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**United States Summary of 2015 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 trips targeting swordfish and at least 20 percent of all deep-set longline trips targeting bigeye tuna. The observer data in this report contain only data from longline vessels based in Hawaii, which comprise over 99 percent of the U.S. pelagic longline fleet. The tables below are summaries of observer data for sets that occurred in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Convention Area in 2015, based on begin-set position and haul date.

Sets (i.e., fishing days)

A total of 669 shallow 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) in the IATTC Convention Area were observed. The total number of deep sets and the percent of deep sets observed are not available at this time, but will be updated upon receipt.

Sea Turtle Release

United States regulations require fishermen to release all sea turtles, alive or dead. There is no record of fishermen not complying with these regulations in 2015.

Hook Type and Quantity

Both the shallow-set and deep-set longline fisheries used the following hook types:

1. Offset round circle: a hook with either 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.
2. Offset flat circle: a hook with either 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.

In 2015, the number of hooks per set in the shallow-set longline fishery ranged in quantity from 422 to 1,468. The number of hooks per set in the deep-set longline fishery ranged from 48 to 3,925; however, the lower range may be an outlier, with a more representative minimum being 1,210 hooks per set.

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 23,930 and 58,850 individual fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds were observed caught in 2015 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 2015.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
Bony Fish, Other Identified	1
Bony Fish, Unidentified	64
Dolphinfish	814
Escolar	775
Fanfishes	3
Lancetfish, Longnose	1,160
Mola, Common	25
Mola, Sharptail	1
Oilfish	383
Opah	693
Ribbonfish, Scalloped	1
Ribbonfish, Tapertail	9
Snake Mackerel	52
Wahoo	3
Pomfret, Brama spp.	275
Pomfret, Dagger	5
Pomfret, Rough	1
Pomfret, Sickle	32
Tuna, Albacore	309
Tuna, Bigeye	972
Tuna, Skipjack	16
Tuna, Yellowfin	38
TOTAL	5,632

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 2015.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
Bony Fish, Other Identified	3
Bony Fish, Unidentified	20
Cigarfishes	4
Crestfish	5
Dolphinfish	4,408
Dolphinfish, Pompano	18
Escolar	1,582
Escolar, Longfin	86
Fanfishes	4
Gemfish, Black	4
Hammerjaw	8
Lancetfish, Longnose	14,945
Louvar	1
Mola, Common	7
Mola, Sharptail	2
Mola, Slender	21
Oilfish	33
Opah	3,131
Puffer, Pelagic	38
Puffer, Unidentified	2
Ribbonfish, Scalloped	1
Ribbonfish, Tapertail	6
Scabbardfish, Razorback	1
Snake Mackerel	8,468
Snake Mackerel, Unidentified	1
Swallowers	5
Wahoo	639
Pomfret, Brama spp.	98
Pomfret, Dagger	332
Pomfret, Lustrous	4
Pomfret, Rough	55
Pomfret, Sickle	3,762
Pomfret, Unidentified	5
Tuna, Albacore	24
Tuna, Bigeye	10,216
Tuna, Skipjack	347
Tuna, Unidentified	76
Tuna, Yellowfin	156
TOTAL	52,755

Table 3. Number of individual sharks, rays, and billfish observed caught by the United States shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2015.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Dogfishes, Velvet	2
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	13
Shark, Blue	7,583
Shark, Common Thresher	10
Shark, Cookie Cutter	2
Shark, Shortfin Mako	1,008
Shark, Unid. Mako	1
Shark, Unid. Thresher	3
Shark, Unidentified	35
TOTAL	8,663
<i>Rays</i>	
Stingray, Pelagic	497
TOTAL	497
<i>Billfish</i>	
Billfish, Unidentified	1
Marlin, Blue	4
Marlin, Striped	25
Spearfish, Shortbill	46
Swordfish	9,036
TOTAL	9,112

Table 4. Number of individual sharks, rays, and billfish observed caught by the United States deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2015.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark	1
Dogfish, Velvet	54
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	90
Shark, Blacktip Reef	1
Shark, Blue	3,709
Shark, Crocodile	6
Shark, Longfin Mako	10
Shark, Oceanic White-Tip	9
Shark, Pelagic Thresher	1
Shark, Shortfin Mako	225
Shark, Silky	1
Shark, Smooth Hammerhead	1
Shark, Unid. Mako	1
Shark, Unid. Thresher	5
Shark, Unidentified	30
TOTAL	4,144
<i>Rays</i>	
Stingray, Pelagic	134
Manta/Mobula	1
TOTAL	135
<i>Billfish</i>	
Billfish, Unidentified	10
Marlin, Blue	95
Marlin, Striped	453
Sailfish	20
Spearfish, Shortbill	697
Swordfish	509
TOTAL	1,784

Table 5. Number of individual marine mammals, seabirds, and sea turtles observed caught by the United States shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2015.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Dolphin, Risso's	3
Fur Seal, Northern	1
Pinniped, Unidentified	3
Sea Lion, Unidentified	2
Whale, Fin	1
TOTAL	10
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Laysan	5
Albatross, Black-footed	1
TOTAL	6
<i>Sea Turtles</i>	
Turtle, Loggerhead	9
Turtle, Leatherback	1
TOTAL	10

Table 6. Number of individual marine mammals and seabirds, and sea turtles observed caught by the United States deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2015.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Whale, False Killer	2
TOTAL	2
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Black-footed	28
TOTAL	28
<i>Sea Turtles</i>	
Turtle, Olive Ridley	1
Turtle, Loggerhead	1
TOTAL	2