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

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EUROPEAN UNION



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

EUROPEAN UNION
Annual Report Part I
WCPFC – Fishing season 2022

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1. PURSE SEINE FISHERY (EU ES)

1.1. Annual catch and effort by primary species in the WCPFC Convention Area.

Fishing vessels operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean normally have a 100% coverage of onboard observers, in line with the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). Although this agreement applies to vessels operating in the IATTC Convention Area, the three EU ES-flagged purse seiners operating in the Pacific Ocean have carried out their activity in both the IATTC and WCPFC Convention Areas during 2022, and observers of the APICD have covered *c.* 31% of the catch weight in the WCPFC Convention Area. Information from trips not covered by observers of the APICD is obtained from logbooks. Total catches reported by the observers and estimated from logbooks, catches to the east of 150°W and discards of the three main target species during 2022, as well as in previous years, are shown in Table I.

	2022			
	WCPFC	WCPFC east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	1443	291	2	
SKJ	11798	1042	0	300
YFT	1622	110	12	

	2021				2020			
	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	2848	327	0		1452	166	192	
SKJ	9318	1033	0	299	7953	512	132	212
YFT	1180	70	0		1016	58	10	

	2019				2018			
	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	599	23	3		1189	78	47	
SKJ	8794	139	122	167	8648	1111	55	201
YFT	541	19	1		404	24	3	

Table I- Total catches (in metric tonnes) of BET, SKJ and YFT from EU purse seiners in the WCPFC convention area, in the WCPFC-CA east of the 150°W meridian, estimated discards and number of sets during the latest 5 years.

1.2. Number of vessels by size

In 2022, 3 EU-Spain flagged purse seiners fished in the WCPFC-CA, with gross register tonnages of 1562, 2502 and 3200 GRT. Tuna are mainly caught by sets on FADs, but also on free schools. Catches are frozen onboard in salt vats. Table II summarizes the number of vessels and total gross register tonnages from the beginning of the fishery in the WCPFC-CA.

Year	GRT	No. vessels
1996	1351	1
1997	1351	1
1998	4419	3
1999	8176	4
2000	6887	4
2001	9172	4
2002	9172	4
2003	10678	5
2004	6532	3
2005	6532	3
2006	6532	3
2007	9732	4
2008	9732	4
2009	9732	4
2010	9732	4
2011	9732	4
2012	9732	4
2013	9732	4
2014	9732	4
2015	9732	4
2016	4064	2
2017	4064	2
2018	4064	2
2019	4064	2
2020	4064	2
2021	7264	3
2022	7264	3

Table II- Number of EU purse seiners and total gross register tonnage in the WCPFC-CA by year.

1.3. Fishing patterns

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the catches ($5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$) of EU purse seiners in the WCPFC-CA during 2022 and the five previous years. Figure 2 shows the distribution of effort ($5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$) of EU purse seiners in the WCPFC-CA during 2022 and the five previous years. There has been a slight displacement to the west during 2022, possibly caused by the prevailing la Niña conditions.

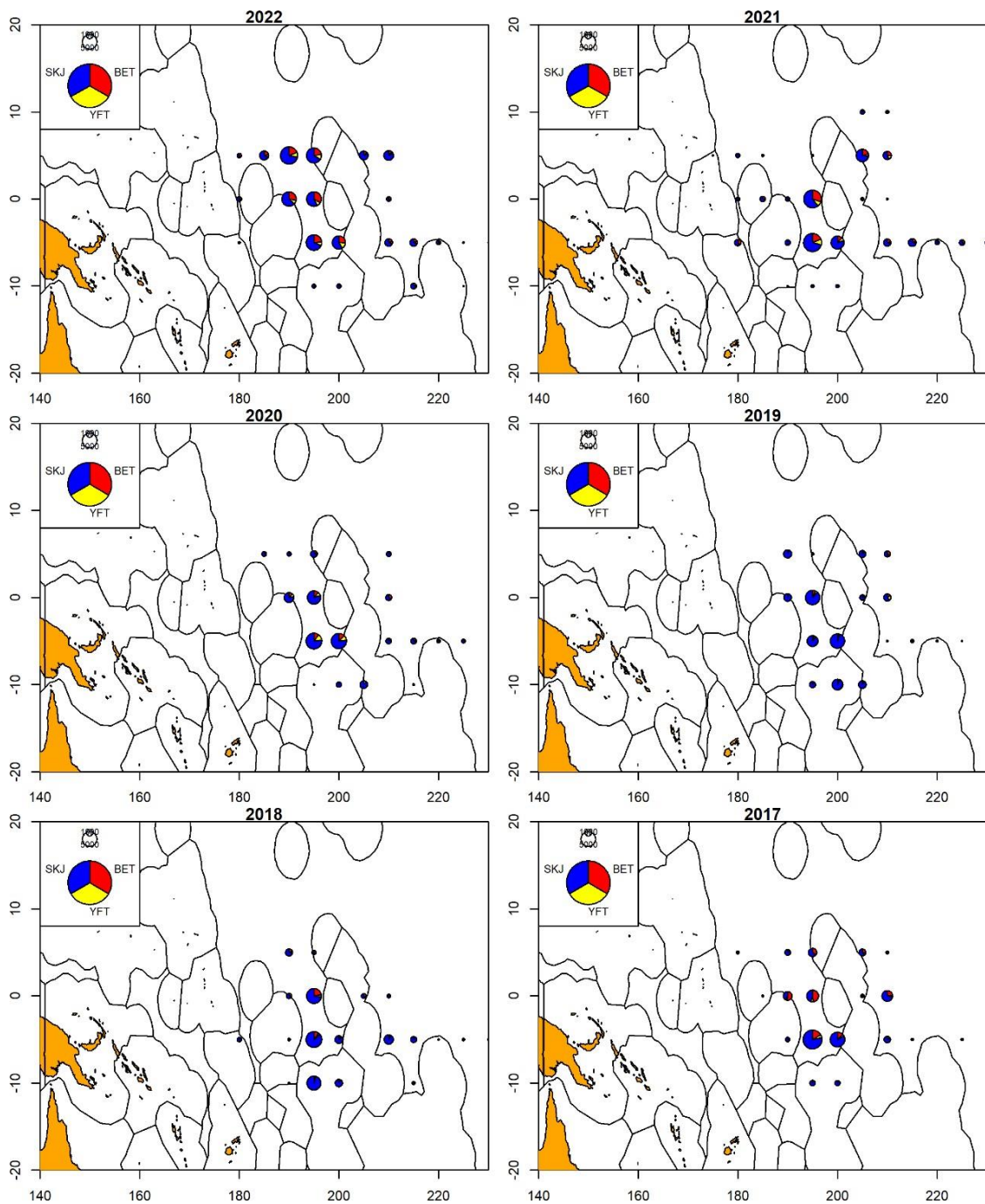


Fig. 1- Distribution of catches by area ($5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$) and species in 2017-2022.

1.4. Estimated total catches of non-target, associated and dependent species.

Tables III and IV summarize the purse seine bycatch by species in the WCPFC-CA in 2022 and 2021, respectively. In most cases, the observers only record the number of fish of each species per set. The total weight has been estimated by multiplying the number of fish in each size category (small, medium, large) by an average weight for the purse seine fishery provided by the IATTC (N. Vogel, pers. comm.).

In 2022, 6 species/groups accounted for more than 90% of the estimated bycatch, in terms of weight: *Carcharhinus falciformis* (c. 68%), *Makaira nigricans*, *Coryphaena hippurus*, *C. equiselis*, *Acantocybium solandri* and *Elagatis bipinnulata*. Around 89% of the *Carcharhinus falciformis*, the main bycatch species of the purse seine fleet, as well as the 25 specimens of *C. longimanus* observed in 2022 were estimated to be released alive.

There is a mandatory Spanish protocol for releasing marine turtles caught by purse seine alive. All turtles involved in fishing operations must be released in the best conditions as soon as possible. In 2022 all the turtles (n=7) involved in the fishing sets were released unharmed in the WCPFC-CA.

1.5. Research and Statistics

c. 31 % of the catch in the WCPFC-CA, including bycatch, was monitored by IATTC and national program observers of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) in 2022. The coverage, after the pandemic situation, is progressively returning to previous levels.

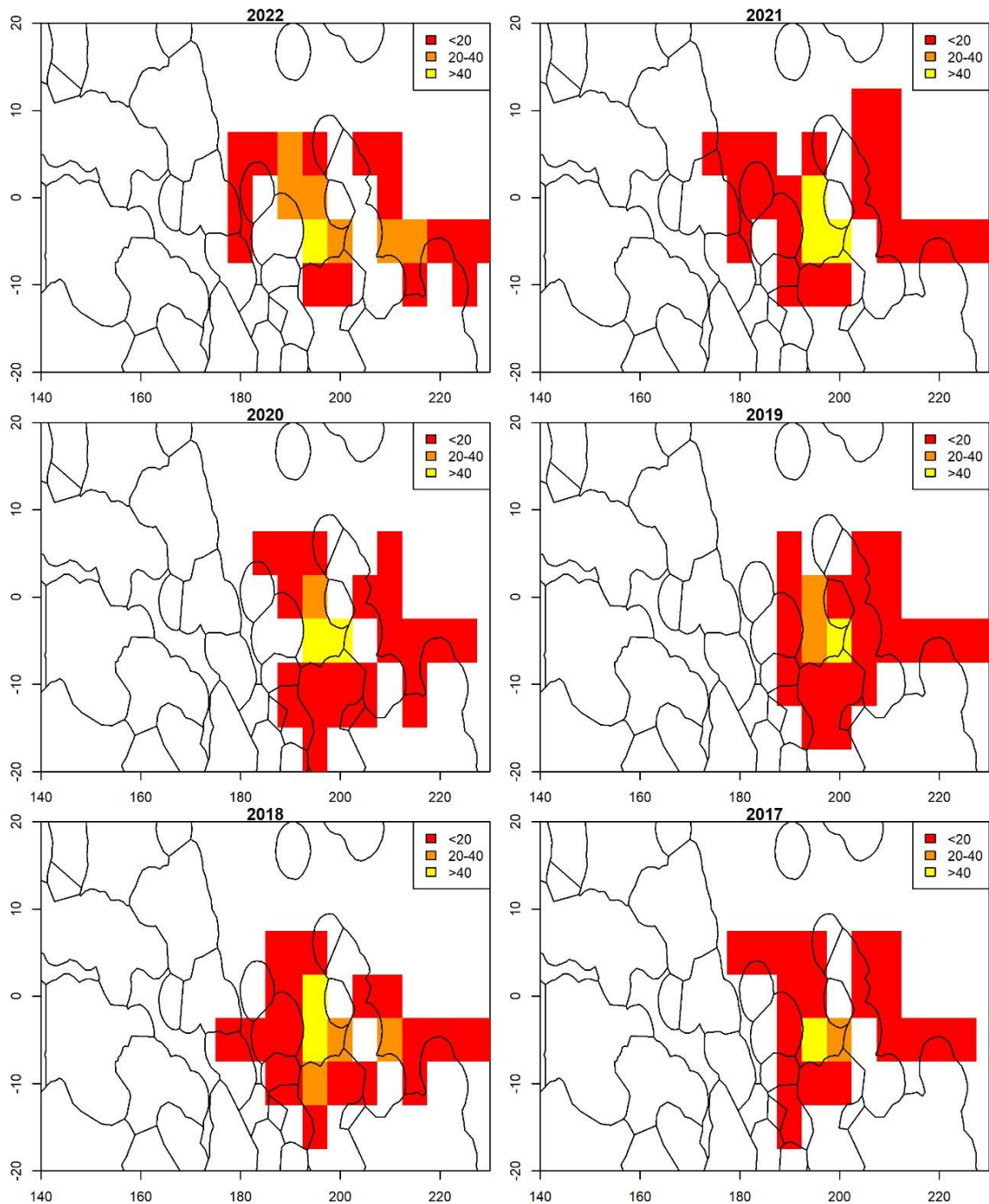


Fig. 2.- Distribution of the purse seine effort, in fishing days, by area (5°x5°) and year.

	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH	<i>Makaira indica</i>	0.99	0.10
	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	5.93	0.28
	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	0.02	0.02
SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	52.97	7.23
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.04	0.04
	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	2.02	0.42
	<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	0.13	0.13
	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	0.24	0.00
	<i>Mobula spp.</i>	0.08	0.08
	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	0.02	0.00
OTHER FISH	<i>Ablennes hians</i>	0.01	<0.01
	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	2.74	0.19
	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Caranx spp.</i>	0.00	<0.01
	<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	3.26	0.03
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	4.20	1.50
	<i>Coryphaenidae</i>	0.09	0.09
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	2.56	0.38
	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.24	0.10
	<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	0.01	<0.01
	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	0.01	<0.01
	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>	0.12	0.01
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	1.57	0.12
	<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.10	0.06
	<i>Kyphosus analogus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>	0.01	<0.01
	<i>Kyphosus spp.</i>	0.02	<0.01
<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	0.01	<0.01	
<i>Remora remora</i>	<0.01	0.00	
<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.01	<0.01	

Table III.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2022. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (c. 31% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA).

	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	6.98	0.11
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	1.35	0.00
SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	25.35	4.89
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.03	0.03
	<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	0.03	0.03
	<i>Mobulidae</i>	0.08	0.08
OTHER FISH	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	0.16	0.00
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	5.83	3.13
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Sphyrna barracuda</i>	<0.01	<0.01

Table IV.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2022. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (c. 9% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA).

2. LONG LINE FISHERY (EU ES)

The EU Spanish long line fleet is composed by 7 long liners. The activity of the fleet commenced in 2004, and it has been targeting swordfish since then. The data hereby included have been obtained from mandatory electronic logbooks for 2022 activity. All EU Spanish flagged longliners process the swordfish on board in dressed weight (eliminating the head, viscera and fins) and keep it frozen.

2.1. Annual catch and effort by primary species and gear in the WCPFC Convention Area

ZONA FAO Y BUQUE	SWO
71	7.728,27
CARMEN TERE	234,97
GLACIAL	7.493,30
77	63.574,56
CARMEN TERE	13.761,68
GLACIAL	5.269,26
ILLA GAVEIRA	34.973,59
PLAYA ZAHARA	426,78
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	1.186,36
VIKING BAY	1.281,43
YANQUE	6.675,46
81	1.880.410,48
CARMEN TERE	278.073,02
GLACIAL	305.272,93
ILLA GAVEIRA	224.868,25
PLAYA ZAHARA	244.646,74
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	272.533,24
VIKING BAY	248.239,40
YANQUE	306.776,90
Total general	1.951.713,31

Table V. Total estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (kg)

It has to be noted that the catches included the total amount as result of the activity of these vessels in the WCPFC area, overlapping area is not considered in these figures.

2.2. Number of vessels by gear and size (fleet characteristic)

Gear	LONGLINE
Fleet	EU SPAIN
Size class (GRT)	
0-50	0
50-200	0
201-500	7
500+	0

2.3. Fishing patterns

Spanish longline vessels in the Western and Central Pacific operate in the temperate area south of 20° south and the mostly work around of 30° south. The port of Auckland (New Zealand) is the main hub for landings and supply activities, but landings also take place in Papeete (French Polynesia) and Suva (Fiji). Long distances toward south are usually covered before starting fishing activities.

The vessels carry on lengthy trips lasting for 2 to 3 months. The main catches are swordfish and blue shark. They do not catch tropical sensitive shark species such as oceanic whitetip shark, silky shark or whale shark. They displayed an average of 1.218 hooks per vessel in 2022. They usually deploy wire leaders, since bycatches of blue shark and shortfin mako are significant for this fleet.

2.4. Estimated total catches of non-target, associated and dependent species

It has to be noted that the catches included the total amount as result of the activity of these vessels in the WCPFC area, overlapping area is not considered in these figures.

ZONA FAO Y BUQUE			
	ALB	MLS	PBF
71		345,58	0,00
CARMEN TERE			
GLACIAL		345,58	
77	71,10	5.194,34	0,00
CARMEN TERE	71,10	441,95	
GLACIAL		1.154,65	
ILLA GAVEIRA		979,31	
PLAYA ZAHARA			
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS		114,40	
VIKING BAY		469,15	
YANQUE		2.034,88	
81	21.368,08	127.824,98	0,00
CARMEN TERE	2.791,06	15.066,96	
GLACIAL		31.777,06	
ILLA GAVEIRA		8.034,88	
PLAYA ZAHARA	3.713,67		
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	4.809,45	9.609,66	
VIKING BAY	10.053,90	37.072,27	
YANQUE		26.264,15	
Total general	21.439,18	133.364,90	0,00

Table VI. Total estimated catches non target species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (kg).

ZONA FAO Y BUQUE				
	BET	BLM	BUM	YFT
71				62,52
GLACIAL				62,52
77	1.163,65	1.193,07	1.223,98	1.200,75
CARMEN TERE	806,03	228,93	1.123,04	881,02
GLACIAL				119,65
ILLA GAVEIRA	176,42	730,61		43,54
PLAYA ZAHARA		67,13	100,94	
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	68,90	166,40		123,50
VIKING BAY	112,30			
YANQUE				33,04
81	110.776,74	27.729,18	28.581,91	41.133,07
CARMEN TERE	21.375,51	3.079,03	10.138,80	10.844,51
GLACIAL				6.473,99
ILLA GAVEIRA	1.068,59	4.201,59		386,03
PLAYA ZAHARA	16.039,23	18.392,39	13.495,31	9.607,34
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	15.507,84	2.056,17	4.947,80	11.442,45
VIKING BAY	54.435,93			
YANQUE	2.349,64			2.378,75
Total general	111.940,39	28.922,25	29.805,89	42.396,34

Table VII. Tropical tuna and related species estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (kg)

ZONA FAO Y BUQUE	BSH	LMA	SMA	OCS	POR	FAL	THR/ALV	RHN	SPN/SPY	Total general
71	31.253,55	0,00	696,18	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	31.949,73
CARMEN TERE	3.332,17		250,98							3.583,15
GLACIAL	27.921,38		445,20							28.366,58
77	94.835,27	0,00	538,43	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	95.373,70
CARMEN TERE	5.665,34									5.665,34
GLACIAL	2.866,15		31,47							2.897,62
ILLA GAVEIRA	12.220,53									12.220,53
PLAYA ZAHARA	1.523,11									1.523,11
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	58.384,00									58.384,00
VIKING BAY	3.693,68									3.693,68
YANQUE	10.482,46		506,96							10.989,42
81	5.109.829,47	0,00	308.381,93	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	5.418.211,40
CARMEN TERE	716.219,90		33.079,17							749.299,07
GLACIAL	1.026.666,57		40.385,13							1.067.051,70
ILLA GAVEIRA	421.233,81		101.663,10							522.896,91
PLAYA ZAHARA	620.637,91		35.955,34							656.593,25
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	539.715,65		31.855,95							571.571,60
VIKING BAY	708.070,20		32.382,45							740.452,65
YANQUE	1.077.285,43		33.060,79							1.110.346,22
Total general	5.235.918,29	0,00	309.616,54	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	5.545.534,83

Table VIII. sharks and related species estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (kg)