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SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
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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 2015 calendar year (Complete)**

JAPAN

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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 2015 calendar year. In 2015 calendar year, 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 2015 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 coverage

In 2015 calendar year, 17 observer trips were conducted on Japanese tuna longline vessels. Information of those trips is shown in Table 1. The observer coverage in this year was 6.93% (925/13,346) 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 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 2015 calendar year.**

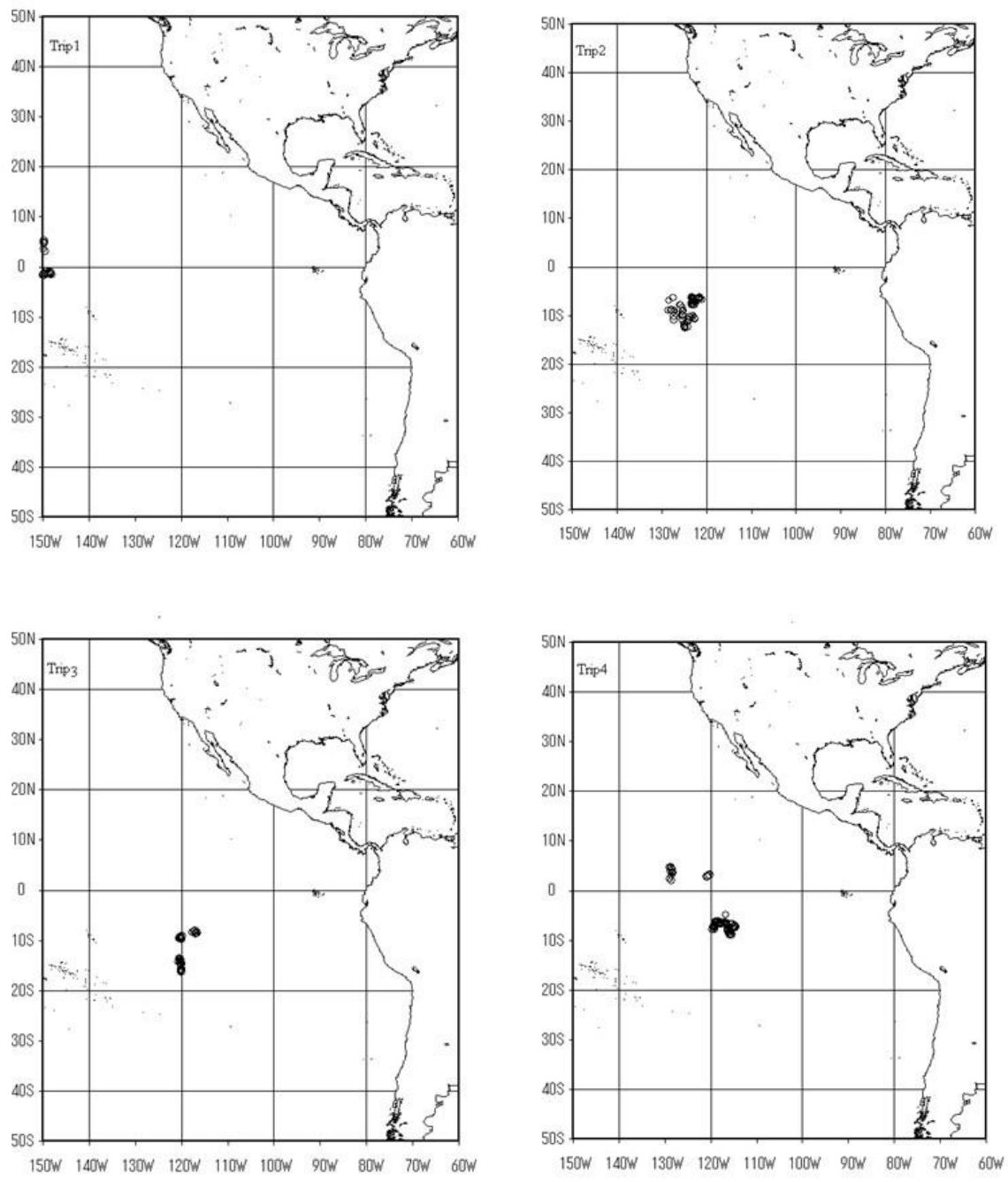
Trip ID	Range of latitude	Range of longitude	Start date of operation	End date of operation	Number of operation	Number of hooks
Trip1	5.4N-1.6S	148.2-150.0W	2015/1/17	2015/2/18	20	28,017
Trip2	6.1-12.5S	121.0-128.6W	2015/1/1	2015/3/25	77	168,420
Trip3	8.0-16.3S	116.7-120.8W	2015/1/1	2015/2/12	39	64,059
Trip4	4.8N-8.8S	114.7-129.0W	2015/2/14	2015/5/8	77	139,089
Trip5	13.0S	110.7W	2015/1/1	2015/1/1	1	2,505
Trip6	8.5-14.0S	106.0-111.4W	2015/1/2	2015/2/7	35	78,029
Trip7	30.0-36.2S	84.0-88.1W	2015/3/13	2015/5/5	52	106,899
Trip8	5.0-2.8N	112.6-132.9W	2015/5/17	2015/6/26	37	59,409
Trip9	8.8-16.6S	121.0-127.0W	2015/7/31	2015/9/9	39	68,670
Trip10	28.4-1.4N	129.2-143.8W	2015/5/13	2015/9/7	106	203,478
Trip11	2.1-8.1S	118.7-136.5W	2015/7/24	2015/9/24	59	148,222
Trip12	5.3N-11.9S	120.2-141.9W	2015/6/17	2015/10/10	110	225,098
Trip13	3.9-13.0S	128.9-145.5W	2015/9/8	2015/12/17	85	161,847
Trip14	6.7-13.6S	108.3-117.0W	2015/9/27	2015/12/24	82	148,682
Trip15	6.0-13.7S	109.3-113.4W	2015/11/28	2015/12/31	30	68,407

Trip16	5.4-14.7S	119.9-126.6W	2015/10/16	2015/12/31	71	144,379
Trip17	14.2-14.4S	109.5W	2015/12/27	2015/12/31	5	11,577
Total	—	—	—	—	925	1,826,787

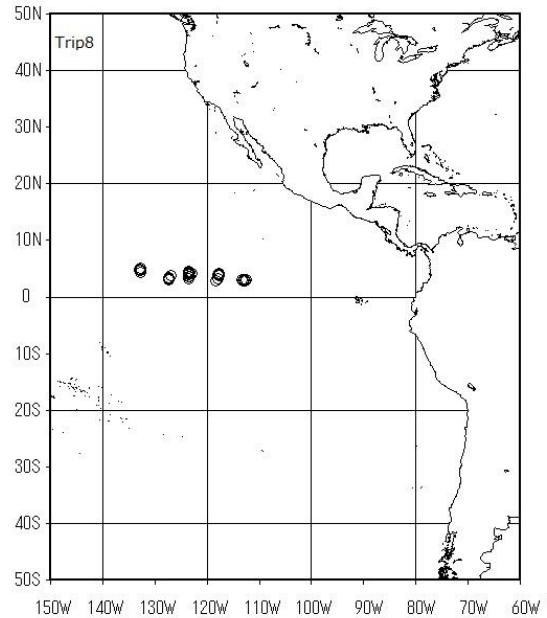
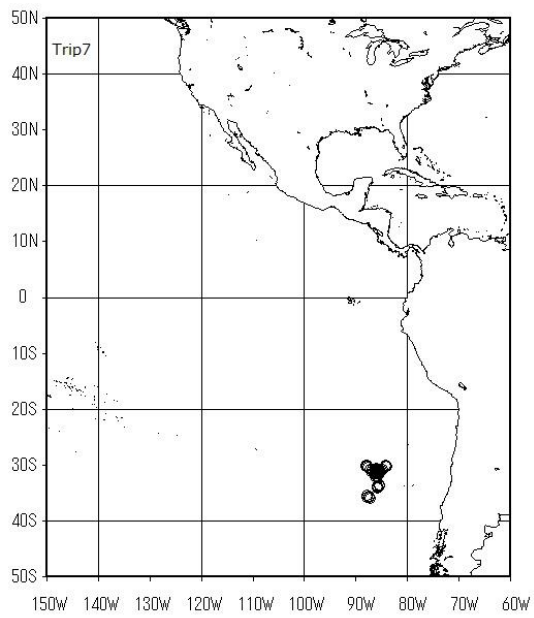
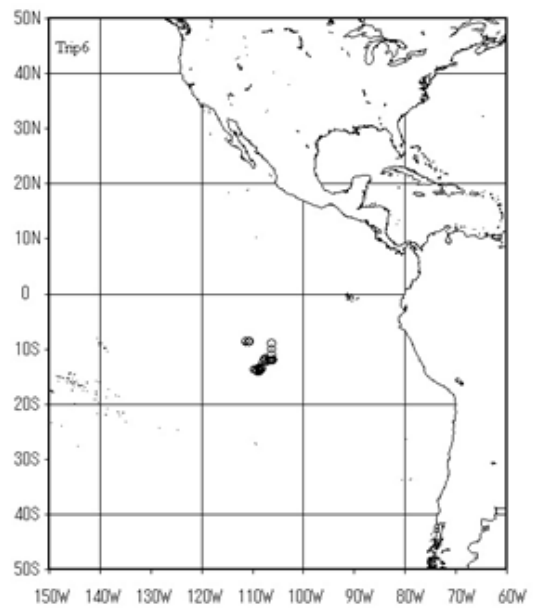
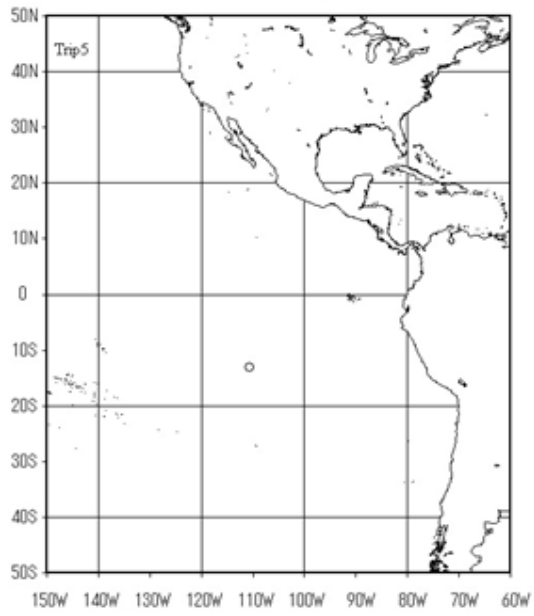
**Table 2. List of species recorded by scientific observer on longline fishery in the Convention Area during 2015 calendar year.**

Cruises	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Species										
Albacore	0	119	106	3	0	0	72	0	340	2
Yellowfin tuna	2	86	52	134	7	106	0	172	228	103
Bigeye tuna	184	832	461	790	6	194	565	364	239	1800
Skipjack tuna	1	32	29	149	1	20	3	3	27	23
Sailfish	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0
Black marlin	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	1
Blue marlin	13	40	15	56	0	11	1	31	9	27
Spearfishes	1	206	8	46	6	187	3	44	90	59
Striped marlin	4	14	3	33	0	8	15	11	20	5
Sword fish	47	294	125	346	4	183	671	63	58	173
Other teleosts	24	381	224	300	36	662	249	134	312	1305
Thresher sharks	3	30	22	43	0	13	1	32	4	18
Shortfin mako	4	0	0	3	0	0	103	0	2	4
Blue shark	17	177	114	153	13	148	335	31	33	89
Oceanic whitetip shark	3	4	0	8	0	0	0	4	1	4
Other Sharks	25	142	71	300	27	290	2	79	50	39
Sting ray	2	104	85	296	6	189	224	90	30	18
Manta rays	0	4	0	9	0	5	0	0	0	0
Other Rays	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea Birds	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Sea Turtles	1	1	0	2	0	0	9	0	0	0
Mammals	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unidentified	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>2480</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>2676</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2255</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>1446</b>	<b>3674</b>

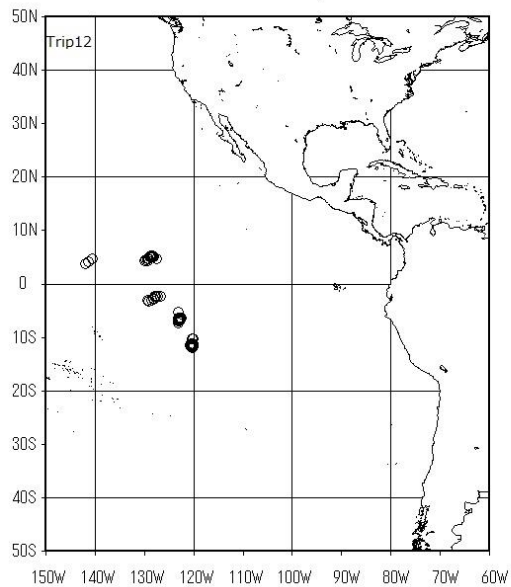
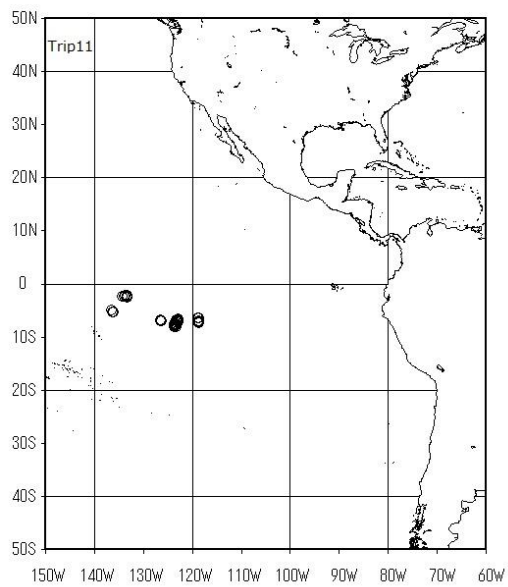
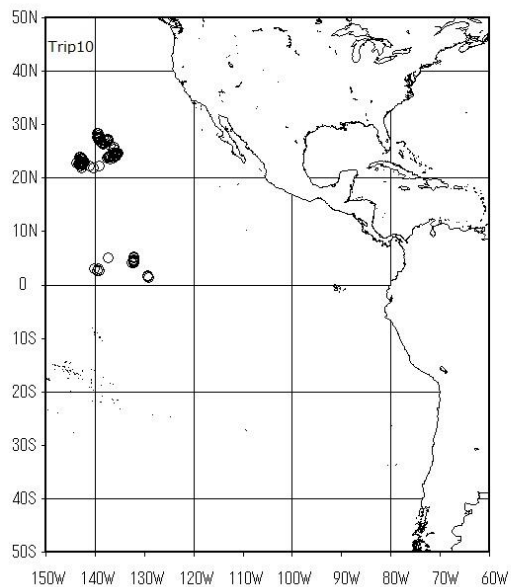
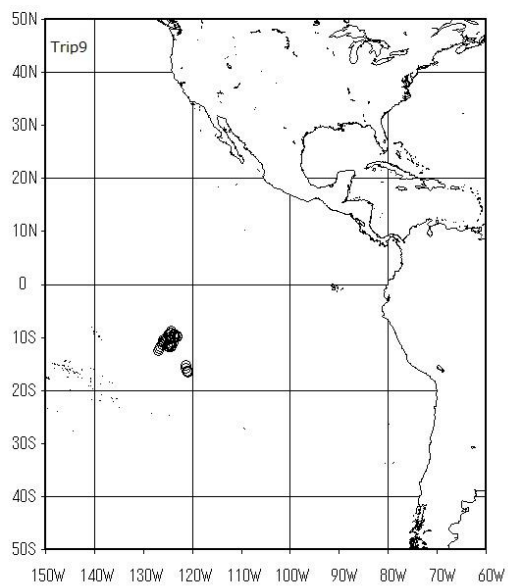
Cruises	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Species								
Albacore	146	105	113	14	1	358	0	1379
Yellowfin tuna	404	400	197	157	78	296	10	2432
Bigeye tuna	784	1460	935	1043	592	1308	42	11599
Skipjack tuna	104	54	0	21	8	41	1	517
Sailfish	1	4	1	0	2	1	0	18
Black marlin	2	2	31	3	0	2	0	47
Blue marlin	96	113	5	41	43	52	4	557
Spearfishes	84	115	8	131	35	70	5	1098
Striped marlin	19	24	14	23	13	15	0	221
Sword fish	279	417	274	362	386	254	20	3956
Other teleosts	966	1289	471	275	295	393	19	7335
Thresher sharks	40	85	26	15	29	13	0	374
Shortfin mako	8	8	5	10	0	2	0	149
Blue shark	107	168	143	121	225	166	9	2049
Oceanic whitetip shark	9	37	1	2	1	2	0	76
Other Sharks	481	306	141	103	309	202	8	2575
Sting ray	145	106	119	77	318	143	4	1956
Manta Raya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Other Rays	5	4	33	1	3	0	0	47
Sea Birds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Sea Turtles	1	1	0	0	34	0	0	49
Mammals	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	12
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3683</b>	<b>4703</b>	<b>2517</b>	<b>2399</b>	<b>2372</b>	<b>3318</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36480</b>



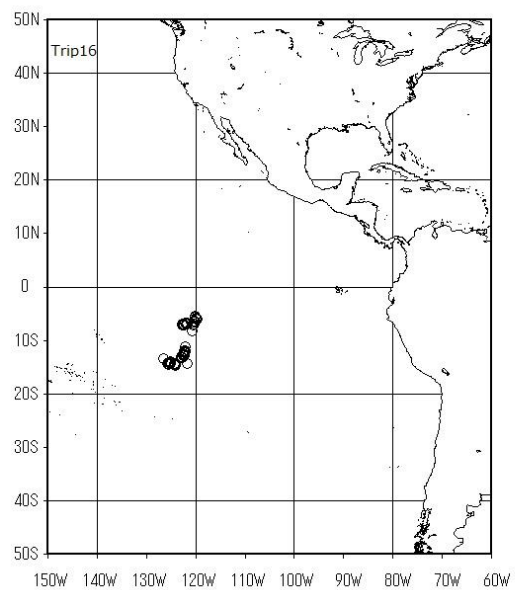
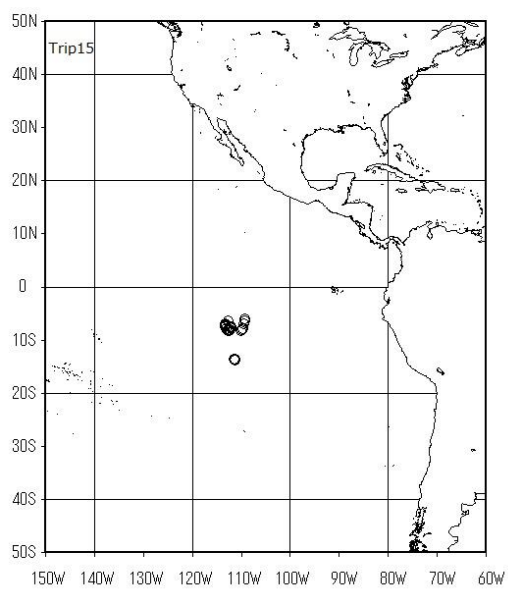
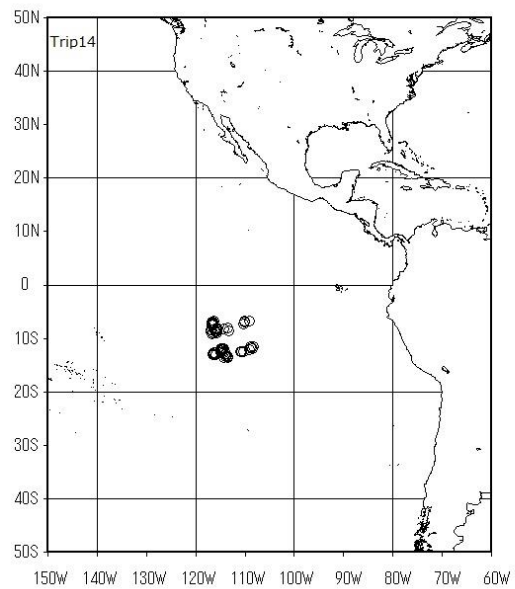
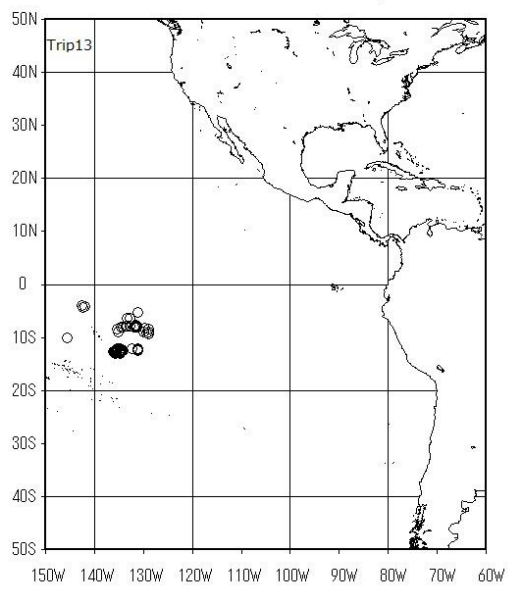
**Fig 1. Line setting locations of Japanese tuna longline for the trips with the scientific observer onboard in the convention areas of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission during 2015 calendar year (Trip 1 to 6).**



**Fig.1 cont.**

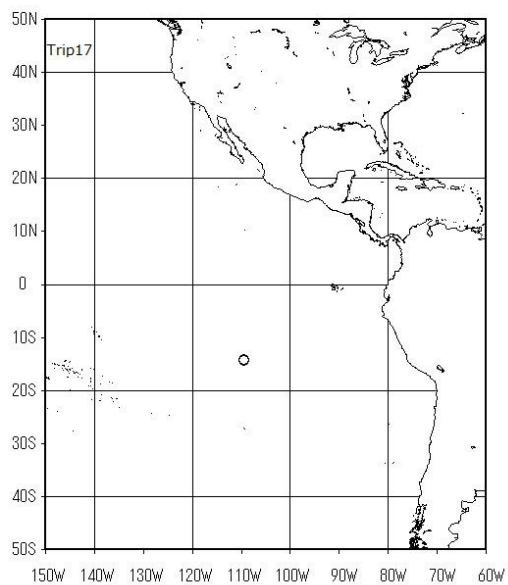


**Fig.1 cont.**



**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.