

Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission



## Bycatches of sea turtles in the eastern Pacific

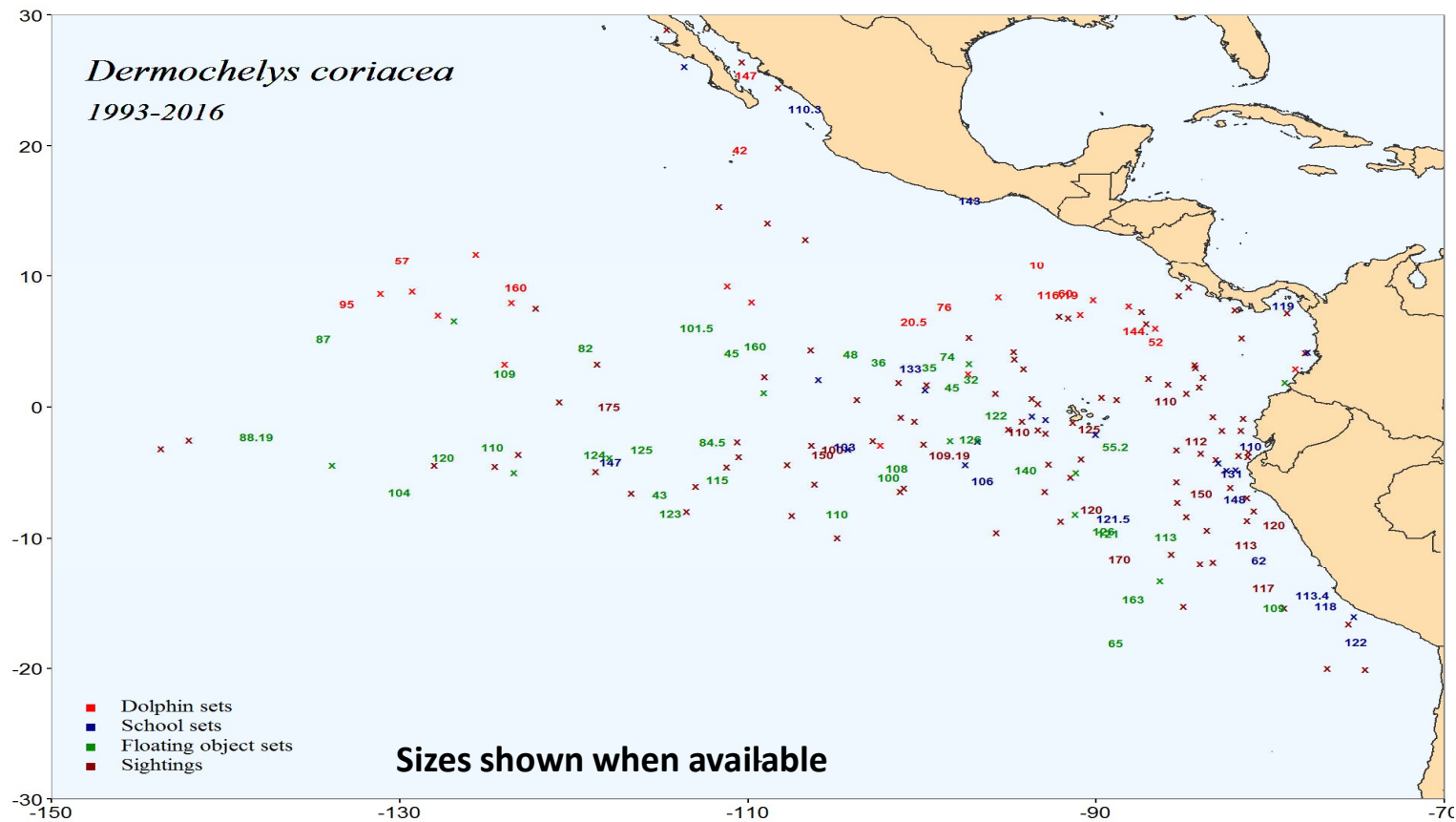
Martin Hall, Marlon Román

9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee La Jolla, California USA, 14-18 May 2018

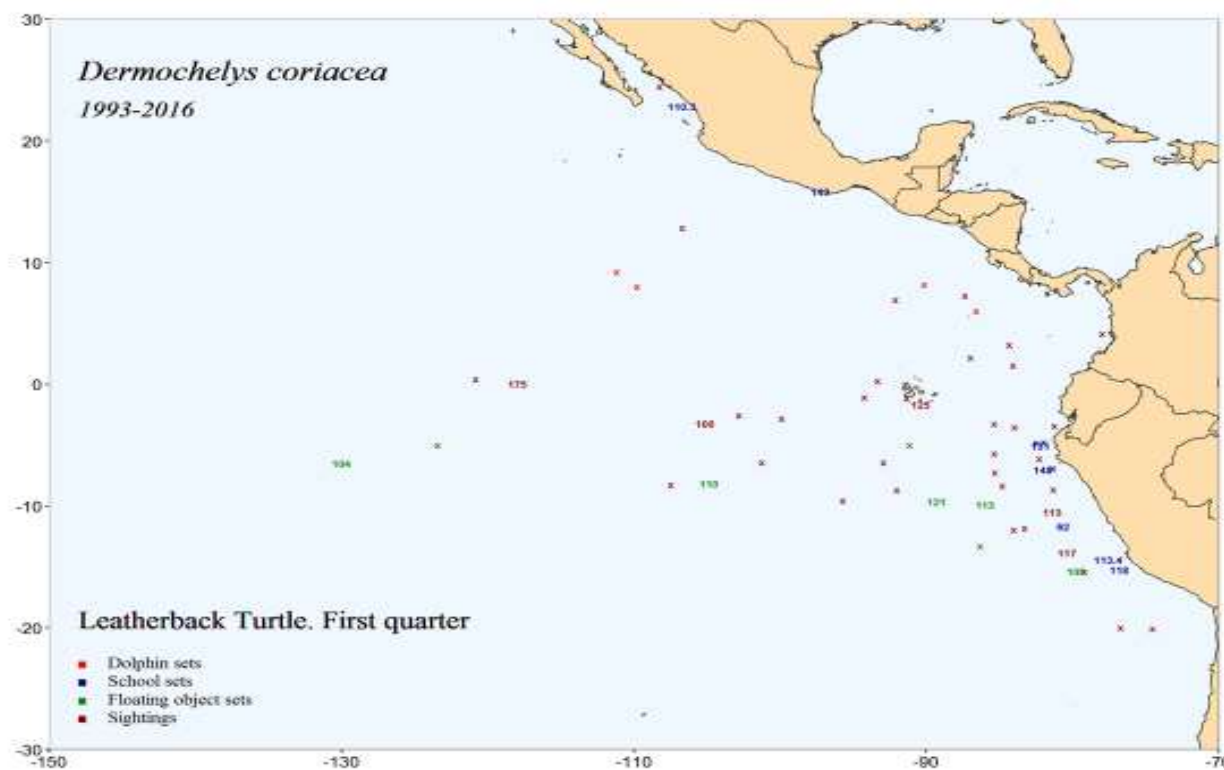
# Purse seine fisheries

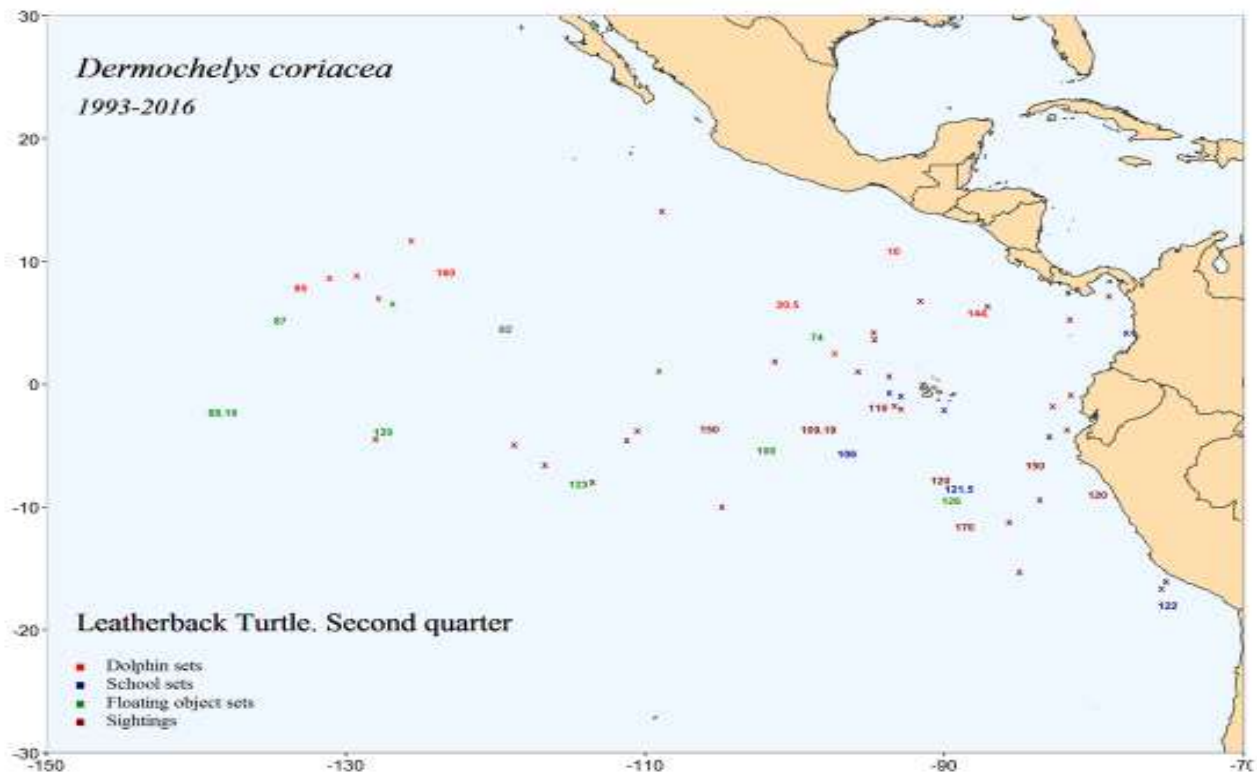
- Mortality < 10 individuals
- Not involving species of concern
- Mitigation actions very effective

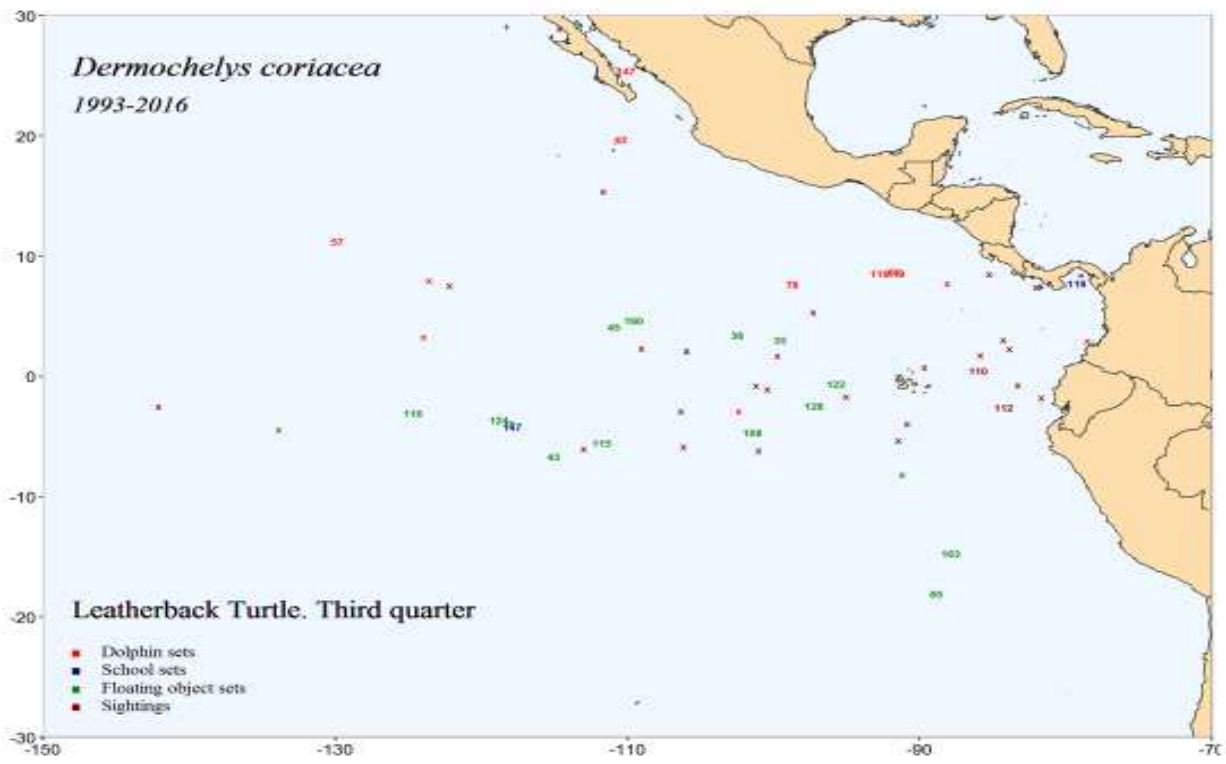
# Sightings and interactions leatherback sea turtles. All year 1993 - 2016



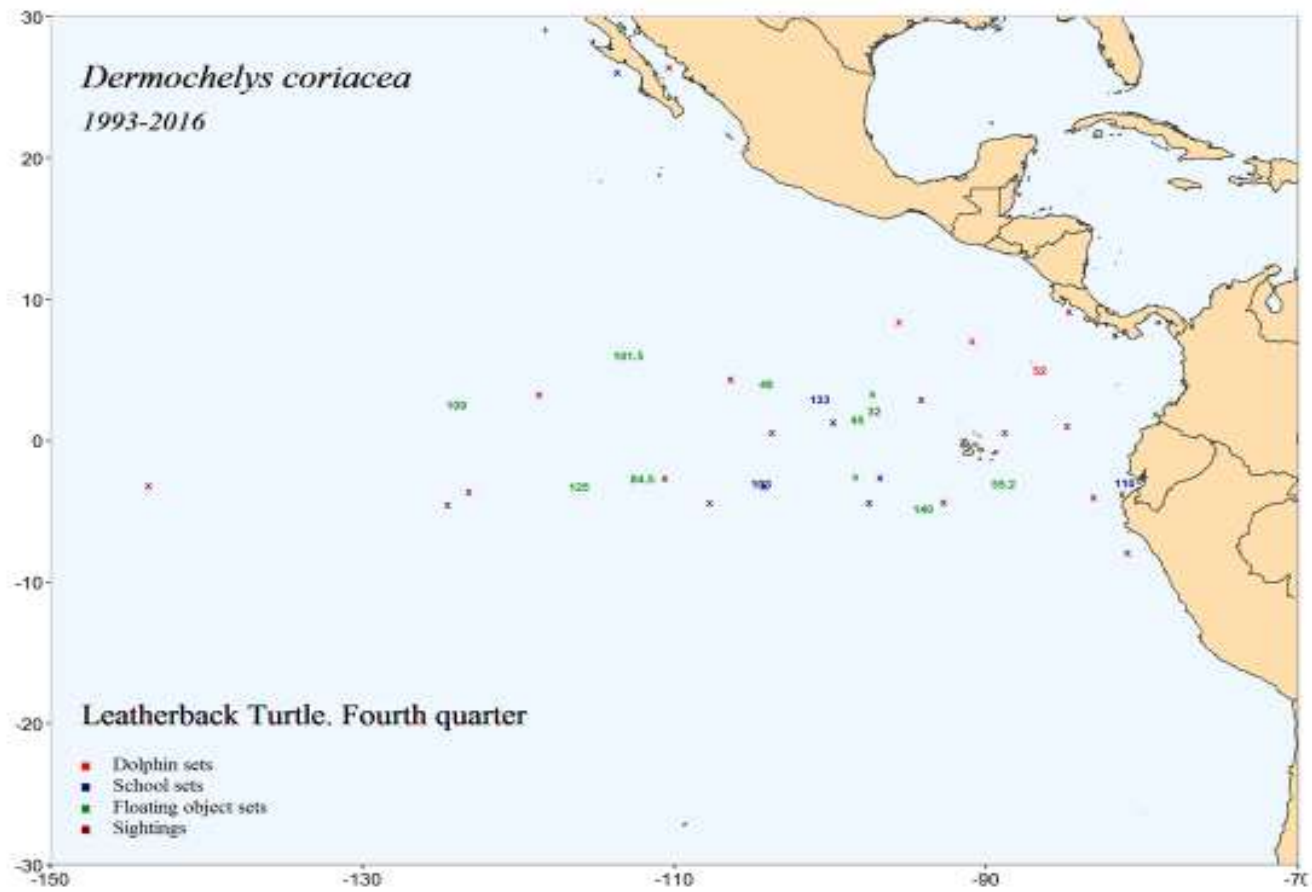
# Sightings and interactions leatherback sea turtles. First Quarter











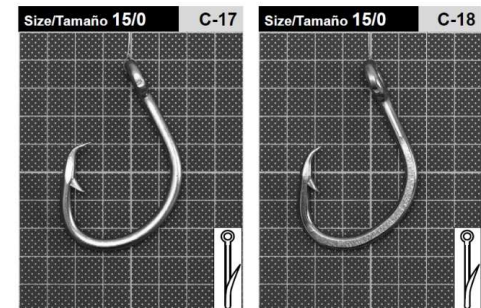
# Observer issues

- Only Class 6 seiners covered. Smaller seiners operate in areas of high density of turtles.
- Longliners: coverage of 5% will not be sufficient to estimate mortality of very rare species, or to identify mitigation options



# Gear issues

- Extend recommendation to adopt circle hooks (previously conditioned)
- Reiterate gear recommendations:
  - dehooker,
  - bolt cutter,
  - line cutter
  - mouth opener
  - brailer to lift turtles
- Implement verification scheme
- NEVER LIFT WITH THE LINE



# Crew training

- Make training on sea turtle (and other bycatch) handling part of fishers training to receive license

- Follow recommendations from video on IATTC website

<https://www.iattc.org/Downloads.htm>

Gilman, E., Hall, M 2015 Potentially significant variables explaining Bycatch and survival rates and alternative data collection protocols to harmonize tuna RFMOs' Pelagic Longline Observer Programmes.pdf

Hall, M., Gilman, E., Minami, H., Mituhasi, T and Carruthers, E. 2017. Mitigating Bycatch in Tuna Fisheries. Rev Fish Biol. Fisheries. DOI 10.1007/s11160-017-9478-x Springer International Publishing, Switzerland.

PARGA, M.L., PONS, M., ANDRAKA, S., RENDON, L., MITUHASI, T., HALL, M., PACHECO, L., SEGURA, A., OSMOND, M. and N. VOGEL. 2015. Hooking locations in sea turtles incidentally captured by artisanal longline fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Fish. Res. 164:231-237.



# Questions



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Photo: Jeff Muir