

South Pacific Regional Purse Seine Logsheet: Supplemental Instructions

Whale Shark Encirclement Reporting

Pursuant to regulations implementing decisions of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, in the event that one or more whale sharks are encircled by purse seine fishing operations, the following information must be recorded on the South Pacific Regional Purse Seine Logsheet (RPL). This information must be recorded for *each set* in which an encirclement occurs:

1. The number of whale sharks encircled in the set:
 - Enter the information regarding the set in which the whale shark interaction occurred as you would for any other set
 - In the fields for DISCARDS, enter whale shark under species name and enter the number of individuals that were encircled

2. A brief description of any conditions or circumstances that might have led to the encirclement:
 - On the blank line(s) directly below the line of information for that set, enter a brief description of any conditions or circumstances
 - *For E-reporting:* Add a comment for the set and enter the description

3. A brief description of the steps taken to ensure the safe release of the whale shark(s):
 - On the same line(s) used for the information in element 2, enter the steps taken to ensure the safe release
 - *For E-reporting:* Enter the steps taken in the same comments section used for the information in element 2

4. Whether each of the animals was alive or dead upon release, to the best of your knowledge:
 - On the same line(s) used for the information in elements 2 and 3, enter an indication of whether the animal was alive or dead upon release
 - *For E-reporting:* Enter the indication in the same comments section used for elements 2 and 3

