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TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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

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**WCPFC-SC21-AR/CCM-05  
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**EUROPEAN UNION**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
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Brussels  
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**Annual report part 1 – EU SPAIN (EU ES)**

**WCPFC - Fishing season 2024**

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# 1.- PURSE SEINE

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

The EU ES 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 2024, and observers of the APICD have covered c. 87% 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 2024, as well as in previous years, are shown in Table I.

2024				
	WCPFC	WCPFC east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
<b>BET</b>	4892	364	19	
<b>SKJ</b>	37004	10752	205	444
<b>YFT</b>	2299	474	6	

2023					2022			
	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
<b>BET</b>	2323	678	7		1443	291	2	
<b>SKJ</b>	18294	4791	215	375	11798	1042	0	300
<b>YFT</b>	2451	448	15		1622	110	12	

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

**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 2024, 4 EU-ES 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,

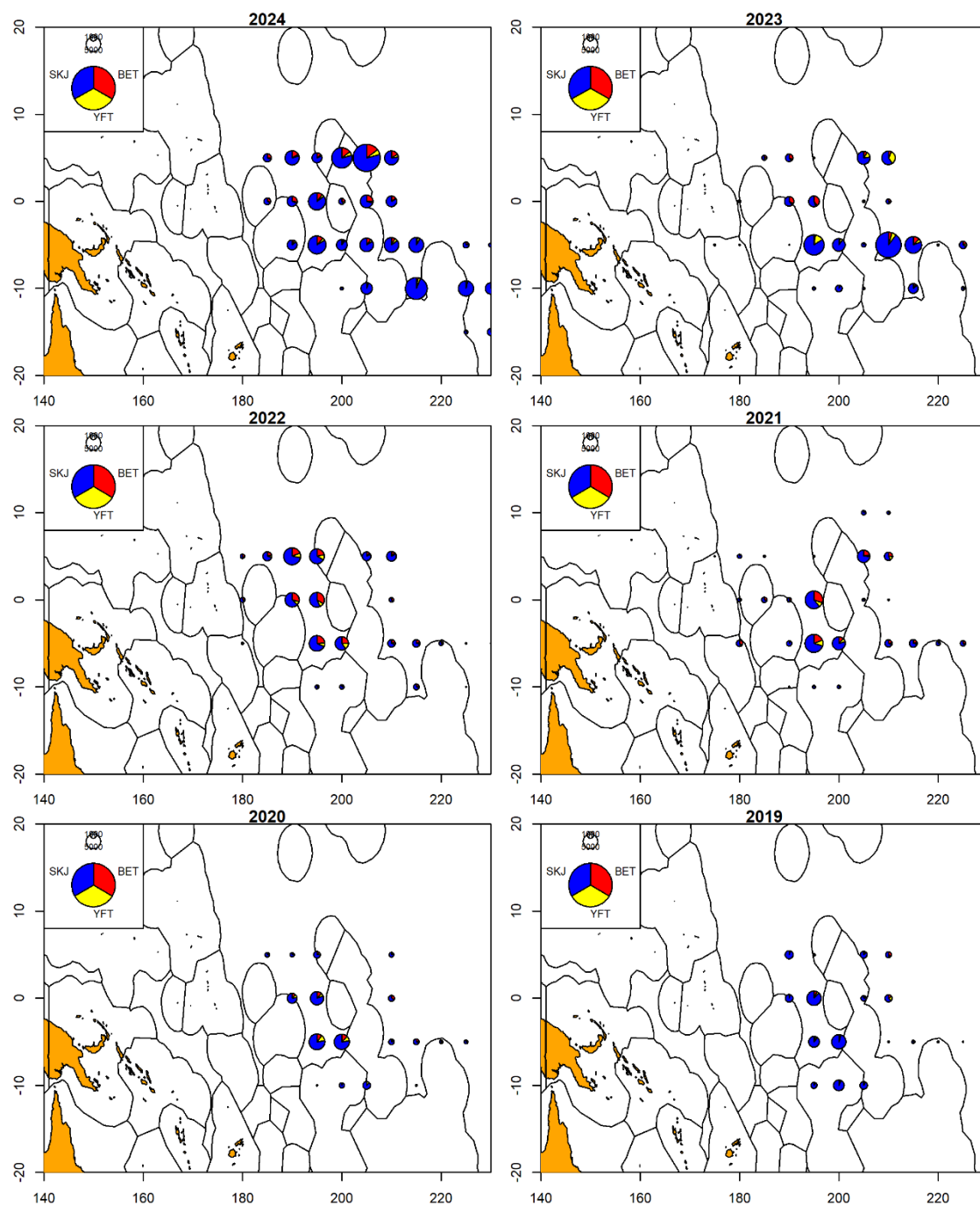
but also on free schools. Catches are frozen onboard in salt vats. Table II summarizes the number of vessels and total gross register tonnages from the beginning of the fishery in the WCPFC-CA.

<b>Year</b>	<b>GRT</b>	<b>No. vessels</b>
<b>1996</b>	1351	1
<b>1997</b>	1351	1
<b>1998</b>	4419	3
<b>1999</b>	8176	4
<b>2000</b>	6887	4
<b>2001</b>	9172	4
<b>2002</b>	9172	4
<b>2003</b>	10678	5
<b>2004</b>	6532	3
<b>2005</b>	6532	3
<b>2006</b>	6532	3
<b>2007</b>	9732	4
<b>2008</b>	9732	4
<b>2009</b>	9732	4
<b>2010</b>	9732	4
<b>2011</b>	9732	4
<b>2012</b>	9732	4
<b>2013</b>	9732	4
<b>2014</b>	9732	4
<b>2015</b>	9732	4
<b>2016</b>	4064	2
<b>2017</b>	4064	2
<b>2018</b>	4064	2
<b>2019</b>	4064	2
<b>2020</b>	4064	2
<b>2021</b>	7264	3
<b>2022</b>	7264	3
<b>2023</b>	9093	4
<b>2024</b>	9093	4

**Table II-** Number of EU ES 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 ES purse seiners in the WCPFC-CA during 2023 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 2023 and the five previous years.



**Fig. 1- Distribution of catches by area ( $5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$ ) and species in 2019-2024.**

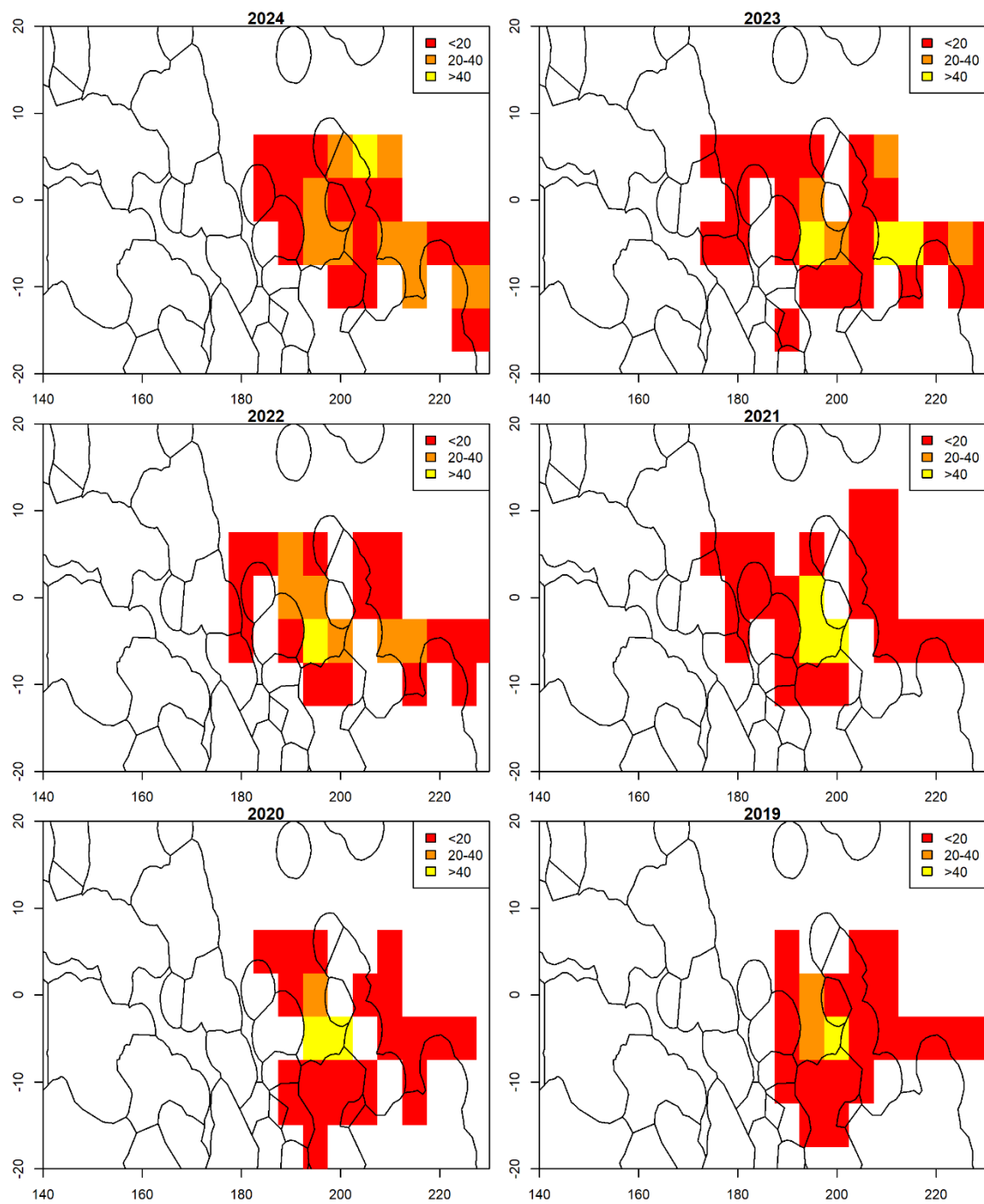
#### 1.4.- Estimated total catches of non-target, associated and dependent species.

Tables III and IV summarize the purse seine bycatch by species in the WCPFC-CA in 2024 and 2023, 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 2024, 7 species/groups accounted for more than 90% of the estimated bycatch, in terms of weight: *Carcharhinus falciformis* (c. 58%), *Carcharhinus spp.*, *Elagatis bipinnulata*, *Coryphaena hippurus*, *Makaira*, *Tetrapturus*, *Carcharhinus longimanus* and *Makaira nigricans*. Around 64% of the *Carcharhinus falciformis*, the main bycatch species of the purse seine fleet, as well as the 87% of the *C. longimanus* observed in 2024 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. No turtles were involved in purse seine fishing operations within the WCPFC-CA in 2024.

c. 87% 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 2024.



**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>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.18</b>
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.09</b>
SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	<b>10.13</b>	<b>2.60</b>
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.15</b>
	<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<i>Mobula spp.</i>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.00</b>
OTHER FISH	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.07</b>
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>0.20</b>
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>0.16</b>
	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.01</b>
	<i>Seriola, Caranx spp.</i>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
	<i>Sphyrna barracuda</i>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.08</b>
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.19</b>

**Table III.-** Purse seine bycatch in metric tons in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2024. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (c. 87% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA).

	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH	<i>Istiophorus platipterus</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 IV.-** Purse seine bycatch in metric tons in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2024. 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).

## 1.5 Estimates of annual catches EU ES

The table below summarizes the estimated total catches (in metric tonnes) of BET, SKJ and YFT from EU ES purse seiners in 2024 in the WCPFC Convention Area, in the WCPFC-CA east of the 150°W meridian and the reported discards.

	WCPFC	WCPFC east of 150°W	Discards
<b>BET</b>	4892	364	19
<b>SKJ</b>	37004	10752	205
<b>YFT</b>	2299	474	6

## 2. LONG LINE FISHERY

The EU ES longline fleet was composed by 7 longliners in 2024. 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 2024 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
<b>71</b>	<b>2.061,96</b>
PLAYA ZAHARA	1.599,99
VIKING BAY	461,97
<b>77</b>	<b>44.408,08</b>
PLAYA ZAHARA	27.225,10
VIKING BAY	11.217,42
YANQUE	5.965,56
<b>81</b>	<b>1.357.555,35</b>
CARMEN TERE	257.398,13
GLACIAL	134.490,76
ILLA GAVEIRA	20.983,44
PLAYA ZAHARA	373.595,78
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	138.238,99
VIKING BAY	292.126,72
YANQUE	140.721,53
<b>Total general</b>	<b>1.404.025,39</b>

**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	7
500+	0

## 2.3. Fishing patterns

EU ES 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 1.412 hooks per vessel in 2024. 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.

Catches of albacore are made south of 22° south of equator.

All the catches of stripped marlin were made south of 15° south of equator.

ZONA FAO Y BUQUE	ALB	MLS	Total general
<b>71</b>	<b>21,59</b>		<b>21,59</b>
VIKING BAY	21,59		21,59
<b>77</b>	<b>75,87</b>	<b>903,93</b>	<b>979,80</b>
PLAYA ZAHARA	11,10		11,10
VIKING BAY	64,77		64,77
YANQUE		903,93	903,93
<b>81</b>	<b>8.464,74</b>	<b>36.155,58</b>	<b>44.620,32</b>
CARMEN TERE	5.614,38	10.094,49	15.708,87
GLACIAL		11.342,78	11.342,78
ILLA GAVEIRA		3.971,14	3.971,14
PLAYA ZAHARA	1.025,39		1.025,39
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	119,84	1.663,50	1.783,34
VIKING BAY	1.577,73	526,50	2.104,23
YANQUE	127,40	8.557,17	8.684,57
<b>Total general</b>	<b>8.562,20</b>	<b>37.059,51</b>	<b>45.621,71</b>

**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
<b>71</b>	<b>560,27</b>	<b>2.293,20</b>	<b>115,32</b>	<b>760,50</b>
PLAYA ZAHARA	469,30	2.293,20	70,20	760,50
VIKING BAY	90,97		45,12	
<b>77</b>	<b>105,00</b>	<b>4.169,00</b>		<b>1.350,10</b>
PLAYA ZAHARA		3.413,80		543,40
VIKING BAY		755,20		634,74
YANQUE	105,00			171,96
<b>81</b>	<b>68.845,58</b>	<b>52.798,18</b>	<b>15.133,22</b>	<b>37.591,42</b>
CARMEN TERE	24.000,08	44,99	8.012,55	19.541,91
GLACIAL	5.525,00	483,69		305,19
ILLA GAVEIRA		361,98		
PLAYA ZAHARA	10.635,83	28.567,11	6.628,89	8.451,65
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	3.855,50	1.425,00	166,40	1.244,60
VIKING BAY	16.528,23	21.915,41	325,38	7.932,08
YANQUE	8.300,94			115,99
<b>Total general</b>	<b>69.510,85</b>	<b>59.260,38</b>	<b>15.248,54</b>	<b>39.702,02</b>

*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
<b>71</b>	<b>12.917,99</b>	<b>43,21</b>
PLAYA ZAHARA	11.035,15	
VIKING BAY	1.882,84	43,21
<b>77</b>	<b>32.868,09</b>	<b>2.039,13</b>
PLAYA ZAHARA	23.591,40	
VIKING BAY	3.954,96	2.039,13
YANQUE	5.321,73	
<b>81</b>	<b>3.710.330,39</b>	<b>364.800,94</b>
CARMEN TERE	826.511,14	65.299,57
GLACIAL	962.827,60	47.262,61
ILLA GAVEIRA	27.550,41	3.648,08
PLAYA ZAHARA	637.774,90	101.037,89
PLAYA ZAHARA DOS	139.990,70	30.552,50
VIKING BAY	397.751,51	63.221,21
YANQUE	717.924,13	53.779,08
<b>Total general</b>	<b>3.756.116,47</b>	<b>366.883,28</b>

\*There are no catches of the following species: OCS, POR, FAL, THR/ALV, SPN/SPY.

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

### 3. Transhipments (in port)

Number of transhipments: 52.

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

Etiquetas de fila	Congelado	In port	Transhipment in/out WCPFC	Catches in/out WCPFC	Presentation
<b>ALB</b>	<b>7.525,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	7.415,00				
PS	110,00				
<b>BET</b>	<b>5.696.874,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	51.123,00				
PS	5.645.751,00				
<b>BKJ</b>	<b>9.415,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
PS	9.415,00				
<b>BLM</b>	<b>34.037,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	34.037,00				
<b>BLT</b>	<b>544,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
PS	544,00				
<b>BSH</b>	<b>1.960.751,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	1.960.751,00				
<b>BUM</b>	<b>14.082,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	14.082,00				
<b>DOL</b>	<b>2.325,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	2.325,00				
<b>FRI</b>	<b>6.508,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
PS	6.508,00				
<b>LAG</b>	<b>1.237,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	1.237,00				
<b>LEC</b>	<b>13.703,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	13.703,00				
<b>MLS</b>	<b>30.747,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	30.747,00				
<b>OIL</b>	<b>1.110,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	1.110,00				
<b>SFA</b>	<b>523,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	523,00				
<b>SKJ</b>	<b>46.334.267,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
PS	46.334.267,00				
<b>SMA</b>	<b>263.280,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	263.280,00				
<b>SWO</b>	<b>992.405,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	992.405,00				
<b>WAH</b>	<b>414,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	414,00				
<b>YFT</b>	<b>2.866.155,00</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>In WCPFC area</b>	<b>In and out</b>	<b>Frozen</b>
LLD	23.525,00				
PS	2.842.630,00				
<b>Total general</b>	<b>58.235.902,00</b>				

*Table 9: Transhipments in port in the WCPFC area*

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