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FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

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EL SALVADOR



EL SALVADOR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

01 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2016
July 06, 2017

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by April 30, 2017	YES
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	



1. SUMMARY

El Salvador is located in Central America, it started tuna activities in 2001 as member of the of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), activities at the WCPFC Convention area started in 2001, ceased in 2003 and started again in 2007.

We were granted the status of Cooperating Non Member at the 5th Regular Session of the Commission held in Busan, Republic of Korea in 2008 and have been renewing it year by year since then as we comply with the Convention and the applicable Conservation and Management Measures and pay our voluntary contribution to the Commission as CNM.

Our history fishing in the Pacific Ocean for tuna and tuna like species goes back to 2001 as we started with two purse seiners (Montelucia and Monterocio, this last was formerly known as Alexandros).

Some of our fishing activities may be misunderstood regarding fishing effort as we fish in the overlap area shared by the IATTC and WCPFC. However, as El Salvador is a member IATTC the vessels may move back and forth on both Areas, a reason why we cover all of our fishing activities thru the endorsed Observer Program.

Salvadoran flagged vessels aim for tropical tunas while fishing in the WCPFC Area, particularly Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*).

The information gathered for preparing this document comes basically from different sources, such as the logbooks on board, VMS tracking, catch certificates issued for the European Market, observer reports, invoice sales, transshipments



declaration reports, landing reports, and inspection reports. Some of the data is collected in collaboration with the IATTC.

2. TABULAR ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Table 1 shows effort estimation of the annual catches, data comes primarily from logbooks filled by the captain of the vessels (*data from 2013, 2014 and 2015 was revised in April 2018*).

Table 1. Annual catches and effort

YEAR	ANNUAL CATCHES BY PRIMARY SPECIES, (<i>Metric Tons</i>)				FISHING DAYS	
	YFT	SKJ	BET	TOTAL	HIGH SEAS	EEZ
2013	2483	9741	761	12985	28	223
2014	2561	12754	639	15954	29	334
2015	516	6295	258	7069	29	62
2016	552	2119	330	3001	22	18
2017	817	3061	441	4319	28	25

For annual catches estimates data comes primarily from logbooks filled by the captain of the vessels (Figure 1).

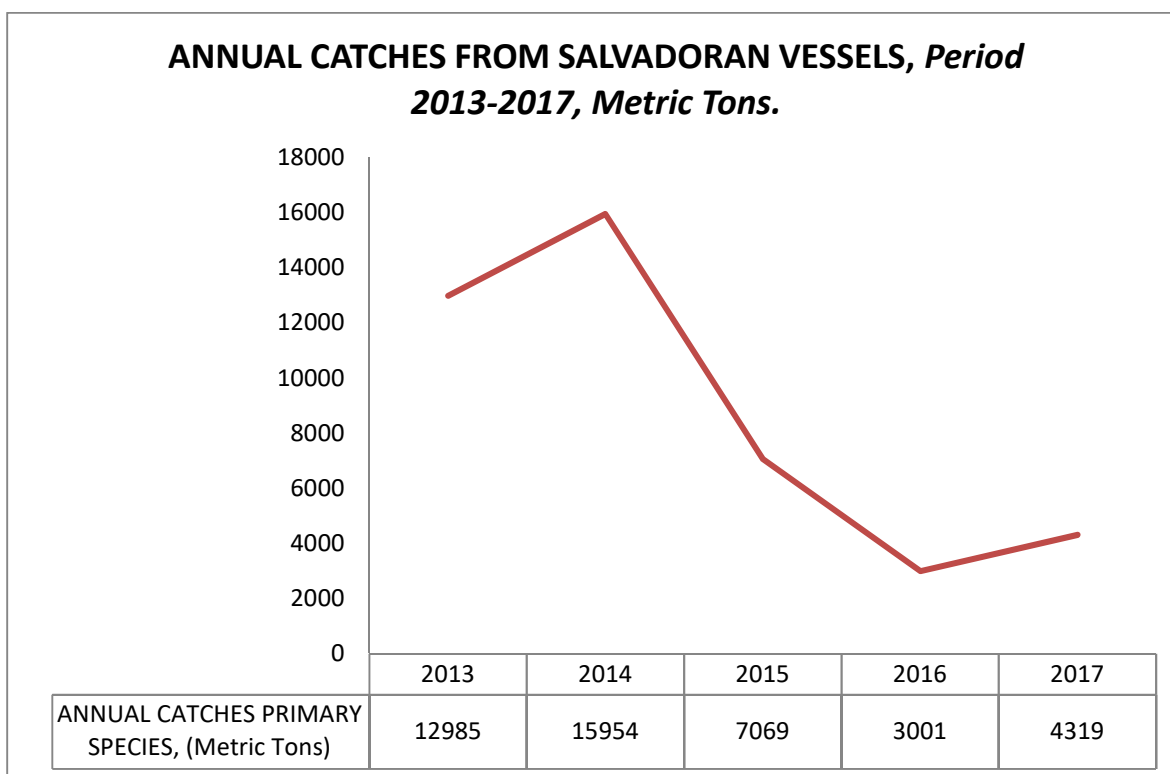


Figure 1. Historical Catch in the WCPFC area by El Salvador's fleet, the data before 2011 was estimated by the observer program.

3. BACKGROUND

El Salvador is located in Central America, with approximately 320 Km of coastline bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Guatemala and Honduras, among 13° 10' and 13° 40' N Latitude.

Fishing and Aquaculture are ruled by the General Law to Manage and Promote Fisheries and Aquaculture, published in the Official Gazette number 240, volume number 353 of December 19th, 2001. The Law is executed by the General Director of the Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of the Republic of El Salvador (CENDEPESCA), a branch office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.



The fisheries sector in El Salvador is divided in four sub sectors:

1. Marine industrial fishery;
2. Marine artisanal fishery;
3. Inland water fishery and
4. Aquaculture.

The marine industrial fishery includes the tuna purse seine fishery, shrimp trawler fishery, and pelagic longline fishery.

El Salvador tuna fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area started in 2001, two purse seiners flagged to El Salvador operated then (Montelucia and Monterocio, this last was formerly known as Alexandros). Tuna fisheries in this geographical area ceased in 2003; then in 2007 started again using a fishing license issued by a coastal country of the Convention.

Currently, El Salvador has the status of *Cooperating Non Member* within the WCPFC and is complying with all the measures issued by the Commission to aim sustainable fisheries, under the technical principles issues by the WCPFC as:

“Complies with all Resolutions and requirements including effort, capacity and catch controls and limits; carries on all purse seine vessels an observer accredited with either the IATTC or WCPFC observer programs and operates a vessel monitoring system (VMS)”.

4. FLAG STATE REPORTING

The present information has been gathered from the logbooks reported to CENDEPESCA by the tuna industry. The number of vessels fishing in the WCPFC Convention Area may vary from one year to another, as stated above El Salvador is a member of the ATTC and Cooperating Non-member of the WCPFC, by maintaining



this status Salvadoran flagged vessels may move back and forth on both RFMO, complying with the different CMM and Resolutions of course. Figure 2 shows the number of vessels that have operated in the WCPFC area throughout the years.

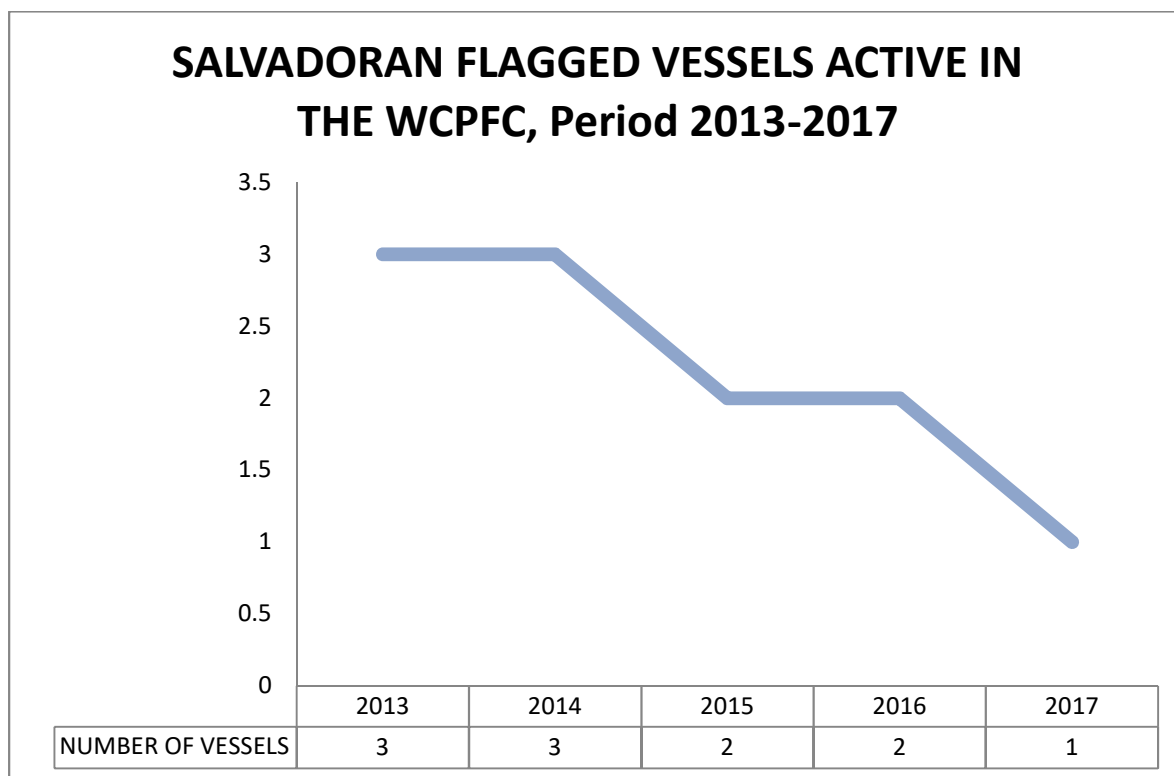


Figure 2. Salvadoran flagged purse seiners fishing in the WCPFC Convention Area.

El Salvador started the tuna fishing into WCPO in 2007; the number of vessels has kept constant. However, all Salvadoran vessels have been on RFV when fishing and before. Table 2 shows the number of vessels by gear and size category.



Table 2. Salvadoran flagged vessels, by gear and size category active in the WCPFC Convention Area, period 2007-2016

YEAR	NUMBER OF VESSELS	TYPE OF GEAR	SIZE CATEGORY
2013	3	Purse seine	1500+
2014	3	Purse seine	1500+
2015	2	Purse seine	1500+
2016	2	Purse seine	1500+
2017	1	Purse seine	1500+

The geographical area where sets were performed in 2017 is shown in Figure 3, which was elaborated by CENDEPESCA with data from the logbooks, using a grid type of 1 by 1 degrees in order to protect the data. However, the Commission and SPC have been provided with a copy of the logbooks from the fishing trips performed in 2017.

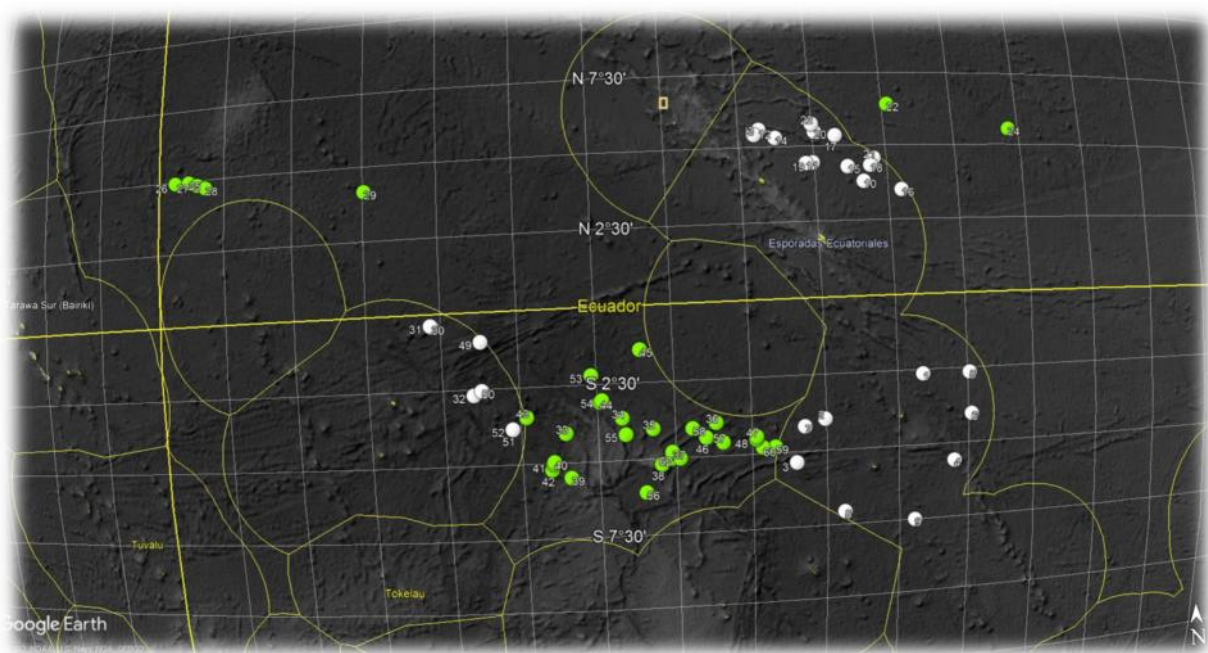


Figure 3. Salvadoran purse seiner effort for 2017 in the WCPFC Convention Area (a large view covering the WCPFC geographical boundaries).



Regarding CMM 2011-03, during 2017 there was no interaction with cetaceans reported on the logbooks onboard Salvadoran flagged vessels.

Table 3 shows the annual estimated catches of non-target species covered by the WCPFC Convention, the data includes years 2016 and 2017. Generally speaking the volume of bycatch has been reduced for some species.

El Salvador has a policy of zero discards so the volume reported by the Observers is as accurate as possible.

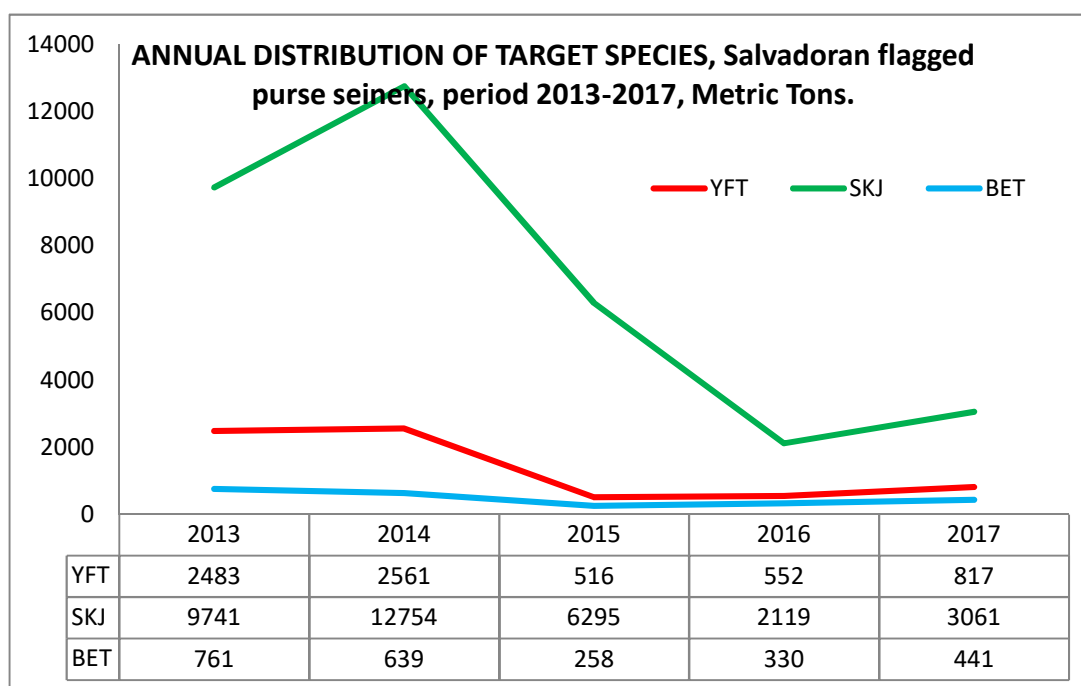


Figure 4. Historical distribution of target species at the WCPFC Convention Area. ¹

¹ Data between 2013-2015 has been estimated based on logbooks, sales invoices and landings, and 2016-2017 comes primarily from logbooks.



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Table 3. Bycatch reported by Salvadoran flagged vessels, 2016-2017, metric tons.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	2016	2017	DIFERENCE %
Wahoo	<i>(Acanthocybium solandri)</i>	0.2189	0.0842	-61.54
Scrawled filefish	<i>(Aluterus scriptus)</i>	0.0002		
Ocean triggerfish	<i>(Canthidermis maculata)</i>	0.6692	0.0394	-94.12
Requiem sharks, nei	<i>(Carcharhinidae)</i>	0.1019		
Silky shark	<i>(Carcharhinus falciformis)</i>	6.3074	1.1547	-81.69
Oceanic whitetip shark	<i>(Carcharhinus longimanus)</i>	0.0176		
Common dolphinfish	<i>(Coryphaena hippurus)</i>	0.8958	1.0865	21.29
Mackerel scad	<i>(Decapterus macarellus)</i>	0.0142		
Rainbow runner	<i>(Elagatis bipinnulata)</i>	0.1427	0.2972	108.28
Black marlin	<i>(Istiompax indica)</i>		0.1327	
Striped marlin	<i>(Kajikia audax)</i>		0.0765	
Blue-bronze sea chub	<i>Kyphosus analogus</i>	0.0014		
Marlin, nei	<i>(Makaira, Tetrapturus)</i>	0.9792	0.4864	-50.33
Pelagic stingray	<i>(Pteroplatytrygon violacea)</i>	0.0015		
Mexican barracuda	<i>Sphyraena ensis</i>	0.0033		
Great barracuda	<i>(Sphyraena spp.)</i>	0.0139		
Barracudas	<i>Sphyraenidae Fam.</i>		0.0260	
TOTAL		9.3672	3.3836	-63.88

Table 4 shows the estimated annual coverage for different purposes of collecting data.

Table 4. estimated annual coverage for collecting data

VESSEL	OPERATIONAL CATCH EFFORT	OBSERVER ON BOARD	TRANSHIPMENT DATA COVERING	LANDING INSPECTION
Monterocio	100%	100%	100%	Inspected only in Salvadoran ports.

El Salvador is not a coastal country of the WCPFC area therefore does not have any survey program in order to control its fleet operating in the Western, nevertheless, all of the fishing trips have been monitored by the IATTC Observer Program and Kiribati



Observer program. During disembarkation in El Salvador CENDEPESCA performs inspection and all controls according with national law and international regulations.

Legislation provides controls regarding:

1. Discharged fish
2. RFMO management measures resolutions/recommendations/conservation and management measures.

Transshipment activity during 2017

During 2017 there were two transshipments performed by Salvadoran vessels, both of them at Christmas Island in Kiribati, so complying with CMM 2009-06 we have nothing report on this matter.

Interactions with Oceanic whitetip sharks 2017

The logbooks don't show any data regarding interactions with oceanic whitetip sharks; data regarding by catch does not show either interactions with this specie.

Interactions with Silky sharks 2017

The logbooks show that 226 silky sharks were discarded during fishing activities at the WCPFC Area; data obtained from IATTC estimates in 1.15 metric tons the weight of the sharks. However, estimates from the captain in the logbooks establish the weight in 2.405 metric tons. We have no data regarding the status of the sharks when discarded.

5. SOCIO-ECONOMICS FACTORS

Tuna industry in El Salvador directly employs around 1500 people in processing activities, 500 in unloading fish from vessels, 175 as crew on the vessels and indirectly



employs nearly 5000 people in different activities related with the operations. This numbers do not belong to WCPFC activities exclusively. This numbers are estimated over the whole tuna industry, which includes fishing activities at the ICCAT as well as the IATTC Areas.

6. DISPOSAL OF CATCH AND ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Tuna is processed and canned in a processing plant located in eastern El Salvador. Discarded tuna due to contaminants and waste (bones, heads, etc. are processed for fish meal. Tuna loins are mostly exported to European Union markets and canned tuna is distributed all over the world, it includes domestic market.

7. FUTURE PROSPECT OF THE FISHERY

El Salvador tuna fleet is currently composed by six purse seiners, and there is no plan for increasing the number of vessels operating in the WCPFC Convention area, two purse seiner fish in the Pacific Ocean and four in the Atlantic Ocean. El Salvador became contracting party of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna in December 2014.

ADDENDUM TO THE TEMPLATE TO BE USE BY CCMS FOR ANNUAL REPORT

PART 1-NATIONAL FISHERY REPORT

SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN PART 1 AS REQUIRED BY CMMS

1. CMM 05-03, North Pacific Albacore para 4

El Salvador does not catch North Pacific Albacore, the objective fisheries are tropical tunas, specifically Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*).



2. CMM 06-04 South West striped Marlin paragraph 4

Salvadoran vessels don't fish striped marlin in the area south of 15°S, the main area where our vessels operate is shown in Figures 3.

3. CMM 07-04, Seabirds paragraph 9

El Salvador does not have longline vessels in the WCPO area.

4. CMM 09-03, Swordfish paragraph 8

No swordfish was reported to be caught during 2017 by Salvadoran flagged vessels.

5. CMM 2009-06, Transshipment paragraph 11

During 2017 there were only two transshipments; both were performed at Christmas Island, Kiribati, as described below.

VESSEL	VNM	PLACE OF TRANSHIPMENT					CATCHES COMING FROM		SPECIES TRANSHIPPED (KG)			SPECIES RECEIVED (KG)			PRODUCT FORM	FISHING GEAR
		IN PORT	AT SEA (NATIONAL JURISDICTION)	AT SEA (OUTSIDE NATIONAL JURISDICTION)	INSIDE THE WCPFC CONVENTION AREA	OUTSIDE THE WCPFC CONVENTION AREA	THE WCPFC CONVENTION AREA	NON WCPFC CONVENTION AREA	YFT	SKJ	DCT	YFT	SKJ	DCT		
MONTEROCIO	YSC2002	X			X		X		32400	94900	117000	263000	1029000	36000	ROUND AND FROZEN	PURSE SEINE
MONTEROCIO	YSC2002	X			X		X	X	292000	336000	237000	302000	884000	268000	ROUND AND FROZEN	PURSE SEINE

6. CMM 2010-07 Sharks paragraph 4

El Salvador has no vessels targeting sharks at all at the WCPFC Convention area.

7. CMM 2011-03 Impact of PS fishing on cetaceans, paragraph 4

There was no incident with cetaceans during 2017, and the Commission web site mentions as "*there are no items to show in this view*" regarding the Cetaceans and whale shark interactions for El Salvador.



8. CMM 2011-04 Oceanic whitetip sharks, paragraph 3

During 2017 there was no incidental catches of Oceanic whitetip sharks.

9. CMM 2012-04 Whale sharks, paragraph 06

There was no incident with whale sharks in 2017.

10. CMM 2013-08 Silky sharks, paragraph 3

The logbooks show that 226 silky sharks were discarded during fishing activities at the WCPFC Area; data obtained from IATTC estimates in 1.15 metric tons the weight of the sharks. However, estimates from the captain in the logbooks establish the weight in 2.405 metric tons. We have no data regarding the status of the sharks when discarded.

11. Observer coverage WCPFC 11 decision – paragraph 484(b)

El Salvador does not have long line vessels fishing at all at the Pacific Ocean, especially at the WCPFC Convention Area.

12. CMM 2015-02 South Pacific Albacore, paragraph 4

Salvadoran purse seiners do not fish south of 20°S latitude.

13. CMM 2017-06 Seabirds, paragraph 9

Salvadoran purse seiners did not have interactions with seabirds during 2017.



14. CMM 2017-06: Seabirds Annex 2. Guidelines for reporting templates for Part 1 report

El Salvador does not have long line vessels fishing at all at the Pacific Ocean, especially at the WCPFC Convention Area.

DATA GAP

It must be mentioned that whenever our vessels hire an Observer from WCPFC Programs we as State flag do not have access to the collected data. This creates a data gap for us as we miss events that could affect our status within the Commission.