



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia  
5-13 August 2015

---

**The Management Plan for Shark Longliners in WCPO (Chinese Taipei)**

---

**WCPFC-SC11-2015/ EB-IP-15**

**CHINESE TAIPEI**

**The Management Plan for Shark Longliners in WCPO  
Chinese Taipei**

**Background Information**

1. WCPFC adopted conservation and management measure for sharks (CMM 2014-05) in 2014. This CMM indicates that it is the obligation of CCMs to develop a management plan for fisheries that target sharks in association with WCPFC fisheries. The management plan will include specific authorizations to fish such as a license and a TAC or other measure to limit the catch of shark to acceptable levels. Management plan must be developed by 1 July 2015, if possible and no later than 1 December 2015 and submitted to the Commission. In addition, these plans must explicitly demonstrate how the fisheries aim to avoid or reduce catch and maximizes live release of specimens of highly depleted species such as silky and oceanic whitetip sharks caught incidentally.
2. The total shark catch of Chinese Taipei longliners in WCPO fluctuates from 2008-2014. The highest shark catch was 28,272 mt in 2011. The total shark catch of Chinese Taipei longliners in WCPO for 2008-2014 is attached as table 1.

**Table 1.**

YEAR	Total shark catch of longliners in WCPO (MT)
2008	19,050
2009	21,052
2010	17,116
2011	28,272
2012	18,966
2013	15,289
*2014	14,070

\* preliminary data

3. Some Chinese Taipei longliners seasonally target shark species in WCPO, which accounts for approximately 40-60% of total shark catch of Chinese Taipei longliners in WCPO annually. As fishermen have limit knowledge in identifying shark species, it requires more effort on the education so as to improve the data collection and quality of key shark species.

## **Management Measure**

1. The boat owners of longliners that seasonally fished for sharks in WCPO from January 2009 to June 2015 are eligible to apply for the authorization for targeting shark species. When the shark catch of a longliner accounts for more than 50% of total catch in a fishing trip, this longliner will be regarded as a vessel seasonally target for shark species (hereinafter referred to as "shark longliners").
2. Total shark catch of authorized shark longliners could not be over 17,000 MT per year. When the total shark catch of shark longliners reaches to 17,000 MT, any shark species shall not be the target for shark longliners.
3. Except for shark longliners, using shark line as well as targeting shark are prohibited for fishing vessels.
4. The competent authority shall continue to enhance the awareness of fishermen on shark species identification, sustainable utilization of shark and the importance of shark fishery management.
5. The competent authority shall enhance the monitoring on catch reporting of shark longliners, including recording the amount of shark catch and/or the discard in logbooks.
6. Fishing vessels operating in the Pacific are prohibited from targeting, retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any oceanic whitetip shark. They are also prohibited from targeting, retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any silky shark in WCPO. In addition, the fisherman are encouraged not to catch the depleted species.
7. Fishing vessels operating in WCPO are required to carry line cutters. When a silky shark and/or oceanic whitetip shark is incidentally caught, these fishing vessels are required to cut the line and to release those depleted species alive if possible. These fishing vessels are also required to report this incident to the competent authority, including the number of individuals, where it occurred, the life status of the depleted shark on release in the logbook.