



**COMMISSION  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Da Nang, Viet Nam  
27 November - 3 December 2022

---

**Reference Document for the Review of CMM for Sharks (CMM 2019-04)**

---

**WCPFC19-2022-24**

11 November 2022

**Secretariat**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a quick reference guide to the recommendations of the latest Scientific Committee (SC) and Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) of relevance to the discussions in support of the review CMM for Sharks (CMM 2019-04). SC18 recommendations are based on the updated outcomes of Project 101 (*SC18-EB-WP-02: Future Stock Projections of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean*).

**B. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS** (*Paragraphs 115 – 120, SC18 Outcomes Document*)

**B.1 Review of potential mitigation measures to reduce fishing-related mortality on silky and oceanic whitetip sharks (Project 101)**

2. SC18 noted the updated projections on the impact of banning shark lines, wire leaders, or both and estimates of catchability and probability of post release mortalities on oceanic whitetip sharks (under Project 101<sup>1</sup>) using observer data on gear configurations by flag for 110,154 longline sets. The biomass of oceanic whitetip sharks is projected to increase if either catch reductions or mitigation methods such as prohibiting both wire leaders and shark lines in the area 20° S to 20° N are adopted and implemented. If no action is taken, the stock biomass is projected to remain at a very depleted level.

3. SC18 noted the substantial scientific research that indicates the use of monofilament branchlines can significantly reduce bycatch and mortality of oceanic whitetip sharks without negatively affecting target catches. SC18 also noted from relevant research (in SC18-EB-IP-20) that trailing gear composed of monofilament did not break apart even after 360 days. In contrast, branchlines with wire leaders began to break at the crimps after approximately 60 days.

4. SC18 noted that the analysis (in SC18-EB-IP-19) revealed that switching from wire leader material to monofilament has a small improvement in survival rates while trailing gear length and handling condition have a significant impact on post-release survivorship for Oceanic Whitetip sharks.

---

<sup>1</sup> SC18-EB-WP-02 <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/16316>

5. SC18 encouraged further research into biodegradable monofilament and variable combination of possible approaches (i.e., recommended trailing lengths, leader type, handling condition) to further reduce mortality of oceanic whitetip sharks.

6. SC18 recommended the Commission consider revising the Conservation Management Measure for Sharks (CMM 2019-04), taking into account the results of Project 101 and previous studies, which considered several options, including the prohibition of branchlines of wire trace and shark lines, in order to reduce fishing mortality on oceanic whitetip shark and silky sharks in the WCPO.

7. SC18 noted with concern that oceanic whitetip sharks are overfished and experiencing overfishing according to the 2019 stock assessment and silky sharks are experiencing overfishing according to the 2018 stock assessment.

## **C. TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **C.1 CMM 2019-04 Sharks proposed revision** (*paragraph 220, TCC18 draft Summary Report*)

8. TCC18 recommended that WCPFC19 amend CMM 2019-04 as follows:

8. In order to implement the obligation in paragraph 7, in 2020, 2021, and 2022 and 2023, CCMs shall require their vessels to land sharks with fins naturally attached to the carcass.

9. Notwithstanding paragraph 8, in 2020, 2021, and 2022 and 2023, CCMs may take alternative measures as listed below to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time:

(1) Each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably biodegradable one;

(2) Each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire;

(3) Identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins in a manner that inspectors can easily identify the matching of the carcass and fins at any time. Both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold. Notwithstanding this requirement, a CCM may allow its fishing vessels to store the carcasses and corresponding fins in different holds if the fishing vessel maintains a record or logbook that shows where the tagged fins and correspondingly tagged carcasses are stored, in a manner that they are easily identified by inspectors.