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**Draft ToR for the development of guidelines for management plans for sharks**

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**Paper by EU**

## **Guidance for the development and evaluation of management plans for longline fisheries targeting sharks in association with WCPFC fisheries**

### ***Rationale***

1. With a view to addressing SC11<sup>i</sup> and TCC11<sup>ii</sup> recommendations related to CMM 2014-05 para 2 "Measures for longline fisheries targeting sharks" in association with WCPFC fisheries, WCPFC12 tasks the Secretariat to develop draft guidance for the development and evaluation of management plans for longline fisheries targeting sharks in association with WCPFC fisheries taking into account the elements listed below.

### ***General principles***

2. Management plans for sharks should be based on article 5 of the Convention and para 2 of CMM 2014-05, taking into account advice from SC and TCC.

### ***Existing measure***

4. CMM 2014-05 provides the following measures for longline fisheries targeting sharks and these can be considered by the management plans:

\* *limitation of catches*: specific authorisations to fish such as a licence and a TAC or other measure to limit the catch of shark to acceptable levels.

\* *by-catch limitation*: demonstrate how the fisheries aim to avoid or reduce catch and maximises live release of specimens of highly depleted species such as silky and oceanic whitetip sharks caught incidentally.

\* *evaluation and review*: on the basis of advice from the SC and TCC, the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of management arrangements provided in this measure, including minimum data requirements, after 2 years of its implementation and shall consider the application of additional measures for the management of shark stocks in the Convention Area, as appropriate.

### ***Definitions***

5. The Secretariat shall propose a range of possible definitions of a longline fishery targeting key shark species in association with WCPFC fisheries, for the consideration of SC12 and TCC12.

### ***Minimum requirements***

6. The Secretariat shall compile and propose a list of candidate elements to be considered for the development of management plans for the consideration of SC12 and TCC12. Those candidate elements may include *inter alia*:

- i. The scope in terms of stocks, fishery (specific description of the fishery targeting sharks in association with WCPFC fisheries for which the management plan needs to be developed) and the area of application of the management plan;
- ii. Specific authorisations to access the fishery, e.g. licence etc;
- iii. Species specific information for the establishment of catch, effort or capacity limits, ensuring the application of the most recent scientific advice available;

- iv. Management limits and reference points, where possible;
- v. Conservation and technical measures designed to avoid and reduce, as far as possible, unwanted catches;
- vi. With respect to highly depleted species (such as oceanic whitetip and silky sharks), a demonstration of how the relevant longline fishery is avoiding or reducing catches and maximising live release of incidentally caught sharks;

### ***Evaluation***

7. The Secretariat shall provide a list of elements to be considered for the evaluation of the management plans. They may include, *inter alia*:

- i. Data requirements in line with the *Scientific Data to be provided to the WCPFC*;
- ii. Quantifiable indicators for monitoring their implementation;
- iii. Provisions for a periodic review of the plan's performance with subsequent revision, in particular to take account of the most recent scientific advice;
- iv. Evaluation of the scientific basis and methodology used for the determination of limits and measures outlined in the management plans
- v. Ensuring that specific shark measures set out in CMMs are reflected in the management plans

### ***Timeline***

8. The draft guidance shall be presented to SC12 and TCC12 for consideration and presented to WCPFC 13 with a view to its adoption by the Commission.

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<sup>i</sup> 581. After considering the shark management plans submitted by Japan and Chinese Taipei in accordance with paragraph 2 of CMM 2014-05, review by SC11 was made difficult due to the lack of guidance on what should be incorporated into the shark management plans, what is considered a target fishery, and how the review should be performed. SC11 recommends that the Commission:

a) Consider development of a list of minimum requirements that such a plan should include, guidelines to evaluate such a plan, and the definition of a target shark fishery for future review by SC, TCC and the Commission;

b) Notes the need for plans to contain species specific information and a rationale for how catch, effort or capacity limits are derived, amongst other minimum requirements.

<sup>iii</sup> 463. TCC11 noted SC11 difficulties in assessing the sharks management plans submitted by two CCMs in accordance with CMM 2014-05, due to the lack of guidance on what should be incorporated into the shark management plans, what is considered a target fishery, and how the review should be performed.

464. TCC11 endorses SC11 recommendation to consider the development of a list of minimum requirements that such plans should include, guidelines to evaluate such plans, and the definition of a target shark fishery for future review by SC, TCC and the Commission.