Shark landings data available from longline fisheries in Central America: Progress report

SAC-08-08a(ii)

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Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical (CIAT)

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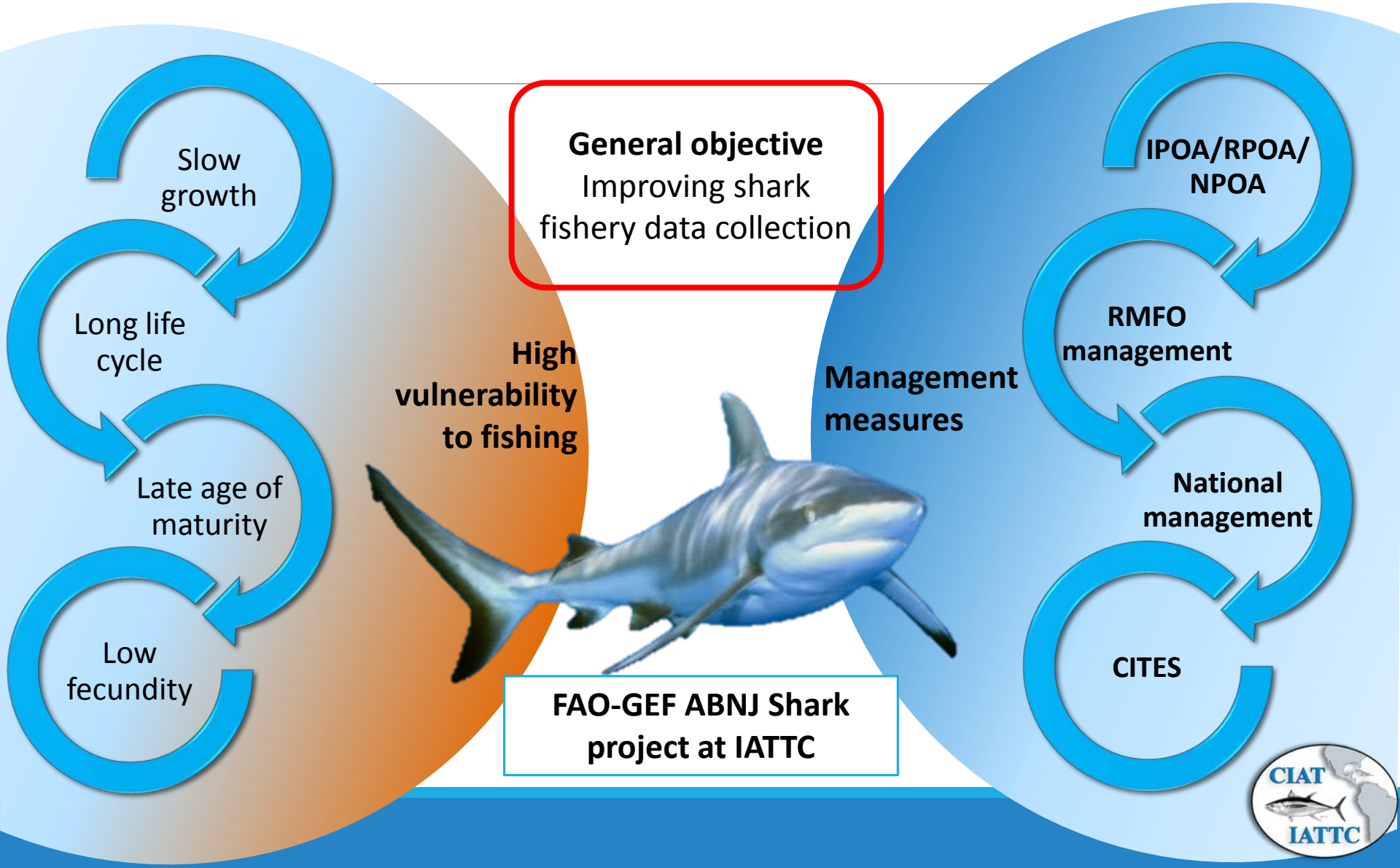
Outline

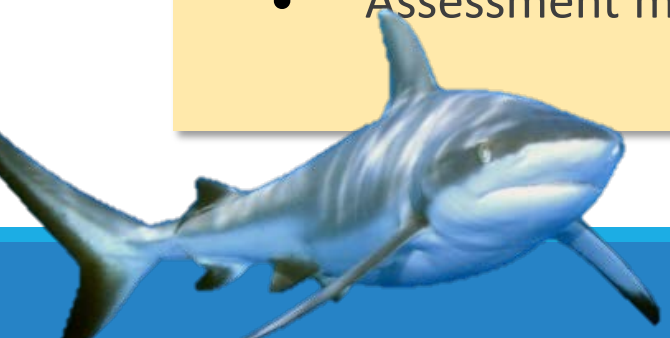
- Background: FAO-GEF ABNJ Shark project at IATTC
- Objective of this study
- Available length overall (LOA) data for longline fleets landing sharks in Central America
- Shark landings data available from these fleets
- Summary
- Discussion

Background: FAO-GEF ABNJ Shark project at IATTC



Project tasks

- ✓ Report on existing data sources –Metadata (SAC-07-06b(ii))
- ✓ Report on challenges and improvements needed (SAC-07-06b(iii))
- ✓ Assist IATTC Member States
- ▪ Develop database suitable for stock assessment (in progress)
- ✓ Capacity building (in progress)
  - ✓ Database training (5th IATTC Technical Meeting on Sharks: Data Collection)
  - • Assessment methods for data-poor species (September 2017)



Available LOA data for longline fleets landing sharks in Central America

Standard vessel classification system

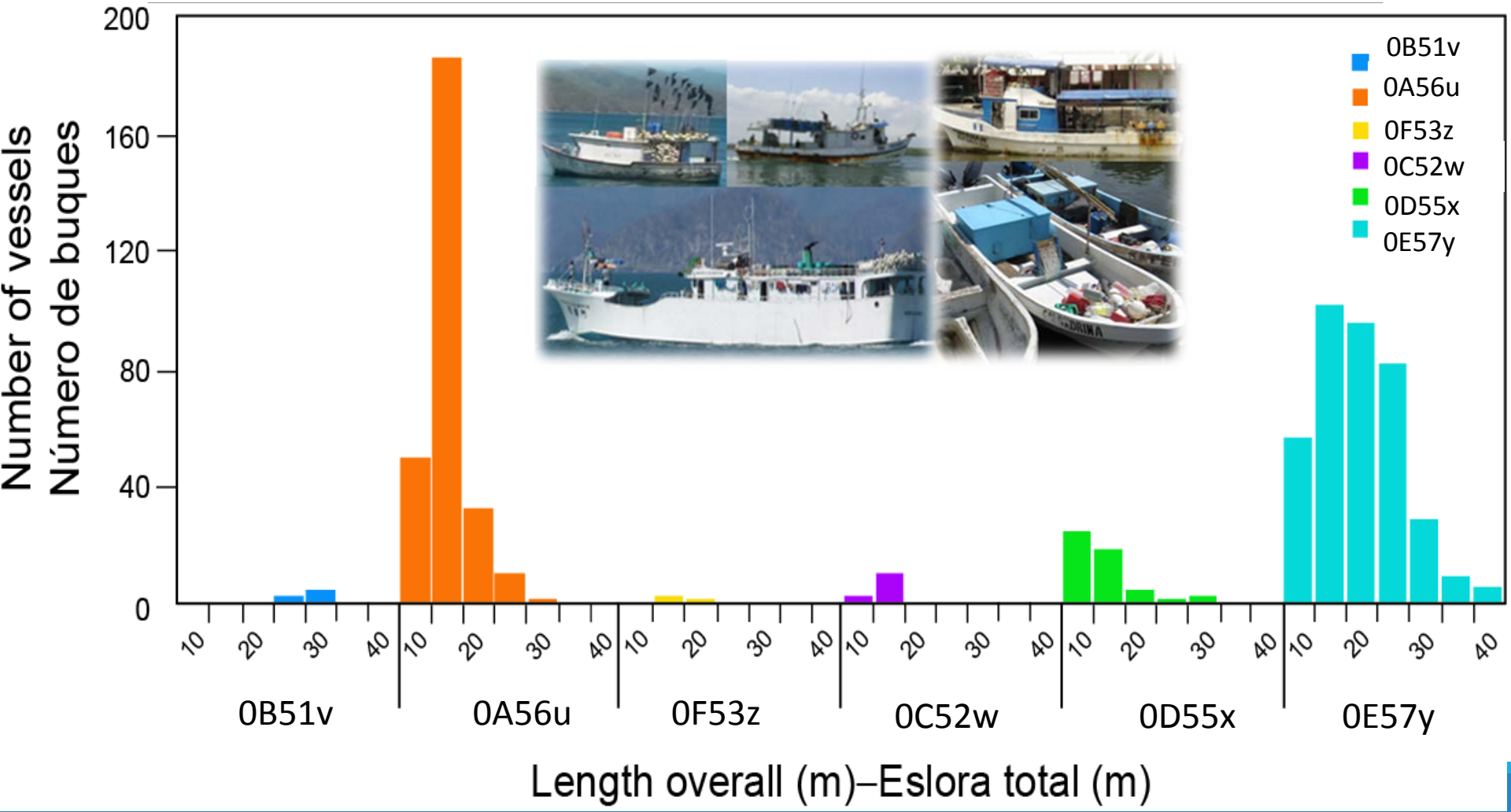
Currently each Central American country uses a different system to classify longline vessels

Recommendation of Document SAC-07-06b(iii): use length overall (LOA) for classifying longline vessels

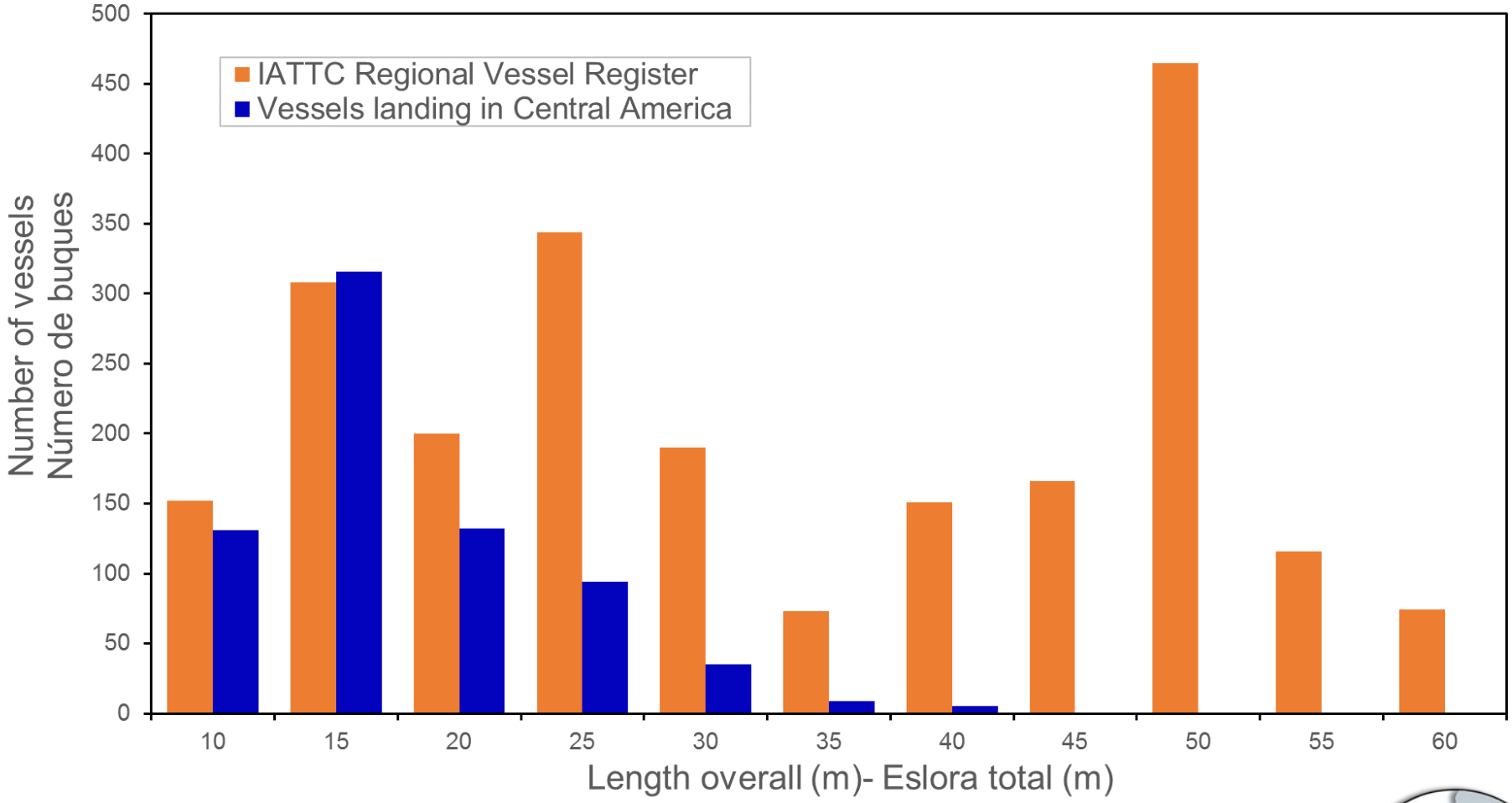
LOA is:

- Objective
- Quantifiable and verifiable
- Comparable among fleets and flags

Available LOA data, by country, 2015

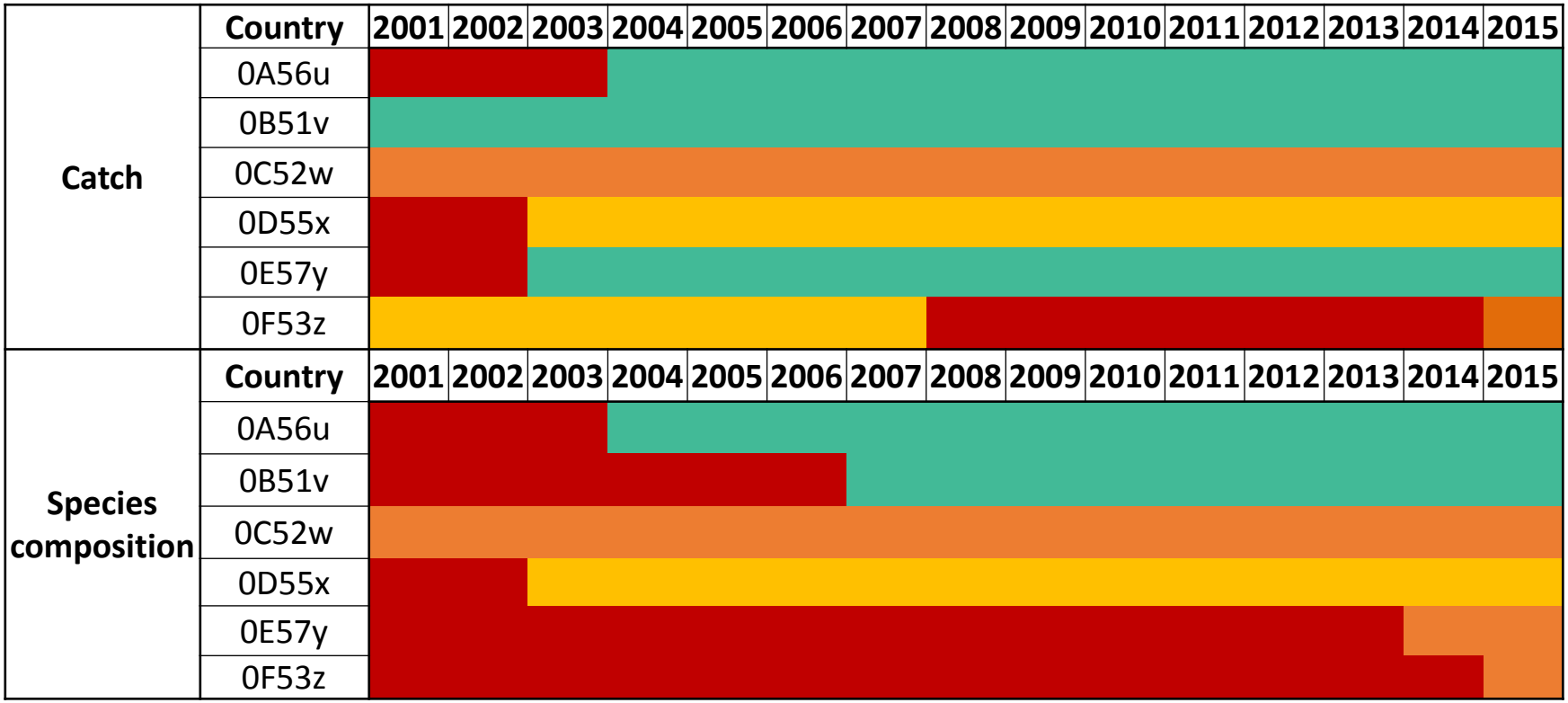


Distribution of longline vessels by LOA, 2015



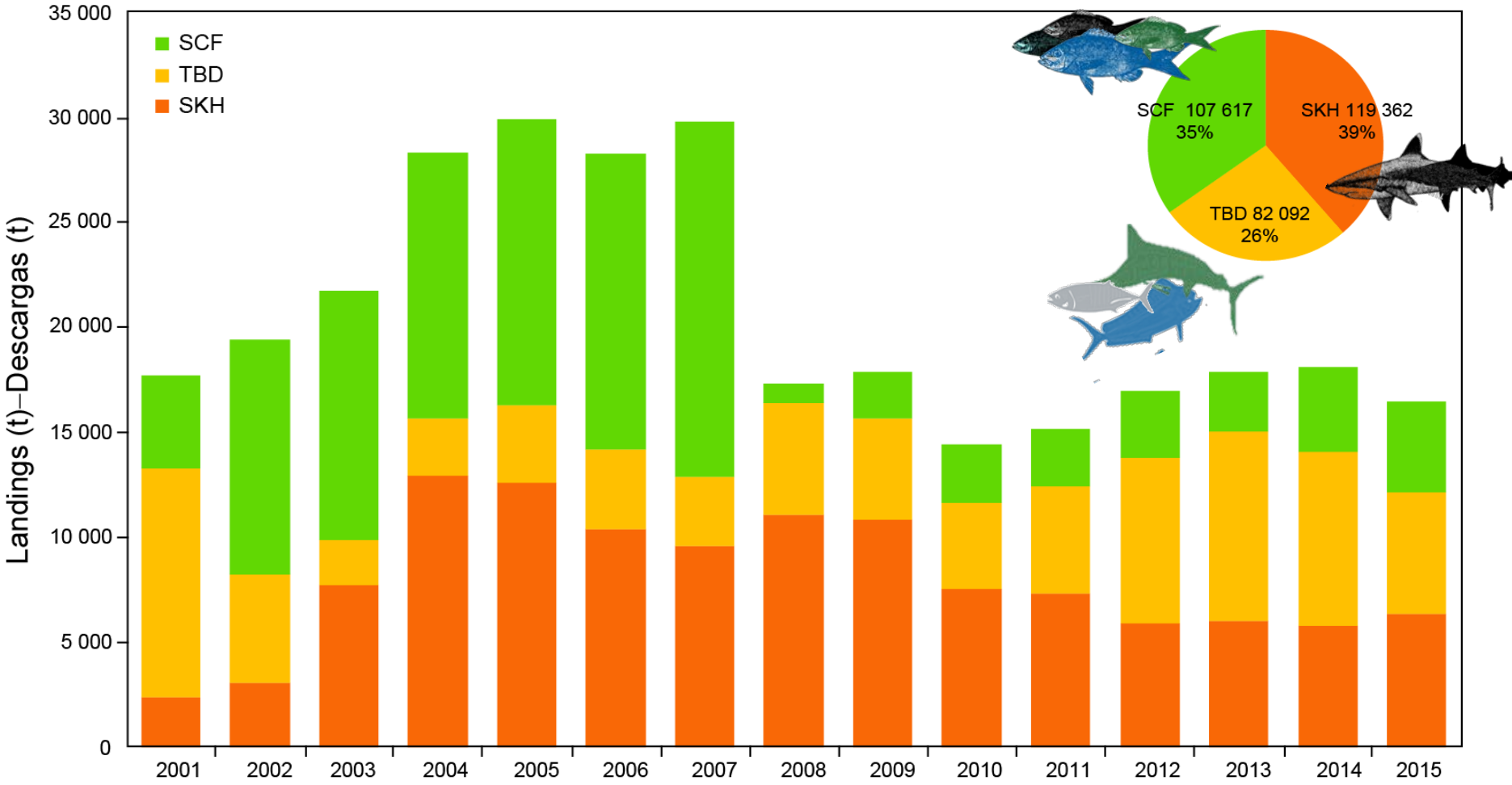
Shark landings data available from Central America

Landings databases
Central American fisheries institutions



Complete	
Complete for artisanal vessels	
Incomplete	
No data	

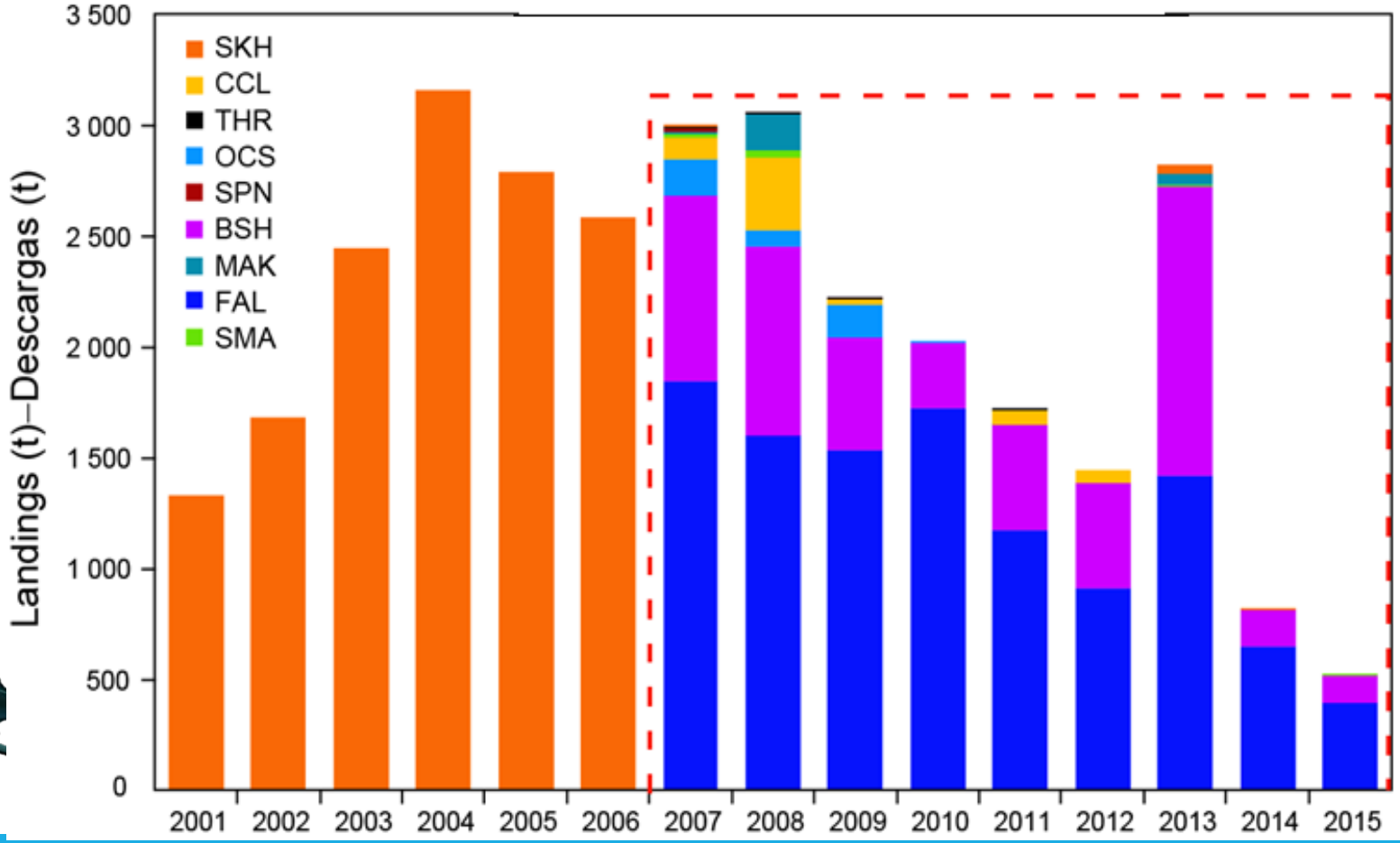
Annual landings of sharks, TBD, and SCF in Central America, 2001-2015



TBD: large pelagic species (tunas, billfishes, dorado); **SKH**: all sharks; **SCF**: small coastal fishes

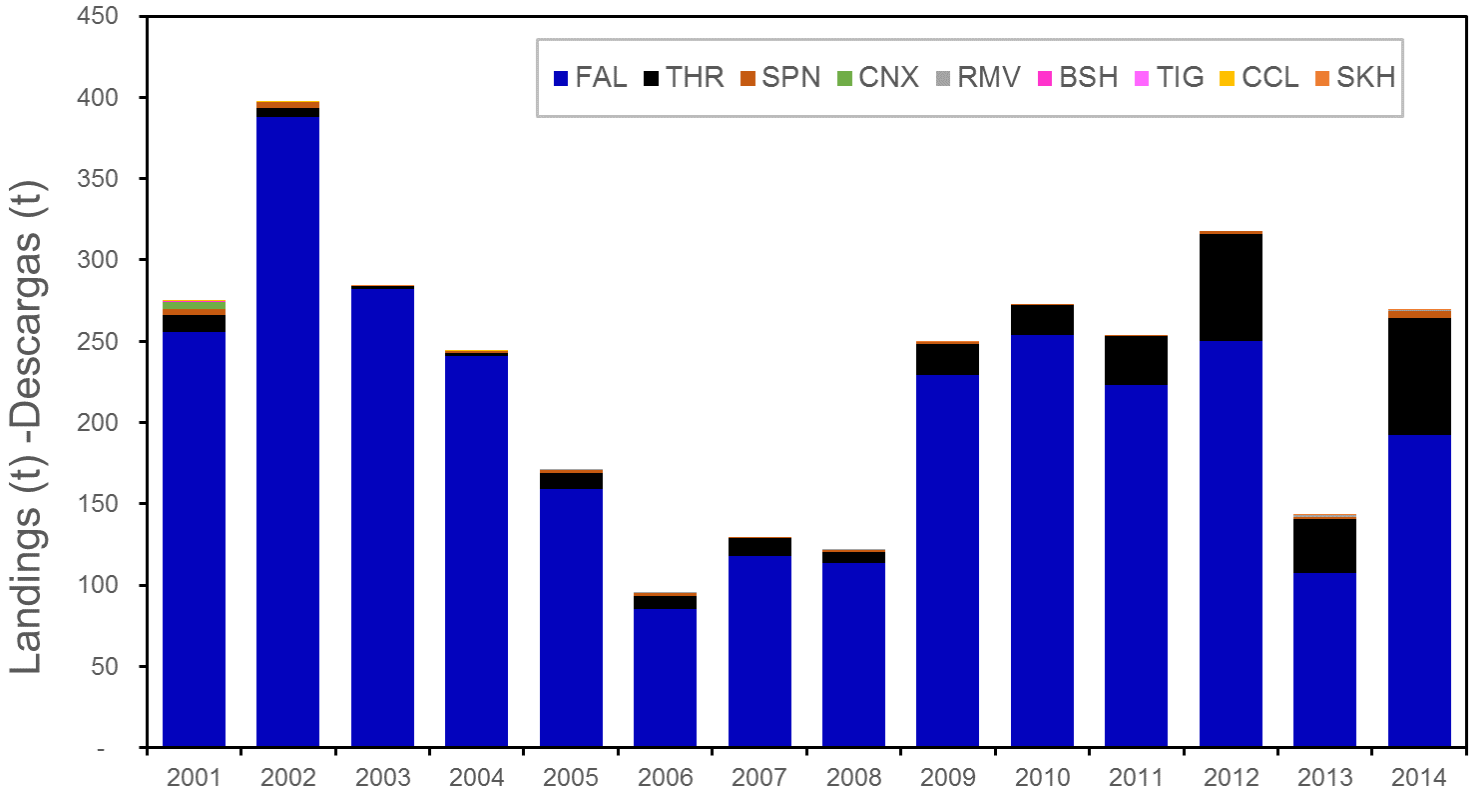
Sharks: species composition of landings
0B51v, 2001-2015

LOA range
~20m-55m



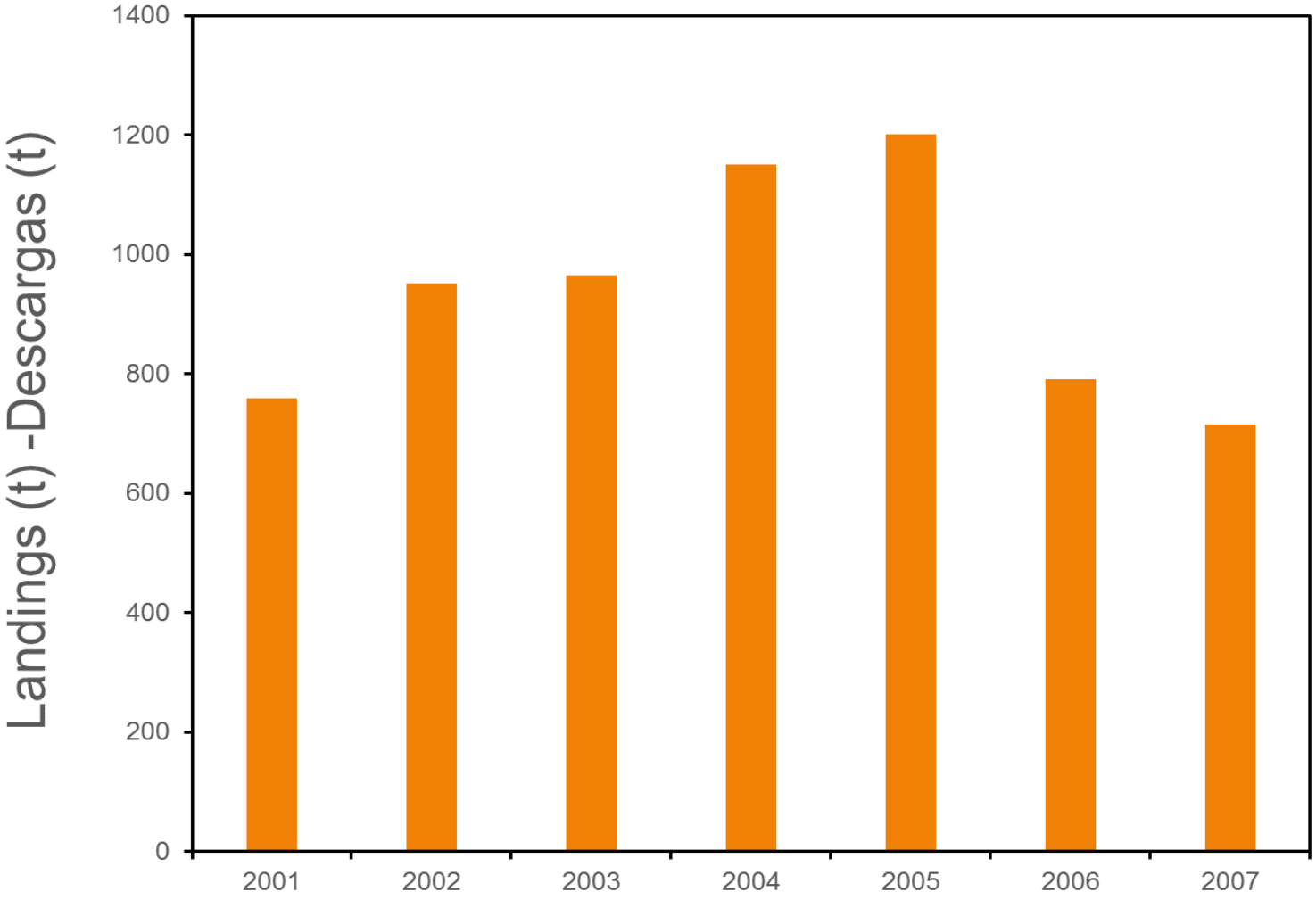
Sharks: species composition of landings
0C52w, 2001-2014

LOA range
~10m-50m



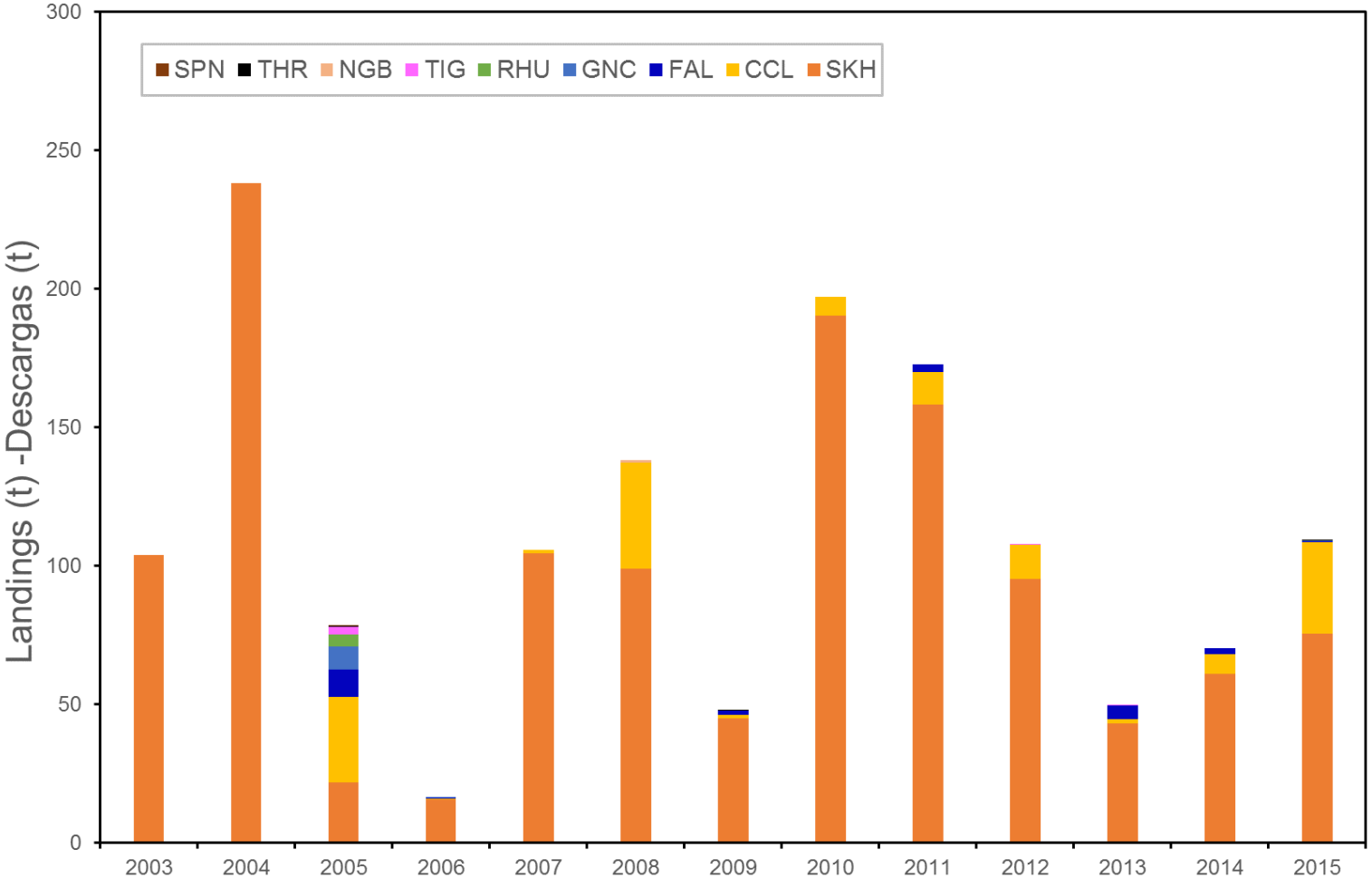
Sharks: species composition of landings
0F53z, 2001-2007

LOA range
~10m-20m



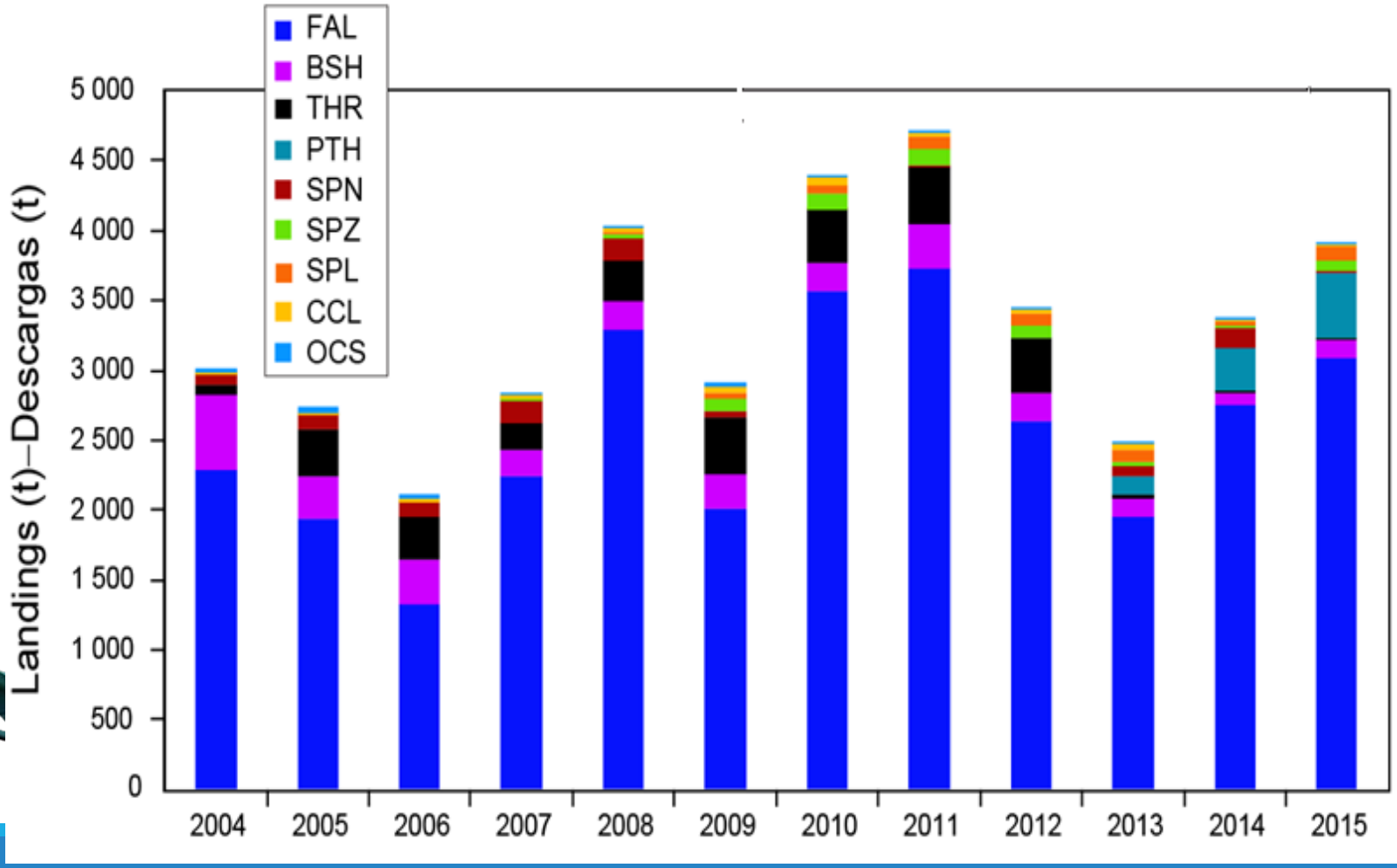
Sharks: species composition of landings 0D55x, 2003-2015

LOA range
~10m-30m



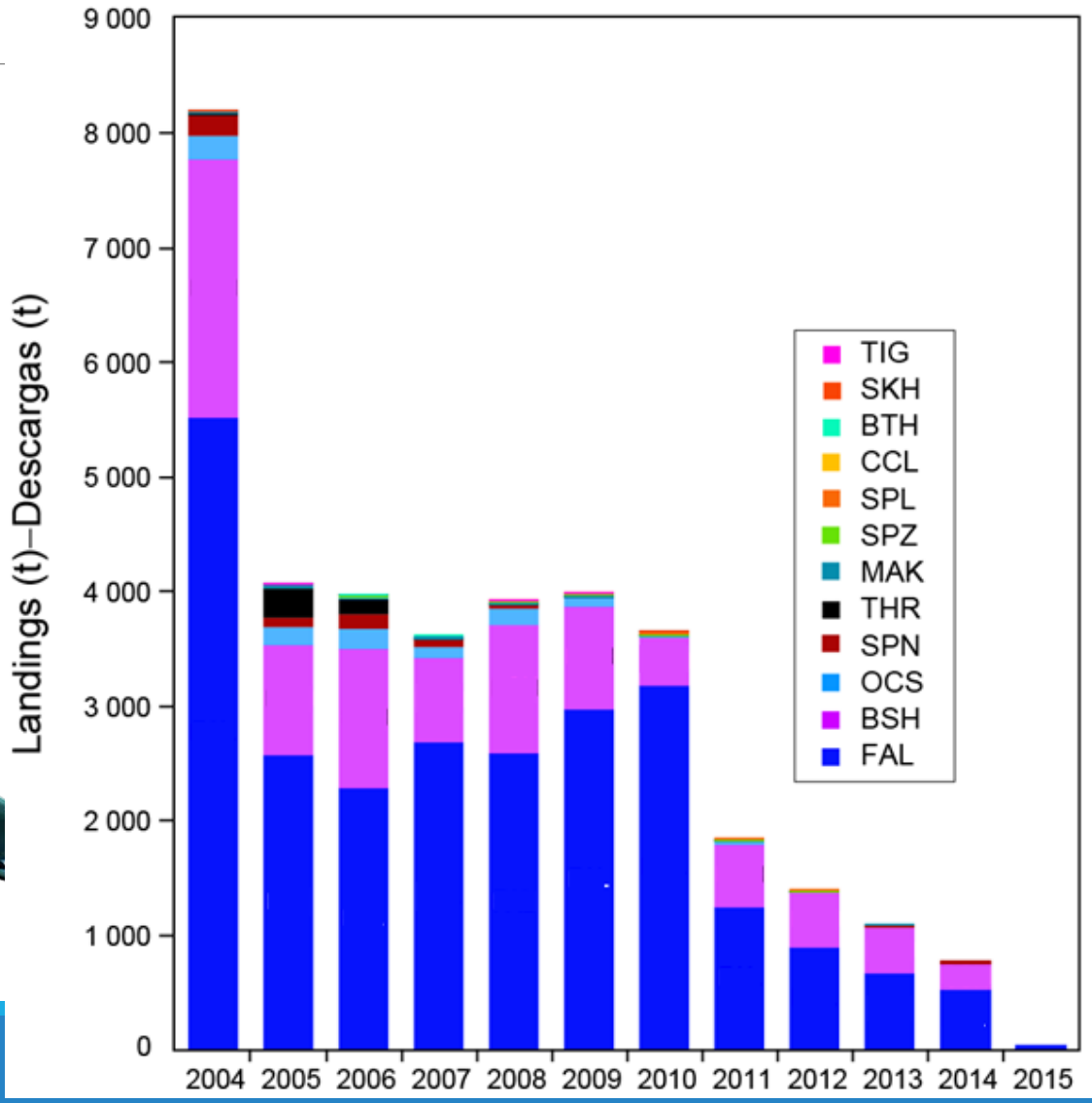
Sharks: species composition of landings
0A56u– Domestic fleet, 2004-2015

LOA range
~10m-25m



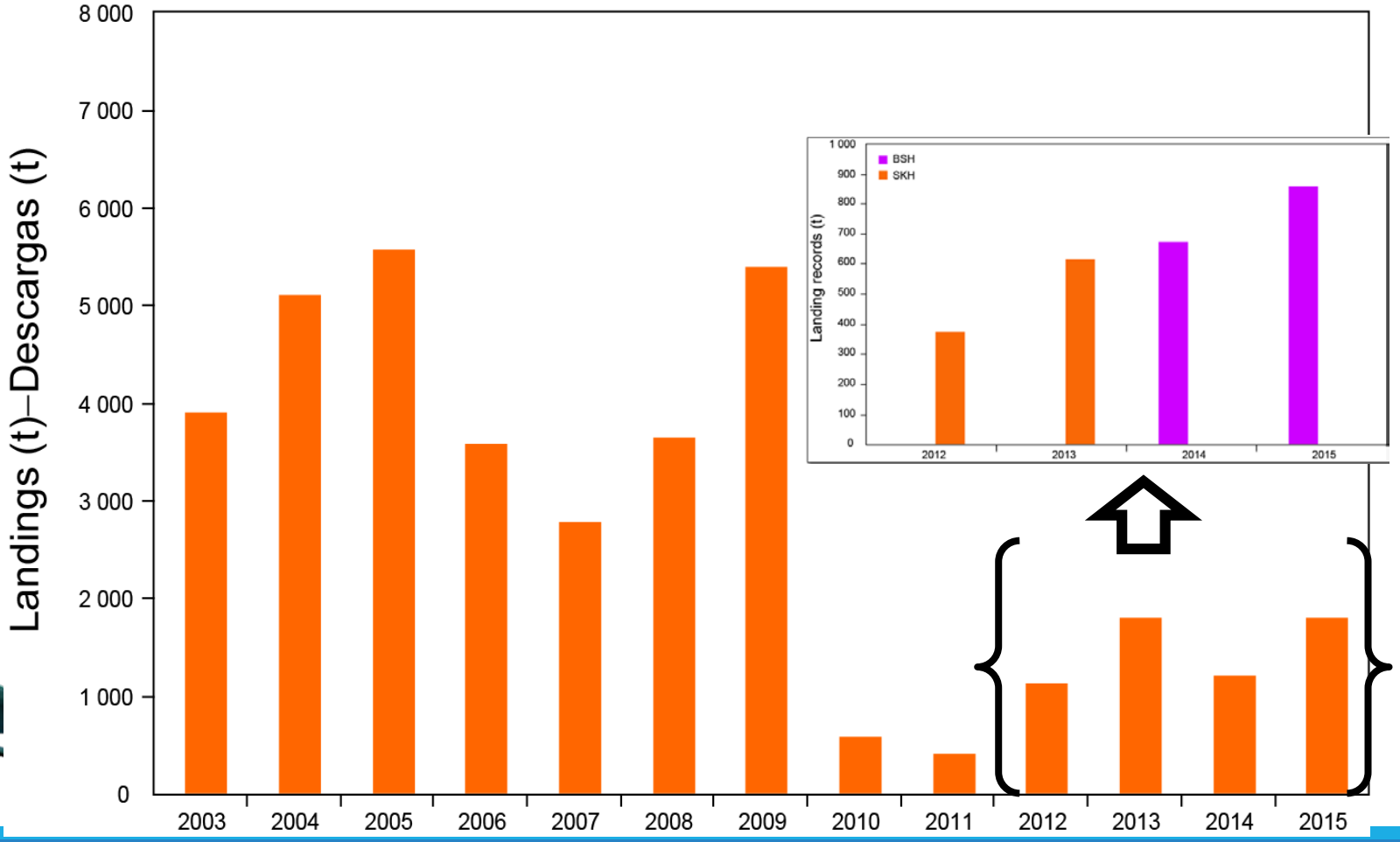
Sharks: species composition of landings
0A56u– Foreign fleet, 2004-2015

LOA range
~20m-30m



Sharks: species composition of landings
0E57 y, 2003-2015

LOA range
~10m-40m



Summary

- These shark landings data are the best available for Central American longline fisheries.
- **0B51v** and **0A56u** have complete landings data (global and species composition).
- Landings data are incomplete (time period and/or fleets covered; species composition) for the other Central American countries.
- The main shark species in the available landings data are: silky shark (60%-90%) and blue shark (20%-60%).

Discussion

- If we assume that fleets of **0F53z**, **0C52w** and **0D55x** account for only a small proportion of the total catch, we have an idea of the order of magnitude of the shark catch.
- Although catches of shark species other than silky and blue appear to be low, their impact on shark populations is unknown.
- An Ecological Risk Assessment should be conducted and data from this study will be useful in that regard.
- With some creative ways of raising data, we can produce catch estimates for silky and blue sharks for stock assessments.
- Some effort data are available from this study and will be summarized in a report.
- The data of this study will be useful for helping to develop sampling programs in Central America.

Future work

- Complete the project report, to include:
  - data showing in this presentation, and
  - landings data for tuna/billfish/dorado (TBD) and small coastal fishes (SCF).
- Develop a database suitable for stock assessment
- Workshop on: Assessment methods for data-poor species (September 2017)
- Worksop on: Sampling methods for Central American longline fisheries

Acknowledgment