



SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia
7-11 December 2009

**CMM 2008-06: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS:
INCLUSION OF SILKY SHARKS**

WCPFC6-2009/14
7th November 2009

Prepared by the Secretariat

Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, August 2008

1. The Scientific Committee (SC4) recommended that Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) report on a minimum list of shark species, consisting of blue shark, oceanic whitetip shark, mako sharks and thresher sharks, that were easily identified by fishermen. These and other sharks should be identified to the lowest possible taxonomic level, especially by observer programs, and these four easily identified types of sharks should be recorded even in logbooks by fishermen. The SC4 also suggested that, although not easy to identify, silky shark, which appear to be prominent in the ERA, probably comprise the majority of the other sharks caught. Therefore, all other sharks should be reported in aggregate in logbooks if identification to a lower taxonomic level is not possible.

Fifth Regular Session of the Commission, Busan, Korea December 2008

2. The Commission adopted a revised Conservation and Management Measure for sharks (CMM 2008-06), replacing CMM 2006-05. The measure inadvertently omitted silky sharks.

Fifth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, Port Vila, Vanuatu, August 2009

3. The SC5 recommended, *inter alia*, that the Commission:
- i. Consider adding silky sharks to the list of key shark species specified in CMM 2008-06.

Advice and recommendations

4. The Commission is invited to consider a revised Conservation and Management Measure for sharks based on the draft provided at **Attachment A** reflecting the recommendation from SC5.



SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia
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FIFTH REGULAR SESSION
8-12 December 2008
Busan, Korea

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

Conservation and Management Measure ~~20082009-060x~~¹

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recognizing the ecological and cultural significance of sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO);

Recalling that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on FAO members, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt National Plans of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

Recognizing the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, to enable effective shark conservation and management;

Recognizing further that certain species of pelagic sharks, such as basking shark and great white shark, have been listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Resolves as follows:

1. Commission Members, Cooperating non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall implement, as appropriate, the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA Sharks).
2. CCMs shall advise the Commission (in Part 2 of the annual report) on their implementation of the IPOA Sharks, including, results of their assessment of the need for a National Plan of Action

¹ Replaces CMM ~~20062008-05-06~~

and/or the status of their National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.

3. National Plans of Action or other relevant policies for sharks should include measures to minimize waste and discards from shark catches and encourage the live release of incidental catches of sharks.

4. Each CCM shall include key shark species², as identified by the Scientific Committee, in their annual reporting to the Commission of annual catch and fishing effort statistics by gear type, including available historical data, in accordance with the WCPF Convention and agreed reporting procedures. CCMs shall also report annual retained and discarded catches in Part 2 of their annual report. CCMs shall as appropriate, support research and development of strategies for the avoidance of unwanted shark captures (e.g. chemical, magnetic and rare earth metal shark deterrents).

5. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of the IPOA and collection of data on retained and discarded shark catches.

And adopts, in accordance with Articles 5 and 10 of the Convention, that:

6. CCMs shall take measures necessary to require that their fishers fully utilize any retained catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts, and skins, to the point of first landing or transshipment.

7. CCMs shall require their vessels to have on board fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks on board up to the first point of landing. CCMs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures. CCMs may alternatively require that their vessels land sharks with fins attached to the carcass or that fins not be landed without the corresponding carcass.

8. As finer resolution data become available, the specification of the ratio of fin weight to shark weight described in paragraph 7 shall be periodically reviewed by the Scientific Committee (SC) and the SC will recommend any appropriate revisions to the Commission for its consideration. The SC and the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) are directed to consider if additional appropriate measures that give affect to paragraph 7 are required.

9. CCMs shall take measures necessary to prohibit their fishing vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or trading any fins harvested in contravention of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM).

10. In fisheries for tunas and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks, CCMs shall take measures to encourage the release of live sharks that are caught incidentally and are not used for food or other purposes.

11. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal States, including for traditional fishing activities and the rights of traditional artisanal fishers, to apply

² The key shark species are blue shark, [silky shark](#), oceanic whitetip shark, mako sharks and thresher sharks.

alternative measures for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing sharks, including any national plans of action for the conservation and management of sharks, within areas under their national jurisdiction.

12. CCMs shall advise the Commission in Part 2 of the annual report on the implementation of this CMM and any alternative measures adopted under paragraph 11.

13. On the basis of advice from the SC, the TCC and the Commission, CCMs shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this measure, and any alternative measures applied under paragraph 11 above, and shall consider the application of additional measures for the management of shark stocks in the Convention Area, as appropriate.

14. In 2010, the SC, and if possible in conjunction with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, provide preliminary advice on the stock status of key shark species and propose a research plan for the assessment of the status of these stocks.

15. This CMM shall apply to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed under the WCPF Convention, and to sharks listed in Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention.

16. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing State Members and participating Territories for the implementation of this measure, including, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, in areas under national jurisdiction.

| 17. This CMM shall replace ~~20062008-0506~~.