*Draft language for SC12 recommendations on Shark Management Plans*

*1930 hrs, 6 August 2016*

SC12 considers that it is problematic to agree and apply a definition of longline fisheries “targeting” sharks, noting that fisheries need not be targeting sharks to be having a significant impact on vulnerable shark stocks. The Commission may wish to refer to the potential definitions in EB-WP-05 as a starting point for further consideration, if required.

SC12 recommends that the Commission adopt the attached contents list for the development of any new shark management plans.

SC recommends that the Commission review newly submitted SMPs for completeness and quality, with a view toward encouraging continuous improvement and documenting the scientific basis for all national management measures referenced in the SMP.

NOTE: In interest of coming to consensus on the appropriate contents of a shark management plan, I would like to suggest three options:

1. Continue to discuss (and modify) the template below from Annex E of EB-WP-05 modified slightly based on comments received at SC12.
2. Generalize the information using the bullet points from Section 3 of EB-WP-05 (appended below)
3. Scale back to text similar/identical to the original contents of the Commission’s tasking text (ref. Annex C of EB-WP-05 (originally Attachment J of the WCPFC12 Summary Report); also appended below)

OPTION 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| WCPFC Shark Management Plan for Longline Fisheries | | | | | | | | | CCM: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Objective: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Species Covered and Catch in [metric tonnes / number] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Blue shark: Y/N | | | | Stock: | | | | | | | | Catch limit: | | | | | | |
|  | Mako sharks: Y/N | | | | Stock: | | | | | | | | Catch limit: | | | | | | |
|  | Thresher sharks: Y/N | | | | Stock: | | | | | | | | Catch limit : | | | | | | |
|  | Porbeagle shark: Y/N | | | | Stock: | | | | | | | | Catch limit: | | | | | | |
|  | Hammerhead sharks: Y/N | | | | Stock: | | | | | | | | Catch limit : | | | | | | |
|  | Other sharks (list): Y/N | | | | Stock: | | | | | | | | Catch limit : | | | | | | |
| Fleet Information | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Number of longline vessels covered by this plan: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | How many of the longline vessels covered by the plan are/are not on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels: Are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Are Not: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Location of fishing grounds (attach map): | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Annual raised effort of the fleet (in hooks): | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Describe the licensing arrangements applicable to the fleet and note whether effort is controlled (if so, in what way): | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Catches | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Shark | Retained Catch (Past 5 yrs)  Unit: | | | | | | Discarded Catch (Past 5 yrs)  Unit: | | | | | | | Total (Past 5 yrs)  Unit: | | | | |
|  | Blue |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Makos |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Silky |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Oceanic Whitetip |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Threshers |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Porbeagle |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Hammerhead |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Other |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Describe the mechanism for limiting the catch of sharks, by species if applicable (e.g. regulation, license, no-retention, etc), and the arrangements for monitoring, verification and enforcement: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Describe the catch limits set above for each species and provide the rationale for the limit with reference to the latest available stock assessments and reference points: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | If there are any shark species allowed to be retained but not subject to catch limits, please identify them and provide a rationale: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mitigation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Describe the implementation arrangements for no-retention and safe release of oceanic whitetip (CMM 2011-04) and silky (CMM 2013-08) sharks, including safe release guidelines: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | This fleet uses: Shark Lines: Y/N Wire Leaders: Y/N  (fleet or vessel choice?) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Describe implementation arrangements for the WCPFC full utilization policy (CMM 2010-07). Specifically, if fins are allowed to be removed from carcasses at sea, describe what arrangements are in place to demonstrate that finning is not occurring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | List any other shark mitigation measures, e.g. size limits, closed areas or seasons, gear restrictions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | List the dates over which the plan applies: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Describe how and when the plan is reviewed and reported against, including any linkages with monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Describe how and when the plan is revised/renewed**:** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

OPTION 2

The following requisite shark management plan components are proposed:

* Species: List the shark species and stocks (if known) covered by the plan
* Fleet: Describe the fleet covered by the plan:
  + Enumerate the vessels catching shark and indicate whether or not they appear on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels
  + Include a map indicating the coordinates of the fishing grounds for the fleet
  + Quantify the fishing effort of the fleet (in annual raised hooks fished if possible)
  + Describe the licensing arrangements applicable to the fleet and note whether effort is controlled (if so, in what way)
* Catches: Describe the catch arrangements of the fleet for the shark species covered by the shark management plan:
  + Provide a table showing the retained catches by the fleet of the sharks covered for the last five years (by species if possible)
  + If discards are recorded, show the quantities discarded by species and the total catch (retained + discarded)
  + Describe the mechanism for limiting the catch of sharks, by species if applicable (e.g. regulation, license, no-retention, etc), and the arrangements for monitoring, verification and enforcement
  + Describe the catch limits set (e.g. X tonnes of blue shark, Y tonnes of shortfin mako shark) and provide the rationale for the limit with reference to the latest available stock assessments and reference points
  + If there are any shark species allowed to be retained but not subject to catch limits, please identify them and provide a rationale
* Mitigation: Describe operational practices that avoid or reduce mortality to non-retained species
  + Describe the implementation arrangements for no-retention and safe release of oceanic whitetip (CMM 2011-04) and silky (CMM 2013-08) sharks, including safe release guidelines
  + Describe implementation arrangements for the WCPFC full utilization policy (CMM 2010-07). Specifically, if fins are allowed to be removed from carcasses at sea, describe what arrangements are in place to demonstrate that finning is not occurring
  + Identify whether shark lines or wire leaders have been prohibited (by fleet or vessel per CMM 2014-05)
  + List any other shark mitigation measures, e.g. size limits, closed areas or seasons, gear restrictions
* Management: Describe how the plan is implemented and reviewed
  + List the dates over which the plan applies
  + Describe how and when the plan is reviewed and reported against, including any linkages with monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems
  + Describe how and when the plan is revised/renewed

OPTION 3

The following requisite shark management plan components are proposed:

1. The scope in terms of stocks, fishery (specific description of the fishery targeting sharks in association with WCPFC fisheries for which the management plan needs to be developed) and the area of application of the management plan;
2. Specific authorisations to access the fishery, e.g. licence etc;
3. Species specific information for the establishment of catch, effort or capacity limits, ensuring the application of the most recent scientific advice available;
4. Management limits and reference points, where possible;
5. Conservation and technical measures designed to avoid and reduce, as far as possible, unwanted catches;
6. With respect to highly depleted species (such as oceanic whitetip and silky sharks), a demonstration of how the relevant longline fishery is avoiding or reducing catches and maximising live release of incidentally caught sharks.