**Please provide your comments by 16h on Wednesday 10 August to:**

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**ISG 5 on the designation of new key shark species for data provision and/or assessment[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**(3rd draft)**

*According to the designation process developed by SC8, there are five potential outcomes from the process of evaluating a nomination:*

*i) The species is not found in the Convention Area and is not suitable for designation;*

*ii) The species is found in the Convention Area but is not of sufficient priority to designate as a key shark species either for data provision or for assessment;*

*iii) The species is found in the Convention Area and is of sufficient priority to designate as a key shark species for data provision, but there are insufficient data for assessment at present;*

*iv) The species is of sufficient priority to designate as key shark species for assessment, but additional logsheet data collection is not practical and thus it will be assessed on the basis of existing information (e.g. observer data and/or existing (partial) logsheets);*

*v) The species is of sufficient priority to designate as a key shark species for both data provision and assessment.*

CCMs are invited to provide comments to the recommendations listed below:

Recommendations with the regards to the designation or not of new key shark species

*Recommendation 1:*

Noting the information and assessment presented in EB-WP-08 and that the observers coverage in PS fisheries allows the collection of relevant data, SC12 concludes that **(OPTION 4)** *these species are of sufficient priority to designate as key shark species for assessment, but additional logsheet data collection is not practical and thus they will be assessed on the basis of existing information (e.g. observer data and/or existing (partial) logsheets)*. SC12 recommends that WCPFC13 lists Manta rays as a key shark species, with the understanding that this will not involve any change in the logsheets of CCMs for these species.

*Recommendation 2:*

Noting the information and assessment presented in EB-WP-08 and that the observers coverage in PS fisheries allows the collection of relevant data, SC12 concludes that **(OPTION 4)** *these species are of sufficient priority to designate as key shark species for assessment, but additional logsheet data collection is not practical and thus they will be assessed on the basis of existing information (e.g. observer data and/or existing (partial) logsheets)*. SC12 recommends that WCPFC13 lists Manta rays as a key shark species, with the understanding that this will not involve any change in the logsheets of CCMs for these species.

*Recommendation 3:*

Noting the information and assessment presented in EB-WP-08, SC12 concludes **(OPTION 2**) *that the species is found in the Convention Area but is not of sufficient priority to designate as a key shark species either for data provision or for assessment*and recommends that WCPFC13 does not listpelagic stingray as a key shark species.

General Recommendations (from SC12-EB-WP-08)

*Recommendation 4:*

SC12 recommends that Purse seine observer training programmes add emphasis to *Mobula spp*. identification as part of their curricula.

**(NEW, following discussion in the ISG)** *Recommendation 5:*

SC12 recommends that WCPFC12 takes note of SC-EB-WP-08 and SC12-EB-IP-09 and considers adopting a CMM for Manta and Mobula rays, including operational guidelines for setting and safe release and other relevant management measures.

1. When key shark species are designated for data provision they are included in the Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission. When key shark species are designated for assessment, they are included in the WCPFC’s Shark Research Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)