PNA COVID-19 Purse Seine Dashboard

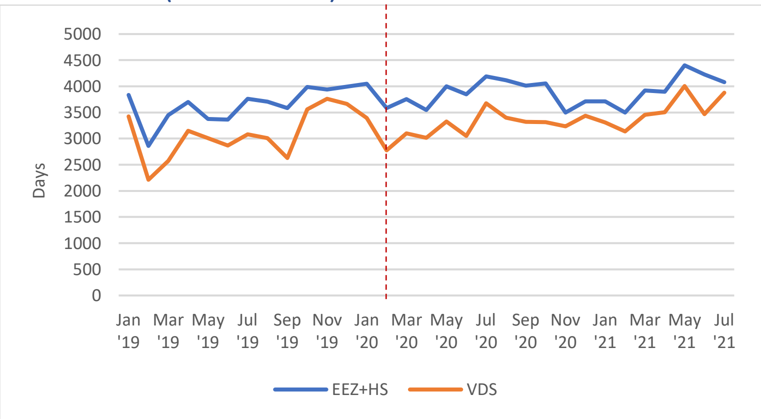
August 2021

Key trends:

- Preliminary figures indicate that overall purse seine fishing days fell slightly in July, although VDS days rose. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) fell slightly. The preliminary VDS figure of 3876 days is the highest monthly July effort since at least 2014. Note that July figures may be adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Total purse seine catch fell in July, reaching some of the lower levels in the '19-'21 period. Fishing effort was relatively broadly distributed with PNG and KI accounting for the 31% and 26% of EEZ+HS effort respectively. Catches were highest in PNG.
- Based on preliminary figures, overall catch rates fell in July. Catch rates for SKJ fell, while catch rates of large YFT rose slightly.
- Transhipment volumes fell in July, although remained around the '20-'21 average. Transhipment activity continued to be highest in Majuro, which accounted for 48% of all volume.
- Bangkok SKJ prices rose in July, averaging $1500 according to Thai Union figures. Singapore MGO price levelled out at around pre-pandemic levels. The differential between SKJ price and Singapore MGO price rose above the 10 yr average for the first time in 7 months, largely as a result of the increase in SKJ price.
- Key SE Asian processing countries are experiencing some of their worst outbreaks of COVID since the start of the pandemic with impacts on production. Thailand recorded over 20,000 cases/day at mid-August.

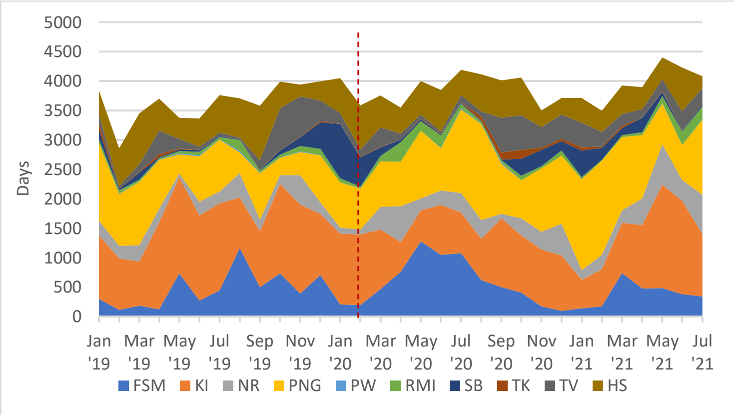
Fishing effort

Overall effort (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) fell slightly in July, although usage of VDS days rose. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) fell slightly on June. The preliminary VDS figure of 3876 days is the highest July monthly effort since at least 2014. Note that July figures are preliminary and may reduce slightly as NFD applications are processed.

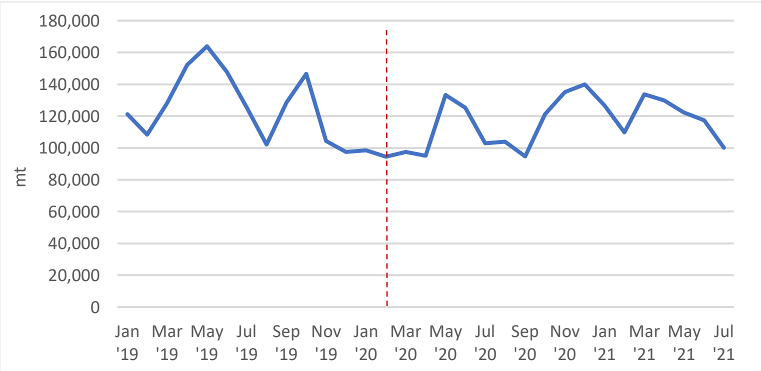
Distribution of effort (EEZs)



- Effort was relatively broadly distributed, with PNG and KI accounting for 31% and 26% of overall effort respectively. Effort rose in NR and fell in the HS. Effort in FSM, RMI and TV remained stable.
- Preliminary figures indicate effort has shifted eastwards in Aug with high levels of effort in RMI, KI and the HS.

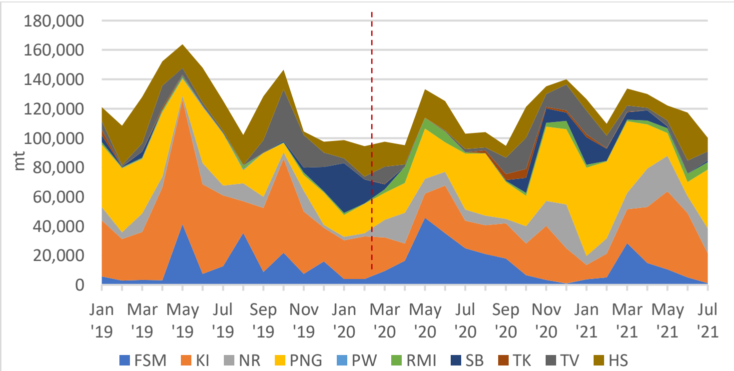
Catch

Total catch (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Catch (EEZ+HS) in July (100,147t) fell by around 15% on the June figure, although were similar to the July '20 catch. July catch figures are preliminary and may be adjusted upwards slightly as additional reports are received.

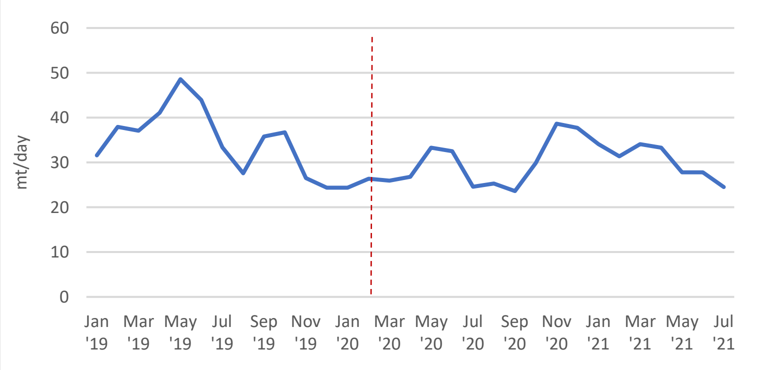
Distribution of catch (EEZs+HS)



- Effort shifted away from the east in July, with catches in PNG bouncing back strongly (accounting for 40% of total catch). Catches on the HS and KI fell by around 70% and 50% respectively. Catches in NR rose slightly, while those in RMI and TV remained relatively stable.

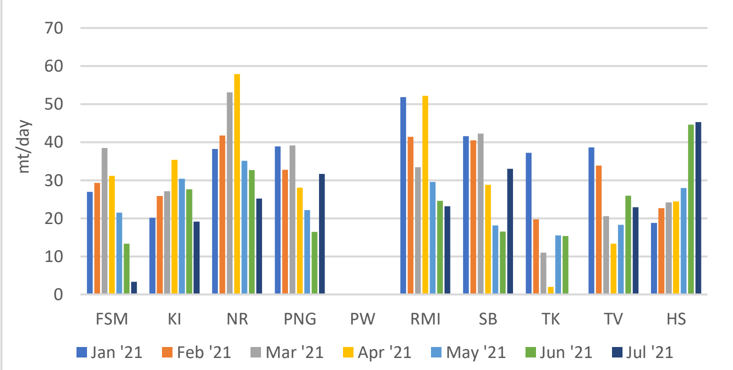
Catch rates

Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



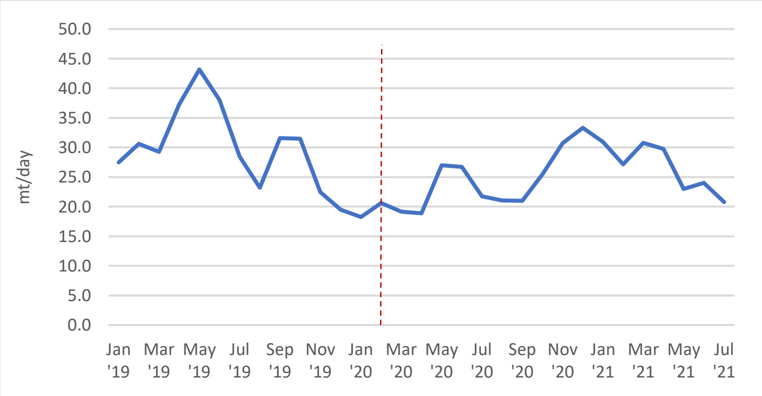
- Overall catch rates declined in July, reaching some of the lowest levels in the '19-'21 period. These figures are preliminary and may be adjusted slightly as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting is received.

Catch rate by zone (EEZs)



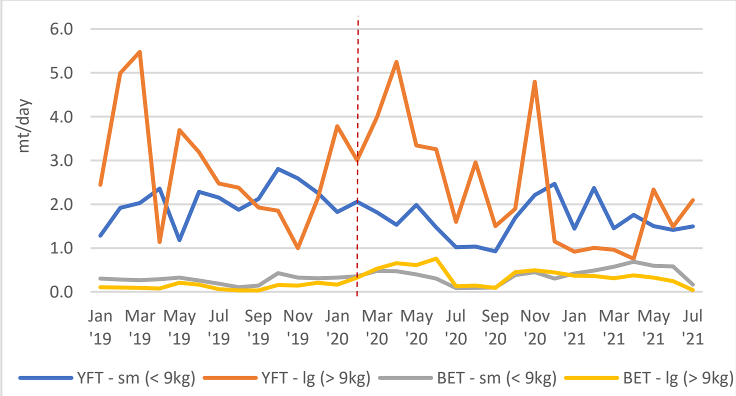
- Preliminary figures indicate that changes in catch rates were variable across the region – PNG and SB rose, while FSM, KI and NR fell. Catch rates in the HS remained stable at high levels despite much lower levels of effort.

Skipjack



- SKJ catch rate fell in July, albeit remained above the low levels seen in early '20.

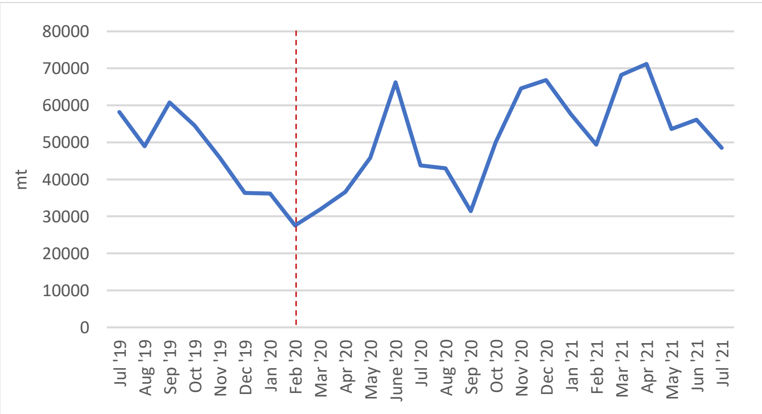
Other species



- Amongst the other purse seine species/size categories, catch rates of large YFT rose in July although remained below the '19-'21 average. Catch rates of small YFT rose slightly, while catch rates of both large and small BET fell coinciding with the FAD closure.

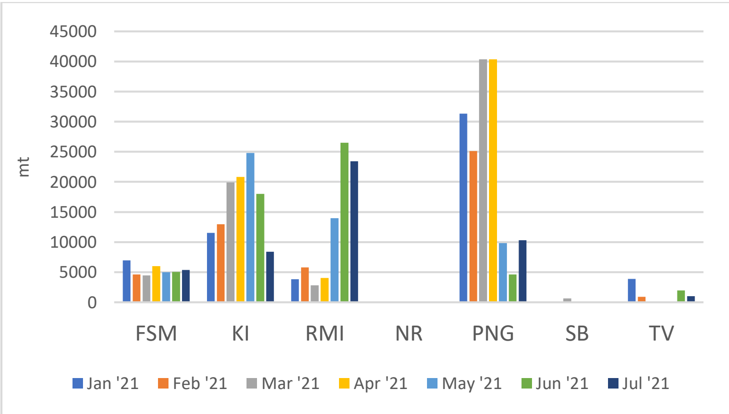
Transhipment

Volume



- Transhipment volumes in PNA ports fell in July (from 56,126t to 48,548t), albeit remained higher than the early period of the pandemic.

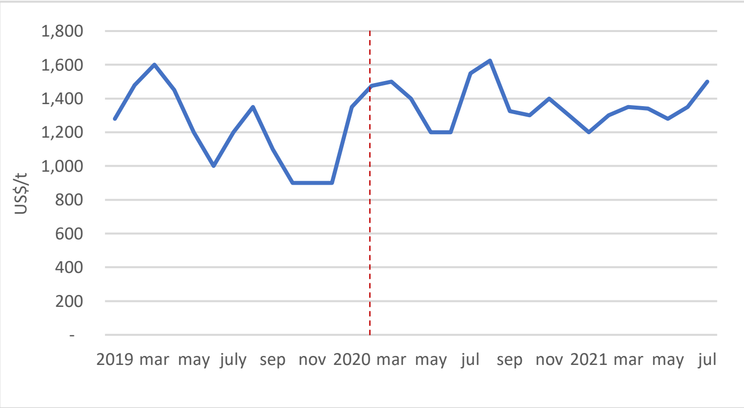
Location



- Transhipment volumes remained highest in RMI, accounting for around 48% of all PNA volume. PNG and KI ports accounted for the next highest volume, with PNG's volume rising from June and KI's falling. FSM's transhipments have remained largely stable for 6 months.

Prices

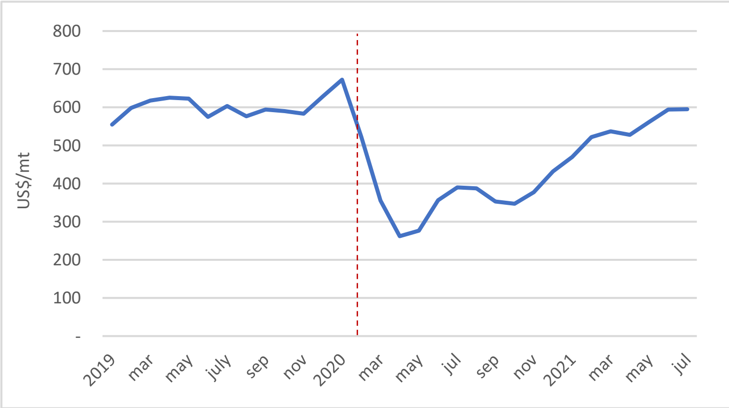
SKJ Price



https://investor.thaiunion.com/raw_material.html

- Thai Union report that Bangkok SKJ prices averaged around $1500 in July, up from $1350 in June. The price rise coincided with the commencement of the WCPFC FAD closure. Atuna report that Manta price rose to around $1500 in July.

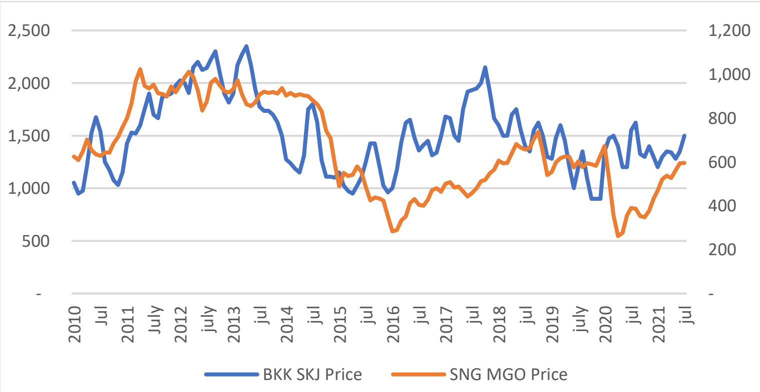
Fuel price



https://shipandbunker.com/prices/apac/sea/sg-sin-singapore#MGO

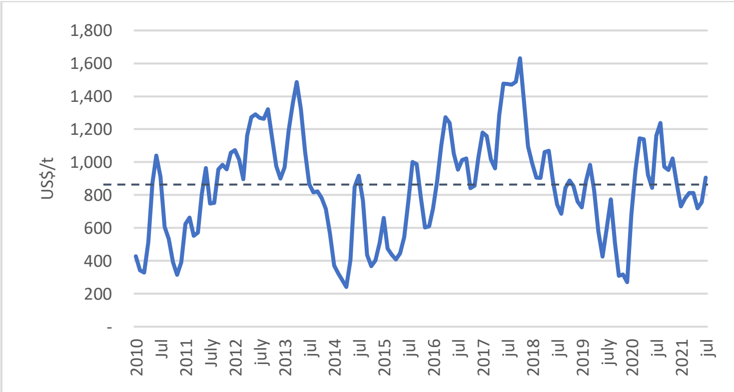
- Singapore MGO price levelled out in July, averaging US$595/mt. Price is now essentially at pre-pandemic levels. As of August 12th 2021, price had fallen slightly to $570/mt.

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price



- BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO price diverged in July, largely driven by the rise in SKJ price.

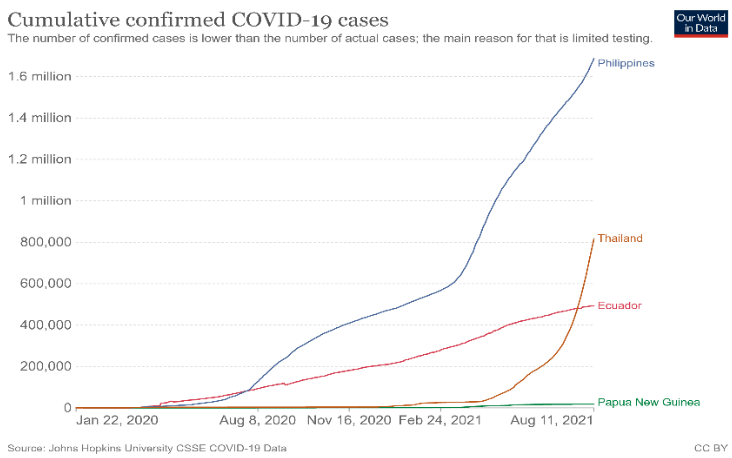
Price differential (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The price differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO rose in July to $905, the highest since Nov 2020. The July climbed back above the average 10 year price difference of $850 for the first time in 7 months.

COVID-19 in processing countries

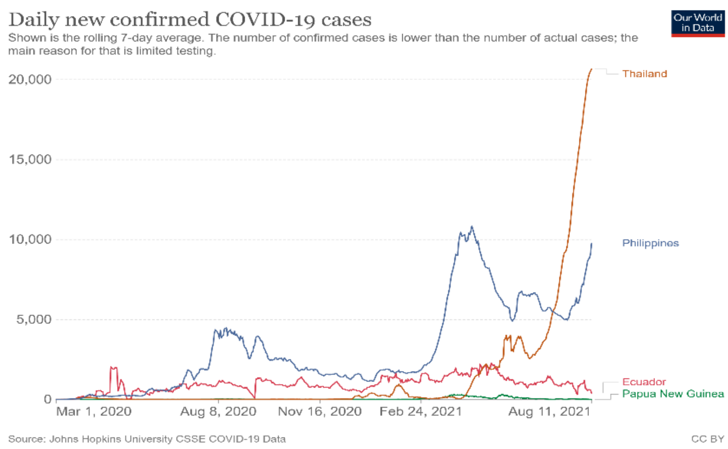
Total cases



https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

- The Philippines continues to have the highest number of cumulative COVID-19 cases amongst the main processing countries in the region, although Thailand's case numbers are rising rapidly.

Daily confirmed cases

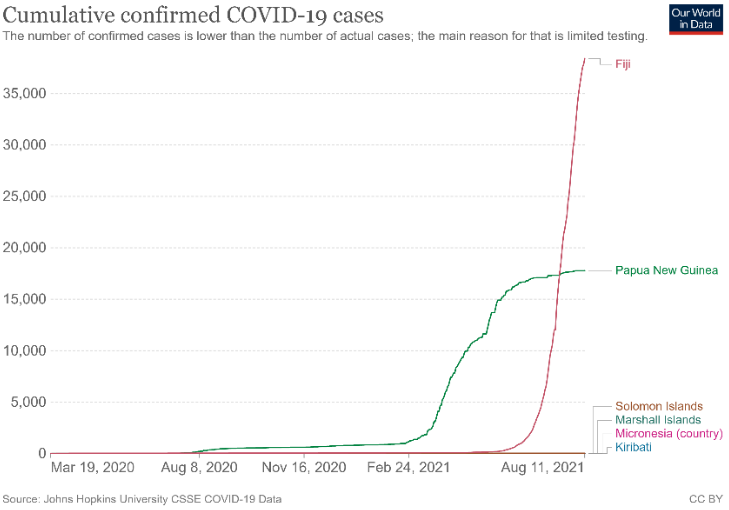


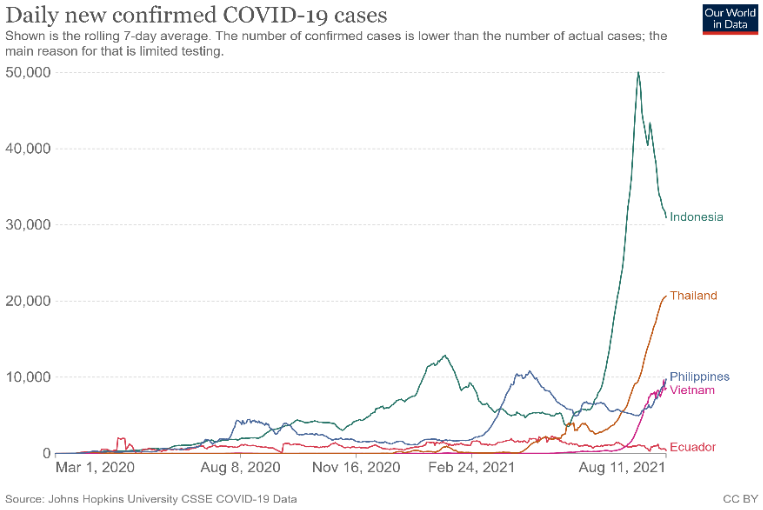
https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

- Thailand is continuing to experience a serious spike in cases, with over 20,000 cases/day in mid-August. The Philippines is also experiencing a renewed spike in cases.

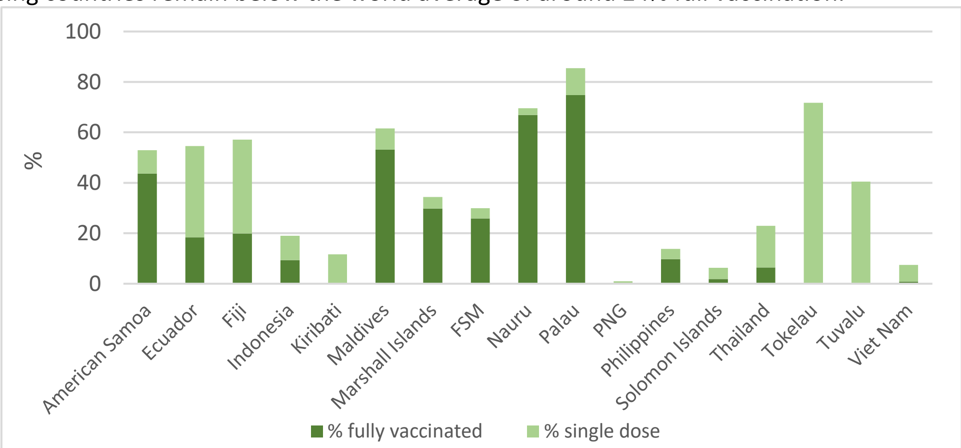
Other issues:

- As at Aug 10th, PNG is reported to have a cumulative total of 17,774 confirmed COVID cases, Solomon Is 20, Marshall Is 4, Kiribati 2 and FSM 1[1]. Fiji is reported to have 37,846 cases, with a peak of up to 1,200 cases per day in late July.





- Cases are increasing across a number of important SE Asian processing countries with Thailand and Vietnam experiencing their most significant outbreaks since the beginning of the pandemic. Indonesia's daily case numbers have decreased from a peak around 50,000 cases/day in July, albeit remain high.
- Seafoodsource reported that at least 103 seafood processing facilities in Vietnam had been temporarily shut down to manage the COVID outbreak, with federally-mandated lockdowns in 19 southern provinces extended on 31st July[2]. Factories able to meet strict health guidelines may continue operating during the lockdown, although only around 30% have reportedly been able to meet the requirements, and even then, production has been reduced to less than half[3]. In Thailand, Atuna report that some factories are operating at 50% or less capacity, with impacts on demand[4]. Thai Union reported to investors that they shifted some of their production to their Samut Sakhorn plants followng the 2-week closure of the Songkla Canning Co. in June. They noted that they are continuing to watch the situation in Samut Sakorn closely and commenced an internal company vaccination program for cannery workers in July, supported through the purchase of 18,000 vaccine doses[5].
- Vaccination rates across major tuna producing and processing countries remain highly variable. According to WHO data, countries such as Nauru and Palau have achieved very high rates of full vaccination (note that Marshall Is reports very high rates of vaccination – 80%+ - in Majuro), while others such as PNG, Solomon Is and Kiribati remain at relatvely low levels[6]. Vaccination rates amongst the key SE Asian processing countries remain below the world average of around 24% full vaccination.



Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transhipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 13th August, 2021. Some data may change as more information is added over time. Figures for July 2021 should be considered preliminary.
- The EEZs+HS effort figures in the fishing effort graph do not include a VDS vessel size adjustment factor. The actual VDS usage figures are adjusted for vessel size. HS days may include some non-fishing time. HS effort figures are those for the eastern high seas and HSPs 4 and 5.
- A dashed-red line has been on many graphs at February 2020 to provide an indication of the time in which COVID-related restrictions were becoming more common globally and regionally.

[1] https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases
[2] https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/103-seafood-factories-closed-in-vietnam-due-to-nationwide-covid-19-epidemic
[3] https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/worsening-covid-19-outbreak-impacting-vietnam-s-seafood-industry
[4] https://atuna.com/news/bangkok-prices-soaring-while-covid-19-crisis-hits-thailand
[5] https://investor.thaiunion.com/misc/PRESN/20210810-tu-resultPresentation-2q2021.pdf
[6] https://covid19.who.int/info/