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**United States Summary of 2017 Observer Data per
Resolution C-11-08, *Resolution on Scientific Observers for Longline Vessels*¹**

This summary is submitted pursuant to Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) 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 IATTC Convention Area in 2017, based on begin-set position and haul date.

Sets (i.e., fishing days)

A total of 409 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 2017.

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 2017, the number of hooks per set in the shallow-set longline fishery ranged in quantity from 97 to 1,628; however, the minimum number may be an outlier, with a more representative minimum being 423. The number of hooks per set in the deep-set longline fishery ranged from 520 to 3,642; however, the minimum number may be an outlier, with a more representative minimum being 1,207.

¹In its letter dated 23 April 2018, the United States stressed that this “report that summarizes observer data and provides information on effort (i.e., fishing days); these data are preliminary and subject to change. The enclosed report does not include the total and percent observed effort in deep-set longline fleet because those data have not yet been summarized for 2017. When they are complete, the National Fisheries Service will submit an update to the report.

The raw data (set-level) for 2013-2016, and for 2017, were submitted in January and March, respectively, as agreed by the parties at the 8th meeting of the SAC and 92nd meeting of the IATTC.”

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 13,870 and 30,887 individual fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds were observed caught in 2016 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 U.S. shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2017.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
Cigarfishes	2
Dolphinfish	527
Escolar	239
Fanfishes	1
Lancetfish, Longnose	1,035
Mola, Common	40
Mola, Slender	1
Oilfish	287
Opah	515
Pomfret, Brama spp.	80
Pomfret, Sickle	3
Pomfret, Unidentified	2
Ribbonfish, Tapertail	1
Snake Mackerel	47
Snake Mackerel, Unid.	3
Tuna, Albacore	100
Tuna, Bigeye	1,007
Tuna, Skipjack	37
Tuna, Unidentified	7
Tuna, Yellowfin	758
Wahoo	19
TOTAL	4,711

Table 2. Number of individual fish, except sharks, billfish, and rays, observed caught by the U.S. deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2017.

Species Common Name	No. of Indiv.
Barracuda, Great	1
Bony Fish, Other Identified	1
Bony Fish, Unidentified	1
Cigarfishes	1
Crestfish	7
Dolphinfish	2,918
Dolphinfish, Pompano	37
Escolar	1,422
Escolar, Longfin	76
Escolar, Roudi's	1
Fanfishes	3
Gemfish, Black	3
Hammerjaw	5
Lancetfish, Longnose	10,186
Mola, Common	6
Mola, Sharptail	2
Oilfish	50
Opah	1,989
Pomfret, Brama spp.	100
Pomfret, Dagger	352
Pomfret, Lustrous	20
Pomfret, Rough	19
Pomfret, Sickle	2,233
Pomfret, Unidentified	3
Puffer, Pelagic	3
Rainbow Runner	1
Remora/Suckerfish	1
Ribbonfish, Scalloped	1
Ribbonfish, Tapertail	7
Snake Mackerel	8,492
Swallowers	5
Tuna, Albacore	8
Tuna, Bigeye	10,989
Tuna, Skipjack	699
Tuna, Unidentified	220
Tuna, Yellowfin	2,392
Wahoo	1,074
TOTAL	43,328

Table 3. Number of individual sharks, rays, and billfish observed caught by the U.S. shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2017.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	20
Shark, Blue	5,515
Shark, Common Thresher	4
Shark, Cookie Cutter	3
Shark, Crocodile	1
Shark, Longfin Mako	2
Shark, Salmon	2
Shark, Shortfin Mako	809
Shark, Unidentified	14
Shark, Unid. Thresher	4
TOTAL	6,374
<i>Rays</i>	
Stingray, Pelagic	353
TOTAL	353
<i>Billfish</i>	
Billfish, Unidentified	2
Marlin, Blue	7
Marlin, Striped	65
Spearfish, Shortbill	39
Swordfish	5,722
TOTAL	5,835

Table 4. Number of individual sharks, rays, and billfish observed caught by the U.S. deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2017.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Sharks</i>	
Dogfish, Velvet	32
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	210
Shark, Blue	4,174
Shark, Cookie Cutter	14
Shark, Longfin Mako	5
Shark, Oceanic White-Tip	12
Shark, Pelagic Thresher	4
Shark, Shortfin Mako	371
Shark, Silky	19
Shark, Smooth Hammerhead	7
Shark, Unidentified	33
Shark, Unid. Hammerhead	1
Shark, Unid. Mako	3
Shark, Unid. Thresher	14
TOTAL	4,899
<i>Rays</i>	
Mobula (Devil Ray)	3
Stingray, Pelagic	132
TOTAL	135
<i>Billfish</i>	
Billfish, Unidentified	8
Marlin, Black	3
Marlin, Blue	93
Marlin, Striped	429
Sailfish	47
Spearfish, Shortbill	677
Swordfish	429
TOTAL	1,686

Table 5. Number of individual marine mammals, seabirds, and sea turtles observed caught by the U.S. shallow-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2017.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Dolphin, Risso's	1
Fur Seal, Guadalupe	3
TOTAL	4
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Laysan	1
Albatross, Black-footed	10
TOTAL	11
<i>Sea Turtles</i>	
Turtle, Loggerhead	10
Turtle, Olive Ridley	1
Turtle, Leatherback	3
TOTAL	14

Table 6. Number of individual marine mammals and seabirds, and sea turtles observed caught by the U.S. deep-set longline fleet in the IATTC Convention Area in 2017.

Species Common Name	No. of Individ.
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	
Unidentified Whale, Dolphin, or Porpoise	2
TOTAL	2
<i>Seabirds</i>	
Albatross, Black-footed	12
TOTAL	12
<i>Sea Turtles</i>	
Turtle, Olive Ridley	4
TOTAL	4