

Report on the Implementation of the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations

Chinese Taipei

June 2020

Introduction

This report is written in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Resolution C-07-03 “The Resolution to Mitigate the Impact of Tuna Fishing Vessels on Sea Turtles”, which stipulates that “Beginning in 2008, report to the IATTC annually by 30 June on the progress of implementation of the FAO Guidelines, including information collected on interactions with sea turtles in fisheries managed under the Convention.”

Implementation of the IPOA-Sea turtles

1. Fishermen of fishing vessels are required to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster recovery, including resuscitation, before returning it to the sea.
2. Fishing vessels are required to have sea turtle release devices on board, including dip net, de-hooker and line cutters, during the fishing trips, for appropriate release of incidentally caught sea turtles.
3. Any sea turtle incidentally caught by any fishing vessel shall be released or discarded, and the number(s) shall be duly recorded on the E-logbook system. Furthermore, we also collect by-catch information of sea turtle through the observer program.
4. Tuna longline fishing vessels fishing in a shallowest manner (those in which the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters) have been required to use circle hooks or whole fin-fish baits to reduce bycatch rate of sea turtle.
5. To prevent harming sea turtles, any fishing vessel shall not dispose any type of plastic trash at sea.

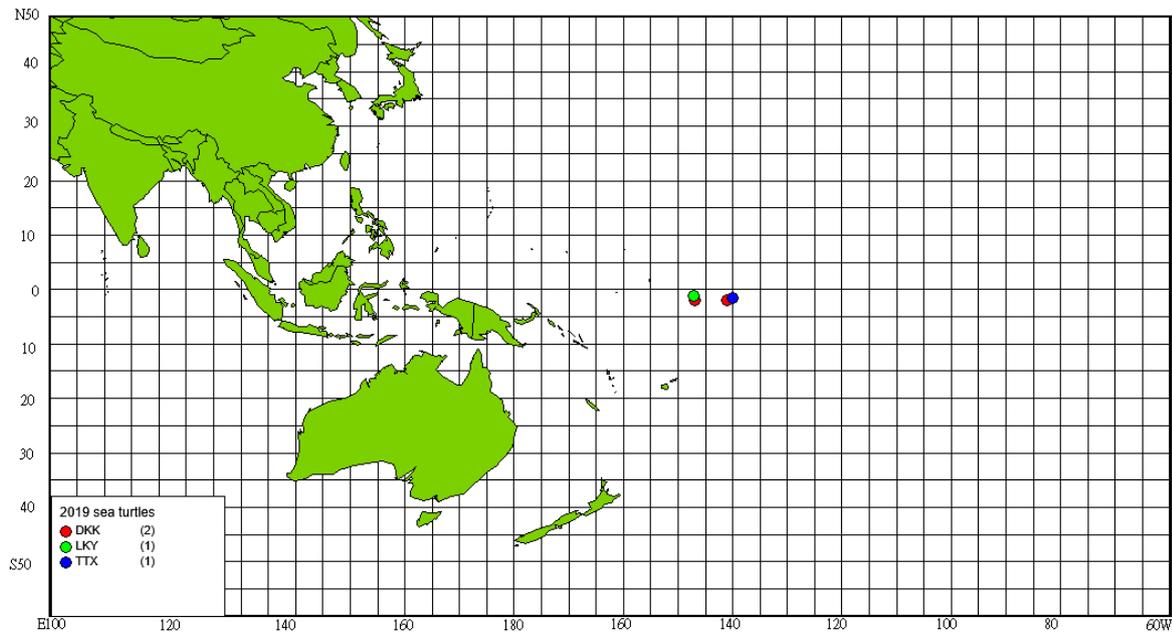
Interactions with sea turtles

It is estimated that observer coverage rate in 2019 for our longline fleets operating in IATTC Convention area is 13.24% of effective days fishing. However, due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic this year, the retrieval of the complete observer data for 2019 has been delayed. The current observer coverage rate in terms of data retrieved is 4.26% with 509 fishing days being observed. According to those observer records, the bycatch number and the status of those turtles are as follows:

Species	Bycatch number	Status
Leatherback turtles	2	alive
Kemp's ridley turtle	1	dead
Marine turtle nei	1	alive

*Please be advised these data are still preliminary.

Attachment: Sea turtles bycatch distribution in EPO in 2019



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3. Any sea turtle incidentally caught by any fishing vessel shall be released or discarded, and the number(s) shall be duly recorded on the logbooks and E-logbook system. Furthermore, we also collect by-catch information of sea turtle through the observer program.
4. Tuna longline fishing vessels that target for swordfish in a shallowest manner (the proportion of swordfish to total catches is over 40% per month) have been required to use circle hooks or whole fin-fish baits for reducing bycatch rate of sea turtle.
5. To prevent harming sea turtles, any fishing vessel shall not dispose any type of plastic trash at sea.

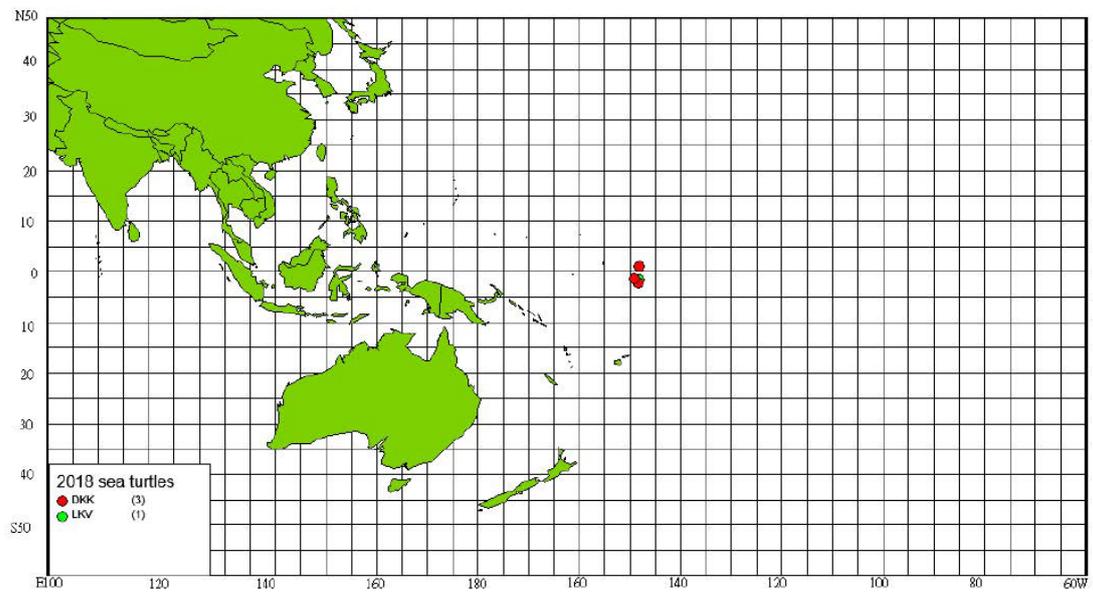
Interactions with sea turtles

During 2018, our observers had observed for 1,251 days in the EPO and the observer coverage rate is approximately 11.2%. According to the observer records, the bycatch number and the status of those turtles are as follows:

Species	Bycatch number	Status
Leatherback turtles	3	3 alive
Olive ridley turtles	1	1 dead

*Please be advised these data are still preliminary.

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Interactions with sea turtles

During 2017, our observers had observed for 1,484 days in the EPO and the observer coverage rate is approximately 10.41%. According to the observer records, 2 Leatherback turtles, 3 Olive Ridley turtles, 1 Loggerhead turtle and 1 Marine turtles nei were caught incidentally (as attachment), and all of them were released or discarded, and the status of those turtles are as follows:

Species	Bycatch number	Status
Leatherback turtles	2	1 alive and 1 dead
Olive ridley turtles	3	1 alive and 2 dead
Loggerhead turtle	1	1 alive
Marine turtles nei	1	1 dead

Attachment: Sea turtles bycatch distribution in EPO in 2017

