



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

WCPFC-SC15-AR/CNM-34

PANAMA

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
ANNUAL REPORT PART I 2018

Scientific data was provided to the commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission	Our participation as CNM status 2018 was with support fishing vessels activities. No scientific data to report
Part I.	

1. Abstract/Summary

The Republic of Panama is located in Central America, between 7°12'07" and 9°38'46" North latitude, 77°09'24" and 83°03'07" West longitude, with coasts on the Caribbean and the Pacific. It has about 1,581 islands and islets, and the territorial waters extend to about 200 nautical miles wide, over which the Republic of Panama has sovereignty and sovereign rights, as in the seabed. A large upwelling in the Gulf of Panama influences this area.

Panama has done a major management control of the fishing vessels since 1997, when it established the obligation to obtain a fishing license for fishing vessels on the high seas, for all fishing vessels and support fishing vessels.

The Republic of Panama has established a vessel monitoring system (VMS) through Executive Decree No. 17 of June 30, 2008 and it is mandatory to be installed in order to obtain an international fishing or support fishing license.

In that same year, the Republic of Panama approved the National Maritime Strategy, and next; Executive Decree No. 98-A of November 17, 2009 approved The National Action Plan to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU).

In the context of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, Panama is a contracting party of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), approved by Law No. 24 of 1954, and also ratified the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), approved by Law No. 75 of 1998. It is also a contracting party of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), approved by Law No. 74 of 1998. In the context to cooperate and comply with the RFMO's measures, Panama is a cooperating non contracting party (CNCP) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Commission (SPRFMO).

In relation to the commitment to fight against illegal, undeclared, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, Panama approved by Law No. 43 of September 14, 2016, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

2. Tabular Annual Fisheries Information

No catch vessels in Western and Central Pacific Area but we have registered 135 vessels as support fishing vessels.

Annex II (a): Total quantities, by weight, of highly migratory fish stocks that were transshipped by carrier vessels:

a) Offloaded and Received	b) Transshipped in port (FSM)	c) Transshipped inside / outside the Convention Area	d) Caught inside / outside Convention Area	e) Species	f) Product Form	g) Fishing gear
Offloaded		2	N/A	ALB		N/A
		2920	N/A	BET		N/A
			N/A	BUM		N/A
			N/A	MLS		N/A
		99041	N/A	SKJ		N/A
			N/A	SWO		N/A
		6487	N/A	YFT		N/A
		2456	N/A	OTH		N/A
Received		8,794	N/A	ALB		N/A
		11,705	N/A	BET		N/A
		512	N/A	BUM		N/A
		58	N/A	MLS		N/A
		377,411	N/A	SKJ		N/A
		726	N/A	SWO		N/A
		54,403	N/A	YFT		N/A
		32,302	N/A	OTH		N/A

Annex II (b): Number of transshipment involving highly migratory fish stocks covered by this measure by carrier vessels ... broken down by

Offloaded and Received;	Transshipped in port, at sea in areas of national jurisdiction...	Transshipped inside / outside the Convention Area	Caught inside / outside Convention Area	Fishing gear
Offloaded			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
Received	8	49	N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A
			N/A	N/A

3. Background

The Republic of Panama is a cooperating non-Member of WCPFC, the number of vessels operating in this convention area are totally transport and support vessels. All of our vessels are licensed to operate in the WCPFC in compliment to the commission's recommendations and requirements.

The Republic of Panama accept high seas boarding and inspection and has accepted 100% observer coverage on its carriers and commits to compliance with all WCPFC CMM's in all vessels if applicable.

4. Coastal State Reporting

We are not a Coastal State in WCPFC Convention Area.

5. Socio-economic factors

The benefits obtained the flag in marine and crews of the ships as well as praise company profits that are in the country and q generate many jobs.

6. Disposal of Catch

We don't have catch fishing vessels in WCPFC Convention area.

7. Onshore Developments

We are not a Coastal State and no processing plant or support facilities in WCPFC Convention area.

8. Future Prospect of the Fishery

We have our position to maintain only transport and support fishing vessel with the possibility to develop the fishing activity in the future.

9. Status of the Tuna Fishery data collection systems

Long sheet data collection and verification – Transport and support vessels are required to submit data on their area operations based on format for such reporting which include a detailed catch fishing vessels transshipment, and submitted for verification, showing information regarding position, date, sets and species. All the operations are verified by our FMC.

10. Research Activities Covering Target and non-Target species

Fisheries Information System: Panama reports statistics for all activities in the areas of Ports, Seafarers and discharge data of fishery products in domestic and international ports of the Republic of Panama.

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) is responsible for verifying the information of catch, landing, export and import of fishery products, biometric information of the target species, which are important to support the country's fisheries development.

No research activities were covering on target and non-target species in WCPFC Convention Area.