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**2015 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER REPORT FOR KOREAN
TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY IN THE IATTC CONVENTION AREA**

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Summary

In accordance with IATTC Resolution C-11-08 and the Korean National Scientific Observer Program, 6 observers (3 Korean and 3 regional observers from coastal states) had been deployed to monitor Korean tuna longline vessel on fishing activities and collect the data on catch, effort, discards and other relevant scientific information in the IATTC convention area in 2015. They observed 285 days and their observer coverage were about 2.0%.

* Note: This paper represents the result conducted by 3 Korean observer trips.

Observer tasks

The observer tasks are basically 1) recording and reporting fishing activities, verifying positions of the vessel, 2) observing and estimating catches as far as possible with a view to identifying catch composition and monitoring discards, bycatch and size frequency, 3) recording the gear type, mesh size and attachments employed by the master, 4) collecting information to enable the cross-checking entries made to the logbooks (species composition and quantities, live and processed weight and location, where available), 5) carrying out other scientific works.

Fishing operations

In 2015, the information from 3 Korean observers deployed on longline vessel operating in the IATTC convention area is as follows. The observed the effort of 262,553 hooks in 165 sets during 169 days (Table 1). The observed area during the trips were between 116-130°W of 0°-16°S, which is shown in Fig. 1.

Table 1. Information on Korean observer trip of Korean tuna longline fishery in the IATTC convention area, 2015

Observer	Observation period	Sets observed	Effort observed	Day observed
A	09.02~11.25	85	89,518	85
B	11.16 ~12.31	44	100,105	46
C	11.24~12.31	36	72,930	38

* Observers B and C are still conducting observations.

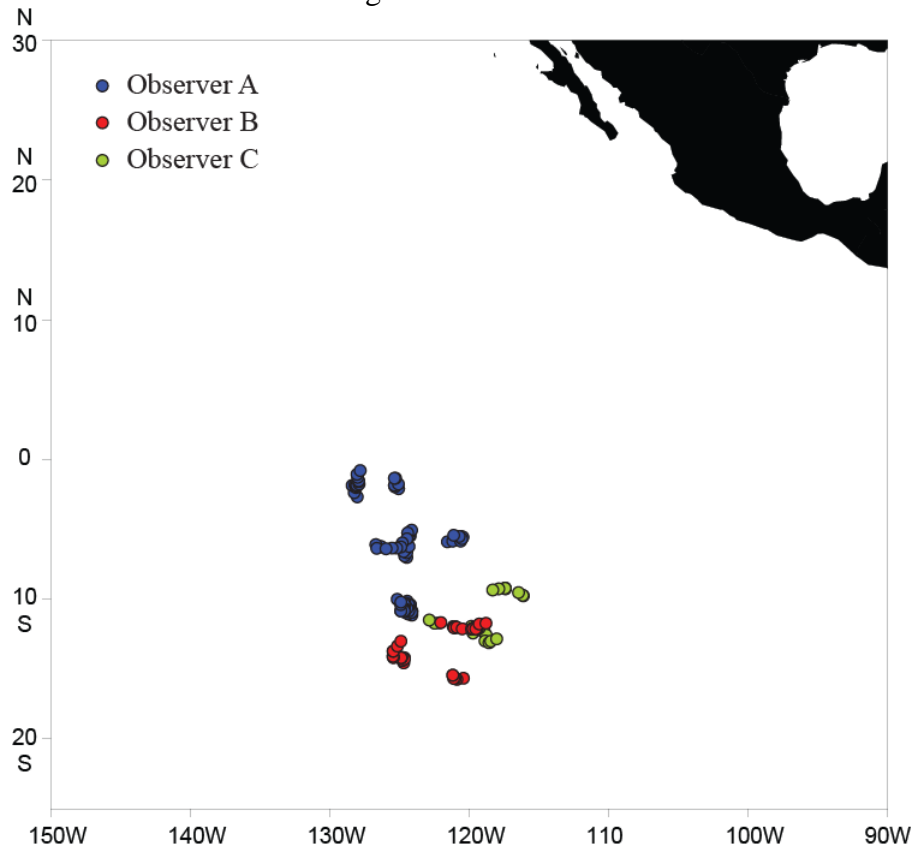


Fig. 1. Fishing positions of Korean tuna longline vessel during observer trips in the IATTC convention area, 2015.

Catch observed and species composition

Tables 2 and 3 show retained catch and discards/releases by species during the observer trips in the IATTC convention area, respectively. During these trips, 2 individuals of marine turtle which belongs to two species were bycaught, and no seabird was bycaught.

Biological data collected

All the species, if possible, were measured and weighted on board. Some species were observed on stomach content and gonads.

Tagging

During this observer trip, no species tagged was recaptured.

Table 2. Total retained catch by species recorded during observer trip in the IATTC convention area, 2015

Group	Species	Observer A		Observer B		Observer C	
		Number	Weight (kg)	Number	Weight (kg)	Number	Weight (kg)
Tunas	Albacore tuna	7	119	53	797	10	151
	Bigeye tuna	480	31,389	377	26,988	237	15,451
	Skipjack tuna	4	40	15	156	8	88
	Yellowfin tuna	91	3,676	42	1,534	30	1,143
Billfishes	Blue marlin	24	2,287	13	896		
	Sailfish	1	20			6	477
	Shortbill spearfish	9	142	12	179	10	156
	Striped marlin	6	354	1	43	3	252
	Swordfish	135	7,639	29	1,816	8	463
Sharks	Bigeye thresher	26	1,325				
	Blue shark	61	2,986	19	838	24	1,028
	Longfin mako	1	17				
	Pelagic thresher	4	118				
	Shortfin Mako			1	56		
	Silky shark	13	458				
	Smooth Hammerhead	2	158				
	Thresher sharks					6	242
Others	Other fishes	129	1,945	49	958	32	741
Total		993	52,672	611	34,261	374	20,191

Table 3. Total discards/releases by species recorded during observer trip in the IATTC convention area, 2015

Group	Species	A	B	C	Sum
Tunas	Bigeye tuna	5	13	9	27
	Skipjack tuna			1	1
	Yellowfin tuna	1	2		3
Billfishes	Blue marlin	1			1
	Swordfish	14	34	18	66
Sharks	Bigeye thresher	1	1		2
	Blue shark		14		14
	Crocodile shark	74	5		79
	Longfin mako	1			1
	Oceanic whitetip	11	1		12
	Pelagic thresher	17			17
	Silky shark		1		1
Turtles	Leatherback sea turtle	1			1
	Olive ridley sea turtle	1			1
Others	Other fishes	126	204	89	419
Total		253	275	117	645