



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
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**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS**

WCPFC-SC11-AR/CCM-05b

EUROPEAN UNION

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 four EC-flagged purse seiners operating in the Pacific Ocean have carried out their activity in both the IATTC and WCPFC Convention Areas during 2014, and observers of the APICD have covered c. 80% of the catch in weight. Information from trips not covered by observers of the APICD is obtained from logbooks. Total catches reported by the observers and logbooks, catches to the east of 150°W and discards of the three main target species during 2014, as well as in previous years, are shown in Table I.

2014				
	WCPFC	WCPFC east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	5591	187	8	655
SKJ	32004	1560	232	
YFT			0	
	2866	154		

2013					2012				
	WCPF C	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets		WCPF C	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets
BET	8133	242	19			5423	108	18	
SKJ	31596	799	752	665		20579	257	742	596
YFT	5281	45	7			6169	10	30	

	2011				2010			
	WCPF C	east of 150°W	Discards	No. Sets	WCPF C	east of 150°W	Discard s	No. Sets
BET	7367	72	18		4912	4	36	
SKJ	27907	507	97	593	20520	53	258	446
YFT	4177	112	4		4041	21	9	

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

As in previous years, 4 EU-Spain flagged purse seiners fished in the WCPFC-CA in 2014, with gross register tonnages of 1562, 2468, 2502 and 3200 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

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 2014 and the five previous years.

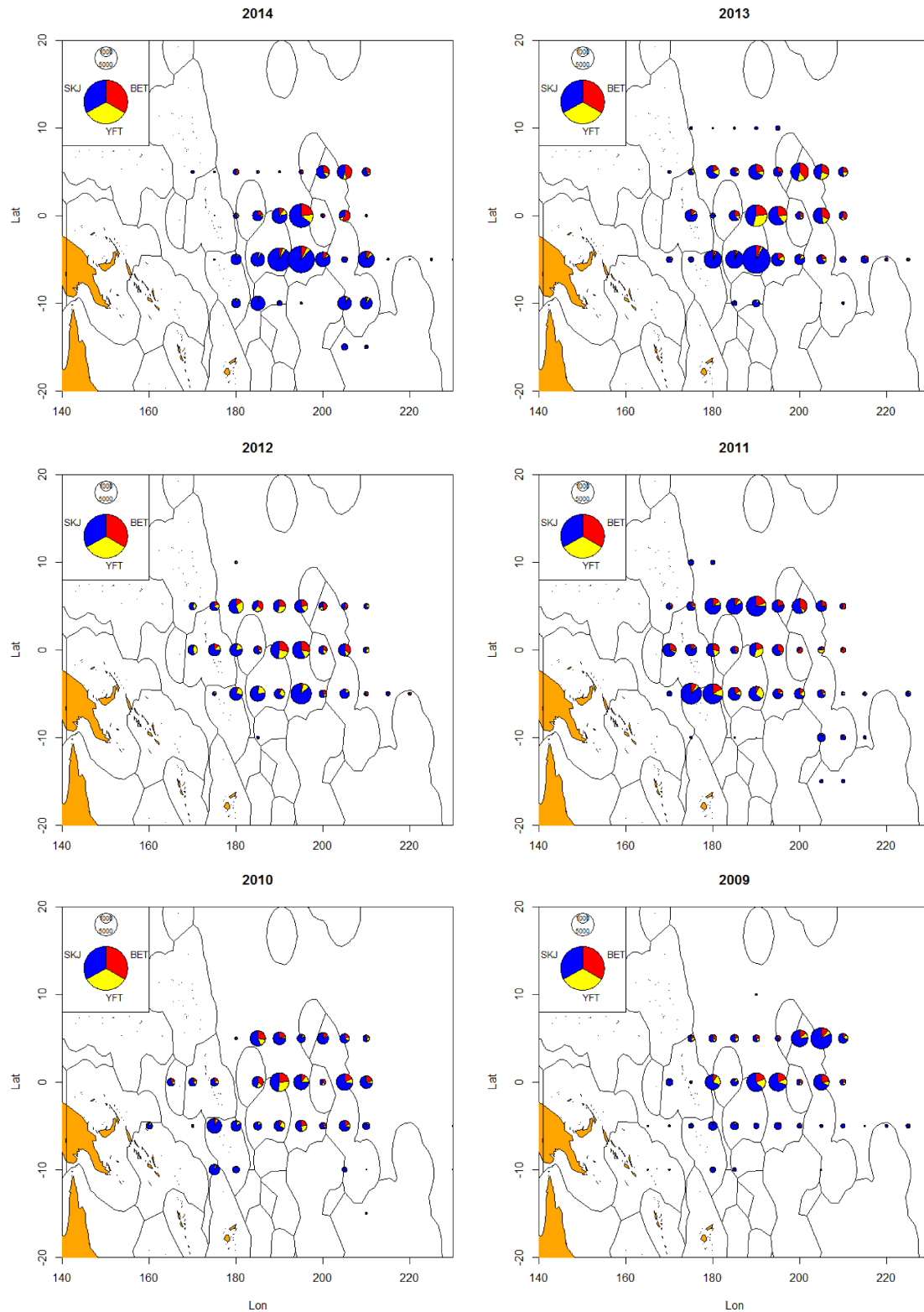


Fig. 1- Distribution of catches by area (5°x5°) and species in 2009-2014.

The distribution of the catches in 2014 has not varied significantly in relation to previous years. The distribution of fishing effort during 2009-2014 is shown in figure 2. The fishing effort is mainly distributed around the equator (10° S to 10° N) and in the area from 180E to 160W, and shown some variations in the core area of the fishery.

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 2014 and 2013, 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.).

7 species account for more than 90% of the bycatch, in terms of weight: Silky shark, blue and black marlin, dolphinfish, wahoo, rainbow runner and triggerfish.

Around 31% of the *Carcharinus falciformis*, the main shark species bycatch of the purse seine fleet, as well as 54% of the *C. longimanus* captured in 2014 was estimated to be released alive. These figures are similar to the ones estimated in 2013, of c. 28% and 60% for silky and oceanic whitetip sharks, respectively.

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. In 2014, 5 marine turtles (1 loggerhead, 1 green, 2 leatherback and 1 unidentified) were involved in purse seine fishing operations within the WCPFC-CA (APICD observer coverage: 82% of the total catch in weight). All of them were released unharmed, but one of the leatherback turtles, which showed light injuries. In 2013, two interactions were recorded (observer coverage: 78% of the catch in weight). One of the turtles was not identified, and the other was a loggerhead turtle. Both were released unharmed.

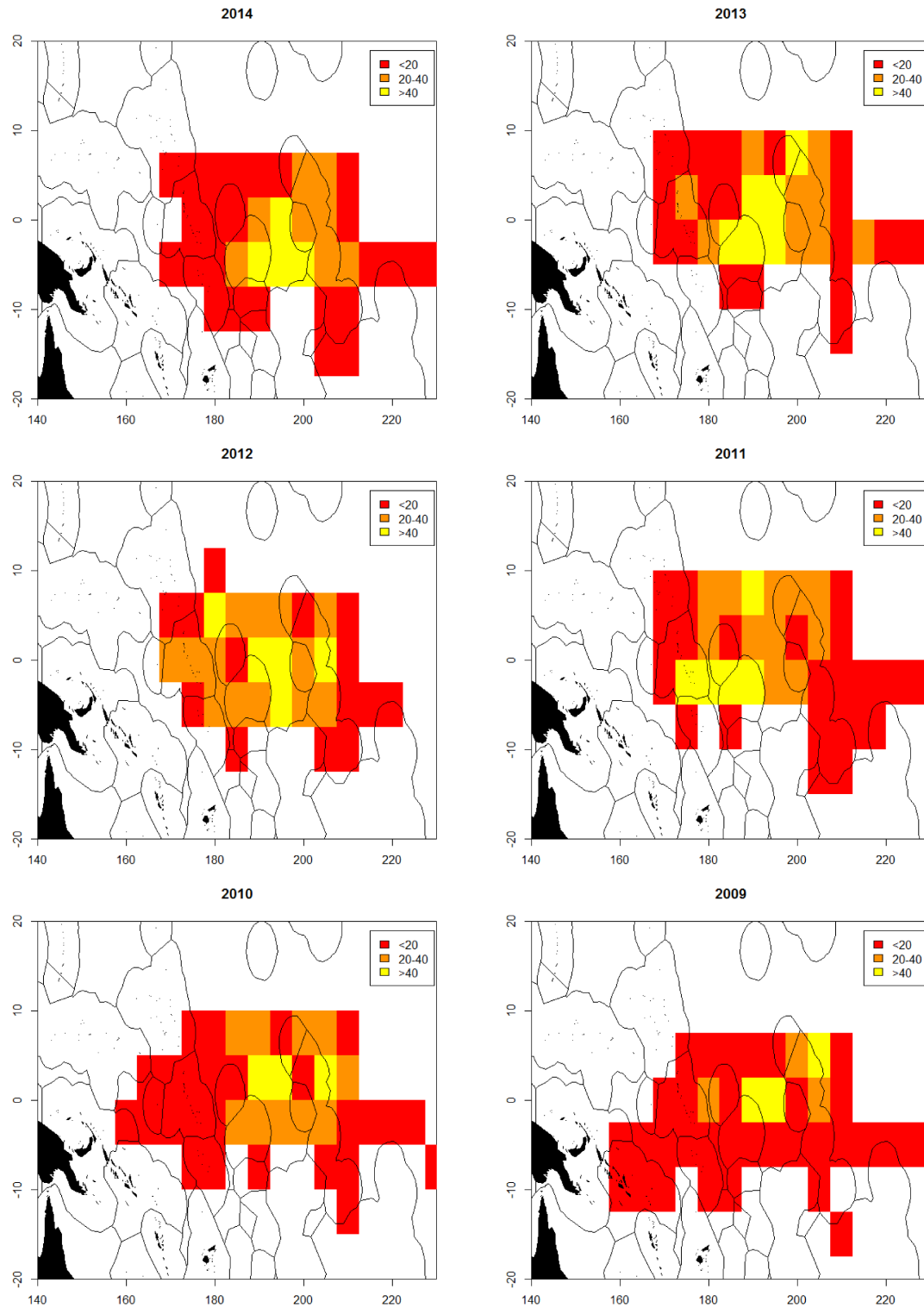


Fig. 2.- Distribution of the purse seine effort, in fishing days, by area (5°x5°) and year.

Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
BILLFISH		
<i>Istiophoridae, Xiphiidae</i>	0.47	0.00
<i>Makaira indica</i>	3.96	0.00
<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	15.95	1.39
<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	4.18	0.00
<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	0.04	0.00
<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	1.31	0.00
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	0.05	0.00
SHARKS & RAYS		
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	34.61	1.32
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.31	0.00
<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	0.06	0.00
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	0.15	0.00
<i>Mobulidae</i>	0.31	0.08
<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	<0.01	<0.01
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	0.05	0.00
<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	0.11	0.00
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	0.40	0.00
<i>Sharks, NEI</i>	0.03	0.00

OTHER FISH

<i>Ablennes hians</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	5.86	0.13
<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	0.14	0.09
<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
<i>Balistidae</i>	0.03	0.02
<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	8.44	0.03
<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	0.01	0.00
<i>Caranx spp.</i>	0.02	0.00
<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	0.12	0.00
<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	11.16	1.03
<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.01	0.00
<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	6.21	0.07
<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	<0.01
<i>Mola mola</i>	0.51	0.00
<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.13	0.06
<i>Seriola, Caranx spp.</i>	0.05	<0.01
<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.19	<0.01
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Others, NEI</i>	0.22	0.08

Table III.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2014. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (82.37% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA), assuming a similar composition of the bycatch in trips without observers onboard.

	Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
<hr/>			
BILLFISH			
	<i>Istiophoridae, Xiphiidae</i>	0.24	0.00
	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	0.23	0.00
	<i>Makaira indica</i>	12.40	0.28
	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	23.86	0.15
	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	0.47	0.00
	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	1.24	0.00
	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	0.26	0.00
 SHARKS & RAYS			
	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	31.52	1.47
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.79	0.03
	<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	0.73	0.00
	<i>Manta birostris</i>	0.03	0.00
	<i>Mobula japanica</i>	0.12	0.00
	<i>Mobula spp.</i>	0.11	0.00
	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	0.05	0.00
	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	0.01	0.00
	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	0.24	0.00
 OTHER FISH			
	<i>Ablennes hians</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	10.15	2.84
	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	0.03	0.03
	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Aluterus spp.</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	15.34	0.16

<i>Caranx caninus</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	0.07	0.00
<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	15.81	2.05
<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.54	<0.01
<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	5.73	0.06
<i>Kyphosus analogus</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>	0.07	0.00
<i>Kyphosus spp.</i>	0.01	0.00
<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	0.04	<0.01
<i>Mola mola</i>	0.28	0.00
<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Remora remora</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.24	0.13
<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	0.04	0.00
<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	0.26	0.00
<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Seriola, Caranx spp.</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.22	<0.01
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	0.00
Others, NEI	0.04	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 2013. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (78.40% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA), assuming a similar composition of the bycatch in trips without observers onboard.

2. LONG LINE FISHERY

The Spanish long line fleet is composed by 5 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 2014 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

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>SWO</i>	<i>BSH</i>	<i>SMA</i>
CARMEN TERE	467.572	392.488	132.241
ECCE HOMO DIVINO	283.976	139.400	133.048
ECCE HOMO GLORIOSO	320.866	148.241	172.926
ILLA GAVEIRA	256.499	318.361	127.816
PICO TRESMARES	350.908	207.342	143.883
Total (kg)	1.679.821	1.205.832	709.914

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

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	LONGLINE
Fleet	SPAIN (EU)
Size class (GRT)	
0-50	0
50-200	1
201-500	4
500+	0
VESSEL NAME	AUTHORIZATION PERIOD
CARMEN TERE	01/01 to 31/12/2014
ECCE HOMO DIVINO	01/01 to 31/12/2014
ECCE HOMO GLORIOSO	01/01 to 31/12/2014
ILLA GAVEIRA	01/01 to 31/12/2014
PICO TRESMARES	01/01 to 31/12/2014

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 south of 30° south. The port of Papete (French Polynesia) is the main hub for landings and supply activities, although one vessel uses New Zealand ports for this purpose. 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 1890 hooks per vessel in 2014. They usually deploy wire leathers, since catches of blue shark and shorfin mako are significant for this fleet.

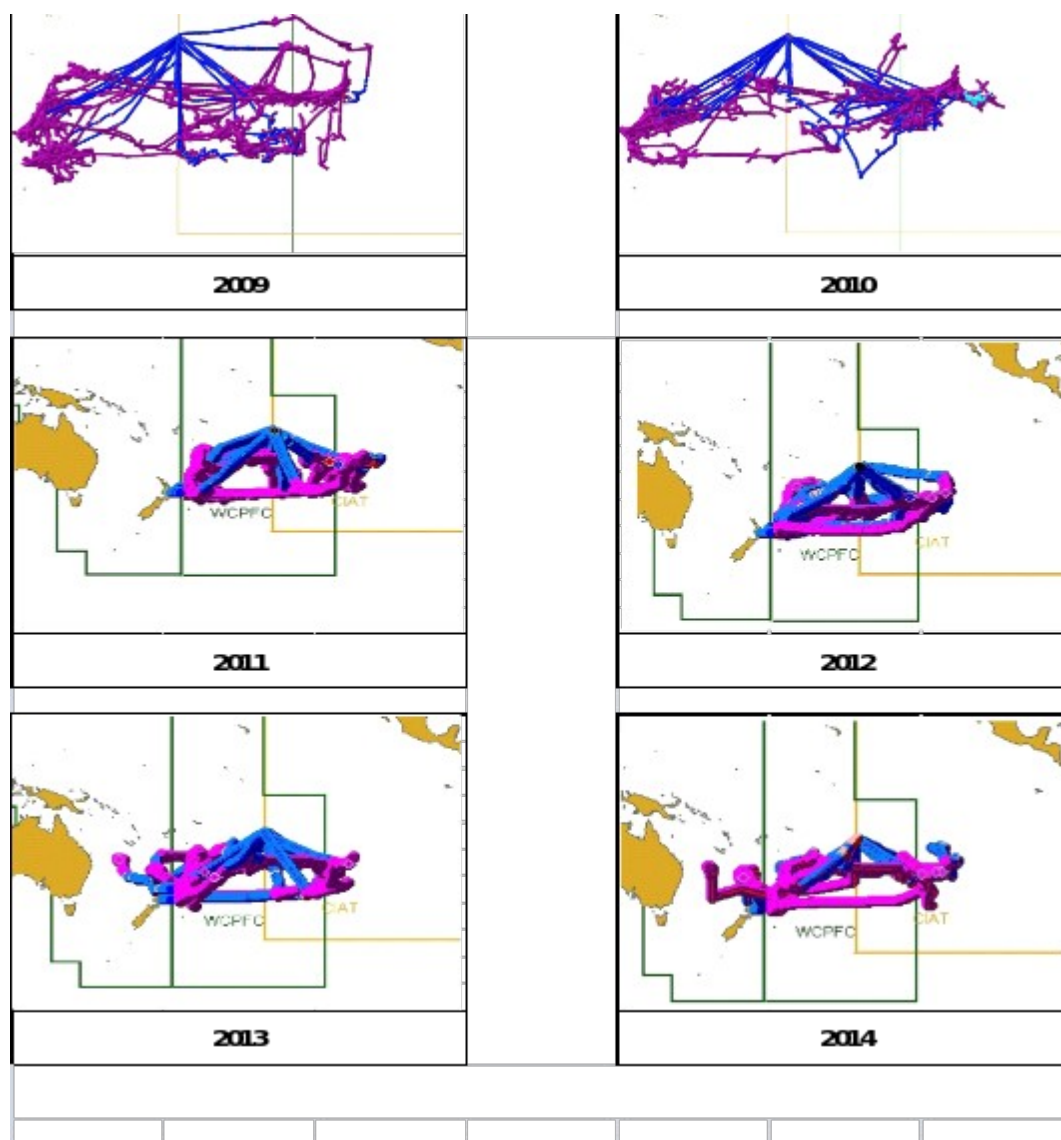


Fig 3. VMS plot for longlines of Spanish flag. The blue poing correspond to transits with no fishing activities. Fishing activities are shown in pink.

1.- PURSE SEINE

1.1.- Annual catch and effort by primary species in the WCPFC Convention Area.

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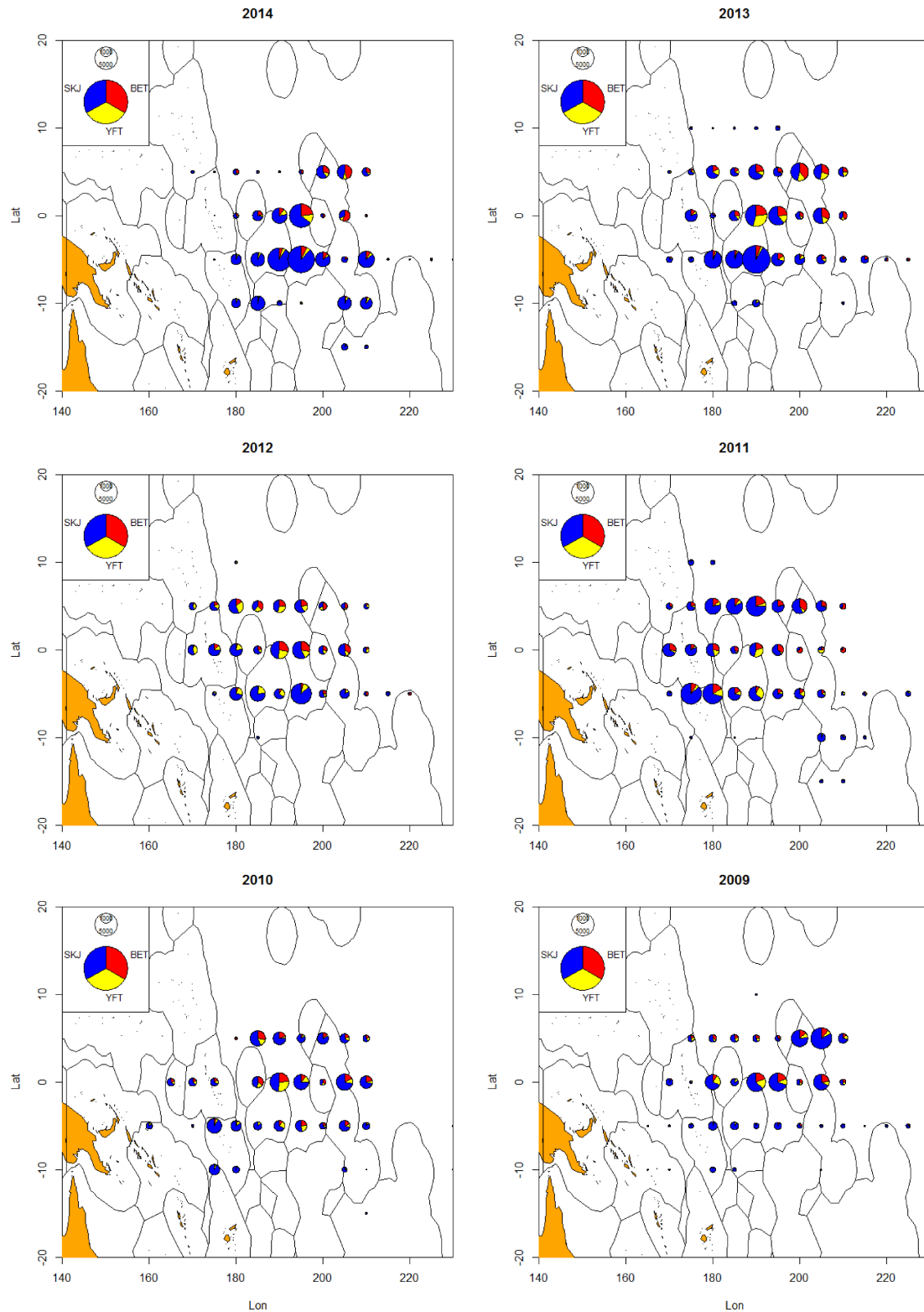


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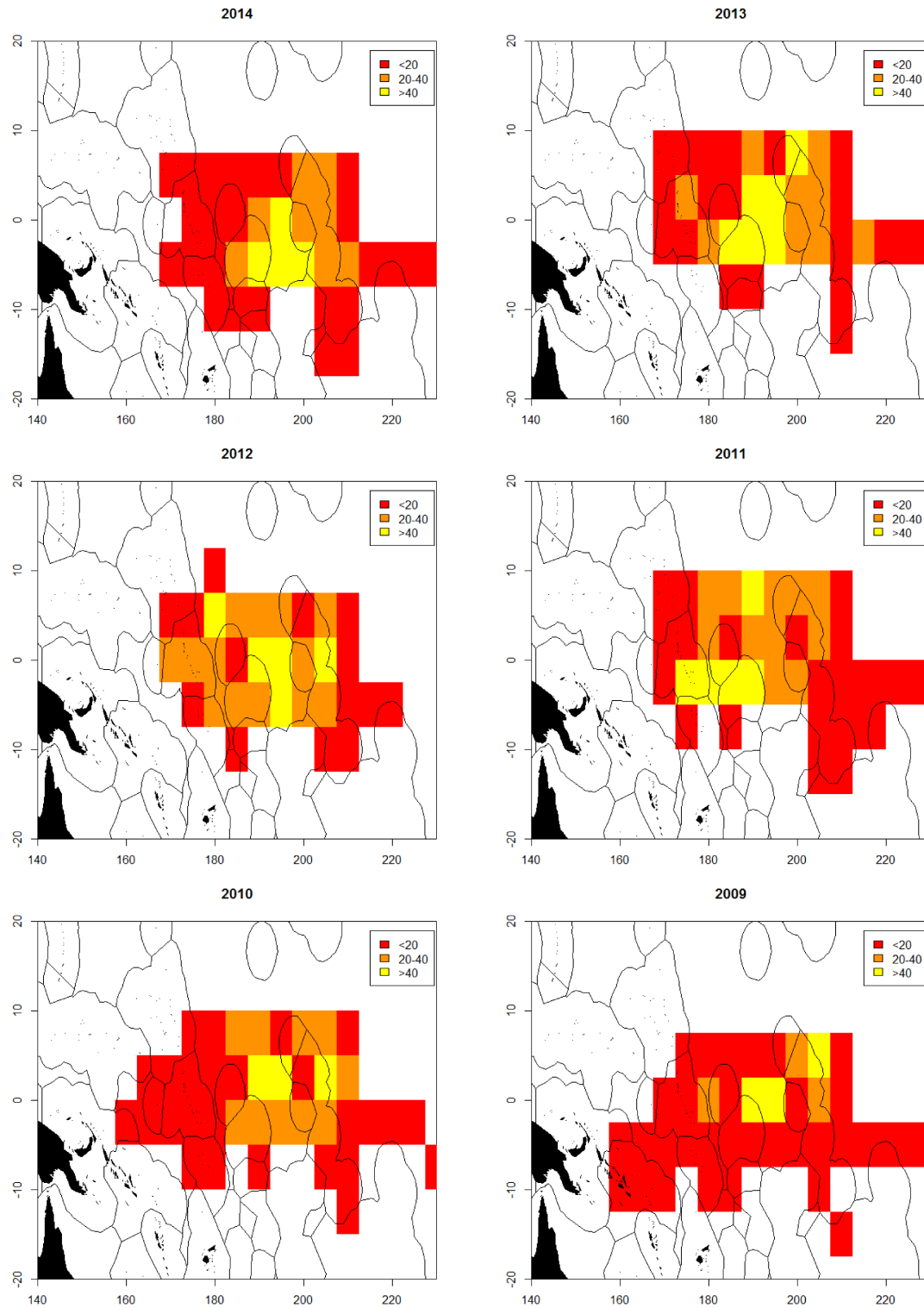


Fig. 2.- Distribution of the purse seine effort, in fishing days, by area (5°x5°) and year.

Species	WCPFC	East of 150 ° W
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<i>Makaira indica</i>	3.96	0.00
<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	15.95	1.39
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<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	0.04	0.00
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<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.31	0.00
<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	0.06	0.00
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	0.15	0.00
<i>Mobulidae</i>	0.31	0.08
<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	<0.01	<0.01
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	0.05	0.00
<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	0.11	0.00
<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	0.40	0.00
<i>Sharks, NEI</i>	0.03	0.00

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<i>Ablennes hians</i>	<0.01	0.00
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<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
<i>Balistidae</i>	0.03	0.02
<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	8.44	0.03
<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	0.01	0.00
<i>Caranx spp.</i>	0.02	0.00
<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	0.12	0.00
<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	11.16	1.03
<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.01	0.00
<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	6.21	0.07
<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	<0.01
<i>Mola mola</i>	0.51	0.00
<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.13	0.06
<i>Seriola, Caranx spp.</i>	0.05	<0.01
<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.19	<0.01
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Others, NEI</i>	0.22	0.08

Table III.- Purse seine bycatch in metric tonnes in the WCPFC-CA and in the WCPFC-CA east of meridian 150°W during 2014. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (82.37% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA), assuming a similar composition of the bycatch in trips without observers onboard.

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	<i>Makaira, Tetrapturus</i>	0.47	0.00
	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	1.24	0.00
	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	0.26	0.00
 SHARKS & RAYS			
	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	31.52	1.47
	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	0.79	0.03
	<i>Carcharhinus spp.</i>	0.73	0.00
	<i>Manta birostris</i>	0.03	0.00
	<i>Mobula japanica</i>	0.12	0.00
	<i>Mobula spp.</i>	0.11	0.00
	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	0.05	0.00
	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	0.01	0.00
	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	0.24	0.00
 OTHER FISH			
	<i>Ablennes hians</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	10.15	2.84
	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	0.03	0.03
	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Aluterus spp.</i>	<0.01	0.00
	<i>Balistes polylepis</i>	<0.01	<0.01
	<i>Canthidermis maculatus</i>	15.34	0.16

<i>Caranx caninus</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	0.07	0.00
<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	15.81	2.05
<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	0.54	<0.01
<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	5.73	0.06
<i>Kyphosus analogus</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>	0.07	0.00
<i>Kyphosus spp.</i>	0.01	0.00
<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	0.04	<0.01
<i>Mola mola</i>	0.28	0.00
<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Remora remora</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Sectator ocyurus</i>	0.24	0.13
<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	0.04	0.00
<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	0.26	0.00
<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Seriola, Caranx spp.</i>	<0.01	0.00
<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	0.22	<0.01
<i>Uraspis helvola</i>	<0.01	0.00
Others, NEI	0.04	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 2013. These figures have been estimated from the bycatch records of the trips carrying observers of the AIDCP (78.40% of the total catch in weight in the WCPFC-CA), assuming a similar composition of the bycatch in trips without observers onboard.

2. LONG LINE FISHERY

The Spanish long line fleet is composed by 5 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 2014 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

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>SWO</i>	<i>BSH</i>	<i>SMA</i>
CARMEN TERE	467.572	392.488	132.241
ECCE HOMO DIVINO	283.976	139.400	133.048
ECCE HOMO GLORIOSO	320.866	148.241	172.926
ILLA GAVEIRA	256.499	318.361	127.816
PICO TRESMARES	350.908	207.342	143.883
Total (kg)	1.679.821	1.205.832	709.914

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

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	LONGLINE
Fleet	SPAIN (EU)
Size class (GRT)	
0-50	0
50-200	1
201-500	4
500+	0
VESSEL NAME	AUTHORIZATION PERIOD
CARMEN TERE	01/01 to 31/12/2014
ECCE HOMO DIVINO	01/01 to 31/12/2014
ECCE HOMO GLORIOSO	01/01 to 31/12/2014
ILLA GAVEIRA	01/01 to 31/12/2014
PICO TRESMARES	01/01 to 31/12/2014

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 south of 30° south. The port of Papete (French Polynesia) is the main hub for landings and supply activities, although one vessel uses New Zealand ports for this purpose. 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 1890 hooks per vessel in 2014. They usually deploy wire leathers, since catches of blue shark and shorfin mako are significant for this fleet.

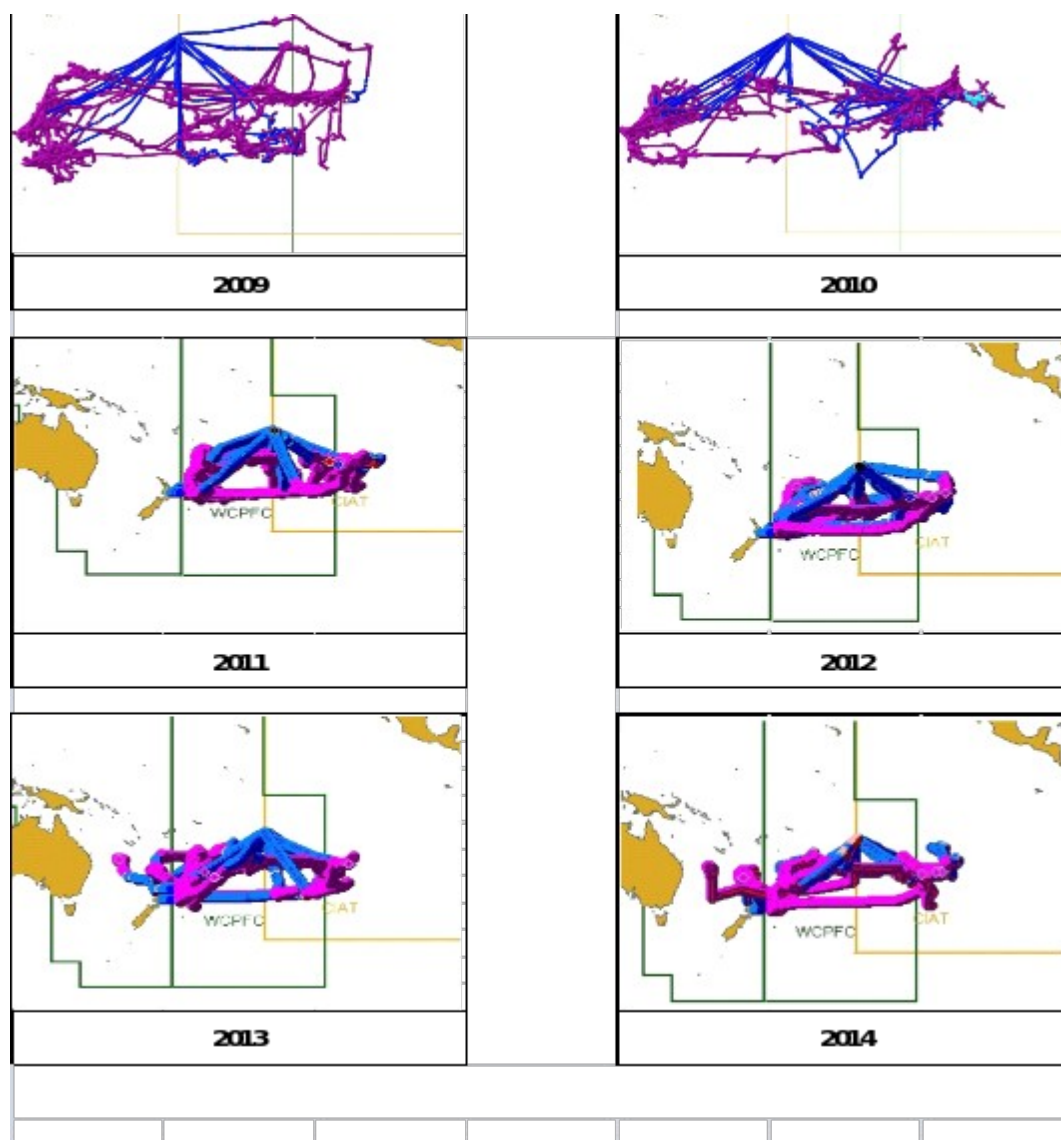


Fig 3. VMS plot for longlines of Spanish flag. The blue poing correspond to transits with no fishing activities. Fishing activities are shown in pink.

2.4. Estimated total catches of non target, associated and dependent species

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BUM</i>	<i>BLM</i>	<i>ALB</i>	<i>MLS</i>	<i>PBF</i>
CARMEN TERE	41.982	-	64	12.470	-	879	-	-
ECCE HOMO DIVINO	1.641	105	5.528	-	13.976	467	9.960	-
ECCE HOMO GLORIOSO	3.050	30	3.919	-	21.563	169	13.189	-
ILLA GAVEIRA	13.342	-	152	79	885	-	10.548	-
PICO TRESMARES	4.610	-	1.531	-	9.081	492	21.799	-
Total (kg)	64.625	135	11.194	12.549	45.505	2.007	55.496	-

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

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>FAL</i>	<i>OCS</i>	<i>MAK (LMA)</i>	<i>THR/ALV</i>	<i>POR</i>	<i>SPN/SPY</i>	<i>RHN</i>
CARMEN TERE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ECCE HOMO DIVINO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ECCE HOMO GLORIOSO	-	-	59	-	-	-	-
ILLA GAVEIRA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PICO TRESMARES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (kg)	-	-	59	-	-	-	-

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

3.- RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

In the case of the purse seine fishery, in addition to the observer coverage of WCPFC authorised programs, 82% 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.