



## First Sea Turtle Informal Intersessional Working Group Meeting (STIIWG01)

### Review of CMM 2018-04 (Sea Turtles)

8 and 10 April 2026 (Pohnpei) | 10 AM-2PM

Virtual Meeting

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#### Annotated Draft Agenda

STIIWG01-2026-01 ([Rev.01](#))

4 April 2026

**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

**1. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Meeting Objectives**

- Review and revise CMM 2018-04 to consider expanding the scope/strengthening the measure (e.g., mitigation measures for deep-set longline fisheries) and ensure clearly defined reporting requirements for sea turtles.
- **Speakers:** Y. Swimmer (USA), E. Crigler (USA)

○ [\[References: 2,3,12,13\]](#)

**2. 10:15 AM - 10:25 AM | Summary of current sea turtle conservation measures**

- Current mitigation requirements in CMM 2018-04 and issues to be addressed, including discussion of similar measures within other tuna RFMOs.
- **Speakers:** Y. Swimmer (USA)

○ [\[References: 2,3,5,8, Baez et al\]](#)

**3. 10:25 AM - 11:30 AM | Overview of sea turtle population ranges & status within the WCPO**

- Review of ranges and status within the WCPO, and discussion of biological factors that render them vulnerable to various threats, including fisheries.
- **Speakers:** B. Wallace (USA), CJ Cayanan (USA), N. Pilcher (SPREP)

○ [\[References: 2,9,11,15,17\]](#)

**— 30 min Break—**

**4. 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM | Overview of Sea turtle bycatch in WCPO fisheries**

- **Focus:** Knowledge of turtle bycatch in WCPO, including information on gear types, fisheries effort (deep and shallow sets), post release survival (mortality), and impacts to populations.
- **Speakers:** SPC, M Dunn (NZ), K. Okamoto (Japan), R Ahrens (USA)

- [\[References: 2,4,6,8,9,11,14, Kinan et al, Peatman et al\]](#)

5. **1:20 PM - 2:00 PM | Review of sea turtle bycatch mitigation methods and research**

- **Focus:** Review of bycatch mitigation methods and research related to bycatch mitigation in longline fisheries, including factors influencing post-release survival.
- **Speakers:** E Gilman (USA), M Dunn (NZ)

- [\[References: 1,2,4,6,8,10,14,16,18, ISSF 2024\]](#)

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

6. **10:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Brief overview of discussion of Session 1**

7. **10:15 AM - 11:00 AM | Review of sea turtle bycatch mitigation methods** (continued)

- **Focus:** Continued review of bycatch mitigation methods and research related to bycatch mitigation in longline fisheries, including factors influencing post-release survival.
- **Speakers:** C Zhou (CH), Mi K Lee (Korea)

- [\[References: 1,2,4,6,8,10,14,16,18, Lee et al\]](#)

8. **11:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Updates of best handling and release practices**

- **Focus:** Updates on best handling and release practices to increase post-release survival of sea turtles.
- **Speakers:** M. Hutchinson (IATTC)

- [\[References:5,7,8\]](#)

**— 30 min Break—**

9. **12:00 PM - 12:30 PM | Review current CMM 2018-04 data reporting requirements**

- **Focus:** Discuss current sea turtle data reporting requirements in CMM 2018-04 and potential modifications to ensure requirements are clearly defined.
- **Speakers:** E. Crigler (USA)

- [\[References: 3,12,13\]](#)

10. **12:30 PM - 1:45 PM | CCMs input on potential modifications to CMM 2018-04 and data reporting requirements**

11. **1:45 PM - 2:00 PM | Concluding remarks and next steps**

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## References for CMM 2018-04 Review

(\*indicates directly relevant to workshop)

1. \*Boggs, Swimmer 2007. [Developments \(2006-2007\) in scientific research on the use of modified fishing gear to reduce longline bycatch of sea turtles. | WCPFC Meetings.](#)
2. \*Clark 2017. [Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness.](#)
3. \*CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SEA TURTLES CMM 2018-04. <https://cmm.wcpfc.int/measure/cmm-2018-04>.
4. Dunn et al 2024. [Characterising surface longline fishing fleet behaviour in relation to leatherback bycatch: csp reports.](#)
5. FAO 2009. [Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations.](#)
6. Finucci, Dunn 2024. [AEBR 345 Post-release survival for leatherback turtles caught in New Zealand surface longline fisheries](#)
7. \*Hutchinson et al. 2025. [Best-handling-and-release-practice-guidelines-\(BHRP\) for sea turtles IATTC -Doc EB-03-05 REV.](#)
8. \*Langford et al 2025: [Sea turtle bycatch mitigation and circle hook workshop review paper.](#)
9. Lewison et al 2014. [Global patterns of marine mammal, seabird, and sea turtle bycatch reveal taxa-specific and cumulative megafauna hotspots.](#)
10. Peat et al 2024. [Literature Review of Soak Period Bycatch Mitigation Measures for New Zealand's Surface Longline Fleet New Zealand Department of Conservation](#)
11. \*Pilcher 2021. [Review of the Status of Sea Turtles in the Pacific Ocean 2021.](#)
12. \*SPC 2025. [Sea turtles data reporting req WCPFC-SC21-2025/ST-WP-05. SC21-ST-WP-05.pdf](#)
13. \*SPC 2023. [An update on the status of aggregate catch/effort and size composition data available to the SCTB - WCPFC-SC19-ST-WP-01 Data Gaps \(FINAL - rev3\).pdf](#)
14. Swimmer et al 2017. [Sea Turtle Bycatch Mitigation in U.S. Longline Fisheries](#)
15. \*SWOT REPORT VOLUME XXI. State of the World's Sea Turtles. Sea Turtles and Tradition in the Pacific Islands pages 16-28. [SWOT Report Vol XX1](#)
16. Van Wert et al 2025. [Hawaii's pelagic longline fishery demonstrates the need to consider multispecies impacts in bluewater time-area closures.](#)
17. Wallace et al. 2023. [Marine turtle regional management units 2.0: an updated framework for conservation and research of wide-ranging megafauna species.](#)
18. \*Yan, Zhou et al 2025. [A Meta-Analysis of Bycatch Mitigation Methods for Sea Turtles Vulnerable to Swordfish and Tuna Longline Fisheries - Yan - 2025](#)

### Additional References

19. Baez et al. 2024. [Challenges and Opportunities in Monitoring and Mitigating Sea Turtle Bycatch in Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations](#)
20. Beverly et al 2009. [Effects of eliminating shallow hooks from tuna longline sets on target and non-target species in the Hawaii-based pelagic tuna fishery](#)
21. Gilman et al 2024. [Individual and fleetwide bycatch thresholds in regional fisheries management frameworks | Request PDF](#)
22. Kinan et al 2024. [Leatherback Sea Turtle Interactions in Western and Central Pacific Deep-Set Longline Fisheries](#)
23. Lee et al. 2022 [International community's efforts to mitigate sea turtle bycatch and status of implementing relevant measures by Korean tuna longline fishery.](#)
24. Okamoto et al 2018. [Review of studies on catch rates of commercial and bycatch species by hook type using in pelagic tuna longline fisheries | WCPFC Meetings](#)

25. Peatman et al. 2023. [Estimating trends and magnitudes of bycatch in the tuna fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean](#)
26. Gilman et al. 2024. [ISSF 2024-04: Inputs for Comprehensive Bycatch Management Strategy Evaluation in Tuna Fisheries - International Seafood Sustainability Foundation](#)
27. Huang et al. 2016. [Influence of hook type on catch of commercial and bycatch species in an Atlantic tuna fishery](#)
28. Santos et al. [A review of reported effects of pelagic longline fishing gear configurations on target, bycatch and vulnerable species](#)
29. Foster et al. 2012. [Evaluation of Hook and Bait Type on the Catch Rates in the Western North Atlantic Ocean Pelagic Longline Fishery](#)
30. Mejuto et al. 2008. [Trials Using Different Hook and Bait Types in the Configuration of the Surface Longline Gear Used by the Spanish Swordfish \(\*Xiphias gladius\*\) Fishery in the Atlantic Ocean](#)
31. Ochi et al. 2024. [Multifaceted effects of bycatch mitigation measures on target or non-target species for pelagic longline fisheries and consideration for bycatch management](#)