

# PNA Purse Seine Monthly Update

## October 2023

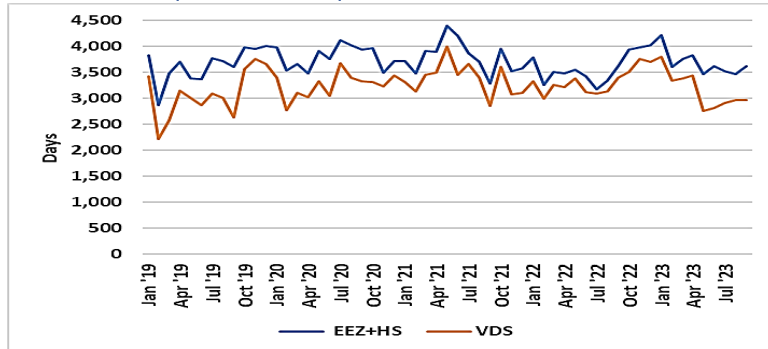


### Key trends:

- Preliminary figures indicate that overall purse seine fishing effort slightly rose in September as did fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day). Note that monthly figures get adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Total purse seine catches (EEZs+HS) increased in September by 5%. Effort and catch continued to concentrate to the east with combined KI EEZ and eastern HS accounting for 60% of total effort and 67% of total catch.
- Based on preliminary figures, overall fishing conditions were stable in September with overall catch rate at almost 30t/day. Highest catch rates were in KI and HS with rates at more than 30t.
- Reported total transhipped volume was up 5% in September as transshipment at MH and KI ports accounted for a combined 67% with almost equal shares. Note that transshipment volumes are not available for all vessels.
- Bangkok SKJ prices in September declined to \$1,700 from \$1,800/mt in August. The Singapore MGO price increased 5% to an average \$945/mt and the differential between the prices has reduced further to below the 10-year average.
- El Nino conditions prevailed in the July-September period with SSTs averaging +1.3°C relative to long-term average. El Nino conditions are forecast to persist in the remaining months of 2023 and into March 2024 with 95% chance. According to NOAA there is a possible return of ENSO-neutral conditions in May-July 2024.

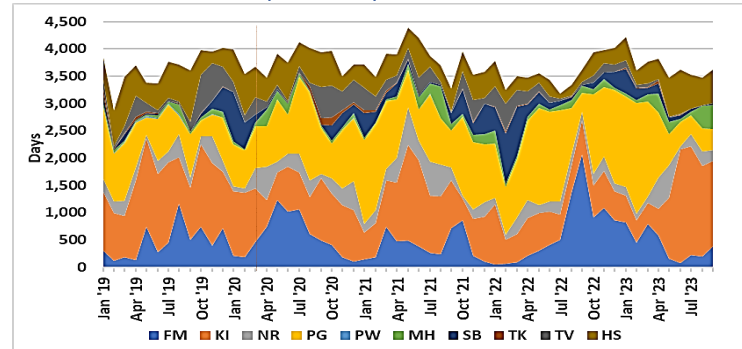
### Fishing effort

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



- Overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) in September rose 4% on August and equalled that in September '22 but 6% higher on YTD comparison. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) rose 8% during September reflecting the increases in EEZs and HS. VDS usage at 2,963 days was the same as in August but 13% lower compared to September '22. Usage in each of the months since May have been lower compared to the corresponding months last year and YTD comparison lower by 2%.

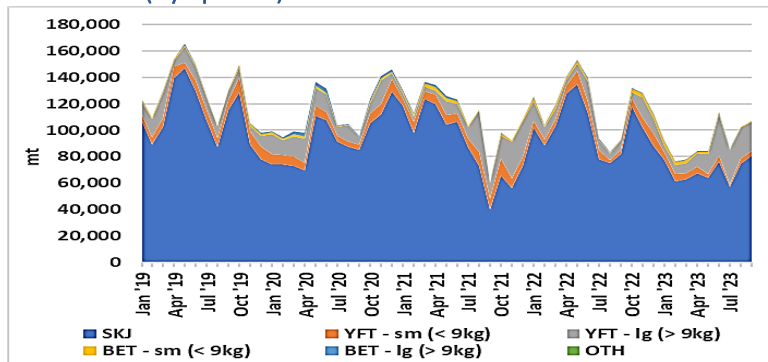
#### Distribution of effort (EEZs+HS)



- Effort concentration continued in KI EEZ accounting for 43% (48% in August) and along with eastern HS share of 17% (15%) accounted for 60% (63%) of total. The September combined efforts for FM, NR, PG and MH EEZs were 39% (37%) of total. Effort increases were reported in FM, MH, SB, TK, TV and HS with highest in SB and TV EEZs. Efforts in KI, NR and PG declined with highest decline in NR.

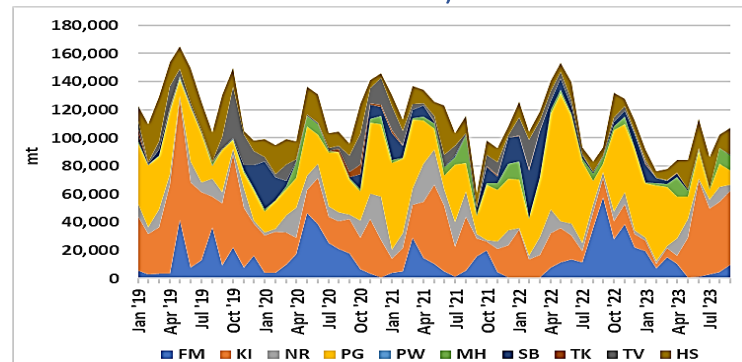
### Catch

#### Total catch (By Species)



- Total catch (EEZ+HS) increased in September by 5% (107,091t) compared to August and 15% higher than September '22. SKJ and large BET catches increased during the month, 8% and 112% respectively. The September year-to-date catch at 823,352t was 22% lower compared to the same period last year.

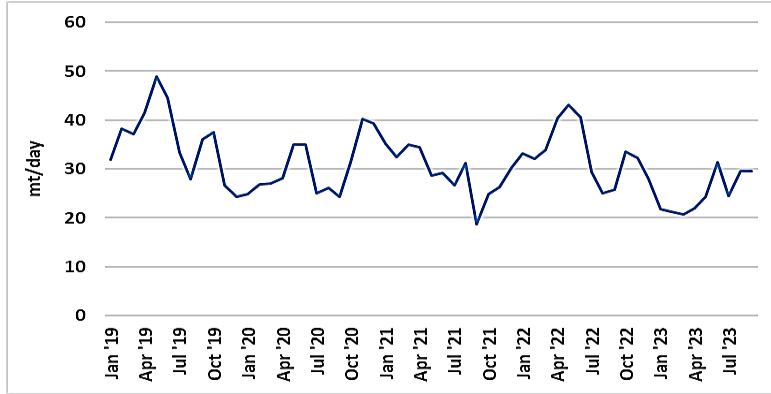
#### Distribution of catch in PNA EEZs+HS)



- Catches broadly reflected effort, with KI and HS accounting respectively for 49% and 18% of overall catch. Catch increases occurred in FM, up 108% to 9,885t, in HS 94% to 18,942t and in KI 5% to 52,480t. Catches decreased in MH, NR and PG EEZs with very little increases or no catches in PW, SB, TK and TV EEZs.

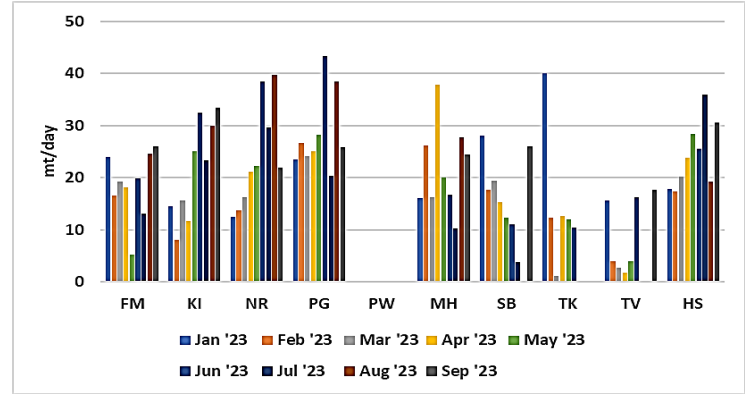
## Catch rates

### Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



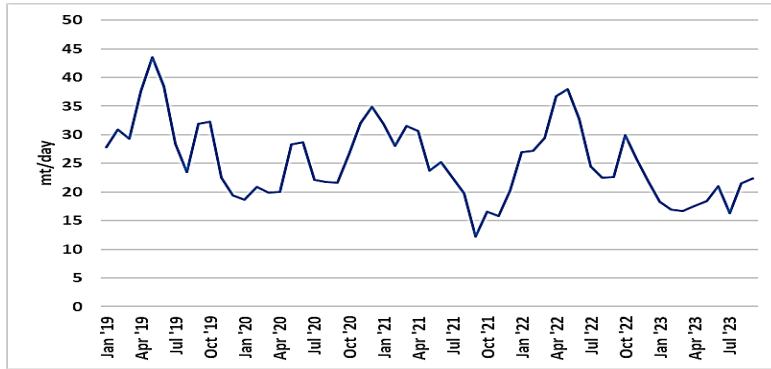
- Overall catch rate in September was 29.6t, similar to August but up 15% on September '22. It was also up 19% against the Jan-Sep '23 overall catch rate which was 26% lower against the Jan-Sep '22 average. Catch rates are adjusted as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting received.

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



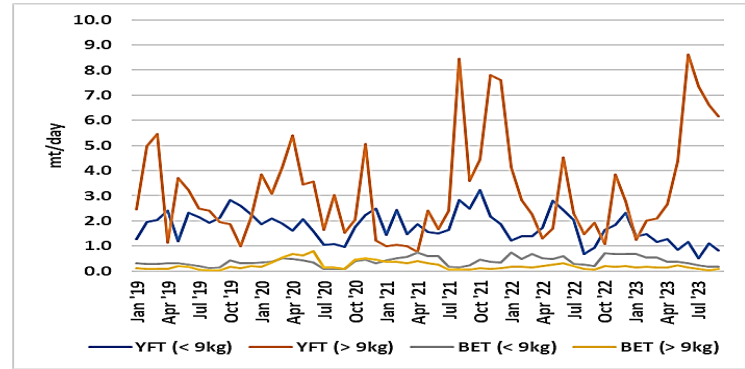
- The catch rate in September was highest in KI EEZ at 34t (12% on August) while the greatest improvement was in HS, 59% to 31t. Catch rates and trends in other EEZs were FM 26t (+5%), NR 22t (-45%), PG 26t (-33%) and MH 24t (-12%).

### Skipjack



- The September SKJ catch rate was 22.3t (4% up on August), the highest for the year and broadly compares with September last year. The Jan-Sep '23 SKJ catch rate averaged 18.8t or 35% lower against the comparable period last year.

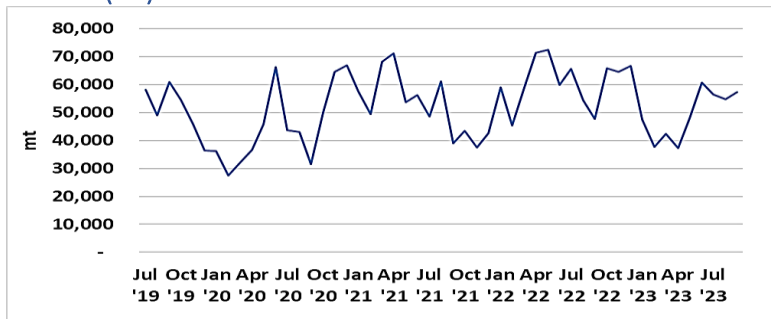
### Other species



- The catch rate for large YFT was 6.2t during September, a decline of 7% on August and 28% lower against the peak in June. It was more than three times the catch rate in September '22, however. The catch rate for large BET more than doubled while small BET and small YFT catch rates declined during the month.

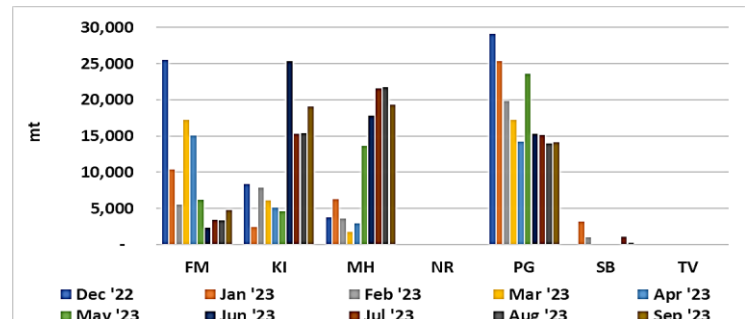
## Reported Transshipment

### Volume (mt)



- Reported transshipment volumes in PNA ports in September was 5% higher than in August (57,296t vs 54,619t). Note that transshipment volumes for some vessels are not available, so the figures reported here represent a sub-set of overall volumes.

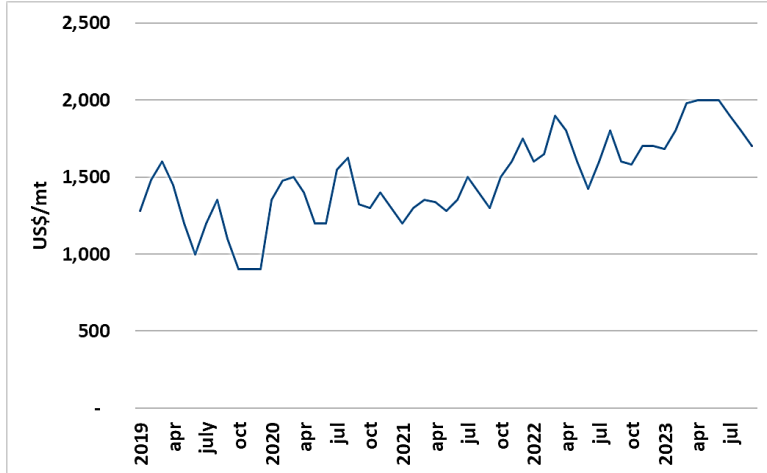
### Location



- Reported transhipped volumes during September saw MH and KI ports accounting for greatest shares of 34% (40% in August) and 33% (28%) respectively. PG accounted for 25% (26%) and FM 8% (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 \$1,700/mt (-6%) from \$1,800/mt that continued the preceding two months downtrends. Reportedly, this reflects recent improved catches in WCPO and Indian Ocean as well as pressure from processors to lower raw material costs.

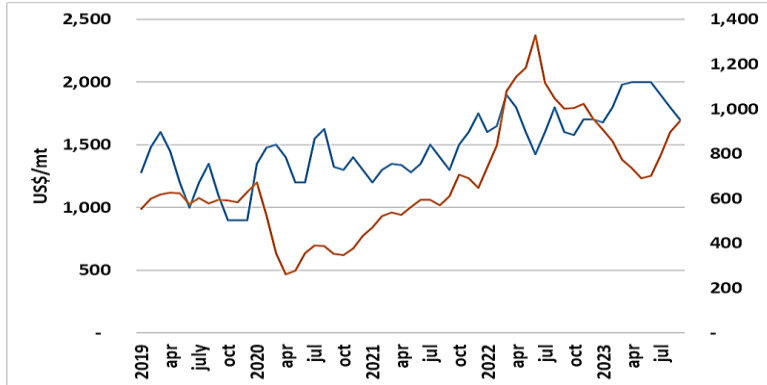
Fuel price



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

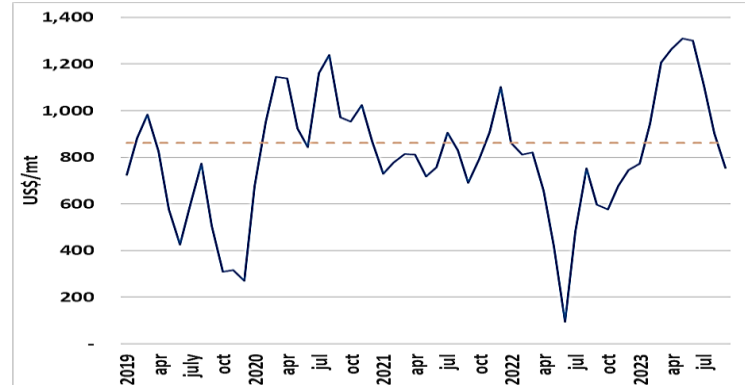
- Singapore MGO average price rose 5% in September to \$945/mt that follows from a 13% rise in August. The Singapore MGO has fluctuated down from a peak of \$981/mt in mid-September to US\$899/mt as at 20<sup>th</sup> October reflecting volatility in oil price.

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



- In September, the Singapore MGO price and SKJ price lines converged closer as fuel price rose and BKK SKJ price lowered relative to their August levels.

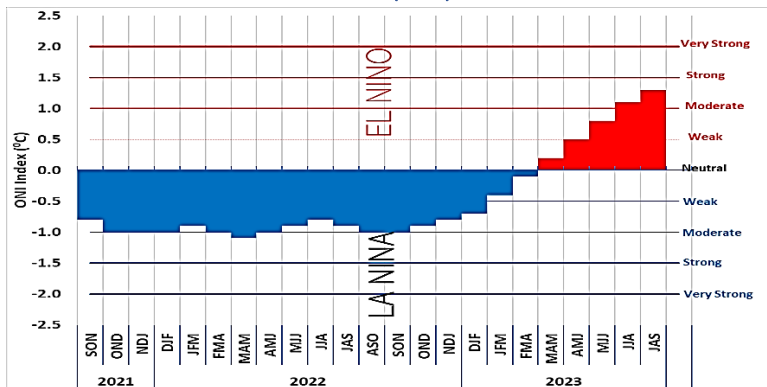
Price differential (US\$/t) (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO decreased further from \$904 in Aug to US\$755 in September, at which it is lower than the 10-year average of \$862/mt.

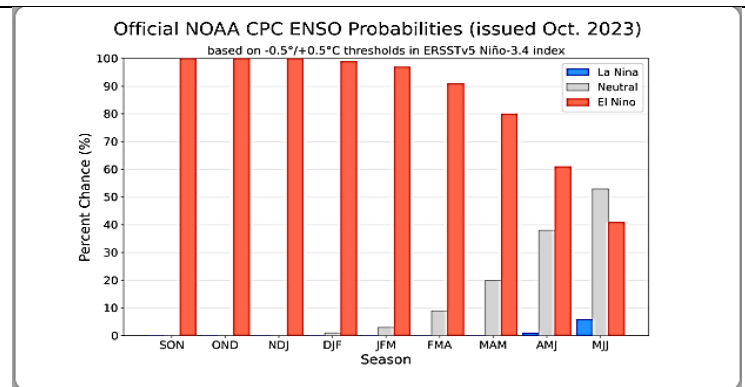
ENSO Data

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



- The July-September index saw a rise of the 3-month SST mean departure of +1.3<sup>o</sup>C from long-term mean SSTs following a +1.1<sup>o</sup>C departure the previous period. More recently in the four-week period (17 Sep-14 Oct), 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>



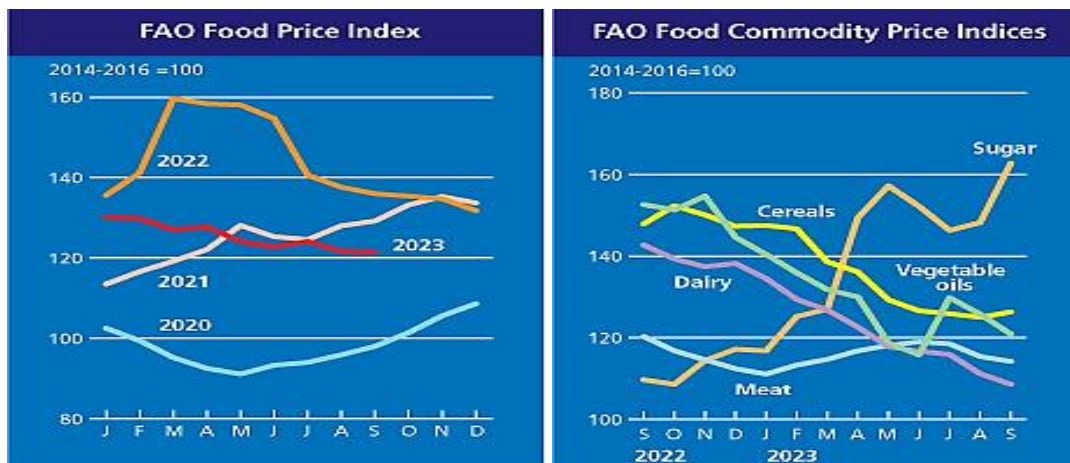
- Chances of El Niño are projected at greater than 95% over the remaining months of 2023 and into March 2024. According to NOAA, the chances of El Niño will gradually decrease with a possible return of ENSO-neutral in May-July 2024.

Other issues:

- The FBX global container freight index for a 40ft container trended down 23% to \$1,176 at the end of September from \$1,526 at end August when it rose 15% from \$1,323 at the end of July. As at 20<sup>th</sup> October it lowered further to \$1,048<sup>iii</sup>.



- The FAO Food Price Index, following a rise of 2.1% in August, steadied during the month of September at which it was 10.7% below the same month last year and 24.0% against the peak level in March of 2022. The stability in the overall index for September '23 reflected the offsetting of the declines in the indices of vegetable oils, dairy and meat by the increases in the indices for sugar and cereal price.<sup>iv</sup>



Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transhipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 16<sup>th</sup> October, 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 September 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/>