6.4.2 Sea Turtles

SC14 recommended that the Commission note that:

* less than 1% of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) longline effort is subject to mitigation under CMM 2008-03, even though approximately 20% of the WCPO longline effort consists of shallow sets. This results because CMM 2008-03 only applies to longline vessels that fish for swordfish in a shallow-set manner.
* ~~ABNJ workshops (SC13-EB-WP-10) determined that:~~ Noting that SC13 recommended that:
1. **~~SC13 recommends that~~ TCC and the Commission note the following findings of the Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness Workshop when discussing sea turtle mitigation in the WCPF Convention Area:**
2. **The WCPFC does not hold sufficient information to quantify the severity of the threat posed by longline fisheries to sea turtle populations;**
3. **The effect of large circle hooks (size 16/0 or larger) in reducing interactions is generally greater than the effect of fish bait;**
4. **The effect of fish bait in reducing both interactions and mortality is generally similar to that of removal of the first hook position closest to each float;**
5. **The effect of large circle hooks (size 16/0 or larger) in reducing both interactions and mortality is generally similar to that of removal of the first two hook positions closest to each float;**
6. **While approximately 20% of the WCPO longline effort is in shallow sets, analysis suggests that <1% of WCPO longline effort is currently subject to mitigation;**
7. **Noting that the workshop separated shallow and deep sets at 10 hooks per basket, it found thatalthough interaction rates are higher in shallow-set longlines, introducing mitigation to deep-set longlines would deliver greater reductions in total interactions as compared to shallow-set longlines due to the four-times greater effort in deep-set longline fisheries;**
8. **Similarly, introducing mitigation to deep-set longlines would deliver greater reductions in at-vessel mortality as compared to shallow-set mitigation because sea turtles have a higher probability of asphyxiation in deep sets;**
9. **The effects of these and other combinations of mitigation measures are quantified and discussed in the final workshop report “Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness” which can serve as a reference for the Commission’s further consideration of CMM 2008-03.**
10. **It be determined if sufficient data exist to conduct further analyses to evaluate the impacts of various mitigation measures on fisheries operations in WCPO and on populations of sea turtle species.**
* ~~REPEAT THE SC13 BOLDED RECOMMENDATION TEXT HERE (9 POINTS) (COPY IN)~~ ~~use of larger circle hooks or the use of finfish bait is effective to reduce sea turtle interactions in both shallow and deep set longline fisheries as discussed at SC13. although Some CCMs at SC14 considered that the recommendations coming from the workshop report were premature.~~
* In responding to the Commission’s request in WCPFC14 Summary Report, para 362, SC14 discussed two papers (WCPFC-2018-SC14/EB-WP-XX and WCPFC-2018-SC14/EB-WP-XX) ~~references to be inserted~~) examining the effects of circle hooks on target and other bycatch species, but did not reach consensus on the effectiveness of circle hooks compared to other hook types on catch rates of target and other bycatch species.

(adopted as edited)