**North Pacific Blue Shark Stock Status**

**SC14 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for north Pacific blue shark in 2018. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC13 are still current for north Pacific blue shark. Updated information on catches was not compiled for and reviewed by SC14. [adopted]**

**North Pacific Blue Shark Management Advice**

**SC14 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC13 for north Pacific blue shark. Therefore, previous advice should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information. For further information on the management advice and implications from SC13, please see** [**https://www.wcpfc.int/node/XXXX**](https://www.wcpfc.int/node/XXXX) **[adopted]**

**North Pacific Blue Shark Recommendations**

**Regarding the issue of the designation of North Pacific blue shark as a Northern Stock (WCPFC14 Report, Para 378), SC14 provides the following recommendations:**

1. SC14 recommends that the Commission clarify and quantify what is meant by “*mostly north of 20 degrees N*”. [adopted]
2. In relation to paragraph 1, SC14 recommends that a check-list of benchmark scientific information for North Pacific blue shark be developed to support the Commission’s deliberations in determining the designation of a northern stock. As such, the following draft checklist is forwarded for the Commission’s consideration. [adopted]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Criteria** | **Response** | **Comments** |
| **1** | What proportion of the total estimated stock biomass occurs on average north of 20oN? | Unknown | Current assessment model does not included population spatial structure. Nominal CPUE may be biased and could be overestimated in the north unless the effects of fishing time, depth and depth distribution of blue sharks are accounted for. |
| **2** | Does all of the breeding/spawning area(s) occur north of 20 oN? | No | Breeding area is mainly north of 20 oN but may overlap areas south of 20 oN |
| **3** | Does all of the nursery area(s) occur north of 20 oN | Yes | Mostly in the area 30-40 oN |
| **4** | Do any other important life history stages occur south of 20 oN? | Yes | Pregnant females are commonly found south of 20 oN |
| **5** | What proportion of the total annual estimated catch occurs north of 20 oN? | 0.88 on average | Based on raised, aggregated (5x5 degree) longline data 2014-2017 submitted to WCPFC (Operational data would provide better resolution than aggregated data) |
| **6** | Is fishery catch-per-unit-effort demonstrably higher north of 20 oN for comparable fisheries? | (i) Similar CPUE observed north and south of 20 oN in Chinese Taipei LSTLL fishery and Hawaii deep-set LL fishery (ii) CPUE higher north of 20 oN in Japan shallow set research survey | CPUE comparisons may be biased by different depth distribution of blue shark north and south of 20 oN. |
|
| **7** | Is there sufficient information about fish movement between the areas north and south of 20 oN? | Yes | Conventional tagging data shows that the maximum range of movements suggests at least northern and southern sub-populations of blue shark, as demarked by the equator. |