



# Distant Water Tuna Fleet 2012

Annual Report to Congress  
*May 21, 2013*



*U. S. Coast Guard*

This page was intentionally left blank

# Foreword

MAY 21 2013

We are pleased to present the following report, “Distant Water Tuna Fleet 2012” (U.S. Purse Seine Fleet), which has been prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Section 421 of the *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006* (as amended) directs the annual reporting of landings of tuna, and capacity and trends of the fleet.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:



The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable John Thune  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Bill Schuster  
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

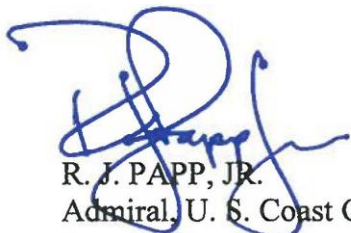
The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources


The Honorable Edward Markey  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources

For any further questions you may have, you or your staff may contact the Coast Guard Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,



R. J. PAPP, JR.  
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commandant



Samuel D. Rauch III  
Acting Assistant Administrator for  
Fisheries, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration



# Distant Water Tuna Fleet 2012 (U.S. Purse Seine Fleet)

## Table of Contents

I.	Legislative Language	1
II.	Background	3
III.	Foreign Crew Employment and Reportable Marine Casualties in 2012	4
IV.	Percentages of Foreign Ownership or Control in 2012	9
V.	Transfer or Sales of United States Flagged vessels	13
VI.	Assessment of Landings and Trends	13
VII.	Evaluation of Capacity and Trends in the Western Pacific Purse Seine Fleet	13

# I. Legislative Language

This report responds to the requirement set forth in Section 421 of the *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006* (P.L. 109-241), as amended by the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010* (P.L. 111-281), and as amended by *Coast Guard Maritime and Transportation Act of 2012* (P.L. 112-213) which states:

## ***Coast Guard Maritime and Transportation Act of 2012***

### SEC. 701. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 120 Stat. 547) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(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.”;

(2) in subsection (c) by inserting “or Guam” before the period at the end; and

(3) in subsection (d) by striking “on December 31, 2012” and inserting “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 for 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.”

## ***Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010***

### SEC. 904. MANNING REQUIREMENT.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 120 Stat. 547) is amended—

...

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “48 months after the date of enactment of this Act.” and inserting “on December 31, 2012.”; and

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f) and ...

## ***Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (as amended)***

### SEC. 421. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

(d) 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

(f) REPORTS.—On March 1, 2007, and annually thereafter 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. Background

This report addresses the requirements of Section 421(f) of the *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006* (as amended) for calendar year 2012, 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 U.S. flag, the percentage ownership or control of such vessels by non-U.S. citizens, and the nationality of such ownership or control (Table 2);
- A description of any transfers or sales of U.S.-flagged 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;
- The landings of tuna by purse seine vessels under U.S. flag 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 of the United States or its territories, and
  - (2) delivered to ports outside the United States or its territories, including the identity of the port (Table 3); and
- An evaluation of capacity and trends in the fleet fishing in the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America (“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.

### III. Foreign Crew Employment and Reportable Marine Casualties in 2012

Table 1: Foreign citizens employed to meet manning requirements and reportable marine casualties involving U.S.-flagged Western Pacific Purse Seine Vessels (See notes at end of Table).

<b>VESSELNAME<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>VESSEL ID NUMBER</b>	<b>FLAG STATE</b>	<b>USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR OFFICER MANNING<sup>2,3,*</sup></b>	<b>REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTIES, 2012<sup>4**</sup></b>
AMERICAN EAGLE	1206090 (8974398)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued manning exemption letters in 2012.	None Reported.
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE <sup>5,6</sup>	1209513 (9294628)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Operated without a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
AMERICAN TRIUMPH	1215734 (8743762)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
AMERICAN VICTORY	1215847 (9556674)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
CAPE BRETON	1060977 (7803255)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
CAPE COD	599831 (7806283)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	Spilled 9 gallons of diesel fuel into Pago Pago Harbor.
CAPE ELIZABETH III <sup>5</sup>	962922 (9018892)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
CAPE FERRAT	1074874 (7803267)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	Oil spill into Pago Pago Harbor. Mast failure caused 4 injuries.
CAPE FINISTERRE	610466 (7912094)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
F/V CAPE MAY	645777 (8103028)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2011.	None Reported.
CAPE HATTERAS	1217627 (8215493)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
CAPE HORN <sup>1,7</sup> (new entrant)	939836 (8718079)	U.S.	Yes, 1 of 3 positions. Operated without a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.



<b>VESSELNAME<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>VESSEL ID NUMBER</b>	<b>FLAG STATE</b>	<b>USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR OFFICER MANNING<sup>2,3,*</sup></b>	<b>REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTIES, 2012<sup>4**</sup></b>
CAPE SAN LUCAS	1209784 (8119651)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2011.	None Reported.
CAPT. VINCENT GANN <sup>1,7</sup> (new entrant)	953794 (9018880)	U.S.	Yes, 1 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
CAROL LINDA	624971 (7827445)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	1 death, 2 injuries following mast failure.
DANIELA	531005 (7107716)	U.S.	Yes, 1 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
FREISLAND	1216624 (9310953)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
ISABELLA	1212240 (8111465)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
JEANETTE	565986 (7505865)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
KOORALE	545564 (7233280)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
OCEAN CHALLENGER	1209712 (9517264)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	1 death and 3 injured resulting from confined space gasses and 1 death from falling overboard (Lost at sea).
OCEAN CONQUEST	1202618 (9097343)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
OCEAN ENCOUNTER	1202619 (8996218)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
OCEAN EXPEDITION	1205812 (9097367)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.

<b>VESSELNAME<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>VESSEL ID NUMBER</b>	<b>FLAG STATE</b>	<b>USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR OFFICER MANNING<sup>2, 3, *</sup></b>	<b>REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTIES, 2012<sup>4**</sup></b>
OCEAN GALAXY	1214839 (8996310)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued manning exemption letters in 2012.	1 death. 50kg tuna fell from net while offloading at Majuro anchorage.
OCEAN WARRIOR	1205808 (9097317)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued manning exemption letters in 2012.	None Reported.
PACIFIC BREEZE	1212040 (9417397)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued manning exemption letters in 2012.	None Reported.
PACIFIC PRIDE	1214250	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	1 death from falling overboard while climbing net (Lost at sea).
PACIFIC PRINCESS	600678 (7806271)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
PACIFIC RANGER	1214248 (9394789)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2011.	None Reported.
RAFFAELLO	539046 (7212377)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
SEA BOUNTY	1214841 (8996188)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued manning exemption letters in 2012.	None Reported.
SEA DEFENDER	1202621 (8996190)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
SEA ENCOUNTER	604592 (7823360)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.
SEA FOX	1207469 (9097329)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.

<b>VESSELNAME<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>VESSEL ID NUMBER</b>	<b>FLAG STATE</b>	<b>USES FOREIGN CITIZENS FOR OFFICER MANNING<sup>2, 3, *</sup></b>	<b>REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTIES, 2012<sup>4**</sup></b>
SEA HONOR	1210858 (9517276)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued manning exemption letters in 2012.	None Reported.
SEA QUEST	1203206 (9097355)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued a manning exemption letter in 2012.	None Reported.
SEA TRADER	1207470 (9097379)	U.S.	Yes, 2 of 3 positions. Issued manning exemption letters in 2012.	None Reported.
WESTERN PACIFIC	564010 (7508893)	U.S.	No, 0 of 3 positions.	None Reported.

---

**Table 1 Legend:**

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

VESSEL ID NUMBER – The Coast Guard identification number. When available, the Lloyd’s number is listed parenthetically.

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

---

**Table 1 Footnotes:**

- <sup>1</sup> Where included, parenthetical note after a vessel name shows status as a re-entrant and licensee to fish in the Treaty area, or as a new entrant and licensee to fish in the Treaty area during 2012, or if a vessel was sold during the period.
- <sup>2</sup> Officer manning on these vessels generally requires and/or includes 3 licensed positions: (1) Master/Captain (must be a U.S. citizen); (2) Chief Mate/Mate/Navigator/Deck Officer (titles vary per crew manifest); (3) Chief Engineer/Engineer (may include a second engineering officer if a live watch is maintained in the engine room).
- <sup>3</sup> Because the Coast Guard may not physically visit these vessels more than once per year, some crew manifests and manning information can only be derived from reports obtained at the time this report is prepared. Crew manifests are only required to be submitted to the Coast Guard if a vessel enters or departs from a Captain of the Port Zone (i.e., Guam or American Samoa).
- <sup>4</sup> Information on Reportable Marine Casualties is generated from the Coast Guard’s Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) database.
- <sup>5</sup> Information submitted by operators indicate that foreign officers are being utilized; however, a manning exemption letter has not been requested and or Coast Guard approved.

- <sup>6</sup> Did not call on American Samoa in 2012.
- <sup>7</sup> U.S.-built CAPE HORN and CAPT. VICNENT GANN reflagged from Belize in October of 2011 and January of 2012, respectively. Both vessels joined the U.S. distant water tuna fleet in August of 2012.
- \* The Coast Guard published Office of Vessel Activities Policy Letter 11-05 on May 31, 2011 (see Federal Register / Vol. 76, No. 104 / Tuesday, May 31, 2011 / Docket No. USCG-2010-1146), regarding eligibility for a manning exemption letter that would permit temporarily filling a licensed position with a foreign citizen (excluding the master) on distant water tuna fleet vessels. The policy became effective on July 1, 2011. In 2012, 20 vessels received at least one manning exemption letter. According to Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), one vessel utilizing foreign mariners did not call on American Samoa in 2012 as required. Reportedly, this vessel was in a Taiwan shipyard from November 2011 installing a collision bulkhead and was unable to make the call as required.

Manifest information was submitted in one Coast Guard data call by all the vessel operators through a representative citing that 18 out of the 39 vessels are all U.S.-manned in the three licensed positions. This information may not be accurate for the entire year, as manning can vary over that time frame. Within the same data call, two vessels submitted manifest information through a representative showing foreign officers were being utilized in 2012 without ever being issued a manning exemption letter. Some data provided by the vessel may not be accurate. Non-compliant vessel owners/operators may be subject to civil penalty action.

- \*\* There have been 14 fatalities in the fleet since 2006. In 2012, there were five fatalities which indicate the fatality rate of this fishery is over four times higher than the rate for the fishing industry on the national level.

## IV. Percentages of Foreign Ownership or Control in 2012

Table 2: Percentage of foreign ownership or control of U.S.-flagged Western Pacific purse seine vessels. (See notes at end of table.)

<b>VESSEL NAME (ENDORSEMENT)</b>	<b>VESSEL ID NUMBER</b>	<b>FLAG STATE</b>	<b>FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL</b>	<b>NATIONALITY FOREIGN OWNER</b>
AMERICAN EAGLE (Registry)	1206090 (8974398)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE (Registry)	1209513 (9294628)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
AMERICAN VICTORY (Registry)	1215847	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
AMERICAN TRIUMPH (Registry)	1215734	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE BRETON (Registry)	1060977 (7803255)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE COD (Fishery & Registry)	599831 (7806283)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE ELIZABETH III (Fishery & Registry)	962922 (9018892)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE FERRAT (Registry)	1074874	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE FINISTERRE (Fishery & Registry)	610466 (7912094)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE HATTERAS (Registry)	1217627 (8215493)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE HORN (Fishery & Registry)	939836 (8718079)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
F/V CAPE MAY (Fishery & Registry)	645777 (8103028)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAPE SAN LUCAS (Registry)	1209784 (8119651)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown

<b>VESSEL NAME (ENDORSEMENT)</b>	<b>VESSEL ID NUMBER</b>	<b>FLAG STATE</b>	<b>FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL</b>	<b>NATIONALITY FOREIGN OWNER</b>
CAPT. VINCENT GANN <sup>1</sup> (Fishery & Registry)	953794 (9018880)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
CAROL LINDA (Registry)	624971 (7827445)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
DANIELA (Fishery, Registry & Coastwise)	531005 (7107716)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
FREISLAND (Registry)	1216624 (9310953)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
ISABELLA (Registry)	1212240 (8111465)	U.S.	Not Reported, not required	Unknown
JEANETTE (Fishery & Registry)	565986 (7505865)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
KOORALE (Fishery & Registry)	545564 (7233280)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
OCEAN CHALLENGER (Registry)	1209712 (9517264)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
OCEAN CONQUEST (Registry)	1202618 (9097343)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
OCEAN ENCOUNTER (Registry)	1202619 (8996218)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
OCEAN EXPEDITION (Registry)	1205812 (9097367)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
OCEAN GALAXY (Registry)	1214839	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
OCEAN WARRIOR (Registry)	1205808 (9097317)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
PACIFIC PRIDE (Registry)	1214250	U.S.	Not reported, not required	Unknown

<b>VESSEL NAME (ENDORSEMENT)</b>	<b>VESSEL ID NUMBER</b>	<b>FLAG STATE</b>	<b>FOREIGN OWNERSHIP/CONTROL</b>	<b>NATIONALITY FOREIGN OWNER</b>
PACIFIC PRINCESS (Registry)	600678 (7806271)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
PACIFIC PRIDE (Registry)	1214250	U.S.	Not reported, not required	Unknown
PACIFIC RANGER (Registry)	1214248	U.S.	Not reported, not required	Unknown
RAFFAELLO (Fishery & Registry)	539046 (7212377)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
SEA BOUNTY (Registry)	1214841	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
SEA DEFENDER (Registry)	1202621 (8996190)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
SEA ENCOUNTER (Registry)	604592 (7823360)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown
SEA FOX (Registry)	1207469 (9097329)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
SEA HONOR (Registry)	1210858 (9517276)	U.S.	Not reported, not required	Unknown
SEA QUEST (Registry)	1203206 (9097355)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
SEA TRADER (Registry)	1207470 (9097379)	U.S.	50% or less	Unknown
WESTERN PACIFIC (Fishery & Registry)	564010 (7508893)	U.S.	25% or less	Unknown

## Table 2 Legend:

---

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

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 Lloyd’s number is listed parenthetically.

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. 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. If the vessel is owned by a partnership (Six of the vessels in this report are owned by a partnership), at least 50 percent of the equity in the partnership must be owned by U.S. citizens to obtain a “Registry” endorsement. The majority (27 of 39) of the vessels subject to this report carry only a “Registry” endorsement on their Certificate of Documentation.

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 approves the U.S. citizenship for the endorsement sought, regardless of what is reflected on the Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center’s application.



## V. Transfer or Sale of United States Flag Vessels.

No transfer or sale of United States vessels occurred in 2012.

## VI. Assessment of Landings and Trends

In 2012, preliminary landings data (available through February 7, 2013) show over 255,000 metric tons of tuna landed by the U.S. purse seine fleet operating in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Table 3). Although the 2012 data is relatively complete, the information presented in Table 3 should be considered indicative and preliminary. The compilation of timely landings data continues to be a challenge with many U.S. purse seine vessels continuing to conduct transshipping from Pacific Island ports that leads to considerable time lags between the offloading and when the National Marine Fisheries Service receives the final species composition and cannery receipts. As such, the landing trends may vary somewhat upon final calculation of total landings by port.

The preliminary 2012 landings estimate show the U.S. Western Central Pacific Ocean purse seine fleet cumulative landings increased over 50,000 metric tons from the previous year. The revised 2011 landings suggest that transshipments from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (Majuro) continue to replace American Samoa as the principle port of unloading for the U.S. fleet. With the addition of the 2012 preliminary landings, it appears that over 60% of the catches by the U.S. fleet were transshipped through Pacific Island ports.

Yellowfin and bigeye tuna landings estimates are combined given that species differentiation as reported by the vessels is typically inaccurate. Port sampling data, available later in the year, are used to verify landings by species for stock assessment and other purposes.

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

Under the current terms of the Treaty, 45 licenses are available to the United States, five of which are reserved for joint-venture arrangements with Pacific Island parties. As of December 31, 2012, there were 39 United States-flagged purse seine vessels licensed in the Treaty area. Two vessels entered the fleet in 2012, increasing the total vessel numbers from 37 in 2011 to 39 in 2012 (see Figure 1). The economic assistance agreement associated with the Treaty, along with several articles and appendices, are currently being renegotiated. However, vessel numbers are not expected to vary considerably in the near term.

**Table 3. Tuna Landings of United States-flagged Western Pacific Purse Seine Vessels, by Species and Port, 2011-2012<sup>1</sup>**

2011 (Revised) Port	Tuna Landings <sup>2</sup> (metric tons)			
	Skipjack	Yellowfin and Bigeye	Total	% <sup>3</sup>
<b>United States Ports</b>				
Pago Pago, American Samoa	35,464	3,449	38,913	19%
Pago Pago, Transshipment	15,932	3,032	18,964	9%
<b>Foreign Ports</b>				
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia	22,596	4,024	26,620	13%
Tarawa, Kiribati	5,045	532	5,577	3%
Rabaul, Papua New Guinea	10,285	1,516	11,801	6%
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands	72,657	6,005	78,662	38%
Honiara, Solomon Islands	20,213	1,455	21,668	11%
Other <sup>4</sup>	2,573	369	2,942	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,765</b>	<b>20,382</b>	<b>205,147</b>	<b>100%</b>

2012 (Preliminary) Port	Tuna Landings (metric tons)			
	Skipjack	Yellowfin and Bigeye	Total	%
<b>United States Ports</b>				
Pago Pago, American Samoa	51,315	7,316	58,631	23%
Pago Pago, Transshipment	29,688	3,763	33,451	13%
<b>Foreign Ports</b>				
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia	20,945	2,329	23,274	9%
Christmas Island, Kiribati	5,340	2,537	7,877	3%
Tarawa, Kiribati	7,282	3,365	10,647	4%
Rabaul, Papua New Guinea	11,373	1,055	12,428	5%
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands	91,894	14,926	106,820	41%
Other <sup>5</sup>	4,969	245	5,214	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,805</b>	<b>35,536</b>	<b>258,342</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2012 landing estimates are based on reports received as of February 7, 2013 and are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Landings include transshipments and, where possible, in the case of the United States port landings are differentiated from transshipments.

<sup>3</sup> Aggregate cells may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>4</sup> Combined data from the following ports: Noro, Solomon Islands and Suva, Fiji.

<sup>5</sup> Combined data from the following ports: Funafuti, Tuvalu; General Santos, Philippines; and Honiara, Solomon Islands.

**Figure 1: Number of United States-flagged Purse Seine Vessels Licensed in the Treaty Area, 1998-2012.**

