



Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Best Handling & Release Practices for Sharks, Seabirds & Sea Turtles in IATTC Fisheries Mejores Prácticas De Manipulación Y Liberación de Tiburones, Aves Marinas, y Tortugas Marinas en la Pesca de IATTC SAC-16-10

Melanie Hutchinson et al.

16ª Reunión del Comité Científico Asesor - 2-6 de junio de 2025
16th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee – 2-6 June 2025
La Jolla, California, USA-EE.UU.



Outline

- Best Handling and Release Practice (BHRP) guidelines development and timeline
- Engagement and identification of subject matter experts and industry representatives
- Resulting guidelines by fishing gear (PS, LL, Gillnet)
- Recommendations



BHRP reduce mortality to incidental species

El MPML reduce la mortalidad de especies incidentales.

- No bycatch mitigation measure is perfectly effective
 - Post interaction the most effective method for reducing impacts and mortality are through careful handling and release
 - Relatively simple behavioral / procedural changes with measurable impacts on survival
-
- Tras la interacción, el método más eficaz para reducir los impactos y la mortalidad es una manipulación y liberación cuidadosas.
 - Cambios de comportamiento y procedimiento relativamente sencillos con efectos cuantificables en la supervivencia.



BHRP are the 'low hanging fruit' of conservation strategies

MPML ESPECIES VULNERABLES PLAN DE TRABAJO EB-02-03

BHRP VULNERABLE SPECIES WORKPLAN OVERVIEW EB-02-03

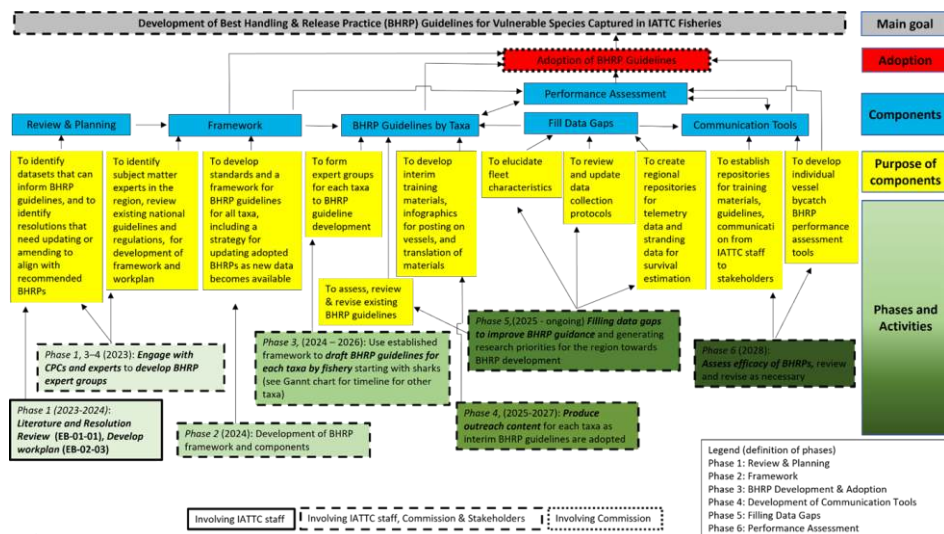
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH WORKING GROUP 2ND MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
06-07 June 2024

EB-02-03

WORKPLAN TOWARDS THE ADOPTION OF BEST HANDLING AND RELEASE PRACTICES FOR VULNERABLE SPECIES IN IATTC FISHERIES

Melanie Hutchinson and Jon Lopez



6 Fases:

- ✓ 1. Revisión y planificación (EB-01-01)
- ✓ 2. Marco del BHRP (EB-02-03)
3. Desarrollo de directrices para cada taxón
4. Desarrollo de materiales de formación y educación
5. Rellenar lagunas de datos e investigación
6. Evaluación de resultados

6 Phases:

- ✓ 1. Review & planning (EB-01-01)
- ✓ 2. BHRP Framework (EB-02-03)
3. Guideline development for each taxa
4. Development of training & education materials
5. Filling data & research gaps
6. Performance assessment

Timeline: Tiburones MPML / Shark BHRP

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-07¹

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, B.C., Canada, at the occasion of its 101st meeting:

Res. C-
23-07

12. The IATTC scientific staff, in collaboration with the IATTC SAC and EBWG, shall develop and recommend to the Commission a set of best handling guidelines for the safe release of sharks for inclusion in this measure in 2024. In the meantime, CPCs may elect to, as appropriate, use the safe handling and release guidelines for purse seine vessels described in Annex 3.

Timeline: Tiburones MPML / Shark BHRP

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-07¹

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The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, B.C., Canada, at the occasion of its 101st meeting:

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

MEMORANDUM

26 September 2023
Ref.: 0473-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia
From: Annelle Finco, Director

Re: Guidelines for best handling and release practices (BHRP)

- A. As you may recall, the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystems and Bycatch (EBWG) at its first meeting and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 14th meeting (IATTC-101-03) both recognized the need to develop best handling and release practices (BHRP) guidelines for vulnerable (bycatch) species (seahorses, sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays). Accordingly, the SAC endorsed the EBWG recommendation that CPCs and other relevant stakeholders support the IATTC staff in a survey to gather details of national efforts or programs that can help elucidate post-release survival rates of vulnerable species captured in the various fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.
- B. In accordance with the above, all CPCs are invited to:

Res. C-
23-07

Memo.
0473-
410

1. Provide existing BHRP guidelines/Proporcionar directrices y/o reglamentos existentes sobre las MPML
2. Provide existing PRS data/Proporcionar datos sobre SPL
3. Identify/designate subject matter experts (SME)/Identificar y designar a los expertos en la materia que podrían colaborar en la elaboración de las directrices antes mencionadas para cada taxón y pesquería
4. Identify/designate industry representatives/Identificar y designar a los representantes de la industria

Shark BHRP Guideline Development SAC-15-11

Responses to Memo 0473-410

•(CAN, CHL, COL, ECU, EU, FR-POL, PER, USA)

Review conducted

Shark BHRP draft sent to SMEs

•(Canada, ECU, EU, US, Japan, French Polynesia)

SAC-15-11 Draft/proposed BHRP
for sharks captured in IATTC
fisheries

- Draft guidelines are the result of a thorough review & consultation process (SAC-15-11)
- Data driven -> recommendations have measurable impacts on survival
- BHRP guidelines provided by fishery (purse seine, longline, gillnet) in Annex 1 (SAC-15-11)

Timeline: Tiburones MPML / Shark BHRP

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-15 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-07¹

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, B.C., Canada, at the occasion of its 101st meeting:

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

MEMORANDUM

26 September 2023
Ref. 0473-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
C.C.: Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Liberia
From: Amelito Enasco, Director
Re: Guidelines for best handling and release practices (BHRP)

A. As you may recall, the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystems and Species (EWSG) at its first meeting and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 14th meeting (IATTC-101, 01) both recognized the need to develop best handling and release practices (BHRP) guidelines for vulnerable species (seahorse, sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays). Accordingly, the SAC endorsed the EWSG recommendation that CPCs and other relevant stakeholders support the IATTC staff in a survey to gather details of national efforts or programs that can help elucidate post-release survival rates of vulnerable species captured in the various fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

B. In accordance with the above, all CPCs are invited to:

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23-07

Memo.
0473-
410

SAC-
15-11

Timeline: Tiburones MPML / Shark BHRP

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-07¹

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, B.C., Canada, at the occasion of its 101st meeting:

Res. C-
23-07

Memo.
0473-
410

SAC-
15-11

Res. C-
24-05

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

MEMORANDUM

26 September 2023
Ref.: 0473-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia
From: Annabelle Franco, Director
Re: Guidelines for best handling and release practices (BHRP)

A. As you may recall, the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystems and Bycatch (EBWG) at its first meeting and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 14th meeting (IATTC-101-03) both recognized the need to develop best handling and release practice (BHRP) guidelines for vulnerable bycatch species (seaturtles, sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays). Accordingly, the SAC endorsed the EBWG recommendations that CPCs and other relevant stakeholders support the IATTC staff to a survey to gather details of national efforts or programs that can help elucidate post-release survival rates of vulnerable species captured in the various fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

B. In accordance with the above, all CPCs are invited to:

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

102nd MEETING

Panama City, Panama
2-6 September 2024

RESOLUTION C-24-05¹

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, at the occasion of its 102nd meeting:

12. The IATTC Scientific Staff, in collaboration with the IATTC SAC and EBWG, shall continue to develop, taking into account the practicability for fishing vessels, and recommend to the Commission a comprehensive set of best handling and release practices for the safe release of sharks for inclusion in this measure in 2025.



Timeline: Tiburones MPML / Shark

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT)
INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-13 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-07¹

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, B.C., Canada, at the occasion of its 101st meeting:

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

MEMORANDUM

26 September 2023
Ref: 0473-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia
From: Arnulfo Franco, Director
Re: Guidelines for best handling and release practices (BHRP)

A. As you may recall, the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystems and Bycatch (EBWG) at its first meeting and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 14th meeting (IATTC-101-02) both recognized the need to develop best handling and release practice (BHRP) guidelines for vulnerable bycatch species (seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays).

Accordingly, the SAC endorsed the EBWG recommendation that CPCs and other relevant stakeholders support the IATTC staff in a survey to gather details of national efforts or programs that can help elucidate post-release survival rates of vulnerable species captured in the various fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

B. In accordance with the above, all CPCs are invited to:

MEMORANDUM

20 November 2024
Ref: 0601-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia
From: Arnulfo Franco, Director
Re: Guidelines for best handling and release practices (BHRP) of seabirds, sea turtles, sharks and rays

A. As a follow-up to memorandum ref. 0473-410, dated 26 September 2023, all CPCs are invited to:

1. **Provide the Secretariat** with their existing guidelines and/or regulations on best handling and release practices for seabirds, sea turtles, sharks and rays for fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

Res. C-
23-07

Memo.
0473-
410

SAC-
15-11

Res. C-
24-05

Memo.
0610-
410

1. Provide existing BHRP guidelines/Proporcionar directrices y/o reglamentos existentes sobre las MPML
2. Provide existing PRS data/Proporcionar datos sobre SPL
3. Identify/designate subject matter experts (SME)/Identificar y designar a los expertos en la materia que podrían colaborar en la elaboración de las directrices antes mencionadas para cada taxón y pesquería
4. Identify/designate industry representatives/Identificar y designar a los representantes de la industria

Shark BHRP Guideline Development Process

Responses to Memo 0610-410 (Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, EU, French Polynesia, Mexico, Peru)

Review conducted -> draft guidelines developed

Shark BHRP draft sent to SMEs in March 2025 in English

Version 2 sent to SME in April in English and Spanish -> SAC-16-10

- Draft guidelines are the result of a thorough review & consultation process
- Attempted to preserve and simplify the language that was already adopted in C-24-05
- Draft BHRP guidelines provided by fishery (purse seine, longline, gillnet) in SAC-16-10

Timeline: Tiburones MPML / Shark BHRP

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7-13 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-07¹

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Victoria, B.C., Canada, at the occasion of its 101st meeting:

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MEMORANDUM

26 September 2023
Ref.: 0473-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia
From: Arnulfo Franco, Director
Re: Guidelines for best handling and release practices (BHRP)

A. As you may recall, the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystems and Bycatch (EBWG) at its first meeting and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 14th meeting (IATTC-101-05) both recognized the need to develop best handling and release practice (BHRP) guidelines for vulnerable bycatch species (seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays).

Accordingly, the SAC endorsed the EBWG recommendation that CPCs and other relevant stakeholders support the IATTC staff in a survey to gather details of national efforts or programs that can help elucidate post-release survival rates of vulnerable species captured in the various fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

B. In accordance with the above, all CPCs are invited to:

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL (CIAT) INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

MEMORANDUM

20 November 2024
Ref.: 0601-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
c.c.: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia
From: Arnulfo Franco, Director

Re: Guidelines for best handling and release practices (BHRP) of seabirds, sea turtles, sharks and rays

A. As a follow-up to memorandum ref. 0473-410, dated 26 September 2023, all CPCs are invited to:

1. Provide the Secretariat with their existing guidelines and/or regulations on best handling and release practices for seabirds, sea turtles, sharks and rays for fisheries under the purview of the IATTC.

Res. C-
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Memo.
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SAC-
15-11

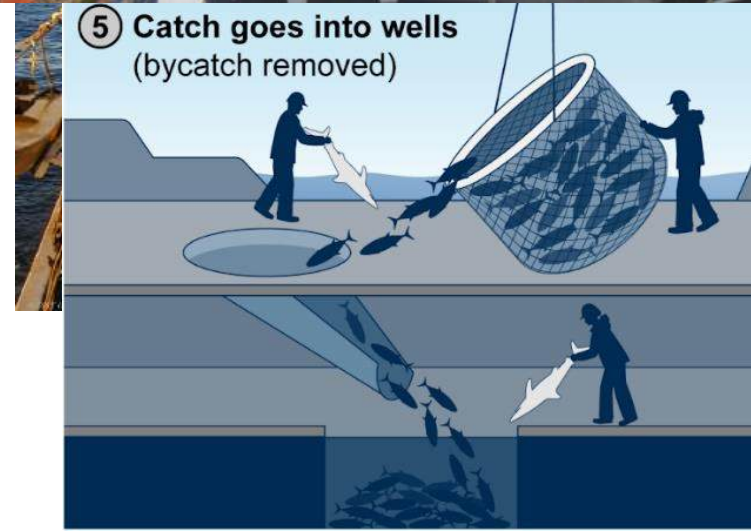
Res. C-
24-05

Memo.
0610-
410

SAC-
16-10

Pesquería cerquera/Purse seine

- Several studies on shark survival in purse seine fisheries across ocean basins
- High at vessel mortality and depends on when sharks are brought on board
- Survivorship is compromised once confined in the sack
- For sharks that are alive when brought on board, safe handling is very important and getting them back in the water as quickly as possible is key
- Survivorship is further compromised when they end up in the lower well decks



Tiburones enmallados en la red

Sharks entangled in the net

Sí se debe:

- Soltar la red para que el tiburón enmallado descienda hasta la cubierta y permitir que la tripulación corte la red de forma segura para liberar el animal.
- Colocar a los tiburones en una camilla/cuna o rampa inmediatamente y liberarlos por el lado del buque opuesto al de la red.

No se debe:

- Pasar los tiburones a través de la pasteca.
- Colgar a los tiburones por la cola.
- Arrastrar a los tiburones por la cubierta agarrándolos por la cola.

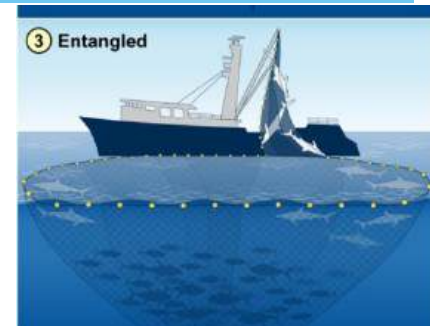


Do:

- Drop the net so the entangled shark is lowered to the deck to allow the crew to safely cut the net away from the animal
- Maneuver the animal into a stretcher/cradle or ramp and release it on the opposite side of the vessel from the net.

Do not:

- Roll sharks through the power block
- Hang sharks by the tail
- Drag sharks across the deck by the tail.



Al salabardear tiburones a bordo

When brailing sharks on board

Sí se debe:

- Priorizar la liberación de tiburones que sean visibles en la parte superior de la bolsa.
- Asegurar que los tiburones se separen en la cubierta principal/de trabajo y que no descendan por la escotilla de carga (Según las condiciones del buque, siempre que sea posible, usar dispositivos de reducción de captura incidental (por ejemplo: tolvas con puertas y rampas).

Do:

- Prioritize the release of sharks that are visible on top of the sack.
- Ensure sharks are sorted on the main/work deck and do not go down the loading hatch (According to the vessel's conditions, to the extent possible, use bycatch reduction devices, e.g., hoppers with doors and ramps)



Al salabardear tiburones a bordo

When brailing sharks on board

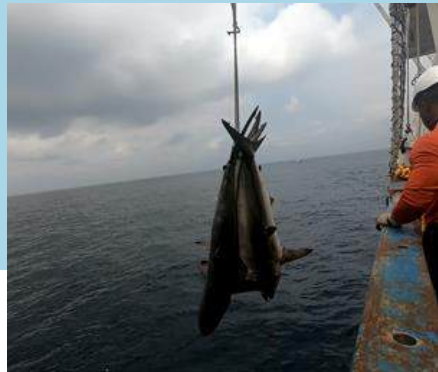
- Liberar al tiburón lo antes posible.
- Colocar inmediatamente a los tiburones en una camilla/cuna o rampa agarrándolos, sin suspenderlos, por el pedúnculo caudal y las aletas pectorales, y liberarlos en el lado opuesto del buque.
- En los casos en que no pueda evitarse el paso de los tiburones por la escotilla de carga, los tiburones deberían ser liberados lo antes posible (por ejemplo, a través de una canaleta de desechos/captura incidental, o utilizando camillas).
- Release the shark as soon as possible.
- Maneuver sharks into a stretcher/cradle or ramp immediately, by grabbing it, without suspending it, by the caudal peduncle and pectoral fins, and release it on the opposite side of the vessel from the net.
- In cases when the passage of sharks through the loading hatch can not be avoided, sharks should be released as quickly as possible (e.g. via a bycatch waste chute or using stretchers).

Al salabardear tiburones a bordo

When brailing sharks on board

No se debe:

- Permitir que los tiburones pasen por la escotilla de carga.
- No colgar a los tiburones por la cola utilizando una cuerda
- Arrastrar a los tiburones por la cubierta agarrándolos por la cola



Do not:

- Allow sharks to pass through the loading hatch
- Hang sharks by the tail using a rope
- Drag sharks across the deck by the tail



Tiburones ballena capturados en pesquerías de cerco

Whale sharks captured in purse seine fisheries



Sí se debe:

- Dejar a los tiburones ballena en el agua para su liberación.
- Liberar a los tiburones ballena.
- Si el tiburón ballena está al costado del barco con la cabeza apuntando hacia la popa, la tripulación debería liberar al tiburón abriendo la red delante de la boca del tiburón.
- Si la cabeza del tiburón ballena apunta hacia la proa de la embarcación, la tripulación a cargo de la operación de adujado de la red puede maniobrar el malacate y cabrestante para acercar el tiburón al casco y luego colocar el animal sobre la red y empujarlo fuera del copo de la red.
- En el caso de tiburones ballena pequeños (< 3 m), puede utilizarse el salabardo para empujar al animal hacia arriba y por encima de la red de cerco.



whale sharks in the water for release.
If the head of whale sharks prior to brailing, if possible, should be pointed towards the stern of the vessel.

If the whale shark is at the side of the vessel and its head is pointed towards the stern of the vessel, the shark should be released by opening the net in front of the shark's mouth.

- If the head of the whale shark is pointed towards the bow of the boat, the crew in charge of the net hauling operation can maneuver the winch and the capstan to bring the whale shark close to the hull, then stand the animal on the net and to roll it outside the bunt.
- For small whale sharks (< 3 m) the brailer may be used to push the animal up and over the purse net.

Tiburones ballena capturados en pesquerías de cerco

Whale sharks captured in purse seine fisheries

No se debe:

- Descargar un tiburón ballena en cubierta independientemente de su tamaño.
- Iniciar un proceso de salabardeo si pone en riesgo la supervivencia del tiburón ballena.
- Jalar o arrastrar a los tiburones ballena fuera de la red por la cola o el pedúnculo caudal.

Do not:

- Land or bring a whale shark on board the purse seine vessel regardless of size.
- Start a brailing process if it endangers the survival of the whale shark.
- Pull or drag whale sharks out of the net by the tail caudal peduncle.



Pesquerías palangreras

Longline fisheries

- Survivorship is species specific and correlated to time on the line (soak times)
- Handling has been shown to impact survival
- Releasing sharks with trailing gear also reduces survival rates

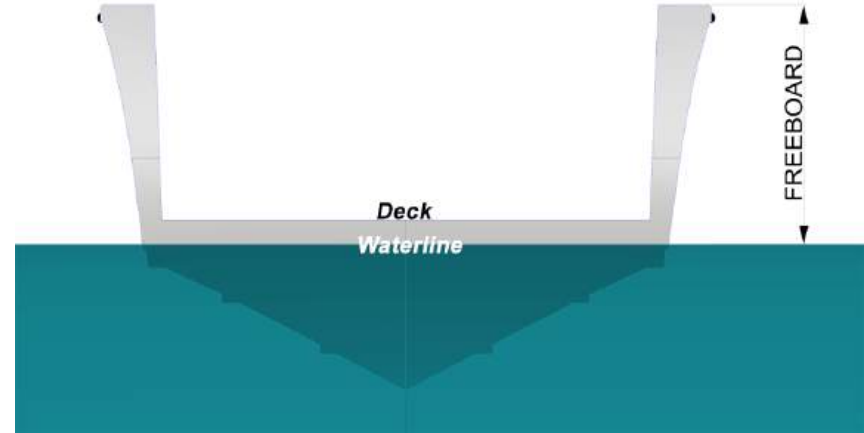


Pesquerías palangreras

Longline fisheries

Freeboard = the distance between the waterline and the main deck of a ship and the waterline to the rail of a small boat.

El francobordo = la distancia entre la línea de flotación y la cubierta principal de un buque y entre la línea de flotación y la borda de una embarcación pequeña.



Pesquerías palangreras

Longline fisheries

Sí se debe:

- Disminuir la marcha del buque y del remolque de la línea (si procede) para acercar los tiburones para identificación y retirada del aparejo.
- Si es posible, dejar a los tiburones en el agua para retirar el aparejo.
 - o En caso de intentar extraer los anzuelos, utilizar alicates o desenganchadores de mango largo en buques de francobordo alto (es decir, > 1 metro).
 - o Cuando no se retiren los anzuelos, utilizar cortacabos para cortar la línea lo más cerca posible del anzuelo o de la boca, sin dejar más de 1 metro de aparejo sujeto al animal y asegurando el retiro de los plomos.

Do:

- Slow the vessel and line hauling rate (if applicable) to bring the sharks alongside for identification and removal of gear.
- Leave sharks in the water for gear removal, if possible.
 - o If attempting to remove hooks, use pliers or dehookers, or long-handled de-hookers for vessels with high freeboards (i.e. > 1 meter)
 - o When hooks are not removed, use line cutters to cut the line as close to the hook or mouth as possible, leaving no more than 1 meter of gear attached to the animal and ensuring that weights are removed.

Tiburones MPML: Pesquerías palangreras

Shark BHRP: Longline fisheries

Sí se debe:

Si se llevan tiburones a bordo para retirar el aparejo:

- o Utilizar un salabardo o un lazo para ayudar a subirlos a bordo.
- o Utilizar una camilla o cuna para la manipulación y sujeción, para mayor seguridad de la tripulación y para reducir las lesiones del animal.
- o Manipular los tiburones sujetándolos manualmente por las aletas pectorales y el pedúnculo caudal (para ello, es posible que se requieran dos miembros de la tripulación, según el tamaño del animal).
- o Devolver los animales al mar lo antes posible.

Do:

If sharks are brought on board for gear removal:

- o Use a net or lasso to help lift them onboard
- o Use a stretcher or cradle for handling and restraint for the safety of the crew and to reduce injury to the animal.
- o Maneuver shark using manual restraint of the pectoral fins and the caudal peduncle (this may require two crew members depending on the size of the animals).
- o Return the animals to the sea as quickly as possible.

Pesquerías palangreras

Longline fisheries

No se debe:

- Utilizar líneas pasivas o de arrastre o arrastrar tiburones detrás del buque hasta que el anzuelo se desprenda de la mandíbula o hasta
- que el animal sea más fácil de manipular.
- Electrocutar o aturdir a los tiburones antes de manipularlos y liberarlos.
- Subir tiburones a cubierta sin utilizar una red o segundo punto de sujeción para soportar el peso del animal, observando que no se recomienda subir tiburones a bordo del buque.
- Intentar extraer un anzuelo de un tiburón vivo si el anzuelo no es visible.
- Introducir garfios, anzuelos o instrumentos similares en el cuerpo de tiburones vivos.
- Cortar o dañar la mandíbula de un tiburón para extraer el anzuelo.
- Subir los tiburones a cubierta, si es posible.
- Levantar o manipular a los tiburones por las hendiduras branquiales o espiráculos.
- Levantar y soltar tiburones desde lo alto del buque en buques con francobordo alto (> 1 m) para arrancar el anzuelo de la mandíbula del tiburón.

Do not:

- Use drag lines or lazy lines or drag sharks behind the vessel until the hook rips free of the jaw or until the animal is easier to handle
- Electrocute or stun sharks prior to handling and release.
- Lift sharks onboard without the use of a net and or second point of attachment to support the weight of the animal, noting it is not recommended to lift sharks onboard the vessel.
- Attempt to remove a hook from a live shark if the hook is not visible.
- Insert gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments into the bodies of live sharks
- Cut into or damage the jaw to remove hooks.
- Lift sharks onto the deck if possible
- Lift or maneuver sharks by the gill slits, or spiracles.
- Lift and drop sharks from the vessel height on vessels with high freeboards (> 1m) to rip the hook from the shark's jaw.

Herramientas: Pesquerías palangreras

Tools: Longline fisheries

- Red (longitud igual o superior al francobordo del buque)
- Desenganchador de mango corto (para tiburones subidos a bordo)
- Cortacabos capaz de cortar todas las líneas utilizadas en el aparejo
- Cortacabos de mango largo (de tamaño igual o superior al francobordo del buque), capaz de cortar todas las líneas utilizadas en el aparejo
- Desenganchador de mango largo (de tamaño igual o superior al francobordo del buque)
- Camilla/cuna (para tiburones subidos a bordo)
- Cortador de alambre/pernos capaz de cortar todos los anzuelos utilizados en el buque

- Net (equal or greater in length to the vessel's freeboard)
- Short handled de-hooker (for sharks brought on board)
- Line cutter – capable of cutting through all lines used in the gear
- Long-handled line cutter (equal or greater in length than the vessel's freeboard), capable of cutting through all lines used in the gear
- Long-handled de-hooker (equal or greater in length than the vessel's freeboard)
- Stretcher/cradle (for sharks brought on board)
- Wire/bolt cutter capable of cutting all hooks used on the vessel

Pesquerías de redes agalleras

Gillnet fisheries

Sí se debe:

- Priorizar la liberación de tiburones vivos no retenidos.
- Si es posible, dejar a los tiburones en el agua para retirar los aparejos.
- Cortar la red con cuidado para retirársela al animal y permitirle nadar lejos del aparejo.
- Asegurar que el peso de la red que está debajo del animal enmallado sea sostenido durante la retirada del aparejo.

Do:

- Prioritize the release of live non-retained sharks.
- Leave sharks in the water for gear removal, where possible.
- Carefully cut the net away from the animal, allowing it to swim away from the gear
- Ensure the weight of the net below the entangled animal is supported during gear removal.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
ECOSYSTEM AND BYCATCH WORKING GROUP
3RD MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
26-27 May 2025

EB-03-05

**BEST HANDLING AND RELEASE PRACTICES FOR SEA TURTLES CAPTURED IN IATTC
FISHERIES**

Melanie Hutchinson, Mariluz Parga, Marlon Roman, Jon Lopez

Development of Best Handling & Release Practice (BHRP) Guidelines for Vulnerable Species Captured in IATTC Fisheries

Main goal

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
ECOSYSTEM & BYCATCH WORKING GROUP

3RD MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
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DOCUMENT EB-03-06

SEABIRD BEST HANDLING AND RELEASE PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Involving IATTC staff

Involving IATTC staff, Commission & Stakeholders

Involving Commission

Phase 3: BHRP Development & Adoption
Phase 4: Development of Communication Tools
Phase 5: Filling Data Gaps
Phase 6: Performance Assessment

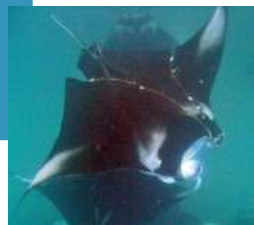
2024



2025



2026



Recomendaciones

Staff Recommendations

- *Considerar actualizar la resolución C-24-05 con la inclusión de las directrices de MPML descritas en el presente documento (SAC-16-10) para todas las pesquerías de la CIAT.*
 - *Que la Comisión garantice el financiamiento necesario para apoyar el fomento de capacidad, el desarrollo de materiales de capacitación y una serie de actividades de educación y divulgación (proyecto no financiado Q.3a).*
- *Consider updating Resolution C-24-05 with the inclusion of the BHRP guidelines outlined herein (SAC-16-10) for all IATTC fisheries.*
 - *The Commission ensures the necessary funding to support capacity building, the development of training materials and a range of education and outreach activities (unfunded project Q.3a)*

Preguntas sobre MPML tiburones?

Questions on shark BHRP?



Thank you for the contributions from several CPCs including; Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, European Union, Guatemala, Peru, France (French Polynesia). We appreciate the time and expertise and critical feedback offered by subject matter experts; Bernal Chavarria, Kristen Cote, Nagore Cuevas, Javier Quiñones Davila, Jon Ruiz Gondra, Maitane Grande, David Itano, Antonio Carlos Vasquez Jovel, Yunkai Li, Jefferson Murua, Francois Poisson, Omar Santana, Robynn Smith Laplante, Enzo Acuna Soto, Yonat Swimmer. Muchas gracias to Paulina Llano and Marlon Roman for translation assistance.

Encuestas a capitanes de buques cerqueros

Purse seine skipper surveys

- 208 capitanes participaron en la Encuesta a Capitanes de 2025.
- Se hicieron varias preguntas relacionadas con las MPML

- 208 skippers participated in the 2025 survey.
- Several questions regarding BHRP were asked.

