

Report on the Implementation of the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations

Chinese Taipei

May 2018

Implementation of the IPOA-Sea turtles

1. Fishermen of fishing vessels are required to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster recovery, including resuscitation, before returning it to the sea.
2. Fishing vessels are required to have sea turtle release devices on board, including dip net, de-hooker and line cutters, during the fishing trips, for appropriate release of incidentally caught sea turtles.
3. Any sea turtle incidentally caught by any fishing vessel shall be released or discarded, and the number(s) shall be duly recorded on the logbooks and E-logbook system. Furthermore, we also collect by-catch information of sea turtle through the observer program.
4. Tuna longline fishing vessels that target for swordfish in a shallowest manner (the proportion of swordfish to total catches is over 40% per month) have been required to use circle hooks or whole fin-fish baits for reducing bycatch rate of sea turtle.
5. To prevent harming sea turtles, any fishing vessel shall not dispose any type of plastic trash at sea.

Interactions with sea turtles

During 2017, our observers had observed for 1,484 days in the EPO and the observer coverage rate is approximately 10.41%. According to the observer records, 2 Leatherback turtles, 3 Olive Ridley turtles, 1 Loggerhead turtle and 1 Marine turtles nei were caught incidentally (as attachment), and all of them were released or discarded, and the status of those turtles are as follows:

Species	Bycatch number	Status
Leatherback turtles	2	1 alive and 1 dead
Olive ridley turtles	3	1 alive and 2 dead
Loggerhead turtle	1	1 alive
Marine turtles nei	1	1 dead

Attachment: Sea turtles bycatch distribution in EPO in 2017

