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

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INDEX:

1.- PURSE SEINER FISHERY	2
1.1.- Annual catch and effort by primary species in the WCPFC Convention Area.....	2
1.2.- Number of vessels by size	4
1.3.- Fishing patterns.....	5
1.4.- Estimated total catches of non-target, associated and dependent species.	7
1.5.- Research and statistics.....	7
2. LONG LINE FISHERY	11
2.1. Annual catch and effort by primary species and gear in the WCPFC Convention Area	11
2.2. Number of vessels by gear and size (fleet characteristic)	11
2.3. Fishing patterns	12
2.4. Estimated total catches of non-target, associated and dependent species.....	14



WCPFC ANNUAL REPORT PART I

YEAR 2019, 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 2019, and observers of the APICD have covered *c.* 60% of the catch 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 2019, as well as in previous years, are shown in Table I.

	2019			
	WCPFC	WCPFC east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	599	23	3	
SKJ	8794	139	122	167
YFT	541	19	1	

	2018				2017			
	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets	WCPFC	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	1189	78	3		2686	20	47	
SKJ	8648	1111	115	201	8027	111	55	159
YFT	404	24	9		628	23	3	

	2016	2015
	WCPF	C



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

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 2019, 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.

Year	GRT	No. vessels
1996	1351	1
1997	1351	1
1998	4419	3
1999	8176	4
2000	6887	4
2001	9172	4
2002	9172	4
2003	10678	5
2004	6532	3
2005	6532	3
2006	6532	3
2007	9732	4
2008	9732	4
2009	9732	4
2010	9732	4
2011	9732	4
2012	9732	4
2013	9732	4
2014	9732	4
2015	9732	4
2016	4064	2
2017	4064	2
2018	4064	2
2019	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 2019 and the five previous years.

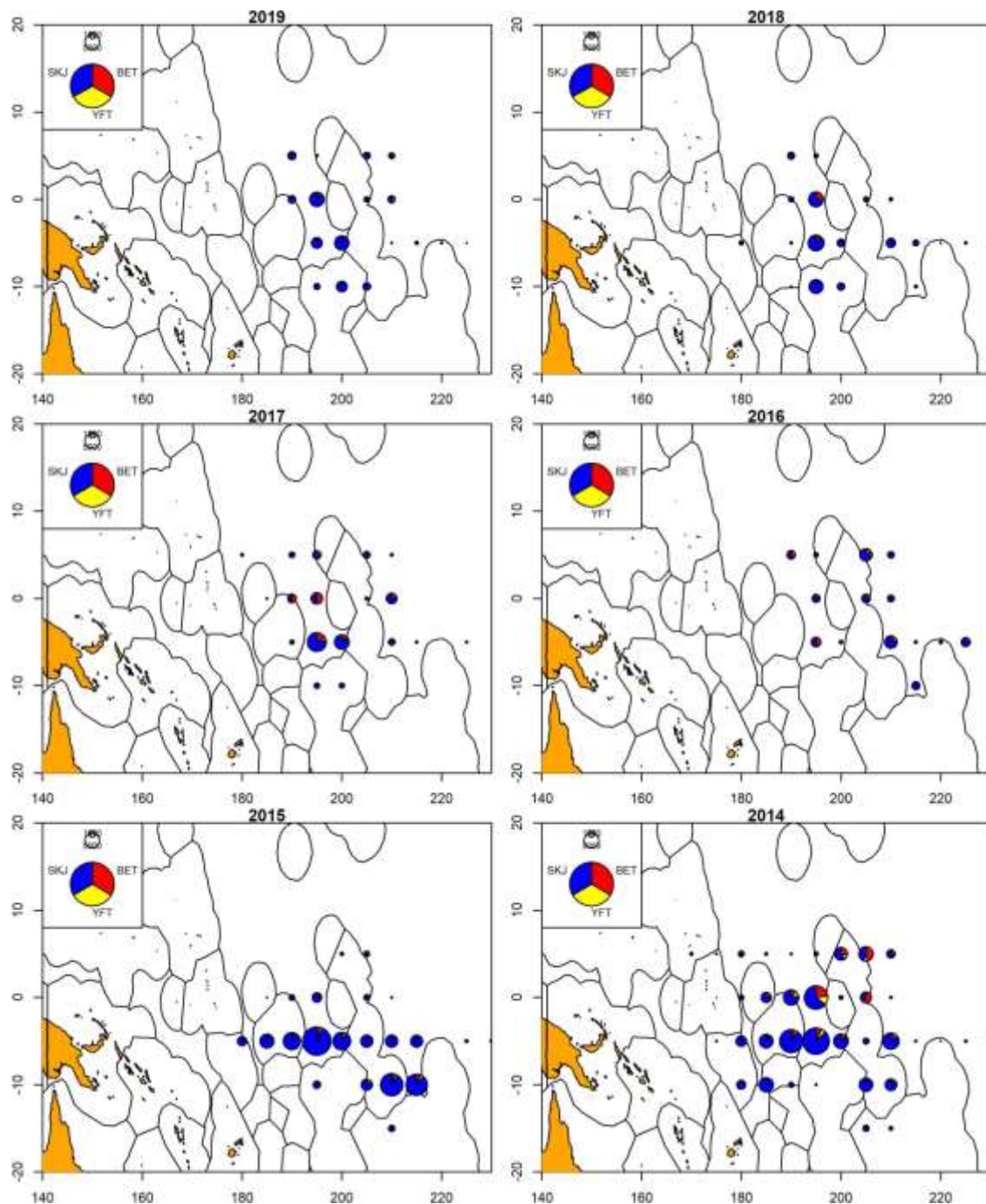


Fig. 1- Distribution of catches by area (5°x5°) and species in 2014-2019.

There has been no significant change in the distribution of the catch and effort as compared to previous years.



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 2019 and 2018, 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 2019, 5 species/groups accounted for more than 95% of the bycatch, in terms of weight: Silky shark, blue marlin, dolphinfish, unidentified billfish and wahoo. Around 37% of the *Carcharinus falciformis*, the main bycatch species of the purse seine fleet, as well as 79% (15 out of 19 specimens) of the *C. longimanus* captured in 2019 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. Only one green turtle was involved in purse seine fishing operations within the WCPFC-CA in 2019, and was released unharmed.

On 11/12/2019, at 01°25'N 169°12'W, a whale shark, measuring around 3 m long, which had not been detected before the set took place, was encircled incidentally on a FAD set. Once detected, it was released with the aid of the brail as soon as possible and swam away from the vessel, apparently unharmed.

1.5.- RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

60 % 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.

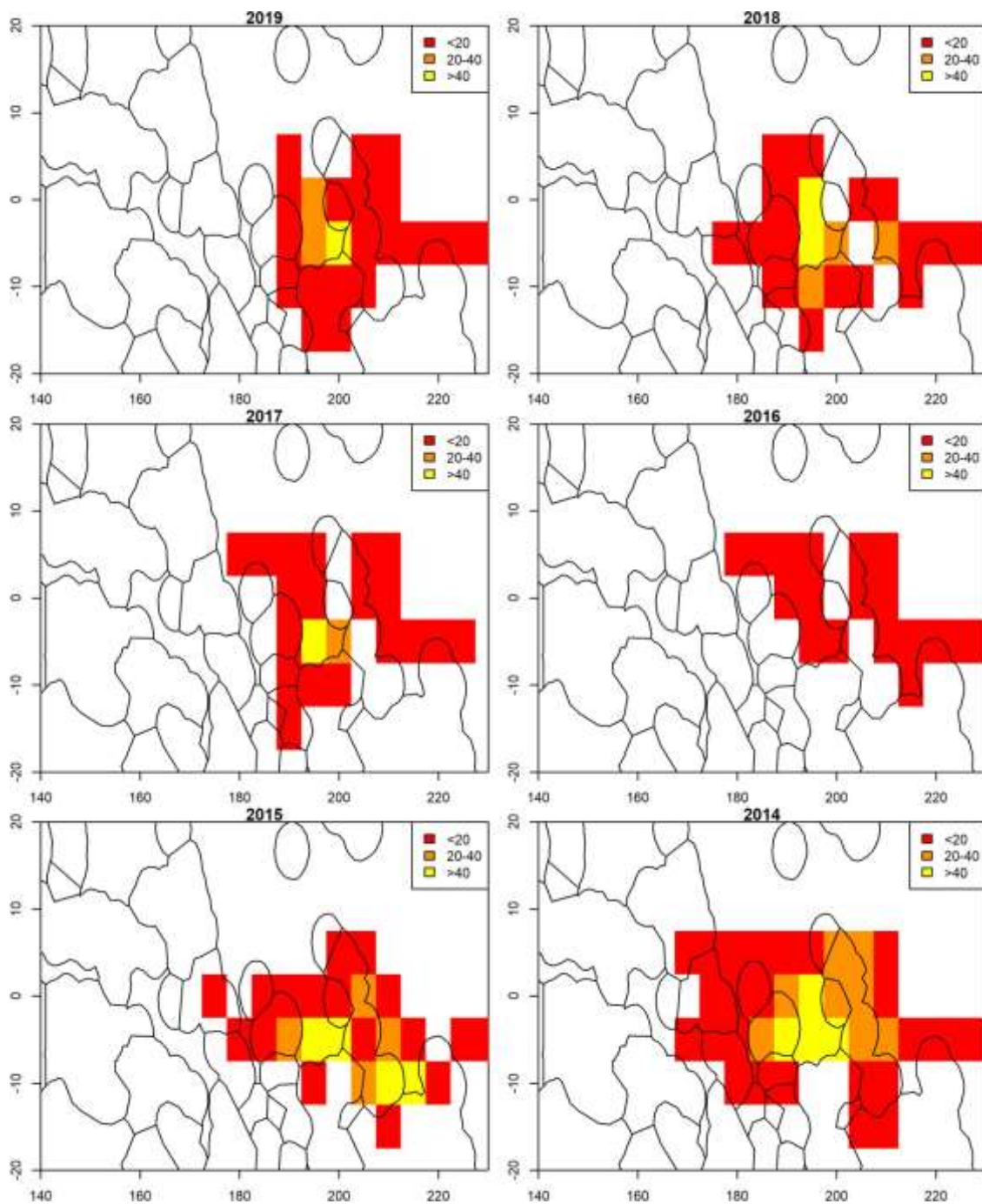


Fig. 2.- Distribution of the purse seine effort, in fishing days, by area (5°x5°) and year.



	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	5.60	0.00
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	1.77	0.00
SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	24.18	0.51
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.88	0.00
	<i>Carcharhinus</i> spp.	0.17	0.00
	<i>Mobula</i> spp.	0.03	0.00
	Mobulidae indet.	0.02	0.02
OTHER FISH	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	1.50	0.34
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	0.02	<0.01
	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	2.54	0.16
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	0.09	<0.01
	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.01	0.00
	<i>Others, NEI</i>	<0.01	<0.01

Table III.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2019. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (c. 60% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA).



	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH	<i>Istiompax indica</i>	1.14	0.00
	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	2.93	1.18
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	0.50	0.03
SHARKS & RAYS	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	10.13	0.95
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.09	0.04
	<i>Carcharhinus</i> spp.	0.10	0.00
	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	0.01	0.00
	<i>Sphyrna</i> spp.	0.09	0.00
OTHER FISH	<i>Ablennes hians</i>	0.03	0.03
	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	2.28	0.48
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	0.02	0.02
	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Caranx</i> spp.	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	1.03	0.00
	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	2.54	0.81
	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	0.79	0.12
	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.08	0.05
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	0.00	
<i>Others, NEI</i>	0.01	0.01	

Table IV.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2018. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (c. 82% 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 2019 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
77	CARMEN TERE	91.917,63
	ILLA GAVEIRA	136.407,46
	PLAYA ZAHARA	88.733,61
81	CARMEN TERE	306.224,96
	ILLA GAVEIRA	224.805,19
	PLAYA ZAHARA	345.633,30
Total (Kg)		1.193.722,15

Table 5. 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.

Gear	LONGLINE
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 31/12/2019
ILLA GAVEIRA	01/01 to 31/12/2019
PLAYA ZAHARA	01/01 to 31/12/2019



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 1.183 hooks per vessel in 2019.

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
77	CARMEN TERE	212,01	3.523,00	15.194,40	0,00	6.399,90	-	-	-	-	21.436,85	20.772,45
	ILLA GAVEIRA	71,34	628,23	8.053,50	2.571,40	772,71	-	-	-	-	16.889,95	32.094,90
	PLAYA ZAHARA	287,49	2.867,80	15.070,90	0,00	3.876,60	-	-	-	-	17.732,50	22.896,00
81	CARMEN TERE	660,14	11.929,20	11.899,68	0,00	3.435,39	-	-	-	-	579.793,39	199.633,60
	ILLA GAVEIRA	105,78	1.384,05	5.617,40	3.971,36	488,45	-	-	-	-	281.510,56	79.850,40
	PLAYA ZAHARA	992,78	9.848,22	13.707,70	0,00	5.181,63	-	-	-	-	693.940,81	198.775,22
Total		2.329,54	30.180,50	69.543,58	6.542,76	20.154,68	-	-	-	-	1.611.304,06	554.022,57

Table 6. Total estimated catches by species in the Pacific Ocean South of the Equator (Kg)



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

Code	Vessel Name	Area	MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SEABIRDS (CMM 2017-06)							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	Turtle Release Pole
25542	ILLA GAVEIRA	WCPFC/CIAT	X	X	X		X	X			X		
25767	PLAYA ZAHARA	WCPFC/CIAT	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			Turtle Release Pole