

## 6th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

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### SC6-Doc09

A summary of current SPRFMO bycatch records  
(Including species of concern)

Secretariat

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#### Introduction

Paragraph 1c) of CMM 02-2018 (Data standards) ensures that information concerning captures of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern is collected and paragraph 1e) requires that information to be provided to the Secretariat. Paragraph 2a) has similar objectives for observer programmes operating in the SPRFMO Area.

CMM 02-2018 (Data standards) Annex 14 defines “other species of concern” as being:

<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	(Oceanic whitetip shark)	(OCS)
<i>Carcharodon carcharis</i>	(Great white shark)	(WSH)
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	(Basking shark)	(BSK)
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	(Porbeagle shark)	(POR)
<i>Manta</i> spp.	(Manta rays)	(MNT)
<i>Mobula</i> spp.	( <i>Mobula nei</i> )	(RMV)
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	(Whale shark)	(RHN)

Paragraph 9 of the SPRFMO CMM 09-2017 (Seabirds) directs the SC to report on the number and location of seabird interactions annually and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on possible improvements to further mitigate seabird interactions, including *inter alia*, the potential use of trigger limits to manage the incidental catch of seabirds in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Finally, the 2018 SC Work plan under the Ecosystem - Seabird / by catch monitoring tasks requests the SC to:

- Evaluate available observer data on seabird interaction rates (jack mackerel, different squid fisheries, demersal) and determine where estimates can be improved
- Analyse observer-collected seabird interaction data to inform risk assessment
- Progress southern hemisphere quantitative risk assessment (SEFRA)

The objective of this paper is to summarise bycatch information, held by the Secretariat and originating from fishing activity or observer reports, in order to assist the SC to fulfil its obligations.

*Marine mammal, seabird, reptile and species of concern capture records*

The Secretariat has fishing activity information from 2007 and observer information from 2008. Both sets of information were examined for marine mammal, seabird, reptile and other species of concern captures. The results are presented in Table 1.

Fishery	Member	Code	Species	Common name	Amount caught	Date	Datasets	Mitigation measures
Bottom longline	Australia	PFC	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed shearwater	2	Mar 2008	Fishing activity, Observer	Line shooter, Tori lines
Bottom longline	Australia	CVX	<i>Carcharhiniformes</i>	Ground sharks	10 (kg), 1 event	Apr 2008	Fishing activity	
Bottom longline	Australia	TUG	<i>Chelonia myas</i>	Green turtle	2	June 2016	Fishing activity	
Bottom longline	Australia	XXS	<i>Unknown</i>	Sea Snake	1	June 2016	Fishing activity	
Bottom longline	Australia	WSH	<i>Carcharodon carcharis</i>	Great white shark	2	June 2016	Fishing activity	
Bottom longline	Australia	WSH	<i>Carcharodon carcharis</i>	Great white shark	1	Aug 2016	Fishing activity	
Bottom longline	Australia	PFC	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed shearwater	1	Oct 2016	Fishing activity	
Bottom longline	New Zealand	PWA	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>	Gould's Petrel	1	Oct 2014	Fishing activity, Observer	None specified
Bottom Trawl	New Zealand	PDM	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Grey-faced petrel	2	Dec 2015	Observer	Bird baffler
Bottom Trawl	New Zealand	WFS	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	White-faced storm petrel	1 (released alive)	Mar 2016	Observer	Bird baffler
Jack mackerel	EU	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	12 (kg)	Aug 2009	Observer	None specified
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	21 (kg), 2 events	July 2015	Fishing activity, Observer	None specified
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	5 (kg)	Aug 2016	Fishing activity, Observer	None specified
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	36 (kg), 4 events	Sept 2015	Fishing activity, Observer	None specified
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	42 (kg), 4 events	June 2016	Fishing activity, Observer	None specified
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	24 (kg), 3 events	July 2016	Fishing activity	
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	31 (kg), 1 event	Sept 2016	Fishing activity, Observer	None specified
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	23 (kg)	July 2017	Fishing activity	
Jack mackerel	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	30 (kg)	Sept 2017	Fishing activity	

**Table 1:** Summary of captures of seabird, mammal, reptile and species of concern from SPRFMO submissions

*note: 2017 observer data are not due until 30 September 2018*

Oceanic white tip sharks are in the order Carcharhiniformes, which is why the extract identified “Ground sharks”. The Secretariat has no further information on the exact species that was caught during April 2008.

Last year some new records appeared for sea snakes, turtles, great white sharks and porbeagle sharks. Information provided by Korea suggests that rare captures of porbeagle sharks could be a consistent feature of the Jack mackerel fishery. It is worth recognizing that, within the jack mackerel fishery, Korean data generally contains the most amount of information on by catch species.

The bottom fisheries consistently report the widest range of species catches and the only recorded captures of seabirds are from these fisheries.

The Squid fishery operating on the western side of the south Pacific has not reported capturing any marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles nor any other species of concern.

The Secretariat is continuing to follow developments with the Bycatch Data Exchange Protocol being implemented within the tuna RFMOs with the hope of producing additional summaries that may help the SC to assess the impact of fishing on non-target, associated or dependent species.