PNA Purse Seine Monthly Update

June 2025

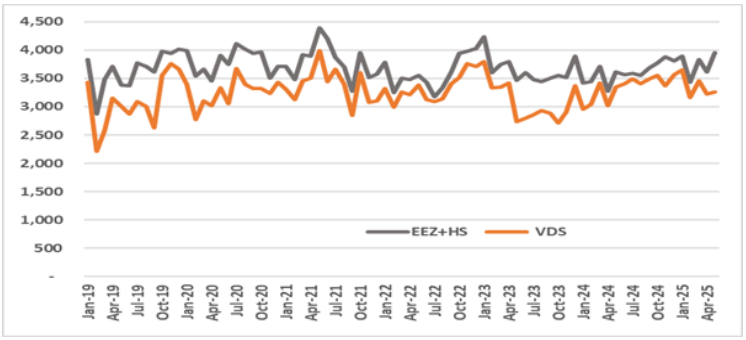
Key trends:

- Based on preliminary figures (and revised data), May saw increases in overall purse seine fishing effort, total catch, and overall catch rate. Fleet concentration remained heaviest in the east.
- Overall effort increased 9% to 3,960 days in May with highest concentration in PG and KI accounting for 60%. Overall fishing intensity in EEZs decreased slightly by 2% while intensity in HS showed a significant increase of 71%. Preliminary data in Jun showed similar concentration as in May being heaviest in PG and KI, including some shift to HS.
- The overall average daily catch rate in May was 31t with highest rates in NR and PG, at 41t and 40t, respectively. Catch rate for SKJ rose to 26t, however, early Jun data pointed to a decreased catch rate of 19t.
- The May overall catches increased by 29% to 122,490t mainly due to the low SKJ catch component. Large BET, small BET and large YFT catch rates declined, while the small YFT catch rate rose. PG, HS, and KI accounted for 78% of total catch.
- Reported total transhipped volume dropped to about 62,926t with most transhipping through PG and MH. These accounted for 75% of total.
- Bangkok SKJ prices in May as reported by Thai Union decreased to $1,480/mt while the Singapore MGO price decreased by 5% to an average $606/mt. The SKJ and MGO price differential decreased.
- ENSO-neutral is likely in the Northern Hemisphere summer 2025 and may continue into winter 2025-26, though confidence is lower (48% chance of Neutral and 41% chance of La Niña in November-January).

Overall Fishing effort (Days)

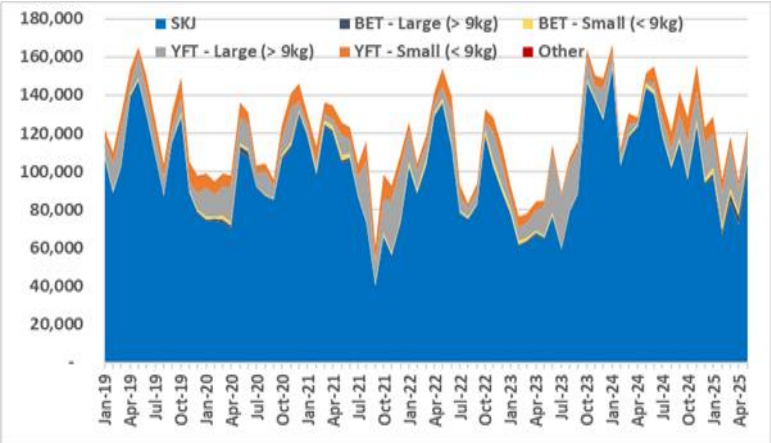
Overall Effort & Distribution of Effort (PNA EEZs+HS)

- The May overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) increased 9% to 3,960 days from Apr but 2% lower than last year. Overall fishing intensity in EEZs decreased slightly by 2% while intensity in HS showed a significant increase of 71%. May VDS usage at 3,265 was 1% higher than in Apr, -2% y-o-y, +6% y-t-d and +17% against May average since 2020.
- Effort concentration was highest in PG and KI. Effort shares increased in PG, HS, and FM. Effort shares declined for KI, NR, SB, MH, TV and TK. In the first half of Jun, effort concentrated in PG, HS, KI, and FM.



Catch (mt)

Total catch (By Species) & Distribution of catch (PNA EEZs+HS)

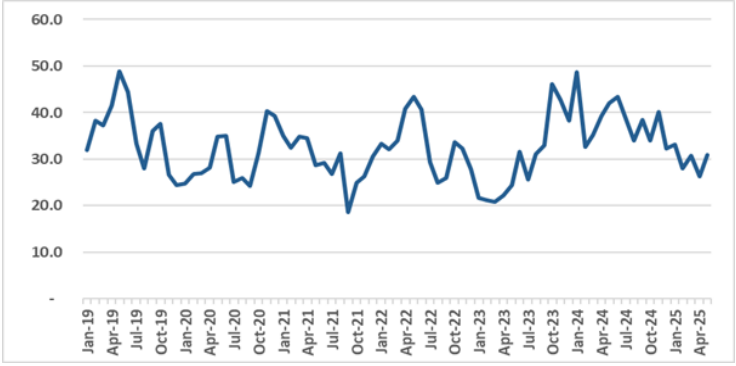


- Total catch (EEZ+HS) in May increased by 29% (95,185t in Apr) to 122,490t. SKJ increased by 41% (-14%) to 101,350t. Small YFT rose 27% to 4,283t. Large BET, small BET, and large YFT dropped, -19% to 4,137t, -26% to 1,647t, and -12% to 11,053t, respectively. The May '25 total catch was -19% y-o-y, -19% y-t-d and -6% against May average since 2020.
- Catches were highest in PG, HS, and KI. Catch shares increased for PG, HS, and FM. Catch shares declined for KI, NR, SB, MH, and TV. There were no reported catches for PW and TK.

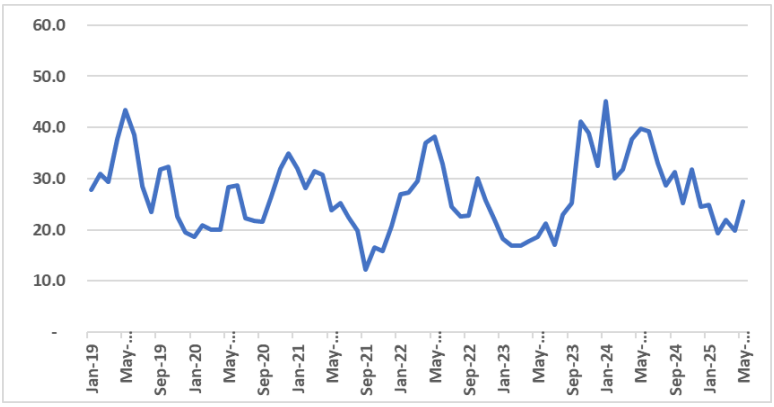
Catch rates (mt per day)

Overall Catch Rates & Catch Rates by Zone (PNA EEZs+HS)

- Overall catch rate in May rose to 31t from Apr when it increased by 18%. The May catch rate comparisons were -26% y-o-y, -25% y-t-d and -11% on May average in the last 5 years. In the first half of Jun, total daily catch averaged 22t or 29% below the May catch rate.
- The catch rates were highest in NR and PG. Improved catch rates not only occurred in NR and PG, but also in SB and FM. Catch rates declined in HS, MH, KI, and TV.

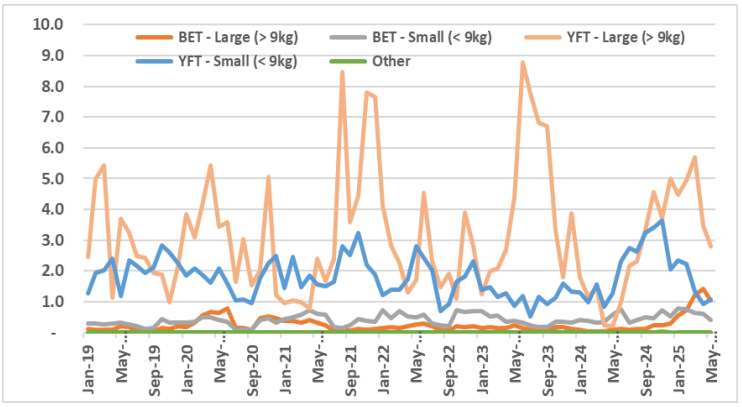


Skipjack



- SKJ catch rate in May was 26t, 29% increase compared to Apr, -36% compared to the same month last year, -39% comparing the year to date and -14% against the May average over the 2020-2025 period. SKJ catch rate for the first half of Jun at 19t is a decrease of 26% on May.

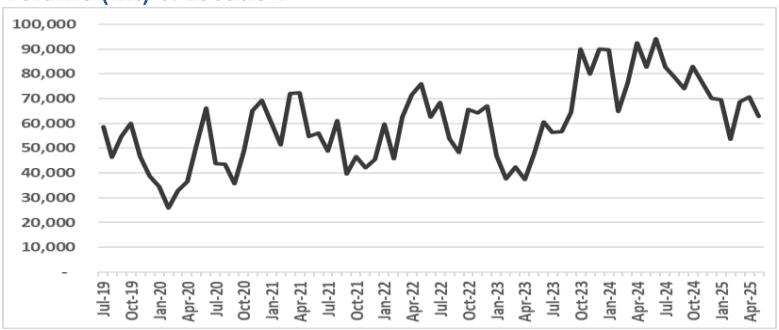
Other species



- The May catch rate for large BET, small BET and large YFT were 1t, 0.4t, and 3t, decreases of 26%, 32%, and -20%, respectively. The catch rate for small YFT was 1.1t, an increase of 16%. Early data for Jun showed decreases of 35% for large BET, 28% for small BET, 54% for large YFT, and 27% for small YFT.

Reported Transhipment

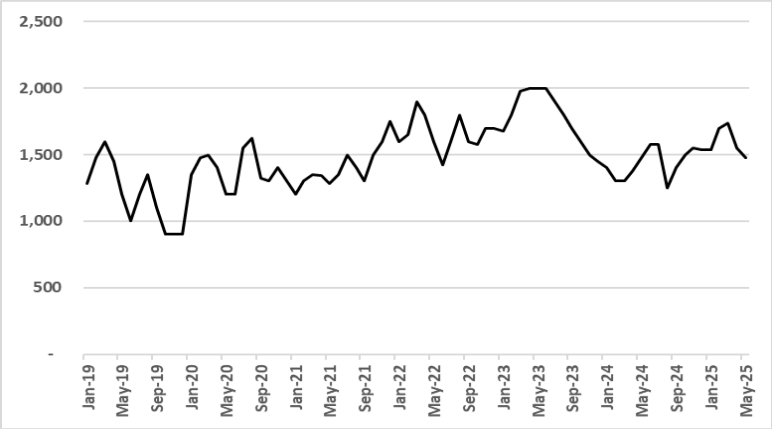
Volume (mt) & Location



- Reported transhipped volumes in PNA ports in May was 62,926t, a drop of 11% (70,701t) against Apr. A total of 98 transfers to carriers were reported, as against 107 in Apr, down 8%. Note that transhipment volumes for some vessels are not available.
- Transhipped volumes were highest in PG accounting for 49% (40% of total in Apr), and MH 26% (29%). KI accounted for 12% (22%), FM 11% (8%), and SB stayed steady at 1%. There were no reported transhipments in NR and TV for the month.

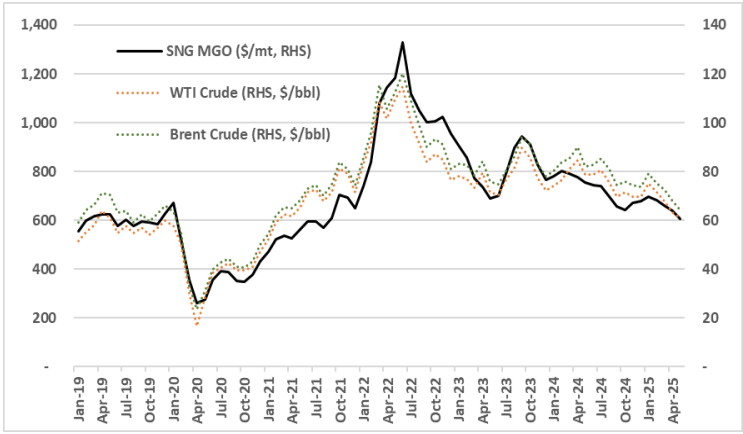
Prices

SKJ Price (US$/mt)



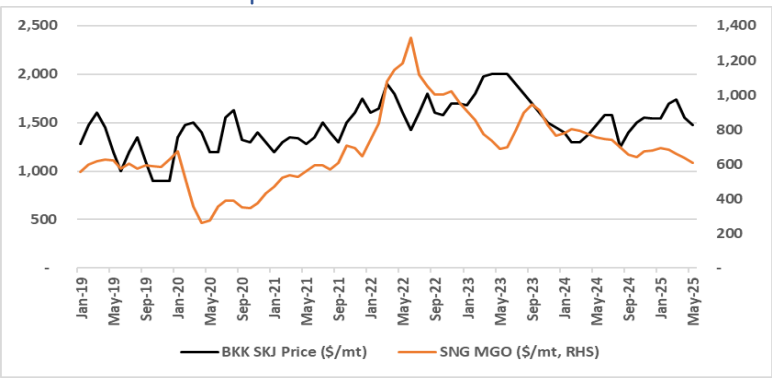
- Bangkok SKJ prices as reported by Thai Union dropped by 5% to $1,480/mt during May[i]. Reportedly, many factors are putting pressure on the skipjack price, one being the US tariff causing a low demand from Thai canners given end buyers are holding back on their orders, especially in the US market[ii].

Fuel price



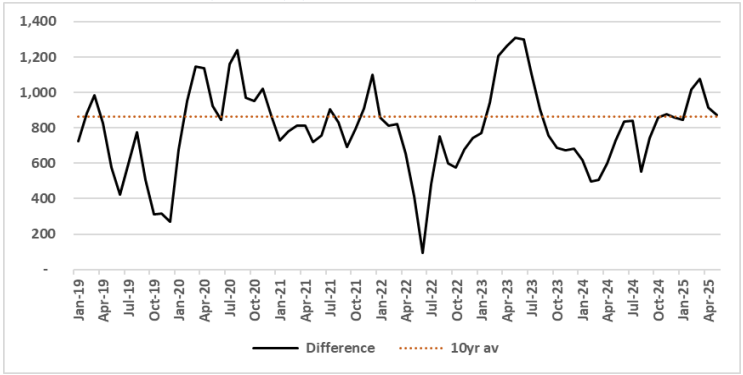
- SGP MGO[iii] average price slid, dropping 5% to $606/mt. As of 24 Jun '25, SGP MGO stood at US$663/mt, a 10% increase on May average. The WTI benchmark and Brent benchmark[iv] both decreased, by 3% and 5%, respectively. Reportedly this drop in prices from the previous month is due to demand for oil expected to stagnate in the coming months[v].

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price



- In May the SGP MGO price decreased at the same rate as the BKK SKJ price dropped. As a result, the price differential decreased slightly, with the decline in SKJ price outpacing the change in SGP MGO price.

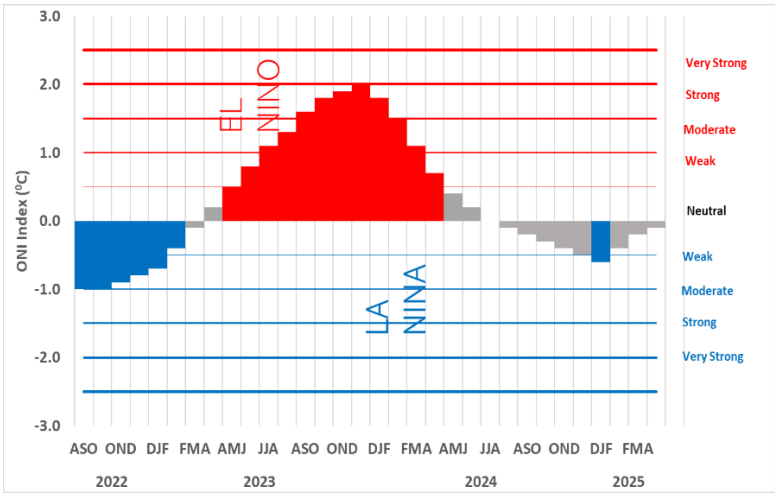
Price differential (US$/t) (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The May differential between BKK SKJ price and SGP MGO decreased to $874 from $913 in Mar, and continued to be above the long-term average of $862/t.

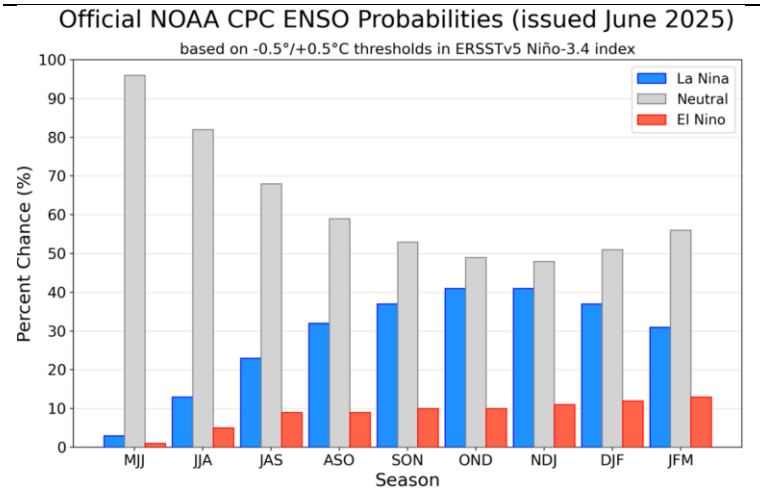
ENSO Data[vi]

NOAA ENSO Oceanic Nino Index (ONI)



- ENSO-neutral conditions persisted, with SSTs near average over most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The latest weekly Niño index values ranged from -0.1°C to +0.4°C.

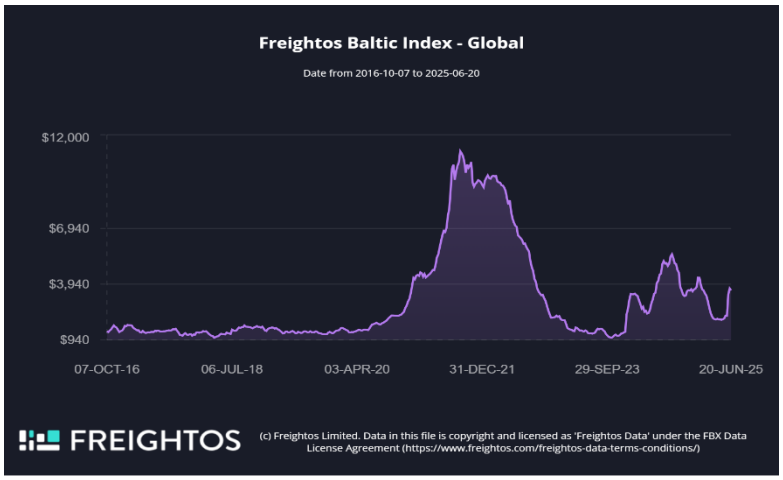
NOAA ENSO ONI Probabilities

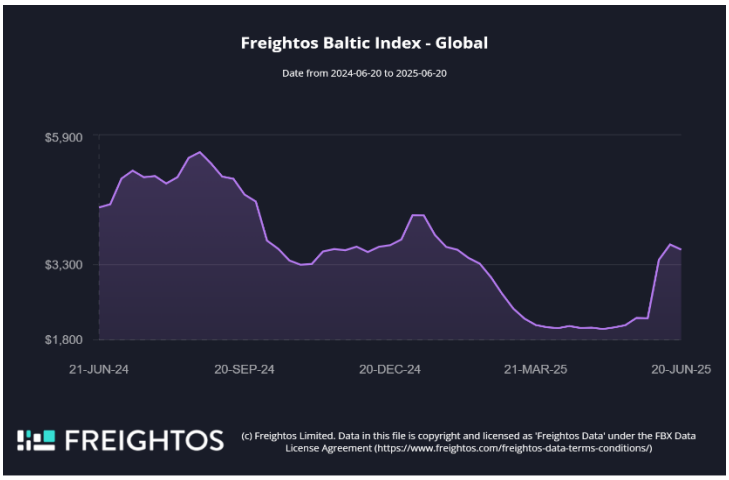


- ENSO-neutral is likely in the Northern Hemisphere summer 2025 (82% chance in June-August) and may continue into winter 2025-26, though confidence is lower (48% chance of Neutral and 41% chance of La Niña in November-January).

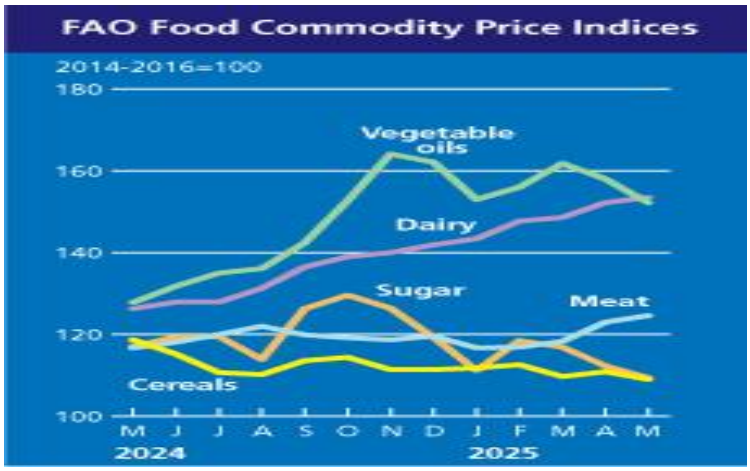
Other issues:

The FBX global container freight index for a 40ft container increased 9% to $2,231 at the end of May from $2,042 at the end of Apr when it dropped from $2,050 at end of Mar. As of 20th Jun, this has increased further by 62% to $3,603[vii]. The current FBX freight rate is 19% lower compared to a year ago.





The FAO Food Price Index* (FFPI) averaged 127.7 points in May 2025, down 1.0 points (0.8 percent) from April. While the price indices for dairy products and meat increased, they were more than offset by declines in those for cereals, sugar and vegetable oils. Overall, the FFPI was 7.2 points (6.0 percent) higher than its level last year but remained 32.6 points (20.3 percent) below its peak reached in March 2022[viii].



Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transhipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 23rd June, 2025. 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 May 2025 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 +/- 0.5ºC and El Nino is characterised by a positive ONI >= +0.5ºC and La Nina by a negative ONI <= -0.5ºC. 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).

[i] https://investor.thaiunion.com/raw_material.html
[ii] https://www.atuna.com/news/bangkok-price-softens-amid-global-trade-situation/
[iii] https://shipandbunker.com/prices/apac/sea/sg-sin-singapore#MGO
[iv] https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/commodity-markets
[v] https://www.statista.com/statistics/262861/uk-brent-crude-oil-monthly-price-development/#:~:text=In%20November%202024%2C%20the%20average,to%20this%20fall%20in%20prices
[vi] https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.pdf
[vii] https://fbx.freightos.com/
[viii] https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/