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Peru National Report No. 1

REPORT ON THE FISHING ACTIVITIES OF THE PERUVIAN FLEET IN THE AREA OF APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGH SEAS FISHERY RESOURCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, PERIOD JANUARY 2023 – JUNE 2024

by

IMARPE - PRODUCE

2024

SUMMARY

As of June 2024, there are 135 Peruvian vessels authorized and registered in the Commission record of vessels authorized to fish within the SPRFMO Convention area. In the first half of 2023 (until July), 38 Peruvian-flagged purse seine vessels reported a total catch of 20 056.06 tonnes of *Trachurus murphyi*. In parallel, these same vessels also caught a total of 7 360 tonnes of *Scomber japonicus*. However, no catches of *Trachurus murphyi* and *Scomber japonicus* were reported from the second half of 2023 to June 2024. Regarding *Dosidicus gigas*, there were no reported catches for 2023, but a total of 4.6 tonnes were reported during the first half of 2024. The research activities in the SPRFMO area, monitored by a Peruvian onboard observer program, provided reliable information on fishing effort, catch volumes, species composition of the catches, fishing areas, and distribution of the target species. No registers of top predators bycatch (seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles) were reported in any observation during the fishing activities from January 2023 to June 2024.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides information about the Peruvian fishing and seagoing research activities targeting non-highly migratory species in the SPRFMO Convention area from January 2023 to June 2024. It builds upon information from previous reports (IMARPE-PRODUCE 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023) providing insights into earlier years.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE FISHERIES

2.1. Fleet composition

As of June 2024, the Peruvian fleet authorized and registered in the Commission record for fishing within the area of application of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (SPRFMO Convention area) added up to 135 vessels. This includes 90 purse seiners with an average hold capacity of 508.26 m³, 1 trawler/freezer with a total hold capacity of 2 399 m³, 3 scientific fishery research vessels with no (0 m³) hold capacity, and 41 liners vessels with an average hold capacity of 27.64 m³ (see Table 1).

Table 1. Peruvian vessels registered and authorized to fish within the SPRFMO Convention area (as of 30 June 2024)

Number of vessels	Type of fishing vessels	Total hold capacity (m ³)	Average hold capacity (m ³)
90	Purse seine	45 743.51	508.26
1	Trawl/freezer	2 399	2 399
3	Scientific fishery research	0	0
41	Liner	1133.36	27.64

No Peruvian-flagged vessels were reported in 2021 and 2022. However, in 2023 and from January to June 2024, a total of 38 and 2 Peruvian-flagged vessels, respectively, participated in fishing activities targeting non-highly migratory species in the SPRFMO Convention area (Table 2). This group of vessels caught 27 416.36 tonnes in 2023 and 4.6 tonnes in 2024.

Table 2. Peruvian fleet participation in fishing activities within the SPRFMO Convention area, categorized by vessel type and fishing gear, including their total hold capacity and annual catch from January 2021 to June 2024

Year	Number of vessels	Type of vessel and fishing gear	Total hold capacity (m ³)	Average hold capacity (m ³)	Total catch (t)
2021	0	not applicable	0	0	0
2022	0	not applicable	0	0	0
2023	38	Purse seine	21 346.05	561.74	27 416.36
2024*	2	Liner/Artisanal jigger	49.22	24.61	4.6

* January-June 2024 only

2.2. Catch and fishing activities

Table 3 presents the annual catches of Jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*), chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), and jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) by Peruvian vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area from January 2014 to June 2024. Until 2022, the highest catches were recorded in 2014 by a small fleet of 5 larger (2 046 m³ average hold capacity) multipurpose purse seine/trawl vessels. However, significant catches (up to 27 416.36 tonnes) were reported by smaller purse seine vessels (with an average hold capacity of 561.74 m³) throughout 2023. This was followed by catches from smaller purse seine vessels (with an average hold capacity of 550 m³) in 2016 and even smaller artisanal jigger vessels (with an average hold capacity of 18 m³) in 2017. Additionally, a smaller catch of 4.6 tonnes was reported during the first half of 2024 by 2 liners/artisanal jigger vessels.

Table 3. Catches by the Peruvian fleet participating in fishing activities within the SPRFMO Convention area, categorized by main species (in tonnes and per year), during the period of January 2014 to June 2024

Year	Type of vessel and fishing gear	<i>Trachurus murphyi</i> (t)	<i>Scomber japonicus</i> (t)	<i>Dosidicus gigas</i> (t)	Others (t)	Total (t)
2014	Purse seine/trawl	2 556.9	0	1 190.0	0	3 746.9
	Artisanal jigger ++	0	0	84.3 ++	0	84.3 ++
2015	Scientific research jigger/trawl	0	0	1.6	0.1	1.7
	Artisanal jigger ++	0	0	302.8 ++	0	302.8 ++
2016	Purse seine	0	1 122.3	0	0	1 122.3
	Artisanal jigger ++	0	0	999.3 ++	0	999.3 ++
2017	Scientific research jigger/trawl	0	0	1	0	1
	Artisanal jigger ++	0	0	5 066.0 ++	0	5 066.0 ++
2018	Artisanal jigger ++	0	0	287.9 ++	0	287.9 ++
2019 - 2022	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
2023	Purse seine	20 056.06	7 360.30	0	0	27 416.36
2024*	Liner/Artisanal jigger	0	0	4.6	0	4.6

* January-June 2024 only

++ Estimates from IMARPE's port interviews & sampling programme, for research purposes only. Non official data. Subject to changes.

2.2.1. Jack mackerel

The annual catches of Jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) by Peruvian vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area since 2009 are shown in Figure 1. The highest catch was 40 516 t in 2010. After the annual catch of 2 556.90 t reported by 5 Peruvian-flagged multipurpose purse seine/trawl vessels in 2014, no vessel has participated in the *T. murphyi* fishery until the first half of 2023, when 38 Peruvian-

flagged purse seine vessels reported a total catch of 20 056.06 t. These vessels participated in the fishing operations with the objective of catching Jack mackerel. There were no catches reported for *T. murphyi* from the second half of 2023 to June 2024.

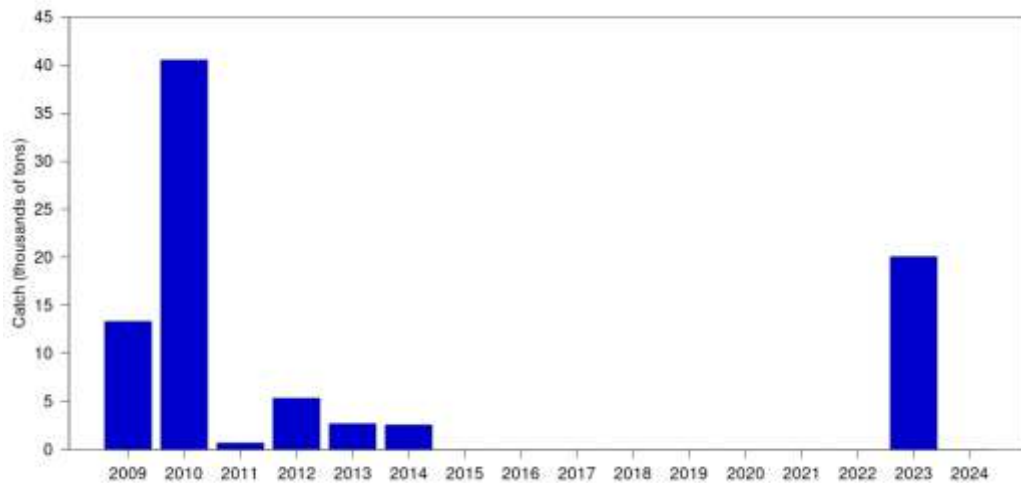


Figure 1. Annual Peruvian catches of Jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) in the SPRFMO Convention area, from 2009 to June 2024

2.2.2. Chub mackerel

The annual catches of chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) by Peruvian vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area since 2009 are shown in Figure 2. Until 2022, the maximum annual catch of 1 122.3 t was reported by 5 Peruvian purse-seine vessels during 2016. However, in 2023 (first semester), a total catch of 7 360.30 t of chub mackerel was reported. These chub mackerel landings were fished by the same Peruvian-flagged purse seine vessels that operated in the SPRFMO Convention area, and their main target species was Jack mackerel in 2023. No catches of *Scomber japonicus* have been reported during the first half of 2024.

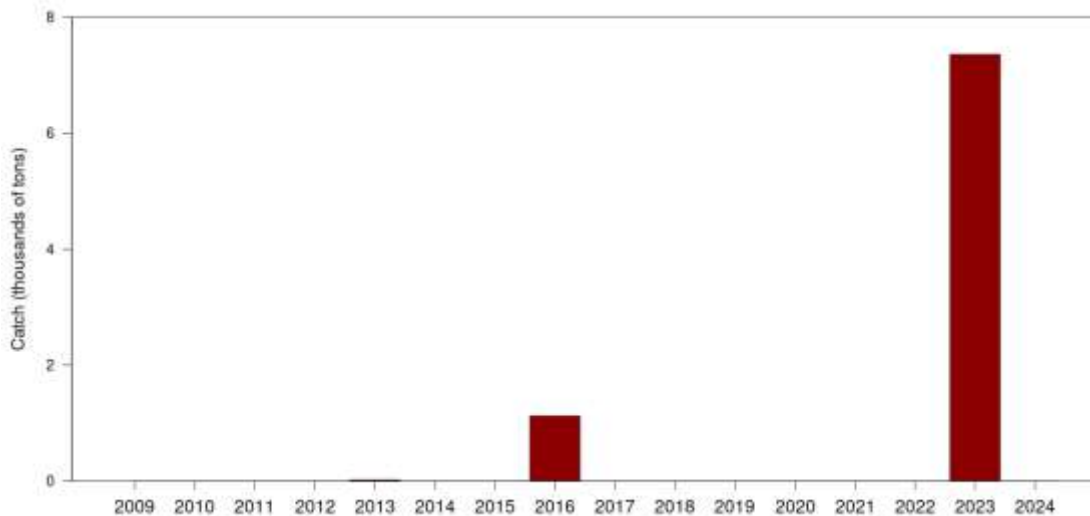


Figure 2. Annual Peruvian catches of chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) in the SPRFMO Convention area, from 2009 to June 2024

2.2.3. Jumbo flying squid

The annual catches of jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) by Peruvian vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area since 2009 are shown in Figure 3. In 2014, there was a first maximum catch of 1 274.3 t, mostly (1 190 t) caught by large multipurpose purse seine/trawl vessels. A more recent maximum of 5 067 t was recorded in 2017, with the majority caught by small artisanal jigger vessels (5 066 t). An estimated 287.90 t were caught by small artisanal jigger vessels in 2018. However, no catches (0 t) of jumbo flying squid in the SPRFMO Convention area have been reported from 2019 to 2023. During the first half of 2024, catches of 4.6 t were reported, with 2 liners/artisanal jigger vessels being involved.

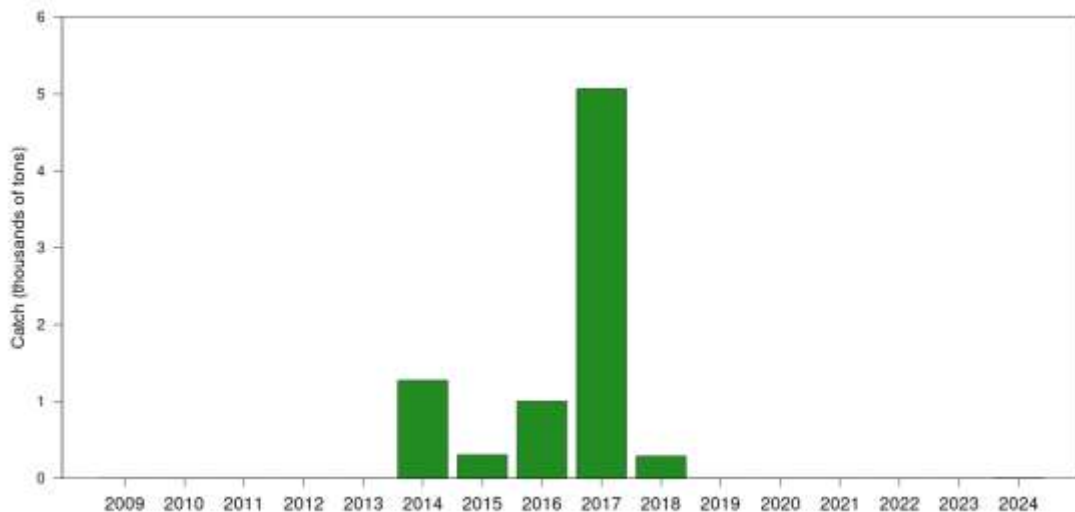


Figure 3. Annual Peruvian catches of jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) in the SPRFMO Convention area, from 2009 to June 2024

2.3. Jack mackerel catch entitlements and transfers

As per CMM 01-2023, the 2023 Peruvian catch entitlement for Jack mackerel (*T. murphyi*) to be caught within the SPRFMO Convention area was 20 175 t. Peruvian-flagged purse seine vessels caught a total of 20 056.06 t in the area. This represented 99.41% of the 2023 Peruvian catch entitlement for Jack mackerel in the SPRFMO Convention area.

As per CMM 01-2024, the 2024 Peruvian catch entitlement for Jack mackerel (*T. murphyi*) to be caught within the SPRFMO Convention area is 25 337 t. No transfers of this 2024 entitlement have been made until the end of June 2024.

3. CATCH, EFFORT AND CPUE SUMMARIES

3.1. Catch trends in the Jack mackerel fishery

The monthly trend in catches of Jack mackerel by the Peruvian fleet in the SPRFMO Convention area since 2010 is shown in Figure 4. No fishing activities were targeting Jack mackerel, and no catches of this species were reported by Peruvian vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area from 2015 to

2022. However, in 2023 (during March, June, and July), there was significant fishing activity with over thirteen thousand tonnes caught in July 2023. No catches have been reported in the present year 2024.

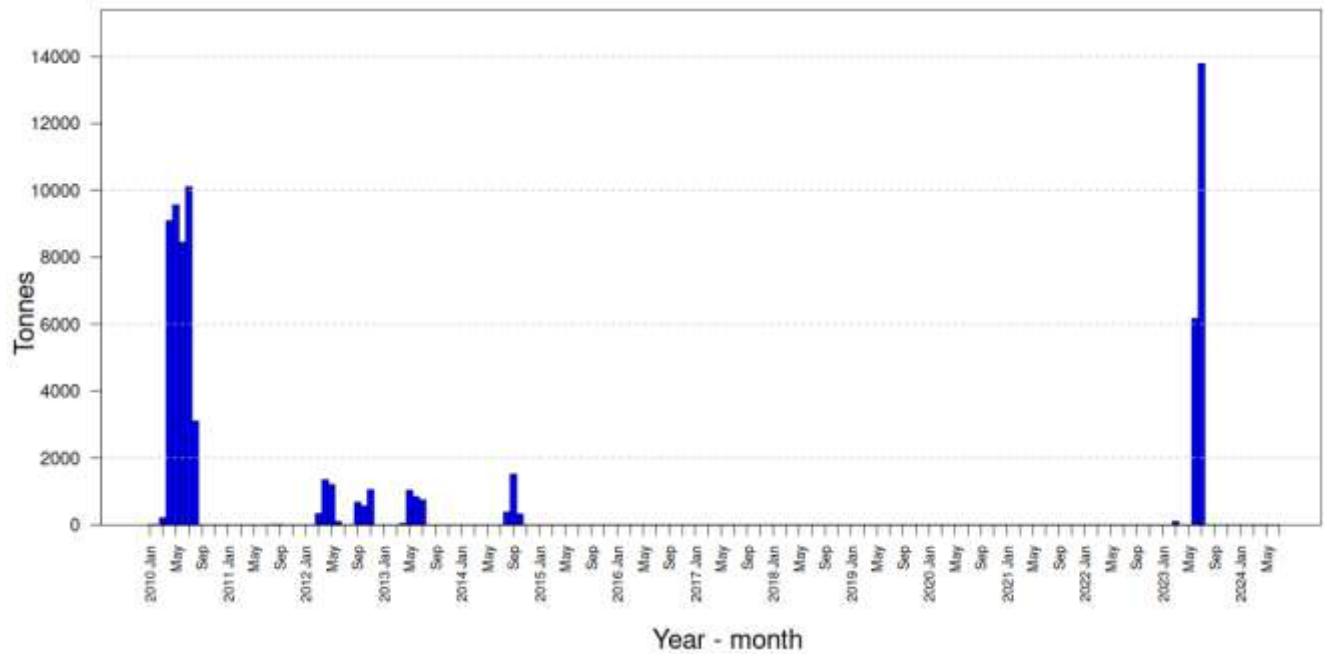


Figure 4. Jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) monthly catches by the Peruvian fleet in the SPRFMO Convention area, from 2010 to June 2024

3.2. Fishing effort trends in the Jack mackerel fishery

The trends in fishing efforts for Jack mackerel by Peruvian vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention area since 2010 are shown in Figure 5. The number of vessels and total hold capacity (m³) were highly variable between 2010 and 2014, with a total of 11 vessels in 2010 and 11 102 m³ total hold capacity in 2012. There was no reported fishing activity between 2015 and 2022. In 2023, a maximum of 38 vessels and a total hold capacity of 21 346.05 m³ were registered. No fishing effort has been reported during the current year 2024.

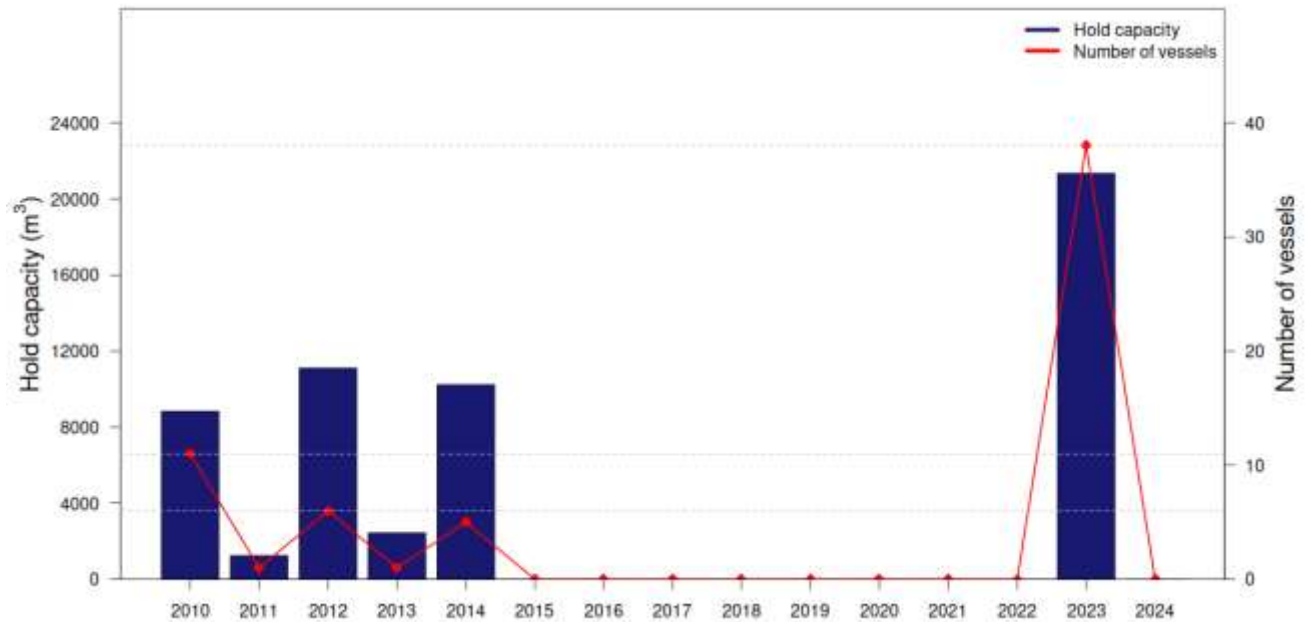


Figure 5. Total hold capacity and number of vessels in the Peruvian fleet that operated in the Jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) fishery in the SPRFMO Convention area, by year, from 2010 to June 2024

3.3. Catch, fishing effort and CPUE trends in the jumbo flying squid fishery

The monthly trend in catches of jumbo flying squid by Peruvian artisanal jigger vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area since 2012 is shown in Figure 6. The highest estimated monthly catch in this area was 3 123 t by 325 artisanal vessels in November 2017 (5 066 t for the entire year of 2017). There have been no fishing activities targeting jumbo flying squid and no catches of this species reported by Peruvian vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area from 2019 to 2023. In 2024, reduced catches of 0.6 and 4 tonnes were recorded during April and May, respectively.

Trends in CPUE and total fishing effort directed to jumbo flying squid by Peruvian artisanal jigger vessels within the SPRFMO Convention area since 2012 are shown in Figure 7. The fishing effort from this artisanal fleet has been sporadic and highly variable. In 2017, an estimated 557 artisanal vessels made 573 trips with a total holding capacity of 10 185 m³. The total catch for that year was estimated to be 5 066 t. Fishing efforts and catches by this fleet in the Convention area have been lower or non-existent during other years. However, the observed CPUE (in t caught per m³ of hold capacity per trip) has remained relatively stable between 2013 and 2018, years when they have occasionally fished for jumbo flying squid in the Convention area. The CPUE ranged from a minimum of 0.093 t/m³-trip in the first semester of 2024 to a maximum of 0.523 t/m³-trip in 2015. There have been no reported fishing effort or jumbo flying squid CPUE by Peruvian-flagged vessels from 2019 to 2023.

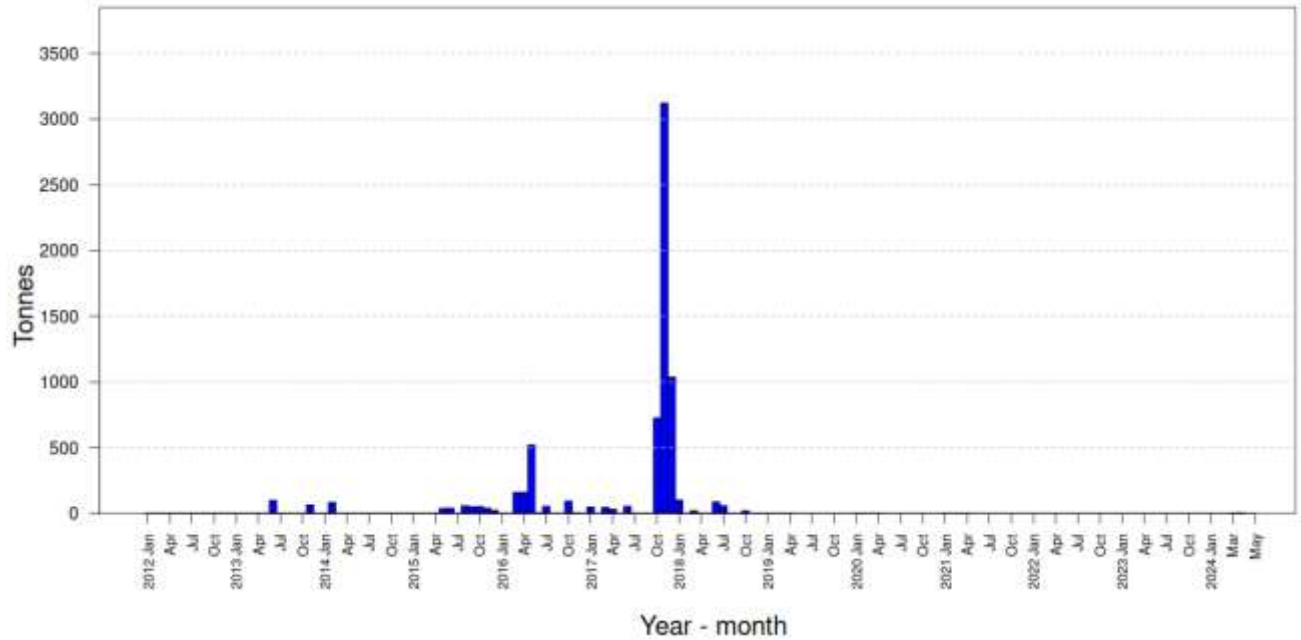


Figure 6. Jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) monthly catches by Peruvian artisanal jigger vessels in the SPRFMO Convention area, from 2012 to June 2024

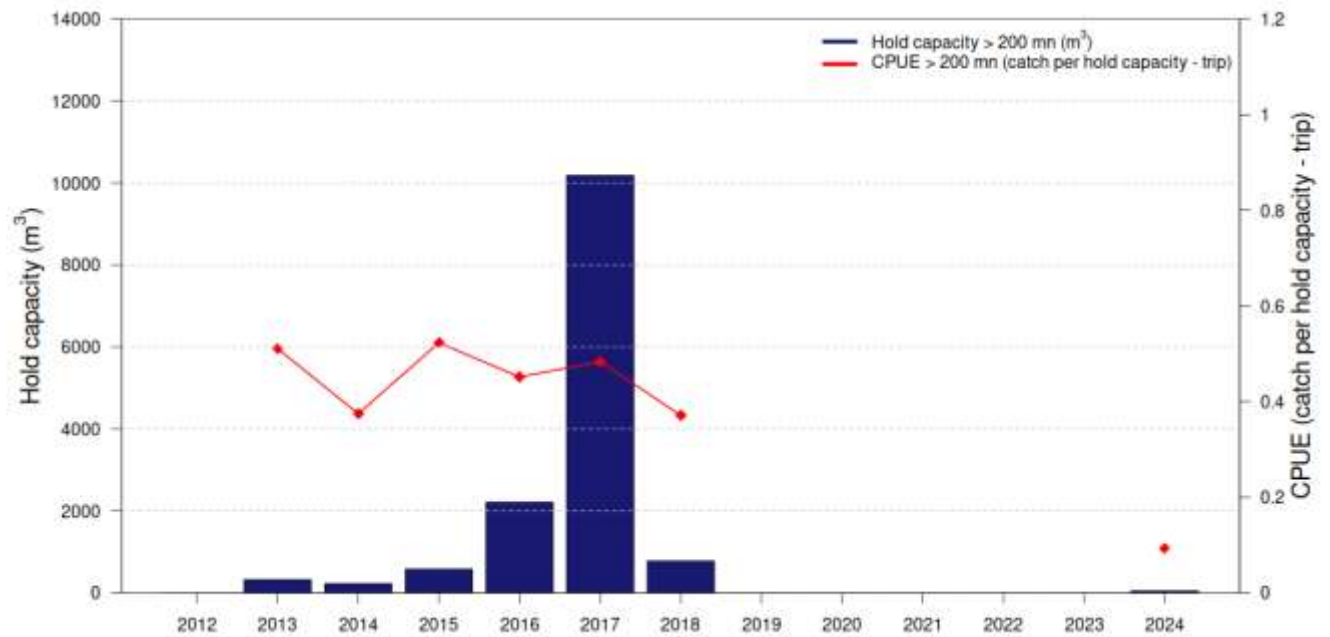


Figure 7. Total holding capacity and CPUE (catch/hold capacity-fishing days) of Peruvian artisanal jigger vessels fishing for jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) in the SPRFMO Convention area, by year, from 2012 to June 2024

4. DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

In 2023, there were data collection and seagoing research activities conducted to monitor the fishing activities in the SPRFMO area. The research activities in this area, monitored by a Peruvian onboard observer program, collected reliable information on fishing effort, catch volumes, species composition of the catches, fishing areas, and the distribution of the target species. Additionally, a Peruvian sampling programme at ports, which collected daily information along the Peruvian coast at mainly landing sites (i.e., Chimbote, Callao, Tambo de Mora), provided fishery (e.g. catch, effort, species composition of catches, fishing areas, among others) and biological information of the species caught (e.g., total length and weight, gonad weight and sexual maturity, among others). This program also collected gonad samples, otoliths and stomachs to undertake further studies of spawning activity, growth and trophic ecology. During the first half of 2024 (until June), no data was collected due to fishing activities in the SPRFMO area, primarily involving the capturing of fishing jumbo flying squid by artisanal jigger vessels.

5. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

5.1 Distribution of fishing areas for the Peruvian fleet during 2023

No catches of Jack mackerel nor chub mackerel were made by the Peruvian fleet in the SPRFMO Convention area during the second half of 2023 and the first half of 2024 (until June 2024). However, in the first half of 2023, the Peruvian fleet concentrated their fishing operations off southern Perú, catching Jack mackerel and chub mackerel in a specific area located between 19°S and 20°S, around 220 miles from the coast (Figure 8). This fishing activity involved a total of 38 purse seine vessels.

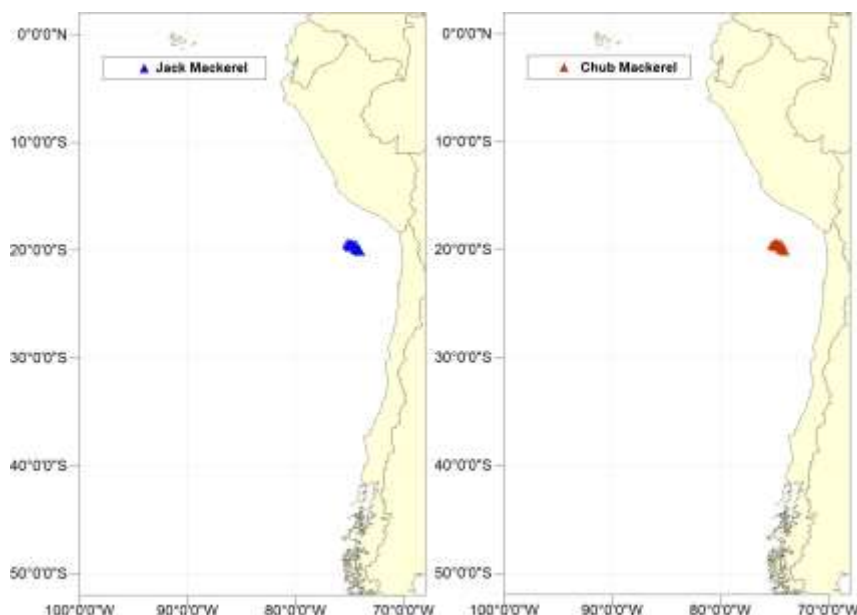


Figure 8. Fishing areas for Jack mackerel (on the left in blue) and chub mackerel (on the right in red) by the Peruvian fleet in the SPRFMO Convention area during the first semester of 2023 (March, June and July 2023)

5.2 Jack mackerel length frequency distribution in the catches during 2023

The length frequency distribution of Jack mackerel (*T. murphyi*) caught by the Peruvian fleet in the SPRFMO Convention area during the first semester of 2023 (March, June, and July 2023) ranged widely from 25 to 58 cm in total length (TL). The length frequency distribution is shown in Figure 9. The wide range of lengths can be explained by the distinct size structure observed in the area where the fleet operated (between 19° - 20°S), which consisted of both juveniles and adults. The main modal size was around 30 cm TL, with a secondary modal size of approximately 35 cm TL.

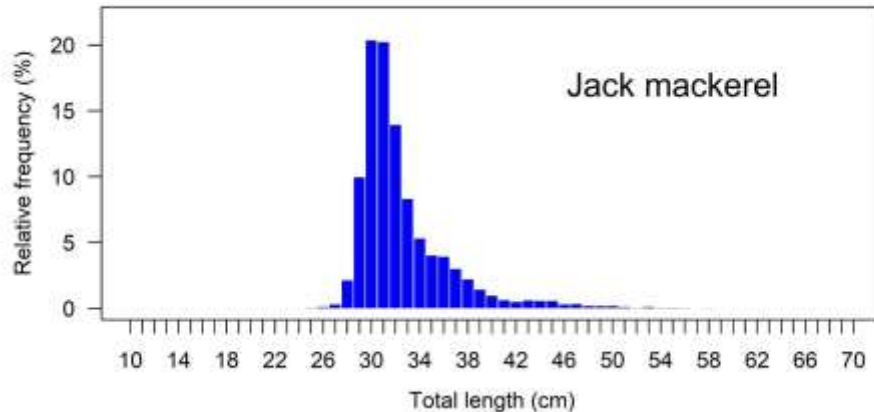


Figure 9. Length frequency distribution of the Jack mackerel caught by the Peruvian fleet in the SPRFMO Convention area during the first semester of 2023 (months of March, June, and July 2023)

5.3 Chub mackerel length frequency distribution in the catches during 2023

The size frequency distribution of chub mackerel (*S. japonicus*) caught during the first semester of 2023 (months of March, June, and July 2023) ranged from 25 to 39 cm in fork length (FL). The main modal size was around 32 cm FL (Figure 10).

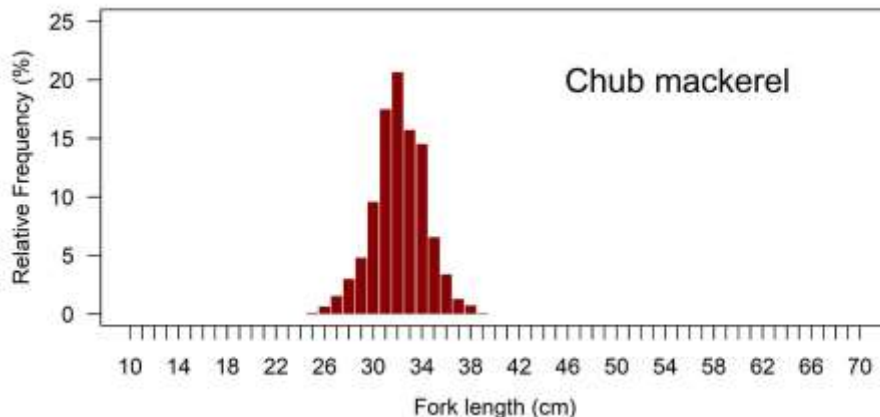


Figure 10. Length frequency distribution of the Chub mackerel caught by the Peruvian fleet in the SPRFMO Convention area during the first semester of 2023 (months of March, June, and July 2023)

5.4 Vertical distribution of Jack mackerel schools during 2023

During the months of June and July 2023, there was a noticeable increase in the depth of the Jack mackerel schools. In June, the distribution of schools was concentrated between 20-39 m, but by July, the distribution had deepened to 40-59 m, with some schools reaching depths of 60-79 m (see Figure 11). This change in vertical distribution behavior may have had an impact on the fishing operations targeting Jack mackerel.

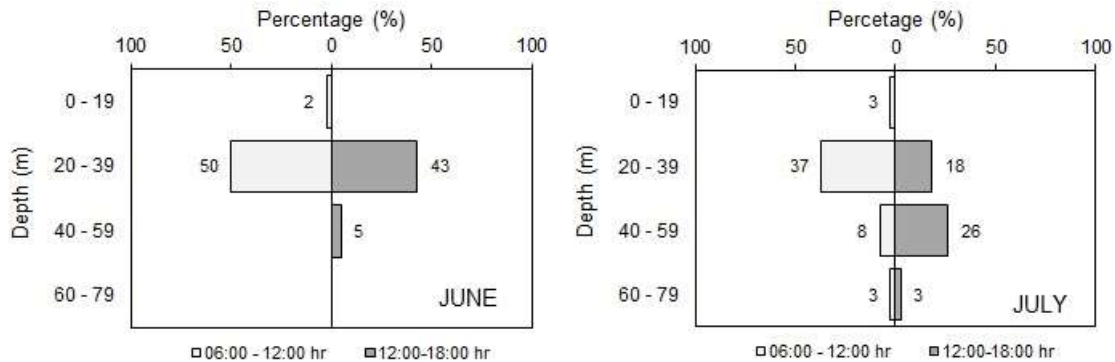


Figure 11. Observed vertical distribution of Jack mackerel schools (depth of catch), by month, during June and July 2023

6. ECOSYSTEM APPROACH CONSIDERATIONS

No measures to reduce seabird interactions or abandoned, lost, discarded, or retrieved fishing gear (ALFG) were reported for the second semester of 2023 and 2024 (until June 2024). In the first semester of 2023, particularly in June and July, no measures were reported to mitigate seabird interactions. According to the data collected by the onboard observer program, among the total hauls sampled, the majority of registers involved albatrosses (*Diomedidae* family) at 22% and petrels (*Procellariidae* family) at 26%. Additionally, 8% of the records were marine mammals (i.e. pinnipeds). Furthermore, there were no registers of top predators bycatch (seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles) in any observation.

7. ONBOARD OBSERVER PROGRAM

During the periods 2015-2022 and from the second semester of 2023, no Peruvian fishing fleets were operating in the SPRFMO Convention area. However, in the first half of 2023, research activities in the SPRFMO Convention area were mainly conducted as part of the Peruvian onboard observer program. This program aims to monitor the fishing fleets obtaining biological and fishery information in their respective operating areas. During the Jack mackerel fishing operations in 2023, the observed program covered 13.4% of the Peruvian fishing fleet working in the SPRFMO Convention area, with observers present on 11 out of 82 fishing trips. Out of the 38 total vessels in the Peruvian fleet operating in the Convention area, 6 had onboard observers. During the jumbo flying squid fishing operations in the first half of 2024, vessels did not have observers on board due to habitability limitations. The reported information on catch and effort (in fishing days) was obtained by observers in port as specified in Annex 4 of the CMM16-2024.

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