

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

~~103rd~~ 104th MEETING

~~Lisbon, Portugal~~ Panama City, Panama

~~31 August – 4 September 2026~~ 1-5 September 2025

RESOLUTION C-~~26-xx~~ 25-08¹ Rev2 1

SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ECUADOR

CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in ~~Lisbon, Portugal~~ Panama City, Panama, at the occasion of its ~~103rd~~ 104th meeting:

Recalling that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

Recognizing further that some shark species are highly migratory, and that harmonized conservation and management, where appropriate, may help to ensure sustainable management at the regional level;

Noting that sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems and are caught by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Recalling that under the Antigua Convention, “fish stocks covered by this Convention” means “stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area”, and that under Article VIII, paragraph 1 (c), the Commission shall “adopt measures...to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention”;

Considering ~~that~~ that Article VII, paragraph 1 (f) of the Antigua Convention establishes that the Commission shall “adopt, as necessary, conservation and management measures and recommendations for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, the fish stocks covered by this Convention, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened”;

Recognizing the need to collect data on catches, effort, discards, and utilization, as well as information on biological parameters of the species managed by the IATTC, particularly sharks;

Noting that in its Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch (C-04-05), the IATTC requires that purse-seine vessels release unharmed non-target species, to the extent practicable, including sharks, and urges

governments with vessels targeting species covered by the Antigua Convention to provide any required bycatch information as soon as possible¹;

¹ Amends and replaces Resolution C-25-08, which amended C-24-05 which amended and replaced Resolution C-23-07 which consolidated and replaced Resolutions C-05-03, C-16-04 and C-16-05.

Further noting the IATTC staff's 2016 conservation recommendations for the release of sharks caught by purse-seine vessels and for prohibiting the use of shark lines by longline vessels targeting tuna and swordfish;

Aware that specific measures to be respected by vessels of all fishing gears are necessary for the conservation of sharks in the Convention Area;

Desiring to consolidate and replace all previous IATTC Resolutions C-25-08, C-24-05, C-23-07, C-05-03, C-16-04, C-16-05, and to strengthen shark conservation and management measures in the eastern Pacific Ocean;

~~*Further considering*~~ *Considering* the Best Handling and Release Practices (BHRP) for sharks, reviewed at the 4th meeting ~~recommendations of the first meeting~~ of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG), ~~which were~~ and endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) at its 17th meeting, and further considering the SAC recommendation that the Commission update Resolution C-25-08 with the inclusion of the BHRP guidelines outlined in document SAC-17-08 for all IATTC fisheries; ~~14th meeting,~~

~~regarding~~ *Regarding* the need to address best handling and release guidelines and to explore new bycatch release devices and collect more post-release survival data for non-target shark species impacted by fisheries under the purview of the IATTC, as well as the recommendation from the SAC the adoption of a conservation and management measure requiring sharks with fins naturally attached to the body until the point of the first landing;

Considering also the need to improve the identification process of the shark species caught by fishing vessels targeting species under the purview of IATTC, with a view to their management and the integral utilization of the catches;

Considering that the scientific staff presented to SAC-17 the Shark Research Plan provided for in paragraph 16 of Resolution C-25-08, and that the Committee recommended that it be considered for approval and implementation: recognizing the need for a participatory review of its methodology, timeline, budget and cooperation mechanisms; and highlighting the importance of optimizing costs, protecting data confidentiality, and improving information on the silky shark and other priority species, such as the blue shark and alopias (thresher sharks) through a regional workshop;

Recalling that the EBWG recommends that a fishery conservation and management measure be adopted that requires sharks to keep their fins attached to the body until the first point of landing;

Addressing the need to consolidate and continue updating the management regime for sharks associated with fisheries developed under the Antigua Convention;

Agrees as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purpose of this Resolution:

Shark finning means the practice of removing any fin from a shark's body and discarding its body prior to landing.

Fin means any shark fin (including the tail) or a portion thereof.

Full utilization means retention by a vessel of all parts of the shark, except head and guts, as appropriate until the first point of landing.

Naturally attached means that all fins of the shark are fully or partially connected to the carcass of the shark by connective tissue or cartilage.

Buoy lines means individual lines or leaders that are attached to the float line or to the floats directly, and that are constructed of steel, metal, wire trace, or other materials². Schematic diagram available at Annex 1.

² These are also commonly known as “shark lines.”

Wire leaders means individual lines or leaders that are constructed of steel, metal, or wire trace, adjacent to the hooks and that are attached to the main line or a branch line. Schematic diagram available at Annex 1.

APPLICATION

2. This Resolution shall apply to all vessels operating pursuant to the IATTC Convention in the Convention Area.

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members (“CPCs”) should establish and implement a national plan of action for conservation and management of sharks, in accordance with the *FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*.

RETENTION AND UTILIZATION

4. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishers fully utilize all retained catches of sharks, with the exception of those species for which a retention ban has been adopted by the IATTC.
5. CPCs shall prohibit shark finning.
6. CPCs shall ensure that all sharks are landed with all fins naturally attached to the body. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass as appropriate but shall remain naturally attached to the carcass until the first point of landing (see Annex 2).

7. Notwithstanding paragraph 6, CPCs may authorize their vessels in 2027, and 2028 and 2029 to implement one of the alternative measures listed below to comply with paragraph 4:

- (i) Each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding fins using rope or wire; or
- (ii) identical and uniquely numbered tags are attached to each shark carcass and its corresponding fins in a manner that inspectors can easily identify the matching of the carcass and fins at any time. Both the carcasses and fins shall be stored on board in the same hold.

8. If a CPC decides to authorize its vessels to use one of the alternative measures in paragraph 7, it shall

- (i) implement enhanced monitoring efforts on any vessels authorized to implement the alternative measures;
- (ii) ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified by inspectors on board the vessel at any time; and
- (iii) ensure these alternatives shall be applied as soon as possible before sharks are stored in fish holds.

9. Each year, the CPC shall report in their compliance questionnaire on the implementation of the alternatives in paragraph 7 and the requirements in paragraph 8:

- (i) any enforcement difficulties encountered from observer, electronic monitoring, aerial boarding, and landing inspection reports;
- (ii) how monitoring of authorized vessels has been enhanced;
- (iii) how many vessels used the alternative measures in the previous year;
- (iv) how compliance is enforced at sea and in port, including how possible incidents of disproportionate fin counts, high grading and species substitution have been addressed;

- (v) an explanation of why the fleet has adopted its fin-handling practice; and
- (vi) any other information the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures (COR) might deem necessary.

10. The Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission (COR) shall review and discuss the reports submitted in accordance with paragraph 9 in 2028 and 2029. At its meeting in 2029, the COR shall, taking into account the outcomes from these reports and discussions, advise the Commission on the effectiveness of the measures set out in paragraph 7 as alternatives to the obligation contained in paragraph 6, and recommend measures for consideration and possible adoption by the Commission in 2030.

6. Until the end of 2026, notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to ensure that individual shark carcasses and their corresponding fins can be easily identified on board the vessel at any time, using one of the following methods:

- (i) each individual shark carcass and its corresponding fins are stored in the same bag, preferably a biodegradable one
- (ii) each individual shark carcass is bound to the corresponding shark fins using rope or wire; or,
- (iii) the shark fins and the corresponding shark are identically, uniquely, and numerically tagged in a manner that an authorized inspector can readily identify the matching of the shark fins to the corresponding shark.

7.11. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, ~~including for crew consumption,~~ transshipping, landing or trading of any fins harvested or that have been removed on board in contravention of this Resolution.

8. Paragraphs 4 to 8 shall be reviewed, in consultation with IATTC scientific staff, and amendments shall be adopted by the Commission in 2026, as necessary. If no agreement is reached in 2026 on paragraph 7, paragraph 7 shall be replaced with the following text: Notwithstanding paragraphs 6, and other provisions in this Resolution, CPCs may take alternative measures to require their vessels to have onboard fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

BYCATCH AND RELEASE

~~9-12.~~ CPCs shall prohibit vessels targeting tuna and/or swordfish from using buoy lines.

13. CPCs shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed all sharks (alive or dead) that are not retained, to the extent practicable, as soon as they are seen on the line, entangled in the net, or brailled on board ~~the deck~~, taking due consideration for the safety of any person on board, using the following procedures:

- i. prohibit the use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks, except for cases where the use of these instruments is unavoidable for crew safety and/or for safe release of the shark.
- ii. prohibit the lifting of sharks by the tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body.
- ~~iii.~~ prohibit the punching of holes through the bodies of sharks (e.g. to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).

For purse seine vessels:

- a. when seen entangled in the net during hauling, disentangle the sharks and release them into the ocean as soon as possible.
- b. sharks brailled on deck must be returned to the water as soon as possible, either manually following best handling practices guidelines, using a stretcher (also known as cradle) or by utilizing a ramp from the deck connecting to ~~an opening on the side of the vessel, or~~ through escape hatches in the well deck. ~~If ramps or escape hatches are not available, the sharks must be lowered with a sling or cargo net, using a crane or similar equipment, or as indicated in Annex 3 or any future revisions, as identified pursuant to paragraph 10-12.~~
- c. ~~prohibit the use of gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments for the handling of sharks.~~ passing sharks through the power block.
~~prohibit the lifting of sharks by the head, tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using bind wire against or inserted through the body. Prohibit the punching of holes through the bodies of sharks (e.g., to pass a cable through for lifting the shark).~~
- d. prohibit the lifting of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) onboard the vessel and prohibit the towing of whale sharks out of a purse-seine net, e.g., using towing ropes.

For longline vessels:

- e. leave the shark in the water for gear removal, where possible.
- f. use a line cutter to cut the branchline as close to the hook as possible, and so that less than 1 meter remains on the animal, to the extent practicable.
- g. prohibit the use of drag or lazy lines.¹
- ~~f.~~ h. when attempting to remove hooks, do not damage the jaw.

14. To improve post-release survival of sharks, CPCs shall require encourage their vessels to apply the safe handling and release guidelines described in Annex 3 and as appropriate, the tools identified in Annex 3.1 of this Resolution.

¹ This is a practice whereby branchlines with sharks are attached to a line (the drag line or lazy line) at the side or stern of the vessel and left on the drag or lazy line until the hook rips out, the animal dies and or is easier to handle and or the vessel slows and allocates time to removing the shark from the gear.

15. CPCs shall ensure encourage captains and crews are trained in the safe handling and release procedures for sharks included in this Resolution. CPCs shall require encourage captains to make the guidelines contained in Annex 3 available on the vessel to crew members² in a form and language that facilitates the crew members's understanding.

16. The IATTC Staff shall make educational materials on best handling and release practices, such as graphics and videos, available to CPCs on the IATTC website.

10-17. 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 new or improved methods comprehensive set of best handling and release practices for the safe release of sharks for inclusion in this measure when applicable, in 2026. In the meantime, CPC's may elect to use the safe handling and release guidelines described in Annex 3 and as appropriate the tools identified in Annex 3.1 of this Resolution.

RESEARCH

11-18. Among shark species, the list of species in Annex 4 shall be given priority for research. The IATTC Scientific Staff, in collaboration with EBWG and CPCs, shall continue to review and recommend changes to Annex 4 to the Commission, as appropriate.

12-19. The IATTC Scientific Staff, in collaboration with researchers associated with CPCs, EBWG and SAC, shall continue evaluating – through a specific pilot study – the use of specific tools, such as velcro straps and harnesses to lift sharks by their caudal peduncle and present the results to the EBWG and SAC for consideration as a potential best practice for safe handling and release methods for sharks. Exceptionally, for this controlled pilot experience managed by the staff, the lifting of suspending sharks by the tail will be permitted. Whale sharks shall be excluded from the pilot study.

~~13.~~20. The IATTC Scientific Staff, in consultation with the SAC and EBWG shall continue to develop and strengthen a data collection program for sharks associated with fisheries managed by the Commission, making use of existing research and data collection mechanisms and programs with a goal to implement and maintain a standardized program that includes the monitoring of shark catches in small scale, coastal fisheries, as identified in SAC-15-10, by 2026, taking into consideration the capacity requirements of those CPCs.

~~21. In 2026, the~~ 21. The IATTC, Scientific Staff in collaboration with the IATTC SAC and EBWG will continue advancing the shall develop and recommend to the Commission a Shark Research Plan presented by the IATTC scientific staff in document SAC-17-09 and endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee at its 17th meeting that will prioritize research activities for *Carcharhinus longimanus* and *C. falciformis*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. zygaena*, *Alopias pelagicus*, *Alopias superciliosus*, *Prionace glauca*, and *S. mokarran*, and as appropriate, the other species listed in Annex 4. This Shark Research Plan will include timelines and financial considerations for stock assessments, ecological risk assessments, and recommended management strategy evaluations. ~~This plan will also identify opportunities for collaboration with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for Pacific-wide stocks.~~

22. The Plan shall be implemented progressively, subject to the availability of resources and to the agreements adopted by the Commission concerning its methodologies, priorities, timeline, budget and cooperation mechanisms.

23. The IATTC Scientific Staff, in coordination with the respective CPCs, shall promote greater technical cooperation such as a regional workshop with the participation of scientists, universities in the region and fisheries research centers for the implementation of the Shark Research Plan in the EPO.

~~14.~~

~~15.~~24. Beginning in 2027 and annually thereafter, the IATTC scientific staff, in collaboration with the SAC and EBWG, shall provide an update on the Shark Research Plan at the SAC and recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

~~16.~~25. The IATTC SAC with support from Scientific Staff and the EBWG shall review the information reported by CPCs annually and will, as necessary, provide recommendations to the Commission on ways to strengthen the conservation and management of sharks within IATTC fisheries, ~~including consideration of the use of wire leaders,~~ by vessels fishing tuna and tuna like species.

~~17.~~26. ~~By 2027,~~ CPCs will undertake, where possible, in cooperation with the IATTC scientific staff, continuing actions to:

- a. identify ways to make fishing gears more selective, where appropriate, including research into alternative measures; ~~to wire leaders;~~
- b. improve knowledge of key biological and ecological parameters, life-history and behavioral traits, and migration patterns of key shark species;
- c. identify key shark mating, pupping, and nursery areas; and
- d. improve handling practices for live sharks to maximize their post-release survival.

REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION

- ~~18.~~27. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the identification of shark species/groups and the collection of data on their shark catches.
- ~~19.~~28. Each CPC shall annually report data for catches, effort by gear type landing and trade of sharks, by species where possible, in accordance with IATTC reporting procedures, including available historical data, of the fisheries under the purview of the Commission.
- ~~20.~~29. CPCs are encouraged to provide aggregated information on trade, as available.

21.~~30.~~ CPCs shall also provide to the IATTC, through observer programs, electronic monitoring programs or other means, the species identification, the number and status (dead/alive) of all sharks caught, in accordance with applicable monitoring requirements, including those caught incidentally and/or released by purse seine vessels of all capacity classes and longline vessels.

22.~~31.~~ ~~¶~~The IATTC Secretariat ~~will~~ shall develop a draft template for CPCs to report on the implementation of this Resolution for ~~adoption~~ consideration by the Commission in ~~2027-2026~~, ~~¶~~

23.~~32.~~ In ~~2027-2026~~, CPCs shall use the annual compliance questionnaire to report on their compliance with this Resolution.

24.~~33.~~ ~~In~~ ~~From 2027~~2028, CPCs shall use the reporting template provided by the Staff adopted by the Commission pursuant to paragraph 31 to annually report on its implementation of this Resolution. ~~Reports for the previous year shall be submitted to the IATTC Secretariat, by June 30 of each year.~~

REPEAL AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

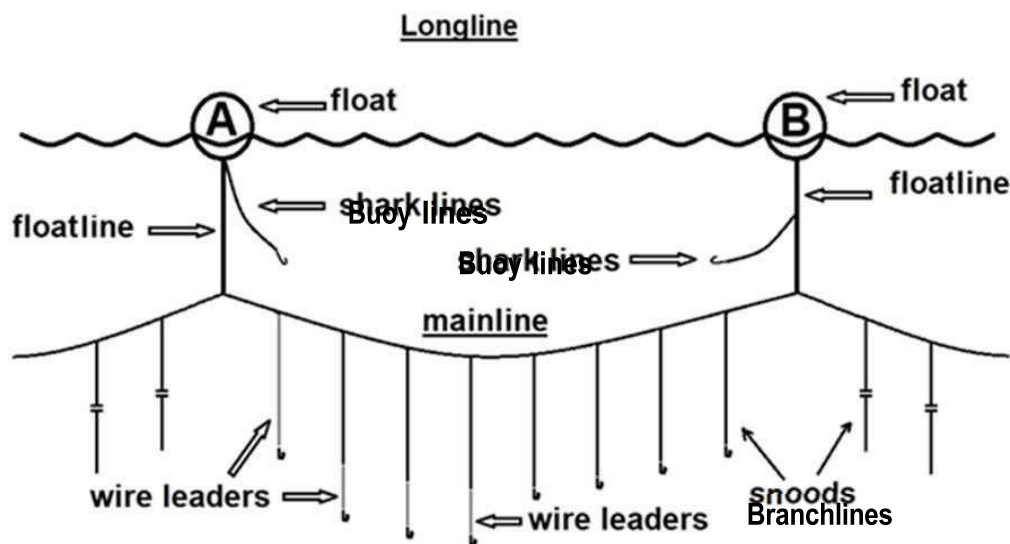
25.~~34.~~ This Resolution shall replace Resolution ~~C-25-08~~ ~~C-24-05~~ upon its entry into force on January 1, 2027~~6~~.

Annex 1

Schematic diagram of shark lines and wire leaders

Buoy lines: individual lines or leaders that are attached to the float line or to the floats directly, and that are constructed of steel, metal, wire trace, or other materials, and are deployed in the water column at depths shallower than the mainline³.

Wire leaders: individual lines or leaders that are constructed of steel, metal, or wire trace, and that are attached to the main line or a branch line.



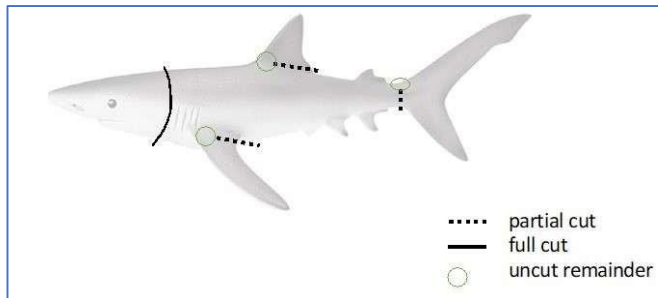
³ These are also commonly known as “shark lines.”

Annex 2

Diagram of allowable partial cuts

Naturally attached means that all fins of the shark must be fully and/or partially connected to the body of the shark by connective tissue or cartilage, while at sea. In order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the shark carcass, but shall not be removed from the carcass until the first point of landing. Below is a schematic to guide fishers.

1. Only head and guts, as appropriate, may be removed at sea.
2. A partial cut at the level of the base of the dorsal fin and the base of the pectoral fins is permitted.
3. A partial cut at the level of the caudal peduncle of the base, allowing the caudal fin to be folded over the posterior area of the shark's trunk is permitted.
4. A full cut along the abdominal section is permitted in the case of the Blue Shark (*P. glauca*) in the process of gutting, provided the fins remain naturally attached.



Annex 3 **Best safe ~~safe~~** handling and release practices (BHRPs) for sharks

Bearing in mind that the Resolution states, in its paragraph 1213, that ‘CPCs shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed all sharks (alive or dead) that are not retained to the extent practicable’, and that the primary aim of BHRP release processes is to ensure the highest level of post release survival of sharks while ensuring the safety of crew members, the guidelines below are provided to assist them to take—and that, whenever possible, prompt, and effective action will be taken to return the shark to the sea and while prioritizing that the life and safety of the crew is not compromised and that crew members shall endeavor to avoid hazards in the safe handling and release operations for sharks.

~~To maximize the efficacy and utility of adopted BHRPs, CPCs should ensure crew are educated and trained by qualified staff on these practices regularly. Illustrated best handling and release practices should be available on the vessels.~~

All fisheries

~~SHOULD~~

DO:

- Release ~~the~~ sharks from fishing gear as soon as possible and while they are still in the water, if possible.
- Encourage the immediate release of sharks.

~~SHOULD~~

DO NOT:

- ~~• Attach sharks to vessel and drag while vessel operations are underway~~
- Hit or kick the shark
- Leave sharks laying on the deck, exposed to sun or air, except to the extent necessary to carry out these practices
- Insert hands or other devices into gill slits
- Use gaffs or hooks or similar instruments to manipulate or maneuver sharks
- Lift or suspend sharks by the tail, gill slits, or spiracles, or by using binding materials against or inserted through the body
- Drag sharks across the deck by the tail

Purse-seine fishery

~~SHOULD NOT~~

- ~~• Roll sharks through the power block~~

For sharks entangled in the net and brought on board during net hauling/stacking:

~~— SHOULD —~~

DO:

- Release the shark from the net, ~~always preventing it from ascending to the power block.~~ by dropping

the net so the entangled shark is lowered towards the deck to allow the crew to safely cut the net away from the animal and return it to the sea using approved bycatch release devices (stretcher or ramp).

- Maneuver ~~the animal~~ sharks into a stretcher/cradle or ramp immediately and take them to the opposite side of the vessel (from the net) for release. Small sharks can be carried by hand (without the use of a stretcher / cradle) if it is safe to do so. ~~and release it on the opposite side of the vessel.~~

DO NOT:

- Roll sharks through the power block.

When brailing sharks on board:

SHOULD DO:

- Prioritize the release of sharks that are visible in the brail.
- Ensure sharks are sorted on the main deck and do not go down the loading hatch According to the vessel's conditions, to the extent possible, use bycatch ~~reduction~~ release devices (BRDs; e.g., hoppers with doors and / or ramps). ~~to ensure sharks are sorted on the main deck and do not go down the loading hatch.~~
- Release the shark as soon as possible. ~~The recommended practice is to remove the shark from the brailer, hopper or ramps by grabbing it, without suspending it, by the caudal peduncle to place it on deck. This should be done manually whenever possible.~~
- Maneuver sharks into a stretcher/cradle or ramp immediately, ~~when possible~~ by grabbing it by the caudal peduncle and a pectoral fin or dorsal fin and release it on the opposite side of the vessel from the net.

- In cases when the passage of sharks through the loading hatch cannot be avoided, sharks should be released as quickly as possible (e.g. via a bycatch/waste chute / escape hatch, or using stretchers). ~~Consider the use of a bycatch/waste ramp on the lower decks to facilitate fast and safe release of sharks that were not sighted on the main/working deck.~~

DO NOT:

- Allow sharks to pass through the loading hatch intentionally
- Hang or suspend sharks by the tail using a rope or cable

For whale sharks captured in purse seine fisheries

SHOULD DO:

- Leave whale sharks in the water for release.
- Release ~~of~~ whale sharks prior to brailing if the shark has been detected.
- 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 or cutting 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 roll it outside the bunt.
- For small whale sharks (< 3m total length) the brailer may be used to move the animal up and over the purse seine corks to release it.

SHOULD DO NOT:

- Land a whale shark on deck regardless of size.
- Start a brailing process if the whale shark has been detected in the sack. ~~it endangers the survival of the whale shark.~~
- Pull or drag whale sharks out of the net by the tail or caudal peduncle.

All Hook and Line Fisheries

Longline fishery (also applicable to fisheries of other surface fleets other than purse seine)

SHOULD DO:

For sharks captured by vessels with high freeboard (>2m):

- Slow the vessel and line hauling rate (if applicable) to bring the sharks alongside for identification and removal of gear.
- ~~— Avoid removing hooks from sharks. If attempting to remove hooks use long handled de-hookers for vessels with high freeboards.~~
- Leave sharks in the water for gear removal, if possible.

When removing gear from sharks that are in the water:

- If attempting to remove hooks:

- For hooks that are visible – make a small cut in the skin to remove hooks in the corner of the mouth or use pliers or dehookers, or long-handled dehookers for vessels with high freeboards (i.e. > 1 meter).
- For hooks that are not visible and have been swallowed – cut the line as close to the mouth as possible.

○ 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 ensure that weights and swivels are removed.

To the extent practicable and ensure that weights are removed, when cutting the line.

If sharks are brought on board for gear removal:

~~Avoid bringing sharks on board for gear removal if possible. If sharks are brought on board for gear removal:~~

- Use a dip net or lasso to help lift sharks horizontally with the help of the branchline. ~~them onboard~~
- ~~Use a stretcher or cradle for handling and restraint, for the safety of the crew and to reduce injury to the animal.~~
- 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).
- Return the animal to the sea as quickly as possible.

For all longline vessels (also applicable to surface fleet fisheries): SHOULD 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. ~~Drag sharks behind the vessel until the hook rips free of the jaw.~~
- Electrocute or stun sharks prior to release.
- Lift large sharks and or any shark that has swallowed the hook onboard without the use of a ~~dipnet 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 has been swallowed or is not visible in the corner of the mouth.
- Insert gaffs, hooks, or similar instruments into the bodies of live sharks to manipulate or maneuver.
- Cut into or damage the cartilage of the jaw to remove the hooks. ~~for removal of the hook.~~
- ~~Lift or maneuver sharks by the tail, gill slits or spiracles. onto the deck if possible.~~
- Lift and drop sharks from the vessel height to rip the hook from the shark's jaw.

Gill and Drift Net Fisheries:

DO:

- Prioritize the release of live non-retained sharks.
- Leave sharks in the water for gear removal, where possible.

- Ensure the weight of the net below the entangled animal is supported during gear removal.
- Carefully cut the net away from the animal, allowing it to swim away from the gear.

Annex 3.1

Recommended tools for sharks best safe handling and release practices

Purse seine fishery ~~FOR PURSE SEINE FISHERIES~~

- Hopper with a door ~~Bycatch sorting/releasing devices for working/main deck (e.g., hopper with a door, ramp)~~
- Ramp
- Stretcher/cradle

All Hook and Line Fisheries

~~FOR LONGLINE FISHERIES~~

- Dipnet ~~Net (equal or greater in length than the vessel's freeboard height).~~
- ~~Short de-hooker (for sharks brought on board)~~
- Short-handled line cutter – capable of cutting through all lines used in the gear ~~Line cutter~~
- ~~Short handled de-hooker (vessels with low [$<2\text{m}$] free board)~~
- Long-handled line cutter (equal or in greater in length than the vessel's freeboard), capable of cutting through all lines used in the gear.
- Short handled de-hooker (for sharks brought on board)
- Long-handled de-hooker (equal or in 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.

Gill and Drift Net Fisheries

- Short-handled line cutter – capable of cutting through all lines used in the gear.
- Long-handled line cutter (equal or in greater in length than the vessel's freeboard), capable of cutting through all lines used in the gear.

Annex 4

List of priority species for research and management

Familia	Nombre científico	Common name	Nombre común
Alopiidae	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	Pelagic thresher	Zorro pelágico
Alopiidae	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye thresher	Zorro ojón
Alopiidae	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Common thresher	Tiburón zorro pinto
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>	Copper shark	Tiburón cobrizo
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky shark	Tiburón sedoso
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	Galapagos shark	Tiburón de Galápagos
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark	Tiburón punta blanca oceánico
Galeocerdonidae	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Tiger shark	Tintorera tigre
Lamnidae	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin mako shark	Mako de aleta corta
Lamnidae	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin mako shark	Marrajo carite
Lamnidae	<i>Lamna ditropis</i>	Salmon shark	Marrajo salmón
Lamnidae	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	Marrajo sardinero
Carcharhinidae	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark	Tiburón azul
Pseudocarchariidae	<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>	Crocodile shark	Tiburón cocodrilo
Rhincodontidae	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale shark	Tiburón ballena
Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead shark	Cornuda común
Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great hammerhead	Cornuda gigante
Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth hammerhead shark	Cornuda cruz