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**CPC OBSERVER ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013 IN THE
IATTC CONVENTION AREA**

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1. TRIP DESCRIPTION

Longline is the only fishing activity for tuna of Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO. For the year 2013, China conducted five longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (east of 150°W). So far, all the five observer trips have been completed. On average, 116 fishing days were observed for each trip (**Table 1**). The observer trips were mostly carried out in the second half year. This is the period that Chinese observers are suitable to be sent out due to the availability of such observers. Among the observer trips in 2013, three trips (Trips 2-4) are shared with those for the WCPFC area (west of 150°W), i.e. the same observer with the same longline vessel did observations across the boundary of longitude line 150°W. Therefore, the observed data were separated accordingly.

The observed set stations for each trip are shown in **Figures 1-5**. Each trip was carried out by different longline vessels and observers. Among the five trips, the Trips 1, 2, and 5 were operated targeting albacore, and trips 3 and 4 were operated targeting bigeye tuna.

Table 1. Information of Chinese LL observer trips in the IATTC area in 2013

Trips	Observed fishing days	Observed hooks	Observation period	Observation area
No.1	100	243,796	Oct 18 - Jan 25	09-19° S, 128-135° W
No.2	127	344,888	Sep 15 - Jan 19	13-31° S, 120-147° W
No.3	123	238,533	Sep 03 - Jan 03	03-14° S, 128-148° W
No.4	110	213,520	Sep 15 - Jan 02	07-11° S, 145-149° W
No.5	121	271,601	Sep 20 - Jan 08	15-21° S, 104-132° W
Total	581	1,312,338		

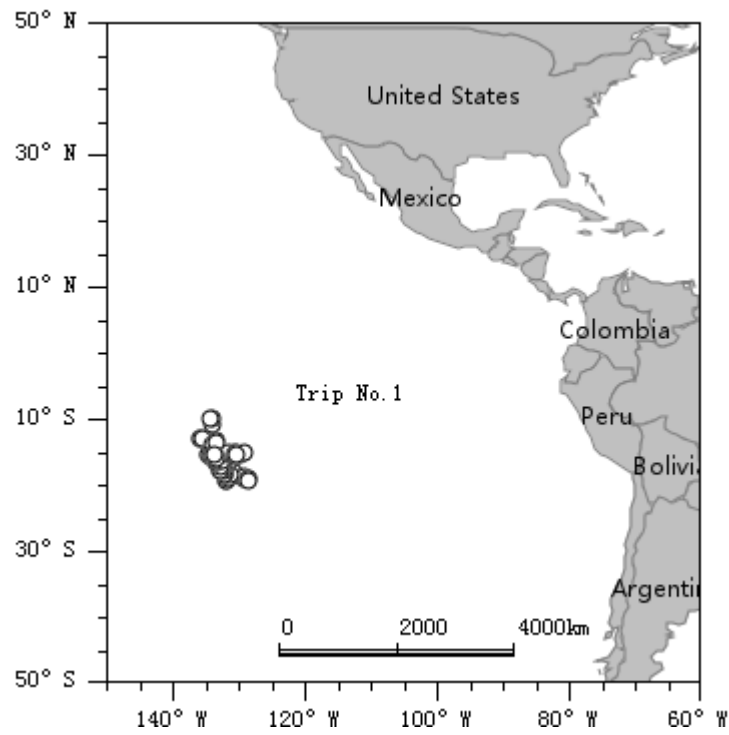


FIGURE 1. Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 1 in 2013

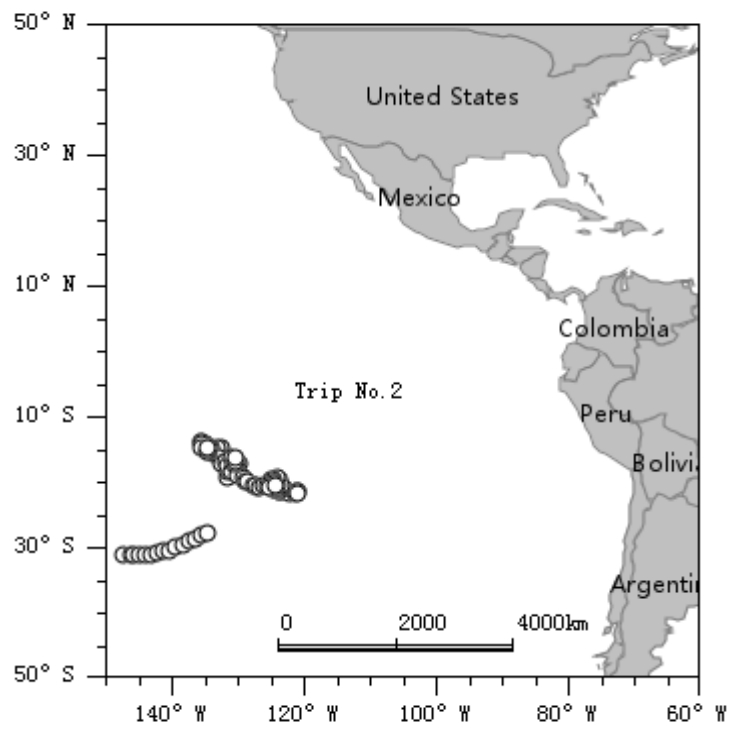


FIGURE 2. Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 2 in 2013

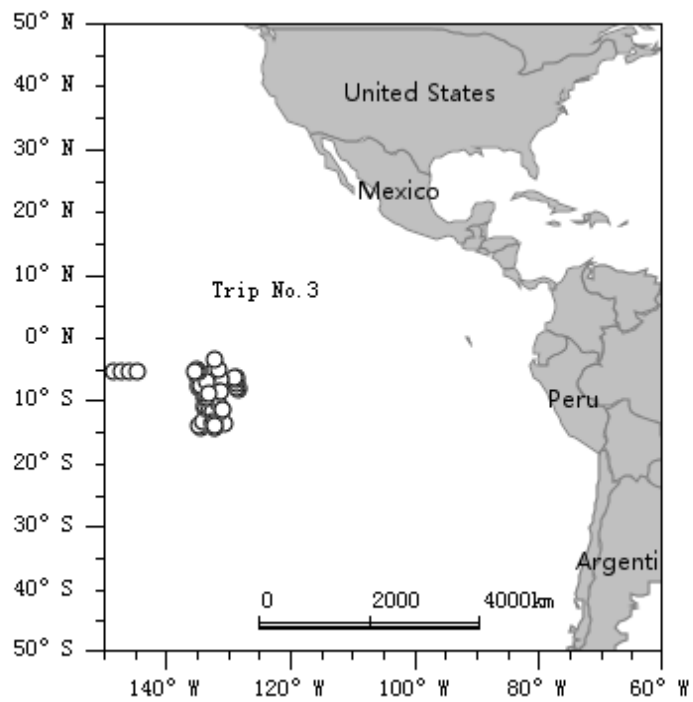


FIGURE 3. Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 3 in 2013

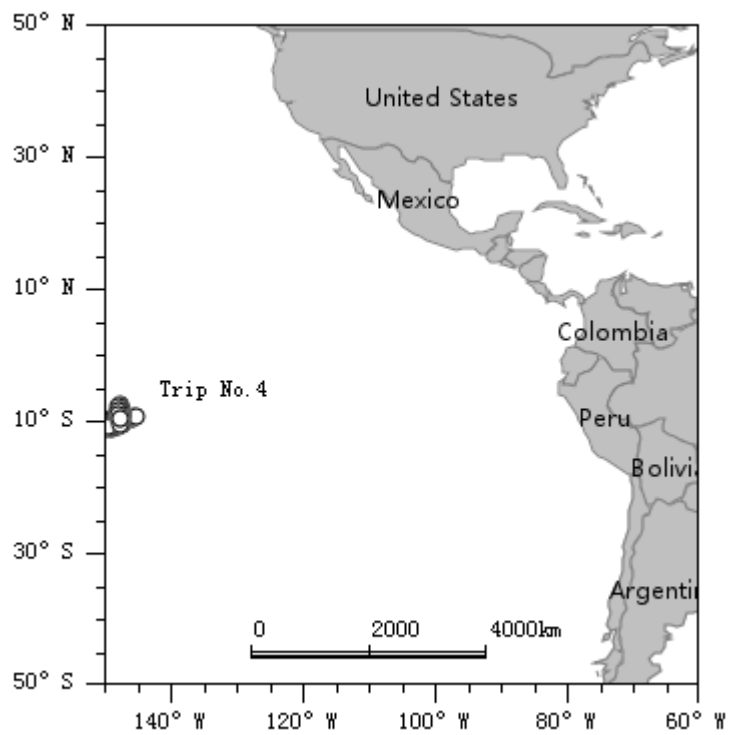


FIGURE 4. Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 4 in 2013

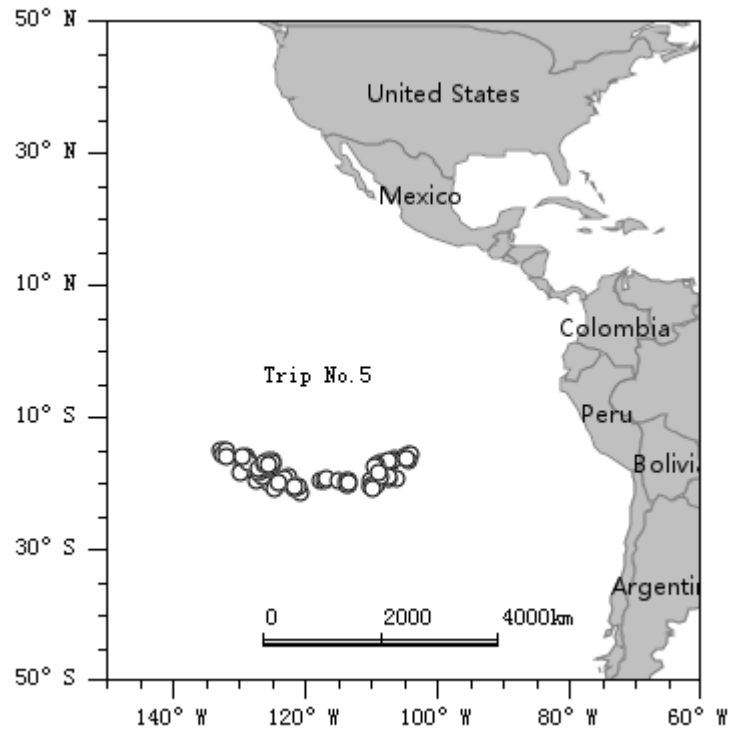


FIGURE 5. Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 5 in 2013

2. OBSERVER COVERAGE

Because the total fishing effort of China for the fishing year 2013 has not been estimated by now, the observer coverage with fishing days will not be calculated till the fishery data compilation for the year 2013 is completed. Furthermore, deployed hooks, instead of fishing days, are generally reported as fishing effort in longline fishery statistics; therefore it will take more time to estimate fishing days. For the coming years, it is suggested that this observer annual report be submitted by the same deadline with fishery data.

3. TOTAL CATCH AND CATCH COMPOSITION

For each trip, the onboard observer recorded effort (hooks), catch by species, and size composition by species for all the target and bycatch species including sharks, sea turtles and birds. Gender and other biological information (e.g., maturity) were also examined for randomly sampled individuals. The proportion of baskets observed for each set was about 70-90%, due to long hauling time.

The total catches in number during observation for each trip, including target and bycatch species, are listed in **Tables 2-6**.

Only two Leather back turtles were incidentally captured in one trip (i.e. Trip 3) during the 5 trips. The turtles were released carefully based on Sea Turtle Handle Guideline distributed among the fleet. No seabirds were captured in any of the trips.

Oceanic whitetip sharks were released or discarded as soon as possible when they are incidentally caught.

Table 2. Observed catch and composition during observer trip No.1

Species	Observed catch in number	Percentage
Bigeye tuna	240	5.4
Yellowfin tuna	147	3.3
Albacore*	3129	70.9
Skipjack	127	2.9
Blue marlin	5	0.1
Striped marlin	8	0.2
Black marlin	24	0.5
Swordfish	45	1.0
Shortbill spearfish	78	1.8
Oceanic whitetip shark	2	0.0
Blue shark	64	1.4
Shortfin mako	2	0.0
Cookiecutter shark	1	0.0
Scalloped hammerhead	1	0.0
Rays	43	1.0
Sea turtles	0	0.0
Sea birds	0	0.0
Others	498	11.3
Total	4414	100.0

Note: * indicate target species

Table 3. Observed catch and composition during observer trip No.2

Species	Observed catch in number	Percentage
Bigeye tuna	129	1.8
Yellowfin tuna	39	0.5
Albacore*	5115	70.4
Skipjack	109	1.5
Blue marlin	23	0.3
Striped marlin	12	0.2
Black marlin	8	0.1
Swordfish	23	0.3
Shortbill spearfish	124	1.7
Oceanic whitetip shark	4	0.1
Silky shark	2	0.0
Blue shark	15	0.2
Shortfin mako	6	0.1
Crocodile shark	1	0.0
Scalloped hammerhead	1	0.0
Great hammerhead	1	0.0
Common thresher	1	0.0
Rays	32	0.4
Sea turtles	0	0.0
Sea birds	0	0.0
Others	1621	22.3
Total	7266	100.0

Note: * indicate target species

Table 4. Observed catch and composition during observer trip No.3

Species	Observed catch in number	Percentage
Bigeye tuna*	534	19.3
Yellowfin tuna	105	3.8
Albacore	263	9.5
Skipjack	62	2.2
Blue marlin	10	0.4
Striped marlin	9	0.3
Swordfish	229	8.3
Shortbill spearfish	192	6.9
Oceanic whitetip shark	31	1.1
Silky shark	2	0.1
Blue shark	151	5.5
Shortfin mako	3	0.1
Longfin mako	5	0.2
Bigeye thresher	122	4.4
Crocodile shark	63	2.3
Velvet dogfish	2	0.1
Scalloped hammerhead	1	0.0
Rays	103	3.7
Leatherback turtle	2	0.1
Seabirds	0	0.0
Others	878	31.7
Total	2767	100.0

Note: * indicate target species

Table 5. Observed catch and composition during observer trip No.4

Species	Observed catch in number	Percentage
Bigeye tuna*	1353	31.1
Yellowfin tuna	219	5.0
Albacore	91	2.1
Skipjack	6	0.1
Blue marlin	138	3.2
Striped marlin	30	0.7
Swordfish	174	4.0
Sailfish	5	0.1
Shortbill spearfish	18	0.4
Oceanic whitetip shark	3	0.1
Silky shark	11	0.3
Blue shark	88	2.0
Shortfin mako	2	0.0
Longfin mako	5	0.1
Bigeye thresher	24	0.6
Crocodile shark	9	0.2
Rays	2	0.0
Sea turtles	0	0.0
Sea birds	0	0.0
Others	2178	50.0
Total	4356	100.0

Note: * indicate target species

Table 6. Observed catch and composition during observer trip No.5

Species	Observed catch in number	Percentage
Bigeye tuna	347	4.5
Yellowfin tuna	131	1.7
Albacore*	4421	57.3
Skipjack	101	1.3
Blue marlin	14	0.2
Striped marlin	116	1.5
Swordfish	44	0.6
Shortbill spearfish	227	2.9
Oceanic whitetip shark	1	0.0
Blue shark	53	0.7
Shortfin mako	10	0.1
Crocodile shark	7	0.1
Rays	97	1.3
Sea turtles	0	0.0
Sea birds	0	0.0
Others	2148	27.8
Total	7717	100.0

Note: * indicate target species