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

WCPFC-SC20-AR/CCM-05

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 2023

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WCPFC ANNUAL REPORT PART I

YEAR 2023, PURSE SEINE AND LONG LINE FISHERIES



1.- PURSE SEINE

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-flagged purse seiners operating in the Pacific Ocean have carried out their activity in both the IATTC and WCPFC Convention Areas during 2023, and observers of the APICD have covered c. 83% 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 2023, as well as in previous years, are shown in Table I.

	2023			
	WCPFC	WCPFC east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	2323	678	7	
SKJ	18294	4791	215	375
YFT	2451	448	15	

	2022				2021			
	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	1443	291	2		2848	327	0	
SKJ	11798	1042	0	300	9318	1033	0	299
YFT	1622	110	12		1180	70	0	

	2020				2019			
	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	1452	166	192		599	23	3	
SKJ	7953	512	132	212	8794	139	122	167
YFT	1016	58	10		541	19	1	

Table I- Total catches (in metric tons) 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 2023, 4 EU-Spain flagged purse seiners fished in the WCPFC-CA, with gross register tonnages of 1562, 2502, 3200 and 1829 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
2023	9093	4

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° x 5°) of EU purse seiners in the WCPFC-CA during 2023 and the five previous years. Figure 2 shows the distribution of effort (5° x 5°) of EU purse seiners in the WCPFC-CA during 2023 and the five previous years.

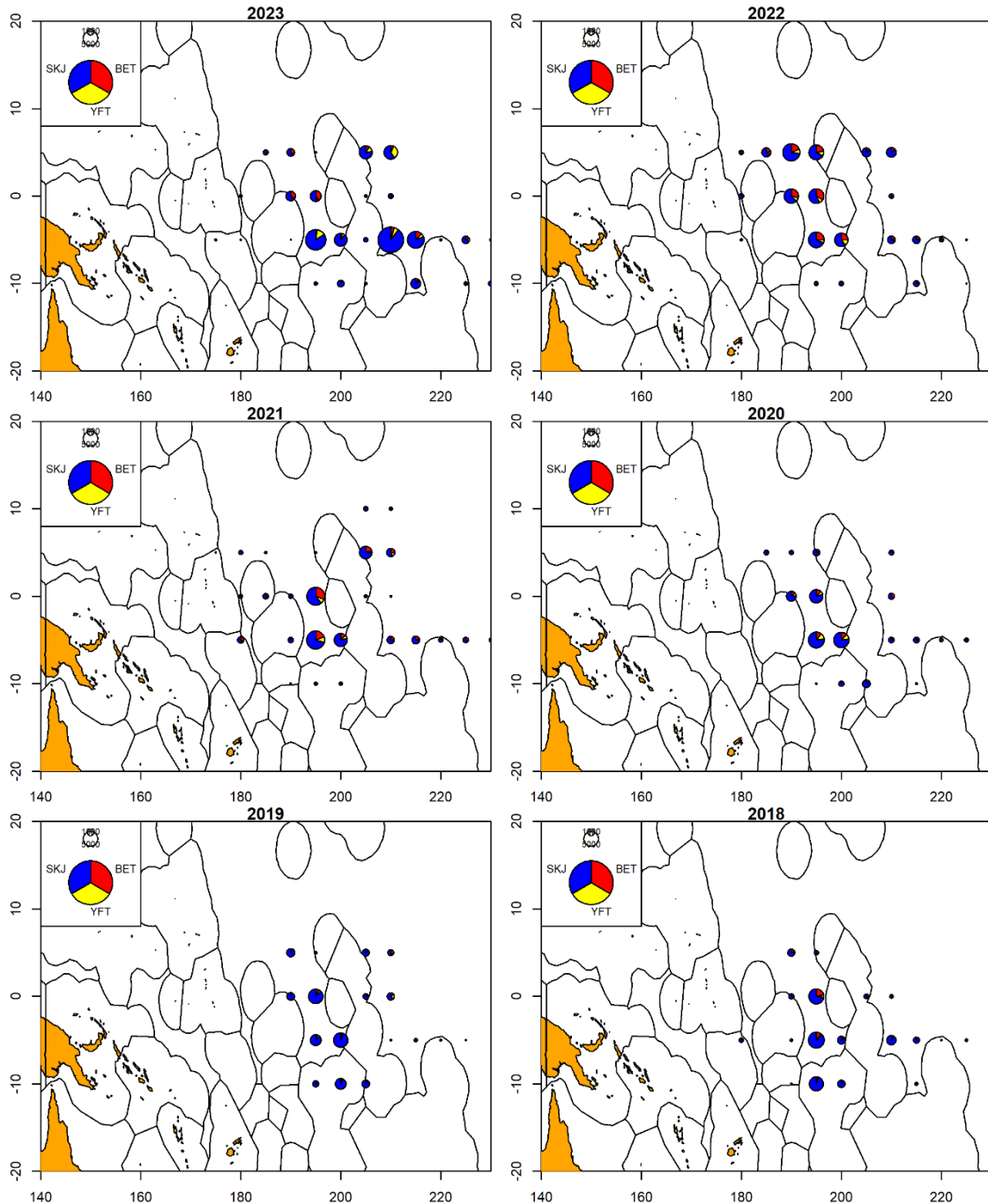


Fig. 1- Distribution of catches by area (5°x5°) and species in 2018-2023.



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 2023 and 2022, 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 2023, 6 species/groups accounted for more than 90% of the estimated bycatch, in terms of weight: *Carcharhinus falciformis* (c. 41%), *Coryphaena hippurus*, *Acantocybium solandri*, *Canthidermis maculatus*, *Makaira nigricans* and *Carcharhinus falciformis*. Around 73% of the *Carcharhinus falciformis*, the main bycatch species of the purse seine fleet, as well as the 78% of the *C. longimanus* observed in 2023 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. Only one turtle (*Lepidochelis olivacea*) was involved in purse seine fishing operations within the WCPFC-CA in 2023, and was released unharmed.

c. 83 % 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 2023. The coverage, after the pandemic situation, is progressively returning to previous levels.

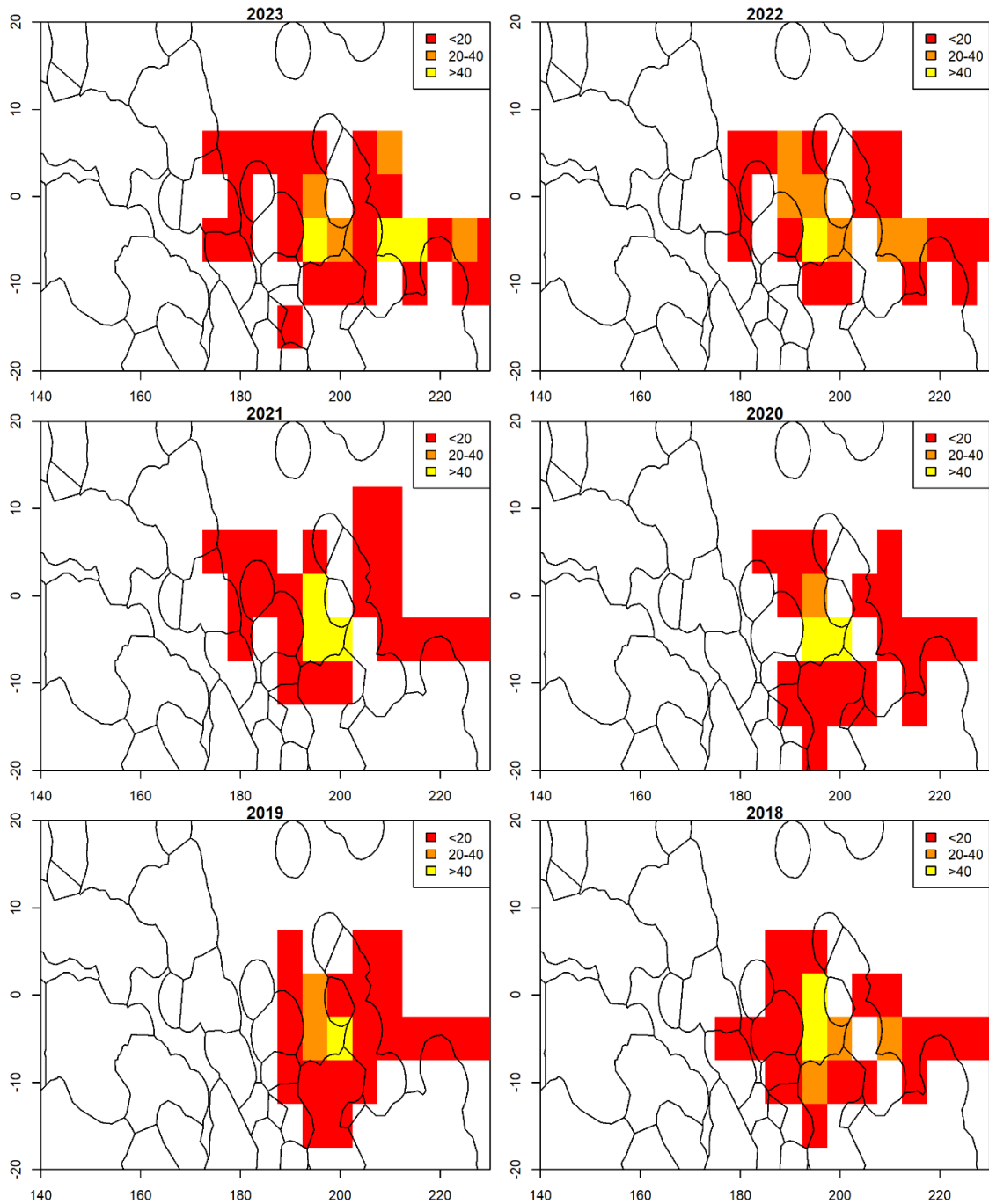


Fig. 2.- Distribution of the purse seine effort, in fishing days, by area (5°x5°) and year.



	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	0.06	0.03
	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	2.35	1.80
	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	0.05	0.00
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	0.63	0.37
SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	14.93	3.46
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	1.12	0.18
	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	0.07	0.07
	<i>Mobula japonica</i>	0.33	0.12
	<i>Mobula spp.</i>	0.02	0.00
	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	0.36	0.12
OTHER FISH	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	2.50	1.42
	<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.02	0.00
	<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.36	0.36
	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	3.29	1.39
	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	9.44	6.46
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	0.99	0.37
	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Seriola, Caranx spp.</i>	0.02	0.02
	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.02	0.00
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	0.00	

Table III.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tons in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2023. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (c. 83% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA).



	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>Sphyaena 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 IV.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tons 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).



2. LONG LINE FISHERY

The Spanish long line fleet is composed by 8 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 2023 activity. All 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	1.205,00
CARMEN TERE	684,04
PLAYA ZAHARA	520,96
77	65.278,92
ILLA GAVEIRA	28.441,24
PLAYA ZAHARA	25.331,17
YANQUE	11.506,51
81	1.820.012,80
CARMEN TERE	329.243,42
GLACIAL	356.532,36
ILLA GAVEIRA	203.464,09
PLAYA ZAHARA	261.095,55
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	281.954,40
VIKING BAY	193.522,43
YANQUE	194.200,55
Total general	1.886.496,72

Table 5. Total estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (t)

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.



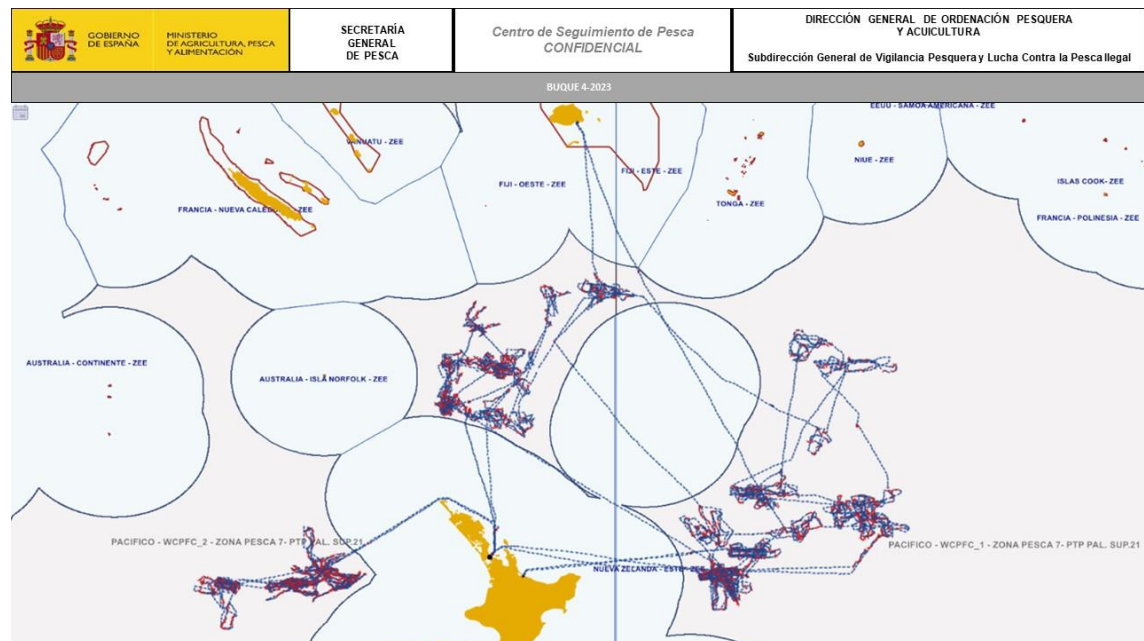
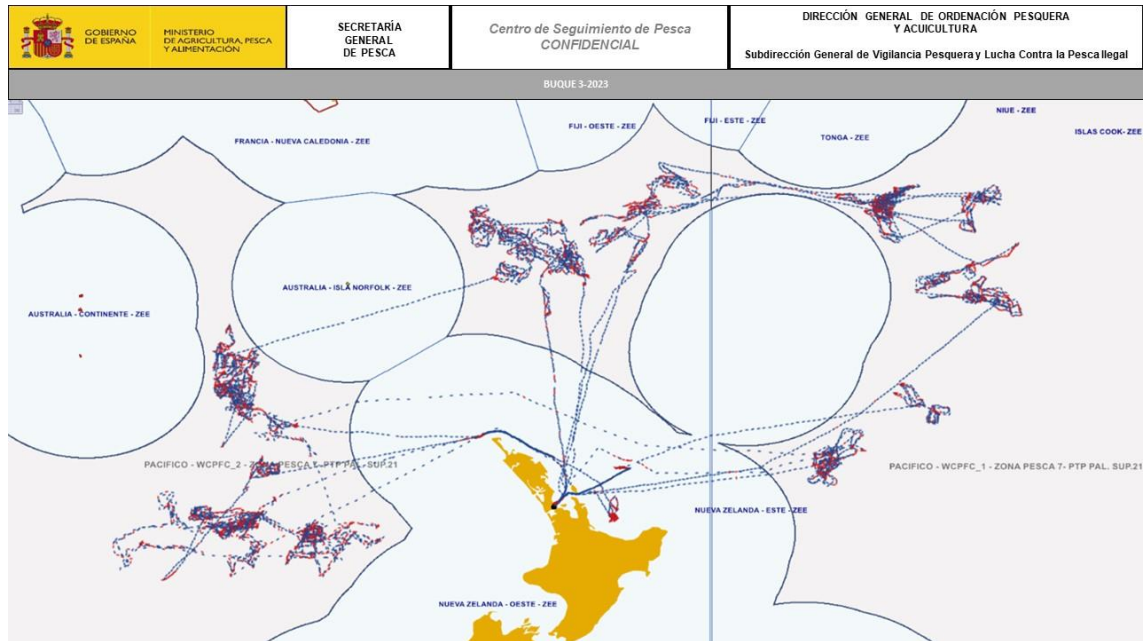
2.2. Number of vessels by gear and size (fleet characteristic)

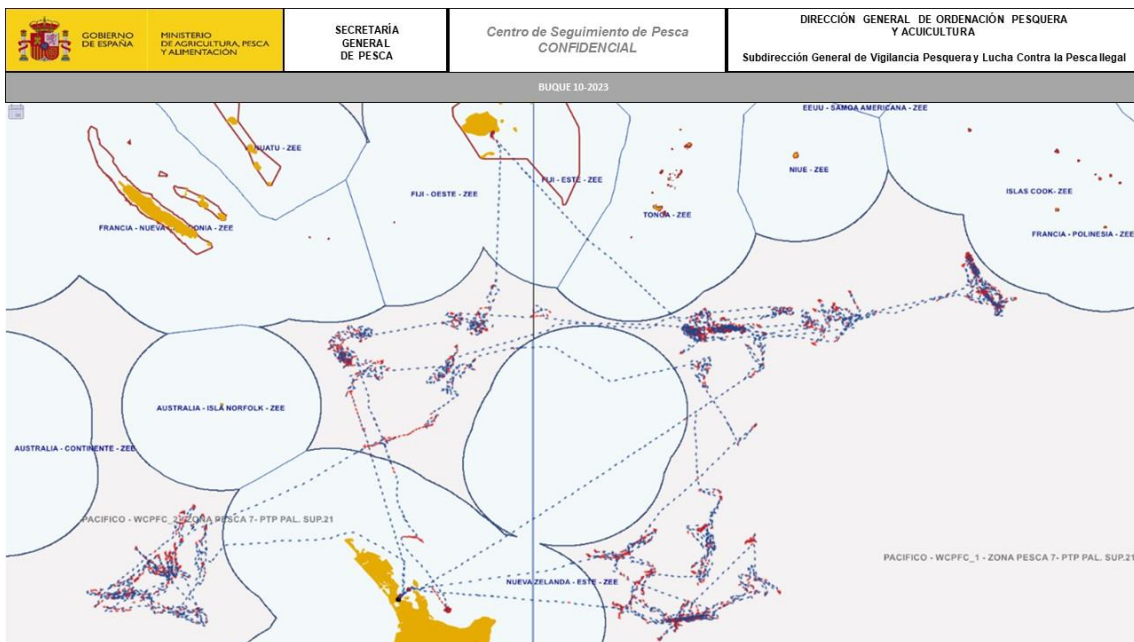
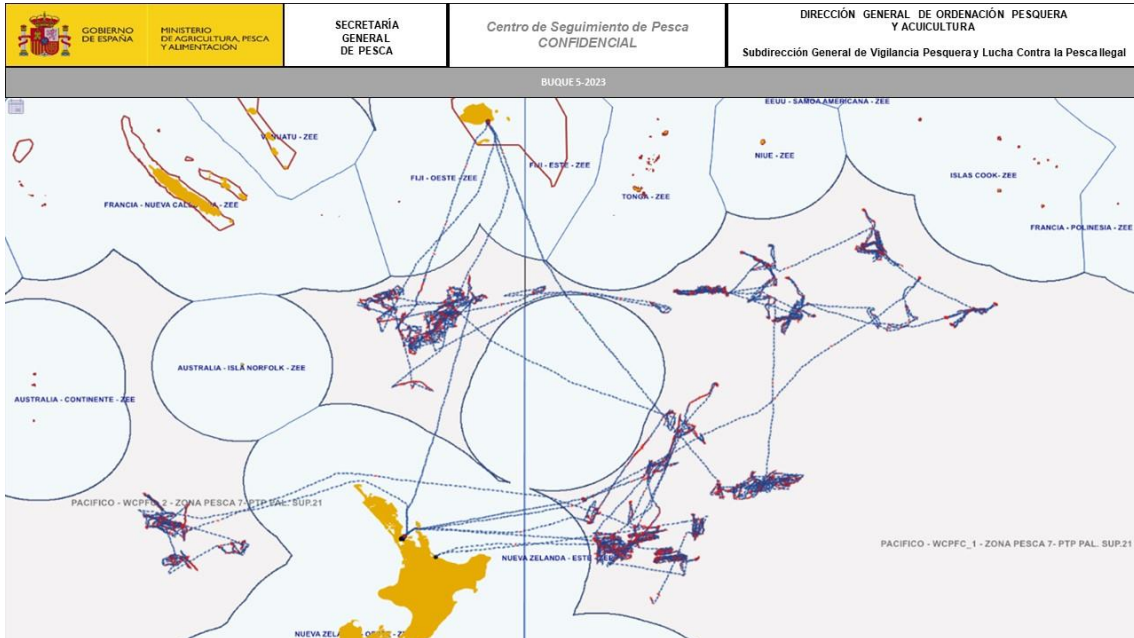
Gear	LONGLINE
Fleet	SPAIN (EU)
Size class (GRT)	
0-50	0
50-200	0
201-500	8
500+	0

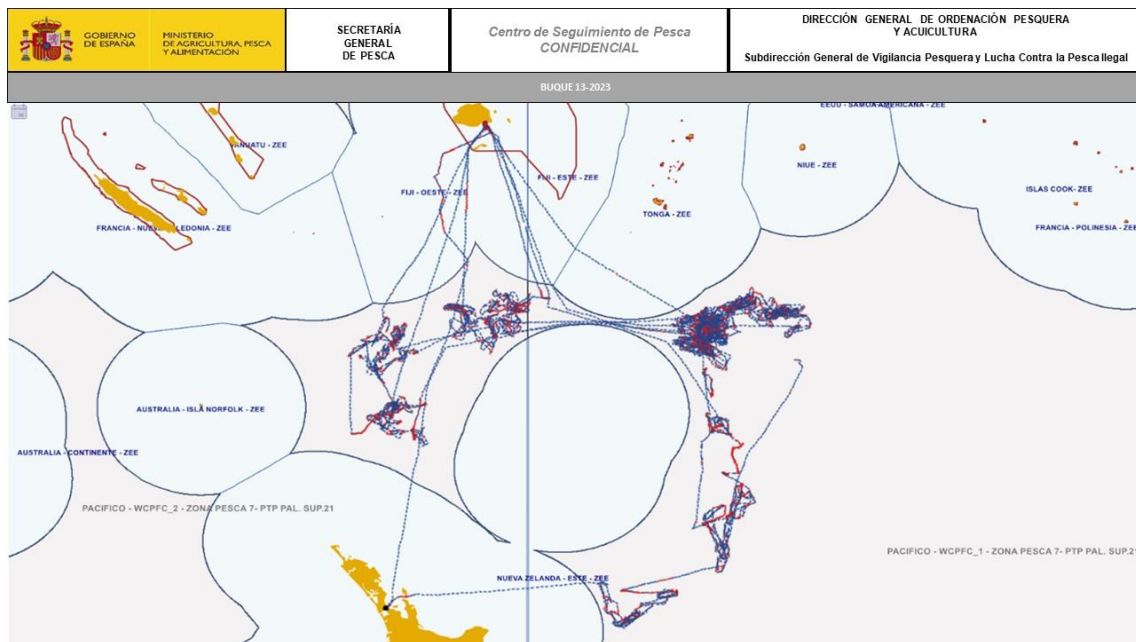
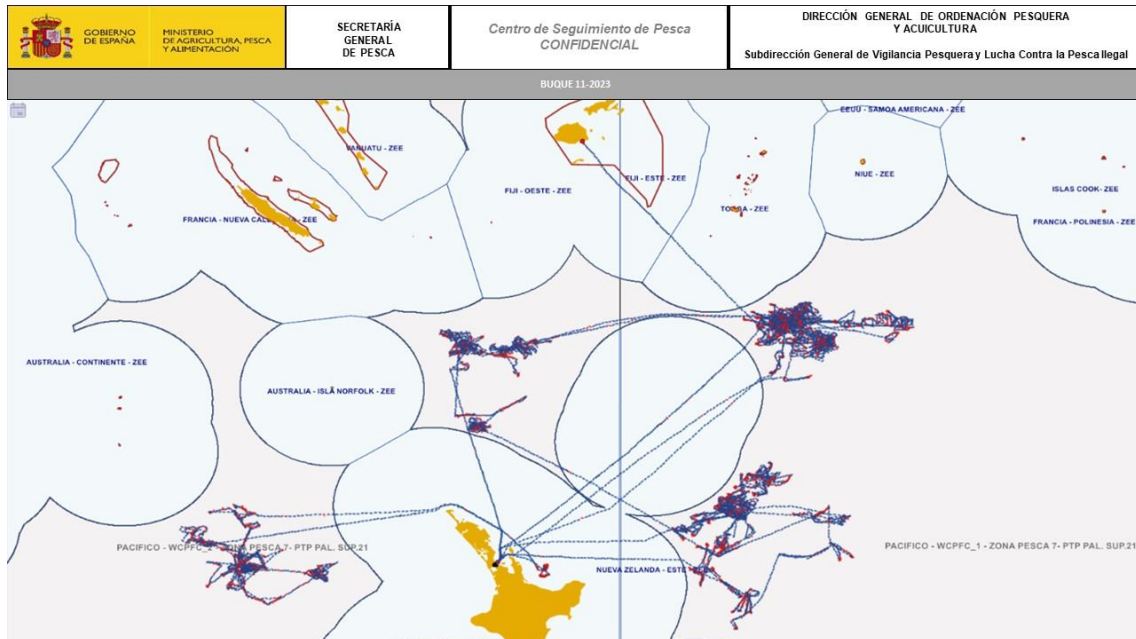
2.3. Fishing patterns

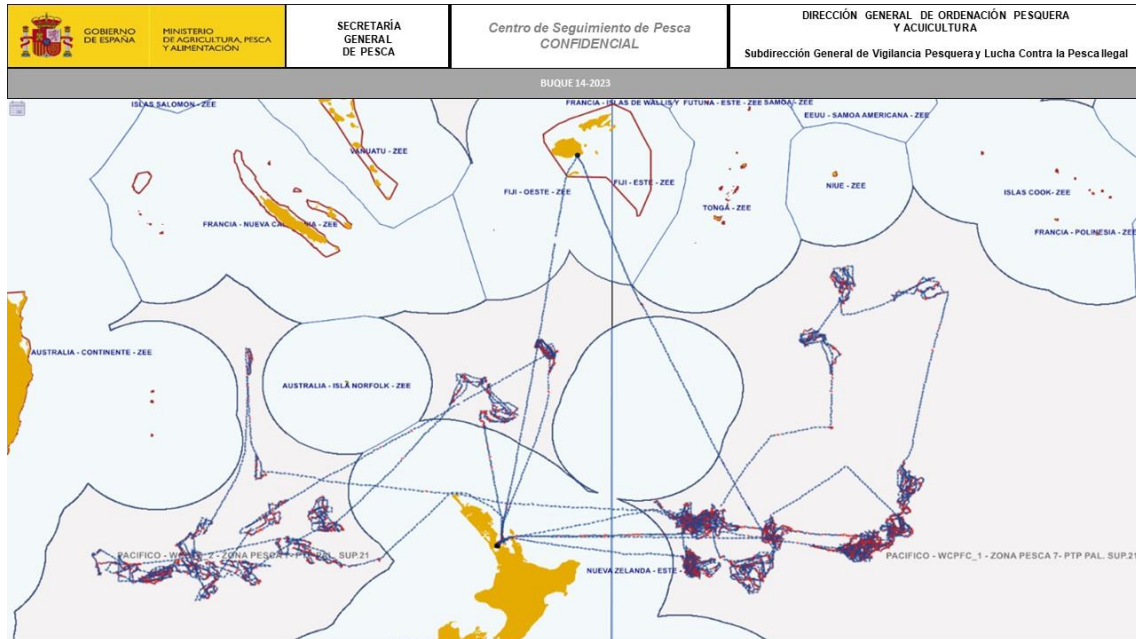
Spanish longline vessels in the Western and Central Pacific operate in the temperate area south of 20° south and the mostly work around of 30° south. The port of Auckland (New Zealand) is the main hub for landings and supply activities, but landings also take place in Suva (Fiji). Long distances toward 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 caught tropical sensitive shark species such as oceanic whitetip shark, silky shark or whale shark. They displayed an average of 1.233 hooks per vessel in 2023. They usually deploy wire leathers, since catches 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	Total general	
71		14,01	267,95	281,96
CARMEN TERE		14,01	267,95	281,96
77		310,38	4.763,59	5.073,97
ILLA GAVEIRA			3.017,61	3.017,61
PLAYA ZAHARA		241,55		241,55
YANQUE		68,83	1.745,98	1.814,81
81		7.054,78	125.009,88	132.064,66
CARMEN TERE		957,50	21.830,01	22.787,51
GLACIAL		331,90	23.495,48	23.827,38
ILLA GAVEIRA			10.393,88	10.393,88
PLAYA ZAHARA		1.417,64	183,30	1.600,94
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS		2.395,56	20.831,14	23.226,70
VIKING BAY		1.790,91	31.987,08	33.777,99
YANQUE		161,27	16.288,99	16.450,26
Total general		7.379,17	130.041,42	137.420,59

Table 6. Total estimated catches non target species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (kg)



ZONA FAO Y BUQUE	BET	BLM	BUM	YFT	Total general
71		151,22	739,56	294,48	1.185,26
CARMEN TERE			245,97		245,97
PLAYA ZAHARA		151,22	493,59	294,48	939,29
77	7.796,51	1.767,25	5.511,38	4.605,10	19.680,24
ILLA GAVEIRA	241,56	699,10		114,33	1.054,99
PLAYA ZAHARA	6.854,01	1.068,15	5.511,38	4.104,88	17.538,42
YANQUE	700,94			385,89	1.086,83
81	183.741,50	16.044,29	46.949,54	66.739,94	313.475,27
CARMEN TERE	40.105,57	2.367,30	11.909,77	15.452,97	69.835,61
GLACIAL	11.345,10			5.571,64	16.916,74
ILLA GAVEIRA	2.552,42	4.570,05		610,65	7.733,12
PLAYA ZAHARA	35.825,16	6.702,83	31.891,17	19.049,72	93.468,88
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	36.719,66	2.404,11	3.148,60	18.900,85	61.173,22
VIKING BAY	44.490,82				44.490,82
YANQUE	12.702,77			7.154,11	19.856,88
Total general	191.538,01	17.962,76	53.200,48	71.639,52	334.340,77

Table 7. Tropical tuna and related species estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (kg)

ZONA FAO Y BUQUE	BSH	SMA	SMA	OCS	POR	FAL	THR/ALV	RHN	SPN/SPY	Total
71	1.537,26	0,00	268,96	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1.806,22
CARMEN TERE	332,00		268,96							600,96
PLAYA ZAHARA	1.205,26									1.205,26
77	29.220,45	0,00	8.149,28	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	37.369,73
ILLA GAVEIRA	8.622,81		761,84							9.384,65
PLAYA ZAHARA	6.050,83		5.060,13							11.110,96
YANQUE	14.546,81		2.327,31							16.874,12
81	5.360.256,39	0,00	362.511,30	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	5.722.767,69
CARMEN TERE	793.801,66		53.636,47							847.438,13
GLACIAL	1.297.894,23		52.107,30							1.350.001,53
ILLA GAVEIRA	551.845,08		51.849,01							603.694,09
PLAYA ZAHARA	608.081,76		53.659,90							661.741,66
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	754.929,21		53.333,10							808.262,31
VIKING BAY	266.847,82		46.340,10							313.187,92
YANQUE	1.086.856,63		51.585,42							1.138.442,05
Total general	5.391.014,10	0,00	370.929,54	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	5.761.943,64

Table 8. sharks and related species estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (kg)



Addendum to the Annual report Part I (activities 2023)

1) Transshipment report 2022 (CMM 2009-06)

Number of transshipments: 39.

The catches reported in this table have been harvested both within and outside the WCPFC Convention Area.

Species and gear	Quantity	In port	Transshipment in/out WCPFC	Catches in/out WCPFC	Presentation
ALB	6.937,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	6.918,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
PS	19,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
BET	2.798.710,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	166.696,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
PS	2.632.014,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
BLM	21.068,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	21.068,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
BSH	2.611.065,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	2.611.065,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
BUM	47.084,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	47.084,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
DOL	9.133,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	9.133,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
FRI	596,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
PS	596,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LAG	926,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	926,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LEC	32.182,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	32.182,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
MLS	133.463,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	133.463,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
OIL	37,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	37,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
SFA	746,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	746,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
SKJ	10.724.620,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
PS	10.724.620,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
SMA	321.042,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	321.042,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
SWO	1.614.323,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	1.614.323,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
WAH	1.302,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	1.302,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
YFT	1.181.042,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
LLD	61.954,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
PS	1.119.088,00	Yes	In WCPFC area	In and out	Frozen
Total general	19.504.276,00				

Table I: WCPFC** area



- Please note that in these quantities are not included offloaded on land.
- Ports considered are in “WCPFC area”: Auckland, Suva, Taroa and Pago Pago, Funafuti, Majuro, Noro New Georgia, London-Christmas Island.
- All the transshipment was frozen, gutted, head off and tail off.

2) Sharks (CMM 2010-07)

There was no transshipment for MAK (LMA), FAL, OCS, THR/ALV, POR, SPN/SPY and RHN.