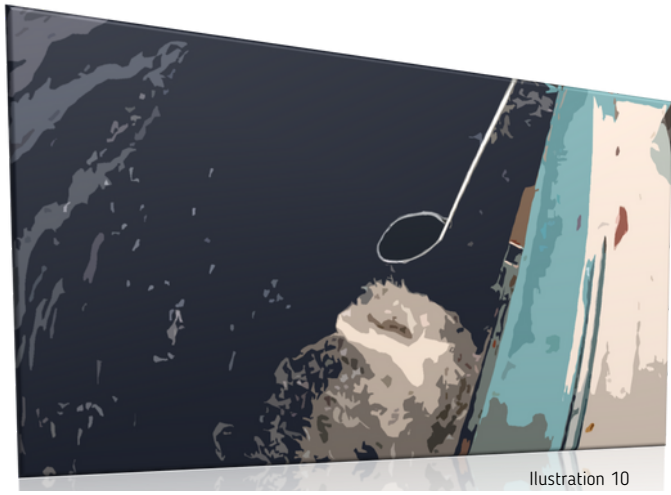


Best practice for safe handling and release of sharks

Before proceeding to release



If it is operationally safe, stop the vessel or substantially reduce its speed.
The shark should remain in the water unless it is necessary to lift it for species identification.

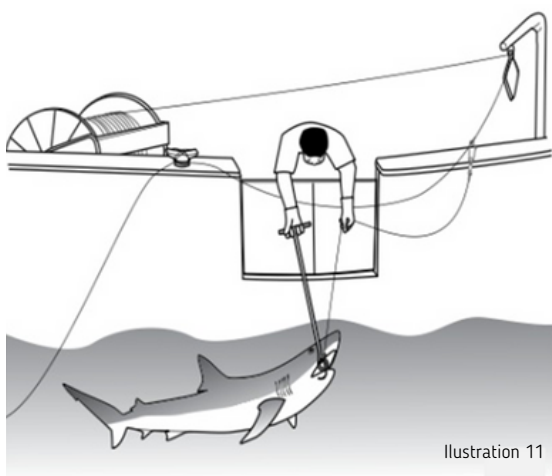
At this stage, if possible, proceed to determine the species, vital conditions (alive or dead), and measure/estimate the length (if possible, the fork length: distance from the snout to the caudal fin fork, the bifurcation point); data to be recorded by the captain.

When a tagged fish is found do not remove tag until you get the port and proceed according to IEO recommendations:
<http://www.co.ieo.es/tunidos/esp/MRrecaptura.php>



DO NOT roll the line on fingers, hands, or arms when you bring a shark into the boat
(it can result in serious injuries)

Release: if possible, try to remove the hook with the dehooker while the shark is still in the water



If conditions are safe and the hook is visible on the body or the mouth, try to extract it with a long handled dehooker or a bolt cutter to cut the barb and then extract it. In case the shark is entangled with the line and needs to be lifted to the deck, carefully free the line from the animal and release it to the sea as quickly as possible with no entanglements attached. Always watch out to avoid potential bites and blows by the shark.

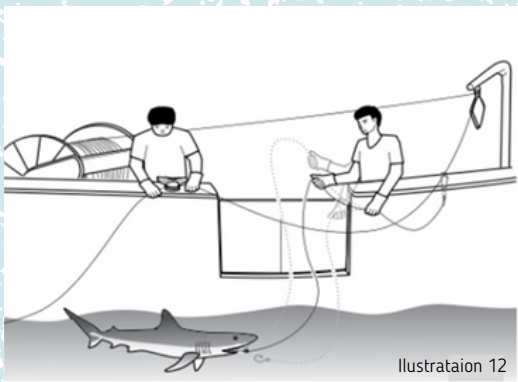


If the previous step is not possible, then proceed to cut the line with the cutter



DO NOT try to remove a hook by pulling sharply on the branchline
Do not try to remove a hook located deep inside the jaw or was swallowed and cannot be seen

Cut the line while the shark is in the water



Bring the shark as close to the vessel as possible without putting too much tension on the branchline to avoid the risk of a released hook or broken branchline shooting hooks, weights and other materials towards the vessels and crew at high speed.

Secure the far side of the longline mainline to the boat to avoid that any remaining gear in the water pulls on the line and the animal.



Illustration 13

Cut the line of the trace as close to the hook as possible (ideally leaving as little line as possible and no weights attached to the animal).

Use a long handled tail rope to enhance the handling of the animal if it needs to be removed from the water to be released



DO NOT hit the shark and prevent it to hit the vessel side when it is lifted

If it is necessary to bring it onto the deck (for small specimens or other practical reasons)

- > Be prudent at all times to avoid hits and bites
- > For preventing bites put a dead fish or a big wooden stick placed into the jaw
- > Ensuring safety conditions, use a dehooker to remove the hook barb and then remove the hook. Or, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- > Minimise the time it takes to return it to the water to increase survival and reduce risks to the crew.



Illustration 15



Illustration 16



Illustration 17

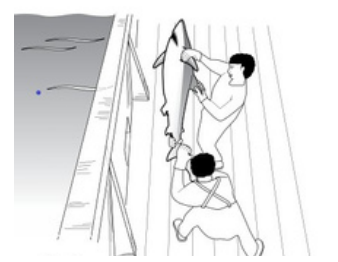


Illustration 18