



Relevant Tuna RFMO Measures Concerning Incidental Catches of Ecologically Related Species

Purpose

To provide background information in relation to agenda items 4.1.5, 4.2.5 and 4.3.5 regarding assessment of mitigation measures adopted by other RFMOs.

Background

Catch data reported to the CCSBT Secretariat as part of the annual scientific data exchange indicates that essentially all fishing for SBT by Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) from 2006 has occurred within the Convention Areas of ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC.

The CCSBT's Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna recommends compliance by CCSBT Members and CNMs with the ERS measures of ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC when fishing for SBT within those Convention Areas. Furthermore, all CCSBT Members and CNMs are also Members or CNMs of the area based tuna RFMOs for the areas that they currently fish for SBT (except for Taiwan in the Indian Ocean) and are thus bound by the decisions of those RFMOs. For the single exception, Taiwan is nevertheless cooperating with IOTC measures.

Table 1 provides a brief summary of the current shark, seabird and sea turtle mitigation measures of CCSBT, ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC. This summary only covers specific mitigation measures and does not cover higher level recommendations such as to implement IPOAs and FAO guidelines (which these four RFMOs appear to have in common), nor does it include recommendations on research or data collection etc. The full resolutions of the mitigation measures referred to in this summary¹ can be obtained from the Bycatch Mitigation page of the CCSBT web site at:

http://www.ccsbt.org/site/bycatch_mitigation.php.

¹ Except for the measures related to drift nets (because drift nets are not used in fishing for SBT).

Table 1: Shark, Seabird and Sea Turtle mitigation measures of CCSBT, ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC. Binding measures are highlighted within the table.

Mitigation Measures for			
	Sharks	Seabirds	Sea Turtles
CCSBT	<p><i>Attachment 17 of CCSBT18 (2011): Recommendation to Mitigate the impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with IOTC, ICCAT and WCPFC binding and recommendatory measures in each Convention area. 	<p><i>Attachment U of CCSBT4 (1997): Recommendation to the Commission Relating to Ecologically Related Species</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Tori poles below 30°S. <p><i>Attachment 17 of CCSBT18 (2011): Recommendation to Mitigate the impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with IOTC, ICCAT and WCPFC binding and recommendatory measures in each Convention area. 	<p><i>Attachment 17 of CCSBT18 (2011): Recommendation to Mitigate the impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with IOTC, ICCAT and WCPFC binding and recommendatory measures in each Convention area.

Mitigation Measures for			
	Sharks	Seabirds	Sea Turtles
ICCAT	<p><i>Recommendation 2005-05 to Amend Recommendation 04-10 Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full utilisation (retention to the point of first landing) of all parts (except heads, guts, skin). Fin weight no more than 5% of total weight of sharks onboard to the point of first landing. Encourage live shark² release, especially juveniles, for non-shark directed fisheries. <p><i>Supplemental Recommendation 2007-06 Concerning Sharks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Until sustainable harvest levels can be determined, take appropriate measures to reduce fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) and North Atlantic shortfin mako (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) sharks. <p><i>Recommendation 2009-07 on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT convention area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition on retention, transshipping, landing, storing or selling bigeye thresher sharks³ (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>) sharks. 	<p><i>Recommendation 2007-07 on Reducing Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to achieve reductions in levels of seabird bycatch across all fishing areas, seasons and fisheries through the use of effective mitigation. Carry and use tori poles when fishing south of 20°S⁶. Encourage use of a second tori pole at times of high bird abundance or activity⁶. Guidelines for the design and deployment of tori poles are suggested⁶. Backup tori lines to be carried and ready for immediate use⁶. <p><i>Supplemental Recommendation 2011-09 on Reducing Incidental Bycatch of Seabirds in ICCAT Longline Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to achieve reductions in levels of seabird bycatch across all fishing areas, seasons and fisheries through the use of effective mitigation measures. 	<p><i>Recommendation 2010-09 on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purse seine vessels to avoid encircling sea turtles to the extent practicable and to release encircled or entangled sea turtles, including on FADs, when feasible. Pelagic longline vessels to carry on board safe handling, disentanglement and release equipment capable of releasing sea turtles in a manner that maximizes the probability of their survival. Fishermen on pelagic longline vessels use the equipment specified above to maximize the probability of sea turtle survival and are trained in safe handling and release techniques.

² that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.

³ Mexican small-scale coastal fishery with a catch of less than 110 fish is exempted.

⁶ Longline vessels targeting swordfish using monofilament gear may be exempted from this requirement providing they set their longlines during the night and use a minimum swivel weight of 60g placed not more than 3m from the hook to achieve optimal sing rates.

Mitigation Measures for		
Sharks	Seabirds	Sea Turtles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release unharmed, to the extent practical, bigeye thresher sharks brought along side. • Endeavour to ensure that vessels do not undertake a directed fishery for thresher sharks of the genus <i>Alopias</i>. <p><i>Recommendation 2010-06 on Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2013, CPCs that do not report the required data for Atlantic shortfin mako sharks shall be prohibited from retaining this species until the data are received by the ICCAT Secretariat. <p><i>Recommendation 2010-07 on the conservation of oceanic whitetip shark caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT convention area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition on retention, transshipping, landing, storing or selling oceanic whitetip sharks. <p><i>Recommendation 2010-08 on hammerhead sharks (family sphyrnidae) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition on retention, transshipping, landing, storing or selling hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae (except for <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>)⁴. • Release unharmed, to the extent practical, hammerhead sharks brought along side⁴. <p><i>Recommendation 2011-08 on the conservation of silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release all silky sharks, whether dead or alive⁵ (unless domestic law requires all dead fish to be landed and that fishermen cannot draw any commercial profit from such fish). • Prohibition on retention, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of silky shark⁵. • Promptly release silky sharks unharmed and at the latest before putting the catch into holds. • Purse seine vessels shall endeavour to take additional measures to increase the survival rate of incidentally caught silky sharks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South of 25°S, use at least 2 mitigation measures from Table 1 of the Recommendation. In the Mediterranean mitigation measures in Table 1 should be implemented on a voluntary basis. • Mitigation measures to conform to the minimum technical standards in Table 1. 	<p><i>Recommendation 2013-11 amending recommendation 10-09 on the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifies safe-handling practices to increase survival rates, including: how to remove from the water; condition prior to release; handle in a manner consistent with FAO's Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations. • Line-cutters shall be carried by longline vessels and vessels that use gear that may entangle turtles. • Longline vessels shall carry on board de-hooking devices but not remove hooks that have been swallowed.

⁴ Hammerhead catches by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from this measure provided they provide the necessary data. Such CPCs should endeavour not to increase their catches of hammerhead sharks and take measures to ensure that hammerheads (except *Sphyrna tiburo*) will not enter international trade.

⁵ Silky sharks caught by developing coastal CPCs are exempted, but shall not increase their catches of silky sharks and shall take measures to ensure that silky sharks will not enter international trade.

Mitigation Measures for			
	Sharks	Seabirds	Sea Turtles
IOTC	<p><i>Resolution 05/05: Concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full utilisation (retention to the point of first landing) of all parts (except heads, guts, skin). • Fin weight no more than 5% of total weight of sharks onboard to the point of first landing. • Encourage live shark release, especially juveniles and pregnant sharks, for non-shark directed fisheries. <p><i>Resolution 12/09: On the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC area of competence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition (both commercial and recreational fishing) on retention, transshipping, landing, storing or selling any thresher sharks in the family Alopiidae. • Promptly release unharmed, to the extent practical, all thresher sharks brought along side. • Recreational and sport fishermen likely to catch thresher sharks to be equipped with instruments suitable to release them alive. <p><i>Resolution 12/12 : To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas within the Convention Area. <p><i>Resolution 13/06: On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition on authorised vessels (not including artisanal vessels in their EEZ) on retention, transshipping, landing, storing any whitetip sharks. • Promptly release unharmed, to the extent practical, all whitetip sharks brought along side. • Release whitetip sharks, if recognised on the line, before bringing onboard. 	<p><i>Resolution 12/06: On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries (entered into force on 1 July 2014 and replaced Resolution 10/06 at that time).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to achieve reductions in levels of seabird bycatch across all fishing areas, seasons and fisheries through the use of effective mitigation measures. • South of 25°S, use at least 2 of the 3 mitigation measures from Table 1 of this Resolution. These measures should also be considered for implementation in other areas as appropriate. • The design and deployment for bird scaring lines should meet the additional specifications in Annex 1 of this Resolution. <p><i>Resolution 12/12: To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas within the Convention Area. 	<p><i>Resolution 12/04: On the conservation of marine turtles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster recovery and safe return of hard shelled turtles. • Fishermen to be aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques. • Prompt release of marine turtles. • Longiners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carry line cutters and de-hookers, and follow IOTC's handling guidelines. ○ Use whole finfish bait where appropriate. • Purse seiners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoid encirclement of marine turtles where practical. ○ Release all turtles where practical and in accordance with IOTC's handling guidelines. ○ Carry and employ dip-nets when appropriate to handle turtles. ○ If a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water, disentangle without injuring before resuming roll and to the extent practicable, assist recovery before returning turtle to water. ○ Use FAD designs which reduce the incidence of entanglement of turtles. <p><i>Resolution 12/12: To prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas in the IOTC area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas within the Convention Area.

Mitigation Measures for			
	Sharks	Seabirds	Sea Turtles
WCPFC	<p><i>CMM 2008-04 : Conservation and Management measure to Prohibit the Use of Large Sale Driftnets on the High Seas in the Convention Area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas within the Convention Area <p><i>Conservation and Management Measure 2010-07: Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full utilisation (retention to the point of first landing or transshipment) of all parts (except heads, guts, skin). Fin weight no more than 5% of total weight of sharks onboard to the point of first landing. Encourage live shark² release in fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species that are not directed at sharks. <p><i>Conservation and Management Measure 2011-04: Conservation and Management Measure for Oceanic Whitetip Sharks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition on retention, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing oceanic whitetip sharks. Release as soon as possible in a manner to minimise harm. <p><i>Conservation and Management Measure 2013-08: Conservation and Management Measure for Silky Sharks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition on retention, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any silky shark. Release as soon as possible in a manner to minimise harm. 	<p><i>CMM 2007-04: Conservation and Management measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South of 30°S, use at least 2 mitigation measures from Table 1 of this Measure including at least one from Column A. In other areas, where necessary, CCMs are encouraged to employ one or more measures from Table 1. Minimum technical specifications for measures in Table 1 are provided in Annex 1 of this Measure. CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that live captures are released alive in as good a condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird. <p><i>CMM 2008-04 : Conservation and Management measure to Prohibit the Use of Large Sale Driftnets on the High Seas in the Convention Area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas within the Convention Area <p><i>CMM 2012-07 : Conservation and Management measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds (must be implemented no later than 1 July 2014 and replaces CMM 2007-04)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South of 30°S, use at least 2 of the three following measures: weighted branch lines, night setting and tori lines (specifications provided in Annex 1 of this CMM) In areas between 30°S and 23°N, where necessary, have longline vessels employ one or more mitigation measures listed in Table 1. CCMs are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at ensuring that live captures are released alive in as good a condition as possible and that wherever possible hooks are removed without jeopardizing the life of the seabird. 	<p><i>Conservation and Management Measure 2008-03 Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster recovery and safe return of hard shelled turtles. Fishermen to be aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques. Prompt release of marine turtles. Longiners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry line cutters and de-hookers, and carry and use dip-nets where appropriate. Use whole finfish bait where appropriate. Longiners that fish for swordfish in shallow waters to use one of the following 3 measures⁷: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use only large circle hooks and with an offset not exceeding 10 degrees. Use only whole finfish for bait. Use another measure/plan reviewed by the SC and TCC and approved by the Commission. Purse seiners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid encirclement of marine turtles where practical. Carry and employ dip-nets when appropriate to handle turtles. If a marine turtle is entangled in the net, stop net roll as soon as the turtle comes out of the water, disentangle without injuring before resuming roll and to the extent practicable, assist recovery before returning turtle to water. <p><i>CMM 2008-04 : Conservation and Management measure to Prohibit the Use of Large Sale Driftnets on the High Seas in the Convention Area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas within the Convention Area.

⁷ Certain fisheries may be exempt if there are minimal observed interaction rates over three years with observer coverage of at least 10% during those three years.