

# PNA Purse Seine Monthly Update

## November 2023

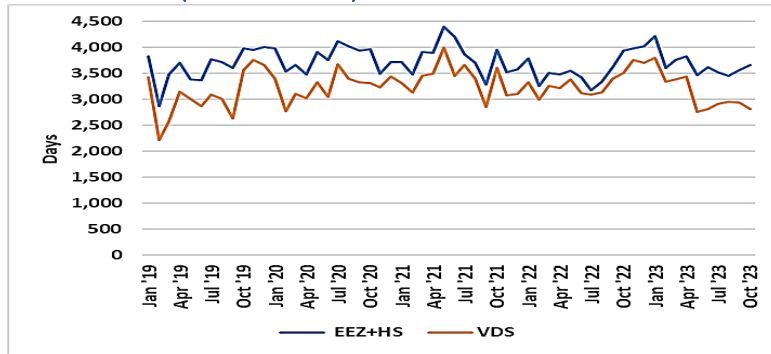


### Key trends:

- Based on preliminary figures the overall purse seine fishing effort rose slightly in October while fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) marginally declined. Note that monthly figures get adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Despite the increase of only 3% in overall effort, total purse seine catches (EEZs+HS) increased in October by 38%. Effort and catch continued to concentrate to the east with combined KI EEZ and HS accounting for 74% of total effort and 78% of total catch.
- Preliminary figures showed greatly improved overall fishing conditions with the October overall catch rate up 34% to 42t/day. The highest catch rate was in TV but in KI EEZ and eastern HS where effort concentrated most, the catch rates were 47t and 40t respectively.
- Reported total transhipped volume was up 55% to almost 89,000t in October as transshipping across all major ports increased. KI and MH accounted for a combined 69% of total. Note that transshipment volumes are not available for all vessels.
- Bangkok SKJ prices in October as reported by Thai Union declined 6% to \$1,600/mt from September. The Singapore MGO price decreased 3% to an average \$912/mt and the differential between the prices has reduced further to below the 10-year average.
- Strong El Nino conditions prevailed in the Aug-October period with SSTs averaging +1.5°C above long-term average. El Nino conditions are forecast to persist over 2023 and into March-May 2024 season but NOAA predicts the chances will decrease to 62% with a possible return of ENSO-neutral in May-July 2024.

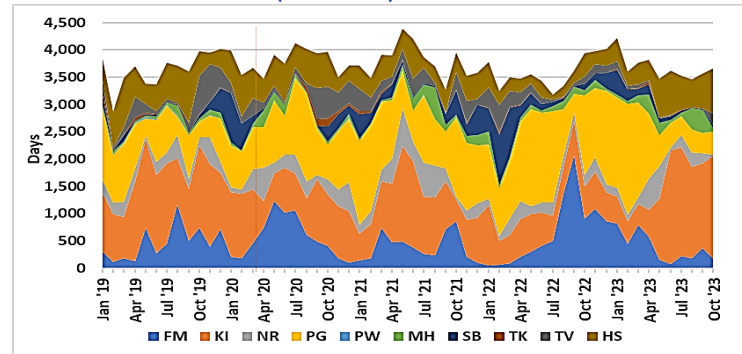
### Fishing effort

#### Overall effort (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) in October rose 3% on September but was 7% lower than in October '22 and 5% higher on YTD comparison. Fishing intensity was 1% lower during October driven by the overall decline in EEZs against an increase in HS. VDS usage at 2,819 days was 4% lower than in Sep and 20% lower against Oct '22. Monthly usage since May have been lower compared to the corresponding months last year and YTD comparison lower by 4%.

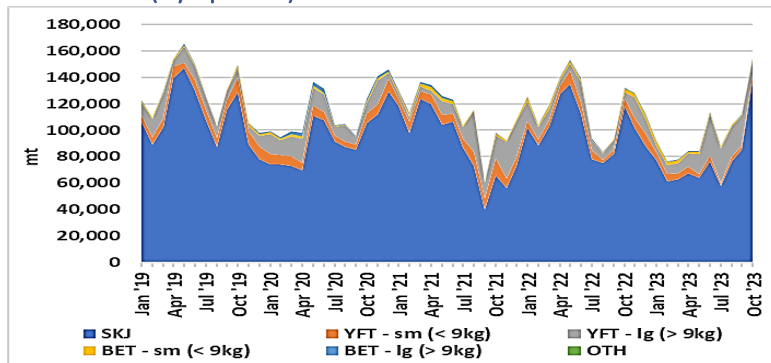
#### Distribution of effort (EEZs+HS)



- Effort concentration continued towards the east with KI EEZ accounting for 51% (44% in September) and eastern HS 23% (18%) for a combined 74% (62%) share of total. Effort trends in KI and HS saw increases of 20% (-7% in September) and 31% (24%) respectively. Effort increases were also reported for PG, SB, TK and most notably TV EEZ. There were declines in FM, NR and MH EEZs.

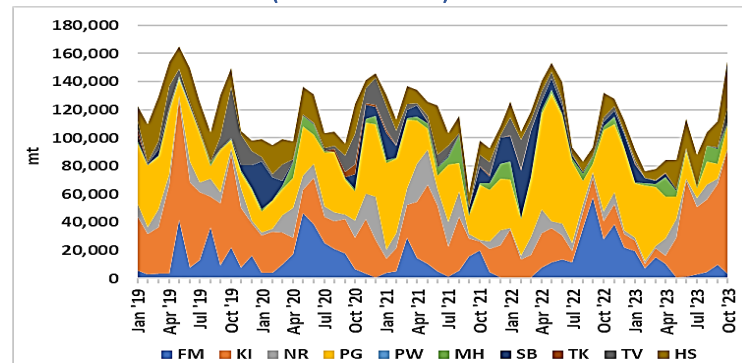
### Catch

#### Total catch (By Species)



- Total catch (EEZ+HS) in October increased by 38% to 154,240t compared to September and 17% compared to October '22. Large YFT declined 52% but all other species recorded increases with SKJ up 62%, small YFT 22%, small BET 98%, large BET 93% and other up more than six-fold. The October YTD overall catch was 17% lower compared to last year's, nonetheless.

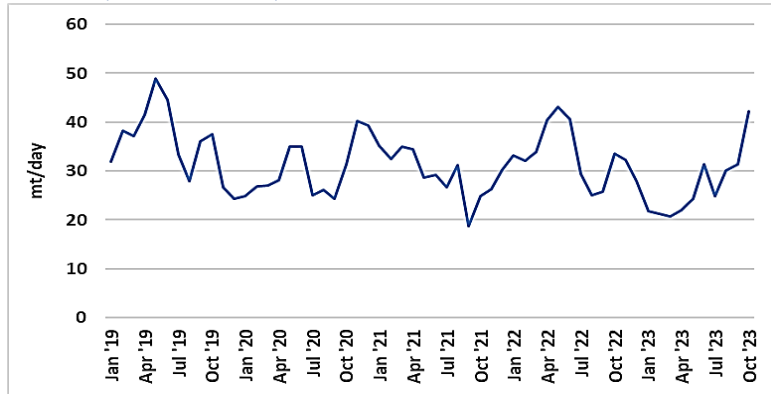
#### Distribution of catch (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Reflective of effort concentration, KI and HS accounted for 57% (51% in September) and 21% (17%) respectively of total catch. Catch increases also occurred in PG, up 63% to 17,009t, in SB up 215% to 1,386t and in TV to 10,266t from 235t. Catches decreased in FM, NR and MH with relatively very low catches in PW and TK EEZs.

## Catch rates

### Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



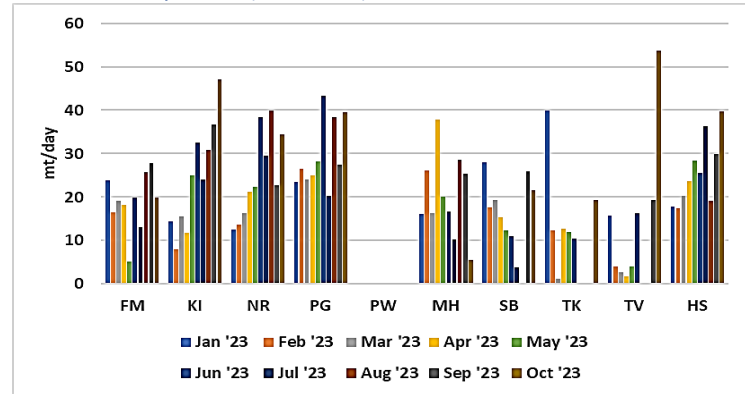
- Overall catch rate in October was 42t, 34% up on September and 26% against October '22. It was also up 56% on Jan-Oct '23 overall catch rate which was 20% lower against the Jan-Oct '22 average. Catch rates are adjusted as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting received.

### Skipjack



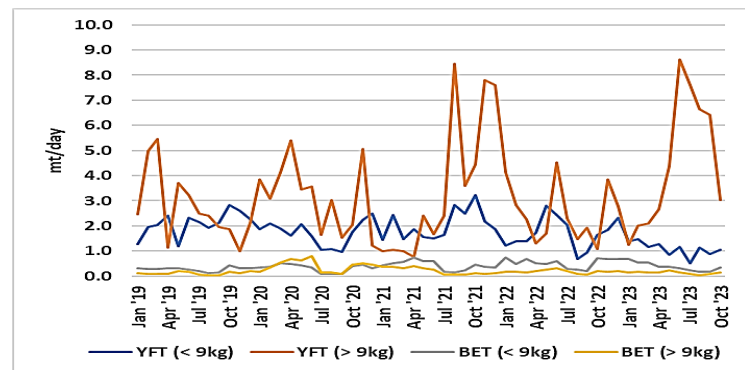
- The October SKJ catch rate was 38t the highest since May 2022, up 57% on September and 26% higher than October last year. The October YTD SKJ catch rate averaged 21t or 28% lower against the comparable period last year.

### Catch rate by zone (EEZs+HS)



- Catch rate in October was highest in TV EEZ at 54t, up 180% on September. Catch rates also improved in KI, up 28% to 47t, NR 52% to 35t, PG 44% to 39t and HS 33% to 40t. Catch rates declined in FM, 29% to 20t, MH 79% to 5t and SB 17% to 22t.

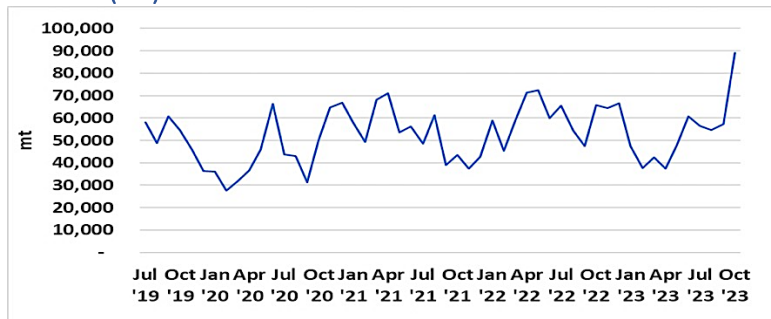
### Other species



- The catch rate for large YFT was 3.0t during October, a decline of 53% on September and 65% lower against the peak in June. The catch rate for small YFT increased 19% to 1.0t while increases for large and small BET were 93% and 88% respectively.

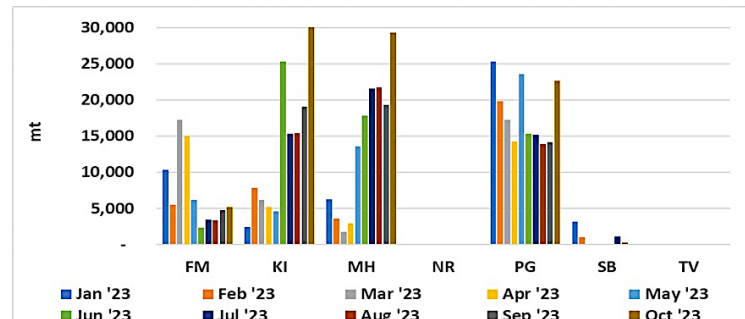
## Reported Transshipment

### Volume (mt)



- Reported transshipment volumes in PNA ports in October was 55% higher than in September (88,993 vs 57,296t). Note that transshipment volumes for some vessels are not available, so the figures reported here represent a sub-set of overall volumes.

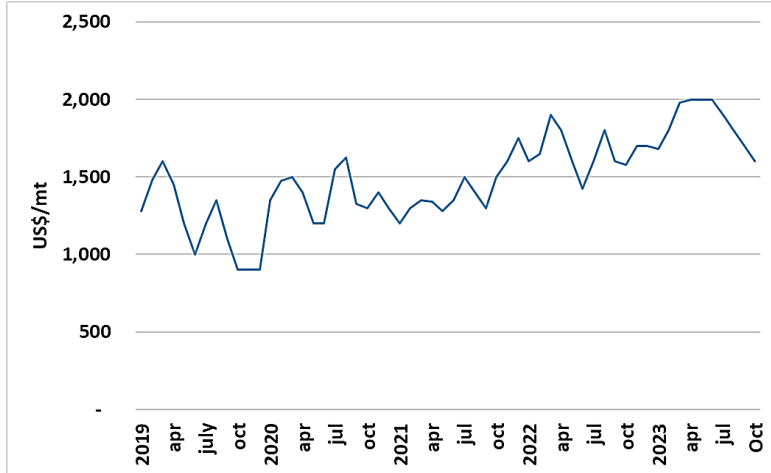
### Location



- Reported transhipped volumes during October rose across all the main unloading ports with KI up 67% (36% share of total), PG up 60% (25%), MH up 51% (33%) and FM up 9% (6%).

Prices

SKJ Price



[https://investor.thaiunion.com/raw\\_material.html](https://investor.thaiunion.com/raw_material.html)

- Bangkok SKJ prices as reported by Thai Union has lowered to \$1,600/mt (-6%) from \$1,700/mt that continued the preceding three months downtrends. Reported improved catches in the WCPO as well as pressure from processors to lower raw material costs may result in further decline in prices.

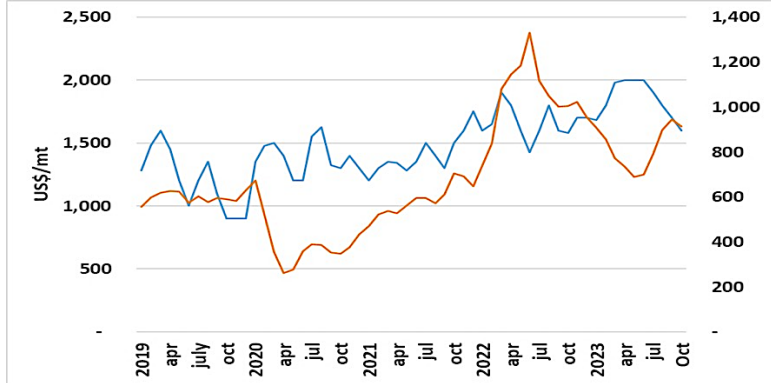
Fuel price



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

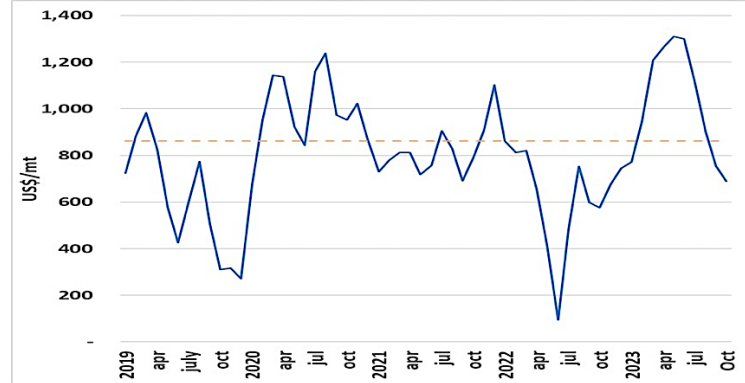
- Singapore MGO average price lowered by 3% in October to \$912/mt that follows from a 5% rise in September. Over the 2023 period, the Singapore MGO has fluctuated down from a peak of \$981/mt in mid-September to US\$780/mt as at 17<sup>th</sup> November, reflecting volatility in oil price.

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price (US\$/t)



- In October, the Singapore MGO price and SKJ price lines both were on down trends as fuel price declined 3% and BKK SKJ price lowered by 6% relative to their September levels.

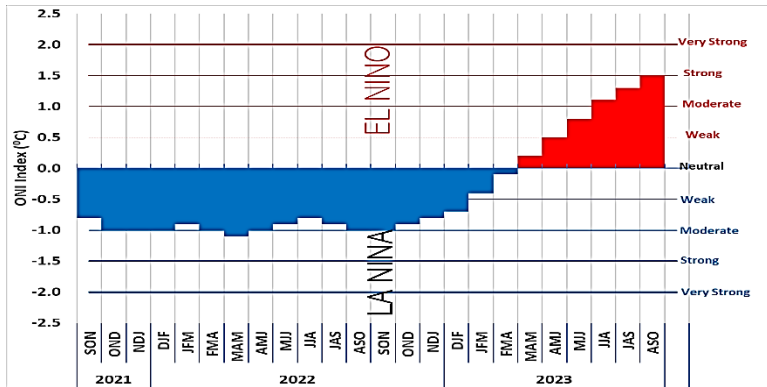
Price differential (US\$/t) (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO decreased further from US\$755 in September to \$688, at which it is below the 10-year average of \$862/mt.

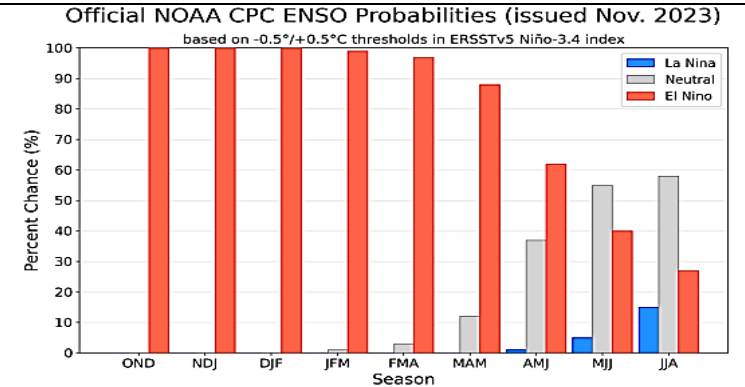
ENSO Data

NOAA ENSO Oceanic Nino Index (ONI)<sup>i</sup>



- The August-October index saw a rise of the 3-month SST mean departure of +1.5°C (strong El Niño) from long-term mean SSTs following a +1.3°C departure the previous period. More recently in the four-week period (15 Oct-11 Nov), equatorial SSTs were above average across most of the Pacific Ocean with the Western Pacific at near-to-below average.

NOAA ENSO ONI Probabilities<sup>ii</sup>



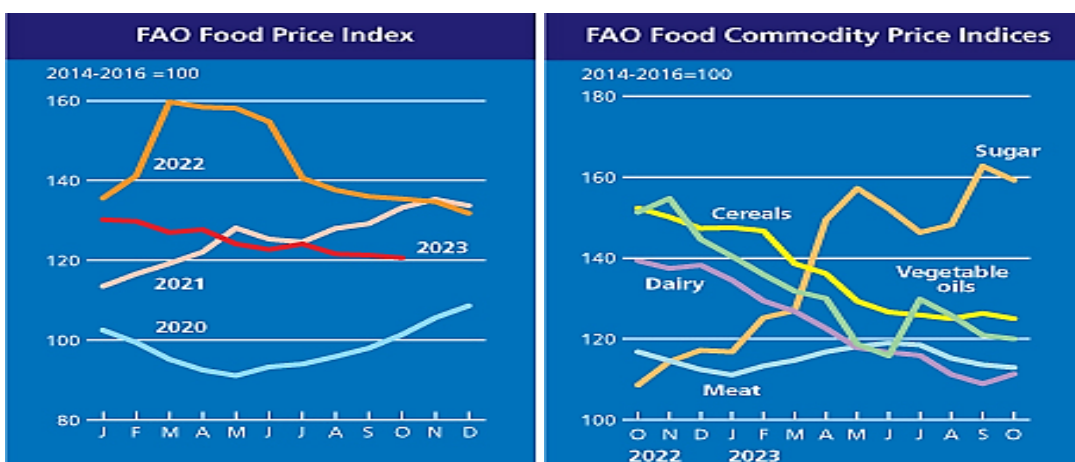
- El Niño conditions are projected over the remaining months of 2023 and into March-May 2024 but thereafter, according to NOAA, the chances of El Niño will gradually decrease to 62% with a possible return of ENSO-neutral in May-July 2024.

Other issues:

- The FBX global container freight index for a 40ft container trended down 7% to \$1,095 at the end of October from \$1,176 at the end of September when it declined 23% from \$1,526 at the end of August. As at 17<sup>th</sup> November it stood at \$1,157, 58% lower compared to a year earlier.<sup>iii</sup>



- The FAO Food Price Index, following a marginal 0.25% decline in September, continued on a downtrend with a 0.5% decline in October but 10.9% below the same month last year. The decline in October came from the declines in the price indices for sugar, cereals, vegetable oils and meat that more than outweighed the increase in the index for dairy products.<sup>iv</sup>



Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transshipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. Updates to previous monthly catch and effort data were made and some data therefore would have changed due to more information having been changed over time. Figures for October 2023 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.
- The Oceanic Nino Index (ONI) measures sea surface temperature (SST) departures from average with thresholds of +/- 0.5°C and El Nino is characterised by a positive ONI >= +0.5°C and La Nina by a negative ONI <= -0.5°C. A full-fledged El Niño or La Niña episode must exceed these thresholds for a period of at least 5 consecutive overlapping 3-month seasons (NOAA).

<sup>i</sup> [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/lanina/enso\\_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/lanina/enso\\_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> <https://fbx.freightos.com/>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>