



EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION

Tumon, Guam, USA

26-30 March 2012

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK

Conservation and Management Measure 2011-04

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC);

Noting the Scientific Committee's concern about the steep declining standardized catch rates and size trends of oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in longline and purse seine fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean and the Committee's recommendation that the WCPFC consider mitigation measures for the species at its eighth regular annual session;

Also noting that there are other species of sharks that show negative trends currently, or others that may in the future, and a more comprehensive approach to shark conservation may be considered for the other species where a non-retention policy may not be appropriate, this measure should therefore not set a precedent for managing all shark species in the Western and Central Pacific.

Recognizing the resolution of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on oceanic whitetip shark and desiring conservation and management measures that are consistent with those of the IATTC;

Adopts the following measures in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention):

1. Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) shall prohibit vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any oceanic whitetip shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.
2. CCMs shall require all vessels flying their flag and vessels under charter arrangements to the CCM to release any oceanic whitetip shark that is caught as soon as possible after the shark is brought alongside the vessel, and to do so in a manner that results in as little harm to the shark as possible.

3. CCMs shall estimate, through data collected from observer programs and other means, the number of releases of oceanic whitetip shark, including the status upon release (dead or alive), and report this information to the WCPFC in Part 1 of their Annual Reports.
4. The Commission shall consider the special needs of Small Island Developing States and Territories, including supplying species identification guides for their fleets and develop guidelines and training for the safe release of sharks.
5. Observers shall be allowed to collect biological samples from oceanic white tip sharks that are dead on haulback in the WCPO, provided that the samples are part of a research project approved by the Scientific Committee. In order to get approval, a detailed document outlining the purpose of the work, number of samples intended to be collected and the spatio-temporal distribution of the sampling effect must be included in the proposal. Annual progress of the work and a final report on completion will be presented to the Scientific Committee.
6. This measure shall be amended if appropriate at the 2012 Commission meeting taking into consideration the results of the stock assessment and be reviewed periodically thereafter.
7. This Conservation and Management Measure shall enter into force on January 1, 2013 and remain in place until the Commission decides otherwise.