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# Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme

**WCPFC-TCC22-2026-RP02**
**1 July 2026**

**Submitted by the Secretariat**

## Purpose

1. This paper contains the annual report on the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for the period 2012–2026.

2. This report was produced earlier than prior years to respond to a request by the Commission at WCPFC22. As a result, some ROP data for 2025 and 2026 was either not available or incomplete. Where data for 2025 is available, this is reflected in relevant sections of the report. Complete ROP data for 2025 will be reported in 2027 at TCC23.

## Key messages

a. Data collected by observers opearating under the WCPFC ROP continues to support the Commission's science, management, and compliance requirements. As of 19 May 2026, ROP data for 2025 had been entered for 518 purse seine trips and 151 longline trips, noting that observer data for recent trips in 2025 and 2026 are not yet complete. From 2012–2025, ROP observers collected data from 23,208 regional observer trips and 858,548 observer sea days.

b. ROP data remains a core source of independently collected information for monitoring CCM's implementation of obligations. Observer trip monitoring summaries continue to identify issues associated with observer rights, WCPFC CMMs, logsheet reporting and Species of Special Interest (SSI). These data provide information that is not consistently available from other sources and continues to support compliance monitoring and compliance case file processes.

c. ROP data fields and reporting standards need continued review to support effective monitoring and verification. The 2016 minimum standard data fields were updated in 2026 to reflect recent CMM changes, but experience continues to show that some CMM obligations are not yet supported by sufficient observer data fields and collection standards. The ROP-IWG work on potential infringements, SSI, transhipment monitoring, and non-catch transfers remains important.

d. Commission decisions are needed to support the transition to revised processes for observer-reported potential infringements. Transfers of ROP data on potential infringements from SPC were halted in 2025 pending Commission decisions, meaning that some 2024 data and all available 2025 and 2026 data are not yet reflected in the Compliance Case File System (CCFS). **The Secretariat requires a decision on how to manage existing 2024 - 2026 potential case files, along with those that will be reported before the transition is finalised.**

e. Observer welfare and safety remain critical to the effective operation of the ROP. Observer reports continue to reflect instances of obstruction, intimidation, interference, and inadequate accommodation standards. ROP audits confirm that accredited national observer programmes have introduced independent two-way communication devices to support improved observer welfare. CCMs are reminded to ensure these devices, where carried, are activated and maintained.

f. ROP data continues to support monitoring of interactons with SSI and non-target species, but careful interpretation is needed. This report includes available 2024 and 2025 observer information on cetaceans, seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, and mobulid rays, supporting implementation of CMMs intended to minimise fishing impacts and improve safe handling and release outcomes. However, observer reporting of "interactions" captures a wide range of events, including sightings or interactions that do not result in capture or mortality.

g. Cross-endorsement arrangements remain important for vessels operating across the WCPFC/IATTC boundary. Demand for cross-endorsed observers has increased, particularly from the United States

purse seine fleet, but availability remains constrained by observer deployment patterns and funding for additional training. Sub-regional training could help build capacity more efficiently where resources allow.

h. The Secretariat's support role remains central to implementation of the ROP. The Secretariat continues to support national observer programme audits, training, observer safety, data-related enquiries, cross-endorsement arrangements, and the ROP-IWG.

i. Future development of the ROP should be aligned with electronic reporting, electronic monitoring, and evolving CMM requirements. As ER and EM systems develop, some data fields may be generated from other reliable sources, while observer data can be focused on supporting information that requires independent at-sea observation. This will be important for reducing unnecessary duplication, improving data quality, and strengthening the Commission's ability to monitor implementation of CMMs.

## Introduction

3. Article 28 of the WCPFC Convention established the ROP "to collect verified catch data, other scientific data and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission." Paragraph 2 of Article 28 states that: "The observer programme shall be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Commission and shall be organised in a flexible manner which takes into account the nature of the fishery and other relevant factors."

4. Paragraph 13 CMM 2018-05 (Conservation and Management Measure for the ROP) sets out the "Role of the Secretariat" and lists several activities that the Secretariat is required to conduct.

5. Following a Commission decision at WCPFC15, the Secretariat maintains an electronic version of the WCPFC booklet of current Conservation and Management Measures on the WCPFC website. General information on the WCPFC ROP is available at this link.

## Background

6. As of 19 May 2026, ROP data for 518 purse seine trips and 151 longline trips for 2025 had been entered, covering the period 2012 - 2025.

7. From 1 January 2023, COVID-19 related suspensions of observer coverage for purse seine, longline and carrier vessels were progressively lifted. During 2022 to 2024, Pacific Island national and sub-regional observer programmes began rebuilding after the loss of trained observers during the COVID-19 period due to employment instability. National observer programmes continued placing observers on national and bilaterally licensed vessels, while the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Observer Programme (FAOB) provided observer coverage for vessels fishing under the US Treaty and Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (FSMA).

8. During 2023 and 2024, the Secretariat assisted with training and advice to support rebuilding of CCM national observer programmes. Ongoing assistance is provided to national and sub-regional observer programmes on matters regarding provider and observer roles including CMM requirements and data collection issues. ROP observer data continue to be used in the online Compliance Case File System (CCFS). The Secretariat also continues to support the Regional Observer Programme Intersessional Working Group (ROP-IWG) to meet Commission taskings to develop or review existing policies and procedures, and data collection needs.

9. In 2025-2026, the Secretariat (which includes the ROP Training and Audit Consultant) attended various in-person and virtual meetings including observer-specific meetings such as PNA Observer meetings. The ROP Training and Audit Consultant represented the Secretariat at several key observer-related meetings and events including:

a. the annual Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop in the Cook Islands (2025) and Vanuatu (2026).

b. observer training sessions in the Philippines, Marshall Islands, and Solomon Islands.

c. ongoing support to the cross endorsement (CE) of observers as part of WCPFC's cooperation with IATTC.

## Observer data and coverage

10. In 2025, the preliminary data on ROP coverage in the purse seine fishery reflected 518 observer purse seine trips (Table 1).

11. Data is preliminary because for transhipments on the high seas, transhipment ROP observer providers are required to submit observer reports to the Secretariat within 90 days of the observer's disembarkation from the vessel. The timeframe for the receipt and entry of this data depends on when an observer can disembark and return for debriefing. After this, the final report will be submitted to SPC. There may be incomplete of inaccurate data provided to SPC that requires review with the relevant ROP prior to data entry.

12. In 2024, following the disestablishment of the Transhipment Intersessional Working Group, the Commission tasked the (ROP-IWG) with reviewing the transhipment observer data fields, including the potential need to develop carrier vessel data fields. The ROP-IWG was also to continue its review of CMM's that impact the ROP data fields and processes to ensure data collection remains aligned with CMM obligations.

13. The 2016 ROP minimum standard data fields (MSDF) for purse seine and longline fisheries were updated by the Commission in 2025, with effect in 2026. As was noted in 2021 in the 13th Annual Report on the ROP, experience with existing ROP data collection has identified some CMMs' mandatory requirements do not have sufficient observer data fields and collection standards to support monitoring and verification of compliance.

14. An overview of observer coverage for purse seine and longline vessels provides an overview for the period between 2012 to 2025 (Table 1). The raw, unraised data from these trips is used to populate all tables in this report, including Annex A, noting that in the 13-year period between 2012 and 2025, there were 17040 ROP purse seine trips and 6168 ROP longline trips; these trips were for a total of 23208 regional observer trips, and 858548 observer sea days, when ROP observers collected data and information. Observer-collected information and data significantly assists science, management, and compliance in the sustainability of the WCPO tuna fishery.

**Table 1:** Overview of observer coverage in the Regional Observer Programme for purse seine and longline fisheries between 2012 and 2025.

| | Purse seine | | | | | Longline | | | | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Trips | Observer sea days | Sets observed | Fishing days | Average days/trip | Trips | Observer sea days | Hooks observed | Fishing days | Average days/trip | Trips | Observer sea days |
| 2012 | 1 267 | 39 692 | 31 617 | 32 655 | 31.5 | 350 | 12 300 | 15 059 587 | 7 728 | 35.0 | 1 617 | 51 992 |
| 2013 | 1 511 | 50 277 | 38 295 | 41 006 | 33.5 | 376 | 14 363 | 18 648 707 | 9 503 | 38.0 | 1 887 | 64 640 |
| 2014 | 1 626 | 53 818 | 39 106 | 42 343 | 33.0 | 369 | 14 318 | 16 424 998 | 8 199 | 39.0 | 1 995 | 68 136 |
| 2015 | 1 629 | 52 214 | 37 065 | 39 414 | 32.0 | 465 | 17 619 | 18 199 169 | 9 774 | 38.0 | 2 094 | 69 833 |
| 2016 | 1 591 | 52 350 | 34 532 | 41 047 | 33.0 | 465 | 17 902 | 19 301 526 | 10 043 | 38.5 | 2 056 | 70 252 |
| 2017 | 1 522 | 53 829 | 36 865 | 43 213 | 35.5 | 527 | 25 308 | 30 925 381 | 14 229 | 48.0 | 2 049 | 79 137 |
| 2018 | 1 856 | 59 650 | 42 526 | 46 616 | 32.0 | 582 | 29 491 | 36 783 663 | 17 212 | 50.5 | 2 438 | 89 141 |
| 2019 | 1 872 | 57 726 | 43 674 | 44 373 | 31.0 | 608 | 30 104 | 38 901 400 | 17 526 | 49.5 | 2 480 | 87 830 |
| 2020 | 726 | 27 500 | 15 956 | 21 035 | 38.0 | 403 | 23 821 | 31 222 633 | 13 363 | 59.0 | 1 129 | 51 321 |
| 2021 | 132 | 8 315 | 3 826 | 6 393 | 63.0 | 420 | 21 063 | 26 305 286 | 11 481 | 50.0 | 552 | 29 378 |
| 2022 | 185 | 8 071 | 4 195 | 6 172 | 43.5 | 471 | 23 326 | 29 434 800 | 12 785 | 49.5 | 656 | 31 397 |
| 2023 | 1 257 | 41 738 | 30 372 | 34 003 | 33.0 | 525 | 26 036 | 37 103 734 | 15 377 | 49.5 | 1 782 | 67 774 |
| 2024 | 1 348 | 41 263 | 34 075 | 32 312 | 30.5 | 456 | 27 508 | 34 617 197 | 15 026 | 60.5 | 1 804 | 68 771 |
| 2025 | 518 | 20 532 | 11 944 | 16 011 | 39.5 | 151 | 8 414 | 10 442 416 | 4 760 | 55.5 | 669 | 28 946 |
| Total | 17 040 | 566 975 | 404 048 | 446 593 | 33.5 | 6 168 | 291 573 | 363 370 497 | 167 006 | 47.5 | 23 208 | 858 548 |

15. The average observer trip time on longliners from 2012 to 2016 was 35 - 40 days. This time increased to 48 - 51 days per trip from 2016, after observers overcame their initial reluctance to work on the large freezer longline vessels that typically stay at sea longer than other longline vessels. During the early COVID-19 period, when ports and country borders started to close, some observers found themselves stranded on vessels, unable to be offloaded in ports that would allow for their return travel back to their homes. This caused an increase to 59 days at sea for 2020 with a decrease back to 49 days in 2021 as travel restrictions eased and observers were able to be repatriated.

16. Table 2 Table 2 shows ROP observer placements in the Western and Central Ocean and the Eastern Pacific Ocean since 2012, noting that there were no cross-endorsed (CE) placements in 2021 and 2022 during the pandemic. Additional information is available in SC21-ST-IP-05_Rev02, an SPC report on the Status of ROP Data Management.

**Table 2:** Number of ROP trips with fishing activities in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and Eastern Pacific Ocean by flag and ROP provider each year between 2012 and 2025.

| Flag CCM | ROP provider | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ecuador | KI | 1 | 9 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | 13 |
| El Salvador | KI | | 4 | 3 | 3 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 11 |
| EU-Spain | VU | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| EU-Spain | CK | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| USA | FFA | 1 | | 3 | 7 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 21 | 8 | | | | | | 80 |
| USA | PNA | | | | | | | | | | | | 29 | 36 | 21 | 86 |
| Total | | 2 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 21 | 8 | | | 29 | 37 | 21 | 192 |

## Authorized observer providers and update on ROP audits

17. A list of national observer programmes authorised to participate in the ROP, and relevant contact details of their National Observer Coordinator, are available on the WCPFC website. National Observer programmes are reminded of the requirement to keep the Secretariat informed of any changes to contact details for coordinators (CMM 2018-05 paragraph 14). CCM Party Administrators can update their national observer coordinator and contact details on the website at any time. This information is important to be updated regularly for use during observer safety responses and for use by observers, vessels, fishing companies, flag CCMs, and other members.

18. The Secretariat continues to audit national observer programmes against the required ROP minimum standards for participation in the WCPFC ROP on a rolling schedule. In general, audits are conducted in person but can also be undertaken electronically, especially in the case of renewing authorisations. Arrangements for scheduling of audits should be coordinated with the Secretariat's ROP Audit and Training Consultant.

19. CCMs with ROP-authorised national observer programmes can check the website for information on their valid audit period. Eight audits of national observer programmes were completed in 2025 and the first half of 2026: Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, United States, and FFA. Scheduled audits for 2026 include an interim audit process and full audit for Samoa in June, who has requested authorisation for its national observer programme to participate in the WCPFC ROP.

## Intersessional Working Group on the ROP

20. The Commission tasked the ROP-IWG at WCPFC22, with additional work on ROP data fields and other areas related to observer roles and conditions (refer to the 2026 ROP-IWG workplan). Information from all ROP-IWG meetings including updates provided to SC21, TCC21, and WCPFC22 are available through the WCPFC meeting webpages.

21. In 2025, WCPFC22 agreed to the removal of ROP minimum standard data fields (MSDF) that were redundant or where other reliable sources of the same data were available (refer to WCPFC22 Summary Report paragraph 288 and Attachment 4). Focuses for ROP-IWG meetings in 2026, are:

    a. improving the process for flag CCMs and WCPFC to receive notification of alleged infringements identified in observer reports;

    b. reviewing the scope of ROP MSDF to improve the identification of potential infringements of CMM obligations as distinct from scientific data, such as those for "Species of Special Interest" and to ensure MSDF remain up-to-date with amendments to CMMs;

    c. consider data fields for non-catch related transfers between vessels.

22. Data transfers of alleged infringements from SPC's database to the CCFS were halted in 2025 pending Commission decisions. Consequently, data from part of 2024, all of 2025, and 2026 to date is excluded from the CCFS and official figures. The Secretariat requires a decision on how to manage existing 2024 - 2026 potential case files, along with those that will be reported before the transition is finalised.

## Observer trip monitoring

23. The ROP MSDF include the "Observer Trip Monitoring Summary", which is commonly referred to as the GEN-3 form. The ROP data on that form are available to the Commission when an observer puts a "tick" (an answer in the affirmative) against the relevant trip monitoring summary codes. Observers will then include the reasons for circling "Yes" for a code in their report(see Table 3 for a list of the codes). It should be noted that this sample form used by Pacific Island countries includes codes for national observer programmes that are not part of the ROP MSDF. Other CCMs use their own systems for monitoring trips and reporting based on Commission MSDF.

**Table 3:** Observer Trip Monitoring Summary Codes and the corresponding number of reports for each code for purse seine (PS) and longline (LL) fisheries as at April 2025.

| Code | Observer rights/social behaviour | PS | LL |
|---|---|---|---|
| RS-A | Did the operator or any crew assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding to intimidate or interfere with observers in the performance of their duties | 1 | 2 |
| RS-B | Request that an event not be reported by the observer | 4 | 3 |
| RS-D | Did the operator fail to provide the observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the observer or the observer's government, with food, accommodation, and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to officers of the vessel | 3 | 0 |
| **Code** | **National regulations** | **PS** | **LL** |
| NR-A | Fish in areas where it is not permitted to fish | 1 | 1 |
| NR-C | Use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed | 22 | 1 |
| NR-D | Not display or present a valid (and current) licence document onboard | 1 | 6 |
| NR-E | Transfer or tranship fish from or to another vessel | 8 | 38 |
| NR-F | Was involved in bunkering activities | 312 | 9 |
| NR-G | Fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where they were not authorized to fish | 12 | 0 |
| **Code** | **WCPFC CMMs** | **PS** | **LL** |
| WC-A | Fail to comply with any Commission Conservation and Management Measures | 49 | 1 |
| WC-B | High-grade the catch | 9 | 6 |
| **Code** | **Log sheet recording position & catch** | **PS** | **LL** |
| LC-A | Inaccurately record retained 'Target Species' in the vessel logs | 97 | 29 |
| LC-B | Inaccurately record 'Target Species' discards | 150 | 41 |
| LC-C | Record species inaccurately | 139 | 2 |
| LC-D | Inaccurately record retained bycatch species, and discards | 129 | 54 |
| LC-E | Inaccurately record retained bycatch species | 53 | 14 |
| LC-F | Inaccurately record discarded bycatch species | 57 | 10 |
| LP-A | Inaccurately record vessel position on vessel log sheets for sets, hauling and catch | 1 | 1 |
| LP-B | Fail to report vessel positions to countries, where required when entering and leaving an EEZ (crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the High Seas) | 2 | 4 |

*Continued on next page*

**Table 3:** Observer Trip Monitoring Summary Codes and the corresponding number of reports for each code for purse seine (PS) and longline (LL) fisheries (Continued).

| Code | Species of special interest | PS | LL |
|---|---|---|---|
| SI-A | Land on deck Species of Special Interest (SSIs) | 351 | 13 |
| SI-B | Interact with non-target species | 114 | 39 |
| **Code** | **Pollution** | **PS** | **LL** |
| PN-A | Dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals, or old fishing gear | 44 | 17 |
| PN-B | Discharge any oil | 5 | 3 |
| PN-C | Lose any fishing gear | 0 | 2 |
| PN-D | Abandon any fishing gear | 5 | 2 |
| PN-E | Fail to report any abandoned gear | 2 | 0 |
| **Code** | **Safety at sea** | **PS** | **LL** |
| SS-A | Fail to monitor international safety frequencies | 1 | 0 |
| SS-B | Carry out-of-date safety equipment | 9 | 3 |

24. For 2025, the data continues to reflect a high prevalence of inaccurate recording of species identification, discards, and bycatch. This indicates an ongoing need for the training of fishers. Marine pollution, expecially of plastic or other persistent items remains high, as were issues with expired safety equipment. Statistical modelling of longline trips indicates a far higher preavlence of almost all infringements, clearly illustrating the need for increased longline observer coverage.

## Observer welfare and safety

25. The welfare and safety of observers is critical, so it is concerning that observers report trips where obstruction, intimidation, interference, and inadequate accommodation are reported. CMM 2018-05 requires CCMs to ensure their vessel operators comply with observer safety guidelines specified in the CMM. The Observer Trip Monitoring Summary is an opportunity for observers to record when the discharge of their duties has been obstructed (under codes RS-A, RS-B, and RS-D). This provides advance notification of alleged infringements to flag CCMs which are subsequently included in the CCFS as Observer Obstruction Alleged Infringements (OAI). Tables 4, 5, and 6 summarise the outcomes of flag CCM investigations of alleged observer obstruction incidents notified in ROP observer data for the period 1 January 2015 to 2025.

26. CMM 2017-03 on the Protection of observers in the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme sets out the requirements of observer providers, flag CCMs, and vessel captains in situations where observers are threatened, assaulted, injured, missing or presumed fallen overboard, or have suffered from a serious illness or injury that threatens the observer's health or safety, or if an observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed such that their health or safety including death.

27. Seven (7) observer-safety related incidents have been reported to the Secretariat since 2017: three (3) incidents in 2017, two (2) in 2020, one (1) in 2023, and one (1) in 2025. A summary of reported incidents and the flag CCM investigation response is provided in Table 7.

28. ROP audits confirm independent two-way communication devices and safety protocols are well-supported across all ROP programmes. CCMs must ensure these devices are activated and properly maintained for use in an emergency.

29. CMM 2017-03 is subject to review by 2019 and periodically thereafter, with CCMs able to propose amendments at any time. No amendments have been proposed to date.

**Table 4:** Information from the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary Codes under RS-A for the period from 1 January 2015 to 2025: "Did the operator or any crew member assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding to, intimidate, or interfere with, observer in the performance of their duties".

| Year | New case | In progress | Completed – Infraction status | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | No infraction | Warning | Sanction | Total | |
| 2015 | | 11 | 31 | 4 | 2 | 37 | 48 |
| 2016 | | 12 | 12 | 1 | | 13 | 25 |
| 2017 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | | 11 | 19 |
| 2018 | | 17 | 14 | 1 | | 15 | 32 |
| 2019 | | 20 | 6 | | | 6 | 26 |
| 2020 | | 6 | 5 | | | 5 | 11 |
| 2021 | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 2022 | 1 | 4 | | | | | 5 |
| 2023 | | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| 2024 | | | | | | | |
| 2025 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 3 | 83 | 76 | 9 | 2 | 87 | 173 |

**Table 5:** Information from the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary Codes under RS-B for the period from 1 January 2015 to 2025: "Request that an event not be reported by the observer".

| Year | New case | In progress | Completed – Infraction status | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | No infraction | Warning | Sanction | Total | |
| 2015 | | 15 | 24 | 4 | 2 | 30 | 45 |
| 2016 | | 10 | 4 | | | 4 | 14 |
| 2017 | | 5 | 3 | 2 | | 5 | 10 |
| 2018 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 21 |
| 2019 | 3 | 13 | 3 | | | 3 | 19 |
| 2020 | 1 | 7 | 2 | | | 2 | 10 |
| 2021 | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 2022 | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 2023 | 2 | 2 | | | | | 4 |
| 2024 | | | | | | | |
| 2025 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 7 | 65 | 45 | 7 | 3 | 55 | 127 |

**Table 6:** Information from the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary Codes under RS-D for the period from 1 January 2015 to 2025: "Did the operator fail to provide the observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the observer or theobserver's government, with food, accommodation and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel".

| Year | New case | In progress | Completed – Infraction status | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | No infraction | Warning | Sanction | Total | |
| 2015 | | 6 | 18 | 3 | 9 | 30 | 36 |
| 2016 | | 2 | 9 | 1 | | 10 | 12 |
| 2017 | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 4 |
| 2018 | | 7 | 11 | 1 | | 12 | 19 |
| 2019 | | 15 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 20 |
| 2020 | | 4 | 1 | | | 1 | 5 |
| 2021 | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 2022 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 2023 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 3 |
| 2024 | | | | | | | |
| 2025 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 1 | 41 | 43 | 7 | 10 | 60 | 102 |

**Table 7:** Summary of outcome of flag CCM investigations of alleged infringements related to observer safety and welfare under CMM 2016-03/2017-03.

| Year | In progress | Completed – Infraction Status | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | No infraction | Sanction | Total | |
| 2017 | | 3 | | 3 | 3 |
| 2020 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| 2023 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| 2024 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 7 |

## Data and monitoring through the ROP of the Commission's CMMs intended to minimise impacts of fishing on Species of Special Interest including non-target species

30. The Commission has adopted CMMs specifying mitigation methods intended to minimize the impact of fishing on SSI, including non-target species. Supporting guidelines on handling best practice for certain non-target species have also been adopted to assist in reducing catch and enhancing the potential survival of these species when caught (refer to supplementary information on CMMs at this) link.

31. Several CMMs task the Secretariat to provide reports of observer data of the interactions and catches of SSI such as seabirds, cetaceans, sea turtles, whale sharks, silky and oceanic whitetip sharks, and mobulid rays (see Annex A). Annex A of this paper shows trends in CCFS cases related to cetaceans, whale sharks, and sharks.

32. It should be noted that all references to "interactions", particularly in Annexes to this report, relate to a wider range of event types captured in support of scientific purposes and do not necessarily mean an animal has been caught. Examples of interactions that do not result in capture are dolphins riding bow waves, dolphins feeding outside nets on escaping fish, crew feeding cetaceans, or SSI entering a net and escaping without being landed. This is the reason for the ROP-IWG review of the scope of ROP MSDF to improve the identification of alleged infringements referred to above in the section "Intersessional Working Group on the ROP" as these types of "interactions" cannot easily be distinguished from reporting of interactions that would be considered as alleged infringements.

## Support from the Secretariat to National and Regional Observer Programmes

33. As part of the Western Pacific-East Asia Improved Tuna Monitoring (WPEA-ITM) project, the Philippines commenced training of national observers in 2009. Training sessions have been held regularly every year, and approximately 740 observers and 28 debriefers have been trained to WCPFC standards. The Secretariat has continually assisted the Philippines observer training programme as part of the WPEA project, and attended the Philippines observer training held in Navotas, Philippines in May 2025 and May 2026. Philippines observers collect data and information using SPC forms and formats, and are employed domestically and in the High Seas Pocket No. 1 Special Management Area (HSP1-SMA).

34. Many of the national observer programmes currently participating in the WCPFC ROP are well-organised and supported by their national governments. Throughout 2025, the Secretariat continued to support CCMs' ROP Programmes in maintaining agreed levels of coverage to ensure compliance with the Commission's operating standards, working closely with those CCMs who were facing challenges to provide ongoing assistance and identify practical solutions.

35. Upon request, the Secretariat provides guidance on key areas such as observer safety, training, and day-to-day programme operations, and clarifies observer roles in monitoring CMMs and Commission requirements.

## Cross-Endorsement of ROP Observers to collect data on behalf of other tuna RFMOs

36. The IATTC/WCPFC Cross-Endorsement (CE) arrangement was established to allow WCPFC ROP observers to continue their duties on vessels that may operate in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific (EPO) on a single trip. The most recent training sessions were held during 2023, in Tuvalu, Fiji, and Kiribati. This training increased the numbers of CE observers to pre-pandemic levels, when several observers from Pacific Island countries who had IATTC/WCPFC cross-endorsement qualifications left observer programmes for other employment. Since the reinstatement of 100% observer coverage, demand for CE observers has increased, particularly from the United States purse seine fleet.

37. Although there are approximately 100 trained and active CE observers, it is often difficult to find a CE observer available for a trip, as many are already at sea, or have just returned and are not immediately available. In 2025, there were 41 requests by United States flagged vessels for CE observers. Of these vessels, 21 vessels crossed into the EPO to either fish or transit to EPO ports. This trend was similar to 2024, with 75 requests by United States vessels for CE observers, with only 36 vessels actually crossing into the EPO.

38. The Secretariat has received requests for training from ROP Programmes and flag CCMs for additional CE training in 2025 and 2026. Proposed CE training is only possible if sufficient funding is available and the IATTC Observer Trainer is available to deliver the course. CCMs that requested CE training while attending the 2025 Regional Observer Coordination Workgroups (ROCW) were Tonga, Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The five-to-six-day CE training course is conducted by the IATTC Observer Trainer and the WCPFC ROP Training and Audit Consultant. Current budgetary constraints limit training to one in-country session per year. Sub-regional training would enhance capacity building across more countries, making better use of resources, and sharing knowledge more widely.

## Annex A: ROP observer data focused on Species of Special Interest

39. ROP observers collect data on SSI through their monitoring of the Commission's CMMs which are intended to minimise impacts of fishing on these species (see fishery and life status codes of SSI used by observers in Table A-1). Information from the SSI report is held by SPC, and is available to the Secretariat through the TUFMAN2 database. All data shown here represent raw data collected by observers who were debriefed and whose data were reviewed for quality assurance. A separate TCC21 supplementary paper provided information on past trends in CCFS cases based on observer data (refer TCC21-2025-RP02_suppl).

**Table A-1:** Fishery and life status codes used for the reporting of Species of Special Interest by ROP Observers.

| Code | Explanation |
|---|---|
| PS | Purse seine. |
| LL | Longline. |
| R | Retained whole or processed. |
| U | Unknown condition when released or discarded. |
| A | Alive when released or discarded. |
| D | Deceased when discarded. |

### A.1 Cetacean and pinniped fishery interactions

40. For interactions of cetaceans and pinnipeds, SPC produced an identification guide ("On Deck Species ID Guides"), which was issued to many observers. The guide supports a more accurate identification of each cetacean and pinniped at sea.

41. Observer-reported cetacean and pinniped interactions have been entered from 518 purse seine trips and 151 longline trips for 2025. Interactions involving cetaceans or pinnipeds may include animals being in the area the fishing activity is occurring and entering the net and escaping or being removed from the net, without being landed, either independently or with assistance from the crew.

42. Observers recorded 17 different species of cetaceans, including an unidentified whale species, that interacted with the fisheries on observed vessels in 2025 (Table A-2).

43. For the 518 purse seine trips, observer records for 2025 were predominantly of dolphin species interactions (Table A-2).

44. For purse seine fisheries, there were 46 deceased animals included in the total observer records of cetaceans in 2025.

45. Longline vessels caught or interacted with cetaceans in 2025, and 1 of these captures was reported as deceased. Cetaceans that escaped capture were all alive when escaping.

46. CMM 2011-03 for the protection of cetaceans from purse seine fishing operations was amended in 2024 and took effect on 1 July 2025. The new CMM expanded the protection to include longline fishing operations (CMM 2024-07) Data collected since 2012 combine all data collected by mainly Pacific Island programme observers using early versions of the General Form 2 (Gen-2) format (Table A-3, Figures A-1 and A-2). Current data held by SPC has been updated to more accurately reflect catches and the conditions of cetaceans.

**Table A-2:** Number of landings and interactions of cetacean species, including interaction outcomes, in purse seine (PS) and longline (LL) fisheries as reported by ROP Observers in 2025.

| Species | Observed | | Escaped | | Interacted or landed & discarded | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Alive | | Dead | | Unknown | |
| | PS | LL | PS | LL | PS | LL | PS | LL | PS | LL |
| Blainville's beaked whale | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bottlenose dolphin | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Bryde's whale | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Common dolphin | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| False killer whale | 46 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Fin whale | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Humpback whale | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Indo-pacif. bottlenose dolphin | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Melon-headed whale | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pantropical spotted dolphin | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pygmy killer whale | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rough-toothed dolphin | 32 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sei whale | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Short-finned pilot whale | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spinner dolphin | 37 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 3 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toothed whales nei | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whale (unidentified) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 221 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 172 | 10 | 46 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

**Table A-3:** Number of landings and interactions of cetaceans, including interaction outcomes, in purse seine (PS) and longline (LL) fisheries as reported by ROP Observers for the period from 2012 to 2025.

| Year | Observed | | Escaped | | Interacted or landed & discarded | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Alive | | Dead | | Unknown | |
| | PS | LL | PS | LL | PS | LL | PS | LL | PS | LL |
| 2012 | 1 452 | 50 | 0 | 1 | 1 168 | 15 | 222 | 5 | 62 | 29 |
| 2013 | 2 209 | 62 | 8 | 1 | 1 552 | 25 | 562 | 7 | 87 | 29 |
| 2014 | 1 895 | 89 | 0 | 4 | 1 560 | 41 | 245 | 3 | 90 | 41 |
| 2015 | 1 273 | 98 | 0 | 1 | 1 026 | 70 | 200 | 13 | 47 | 14 |
| 2016 | 1 143 | 46 | 1 | 0 | 967 | 40 | 135 | 3 | 40 | 3 |
| 2017 | 1 522 | 87 | 6 | 15 | 1 236 | 37 | 150 | 7 | 130 | 28 |
| 2018 | 1 188 | 66 | 1 | 2 | 798 | 39 | 204 | 17 | 185 | 8 |
| 2019 | 1 666 | 105 | 10 | 9 | 1 027 | 47 | 338 | 47 | 291 | 2 |
| 2020 | 855 | 46 | 0 | 2 | 496 | 36 | 260 | 5 | 99 | 3 |
| 2021 | 278 | 57 | 0 | 4 | 236 | 42 | 34 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| 2022 | 279 | 52 | 0 | 2 | 241 | 38 | 37 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 2023 | 857 | 46 | 9 | 0 | 646 | 33 | 178 | 12 | 24 | 1 |
| 2024 | 693 | 45 | 0 | 2 | 499 | 34 | 49 | 7 | 145 | 2 |
| 2025 | 221 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 172 | 10 | 46 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 15 531 | 864 | 35 | 47 | 11 624 | 507 | 2 660 | 143 | 1 212 | 167 |

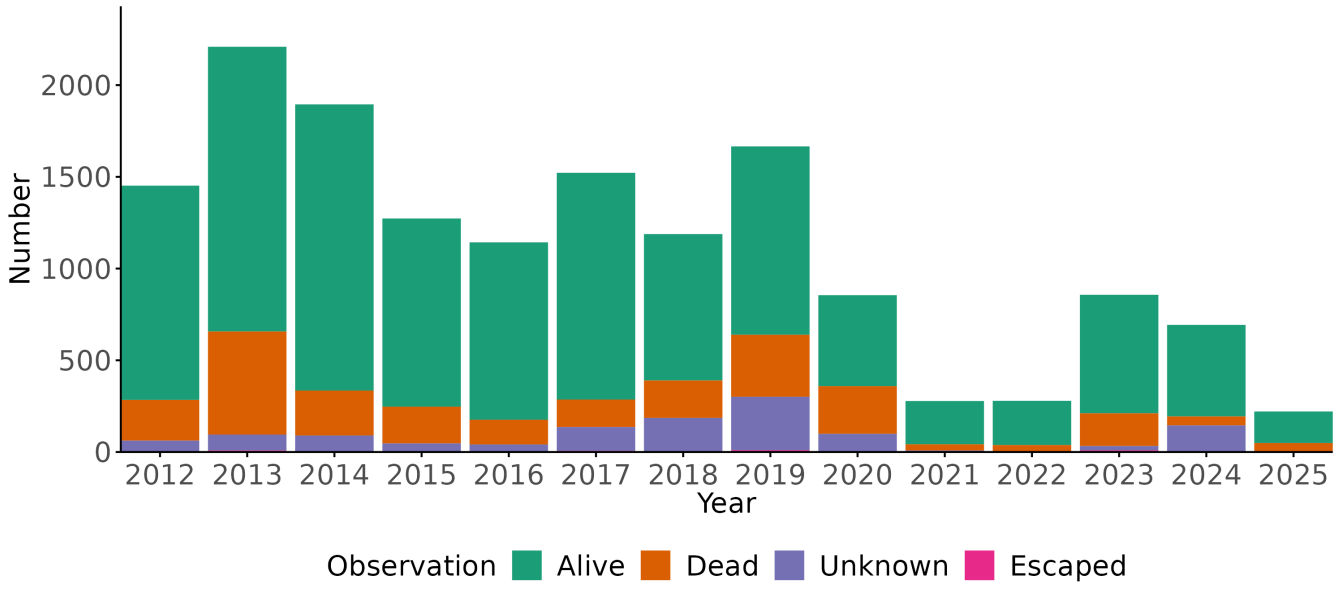


**Figure A-1:** Number of interactions of cetaceans and pinnipeds in purse seine fisheries as reported by ROP Observers for the period from 2012 to 2025. Interaction outcomes were reported as alive, dead, escaped before landing, or unknown.

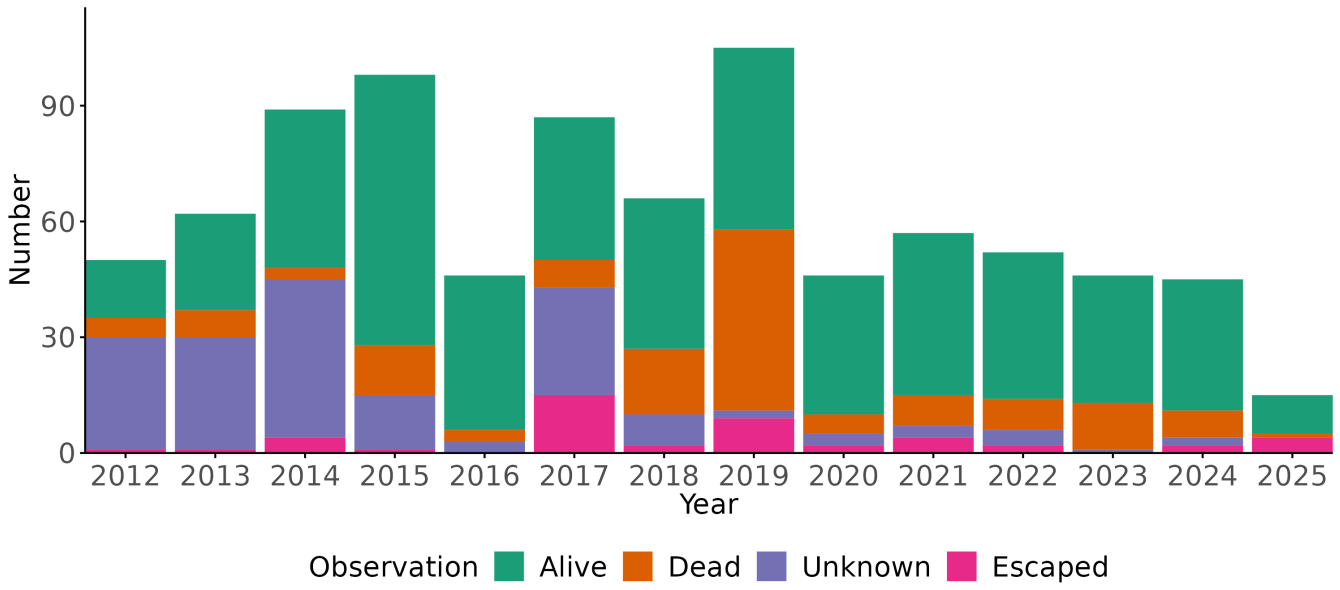


**Figure A-2:** Number of interactions of cetaceans and pinnipeds in longline fisheries as reported by ROP Observers for the period from 2012 to 2025. Interaction outcomes were reported as alive, dead, escaped before landing, or unknown.

## A.2 Seabird fishery interactions

47. There were no recorded landings or interactions of seabirds for purse seine fisheries in 2025.

48. Observer data of seabird landings and interactions in longline fisheries in 2025 were collected by observers from Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Chinese Taipei, United States (Hawaii), and Vanuatu. Preliminary observer data from 2025 documented seabird landings and interactions for 151 longline trips. Interactions may involve seabirds being in the area where fishing activity is occurring but not typically hooked or directly impacted, for example, landing on the vessel or buoys and able to escape or avoid impact from the fishing activity, either independently or with assistance from the crew.

49. For the 151 longline trips, there was a total of 359 seabird landings and interactions reported by observers, including records of 174 birds that were released alive and 170 birds that were dead (Table A-4, Figure A-3). Most of the observer records were from longline fishing locations at latitudes greater than 23°N. These data show overall, that more albatross are being released alive than dead after capture in longline fisheries. This is unexpected given historically, captures of albatross occur when gear is being deployed and drown before hauling. However, this new data from more shallow-set longlines targeting species such as swordfish, operate in a manner that allows a hooked seabird that has not yet swallowed the bait or one that has become entangled in the longline, to be brought on to the vessel, unhooked and released alive. This may suggest a change in observer reporting is needed to differentiate whether a seabird was captured during gear setting or hauling.

50. Across the seabird records, Laysan albatross and black-footed albatross were the most prevalent species reported by observers, similar to 2024.

51. Observers on longline and purse seine vessels also recorded seabird sightings, including their locations (Tables A-5 and A-6). These records provide an indication of the variety of species surrounding fishing vessels, and of the predominance of species that were sighted during a fishing trip. Nevertheless, the numbers are less reliable indicators of seabird abundance, as the same birds may be counted multiple times during a set or a particular period of a fishing trip.

**Table A-4:** Number of landings and interactions of seabird species or species groups in longline fisheries, including locations and interaction outcomes, as reported by ROP Observers in 2025. "Nei" indicates identification to species group only.

| Species | Condition | | | Total | Location | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Alive | Dead | Unknown | | <23° N >30° S | <30° S | >23° N |
| Albatrosses nei | 4 | 10 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| Bird (unidentified) | 1 | 20 | 0 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Black-footed albatross | 99 | 32 | 0 | 131 | 1 | 0 | 130 |
| Flesh-footed shearwater | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Frigate bird | 0 | 54 | 0 | 54 | 54 | 0 | 0 |
| Laysan albatross | 69 | 11 | 5 | 85 | 0 | 0 | 85 |
| Petrels & shearwaters nei | 0 | 28 | 0 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Sooty shearwater | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tahiti petrel | 0 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Boobies & gannets nei | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 174 | 170 | 15 | 359 | 130 | 0 | 229 |

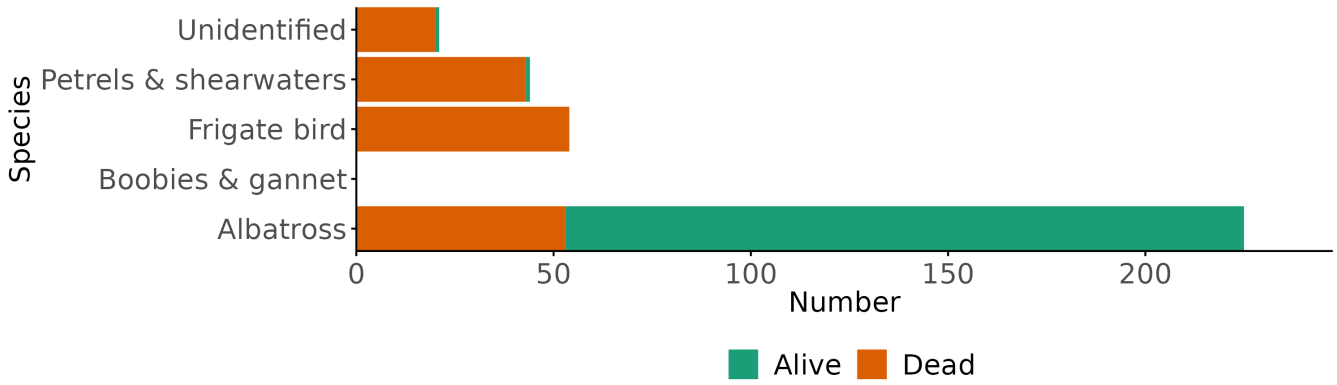


**Figure A-3:** Number of landings and interactions of seabird species groups in longline fisheries, including interaction outcomes, as reported by ROP Observers in 2025.

52. There were 7168 seabird sightings reported by observers from longline vessels (Table A-5). Most of the sightings were of Laysan albatross and black-footed albatross.

53. For purse seine fisheries, there were 200 seabird sightings recorded by observers (Table A-6). The highest number of sightings was of seabirds in the species grouping "gulls, terns, and skuas".

**Table A-5:** Seabird sightings and their locations in longline fisheries, as reported by ROP observers in 2025. "Nei" indicates identification to species group only.

| Species | Observed | Location | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | <23° N >30° S | <30° S | >23° N |
| Albatrosses nei | 41 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| Bird (unidentified) | 28 | 26 | 0 | 2 |
| Black-browed albatross | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Black-footed albatross | 2 986 | 53 | 0 | 2 933 |
| Boobies and gannets nei | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Laysan albatross | 4 048 | 10 | 0 | 4 038 |
| Masked booby | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Petrels and shearwaters nei | 18 | 7 | 0 | 11 |
| Petrels nei | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Short-tailed shearwater | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Total | 7 168 | 122 | 0 | 7 046 |

**Table A-6:** Seabird sightings and their locations in purse seine fisheries, as reported by ROP observers in 2025. "Nei" indicates identification to species group only.

| Species | Observed | Location | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | <23° N >30° S | <30° S | >23° N |
| Albatrosses nei | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Black-footed albatross | 27 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Boobies and gannets nei | 120 | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| Gulls, terns & skuas | 50 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Petrels & shearwaters | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 200 | 200 | 0 | 0 |

54. The first seabird measure, CMM 2012-07, was adopted in 2012, and the most recent amendment was adopted in 2025, effective from 3 February 2026 (CMM 2025-05) (Tables A-7 to A-11, Figures A-4 to A-8). Initially, observers lacked reliable identification guides to support the accurate at-sea identification of seabird species. Subsequent improvements in seabird identification skills through the development of comprehensive identification manuals and restructuring of observer training led to improvements in at-sea identifications. Since 2012, albatross has been the most numerous seabird species grouping recorded by observers on longline vessels, followed by the petrels and shearwaters grouping.

### A.2.1 Albatross

**Table A-7:** Number of landings and interactions of albatross reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of birds discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 52 | 76 | 12 | 140 |
| 2013 | 38 | 90 | 8 | 136 |
| 2014 | 55 | 71 | 3 | 130 |
| 2015 | 47 | 802 | 28 | 877 |
| 2016 | 72 | 1 346 | 23 | 1 472 |
| 2017 | 61 | 449 | 12 | 522 |
| 2018 | 29 | 524 | 24 | 577 |
| 2019 | 51 | 1 574 | 0 | 1 625 |
| 2020 | 83 | 190 | 0 | 273 |
| 2021 | 62 | 186 | 1 | 249 |
| 2022 | 114 | 199 | 2 | 315 |
| 2023 | 95 | 468 | 7 | 570 |
| 2024 | 92 | 434 | 4 | 530 |
| 2025 | 172 | 53 | 5 | 230 |
| Total | 1 023 | 6 462 | 129 | 7 646 |

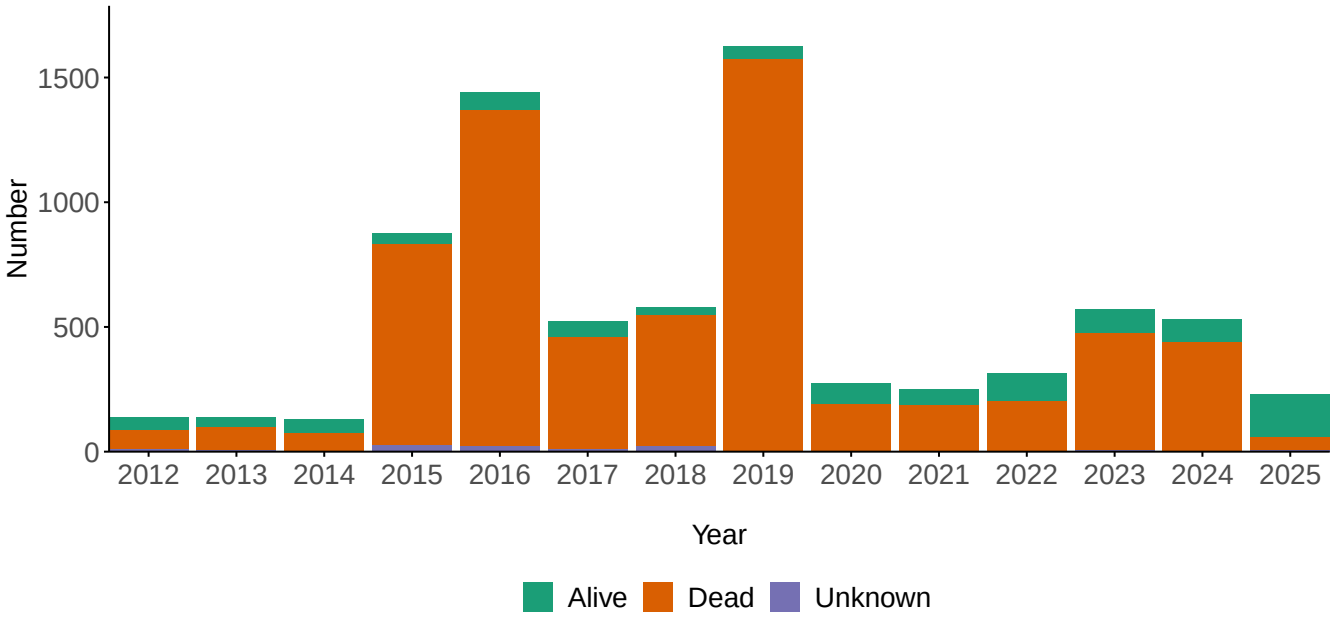


**Figure A-4:** Number of landings and interactions of albatross reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.2.2 Petrels and shearwaters

**Table A-8:** Number of landings and interactions of petrels and shearwaters reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of birds discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| 2013 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| 2014 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 18 |
| 2015 | 5 | 100 | 3 | 108 |
| 2016 | 11 | 152 | 16 | 181 |
| 2017 | 0 | 46 | 8 | 54 |
| 2018 | 2 | 80 | 2 | 84 |
| 2019 | 1 | 153 | 0 | 154 |
| 2020 | 8 | 40 | 0 | 48 |
| 2021 | 11 | 32 | 0 | 43 |
| 2022 | 5 | 42 | 0 | 47 |
| 2023 | 1 | 53 | 2 | 56 |
| 2024 | 5 | 40 | 0 | 45 |
| 2025 | 1 | 43 | 0 | 44 |
| Total | 53 | 815 | 33 | 903 |

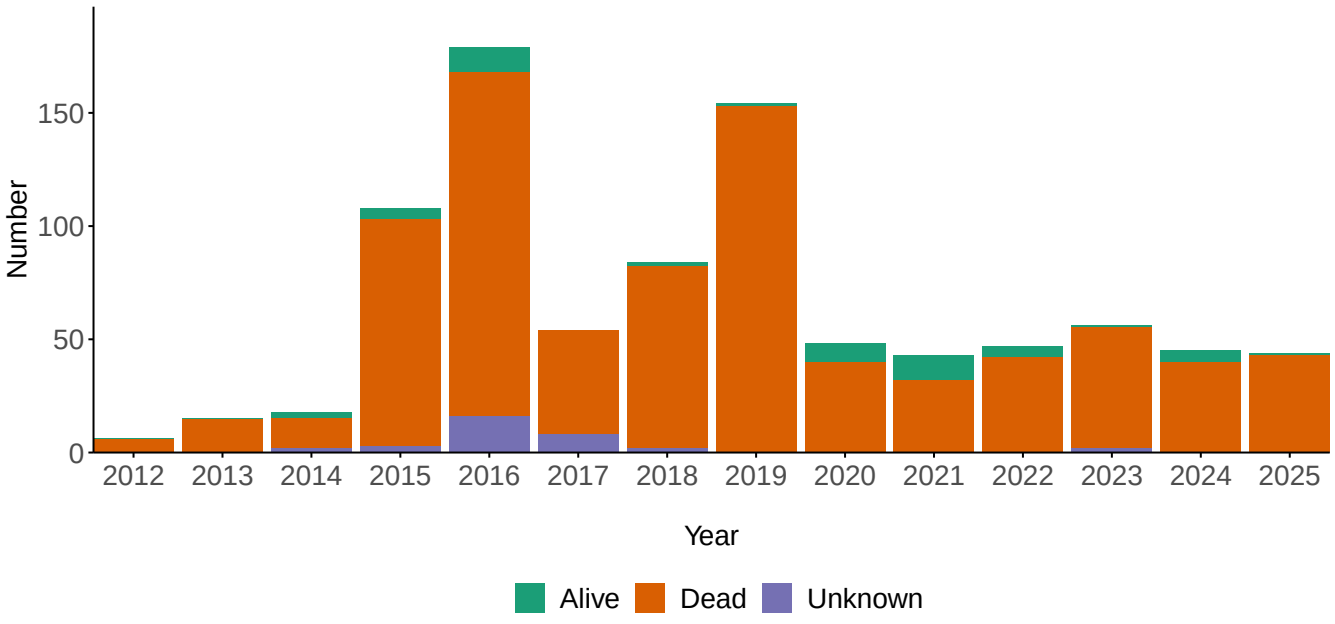


**Figure A-5:** Number of landings and interactions of petrels and shearwaters reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.2.3 Gulls, terns, and skuas

**Table A-9:** Number of landings and interactions of gulls, terns, and skuas reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of birds discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | | | | |
| 2013 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 2014 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2015 | | | | |
| 2016 | | | | |
| 2017 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2018 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2019 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2020 | | | | |
| 2021 | | | | |
| 2022 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2023 | | | | |
| 2024 | 155 | 4 | 0 | 159 |
| 2025 | | | | |
| Total | 155 | 13 | 1 | 169 |

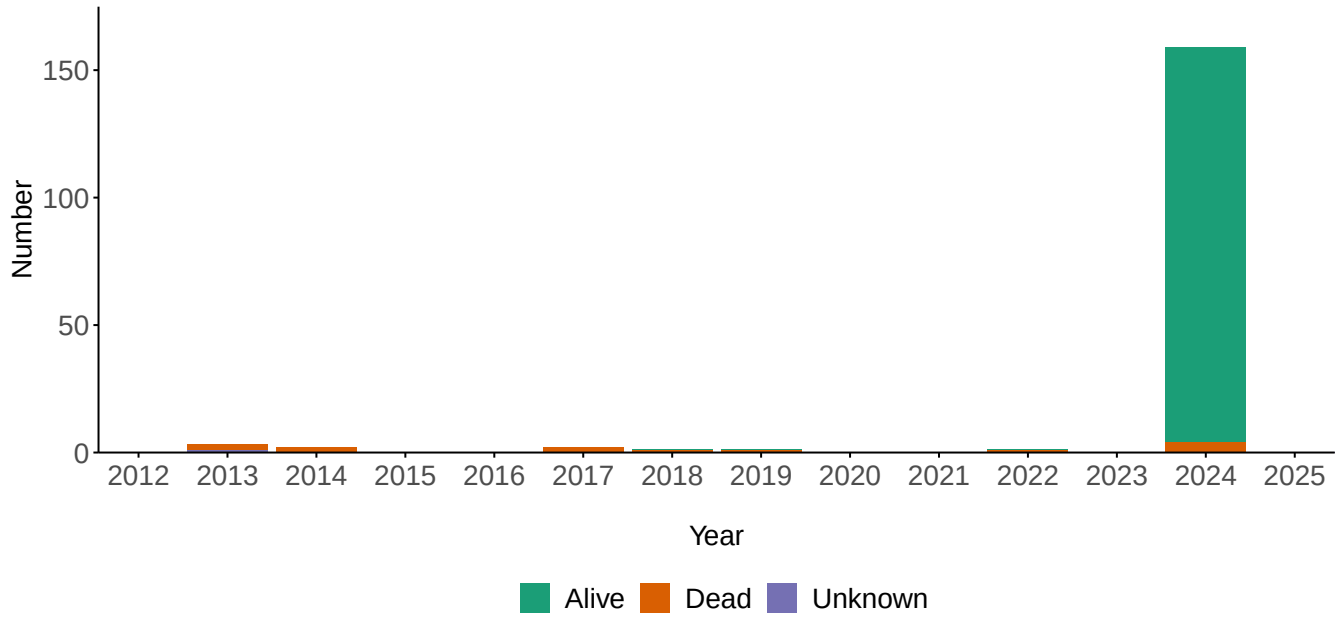


**Figure A-6:** Number of landings and interactions of gulls, terns, and skuas reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.2.4 Boobies and gannets

**Table A-10:** Number of landings and interactions of boobies and gannets reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of birds discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | | | | |
| 2013 | | | | |
| 2014 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2015 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2016 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2017 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 2018 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2019 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2020 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2021 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2022 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 2023 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2024 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 2025 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Total | 6 | 21 | 10 | 37 |

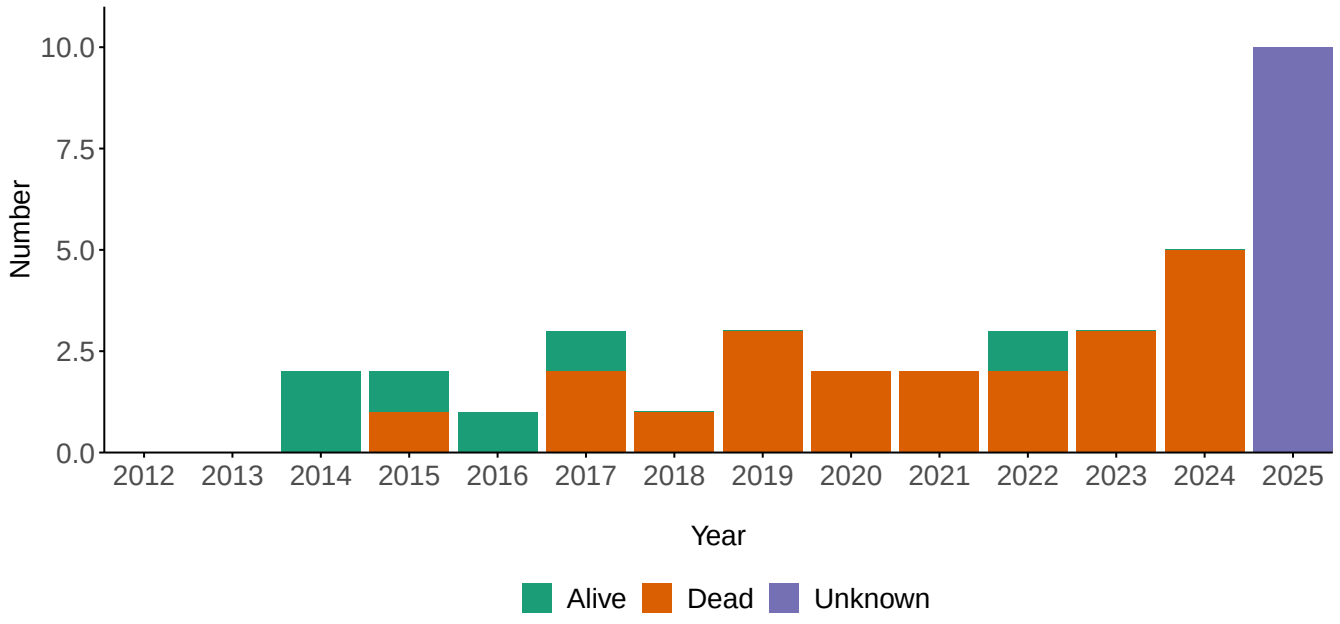


**Figure A-7:** Number of landings and interactions of boobies and gannets reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.2.5 Unidentified seabirds

**Table A-11:** Number of landings and interactions of unidentified seabirds reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of birds discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 12 |
| 2013 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 2014 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 2015 | 1 | 21 | 2 | 24 |
| 2016 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 23 |
| 2017 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 14 |
| 2018 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 2019 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| 2020 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2021 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| 2022 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| 2023 | 2 | 21 | 0 | 23 |
| 2024 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| 2025 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 21 |
| Total | 10 | 167 | 5 | 182 |

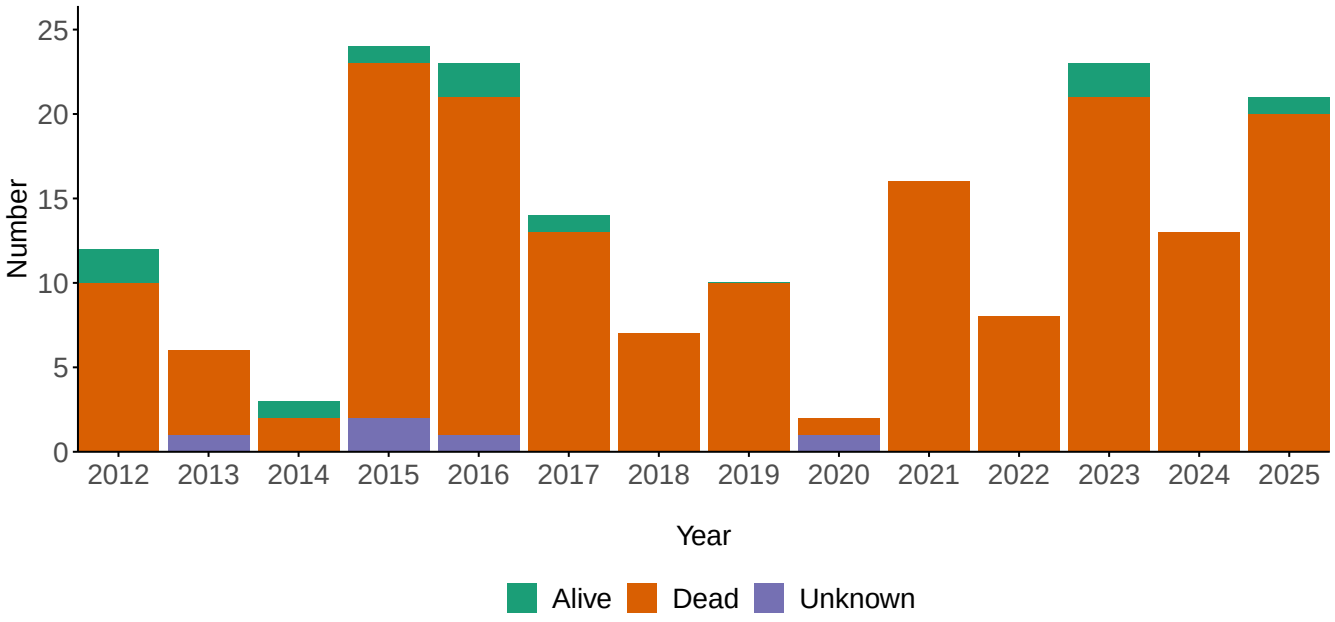


**Figure A-8:** Number of landings and interactions of unidentified seabirds reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

## A.3 Sea turtle fishery interactions

55. Landings and interactions of sea turtles were reported by observers from 518 purse seine trips and 151 longline trips in 2025. Across these trips, observer records documented a total of 77 landings and interactions of sea turtles. Interactions may involve sea turtles being in the area where the fishing activity is occurring and entering the net and escaping or being removed from the net, without being landed, either independently or with assistance from the crew.

56. In longline fisheries, there were 56 landings and interactions of turtles reported by observers (Table A-12, Figure A-9). Of these captures, 39 turtles were released alive, and 12 turtles were deceased when discarded. Observers reported that crews assisted with the recovery of live turtles landed onboard longline vessels, and all turtles recorded as deceased were in this state when landed.

**Table A-12:** Number of landings and interactions of sea turtle species in longline fisheries, including interaction outcomes, as reported by ROP observers in 2025. Number of sea turtles released alive is a subset of sea turtles discarded alive. Total number observed is the number of sea turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Species | Observed | Retained | Discarded alive | Discarded dead | Unknown condition | Released alive before landing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green turtle | 6 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Leatherback turtle | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Loggerhead turtle | 26 | 0 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 23 |
| Marine turtles nei | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Olive ridley turtle | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 56 | 0 | 42 | 12 | 2 | 39 |

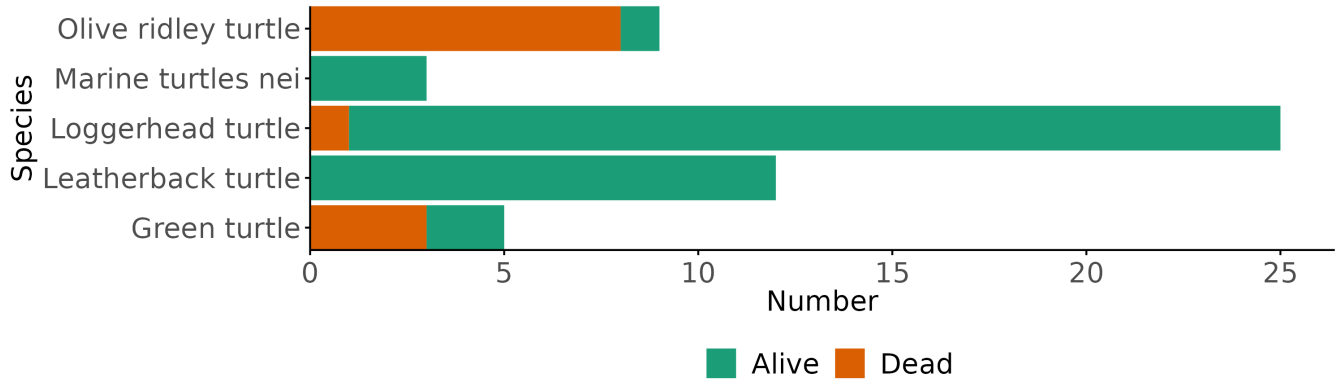


**Figure A-9:** Number of landings and interactions of sea turtle species in longline fisheries, including interaction outcomes, as reported by ROP observers in 2025.

57. In purse seine fisheries, there were 21 landings and interactions of turtles reported by observers in 2025 (Table A-13). Of this total, 1 turtle was reported as deceased, and 7 turtles were released from the net before landing. The crew assisted turtles when brailed aboard and landed on deck, and turtles were released in the same condition as when landed.

**Table A-13:** Number of landings and interactions of sea turtle species in purse seine fisheries, including interaction outcomes, as reported by ROP observers in 2025. Number of sea turtles released alive is a subset of sea turtles discarded alive. Total number observed is the number of sea turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Species | Observed | Retained | Discarded alive | Discarded dead | Unknown condition | Released alive before landing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green turtle | 10 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Leatherback turtle | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Loggerhead turtle | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Olive ridley turtle | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 21 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 7 |

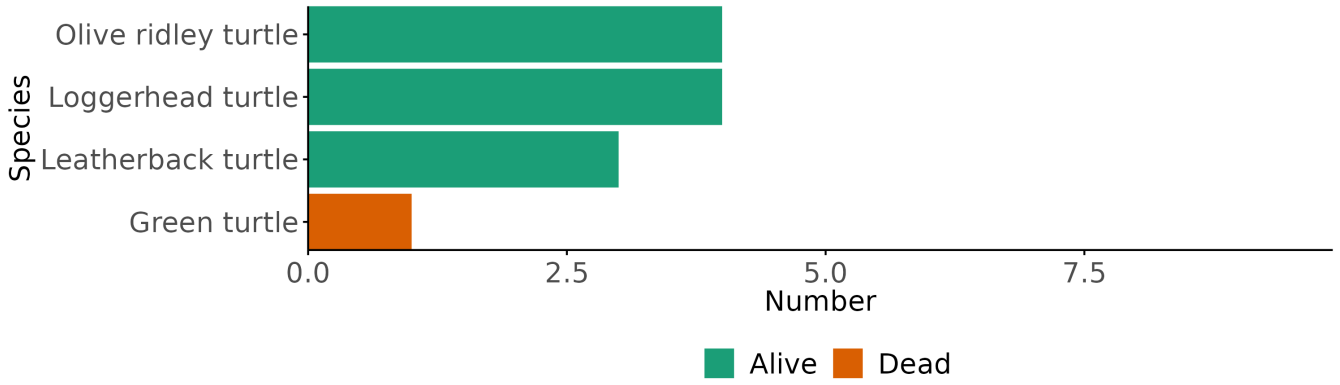


**Figure A-10:** Number of landings and interactions of sea turtle species in purse seine fisheries, including interaction outcomes, as reported by ROP observers in 2025.

58. For all turtle species, observer records are available from the period from 2012 to 2025 (Tables A-14 to A-20; Figures A-11 to A-17).

59. Observer records for this period included a total of 484 unidentified turtles (see Table A-20, Figure A-17). These turtles were recorded by observers, but could not be identified to species. For these unidentified turtles, 380 turtles were recorded as released alive, which included releases before they were landed on deck. For live releases, species identifications are difficult. Overall, between 2019 and 2023, there has been a decrease in unidentified turtles due to a combination of observer placement restrictions during COVID-19 when less trips were made, and improved turtle identification manuals available to observers.

### A.3.1 Flatback turtle

**Table A-14:** Number of landings and interactions of flatback turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 2013 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 2014 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 2015 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 2016 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| 2017 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2018 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| 2019 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2020 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2021 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2022 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2023 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2024 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 43 | 12 | 2 | 57 |

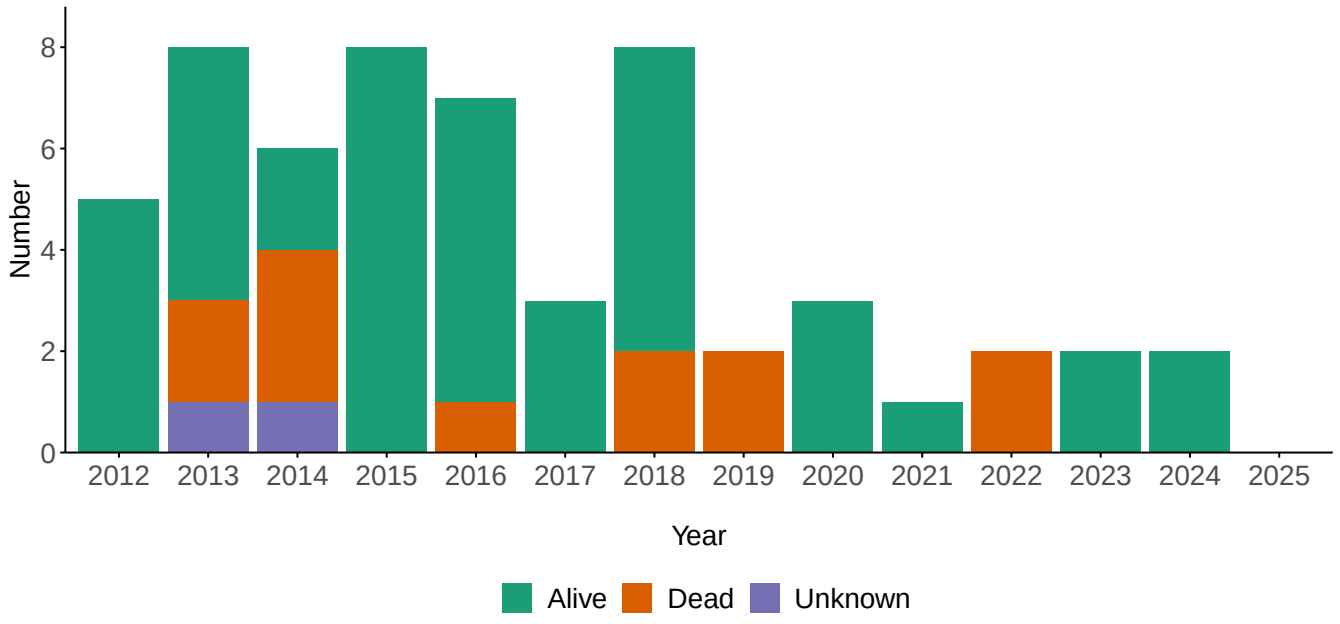


**Figure A-11:** Number of landings and interactions of flatback turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.3.2 Green turtle

**Table A-15:** Number of landings and interactions of green turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 52 | 6 | 3 | 68 |
| 2013 | 90 | 16 | 11 | 121 |
| 2014 | 54 | 15 | 5 | 80 |
| 2015 | 85 | 14 | 3 | 103 |
| 2016 | 48 | 16 | 14 | 79 |
| 2017 | 54 | 19 | 16 | 89 |
| 2018 | 93 | 56 | 2 | 154 |
| 2019 | 86 | 27 | 2 | 116 |
| 2020 | 23 | 16 | 2 | 41 |
| 2021 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 11 |
| 2022 | 5 | 15 | 0 | 20 |
| 2023 | 26 | 9 | 1 | 36 |
| 2024 | 42 | 15 | 1 | 58 |
| 2025 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 16 |
| Total | 672 | 236 | 61 | 992 |

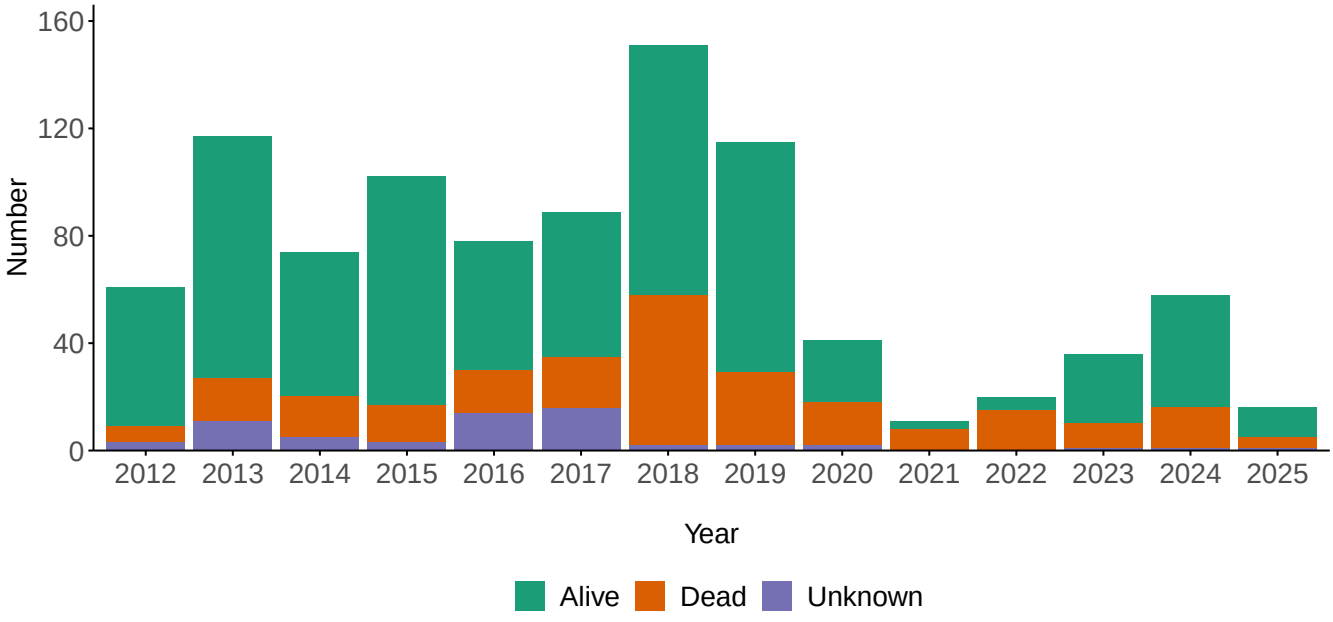


**Figure A-12:** Number of landings and interactions of green turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.3.3 Hawksbill turtle

**Table A-16:** Number of landings and interactions of hawksbill turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 25 | 5 | 2 | 32 |
| 2013 | 51 | 7 | 7 | 66 |
| 2014 | 54 | 10 | 7 | 72 |
| 2015 | 24 | 6 | 1 | 31 |
| 2016 | 32 | 6 | 2 | 40 |
| 2017 | 33 | 10 | 1 | 44 |
| 2018 | 44 | 9 | 2 | 55 |
| 2019 | 45 | 8 | 1 | 54 |
| 2020 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| 2021 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 8 |
| 2022 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| 2023 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 13 |
| 2024 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 340 | 77 | 24 | 443 |

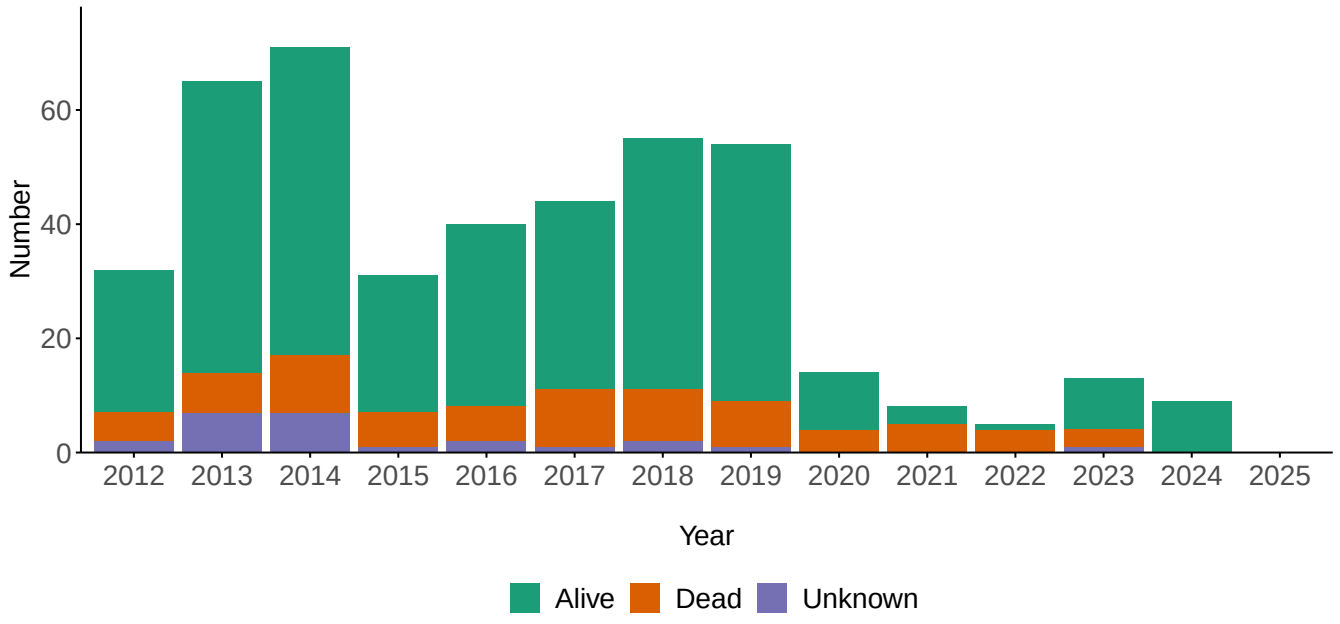


**Figure A-13:** Number of landings and interactions of hawksbill turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.3.4 Leatherback turtle

**Table A-17:** Number of landings and interactions of leatherback turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 19 |
| 2013 | 29 | 4 | 0 | 38 |
| 2014 | 27 | 2 | 1 | 34 |
| 2015 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 29 |
| 2016 | 24 | 3 | 3 | 30 |
| 2017 | 21 | 2 | 15 | 38 |
| 2018 | 25 | 15 | 3 | 48 |
| 2019 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 22 |
| 2020 | 18 | 0 | 3 | 21 |
| 2021 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| 2022 | 21 | 4 | 2 | 27 |
| 2023 | 27 | 5 | 1 | 33 |
| 2024 | 27 | 5 | 0 | 32 |
| 2025 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Total | 285 | 57 | 34 | 396 |

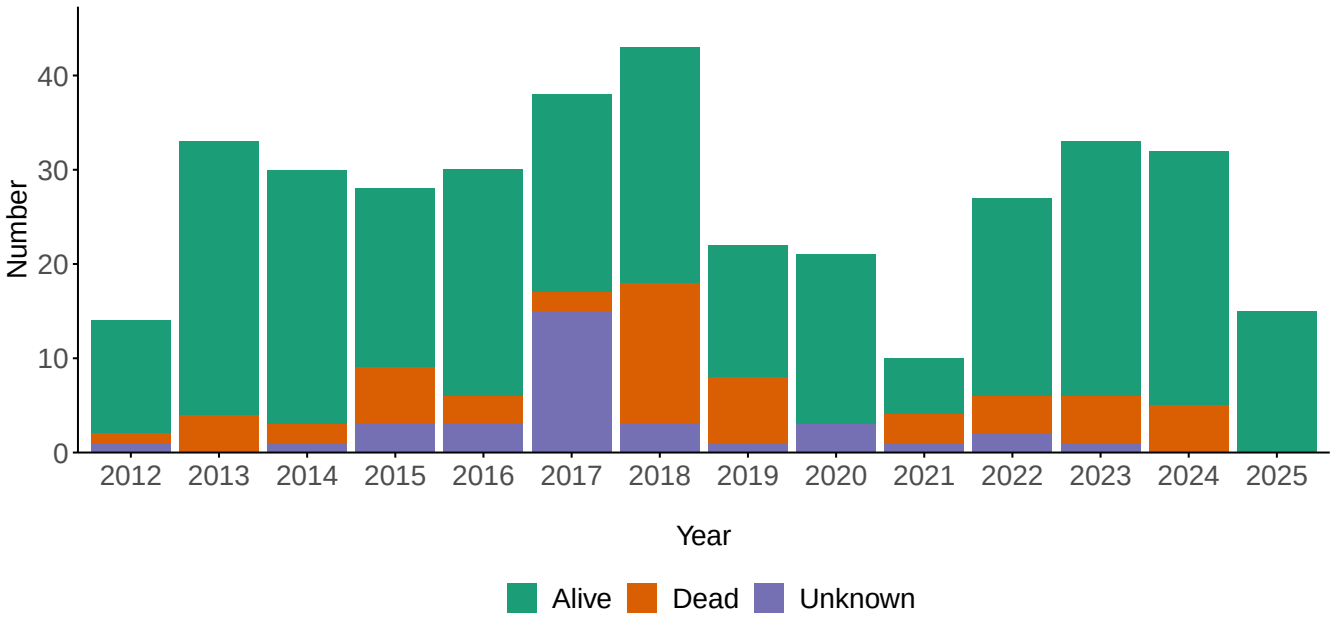


**Figure A-14:** Number of landings and interactions of leatherback turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.3.5 Loggerhead turtle

**Table A-18:** Number of landings and interactions of loggerhead turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 48 | 6 | 6 | 62 |
| 2013 | 65 | 7 | 9 | 82 |
| 2014 | 50 | 9 | 2 | 67 |
| 2015 | 57 | 12 | 64 | 133 |
| 2016 | 132 | 15 | 2 | 149 |
| 2017 | 61 | 15 | 5 | 81 |
| 2018 | 129 | 19 | 3 | 151 |
| 2019 | 199 | 26 | 1 | 228 |
| 2020 | 63 | 12 | 1 | 77 |
| 2021 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| 2022 | 37 | 1 | 0 | 38 |
| 2023 | 228 | 9 | 2 | 239 |
| 2024 | 227 | 8 | 0 | 235 |
| 2025 | 28 | 1 | 1 | 30 |
| Total | 1 366 | 140 | 96 | 1 614 |

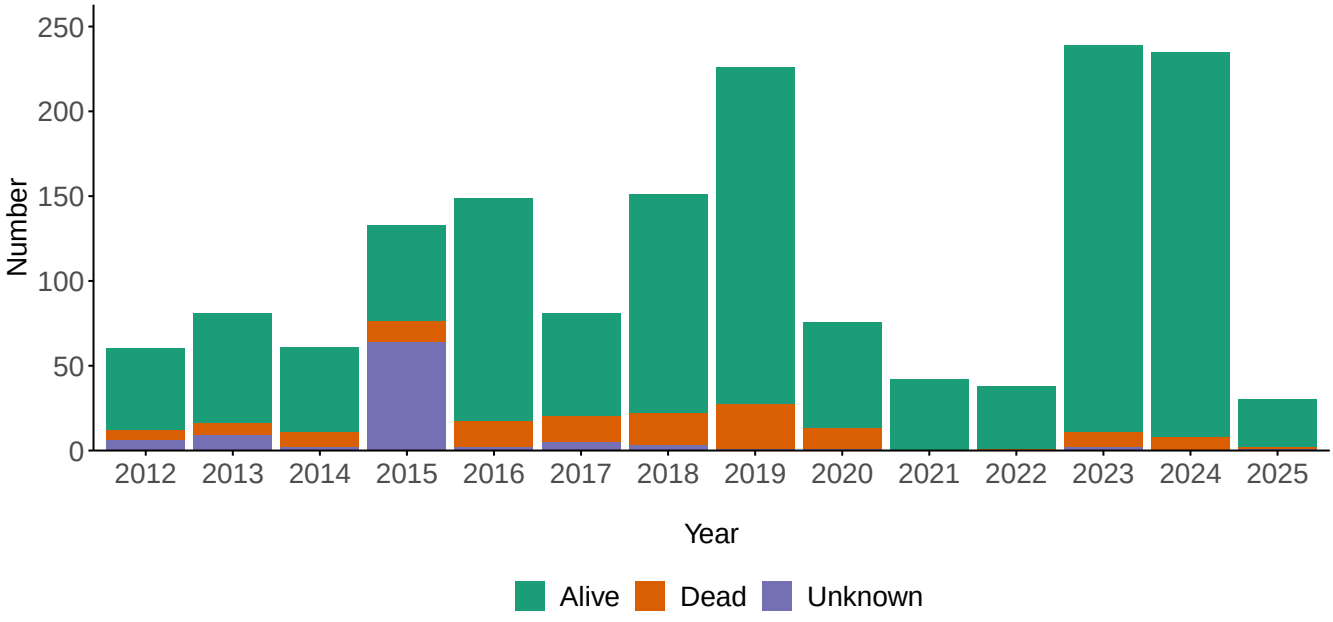


**Figure A-15:** Number of landings and interactions of loggerhead turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.3.6 Olive ridley turtle

**Table A-19:** Number of landings and interactions of olive ridley turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 68 | 52 | 10 | 130 |
| 2013 | 72 | 32 | 5 | 110 |
| 2014 | 36 | 19 | 1 | 59 |
| 2015 | 67 | 76 | 9 | 153 |
| 2016 | 64 | 74 | 18 | 157 |
| 2017 | 85 | 105 | 18 | 209 |
| 2018 | 80 | 227 | 5 | 315 |
| 2019 | 57 | 133 | 2 | 192 |
| 2020 | 22 | 25 | 0 | 50 |
| 2021 | 25 | 86 | 1 | 114 |
| 2022 | 22 | 81 | 0 | 103 |
| 2023 | 40 | 25 | 2 | 67 |
| 2024 | 33 | 42 | 1 | 76 |
| 2025 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 13 |
| Total | 676 | 985 | 72 | 1 748 |

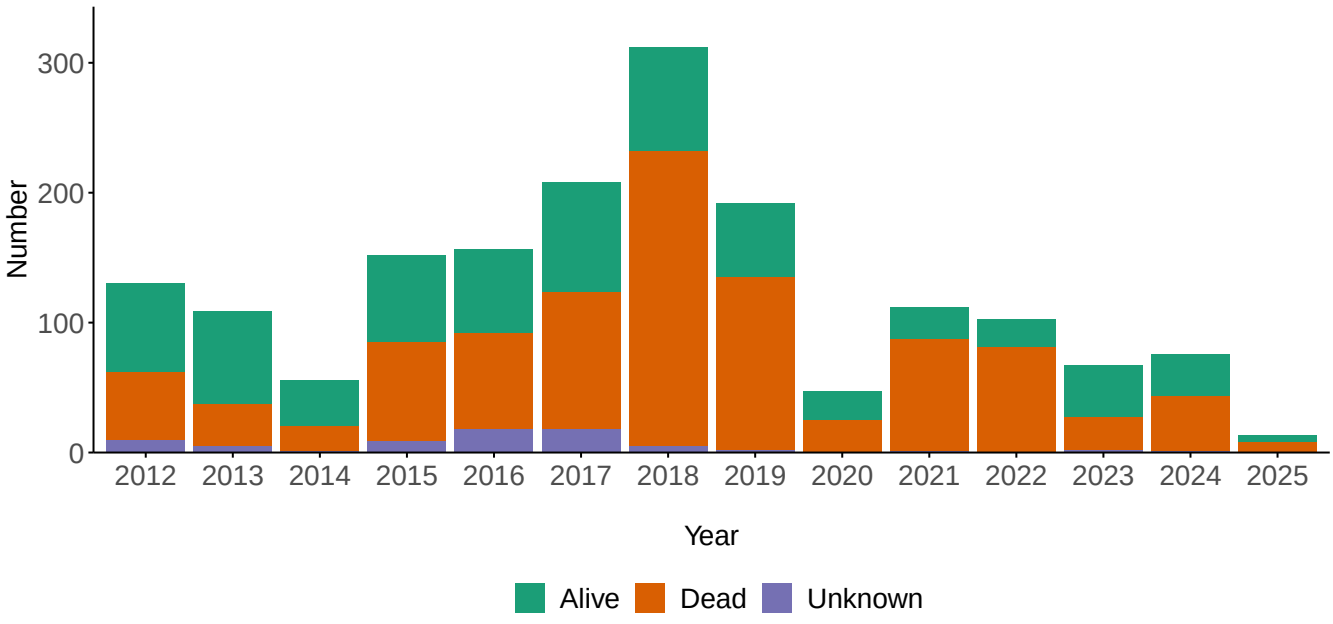


**Figure A-16:** Number of landings and interactions of olive ridley turtle reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.3.7 Unidentified turtles

**Table A-20:** Number of landings and interactions of unidentified turtles reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are the number of turtles discarded alive, discarded dead, and in unknown condition.

| Year | Alive | Dead | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| 2013 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| 2014 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| 2015 | 1 | 5 | 29 | 35 |
| 2016 | 73 | 2 | 11 | 86 |
| 2017 | 105 | 18 | 0 | 123 |
| 2018 | 120 | 10 | 2 | 132 |
| 2019 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 18 |
| 2020 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 2021 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 2022 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 2023 | 29 | 2 | 3 | 34 |
| 2024 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| 2025 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 380 | 46 | 54 | 484 |

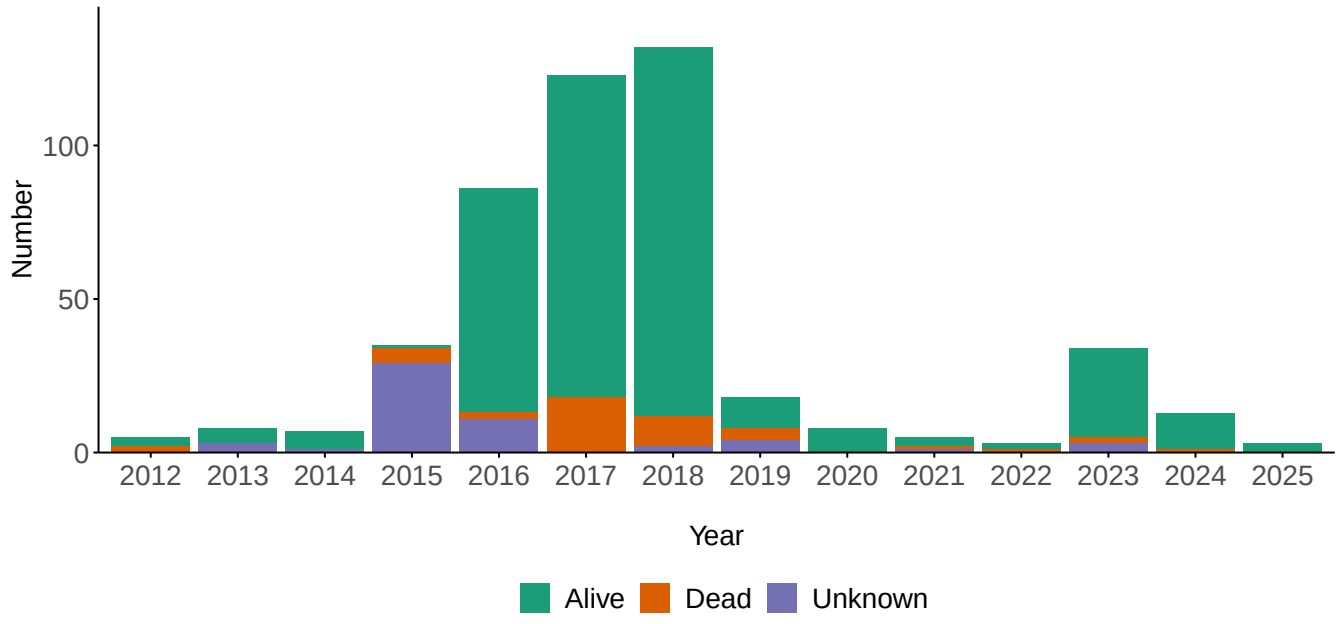


**Figure A-17:** Number of landings and interactions of unidentified turtles reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

## A.4 Whale shark fishery interactions

60. Whale shark interactions with purse seine vessels in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean have been monitored by Pacific Island observer programmes since the early 1990s. Interactions may involve whale sharks or other shark species being in the area the fishing activity is occurring and entering the net and escaping or being removed from fishing gear such as purse seine nets, without being landed, either independently or with assistance from the crew.

61. The CMM for sharks CMM 2010-07 has been amended eight times with the last amendment, CMM 2025-06 taking effect on 3 February 2026. An amendment in 2020 prohibited the deliberate setting of fishing gear on whale shark and also required crew to make best efforts to ensure the safe release of whale shark when an encirclement occurs. While proposed through the current work of the ROP-IWG on compliance related ROP data fields, Pacific observer programmes do not currently record information on instances of deliberate setting on whale sharks as part of their data fields. For 2025, observer data documented interactions and landings of 27 whale shark for 518 ROP purse seine trips (Tables A-21 and A-22).

**Table A-21:** Number of landings and interactions of whale shark, including interaction outcomes, in purse seine fisheries as reported by ROP Observers in 2025.

| Activity | Discarded/ escaped alive and healthy | Discarded/ escaped alive injured or distressed | Alive unknown condition | Deceased | Unknown | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Landed | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Interaction | 7 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Total | 7 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 27 |

62. For the period from 2012 to 2025, the number of landings and interactions of whale shark reported by observers in purse seine fisheries revealed an overall decrease over time; however, observer reporting for 2025 is preliminary and may be incomplete at this time (Table A-22, Figure A-18).

**Table A-22:** Fishing and observer effort, and landings and interactions of whale shark in purse seine fisheries as reported by ROP Observers for the period from 2012 to 2025.

| Year | Interactions & landings | Trips analysed | Vessels | Sets | Sets reported | Observations per 1000 sets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 363 | 1 267 | 139 | 31 617 | 336 | 11 |
| 2013 | 361 | 1 511 | 148 | 38 295 | 354 | 9 |
| 2014 | 374 | 1 626 | 151 | 39 106 | 361 | 10 |
| 2015 | 390 | 1 629 | 148 | 37 065 | 376 | 11 |
| 2016 | 194 | 1 591 | 100 | 34 532 | 184 | 6 |
| 2017 | 299 | 1 522 | 119 | 36 865 | 257 | 8 |
| 2018 | 323 | 1 856 | 128 | 42 526 | 315 | 8 |
| 2019 | 585 | 1 872 | 168 | 43 674 | 563 | 13 |
| 2020 | 147 | 726 | 75 | 15 956 | 141 | 9 |
| 2021 | 25 | 132 | 14 | 3 826 | 22 | 7 |
| 2022 | 3 | 185 | 2 | 4 195 | 3 | 1 |
| 2023 | 128 | 1 257 | 70 | 30 372 | 125 | 4 |
| 2024 | 96 | 1 348 | 56 | 34 075 | 93 | 3 |
| 2025 | 27 | 518 | 21 | 11 944 | 26 | 2 |
| Total | 3 315 | 17 040 | 1 339 | 404 048 | 3 156 | 102 |

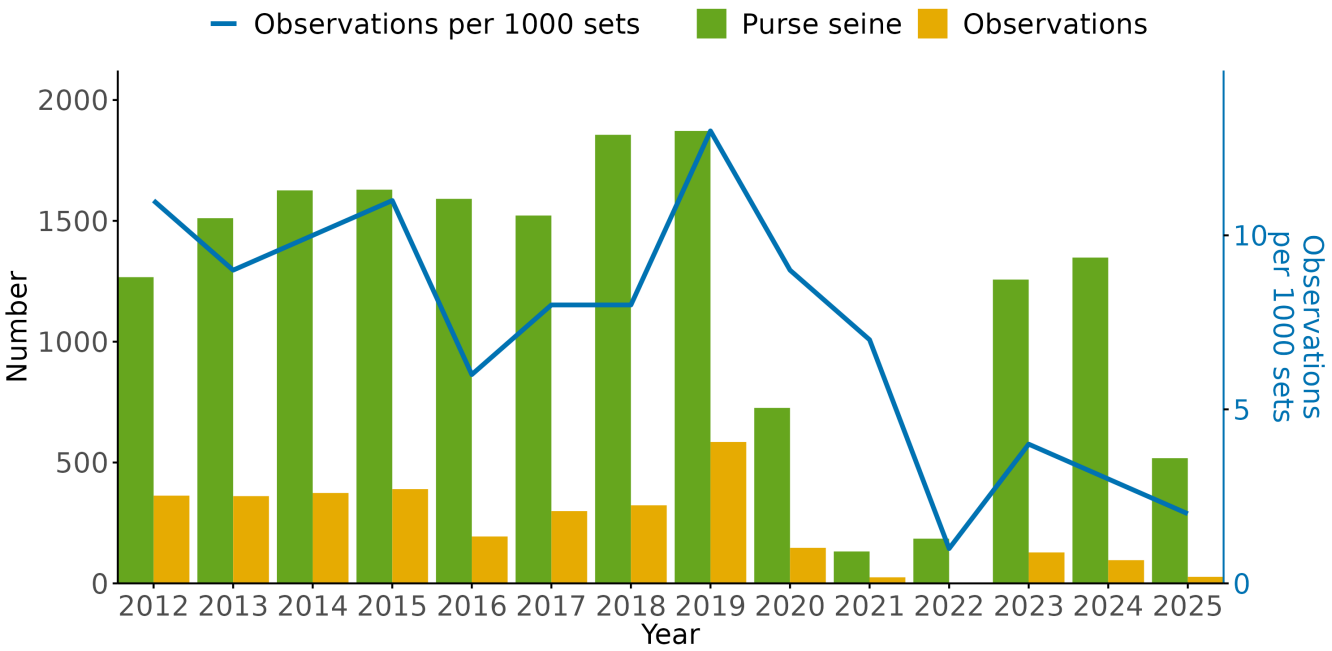


**Figure A-18:** Number of observer trips and of landings and interactions of whale shark (left y-axis), and interaction rates (right y-axis) in purse seine fisheries as reported by ROP Observers for the period from 2012 to 2025.

## A.5 Shark (other than whale shark) fishery interactions

### A.5.1 Silky shark

63. The CMM for sharks, CMM 2025-06, prohibits vessels from retaining on board, transhipping, storing or landing silky shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the WCPFC Convention.

64. Observer records for 2025 included landings and interactions of “silky shark” in longline and purse seine fisheries (Table A-23). It should be noted that the counting and identification of silky sharks observed caught in purse seine nets can be challenging, and therefore, the figures reported here represent observer estimates.

65. Data for 2025 shows that observer records indicated a total of 1,941 silky shark landings and interactions in longline fisheries (Table A-23). Most of these records show live releases.

66. Estimates of silky shark landings and interactions in purse seine fisheries were markedly higher than in longlines, with 20,479 observer records in 2025. The majority (7,110) of these records show releases of dead silky shark.

67. Observer programmes are requested to ensure their observers collect the status of the shark’s condition on discard. These data are available for the period from 2012 to 2025 (Table A-24, Table A-25, Figure A-20, Figure A-21).

**Table A-23:** Number of landings and shark, including interaction outcomes (A, alive; D, dead; U, unknown), in longline (LL) and purse seine fisheries, as reported by ROP Observers in 2025. For purse seine fisheries, the total number is an estimate, owing to the difficulty of counting and identifying silky sharks observed caught in the net. LL cut free before landing includes longline cut, struck off, or unhooked before landing.

| Gear | Fins retained | All retained | Total | Condition caught | | | Condition discarded | | | LL cut free before landing | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | A | D | U | A | D | U | A | D | U |
| Longline | 0 | 8 | 1 941 | 1 431 | 321 | 189 | 1 147 | 724 | 62 | 295 | 56 | 0 |
| Purse seine | 0 | 7 | 20 479 | 8 532 | 5 511 | 6 436 | 7 110 | 12 590 | 772 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 15 | 22 420 | 9 963 | 5 832 | 6 625 | 8 257 | 13 314 | 834 | 295 | 56 | 0 |

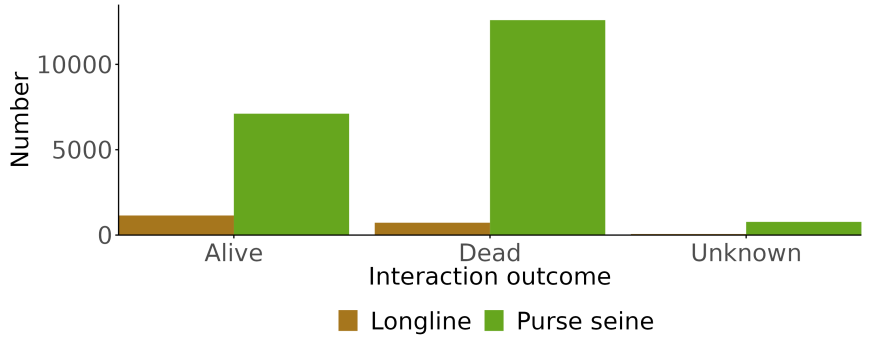


**Figure A-19:** Outcomes of landings and interactions of silky shark in longline and purse seine fisheries in 2025. LL cut free before landing includes longline cut, struck off, or unhooked before landing.

**Table A-24:** Number of landings and interactions of silky shark reported by observers in longline (LL) fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are interaction outcomes (A, alive; D, dead; U, unknown), the number of silky shark cut free from longlines. LL cut free before landing includes longline cut, struck off, or unhooked before landing.

| Landings and interactions | | | | | | | LL cut free before landing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Fins retained | All retained | Total | Condition discarded | | | |
| | | | | A | D | U | |
| 2012 | 110 | 2 940 | 3 737 | 96 | 97 | 494 | 175 |
| 2013 | 97 | 1 632 | 2 377 | 85 | 148 | 415 | 278 |
| 2014 | 132 | 517 | 1 655 | 423 | 221 | 362 | 495 |
| 2015 | 109 | 513 | 3 180 | 943 | 1 023 | 592 | 520 |
| 2016 | 0 | 316 | 4 008 | 960 | 1 307 | 1 425 | 1 284 |
| 2017 | 0 | 112 | 7 127 | 1 659 | 1 646 | 3 710 | 1 482 |
| 2018 | 24 | 231 | 6 070 | 2 325 | 1 654 | 1 836 | 1 503 |
| 2019 | 1 | 20 | 5 083 | 2 169 | 1 352 | 1 541 | 1 075 |
| 2020 | 0 | 141 | 2 253 | 1 215 | 711 | 186 | 178 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 2 039 | 1 146 | 328 | 565 | 121 |
| 2022 | 0 | 56 | 7 871 | 1 106 | 1 598 | 5 111 | 165 |
| 2023 | 0 | 586 | 2 374 | 1 082 | 614 | 92 | 312 |
| 2024 | 0 | 0 | 4 028 | 2 474 | 1 449 | 105 | 200 |
| 2025 | 0 | 8 | 1 941 | 1 147 | 724 | 62 | 352 |
| Total | 473 | 7 072 | 53 743 | 16 830 | 12 872 | 16 496 | 8 140 |

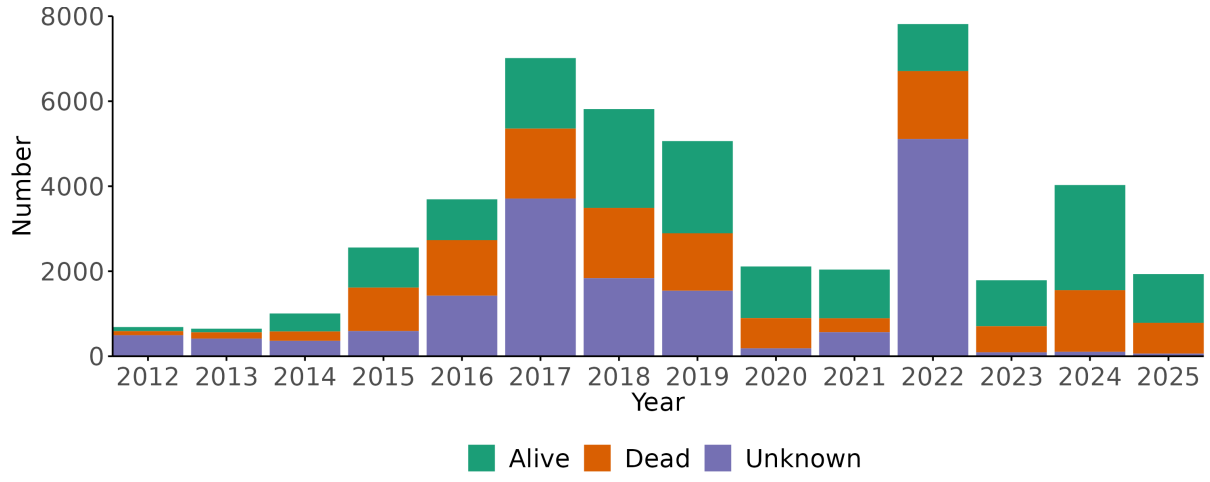


**Figure A-20:** Number of landings and interactions of silky shark reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

**Table A-25:** Number of landings and interactions of silky shark reported by observers in purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are interaction outcomes (A, alive; D, dead; U, unknown). Total numbers are estimates owing to the difficulty of counting and identifying silky sharks observed caught in the net.

| Year | Fins retained | All retained | Total | Condition discarded | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | A | D | U |
| 2012 | 1 920 | 602 | 25 444 | 37 | 6 | 22 879 |
| 2013 | 2 457 | 749 | 34 270 | 25 | 11 | 31 028 |
| 2014 | 909 | 850 | 41 777 | 1 014 | 3 020 | 35 984 |
| 2015 | 220 | 99 | 35 657 | 4 549 | 20 651 | 10 138 |
| 2016 | 257 | 86 | 57 059 | 7 964 | 40 440 | 8 312 |
| 2017 | 35 | 71 | 70 586 | 17 515 | 47 501 | 5 464 |
| 2018 | 10 | 44 | 63 192 | 19 600 | 40 241 | 3 297 |
| 2019 | 21 | 28 | 94 033 | 26 472 | 61 068 | 6 444 |
| 2020 | 2 | 44 | 36 148 | 9 855 | 23 229 | 3 018 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 915 | 695 | 1 102 | 118 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 3 048 | 1 011 | 1 817 | 220 |
| 2023 | 0 | 47 | 45 500 | 16 048 | 26 971 | 2 434 |
| 2024 | 0 | 22 | 59 560 | 17 154 | 37 904 | 4 480 |
| 2025 | 0 | 7 | 20 479 | 7 110 | 12 590 | 772 |
| Total | 5 831 | 2 649 | 588 668 | 129 049 | 316 551 | 134 588 |

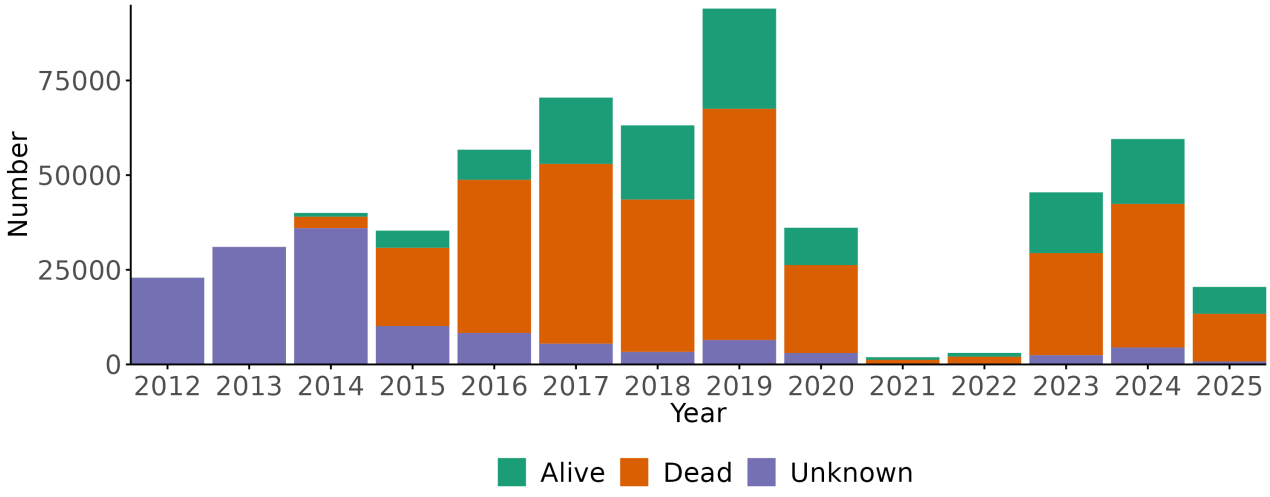


**Figure A-21:** Number of landings and interactions of silky shark reported by observers in purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

### A.5.2 Oceanic whitetip shark

68. CMM 2025-06 prohibits vessels from retaining on board, transhipping, or storing or landing oceanic whitetip shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.

69. For 2025, observers recorded landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark from 518 purse seine and 151 longline trips.

70. There were comparatively more observer records of landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark in longline than in purse seine fisheries (Table A-26).

71. The observer data indicated that both the reporting and adherence to the CMMs has improved since the first CMM for oceanic whitetip shark was implemented in 2013.

**Table A-26:** Number of landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark, including interaction outcomes (A, alive; D, dead; U, unknown), in longline (LL) and purse seine fisheries, as reported by ROP Observers in 2025. LL cut free before landing includes longline cut, struck off, or unhooked before landing.

| Gear | Fins retained | All retained | Total | Condition caught | | | Condition discarded | | | LL cut free before landing | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | A | D | U | A | D | U | A | D | U |
| Longline | 1 | 0 | 999 | 709 | 206 | 84 | 744 | 226 | 28 | 144 | 31 | 2 |
| Purse seine | 0 | 0 | 2 207 | 1 607 | 269 | 331 | 1 483 | 615 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1 | 0 | 3 206 | 2 316 | 475 | 415 | 2 227 | 841 | 137 | 144 | 31 | 2 |

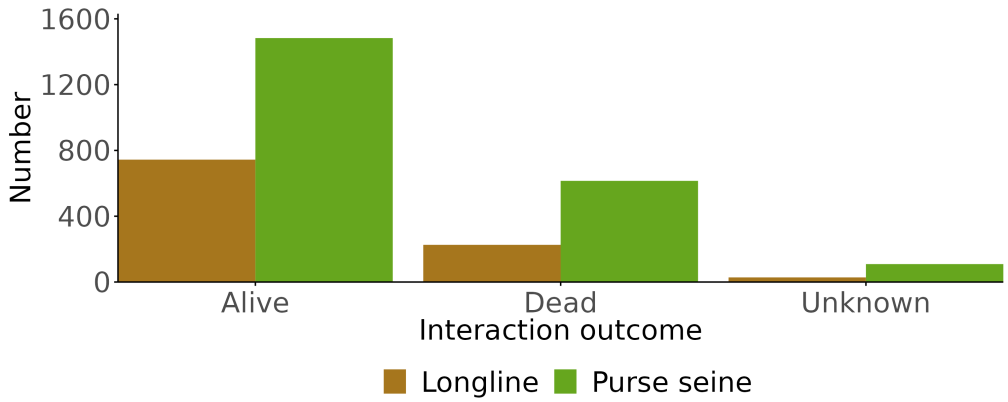


**Figure A-22:** Outcomes of landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark in longline and purse seine fisheries in 2025.

**Table A-27:** Number of landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark reported by observers in longline (LL) fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are interaction outcomes (A, alive; D, dead; U, unknown), the number of oceanic whitetip shark cut free from longlines. LL cut free before landing includes longline cut, struck off, or unhooked before landing.

| Year | Fins retained | All retained | Total | Condition discarded | | | LL cut free before landing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | A | D | U | |
| 2012 | 40 | 105 | 530 | 26 | 42 | 317 | 124 |
| 2013 | 67 | 52 | 595 | 98 | 119 | 259 | 190 |
| 2014 | 20 | 43 | 545 | 130 | 122 | 230 | 265 |
| 2015 | 7 | 52 | 779 | 452 | 210 | 58 | 146 |
| 2016 | 1 | 10 | 909 | 227 | 234 | 437 | 306 |
| 2017 | 0 | 5 | 1 246 | 345 | 288 | 608 | 150 |
| 2018 | 7 | 20 | 1 937 | 569 | 1 272 | 69 | 224 |
| 2019 | 4 | 0 | 1 269 | 702 | 409 | 154 | 148 |
| 2020 | 0 | 1 | 932 | 503 | 370 | 58 | 158 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 1 011 | 502 | 438 | 71 | 67 |
| 2022 | 0 | 1 | 1 945 | 796 | 595 | 553 | 114 |
| 2023 | 0 | 0 | 1 311 | 830 | 435 | 46 | 69 |
| 2024 | 0 | 0 | 2 115 | 1 388 | 690 | 37 | 129 |
| 2025 | 1 | 0 | 999 | 744 | 226 | 28 | 177 |
| Total | 147 | 289 | 16 123 | 7 312 | 5 450 | 2 925 | 2 267 |

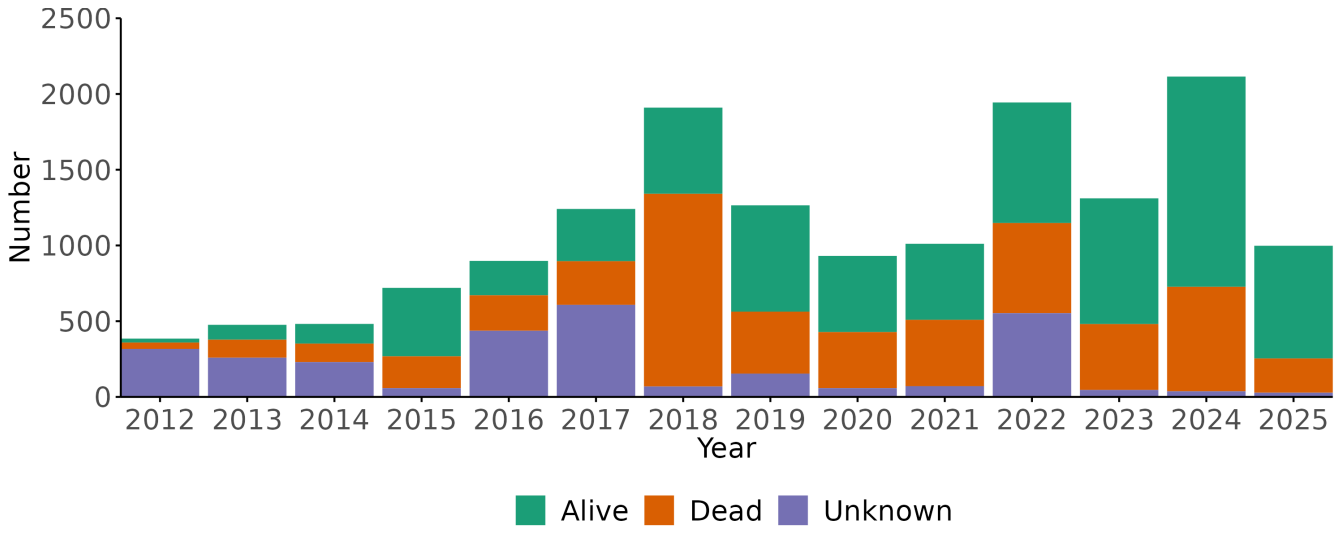


**Figure A-23:** Number of landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark reported by observers in longline fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

**Table A-28:** Number of landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark reported by observers in purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025. Also shown are interaction outcomes (A, alive; D, dead; U, unknown). Total numbers are estimates owing to the difficulty of counting and identifying oceanic whitetip shark observed caught in the net.

| Year | Fins retained | All retained | Total | Condition discarded | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | A | D | U |
| 2012 | 10 | 4 | 216 | 0 | 0 | 202 |
| 2013 | 8 | 3 | 262 | 6 | 7 | 238 |
| 2014 | 10 | 18 | 401 | 32 | 41 | 300 |
| 2015 | 3 | 7 | 418 | 147 | 131 | 130 |
| 2016 | 1 | 1 | 435 | 189 | 180 | 64 |
| 2017 | 0 | 0 | 559 | 214 | 316 | 29 |
| 2018 | 3 | 1 | 846 | 431 | 376 | 35 |
| 2019 | 2 | 2 | 971 | 498 | 401 | 68 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 304 | 120 | 152 | 32 |
| 2021 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 15 | 6 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 | 0 | 95 | 60 | 28 | 7 |
| 2023 | 0 | 6 | 1 667 | 991 | 588 | 82 |
| 2024 | 0 | 0 | 1 907 | 1 183 | 616 | 108 |
| 2025 | 0 | 0 | 2 207 | 1 483 | 615 | 109 |
| Total | 37 | 42 | 10 309 | 5 369 | 3 457 | 1 404 |

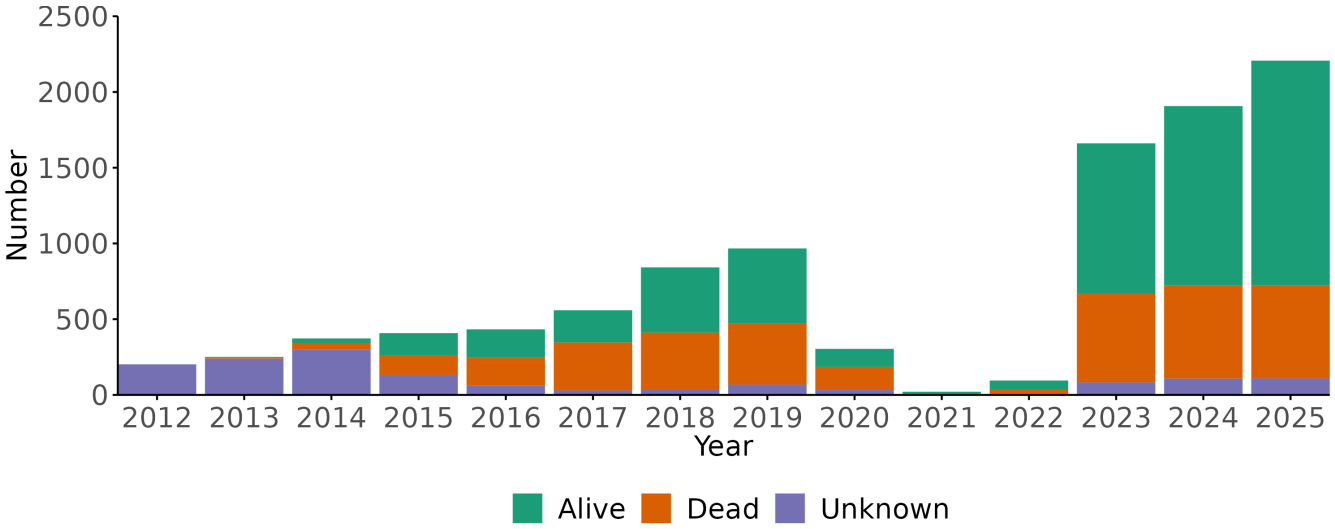


**Figure A-24:** Number of landings and interactions of oceanic whitetip shark reported by observers in purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

72. It is unclear why observer reporting shows such a significant increase in 2023-2025 reporting of oceanic whitetip sharks as seen in Table A-28 and Figure A-24. As these sharks can be easily identified, this change is not likely to have been due to improved observer resources to assist species identification.

### A.5.3 Other sharks

73. For shark species other than whale, silky, and oceanic whitetip sharks, observer records for 2025 documented a total of 27, 146 landings and interactions in longline fisheries (Table A-29). Most (over 20,000) of these records were of blue shark. The number of discarded shortfin mako sharks is higher than expected, given that this species may be retained and is generally considered a valued catch. Further review is underway to better understand the basis for this pattern.

74. For purse seine fisheries, there was a total of 237 “other shark” landings and interactions reported by observers in 2025 (Table A-30).

**Table A-29:** Number of landings and interactions of shark species (other than whale, silky, and oceanic whitetip sharks), including interactions outcomes, in longline fisheries, as reported by ROP observers in 2025. "Nei" indicates identification to species group only.

| Shark species | Catch | Retained | Discarded | All retained | Fins retained |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bigeye thresher shark | 903 | 76 | 825 | 0 | 0 |
| Bignose shark | 31 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 |
| Blacktip shark | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Blue shark | 23 294 | 11 748 | 11 468 | 5 811 | 0 |
| Bronze whaler shark | 52 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 |
| Bull shark | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Cookie cutter shark | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Crocodile shark | 627 | 5 | 622 | 0 | 0 |
| Galapagos shark | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Great hammerhead | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Kitefin shark | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Longfin mako | 117 | 38 | 78 | 10 | 0 |
| Mako sharks | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Pelagic thresher shark | 164 | 78 | 86 | 0 | 0 |
| Porbeagle shark | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Salmon shark | 25 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Sandbar shark | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Scalloped hammerhead | 11 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Shortfin mako | 1 588 | 471 | 1 111 | 1 | 35 |
| Silvertip shark | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Smooth hammerhead | 32 | 4 | 28 | 3 | 0 |
| Thresher shark (vulpinus) | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| Thresher sharks nei | 14 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Tiger shark | 30 | 1 | 29 | 0 | 0 |
| Various sharks nei | 104 | 0 | 103 | 0 | 0 |
| Velvet dogfish | 97 | 0 | 97 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 27 146 | 12 427 | 14 630 | 5 826 | 36 |

**Table A-30:** Number of landings and interactions of shark species (other than whale, silky, and oceanic whitetip sharks), including interactions outcomes, in purse seine fisheries, as reported by ROP observers in 2025. "Nei" indicates identification to species group only.

| Shark species | Catch | Retained | Discarded |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bigeye thresher shark | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Bignose shark | 21 | 0 | 21 |
| Blue shark | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Bull shark | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Great hammerhead | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Hammerhead sharks nei | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Scalloped hammerhead | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Shortfin mako | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Silvertip shark | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Smooth hammerhead | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Various sharks nei | 188 | 0 | 188 |
| Whitetip reef shark | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 237 | 0 | 237 |

## A.6 Mobulid rays and other rays

75. The Commission's measure (CMM 2019-05) on mobulid and manta rays arose out of the concern that species within the Mobulidae family, which includes mobulid and manta rays, are vulnerable to overfishing. They are vulnerable because they are slow-growing, experience late sexual maturity, have long gestation periods, and often give birth to only a few pups. Since 1 January 2021, CCMs have been required to:

    - prohibit their vessels from targeted fishing or intentional setting on mobulid rays in the Convention Area.
    - prohibit their vessels from retaining on board, transhipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of mobulid rays caught in the Convention Area.
    - require their fishing vessels to promptly release alive and unharmed, to the extent practicable, mobulid rays as soon as possible, and to do so in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individuals captured.
    - encourage their fishing vessels to implement the handling practices detailed in Annex 1 of the CMM 2019-05 while taking into consideration the safety of the crew.

76. Observer records for 2025 documented landings and interactions of a number of mobulid species, including manta rays (Table A-31).

77. Considering the observer data from the period between 2012 and 2025, landings and interactions of mobulids were high before 2019, often with unknown outcomes when released, because mobulid data collected by observers was reported as bycatch (Table A-32).

78. During the COVID-19 period, there were fewer trips and fewer recorded landings and interactions. Nevertheless, following the adoption of CMM 2019-05, conditions as stated above highlighted the issues with mobulid catches as a Species of Special Interest. Observers were asked to be extra vigilant in monitoring

mobulid catches, and reporting the handling, fate, and condition when mobulids were caught and discarded. This enhanced awareness led to the increase in reported information on the interaction outcome (alive or deceased).

**Table A-31:** Number of landings and interactions of mobulid and manta ray species, and other rays, including interaction outcomes, in purse seine and longline fisheries as reported by ROP Observers in 2025. "Nei" indicates identification to species group only.

| Species | Purse seine | Longline | Total | Retained | Discarded/released | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | A | D | U |
| Giant manta | 518 | 12 | 530 | 0 | 140 | 171 | 219 |
| Manta rays | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mobula | 1 089 | 22 | 1 111 | 652 | 165 | 122 | 824 |
| Total | 1 607 | 35 | 1 642 | 652 | 306 | 293 | 1 043 |

**Table A-32:** Number of landings and interactions of mobulid and manta rays reported by observers in longline and purse seine fisheries for the period between 2012 and 2025, including interaction outcomes.

| Year | Purse seine | Longline | Total | Retained | Discarded/released | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | A | D | U |
| 2012 | 2 593 | 93 | 2 686 | 86 | 59 | 10 | 2 617 |
| 2013 | 1 817 | 80 | 1 897 | 62 | 32 | 14 | 1 851 |
| 2014 | 2 319 | 282 | 2 601 | 43 | 72 | 7 | 2 522 |
| 2015 | 2 174 | 756 | 2 930 | 11 | 146 | 111 | 2 673 |
| 2016 | 2 979 | 386 | 3 365 | 13 | 117 | 40 | 3 208 |
| 2017 | 2 299 | 693 | 2 992 | 29 | 244 | 315 | 2 433 |
| 2018 | 3 390 | 516 | 3 906 | 25 | 736 | 315 | 2 855 |
| 2019 | 4 105 | 436 | 4 541 | 5 | 1 507 | 486 | 2 548 |
| 2020 | 893 | 107 | 1 000 | 0 | 238 | 106 | 656 |
| 2021 | 192 | 113 | 305 | 1 | 161 | 47 | 97 |
| 2022 | 121 | 222 | 343 | 0 | 165 | 65 | 113 |
| 2023 | 1 835 | 177 | 2 012 | 1 | 644 | 417 | 951 |
| 2024 | 2 862 | 129 | 2 991 | 2 | 984 | 789 | 1 218 |
| 2025 | 1 607 | 35 | 1 642 | 652 | 306 | 293 | 1 043 |
| Total | 29 186 | 4 025 | 33 211 | 930 | 5 411 | 3 015 | 24 785 |