



11th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC11)

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SC-11-60

A proposal to include Mauritius alfonso mid-water trawl in the table of established SIOFA fisheries in Annex 1 of CMM 17 (2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries)

Delegation of the Republic of Mauritius

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| Abstract | <p>Following the recommendation of the MOP12 at para 216, Mauritius was requested to submit its catch data and/or other information of its trawl fishery to the Scientific Committee (SC11) in order to include Mauritius alfonso mid-water trawl in the table of established SIOFA fisheries in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries). The information requested by the MOP12 is being submitted attached to this document for consideration by SC11</p> |

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- The SC11 to recommend the inclusion of Mauritius as participant in the fishery targeting Alfonsino with midwater trawl, in Annex 1 (Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area) of CMM 17 (2025) New and Exploratory Fisheries

A proposal to include Mauritius alfonso mid-water trawl in the table of established SIOFA fisheries in Annex 1 of CMM 17 (2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries)

You may recall that at the last Compliance Committee (CC09) and the Twelfth Meeting of Parties (MOP12), Mauritius noted the absence of its alfonso mid-water trawl in the table of established SIOFA fisheries in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries).

Mauritius thereafter highlighted that the absence of its alfonso midwater trawl fishery from the table of established SIOFA fisheries was an omission and requested that the MoP include Mauritius as a participant to the alfonso mid-water trawl fishery in Annex 1 (established fisheries of SIOFA) of CMM 17(2025)

Mauritius further clarified that its mid-water trawler is operational since 2024, prior to the entry into effect of the CMM 17 (2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries), and that the vessel is duly listed on the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV). Moreover, all the data related to this fishery had been provided in Mauritius' Annual National Report which was submitted to the 10th Scientific Committee in 2025.

Subsequently, following the recommendations of the MOP12, (refer to para 216 of the MOP12 report), Mauritius was requested to submit its catch data and/or other information of its mid-water trawl fishery to the next Scientific Committee (SC11), in order to include Mauritius alfonso mid-water trawl in the table of established SIOFA fisheries in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries).

Accordingly, Mauritius is now providing all the data including species composition, catch/effort data and fishing zone of its mid-water trawler to the SC11 for review and consideration (see annexes). However, it is to be noted that all the necessary catch data for the Mauritius mid-water trawl fishery has been already provided in its Annual National Report to the SIOFA Secretariat and for onward transmission to the SC11.

Following the recommendations of the SC11, Mauritius will propose an amended version of the CMM17(2025) to the next CC and MOP.

Extracted from CMM 17 (2025) – Annex 1 Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area

| Targeted ³ species/fisheries | Fishing gear | Participants | Area |
|--|--|--|--|
| Patagonian toothfish | Set longlines, traps | Australia, EU (Spain), France (Overseas Territories), Japan, Korea | Designated fishing footprints of Australia, EU (Spain), Japan, and France (Overseas Territories). SIOFA sub-areas 3b and 7 |
| Orange roughy | Bottom trawl | Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, China, Mauritius | Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands, Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6. |
| Alfoncino | Midwater trawl | Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Korea, Mauritius | Designated fishing footprints of Australia, Cook Islands and Japan. Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6. |
| Brushtooth lizardfish and scads | Trawl (nei), single boat otter board trawl | Thailand | Designated fishing footprint of Thailand. |
| Shallow-water (<200m), Carangoides spp., snappers, emperors and groupers | Set longline, hook and line (handlines), bottom trawl, traps | EU (France), Mauritius, Thailand, Comoros | Designated fishing footprint of Thailand. SIOFA sub-area 8 (mainly Saya de Malha Bank) |
| Deep water (>200m) snappers, lutjanids, hapuka | Set longline, dropline | Australia, China, EU (Spain) | Designated fishing footprints of the EU (Spain) and Australia. SIOFA Subareas 2, 3a, 3b and 4. |
| Oilfish | Pelagic longline, dropline | Chinese Taipei, Seychelles | Southwest Indian Ocean |
| Squid | Light Seining, Squid Jigging | China | Designated fishing footprint of China. SIOFA Subareas 1, 4, 7 and 8. |

Annex 1 – Catch and effort of mid-water trawler

Table 1: Catch details of mid-water trawler operating in SIOFA Area 2024 and 2025

| Trip Number | Fishing period | Fishing Area/s | Catch by species (T) | | | | | | Total (T) |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | | Alfonso | Bluenose | Cardinal Fish | Ruby fish | Butterfish | Boarfish | |
| 1 | May 2024 | 3a | 3.46 | - | - | 7.14 | 1.64 | - | 12.24 |
| 2 | July/August 2024 | 2,3a, and 3b | 87.01 | 1.34 | 0.05 | 0.23 | 2.67 | 0.28 | 91.58 |
| 3 | December 2024 | 3a and 3b | 14.37 | - | 1.86 | - | 0.44 | - | 16.67 |
| 4 | January 2025 | 2 | 27.10 | 0.45 | - | - | 0.06 | 9.41 | 37.02 |
| TOTAL | | | 131.94 | 1,79 | 1.91 | 7.37 | 4.81 | 9.69 | 157.51 |

Source: Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries

Table 2 – Effort (trawl minutes) the trawl fisheries (Mid water trawl)

| YEAR | Effort per Sub-Area (Trawl minutes) | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3a | 3b | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 2024 | | 399 | 642 | 607 | | | | | |
| 2025 | | 667 | | | | | | | |

Source: Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries

Annex 2 – Fishing Locations of mid-water trawler in 2024

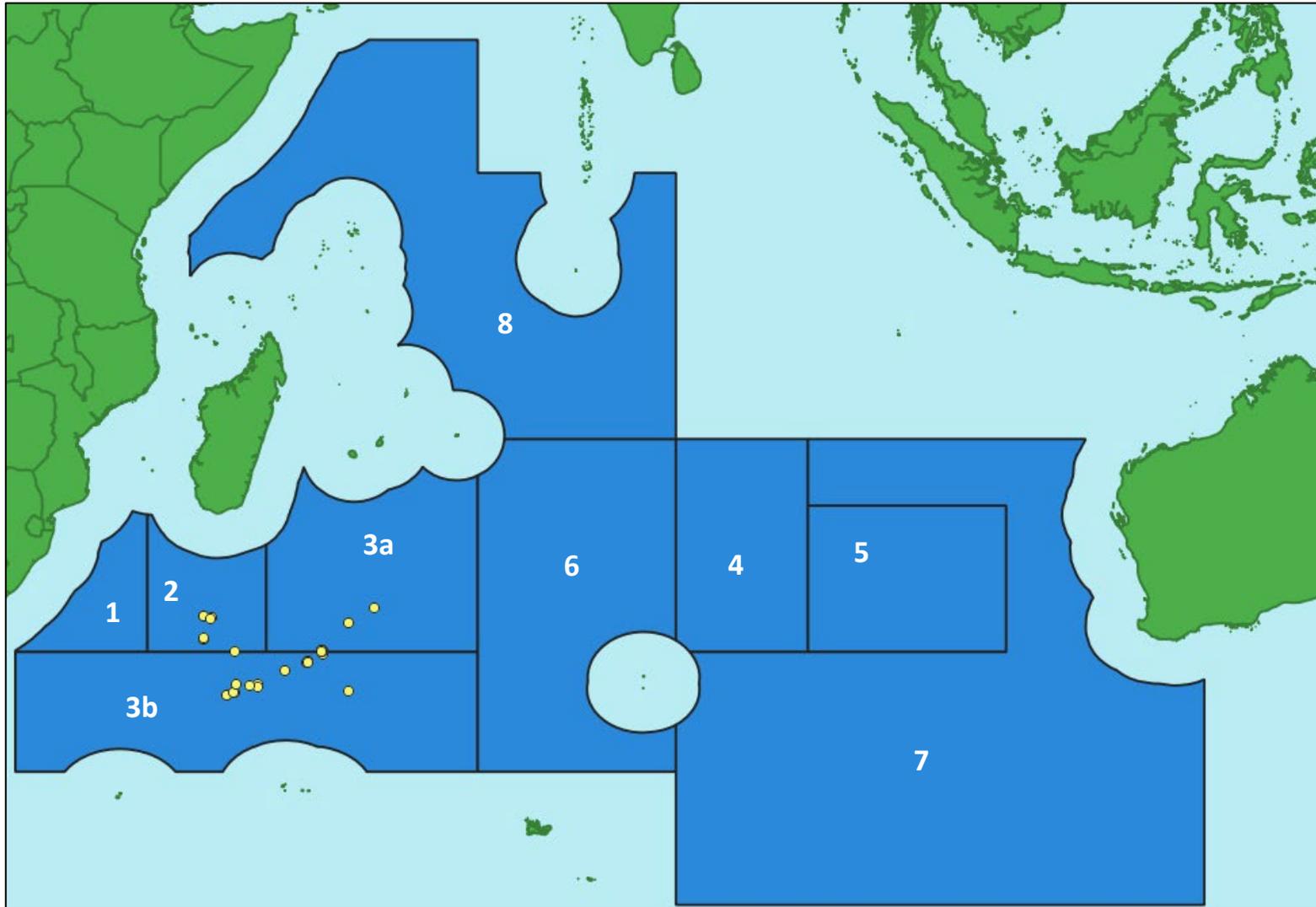


Figure 1: Fishing locations (indicated by yellow circular markers) of Mauritian Mid-water trawler in year 2024