



Distant Water Tuna Fleet 2024

Report to Congress

July 2, 2025



U. S. Coast Guard



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Foreword

July 2, 2025

We are pleased to present the following report, “Distant Water Tuna Fleet 2024” (U.S. Purse Seine Fleet), which has been prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 directs the Coast Guard and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to submit an annual report to the Committees regarding landings of tuna, and capacity and trends of the fleet.



Pursuant to the Act, this report is provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources

Please direct report inquiries to the Coast Guard Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Kevin E. Lunday, written in a cursive style.

Kevin E. Lunday
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Acting Commandant

A black ink signature of Eugenio Piñeiro Soler, written in a cursive style.

Eugenio Piñeiro Soler
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration



Distant Water Tuna Fleet 2024

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I. Legislative Language

This report responds to the requirement set forth in Section 421 of the *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006*, 46 U.S. Code § 8103 note, Pub. L. No. 109-241, § 421, 120 Stat. 516, 548 (2006), as amended by the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010*, Pub. L. No. 111-281, § 904, 124 Stat. 2905, 3011 (2010); the *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012*, Pub. L. No. 112-213, § 701, 126 Stat. 1540, 1579 (2012); the *Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014*, Pub. L. No. 113-281, § 601, 128 Stat. 3022, 3060-61 (2014), and the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016*, Pub. L. No. 114-120, § 601, 130 Stat. 27, 79 (2015). The amended language states:

SEC. 421. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

(a) **MANNING REQUIREMENTS.**-Notwithstanding section 8103(a) of title 46, United States Code, United States purse seine fishing vessels fishing exclusively for highly migratory species in the treaty area under a fishing license issued pursuant to the 1987 Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Islands States and the Government of the United States of America, or transiting to or from the treaty area exclusively for such purpose, may engage foreign citizens to meet the manning requirement (except for the master) until the date of expiration of this section if, after timely notice of a vacancy to meet the manning requirement, no United States citizen personnel are readily available to fill such vacancy.

(b) **LICENSING RESTRICTIONS.**-

(1) In general. -Subsection (a) only applies to a foreign citizen who holds a credential that is equivalent to the credential issued by the Coast Guard to a United States citizen for the position, with respect to requirements for experience, training, and other qualifications.

(2) Treatment of credential. -An equivalent credential under paragraph (1) shall be considered as meeting the requirements of section 8304 of title 46, United States Code, but only while a person holding the credential is in the service of the vessel to which this section applies.

(c) **EXPIRATION.** -This section expires on the date the Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America ceases to have effect of any party under article 12.6 or 12.7 of such treaty as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012.

(d) **REPORTS.** -Not later than July 1 of each year until the date of expiration of this section, the Coast Guard and the National Marine Fisheries Service shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, providing the following information on the United States purse seine fleet referred to in subsection (a):

(1) The number and identity of vessels in the fleet using foreign citizens to meet manning requirements pursuant to this section and any marine casualties involving such vessels.

(2) The number of vessels in the fishery under United States flag as of January 1 of the year in which the report is submitted, the percentage ownership or control of such vessels by non-United States citizens, and the nationality of such ownership or control.

(3) Description of any transfers or sales of United States flag vessels in the previous calendar year, and the disposition of such vessel, including whether the vessel was scrapped or sold, and, if sold, the nationality of the new owner and location of any fishery to which the vessel will be transferred.

(4) Landings of tuna by vessels under flag in the 2 previous calendar years, including an assessment of landing trends, and a description of landing percentages and totals—

(A) delivered to American Samoa and any other port in a State or territory of the United States; and

(B) delivered to ports outside of a State or territory of the United States, including the identity of the port.

(5) An evaluation of capacity and trends in the purse seine fleet fishing in the area covered by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Treaty, and any transfer of capacity from such fleet or area to other fisheries, including those governed under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention.

II. Foreign Crew Employment and Reportable Marine Casualties in 2024

Table 1: Identity of vessels using foreign citizens to meet manning requirements, and reportable marine casualties involving U.S. flagged Western Pacific Ocean purse seine vessels (see notes at end of Table).

VESSEL NAME ^{1,2}	VESSEL ID NUMBER	FLAG STATE	USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR OFFICER MANNING ^{3,4,5}	REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTIES, 2024 ⁶
CAPE BRETON	1060977 (7803255)	U.S.	Authorized	None
CAPE COD	599831 (7806283)	U.S.	Authorized	None
CAPE ELIZABETH III	962922 (9018892)	U.S.	Authorized	None
CAPE FERRAT	1074874 (7803267)	U.S.	Authorized	None
CAPE FINISTERRE	610466 (7912094)	U.S.	Authorized	None
CAPT VINCENT GANN	953794 (9018880)	U.S.	Not Authorized	None
DANIELA	531005 (7107716)	U.S.	Authorized	None
EVELINA DAROSA (Sold Foreign 3/2024)	965401 (8131441)	U.S.	Authorized	None
FRIESLAND	1216624 (9310953)	U.S.	Not Authorized	None

¹ Where included, parenthetical note after a vessel name shows status as sold, a re-entrant, or new entrant and licensee to fish in the Treaty area.

² Section 601 of the Coast Guard Maritime and Transportation Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-281, § 601, 128 Stat. 3022, 3060 (2014), removed the requirement for each vessel to call on American Samoa or Guam in a calendar year.

³ Officer manning on these vessels generally requires three licensed positions: (1) Master/Captain (must be a U.S. citizen); (2) Chief Mate/Mate/ Navigator/Deck Officer (titles vary per crew manifest); and (3) Chief Engineer/Engineer (may include additional credentialed officers if required to maintain specific engineering watches/duties).

⁴ Crew manifests are required to be submitted to the Coast Guard if a vessel enters or departs from a Captain of the Port Zone such as Guam or American Samoa.

⁵ The Coast Guard published Policy Letter 13-04 (Dec 20, 2013), outlining eligibility for a manning exemption letter that would permit temporarily filling of a licensed position with a foreign citizen (excluding the master) on distant water tuna fleet vessels operating within South Pacific Tuna Treaty waters. Policy Letter 13-04 was replaced by Policy Letter 13-04-CH-01 (March 27, 2015) https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/CG-CVC/Policy%20Letters/2013/CG-CVC_pol13-04-CH-01.pdf

⁶ Information on Reportable Marine Casualties is generated from the Coast Guard's Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement database.

VESSEL NAME^{1,2}	VESSEL ID NUMBER	FLAG STATE	USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR OFFICER MANNING^{3,4,5}	REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTIES, 2024⁶
F/V CAPE MAY (Sold Foreign 10/2024)	645777 (8103028)	U.S.	Authorized	None
GABRIELLE (New Entrant 10/2024)	536794 (7124697)	U.S.	Authorized	None
ISABELLA (Re-Entrant 6/2024)	1212240 (8111465)	U.S.	Authorized	None
PACIFIC PRINCESS	600678 (7806271)	U.S.	Not Authorized	None
SEA ENCOUNTER	604592 (7823360)	U.S.	Not Authorized	One casualty reported 4/24/2024. Crewman sustained 3” to 4” laceration to right side abdomen while hauling gear. Treated and released at a medical facility in Tahiti.
WESTERN PACIFIC	564010 (7508893)	U.S.	Authorized	None

Table 1 Legend:

VESSEL NAME – The name under which the vessel is currently documented.

VESSEL ID NUMBER – The Coast Guard identification number. The International Maritime Organization number is listed parenthetically.

USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR MANNING – Based on contact with the vessel, or vessel’s agent, owner, or owner’s representative.

REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTY- 46 CFR § 4.03-1. In 2024, the distant water tuna fleet had one reportable marine casualty.

III. Percentages of Foreign Ownership or Control in 2024

Table 2: Percentage of foreign ownership or control of U.S. flagged Western Pacific Ocean purse seine vessels.

VESSEL NAME (ENDORSEMENT)	VESSEL ID NUMBER	FLAG STATE	FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL	NATIONALITY FOREIGN OWNER
CAPE BRETON (Registry)	1060977 (7803255)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
CAPE COD (Registry/Fishery)	599831 (7806283)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
CAPE ELIZABETH III (Registry/Fishery)	962922 (9018892)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
CAPE FERRAT (Registry)	1074874 (7803267)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
CAPE FINISTERRE (Registry/Fishery)	610466 (7912094)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
CAPT VINCENT GANN (Registry/Fishery)	953794 (9018880)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
DANIELA (Registry/Fishery/Coastwise)	531005 (7107716)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
EVELINA DAROSA (Sold Foreign 3/2024)	965401 (8131441)	U.S. / Nauru	25 % or Less	Unknown
FRIESLAND (Registry)	1216624 (9310953)	U.S.	50 % or Less	Unknown
F/V CAPE MAY (Sold Foreign 10/2024)	645777 (8103028)	U.S. / Colombia	25 % or Less	Unknown
GABRIELLE (Registry/Fishery)	536794 (7124697)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
ISABELLA (Registry)	1212240 (8111465)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
PACIFIC PRINCESS (Registry)	600678 (7806271)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown
SEA ENCOUNTER (Registry)	604592 (7823360)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown

VESSEL NAME (ENDORSEMENT)	VESSEL ID NUMBER	FLAG STATE	FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL	NATIONALITY FOREIGN OWNER
WESTERN PACIFIC (Registry)	564010 (7508893)	U.S.	25 % or Less	Unknown

Table 2 Legend:

VESSEL NAME – The name under which the vessel is currently or was documented prior to reflag status to another country.

ENDORSEMENT – The entry on the vessel’s Certificate of Documentation, which demonstrates the vessel is entitled to engage in a specified trade. A “Registry” endorsement entitles a vessel to employment in the foreign trade; trade with Guam, American Samoa, Wake, Midway, or Kingman Reef; and any other employment for which a coastwise, Great Lakes, or fishery endorsement is not required. Vessels subject to this report need only have a “Registry” endorsement to obtain a license to fish under the Treaty. A “Fishery” endorsement entitles a vessel to engage in fisheries as defined in 46 CFR § 67.3. Vessels foreign-built or rebuilt in a foreign shipyard are not eligible for a “Fishery” endorsement. A “Coastwise” endorsement entitles a vessel to employment in unrestricted coastwise trade and is generally reserved for vessels built in the United States or granted coastwise trading privileges by special legislation.

VESSEL ID NUMBER – The Coast Guard identification number. When available, the International Maritime Organization number is listed parenthetically.

FLAG STATE - Reflects the country to which the vessel is registered. The above listed vessels that reflect “U.S.” as the country of registration are listed with the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center. Vessels listed as both “U.S.” and another country are a result of the vessel being previously U.S. flagged, and then being sold to foreign entity at some point during the same year. The vessel owner/seller’s agent provides intended re-flag documentation to the National Vessel Documentation Center. The National Vessel Documentation Center does not track the vessel after the sale to verify if the vessel is actually reflagged into the intended country.

PERCENTAGE FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL and NATIONALITY OF FOREIGN OWNERSHIP –

Citizenship information for owner(s) of a vessel is provided on the application for vessel documentation forms to the U.S. Coast Guard. Records indicate vessels subject to this report are all owned by organizations, not individuals. In such cases, and when required, applicants need only certify U.S. citizen ownership and/or management control are above a certain percentage. For a registry (or recreational) endorsement, there is no regulatory requirement to indicate the percentage of stock/equity owned by U.S. citizens, unless the vessel is owned by a partnership or member managed Limited Liability Company. If the vessel is owned by a partnership or member managed Limited Liability Company, at least 50 percent of the equity in the partnership or member managed Limited Liability Company must be owned by U.S. citizens to obtain a “Registry” endorsement (of the 13 vessels remaining at the end of calendar year 2024 in this report: 5 are owned by a partnership, 5 are owned by a member managed LLC and 3 are owned by corporations). The majority (7 of 13) of the vessels subject to this report carry only a “Registry” endorsement on their Certificate of Documentation. The above information has been provided by the U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center.

The information provided in Table 2 (above), regarding percentage of foreign ownership/control was extracted from the last approved “Application for Documentation,” Form CG-1258, with the U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center. The Coast Guard does not require information regarding nationality of any foreign ownership interest when applying for documentation. The Coast Guard has no information regarding the nationality of any non-U.S. stock or equity holders. Some vessels have applied for an exemption from the U.S. Citizen ownership and control requirements of the American Fisheries Act of 1998 in accordance with 46 U.S.C § 12113(c)(3) and the Maritime Administration’s implementing regulation at 46 C.F.R § 356.51(e)(2).

For any fishing vessel greater than 100 feet in length, the Maritime Administration initially approves the U.S. citizenship for the endorsement sought, regardless of what is reflected on the National Vessel Documentation Center’s application.

IV. Transfer or Sale of United States Flag Vessels

There were two U.S. purse seine vessels sold to foreign entities in calendar year 2024:

1. EVELINA DAROSA, O.N.: 965401, IMO: 8131441 was sold to Formosa Manzan Co., LTD, a Taiwanese company, for intended reflagging to Nauru. The National Vessel Documentation Center was made aware of the sale. The vessel was deleted from the certificate of documentation on March 25, 2024.
2. F/V CAPE MAY, O.N.: 645777, IMO: 8103028 was sold to Tropical Seas Navigation SA, a Panamanian corporation, for intended reflagging to Colombia. The National Vessel Documentation Center was made aware of the sale. The vessel was deleted from the certificate of documentation on October 3, 2024.

V. Assessment of Landings and Trends

The preliminary landing data for 2024 (available through February 13, 2025) show more than 100,000 metric tons of tuna landed by the U.S. purse seine fleet with treaty licenses (Table 3). Although 2024 data is relatively complete, information presented in Table 3 is considered indicative and preliminary. Landing information for 2023 was also updated in this report. Compilation of timely landing data is a challenge with many U.S. purse seine vessels offloading in foreign ports. There is a considerable time lag between offloading and when the National Marine Fisheries Service receives final species composition and cannery receipts. As such, landing trends may be adjusted upon final calculation of total landings by port.

Preliminary 2024 landing estimates indicate cumulative landings for the U.S. purse seine fleet with treaty licenses increased by nearly 15,000 metric tons from 2023. In 2023, 62 percent of the U.S. fleet catch was offloaded in American Samoa and the remainder of the U.S. fleet catch was offloaded in other Pacific ports. Many vessels fish across the eastern, western, and central Pacific Ocean. In 2024, all 13 vessels with treaty licenses were listed on the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Regional Vessel Register.

Yellowfin and bigeye tuna landing estimates are combined given that species differentiation as reported by vessels is typically inaccurate.

VI. Evaluation of Capacity and Trends in the Western Pacific Purse Seine Fleet

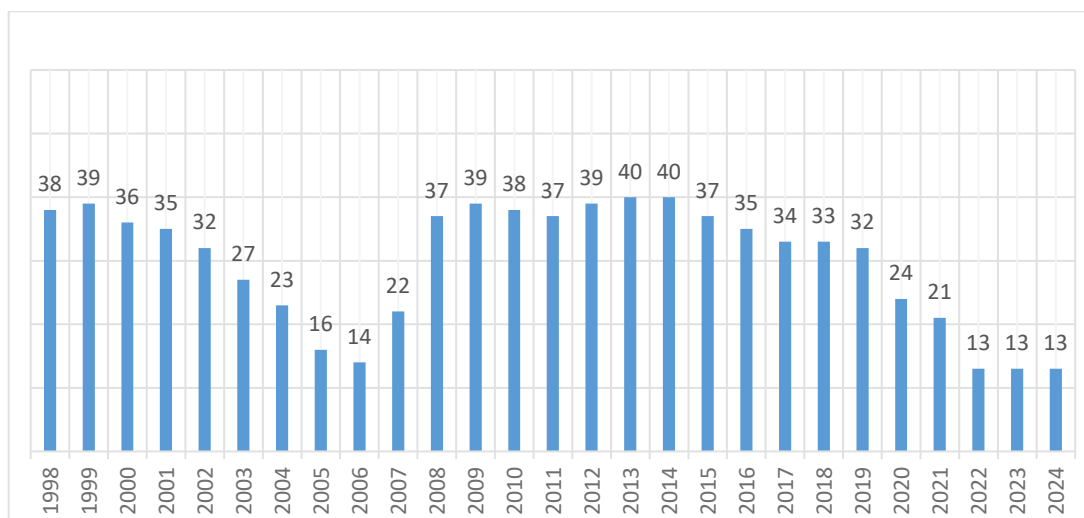
A total of 15 licenses were issued to U.S. purse seine vessels during calendar year 2024, but only 13 of those vessels landed catch in calendar year 2024. Two vessels were sold for intended reflagging, and two other vessels were issued treaty licenses later in the year. As of December 2024, there were 13 U.S. flagged purse seine vessels licensed in the treaty area, which is the same number of licensed vessels in 2023 (Figure 1).

Table 3. Tuna landings of U.S flagged Western Pacific purse seine vessels with treaty licenses, by species and port, 2023-2024.

2023	Tuna Landings (metric tons)			
Port	Skipjack	Yellowfin and Bigeye	Total	%
United States Ports				
Pago Pago, American Samoa	51,351	8,246	59,596	70%
Foreign Ports				
Christmas Island, Kiribati	3,035	1,163	4,198	5%
Noro, Solomon Islands	3,953	2,214	6,167	7%
Paita, Peru	5,547	714	6,261	7%
Other ⁷	6,570	2,703	9,273	11%
Total	70,456	15,040	85,496	100%

2024	Tuna Landings (metric tons)			
Port	Skipjack	Yellowfin and Bigeye	Total	%
United States Ports				
Pago Pago, American Samoa	55,728	6,037	61,765	62%
Foreign Ports				
Christmas Island, Kiribati	9,012	2,228	11,240	11%
Manta, Ecuador	12,174	1,961	14,136	14%
Paita, Peru	4,868	683	5,551	6%
Other ⁸	6,378	992	7,370	7%
Total	88,161	11,901	100,062	100%

Figure 1: Number of U.S. Flagged Seine Vessels Licensed in the Treaty Area 1998-2024



⁷ Combined data from the following ports: La Union, Philippines, Manta, Ecuador and Papeete, French Polynesia.

⁸ Combined data from the following ports: La Union, Philippines, Mazatlan, Mexico and Posorja, Ecuador.