

14th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

7 to 12 September 2026, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

SC14 - Doc 33

Annual Report of Liberia to the Scientific Committee

Liberia

Liberia Annual National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Southern Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization

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Report Summary: This is a NIL Report because Liberia did not have fishing vessels and did not conduct fisheries research in the SPRFMO Convention Area during the reporting period.

Description of Fisheries

Liberia's status as a cooperating non-contracting party (CNCP) of the Southern Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) was renewed last year. In accordance with its CNCP status, there are currently 11 Liberian flagged carrier and support vessels authorized to conduct transshipment operations in SPRFMO Convention Area. Liberia remains fully committed to working with SPRFMO in promoting cooperation among the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties of SPRFMO with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the organization. This is done through commitment to implement and comply with conservation and management measures (CMMs) of SPRFMO Commission. Liberia will continue to implement measures such as vessel monitoring system (VMS), authorization to transship and establishment of fisheries monitoring center (FMC) to ensure compliance by its vessels.

In addition to its status as a flag state, Liberia is also a fishing nation with different and vast fisheries including tuna and tuna-like species such as Bigeye, Yellowfin, Skipjack, Albacore billfishes and small tunas. In addition to giving Liberia the experience and competence in fisheries management, fishery sector remains a major source of revenue, employment and food security for the country.

A lot of gains have been made in ensuring the proper management of the fisheries sector of Liberia. There were two purse seine tuna vessels flagged to Liberia and conducted fishing activities for the reporting period, although these vessels did not operate within the SPRFMO Convention Area. There were access agreements signed during the reporting period and the vessels operated within the ICCAT Area, therefore, the agreements were transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat. Under access agreement, there were 33 vessels that obtained licenses to fish for tuna and tuna like species in the EEZ of Liberia. For the industrial fisheries, the catches for the two flag vessels is estimated at 8721.87 tons of which 77.61% (6769.37 tons) was SKJ, 19.84% tons was YFT and 2.55% (222.04) tons was BET. There are approximately 650 canoes targeting tuna and tuna like species throughout the 114 fish landing sites along the nine coastal counties of Liberia.

Catch, Effort and CPUE Summaries

Liberia does not have catch vessels operating within the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Fisheries Data Collection and Research Activities

Liberia as a CNCP to SPRFMO does not have research catch vessels conducting research or fishing activities in the SPRFMO area, but we have reefers vessels transshipping fisheries products.

Biological Sampling and Length/Age Composition of Catches

Liberia does not have catch vessels operating within the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Ecosystem Approach considerations

Liberia does not have catch vessels operating within the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Observer Implementation Reports (refer CMM 0214 and CMM 1615)

Liberia does not have catch vessels operating within the SPRFMO Convention Area.