returned to the port of San Vicente (Chile) for standby, awaiting improved fishing conditions.

In 2022, fishing in the area began on April 7, while in 2023, it started on March 13.

From May to July 2024, Russian and foreign vessels jointly surveyed an extensive area along the Chilean EEZ from 14°S to 46°S, but fishable concentrations of jack mackerel and chub mackerel were detected in August only.

From August to November fishing took place in the Central Subarea of the South Pacific Ocean, between 24°S and 29°S, near the boundary of Chile's EEZ, gradually shifting southward following the fish aggregations. Fishing conditions were unstable.

Oceanographic conditions in the fishing area were characterized by a transitional period from the strong 2023 El Niño to neutral conditions, with sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies ranging within $\pm 0.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ throughout the year.

Catch performance of Russian vessels varied widely, ranging from 4 to 40 tons per vessel-day during periods of low activity, and increasing to 200–330 tons per vessel-day when fish concentrations became denser. On average, the catch rate of Russian vessels in 2024 was near 119 tons per vessel-day. The main catch consisted of jack mackerel (67%), while chub mackerel (33%) was taken as bycatch.

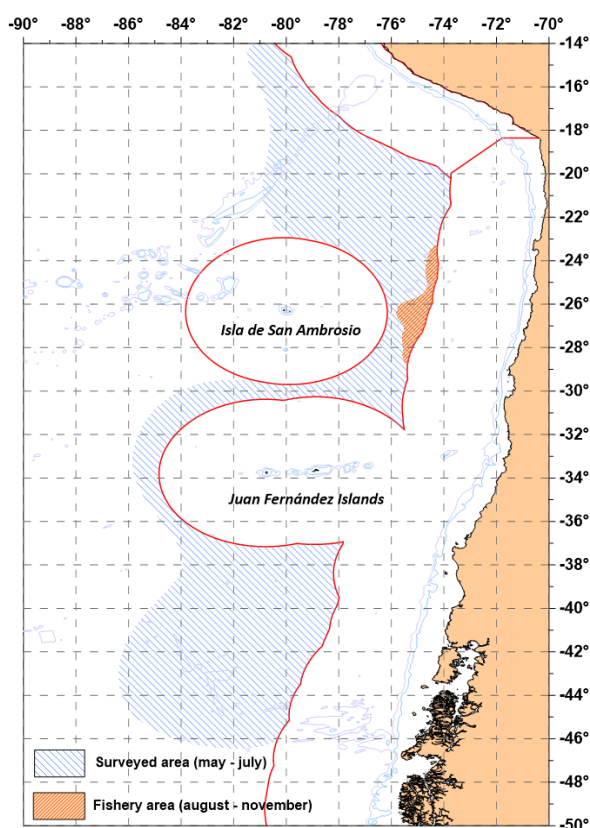


Figure 5. Russian fishing operations area in the South Pacific Ocean in 2024.

2. Catch, Effort and CPUE Summaries

Russian vessels did not fish in the South Pacific Convention Area in 2025.

3. Fisheries data collection and research activities

Russian vessels did not fish in the South Pacific Convention Area in 2025.

4. Biological Sampling and Length/Age Composition

Russian vessels did not fish in the South Pacific Convention Area in 2025.

5. Ecosystem approach considerations

Russian vessels did not fish in the South Pacific Convention Area in 2025.