**Silky Shark (Carcharhinus falciformis)**

**Stock Status &Trends plus Management Advice and Implications**

Contents

[SC13 2017 1](#_Toc514916445)

[SC12 2016 1](#_Toc514916446)

[SC11 2015 2](#_Toc514916447)

[SC10 2014 2](#_Toc514916448)

[SC9 2013 (Updated Assessment Conducted) 2](#_Toc514916449)

[Useful References 3](#_Toc514916450)

[Previous Assessments 3](#_Toc514916451)

# SC13 2017

1. **Stock status and trends**
2. **SC13 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for these shark species in 2017. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC9 are still current for silky shark. Updated information on catches was not compiled for and reviewed by SC13.**
3. **Management advice and implications**
4. **SC13 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC9 for silky shark. Therefore, previous advice should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information.**

# SC12 2016

1. **Stock status and trends**
2. **SC12 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for these shark species in 2016. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC8, SC9, and SC10 are still current for oceanic whitetip shark, silky shark, and North Pacific blue shark respectively. Updated information on catches was not compiled for and reviewed by SC12.**
3. **Management advice and implications**
4. **SC12 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC8, SC9, and SC10 for oceanic whitetip shark, silky shark, and North Pacific blue shark, respectively. Therefore, previous advice should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information.**

# SC11 2015

**a. Status and trends**

1. **SC11 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for these shark species in 2015. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC8 and SC9 are still current for oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark, respectively.**
2. **SC11 noted that no stock assessment has been conducted for South Pacific blue shark.**

**b. Management advice and implications**

1. **SC11 noted that no management advice has been provided since SC8 and SC9 for oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark, respectively. Therefore, previous advice should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information.**

# SC10 2014

**a. Status and trends**

1. **SC10 noted that no stock assessment was conducted for this species in 2014.**
2. **Management advice and implications**
3. **There was no stock assessment for this species, therefore advice from SC9 should be maintained, pending a new assessment or other new information.**

# SC9 2013 (Updated Assessment Conducted)

**a. Status and trends**

1. **Silky shark is a low productivity species and this low productivity is reflected in the low estimated value for *FMSY* (*FMSY* = 0.08) and high estimated value for *SBMSY/SB0*= 0.39. These directly impact on conclusions about overfishing and the overfished status of the stock. Estimated fishing mortality has increased to levels far in excess of *FMSY* (*Fcurrent/FMSY* = 4.32) and across nearly all plausible model runs undertaken, estimated F values were much higher than *FMSY* (the 5th and 95th quantiles are 2.49 and 7.45, respectively). Based on these results, SC9 concluded that overfishing is occurring. Estimated SSB has declined to levels below *SBMSY* (*SBcurrent/SBMSY* = 0.72) and for the majority of the model runs undertaken, *SBcurrent* is less than *SBMSY* (the 5th and 95th quantiles are 0.51 and 1.02, respectively). Based on the distribution of the relative current SSB, SC9 concluded that it is highly likely that the stock is in an overfished state.**

**b. Management advice and implications**

1. **Current catches are higher than MSY (7,123 mt vs. MSY = 2,937 mt), further catches at current levels of fishing mortality would continue to deplete the stock below *SBMSY*. Current (2005–2008 average) and latest (2009) catches are significantly greater than the forecast catch in 2010 under *FMSY* conditions (approximately 600 mt).**
2. **The greatest impact on the stock is attributed to bycatch from the longline fishery in the tropical and subtropical areas, but there are also significant impacts from the associated purse-seine fishery that catches predominantly juvenile sharks. The Commission should consider measures directed at bycatch mitigation as well as measures directed at targeted catch, such as from shark lines (Attachment F), to improve the status of the silky shark population. Existing observer data may provide some information on which measures would be the most effective.**

# Useful References

SC9-SA-WP-03 Updated Stock assessment of silky shark in the western and central Pacific Ocean. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/3685>

# Previous Assessments

SC8-SA-WP-07 Stock Assessment of Silky Sharks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean Rev 1 (3 August 2012) <https://wcpfc.int/node/3236>