

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**SEVENTH MEETING**

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**CPC OBSERVER ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015 IN THE IATTC  
CONVENTION AREA**

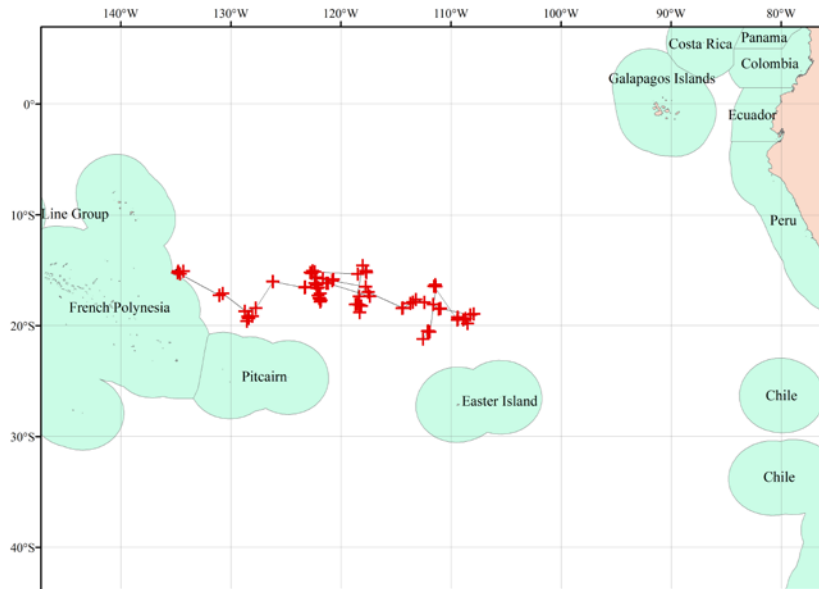
**1. Trip description**

Longline is the only fishing gear for the Chinese tuna fishery in the EPO. For the year 2015, China conducted three longline observer trips in the IATTC convention area (east of 150°W). So far, only one observer trip has been completed. Seventy-nine fishing days were observed for this trip (**Table 1**). The Chinese observer trips were mostly carried out in the second half year. This is the period in which Chinese observers are suitable to be sent out due to the availability of such observers. Some of the Chinese observer trips for the EPO area are shared with those for the WCPFC area (west of 150°W), i.e., the same observer with the same longline vessel do observations across the boundary of longitude line 150°W. Therefore, the original observer trips are separated into two trips for the west side and east side.

The observed set stations for the completed trip are shown in **Figure 1**. This trip targeted albacore tuna using circle hook in the southern area.

**Table 1 Information of one of the Chinese LL observer trips in the IATTC area in 2015**

Trips	Observed fishing days	Observed hooks	Observation period (2015)	Observation area
No.1	79	288,171	Sep 30- Dec 31	15-21° S, 107-134° W



**Fig. 1** Set stations of one of the Chinese longline observer trips in 2015

## 2. Observer coverage

Because the total fishing effort of China for the fishing year 2015 has not been estimated by now and two other observer trips have not finished yet, the observer coverage with fishing days will not be calculated until the fishery data compilation for the year 2015 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 the 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 observed catches in number for each trip, including target and bycatch species, are listed in **Table 2**.

No sea turtles and no seabirds were captured in this trip. 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**

English name	Scientific name	Observed catch in number	Percentage (%)
<i>Albacore*</i>	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	4325	66.1
<i>Bigeye tuna</i>	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	548	8.4
<i>Yellowfin tuna</i>	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	171	2.6
<i>Skipjack tuna</i>	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	164	2.5
<i>Swordfish</i>	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	59	0.9
<i>Shortbill Spearfish</i>	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	188	2.9
<i>Blue marlin</i>	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	13	0.2
<i>Striped marlin</i>	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	9	0.1
<i>Longnose lancetfish</i>	<i>Alepisaurus ferox</i>	507	7.7
<i>Brilliant pomfret</i>	<i>Eumegistus illustris</i>	12	0.2
<i>opah</i>	<i>Lampris guttatus</i>	56	0.9
<i>Truncated sunfish</i>	<i>Ranzania laevis</i>	7	0.1
<i>Dealfish</i>	<i>Desmodema polystictum</i>	1	0.02
<i>Escolar</i>	<i>Lepidocybium flavobrunneum</i>	170	2.6
<i>Oilfish</i>	<i>Ruvettus pretiosus</i>	1	0.02
<i>Roudi escolar</i>	<i>Promethichthys prometheus</i>	1	0.02
<i>Sharptail sunfish</i>	<i>Masturus lanceolatus</i>	1	0.02

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<i>Wahoo</i>	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	131	2.0
<i>Dolphinfish</i>	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	13	0.2
<i>Pelagic stingray</i>	<i>Dasyatis violacea</i>	74	1.1
<i>Black gemfish</i>	<i>Nesiarchus nasutus</i>	1	0.02
<i>Blue shark</i>	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	18	0.3
<i>Oceanic whitetip shark</i>	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	1	0.02
<i>Longfin mako</i>	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	1	0.02
<i>Silvertip shark</i>	<i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i>	1	0.02
<i>Shortfin mako</i>	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	8	0.1
<i>Silky shark</i>	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	1	0.02
<i>Snake mackerel</i>	<i>Gempylus serpens</i>	23	0.4
Other		31	0.5
Total		6539	100

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Note: \* indicate target species