

# REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON WCPFC BYCATCH MITIGATION PROBLEM-SOLVING

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(ABNJ TUNA PROJECT)

EB


WP-12



# BACKGROUND

- Bycatch Management Information System (BMIS) under development since 2010
- Re-launched in May 2017 with references, ID tools and safe release guides (EB-IP-10)
- ABNJ & SPC wished to:



- Receive feedback 
- Encourage use
- Assist ongoing WCPFC discussions

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# WORKSHOP

- Nouméa, 28-30 May 2018
- 27 participants (11 CCMs, 7 IGOs/NGOs)



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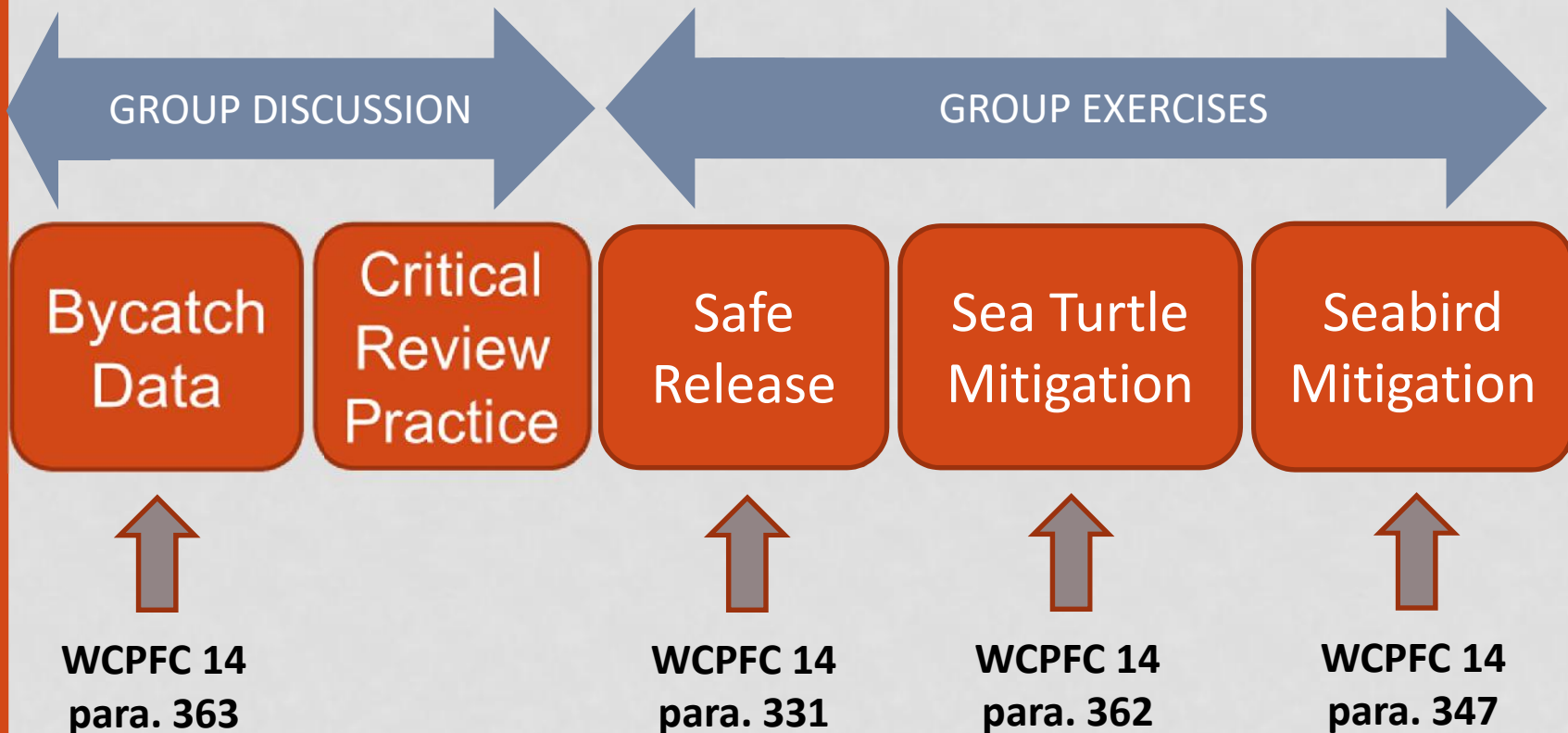
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# OBJECTIVES

- Introduce BMIS
- Show how it can help with WCPFC issues
- Increase understanding of bycatch
- Take suggestions to improve the system
- Identify bycatch data improvements



# STRUCTURE



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# BYCATCH DATA IMPROVEMENT

## → SC14 TASK: REVIEW SEA TURTLE WORKSHOP RECS

- Better sea turtle species IDs
- Recording bait type at a finer scale than set
- Recording which hooks were observed
- Recording line weighting at the set level
- Recording of dusk-dawn setting (reconcile PS and LL requirements)



# SAFE RELEASE

## → SC14 TASK: DEVELOP GUIDELINES (SHARKS & RAYS)

- Suggestions for shark and ray safe release can be found in EB-IP-03



- Interest in developing seabird safe release under CMM 2017-06
- Did not examine safe release guidelines for sea turtles (WCPFC already has these)

# SEA TURTLE MITIGATION

## → SC14 TASK: REVIEW MITIGATION OPTIONS

- Finfish bait less attractive to turtles and used by many fisheries already
- Circle hooks effective and widely used; no particular safety or cost issues; sometimes higher shark catch due to fewer bite-offs



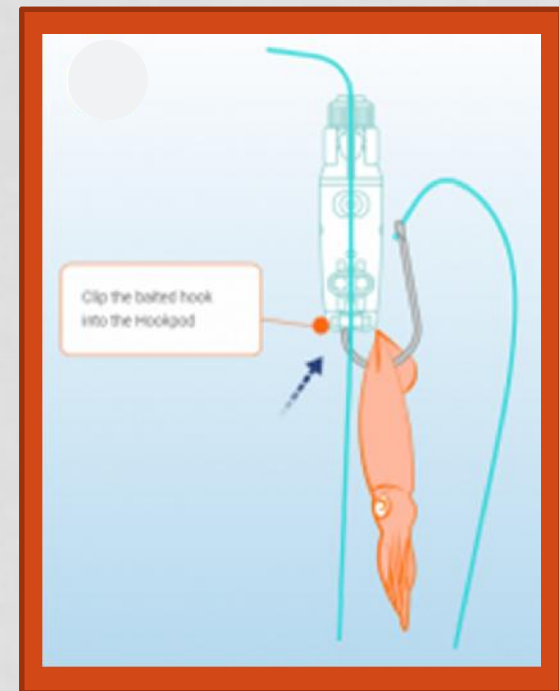


# SEABIRD MITIGATION



## SC14 TASK: REVIEW HOOK SHIELDING DEVICES

- Hookpods reduce seabird bycatch; no crew safety issues but costs may be high
- Smart tuna hook reduces seabird bycatch; no effect on target species but concerns about metal release



# SUMMARY

Workshop promoted useful interaction with BMIS and potential assistance with WCPFC 14 requests:



- ◆ Observer data on sea turtles (WCPFC14, para. 363)
- ◆ Shark and ray safe release (WCPFC14, para. 331)
- ◆ Sea turtle mitigation (WCPFC14, para. 362)
- ◆ Seabird mitigation (WCPFC14, para. 347)