

The Fintastic Journey

THE WCPO FISHERIES: CITES SHARK LISTINGS

20th April 2023
Noumea, New Caledonia



Whats CITES, and why should I care?

CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is an international treaty that was established in 1973 and is aimed at protecting endangered species of animals and plants from over-exploitation due to international trade.

"Non-Detriment Findings" (NDFs) in the context of CITES. NDFs are an important aspect of the implementation of CITES, and they refer to the scientific assessments conducted by countries to determine whether the export of a particular species listed under CITES would not be detrimental to the survival of wild populations.



WCPFC – Key species

Blue shark



Silky shark



Oceanic Whitetip shark



Mako sharks (2 spp.)



Thresher sharks (3 spp.)



Porbeagle shark



Hammerhead sharks (4 spp.)



Whale shark



Implications of CITES App. II listing

When a species is listed in CITES Appendix II, it means that the international trade in that species is controlled to ensure that it is not exploited unsustainably. Some of the key implications of a CITES Appendix II listing:

Export permits are required: Before any specimens of the species listed in Appendix II can be exported, a permit must be obtained from the relevant authorities in the country of export. This ensures that the trade is legal and sustainable.

Quotas may be established: To prevent over-exploitation, quotas may be established for the trade of species listed in Appendix II. These quotas will limit the number of specimens that can be exported each year.

Trade monitoring is implemented: Once a species is listed in Appendix II, the trade in that species is monitored to ensure that it is legal and sustainable. This can include tracking the number of specimens traded, monitoring the legality of the trade, and ensuring that the trade is not having a negative impact on the wild population of the species.

Cooperation between countries is required: To effectively manage the trade in species listed in Appendix II, countries must work together to enforce regulations, monitor trade, and share information about the status of the species.

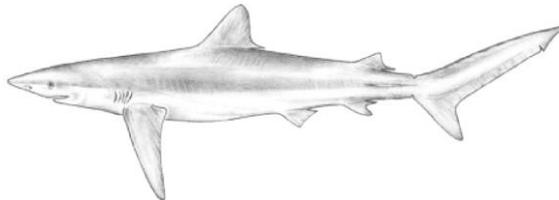
Sustainable use is promoted: CITES encourages the sustainable use of species listed in Appendix II, including the use of their products, as long as it does not harm the species or its habitat. This can include using species for food, medicine, and other purposes.

CITES Appendix II listings

- There were ~ 36 shark and ray species listed under CITES Appendix 2
- At the 19th CITES Conference of the Parties (Cop) roughly 100 new species, many “look-alikes” were added. These were of three groups

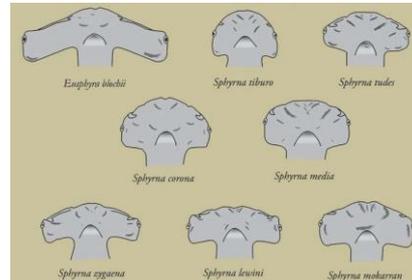
Requiem sharks

- Carcharinidae
- 60 species in the family
- 2 already listed (Oceanic whitetip and Silky), 2 are extinct, 2 are excluded (tiger shark and *Glyphis* sp. - undescribed)
- 54 species added



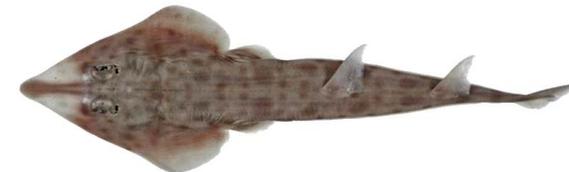
Hammerhead sharks

- Sphyrnidae
- 9 species in the family
- 3 already listed (Scalloped, Great, Smooth), 1 is excluded (Carolina hammerhead as it is undescribed)
- 5 species added (top 2 rows)

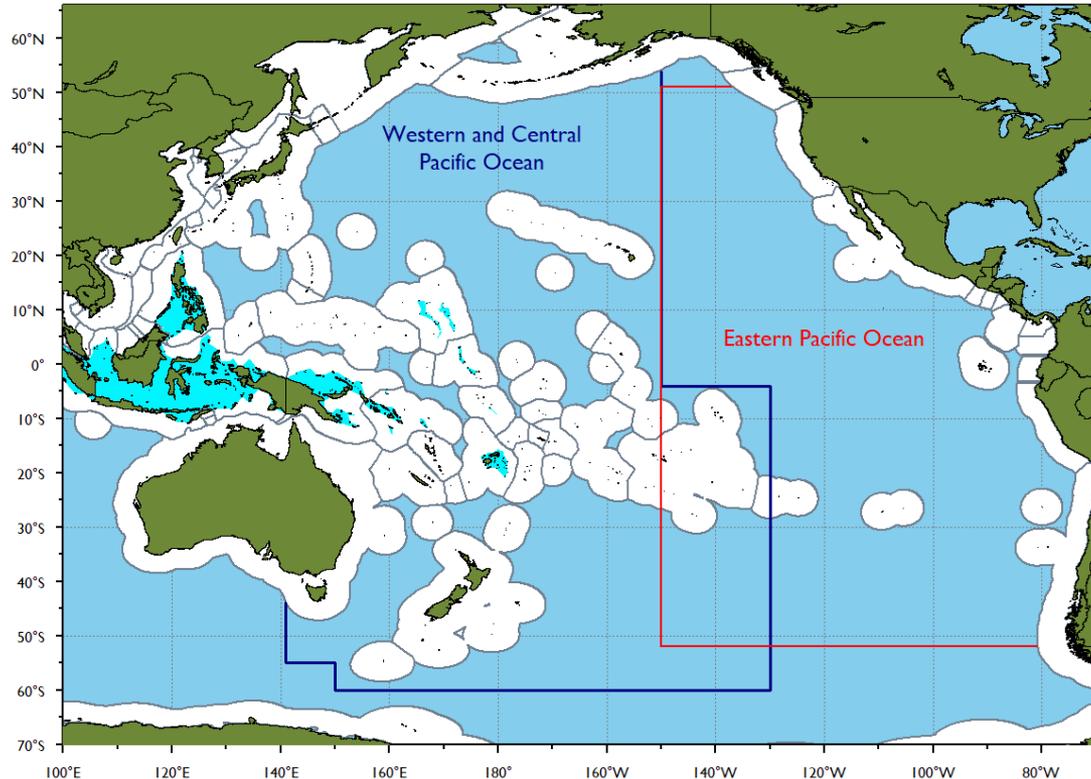


Guitarfishes

- Rhinobatidae
- 37 species in the family
- Only “shark-like” rays not listed (others include sawfish, giant guitarfish and wedgefis)
- All 37 added



The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), Pacific Island Country and Territory (PICTs), Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)

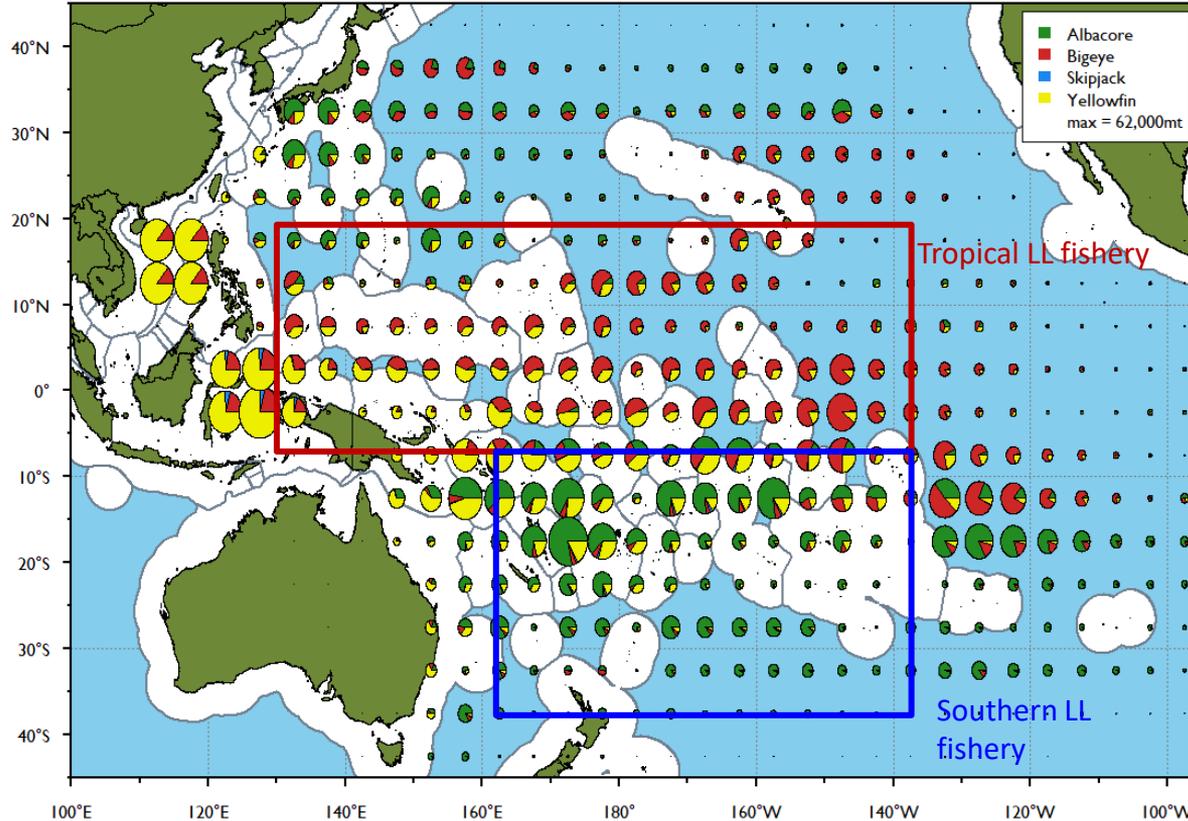


The WCPO covers roughly 100,000,000 km².

This is about 20% of the world's surface area.

Half of the WCPO is comprised of the "high seas", i. e., waters outside any EEZs

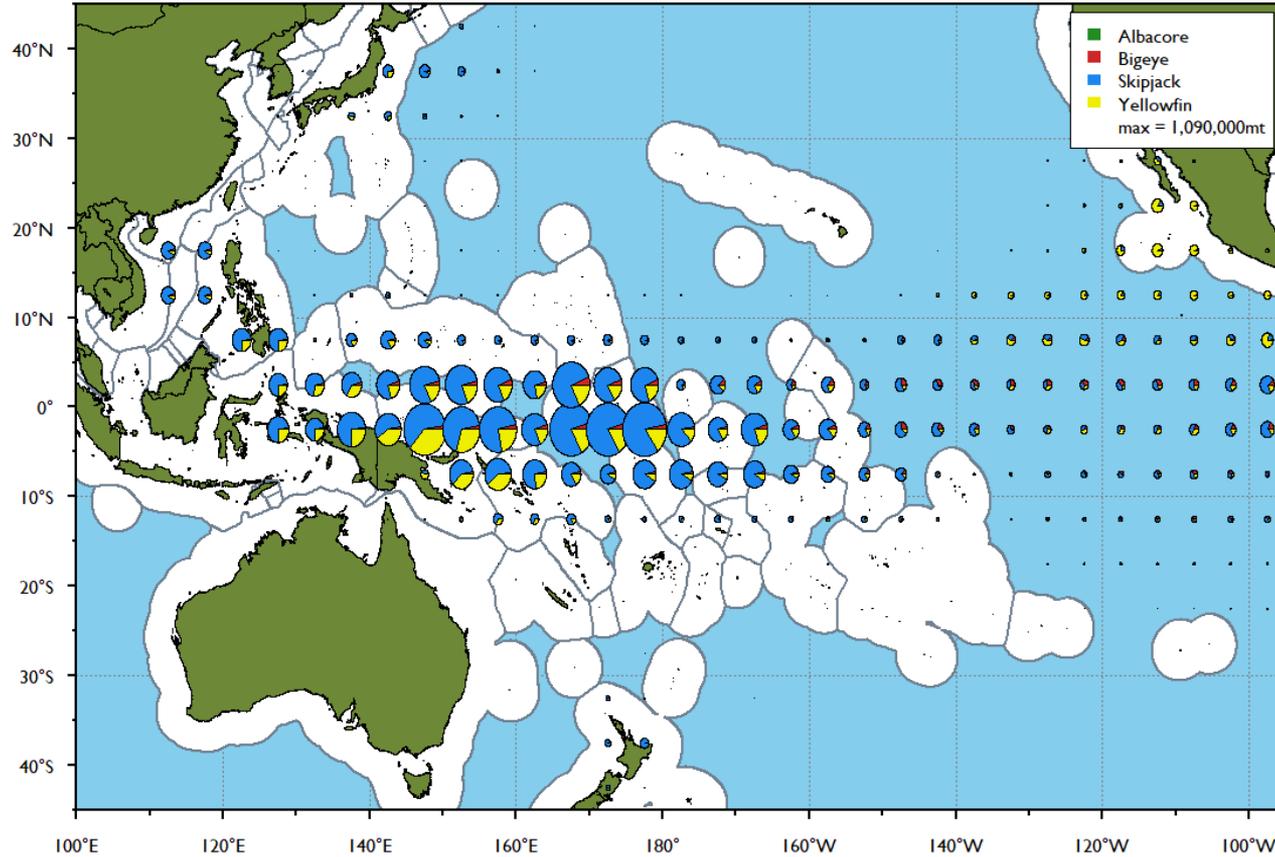
Longline fishing – where they fish



Source: 2021 TFAR

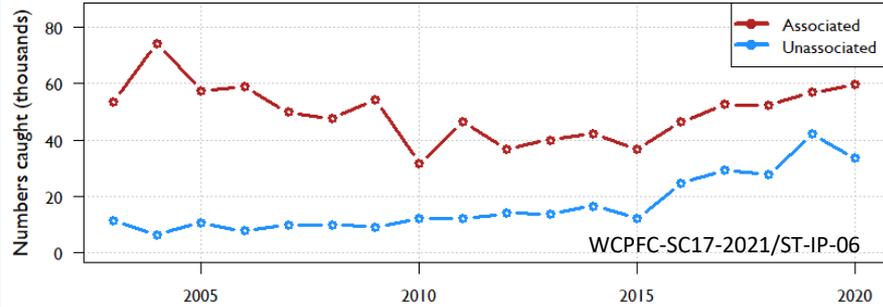
Purse seine fishing – where they fish

Source: 2021 TFAR

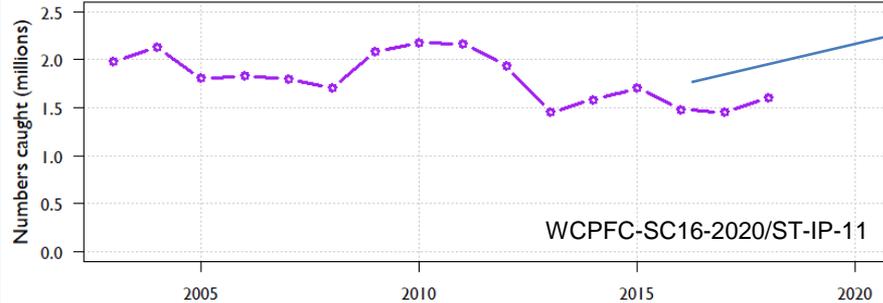


Trends in estimated shark catches from observer data

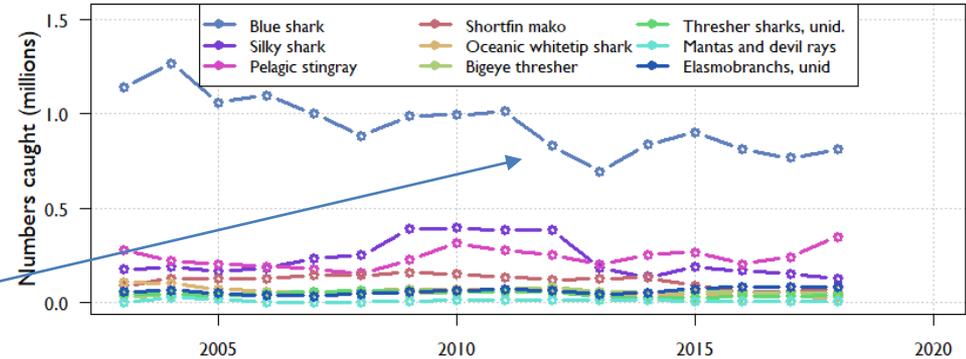
Purse seine



Longline

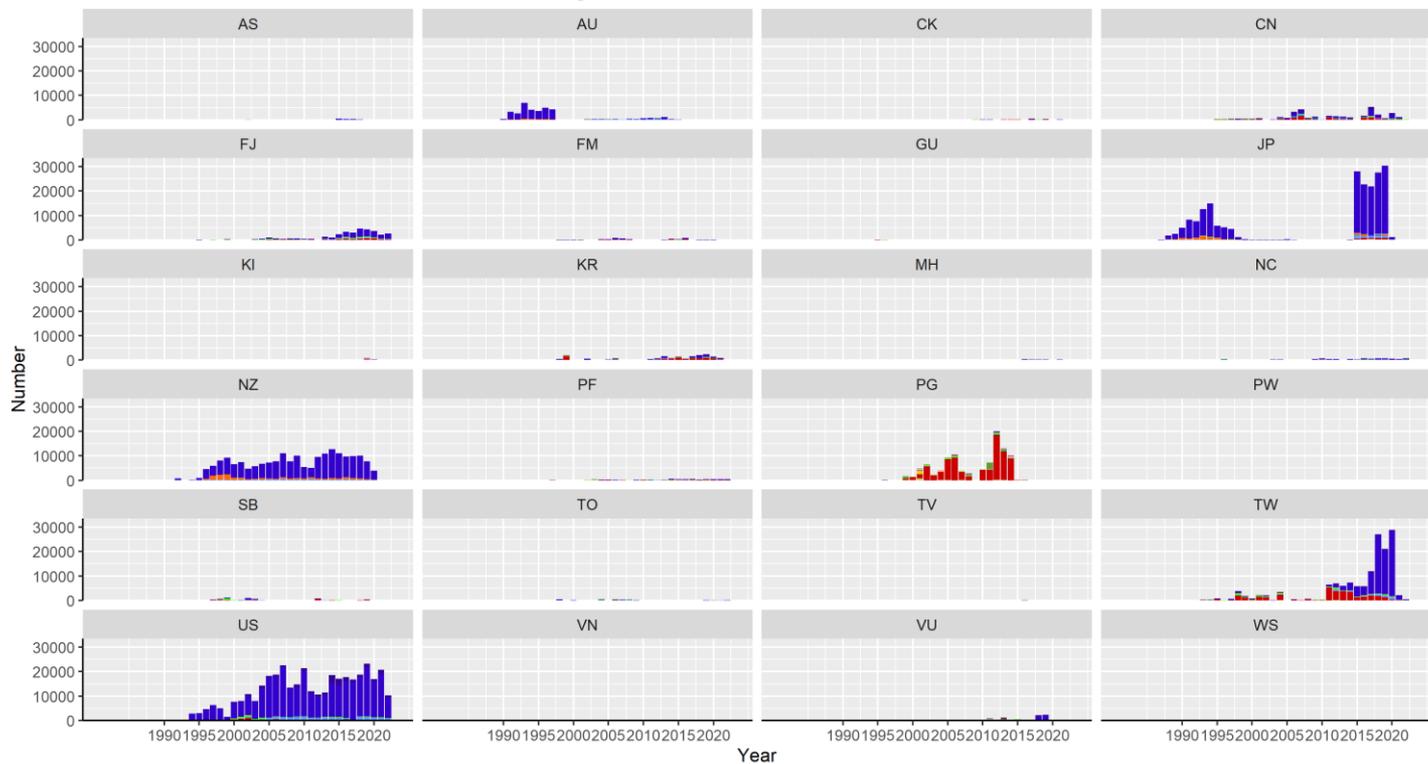


LL shark catch

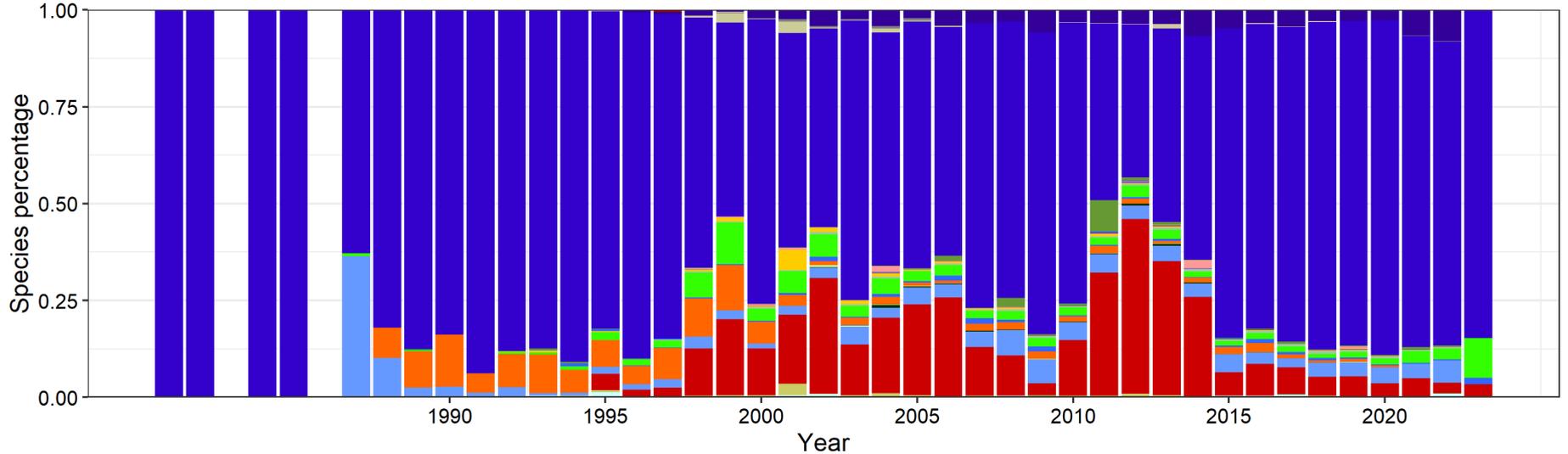


Median annual estimates

Longline:CITES Observer Shark Interactions

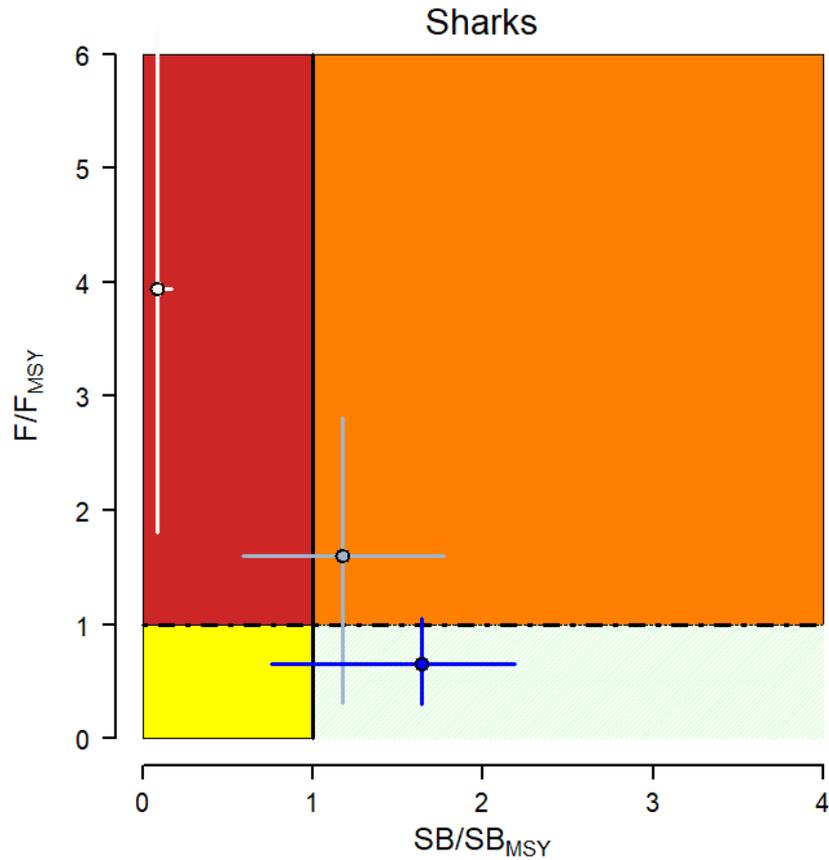


Longline:CITES Observer Shark Interactions



- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Greyreef Shark | Oceanic Whitetip Shark | Scoophead Shark | Bull Shark | Bignose Shark |
| Basking Shark | Porbeagle | Thresher Shark | Whitenose Shark | Spinner Shark |
| Bigeye Thresher Shark | Pelagic Thresher Shark | Silky Shark | Winghead shark | Blacktip Shark |
| Sandbar Shark | Giant Manta | Blue Shark | Smooth Hammerhead | Bronze Shark |
| Dusky Shark | Short finned Mako | Silvertip Shark | Great White Shark | Borneo Shark |
| Long finned Mako | Great Hammerhead | Galapagos Shark | Guitarfishes | |

Kobe plot (WCPO assessments – by SPC)



○ Oceanic whitetip ● Silky shark ● SP blue shark



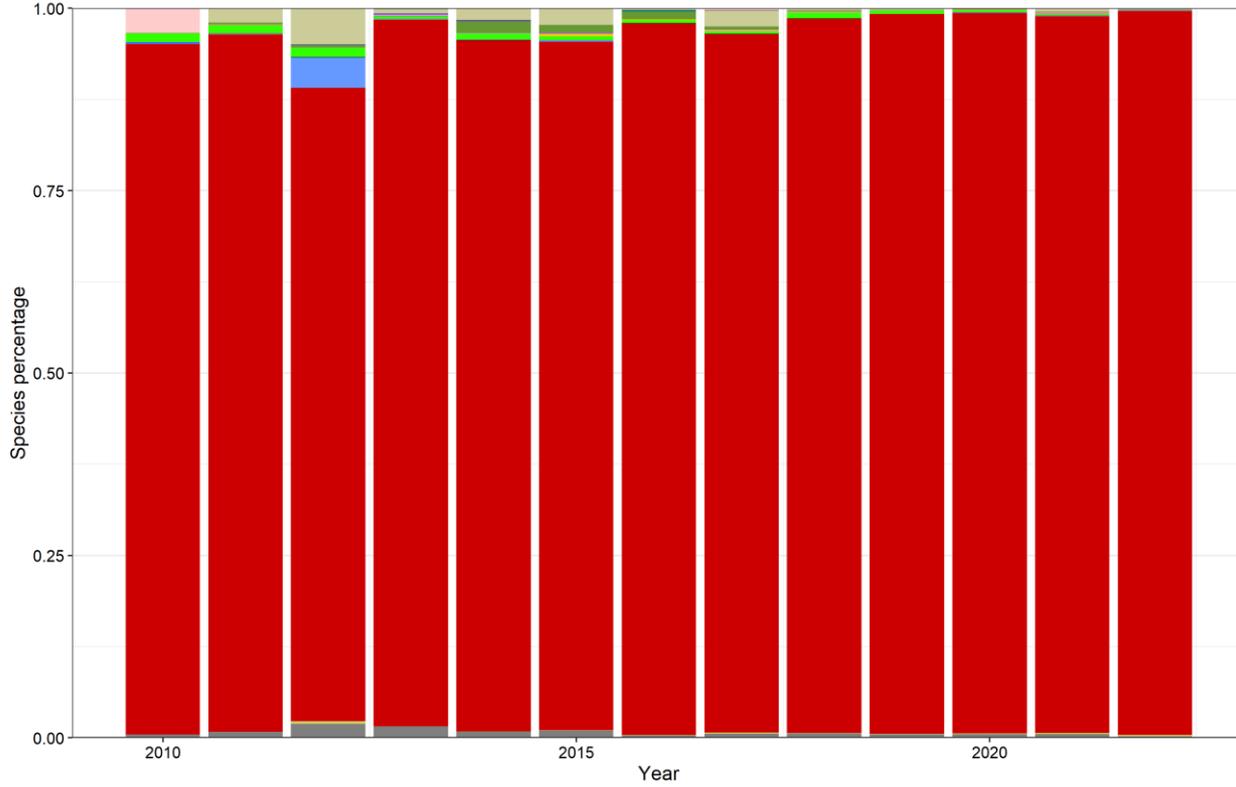
Purse Seine:CITES Observer Shark Interactions



Year



Purse Seine:CITES Member Observer Shark Interactions



- Species
- Greyreef Shark
 - Basking Shark
 - Bigeye Thresher Shark
 - SandbarShark
 - Dusky Shark
 - Long finned Mako
 - Oceanic Whitetip Shark
 - Pelagic Thresher Shark
 - Short finned Mako
 - Great Hammerhead
 - Scoophead Shark
 - Thresher Shark
 - Silky Shark
 - Blue Shark
 - Bignose Shark
 - Bronze Shark
 - Silvertip Shark
 - Porbeagle
 - Bull Shark
 - Whitenose Shark
 - Galapagos Shark
 - Borneo Shark
 - Winghead shark

Stock status summary relevant to WCPO

Stock	Region	Assessment method	Overfished?	Overfishing?	Conservation status IUCN/CITES
Southwest Pacific shortfin mako (2022)	South west WCPO	Integrated assessment	Inconclusive	Inconclusive	Endangered/.ii
Southwest Pacific blue shark (2016, 2021/22)	South west WCPO	Integrated assessment	No	No	Near threatened/.ii
Oceanic whitetip (2012, 2019)	WCPO	Integrated assessment	Yes	Yes	Critically endangered/.ii
Pacific silky shark (WCPO 2012/13, EPO 2014, 2018)	Pacific wide and WCPO only	Integrated assessment	No WCPO	Yes	Vulnerable/.ii
Pacific bigeye thresher shark (2017)	Pacific wide	Sustainability risk assessment	NA	No clear statement on risk	Vulnerable/.ii
Porbeagle shark (2017)	Southern hemisphere	Sustainability risk assessment	NA	Low risk in southern WCPO	Vulnerable/.ii
Whale shark (2018)	Indo-Pacific	Sustainability risk assessment	NA	Moderate/Low risk from purse seine in WCPO	Endangered/.ii
Hammerhead	Not assessed	Not assessed	Unknown	Unknown	Critically endangered/.ii x2 Endangered x 1 Vulnerable .ii x 1
North Pacific shortfin mako (ISC 2018)	North Pacific	Integrated assessment	No	No	Endangered/.ii
North Pacific blue shark (ISC 2017, 2022)	North Pacific	Integrated assessment	No	No	Near threatened/.ii

WCPFC SHARK RESEARCH PLAN (SRP) 2021-2025

Annual review of plan at the WCPFC Scientific Committee and responds to the Commission's changing needs the plan has been updated through an informal small group that meets annually, to consider the research needs for key shark of the WCPFC.

SA: (a) Determine the stock status for WCPFC Key Sharks,
(b) Develop reliable catch histories for WCPFC Key Sharks as far back in time as feasible,
(c) Test and improve Medium and Data Poor assessment methods so that the results can inform management decisions.

Bio: (a) Provide advice on mitigation for WCPFC Key Sharks with non-retention policies and unwanted Elasmobranchs,
(b) Provide advice on safe release methods, their application rates, and post-release survival of WCPFC Key Sharks.



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

ELECTRONIC MEETING
11-20 August 2020

2021-2025 Shark Research Plan

WCPFC-SC16-2020/EB-IP-01 Rev1 (14/08/2020)

Stephen Brouwer¹ and Paul Hamer²

**WCPFC-SC16-2020/EB-IP-
01 Rev1 (14/08/2020)**

WCPFC SC Shark stock assessment schedule

Table 8: WCPFC SC shark stock assessment schedule 2021-2025. X = scheduled.

Species	Stock	Last assessment	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Blue shark	Southwest Pacific	2016	X				
	Northwest Pacific	2017		X			
Mako shark	Southwest Pacific	-					
	Northwest Pacific	2018				X	
Porbeagle	Southwest Pacific	-					
	Southern Ocean	2017		?			
Silky shark	WCPO	2018			X		
	Pacific	2018			X		
Oceanic whitetip shark	WCPO	2019				X	
Pelagic thresher	WCPO	-					
Bigeye thresher	Pacific	2017		X			
Common thresher	WCPO	-					
Greater hammerhead	WCPO	-					
Smooth hammerhead	WCPO	-					
Scalloped hammerhead	WCPO	-					
Winghead shark	WCPO	-					
Whale shark	WCPO	-					
	Pacific	2018			X		
Giant manta	WCPO	-					
Reef manta	WCPO	-					
Spinetail mobula	WCPO	-					
General shark work	WCPO	-					

WCPFC CMM 2022-04

1 Feb 2023 - took effect and became 2nd comprehensive shark measure, supersedes 2019-04

Objectives:

- Precautionary and ecosystem approach to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of sharks;
- All sharks listed in Annex 1 of 1982 UNCLOS + any other sharks caught in association with fisheries managed under WCPFC Convention
- EEZs and high seas of Convention Area
- Not prejudice sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal States
- Encourage National Management Plans (NPOAs to be part of part 2 annual reports)
- Safe handling and release guidelines
- Bans finning

Attachment O



COMMISSION
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION
Da Nang City, Vietnam
28 November to 3 December 2022

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS

Conservation and Management Measure 2022-04

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC), in accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Convention):

Recognizing the economic and cultural importance of sharks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to fishing pressure, and the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries;

Recognizing the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, to enable effective shark conservation and management;

Recognizing further that certain species of sharks and rays, such as basking shark and great white shark, have been listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Adopts, in accordance with Article 5, 6 and 10 of the Convention, that:

I. Definitions

- (1) Sharks: All species of sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras (Class Chondrichthyes)
- (2) Full utilization: Retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head.

Data collection and monitoring and enforcement

- WCPFC Key Shark species data submitted in accordance with Data provisions, Annual Reporting to Commission + Observer data standards
- Shark Research Plan
 - Stock assessments and assessment methods
 - Biology and ecology (e.g. nursery grounds, gear selectivity etc.)

But data collection and research are lacking for sharks. There is a need to:

- Improve data collection and systems
- Understand how best avoid and mitigate incidental catch
- Understand how fisheries and ecosystems operate
 - Additional complication - climate change
- Understand how well management measures are doing

Understanding how these systems, measures, animals, ecosystems etc. work requires:

- Experimentation, time and collaboration between states - data sharing, research, systems etc.

Better data = better models and greater understanding and therefore improved ability to assess stock status and inform management decisions

Questions??

