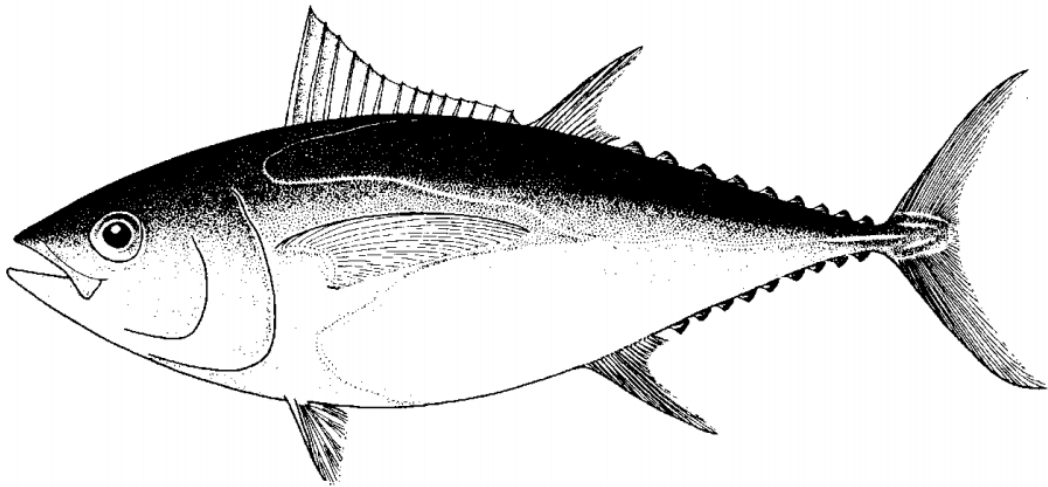ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE TUNA FISHERY DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE

20-24 AUGUST 2018, BRISBANE AUSTRALIA

WORKING PAPER DCC11-WP03 - agenda item 6.2

Proposal for updating LL logbook to report live and dead releases.

Prepared by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Pacific Community   Forum Fisheries Ag Proposal for

Background

There are several WCPFC CMMs requiring CCMs to submit the estimates of encounters of SSIs with a breakdown of the condition on release (i.e. DEAD or ALIVE). Observer data provide the most reliable, independent estimates, but coverage of observer data in the LONGLINE fishery is very low, so it would be better to enhance the longline logbook reporting of releases of SSIs.

Also, SPC expects that CCMs will exclude releases of fish in healthy condition in the estimation of discards (Discard estimates is a mandatory WCPFC reporting obligation). Discards by species are reported on logbooks, typically in numbers but may also include a (visual) estimated weight. The operational data (i.e. logbooks) do not differentiate between (i) releases of live fish (in healthy condition), and (ii) releases/discards of dead fish, or fish "unlikely-to-survive". The lack of this differentiation therefore has implications for estimating the annual discards estimates, which should only refer to the latter category.

Proposal

The proposal is to enhance the data collection forms used by vessels in an attempt to get better information on the life status of key shark species released in the longline fishery to be used in the estimation process.

The proposal is to enhance the current SPC/FFA DCC longline logsheet data fields to include the requirement to report on the discard/release of WCPFC key shark species (at least).

To avoid the need to change the format of the current SPC/FFA DCC longline logsheet, the proposal is to modify the instructions (which might still be a pain) to have vessels report the life status (as "A" or "D") of any key shark species catch. For example,

Species	Retained (kgs)	Retained (no.)	Discarded/released (no.)
Oceanic whitetip shark	–	–	1-A, 1-D
Silky shark	–	–	3-D

Otherwise, it would need a new column.

For databases storing logbook data, ER apps (and the ER data field standards), the proposal would be to add a new field for life status (referred to as "CONDITION" for example) to store this new information.