



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

7-15 August 2012
Busan, Republic of Korea

Draft Agenda

Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation Theme

WCPFC-SC8-2012/ EB-IP-00

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**DRAFT AGENDA ITEM 6
ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH MITIGATION THEME**

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AGENDA ITEM 6

6.1 Ecosystem effects of fishing

SC8 may consider any research related with fishery impacts on ecosystem, including the progress of SEAPODYM applications and the Kobe process on bycatch issues, if available.

6.1.1 Review of research and information

- a) **EB-WP-01:** Progressing adaptation to climate variability and change in Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries. Evans, K., et al.
- b) **EB-WP-02:** Progress on Kobe III bycatch technical working group. Nicol, S.

***** Related Information Papers (for reference only)**

- 1) EB-IP-06: SEAPODYM applications in WCPO – progress report. Lehody, P. et al.
- 2) EB-IP-11: WCPO ecosystem indicator trends and results from ecopath simulations. Allain et al.

6.2 Sharks*

SC8 will review the progress of the Shark Research Plan including designation of additional key shark species, such as whale sharks, plans for shark stock assessments and prioritization.

SC8 will consider whether whale sharks meet the criteria for the designation of key shark species and provide recommendations to the Commission.

6.2.1 Shark Research Plan

- a) **EB-WP-03:** A Progress Report on the Shark Research Plan Rev 1. Rice, J. and S. Harley.
- b) **EB-WP-04:** Assessment of the whale shark as a key shark species. Rice, J. and S. Harley.

6.2.2 Review of CMM for Sharks

SC8 will consider investigations into the effectiveness of mitigation measures for sharks.

- a) CMM 2010-07 (CMM for Sharks)
SC8 will review CMM for Sharks, especially paragraphs 4, 8, and 13.
- b) CMM 2011-04 (CMM for oceanic whitetip shark)
SC8 will review CMM for Oceanic Whitetip Shark
- c) Development of CMMs on other shark species
SC8 may wish to consider providing scientific advice on the stock status of relevant shark species to WCPFC9.
- d) Guidelines for safe release of encircled animals
SC8 will continue developing the best practice guidelines for release of encircled whale sharks, including the development of a research programme, perhaps involving tagging, to evaluate and verify the effectiveness of preliminary safe release guidelines, and provide recommendations to the Commission.

*** *Related Information Papers (for reference only)*

- 1) EB-IP-03: Distribution and trend of abundance for porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in the Southern Hemisphere. Semba, Y., K. Yokawa and H. Matsunaga.
- 2) EB-IP-07: Chondrichthyan Guide for Fisheries Managers. Patterson, H. M. and M. J. Tudman.
- 3) EB-IP-08: National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2012 – Shark Plan 2. Australia.
- 4) EB-IP-09: Operational Strategy: National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2012 - Shark-Plan 2. Australia.
- 5) Whale Shark: WCPFC8-2011-IP/01, WCPFC8-2011-DP/15a (Rev 1), and WCPFC8-2011-DP/17)

6.2.3 International cooperation on shark issues

The ISC Chair will brief SC8 on the activities of ISC Shark Working Group and its coordination of shark data sharing and shark stock assessments with SPC-OFP.

6.3 Seabirds*

6.3.1 Review of research and information

SC8 will review any relevant available research findings as recommended in paragraph 439 of the SC6 Summary Report and paragraph 430 of the SC7 Summary Report and provide recommendations on the effectiveness of CMM 2007-04 to TCC8 and the Commission.

- a) **EB-WP-06:** Review of Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures for Pelagic Longline Fisheries. ACAP.
- b) **EB-WP-07:** Minimum Data Requirements for Monitoring Seabird Bycatch. ACAP.
- c) **EB-WP-09:** New branch line weighting regimes reduce risk of seabird mortality in the Australian pelagic longline fishery without affecting fish catch. Robertson, G. et al.

- d) **EB-WP-10:** Branch line weighting options that reduce the risk of seabird bycatch. Robertson, G. et al.

***** Related Information Papers (for reference only)**

- 1) EB-IP-02: Progress report on the development and testing of the underwater bait setter for pelagic longline fisheries. Robertson, G. and I. Hay.
- 2) EB-IP-04: Progress Report on the Development of a Seabird Identification Guide for use by tRFMOs. Rev 2 (31 July 2012). Beck, N., Y. Inoue and W. Papworth.
- 3) EB-IP-05: Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Fact Sheets. Birdlife International and ACAP
- 4) EB-IP-12: Good practices to reduce the mortality of sharks and rays caught incidentally by the tropical tuna purse seiners. Poisson F. et al.

6.4 Sea turtles*

SC8 may review scientific aspects of the CMM 2008-03, and consider any additional or new mitigation measures of sea turtles.

6.5 Other species and issues

6.5.1 FAD bycatch mitigation

SC8 will review the progress and future plans for research on FAD bycatch mitigation efforts.

- a) **EB-WP-11:** Overview of the ISSF Bycatch Mitigation Research Cruise in the WCPO. Itano, D. et al.
- b) **EB-WP-12:** The post-release condition of FAD associated silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) caught in tuna purse seine gear Rev 1. Hutchinson, M. et al.
- c) **EB-WP-13:** Behaviour of target and non-target species on drifting FADs and when encircled by purse seine gear. Muir, J. et al.
- d) **EB-WP-14:** Development and testing of a release panel for sharks and nontarget finfish in purse seine gear. Itano, D. et al.
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 - e) **EB-WP-15:** Review of Japan’s approaches to reduce bycatch of juvenile bigeye tuna by purse seine on FADs in tropical area of the western and central Pacific Ocean. Satoh, S. et al.
 - f) **EB-WP-16:** Study on the methods to reduce the by-catch of juvenile Bigeye tuna in purse seine FADs operations. Rev 1. Oshima, T. et al.
 - g) **EB-WP-17:** Study on the methods to mitigate the bycatch of juvenile bigeye tuna by introducing Double FADs with light stimulus for tuna purse seine fishery in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Kawamoto, T. et al.

6.5.2 Food security issues with bycatch

SPC-OFP will present an analysis related with food fish discarded and its impact. SC8 will review results of relevant research and provide comments and recommendations to the Commission.

- a) **EB-WP-18:** Estimation of catches and fate of edible bycatch species taken in the equatorial purse seine fishery. Rev 1 (25 July 2012). Pilling, G. et al.