

中华人民共和国农业农村部渔业渔政管理局

BUREAU OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán
Director
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La Jolla, California

Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2018 by China on C-05-03

Shark species is one of the bycatch species in Chinese longline fishery in EPO, we attach great importance to shark management each year.

Bycatch requirements including shark species, in line with t-RFMO measures have been included in official documents, which was distributed to each tuna fishing company in 2013, these requirements will be updated in accordance with renewals of measures in different organizations. With respect to sharks, it is required in the official document that sharks must be fully utilized, the 5% ratio on shark fin and weight of sharks up to the first landing point must be strictly observed. In accordance with IATTC C-11-10, oceanic whitetip shark is prohibited to be kept on board as bycatch, such species must be handled strictly in line with the Resolution.

Shark data, in line with IATTC C-05-03, will be reported to the Commission. In 2018, all the shark species are caught as bycatch in EPO by Chinese fishing fleet. Except part of blue shark and shortfin mako, almost most of sharks are discarded.

Nine observers were sent to our longline vessels operating in EPO in 2018. The data of targeting species, by-catch species (sharks, marlin etc), and size frequency data were collected during the observations. Fishing operational information was also available to the observers. Observers were strictly chosen under our scientific observer program. They were obliged to attend two-week training sessions before dispatched to work at sea. Catch data and biological data (shark size, sex ratio, etc.) were collected. Observer reports were prepared after each trip. The observer annual report for 2018 in the eastern Pacific ocean were sent to the IATTC secretariat in April.

We held two training sessions on bycatch in 2018, focusing on bycatch reduction, recognition of shark species, ways to release key shark species. During the sessions, we initiated experts who were familiar with the conservation and management measures to give lecture to our captains and managers. We published posters regarding shark recognition and sent them to our fishing vessels, so that crewmembers can better recognize different shark species when caught, either keep it on board or set it free. Captains were also equipped with manuals, which contained detailed measures made by t-RFMOs. These measures were updated annually with the coming into force of new measures, being translated into simple sentences for crewmembers to follow.

In 2019, we issued an announcement regarding strengthening compliance with international CMMs in tuna fisheries, in which we highlighted the requirement to comply with the shark measures from different RFMOs. We also concluded the detailed paragraph from the shark measures and listed them one by one, trying to make it easier for our fishermen to understand and guide them to deal with different shark species when caught.

In recent years, we have established certain mechanisms to implement C05-03, noting that shark species is an important bycatch product in longline fisheries in IATTC area. We will continue working with IATTC members on shark issues.

Regards,

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