



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

WCPFC-SC14-AR/CNM-34

PANAMA

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
ANNUAL REPORT PART I 2017

Scientific data was provided to the commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission	Our participation as CNM status 2017 was with support fishing vessels activities
Part I.	

1. Abstract/Summary

The Republic of Panama is located in Central America, between 7°12'07" and 9°38'46" North latitude, 77°09'24" and 83°03'07" West longitude, with coasts on the Caribbean and the Pacific. It has about 1,581 islands and islets, and the territorial waters extend to about 200 nautical miles wide, over which the Republic of Panama has sovereignty and sovereign rights, as in the seabed. A large upwelling in the Gulf of Panama influences this area.

Panama has done a major management control of the fishing vessels since 1997, when it established the obligation to obtain a fishing license for fishing vessels on the high seas, for all fishing vessels and support fishing vessels.

The Republic of Panama has established a vessel monitoring system (VMS) through Executive Decree No. 17 of June 30, 2008 and it is mandatory to be installed in order to obtain an international fishing or support fishing license.

In that same year, the Republic of Panama approved the National Maritime Strategy, and next; Executive Decree No. 98-A of November 17, 2009 approved The National Action Plan to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU).

In the context of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, Panama is a contracting party of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), approved by Law No. 24 of 1954, and also ratified the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), approved by Law No. 75 of 1998. It is also a contracting party of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), approved by Law No. 74 of 1998. In the context to cooperate and comply with the RFMO's measures, Panama is a cooperating non contracting party (CNCP) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Commission (SPRFMO).

In relation to the commitment to fight against illegal, undeclared, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, Panama approved by Law No. 43 of September 14, 2016, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

2. Tabular Annual Fisheries Information

We have no information of fisheries because there are not catch vessels in Western and Central Pacific Area.

3. Background

The Republic of Panama is a cooperating non-Member of WCPFC, the number of vessels operating in this convention area are totally transport and support vessels. All of our vessels are licensed to operate in the WCPFC in compliment to the commission's recommendations and requirements.

The Republic of Panama accept high seas boarding and inspection and has accepted 100% observer coverage on its carriers and commits to compliance with all WCPFC CMM's in all vessels if applicable.

4. Coastal State Reporting

We are not a Coastal State in WCPFC Convention Area.

5. Socio-economic factors

The benefits obtained the flag in marine and crews of the ships as well as praise company profits that are in the country and q generate many jobs.

6. Disposal of Catch

We don't have catch fishing vessels in WCPFC Convention area.

7. Onshore Developments

We are not a Coastal Sate and no processing plant or support facilities in WCPFC Convention area.

8. Future Prospect of the Fishery

We have our position to maintain only transport and support fishing vessel with the possibility to develop the fishing activity in the future.

9. Status of the Tuna Fishery data collection systems

Long sheet data collection and verification – Transport and support vessels are required to submit data on their area operations based on format for such reporting which include a detailed catch fishing vessels transshipment, and submitted for verification on a rearly basis showing information regarding position, date, sets and species. All the operations are verified by our FMC.

10. Research Activities Covering Target and non-Target species

Fisheries Information System: Panama reports statistics for all activities in the areas of Merchant Shipping, Ports, Seafarers and discharge data of fishery products in domestic and international ports.

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) is responsible for verifying the information captures and maintains landing, export, import of fishery products, and biometric information of the target species, which are important to support the country's fisheries development.

The ARAP maintains periodic sampling programs at ports landings by species and sizes. There are research centers, such as the Center for Marine Sciences and Limnology, University of Panama, which conducts research on specific estuarine systems and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), which focuses its studies on the biological area and conservation of marine ecosystems.

Also conducted joint research with CIAT-Achotines, which supports research of tropical tuna species, with the aim of closing the life cycle. Similarly, the Action Plan of the Southeast Pacific and the Caribbean Action Plan are programs Regional Seas Program of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), supports research on environmental indicators and quality of coastal marine waters, which allow to address areas risk to ecosystems and marine species of commercial interest. On the other hand, supported the Ministry of Science of Spain develop fisheries research survey and monitoring inventories of stocks of fishery resources on continental shelves. All of this contributes to better decision, making regarding the sustainable management of fisheries resources and ecosystem.

Species	Location of transshipment WCPFC area					Location of transshipment outside of WCPFC area					Total									
	G.G	Dress	Round	Other	Sub Total	G.G	Dress	Round	Other	Sub Total										
Bigeye Tuna	219,050		6,049,279		6,268,329					0	1,040,829									7,309,158
Yellowfin tuna	4,228,300		30,742,460		34,970,760					0	342,444									35,313,204
Striped Marlin					0					0										0
Swordfish					0					0										0
Blue marlin					0					0										27,443
White marlin					0					0										27,443
Albacore tuna			1,000		1,000					0										1,832,609
Spearfish					0					0										1,832,609
Skipjack tuna	21,242,115		119,139,535		140,381,650					0										140,381,650
Sharks					0					0										0
Shark fin					0					0										0
Other					0					0										0
Total	25,689,465	0	155,932,274	0	181,621,739	0	0	0	0	0	1,383,273	1,860,052	0	0	0	3,243,325	184,865,064			

Species	Location of transshipment: In port transshipment					Location of transshipment: At sea transshipment					Total									
	G.G	Dress	Round	Other	Sub Total	G.G	Dress	Round	Other	Sub Total										
Bigeye Tuna					0					0										0
Yellowfin tuna					0					0										0
Striped Marlin					0					0										0
Swordfish					0					0										0
Blue marlin					0					0										0
White marlin					0					0										0
Albacore tuna					0					0										0
Spearfish					0					0										0
Skipjack tuna					0					0										0
Sharks					0					0										0
Shark fin					0					0										0
Other					0					0										0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Number of Transshipments by location of transshipments

WCPFC area		Outside of WCPFC area	
In port	EEZ	High Seas	At sea
228		15	

Vessel Name: _____
 Radio: _____
 Imo: _____
 Owner's Vessel: _____