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**PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION GUIDE FOR BILLFISH, SHARKS, TUNA-LIKE AND
NON-TUNA FINFISH TAKEN IN WCPO PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (V1)**

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Paper prepared by

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Photographic identification guide for billfish, sharks, tuna-like and non-tuna finfish taken in WCPO pelagic longline fisheries (v1)

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The collection, identification and enumeration of catch data from WCPO fisheries is a fundamental role of the Commission. Continual improvements to information on HMS, non-target, associated and dependent species in the Convention Area is a specific function of the Scientific Committee as noted in the Convention (*Article 12: Functions of the Scientific Committee*). The accurate identification and quantification of total catch from longline fisheries has been problematic due to the wide variety of species across all taxa that can potentially interact with pelagic longline gear. At-sea observer programs are instrumental towards these goals but are often limited in their efficacy by sparse or incomplete training materials. Clear, well illustrated guides for fishermen are far less common and their absence hinders the recording and submission of accurate logbook data.

This illustrated guide has been produced to supplement other identification guides for longline catch, such as the *Marine species identification manual for horizontal longline fishermen*, developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and submitted for accessibility to SC2 as FT IP-3. The primary difference between these two manuals is that IP-3 is illustrated with single paintings while FT IP-5 is illustrated with photographs to offer a different perspective for training purposes. For the most part, the photographs contained in this identification guide were taken by longline observers of the Hawaii Longline Observer Program, NMFS, Honolulu, Hawaii. The fact that the photographs were taken at sea by observers make them particularly useful and representative of what an actual fisherman or observer might see during a normal longline cruise in the central, North Pacific Ocean. The guide includes categories covering the following groups:

- Billfish
- Sharks
- Rays
- Sunfishes
- Tuna-like species
- Miscellaneous surface fishes
- Miscellaneous mid-water fishes
- Miscellaneous seamount/demersal fishes

This Version 1 of the guide is considered in Draft form pending verification of some identifying characters and the addition of more species within some categories. The guide is viewed as an initial attempt that will eventually be expanded to include pelagic longline species encountered throughout the WCPO Area.

¹ <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/PFRP/pfrp1.html>

² <http://www.orau.gov/noaa/HollingsScholarship/>

³ <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir/>

Due to the large size of the files, document will be made available on the Pelagic Fisheries Research Program ftp site. To access this site, mouse click on this link or paste it into a web browser.

<ftp://ftp.soest.hawaii.edu/PFRP/itano>

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The MS Powerpoint version of this ID guide can be made available to fisheries observer programs and agencies for training purposes by contacting the authors directly.