*FINAL language for SC12 recommendations on Shark Management Plans*

*ISG-11, 1045 hrs, 10 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 WCPFC-2016-SC12/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 (Attachment A).

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

Attachment A. Components to be included in a shark management plan.

* 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. input/output controls, 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