



TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION
Bali, Indonesia
3 - 8 December 2015

Proposal for CMM for Sharks

WCPFC12-2015-DP16_rev1
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Paper by EU

Recommendation for the effective implementation of the finning ban in the WCPFC CA

Rationale

SC11 report

553. SC11 recommends that the Commission:

a. Notes that SC11 was able to review the ratio of fin weight to shark carcass weight from one study (SC11-EB-IP-03). This study demonstrated that shark fin weight data suffered from some serious limitations, potential biases and errors. SC11 was unable to confirm the validity of using a 5% fin to carcass ratio in CMM 2010-07 and forwards these concerns to TCC, noting that an evaluation of the 5% ratio is not currently possible due to insufficient information for all but one of the major fleets implementing these ratios.

TCC11 report

462. TCC11 taking note of:

a. Table 5 and 6 of WCPFC-TCC11-2015-RP02 Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme indicating that finning still occurs in the WCPFC CA in both LL and PS fisheries;

b. SC11 recommendation that the Commission notes that according to the most recent information provided by SPC finning still occurs in the WCPFC CA;

c. SC11 was unable to confirm the validity of using a 5% fin to carcass ratio in CMM 2010-07 and that subsequently an evaluation of the 5% ratio is not currently possible due to insufficient information for all but one of the major fleets implementing these ratios.

d. Reports from a CCM that, in the course of high seas boardings and inspections, it has been very difficult to verify whether the 5% ratio obligation has been satisfied.

recommends that:

a. WCPFC12 recognises that it is not possible for TCC to assess compliance with the application of the fins to carcass weight ratio,

b. WCPFC12 considers means to strengthen CMM 2010-07 with respect to ensuring compliance with the obligation in paragraph 6.

Recommendation

WCPFC12 noting with great concern:

a. the continuing inability of the SC to evaluate and confirm the validity of using the 5% fins to carcass weight ratio ~~[due to insufficient information for all but one of the major fleets implementing these ratios] [as a means for the implementation of the finning ban for the purpose of CMM 2010-07];~~

b. that according to the most recent information finning still occurs in the WCPFC CA;

c. the difficulty reported from a CCM to verify the 5% ratio obligation in the course of high seas boardings and inspections in the WCPFC CA;

d. the continuing impossibility for TCC to assess compliance of relevant CCMs with the application of the fins to carcass weight ratio for implementation of the finning ban in the WCPFC CA;

Recognises that that it is not possible for TCC to assess compliance with the application of the fins to carcass weight ratio,

and

Recommends that, as a matter of urgency, SC12 and TCC12 notably based on a review of relevant existing information provided, inter alia by CCMs: 1) evaluate the applicability (including in terms of enforcement and control) of alternative measures to the fins to carcass ratio as a means for the implementation of the finning ban for the purpose of CMM 2010-07 2) consider if and how the existing measure can be implemented effectively, and 3) make recommendations to the Commission.

Also recommends that CCMs that are currently using the fins to carcass weight ratio, provide to SC12 and TCC12 detailed information related to the implementation and control of that measure.

Based on these recommendations, WCPFC13 shall revise CMM 2010-07 to ensure its effective enforcement in view of the implementation of the finning ban in the WCPFC CA.