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Fishery Operations Plan for an Exploratory Fishery on the Saya de Malha Bank by Thailand

Delegation of Thailand

Document type	Working paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>This paper presents the Fishery Operations Plan for an exploratory fishery to be conducted by Thailand. The surveyed area will be divided into 12 stations covering the south part of the Saya de Malha Bank within SIOFA Convention Area 8. The survey is expected to be conducted during the third or fourth quarter of 2027. The research vessel, R.V. Mahidol, is 62.53 meters in length with a gross tonnage of 1,276 GT. The fishing gears to be used include fish trap, bottom vertical longline, automatic squid jigging, and automatic fishing line, targeting demersal fishes (e.g. snappers and groupers), trevallies, and squids. Abundance and some biological parameters will be analysed. In addition to fisheries resources survey, oceanographic data will be collected, and plankton and fish larvae will be identified. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species, if accidentally caught, will be identified and recorded.</p>

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the SIOFA SC **consider** the Fishery Operations Plan submitted by Thailand.

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