

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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April 30th, 2020

Dr. Guillermo A. Compeán

Director

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

La Jolla, California

Subject: Annual report on implementation for 2019 by China on C-05-03

Shark species is one of the bycatch species in Chinese longline fishery in EPO, China has always attached great importance to shark resource conservation and management.

To implement relevant tuna conservation and management measures, including management of bycatch species such as sharks adopted by relevant t-RFMOs, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs(MARA) issued a notification on strictly complying with international tuna management measures in 2013. In 2019, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs issued a notification on further strictly complying with international tuna management measures, in which included all shark CMMs of relevant t-RFMOs including IATTC.

The main content of shark management in the notification includes: China does not approve any vessels targeting sharks and all fishing vessels shall adopt effective measures to avoid or reduce shark bycatch, to the greatest possible. Except for the no retention shark species, fishing vessels shall fully utilize harvested sharks. The weight of shark fin on board shall not be over 5% of the weight of shark carcass on board to the first landing point. Shark finning and discards of carcass is strictly prohibited. Fishing vessels are encouraged to adopt measures such as shark fin and carcass

naturally attached, fin and carcass binding together or using corresponding labels. Whitetip sharks and mobulid rays are prohibited to retaining on board, transshipping and landing. The above mentioned shark species must be handled strictly in line with the IATTC measures and such live sharks caught incidentally shall be immediately released without further harm under the precondition of ensuring the safety of crew, and to record in detail in the log books accurately. Longline vessels shall be prohibited using “shark lines” in the pacific ocean.

Shark data will be provided by 30 June in accordance with Reslution C-03-05.

Twenty-one observers were sent to China’s longline vessels operating in EPO in 2019. The data of targeting species, by-catch species (sharks, marlin etc), and size frequency data were collected during the observations. 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 2019 in the east pacific ocean had been sent to the IATTC secretariat in April.

In 2019, two training sessions on bycatch were held, focusing on bycatch reduction, recognition of shark species, ways to release key shark species. During the sessions, Shark experts who were familiar with the conservation and management measures were invited to give lecture to the fishing vessels captains and fisheries managers. Posters regarding shark recognition are printed and sent to 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 new measures adopted by t-RFMOs, being translated into simple sentences for crewmembers to follow.

In recent years, China has established certain mechanisms to implement C05-03 and will continue working with IATTC members on shark issues.

Regards,

Liu Liming

Division Consultant

Division of Distant Water Fisheries

Bureau of Fisheries

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

China

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May 14th, 2019

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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,

Liming Liu

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