

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90th MEETING

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA (USA)

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DOCUMENT IATTC-90-06

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IATTC REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR TRANSSHIPMENTS AT SEA

1. INTRODUCTION

The IATTC observer program to monitor transshipments at sea by carrier vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), established by Resolution [C-08-02](#), amended by Resolution [C-11-09](#) and now regulated by Resolution [C-12-07](#), started in January 2009, and by July 2016 will have operated for seven and a half years.

With the approval of the Members that participate in the program, the Secretariat signed a three-year contract with the *Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd.* (MRAG) consortium for operating the observer program, so MRAG will continue to provide this service through 2016. In this meeting, the Commission will have to decide if it wishes to continue its working relationship with MRAG.

The observer data for 2016 in this document are for the period up to 25 April, with one exception (March 31).

2. IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION

The program is operating without any major problems with regard to its implementation and management. Observers have not reported incidents related to the monitoring procedures, which to date have been fully implemented by vessel operators and captains.

On 23 October 2014, the Secretariat sent a memorandum to the CPCs, noting the provisions of paragraph 20 of Resolution C-12-07, which establishes that “*All tuna and tuna-like species and sharks landed in, or imported into, the territory or area of a CPC, either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the IATTC transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place*”.

In that memorandum it was stated that the Commission staff has no information on how this provision is complied with, despite its importance for the global implementation of the resolution. Each CPC involved in receiving transhipped fish in its ports was asked to provide, voluntarily, the relevant information to the Commission for examination and review. To date, this request has not been met. This matter has been also discussed during the 89th IATTC meeting, without arriving at any conclusion and decision on whether that information should eventually be submitted on a compulsory basis.

The Secretariat maintains on the Commission website the [list of carrier vessels](#) authorised to receive transshipments at sea, which is updated constantly with information supplied by the participants about additions of carrier vessels and modifications of the data on such vessels. The current list includes 65 vessels (Table 2.1).

Resolution [C-12-07](#) specifies that longline fishing vessels

	Vessels
China	4
Korea	6
Japan	3
Kiribati	2
Liberia	27
Panama	11
Sierra Leone	1
Chinese Taipei	2
European Union (Spain)	1
Vanuatu	8
TOTAL	65

Table 2.1. Authorized carrier vessels, by flag

that transship at sea must be on the [list of longline vessels](#) authorised to fish in the IATTC Convention Area. The vessels authorised to transship are longline vessels of the five Members that participate fully in the transshipment program, plus other vessels (from Belize, Peru, and Indonesia which transship only very infrequently. It also includes Panama longline vessels whose transshipment activity has increased over the last 2 years.

Paragraph 19 of Resolution C-12-07 states that: “Each CPC shall report annually before 15 September to the Director:

- a) The quantities by species transshipped during the previous year.
- b) The names of its vessels on the IATTC ... List [of large-scale longline vessels] which have transshipped during the previous year; and
- c) A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from its [large-scale longline vessels].”

On 23 March 2015, the Secretariat sent the observer reports for 2015 to each participating Member in the program, and it is expected that those Members will submit their reports for 2015 to the Secretariat by 15 September 2015. The Secretariat received reports for 2014 from Belize, China, Japan, Korea, Vanuatu, and Chinese Taipei, but not from Panama.

3. RESULTS TO DATE

Figure 3.1 shows the number of days spent at sea by observers and the number of observers requested during 2009-2015. By 2015 all requests to place an observer (38) were met. The number of days at sea was higher (13.6%) in 2015 compared to 2014. In 2016, 666 days at sea have been performed until March 31; if this trend continues, the total at the end of the year will be similar to that in 2015.

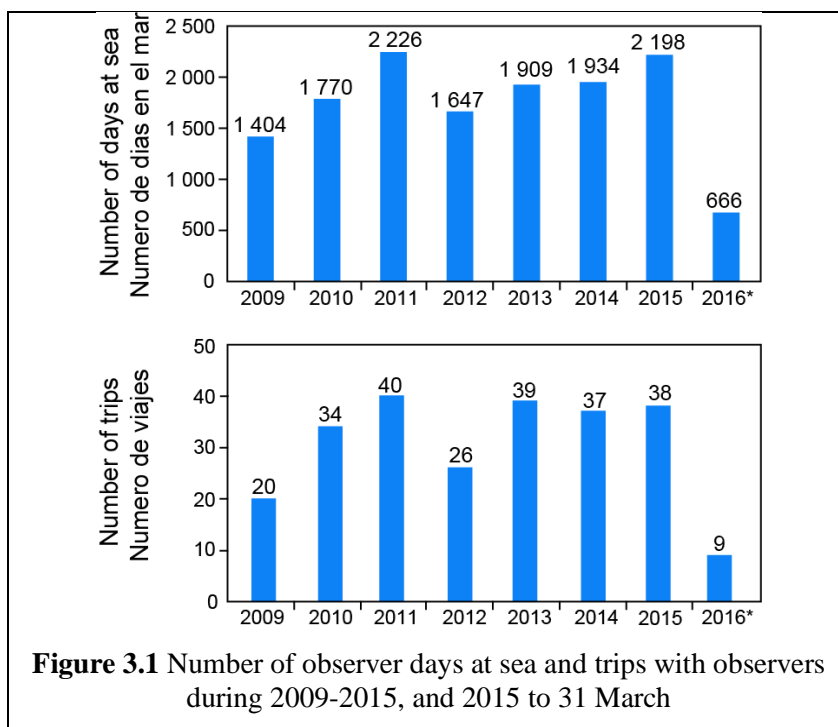


Figure 3.2 shows the number of transshipments recorded in the EPO during 2009-2015. There was an increase of about 4% compared to the previous year.

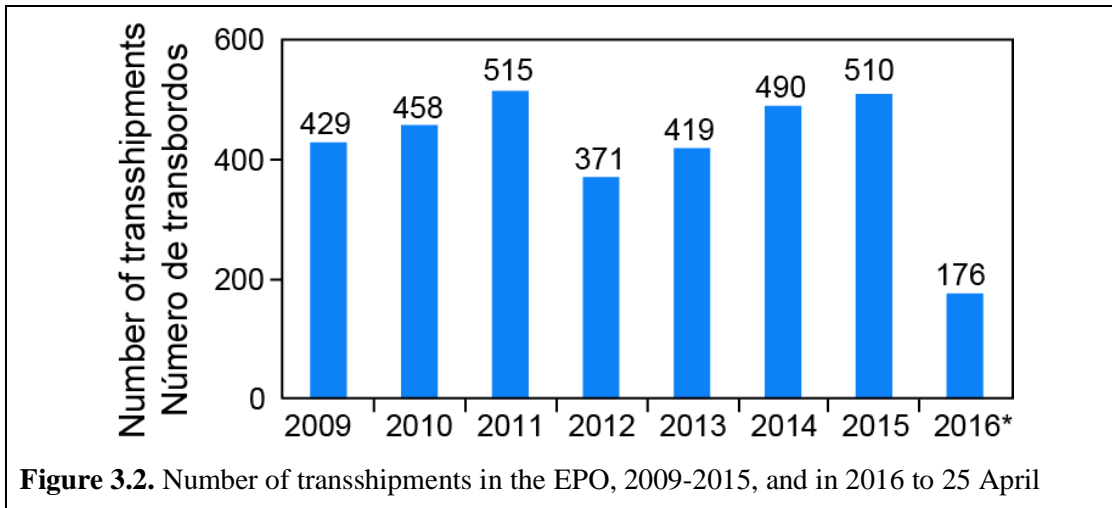


Figure 3.3 shows the catches transshipped at sea in the EPO during 2013-2015, by flag of the fishing vessel and for 2016 until March 31. It is noteworthy to mention that transshipments of Panama have increased. In 2016 these transshipments are already above those made by Vanuatu and Korea and practically at the same level as Japan. As a result, Panama should be urged to participate fully in the program and accept being included in the calculation of contributions to the program's budget.

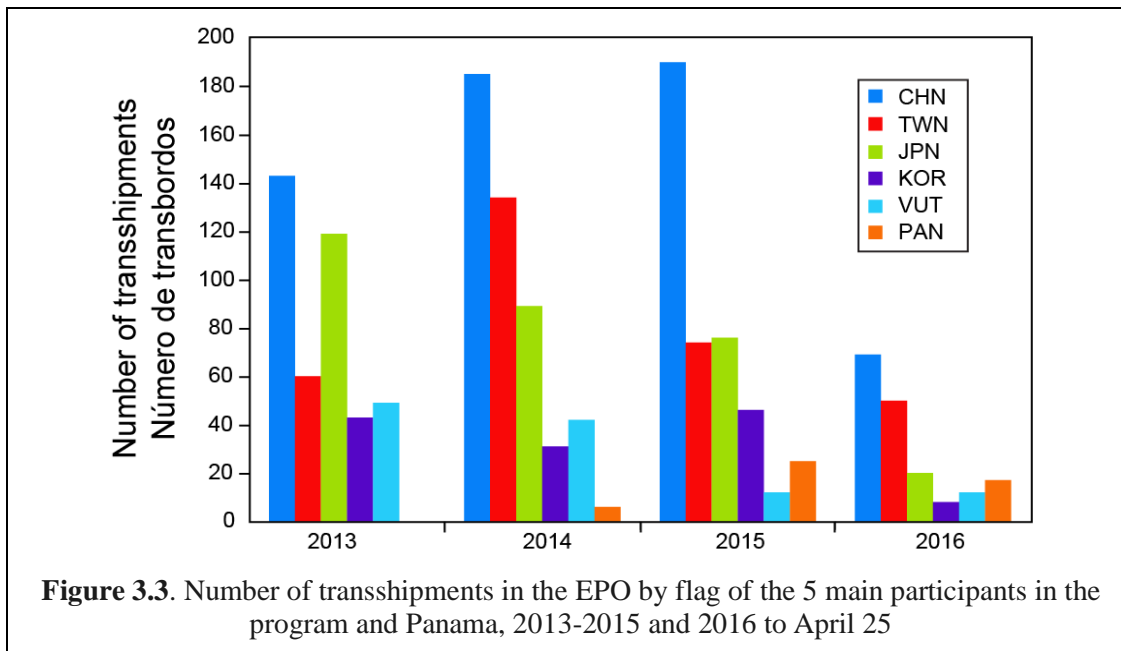


Figure 3.4 details by flag the catches transshipped at sea during 2009-2015. In 2015 transshipments from China flagged vessels stand out as well as the increase in number of transshipments from Panama flagged vessels as well as in volume of fish transshipped by these vessels. Annex 1 contains the data for 2009 - 2015, by species and flag, and Annex 2 contains a list of trips of carrier vessels and ports of boarding and disembarkation of observers of the program during the period 2015-2016.

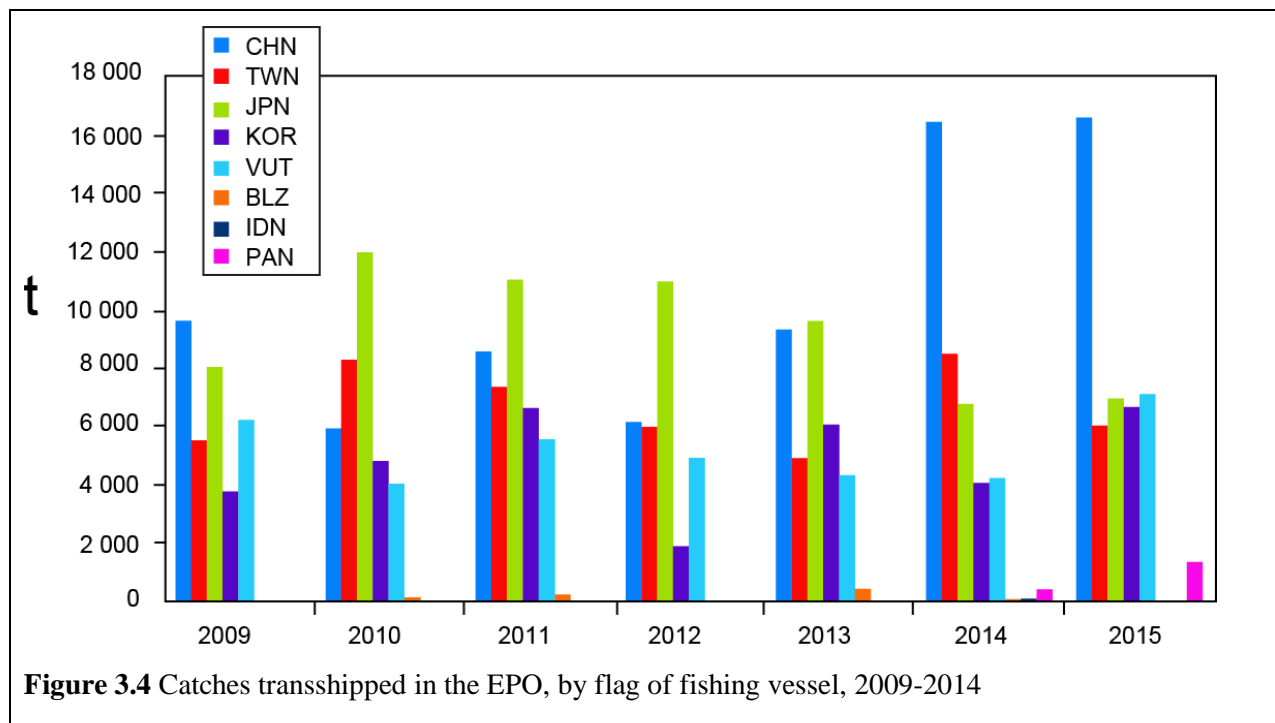
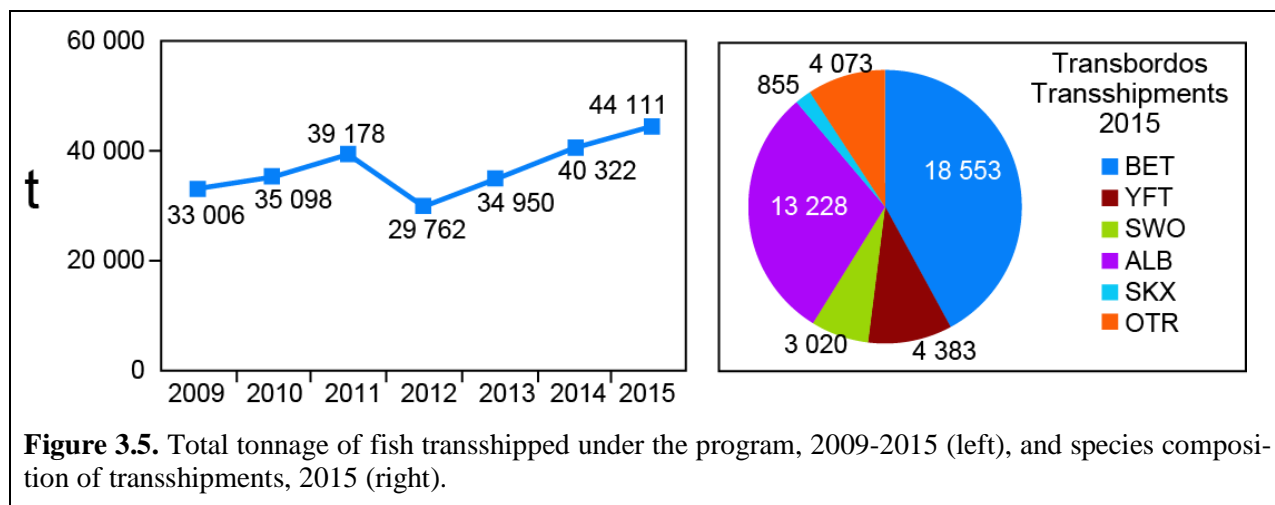


Figure 3.5 shows the total tonnage of the catches transhipped under the program during 2009-2015, which increased by about 9.4 % from 2014 to 2015, and the species composition of the transshipments in 2015. Pursuant to Resolution C-12-07, since 2012 catches of sharks transhipped (855 tons in 2015) are itemized separately.



In accordance with the decision made by the 85th meeting of the Commission in June 2013, observers record, since July of that year, where the transhipped tuna originated (western Pacific (WPO), EPO, IATTC-WCPFC overlap area). The data recorded by IATTC observers in 2015 shows that about 66% of the tuna transhipped in the EPO is caught in the Antigua Convention Area, including the the overlap area (Table 3.1), and 27% in the WPO.

	EPO (inc. overlap area)	WPO (exc. Overlap area)	Unknown	Total
CHN	17,063	6303	157	23,523
KOR	5,142	1,826	3,861	10,829
JPN	6,991	569	107	7,667
PAN	1,321	0	0	1,321
TWN	5,547	3,791	346	9,684
VUT	6,043	4,380	57	10,480
Total	42,108	16,869	4,528	63,505

Table 3.1. Origin of the fish transshipped in the Pacific in 2015, by fishing vessel flag, in tons.

Table 3.2. contains a comparison between catch limits for bigeye tuna established in Resolution C-13-01 and the volumes of catch in the EPO, based on the data from the transshipment program. In the case of China, this volume is greater but the transfer of 6,000 metric tonnes from Japan, which was reported to the Commission and recorded in its Minutes, must be taken into account.

	BET catch limits established in Resolution C-13-01	BET catch in EPO and registered by the transshipment observer program
	Metric Tons.	
CHN	2,507	6,063
KOR	11,947	3,404
JPN	32,372	4,227
TWN	7,555	2,487

Table 3.2 Catch limits in Res. C-13-01 and catches recorded in the transshipment program

The positions of transshipments made between 1 January 2013 and 25 April 2016 in the entire Pacific are shown in Appendix 3a, and in the EPO only in Appendix 3b.

Appendix 1.

Fish transhipped in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 2009-2015, by species and flag of fishing vessel, in metric tons

	Flag	Bigeye	Yellowfin	Swordfish	Albacore	Shark	Others	Total
2009	BLZ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CHN	6,392	1,281	978	433	-	502	9,586
	JPN	4,736	1,218	627	767	-	657	8,004
	KOR	2,460	324	323	79	-	553	3,739
	PHL	72	34	-	-	-	-	106
	TWN	2,564	586	320	1,655	-	363	5,487
	VUT	964	237	108	3,828	-	1,053	6,190
	Total	17,186	3,679	2,356	6,762		3,128	33,112
2010	BLZ	81	13	3	10	-	2	110
	CHN	3,674	748	583	429	-	470	5,902
	JPN	6,623	1,942	1,049	819	-	1,502	11,935
	KOR	2,957	459	372	102	-	891	4,781
	PER	80	15	7	3	-	3	108
	TWN	4,561	992	541	1,434	-	730	8,258
	VUT	1,321	259	131	1,963	-	330	4,005
	Total	19,297	4,428	2,685	4,759		3,928	35,098
2011	BLZ	90	9	19	76	-	17	212
	CHN	5,363	1,157	815	436	-	755	8,526
	JPN	5,198	1,111	1,247	1,819	-	1,622	10,997
	KOR	4,263	574	486	253	-	1,015	6,591
	TWN	2,246	413	271	3,269	-	1,123	7,323
	VUT	1,160	228	166	3,609	-	366	5,529
	Total	18,319	3,492	3,004	9,463		4,899	39,178
2012	CHN	3,690	840	772	389	-	429	6,121
	JPN	5,894	1,359	1,185	1,340	-	1,162	10,938
	KOR	1,257	130	166	55	-	257	1,866
	TWN	2,476	395	398	2,015	-	664	5,949
	VUT	1,226	160	157	2,996	-	348	4,888
Total	14,543	2,884	2,678	6,796		2,860	29,762	
2013	BLZ	246	40	52	20	16	30	404
	CHN	3,635	798	583	3,400	114	758	9,289
	IDN	102	16	16	2	0	2	138
	JPN	5,756	1,126	1,162	735	9	784	9,571
	KOR	3,947	519	487	199	294	579	6,026
	TWN	1,771	386	245	1,463	335	676	4,876
	VUT	763	160	161	2,853	34	316	4,285
	Total:	16,221	3,045	2,706	8,672	801	3,144	34,590
2014	BLZ	38	1	5	1	0	0	45
	CHN	4,624	1,169	943	8,069	115	1,480	16,402
	IDN	18	7	1	3	6	28	62
	JPN	3,868	922	859	337	0	755	6,741
	KOR	2,585	481	287	118	170	391	4,032
	PAN	172	76	37	13	34	56	388
	TWN	2,975	645	560	3,238	258	782	8,458
	VUT	818	269	142	2,593	118	256	4,195
Total:	15,098	3,569	2,833	14,373	701	3,748	40,322	
2015	CHN	5,690	1,897	888	6,631	130	1,323	16,558
	JPN	4,201	766	829	367	0	761	6,925
	KOR	4,347	525	545	154	252	813	6,636
	PAN	522	116	17	447	56	163	1,321
	TWN	2,414	649	546	1,379	215	393	5,595
	VUT	1,381	429	194	4,249	202	620	7,075
Total	18,553	4,383	3,020	13,228	855	4,073	44,111	

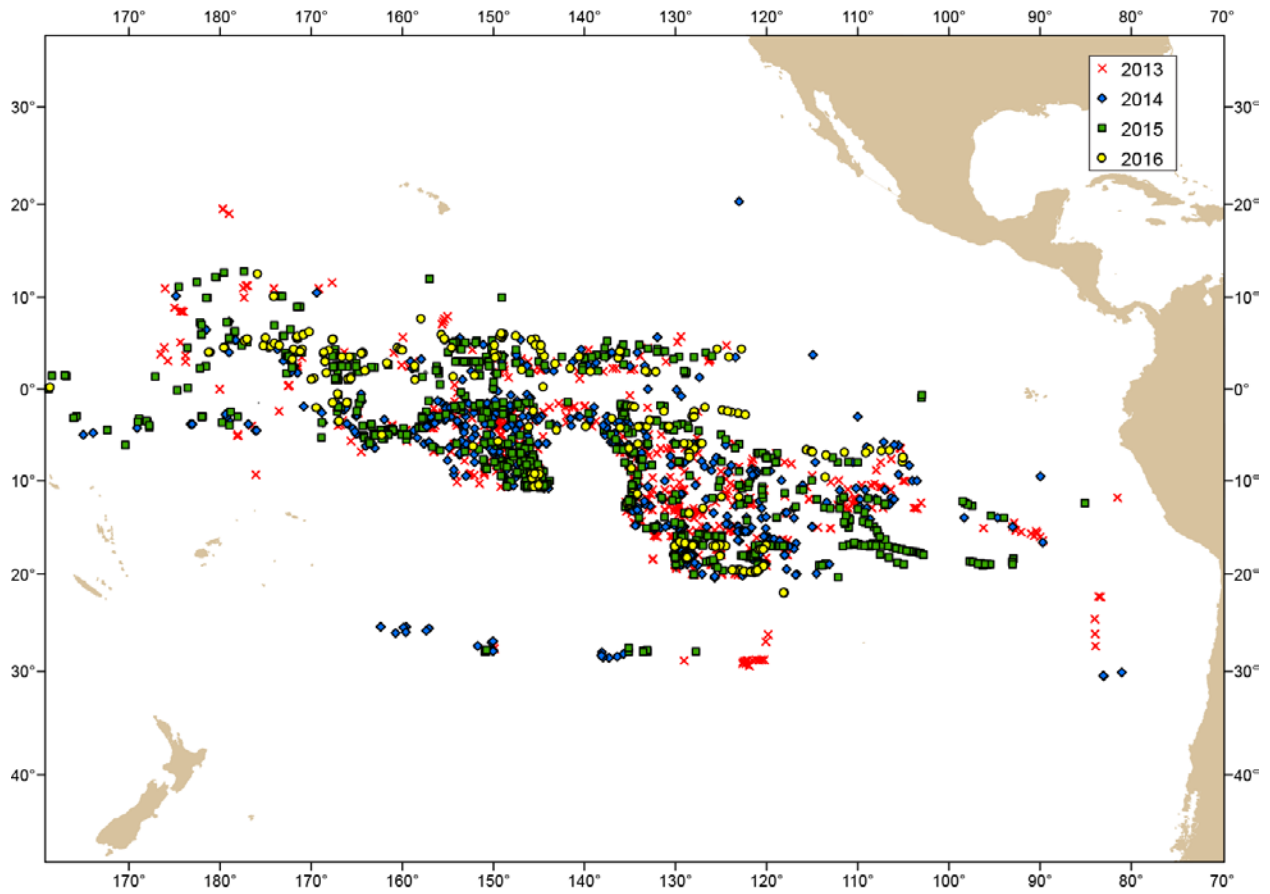
Appendix 2.

Trips by carrier vessels during 2015, and 2016 to 25 April.

	IATTC trip	Vessel	Flag	Departure		Arrival	
				Date	Port	Date	Port
2015	199	<i>Yun Run 3</i>	KIR	6-Jan	Papeete, Tahiti	9-Feb	Papeete, Tahiti
	200	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	VUT	6-Jan	Kaohsiung	8-Mar	Majuro, RMI
	201	<i>Shin Ho Chun no.102</i>	KIR	29-Jan	Papeete, Tahiti	7-Feb	Papeete, Tahiti
	202	<i>Lung Yuin</i>	VUT	27-Jan-	Suva, Fiji	5-Mar	Majuro, RMI
	203	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	VUT	8-Feb	Kaohsiung	12-Apr	Busan, Korea
	204	<i>Victoria No.168</i>	PAN	6-Mar	Papeete, Tahiti	30-Apr	Vacamonte, Panama
	205	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	8-Feb	Pusan, Korea	5-Apr	Busan, Korea
	206	<i>Harima 2</i>	PAN	6-Mar	Kaohsiung	15-May	Papeete Tahiti
	207	<i>Victoria</i>	VUT	27-Mar	Kaohsiung	25-Jun	Shimizu, Japan
	208	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	18-Apr	Pusan, Korea	15-Jun	Busan, Korea
	209	<i>Hsiang Fu</i>	VUT	30-Apr	Kaohsiung	21-Jul	Tainjin China
	210	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	VUT	22-Apr	Kaohsiung	1-Jul	Majuro RMI
	211	<i>Yun Run 3</i>	KIR	17-May	Papeete, Tahiti	11-Jun	Papeete Tahiti
	212	<i>Victoria No.168</i>	PAN	30-May-	Vacamonte Panama	15-Jul	Manta Ecuador
	213	<i>Houta Maru</i>	PAN	26-May	Pusan Korea	9-Aug	Pusan Korea
	214	<i>Harima 2</i>	PAN	24-Jun	Kaohsiung	17-Sep	Papeete Tahiti
	215	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	VUT	14-Jul	Kaohsiung	15-Sep	Shimizu Japan
	216	<i>Victoria No.168</i>	PAN	5-Aug	Vacamonte Panama	10-Sep	MISSING
	217	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	4-Jul	Pusan Korea	6-Sep	Busan Korea
	218	<i>Lung Yuin</i>	VUT	25-Jun	Papeete Tahiti	5-Aug	Kaohsiung
	219	<i>Victoria</i>	VUT	16-Aug	Kaohsiung	27-Nov	Yokosuka Japan
	220	<i>Shin Ho Chun 101</i>	KIR	10-Aug	Papeete Tahiti	16-Sep-	Papeete Tahiti
	221	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	VUT	7-Sep	Kaohsiung	17-Nov	Majuro RMI
	222	<i>Yun Run 3</i>	KIR	26-Aug	Papeete Tahiti	30-Sep	Papeete Tahiti
	223	<i>Shota Maru</i>	VUT	30-Sep	Kaohsiung	9-Dec	Majuro RMI
	224	<i>Hsiang Fu</i>	VUT	18-Sep	Kaohsiung	9-Dec	Busan Korea
	225	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	22-Sep	Pusan Korea	28-Nov	Busan Korea
	226	<i>Talofa</i>	VUT	13-Oct	Pago Pago, Samoa	25-Nov-	Pago Pago, Samoa
	227	<i>Victoria No.168</i>	PAN	2-Dec	Vacamonte Panama	1-Feb-16	Manta Ecuador
	228	<i>Harima 2</i>	PAN	8-Nov	Kaohsiung	12-Jan-16	Papeete Tahiti
	229	<i>Lung Yuin</i>	VUT	26-Oct	Papeete Tahiti	27-Nov-15	Papeete Tahiti
	230	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	VUT	1-Nov	Kaohsiung	10-Jan-16	Jeju Korea
	231	<i>Seiwa</i>	KIR	10-Nov	Busan Korea	10-Jan-16	Majuro RMI
	232	<i>Shun Tian Fa No.168</i>	TWN	29-Nov	Kaohsiung	16-Feb-16	Kaohsiung
	233	<i>Pontos</i>	PAN	14-Nov	Kaohsiung	4-Mar-16	Kaohsiung
	234	<i>Shin Ho Chun 101</i>	KIR	28-Dec	Suva Fiji	5-Feb-16	Papeete Tahiti
	235	<i>Tuna Queen</i>	PAN	16-Dec	Kaohsiung	15-Feb-16	Papeete Tahiti
236	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	23-Dec	Pusan Korea	18-Mar-16	Busan Korea	
237	<i>Yun Run 3</i>	KIR	24-Dec	Papeete Tahiti	25-Jan-16	Papeete	
2016	238	<i>Tenho Maru</i>	VUT	3-Jan	Kaohsiung	20-Mar-16	Jeju Korea
	239	<i>Talofa</i>	VUT	4-Feb	Pago Pago, Samoa	19-Apr-16	Pago Pago Samoa
	240	<i>Hsiang Fu</i>	VUT	29-Jan	Kaohsiung	31-Mar-16	Papeete Tahiti
	241	<i>Shota Maru</i>	VUT	23-Feb	Apia Samoa	25-Apr-16	Majuro RMI
	242	<i>Lung Yuin</i>	VUT	17-Mar	Papeete Tahiti	22-Apr-16	Majuro RMI
	243	<i>Taiho Maru</i>	VUT	19-Feb	Kaohsiung	23-Apr-16	MajuroRMI
	244	<i>Harima 2</i>	PAN	19-Mar	Kaohsiung	30-Apr-16	Papeete Tahiti
	245	<i>SL Bogo</i>	KOR	31-Mar	Pusan, Korea	31-May-16	Busan Korea
	246	<i>Haru</i>	VUT	20-Apr-16	Papeete Tahiti	31-May-16	Papeete Tahiti

Appendix 3a.

Transshipments in the Pacific Ocean, 2013-2015, and 2016 to 25 April



Appendix 3b.

Transshipments in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 2013-2015, and 2016 to 25 April

