

## Palau

### *Employment*

The 2000 census (Office of Planning and Statistics 2000b) contains only limited fisheries-related employment information:

- 501 people were employed in “forestry and fisheries” at a time when the total number of employed people in Palau was 9,383.
- “Employed” is defined as “at work at all times during the reference week as a paid employee.”
- Persons who did subsistence work, defined as those mainly producing goods for one’s own family, were not classified as employed.

Other fishery-related employment information includes:

- Bank of Hawaii (2000b) states there were 127 “fishing workers” in Palau in 1998. The average annual wage for a fishing worker was US\$4,983, with the average for all Palau occupations being US\$7,687.
- Division of Marine Resources (1995) indicates that there were 107 full-time fishermen, 48 part-time fishermen, and 396 small-time fishermen, for a total 551 commercial fishermen.
- Division of Marine Resources (2001) reports that the number of full-time and part-time commercial fisherfolks totaled 364 in 1995 and 1998.
- Bureau of Women’s Interests (undated), citing the 1995 census, shows that of the 12,144 people in Palau, 511 were occupied full time with subsistence activities (161 of these had at least some involvement with fishing) and 510 had paid work and undertook some subsistence activities (189 of these had at least some involvement with fishing).
- PCS (1999) examined the locally-based tuna industry in Palau and noted that the employment of Palauans in the industry decreased from a peak of about 80 in 1988–1989 to a low of about 5–10 in 1997–1998. The industry also supported the equivalent of about 10 Palauan-filled government jobs.
- PCS (2000) reports that there are 200 commercial and 1,100 non commercial fishers in Palau.

### *Volumes and Values of Fish Harvests*

Preston (1990) gives the total inshore catch (including subsistence) as 1,700 mt.

PCS (2000) examined all available information on the amount of inshore catch in Palau for the years 1989 through 1998. The best estimate of fishery production was made from that information and from individuals familiar with the fishery sector. They concluded that the annual average catch for 1989 to 1998 was 2,115 mt. Given the population increase between the Preston estimate and the mid-point of the period covered by PCS, the two estimates are similar.

Other estimates of coastal fisheries production are:

- Division of Marine Resources (1994) gives the 1992 coastal catch as 750 mt subsistence and 739 mt commercial.
- Division of Marine Resources (1994) gives the 1993 coastal catch as 750 mt subsistence and 575 mt commercial.
- Maiava (1997), citing government reports, states that in 1993 there was a total of 769 tons of fish and invertebrates landings, with a dockside value of US\$2.1 million.
- Division of Marine Resources (2001) gives “commercial fish landings domestic fishery” in 2000 as “920406.899999619” [units unknown].
- Kitalong and Dalzell (1994) examine several estimates of subsistence production in Palau and conclude: “Given the uncertainty surrounding these production estimates, it is probably most realistic to suggest that the subsistence fishery production for Palau may lie somewhere between 500 and 1,100 tons per year.”

According to PCS (2000), the value of coastal commercial production is estimated to be about US\$3.00 per kg, whereas the value of subsistence production is about US\$2.00 per kg.

Division of Marine Resources (2001) gives the total landed catch of locally-based foreign fishing vessels operating offshore:

**Table A2.34: Estimated Offshore Locally-based Fisheries Production of Palau, 1995–2000**

Item	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Sashimi	1,967,462	2,219,720	1,753,323	1,647,759	2,213,910	2,206,955
Cannery	186,400	36,243	86,563	207,870	345,598	315,842
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,153,862</b>	<b>2,255,963</b>	<b>1,839,886</b>	<b>1,855,629</b>	<b>2,559,508</b>	<b>2,522,797</b>

Note: Units not specified.

Source: Division of Marine Resources (2001).

Gillett et al. (2001) use the SPC Catch and Effort Logsheet Database with adjustments to estimate the foreign-based offshore catches in the Palau zone:

**Table A2.35: Estimated Offshore Foreign-based Catches in the Palau EEZ, 1999**

Fishing Nation	mt
Kiribati	65
Japan	46
Papua New Guinea	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

EEZ = exclusive economic zone; mt = metric ton.

Source: Gillett et al. (2001).

PCS (1999) states that “the Japanese distant water fleet landed an annual average of about 120 mt from Palau during the 1993–1997 period, but only about 25 mt in 1997.”

In summary, selectively using the above information, an estimation of the total annual fisheries production in Palau in recent years is presented in Table A2.36:

**Table A2.36: Estimated Annual Fisheries Production of Palau, late 1990s**

<b>Fishing Sector</b>	<b>Volume (mt)</b>	<b>Value (US\$)</b>
Coastal Subsistence	1,250	2,500,000
Coastal Commercial	865	2,595,000
Offshore Locally-based	2,500	12,500,000
Offshore Foreign-based	124	270,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,739</b>	<b>17,865,000</b>

mt = metric ton; US\$ = United States dollar.

### *Fishery Exports and Imports*

PCS (2000) used both the records of imported canned seafood and information from a household survey to estimate fishery imports:

- (i) The import data indicated that an annual average of 610 mt of seafood products was imported over the period 1994–1997;
- (ii) The consumption data suggested that an annual average of 494 mt of seafood products was imported over the period 1989–1998.

FAO (2000a) trade data indicates that Palau imported 415 mt of fish and fishery products in 1997.

PCS (2000) studied the coastal fishery exports of Palau over the period 1989 to 1998 and concluded that an annual average of about 400 mt is exported from Palau.

The Division of Marine Resources (1994) states that 435 mt of coastal fishery products were exported in 1992. It also states that 223 mt of coastal fishery products were exported in 1993 (Division of Marine Resources 1995).

PCS (1999) cites that the average annual exports of Palau's locally-based tuna fleet from 1993 to 1997 were about 2,500 mt. The fleet exported about 1,800 mt in 1997 and probably about the same for 1998.

Office of Planning and Statistics (2000c) indicates that "offshore and reef fish" exports in 1996 were valued at US\$2,213,419.

*Access Fees*

PCS (1999) gives information on access fees paid by the foreign fleets (1993–1997 averages):

Locally-based:	US\$1,200,000
Japan:	US\$830,000
USA:	US\$260,000
Total:	US\$2,290,000

This amount probably decreased in the late 1990s due to a reduction in the locally-based foreign fleet and movement eastward of the USA fleet.

*Levels of Marine Resource Consumption*

Various estimates of annual per capita fish consumption in Palau are presented below:

- Perron et al. (1983): 141.0 kg
- Nichols (1991) quotes a 1987 report by Shimada in which the consumption for Koror only was estimated at 26.1 kg.
- Preston (1990): 84.0 kg
- Preston (2000): 85.0 kg
- PCS (2000) estimates (i) local coastal production of 2,115 mt; (ii) fishery product imports of 610 mt; (iii) fishery product exports of 400 mt; (iv) a mean resident population in Palau in the 1990s of 16,600; (e) visitors to Palau (full-time resident equivalents) of 500. This equates to annual per capita fishery product consumption of 135.0 kg.<sup>9</sup>

*Exchange Rates*

US currency is used in Palau.




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<sup>9</sup> Any consumption due to fish leakage from the locally-based tuna fleet must be added to this figure.