

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**FIFTH MEETING**

**La Jolla, California (USA)**

**12-16 May 2014**

**DOCUMENT SAC-05-INF H**

**2013 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER REPORT OF  
KOREAN TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY IN THE IATTC  
CONVENTION AREA**

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI)

2016 216 Gijang-Haeanro, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan 619-705, Republic of Korea

**Summary**

Following Korean National Scientific Observer Program, one observer had deployed to monitor Korean tuna longline vessel on fishing activities and collect the data on catch, effort, discards and other relevant scientific information in the IATTC convention area, 2013. The vessel operated 124 sets during 132 days, and total catch was 6,821 kg, of which target species were bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna.

**Observer tasks**

The observer tasks are basically 1) recording and reporting fishing activities, verifying positions of the vessel, 2) observing and estimating catches as far as possible with a view to identifying catch composition and monitoring discards, by-catch and size frequency, 3) recording the gear type, mesh size and attachments employed by the master, 4) collecting information to enable the cross-checking entries made to the logbooks (species composition and quantities, live and processed weight and location, where available), 5) carrying out other scientific works.

**Vessel details**

The information on fishing vessel observed by Korean observer program in 2013 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Vessel specific details of Korean tuna longline fishery for observer trip in the IATTC convention area, 2013

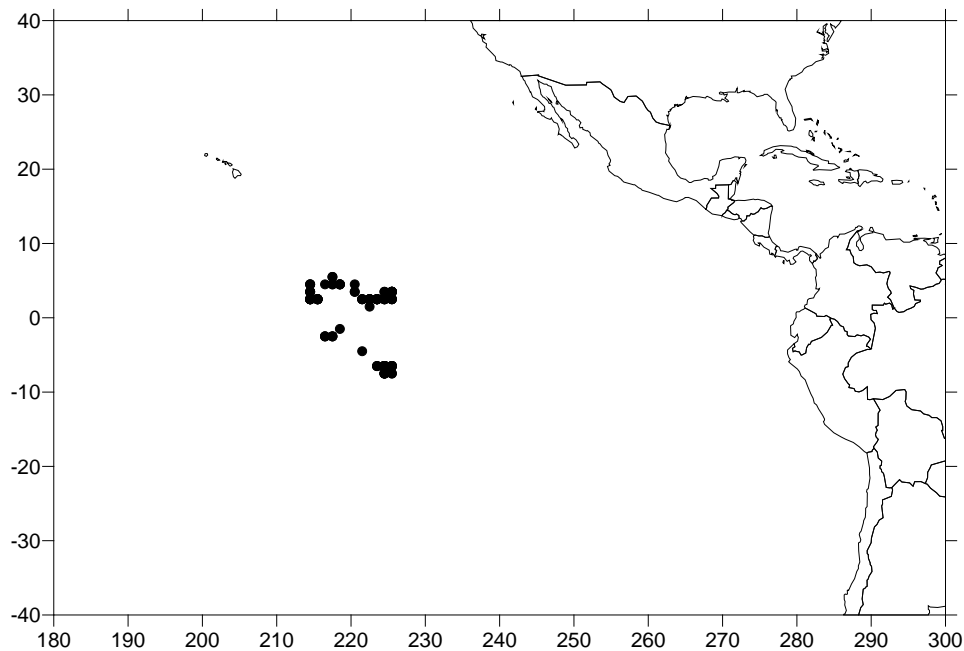
Flag state	Vessel name	Radio callsign	Gross tonnage	Length overall (m)
Rep. of Korea	No. 202 Daehwa	6MSA	416	56.07

## Fishing operations

In 2013, Korean had deployed one observer on longline vessel operating in the IATTC convention area. He observed the effort of  $259 \times 10^3$  hooks in 124 sets during 132 days (Table 2). The observed area during this trip was between 134-145°W of 5°N-7°S, which is shown in Fig. 1. As the total fishing effort of Korean tuna longline fishing vessels in 2013 has not been estimated, the observer coverage will provide to the IATTC Secretariat after completing.

**Table 2.** Information on observer trip of Korean tuna longline fishery in the IATTC convention area, 2013

Trips observed	Observation period	Sets observed	Effort observed
1	Jan. 17-May 28	124	259,386



**Fig. 1.** Fishing positions of Korean tuna longline vessel during observer trip in the IATTC convention area, 2013.

## Catch observed and species composition

Table 3 shows total catch, including discards/releasing, recorded during this observer trip in the IATTC convention area. During this trip, 3 individuals of marine turtle which belongs to one species were bycaught, and no seabird was bycaught.

## Biological data collected

All the species, if possible, were measured and weighted on board. Some species were observed on stomach content and gonads

## Tagging

During this observer trip, 5 individuals of bigeye tuna tagged were recaptured and 19 individuals which were 18 bigeye tunas and 1 yellowfin tuna were released for tagging

**Table 3.** Total catch by species recorded during observer trip in the IATTC convention area, 2013

Group	Species	Individual	Weight (kg)
Tunas	Bigeye tuna	1,455	81,475
	Yellowfin tuna	196	7,596
	Albacore tuna	6	101
	Other tunas	66	698
Billfishes	Swordfish	220	11,836
	Blue marlin	71	6,184
	Striped marlin	14	595
	Sailfish	1	18
	Other billfishes	53	587
Other fishes	Fishes	563	3,719
Sharks	Blue shark	15	274
	Silky shark	12	246
	Pelagic thresher shark	2	-
	Bigeye thresher shark	56	1,923
	Smooth hammerhead shark	1	32
	Scalloped hammerhead shark	3	140
	Shortfin mako shark	8	46
	Oceanic whitetip shark	14	-
	Other sharks	218	441
Sea turtle	Olive ridley sea turtle	3	-
Total		2,977	115,911