

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SIXTH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

11-15 May 2015

DOCUMENT SAC-06 INF-G

**UNITED STATES SUMMARY OF 2014 OBSERVER DATA PER
RESOLUTION C-11-08: RESOLUTION ON SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS
FOR LONGLINE VESSELS**

This summary is submitted pursuant to Resolution C-11-08, *Resolution on Scientific Observers for Longline Vessels*. Through an amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, scientific observers are required on 100 percent of all shallow-set longline (targeting swordfish) trips and at least 20 percent of all deep-set longline (targeting bigeye tuna) trips. The observer data in this report contains only data from longline vessels based in Hawaii, which comprises over 99 percent of the U.S. pelagic longline fleet. The tables below are summaries of observer data for sets that occurred in the IATTC Convention Area in 2014 (based on begin-set position and haul date, respectively).

Sets (i.e., fishing days)

A total of 690 shallow sets occurred in the IATTC Convention Area. Each set is effectively one fishing day, with a single set typically completed within 24 hours of starting. One-hundred percent of shallow sets (fishing days) in the IATTC Convention Area were observed. The total number of deep sets and the percent of deep sets observed are not available at this time, but will be updated upon receipt.

Sea Turtle Release

United States regulations require fishermen to release all sea turtles, alive or dead. There is no record of fishermen not complying with these regulations in 2014.

Hook Type and Quantity

Both the shallow-set and deep-set longline fisheries used the following hook types:

1. Offset round circle: a hook with the point or point and barb that curves towards the shank, but is also bent so that the point and shank do not lay in the same plane. The hook has no flat edges along its shank.
2. Offset flat circle: a hook with the point or point and barb that curves towards the shank, but is also bent so that the point and shank do not lay in the same plane. The hook will have, at least, some portion of its shank flattened.

The number of hooks per set in the shallow-set longline fishery ranged in quantity from 225 to 1,520 hooks per set, in 2014. The number of hooks per set in the deep-set longline fishery ranged from 110 to 4,224 in 2014.

Catch Species Composition

Below are tables summarizing the species composition of animals caught in shallow-set and deep-set longline fisheries (Tables 1 to 6). A total of 20,872 and 42,937 individual fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds were observed caught in 2014 in the shallow-set and deep-set longline fisheries, respectively.

Table 1. Number of individual fish, except sharks, billfish, and rays, observed caught by the United States shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2014.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
Lancetfish, Longnose	1,670
Dolphinfish	1,613
Escolar	856
Tuna, Bigeye	580
Tuna, Albacore	577
Opah	540
Oilfish	366
Pomfret, Brama spp.	342
Bony Fish, Unidentified	67
Snake Mackerel	55
Pomfret, Sickle	52
Mola, Common	42
Ribbonfish, Tapertail	31
Tuna, Yellowfin	18
Tuna, Skipjack	9
Wahoo	9
Pomfret, Dagger	8
Tuna, Unidentified	7
Pomfret, Rough	3
Bony Fish, Other Identified	2
Mola, Sharptail	2
Yellowtail	2
Cigarfishes	1
Crestfish	1
Pomfret, Pacific	1
Ribbonfish, Scalloped	1
Tuna, Bluefin	1
TOTAL	6,856

Table 2. Number of individual fish, except sharks, billfish, and rays, observed caught by the United States deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2014. The total is presented at the bottom of the right column.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.	Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
Lancetfish, Longnose	11,999	Dolphinfish, Pompano	10
Tuna, Bigeye	10,216	Hammerjaw	10
Dolphinfish	4,885	Fanfishes	9
Snake Mackerel	3,490	Mola, Common	8
Pomfret, Sickie	3,242	Puffer, Pelagic	6
Opah	2,209	Bony Fish, Other Identified	5
Escolar	1,163	Crestfish	3
Wahoo	475	Mola, Sharptail	3
Tuna, Skipjack	347	Puffer, Unidentified	2
Pomfret, Dagger	292	Ribbonfish, Scalloped	2
Oilfish	162	Cigarfishes	1
Tuna, Yellowfin	156	Mola, Slender	1
Pomfret, Bramble	90	Needle Fish, Gaping	1
Tuna, Unidentified	76	Pomfret, Lustrous	1
Escolar, Longfin	67	Remora/Suckerfish	1
Pomfret, Rough	45	Scabbardfish, Razorback	1
Bony Fish, Unidentified	34	Swallowers	1
Tuna, Albacore	24	Triggerfish, Rough	1
Gemfish, Black	15	TOTAL	39,053

Table 3. Number of individual sharks, rays, and billfish observed caught by the United States shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2014.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Shark, Blue	5,109
Shark, Shortfin Mako	1,035
Shark, Unidentified	39
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	34
Shark, Unid. Thresher	9
Shark, Salmon	6
Shark, Common Thresher	6
Dogfishes, Deepwater	2
Shark, Longfin Mako	2
Whale Shark	1
Shark, Unid. Mako	1
TOTAL	6,244
<i>Rays</i>	
Stingray, Pelagic	260
TOTAL	260
<i>Billfish</i>	
Swordfish	7,320
Spearfish, Shortbill	117
Marlin, Striped	31
Billfish, Unidentified	2
TOTAL	7,470

Table 4. Number of individual sharks, rays, and billfish observed caught by the United States deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2014.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Shark, Blue	2,225
Shark, Shortfin Mako	151
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	91
Shark, Unidentified	33
Dogfishes, Deepwater	28
Shark, Unid. Thresher	13
Shark, Longfin Mako	6
Shark, Oceanic White-Tip	3
Shark, Silky	3
Shark, Unid. Mako	3
Shark, Pelagic Thresher	2
Shark, Smooth Hammerhead	1
TOTAL	2,559
<i>Rays</i>	
Stingray, Pelagic	90
Mobula (Devil Ray)	1
TOTAL	91
<i>Billfish</i>	
Spearfish, Shortbill	428
Marlin, Striped	380
Swordfish	312
Marlin, Blue	74
Sailfish	19
Billfish, Unidentified	12
Marlin, Black	2
TOTAL	1,227

Table 5. Number of individual marine mammals, seabirds, and sea turtles observed caught by the United States shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2014.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Dolphin, Risso's	5
Dolphin, Striped	2
Dolphin, Short-beaked Common	1
Sea Lion, Unidentified	1
Seal, Northern Elephant	1
Dolphin, Bottlenose	1
TOTAL	11
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Laysan	8
Albatross, Black-footed	8
TOTAL	16
<i>Sea Turtles</i>	
Turtle, Loggerhead	9
Turtle, Leatherback	4
Turtle, Olive Ridley	1
Turtle, Unid. Hardshell	1
TOTAL	15

Table 6. Number of individual marine mammals and seabirds observed caught by the United States deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2014; no sea turtles were observed caught.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Whale, False Killer	2
TOTAL	2
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Black-footed	5
TOTAL	5