

**[U.S. Annual Report 2019  
Resolution C-15-04  
Mobulid rays]**

Below is relevant information for U.S. deep-set and shallow-set longline fisheries under the respective elasmobranch resolutions. The IATTC maintains all observer information for U.S. purse seine vessels and as such already has access to reports of observed interactions with mobulids, oceanic white tip sharks, silky sharks, and hammerhead sharks caught in that fishery.

[...]

*C-15-04*

In 2019, NMFS observers recorded five mobulid rays caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the EPO. All were returned alive.

[...]



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802

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Dr. Guillermo Compeán, Director  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)  
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive  
La Jolla, California 92037-1508

Re: Observed oceanic whitetip shark and mobulid interactions with U.S. vessels

Dear Dr. Compeán:

This letter is submitted pursuant to Resolution C-11-10: *Resolution on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area* and Resolution C-15-04: *Resolution on the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IATTC Convention Area*.

In 2016, there were three observed oceanic whitetip shark interactions with U.S. longline vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) recorded by NMFS observers. All were observed with deep-set longline gear. Two of the sharks were released alive and one was released dead. In 2017, there were 13 observed oceanic whitetip shark interactions with U.S. longline vessels fishing in the EPO recorded by NMFS observers. All were observed in deep-set longline gear. Ten were released alive and three were released dead.

In 2017, there were three observed mobulid interactions with U.S. longline vessels fishing in the EPO recorded by NMFS observers. All were observed in deep-set longline gear and all were released alive.

The IATTC maintains all observer information for U.S. purse seine vessels and as such already has access to observed interactions with oceanic white tips and mobulids in that fishery.

Please contact Taylor Debevec at 562-980-4066 or [Taylor.Debevec@noaa.gov](mailto:Taylor.Debevec@noaa.gov) if there are any questions regarding the United States' reporting under Resolutions C-11-10 or C-15-04.

Sincerely,

Heidi Taylor  
Highly Migratory Species Branch Chief



cc: Barry Thom, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC  
David Hogan, Department of State  
Ryan J. Wulff, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC  
William Fox, Jr., U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC  
Mike Thompson, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC  
Edward Weissman, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC  
John Kelly, NMFS, Pacific Islands Regional Office

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