

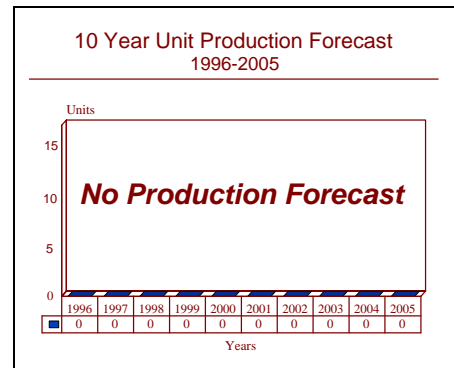
# ARCHIVED REPORT

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## Martin Pescador - Archived 3/97

### Outlook

- Production completed.
- Follow-on version could be developed as well as a helicopter launched model.



### Orientation

**Description.** Martin Pescador (Kingfisher) is a short-to-medium-range supersonic air-to-surface missile able to be used against land or sea targets. It was intended to replace Argentina's AS.11 and AS.12 inventories.

**Sponsor.** Argentinian Defense Ministry.

**Contractors.** Instituto de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnicas de las Fuerzas Armadas (CITEFA), Zufriategui 4380, 1603 Villa Martelli, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Status.** Production is believed to have been concluded. However, there is virtually no information available concerning the status of this program. The possibility remains that the Martin Pescador is still in production, with modification continuing to be made to in-service

systems. These modifications could include the development of a helicopter-launched version, the testing of a heavier warhead and improvements to the missile's range and strike capabilities.

**Total Produced.** Available information indicates that 68 units were manufactured between 1981-1984. An additional production was believed to have been initiated. Current Argentinian inventory is not known.

**Application.** For deployment on ground attack aircraft for operations against fixed targets, although the missile does have an anti-shipping capability.

**Price Range.** No specific details are available. Some estimates have placed the price of this missile system at approximately \$107,000.

### Technical Data

#### Dimensions

	Metric	US
Length	2.94 m	9.65 ft
Diameter	21.85 cm	6.17 in
Span	73 cm	2.4 ft
Weight	140 kg	308.6 lb

#### Performance

	Metric	US
Speed	Mach 2.3	Mach 2.3
Range	8-15 km	4.5-8.44 miles

**Propulsion.** The Martin Pescador uses a standard solid-rocket motor as its main propulsion system.

**Control & Guidance.** Radio command guidance is used to direct and steer the Martin Pescador to its target. The rear of the missile contains three flares, enabling the pilot to visually track its course. Command signals are sent to the missile from the launching aircraft which requires a command radio transmitter to be fitted. The pilot keeps the missile in his line of sight to the target by means of a button on the control column of his aircraft. Facilities are also provided to enable the pilot to change the frequency of his command signal in the event of several Martin Pescador missiles being launched simultaneously.

**Launcher Mode.** The missile can be launched from any aircraft capable of a speed of Mach 0.5 or more. Launch from a hovering helicopter is also possible, in which case a range of 4.3 km can be achieved. Maximum ranges are dependent upon aircraft speed at launch. Launch platforms include: Agusta A109A (Argentinian Army); Super Etendard, A-4Q Skyhawk, MB.339 (Argentinean Navy); and A-4P Skyhawk, EMB-326GB Xavante and IA-58A Pucara (Argentinean Air Force).

**Warhead.** This missile is equipped with a 40 kg (88 lb) high-explosive warhead.

## Variants/Upgrades

There are no known variants of this missile presently in production. However, Argentina is considering the development of an enhanced model; supposedly, work is

already under way to increase range and provide a heavier warhead. A helicopter-launched version is also said to be under consideration.

## Program Review

**Background.** Development of Martin Pescador was done by the Instituto de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnicas de las Fuerzas Armadas (CITEFA) for the Argentinian Armed Forces. Development work was said to have been completed in 1979, with the missile being statically displayed at the 1981 Paris Air Show. There are unconfirmed reports of the missile's use from Argentine A-4 Skyhawks during the 1982 Falklands War with the United Kingdom.

**Missile Description.** Martin Pescador, also designated ASM-2, consists of the following major components front to rear: forebody containing radio receiver, power source, control mechanisms and logic devices; center section with warhead and fuze; aft body section containing the rocket motor, propellant and flares. Four stabilizing and control fins are mounted at the rear of the missile body. The designation "Martin Pescador" translates from the Spanish to mean Kingfisher and does not have any connection with the major US aerospace and defense manufacturer, Martin.

## Funding

Specific funding information is not available.

## Recent Contracts

The Argentine Government has not released any information concerning contract awards for this missile system.

## Timetable

	1979	Completion of development
	1982	Estimated service entry date
	1989-93	Production continuing
	1994 <sup>(a)</sup>	Production concluded
	1990s <sup>(a)</sup>	Research may be continuing
<sup>(a)</sup> estimated		

## Worldwide Distribution

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User Country(s). **Argentina** has no known customers for its Martin Pescador missile outside of its own armed forces. The missile is in service with all three Argentine military services. Presently, large-scale purchases by new customers seem unlikely. No export sales have been recorded to date.

## Forecast Rationale

There is presently no indication that Argentina has decided to move ahead with the development of a new air-to-surface missile system. The Argentine defense budget has constricted significantly since the return of democratic rule, and there does not seem to be any sign that this situation will change in the near future. Much of the national budget goes to support salaries and pensions, leaving little for ambitious missile production efforts. However, low-level research projects are likely continuing, partly as a government effort to support the economy. A closer relationship with certain US defense firms, such as Lockheed-Martin, could help to support such an effort if one were initiated.

Although fabrication of the Martin Pescador has been concluded, work on a successor may yet be undertaken. Argentina has a well-known requirement for next-generation air-to-surface missiles and could use this need as a basis for a new development program. But again, economic problems, severe austerity measures, and falling defense spending could combine to preclude procurement, even if such a system is eventually developed. More likely, Argentina will opt for a less expensive foreign alternative to fulfill any near-term requirements.

## Ten-Year Outlook

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No additional production of the Martin Pescador is anticipated. However, this missile system could be superseded by a follow-on.