

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEVENTH MEETING
La Jolla, California (USA)
09-13 May 2016

DOCUMENT SAC-07 INF A(e)

**ANNUAL REPORT RELATING TO AT SEA OBSERVER COVERAGE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH RESOLUTION C-11-08**

Reporting Country: BELIZE Fishing Year: 2015

Total Annual Catches of the Longline fleet: 681.91 m/t

Percentage Coverage of fishing effort by observers

(Considered as fishing days): 32%

Basis combined total of overall fishing days and actual days observed.

Total Annual Catches by vessels with observers on board: 138.13 m/t

Species composition of catches in vessels with observers on board:

Retained species were predominantly:

Blue sharks (*Prionaceglauca*),

Gray sharks (*Carcharhinusfalciformis*),

Thresher shark (*Alopias spp.*)

Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*),

Yellowfin and bigeye tuna (*Thunnusalbacares* and *T. obesus*),

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonuspelamis*),

Chub Mackerel (*Scomber japonicas*),

Other retained fish bycatch consisted of:

- mahi-mahi (dorado) (*Salminusbrasiliensis*);
- marlins (*Istiophoridae*);
- wahoo (*Acanthocybiumsolandri*); and
- oilfish (Escolar) (*Lepidocybiumflavobrunneum*)

Number of vessels with observers on board:

Two (2)

Number of sea turtles caught incidentally on trips with observers on board:

Five (5)

Were sea turtles caught incidentally released?

YES

Number of sharks caught in trips with observers:

One thousand one hundred and sixty five (1165)

Number of rays captured on trips with observers:

None

Number of billfishes captured in trips with observers:

Four hundred and one (401)

Number of hooks used on fishing trips with observers:

Seventy nine thousand and forty eight (79,048)

Type of hooks used:

Circle Hooks