PNA COVID-19 Purse Seine Dashboard

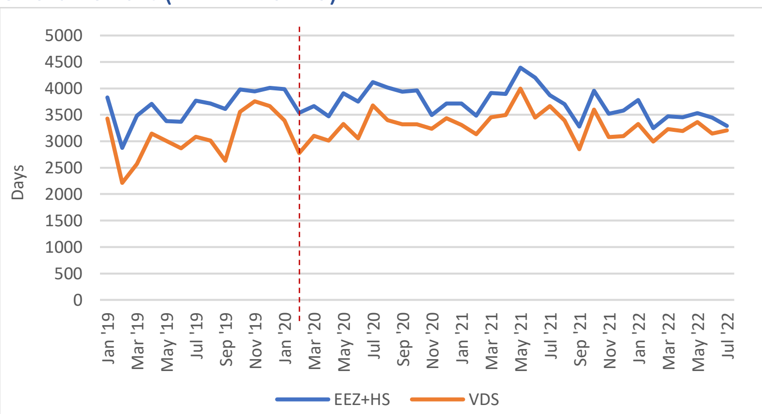
August 2022

Key trends:

- Preliminary figures indicate that overall purse seine fishing days fell slightly in July, but VDS day usage rose slightly. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) decreased slightly, driven by a decrease in HS effort. Note that July figures may be adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Total purse seine catch (EEZs+HS) fell sharply in July, down by around 34% on the June total. The lower catch coincided with the start of the FAD closure and saw reductions in catch across all species. Catch and effort remained concentrated in the west, with around 62% of total catch in PNG.
- Based on preliminary figures, overall catch rates fell in July, although remained roughly consistent with July catch rates across the 2019-22 period. Catch rates fell across all species/size classes.
- Reported transhipment volumes rose by around 10% on June volumes. Transhipments were highest in PNG, accounting for around 56% of total volume.
- Bangkok SKJ prices averaged $1600 in July, down from $1425 in June. Singapore MGO price fell, averaging $1,117/mt in July, down from $1,330/mt in June. The differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO price rose from the long-term low in June.
- Amongst PNA Parties, FSM and RMI are now experiencing their first major community transmission events of the COVID pandemic. Cases in Nauru have fallen following its first major wave of cases in June. Reported new case numbers in other Parties are relatively low. Amongst key SE Asian processing countries, Vietnam has recently experienced a second, smaller wave of cases, but case numbers in other countries are low levels relative to population size.

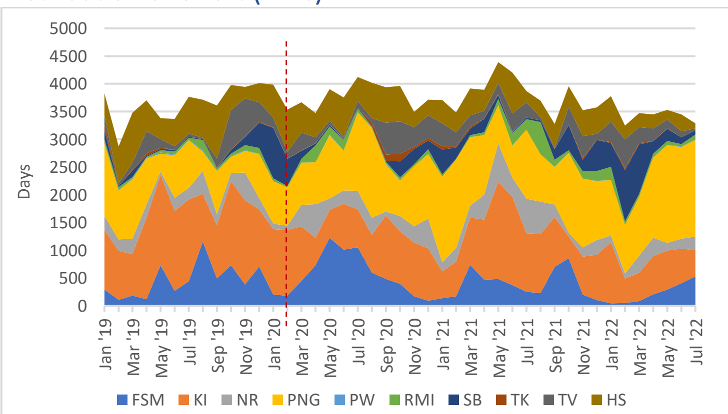
Fishing effort

Overall effort (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) fell slightly in July, although VDS usage rose slightly. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) fell slightly, driven by decreased fishing in the HS. VDS usage was roughly average for July during the 2015-21 period.

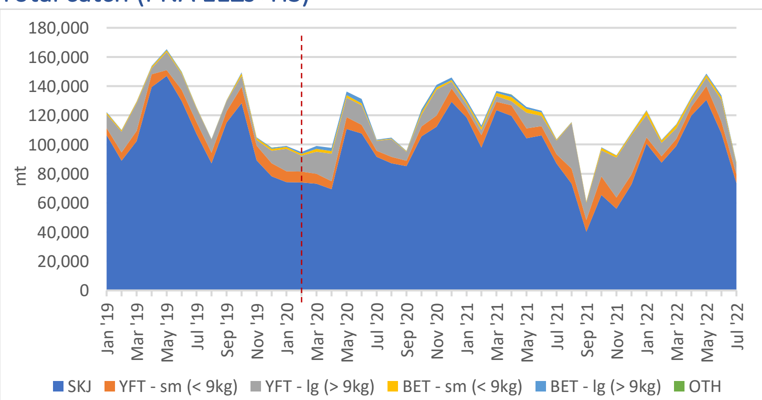
Distribution of effort (EEZs)



- Effort continued to be highest in the west, with PNG accounting for 53% of total effort. Effort rose in FSM and RMI, but fell in KI, TV and the HS. Preliminary figures indicate high levels of effort in FSM and PNG in July.

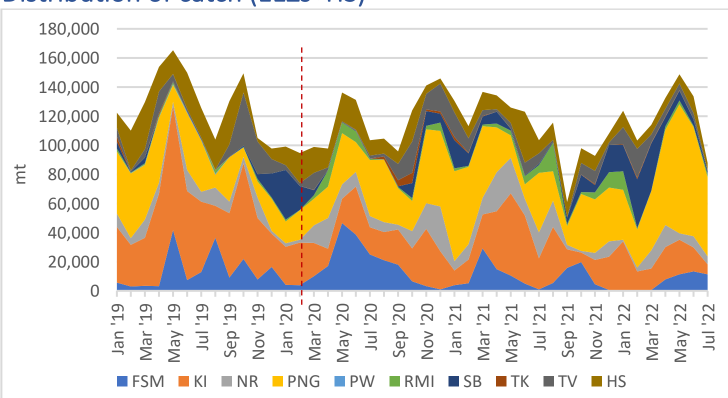
Catch

Total catch (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Total catch (EEZ+HS) declined sharply in July, down by 34% on the June total (87,809t vs 133,570t). The decrease coincided with the start of the FAD closure and saw reduced catches across all species. The catch was well below average for the 2019-21 period.

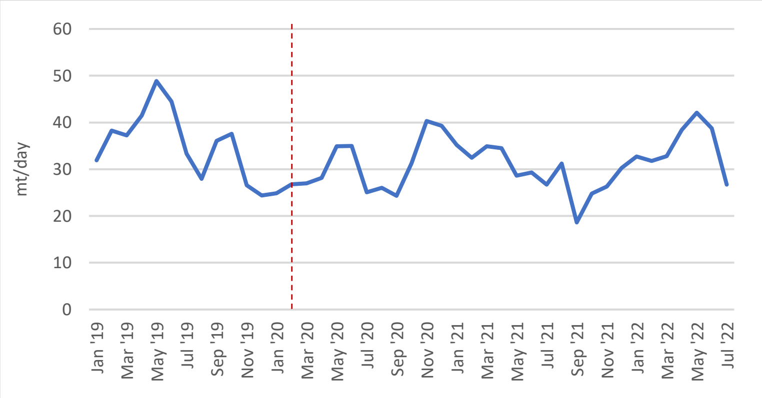
Distribution of catch (EEZs+HS)



- Catches broadly reflected effort, with catches highest in PNG, accounting for around 62% the total EEZ+HS catch. Catches rose in slightly in RMI, but fell in all other zones.

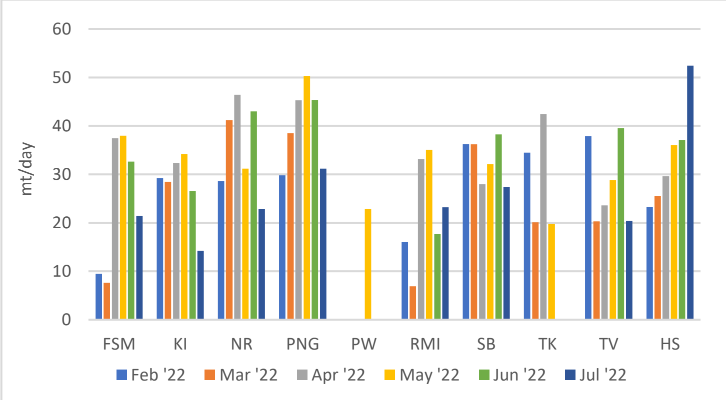
Catch rates

Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



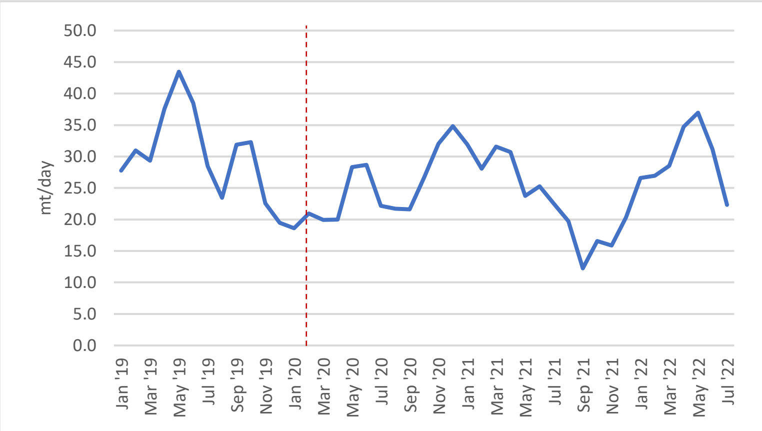
- Overall catch rates fell slightly in July, coinciding with the start of the FAD closure. These figures are preliminary and may be adjusted slightly as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting is received.

Catch rate by zone (EEZs)



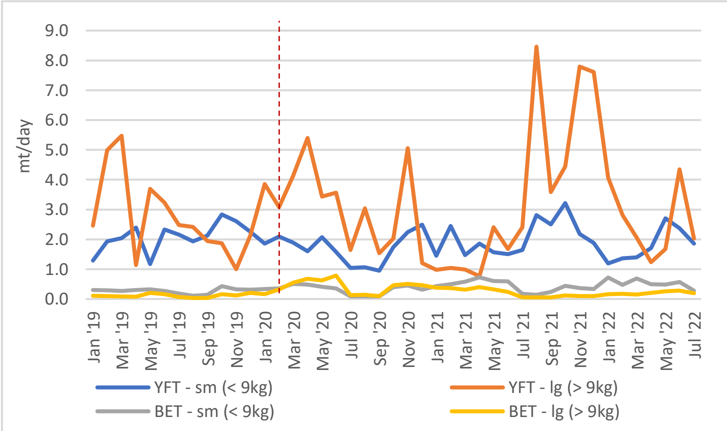
- Preliminary figures indicate that catch rates varied across the region, with rates highest in the HS and PNG. Catch rates fell broadly across the board, except in RMI and the HS.

Skipjack



- SKJ catch rate fell in July, down around 28% on the June figure, although was similar to July catch rates across the 2019-21 period.

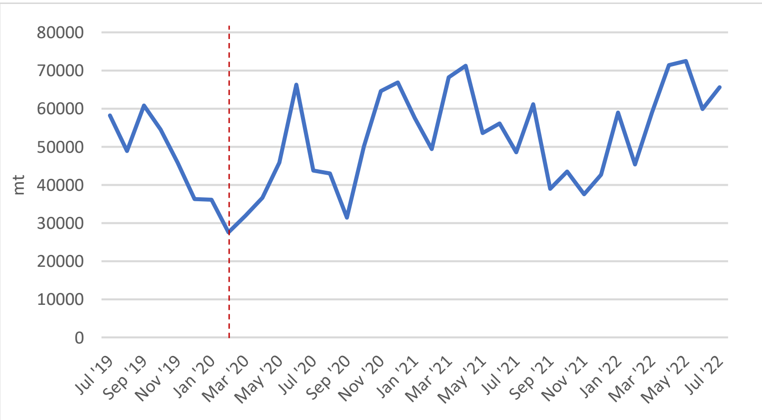
Other species



- Amongst the other purse seine species/size categories, catch rates fell across all species/size categories.

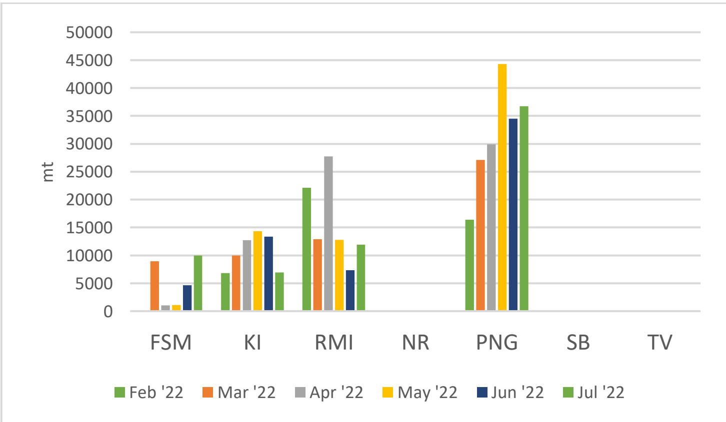
Transhipment

Volume



- Reported transhipment volumes in PNA ports rose slightly in July, up by around 10% on June volumes (from 58,850t to 65,602t). July volumes remained above average since the start of the pandemic.

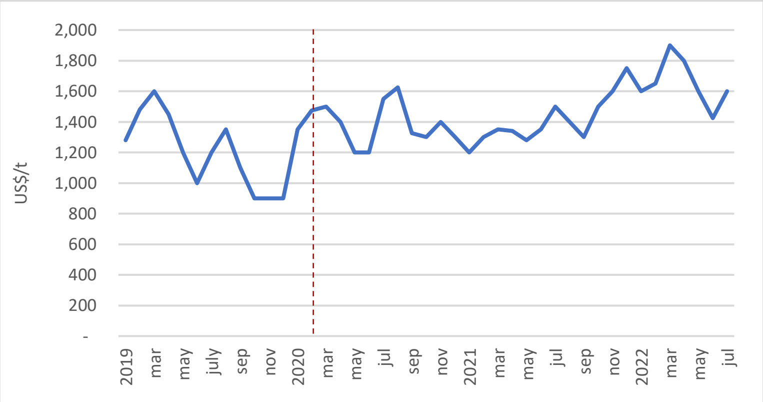
Location



- Transhipment volumes continued to be dominated by PNG ports, accounting for 56% of overall volume. Transhipments rose in FSM and RMI, and fell in KI.

Prices

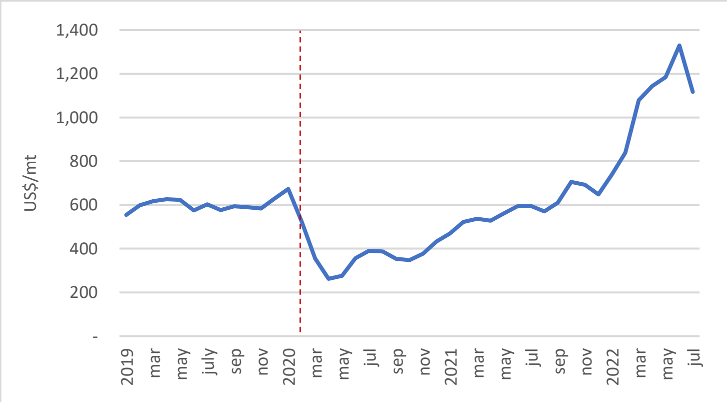
SKJ Price



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

- Thai Union report that Bangkok SKJ prices averaged around \$1600 in July, up from \$1425 in June. The July '22 price is the highest monthly July price since 2017.

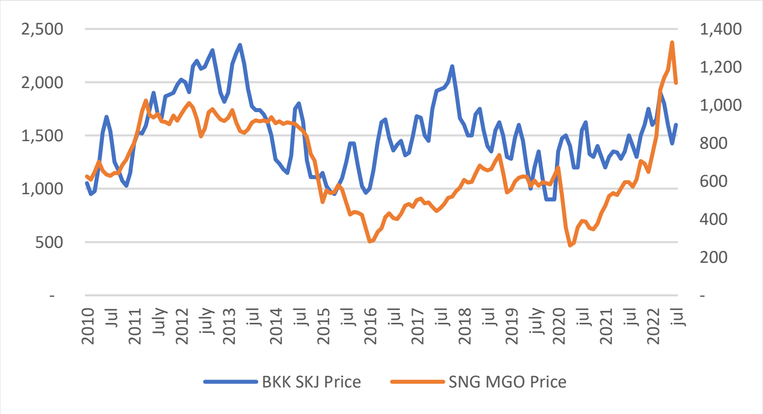
Fuel price



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

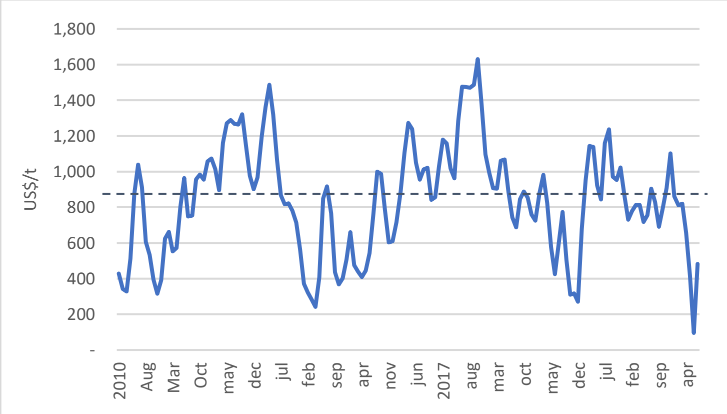
- After a largely consistent increase since May 2020, Singapore MGO price fell in July, averaging US\$1,117/mt, down from US\$1,330/mt in Jun. Price in Aug has continued to fall, sitting at US\$999/mt as at Aug 11th.

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price



- In July, the Singapore MGO price line moved back 'towards' ech other, with the increase in SKJ price and fall in the fuel price.

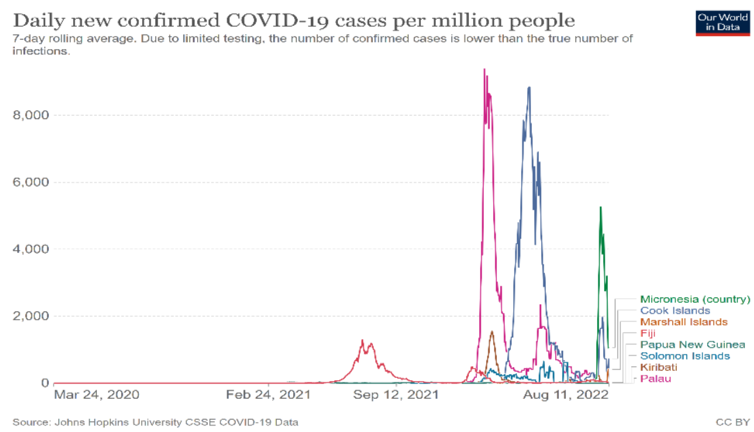
Price differential (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The price differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO increased from a long term low of US\$96 in June to US\$483 in July. Nevertheless, the differential remains well below the 10yr average of \$853.

COVID-19 cases

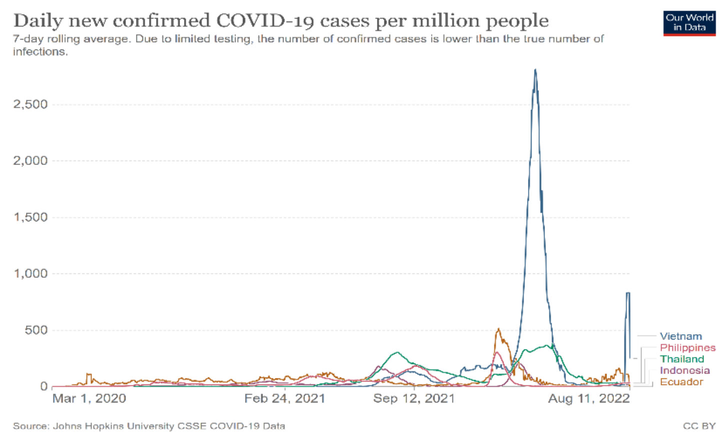
Daily confirmed cases – Pacific Island countries



https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

- FSM experienced it's first cases of community transmission in July, with cases spiking rapidly by end July and falling during early August. RMI is also experiencing it's first wave of community transmission in early/mid August, with reported cases rising rapidly at the time of writing.

Daily confirmed cases – Processing countries

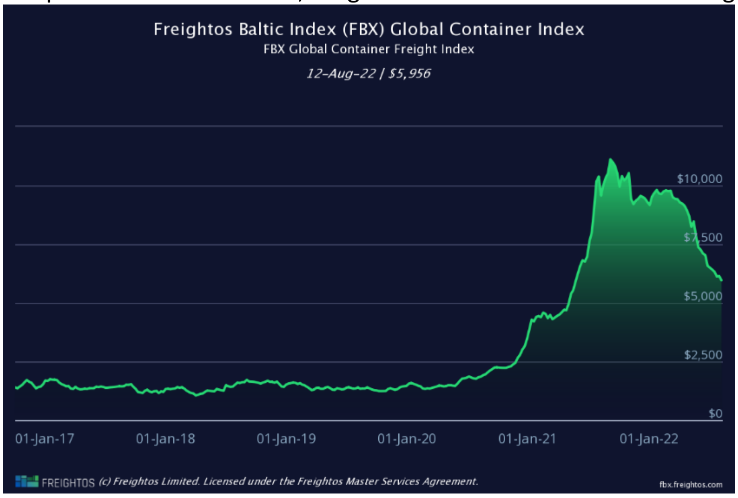


https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

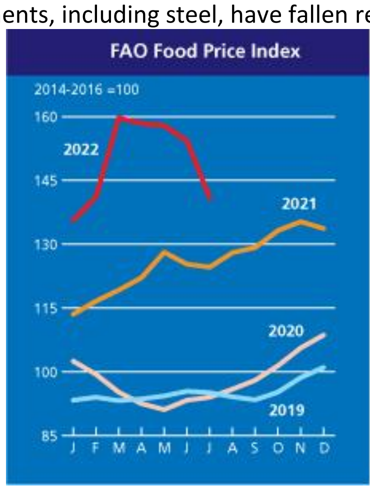
- Vietnam experienced a second, smaller spike in COVID cases in early August, but this appears to be rapidly declining. Other main SE Asian processing countries are currently reporting very low numbers of new cases relative to population size.

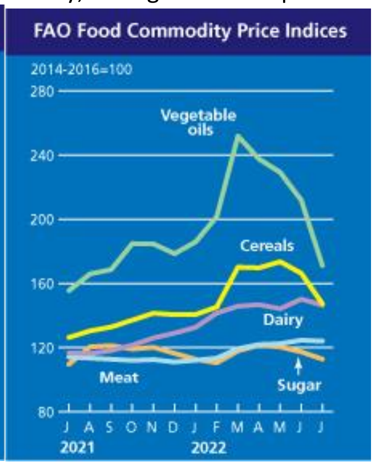
Other issues:

- Amongst the PNA Parties, all except Tuvalu (and Tokelau) have now experienced high levels of COVID community transmission at some point throughout the pandemic. FSM experienced it's first major wave of the pandemic in July, increasing from fewer than 40 confirmed cases in mid-July to 7,139 on 11th August, with 19 confirmed deaths[1]. RMI is also currently experiencing it's first major wave, increasing from around 60 confirmed cases (including quarantine) in early August to 681 total cases and two confirmed deaths on 12th August[2]. The wave of cases in Nauru experienced in June appeared to have largely subsided by early July, although 195 new cases had been reported in the 7 days to 12th August, bringing the total cases since the start of the pandemic to 4,604. Numbers reported in other PNA Parties are currently relatvely low.
- SPC report that rates of vaccination in the Pacific are generally very high, with each of NR, PW, TV and KI achieving >90% first dose vaccination rates amongst PNA Parties[3]. Vaccination rates in PNG remain very low.
- The FBX global container freight index has fallen in recent months, sitting at $5,956 for a 40ft container in mid August, down from a peak of around $11,000 in mid-Sept 2021[4]. Nevertheless, freight rates remain around 4 times higher than pre-pandemic.



- The FAO Food Price Index continued to fall in July, down 8.6% on the June figure, but remains at historically high levels[5]. The price of vegetable oils (an important ingredient in tuna canning) continues to fall from a peak in early 2022. Atuna report that prices of other canned tuna components, including steel, have fallen recently, easing some cost pressures on canning companies[6].





Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transhipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 12th August, 2022. Some data may change as more information is added over time. Figures for July 2022 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://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e1a2a65fe0ef4b5ea621b232c23618d5
[2] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e1a2a65fe0ef4b5ea621b232c23618d5
[3] https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2022/06/covid-19-pacific-community-updates#CurrentStatus
[4] https://fbx.freightos.com/
[5] https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/
[6] https://atuna.com/news/major-commodities-that-inflated-canned-tuna-costs-relaxing