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Annual Report on WCPFC high seas transshipment reporting

WCPFC-TCC10-2014-RP03
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Paper prepared by the Secretariat

1. Article 29 (1) of WCPF Convention states as a general rule "In order to support efforts to ensure accurate reporting of catches, the members of the Commission shall encourage their fishing vessels, to the extent practicable, to conduct transshipment in port." Recognising this point, the Commission adopted CMM 2009-06, and this states that there shall be no transshipment on the high seas except where a CCM has determined, in accordance with certain the guidelines (para 37) that it is impracticable for certain vessels to operate without being able to transship on the high seas and has advised the Commission of such (para 34).

Authorisations to transship on the high seas

2. Prior to June 2014, the Secretariat was maintaining and publishing on the secure section of the WCPFC website a list of vessels based on notifications from CCMs of their determinations of impracticability in accordance with paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06.[1] In early June 2014, *Conservation and Management Measure for Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the Record of Fishing Vessels* (CMM 2013-03) came into effect. There is now a mechanism for CCMs to include as updates to their vessels details contained in the Record of Fishing Vessels, information to confirm that "YES" a CCM has made a positive determination that its vessel is "authorized to transship on the high seas", or "NO" vessel is not authorized to transship on the high seas.

3. Since 2nd June 2014, and noting that the necessary arrangements to implement the RFV SSPs were in place, the Secretariat now expects that CCMs would maintain and update their lists of positive determinations of authorisations to transship on the high seas through their usual RFV update mechanism. To this end, and as part of preparatory arrangements for implementation of the RFV SSPs, the Secretariat "pre-populated" the RFV based on its records of previously notified advice from CCMs of positive determination that its vessel is "authorized to transship on the high seas" (paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06) into the Record of Fishing Vessels database. Whilst this information is presently not accessible through the publicly searchable version of the Record of Fishing Vessels (https://www.wcpfc.int/record-

[1] The Secretariats initial classification of this information as non-public domain information took into account the TCC8 report, paragraph 340 directive to the Secretariat which said "TCC8 agreed to task the Secretariat with making available, through the secure portion of the WCPFC website, the list of vessels which CCMs have determined are authorized to tranship in high seas areas, and have been advised to the Commission."

fishing-vessel-database), it is currently available to CCMs using any one of their WCPFC-CCM logins for the secure WCPFC Intranet system (see WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels *HS Transhipment Authorised* view). Note a recommendation in WCPFC-TCC10-2014-RP05 *Annual Report for the WCPFC RFV* requests that TCC10 provide clarification to the Secretariat on whether advice from CCMs of positive determinations that its vessels are "authorized to transship on the high seas" can be made available as part of the publicly searchable version of the RFV on the public side of the website.

Review of information reported on pre-transshipment notices and declarations, with a focus on 2012, 2013 and 2014

3. WCPFC has received reporting for over 2400 transshipment events since June 2010. The spread of transshipments since the introduction of CMM 2009-06 is shown in Table 2, noting that 2010 and 2011 should be considered provisional, and may include transshipment events that occurred within EEZ areas, and is subject to change.

4. Details of the high seas transshipment reported to WCPFC for the 2012 – 2014 period is summarized in Tables 2 – 6 and Figures 1 and 3 which follow. Some points of note from the information provided related to 2012 year and first six months of 2013 include:

a. Reported high seas transshipments were sparse in the north western part of the WCPF Convention Area, and were more dense in the tropical eastern Pacific, particularly within and around the overlap area with IATTC;
b. Few high seas transshipment activities were reported to have occurred in the high seas pockets;
c. Few high seas transshipment activities were reported to have occurred in the southern part of the Convention Area;
d. Reasonable proportions of the total estimated longline catch of bigeye tuna and swordfish were reported to have been transshipped in the high seas during 2012-2014 (Table 4 and Table 6);
e. The first eight months of 2014, is comparable to the 2012 and 2013 levels of high seas transshipment events and quantities transshipped in the high seas;
f. The list of vessels CCMs have advised WCPFC of having positive determinations of impracticability in accordance with paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06 and which is now associated with the Record of Fishing Vessels, is presently not a comprehensive list that includes all vessels that are reported to be involved in high seas transshipments; and
g. Reporting by CCMs of high seas transshipment events has improved but gaps remain in WCPFC holdings of reported transshipment events.

Updates on progress towards expanding the capability of the Secretariat to cross-verify high seas transshipment activity and monitor reporting

5. *Improvements in capability to monitoring and review transshipment reporting by CCMs:* Since the TCC9 report on high seas transshipment reporting was prepared, the capabilities of the Secretariat to routinely monitor reporting by CCMs of high seas transshipments and analyze transshipment reporting for gaps and timeliness has improved. The continuing work to develop an analytical capability within the WCPFC MCS Information Management System is the primary reason for these improvements. As many CCMs who are involved in high seas transshipment activities will have seen, in July 2014 the Secretariat was able to provide detailed supporting documentation to support the Secretariats review of CMM 2009-06 high seas transshipment reporting requirements (gaps and timeliness of submissions) in draft Compliance Monitoring Report analyses. The Secretariat would like to work towards making such

information on transshipment reporting gaps available more routinely to relevant CCMs (eg quarterly report).

6. *Improving capability for VMS analysis:* In addition, during the last quarter of 2013, the WCPFC Secretariat received a copy of a "Transshipment Analysis Tool" TAT tool developed by the NOAA-OLE Honolulu Office. The TAT tool is able to analyse WCPFC VMS data, and assists WCPFC with identifying incidents when fishing vessels are in close proximity to a carrier (as an indicator of possible transshipment activity). During June 2014, two NOAA-OLE (Honolulu office) staff also generously provided assistance to WCPFC and worked with the IT Manager, VMS Manager and Compliance staff to successfully set up an interim arrangement so that the TAT tool can now be run on-demand on the WCPFC servers. The WCPFC Secretariat remains very appreciative of the support and assistance from the United States.

7. During the latter part of 2014, the WCPFC Secretariat has further work planned on IMS analytical development, which is expected to improve the possibilities for the TAT tool output to become a routine part of day-to-day MCS/Compliance monitoring by the Secretariat MCS staff. As a demonstration of the potential for this tool, an example of the preliminary comparison between high seas transshipment reporting (top) and the unverified output from the TAT tool (bottom) both for the 2013 calendar year are shown in Figure 4. This is still a very preliminary analysis and is provided as an indication of the possible future direction by WCPFC Secretariat in this area.

8. *Progress towards analyzing ROP data*: Updates on the WCPFC ROP staffs work to improve the capability of the Secretariat to monitor ROP placement and collect standardized high seas transshipment ROP data are expected to be covered in the ROP Annual Report (*WCPFC-TCC10-2014- RP02).*

9. *Potential application of E-reporting technologies:* It is expected that E-reporting initiatives are likely to offer much potential for improving the quality and timeliness of receipt of WCPFC observer collected information on high seas transshipments. The Secretariat can also see scope for transshipment advance notifications to be provided in a standardized electronic reporting format (as an alternative to the pdf and in-text emails many CCMs are currently using) - such initiatives would have the added benefit of improving the capability of the WCPFC Secretariat to be able to provide high seas advance transshipment notifications (CMM 2009-06 35 a(iii)) as part of routine MCS data requests. These could be matters of relevance to discussions under TCC10 Agenda 10.1 *Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting Initiatives*.

Administrative note

10.All general transshipment reporting inquiries and reporting submissions should be directed to the email address: Transshipment@wcpfc.int

TCC10 is invited to

i) provide its support for the continuing work by the WCPFC Secretariat to enhance and expand its IMS capabilities to cross-verify high seas transshipment activity using VMS analysis and ROP data, and to continue to strengthen its systems for monitor high seas transshipment reporting; and

ii) encourage the Secretariat to work with interested CCMs on developing electronic reporting solutions that could be used by CCMs, on a voluntary basis, to report high seas advance transshipment notifications (CMM 2009-06 35 a (iii)), and to report back to TCC11.

Table 1. Summary of current advice from CCMs of positive determinations that its vessels are "authorized to transship on the high seas" as contained in the RFV as at 11 September 2014

	Total vessels	Carrier	Longliners	Others
China	**456**	6	450	0
Japan	**632**	0	548	84
Republic of Korea	**110**	0	110	0
Panama	**2**	2	0	0
Philippines	**1**	0	1	0
Chinese Taipei	**82**	0	82	0
United States of America	**168**	0	149	19
Vanuatu	**65**	3	62	0
	1516	**11**	**1402**	**103**

Table 2. Summary of High Seas transshipments reported to the WCPFC from June 2010 – 31 Aug 2014 (Note 2010 and 2011 data should be considered provisional and some of the transshipment events in years 2010 and 2011 may have occurred in national waters.)

	June – 31 Dec 2010	2011	2012	2013	Jan – 31 Aug 2014
Number of reported transshipment events	231	687	582	596	327
Number of receiving vessels	17	23	20	19	19
Number of offloading vessels	158	288	236	295	226

Table 3. Number of reported transshipment events by reporting CCM during 2012, 2013 and during 2014 to date.

count of events by offloading vessel

Reporting CCM	2012	2013	2014
Belize	3	3	
China	187	189	120
Indonesia	20	11	3
Japan	44	58	22
Kiribati		5	
Korea (Republic of)	28	43	27
Philippines	7	4	2
Solomon Islands	1		
Chinese Taipei	184	137	90
United States of America		1	
Vanuatu	54	145	59
	528	**596**	**323**

count of events by receiving vessel

Reporting CCM	2012	2013	2014
Belize		41	16
China			9
Japan	34		
Kiribati	38	40	58
Korea (Republic of)	18	21	18
Panama	108	53	
Chinese Taipei	20		
United States of America		1	
Vanuatu	310	440	222
	528	**596**	**323**

Table 4. Summary information comparing the reported quantities of highly migratory fish stocks which were reported have been transshipped in 2013, with the 2013 provisional longline catch estimates for the WCPFC Statistical Area. [BUM = blue marlin, MLS = striped marlin, SWO = swordfish]

	ALB	BET	YFT	SKJ	BUM	MLS	SWO
Reported quantities on WCPFC high seas Transshipment Declarations (Mt)	9321	17,602	3,728	143	1,511	419	2,669
2013 provisional longline catch estimates in WCPFC Statistical Area (Mt)[2]	100,666	62,641	65,499	1,267	15,490	2,956	17,973
Reported quantities of high seas transshipments as a % of total provisional catch estimates	**9.26%**	**28.1%**	**5.7%**	**11.3%**	**9.8%**	**14.2%**	**14.8%**

Table 5. Provisional summary of reported transshipments events to WCPFC for the 2013 calendar year as at 11 Sept 2014 and may be subject to revision.

	Count of vessels in reports received		Count of reported transshipment events			
	As receiving vessels	As offloading vessels	Receiving vessel	Offloading vessel	advance notifications received CMM 09-06 35 a iii)	declarations received CMM 09-06 35 a iv)
Belize		1		3	1	1
China		104		189	113	44
Indonesia		6		11	4	4
Japan		33		58	54	50
Kiribati	2	5	67	5	30	38
Republic of Korea	1		21		21/21	21/21
		41		43	43/43	39/43
Panama	1		53		19	31
Philippines		1		4	4	4
Chinese Taipei		65		137	137	137
United States	1	1	1	1	0/1	1/1
					0/1	1/1
Vanuatu	14		452		425/452	447/452
		43		157	145/157	150/157
	18	**231**	**476**	**471**	**766**	**704**

[2] Table 3: Longline catches in WCPFC Statistical Area, by species, and Table 18: Commercial catches of billfish in the WCPFC Statistical Area by gear type and species (WCPFC-SC10-2014/ST-IP-1_rev 1)

Table 6. Reported quantities (Mt) of transshipments of highly migratory fish stocks by species and sharks combined, by month by year, based on reports to WCPFC under CMM 2009-06 para 35 a iv). Based on reports received by WCPFC Jan 2012 to Aug 2014.

YEAR: 2012

MONTH	ALB	YFT	BET	BUM	MLS	SHK	SKJ	SWO	ANY
JAN	707	339	1789	126	30	192	19	281	205
FEB	691	265	1696	35	57	71	0	276	129
MAR	373	384	2116	86	31	172	0	477	224
APR	350	277	2401	192	42	347	15	347	344
MAY	36	167	1216	14	10	9	0	268	24
JUN	62	235	1738	24	23	54	0	261	68
JUL	1471	329	1319	163	25	196	2	144	218
AUG	825	394	2030	114	47	79	6	188	174
SEP	210	139	441	22	15	10	0	53	18
OCT	190	131	578	55	5	71	0	60	166
NOV	113	321	1501	68	20	92	0	155	127
DEC	473	691	2442	10	36	50	5	229	68
Total	**5502**	**3672**	**19266**	**910**	**342**	**1345**	**46**	**2740**	**1767**

YEAR: 2013

MONTH	ALB	YFT	BET	BUM	MLS	SHK	SKJ	SWO	ANY
JAN	76	556	1720	149	23	99	2	185	174
FEB	415	349	1569	137	23	123	23	324	90
MAR	340	600	2690	121	45	71	42	324	50
APR	288	334	1519	431	41	170	0	341	356
MAY	216	453	2199	96	37	160	21	433	195
JUN	900	198	1250	139	28	83	18	169	127
JUL	1234	119	629	142	40	80	2	128	163
AUG	504	231	1130	102	36	47	3	146	89
SEP	1940	206	811	65	32	192	7	136	376
OCT	586	197	898	13	34	95	20	104	172
NOV	2043	289	1687	47	61	79	0	215	268
DEC	781	196	1500	68	18	20	4	164	167
Total	**9321**	**3728**	**17602**	**1511**	**419**	**1219**	**143**	**2669**	**2226**

YEAR: 2014 – 1 Jan – 31 Aug 2014

MONTH	ALB	YFT	BET	BUM	MLS	SHK	SKJ	SWO	ANY
JAN	1965	332	2116	77	62	376	0	420	553
FEB	29	298	1722	32	18	29	0	223	34
MAR	416	234	1068	158	11	148	9	281	190
APR	49	65	486	23	10	49	0	128	73
MAY	176	520	2020	162	43	155	0	365	261
JUN	363	309	1106	63	5	33	1	118	66
JUL	186	374	1320	187	13	92	11	161	78
AUG	1608	531	1455	86	33	90	41	145	193
Total	**4793**	**2663**	**11293**	**787**	**195**	**974**	**64**	**1840**	**1449**

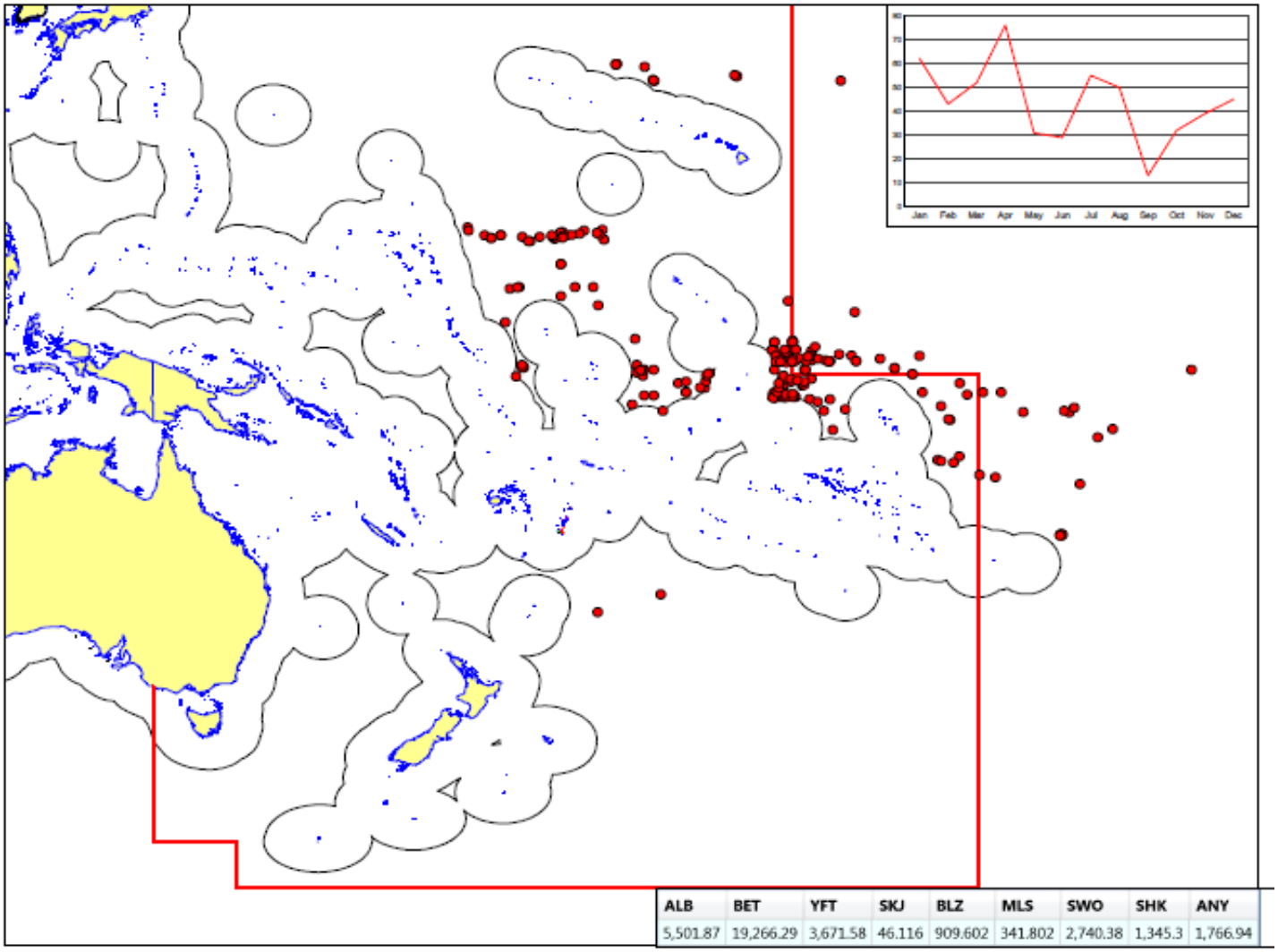

Figure 1. Map plotting positions of transshipments of highly migratory fish stocks for 2012, based on reports to WCPFC under CMM 2009-06 paragraph 35 a iv). The graph at top right shows the number of transshipments by month, and the tables at bottom right show the total annual quanitities (Mt) of highly migratory fish stocks by species or grouped. [BLZ = BUM]

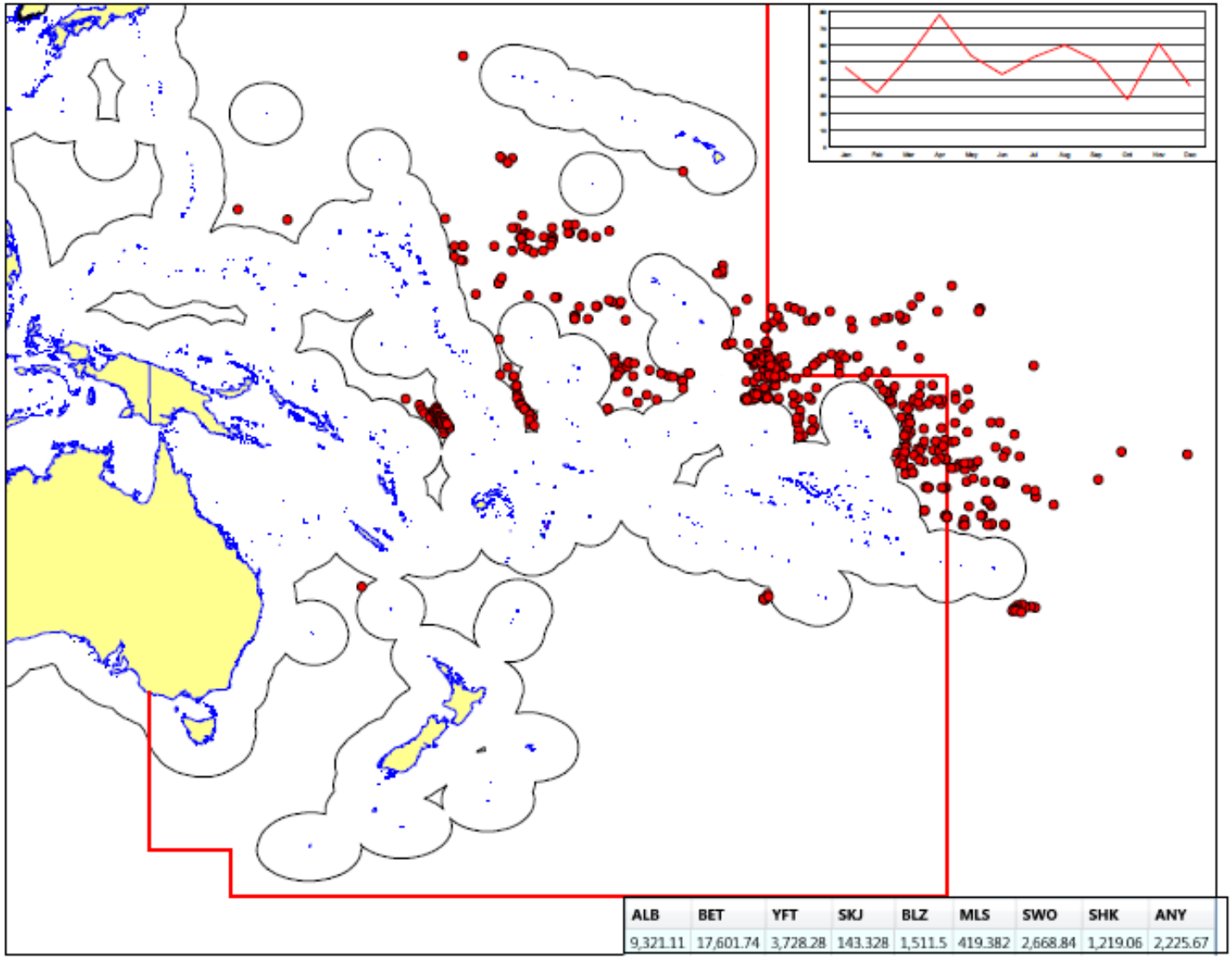

Figure 2. Map plotting positions of transshipments of highly migratory fish stocks for 2013, based on reports to WCPFC under CMM 2009-06 paragraph 35 a iv). The graph at top right shows the number of transshipments by month, and the tables at bottom right show the total annual quanitities (Mt) of highly migratory fish stocks by species or grouped. . [BLZ = BUM]

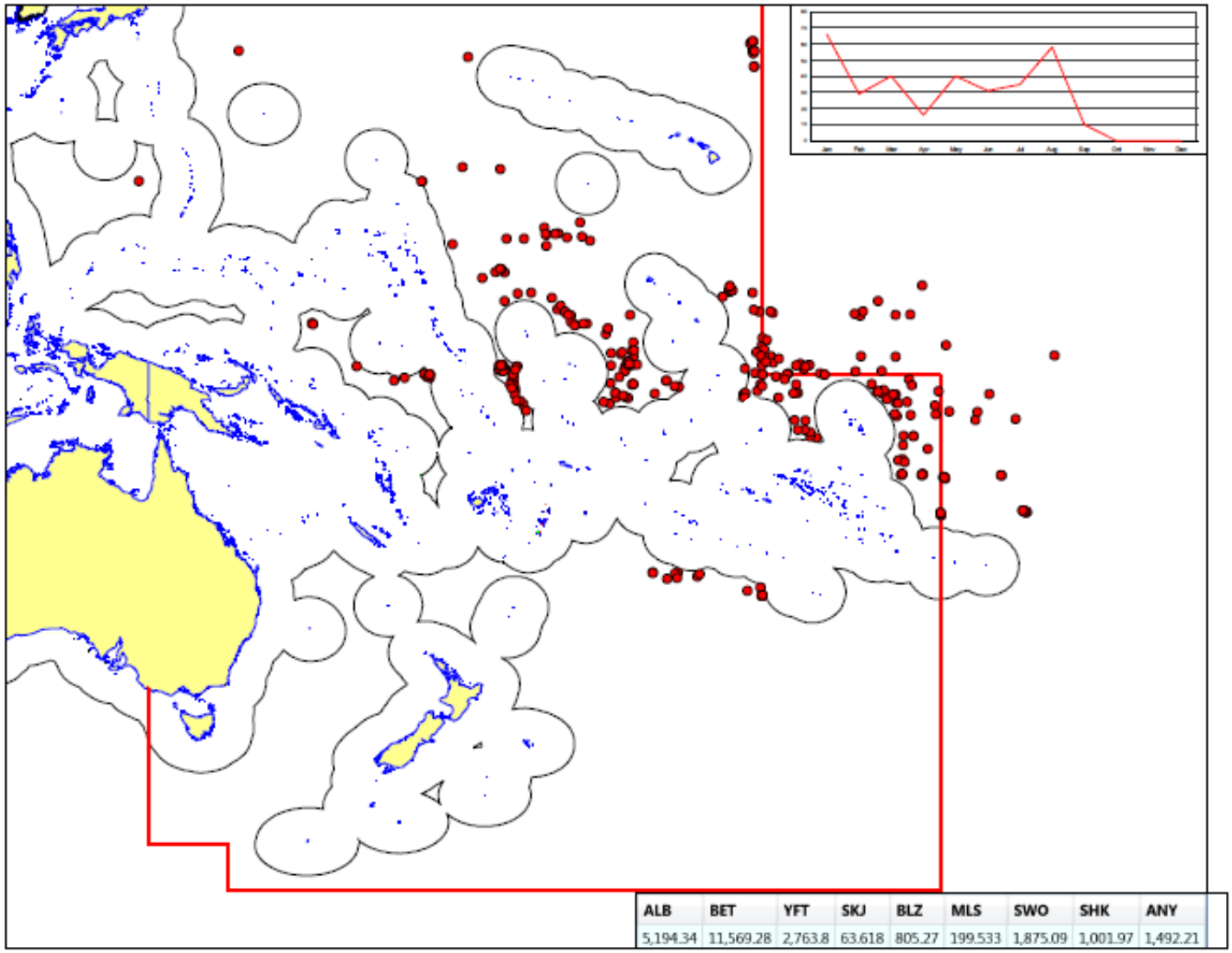

Figure 3. Map plotting positions of transshipments of highly migratory fish stocks from 1 Jan – 31 Aug 2014, based on reports to WCPFC under CMM 2009-06 paragraph 35 a iv). The graph at top right shows the number of transshipments by month, and the tables at bottom right show the total annual quanitities (Mt) of highly migratory fish stocks by species or grouped. . [BLZ = BUM]

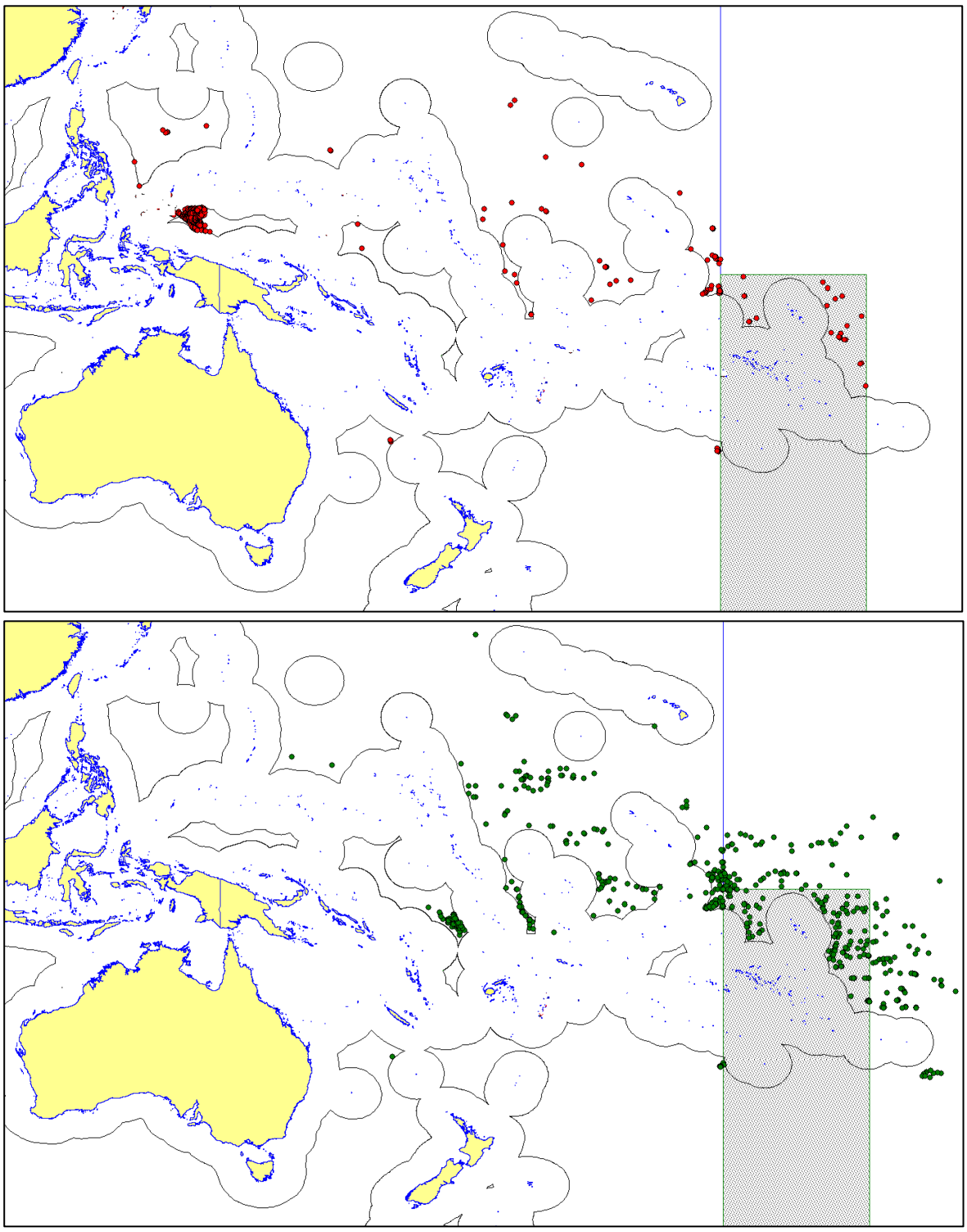

Figure 4. Plot of High Seas Transshipment Events with positions as reported by CCMs in accordance with CMM 2009-06 35 aiii) and iv) which were reported to have occurred in 2013 (top) and plot of the unverified output from the NOAA developed VMS transshipment analysis tool that examines the VMS positions of two vessel that were a maximum distance of 200m away for a time range of within 4 hours (bottom).