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## French territory's Annual Reports 2022

*Relate to agenda item: 3*

Working paper ☒ Info paper ☐ Restricted ☐

### Delegation of France Territory

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#### Abstract

This report summarizes and updates fishing activity by French Territories flagged vessels by the French Government to operate in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Area for 2021.

This annual report include the BFIA report, the VME report, the observer program me implementation report, and the annual data verification report, according to the circular 2022-03 Annex A.

The fishing activity has been very low in 2021, only one longliner vessels operated in the area during two cruises for a total of 12 days. All catch and effort data for fishing operations during 2021 will be submitted to SIOFA in accordance with CMM 2021/02. No VME indicator thresholds were triggered during 2021.

This document provides also an overview of the French observer program implemented on bottom longline fishery. The observer coverage is 100%, meaning that they are on board vessels for every fishing event. Data (including both from observer and skipper) are entered daily in an electronic logbook and their consistency is checked on a daily basis by observers at sea and on a weekly basis by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN).

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#### Recommendations *(proposals and working papers only)*

1. That the Scientific Committee considers the National Report provided by French Territory.
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# French territory's Annual Reports 2022,

## SIOFA 7th Scientific Committee 2022

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This report summarizes fishing activity by France–Territory's vessels in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) area from 2016 to 2021. This annual report include the BFIA report, the VME report, the observer program me implementation report, and the annual data verification report, according to the circular 2022-03 Annex A.

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In 2021 the French Territories fishing activities in the SIOFA AREA was very low with only one active vessel operating in the subarea 3.b for 12 days.

## Description of fisheries

In 2021, six vessels, from the Southern French Territories, were authorized by the French authorities to fish in the SIOFA's area. The fleet includes 5 longliners and one trawler/potter vessel to target various species with pots, dropline, vertical longlines, automatic longlines and demersal longlines.

The size of vessels is from 55 to 65 meters. The port of registry is "Port-aux-Français", Kerguelen Islands,

(Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises, TAAF). Only one longliner operated in the area for the year 2021 during two cruises (Table 1).

**Table 1: Active fleet composition (number of vessels by gear type and size and how this has changed by year) over the previous five years**

Year	Vessels that actively fished	
	Longliner	Potter
2021	1	0
2020	2	0
2019	1	0
2018	0	1
2017	2	0

## Catch, effort and CPUE summaries

### Fishing effort

In 2021, there were 54 fishing operations (i.e 145800 hooks set) over 12 days, all in Zone 3b (Table 2.1), including:

- 40 longlines of 2700 hooks set (i.e. a total of 108000 hooks set) between 1183 and 1718 meters in 8 days.

- 14 longlines of 2700 hooks set (i.e. a total of 37800hooks set) between 1163 and 1640 meters in 4 days.

**Table 2.1: Summary table of longline effort by set (number of line) in the SIOFA areas, the absence of effort is noted ‘-’.**

Year	Sub-areas for reporting effort data								
	1	2	3.a	3.b	4	5	6	7	8
2021	-	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-	30*	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	26	4	3	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-	-	12*	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	66	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	-	126	-	-	-	-	-
2012	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	-	80	-	-	-	-	-

Note: \* vertical longline

**Table 2.2: Summary table of trap effort by set (number of trap) in the SIOFA areas, the absence of effort is noted ‘-’.**

Year	Sub-areas for reporting effort data								
	1	2	3.a	3.b	4	5	6	7	8
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Catch

The main catches (Table 4) for the southern area are the Patagonian Toothfish (TOP), Macrourids (GRV) and *Antimora rostrata* (ANT). Catches include also some *Amblyraja taaf* (RFA) and *Etmopterus sp.* (ETF) and some other species with low catches.

The catches are mainly made with longlines (Table 3.1). Catches with traps and vertical longlines remain very low (Table 3.2).

**Table 3.1: Summary table of longline total catches in kilograms, in the SIOFA areas, the absence of catches is noted ‘-’**

Year	Sub-areas for reporting catch data								
	1	2	3.a	3.b	4	5	6	7	8
2021	-	-	-	13181	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-	15175	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	29083	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	25149	282	538	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	70521	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	-	-	66765	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	-	84620	-	-	-	-	-
2012	-	-	-	48427	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	-	69990	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 3.2: Summary table of trap and vertical longline total catches in kilograms in the SIOFA areas, the absence of catches is noted ‘-’**

Year	Sub-areas for reporting catch data								
	1	2	3.a	3.b	4	5	6	7	8
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-	402,47	-	-	-	-
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2016	-	-	-	-	97,9	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	2,6	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 4: Longline catch (kg) by species for the main target, bycatch, associated and depended species (R-retained and D-discarded) in the SIOFA areas, the absence of catches is noted ‘-’**

Year	<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>		<i>Macrourus sp</i>		<i>Antimora rostrata</i>		<i>Amblyraja taaf</i>		<i>Etmopterus sp</i>	
	R	D	R	D	R	D	R	D	R	D
2021	4497	-	497	833	-	7344	-	10	-	-
2020	5210	10	1132	1220	-	7486	-	117	-	-
2019	9618	20	5103	3607	21	10192	19	502	-	2
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2017	7610	-	5020	2656	-	9500	-	361	-	469
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	17200	60	12300	6700	-	33800	-	400	-	1
2014	13500	-	7700	3800	-	37600	-	3900	-	561
2013	16000	-	13000	5600	-	44200	-	-	-	582
2012	17700	-	3900	2600	1	10900	-	-	-	-
2011	22100	-	8800	3500	-	28000	-	-	-	167

## Fishery data collection and research activities

All the licensed French Territories vessels have on-board a fishing observer to cover 100% of the fishing activities (WHSOP1-INFO-06-French-Observer-program.pdf). The data collection occurs at two different levels:

- Skipper level: have to collect all detailed information on fishing events and catches
- Observer level: independently, fishery observers (covering 100% of gear deployment) collect data on a fourth of the set to monitor catches

All data are registered in a digital logbook and transferred to the MNHN fishing database "PECHEKER".

**Table 5: Details on the scales and resolutions of the fishery data collection**

	longliner data collection items			
Year	tow / set  <i>(individual or some aggregation)</i>	time scale  <i>(set-tow hauling time, daily, etc.)</i>	spatial scale  <i>(tow/set exact position or grid, please provide grid resolution)</i>	species details  <i>(any aggregation or species grouping)</i>
2011-2021	Individual (set by set)	set hauling time	set exact position	species level

## VME Thresholds report

The crew must collect and retain all benthic organisms for each segment in numbered buckets, those buckets will be made available for observers. The observers record benthic organisms composition and abundance for each set. This information is also recorded in a digital logbook and transferred to the MNHN fishing database "PECHEKER".

No VME indicator thresholds were triggered for the period 2011-2021. The move-on protocol didn't need to be applied.

No interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species were reported in 2021.

**Table 6: Threshold levels for encounters with VMEs and move-on protocols for the period 2011-2021**

Gear/fishery	Threshold (kgs)	Move-on protocols
Longline	0	None apply

**Table 7: Summary VME Taxa (wet) weight (kg), operations exceeding thresholds and effort: gear type identified, 1 table per gear) in the SIOFA areas, the absence of VME catches is noted '-' the absence of thresholds is noted 0.**

Year	Unit	Sub-areas for reporting catch and effort data								
		1	2	3.a	3.b	4	5	6	7	8
Year 2011-2021	Weight (kg)	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-
	N° Operations	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-
	Effort (Tables 2.1..)	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-

## Summary report of observer and port sampling programs

### Port sampling program

In order to keep track of the catch: species and area where the fish were caught are reported on every single box containing the fish to be landed for commercial purposes. An independent company of experts based in La Réunion island is tasked to weigh a second time (the first time being on the factory of the ship at sea) all the fish boxes and report the exact weight for each combination of area, species and product. Those data are then used to correct the weights collected at sea. For Patagonian toothfish, an official DCD (Dissostichus Catch Document) from CCAMLR is produced at the scale of each trip and contains all needed information on species, products and areas including SIOFA.

### Observer program implementation report

The FR-OT observer program is describe in info-paper (WHSOP1-INFO-06-French-Observer-program.pdf). This document describes the French observer program, current update is October 2021 according to the SIOFA's CMM. This report include summary sections covering: observer training, program design and coverage, type of data collected. During the previous calendar year, no problems are encountered in the of the observer program implementation report.

All the data collecting by the obersevr program are provide to the secretariat following the CMM 2021-02. Biological sampling and length composition of catches is provide to the secretariat through the annual data submission. No specific analyse is conduct in this report.

The observation programme follows the guidelines in Annex 4, on 'Function and tasks of the scientific observer' and Annex 5, on 'Protocol for documenting whale interaction in deep-sea demersal longline fisheries'.

**Table 9: Observer program design and coverage summary table for period 2011-2021**

	trips	total no of	no of	within	incidental
	coverage of	sets/hauls	sets/hauls	set/haul	bycatch
	set		covered	coverage	(bird,
	(%)			(%)	mammal)
					observation
					coverage
					(% by
					set/haul)
longliner	100			100	25 % for
					bird
					100 % for
					mammal

**Table 10: Reporting of observed bycatch number**

bycatch	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline	Longline
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
seabird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
mammal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sharks (not retained)	0	0	4	0	462	0	2	853	372	0	314
VME taxon 1 (unit)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
VME taxon 2 (unit)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
other											

Note: \* VME taxon Unit are under VME threshold, the data are transmitted to the secretariat in the annual data template.

## Description of data verification mechanisms

All the data verification mechanisms are conducted according to the SIOFA CMM and described in the French BFIA 2018 (SC-03-03(06)) and in info-paper (WHSOP1-INFO-06-French-Observer-program.pdf).

The captain and the fishing observer computerize all the data in a digital logbook.  
The fishing observer sends weekly the dataset for verification to the MNHN team.

### Annual data verification report

During the previous calendar year, no problems are encountered in the data verification.



## BFIA report

The Fr-OT Bottom Fishing Impact assessment has been describe in the Working Paper in 2018 (SC-03-03(06). There has been no change in the fishing fleet and the fishing activities were very low during the prvious calendar yearThe BFIA does not need to be updated.

The landing and transhipment report is sent to MNHN from the port sampling at the end of the cruise.

## Annex I: Sub-areas for reporting catch and effort data.

**Table 1**

	Area	Lats		Longs	
		NS		E	
1	Mozambique Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	-	40°
2	Madagascar Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	40°	49°
3a	Northern SW Indian Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	49°	65°
3b	Southern SW Indian Ridge	S 36°	S 45°	30°	65°
6	Mid-Indian Ridge	S 20°	S 45°	65°	80°
4	Ninety Degree East Ridge	S 20°	S 36°	80°	90°
5	Broken Ridge	S 25°	S 36°	90°	105°
7	SE Indian Ocean	S 20°	S 55°	80°	120°
8	North of 20°	N 10°	S 20°	-	80°

<sup>2</sup> Source for Table 1 and Figure 1: Guidelines for submission of annual national reports Rev3.docx

**Figure 1**

