

# Billfish Research Plan Report

# BRP - SA-IP-09

- Billfish Research Plan 2023-2027 (SA-IP-09) was adopted by SC19 and endorsed by WCPFC20 in December 2023, supported to go to 2030.
- This is the first annual update
- Purpose is to review progress against the BRP tasks and facilitate future planning of WCPFC billfish research.
- Provides a project list and assessment schedule.

# Completed projects

- For SC20 two projects have been completed,
  - Stock assessment of Southwest Pacific striped marlin (SC20-SA-WP-03, 12 and 13) and
  - Development of a statistically robust sampling plan for billfish (SC20-SA-IP-13).
- Two papers were submitted to SC20 that fall outside of the BRP;
  - Rebuilding plan for WCPO striped marlin (SC20-SA-IP-15) and
  - CPUE analysis of the New Zealand recreational fishery for striped marlin (SC20-SA-IP-17)

# 2024 project proposals

- There are four new projects scheduled to start in 2025 pending agreement at the SC20 ISG-Billfish and approval of the budget by WCPFC21.
  - SP SWO stock assessment
  - Assessment approaches for WCPO black marlin, sailfish and shortbill spearfish
  - Biology of SP striped marlin, blue marlin, black marlin, shortbill spearfish and sailfish in the WCPO from longline fisheries.
  - Undertake directed longitudinal tagging of Southwest Pacific swordfish to reduce the uncertainty in movement rate.

# 2024 project proposals

- Draft project ToRs have been provided for the ISG to discuss and make recommendations to the SC

## Recommendations

- SC20 ISG-Billfish review the work plan and project list for the 2025 year, and make recommendations to SC20 for any changes the SC may want to consider.
- SC20 ISG-Billfish review the project specifications and make any changes for SC20's review.

# Shark Research Plan Report

# SRP - SA-IP-10

- Shark Research Plan 2021-2025 (Brouwer and Hamer 2020) was adopted by SC16 and endorsed by WCPFC17 in December 2020.
- This is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual update for the 2021-2030 SRP, (including the mid-term review of the 2021-2025 SRP – which was extended to 2030) .
- Purpose is to review progress against the SRP tasks and facilitate future planning of WCPFC shark research.
- Includes a project list and assessment schedule.

# 2024 completed projects

- For SC20, three projects have been completed
  - North Pacific shortfin mako shark assessment SC20-SA-WP-14
  - WCPO silky shark assessment SC19-SA-WP-103 and SC19-SA-IP-094 SC20-SA-WP-04
  - WCPO oceanic whitetip shark assessment year 1 analysis SC20-SA-WP-11 and SC20-SA-IP-23)
- In addition, a new project *Oceanic whitetip and silky shark in longline fisheries between 20N and 20S and outside the area to evaluate CMM 2022-04* has been completed (SC20-EB-WP-05)



# 2025 projects

- There are three projects that are scheduled to start pending agreement at SC20 ISG-Sharks and approval of the budget at WCPFC21
  - Fishery characterisation of manta and mobulid rays and whale sharks.
  - Pacific oceanic whitetip shark assessment – phase II.
  - Developing a statistically robust and spatial/temporal optimized sampling strategy for biological data collection.

# 2024 project proposals

- Draft project ToRs have been provided for the ISG to discuss and make recommendations to the SC

# Recommendations

- SC20 ISG-Sharks review the work plan and project list for the 2025 year, and make recommendations to SC20 for any changes the SC may want to consider.
- SC20 ISG-Sharks review the proposed amendments to the stock assessment schedule and make recommendations to SC20.
- SC20 ISG-Sharks review the project specifications and make any changes for SC20's review.
- SC20 ISG-Sharks consider if there is enough information to provide the SC with advice on the use of **data poor metrics in shark assessments**, and their future use for low information stock assessments.