



FIA PNG Shark Survival Assessment Onboard Fishing Vessel's Procedure | V2.0 | March 2024:

1. BACKGROUND:

Sharks (class Chondrichthyes, subclass Elasmobranchii) typically have a long lifespan, slow growth rate and low fecundity, leading to low productivity and hence relatively high vulnerability to fishing. Information for managing fisheries catches of elasmobranchs is often lacking, because elasmobranchs are usually non-target species, often with low abundance. It is more feasible to develop management reference points for elasmobranchs based on their life-history information than through traditional stock assessments. The natural mortality rate (M) is the leading life-history parameter (LHP) required by many methods for developing reference points and is itself often derived indirectly from other LHPs (Shijie Zhou, 2021).

This procedure describes the steps to be taken by National Fisheries Authority (NFA) observers and FIA PNG skippers onboard our tuna fleet to observe, film (if possible), and record the Shark Survival when Sharks are caught incidentally.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To provide specific guidelines, descriptions, and examples to our FIA PNG skippers to collect data when it comes to Shark Survival and Good handle onboard monitoring.
- Set up an annual awareness workshop agenda with both NFA and FIA tuna teams.
- To provide an audit agenda and sampling size for audit proposes
- To comply with our MSC fishery Client Action Plan and our Work Plan for ETP
- This procedure is for carrying out:
 - i. Internal Audits (per tuna fleet at least two times per year) by FIA PNG fishing vessel's skippers
 - ii. Second Party Audits (annual basis) by FIA PNG Sustainability team members
 - iii. NFA Inspections (randomly) by NFA observers

2. SCOPE

- To FIA PNG tuna fishing vessel operators fishing in the PNG EEZ and AW as well as high seas and any other WCPFC waters.
- The procedure lays down the guidelines for the proper recording and reporting onboard the FIA PNG tuna fleet
- This is a guide for both new Skippers and experienced crew members as well as NFA observers,



3. REFERENCES:

This procedure is aligned with:

- National Plan of Action on Sharks and Rays 2021-2024_A National Policy for the Management and Conservation of Sharks in Papua New Guinea.
- FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA). For the implementation of the IPOA, each CCM should, as appropriate, include its National Plan of Action for sharks in the Part 2 Annual Report.
- Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission WCPFC: CMM 2010-07; CMM 2011-04; CMM 2013-08; CMM 2014-05; CMM 2019-04; O7-03; Res C-16-01; C-19-04; CMM-2011-03; CMM 2019-05
- Good Practices for the Mitigation of the Environmental Impacts of the Fishing of High Purse Seine.
- Guidelines to reduce mortality of sea turtles in fishing operations FAO 2011
- Information document for the Kobe II Workshop on SHARKS bycatch.
- Information document for the Kobe II Workshop on Turtle bycatch.
- Good practice guide to reducing mortality of ray sharks caught by accident by tropical purse-seine tuna vessels.
- FIA PNG Tuna fleet best handling practices for the safe release of Sharks (other whale sharks and Mantas/Mobulids), Sea Turtles, Cetaceans, and Whale Sharks V1.0 | July 2022
- FIA PNG Shark Finning Policy, August 2022
- FIA PNG FAD Standard Operating Procedure V2.0 | September 2022
- International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) Conservation Measures for Shark, Prohibition with transactions of Shark finning, PVR audit requirements.
- FIA PNG Shark Management Strategy plan V1.0 | 2024

4. RESPONSIBLE PERSONS & RESPONSIBILITIES:

4.1 FIA PNG Sustainability team (Second party audit and MSC fishery certificate holder):

The FIAO will ensure the full implementation of this FIA PNG shark survival audit procedure, and share the audit checklist with the participants/stakeholders in the FIA PNG MSC tuna scheme in accordance with the FIA policy & procedures, NFA regulatory requirements, WCPFC CMM.

The FIA Sustainability team will audit on an annual basis FIA fishing company members and fishing vessels on a desktop audit, each tuna fleet, requesting documents regarding Shark incidents, FAD sets, and random videos of the shark's good handling practices. FIA PNG members shall provide access to documented evidence for traceability and reporting onboard Shark Survival. The outcomes will support evidence to address MSC fishery standard conditions in principle # 2 and also will help us to assess our Shark Management Strategy Plan review and improvement.



4.2 FIA PNG Tuna Fleet Skippers/Representatives (Internal Audit and Fleet member):

The Fishing Companies member's representative (Capitan, Skipper) will ensure the full implementation of this FIA PNG shark survival audit procedure onboard their fleet using the FIA PNG Shark Survival audit checklist.

The Fishing Companies member's representative will carry out the audit onboard: a) at least two times per year b) when there is a Shark Incident, and c) under FIA PNG office expedited request. Each FIA PNG tuna fleet will submit the audit outcomes (checklist) and video at least two times per year to the FIA PNG office Sustainability Team.

FIA PNG members shall maintain records for at least 5 years, and provide access to documented evidence for traceability and reporting onboard Shark Survival.

The FIA PNG members will ensure to post on board the fishing vessel the FIA version of Good Practices on-board for the management and release of sensitive interacting species in the tuna purse seiner fishery.

The outcomes will support evidence to address MSC fishery standard conditions in principle # 2 and also will help us to assess our Shark Management Strategy Plan review and improvement.

4.3 NFA observers (Authority Inspections):

The fishing vessel will be randomly audited against the FIA PNG shark finning ban policy. The outcomes will be shared with the FIA fishing company and the FIAO management. FIA PNG members shall provide access to documented evidence for traceability and reporting onboard.

5. Audit Methodology:

This audit methodology can be followed for Internal audits (FIA PNG fleet members), and NFA Inspections onboard and at Sea.

5.1 Properly handle the caught shark:

- Observe and record the use of appropriate techniques to minimize stress and injury to the shark during the capture process. Follow FIA PNG Tuna fleet best handling practices for the safe release of Sharks (other whale sharks and Mantas/Mobulids), Sea Turtles, Cetaceans, and Whale Sharks V1.0 | July 2022
- Use stretchers to transfer the shark from the vessel into the water as soon as possible to avoid suffocation; keeping in mind the Crew's safe comes first.



5.2 Assess the condition of the Shark:

- Check for signs of exhaustion, injuries, or entanglement that may indicate a reduced chance of survival.
- Measure (approx.) the time that the shark has been out of the water and minimize handling to prevent further stress. Fill in the audit checklist.

5.3 Make a video (if it is possible)

Request the Crew's assistance to film in 10 to 15 seconds the minutes before the release of the shark including that when the shark is in the water and swims away from the fishing vessel. Please send the video to the FIA PNG office: contact@seafoodmatter.eu and alice.posanau@gmail.com

5.4 Observe the release of the shark:

- If the shark appears healthy and vigorous, release it back into the water promptly and carefully.
- Allow the shark to swim away freely and monitor its behavior to ensure its recovery from the capture and handling stress.

5.5 Record and report the shark survival:

- Keep detailed records of the number of sharks caught, and released, and their condition at the time of release.
- Record/fill out the FIA PNG audit checklist with the requested information part "A" Shark Survival.
- Send the FIA PNG audit checklist to the mentioned emails together with the video if this is possible to make it.

By following this procedure and prioritizing the well-being of sharks caught in fishing operations, we can help assess and improve their survival rate onboard the FIA PNG tuna fleet. The NFA inspections onboard (observers) enhance the independence of the data collection supporting the due diligence process of internal audits and second-party audits (desktop base).

Let's work together to promote responsible fishing practices and protect vulnerable shark species for a sustainable future. Our FIA PNG RSP and its holistic approach are the umbrella for the process development of these good practices.

6. Next steps:

FIA PNG office is looking to partner by Q4 2024 a tagging program, to start a trial onboard our tuna purse seiners and enhance the shark survival assessment



7. Document Control:

Date of issue:	Prepared / Review by:	Checked/Approved	Review #:
24 February 2024	Marcelo Hidalgo	Seafoodmatter / FIA PNG Sustainability & CSR Director	Initial Draft
12 March 2024		Tuna NFA/FIA PNG MSC fishery team	Whole document, responsibilities and members
31 May 2024		FIA PNG TWG	Public version

Document version control. *This is a live document and will be updated regularly; modifications are to be recorded below:*

This is a living document and is reviewed on an ongoing basis and during the FIA PNG TDG calibration meetings.

The FIA PNG Sustainability and MSC coordinator will ensure proper document control of the revised Shark Survival Procedure.