



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
Sustainable Fisheries Division
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802

April 18, 2022

Jean-François Pulvenis, Acting Executive Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037-1509

Subject: Data Submissions under IATTC Resolutions Related to Elasmobranchs

Dear Mr. Pulvenis:

The United States is submitting this letter and enclosed report on information for calendar year 2021, pursuant to the following IATTC resolutions:

- Resolution C-05-03: *Resolution on the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean*
- Resolution C-11-10: *Resolution on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area*
- Resolution C-15-04: *Resolution on the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IATTC Convention Area*
- Resolution C-16-05: *Resolution on the Management of Shark Species*
- Resolution C-21-06: *Conservation Measures for Shark Species, with Special Emphasis on the Silky Shark, for the Years 2022 and 2023*

Please contact William Stahnke at (562) 980-4088 or william.stahnke@noaa.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lyle Enriquez
Highly Migratory Species Branch Chief

cc: David Hogan, Department of State
William Fox, Jr., U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Ryan J. Wulff, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Mike Thompson, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
John Zuanich, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Administrative File: 150413SWR2013SF00273:WJS

Enclosure



This report contains information for U.S. deep-set and shallow-set longline fisheries relevant to the respective Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) elasmobranch resolutions (C-05-03, C-11-10, C-15-04, C-16-05, C-21-06). The IATTC maintains all observer information for U.S. purse seine vessels and as such already has access to reports of observed interactions with mobulids, oceanic white tip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), and hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna spp.*) caught in that fishery.

C-11-10

In 2021, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) observers recorded thirteen oceanic whitetip sharks caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). One was returned dead and twelve were returned alive.

C-15-04

In 2021, NMFS observers recorded four mobulid rays caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels in the EPO. All were returned alive.

C-16-05

In 2021, NMFS observers recorded twelve silky sharks caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels in the EPO. Eleven were returned alive, and one was returned dead. During the same period, one silky shark was observed caught by a U.S. shallow-set longline vessel. This shark was returned dead.

In 2021, NMFS observers recorded one smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels in the EPO. This shark was returned alive.

C-21-06

The U.S. observer program does not collect weight data and only opportunistically collects lengths of individual fish. As such, we cannot report on the percent by weight of silky sharks caught during trips with total lengths <100 cm. However, below are the percentages of silky sharks observed caught (regardless of size) by number of individual fish caught by trip.

As mentioned above under C-16-05, in 2021, thirteen silky sharks were observed caught in one shallow set and seven deep-set longline trips (Table 1).

Table 1. Total numbers of silky shark caught on each trip in 2021, expressed as a percentage of total catch by number of individuals.

Trip Number in 2021	Total EPO fish caught on trip	Total EPO silky sharks caught on trip	Percentage of silky shark catch for trip
1 (shallow set)	588	1	0.2%
2 (deep set)	307	5	1.6%
3 (deep set)	1103	2	0.2%
4 (deep set)	1077	1	0.1%
5 (deep set)	370	1	0.3%
6 (deep set)	1122	1	0.1%
7 (deep set)	479	1	0.2%
8 (deep set)	200	1	0.5%



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April 1, 2021

Jean-François Pulvenis, Acting Executive Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037-1508

Subject: Data Submissions under Resolutions Related to Elasmobranchs

Dear Mr. Pulvenis:

The United States is submitting this letter and enclosed report on calendar year 2020 information pursuant to the following IATTC resolutions:

- Resolution C-05-03: *Resolution on the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean*
- Resolution C-11-10: *Resolution on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area*
- Resolution C-15-04: *Resolution on the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IATTC Convention Area*
- Resolution C-16-05: *Resolution on the Management of Shark Species*
- Resolution C-16-06: *Conservation Measures for Shark Species, with Special Emphasis on the Silky Shark, for the Years 2017, 2018, and 2019*

Please contact William Stahnke at (562) 980-4088 or william.stahnke@noaa.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lyle Enriquez
Highly Migratory Species Branch Chief

cc: David Hogan, Department of State
William Fox, Jr., U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Ryan J. Wulff, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Mike Thompson, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
John Zuanich, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Administrative File: 150413SWR2013SF00273:WJS

Enclosure



Below is relevant information for U.S. deep-set and shallow-set longline fisheries under the respective elasmobranch resolutions. The IATTC maintains all observer information for U.S. purse seine vessels and as such already has access to reports of observed interactions with mobulids, oceanic white tip sharks, silky sharks, and hammerhead sharks caught in that fishery.

C-11-10

In 2020, NMFS observers recorded five oceanic whitetip sharks caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). One was returned dead and four were returned alive.

C-15-04

In 2020, NMFS observers recorded no catches of mobulid rays in the U.S. deep-set longline fishery in the EPO.

C-16-05

In 2020, NMFS observers recorded nine silky sharks caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the EPO. Two were returned alive, one returned alive in good condition, and six were returned dead.

In 2020, NMFS observers recorded two hammerhead (smooth hammerhead) sharks caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the EPO. One was returned alive and one was returned dead.

C-16-06

The U.S. observer program does not collect weights and only opportunistically collects lengths of individual fish, and as such cannot report on the percent by weight of silky sharks caught during trips with total lengths <100 cm. However, below are the percentages of silky sharks observed caught (regardless of size) by number of individual fish caught by trip.

As mentioned under C-16-05, in 2020, nine silky sharks were observed caught in three deep-set longline trips (Table 1).

Table 1. Total numbers of silky shark caught on each trip, expressed as a percentage of total catch by number of individuals.

Trip Number in 2020	Total number of fish caught on trip	Total number of silky sharks caught on trip	Percentage of silky shark catch for trip, by number
1	1046	7	0.67%
2	881	1	0.11%
3	1218	1	0.08%

**[U.S. Annual Report 2019
Resolution C-15-04
Mobulid rays]**

Below is relevant information for U.S. deep-set and shallow-set longline fisheries under the respective elasmobranch resolutions. The IATTC maintains all observer information for U.S. purse seine vessels and as such already has access to reports of observed interactions with mobulids, oceanic white tip sharks, silky sharks, and hammerhead sharks caught in that fishery.

[...]

C-15-04

In 2019, NMFS observers recorded five mobulid rays caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the EPO. All were returned alive.

[...]



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150413SWR2013SF00273:TD

Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92037-1508

Re: Observed oceanic whitetip shark and mobulid interactions with U.S. vessels

Dear Dr. Compeán:

This letter is submitted pursuant to Resolution C-11-10: *Resolution on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area* and Resolution C-15-04: *Resolution on the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IATTC Convention Area*.

In 2016, there were three observed oceanic whitetip shark interactions with U.S. longline vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) recorded by NMFS observers. All were observed with deep-set longline gear. Two of the sharks were released alive and one was released dead. In 2017, there were 13 observed oceanic whitetip shark interactions with U.S. longline vessels fishing in the EPO recorded by NMFS observers. All were observed in deep-set longline gear. Ten were released alive and three were released dead.

In 2017, there were three observed mobulid interactions with U.S. longline vessels fishing in the EPO recorded by NMFS observers. All were observed in deep-set longline gear and all were released alive.

The IATTC maintains all observer information for U.S. purse seine vessels and as such already has access to observed interactions with oceanic white tips and mobulids in that fishery.

Please contact Taylor Debevec at 562-980-4066 or Taylor.Debevec@noaa.gov if there are any questions regarding the United States' reporting under Resolutions C-11-10 or C-15-04.

Sincerely,

Heidi Taylor
Highly Migratory Species Branch Chief



cc: **Barry Thom, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC**
David Hogan, Department of State
Ryan J. Wulff, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
William Fox, Jr., U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Mike Thompson, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Edward Weissman, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
John Kelly, NMFS, Pacific Islands Regional Office

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