



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION**

Bali, Indonesia
3-11 August 2016

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

WCPFC-SC12-AR/CCM-05b

EUROPEAN UNION

WCPFC - ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION INFORMATION ON FISHERIES

PART I

2015

1. For 2015, the list of Portuguese authorized vessels to operate within the WCPFC is indicated below:

PRT000000115	ILHA BRAVA	L-3-N
PRT000001538	VERDEMILHO	V-1065-C
PRT000001540	VISTA ALEGRE	A-3148-C
PRT000016119	ARTICO	PD-400-N
PRT000016290	COSTA DE SAO JORGE	PD-464-C
PRT000023097	BALUEIRO	O-2176-N
PRT000019088	HEMISFERIO NORTE	A-3300-N
PRT000022649	VALMITÃO	PM-1291-N
PRT000023043	NOVO RUIVO	V-25-N
PRT000023093	ALMA LUSA	PM-1269-N

2. During 2015 the Portuguese fleet in the pacific region followed the same trend than in previous years, with only one PRT vessel active in the region. About 62% of all catches were composed by two species, SWO and BSH.
This vessel has a special fishing permit conditioning the fishing activity in the WCPFC area to the mandatory installation of ALC equipment and corresponding certification (VTAF).

We do not expect to have alterations in this trend during 2016.

3. This vessel is a surface longliner with 50,75m (LOA) and 764 GT, targeting for tuna and tuna like species.
4. During 2015, the PRT FV “ARTICO” engaged in fishing activities during 229 days:

MONTH	FISHING DAYS
1	31
2	18
3	19

4	28
5	18
6	20
7	9
8	13
9	30
10	10
11	30
12	3
Total	229

5. Catch composition of the catches made in 2015 were as follows:

Specie	SWO	SMA	BSH	BET	YFT	ALB	BLM	LEC	DOL	POA	<u>TOTAL</u>
Kg (live weight)	177.436	90.302	265.410	16.746	3.791	487	152.785	8.544	1.448	48	717.000

All catches of the FV ARTICO were landed and transferred to a container to be transported by a cargo vessel to a different port.

- The owner of the vessel reaffirmed its full commitment in complying all the WCPFC data reporting obligations on fishing operations. Detailed information has been presented to flag state authorities, namely all the information exchanged with the port authorities where the landing took place.
- This vessel embarked an observer between the 13th of August and the 7th of September 2015. The size composition, as registered by the observer can be found attached. During the observation period, all the fish caught was measured by the observer and the corresponding weight duly registered, in a total of 57 fishes measured, weighting a total of 4.100kg.
- Operational data is collected from electronic logbook data, crosschecked with VMS, with 100% coverage.
- The gear used is the monofilament surface longline (Florida style modified), using an average of around 1100 hooks per set. The characteristics of this vessel were the same as in years before.
- All fishermen operating in international waters are permanently informed about the measures adopted by the corresponding RFMO, including those taken to mitigate the impact on seabirds of fishing for species covered by WCPFC.

11. Concerning mitigation measures on turtles and seabirds, the following procedures have been indicated by the only Portuguese FV operating in this RFMO:

SEABIRDS

Deep-setting line shooter: The vessel uses hydraulic equipment to begin the fisheries operations with the main line less than 1 m from the stern so the hooks can sink rapidly;

- *Tori lines*: The vessel uses the lines as described in CMM 2007-04 since the begging of the fishing operations;
- Weighted branch lines: The vessel uses weights of 80 g attached to within 3,5 ms of the hook, for all hooks of the main line;
- Blue dyed bait: The bait used is dyed in blue
- Management of offal discharge: practice of strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to hauling. When setting no offal discharge is done so that birds are kept away;
- Logbook for registration of any by-catches of seabirds is ensured.

SEA TURTLES

Concerning mitigation measures to avoid catches of sea turtles:

- circle hooks are already being used at a rate of 50% in longline sets;
- Deeper setting: hooks are set at depths around 80 meters (deeper than turtle abundance, less than 40 m), the hydraulic equipment make hooks sink rapidly and branch lines are weighted (use of weights of 80 g attached to within 3,5 ms of the hook, for all hooks of the main line);
- Night setting: the lines are set during the night with the vessels' lights off and all operations are done in lower level;
- Use of blue dyed bait as to avoid attracting sea turtles;
- Release techniques with line cutters and de-hooker sticks;
- Fishermen have information on handling methods to assess the condition of the turtles before releasing, identifying the species name, return to the sea, ensuring higher survival rates and reducing post-release mortality. The Interaction is recorded on logbook.

According with the information registered by the captain and by the observer, there were no interactions with sea turtles or sea birds during the 2015 season

SHARKS

No interactions with silky and oceanic white tip sharks to report.