COMMISSION
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Denarau Island, Fiji
5 – 9 December, 2016

FIJI LONGLINE ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROJECT OVERVIEW

WCPFC13-2016-OP19
7th December 2016

Submitted by ISSF

Fiji Longline Electronic Monitoring Project – Overview

BUMBLE BEE SEAFOODS

F.C.F. FISHERY CO., LTD.

Nadi, Fiji
December 2016

FCF and Bumble Bee partnered to fund a project installing Satlink monitoring systems on ten longliners operating out of Fiji with review of vessel trips through Digital Observer Services (DOS).

Objectives

- Share belief that electronic monitoring is the most effective and realistic way to increase observer coverage on longline vessels, desire to promote technology and process with boat owners to increase their comfort and trust.
- Continue to validate the technology and process and help improve review process where able
- Gain visibility into boats operations
- Provide feedback to boat operators
- Compile catch data
- Expand project to other locations

Installations completed on six Chinese flagged and four Fijian flagged vessels between September 2015 and April 2016

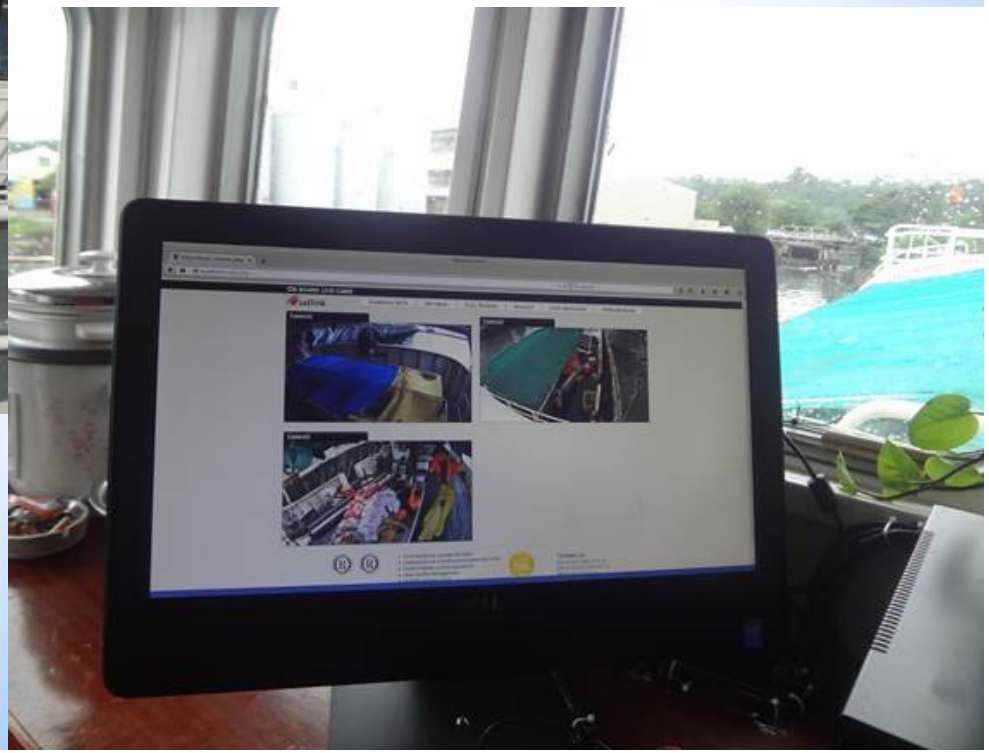
Project summary and current status

- Three cameras, the system and GPS positioning on each vessel take 2-3 days to install
- Trips are recorded are hard drives and upon return to port, hard drives are removed and sent to DOS for review
- DOS provides written detailed reports on tuna and other catches using the SPC/FFA regional longline observer catch monitoring forms
  - Detailed reporting by set with accompanying time stamp and photos of each landing
  - Capture tuna species and length
  - Capture bycatch species (length on occasion) as well as condition on landing and disposition (discard alive, retained etc)
  - Full location and time tracking of vessels
- We have received trip reports from eleven trips thus far

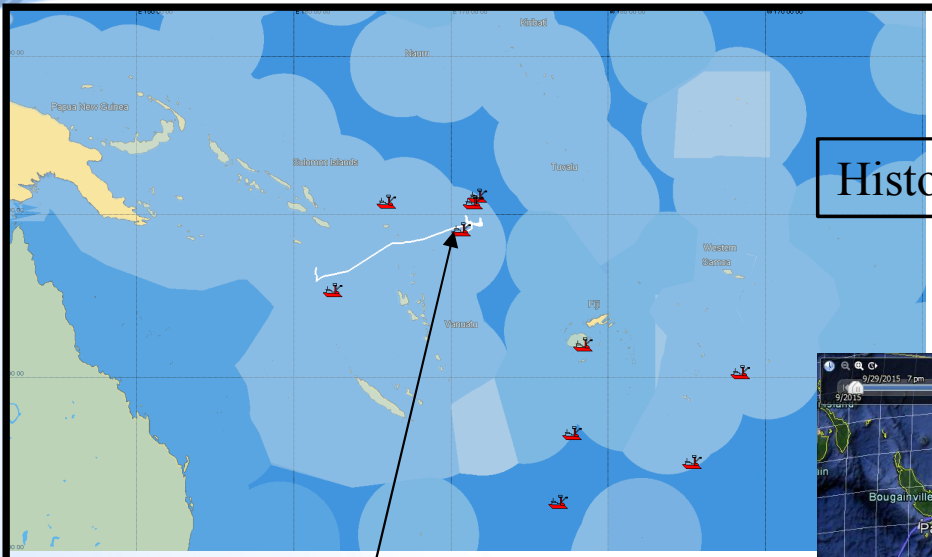
Satlink vessel installations include communication hardware and camera display for captain

Inmarsat IsatData Pro

Camera repeater

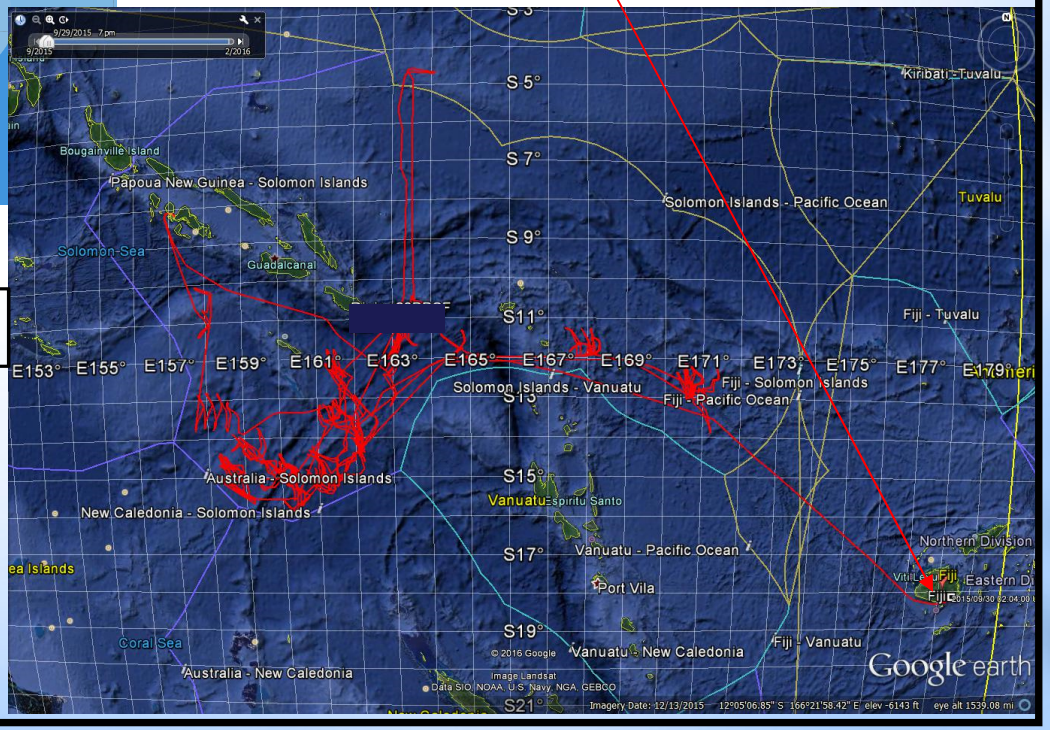


The Satlink system and application provides for real time and historic tracking of vessels



Real time data with 30 day vessel track.

Historical vessel track data available for export.



Camera one is pointed aft and focused on line setting area

Installed camera

Camera view

Camera two is focused on the hauling area and also provides a view of species in the water along side the boat

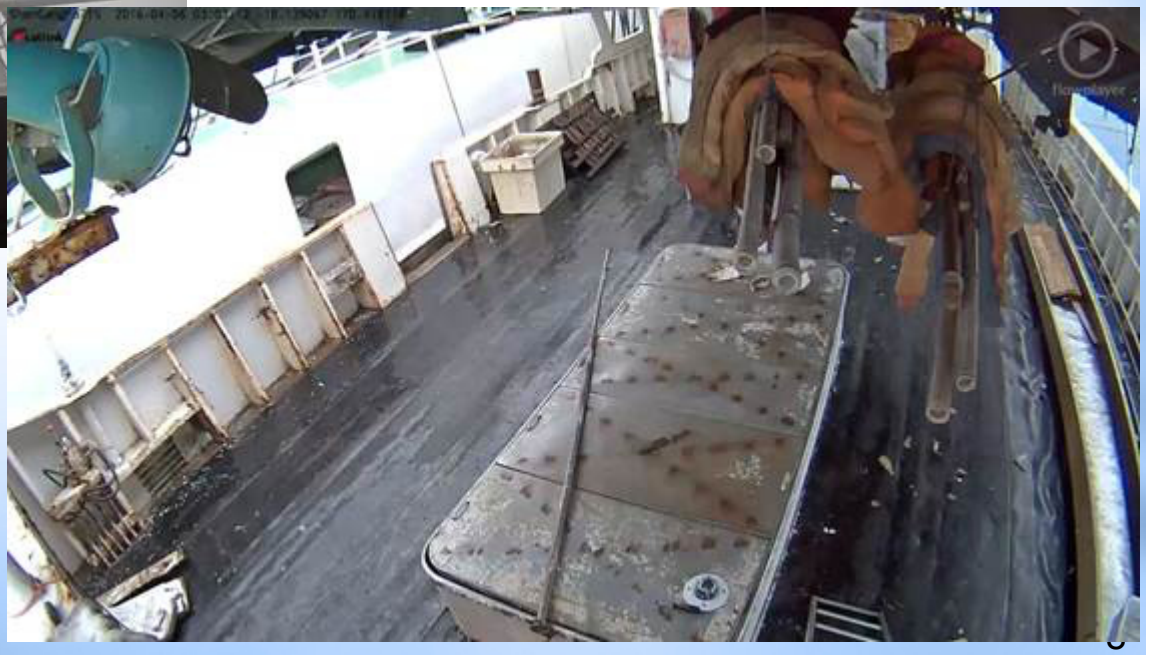
Installed camera

Camera view

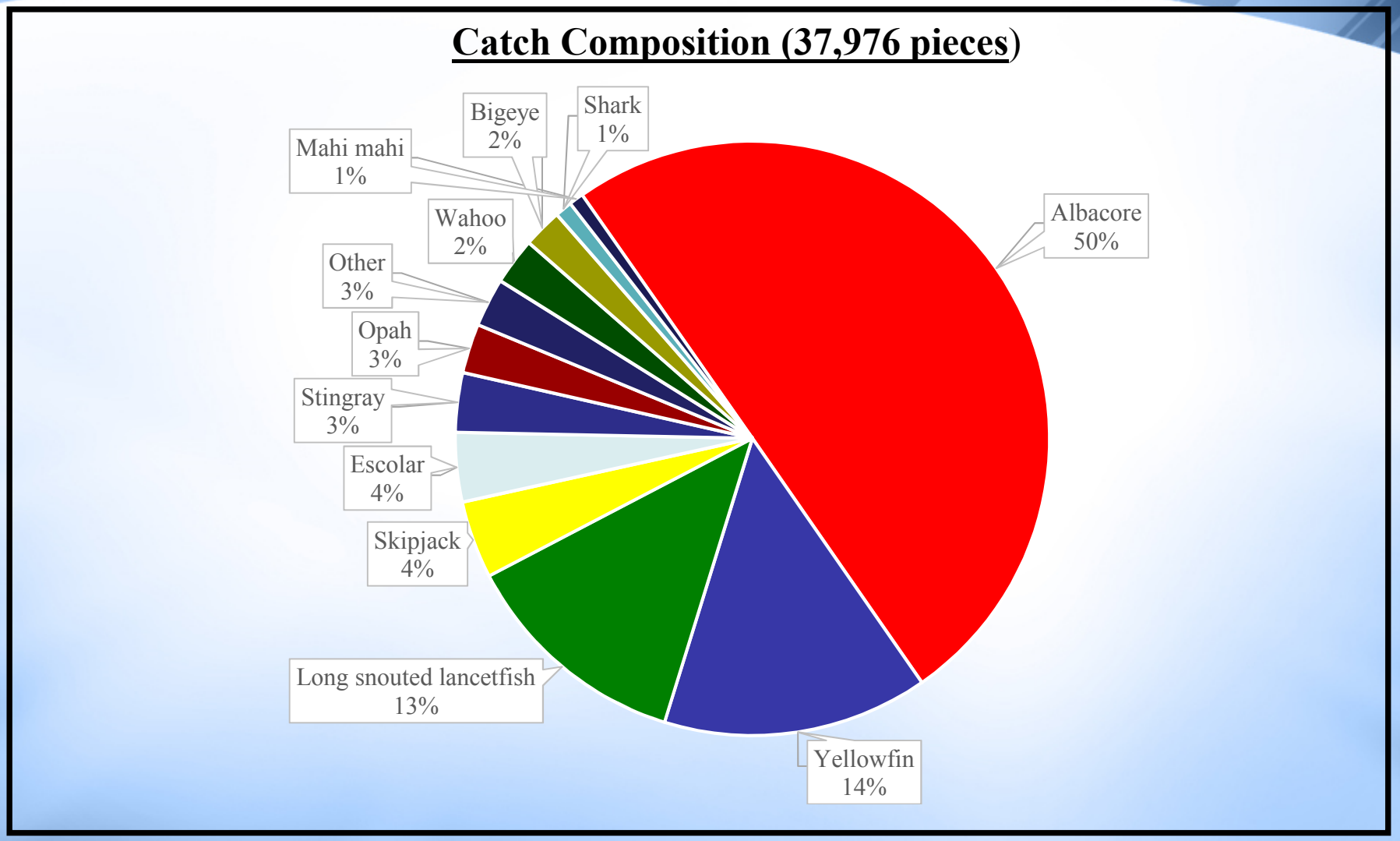
Camera three is focused on the deck and provides a view of retained species and disposition

Installed camera

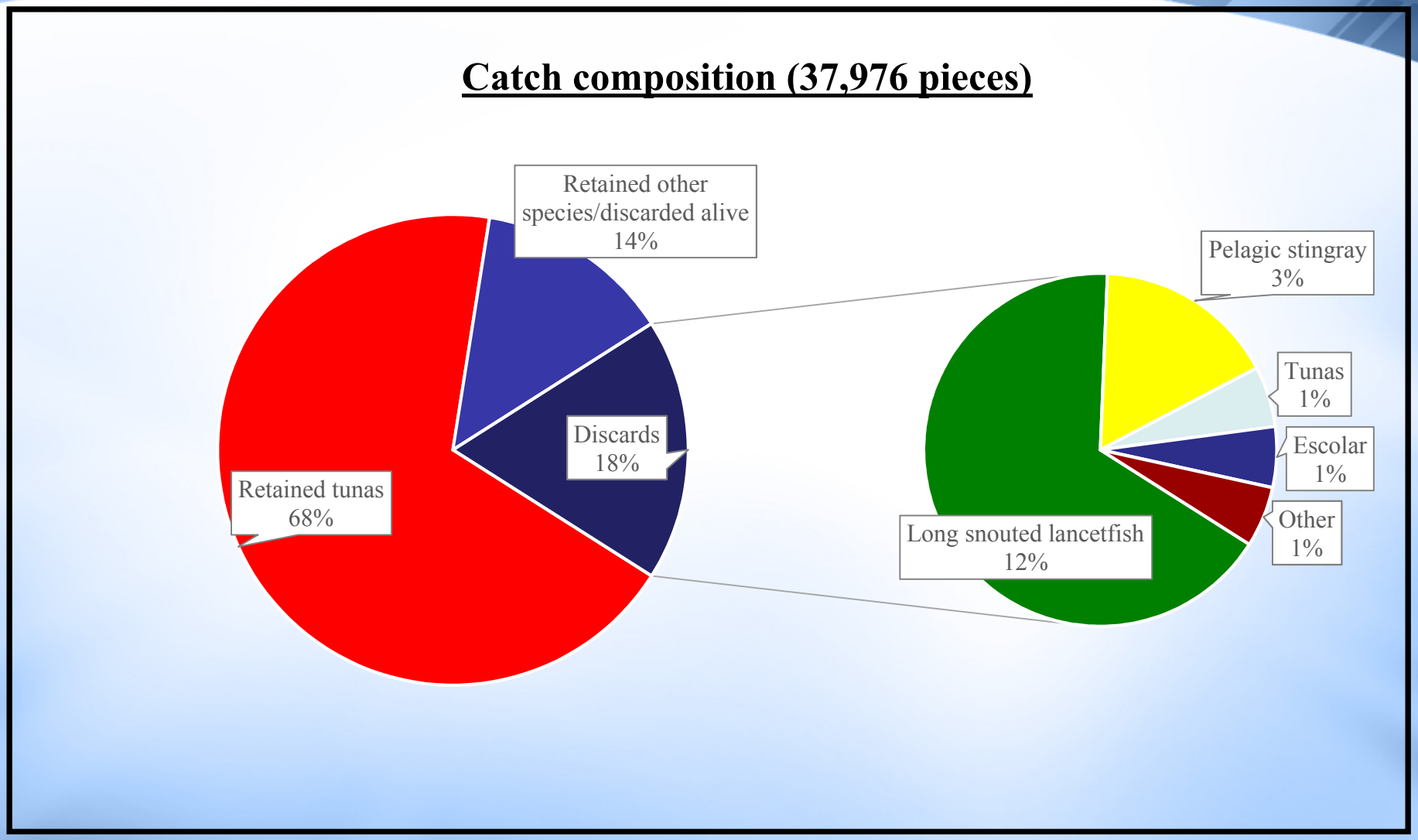
Camera view



Aggregated data from the eleven trip reports detailing 419 sets and ~1.2MM hooks show about 70% of landings are tunas. Long snouted lancetfish is the primary bycatch species. Sharks represent less than 1% with half of those released alive.



About 82% of catch (by piece) is retained or discarded alive. Main retained species other than tuna include opah, wahoo, mahi, escolar, marlin, sailfish, spearfish and swordfish. Over 80% of the discards are long snouted lancetfish and pelagic stingrays.



Initial learnings and looking ahead

- Technology works and reliable, need to regularly clean camera lens for optimal results
- Support efforts to speed up and automate the review process
- We are looking to expand project to a pilot in Indian Ocean
- Fully support RFMO development of minimum equipment standards and review process to accept EM for LL observation
- Continue to build data set on catch composition