

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of**

**Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Scientific Committee**

**South Pacific Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*)**

Stock Status AND Management Advice

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# **SC13, 2017 – SC15, 2019 (NO STOCK ASSESSMENTS)**

1. **Stock status and trends**
2. SC15 noted that no stock assessments were conducted for South Pacific blue shark in 2019. Therefore, the stock status descriptions from SC13 are still current for South Pacific blue shark. For further information on the stock status and trends from SC13, please see <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29904>.Updated information on catches was not compiled for and reviewed by SC15.
3. Management advice and implications
4. SC15 noted that no management advice has been provided for South Pacific blue shark.

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# **SC12 2016 (ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED)**

1. **Stock status and trends**
2. SC12 noted that WCPFC has not yet determined limit biological reference points for South Pacific blue shark.
3. SC12 noted that the stock status for shark assessments presented to the Scientific Committee have been traditionally assessed relative to MSY-based reference points. It was also noted that realistic estimates of equilibrium unexploited recruitment and spawning biomass could not be obtained in the 2016 South Pacific blue shark assessment due to the lack of available data, conflicting CPUE time series, and uncertainty in the estimated stock recruitment relationship.
4. SC12 noted that the 2015 catch of south Pacific blue shark provided within aggregate 5-degree square catch data was 26% lower than in 2014, and a 34% reduction over the average for 2010-14.
5. SC12 noted that the 2016 South Pacific blue shark assessment is preliminary and is considered to be a work in progress. As a result, it cannot be used to determine stock status and form the basis of management advice.
6. SC12 noted that there are a number of data uncertainties within the South Pacific blue shark assessment, especially with regard to historical and contemporary longline catch and CPUE estimates. The data-poor nature of the South Pacific blue shark assessment indicates that an improvement in the amount and quality of available biological and fishery information will be required in order to develop a useful integrated stock assessment model.
7. SC12 noted the recommendations in the working papers (SC12-SA-WP-08 and SC12-SA-WP-09) for data improvements and other analytical work needed to improve the assessment for South Pacific blue shark, and recommends prioritizing such work.
8. **Management advice and implications**
9. SC12 noted that no management advice has been provided for South Pacific blue shark.

# **Useful References**

SC15-SA-IP-14 Data preparation for Southeast Pacific blue and shortfin mako sharks. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/43055>

SC13-SA-IP-13 Updated abundance indicators for New Zealand blue, porbeagle and shortfin mako sharks. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29537>

SC12-SA-WP-08 Assessment of blue shark in the southwestern Pacific Rev 1 (22 July 2016). <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27535>

SC12-SA-WP-09 Catch and CPUE inputs to the South Pacific blue shark stock assessment Rev 1 (16 July 2016). <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/27493>