PNA COVID-19 Purse Seine Dashboard

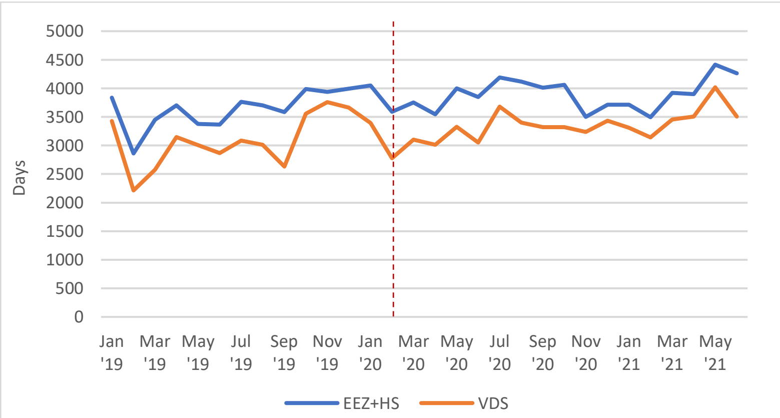
July 2021

Key trends:

- Preliminary figures indicate that overall purse seine fishing days fell slightly in June, albeit fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) remained stable. The preliminary VDS figure of 3504 days is the highest monthly June effort since 2014. Note that June figures may be adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Total purse seine catch fell slightly in June, but remained high relative to the ‘20-‘21 period. Fishing effort remained largely in the east, with KI and the HS collectively accounting for 55% of EEZ+HS effort. Catches were highest in KI and the HS.
- Based on preliminary figures, overall catch rates remained stable in June. Catch rates for SKJ rose slightly, while catch rates of large YFT fell after a sharp rise in May.
- Transhipment volumes rose slightly in June, remaining high relative to the ’20-’21 period. Transhipment activity was highest in Majuro, which accounted for 47% of all volume. The June monthly volume was the highest in Majuro since at least Jan ’19.
- Bangkok SKJ prices remained relatively stable in June, averaging around at $1300 according to Atuna figures. Singapore MGO price rose in June and is now back to pre-pandemic levels. The differential between SKJ price and Singapore MGO price remains clearly below the 10 yr average.
- Thailand is continuing to experience its most pronounced spike of cases to date in the pandemic, with over 12,000 cases/day at end July.

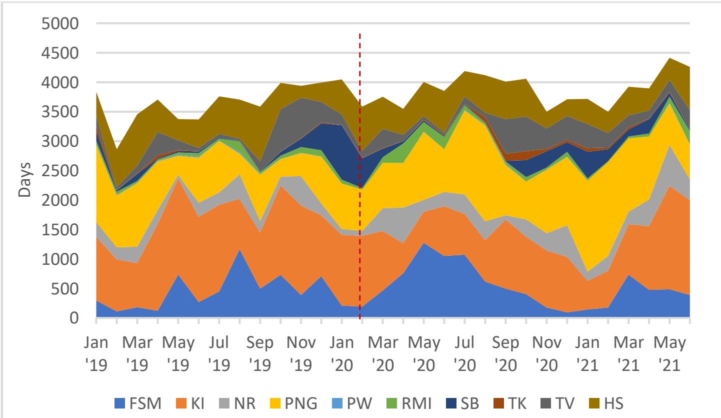
Fishing effort

Overall effort (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) fell slightly in June, although remained at relatively high levels overall. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) remained stable. The preliminary VDS figure of 3504 days is the highest June monthly effort since 2014. Note that June figures are preliminary and may reduce slightly as NFD applications are processed.

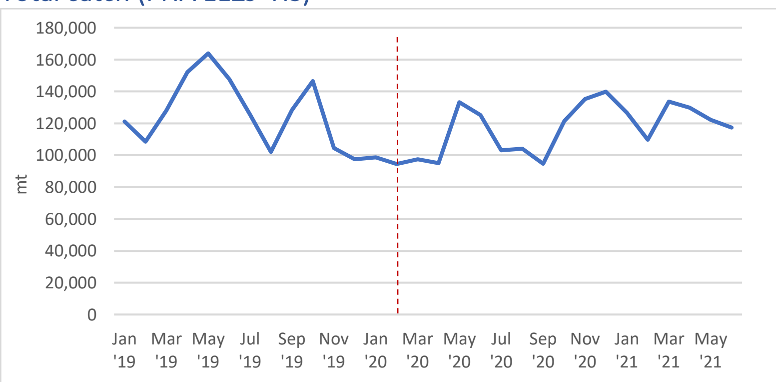
Distribution of effort (EEZs)



- Effort largely remained in the east in June with KI and the HS accounting for 55% of overall effort. Effort fell in NR and PNG and rose in TV and RMI. PNG’s effort was the lowest since Nov ‘19.
- Preliminary figures indicate effort was well distributed in July with high levels of effort in PNG, KI and the HS.

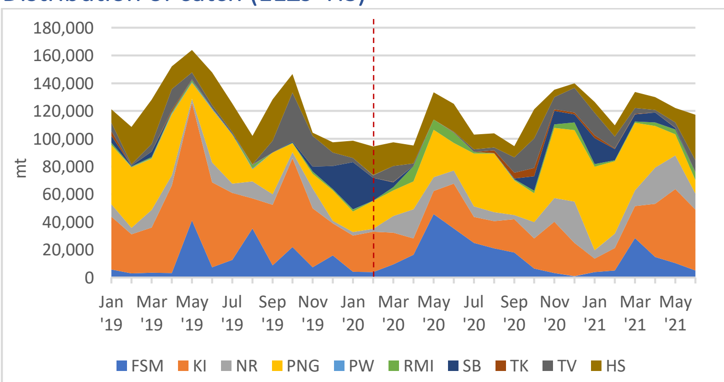
Catch

Total catch (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Catch (EEZ+HS) in June (117,400t) fell by around 4% on the May figure, albeit remained at high volumes relative to the ‘20-’21 period. June catch figures are preliminary and may be adjusted upwards slightly as additional reports are received.

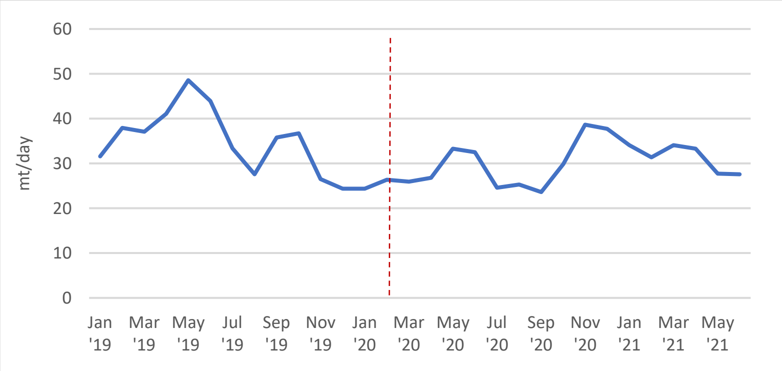
Distribution of catch (EEZs+HS)



- The eastwards shift in catch starting in Apr continued through to June, with KI and the HS collectively accounting for 65% of total catch. The HS catch of 32,808t was the highest since at least Jan ‘19. Catches in PNG, FSM and NR fell, while catch in RMI and TV rose.

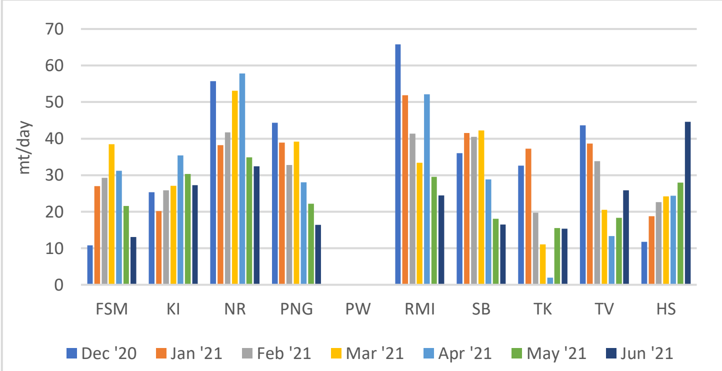
Catch rates

Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



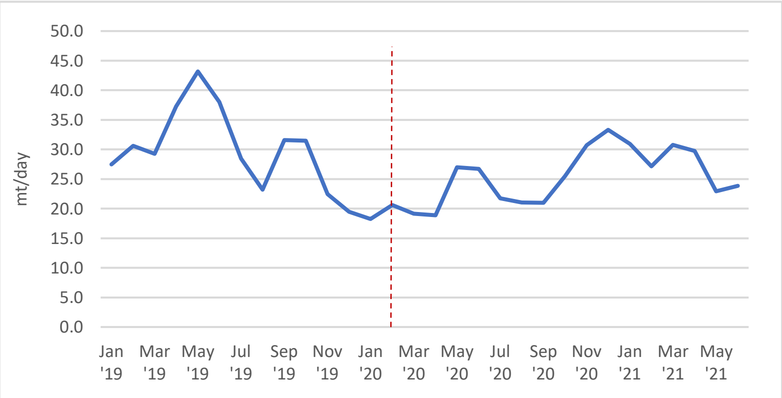
- Overall catch rates remained stable in June, at slightly below the average level for the 2020-21 period. These figures are preliminary and may be adjusted slightly as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting is received.

Catch rate by zone (EEZs)



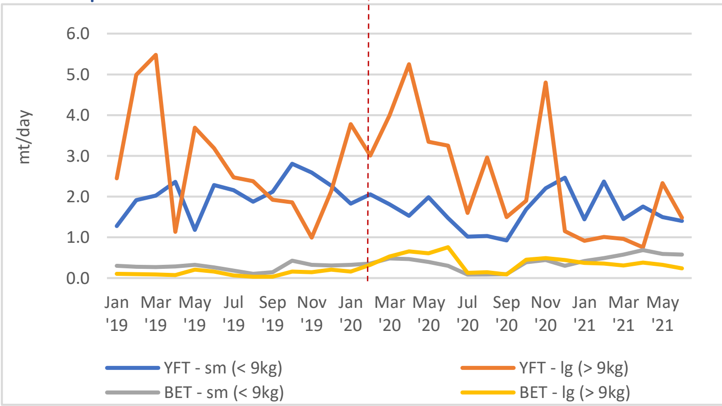
- Preliminary figures indicate that catch rates were broadly down across the board with the exception of the HS and TV which rose sharply. PNG recorded its lowest catch rate since at least Jan '19.

Skipjack



- SKJ catch rate rose slightly in June, alebit remained at lower levels than late '20/early '21.

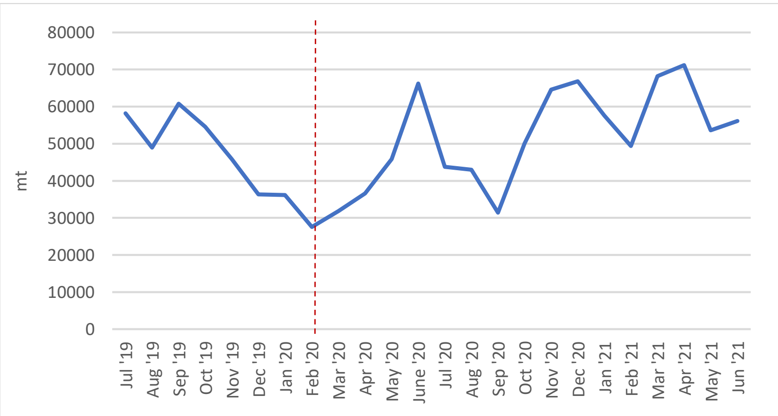
Other species



- Amongst the other purse seine species/size categories, catch rates of large YFT fell in June although remained higher than the early months of '21. Catch rates of small YFT fell slightly, while catch rates of small BET were some of the highest in the '19-'21 period.

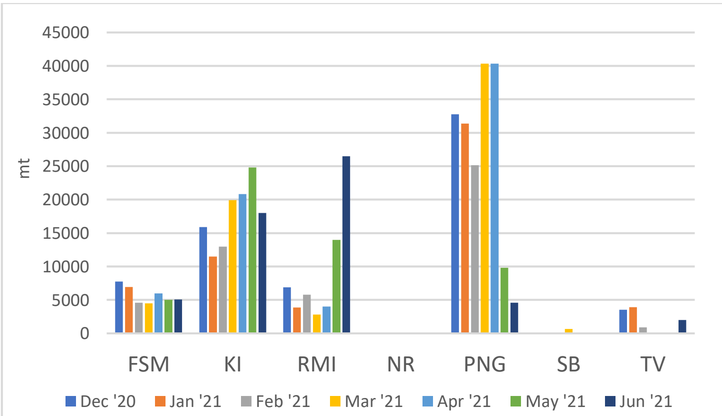
Transhipment

Volume



- Transhipment volumes in PNA ports rose slightly in June (from 53,594t to 56,126t), remaining higher than the early period of the pandemic.

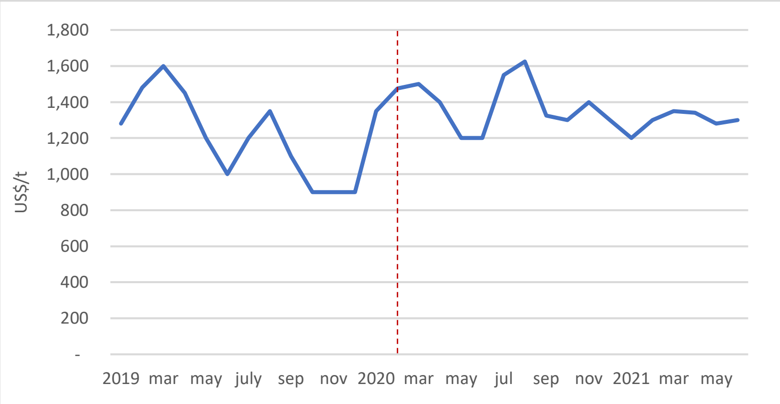
Location



- Transhipment volumes were highest in RMI, accounting for around 47% of all PNA volume. June volumes were almost double the May figure and reached their highest levels since at least July 2019. KI ports accounted for the next highest volume, with PNG volumes falling for the second month. TV recorded its first transhipments in 4 months.

Prices

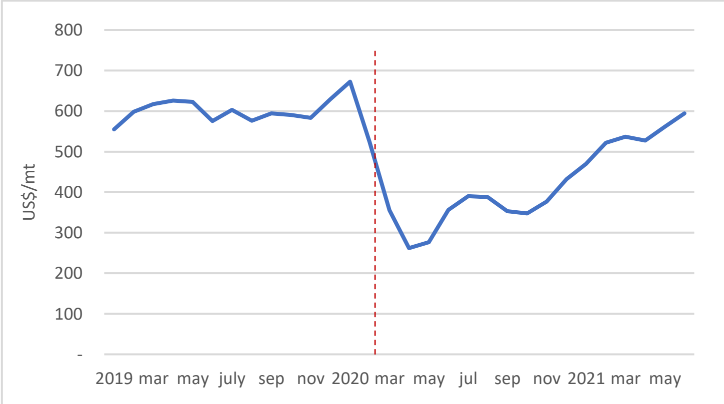
SKJ Price



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

- Atuna report that Bangkok SKJ prices averaged around $1300 in June, but have subsequently rebounded to around $1450 in July coinciding with the commencement of the WCPFC FAD closure. Manta price remained at $1350 in June.

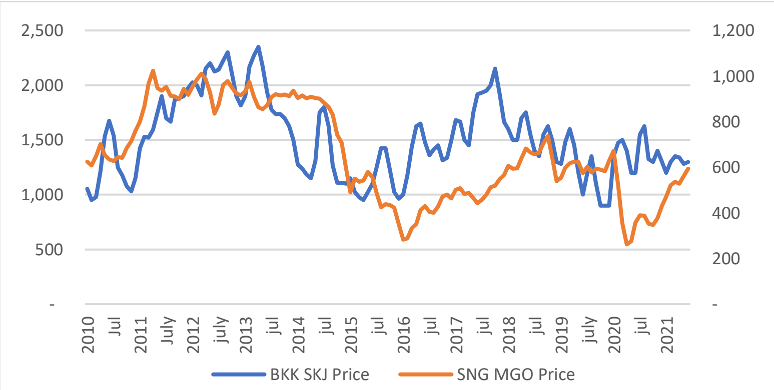
Fuel price



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

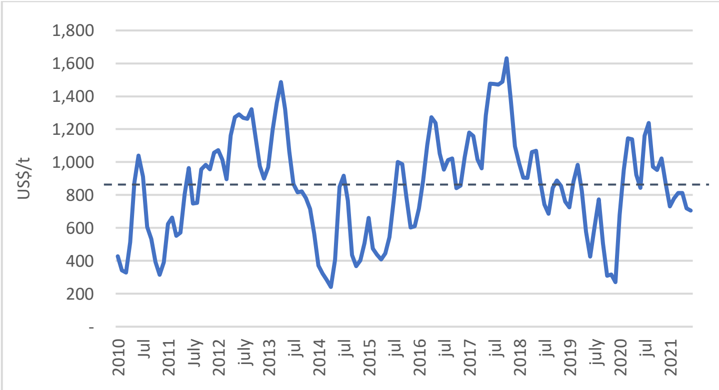
- Singapore MGO price climbed further in June, averaging US$594/mt. Price is now essentially at pre-pandemic levels. As of July 23rd 2021, price remained stable at $590/mt.

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price



- BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO price continued to converge in June, largely driven by the rise in fuel price. The two prices are as close as they've been since the start of the pandemic.

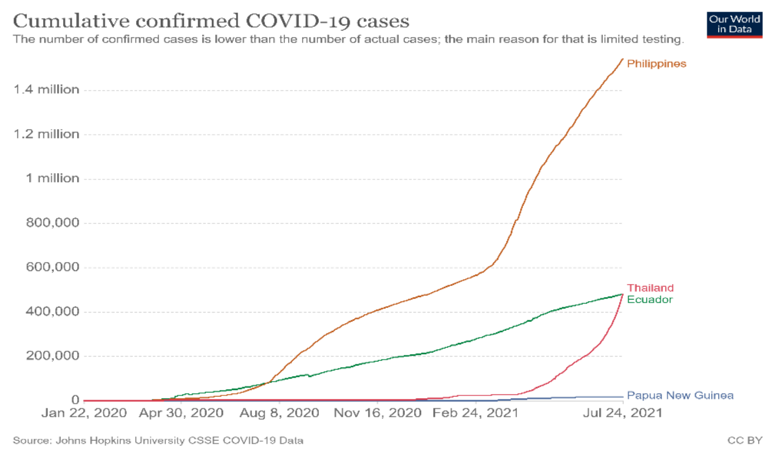
Price differential (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The price differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO fell in June to $706. The June figure is now clearly below the average 10 year price difference of $850.

COVID-19 in processing countries

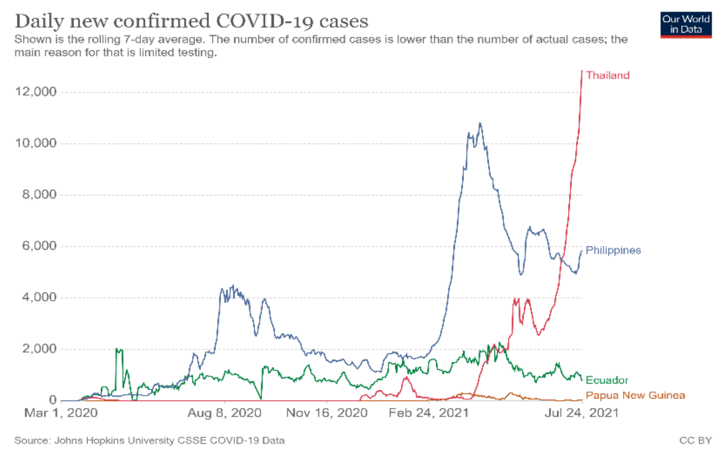
Total cases



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

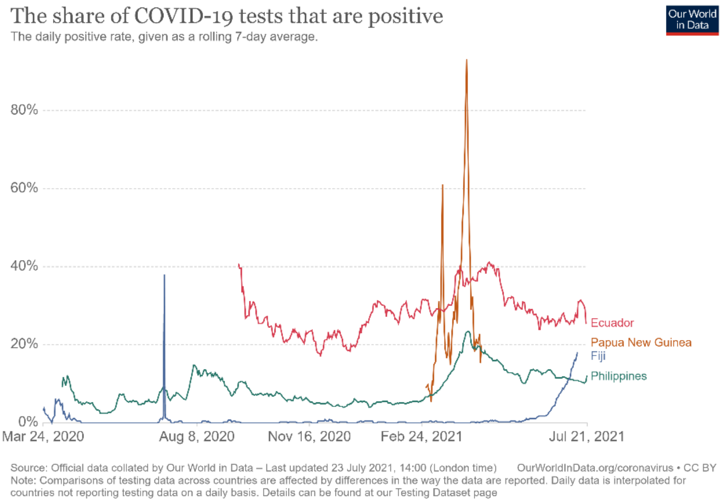


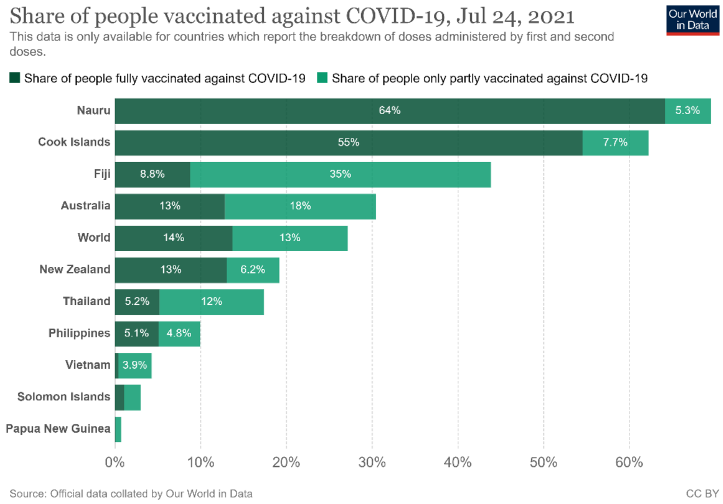
https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

- The number of new cases in the Philippines has fallen substantially from a peak in April, 2021. However, Thailand is continuing to experience a serious spike in cases, with over 12,000 cases/day in recent days.

Other issues:

- As at July 24th, PNG is reported to have a cumulative total of 17,637 confirmed COVID cases, Solomon Is 20, Marshall Is 4, Kiribati 2 and FSM 1[1]. Fiji is reported to have 22,513 cases.
- Reports of new daily cases in PNG fell to around 34/day at end July, down from around 300/day in March. The 'positive rate' (proportion of COVID tests that are positive) was highly variable, but is not available with confidence from April onwards. Amongst other processing countries, Ecuador's positive rate remains high, albeit falling, while Philippines is also falling. Thai data was not available, while Fiji's positive rate has been steadily climbing in recent weeks.





- Nauru has reportedly vaccinated around 70% of the population with at least one dose by 26th July, while Tuvalu had reportedly vaccinated around 40% by June 15th[2]. RMI reports around 59% of citizens over 18 are fully vaccinated (77% in Majuro), while US CDC data reports the rates are 28% in FSM and 59% in Guam[3]. PNG and Solomon Is continue to report low rates of vaccination. Palau has previously reported around 80% of the population has received at least one dose[4].
- The impact of the spike in Thai COVID cases is increasingly being felt in the processing sector, with processors reporting impacts on production as a result of worker shortages. Processors continue to watch the trend in case numbers, together with any broader Government containment measures, closely. Unloading at ports is continuing, albeit at reduced hours due to a soft curfew from 9pm to 4am. High freight rates from Asia to other parts of the world have also impacted the competitiveness of Thai processors which, combined with weak demand in the US and EU, will place downward pressure on raw material prices.
- Ecuador is reportedly ramping up vaccinations amongst the tuna sector, with vaccines given to all workers at 11 plants in Manta in early July[5]. A vaccine centre has also reportedly been established in Manta port, with over 4,600 tuna purse seine and longliner crews, as well as general public, receiving vaccinations.
- Atuna reports that the Princes Tuna factory in Mauritius continues to affected by COVID, with 81 cases since 4th July[6]. Cases have reportedly had a minor impact on production.

Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transhipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 26th July, 2021. Some data may change as more information is added over time. Figures for June 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://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations
[3] https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations
[4] https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/us-covid-19-share-people-vaccinated?country=~Republic+of+Palau
[5] https://atuna.com/news/ecuador-vaccinates-tuna-cannery-workers-in-manta
[6] https://atuna.com/news/more-princes-cannery-workers-test-positive-for-covid-19