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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

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Agenda Item 10.3

DEVELOPMENTS IN RELEVANT REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMOs)

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Action Requested:

- Take note of the report.
- Consider options for collaboration.
- Provide guidance to the Secretariat and Advisory Committee.

DEVELOPMENTS IN RELEVANT REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMOs)

Background

1. The Secretariat have been asked to provide an overview of relevant resolutions and active conservation management measures of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) relating to the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MOU. The RFMO's are international organizations formed by countries with fishing interests in an area and are open both to countries in the region (coastal states) and countries with interests in the fisheries concerned.

2. The following document provides an overview of the relevant developments concerning the measures relating to the conservation of Marine Turtles as non-target species of the RMFO's since the 7th Meeting of Signatories (MOS7) of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU (September 2014), including:

- Interaction and bycatch mitigation measures
- Issues concerning data collection requirements

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Region

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

3. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. The following relevant Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission are currently in force[1]:

Relevant Resolutions currently in force:	
15th Session of the IOTC (14-22 March 2011)	IOTC-2011-S15-R[2]
11/04: On a Regional Observer Scheme	Adopted in the 15th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: • Which requires data on marine turtle interactions to be recorded by observers and reported to the IOTC within 150 days. The requirement under Resolution 11/04 in conjunction with the reporting requirements under Resolution 12/04, means that all CPCs should be reporting marine turtle interactions as part of their annual report to the Scientific Committee.
15th Session of the IOTC (14-22 March 2011)	IOTC-2011-S15-R[3]
12/04: On the conservation of marine turtles	Adopted in the 16th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission[4]: • Recognizes the threatened status of the populations of

[1] Many of these listed resolutions superseded other resolutions adopted in sessions of the IOTC since the 7th Meeting of Signatories of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU.
[2] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-fifteenth-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission.
[3] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-fifteenth-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission.
[4] This resolution, available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-sixteenth-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission, references IOSEA and the Marine Turtle MOU. Resolution 12/04 also includes an annual evaluation requirement (para. 17) by the Scientific Committee.

Relevant Resolutions currently in force:	
	the six marine turtle species[5] found in the Indian Ocean and that some tuna fishing operations carried out in the Indian Ocean can adversely impact marine turtles. This resolution makes mandatory the collection and provision of data on marine turtle interactions and the use of best handling practices to ensure the best chances of survival for any marine turtles returned to the sea after capture. • All fishing vessels of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC) are therefore required to implement the FAO Guidelines to reduce Marine Turtle mortality in fishing operations[6].
19th Session of the IOTC (27 April-1 May 2015)	IOTC-2015-S19-R[7]
15/01: On the Recording of Catch and Effort Data by Fishing Vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence	• To collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of large-scale fish aggregating devices and others, as appropriate, and their possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental bycatch of non-target species, particularly sharks and turtles.
15/02: Mandatory Statistical Reporting Requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's)	• Noting the Scientific Committee's concern that the lack of data from CPC fisheries under the mandate of the IOTC on the mortality of marine turtles and marine mammals undermines the ability to estimate levels of marine turtle and marine mammal bycatch and consequently the IOTC's capacity to respond and prevent adverse effects of fishing on these marine species.
15/09: On a Fish Aggregating Devices[8] (FADS) Working Group	• Creation of an ad hoc working group on FADs, drifting and anchored, to assess the consequences of the increasing number and technological developments of FADs in tuna fisheries and their ecosystems, in order to inform and advise on future FAD-related management options.
20th Session of the IOTC (23–27 May 2016)	IOTC-2016-S20-R[9]
16/07: On the use of Artificial Lights to Attract Fish	• Fishing vessels and other vessels including support, supply and auxiliary vessels flying the flag of an IOTC Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (collectively CPCs) are prohibited from using, installing or operating surface or submerged artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species beyond territorial waters. • The use of lights on DFADs is also already prohibited.

[5] These are: Flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).
[6] *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2010) can be retrieved from: Http://Www.Fao.Org/3/i0725e/i0725e.Pdf
[7] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-19th-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission
[7] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-19th-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission
[8] "Fish Aggregating Device (FAD)" is defined as a permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for consequent capture.
[9] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-20th-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission-0.

Relevant Resolutions currently in force:	
21st Session of the IOTC (22–26 May 2017)	IOTC-2017-S21-R[10]
17/07: On the Prohibition to use Large-scale Driftnets in the IOTC Area	• The use of large-scale driftnets[11] on the high seas within the IOTC area of competence shall be prohibited. The use of large-scale driftnets in the entire IOTC area of competence shall be prohibited by 1 January 2022. • Given the negative ecological impacts of large-scale driftnets in areas frequented by marine mammals and turtles that large-scale driftnet fisheries have a major impact in the ecosystems, the capacity to catch species of concern to the IOTC, and also that they are likely to undermine the effectiveness of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures
22nd Session of the IOTC (21–25 May 2018)	IOTC-2018-S22-R[12]
18/04: On BioFAD Experimental Project	• To acknowledge and support the Biodegradable FAD (BIOFAD) project with the objective of reducing the impact and the amount of synthetic marine debris of the use of non-biodegradable FAD in the ecosystem as requested in Resolution 17/08. • The Scientific Committee will analyse the outcomes of the project and provide scientific advice on possible additional FAD management options for consideration by the Commission in 2021.
23rd Session of the IOTC (17-21 June 2019)	IOTC-2019-S23-R[13]
19/02: Procedures on a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan	• To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall require their flagged vessels to use non-entangling designs and materials in the construction of FADs. • Noting that the IOTC Scientific Committee advised the Commission that only non-entangling FADs, both drifting and anchored, should be designed and deployed to prevent the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles and other species. • This Resolution sets the maximum number of operational buoys followed by any purse seine vessel at 300 at any one time. • This resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2020.

4. The IOTC Working Party in Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)[14] aims to review and analyse matters relevant to bycatch, by-product and non-target species, which are affected by IOTC fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species (i.e. sharks, marine turtles, seabirds, marine mammals and other fishes), as well as the ecosystems in which they operate; and to develop mechanisms which can be used to better integrate ecosystem considerations into the scientific advice provided by the Scientific Committee to the Commission.

[10] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-21st-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission.
[11] "Large-scale driftnets" are defined as gillnets or other nets or a combination of nets that are more than 2.5 kilometres in length whose purpose is to enmesh, entrap, or entangle fish by drifting on the surface of, or in, the water column.
[12] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/report-22nd-session-indian-ocean-tuna-commission.
[13] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/Commission/23/Report.
[14] The WPEB have had 5 annual meetings since MOS7 (September 2014).

5. Reports on the IOTC Scientific Committee meetings that have taken place since the 7th Meeting of Signatories of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU consistently state that no assessment has been undertaken by the IOTC WPEB for marine turtles due to the lack of data being submitted by the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties[15]. The reports emphasize that the available evidence indicates considerable risk to marine turtles in the Indian Ocean. The primary source of data that drive the ability of the WPEB to determination a status for the Indian Ocean (total interactions by fishing vessels) is highly uncertain and should be addressed as a matter of priority.

6. Document *IOTC–2019–WPEB15–07_Rev2 Review of the Statistical Data Available for Bycatch Species* attached as an Annex summarises the information the IOTC received for sharks, seabirds, marine turtles, marine mammals and other bycatch. The document describes the progress achieved in relation to the collection and verification of data, identifies problem areas and proposes actions that could be undertaken to improve them. It emphasises that the reported data available on marine turtles caught in the IOTC area of competence are poor quality, sparse and not standardised.

7. Details by CPC on the implementation of the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Marine Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations by September 2018 can be found in the Report of the 14th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch[16].

Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

8. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was established by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention). The Commission has approved the following Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) to be reviewed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme:

Measures adopted by the WCPFC since MOS7:	
15th Regular Session of the WCOFC (10- 14 December 2018)	WCPCF15[17]
CMM 2018-04 Conservation and Management Measure Regarding Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles	• Amendments to the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme (ROP) minimum standard data fields, both of which seek to increase sea turtle protection, and stated it looked forward to additional work in the margins of WCPFC15 to progress the measures. • Commission Members, Cooperating non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) will implement, as appropriate the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations and ensure the safe handling of all captured sea turtles, in order to improve their survival. • All data collected by the WCPFC ROP on sea turtle interactions shall be reported as agreed to under other Commission data collection provisions. • CCMs shall require fishermen on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to bring aboard, if

[15] The Scientific Committee meetings that have taken place since the 7th Meeting of Signatories of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU include the 17th – 21st references to related reports: *IOTC-2014-SC17-R, IOTC-2015-SC18-R, IOTC-2016-SC19-R, IOTC-2017-SC20-R, IOTC-2018-SC21-R[E]_Rev1.*
[16] Available at https://www.iotc.org/documents/WPEB/14/Report_E.
[17]CMM 2008-03 with amendments WCPFC15- 2018-DP06_rev3 to be found: https://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/WCPFC15%20Summary%20Report%202018_final%20issued%204%20May%202019_optb.pdf

	practicable, any captured hard-shell sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster its recovery. • This measure will take effect on 1 January 2020 and shall replace CMM 2008-03 on Sea Turtles.

9. The Commission supports the Scientific Committee as a subsidiary body to the WCPFC. The following findings, concerning interactions with marine turtles, were presented in the annual regular sessions of the Scientific Committee:

10. WCPFCSC12[18]: Document *SC12-EB-WP-11* reviews the results of the first workshop on Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness in Longline Fisheries. The workshop considered data from 31 fleets and factors associated with 2,300 observed sea turtle interactions. The results indicated that interactions rates are lower when large circle hooks are used, higher at the two hooks closest to the floats and higher when squid baits are used.

11. WCPFCSC13[19]: Document *SC13-EB-WP-02* reviews the scientific information on drifting Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD)[20] designs that have a high risk of entangling sharks, turtles and other species, such as designs that use open net panels with (stretched) mesh sizes of 7cm or greater. Results concerning interaction marine turtles in the WCPF Convention Area are as follows[21]:

    - The WCPFC does not hold sufficient information to quantify the severity of the threat posed by longline fisheries to sea turtle populations;
    - The effect of large circle hooks (size 16/0 or larger) in reducing interactions is generally greater than the effect of fish bait.
    - The effect of fish bait in reducing both interactions and mortality is generally similar to that of removal of the first hook position closest to each float;
    - The effect of large circle hooks (size 16/0 or larger) in reducing both interactions and mortality is generally similar to that of removal of the first two hook positions closest to each float;
    - Noting that the workshop separated shallow and deep sets at 10 hooks per basket, it found that–although interaction rates are higher in shallow-set longlines, introducing mitigation to deep-set longlines would deliver greater reductions in total interactions as compared to shallow-set longlines due to the four-times greater effort in deep-set longline fisheries;
    - Similarly, introducing mitigation to deep-set longlines would deliver greater reductions in at-vessel mortality as compared to shallow-set mitigation because sea turtles have a higher probability of asphyxiation in deep sets.

12. Document SC13-ST-WP-05, *Summary of purse seine fishery bycatch at a regional scale, 2003-2016* provides an overview of purse seine bycatch data held by Pacific Community (SPC)and estimates of bycatch for the large-scale purse seine fleet for 2003

[18] Presented in the report of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (WCPFCSC12): https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/sc12

[19] Presented in the report of the Thirteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (WCPFCSC13): https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/sc13

[20] "Fish Aggregating Device (FAD)" is defined as a permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for consequent capture

[21] These results were re-emphasized in Fourteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (WCPFCSC14): "The effects of these and other combinations of mitigation measures are quantified and discussed in the final workshop report 'Joint Analysis of Sea Turtle Mitigation Effectiveness' which can serve as a reference for the Commission's further consideration of CMM 2008-03 ON Sea Turtles".

to 2016. It found that the median estimated bycatch for large-scale purse seine fleets in 2016 were 5,600 metric tonnes of finfish, 5,900 specimens of billfish, 67,900 specimens of sharks, 330 specimens of marine mammals and 212 specimens of turtles.

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

13. The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) throughout its distribution. Currently, no specific measures regarding Marine Turtles are in place, as all fishing for SBT occurs within the Convention Areas of IOTC, ICCAT, or WCPFC. The mitigation/release measures that are applied by vessels fishing for SBT are the same as those that are defined by IOTC, ICCAT and WCPFC depending on which Convention Area the fishing is occurring at the time.

14. The CCSBT Working Group on Ecologically Related Species (ERSWG) provides information and advice based on research which determines the nature and extent of interactions with Ecologically Related Species (ERS) in SBT fisheries, determines the effects of SBT and other fisheries on ERS and assesses current or potential measures to reduce ERS captures. The ERSWG have had their 11th and 12th Annual Meetings since IOSEA MO7 (September 2014). The ERSWG in their 11th Annual meeting gave recommendations on a Performance Review on the CCSBT that was undertaken in 2014. The results show that there is still room to improve the framework on which precise data is collected on ERS. This approach was documented in the reports of the 21st and 22nd Annual Meeting of the CCSBT Commission[22].

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

15. The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) is the newest RFMO that relates to the Indian IOSEA. SIOFA was signed on 7 July 2006 and entered into force in June 2012. The first Meeting of the Parties was held in October 2013. The objectives of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) are to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the area through cooperation among the Contracting Parties, and to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in the area, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the area that are Contracting Parties to this Agreement, and in particular the least developed among them and small-island developing States.

16. The following relevant Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the SIOFA Meeting of Parties that are currently in force:

CMM's adopted by the SIOFA since MOS7:	
4th Meeting of Parties of SIOFA (26-30 June 2017)	SIOFA-MoP4[23]
2017/05: Regarding the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets and deep-water gillnets in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Area	• Notes the concerns of the impact of large-scale pelagic driftnets and deep-water gillnets on fishery resources, bycatch species and deep-sea habitats and ecosystems, including the impact of lost and abandoned nets.

[22] The Reports of the 21st and 22nd Annual Meetings of the Commission can be retrieved from:
https://www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/meetings/meeting_reports/ccsbt_22/report_of_CCSBT22.pdf
https://www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/meetings/meeting_reports/ccsbt_21/report_of_CCSBT21.pdf
[23] Retrieved from https://www.apsoi.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/MoP4%20Report%20FINAL.pdf

	• The use of all large-scale pelagic driftnets[24] in the Agreement Area is prohibited for any vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) or participating fishing entity (PFE).
6th Meeting of Parties of SIOFA (25-29 June 2018)	SIOFA-MoP6[25]
2018/02: For the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area	Vessel Catch and Effort Data: Collection of data 17. Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) and Participating Fishing Entities (PFEs) shall ensure that data on fishing activities, including for target, non-target and associated and dependent species such as marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds or 'other species of concern', are collected from vessels flying their flag that are fishing in the Agreement Area[26]

Recommended Actions

18. The Meeting of the Signatories is recommended to:

a) consider options for collaboration.

b) provide guidance to the Secretariat and Advisory Committee.

Annex: Document *IOTC–2019–WPEB15–07_Rev2 Review of the Statistical Data Available for Bycatch Species*

[24] 'Large-scale pelagic driftnets' (drift gillnets) are defined as a gillnet or other net or a combination of nets which is more than 2.5 kilometres in length the purpose of which is to enmesh, entrap or entangle fish by drifting on the surface or in the water.
[25] Retrieved from http://apsoi.org/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/MoP6-Report_FINAL.pdf
[26] Reporting on incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern'. For each species caught: Species name, Number alive, Number dead or injured.

REVIEW OF THE STATISTICAL DATA AVAILABLE FOR BYCATCH SPECIES

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT[1], AUGUST 2019

PURPOSE

To provide participants at the 15h Session of the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB15) with a review of the status of the information available on non-targeted, associated and dependent species of IOTC fisheries, termed 'Bycatch'. Bycatch has been defined by the IOTC Scientific Committee as:

> "*All species, other than the 16 species listed in Annex B of the IOTC Agreement, caught or interacted with by fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence. A bycatch species includes those non-IOTC species which are (a) retained (byproduct), (b) incidentally taken in a fishery and returned to the sea (discarded); or (c) incidentally affected by interacting with fishing equipment in the fishery, but not taken*."

This paper covers data on sharks[2], seabirds, marine turtles, marine mammals and other bycatch in the IOTC Secretariat databases as of 20 August 2019.

This document summarises the current information received for species or species groups other than the 16 IOTC species listed in the IOTC Agreement, in accordance with relevant Resolutions adopted by the Commission. The document describes the progress achieved in relation to the collection and verification of data, identifies problem areas and proposes actions that could be undertaken to improve them.

BACKGROUND

Overview of data reporting requirements

A summary of the type of datasets that need to be provided for sharks and other bycatch species including the time periods concerned, fleets and species and the level of requirement for reporting (mandatory or recommended) are provided in Table 1 and Table 2.

Sharks: The same standards as those existing for IOTC species apply to the most commonly caught species of sharks and rays, as defined by the Commission in 2015, including:

- **Nominal catches** which are highly aggregated statistics for each species estimated per fleet, gear and year for a large area. If these data are not reported the Secretariat attempts to estimate the total catch although this is not possible in many cases. A range of sources is used for this purpose (including: partial catch and effort data; data in the FAO FishStat database; catches estimated by the IOTC from data collected through port sampling; data published through web pages or other means).
- **Catch-and-effort data** which refer to the fine-scale data – usually from logbooks, and reported per fleet, year, gear, type of school, month, grid and species. Information on the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and supply vessels is also collected.
- **Length frequency data** which refer to individual body lengths of IOTC species and sharks per fleet, year, gear, type of school, month and 5 degrees square areas.
- **Observer data** which refer to fine-scale data as collected by scientific observers onboard vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area, and reported at the end of each observer trip.

Seabirds, marine turtles, marine mammals, and other species**:** the following standards apply:

- **Total bycatch** which are highly aggregated statistics for all species combined or, where available, by species, estimated per fleet, gear and year for the whole IOTC area.
- **Catch-and-effort** and **observer data:** As for sharks.

A summary of the Resolutions relevant to each taxonomic group are provided in detail in Appendix 1.

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[2] Following standard international practice, the term shark is accepted to include both sharks and rays.

Table 1. Timeline of reporting requirements indicating the years for which each type of dataset should be reported[3]

Timeline of reporting requirements

		<--------------	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	----------->	Deadlines
<--------------	Historic data on sharks according to IOTC reporting requirements												Jun (Dec) 30th 2006
Mandatory			Nominal catch data for main shark species										Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Voluntary			Nominal catch data for other shark species										Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Mandatory					Catch-and-effort data for main shark species								Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Voluntary	all CPCs				Catch-and-effort data for other shark species								Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Mandatory					Size frequency data for main shark species								Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Voluntary					Size frequency data for other shark species								Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Mandatory	all CPCs						Total incidental catches of marine turtles						Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Mandatory	all CPCs with vessels >=24m in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels						Scientific observer data from vessels >=24m						No later than 150 days after the end of each observer trip
Mandatory	all CPCs with LL fleets in the IOTC area							Total incidental catches of seabirds from LL					Jun (Dec) 30th of year following that for which data are due
Mandatory	all CPCs with PS, LL and GN fleets in the IOTC area									Total incidental catches of marine mammals			as above; first report due 2014
Mandatory	all CPCs with vessels <24m in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels									Scientific observer data from vessels <24m			No later than 150 days after the end of each observer trip

[3] "Main" shark species mentioned here are those which the Commission identified as mandatory for reporting in Resolutions 08/04, 13/03 and 15/01

Table 2. List of bycatch species of concern to the IOTC and reporting requirements, by type of fishery. Fisheries: Purse seine (PS), Longline (LL), Gillnet (GN), Pole-and-line (BB), Hand line (HL), Trolling (TR).

Common name	**Scientific name**	Species Code	**Reporting requirements by fishery**					
			PS	**LL**	**GN**	**BB**	**HL**	**TR**
Blue shark	*Prionace glauca*	**BSH**		**08**	**13**			
Mako sharks	*Isurus spp.*	**MAK**		**08**	**13**			
Porbeagle	*Lamna nasus*	**POR**		**08**	**13**			
Hammerhead Sharks	*Sphyrnidae*	**SPN**		**13**	**13**			
Whale shark	*Rhincodon typus*	**RHN**	**13**		**13**			
Thresher sharks	*Alopias spp.*	**THR**	**13**	**13**	**13**			
Oceanic whitetip shark	*Carcharhinus longimanus*	**OCS**	**13**	**13**	**13**			
Crocodile shark	*Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*	PSK		e	e			
Silky shark	*Carcharhinus falciformis*	**FAL**	**15**	**15**				
Tiger shark	*Galeocerdo cuvier*	TIG		e	e			
Great White Shark	*Carcharodon carcharias*	WSH		e				
Pelagic stingray	*Pteroplatytrygon violacea*	PSL		e	e			
Mantas and devil rays	*Manta spp. (Mobulidae)*	MAN	e	e	e			
Other sharks nei		SKH	e	**08**	**13**	**13**	**13**	**13**
Other rays nei		SRX	e	e	e	**13**	**13**	**13**
Other marine fish nei		MZZ	e	**08**	**13**	**13**	**13**	**13**
Marine turtles nei		TTX	**13**	**13**	**13**	**13**	**13**	**13**
Seabirds nei				**13**	**13**			
Marine mammals nei			**13**	**13**	**13**			

Reporting requirements:
08: As from 2008 catch shall be recorded in logbooks and reported to the IOTC (08/04)
13: As from 2013 catch shall be recorded in logbooks and reported to the IOTC (13/03)
15: As from 2015 catch shall be recorded in logbooks and reported to the IOTC (15/01)
e: As from 2013 recording and reporting of catches to the IOTC is encouraged (13/03)

STATUS OF REPORTING

The most common bycatch species with mandatory reporting requirements (indicated by the date they came into force) and other species for which reporting is encouraged (shown as 'e') are listed in Table 2. Table 2 summarises those bycatch species identified by the Commission, through the adoption of IOTC Resolution 15/01 *On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence* by type of fishery. A list of shark species known to occur in Indian Ocean fisheries directed at IOTC species or pelagic sharks is provided in Appendix 2. Species of seabirds and marine turtles are presented in Table and Table , respectively. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the datasets that have been provided by CPCs for industrial fleets according to the requirements in Table 1. This table includes all parties having reported some of the specified data, regardless of how complete the datasets provided might be. The data sets include:

- Historical data on sharks reported according to IOTC requirements
- Nominal catch data for 'main' shark species
- Nominal catch data for all other shark species (including those reported in aggregate)
- Catch and effort data for 'main' shark species
- Catch and effort data for all other shark species (including those reported in aggregate)
- Size frequency data for 'main' shark species
- Size frequency data for all other shark species
- Estimates of total incidental catches of seabirds from longline and gillnet fisheries
- Estimates of total incidental catches of marine turtles
- Estimates of total incidental catches of marine mammals

The availability of shark nominal catch data over the period 1950–2017 for those shark species identified by the Commission (Table 2), by species, gear type, and year, is presented in Appendix 4. The collection and reporting of catches of sharks caught in association with species managed by the IOTC (tuna and tuna-like species) has been very inconsistent over time and so the information on the bycatch of sharks gathered in the IOTC database is thought to be highly incomplete.

BYCATCH AT THE ECOSYSTEM LEVEL

Reported total nominal catches of all species caught by Indian Ocean fisheries have been increasing over time, with a particularly dramatic increase in the amount of tuna catches reported since the 1980s (**Fig. 1**a). Reported catches of sharks have ranged from approximately 20% in the 1960s and 1970s to approximately 5% of total catch in recent years (**Fig. 1**b).

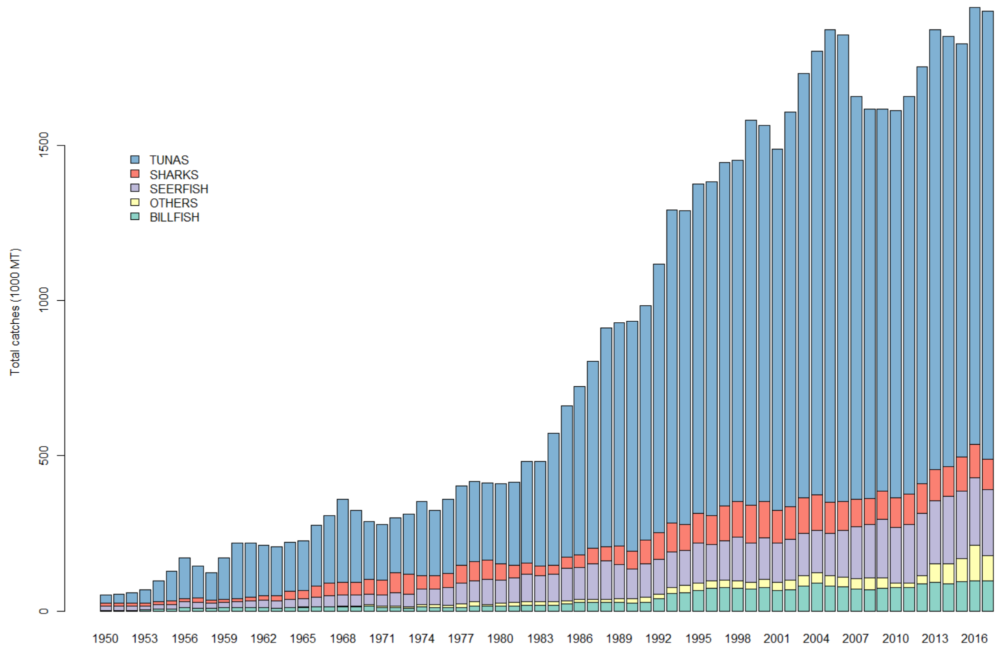


Fig. 1a. Indian Ocean reported nominal catch trends of major species groups

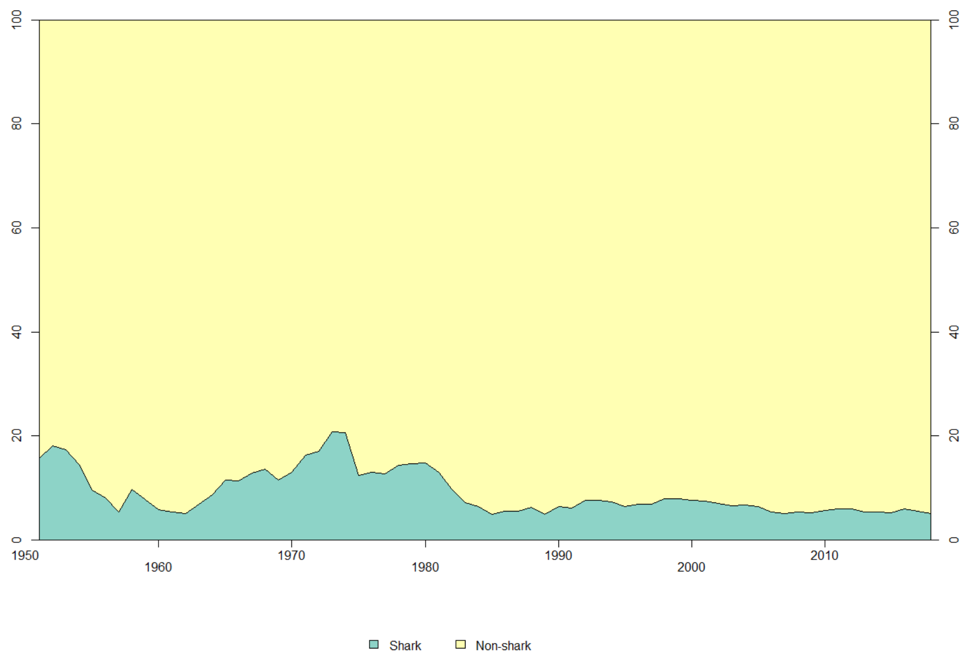


Fig. 1b. Proportion of reported shark to total Indian Ocean catch

SUMMARY OF FISHERIES DATA AVAILABLE FOR SHARKS

Data available on the total nominal catches of sharks in the Indian Ocean

The nominal catch data for all shark species are presented in Fig. 2 by fleet. Very few fleets reported catches of sharks in the 1950s, but the number of fleets reporting has increased over time. Total reported shark catches have also increased over time with a particularly dramatic increase in reported catches in the 1990s, reaching a peak of approximately 120 000 mt in 1999. Since then, nominal catches have fluctuated and are currently around 100 000 mt.

The nominal catch data should be considered with caution given the historically low reporting rates. In addition to the low level of reporting, catches that have been reported are thought to represent only those species that are retained onboard without taking in to account discards. In many cases the reported catches refer to dressed weights while no information is provided on the type of processing undertaken, creating more uncertainty in the estimates of catches in live weight equivalents. Nevertheless, reporting rates in recent years have improved substantially (Appendix 4) following the adoption of new measures by the Commission on sharks and other bycatch, which call for IOTC CPCs to collect and report more detailed statistics on bycatch species to the IOTC Secretariat.

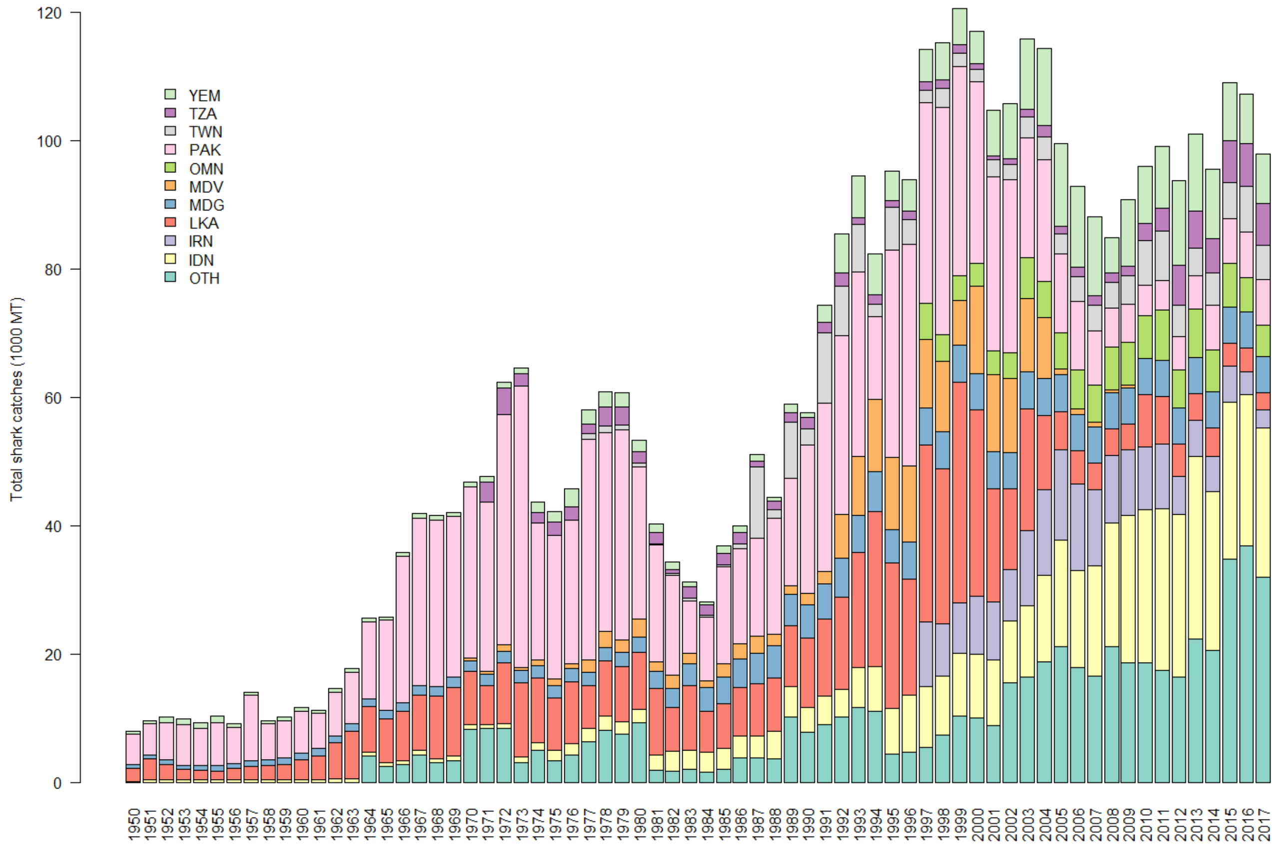


Fig. 2. Total reported nominal catches of sharks by fleet from 1950–2017

[YEM = Yemen, TZA = Tanzania, TWN = Taiwan,China, PAK = Pakistan, OMN = Oman, MDV = Maldives, MDG = Madagascar, LKA = Sri Lanka, IRN = I.R.Iran, IDN = Indonesia, OTH = all others]

Main reported gear types associated with shark bycatch for IOTC fisheries

Fig. 3 shows the distribution of catches across gear type. Gillnets are associated with the highest reported nominal catches of sharks, historically and are currently responsible for over 40% of reported catches. This is followed by the longline fleets which contributed substantially to shark catches from the 1990s, and handline and troll line fisheries which have increased in more recent years. Of the gillnet fisheries, the majority comprise standard, unclassified gillnets, followed by combinations of gillnets, handlines and troll lines and gillnet/longline combinations. Fig. 4 shows the main gear types used by fleets since 2000.

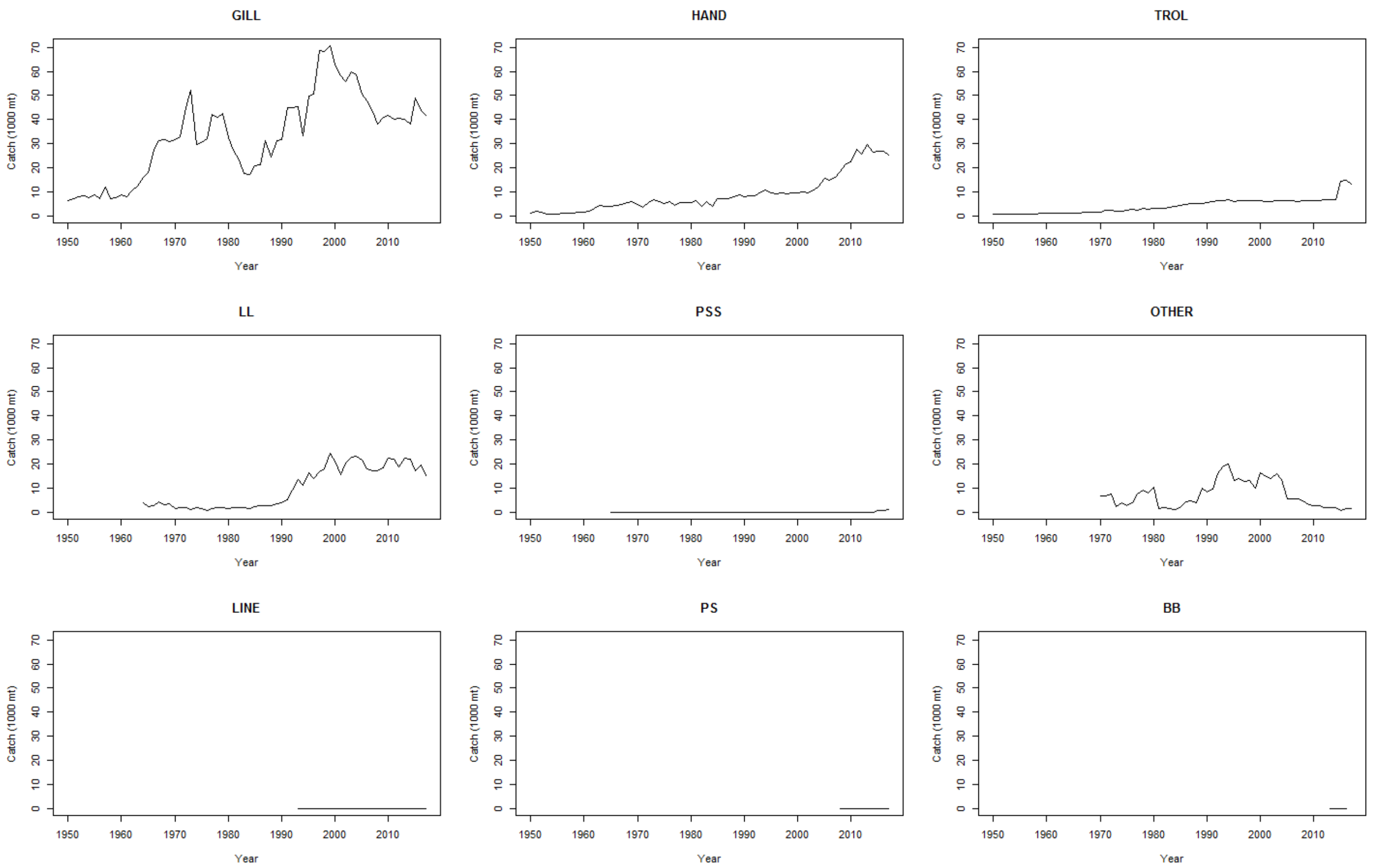


Fig 3. Nominal catches of sharks reported by gear type (1950–2017)

[Bait boat/pole and line (BB), gillnet (GILL), Handline (HAND), Line (LINE), Longline (LL), Purse seine (PS), Small purse seines/Ring nets (PSS), Troll lines (TROLL) and all other gear types (OTHER)]

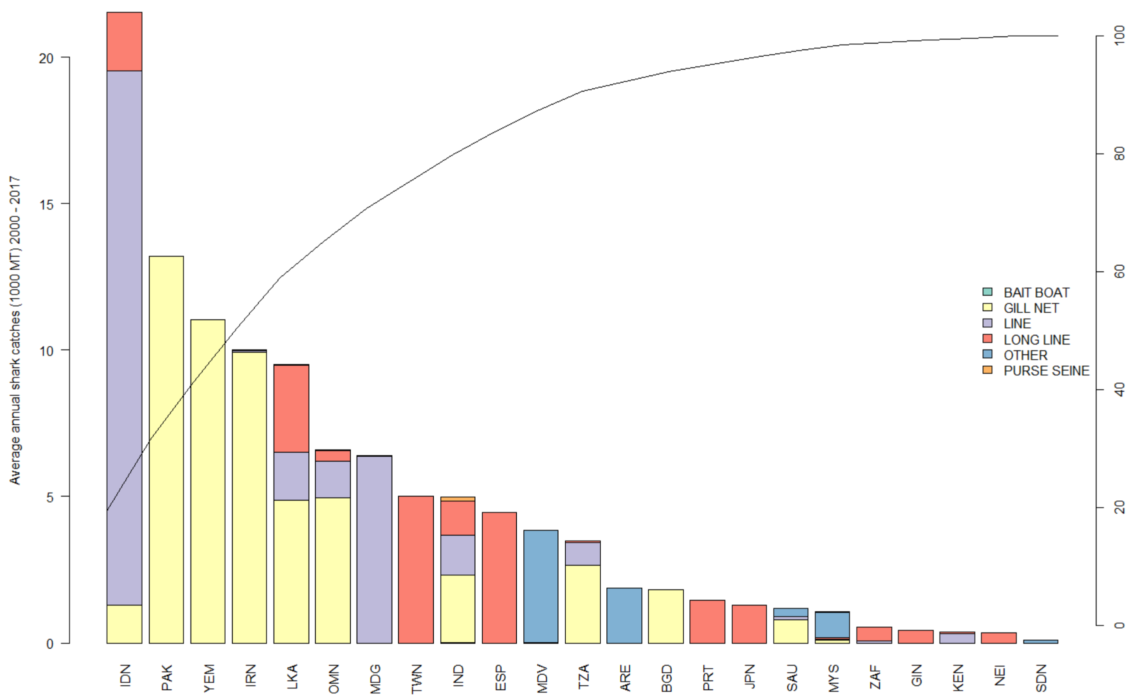


Fig. 4. Average annual shark catches by gear type groups and reporting country in recent years (2000-2017)

Main species of sharks caught in IOTC fisheries

A list of all species of sharks that are known to occur in Indian Ocean fisheries directed at IOTC species (IOTC fisheries) or pelagic sharks is provided in Appendix 2. In addition to an increase in reporting of shark catches over time, the resolution of the data provided has been improving with an increased proportion of reported shark catches provided identified to species/genus (Fig.5a). Of the shark catches reported by species, the blue shark forms the greatest proportion, comprising over 60% of total catches, with silky, milk, threshers, hammerheads, makos, oceanic whitetip sharks and manta rays forming a smaller percentage (Fig. 5b).

The increase in reporting by species is apparent in the species-specific catch series (Fig. 8a) with steadily increasing trends in reporting since the 1970s seen for blue sharks, thresher sharks, hammerhead sharks and mako sharks, all levelling off in recent years. The oceanic whitetip shark nominal catch series is dominated by the Sri Lankan longline-gillnet fisheries for which catches peaked just prior to 2000. The reported catches of silky shark show a similar trend with a peak just prior to 2000 followed by a steady decline, again based almost exclusively on data from the Sri Lankan longline-gillnet combination fisheries. Fig.6b highlights how the catch series of each species is dominated by very few fleets which are reporting by species and may therefore not be fully reflective of the ocean-wide trend.

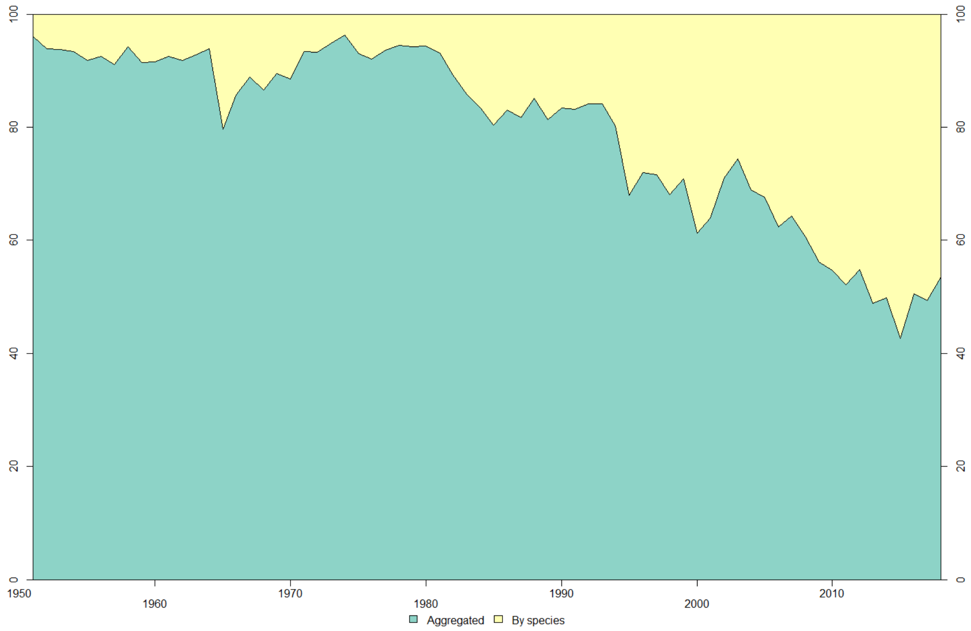


Fig. 5a. Proportion of shark catches reported as aggregated or by species

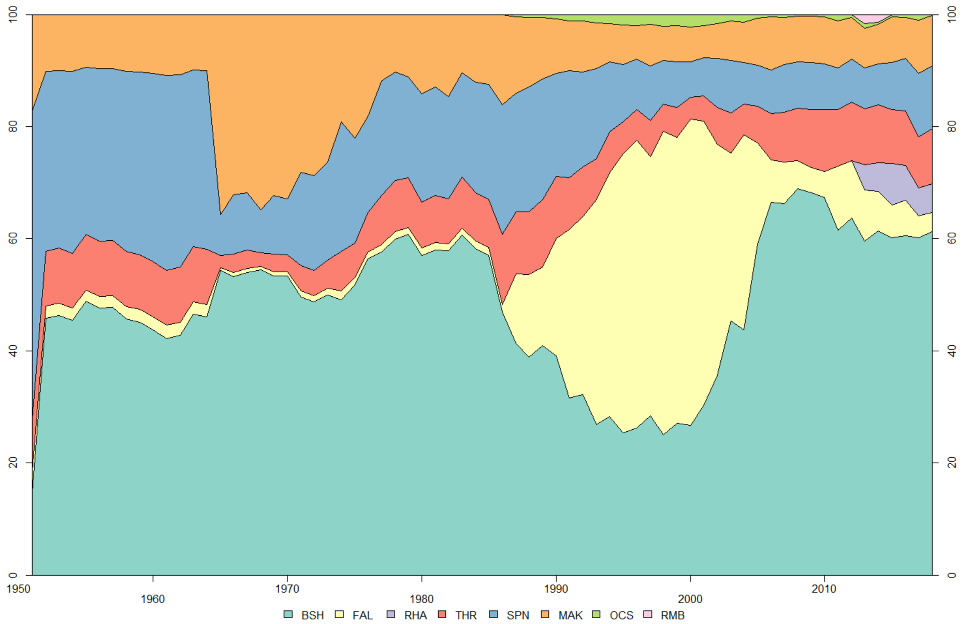


Fig. 6b. Proportion of nominal shark catches by species

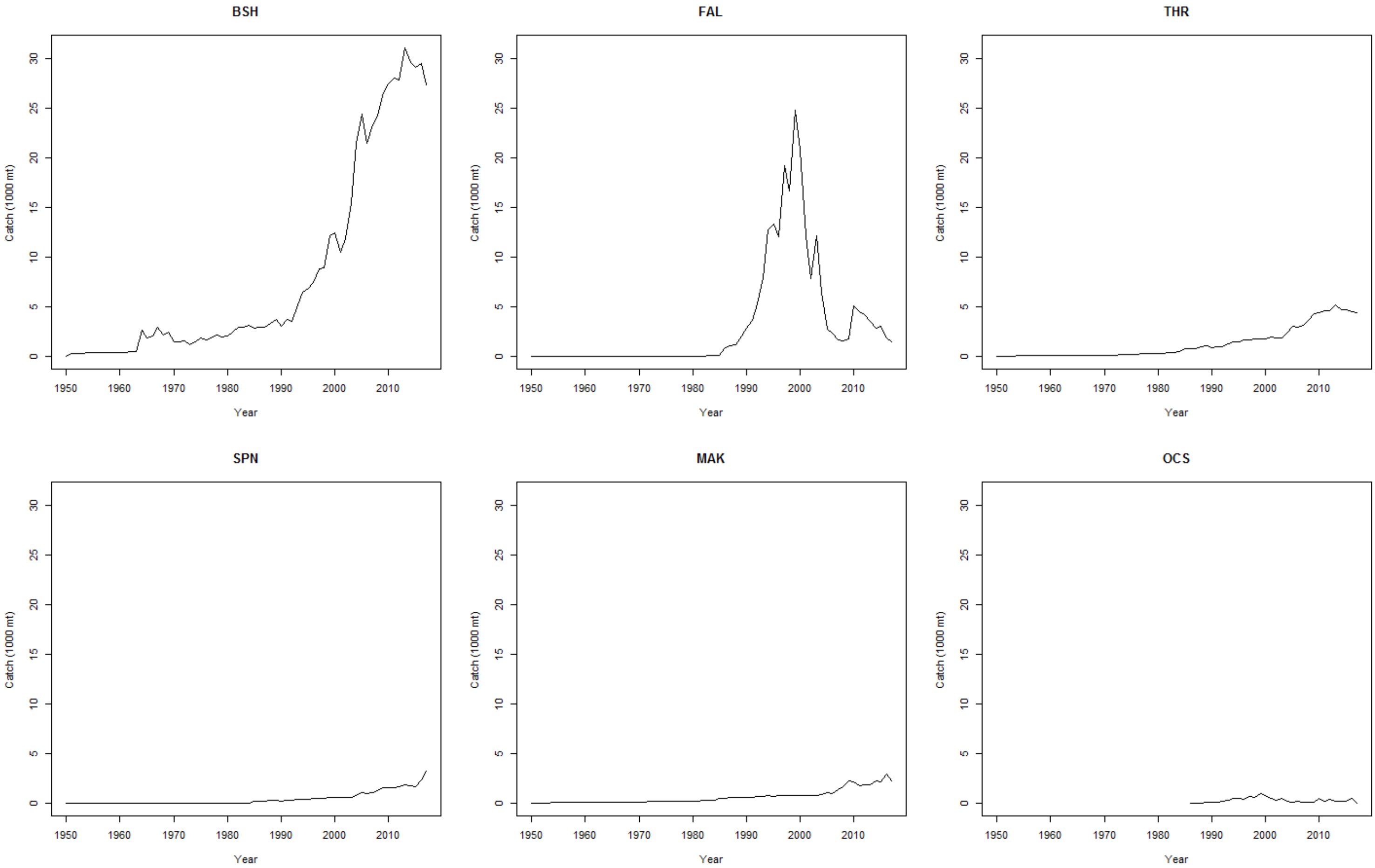


Fig. 7a. Total nominal catches by species for all fleets (1950-2017)

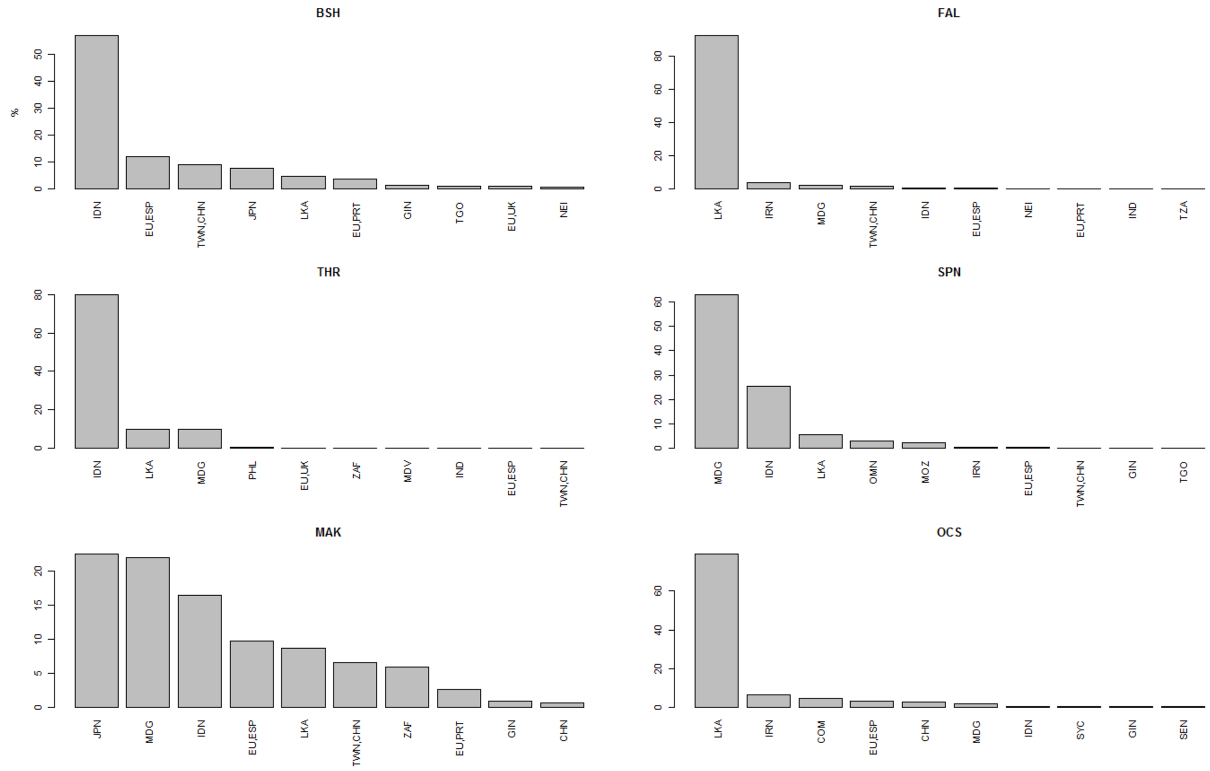


Fig. 8b. contribution of each fleet to the total data series

Trends in species catches by gear types are summarised in Table 3. Longline fleets reported predominantly blue shark catches, followed by mako and silky sharks, while catches of handline gears are also dominated by blue shark, followed by thresher sharks. Purse seine catches are dominated by silky shark while troll lines reported relatively high catches of hammerhead sharks. Reporting by species is very uncommon for gillnet fleets, where the majority of shark catches are reported as aggregates. Nevertheless, this is improving as shown in Fig. 9 by the level of species-specific reportin, particularly by the gillnet fleet of I.R. Iran. This figure highlights the relatively high catches of the Indonesia line fisheries (including troll lines, hook and line, hand line and coastal longlines[4]) and the gillnet fisheries of Pakistan, Yemen and I.R. Iran.

Table 3. Proportion of species-specific catches by gear type from 2005–2017

[PL = pole and line, GL = gillnet, HAND = Handline, LINE = Line, LL = Longline, PS = Purse seine, PSS = Small purse seines / ring nets, TROL = Troll lines]

	BB	GILL	HAND	LINE	LL	PS	PSS	TROL
OTH	**100%**	**89%**	14%	**98%**	21%	28%	**89%**	**70%**
BSH	0%	3%	**58%**	0%	**62%**	0%	2%	0%
FAL	0%	4%	0%	2%	5%	**72%**	6%	1%
RHA	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THR	0%	0%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
SPN	0%	1%	7%	0%	0%	0%	3%	20%
MAK	0%	0%	3%	0%	11%	0%	0%	6%

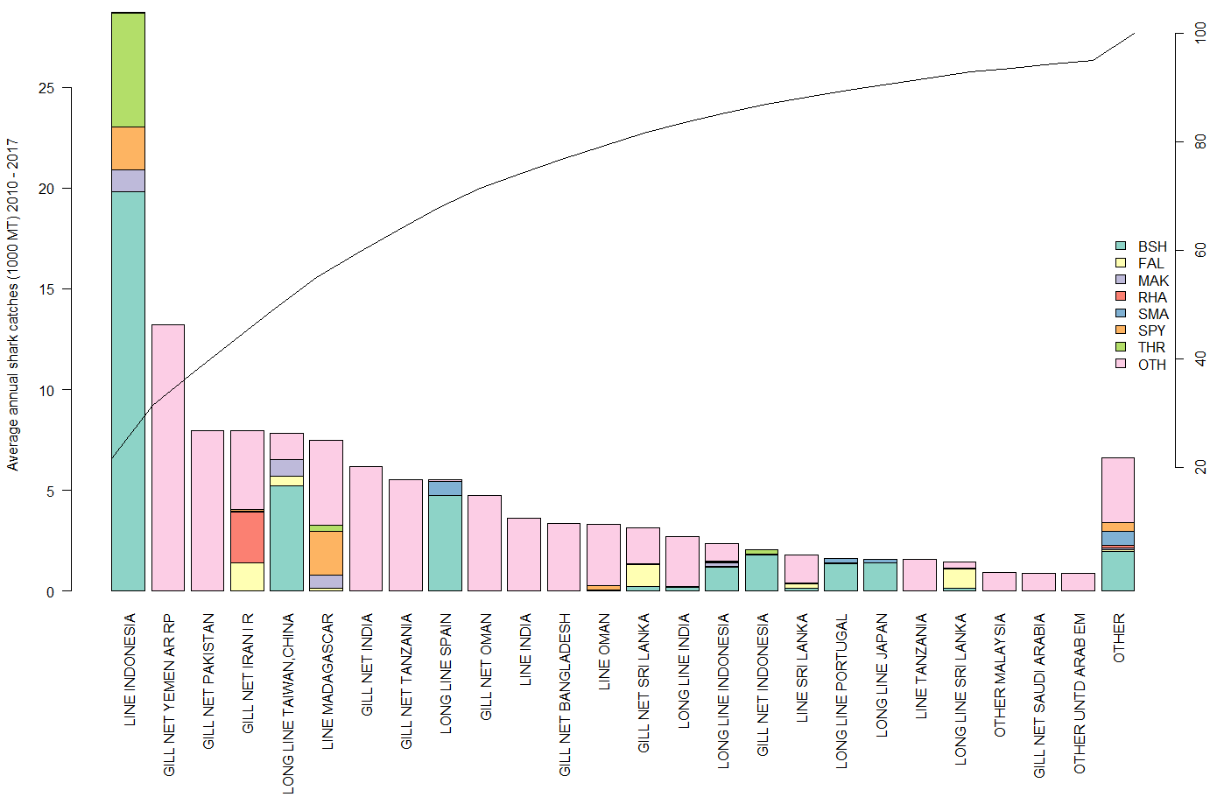


Fig. 9. Annual average shark catches reported by fleet and species from 2010–2017

[4] These are longlines which are operated by smaller vessels (<15m) and generally deployed within the EEZ.

Catch rates of IOTC fleets

While industrial longliners and drifting gillnets harvest important amounts of pelagic sharks, industrial purse seiners, pole-and-lines and most coastal fisheries are unlikely to harvest important quantities of pelagic sharks.

- **Pole and line fisheries:** The shark catches reported for the pole and line fisheries of Maldives are very low and none are reported for India. The extent of shark catches taken by these fisheries, if any, is not thought to be significant.

- **Gillnet fisheries:** The species of sharks caught are thought to vary significantly depending on the area of operation of the gillnets:
    - Gillnets operated in areas having low concentrations of pelagic sharks: The gillnet fisheries of most coastal countries operate these gears in coastal waters. The abundance of pelagic sharks in these areas is thought low.
    - Gillnets operated in areas having high concentrations of pelagic sharks: Gillnets operated in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Yemen (waters around Socotra), in spite of being set in coastal areas, are likely to catch significant amounts of pelagic sharks.
- **Gillnets operated on the high seas:** Vessels from Taiwan,China were using drifting gillnets (driftnets) from 1982 to 1992, when the use of this gear was banned worldwide. The catches of pelagic sharks were very high during this period. Driftnet vessels from I.R. Iran and Pakistan have been fishing on the high seas since, but with lower catch rates. This was initially in waters of the Arabian Sea but covering a larger area in recent years as they expanded their range to include the tropical waters of the western Indian Ocean and Mozambique Channel. The quantity of sharks caught by these fleets is thought to be relatively high, representing between 25–50% of the total combined catches of sharks and other species.

- **Gillnet/longline fishery of Sri Lanka:** Between 1,200 and 3,200 vessels (12 m average length) operating gillnets and longlines in combination have been harvesting important amounts of pelagic sharks since the mid-1980s. The longlines are believed to be responsible for most of the catches of sharks. Catches of sharks comprised ~45% of the total combined catch for all species in 1995 and declined to <2% in the late 2000s. The fleet has been shifting towards predominantly longline gear in recent years but most catches are still reported as aggregates of the combination gear.

- **Fisheries using handlines:** The majority of fisheries using hand lines and trolling in the Indian Ocean operate these gears in coastal waters, so although the total proportion of sharks caught has been high historically, the amount of pelagic sharks caught are thought to be low. The proportion of other species of sharks might change depending on the area fished and time of the day.

- **Deep-freezing tuna longliners** and **fresh-tuna longliners**: Catches of sharks are thought to represent between 20–40% of the total combined catch for all species. However, the catches of sharks recorded in the IOTC database only make up a small proportion of the total catches of all species by longline fleets. These catches series for sharks are, therefore, thought to be very incomplete. Nevertheless, levels of reporting have improved in recent years, following the implementation of catch monitoring schemes in different ports of landing of fresh-tuna longliners[5], and the recording of catches of main species of sharks in logbooks and observer programmes. The catches estimated, however, are unlikely to represent the total catches of sharks for these fisheries due to the paucity of information on levels of discards of sharks, which are thought high in some areas and for some species.
- **Freezing (fresh) swordfish longliners**: Catches of sharks are thought to represent between 40–60% of the total combined catch for all species. The amount of sharks caught by longliners targeting swordfish in the IOTC area of competence has been increasing since the mid-1990s. The catches of sharks recorded for these fleets are thought more realistic than those recorded for other longline fisheries. The high catches are thought to be due to:
    - Gear configuration and time fished: The vessels targeting swordfish use surface longlines and set the lines at dusk or during the night. Many pelagic sharks are thought to be abundant at these depths and most active during dusk or night hours.

[5] The IOTC-OFCF (Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation of Japan) Project implemented programmes in cooperation with local institutions in Thailand and Indonesia.

- Area fished: The fleets targeting swordfish have been deploying most of the fishing effort in the Southwest Indian Ocean, in the vicinity of South Africa, southern Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius. High amounts of sharks are thought to occur in these areas.
- Changes in the relative amounts of swordfish and sharks in the catches: Some of the vessels are known to alternate between targeting swordfish and sharks (particularly blue sharks) depending on the season, or when catch rates of swordfish are poor.

- **Industrial tuna purse seiners:** Catches of sharks are thought to represent less than 0.5% of the total combined catch for all species. Limited nominal catch data have been reported for the purse seine fleets.
- **Trolling fisheries:** The majority of fisheries trolling in the Indian Ocean operate in coastal waters so the amounts of pelagic sharks caught are thought to be low. The amount that other species of sharks make out of the catches of tuna and tuna-like species might change depending on the area fished and time of the day.

Fig. 8 shows the catch rates of sharks as a proportion of total catches as reported in the IOTC database. This suggests that some of the reported catch rates for the longline fleet are lower than expected and highlights the patchiness of the data leading to highly variable catch rates over time.

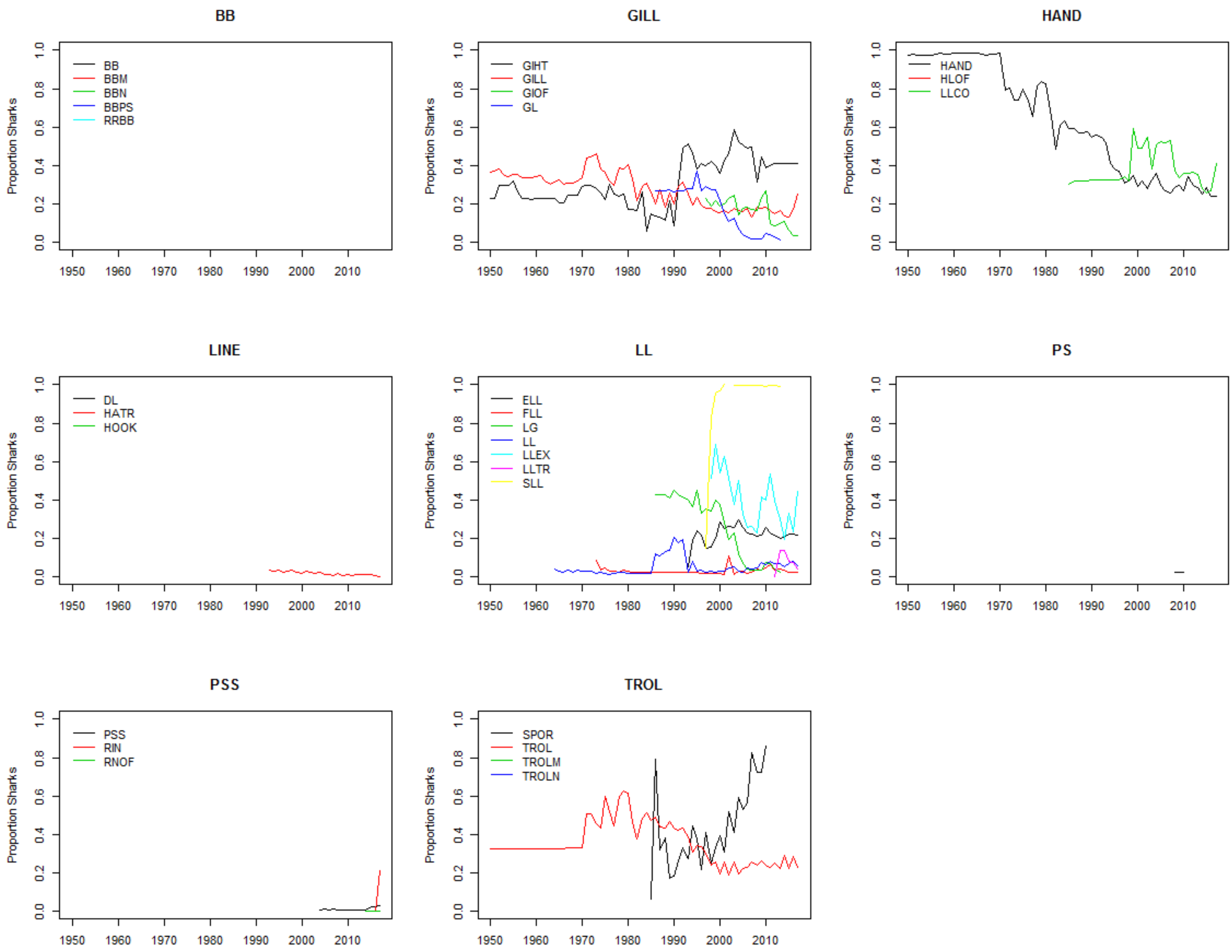
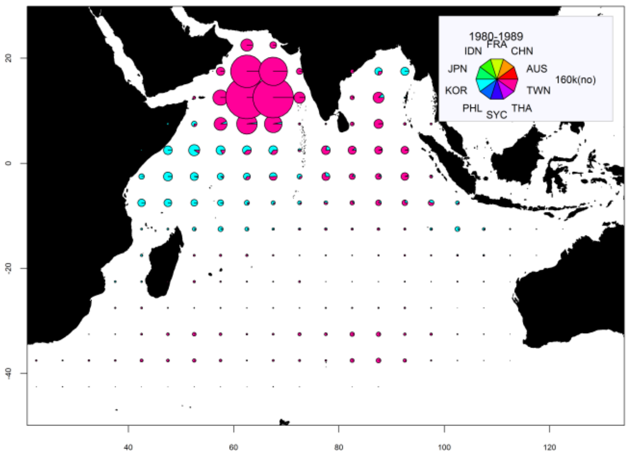


Fig. 10. Proportion of reported shark catch as a fraction of total reported catch by gear type over time

Spatial information on sharks catches

Fig. 9 presents the spatial catches of sharks by fleet reported over time. The main reporting fleets are Taiwan,China, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Seychelles, China, France and Australia. More limited time-area catches of sharks are also available from some other fleets, as recorded in Appendix 3. Fig. 10 shows the distribution of catches by gear over time. In the 1980s the Taiwanese gillnet fleet was the most important fleet for shark catches, operating predominantly in the northwestern Indian Ocean. In the 1980s and 1990s the deep-freezing longline catches increased, particularly in the southwestern region, while in more recent years the fresh longline component has also become important in central areas. Fig. 11 shows shark catches that have been reported by species. This highlights the increase in reporting by species over time. Records are dominated by blue shark catches, followed by silky sharks in the northwest and makos in the southwest Indian Ocean. Time-area catches of sharks by species are only available from 2009 for Japan, while these fleets have been operating in the Indian Ocean since the 1950s. Reported catches for Japan are also considered to be incomplete, as they only include species which have been listed as mandatory for reporting. Spatially disaggregated catches of sharks are available for Taiwan,China since 1977 aggregated by species, however, no species-specific information has been reported prior to 2007. Catches by the Seychelles fleets are available from 2001 and from the Republic of Korea from 2012.



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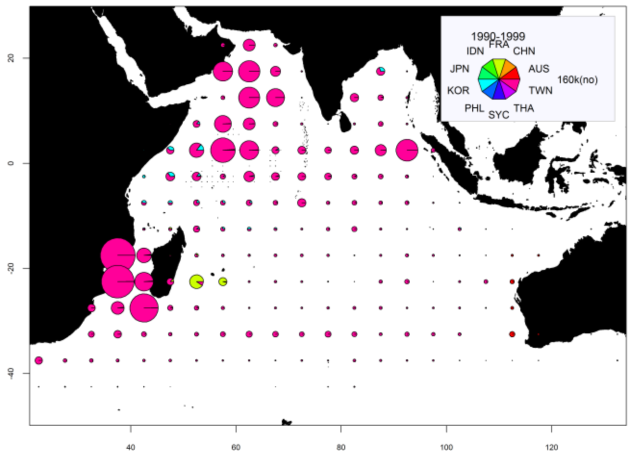

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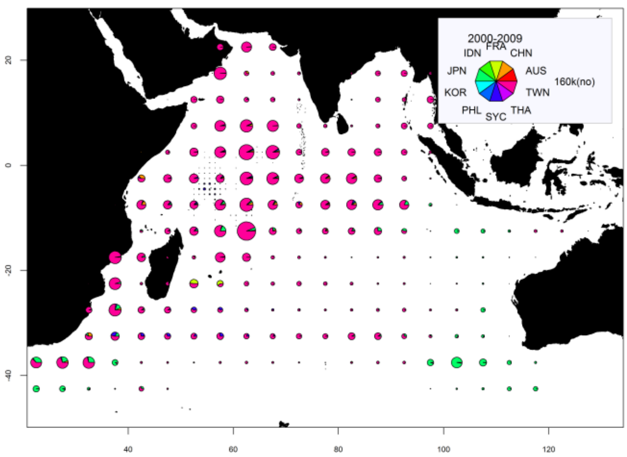

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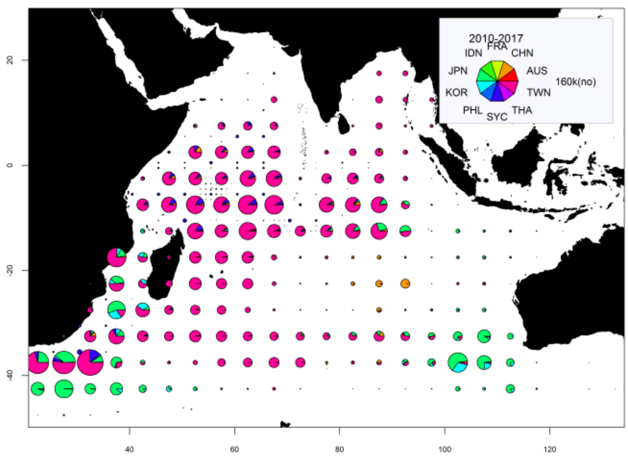

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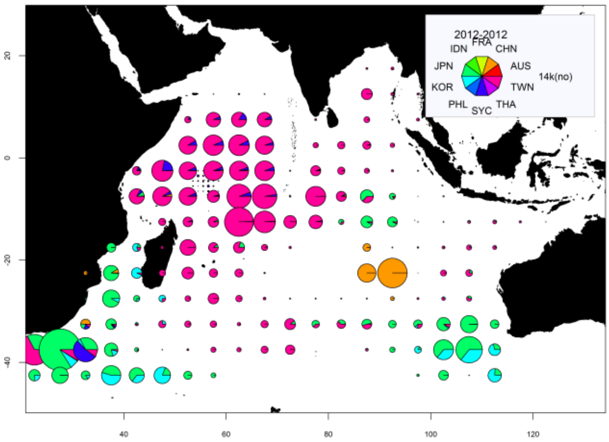

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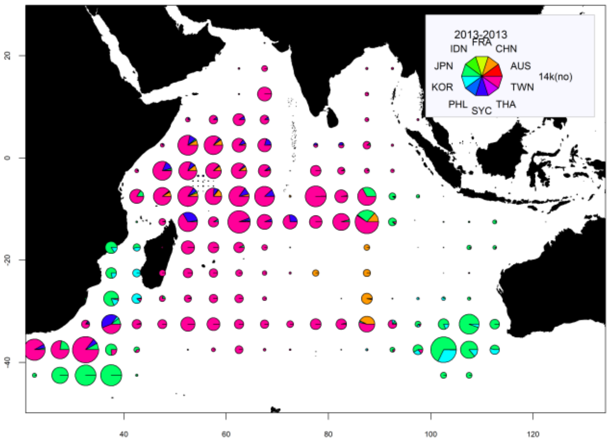

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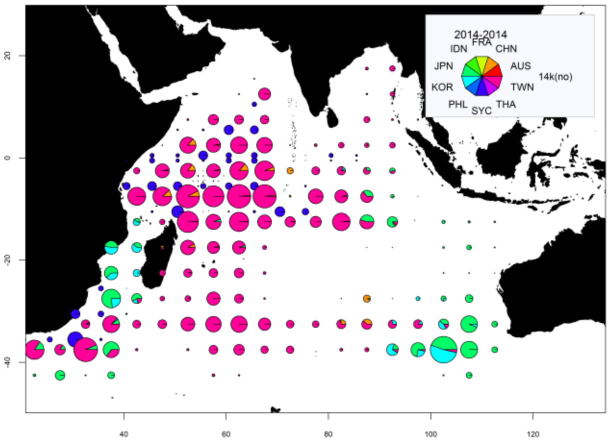

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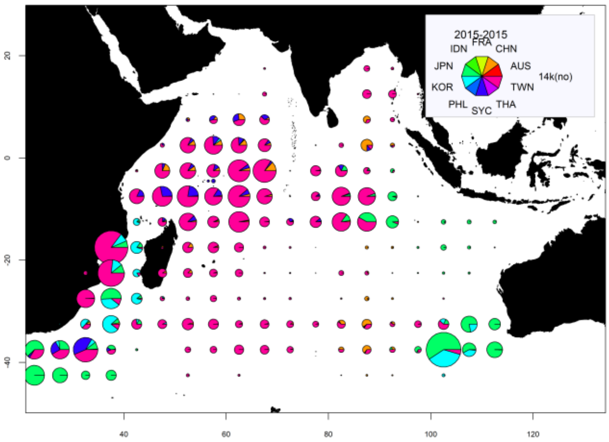

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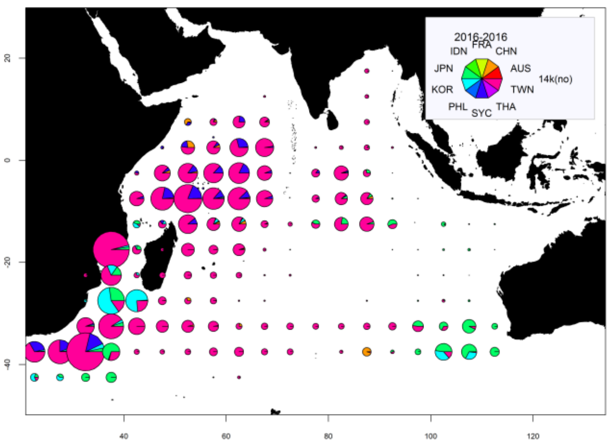

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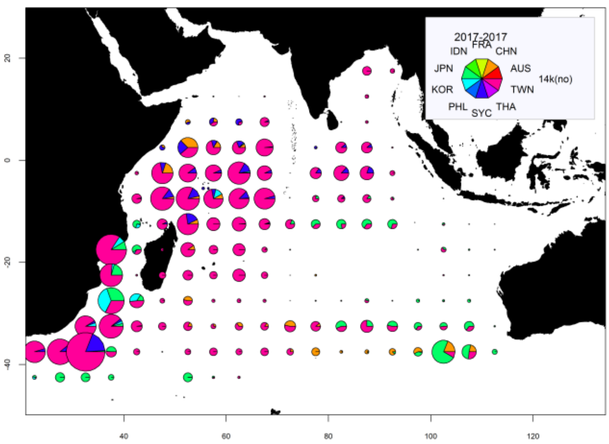
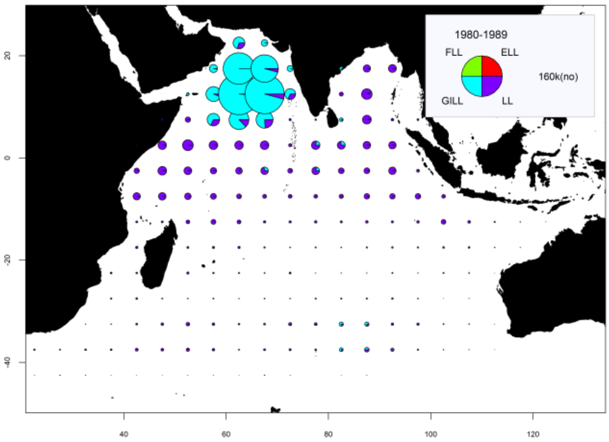
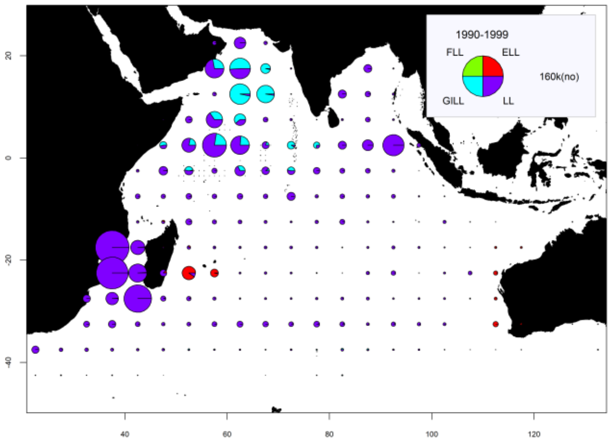


j)

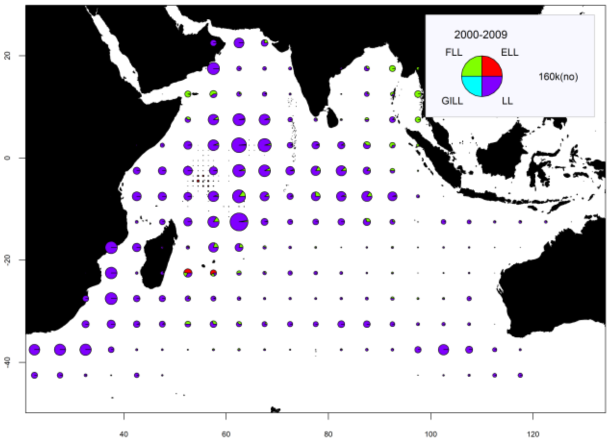
Fig. 11. Time-area catches (total numbers) of sharks caught by fleet by decade (a-d) and year 2012-2017 (e-j) for all reporting gears.


1980-1989
FLL
ELL
GILL
LL
160k(no)

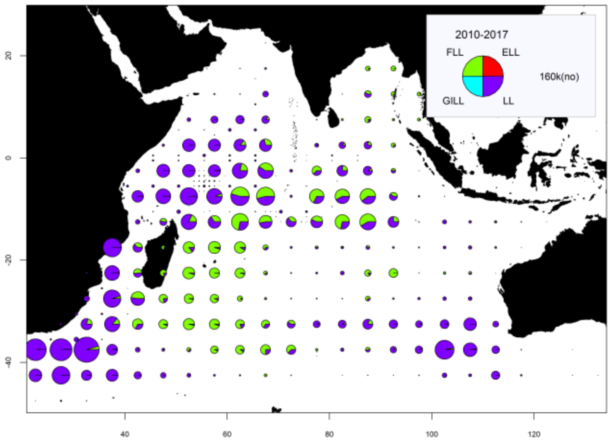
a)


1990-1999
FLL
ELL
GILL
LL
160k(no)

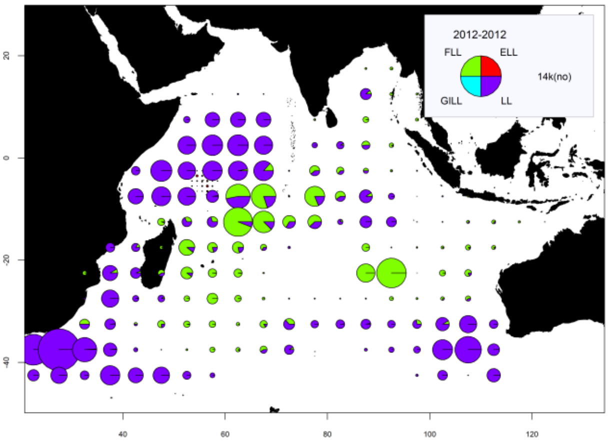
b)

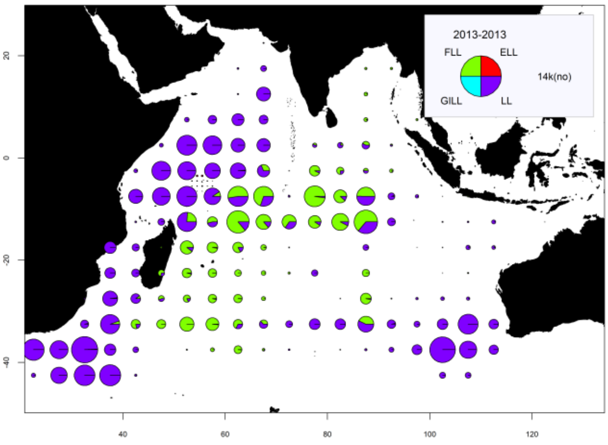

2000-2009
FLL
ELL
GILL
LL
160k(no)

c)


2010-2017
FLL
ELL
GILL
LL
160k(no)

d)





e)

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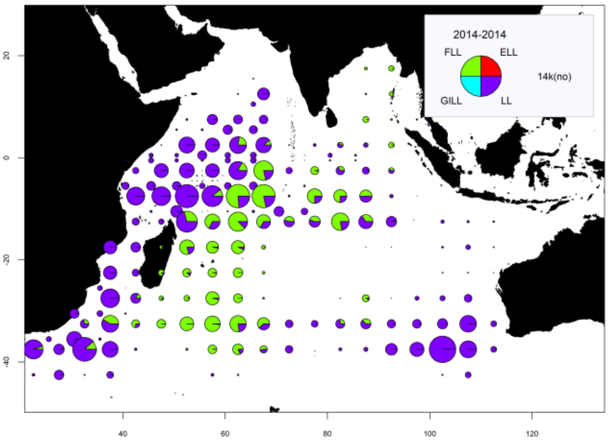

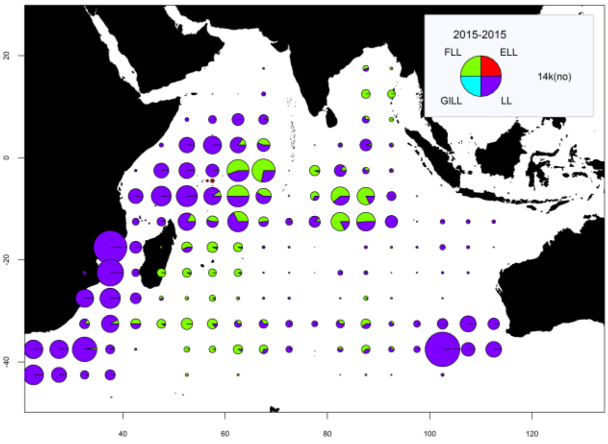

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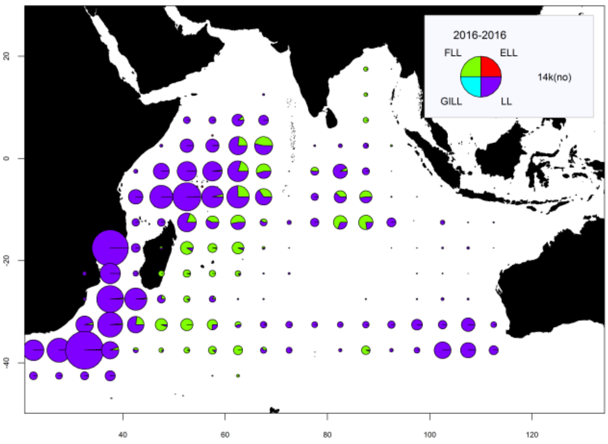
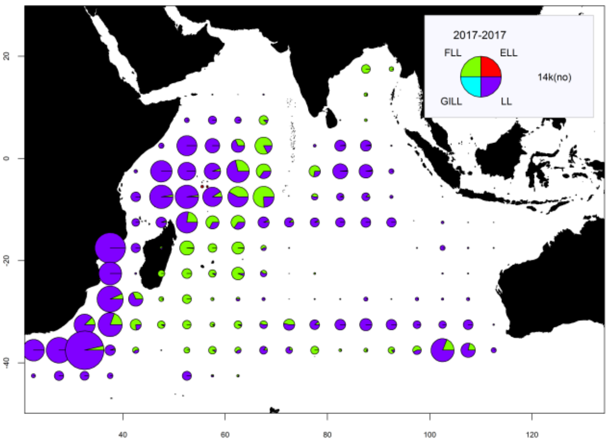


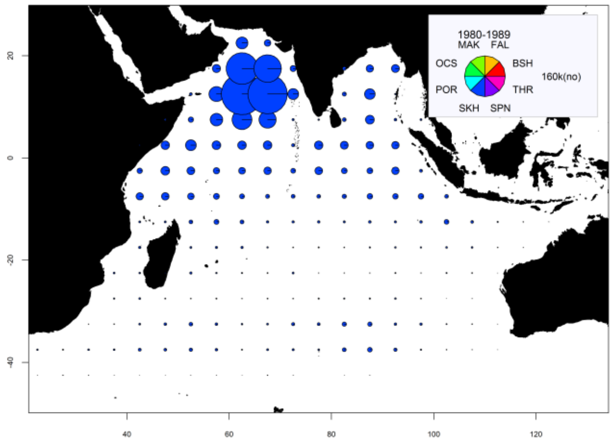


i)

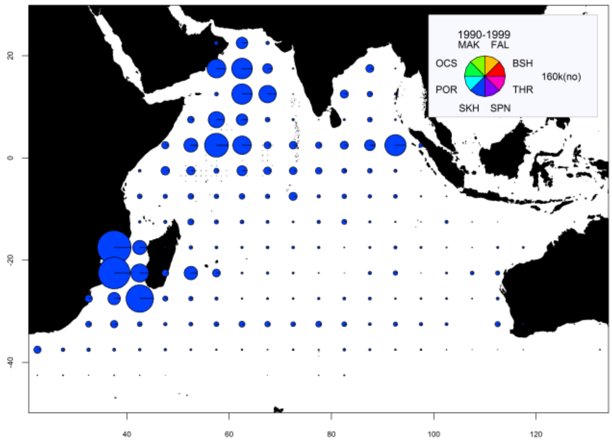
j)

Fig. 12. Time-area catches (total numbers) of sharks by gear type by decade (a-d) and year 2012-2017 (e-j)

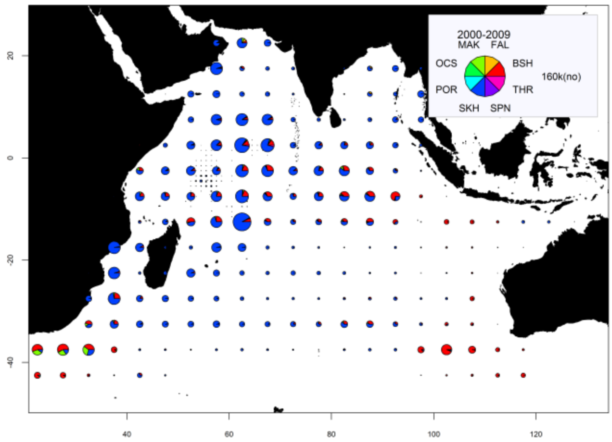
[FLL = fresh longline, ELL = longline targeting swordfish, LL = deep-freezing longline, GILL = drifting gillnet]


1980-1989
MAK FAL
OCS BSH
POR THR
SKH SPN
160k(no)

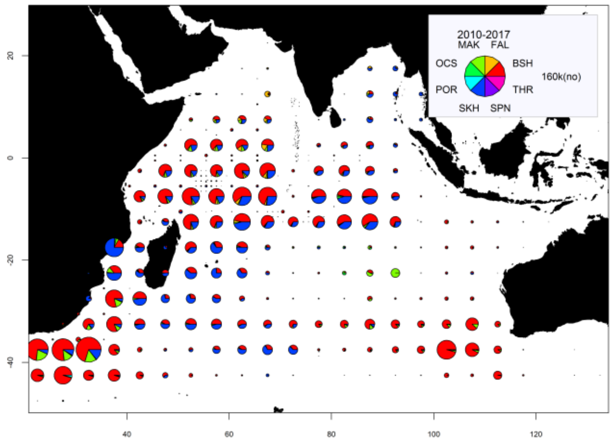
a)


1990-1999
MAK FAL
OCS BSH
POR THR
SKH SPN
160k(no)

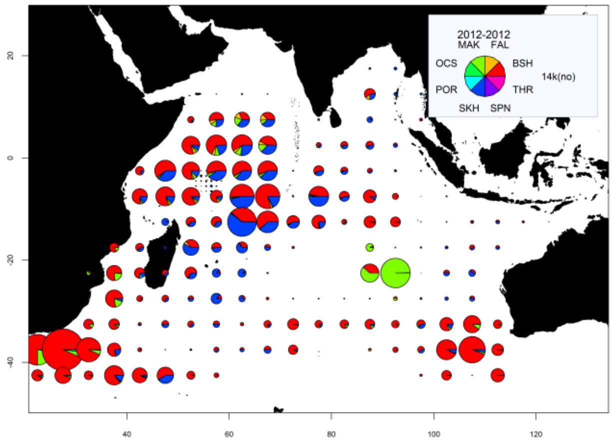
b)


2000-2009
MAK FAL
OCS BSH
POR THR
SKH SPN
160k(no)

c)


2010-2017
MAK FAL
OCS BSH
POR THR
SKH SPN
160k(no)

d)



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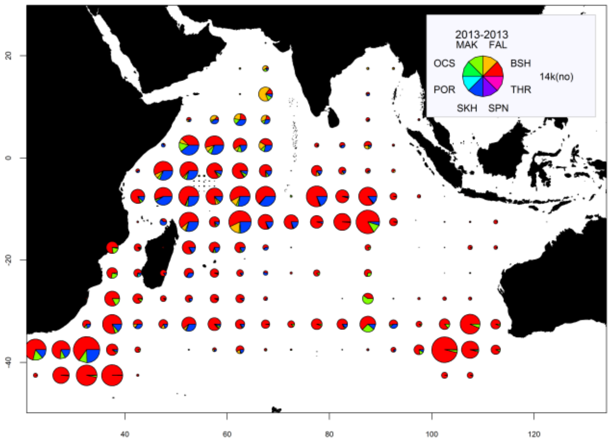

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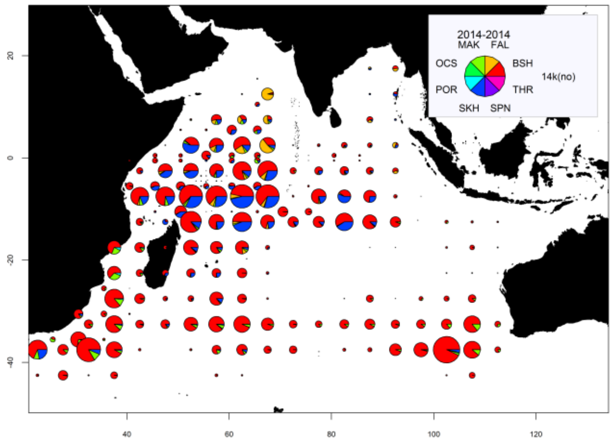

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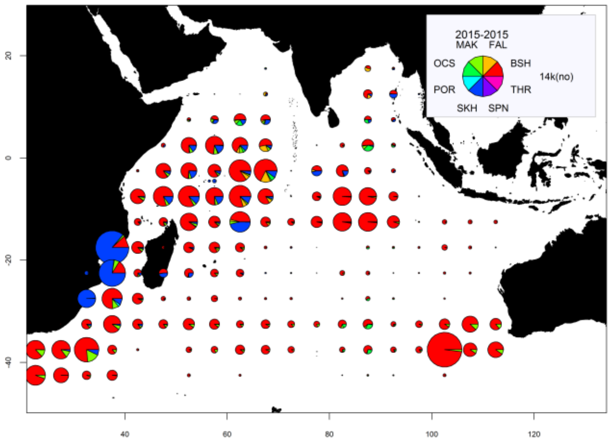
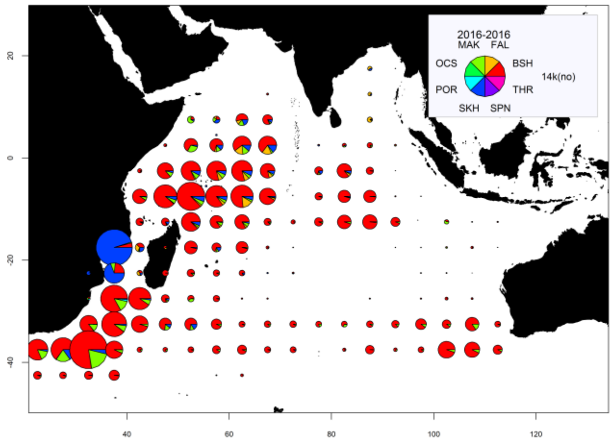
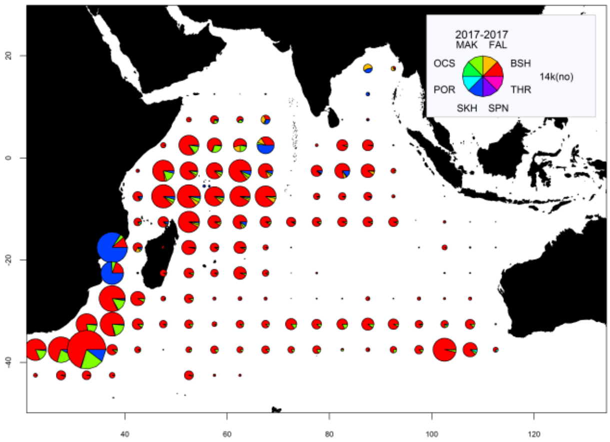


h)



i)



j)

Fig. 13. Time-area catches (total numbers) of sharks by species by decade (a-d) and year 2012-2017 (e-j).

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Length frequency data

Due to the different types of length measurement reported, a number of conversions were performed to standardise the length-frequency information. Given the increasing amount of data reported and the need for standardisation, a set of species-specific conversion factors and proxies that have been agreed by the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch could help improve the estimates. Conversion factors currently used are provided in Appendix 4. Size frequency data are reported using different length classes ranging from 1cm to 10cm intervals. In addition to this, there appears to be rounding taking place when the smaller size intervals are used, creating abnormal peaks in the distributions. The graphs shown below have been aggregated to 5cm intervals in order to smooth this effect.

Fig. 14 shows the aggregated fork length frequency distribution for the fleets reporting size information on silky sharks for all areas between 2005 and 2017. The data reported for vessels flagged for China, Taiwan,China, EU,France, EU,Great Britain, EU,France (Reunion), Rep. of Korea include data reported for fleets with observers onboard. The results highlight the difference in size of the individuals caught by different fleets, with the Chinese, Indian and Sri Lankan fleets, on average, catching larger silky sharks than the other fleets – although the information currently available for all other fleets is particularly poor from a statistical point of view.

Fig. 15 shows the aggregated total length frequency distribution from three purse seine fleets (EU,Spain, EU,France and Seychelles) collected by scientific observers and reported as part of the ROS data submissions: the results highlight the difference in size of individuals caught by the Seychelloise fleet as compared to the two EU fleets.

Fig. 16 shows the length distributions for the other shark species with reported size frequency data aggregated across all fleets and all years given the more limited amount of data available for these species.

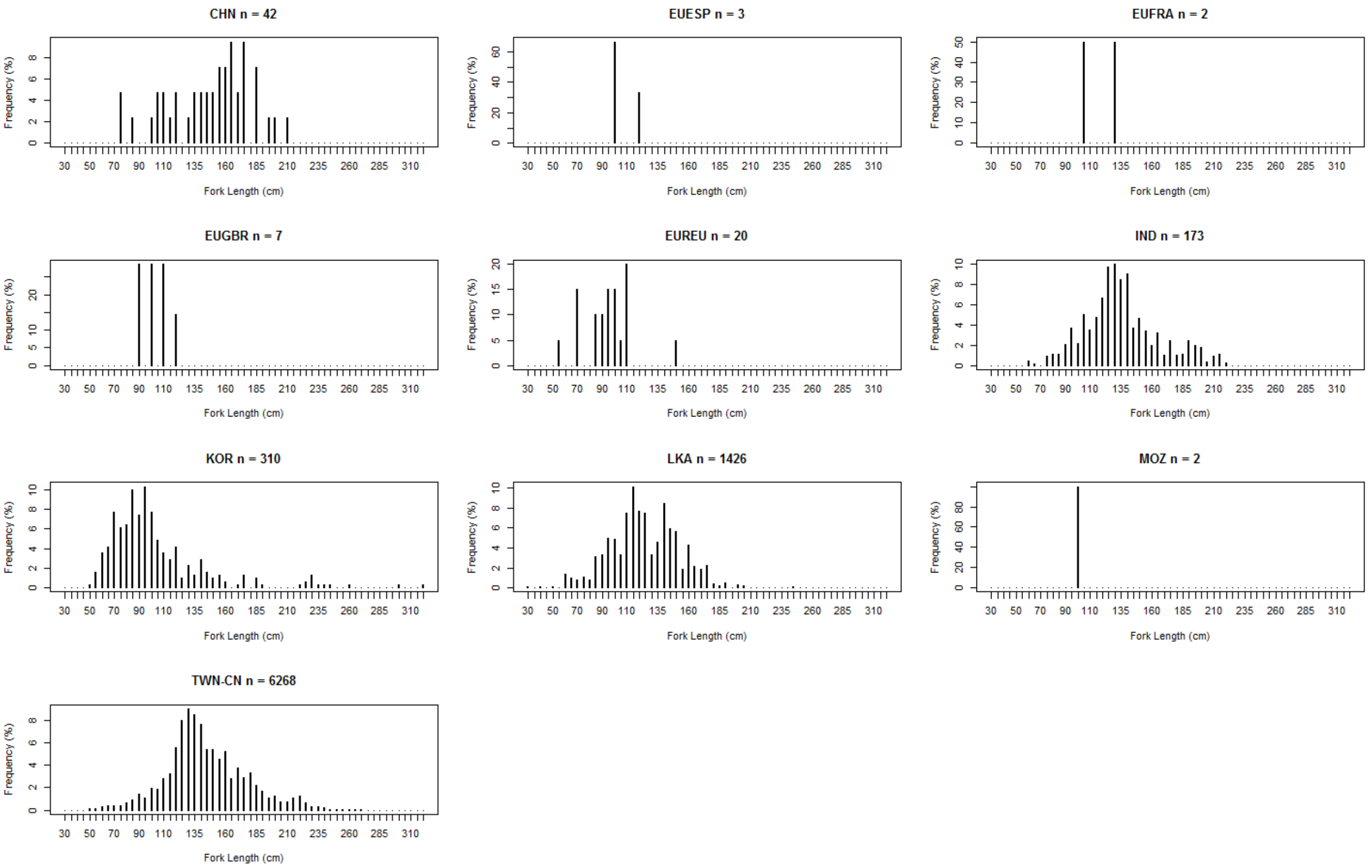


Fig. 14. Fork length frequency distributions (%) of silky shark derived from the samples reported for the fleets of China (CHN LL), EU,Spain (EUESP ELL), EU,France (EUFRA ELL), EU,Great Britain (EUGBR LL), EU,France (Reunion) (EUREU ELL), India (IND LLEX), Korea (KOR LL, PS), Sri Lanka LKA (FLL, G/L, GILL, GIOF, LLCO, RIN, RNOF, UNCL), Mozambique (MOZ ELL, HAND), Taiwan,China (TWN-CHN FLL, LL) between 2005 and 2017 in 5 cm length classes.

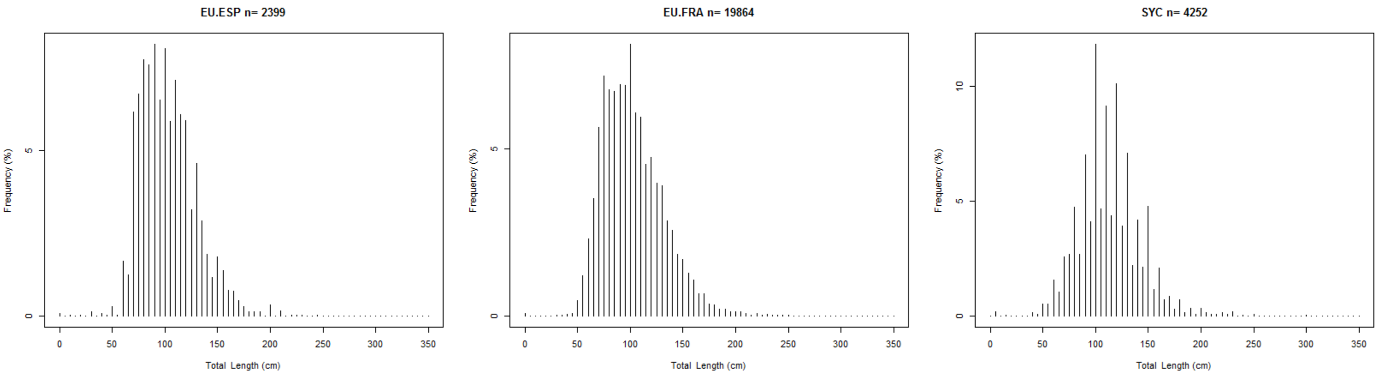


Fig. 15. Total length frequency distributions (%) of silky shark derived from the samples reported by onboard scientific observers (ROS data) for the purse seine fleets of EU,Spain, EU,France and Seychelles between 2005 and 2018 in 5 cm length classes.

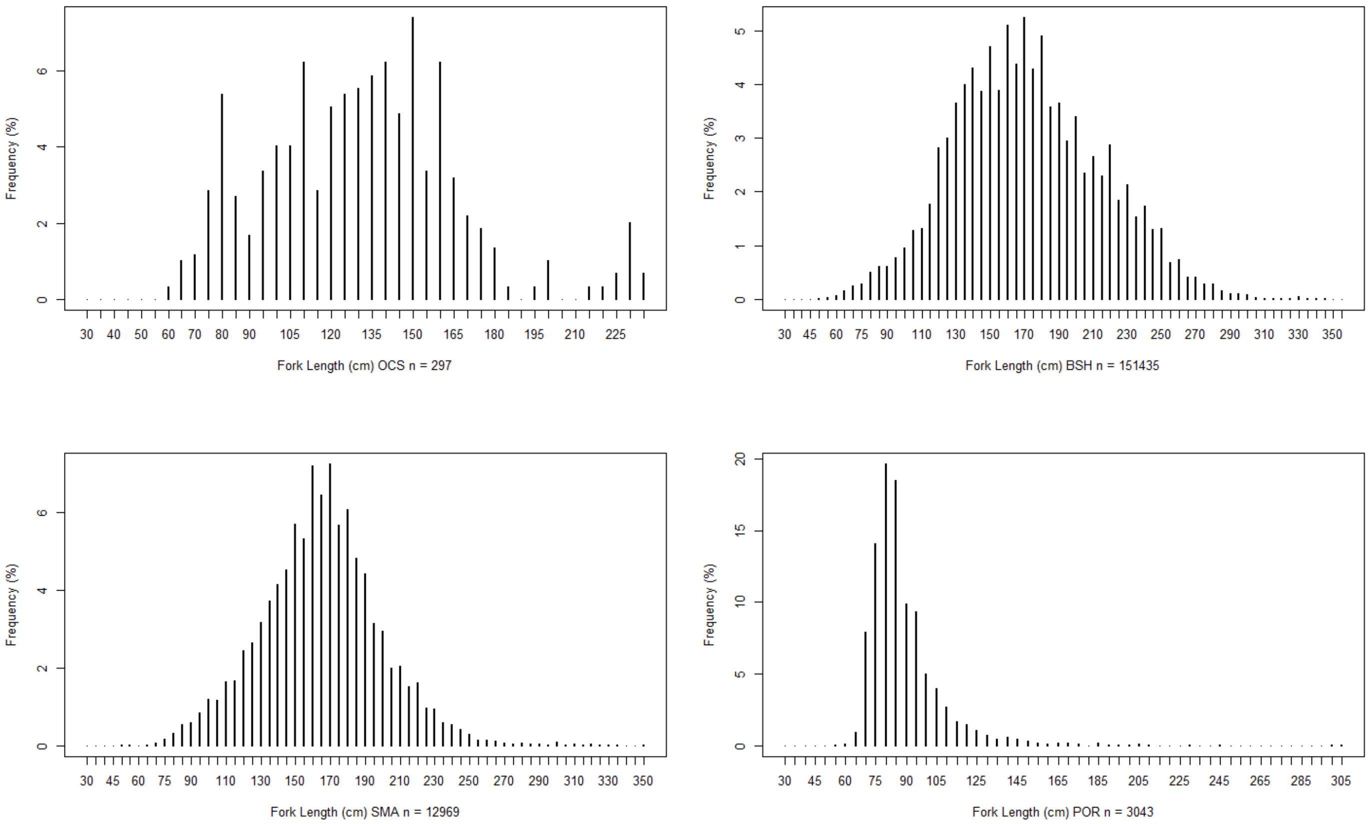


Fig. 16. Fork length frequency distributions (%) for oceanic whitetip shark (OCS), blue shark (BSH), shortfin mako shark (SMA) and porbeagle shark (POR) between 2005 and 2017

ROS data on sharks

To date, the ROS regional database contains information for 1053 trips (463 PS + 590 LL) from 7 fleets, covering the years from 2005 to 2018 included: the major challenge – at this stage – consists in the extraction of the data from non-standard electronic formats as well as in the harmonization of all received information, with the middle-to-long term goal of training all CPCs in the submission of ROS data in a standardized electronic format (either proprietary to the ROS or fully compatible, such as ST09 / SWIOFP / ObServe).

Notwithstanding this time-consuming task and the recent revision of ROS data standards and requirements that required a heavy redesign of the ROS electronic tools developed so far, the processed ROS data can already provide some interesting insights on the status of interactions with sharks and other bycatch species: a complete overview of the ROS and its current status is provided in document IOTC-2019-WPEB15-08 (“Update on the implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme”). Following in this document we provide a qualitative summary related to the information on sharks’ and other bycatch species within the ROS Regional Database as of August 2019.

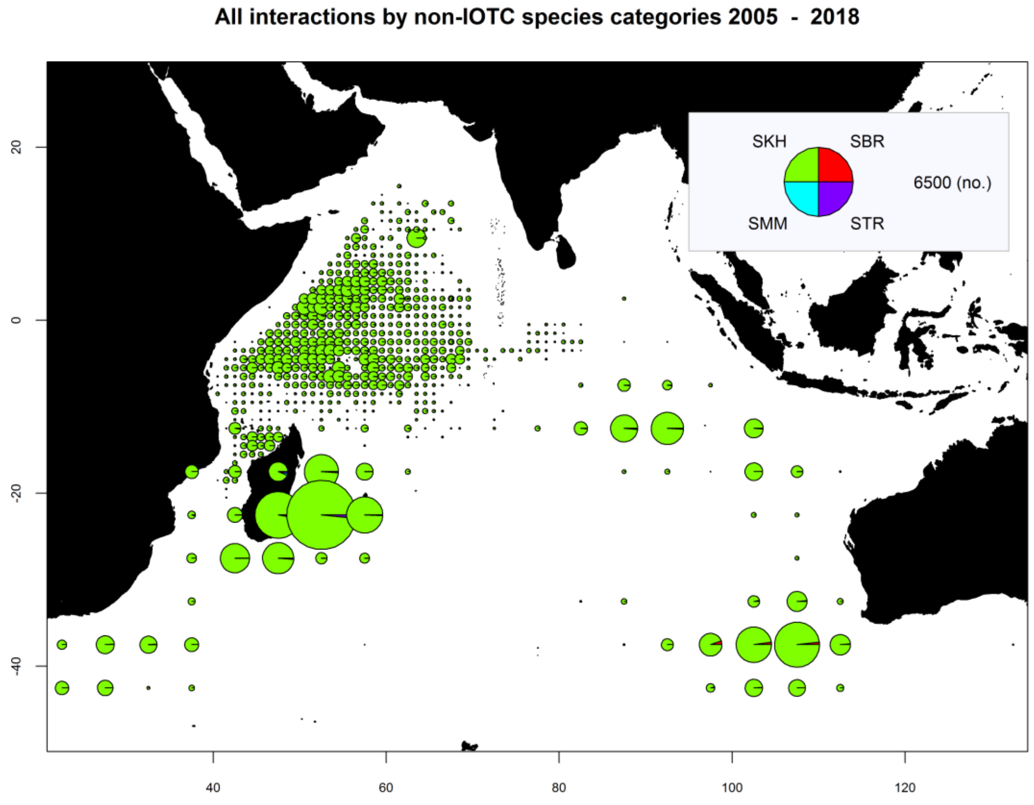


Fig. 14a. All observed interactions with non-IOTC species by category (ROS data, 2005 – 2018, all gears and fleets)

[SKH = sharks, SBR = seabirds, STR = marine turtles, SMM = marine mammals]

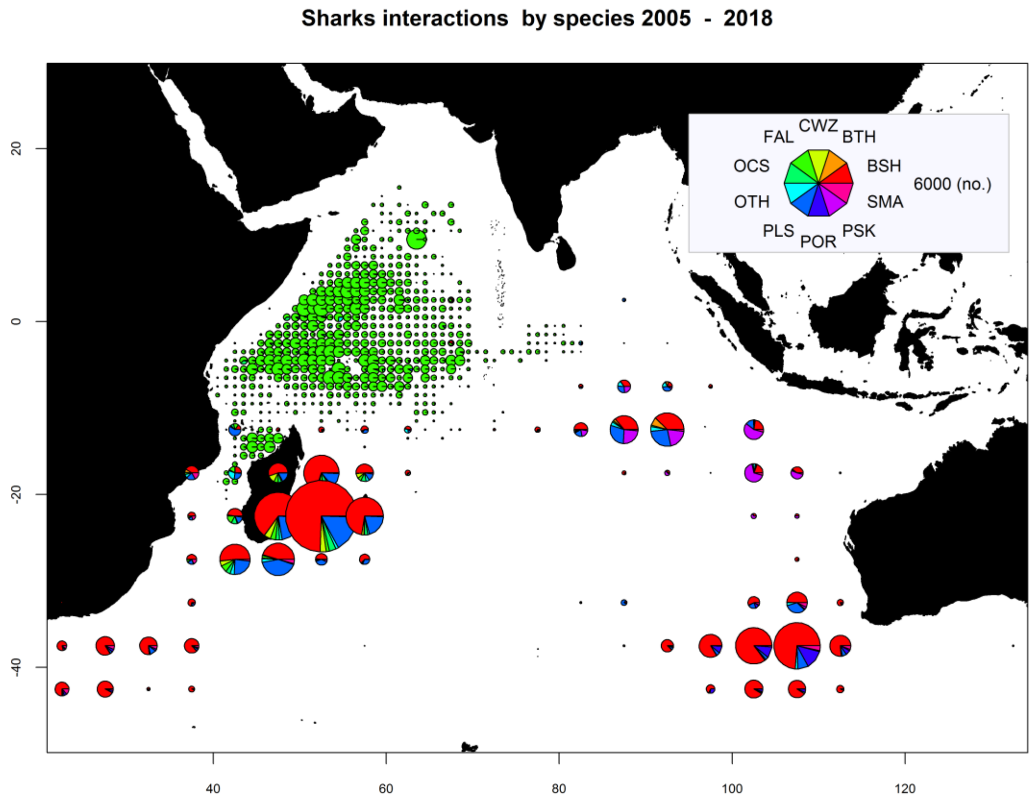


Fig. 14b. All observed interactions with sharks by species (ROS data, 2005 – 2018, all gears and fleets)

[BSH = Blue shark, BTH = Bigeye thresher, CWZ = Carcharhinus sharks nei, FAL = Silky shark, OCS = Oceanic whitetip shark, PLS = Pelagic stingray, POR = Porbeagle, PSK = Crocodile shark, SMA = Shortfin mako, OTH = all other shark species combined]

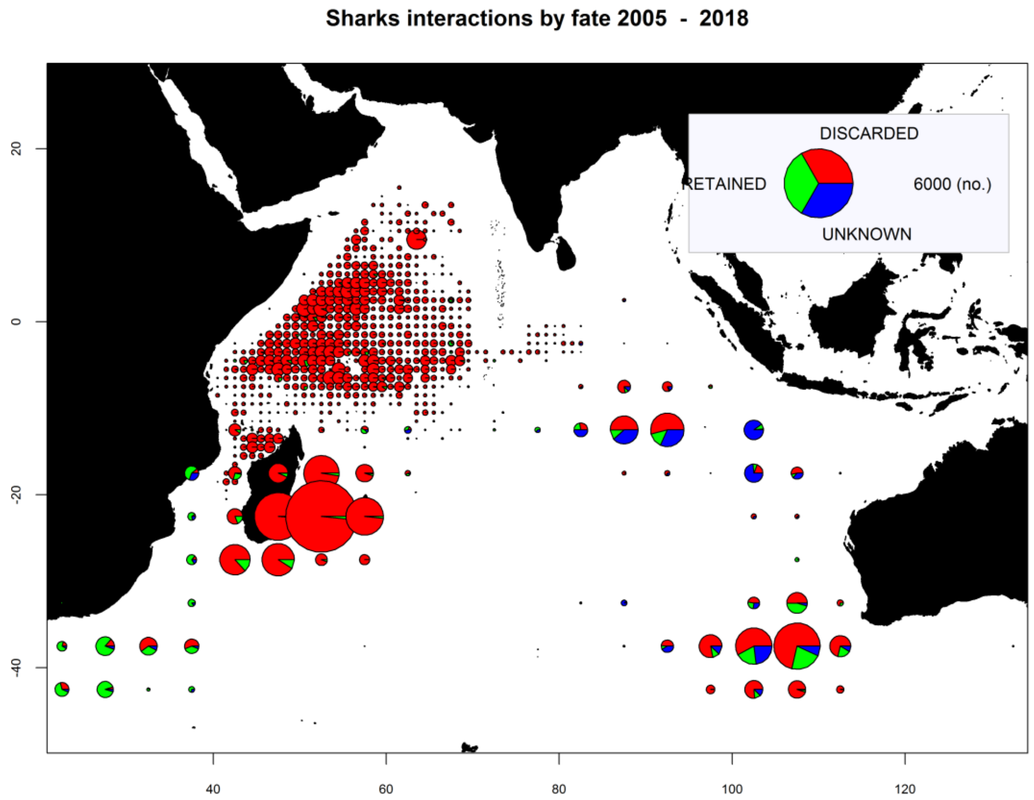


Fig. 14c. All observed interactions with sharks by fate (ROS data, 2005 – 2018, all gears and fleets)

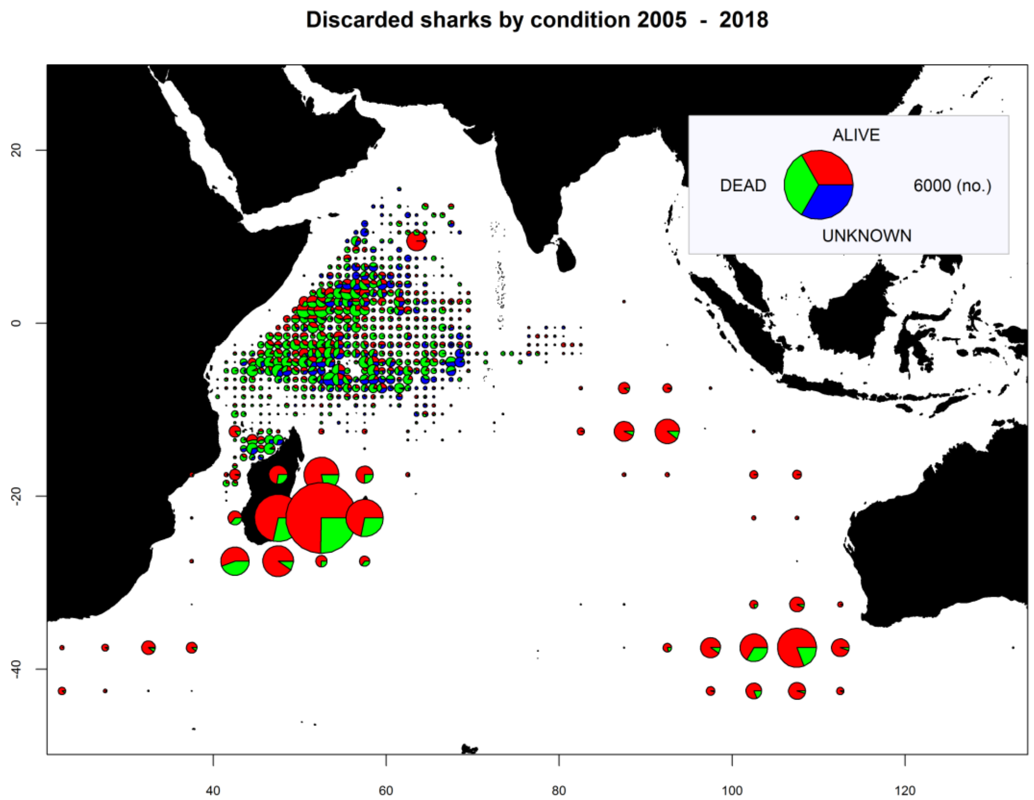


Fig. 14d. All observed shark discards by condition at release (ROS data, 2005 – 2018, all gears and fleets)

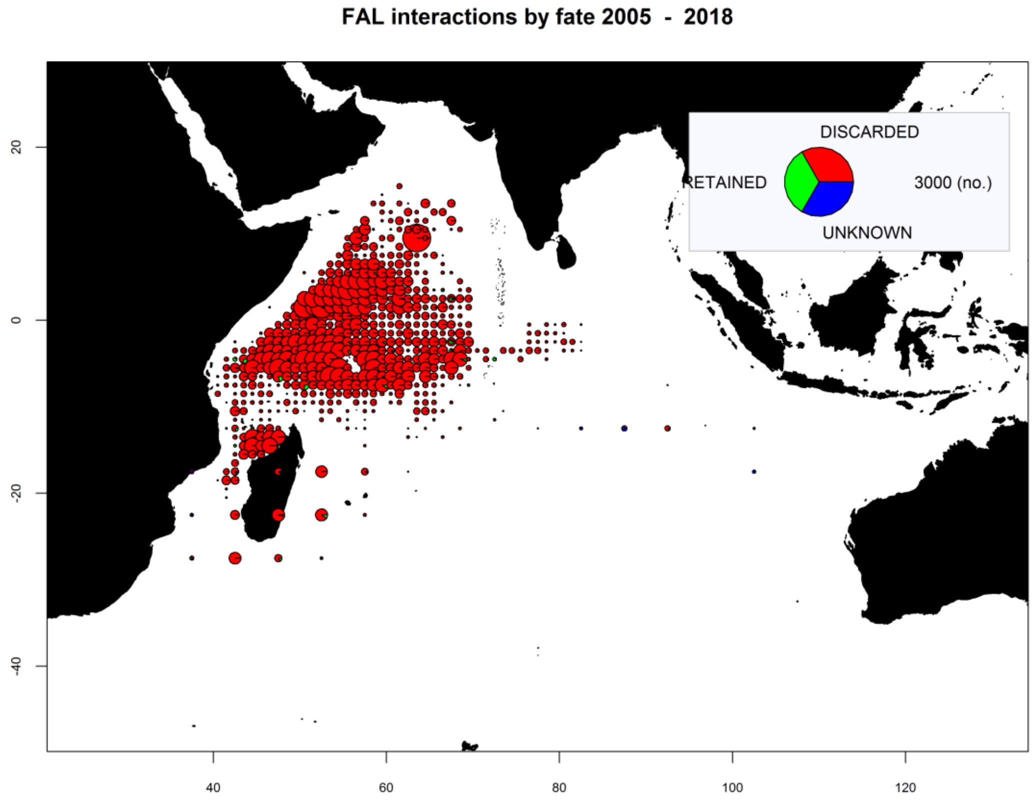


Fig. 14d. All observed interactions with FAL by fate (ROS data, 2005 – 2018, all gears and fleets)

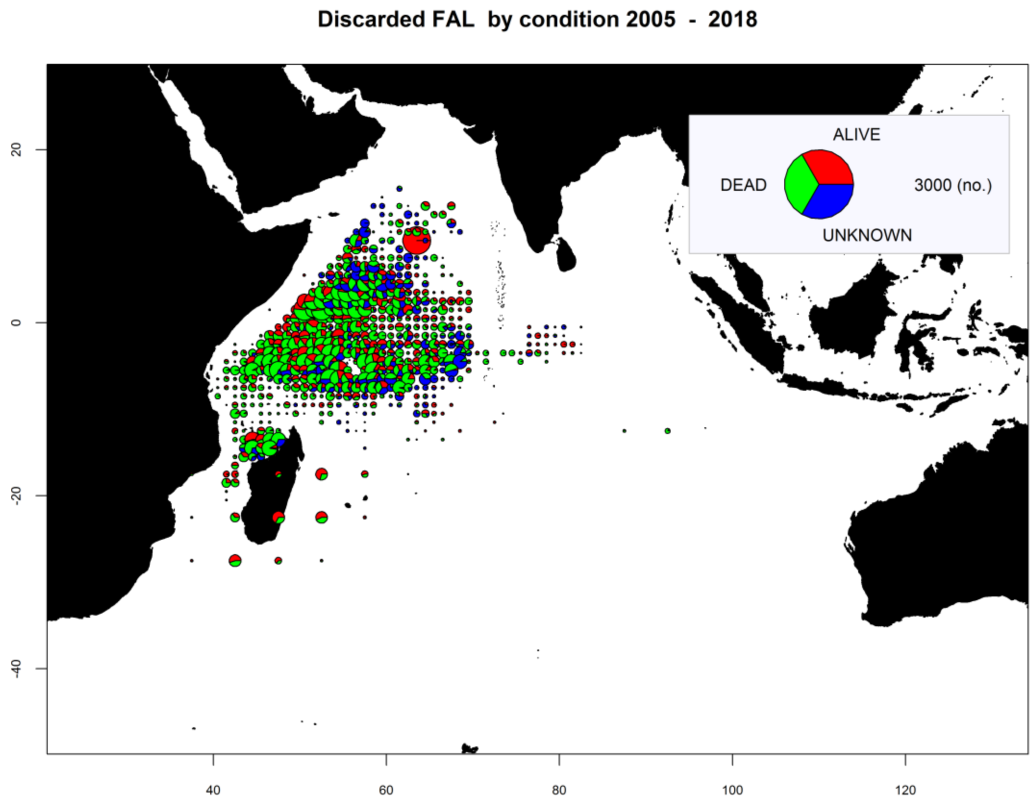


Fig. 14e. All observed FAL discards by condition at release (ROS data, 2005 – 2018, all gears and fleets)

Figure 14a shows that the majority of interaction with non-IOTC species reported by observers is related to sharks (SKH), with the plots in Figure 14b indicating Silky shark (FAL), Blue shark (BSH) and Pelagic stingray (PLS) as the most commonly interacted species.

Table 4 provides a breakdown (by shark species) of the recorded interactions currently incorporated within the IOTC ROS Regional Database: rows with a light grey background correspond to all species grouped under the 'OTH' species code in figure 14a.

Table 4a. Observed interactions with shark species (ROS data, 2005 – 2018, all gears and fleets)

Code	Species	Interactions
FAL	Silky shark	27216
BSH	Blue shark	20375
PLS	Pelagic stingray	5423
PSK	Crocodile shark	1465
OCS	Oceanic whitetip shark	1004
POR	Porbeagle	815
SMA	Shortfin mako	665
CWZ	Carcharhinus sharks nei	540
BTH	Bigeye thresher	234
SSQ	Velvet dogfish	230
PTH	Pelagic thresher shark	94
TIG	Tiger shark	93
RMJ	Spinetail mobula	77
LMA	Longfin mako	71
SPL	Scalloped hammerhead	70
AG22	Sharks various nei	49
RSK	Requiem sharks nei	49

Code	Species	Interactions
RMB	Giant Mantas	36
SPZ	Smooth hammerhead	34
CCE	Bull shark	28
ALV	Thresher Shark	27
BLR	Blacktip reef shark	16
RMM	Devil Ray	12
ISB	Cookie cutter shark	5
RHN	Whale shark	4
ALS	Silvertip shark	3
RMA	Reef manta rays	3
BRO	Copper shark	2
AML	Grey Reef Shark	2
CCQ	Spot-tail shark	2
CCP	Sandbar shark	2
CCL	Blacktip shark	2
TRK	Houndsharks,smoothhounds nei	1

Another (expected) pattern emerging from these observations is the preponderance of silky shark (and oceanic whitetip sharks) interactions with purse-seine fisheries in the tropical region, whereas interactions with blue sharks and pelagic stingrays are more common with longline fisheries operating in regions closer to the temperate areas.

The majority of interactions with sharks' species resulted in releasing / discarding the interacted individuals (see figure 14b): for what concerns the status at release, another clear pattern emerges from the observations at our current availability, with most of the sharks released alive by the longline fleets as opposed to the majority of sharks released dead after interactions with the purse seine fleets.

Table 4b. Fate and condition at for all sharks' species interactions by gear (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets)

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
LL	DISCARDED	ALIVE	18751
LL	DISCARDED	DEAD	5364
LL	RETAINED	ALIVE	3555
LL	UNKNOWN	ALIVE	2379
LL	RETAINED	DEAD	543
LL	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	472
LL	UNKNOWN	DEAD	256
LL	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	208
LL	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	31

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
PS	DISCARDED	DEAD	13681
PS	DISCARDED	ALIVE	7872
PS	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	5237
PS	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	379

Figures 14d-e show the status of interactions with Silky sharks as observed for all fisheries, with the majority of records reported for the purse seine fisheries (for which the species turns out to be the most common shark species, if not the only one currently reported by observers) and resulting in discards of mostly dead individuals. A proper breakdown is provided in table 4c.

Table 4c. Fate and condition for silky sharks interactions by gear (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets)

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
LL	DISCARDED	ALIVE	349
LL	DISCARDED	DEAD	238
LL	RETAINED	DEAD	29
LL	UNKNOWN	DEAD	28
LL	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	19
LL	UNKNOWN	ALIVE	18
LL	RETAINED	ALIVE	10
LL	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	9
LL	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	1

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
PS	DISCARDED	DEAD	13445
PS	DISCARDED	ALIVE	7565
PS	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	5127
PS	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	378

SUMMARY OF FISHERIES DATA AVILABLE FOR SEABIRDS

Main species and fisheries concerned

The main species of seabirds likely to be caught as bycatch in IOTC fisheries are presented in Table [6].

Table 5. Main species of seabirds likely to be incidentally caught on longline operations

Common Name	Status*	Scientific Name
Amsterdam Albatross	Critically Endangered	*Diomedea amsterdamensis*
Antipodean Albatross	Vulnerable	*Diomedea antipodensis*
Black-browed Albatross	Endangered	*Thalassarche melanophrys*
Buller's Albatross	Near Threaten	*Thalassarche bulleri*
Campbell Albatross	Vulnerable	*Thalassarche impavida*
Chatham Albatross	Vulnerable	*Thalassarche eremite*
Grey-headed Albatross	Vulnerable	*Thalassarche chrysostoma*
Light-mantled Albatross	Near Threatened	*Phoebetria palpebrata*
Northern Royal Albatross	Endangered	*Diomedea sanfordi*
Southern Royal Albatross	Vulnerable	*Diomedea epomophora*
Salvin's Albatross	Vulnerable	*Thalassarche salvini*
Shy Albatross	Near Threatened	*Thalassarche cauta*
White-capped Albatross	Near Threatened	*Thalassarche steadi*
Sooty Albatross	Endangered	*Phoebetria fusca*
Tristan Albatross	Critically Endangered	*Diomedea dabbenena*
Wandering Albatross	Vulnerable	*Diomedea exulans*
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	Endangered	*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	Endangered	*Thalassarche carteri*
Northern Giant Petrel	Least Concern	*Macronectes halli*
Southern Giant Petrel	Least Concern	*Macronectes giganteus*
White-chinned Petrel	Vulnerable	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*
Westland Petrel	Vulnerable	*Procellaria westlandica*
Short-tailed Shearwater	Least Concern	*Puffinus tenuirostris*
Sooty Shearwater	Near Threatened	*Puffinus griseus*

*****Source IUCN 2006, BirdLife International 2004b.

[6] As in IOTC–2007–WPEB–22, Appendix 2, page 24. Paper submitted on behalf of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

Longline vessels fishing in southern waters

The interaction between seabirds and IOTC fisheries is likely to be significant only in Southern waters (south of 25° degrees South), an area where most of the effort is exerted by longliners. Incidental catches are, for this reason, likely to be of importance only for longline fleets having vessels operating in these areas. The main fleets reporting longline fishing effort since 1955 in this area are those of Japan and Taiwan,China, accounting for 13% and 62% of total effort in the area in 2017 (Figure). This summarises total reported effort, however, this is incomplete for some reporting fleets, i.e. for Malaysia, South Africa, Seychelles, Rep. of Korea and Taiwan,China the effort is likely to be higher. It is also important to note that these are only the countries that are reporting some information on effort, while it is expected that a number of other longline fleets also fish in this area based on the presence of temperate species in their catch data. These include Indonesia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Philippines, Mozambique and Belize. The effort from some of these CPCs is also likely to be substantial, given the catch quantities of temperate species (e.g. Indonesia National Report Fig; 3b IOTC-2016-SC19-NR01).

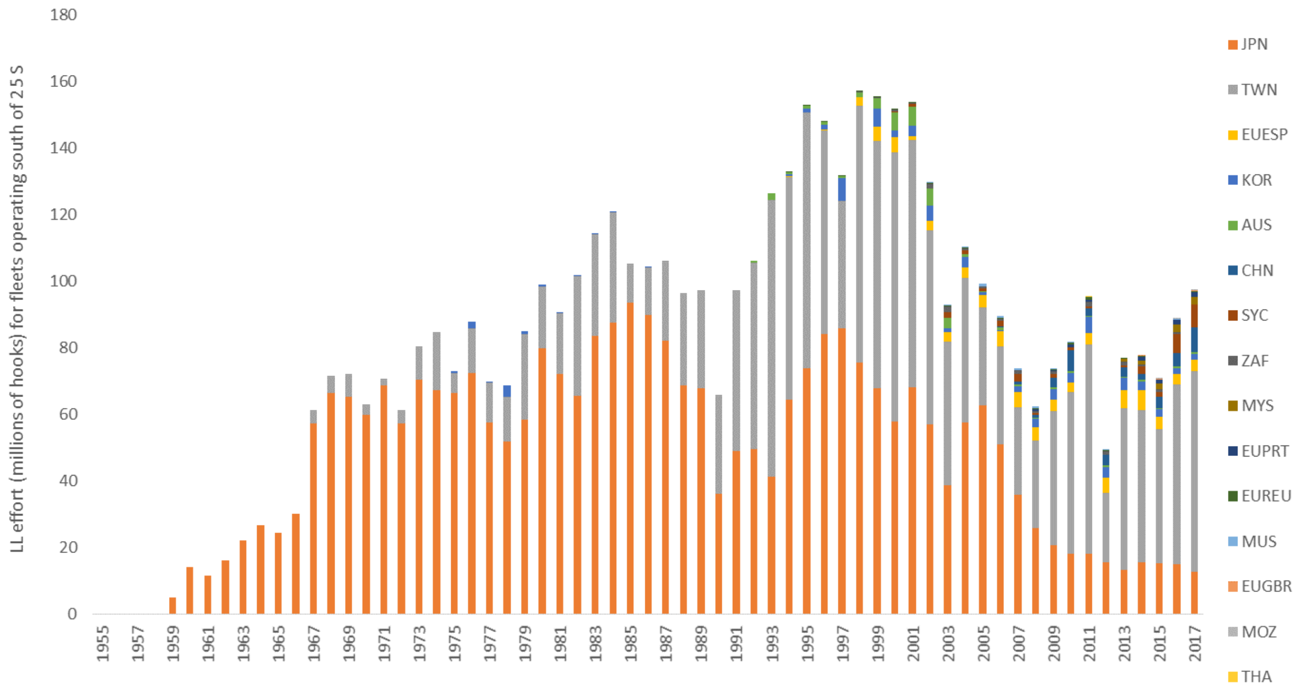


Figure 17. Reported longline effort for fleets operating south of 25° south between 1955 and 2017

[THA = Thailand, EUGBR = EU,UK, MYS = Malaysia, EUPRT = EU,Portugal, EU,REU = EU,France, MUS = Mauritius, ZAF, = South Africa, SYC = Seychelles, CHN = China, AUS = Australia, EUESP = EU,Spain, KOR = Rep. of Kora, TWN = Taiwan,China, JPN = Japan]

Status of data on seabird bycatch

The reported data available on seabirds caught in the IOTC area of competence are generally fairly limited. In 2016 six CPCs (Australia, EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, EU-France, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Taiwan,China and South Africa) of the 15 CPCs which report effort or are likely to exert longline fishing effort south of 25°S to IOTC submitted data in response to a call for data submission on seabirds which was reported to the SC.[7]

The information provided highlighted some general trends in seabird bycatch rates across the Indian Ocean with higher catch rates at higher latitudes, even within the area south of 25°S and higher catch rates in the coastal areas in the eastern and western parts of the southern Indian Ocean. Because the reporting of effort has been low (some CPCs fishing south of 25°S in the Indian Ocean did not report any effort while for others it was incomplete), and the observer coverage is relatively low (though improving) for many fleets, data submitted through the data-call is unlikely to be able to provide reliable estimates of total bycatch of seabirds from the longline fishery south of 25°S latitude in the Indian Ocean and so extrapolations of the information to total Indian Ocean captures were not undertaken. Bycatch mortality, where reported, was high but there is a lack of information on post release mortality/survival as well as total effort which means that the total fishery induced mortality on the seabird populations cannot be estimated.

All information related to seabird interactions – as extracted from the data currently incorporated in the ROS Regional Database – is summarized in figures 16a-c.

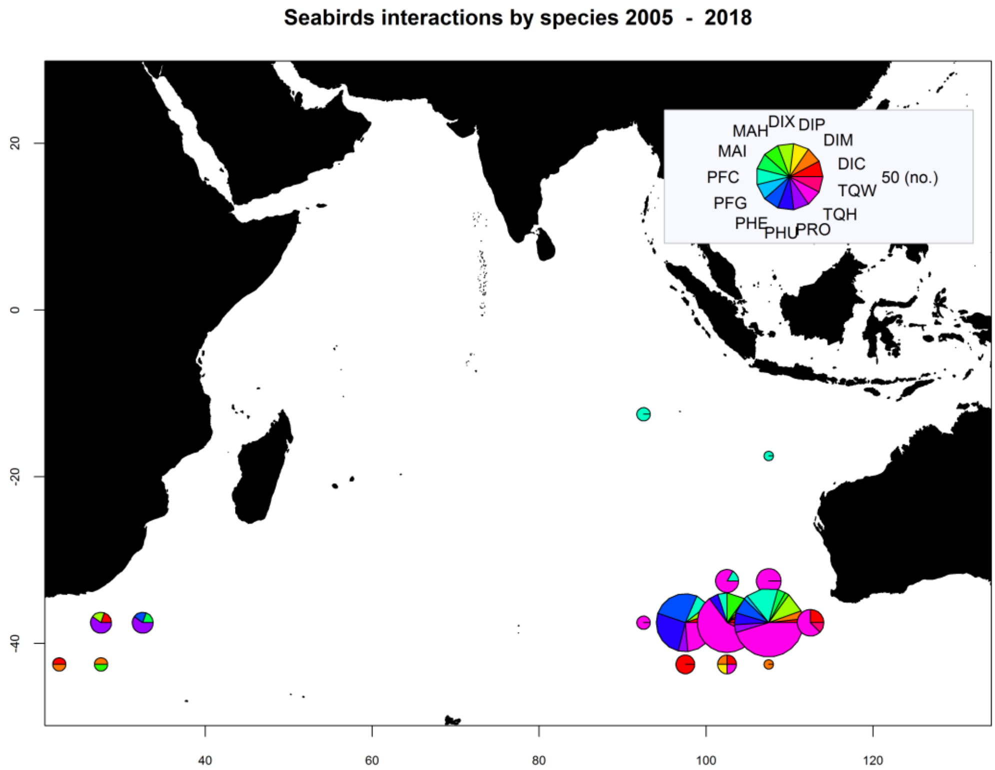


Fig. 16a. Seabirds interactions by species (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

[DIC = Grey-headed Albatross, DIM = Black-browed Albatross, DIP = Southern Royal Albatross, DIX = Wandering Albatross, MAH = Northern Giant Petrel, MAI = Southern Giant Petrel, PFC = Flesh-footed shearwater, PFG = Sooty Shearwater, PHE = Light-mantled Albatross, PHU = Sooty Albatross, PRO = White-chinned Petrel, TQH = Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, TQW = Campbell Albatross]

[7] IOTC-2016-SC19-INF02

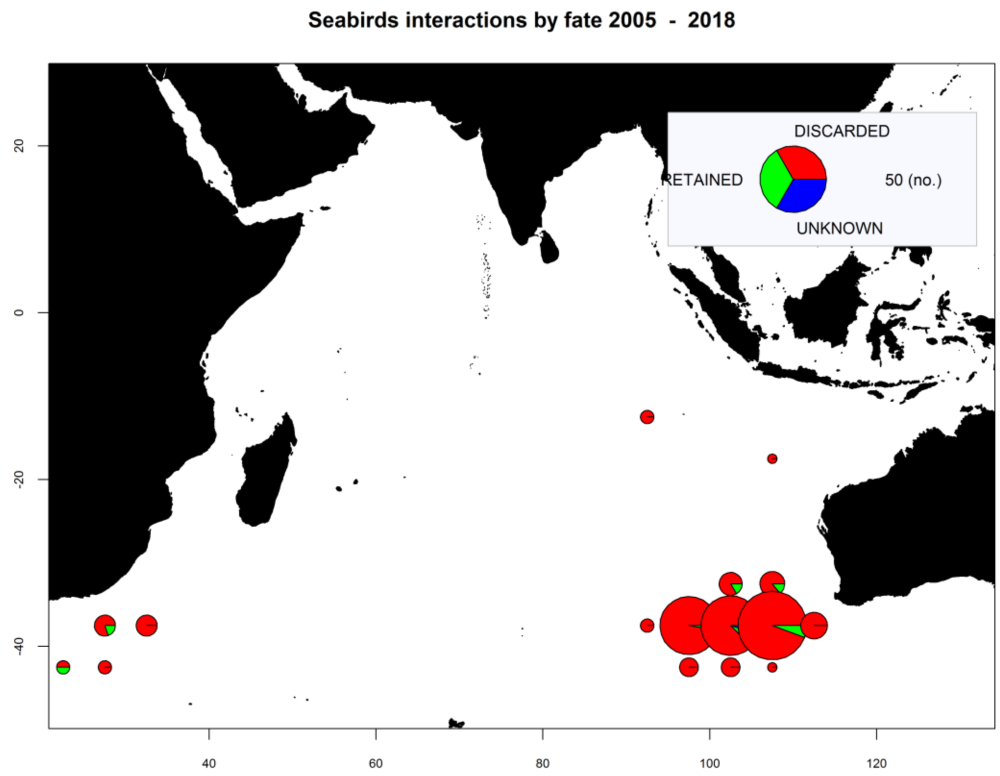


Fig. 16b. Seabirds interactions by fate (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

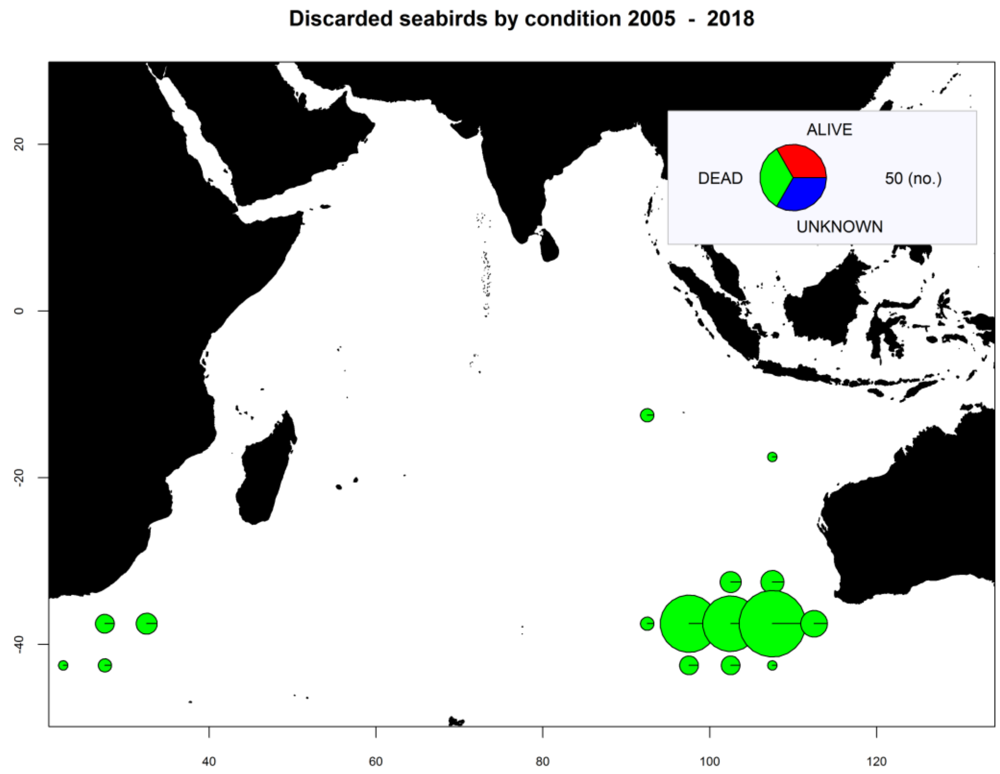


Fig. 16c. Seabirds interactions by condition at release (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

Table 7a. Fate and condition for all seabirds interactions by gears (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets and gears)

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
LL	DISCARDED	DEAD	167
LL	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	9
LL	UNKNOWN	DEAD	2
LL	RETAINED	DEAD	2

Table 7b. Fate and condition for seabirds interactions by species (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets and gears)

Species	Fate	Condition	Interactions
DIC	DISCARDED	DEAD	14
DIC	RETAINED	DEAD	1
DIM	DISCARDED	DEAD	6
DIM	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	1
DIP	DISCARDED	DEAD	2
DIX	DISCARDED	DEAD	8
DIX	RETAINED	DEAD	1
MAH	DISCARDED	DEAD	5
MAH	UNKNOWN	DEAD	1
MAI	DISCARDED	DEAD	3

Species	Fate	Condition	Interactions
PFC	DISCARDED	DEAD	17
PFG	DISCARDED	DEAD	1
PHE	DISCARDED	DEAD	15
PHU	DISCARDED	DEAD	13
PHU	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	2
PRO	DISCARDED	DEAD	10
TQH	DISCARDED	DEAD	69
TQH	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	6
TQH	UNKNOWN	DEAD	1
TQW	DISCARDED	DEAD	4

SUMMARY OF FISHERIES DATA AVILABLE FOR MARINE TURTLES

Main species and fisheries concerned

The main species of marine turtles likely to be caught as bycatch by IOTC fisheries are listed in Table **.**

Table 6. Main species of Indian Ocean marine turtles[11].

Common Name	Scientific Name
Loggerhead turtle	*Caretta caretta*
Olive ridley turtle	*Lepidochelys olivacea*
Green turtle	*Chelonia mydas*
Hawksbill turtle	*Eretmochelys imbricata*
Leatherback turtle	*Dermochelys coriacea*
Flatback turtle	*Natator depressus*

The interaction between marine turtles and IOTC fisheries is likely to be significant only in tropical areas, involving both industrial and artisanal fisheries, notably for:

- Industrial purse seine fisheries, in particular on sets using fish aggregating devices (EU, Seychelles, I.R. Iran, Thailand, Japan)
- Gillnet fisheries operating in coastal waters or on the high seas (Sri Lanka, I.R. Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia)
- Industrial longline fisheries operating in tropical areas (China, Taiwan,China, Japan, Indonesia, Seychelles, India, Oman, Malaysia and the Philippines)

Status of data on marine turtle bycatch

The reported data available on marine turtles caught in the IOTC area of competence are poor quality, sparse and not standardised, as highlighted in paper IOTC-2015-WPEB11-07.

All information related to marine turtles interactions – as extracted from the data currently incorporated in the ROS Regional Database – is summarized in figures 17a-c.

[11] Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia

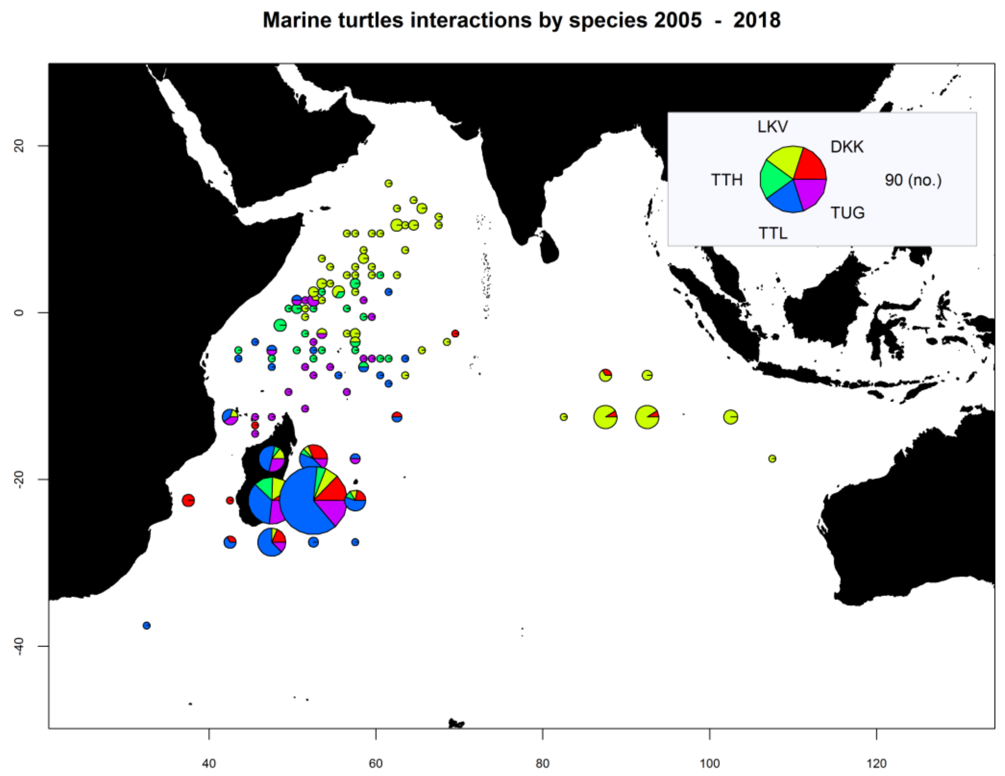


Fig. 17a. Marine turtles interactions by species (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

[DKK = Leatherback turtle, LKV = Olive ridley turtle, TTH = Hawksbill turtle, TTL = Loggerhead turtle, TUG = Green turtle]

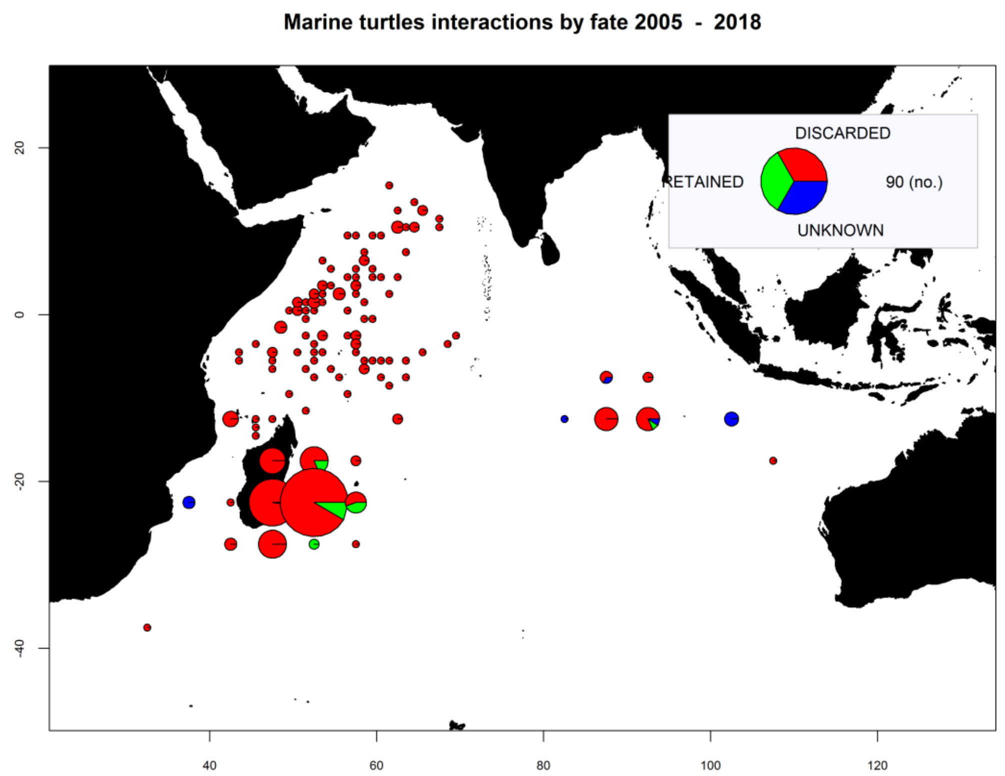


Fig. 17b. Marine turtles interactions by fate (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

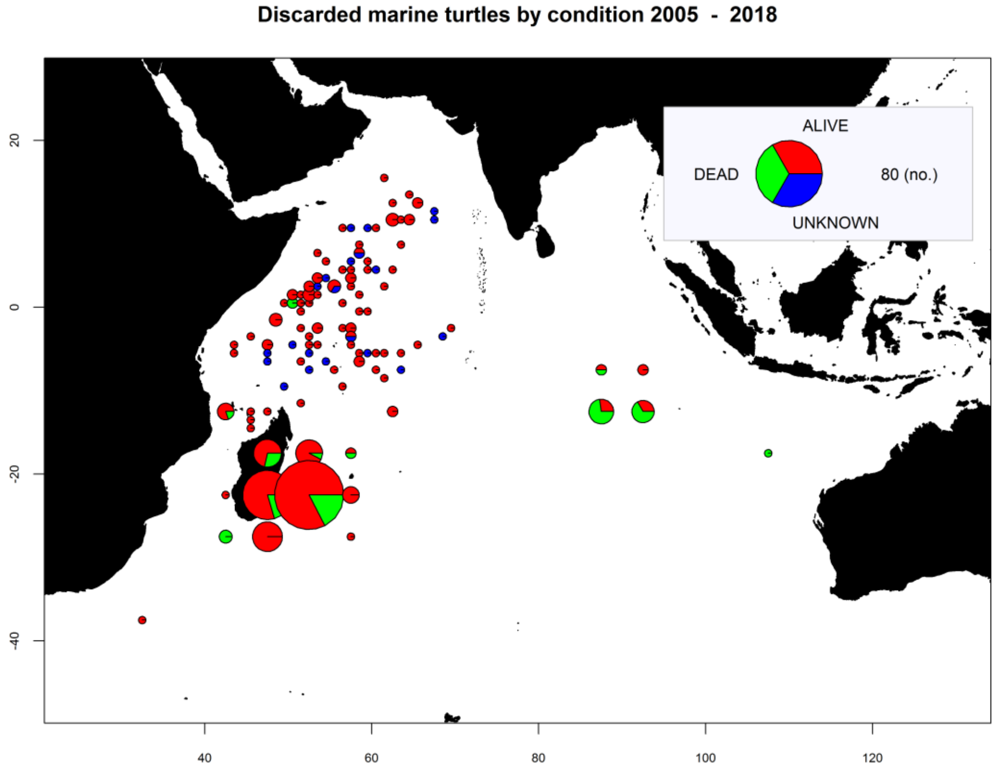


Fig. 17c. Marine turtles interactions by condition at release (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

Table 8a. Fate and condition for all marine turtles interactions by gears (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets and gears)

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
LL	DISCARDED	ALIVE	168
LL	DISCARDED	DEAD	50
LL	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	18
LL	UNKNOWN	DEAD	6
LL	UNKNOWN	ALIVE	4
LL	RETAINED	ALIVE	1

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
PS	DISCARDED	ALIVE	85
PS	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	21
PS	DISCARDED	DEAD	2

Table 8b. Fate and condition for marine turtles interactions by species (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets and gears)

Species	Fate	Condition	Interactions
DKK	DISCARDED	ALIVE	31
DKK	UNKNOWN	ALIVE	3
DKK	DISCARDED	DEAD	2
DKK	UNKNOWN	DEAD	1
LKV	DISCARDED	ALIVE	57
LKV	DISCARDED	DEAD	22
LKV	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	10
LKV	UNKNOWN	DEAD	5
LKV	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	3
LKV	UNKNOWN	ALIVE	1
TTH	DISCARDED	ALIVE	24

Species	Fate	Condition	Interactions
TTH	DISCARDED	DEAD	7
TTH	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	6
TTH	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	1
TTL	DISCARDED	ALIVE	100
TTL	RETAINED	UNKNOWN	14
TTL	DISCARDED	DEAD	10
TTL	RETAINED	ALIVE	1
TTL	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	1
TUG	DISCARDED	ALIVE	41
TUG	DISCARDED	DEAD	11
TUG	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	4

SUMMARY OF FISHERIES DATA AVILABLE FOR MARINE MAMMALS

The reporting of the interactions of IOTC fisheries with marine mammals has been extremely limited to date, as highlighted in paper IOTC-2015-WPEB11-07. The current low level, lack of standardisation and ad hoc nature of data reporting are not conducive to supporting regional level analyses. Nevertheless, with the current development of the cetacean identification guides and publication in multiple languages, this is expected to improve considerably.

All information related to marine mammals interactions – as extracted from the data currently incorporated in the ROS Regional Database – is summarized in figures 18a-c.

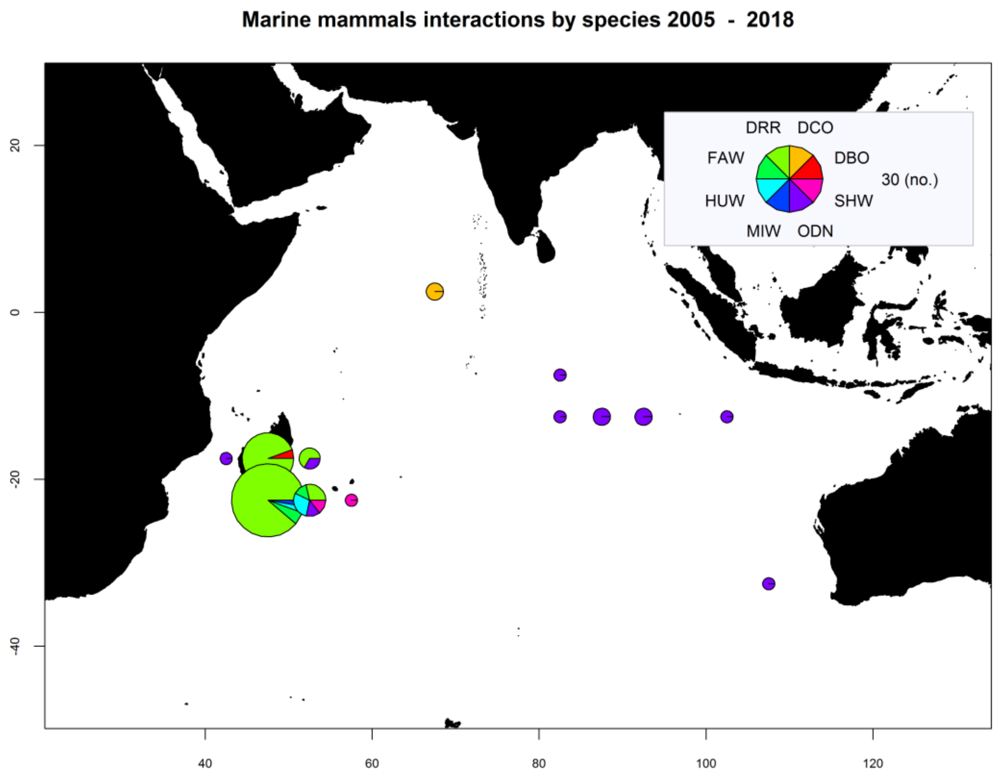


Fig. 18a. Marine mammals interactions by species (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

[DBO = Bottlenose dolphin, DCO = Common dolphin, DRR = Risso's dolphin, FAW = False killer whale, HUW = Humpback whale, MIW = Minke whale, ODN = Toothed whales nei]

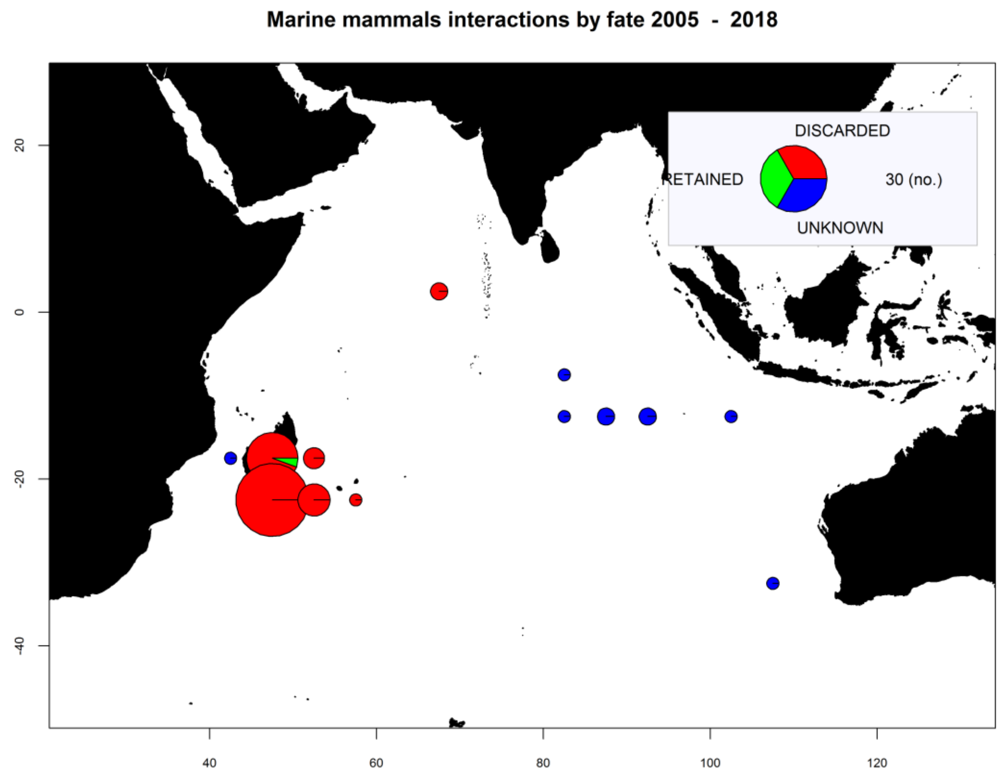


Fig. 18b. Marine mammals interactions by fate (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

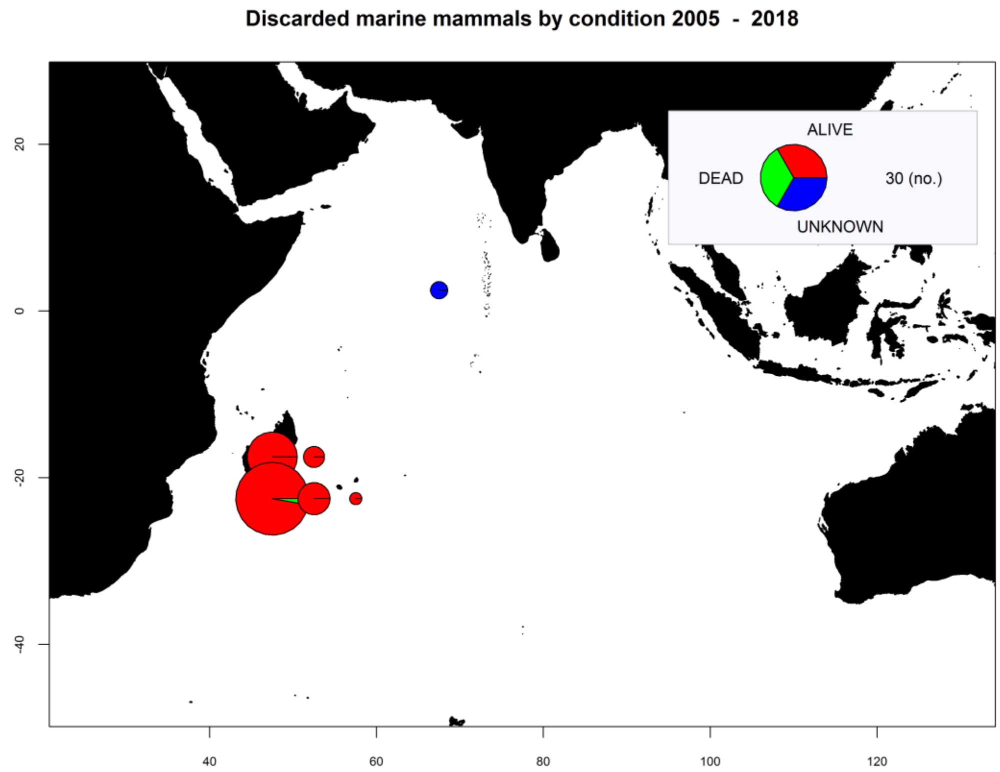


Fig. 18c. Marine mammals interactions by condition at release (ROS data, all gears and fleets, 2005-2018)

Table 9a. Fate and condition for all marine mammals interactions by gears (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets and gears)

Gear	Fate	Condition	Interactions
LL	DISCARDED	ALIVE	63
LL	UNKNOWN	ALIVE	7
LL	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	2
LL	UNKNOWN	DEAD	1
LL	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	1
LL	RETAINED	DEAD	1
LL	DISCARDED	DEAD	1

Table 9b. Fate and condition for marine mammals interactions by species (ROS data, 2005-2018, all fleets and gears)

Species	Fate	Condition	Interactions
DBO	RETAINED	DEAD	1
DCO	DISCARDED	UNKNOWN	2
DRR	DISCARDED	ALIVE	53
FAW	DISCARDED	ALIVE	3
HUW	DISCARDED	ALIVE	3
MIW	DISCARDED	DEAD	1
ODN	UNKNOWN	ALIVE	7
ODN	DISCARDED	ALIVE	2
ODN	UNKNOWN	DEAD	1
ODN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	1
SHW	DISCARDED	ALIVE	2

MAIN ISSUES IDENTIFIED CONCERNING DATA ON BYCATCH (NON-IOTC) SPECIES AVAILABLE TO THE IOTC

General issues

There are a number of key issues with the data that are apparent from this summary. The main points are discussed below.

Sharks

- Unreported catches

Although some fleets have been operating since 1950, there are many cases where historical catches have gone unreported as many countries were not collecting fishery statistics in years prior to 1970. It is therefore thought that important catches of sharks might have gone unrecorded in several countries. There are also a number of fleets which are still not reporting on their interactions with bycatch species, despite fleets using similar gears reporting high catch rates of bycatch.

Some fleets have also been noted to report catches by species only for those that have been specifically identified by the Commission and do not report catches of other species even in aggregate form. This creates problems for the estimation of total catches of all sharks and for attempts to apportion aggregate catches into species groups at a later date. The changing requirements for species-specific reporting also complicates the interpretation of these data.

- Errors in reported catches

For the fleets that do report interactions, there are a number of issues with these estimates. The estimates are often based on retained catches rather than total catches, and so if discarding is high then this is a major source of error where discards are not reported. Errors are also introduced due to the processing of the retained catches that is undertaken. This creates problems for calculating total weight or numbers, as sometimes dressed weight might be recorded instead of live weights. For high levels of processing, such as finning where the carcasses are not retained, the estimation of total live weight is extremely difficult.

- Poor resolution of data

Historically, shark catches have not been reported by species but simply as an aggregated total, however, the proportion of catches reported by species has increased substantially in recent years. Misidentification of shark species is also common. Processing creates further problems for species identification, requiring a high level of expertise and experience in order to be able to accurately identify specimens, if at all. The level of reporting by gear type is much higher and catches reported with no gear type allocated form a small proportion of the total.

The main consequence of this is that the estimation of total catches of sharks in the Indian Ocean is compromised by the paucity of the data available.

Catch-and-Effort data from gillnet fisheries:

- Driftnet fishery of Taiwan,China (1982–92): data not reported by IOTC standards (no species-specific catches).
- Gillnet fisheries of Pakistan: data not provided;
- Gillnet fisheries of I.R. Iran: spatially disaggregated CE data is now available from 2007 onwards, although not fully reported by IOTC standards (does not include catches by shark species, which are instead available as nominal catches during the same period);
- Gillnet fisheries of Oman: data not reported by IOTC standards.

Catch-and-Effort data from longline fisheries:

- Historical catches of sharks from major longline fisheries (Japan, Taiwan,China, Indonesia and Rep. of Korea): data not reported by IOTC standards for years before 2006 (no species-specific catches);
- Fresh-tuna longline fisheries (Indonesia, Malaysia): data not provided or not reported by IOTC standards;
- Deep-freezing longline fisheries (EU,Spain, India, Indonesia and Oman): data not provided or not reported by IOTC standards (for the periods during which these fisheries were known to be active).

Catch-and-Effort data from coastal fisheries:

- Coastal fisheries of India, Indonesia, Madagascar and Yemen: data not provided;
- Coastal fisheries of Oman: data not reported by IOTC standards.

Discard levels from surface and longline fisheries:

- Discard levels of sharks from major longline fisheries: to date the EU (Spain, UK), Japan and Taiwan,China, have not provided estimates of total discards of sharks, by species, although all are now reporting discards in their observer data.
- Discard levels of sharks for industrial purse seine fisheries: I.R. Iran, Japan, Seychelles, and Thailand have not provided estimates of total quantities of discards of sharks, by species, for industrial purse seiners under their flag, although EU, Spain and Seychelles are now reporting discards in their observer data and EU, Spain started reporting total discards for its PS fleet in 2018.

Size frequency data:

- Gillnet fisheries of I.R. Iran and Pakistan: to date, I.R. Iran and Pakistan have **not** reported size frequency data for their driftnet fisheries.
- Longline fisheries of India, Malaysia, Oman: to date, these countries have **not** reported size frequency data for their longline fisheries.
- Coastal fisheries of India, Indonesia, Madagascar and Yemen: to date, these countries have **not** reported size frequency data for their coastal fisheries.

Biological data:

- The IOTC Secretariat has to use length-age keys, length-weight keys, ratios of fin-to-body weight, and processed weight-live weight keys for sharks from other oceans due to the limited amount of biological data available: this situation could be potentially addressed in the medium term to long term with the steady increase in scientific observer data submissions according to ROS standards and requirements.

Other bycatch species groups

The reporting of non-IOTC species other than sharks is extremely poor and where it does occur, this is often in the form of patchy information which is not submitted according to IOTC data reporting procedures, is unstandardized and often lacking in clarity. Formal submissions of data in an electronic and standardized format using the available IOTC templates, in combination with observer data reported in the context of the ROS programme, will considerably improve the quality of data obtained and the type of regional analyses that these data can be used for.

Incidental catches of SEABIRDS:

- Longline fisheries operating in areas with high densities of seabirds. Seychelles, Malaysia and Mauritius have not reported incidental catches of seabirds for longliners under their flag.

Incidental catches of MARINE TURTLES:

- Gillnet fisheries of Pakistan and Indonesia: to date, there have been no reported incidental catches of marine turtles for the driftnet fisheries.
- Longline fisheries of Malaysia, Oman, India, Philippines and Seychelles: to date, these countries have not reported incidental catches of marine turtles for their longline fisheries.
- Purse seine fisheries of Japan, Seychelles, I.R. Iran and Thailand: to date these countries have not reported incidental catches of marine turtles for their purse seine fisheries, including incidental catches of marine turtles on Fish Aggregating Devices.

While a number of CPCs have been mentioned specifically here as they have important fisheries or have not provided any information, there are still many CPCs that are providing data that are not consistent with the IOTC minimum reporting standards. This includes not reporting bird bycatch data by species (as required by Resolution 12/06) and not providing an estimation of the total mortality of marine turtles incidentally caught in their fisheries (as required by Resolution 12/04).

APPENDIX 1

OVERVIEW OF MINIMUM DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All bycatch

- IOTC Resolution 15/02: ***Mandatory statistical reporting requirements*** *for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) (came into force on 10 September2015)*
    - Paragraph 2: *Estimates of the total catch by species and gear, if possible quarterly, that shall be submitted annually as referred in paragraph 7 (separated, whenever possible, by retained catches in live weight and by discards in live weight or numbers) for all species under the IOTC mandate as well as the most commonly caught elasmobranch species according to records of catches and incidents as established in Resolution 15/01 on the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).*
    - Paragraph 3: *Concerning cetaceans, seabirds and marine turtles data should be provided as stated in Resolutions 13/04 on Conservation of Cetaceans, Resolution 12/06 on reduction the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries and Resolution 12/04 on the conservation of marine turtles (or any subsequent superseding resolutions).*
- IOTC Resolution 15/01: *On the* ***recording of catch and effort by fishing vessels*** *in the IOTC area of competence (came into force on 10 September2015)*
    - *Paragraph 1: Each flag CPC shall ensure that all purse seine, longline, gillnet, pole and line, handline and trolling fishing vessels flying its flag and authorised to fish species managed by IOTC be subject to a data recording system.*
    - *Paragraph 10: The Flag State shall provide all the data for any given year to the IOTC Secretariat by June 30th of the following year on an aggregated basis. The confidentiality rules set out in Resolution 12/02 Data Confidentiality Policy and Procedures for fine–scale data shall apply.*
    - *Paragraph 11: Noting the difficulty in implementing a data recording system on fishing vessels from developing CPCs, the data recording systems for vessels less than 24 metres of developing CPCs operating inside the EEZ shall be implemented progressively from 1 July 2016.*
- IOTC Resolution 11/04: *On a* ***regional observer scheme***
    - *Paragraph 2: In order to improve the collection of scientific data, at least 5 % of the number of operations/sets for each gear type by the fleet of each CPC while fishing in the IOTC Area of competence of 24 meters overall length and over, and under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZs shall be covered by this observer scheme. For vessels under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ, the above mentioned coverage should be achieved progressively by January 2013.*
    - *Paragraph 4: The number of the artisanal fishing vessels landings shall also be monitored at the landing place by field samplers. The indicative level of the coverage of the artisanal fishing vessels should progressively increase towards 5% of the total levels of vessel activity (i.e. total number of vessel trips or total number of vessels active).*
    - *Paragraph 11: The observer shall, within 30 days of completion of each trip, provide a report to the CPCs of the vessel. The CPCs shall send within 150 days at the latest each report, as far as continuous flow of report from observer placed on the longline fleet is ensured, which is recommended to be provided with 1°x1° format to the Executive Secretary, who shall make the report available to the Scientific Committee upon request. In a case where the vessel is fishing in the EEZ of a coastal State, the report shall equally be submitted to that coastal State.*

Sharks

- IOTC Resolution 17/05: *On the conservation of* ***SHARKS*** *caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC*
    - *Paragraph 6:CPCs shall report data for catches of sharks no later than 30 June of the following year, in accordance with IOTC data reporting requirements and procedures in Resolution 15/02 mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC's) (or any subsequent superseding resolution), including all available historical data, estimates and life status of discards (dead or alive) and size frequencies.*

- IOTC Resolution 12/09: *On the conservation of **THRESHER SHARKS** (family Alopiidae) caught in association with fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence*
  - *Paragraph 1: This measure shall apply to all fishing vessels on the IOTC Record of authorised Vessels.*
  - *Paragraph 4: CPCs shall encourage their fishers to record and report incidental catches as well as live releases. These data will be then kept at the IOTC Secretariat.*
  - *Paragraph 8: The Contracting Parties, Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, especially those directing fishing activities for sharks, shall submit data for sharks, as required by IOTC data reporting procedures.*
- IOTC Resolution 13/05: *On the conservation of **WHALE SHARKS** (Rhincodon typus)*
  - *Paragraph 1: This measure shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a CPC and on the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels or authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species managed by the IOTC on the high seas. The provisions of this measure do not apply to artisanal fisheries operating exclusively in their respective EEZ.*
  - *Paragraph 3: CPCs shall require that, in the event that a whale shark is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall:*

    b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, with the following information:

    i. the number of individuals;
    ii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible;
    iii. the location of the encirclement;
    iv. the steps taken to ensure safe release;
    v. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the whale shark was released alive but subsequently died.
  - *Paragraph 4: CPCs using other gear types fishing for tuna and tuna-like species associated with a whale shark shall report all interactions with whale sharks to the relevant authority of the flag State and include all the information outlined in paragraph 3b(i–v).*
  - *Paragraph 7: CPCs shall report the information and data collected under paragraph 3(b) and paragraph 4 through logbooks, or when an observer is onboard through observer programs, and provide to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the following year and according to the timelines specified in Resolution 10/02 (or any subsequent revision).*
  - *Paragraph 8: CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which whale sharks have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.*
  - *Paragraph 9: For CPCs having national and state legislation for protecting the species shall be exempt from reporting to IOTC, but are encouraged to provide data for the IOTC Scientific Committee consideration.*
- IOTC Resolution 13/06: *On a scientific and management framework on the conservation of **SHARK** species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries*
  - *Paragraph 5: CPCs shall encourage their fishers to record incidental catches as well as live releases of **OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARKS**. These data shall be kept at the IOTC Secretariat.*
  - *Paragraph 8: The CPCs, especially those targeting sharks, shall submit data for sharks, as required by IOTC data reporting procedures.w*

Seabirds

- IOTC Resolution 12/06 *On reducing the incidental bycatch of **SEABIRDS** in longline fisheries*
  - *Paragraph 1 (start): CPCs shall record data on seabird incidental bycatch by species, notably through scientific observers in accordance with Resolution 11/04 and report these annually.*
  - *Paragraph 2: CPCs that have not fully implemented the provisions of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme outlined in paragraph 2 of Resolution 11/04 shall report seabird incidental bycatch through logbooks, including details of species, if possible.*

Marine turtles

- IOTC Resolution 12/04 *On the conservation of **MARINE TURTLES***
  - *Paragraph 3: CPCs shall collect (including through logbooks and observer programs) and provide to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 30 June of the following year in accordance with Resolution 10/02 (or any subsequent revision), all data on their vessels' interactions with marine turtles. The data shall include the level of logbook or observer coverage and an estimation of total mortality of marine turtles incidentally caught in their fisheries.*

Marine mammals

- IOTC Resolution 13/04 *On the conservation of **CETACEANS***
  - *Paragraph 1: This measure shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a CPC and on the IOTC Record of Fishing Vessels or authorised to fish tuna and tuna-like species managed by the IOTC on the high seas. The provisions of this measure do not apply to artisanal fisheries operating exclusively in their respective EEZ.*
  - *Paragraph 3: CPCs shall require that, in the event that a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in a purse seine net, the master of the vessels shall:*

    b) report the incident to the relevant authority of the flag State, with the following information:
    - *i. the species (if known);*
    - *ii. the number of individuals;*
    - *iii. a short description of the interaction, including details of how and why the interaction occurred, if possible;*
    - *iv. the location of the encirclement;*
    - *v. the steps taken to ensure safe release;*
    - *vi. an assessment of the life status of the animal on release, including whether the cetacean was released alive but subsequently died.*
  - *Paragraph 4: CPCs using other gear types fishing for tuna and tuna-like species associated with cetaceans shall report all interactions with cetaceans to the relevant authority of the flag State and include all the information outlined in paragraph 3b(i–vi).*
  - *Paragraph 7: CPCs shall report the information and data collected under paragraph 3(b) and paragraph 4, through logbooks, or when an observer is onboard through observer programs, and provide to the IOTC Secretariat by 30 June of the following year and according to the timelines specified in Resolution 10/02 (or any subsequent revision).*
  - *Paragraph 8: CPCs shall report, in accordance with Article X of the IOTC Agreement, any instances in which cetaceans have been encircled by the purse seine nets of their flagged vessels.*
  - *Paragraph 9 (part): For CPCs having national and state legislation for protecting these species shall be exempt from reporting to IOTC, but are encouraged to provide data for the IOTC Scientific Committee consideration.*

APPENDIX 2

SHARK SPECIES THAT ARE KNOWN TO OCCUR IN FISHERIES DIRECTED AT IOTC SPECIES OR SHARKS

Code	English Name	Source	French Name	Scientific Name
AML	Grey Reef Shark	IOTC	Requin dagsit	*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*
BLR	Blacktip reef shark	IOTC	Requin pointes noires	*Carcharhinus melanopterus*
BRO	Copper shark	IOTC	Requin cuivre	*Carcharhinus brachyurus*
CCB	Spinner Shark	IOTC	Requin tisserand	*Carcharhinus brevipinna*
CCG	Galapagos shark	IOTC[3]	Requin des Galapagos	*Carcharhinus galapagensis*
DOP	Shortnose spurdog	IOTC	Aiguillat nez court	*Squalus megalops*
DUS	Dusky shark	IOTC	Requin de sable	*Carcharhinus obscurus*
GAG	Tope shark	IOTC	Requin-hâ	*Galeorhinus galeus*
GAM	Mouse Catshark	IOTC	Chien islandais	*Galeus murinus*
NTC	Broadnose sevengill shark	IOTC	Platnez	*Notorhynchus cepedianus*
OXY	Angular rough shark	IOTC	Centrine commune	*Oxynotus centrina*
SBL	Bluntnose sixgill shark	IOTC	Requin griset	*Hexanchus griseus*
SCK	Kitefin shark	IOTC	Squale liche	*Dalatias licha*
SHBC	Banded catshark	IOTC	Holbiche des plages	*Halaelurus lineatus*
SHCW	Cow sharks	IOTC	Requins griset	*Hexanchidae spp.*
SMD	Smooth-hound	IOTC	Emissole lisse	*Mustelus mustelus*
SPZ	Smooth hammerhead	IOTC	Requin marteau commun	*Sphyrna zygaena*
SSQ	Velvet dogfish	IOTC	Squale grogneur velouté	*Scymnodon squamulosus*
SSU	Australian angelshark	IOTC	Ange de mer australien	*Squatina australis*
AGN	Angelsharks, sand devils nei	FAO	Ange de mer commun	*Squatina squatina*
CCD	Whitecheek shark	IOTC[1]	Requin joues blanches	*Carcharhinus dussumieri*
CCM	Hardnose shark	IOTC[1]	Requin nez rude	*Carcharhinus macloti*
CCQ	Spot-tail shark	IOTC[1]	Requin queue tachet	*Carcharhinus sorrah*
CEM	Smallfin gulper shark	FAO[2]	Squale-chagrin cagaou	*Centrophorus moluccensis*
CLD	Sliteye shark	IOTC[3]	Requin sagrin	*Loxodon macrorhinus*
CPU	Little gulper shark	FAO[2]	Petit squale-chagrin	*Centrophorus uyato*
CYT	Ornate dogfish	FAO[2]	Aiguillat élégant	*Centroscyllium ornatum*
MTM	Arabian smooth-hound	IOTC[3]	Emissole d'Arabie	*Mustelus mosis*
ODH	Bigeye sand tiger shark	FAO[2]	Requin noronhai	*Odontaspis noronhai*
ORI	Slender bambooshark	FAO[2]	Requin-chabot élégant	*Chiloscyllium indicum*
ORR	Grey bambooshark	FAO[2]	Requin-chabot gris	*Chiloscyllium griseum*
ORZ	Tawny nurse shark	FAO[2]	Requin nourrice fauve	*Nebrius ferrugineus*
OSF	Zebra shark	FAO[2]	Requin zèbre	*Stegostoma fasciatum*
PWS	Sawsharks nei	FAO	Requins scies nca	*Pristiophorus spp*
RHA	Milk shark	IOTC[3]	Requin museau pointu	*Rhizoprionodon acutus*
SHL	Lanternsharks nei	FAO	Sagres nca	*Etmopterus spp*
SLA	Spadenose shark	IOTC[1]	Requin épée	*Scoliodon laticaudus*
RHN	Whale shark	IOTC[1]	Requin baleine	*Rhincodon typus*
PTH	Pelagic thresher	IOTC[1]	Renard pelagique	*Alopias pelagicus*
BTH	Bigeye thresher	IOTC[1]	Renard a gros yeux	*Alopias superciliosus*
ALV	Thresher	IOTC[1]	Renard	*Alopias vulpinus*
SMA	Shortfin mako	IOTC[1]	Taupe bleue	*Isurus oxyrinchus*
LMA	Longfin mako	IOTC[1]	Petite taupe	*Isurus paucus*
PSK	Crocodile shark	IOTC[1]	Crocodile shark	*Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*
ALS	Silvertip shark	IOTC[1]	Requin pointe blanche	*Carcharhinus albimarginatus*
FAL	Silky shark	IOTC[1]	Requin soyeux	*Carcharhinus falciformis*
OCS	Oceanic whitetip	IOTC[1]	Requin océanique	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
CCP	Sandbar shark	IOTC[1]	Requin gris	*Carcharhinus plumbeus*
TIG	Tiger shark	IOTC[1]	Requin tigre commun	*Galeocerdo cuvier*
BSH	Blue shark	IOTC[1]	Peau bleue	*Prionace glauca*
SPL	Scalloped hammerhead	IOTC[1]	Requin marteau halicorne	*Sphyrna lewini*

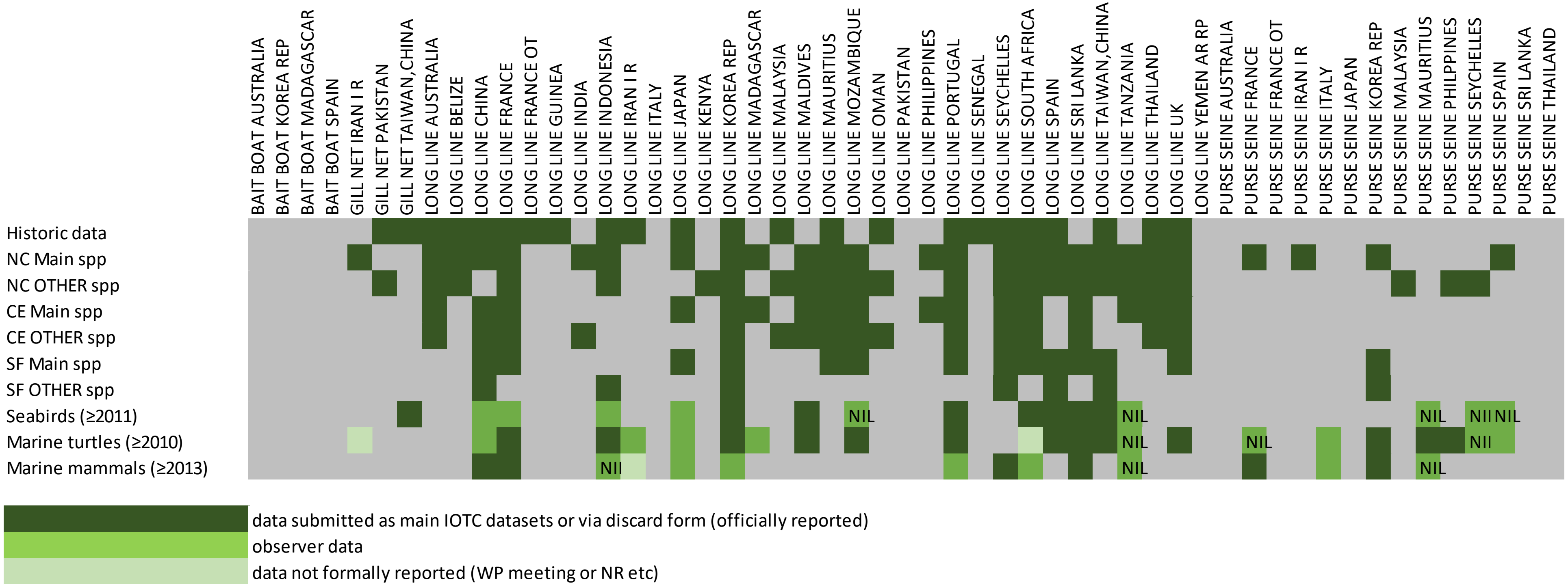
Code	English Name	Source	French Name	Scientific Name
POR	Porbeagle	IOTC[1]	Requin-taupe commun	*Lamna nasus*
WSH	Great White Shark	IOTC[1]	Grand requin blanc	*Carcharodon carcharias*
CWZ	Other Requiem Sharks	IOTC[1]	Requins Carcharhinus nca	*Carcharhinus spp*
SPN	Hammerhead Sharks	IOTC[1]	Requins marteau nca	*Sphyrna spp*

Note that most of the catches of sharks are not available by species and when available by species they are not considered to be an unbiased sample of the catch in the Indian Ocean

1. IOTC–2007–WPEB–13 (Sharks of India)
2. FAO: Case studies of the management of elasmobranch fisheries
3. IOTC: Information collected in Yemen by the IOTC/OFCF Project

APPENDIX 3
DATASETS AVAILABLE FOR BYCATCH BY FLEET

Datasets provided by industrial fleets according to IOTC reporting requirements[12]. Grey cells indicate which fleets have reported data for IOTC species, whereas green cells indicate which fleets have provided the bycatch data specified. Results are based on the nominal catch, catch–and-effort and size frequency data held within the databases at the IOTC Secretariat in August 2019 and other information on seabirds, marine turtles and marine mammals is taken from formally submitted discard reports (dark green), reported observer data (medium green) or information that has been summarised in documents such as national reports to the Scientific Committee or working party papers (pale green).



[12] NB: seabird discard reports for the Japan longline fleet and turtle discard reports for the Japan and Taiwan,China longline fleets were all submitted by South Africa

APPENDIX 4
AVAILABILITY OF CATCH DATA FOR SHARKS BY GEAR

Availability of catch data for the main shark species expressed as the proportion of fleets for which catch data on sharks are available out of the total number of fleets[13] for which data on IOTC species are available, by fishery, species of shark, and year, for the period 1950–2017.

- Shark species in bold are those identified as mandatory for reporting by each fleet, for which data shall be recorded in logbooks and reported to the IOTC Secretariat; reporting of catch data for other species can be done in aggregated form (i.e. all species combined as ***sharks nei*** or ***mantas and rays nei***).
- ***Hook and line*** refers to fisheries using handline and/or trolling and ***Other gears nei*** to other unidentified fisheries operated in coastal waters.
- Catch rates of sharks on pole-and-line fisheries are thought to be nil or negligible.
- Average levels of reporting for 1950–2017 and 2010–2017 are shown in columns ***All*** and ***Last***, respectively.

[13] The definition of fleets has changed since the previous report. Previously a fleet fishing in two areas were considered as two separate fleets, whereas here they are considered as one.

APPENDIX 5

ESTIMATION OF CATCHES AT SIZE FOR IOTC SHARK SPECIES

Equations used to convert from various length measurements to fork length and from fork length to round weight.

Species	*From type measurement – To type measurement*	*Equation*	*Parameters*	*n*	*FL range*	*IOTC reported data*
Blue shark (BSH) *Prionace glauca*	Fork length – Round weight(kg)[A]	$RND=a.L^b$	a= 0.0000031841 b= 3.1313	4529	52-288	No. of samples: 46 440 Min: 13 cm Max: 357 cm
	Precaudal length – Fork length[B]	$FL=\frac{PCL+b}{a}$	a= 0.9075 b= 0.3956	n/a	n/a	
	Total length – Fork length[C]	FL=a.TL+b	a= 0.8561 b= -4.5542	6485	n/a	
	Fork length (unconverted tape measure) – Fork length[D]	FL = a.FLUT+b	a= 0.98 b= -0.8	782	n/a	
Shortfin Mako (SMA) *Isurus oxyrinchus*	Fork length – Round weight[A]	$RND=a.L^b$	a= 0.0000052432 b= 3.1407	2081	65-338	No. of samples: 7186 Min: 52 cm Max: 323 cm
	Precaudal length – Fork length[B]	FL=a.PCL+b	a= 1.100 b= 0.766	n/a	n/a	
	Total length – Fork length[C]	FL=a.TL+b	a= 0.9047 b= 0.5963	1114	n/a	
	Fork length (unconverted tape measure) – Fork length	FL=a.TL+b	a= 0.968 b= -0.973	n/a	n/a	
Oceanic whitetip (OCS) *Carcharhinus longimanus*	Fork length – Round weight[C]	$RND= a.L^b$	a= 0.000018428 b= 2.9245	n/a	n/a	No. of samples: 82 Min: 62 cm Max: 197 cm
	Total length – Fork length[C]	FL=a.TL+b	a= 0.8602 b= -7.2885	n/a	n/a	
Porbeagle (POR) *Lamna nasus*	Fork length – Round weight[A]	$RND=a.L^b$	a= 0.000014823 b= 2.9641	15	106-227	No. of samples: 901 Min: 50 cm Max: 233 cm
	Precaudal length – Fork length[B]	FL=a.PCL+b	a= 1.098 b= 1.99	n/a	n/a	
Silky Shark (FAL) *Carcharhinus falciformis*	Fork length – Round weight[A]	$RND=a.L^b$	a= 0.000015406 b= 2.9221	n/a	n/a	No. of samples: 2075 Min: 42 cm Max: 257 cm
	Total length – Fork length[C]	FL=a.TL+b	a= 0.8113 b=1.0883	520	n/a	
Bigeye Thresher (BTH) *Alopias superciliosus*	Fork length – Round weight[E]	$RND=a.L^b$	a= 0.00001413 b= 2.99565	185	110-256	No. of samples: 42 Min: 14 cm Max: 169cm
Thresher (ALV) *Alopias vulpinus*	Fork length – Round weight[A]	$RND=a.L^b$	a= 0.00018821 b= 2.5188	88	154-262	No. of samples: 1
Crocodile Shark (PSK) *Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*	Fork length – Round weight[D]	$RND= a.L^b$	a= 0.00033532 b= 2.1156	n/a	n/a	No. of samples: 118 Min: 70 cm Max: 140 cm
	Total length – Fork length[C]	FL=a.TL+b	a=0.8083 b=7.1478	407	62-103	
Scalloped hammerhead (SPL) *Sphyrna lewini*	Fork length – Round weight[A]	$RND=a.L^b$	a=0.000000777 b=3.0669	390	79-423	No. samples
	Total length – Fork length[C]	FL=a.TL+b	a=0.7994 b=-1.0546	20	115-230	
Smooth hammerhead (SPZ) *Sphyrna zygaena*	Total length – Fork length[C]	FL=a.TL+b	a=0.8039 b=-4.3490	70	114-262	No. of samples: 3

A: Data from Western North Atlantic: Kohler, N.E., Casey, J.G and Truner, P.A. (1996). Length-length and length-weight relationships for 13 shark species from the Western North Atlantic. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NE-110, p83.

B: Inverse equation from north Pacific: Clarke, S., Yokawa, K., Matsunaga, H and Nakano, H (2011). Analysis of North Pacific Shark Data from Japanese Commercial Longline and Research/Training Vessel Records. WCPFC-SC7-2011/EB-WP-02.

C: Data from Indian Ocean: Ariz J, A Delgado de Molina, M.L Ramos, J.C Santana (2007). Length-weight relationships, conversion factors and analyses of sex-ratio, by length-range, Observers onboard Spanish Longliners in South Western Indian Ocean during 2005. IOTC-2007-WPEB-04.

D: Data from the Canadian Atlantic: Campana, S.E., Marks, L., Joyce, W. and Kohler, N. (2005). Catch, bycatch and indices of population status of Blue shark (Prionace glauca) in the Canadian Atlantic. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 58(3): 891-934.

E: Data from the Soviet Indian Ocean Taun Longline Research Programme: Romanov, E.V., Romanova, N.V. (2012). Size distribution and length-weight relationships for some large pelagic sharks in the Indian Ocean. Communication 2. Bigeye thresher shark, tiger shark, silvertip shark, sandbar shark, great hammerhead shark and scalloped hammeread shark. IOTC-2012-WPEB08-22.

Alternative equations

Blue shark:

- *Campana et al., 2005.*
- *Romanov, E., 2012, conversion factors from standard length to fork length for Blue shark, email correspondence to IOTC Secretariat, July 2013.*

Shortfin Mako shark:

- *Kohler, et al., 1996.*
- *Romanov, E., 2012, conversion factors from standard length to fork length for Shortfin Mako shark, email correspondence to IOTC Secretariat, July 2013.*

Portbeagle shark:

- *Kohler, et al., 1996.*

Silky shark:

- *Kohler, et al., 1996.*

Bigeye Thresher shark:

- *Kohler, et al., 1996.*

Scalloped hammerhead shark:

- *Kohler, et al., 1996.*
- *Romanov & Romanova, 2012.*

Number and proportion of samples reported to the IOTC Secretariat by measurement type and shark species.						
Species	**Eye-fork length ***	**Fork length**	**Fork length ***	**Precaudal length**	**Total length**	**No. samples**
Blue shark		131797	687	14047	4904	151435
Shortfin mako	1	10863	1175	801	130	12970
Silky shark		8243	8	97	2	8350
Mako sharks		4518			18	4536
Porbeagle		868		2175	18	3061
Sharks various nei		1			2035	2036
Sharks mackerel and porbeagles nei		1961				1961
Thresher sharks nei		2			926	928
Blacktip shark					380	380
Blacktip reef shark		2			333	335
Oceanic whitetip shark		271		11	26	308
Pelagic thresher shark		147			1	148
Crocodile shark		111			24	135
Bigeye thresher		80	5	49		134
Dusky shark		56				56
Pelagic stingray		23			33	56
Longfin mako	1	19			16	36
Hammerhead sharks nei		21			1	22
Velvet dogfish		13			6	19
Whitetip reef shark		17				17
Scalloped hammerhead		12	3		1	16
Smooth hammerhead		4				4
Hardnose shark		2				2
Copper shark		2				2
Thresher Shark		2				2
Silvertip shark		2				2
Tiger shark		1				1
Giant Mantas		1				1

* Unconverted tape measure length

Species	Eye-fork length*	Fork length	Fork length*	Precaudal length	Total length
Blue shark		87.03%	0.45%	9.28%	3.24%
Shortfin mako	0.01%	83.75%	9.06%	6.18%	1.00%
Silky shark		98.72%	0.10%	1.16%	0.02%
Mako sharks		99.60%			0.40%
Porbeagle		28.36%		71.06%	0.59%
Sharks various nei		0.05%			99.95%
Sharks mackerel and porbeagles nei		100.00%			
Thresher sharks nei		0.22%			99.78%
Blacktip shark					100.00%
Blacktip reef shark		0.60%			99.40%
Oceanic whitetip shark		87.99%		3.57%	8.44%
Pelagic thresher shark		99.32%			0.68%
Crocodile shark		82.22%			17.78%
Bigeye thresher		59.70%	3.73%	36.57%	
Dusky shark		100.00%			
Pelagic stingray		41.07%			58.93%
Longfin mako	2.78%	52.78%			44.44%
Hammerhead sharks nei		95.45%			4.55%
Velvet dogfish		68.42%			31.58%
Whitetip reef shark		100.00%			
Scalloped hammerhead		75.00%	18.75%		6.25%
Smooth hammerhead		100.00%			
Hardnose shark		100.00%			
Copper shark		100.00%			
Thresher Shark		100.00%			
Silvertip shark		100.00%			
Tiger shark		100.00%			
Giant Mantas		100.00%			

* Unconverted tape measure length

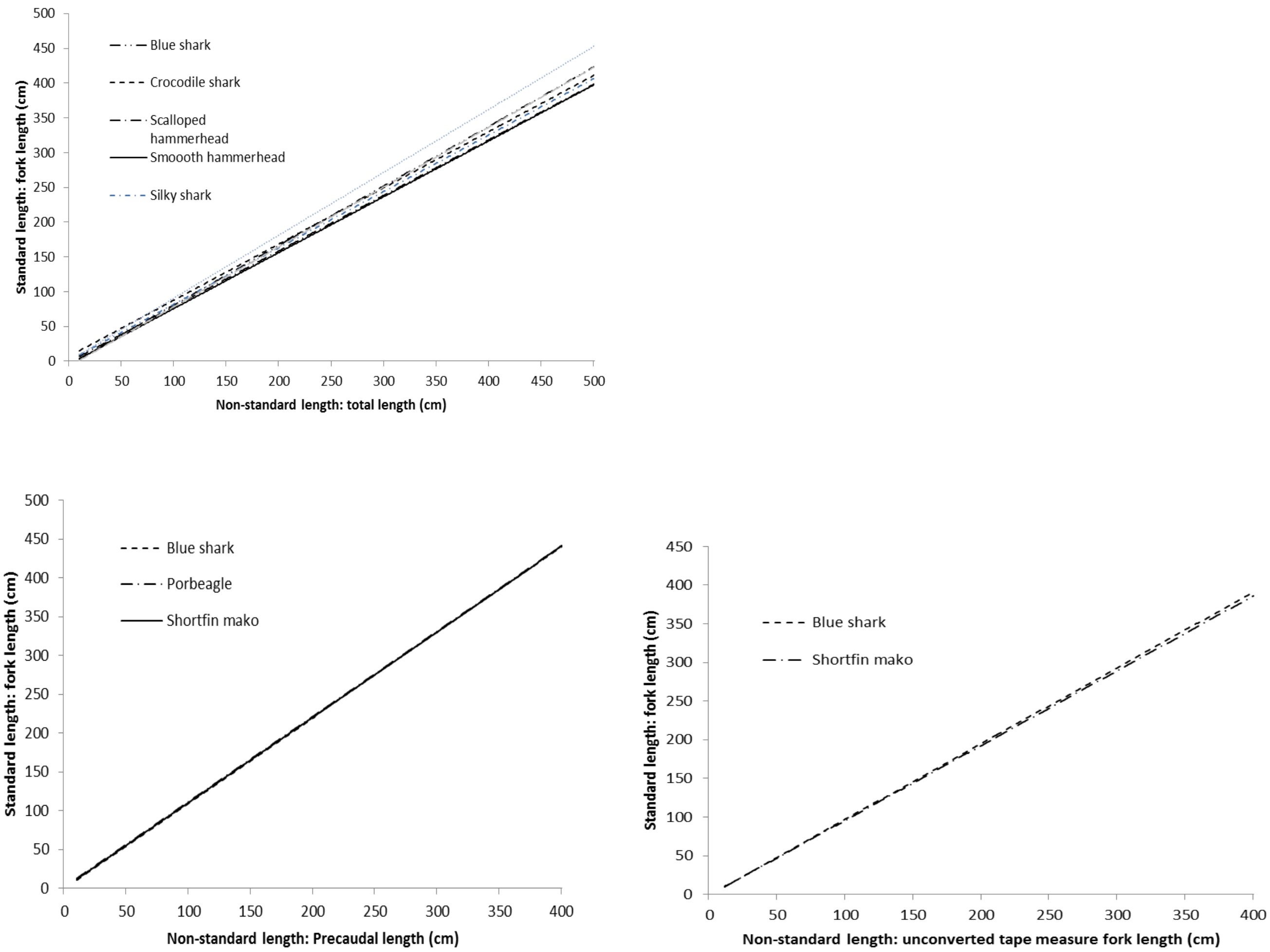


Fig. 1. Conversion equations from non-standard to standard length by shark species

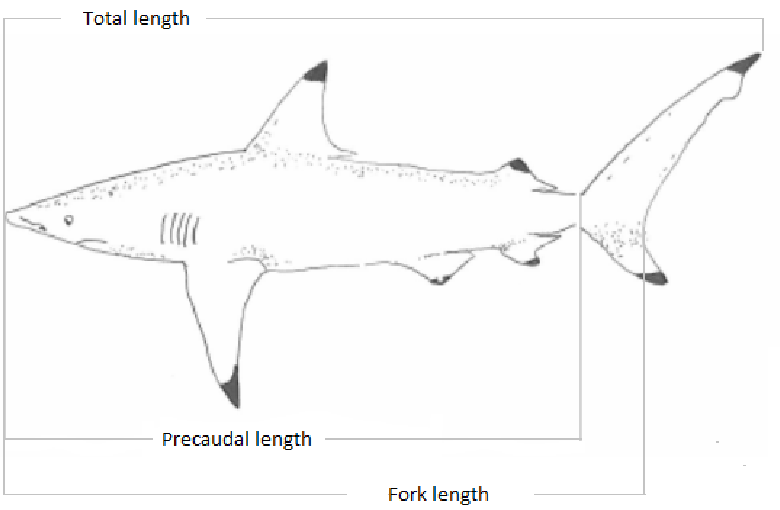


Fig. 2. Measurement types used for sharks