



## **TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

**Thirteenth Regular Session**  
27 September – 3 October 2017  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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### **REFERENCE PAPER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SHARK AND RAY CMM**

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**WCPFC-TCC13-2017-17a**  
**22 September 2017**

**Secretariat**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide as a quick reference guide to support TCC13s consideration of the WCPFC13 decision related to development of a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure, and relevant SC13 outcomes.

#### **WCPFC13 outcome**

2. WCPFC13 requested that SC13 and TCC13, with support from the Secretariat, work towards the development of a comprehensive approach to shark and ray conservation and management with a view to adopting a new CMM at the Commission's annual meeting in 2018. The new CMM should seek to i) unify the WCPFC's existing shark CMMs; ii) take account of relevant national and international policies and measures; and iii) provide a framework for adopting new components as needs and datasets evolve. Elements that could be considered for the new CMM include:
  - policies on full utilization/prohibition on finning;
  - no retention policies;
  - safe release and handling practices;
  - gear mitigation, size limits or closures;
  - management plans/catch limits;
  - key species and their assessment schedules;
  - species-specific limit reference points; and
  - any data reporting requirements beyond those contained in "Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission."

(WCPFC13 Summary Report, paragraph 507)

#### **SC13 outcome**

3. SC13 received a paper by the Secretariat that set out a summary of the WCPFC's progress with regard to utilization and finning, no-retention, safe release, mitigation, management plans, assessment, limit reference points and data reporting requirements (SC13-EB-WP-06 *Development of a comprehensive shark conservation and management measure for the WCPFC*).

4. SC13 established an Informal Small Group to further consider the matters raised. SC13 adopted the report of ISG-6 on the comprehensive shark CMM (draft SC13 Summary Report, para 593, Attachment G). A copy of the SC13 ISG-6 outcomes is enclosed in **Attachment 1**, noting that the content of the table is indicative; it was discussed at SC13 but not necessarily agreed.

#### **Secretariat preparations for TCC13**

5. Just as SC13 endeavored to respond to the Commission's tasking by providing scientific advice, TCC13 may wish to respond by identifying critical shark issues from a technical or compliance point of view. The Secretariat has prepared a paper to facilitate that process by compiling existing TCC findings relevant to sharks and by developing a concise list of shark-related issues that could benefit from the Commission's attention. This paper is provided as **WCPFC-TCC13-2017-17b**.

#### **Recommendation**

6. TCC13 is invited to note this paper.

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Draft SC13 Summary Report Attachment G

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean  
Scientific Committee  
Thirteenth Regular Session  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands  
9 - 17 August 2017**

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**Report of the ISG-06  
Options for the development of a comprehensive approach to  
shark and ray conservation and management**

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WCPFC13 requested that SC13 and TCC13, with support from the Secretariat, work towards the development of a comprehensive approach to shark and ray conservation and management with a view to adopting a new CMM at the Commission's annual meeting in 2018.

The new CMM should seek to:

- i) unify the WCPFC's existing shark CMMs;
- ii) take account of relevant national and international policies and measures; and
- iii) provide a framework for adopting new components as needs and datasets evolve. Elements that could be considered for the new CMM include:
  - policies on full utilization/prohibition on finning;
  - no retention policies;
  - safe release and handling practices;
  - gear mitigation, size limits or closures;
  - management plans/catch limits;
  - key species and their assessment schedules;
  - species-specific limit reference points; and
  - any data reporting requirements beyond those contained in "Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission."

ISG discussions and outcomes:

SC13 has considered two possible options in view of responding to WCPFC13 request:

- a) The first option would be to simply collate the existing CMMs. It would involve a limited role for the SC.
- b) The second would consist in developing a framework for a comprehensive approach to shark conservation and management along the general lines presented in the preliminary template displayed in Annex XX. The content of the table is indicative; it was discussed at SC13 but not necessarily agreed. SC would have a significant role under this option.

SC13 recommends that TCC13 and WCPFC14 note the two options considered by the SC for the development of a comprehensive approach and/or CMM for the conservation and management of sharks in the WCPFC and that WCPFC14 provides advice to SC14 and TCC14 on the way forward.

## Draft framework for the development of a comprehensive approach and/or CMM for sharks in the WCPFC

## 1.1 Policies on full utilization/prohibition on finning

Issues	References/species covered already	SC role as per CMM	Status	Needs for data and/or adequate methodologies /coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC role /Recommendation
Ensure full utilization of retained sharks  Ensure effective implementation of the finning ban  Minimise discards and waste	CMM 2010-07, para. 13  All species	SC is required to review the implementation and effectiveness of CMM 2010-07			To be developed for SC14	
	CMM 2010-07, para. 7  All species	SC shall periodically review the specification of the ratio of fin weight to shark weight and recommend any appropriate revisions to the Commission	SC12, para. 117 “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”	Observer data recording condition and fate of sharks and Weight sampling of fins and carcasses at port and on vessel for CCMs implementing fin-carcass ratio	To be developed for SC14	
	National/international policies					

## 1.2 No retention policies and bycatch mitigation (gear adaptation/modification, spatial closures, size limits etc)

Issues	References/species covered todate	SC role as per CMM	Status	Data/methodology needs/coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC role/ Recommendation
Ensure protection/conservation of endangered species	CMM 2013-08, para. 6 – Silky shark	The Scientific Committee shall continue to evaluate the effectiveness of bycatch	Progress limited due to limitation of			

Defining eligible species		mitigation measures	data, funding for analysis, and confounding effects of diverse operational practices		To be developed for SC14	
Effectiveness in reducing shark mortality	CMM 2011-04 Oceanic white tip	Should be as above		As above		
Assessing post release mortality	CMM 2012-04 whale shark	Should be as above		As above		
Minimising unwanted catches	National/international policies (sanctuaries etc)	Should be as above				

### 1.3 Safe release and handling practices

Issues	References/species covered to date	SC role as per CMM	Status	Data/methodology needs/coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC Recommendation?
Give effect to the key objectives of the retention policies and by-catch mitigation efforts	CMM 2013-08, para. 6 Silky shark	The Scientific Committee shall continue work on live release guidelines	Approved guidelines hampered by lack of information and/or lack of robust scientific evidence	Observed fate and condition of sharks prior to release and deploying mortality tags on fish released using different release mechanisms	To be developed for SC14	
Define and ensure "safe release"	CMM 2011-04 Oceanic white tip	Should be as above		As above		
Maximising post release survival	CMM 2012-04 whale shark		Guidelines adopted	As above		
	WCPFC13 decision on Mantas and Mobulas		SC13 to develop	As above		
	National/international policies					

### 1.4 Management plans/catch limits

Issues	References/species covered to date	SC role	Status	Data/methodology needs/coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC Recommendation?
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Ensuring the sustainable management of commercial shark species	CMM 2014-05, para. 2  All targeted species	Shark management plans [...] shall be provided to the SC for review	To date two CCMs have submitted Sharks Management Plans. Standards for the content of shark management plans and criteria for their review have not been agreed	Long-term catch and effort data (best from observed effort >10% hooks set)	To be developed for SC14. Example:  Commission should agree the definition of “fisheries that target sharks” and standards and criteria so that shark management plans can be evaluated for effectiveness	
	National/international policies					

### 1.5 Key species and their assessment schedules

Issues	References/species covered to date	SC role	Status	Data/methodology needs/coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC Recommendation?
Defining key shark species	Process for designating key shark species , p. 4  WCPFC key sharks	SC shall discuss and evaluate proposals for key shark species designations	20 species now considered “key”; assessment for some key species is challenging	Observed catch proportions of key shark species and other elasmobranches caught as by catch in WCPFC fisheries	To be developed for SC14. Example: Commission should articulate goals for assessing species as well as management goals (including a statement on ecosystem-based fisheries management) to guide the SC’s work	
Assessing the conservation status for key shark species		The SC may wish to consider whether it should adopt procedures for periodic review of the list and for removing species if their population	As above	As above	As above	

	Process for designating key shark species, p. 6	status or conservation priority changes				
	CMM 2010 07 p. 14 All species	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	As above		As above	

### 1.6 Shark reference points

Issues	References/species covered	SC role	Status	Data/methodology needs/coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC Recommendation?
<p>Providing management advice for key shark species</p> <p>Paving the way towards the establishment of harvest strategies for relevant shark species</p>	FAC9, FAC10	<p>Prioritize and review scientific work.</p> <p>The Commission has approved budget line items for the further development of shark limit reference points in 2015 and 2016.</p>	Studies have not yet gone ahead	Accurate catch and effort data	<p>To be developed for SC14. Example:</p> <p>The Commission should articulate management goals for sharks to guide the selection of appropriate reference points. SC can advise on technical issues once these are in place.</p>	

**1.7 Data reporting requirements (beyond those contained in “Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission”)**

Issues	References/species covered	SC role	Status	Data/methodology needs/coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC Recommendation?
Ensuring the collection, availability and reliability of relevant data	Scientific Data to be reported to the Commission (2016), para. 9	The Commission, through its Scientific Committee, shall periodically review the requirements for scientific data and shall provide the Commission with revised versions of this recommendation, as appropriate.	Scientific Services Provider has highlighted continuing data gaps for sharks	Compare data reporting with the requirements of the “Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission”	To be developed for SC14. Example:  Commission should consider if it is necessary to strengthen shark reporting requirements, observer coverage standards, task SC specifically with identifying non- and under-reporting	

**1.8 Market related tools for sharks conservation and management**

Issues	References/species covered	SC role	Status	Data/methodology needs/coverage under SRP	Possible SC Recommendation	TCC Recommendation?
Combating IUU fishing related to sharks	CMM 2010 07 para 9 (trading fins)	Analysing economic and trade data and trends for sharks commodities	Pending due to lack of data		???	
Identification of sharks species and commodities		Providing technical advice for the development of CDS for shark species				
Development of CDS for shark species						