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

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**WCPFC-SC14-AR/CCM-05**

**EUROPEAN UNION**

# EUROPEAN UNION

## Annual Report Part 1 – Fishing season 2017- WCPFC

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## **WCPFC ANNUAL REPORT PART 1**

### **YEAR 2017, 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 have 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 two EC-flagged purse seiners operating in the Pacific Ocean have carried out their activity in both the IATTC and WCPFC Convention Areas during 2017, and observers of the APICD have covered 100% of the trips in the WCPFC Convention Area. Information from trips not covered by observers of the APICD (during some previous years the coverage has been slightly below 100%) 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 2016, as well as in previous years, are shown in Table I.



<b>2017</b>				
	<b>WCPFC</b>	<b>WCPFC east of 150°W</b>	<b>Discards</b>	<b>No. Sets</b>
<b>BET</b>	2686	20	47	
<b>SKJ</b>	8027	111	55	159
<b>YFT</b>	628	23	3	

<b>2016</b>				<b>2015</b>				
	<b>WCPFC</b>	<b>east of 150°W</b>	<b>Discards</b>	<b>No. Sets</b>	<b>WCPFC</b>	<b>east of 150°W</b>	<b>Discards</b>	<b>No. Sets</b>
<b>BET</b>	2049	287	17		1529	482	2	
<b>SKJ</b>	6081	1462	170	102	30389	8490	356	459
<b>YFT</b>	378	105	4		1290	347	1	

<b>2014</b>				<b>2013</b>				
	<b>WCPFC</b>	<b>east of 150°W</b>	<b>Discards</b>	<b>No. Sets</b>	<b>WCPFC</b>	<b>east of 150°W</b>	<b>Discards</b>	<b>No. Sets</b>
<b>BET</b>	5591	187	8		8133	241	19	
<b>SKJ</b>	31997	1560	225	655	31602	780	758	665
<b>YFT</b>	2866	154	0		5281	45	7	

**Table I-** Total catches (in metric tonnes) 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 last 5 years.

## 1.2.- Number of vessels by size

In 2017, 2 EU-Spain flagged purse seiners fished in the WCPFC-CA, with gross register tonnages of 1562 and 2502 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.

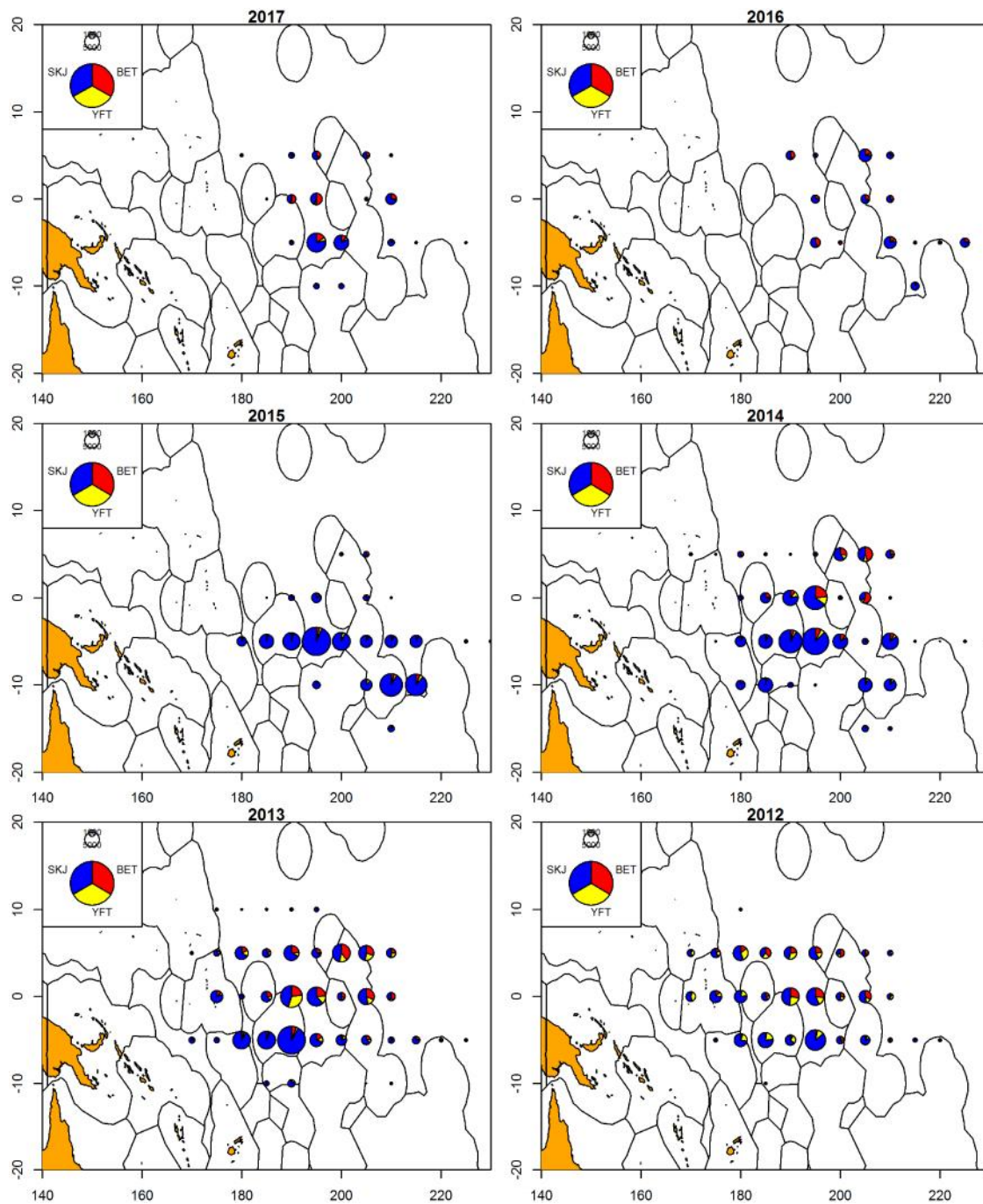


<b>Year</b>	<b>GRT</b>	<b>No. vessels</b>
<b>1996</b>	1351	1
<b>1997</b>	1351	1
<b>1998</b>	4419	3
<b>1999</b>	8176	4
<b>2000</b>	6887	4
<b>2001</b>	9172	4
<b>2002</b>	9172	4
<b>2003</b>	10678	5
<b>2004</b>	6532	3
<b>2005</b>	6532	3
<b>2006</b>	6532	3
<b>2007</b>	9732	4
<b>2008</b>	9732	4
<b>2009</b>	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

**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 2017 and the five previous years.



**Fig. 1-** Distribution of catches by area (5°x5°) and species in 2012-2017.

During the latest two years, the overall catch decreased significantly, due to the reduction in the number of active vessels in the area. It has also shifted north, as compared to 2015. The distribution of the effort follows a similar pattern (Fig. 2).

The reported species composition in 2017 is similar to the one observed in 2016.



#### 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 2017 and 2016, 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 2017, 6 species accounted for more than 95% of the bycatch, in terms of weight: Silky shark, dolphinfish, blue marlin, triggerfish, wahoo and rainbow runner.

Regarding designated Shark Species (*Carcharhinus longimanus* and *Carcharhinus falciformis*) the following table describe the number of each specie caught by purse seiners as well as their destiny:

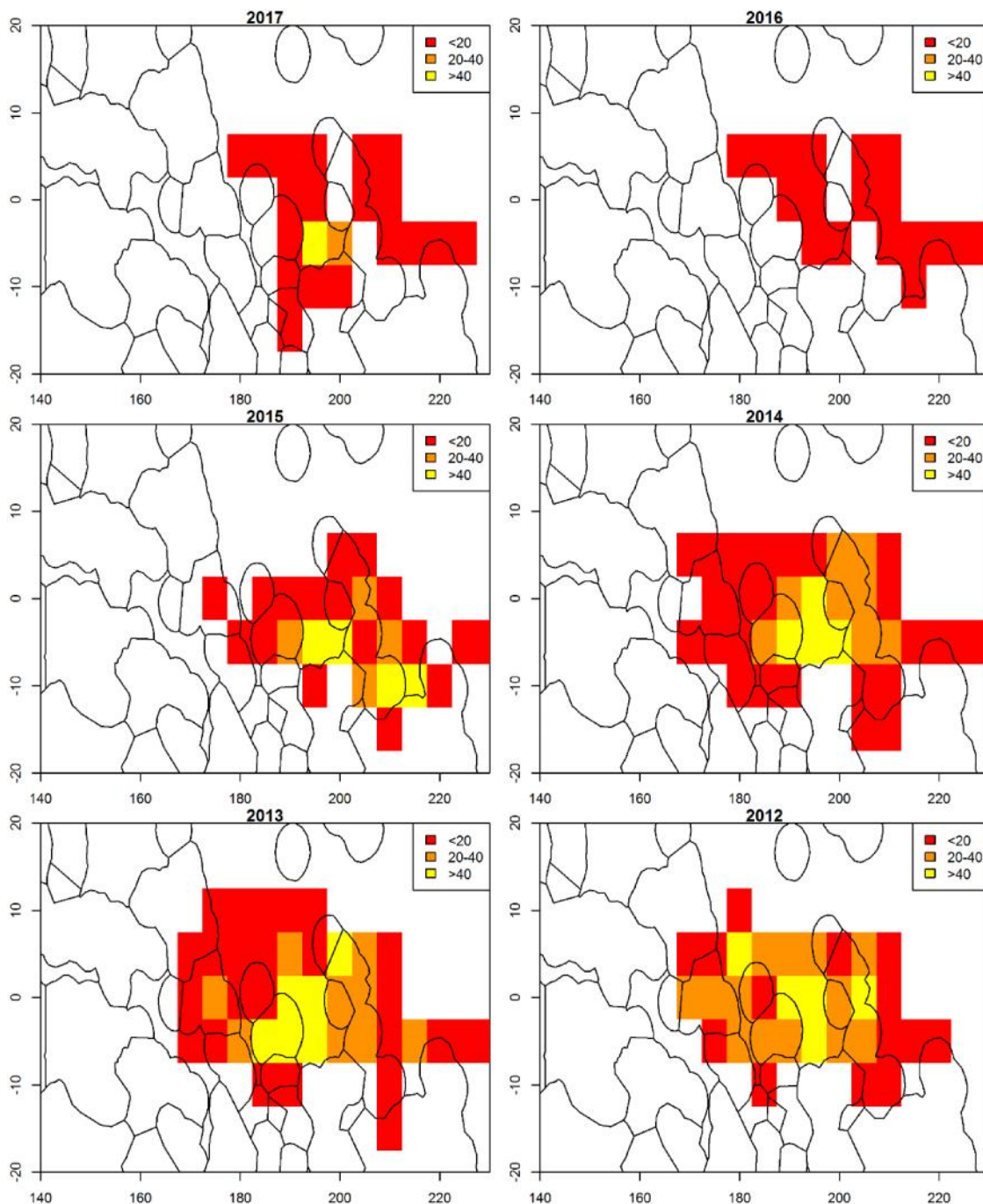
Destiny/Species	<i>Carcharhinidae</i>	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	TOTAL sp.
Unknown		1		1
Discarded		832	2	834
Released alive	1	712	2	715
Other		159		159
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1704</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1709</b>

Around 40% of the *Carcharhinus falciformis*, the main bycatch species of the purse seine fleet, as well as 50% (2 out of 4 specimens) of the *C. longimanus* captured in 2017 were estimated to be released alive. Only 2 species of *C. longimanus* were discarded because both were already dead according to observers information.

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 marine turtle, marine mammals or sea birds were involved in purse seine fishing operations within the WCPFC-CA in 2017.

#### 1.5.- Research and statistics

100% 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). Additionally, in keeping with the current CMMs, EU purse seiners fishing in the WCPFC-CA have 100% coverage of ROP observers. These observers also record information on size and species composition, vessel activity, bycatch, etc. However, this information is submitted directly to the Science Service Provider and not reported to the flag State, and is not included in the current report.



**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>Istiompax indica</i>	0.47	0.00
	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	3.97	0.19
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus,</i> <i>Istiompax</i>	0.53	0.11
	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	0.02	0.00
	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	<0.01	0.00
	SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	42.12
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>		0.12	0.04
<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>		0.03	0.00
<i>Mobula spp.</i>		0.03	0.00
<i>Mobulidae</i>		0.19	0.00
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>		0.07	0.00
OTHER FISH	<i>Ablennes hians</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	2.28	0.09
	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	0.05	0.05
	<i>Balistidae</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	2.88	0.92
	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	4.06	0.28
	<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.06	0.00
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	1.46	0.06
	<i>Kyphosus analogus</i>	0.01	0.00
	<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Kyphosus spp.</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Remora remora</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.04	0.00
	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Seriola, Caranx spp.</i>	0.02	0.00
	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.09	<0.01
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	0.00	
<i>Others, NEI</i>	<0.01	0.00	

**Table III.-** Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2017. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (100% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA).



	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH	<i>Istiompax indica</i>	0.24	0.00
	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	2.53	1.69
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus,</i> <i>Istiompax</i>	1.7	0.2
SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	27.28	6.09
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.29	0.03
	<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	0.03	0.00
	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	0.15	0.15
OTHER FISH	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	1.64	0.84
	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	0.05	0.05
	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	3.91	0.28
	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	0.04	0.02
	<i>Caranx spp.</i>	0.01	0.00
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	4.39	1.29
	<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.17	0.03
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	1.37	0.26
	<i>Kyphosus analogus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>	0.01	<0.01
	<i>Kyphosus spp.</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Mola mola</i>	0.13	0.13
	<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.01	0.00
	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	0.02	<0.01
<i>Seriola spp.</i>	<0.01	0.00	
<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.13	0.06	
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	<0.01	
<i>Others, NEI</i>	0.02	0.00	

**Table IV.-** Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2016. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (100% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA).



## 2. LONG LINE FISHERY

The Spanish long line fleet is composed by 3 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 2017 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

FAO fishing area	VESSEL	SWO
71	ILLA GAVEIRA	602,00
77	ILLA GAVEIRA	1.197,00
81	CARMEN TERE	479.217,00
	ILLA GAVEIRA	341.430,00
	PLAYA ZAHARA	109.689,00
<b>Total general (Kg)</b>		<b>932.135,00</b>

Total estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (Kg)

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 and IATTC area, since these vessels may operate in the IATTC area.



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

Gear	
Gear	LONGLINE
Fleet	
Fleet	SPAIN (EU)
Size class (GRT)	
0-50	0
50-200	0
201-500	3
500+	0

VESSEL NAME	AUTHORIZATION PERIOD
CARMEN TERE	01/01 to 31/12/2017
ILLA GAVEIRA	01/01 to 31/12/2017
PLAYA ZAHARA	30/06 to 31/12/2017

## 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. 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 1.162 hooks per vessel in 2017. 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 in the following table include the total amount as result of the activity of these vessels in the WCPFC area, overlapping area and IATTC area, since these vessels may operate in the IATTC area.



FAO fishing area	VESSEL	ALB	BET	BLM	MLS	YFT	BUM	SKJ	PBF	LMA	BSH	SMA
71	ILLA GAVEIRA	-	-	59,00	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.007,00	-
77	ILLA GAVEIRA	-	61,00	216,00	121,00	-	-	-	-	-	1.620,00	226,00
81	CARMEN TERE	465,00	9.835,00	15.162,00	-	2.392,00	503,00	-	-	1.780,00	588.326,00	212.857,00
	ILLA GAVEIRA	1.009,00	9.217,00	3.160,00	6.356,00	1.930,00	-	-	-	-	304.593,00	120.188,00
	PLAYA ZAHARA	162,00	22.274,00	6.407,00	-	3.068,00	-	-	-	-	194.667,00	55.302,00
<b>Total general (Kg)</b>		<b>1.636,00</b>	<b>21.387,00</b>	<b>25.004,00</b>	<b>6.477,00</b>	<b>7.390,00</b>	<b>503,00</b>	-	-	<b>1.780,00</b>	<b>1.090.213,00</b>	<b>388.573,00</b>

Total estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (Kg)



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## European Union

### EU ES: Addendum to the Annual report Part I (activities 2017)

#### 1) Transshipment report 2017 (CMM 2009-06)

Number of transshipments: 15. The catches reported in this table have been harvested both within and outside the WCPFC Convention Area.

Species	quantity (Kg) (*)	In port (YES/NO)	Transshipment in/outside WCPFC area (**)	Catches in/outside WCPFC area	Presentation (FROZEN/FRESH)	Gear
BET	1.435.000	YES	IN	In and out	FROZEN	PS
BSH	335.838,82	YES	IN	In and out	FROZEN	LL
BSH	0	YES	OUTSIDE	In and out	FROZEN	LL
BSH	128.154,52	YES	OVERLAP AREA	In and out	FROZEN	LL
SKJ	5.235.000	YES	IN	In and out	FROZEN	PS
SMA	184.416,83	YES	IN	In and out	FROZEN	LL
SMA	0	YES	OUTSIDE	In and out	FROZEN	LL
SMA	52.209,23	YES	OVERLAP AREA	In and out	FROZEN	LL
SWO	414.597,19	YES	IN	In and out	FROZEN	LL
SWO	0	YES	OUTSIDE	In and out	FROZEN	LL
SWO	170.869,79	YES	OVERLAP AREA	In and out	FROZEN	LL
YFT	429.000	YES	IN	In and out	FROZEN	PS

\* Please note that in these quantities are not included offloaded on land.

\*\* Ports considered are in WCPFC area: Auckland and Pago Pago; outside WCPFC area: Callao, Paita and Vacamonte; and Overlap area: Papeete.

#### 2) Sharks (CMM 2010-07)

Catches for MAK (LMA) were 1.780,00 Kg.

Catches for other species (FAL, OCS, THR/ALV, POR SPN/SPY, RHN) were not occurred.

#### 3) Observer coverage

The observer period was during 1 trip (61 days). The total number of trips were 12.

**4) Seabirds (CMM 2012-07) and turtles (CMM 2008-03): mitigation methods and interactions.**

The information collected by observer, included in the observer report, is 0 interactions with marine mammals, sea birds, turtles and Designated Shark Species (*Carcharhinus longimanus* and *Carcharhinus falciformis*) in both purse seiner and longline fleet.

Mitigation methods used for sea birds and turtles in longline fleet are the following:

Code	Vessel Name	Area	MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SEABIRDS (CMM 2012-07)							MITIGATION MEASURES FOR TURTLES (CMM 2008-03)			
			Night setting with minimum deck lighting	Tori-lines	Weighted branch lines	Side setting with a bird curtain and weighted branch lines	Blue-dyed bait	Management of offal discharge	Deep setting line shooter	Turtle Release Devices	Circular hooks	Bait fish flake	Any other action taken by the Scientific Committee, the Compliance Committee, and approved by the Commission
25475	CARMEN TERE	WCPFC/CIAT	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
25542	ILLA GAVEIRA	WCPFC/CIAT	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
25767	PLAYA ZAHARA	WCPFC/CIAT	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	Turtle Release Pole



