

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, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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June 17, 2022

Mr. Jean-Francois Pulvenis
Director ad interim
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
La Jolla, California

Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2020 by China on C-19-05

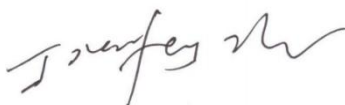
Shark species are one of the bycatch species in the Chinese longline fishery in EPO. The information of shark bycatch by Chinese fishing vessels each year was collected by logbook data, observer data and port sampling.

Shark data, in line with IATTC C-05-03, had been reported to the Commission by 30 June. There were no Chinese longline vessels targeting for sharks and no surface longlines, all the shark species were caught as bycatch in EPO by Chinese fishing fleets. The bycatch of silky sharks accounted for 0.21% of the total catch in weight.

Bycatch requirements including shark species, in line with t-RFMO measures have been included in official documents. Notification by General Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs(MARA) on Further Strictly Comply With International Tuna Measures was issued in 2019 and updated in 2022, in which stated that, MARA does not approve any distant water fisheries project that targeting sharks, all tuna enterprises and fishing vessels shall, to the greatest possible, avoid or reduce catching sharks. Except for the non-retention shark species, by-caught sharks shall be fully utilized (i.e. keeping shark carcass and fin, excepting head, guts, and skins). Shark finning(keeping fin and discarding carcass) is prohibited. The weight of shark fin on board shall not be over 5% of the weight of sharks on board up to first point of landing. Longline vessels shall limit its bycatch of silky sharks to a maximum of 20% of the total catch by one fishing trip in weight and shall be prohibited using shark lines and using wire trace (made of steel wire) as branch lines of longline are also prohibited, so as to reduce the chance of shark bycatch.

Fourteen observers were sent to our longline vessels operating in EPO in 2020. The observer annual report for 2020 in the eastern Pacific Ocean had been sent to the IATTC secretariat in March last year. Based on data from Chinese longline observers in 2020, the number of Silky sharks less than 100 cm in total length accounted for 7.62% of the total number. The observers recorded 113 alive, 25 dead and 1 condition unknown silky shark.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jiangfeng ZHU', written in a cursive style.

Jiangfeng ZHU

Consultant/Commissioner to IATTC&IOTC
Division of Distant-water Fisheries
Bureau of Fisheries
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