CMM 2013-08 (CMM for silky sharks) (FOR ADOPTION) (rev 2.)

SC14 noted that analysis of observer data by SPC shows that silky sharks in the WCPO are still being retained and silky shark products are still being traded at high levels in international markets, though the proportion among those from WCPO is unknown. (adopted)

SC14 also noted the clear increase in longline observers recording no sharks per set since 2013 in SA-WP-02 (Figure 32), as well as concerns expressed in SA-WP-08 about the influence of no-retention measures on the uncertainties associated with estimates of catch rates and catches in stock assessments. (adopted)

Therefore SC14 recommends to WCPFC15 that:

1. The Scientific Services Provider be tasked with reviewing how observers record sharks that are cut free, and what data quality improvements might be achieved through improved observer training and/or protocols. (adopted)
2. SC14 also recommends TCC14 and WCPFC15 to consider (through the comprehensive shark CMM)including ~~in the no-retention measure~~ a requirement that, [on sets for which an observer or electronic monitoring camera is present, a shark shall be hauled alongside the vessel before being cut free]. This requirement which is designed to facilitate a species identification, should be implemented only after taking into consideration the safety of the crew and the observer. When adopted by the Commission, the guidelines for safe release of sharks and rays may be a useful guide for this activity. (see adopted version below)

Cleaned up version of point 2 above

2. SC14 also recommends TCC14 and WCPFC15 to consider, through the comprehensive shark CMM, a requirement that non-retention and/or unwanted sharks be hauled alongside the vessel before being cut free in order to facilitate a species identification. This requirement shall only apply when an observer or electronic monitoring camera is present, and should only be implemented taking into consideration the safety of the crew and observer. When adopted by the Commission, the guidelines for safe release of sharks and rays may be a useful guide for this activity. (adopted)