



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



REPORT

ON

U.S. PURSE SEINE FLEET

(also known as the Distant Water Tuna Fleet)

**COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
ACT OF 2006**

**DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET MANNING REQUIREMENTS AND
LICENSING RESTRICTIONS AND INFORMATION REPORT ON
UNITED STATES PURSE SEINE FISHING VESSELS OPERATING
IN AND OUT OF AMERICAN SAMOA**

1st Submission

January 1, 2006-December 31, 2006

**Submitted in accordance with Title IV, Section 421(e), of the
Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006**

to:

**The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
The House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The House of Representatives Committee on Resources**



**Submitted by the Department of Homeland Security as prepared by the United States Coast
Guard, and the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional Office**

Introduction

On July 11, 2006, the President signed Public Law 109-241, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (the Act), to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

Included in section 421 of the Act is a provision allowing United States-flagged purse seine vessels fishing exclusively for highly migratory species to engage foreign citizens to meet manning requirements, except for the master, for a 48-month period from the date of enactment of the Act. The provision is applicable only to the purse seine vessels operating in and out of American Samoa and under a 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 (South Pacific Regional Fisheries Treaty, a.k.a Treaty), or transiting to or from the treaty area (the fleet).

In order to monitor the use and effect of the provision, the Coast Guard and the National Marine Fisheries Service are required to submit an annual report with information about the vessels covered under Section 421 of the Act, and information about landings of tuna and capacity and trends associated with the fleet.

This report addresses the requirements of Section 421(e) for calendar year 2006, and includes:

- The number and identity of vessels in the fleet using foreign citizens to meet manning requirements and any marine casualties involving such vessels (Table 1);
- The number of vessels in the fishery under United States flag, the percentage ownership or control of such vessels by non-United States citizens, and the nationality of such ownership or control (Table 2);
- A description of any transfers or sales of United States flag vessels and the disposition of such vessels, 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 (Table 3);
- The landings of tuna by vessels under flag (United States) in the previous two calendar years, including an assessment of landing trends, and a description of landing percentages and totals –
 - (1) delivered to American Samoa and any other port or a state or territory of the United States, and
 - (2) delivered to ports outside of a state or territory of the United States, including the identity of the port (Table 4); and
- An evaluation of capacity and trends in the fleet fishing in the Treaty area (Figure 1), and any transfer of capacity to other fisheries, including those managed under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

Foreign Crew Employment and Reportable Marine Casualties

Table 1: Foreign citizens employed to meet manning requirements and reportable marine casualties involving United States-flagged Western Pacific purse seine vessels.

VESSEL NAME	VESSEL ID NUMBER	FLAG STATE	USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR MANNING *	REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTIES, 2006
CAROL LINDA	624971 (7827445)	US	YES, 18 of 21 crewmembers, including Deck Officer and Engineer Cadet	NONE REPORTED
DANIELA	531005 (7107716)	US	YES, 16 of 19 crewmembers, including Deck Officer and Engineer Cadet	NONE REPORTED
DIANA	557106 (7397775)	US	YES, 14 of 19 crewmembers, no Officers	NONE REPORTED
EVELINA DA ROSA	1021748 (8125090)	US	YES, 15 of 20 crewmembers, including Deck Officer	NONE REPORTED
JEANETTE	565986 (7505865)	US	YES, 16 of 19 crewmembers, no Officers	NONE REPORTED
KOORALE	545564 (7233280)	US	YES, 14 of 18 crewmembers, including Deck Officer and Engineer Cadet	NONE REPORTED
LEGACY	645777 (8103028)	US	YES, exact numbers or positions not available ¹	NONE REPORTED
PACIFIC PRINCESS	600678 (7806271)	US	YES, 15 of 18 crewmembers, including Deck Officer and First Assistant Engineer	NONE REPORTED
PROUD HERITAGE	552892 (7366726)	US	YES, exact numbers or positions not available	NONE REPORTED
SEA ENCOUNTER	604592 (7823360)	US	YES, 14 of 18 crewmembers, no Officers	OIL SPILL, May 12 th in Pago Pago, A.S. harbor
TRADITION	620755 (7823384)	US	YES, exact numbers or positions not available	NONE REPORTED
WESTERN PACIFIC	564010 (7508893)	US	YES, 16 of 20 crewmembers, including First Assistant Engineer	NONE REPORTED

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

VESSEL ID NUMBER – is the Coast Guard identification number; in parentheses is the Lloyds number.

USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR MANNING – is based on last contact with the vessel or vessel's agent.

* Crewmembers include Officers, Engineers, and general crew such as ordinary seamen, able seamen, oilers, mechanics, and cooks.

¹ Information not available due to inability to contact agent and owner during canvass period.

Percentages of Foreign Ownership or Control

Table 2: Percentage of foreign ownership or control of United States-flagged Western Pacific purse seine vessels.

VESSEL NAME (ENDORSEMENT)	VESSEL ID NUMBER	FLAG STATE	PERCENTAGE FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL	NATIONALITY OF FOREIGN OWNER
CAROL LINDA (Registry)	624971 (7827445)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
DANIELA (Fishery & Registry)	531005 (7107716)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
DIANA (Fishery & Registry)	557106 (7397775)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
EVELINA DA ROSA (Registry)	1021748 (8125090)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
JEANETTE (Fishery & Registry)	565986 (7505865)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
KOORALE (Fishery & Registry)	545564 (7233280)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
LEGACY (Fishery & Registry)	645777 (8103028)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
PACIFIC PRINCESS (Fishery & Registry)	600678 (7806271)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
PROUD HERITAGE (Fishery & Registry)	552892 (7366726)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
SEA ENCOUNTER (Registry)	604592 (7823360)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
TRADITION (Fishery & Registry)	620755 (7823384)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN
WESTERN PACIFIC (Fishery & Registry)	564010 (7508893)	US	25% or less	UNKNOWN

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

(ENDORSEMENT) – is the entry on the vessel’s Certificate of Documentation which is evidence that the vessel is entitled to engage in a specified trade. “Registry” entitles the vessel employment/service addressed in this report. “Fishery” Endorsement entitles a vessel to employment in the fisheries as defined in 46 CFR §67.3.

VESSEL ID NUMBER – is the Coast Guard identification number; in parentheses is the Lloyds number. PERCENTAGE FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL and NATIONALITY FOREIGN OWNERSHIP – Citizenship information for owner(s) of a vessel is provided on the application for vessel documentation forms for the Coast Guard. Records indicate these vessels are all owned by organizations, not individuals. Eligibility for a fishery trade endorsement on vessels owned by an organization requires that 75% or more of the stock or equity interest in the organization is owned by U.S. citizens. The Coast Guard does not require information regarding nationality of any foreign ownership interest if it is 25% or less.

Transfers or Sales of United States-Flagged Vessels in 2006

Table 3: Disposition, nationality of new owner, and fishing location of Western Pacific purse seine vessels sold or transferred during 2006.

VESSEL NAME ID NUMBER ENDORSEMENT	DISPOSITION OF THE VESSEL	DATE	NATIONALITY OF NEW OWNER
JEANNINE 560022 (7415242) N/A	Certificate of Documentation was deleted May 9, 2006. Vessel is now fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean, in the area of competence of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.	April 2006	PANAMA Red Brook Business, Inc. MARAD approved sale and transfer to Panamanian Registry and flag.
CAPE FINISTERRE 610466 (7912094) Fishery & Registry	Certificate of Documentation was renewed November 7, 2006. Vessel is now fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean, in the area of competence of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.	January 2006	Vessel remains under U.S. ownership and control.
DANIELA 531005 (7107716) Fishery & Registry	Vessel was sold by Z No. 2 Fishing Company Inc. to AACH Holdings Co. LLC, another U.S. company. Unless other arrangements are made, vessel will continue to be operated by Z No. 2 in the Western Pacific Treaty Area as before. License to fish in the treaty area will transfer and remain valid through June 14, 2007.	December 29, 2006	Vessel remains under U.S. ownership and control.

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

VESSEL ID NUMBER – is the Coast Guard identification number; in parentheses is the Lloyds number.

ENDORSEMENT – is the entry on the vessel’s Certificate of Documentation, which is evidence that the vessel is entitled to engage in a specified trade. “Registry” entitles the vessel employment/service addressed in this report. “Fishery” Endorsement entitles a vessel to employment in the fisheries as defined in 46 CFR §67.3.

DISPOSITION OF THE VESSEL – is a summary of the operational status of the vessel and fishery area.

DATE – is the date of sale, transfer of control, or change in operating area.

NATIONALITY OF NEW OWNER – is the flag state and organization that has oversight or control of the vessel.

Assessment of Landings and Trends

In 2005, the fleet landed 83,000 metric tons of tuna. The majority of the landings (78%) were made in American Samoa. Fifteen percent were landed in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, with the remainder spread over a number of ports (Table 4). Landings estimates for 2006 are preliminary and will likely increase as further reports are received and processed after the due date of this report. Nonetheless, the overall landings have been decreasing since 1998, when 198,000 metric tons were landed. In 2006, the fleet landed 28,000 metric tons and, as in prior years, the majority (70%) was offloaded in American Samoa (Table 4).

Table 4: Tuna landings of United States-flagged Western Pacific purse seine vessels, by species and port, 2005-2006.

2005		TUNA LANDINGS (Metric Tons)			
LANDING PORT	Skipjack	Yellowfin & Bigeye	Total	%	
U.S. PORTS					
Pago Pago, American Samoa	46,368	18,409	64,777	78%	
FOREIGN PORTS					
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands	8,871	3,771	12,642	15%	
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia	1,239	466	1,705	2%	
Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati	592	911	1,503	2%	
Manta, Ecuador	1,123	81	1,204	1%	
Bangkok, Thailand	675	100	775	1%	
TOTAL	58,868	23,738	82,606	100%	
2006		TUNA LANDINGS* (Metric Tons)			
LANDING PORT	Skipjack	Yellowfin & Bigeye	Total	%	
U.S. PORTS					
Pago Pago, American Samoa	16,245	3,510	19,755	70%	
FOREIGN PORTS					
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia	5,510	441	5,951	21%	
Rabaul, Papua New Guinea	1,566	91	1,657	6%	
Noro, Solomon Islands	424	10	434	2%	
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands	239	146	385	1%	
Wewak, Papua New Guinea	81	4	85	<1%	
TOTAL	24,065	4,202	28,267	100%	
<i>* all estimates for 2006 are preliminary. Additional information on landings will not be available until after February 15th.</i>					

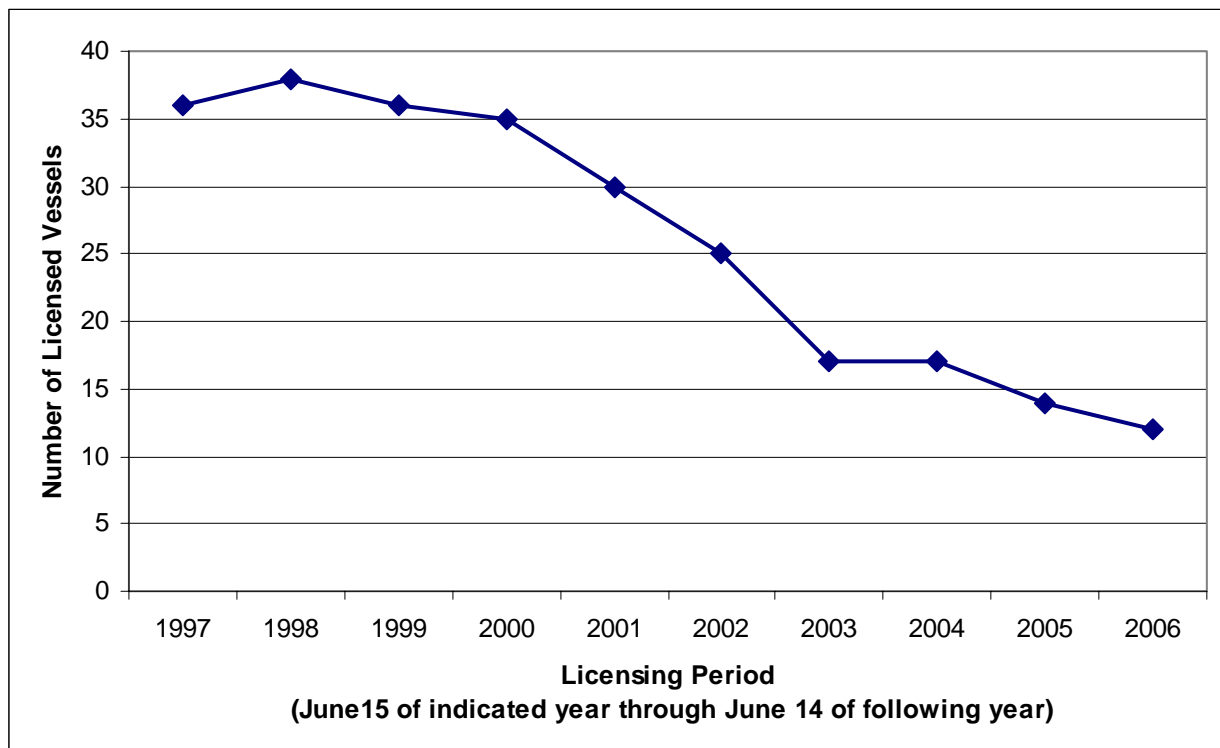
Evaluation of Capacity and Trends in the Western Pacific Purse Seine Fleet

Under the terms of the Treaty, 45 licenses are available to the United States, 5 of which are reserved for joint venture arrangements with Pacific Island parties². There are currently 12 U.S.-flagged purse seine vessels licensed and fishing for highly migratory species in the treaty area.

Two vessels left the fleet during 2006, one of which transferred ownership and registry to a foreign entity and is now fishing in the eastern tropical Pacific under Panamanian control (Table 3). The other vessel that left the fleet remains under United States control and is now fishing in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Both vessels are now operating within the area of competence of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. A third vessel was sold, but remains under United States Control and will continue to be operated in the Western Pacific Treaty Area as before.

The number of vessels licensed and active in the fleet has steadily declined since the late 1990s (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of U.S.-flagged purse seine vessels licensed in the treaty area, 1997-2006.



² The Treaty was re-negotiated in 2004 and extended for another ten years and to date, six Parties have ratified the relevant amended provisions. Currently, the United States is finalizing domestic regulations implementing the new Treaty provisions, primarily related to the vessel monitoring system.