

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

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DOCUMENT IATTC-92-06

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](#) , and now regulated by Resolution [C-12-07](#), started in January 2009, and by July 2017 will have operated for eight and a half years. The current participants in the program are China, Japan, Korea, Vanuatu, Chinese Taipei, and (since 2015) Panama.

With the approval of the Members that participate in the program, in 2016 the Secretariat signed a three-year contract with the *Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd.* (MRAG) consortium for operating the observer program through 2019.

2. IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION

2.1. Compliance

As previously reported, in September 2015 the observer aboard the Panama-flagged carrier vessel *Victoria 168* disappeared during a transshipment from a Vanuatu-flagged fishing vessel.

In accordance with its plan of action in case of emergencies ([Addendum 1](#)), MRAG immediately notified the United States Coast Guard, which took over the search for the observer and the subsequent investigations. The Secretariat informed the relevant authorities of Panama and Vanuatu.

During the meeting of the IATTC in June 2016, the United States offered to report the results of the investigation, but such notification remaining still pending at the time of preparation of this document. For their part, in December 2016, the Panamanian authorities informed the Secretariat that they had concluded their own investigation of the case, and that the *Victoria 168* was being authorized to resume operations. The owner of the vessel expressed his willingness to change the entire crew.

In response to the request made by the Commission, observers have been provided by MRAG with an emergency alert device through which the observer can send an immediate signal to the offices of MRAG. The cost of using this equipment is added to the budget of the program operation. It should be noted that the observers' reports include a section where they can record situations of harassment or other inappropriate situations in the performance of their duties, including those related to their health and safety. This information is reported to the flag State for its consideration.

The following cases will be presented and analyzed at the meeting of the Review Committee.

Possible non-compliance	Number of cases	Relevant Resolution
Poor sanitary conditions	3	C-12-07, Annex 3
Differences between the fish reported by the vessel and by the observer	12	C-12-07, Annex 3
Trash disposed at sea	2	C-04-05
Fuel spilled at sea	2	C-04-05
Shark fins on board	3	C-05-03

An issue mentioned by several observers in their reports is that the emergency drills required by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention, Chapter III Part B-1, rule 19, Points 2.2 and 2.3) are carried out only in very few cases. This is a safety issue both for observers and crews, and this requirement should be complied with by vessels regardless of whether they are required by IATTC resolutions.

2.2. Participation

The Secretariat maintains on the Commission website the [list of carrier vessels](#) authorized 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 64 vessels.

Resolution [C-12-07](#) specifies that longline fishing vessels that transship at sea must be on the [list of longline vessels](#) authorized to fish in the IATTC Convention Area. The vessels authorized 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 have transshipped only very infrequently in the past). It also includes Panama longline vessels, country which participates currently in the program on a regular basis.

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 LSTLFV [large-scale longline vessels] List 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 LSTLFVs.”

The Secretariat received reports for 2015 from China, Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei and Vanuatu, but not from Panama. On 13 April 2017, the Secretariat sent the observer reports for 2016 to each participating Member in the program, and it is expected that those Members will submit their reports for 2016 to the Secretariat by 15 September 2017.

3. RESULTS TO DATE

Figure 3.1 shows the number of days spent at sea by observers and the number of observers requested during 2009-2016 and in 2017 until 31 March. In 2016 all 41 received requests to place an observer were met. The number of days at sea was higher (19.4%) in 2016 compared to 2015 and if this trend continues in 2017 (745 days until 31 March), the total at the end of the year will be 14% higher than in 2016, the program costs will be also higher.

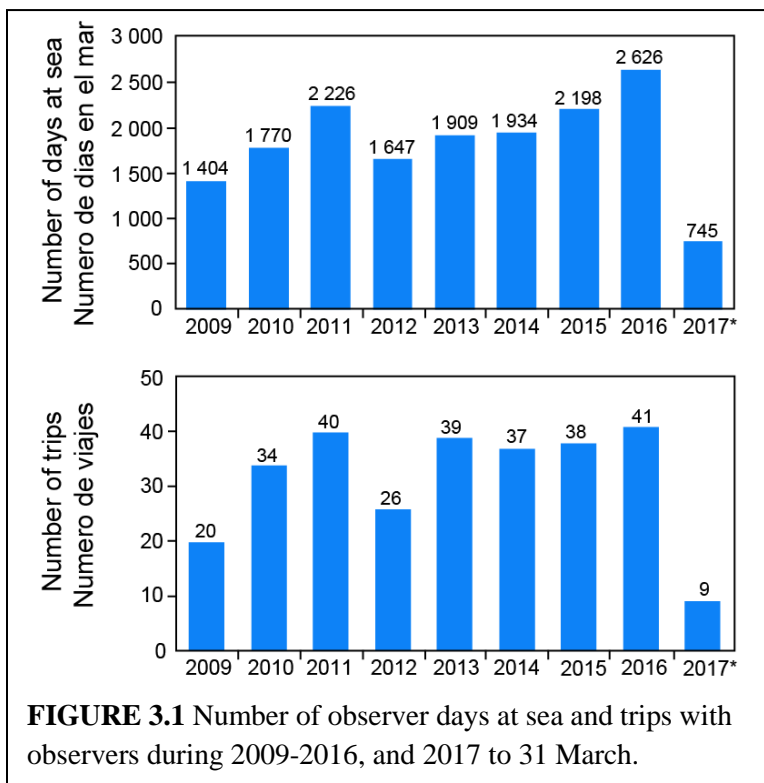


FIGURE 3.1 Number of observer days at sea and trips with observers during 2009-2016, and 2017 to 31 March.

Figure 3.2 shows the number of transshipments recorded in the EPO during 2009-2016 and in 2017 until 16 May. In 2016 there was an increase of about 32.5% compared to 2015. Figure 3.3 shows the catches transshipped at sea in the EPO during 2013- 2016, and in 2017 until May 16.

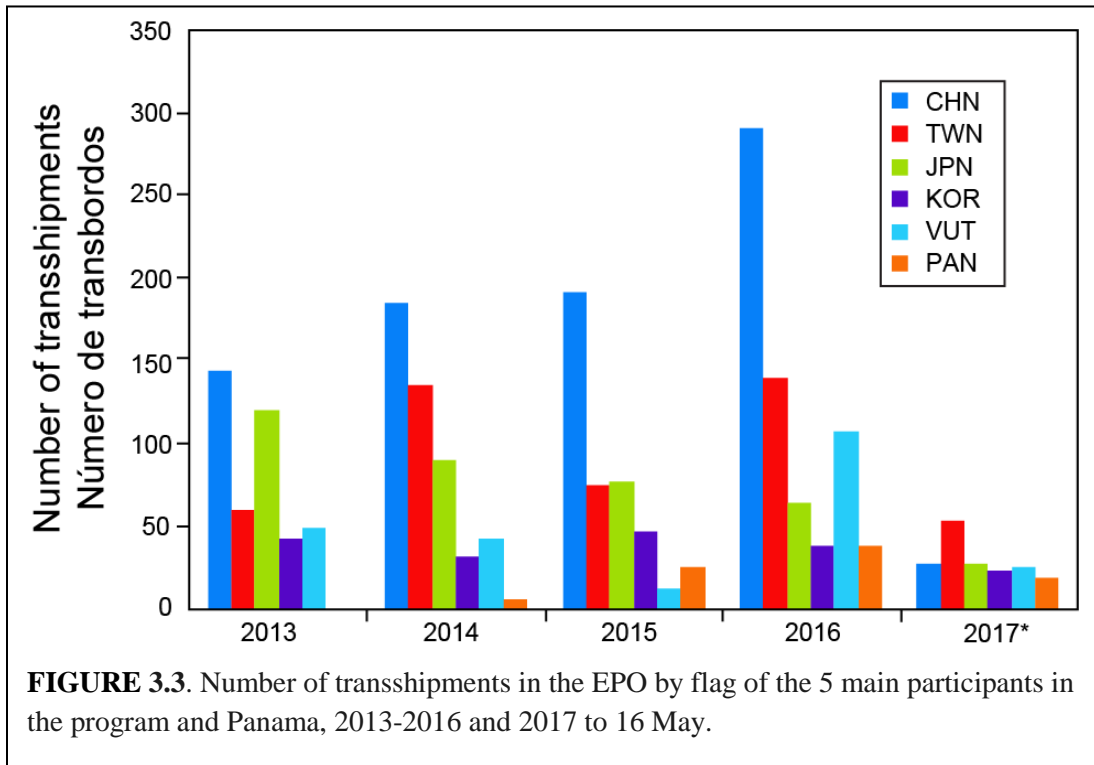
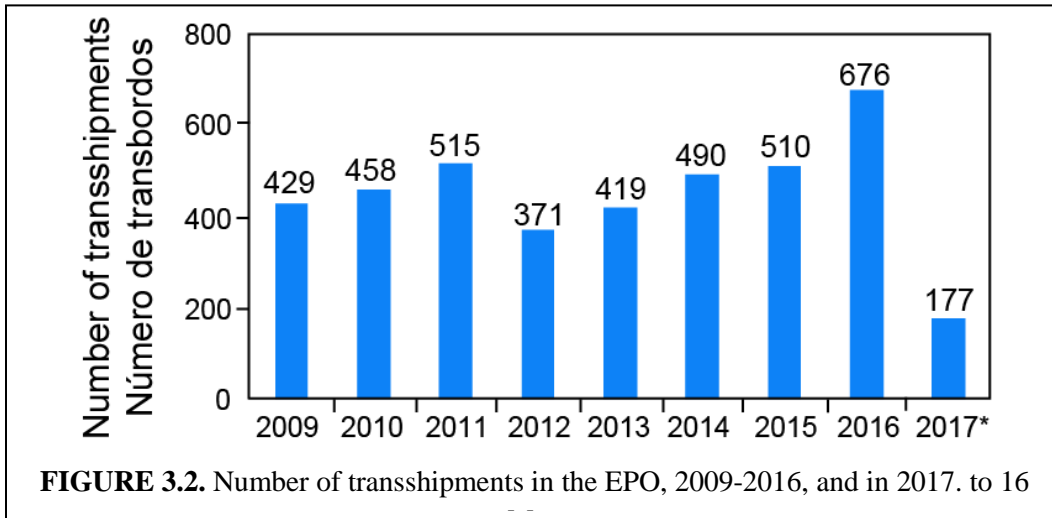


Figure 3.4 details by flag the catches transshipped at sea during 2009-2016. In 2016 transshipments from China flagged vessels stand out. Annex 1 contains the data for 2009 -2016, by species and flag, and Annex 2 contains a list of trips of carrier vessels and ports of boarding and disembarkation of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

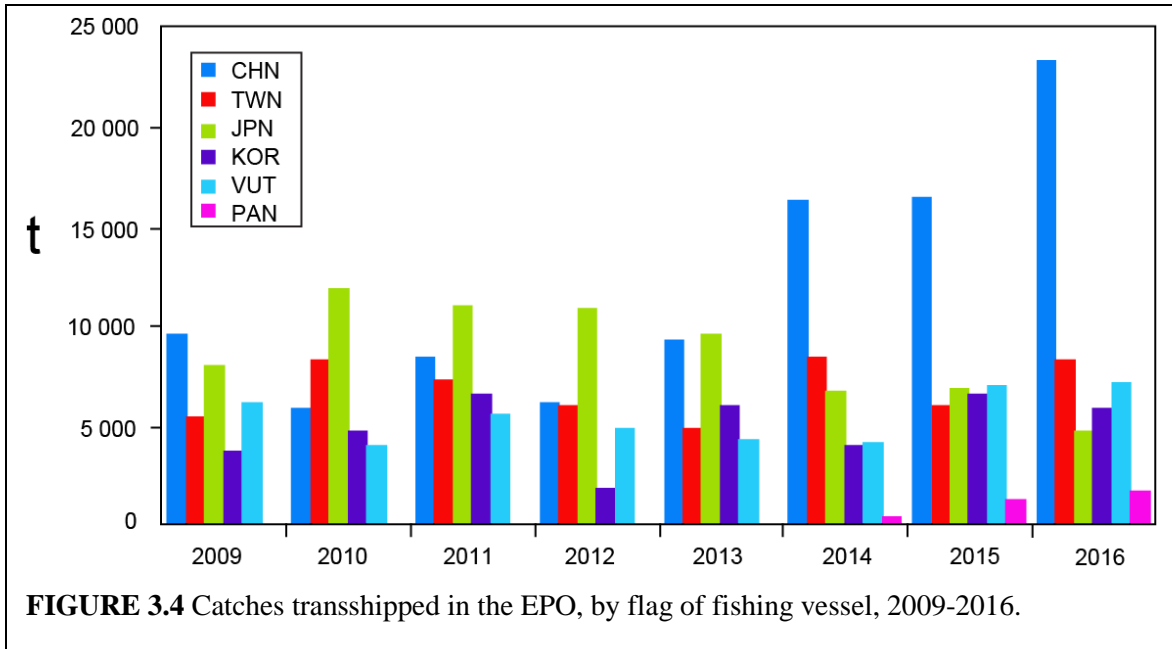
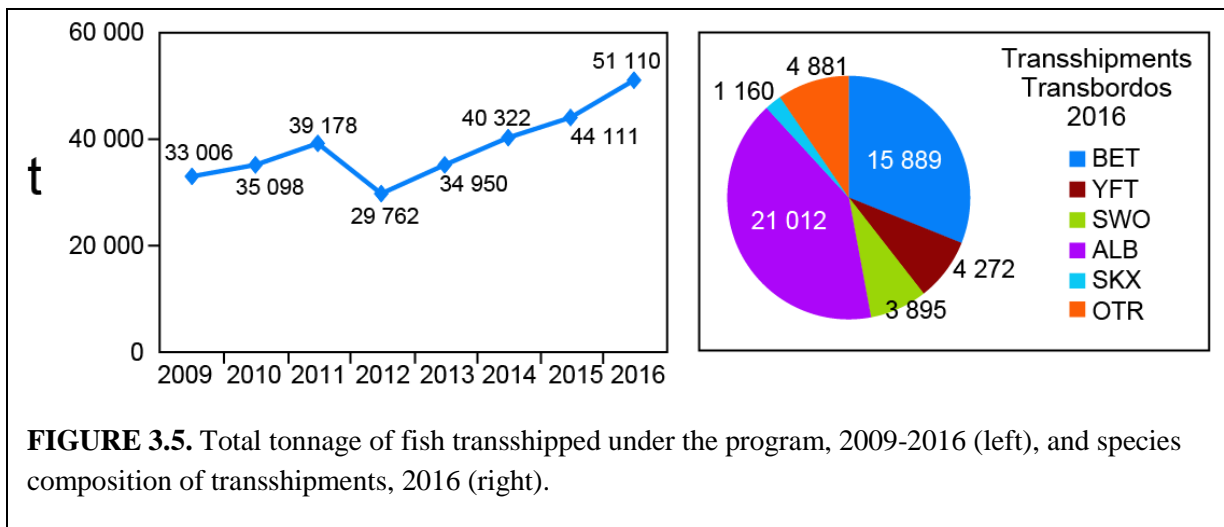


Figure 3.5 shows the total tonnage of the catches transshipped under the program during 2009-2016, which increased by about 16 % from 2015 to 2016, and the species composition of the transshipments in 2016. Pursuant to Resolution C-12-07, since 2012 catches of sharks transshipped (1,160 tons in 2016) are itemized separately.



Since July 2013, observers record where the transshipped tuna originated (western Pacific (WPO), EPO, IATTC-WCPFC overlap area). The 2016 data shows that about 62 % of the tuna transshipped is caught in the EPO, including the overlap area (Table 3.1), and 29 % in the WPO.

Member	Area of catch								Total
	EPO		Overlap area		WPO		Unknown		
	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t
CHN	13,644	47.8	7,875	27.6	6,556	23	455	1.6	28,519
KOR	3,570	28.4	604	4.8	3,066	24.4	5,330	42.4	12,570
JPN	4,382	77.4	125	2.2	969	17.1	186	3.3	5,661
PAN	1,687	100	-	-	1	0.1	-	-	1,687
TWN	4,641	32.4	3,697	25.8	5,787	40.4	197	1.4	14,322
VAN	5,051	43.2	757	6.5	5,411	46.3	473	4	11,692
Total	32,974	44.3	13,058	17.5	21,790	29.3	6,630	8.9	74,451

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

Table 3.2. contains a comparison between catch limits for bigeye tuna established for 2016 in Resolution C- 17-01 and the volumes of catch in the EPO, recorded in the database of the transshipment program. In the case of China, the volume of bigeye caught and transshipped in the EPO is greater , but the limits transfer from Japan to China should be kept in mind.

	t	Transshipment program
CHN	2,507	4,122
KOR	11,947	2,462
JPN	32,372	2,343
TWN	7,555	3,499

TABLE 3.2 Catch limits in Res. C-17-01 and catches in the EPO recorded by the transshipment program, 2016.

The positions of transshipments made between 1 January 2014 and 16 May 2017 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.

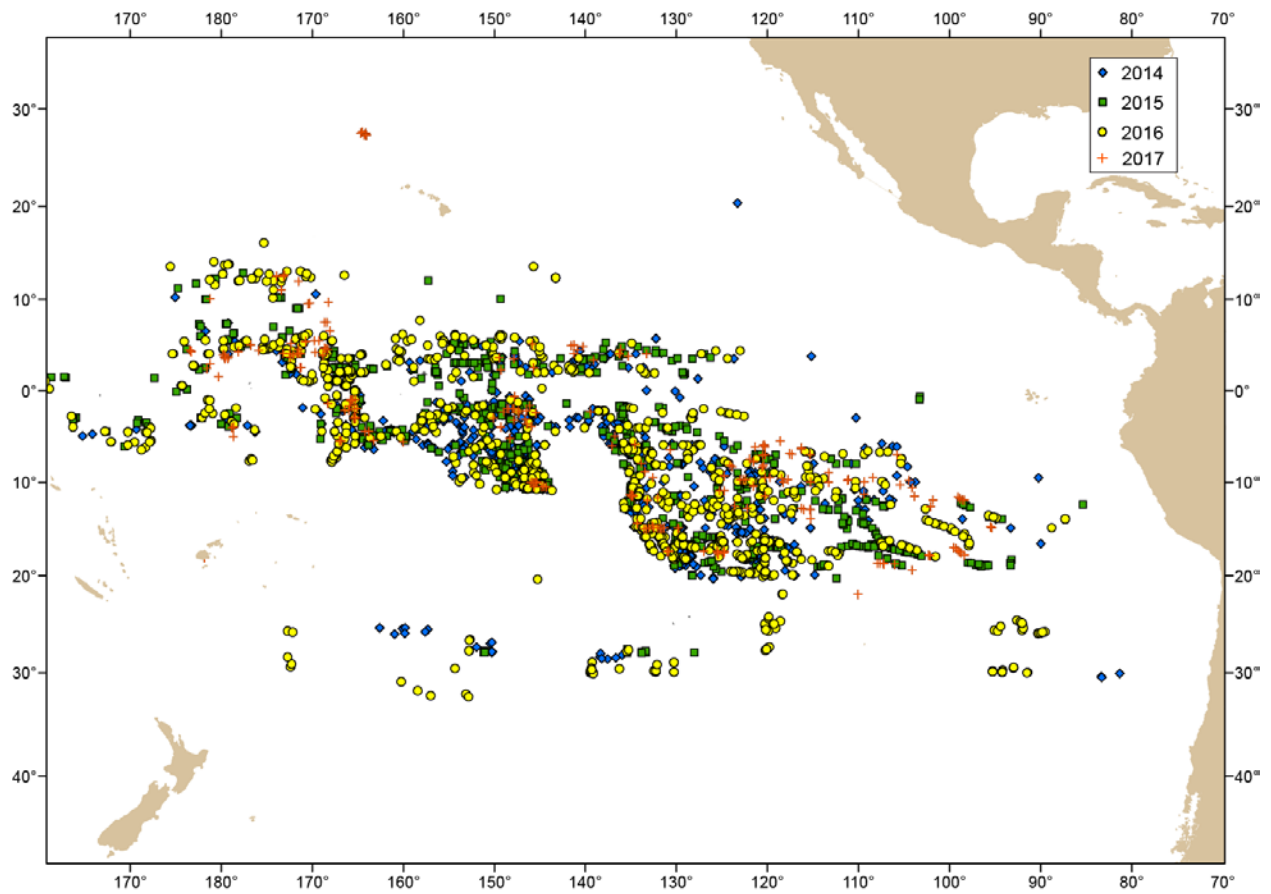
	Flag	Tunas			Swordfish	Sharks	Otros	Total
		Bigeye	Yellowfin	Albacore				
2009	BLZ	-	-	-	-		-	
	CHN	6,392	1,281	433	978		502	9,586
	JPN	4,736	1,218	767	627		657	8,004
	KOR	2,460	324	79	323		553	3,739
	PHL	72	34	-	-		-	106
	TWN	2,564	586	1,655	320		363	5,487
	VUT	964	237	3,828	108		1,053	6,190
	Total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

	Flag	Tunas			Swordfish	Sharks	Otros	Total
		Bigeye	Yellowfin	Albacore				
	PAN	522	116	447	17	56	163	1,321
	TWN	2,414	649	1,379	546	215	393	5,595
	VUT	1,381	429	4,249	194	202	620	7,075
	Total	18,553	4,383	13,228	3,020	855	4,073	44,111
2016	CHN	4,572	1,898	14,064	1,169	157	1,559	23,419
	JPN	2,395	581	285	685	61	671	4,678
	KOR	3,661	672	246	524	0	711	5,815
	PAN	463	85	346	320	164	309	1,687
	TWN	2,983	679	2,315	844	445	1,118	8,385
	VUT	1,815	357	3,756	353	334	512	7,126
	Total	15,889	4,272	21,012	3,895	1,160	4,881	51,110

Appendix 2.

Trip IATTC	Vessel	Flag	Departure			Arrival		
			Date	Port		Date	Port	
238	Tenho Maru	VUT	03-Jan	Suva	FJI	20-Mar	Jeju	KOR
239	Talofa	VUT	04-Feb	Kaohsiung	TWN	19-Apr	Pago Pago	ASM
240	Hsiang Fu	VUT	29-Jan	Busan	KOR	31-Mar	Papeete	PYF
241	Shota Maru	VUT	23-Feb	Papeete	PYF	25-Apr	Majuro	MHL
242	Lung Yuin	VUT	17-Mar	Kaohsiung	TWN	22-Apr	Majuro	MHL
243	Taiho Maru	VUT	19-Feb	Pago Pago	ASM	23-Apr	Majuro	MHL
244	Harima 2	PAN	19-Mar	Kaohsiung	TWN	30-Apr	Papeete	PYF
245	SL Bogo	KOR	31-Mar	Samoa	ASM	31-May	Busan	KOR
246	Haru	VUT	20-Apr	Papeete	PYF	31-May	Papeete	PYF
247	Tenho Maru	LIB	29-Apr	Kaohsiung	TWN	12-Jul	Kaohsiung	TWN
248	Victoria 168	PAN	07-May	Kaohsiung	TWN	11-Aug	Panamá	PAN
249	Seiwa	KOR	12-May	BusanKorea	KOR	07-Jul	Busan	KOR
250	SL Bogo	KOR	25-Jun	Papeete	PYF	07-Sep	Busan	KOR
251	Pontos	PAN	08-Jun	Kaohsiung	TWN	18-Oct	Kaohsiung	TWN
252	Harima 2	VUT	13-Jul	Panama	PAN	29-Sep	Kaohsiung	TWN
253	Houta Maru	VUT	20-Aug	Busan	KOR	16-Nov	Kaohsiung	TWN
254	Taiho Maru	LIB	07-May	Busan	KOR	30-Aug	Majuro	MHL
255	Haru	PAN	22-Jul	Kaohsiung	TWN	19-Aug	Papeete	PYF
256	Seiwa	KOR	22-Jul	Kaohsiung	TWN	20-Sep	Busan	KOR
257	Lung Yuin	VUT	09-Aug	Kaohsiung	TWN	08-Sep	Papeete	PYF
258	Shin Ho Chun 102	PAN	17-Aug	Majuro	MHL	23-Sep	Papeete	PYF
259	Hsiang Fu	VUT	04-Aug	Papeete	PYF	21-Oct	Kaohsiung	TWN
260	Tuna Princess	PAN	20-Aug	Busan	KOR	26-Oct	Kaohsiung	TWN
261	Talofa	VUT	30-Oct	Papeete	PYF	06-Dec	Papeete	PYF
262	Tenho Maru	LIB	05-Sep	Papeete	PYF	03-Nov	Kaohsiung	TWN
263	Victoria 168	PAN	14-Sep	Kaohsiung	TWN	10-Nov	Vacamonte	PAN
263	Sheng Hong	TWN	30-Sep	Kaohsiung	TWN	07-Dec	Kaohsiung	TWN
265	Meita Maru	LIB	02-Oct	Papeete	PYF	25-Nov	Busan	KOR
266	SL Bogo	KOR	18-Oct	Kaohsiung	TWN	30-Dec	Busan	KOR
267	Taiho Maru	LIB	22-Oct	Vacamonte	PAN	08-Jan	Kaohsiung	TWN
268	Yun Run 3	PAN	18-Oct	Kaohsiung	TWN	19-Nov	Papeete	PYF
269	Pontos	PAN	14-Nov	Busan	KOR	18-Jan-17	Suva	FJI
270	Shin Ho Chun 102	PAN	13-Dec	Busan	KOR	29-Dec	Papeete	PYF

Appendix 3a. Transshipments in the Pacific Ocean, 2014-2016, and 2017 to 16 May.



Appendix 3b. Transshipments in the eastern Pacific Ocean, 2014-2016, and 2017 to 16 May.

