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The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 4th Meeting of the Parties
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Aanari Hotel & Spa, Flic and Flac, Mauritius

Chair: Mr Kristofer Du Rietz

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JAPAN - Report on Implementation of SIOFA CMM 16/01 (JAPAN)

Relates to agenda item: 8

Proposal Other Document Info Paper

Delegation of Japan

Abstract

Japan provides a report on the implementation of SIOFA CMM 2016/01

Report on Implementation of SIOFA CMM 16/01 (JAPAN)

**As confirmed in the adoption of SIOFA CMM 16/01 at the last Meeting of the Parties, the Japanese trawl vessels operate in the mid-water and this Measure is not applied legally to their fishing activities.*

1. Fishing Effort (paragraph 9(1)(a)(i) of CMM 2016/01)

Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) authorized three vessels, 2 trawl vessels and 1 bottom longline vessel, to operate in the SIOFA area for 2016 fishing season. The number of authorizations has not changed since 2012.

During the 2016 fishing season, 2 trawl vessels had actually operated in the SIOFA area. The annual number of active vessels in the Area ranges from one to three (two in average) between 2012 and 2015.

2. Spatial Distribution (paragraph 9(1)(a)(ii) of CMM 2016/01)

The above two Japanese trawl vessels had operated only within the past footprints in 2016, namely they limit their special distribution of fishing efforts to recently fished areas.

3. VME (paragraph 9(1)(a)(iii) of CMM 2016/01)

The above two Japanese trawl vessels had operated in mid-water and any adverse impacts on VMEs were not caused by their activities. The scientific observers on board confirmed that their operations did not come in contact with the seafloor or benthic organisms.

FAJ and the Japanese industry have set temporal threshold levels to 50 kg as move-on protocol in preparation for incidental encounters with VMEs.

4. Closed Area (paragraph 9(1)(a)(iv) of CMM 2016/01)

SIOFA has not established any specific closed areas. In case that SIOFA introduces such measures in future, FAJ could ensure that the relevant vessels do not operate in designated areas, through adding condition to their fisheries authorizations.

And the Japanese vessels respect the protected areas established by Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fisher's Association (SIODFA) known as benthic protected areas (BPAs) and suspend their fishing activities in such area on a voluntary basis.