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REPORT OF JAPAN'S SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY IN THE CONVENTION AREA OF INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION IN 2014 CALENDAR YEAR

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SUMMARY

In accordance with Resolution C-11-08, Japan commenced its scientific observer program for longline fishery in the convention area of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) from 1 January 2013. This document provides the scientific observers' information in 2014 calendar year. In 2014 calendar year, seventeen (17) observer trips were conducted on Japanese tuna longline vessels in the Convention Area.

KEYWORDS

Longline, Japan, Scientific observer, Tuna fisheries

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Resolution C-11-08, Japan commenced its scientific observer program for longline fishery in the convention area of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) from 1 January 2013. This document provides the scientific observers' information in 2014 calendar year.

TRAINING OF THE SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER

In principal, all scientific observers attend a training class held by Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) and Japan NUS (JANUS) under Japan's observer program before their departure for the cruise. The National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) provides an observer manual and supervises the training course. Under the course scientific observers are trained in skills necessary for conduct its part, including species identification, data recording protocols *etc*.

RESULTS

i) Number of observer trip and its coverage

In 2014 calendar year, seventeen (17) observer trips were conducted on Japanese tuna longline vessels.

Information of those trips is shown in Table1. The observer coverage in this year was 5.6% (874/15,507) by number of fishing operations.

ii) Catch records, including bycatch data

Observers recorded every items taken on deck and identified the species by themselves. Observers also collected bycatch data. They took photo of bycatch species according to the procedures given in the observer manual made by NRIFSF scientists. Bycatch experts in NRIFSF identified species using these photos.

All observer trip was compiled for analyze catch record. The list of species recorded by scientific observer on longline fishery in 2014 was shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Information on the trip of the scientific observer for Japanese tuna longline in the convention areas of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission during 2014 calendar year.

Trip ID	Range of latitude	Range of longitude	Start date of operation	End date of operation	Number of operation	Number of hooks
trip1	8.4-12.3S	114.3-119.2W	2014/1/1	2014/1/15	13	33,150
trip2	10.7-13.4S	108.1-110.1W	2014/1/1	2014/1/25	24	70,176
trip3	10.0-15.6S	104.7-110.4W	2014/1/1	2014/2/10	37	88,320
trip4	9.7-14.5S	108.9-121.9W	2014/1/1	2014/2/14	38	109,447
trip5	7.4-15.1S	111.9-129.6W	2014/1/1	2014/3/7	60	147,390
trip6	6.4-12.4S	107.3-115.0W	2014/1/31	2014/4/6	61	159,426
trip7	5.2-2.2N	120.4-139.4W	2014/5/28	2014/7/26	56	151,200
trip8	9.9-15.0S	111.3-117.5W	2014/11/30	2014/12/31	29	76,767
trip9	11.1-14.5S	116.0-119.0W	2014/12/6	2014/12/30	23	66,623
trip10	10.7-15.1S	89.5-106.1W	2014/4/7	2014/7/30	105	252,075
trip11	7.4-15.6S	122.1-129.9W	2014/8/31	2014/12/6	94	205,440
trip12	8.0-14.5S	116.8-124.6W	2014/8/31	2014/11/29	80	207,485
trip13	3.1N-9.8S	126.3-141.1W	2014/7/4	2014/9/10	63	201,910
trip14	4.8N-11.5S	121.8-146.3W	2014/7/30	2014/10/15	69	206,780
trip15	10.9-15.2S	123.6-125.0W	2014/12/8	2014/12/31	23	50,150
trip16	4.1-14.4S	126.3-148.7W	2014/8/24	2014/12/28	82	227,200
trip17	8.5-12.6S	124.4-127.8W	2014/12/13	2014/12/31	17	51,400
Total					874	2,304,939

Table 2. List of species recorded by scientific observer on longline fishery in the Convention Area in 2014 calendar year

Cruises / Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Albacore	12	0	1	57	46	93	2	174	18	371
Yellowfin tuna	19	84	68	182	85	53	171	51	23	134
Bigeye tuna	54	286	203	252	304	742	488	329	158	545
Skipjack tuna	9	1	22	7	12	21	34	38	1	52
Sailfish	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Black marlin	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Blue marlin	2	35	2	20	6	22	30	12	10	38
Spearfishes	25	26	82	124	214	135	117	83	21	68
Striped marlin	2	28	11	7	12	18	35	3	4	380
Sword fish	11	84	100	71	196	364	253	113	61	458
Other teleosts	39	227	129	115	387	571	247	627	252	886
Thresher sharks	0	86	23	19	41	85	62	15	3	40
Shortfin mako	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	1	116
Blue shark	7	83	72	71	106	202	21	158	69	136
Oceanic whitetip shark	0	14	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	11
Other Sharks	5	93	57	28	162	371	69	323	1	91
Sting ray	23	81	37	19	333	202	67	193	80	274
Other Rays	0	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Sea Birds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea Turtles	0	8	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
Mammals	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	209	1,146	810	972	1,909	2,882	1,602	2,122	702	3,613

Cruises / Species	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Albacore	196	104	205	165	63	96	4	1,607
Yellowfin tuna	86	134	430	237	7	74	3	1,841
Bigeye tuna	1071	722	746	667	279	604	176	7,626
Skipjack tuna	20	64	11	31	0	4	0	327
Sailfish	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	9
Black marlin	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
Blue marlin	13	15	32	35	4	46	10	332
Spearfishes	80	298	114	236	3	14	14	1,654
Striped marlin	11	32	18	24	3	13	3	604
Sword fish	272	98	82	141	28	114	37	2,483
Other teleosts	977	638	417	943	92	594	55	7,196
Thresher sharks	79	40	11	40	16	14	5	579
Shortfin mako	6	14	2	4	0	2	0	153
Blue shark	59	80	16	74	52	78	33	1,317
Oceanic whitetip shark	0	0	1	17	0	0	0	47
Other Sharks	249	83	44	240	4	25	7	1,852
Sting ray	135	45	31	54	25	48	21	1,668
Other Rays	0	0	0	5	0	1	3	17
Sea Birds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea Turtles	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	18
Mammals	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	7
Unidentified			0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	3,254	2,370	2,164	2,914	576	1,729	373	29,347

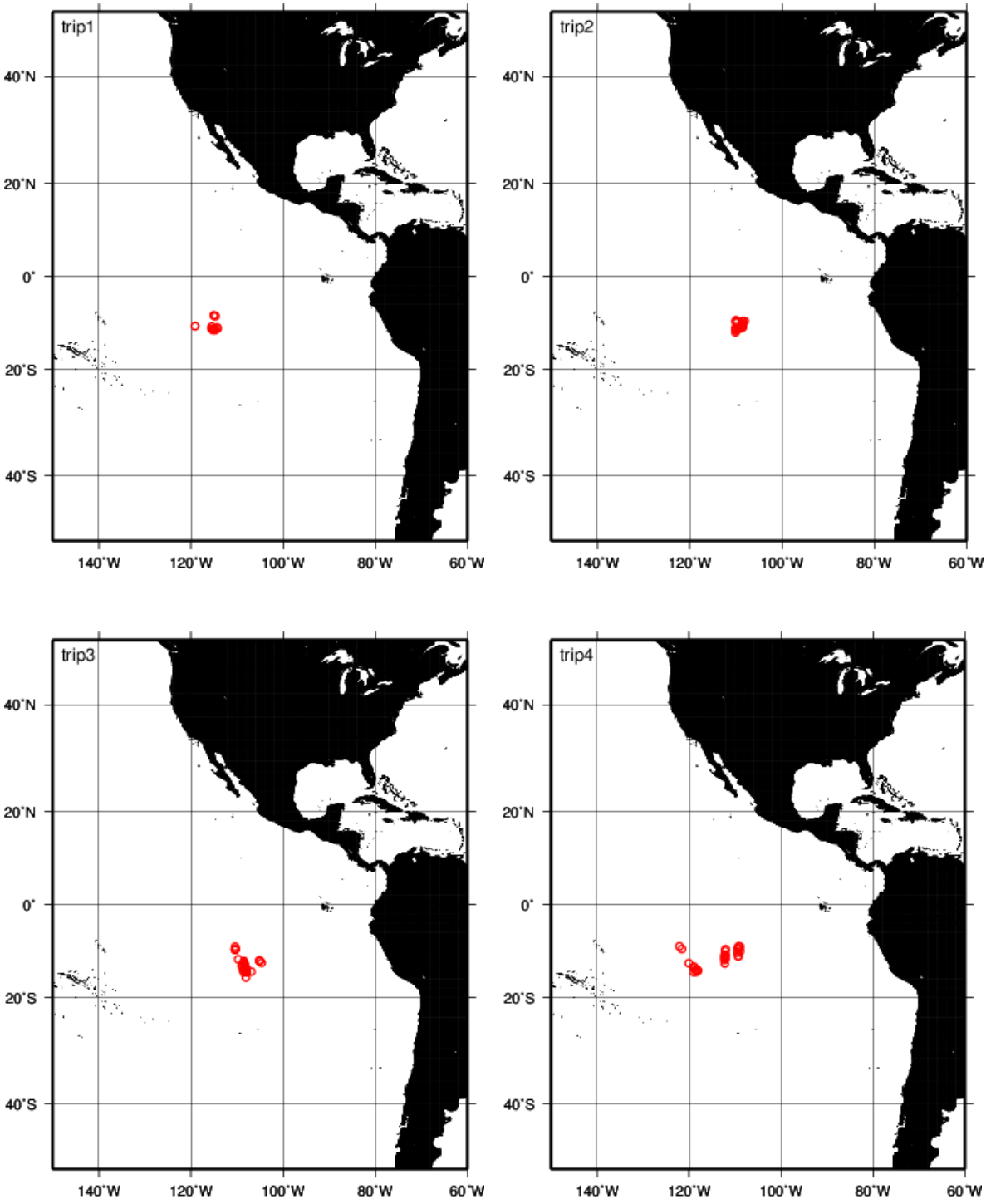

Fig 1. Line setting locations of Japanese tuna longline for the trips with the scientific observer onboard in the convention areas of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission during 2013 calendar year.

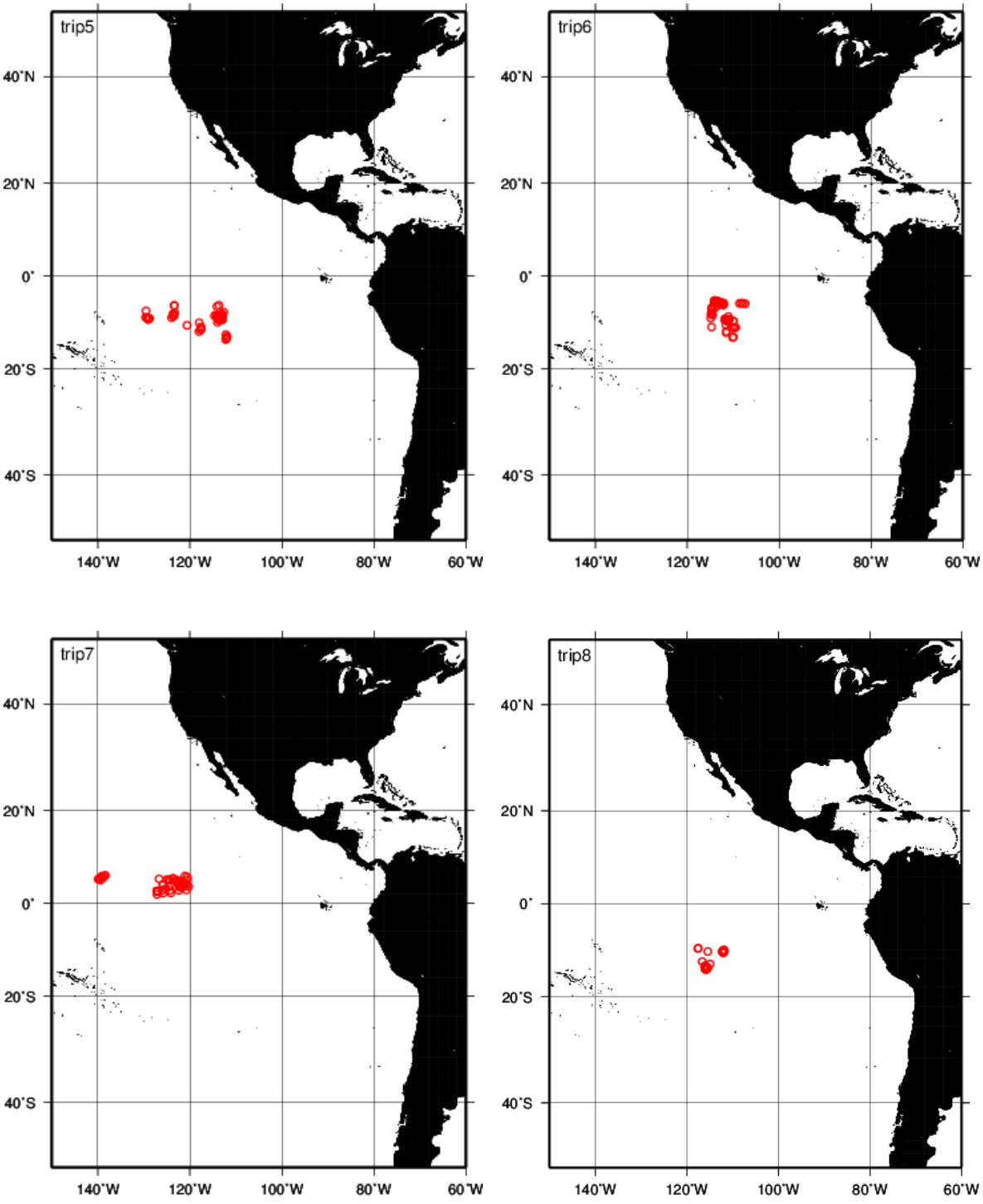
trip5
trip6
trip7
trip8
40°N
20°N
0°
20°S
40°S
140°W
120°W
100°W
80°W
60°W

Fig 1. cont.

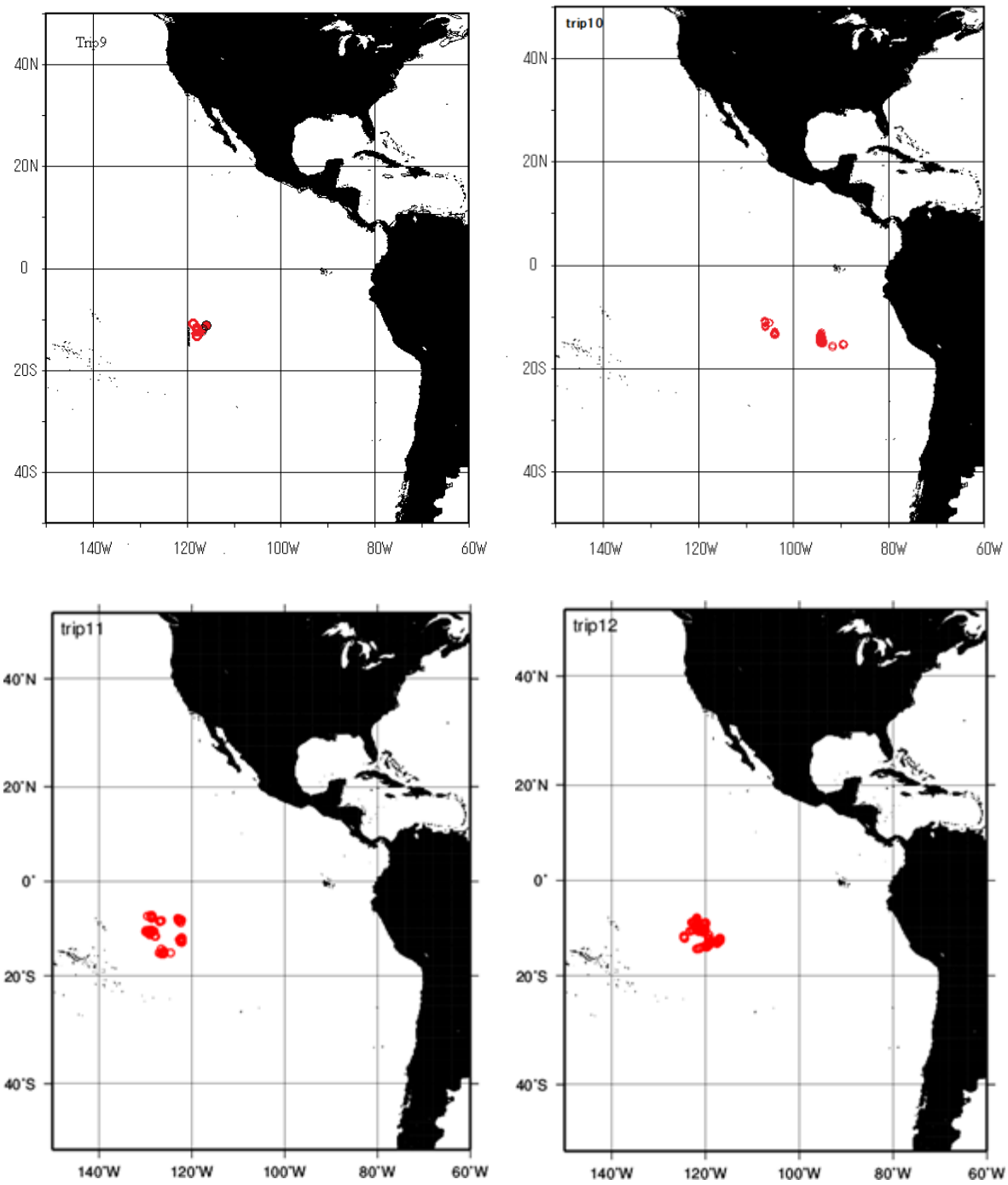
Trip9
40N
20N
0
20S
40S
140W
120W
100W
80W
60W
trip10
40N
20N
0
20S
40S
140W
120W
100W
80W
60W
trip11
40°N
20°N
0°
20°S
40°S
140°W
120°W
100°W
80°W
60°W
trip12
40°N
20°N
0°
20°S
40°S
140°W
120°W
100°W
80°W
60°W

Fig 1. cont.

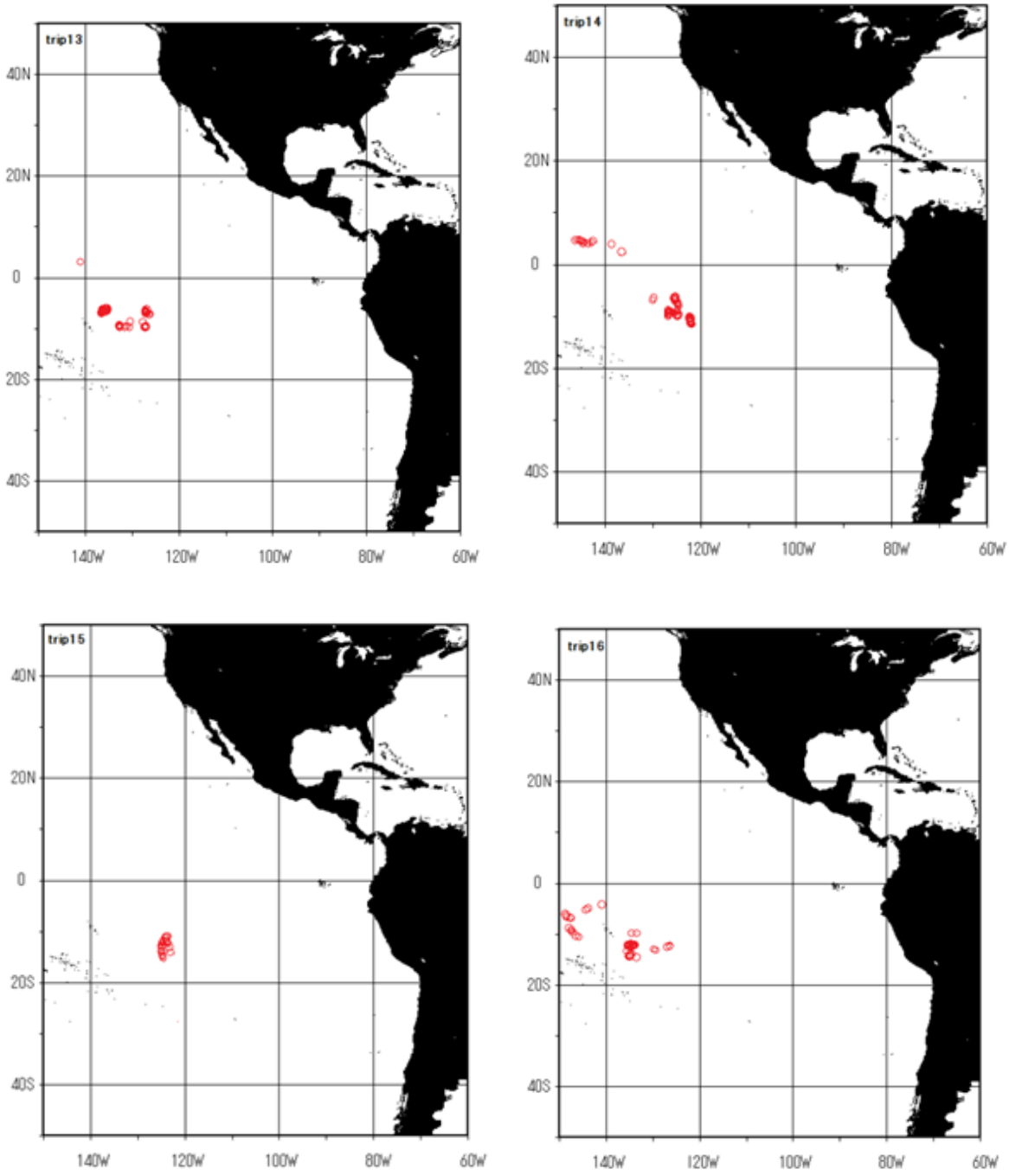
trip13
trip14
trip15
trip16
40N
20N
0
20S
40S
140W
120W
100W
80W
60W

Fig 1. cont.

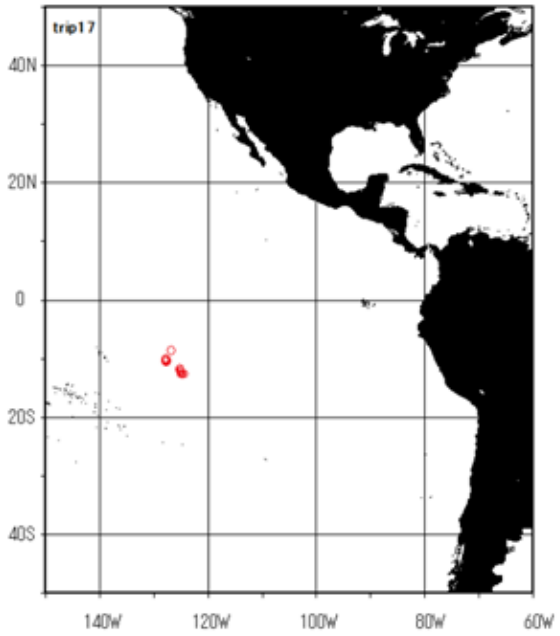

Fig 1. cont.

Acknowledgement

We greatly appreciate all scientific observers for their efforts in order to collect valuable data and samples on the Japanese longline vessels. We would also like to express special thanks to all crews of the longline vessels for their understanding and cooperation to the observer program.