2.1 AMERICAN SAMOA

2.1.1 DATA SOURCES

This report contains the most recently available information on American Samoa's pelagic fisheries, as compiled from data generated by the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) through a program established in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) and supported in part through funding from the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA). Purse seine and non-U.S. vessel landings are not included in this module but are discussed in general in the International module (see Section 2.6).

Prior to 1985, only commercial landings were monitored. From October 1985 to the present, data have been collected through the Tutuila and Manu'a creel survey program to include subsistence, recreational, as well as commercial fishing. Surveyors have noted that fishermen may not accurately report the number of fish released at sea, although the troll fishery in American Samoa has not been known to release fish. However, the Pago Pago Gamefishing Association, a recreational troll fishery, catches and releases blue marlin.

In September 1990, a commercial purchase system (i.e., receipt book) was instituted requiring all businesses that buy fish commercially in American Samoa, with an exception for the canneries, to submit a copy of their purchase receipts to the DMWR. In January 1996, NMFS implemented a federal longline logbook system. All longline fishermen are required to obtain a federal permit and to submit logs containing detailed data on each of their sets and the resulting catch, including the number of hooks set and number of fish released as bycatch. Confidentiality requirements prohibit providing a breakdown of the catch or effort from alia and monohull longline vessels in recent years. Changes to the data collection and analysis methodology have occurred periodically and are described in previous annual reports. No changes to the data collection or analysis were made in 2020, except that the number of vendors participating in the commercial purchase system decreased.

Participation (i.e., number of boats) is determined through both logbook entries and creel interviews. Effort (i.e., number of trips, hooks) is determined by direct reporting for longline trips, but is indirectly calculated for trolling trips, based on total pounds landed (reported), and average hourly catch rate and duration for trip (from creel interviews). Since 2009 (the year of the tsunami), only the longline logbook database has been useful in determining the number of active boats. Prior to that, DMWR's boat-based creel survey data were also used to assess whether or not longline vessels were active to include information from alia longline vessels that did not frequent the canneries and exclude alias that exclusively conducted bottomfish fishing and/or trolling.

DMWR implemented a fuel subsidy program from 2015 to 2018 that required DMWR to meet fishers at a designated time and location for mandatory surveys in order to receive fuel subsidies. This extended the creel survey schedule and detracted from the random sampling design at other times of the day. The fuel was dispensed to vessel owners, including those who rent their vessels to fishermen. The new program caused changes in fishing behavior that may have impacted catch estimates. Generally, more fuel was used and there were longer and more frequent trips, but otherwise, catch per unit effort (CPUE) and species composition were not affected. There

was an increase in the number of trolling trips and trip length that may have affected the relative amount of pelagic species in the catch.

Average weight (pounds) per fish is calculated directly from creel-weighed fish sampled over the year. In the past, cannery fish weight was determined based on a length to weight conversion from cannery sampling data, since longline boats have been landing their catches gilled and gutted since 1999. However, the cannery sampling program was discontinued in 2015, so those average weight data are no longer available. There is no cannery sampling data available since 2016. Therefore, PIFSC used proxies to estimate the weight and value of fish landings for the longline fishery in American Samoa.

For estimated weights, the current summaries are based on the best available average weight data for 2020, which is from DMWR's creel surveys. It should be noted that the weight of fish from the small boats is somewhat smaller than fish caught on the larger oceangoing vessels, contributing to a somewhat lower weight estimate for the fishery. Over the course of 2016, the Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) Fisheries Research and Monitoring Division's (FRMD) International Fisheries Program (IFP) began estimating the average weight of fish kept for the longline fishery from observer data. This alternative source provides trip-level average weights for vessels with observers. These weights will be more representative of the longline fishery, but they will not be available for trips that do not carry observers. The protocol for handling unobserved trips is being developed by IFP, which will provide the data for this report in future years, but the information is not yet available. The information will be provided in the Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO) report for US Pacific longline fisheries.

Another item lost with the discontinuation of the longline cannery sampling program by the Pacific Island Regional Office (PIRO) in Pago Pago was data on the proportion of longline fish (by species) sold to the cannery versus local market and village/take home (given, not sold). While the cannery buys a much higher volume of fish, their prices are low. The lesser amount of fish sold to the markets and local restaurants garners a higher price. Another portion of the catch is given away or taken home. In the absence of a cannery sampling program in 2016, PIFSC had to apply a number of estimates. For the top five cannery species (albacore, skipjack, yellowfin and big eye tuna and wahoo) the assumption of 100% sold to the cannery was applied. For other species also previously sampled at the cannery, for which a large percentage are not sold, proxy values from previous years were applied. The net result of using lower average weights (from creel surveys) and lower percentages sold to the market (or sold period) is likely to be responsible in part for a decrease in estimated weight and value of the catch sold.

Total landings data cover all fish caught and brought back to shore, whether it enters the commercial market or not. Commercial landings cover the portion of the total landings that was sold both to the canneries and other smaller local business. The difference between total landings and commercial landings is assumed to be the recreational/subsistence component of the fishery.

This module was prepared by DMWR and PIFSC Fisheries Research and Monitoring Division (FRMD) and was reviewed by the Pelagic Plan Team (PPT), Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC; the Council).

2.1.2 SUMMARY OF AMERICAN SAMOAN PELAGIC FISHERY

Landings. The estimated annual pelagic landings have varied from 2.0 to 6.1 million lb between 2013 and 2022. The 2022 landings were approximately 2.98 million pounds, which is slightly up from 2.6 million lb in 2021. There also has been a steady increase since 2020 (Figure 4). Pelagic landings consist mainly of four tuna species (albacore, yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye), which, when combined with other tuna species, made up 95% of the total landings. Albacore made up 84% of the tuna species in 2022. Blue marlin, wahoo and mahimahi make up most of the non-tuna species landings.

Longline Effort. There were 11 vessels known to be fishing in the waters of American Samoa in 2022, one less than in 2021 and the same number in 2020 according to the PIRO Sustainable Fisheries Division permit program. The vessel size classes have been changed from four to two: small (< 40 feet) and large vessels (> 60 feet). There were 11 active large vessels and no active small vessels in 2022. :. There have been zero active small longline vessels since 2020. The 11 vessels that fished in 2022 made 42 trips (averaging 3.8 trips/vessel), deployed 1,219 sets, (110 sets/vessel) using 2.6 million hooks and 0 lightsticks (Table 5). All other fishing effort indicators indicate a declining longline fishery: the number of boats were the same in 2022 and 2021 but still low; the number hooks set increased from 2021 but still an all-time lows; the number of sets; and the number of longline sets decreased from 2021 and is an all-time low; . All fishing effort indicators also indicate a declining trolling fishery. The number of boats which was 9 in 2022 increased from 5 in 2021 on a long-term decline since 2014. The number of troll trips precipitously declined from 100 in 2021 to 50 in 2022 and the lowest since 2013. There were 205 effective trolling hours in 2022 which is the lowest since 2013. A certain degree of the decline in 2022 can be attributed to the fisheries impact of COVID-19 social restrictions.

Longline CPUE. The total pelagic catch rate by all longline vessels increased by 4.5 fish/1,000 hooks in 2022 to 19.1 fish/1,000 hooks, an increase of 34% and below average CPUE of 20 fish/1,000 hooks reported since 2006. The tuna catch rate by longliners also increased by 4.5 fish/1,000 hooks in 20212 to 17.9 fish/1,000 hooks and the highest catch rate since 2013 (17.9 fish/1,000 hooks in 2015 and 2022). The catch rate for albacore increased by 5.4 fish/1,000 hooks in 2022 to 14.6 fish/1,000 hooks. This is the highest catch rate since 2013, slightly lower than in 2012 and 2009 (4.8 fish/1,000 hooks) but still lower than the highest records of 18.4 fish/1,000 hooks in 2006 and 2007.

Lb-Per-Hour Trolling. Trolling catch rates decreased in 2022 (22 lb/hr) from 2021 (33 lb/hr) that had been previously increasing since 2017 (16 lb/hr; Figure 19). Trolling catch rates have fluctuated with peak in 2016 (45 lb/hr). The catch rates for skipjack decreased to 18.16 lb/hr in 2022 from 25.39 lb/hr in 2021 but still on an increasing trend since 2017 (4 lb/hr). The catch rates for yellowfin precipitously declined to 0.09 lb/hr in 2022 from 6.10 lb/hr in 2021 and on a decreasing trend since 2016 (17.8 lb/hr) (Figure 20).

Fish Size. Since the last year of available data from the cannery sampling program was 2015 average weight-per-fish are no longer presented in this report. Average albacore weight ranged from 38 to 40 lb from 2010 to 2015. However, the boat-based creel surveys recorded a size range of 35 to 38 lb from 2013 to 2020. Yellowfin and bigeye tuna weight per fish from the cannery sampling program seemed to decline from 2011 to 2015, at 57 to 39 lb and 54 to 38 lb, respectively.

Revenues. In 2021, the total longline fleet revenue (estimated landed value) was \$2.55 million, and albacore composed a majority of the total landed value. Other main species included yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, and wahoo. The overall average fish price was \$1.10 per pound in 2021. Albacore had an estimated price of \$1.46 per pound, representing a decrease of \$0.09 from 2020. See the Socioeconomics (Section 3.3) module for additional data on American Samoa pelagic fisheries.

Bycatch. There was no recorded bycatch for the troll fishery in 2022 (Table 13). In the longline fishery, around 0.7% of the tuna catch was released. Bigeye and yellowfin were the most released bycatch tuna species at 6.0 and 3.4%, respectively. Conversely, sharks, oilfish and pomfret had the highest release numbers of non-tunas, with nearly 100% of each shark species released, 96.5% for oilfish and 8.5% for pomfret (Table 6). In total, only 3.8% of all pelagic species caught by the longline fishery were released. Fish are released for various reasons including quality, handling and storage difficulties, and marketing problems.

2.1.3 PLAN TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no Plan Team recommendations relevant to the American Samoa data module of the annual SAFE report.



2.1.4 OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPATION – ALL FISHERIES

Figure 2. Number of boats landing any pelagic species in American Samoa by longlining, trolling, and all methods

Supporting data shown in Table A-2.



Figure 3. Number of fishing trips and sets for pelagic species in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-3.

2.1.5 OVERVIEW OF LANDINGS – ALL FISHERIES

Species	Longline Pounds	Troll Pounds	Other Pounds	Total Pounds
Skipjack tuna	84,974	3,734	0	88,708
Albacore tuna	2,365,584	0	0	2,365,584
Yellowfin tuna	326,301	19	0	326,319
Kawakawa	0	16	0	16
Bigeye tuna	41,818	0	0	41,818
Bluefin tuna	0	0	0	0
Tunas (unknown)	0	0	0	0
TUNAS TOTAL	2,818,677	3,769	0	2,822,445
Mahimahi	12,247	578	0	12,826
Black marlin	0	0	0	0
Blue marlin	104,196	0	0	104,196
Striped marlin	3,990	0	0	3,990
Wahoo	25,826	0	0	25,826
Swordfish	5,669	0	0	5,669
Sailfish	1,418	48	0	1,466

Table 3. Estimated total landings (lb) of pelagic species in American Samoa by gear in 2022

Species	Longline Pounds	Troll Pounds	Other Pounds	Total Pounds
Spearfish	2,392	0	0	2,392
Moonfish	938	0	0	938
Oilfish	303	0	0	303
Pomfret	431	0	0	431
Pelagic thresher shark	0	0	0	0
Thresher shark	0	0	0	0
Shark (unknown pelagic)	0	0	0	0
Snake mackerel	0	0	0	0
Bigeye thresher shark	0	0	0	0
Silky shark	0	0	0	0
White tip oceanic shark	0	0	0	0
Blue shark	0	0	0	0
Shortfin mako shark	0	0	0	0
Longfin mako shark	0	0	0	0
Billfishes (unknown)	0	0	0	0
NON-TUNA PMUS TOTAL	157,410	626	0	158,037
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	0	0	0	0
Double-lined mackerel	0	0	0	0
Mackerel	0	0	0	0
Long-jawed mackerel	0	0	0	0
Barracudas	918	0	0	918
Great barracuda	0	0	0	0
Small barracudas	0	63	0	63
Rainbow runner	0	6	0	6
Dogtooth tuna	0	79	12	91
OTHER PELAGICS TOTAL	918	148	12	1,078
TOTAL PELAGICS	2,977,005	4,543	12	2,981,560



Figure 4. Total estimated landings of tuna and non-tuna PMUS in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-4.



Figure 5. Commercial landings of tuna and non-tuna PMUS in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-5.



Figure 6. Total estimated landings of yellowfin tuna in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-6.



Figure 7. Total estimated landings of skipjack tuna in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-7.



Figure 8. Total estimated landings of wahoo in American Samoa

Note: An unrepresentative amount of wahoo was caught by trolling one day in 2016. Supporting data shown in Table A-8.



Figure 9. Total estimated landings of mahimahi in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-9.



Figure 10. Total estimated landings of blue marlin in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-10.



Figure 11. Total estimated landings of sailfish in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-11.

2.1.6 AMERICAN SAMOA LONGLINE PARTICIPATION, EFFORT, LANDINGS, BYCATCH, AND CPUE

Table 4. Number of permitted and active longline fishing vessels by size class in American Samoa

Year	Small Vessel Permits	Small Vessel Active	Large Vessel Permits	Large Vessel Active
2013	10	1	37	21
2014	18	2	44	21
2015	12	3	46	18
2016	11	2	39	18
2017	10	1	38	14
2018	13	1	43	13
2019	8	3	42	15
2020	7	1	40	10
2021	5	0	39	11
2022	5	0	39	11

Notes: These data are used for Figure 12 that follows. The "small" size class includes alia vessels, whereas the "large" size class typically includes larger monohull vessels fishing in the Southern Pacific Ocean. Dual-permitted vessels are included. These designations shifted from Classes A through D to Small and Large due to Amendment 9 to the Pelagic FEP (86 FR 55743, October 7, 2021) that reduced the original four size classes to the two presented here.



Figure 12. Number of active longline fishing vessels in American Samoa by size classes: Small (0-50 ft) and Large (> 51 ft)

Effort Type	All Vessels
Boats	11
Trips	42
Sets	1,219
Hooks (Thousands)	3,613
Lightsticks	0

Table 5. Longline effort by American Samoa vessels during 2022



Figure 13. Number of longline hooks set from federal logbook data in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-12.







Figure 15. Total estimated landings of albacore by longlining in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-14.



Figure 16. Total estimated landings of swordfish by longlining in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-15.

 Table 6. Number of fish kept, released, and percent released for all American Samoa longline vessels from federal logbook data in 2022

Species	Number Kept	Number Released	Total Caught	Percent Released
Skipjack tuna	5,071	28	5,099	0.5
Albacore tuna	52,691	183	52,874	0.3
Yellowfin tuna	5,622	198	5,820	3.4
Kawakawa	0	0	0	0.0
Bigeye tuna	914	58	972	6.0
Bluefin tuna	0	0	0	0.0
Tunas (unknown)	0	0	0	0.0
TUNAS TOTAL	64,298	467	64,765	0.7
Mahimahi	579	12	591	2.0
Black marlin	0	0	0	0.0
Blue marlin	803	29	832	3.5
Striped marlin	58	1	59	1.7
Wahoo	1,015	13	1,028	1.3
Swordfish	51	36	87	41.4
Sailfish	20	4	24	16.7

13 2 438 313 0 81 2 0 0 0 0 309	65 21 454 362 0 81 2 0 0 0 309	20.0 9.5 96.5 86.5 0.0 100.0 100.0 0.0
2 438 313 0 81 2 0 0 0 309	21 454 362 0 81 2 0 0 0 309	9.5 96.5 86.5 0.0 100.0 100.0 0.0
438 313 0 81 2 0 0 0 309	454 362 0 81 2 0 0 0 309	96.5 86.5 0.0 100.0 100.0 0.0
313 0 81 2 0 0 0 309	362 0 81 2 0 0 0 309	86.5 0.0 100.0 100.0 0.0
0 81 2 0 0 309	0 81 2 0 0 309	0.0 100.0 100.0 0.0
81 2 0 0 309	81 2 0 0 309	100.0 100.0 0.0
2 0 0 309	2 0 0 309	100.0
0 0 309	0 0 309	0.0
0 309	0	0.0
309	309	0.0
	507	100.0
74	74	100.0
800	800	100.0
50	50	100.0
0	0	0.0
0	0	0.0
2,177	4,839	45.0
0	0	0.0
0	0	0.0
0	0	0.0
0	0	0.0
1	79	1.3
0	0	0.0
0	0	0.0
1	0	0.0
0	0	0.0
0	79	1.3
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species comprised 77.94% of total bycatch in 2020.								
Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020			
Pelagic Stingray	19,459	16,306	8,156	11,908	8,395			
Longfin Escolar	8,820	9,652	5,605	6,609	5,037			
Escolar	7,756	7,773	5,567	5,094	5,540			
Longnose Lancetfish	6,228	5,881	5,482	4,991	4,063			
Blue Shark	4,490	4,224	3,359	2,681	2,958			
Slender Mola	1,327	2,595	1,648	193	2,210			
Silky Shark	1,874	1,695	1,212	1,840	1,227			
Yellowfin Tuna	1,873	1,702	1,345	1,180	1,476			
Albacore Tuna	1,078	1,520	1,630	1,584	1,136			
Unidentified Tuna	1,340	1,595	1,326	824	1,473			

Table 7. Total estimated bycatch in number of fish for the top 10 bycatch species from the Pacific Islands Region Observer Program for the American Samoa longline fishery. The top 10 species comprised 77.94% of total bycatch in 2020.



Figure 17. Number of fish released by longline vessels in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-16.



Figure 18. Albacore catch per 1,000 hooks by monohull vessels from longline logbook data in American Samoa

Note: Fewer than three alias reported, so alias are not included. Supporting data shown in Table A-17.

Species	Alia 1996	Alia 1997	Alia 1998
Skipjack tuna	0.1	1.2	3.7
Albacore tuna	40.6	32.8	26.6
Yellowfin tuna	6.5	2.7	2.2
Bigeye tuna	1.3	0.3	0.3
TUNAS TOTAL	48.5	37.0	32.8
Mahimahi	2.3	2.2	1.7
Blue marlin	0.9	0.7	0.5
Wahoo	0.8	0.9	2.2
Swordfish	0.0	0.1	0.0
Sailfish	0.2	0.2	0.1
NON-TUNA PMUS TOTAL	4.2	4.3	4.6
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	0.0	0.0	0.2
OTHER PELAGICS TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.2
TOTAL PELAGICS	52.7	41.3	37.6

Table 8. Cate	h per 1,00	00 hooks for	alia vesse	ls in America	n Samoa from	1996 to 1998
	1 /					

Species	Alia 1999	Monohull 1999	Alia 2000	Monohull 2000	Alia 2001	Monohull 2001	Alia 2002	Monohull 2002
Skipjack tuna	5.0	4.5	2.0	1.7	3.1	2.1	6.0	4.9
Albacore tuna	18.8	14.8	19.8	28.0	27.3	32.9	17.2	25.8
Yellowfin tuna	6.7	2.1	6.2	3.1	3.3	1.4	7.1	1.3
Bigeye tuna	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.9
TUNAS TOTAL	31.2	21.9	28.4	33.8	34.3	37.4	30.9	32.9
Mahimahi	2.2	0.3	1.7	0.4	3.4	0.5	4.0	0.6
Black marlin	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Blue marlin	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3
Striped marlin	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Wahoo	2.1	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.5	0.6	2.7	1.0
Swordfish	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Sailfish	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Spearfish	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Moonfish	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Oilfish	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5
Pomfret	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
NON-TUNA PMUS TOTAL	5.1	3.1	3.7	2.5	5.6	1.8	7.3	2.6
Barracudas	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
OTHER PELAGICS TOTAL	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
TOTAL PELAGICS	36.6	25.2	32.1	36.3	39.9	39.2	38.2	35.9

Table 9. Catch per 1,000 hooks for two types of longline vessels in American Samoa from 1999 to 2002

Table 10. Catch per 1,000 hooks for two types of longline vessels in American Samoa from 2003 to 2005

Species	Alia 2003	Monohull 2003	Alia 2004	Monohull 2004	Alia 2005	Monohull 2005
Skipjack tuna	4.7	2.9	3.0	3.9	1.0	2.7
Albacore tuna	17.3	16.4	13.7	12.9	10.3	17.4
Yellowfin tuna	5.9	2.0	8.8	3.2	7.0	2.6
Bigeye tuna	1.6	1.1	0.8	1.3	1.0	0.9
TUNAS TOTAL	29.5	22.4	26.3	21.3	19.3	23.6
Mahimahi	2.2	0.4	2.1	0.2	2.0	0.3
Blue marlin	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2

Species	Alia 2003	Monohull 2003	Alia 2004	Monohull 2004	Alia 2005	Monohull 2005
Striped marlin	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Wahoo	1.8	1.1	3.0	1.6	2.3	1.4
Swordfish	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Sailfish	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Spearfish	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Moonfish	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Oilfish	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3
Pomfret	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
NON-TUNA PMUS TOTAL	5.0	2.4	5.5	3.1	4.9	2.5
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
OTHER PELAGICS TOTAL	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
TOTAL PELAGICS	34.7	25.0	31.8	24.5	24.2	26.2

Table 11. Catch per 1,000 hooks for all types of longline vessels in American Samoa from 2006 to 2011

Species	All Vessels 2006	All Vessels 2007	All Vessels 2008	All Vessels 2009	All Vessels 2010	All Vessels 2011
Skipjack tuna	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5
Albacore tuna	18.4	18.4	14.2	14.8	17.4	12.1
Yellowfin tuna	1.6	1.9	1.0	1.1	1.8	2.0
Bigeye tuna	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7
TUNAS TOTAL	24.1	23.5	18.1	18.8	22.4	17.3
Mahimahi	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Blue marlin	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Wahoo	1.5	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.9
Swordfish	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sailfish	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spearfish	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Oilfish	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Pomfret	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
NON-TUNA PMUS TOTAL	2.9	2.2	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.4
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
OTHER PELAGICS TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
TOTAL PELAGICS	27.0	25.7	20.1	21.3	25.0	19.7

Species	All Vessels 2012	All Vessels 2013	All Vessels 2014	All Vessels 2015	All Vessels 2016	All Vessels 2017
Skipjack tuna	4.3	1.1	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.5
Albacore tuna	14.8	11.7	10.6	12.7	11.9	11.5
Yellowfin tuna	1.2	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.6
Bigeye tuna	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
TUNAS TOTAL	20.9	15.1	16.3	17.9	17.0	17.0
Mahimahi	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Blue marlin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Wahoo	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Spearfish	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Moonfish	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oilfish	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.3
Pomfret	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Thresher shark	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Silky shark	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
White tip oceanic shark	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Blue shark	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
Shortfin mako shark	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
NON-TUNA PMUS TOTAL	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.1
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER PELAGICS TOTAL	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL PELAGICS	23.5	17.4	18.7	20.6	19.4	19.1

Table 12. Catch per 1,000 hooks for all types of longline vessels from 2013 to 2017

Table 13. Catch/1,000 hooks for all types of longline vessels in American Samoa from 2018 to 2022

Species	All Vessels 2018	All Vessels 2019	All Vessels 2020	All Vessels 2021	All Vessels 2022
Skipjack tuna	1.8	2.3	2.6	1.5	1.4
Albacore tuna	13.5	11.6	8.5	9.2	14.6
Yellowfin tuna	1.7	1.9	2.7	2.4	1.6
Bigeye tuna	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
TUNAS TOTAL	17.4	16.2	14.1	13.4	17.9
Mahimahi	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Blue marlin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Wahoo	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3

Species	All Vessels 2018	All Vessels 2019	All Vessels 2020	All Vessels 2021	All Vessels 2022
Oilfish	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Pomfret	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Thresher shark	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Silky shark	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
White tip oceanic shark	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Blue shark	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
NON-TUNA PMUS TOTAL	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.2
TOTAL PELAGICS	19.2	17.5	15.7	14.6	19.1

2.1.7 AMERICAN SAMOA TROLLING BYCATCH AND CPUE

Data for participation, effort, landings, and revenue are found in previous sections of this chapter. Statistics summarizing bycatch for American Samoa trolling are shown in Table 14.

	Year	Number Release	Percent Release	Number Kept	Number Caught	Charter
	2013	0	0.0	1,896	1,896	F
	2014	0	0.0	2,789	2,789	F
	2015	0	0.0	616	616	F
	2016	0	0.0	1,374	1,374	F
	2017	0	0.0	915	915	F
	2018	0	0.0	743	743	F
	2019	0	0.0	640	640	F
	2020	0	0.0	465	465	F
	2021	0	0.0	601	601	F
	2022	0	0.0	132	132	F

Table 14. American Samoa trolling bycatch summary (released fish)



Figure 19. Catch-per-hour for trolling and number of trolling hours in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-18.



Figure 20. Trolling CPUE for skipjack and yellowfin tuna in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-19.



Figure 21. Trolling CPUE for blue marlin, mahimahi, and wahoo in American Samoa Supporting data shown in Table A-20.