



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Fukuoka, Japan
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Development of a Draft Comprehensive Shark CMM for Discussion at WCPFC15

WCPFC-NC14-2018/IP-03

JAPAN

Development of a Draft Comprehensive Shark CMM for Discussion at WCPFC15

1. Background

(1) WCPFC has adopted the following CMM for sharks:

- CMM for Sharks (2010-07)
- CMM for Oceanic Whitetip Shark (2011-04)
- CMM for Protection of Whale Sharks from PS Fishing Operations (2012-04)
- CMM for Silky Sharks (2013-08)
- CMM for Sharks (2014-05)

(2) WCPFC also adopted:

- Guidelines for the Safe Release of Encircled Whale Sharks
- Guidelines for Best Handling Practices for the Safe Release of Manta and Mobuild

(3) WCPFC made decisions on:

- requirements for reporting shark catch data, standards for observer data collection on sharks
- process for designating key shark species

2. Decision at WCPFC14

WCPFC14 decided:

- To task SC14 to develop proposed guidelines for safe release of rays and sharks with priority given to silky and oceanic whitetip sharks
- To form an intersessional working group (IWG) to develop a draft comprehensive shark CMM for discussion at WCPFC15, which will primarily work virtually and will be chaired by Japan
- To request that the IWG Chair codify WCPFC's existing shark measures and distribute the draft to IWG participants by the end of February
- To request that the IWG Chair will receive comments on the draft as well as contributions on new elements from IWG participants by the end of March

- To request that the IWG Chair will then produce a revised draft and send it to SC14 and TCC14 for their review and comments

3. Participants to the Shark IWG

Australia, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, Chinese Taipei, United States, Thailand, FFA, PNA, SPC, SPREP, American Tunaboat Association, ISSF, WWF and Dr. Shelly Clarke from FAO as an advisor

4. Progress until now

- (1) The first draft CMM for Shark was distributed on February 15
- (2) The second draft CMM was distributed on April 6
- (3) The third draft CMM was distributed on May 28
- (4) The fourth draft CMM was submitted to SC14 on July 13
- (5) SC14 sent its comments on August 17
- (6) The fifth draft CMM was submitted to TCC14 on August 20

5. Future plan

Upon receiving comments from TCC14, the IWG Chair will produce the sixth draft CMM and submit it to the Secretariat in early November as a working paper for discussion at WCPFC15.