

Regional Purse-Seine Logsheet (RPL): 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 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” or “RHN” under ”Name” and enter the number of individuals that were encircled under “Number”

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
 - *E-Log:* 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 of the whale shark(s)
 - *For E-Log:* Enter the steps taken to ensure the safe release of the whale shark(s) 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-Log:* Enter the indication in the same comments section used for elements 2 and 3