

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

**PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR
THE WHALE SHARK (*Rhincodon typus*)
ALREADY LISTED ON APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC26.2.7**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- The proposal is recommended for adoption.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The development of bycatch and safe release guidelines was noted as a priority action.
- Tagging studies for post-release survival are recommended.
- As the proposal is very ambitious, individual project proposals may need to be developed for some of the actions, with a step-by-step approach.
- The proposal would benefit from specifying clear responsibilities for implementation and funding required for the different activities.
- The Sharks MOU Signatories should be invited to support the implementation of the Concerted Actions.
- Engagement with RFMOs would be required to implement some of the proposed activities, such as work with purse seine fisheries.