



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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

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**WCPFC-SC16-AR/CNM-32**

**EL SALVADOR**

# EL SALVADOR, WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT PART 1: FISHERIES RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

**2019 PERIOD (01 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019)**

**JULY 10, 2020**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2020	<b>YES</b>
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions:	

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK  
CENTER OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

## 1. SUMMARY

El Salvador is located in Central America, it started tuna activities in 2001 as a member of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the activities in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission 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 the status has been being renewed year by year since then; as we comply with the Commission and the applicable Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) and pay our contribution to the Commission as CNM.

El Salvador fishing history in the Pacific Ocean for tuna and associated species goes back to 2001, it started with two purse seiners (Montelucia and Monterocio, the later formerly known as Alexandros). Regarding the fishing activities, El Salvador is a Cooperating Member of the IATTC, conducting fishing activities on the area of the convention, that for, choosing to implement IATTC measures and limit calculation on the overlap area, and covering all of our fishing activities thru the endorsed Observer Program.

The target species for Salvadoran flagged vessels in the WCPFC area are tropical tunas, particularly Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*).

The information gathered for the preparation of this report comes from logbooks, VMS tracking, catch certificates, observer reports, landing reports, inspection reports and data requested to both WCPFC through the Pacific Community (SPC) and the IATTC.

## 2. TABULAR ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

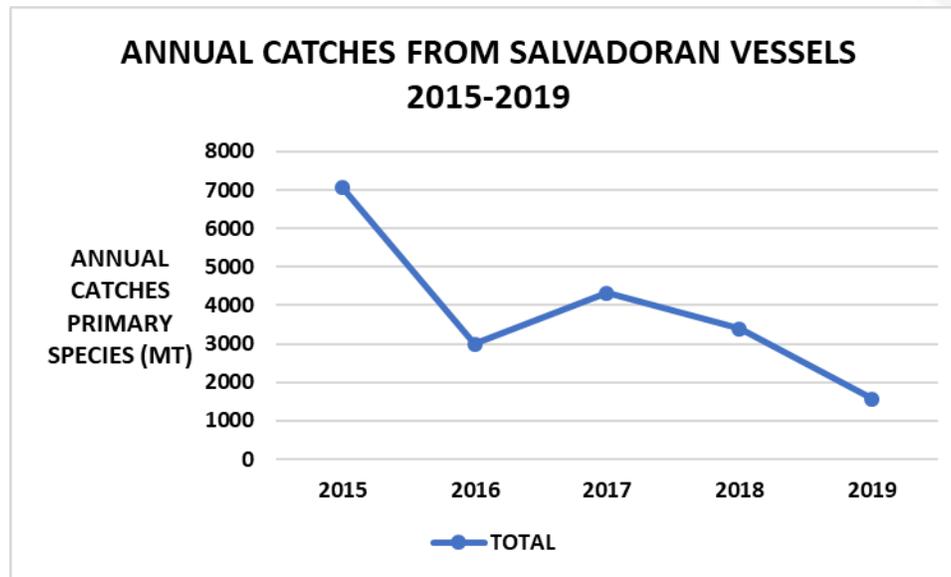
Table 1. Shows annual catches and effort for El Salvador's fleet in the WCPFC Convention Area from 2015 – 2019; data comes primarily from captain logbooks.

**Table 1.** Annual catches and effort for primary species and year for El Salvador fleet in WCPFC Area.

YEAR	ANNUAL CATCHES BY PRIMARY SPECIES (MT)				EFFORT IN FISHING DAYS	
	YFT	SKJ	BET	TOTAL	HIGH SEAS	EEZ
2015	516	6295	258	7069	29	62
2016	552	2119	330	3001	22	18
2017	817	3061	441	4319	28	25
2018	495	2442	448	3385	28	29
2019	111	1003	451	1565	6	16

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For annual catches estimates the data gathered comes primarily from captain's logbook, which is filled by the captain of the vessel (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Historical catch in the WCPFC Convention Area by El Salvador's fleet (data gathered from captain's logbook).

### 3. BACKGROUND

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

Fishing and aquaculture is regulated and promoted by the General Law to Manage and Promote Fisheries and Aquaculture, published on the official Gazette number 240, volume number 353, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001. This law is executed by the Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of the Republic of El Salvador (CENDEPESCA) which is a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

El Salvador fishing activities in the WCPFC Convention Area started in 2001, with two Salvadoran flagged purse seiners operating in the Area of the Convention (Montelucia and Monterocio formerly known as Alexandros).

Salvadoran fleet in the WCPFC Convention Area has been constituted by purse seiners only, target species of interest for Salvadoran fleet are limited to tropical tunas, fishing activities has been generally conducted between the 20° N and 15° S.

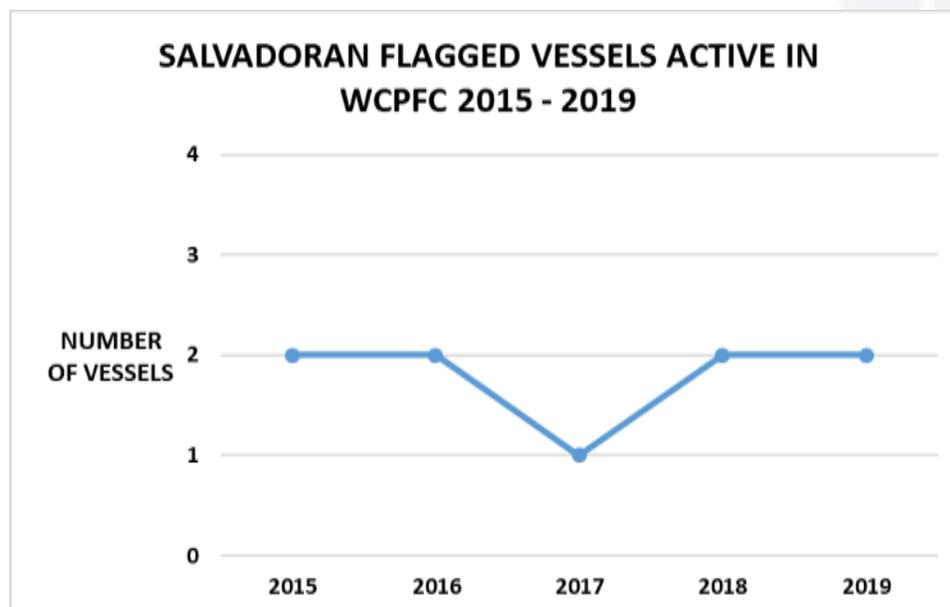
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Currently El Salvador has a Cooperating Non – Member Status granted by the Commission on WCPFC15; Commission agreed participatory rights for El Salvador in 29 fishing days in the high seas (same as previous year). El Salvador is complying with all the measures issued by the Commission to aim sustainable fisheries under the technical standards established by the Commission; which include but is not limited to comply with all the Conservation Management Measures and Resolutions, capacity control and catch limits, observers program, High Seas Inspection Programs and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

**4. FLAG STATE REPORTING**

Activities conducted by Salvadoran fleet in the 2019 period was made with two of the vessels that are authorized on the WCPFC RFV (Montelucia and Monterocio); data provided to the Commission has been gathered from the logbooks reported to CENDEPESCA by the Salvadoran tuna industry. The Number of fishing vessels conducting activities in the WCPFC Area may vary from year to year, as previously stated El Salvador is Member of the IATTC and WCPFC CNM, by maintaining these status, Salvadoran vessels might come forward and back in-between Convention areas, always complying with the respective measures established by each of the Commissions.

Figure 2 show Salvadoran flagged vessels that has been historical active in the WCPFC Convention Area from the 2015 period to 2019.



**Figure 2.** Historical annual vessel numbers for El Salvador fleet fishing in WCPFC Convention Area.

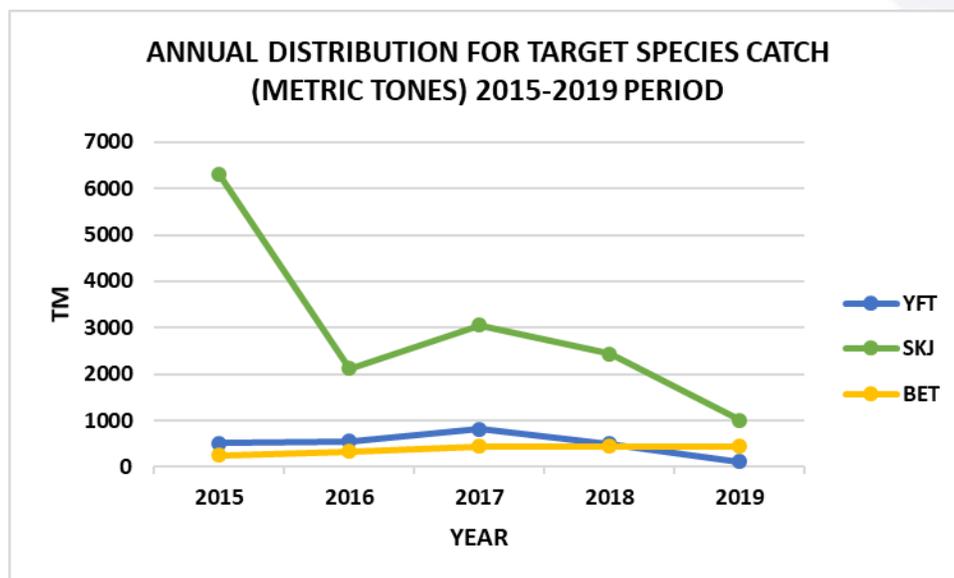
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El Salvador started activities in WCPFC Area on 2007; Salvadoran vessels number has kept the same, all Salvadoran flagged vessels operating in the Convention has been on the WCPFC RFV for their respective period of activity. Table 2 shows the number of vessels by gear and size category.

**Table 2.** Number of Salvadoran vessels, by gear and size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area from 2015 to 2019.

YEAR	NUMBER OF VESSELS	GEAR TYPE	SIZE CATEGORY
2015	2	PURSE SEINE	1500+
2016	2	PURSE SEINE	1500+
2017	1	PURSE SEINE	1500+
2018	2	PURSE SEINE	1500+
2019	2	PURSE SEINE	1500+

Regarding geographical Area of sets performed in the 2019 period; this information was included in digital form to the SPC in the remission of scientific data, which also contains copy of the original captain logbook for each conducted trip on the WCPFC Convention Area.



**Figure 3.** Annual distribution of target species catches from 2015 - 2019

Figure 3 shows the annual distribution for target species catch for the Salvadoran flagged fleet from 2015 to 2019 in the WCPFC Convention Area, in general; similar trending regarding fishing effort in EEZ started in 2016

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(prior 2016 more effort was conducted by salvadoran fleet in WCPFC EEZ's) and has continued to be the same through 2018, having a significant reduction of the effort in the 2019 period.

Regarding bycatch, as previously stated, El Salvador has a zero discard policy which means that Salvadoran flagged vessels are encouraged to not discard any captured species while on sea, only at landing, so quantities in observer reports are as accurate as possible. El Salvador has no means to conduct an observer program, data gathered for the bycatch of species comes primarily from logbooks and the IATTC endorsed Observer Program.

In general, some bycatch species has experienced a reduction in recent years (included is 2017 and 2018).

**Table 3.** Annual estimated catches of non - target species by Salvadoran flagged vessels from 2017-2019.

CIENFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	2017	2018	2019
<i>Aconthocybium solandri</i>	Wahoo	0.0842	0.478	0.16
<i>Canthidermis maculata</i>	Ocean triggerfish	0.0394		
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky shark	1.1547	4.1	1
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark		0.04	0.11
<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	Dolphinfish	1.0865	0.745	
<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	Rainbow runner	0.2972	0.12	
<i>Istiophoridae</i>	Marlin, NEI*		0.25	
<i>Kajikia audax</i>	Striped marlin	0.0765		
<i>Makaira indica</i>	Black marlin	0.1327		
<i>Sphyrnaenidae</i>	Barracuda	0.026		
<i>Sphyrna spp</i>	Hammer head shark NEI*			0.04
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2.8972</b>	<b>5.733</b>	<b>1.31</b>

**Table 4.** Estimated annual data coverage for collecting data.

VESSEL	OPERATIONAL CATCH EFFORT	OBSERVER ON BOARD	TRANSHIPMENT DATA COVERAGE	LANDING INSPECTIONS
MONTELUCCIA	100%	100%	**	100%
MONTEROCIO	100%	100%	**	100%

\*\* No transshipments made on current period

El Salvador is not a coastal state of the WCPFC; therefore, does not have a survey program in order to control its fleet operating on the Convention Area, however all the fishing trip conducted on the Convention Area are monitored by the IATTC endorsed Observer Program and WCPFC Observer Program. While disembarking on El

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Salvador, CENDEPESCA performs inspection and control on 100% of disembarks made at port; that includes all of the vessels operating on the WCPFC Convention Area.

Legislation provides controls regarding:

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

#### **5. COSTAL STATE REPORTING**

El Salvador is not a costal state of the WCPFC Area and does not conduct tuna directed fishing activities in jurisdictional waters, interaction with tuna vessels (national and foreign) are limited to landings and vessels maintaining. El Salvador only has a trawler fleet that target shrimp species in jurisdictional waters that conduct activities in coastal waters.

#### **6. SOCIO ECONOMIC FACTORS**

Tuna industry in El Salvador directly employs around 1500 people in processing activities in plant, 500 people employed in offloading activities of the vessels, 175 as crew members of the vessels and indirectly employs 5000 people in different activities exclusively. This numbers comes from national statistical information gathered for IATTC, WCPFC and ICCAT.

#### **7. DISPOSAL OF CATCH**

Tuna is processed and canned in a processing plant located in eastern El Salvador. Discarded tuna due to contaminants and waste are processed for fish meal. Tuna loins are reported to European Union markets while canned tuna is distributed all over the world including national market using different brands depending demographic area.

#### **8. ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS**

As stated above, El Salvador only has one tuna processing plant located in eastern El Salvador that comply with all the requirements established by Salvadoran laws.

Regarding supporting facilities; El Salvador counts with a port designated for fishing landings (La Union port), and also has one shipyard, designated for reparations of industrial vessels that includes fishing vessels (CEPA port) which offer a variety of services of vessel maintenance.

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**9. FUTURE PROSPECT OF THE FISHERY**

El Salvador tuna fleet is composed by seventh purse seiners operating in the Pacific and Atlantic, but El Salvador has no plans on increasing the number of vessels operating in the WCPFC Convention Area, only three purse seiners are currently operating in the Pacific Ocean and only two are authorized by El Salvador to fish on the WCPFC Area. El Salvador as previously stated is a Member of the IATTC and contracting party of the ICCAT.

**10. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES COVERING TARGET AND NON – TARGET SPECIES**

El Salvador is a country in development stage; it has no resources to conduct investigation to support stocks assessment, environmental factors or biomass surveys. Composition of the catch and estimations are assessed during inspections and disembarkation of catches and this are contrasted with observer reports and catches reported by captains in the logbooks.

**ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT PART 1**

**1. CMM 2019-03 (NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE), PARA 4.**

Salvadoran vessels don't fish North Pacific Albacore, target species are tropical tuna only; specifically Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*).

**2. CMM 2006-04 (SOUTH WEST STRIPED MARLIN) PARA 4.**

Salvadoran vessels don't fish striped marlin in the area south of 15° S, the main area where Salvadoran fleet conduct activities is in-between 20° N and 15° S.

**3. CMM 2009-03 (SWORDFISH) PARA 8.**

Salvadoran vessels don't fish swordfish in the area south of 20° S, the main area where Salvadoran fleet conduct activities is in-between 20° N and 15° S.

**4. CMM 2009-06 (TRANSHIPMENT) PARA 11.**

There were no transshipments made by Salvadoran vessels in the 2019 period

**5. CMM 2010-07 (SHARKS) PARA 4.**

El Salvador has no vessels targeting sharks in the WCPFC Convention Area.

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**6. CMM 2011-03 (IMPACT OF PS FISHING ON CETACEANS) PARA 5.**

There are no reports regarding interactions with cetaceans for the 2019 period up to this date. Salvadoran vessels do not perform sets on cetaceans.

**7. CMM 2011-03 (OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK) PARA 3.**

For the 2019 period, captain logbooks estimates that 0.11 metric tons of Oceanic whitetip shark were captured and discarded during fishing activity on the WCPFC Convention Area; data from same source register interaction with 4 individuals.

**8. CMM 2012-04 (WHALE SHARKS) PARA 06.**

There are no reports regarding interaction with whale sharks for the 2019 period up to this date.

**9. CMM 2013-08 (SILKY SHARK) PARA 3.**

For the 2019 period, captain logbooks estimates in 1 metric ton the weight of silky shark that were captured and discarded after; data from the same source register interaction with 94 individuals.

**10. OBSERVER COVERAGE (WCPFC 11 DECISION) PARA 484B.**

El Salvador does not have longline vessels operating on the WCPFC Convention Area.

**11. CMM 2015-02 (SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE) PARA 4.**

El Salvador does not fish South Pacific Albacore as target species. Salvadoran vessels do not conduct fishing activities south of 20° S.

**12. CMM 2018-03 (SEABIRDS) PARA 13.**

El Salvador does not have longline vessels operating in the WCPFC Convention Area; and did not report any interaction with seabird for operations conducted by purse seine vessels on the 2018 period.

**IMPORTANT DATA GAP**

El Salvador as state flag; does not have access to information gathered by WCPFC Observer Programs when hired; processed data from those Observer Programs is not updated on time on the SPC statistical platform (DORADO) before submission of Annual Reports part 1 and 2; which is the tool that our CNM uses to update data gathered by observers, this creates an important gap on the information that can be collected and sent to the Commission year by year. El Salvador is looking forward to find mechanics that can help to obtain this data, so more accurate provision of data can be made in order to comply with commission most high standards.