



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

WCPFC-SC6-AR/CNM-31

EL SALVADOR

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Scientific data was provided to the Commission by April 30th 2010 in accordance with the Provision of Scientific data to the Commission.

YES

1. Summary

El Salvador is a small developing coastal country that borders the Pacific Ocean. The tuna industry has become one of the country's main economic revenues and represents the livelihood of a large number of families who live directly and indirectly from it.

Our tuna purse seine fleet consists of only four vessels whose main tuna catches are made within the Eastern Pacific Ocean. These vessels are fully controlled by two effective monitoring tools: VMS (hourly messages are received) and 100% observer coverage by the IATTC program, who remains on board even when the vessel operates outside of IATTC Convention Area. In addition, we comply with regulations such as: Fishing Capacity Limits, prohibition of at sea transshipments, and also strong bycatch conservation measures regarding shark finning, dolphin protection, and sea turtles, amongst other species, as well as implementing fisheries closures in both the WCPFC and IATTC area.

El Salvador's monitoring and control system is highly effective, and our record of compliance in the IATTC and AIDCP is excellent. In the Western Pacific, our fisheries have been conducted pursuant to licensing of coastal states of the region and high seas fishing.

In relations to longliners, El Salvador has two operating vessels but these are not authorized to fish in the WCPFC. Finally, we emphasize that El Salvador is a small coastal state with interest and dependency of our communities on the tuna fishery and therefore, very respectful of the management dispositions implemented in order to promote sustainable fisheries, as a cooperating Non Member, it is our complete commitment to not only give full compliance to the measures emanating from the WCPFC but actively participate within the commission.

2. Background

The historical presence in WCPFC has been with two purse seiners. El Salvador is not a coastal WCPFC country although it is a coastal Pacific Ocean country. Our total purse seine fleet are 4 vessels who also fish under IATTC regulations.

From year 2001 to year 2004 our presence in WCPFC was an average of 25 days per vessel; a total of 50 days.

MONTEROCIO (ex-Alexandros)	El Salvador's Flag
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Year	Days of fishing per year in WCPFC
2.001	16
2.002	34
total	50

MONTELUICIA	El Salvador's Flag
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Year	days of fishing in WCPFC
2.001	12
2.002	38
2003	3
total	53

Table 1. El Salvador vessels presence in WCPFC area.

El Salvador has 4 purse seiners and two small longliners (these last are not authorized to fish in WCPFC area)

The El Salvador purse seiner fleet started its fishing activity in the Western Pacific Ocean at the beginning of year 2001. From 2004 to 2006, there was no fishing presence of El Salvador vessels in that area.

Fishing vessels operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean have 100% coverage of onboard observes, complying the International Dolphin Conservation Program (APICD) of the IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission). In addition, in 2009 we have had observers from the Kiribati Observer Program as described below.

During 2008 El Salvador' vessels presence in high seas was zero (0) days

During 2009 we had observers on board two of our vessels for one trip and also for all the duration of the FAD closure periods follows:

- Monterocío: from 19th March to 23rd April 2009
 from 9th July to 4th October 2009
- Montelucía from 10th July to 2nd October 2009

During 2010 we have had FFA observer on board the vessels– from the Kiribati Program – on 100% of the trips made in the WCPFC.

Besides, they had 100% observers’ coverage on all trips by IATTC Program.

3. Total Fishing Vessels

FOUR VESSELS: MONTELUCÍA, MONTEROCÍO, MONTELAPE AND MONTEALEGRE

VESSEL	CAPACITY M³
MONTELUCÍA	2.550
MONTEROCÍO	1.919
MONTELAPE	1.559
MONTEALEGRE	1.860

100% VMS on board (both El Salvador and FFA).

IATTC observer on board in all trips and all the vessels including WCPFC area.

4. Flag State Reporting

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of vessels	0	0	0	2	2	2



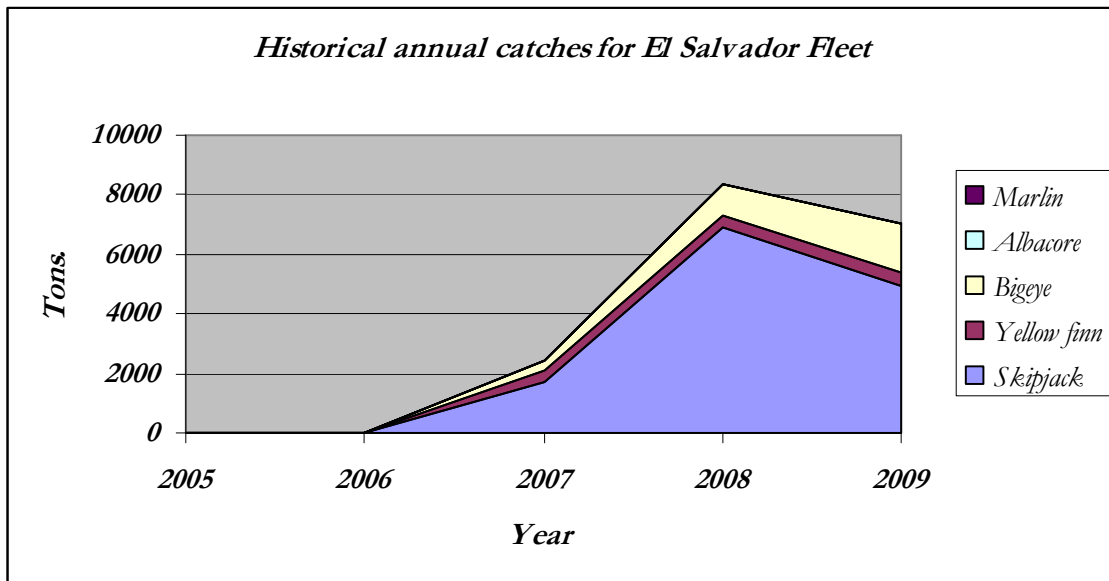
Figure 1. Historical annual number of active tuna fishing vessels in WCPFC

GEAR	PURSE SEINER				
FLEET	EL SALVADOR FLAGGED				
Size class (GRT)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0-500	0	0	0	0	0
500-1000	0	0	0	0	0
1500+	0	0	2	2	2
Total	0	0	2	2	2

Table 2. Number of active tuna fishing vessels in WCPFC Area (by gear and size class) for last 5 years (2005-2009)

GEAR	PURSE SEINER				
FLEET	EL SALVADOR FLAGGED				
Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Skipjack	0	0	1.691	6.903	4.914
Yellow finn	0	0	396	376	512
Bigeye	0	0	355	1.083	1.584
Albacore	0	0	0	0	0
Marlin	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	2.442	8.362	7.009

Table 3. Historical annual catch for the El Salvador vessels, by gear and primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area, only purse seiner, for last 5 years.



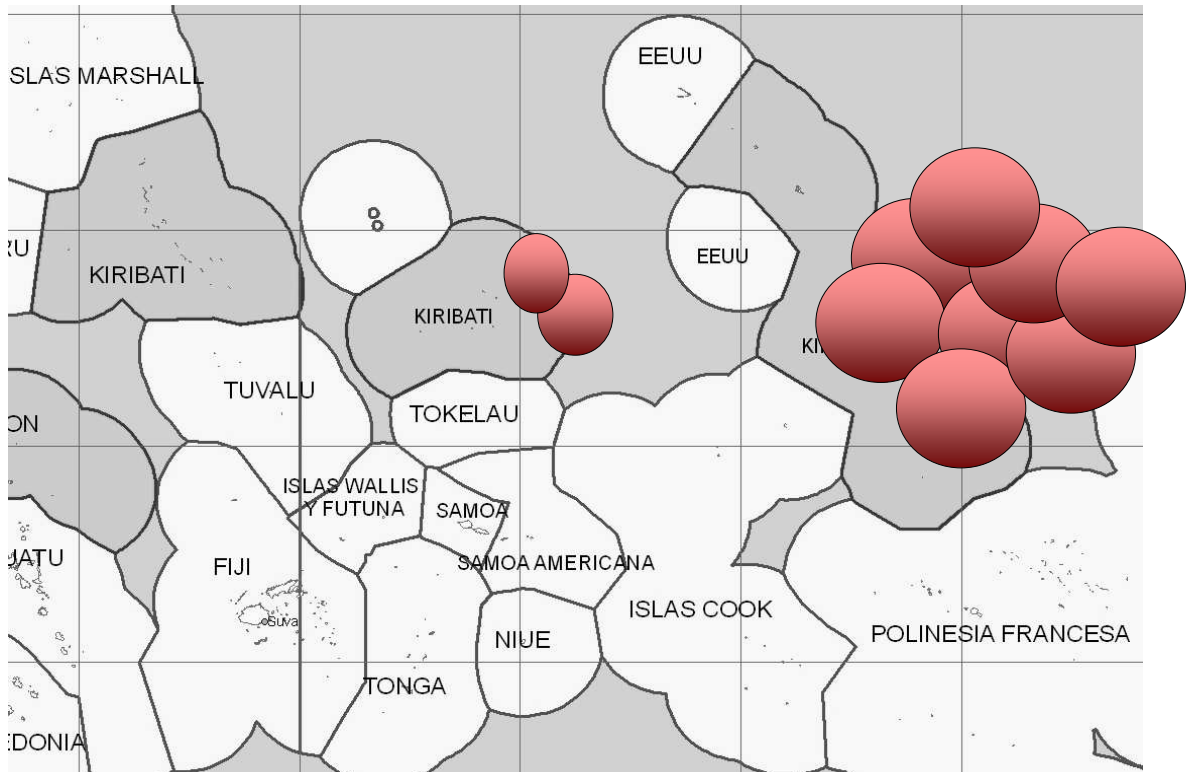


Figure 2. Usual area where sets had been placed

In 2009 the presence in high seas waters is limited to average of days in High Seas waters during the period 2001-2004 corresponding to 50 days, (25 days per vessels). In WCPFC 6 was agreed to approve CNM Status for El Salvador, with the limitation of 29 fishing days in the high seas Convention Area.

GEAR	PURSE SEINER	
	EL SALVADOR FLAGGED	
FLEET	2008	2009
High Seas	0	28
ZEE Kiribati	61	87

Table 4. Number of days in High Seas and Zee Kiribati

High Seas inspections are allowed within WCPFC area.

5. Coastal State Reporting.

El Salvador is not a coastal state of WCPFC Area.