

14th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

7 to 12 September 2026, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

SC14 - Doc 10

Bycatch Records: Marine mammal, Seabird, Reptile and Species of Concern

Secretariat

1. Summary

This paper summarises bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and species of concern reported across the SPRFMO fisheries through to 2025. It updates the Secretariat's annual reporting to SC ([SC13-Doc 10 rev1](#)). In 2025, bycatch of two Porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) was reported in the trawl fishery, with no reported bycatch in other fisheries.

Recorded totals reflect observer coverage and reporting practice as much as underlying interaction rates, and should not be read as an index of relative fishery impact. Section 3 sets out totals by animal type and trends over time.

The SC is invited to:

- **check** the data contained in this paper and liaise with the Secretariat in cases where updates are needed.
- **consider** the observed bycatch levels, observer coverage rates, observed bycatch rate and total effort in SPRFMO fisheries and provide any advice it deems appropriate.

2. Data and methods

The Secretariat holds fishing activity information from 2007 and Observer information from 2008. Vessels and observers are required to record incidental captures of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or “other species of concern” (Table 1) using the applicable templates.

Table 1: “Other species of concern” as defined in CMM 02-2026, Annex 14 (Data Standards).

Scientific name	English name	FAO Species Code
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark	(OCS)
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark	(WSH)
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	(BSK)
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	(POR)
<i>Manta spp.</i>	Manta rays	(MNT)
<i>Mobula spp.</i>	Mobula nei	(RMV)
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale shark	(RHN)

Fishing activity and observer records were reviewed for captures of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles, and other species of concern across the following five gear types: bottom longline, trawl, purse seine, squid jigging, and potting. No instances of bycatch involving these taxa have been reported from potting operations. Accordingly, no table has been included for this gear type.

Bycatch information for the other four gear types is summarised in Annex 1. These tables also report observer coverage, observed bycatch rates, and total effort. The observed bycatch rate was calculated as the number of individuals recorded divided by the proportion of the total fishing effort that was observed.

It should be noted that in some cases—particularly where captures occur within Areas under National Jurisdiction—the Secretariat cannot calculate observer coverage, bycatch rates, or total effort. This is because fishing activity data are not submitted for operations occurring outside the Convention Area. In such cases, these figures are generally available through the Scientific Committee annual reports.



3. Summary of records by animal type

Table 2 groups every record held by the Secretariat into the four animal types, by fishery. Figures are counts of individuals; where the same animal appears in both fishing activity and observer data it is counted once.

Table 2: Individuals recorded by animal type and fishery, all years (2008–2025).

Animal type	Bottom longline	Trawl	Purse seine	Squid jigging	Total
Marine mammals	0	5	1 065	0	1 070
Seabirds	18	7	80	0	105
Reptiles	2	0	2	1	5
Other species of concern	8	73	0	0	81
Total	28	85	1 147	1	1 261

Purse seining accounts for 1 147 of the 1 261 individuals recorded. Almost all are South American sea lion (1 057 individuals, 84% of all records), reported by one Member across three years (2017–2019). Of the 1 070 marine mammals recorded, 1 052 were released alive.

Setting the sea lion aside, seabirds are the most frequently recorded group (105 individuals, recorded in three of the four gear types), followed by other species of concern (81) and reptiles (5). Porbeagle alone accounts for 73 of the species of concern recorded, 72 of them in trawl fisheries and one in bottom longline.

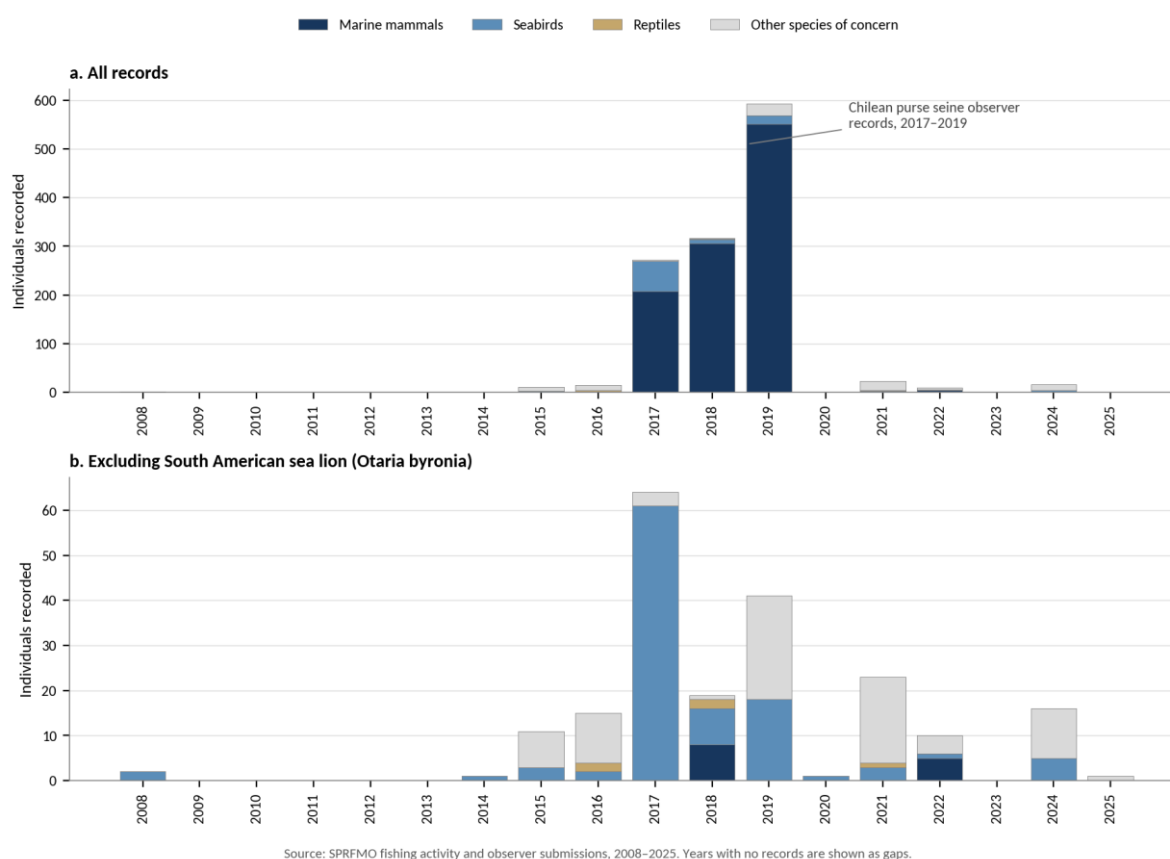


Figure 1: Individuals recorded each year by animal type. Panel b repeats the series with South American sea lion removed, so that the remaining groups are legible.

Records are concentrated in 2017–2019, when Chilean purse seine observer records reported large numbers of sea lion interactions. Outside those years, no annual total exceeds 23 individuals, and 5 years carry no records at all. Seabird records recur in bottom longline and trawl, appearing in 11 of the 18 years covered, although the largest seabird counts (80 of 105 individuals) come from the three purse seine years. Reptile records are rare throughout.

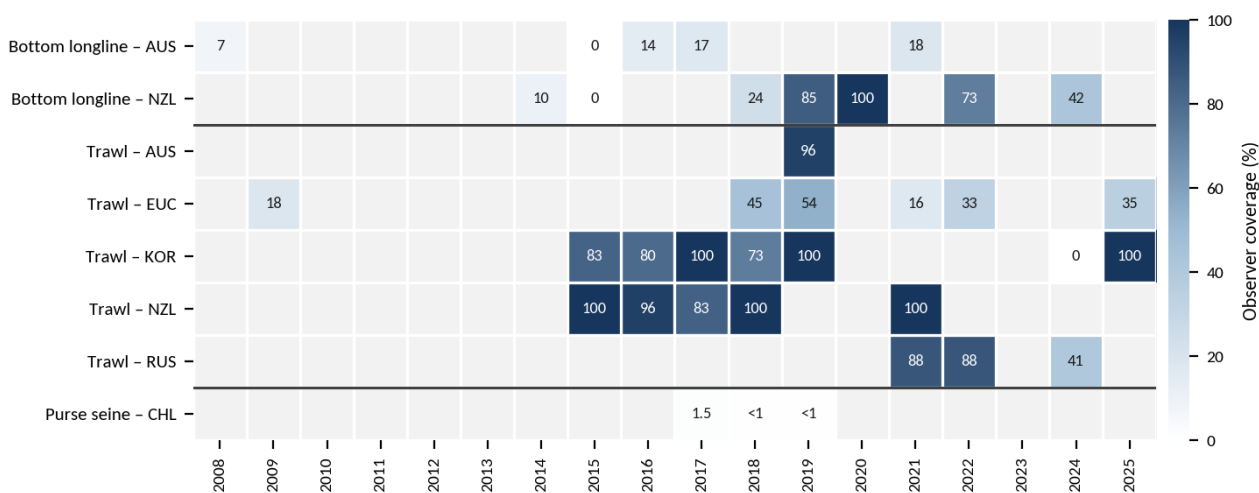


Figure 2: Observer coverage by fishery, participant and year. Grey cells are participant-years with no bycatch record submitted. Each fishery is measured on its own effort unit – hooks, days and sets, so coverage is not comparable between years.



Annex 1

Table 3: Summary of captures of seabird, mammal, reptile and species of concern in bottom longline fishing from SPRFMO submissions (Observer coverage by 1000 hooks)¹

Fishery	Member	Code	Species	Common name	Year	Unk ²	Dead	Alive	Datasets	Observer coverage (%)	Observed bycatch rate	Total effort
Bottom Longlining	AUS	PFC	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed shearwater	2008		2		Obs	7	0.037197	761 700
Bottom Longlining	NZL	PWA	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>	Gould's Petrel	2014		1		Obs	10	0.045259	212 916
Bottom Longlining	AUS	PRX	<i>Procellariidae</i>	Petrels and shearwaters nei	2015	1			FA	0	0.000000	744 900
Bottom Longlining	NZL	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2015	1			FA	0	0.000000	179 026
Bottom Longlining	AUS	PFC	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed shearwater	2016	1			FA/Obs	14	0.000010	710 179
Bottom Longlining	AUS	TUG	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle	2016	1			FA/Obs	14	0.000010	710 179
Bottom Longlining	AUS	WSH	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark	2016	3			FA/Obs	14	0.000030	710 179
Bottom Longlining	AUS	XXS	<i>Serpentes</i>	Sea snakes	2016	1			FA/Obs	14	0.000010	710 179
Bottom Longlining	AUS	WSH	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark	2017	1			FA/Obs	17	0.000007	826 500
Bottom Longlining	NZL	DIM	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed albatross	2018			1	Obs	24	0.037616	110 428
Bottom Longlining	NZL	PRK	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	Parkinson's petrel	2018			1	Obs	24	0.037616	110 428
Bottom Longlining	NZL	PRO	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned petrel	2018			1	Obs	24	0.037616	110 428
Bottom Longlining	NZL	HBE	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blue petrel	2019			1	Obs	85	0.003839	307 363
Bottom Longlining	NZL	PRX	<i>Procellariidae</i>	Petrels and shearwaters nei	2020	1			FA/Obs	100	0.000005	200 875
Bottom Longlining	AUS	OCS	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark	2021	2			FA/Obs	18	0.000017	650 000
Bottom Longlining	AUS	OCS	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark	2021	1			FA/Obs	18	0.000009	650 000
Bottom Longlining	AUS	PDM	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Great-winged petrel	2021			1	Obs	18	0.008639	650 000
Bottom Longlining	AUS	PFC	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed shearwater	2021		1		Obs	18	0.008639	650 000
Bottom Longlining	NZL	PRK	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	Parkinson's petrel	2022	1		1	FA/Obs	73	0.009417	144 828
Bottom Longlining	NZL	PRO	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned petrel	2024		2		Obs	42	0.024784	191 422
Bottom Longlining	NZL	PRX	<i>Procellariidae</i>	Petrels and shearwaters nei	2024	3			FA/Obs	42	0.000037	191 422

¹ Observer coverage in bottom fishing is expressed as the percentage of the total number of observed hooks (Annex 8, CMM 03-2026)

² Unk = unknown status



Table 4: Summary of captures of seabird, mammal, reptile and species of concern in trawl fishing from SPRFMO submissions (Observer coverage by days)³

Fishery	Member	Code	Species	Common name	Year	Unk	Dead	Alive	Datasets	Observer cover (%)	Observed bycatch rate	Total effort
Trawling	EUC	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2009				Obs	18	0.000000	730
Trawling	KOR	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2015	7			FA/Obs	83	0.081395	104
Trawling	NZL	PDM	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Great-winged petrel	2015			2	Obs	100	0.006623	302
Trawling	KOR	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2016	8			FA/Obs	80	0.051282	195
Trawling	NZL	WFS	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	White-faced storm petrel	2016			1	Obs	96	0.003185	327
Trawling	KOR	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2017	2			FA/Obs	100	0.058824	34
Trawling	NZL	PDM	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Great-winged petrel	2017			1	Obs	83	0.002950	406
Trawling	NZL	PRX	<i>Procellariidae</i>	Petrels and shearwaters nei	2017			1	Obs	83	0.002950	406
Trawling	EUC	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2018				Obs	45	0.000000	131
Trawling	KOR	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2018	1			FA/Obs	73	0.009901	138
Trawling	NZL	PDM	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Great-winged petrel	2018			1	Obs	100	0.003356	299
Trawling	AUS	BSK	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	2019	1		1	FA/Obs	96	0.022727	46
Trawling	EUC	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2019		2		Obs	54	0.043478	85
Trawling	KOR	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2019		20		Obs	100	0.180180	111
Trawling	EUC	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2021		9		Obs	16	0.230769	237
Trawling	NZL	PWV	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Fairy prion	2021	1	1		FA/Obs	100	0.333333	3
Trawling	RUS	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2021	7		7	FA/Obs	88	0.060345	132
Trawling	EUC	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2022		7		Obs	33	0.022989	266
Trawling	RUS	DBO	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	2022		1		Obs	88	0.005291	216
Trawling	RUS	PIW	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale	2022	1	1		FA/Obs	88	0.005291	216
Trawling	RUS	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2022	2			FA/Obs	88	0.010582	216
Trawling	RUS	SEF	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	South American fur seal	2022	2			FA/Obs	88	0.010582	216
Trawling	RUS	SJF	<i>Arctocephalus philippii</i>	Juan Fernandez fur seal	2022		1		Obs	88	0.005291	216
Trawling	KOR	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2024	10			Obs	100	0.000000	73
Trawling	RUS	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2024	1			FA/Obs	41	0.016129	153
Trawling	EUC	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2025				Obs	35	0.000000	269
Trawling	KOR	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	2025	1			FA/Obs	100	0.125000	8

³ Observer coverage in jack mackerel fisheries shall be calculated by reference to days for trawlers (para 26, CMM 01-2026). Observer coverage for bottom trawling is also presented in days for ease of comparison



Table 5: Summary of captures of seabird, mammal, reptile and species of concern in purse seining from SPRFMO submissions (Observer coverage by set)⁴

Fishery	Member	Code	Species	Common name	Year	Unk	Dead	Alive	Datasets	Observer cover (%)	Observed bycatch rate	Total effort
Purse Seining	CHL	DIC	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed albatross	2017			5	Obs	1.45	1.250000	275
Purse Seining	CHL	LDO	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Kelp gull	2017			8	Obs	1.45	2.000000	275
Purse Seining	CHL	OCO	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's storm petrel	2017		1	5	Obs	1.45	1.500000	275
Purse Seining	CHL	PFG	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Sooty shearwater	2017			32	Obs	1.45	8.000000	275
Purse Seining	CHL	PUC	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	Pink-footed shearwater	2017		1		Obs	1.45	0.250000	275
Purse Seining	CHL	SEL	<i>Otaria byronia</i>	South American sea lion	2017		4	204	Obs	1.45	52.000000	275
Purse Seining	CHL	TWH	<i>Pelecanus thagus</i>	Peruvian pelican	2017			7	Obs	1.45	1.750000	275
Purse Seining	CHL	DBO	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	2018		4		Obs	0.61	1.333333	488
Purse Seining	CHL	DDU	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	Dusky dolphin	2018		2	1	Obs	0.61	1.000000	488
Purse Seining	CHL	DIM	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed albatross	2018		1		Obs	0.61	0.333333	488
Purse Seining	CHL	DKK	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback turtle	2018			2	Obs	0.61	0.666667	488
Purse Seining	CHL	PFG	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Sooty shearwater	2018		2		Obs	0.61	0.666667	488
Purse Seining	CHL	PVF	<i>Spheniscidae</i>	Penguins nei	2018		1		Obs	0.61	0.333333	488
Purse Seining	CHL	SEL	<i>Otaria byronia</i>	South American sea lion	2018		2	296	Obs	0.61	99.333333	488
Purse Seining	CHL	SJF	<i>Arctocephalus philippii</i>	Juan Fernandez fur seal	2018			1	Obs	0.61	0.333333	488
Purse Seining	CHL	LDO	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Kelp gull	2019			8	Obs	0.49	4.000000	411
Purse Seining	CHL	PFG	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Sooty shearwater	2019		3		Obs	0.49	1.500000	411
Purse Seining	CHL	PUC	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	Pink-footed shearwater	2019		1		Obs	0.49	0.500000	411
Purse Seining	CHL	PVF	<i>Spheniscidae</i>	Penguins nei	2019			1	Obs	0.49	0.500000	411
Purse Seining	CHL	SEL	<i>Otaria byronia</i>	South American sea lion	2019		1	550	Obs	0.49	275.500000	411
Purse Seining	CHL	TWH	<i>Pelecanus thagus</i>	Peruvian pelican	2019			4	Obs	0.49	2.000000	411

⁴ Observer coverage in jack mackerel fisheries shall be calculated by reference to sets for purse seine vessels (para 26, CMM 01-2026)



Table 6: Summary of captures of seabird, mammal, reptile and species of concern in squid jigging from SPRFMO submissions (Observer coverage by day).

Fishery	Member	Code	Species	Common name	Year	Unk	Dead	Alive	Datasets	Observer coverage (%)	Observed bycatch rate	Total effort
Squid Jigging	CHN	TTL	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle	2021			1	Obs			69 694