



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

WCPFC-SC11-AR/CCM-05a

EUROPEAN UNION

WCPFC - ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION INFORMATION ON FISHERIES

PART I

2014

1. For 2014, the list of Portuguese authorized vessels to operate within the WCPFC is indicated below:

PRT00000115	ILHA BRAVA	L-3-N
PRT000001538	VERDEMILHO	V-1065-C
PRT000001540	VISTA ALEGRE	A-3148-C
PRT000016119	ARTICO	PD-400-N
PRT000016290	COSTA DE SAO JORGE	PD-464-C
PRT000018876	NOVOS HORIZONTES	V-27-N
PRT000019088	HEMISFERIO NORTE	A-3300-N
PRT000022649	VALMITÃO	PM-1291-N
PRT000023043	NOVO RUIVO	V-25-N
PRT000023093	ALMA LUSA	PM-1269-N

2. In 2014, only the Portuguese fishing vessel “ARTICO” was involved in fishing activity in the WCPFC Convention Area. This vessel has a special fishing permit conditioning the fishing activity in the WCPFC area to the mandatory installation of ALC equipment and corresponding certification (VTAF).
3. This vessel is a surface longliner with 50,75m (LOA) and 764 GT, targeting for tuna and tuna like species.
4. During 2014, the PRT FV “ARTICO” was present in the WCPFC-CA for 224 days, as monthly indicated in the table below:

MONTH	DAYS
1	31
2	28
3	31
4	30
5	31

6	30
7	0
8	0
9	0
10	0
11	12
12	31
Total	224

5. Catch composition of the catches made by this vessel while fishing in WCPFC were as follows:

Vessel	ALB	BET	BIL	BLM	BSH	DOL	LEC	SMA	SWO	YFT	TOTAL(TON)
ARTICO	0,01	7,02	6,41	207,51	143,82	5,82	13,22	56,55	18,82	2,05	461,23

6. This vessel had no observer on board, this is the reason why size composition data is not available.
7. Operational data is collected from electronic logbook data, crosschecked with VMS, with 100% coverage.
8. The gear used is the monofilament surface longline (Florida style modified), using an average of around 1100 hooks per set. The characteristics of this vessel were the same as in years before.
9. All fishermen operating in international waters are permanently informed about the measures adopted by the corresponding RFMO, including those taken to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species covered by WCPFC.
10. Concerning mitigation measures on turtles and seabirds, the following procedures have been indicated by the only Portuguese FV operating in this RFMO:

SEABIRDS (CMM 07-04)

- Deep-setting line shooter: The vessel uses hydraulic equipment to begin the fisheries operations with the main line less than 1 m from the stern so the hooks can sink rapidly;
- *Tori lines*: The vessel uses the lines as described in CMM 2007-04 since the begging of the fishing operations;
- Weighted branch lines: The vessel uses weights of 80 g attached to within

3,5 ms of the hook, for all hooks of the main line;

- Blue dyed bait: The bait used is dyed in blue
- Management of offal discharge: practice of strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to hauling. When setting no offal discharge is done so that birds are kept away;
- Logbook for registration of any by-catches of seabirds is ensured.

No incidental catches of seabirds occurred in 2014.

MITIGATION MEASURES TO AVOID CATCHES OF SEA TURTLES

- circle hooks are already being used at a rate of 50% in longline sets;
- Deeper setting: hooks are set at depths around 80 meters (deeper than turtle abundance, less than 40 m), the hydraulic equipment make hooks sink rapidly and branch lines are weighted (use of weights of 80 g attached to within 3,5 ms of the hook, for all hooks of the main line);
- Night setting: the lines are set during the night with the vessels' lights off and all operations are done in lower level;
- Use of blue dyed bait as to avoid attracting sea turtles;
- Release techniques with line cutters and de-hooker sticks;
- Fishermen have information on handling methods to assess the condition of the turtles before releasing, identifying the species name, return to the sea, ensuring higher survival rates and reducing post-release mortality. The Interaction is recorded on logbook.

Registers of interactions with turtles in 2014:

Species	Capture: Latitude	Capture: Longitude	Date	Fate
Hawksbill	25º 19,4' S	178º 45,2'W	28/01/2014	Released alive

11. Landings:

All catches of the FV ARTICO were landed and transferred to a container to be transported by a cargo vessel to a different port. The owner of the vessel

reaffirmed its full commitment in complying with WCPFC requirements.

No transshipments to report in 2014.

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