

**[U.S. Annual Report 2019
Resolutions C-16-05 and C-16-06
Silky sharks]**

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-16-05

In 2019, NMFS observers recorded eight silky sharks caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the EPO. Six were returned alive and two were returned dead.

In 2019, NMFS observers recorded four hammerhead (smooth hammerhead) sharks caught by U.S. deep-set longline vessels fishing in the EPO. Three were returned alive and one was returned dead.

C-16-06

The U.S. observer program does not collect weights and only opportunistically collects lengths and of individual fish, and as such cannot report on the percent by weight of silky sharks caught during trips with total lengths <100 cm. However, below are the percentages of silky sharks observed caught (regardless of size) by number of individual fish caught by trip.

As mentioned under C-16-05, in 2019, eight silky sharks were observed caught in six deep-set longline trips (Table 1).

Table 1. Total numbers of silky shark caught on each trip, expressed as a percentage of total catch by number of individuals.

Trip Number in 2019	Total number of fish caught on trip	Total number of silky sharks caught on trip	Percentage of silky shark catch for trip, by number
1	1,684	2	0.12%
2	1,081	1	0.09%
3	1,236	1	0.08%
4	817	1	0.12%
5	1,138	1	0.09%
6	812	2	0.25%



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

July 22, 2019

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

Re: Submissions under Resolutions Related to Elasmobranchs

Dear Dr. Compeán:

This letter and enclosed report are submitted pursuant to several resolutions, all of which pertain to data on elasmobranchs:

- Resolution C-05-03: *Resolution on the Conservation of Sharks aught in Association with Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean*
 - 2017 and 2018 information (2018 research updates will be sent separately)
- Resolution C-11-10: *Resolution on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Antigua Convention Area*
 - 2018 information
- Resolution C-15-04: *Resolution on the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IATTC Convention Area*
 - 2018 information
- Resolution C-16-05: *Resolution on the Management of Shark Species*
 - 2018 information
- Resolution C-16-06: *Conservation Measures for Shark Species, with Special Emphasis on the Silky Shark, for the Years 2017, 2018, and 2019*
 - 2017 and 2018 information

Please contact Taylor Debevec at 562-980-4066 or Taylor.Debevec@noaa.gov if there are any questions regarding the United States' reporting under these resolutions.

Sincerely,

Rachael Wadsworth
Acting Highly Migratory Species Branch Chief

cc: Drew Lawler, Alternate U.S. Commissioner
David Hogan, Department of State
William Fox, Jr., U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Mike Thompson, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
John Zuanich, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
Ryan J. Wulff, NMFS WCR
150413SWR2013SF00273:TD



Below is relevant information for U.S. 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 observed interactions with oceanic white tips, mobulids, silky sharks, and hammerhead sharks caught in that fishery.

C-11-10

In 2018, there were two observed oceanic whitetip sharks caught by U.S. longline vessels fishing in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) recorded by NMFS observers; one with shallow-set longline gear (returned dead) and one with deep-set longline gear (returned alive).

C-15-04

In 2018, there were no observed mobulid caught by U.S. longline vessels fishing in the EPO recorded by NMFS observers.

C-16-05

In 2018, there were two silky sharks caught by U.S. longline vessels fishing in the EPO recorded by NMFS observers; both with deep-set longline gear (one returned alive, one returned dead).

In 2018, there was one hammerhead (smooth hammerhead) caught by U.S. longline vessels fishing in the EPO recorded by NMFS observers; it was caught with deep-set longline gear and returned dead.

C-16-06

The United States observer program does not collect individual lengths or weights of fish and as such cannot report on the percent of silky sharks caught <100 cm total length by weight during trips. However, we can report here the percent of silky sharks observed caught (regardless of size) by number of individual fish caught by trip.

In 2017, twenty silky sharks were observed caught in nine deep-set longline trips:

Trip Number in 2017	Total number of fish caught on trip	Total number of silky sharks caught on trip	Percent of silky shark catch for trip, by number
1	768	1	0.13%
2	1,092	3	0.27%
3	1,037	1	0.10%
4	1,251	1	0.08%
5	663	1	0.15%
6	1,325	1	0.08%
7	943	5	0.53%
8	906	4	0.44%
9	1,066	3	0.28%

As mentioned under C-16-05, in 2018, two silky sharks were observed caught. They were caught on two different deep-set longline trips:

Trip Number in 2018	Total number of fish caught on trip	Total number of silky sharks caught on trip	Percent of silky shark catch for trip, by number
1	827	1	0.12%
2	908	1	0.11%