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**CPC OBSERVER ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014 IN THE
IATTC CONVENTION AREA**

CHINA

Feng Wu, Jiangfeng Zhu, Xiaojie Dai

[*jfzhu@shou.edu.cn*](mailto:jfzhu@shou.edu.cn)

Shanghai Ocean University, 999 Hucheng Huan Rd., Shanghai 201306, China

1. Trip description

Longline is the only fishing activity for tuna of Chinese fishing fleet in the EPO. For the year 2014, China conducted three longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (east of 150°W). So far, all the three observer trips have been completed. On average, 60 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. All the observer trips in 2014 were 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 1-3**. Each trip was carried out by different longline vessels and observers. Among the three trips, the Trips 1 was operated targeting albacore, and trips 2 and 3 were operated targeting bigeye tuna.

Table 1 Information of Chinese LL observer trips in the IATTC area in 2014

Trips	Observed fishing days	Observed hooks	Observation period (2014)	Observation area
No.1	82	278,144	Apr 15 - Aug 03	14-30° S, 111-149° W
No.2	56	121,680	Sep 13 - Nov 14	06-10° S, 146-150° W
No.3	40	89,155	Sep 01 - Dec 10	01-10° S, 144-150° W
Total	178	488,979		

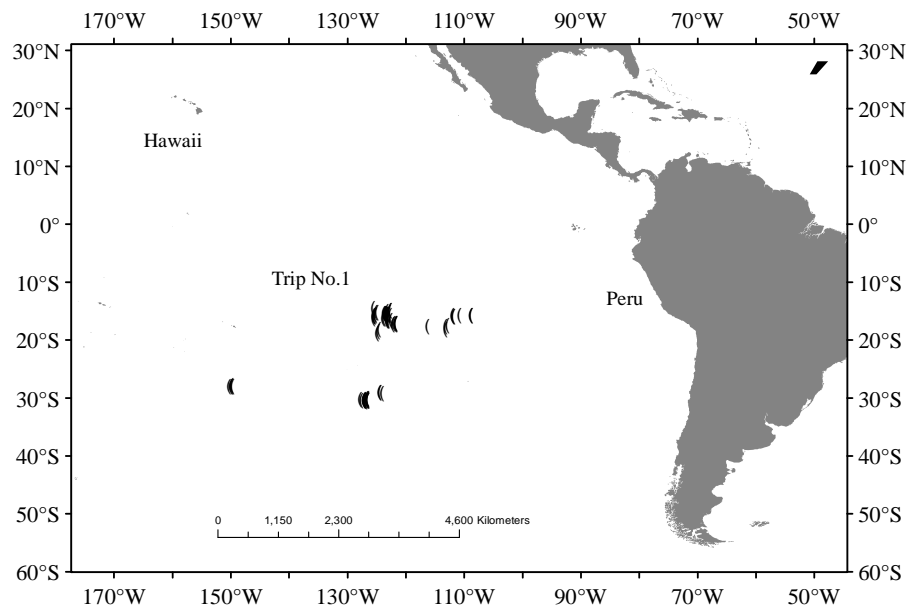


Fig. 1 Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 1 in 2014

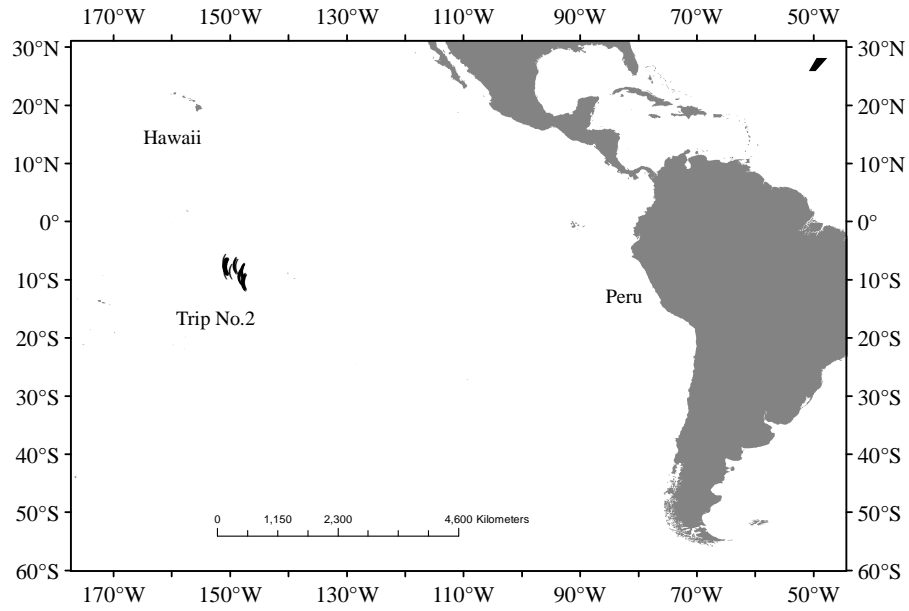


Fig. 2 Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 2 in 2014

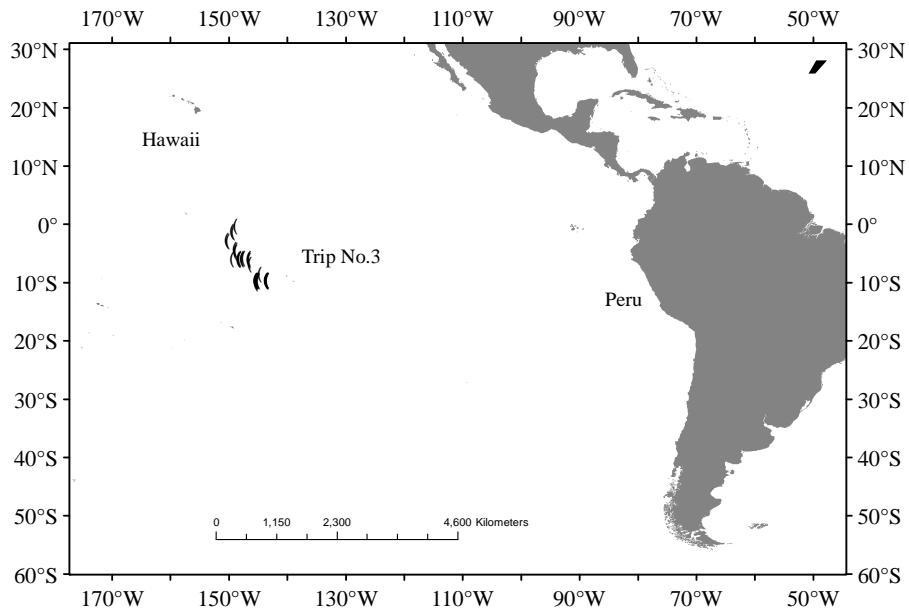


Fig. 3 Set stations of the Chinese longline observer trip No. 3 in 2014

2. Observer coverage

Because the total fishing effort of China for the fishing year 2014 has not been estimated by now, the observer coverage with fishing days will not be calculated till the fishery data compilation for the year 2014 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 2-4**.

No sea turtles and 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	348	2.9
Yellowfin tuna	206	1.8
Albacore*	9056	70
Skipjack	306	2.3
Blue marlin	2	0.01
Striped marlin	34	0.26
Black marlin	4	0.03
Swordfish	74	0.57
Shortbill spearfish	111	0.85
Oceanic whitetip shark	1	0.0
Blue shark	141	1.09
Shortfin mako	2	0.0
Rays	171	13
Sea turtles	0	0.0
Sea birds	0	0.0
Others	2455	7.19
Total	12911	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*	832	52.2
Yellowfin tuna	108	6.7
Albacore	57	3.5
Skipjack	10	0.6
Blue marlin	64	4.0
Striped marlin	17	1.0
Swordfish	141	8.8
Shortbill spearfish	15	0.9
Oceanic whitetip shark	3	0.1
Blue shark	50	3.1
Crocodile shark	45	2.8
Velvet dogfish	4	0.2
Galapagos shark	1	0.0
Common thresher	1	0.0
Rays	18	1.1
Sea turtles	0	0.0
Sea birds	0	0.0
Others	225	15
Total	1591	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*	453	42.2
Yellowfin tuna	69	6.4
Albacore	81	7.5
Skipjack	11	1.0
Blue marlin	9	0.8
Striped marlin	13	1.2
Swordfish	70	6.5
Shortbill spearfish	10	0.9
Oceanic whitetip shark	3	0.2
Silky shark	6	0.5
Blue shark	26	2.4
Bigeye thresher	10	0.9
Crocodile shark	35	3.2
Velvet dogfish	5	0.4
Rays	84	7.8
Seabirds	0	0.0
Others	189	18.1
Total	1074	100.0

Note: * indicate target species