



Shark Depredation and Unwanted Bycatch

in Pelagic Longline Fisheries

Industry Practices and Attitudes,
and Shark Avoidance Strategies



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Blue shark: © Randy Morse, GoldenStateImages.com; shark-damaged yellowfin tuna (courtesy of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office); branch lines in a hook box on a Chilean artisanal longline vessel (courtesy of Pro Delphinus); multifilament mainline aboard a Chilean artisanal longline vessel (courtesy of Pro Delphinus); U.S. North Atlantic longline swordfish vessel landing a blue shark (courtesy of Greg Skomal, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries); tuna being offloaded from a Chilean industrial longline swordfish vessel (courtesy of Pro Delphinus); Chilean artisanal longline vessels, Iquique seaport (courtesy of Pro Delphinus).

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A central objective of this study was to draw upon existing fisher knowledge in the hope that this could be used to improve shark-related management for fishers and sharks. However, achieving this in the face of such diverse economic and cultural contexts could easily have met with skeptical or uncooperative responses by fishers. To the contrary, we acknowledge and are extremely grateful for the willing contribution of fishers who participated in the interviews. Through participating in interviews, 149 vessel captains, fishing masters, crew, vessel and company owners, fishing cooperative staff and port officials of 12 pelagic longline fisheries contributed invaluable information.

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