

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TENTH MEETING

San Diego, California (USA)

13-17 May 2019

**THE TUNA FISHERY IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN IN 2018
(REVISED)**

Introduction.....	3
1. Catches and landings of tunas, billfishes, and associated species.....	3
2. Catches by species	4
3. Distributions of the catches of tropical tunas.....	6
4. Size compositions of the catches of tunas	7
5. Fishing effort	8
6. The fleets.....	9

This report provides a summary of the catches and effort in 2018 of the fishery for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), for whose management the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is responsible. It is based on data available to the IATTC staff in March 2019; therefore, some of the data for 2018 are incomplete, and all data for 2017 and 2018 should be considered preliminary.

All weights of catches and discards are in metric tons (t). In the tables, 0 means no effort, or a catch of less than 0.5 t; - means no data collected; * means data missing or not available. The following acronyms are used:

Species:		TUN	Unidentified tunas
		YFT	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
Fishing gears:			
ALB	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	FPN	Trap
BET	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	GN	Gillnet
BIL	Unidentified istiophorid billfishes	HAR	Harpoon
BKJ	Black skipjack (<i>Euthynnus lineatus</i>)	LL	Longline
BLM	Black marlin (<i>Makaira indica</i>)	LP	Pole and line
BUM	Blue marlin (<i>Makaira nigricans</i>)	LTL	Troll
BZX	Bonito (<i>Sarda</i> spp.)	LX	Hook and line
CGX	Carangids (Carangidae)	OTR	Other ¹
DOX	Dorado (<i>Coryphaena</i> spp.)	NK	Unknown
MLS	Striped marlin (<i>Kajikia audax</i>)	PS	Purse seine
PBF	Pacific bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>)	RG	Recreational
SFA	Indo-Pacific sailfish (<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>)	TX	Trawl
SKJ	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Ocean areas:	
SKX	Unidentified elasmobranchs	EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
SSP	Shortbill spearfish (<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>)	WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
SWO	Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)		

¹ Used to group known gear types

Set types:

DEL	Dolphin
NOA	Unassociated school
OBJ	Floating object
LOG: Flotsam	
FAD: Fish-aggregating device	

Flags:

IATTC Members & Cooperating Non-Members

BLZ	Belize
BOL	Bolivia
CAN	Canada
CHL	Chile
CHN	China
COL	Colombia
CRI	Costa Rica
ECU	Ecuador
EUR	European Union
EU (CYP)	Cyprus
EU (ESP)	Spain
EU (PRT)	Portugal
FRA	France
GTM	Guatemala
HND	Honduras
IDN	Indonesia
JPN	Japan
KIR	Kiribati
KOR	Republic of Korea
LBR	Liberia
MEX	Mexico
NIC	Nicaragua
PAN	Panama
PER	Peru
SLV	El Salvador
TWN	Chinese Taipei
USA	United States of America
VEN	Venezuela
VUT	Vanuatu

Other flag codes

COK	Cook Islands
CYM	Cayman Islands
NZL	New Zealand
RUS	Russia
VCT	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
UNK	Unknown

Stock assessment:

B	Biomass
C	Catch
CPUE	Catch per unit of effort
F	Rate of fishing mortality
MSY	Maximum sustainable yield
S	Index of spawning biomass
SBR	Spawning biomass ratio
SSB	Spawning stock biomass

INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the catches and effort of the fisheries for species covered by the IATTC's Antigua Convention ("tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species") in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) in 2018. The most important of these species are the scombrids (Family Scombridae), which include tunas, bonitos, seerfishes, and some mackerels. The principal species of tunas caught are the three tropical tuna species (yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye), followed by the temperate tunas (albacore, and lesser catches of Pacific bluefin); other scombrids, such as bonitos and wahoo, are also caught.

There are important fisheries for dorado, sharks, and other species and groups that interact with the tuna fisheries in the EPO, and are thus within the IATTC's remit. This document therefore also covers other species such as billfishes (swordfish, marlins, shortbill spearfish, and sailfish), carangids (yellowtail, rainbow runner, and jack mackerel), dorado, elasmobranchs (sharks, rays, and skates), and other fishes.

Access to the fishery is regulated by Resolution [C-02-03](#), which requires vessels to be on the IATTC [Regional Vessel Register](#) in order to fish for tunas in the EPO. Vessels are authorized to fish by their respective flag governments, and only duly authorized vessels are included in the Register. The Register lists, in addition to a vessel's name and flag, its fishing gear, dimensions, carrying capacity, date of construction, ownership, home port, and other characteristics. However, this requirement has not been applied to the thousands of small artisanal vessels, called *pangas*, that are known to catch tunas, among other species, in coastal waters of the EPO, but data on their numbers, effort, and catches are incomplete or unavailable. A pilot program, focused on sharks, is underway in Central America to collect data on these fisheries, and a long-term sampling program is scheduled to commence in 2020.

The IATTC staff has collected and compiled data on the longline fisheries since 1952, on catches of yellowfin and skipjack since 1954, bluefin since 1973, and bigeye since 1975. The data in this report, which are as accurate and complete as possible, are derived from various sources, including vessel logbooks, on-board observer data, unloading records provided by canners and other processors, export and import records, reports from governments and other entities, and the IATTC species and size composition sampling program. The methods for sampling the catches of tunas are described in the [IATTC Annual Report for 2000](#) and in IATTC [Stock Assessment Reports 2](#) and [4](#).

1. CATCHES AND LANDINGS OF TUNAS, BILLFISHES, AND ASSOCIATED SPECIES

Almost all the catches in the EPO are made by the purse-seine and longline fleets; pole-and-line vessels, and various artisanal and recreational fisheries, account for a small percentage of the total catches. The IATTC staff compiles catch data for all these gears, including trolls, harpoons, and gillnets.

Detailed catch data are available for the purse-seine fishery, which takes over 90% of the total reported catches; the data for the other fisheries are incomplete. Purse-seine data for 2017 and 2018, and data for longlines and other gears for 2016-2018, are preliminary.

Purse seine: Since 1993 all Class-6¹ purse-seine vessels carry observers, who collect detailed data on catches, both retained and discarded at sea. Estimates of the total amount of the catch that is landed (hereafter the "retained catch") are based principally on data collected during vessel unloadings.

Longline and other: Longline vessels, particularly the larger ones, fish primarily for bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, and swordfish. Data on the retained catches of most of the larger longline vessels are obtained from the vessels' flag governments; data for smaller longliners, artisanal vessels, and other vessels that fish species covered by the Antigua Convention are incomplete or unavailable, but some are obtained

¹ Class 6: carrying capacity greater than 363 metric tons (t)

from logbooks, or from governments or governmental reports. Data for the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) were provided by the Ocean Fisheries Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

This report summarizes data from all the above sources. The estimated total catches of tropical tunas (yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye) in the entire Pacific Ocean from all sources mentioned above are shown in [Table A-1](#), and are discussed further in the sections below.

Estimates of the annual retained and discarded catches of tunas and other species taken by tuna-fishing vessels in the EPO during 1989-2018 are shown in [Tables A-2a-c](#). The catches of tropical tunas during 1989-2018, by flag, are shown in [Tables A-3a-e](#), and the purse-seine catches and landings of tunas during 2017-2018 are summarized by flag in [Tables A-4a-b](#).

2. CATCHES BY SPECIES

2.1. Yellowfin tuna

The total annual catches of yellowfin in the Pacific Ocean during 1989-2018 are shown in [Table A-1](#). The 2018 EPO catch of 239 thousand t is less than the average for the previous 5-year period (244 thousand t). In the WCPO, the catches of yellowfin reached a record high of 676 thousand t in 2017.

The annual retained catches of yellowfin in the EPO, by gear, during 1989-2018 are shown in Table A-2a. During 2003-2017 the annual retained purse-seine and pole-and-line catch averaged 233 thousand t (range: 167 to 384 thousand t). The preliminary estimate of the retained catch in 2018, 237 thousand t, is 13% greater than that of 2017, and 2% greater than the 2003-2017 average. On average, about 0.6% (range: 0.1 to 1.5%) of the total purse-seine catch of yellowfin was discarded at sea during 2003-2017 ([Table A-2a](#)).

During 1990-2003, annual longline catches in the EPO averaged about 23 thousand t (range: 12 to 35 thousand t), or about 8% of the total retained catches of yellowfin. They then declined sharply, to an annual average of 10 thousand t (range: 8 to 13 thousand t), or about 4% of the total retained catches, during 2005-2017. Catches by other fisheries (recreational, gillnet, troll, artisanal, etc.), whether incidental or targeted, are shown in Table A-2a, under “Other gears” (OTR); during 2003-2017 they averaged about 2 thousand t.

2.2. Skipjack tuna

The total annual catches of skipjack in the Pacific Ocean during 1989-2018 are shown in Table A-1. Most of the catch is taken in the WCPO. Prior to 1998, WCPO catches averaged about 900 thousand t; subsequently, they increased steadily, from 1.2 million t to an all-time high of 2 million t in 2014. In the EPO, the greatest catches occurred between 2003 and 2018, ranging from 153 to 343 thousand t, the record catch in 2016.

The annual retained catches of skipjack in the EPO, by gear, during 1989-2018 are shown in Table A-2a. During 2003-2017 the annual retained purse-seine and pole-and-line catch averaged 266 thousand t (range: 147 to 338 thousand t). The preliminary estimate of the retained catch in 2018, 287 thousand t, is 8% greater than the average for 2003-2017, but 15% less than the record catch of 2016.

Discards of skipjack at sea decreased each year during the period, from 8% in 2004 to a low of less than 1% in 2017, averaging about 3% of the total catch of the species ([Table A-2a](#)).

Catches of skipjack in the EPO by longlines and other gears are negligible ([Table A-2a](#)).

2.3. Bigeye tuna

The total annual catches of bigeye in the Pacific Ocean during 1989-2018 are shown in [Table A-1](#). Overall,

the catches in both the EPO and WCPO have increased, but with considerable fluctuations. In the WCPO they averaged more than 77 thousand t during the late 1970s, decreased during the early 1980s, and then increased steadily to 113 thousand t in 1996; they jumped to 158 thousand t in 1997, and reached a high of 180 thousand t in 2004, since when they have fluctuated between 132 and 156 thousand t. In the EPO, the average catch for the period was 104 thousand t, with a low of 73 thousand t in 1989 and a high of 149 thousand t in 2000.

The annual retained catches of bigeye in the EPO by purse-seine and pole-and-line vessels during 1989-2018 are shown in Table A-2a. The introduction of fish-aggregating devices (FADs), placed in the water by fishers to attract tunas, in 1993 led to a sudden and dramatic increase in the purse-seine catches. Prior to 1993, the annual retained purse-seine catch of bigeye in the EPO was about 5 thousand t ([Table A-2a](#)); by 1994 it was 35 thousand t, and in 1996 was over 60 thousand t. During 1997-2017 it has fluctuated between 44 and 95 thousand t; the preliminary estimate for 2018 is 65 thousand t.

During 2000-2017 the percentage of the purse-seine catch of bigeye discarded at sea has steadily decreased, from 5% in 2000 to less than 1% in 2014, averaging about 1.8%.

Before the expansion of the FAD fishery, longliners caught almost all the bigeye in the EPO, averaging 86 thousand t annually during 1985-1992. Since then this has dropped to 36%, with a low of 25% in 2008 (average: 37 thousand t; range: 26 to 60 thousand t) ([Table A-2a](#)). The preliminary estimate of the longline catch in the EPO in 2018 is 21 thousand t (Table A-2a).

Small amounts of bigeye are caught in the EPO by other gears (Table A-2a).

2.4. Pacific bluefin tuna

The catches of Pacific bluefin in the EPO during 1989-2018, by gear, are shown in Table A-2a. Until 2017, purse-seine vessels accounted for almost all of the annual average EPO retained catch of 5.0 thousand t (range: 2.8 to 9.9 thousand t); the preliminary estimate for 2018 is 2.9 thousand t ([Table A-2a](#)).

The catches of Pacific bluefin in the entire Pacific Ocean, by flag and gear, as reported by the vessels' flag governments to the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), are shown in [Table A-5a](#).

Catches of Pacific bluefin by recreational gear in the EPO are reported in numbers of individual fish caught, whereas all other gears report catches in weight; they are therefore converted to tons for inclusion in the EPO catch totals. The original catch data for 1989-2018, in numbers of fish, are presented in [Table A-5b](#).

2.5. Albacore tuna

Data provided by the relevant CPCs on catches of albacore in the EPO, by gear and area (north and south of the equator), are shown in [Table A-6](#), and for the entire EPO in Table A-2a. A portion of the albacore catch is taken by troll vessels, included under "Other gears" (OTR) in Table A-2a.

2.6. Other tunas and tuna-like species

While yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye tunas comprise the great majority of the retained purse-seine catches in the EPO, other tunas and tuna-like species, such as black skipjack, bonito, wahoo, and frigate and bullet tunas, contribute to the overall harvest. The estimated annual retained and discarded catches of these species during 1989-2018 are shown in Table A-2a. The catches reported in the "unidentified tunas" (TUN) category in [Table A-2a](#) contain some catches reported by species (frigate or bullet tunas) along with the unidentified tunas. The total retained catch of these other species by the purse-seine fishery in 2018 was 5.3 thousand t, less than the 2003-2017 average of 8.0 thousand t (range: 500 to 19 thousand t).

Black skipjack are also caught by other gears in the EPO, mostly by coastal artisanal fisheries. Bonitos are also caught by artisanal fisheries, and have been reported as catch by longline vessels in some years.

2.7. Billfishes

Catch data for billfishes (swordfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, shortbill spearfish, and sailfish) are shown in [Table A-2b](#).

Swordfish are caught in the EPO with large-scale and artisanal longlines, gillnets, harpoons, and occasionally with recreational gear. During 1999-2008 the longline catch averaged 12 thousand t, but during 2014-2016 this almost doubled, to over 23 thousand t, possibly due to increased abundance of swordfish, increased effort directed toward the species, increased reporting, or a combination of all of these.

Other billfishes are caught with large-scale and artisanal longlines and recreational gear. The average annual longline catches of blue marlin and striped marlin during 2003-2017 were about 3.3 thousand and 1.8 thousand t, respectively. Smaller amounts of other billfishes are taken by longline.

Little information is available on the recreational catches of billfishes, but, the retained catches are believed to be substantially less than the commercial catches for all species, due to catch-and-release practices.

Prior to 2011, all billfishes caught in the purse-seine fishery were classified as discarded dead; however, the growing rate of retention of such bycatches made it important to reflect this in the data, and since 2011 retained catch and discards are reported separately in [Table A-2b](#). During 2003-2017, purse seiners accounted for about 1% of the total catch of billfishes in the EPO.

2.8. Other species

Data on the purse-seine catches and discards of carangids (yellowtail, rainbow runner, jack mackerel), dorado, elasmobranchs (sharks, rays, and skates), and other fishes caught in the EPO are shown in [Table A-2c](#). Since 2011, bycatches in the purse-seine fishery are reported in Table A-2c as either retained or discarded.

Dorado are unloaded mainly in ports in Central and South America. The reported catches of dorado have declined, from a high of 71 thousand t in 2009 to 15 thousand t in 2016.

3. DISTRIBUTIONS OF THE CATCHES OF TROPICAL TUNAS

3.1. Purse-seine catches

The average annual distributions of purse-seine catches, by set type, of tropical tunas (yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye) in the EPO during 2013-2017 are shown in [Figures A-1a](#), [A-2a](#), and [A-3a](#), respectively, and preliminary estimates for 2018 are shown in [Figures A-1b](#), [A-2b](#), and [A-3b](#).

Yellowfin: The majority of catches in 2018 were taken in sets associated with dolphins along the coast of the Americas, principally south of Baja California, Mexico, and north and east from the Galapagos Islands to the coast. Larger-than-normal catches of yellowfin were taken in dolphin sets between 5°N and 15°N from 125°W to 145°W; lesser amounts were taken in unassociated sets along the coast of South America and around the Galapagos Islands, and in floating-object sets throughout the EPO south of 10°N ([Figure A-1b](#)).

Skipjack catches in 2018 declined in all areas from previous years, except for the area around the Galapagos Islands, which showed a large increase. Most of the catch was taken in floating-object sets throughout the EPO, except near the coast of Peru, where most of the catch came from unassociated sets ([Figure A-2b](#)).

Bigeye are not often caught north of about 7°N in the EPO. As in previous years, almost all of the 2018 catches were taken in sets on FADs. The catch was fairly evenly distributed across the EPO between 10°N and 10°S ([Figure A-3b](#)).

3.2. Longline catches

Since 2009, the IATTC has received catch and effort data from Belize, China, France (French Polynesia), Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Chinese Taipei, the United States, and Vanuatu. Albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tunas make up the majority of the catches by most of these vessels. The distributions of the catches of bigeye and yellowfin in the Pacific Ocean by Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese Taipei longline vessels during 2013-2017 are shown in [Figure A-4](#).

4. SIZE COMPOSITIONS OF THE CATCHES OF TUNAS

4.1. Purse-seine, pole-and-line, and recreational fisheries

Length-frequency samples are the basic source of data used for estimating the size and age compositions of the various species of fish in the landings. This information is necessary to obtain age-structured estimates of the populations for various purposes, primarily the integrated modeling that the staff uses to assess the status of the stocks (see [Stock Assessment Reports](#)). Length-frequency samples are obtained from the catches of purse-seine vessels in the EPO by IATTC personnel at ports of landing in Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela.

The size-composition data presented in this report are for fish caught during 2013-2018. Two sets of length-frequency histograms are presented for each tropical tuna species; the first shows the data for 2018 by stratum (gear type, set type, and area), and the second the combined data for each year of the 2013-2018 period.

Yellowfin: nine purse-seine fisheries (four associated with floating objects (OBJ), three associated with dolphins (DEL), and two unassociated (NOA)) and one pole-and-line (LP) fishery, which includes all 13 sampling areas) are defined ([Figure A-5](#)). Of the 835 wells sampled during 2018, 685 contained yellowfin. The estimated size compositions of the fish caught are shown in [Figure A-6a](#). Most of the yellowfin catch was taken in sets associated with dolphins in the DEL-N and DEL-I fisheries during quarters 1-3. The largest yellowfin (>120 cm) were caught in the DEL-N fishery, with smaller yellowfin (<80 cm) in the DEL-I fishery, both in quarter 2. The smallest yellowfin (<60 cm) were caught in the OBJ fisheries throughout 2018.

The estimated size compositions of the yellowfin caught by all fisheries combined during 2013-2018 are shown in [Figure A-6b](#). The average weight of yellowfin in 2018, 7.7 kg, was greater than in the previous two years, but lower than the 2013-2015 averages, which ranged from 9.0 to 10.0 kg. The overall size distribution was consistent with the previous two years.

Skipjack: seven purse-seine fisheries (four OBJ, two NOA, one DEL) and one LP fishery are defined ([Figure A-5](#)); the last two include all 13 sampling areas. Of the 835 wells sampled, 565 contained skipjack. The estimated size compositions of the fish caught during 2018 are shown in [Figure A-7a](#). Most of the 2018 skipjack catch was taken in the four OBJ fisheries and in the NOA-S fishery throughout the year. The largest skipjack (>60 cm) were caught in the four OBJ fisheries in quarters 2-4; the smallest (<40 cm) were caught primarily in the OBJ-N and OBJ-S fisheries, also in quarters 2-4.

The estimated size compositions of the skipjack caught by all fisheries combined during 2013-2018 are shown in [Figure A-7b](#). The average weight of skipjack in 2018 (1.9 kg) was among the lowest for the 6-year period (1.8-2.5 kg).

Bigeye: six purse-seine fisheries (four OBJ, one NOA, one DEL) and one LP fishery are defined ([Figure A-5](#)); the

last three include all 13 sampling areas. Of the 835 wells sampled, 197 contained bigeye. The estimated size compositions of the fish caught during 2018 are shown in [Figure A-8a](#). Most of the 2018 catch of bigeye was taken in the OBJ-N and OBJ-S fisheries throughout the year, with lesser amounts caught in the OBJ-E fishery in quarters 1-2.

The estimated size compositions of bigeye caught by all fisheries combined during 2013-2018 are shown in [Figure A-8b](#). The average weight of bigeye in 2018 (4.8 kg) was consistent with the previous three years (4.7-5.0 kg), but lower than the 2013-2014 average of 5.6 kg.

Pacific bluefin are caught by purse-seine and recreational gear off California and Baja California from about 23°N to 35°N. In recent years catches have been made between 28°N and 32°N from late March through May, when the annual catch limit is reached, and the fishery is closed for the rest of the year. Mexico's National Fisheries Institute (INAPESCA) provided length-composition data for purse-seine catches during 2013-2017, most of which are transported live to grow-out pens near the coast of Mexico. The average weight of bluefin caught during 2017 (55.4 kg), calculated from these length data, was much higher than the 2013-2016 averages (range: 25.6-33.5 kg). The estimated size compositions are shown in [Figure A-9](#).

4.2. Longline fishery

The size compositions of yellowfin and bigeye caught by the Japanese longline fleet (commercial and training vessels) in the EPO during 2013-2017 are shown in [Figures A-10](#) and [A-11](#). The average annual weight during that period ranged from 49.4 to 61.0 kg for yellowfin, and from 60.7 kg to 63.5 kg for bigeye.

4.3. Catches of tunas, by flag and gear

The annual retained catches of tunas in the EPO during 1989-2018 by flag and gear, are shown in [Tables A-3a-e](#). The purse-seine catches of tunas in 2017 and 2018, by flag and species, are summarized in [Table A-4a](#). Of the nearly 596 thousand t of tunas caught in 2018, 46% were caught by Ecuadorian vessels, and 21% by Mexican vessels. Other countries with significant catches included Panama (12%), Colombia (6%), Venezuela (4%), United States (3%) and Nicaragua (3%). The purse-seine landings of tunas in 2017 and 2018, by species, and country of landing, are summarized in [Table A-4b](#). Of the more than 593 thousand t of tunas landed in the EPO in 2018, 61% were landed in Ecuadorian ports, and 21% in Mexican ports. Other countries with landings of tunas in the EPO included Colombia (5%) and Peru (4%).

5. FISHING EFFORT

5.1. Purse seine

Estimates of the numbers of purse-seine sets of each type (associated with dolphins (DEL), associated with floating objects (OBJ), and unassociated (NOA)) in the EPO during 2003-2018, and the retained catches from

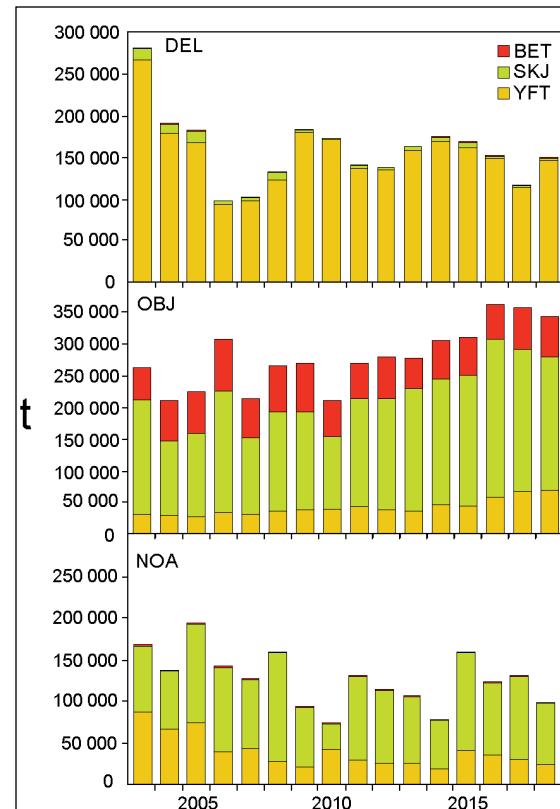


FIGURE 1. Purse-seine catches of tunas, by species and set type, 2003-2018

those sets, are shown in [Table A-7](#) and [Figure 1](#).² The estimates for small³ vessels were calculated from logbook data in the IATTC statistical data base, and those for Class-6 vessels from the observer data bases of the IATTC, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the United States, and Venezuela.

Since the introduction of fish-aggregating devices (FADs) in the mid-1990s, they have become predominant in the floating-object fishery, and now account for an estimated 97% of all floating-object sets by Class-6 vessels ([Table A-8](#)).

1.1. Longline

The reported nominal fishing effort (in thousands of hooks) by longline vessels in the EPO, and their catches of the predominant tuna species, are shown in [Table A-9](#).

6. THE FLEETS

1.2. Purse-seine

The IATTC [Regional Vessel Register](#) contains detailed records of all purse-seine vessels that are authorized to fish for tunas in the EPO. However, only vessels that fished for yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye, and/or Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO in 2018 are included in the following description of the purse-seine fleet.

The IATTC uses well volume, in cubic meters (m^3), to measure the carrying capacity of purse-seine vessels. Reliable well volume data are available for almost all purse-seine vessels; the well volume of vessels lacking such data is calculated by applying a conversion factor to their capacity in tons ([Table A-10](#); [Figure 2](#)).

The 2017 and preliminary 2018 data for numbers and total well volumes of purse-seine vessels that fished for tunas in the EPO are shown in [Tables A-11a](#) and [A-11b](#). During 2018, the fleet was dominated by Ecuadorian and Mexican vessels, with about 35% and 24%, respectively, of the total well volume; they were followed by the United States (10%), Panama (8%), Venezuela (8%), Colombia (6%), Nicaragua (3%), El

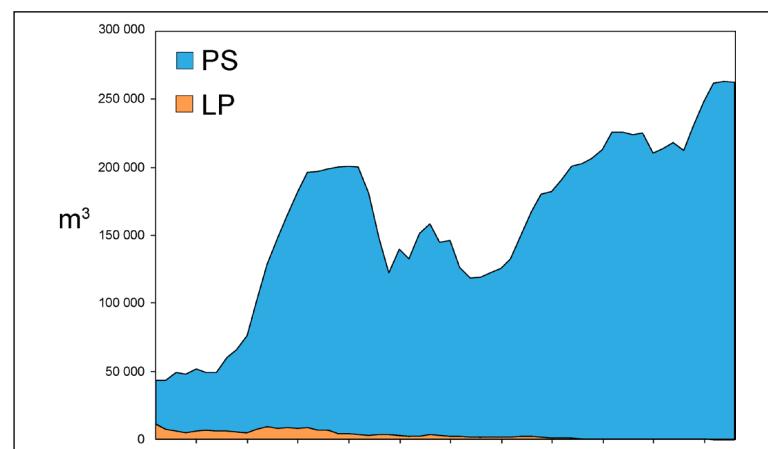


FIGURE 2. Carrying capacity, in cubic meters of well volume, of the purse-seine and pole-and-line fleets in the EPO, 1961-2018

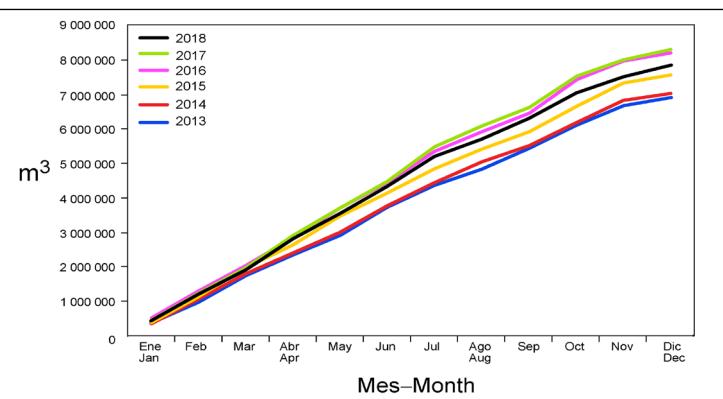


FIGURE 3. Cumulative capacity of the purse-seine and pole-and-line fleet at sea, by month, 2013-2018

² The catch data for 2003-2018 incorporate previously unavailable data, and are thus different from the corresponding data presented in previous publications.

³ ≤363 t carrying capacity

Salvador (2%), Peru (2%) and the European Union (Spain) (2%).⁴

The cumulative capacity at sea during 2018 is compared to those of the previous five years in [Figure 3](#).

The monthly average, minimum, and maximum total well volumes at sea (VAS), in thousands of cubic meters, of purse-seine and pole-and-line vessels that fished for tunas in the EPO during 2008-2017, and the 2018 values, are shown in [Table A-12](#). The monthly values are averages of the VAS estimated at weekly intervals by the IATTC staff. The average VAS values for 2008-2017 and 2018 were slightly over 140 thousand m³ (61% of total capacity) and about 152 thousand m³ (58% of total capacity), respectively.

1.3. Other fleets of the EPO

Information on other types of vessels that are authorized to fish in the EPO is available in the IATTC's [Regional Vessel Register](#). In some cases, particularly for large longline vessels, the Register contains information for vessels authorized to fish not only in the EPO, but also in other oceans, and which may not have fished in the EPO during 2018, or ever.

⁴ The sum of the percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

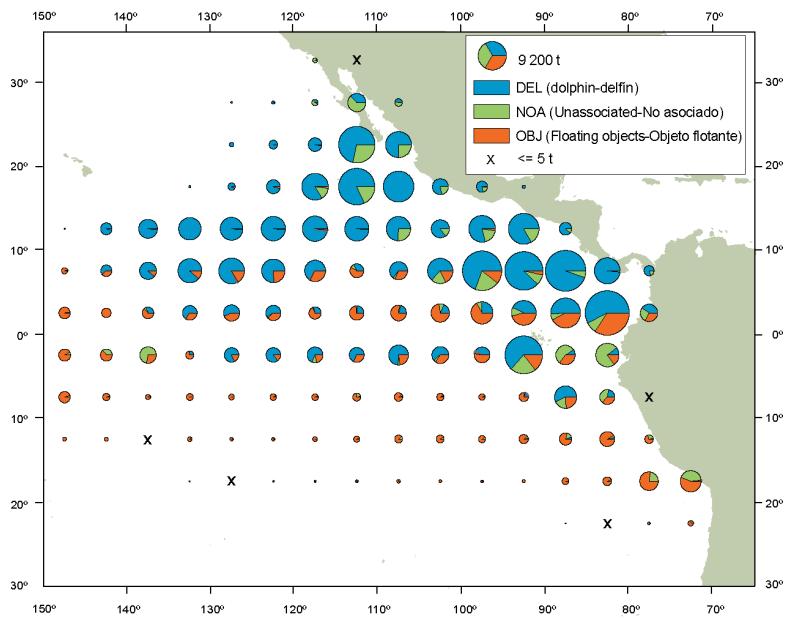


FIGURE A-1a. Average annual distributions of the purse-seine catches of yellowfin, by set type, 2013-2017. The sizes of the circles are proportional to the amounts of yellowfin caught in those 5° by 5° areas.

FIGURA A-1a. Distribución media anual de las capturas cerqueras de aleta amarilla, por tipo de lance, 2013-2017. El tamaño de cada círculo es proporcional a la cantidad de aleta amarilla capturado en la cuadrícula de 5° x 5° correspondiente.

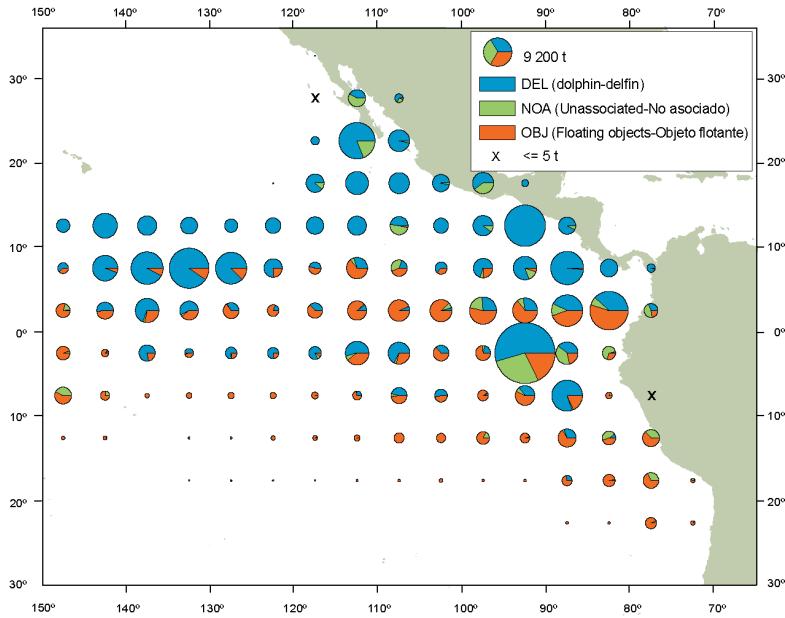


FIGURE A-1b. Annual distributions of the purse-seine catches of yellowfin, by set type, 2018. The sizes of the circles are proportional to the amounts of yellowfin caught in those 5° by 5° areas.

FIGURA A-1b. Distribución anual de las capturas cerqueras de aleta amarilla, por tipo de lance, 2018. El tamaño de cada círculo es proporcional a la cantidad de aleta amarilla capturado en la cuadrícula de 5° x 5° correspondiente.

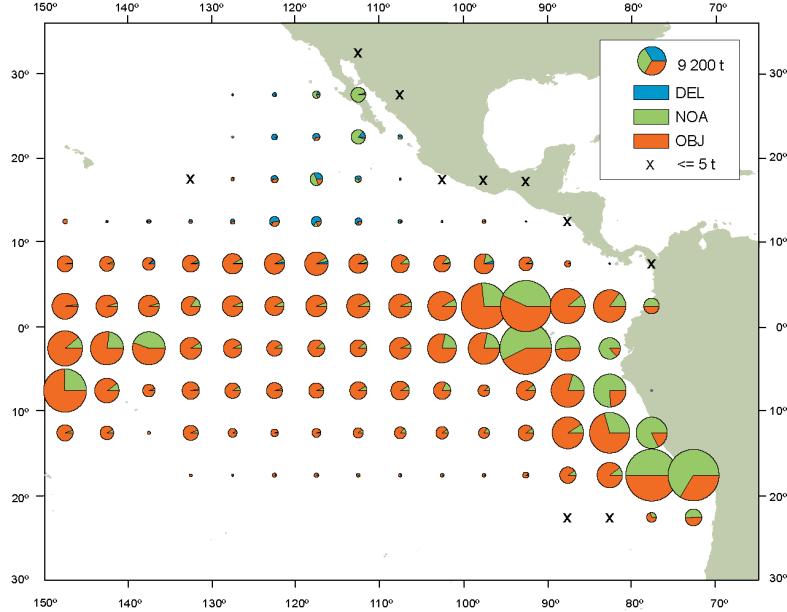


FIGURE A-2a. Average annual distributions of the purse-seine catches of skipjack, by set type, 2013-2017. The sizes of the circles are proportional to the amounts of skipjack caught in those 5° by 5° areas.

FIGURA A-2a. Distribución media anual de las capturas cerqueras de barrilete, por tipo de lance, 2013-2017. El tamaño de cada círculo es proporcional a la cantidad de barrilete capturado en la cuadrícula de $5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$ correspondiente.

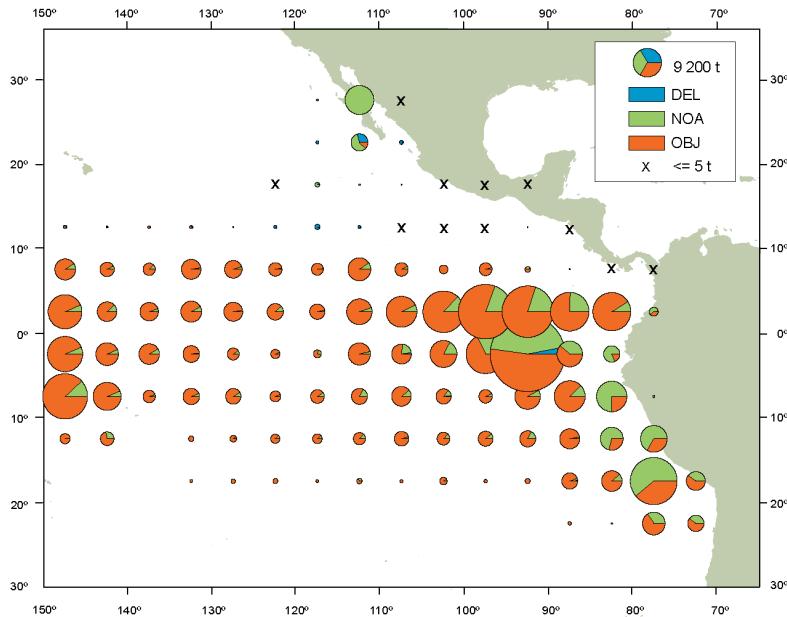


FIGURE A-2b. Annual distributions of the purse-seine catches of skipjack, by set type, 2018. The sizes of the circles are proportional to the amounts of skipjack caught in those 5° by 5° areas.

FIGURA A-2b. Distribución anual de las capturas cerqueras de barrilete, por tipo de lance, 2018. El tamaño de cada círculo es proporcional a la cantidad de barrilete capturado en la cuadrícula de $5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$ correspondiente.

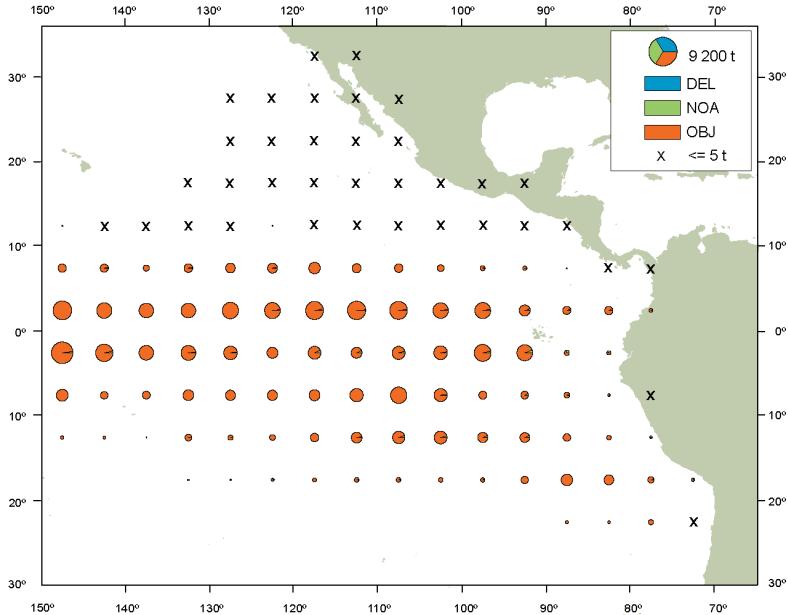


FIGURE A-3a. Average annual distributions of the purse-seine catches of bigeye, by set type, 2013-2017. The sizes of the circles are proportional to the amounts of bigeye caught in those 5° by 5° areas.

FIGURA A-3a. Distribución media anual de las capturas cerqueras de patudo, por tipo de lance, 2013-2017. El tamaño de cada círculo es proporcional a la cantidad de patudo capturado en la cuadrícula de $5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$ correspondiente.

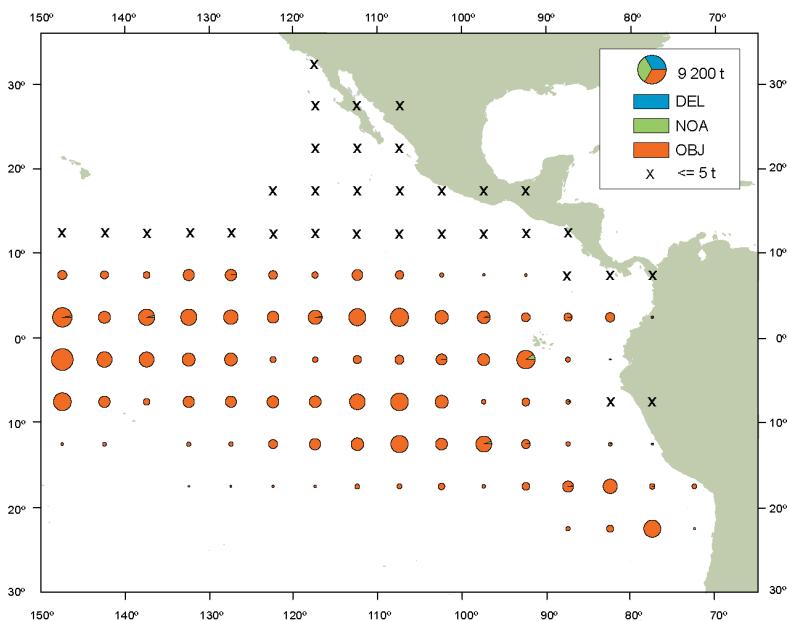


FIGURE A-3b. Annual distributions of the purse-seine catches of bigeye, by set type, 2018. The sizes of the circles are proportional to the amounts of bigeye caught in those 5° by 5° areas.

FIGURA A-3b. Distribución anual de las capturas cerqueras de patudo, por tipo de lance, 2018. El tamaño de cada círculo es proporcional a la cantidad de patudo capturado en la cuadrícula de $5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$ correspondiente.

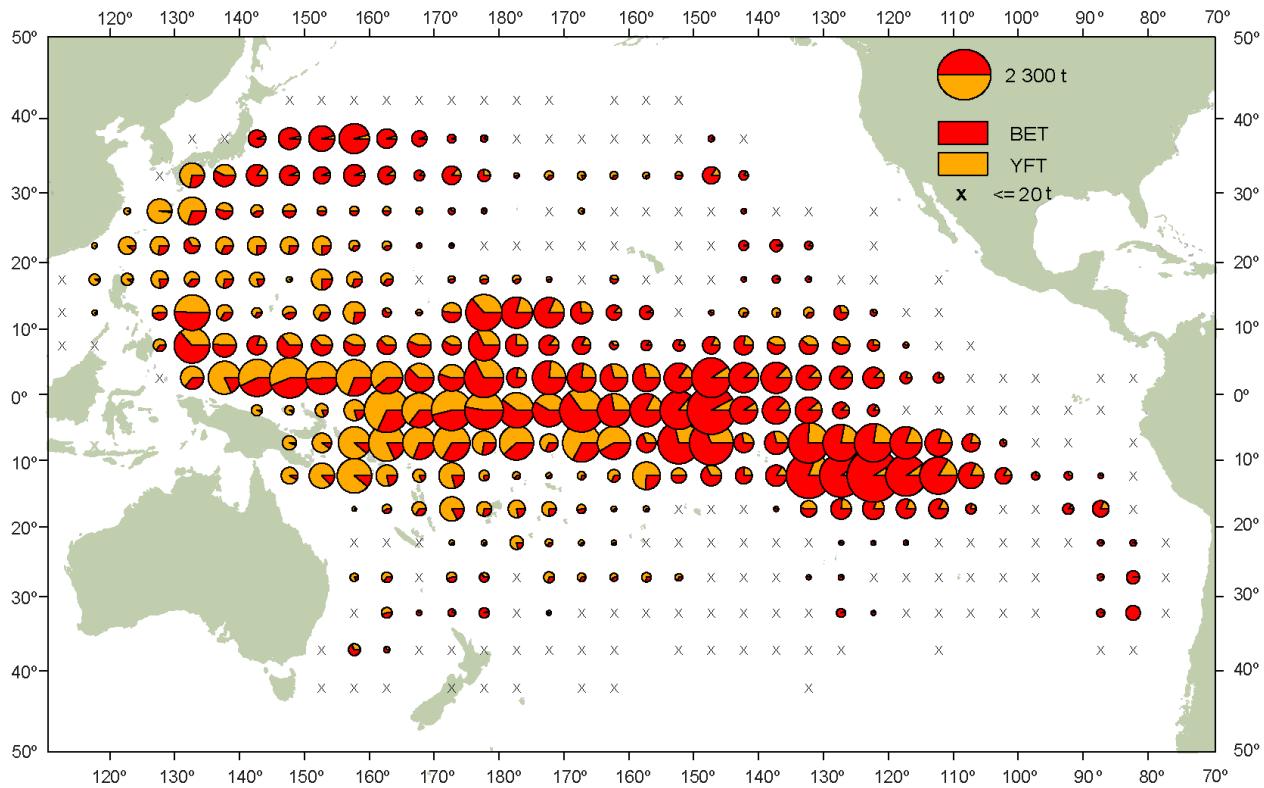


FIGURE A-4. Distributions of the average annual catches of bigeye and yellowfin tunas in the Pacific Ocean, in metric tons, by Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese Taipei longline vessels, 2013-2017. The sizes of the circles are proportional to the amounts of bigeye and yellowfin caught in those 5° by 5° areas.

FIGURA A-4. Distribución de las capturas anuales medias de atunes patudo y aleta amarilla en el Océano Pacífico, en toneladas métricas, por buques palangreros de China, Corea, Japón, y Taipeí Chino, 2013-2017. El tamaño de cada círculo es proporcional a la cantidad de patudo y aleta amarilla capturado en la cuadrícula de 5° x 5° correspondiente.

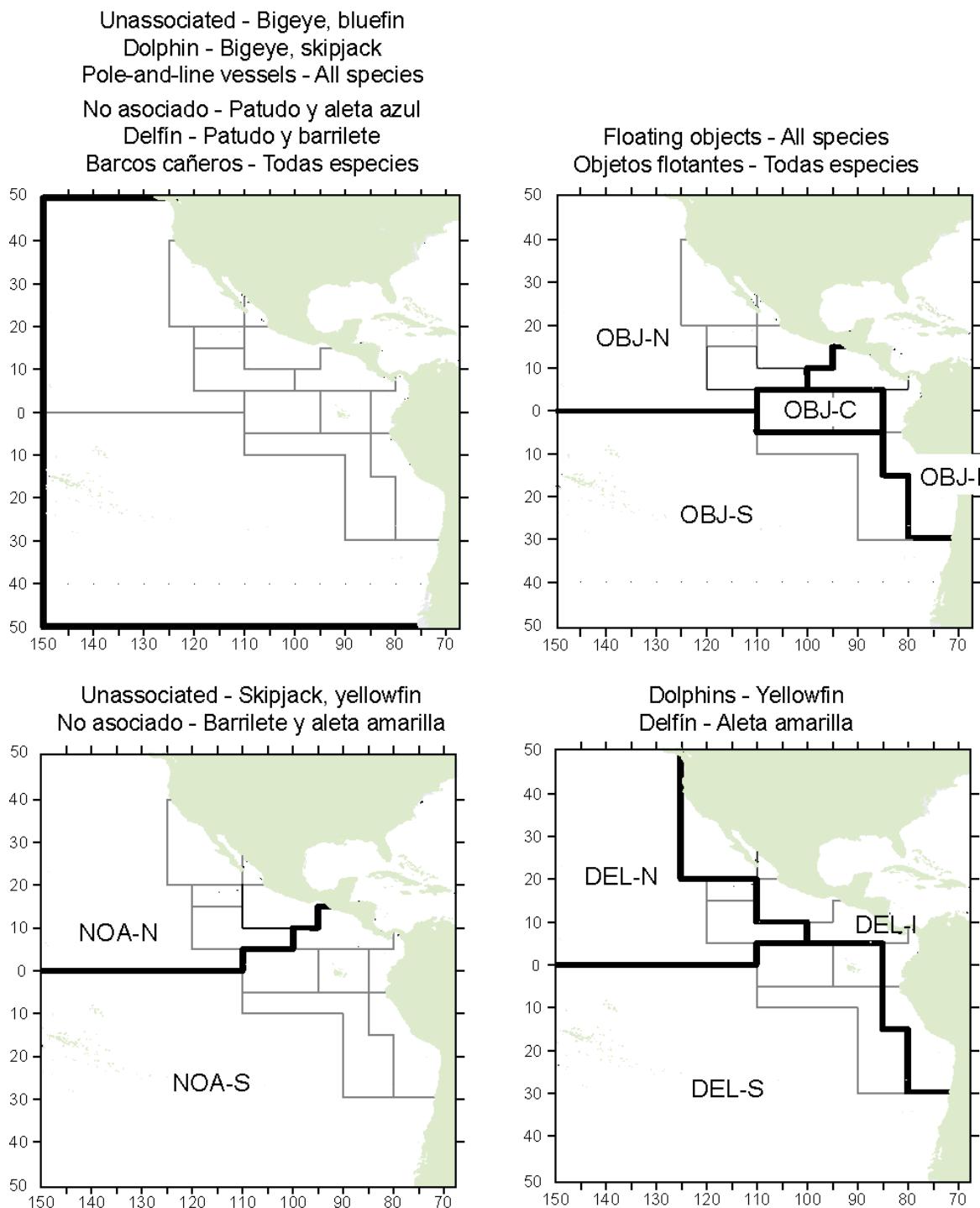


FIGURE A-5. The fisheries defined by the IATTC staff for analyses of yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye in the EPO. The thin lines indicate the boundaries of the 13 length-frequency sampling areas, and the bold lines the boundaries of the fisheries.

FIGURA A-5. Las pesquerías definidas por el personal de la CIAT para los análisis de los atunes aleta amarilla, barrilete, y patudo en el OPO. Las líneas delgadas indican los límites de las 13 zonas de muestreo de frecuencia de tallas, y las líneas gruesas los límites de las pesquerías.

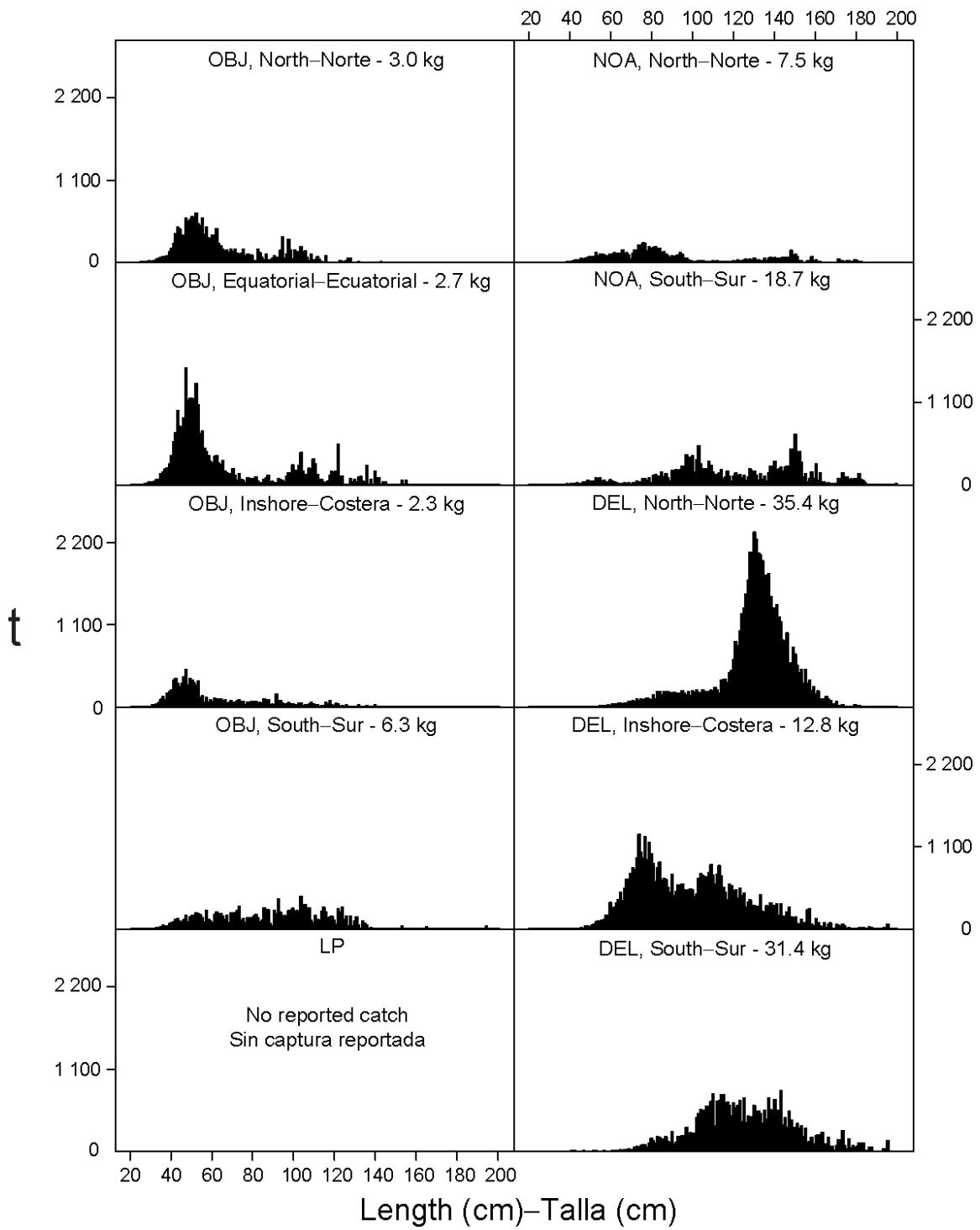


FIGURE A-6a. Estimated size compositions of the yellowfin caught in the EPO during 2018 for each fishery designated in Figure A-5. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight of the fish in the samples.

FIGURA A-6a. Composición por tallas estimada del aleta amarilla capturado en el OPO durante 2018 en cada pesquería ilustrada en la Figura A-5. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio del pescado en las muestras.

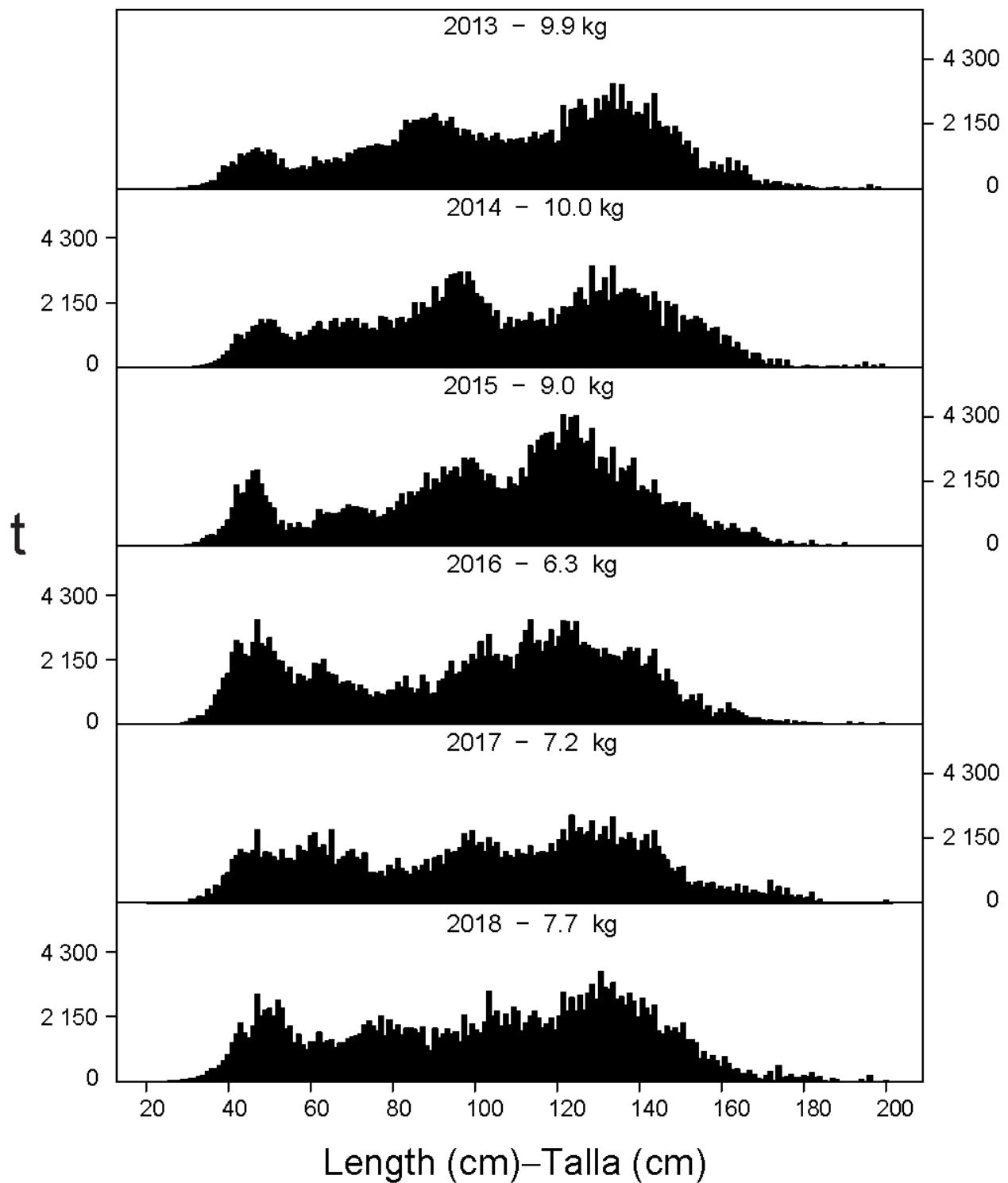


FIGURE A-6b. Estimated size compositions of the yellowfin caught by purse-seine and pole-and-line vessels in the EPO during 2013-2018. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight of the fish in the samples.

FIGURA A-6b. Composición por tallas estimada del aleta amarilla capturado por buques cerqueros y cañeros en el OPO durante 2013-2018. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio del pescado en las muestras.

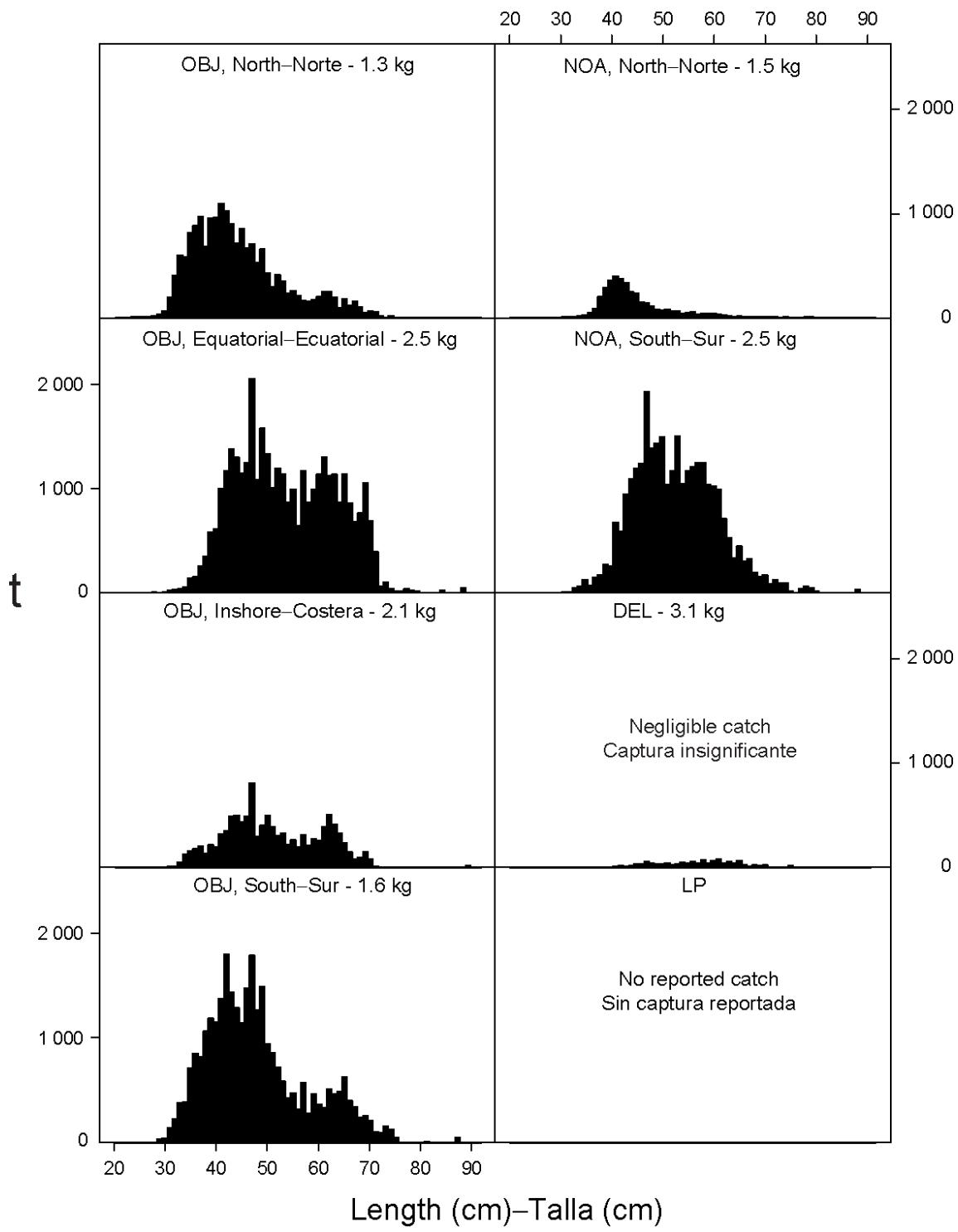


FIGURE A-7a. Estimated size compositions of the skipjack caught in the EPO during 2018 for each fishery designated in Figure A-5. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight of the fish in the samples.

FIGURA A-7a. Composición por tallas estimada del barrilete capturado en el OPO durante 2018 en cada pesquería ilustrada en la Figura A-5. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio del pescado en las muestras.

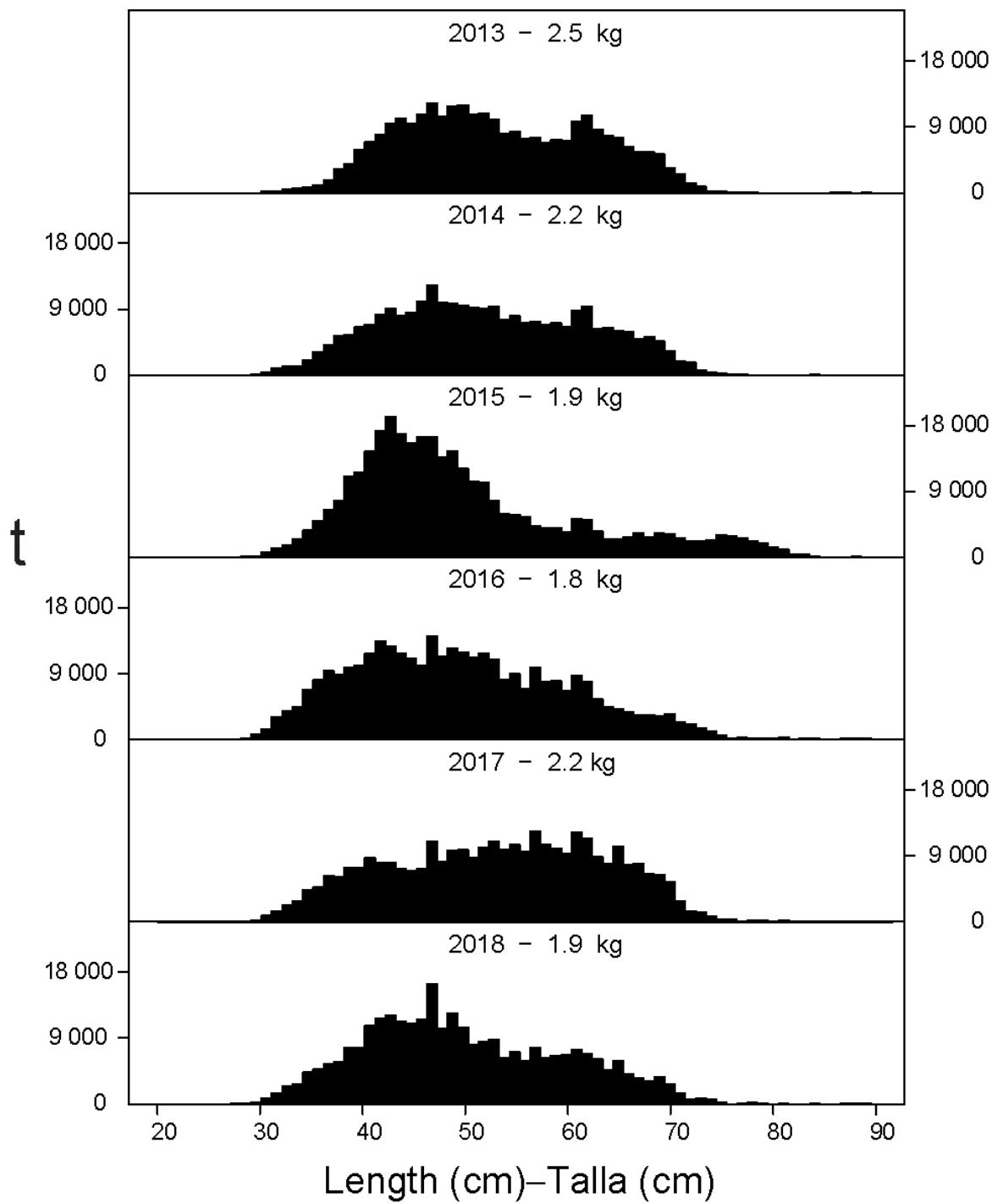


FIGURE A-7b. Estimated size compositions of the skipjack caught by purse-seine and pole-and-line vessels in the EPO during 2013-2018. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight of the fish in the samples.

FIGURA A-7b. Composición por tallas estimada del barrilete capturado por buques cerqueros y cañeros en el OPO durante 2013-2018. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio del pescado en las muestras.

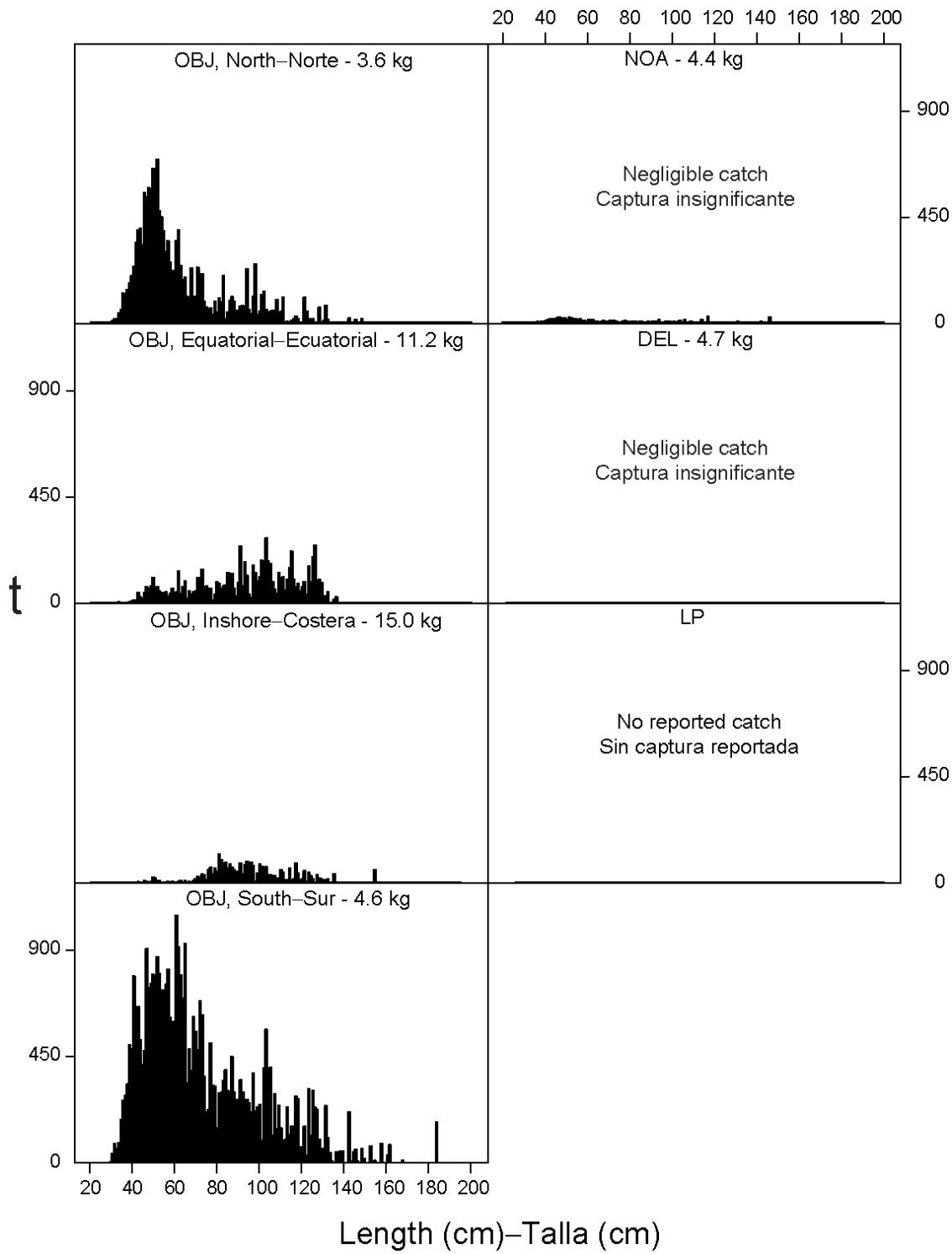


FIGURE A-8a. Estimated size compositions of the bigeye caught in the EPO during 2018 for each fishery designated in Figure A-5. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight.

FIGURA A-8a. Composición por tallas estimada del patudo capturado en el OPO durante 2018 en cada pesquería ilustrada en la Figura A-5. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio del pescado en las muestras.

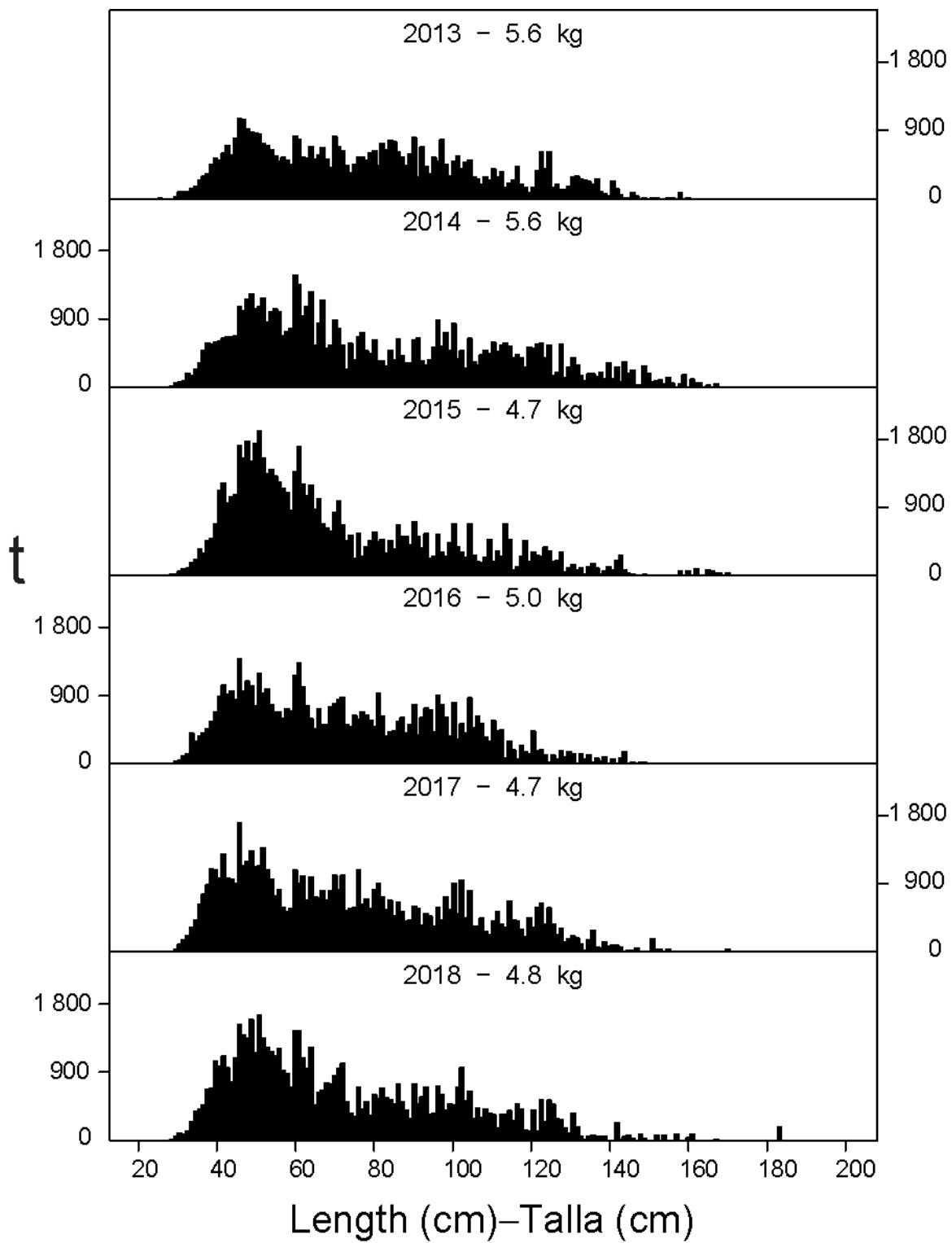


FIGURE A-8b. Estimated size compositions of the bigeye caught by purse-seine vessels in the EPO during 2013-2018. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight.

FIGURA A-8b. Composición por tallas estimada del patudo capturado por buques cerqueros en el OPO durante 2013-2018. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio del pescado en las muestras.

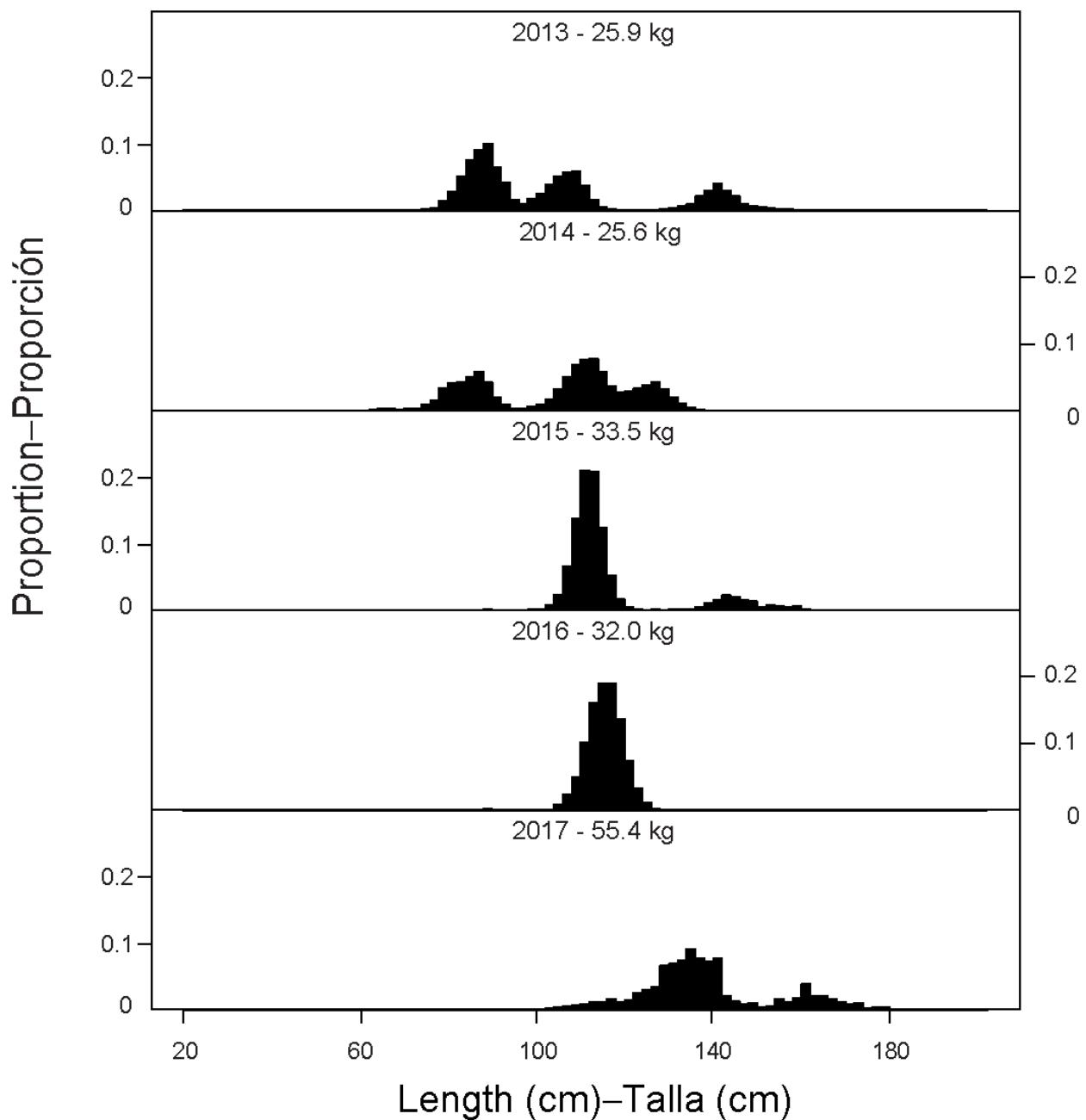


FIGURE A-9. Estimated size compositions of purse-seine catches of Pacific bluefin tuna, 2013-2017. The size distribution has been standardized as a proportion of the total number of measured tuna in each size range. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight. Source: INAPESCA, Mexico.

FIGURA A-9. Composiciones por talla estimadas de las capturas de atún aleta azul del Pacífico, 2013-2017. La distribución de las tallas ha sido estandarizada como proporción del número total de atunes medidos en cada gama de tallas. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio. Fuente: INAPESCA, México.

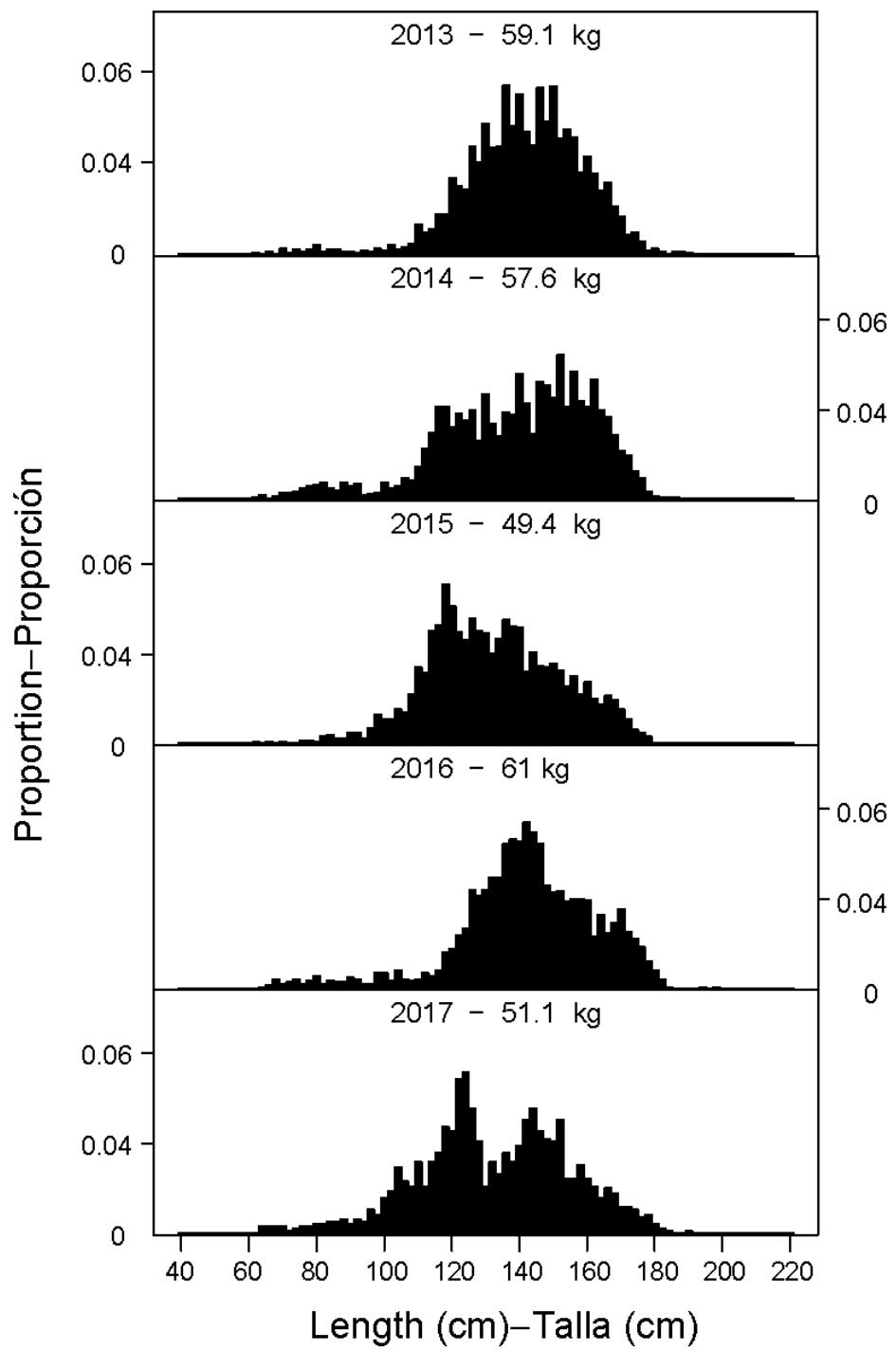


FIGURE A-10. Estimated size compositions of the catches of yellowfin by the Japanese longline fleet in the EPO, 2013-2017. The size distribution has been standardized as a proportion of the total number of measured tuna in each size range. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight.

FIGURA A-10. Composición por tallas estimada de las capturas de aleta amarilla por la flota palangrera japonesa en el OPO, 2013-2017. La distribución de las tallas ha sido estandarizada como proporción del número total de atunes medidos en cada gama de tallas. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio.

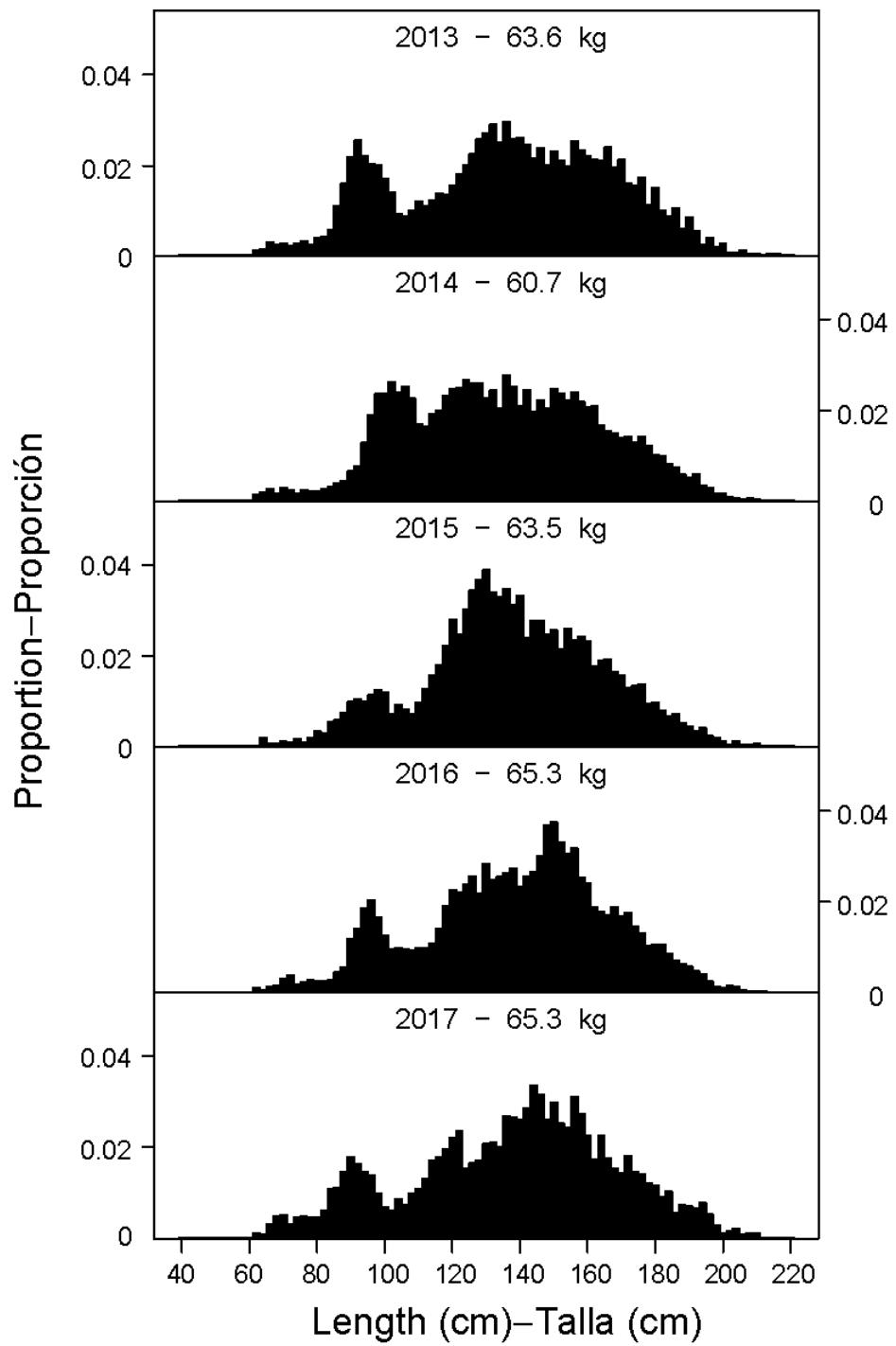


FIGURE A-11. Estimated size compositions of the catches of bigeye by the Japanese longline fleet in the EPO, 2013-2017. The size distribution has been standardized as a proportion of the total number of measured tuna in each size range. The value at the top of each panel is the average weight.

FIGURA A-11. Composición por tallas estimada de las capturas de patudo por la flota palangrera japonesa en el OPO, 2013-2017. La distribución de las tallas ha sido estandarizada como proporción del número total de atunes medidos en cada gama de tallas. El valor en cada recuadro representa el peso promedio.

TABLE A-5b. Reported catches of Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO by recreational gear, in number of fish, 1989-2018.

TABLA A-5b. Capturas reportadas de atún aleta azul del Pacífico en el OPO por artes deportivas, en número de peces, 1989-2018.

1989	6,519	2004	3,391
1990	3,755	2005	5,757
1991	5,330	2006	7,473
1992	8,586	2007	1,028
1993	10,535	2008	10,187
1994	2,243	2009	12,138
1995	16,025	2010	8,453
1996	2,739	2011	31,494
1997	8,338	2012	40,012
1998	20,466	2013	63,158
1999	36,797	2014	27,889
2000	20,669	2015	28,661
2001	21,913	2016	12,312
2002	33,399	2017	16,493
2003	22,291	2018	10,414

TABLE A-11b. Estimates of the numbers and well volumes (cubic meters) of purse-seine (PS) vessels that fished in the EPO in 2018, by flag and gear. Each vessel is included in the total for each flag under which it fished during the year, but is included only once in the “Grand total”; therefore, the grand total may not equal the sums of the individual flags.

TABLA A-11b. Estimaciones del número y volumen de bodega (metros cúbicos) de buques cerqueros (PS) que pescaron en el OPO en 2018, por bandera y arte de pesca. Se incluye cada buque en los totales de cada bandera bajo la cual pescó durante el año, pero solamente una vez en el “Total general”; por consiguiente, los totales generales no equivalen necesariamente a las sumas de las banderas individuales.

Flag Bandera	Gear Arte	Well volume—Volumen de bodega (m ³)					Total	
		<401	401-800	801-1300	1301-1800	>1800	No.	Vol. (m ³)
		Number—Número						
COL	PS	2	2	7	3	-	14	14,860
ECU	PS	38	31	22	10	12	113	91,658
EU(ESP)	PS	-	-	-	-	2	2	4,120
MEX	PS	5	4	21	23	-	53	62,659
NIC	PS	-	-	3	2	1	6	9,066
PAN	PS	-	1	5	5	4	15	21,907
PER	PS	5	4	-	-	-	9	4,175
SLV	PS	-	-	-	1	2	3	6,202
USA	PS	4	-	3	8	6	21	27,215
VEN	PS	-	-	6	6	2	14	20,364
Grand total— Total general	PS	54	42	67	58	29	250	
Well volume—Volumen de bodega (m ³)								
Grand total— Total general	PS	14,944	28,843	73,246	88,505	59,688		262,226

- : none—ninguno

TABLE A-12. Minimum, maximum, and average capacity, in thousands of cubic meters, of purse-seine and pole-and-line vessels at sea in the EPO during 2008-2017 and in 2018, by month.

TABLA A-12. Capacidad mínima, máxima, y media, en miles de metros cúbicos, de los buques cerqueros y cañeros en el mar en el OPO durante 2008-2017 y en 2018, por mes.

Month Mes	2008-2017			2018
	Min	Max	Ave.-Prom.	
1	86.9	129.6	103.1	104.4
2	150.7	192.3	164.4	189.5
3	135.4	189.7	155.7	181.6
4	143.4	200.8	162.8	177.3
5	139.8	196.9	159.6	184.9
6	154.9	198.6	166.6	192.0
7	154.1	200.4	168.4	180.1
8	102.9	148.7	119.7	120.8
9	105.5	142.2	119.3	119.9
10	150.7	188.9	168.9	185.6
11	102.9	150.8	127.7	120.9
12	45.9	77.7	58.0	66.4
Ave.-Prom.	122.8	168.0	139.5	151.9