



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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Management Plan for Longline Fisheries Targeting Sharks (Japan)

**WCPFC-SC11-2015/ EB- IP-14
Rev. 1. (31 July 2015)**

JAPAN

Management Plan for Longline Fisheries Targeting Sharks

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Introduction

Offshore longline fleet based on Kesenuma fishing port is one of the major offshore longline fleets in Japan. Their vessel size is in between 119 and 150 tons. They are mainly operating in the Oyashio-Kuroshio transition zone in the subtropical and temperate northwest Pacific throughout year. Blue shark is one of the primary target species and, and they generally conduct blue shark targeting operations in the season between early summer to early autumn.

Management Plan

In accordance with paragraph 2 of CMM2014-05 (Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks), following shark management plan is addressed;

1) Time period of the plan

5 years, starting in January 1st, 2016

2) Fleet conducting the plan

Offshore surface longline fleet based at Kesenuma fishing port (The names of longline boats are shown in Table 1.)

Table 1. Name of the fleet

Vessel name	Vessel size	Call sign	Fresh/Frozen
Toyo-maru No.1	147	JE3104	Fresh
Yahata-maru No.11	119	JE3113	Fresh
Fukuyo-maru No.8	119	JE3043	Fresh
Fukuyo-maru No.17	148	JE3127	Fresh
Taiki-maru No.81	119	7JOB	Fresh
Shintoku-maru No.28	119	JE3103	Fresh
Kinei-maru No.37	119	7JNS	Fresh
Shinei-maru No.17	119	JE3114	Fresh
Yuki-maru No.77	119	JE3102	Fresh
Yuki-maru No.17	119	JD3108	Fresh
Shoryo-maru No.7	145	JD3068	Fresh
Koei-maru No.31	149	JD2294	Fresh
Kifuku-maru No.51	149	JM6090	Fresh

3) Operational area

Subtropical and temperate northwest Pacific

4) License for the pelagic longline operation

License of the offshore surface longline fleet for the pelagic longline operation is issued by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

5) Total annual landing limit

Blue shark: 7,000 tons

Shortfin mako shark: 600 tons

The annual landing limits are set to historical lowest level (Figure 1).

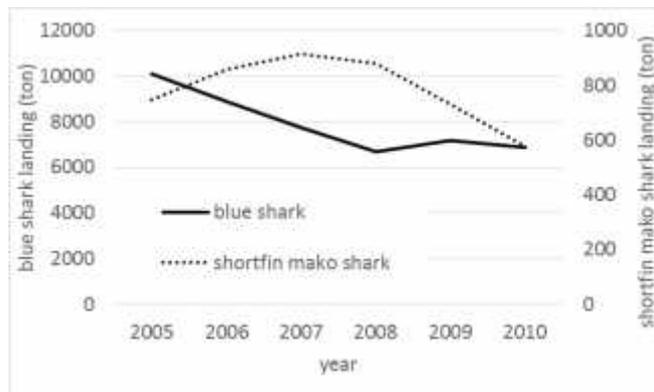


Figure 1. Landing (ton) of blue and shortfin mako sharks by Japanese surface offshore longline fleet based at Kesennuma fishing port.

6) Measures to conserve stocks of depleted tropical sharks

- Prohibition of the use of shark line.
- Sharks landed to the port are limited to blue shark, shortfin mako shark, salmon shark and thresher sharks. All other sharks will be released in a way to maximize their survival.

7) Other measures

- Fin of sharks will be attached at the time of landing.
- Shortfin mako sharks smaller than 1 m PCL are released in a way to maximize their survival, except for retaining as scientific sample for biological study.

8) Report of the conservation plan

Implementation of the management plan will be reported to the Commission by 15th July of the next year.

9) Review of the conservation plan

The management plan will be reviewed in 3rd and 5th year of the plan, and revised if necessary.