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UNITED STATES SUMMARY OF 2013 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 based on haul date (i.e., sets which were hauled in 2013 are included in this report).

Sets (i.e., fishing days)

A total of 527 shallow sets and 3,975 deep 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) and approximately 22.7 percent of deep sets in the IATTC Convention Area were observed.

Sea Turtle Release

United States regulations require fishers to release all sea turtles, alive or dead. There is no record of fishers not complying with these regulations in 2013.

Hook Type and Quantity

The shallow-set longline fishery used the following hook types, which ranged in quantity from 670 to 1504 hooks per set, in 2013:

1. Offset 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 deep-set longline fishery, in addition to those hook types mentioned above, used offset tuna hooks (a tuna hook with the point bent out of line with the shank). The number of hooks per set ranged from 128 to 3,697 (128 hooks in a set was an outlier and the next lowest quantity of hooks per set was 1,124).

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 12,572 and 45,763 individual fish, marine mammals, sea turtles or seabirds were observed caught in 2013 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 2013.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
Lancetfish, Longnose	862
Escolar	397
Tuna, Albacore	344
Oilfish	263
Opah	246
Dolphinfish	238
Pomfret, Brama spp.	159
Tuna, Bigeye	104
Mola, Common	36
Pomfret, Sickle	35
Ribbonfish, Tapertail	21
Bony Fish, Unidentified	10
Snake Mackerel	6
Tuna, Skipjack	6
Pomfret, Dagger	3
Tuna, Bluefin	3
Mola, Sharptail	2
Tuna, Unidentified	2
Bony Fish, Other Identified	1
Crestfish	1
Wahoo	1
TOTAL	2740

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 2013. 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	14300	Bony Fish, Other Identified	20
Tuna, Bigeye	10493	Bony Fish, Unidentified	15
Dolphinfish	4271	Hammerjaw	14
Snake Mackerel	3705	Crestfish	7
Pomfret, Sickle	2950	Gemfish, Black	6
Opah	2360	Puffer, Pelagic	6
Escolar	1494	Escolar, Roudi's	4
Tuna, Albacore	783	Ribbonfish, Tapertail	4
Tuna, Skipjack	604	Scabbardfish, Razorback	4
Pomfret, Dagger	272	Cigarfishes	3
Wahoo	207	Mola, Common	3
Tuna, Yellowfin	121	Pomfret, Lustrous	3
Dolphinfish, Pompano	88	Mola, Sharptail	2
Escolar, Longfin	78	Kahala, Unspecified (Amberjacks)	1
Pomfret, Brama spp.	76	Lancetfish, Shortnose	1
Tuna, Unidentified	65	Ribbonfish, Scalloped	1
Pomfret, Rough	47	Yellowtail	1
Oilfish	34	TOTAL	42042

Table 3. Number of individual sharks, billfish, and rays observed caught by the United States shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2013.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Shark, Blue	2604
Shark, Shortfin Mako	783
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	29
Shark, Unidentified	14
Shark, Salmon	5
Shark, Unid. Mako	5
Shark, Unid. Thresher	5
Shark, Common Thresher	2
Dogfishes, Deepwater	1
Shark, Cookie Cutter	1
Shark, Crocodile	1
Shark, Longfin Mako	1
Shark, Oceanic White-Tip	1
TOTAL	3452
<i>Rays</i>	
Stingray, Pelagic	424
TOTAL	424
<i>Billfish</i>	
Swordfish	5912
Marlin, Striped	13
Spearfish, Shortbill	10
TOTAL	5935

Table 4. Number of individual sharks, billfish, and rays observed caught by the United States deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2013.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Shark, Blue	1887
Shark, Shortfin Mako	163
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	85
Dogfishes, Deepwater	35
Shark, Unid. Thresher	32
Shark, Unidentified	29
Shark, Longfin Mako	6
Shark, Unid. Mako	5
Shark, Pelagic Thresher	3
Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark	1
Shark, Silky	1
Shark, Smooth Hammerhead	1
Shark, Tiger	1
TOTAL	2249
<i>Rays</i>	
Stingray, Pelagic	104
TOTAL	104
<i>Billfish</i>	
Swordfish	586
Spearfish, Shortbill	396
Marlin, Striped	308
Marlin, Blue	60
Billfish, Unidentified	6
Sailfish	4
TOTAL	1360

Table 5. Number of individual marine mammals, sea turtle, and seabirds observed caught by the United States shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2013.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Dolphin, Risso's	3
Dolphin, Bottlenose	1
Beaked Whale, Mesoplodont	1
Seal, Northern Elephant	1
TOTAL	6
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Laysan	3
Albatross, Black-footed	2
TOTAL	5
<i>Sea Turtles</i>	
Turtle, Leatherback	6
Turtle, Loggerhead	4
TOTAL	10

Table 6. Number of individual marine mammals, sea turtle, and seabirds observed caught by the United States deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2013.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Dolphin, Bottlenose	1
Whale, False Killer	1
TOTAL	2
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Black-footed	3
TOTAL	3
<i>Sea Turtles</i>	
Turtle, Olive Ridley	2
Turtle, Loggerhead	1
TOTAL	3