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

Secretariat

Introduction

Paragraph 1c) of CMM 02-2017 (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 02-2017 (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.	(Mobula nei)	(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

In addition, the SC’s current research plan Section 6.1 outlines the approach the SC wishes to take when assessing the impact of fishing on non-target, associated or dependant species.

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	FAO code	Species	Common name	Amount caught	Month	Mitigation measures	Datasets
BLL	Australia	PFC	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed shearwater	2	March 2018	Line shooter, Tori lines	Fishing activity, Observer
BLL	Australia	CVX	Carcharhiniformes	Ground sharks	10 (kg)	April 2008		Fishing activity
CJM	EU	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	12 (kg)	August 2009	None specified	Observer
BLL	NZ	PWA	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>	Gould's Petrel	1	October 2014	None specified	Fishing activity, Observer
CJM	Korea	POR	Lamna nasus	Porbeagle shark	62 (kg)	Jul-Sep 2015	None specified	Fishing activity, Observer
BT	NZ	PDM	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Grey-faced petrel	2	Dec 2015	Bird baffler	Observer
BLL	Australia	TUG	<i>Chelonia myas</i>	Green turtle	2	June 2016		Fishing activity
BLL	Australia	XXS	Unknown	Sea Snake	1	June 2016		Fishing activity
BLL	Australia	WSH	<i>Carcharodon carcharis</i>	Great white shark	3	Jun-Oct 2016		Fishing activity
CJM	Korea	POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark	97 (kg)	Jun-Sep 2016		Fishing activity
BLL	Australia	PFC	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Flesh-footed shearwater	1	October 2016		Fishing activity

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

note: 2016 observer data are not due until 30 September 2017

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 on during April 2008.

This year some new records have appeared being sea snakes, turtles, great white sharks and porbeagle sharks. Further information is expected on those captures after the 2016 observer data has been received.

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 dependant species.